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An Gaidheal:

(Formerly AN DEO GRÉINE)

The Monthly Magazine of An Comunn Gaidhealach

Volume XLIX.

January, 1954, to December, 1954, inclusive.



AN COMUNN GAIDHEALACH,
65 WEST REGENT STREET, GLASGOW.

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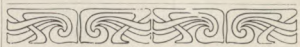
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AN GAIDHEAL

THE GAEL

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Vol. XLIX

JANUARY, 1954

No. 1

Bliadhna Mhath Ur Dhuibh Uile

Chan e cuid no cuibhreann dhaoin'
is chan e òr no airgead,
A bheir dhuinn sonas anns an t-saoghal—
's e sin aon nì tha dearbhte.

Ach a bhith toilichte le'r staid,
gun mhath neach eil' a dhearmad,
Is anns an Tì bheir dhuinn gach nì
ar cridh' gach là bhith 'g earbsa.

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THE GAEL

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF
AN COMUNN GAIDHEALACH

Editor

REV. T. M. MURCHISON, M.A.

All correspondence should be addressed to the Editor, except that concerning advertising, which should be addressed to the Secretary, while Subscriptions should be sent to the Treasurer.

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CLAR-INNSIDH

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AM FAOILLEACH, 1954

Aireamh 1

Faileas na h-Oidhche

Le ALASDAIR I. MACASGAILL, Leódhas

(Aig a' Mhòd Nàiseanta, 1953, choisinn an sgeul Duais-Chuimhneachain Eòghainn Mhic Thorcadail mar an sgeul goirid a b'fheàrr)

"**T**HALLA," arsa mo mhàthair rium fhéin, "agus faic gu bheil an coigreach gu dòigheil agus gun d'fhuair e mu thàmh."

Dh'fhàg mi air an fhacal an seòmar-suidhe far an robh mi fhéin, m'athair agus mo mhàthair a' conaltradh air gnothaichean an latha agus an ath-latha; chaidh mi troimh an trannta chòcaireachd, agus thàinig mi gu seimh, socair, sàmhach gu rùm-cadail mo charaid—bha e a' fuireach na h-oidhche againn air son na ceud uair, agus bha sinn a' gabhail ris cho suairce carthannach agus a dheidheadh againn air—a dheanamh cinnteach gun deach gu rèidh leis agus, an sin, gu oidhche mhath a leigil leis.

Dh'fhosgail mi an doras cho sàmhach, foidhidinneach agus a b'urrainn domh, òirleach air òirleach, ach bha an seòmar dubh.

"Is tu, gu dearbh, nach robh fada a' tàladh a' chadail, a laochain," thuirt mise leam fhéin, ach gu bhith na bu ro-chinntiche chuir mi an doras beagan na b'fhaide gu chùil. Cha b'ann cho fada a fhuair mi; dh'fhairich mi an doras a' tighinn 'nam aghaidh, agus, gu firinneach, cha b'ann leis fhéin. Bha cuid-eigin air a chùil,

agus cha b'ann a' tagairt a' chàirdeis a bha e orm a bharrachd. Cha do thuig mi a' chùis buileach anns a' bhad—nach robh mi an taigh m'athar, agus, cuideachd, cha robh mi fhéin aig a' cheart àm falamh de'n chadal—ach an uair a bhuail e ceart air m'inntinn cha mhór nach do stad m'anaid. Dhùin an doras le beag bhrag agus sheas mise aige mar naoidhean latha gun lùths ach beag 'nam chnàmhan. Chan 'eil fhios agam fhathast ciamar a chaidh agam air tionndadh, ach aon uair agus gun d'fhuair mi mo chùil ris an doras a mach á seo mi mar a' ghaoth, a steach far an robh m'athair is mo mhàthair.

"Dé a tha ceàrr?" dh'fhoighnich mo mhàthair, agus i ri 'g éirigh.

Dh'innis mi. Rinn m'athair gàire.

"Thalla fhéin a steach, a réiste, agus rannaich," arsa mise ris, agus a' toirt sùla amharasaich leth-thàireil ormsa thug e a chasan leis a steach.

Bha a h-uile càil gu marbh, sàmhach, ach dìreach bualadh mo chridhe-sa, ach cha bu bheag leamsa sin fhéin, oir bha e da-rìribh a' cur a sheanar as. Sheas mi rag ag éisdeachd,

mar a leigeadh crith nan casan domh. Bha an sàmhchar trom orm. Bha gach mionaid 'na bliadhna. An sin chlisg mi. Chuala mi brag beag biorach mar shileadh air paipear, agus eadhon mun do bhraon am fallus ceart orm nochd an duine oilleil sin, air nach do leig mise riamh roimhe sin mo fhradharc, anns an dorus, agus gunna corrach caol aige 'na làimh.

"Suas le do spògan," arsa esan gu cruaidh, an-ìochdmhor, leis an t-seòrsa dréin ud air a aodann lèamach, mì-thlachdmhor, a bha a' foillseachadh gu faicsinneach nach robh mòran spèise aige-san do bheatha no do anam.

"Greas ort, cuideachd," dh'eubh e a mach á taobh a bheòil, agus e a' toirt an sparraidh sin air a' ghunna. Anns an an-uair cha b'e ruith ach leum leamsa. Thog mi mo làmhan, leig mi sgreuch oilleil uamhasach—agus dhùisg mi!

Bha aodach na leapa air a shadail sìos bhuam 'na chnap; bha crith air a h-uile bideag dhìom; agus bha mi 'nam bhraon falluis. Chuir mi rian air an leabaigh, agus an là a nis a' ciaradh. Thòisich mi a' trod rium fhéin gu sàbhailte fo'n phlaide, air son mo mheatachd is mo laige, agus cha b'fhada gus an robh mi a rithist seachd aig a' chadal. Ach anns a' mhadainn cha bu dùraigh dhomh m'aisling inneadh do dhùine.

"GAIRM"

Tha còrr is bliadhna a nis bho thàinig an coileachan as an ubh, ach ged as iomadh rud a chaidh troimh an sgròban aige cha mhise e sin, agus tha a shùil a cheart cho biorach, a earball a cheart cho uaibhreach, agus a ghairm a cheart cho sgairteil is a bha.

Tha sinn duilich, do bhrìgh anacothrom no dhà nach ruigear a leas ainmeachadh, nach robh comas againn air iomradh a thoirt chuige seo air àireamh an t-samhraidh agus àireamh an fhoghair. Tha an dà àireamh sin taghte math, le rosg is bàrdachd, eachdraidh is aithris, beachdan air gnothaichean an là an diugh agus sùil air gnothaichean an là an dé agus ceist no dhà mu'n là maireach, dealbhan is dealbhan éibhinn, toimhseachan-tarsainn, is iomadh rud annasach eile.

Mar a thuir an sionnach is e ag itheadh màla na ploba, "Tha biadh is ceòl an seo." Tha barrachd na sin ann. Tha fòghlum is gliocas ann, agus tha sgàthan ann, mar gum b'eadh, anns am faic sinne, na Gaidheil, ar coltas féin. Chan 'eil rùm an seo gu iomradh mionaideach a dheanadh air gach cuspair is ceann-seanchais a tha anns an dà àireamh, ach faodar a ràdh nach 'eil duilleag anna air nach faighear rud-eigin as fhiach a leughadh agus beachdachadh air. Tha ar taing aig Ruairidh is Fionnlagh.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Inter-Celtic Convention.—The sixth annual Inter-Celtic Convention under the auspices of Urdd Gobaith Cymru (The Welsh League of Youth) will be held at Borth, Cardiganshire, Wales, from 13th to 22nd April, 1954. It is intended that some 70 to 80 members will take part, and it is hoped that representatives from all the Celtic territories will be able to attend. The programme will include talks and discussions on various aspects of the cultural life of the Celtic countries with folk-songs and folk-dances. The charge for accommodation is £5 5/- for the entire period of nine days, or £4 4/- for one week, or 15/- per day. All members will be accommodated at Pantyfedwen, the Urdd Hostel at Borth. Application should be made without delay to Gwennant Davies, International Relations Officer, Swyddfa'r Urdd, Aberystwyth.

Scottish Gaelic Texts Society.—The annual meeting of the Society was held in Glasgow on 7th November. It was reported that the next work to be published would be the Gaelic prose writings of Professor Donald Mackinnon, edited by Mr. Lachlan Mackinnon, while several more publications were planned for the next few years. An urgent plea was made for greater support for the Society, as the work of publication is greatly handicapped by current high costs. The Hon. Secretary is Mr. Hugh Watson, W.S., Edinburgh.

Folklore Institute of Scotland.—The annual meeting of F.I.O.S. was held in Glasgow on 7th November. The Secretary's report revealed that quite a lot of field work had been done during the year, especially by Mr. Donald Macpherson who had recorded many songs in Watersay, while Dr. John L. Campbell had made recordings in Nova Scotia. The Hon. Secretary of the Institute is Mr. Derick Thomson, Celtic Department, Glasgow University.

Comunn na Clarsaich.—The Annual Report of the Clarsach Society for 1952-53 makes interesting and encouraging reading. The annual meeting, held in Edinburgh, was well attended, and was followed by tea and a ceilidh. One great need is to increase the number of competent teachers of the clarsach in order to cover a wider area. It has been decided to allow the Scholarship Fund to build up in the meantime, and later to use it in running evening continuation classes in the clarsach at suitable places, if teachers can be found. A very successful class, with nine students, was held at Oban by Miss Kathleen Barry Milner just before last Easter. Mrs. Iain Campbell of Airds continues as President of the Society.

NICOLSON INSTITUTE ANNUAL

The 1953 issue of the Nicolson Institute Annual is an excellent production. In format, cover, and contents it is attractive and interesting. The Nicolson Institute is now divided into four "houses," named after the first four headmasters—Sutherland, Forbes, Gibson, and Macrae, and the four clan crests on the cover symbolise the houses. Prose and verse, photographs and drawings, things grave and things gay, with a very high proportion of real wit, go to make a first-rate number, in which the several Gaelic items are by no means the least important,

An t-Oireachtas, 1953

Le CALUM MACLEOID, Fo-Rùnaire a' Chomuinn Ghaidhealaich

CHUIREADH mar dhleasnas ormsa agus air Mgr. Fearchar MacRath an Comunn na riochdachadh aig Oireachtas na bliadhna seo, a bha air a chumail am Baile Atha Cliath bho'n 24mh là gu'n 31mh là de'n Damhair. Bha mi air leth toilichte an cothrom seo fhaighinn, oir cha robh mi riamh roimhe aig an Oireachtas. Theagamh nach robh mi cho toilichte an uair a dh'inneadh dhomh gur ann air long-adhair a bhitheamaid a' deanamh an turuis. Bha mi aon uair eile air turus adhair thall thairis, agus b'òlc a chòrd e rium! Ach cha leigeadh a leas eagal no fiamh a bhith orm, oir bha an turus sèimh, socair, agus an ceann uair a thìde is fhichead mionaid bha sinn ag altachadh ar cnàmhan air talamh Eireann.

Air an fheasgar sin fhéin bha cuireadh againn gu Taigh an Àrd-Mhaoir, far an robh fàilt is furan a' feitheamh oirnn. B'è seo fosgladh Féil an Oireachtais. Bha an talla loma-làn, agus chuala sinn òraid a bha air leth grinn bho'n Bhrìtheamh Cearball O Dalaigh. Thug esan iomradh air a' phiseach a thàinig air aobhar na Gàidhliche anns an tìr; chan e a mhàin gu robh Gàidhlig anns na sgoilean ach bha i anns na cùirtean-lagha mar an ceudna.

An dèidh sin fhuair an dà riochdaire as a' Chuimrigh, maille rium fhéin is Mgr. MacRath, cuireadh chun an àrd-ùrlair far an' do chuir Ceannt-suidhe an Oireachtais (no, mar a their iadsan, "An t-Uachtaran") fàilte oirnn an làthair na dùcheachd. Thug Mgr. MacRath teachdaireachd dhaibh bho'n Chomunn Ghaidhealach anns a' Ghàidhlig Albannaich, agus fear de riochdairéan na Cuimrigh 'nan cannt dhùthchail féin.

An sin dh'èisd sinn ri co-fharpaiséan chòisirean á ceithir roinnean na dùthcha. Bha ceithir còisirean anns a' cheud cho-fharpais, agus ghabh iad, chan e dà òran, ach còig, fear an dèidh fìr. Bha an rogha fhéin a dh'òrain aca—feadhainn thiamhaidh, feadhainn aighearach. Gu dearbh, thoill iad am moladh, agus chaidh innseadh dhomh gu robh Gàidhlig gu ìre bheag aig gach ball. Tha e coltach nach 'eil fada bho'n thòisich còisirean a' strì ri chèile an Eirinn agus gu bheil iad a' dol am feabhas gach bliadhna. Bha dà chòisir as ùr an seo am bliadhna. An coimeas ri còisirean Gàidhlig an Albainn is e fìor chòisirean mòra a bha seo—dà fhichead ball air a' chuid a bu lugha, agus còrr is trì fhichead an cuid duibh.

Bha mòran cho-fharpaiséan eile ann ré na seachdain—òrain-aon-neach, mòran air an gabhail anns an t-seann nòs; sgialachdan;

còmhraidhean-càraid; pìob-uileann, fìdheall is piano. Bheirinn cus tìde a' toirt luaidh orra uile.

Bha aon roinn de cho-fharpaiséan ann—roinn mhór cuideachd—nach fhaighear aig Mòd a' Chomuinn. B'è sin dealbhan-cluiche; agus is e mo bheachd gu bheil iad air leth feumail gu a' chàinain a chumail beò, sìubhlach air bilean an t-sluaigh. Cha robh uair a bha seisean "drama" ann nach robh an talla làn. Tha e coltach gu bheil ùidh mhór aig Gaidheil Eireann anns an obair seo. Eadhon am bailtean beaga, iomallach tha còmhlan air bonn a bhios a' deasachadh dhealbhan-cluiche.

Bha an là fhéin aig an Oigridh, ged nach 'eil co-fharpaiséan aca mar a tha aig Mòd a' Chomuinn. Theagamh nach biodh e riatanach co-fharpaiséan a bhith aig na sgoilearan oir tha a' Ghàidhlig air a teagasg anns gach sgoil, agus is e mo bharail gun tigeadh na h-uimhir air adhart is nach biodh e idir comasach breith a thoirt orra an ùine cho gearr. Aig cuirm air feasgar Di-màirt, far an robh còrr is mìle sgoilear cruinn còmhla, fhuair iad òraid bhrosnachaidh agus àithne a bhith 'nan deagh Ghaidheil fhad is a bu bheò iad. Ghabh iad meall òran mar chuideachd, agus dh'èisd iad ri fuinn bho chòmhlain-ciùil de ghillean òga. Cha bhiodh a' chùis ceart gun tea is biadh blasda a thoirt do gach aon duibh. Chan 'eil teagamh nach do chòrd am feasgar ris a' chloinn.

Fhuair sinn cothrom ré na seachdain air stùil a thoirt air foillseachadh gnìomhachas muinntir na dùthcha. Bha aodach a dh'iomadh seòrsa ann, basgaidean, cléibh, bratan-ùrlair, measraichean, balgan-séididh, agus iomadh nì feumail eile. Laigh ar stùil gu sònraichte air dà pheitean iasgair a bha an crochadh f'ar comhair. Bha iad air am fighe glé dhlùth, agus cho tiugh ri cluas laoigh. Bha atharrachadh fighe orra, agus tha aobhar air sin. Aithnichear air fighe a' pheitein dé am baile d'am buin an t-iasgair. Nan tachradh all-tapadh aig muir, is ann mar seo a dh'aithnicheadh an càirdean cò iad.

A thuilleadh air co-fharpaiséan, chuir sinn seachad dà fheasgar aig cruinneachaidhean far an robh mòran de urrachan mòra na dùthcha—luchd-riaghlaidh agus pearsachan-eaglais. Aig fear duibh seo thachair sinn air an "Taoiseach," Mgr. De Valera. Bha pailteas bidh air ar beulaibh. Chuireadh am feasgar seachad ag éisdeachd ri òrain, ceòl, is beul-aithris.

Fhuair sinn cuireadh tadhal air sgoil mhór ghillean, agus chuir sinn cuairt air iomadh

seòmar. Bha an sgòil seo sònraichte, oir bha gach cuspair air a theagasg an Gàidhlig—gach cànan (eadhon Beurla) agus gach ealdhain. Dh'innseadh dhuinn nach robh seo a' deanamh bacadh air na sgoilearan. Is ann a bha e 'na chuideachadh dhaibh. Tha iarraidh mhór aig pàrantan air an cuid chloinne—feadhainn aig nach 'eil Gàidhlig anns an dachaigh—a chur do sgòil mar seo. Chan i seo an aon sgòil far a bheil Gàidhlig 'na meadhon-teagaisg; tha còrr is ceithir fichead as a' cheud diubh anns an dùthaich. Tha sgoilearan a dh'ionnsaicheadh 'na leithid seo de sgòil a' toirt iomadh uair bàrr air càch an uair a théid iad do 'n Oil-thaigh.

Fad na h-ùine a chuir mi seachad aig an Oireachtas cha chuala mi ach Gàidhlig a mhàin air a labhairt. Is i a labhair na briteamhan uile. Chan 'eil teagamh air bith nach 'eil abhar na Gàidhlig fallain air Eirinn agus a' sior dhòl am feabhas. Tha an cainnt dhùthchail aig sean is òg, bochd is beartach. Dh'fhòghlain sinn mòran ré na seachdain; bu truaigh nach tuigeamaid ach roinn de na chuala sinn. Nochdadh dhuinn bàidh is coibhneas nach dl-chuimhnich sinn gu bràth.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE HIGHLANDS

The Grand Rally

A LARGE audience took advantage of the "admission free" invitation and filled the St. Andrew's Hall, Glasgow, on 21st October, 1953, for the post-Jubilee Mod Rally the purpose of which was to focus attention on the main aspects of Highland life and culture and stress the need for greater and more widespread support for every effort towards Highland well-being, and especially for An Comunn itself as the spearhead of the cultural movement.

The President of An Comunn, Mr. J. M. Bannerman, presided in his usual efficient and genial manner. Bailie William W. Finlay, senior magistrate, deputising for Lord Provost Thomas A. Kerr, gave an official civic welcome.

The Right Hon. Angus L. Macdonald, Prime Minister of Nova Scotia, stressed the strong ties binding Scots abroad with the homeland and made a stirring plea for the maintenance of our ancient language and traditions. The Right Hon. Thomas Johnston, who is both Chairman of the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board and Chairman of the Scottish Tourist Board, spoke of the material and economic basis of Highland life, dwelling specially on the great progress made in hydro-electric development and the immense possibilities for the future.

Mr. Melville Dinwiddie, Scottish Controller, B.B.C., deputising for Lord Clydesmuir,

Chairman of the National Broadcasting Council for Scotland, gave assurance of the B.B.C.'s interest in and concern for the fostering of Gaelic culture. Sir Hector Hetherington, Principal of Glasgow University, spoke of the part the universities had played and could play in furthering the interests of Gaelic. He made special mention of the recent folklore conference in Stornoway.

Sir Compton Mackenzie dealt pungently and humorously with some of the things needing to be remedied if the Highlands are to be prosperous. The Very Rev. Dr. Alexander Macdonald, in a forceful Gaelic address, spoke of the importance of using Gaelic regularly and not on special occasions only. It was greatly regretted that Mr. Malcolm MacAulay, of the Sun Life Insurance Company, London, was unable to take part. Mr. Findlay J. Macdonald, B.B.C., and joint-editor of *Gairm*, made an urgent appeal for more members for An Comunn.

Following upon the speeches—which were all on a very high level, both in content and expression—a ceilidh was held, with Mr. Bannerman as Fear-an-taighe. Those taking part were the Glasgow Police Pipe Band, massed Gaelic choirs (conducted by Mr. J. N. MacConochie), Jubilee Mod Gold Medallists Aunice Gillies and Hugh MacInnes, and the Greenock, Clydebank, and "G.G." Choirs.

Mr. Bannerman proposed a comprehensive vote of thanks to the speakers, artistes, and choirs, and so ended a memorable evening.

CONFERENCE

ON GAELIC BROADCASTING

ON the invitation of the Broadcasting Council for Scotland a conference was held in Broadcasting House, Glasgow, on 30th October, 1953, to consider Gaelic broadcast programmes. Lord Clydesmuir, Chairman of the Council, presided, and other members of the Council present were Mr. A. D. Buchanan-Smith, Lord Provost J. M. Graham, Mr. J. L. Kinloch, and the Rev. T. M. Murchison, with Mr. Melville Dinwiddie (Scottish Controller, B.B.C.), Mr. Gordon Gildard (Head of Scottish Programmes), and Mr. Hugh Macphee and Mr. Finlay J. Macdonald, of the B.B.C. Gaelic Department. Forty-five representatives of various interests concerned with Gaelic were present.

The conference programme consisted of brief introductory talks on various aspects of Gaelic broadcasting as follows: "Output of Gaelic programmes" (introduced by Mr. J. M.

(Continued on p. 5)



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar VI

AM FAOILLEACH, 1954

Aireamh 1

Sneachd-gheal agus na Daoine Beaga

(Eadar-theangaichte bho Sgeulachdan Grimm le T.M.M.)

O CHIONN cian nan cian ann an dùthaich a tha glé fhada air falbh, bha Banrigh na dùthcha 'na suidhe aig an uinneig agus i trang a' fuaigheal. Is e dubh-mheadhon a' gheamhraidh a bha ann, agus bha an sneachd a' tuiteam ceithir-thimcheall 'na lùineagan móra. Bha bonn na h-uinneige deante de fhiodh cruaidh dubh, agus am feadh is a bha a' Bhanrigh a' fuaigheal nach ann a stob i a meur leis an t-snáthaid agus thuit trì boinnean fala bhuaipe air an t-sneachd.

"O," arsa ise, "b'fheàrr gum biodh a' chaileag bheag agamsa cho geal ris an t-sneachd, cho dearg ris an fhuil, agus cho dubh ri bonn na h-uinneige!"

Agus, gu firinneach, is ann mar sin a dh'fhàs a' chaileag. Bha a craiceann cho geal ri sneachd, a gruaidhean air dhath na fala, agus a falt dubh dubh, agus b'e "Sneachd-gheal" a b'ainm dhi.

Ach chaochail a' Bhanrigh, màthair Sneachd-gheal, agus phòs an Rìgh bean eile. Bha i seo a nis 'na Banrigh, agus bha i glé mhaiseach, ach bha i cho mór aisdé fhéin agus nach fuilingeadh i smuaineachadh gum b'urrainn neach sam bith a bhith na i's maisiche na i fhéin. Bha sgàthan-sìdhe aice, agus bu tric a sheall i oirre fhéin anns an sgàthan agus theireadh i,

"Innis, a sgàthain, innis gu fìor,
Am measg uil' bhaintighearan na tìr,
Cò i as bòidhche, cò i, cò i?"

Agus fhreagradh an sgàthan daonnan mar seo,

"Is tus', a Bhanrigh, as bòidhche san tìr."

Ach bha Sneachd-gheal a' slor-fhàs na's bòidhche gach bliadhna, agus an uair a bha i seachd bliadhna a dh'aois bha i cho àlainn ri là soilleir samhraidh agus na's bòidhche na a' Bhanrigh fhéin. Agus, là a bha seo, nach ann

a thubhairt an sgàthan-sìdhe ris a' Bhanrigh, agus i a' cur na ceiste àbhaistich air,

"Is bòidheach thus', a Bhanrigh chaomh,
Ach 's bòidhche buileach Sneachd-gheal
chiùin."

An uair a chuala a' Bhanrigh na briathran seo, dh'fhàs a h-aodann glas le feirg is farmad, agus ghairm i aon de na seirbhisich aice agus thubhairt i ris, "Thoir leat Sneachd-gheal do'n choille mhóir, agus na faiceam-sa gu bràth tuilleadh il!"

Dh'fhalbh an seirbhiseach le Sneachd-gheal, ach ghabh e truas dhith an uair a ghuidh i air gun a marbhadh. "Cha dean mise cron ort, a chailin laghach," arsa esan, agus dh'fhàg e an sìod i leatha fhéin, agus arsa esan ris fhéin, "Mur marbh na beathaichean fiadhaich i, is dòcha gun sàbhail cuid-eigin i, ach, co-dhiubh, cha d'rinn mise coire dhi agus tha mo chogais glan."

Mar sin dh'fhàgadh Sneachd-gheal bhochd leatha fhéin anns a' choille mhóir, agus shiubhail i astar mór, is gun fhios aice càit an robh i a' dol. Bha na beathaichean fiadhaich a' beucadh m'a timcheall ach cha do ghabh gin diubh gnothach rithe.

Mu dheireadh, anns an fheasgar, thàinig Sneachd-gheal gu taigh beag am measg nam beann, agus bha a casan beaga cho goirt is cho sgith is gun deachadh i a steach a ghabhail fois. Cha robh duine beò a staigh anns an taigh. Bha a h-uile nì cho glan is cho òrdail am broinn an taighe. Air a' bhòrd bha anart geal, agus air an anart bha seachd thriansearan beaga le seachd buileannan beaga orra, agus seachd gloineachan beaga le fìon annta, agus seachd sgeanan is forcaichean is spàinean air an cur

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a mach gu dòigheil, agus ris a' bhalla bha seachd leapannan beaga.

Leis gu robh Sneachd-gheal cho acrach, dh'ith i criomag de gach buileann agus dh'òl i drùdhag bheag as gach gloine, agus an sin smuainich i gun rachadh i a chadal greiseag. Chaidh i 'na sineadh anns a' cheud leabaidh, ach bha i sin ro-fhada; dh'fheuch i an sin an dara leabaidh, ach bha i sin ro-ghoirid. Agus dh'fheuch i gach aon de na leapannan gus an tàinig i do'n t-seachdamh leabaidh, agus bha an leabaidh sin cho comhfhurtaid freagarrach agus gun do laigh i sìos an sin agus chaidil i.

An ceann ùine thàinig an fheadhainn leis an robh an taigh, agus b'iad sin seachd daoine beaga biodach, a bha a chòmhnaidh am measg nam beann agus a bha a' deanamh am beòshlaint a' clàdhach air son òir. Thàinig na seachd daoine beaga a steach agus las iad na seachd lampachan a bha aea, agus anns a' mhionaid chunnaic iad nach robh gach nì mar a bu chòir!

Thubhairt a' cheud fhear, "Cò a bha 'na shuidhe air an stòl agamsa?"

Thubhairt an dara fear, "Cò a bha ag itheadh de'n truinnsear agamsa?"

Thubhairt an treas fear, "Cò a bha a' criomadh an arain agamsa?"

Thubhairt an ceathramh fear, "Cò a bha a' gabhail gnothaich ris an spàin agamsa?"

Thubhairt an còigeamh fear, "Cò a bha a' laimhseachadh an fhoc agamsa?"

Thubhairt an sèthamh fear, "Cò a bha a' gearradh leis an sgian agamsa?"

Thubhairt an seachdamh fear, "Cò a bha ag òl an fhiona agamsa?"

An sin sheall a' cheud fhear mun cuairt agus thubhairt, e "Cò a bha 'na shìneadh anns an leabaidh agamsa?" Agus thàinig càch uile 'nan ruith agus dh'èubh a h-uile fear dhiubh gu robh cuid-eigin air a bhith air an leabaidh aige-san. Ach chunnaic an seachdamh fear Sneachd-gheal, agus ghairm e a bhràthrean uile a thighinn agus sealltainn oirre, agus thug iad leo an lampachan ach am faicheadh iad i, agus dh'èubh iad a mach le iongnadh mòr mór, "Air m'onair, nach bòidheach an leanabh i!" Agus bha aoihbneas orra 'ga faicinn an sin, agus thug iad an deagh aire nach dùisgeadh iad i, agus chaidil an seachdamh fear dhiubh uair a thìde m'a seach còmhla ris an t-sèathnar eile gus an robh an oidhche seachad.

Anns a' mhadainn dh'innis Sneachd-gheal dhaibh a sgeul agus mar a dh'èirich dhi, agus ghabh iad truas dhith, agus thubhairt iad rithe, nan cumadh i gach nì gu dòigheil dhaibh agus nan deanadh i còcaireachd is nigheadaireachd is fighe is snìomh dhaibh, gum

faodadh i fuireach còmhla ri agus gun gabhadh iad an deagh chùram dhith. An sin chaidh iad a mach fad an là da'n cuid oibreach, a' sìreadh òir is airgid anns na beanntan, ach dh'fhàgadh Sneachd-gheal aig an taigh, agus thug iad rabhadh dhi, ag ràdh, "Cluinnidh a' Bhanrigh uair no uair-eigin càit a bheil thu; mar sin, feuch nach leig thu neach sam bith a steach!"

Ach bha a' Bhanrigh de'n bheachd gu robh Sneachd-gheal marbh, agus mar sin bha i a' creidsinn gum b' fhéin an té a bu bòidhche anns an dùthaich gu h-iomlan, agus chaidh i a dh'ionnsaigh an sgàthain agus thubhairt i,

"Innis, a sgàthain, innis gu fìor,
Am measg uil' bhaintighearnan na tìr,
Cò i as bòidhche, cò i, cò i?"

Agus fhreagair an sgàthain,

"San tìr tha seo, their mì gu fìor,
Is tus' as bòidhche anns an tìr,
Ach fada thall air cùl nam beann,
Le seachdnar dhaoine beag' sa' ghleann,
Tha Sneachd-gheal òg, O Bhanrigh rùn—
Is is' as maisiche na thu!"

An uair a chuala a' Bhanrigh na briathran sin, ghabh i an t-eagal, oir bha fhios aice gum biodh an sgàthain daonna an labhairt na fìrinn, agus bha i cinnteach gun do bhrath a seirbhiseach i. Agus chan fhuingeadh i smuaineachadh gu robh neach sam bith ann na's maisiche na i fhéin. Mar sin fhuair i badan de sheann aodach agus chuir i uimpe an t-aodach sin, agus i 'ga cur fhéin ann an riochd seann cheannaiche-siubhail, agus dh'fhalbh i a null thar nam monaidhean a dh'ionnsaigh an àite anns an robh na daoine beaga a' gabhail còmhnaidh. Bhuail i air dorus an taighe aca agus dh'èubh i, "Tha nithean annasach agamsa r'an reic!" Sheall Sneachd-gheal a mach air an uinneig agus thubhairt i, "Fàilte, a bhean chòir, gu dé a tha sibh ag reic an diugh?" "Nithean annasach, nithean feumail, nithean breagha," arsa a' chailleach. "Leagaidh mi an t-seana bhean a steach," arsa Sneachd-gheal ri fhéin, "oir tha a choltas oirre a bhith 'na boireannach còir," agus dh'fhosgail i an dorus agus thàinig a' chailleach a steach.

"Air m'fhacal," arsa a' chailleach, agus i ag amharc air Sneachd-gheal, "tha an t-seacaid bheag sin a tha ort ro fhuasgailte; leig leam a theannachadh leis an stiom seo." Cha do ghabh Sneachd-gheal amharas sam bith, agus sheas i am meadhan an ùrlair agus chaidh a' chailleach air a cùl agus thòisich i air an t-seacaid a theannachadh leis an stiom, agus tharraing i an stiom cho teann agus gum do stad anail na cailleige, agus thuit Sneachd-gheal sìos air an làr mar gum biodh i marbh.

“Sin agad crìoch do do bhòidhchead,” arsa a’ Bhanrigh gu nimheil (oir is ise a bha an riochd cailliche), agus chaidh i dhachaigh.

Anns an fheasgar thàinig na seachd luspardanan dhachaigh, agus faodar a thugsinn cho duilich is a bha iad an uair a chunnaic iad Sneachd-gheal 'na sineadh air an làr mar gum biodh i marbh. Ach, co-dhiubh, thog iad i agus gheàrr iad an stiom, agus an ceann tacain thill a h-anail d'a h-ionnsaigh agus cha b'fhada gus an robh i slàn fallain a rithist. An sin thubhairt iad rithe, “B'i a' chailleach ud a' Bhanrigh; bi air t'fhaicil an ath uair, agus na leig neach sam bith a steach air an doras sin, an uair a tha sinne o'n taigh.”

Cho luath is a ràinig a' Bhanrigh an lùchairt chaidh i dìreach a dh'ionnsaigh an sgàthain agus chuir i a' cheist àbhaisteach ris, agus fhreagair an sgàthan,

“San tìr tha seo, their mi gu fìor,
Is tus' as bòidhche anns an tìr,
Ach fada thall air cùl nam beann,
Le seachdnar dhaoine beag' sa' ghleann,
Tha Sneachd-gheal òg, O Bhanrigh rùin,
Is is' as maisiche na thu!”

Bu mhór bròn na Bhanrigh an uair a chuala i na briathran sin. Dh'fhàs an fhuil fuar 'na cridhe le gamhlas is fuath, an uair a thug i gu robh Sneachd-gheal fhathast beò. Mar sin, chuir i oirre èideadh eile agus thug i leatha cr phuinneanta, agus dh'fhalbh i a rithist gu taigh nan daoine beaga thall air cùl nam beann. An uair a ràinig i an taigh, bhuail i air an doras agus dh'èubh i, “Nithean breagha r'an reic!” Ach thubhairt Sneachd-gheal, “Chan fhaod mi neach sam bith a leigeil a steach.” An sin thubhairt a' Bhanrigh, “Seall air na cìrean breagha a tha an seo,” agus thug i dhi a' chìr phuinneanta. Ghabh Sneachd-gheal a' chìr agus ar leatha gu robh a' chìr cho fìor-bhreagha agus gun do chuir i 'na falt i, feuch ciamar a thigeadh i rithe, ach anns a' mhionaid thug am puinnean oirre tuiteam sios agus cha robh dìog aice. “Faodaidh tu laighe an sin,” arsa a' Bhanrigh, agus thog i oirre dhachaigh.

Gu fortanach, thill na luspardanan dhachaigh tràth ann feasgar ud agus, an uair a fhuair iad Sneachd-gheal 'na sineadh air an làr, thug iad cìod a thachair agus cha b'fhada gus an d'amais iad air a' chìr a bha 'na falt agus, an uair a thug iad a' chìr as a falt, dh'fhàs i na b'fheàrr agus dh'innis i dhaibh mar a thachair, agus thug iad rabhadh dhi aon uair eile gun an doras fhosgladh do neach sam bith.

Cho luath is a ràinig a' Bhanrigh an lùchairt rinn i dìreach air an sgàthan agus chuir i a' cheist air mar a b'àbhaist agus fhuair i an

fhreagairt a fhuair i roimhe. “Feumaidh Sneachd-gheal bàsachadh,” arsa ise, “ged chosgadh sin mo bheatha dhòmhsa.” Mar sin chaidh i do'n t-seòmar aice agus dh'ullaich i ubhal phuinnseanta. Air an taobh a mach bha an ubhal breagha dearg, ach bhèireadh i am bàs do neach sam bith a bhlaiseadh oirre. Chuir a' Bhanrigh èideadh oirre mar gum b'e bean tuathanaich a bha innte agus dh'fhalbh i a rithist gu taigh nan daoine beaga air cùl nam beann agus bhuail i air an doras. Ach chuir Sneachd-gheal a ceann a mach air an uinneig agus thubhairt i, “Chan fhaod mi neach sam bith a leigeil a steach, oir thug na luspardanan àithne dhomh gun sin a dheanamh.” “Dean mar a thogras tu,” arsa a' chailleach, “ach gabh bhuamsa an ubhal bhreagha seo; beir mi dhuit i.” “Cha ghabh mi idir i,” arsa Sneachd-gheal, “chan fhaod mi a gabhail.” “Nach tu a tha gòrach,” arsa an té eile, “Gu dé an t-eagal a tha ort? A bheil thu a' saoilinn gu bheil i puinnseanta? Seall! ith thusa pìos dhith agus ithidh mise am pìos eile.” A nis bha aon taobh de'n ubhal ceart gu leòir, ach bha an taobh eile puinnseanta. Bha an ubhal cho breagha ri amharc oirre agus gu robh Sneachd-gheal air a buaireadh gu mòr, agus an uair a chunnaic i a' chailleach ag ithe pìos dhith cha b'urrainn i diùltadh. Ach cha luaithe a chuir i am pìos ubhla 'na beul na thuit i sìos marbh air a' ghrund. “Cha sàbhail nì sam bith thu a nis!” arsa a' Bhanrigh, agus chaidh i dhachaigh, agus chaidh i a dh'ionnsaigh an sgàthan, agus thubhairt an sgàthan rithe,

“Chan 'eil na's bòidhche na thu ann.”

Agus rinn a droch cridhe gàirdeachas, agus bha i cho sona agus a b'urrainn creutair cho olc a bhith.

Thàinig am feasgar agus thill na luspardanan dhachaigh agus fhuair iad Sneachd-gheal air an làr. Cha robh deò innte agus bha eagal orra gu robh i gu tur marbh. Thog iad suas i agus chìr iad a ceann agus nìg iad a h-aodann le fìon is uisge, ach cha tàinig feabhas sam bith oirre, agus bha a h-uile coltas oirre a bhith marbh. Air an aobhar sin chuir iad 'na sineadh i air bòrd fiodha, agus rinn an seachdnar faire mun cuairt dhith agus rinn iad caoidh air a son fad thrì laithean, agus an sin smuainich iad gun adhlaiceadh iad i. Ach bha a gruaidhean cho dearg is a bha iad riann, agus bha a h-aodann mar a bha e an uair a bha i beò, agus thubhairt iad ri càch a chèile, “Chan adhlaic sinn gu bràth i anns an talamh fhuar.” Agus rinn iad ciste de ghloine a chum is gum faicheadh iad i anns a' chiste, agus sgrìobh iad air a' chiste ann an litrichean òir a h-ainm agus gum bu nighean rìgh i. Agus chuir iad a' chiste am

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measg nam beann agus rinn fear dhiubh faire air a' chiste agus e 'nà shuidhe ri a taobh. Agus thàinig eunlaith an adhair agus rinn iad caoidh air son Sneachd-gheal; an toiseach thàinig a' chailleach-oidhche, agus an sin am fitheach, agus as déidh sin calman, agus shuidh iad ri a taobh.

Agus mar seo bha Sneachd-gheal 'na sinedh ùine mhór mhór, agus fhathast is ann a bha i mar nach robh i ach 'na cadal, oir bha i a nis cho geal ri sneachd agus cho dearg ri fuil agus cho dubh dubh.

Mu dheireadh thall thàinig Prionnsa agus thadhail e aig taigh nan daoine beaga, agus chunnaic e Sneachd-gheal anns a' chiste agus leugh e na bha sgrìobhte air a' chiste an litrichean òir. An sin thairg e airgead do na luspadanan agus ghuidh is dh'iarr e orra cead a toirt leis, ach thubhairt iadsan, "Cha dealaich sinne rithe air son na tha de òr anns an t-saoghal gu léir." Ach mu dheireadh bha truas aca ris agus thug iad dha a' chiste, ach cho luath is a thog e a' chiste a chum a giùlan leis thuit am pìos ubhla bho eadar bìlean Sneachd-gheal agus dhùisg i agus thubhairt i, "Càit a bheil mi?" Agus thubhairt am Prionnsa. "Tha 'thu sàbhailte còmhla riumsa."

An sin dh'innis e dhì gach nì a thachair, agus thubhairt e, "Tha làn mo chridhe de ghaol agam ort; thig maille rium gu lùchairt m'athar agus pòsaidh mi thu." Agus dh'aothaich Sneachd-gheal ri sin agus chaidh i dhachaigh còmhla ris a' Phrionnsa, agus rinneadh ullachadh mòr air son na bainnse.

Am measg na bha air an cuireadh a dh'ionnsaigh na bainnse bha seann nàmhaid Sneachd-gheal, a' Bhanrigh olc; agus an uair a bha i 'ga h-éideadh fein an aodach greadhnach air son na cuirme, sheall i anns an sgàthan agus thubhairt i,

"Innis, a sgàthain, innis gu fìor,
Am measg uil' bhaintighearnan na tìr,
Cò i as bòidheche, cò i, cò i?"

Agus fhreagair an sgàthan,

"An seo chan 'eil na 's bòidhch' na thu,
Ach 's bòidhche buileach a' Bhanrigh ùr."

An uair a chuala i seo chaidh i air chrith le feirg, ach bha a leithid de fharmad agus de neònachas innte agus nach b'urrainn i cumail air falbh bho'n chuirme agus miann oirre a' Bhanrigh ùr fhaicinn. Agus an uair a ràinig i lùchairt a' Phrionnsa agus a chunnaic i gum b'i Sneachd-gheal Bean-na-bainnse—an té a shaoil leatha-se a bha marbh o chionn ùine mhór—thachd i le feirg agus thuit i sìos marbh. Ach mhair Sneachd-gheal agus am Prionnsa beò, agus bha iad a' riaghladh gu sona thairis air an dùthaich ud fad iomadh bliadhna; agus an

dràsda agus a rithist bheireadh iad cuairt suas do na beanntan a thadhail air na seachd daoine beaga a nochd a leithid de choibhneas do Sneachd-gheal ann an ám a h-airce.

"Luspartan"—Anns a' Bheurla "Dwarf,"
duine beag no troich.

MADAINN FHUAIR DI-LUAIN

O, nach mise tha 'nam éiginn
Air madainn fhuair Di-luain!
Thig orm éirigh as mo leabaidh
Is crith orm leis an fhuachd.

Is mi bhiodh sona 'na mo leabaidh
Is an t-aodach seo cho blàth;
Tha 'n leabaidh math air madainn fhuair—
Dh'fhuirinn innt' gu bràth.

(*A Leabhran Ard-sgoil MhicNeacail an
Stèornabhagh, 1953.*)

MO CHOINEAG

Fhuair mi coineag bheag
A mhuigh air a' mhòintich;
Ceann beag dubh oirre
Is casan beaga siùbhlach.

Thug mi leam dhachaigh i,
Oir bha i cho bòidheach,
Is chuir mi ann am bucas i
Air leabaidh bhuig de chóinnich.

(*A Leabhran Ard-sgoil MhicNeacail an
Stèornabhagh, 1953.*)

Bi sinn toilichte sgeulan beaga, naidh-
eachdan, toimhseachain, òrain, rannan,
is criomagan annasach eile fhaotainn air
son an cur an clò anns "A' Ghaidheal Og."

Bidh an còrr de'n sgeul, "Dàn Clann Lir,"
anns an ath-àireamh.

(Continued from p. 4)

Bannerman, President of An Comunn Gaidhealach), "Planning of Gaelic Items" (Mr. James Thomson, ex-headmaster of Bayble School, Lewis), "Talks and Other Interests" (Rev. J. K. Murchison, Leith), "Music and Folklore" (Mr. J. N. MacConochie, Conductor of the Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association), "Broadcasting and An Comunn" (Miss Nancy Maclean, President, Glasgow Tìre Association), "Religion" (Rev. Hector Maclean, Greenock), "Learning Gaelic" (Mr. Ian Gourlay, a member of the B.B.C. Scottish Variety Orchestra), "News in Gaelic" (Mr. John MacLellan, Vice-President of the Highlanders' Institute), "Drama" (Mr. Lachlan Mackinnon, Fort William), "The Old and the New" (Rev. John MacKay, Glasgow).

These topics, and the opportunity to raise any matters not covered by these topics, gave very wide scope for discussion and many interesting points were raised. There was general commendation of the work of the B.B.C.'s Gaelic Department, appreciation of the difficulties and limitations in face of which their work is done, criticism of items which might be improved, and suggestions for further development. On a number of points contradictory views were expressed, and a refreshing variety of opinions was heard. Many useful suggestions were made, some of which may yet prove fruitful.

At the close of the conference Mr. Bannerman expressed appreciation of the action of the Council in holding this conference.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Special Meeting

A Special Meeting of the Executive Council of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in the Central Halls, Bath Street, Glasgow, on Friday, 21st August, 1953. Mr. J. M. Bannerman, President, occupied the Chair, and forty members were present.

The meeting gave long and careful consideration to a report from the Special Sub-Committee appointed at the meeting of 26th June last to draft the conditions of appointment and other matters relating to the office of General Secretary and Organiser of An Comunn, vacant on Mr. Neil Shaw's retirement.

After much discussion, agreement was reached on the terms of an advertisement to be inserted in the press inviting applications for the post. Several members were appointed to be an Appointments Sub-Committee to consider applications for the post and prepare a short

lect for the Council, who would make the appointment.

The meeting also considered and approved a report from the Testimonial Sub-Committee concerning Mr. Shaw's Testimonial Fund.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

7th November, 1953

A meeting of the Executive Council was held in the Highlanders' Institute, Glasgow, on Saturday, 7th November, 1953. Mr. J. M. Bannerman, President, occupied the Chair, and there was a large attendance of members.

The Advisory Committee reported that Mr. Farquhar Macrae and Mr. Angus Macleod, or Mr. Malcolm Macleod (Assistant Secretary) in place of either, had been appointed to represent An Comunn at the Oireachtas in Dublin on 24th-31st October, 1953.

A minute of the Finance Committee reported that 68 names had been removed from the roll of ordinary members for non-payment of subscriptions. The Committee also drew attention to the divergency between the definition of "Junior Member" in the Constitution and that in the Mod regulations, and recommended that this be rectified. Appreciation was expressed of the services so willingly rendered, without recompense, by Mr. Donald Macphail in taking charge of the Inverness Office during the absence of Mr. Matheson following upon his accident.

The Committee formally noted with great gratification the munificent gift to An Comunn of £1,000 from Mrs. Edith G. Croll, Glenuig, in memory of her son, the late Mr. Graham Croll, this money to be applied towards extinction of debt, and it was resolved to minute sincere appreciation of this handsome and most welcome contribution.

Arising out of a minute of the Education Committee there was a prolonged discussion on a variety of matters relating to the position of Gaelic in the schools.

Arising out of the minute of the Publication Committee, which had drawn attention to the heavy costs of publishing Gaelic books, it was agreed to arrange a conference of representatives of various bodies concerned with the publishing of Gaelic literature to consider a joint-approach for grants in aid.

A minute of the Propaganda Committee was also submitted, discussed, and approved.

The Art and Industry Committee reported that a Sub-Committee had been appointed, with Mrs. Bannerman as Convener and Mrs. Edgar as Vice-Convener, to take charge of An Comunn's Stall in the forthcoming Highlanders' Institute Bazaar.

OBITUARIES

Mr. John A. Macdonald

Mr. John A. Macdonald, Dundee, was a native of Skye, but during his forty years' residence in Dundee had taken a leading part in Gaelic affairs in that city. He was prominent in Comunn nam Fineachan prior to 1914, and was a founder and vice-president of Ceilidh nan Gaidheal in Dundee. He also conducted Gaelic classes and was Gaelic tutor to the Dundee Gaelic Choir.

Mr. Donald MacCowan

Mr. Donald MacCowan, Oban, was, like his brother, the late Ex-Provost Hugh MacCowan, actively associated throughout his life with An Comunn Gaidhealach from its foundation. He had served as a Mod adjudicator and had been secretary and for many years president of the Oban Branch of An Comunn and was also a member of the Executive Council.

Colonel John MacSween

Colonel John MacSween, O.B.E., M.A., F.E.I.S., a Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Ross and Cromarty, had been, a few months ago, appointed first Principal of the new Lews Castle College, Stornoway, but he was not spared long to lead this fine new educational development. For over twenty years he had been headmaster of Aird School, Lewis, and his navigation classes there were recognised by the Board of Trade. He also wrote a standard text-book on navigation. During the last war he commanded the Home Guard in the Hebrides. He was for a period president of the Lewis Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach.

Mr. Neil Sinclair

Mr. Neil Sinclair, schoolmaster, Isle of Barra, was, like his brother, the late Donald Sinclair, bard and writer, an expert in Gaelic lore, and was secretary of the Barra Folklore Committee from its inception in 1948. He also did good work as treasurer of the Sea League from 1933 to 1938.

Mr. Duncan Macgregor Whyte

Mr. Duncan Macgregor Whyte, Oban, who was well-known as a talented artist, was 87 years of age, and was closely associated with An Comunn Gaidhealach since its foundation. He was also well-known and highly respected in Gaelic circles in Glasgow, especially in Ceilidh nan Gaidheal.

Several minutes of the Mod and Music Committee were submitted, mainly dealing with the arrangements for the Jubilee Mod in October last.

Comunn na h-Oigridh Committee reported on the arrangements for taking over "Cnoc-an-ròis," the mansion near Tain purchased as permanent headquarters for Comunn na h-Oigridh.

The Council then, meeting in private, considered and discussed a report from the Appointments Sub-Committee and gave the Sub-Committee further instructions.

The next meeting was fixed for Saturday, 16th January, 1954.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

ANNS A' MHAILEID

Teacher Wanted

A Dhuin' Uasal,—Ever since my friend and teacher, Seòras Galda, went to Tir-nan-òg, I've been without a Gaelic teacher, and I feel sadly in need of one. Will you be so kind as to ask if anyone would be willing to continue Seòras's task. Preferably an older teacher, as Seòras always stressed the point that it was the older generation who had the purest Gaelic. Will you try, please, to find me a teacher? Cuiridh sibh fo chomain mhóir mi!

Suas leis a' Ghàidhlig!

Leis gach dùrachd mhaith,

LIUSAIDH MONTIGNY.

't Spreenwennest,
Eerbeck (G), Holland.

(Miss Luc Montigny had hoped to compete at the Jubilee Mod in Oban, but could not come. She hopes, however, to compete in 1954. She was to sing Gaelic songs in Amsterdam on 16th October last. She adds, "Tha mi cho sona agus a tha an là cho fada, for this year I acquired a clarsach of my own, built by Mr. Briggs of Glasgow and made of sycamore and satin wood—gleams like the sun, like the Barra song has it, gu buidhe-bàn, ailleagan nan clàrsach." We thank Miss Montigny for her letter and for her message of good wishes to the Jubilee Mod, and we hope some one among us will undertake to correspond with her in Gaelic as Mr. Marjoribanks used to do.—ED.)

"An Aimsir Chellteach"—This interesting and useful "monthly paper of the Celtic peoples" is now edited by a Scot, Mr. Archd. MacPherson, Edinburgh.

A Broadside from Abroad

SOME CANDID COMMENTS ON MODERN GAELIC WRITING

By J. GRAHAM MACDONALD, California

AS an English speaker studying Gaelic from text-books and finding my progress slow and tedious, I have been much interested in the discussion in recent issues of *An Gaidheal* on the subject of "simplifying" Gaelic.

It seems to me that many of the suggestions put forward for the purpose of making the study of Gaelic easier would only increase the difficulties of that language for the ordinary student. The real difficulty in the study of Gaelic does *not* lie in such elements as so-called "aspiration," variations at the beginning as well as the end of words, use of silent vowels and silent consonants, the various forms of the article, or the "leathan ri leathan agus caol ri caol" rule. Each of these features actually helps in the simplification of the language besides contributing greatly to its rhythm and vocal smoothness.

Grammatical rules governing these elements, however, are served up in available text-books in the manner of a pig's breakfast. No attempt is made to explain clearly the fundamental principles back of them. As a consequence, the would-be student tries to memorise them by rota, and, failing in that, he hopes that he will master them subconsciously through persistent reading of current Gaelic "literature."

Memorising by rota instead of by reason from organised knowledge is next to impossible for anyone beyond the age of kindergarten, except under persistent discipline such as is applied to children memorising the multiplication tables. Few people have the will-power to discipline themselves in such a manner, and, being impatient to make progress, they skim over the rules and then use their grammars for reference only when they run into difficulties.

One's first Gaelic lessons are made up of short easy sentences which encourage the student to rush on enthusiastically. Soon, however, he has to cope with longer and more expressive sentences which contain features he finds difficult because they are not found in any other language he knows or has studied. More and more he must refer back to this grammar-book, often with irritating frustration, as that book—usually the product of a Latin scholar—is built on a Latin skeleton and not on Celtic principles.

In time, such frustrations become too much for him, and he gives up such study with disgust, in the belief—which popular writers foster—that Gaelic is too difficult for one to master who has not been born and raised in a Gaelic-speaking home. For his difficulties he blames the language, and not his teachers or the text-books he has obtained for his guidance.

Of course, some students have the determination to keep on studying in spite of such a faulty approach, and they finally get the rules pretty well memorised. It is then that they run into real difficulties with the language—difficulties which are back of Dr. Bodmer's statement in his *Loom of Language*, published as recently as 1944, that "Scots Gaelic is spoken by the 'poor whites' in the Western Highlands of Scotland."

The Loom of Language, although published in the United States, was written in the Scottish Highlands and edited in Aberdeen. Dr. Bodmer used the expression "poor whites" in quotation marks, as it is an American slang term and very descriptive to American readers. From the learned Doctor's statement American readers take it that Scots Gaelic is the speech of white people in the Western Highlands who are unschooled and illiterate in their native tongue.

Since public education in Scotland has long been free and compulsory, these "poor whites" are certainly as well educated and literate in English as are the members of any other group in the British Isles. As a result of such educational policies, however, innumerable English words have been introduced into colloquial Gaelic and given a Gaelic dressing by people without the education in their native tongue necessary to enable them to borrow foreign words with that discretion mandatory if such borrowings are to be enriching instead of destructive to the borrowing language.

Gaelic editors, without literary judgment, have given these borrowings literary standing without discrimination. Now the student is in a sea of confusion, when, having become familiar with the basic meaning of a Gaelic root, he runs into a word apparently based on that root in a context in which it makes no sense whatever with any meaning directly or metaphorically related to the basic Celtic meaning of its root. Often the word in question is not even in his Gaelic dictionary. Only when the reader thinks in English does he realise that it is an English word in a Gaelic dressing, and that as such it really makes sense in its Gaelic context.

Such confusion is not confined to one or two roots. There are now innumerable roots in "modern literary" Gaelic which have both Celtic and English meanings in no way related to one another, either directly or indirectly. There are not a few in the Gaelic version of the Bible now in circulation which help to increase a foreigner's difficulty in mastering Gaelic, while in modern writings such as appear in *An Gaidheal* and *Gairm* their name is legion. Incidentally, this defect is even greater in modern Irish Gaelic.

Apparently, the editors of modern Gaelic publications are afraid of offending their contributors by only accepting their submissions subject to editorial correction of pseudo-Gaelic words and foreign idiomatic constructions. No contributor to a literary English publication would expect its editor to pass for publication uncorrected any manuscript pock-marked with un-English expressions. Why then should Gaelic editors be debarred from eliminating "pigeon" elements from the writings of contributors who have not been schooled in Gaelic with the thoroughness that writers have been schooled in English?

The sooner our Gaelic literary leaders get rid of their clannish provincialisms and egotistical lack of objectivity and set up an unbiased Gaelic Academy along the lines of the French and Spanish Academies to purify and protect Gaelic as English is purified and protected by compulsion in our schools, the sooner will the decay of Gaelic be halted.

The absence of a Gaelic Academy is a stigma on all Gaels and gives substance to Dr. Samuel Johnson's charge that "it (Scots Gaelic) is the rude speech of a barbarous people who had few thoughts to express and were content, as they conceived grossly, to be grossly understood."

An honest Gaelic Academy, by screening out the silt without fear or favour, can clarify the language and make its study a pleasure. It can make it respected even by the Johnsons, Hogbens, and Bodmers. What is even more important, however, it can make of it a language of which no Scot need be ashamed as many now are who were born of Gaelic-speaking parents.

(Continued on p. 8)

Treasurer's Notes

Jubilee Mod, Oban, 1953

Received at Oban—

Previously acknowledged £2,066 14 8

Received at Headquarters—

Previously acknowledged	778 4 2
Oban Town Council	50 —
Miss Marion Falconer, Bellochantuy ..	1 10 —
Mrs. David Bell, Muir of Ord..	— 10 —
Proceeds of Concert at Lochranza, per	
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Miss Aunice M. Gillies, Lochgilphead ..	3 — —
Inverness Male Voice Choir	5 — —
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R. J. G. Millar, Esq., Wick	— 5 —
Miss May F. Hunter, Fairlie	1 — —
"Anonymous"	5 5 —
Miss C. M. Macdonald, Edinburgh ..	— 5 —
Mrs. J. M. B. MacLean's "Mile-of-Pennies" Effort, Dunoon	26 2 —
Comunn na Clarsaich, Edinburgh Branch	2 — —
Miss Jean Campbell, Edinburgh	1 — —
Tarbert Gaelic Choir—in lieu of "Mile-of-Pennies" Effort	2 — —
Col. George Malcolm of Poltalloch ..	1 1 —
Mid-Argyll Association	5 — —
Alex. J. Sinclair, Esq., Stepps	2 2 —
Effort by Miss MacInnes, Fort William, in connection with Tea-set gifted by Dr. Main, Whistlefield	65 5 —
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Major Calum I. N. and Mrs. MacLeod, Nova Scotia	1 — —
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Luss and District Highland Society—	
Nett Proceeds of Concert on 11/11/53	8 — —
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Glasgow High School Gaelic Class Ceilidh	5 — —
Mrs. Iain Campbell of Airds	1 — —
	<u>£3,094 7 10</u>

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Inverness Highlands and Islands Festival Society.. ..	5 5 —
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Robert Michie, Esq., Dundee	1 — —
Col. George E. G. Grant Forman, T.D., Lochgilphead	1 — —
Raymond Japhet, Esq., London	1 1 —
Sutherland Provincial Mod Committee	30 — —
Lochalsh Gaelic Choir	5 — —
	<u>£120 18 —</u>

Magazine Fund

Previously acknowledged	£11 8 0
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Murdo Macleod, Esq., Haddington	— 10 —
	<u>£12 2 —</u>

A BROADSIDE FROM ABROAD

(Continued from p. 7)

Such an Academy is an absolute essential for the survival of any minority language in a bilingual community, and An Comunn Gaidhealach is only kidding itself and making itself a laughing-stock before the world if it thinks it can escape decay and early collapse without one.

The Editor's Comments

1. Mr. Macdonald's long airmail letter, for which we are grateful, raises so many important issues that we have printed it in full as an article in the hope that readers will give their views on the points raised.

2. "Innumerable English words in colloquial Gaelic." If Mr. Macdonald reads the poems of Alexander Macdonald and Duncan MacIntyre (reckoned to be our two best modern Gaelic bards), he will find English words by the score. Although Macdonald was a University student, MacIntyre never had "a compulsory English education" inflicted on him.

3. There are many genuine Gaelic words of long and honourable lineage which do not appear in any of the Gaelic dictionaries. The fact that a word is not in a dictionary does not prove it to be "phony" or borrowed. On the other hand, there are words in Gaelic dictionaries which have no right to be there.

4. Mr. Macdonald's article would have been much more interesting and useful had he given some examples of the literary lapses which he castigates from *An Gaidheal*, *Gairm*, the Gaelic Bible, etc.

5. Incidentally, the making of the Gaelic Scriptures has not yet been adequately investigated. It is true that biblical Gaelic differs from colloquial and literary Gaelic, even as the English of the King James' Version (Authorised Version) differs from colloquial and literary English. The Gaelic Bible, however, is not a translation of the English Authorised Version. The Gaelic and English Versions differ from each other in not a few places.

6. The French Academy does not appear to have succeeded very well in preserving the French language from foreign contamination, either in vocabulary or idiom.

7. All living and developing languages have always claimed the right to borrow from other languages. Does Mr. Macdonald deny that right to Gaelic?

8. While a Gaelic Academy would be very useful in many ways, we should hesitate to give it power to fix or enshrine the Gaelic language in however pure and perfect a form. Living imperfection is preferable to dead perfection.

We regret that, for reasons beyond our control, the publication of the Special Mod Number (November-December, 1953) of the Magazine has been considerably delayed, but it will be made available as soon as possible.

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AN GAIDHEAL

THE GAEL

JAN 1954

Vol. XLIX

FEBRUARY, 1954

No. 2

Lean Gu Dluth Ri Cliù Do Shinnsir

Bidh fear a' sireadh maoin is òir,
Is fear an tòir air inbh' is cliù :
Le iargain airsnealaich gun treòir
Tha cuid a' dleasadh còir nach fiù.

Ach fhuaradh leinne dileab bhuan
An cànan bhuadmhoir Tir nam Beann ;
Gu fonnmhor, ait, le iomadh buaidh,
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THE GAEL

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF
AN COMUNN GAIDHEALACH

Editor

REV. T. M. MURCHISON, M.A.

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CLAR-INNSIDH

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Leabhar XLIX

AN GEARRAN, 1954

Aireamh 2

Urram D'an Dlighe Urram

Is e là mór agus sònraichte a bha againn an Glaschu air Di-sathurna, an dara lá deug de'n Dùbhlachd, 1953, agus còrr is dà cheud neach cruinn gu bhith a' nochdadh an spéis do Mhgr. Niall MacGille-sheathanaich agus d'a chéile, air dha a bhith a' leigeil dheth a dhreuchd mar Rùnaire a' Chomuinn Ghaidhealaich.

A mach o'n là a chuireadh An Comunn air chois air tùs, cha robh là eile ann an eachdraidh a' Chomuinn cho sònraichte ris an là seo, oir bha sinn ann am beagan uairean a thlè a' labhairt facal taing d'ar caraid caomh a rinn fad dhà fhichead bliadhna saothair cho mór agus cho buannachdail is leth a' Chomuinn agus na Gàidhliche. Is iomadh uair is là is mìos a mhair an t-saothair sinn dhàsan. Is iomadh oidhche a bha e sgìth. Sgìth de bhith a' siubhal air feadh na dùthcha an uair nach robh goireasan-siubhail cho freagarrach is a tha iad an diugh, a dh'aindeoin ar gearain. Sgìth as déidh nan iomadh coinneamh far an do chathaich e gu duineil as leth an aobhair. Sgìth de na comhairlean far am biodh cus dhaoine gun chiall sgur aca agus gun mhóran céille anns na bha aca ri ràdh. Sgìth, iomadh uair, tha mi cinnteach, le dìbheal-misnich, agus e a' faicinn cho beag suim is a tha aig móran de na Gaidheil do'n dìleib luachmhoir a tha 'nan tairgse.

Ach do dhuine fallain chan 'eil ann an sgìos ach suidheachadh a théid seachad 'na ám féin. Is mór am feum a nì fois na h-oidhche. Is mór am feum a nì an sonas agus an t-socair a gheibh duine taobh a theine féin. Agus bhuilicheadh air Niall MacGille-sheathanaich corp fallain, maille ri intinn fhallain agus cridhe blàth, agus thugadh dha cuideachd céile chaomh aig a bheil ùidh anns gach nì grinn is aobhar uasal anns a bheil tlachd aige-san. Mar sin, chìte e gach madainn 'na sheòmar-obrach, le sunnd a' dol an car dheanasan an là, ach daonna deiseil is deònach fàilte a chur air gach neach a thadhaileadh a staigh air.

Tha iad ann a bheir a chreidsinn ort gu bheil iad ro-thrang gu fàilte a chur air caraid anns an dol-seachad. Tha iad sin na's trainge na chiallaich an Cruithear iad a bhith. Agus chan 'eil iad cho trang is a tha iad a' gabhail orra no a' creidsinn!

Bha uallach glé mhór air Niall fad an dà fhichead bliadhna, agus chan ann na's aotruime a bha an t-uallach sin a' dol. Gu dearbh, is e sin an dearbhadh air cho buannachdail torrach is a bha saothair Nèill, gu robh an obair a bha an earbsa ris cus na's truiteime agus na's cudthrom-aiche anns na bliadhnan mu dheireadh na anns na ceud bhliadhnanachan. Ach chan fhacas atharrachadh air Niall, ach a mhàin abachadh

anns an aoighealachd agus anns an t-suaireas agus anns an fhìor-mhathais a bha comharrachtaichte ann bho thùs. Agus tha e a cheart cho dlùth d' a chàirdean an diùgh is a bha e an uair nach robh cliù no aithne air air feadh na tìre mar a tha an diùgh. Agus a chàirdean an diùgh—còs ag urrainn an àireamh? Tha iad air feadh an t-saoghail.

Bha còrr is dà cheud dhiubh cruinn an Glaschu air Là an Tìodhlaic-Spéis, agus thugadh do Niall agus d' a chéile comharrachaidhean-spéis a dh' fhoillsich deagh-ghean is meas mòran cheudan an iomadh àite, sean is òg—càirdean aosda aig an robh cuimhne air a' Chomunn mus robh Niall 'na runaire air, agus a' mhòr-chuid againn aig nach 'eil cuimhne idir air a' Chomunn gun Niall 'na cheann, agus a' chlànn òg a tha 'g togail a mach gu na mòdan 'nan ceudan gach bliadhna. Bu leinn uile, is leinn uile, Niall còir.

Leughar an àit eile anns an àireamh seo na chaidh a ràdh aig a' chuirm, agus gu dearbh b' fhìor is bu ghrinn is b' uasal gach nì a labhradh.

Tha sinn mòr á Niall MacGille-sheathanaich. Tha moit oirnn air son nam buadhan a bhuilich-eadh air, agus tha sinn a' toirt buidheachais dha air son an fheuma agus a' mhaith a rinn e dhiubh, chan ann gu maoin shaoghailta a chàrnadh dha fhéin (oir bu bheag leis sin) ach gu bhith a' compàirteachadh ris na thogradh gabhail ris saobhbheas a tha thar luach airgid no òir, an saobhbheas as còir-bhreith do 'n Ghaidheal.

Gu ma fada beò ar caraid, ann an slàinte agus fallaineachd, gu bhith air ceann, le comhairle, le dìcheall, is le càirdeas, agus gu ma sona socair e fhéin is a chéile ré iomadh bliadhna ri teachd.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Mr. Finlay J. Macdonald.—His many friends will most cordially congratulate Mr. Finlay J. Macdonald, Gaelic Assistant, B.B.C., on his recent appointment as Second Drama Producer, B.B.C. At the same time Gaelic listeners have reason to regret that his new appointment deprives the B.B.C. Gaelic Department of his services.

Mr. Macdonald, a native of Harris, is not yet 29 years old, but he has already made a name for himself, not only in broadcasting but also in a wider sphere. It was in October, 1945, that he joined the B.B.C., interrupting his University course to do so. He is known as a contributor of articles and sketches to magazines and journals, and especially as Joint-Founder and Joint-Editor with Mr. Derick S. Thomson of the Gaelic quarterly "Gairm." He is a poet, and also a first-rate public speaker and lecturer. He is a sponsor of the Gaelic classes for children in Glasgow. He is a valued member of the Executive of An Comunn Gaidhealach.

We wish Mr. Macdonald all success and happiness, and we wonder how the vacancy in the Gaelic Department of the B.B.C. can be adequately filled.

Grand Bazaar.—In aid of the Jubilee Fund a Grand Bazaar, under the Conventership of Mrs. Bannerman, was held in the Maclellan Galleries, Glasgow, on Saturday, 28th November. It was opened by Lady Bartlett (better known as Mary Malcolm, of Poltalloch, Argyll, and of the B.B.C. television service), who was introduced by Mr. J. M. Bannerman, President, and thanked by the Rev. T. M. Murchison, Vice-President. The many well-stocked stalls were well-patronised, as were the side-shows, entertainments, and tea-room, and by the end of the day a sum of over £600 was realised. Thanks to all the stallholders and other helpers for their hard work.

Edinburgh Gaelic Lessons.—It is reported that the response to the invitation of the Edinburgh branch of An Comunn to take Gaelic lessons free of charge has been quite embarrassing. No less than 200 people turned up for the opening meeting of the class, conducted by Mr. Duncan Mackenzie, who is giving his services free.

APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY

As we go to press we have pleasure in reporting that, on 16th January, 1954, the Executive Council of An Comunn Gaidhealach appointed Mr. Malcolm Macleod, Assistant Secretary, to the office of General Secretary and Organiser. Fuller reference will be made in next issue.

ANN'S A' MHAILEID

BROADSIDE FROM ABROAD

A valued contributor, whose good wishes we appreciate and reciprocate, comments on Mr. J. Graham Macdonald's statement on the need to "purify and protect Gaelic as English is purified and protected by compulsion in our schools," as follows:—

In this connection one recalls press reports of "The Quinquennial International Telecommunications Conference!" One might also quote the following from a lecture on the Gaelic language by Professor J. S. Blackie to an Oban audience in 1872. Blackie referred to the "original and self-formative character" of Gaelic. It is, he said, "an organic, natural growth; not a mongrel like English," and he instanced Romans xii.2 where "transformed" and "renewed" are rendered by "cruth-atharrachadh" and "ath-nuadhachadh," after the manner of the Greek.

(Continued on p. 15)

Honouring A Great Gael

PRESENTATION TO MR. AND MRS. NEIL SHAW

ONE of the happiest Highland gatherings for many a year was held in the Burlington House, Glasgow, on 12th December, 1953, when over 200 friends from far and near assembled to express to Mr. Neil Shaw, F.S.A.Scot., General Secretary of An Comunn Gaidhealach for the past forty years, their own appreciation, and that of all Gaeldom at home and abroad, for the splendid service rendered by him, and to convey their best wishes for the future as he now retires from office, and to assure Mrs. Shaw also of their cordial goodwill, both as the Secretary's wife and for her own sake.

The President, Mr. John M. Bannerman, O.B.E., M.A., B.Sc., occupied the Chair, and, after Grace was said in Gaelic by the Rev. T. M. Murchison, M.A., Vice-President, luncheon was served. The Menu, printed in Gaelic, was as follows:—

ORDUGH NA CUIRME

Sùgh: air Tomato no Airnean.

*"S math an còcaire an t-acras,
'S maing a nì tarcuis air biadh.
Fuarag èorn' an sàil mo bhòrige,
Biadh as fhearr a shuair mi riamh."*

Feoil-Uain Ròsta. Sabhs Meannta.

*"S fhearr bloigh beag le beannachd
Na bloigh mòr le mallachd."*

Buntàta Brisg. Buntàta Bruich. Peasair Ghorm. Càl Gruthach.

*"Corca, èrna, seagal, cruithneachd,
Buntàta, curran, nèip is càl,
Biadh do ainmhidh is do dhuine
'S do gach creutair thogas àl."*

Pìgheann Sùiseach. Cè Reòta.

"B'èblach do sheanair air."

Cofaidh.

*"An rud nach gabh leasachadh
'S fheudar cur suas leis."*

The President proposed the toast of H.M. The Queen, Patron of An Comunn.

After a brief adjournment, during which several more friends arrived to join the gathering, the company re-assembled, and in a series of speeches appreciation was voiced of Mr. Shaw's personal qualities and his great service to Gaelic. All the speakers faithfully obeyed the injunction on the menu, *"Na abair ach beag, is abair gu math e,"* and all the speaking was on a remarkably high level.

Mr. James T. Graham, C.A., formerly Treasurer of An Comunn, who acted as Treasurer of the Testimonial Fund, read a number of



apologies for absence and extracts from many messages of goodwill from many people and many places. There were apologies for absence from, among others, the Lord Provost of Glasgow (the Right Hon. Thos. A. Kerr), Miss Campbell of Inverneill, Mrs. Croll of Glenuig, and Mr. Maurice Jacobson. Among the messages received were telegrams and letters from Dr. D. J. Macleod, Sir Compton Mackenzie, Rev. Dr. Coll A. Macdonald, Miss Campbell of Inverneill, Miss Helen Henschel, Miss Jean Croll, Monseigneur P. J. Nicholson (St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia); Mr. Donald Macphail (Inverness), Mr. John F. Steele (Portree), the pupils and staff of Balmartin School (Tiree), the Cornaigmore (Tiree), Drinishader (Harris), and Pennyghael (Mull) Feachdan of Comunn na h-Oigridh, the Aberdeen and Cornaig Branches of An Comunn, Campbeltown and Govan Gaelic Choirs, Comunn na Clarsaich (Edinburgh), Ceilidh nan Gaidheal (Glasgow), the Northern Sub-Committees of An Comunn, Rev. Fr. D. MacKellaig (Roy Bridge), and Toronto.

Mr. Graham remarked on the extraordinary enthusiasm with which the invitation to subscribe to the Testimonial Fund was responded to throughout the country and abroad.

* * * * *

Mr. J. M. Bannerman said: Tha sinn an seo as gach cèarn de Alba gu bhith a' leigeil fhàicinn ar meas do Niall MacGille-sheathanaich. Is aithne do na h-uile nach tig an là anns an caill e a hìdh ann an obair na Gàidhlig. Ma ghabhas sinn beachd air mar a bha cor na Gàidhlig an uair a thòisich Niall anns an obair dà fhichead bliadhna air ais, chì sinn gu bheil cùisean na 's fhearr an diugh. Is iomadh laoch a shaothraich anns an obair, ach tha ainm Nèill am measg nan sàr-laoch. Ged nach biodh ann ach mar a chinn

na mòdan nàiseanta agus dùthchail fo a stiùradhan, bu mhór an cliù sin fhéin air an obair ionmholta a rinn e. Ach bha Niall riamh 'na shàr-dhuine 'nar meas—'na phearsa fhéin, 'na ghiùlan, agus 'na bhuidhean inntinn. Tha inntinn aige anns a bheil talamh reamhar agus domhain far an d'fhàs an siol a chuir e innte—agus tha an siol sin air cinneachadh 'na bhàrdachd, 'na sgrìobhadh, agus anns na gearr-ionmraidhean ciatach a chuireas e ri chèile. Tha buadhan inntinne is cridhe aig Niall MacGille-sheathanaich nach 'eil tric air am faotainn còmhla. Chan ann air son maoin an t-saoghail a rinn e an t-seirbhis a rinn e, ach is e seo a dhuais gu bheil mìltean chàirdean aige air feadh an t-saoghail, eadhon feadhainn nach fhaca e riamh. An uair a dh'amhairceas daoine air 'na dheise Ghaidhealach, their iad uime, "Sin againh fìor-Ghaidheal!" Tha sinn gu dùrachdach a' guidhe gum bi bhur làithean saor, sona, agus gum meal sibh féin agus bhur céile chaomh luach-saothrach bhur n-obair—a tha os cionn pàidheadh sam bith; eadhon an dearbhadh sin a bu chòir a bhith agaibh fhéin 'nur cridhe, mar a tha e ann an cridheachan agus inntinnean nan uile d'an aithne sibh, an dearbhadh sin gun do chaith sibh bhur beatha ann an obair mhaith, gu dìleas treibhdhreach, eadhon ann an dòigh a bhios 'na bheannachd is 'na thiodhlac d'ar daoine ré iomadh linn ri teachd.

Mr. Shaw has worked for and furthered our aims with quiet dignity, with kindness, and with assiduous care. In forty years' work for An Comunn Gaidhealach and for Gaelic he has indeed fully fulfilled the trust of the great Gaels of the past, like Malcolm Macleod, who recognised his worth and appointed him to his official position in An Comunn. But few could ever regard Mr. Neil Shaw as an official only. Early on, he showed that his duties were not merely a job of work but a labour of love, and it is manifestly clear to us all that such payment as Mr. Shaw received as Secretary was but a token payment, indeed, in contrast to his real value to the Gaelic cause and to the Highlands. Looking back over these long years, we see a man whose stature, physical and mental, made him the ideal ambassador for all An Comunn's purposes. In his own right he is a bard and a piper, a song-maker of no mean ability, a writer and public speaker in Gaelic who has few equals. But when all is said that can be said of his poetic and scholarly attributes, I think it is to his natural courtliness, his manly dignity, and, above all, his heart-kindness that we pay tribute. To bothan and castle Neil Shaw has carried the Gaelic message during these forty years in a manner that has redounded to the credit of An Comunn and has given new

cause for appreciation of our race by others. As President of An Comunn—standing in the long line of Presidents who have served under Neil Shaw—I would like to tell him that we bless him and thank him for a life's work nobly performed, carried through in gentleness and humility, that has carved a niche in the hall of Highland fame for the name of Neil Shaw that, I think, will endure as long as the beautiful rocky bents that he loves so much in Jura.

* * * * *
Mr. Lachlan Mackinnon, M.A., F.E.I.S., Vice-President of An Comunn, and Convener of the Comunn na h-Oigridh Committee, said:

The sinn toilichte an diugh Niall MacGille-sheathanaich agus a chéile chaomh fhaicinn cho aoigheil sunndach, òg an aigne is am pearsa, le chéile. Chan 'eil mòran de'n ghinealach seo a chòisinn urram nan Gaidheal mar a rinn Niall MacGille-sheathanaich, le a threibhdhreachd, a dhìlseachd, is a dhealas air sgàth na Gàidhliche. 'Na imeachd sìos is suas 'nar tìr neartaich e na bannan a tha a' cumail A' Chomuinn Ghaidhealach ri chèile. Anns gach baile air tìr-mór agus anns na h-cìleanan bha e daonnan ag adhartachadh aobhar a' Chomuinn agus na Gàidhliche. Am measg uaislean bha e 'na uasal, agus am measg islean 'na dhuine iriosal agus umhail, agus daonnan uasal 'na ghluasad, an gnìomh agus am facal, a' cur dreach, loinn, is maise air gach facal a labhradh e agus air gach òran a sheinneadh e. Chan 'eil sinn a' gabhail beannachd leis. Is ann a tha sinn a' cur meas air a obair; chan 'eil i fathast leathach deanta.

If Neil Shaw had got more leisure, Gaelic literature would have been enriched, even as he has enriched our cause in other ways. Few in our generation could write Gaelic prose with such grace, elegance, and distinction. His songs will live, and his melodies too. They take the first place for beauty of thought and music. We wish Mr. and Mrs. Shaw many, many happy years. We wish for him more leisure to add to our Gaelic literature, song, and story.

Dr. R. R. MacNicol, one of the oldest members* of An Comunn Gaidhealach, spoke for the Branches of An Comunn and said that Mr. Shaw is the embodiment of those qualities that go to make a "fìor-Ghaidheal" (a true Highlander), and at no time were these special qualities more in evidence than when he was smoothing out the difficulties not infrequently attendant upon the founding of new branches.

* * * * *
The Rev. J. K. Murchison, B.A., Leith, speaking on behalf of Affiliated Societies,

(Continued on p. 13)



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar VI

AN GEARRAN, 1954

Aireamh 2

“Bidh Duil Ri Beul Cuain”

Le IAIN A. MACDHOMHNAILL

AN aon de eileanan aonaranach a' Chuain Shìair bha a' còmhnaidh aig aon àm dilleadhan bochd aig nach robh de mhaoin an t-saoghail ach fìdeall agus deagh chluas ciùil.

Ged nach robh a theachd-an-tìr air uairean ach lom uireasbhuidheach, bha de uaisle is de dhuinealas 'na ghnè is nach iarradh e déirce no cobhair air cho truagh bochd is gum biodh a chrannchur. Bha e aithnichte mar fhìdhlear comharraichte earbsach, agus corra uair gheibheadh e beagan cosnaidh a' cluich aig cuirmean is bainnean air feadh an eilein, ach b'e sin fhèin a bu bheothachd dha.

Bha e mar chleachdadh aig Pàraig—b'e sin a ainm—suidhe an cois na fairge cha mhòr gach feasgar, a shamhradh is a gheamhradh. Shuidheadh e an siud is chluicheadh e air an fhidhill, is e ag amharc gu geur air a' chuan mhòr f'a chomhair, dìreach mar gum biodh càirdeas neo-thalmhaidh do-thuigsinneach eatorra. Coltach ris a liuthadh eileanach eile, chan 'eil teagamh air nach robh an cuan 'ga chur fo sheun neo-sgaraichte.

Ach, co-dhiubb, là de na làithean, is an reothair fhoghair na buille, bha Pàraig a' cluich is a' geur-amharc mar a b' àbhaist, agus gu dé a dh'èirich air druim a' chuain dìreach m'a choinneamh ach ceann mòr crasgach colgarra, a dhà shùil a' deàrrsadh mar thein-sionnachain an ciaradh an fheasgair agus a fhalt mar fheamainn-chìrean air eilean-tìoram!

Cha do ghluais is cha do charaich Pàraig; is ann a ghleus e an fhidheall gu rogha a' chiùil, agus mean air mhean sheòl an ceann gu tìr gur an d'ràinig e mar uidhe claisneachd do Phàraig, agus an sin an guth làidir tartarach dh'innis e gum b'esan Rìgh a' Chuain Mhòir, agus thuirt e gu robh e fhéin agus a' Bhanrigh cho buidheach toilichte leis a' cheòl a bha Pàraig a' cumail riutha is gur ann a bu mhath leotha e a dhol

a dh'fhuireach còmhla riutha ann an lùchairt oirdhearc an aigninn far am faigheadh e a rogha agus a thagha de thiodhlacan dìomhair na tìre sin fo thuinn.

An guth sèimh ciùin gheall Pàraig gun deanadh e sin uair-eigin, agus cha bu thàrr e sin a ghealltainn na chaidh an ceann fodha agus thilgeadh baraille beag air a' chladach dìreach aig casan Phàraig.

Dh'fhosgail Pàraig am baraille is nach robh an sin de òr is de airgead is de sheudan luachmhor barrachd is a lùthaig Pàraig aige fhéin riann! Thuig Pàraig gu robh seo mar sheula air a' chumhnant a rinn e ri Rìgh a' Chuain, ach, air chrith leis an eagal mar a bha e, chuir e roimhe gum cuireadh e an t-ionmhas seo gu deagh bhuil.

Bliadhna bho'n là sin bha bàta mòr aig Pàraig dha fhéin, agus le sgioba math de eileanaich cha mhòr ceàrnaidh de'n t-saoghal nach do thadhail e a' giùlan bathair agus a' sìor chur ri a chuid ionmhais.

Seachd bliadhna agus seachd là bho'n là sin bha àireamh mhòr bhàtaichean aige, agus bha a chuid maoin a' sìor dhol am meud, ach fhathast cha do choimhlion e a bhòid is cha tug e guth air a leithid. Ach an là a bha an seo, is a chuid bhàtaichean a' tilleadh as na h-Innseachan, shìolaidh a' ghaith as gum mu dheireadh nach tugadh i an snàgail a bu lugha á seòl. Cha robh na seòladairean a' tuigsinn dé a b'aobhar dha seo, ach chuir Pàraig air a ghealladh agus dh'aithn e do a chuid sheòladairean gach bonn òir is airgid a bha anns na bàtaichean a thilgeadh do'n chuan. Rinn-eadh seo, is cha b'ann gun ghearan, ach cha do leasaich sin cùisean. Thuirt Pàraig an sin gum feumte thodhlac na b'fhiachaile na sin a thairgsinn do Rìgh a' Chuain. Mar sin, dh'iarr e air gach seòladair a ainm no comharraidh a chur air clàraig fhiodha is an sin a' chlàrag a thilgeil fad a làimhe do'n mhuir,

agus thuirt e, nan rachadh aon diubh fodha, gum feumte an neach sin iobairt do'n chuan. Rinneadh seo, agus gu dé a' chlàrag a chaidh fodha ach an té sin air an do sgrìobh Pàraig fhéin a ainm! Cha robh cothrom air no idir fàth a bhith tùrsach. Dh'fheumte Rìgh a' Chuain a riarachadh, agus dh'fheumadh Pàraig a chuid fhiachan a dhìol. Thog Pàraig an fhidheall agus an prìoba na sùla chaidh e an comhair a chinn thar na cliathaich, agus cha b'fhada gus an d'ràinig e lùchairt an Rìgh.

Ghabhadh roimhe an sin le fàilte agus furan, agus cha do chuireadh as a leth a bhith màirnealach no fadalach.

Thòisich an sin an ceòl. Cha do chluich Pàraig riamh cho fìor ealanta, agus nach deachaidh an Rìgh fhéin gu dansadh is gu othail mar gum biodh e air bhàinidh! Cha sguireadh esan a dhansadh is chan fhaodadh Pàraig sgur de'n ceòl. Mu dheireadh thàinig a' Bhanrìgh far an robh Pàraig is thuirt i ris gum feumte clos a chur air an Rìgh, oir gum b'egalach a bha an cuan ag éirigh le a chuid leum is le a chuid ùpraid. Chuimhnich Pàraig an sin air na seòladairean bochda a bha 'gan riasladh leis a' chuan bheucach os a chionn agus, a' leigeil air gur ann gu tubaisteach a thachair e, bhris e aon de theudan na fìdhle agus stad an ceòl.

Bha Rìgh a' Chuain air a leamhachadh mar a thachair ach, a dh'aindeoin sin, bha e

riaraichte nach d'fhuair e a leithid seo de chothrom dannsaidh riamh roimhe. Thairg e do Phàraig a riar de òr is de airgead is de mhnathan òga Rìoghachd a' Chuain. Leis a sin thàinig a' mhaighdean-mhara a b'aille dreach 'na chòmhhdail, ach bha Pàraig sgèth airtnealach, agus thuirt e an dùsal trom cadail agus ise a' seinn an òrain a bu bhinne a chualas le cluais duine riamh.

Dhùsg e, ar leis fhéin, an déidh ùine mhóir. Cha robh sgeul air a' mhaighdinn-mhara. Bha an cuan farsaing a' sgaioleadh f'a chomhair is a' slacraich air na creagan r'a thaobh gun fhois gun atharrachadh, ach da-rìreadh bha baraille beag air a' mhòl an bràighe a' chladaich. Thug Pàraig leum d'a ionnsaigh, spion e an clàr mullaich as, agus—ceid seo no na creid!—bha e loma-làn de òr, de airgead, agus de ulaidhean prìseil eugsamhail eile.

Abair thusa nach robh cion no gainne air Pàraig riamh tuilleadh, agus cha mhò na sin a bha dìth no deireas anns an eilean seo an déidh siud.

Tha a nis aca rathaidean móra agus drochaidean, taighcan geala agus goireasan eile, agus chan fhada (tha iad ag ràdh) gus am bi an solus-dealain fhéin aca.

Tha Pàraig a nis 'na sheann duine beartach measail agus urramach, agus có a theireadh ris-san nach bi "dùil ri beul cuain?"

Dan Clann Lir

Le IAIN N. MACLEOID

(Air a leantainn bho Air. XLVIII, t.d.44)

VI.

AN ath mhadainn dh'éirich iad air an iteig aon uair eile agus thionndaidh iad is sheòl iad air ais gu Innis-ghlòir, agus stad iad air uchd locha bhig a bha am meadhan an eilein ud. An sin sheinn iad an ceòl-sidhe agus a ris, mar bu nòs aig Loch Darbha naoi ceud bliadhna roimhe sin, chruinnich sluagh mòr mun cuairt orra air son an ceòl a chluinntinn. Ach cha b'e cruinneachadh dhaoine a bha mun cuairt orra aig an àm seo ach sgoath eòin. An uair a chuala na h-eòin sin na h-ealachan a' seinn chruinnich iad as gach àite air chor is gu robh uachdar an locha agus na sgeirean mun cuairt air a' chladach dubh leotha. Feadh an là rachadh iad air iteig gu àitean fada as air son biadh a thrusadh, agus an uair a thigeadh an oidhche thigeadh iad air ais chun an loch bhig air Innis-ghlòir agus do bhrìgh sin mar a chaidh ùine seachd thugadh Loch nan Eum mar ainm air an loch sin.

Mar sin chaidh na bliadhnanachan seachad gus mu dheireadh an tàinig an Naomh Pàdraig gu Eirinn a shearmonachadh an t-soisgeil fhìor, agus còmhla ris thàinig duine naomh eile d'am b'ainm Ceamog a roghnaich a dhòl gu eileanan aonaranach Innse-Gall le a theachdaireachd. Agus do bhrìgh gun cuala e gu robh air an eilean ris an canar Innis-ghlòir ceathrar dhaoine nàdurach an cumadh ealachan cha do stad e riamh gus an d'ràinig e an t-eilean ud agus an sin shòraich e còmhnaidh.

Air a' cheud mhadainn an déidh dha tighinn do'n àite dh'éirich an duine creidmheach glé thràth anns a' mhadainn agus bhual e a chlag beag air son Aifrinn, mar gum biodh e a' toirt caismeachd aoraidh do choimhthional, eadhon ged bha e gu tur 'na aonar, ach cha robh neach ann a chluinneadh e.

Thuirt mi nach robh aon neach ann, ach rinn mi mearachd, oir chuala na ceithir ealachan seirm fhann a' chluig agus lion an fhuaim an-cridheachan le geilt. Oir cha chuala iad riamh

fuaim cluig Chrìosdaidheil agus cha b'urrainn iad a thuigsinn cìod e a bu chiall da. Cha robh Fionnghal cho gealtach ri a bràithrean, ach cha mhòr nach deachaidh iad as am brìdeagan, a chionn gu robh eagal orra gum faodadh gur e drìod-fhortan ùr air chor-eigin a bha anns an fhuaim neònach a chuala iad. Theann iad ri sgiathalach is ri crìothnachadh leis an eagal, agus thòisich iad ri itealaich air faondradh an siud is an seo agus dh'fhàg iad am piuthar leatha féin. Ach an uair a bha i leatha féin bha ùine aice air son smaoinichadh, agus smaoinich i gun tàinig na briathran a labhair Eubha bhrùideil o chionn linntean f'a comhair aon uair eile. Agus dh'fhalbh gach eagal a bha oirre agus las a h-aodann cho soilleir is cho sìtheil is gun do shaoil a bràithrean gu robh i air a cruth-atharrachadh an intinn is an aigne.

“A bhràithrean,” arsa ise, “a bheil fhios agaibh cìod an seòrsa fuaim a tha seo?”

“Chan 'eil,” arsa iadsan; “b'fheàrr gu robh fios againn gun teagamh. Nam bitheadh, cha bhiodh eagal sam bith againn roimhe mar a tha againn a nis.”

An sin thàinig fiamh a' ghàire air aodann Fionnghal.

“A bheil cuimhne agaibh,” arsa ise, “air na faclan brùideil a labhair ar muime ruinn an uair a chuir i an draoidheachd dhubh oirnn agus a cruth-atharraich i ar cumaidhean o bhith 'nar cloinn bhreagha gu bhith an cruth ealachan cho geal ris an t-sneachda? Mar a dh'innis i dhuinn nach robh duine beò a b'urrainn ar fuasgladh o na geasaibh gum am pòsadh Prionnsa na h-Aird-a-tuath Ban-phrionnsa na h-Aird-a-deas agus gum an tigeadh an Naomh Pàdraig gu Eirinn a' toirt leis teachdaireachd an t-Soisgeil Naomha agus seirm a' chluig Chrìosdaidheil. Chan 'eil fios againn air nì mu Phrionnsachan is Ban-phrionnsachan, ach air seo tha fios againn, O! mo bhràithrean, gur e siud fuaim a' chluig Chrìosdaidheil a chuala mi agus gu bheil uair ar saorsa am fagus.”

Mar a dh'fhaodar a thuigsinn, las cridheachan bràithrean Fionnghal le aoibhneas an uair a chuala iad a briathran, agus an uair a sguì clag beag na h-Aifirinn chruinnich iad timcheall air Fionnghal agus sheinn an ceathrar ceart còmhla laoidh mhòlaidh ro-bhinn do'n Dia mhòr a ghléidh iad o gach àmhghar agus a chaomhain iad gum an tàinig an là anns am biodh iad aon uair eile air an aiseag gu cumadh dhaoine nàdurach.

A nis thachair gun cuala an duine naomh Ceamog fuaim an ciùil agus cho luath is a thàinig a' chamhanaich ruith e sìos gu bòrd an locha, oir thuir rud-eigin ris gur dòcha gun tàinig crìoch air a rannsachadh agus gun d'fhuair e lorg air cloinn Lir.

“Cò sibhse?” arsa esan, an uair a chunnaic e na ceithir ealachan a' snàmh mun cuairt air uachdar an locha.

“Is sinne ceathrar chloinne a bhùneas do cheann-cinnidh cumhachdach ris an canar Lir,” arsa Fionnghal, “agus chruth-atharraich-eadh sinn gu bhith 'nar n-ealachan o chionn naoi ceud bliadhna, troimh eud ar muime dhòbheartaich.”

An sin thog Ceamog a làmh suas gu nèamh an cruth breith-bhuidheachais.

“Beannaichte gu robh Dia,” arsa esan, “gun d'fhuair mi sibh, oir is ann air an aobhar sin a roghnaich mise tighinn an seo seach eilean eile fo'n ghréin, a chionn gu robh mi déidheil air bhur fuasgladh o na geasaibh a chuireadh oirbh. Air an aobhar sin tha mi a' guidhe oirbh tighinn air thr agus bhur muinghinn a chur annam, agus bheir mise an aire oirbh mar gum b'e mo ghineal fhéin a bhiodh annaibh.”

Mar sin thàinig na h-ealachan gu tìr agus dh'fhuirich iad còmhla ris an t-sagart dhiadhaidh anns a' bhothan bheag a thog e air a shon fhéin, agus dh'èisd iad gu furachair ri a chunntas air a' Chreideamh a bha e ri searmonachadh, agus sheinn iad gu ceòlmhor còmhla ris aig gach seirbhis a bha e a' cuartachadh. Agus do bhrìgh nach robh e air son gum saoilleadh aon neach a ghabhadh an rathad gur iad ealachan cumanta a bha anna, fhuair e fear-cèirde a bha sgìleil an eòlas nam miotaithean, agus thug e òrdugh dha dà shlabhraidh chaol airgid a dheanamh, agus chuir e aon dhùb sin eadar Fionnghal agus Aodh agus an té eile eadar Fiachra agus Conn. Agus air dha a bhith cho coibhneil carthannach riutha, bha gràdh mòr aig na h-ealachan air, air chor is gu robh an cridheachan air an lìonadh le aoibhneas agus dhì-chuimhnich iad gu tur gach ànrath is allaban troimh an deachaidh iad fad nan linntean roimhe sin.

VII.

BHA an t-àm a nis am fagus anns an robh Clann Lir gu bhith air an aiseag air ais gu an cruth nàdurra, oir thàinig fàisneachd Eubha gu teachd.

B'e Lairgren mac Cholmain a bha 'na Rìgh air Connacht, agus phòs e Ban-phrionnsa o'n Aird-a-deas d'am b'ainm Deaca, nighean Fhionghain Rìgh na Mumhan. Thachair gun d'innis cuid-eigin do'n Bhanrigh Deaca mu'n dà chupal ealachan cho geal ris an t-sneachda a bha ceangailte ri aon a chéile le slabhraidhean agus a bha fuireach còmhla ris an t-sagart naomha air Eilean Innis-ghlòir. Agus an uair a fhuair i an chunntas ro-iongantach air cùrsa am beatha agus mar a bha iad comasach air bruidhinn le teangaibh dhaoine agus air an ceòl-sìdhe a sheinn cho fonnmhor, bha déidh

mór aice air an toirt faisg oirre féin. Bu chaomh leis gach Bannrigh aig an ám sin a bhith a' smaoinichadh gum faigheadh i a h-iarrrtas a dheòin no dh'aoindein, agus a chionn gu robh ise cuideachd ag altrum a' bheachd sin chuir i fios gu Ceamog agus dh'iarra i air na h-ealachan iongantach a bha còmhla ris a chur chuide is i déidheil air iad a bhith aice mar pheatachan.

Bha fearg mhór air Ceamog an uair a fhuair e an teachdaireachd shráiceil sin agus a chionn is nach robh eagal sam bith aige-san roimh an Bhanrigh chuir e fios chuide nach dealaicheadh esan ris na h-ealachan air son cumha sam bith fo'n ghréin.

Ghabh a' Bhanrigh an dearg bháinidh an uair a fhuair i an teachdaireachd sin, agus chaidh i far an robh an Rìgh is dh'iarra i air teachdaire a chur air ball gu Innis-ghlòir gu òrdugh teann a thoirt do Cheamog air son na h-ealachan a chur chuide gun bhonn dàlach.

Ach bha an Rìgh 'na dhuine onarach agus bha fios aige nach b'urrainn da na h-ealachan a thoirt o'n t-sagart bhochd aig an robh a leithid de ghràdh dhaibh, mur biodh e air son dealachadh riutha, agus mar sin thuirt e rithe nach b'urrainn da an nì a dh'iarra i air a dheanamh a muigh no a mach.

Bha a' Bhanrigh ghòrach làn feirge, agus bhòidich i nach caidleadh i oidhche tuilleadh anns a' phàlais mur faigheadh an Rìgh na h-ealachan di air ball. Dh'iuilt an Rìgh a h-iarrrtas gu tur agus, ma dh'iuilt, dh'fhàg ise e leis an ruit agus thog i oirre gu caisteal a h-athar a bha fada air falbh anns na Mumhan.

Cha robh fios aig Lairgren an Rìgh ciod a dheanadh e an uair a chunnaic e gun do theich a' Bhanrigh, ach bha a ghràdh oirre cho mór is e 'ga h-ionndrainn gach mionaid, agus cha b'urrainn da gun teachdairean a chur chuide ag iarraidh oirre tighinn air ais is gun toireadh esan na h-ealachan o'n t-sagart is gum biodh iad aice 'nam peatachan.

Bha aig na teachdairean ri dhol astar fada fada mun d'rug iad oirre ach mu dheireadh fhuair iad i, agus an uair a chuala ise gealladh an Rìgh dh'aontaich i a dhol air ais còmhla riutha.

An uair a ràinig i a' phàlais thuig an Rìgh gum feumadh e a ghealladh a chòimhlionadh dhi agus mar sin thog e air gun dàil gu Eilean Innis-ghlòir.

An uair a ràinig e bha na ceithir ealachan anns a' bhòthan bheag a thog Ceamog air an son, agus e fhéin 'na chill bhig fhéin. An uair a chuala e gu robh Rìgh mór na h-Aird-a-tuath aig a dhorus thàinig e a mach gu h-iriosal a dh'fhoighneachd ciod e an turus air an robh e.

"Chuala mi," arsa an Rìgh gu feargach, "gun d'iarra a' Bhanrigh na h-ealachan ort agus

gun do dh'iuilt thu an toirt di, a dhuine naomh, agus thàinig mi a dh'aon sgrìob air son faighinn a mach an e an fhirinn a tha anns an aithris sin."

"Gu cinnteach is e an tul-fhirinn a tha ann," arsa an duine naomh gu sàmhach, oir ged bha e iriosal cha robh eagal sam bith air. "Chuir Dia na h-ealachan air mo chùram-sa, agus cha toir mi seachad iad do dhuine fo'n ghréin."

Bha an Rìgh gu sracadh le feirge agus, gun fìù aon fhacal a th'ighinn as a cheann, chaidh e steach do'n chill bhig agus rinn e dìreach air na h-ealachan a bha faisg air an altair, rug e air na slabhraidhean airgid a bha 'gan ceangal ri chèile, is thòisich e ri an slaodadh chun an doruis air son an toirt air falbh le làmhachas-làidir. Lean Ceamog diadhaidh e, is e a' reusonachadh ris an Rìgh, is eagal mór air gun rachadh na h-eòin a ghoirteachadh leis an riaslach a bha aige orra.

Ach air ball, mar gum b'eadh air son fearg an Rìgh a chur gu neo-bhrìgh, nach do thuit na h-itean geala o na h-eòin agus bha iad aon uair eile 'nan cloinn nàdurra! Ach cha b'e cumadh an òige a bha orra a nis idir. Dh'fhàg gach ànrath is allaban troimh an deachaidh iad a dhreach fhéin orra. Bha Fionnghal a nis 'na seann bhoireannach crom agus a trìubhràthrean 'nan seann bhodaich lapach le aodannan preasach is gun nì anns na làmhann aca ach cnàmhan seargte.

Theab an Rìgh a dhol as a bhrìdeagan an uair a chunnaic e mar a thachair. Leig e as na slabhraidhean is ruith e a mach as a' chill 'na dheann gun fìù a bheul fhosgladh. Chuir Ceamog stad air, is thòisich e ri achmhasan a thoirt da air son mar a rinn e, ag innseadh dha cho toilichte is a bha e fhéin agus na h-ealachan còmhla ri chèile agus gun do chuir esan crunluath grànda air an aoibhneas sin. Ach thog Fionnghal a làmh agus an guth bristeach labhair i mar so:

"Na cosd ùine ri caoidh mar a thachair, O Cheamoig, ach, ma tha thu 'gar meas iomchuidh, baist sinn a réir a' Chreidimh Naoimhe. Tha ar beatha anns an t-saoghal seo cha mhór seachad agus tha ceann ar réise am fagus. Agus aon nì tha mi a' guidhe ort—o'n chuir sinn ar beatha ànrach seachad an cuideachd cach a chèile gun téid sinn còmhla gu ar fois. Mar a rinn mise dìon do mo bhràithrean ré mo bheatha, mar sin bu chaomh leam fàsadh a thoirt dhaibh a nis. Air an aobhar sin tha mi a' guidhe ort gun treachail thu aon uaigh leathann agus dhomhain. Biodh Conn 'na shineadh air mo thaobh deas agus Fiachra ri mo thaobh clì, agus biodh Aodh fa chomhair m'aodainn."

(R'a leantainn)

(Continued from p. 12)

Choirs, and Kindred Organisations, said that Neil Shaw and An Comunn Gaidhealach were always identified. He was, is, An Comunn Gaidhealach, the ubiquitous Scarlet Pimpernel of the Gaelic movement, here, there, and everywhere. His fine enthusiasm—his very presence an uplift—brought a surge of new life to branches, and, when he left, he left behind some of his own spirit. Neil Shaw never hid his friendship behind his high office. I am glad he was able to attend the Mod in Cape Breton and to prove that there are giants still in the land of Ossian! We are glad that, although he is laying aside his office, it is not because of infirmity. We say to Mr. and Mrs. Shaw:

Gu ma fada beò sibh
is ceò dhe bhur taigh,
'S a h-uile duine chì sibh
ag iarraidh a staigh.

H. Stewart Mackintosh, Esq., M.A., B.Sc., Ed.B., Ph.D., Director of Education, Glasgow, recalled that it was about seven years ago that representatives of An Comunn Gaidhealach had first come to see him about having the teaching of Gaelic introduced into Glasgow schools. As a result Gaelic had been included in the curriculum of two senior secondary schools. The position at present was that, in the various classes from First Year to Sixth Year, there were 67 taking Gaelic in Woodside School and 117 in Bellahouston Academy, a total of 184. That, Dr. Mackintosh declared, was not nearly good enough, but it was interesting to note that of the 22 taking 1st Year Gaelic at Woodside only two had a Gaelic background, and of the 57 in 1st Year Gaelic at Bellahouston only three had a Gaelic background, and only one was a native Gaelic speaker, while altogether only one-tenth of those taking Gaelic had a Highland background. Dr. Mackintosh said he felt that the books available, both grammars and reading-books, were not altogether suitable, and more and better ones were needed. But language at best is no more than a vehicle for people's thoughts, and there should be more interest in our people and their qualities. He would like to see children leave school, not only with a Leaving Certificate in Gaelic, but with a feeling for the Highlands and all things Highland. Dr. Mackintosh suggested that exchange visits might be arranged between Glasgow school-children studying Gaelic and children from schools in the Western Isles and other Gaelic areas, so that the city children might acquire an understanding of, and feeling for, the Highland way of life, as well as a knowledge

of the Gaelic language. He had already discussed the possibility of such a scheme with Dr. Maclean, Director of Education for Inverness-shire, and he suggested that the visits should last a fortnight so that the children would be together for a month. Dr. Mackintosh went on to speak of the simple but sound qualities of the ordinary Highland people, with their thorough knowledge of the Bible and the influence that had. Even old cailleachs with sharp acid tongues had something to impart. He hoped that not only would Gaelic be preserved as a language, but that there would also be preserved those things that shape a man's spirit no less than his mind. The best qualities of the Highland people were symbolised in Neil Shaw, and he wished him health, happiness, and many more opportunities of usefulness.

* * * * *

Melville Dinwiddie, Esq., D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., B.D., Controller, Scotland, of the B.B.C., expressed appreciation of the help given by Mr. Shaw to the B.B.C. during the years; he had arranged programmes, announced them, and presented them. He had also been on television. He can lay down the reins of office knowing the reward of a task well done. Mr. Dinwiddie said he would like Mr. Shaw to be in the "What's My Line?" programme on TV. He was sure that Mr. Shaw—piper, bard, writer—could beat Gilbert Harding every time!

The Very Rev. Alexander Macdonald, D.D., St. Columba's, Glasgow, a former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, said: Mr. Shaw richly deserves every recognition we can give him, his work, example, and influence will continue to guide and direct those who have to carry on the great and noble work he has accomplished. I am personally in his debt. Since I first met him some forty years ago my Gaelic has improved tremendously! Chan 'eil' ann ach aon Niall, an duine còir is caomh, uasal is urramach; gach àm 'na làn-dhuin'-usal; duine leis nach bu mhath le facal no gnìomh cron no coire a dheanamh do neach a tha beò. Aig gach àm tha e cho furasda gu gnothach a dheanamh ris. Cha d'fhàg neach riamh an seòmar aig Niall le cridhe goirt no spiorad brùite. Tha e daonnan 'ga ghiùlan fhéin gu h-iriosal agus gu glic, a' labhairt gu soilleir is gu buadh-mhor, a' nochdadh nan daoine o'n tàinig e agus càinain a shìnnis. Tha meas againn air an obair a rinn sibh, a charaid. Tha àite blàth agaibh ann an cridhe gach aoin againn, agus an uair a smaoinicheas mi oirbh smaoinichidh mi air na briathran—

Tì a ghluais gu treibhdhireach
is ionracas a chleachd,
Labhras an fhirinn sin a mach
a tà 'na chridhe steach.

Tì nach dean air neach air bith
cul-chàineadh 'm feasd' le bheul,
Nach dean aon lochd d'a choimhearsnach,
's nach tog air fòs droch sgeul.

B'fheàrr leam gum b'ann-a' tighinn a bha sibh
is chan ann a' falbh.

Mrs. J. M. Bannerman, wife of the President,
in presenting Mr. Shaw with a cheque for
£1,000, representing the contributions of many
well-wishers, said:

Mrs. Barron and I are the two proudest
women in all Gaeldom at this moment. If this
were a leave-taking, I couldn't do it. But
this is a great celebration, like the coming of
age of a great clan chief's eldest son. Neil
Shaw is the eldest son of Clann an Fhraoich,
and we celebrate the fulfilment of a great work
done for his own people. He has served his
God and his people with the best of his ability,
and what more could any man do? I knew Neil
Shaw long before I knew the President. It
must be thirty or thirty-one years ago since I
first met him, and all that has been said of him
this afternoon is true. How grateful we all
are, and I especially, to Mrs. Shaw, for all her
kindness through the years, and especially
her welcome at the beginning of each National
Mod.

Mrs. Bannerman concluded by reading a
touching letter from a small girl, Irene Potter,
she and her brother Iain being learners of Gaelic
and Mod competitors and great admirers of Mr.
Shaw. Hearing of the Testimonial Fund,
Irene had written this letter, enclosing two
shillings for Mr. Shaw, one from herself and
one from Iain. Mrs. Bannerman presented
Mr. Shaw with the two shillings and hoped he
would cherish them, and she then presented
him with the cheque and with a book in which
were recorded the names of the subscribers—
"a record of gratitude," as Mrs. Bannerman
said.

Mrs. Barron, long one of the most active
workers in An Comunn, then presented Mrs.
Shaw with a television set, and in so doing
said:

Tha e a' toirt mór-thoil-intinn dhuinn a
bhith a' nochdadh ar meas do Mhgr. MacGille-
sheathanaich agus d'a chéile. Is fada o bha mi
eòlach air, agus is iomadh òraid is òran a
chuala mi bhuaithe. Chan 'eil neach ann a
sheinneas "An Dubh-gheannach" mar a nì
Niall. Tha sinn a' toirt taing dhaibh le chéile,
agus ann a bhith a' toirt dhaibh am bocsa sin

thall, ann an ainm an càirdan Ìonmhòr, tha
sinn a' guidhe dhaibh sin is saoghal fada.

* * * * *

On rising to reply, Mr. Shaw was warmly
received, the company upstanding and singing
"They are jolly good fellows" and "Gaoil nan
Gillean."

Mr. Shaw, who was deeply moved by his
reception, said: Is e là mór dhòmhsa agus do
mo chéile a tha an seo. Tha sinn fada fada 'nur
comain air son bhur làthaireachd agus air son
nam briathran gasda a chleachd an luchd-
labhairt. Labhair iad uile á doimhneach an
cridheachan. Cho fada agus as Niall mi bidh
mi a' labhairt as leth a' Chomuinn agus na
Gaidhlig. Tha mi duilich a bhith a' dealachadh
ris an obair, ach cha dì-chuimhnich An Comunn
mise na's mò na dhi-chuimhnichas mise An
Comunn. This is the greatest day of my life
in connection with An Comunn Gaidhealach.
The language has always been dear to me since
I can remember. Malcolm MacNiven, from
Islay, my old dominie, taught me through the
medium of Gaelic. It was the Bute Branch
which really introduced me to An Comunn
Gaidhealach. John Maclean, who led us
in with the pipes today, was an original member
of the Bute Branch, and Canon MacQueen, their
President, is here with us. I should like to
thank Mr. Graham for his work as Treasurer of
the Testimonial Fund, and also Malcolm
MacLeod for his able assistance in the office.
I thank all the speakers—as they spoke I felt
they must have been speaking about another
Neil Shaw. And I thank all my friends present
and absent.

Mr. Bannerman proposed a vote of thanks to
Mr. Donald Grant, who had prepared the
souvenir menu card in Gaelic, Mr. Graham for
the power of work he had done, and Mr. Iain
M. Moffatt-Pender who had both laid the
foundation for, and put the coping-stone on,
the Testimonial Fund.

After tea was served, a short ceilidh was held,
with Miss Chris. Turner at the piano. The
following singers took part:—Mr. Neil
Maclean; Mr. Donald MacIsaac ("Mo
Run chailin" by Neil Shaw); Miss Helen
Macmillan ("Bothan an Fhuarain" by Neil
Shaw); Mr. Hugh MacInnes ("Null Thar an
Aiseig" by Neil Shaw); Mrs. J. M. B. Maclean;
Mr. Lachlan Mackinnon; Miss Carol Galbraith;
Mrs. C. B. Dunlop; Mrs. Johan MacLeod;
Mr. Donald MacVicar; and Mr. and Mrs.
Maclean (a duet).

A happy and memorable gathering concluded
with the singing of "Soraidh leibh is oidhche
mhath leibh."

Air Sraidean An Obain

AN E SEO A CHUALAS?

[Sgrìobh cuid-eigin an paiper-naidheachd o chionn ghoirid gun cualas barrachd Gàidhlig air sràidean a' Obain seachdain Fèill a' Chruidh na seachdain a' Mhòid Mhòir as t-fhoghar seo chaidh. Bheil fhios an e seo a chualas? Chan 'eil sinn idir ri fanaid air Gaidheil an Obain; tha fhios againn nach 'eil na's dilse na iad ann. Ach, ré an dà sheachdain ud, bha mòran a' bharrachd air muinntir an Obain a' cur asda air sràidean a' bhàile bhòidhich sin.—F.D.]

Seachdain Fèill a' Chruidh

DOMHNALL (*á Bac-na miona*)—Sin thu fhéin, a Chaluum, ciamar a tha thu? 'S fhada o'n uair sin! Man, nach ann agad a tha an style!

CALUM (*á Bun-an-tuim*)—Fáilte, a Dhòmh-naill! Tha pile math ort fhéin. Na subsidies, tha mi cinnteach. Nach mór am math a tha iad a' deanamh do dhaoine bochda!

DOMHNALL—Seadh seadh, is ciamar a chaidh dhuit aig an t-sale an diugh? Dé fhuair thu air na gamhna an trip seo?

CALUM—Fhuair twenty-eight pound ten air an fhear mhór.

DOMHNALL—An d'fhuair gu dearbh? An tug thu feadhachd special sam bith dha?

CALUM—Bidh mi a' dol a réir an advice a bhios am B.B.C. a' toirt seachad mh thogail spréidh.

DOMHNALL—Huh! Am B.B.C.! An cuala tu am fear a bha a' bruidhinn mh chroitearachd oidhche Mhàirt seo chaidh? Bha na bha e a' feuchainn ri ràdh ciallach gu leòir, ach bha a' Ghàidhlig aige car righinn leam. Chan deanainn stem de chuid dheth. Gàidhlig a' Bh.B.C., man!—b'fheàrr leam gum bruidh-eadh iad a' Ghàidhlig phlain mar a tha agam fhìn is agad fhéin!

CALUM—Tha thu ceart. Ach seo sin, aig dorus an t-sale-ring. Come on in. Tha iad a' biddadh gu trang.

GUTH-A-STAIRGH—Twenty-two ten I'm offered . . . twenty-three . . . twenty-three ten—going-going . . .

Seachdain a' Mhòid Mhòir

CIORSTAG (*á Cùil-na-miona*)—O Mhòrag, an tu th'ann? I nearly didn't know you. Dé'n trim a th'ort?

MORAG (*á Bàrr-an-tuim*)—O Chiorstag, nach snog an ad a th'ort! Bhiodh i sin daor, I suppose.

CIORSTAG—Bha i dreach nineteen and six am buth Marks & Spencer an Glaschu a bhò'n-uiridh, ach chuir mi ribean ùr innte.

MORAG—Ciamar a tha am Mòd a' còrdadh riut, a Chiorstag?

CIORSTAG—Tha O.K. Nach bu bhreagha na choirs an diugh? Agus an cuala tu an té ud leis a' bh'louse dhearg agus an urchin-cut air an fhalt aige? Nach robh i binn?

MORAG—Ach càit a bheil thu dol, a Chiorstag?

CIORSTAG—Tha gu Seòmar-foillseachaidh nan ealdhain. Come on!

MORAG—My word, gu dé tha sin?

CIORSTAG—Sin agad na dearbh bhriathran a thuir am maighistir-sgoile againne rium an uair a choinnich mi ris aig a' Phlayhouse sa' mhadainn an diugh. Tha an cuthach air an fhear ud mu'n Ghàidhlig. B'èolach a sheanair air! 'S e Ghàidhlig ionnsachadh a rinn e—learner, tha fhios agad, agus e cho strict leatha—

MORAG—Coma leat de'n mhaighistir-sgoile! Càit a bheil thu dol? Dé an seòmar a bha thu a' bruidhinn air?

CIORSTAG—Tha an Arts and Industries Exhibition.

MORAG—O seadh, tiugainn. Bidh e math. Suas an rathad seo. Seall an arrow a' pointig-eadh an rathad ud. An cuala tu na speachaich-ean aig fosgladh a' Mhòid a' cheud fheasgar?

CIORSTAG—Chuala gu dearbh, ach is beag a thuing mi de chuid aca. B'fheàrr leam gum bruidhneadh an fheadhainn ud Gàidhlig phlain mar a tha agam fhìn is agad fhéin. Gàidhlig a' Chomuinn Ghaidhealach, huh! . . .

“BRUINEAN.”

(Continued from p. 10)

SIMPLIFIED GAELIC

Dear Sir,—I have just read Mr. W. G. Latimer's letter in *An Gaidheal* for September 1953, and would like to clarify a point he misunderstood in my previous letter. When I referred to the “lifelessness” of Esperanto, I was merely quoting an expression used by the writer of the article on “Irish Marches On—Does Gaelic?” and was not using my own words. I am an ardent supporter of the Esperanto language. Esperanto is a simple language which can be learnt easily within a month and would in no way hinder students from acquiring a knowledge of Gaelic as well.

All should be encouraged to learn a language which enables them to communicate with people of all races, while at the same time honouring our ancient and noble tongue. All that can be done to make the study of Gaelic easier (as, for example, the adoption of some Irish forms of spelling where these are simpler than ours, e.g. "ri" for "righ") should be encouraged.—Yours faithfully,

Portugal.

GIRVAN C. MCKAY.

Fhir mo Chridhe,—I am diametrically opposed to any change in our language in order to "simplify" it to suit the ultra-Anglified student. We have in the Gaelic a genuine system of phonetics, far in advance of the English, and after teaching Gaelic in San Francisco for fourteen years I cannot see that the language would be improved. Is there any Gael who would want to see the Gaelic in the same sorry mess that we find "Lallans" in, which is of course just mutilated English. Leave well alone, but learn it. When Gaelic

dies, the Gaelic race leaves the scene for the English.—Gu dileas,

SEUMAS MACGARAIHD.

San Bruno, California.

'DO'N CHUTHAIG'

A Shir Urramaich,—Thàtar a' tuigsinn nach 'eil an Comunn leinn ri àite no cothrom a thoirt do eadar-theangachadh air bith, ach a mhàin o'n Eabhra. Car son, ma tà, a bha an t-òran roimh-ainmiche 'ga sheinn agus 'ga chraobh-sgaoileadh aig a' Mhòd mhór anns an Oban Latharnach, ged as ann anns a' Bheurla Shasannaich a chaidh a sgrìobhadh air tùs, le Micheil Brus? Tha fhios gun deach a ghoid le pearsa-eaglais, an déidh bàs an ùghdair; ach cha bu chòir dhuinn bradalachd de a leithid sin a chur as leth an lighiche chòir. Is cinnteach gun do sgrìobh "seinneadair binn Ra-thuaith" mòran a thuilleadh as fhiach a chluinntinn, gun tighinn air eadar-theangachadh sam bith a rinn e.—Is mise le mùirn,

A. T. I.

Leabhraichean Ura

BEALOIDEAS. Iml. xxi (1951-52) (Educational Company of Ireland, 10/-).

Tha còrr is cóig bliadhna fichead bho thòisich An Comunn le Bealoideas Eireann ri "Bealoid-eas" a chur a mach, agus is mór agus is fìachail an tasgach de bheul-aithris a chuireadh mar sin 'nar tairgse. Tha an leabhar ùr seo air a lìonadh gu h-iomlan le "Scéalta Cráibhth-eacha," air an ullachadh le Sean O Suilleabhain. Is ann as a' chruinneachadh mhór beul-aithris a rinn Coimisiun Bealoideas Eireann a thoghadh na sgeulan crábhach a tha an seo. An seo gheibhear iomadh sgeul, araon taitneach is annasach, a dh'innseadh o linn gu linn fad nan ceudan bliadhna, mu'n t-Slànaighear, mu phearsachan-eaglaise, mu na Naoimh, mu'n Diabhal, mu na mairbh, mu'n t-saoghal eile, agus iomadh cuspair eile.

'Nar measg-ne an Albainn gheibhear beul-aithris de'n t-seòrsa seo mar an ceudna. Tha pàirt dhith an clò ann an *Carmina Gadelica*, ach tha mòran eile nach 'eil fhathast sgrìobhte air paipear no air clàr. Foadar beul-aithris chrábhach na Gaidhealtachd againn a roinn 'na dà earrainn—a' phàirt as aosda, a' dol air ais gu linntean na seann Eaglais Chaitlicigh roimh an Ath-leasachadh, agus pàirt eile anns a bheil seanchas againn mu dhaoine crábhach agus an ràdhan, a' dol air ais suas ri dà cheud bliadhna—"MacRath Mór," "Dòmhnallach na Tòisigheachd," agus na h-urrachan ainmeil

eile air a bheil iomradh is meas fhathast am measg nan Gaidheal.

TURUS A' CHRÌOSDAIDH. Le Iain Buinian. Comunn nan Trachdanna Diadhaidh an Lunnainn. 1953. 222t.d. 5/-.

Rinneadh a' cheud eadar-theangachadh Gàidhlig air leabhar ainmeil Bhuinian le Raibeart MacPhàrlain an 1812, ach is e seo eadar-theangachadh ùr a rinn an t-Ollamh Calum MacGillinnein nach maireann an 1929. Tha e a nis air a chur an clò as ùr, le iomradh goirid air beatha is saothair an eadar-theangair le T. M. MacCalmain. Tha àireamh dhealbhan taitneach anns an leabhar, agus is math as fhiach e na cóig tasdain.

OBITUARY

Rev. Alexander Boyd

It is fitting that tribute should be paid here to the work and worth of the late Rev. Alexander Boyd, M.A., Inverness. He was long a member of An Comunn and a frequent contributor to the pages of this magazine. A native of North Uist and a distinguished student at Aberdeen University, Mr. Boyd was minister in South Uist and Glencoe before coming to St. Mary's Gaelic Church, Inverness, in 1924. We mourn the passing of a fine Highlander, a good man, a staunch supporter of good causes. We record our sympathy with his wife and daughters.

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AN GAIDHEAL

THE GAEL

Vol. XLIX

MARCH, 1954

No. 3

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THE GAEL

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF
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Editor

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CLAR-INNSIDH

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Leabhar XLIX

AM MART, 1954

Aireamh 3

Faillte Do'n Runaire Ur

THA Calum MacLeòid as na Hearadh—Calum Dhòmhnaill Iain—a nis 'na Rùnaire air A' Chomunn Ghaidhealach, agus is e ar dùrachd gu ma fada a bhios e air chomas saothrachadh anns an obair fhiaichail a tha an sin, agus gum bi soirbheachadh an cois gach oidhirp agus toileachadh aige fhéin 'na shaothair.

Ged nach 'eil Calum MacLeòid fhathast ach 'na dhuine òg is mór na chunnaic agus na dh'fhiosraich e de'n t-saoghal mhór—mar a rinn iomadh aon de a chomh-aoisean. Rinn e seirbhis d'a Rìgh is d'a Dhùthaich anns an arm ri linn a' chogaidh. Dh'fhuiling e cruaidh-chàs is mór-shaothair an campachan-priosain nan naimhdean.

Cha ruigear a leas a ràdh gur i a' Ghàidhlig a chainnt mhàthaireil, agus ris na dh'fhoghlum e 'na dhachaigh fhéin agus am baile a àraich chuir e foghlum-sgoile an Sgoil an Tairbeirt, an Sgoil Phort-rìghheadh, agus an Oil-thaigh Ghlaschu.

Chan ann mar choigreach a tha an Rùnaire ur a' tighinn 'nar measg agus a' dol air ceann obair a' Chomuinn. Is fada o ghabhadh ris mar bhall de Chomunn na h-Oigridh ann am Feachd Phort-rìghheadh. Mar bhalach-sgoile bha e aig Campa Samhraidh na h-Oigridh. Ceithir bliadhna air ais thaghadh e mar Fho-Rùnaire a' Chomuinn, agus anns na ceithir bliadhna sin leig e ris an scòrsa duine a tha ann—dileas, dleasnach, èasgaidh.



Cuireamaid uile ar làn-thàic ris anns an obair chudthromaich a tha a nis an carbsa ris, agus deanamaid saothair còmhla, gu càirdeil is gu misneachail, a chum is gun toirear rùintean a' Chomuinn gu làn-bhuil agus a chum is gun tig piseach air ar cànan, ar litreachas, ar ceòl, agus gach nì uasal is prìseil a tha taigste 'nar dìleab mar Ghaidheil.

Our New Secretary

WE bespeak for Mr. Malcolm Macleod a hearty welcome from all our readers and from members of An Comunn Gaidhealach everywhere as he enters upon the onerous and honourable office of General Secretary and Organiser of An Comunn.

Mr. Macleod has the advantage of coming to his new post with considerable knowledge and experience of the nature and extent of the task committed to him, for he has served most efficiently as Assistant Secretary for the past four years.

He also takes up this new appointment thoroughly equipped. He is thirty-four years of age and a native of Ardhaisg, Harris. He received his early education in the local school and in the Sir Edward Scott Junior Secondary School, Tarbert, Harris (a school which has for many years appeared in the prize-lists of the Mod junior literary competitions). Thereafter, he attended Portree Secondary School, where he was awarded the "Angus Robertson Gold Medal" for Gaelic (a medal donated by a former President of An Comunn). Having taken his Leaving Certificate (with Gaelic as one of his subjects), Mr. Macleod proceeded to Glasgow University, and in the two years he spent there, before going on active service, he included Ordinary and Higher Ordinary Celtic among his subjects of study. He enlisted in the Royal Artillery Anti-Tank Corps and served in the Far East. On the fall of Singapore in 1942 he was taken prisoner and remained in Japanese hands until the war ended in 1945, and during his captivity worked on the making of the railway from Bangkok to Moulmein.

On demobilisation, Mr. Macleod resumed his academic studies, but in a short time was appointed an assistant manager with the Odeon group of cinemas. In February, 1950, he became Assistant Secretary of An Comunn Gaidhealach, and in that post has acquitted himself well. In the office he has discharged his duties with ability and quiet efficiency, while he has gained valuable experience in the field—adjudicating at mods, presiding at branch ceilidhs, and addressing affiliated societies.

Brought up in one of the most truly Gaelic areas that remain, Mr. Macleod has a thorough command of Gaelic; writes it with competence and grace, and as a speaker in both Gaelic and English is clear, concise, and effective, "with no frills." While at Portree he was Leader of the local "Feachd" of Comunn na h-Oigrìdh, and as long ago as 1938, attended a summer camp of that organisation. Recently he has been Gaelic instructor to the Glasgow "Feachd."

Mr. Macleod has already had valuable experience in organising the National Mod, involving a mass of detailed arrangements.

It is no light task that the new Secretary undertakes. An Comunn was never so strong, numerically and financially, as it is today. These past sixty years have shown steady progress. At the same time, never was An Comunn faced with so serious a situation, so grave a task, or such heavy commitments. An Comunn is now at the point where, unless it goes forward, it will inevitably and swiftly go back. Its opportunities are great, its resources far from adequate.

Mr. Macleod has his own ideas and plans for strengthening and developing the work committed to his charge, but he must not be left to do this great work alone. This is not one man's concern; it is the concern of all. An Comunn, beginning a new chapter in its history must speedily survey its resources, take the measure of its tasks, carefully plan its policy and procedure (both short-term and long-term), fix its priorities, re-deploy its forces, and make such changes in constitution, organisation, and methods as may seem necessary. What suited the situation in 1891 or 1907 or 1918, or even 1939, does not necessarily suit the situation to-day.

To Mr. Macleod and to his wife, who belongs to Roag, Skye, and is popular as a Gaelic singer, we express our cordial good wishes.

Let us all, then, re-commit ourselves to the service of An Comunn and the furtherance of its aims and objects. Thus shall our good wishes to our new Secretary find tangible and worthwhile expression in willing co-operation in a great cause.

'S AN AM O SHEAN

O CHIONN fada an t-saoghail, ma's fhìor na chuala mi, bha iomadh rud a' tachairt a bha ro-iongantach. Bha buidsich agus ban-bhuidsich ann a thionndadh le buille de shlachdan draoidheachd carragh cloiche gu òr agus duine gu riochd aoin de ainmhidhean an achaidh no eadhon gu sgonn maide. Bha iomadh dòigh ann air bacadh a chur air tinn-easan agus air a' bhàs fhéin. Bha dòighean ann air muinntir a chumail òg a ghnàth, agus air an deanamh aoigheil, ciùin, tlachdmhor anns na h-uile nì, air chor is gum biodh sìth agus sonas a ghnàth a' riaghladh 'nam measg.

Dheanadh iad seo gu léir le fàinne draoidheil a chur air meur neach no le trusgan-sidhe a chur

(An còrr air i.d. 24)

“Gleann Comhann”

Le IAIN M. MOFFATT-PENDER

CLUICH, AN AON SEALLADH, NACH GABH BARRACHD AIR 40 MIONAID
'GA LIUBHAIRT

(*Choisinn an dealbh-chluich seo a' cheud duais aig a' Mhòd Nàiseanta, 1953*)

An Luchd Cluiche

{ SILIS BHAILE UIR AN T-SLEIBHE	- - - - -	Trì fichead 's a deich
{ SILIS GHLEANN COMHANN	- - - - -	Mu fhichead bliadhna
MAC 'IC IAIN	- - - - -	Mu thrì fichead bliadhna
IAIN OG, MAC MHC 'IC IAIN	- - - - -	Mu dhà fhichead bliadhna
AONGHAS CAIMBEUL	- - - - -	Mu dhà fhichead bliadhna
MORAG MHOR, DALTA IAIN DUIBH	- - - - -	Mu fhichead bliadhna
CALUM	- - - - -	Mu chòig-bliadhna-deug
AN CEUD SHAIGHDEAR		SAIGHDEARAN EILE
AN DARNA SAIGHDEAR		BOIRIONNAICH

Tha Silis Nighean 'Ic Iain Ghlinne Comhann 'n a suidhe leatha féin faisg air an teine, an tigh beag air a' mhonadh os cionn Bhaile Uir an t-Sléibhe, am Baideanach.

Tha oidhche gheambraidh ann; tha e a' cur is a' cathadh agus thà srannan na sine anns a' ghaoith.

Tha Silis a nis trì fichead bliadhna agus a deich de aois, oir tha leth-cheud bliadhna a nis ann bho an oidhche uamhasaich, oillteil sin an Gleann Comhann. Cha robh i aig an am sin ach fichead bliadhna—'n a nighinn mhaisich, joinneil. Bha i an tigh a h-athar, agus chuala i agus chunnaic i gach nì do-labhairt a bha ann.

Thig na daoine agus na mnathan gu léir, gu soilleir, roimh shùilean Silis—iad-san uile a bha ann aig an am sin. Chì i, 'n a mac-eanmna, i féin ann.

Tha Silis a' bruidhinn rithe féin: *Air ciaradh na h-oidhche bha mi 'n am sheasamh làimh ri m' athair, aig doras ar tìghe. Bha an dorchadas a' tighinn, ach mhothaich mi de an cheò air na beanntan, agus bha an òlair shuas am measg nan neul; bha na h-easan ri mon-mhor gu trom. Och! Och! Mo chreach! Mo chreach! Cha b' iognadh da-rìreabh ged a bha am feasgar dorch, doirbh; cha b' iognadh ged a chuir a' ghealach neul eadar i agus an sealladh an oidhche sin; is ann is abharr iognaidh nach robh crìth-thalmhainn agus uamhann ann. O! Mo chreach! Mo chreach mhór!*

[*Tuitidh a ceann a nuas 'n a làmhann agus tha i a nis a'*

faicinn, an aistling, a h-wile rud a thachair.]

[*Thig Mac Mhic Iain Ghlinne Comhann agus a mhao, Iain Og, a steach.]*

MAC 'IC IAIN—Tha an t-earrach a' tighinn. Cha chreid mi nach bi e ann tràth am bliadhna. Tha sineadh a' tighinn anns an fheasgar.

IAIN OG—Ma tà, chan 'eil an sneachd an nochd fada bhuainn. Bithidh droch oidhche ann, ma thig.

MAC 'IC IAIN—Dh' fhaodadh sin a bhith. Bithidh an sneachd gu teagamh againn mu am bi an geamhradh seachd. A bheil an crodh shìos?

IAIN OG—Tha.

MAC 'IC IAIN—C' uin' a thug thu a nuas iad?

IAIN OG—Bho chionn leth uair de shìde. C' ar son a tha thu a' feòrach?

MAC 'IC IAIN—Am faca thu dithist am measg nan creagan an uair a bha thu shuas?

IAIN OG—Chunnaic, chunnaic mi Aonghas Caimbeul agus Mór ag Mhór, dalta Iain Duibh. C' ar son?

MAC 'IC IAIN—Dé bha iad a' dèanamh?

IAIN OG—Cha robh iad a' dèanamh càil. Tha iad a' cumail ri a chéile, tha fhios agad.

MAC 'IC IAIN—Tha fhios agam, ach cha robh iad-san an diugh còmhla ruinn aig an spòrs, agus cha robh Iain Dubh fhéin ann; có dhùibh, cha do mhothaich mi dha.

IAIN OG—Cha d' thug mi fhéin an aire. Ach so e fhéin a nis a' tighinn. Feòraich féin deth.

MAC 'IC IAIN—Ceart. Feòraichidh mi dheth.

[*Thig Iain Dubh, air a shocair.*]

Tha thu ann, a Iain. Cha robh thu còmhla ruinn aig an spòrs, an robh? Chan fhaca mi thu.

IAIN DUBH—Cha robh. Tha bó thinn agam agus cha robh mi air son a fàgail.

MAC 'IC IAIN—A bheil i a' tighinn chuige?

IAIN DUBH—Chan 'eil i gu ro mhaith. Tha dùil agam air an ath-sheachdain ri laogh bhuaipe, ach tha eagal orm nach e laogh glé shlàn a bhios ann.

IAIN OG (*a' sealltainn suas*)—So Mórág Mhór agus Aonghas Caimbeul a' tighinn.

MAC 'IC IAIN (*ri Iain Dubh*)—Tha thu ag ràdh gu bheil fearann maith aig Aonghas Caimbeul—thall an Gleann Liobhunn. A bheil sin fìor, a Iain?

IAIN DUBH—Tha; tha e coltach gu bheil sin fìor gu leòir.

MAC 'IC IAIN—Nach fhaca thu fhéin an t-àite aige?

IAIN DUBH—Chan fhaca; cha robh mi fhéin riamh an rathad sin. Feumaidh mi a dhòl a shealltainn air a' bhoin. Feasgar maith le chéile leibh.

[*Théid Iain Dubh a mach.*]

MAC 'IC IAIN—Cha chreid mi gu bheil an fhìrinn aig Iain Dubh. Chuala mi gu robh e an Gleann Liobhunn, deireadh na Samhna.

IAIN OG (*a' sealltainn an deàidh Iain Duibh*)—Chan abair mi fhéin gu bheil an fhìrinn ann. Fad mo shaoghail chan fhaca mi fear cho maith ris-san air na breugan. Tha fhios againn uile gun do shiubhail Iain Dubh an saoghal mu an iadh a' ghrian. Gu cinnteach, bha e an Gleann Liobhunn, iomadh uair.

MAC 'IC IAIN—Sud e agad, agus déan càl no brochan deth.

IAIN OG—Coimhead orra! Tha Iain Dubh agus an Caimbeulach a' bruidhinn ri chéile, ach gu h-ìosal—chan 'eil iad air son gun cluinn Mórág ciod é tha iad ag ràdh. Bu mhaith leam fhéin fios a bhith agam-sa air a' chòmhradh aca.

MAC 'IC IAIN—Och! Och! Ach có dhiùbh tha e coltach nach 'eil dad ann. Gidheadh, tha mi fhéin gu mór air mo chur troimh a chéile aig Iain Dubh.

[*Théid Mac 'ic Iain a steach, agus Iain Og còmhla ris.*]

SILIS BHAILE UIR AN T-SLEIBHE—*An deàidh dhuinn ar biadh a ghabhail an oidhche sin, bha mi a rithist 'n am sheasamh aig an dorus. Thàinig m' athair chum an doruis. Dìreach an sin bha Aonghas Caimbeul a' dol seachad.*

[*Tha Mac 'ic Iain 'n a sheasamh aig an dorus, agus Silis. Tha Aonghas Caimbeul a' dol*

seachad, 'n a chabhaig, ach nì e stad an uair chi e Mac 'ic Iain.]

AONGHAS CAIMBEUL—Tha sibh ann, a Mhic 'ic Iain! Is ann a tha e dorcha.

MAC 'IC IAIN—Is ann. A bheil sibh a' tighinn a steach?

AONGHAS CAIMBEUL—Chan 'eil an nochd, a Mhic 'ic Iain.

MAC 'IC IAIN—Nach 'eil? C' ar son? Bha mi an so a' feitheamh ribh. Nach bi sibh ag iomairt air chairtean an nochd còmhla ruinn?

AONGHAS CAIMBEUL—Cha bhi, le bhur cead, a Mhic 'ic Iain; gabhaibh mo leith-sgeul; tha mi a' dèanamh air a' bhealach; tha cabhag orm, dorcha agus mar tha i.

MAC 'IC IAIN—Théid mi fhéin còmhla ribh.

AONGHAS CAIMBEUL—Nar leig am Freasdail e! Tha cabhag mhór orm. Slàn agaibh. Tha mi duilich

[*Théid an Caimbeulach air falbh 's an dorchadas.*]

SILIS—Aonghas Caimbeul!

MAC 'IC IAIN—Seadh, an dearbh dhuine.

SILIS—Nach e a dh' fhalbh gu luath?

MAC 'IC IAIN (*a' sealltainn gu geur troimh an dorchadas*)—Nach e so e a' tighinn a rithist? An sibh-se a tha ann a rithist, a charaid?

[*Thig an Caimbeulach air a ats.*]

AONGHAS CAIMBEUL—Nach 'eil sibh féin a' dol a null do Loch-abar an nochd, a Mhic 'ic Iain? Nach 'eil sibh a' dol sìos do an aiseag?

MAC 'IC IAIN—Do Loch-abar? C' ar son air an t-saoghal mhór a rachainn a null an nochd?

AONGHAS CAIMBEUL—Ceart gu leòir, ceart gu leòir, ma tà. Chan 'eil càil ann. Slàn agaibh-se a rithist . . . Slàn agaibh-se a rithist . . . Ceart gu leòir . . .

[*Théid an Caimbeulach a mach an darra uair.*]

SILIS—Nach 'eil an oidhche so cianail fuar?

Tha a' ghaoth ag éirigh. Cha mhór nach 'eil mi air mo mheileachadh. Sin an sneachd. O! Is ann a tha e cianail fuar. A Dhé! Nach e an duine sin a thug gris orm!

MAC 'IC IAIN—Feumaidh gu bheil e air bhàinidh.

SILIS—Ciod é tha uaithe? C' àit' a bheil e a' dol?

MAC 'IC IAIN—Bu mhaith leam fhéin fios a bhith agam-sa ciod é tha uaithe. Agus bha e a' bruidhinn rium an guth ìosal, mar gum biodh e a' cagarsaich. Tuigidh mi brìgh gun bhriathran, gu minic, ach tha an Caimbeulach ud a' fairtleachadh orm. Ciod é tha a rùn?

SILIS—Rùn? Ciod é tha sibh féin a' ciallachadh?

MAC 'IC IAIN—C' àit' a bheil Mórág Mhór, dalta Iain Duibh?



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar VI

AM MART, 1954

Aireamh 3

Seachas Iain Bhain

Le IAIN A. MACDROMHNAILL

CHA mhór oidhche a shamhradh no a gheamhradh nach biodh òigridh a' bhaile againne air chéilidh air Iain Bàn. B'e fhéin an sár fhear-taighe, agus gu dearbhdh 'fhaodamaid a ràdh le firinn "sgeul gu latha air fear an taighe." Bha de eòlas aige air gach cuspair fo'n ghréin is gum beag a b'fhiach leinne teagasg sgoile an coimeas ris an fhiosrachadh a gheibheadmaid o Iain. Is ann dha fhéin a thigeadh a dhèil an car sgeòil no mìneachaidh air cuspairean eagnaigh agus domhain an t-saoghail mhóir.

Is minig, ma tà, a chuir e iongnadh air balaich bheaga cionnas idir a bha an saoghal mun cuairt ag atharrachadh o fhuarachd chrainntidh earraich gu àilleachd ghloirmhoir samhraidh. Seo agaibh, ma's math mo chuimhne, am fuasgladh a rinn Iain Bàn air a' cheist.

* * * * *

O chian nan cian bha a' fuireach ann an aon de eileanan na Gréige Banrigh chaomh chòir aig an robh a' chailin nighe na b' àillidhe a chunnacas riamh air thalamh an domhain. Cha robh gort no gainntir anns an eilean seo, ach daonnan an làn-phailteas de thoradh na talmhainn a bu bhrioghmoire gnè. Mar sin bha cothrom cluiche aig a' chailin gu a toil, gun nì fo'n ghréin a' cur smuairnean no dorran oirre. 'Na dol a mach agus 'na teachd a steach bha a' cridhe a' mire rithe, agus chan iarradh i de chaitheamh-aimsire ach a bhith ann measg nam flùr is nan dìthean air achaidhean blàthmhor an eilein. Bha a' Bhanrigh cho toileach sunndach rithe, agus cha robh fàth eagail no iomagain 'nan còir.

Is minig, ged thà, a gheibhear àmhghar agus bristeadh-cridhe an lorg subhachais, agus is ann dìreach mar sin a thachair air an eilean seo.

Là de na làithean thog a' chailin òg agus a companaich cluiche orra, mar a b'abhaist, do'n achadh ri taobh na h-aibhne móire far am

faighear gach lus is meas gu an àilgheas. Sgap iad o chéile car tamaill, agus, an uair a thàinig àm gu dol dachaigh, sgeul cha robh air an nighinn òig thall no bhos, shìos no shuas. Bha an ceòl air feadh na fìdhle da-rìreadh, ach cha d'fhuaras forfhais air nighinn na Banrigh air fad no leud an eilein.

Bha a' Bhanrigh deurach dubhach agus an impis dol as a ciall ag iargain a h-inghne. Shearg gach blàth, chrìon gach craobh is bileag feòir; cha chluinnear na's mò pongan ceòlmhor an coille no air sliabh. Laigh, mar gum b'eadh, dosgainn a' bhòin air muir agus air tìr. Bha an t-eilean a bha là no dhà roimhe siud òirdhearca, fonnmhor, maiseach a nis 'na fhàsaich luim fhuaraidh gun sunnd.

Ach càit an robh nighean na Banrigh? B'e sin smuain nan uile, oir bu duilich a chreidsinn gum b'e sgiòradh bàis a thug bhuaipa i.

Bha i, ma tà, fo chumhachd Rìgh an Dubh-Aigil. Thug esan an aire d'a maise is d'a h-àilleachd, agus e a' gabhail iolla ri òirdhearca an eilein air bruaich na h-aibhne. Roghnaich e dha fhéin i, agus, gun fhios is gun fhair-eachadh d'a companaich cluiche, thug e leis i ge b'oil leatha d'a rioghachd dhuachmidh fhéin an àit-eigin eadar talamh a' chruinne agus iomallachd iochdrach na doimhne.

Cha robh ise toilichte an sin, agus cha mhò a bha a' mthair toilichte an seo. Mu dheireadh thall leig a' Bhanrigh a comhairle ri fiosaiche àraidh aig an robh cumhachd thairis air feartan dìomhair an dà shaoghail. B'e a' bhuil a bha ann gun d'fhuaradh seòl air còmhradh a chumail ri Rìgh an Dubh-Aigil fhéin (cha mhò innleachd nach fhaodar a chleachdadh le a sheòrsa!).

Rinneadh cumhnantann còrdaidh, agus dh'aontaicheadh cead a thoirt do nighinn na Banrigh tilleadh gu a dachaigh anns an eilean fad shìa mìosan gach bliadhna.

Sin dìreach mar a thachair, agus cha bu thàrr ise car a chur air bruaich na h-aibhne na chinn

AN GAIÐHEAL OG

gach bileag feòir, gach lus is blàth, agus cha b'fhada gus an robh iad a rithist, mar a bha iad roimhe, an lànachd am maise. Chruth-atharraich snuadh an eilein agus aigne gach beò-chreutair aig an robh a chòmhnaidh ann, eadar shluagh is spréidh is mheanbh-spréidh.

Ré chóig mìosan is còrr mhair an sòlas agus an t-àgh, ach, mun gann a bha na sia mìosan seachad thàinig dubhar is fuachd; gaiseadh is searg, gus an robh an t-eilean a rithist lom, fuar, agus reòta, fo smalan agus fo bhròn. Cha robh sgeul air a' chailin òig a rithist, ach

is dòcha gu robh a beannachdan feartmhor a nis a' toirt aoidhealachd, blàiths is aoiabhneis do ionadan ìosal an t-saoghail.

Mar sin, chan 'eil air ach gabhail ri fuachd is reòtachd a' gheamhraidh gus an cuir nighean na Banrigh fàilte ann uair eile air eilean a h-àraich thall anns a' Ghréig. Bheir ise ùrachadh is fàilteachd do'n chearnaidh sin, agus cuideachd do'n chearnaidh seo.

* * * * *

B'e sin barail Iain Bhàin co-dhiùbh, agus is esan a bha thall is a chunnaic.

Na Tri Fainneachan

Bha duine uasal ann aon uair aig an robh fàinne ro-luachmhor a bheireadh air duine sam bith aig am biodh e gum biodh spéis mhòr aig na h-uile neach dheth. Aig àm a bhàis thug e e do'n mhac a bu docha leis air chumhnant gun gleidheadh e e gus am fàgadh e e mar an ceudna aig a' mhac a bu docha leis aig àm a bhàis, agus mar sin air aghaidh fhad is a bhiodh mac a' tighinn an ionad an athar. A bharrachd air seo, am mac a gheibheadh am fàinne, is ann aige a bhiodh riaghladh an teaghlach agus a' chòir-bhreith, eadhon ged a b'e a b'òige de'n teaghlach.

An dèidh do'n fhainne a bhith air a liubhairt a nuas o athair gu mac fad iomadh ginealach, thachair mu dheireadh gu robh e aig athair aig an robh trìuir mhac a bha anns na h-uile nì anabarrach umhail agus dheasnach. Bha e cho miadhail orra 'nan trìuir agus nach robh fhios aige cò' aca d'an tugadh e am fàinne. Mu dheireadh thall, is e a bhuaill anns a' cheann aige gun rachadh e far an robh an t-òrcheard agus gun tugadh e air dà fhàinne eile a dheanamh cho coltach is a b'urrainn da ris an fhàinne bhuadhach. Is ann mar seo a bha. Rinneadh an dà fhainne, agus bha iad cho coltach ris an fhàinne bhuadhach is nach robh e an comas do dhuine a bha beò eadar-dhealachadh air an t-saoghal a chur eatorra.

An uair a bha e air leabaidh a bhàis dh'ìarr e a mhac a bu shine a thoirt 'na làthair, agus air dha combairlean maithe a thoirt air agus a bheannachd fhàgail aige, thug e dha fear de na fainneachan. Chuir e fios air an dara mac agus air an treas mac agus rinn e an t-aon ceudna riutha. Beagan ùine 'na dhéidh sin dh'èug e. Thiodhlaic a chuid mac e, agus an dèidh do gach nì a bhith thairis dh'innis am mac a bu shine gun d'fhuair esan am fàinne o a athair, agus mar sin gur ann aige a bha còir air gach nì a dh'fhàg a athair.

Bha mór-iongnadh air a dhithis bhràithrean

an uair a chuala iad seo, ach is ann a bha an t-iongnadh orra an uair a dh'innis gach fear mar a thubhairt a athair ris. Thug gach fear a fhàinne fhéin a làthair, ach cha robh e 'nan comas a dheanamh a mach cò aige a bha am fàinne buadhach. Bha an dithis a b'òige 'gam meas fhéin a h-uile buille cho maith còir air aon dad a dh'fhàg an athair ris an fhear a bu shine.

Mu dheireadh thall chaidh na fir cho fada thar a chèile is gun tug iad a' chùis an làthair a' bhrithheimh. Thug gach fear a thaobh fhéin de'n chùis air aghaidh le innseadh mar a thubhairt a athair ris. Cha chreideadh fear seach fear dhiùbh gun tug an athair fealag asda; ach bha gach fear car ann am beachd gun tug a bhràithrean ionnsaigh air a char a thoirt as le fàinne meallta a thoirt air aghaidh. Ach an dèidh na h-uile rud bha a leithid de earbsa aca 'na chèile is nach b'urrainn daibh seo a làn-chreidsinn.

Bha am briteamh e fhéin ann an ioma-chomhairle nach bu bheag mu'n chùis, ach mu dheireadh thug e breith mar a leanas:

“Cha urrèinn dhòmhsa a dheanamh a mach cia e am fàinne ceart, agus mar sin chan urrainn domh a ràdh cò aige a tha còir air a bhith 'na cheann thairis air an teaghlach. Ma tha e fìor gu bheil buaidh shònraichte anns an fhàinne cheart a chum an neach aige a bheil e a dheanamh ionmhainn ann an sealladh nan uile dhaoine, tha e mar an ceudna a cheart cho fìor nach urrainn gum bi a' bhuaidh shònraichte seo ann an dà fhàinne eile. Tillibh dhachaigh, agus sguiribh de bhur n-aimhreit. Creideadh gach fear agaibh gur ann aige fhéin a tha am fàinne ceart, agus a chum sin a dhearbhadh dha fhéin agus do mhuinntir eile, deanadh e strì a chum e fhéin a dheanamh ionmhainn leis na h-uile. An neach a bheir bàrr agus as mò a choisneas de ghràdh muinntir eile, dearbhaidh e gu soilleir gur ann aige a tha am fàinne ceart.”

Lean iad a' chomhairle ghlic agus mhaith seo a thug am breithamh orra, agus rinn iad strì feuch cò a bu ghràdhraiche is a bu neo-fhéineile, gus mu dheireadh thall an deachaidh gach aimhreit a bha catorra mu na fàinneachan

air di-chuimhne. Chaith iad am beatha gu réidh agus gu sona maille r'a chéile.

BODACHAN-A'-GHARRAIDH.

(Bho "An Gaidheal," 1877.)

Larach Taigh Mhic Dhòmhnail

Le IAIN MACASGAILL

(Choisinn an sgrìobhadh seo a' cheud duais aig Mòd Chaol Loch-Aillse o chionn àireamh bhliadhnachan)

“**L**ARACH TAIGHE” —tha na faacil sin na s' brioghmhoire do na Gaidheil na tha iad do na Goill. Dh'fhaoidte gur e cho lionmhor is a tha na làraich agus an eachdraidh dhuilich a bhuneas do na glinn is na srathan, a tha gu beag air am fàsachadh, a dh'aobharach e.

Chan 'eil sliabh no monadh, achadh no còmhnaidh, far nach 'eil làrach taighe no àirigh —gach aon le a sgeul fhéin, ach chan 'eil a' bheag de'n sgeul air a sgrìobhadh, agus thriall na seòid a dheanadh aithris orra. Gu tric, tha tobhta mór no beag, càrn no gàrradh, a' combarrachadh a mach dachaighean nan treun a bha a' còmhnaidh annta.

Ged tha leac-an-teintein fuar, gheibh sinn blàths fhathast mu chuairt do na fàrdaichean fàsail seo, agus cha mhise sinn idir a bhith a' dol g'am faicinn agus a' smuaineachadh air na làithean agus na daoine a bha feumail agus cliùiteach an eachdraidh.

Tha aon làrach shean a tha eadar-dhealaichte bho gach làraich eile a chunnaic mi aig a bheil eachdraidh air am bi cuimhne. Chan 'eil clach no balla a' combarrachadh a mach na làraich seo, agus tha muir-làn aig gach reothairt, mar gum b'eadh, 'ga glanadh is 'ga cumail cùbhraidh. Tha i aig ceann Chinn-t-sàile de'n Ghlas-eilean an Loch Aillse, agus chan 'eil i mórán na s' mò na cnapach luinge. Sin an làrach air a bheil an t-ainm, "Làrach Taigh Mhic Dhòmhnail," agus chì sinn cionnas a fhuair i an t-ainm.

Bho chionn ceithir cheud bliadhna theann Dòmhnall Gorm Mór ri iarraidh air a' seannardas a bhuneadh do chinn-feadhna Clann Dòmhnail, "Tighearna nan Eilean." Mar a thachras do na h-uile fear a bhios ag iarraidh uachdaranais, bhiodh cuid air a shon agus cuid 'na aghaidh.

Am measg a luchd-cuideachaidh bha Clann Thorcuil, agus chuir Dòmhnall Gorm a mach á Tròndairnis Clann Mhic Leòid Dhun-bheagain, 'gan sgath leis a' chlàidheamh air Achadh na Fala an Sgeabost. Thionndaidh Dòmhnall

Gorm Mór an sin air Clann Choinnich a bha a' cur 'na aghaidh. Chaidh e an sin do'n Chóigich agus loisg is chreach e na bha ri cladach, agus an sin rinn e ionnsaigh air Caisteal Eilean Donnain, far an robh ban-tighearna a' còmhnaidh.

Chuir e teine ris gach eithir agus ràmh air an Dòiridh. Mharbh iad sagart Chinn-t-sàile a bha de Chloinn Choinnich, agus chruinnich iad mu bhalla a' chaisteil. Thug iad buaidh air gach cnap-starraidh agus bha iad a' feuchainn ris an dorus a bhristeadh an uair a loisg Donnachadh Mac Rath saighead a bhuail Dòmhnall Gorm ann am féith a luirge, agus thug Dòmhnall spionadh air an t-saighead agus reub e an fhéith, agus, ma reub, theann e ri sileadh na fala agus cha b'urrainn a dhaoine stad a chur air.

Chuir seo stad air an t-sabaid agus chaidh a' bhirlinn air uigheam, ach cha deachaidh Dòmhnall na b'fhearr. Thug iad e air tir aig an eilean bheag seo, agus chaidh fasgadh a chur suas air son an cinn-fheadhna. Is ann an seo—a dh'aindeoin na b'urrainn dhaibh a dheanamh—a shil Dòmhnall Gorm Mór gu bàs, agus is ann mar seo a fhuair an t-eilean beag seo ainm a leanas ris—"Làrach Taigh Mhic Dhòmhnail."

Is ann le cridheachan trom, tìrsach a chaidh a' bhirlinn gu Eilean Iarmainn, agus a chruinnich a mhuinntir g'a chàradh maille r'a sheanair an cladh na Cille Mòire. Ged tha an eachdraidh sean, tha ainm an eilein 'ga chumail fada ann ar cumhne.

Duan an Leisgein

Di-haoine mo ghaoil,

Di-sathurna mo ghràidh;

Di-dòmhnach, là a' chadail mhóir.

Och, nan och! Di-Iuain!

Agus an t-seachdain cho buan

'S a bha i riamh.

An Daolag Agus Am Priosanach

BHA aon uair, ann an aon de dhùthchannan na h-àird-an-ear, duin'-usal a bha ann an suidheachadh ro-àrd anns an rìoghachd. B'e a b'fhaise ann an inbhe air an rìgh fhéin. Ciod sam bith tubaist a dh'éirich dha, thachair gun d'rinn e dol as an rathad air chor-eigin a choisinn dha dlombadh agus corruich an rìgh. Thug an rìgh òrdugh teann cruaidh e a bhith air a ghleidheadh 'na prìosanach fhad is a bu bheò e ann an seòmair beag am mullach tùir àird.

Rud nach b'ionghnadh, bha a chridhe gu briseadh le bròn. Bha e cruaidh leis deagh-ghean an rìgh a chall, ach bu shuarach leis sin seach a bhith a' dealachadh r'a mhnaoi agus r'a phàisdean. Chunnaic e, air a shon sin, nach deanadh bròn feum sam bith dha, agus gum b'fheàrr dha an oidhirp a b'fheàrr a b'urrainn da a dheanamh air teicheadh as an tùr. Cha robh e furasda dha idir teicheadh. Chan fhaigheadh e sios gun fhios, a chionn gu robh luchd-faire a ghnàth aig dorsan an tùir, agus, nan tilgeadh e e fhéin sios leis an uinneig, bhiodh e grad-mharbh an uair a bhuaileadh e shìos.

Bu duine e aig an robh mòr-còlas mu thimcheall iomadh nì. Bha e a ghnàth a' deanamh feum de a shùilean agus de a chluasan. Bha e a' gabhail beachd air gnàthannan gach creutair bheò air am b'urrainn da a bheag de eòlas a chur. Ann an àm na trioblaid rinn an t-còlas seo feum mòr dha—thug e comas dha air teicheadh as an tùr. Is ann o ghnàthannan daolaige—an creutair beag suarach sin air am foadadh na h-uile neach a bhith glé eòlach—a dh'fhòghluim e an dòigh air am faigheadh e teicheadh.

Air feasgar àraidh thàinig a bhean gu bonn an tùir agus thòisich i ri gul is ri caoidh. Labhair e rithe mar seo, "Ma's maith leat mise a bhith air mo chur air mo chomas, grad-sguir de do bròn agus rach dhachaigh agus na tig air ais gus am faigh thu na nithean seo—daolag dhubb bheò, rud beag de sheann im, ceirle bheag de shnàth grinn sìoda, ceirle de shnàth cainbe, ceirle de chòrd maith làidir, agus cuairteag mhaith de bhall."

Ghrad-fhalbh a bhean dhachaigh, agus fhuair i na h-uile nì dhiubh seo. An ath oidhche thàinig i leo gu bonn an tùir. Dh'iarr e oirre rud de'n im a chur air ceann na daolaige, agus ceann an t-snàtha shìoda a' cheangal m'a meadhon agus a cur air balla an tùir agus a h-aghaidh a chur rathad mullach an tùir. Rinn a bhean seo.

A nis, tha e 'na chleachdadh aig an daolaig a bhith a' sìor-dhol air aghaidh air an rathad air am faigh i fàileadh làidir sam bith os a ciann.

An uair a chuireadh a h-aghaidh ri bàrr an tùir, air dhi a bhith air a tarraing le fàileadh an ime a bha air a ceann, choisich i suas air a' bhalla agus mu dheireadh an d'ràinig i an uinneag far an robh am prìosanach. Fhuair e mar seo greim air an t-snàth shìoda, agus, an uair a fhuair, cheangail a bhean ceann na ceirle cainbe ris. Tharraing e chuige e, agus 'na dhéidh sin an còrd, agus mu dheireadh am ball (is e sin, ròp). Cheangail e am ball ris an uinneig, agus mar seo leig e e fhéin sios leis an uinneig.

Fhuair e mar seo a shaorsa troimh an eòlas a fhuair e air cleachdadh na daolaige.

BODACHAN-A'-GHARRAIDH.

(Bho "An Gaidheal," 1877.)

Dan Clann Lir

Le IAIN N. MACLEOD

(bho l.d. 8)

Gheall Ceamog gu tùrsach gun deanadh e mar a dh'iarr i, agus bhaist e iad gu sòlamaichte, agus air ball chaochail iad, agus bha an duine naomh air fhàgail aonaranach agus tùrsach. An uair a chaidh e a mach le cridhe trom air son an uaigh aca a chladhach thachair nì iongantach. Thog e a shùilean suas gu nèamh agus mar an sealladh chunnaic e ceathrar chloinne àlainn ri sgiathalaich anns na neòil os a chionn, le sgiathan deàrsach de airgead agus an aodannan a' soillseadh le aoibhneas. Bha e ro-thogarrach air bruidhinn riutha, ach, eadhon an uair a bha iad ag amharc air, sheòl iad suas agus chaidh iad as an t-sealladh. Ach thug sin comhfhurtachd do'n t-sagart naomha, oir bha fios aige leis an t-sealladh a chunnaic e gun deachaidh an ceathrar chloinne do'n Dùthaich Nèamhaidh far am biodh an òige is am bòidhchead air an aiseag dhaibh agus far nach fàsadh iad gu bràth sean no sgith no eucaileach. Mar sin chladhaich e an uaigh gu toileach faisg air ballachan na cille bige agus chàirich e an cnàmhan sean seargte an sin a réir is mar a dh'iarr Fìonnghal. Agus an uair a lion e an uaigh, chuir e suas clach air a ceann agus shnàidh e an ainmean air a' chumhneachan sin air chor is gum faicheadh gach neach a bhiodh a' gabhail an rathaid gu robh a' chlann ghràdhach air an càradh an sin.

[A' Chrioch.]

Chan 'eil cleith air an olc
ach gun a dheanamh.

SILIS—Tha i a stigh.

MAC 'IC IAIN (ag éibheach)—Trohad an so, a Mhórag.

MORAG MHOR (ag éibheach bho bhroinn an tìghe) Ciod é tha ceart?

MAC 'IC IAIN—Trohad!

[Thig Móróg Mhór chum na stairsnich.]

MORAG MHOR—Ciod é tha sibh ag iarraidh?

MAC 'IC IAIN—An d' innis Aonghas Caimbeul duit c' uin' a tha dùil aige ri a dhol dachaidh?

MORAG MHOR—Cha d' innis; cha d' innis e càil domh mu dhéidhinn sin.

MAC 'IC IAIN—An cuala thu ciod é bha e ag ràdh ri Iain Dubh?

MORAG MHOR—An diugh?

MAC 'IC IAIN—Seadh, an uair bha iad a' bruidhinn ri a chéile air a' cheum, air an fheasgar so fhéin, an uair bha e a' fàs docha. An cuala thu dad ca?

MORAG MHOR—Cha chuala. Is ann an guth iosal a bha iad a' labhairt, ach cho fada agus a b' urrainn domh fhéin thuigsinn b' e a thug Aonghas iomradh air na saighdearan shuas anns a' bhealach. C' ar son?

MAC 'IC IAIN—Nach robh Iain Dubh còmhla ris a' Chaimbeulach an uraidh an Gleann Lìobhunn, deireadh na Samhna?

MORAG MHOR (ie fiamh eagallach air a gnuis)—Cha chreid mi nach robh. Cò dhiùbh, bha e ann uair-éiginn.

MAC 'IC IAIN—A Shilis, cuir do chùl ruinn. Tha mi air son facal a ràdh ri Móraig Mhóir. A Mhórag, dlùthaich rium agus cuir t' anam fo chrois.

[Cuiridh Móróg Mhór a h-anam fo chrois.]

A nis, a Mhórag, innis so dhomh: a bheil thu ceangailte ris a' Chaimbeulach?

MORAG MHOR—Chan 'eil.

MAC 'IC IAIN—Nach 'eil Aonghas Caimbeul ag iarraidh ort-sa a bhith 'n ad mhnaoi aige?

MORAG MHOR—Chan 'eil. Cha do bhruidhinn e riamh rium mu dhéidhinn a leithid.

MAC 'IC IAIN—C' àit' a bheil t' oide an nochd? C' àit' a bheil Iain Dubh?

MORAG MHOR—Chan 'eil fhios 'am-sa. Nach 'eil fhios agaibh féin c' àit' a bheil e?

MAC 'IC IAIN—Nach robh e aig an tigh an uair thàinig thu fhéin a nuas?

MORAG MHOR—Cha robh. Bha e cheana falbh. [Thig gille og, cas-ruisgte agus gun chomhdach-chinn, as an dorchadas.]

MAC 'IC IAIN (a' sealltainn gu gear air a' ghille) —Ciod é tha ort-sa, a Chaluum? Ciod é thug an so thu?

CALUM—Tha eagal mór orm.

MAC 'IC IAIN—Eagal, an d' thuirt thu? Ciod é tha ceart?

CALUM—Bha mi an diugh aig an spòrs agus chuala mi saighdear ag ràdh rud-éiginn, agus

MAC 'IC IAIN—Cò ris an robh an saighdear a' bruidhinn? Thubhairt e ciod é?

CALUM (le fiamh eagallach air a gnuis)—Cha robh e a' bruidhinn ri neach sam bith ach

MAC 'IC IAIN—Ciod é? Ciod é tha thu ag ràdh? Chuala thu an saighdear a' bruidhinn ach cha robh e a' bruidhinn ri neach sam bith; a bheil thu air bhàinidh?

CALUM—Bha an spòrs ann an diugh agus bha mi fhéin 'n am sheasamh os cionn a' cheuma air chùl na sean drise sin ri taobh Clach na Faistinneachd. Thàinig saighdear do ionnsuigh na Cloiche gun mise fhaicinn. Chuir e a làmh air a' Chloich, agus b' ann air éiginn a chuala mi e, ach thubhairt e, mar gum bitheadh e a' bruidhinn ris fhéin: "A Chlach, nam bithinn-sa 'n ad àite-sa chan fhanainn-sa anns a' ghleann so an nochd."

MAC 'IC IAIN—Ciod é rinn thu-sa an sin, a Chaluum?

CALUM—Cha do rinn mi dad. Chan fhaca an saighdear mi.

MAC 'IC IAIN—An d' fhalbh e an sin? Ciod é rinn e an déidh sin?

MORAG MHOR—C' ainm a tha air? An aithne dhuit e?

CALUM—Chan aithne. Chan 'eil fhios 'am có e.

MAC 'IC IAIN—C' àit' an deachaidh e? Am faca thu an déidh sin e?

CALUM—Chan fhaca. Dh' fhalbh e.

MAC 'IC IAIN—Falbh thu-sa dhachaidh, a bhalaich. Teann a steach, a Mhórag, agus thu-sa, a Shilis. Cha mhaith dhuinn fhantuinn tuilleadh a muigh an so.

[Théid Calum air falbh, agus théid Mac 'ic Iain, Móróg Mhór, agus Silis a steach.]

(R' a leantainn).

(Continued from p. 22)

was well worth while, and it was agreed to carry on with the Scheme with only one Organiser, in the hope that the work in the other areas may be developed later.

The next meeting of the Council (the Gaelic meeting) was fixed for Saturday, 27th March, at 10 a.m. in Glasgow.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the President.

Executive Council

A MEETING of the Executive Council of An Comunn Gàidhealach was held in the Highlanders' Institute, Glasgow, on Saturday, 16th January, 1954, at 10 a.m. The President, Mr. J. M. Bannerman, occupied the Chair, and fifty-three members were present.

After the Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and apologies intimated, the Council received the report of the Appointments Sub-Committee, and proceeded to interview a short list of four applicants for the post of General Secretary and Organiser of An Comunn. Thereafter, on a ballot vote, Mr. Malcolm Macleod, Assistant Secretary, received more votes than the combined votes of the other three applicants, and his appointment was made unanimous. The President, on behalf of the Council, conveyed to Mr. Macleod hearty congratulations and good wishes for a happy and successful tenure of office. He also conveyed the thanks of the Council to the other applicants who had appeared for interview.

The Minute of the Finance Committee reported that Mr. Alasdair Matheson, Northern Organiser, had been compelled, on medical advice, to resign his appointment. The resignation was received with regret, and it was remitted to the Advisory Committee, along with representatives of the Northern Propaganda Sub-Committee, to take the necessary steps towards filling the post of Organiser; the said Committee also to consider the staffing of the headquarters office in view of the vacancy in the Assistant Secretaryship consequent on Mr. Macleod's appointment to succeed Mr. Shaw. It was also agreed to ask Mr. Donald MacPhail, former Northern Organiser, if he would be willing to take charge temporarily of the Inverness Office, pending the appointment of a successor to Mr. Matheson.

The Education Committee Minute reported that a Summer School was to be held at Cnocan-ròs from 7th to 20th August next, the fee being £2 2/- plus 10/- per day. It was also reported that there was an increase in the number of Gaelic classes in the Northern Area, and that representatives of the Committee had conferred with representatives of Gaelic and Highland Associations in Edinburgh (some thirty persons being present) concerning the provision of Gaelic in Edinburgh secondary schools, the prospect being now more hopeful.

Mr. Donald Thomson drew attention to the important recommendations about Gaelic in schools included in the recent pamphlet of the Saltire Society and urged that An Comunn and the Saltire Society should make a dual

approach to the Scottish Education Department. Mr. Thomson also referred to new draft regulations of the Department in which, he declared, Gaelic would be penalised as before, although it was entitled to receive the same treatment as Latin and Greek.

The Propaganda Committee, which had been considering the question, recommended to the Council that the time was not yet ripe for instituting uniformity of membership fees among the branches. Discussion took place on this recommendation, which was approved by the Council, Mr. Donald Thomson asking that his dissent be noted. The Committee also recommended that officials of the Association should visit the branches annually, and that members of the Executive should visit branches in their own area.

The Art and Industry Committee reported that it is hoped to have demonstrations of spinning and weaving at the Art and Industry Exhibition at the National Mod. The Committee also emphasised that the Comunn Stall at the forthcoming Highlanders' Institute Building Fund Bazaar was the responsibility of the whole Association and not of the Committee only.

The Minute of the Mod and Music Committee reported that an "action song," for Mod competitions purposes, was now defined as "a song to illustrate a story."

The Committee recommended that the Mod Service be held on the Sunday after the Mod, but, as some members preferred the Service to be on the Sunday before the Mod, this was remitted back for further consideration.

Leughadh gearr-sheanchas de Chomhairle Clann an Fhraoich. Chumadh céilidh o chionn ghoirid còmhla ri Meur Glaschu, agus thàtar an dùil céilidh eile a chumail aig Mòd Pheàirt. Thàtar ri leabhran ullachadh a sheòlas ciamar as còir coinneamhan a riaghladh an Gàidhlig, agus tha Mgr. Moffatt-Pender dol a phàidheadh costas a' chlà-bhuailaidh. Thugadh taing chridheil do Mhgr. Moffatt-Pender air son a choibhneis.

A report was submitted on the Gaelic Informal Education Scheme, from which it appeared that various difficulties have been encountered which have prevented the scheme being put fully into operation, the most serious difficulty being the lack of suitable persons willing to serve as Organisers under the Scheme. It was felt, however, that the measure of co-operation achieved with the Scottish Education Department and the county education committees

(Continued on p. 21)

Book Reviews

AN T-EILTHREACH. Original Gaelic Poems and Melodies. By Major C. I. N. Macleod, Nova Scotia, 43pp.

Here are sixteen of Calum I. N. Macleod's own compositions, some of them with melodies. "Long Mo Bhrudair" became a favourite almost on first hearing, and several more of the songs in this booklet deserve to become popular. Mr. Macleod has marked poetic gifts and is a master of language. To quote Dr. D. J. Macleod's foreword, "These songs, with their delicacy, taste, and grace of form, will always inspire interest for the Gaels themselves, and to those of Gaelic stock they open the inner doors, and admit to the Gaelic hearth as it was and still is." We are proud to number Mr. Macleod among the Crowned Bards of the National Mod.

GRISAICHE BHEARNARAIHDH. A Bhàrdachd, le Iomradh Air. Le Niall Mac-an-Tuairneir. 24t.d. 2/6.

Chaochail Ailean MacLeòid, Griasaiche Bhearnaraidh na Hearadh, an 1939, agus is maith a rinn Mgr. Mac-an-Tuairneir gun do chruinnich e agus gun do chuir e an clò pàirt de na laoidhean a rinn e. Bha breithneachadh spioradail agus geurad inntinn anns a' Griasaiche, agus bha alt math aige air rannaigheachd. Is airidh an leabhran seo a cheannach is a leughadh.

JOHNSTON'S CLAN HISTORIES. (W. & A. K. Johnston, Edinburgh, 5/- each).

Nine of these splendid little books have now been published. The first two—Clan Donald and Clan Fraser—were reviewed in these pages some time ago. The other seven, which we now have pleasure in commending, are (taking them alphabetically, to avoid any awkwardness about precedence!): Clan Cameron ("A Patriarchy Beset"), by C. I. Fraser of Reelig; Clan Campbell ("Record of Service by a Race of Statesmen"), by Andrew McKerral; Clan Chisholm, by Dr Jean Dunlop; Clan Macgregor ("The Nameless Clan"), by W. R. Kermack; Clan Mackay ("A Celtic Resistance to Feudal Superiority"), by Margaret O. Macdougall; Clan Mackenzie ("Independence in the North"), by Dr Jean Dunlop; and Clan Macleod ("With Their Rock-Built Fortress They Have Endured") by Dr. I. F. Grant.

Each book runs to a little over thirty pages, succinctly outlines the origin and history of each clan, and gives useful information about arms, tartans, septs, clan music, and other items of great interest. There are drawings, maps, and coloured plates. All the authors

have done their work well, within the small space allowed them, and the printers also deserve to be complimented on the production of these attractive little books.

THE SCOTS YEAR-BOOK, 1953-54. Edited by T. Atholl Robertson, F.S.A.Scot. 2/6.

This marvel of much information in little bulk makes its 48th appearance, and Mr. Robertson is deserving of the highest praise for having continued so great and useful a work for so long a time, and, furthermore, despite greatly increased costs, at so low a price. The Scottish, Highland, and Gaelic societies throughout the world, listed here in their hundreds, continually increase in number. They may be found, not only in England and in the great countries of the Commonwealth and in the United States, but also in Malaya, Kenya, Hong Kong, South America, and many another place. The book contains, also, a large number of interesting articles, not the least important that which gives hints on how to run a "ceilidh." Eschew cocktails, but serve hot soup to your guests before they depart!

TUTOR FOR HIGHLAND BAGPIPE, PART I. The College of Piping, Kelvin House, 27 Otago Street, Glasgow, W.2. 69pp. 7/6.

Neil Munro, repeating authentic Highland tradition, declared that the making of a piper took seven years, and even then the piper would only be at the beginning of learning. It is commonly believed that, physically and otherwise, the bagpipe is an unusually difficult instrument to play. This Tutor should go far to dispel that belief. This is a "self-tutor," and it seems to us that the learning of bagpipe playing—in its early stages, at least—is here made as plain as it possibly can be. Excellent photographs and diagrams, lucid instructions by expert tutors, and a course of 26 lessons, go to make an excellent First Course, by the end of which the learner should be able to play at least 14 tunes, here given. There are interesting notes on the history of the bagpipe, and on the buying, care, and maintenance of the practice chanter. Mr. Seumas MacNeill and Mr. Thomas Pearston, and those associated with them, have done a very great service in producing this book. We know that The College of Piping has already done great things, and greater things are still to come.

Am fear nach cuir ri là fuar,
Cha dean e buain ri là teth.

List of New Members

From 1st May, 1952, to 30th April, 1953.

ORDINARY

(Continued from Vol. XLVIII p. 92)

MacKinlay, Miss Kate M., Glasgow; MacKinnon, Captain Angus, Glasgow; MacKinnon, Mrs. Angus, Glasgow; MacKinnon, Esq., Iain Hector, Glasgow; MacKinnon, Miss C., Musselburgh; MacKintosh, Miss J., Glasgow; MacLaughlin, Esq., Patrick, Islay; MacLean, Esq., Alexander, Helensburgh; MacLean, Miss Anne, Connel, Argyll; MacLean, Miss Isabel, Glasgow; MacLean, Mrs. Flora, Helensburgh; MacLean, Miss Jessie, Mallaig; MacLean, Capt. John, Inverness; MacLean, Esq., John C., Gourcock; MacLean, Miss Mary, Taynuilt; MacLean, Miss Mary B., Glasgow; MacLean, Miss Morag, Pitlochry, Perthshire; MacLellan, Miss A. P., Fort William; MacLennan, Esq., Ian, Whitley Bay, Northumberland; MacLeod, Esq., Ewan, Lochluichart, Ross-shire; MacLeod, S. R. N., Miss Mairi Ann, Edinburgh; Macleod, Miss Mary M., Stornoway; Macleod, Esq., Murdo, Kyle of Lochalsh, Ross-shire; Macleod, Esq., Murdo, Inverness; MacMillan, Esq., Donald, Clydebank; MacMillan, Mrs. Catherine, Clydebank; MacNeil, Miss Effie C., Greenock; MacNeil, Miss Mairi M., Greenock; MacNeil, Miss Annabella, Colonsay, Argyll; MacNeill, Mrs. A. N., Largs; MacPherson, Miss Ruth, Inverness; Macpherson, Mrs., Thurso; MacRae, Miss Elizabeth, Golspie; MacRae, Miss Margaret A., Golspie; MacVicar, Mrs. Isobal C., Glasgow; MacVicar, Esq., Niven, Glasgow.

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Thomson, Esq., Donald, Alexandria; Thomson, Mrs. Donald, Alexandria; Thomson, Esq., Iain, Glasgow; Thurlow, Mrs., Stirling.

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Bho t.d. 18

uime. Bidh sinne a tha beò anns an linn as creidimhich se glé mhàll gu creideas sam bith a thoirt do sheul faoin de'n t-seòrsa, ach tha, aig a' cheart àm, iomadh leasan maith ri fhaotainn uaithe.

A bharrachd air sin, bidh sinn ullamh air a bhith ag ràdh nach robh anns an t-sluagh am measg an d'èirich na beachdan faoinne se ach sluagh dorcha, borb, amaideach, aineolach. Tha eagal mòr orm gu bheil sinne, moiteil is mar a tha sinn as ar cuid fòghlum, mòran na's fhaide air ais ann an iomadh nì na iadsan.

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AN GAIDHEAL

THE GAEL

Vol. XLIX

APRIL, 1954

No. 4

Anail A' Ghaidheil Am Mullach

'S togarrach a dh'fhalbhainn
 Gu sealgaireachd nam bealaichean,
 Dol moch a dhireadh garbhlaich
 'S gum b'anmoch tighinn gu baile mi ;
 An t-uisge glan 's am fàile
 Th'air mullach nam beann àrda,
 Chuidich e gu fàs mi,
 'S e rinn domh slàint' is fallaineachd.

Donnchadh Bàn Mac-an-t-saoir.



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AN GAIDHEAL

THE GAEL

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF
AN COMUNN GAIDHEALACH

Editor

REV. T. M. MURCHISON, M.A.

All correspondence should be addressed to the Editor, except that concerning advertising, which should be addressed to the Secretary, while Subscriptions should be sent to the Treasurer.

65 West Regent Street,
Glasgow, C.2.

Telephone: DOUGLAS 1433.

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Leabhar XLIX

AN GIBLEAN, 1954

Aireamh 4

Bho Ghaidheal Coir Gu Gaidheal Coir Eile

[Sgrìobhadh an litir a leanas leis an Urramach Eachann Camshron nach maireann gu a charaid, Donnchadh MacGriogair MacGhille-bhàin, a chaochail o chionn ghoirid. Tha an litir air a foillseachadh le cead Eòghainn Chamshroin, bràthair an Urramaich nach maireann. Bha an t-Urramach Eachann 'na mhinistear anns an Oban agus an Sgrì Mhuigh, agus b'esan a dheasaich an leabhar, "Na Bàird Thirisdeach."—F-D.]

Manse Mhuigh,
An Tom-aiteann,
Ionbhar-nis,
12mh là de Sept. 1932.

A MhicGhriogair, a charaid,

Gur fada mu thuath am meadhan an fhraoich
Tha mise an taobh-s' air ànradh;
Gun charaid dhomh dlùth a thuigeas mo rùn,
No chunias am chuimhn' a' Ghàidhlig.

Bidh tric orm fadal, ged nach bi mi 'ga aithris,
Ag ionndrainn 'ur comuin' 's 'ur n-àbhachd.
Ged tha 'n dùthaich so fallain is àillidh an sealladh,
Bu chiatach na gleannan a dh'fhàg mi.

Ach le tim bidh sinn cleachdte ri gnàths agus
beachdan

Na nuintir tha mealtainn an àite.
Tha iad dileas do'n aoradh is coibhneil mar dhaoine,
'S cha leiginn gun sobhar an càineadh.

'S e 'n dreuchd 's an toil-intinn le gunnach 's
niol-choin

Bhith siubhal nam frithean gun tàmh dhaibh
Le luaidhe is fùdar tha coileach an dùrdain
'Ga chasgradh 's 'ga spinnneadh o na h-àrdaibh.

Tha cuantan de fhraoch gu gucagach, caoin,
Le maisealachd sgaoilte 'na bhàran:
Tha coilltean nan geug mar bhualtean de spréidh
Air slios nam beann réidh cur sgàile.

Tha aibhnichean mór le buineachan còrr
Gu bras-sruthach, dòbhaidh, làidir,
Ag iarraidh gu cuan feadh charan is chuach,
'S an bradan 's glan tuar a' tàmh ann'.

Fad mhèitean is mhèitean, sear agus siar,
Chan 'eil tìghean le rian, no àiteach.
An cois rathaid-mòir tha 'n chuid dhinn tha beò:
Tha fuigheall nan gleann 'na fhàsach.

Ged chuireadh á fasan a' chàinain as math leam,
Gheibh i ann fhathast a h-àite
An aoradh 's an teagasg là Sàbaid 's an Eaglais,
Ach Eachann a gheidheil a shlàinte.

Tha iarmad 's an sgrì a labhras gun strith i—
A' chaint bh'aig an sinsear ri'n làithean:
A ruigeas an cridhe ag ùrnigh 'n an spiorad,
'S a dh'ùraicheas guidhe am nàthar.

Aig Dòmhnall MacAsgail am Muighe 'na chlachair
Tha 'n t-urram air ealain na bàrdachd.
Dhùisgeadh gu ealaidh e shuas an Dailearra's
'S cha do leig e á cleachdadh a' Ghàidhlig.

Fear teagasg na Còisir tha againn am Mòigh
'S e dealasach, ceòlmhor, is càirdel;
Nuair thig thu an rathad théid sinne g'a fharraid
'S am muigh is a mach ris, a bhàthair.

Tha mi 'n dòchas, a charaid, gun deach dhuit mar
bu mhath leam

Luchd-ceannachd 'gad ruigheachd 's 'gad ghàigheadh—
At ann ad sporan is tòic ann ad ghoillean,
Is sonas a' lasadh do bhlàth-shùil.

Tha duil agam t'fhacinn mu thoiseach an ath-mhios
Nuair thig as malach na Gaidheil,
'S a thionalas cuideachd nan garbh-chrochan uile
Chur urrainn is mais' air an cànan.*

* Aig a' Mhòd.

Ach 's fheadar dhonn sgur dheth ged 's faochadh is furtachd

Bhith pàirteachadh ultaich ri'r càirdean:

Mo bheannachd gach latha dhuit fhéin 's do d' luchd-taighe,

Mo mhiannsa, fo m'anail, bhith làmh riut.

EACHANN.

Déidh-sgrìob.—Tha làn fhiughair orm t'fhaicinn 's a' Ghearsadan mu mheadhon seachdain a' Mhòid; agus mòran eile de na h-Obanach. Dh'fhaodadh e bhith gur h-ann a theumainn leam dhachaigh thu.—E. C.

A' Bhantrach Ghaidhealach

FAISG air ceann siar drochaid Obha tha bun craoibh dharaich a gheàrr luchd-obrach an rathaid slos beagan bhliadhnan air ais. Bu mhór am beud, oir is ann aig a' chraoibh sin a choinnich a' bhantrach, Aile Nic Calum, agus an Rìdire Walter Scott a chèile.

Bha e 'na chleachdadh aig Aile 'na sean-aois an là a chur seachad 'na suidhe aig bun na craoibhe a' gabhail eala ris na carbadan agus luchd-siubhail a' dol agus a' tighinn air an rathad mhór.

An uair a bha an Rìdire Walter Scott air a

chuaire troimh Latharna chunnaic e anns an dol seachad an t-sean-bhean 'na suidhe aig bun na craoibhe faisg air an rathad. Stad e agus blruidhinn e rithe. Is ann an déidh na cuairt sin a sgrìobh e an sgeulachd, *The Highland Widow*, agus tha mòran a' cumail a mach gur i Aile Nic Calum "A' Bhantrach Ghaidhealach."

Thàinig Aile, 'na bantraich, á Seileachan, far an robh i pòsda aig croitear. Ann an sin rinn i gnìomh sònraichte — shabhail i beatha duine.

Air là àraidh bha muinntir a' bhaile uile anns a' bhàr mhònach, agus cha robh aig taigh ach Aile agus lethchiallach de ghille gun fheum sam bith. Chunnaic Aile an lethchiallach 'na ruith a dh'ionnsaigh an t-sabhail. Ghabh i amharas gu robh rud-eigin ceàrr. Ghreas i oirre chun an t-sabhail. Bha gàidsear air a dhruim air an làr, agus an t-amadan air a mhuin a' feuchainn ri a sgòran a ghearradh le iarann meirgeach speal. Rug Aile air falt a chinn agus tharraing i e le a h-uile neart.

An sealladh mu dheireadh a chunnacas de'n ghàidsear bha e 'na dheam a mach air dorus an t-sabhail.

A. M.

Naidheachd Na h-Airde Tuath Northern Organiser's Notes

AN uair a chaidh mi air chluainidh o chionn còrr agus bliadhna air ais, cha robh dùil agam gum bithinn a' sgrìobhadh na litreach seo tuilleadh, ach bho'n a b'fheadar do Alasdair a dhreuchd a thoirt suas le cion slàinte, thàinig orm am beàrn a lìonadh ann uair eile, air son greiseag co-dhùibh.

On Monday, 17th February, on a lovely clear day, I visited Coigeach and was glad to renew acquaintance with Miss Campbell, the teacher, and the twelve children attending the school. I enrolled the lot in Comunn na h-Oigrìdh. I have seen this school roll bordering on fifty but, although the present numbers are small—only twelve, it is pleasing to report that there are fourteen children under five in the school district. Some of the children recited the pieces they are practising for the Ullapool Mod this year, and they also sang several songs, two of which I had not heard before. Here are the two choruses:—

"Hi ho ril, na ho ro

Hi ho ril, na ho ro.

Is duilich gun tug iad uam i

'Ghruagach dhonn bha ris an spréidh."

"Bi fonn fonn fonn,

Bi fonn air na maraichean;

Bi fonn air an tàillear,

'S e'n sàs anns na h-ailleartan."

The second is obviously a *port* and the children sang it with great gusto.

Morning worship is conducted in Gaelic, and one feels a healthy Gaelic atmosphere in this school.

From Achiltibuie I returned to Ullapool where a meeting of the local Mod Committee was held. There was a good attendance of members and Miss Margaret MacKenzie, Hon. Secretary, was able to report satisfactory progress with the Mod arrangements. The Committee were delighted to learn that the President of An Comunn is to adjudicate and also to preside at the Mod Concert in the evening. Mr. Bannerman is assured of a fine reception from the Wester Ross people.

Councillor Donald MacLeod, Lewis, was a welcome visitor to the Inverness All-Gaelic Association (Ceilidh nan Gaidheal) monthly Ceilidh on Saturday, 20th February. He acted

(Continued on p. 30)

"Gleann Comhann"

Le IAIN M. MOFFATT-PENDER

CLUICH, AN AON SEALLADH, NACH GABH BARRACHD AIR 40 MIONAID
'GA LIUBHAIRT

(Choisinn an dealbh-chluich seo a' cheud duais aig a' Mhòd Nàiseanta, 1953)

An Luchd Cluiche

{ SILIS BHAILE UIR AN T-SLEIBHE	- - - - -	Trì fichead 's a deich
{ SILIS GHLEANN COMHANN	- - - - -	Mu fhichead bliadhna
MAC 'IC IAIN	- - - - -	Mu thrì fichead bliadhna
IAIN OG, MAC MHC 'IC IAIN	- - - - -	Mu dhà fhichead bliadhna
AONGHAS CAIMBEUL	- - - - -	Mu dhà fhichead bliadhna
IAIN DUBH	- - - - -	Mu dhà fhichead bliadhna
MORAG MHOR, DALTA IAIN DUBH	- - - - -	Mu fhichead bliadhna
CALUM	- - - - -	Mu chòig-bliadhna-deug

AN CEUD SHAIGHDEAR

SAIGHDEARAN EILE

AN DARNA SAIGHDEAR

BOIRIONNAICH

(Air a leantainn bho t.d. 21)

SILIS BHAILE UIR AN T-SLEIBHE—Tràth ann a' mhaduinn chuala mi fuaim a muigh. Dh' éirich mi, agus sheall mi a mach air an uinneig. Chunnaic mi saighdearan mu 'n cuairt air an tigh, agus bha Iain Dubh 'n am measg.

[Thig trìuir shaighdear ann, agus thig Iain Dubh, cuid-eachd.]

AN CEUD SHAIGHDEAR (a' cagarsaich)—So an tigh. Tha solus fhathast ann.

AN DARNA SAIGHDEAR—Tha. Tha daoine a' labhairt, cha chreid mi.

[Théid e chum na h-uinneige.]

Chan 'eil. 'S i a' ghaoth.

AN CEUD SHAIGHDEAR—A bheil thu a' faicinn dad?

AN DARNA SAIGHDEAR—Chan 'eil. C' àit a' bheil Iain Dubh?

IAIN DUBH—Tha mi an so.

AN CEUD SHAIGHDEAR—Chuala mi fuaim air chor-éiginn. Feumaidh gu bheil duine a' gluasad anns an tigh. Seallaidh mi fhéin ann.

[Théid an ceud shaighdear chum na h-uinneige.]

Tha. Tha. Gun amharas tha iad a' gluasad. Greasaibh oirbh. Tha iad uile ag éirigh.

[Tha na saighdearan agus Iain Dubh a' dol mu 'n cuairt air corra-biod, 'n an cabhaig. Tha a' ghaoth tiamhaidh agus tha fuaim

innte mar gum biodh i a' caoineadh.]

IAIN DUBH (a' coimhead suas air seomar-cadail Mhic 'ic Iain)—Tha Mac 'ic Iain fhéin fhathast 'n a chadal, có dhìubh. Cha mhór nach cuireadh an t-trann a tha aige na cabair de an tigh.

SILIS BHAILE UIR AN T-SLEIBHE—Chaidh mi a steach an seòmar m' athar, agus ghrad-dhùisg mi 'n am chabhaig mhóir e.

AN CEUD SHAIGHDEAR—A bheil an dorus so fo ghlais?

IAIN DUBH (a' cur a làimhe ris a' chnap, agus a' fosgladh an doruis)—Chan 'eil.

AN DARNA SAIGHDEAR—Ciod é mu dhéidhinn nan uinneagan?

IAIN DUBH—Nach bi a h-aon agaibh-se ris na h-uinneagan?

AN DARNA SAIGHDEAR—Tha uinneagan ann air chùl an tighe. Falbh thu fhéin ann, agus seas an sin. Tha fhios agad-sa gu maith ciod é tha agad ri a dhèanamh. Ach fuirich! Cò i so?

[Thig Móróg Mhór ann, as an dorchadas.]

MORAG MHOR—Ciod é tha sibh-se uile a' dèanamh an so?

IAIN DUBH (gu feargach)—Tog ort-sa dachaidh, a Mhórag Mhór, no cuirear peileir tromhad, no biodag annad.

MORAG MHOR (ri Iain Dubh)—Tù-sa!

IAIN DUBH—Seadh! Mise! Falbh! Mhill

thu-sa riamh mo bheart. Shalaich thu-sa riamh mo thigh. Falbh!

MORAG MHOR—Nach maith gu mór leam fhéin nach tú-sa m' athair. (*Rís na saighdearan*) Cíod é tha sibh-se a' déanamh an so? Cha bu chóir dhuibh a bhith aig an tigh so. An e droch obair a tha 'n ur rún?

AN CEUD SHAIHDEAR—Falbh thu-sa a' so, a chaileag. Chan áite so gu seanchas a labhairt. Gheibh sinn thu-sa an déidh so. Is mithich dhuit air an am do chasan a thoirt leat. Falbh!

MORAG MHOR (*a' coimhead mu 'n cuairt dhí*)—Tha barrachd agus fichead saighdear an so. Cíod é tha so a' ciallachadh? O! O! Cíod é ?

[*Cuiridh saighdear a lámh air beul Moraig Móire, agus glacaidh saighdear eile i. Cuirtear glas-ghuib air a beul, ceanglaid i le buill, agus tilgídh iad air an talamh i.*]

AN CEUD SHAIHDEAR—Sin i a nis aice!

AN DARNA SAIGHDEAR (*gu h-àrd*)—Tha iad a' gluasad a stigh. Tha iad a' tighinn a mach. Rachaibh a steach agus cuiribh as doibh gu léir.

SILIS BHAILE UIR AN T-SLEIBHE—Chuir na béistean as do mhúinntear an tigh gu léir. O! Bha e ro uamhasach—ro ro uamhasach. Bha mi fhéin air mo cheanglaidh, agus bha mi air mo thilgeil air an talamh. Fad trì no ceithir uairean de úine bha na saighdearan a' falbh 's a' tighinn. Uaireannan chaidh iad a steach anns an tigh—uaireannan ghabh iad seachad. Uaireannan ghabh iad sùim annam-sa; uaireannan cha do ghabh. An sin dh' fhalbh iad. Thàinig Calum cas-ruisgte, a' gul agus a' caoineadh, a nuas air a' cheum.

[*Thig Calum as an dorcha das. Tha e a' gul gu trom.*]

CALUM—A Dhé! A Rìgh! A Dhé! O! A Rìgh! A Dhé!

[*Tha boirionnach air an talamh a' gluasad. Is i so Silis. Tha i air a ceanglaidh gu teann. Thèid Calum do a h-ionnsuigh.*]

Có í so? An tu-sa a tha ann, a Shilis?

SILIS (*ag osannaich gu trom*)—Có é so?

CALUM—Mise—Calum.

SILIS (*a h-aghaidh ris an talamh*)—Cíod é tha uait?

CALUM—A bheil thu air do leònadh?

SILIS—Tha mi air mo cheanglaidh.

CALUM—A bheil thu a' bàsachadh?

SILIS—Tha eagal orm gu bheil. C' àit' a bheil iad uile? Chan 'eil mi a' cluinntinn dad. Cuir as domh.

[*Thig Iain Dubh as an dorcha das. Teichidh Calum.*]

IAIN DUBH—Có í sin a bha a' labhairt?

SILIS—Mise—cuir as domh.

IAIN DUBH—C' àit' a bheil Mór ag Mhór? Nach 'eil ise an so.

[*Amhairc idh Iain Dubh air boirionnach eile 'n a sineadh air an talamh.*]

An tù-sa an so, a Mhór ag Mhór?

[*Breabaidh e ie a chois i; bheir e a' ghlas-ghuib de a beul.*]

MORAG MHOR (*ag osannaich, agus a' labhairt le guth fann, briste*)—Có é sin? Cuir as domh.

IAIN DUBH—C' àit' a bheil an iuchair? C' àit' a bheil iuchair an tigh? C' àit' an do chuir thu i?

MORAG MHOR—A shlaightir! Is mór am beud gu bheil thu-sa beò.

IAIN DUBH—Cum do theanga shalach, a striopach ghrannad. C' àit' a bheil an iuchair?

MORAG MHOR—Anns an abhainn. Bu mhaith leam gum biodh thus' ann cuideachd, a shlaightir ghrannad, thu fhéin.

IAIN DUBH—C' àit' a bheil mo bhiodag? Bha i agam-sa an ceartair.

[*Amhairc idh Iain Dubh mu 'n cuairt dha air son a bhiodaige; chan fhaigh e i, ach togaidh e sean chlaidheamh a nuas bho an talamh.*]

Nì so a' chùis cho maith.

[*Tha Iain Dubh a' togail a' chlaidheimh an àird air son Mór ag Mhór a bhualadh, an uair thig an ceud shaighdear do a ionnsuigh.*]

AN CEUD SHAIHDEAR—A Iain Duibh, a chealgair, tha an spréidh air chall. Dh' fhalbh iad gu léir oirn. C' àit' a bheil iad?

IAIN DUBH—Chan 'eil càil a dh' fhios agam-sa.

AN CEUD SHAIHDEAR—Tha thu 'n ad dhubb bhreugaire, a Iain Duibh. Tha thu 'g an ceiltinn oirn. Falbh agus faigh iad, air neo cuiridh mi as duit, an so. Falbh.

[*Thèid Iain Dubh agus an saighdear air falbh. Tha Iain Dubh a' mionnachadh le feirg.*]

SILIS BHAILE UIR AN T-SLEIBHE—Uair no a dhà an déidh sin, an uair bha glasadh na maidne



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar VI

AN GIBLEAN, 1954

Aireamh 4

An t-Iasgair Agus A Bhean

(Eadar-theangaichte bho Sgeulachdan Ghrimm le T.M.M.)

U AIR de'n t-saoghal bha an siud iasgair agus bha e fhéin agus a bhean a' gabhail còmhnaidh ann am bothan beag ri taobh a' chladaich. Bhiodh an t-iasgair a mach ag iasgach a h-uile là bho mhoch gu dubb.

Là a bha an seo, agus e 'na shuidhe aig oir a' chladaich agus an t-slat-iasgaich 'na làimh, agus e ag amharc air na tuinn bheaga lainnreach agus a' cumail sùla air an driamlaich aige, nach ann a' mhòthiech e rud-eigin a' griobadh air an dubhan, agus an sin thug e an draghadh ud air an driamlaich agus gu dé a bha aige ach iasg mór mór!

Ach is ann a thubhairt an t-iasg ris, "Leig as mi, ma's e do thoil e. Chan e iasg nàdurra a tha annamsa idir. Is mise prionnsa fo gheasaibh. Cuir a rithist anns an uisge mi, agus leig leam falbh."

"Seadh, seadh!" arsa an t-iasgair, "cha ruig thu a leas a bhith cho bruidhneach! Cha bhì cuid no gnothach agamsa ri iasg as urrainn labhairt mar gum b'e duine a bhiodh ann. Thoir ort! Snàmh air falbh cho luath is a rinn thu riamh!"

Chuir e an t-iasg air ais anns an uisge, agus shnàmh an t-iasg air falbh gu grunn'd a' chuain, agus sruth fala as a dhéidh.

An uair a chaidh an t-iasgair dhachaigh feasgar do'n bhothan bheag bhochd aige, dh'innis e d'a mhnaoi' mar a thachair, agus gun d'rug e air iasg mór, agus gum dubhairt an t-iasg ris gum b'e prionnsa fo gheasaibh a bha ann, agus mar sin gun do leig e as e.

"An d'iarr thu dad sam bith air idir?" arsa a bhean.

"Cha d'iarr," arsa esan; "ciod a dh'iarrainn?"

"Is math a tha fhios agad cho truagh is a tha sinn anns a' bhothan shuarach seo. Rach thusa air t'ais agus abair ris an iasg gur miann leinn taigh beag comhfurtaid a bhith againn."

Cha robh an t-iasgair ro-dheònach seo a dheanamh, ach, a dh'aindeoin sin, chaidh e sìos do'n chladaich, agus sheas e aig oir na mara agus ghlaodh e:

Fhir na mara, nach éisd thu rium!

'S e miann mo mhnatha gun toir thu dhuinn Sochair no tiodhlac no cobhair gu luath.

Shnàmh an t-iasg a staigh far an robh e agus thubhairt e, "Seadh, ma tha, ciod as àill le do mhnaoi?"

"Thubhairt i gu robh còir agam rud-eigin iarraidh ort mus do leig mi as thu, agus is e a miann gum biodh taigh beag comhfurtaid againn, oir chan 'eil am bothan anns a bheil sinn ach truagh."

"Glé cheart," arsa an t-iasg; "rach thusa dhachaigh, agus chl thu a' bhean agad cheana anns an taigh bheag chomhfurtaid a tha i a' miannachadh."

Thill an t-iasgair dhachaigh, agus nach ann a bha a bhean 'ga fheitheamh, agus i 'na seasamh aig doras taigh bhig mhaisich chomhfurtaid.

"Greas ort! Thig a steach!" dh'éigh i. "Nach e seo as fheàr gu mór na am bothan beag bochd a bha againn roimhe?"

Agus bha seòmar-cadail anns an taigh, agus seòmar-suidhe, agus cidsin; agus air cùl an taighe bha gàrradh beag agus gach seòrsa bhilèthan is mheasan a' fàs ann; agus air taobh a' mhuigh a' ghàrraidh bha cearcan is tunnagan.

"Nach sinne a bhios sona anns an taigh seo!" arsa an t-iasgair.

"Feuchaidh sinn ri bhith sona, co-dhiùbh," arsa a bhean.

Bha iad sona gu leòir fad seachdain no dhà, agus chaidh gach ni air aghaidh gu réidh dòigheil, ach là a bha an seo nach ann a thubhairt Iseabail, bean an iasgair, r'a céile. "A laochain, nach 'eil fhios agad gu bheil an

taigh seo cus ro-bheag dhuinn, agus cha b'fhuilear dhuinn gàrradh cus na's mò na am-fear seo. Bu mhiann leamsa caisteal mòr cloiche a bhith againn. Rach air t'ais chun an éisg agus iarr air caisteal a thoirt dhuinn."

"A bhean," arsa an t-iasgair, "cha toigh leam dol chun an éisg a rithist agus rud iarraidh air as ùr. Is dòcha gum bi e feargach rium. Bu chòir dhuinn a bhith socair sona gu leòir anns an taigh bhòidheach seo."

"Nach tu a tha gòrach!" arsa a bhean. "Is math a tha fhios agamsa gum toir e dhuit na dh'iarraas tu air. Rach air t'ais agus chì thu!"

Chaidh an t-iasgair sìos do'n chladach, ach bu trom a chridhe. Sheas e aig oir na mara agus ghlaodh e,

Fhìr na mara, nach éisd thu rium!

'S e miann mo mhath a gu toir thu dhuinn Sochair no tiodhlac no cobhair gu luath.

"Seadh," arsa an t-iasg, "agus gu dé a tha a' bhean agad ag iarraidh a nis?"

"Bu mhath leatha," arsa an t-iasgair gu dubhach, "fuirreach ann an caisteal cloiche."

"Rach dhachaigh," arsa an t-iasg, "agus chì thu i 'na seasamh aig doras a' chaisteil."

Chaidh an t-iasgair dhachaigh, agus nach ann a bha a bhean 'na seasamh gus fàilte a chur air aig geata a' chaisteil.

"Seall!" arsa ise, "nach breagha seo uile!"

Agus chaidh iad le chèile a steach do'n chaisteal, agus bha an sin de sheòmraichean is de sheirbhìsich, agus de chathraichean òir is de bhùird òir, na dh'fhòghnadh do neach air bith. Agus air cùl a' chaisteil bha gàrradh, agus m'a thimcheall bha pàrce a bha a' sgaoileadh a mach leth-mhìle, agus i lom-làn de chaoraich, de ghobhair, is de fhéidh; agus ann an cùirt a' chaisteil bha stàbuill agus bàthaichean.

"Uill," arsa an duine, "tha fhios gum bi sinn sona sundach a nis, agus an caisteal breagha seo againn fhad agus as beò sinn!"

"Is dòcha gum bi," arsa a bhean, "ach fanaidh sinn gus am faic sinn."

An ath-mhadainn, an uair a dhùisg Iseabail, phut i an duine aice le a h-uilinn agus thubhairt i ris, "Eirich, a dhuine, agus dean cabhaig. Fcumaidh tusa agus mise a bhith 'nar Rìgh air an tìr seo."

"O, a bhean," arsa an t-iasgair, "car son a dh'iarraimaid a bhith 'nar Rìgh? Chan 'eil iarraidh sam agamsa a bhith 'nam Rìgh."

"Ach tha iarraidh agamsa a bhith 'nam Rìgh," arsa Iseabail.

"Thusa!" arsa an t-iasgair, "ciamar as urrainn dhuit-sa a bhith 'nam Rìgh? Chan urrainn an t-iasg Rìgh a dheanamh dhòt."

"A dhuine," arsa ise, "na abair an còrr m'a dneighinn! Falbh thusa, agus faic. Is miann leamsa a bhith 'nam Rìgh."

Dh'fhalbh an duine gu tìrsach sìos chun a' chladaich agus sheas e aig oir na mara agus dh'èigh e,

Fhìr na mara, nach éisd thu rium!

'S e miann mo mhath a gu toir thu dhuinn Sochair no tiodhlac no cobhair gu luath.

"Seadh," arsa an t-iasg, "agus ciod e as àill le do mhnaoi a nis?"

"Ochan!" arsa an t-iasgair, "is àill leatha a bhith 'na Rìgh."

"Rach dhachaigh," arsa an t-iasg; "is Rìgh i cheana."

Chaidh an t-iasgair dhachaigh, agus an uair a dh'lùthaich e air a' phàlais nach ann a chunnaic e buidheann shaighdearan, agus chuala e fuaim dhrumachan is thrompaidean. An uair a chaidh e a steach, nach ann a chunnaic e a bhean 'na suidhe air rìgh-chathair mhòir de òr is de neamhnaidean, agus crùn òir air a ceann, agus air gach taobh dh'ith bha sìonar mhaighdeanan òga àlainn.

"Seadh, a bhean," arsa an t-iasgair, "is Rìgh thu a nis."

"Is Rìgh mi a nis," arsa ise.

Dh'amhairc e oirre greiseag agus an sin thubhairt e, "A bhean, nach mòr an nì e a bhith 'nad Rìgh! Tha fhios nach miannaich sinn dad tuilleadh a nis fhad agus as beò sinn."

"Chan 'eil mi cho cinnteach á sin," arsa ise. "Is fìor gur Rìgh mi, ach tha mi cheana a' fàs caran sgìth de bhith 'nam Rìgh. Bu mhath leam a bhith 'nam Ìmpire!"

"'Nad Ìmpire, an eadh?" arsa an t-iasgair. "Car son a dh'iarraimaid tu a bhith 'nad Ìmpire?"

"A dhuine," arsa ise, "rach thusa chun an éisg agus iarr air Ìmpire a dheanamh dhìomsa."

"O, a bhean," arsa esan, "chan urrainn an t-iasg Ìmpire a dheanamh dhòt, agus cha bu mhath leamsa sin iarraidh air."

"Is mise an Rìgh," arsa Iseabail, "agus is tusa mo thràil. Falbh gu grad agus dean an rud a dh'ìarr mi ort!"

Mar sin b'fheudar do'n iasgair falbh, ach, arsa esan ris fhéin os Ìosal, "Cha bhì buannachd sam bith againn as an obair seo air a' cheann thall. Fàsaidh an t-iasg sgìth de ar cuid iarrtasan agus an uair sin bidh aithreachas oinn gun d'ìarr sinn a leithid air."

Cha b'fhada gus an d'ràinig e an cladach. Sheas e aig oir na mara agus ghlaodh e,

Fhir na mara, nach éisd thu rium!
'S e miann mo mhnátha gun toir thu dhuinn
Sochair no tiodhlac no cobhair gu luath.

"Cíod e as áill leatha a nis?" arsa an t-iasg.
"Is áill leatha a bhith 'na h-Impire," arsa
an t-iasgair.

"Rach dhachaigh," arsa an t-iasg, "is
Impire i."

Chaidh an duine dhachsaigh, agus nach ann
a bha a bhean, Iseabail, an sin, agus i 'na
suidhe air rígh-chathair mhóir óir agus crùn
árd óir air a ceann, agus air gach taobh dhith
bha luchd-díon agus seirbhísich, agus f'a
comhair bha príomnsan agus diúcán agus
iarlann.

Chaidh an t-iasgair suas far an robh i, agus
arsa esan, "A bhean, an tusa an t-Impire?"

"Is mi," arsa ise; "is mise an t-Impire."
"Ah!" arsa esan, is e ag amharc oirre,

"nach math an rud e a bhith 'nad Impire!"
"A dhuine," arsa ise, "car son a bhith-

camaid deonach fuireach 'nar n-Impire? Bu
mhath leam a nis a bhith 'nam Phápa."

"O, a bhean, a bhean," arsa esan.
"Ciamar as urrainn dhuit-sa a bhith 'nad
Phápa? Chan 'eil ann ach aon Phápa aig an
aon ám anns a' Chríostadach."

"A dhuine," arsa ise, "bidh mise 'nam
Phápa an diugh fhéin!"

"Ach chan urrainn an t-iasg Pápa a
dheanamh dhíot."

"Siuthad thusa," arsa ise. "Ma rinn e
Impire dhíom, ní e Pápa dhíom."

Dh'fhalbh an t-iasgair. Sheas e air oir a'
chladaich, agus e air chrith, agus ghlaodh e a
mach,

Fhir na mara, nach éisd thu rium!
'S e miann mo mhnátha gun toir thu dhuinn
Sochair no tiodhlac no cobhair gu luath.

"Cíod e as áill leatha a nis?" arsa an t-iasg.
"Is áill leatha am Pápa a dheanamh dhíth."

"Rach dhachaigh," arsa an t-iasg. "Is ise
am Pápa."

Chaidh an t-iasgair dhachaigh agus fhuair e
Iseabail 'na suidhe air rígh-chathair a bha
uamhasach árd, agus trí crúin air a ceann,
agus mun cuairt oirre bha uile ghlóir is
chumhachd na h-Eaglaise, agus air gach
taobh dhith bha dá shreath de sholuis
dhealrach.

"A bhean," arsa an t-iasgair, "an tusa am
Pápa?"

"Is mi," arsa ise. "Is mise am Pápa."
"Uill, a bhean," arsa esan, "nach glórmhor
an rud e gur tusa am Pápa! Tha fhios gu
bheil thu riaráichte a nis, oir chan 'eil inbhe
ann na's áirde na sin."

"Chan 'eil mi fhéin cho cinnteach," arsa
Iseabail.

Chaidh iad a laighe, agus cha d'fhuair

Iseabail aon norrag cadaid agus i a'
smaoineachadh fad na h-oidhche ach gu dé an
ath-inbhe a dh'íarradh i.

Anns a' mhádainn, an uair a bha i a'
tuiteam seachad 'na cadal, thug i súil a mach
air an uinneig agus chunnaic i a' ghrian ag
éirigh 'na lán-mhaise.

"Tut," arsa ise, "chan urrainn dhómh a'
ghrian a chumail bho éirigh."

Agus dh'fhás i feargach agus dhúisg i a
céile agus thubhairt i ris, "A dhuine, rach a
dh'ionnsaigh an éisg, agus abair ris gur miann
leamsa a bhith 'nam thighearna air a' ghréin
agus air a' ghealaich."

Chuir seó uamhas air an iasgair bhoichd.
"A bheil thu idir riaráichte a bhith 'nad
Phápa?" arsa esan.

"Chan 'eil," arsa ise. "Cha bhi mi idir
toilichte cho fada agus a dh'éireas a ghrian
agus a' ghealach gun chead bhuamsa. Rach
chun an éisg gu grad!"

Dh'fhalbh an t-iasgair síos chun a' chladaich,
agus e air chrith leis an eagal, agus aig oir na
mara dh'éigh e an guth critheannach.

Fhir na mara, nach éisd thu rium!
'S e miann mo mhnátha gun toir thu dhuinn
Sochair no tiodhlac no cobhair gu luath.

"Cíod e as áill leatha a nis?" arsa an
t-iasg.

"Is miann leatha a bhith 'na tighearna air
a' ghréin agus air a' ghealaich."

"Till dhachaigh a dh'ionnsaigh bhur bothain
bhig," arsa an t-iasg.

Agus tha an t-iasgair agus Iseabail, a
bhean, anns a' bhóthan bheag bhoichd gus an
lá an diugh.

Bodach an t-Silein

BHA siud ann roimhe bodach, agus fhuair
e silean air a' bhlar agus thug e do
thaigh caillich e.

"Gléidh an silean ud dhómhsa, a bhean, gus
an tig mise am máireach," arsa am bodach.

"Gleidhidh, gleidhidh," arsa a' chailleach.
Dh'fhalbh am bodach.

Tháinig e lárna-mhaireach.

"Cáit a bheil an silean a dh'fhág mise an
seo an dé, a bhean?" arsa am bodach.

"Tháinig a' cheare agam a steach is dh'ith
i e," arsa a' chailleach.

"Bidh-cha-bhi, bidh-cha-bhi, bidh-cha-bhi,
hidh a' cheare fhéin agam," arsa am bodach.

Sgob e leis a' cheare agus chuir e siud anns
a' mháileid, is dh'fhág e an taigh caillich i.

"Gléidh a' cheare ud dhómhsa, a bhean,
gus an tig mise am máireach," arsa am
bodach.

"Gleidhidh, gleidhidh," arsa a' chailleach.
Dh'fhalbh am bodach.

Thàinig e làrna-mhaireach.

“Càit a bheil a’ chearc a dh’fhàg mise an seo an dé, a bhean?” arsa am bodach.

“Thàinig a’ bhó agam a steach is shaltair i oirre is mharbh i i,” arsa a’ chailleach.

“Bidh-cha-bhi, bidh-cha-bhi, bidh-cha-bhi, bidh a’ bhó fhéin agam,” arsa am bodach.

Thug e leis a’ bhó agus dh’fhàg e an taigh caillich i.

“Gléidh a’ bhó ud dhòmhsa, a bhean, gus an tig mise am maireach,” arsa am bodach.

“Gleidhidh, gleidhidh,” arsa a’ chailleach.

Dh’fhalbh am bodach.

Thàinig e làrna-mhaireach.

“Càit a bheil a’ bhó a dh’fhàg mise an seo an dé, a bhean?” arsa am bodach.

“Chaidh an nighean agam sìos do’n t-sruthan leatha is thuit a’ bhó is chaidh i thar cnàimh na h-amhaich,” arsa a’ chailleach.

“Bidh-cha-bhi, bidh-cha-bhi, bidh-cha-bhi, bidh an nighean fhéin agam,” arsa am bodach.

Thilg e dheth a’ mhàileid.

“A staigh an siud thu, a nighean,” arsa am bodach.

“Cha téid mi,” arsa an nighean.

Rug am bodach oirre agus stob e a staigh anns a’ mhàileid i.

Dh’fhalbh am bodach agus dh’fhàg e an taigh caillich i.

“Gléidh a’ mhàileid ud dhòmhsa, a bhean, gus an tig mise am maireach,” arsa am bodach.

“Gleidhidh, gleidhidh,” arsa a’ chailleach.

Dh’fhalbh am bodach.

An uair a dh’fhalbh am bodach, chuala a’ chailleach guth anns a’ mhàileid, “Leigibh a mach mi, leigibh a mach mi!”

Dh’fhosgail a’ chailleach a’ mhàileid is leig i a mach an nighean.

Lion a’ chailleach agus an nighean a’ mhàileid le brocan, cait, is radain.

Thàinig am bodach làrna-mhaireach.

“Càit a bheil a’ mhàileid a dh’fhàg mise an seo an dé, a bhean?” arsa am bodach.

“Siud i agad, siud i agad!” arsa a’ chailleach.

Thog e leis a’ mhàileid is dh’fhalbh e.

“Gabh òran, a nighean,” arsa am bodach.

“Miau, miau!” thàinig as a’ mhàileid.

“Gabh òran, a nighean, is an t-astar fada.”

“Miau, miau!” thàinig as a’ mhàileid.

“An anr a’ fanaid ormsa a tha thu, a nighean?” arsa am bodach.

Thilg e dheth a’ mhàileid agus dh’fhosgail e i.

Leum na cait is na radain is na brocan a mach as a’ mhàileid agus sgròb iad am bodach agus mharbh iad e.

Fhuair cailleach marbh e làrna-mhaireach.

Bho Raonaid NicLeòid.

Dileab nan Gaidheal

LE CAIRISTONA NIC AOIDH.

Sibhs’ tha eòlach air bàrdachd,
Na deanaibh tàir’ air mo bhriathran;
’S dòcha mearachd bhith ’nam Ghàidhlig
Ged as nàir’ sin do m’ riasladh,
Anns an Sgoil Rìoghail stàiteil
’S a bheil teagasg a’ riaghladh,
Ach seo mo dhàn do na Gàidheil
Tha tàmh o’n taigh air bheag phian innt’!

Chaidh mi ’n oidhech’ ud do m’ leabaidh
An dùil ri sàmhchair do m’ shùilean;
Bha mi seachdain gun chadal
’S gun mo rosgan a dhùnadh;
Ach bha dùil ’am dha m’ aindeoin
Gum faodainn cadal gu caomh innt’,
Gun aising gun bhruadar,
Saor bho bhruaillein an t-saoghail.

Thuit mi sin ’na mo chadal
Nach do mhair ach greis ùine.
Air mo chluasaig gum fac’ mi
Duine glas tigh’nn do m’ thaobh-sa;
Bha e crùibe, le bata,
Aodann tanasgail, finealt,
’S thuir e riunn, “Tha do sheanair
Air an starsaich a’ glaoth riut.”

Leum mi grad as mo leabaidh
’S chaidh mi mach chun an doruis
Dh’fhalbh an duin’ thug am fios dhomh
Mar neul gun bheath’ as mo shealladh.
Bha mo sheanair ’gam fheitheamh,
Fàilte dheiseil ’na aodann,
’S thug mi steach e do’n t-seòmar
A dh’inns’ na sgeòil thug an taobh-s’ e.

“Thàinig mis’ as an uaigh ud
’S an robh mi fuar iomadh bliadhna
Chur ’nad chuimhne na h-uaislean
Bhuineadh uair do do theaghlach.
Dh’fhàg iad agad’sa dileab
’S na dean gu sìorruidh a dearmad,
Cànan riochdmhor tha prìseil
Is Spiorad gnìomhach nan Gàidheal.”

Thàinig crìoch air a bhriathran
’S an sin gun do dhùisg mi,
Ach cha do leig mi air dhlochuimhn’
Faclan ciallach mo laochain;
Fad’ gum maireadh a’ Ghàidhlig
’S luchd a h-àrdachaidh fallain,
Fhuair sinn oighreachd ’nar cànan,
’S bidh i beò leinn gu maireann.

*(Bho “Leabhnan Bliadhnaile Acadamaidh
Rìoghail Inbhir-Nis,” 1953.)*

(*Bho i. d. 28*)

ann, thàinig Calum cas-ruisgte a nuas air a' cheum. Bha e 'n a bhreisleach, agus a' gul agus a' caoineadh, mar bha e roimhe.

[*Thig Calum ann, a' gul agus a' caoineadh.*]

SILIS (*ag éirigh air a h-uilinn*)—A bheil sgian agad, a Chalum?

CALUM—Sgian?

SILIS—Bì tapaidh. A bheil sgian agad?

CALUM—Chan 'eil.

SILIS—Gheibh thu sgian anns an tigh. Faigh sgian. Faigh sgian domh-sa, a Chalum. Bì tapaidh.

CALUM—Chan urrainn domh-sa a dhòl anns an tigh. Tha e làn de dhaoinibh marbha.

SILIS—Air sgàth Dhé faigh sgian air mo shon, a Chalum, agus gearr na buill a tha 'g am cheangladh. Bì tapaidh.

CALUM (*'n a bhreisleach*)—O! Mo chreach, a Dhé, is mo léirsinn! Mo chreach, a Dhé!

SILIS—A Chalum! Sgian!

CALUM—Sgian! C' àit 'am faigh mi sgian?

SILIS (*ag éibheach a mach*)—Gheibh thu sgian anns an tigh, a bhuchaille, a ghràidh. Air sgàth na Maighdinn' Gun Smal thoir sgian domh. Gheibh thu té anns an tigh, a ghràidh. Faigh i, gu tapaidh, agus gearr na buill a tha air caol mo dhorn, air chùl mo dhroma. O! Bì tapaidh! Bì tapaidh! A Chalum!

[*Théid Calum, air a shocair, a steach anns an tigh.*]

A bheil thu-sa ann, a Mhórag Mhór? A bheil thu-sa beò?

MORAG MHOR (*a' gul agus ag osannaich gu trom*)—Tha-tha mi ann, ach b' fhearr gu mór leam gu robh mi marbh. Chan 'eil ciall agam. Chan 'eil tuigse agam. O! O!

SILIS—Tha Calum a' tighinn. Tha biodag aige.

[*Thig Calum a mach as an tigh, agus biodag aige 'n a làimh. Gearraidh e na buill aig Silis, air chùl a droma. An sin, gearraidh Silis na buill a tha timchioll air a h-aobrainn.*]

CALUM—A Dhé! A Dhé! O! Uamhasach! Uamhasach! A Dhé!

[*Suidhidh Calum air an lalamh; paisgidh e a dhà làimh.*]

O! An Gleann! An Gleann! O! An Gleann!

SILIS (*air éiginn ag éirigh*)—A Mhórag Mhór, na gluais. Is urrainn domh-sa a nis am ball a tha ort-sa a ghearradh. Théid mi a null chugad. Na gluais,

[*Gearraidh Silis an ceangladh air làmhan Móraig Mòire, air chùl a droma.*]

MORAG MHOR—A Dhé! A Dhé! Mo làmhan! Mo chorp! Mo cheann! A Dhé! C' ar son an d' fhàg iad beò mi? A bheil deoch uisge agad domh, a Shilis?

SILIS—Gheibh mi deoch uisge dhuit. Ach gearr am ball a tha air t' aobrainn, a Mhórag. Bì tapaidh. So biodag dhuit.

[*Bheir Silis a' bhiodag do Mhóraig; leigidh Móraig Mhór fa sgaoil a cuid cas.*]

MORAG MHOR (*air éiginn ag éirigh: an sin, tuitidh i sìos a rithist: fa dheòidh, théid aice air seasamh*)—Gearr domh thu fhéin e, a Shilis. Chan urrainn domh chromadh. O! Mo dhalladh léirsinn! O!

[*Tha Morag Mhór a' gul gu h-uamhasach; tha Silis ri a taobh. a' cuideachadh leatha; an sin, gabhaidh Móraig Mhór a' bhiodag 'n a làimh féin, agus, le h-ìoghadh, seallaidh i gu geur air a' bhiodaig.*]

So biodag Iain Duibh. C' àit 'an d' fhuair thu i?

SILIS—Fhuair Calum i. Dh' iarr mi air Calum sgian a fhaotainn, agus thug e a' bhiodag dhomh. Feumaidh gun d' fhuair e timchioll an so i. O! A Dhé! Mo chreach! So Iain Dubh a' tighinn a rithist.

[*Amhaircidh Silis suas, le fiamh eagail agus uamhasaich 'n a sìuilibh. Tha Iain Dubh a' dlùthachadh oirre féin agus air Móraig Mhóir.*]

Falaich! Falaich! Bì tapaidh. Tha e a' tighinn! Tha e a' tighinn! A bhéist! A bhéist!

[*Théid Móraig Mhór a steach anns an tigh, agus seasaidh i air chùl an doruis. Thig Iain Dubh a nuas chum an tìge.*]

IAIN DUBH (*ag éibheach a mach gu feargach*)—An e Calum a rinn so? An e Calum a leig fa sgaoil thu? Bithidh thu-sa air do chrochadh, a Chalum, bithidh, an uair bheir mi ort.

[*Feuchaidh Iain Dubh ri beirsinn air Calum, ach ruithidh Calum uaithe. An sin chì Iain Dubh nach 'eil Móraig Mhór ann.*]

C' àit 'a bheil Móraig Mhór? C' àit 'a bheil an dubh striopach? -C' àit 'a bheil i?

[*Leumaidh Mór ag Mhór a mach as an tigh. Seasaidh i air thoiseach air Iain Dubh. Tha a' bhòdag aice, 'n a làimh dheis.*]

MORAG MHOR—Tha mi an so, a Iain Duibh. Tha mi an so, agus a' bhòdag agad-sa agam-sa. Bha thu 'g a h-iarraidh. So dhuit i.

[*Le leum uamharra, sathaidh Mór ag Mhór a' bhòdag an cridhe Iain Duibh, agus tuitidh e a nuas, marbh, aig casan Silis. Thig Calum air a ais, a' gul agus a' caoineadh. Thig boirionnaich eile ann. Tha iad uile a' gul agus a' caoineadh.*]

SILIS—Mo bhròn! Och O! Och O! Mo bhròn! Is e so an toradh! Is i so a' bhuil! Is i so a' chrìoch!

MORAG MHOR—Mo chreach mhór is mo dhubh léireadh, is i! Is i! O! Nach sinn-ne a bha dall! Nach sinn-ne a bha gun toiniseg, gun tuigse, gun chiall chinn agus gun chiall cridhe!

SILIS—A Dhé! Nach sinn-ne a bha gun sùilean! Mo chreach! Mo chreach!

CALUM—Sgian. An d' fhuair thu i?

SILIS—Na iarr tuilleadh i, a ghràidh. Na iarr tuilleadh i.

MORAG MHOR—O! Na boirionnaich anns a' Ghleann so! Na boirionnaich! Na mnathan dalla, mallaichte! Agus gun aon té dhiubh 'n a dearg amadan dall cho mór rium fhéin! A Dhé, thoir maitheanas domh! Thoir maitheanas!

SILIS—A Dhé! A Mhìc Dhé! Bui'n gu coibhneil ruinn uile! Bha sinn gu léir air mealladh,

[*A' caoineadh agus a' cronanaich fa seach, lòisichidh Silis agus Mór ag Mhór agus na boirionnaich gu léir air a' chumha, "Mnathan a' Ghlinne so." Tha cuid dhiubh 'n an seasamh, cuid dhiubh a' gluasad, a' pasgadh an làmhan.*]

Mnathan a' Ghlinne so, Ghlinne so, Ghlinne so, Mnathan a' Ghlinne so, is mithich dhuibh éirigh.

Is mise a rinn a' mhoch-éirigh, mhoch-éirigh, mhoch-éirigh,

Is mise a rinn a' mhoch-éirigh; agaibh-s' bha feum air.

Is mise a rinn a' mhoch-éirigh, agaibh-s' bha feum air,

Mharbh iad am buachaille, am buachaille, am buachaille,

Mharbh iad am buachaill' bha cuallach na spréidhe.

An crodh air an togail, an crodh air an togail, An crodh air an togail, na fir air an reubadh; An crodh air an togail, na fir air an reubadh.

Iain Duibh, b' fhiarach tu, b' fhiarach tu, b' fhiarach tu,

Iain Duibh, b' fhiarach tu, 'g iomain na spréidhe.

Mhnathan a' Ghlinne so, Ghlinne so, Ghlinne so,

Mhnathan a' Ghlinne so, is mithich dhuibh éirigh.

Mhnathan a' Ghlinne so, is mithich dhuibh éirigh.

THEID IAD UILE A MACH, A H-AON AN DEIDH A H-AOIN DIUBH, AGUS THA SILIS BHAILE UIR AN T-SLEIBHE AIR A FAGAIL LEATHA FEIN.

(*Leigear am brat a nuas*)

[A' CHRÌOCH.]

(Continued from p. 26)

as Fear-an-Tighe in his usual efficient and happy style.

The Dingwall Branch staged their Annual Concert in the Town Hall on Wednesday, 24th February, with the President, Mr. J. M. Bannerman, in the Chair. This Annual Concert is now looked forward to with anticipation and people travel from all parts of the mainland of the County to be present.

The Beaully Branch meets monthly and the attendances are very good. A talk on some Highland topic is given at each meeting.

From reports to hand, the Branches in Sutherland are making progress and have regular meetings and ceilidhs. We should be glad to have particulars of functions held by Branches from time to time, for inclusion in *An Gaidheal*.

Twenty-one Gaelic Continuation Classes are being conducted by the respective Education Committees during this session.

On Friday, 26th February, I presided at a Concert in Ullapool in aid of the local Mod funds.

I have experienced "An Dreadh Mór" in all its changing moods, but my double journey with "Carnegie" could not be called *coibhneil* on this occasion. Before leaving Ullapool at 11 p.m. on the return journey, the local minister gave me a little bottle of glycerine to

(Continued on p. 32)

Ann's A' Mhaileid

"Drastic Measures"

DEAR SIR, — Drastic measures must be taken—and taken without delay—to preserve Gaelic and extend its use. Without them, the fate of Gaelic is sealed, and nothing is more certain than that it will be a dead language within one or two generations. The following are some suggestions that should be acted on forthwith.

(1) Those who can speak Gaelic must be asked to sign a solemn pledge to speak Gaelic on all possible occasions, and a badge should be provided for mutual recognition. This has already been done in Wales.

(2) Gaelic speakers must stop the silly custom of interlarding their conversation quite unnecessarily with English words or phrases like "Good morning," "Cheerio," etc.

(3) Gaelic-speaking parents must be asked to sign a solemn pledge to bring up their children to speak Gaelic. English need not suffer from this. Experience in India has shown that children of three or four can pick up, not only English, but Bengali, Santali, and Hindustani, without effort or confusion.

(4) Gaelic speakers must be urged to acquire a reading and writing knowledge of the language, and a brief and simple manual, specially prepared by experts, should be available.

(5) A living language is used, *as a matter of course*, for every situation in life, and so must Gaelic be used by those who have it. Throughout the Gaidhealtachd, even where it is almost dead, it should everywhere be publicly *exhibited*, whether the majority can read it or not. Let them learn! This applies to announcements of births, marriages, and deaths, public notices of all kinds, shop names, church notice-boards (cf. Wales), road-signs, tombstone inscriptions (cf. Wales), and so on. All should be in Gaelic, with English added if necessary.

(6) All possessors of Highland names should spell them in the proper Gaelic way, as is increasingly done in Ireland (e.g., O Faolain for Whelan). Force the public to learn how to pronounce them! All houses in the Gaidhealtachd should have Gaelic names, not names like "Sea View" which could be found at Clacton or Blackpool.

(7) The Gaelic language must be immediately brought up to date by committees of experts, so that every idea expressible in English can be neatly expressed in Gaelic. This includes all technical terms in common use in the various arts and sciences. This

has already been done in Welsh and Irish. Circumlocutions such as one finds in English-Gaelic dictionaries will not do. Nor must the English words be used as foreign words. If there are no native terms that can be adapted, let Gaelic borrow freely as English does, but the words must be naturalised so that the spelling and accentuation follows Gaelic rules, as has been done in Wales and Ireland. A modest amount of spelling reform should be undertaken, as recently done in Ireland.

(8) There must be no rest until all public bodies throughout the Gaidhealtachd are entirely composed of individuals in favour of such measures.

(9) Gaelic must be made a *sine qua non* for all publicly appointed officials throughout the Gaidhealtachd, and Gaelic congregations, who cannot get ministers with Gaelic, should insist on the use of Gaelic psalms and the holding of Gaelic prayer-meetings.

(10) "Cells" of enthusiastic, energetic, and aggressive young men and women should be formed everywhere to promote all such measures.

Unless all these things are done *now*, Gaelic is doomed. The attitude of those spineless Gaels who "couldn't care less" about these matters is despicable; and, if Gaelic dies, they will rightly earn the execration and contempt of future generations as traitors to their race and their country, and destroyers of a precious heritage which can never be replaced.

Yours faithfully,

THOMAS HOPE.

[Sin agaibh beachdan is earailean a tha làn-air'dh air suim a ghabhail dhiubh. A thaobh a' cheud phuing, chiumhniceamaid do Thómas an Dóchais gu bheil buill Clann an Fhraoich fo'n chùmhannan a tha e a' moladh dhuinn, agus gu bheil bráiste aca.—F.-D.]

"Falbhaidh mise an nàiresch," arsa an rìgh.
"Fanaidh tu riumsa," arsa a' ghaoth.

Far as taine an abhainn is ann as mò a fuain.

B'fheàrr gun tòiseachadh na sgrù gun chrìochnachadh.

Bidh an ubhal as fheàrr air a' mbeangan as àirde.

Am fear nach seall roimhe seallaidh e as a dhéidh.

Aithnichear duine air a chuideachd.

Ionmhias A' Chomuinn

Treasurer's Notes

JUBILEE MOD, OBAN, 1953.

Received at Oban:—	
Previously acknowledged	£2,066 14 8
Free Gift Sale	100 0 0
Benderloch Branch	13 11 9
Miss Campbell, Perth	2 0 0
John M. Campbell, Perth	1 0 0
Sale of Work—additional	2 0 0
Oban and Lorn Strathspey and Reel Society	4 10 0
Proceeds of Dance in Kilmartin	7 10 0
Appin-Duror Branch	15 0 0
Mrs. J. Macpherson, Inverness	5 0 0
Coffee Morning in Park Hotel	36 5 0
Free Gift Scheme	116 2 6
Prie Wintle, Wellington	1 0 0
Malcolm Black, Esq., Bridge of Allan	2 2 0
Miss Carmichael of Invershuna, Lochgilphead	2 0 0
Millhouse Branch	8 0 0
Raffle at Bonawe, per William Gemmell, Esq.	6 0 0
William Gemmell, Esq., Bonawe	1 0 0
Mrs. Agnes M. MacIntosh, Boat of Garten	1 0 0
Lochaber Branch	10 0 0
Oban and Lorn Association, Glasgow	15 0 0
The Celtic Union, Edinburgh	5 5 0
Ballachulish Male Voice Choir	3 3 0
	<hr/>
	£2,424 3 11

Received at Headquarters:—	
Previously acknowledged	1,027 13 2
Anonymous	0 7 6
Proceeds from Concerts arranged by Mr. Matheson in Tain, Dingwall, Dornoch, Thurso, and Durness, September, 1953	52 10 3
Comunn na Clarsa'ch	3 0 0
Lochalsh Gaelic Choir	3 3 0
Miss C. B. Caueron	1 10 0
	<hr/>
	£3,512 7 10

Total to date £3,512 7 10

MAGAZINE FUND.

Previously acknowledged (up to, and including, list in Sept., 1953, Number)	£8 18 0
William Gemmell, Esq., Connel	0 4 0
H. S. Shield, Esq., Edinburgh	1 0 0
Miss M. M. Cameron, by Aberfeldy	0 6 0
Miss M. F. MacArthur, Glasgow	0 14 0
Miss Morag Macdonald, Edinburgh	0 6 0
	<hr/>
	£11 8 0

N.B. Above list was to have appeared in the November-December 1953 Number, but was crowded out.—Ed.

Rev. Alexander Macdonald, Ardochattan	£0 4 0
Murdo Macleod, Esq., Haddington	0 10 0
	<hr/>
	£12 2 0

N.B. Above two items were printed in January, 1954, Number, but are here repeated for convenience.—Ed.

CENTRAL FUND.

Previously acknowledged	£120 18 0
Comunn Gaidhealach Leodhas	10 0 0
Miss Rhoda M. Dingwall, Hamilton	0 4 0
Proceeds of Ceilidh and Dance held in Kyleakin	8 15 0
Miss K. Matheson, Inverasdale (proceeds of Ceilidh)	15 0 0
	<hr/>
Total to date	£154 17 0

Provincial and Local Mods, 1954

NORTHERN AREA.

- April 30—Badenoch Strathspey, at Grantown-on-Spey.
 May 14—Wester Ross, at Ullapool.
 May 28—South-West Ross and Gleneel, at Kyle of Lochalsh.
 June 4—County of Sutherland, at Golspie.
 June 17—Lochaber, at Fort William.
 June 17-18—Lewis, at Stornoway.
 June 22-23—Skye, at Portree.

SOUTHERN AREA.

- May 8—Edinburgh.
 May 14—Islay, at Bowmore.
 May 27-29—Glasgow (Central Branch).
 June 4—Lorn, at Oban.
 June 15-16—Dalriada, at Lochgilphead.
 June 16—Perthshire, at Aberfeldy.
 June 24—Mull, at Tobermory.
 June 26—London.
 June 29—Ardannurchan, at Strontian.

(Continued from p. 30)

keep the windscreen free from frost and, on bidding me Good-night, he assured me of his blessing for a safe return home. Tha mi a' toirt taing chridheil do'n Urramach chòir. Is fheàrr caraid sa' chùirt na crùn san sporan, mar a thuir an seann ràdh.

This Mod area covers the Gairloch and Loch Broom parishes, and it is expected that it will be as successful as the two previous Mods held at Gairloch and Aultbea in 1952 and 1953 respectively.

'S e farmad a ni treabhadh. For the past two years the Dingwall Branch has sponsored very successful annual Concerts and this year the Tain Branch are staging such a Concert on 5th March with Mr. MacPhail as Chairman. An excellent programme has been arranged and the booking goes briskly.

D. McP.

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Muinntir a' Chuain (T) ...	Riders to the Sea — Synge ...	3 F. 1 M.
Feasgar trang 'san Osd-thigh (C) ...	Original: Ranald C. MacDonald ...	4 M.
Spuir na h-Iolaire ...	The Eagle's Claw — McPhail ...	2 F. 5 M.
Sìos chun na Mara (D) ...	Down to the Seas — Stuart Ready ...	3 F. 3 M.
Domhnall Dearg (C) ...	The Five Year Plan — Stewart ...	2 F. 3 M.
Am Bàta-Luath (T) ...	The Grenadier — Malloch ...	3 F. 2 M.
An t-Airgiod-Cinn (D) ...	The Rising of the Moon — Gregory ...	4 M.
An Tigh-osda (D) ...	The Change House — Brandane ...	2 F. 3 M.
An Tacharan (C) ...	The Changeling — Maclellan ...	2 F. 4 M.
A' Chailleach (T) ...	The Cailleach — Maclellan ...	5 F. 3 M.
Caimbeulach na Cille Moire (D) ...	Campbell of Kilmhor — Ferguson ...	2 F. 4 M.
Gaothan ri'n Reic (D) ...	Winds for Sale — Coleman Milton ...	1 F. 2 M.
An Snaithnean Scarlaid (D) ...	Thread o' Scarlet — J. J. Bell ...	6 M.
An t-Suirghe Fhadalach (C) ...	Love Lingers On — Gordon Wright ...	4 F. 2 M.
Or Choireach (C) ...	Stranger's Gold — Evan John ...	3 F. 3 M.
Am Bodach-Ròcais (C) ...	The Scarecrow — Ferguson ...	2 F. 2 M.
Suirghe a' Mhuilleir (C) ...	The Miller's Wooing — Cocker ...	2 F. 2 M.
An Seann Tarbh (C) ...	The Old Bull — Bernard Gilbert ...	1 F. 4 M.
Am Poidsear (C) ...	The Poacher — J. O. Francis ...	1 F. 3 M.
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Vol. XLIX

MAY, 1954

1954

No. 5

Latha Buidhe Bealltainn

Gum b'fheàrr na bhith an cadal an tàmh
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 Gu falbh nam fàsach feòirneineach;
 Ruaig a thoirt air bhàrr an driùchd
 Gu doire dlùth nan smeòraichean,
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Leabhar XLIX

AN CEITEIN, 1954

Aireamh 5

Eachann MacDhughail

LE I. M. MOFFATT-PENDER, M.A.

MAR a tha fhios aig na Gaidheil gu léir, chaochail Eachann air Di-Sathairne, an seachdamh là ar fhichead de'n Mhàrt. Chaidh a chorp a chur gu Colla air oidhche na Sábaide, agus b'ann air Di-Luain a bha an t-adhlacadh ann. Mar sin, tha Eachann a nis 'na laighe còmhla ri a shìnsir an Eilean a Ghràidh an Colla chreagach nan Tonn.

B'ann an Colla a rugadh Eachann: b'ann an Colla a fhuair e a àrach nach fhaic sinn anns an eilean sin e—'na bhalach ann? latha grianach, maiseach anns an t-samhradh—an crodh agus na caoraich ag ionaltradh air an socair air bhàrr nan cnoc an tràigh ann—tràigh mhòr ann—an fheamainn donn ris na creagan—an langadal, an roc, agus an stamh ris na sgeirean na faoileannan, an gille-brìde, an stèarnag, agus an fharspag an siud 's an seo air a' chladach agus na sùlairean os cionn a' Chaolais chi sinn balach àrd, tapaidh a' gluasad bho àite gu h-àite, bata 'na làimh agus e cas-ruisgte uaireannan tha e a' coimhead air a' chrodh, uaireannan air na h-eòin, uaireannan a mach air a' mhuir. Sin Eachann.

Air là eile—air là fiadhaich anns a' gheamhadh, o chionn còig agus lethcheud bliadhna—chi sinn Eachann a' fàgail Cholla. Eachann a' tighinn gu Glaschu air son a bheòshlainte a chosnadh: a chàirdean a' fàgail am beannachd aige shìos aig bàta-an-aiseig.

Bliadhnachan an déidh sin tha là eile ann: chi sinn, air là ciùnn anns an fhoghar, duine mór, garbh, làidir a' tighinn air ais gu eilean a bhreith an duine seo làn de urram agus de chliù a chàirdean gu léir a' cur fàilte air a chàirdean gu léir ag ràdh gur e seo duine cho ainmeil agus a bha riamh air a bhreith an Colla. Sin Eachann mar a bha e o chionn fichead bliadhna. Chan ann ri Eachann a theirteadh nach robh fàidh gun urram ach a mhàin 'na dhùthaich fhéin.

Agus a nis tha Eachann aon uair eile air ais an Colla. Fàgamaid an sin e. Chan urrainn duinn an còrr a ràdh, oir tha ar sùilean tais agus ar cridheachan ro-làn.

Ach, mun cuir sinn am peann sìos, bu mhaith leinn fhios a bhith againn dìreach car son a bha meas cho mór againn air Eachann? Nach e ar beachd gur ann a chionn agus gu robh Eachann fhéin an còmhnaidh cho dìreach 'na chaint? Cha robh Eachann riamh carach: cha robh e riamh cuilbheartach: cha do fheuch e riamh ri cas bheag a chur air cainnt an fhir eile: cha do mhì-mhènich Eachann riamh na thubhairt an duine eile ris: cha robh mì-mhìneachadh 'na nàdur: agus bha a' bhuil—*bu mhòr an gràdh a thug sinn uile dha.*

Tha an ceò 's an drùchd,
Tha an drùchd 's an ceò,
Tha an ceò 's an drùchd
An suil mo ghràidh,
An suil mo ghràidh.

A Thì dh'fhosgail an t-sùil òg,
Dùin i an nochd an clò a' bhàis,
An clò a' bhàis.

Tha gàir a' chuain,
A nuall 's a' ghàir,
Tha gàir a' chuain
An cluais mo ghràidh,
An cluais mo ghràidh.
A Thì bheartaich an ùr-long,
Stiùir i an nochd thar tonn a' bhàis,
Thar tonn a' bhàis.

(Coinneach Mac Leòid.)

Obituaries



Mr. Hector MacDougall

BY the death of Mr. Hector Macdougall on 27th March, a notable personality* has been lost to the Gaelic Movement. He and Mr. J. N. Macleod, happily still with us and still plying a prolific pen, were the last survivors of a quite remarkable group of Gaelic writers who flourished from just before to after the First World War. Angus Henderson, Lachlan Macbean, John MacCormick, Donald Macphie, Malcolm Macfarlane, and Angus Robertson were among that group, all now gone from us.

It was not the possession of high academic qualifications that marked out those men; indeed, most of them had received no formal education beyond the primary school. They had, however, received something much more valuable for their life-work—something, moreover, which will become rarer and still rarer and therefore all the more precious—the enriching and stimulating education of being brought up in thoroughly Gaelic communities, where ancient traditions and lore still lived and were cherished.

Hector Macdougall, born in his beloved Isle of Coll in 1880, came early to Glasgow, and, like so many other Highlanders, served in the city police force,

retiring with the rank of Inspector some twenty-two years ago.

All his life, and especially in the past quarter-century, Hector gave himself with devotion to Gaelic writing. To the oral lore amassed in earlier years, he added a considerable store by much reading in many fields of knowledge, and the riches of his knowledge and experience he shared with others, turning out articles and essays, plays and poems, in steady succession. He had a wonderful store of Gaelic idiom and a very considerable vocabulary. His prose style—and he excelled as a prose-writer rather than as a bard—was unmistakably his own.

Hector Macdougall was no recluse, content to sit at home and write. He played an active part in many good causes and served on many committees. The Coll Association (which he founded), Ceilidh nan Gaidheal, Glasgow Gaelic Society, The Gaelic Society of Inverness, The Highland Development League, The Folklore Institute of Scotland—these were among the societies which held his active interest to the end, while earlier other bodies, now non-existent, such as the Scottish Gaelic Academy, commanded his support.

Of An Comunn Gaidhealach Hector was a strong supporter, long a member of the Executive Council, Convener of "Clann an Fhraoich," and as "Athair" of Comunn na h-Oigridh. A Crowned Bard of the National Mod, many times a prize-winner, on three occasions the most distinguished competitor in the literary competitions, Hector also did good work as a mod adjudicator.

A severe critic at times, Hector was to those who shared his friendship a kindly and genial man. One is glad to recall that last year the opportunity was taken of making known to him something of the admiration and appreciation of many friends. He was deeply moved by, and very appreciative of, the tangible gifts given him then, and the words of appreciation with which they were accompanied.

To his wife and daughters we express our deep sympathy.

The Duke of Montrose

THE sixth Duke of Montrose, who died in January, was keenly interested in the Gaelic Movement, like his wife, The Duchess, and his son, the new Duke (whom we have heard singing in the Gold Medal Finals at the National Mod under his name of "Angus Graham"). The late Duke served Scotland well, spoke for Scotland and worthily represented Scotland.

Colonel Ian M. Campbell of Airds

COLONEL CAMPBELL died in March. Member of a noted Highland family and a distinguished soldier, he shared his wife's keen and active interest in An Comunn Gaidhealach and was a frequent attendee at the National Mods. Mrs. Campbell, of course, was long a member of the Executive of An Comunn and Convener of the Art and Industry Committee, and she continues as President of the Clarsach Society. She and her late husband gifted the "Lorn Shield," which is offered for competition by rural choirs at the Mod.

We express our deep sympathy with Mrs. Campbell and the family.

New Books

"**Bàird A' Chomuinn**": Comh-chruinneachadh de'n Bhàrdachd a choisinn an Crin aig a' Mhòd Naiseanta o'n bhliadhna 1923 gu 1951. Air a dheasachadh le Lachlan MacPhionghuin. (This collection of winning bardic compositions is an attractive little volume, and the price is 7/6.)

"**Coisir A' Mhòid**," Leabhran V, is now available. Both books may be ordered from the Secretary.

An Ard-Chomhairle

Ghleidheadh coinneamh de Ard-Chomhairle a' Chomuinn Ghaidhealaich ann an Aitreach nan Gaidheal an Glaschu air Di-sathurna, an seachdamh là fichead de'n Mhàrt, 1954. Bha an Ceann-suidhe, Mgr. Iain M. MacGille-na-brataich, anns a' Chathair, agus bha sia ball deug ar fhichead a làthair.

Chuireadh air beulaibh na coinneimh gearr-sheanchasan is iomraidhean bho na Comhairlean Seasmhach.

Bha ceathrar a làthair, a thaghadh le Comhairle an Earail as am measg-san aig an robh sùil ri dreuchd Fear-Deilbhe na h-Aird-a-tuath. As déidh do'n Ard-Chomhairle éisdeachd ris na bha aca ri ràdh agus ceistean a chur orra agus beachdachadh air gach cùis iomchuidh, dh'aontaicheadh an dreuchd a thairgse an toiseach do Mhgr. Iain Mac'Ille-dhuibh á Inbhir-Aora, agus, nan diùltadh esan, an sin do Mhgr. Dòmhnall MacGilleathain á Beàrnaraidh na Hearadh.

Tha Mgr. Eòghann Mac-a-phì an déidh dreuchd Fear-Gairme Comhairle a' Mhòid is a' Chiùil a' leigeil dheth, air sgàth a shlàinte, agus tha Mgr. Fearchar MacRath air a shònrachadh 'na àite, agus tha Mgr. Dòmhnall MacThòmais a nis 'na Fhear-Gairme air Comhairle an Fhòghluim an àite Mhgr. MhicRath.

Dh'aontaicheadh gun riochdaicheadh Mgr. Iain MacAoidh, Inbhir-Nis, an Comunn aig a' champa a bhios anns a' Chuimridh anns a' Ghiblean fo iùl Comunn Oigridh na Cuimridh (Urdd Gobaith Cymru).

Dh'innseadh gun do thaghadh a' Mhaighdean-uasal Catriona NicLeòid mar bhan-chléireach anns an oifis an Glaschu.

Dh'innis Comhairle an Fhòghluim gun d'fhuaradh litir bho'n Urramac Calum MacGilleathain, a' tagradh rannsachadh a dheanann air na puingean a leanas:—

1. Teagasg na Gàidhliche an sgoilean beaga ann an ceàrnann anns a' bheil a' Ghàidhlig mar a' chainnt mhàthaireil aig a' chloinn.

2. Teagasg na Gàidhliche do luchd-ionnsachaidh nan sgoilean ceudna ann an ceàrnann anns nach 'eil a' Ghàidhlig am measg an t-sluaigh.

3. Gum bu chòir buidhnean is deuchainnean fa-letha a bhith ann an sgoilean far a bheil (a) sgoilearan a tha fileanta anns a' chànan, agus (b) luchd-ionnsachaidh a tha a' strì ri àrd-fhòghlum anns a' Ghàidhlig.

A chum gum bi a' chùis air a deanamh soilleir chliùthaich Comhairle an Fhòghluim, agus chuir an Ard-Chomhairle an aonta ri seo:—

(1) Sgrìobhadh gu Ard-Chomhairle an Fhòghluim an Albainn gu fios fhaotainn mu (a) àireamh luchd-teagaisg na Gàidhliche anns a' Ghaidhealtachd, (b) àireamh nan oileanach a fhuair teisteanas an Gàidhlig anns na deuchainnean as àirde anns na sgoilean an Albainn anns na còig bliadhna mu dheireadh (1949-53), (c) àireamh nan oileanach a labhras Gàidhlig aig an inbhe cheudna, (d) àireamh an luchd-teagaisg Gàidhlig a dh'fheumte a chum Gàidhlig a theagasg ann an sgoilean na Gaidhealtachd.

(2) Sgrìobhadh gu Fir-stiùraidh an Fhòghluim an Siorrachdan Earraghaidheal, Inbhir-Nis, agus Rois, a dh'fheòrach mu àireamh luchd-teagaisg aig a' bheil a' Ghàidhlig fo na cinn a leanas:—(a) Rian V; (b) Rian IV; (c) Trì bliadhna a' fòghlum le teisteanas an Gàidhlig; (d) Gun teisteanas sgrìobhte sam bith.

(3) Feòrach mu àireamh nan oileanach aig a' bheil a' Ghàidhlig mar chuspair anns na Colaisdean a tha ag uigheamachadh luchd-teagaisg agus an cothrom a tha aca a' Ghàidhlig a theagasg ré na h-ùine a tha iad ag ionnsachadh.

(4) Brath fhaotainn bho Chléirich nan Eaglaisean an ìre anns an robh a' Ghàidhlig air a cleachdadh an Sgoilean-Sàbaide.

Tha a' Chomhairle a' moladh gum biodh Gàidhlig mar chuspair air a teagasg do luchd-labhairt na Gàidhliche anns na sgoilean gu ruig aois chòig bliadhna deug, ge b'è air bith an cùrsa air am bi iad.

Thug Comhairle Comunn na h-Oigridh aithisg mu'n ullachadh a thàtar a' deanamh a chum Cnoc-nan-Ròs uigheamachadh gu ceart agus gu h-iomchuidh agus Fear-gleidhidh fhaotainn dha.

Aig toiseach na coinneimh rinn an Ceann-suidhe iomradh air a' chall a dh'fhuilingeadh le bàs Dhiùc Mhonròis agus le bàs a' Chòirneil Iain Caimbeul nan Airdean, agus an uair a bha a' Choinneamh a' sgaoileadh dh'innis e gun robh fios air tighinn gun d'èug Mgr. Eachann MacDhùghail air a' mhadainn ud, naidheachd a chuir mór-dhuilichinn air na bha a làthair.

Shònraicheadh an ath-choinneamh a chumail an Glaschu air an naoidheamh là deug de'n Og-mhios.

Secretary's Notes

AT the outset I would like to record my sincere thanks to my predecessor, Mr. Neil Shaw, for his kindness and unflinching help at all times during my term as Assistant Secretary. I shall endeavour to tackle the manifold duties of my office, always bearing in mind his example and great devotion to our Gaelic Cause.

On 16th February I had the privilege of attending a Ceilidh of the Largs Branch. In addition to local artistes I had arranged for popular singers from Glasgow to accompany me. Mr. Archd. Cameron, President of the Branch, presided. During the evening I was given the opportunity of addressing the audience in Gaelic and English. I greatly admired their piper who, I was told, is seventy years of age.

The Committee of the Paisley Highlanders' Association, through their energetic Secretary, Mr. John M. MacRae, invited me to preside at their Ceilidh on 6th March. Despite inclement weather the hall was nearly full. A good programme had been arranged. There I was very glad to meet a young man, one of the singers, who is a keen student of Gaelic.

Mrs. MacNicol, Secretary of the Stirling Branch, invited me to preside at their monthly Ceilidh on 19th March. I was introduced by the President, Mr. John MacNicol. There was a capacity audience, many of whom had travelled long distances. The evening's programme was most enjoyable.

On 25th March I presided at the weekly Ceilidh of the Govan Branch. A fine programme had been arranged by Committee member, Miss Katie Campbell. I was accompanied on the platform by the Branch President, Mr. Hugh Sinclair.

We are always glad to learn of a new Association being formed—in this case the Cardonald Highlanders' Association. Under their genial and enthusiastic President, Mr. Peter MacEachan (South Uist), they are a special attraction in the City. "Gaelic and Gaelic only" appears to be their motto. On 31st March I presided at their Ceilidh. We wish them well in the future.

On 29th March I was the guest of the recently reconstituted Hamilton and District Highlanders' Association (formerly the Lanarkshire Highlanders' Association) at their Annual Gathering. Their President is Dr. Andrew A. Wilson, a very enthusiastic gentleman who has acquired Gaelic. He spoke in Gaelic and English and introduced the Chairman for the evening, Mrs. John M. Bannerman. She presided over an audience of four hundred with

her usual grace and charm. Prominent Gaelic and English artistes contributed to an excellent programme.

The Ibrox Ceilidh sponsored by the Uist and Barra Association has been, since its inception, a popular rendezvous for Highlanders on the South Side. One of the main aims of the Ceilidh is to help the Highlanders' Institute Building Fund, a most deserving cause. I was honoured by being asked to preside at this Ceilidh on Saturday, 3rd April.

M. McL.

Northern Organiser's Notes

I had hoped to visit the Badenoch area early in March, but a heavy snowfall with high winds, which caused considerable drifting, made the roads impassable.

I mentioned in my last "Notes" that the Tain Branch was to sponsor a Gaelic Concert on 5th March. This duly took place, with a record attendance of over 400. The programme was an excellent one and thoroughly enjoyed by all. It has been decided to make this an annual event. I congratulated the Branch on the success which attended this special effort and their work for the Cause in the area.

On 12th March I visited the South-West Ross area and had interviews with the officials of the Kyle Mod. In the evening I presided at the monthly Ceilidh of the Balmacara Branch. Unfortunately, Mrs. A. MacDonald, Hon. Secretary, was indisposed and could not be present. In my opening remarks I made reference to the Secretary's illness, and all present wished her a speedy recovery and return to work again. There was a crowded attendance, the major part of the programme being sustained by singers from Plockton. Mr. Dan MacKenzie, one of our best traditional singers, was in grand form and delighted all by his masterly interpretation of some of the older melodies. I have to tender sincere thanks to Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald, Balmacara Hotel, for hospitality.

On the following day I returned to Inverness via Glenshiel and Glenmoriston. The hills were coated with virgin snow and the whole scene, including reflections on Loch Cluaine, was one of grandeur. Had the steering of the car not absorbed my whole attention, I felt that in these beautiful regions the bardic spirit might have been awakened, but it was not to be, an dràsda co-dhiu.

I paid a short visit to Lochaber. I visited the schools at Kilmonivaig, Banavie, and

(Continued on p. 40)



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MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar VI

AN CEITEIN, 1954

Aireamh 5

Famhair Na Feusaig Oir

(Eadar-theangaichte bho Sgeulachdan Ghriem le T. M. M.)

ANN am baile beag an tìr fad as, air chùil nam beann, bha duine bochd a' gabhail còmhnaidh, agus rugadh mac dha. A nis, rugadh an leanabh seo fo Reult an Fhortain, agus mar sin thubhairt muinntir an àite gur e leanabh sealbhach a bha ann agus gu robh e an dàn dha nighean an rìgh a phòsadh an uair a ruigeadh e ceithir bliadhna deug a dh'aois.

Goirid as déidh breith an leinibh seo, thachair do'n rìgh tighinn air chuairt do'n àite, agus e an còmhach goirich a chum is nach aithnichte có e. Thadhail e a staigh anns a' cheàrdaich agus dh'fhoighnich e de'n ghobha an robh naidheachd annasach sam bith a' dol am measg an t-sluaigh.

"Tha naidheachd mhath againn," fhreagair na bha a staigh. "Tha ar caraid, am Brocair, shìos an ath-shràid, glé shubhach, agus is ann aige a tha aobhar a bhith sona, da-riribh. Rugadh leanabh mic dha, agus tha na fiosaichean ag ràdh gu bheil e an dàn do'n leanabh seo nighean an rìgh usail againn a phòsadh."

Cha do chòrd seo idir, idir ris an rìgh, agus is ann a chaidh e dìreach gu pàrantan an leinibh agus dh'fhoighnich e dhiubh an riceadh iad an leanabh ris. "Cha reic," arsa iadsan, ach ghuird is dh'iarr an coigreach cho dian is cho dhìrigh agus gheall e a leithid de airgead dhaibh agus mu dheireadh gun do ghéill iad agus reic iad an leanabh ris (agus gun fhios aca gur e an rìgh a bha ann). "Is e leanabh sealbhach a tha ann," arsa iadsan, "agus mar sin chan eagal da; agus chan 'eil sinne ach bochd agus feum againn air an airgead."

Ghabh an rìgh an leanabh agus chuir e am bocsa e agus mharcaich e air falbh leis, ach, an uair a thàinig e gu abhainn a bha an siud, thilg e am bocsa anns an uisge agus thubhairt e ris fhéin, "Cha phòs am fear ud an nighean agamsa gu bràth!"

Ach is ann a shnàmh am bocsa sìos air uachdar an uisge agus cha d'ràinig fiù aon bhoinne uisge air an leanabh agus, mu dheireadh, mu

dha mhìle bho phrìomh-bhaile na dùthcha, stad am bocsa aig muileann a bha an sin ri taobh na h-aibhne. Chunnac am muillear am bocsa agus tharraing e a staigh gu bruach na h-aibhne e agus dh'fhosgail e e, agus e an dùil gur e òr a bhiodh 'na bhroinn, ach gu dé a chunnac e an uair a dh'fhosgail e am bocsa ach balachan beag aoiheil.

A nis cha robh duine cloinne aig a' mhuillear agus a bhean, agus rinn iad mór-ghàirdeachas ris an leanabh. "Is e Nì Maith fhéin a chuir d'ar n-ionnsaigh e," arsa iadsan. Bha iad coibhneil ris, agus dh'altruim iad e, agus thog iad suas e le cùram agus le gràdh.

Chaidh mu thrì bliadhna deug seachad, agus là a bha an seo thachair do'n rìgh tighinn do'n mhuileann. Chunnac e am balach agus dh'fhoighnich e de'n mhuillear am b'e seo a mhac. "Chan e," arsa am muillear. "Fhuair mi e ann am bocsa a bha a' snàmh air an abhainn." "Gu dé cho fada bho'n fhuair thu e?" arsa an rìgh. "Mu thrì bliadhna deug," arsa am muillear. "Is e balach eireachdail a tha ann," arsa an rìgh; "an leig thu leam a chur le litir a dh'ionnsaigh na banrigh? Bheir sin toileachadh mór dhòmhsa, agus bheir mi dà bhonn òir dha air son a shaothrach." "Deanadh bhur Mórachd mar as àill leibh," arsa am muillear.

A nis, bha an deagh amharus aig an rìgh gum b'e seo am balach a dh'fheuch e fhéin ri bhàthadh. Mar sin sgrìobh e litir a chum na banrigh, agus anns an litir thubhairt e, "Cho luath agus a ruigeas fear-giùlain na litreach seo thu, thoir òrdugh seachad a mharbhadh agus a adhlac, a chum is gum bi gach nì seachad mus till mise dhachaigh."

Dh'fhalbh am balach leis an litir, agus gun fhios aige ciod a bha anns an litir. Ach chaidh e air iomrall bho'n t-slighe agus anns an fheasgar ràinig e coille dhorcha. An dùbhradh an fheasgair chunnac e solus astar math bhuaithe agus rinn e dìreach air agus ràinig e

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bothan beag. Cha robh anns a' bhothan ach seann chailleach, agus ghabh i eagal mór an uair a nochd e a staigh aice.

"Car son a thàinig thu an seo agus càit a bheil thu a' dol?" arsa ise.

"Tha mi a' dol chun na banrigh leis an litir seo, ach chaidh mi air seachran, agus bhithinn gu mór 'nur comain nan toireadh sibh cuid na h-oidhche dhomh."

"Tha thu glé mhì-shealbhadh," arsa a' chailleach, "oir is e seo bothan luchd-reubainn, agus, ma thilleas iad dhachaigh agus thusa fhathast an seo, cha bu mhath leam a bhith 'nad bhàrnan."

"Tha mi cho sgìth," arsa am balach, "agus nach urrainn dhomh dol ceum na's fhaide, agus feumaidh mi fuireach an seo, ciod air bith a dh'èireas domh."

Mar sin, chuir e an litir air a' bhòrd, shin e e fhéin air a' bheingidh, agus thuit e 'na chadal.

An uair a thill na fir-reubainn dhachaigh agus a chunnaic iad e, dh'fhoighnich iad de'n chaillich có e. "Chail e an rathad ceart," arsa ise, "agus e air turus le litir chun na banrigh, agus ghabh mise truas dheth."

Dh'fhosgail na fir-reubainn an litir agus leugh iad na bha sgrìobhte innte, agus bha an ceann-ùrl aca glé fheargach an uair a thuing e an teachdaireachd a bha anns an litir. Chuir e an litir anns an teine agus sgrìobh e litir ùr, agus anns an litir thug e òrdugh do'n bhanrigh a' bhan-phrionnsa a phòsadh ris a bhalach seo cho luath agus a ruigeadh e.

Anns a' mhadainn thug na fir-reubainn an litir do'n bhalach agus sheòl iad dha an rathad ceart gu pàlais na banrigh. Cha b'fhada a bha e a' ruigeadh na banrigh, agus cho luath is a leugh ise an litir dh'ùllaich i air son na bainnse, agus, o'n bha am balach 'na ghille eireachdail agus a' bhan-phrionnsa glé dhleasdhanach, cha b'fhada gus an robh iad pòsda.

An ceann ùine thill an rìgh dhachaigh agus chunnaic e gu robh am balach agus an nighean aige fhéin a nis pòsda, a dh'aindeoin gach oidhirp is innealach a rinn e fhéin gu bacadh a chur orra. Cha robh fois aige gus an d'fhuasraich e ciomar a thàchair gnothaichean mar a thachair iad. "A chéile chaoimh," arsa a' bhanrigh, "seo an litir agad fhéin anns an tug thu òrdugh dhòmhsa an nighean againn a phòsadh ri fear-giùlain na litreach, am balach seo." Sheall an rìgh air an litir. "Chan i seo an litir a sgrìobh mise," arsa esan, agus cheasnaich e am balach mu'n litir a thug e dha. "Chan aithne dhomh," arsa am balach; "mur i seo an litir a thug sibhse dhomh, is fheadar gun do ghoideadh bhuan i agus mi 'nam chadal."

Dh'fhàs an rìgh feargach agus thubhairt e, "Chan fhaigh fear sam bith an nighean agamsa

ach fear a théid sìos do'n uaimh iongantach agus a bheir chugamsa trì gaoisdean òir á feusaig an fhamhair a tha an sin. Dean seo, agus bidh mi chead-sa agad mo nighean-sa a ghabhadh mar bhean-phòsda."

"Cha bhì mise fada a' deanamh sin," arsa am balach, agus thog e air.

Aig a' cheud bhaile d'an tàinig e, chuir an luchd-faire stad air agus dh'fhoighnich iad dheth ciod a bu chéaird dha agus ciod a b' aithne dha. "Is aithne dhòmhsa a h-uile càil," arsa esan. "Ma's aithne," arsa iadsan, "is thusa an dearbh dhuine a tha sinne a' sireadh. Bi cho math agus innse dhuinn car son a tha an tobar anns a' bhaile seo air fàs tioram agus gun aon bhoinne uisge a' tighinn as. Innis dhuinn ciod as aobhadh dha sin agus bheir sinn dhuit dà asail luchdaichte le òr."

"Le m'ùile chridhe," arsa am balach, "innisidh mi sin dhuibh air mo thilleadh."

Ghabh e air aghaidh agus thàinig e gu baile eile, agus an sin mar an ceudna dh'fhoighnich an luchd-faire dheth ciod a bu chéaird dha agus ciod a thuigeadh e. "Tuigidh mise a h-uile càil," arsa esan. "Seadh, ma thà," arsa iadsan; "innis dhuinn car son nach 'eil fiù aon duilleag air craoibh a tha an seo air am b'abhaist ùbhlán òir a bhith a h-uile bliadhna."

"Is mise a dh'innseas sin dhuibh gu deònach air mo thilleadh," arsa esan.

Mu dheireadh ràinig am balach taobh loch mhóir, agus dh'fheumadh e faighinn a null air an loch a bha an seo. Dh'fhoighnich am fear-aiseig dheth ciod a bu chéaird dha agus ciod a b' aithne dha. "Is aithne dhòmhsa a h-uile càil," arsa esan. "Ma's aithne," arsa am fear-aiseig, "innis thusa dhòmhsa car son a tha agamsa ri bith gu bràth ag aiseag dhaoine thar an uisge seo agus gun mi ag amas air saorsa idir. Innis sin dhomh agus bheir mi mór-dhuais dhuit."

"Thoir thusa a null mi," arsa am balach, "agus innisidh mise dhuit a h-uile càil mu thimcheall sin air mo thilleadh."

An dèidh dha a dhol seachad air an loch thàinig e do'n uaimh iongantach. Bu dorcha dubhadh coltas na h-uamha, ach cha robh am fhamhair mór aig an taigh, agus bha seanamhair an fhamhair 'na suidhe air cathair aig an doras.

"Ciod as àill leat?" arsa ise.

"Trì gaoisdean òir á feusaig an fhamhair," arsa esan.

"Is mór do chunnart an uair a thilleas e dhachaigh," arsa ise, "ach nì mise na's urrainn mi air do shon."

An sin chruth-atharraich i e gu riochd seangain agus thubhairt i ris e fhéin fhalach 'na clèoca.

"Glé cheart," arsa esan; ach tha a dhith orm fios fhaotainn carson a tha tobar a' bhaile

tioram, car son a tha craobh nan ùbhlán òir gun duilleig, agus car son a tha am fear-aiseig air a cheangal cho teann ri a dhleasdanas.

“Tha thu déidheil air ceistean cruaidhe,” arsa a’ chailleach, “ach laigh thusa gu sàmhach, agus éisd ciod a their am famhair an uair a tharraingear mise na gaoisdean, agus is dòcha gum fòglum thu na tha a dhith ort.”

Thàinig an oidhche agus thill am famhair dhachaigh. Cho luath is a sheas e am broinn na h-uamha snòtach e mun cuairt agus thubhairt e, “Chan ’eil gach nì mar as còir an seo; tha mi a’ faireachadh faile feòil duine.”

An sin shìn e ri rùrach thall is a bhos, ach bu dìomhain a shaothair, agus thubhairt a’ chailleach ris, agus i a’ trod, “Car son a tha thu a’ cur ghnòthachean trumach air thearach? Chan ’eil mise ach an déidh an t-àit a sgioblachadh.”

Leig am famhair a cheann sìos air glùinean na caillich agus thuit e ’na chadal. Cho luath is a bha srann aige, rug ise air aon de na gaoisdean òir ’na fheusaig agus tharraing i a mach e.

“Och, och!” arsa am famhair, is e a’ dùsgadh le clisgeadh, “ciod ris a bheil thu?”

“Bha mi a’ bruidh, arsa ise, “agus ’nam thrioblaid rug mi air fheusaig ort. Bhruidhair mi gu bheil tobar a’ bhaile tioram. Ciod as aobhar dha sin?”

“A!” arsa am famhair, “nach iad a bhiodh toilichte nan tuigeadh iad sin! Fo chloich anns an tobar tha losgann. An uair a mharbhas iad an losgann, sruthaidh uisge a rithist as an tobar.”

Thuit am famhair ’na chadal an dara uair agus tharraing a’ chailleach gaoisdean eile as an fheusaig aige. “Ciod ris a bheil thu?” dh’èubh e le feirg.

“Na bi feargach,” arsa ise. “Rinn mi e ’nam chadal. Bhruidhair mi gu robh mi ann an riochachd fad as, agus gu robh craobh mhaiseach an sin air am b’ àbhaist ùbhlán òir a bhith, ach a nis chan ’eil fiù aon duilleag air a’ chraoibh. Ciod as aobhar dha sin?”

“A!” arsa am famhair, “nach iad a bhiodh sona nan tuigeadh iad sin! Aig freumh na craoibhe tha luch a’ criomadh. Nam marbhadh iad an luch, bhiodh ùbhlán òir air a’ chraoibh mar a bha roimhe. Mur marbh iad an luch, bàsaichidh a’ chraoibh. A nis, leig leam cadal ann an sìth. Ma dhùisgeas sibh a rithist mi, dlòlaidh sibh air.”

Thuit e an sin ’na chadal aon uair eile agus cho luath is a chuala i srann aige, tharraing i an treas gaoisdean òir as an fheusaig aige. An tiota bha e air a bhonnan agus e a’ maoidheadh gu cruaidh oirre. Ach chìtinich i e agus thubhairt i, “Is e bruidhar glé neònach a bha

agam an turus seo. Shaoil leam gum faca mi fear-aiseig agus aige ri bhith a’ sìor dhòl a null is a nall thar loch mhòir, agus gum chomas aige faighinn saor bho’n t-saothair sin. Ciod a tha ’ga cheangal ris an dleasdanas?”

“An dearg amadan, agus b’e sin esan!” arsa am famhair. “Nan toireadh esan an stiùir do làimh fir-turuis sam bith, gheibheadh e saor, agus dh’fheumadh an neach eile fuireach ’na àite. A nis, guidheam oirbh, leigibh leam cadal.”

Anns a’ mhadainn dh’èirich am famhair agus chaidh e a mach, agus thug a’ chailleach na trì gaoisdean òir do’n bhalach, agus chuimhnich i dha na trì freagariean agus thog e air.

Cha b’fhada gus an d’ràinig e am fear-aiseig, agus dh’iarr am fear-aiseig air freagairt na ceiste a chuir e air roimhe. “Cuir a null mi an toiseach,” arsa am balach, “agus innsidh mi dhuit.” Cho luath is a bhuail am bàta air a’ chladach thall, thubhairt am balach ris an fhear-aiseig, “Thoir thusa an stiùir do’n cheud fhear-turuis a thig, agus teich is fàg an siud e, agus bidh do shaorsa agad.”

An ceann tacain ràinig am balach am baile far an robh a’ chraobh. “Marbhaibh an luch a tha a’ criomadh freumh na craoibhe,” arsa esan, “agus bidh ùbhlán òir agaibh mar a bha roimhe.”

Thug iad duais luachmhor dha air son na naidheachd seo, agus chùm e air agaidh a dh’ionnsaigh a’ bhaile far an do thiornaich an tobar, agus dh’innis e do luchd-faire a’ bhaile ciamar a gheibheadh iad uisge a rithist as an tobar, agus thug iad taing dha agus thug iad dha dà asail luchdaichte le òr.

Agus a nis, mu dheireadh thall, ràinig am balach sealbhach dhachaigh, agus bu shubhach a bhean air dhi fhacinn agus gach nì a thachair dha a chluinntinn. Thug e na trì gaoisdean òir do’n rìgh, agus cha b’urrainn an rìgh a nis cead a dh’iùltadh dha a nighean a ghabhail mar bhean-phòsda, ach fhathast bha guin is fuath aig an rìgh dha gus am faca e an t-ionnbas a thug e dhachaigh leis.

“A mhic chaoimh,” arsa an rìgh, “càit an d’fhuair thu na tha an seo de òr?”

“Ri taobh locha,” arsa am balach, “far a bheil am pailteas fhathast r’ a’ fhaotainn.”

“Innis dhomh, guidheam ort,” arsa an rìgh, “càit a bheil an loch sin a chum is gun téid mise agus gum faigh mi pàirt d’heath.”

“Gheibh thu na thogras tu,” arsa am balach, “ach fheumaidh tu falbh agus cumail romhad gus an tig thu gu cladach loch mhòir. An sin chì thu fear-aiseig. Leig leis do chur a null air an loch, agus an sin chì thu òr a tha cho lìonmhor ri gaineamh na tràghad.”

Thòg an rìgh air gun dàil, agus an uair a ràinig e an loch smèid e air an fhear-aiseig agus

ghabh esan gu toileach a staigh 'na bhàta e. Agus cho luath agus a shuidh an rìgh anns a' bhàta, chuir am fear-aiseig an stiùir 'na làimh agus leum e air tìr agus dh'fhàg e an rìgh an siud anns a' bhàta, agus aige-san a nis ri daoine aiseag thar an locha gu sìorruidh is gu bràth.

"Agus a bheil a Mhórchad rioghail fhathast a' stiùradh a' bhàta-aiseig thar an locha?" Is cinnteach gu bheil, oir cò idir a ghabhadh an stiùir as a làmhan?

An Dugadh

Le MAIRI ANNA NIGILLINNEIN.

IS e an deagh chosnaiche a bha ann an Seumas, ach gu dearbh cha b'e sin d'a mhnaoi e. Dh'èireadh esan aig sia uairean anns a' mhadaoinn, dh'fhalbhadh e a bhleoghann a' chruidh, bhìadhadh e na cearcan agus na mucan, ach gu ro-thric, an uair a thilleadh e dhachaigh an déidh an riarachaidh seo mu ochd uairean air son a bhìdh (oir bha aige ri cóig mìle a chois eachd gu a obair), bhìodh a bhean agus srann aice fhathast a chuireadh na h-eich as a' chòirce!

Bha Seumas bochd tuilleadh agus sgìth de'n droch dhìol seo, ach aon là, air dha a bhith ag obair as a fhallus air son còrr is dà uair a thìde, thill e dhachaigh mar a b' àbhaist. Cha b'e greadhnachas a' mhic-meanmna — b'òrd lom-làn de na h-uile seòrsa meanarsan — a bha roimhe mar a thòill e, ach clàr fuar falamh agus teine dubh as. Dh'fheuch e an doras gu nìmhil as a dhéidh cho cruaidh agus a b'urrainn dha, agus trì uairean dh'éigh e àird a chlaiginn, "Teine! Teine!" Chualas an ùpraid. Ann an tiota bha bean an taighe a nuas an staidhre 'na deannaibh.

"Càit a bheil an teine?" arsa ise gu h-aithiseach.

"Tha anns a h-uile taigh eile ach an seo," arsa Seumas, agus aon smid eile cha tàinig as a bheul-san co-dhìubh!

Bheir mise mo ghealladh dhuit, tà, nach do thill Seumas dhachaigh gu teine marbh dubh no gu bòrd lom falamh a rìthist.

(*Bho Leabhran Bliadhnaidh Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir-Nis, 1953.*)

Eachann Nach Maireann

Chan 'eil mòran an Comunn na h-Oigrìdh an diugh d'an aithne ainm Eachainn MhicDhùghaill, oir is bras a dh'fhàsas an oigrìdh suas. Ach fad àireamh bhliadhnanachan bha Eachann mùirneach aig an oigrìdh agus e air an ceann mar "Athair" agus a' sgrìobhadh "Litir Eachainn" dhaibh gach mìos anns a' mhìosachan seo. Tha sinn a' cur cloich air a chàrn.

Maise Latha Bealltainn

Tùs a' Chéitein—Latha Bealltainn—Samhradh sgeadachadh nan lòintean Tulaichean a' brùchdadh toraidh, Aoibh is sonas air gach seòrsa; Ghrian mar bharr éid' air na raointibh, Tarbhach, aoibheil tha a còmhhdhail; Cur brat uaine air na sléibhtibh, 'S a' cuideachadh le feur gu dòmhlach'.

Luiseanan bho'n ùr air dùsgadh, 'S bolganan de'n driùchd 'gan àrmadh, Trusgan òirdhearca air na bruachaibh—De neòinean nan cluasan dearg-gheal—Sòbhraichean is feada-coille Cur àilleachd air gach doire garbhlaich, Mil is bainne air an achadh, Tighinn o'n talamh 'n com na seamraig.

Fo cheannsal anail nan gaoth tlàth, Bha choill tha càirdeil, 's i ri dannsadh, Geugan a' pògadh càch-a-chéile, 'S iad gu léir 'nan éideadh annsail; Meòir fo bhlàth gu bàrr nan crannaibh, Gu h-ùr, fàilleanach, greannar, Cruthachadh nan cnù 's nan mogail, Bhios 'gam pronnadh oidhche shamhna.

An uiseag 's an smeòrach fhonnmhor, A' séideadh trompaid na maidne, Is èoin bhreac-bhallach nan coillean, Seinn gu h-aoibheach air gach gagan; Inneal-ciùil am bàrr gach craoibhe, Gobain adhairc 's ribheid fhallain, Muineal réidh air nach bi tìchadh, 'S deagh chluais-chiùil mar stiùir air anail.

Seo an latha 's fhiach bhith luaidh air, 'S anail nuadh dol anns gach creutair, Laoigh a' beiceadh air an fhìreach, 'S uain a' mìreadh air na sléibhtibh; Eunlaith mhònaidh, le'n guir oga—'N àit bhith smògail faic air sgéith iad, 'S cuileagan bha lag 's a' gheamhradh Nis a' danns' an gath na gréine.

Biolair uaine 'm bun gach fuarain, Biadh an ruadh-bhuic is na h-earbaig, Suas gu bràgh nam beann as àirde, Samhradh àigh air faighinn seallb' orr'. Tha air glaic, air lag, is còmhnd, Deise bhòidheach gun aon chear' orr'. 'S ribhinn àrd nan speur 'na h-àbhaist Fadadh blàths 's gach àit gun dearmad.

CALUM CAIMBEUL MACPHAIL

(*Nach maireann.*)

Gaelic Orthography

Recommended Forms

It is notorious that there is as yet no generally agreed standard of Gaelic orthography, although we are much nearer a common standard now than previously. Each writer has his own preferences. It seems desirable, however, that every effort should be made towards an accepted standard. For some time the Central Gaelic Committee of the Educational Institute of Scotland have had the matter under consideration, and they recommend that the orthography in the latest edition of MacEachan's Gaelic Dictionary be commonly used, with the exception of those words listed here. Here follows the Committee's list of Recommended Forms.

A

abair, thubhairt	am (<i>time</i>)
a bheil	am measg
achanaich	an—annam
achuinge	annad
a' cur	ann
adhar (<i>air</i>)	innte
ag (<i>before vowels</i>), e.g.	annainn
ag òl.	annaibh
a' (<i>before consonants,</i>	annta
<i>except ràdh</i>), e.g.,	an dé
a' bualadh, a'	a nis
caoidh, a' gearradh,	anns a' (<i>before c, g, b,</i>
<i>but ag ràdh.</i>	<i>m, p</i>)
a ghnàth	anns a' chath (<i>not anns</i>
a h-uile	<i>an chath</i>)
aig—agam,	an uiridh
agad,	aon-deug
aige	ardorus
aice	a réir
againn	arrachd
agaibh	as—asam
aca	asad
aifreann,—rinne,—rinn	as
aimbeart	aisde
air—orm	asainn
ort	asaibh
air	asda
oirre	as fhaide
oirnn	as ùr
oirbh	athraichean
orra	
airgead	
air son	
am (<i>in my</i> , etc.)	
'nam	balg
'na	banais
'nad	banrigh
'na	bantrach
'na	bàr (<i>bar</i>)
'nar	barrall
'nur	bàth (<i>foolish</i>)
'nan,	beanntag
'nam	beart
	beartach
	beartaich
	beathach

B

beuglaid	C
beul	cabhall
beul-oideas	cabhraich
b'fhéarr	cachaileith
bhitheadh/bhiodh	caidreabh
(<i>alternative</i>)	cainntearachd
bhitheas/bhios	càisg, a' Chàisg
(<i>alternative</i>)	càite? càit? (<i>before</i>
bithidh/bidh	<i>vowels</i>)
(<i>alternative</i>)	calainn
bho—bhuam	callda
bhuat	calltainn
bhuaidhe	cam
bhuaipe	camas
bhuainn	canaichean
bhuaibh	cante
bhuaipa	caoraich
biath (<i>verb</i>)	caorann (<i>rowan</i>)
biataiche	capall
binndeach	carghas
biogail	càrnach
biorach	car son
bitheanta	cas-chrom
bladh	casgair
blàthaich	cathair-easbuig
blàths	ceannfhionn
blonag	ceàrd
bocsa	ceilear
boiceann	ceirtle
boiteag	ceud
bonaid	cha dubhairt
bonn-a-sia	cha tàinig
borbair	cha tug
botal	chan, chan 'eil
bracaist	ciamar
brag	cias
brannaidh	ciatach
bràth, gu bràth	ciobair
breacadh-sianain	cion-fàth
brèagha	clach-liomhaidh
brèòth	claisdeachd
brìogais	cleachdte
bris	cli
britheamh	cliùc
broclach	cnàmhte
brùdhearg	cobharach
brugh	coguis
bruith	coibhneas
buabhall	coibhneil
buidleair	coingeis
buidsear	coinnlean
buigire	coireal
bùlas	coisrig
buthaid	coitcheann
bùthan (<i>plural of bùth</i>)	comhalta
busan (<i>dimin. of bus</i>)	comh-iomlanachd

còmhnaidh, an
 còmhnaidh
 còmhradh
 comunn
 corca
 cràdh-ghèadh
 creamh
 croitearan
 cuanta
 cuartaich
 cugann
 cuibhle
 cuibhreann
 cuibhric
 cuidhtich
 cuidhte 's e.
 cuime
 cuimrig
 cullach
 cunradh, cunnradh
 curaidh
 currac
 cuthach

D

dà-fhaobharach
 daga
 daingeann
 dailean, daileach
 dallbhrat
 damhasg
 daoiread
 dathan
 de—dhìom
 dhìot
 dheth
 dhith
 dhinn
 dhìbh
 dhiùbh
 deachdair
 deagh bheart
 deamhas
 deamhan
 deante (*participle*)
 deargte
 deich-shlisneach
 déidh, an déidh
 (*after*)
 deilich
 deileachadh
 deiseil (*ready*)
 det-iach (*it-iach*)
 di—Di-luain
 Di-màirt
 Di-ciadain
 Diar-daoin
 Di-haoine
 Di-sathairn
 Di-Dòmhnach

dilleachdan
 dìnnear
 dìobair
 dìosgan
 diugh, an diugh
 diùmach,
 diùmbach
 dleasdanas
 dlòth
 dlùth-lean
 do—dhomh
 dhut
 dha
 dhi
 dhuinn
 dhuibh
 dhaibh
 dòbheart
 do'n (*to the*), do'n
 chloinn.
 dorgh
 draoidh, draoidhean
 draoidheachd
 dreachd
 dreun, dreunach
 dripeil
 drong
 dubh-chlèan
 dubh-dhearg
 dubh ghlac
 dubh-ghorm
 dùbhradh
 dùl, g. dula
 dùrachd
 duraman
 dùth

E

èad
 èadmhor
 eadar—eadarainn
 eadarraibh
 eatorra
 eadh, seadh, chan
 eadh.
 ealamh
 ealchlainn
 eanchainn
 eanghlas
 earball
 earr-dhris
 earr-dhubh
 earr-ghloir
 earr-lann
 eibhreannach
 éigh
 eildear, eildearachd
 éisdear
 eisimpleir
 eitheach,—ich
 (*perjury*)

eòin
 euceart, eu-ceartas

F

facal
 fad-lámhach
 faiceall, faiceallach
 faicsinneach
 failmean
 fàitheam
 falaich
 falbheart,
 falbheartach
 falmhaich
 famhair, famhair
 faochainn
 faodaidh
 faoighe
 faontraigh
 far-aon
 farasda (*gentle*)
 farbhonn
 farbhuille
 fàrdan
 fàrradh (*litter*)
 fearr
 feasgar
 feòil
 fhasa, na's fhasa
 fhian, an Fhian
 fhuilear
 fiamh-ghaire
 fiodhrach-tarsainn
 flogais
 fìor-aithris
 fìor-chinnteach
 fìorchrann
 fìor-dhìleas
 fìorfhuil
 fìorghlan
 fìreun
 flaitheas
 fìon
 fo—fodham
 fodhad
 fodha
 fòipe
 fodhainn
 fodhaibh
 fòpa
 foidhidinn
 foidhidneach
 fòil
 foireann
 fòirme
 foras
 frith-ainm
 frithainmich
 frith-eilean
 fuairad
 fuarbheann

fuardhealt
 fuarlit
 fuidheall
 fuiling
 fulang
 fulaisg,—asgadh
 furasda (*easy*) (*not*
 farasda)

G

gallchnu
 gall-sheileasdar
 gasraidh
 gearr
 gearrbhonn
 geata (*masc.*)
 geimhleag
 géiread
 gèilb
 giorrad
 giuthas
 glìce
 goibhneachd
 grioglachan
 grùilach
 grùrach
 gu—chugam/thugam
 chugad/thugad
 chuige/thuige
 chuire/thuice
 chugainn/
 thugainn
 chugaibh/
 thugaibh
 chuca/thuca
 guala, gualainn
 gùda
 gu robh

I

im, ime
 imeach
 inean
 innear
 ioma
 iongnadh
 ionnas
 ionnsaigh
 ìosal
 ith

L

lachdunn
 làithean
 làmhchar
 làmhcharachd
 làn-ùghdaras
 laiceann
 latha
 le—leam
 leat
 leis
 leatha

le--leinn
leibh
leotha, leò
leabaidh, leaba,
leapaichean,
leapannan

leamhnad
leamhnagan
leac-oghre
leisg
leisgean
leómhann
lethchiallach
letheach
lìonn
liosraig
loch-bhléan
losgann
luach-saothrach
lùig, lùigeachdainn
luirg
Lúnasdal

M

mac-brathair-
seanmhar
machair Ghallda
machrach
mar an ceudna
meadhon
mèaran
meiltair
meomhar
miniceann
minig
minshuil
mònach
motha
muilleán (*bundle of
straw*)
muirsgian
mu—umam
umad
uime
uimpe
umainn
umaibh
umpa

mum, mun, mus
(*before*)

mura
mura bi
mura bithinn
mura robh

N

na b' fhaide
nach tug
nan, nam (*if*)
na's
na's fhaide
neamhaid
ní (*a thing*)

ní (*will do*)
nithean

O

oighre
oisean
òrdugh
othaisg

P

paidhir
pàilleán
peàrd
peilistear
peirigil
pic
pine
piobair
plùch
prais
puthar

R

ràitheil
rann, rainn
rathad, rathaidean,
ròidean
réitich
reòdhte
reothairtean
reothart
ri—rium
riut
ris
rithe
ruinn
ruibh, ribh
riutha, riù
rìghinn (*tough*)
rioban
rionnach
rionnag
roimh—romham
romhad
roimhe
roimhpe
romhainn
romhaibh
romhpa

ròs-chrann
ròsta

S

sail, sailean
sàl
'san (anns an)
saoi, saoidhean
saoibhir
saoithean (*saithe*)
saorsnachd
seacaid
seadhan
sealltainn
seanaois
seanmhair

sear
seargte
seo
sgealb, -ilb
sèimh
sgian, sgine, sgeanan
sgiol
sgonnbalach
sgonnchu
sgriobhte
sia
sian (*storm*)
siantan (*elements*)
sin
sinn-seanmhair
sion (*anything*)
siorram
siorraidh
sios
sitig, sitigeán

siud
siùil
slat, slaithe
sliasaid, sléisde,
sléisdean
smaoinich
smùir
snàthad, snàthaide
sneachd
snighe
snòt
sonraich, sonrachadh
sonraichte
sopan
spliùcan
spliuchan
sriathartaich
stàth
stùir
stoc, stuic
suaichneas
sul

T

tachrais
taibhse
-te—cante
cleachdte
cnàmhte
dèante
deargte
reòdhte
seargte
sgriobhte
tein-adhair
teirinn, teàrnadh
teò
teth
thar—tharam/
thairis orm
tharad/
thairis ort

thar—thairis air
thairis oirre
tharainn/
thairis oirnn
tharaibh/
thairis oirbh
tharta/
thairis orra

tighearna
timcheall
tiormaich
tobair (*fem.*), tobrach
tocsaid
todhar
toighe, toghaidh
toirsgian
traon
trath-nòin
treasa, na's treasa
trilleachan
troich
troimh—tromham
tromhad
troimhe
troimhpe
tromhainn
tromhaibh
tromhpa

trom-laighe
truileis
truinnsair
tuilleadh
tuireadh
tùrsa, tùrsach
tùisear
turus

U

ucas
ugh, uighean
uidh air n-uidh
uidheam
uinnleag
uiridh, an uiridh
uisge
umha
ùpraid
urchoid
ùrlar
ùrnugh

An Spàinn
Dun Blathain
Dun Eideann
Dun Phàrlain
Earra Ghàidheal
Obar Eadhain
Rudha Rodhanais
Beinn Nibheis
Gleann Urchaidh
Loch Abar, etc.
(*without hyphen*)

Iomhas A' Chomuinn

Treasurer's Notes

NATIONAL MOD—PERTH, 1954.

Received at Perth:—

Gaelic Society of Perth	£50 — —
Mrs. Gatt, Coupar Angus	2 — —
Mrs. Murray, Perth (Coffee Morning 21/3/53)	10 10 —
Mrs. Robertson, Perth	2 10 —
Local Dance Committee (1/4/53)	49 7 —
Mrs. Malcolm, Perth	1 5 —
Concert, North Church Hall, 9/4/53	16 2 6
Accordion Concerts, City Hall, Perth	55 — —
Miss E. Mackinnon, Perth	1 5 —
Mrs. D. Dickson, Perth	4 — —
Whist Drives and Competitions	21 — —
R. W. Macdonald, Esq., Perth	11 1 7
Scone Coronation Dance, 22/5/53	22 14 7
Mrs. R. Mackinnon, Perth (Coffee Morning)	21 7 —
Concert in North Church Hall, Perth, 12/6/53	11 1 7
Concert at Rait, 18/9/53	11 10 8
„ „ Fowlis Wester, 11/9/53	— 15 7
„ „ Rhynd	11 9 1
Dances at Rhynd, 4/9/53	} 18 7 3
„ „ Fowlis Wester, 11/9/53	
„ „ Rait, 18/9/53	
Whist Drive at Rhynd	6 10 —
Whist Drive	12 10 1
R. W. Macdonald, Esq., Perth	12 18 —
Concert, City Hall, Perth, 13/11/53	84 7 9
Mrs. Findlay, Perth	— 14 —
Mrs. D. Dickson, Perth	2 10 —
Mrs. Cameron and Mrs. Black, Perth	4 10 —
Catherine M. Fraser	7 16 —
Mr. Macpherson, Perth	7 17 —
Various Donations	2 11 —
Miss McKerracher, Methven	5 — —
Mrs. Mutch, Perth	3 18 6
Dances at Murthly, 9/10/53	} 63 15 4
„ „ Bridge of Earn, 16/10/53	
„ „ Auchterarder, 6/11/53	
„ „ Perth, 20/11/53	
„ „ Cluny, 4/12/53	} 7 16 3
Catherine M. Fraser	
Mrs. J. Moir, Perth	
Coffee Morning in Lesser City Hall 27/1/54	20 — —
Concert at Coupar Angus, October, 1953	43 16 9
Whist Drive Committee	3 5 —
Table Lamp Auction—Mrs. Cameron, Rhynd	2 14 —
Miss R. M. G. Macpherson	15 — —
Mrs. Small and Mrs. Macpherson	5 — —
Concert in Victoria Hall, Coupar Angus, 15/1/54	32 17 7
Dance at Fowlis Wester Hall, 15/1/54	} 41 8 2
Scottish Country Dance, City Halls, 20/2/54	
Concert, Wolfhill, 5/2/54	
„ „ Perth, 25/2/54	} 6 4 9
„ „ Killin, 26/2/54	
	£716 7 —

Received at Headquarters:—

Clan Munro Association	3 — —
Sutherland Provincial Mod Committee	5 — —
Mr. Duff, Fort William	3 3 —

£727 10 —

MAGAZINE FUND.

Previously acknowledged	£12 2 —
Miss J. B. Stewart, Blairgowrie	— 11 6
Dr. John MacLeod, Fraserburgh	— 10 6
John A. D. McIntosh, Esq., Glasgow	— 12 6

£13 16 6

Highlanders' Institute Fund

AN appeal has been sent to Highlanders throughout the world to rally to the fund that has been launched to provide a new social Centre for Highlanders in Glasgow. The appeal is a "fiery cross" to all clansmen, summoning them to the support of this venture aimed at providing a "Home from Home" for all Highlanders in the city of Glasgow—the most Highland of all cities.

In conjunction with the fund a Grand Bazaar is to be held in Glasgow on 3rd, 4th, and 5th June, 1954. The entire St. Andrew's Halls has been taken over for this Bazaar.

Throughout Scotland, goods are being collected for the Bazaar. In many a small village in the far North the women folk are busy knitting articles for sale. Several Societies in Glasgow are providing wool and other material free for goods to be made that will help in bringing in the required £50,000.

This is the biggest combined Highland effort for many years, and has the backing of thousands of Highlanders in Glasgow and throughout the World.

Here is a cause well worthy of all the support that Gaels at home and abroad can give.

Appointments

Mr. Donald J. Maclean, Bernera, Harris, has accepted appointment as Northern Organiser of An Comunn Gaidhealach, and has now entered upon his duties.

Miss Catherine Macleod has been appointed Clerkess in the Glasgow Office of An Comunn.

To both we give a cordial welcome. Mr. Frederick E. G. Macaulay, M.A., North Uist, has been appointed by the B.B.C. to succeed Mr. F. J. Macdonald as Gaelic Assistant. We wish him well in his new duties.

(Continued from p. 36)

Onich, and found preparations for the local Mod in progress. At Banavie six additional members were enrolled in Comunn na h-Oigridh.

Thursday, 25th March, found me in the Badenoch area. From observations made at Newtonmore, Kingussie, Nethy Bridge, Aviemore, and Dulnain Bridge, I found steady preparation for the first Mod of the session at Grantown-on-Spey on 30th April.

On the following day, 26th March, I proceeded to Glasgow to attend the all-Gaelic meeting of the Executive Council of An Comunn on the following morning. On my way back I called at Fort William to consult with Mr. Lachlan MacKinnon about Camps and Schools to be held at Cnòc-nan-Ròs, Tain, in July and August.

D. McP.

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Feasgar trang 'san Osd-thigh (C) ...	Original: Ranald C. MacDonald ...	4 M.
Spuir na h-Iolaire	The Eagle's Claw — McPhail	2 F. 5 M.
Sios chun na Mara (D)	Down to the Seas — Stuart Ready ...	3 F. 3 M.
Domhnall Dearg (C)	The Five Year Plan — Stewart	2 F. 3 M.
Am Bàta-Luath (T)	The Grenadier — Malloch	3 F. 2 M.
An t-Airgiod-Cinn (D)	The Rising of the Moon — Gregory ...	4 M.
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An t-Suirghe Fhadalach (C)	Love Lingers On — Gordon Wright ...	4 F. 2 M.
Or Choigreach (C)	Stranger's Gold — Evan John	3 F. 3 M.
Am Bodach-Ròcais (C)	The Scarecrow — Ferguson	2 F. 2 M.
Suirghe a' Mhuilleir (C)	The Miller's Wooing — Cocker	2 F. 2 M.
An Seann Tarbh (C)	The Old Bull — Bernard Gilbert	1 F. 4 M.
Am Poidsear (C)	The Poacher — J. O. Francis	1 F. 3 M.
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C—Comedy

T—Tragedy

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AN GÀIDHEAL THE GAEL

Vol. XLIX

JUNE, 1954

No. 6

Annas A' Ghleann 'S An Robh Mi Og

Fhuair mi na làraich, fàsail, falamh—

An àirigh 's am b'abhaist tàmh a ghabhail

Gun sealgair, gun bhàrd, gun nàmh a' bhradain—

B'e fàth làn-aigheir bhith còmh' riu.

'S na doireachan dlùth 'n robh sùgradh 's aighear,

Chan fhaicear le sùil ach cùirt nan taighean,

Gun eilid air stùchd, is—crùnadh m'airtneil—

Luchd-ciùil nam beannaibh air fògar.

Aonghus MacEacharna.



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CLAR-INNSIDH

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Leabhar XLIX

AN T-OG-MHIOS, 1954

Aireamh 6

La Ur Do Na Croitearan?

TRI bliadhna air ais chuir Rùnaire na Stàite air son na h-Alba air chois Chomhairle a rannsachadh agus a bheachdachadh mu shuidheachadh nan croitearan anns a' Ghaidhealtachd. Is e an t-Ollamh Tómas Mac an Tàilleir, Prionnsapal Oil-thaigh Obar-dheadhain, a bha mar Cheann-suidhe air a' Chomhairle, agus leis-san air an ceann rinn a' Chomhairle siubhal is rannsachadh an iomadh ceàrn, eadar Sealtainn is Ile agus 'bho Inbhir-Theòrsa gu Eilean Idhe. Chuir iad cuairt air an Eilean Fhada gu h-iomlan, agus bha iad anns a' mhór-chuid de na h-eileanan eile.

Ann an ceud taobh-duilleig tha a' Chomhairle a' cur an cèill mar a tha cùisean, a réir is mar a chuala is mar a chunnaic iadsan, na h-aobharan a tha air cùl an t-suidheachaidh, agus mar an ceudna nithean as còir a dheanamh gun dàil a chum is gun tig leasachadh.

Mar a dh'fhaodadh dùil a bhith, tha mòran anns an leabhar seo nach 'eil aon chuid ùr no annasach do neach sam bith a tha eòlach air eachdraidh na Gaidhealtachd agus a tha a' gabhail ùidh ann an cùisean an là an diugh. Nach iomadh comhairle a bha ann, agus nach iomadh rannsachadh mór a rinneadh, agus nach iomadh facal a chaidh a ràdh mu chor na Gaidhealtachd!

Tha àitean soirbheachail agus croitearan soirbheachail an siod is an seo air feadh na Gaidhealtachd. Chan 'eil bochdainn air feadh

na dùthcha an diugh mar a bha anns na linntean a dh'fhalbh. Tha na "taighean dubha" air dol gu ìre glé mhóir á bith agus eadhon á cuimhne. Tha goireasan ùra aig daoine agus comhfhurtachd nach robh aig an seanairean.

Ach, a dh' aindeoin sin, tha an slugh a' falbh agus tha bailtean a' dol fàs. Agus sin a chionn is nach 'eil obair an fhearainn a' tàladh dhaoine mar a bha, oir chan 'eil duais no beòshlaint chothromach an cois an fhearainn do'n mhór-chuid. Mar sin, tha mòran chroitean falamh, fàs, gun neach a' fuireach orra no 'gan oibreachadh; móran eile le feadhainn a' fuireach orra ach fhathast gun iad air an oibreachadh. Agus, aig a' cheart ám, tha fir òga ann a mhiannaicheadh fearann fhaoitinn, agus chan 'eil iad a' faighinn a' chothroim.

Gu dé, ma thà, a tha a' Chomhairle a' moladh a chum is gun deanar leasachadh? A réir am barail-san, is e freumh a' ghnòthaich gu bheil cus de na croitean ro-bheag agus feumar am meudachadh. Faodar am meudachadh le tuathanasan móra a roinn a mach 'nan gabhalaichean cuimseach, no faodar a dhà no trì no barrachd de na croitean beaga a chur còmhla agus aon chroit mhór a dheanamh dhiubh.

A nis, a réir an lagha mar a tha cheana, tha ùghdarras aig Rùnaire na Stàite agus aig Bòrd an Aiteachais an dà rud sin a dheanamh— gabhalaichean beaga a mheudachadh agus

gabhalachan ùra a shuidheachadh. Ach chan 'eil iad a' deanamh sin, agus is beag a rinn iad de'n obair sin anns an fhichead bliadhna mu dheireadh.

Mar sin, tha a' Chomhairle ag ràdh gun feumar dol an car na h-oibre seo gun dàil, agus gu bheil feum air buidheann no Coimision (is dòcha còigear dhaoine comasach dealasach) aig am bi airgead is ùghdarras bho'n Stàit an obair seo a ghabhail os làimh agus gach seòladh is cuideachaidh is misneachadh a thoirt do na croitearan.

Mar thoradh air Achd nan Croitearan còrr is trì fichead bliadhna air ais, shuidhicheadh Coimision nan Croitearan a rinn obair mhath fad ùine, agus an dèidh sin Bòrd a' Chongested (mar a theirte) a rinn obair fheumail cuideachd. Ach chaidh an dà bhuidheann sin á bith, agus tha feum air an leithid an digh.

Cha tric leis an Rìaghaltais gabhail gu sgiobalta ri earailean a bheirear dhaibh le comhairle no comunn sam bith. Mar sin, is cuis-misnich e, an dearbh là air an tugadh Iomradh na Comhairle am follais, gun do gheall Rùnaire na Stàite ann an Taigh nan Cumantag gun cuireadh e air chois Coimision ùr a chum leas nan croitearan, mar a dh'ìarradh air.

Tha a' Chomhairle a' moladh gur còir a chur mar fhìachaidh air gach croitear a bhith 'na chòmhnaidh air a' chroit no an taobh a staigh de dhà mhìle bhuaipe, agus faodaidh am Coimision an fearann a thoirt bho neach sam bith nach dean sin, ach fàgaidh iad an taigh aige air chùmhantant sònraichte.

Mar an ceudna, a thaobh sheann croitearan nach 'eil ag oibreachadh an cuid fearainn, thàtar a' moladh cothrom a thoirt dhaibh-san a' chroit a leigil seachd ach a mhàin criomag fearainn mu'n taigh, agus an taigh a ghabhail air chùmhantant (ach saor o chisean).

A thaobh an dà phuing seo—croitearan nach 'eil a' gabhail còmhnaidh air an cuid croitearan agus seann croitearan nach 'eil ag oibreachadh an cuid fearainn—tha ìreamh riaghailtean is chùmhantant air an toirt air aghaidh, a chum is gun deanar ceartas do gach neach, ach chan 'eil ùine againn am mìneachadh an seo.

Cheana tha còir aig croitear a chroit a thiomnadh no a shuidheachadh air neach sam bith de a luchd-dàimh, ach tha a' Chomhairle a' moladh cead a thoirt a' chroit a thiomnadh no a shuidheachadh air neach sam bith, eadhon an taobh a mach de a dhàimhich.

Tha mòran eile ann an leabhran na Comhairle-rannsachaidh, ach tha a' mhòr-cuid de na h-earailean aca an crochadh air an ùghdarras a bheirear do'n Choimision ùr a chuirear air chois.

Air a' Chomhairle-rannsachaidh cha robh ach aon bhoireannach, Mairead Bean

Dhonnchaidh Mhic a' Phearsain á Port-ruigh-eadh. Ged tha ise ag aontachadh leis a' mhòr-chuid de earailean de bheachdan na Comhairle, tha beachdan eadar-dhealaichte aice mu chuspair no dhà, agus gu sònraichte mu aon phuing. Tha i glé làidir anns a' bheachd gur còir an Stàit a bhith mar uachdaran air an fhearann a shuidhichear air croitearan. Tha mi fhéin de'n cheart bheachd, agus tha mi an dòchas gun greasair roinn an fhearainn 'na gabhalachan cuimseach. Tha a' mhòr-chuid de na seann chroitean cus ro-bheag, agus ged chuirteadh a dhà no trì dhiubh ri chèile a dheanadh aon chroit mhòir, cha mhór a b'fheàrr de'n chroit sin, leis cho mì-fhreagarrach agus a tha mòran de fhearann nan seann chroitean sin.

Tha ann an leabhran na Comhairle na chumas cagnadh is connsachadh ri daoine fad ùine mhòir. Ach is e gnìomh is deanadas a ghreasair là an t-soirbheachaidh, agus chan e bruidheann is argumaid.

Is aobhar-misnich e gu bheil a' Chomhairle-rannsachaidh làn-chinnteach gun aiseigear soirbheachadh do chroitearan na Gaidhealtachd ma théid daoine an car a' ghnòthaich gu glic is gu h-easgaidh.

Promoting Gaelic in Nova Scotia

The latest Report of the Adult Education Division of the Nova Scotia Department of Education describes the work done by the Gaelic Adviser, Major C. I. N. Macleod. Old and new Scottish organisations have been very active, and the recently formed Nova Scotia Association of Scottish Societies is now well established. Public interest has increased. A total of 232 adults attended fifteen classes in language, piping, and dancing, and many activities for children are separately conducted. Summer school courses for teachers were provided and greatly appreciated. Major Macleod contributes Gaelic articles and broadcasts and uses every opportunity through the press, the radio, and public addresses to foster interest and activity in the Scottish heritage in Nova Scotia. He has recorded from native speakers a few unpublished Gaelic songs and folk-tales, and appreciative mention is made of the publishing of his own Gaelic poems and melodies, *An t-Eilthireach*. Major Macleod aided those responsible for forming a new Scottish society in Prince Edward Island, and he has given active help in the planning of gatherings and schools, such as those at Antigonish, Pugwash, and Halifax, and he is in constant demand as an adjudicator.

A Heavy Loss to Gaeldom

The Late Prime Minister of Nova Scotia



"Weekly Scotsman" Photo.

At the Jubilee Mod, Oban, October 1953, Mr. Angus L. Macdonald with Mr. J. M. Bannerman, Provost John MacLachlan and Mr. Neil Shaw.

IT is with very great regret that we learned of the death in hospital at Halifax, Nova Scotia, on 13th April, of the Hon. Angus Lewis Macdonald, P.C., Q.C., B.A., LL.D., Prime Minister of Nova Scotia. He was 64 years of age.

Last October at the Jubilee National Mod in Oban, Mr. Macdonald, accompanied by his wife, won for himself a secure place in the respect and affection of the great crowds present. To all who had personal contact with him he was the most genial of friends, while his eloquent public utterances both in Gaelic and in English will long be remembered. During his visit to this country last year he had various important duties to perform, but it was manifest that participation in the great Jubilee Mod was his chief interest and delight.

A great-grandson of an emigrant from Moidart, Inverness-shire, to Nova Scotia, a century and a half ago, Angus L. Macdonald was born at Dunvegan, Inverness County, in Cape Breton, and was a graduate of St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish. He was severely wounded while serving as a Captain in the Canadian Highland Brigade during the First World War. In 1921 he became Assistant Deputy Attorney-General of Nova Scotia, and in the early 1920's was elected leader of the

Nova Scotia Liberal Party. In 1933 he became Prime Minister of Nova Scotia and continued in that high office until his death, with the exception of the period between 1940 and 1945 during the Second World War when he did excellent work as Canadian Minister of Defence for Naval Services. During his tenure of this responsible office, the Canadian Navy grew from some half-a-dozen ships and 2,000 men to 500 ships and 90,000 men.

In his moving speech at the official opening of the Jubilee Mod, Mr. Macdonald said:

"Tha farsaingeachd cuain eadarainn, ach ann an Albainn Nuaidh tha an fhuil blàth agus an cridhe Gaidhealach, mar a thuit am bàrd, agus, ged tha sinn measail air an dùthaich anns a bheil sinn a' tàmh, tha pàirt mhór de'n chridhe ann an dùthaich ar sinnsirean, anns an t-seann dùthaich." "The ties that unite the Old Scotland and the New," he said, "are long established and, I believe, unbreakable."

Presiding at one of the Mod Concerts Mr. Macdonald said that it was not now necessary, if it ever was necessary, to apologise for the continuance of Gaelic and for the Gael's cherishing of his ancestral language. Gaelic had entered into the fibre of our being. In Nova Scotia, he said, one person in 25 spoke Gaelic; in Scotland less than one in 50. There

was room for recruiting much support from the Gaels in Canada. Even where Gaelic seemed to have disappeared, important traces lingered. Citing the illustration of a certain bay in Nova Scotia where the sea tides penetrate far inland, leaving the tang of the sea far from the sea-coast, Mr. Macdonald expressed his conviction that Gaelic still could be revived where it no longer seemed to be, and he went on to quote:—

Say not the struggle nought availeth,
The labour and the wounds are vain,
The enemy faints not nor faileth,
And as things have been they remain.

If hopes were dupes, fears may be liars;
It may be in yon smoke concealed
Your comrades chase e'en now the fliers,
And, but for you, possess the field.

For while the tired waves, vainly breaking,
Seem here no painful inch to gain,
Far back, through creeks and inlets making,
Comes silent, flooding in, the main.

And not by eastern windows only,
When daylight comes, comes in the light;
In front the sun climbs slow, how slowly,
But westward, look, the land is bright!

We salute the memory of a great and humble man, one of the finest types of his race.

Naidheachd Na h-Airde Tuath

NOTES FROM THE NORTH

ON 28th April, I was at Swordale, and met the students on arrival at Evanton for the School for Leaders of Comunn na h-Oigridh. On the following day I took a party to assist at a Concert at Grantown-on-Spey in aid of the Badenoch-Strathspey Provincial Mod Funds.

On Saturday I returned to Swordale and assisted generally. The Ceilidh held in the evening was very successful, with Mr. Hume D. Robertson and Mr. Alasdair Fraser as guest artistes, from Beauly and Conon Bridge respectively. The School closed on the 13th.

On Tuesday, 15th April, I took two artistes to the monthly meeting of the Tain Branch. We had a good attendance and I had the pleasure of attending the Annual General Meeting of the Branch before the Ceilidh commenced.

Because of the increase in entries at the Wester Ross Provincial Mod to be held at Ullapool, it was necessary to get two additional adjudicators. The entries exceed the 300 mark.

The new Organiser for the Northern Area commenced duties on 20th April, and, at the request of An Comunn, I am standing by Mr. Maclean for a month or so until he becomes acquainted with his multifarious duties.

We both attended the Badenoch-Strathspey Provincial Mod held at Grantown-on-Spey

on 30th April, and we were also together at the Wester Ross Provincial Mod at Ullapool on 14th May. We welcome Mr. MacLean as the Northern Organiser and hope that he will find the work congenial and worthwhile. He comes to Inverness with a good record and in the course of his duties throughout the Garbh-chriochan he will find ample opportunities for his talents.

D. McP.

Naidheachd Bho Dheas

NOTES FROM THE SOUTH

Dunoon

The Dunoon Branch held its annual concert in the local Burgh Hall on 23rd April. Mr. Neil Shaw, who was introduced by Mr. MacGeachy, President, occupied the Chair, and in his opening remarks made feeling reference to the passing of Mr. Donald Buie who had been associated with the Branch since its formation in 1908. He was a member of the first Committee and for a long period acted as Secretary. He also conducted a Gaelic Reading Class with much success. His death, which took place in November last, was a distinct loss to the Branch and to the cause of Gaelic in Dunoon.

There was a good attendance at the Concert, and the Gaelic artistes were Miss Aunice Gillies and Mr. Iain R. Douglas, who ably deputised for Mr. Donald MacVicar who was indisposed. Mr. T. G. Henderson, Director of Education for the County, moved a comprehensive vote of thanks at the close. A dance followed. Mr. and Mrs. Shaw were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Neil MacLean during their visit.

Ayr

What is becoming an annual event of pleasant and artistic entertainment in the life of the Gaelic community in Ayr is the Concert given by the Ayr Junior Gaelic Choir. Under the able conductorship of Mr. Donald MacIsaac, the Choir has already gained honours at the local Musical Festival, and many readers will recall the splendid appearance they made at the Glasgow Local Mod last year. The Concert was held in the Civic Theatre, an eminently suitable place for such a gathering.

The Choir sustained the major part of the programme with choral items in Gaelic and Scots songs and solos by members. The guest artistes were Miss Aunice Gillies and Mr. John Hynds. The Choir is booked for the Perth Mod, and Mr. Neil Shaw, who presided, complimented the members and Conductor on their achievements and wished them a happy

(Continued on p. 45)



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar VI

AN T-OG-MHIOS, 1954

Aireamh 6

An Rud A Thig Leis A' Ghaoith

Le IAIN A. MACDHOMHNAILL.

CHA robh mòran de mhaoin an t-saoghail aig Eanraig Ruadh—dìreach bothan beag seasgair agus na dheanadh e fhéin aig deanamh chliabh anns a' gheamhradh agus shiomain as t-earrach. Bha Mór a bhean 'na boireannach deanadach dìcheallach cuideachd, agus, ma bha Eanraig math air a' chliabh agus air an t-sìoman fraoich, bha Mór a cheart cho ealanta gnìomhach an ceann na cuigeil agus na cuibhle.

Ged nach robh stòras no ionmhas air a bhùileachadh orra, bha iad fìor choibhneil agus fialaidh. Cha tàinig coigreach riamh an rathad nach d'fhuair cuid na h-oidhche agus iomadh uair cuid oidhche no dhà, bu choma co dhiubh a bu mhith no a bu mhaith e. B'ann air Eanraig agus air Mòir, ma tà, a stiùir am Freasdal an trìuir uaislean a chaill an iùl anns a' mhonadh aig deireadh an fhoghair bliadhna a bha siud. Abair gun d'fhuair iad aogheachd bho Eanraig agus bho Mhóir, agus cuid na h-oidhche còmhla ri sin.

An uair a bha iad a' togail orra chun a' bhaile an ath mhadainn, gu dé ach gun do shin fear aca cròglach airgid do Eanraig, agus e a' gabhail beannachd leotha aig ceann an taighe. Cha b'ann d'a dheòin a ghabh Eanraig an t-airgead, ach, feuch thusa riut, nach e fhéin a bha sòlasach an uair a chunntais e air a bhois deich buinn crùn! "Airgead mór," arsa esan ris fhéin, agus gu dearbh tha mi cinnteach nach fhaca Eanraig uibhir siud de airgead aige fhéin riamh, ceart cruinn còmhla.

Ach cha robh barail na gleusdachd aig Eanraig air Mòir chòir, agus is fheudar aitheachadh gun iomadh bonn a chosg i uair is uair air gòraiche,—“adaichean, còtaichean, brògan-laga, is dìth-tùir,” mar as minig a thuir Eanraig fhéin.

Dh'fheumte, shaoil Eanraig, a bhith faiceallach an turus seo, agus mar sin, gun ghuth gun ghabhadh a ràdh ri Mòir, chàraich Eanraig an t-airgead am pòcaid fìor sheann

chòta a bha aige an crochadh air chùl doras an t-sabhail.

Mar a b'abhaist, an là sin, dh'fhalbh Eanraig a bhuairean caoil chléibh anns a' Chòille Bhig. Bha a chridhe a' mire ris agus an sgian a' gearradh nan slat mar nach d'rinn i riamh roimhe. Thill e dhachaigh leis an deagh ghad mu àird fheasgair. Cha robh dragh no gruaim-ean air, agus e làn-chinnteach gun rachadh aige air seann mhart a cheannach roimh Bhealltainn. Agus an iongnadh idir ged chaidh e cha mhór air bhàinidh an uair a dh'innis Mór dha mu'n duine bhochd a thàinig an rathad, gun chòta gun aid, ag iarraidh déirce. Nach ann a bha truas aig Mòir ris agus cha dùraichdeadh i gun rud-eigin a thoirt dha!

Ach an t-sùil a thug Eanraig oirre an uair a chuala e mu'n chòta "'s gun ann ach an luideag," mar a thuir i fhéin! Ma bha Mór faoin roimhe, cha b'e an cliù a b'fhearr a thug Eanraig oirre am feasgar ud, ach cha leighis càineadh call. Cha robh guth air a' chòta ach sin fhéin, agus bha Eanraig anns a' Chòille Bhig mar a b'abhaist an ath là, ach cha robh a intinn cho fonnmhor no a sgian cho geur an là ud, agus is math gun fòghnadh a' ghobhar bhreac bliadhna no dhà fhathast. Le ceum trom, ged nach robh an gad ach beag an là ud, ghabh Eanraig am frith-rathad thar a' mhonaidh, agus dìreach an uair a bha e a' leigeil a analach air cùl na Creige Bàine, có a thachair air ach an trìuir uaislean! Dh'innis Eanraig bochd dhaibh mar a thachair, agus nach ann a thig fear eile de na h-uaislean deich buinn eile air agus leis a sin thug na h-uaislean an casan leotha. Cha robh fhios aig Eanraig bho'n t-saoghal dé a theireadh e no a dheanadh e, ach co-dhiubh chan fheumadh e guth a thoirt air seo ri Mòir. Smaoinich e gum b'fhearr dha gun an t-airgead a thoirt an còir an taighe, agus nach bu mhat an taigh-tasgaidh an garradh-riche am bràighe a' bhaile! Spàrr Eanraig an t-airgead an aon de thuill a' bhalla agus thug

e an taigh air cho sunndach sùrdail ri aois nan còig-bliadhna-deug.

Bha e air a bhonnabhaibh gu math tràth an ath mhadainn, agus, air eagal is nach b'ann ri bruid a bha e, siud suas thun a' ghàrraidh e ach, feuch thusa riut, sgeul cha robh air fìù bonn airgid, agus ged bhiodh Eanraig a' bùrach is a' rùrach am measg clachan a' ghàrraidh fhathast, sgeul chan fhaigheadh e air airgead. Cha robh air ach innseadh do Mhóir mu'n mhì-shealbh a thàinig orra a rithist, ach cha b'e sin a b'fhaide leis ach b'fheudar innseadh do'n trìuir uaislean an uair a thadhail iad orra an oidhche sin fhéin.

Bha na h-uaislean car dìombach gun teagamh, gu h-àraidh an treas fear nach tug dad dhaibh gu ruige seo, agus an uair a bha iad a' fàgail an taighe air an trobha seo nach ann a thilg esan cnap luaidhe air a' bhòrd ag ràdh gu fanaid-each, "Is dòcha gun deàn siud am barrachd feuma na nì airgead do bhur leithid." B'e Eanraig a' fhuair a chàineadh an oidhche ud, agus "is e a choisinn, an slaodaire dubh," arsa Mór.

Cha mhór feum a bha anns an luaidhe do Eanraig, agus thug Mór an cnap mar a bha e do iasgair a bha a' gabhail an rathaid, agus is esan a bha toilichte leis. Cha ghabhadh Mór sgillinn ruadh air a shon, agus an oidhche sin fhéin thadhail an t-iasgair orra a rithist agus thug e an trosq breagha ud do Mhóir. Is fhada o nach fhaca Mór a leithid roimhe agus 'na bhàd a ghabh i' g'halanadh air son na poite. Is ann dhi fhéin a thigeadh a dhòl an car na h-oibreachd seo agus cha b'fhada a bha i ris, ach bha rud-eigin cruinn cruaidh eadar am blian is cnàimh-droma an éisg. Chuir seo ionghnadh oirre, ach chuir e am barrachd ionghnadh

oirre an uair a chunnaic i gur e a bha ann clach chruinn chruaidh a' deàrrsadh gu h-iomadh-thach an solus an t-seòmair. Is beag a bha de eòlas aice fhéin no aig Eanraig air clachan luachmhor agus cha robh air ach a' chlach a chur an seotal na ciste còmhla ri rudan annasach eile a lorg Mór air an tràigh agus anns a' mhonadh.

Cha robh duine a thigeadh an rathad nach fhaiceadh a' chlach, agus mar sin bha a' chlach neònach iomraiteach thall 's a bhos an ùine gun a bhith fada. Aig toiseach an ath shamhraidh bha "Bodach nan Clach," mar a theireadh muinntir an àite ris, anns an sgìreachd a rithist. Chuala esan iomradh air a' chloich agus cha luaithe a chunnaic e i na thairg e deich puinn Shasannach do Mhóir air a' chloich—bha Eanraig anns a' choille an là sin a rithist. Cha b'e ruith ach leum le Mór a' chlach fhadail a sparradh 'na làimh.

Ma bha sùrd air Eanraig roimhe seo is ann a bha an sùrd air Mór a' tighinn dhachaigh as a' bhaile an là ud—ad ùr, còta agus brògan ùra, agus grinneasan beaga eile aice dhi fhéin agus do Eanraig.

"Cha tig," arsa Mór, "tràigh gun mhuir-làn 'na déidh."

Cha robh Eanraig buileach cinnteach, oir a réir coltais is iomadh slat agus gaiste a dh'fheumadh esan a bhuain agus a shniomh mum faighear mart roimh Bhealltann. Cha iobh móran carbsa aig Eanraig riamh am muir-làn; is i a' Choille Bheag móran a b'fheàrr dhàsan, ach, mur an robh e cinnteach riamh roimhe, bha a nis, gur fìor agus glìc an seanfhacal a thuir, "An rud a thig leis a' ghaoith, falbhaidh e leis an uisge."

Comhradh Nan Creutairean

BHA ròcais ann roimhe seo a bha air tòir còbhartaich dha fhéin, agus air a thurus goidear mulchag-chàise à uinneig taigh-àirigh; agus càit an deachaidh e g'a h-ithe ach do bhàrr craoibhe. Rinn e gurrach air spic; agus, sùil d'an tug e, ciod a chunnaic a shìos fodha ach gugarlach mor losgann 'ga bhliadhna fhéin ann an lub.

Bha sùilean an losgann 'nam faoban éitigh a' sginneadh troimh a chlaigeann. Bha e 'na shealladh, ar leis, cho ro-ait is gun do chuir e—ri faicinn an spliutaire shliomaich thruaigh—spliug de bhraoisg-ghàire air—an seòrsa spliug sin nach tig ach do'n ròcais agus e thoradh a ghean.

Goirid bho'n losgann bha soidearlach de dhamh còir sultmhor ag ionaltradh, agus baidnean uan a' cluaineis mu'n àilean, agus

greis mu seach aca air snòdadh bhileagan feòir agus bhlàthan.

Có a bhuail a staigh do cheann-shìos na cuithe ach gum b'e madadh-allaidh! Sgeadaich e e fhéin cho seòlta an deise de chulaidh-chaorach agus nach d'aitheann na h-uain có a bha aca. Chan e a mhàin sin, ach fear dhiubh a bha an uillebheist tiotan beag roimhe sin an deaghaidh a mhàthair ithe agus a craiceann a shuaineadh mu a ghualinne, ruith e gu soganach neochiontach 'na choinneamh, an dùil gum b'e a mhàthair!

"Hi-hi!" arsa an sìonnach, is e ag ealadh timcheall a' ghàrraidh an ionad a bha fo sgàil na craoibhe air an robh an ròcais 'na ghurrach a' gabhail beachd air an losgann a' coimhead air an damh le dà spleuchd-shùil a bha an impis

sgàineadh le farmad is gu bhith tachdte le ròcail sglàmhrainn.

“Nach baoth na h-uain fhéin! Seall thusa air a’ bhalgairé fhaoin mhèileanach ud nach ’eil ag aithneachadh a’ mhadaidh-allaidh fo chraiceann na caora! An seann chealgairé sin a dh’ith màthair ciorraidh an dé agus a dh’itheas e fhéin an nochd—hi-hi!”

Bha comhachag am falach ’na suain an còs an stoc craoibhe, agus anns na cuir a bha ann dùisgear.

“Pu-u-hù, fhir a th’ann, ged nach ’eil mi ’gad léirsinn, tha mi ’gad fhaireachdainn! Ma’s toigh le cuid de fheadhainn na h-uain, tha feadhainn ann air nach beag na geòidh,” arsa a’ chomhachag.

“Agus, a ghràidh nam ban, is toigh leatsa an luch,” arsa an sionnach.

“Bidh muinntir Sina ’gan ithe, tha iad ag ràdh,” arsa a’ chomhachag; “agus leugh mi an leabhar air chor-eigin gu bheil iad fuathasach déidheil air feòil chon,” arsa an t-seana-bhean chòir a rithist.

“O, tra nach do sgrios iad gach mac madaidh dhiubh bharr aghaidh na talmhainn!” arsa an sionnach.

“Agus leugh mi cuideachd an àit-eigin gum bi na Frangaich ag ithe nan losgann,” arsa a’ chomhachag. “A bheil thu an siod, a ghoistidh? Nach ann againn a bha a’ chomh-sheirm bhinn an raoir!”

“Ma bhios na Frangaich ag ithe mo chineil-sa, bidh na Sasannaich ag ithe mairtfeoil,” arsa an losgann le ròchd; “bithidh daimh, mhóra, mhosach, dhrealach, Ghallda.”

“Pu-u-hù!” arsa a’ chomhachag, “ar leam gun cuala mi sin gu dearbh, agus nach beag orra bonnach-an-t-sodail.”

“Ach có riamh a chuala gum biodh iad ag ithe nan comhachag, no nan sionnach, a bhean chòir?” arsa gille-nan-car. “No idir gun suidheadh iad sìos a chreim ròcais?” arsa an t-uasal a rithist agus e ri béic do’n t-seann ròcais a bha ’na ghurrach anns a’ chraoibh agus an càise aige ’na ghob. “Is triùir sinne nach cuirear am poit a leasachadh ruidht no ròic dhaoine—tha sinn os cionn sin.”

“Is mise eun a’ ghliocais,” arsa a’ chomhachag. “Bha mi fhéin agus an Seana-Ghaidheal ’nar companaich. Gheibhear gu tric mo dhealbh air a ghearradh air cùrn agus tùir na h-Eiphit.”

“Gu dearbh, chunnaic mi gu tric e air a ghearradh air àrd-dhorsan shaibhlean air a’ Ghalldachd,” arsa an sionnach, is e a’ cur braoise air fhéin. “Tha thu ad dheagh bhan-sgoilear, a bhan-ghoistidh, Is aithne dhòmhsa rud no dhà mi fhéin, ach is feudair dhomh aideachadh nach ’eil mi nam sgoilear. Is e gnothaichean an t-saoghail as mò a tha a’

tighinn fa-near dhomh. Is fear mi a tha a’ tighinn suas air mo luim fhéin—duine-uasal bharr na dùthcha, mar gun abradh tu.”

“Is ann a’ fochaid air an sgoilearachd a tha thu,” arsa a’ chomhachag, agus faichte-fanaid air a h-aodann àigh. “Bidh mise ri mòran leughaidh as t-oidhche.”

“Bithidh, a cheist, an uair a bhios mise ri sgoilearachd air feadh nan cearc ’s nan coileach air an spiris,” arsa an sionnach.

“Ach coma, is bochd nach ’eil sgoil agad,” arsa a’ chomhachag; “nam biodh sgoil agad, bheireadh an déile seo os mo chionn beagan fiosrachaidh dhuit.”

“Dé tha i ag ràdh,” arsa an sionnach.

“Chan urrainn domh leughadh ri solus an latha,” arsa a’ chomhachag, agus chaidh i anns a’ mhiananaich air a h-ais do chòs na craoibhe a chadal gu feasgar.

“Plumbas buntàta air a dubh-fhacail, b’e sin e!” arsa an sionnach agus e a’ sealltainn suas ris an ròcais.

“Saoil nach ann a tha a’ phròis ’nar ban-choimhearsnaich! Cha b’ionghnadh leam ach i—a’ gabhail oirre gliocas an t-saoghail a a bhith aice! Clod-cheann dall na caillich-oidhche—gu dearbh, nan abradh i na ròcais!”

An uair a bha an conaltradh seo a’ dol air adhart eadar na càirdean ud, bha an damh gu soimeach ag ithe an fheòir agus an losgann a’ dùr-bheachdachadh air le leithid de eud ri a mheudachd agus gun spùtadh e nimh air, nam b’urrainn da, agus gun sgàineadh e le neart farmaid, mur bhith nach robh sin ’na chomas.

Bha an t-uainean gun fhiamh, gun amharas, ’na shineadh ri taobh a’ mhadaidh-allaidh. A thaobh gun do ghabh esan a shàth de a mhàthair, cha do ghabh e fhathast gnothach ris. Ach, coma, bha lasadh a’ tighinn ’na shùilean agus toiseach aige air a fhiaclan a chasnadh, agus dh’èirich gurt is greann air ri cuimhneachadh gum b’fheàrrde e uainfheoil gu a shuipear.

“A! nach mòr na sùilean a th’agaibh!” arsa an t-uain agus e anns a’ mhèilich.

“Is ann as fheàrr a chì mi thu, a eudail.”

“A! nach mòr na tuigs a th’agaibh!”

“Is ann as fheàrr a dh’ith—.”

Mun robh am facal uile a mach as a bheul, thàinig an ràn déistinneach ud air feadh na cuithe, agus chlisg gach beò a bha innte leis an eagal. Ciod a bha an seo ach asal a fhuair fàth le tubaist air chor-eigin air boiceann leòghainn a chur uimpe, agus a’ tighinn ’na still a staigh air bealach a bha air a’ ghàrradh; agus daoine is clann a’ cur rithe le maidean is le gunnathan.

An uair a chuala am madadh-allaidh an raic a rinn an asal a bha am boiceann an leòghainn, shaoil leis gur e rìgh mòr an fhàisich e fhéin a bha ann agus thug e as cho luath agus a leigeadh a dheise dha.

An uair a chuala an damh an fhuaim, thug e clisgeadh cuibhleadh troimh an lub, agus saltrar air an losgann, a bha 'ga dhubh-chàineadh, agus cuirear a chnàmhan air a chèile.

An uair a chunnaic an ròcais daoine a' tighinn le gunnathan, ghrad-leig e as a' mhulchag agus ghabh e na sgiathan.

An uair a chunnaic an sionnach a' mhulchag a' tuiteam, thug e g' a h-ionnsaigh, dh' aithnich e raic na h-asaile, agus, anns an leum a thug e, tuitear an gòisinn, agus caillear an t-earball ris. B' fheadar dha riamh tuilleadh an saoghal imeachd as a' aonais, a' gabhail air, as droch-uair, gun deachaidh na h-earbail as an fhasan, agus gur ann a bu mhise na sionnaich orra iad.

Anns na cuir a bha ann, thàinig balachan agus leadair e an asal le bata gus an robh i anns an raiceil aige. Cha b'urrainn am madadh-allaidh mòr-chabhadh a dheanamh leis gun deachaidh craiceann na caora m'a chasan, agus is e a bha ann gun tug fear de na daoine an aire dha agus gun do thug e e.

An uair a dh'fhairich a' chomhachag a' bhodhar-fhuaim a bha ann, chaidh i 'na breitheal, agus leis a' bhoile leum i á còs na craoibhe agus bhuaile i anns a' bhuaichaille an clàr an aodainn agus mharbh e i le cuaille bata.

Thàinig 'na àm fhéin an feoladair agus thug e leis an damh agus an t-uann, agus fhuair an tuathanach an t-earball anns a' ghòisinn agus chuir e am bràigh an teintein e, agus cha robh duine a thigeadh air chéilidh air nach innseadh e dha am mìomhadh a fhuair e a' cur gu bàs an t-sionnaich.

(An Gaidheal, 1876).

Domhnall I. MacGilleathain

Tha Comunn na h-Oigrìdh a' cur fàilte air Dòmhnall MacGilleathain, agus e a nis 'na Fhear-deilbhe na h-Aird-a-tuath. Eileanach agus Gaidheal dealasach, chan fhada gus an cuir na Feachdan mu thuath eolas air. Tha sinn a' guidhe dha toileachas is soirbheachadh ann an seirbhis a' Chomuinn Ghaidhealaich agus ann an comh-chomunn Comunn na h-Oigrìdh.

* * * * *

Bidh am Fear-deasachaidh fada an comain neach sam bith a chuireas chuige rud-eigin a fhreagras anns a' Ghaidheal Og—sgeulachdan, tòimhseachain, naidheachdan, rannan, rud annasach sam bith.

Cuiribh iad a dh'ionnsaigh Oifis a' Chomuinn an Glaschu.

Orr A Bhonnagan, A Ghaoil

THUG Fear Bhaoghasdail, Alasdair Mac Dhòmhnail 'C Raghnaill, dhachaigh deannan buntàta do Cheann-a-deas Uibhist, turus is e air falbh ann an Eirinn.

Chaidh am buntàta a chur ann am feannagan agus thàinig fàs math air. Thug an duine còir buntàta do dhaoine thall 's a bhos air feadh Uibhist-a-deas gus a chur, ach cha robh mòran ùidh aig na daoine anns a' bhuntàta.

Chuir iad e, ach, ged chuir, chan itheadh iad e.

Co-dhiubh, bha seann ghille anns an àite, aig an robh fearann is fonn is crodh is coraich, agus ghabh e mòran saothrach a' bristeadh is a' taomadh fheannag, agus bha a bhlàth is a bhuil—bha buntàta gu leòir aige.

Thòisich na daoine ri ùidh a ghabhail ann, is mu dheireadh is e a bha ann leo ach ròic. Is e bun a bha ann—chaidh an seann ghille a dh'iarraidh mnatha le gille suirgheach ri a chois. Bha leannan òg aig a' chaileig a chaidh e a dh'iarraidh, ach, ged bha, thug a h-athair oirre an seann ghille a phòsadh. Phòs iad, ach, ma phòs, cha robh a' bhean òg ach tùrsach is bha "gillean dubha Dhalabrug" a' cantainn gun d'rinn a céile am port seo dhi.

Orr a bhonnagan, a ghaoil;
Orr a bhonnagan, a ghràidh;
Orr a bhonnagan, a ghaoil;
Théid thu thogail a' bhuntàt'.

O, cha leig mi thu 'n tobar;
O, cha leig mi thu 'n tràigh;
O, cha leig mi thu 'n tobar,
Ach a thogail a' bhuntàt'.

Bho Raonaid NicLeòid.

Am Bru-Dhearg

Big, big, bigean,
Cò a chreach mo neadan?
Ma 's e gille beag e,
Cuiridh mi le creig e;
Ma 's e gille mòr e,
Cuiridh mi le lòn e;
Ach ma 's fear beag gun chéill e,
Gun gleidheadh Dia d'a mhàthair féin e.

(OIDEAS NA CLOINNE, t. d. 9).

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

* * * * *

Ged dubh an saor, is geal a shliseag.

* * * * *

Is i a' bhonaid bhiorach a nì an gille sm iorail.

* * * * *

Ge bè a ghlaidheas a long gheibh e latha g'a seòladh.

(Continued from p. 44)

association with Choir members from different parts of the Highlands whom they would meet at Perth. He also appealed to the parents to encourage their children to acquire a knowledge of the language which they already enunciated so well. Mr. Alasdair MacKechnie, President of the Ayr Branch, moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman who, in turn, thanked Mr. MacIsaac for his introductory remarks, and all who had contributed to a very successful evening. Mr. and Mrs. MacIsaac provided hospitality at their Durward Hotel.

Oban

It is regretted that, because of insufficient entries, the Lorn, Morven, and Mull Provincial Mod, which was to have been held at Oban on 4th June, has had to be cancelled.

THE B.B.C. GAELIC ASSISTANT

Mr. Frederick E. G. MacAulay, M.A., who takes up his duties as Gaelic Assistant on 1st July, belongs to North Uist, is a former pupil of Inverness Royal Academy and a graduate of Edinburgh University, where he has also taken the Diploma in Phonetics. For the past four years he has been working for the Linguistic Survey of Edinburgh University, and has been engaged in recording and studying Gaelic dialects. Mr. MacAulay served for a time in the Royal Corps of Signals and in the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders in which latter he held a commission.

Mr. MacAulay is 29 years of age.

MR. MURDO MURRAY, M.A., H.M.I.S.

Mr. Murray, who belongs to Back, Lewis, has retired from the School Inspectorate, in which he has served since 1928, latterly in Ross and Cromarty, and previously in the Lowlands, Aberdeen, and Inverness-shire.

A graduate of Aberdeen University, Mr. Murray served in the Gordons and Seaforth's in the First World War. He has contributed to the Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness and to the pages of this Magazine, and, as we wish him a long and happy retirement, we hope that he will feel inclined to use some at least of his new leisure to do more writing in Gaelic.

Cha chaochail dubh a dhath.

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Cha tig á soitheach ach na bhios ann.

* * * * *

Chì duine acrach fada uath.

The New Northern Organiser



Mr. Donald J. Maclean.

Mr. Donald J. Maclean, who has been appointed to succeed Mr. Alasdair Matheson as Northern Organiser of An Comunn Gaidhealach, has entered upon his duties and is busy familiarising himself with the many tasks that lie to his hand.

A native of Bernera, Harris, Mr. Maclean was educated at the local school and at Inverness Royal Academy. Thereafter he proceeded to Glasgow University where, however, his course of study was interrupted by war service. He has had considerable experience of youth club work and has written Gaelic comedy sketches.

Mr. Maclean is 35 years of age.

“An cnocan, an cnocan,” arsa a' chailleach gu leòdach, “far an do chail mi mo Ghàidhlig, agus nach d'fhuair mi mo Bheurla.”

* * * * *

“An nì nach fios do na mnathan ceilidh iad.”

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An t-iasg a chriomas gach boiteag, théid a ghlacadh uair-eigin.

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Chan i a' bhó as àirde geum as motha bainne.

Ann's A' Mhailead

EDITOR'S MAILBAG

"Drastic Measures"

SIR,—“Drastic Measures” has set me thinking. An editorial note to it refers to the Covenant of the Clann an Fhraoich. Does not the pledge also extend to the reading of Gaelic? I would not be thought to deprecate in any way the value of the literature that is available, but is it not too purist to catch the imagination that feeds on romance and so to stimulate reading for reading's sake? As a boy I delighted in Jules Verne. If I had been headed off from his books as being translations, my thoughts would have been the poorer. I have recently read Bunyan's immortal allegory in the Gaelic version with something of the same delight, for Bunyan is a great master of narrative. So, too, is Robert Louis Stevenson. I remember well my delight when I read *Kidnapped* as it appeared in the weekly numbers of *Young Folks*. That master of Gaelic prose, Macdonald of Kiltarity, who translated *The Lost Pibroch*, made a translation of it which appeared in *The Northern Chronicle* which I have copied out. Perhaps it is its Scottish locale that makes one feel in reading it that the Gaelic must be the original. Jonathan Mackinnon, and his brother, Donald, have done the same by *Treasure Island*—perhaps, as to the latter's share, with some localisms which I understand have been smoothed away. Surely the power and determination which can finance a Mod can open some of these magic casements to the youthful Gael!

I would add that there are also in existence Gaelic versions of two of Shakespeare's plays by John MacCormick. His *Macbeth* reads splendidly. In rendering the play in Gaelic, he has taken it back to the language which then prevailed in that part of Scotland. Is it altogether fanciful to suppose that he may now and then have recaptured the very words used by the participants in the grim drama?

But, whereas its Scottish locale pointed MacCormick to *Macbeth* to work upon, it was its intrinsic quality that made *Measure for Measure* his second choice. The various scenes in which Angelo and Isabella figure show how magnificently he has acquitted himself of the task. The potentialities of the Gaelic language as here shown are fully equal to the task of interpreting the thoughts of what is to me the most truly impressive of Shakespeare's female characters.

I would suggest that translations of classics such as these—and here are four ready to hand—would win recruits to the habit of Gaelic reading. — Yours faithfully,

EDWARD MACCURDY.

The Teaching of Gaelic

DEAR SIR,—The recent correspondence in *An Gaidheal* on the teaching of Gaelic prompts me to write on the same subject from the point of view of a student of this and of other languages.

It is, I think, generally agreed that, in order to learn a language really well, one must not only master thoroughly its grammar but must also hear it spoken over a long period of time.

This, however, is not enough.

One must not only learn all of the basic grammar and listen to the spoken language, but one must also acquire a *basic word-list*, and, furthermore, the speakers to whom one listens must speak the language themselves grammatically and without any pronounced local accent.

Thus it would appear to me that the mastery of Gaelic, as of any other tongue, resolves itself into three main headings.

1. *Grammar*. There is, in my opinion, no short cut to the learning of basic grammar, but, without any doubt, this is made much easier by really well-devised text-books. Most Gaelic text-books are really abysmal, and year after year the same dreary list appears in the advertisement pages of *An Gaidheal*. Compare these with a modern language text-book such as Professor Barlow of New York's “Basic Spanish”—one of the best I have seen in any language—and their failings will be only too obvious. I exclude *Gaelic Without Groans* from this general condemnation, but surely others should have followed its novel approach long ago.

2. *Basic Word-List*. It is a complete waste of time learning large numbers of words that one will never hear or use, but even more so is it a waste of time trying to learn to speak without first acquiring a basic word-list. One of the complete puzzles to me has always been the vast numbers of words which one meets in Gaelic literature, and which one has never seen before, even after ploughing one's way through the recognised standard text-books. Possibly there are very few basic words, but this I find difficult to believe, for, after all, the Gael in his own native environment has relatively few general topics of conversation. In Barlow's “Basic Spanish,” which has made constant use of Buchanan's “Graded Spanish Word Book” and also of Professor Keniston's “Spanish Syntax List” and “Spanish Idiom List,” each of which has a genuinely scientific basis, only 545 basic words are introduced into the exercises. A further 113 optional words are also given, with the result that in 25 chapters, covering only 150 pages, one can obtain a virtual mastery over the language. In fact, I found, when I first used this book some years ago, that I could converse freely after learning only some fifteen chapters. Similarly, this book introduces 89 basic idioms of high frequency, so that one learns from it, not a text-book language, but the actual living language of everyday speech. Surely it would not be impossible to do something like this for Gaelic.

3. *The Spoken Word*. There must be many people like me who are keen to learn Gaelic correctly but who will never have the opportunity to spend enough time in Scotland to acquire it by listening to it being spoken there by native speakers. Fortunately this is no longer necessary. An infinitely more efficient method is through the medium of gramophone records. Just as I have stressed the need for a truly modern basic text-book, so too I cannot stress too strongly the “disc” method which has been perfected by the Linguaphone Institute. I have had the good fortune to acquire my knowledge of Castilian, firstly, through a first-class text-book, but much more so through the really magnificent Spanish Conversational Course produced by Linguaphone. Until one has seen and used such a course, one cannot appreciate its potentialities. Briefly, there are thirty lessons, each on one side of a ten-inch disc, and in each one learns 100 new words, so that one acquires 3,000 words in the whole course. The grammar is most thoroughly dealt with, the most of it in the first ten lessons, but in such a way that one hardly realises that one is learning grammar at all. Over and over again I have been told by Spaniards—I at present live half of the year in Spain for health reasons—that I speak their lan-

guage "estupendamente bien" (which means, "stupendously well"). I am not unusual in this, as all true students of the Linguaphone say the same. It is to me nothing short of incomprehensible that An Comunn has not approached the Linguaphone Institute to produce a course in Scots Gaelic; there is already one in Irish, as it is now called. I have already taken the trouble to find out what this would cost, and it appears that the Institute is willing to co-operate with An Comunn to produce a conversational course, provided that the purchase of 250 sets of records at fifteen guineas a time is guaranteed. Surely, there must be 249 other bodies and persons who will join with me to complete the necessary 250 guarantors.

It is good Gaelic that we all wish to learn, but that there is lots of bad Gaelic is made only too obvious by the constant references in *An Gaidheal* to persons who "speak excellent Gaelic"—thereby proving conclusively that this is exceptional. You never hear anyone say in an English paper that somebody speaks good English—so many people do, that to refer to the fact is quite superfluous.

My old friend, Ranald C. Macdonald, often used to say to me, "Most of your difficulty in learning Gaelic is because it is so very badly spoken by native speakers"—such a thing simply cannot happen if one learns from a gramophone course spoken by experts—it is in fact nearly impossible not to learn.

If An Comunn cannot find sufficient guarantors for such a course as I have outlined, it can at least dictate a course on one of the new tape-recording machines, such as a Grundig, and from such a tape-dictated course any number of records can be produced. I would even lend my own tape-recorder.

Let us have no more wasted opportunities.—
Yours faithfully,

DOUGLAS G. WILSON CLYNE.

Learning Gaelic

A CHARAID.—I have read with interest the article by Dr. Colin Sinclair, and have also read his most interesting book on "Thatched Houses." If it had been written in Gaelic, no one would have bought it. I have twice been a member of An Comunn, but, as I received nothing in Gaelic, and all its circulars and notices were in English, I did not feel that it was genuine. You cannot keep a language alive by never using it. An Comunn has done more to discourage the use of Gaelic than the English Government itself. It has certainly published most excellent text-books, but they are not used in the way English is taught in England or French in France, but as a dead language like Latin.

The Census returns of the number of speakers of Gaelic is fiction. If 3,000 persons habitually used Gaelic on the mainland I should be surprised. Then the faint of heart write to *An Gaidheal* complaining that Gaelic is too difficult to learn and that it should be re-invented. It is a far easier language to learn than Greek, Latin, German, French, Portuguese, or Spanish. All they need do for a start is to buy MacLaren's "Gaelic Self-Taught" and learn every Gaelic sentence in it until they can repeat it and write it immediately on seeing the English. (See back page of *An Gaidheal*). Then there is Donnag Gaidhlig na h-Alba (The Gaelic League of Scotland), who hold classes, and Sgoil Eolais na h-Alba, which gives correspondence courses, advertised in *An Gaidheal*.

Is leth obair tòiseachadh.—Is mise le meas,

DOMHNALL MACAOIDH.

A Comment on J. Graham Macdonald's Letter

DEAR SIR.—Mr. Macdonald calls for "a Gaelic Academy on the lines of the French and Spanish

Academies to purify and protect Gaelic as English is purified and protected by compulsion in our schools."

I think I am right in believing that the purifying and protecting medium for the English language is the B.B.C. Nowadays, we accept "B.B.C. English" as the best spoken, and errors in grammar and pronunciation by B.B.C. announcers are not tolerated by its listeners.

What I would recommend therefore as an urgent measure to bring about the Gaelic renaissance is for a group of Gaels to get hold of a radio transmitter in the same way that Messrs. Thomson and Macdonald got hold of a printing press, and let's have a "Gairm Broadcasting Station," on which Gaelic really will be alive.

I don't suppose it would do a bit of good asking the B.B.C.'s permission for such a project, and I am not suggesting that their permission should be sought. At any rate it would be one station that would foil the B.B.C. monitoring service for a bit, provided no English was spoken.—Yours faithfully,

Athens, Greece. ARTHUR S. M. MARSHALL.

The Celtic Congress

DEAR SIR.—I am in receipt of *An Gaidheal* of September 1953 and have perused the article on "The Celtic Congress," which, as it is neither signed nor initialled, is presumably to be taken as the official opinion of An Comunn Gaidheal, and against which I must protest, as the tone of the article seems more concerned with the maintenance of English than of the Celtic languages, in direct opposition to the declared objectives of An Comunn. There is a note of irritation about compulsory Irish in Irish schools, but no note of irritation about compulsory English in English schools, nor in Scottish schools, and re the query about any country being kept monoglot in this modern age may I point out that England is very definitely monoglot and, equally definitely, intends to remain so, but there is no note of irritation in your article about this fact!

As for the suggestion that the teaching and encouragement of the Celtic languages should wait on "a thorough study of the very difficult problem of the place of minority languages," I unhesitatingly declare it to be arrant nonsense, one of the remarks that people who pose as "profound" choose to offer.

The primary objective of An Comunn Gaidheal is the teaching and use of the Gaelic language, unqualified, and members have a duty to protest when that objective is departed from, either directly or indirectly.

Pretoria.

D. LIVINGSTONE.

[For Mr. Livingstone we have had, and continue to have the greatest respect, and we always greatly value his contributions, whether in English or Gaelic. On this occasion, however, he has been quite unfair to the article in question, if he will take the trouble to re-read it. The article, being unsigned, was not the official opinion of An Comunn. Only a formal pronouncement approved by the Executive Council or the Annual General Meeting can be taken as the official opinion of An Comunn. There was no note of irritation about compulsory Irish; merely a query as to the practicability, in this modern age of much mixing of peoples and ideas, by travel, radio, etc., of a policy of monoglot minority groups. How could such groups be effectively sealed off from "contamination" by the all-pervading majority languages? Mr. Livingstone seems to envy the monoglot English. Many of us do not. We believe that to be proficient in both Gaelic and English

(Continued on p. 48)

Naidheachd Albann Nodha

Dh'éisd mi gu bior-chluasach ri Calum Iain MacLeòid a' toirt dhuinn naidheachd Albann Nodha air an ràdio bho chionn ghoirid.

Tha mi a' creidsinn gu bheil e glé fhìor gur e Uisdeann MacEach-thighearna as a' Mhorbhairne a bha 'na sgiobair air a' bhàta-sheòlaidh aig Fear Ghleann-aladail, "An Dubh-Ghleannach," d'an d'rinn Alasdair MacFhionghuin an t-òran maiseach. Bha feadhainn de Chloinn MhicEach-thighearna anns a' Mhorbhairne aig an àm, agus còmhla ri sin bha "Fear a' Ghlinne," mar a theireadh iad, 'na uachdaran air roinn de'n Leitir Mhorbhairneach.

Seo agaibh leth-bhreac de litir a sgrìobh e as na Druimeinean gu fear-gnothaich.

Drimmin House,
28th October, 1909.

DEAR SIR,—Would you have the goodness to pay the enclosed sum to the collector of the cess.

I shall be answerable for the same amount to your order at Dalness on demand.

Having no convenient way of remitting the within-mentioned sum to Inverness induces me to put you to this trouble.

My mother unites in best wishes, and believe me always, dear sir.—Your obedient servant,

(Signed) ALEC. MACDONALD.

B'e seo an t-Alasdair a chosg ri Tùr a' Phrionnsa aig Gleann-fhionghuin. Cha robh e ach ochd bliadhna fichead an uair a chaochail e.

Chan 'eil aon MacEach-thighearna anns a' Mhorbhairne an diugh. Tha mi a' creidsinn gur e Iain MacEach-thighearna, ris an abradh cuid "Athais" mar fhriith-ainm, am fear mu dheireadh dhiubh a bha a' fuireach anns a' Mhorbhairne.

Bha Iain fìor-mhath air deanamh suas ròisgeul, agus chan àicheadh e féin sin. Là a bha siud, agus sgioba de luchd-oibre an rathaid-mhóir aig an greim meadhon-là, bha a h-aon dhiubh, Sandaidh Mhoradh, ga innse ròisgeul. Thachair do Iain a bhith anns an éisdeachd, agus is e a thubhairt e an uair a chrìochnaich Sandaidh, "Well, a Shandaidh, chan fhada gun am bi thu cho breugach rium féin!"

Chaidh mòran á Mòraig agus á Arasaig do Albainn Nodha, agus mar sin tha mi cinnteach gu robh an naidheachd mu thimcheall "Cù Glas Mheoble" air a h-innse. Bu mhath leam a faotainn.

TAOBH-TUATH EARRAGHAIDHEAL.

Provincial Mod

Badenoch-Strathspey

The Badenoch-Strathspey Mod was held at Grantown-on-Spey on 30th April, and was officially opened by Provost H. Grant Cumming. The adjudicators were:—for Music, Mr. A. A. Soutar, Inverness; for Gaelic, Mr. Alastair Fraser, Conon Bridge; Mr. J. M. Mathieson, Nethy Bridge; Dr. N. A. R. Mackay, Edinburgh; and Dr. Mackay, Laggan. The Mod Joint-Conveners were Mr. Charles Macdonald and Mr. J. M. Mathieson. Mr. Donald J. Maclean, the new Northern Organiser, and his predecessor, Mr. Donald Macphail, were in attendance and helped with the arrangements. At the Mod Concert the prizes were presented by Mrs. D. C. Murray, and votes of thanks were proposed by the Rev. John Campbell and Mr. Macphail.

The following were the first-prize winners:—

Junior Section

ORAL. Reading poetry (own choice: learners)—Harriet Macdonald, Laggan. Reading unseen prose (learners)—Donald Macmillan, Nairn. Reading from Scriptures—Harriet Macdonald. Conversation (learners)—Neil Campbell, Dulnain Bridge.

VOCAL MUSIC. Solo singing: girls under 12—Elizabeth Cromar, Aviemore. 12 to 16—Jessie Ross, Newtonmore. Boys under 12—Jim Miller, Laggan. 12 to 16—John Mathieson, Nethy Bridge. Duet singing—Newtonmore "A." Boys and girls under 16—Mary Mackenzie, Aviemore.

CHORAL MUSIC. Two-part harmony—Abernethy School Choir. Unison—Abernethy School Choir. Action Song—Abernethy School (Smeoraich).

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC. Violin-playing; under 12 years—Fiona Mathieson, Nethy Bridge. Over 16 years—David MacIntosh, Kinlochlaggan. Piano-forte playing, 12 to 16 years—Lawrence C. Maclean, Newtonmore. Piping (amateurs only)—J. Newlands, Ballindalloch. Practice Chanter (under 16 years)—John H. Stuart, Grantown.

Senior Section

LITERATURE. Gaelic composition—Miss M. Campbell, Newtonmore.

ORAL. Reading unfamiliar prose (native speakers)—Mrs. E. Cameron-Robertson. Reading from Scriptures (learners)—Miss G. Fraser, Grantown. Recitation (learners)—Miss Lorna Macleod, Newtonmore. Sgeulachd (own choice)—Ian Macmillan, Nairn.

VOCAL MUSIC. Solo singing: female voices—Miss Elspeth Lamont, Kingussie. Male voices—Donald Macdonald, Laggan. Former First-Prize Winners only—Mrs. Dorothy C. Cattanaich, Kingussie. Song by local bard (own choice)—Mrs. Alma Mackenzie, Grantown. Duet singing—Misses G. Fraser and Margaret Grassick, Grantown.

CHORAL MUSIC. Choral singing: female voices—Grantown Ladies Choir. Choral singing—Newtonmore Gaelic Choir. Trio (female voices)—Newtonmore Trio "A." Trio (male voices)—Na Rocais, Laggan.

(Continued from p. 47)

is preferable to having English only or Gaelic only. Those of us who can use two languages have no right to insist that other people must use only one. There was not the slightest suggestion in the article that the teaching and encouragement of the Celtic languages should "wait on a thorough study of the problem of minority languages." There has been no departure from the primary objectives of An Comunn.—[Ed.]

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Suirghe a' Mhuilleir (C)	The Miller's Wooing — Cocker	2 F. 2 M.
An Seann Tarbh (C)	The Old Bull — Bernard Gilbert ...	1 F. 4 M.
Am Poidsear (C)	The Poacher — J. O. Francis	1 F. 3 M.
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THE GAEL

M. XLIX

JULY, 1954

No. 7

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O seinn a ris iad, mo chailin dileas,

'S iad thogadh m'inntinn os cionn gach dórainn ;

Tha 'n cridhe fuaraidh nach deanadh gluasad,

Ri éisdeachd dhuanaig air fuaim cho ceòlmhor.

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Leabhar XLIX

AN T-IUCHAR, 1954

Aireamh 7

Galar Na Gaidhlig

Le IAIN A. MACLEOD

(A' cheud duais air son oidhirp-litreachais air cuspair sam bith, 1939.)

A bhrathair chridhich mo rùin,
Thubhairt mac Atrèuis, iùil nan treun,
Mo dhòchas gur fìor do ràin,
'S nach e 'n dàn seo dàn an éig.

ILIAD HOMEIR, DUAN IV.

(eadar-theangaichte
le Eòghann MacLachlainn.)

THA gach nì beò buailteach do ghalaran: càin choitcheann a' chruthachaidh a tha an seo. Bho an mheanbh-bhith as anfhainne an measg lireagach na dige gu ruig an uibleheist a tha a' righeachadh anns na cuantan; bho an mhion phòr a bheir gloinneachan cumhachdadh am follais gu ruig crann mòr nan cóig cheud samhraidh air ceann na coille, chan 'eil dol as bho an reachd neo-chaochlaideach seo. Tha clann nan daoine a' cleachdadh gach inleachd is eòlais, agus a' caitheamh mòr ùine agus airgid a' rannsachadh mathair-aobhair nan galaran seo, agus a' dealbh mheadhon a chum cur as daibh, ach gu tric cha luaithe gheibh iad buaidh air an dara làimh na tha an ruig orra air an làimh eile. Cha luaithe aon seann ghalair a' faighinn buille bhàis na tha dà ghalair ùr a' togail an cinn, agus mar sin tha an strì seo a' sior dhòl air

aghaidh eadar rìoghachd an dorchadais agus an aineolais air an dara taobh agus rìoghachd an eòlais agus an t-soluis air an taobh eile.

Tha an duine, e fhéin, cho buailteach do eucail ri creutair air bith. Tha a chroiceann 's a chnàmhan, a fhuil is a fheòil, a chlais-neachd is a léirsinn, a chridhe, is eadhon a canchainn, 'nan ròidean réidh do iomadh gnè galar a tha aig amannan a' fàgail a bheatha glé anshocrach, àmhgharach, agus a tha gu ro-thric a' toirt a làithean gu crìch roimh an mhithich. Tha aon eucail gu minig a' deànadh claise réidhe do eucailean eile, agus mar sin gheibhear muinntir air 'uairean a' fulang gu truagh fo bharrachd air aon trioblaid. Ach de gach gnè eucail a nì greim air buadhan an duine, is i easlaint na h-inntinne as dorra a chathachadh. Is i an inntinn a tha a' riaghladh a' chuirp, agus ma tha ise a' meatachadh, agus ma tha a' mhisneach air chall, is faoin cungaidhean gach léigh, agus is dìomhain geur lannsa gach lighiche. Chunnaic sinn nithean suarach a' toirt a' bhàis do churaidhean calma; ach b'aithne dhuinn muinntir eile a bha an staid cho ìosal is gu robh gach duine air dùil a thoirt thairis do an taobh, ach a bha air an aiseag air ais gu slàinte—muinntir, le rùn suidhichte toile do-chlaoidhte, a thug, mar

gum b' eadh, an car as a' bhàs, agus a thàinig gu bhith a' mealtainn fad-làithean air an talamh.

Ged nach 'eil beatha aig a' Ghàidhlig anns an aon seagh ri duine no ri ainmhidh, no eadhon anns an aon seagh ri cuigealach no ri craoibh dharaich, gidheadh, tha a' Ghàidhlig, mar chànan bheò, buailteach do ghalaran agus do anacathrom; agus ann a bhith a' beachdachadh air suidheachadh na Gàidhliche anns an t-seagh seo, chan fheum sinn a bhith a' dealachadh na cànaine bhuaithasan a tha 'ga labhairt. Is i a' Ghàidhlig cànan nan Gàidheal; cha mhair a' Ghàidhlig beò ach am measg nan Gàidheal; ni mò a mhaireas na Gàidheil aithnichte mar Ghàidheil as eugmhas na Gàidhliche.

Am measg gach fàbhair agus maitheis a bhàirg Dia a riamh air slugh dùthcha chan 'eil ni eile cho luachmhor dhaibh ri an cànan shuaithneasail fhéin. Cailleadh cinneach an cànan, agus dealaichidh gach dualachas agus gach dùthchas bhuaitha. Cha robh so am folach air an Ròmanach léirsinneach, Tacitus, an uair a sgrìobh e mar seo: "Teanga an fhir bhuaidhaich am beul an fhir chòisnaichte, da-rìreadh teanga na tràille"; no mar gun abradh e, "esan a thréigeas a chànan fhéin air sgàth cainnt an fhir sin a tha air buaidh fhaotainn air, is tràill thruagh e sin." Mo thruaighe, ma is fìor so, nach mòr daorsa ar dùthcha, agus nach lìonmhor tràill air feadh na Gàidhealtachd?

Ach ge air bith cho dall is a dh'fhaodas Gàidheil a bhith a thaobh luach an cànaire fhéin, tha e faicsinneach an eachdraidh an t-saoghail cho eudmhor, dealasach is a bha gach cinneach ceannasach, buadhach a chum cur as do chainnt gach sluaigh air an d'fhuair iad smachd. Bha gach luim air a chur air gheus, agus gach deuchainn air a cleachdadh leis an luchd buaidhe, gu bunluchd na tìre a dh'èabhadh de gach dùthchas is duinealas a bhineadh dhaibh mar cinneadh; agus am fàsadh tìoram de gach gnàths is cleachdadh a bha 'gan nasgadh ri an atraichean; gus an slugadh suas mu dheireadh ionnas nach biodh luaidh orra a chaoidh tuilleadh mar shluagh sònraichte, eadar-dhealaichte bhuaitha fhéin. Bha e mar seo bho thùs, agus tha eachdraidh nan Gàidheal a' dlùth-chòrdadh ri eachdraidh gach slòigh eile anns a' chùis seo.

An toiseach, is éigin duinn fios cinnteach fhaotainn mu ghné easlaintean na Gàidhliche, agus mu na nithean a tha 'gan aobrachadh, oir gus am faighear foras fìor air freumhan an tinneis, is nì gun stàth a bhì a' gnàthachadh chungaidhean, agus is gòraiche mhòr fughair a bhith ri feabhas.

Ge muldach sin ri a innseadh, chan aon

easlaint a tha air siubhal ar cànaire, agus ma tha e ceadaichte labhairt mar sin, tha galaran bodhaige agus galaran intinne oirre. Tha sinn a' leughadh mu mhnaoi bhochd roimhe seo air an robh dòrtadh fola ré dhà bhliadhna dheug, ach tha dòrtadh fola air a' Ghàidhlig a nis ré dhà cheud bliadhna. Chan e a mhàin sin, ach am beagan fola a tha fhathast ag èaladh gu fann troimh a cré, tha i gu léir air a truaileadh. Tha eitig air a' Ghàidhlig a léireadh, agus air caitheamh a cléibhe; tha dìobhail misnich agus eu-dòchas air gabhail còir air a h-intinn; tha i daonnan ag aognachadh, gun neach air an t-saoghal ris an tionndaidh i a dh'fhaotainn còbhrach.

Cia as ma tà, a dh'èirich lìonmhorachd nan galaran seo? Saoilidh mi nach leig sinn a leas a dhol fada air astar a shireadh tobar-thrioblaidean na Gàidhliche. Tha a galaran a' sruthadh as an aon fhuaran, agus is e a ainm Sasann.

Tha eachdraidh nan Ceilteach agus eachdraidh nan Gearmailteach tur eadar-dhealaichte. Tha cànan agus gné an dà fhine calg-dhìreach an aghaidh a chèile. Bha na Ceiltich bho thùs a' leagail an aigne air ealaidhean agus air litreachas, air foghlum agus air cràbhadh, air na nithean sin a bheireadh sòlas do an spiorad, agus a bhuneidh do shonas an anama. Ach bha gean nan Gearmailteach a riamh air malairt, agus air strì, agus air ciosnachadh chàich. Thug iadsan tlachd agus taig air leth do a bhith a' meudachadh sòigheanas cuirp, agus a' tòrradh toircheis shaoghailta. Cha robh tìr air thalamh a thug aoiagheachd do a bheag no a mhòr dhìubh nach do ghabh iad còir air dhaibh fhéin. Cha robh iad riarachta a riamh an àite de an chruinne-ché gun iad fhéin a bhith 'ga riaghladh. Bha iad ro-leisg, no ro-mhaol, air neo, ma dh'fhaoidte, ro-shèòlta, gu cainnt slòigh eile a thogail, agus dh'fheumadh iad an cainnt fhéin agus an laghann fhéin a sparradh air muinntir gach fearainn. Fhuair Gàidheil Albann, agus Gàidheil Èireann cuideachd, dearbhaidhean searbh air an seo, agus cha b' iad 'nan aonar air feadh an t-saoghail.

Faodaidh sinn a radh, an là a leig an rìgh, Calum a' Chinn Mhóir, cas-a-steach an toiseach do na Sasannaich air fearann Albann, gun do thòisich earcball nan Gàidheal agus eucail na Gàidhliche. A riamh bho an là sin, bha muinntir Shasainn agus am Beurla, uidhe air an uidhe, a' taisbeanadh an cumhachd, agus a' leudachadh an ùghdarrais air feadh ar dùthcha. Tha iomadh dòigh air milleadh sluaigh, agus air faotainn buaidhe air cinneach seach an cur gu bàs le faobhar a' chlaidheimh. Far an robh na Gàidheil air an t-èirichidh de cinn-feadhna seaghail, smiorail, bha seòltachd air a chleachd-

adh 'nan aghaidh, agus mur toireadh sin buaidh, cha robh gainne uair air bith air ceig. Ach far an robh na Gàidheil a' nochdadh na laghuise a bu lugha, troimh eas-aonachd no do bhrìgh dìth-stiùiridh, cha bu dùil tighinn gu còrdadh riù, agus cha robh sòradh air an làimh làidir. Faodaidh duine an siud a bhith ag àrach air a' Phrionnsa Teàrlach, agus fear an seo a bhith a' cur na coire air Blàr Chùil-lodair, ach ge air bith a liuthad cuspair a dh'ainmichear mar chinn-fàth cor anfhann na Gàidhlig an diugh, chan'eil anna air fad ach toraidhean air siol a chuireadh anns an t-sean aimsir—cinneas fìor air inleachdan a bha ag abachadh fad nan ceudan bliadhna, le suaicheantas Shasainn agus blas na' Beurla air gach aon diubh. Ged is dòcha gun do ghreas Blàr Chùil-lodair mòr-chàs nan Gàidheal, cha robh an sin ach, mar gum b'eadh, aon rann dubhach an Cumha Mòr nan trioblaidean a thòisich air ais anns an aona linn deug.

Ge air bith ball de an chorp anns am buail galar an duine, tha buaidh na trioblaide, air a' cheann mu dheireadh, a' ruigheachd a' chridhe agus na h-eanchainne. Tha a' chùis co-ionann a thaobh na Gàidhlig. Ged is ann anns a' Ghàidhealtachd as léir dhuinne easlaint ar cànaie an diugh, cha b'ann idir an sin a thòisich an trioblaid. Aig aon àm bha na Gàidheil agus a' Ghàidhlig a' riaghladh air feadh farsaingeachd Albann. Thòisich an galar an cùirt rìghrean Albann, agus an ain-fheoil bhuirbeineach 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, mir de chorp Albann. Is e sin nì a tha Gàidheil agus Albannaich eile ro-ealann air a bhith a' dìth-chuimhneachadh, agus ann a bhith a' dearmadh sin, tha iad iomadh uair a' dèanamh mearail agus a' dol fada air seachran. Bhiodh e ro-fheumail gum biodh iadsan aig a bheil leigheas na Gàidhlig anns an amharc a' cumail cor agus eachdraidh Albann daonna na fa chomhair an sùla; oir gach nì a tha ag oibreachadh cron Albann, tha e aig a' cheart àm a' dèanamh call nan Gàidheal; agus air a' mhodh cheudna, gach nì a tha a chum leas nan Gàidheal agus piseach na Gàidhlig, tha e gun cheist a' meudachadh maith Albann air fad. Tha cor na Gàidhlig agus staid Albann an dàimh cho dlùth is nach 'eil e glic a bhith a' cur dealachaidh eatorra, no a bhith a' beachdachadh orra air an sgaradh bho a chèile.

Ged cheadaicheadh ùine sin, cha bhiodh tairbhe dhuinn mion-sgrùdadh a dhèanamh an seo air gach beàrn a rinn na galar-sileanan Sasannach air callaid na Gàidhlig, no air gach

bùrach faobhachail a rinn iad air feadh aorabh Albann, ach seallaidh sinn air beagan de an obair.

Thug rìghrean Shasainn, air ceann an cuid armailtean, iomadh ionnsaigh gharbh air ar sinnsearan a chur fo chis, ach cha deachaidh leò. Gidheadh, an rud 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 Sasann. Is liutha Gall agus Gàidheal fùghail a mheall sèanas an taoibh dheis air falbh á Albainn bho an là sin. A ris, anns a' bhliadhna 1707, chuir Achd an Aonaidh a' chlach-mhullaich air càrn ar doilgheis air a' bhealach sin. Chaill muinntir Albann an sin an còir agus an cothrom air cùisean an tìre fhéin a riaghladh. An Taigh Mòr nan Cumantan an Lunnainn, tha guth beag, tùchanach nan Albannach air a mhùchadh. Le deich Sasannaich mu choinneamh gach aon Albannaich, deachdar laghannan a tha a chum mòr dhochann do Albainn; agus air a' mhodh cheudna, air agartas Shasainn, b'acair reachdan a bhiodh ro-bhuannachdail do shluagh ar dùthcha. Bha càirdean Shasainn a' cur iomchoire gu leòr air an Ridire Ualtar Scot, a chionn gun do ghabh e air fhéin sgrìobhadh gun do 'reic ar luchd-conaltrachd araon an onair fhéin agus onair Albann' aig àm an aonaidh. Ach, ged bha na briathran car tuailleasach, bha freumh na fìrinne aig an Ridire ghleusda. Oir, mur do reic iad siud da-rìreadh an onair fhéin, gu fìrinneach thug iad ceum ciomhair, tuisleach; agus trid a' chùnnraidh chearbaich ud liùbhair iad do mhuintir Shasainn araon dlìge an cìneil fhéin agus saorsa an cuid chloinne. Faodaidh e a bhith gun do choisinn iomadh Albannach ainm mòr dha fhéin, agus cuibhreann chuibheasach de mhaith an t-saoghail seo ri linn an aonaidh; gidheadh, rinn an t-Achd ud call nach gabh tomhas do Albainn. Tha sinn a' faicinn àireamh sluagh ar dùthcha a' dol an lughad. Tha earrann mhòr de ar maoin agus de ar malairt air falbh du deas, agus tha an còrr a' teicheadh. Tha eadhon cuid mhór de an toradh as prìseile a tha ar rìoghachd ag àrach—òigridh ar n-oil-thaighean—a' togail orra gach bliadhna gu deas, agus a' dèanamh an dachaigh an Sasann. Gheibhear luach air bathar, ach imreachadh eithireach ar n-oileanach taghte, tha 'na dhosgainn nach gabh meas, seadh, 'na lochd do-leasaichte do ar rìoghachd.

Bha an cuid fhéin de gach deuchainn dhiubh seo a' drùidheadh air a' Ghàidhealtachd agus air a' Ghàidhlig, ach mar nach bu leòr na cuimrigean sin, chaidh na Gàidheil a chur gu

dùbhlán an dòighean eile. Aig caochladh uairean, le ùghdarras bho àrd-riaghlath na rìoghachd, thugadh ionnsaigh air a' Gàidhlig a sgrìos eadar fhrèumh is gheug, gus nach faighteadh for, agus nach cluintheadh sgeul air fear no té a labhradh lideadh dhìth. Chaill na Gàidheil an cinn-feadhna, agus an déidh sin thugadh bhuaitha an cuid fearainn. Chaidh iad fhéin a fharfhuadach an sear is an siar air feadh an t-saoghail, agus chaidh féidh ruadha agus coaracha a chur 'nan àite. Bho an t-uineachas bochd an cois na tuinne, chì am beagan a tha air am fàgail diubh bàtaichean-sgrìobaidh Shasainn, a Shàbaid agus a sheachdain, ag argnachadh na mara aig an dorsan. Chaidh slat-tomhais nan Sasannach a chur ri fearann is ri fairge, ri éideadh is ri earradh, ri cleachdadh is ri cànan.

Ach ged is iomadh rann tiamhaidh a tha an Dàn Mór deuchainnean nan Gàidheal, is e suidheachadh nan sgoilean Beurla anns gach clachan a chuir tonn-fo-thulach orra uile gu léir. Bha na nithean ud eile searbh gu leòr agus doirbh ri an giùlan. Bha, mar gum b'eadh, an cuid fola air a leigeadh air an dara làimh, agus, air an làimh eile, bha biadh brìgheil a bheireadh beatha air a bhacadh. Ach an lorg reachd nan sgoilean, thàinig a' gheur-sgreag a bhinnidh an fhuil; am puinsean a dh'ith a steach gu smuais nan cnàmh; an nimh a mhill beothalachd na h-eanchainne agus treòir a' chridhe, agus a rinn cladhairean spreòchanach gun seagh de ar daoine.

Le mòr éiginn agus le geur spàirn tha sinn a' dèanamh greime air beag no mòr de Bheurla, air chor is gu bheil sinn a' tighinn gu bhith a' dèanamh seòrsa de atharrais manntach air muinntir Shasainn; ach gnè nan Sasannach cha d'fhuair sinn, agus chan fhaigh sinn sin am mìle bliadhna. Ach ann a' bhith a' dèanamh na h-oidhirpe seo, tha sinn a' call ar measa agus ar n-eòlais air cànan òirdhearc ar sinnsre, agus mar sin tha sinn gu neo-mhòthachail a' leigeadh dhinn air còrach air dileac ghlòrmhor ar n-athraichean. Troimh shìor thoirmeasg, tha ar càil do an cleachd-aidhean air a smàladh; agus gach tlachd agus cùram a dh'fhaodadh a bhith againn do an alladh fùghail agus do am beusan urramach, tha iad gu léir air an tachdadh. Ged is aithne dhùinn mu thimcheall nan treubhan as buirbe agus as suaraiche air uachdar na cruinne, tha eachdraidh ar daoine fhéin uile gu léir dorcha oirnn. Tha gach eud còir agus gach euchd air air teigrisinn: tha ar n-earbsa annainn féin air teicheadh: tha sinn mar iarmad treud gun bhuaichail, a' gluasad bho chùil gu cial, gu faondrach, fiallanach, lùgach, ma chasas madadh a dheud rinn, no ma dh'fhosgailas

measan salach a bheul gu aon abh a dhèanamh ann ar n-éideachd.

Ach ged tha luchd-riaghlaidh Shasainn troimh na linntean a' toilltinn an coireachaidh a thaobh cor na Gàidhliche, chan 'eil na Gàidheil fhéin idir neochiontach anns a' chùis seo. Gu dearbh, tha iad airidh air geur achmhasan.

Air do Mhaois na h-Eabhraich a shaoiradh bho ghabhdachd nan Eiphiteach, agus air dhà a bhith 'gan trèorachadh troimh an fhàsach gu tìr a' gheallaidh, thug e dhaibh, troimh dheachd-adh Spiorad Dhé, reachdan a bhiodh 'nan riaghailt stiùiridh dhaibh 'nam beatha. B'e seo aon de bhunaitean-stéidhidh nan reachdan sin: "Tabhair onair do t'athair, agus do d'mhàthair, a chum gum bi do làithean buan air an fhearann a tha an Tighearna do Dhia a' toirt dhuit" (Ecs.xx., 12). Is aithne do na Gàidheil an àithne seo gu math, ach is dòcha gur tearc iad a bheireadh mineachadh cothromach oirre. An Leabhraichean a' Cheasnachaidh againn, tha ar luchd-teagaig a' labhairt mu dhleasnas nan iochdaran, agus mu pheacaidhean nan uachdaran; mu ghealladh air saoghal fada do luchd-coimhid na h-àithne seo, agus mu nithean eile mar sin; ach a réir mo bheachd-sa tha iad a' call seallaidh air fìor bhladh nam briathran. Oir ciod an t-àgh mór a ruigeadh air Iùdhach an siud is an seo mar thoradh air fad-làithean dhaibh fhéin gu pearsanta? Ciod an tairbhe, gu dearbh, a tha an saoghal fada do neach air bith? Nach tug Maois, e fhéin, freagradh foghainteach do an cheist seo? "A thaobh làithean ar bliadh-nachan," tha e ag ràdh, "anntha tha trì fichead bliadhna agus a deich; agus le tuilleadh neirt, ma bhios ceithir fichead ann, is saothair agus doilgheas a' chuid as motha dhiubh." (Salm xc, 10). Thugadh an àithne ud do mhòr shluagh Israeil—"sè ceud mìle fear d'an cois, a thuilleadh air cloinn"—ag earalachadh orra dlùth leantainn ri mùnadh agus ri cleachdaidhean an sinnsèaran; a' cur impidh orra àite urramach a thabhairt a ghnàth do aidmheil agus do chràbhadh an athraichean; a' toirmeasg dhaibh air aon achd spéis a nochdadh aon chuid do eisimpleir no do chànan nan cinneach. Bha an àithne a' dèanamh soilleir ciod a ghabhadh àite nan dèanadh iad dearmad oirre. Chaillleadh iad an seilbh air an fhearann; shluigeadh na cinnich suas iad; thigeadh crìoch orra mar shluagh. Nach bu shuarach an nì beagan làithean a bhith air an cur ri beatha chòrr Iùdhaich, an coimeas ris a' chinneach gu léir a bhith a' mealtainn am fearainn dhùth-chasaich bho linn gu linn, mar shluagh eadar-dhealaichte agus comharraichte bho gach slugh eile? Tha an àithne seo, troimh na linntibh, ri gach slugh air thalamh; agus mar

(An còrr air t.d. 53)



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar VI

AN T-IUCHAR, 1954

Aireamh 7

An t-Eilean Uain' Heach

AN uair a chaidh aontachadh gun gabhainn ri cuireadh bho Chomhairle a' Mhòid Ionadaid an Ille mi a bhith an làthair aig a' chruinneachadh bhliadhnail aca, ghabhadh fàth air a' chothrom gun cuirinn cuairt air na Meuran agus air na Sgoilean. Thug Comhairlean a' Chraobh-sgoilidh agus Chomunn na h-Oigridh ùghdarras seo a dheanamh, agus ghabh mi ris gu toileach.

Air madainn Di-luain, an deicheamh là de'n Chéitein, sheòl mi á Goraig air bàta mór nan trì similearan dearga, agus cha b'fhada gus an do ràinig sinn na Caoil Bhòdach. A' dol troimh an chumhann eadar na h-Eileana-Loisgte—tha iad sin eadar Caoil an t-Snàimh agus Taigh-na-bruaich—cha' robh ach a leud fhéin aice bho na creagan air gach taobh. Chitheadh tu faoileag is stèarnail, an siud is an seo, 'nan laighe air nead. Chaidh sinn mun cuairt Rudha Aird Laomainn agus tarsainn beul Loch Finne gu ruig an Tairbeart far an deach mise air thr. Ghabh mi carbad giùlain chun an Loch an Iar air an dearbh shlighe a ghabh Mànus Cas-ruisgte ochd ceud gu leth bliadhna roimhe. Bidh fios aig an òigridh d'an aithne Eachdraidh na h-Alba gun do chuireadh Eileanan Innse-Gall fo ùghdarras Mhànuis, Rìgh Lochlainn, agus a chum is gum b'urrainge e a ràdh gum b'eilean Ceann-tìre tharraing e long trasd an amhaich chaol a tha eadar na Lochan Sear is Siar. Tha seo mu mhìle is ceathramh mar a thilgeas tu saighead á bogha. Nach b'e an tarraing e, ged tha an t-slighe còmhnaidh!

Sheòl sinn a mach an Loch an Iar, seachad air Eilean Da-dhealgain, far a bheil leacanalighe aosda, gu ruige Giogha far an do choinnich bàta beag aiseig sinn. Bha an Linne Rosach sìtheil air an latha ud, agus cha b'fhada gus an do ràinig sinn na h-Eileana Caola an Diùra. Bho sin mun cuairt Rudha na Tràille, seachad air taigh-soluis Chinn Mhic Artair is a suas Caoil Ile gu ruige Port Ascaig. Bha carbadan a' feitheamh air an luchd-turuis, agus an

ceathramh na h-uaire bha sinn am Baile Ghranda. Bha an sgoil dùinte an uair a ràinig sinn, ach chuir mi seachad am feasgar gu buannachdail a' céilidh, an toiseach leis a' ghobhainn agus an déidh sin le Gibi MacPhàil. Tha sibh gu léir eòlach air guth-cinn Ghìbi a chluinntinn. Bha mi air ghluasad anns a' mhadainn cho luath is a dh'fhosgail na sgoilean, agus chuir mi ceithir deug ball ri àireamh Comunn na h-Oigridh ann an Sgoil na Cille. Tha an deagh Ghàidhlig aig a' Bhan-sgoilear agus tha a' chlann gu math fileanta innte. Chuir mi mar an ceudna ceithir deug ris an àireamh an Sgoil Chill-Mheanaidh. Chan 'eil mòran Gàidhlig aig a' Bhan-sgoilear an seo, ach tha i a' deanamh cho math agus is urrainn dhi. Is fhìach e ainmeachadh gu robh daoine fiùghail aig am a' teagasg anns an Sgoil seo, mar a bha Niall MacAilpein, ùghdar an Fhoclair Ghàidhlig as math as aithne do luchd na Gàidhlig; Eachann MacGilleathain a thug àireamh mhór sgeulachdan do Iain Og Ile agus a gheibhear anns a' cho-chruinneachadh ainmeil a chuir e a mach ann an ceithir leabhraichean fo'n ainm, *Popular Tales of the West Highlands*. Tha carragh-cuimhne air a chur suas air son Eachainn faisg air an Taigh Sgoil. Fear eile as fhìach ainmeachadh, Uisdean Mac' Ille Mhoire (Hew Morrison) a thug dhuinn an co-chruinneachadh as fheàr a tha againn de bhàrdachd Roib Dhuinn.

Chum mi orm an déidh sin gu Sgoil Bhaile Nodha (Newton), a tha bho cheann iomadh bliadhna fo chùram an t-sàr-sgoileir Ghàidhlig, Dòmhnall MacGilleathain á Tìriodh. Tha a' Ghàidhlig air a deagh theagasg anns an Sgoil seo, agus chuir mi ceithir deug eile ris an àireamh. Ràinig mi Bogha Mór roimh uair na dinnearach, agus chuir Mgr. Mac a' Phearsain fàilte chridheil orm. Rinn e gu toileach ullachadh iomchuid a chum is gum faighinn bruidhinn ris a' chloinn a bha tèoma air labhairt na Gàidhlig. B'e buil a' chothrom seo gun do ghabh mi ri trì fichead is a ceithir de bhuill

ùra. Is i seo Ard-Sgoil an Eilein, agus tha aig an àm còrr is dà cheud gu leth sgoilear innte. Tha teagasg na Gàidhlighe fo chùram gille òig a dh'àraicheadh an Glaschu, Dòmhnall MacEacharna. Chuir mi seachd an oidhche sin am Port Charlotte agus rinn mi air Sgoil Chill-Chomain cho luath is a fhuair mi greim maidne. Ged nach 'eil Gàidhlig aig a' Bhan-sgoilear an seo, tha i a' deanamh a dhìhill beagan teagaisg a thoirt do'n chloinn le òrain is mar sin. Ghabh mi ri aon deug anns an Sgoil seo. Chan 'eil an Sgoil fada bho Cheann Tràigh Ghruneard far an do chuireadh cath fuilteach eadar Dòmhnallach Ile agus Lachann Mór Dhubhairt anns a' bhliadhna 1598.

Air mo thilleadh bho'n àite eachdraidheil seo thadhail mi an Sgoil a' Ghoirtein is chuir mi ceithir deug ri àireamh nam ball. Tha Gàidhlig gu leòir anns an Sgoil seo agus iad uile déidheil air ar Comunn. 'Na dhéidh sin chaidh mi gu Sgoil Phort Charlotte a tha fo chùram Mhgr. MhicAoidh. Chan 'eil mòran Gàidhlig aige, ach tha ùidh mhór aige ann an Comunn na h-Oigridh. Tha a' Bhan-sgoilear a' teagasg Gàidhlighe agus nach ann dhi a bu dual—nighean do Iain MacEacharna a bha iomadh bliadhna 'na Mhaighistir Sgoile am Bun-easain. Tha na sean chaman air an cur gu feum an seo fhathast ach is iad na caileagan leis an ioman ùir (*Hockey*) as mò a tha deanamh dhiubh! Ghabh mi ri dhà ar fhichead de bhuill ùra anns an Sgoil seo.

An déidh mheadhon là chaidh mi gu Port na h-Abhainne, agus fhuair mi gach nì gu h-òrdail do thaobh a' Chomuinn an sin. Tha dà Bhan-sgoilear an seo agus Gàidhlig aig gach té dhiubh. B'e an àireamh a ghabh mi anns an Sgoil seo ceithir ar fhichead. Bha mi an làrna-mhaireach an Leodamus, no mar as fheàrr a thigeas muintir Ile is eile, Port Ilean. Tha Mgr. MacGhilliosa air ceann na Sgoile agus e cùramach dealasach mu obair Comunn na h-Oigridh. A bhàrr air sin, tha e a' gabhail os làimh na h-uiread de'n *Ghaidheal* a reic gach mìos. Chuir mi trì deug ar fhichead ris an àireamh anns an Sgoil seo. A chur crìch air mo chuairt do na Sgoilean, chaidh mi do'n Aird-bheag agus thaitinn e gu mòr rium cho teòma is a bha a' chlann air bruidhinn na Gàidhlighe, gun athadh gun mhiapadh an làthair na Bann-sgoileir. Tha ise déidheil air a bhith a' labhairt na cànaire, agus cha chuala a' chlann facal eadar ì fhéin is mise ach Gàidhlig. Ghabh mi ri seachd deug anns an Sgoil seo.

A' gabhail nan deich Sgoilean thar a chéile, chuir mi ri àireamh Comunn na h-Oigridh dà cheud fichead 's a seachd (227). Ghabh an luchd-teagaisg os làimh cuideachadh leis na Feachdan ach, leis na h-uiread de'n chloinn a bhith air an giùlan an carbadan chun nan

Sgoilean agus dhachaigh, chan 'eil e comasach an cruinneachadh còmhla an déidh uair na Sgoile. Gabhaidh iad ri tuilleadh chaman, ma ghabhas iad faotainn, agus nì na caileagan figheadh is fuigheal. Cha mhò a bhios e comasach de ghin de na buill dol gu Cnoc nan Ros ach chòrdadh e riutha gu mòr nam biodh Cuirm-Chnuic aca an àite goireasach air an Eilean. Is fhiaich seo beachdachadh air agus a chumail fo aire.

Tha mo mhór-thaing aig an luchd-teagaisg gu léir air son an coibheis agus air son gach cothrom a thug iad dhomh labhairt ris a' chloinn agus rùintean Comunn na h-Oigridh a mhineachadh dhaibh ann an Gàidhlig. Bha Mòd soirbheachail am Bogha Mór air Di-haoine, agus bha breacadh math de bhraistean ri fhaicinn anns na tallachan. NIALL.

(*Bho t.d. 28*)

Bha feadhainn 'gam moladh agus càch 'gam càineadh, agus sheinn fear diubh òran Dhonnchaidh Bhàin:

"Mo bheannachd aig na balgairan

A chionn bhith sealg nam caorach."

An uair a bhuail iad trì, rug fear dhiubh air an t-sionnach agus thilg e fad a làimh air talamh tioram e. "Seo!" arsa esan, "'a' cheud sionnach a bha riamh am Muile!"

"Agus tha dòchas agam gur e am fear mu dheireadh," bha fear eile dol a fhreagairt, an uair a chunnaic iad an sionnach còir a' toirt leum air a chasan, slàn, fallain.

Thug e sùil thar a ghualainn; chaog e ris an fheadhainn a bha 'ga sheasamh anns a' bhàta mar gun abradh e, "Gu robh math agaibh; cha chaill sibh air!" Agus an sin sheall e gu geur air càch mar gum biodh e a' bagar cìod a thachradh do na h-uain acasan an éirig an càinidh air-san. Thug e crathadh air fhéin, bhog e a earball agus thog e a chluasan. Thàr e as ris a' bhruithach, agus chan fhaca iad riamh tuilleadh e.

Sin mar a fhuair a' cheud sionnach do Mhuile, agus cha robh Muile riamh as a dhéidh sin gun sionnach gu leòir.

Ma's breug uam e, is breug chugam e.

(*An Gaidheal*, 1877).

Chan 'eil tuil air nach tig traoghadh.

* * * * *

A' phoit a' tilgeadh air a' choire—gu bheil a mhàs dubh.

* * * * *

Am fear nach 'eil cleachdte ri claidheamh, fàgaidh e ri tom e.

* * * * *

Chan fhàs fear air an rathad air am bithear a' sìor-shaltairt.

An Lamh A Bheir

Le IAIN A. MACDHOMHNAILL

AIR a' mhios seo a chaidh bha sinn a' leughadh mu'n ulaidh luachmhoir a' fhuaras ri linn do thrìuir dhaoine tadhal air càraid bhochd. Ri linn ar seanar 's math dh'fhaodte gur e na daoine beaga a mhàin a dheanadh cobhair agus freasdale air an fheumach, ach tha an saoghal an diugh cho tur eadar-dhealaichte bho làithean ar sinnsre is gur gann, dìreach, as urrainn fios no cinnte a bhith agad cò ris a tha do ghnothach.

Cha mhò na sin a bha fios aig Iain Ruadh a' Chorrain cò ris a bha a ghnothach-san an oidhche ud a roinn e a chuibhreann ris an trìuir choigreach.

Bha Iain còir a' fuireach leis fhéin am bothan beag an taic a' chladaich an sgìreachd a' Chorrain. Bho a òige cha robh e coltach ri òigridh eile na sgìreachd. An uair a rachadh iadsan ri obair, is ann a gheibhte Iain 'na aonar am bruaich alltain no air a' Chreig Ghlais a' chluich feadain no a' feadaireachd gun dragh gun uallach lèin an taighe. Cha b' iongnadh idir, ma tà, ged nach do phòs Iain agus ged fhuaras e an oidhche ud 'na aonar a' geur-bheachdachadh air cruthan eugsamhail agus caochlaideach na grìosaich. Bha e air a mheas, tha eagal orm, 'na neo-dhuine gun mhath gun olc, ach bha cuid de'n bheachd gu robh an deagh chluas ciùil aige. Gheibhte e daonnan aig bainnsean agus aig cuirmean, agus bhàtar a' fàgail air gu robh e aon uair co-dhiubh aig a' Mhòd. Ach, biodh sin mar a dh'fhaodas e, bha Iain còir aig an taigh an oidhche a bha seo.

Cha b' ann tric a bhiodh luchd-céilidh aige, agus abair thusa gun do chuir e car de uamhas air an uair a chuala e an gnogadh làidir ud aig an doras. Gun dàil sam bith thug Iain an dealan bhàrr an doruis, agus cò a bha an sin ach trìuir dhaoine móra gasda ag iarraidh greim bidh agus cuid na h-oidhche? Cha do chleachd Iain bochd aoigheachd a nochdadh do'n choigreach roimhe seo, ach bha de uaisle is de charthannas 'na aoraidh nach diùltadh e a chuid de'n t-saoghal a roinn ri neach sam bith. Dh'fhàiltich e na coigrich gu blàth is gu cridheil, agus cha b'fhada gus an robh air a' bhòrd na bha aig Iain dha fhéin—im, aran, càise, agus earball bradain a ghlac e an là sin fhéin.

Bha a h-uile coltas air na coigrich gun do chòrd am biadh riutha, agus fhad is a bha iadsan ag itheadh dh'ùllaich Iain daibh leabaidh mhór de fhraoch is de fhianach thioram sheasgair. Chaidil na coigrich gu math agus aig

briseadh an latha bha iad air am bonnaibh is deiseil gu togail orra mun do dhùisg Iain as a cheud chadal. Chaidh fear dhiubh do cheann shuas an taighe a thoirt taing do Iain agus a thairgsinn pàidhidh air. Pàidheadh cha ghabhadh Iain. Chan fhaoidte bonn òir no airgid a thathann air, agus chan fhòghnadh leis ach an trìuir choigreach a chur air an t-slighe thun an rathaid.

Sin mar a thachair, agus anns an dealachadh nach ann a dh'fheòraich aon diubh an robh dad idir a luthaigeadh e dha fhéin. Fhreagair Iain nach robh beartas saoghalta a dhìth air agus nach robh nì fo'n ghreìn a bu docha leis na clàrsach agus alt air a chluich. Leis a sin ghabh e fhéin agus an trìuir dhaoine slàn le chéile, ach, feuch thusa riut, an uair a ràinig Iain dhachaigh, nach robh clàrsach an sin ri taobh an teine. Shaoil le Iain gur ann ri brudar a bha e. Chuir e a mheòirean air na teudan, agus, ma chuir, chuala e an ceòl a bu mhilse agus a b'fhonnmhoire a chuala e riamh aig mòd no aig banais. Sheinn e fhéin le guth ceòlmhor an co-shèirm gun chearb ri pongan sàr-mhillis na clàrsaich.

An ùine gun a bhith fada chaidh ainm Iain fad is farsaing. Cha robh banais no cuirm eadar dà cheann na siorramachd aig nach robh Iain leis a' chlarsaich, agus their cuid gun d' fhuair e cuireadh chun a' Mhòid uair no dhà. Feumaidh gu robh e math! Ach, a dh'aindeoin sin uile, bha feadhainn ann—luchd-ciùil, ar leotha fhéin—a bha a' cur teagamh an gleusdach Iain.

Cha robh air ach gun do chuir fear no dhà dhiubh rompha a dhòl air céilidh air Iain feuch am faighear fios cò bhuaithe no càit an d'fhuair e a' chlarsach agus an t-ionnsachadh. Ràinig iad Iain, ach thuing esan fàth an turuis. Chluich agus sheinn e an ceòl a bu tiamaidhe agus a bu mbuladaiche a chuala iadsan riamh. Bha iad, mar gum b'eadh, fo gheasaibh, gun chothrom nan cas no gun lùth na teanga, fhad is a chluich esan. B'fheudar aidaichadh gu robh Iain 'na chlarsair sònraichte, ach chan innseadh esan càit an d'fhuair e a' chlarsach no idir an t-ionnsachadh.

Bha seo 'na aobhar iongnaidh do mhòran, ach seo mar a fhreagair Iain gach ceist a chuirear ris, "An lamh a bheir, is i a gheibh." B'fhìor dha sin, agus, ged nach 'eil sgeul an diugh air a' chlarsaich, tha cuimhne air Iain, air làithean a òige, air a choibhneas, agus air a' chliù a choisinn sin dha.

Mar A Chaidh A' Cheud Sionnach Do Mhuile

THA am bàrd ag iomradh air an àm anns an robh "Gàidhlig aig na h-eòin 's a thuigeadh iad glòir nan dàn." Is ann anns an àm anns an robh Gàidhlig aig na sionnach a dh' fheumadh gun do thachair an nì a tha rùn orm aithris an dràsda. Cò nach cuala mu sheòltachd nan sionnach agus mu na cuir agus na cuilbheartan a chuireas iad an cleachdadh a chum ruigheachd air am miann?

Bha sionnach sliogach ruadh fad mhòran bhliadhnaichan a' sìubhal nan cnoc agus a' tadhal nan eas eadar an Rudha-breac agus Aird-nan-capull anns an Eilean Shaoileach. Ged bha e an làn-bheachd gu robh a chòir air an fhearann cho math ris na còirichean aig Morair Bhealach, agus ged nach robh e a' meas gu robh cionta no coire sam bith ann an cearc a thoirt an diugh as an Dun-mhòr no uan am màireach á Cille-Bhrìghde, bha aon no dhà anns an eilean nach robh de 'n bhàrail cheudna; agus eadar Dòmhnall nan sionnach le a chuid abhagan agus cìobairean nan tuathanach le an coin-chaorach cha robh a chaithe-beatha idir cho sìochail is a mhiannaicheadh e.

Cha robh càrn no àite-falaich eadar Cùl-na-coille agus Sloc-an-eich-dhuinn nach b' aithne dha, ach, an dèidh a h-uile rud a bha ann, is iomadh caol-theàrnadh a bha aige, air alt is mu dheireadh gun d'fhàs e gu tur sgìth de a bheatha anns an eilean agus chuir e roimhe, nan gabhadh seòl no dòigh deanamh, gun rachadh e thairis do 'n Eilean Mhuileach, a bha a' sìneadh sìos m'a choinneamh ach a bha iomadh mìle bhuaithe anns an àird-an-iar. Tha e coltach gus an t-àm seo nach robh sionnach ann am Muile, agus chan 'eil fhios agam an robh iarraidh air. Chan abair mi nach toireadh Alasdair Fliuch anns a' Chrògan rud no dhà, nam b' urrainn da an cumail as gu buileach; agus tha mi cinnteach nach tug e maitheanas riamh do 'n fheadhainn a chuidich ann a' cheud fhear.

Cha mhòr làithean air nach robh cuid no cuid-eigin a nunn is a nall eadar Muile agus Saoil. Bha malairt de sheòrsa no dhà eadar an dà eilean. Bu mhath a chunnaic an sionnach seo; ach ciamar a bha e ri faighinn thairis do Mhuile, cha robh fios aige. Là de na làithean agus e 'ga fhalach fhéin ann an sloc os cionn cladach Aird-nan-capull, an anail 'na uchd agus e an dèidh a ruagadh le aon de choin a' Chùirn-bhàin, cha mhòr nach robh e air bòidean a thoirt gun leumadh e a mach anns a' mhuir agus gun cuireadh e as da fhéin, an uair a chunnaic e seòl geal bàta ag éirigh a mach bho

chladach Mhuile agus, a réir coltais, a' deanamh dìreach air a' phort a bha aig a chasan.

Na bu dlùithe agus na bu dlùithe thàinig am bàta, agus, ceart mar a shaoil e, bhuaill i air a' chladach mar urchair cloiche do 'n àit anns an robh e 'ga fhalach fhéin. Bu mhath a dh' aithnich e gu robh aca ri tilleadh an rathad a thàinig iad, ach b' e an càs ciamar a rachadh aige air faighinn thar an aiseig leotha. Cha b' fhada a bha fear nan car is nan cleas ag amas air dòigh.

Am feadh a bha na Mullich a' deanamh an gnothaich agus a' cur seachad beagan ùine as a dhéidh sin ann an Taigh-an-triubhais a' feitheamh an t-siùil-mhara, thàinig mo laochan a nuas, agus an dèidh dha tumadh a thoirt anns an t-sàile, laigh e maol-marbh am measg na feannach air an tràigh goirid bho 'n àit anns an robh am bàta ceangailte aig na fir. An ceann greis thàinig na Mullich a nuas chun a' bhàta. Leum iad uile a staigh ach am fear a bha ri a leigeil na sgaoil, agus dìreach an uair a bha e a' dol 'ga fuasgladh chunnaic e an sionnach 'na laighe, mar a shaoil esan, 'na chloisich mhairbh.

"Fhir a th' ann," arsa esan, agus e 'ga thogail air a chasan-deiridh, "nach ann ortsa a thàinig an dà latha an uair is ann am measg feamainn agus anabas a' chladaich a fhuair thu do leabaidh-bhàis! Càit an robh do chuilbheartan agus do chleasan an là a thàinig an càramh seo ort? Co-dhiubh a b' urchair no abhag a thug gus a seo thu? No an deachaidh do bhàthadh agus do thilgeadh a staigh an seo air bhàrr nan tonn? Cha bu cheàrr a chaidh am port seo ainmeachadh 'Port-nam-mèirleach,' ged nach biodh ann ach gun d'fhuaradh do chlosach-sa air tìr ann. Ach tha do mhèirle thairis; cha ghoid thu cearc no caora tuilleadh. Bheir sinn leinn thu gu fearann a bha chuiqe seo saor o do sheòrsa, agus tha dòchas agam a bhitheas. Lionaidh sinn do chraiceann làn cònnlach an àite sidhne mar a b' àbhaist, agus cuiridh sinn ad sheasamh thu ad bhòcan a chumail nan cearc as a' ghàrradh."

Le seo a ràdh, thilg e an sionnach a staigh ann an toiseach na geòla agus an ròpa-toisich air a mhuin, agus phut e air falbh i.

Is iongantach mar a chuireas rud faoin teangannan dhaoine air ghluasad agus a chumas e aig aon nì iad fad ùine. Cha mhòr gun deachaidh facal a labhairt eadar Port-nam-mèirleach agus Muile ach mu shionnach. Is ann an sin a bha na sgeulachdan m'an timcheall.

(An còrr air t.d. 26)

The late Angus L. Macdonald

The following is an extract from a tribute by Major Calum I. N. Macleod to the late Prime Minister of Nova Scotia, to whom we paid tribute in our last Number:

* * * * *

John Buchan once wrote: "There is in all men some kinship with the divine, something which is capable of rising superior to common passions, and the love of easy rewards, superior to pain and loss, superior even to death." This passage aptly describes the more characteristic personality facets of Angus L. Macdonald.

When attending the National Mod in Oban, Scotland, in October 1953, these outstanding talents of his were portrayed in their full glory. In his orations, both in Gaelic and English, the listener could detect the response of spirit to spirit; the cultural link between the Old and the New; the true evaluation of Scottish patriotism as something fine, ethereal, and delicate; yet the sense was conveyed that, in order to maintain this patriotism, there must be forgetfulness of self, a certain travail of spirit, and sacrifice.

When his eloquence terminated, however, he mixed freely with Gael and Saxon. He joined hands with the "ceilidh" makers in true Cape Breton style, when they sang the lilting Hebridean airs, some sad, some gay,

some pastoral, and a few with a haunting note of "Desiderium" (or, in Scottish Gaelic, "Ionndrainn," yearning, longing).

On his native heath we shall remember him for his intense interest in the Gaelic language from the educational point of view. Had he lived a few days longer, how thrilled he would have been to know that Gaelic can now be taught in the day-school curriculum of Nova Scotian schools.

Although he fully appreciated the value of our colourful Scottish heritage, he always made a special point of emphasising that the intrinsic foundation of our traditions was Gaelic and that a race who could not speak their native language had no claim to national identity. He utterly despised the pseudo-Celtic enthusiasts, who cashed in on the promotional and commercialised aspects of our heritage in order to gain public acclaim for themselves and to set themselves up in the eyes of the people as self-appointed authorities on language, traditions, and customs, about which they were profoundly and crassly ignorant.

Let us have faith that the great Scottish patriotism which he so eloquently propounded, and the true artistry of his soul, shall serve as a cultural inspiration for present and future generations.

(*Bho t.d. 52*)

tha blàth a coimhleanaidh cinnteach, tha buil a brisidh do-sheachainnte do gach cinneach.

Tha buntanas sònraichte aig an àithne seo ris na Gàidheil, oir bhris iadsan i mar nach do bhris mòran eile air an t-saoghal. Ciod an eas-onair as motha as urrainn do dhuine a chur air a athair na dearmad a dhèanamh air a theistean agus air a chliù, agus cùl a chur ri a oideas agus ri a chleachdaidhean? Ciod an t-eas-urram eile, no an tuilleadh tàire, a tha e comasach do mhac no do nighinn a thoirt do am màthair a dh'altruim iad gu gràdhach, agus a dh'àraich iad air bìochd blàth a cléibhe, na gun diùltadh iad blasad 'nam beul air a' chànain mhilis thlàith sin leis an do rinn i gu minig an tàladh, agus leis an do chuidich i an ceud cheileireadh? Nach lìonmhor mac Gàidheil agus nighean Gàidheil a tha ciontach de na nìthan seo? Mo thruaighe! nach annamh ionracan? Agus 'nach an-aoibhinn do na Gàidheil mar shluagh ma bhuanaisceas an clann air an t-slighe sin? Gu deimhin cha mheal iad fearann an athraichean: sluigear suas iad le sluagh coimheach: théid an ainm

truagh bàs an eachdraidh; agus có a dhùraig-eadh tagradh gum bu cheart a chaochladh? Nar leigeadh Dia gun tachair sin, oir b'antram am beud e do ar dùthaich, agus bu mhór an diùbhaile do an domhan gu h-iomlan.

Leugh mi am pàipear a' Chomuinn, bho chionn ghoirid, na briathran so: "The real enemy of the Gaelic is the English Educational System." Tha mise a' cur m'uire aonta ris gu bheil smior na tui-fhìrinne an sin. Ma thig mo nàmhaid an aghaidh mar nàmhaid, le a chlaidheamh rùisgte, an sin tha a rùn follaiseach, agus nì mi rian air mi fhéin a dhìon bhuaithe. Ach an uair a thig e am chòmhdhail mar charaid le am b' àill còmhadh leam, agus an tràth a tha a ghiùlan an aimhriche deagh-ghean nàbaidh, agus a tha a bheusan gu léir fo chidhis càrdeis, an sin nach maith a dh' fhaoidte gur motha mo ghàbhadh?

(*R'a leantainn*)

Faodaidh aon amadan ceist a chur nach urrainn do dhà fhear dheug ghlic fhuasgladh.

Naidheachd Na h-Airde Tuath

NOTES FROM THE NORTH

Bu mhath leam an cothrom seo a' ghabhail gus mòran taing a thoirt do 'n Fhear-dheasachaidh air son na fàilte chridheil choibhneil a chaidh a chur orm anns a' Ghaidheal mu dheireadh.

Tha mi air mòran siubhail a' dheanamh anns an Airde Tuath bhò'n ghabh mi an dreuchd seo os làimh, agus thachair na Gaidheil rium anns gach ceàrn gu fialaidh, laghach, mar a bu dual do na Gaidheil a bhith.

On 11th May I attended the Annual General Meeting of the Golspie Branch of An Comunn, where I got a very warm welcome from the Convener and Committee and received hospitality for the night.

The Wester Ross Provincial Mod, held at Ullapool on 14th May, was very successful. We had a busy, but happy day, and managed to complete the programme in ample time for the two concerts in the evening.

The South-West Ross Provincial Mod was held at Kyle of Lochalsh on Friday, 28th May. This is the biggest one-day Mod held in the North with over 600 entries in all. To make this Mod such a successful one, it must be appreciated that the local Mod Committee must have had many a headache and they are, one and all, worthy of great praise for their good work.

Three adjudicators, Mrs. Niven, Mr. Soutar, and Mr. MacPhail, accompanied me on the return journey to Inverness in "Carnegie." The way was rough and rugged, but the lovely scenery compensated in every way.

Tha àm trang air thoiseach orm, ach cluinidh sibh sin anns an ath *Ghaidheal*.

D. J. McL.

Naidheachd Bho Dheas

NOTES FROM THE SOUTH

THE Conveners of the Propaganda and Comunn na h-Oigridh Committees decided that advantage should be taken of my attendance at the Islay Provincial Mod to contact Office-bearers of Branches and to visit the various Schools in the interests of the respective Committees. This I gladly undertook to do and, being favoured with good weather, my trip to the Green Isle was a pleasant and, I hope, a profitable one.

Mr. Malcolm MacLeod, General Secretary, had advised Branch secretaries and head teachers of my impending visit, and it was explained to Branch Secretaries that a formal meeting was not expected in view of the near approach of the Mod and preparations therefor.

On my arrival at Ballygrant I was informed that the local Choir was having a final practice in the neighbouring village of Caol Ila, some miles distant. I called on Mr. Donald MacIntyre, former Secretary, and was glad to learn from him that regular meetings had been held during the session and that good work was being done. The President of the Branch, Mr. Alasdair MacEacharn, is also conductor of the Choir and it is pleasing to record that they acquitted themselves with much credit at the Mod. Many of the individual members of the choirs gained many prizes. The new Secretary is Miss Ramsay, teacher at Bunnahabhann School.

A meeting had been arranged for me at Port Charlotte, but, as bad luck would have it, the Coast Guards Officer arrived that evening and about twenty members of the local Life Saving crew, including the President of the Branch, were called out for a rehearsal. However, a few of us met in the School and talked over various matters. The Branch is very much alive and is justly proud of the recent broadcast Ceilidh sponsored by the members. The Rev. Archd. Lamont was appointed Vice-President and a few more were added to the Committee. Mr. Alex. MacIndeor continues as President, and Miss F. MacKechnie, assistant teacher in the local School, is Secretary.

Regular meetings were held at Portnahaven. They are at present without a President but are hopeful of filling the vacancy in time for the opening of the winter session. Mrs. MacKillop, Secretary, with whom I had conversation in the School, is an enthusiastic worker and proud of the fact that the Branch had sent a Senior Choir to the Jubilee Mod. At the present moment there is no one in either Portnahaven or Port Charlotte who can undertake to conduct a choir, and the absence of representative Choirs from these Branches was keenly felt at the Mod. Individual entries were also down in consequence.

Port Ellen Branch had invited me to preside at their pre-Mod Concert on the Tuesday evening, but I had my itinerary arranged for Schools and Branches and did not care to risk making a change at short notice. I met Mrs. Campbell, Secretary, at the Mod and she reported that the Port Ellen Branch was very much alive. The Kildalton Choir, sponsored by the Branch had a most successful day at the Mod. Mrs. MacGibbon, formerly of the Bowmore Choir, was the conductor.

The Mod, a separate report of which will appear in the magazine, was a very pleasant and successful gathering. Although the number of senior entries was less than usual, the stan-

(Continued on p. 56)

Ann's A' Mhailead

EDITOR'S MAILBAG

Gaelic; Revival or Extinction

DEAR SIR,—I am a Life Member of An Comunn Gaidhealach and also a Lowlander who has made a little study of Scotland's language. I have also been looking round to see how other minority languages fare compared to our Gaelic. Quite frankly, the situation with regard to Gaelic appals me.

In Friesland, although the desired aim of equal status for Frisian and Dutch in Friesland has not yet been achieved, the signs are very encouraging. Frisian is now used as a medium of instruction in the lower schools. Can we say the same of Gaelic?

The Welsh even go further. The claim there is for the Welsh language to be an exclusive, or almost exclusive, medium of instruction. Many people think that inability to speak Welsh in Wales should be regarded on a par with inability to speak English in England. The Breton movement is very strong despite the unwillingness of the French Government to consider the adequate teaching of Breton in schools.

What is An Comunn doing about the perilous situation of the Gaelic language? Certain things have no doubt been achieved, but they have little or no bearing on the crux of the problem. The Association have not even managed to master the supine attitude of the Gael as regards English, the attitude of a rabbit which has been hypnotised by a weasel. Children still have to go to school and receive their first lessons through the medium of a foreign language—English. The attitude of a superannuated, dying language permeates even the ranks of An Comunn Gaidhealach itself. That is why I do not give as much support to the Association as I might.

If the function of An Comunn Gaidhealach is to be simply that of a gigantic Highland social club, it might as well close its doors for all the good it is doing to save the Gaelic language. As it is, its meetings are conducted in English; there is a lot of English spoken at Mods, supposed to be a Gaelic occasion; I myself receive correspondence from the Society wholly in English as though I was not expected to know any Gaelic! In the name of fortune, how is it that it is not also printed in Gaelic as well as English, allowing of course for those members who have no Gaelic. How can such a Society hope to save the Gaelic language if they encourage the use of English?

If Gaelic is not to die out within a generation or two, some effective steps will have to be taken to arrest its decline.

First, the Gaelic-speaking areas will need to be classified:

- (1) where Gaelic is spoken by the children as the current language.
- (2) where Gaelic is known by the children, but not generally spoken.
- (3) where Gaelic is unknown to the children, but known or spoken by the parents.
- (4) where Gaelic is only known or spoken by the elderly people.
- (5) where Gaelic is only known by part of the elderly community, or is on the verge of becoming extinct.

At the present moment, English is used as a medium of instruction to all these groups regardless of the current language. This is a wrong policy which tends to confuse the child in his or her most formative years. For Groups 1 and 2 the minimum demand on the Education Authorities should be that Gaelic should be used as a medium of instruction on entering school until such time as the child attains the age of 8 years when English could gradually be substituted, if

desired. That would allow Gaelic to be taught as a *native*, not a foreign, language. The child would be better able to make progress at school and better able to assimilate English when that came to be taught.

In the case of Group 3, some pressure should be brought to bear upon parents to teach their children the native language, so that the conditions applying to Groups 1 and 2 could be fulfilled. If not, the conditions applying to Groups 4 and 5 should be considered.

In the case of Groups 4 and 5 it is desirable that the children who would naturally have to receive their first education through the medium of English should learn Gaelic when they reach the age of 8 years, so that they can talk to their elders in the native tongue. It is essential to try and rid the minds of Highlanders of this idea of a decaying, non-commercial language. Is not Gaelic as good, if not in some ways better than English? Why be ashamed of the tongue that your mother taught you? And, if Gaelic is non-commercial, why is it so? And who made it so?

As regards the Lowlands, where there exist large colonies of Highlanders, the main thing is the setting up of Gaelic schools where the conditions of Groups 4 and 5 would apply. Lowlanders who wish their children to acquire a knowledge of Gaelic should be encouraged to send them to these schools.

All this may sound to some of your readers as Scottish Nationalism. While it is true that nationalism and culture sometimes go hand in hand, it is by no means always the case. The advocating of a higher status for Gaelic has actually nothing whatever to do with political nationalism; it is only a means of rescuing the language from oblivion. Besides, An Comunn Gaidhealach do not exist for propagating any particular political creed; they exist to save the language.

At the present moment the state of Gaelic is deplorable. There is now no time to lose if the downward trend of Gaelic is to be halted.

After compiling the list as described above, the next thing is to petition your M.P.s for the introduction of Gaelic into the school curriculum, either in the case of Groups 1 and 2 as a medium of instruction, or as in Groups 4 and 5 as a school subject, and to give them no rest until this is obtained.

In writing this letter, although straight from the shoulder, I mean no reproach or offence to anybody. It is simply because that, Gaelic being in so parlous a state, I feel that the activities of An Comunn are not enough to arrest the decline of the language. So go to it! I shall be behind you if you do.—Is mise gu dileas,
IAIN MACKINNON.

The Teaching of Gaelic

Sir,—Arising out of the correspondence published in the June number of *An Gaidheal* re the teaching of Gaelic, it may be of interest to members of An Comunn to know what I myself have experienced recently.

Two boys of 13 years came to the school (a secondary modern school) in which I teach. One came from Achil Island, or Oilean Acla. When I heard his Connacht accent, I asked him if he was from Connacht. He said, "Yes," he was from Achil Island. "Bhfuil Gaedhlig agat?" was my next question. "Ta, neart," was his instant reply. "Ca 'cu Gaedhlig no Bearla a bhi againn ar scoil?" was my next question. "An da chuid," said he, "ach bu mho de'n Gaedhlig na de'n Bearla a bhi againn i n-Acail."

The other boy comes from Dublin. When I asked him, "Bhfuil Gaedhilg agat?," he replied at once, "Ta Gaedhilg go leor agamsa, buidheachas le Dia." I talked with him for some time in Irish, and found he spoke it fluently and naturally.

The school has three "streams," A, B, and C. Both these boys, who have hitherto been educated in Irish schools in which there is compulsory Irish, have been placed in the A stream here in England by a monoglot English headmaster, who never even thought that they knew any language but English.

There are two things to be observed here. (1) Compulsory Irish in Irish schools *does* teach children, even in Dublin, to speak Irish fluently and naturally. (2) These children's knowledge of English and other school subjects is at least equal to that of monoglot English children educated in English schools.—

Yours sincerely,

Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

TOMAS MACNEACAIL.

Provincial Mod

EDINBURGH

The Edinburgh Local Mod was held in the Central Hall, Edinburgh, on 8th May, 1954. The adjudicators were: Gaelic—Mr. Derick Thomson, Mr. Neil Shaw, and Miss Annie MacMillan; Music—Mr. Gilmour Barr and Mr. Donald MacAllister. Mr. Neil Shaw presided over the Mod Concert, during which Mr. W. C. Rodman, Hon. Secretary of the Royal Celtic Society, made an appeal for the fund to restore the memorial to Duncan Ban MacIntyre in Greyfriars Churchyard.

The first-prize winners were:—

Junior Section

Conversation (learners: confined)—Aeneas Maclean
Conversation (learners: open)—Catherine Mackinnon,
Glasgow. Recitation—Helen Loudon, Loanhead;
Recitation—Catherine Mackinnon. Reading at sight
Catherine Mackinnon.

Solo singing (confined)—Iain Grant Mackay.
Open—Iain Grant Mackay. Aged 12-16—Maurice
Mackenzie. Puirt-a-beul—Doreen Mullan. Gaelic
Psalm—Rosina Jameson. Jacobite or Clan Rallying
Song—Catherine Mackinnon. Highest mark in Gaelic
Catherine Mackinnon and Rosina Jameson (equal).
Highest mark in music—Maurice Mackenzie and
Gordon Lang (equal).

Pianoforte solo—Sheena Irvine. Strathspey and
reel (any instrument)—Henriette Galloway.

Senior Section

Letter in Gaelic—Margaret Mackinnon, Glasgow
Conversation (learners: confined)—Mamie Mackintosh
Duff. Recitation (native speakers)—Murdo F. J.
MacLeod. Reading at sight (open)—Margaret Mac-
kinnon. Story—Margaret Mackinnon. Dialogue—
Joan MacIver and Margaret Mackay, Glasgow.

Solo singing of song from "Orain nam Beann":
Ladies—Myrtle M. Johnstone. Men—Murdo F. J.
MacLeod. Own choice (ladies)—Sheila A. Macdougall.
Men—Murdo F. J. MacLeod. Two songs (ladies—
Ishbel M. Greer, Glasgow. Murdo F. J. MacLeod.
Puirt-a-beul—Murdo F. J. MacLeod. Gaelic Psalm—
Joan MacIver. Isobel Fairbairn Memorial Prize
(presented by Edinburgh Gaelic Choir)—Murdo F. J.
MacLeod. Duet—Margaret C. MacCallum and Nina
MacCallum. Highest mark for Gaelic—Murdo F. J.
MacLeod. Highest mark for music—Lottie Seggie.

Pianoforte solo—George Fraser.

Ionmhas A' Chomuinn

Treasurer's Notes

JUBILEE MOD, OBAN, 1953.

Received at Oban—

Previously acknowledged £2,424 3 11

Received at Headquarters—

Previously acknowledged 1,188 3 11
The Glasgow Celtic Society 4 10 —
Mile of Pennies, Glasgow 28 13 3
Whist Drive, City Chambers 93 4 2
Treasure Hunt 22 5 8
Grand Bazaar, Glasgow, 28/11/53 613 8 4
Farquhar MacRae, Esq., Clarston 2 — —

Final Total as per Mod Account .. £4,276 9 3

CENTRAL FUND

Previously acknowledged £154 17 —
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Edinburgh Branch, 15 — —
Am Bodach Ruadh, Vancouver 1 12 11
Largs Branch 1 1 —
Stirling Branch 10 — —
Miss Mary A. Campbell, Gourcock 5 — —

As at 30th April, 1954 £182 19 11

MAGAZINE FUND

Previously acknowledged £12 2 —
Miss J. B. Stewart, Blairgowrie 11 6 —
Dr. John MacLeod, Fraserburgh 10 6 —
J. A. D. McIntosh, Esq., Glasgow 12 6 —
Am Bodach Ruadh, Vancouver 1 12 10

As at 30th April, 1954 £15 9 4

(Continued from p. 54)

dard was very high. The Hall was packed for the evening Concert, over which Mr. Derek Thomson presided. I had the pleasure of introducing him and also moving a vote of thanks to Mrs. Budge, Jura, for presenting the prizes. I was also called upon to give short addresses in Gaelic and English, and I made this the occasion of conveying the thanks of An Comunn to all who had laboured so hard to make the Mod so successful.

Mr. Alex. MacIndeor, Convener, and Mr. Neil MacKechnie, Secretary, and members of the Local Committee deserve the cordial thanks of An Comunn for their work on behalf of Gaelic in the Island. NEIL SHAW.

Is fèarr dìcheall an duine laig na neo-shund an duine làidir.

* * * * *

Na mol neach sam bith tuilleadh is a' chòir, gus nach bi rùm agad air a chàineadh.

* * * * *

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Feasgar trang 'san Osd-thigh (C) ...	Original: Ranald C. MacDonald ...	4 F. 4 M.
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AN GÀIDHEAL

THE GAEL

Vol. XLIX

AUGUST, 1954

No. 8

Cha Tig An Aois Leatha Fhein

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A dh'fhàs gu mìleanta gasda.

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Is caolaichidh tu a chasan ;
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Leabhar XLIX

AN LUNASDAL, 1954

Aireamh 8

Facal Air Son "Television"?

"Chan fheum i iasad." B'e sin beachd Alasdair Mhic Mhaighistir Alasdair air coimhiontachd na Gàidhliche mar chànan a chuireadh an cèill gach smaoin gun a bhith an eisimeil cànan sam bith eile.

Aig a' cheart àm is neònach an rud e gu bheil bàrdachd Mhic Mhaighistir Alasdair lom-làn de fhaclan-iasaid. D'a thaobh-san, anns a' chùis seo co-dhiubh, foadar a ràdh nach 'eil an eisimpleir a réir na comhairle.

Biodh sin mar a bhitheas, tha sinne anns an linn seo ann an suidheachadh anns am feum sin fuasgladh air chor-eigin a thoirt do'n cheist, "Ciamar a chuirear an cèill smaointean ùra ar latha-ne?" Far nach 'eil facal Gàidhlig deiseil againn, ciod as còir a dheanamh? Facal ùr Gàidhlig a dheanamh no facal a ghabhail à cànan eile?

Chan 'eil nàire sam bith air a' Bheurla facail a thogail á siod is á seo, ach tha mòran de luchd na Gàidhliche nach 'eil idir cinnteach ciod as còir a dheanamh. Feumar aideachadh gu bheil cus de luchd na Gàidhliche a tha ro-bhras gu bhith ag ùisneachadh fhaclan Beurla an uair is beag am feum orra. "Cuir am boesa ann a' front." "Càit an d' overtakig e thu?" "Nach ann air Iain a bha an *surprise* an uair a dhiùlt am *bank* an *cheque* a *chashadh* dha air son an *allotment* aige!" "Fhuair Calum fichead not am fear air na laogh agus *thirty-two pound ten* air a' ghamhainn, agus gu dearbh bha iad *first class*."

Chan 'eil anns an t-seòrsa bruidhne sin ach lapachd as còir a sheachnadh. Air an làimh eile, foadar dol ro-fhada an rathad eile, gus mu dheireadh gu bheil do chuid Ghàidhlig cho uasal ceart agus nach tuig duine sam bith i ach thu fhéin.

Is fada bho bha am facal "carbaid" aig na Gaidheil. Ach tha sinn eòlach an diugh air carbaidan agus goireasan-siubhail air nach robh ar sinnsirean eòlach. An toiseach bha "carbaid" againn, agus bha sin a' ciallachadh "carbaid-eich." An sin thàinig an "carbaid-smùide" (no "an tràan," mar a their a' mhòrchuid againn). As déidh sin, an "carbaid-ola." Ach tha deifir sheòsachan de carbaidan-ola ann, agus mar sin is tric sinn a' bruidhinn mu "chàr" is mu "bhùs." Agus a nis tha againn mar an ceudna "an speur-charbaid" no "an sgiathalan" no an "soitheach-adhair" no "an itealan."

Tha beatha na Gaidhealtachd 'ga cruthatharrachadh an ceartuair leis an adhartas a thàtar a' deanamh an co-cheangal ri oibrichean an "hydro-electricity." Cha robh dad de eòlas aig ar sinnsirean, Gallda no Gaidhealach, air "electricity." Ach tha eòlas againne air, agus tha sinn a' deanamh feum dheth, agus tha an cumhachd ùr seo a' ruigheachd nan ceàrnan as iomallaiche. A bheil facal freagarach againn air son "electricity?" Tha fhios againn gu bheil an dealanach ag éirigh á "electricity" anns an adhar. Uime sin,

thòisich sinn air bruidhinn mu'n "dealan," "dealan-uisge," "solus an dealain," "cumhachd an dealain," agus "Bord Tuathach an Dealain-Uisge." Agus nach fòghainn sin?

Tha innleachd eile againn nach robh aig ar sinnsirean. An toiseach an "telegraph," agus an sin "wireless telegraphy," agus an sin am boosa innleachdach a tha cha mhór anns gach dachaigh a bheir chugad cainnt is ceòl an t-saoghail gu léir. Nach iomadh facal a dh'fheuch sinn air son na h-innleachd seo—"an labhran-sidhe," "am fritheud," "an ràdio?"

Tha innleachd as iongantach buileach a nis 'nar tairgse mu dheas, agus am beagan bhliadhnanachan bidh i an tairgse na Gaidhealtachd mar an ceudna. Is e sin "television." B'fheudar do'n Bheurla bloigh de fhacal Laidinn a chàradh ri bloigh de fhacal Greugais a dheanamh an fhacail, "television." An tog sinn am facal sin cuideachd? Tha e glé choltach gun tog. "Cian-amhairceachd," "céin-léirsinn," —an iad sin as fheàrr, no a bheil facal eile ann?

An Sgian-Dubh

No well-dressed Highlander would be seen without his "sgian-dubh." But beware! It would seem that the post-Cluuden proscription of Highland weapons may be re-enacted. A recent Act of Parliament forbids the carrying of certain articles classed as "offensive weapons," and it would appear that the wearing of the "sgian-dubh" may be a breach of that Act.

Some time ago in Aberdeen Sheriff Court a person was fined for drawing his "sgian-dubh" and pointing it in a threatening manner at police officers. The prosecution made it clear that it was not contended that a "sgian-dubh" as worn with Highland dress was an offensive weapon but, when pointed at someone, it became an offensive weapon. The Sheriff refused to order forfeiture of the "sgian-dubh".

Following upon this case Lord Saltoun raised in the House of Lords the question of the permissibility of the "sgian-dubh," and was assured by the Earl of Home, Minister of State for Scotland, that the wearing of the "sgian-dubh" was not an offence, but the brandishing of it was.

It may be recalled that Mr. T. B. Wilson Ramsay, a former M.P. for the Western Isles, had to divest himself of his "sgian dubh" before entering the House of Commons on a certain occasion, when he happened to be clad in Highland Dress and was called to the House to take part in a division.

PRESENTATION TO MR ANGUS MACLEOD

On the eve of his removal to Edinburgh to make his home there, Mr. Angus Macleod, J.P., M.A., B.Sc., F.E.I.S., former Rector of Oban High School, was made the recipient of a presentation by the Oban Branch of An Comunn. Mrs. Macleod also received a gift.

Making the presentation, Mr. Donald Thomson paid tribute to Mr. Macleod's fine service as president of the Oban Branch, and especially his great work for the Jubilee National Mod.

CUIREAMAID CLACH AIR AN CARN



Donnchadh MacDhòmhnail

Air a' bhliadhna seo rinneadh dà bheàrn 'nar measg mar Ghaidheal le bàs Aonghus Mhic-Mhaoilein am Beinn-a-bhaogha agus bàs Dhonnchaidh MhicDhòmhnail am Peighinn-nan-Aoireann an Uibhist a Deas. Bha iad le chéile 'nan seanchaidhean barraichte, agus cha d'fhàg iad am mac-samhail 'nan déidh.

Chumadh Aonghus Barrach air a' seachas fad oidhcheannan leis an aon sgeul, agus tha e air aithris gu bheil deich mìle taobh-duilleig de a chuid sheanchais sgrìobhte.

Cha robh eòlas pearsanta agam fhéin air Aonghus, ach is minig a chuala mi deagh chliù air bho dhaoine eile d'am b'aithne e gu maith. Bha eòlas agam air Donnchadh agus chuir mi seachad seachdain glé thoilichte còmhla ris, agus e fhéin is mi fhéin air aoi gheachd an taigh fialaidh Fear Chanaidh.

"An innis mi sgeulachd dhuibh?" theireadh e. "Innsidh, gu dearbh, ma's e bhur toil e." Agus shineadh e air aon de na sgeòil mhóra aige, no bheireadh e ruith air seann sheanchasan mu Chloinn Raghnaill is Staoilgearraidh.

Bha canchainn is meomhair aig Aonghus is Donnchadh. Bha fòghlum aca nach fhaigheadh tu an leabhraichean. Ach bha rud a b'fheàrr na sin aca—uasle is gasdachd.

Bidh sinn 'gan ionndrainn. Sith dhaibh le chéile!

Galar Na Gaidhlighe

Le IAIN A. MACLEOD

(Air A Leantainn)

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 a' cumail iomadh maghar meallaigh fa an comhair. Le cuid eachadh agus le earalan bha e a' moladh dhaibh teampull agus cùrtean agus taighean ùra a thogail. Chuir e cliù orrasan a bha a' gabhail a chomhairle, ach orrasan nach robh a' cur suime innte, rinn e dìmeas agus tàir mhaslach. Mar sin dh'éirich spiorad comh-fharpaise am measg a' phobuill co-cheangailte ris na nithean seo a bha iad a' meas mar an deasnas a chur air adhart. An sin chuir Agricola meadhanan air chois troimh am biodh clann nan cinn-feadhna comasach air faotainn prabartaich litreachais agus faileas foghlaim. Gus am mìseachadh mhol e an geurchuis agus an dicheall a bharrachd air na Gaill (Gauls). Iadsan a thug fuath do chainnt na Ròimhe roimhe sin, thàinig iad gu bhith a' glacadh toile dhith: chitheadh iad an tÒga Ròmanach gun mhìothlachd, agus ri tim shìn iad fhéin 'ga chaitheamh. Mar sin, beag air bheag, rinn draoidheachd nan dubhailean ud druideadh air an cridheachan. Mu dheireadh, cha b' fhiù leò dad ach sgàth-thaighean agus bùithean, feadhachas lòiseamach, faoin-ghlorach, agus taighean-falcaidh: agus gach nòs ùr de'n t-seòrsa seo, nach robh an da-rìreadh ach a' dèanamh beagan mìlseachaidh air an daorsa, agus beagan aotromachaidh air an cuing, bha na Breatannaich bhaoth 'gan saoilinn 'nan comharraidhean cinnteach air fìor oilean agus air slobhaltachd.'" (Agricola, xxi). Sgrìobhadh na briathran seo còrr agus ochd ceud deug bliadhna air ais, ach gabhaidh iad an càradh ri cor na Gàidhealtachd an diugh. Tha bonn-teagaisg anna a tha glé fhreagrach dhuinne.

An uair a bha mi am phàisde beag, mu chòig bliadhna a dh'aois, thachair dhomh a bhith an cois an rathaid là an t-àm a thàinig bean usal òg an t-slighe. Smèid i orm, agus air dhith mìlsean no a dhà a chur ann mo làimh, thubhairt mi fhéin, "Tapadh leibh"—b'e sin am modh tainge a b' fheàrr a b' aithne dhomh. "*Don't say that, dear,*" arsa ise, gu seirceil, bairididh, "*Say, 'thank you.'*" "*Thank you,*" fhreagair mi fhéin, gu dìuid, gealtach. Cha chuimhne leamsa an diugh mòran eile de na thachair dhomh aig an aois ud, ach tha siud cho soilleir, glan, fa chomhair sùil m'inntinne is ged ghabhadh e àite an dé.

Siud e, ma tà, galar-sìlean a rinn an dìmilleadh air a' Ghàidhlig. Tha e 'na neasgaid anns an fhéoil, agus 'na chàrr anns a' chré air fad. Thruaill e an fhuil, agus dh'ith e a steach gu ruig an smior-cailleach. Bhean e ri buadhan na h-eanchainne, agus chuir e an inntinn gun tulchuis. "Seadh," their am pàisde Gàidhealach, "feumaidh e a bhith nach 'eil a' Ghàidhlig idir usal. Theagamh gur h-i a labhras m' athair agus mo mhàthair agus sluagh bochd an àite, ach am maighistir-sgoile agus gach duine usal a thig an t-astar, cha diù leò blasad 'nam beul oirre; cha dèan id fìù éisdeachd ri facal dith. A' Bheurla fhéin a tha spaideil, ciatach; a' Bheurla bhreàg a tha usal, urramach." Agus ar n-inbhich, daoine bho an dùilicheamaid treòrachadh treibhdhireach agus teagasg fallain, is miosa cuid dhiubh siud na na Sasannaich fhéin. Cha neònach idir cor na Gàidhlighe a bhith ìosal. Chan iongnadh cànan nan Gàidheal a bhith an càs, agus iad fhéin a bhith am brà-cheò, an uair a tha a' chnàmhainn uamhasach seo a' fasachadh an buadhan gun chasgadh gun chlothadh a' chuid as motha de cheud bliadhna.

Fhuair mise ri ùine os cionn an leagaidh ud, ach is e aobhar a' bhòin nach 'eil a' chuid mhòr de chloinn na Gàidhealtachd a' faighinn thairis air gu bràth. Tha iad gu léir air an leagadh, ach is tearc iad a tha a' faotainn comas éirigh. Fhuair mise, chan e a mhàin ùr-mhisneach agus neart, ach togail inntinne agus aobhar uaille nach bu bheag ann a bhith a' cur eòlais air eachdraidh an t-slòigh bho'n tàinig sinn. Chan 'eil mi a' ciallachadh le sin inneas air a' Phrionnsa Teàrlach, no cunntas air Blàr Chùil-lodair. Tha gu leòr de'n t-seòrsa eachdraidh sin na leabhrachean sgoile againn, agus tha mi de'n bheachd gun biodh iad pailt cho math as aonais facail deth. Cha mhòr de leas na Gàidhlighe a rinn am prionnsa no am blàr, ach gu mòr de a h-aimhleas air iomadh dòigh. Tha sinn mar an ceudna a' leughadh mòrain mu Cholum Cille anns na leabhrachan sin, mu a bheatha naoimh, agus mu a shaothair air measg a chuid mhanach an Eilean I; ach saoilidh mi gur beag brìgh no stàth a tha eadhon anns an eachdraidh sin do phàisdean Gàidhealach anns a' chàs anns a bheil iad. Ach leigeamaid ris dhaibh am meas a bha air Colum Cille agus air ionmhasan a chànaine air feadh rìoghachdan na h-Eòrpa: nochdamaid dhaibh an obair a rinn na manaich Gàidhealach anns gach tìr eadar Innse Gall agus an Eadailt; a' craobh-sgaoilidh soisgeul na sìthe, agus

a' taisbeanadh riaghailt Chrìosda do shluagh borb, ain-diadhaidh—do na Sasannaich am measg chàich: dèanamaid soilleir dhaibh a' bhuaidh sìobhaltachaidh a bha aig ar sinnsearan air cinnich allta na h-Eòrpa air do ìmpireachd na Ròimhe briseadh sìos, agus saoilidh mi gum bu chòir do an sin a' chuid mhór dhiubh a chur air an casan. Ach rachamaid an sin air astar leò, Feuchamaid dhaibh cò iad a dh' fhòghluim aodana na Ròimhe fhéin agus teallsanaich na Gréige: leanamaid le Eséciel an Iorgan ar sinnsear gu tìr Ghomer: foillsicheamaid dhaibh ceumannan ar n-atraichean agus buaidh an oileanachaidh anns gach mìr fearainn bho Eirinn shiar gu ruig na h-Innseachan an Ear, agus is neònach leam mur dèan sin ùrachadh agus beothachadh dhaibh a bhios a chum am buannachd fhéin agus a chum beannachd agus slàinte bhuan na Gàidhliche. Is e seo ùrchasg as éifeachdaiche as aithne dhòmhsa air g'èiread na nimbe cnàimhtiche ud.

Tha cuid de na lighichean a leasaicheadh ar cor a' ghnàthachadh ròidean móra agus ceidheachan a dhèanamh air feadh na Gàidhealtachd agus anns na h-eileanan. Luthaigeadh iad bàtaichean luath gu slughaiseag air chabhaig. Bu mhaith leò sgiathalain dian-shiùbhach gu greasadh gu margadh gach bathar a tha buailteach air a dhòl gu luath a dhòlaidh. Faodar aideachadh gu bheil iad sin gu léir 'nan goireasan a tha feumail, deatamach; ach cìod an stàth a nì tuilleadh chuislean dhàsan a tha a' dol bàs a chion fola? Is e fuil a tha a dhith air a' Ghàidhealtachd—fuil de'n t-seòrsa cheart—fuil Ghàidhealach.

Tha feadhainn eile ag aslachadh as leth oibrichean móra, le gach ùpraid is iomairt a gheibhear an cois an leithid sin. Cha leig an t-iarraidh seo a leas mór iongnadh a chur oirnn. Bheireadh seo maoin gu luchd malairt, agus earras gu tighearnan fearainn. Bhiodh e ro-fheumail do luchd nam bùth agus do mhuintir nam taighean-òsda; agus b' àbhaist guth làidir, sgairteil a bhith aca sin gus am feuman a chur an cèill. Is iad sin luchd an airgid, agus cluinidh eadhon na daoine bodhar an othail acasan. Ach an àite math air bith a dheànadh do'n Ghàidhlig, is ann a bheireadh siud giorra-làithean oirre. Daonnan an cois nan oibrichean móra tha laom de luchd na Beurla, agus cha b' e an taghadh fhéin air feabhas. Chunnac sinn beagan de'n obair aig ceann Loch Lìobhann, agus ged nach samhla am baile bòidheach a thogadh an sin do shuidheachadh eagalach cuid de chlobhachan ar bailtean móra, gidheadh, chan iarradh sinn mórán de a leithid fhéin air feadh gleanntan na Gàidhealtachd; oir is beag de ar teanga bhlasda a chluinnear am measg an t-sluaigh, agus is fada a ghabh an càil agus an cleachdadh bho ghnàths gasda nan Gàidheal.

Bhiodh Alba, agus Sasann leatha, fada na b' fheàrr as aonais mórán de na bailtean a tha aca an ceart uair; agus nam biodh dara leth an t-sluaigh a tha air an-dòigh a' solar bith-beò ann ar bailtean, agus air dhroch ghréidheadh a' feitheamh an éig am bruchlagan an cùil-shràidean còsach, an sàs an obair tuatha air an dùthaich, bhiodh slàinte agus sonas aca fhéin nach 'eil aca, agus bhiodh ar rioghachd a' mealtainn barrachd sìthe agus saobhbheis.

Rinn tàladh nam bailtean móra fàsachadh gu leòr anns a' Ghàidhealtachd a cheana, agus cha b' ann an sin a mhàin, ach air feadh Albann agus Shasainn, agus an iomadh ceann eile de'n t-saoghal. Thòisich an galar sin mu'n ochdamh linn deug, agus thàinig e gu àirde anns an naoidheamh linn deug air thàillibh an athrachaich mhóir sin ris an abair na Sasannaich "*The Industrial Revolution.*" Ach cha mhair là na bailtean móra gu bràth. Tha comharaidhean anns na speuran bho an cnusaich fear-leughaidh gu bheil grian nam bailtean móra a nis air ruigheachd a h-àirde, mur 'eil i air teannadh ri tèarnadh a cheana. Fa-dhèidh thig an crochadan air ais le seòghadh eile, agus pillidh muinntir nam bailtean móra gu an cèill, agus thig luchd-àiteachaidh na talmhainn gu an ionad inbheil fhéin. Bhiodh sin, gu dearbh, làn tairbhe do'n Ghàidhealtachd, agus is e dleasan càirdean na Gàidhliche an latha sin a gheasadh le gach feart 'nan cumhachd. Gidheadh, a chionn gum faod a' chaora "'a dhòl bàs a' feitheamh ris an fheur a' fàs," chan fheum iad fantainn 'nan tàmh le an làmhnan paisgte gun mheadhonan còbhrach eile a ghnàthachadh roimh theachd an latha sin.

Tha sin 'gar toirt aghaidh ri aghaidh ri dà cheist chudthromaich, agus ged nach cèadaich chisean rannsachadh ro-fharsaing a dhèanamh orra an seo, nì mi oidhirp air beagan soluis a chur orra. Is i a' cheud cheist—A bheil meadhonan leigheis air bith comasach air galaran ar càine a bhacadh, agus air a h-aiseag a rithist gu slàinte? Agus an dara ceist—Ma tha "'iocshlaint da-rìreadh an Gilead," am bi a' Ghàidhlig fhathast a' mealtainn earrainn de'n neart agus de'n fhallaineachd sin a bha i a' sealbhadh anns an t-sean aimsir?

A thaobh na ceud ceiste cha leig sinn a leas imcheist air bith a bhith oirnn. Mar nach 'eil nì fo'n ghréin do nach éirich galar, mar sin chan 'eil galar nach géill do leigheas. Faoaidh cuid de ghalaran a bhith a' faighinn làmh-an-uachdar ré ùine, agus a bhith mar gum b' eadh, a' toirt dùblhan do gach innealachd a chleachdas lighichean 'nan aghaidh, ach air a' cheann thall thatar a' faotainn buaidhe orra sin; agus aon uair is gum faighear an ruiga air galar,

(An còrr air t.d. 61)



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar VI

AN LUNASDAL, 1954

Aireamh 8

An t-Isean Granda

(Ur-aithris le T. M. M. air sgeul le HANS ANDERSEN.)

IS e là breagha samhraidh a bha ann. Bha na h-achaidhean cruithneachd is arbhair 'nan làn-mhaise, agus iad ag atharrachadh dhathan, bho uaine gu òr-bhuidhe. Cheana rinnadh tòiseachadh air an fheur a chacadh air na dailean, agus chluinnteadh srann sheillean am measg nam blàth is nam preas ri taobh an rathaidh.

Astar bho'n rathad, air cùlaibh seann-taigh-mór a' mhorair bha lochan beag. Bu doirbh dhuit an lochan fhaicinn leis an fheur gharbh is na drisean a bha a' fàs m'a thimcheall. A mach as an lochan bha sruthan a' ruith gu mall troimh achadh agus fo dhrochaid cloiche gu taobh thall an rathaid-mhóir agus an sin sìos troimh achadh mór eile do'n abhainn.

Am measg a' gharbh-fheoir air oir an lochain bha nead tunnaige, agus anns an nead bha uibhean tunnaige, agus air na h-uibhean bha an tunnag mhór fhéin 'na suidhe gu stòlda foidhidneach.

Bha i a nis an déidh a bhith cho fada 'na suidhe air na h-uibhean agus gu robh a foidhidinn a' tòiseachadh air a a tréigsinn. B'e an dòigh e air làithean breagha samhraidh a chur seachad, 'nad shuidhe gu h-an-shocrach leat fhéin air uibhean cruaidhe, agus do chompanaich uile 'gan cluich fhéin a' snàmh air an lochan no a' rùrach am measg nam preas! Bu mhór a tlachd is a toileachadh a' cheud là is oidhche a shuidh i air na h-uibhean, ach b'fhada bho'n là sin, agus bu bhliadhna gach là a nis, agus, mur tachradh rud-eigin annasach a dh'ajthghearr, bha i dìreach a' smaoinichadh gum fàgadh i an dìreach is na h-uibhean far an robh iad agus gun toireadh i an loch oirre a shireadh companais is aigheir.

Ach, stad ort, siud "brag, brag" foidhpe! Bha rud-eigin annasach a' tachairt! Aon as déidh aoine bhris is sgàin na h-uibhean. Aon as déidh aoine nochd ceann beag clòimteach. "Cuag, cuag!" arsa an tunnag, agus thòisich na h-iseanan beaga aice air dideireachd a mach

fo a sgiathan air na bha ri fhaicinn mun cuairt.

"Nach mór an saoghal!" arsa iadsan, oir chuirge seo is ann a bha iad, gach fear dhuibh, cleachdte ri saoghal beag cumhang am broinn uibhe.

"Is mór, gu dearbh," arsa am màthair. "Ach stadaibh gus am faic sibh cho fìor mhór is a tha e. Tha mise ag innseadh dhuibhse, a chlann, gu bheil an saoghal a' sgaoileadh a mach air taobh thall an lochain agus sìos seachad air an rathad-mhór a dh'ionnsaigh na h-aibhne, agus cha rachainn an urras nach 'eil e a' dol pìos seachad air sin fhéin!"

"Big, big," arsa na tunnagan òga, oir cha d'ionnsach iad fhathast "cuag, cuag" a ràdh, mar a bu chòir dhaibh.

"A bheil sibh uile ann?" arsa am màthair. "Chan 'eil," arsa ise, air dhi sùil a thoir anns an nead; "chì mi gu bheil an t-ubh mòr an sin fhathast. Gonadh air! Nach mise a tha seachd searbh de'n obair-sa! Car son nach briseadh an t-ubh mòr agus nach tigeadh as na tha ri tighinn as!"

Dìreach aig an dearbh mhionaid sin fhéin, có a nochd ach seann Riabhag, tunnag aosda ghlic, agus i air tighinn air chéilidh. "Seadh, is ciamar a tha thu?" arsa ise ri màthair nan iseanan.

"Tha an t-aon ubh seo," arsa ise, "gam chumail cho fada, agus chan 'eil dad de choltas air gun sgàin e. Ach faic thusa an fheadhainn eile!—chan fhaca tu riamh iseanan tunnaige na's bòidhe na iad. Tha iad uile cho coltach r'an athair—an dearg thrusdair a tha e ann!—cha tàinig e fù aon uair 'gam fhaicinn!"

"Seall dhomh an t-ubh nach do bhris fhathast," arsa Riabhag. "Tut, tut," arsa ise, "sin agad ubh geòidh. Fhuair mi fhéin mo shàrachadh turus leis an obair sin. Ubh geòidh am measg mo chuid uibhean féin, agus chan 'eil fhios dé an tàire a fhuair mi! Gu frinneach is gu h-onarach, 'se ubh geòidh a tha

AN GAIÐHEAL OG

agad an sin. Leig leis, agus na gabh tuilleadh dragha ris!"

"Suidhidh mi greiseag eile air," arsa an tunnag. "Cha dean là no dhà eile dad de choire orm as dèidh na h-ùine a chuir mi seachd cheana an seo."

"Dean an rud a thogras tu," arsa Riabhag, "ach, nan robh mise air an nead sin, dh'fhàgainn an siud e. Fhuair thu do leòr dheth, nach d'fhuair!" Agus air falbh a ghabh i.

Mu dheireadh bhris an t-ubh mór, agus nam faiceadh tusa an t-isean mór a thàinig as! Isean mór grànda! Thug an tunnag an t-sùil ud air. "Biaidh isein!" arsa ise, "agus b'e sin thusa! Thug cuid-eigin an car asam an turus seo."

Coma leat, bha cridhe caomh an com na tunnag, agus ged a bha i fo amharus mu'n isean mhór ghrànda rùnaich i a thogail còmhla ris a' chuid eile de'n linn aice, agus cha b'fhada agus an do threoraich i a mach iad, a ghabhail cuairt air feadh an àite.

Bha moit mhór air an tunnag agus i a' spàgadh gu h-uabhrach air feadh nan eun eile, agus na h-iseanan 'nan sreath spàgach air a' cùl.

Chuala iad fuaim anabarrach. Gu dé a bha an seo ach dà theaghlach a' sabaid mu earball éisg, agus aig deireadh na tuasaid is e an cat a dh'ith an t-earball éisg!

"Gabhaibh beachd air siud," arsa an tunnag ris na h-iseanan. "Sìod agaibh dòigh an t-saoghail," arsa ise, agus i a' slobadh a guib, oir bha dèidh mhór aice fhéin air earball éisg.

"A nis, a chlann," arsa ise, "nochdaibh modh d'an dlìge modh, agus feuchaibh gun dean sibh béic ris an t-seann thunnaig ud thall! Agus feuchaibh nach leig sibh leis na casan agaibh a bhith cho spàgach."

Agus rinn na h-iseanan mar a dh'ìarradh orra. Choisich iad gu stòlda socair as dèidh am màthar, a' cumail seòrsa de rian air na casan spàgach agus na cinn a' bogadaich a h-uile ceum a dheanadh iad.

Sheall na tunnagan eile orra is iad a' gabhail seachad. "Seall," arsa iadsan, "lìnn eile, mar nach robh tuilleadh 's a chòrr de thunnagan anns an t-saoghal cheana! Agus seall, nach e an t-isean mór ud a tha grànda!" Agus anns a' bhàd leum aon de na tunnagan coimheach a nall agus bhàd i amhach an isein mhóir.

"Leig leis," arsa a mhàthair; "chan 'eil e a' deanamh coire air neach sam bith."

"Ach tha e cho mór agus cho grànda, agus chan 'eil againn air idir!" arsa na tunnagan eile.

"Tha teaghlach eireachdail aig ar ban-charaid," arsa Riabhag, an tunnag aosda

ghlic, "tha iad uile eireachdail ach a h-aon. B'fheàrr nach tàinig eisean riamh á ubh!"

"Le bhur cead, a mhórachd," arsa màthair nan iseanan, "ged nach 'eil e breagha ri amharc air, tha e math air an t-snàmh, agus 's dòcha gum fàs e breagha fhathast."

Ach bha e soilleir nach robh iarraidh sam bith aig na h-eòin eile air an isean mhór ghrànda. Chan e a mhàin na tunnagan eile, ach na cearcan—chocadh iad an t-sùil fhanaid-each ud air, chrìomadh iad e is bhìdeadh iad e is ghoidheadh iad bhuaithe gach sìlean is boiteag a chitheadh iad aige.

Chan e a mhàin sin, ach bha a bhràithrean is a pheathraichean fhéin glé chruaidh air. Bhìodh iad daonnan a' tarraing as agus a' deanamh fanaid air. "B'fheàrr leinn gum faigheadh an cat greim ort," arsa iadsan.

"B'fheàrr leam nach fhaca mi riamh thu, a chreutair ghrànda," thubhairt a mhàthair aon là.

Bhìodh na tunnagan 'ga chrìomadh agus bhìodh na cearcan 'ga sgobadh, agus cha robh caraid no ban-charaid air an t-saoghal aig an truaghan bhochd.

Chuir e roimhe gun teicheadh e agus gun toireadh e an saoghal fo a cheann. Leum e thairis air a' phreas agus dh'èirich na h-eòin bheaga as a' phreas f'a chomhair agus iad a' sgiathalaich is a' sgreachail.

"Chuir mi an t-eagal orra," arsa an t-isean mór; "tha mi cho grànda!"

Chùm e air aghaidh, agus mu dheireadh thàinig e gu àit uaigneach far an robh tunnagan fiadhaich a' gabhail còmhnaidh. Bha an oidhche ann, agus dh'fhan an t-isean mór an sin 'na chadal fad na h-oidhche.

Anns a' mhadainn thàinig na tunnagan fiadhaich dhachaigh, agus có a bha a staigh rompa ach an t-isean mór. An uair a chunnaic iad an coigreach grànda, dh'amhairc iad gu geur air. "Cò thusa?" arsa iadsan ris, agus rinn an t-isean béic mhodhail agus dh'ìarr e orra a bhith bàidheil ris.

"Chan fhaca sinne riamh fear do choltais," arsa iadsan ris; "creutair cho grànda riut cha robh riamh 'nar measg. Ach, a dh'aindeoin sin, faodaidh tu fuireach còmhla ruinn ma gheallas tu gun smaoineachadh air aon sam bith againn a phòsadh!"

Is beag smaoin a bha aig an isean mhór air pòsadh! B'e a dhùrachd a mhàin cead fhaighinn fuireach far an robh e agus cothrom air na dh'fhògnadh de bhìadh a sholar dha fhéin.

Dh'fhan e an sin dà là, agus air an treas là có a thàinig an rathad ach dà ghiadh ghlas. "Nach tu a tha grànda," arsa iadsan ris an isean, "ach 's toigh leinn thu. Thig còmhla ruinne air astar sgéith is nì tu t'fhortan."

Ach brag! brag!—siud urchair gunna, agus bha an dà ghiadh 'nan cloisichean marbha r' a thaobh agus an t-uisge 'ga dheargadh le fuil. Bha na fir-sheilge air gach taobh, agus cha robh dol as ann. Dh'fheuch an t-isean mór ri a cheann fhalach fo a sgéith a chum is nach fhaiceadh duine e, ach siud cù mór uamhasach a' tarraing dlùth. Chaidh an t-isean 'na chrith leis an eagal. Dh' fhosgail an cù a bheul, sheall e air an isean agus thionndaidh e is thug e a chasan leis!

“Tha mi cho grànda,” arsa an t-isean mór, “nach cuir an cù fhéin faicail annam!”

Dh'fhan an t-isean far an robh e gu feasgar, 'na chrùban air cùlaibh toman feòir. Sguir fuaim nan gunnathan. Dh'fhalbh na seal-gairean. Cha robh creutair beò air fhàgail ach e fhéin. “Chan àite seo dhòmhsa,” arsa esan, agus thog e air.

Mu bheul na h-oidhche ràinig an t-isean mór bothan beag. Bha am bothan seo cho fìor thruagh is gun saoilleadh tu gu robh e air tì tuiteam gu lùr. Shnèag e a steach, agus cò a bha a staigh anns a' bhothan ach seann chailleach, agus cat is cearc còmhla rithe! An uair a chunnaic an cat is a' chearc an t-isean a' tighinn a steach, thòisich iad ri ùpraid. Bha an cat a' miagail agus a' chearc a' gogail, agus thubhairt a' chailleach, “Gu dé air an talamh mhóir a tha seò?”

Shaoil leis a' chaillich gur e tunnag reamha' a bha anns an isean, agus arsa ise rithe fhéin, “Cumaidh mi an tunnag, agus, mur e dràc a tha innte, beiridh i uibhean dhomh, agus an uair sin bidh uibhean circe is uibhean tunnaige agam.”

Chum i an t-isean trì seachdainean, ach ubh tunnaige chan fhacas bhuaithe, agus thòisich an cat agus a' chearc ri fanaid air.

“An urrainn dhuit uibhean a bhreith?” arsa a' chearc.

“Chan urrainn,” arsa an t-isean.

“Mur urrainn,” arsa a' chearc, “dùin do ghob agus nochd modh dhaibh-san as uaisle na thu fhéin.”

“An urrainn dhuit crònan a dheanamh?” arsa an cat.

“Chan urrainn,” arsa an t-isean.

“Mur urrainn,” arsa an cat, “dùin do ghob agus thoir urram dhaibh-san d'an dlighe urram.”

Mar sin, dh'fhàgadh an t-isean bochd grànda 'na thruaghan leis fhéin, gun charaid is gun choibhneas, agus a h-uile neach cho cruaidh air.

Smaoinich e is smaoinich e, agus mu dheireadh arsa esan, “Chan urrainn dhomh uibhean a bhreith, agus chan urrainn dhomh crònan a dheanamh, ach is urrainn dhomh

snàmh, agus sin agaibh rud nach urrainn sibhse a dheanamh, a chait is a chearc.”

Sheall an cat is a' chearc air le ionghnadh. “An ann as do rian a tha thu?” arsa a' chearc gu tàireil. Cò ach amadan a rachadh a steach do'n uisge? Cha deanainn fhéin e; cha deanadh an cat e; cha deanadh a' chailleach e. Cha deanadh creutair tonaisgeil sam bith e. Snàmh! Huh!”

Agus rinn an cat lasgan mór gàire. “Ionnsaich thusa crònan a dheanamh no uibhean a bhreith,” arsa esan, “agus dearbhaidh tu an uair sin gur creutair feumail thu—ach snàmh! Cò riamh a chuala a leithid? Ha! ha! ha!”

“Is fheàrr dhomh an saoghal mór a thoirt fo mo cheann a rithist,” arsa an t-isean.

“Bi falbh, ma thà,” arsa a' chearc, “agus turus math leat!”

Dh'fhalbh an t-isean mór. Shiubhail e o àite gu àite, greis air tìr agus greis air an uisge, agus càit air bith an deachaidh e thionndaidh na creutairean eile, aron eòin is ainmhidhean, air falbh bhuaithe, oir bha e cho fìor ghrànda.

Dh'fhalbh an samhradh agus thàinig am foghar. Thòisich na duilleagan ri fàs donn is buidhe. Dh'fhàs an aimsir na b'fhuaire agus bha na h-oidhcheannan a' fàs fada, agus bha fitheach 'na shuidhe air stob craoibhe agus sùil bhiorach iargalta 'na cheann.

Thòisich an t-isean 'na eagal a ghabhail. Cha robh caraid no companach aige, agus cha robh aon a bheireadh sùil air ach am fitheach dubh ud thall!

Feasgar a bha seo, agus a' ghrian a' dol fodha, dh'éirich sgaoth de eòin mhóra bhreagha a mach air cùlaibh nam preas. Shaoil leis an isean nach fhaca e riamh creutairean cho fìor mhaiseach. Eòin bhana a bha anna, cho gear ri sneachd is cho soilleir deàrrsach ris an t-solus, agus bha amhaichean fada caola aca. Is e calachan a bha anna. Dh'éirich iad gu h-àrd air na sgiathan fada aca agus thug iad orra air falbh bho thìr an fhuachd gu tìrean cèine, thar a' chuain, far am faigheadh iad blàths na gréine.

Mhòthaich an t-isean mór faireachadh neònach ann fhéin an uair a chunnaic e iad air an sgéith agus a chuala e an eubh. Cha b'e eud is cha b'e eagal a dh'fhairich e. Is ann a dh'fhairich e a chridhe a' leum le sunnd, oir chan fhaca e riamh eòin cho maiseach. Chan e gu robh miann sam bith aige-san a bhith coltach riutha. Cha robh annsan ach isean tunnaig, agus b'e sin an t-isean—cho grànda is gun do ghabh a mhàthair fein fuath dha. Cha mhiannaicheadh esan dad a b'fheàrr nian gun gabhadh na tunnagan eile ris agus gun toireadh iad companas dha, ach bha e leis fhéin!

Thàinig an geamhradh agus am fuachd. B'fheudar do'n isean cumail air a' snàmh mun cuairt anns an lochan bheag anns an robh e a' còmhnaidh, a chum is gun cumadh e bho reodhadh e. Ach a h-uile oidhche dh'fhàs an eigh na's treasa agus sgaol i air uachdar an locha agus mu dheireadh nach robh òirleach uisge aig an isean anns an snàmhadh e.

Tràth air madainn àraidh bha tuathanach a' gabhail seachad, agus chunnaic e an t-isean mór 'na laighe air an eigh, rag leis an fuachd. Thog e e agus thug e leis dhachaigh e agus chuir e ri taobh an teine e. Le blàths an teine bheothaich an t-isean agus phill a neart chuige, ach, an uair a chunnaic e far an robh e, ghabh e an t-eagal agus thug e an leum ud as, agus siod e anns a' chuinneig bhainne, agus an sin leum e do'n chrannchan ime agus an sin leum e do'n chiste mhìne, a' sgiathalaich is a' sgrìachail, agus bean an taighe air a thòir leis a' chlobha!

Gu sealbhach, bha an doras fosgailte, agus thug an t-isean am blàr a muigh air, agus nam faiceadh tu e an uair sin! Ma bha e grànda roimhe seo, is ann a bha e grànda a nis, le bainne is im is min air na h-itean aige.

Thàrr e as, co-dhiubh, agus cha ruig sinn a leas tuilleadh innseadh mu na deuchainnean a thachair air mus tàinig an geamhradh ud gu ceann.

Là a bha seo bha an t-isean mór grànda 'na shuidhe am measg nam preas ri taobh lochain, agus e a' deanamh gàirdeachas ri blàths na gréine agus an t-earrach a nis ann, agus na h-eòin bhèaga a' sineadh ri ceileireadh. Chrath e a sgiathan agus mhothaich e gu robh iad cus na's treasa na b'abhaist dhaibh. Dh'èirich e air na sgiathan is thog e air agus thàinig e gu làr ann an gàrradh mór breagha, far an robh craobhan measa agus blàthan àlainn agus cùbhraidheachd an earraich air feadh an àite, agus anns an teis-mheadhòn bha lochan beag. Agus air an lochan bha trì eòin mhóra, trì ealachan móra maiseach, agus iad a' snàmh cho proiseil uasal.

"Théid mi chuca," arsa an t-isean mór ris fhéin. "Marbhaidh iad mi agus mi cho grànda, ach, nach coma leam, nach fheàrr a bhith air mo mharbhadh le eòin cho breagha seach a bhith air mo shàrachadh le tunnagan is air mo sgobadh le cearcain."

Shnàmh an t-isean mór a dh'ionnsaigh nan ealachan, agus thàinig iad 'na còmhhdhail. "Marbhaibh mi," arsa esan, agus chrom e a cheann gu h-umhail, ach an uair a chrom e a cheann agus e an duil ri buille bàis, nach ann a chunnaic e a fhaileas fhéin anns an uisge— agus cha b'e a bha ann tuilleadh isean mór grànda ach eun mór breagha, eala mar na h-ealachan maiseach eile!

Nach coma leat, ged rugadh tu an nead tunnaige, ma's ann à ubh eala a thàinig thu!

Chuir na h-ealachan fàilte air, agus mhothaich e toileachadh 'na chridhe. As déidh gach tàire is anshocair is cruaidh-chàs a dh'fhiosraich e, b'e seo là an aobhneis mhóir da-riribh!

Bha trìùir chloinne a' cluich ri taobh an lochain. "Seall," arsa iadsan, "tha eala ùr air tighinn. Bha a trì ann roimhe, ach tha ceithir ann a nis, agus is e an ceathramh fear as bòidheche buileach!"

Thog an eala òg a cheann gu moiteil an uair a chuala e seo. B'esan an t-isean mór grànda air an d' rinn a h-uile neach tàire, ach an diùgh bha fhios aige cò e an da-riribh—eala cho maiseach ri gin eile!

Chan iongnadh ged bha a chridhe làn aobhneis as déidh na dh'fhuiling e.

Cath Traigh Ghruineard

Anns an iomradh a rinn mi air mo chuairt an Ile, thubhairt mi air a' mhios a chaidh gun do thadhail mi an Sgoil Chill-Chomain, agus gu bheil an sgoil sin faisg air Ceann Tràigh Ghruineard far an do chuireadh cath fuilteach eadar Dòmhnallach Ile agus Lachann Mór Dhubhairt anns a' bhliadhna 1598. Anns a' chath sin chaidh Lachann Mór a mharbhadh, agus tha clach 'na seasamh am meadhan an achaidh a' comharrachadh a mach far an do thuit e. Bha mi aice uair roimhe agus mar sin cha do dh'fhàg mi an carbad air an turus seo. Thairg troich d'am b'aime Dubh-Sith a sheirbhís do Lachann Mór, ach cha do shaoil leis gun biodh creutair cho suarach coltais gu móran feum dha. Chaidh an troich air taobh an Dòmhnallaich agus air dha streap suas ann an craoibh chum e a shùil air Lachann Mór. Fhuair e cothrom cuimse math a ghabhail an uair a thog Lachann a chlogad los am fallus a shuathadh bhàrr a bhathais. Bhuail saighead Dhubh-Sith e an clàr an aodainn agus thuit e marbh air an achadh. B'ann a mhuintir Dhùra a bha Dubh-Sith agus na's mìosa na sin bu Sheathach e! Is dòcha gur aithne do na piobairean òga am port a chluicheadh le piobaire Chloinn Ghilleathain is e a' fàgail a Cheann-Cinnidh air an raon:—

Aig Ceann Tràigh Ghruineard a dh'fhàg mi 'n curaidh,

Aig Ceann Tràigh Ghruineard a dh'fhàg mi, Fear iomairt nan lann 's a thilleadh na buillean,

Aig Ceann Tràigh Ghruineard a dh'fhàg mi.

NIALL.

bithear car coma càit an tog e ceann an déidh sin, oir théid an aon chumhachd a fheuchainn ris, agus gun mhaillé théid e air theicheadh a rithist. Fhuair muinntir eile ligheas air an cànaicéan fhéin, agus na nithean a leighis iad sin, is éiginn gun bi iad a chum feuma dhuinne ma thogras sinn feum a dhéanamh dhiubh.

Is gann cinneach beag air feadh na h-Eòrpa nach d' fhuair tàir mhór a thaobh an cànaicé. Uair seach an uair thugadh buaidh orra le an

naimhdean, agus rinn na naimhdean sin spàirn fuathasach gus an cànaicé a bhualachd à bith. Gu minig chaidh ach beag leò. Gu minig shaoil mór-shluagh an t-saoghail gu robh an siud cànaicé eile agus cinneach eile air faighinn bhàis; ach iomadh uair dh'ath-bheothaich a' chainnt a shaoil leò a bhith air a h-adhlachadh, agus dh' aiseigeadh i gu slàinte agus gu àrd-inbhe. Gabhamaid beachd air aon no a dhà dhiubh seo.

(R' a leantainn)

Provincial Mods

ISLAY

The Islay Provincial Mod was held at Bowmore on 14th May. The adjudicators were: Gaelic—Mr. Derick Thomson, Rev. Donald Budge, Rev. Norman Macdonald, and Mr. Neil Shaw; Music—Mr. Cedric Thorpe Davie and Mrs. J. M. B. Maclean. At the evening concert, at which Mr. Derick Thomson presided, the guest artistes were three Mod Medallists, Mrs. J. M. B. Maclean, Mr. Gilbert Macphail, and Mr. Donald Macleod.

The first-prize winners were:—

Junior Section

Reading (under 12) (Christie Memorial Medal)—Michael Allen, Bridgend. 12 to 16—Matilda Mac-lachlan, Bridgend. Reciting (under 12)—Rena MacNiven, Bridgend. 12 to 16 (Texa Cup)—Matilda Mac-lachlan. Conversation—Matilda Mac-lachlan.

Puirt-a-beul—Mairi Macdougall. Solo singing (former medallists)—Margaret Campbell, Port Ellen. Silver Medal (under 11)—Chrissie Campbell, Port Ellen. Girl's gold medal—Fiona McKerrell, Bowmore. Boy's gold medal—Gilbert Stevenson, Port Ellen.

Choral singing. Unison (MacIntyre Cup)—Port Ellen. Two-part harmony (Morrison Cup)—Bowmore.

Senior Section

Recitation—Robert Shaw, Jura.

Solo singing. Gold medal (ladies)—Flora Macdougall, Kilmey. Gold medal (men)—Ian A. Carmichael, Kilmey. Former medallists—Neil MacCalman, Bowmore. Song by Duncan Johnston (prizes by Glasgow Islay Association)—Ian A. Macdougall. Song by Duncan Ban MacIntyre (MacIntyre Memorial Cup)—John Cunningham, Ardbeg. Duet—Mrs. MacNiven and Mrs. Forrest, Bowmore. Quartette—Bowmore.

Choral singing. Ladies' three-part harmony (Cameron Cup)—Kildalton Ladies Choir. Ladies' unison (Glasgow Islay Choir Cup)—Kilmey Ladies Choir. Puirt-a-beul (Greenock Gaelic Choir Cup)—Kildalton Choir. Four-part harmony (Morrison Cup)—Kildalton. Margrat Duncan Memorial Trophy (for choir with highest aggregate in music and Gaelic)—Kildalton. Duncan Johnston Memorial Challenge Cup (for choir with highest aggregate in Gaelic)—Kildalton.

WESTER ROSS

The Wester Ross Provincial Mod was held at Ullapool on 14th May. The adjudicators were: for Gaelic—Mr. J. M. Bannerman, Mr. Donald Macleod, Mr. Hume D. Robertson, and Rev. Malcolm Maclean; for Music—Mrs. E. Niven and Miss E. R. Bassin. Mr. Bannerman presided at the evening concerts, and the

trophies were presented by Mrs. Mitford, and the prizes by Mr. Donald Macphail. The guest-artists were Mr. Hume D. Robertson and Mr. D. Macleod.

The first prize-winners were:—

Junior Section

LITERATURE. Essay—Roderick Mackenzie, Achtercairn J. S. School. Dictation—Roderick Mackenzie. Translation into Gaelic—Roderick Mackenzie. Translation from Gaelic (under 12)—Davine M. Forbes, Laide School. 12 to 16 years—Roderick Mackenzie.

ORAL. Reading poetry—Alice A. Macrae, Laide School. Reading prose—Roderick Mackenzie. Recitation—Alice A. Macrae. Conversation (fluent speakers)—Duncan Chisholm, Achtercairn School. Learners—Murdo Urquhart, Laide School. Reciting Psalm—Gillies MacLennan, Achiltibuie School. Conversation (for Comunn na h-Oigridh)—Roddy Macrae, Melvaig School.

VOCAL. Solo singing: girls under 12—Eileen Macleod, Achiltibuie School. Boys under 12—Iain Campbell, Achiltibuie School. Boys, 12-16 years—William K. Mackenzie, Achtercairn School. Song by Ross-shire bard—Isabel Mackenzie, Ullapool School. Duet—Calum and Allan Campbell, Ullapool School.

CHORAL. Unison—Achiltibuie School Choir.

Example of traditional art—Elizabeth Malcolm, Laide School.

Senior Section

LITERATURE. Poem—Mrs. Catherine Mackenzie, Ullapool. Essay—Catherine Campbell, Achiltibuie. Collection of Gaelic place-names—Catherine Campbell.

ORAL. Reading prose—Catherine Campbell. Reciting poetry—Mrs. Murray, Achiltibuie. Sgeulachd—Catherine Campbell. Acted dialogue—Mrs. Murray and John A. Campbell, Achiltibuie.

VOCAL. Solo Singing: Ladies—Isabel Maclean, Strathcaniard. Men—John A. Campbell. Song by Ross-shire bard—James Mackenzie, Ullapool. Puirt-a-beul—Mrs. Murray. Own choice—Mrs. Nancy D. Mackinnon, Ullapool. Duet—Mrs. Mary Maclean and Mrs. Catherine Mackenzie, Ullapool.

Choral singing—Ullapool Gaelic Choir.

Needle-craft—Mrs. Murdo Mackenzie, Ullapool.

Trophy Winners

Mrs. Ronald Maclean Challenge Cup—Calum and Allan Campbell. Mitford Challenge Cup—James Mackenzie. Junior Choir Cup—Achiltibuie Junior Choir. Caberfeidh Trophy—Isabel Mackenzie. Senior Choir Cup—Ullapool Gaelic Choir.

Special prize for mother of most successful child in literary and oral section—Roderick Mackenzie.

GLASGOW

The Glasgow Local Mod was held in the Highlanders' Institute, Glasgow, on 27th, 28th, and 29th May. The adjudicators were: for Gaelic—Miss Annie I. Macmillan, Mr. Malcolm Macleod, and Mr. Donald Grant; for Music—Mr. George C. Macvicar, and Mr. T. P. Fletcher; for Piping—Pipe-major Nicol MacCallum and Mr. Angus Morrison. At the evening concert on 29th May the Chairman was Mr. Fred E. G. Macaulay, and the guest artiste Miss Madge Campbell Brown. The prizes were presented by Mrs. Malcolm Macleod.

The first-prize winners were:—

Junior Section

Recitation (learners under 14)—Eva Mitchell. Native speakers under 14—Catriona Maclean. Reciting poem (14 to 16 years)—Catherine Mackinnon. Prose (14 to 16)—Catriona M. Maclean.

Reading—Catherine Mackinnon. Reading at sight—Catherine Mackinnon.

Verse-speaking—Bellahouston Academy, Team B. Solo singing: boys under 11—David Low. Boys, 11 to 16—Maurice Mackenzie, Edinburgh. Girls under 11—Margaret Mackenzie. Girls, 11 to 16—Anne Bone. Duet—Joan Maciver and Catriona Maclean.

Choral singing—Bellahouston Academy Junior Choir.

Senior Section

Reciting poem—Margaret Mackinnon. Reciting prose—Catriona Mackay. Sgeulachd—Catherine Mackinnon.

Solo singing (ladies)—Sheila Macdougall. Men—Charles N. Cochrane. Girls, 16 to 18—Joan A. Macleod. Kennedy-Fraser song—Sheila Macdougall. Song by Neil Maclean (Govan Ceilidh Shield)—Iain Thomson. Duet—Alexina Mitchell and Anne Graby.

Piping

March on chanter (under 14)—Evan C. Mackay. Strathspey and reel on chanter (under 14)—Freena MacFadyen. Piobaireachd (under 18)—Iain Mackay. March (under 18)—Neil Macleod, Strathspey and reel (under 18)—Charles Macdonald.

SOUTH-WEST ROSS AND GLENELG

The South-West Ross and Glenelg Provincial Mod was held at Kyle of Lochalsh on 28th May. The adjudicators were: for Gaelic—Messrs. A. Fraser, J. N. Macleod, D. Macphail, A. Nicolson, J. Mackinnon, A. Matheson, and Rev. A. F. Mackinnon; for Music—Mrs. E. Niven, Mr. A. A. Soutar, and Mr. Eric Watt; for piping—Dr. Allan Macdonald. At the evening concert the Chairman was Mr. A. R. Mackenzie, J. P., Tain, Convener of Ross County Education Committee, and the guest artistes were Messrs. Alex. Brown and Alasdair Matheson. The trophies were presented by Mrs. J. Macdougall.

The first-prize winners were:—

Junior Section

LITERATURE. Essay—John A. Macleod, Balmacara Boys' School. Dictation—Mary Ann Maclean, Duncairg Castle School. Translation into Gaelic—Henriette Gillies, Duncairg Castle School. Translation from Gaelic—Mary Ann Maclean.

ORAL. Conversation—Catriona Macdonald, Glenelg School. Reciting Psalm (a)—Katie Maclean, Letterfearn School. Reciting Psalm (b)—Janet Dunn, Killilan School. Sgeulachd—Catriona Macdonald, Glenelg School. Reading from Bible—Catriona Macdonald. Reciting poetry (under 12)—Margaret C. Maclean, Letterfearn School. Over 12—Joan Matheson, Plockton School. Verse-speaking—Letterfearn School Group.

VOCAL. Solo singing: girls under 12—Bessie Murchison, Kyle School. Boys under 12—Alex. Mackenzie, Craig School. Girls, 12 to 16—Catherine Mackenzie, Plockton School. Boys, 12 to 15—Ronald Macrae, Kyle School. Song by Ross-shire bard—Alasdair Macrae, Plockton School. Duet—June Gillies and Dolina Maclean, Plockton School.

CHORAL. Unison and puirt-a-beul—Kyle School Choir. Two-part harmony—Lochcarron J. S. School Choir.

Senior Section

LITERATURE. Poem—Isabel Campbell, Duncairg Castle School. Historical essay—Annie Smith, Duncairg Castle School.

ORAL. Sgeulachd—Mary Gordon, Kyle. Reading—Mary F. Mackenzie, Plockton. Reciting—Nana Macrae, Kyle. Reading prose—Nana Macrae.

VOCAL. Solo singing: ladies—Mrs. Macdougall, Kyle. Men—Murdo Beaton, Balmacara. Own choice—James Millar, Kyle. Song by Ross-shire bard—Torquil Nicolson, Plockton. Quartette—Plockton Quartette. Quartette (male voices)—Kyle Quartette C. Duet—Ina Macgregor and Ina Matheson, Kyle.

CHORAL. Unison—Plockton Ladies Choir. Harmony—Kyle Gaelic Choir. Ladies voices—Kyle Ladies Choir.

Piping—John Leigh, Stromeferry, and D. A. Macdonald, Kyle (equal).

Violin playing—Don Mackenzie, Plockton.

Medal and Trophy Winners

Silver medal for highest aggregate in Junior Literature—John Angus Macleod, Balmacara. Silver medal for highest aggregate in Junior Orals—Catriona Macdonald, Glenelg. Silver medal for solo singing (girls over 12)—Catherine Mackenzie, Plockton. Silver medal for solo singing (boys over 12)—Ronald Macrae, Kyle. Rose bowl (for junior unison singing)—Kyle School Choir. Challenge Shield (for junior choral singing)—Lochcarron J. S. School. Medal for solo singing (men)—James Millar, Kyle. Medal for solo singing (prescribed songs: male voices)—James Millar. Silver medal (song by local bard)—Torquil Nicolson, Plockton. Margat Duncan Cup (senior unison singing)—Plockton Ladies Choir. Shield (senior choral singing)—Kyle Gaelic Choir.

Executive Council

THE Extraordinary Meeting of the Executive Council of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in the Highlanders' Institute, Glasgow, on 19th June. Mr. J. M. Bannerman, President, occupied the Chair, and there was a large attendance.

The Treasurer's Accounts and Standing Committee Reports for 1953-54 were submitted and approved. Mr. Kenneth Macdonald, Finance Convener, pointed out that An Comunn's financial position was somewhat better than it had been a year ago and the outlook was a little

brighter. Thanks to the magnificent surplus of £4,000 from the Jubilee Mod at Oban (for which they were greatly indebted to the Oban Local Committee and to the Jubilee Fund Committee) and to the very generous gift of £1,000 from Mrs. Croll, the year ended with a credit balance of £700 as compared with a deficit of £1,200 last year. Mr. Macdonald stressed, however, that there must be no relaxing of effort, and at least £3,000 a year from the National Mods must be aimed at, but best of all would be to raise the income from subscriptions and branch donations to a worthy level.

In the discussion that followed the suggestion was made that Branches might contribute much more to the Central Fund of An Comunn, but it was also pointed out that the cost of running the many Provincial Mods was proving a heavy burden on the Branches concerned, a two-day Mod costing £300 and a one-day one £200 on the average.

A Minute of the Advisory Committee stated that, since Mr. Iain Black had been unable to accept appointment as Northern Organiser, the next on the list, Mr. Donald J. Maclean, had been appointed and had accepted. The Finance Committee Minute paid tribute to Mr. Donald Macphail's work in the North during the vacancy in the office of Northern Organiser.

The Council learned with regret of the resignation, after over eight years' faithful service, of Miss Chris Turner, a member of the headquarters staff. Miss Turner was cordially thanked for her services and it was agreed to advertise for a successor. At this point Mr. Donald Thomson raised the question of staffing and suggested that the appointment of an Assistant Secretary should be proceeded with, but it was agreed to delay consideration of this matter meantime.

Arising from the Minute of the Education Committee, discussion took place on Gaelic in the schools, facilities for students of Gaelic in Training Colleges, and the Gaelic Papers in the Leaving Certificate Examinations. It was agreed to send a deputation to the Scottish Education Department in connection with this last matter. The Minute urged Branches to see to the organising of Gaelic Continuation Classes in their respective areas, and advised that this should be taken up as soon as possible.

Following on the report of the Propaganda Committee it was agreed that the question of uniformity of membership should be investigated and reported on by the Finance and Propaganda Committees.

Minutes were submitted from the Art and Industry, Mod and Music, Clann an Fhraoich, and Comunn na h-Oigridh Committees.

Mrs. J. M. Bannerman reported on the activities of the Jubilee Fund Committee which had been concerned with two main objects, money-raising and recruiting members. A larger number of associations and affiliated societies had been visited and the response was very good. About £1,000 had been raised for the Oban Jubilee Mod. During the Jubilee Mod week intensive recruiting had resulted in the following additions to the membership of An Comunn—Life Members 32, Ordinary Members, 284, and Junior Members, 37.

Mrs. Bannerman also reported that An Comunn's Stall at the recent Grand Bazaar for the Highlanders' Institute Building Fund had raised the sum of £260.

Nominations for the offices of President, Vice-President, and Members of Council were formally submitted, and notices of motion were given covering various points in the Constitution, these to be dealt with at the next Annual General Meeting.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the President.

Editor's Postbag

THE MONOGLOT ENGLISH

Dear Sir,—Your Correspondent, Mr. Livingstone of Pretoria, is quite wrong when he says that "England is definitely monoglot and, equally definitely, intends to remain so."

In the past it was well known that most English people were content to let the foreigner learn English, rather than attempt to learn a foreign language themselves, but this is not now the case, though Gaelic is not used.

In all the good schools—particularly in Yorkshire—French, German, Spanish, Modern Greek are taught as living languages, plus Latin and Ancient Greek for the classics scholars. In addition, there are classes for students wishing to learn Italian, Russian, Polish, and Esperanto.

The Yorkshire Dialect Society, of which I am a member, is doing a good job of work in keeping alive the various dialects of our county, which, incidentally, are not just dialectal forms of present-day English, but actual survivals of the old Saxon tongue. Strangely many of the words are Celtic in origin.

Throughout the British Isles there has been an "awakening" to the fact that, unless something was done now, most of the old languages would disappear, and electric recordings of all the known dialects have been made.

As a student of the Scots Gaelic and a Life Member of An Comunn Gaidhealach, I am keenly interested in the progress of Gaelic, which, as far as I can see, is *not* dying out, though I cannot visualise its use as a commercial language.

Mr. Marshall of Athens puts forward a very good idea of an All-Gaelic radio programme. Surely a wave-band could be found to accommodate this.

Mr. Clynne's excellent suggestion of Linguaphone records in Gaelic would certainly work wonders in fostering interest in that tongue.

My friends in the Highlands are very helpful and kindly when conversing with me in the Gaelic. I wish that more people were friendly towards 'The English' (we never refer to ourselves as 'The English' anyway), and you can't blame them for using their own tongue, but the fact that everyone doesn't care for Yorkshire Pudding doesn't make a Yorkshireman mad.—Yours faithfully,

Halifax, Yorks.

CONSTANCE HARWOOD.

Iomhas A' Chomuinn

Treasurer's Notes

NATIONAL MOD—PERTH, 1954

Received at Perth—

Previously acknowledged	£716	7	—
Proceeds of Concert, per Mrs. M. Morris, Aberfeldy	12	—	—
Proceeds of Sale of Work, per Dundee Highland Society	70	13	9
Miss Menzies, Perth	—	15	—
Proceeds of Sale of Work at Perth	584	8	7
Proceeds of Pitlochry Concert	6	11	6
Miss McPherson, Auchterarder	—	10	—
Glendelvine Scottish Country Dancing Class	2	10	—
Gourock Highland Association	—	1	—
Proceeds of Glenlyon Concert	8	16	6
Edinburgh Argyll Association	5	5	—

£1408 17 4

Received at Headquarters—

Previously acknowledged	11	3	0
Hector McKechnie, Esq., Q.C., B.A., LL.B., Edinburgh	1	—	—
Mr. & Mrs. Alex. Duncan, Manchester	5	5	—
Rev. B. MacIver, Garve	3	—	—
Mrs. B. Blackwood, Campbeltown	—	10	6
Thomas Hope, Esq., Dundee	5	—	—
Mrs. W. Marjoribanks, Edinburgh	2	—	—
Mrs. Mackintosh, Nairn	1	10	—
Miss C. R. Wanklyn, Cambridge	—	10	—
Glasgow Skye Association	5	—	—
Wm. M. Alexander, Esq., Aberdeen	1	—	—
Mrs. Annie C. Anderson, Edinburgh	—	10	—
G. C. Colmar, Esq., Aberdeen	1	1	—
Mrs. G. & Miss J. Croll, Glenugie	5	—	—
Hamilton & District Highlanders' Association	1	1	—
Miss Katie MacLaine, Glasgow	—	10	—
Miss Margaret MacPhee, Glasgow	—	10	—
Miss Rosemary B. Purvis, Paris	5	—	—
Anonymous	2	—	—
Miss Mina M. Whigham, Edinburgh	1	1	—
Mull and Iona Association	3	—	—
Mrs. Beatrice G. Forman, Loch Goil	—	10	—
Mrs. Catherine Kennedy, Minard	—	10	—
Comunn Tir nam Beann, Dun-eideann	5	—	—
John Macleod, Esq., Glasgow	—	4	—
Gaelic Society of Glasgow	5	—	—
Mrs. K. Macleod, Inverness	1	—	—
Mrs. M. Richardson, Kira	3	—	—
Mr. and Mrs. A. Macphail, Stirling	1	—	—
Evan MacKay, Esq., Dingwall	1	—	—
Charles Sutherland, Esq., Fraserburgh	2	2	—
The Misses Livingston, Clydebank	—	9	6
Mrs. Jane Robertson, Vancouver	1	—	—
Ceilidh nan Gaidheal	5	—	—

M. MacKerrow, Esq., Lauder	£—	10	—
Mrs. A. Fraser, Uddingston	1	—	—
Colonsay S.W.R.I.	2	—	—
Miss Jessie F. MacKinnon, Edinburgh	1	1	—
Lewis and Harris Association	10	10	—
H. S. Shield, Esq., Edinburgh	2	—	—
Miss Mary Wannan, Plockton	—	5	—
The Duke of Montrose, Southern Rhodesia	5	—	—
Farquhar MacRae, Esq., Clarkston	1	5	—
T. Nicolson, Esq., Plockton	—	4	—
Mr. and Mrs. S. MacRae, Rannoch Station	—	10	—
Aberdeen Branch	15	—	—
Rev. Father P. Murphy, Coleraine	1	—	—

Total to date.. £1530 9 4

CENTRAL FUND

Kyle Branch	£1	1	0
Govan Branch	3	—	—
Anonymous	—	5	8
Mrs. K. Macleod	—	14	—
Mrs. Jane P. Millar	—	10	—
Dunoon Branch	5	—	—
Dundee Highland Society	2	10	—
Beauly Branch	4	4	—
Kilmarnock Branch	5	5	—
Aberdeen Branch	2	2	—
Glasgow Central Branch	5	5	—

£29 16 8

MAGAZINE FUND

Dunoon Branch	£5	—	—
H. S. Shield, Esq.	1	—	—

£6 — —

An Comunn Gaidhealach

Life Members

On Roll at 30th April, 1953	784
Additions to Roll during Year, less Members deceased	77
On Roll at 30th April, 1954	861

Ordinary Members

On Roll at 30th April, 1953	1,775
Additions to Roll during Year, less Members deceased, resigned, etc., etc.	553
On Roll at 30th April, 1954	2,328

Junior Members

On Roll at 30th April, 1953	118
Additions to Roll during Year, less Members transferred	84
On Roll at 30th April, 1954	202

Affiliated Societies

On Roll at 30th April, 1953	59
Additions to Roll during Year	5
On Roll at 30th April, 1954	64

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General Secretary

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Hon. Secretary:

MR KENNETH MACDONALD
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13 OCT 54

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AN GAIDHEAL THE GAEL

V. XLIX

SEPTEMBER, 1954

No. 9

Gaidheal gun Ghaidhlig— Salann gun Bhlas

“Chan 'eil a' Bheurla idir a' laighe gu nàdurra air Tir nam Beann is nan Gleann, no air machraichean is lochan is òban nan Eileanan

“Is i a' Ghàidhlig suim nan iomadh feart agus subhailce spioradail a tha a' tighinn d'ar n-ionnsaigh bho ghnè is bho ghliocas nan Gaidheal a chaidh romhainn.”

Iain R. MacGille-na-brataich.



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An Eisteddfod

Le NIALL MACGILLE-SHEATHANAICH

THA mi toilichte, eadhon an deireadh mo làithean, gun d'fhuair mi cothrom air frithealadh aig Cruinneachadh Mór nan Cuimreach, agus b'ann le inntinn thogarrach a ghabh mi an turus le mo chomh-riochdair, Mgr. Iain MacRath, air ceud là mìos Lùnasdal. Bha an t-slighe fada an dubh-dhorchadas na h-oidhche agus an uair a ràinig sinn ar ceann-uidhe bha uisge ann a bhàthadh na feannagan. Cha bu chuimhne le muinntir an àite, Ystradgynlais, a leithid de thuil a bhith anns an abhainn, an Tawe, agus dh'innis a' bhean chòir leis an robh mi fhéin is mo bhean a' fuireach gu robh i air a cois a' chuid a bu mhòtha de'n oidhche agus eagal oirre gun ruigeadh na h-uisgeachan an taigh aice. Cha robh ach an aon là tioram againn fad na seachdain, agus b'èiginn a' Ghorsedd a chumail air an dà là shònraichte an aon de na taighean-dealbha.

Tha am Pàilliun Mór anns a' bheil na prìomh chomh-fharpaisean agus na cuirmean-ciùil air an cumail air a chur suas ann am pàirce agus, air a' bhliadhna seo co-dhiubh, mu cheithir cheud slat bhò'n àit-fhosglaidh. Ged bha frith-rathad de chlàran-fiodha air a chur sìos, bha sinn le dòmh-lachd an t-sluaigh cho tric anns a' pholl-eabair is a bha sinn air an clàran. Tha àitean-suidhe anns a' Phàilliun seo air son ochd mìle gu leth pearsa, agus tha e air a chur suas as ùr cia bè àit anns am bi an Eisteddfod

air a chumail. Eadar cur suas agus toirt a nuas agus an irrich, tha an cosgas a' tighinn thairis air còrr agus còig mìle deug pund Sasannach. Tha, gun teagamh, tallachan beaga aca, dìreach mar a bhios againn fhéin, ach anns a' bhaile bheag sgaoilte seo bha a dhà dhiubh mu mhìle bho'n Phàilliun agus mar sin cha robh e comasach frithealadh aig comh-fharpaisean a bu ghlé thoirge le neach a chluinntinn. Tha a' Chomhairle air barrachd aire a thoirt do'n òigridh na b' àbhaist, agus bha e taitneach èisdeachd ri aithris is seinn na cloinne. Ar leam nach robh iad cho athach dhiùd ris a' chloinn againne an dà chuid aig na comh-fharpaisean agus aig na cuirmean-ciùil. Chan 'eil iad idir cho nàdurra 'nan giùlan, a' leigeil ris an dealais féin agus buil an teagaisg a fhuairead. Innsidh Mgr. MacRath 'na dhòigh fhéin mu dheighinn a' chiùil, ach faodaidh mi a ràdh nach cuala sinn ach fìor bheagan de chèol nàistinneach na Cuimridh fhéin, ach eadar-theangachadh bho chànaichean Eòrpaich eile.

Tha iad a' toirt aire shònraichte do bhàrdachd agus do rosg agus an neo-ar-thaing mur 'eil na Bàird a' faighinn urrainn. Is math as airidh iad air sin, oir feumaidh a' bhàrdachd a bhith air mhoth rannaigheachd sònraichte, agus tha eadar-dhealsachadh modha air iarraidh an comh-fharpais a' Chrùin agus an comh-fharpais na Cathrach. Tha a' Bhàrdachd fo

riaghladh na Gorseidd agus ged tha trì brith-eamhain air an cur air leth air son gach aoin feumaidh a' Ghorseidd a' bhith air a riochdachadh orra le chèile. Tha a' Ghorseidd fhéin air a stéidheachadh air trì mhodhan: (1) an ceud cheum: gabhar ri luchd-siridh an déidh dà cheasnachadh leis a' Ghorseid (Cleòca uaine dhaibh-san). (2) an dara ceum: bàird, luchd-ciùil, is luchd-litreachais. Theid gabhail riutha ma bhuidhneas iad ceasnachadh crìochmaidheachd na Gorseidd (Cleòca gorm dhaibh-san). (3) an treas ceum: na Draoidhean. Iadsan air a bheil a' Ghorseid a' cur urrainn an éirig na rinn iad as leth litreachas, ceòl is ealain na Cuimrigh (Cleòca geal dhaibh-san). Tha aig na Bàird a choisinn an Crùn no a' Chathair agus a tha anns an treas earrainn seo blàth-fhleasg 'nan curraicean. Is ann á measg na feadhnaich seo a tha am Prìomh-Dhraoidh air a thaghadh.

Choinnich a' Ghorseid air madainn Di-nàirt aig naoi uairean, agus bha sinn gu léir duilich nach robh an aimsir fàbharach gu seo a chumail anns an àit a dh'ullachadh air a shon, far an robh Clachan Fiannta air an cur suas a réir gnàthjan nan Draoidhean. Bha sinne agus riochdairean na h-Eireann anns an làthair agus, mar a chaidh ainm ar dùtheba éigheach bho'n chlàr-ùrlair, bha sinn ag éirigh 'nar seasamh agus a' nochdadh do'n chomh-chruinneachadh gu robh sinn am broilleach na cuideachd. Chruinnich a' Ghorseid a rithis aig leth-uair an déidh a dhà air son crùnadh a' Bhàird. B'e sealladh breagha greadhnach a bha ann, an Prìomh-Dhraoidh, le a chulaidh gheal is le a uchd-éideadh lannireach, is a luchd-coimhreachd le an cleòcaidhean geala, le an claidheamhan is le an lorgan. Dh'eubhadh dà uair air a' Bhàrd, dh'éirich e á measg na cuideachd agus chuireadh luchd-coimhreachd air a thòir. Choisich e gu stòlda, eadar dithis, a dh'ionnsaigh an àrd-ùrlair far an d'fhàilteachadh e leis a' Phrìomh-Dhraoidh ann am briathran sòlaime. Chuireadh an sin e 'na shuidhe auns a' Chathair Mhóir, chuireadh an Crùn air a cheann, agus sheinn an coimhthional còmhla Laoidh a' Chrùnaidh le comh-cheòl clàrsaich. An déidh sin, thugadh cuireadh do na riochdairean tighinn air an aghaidh a chum am fàilteachadh, na h-Eireannaich an toiseach, ach aig ceann na staidheach bha dithis a' cumail claidheimh no rud-eigin coltach ris, chaidh beagan fhacal a labhairt agus, an déidh sin, thugadh sinn gu ruig am Prìomh-Dhraoidh a rug air làmh oirnn gu càrdeil, thuir e beagan fhacal fàilteachail agus sheas sinn an dara taobh. Dh'iarraidh oirnn labhairt 'nar càinain féin agus ar teachdaireachd a libhairt ann am beagan fhacal. Is ann ear mar seo a labhair mise, ma's math mo chuimhne:

"Tha mise agus mo chomh-riochdair a' giùlan teachdaireachd bhàth-chridheach chàirdheil dhuibhse, buill an Eisteddfod, bho'n Chomunn Ghaidhealach agus Guidheil na h-Alba gu léir, agus tha sinn a' deanamh comh-ghàirdheachais maille ribh anns na h-oidhirpean soirbheachail a tha sibh a' deanamh a chum càinain is cleachdaidhean bhur n-athraichean a chumail suas."

Eadar na bha 'nan suidhe is 'nan seasamh tha mi cinnteach as gu robh naoi mille pearsa fo chroimadh an taighe an uair a thachair na bheil mi a' sgrìobhadh uime. Cha d'fhuair aon againn cothrom air facal tuilleadh a ràdh air ùrlar àrd noosal. Gu dearbh b'e sin an aon uair a bha sinn air an àrd-ùrlar, mu chòig mionaidean uile gu léir. Ann an gabhail ri riochdairean bhò dhùthchaman dàimheil tha na Cuimrigh fada fada air dheireadh air na h-Eireannaich is oirnn féin.

Chumadh Gorseid eile air madainn Diardaoin agus bha i cadhòn na bu ghreadhnaiche na Gorseid Dhi-nàirt. Aig fosgladh gach Gorseid tha dà thrompaid air an séideadh ri ceithir chearnan an donham. Air an là seo ghiùlain bean udharc mhòr—an Còrn Hirlas—agus air dhi béiceadh dà uair mun d'ràinig i am Prìomh-Dhraoidh, chan i facal no dhà ris mun do ghlac e an Còrn as a làmhan. Olaidh e mar gum b'eadh deoch as a' Chòrn agus bheir e dhi air ais e. Tha sin a' samhlachadh Fion an Fhàilteachaidh bho'n àit auns a bheil an Eisteddfod air a chumail. An déidh seo tha nìonag òg, le còmhlan de chaileagan beaga aig a bheil blàth-fhleasgan air an cinn. Tha an nìonag seo a' giùlan sguaipe eadar a' geardeanan agus an déidh dà bheic tha i a' tairgseim na Sguaipe do'n Phrìomh-Dhraoidh. Tha seo a' samhlachadh toil òigridh na Cuimrigh blàthan an tàlant a thiodhlac do'n Fhéis Nàiseanta. An uair a bheir am Prìomh-Dhraoidh air ais an Sguab do'n nìonag tha na caileagan a' dainsadh is a' leum mun cuairt agus le iollaich ghàirdheachais a' dol as an t-sealladh.

Thugadh fa chomhair a' Phrìomh-Dhraoidh feadhainn a choisinn cliù agus urram dhaibh fhéin agus do'n Chumrigh an iomadh gnè dreuchd no foghlum. Air an ceann bha Ceann-Suidhe Comunn nan Lìghichean am Breatann.

An déidh mheadhon-là ghabhadh ris a' Bhàrd a choisinn a' Chathair. Rinneadh seo anns an dòigh ghreadhnaich àbhaistich. Còmhla ris a' Bhàrd thugadh bonn-òir do'n fhear a choisinn a' cheud duais air son sgrìobhadh rosg—rosg a ni leabhar tomadach. A réir nam paipearan-naidheachd tha ochd Cathraichean aig an fhear a chunnaic sinne a' faighinn na Cathrach. Chaidh a' chuid eile de'n Eisteddfod seachad le farpaisean ciùil is

seinn agus dh'fhàg mise am Pàillim Mór mu nheadhon-là Di-sathuirne.

A thaobh riaghladh nan comh-fharpaisean ar leam gu bheil sinn fhéin air thoiseach air na Cuimrich. Tha cus aig an luchd-cathrach ri ràdh agus móran 'ga cur seachad eadar seinn nan òran. Tha mar as trice dà òran aig gach comh-fharpaiseach. Theagabh, nan tuigeamaid an cànan, nach biodh e cho searbh a bhith 'gan òiseachadh. Thug son de bhrith-eamhan na Bàrdachd fheadh mionaid ag innseadh mu dheighinn na h-oidhirp a choisinn a' cheud duais!

Tha Rùnaire ùr aca gach bliadhna agus chan fheàirde gothaichean sin. Tha e anns an amhairc aca Rùnaire fhasdadh a bhios fo thuarasdal fad na bliadhna agus a bhios air cheann an Eisteddfod ge bè àit anns am bi e. Nì seo feum mór.

Tha mi gu mór an comain na muinntir a thug an cothrom dhomh frithealadh air a' bhliadhna seo. Cha d-chuimhnich mi am feasda na seallaidhean greadhnach a chunnaic mi.

The Welsh National Eisteddfod, 1954

By JOHN A. MACRÆ

TO a visitor from Scotland the differences between the Eisteddfod and the Mod appear much more obvious than the similarities.

The Eisteddfod is a huge undertaking. The estimated expenditure on this year's event was £42,000, including £17,000 as the rental of a prefabricated hall specially constructed for the week and seating 8,000 people. Despite rainy weather, the hall was often crowded, and by the end of the week all expenses had been covered.

The Mod is mainly a festival of folk-song, but the Eisteddfod is, on its musical side, much more like a large Musical Festival. Its main competitions involve a type of music very different from that performed at the Mod. Most of the test-pieces are classical songs sung to Welsh translations of Italian, German, or English words, or else were compositions by modern Welsh composers.

In the chief mixed-voice choral competition one of the two prescribed pieces was Brahms' "Song of Destiny," a work lasting some twelve minutes and having long piano interludes. Five repetitions of this and the other test-piece would not, I am sure, have been to the taste of a Mod audience. The choice of test-pieces met with some criticism at the Eisteddfod itself.

A high standard was attained in the vocal solo classes. The singers had to sing two prescribed songs, one of them being from Italian opera or by Bach, sung in Welsh of course. The preliminary stages were held in the various churches or chapels, and it was a strange sight to see a soprano entering the pulpit and scattering arpeggios from Verdi across the pews.

One surprising feature about the top junior choir was that only nine of its eighty-four members could speak Welsh. Obviously there was not the stress laid on linguistic and grammatical subtleties that is laid on them at our Mods. This probably explains how a

German choir won a premier choral competition at last year's Eisteddfod. Incidentally, they had not returned their trophy for this year's competition, although the Eisteddfod secretary had written to Germany appealing for its return.

In the chief choral competitions choirs must have eighty or more members. The number of choirs competing this year was smaller than usual owing to travelling costs and a decreasing interest in choral singing, and there is a proposal to reduce the number of choristers required.

The male-voice choirs were first-rate, but I did not think that the mixed-voice choirs were as good as the best of ours. The junior choirs were technically very competent, but for sweetness of tone I prefer our own children's "native woodnotes wild."

Learners' School, 1954

THE 1954 School for Learners of Gaelic was held at Cnoc-nan-ròs, Tain. Twenty-three girls from Golspie, Embo, Ardnarmurchan, Oban, and Glasgow attended. The syllabus was much the same as in former years when the School was held at Swordale House. The staff included Mr. Lachlan Mackinnon (Convener of Comunn na h-Oigridh), Miss Peggy Mackinnon, Miss Jean Wallace, Miss Joan Nicolson, Mrs. L. Mackinnon, Mr. John Bannerman, Jun., and D. J. Maclean (Northern Organiser).

The girls tried hard to learn more of the language; they took a keen interest in the handcraft and nature-study lessons, and they all enjoyed their Highland and Country dance lessons, their instructor being Mrs. Mackinnon.

A successful ceilidh was held in Tain Town Hall on Tuesday, 3rd August, when over 150 people gathered to hear the pupils and members of the staff render a very enjoyable programme. Mr Lachlan Mackinnon was Fear-an-tighe, and Mr. J. M. Bannerman, President of An Comunn, moved a comprehensive vote of thanks to all who had helped to make the ceilidh a success.

The girls were taken to Swordale House on the following day for afternoon tea, sports, supper, and ceilidh. Everyone enjoyed the outing, and we returned to Cnoc-nan-ròs very tired but very happy.

Mrs. Bannerman presented the prizes on Thursday night, and the School closed on Friday, 6th August.

The following is the prize-list: — Swordale Cup, Fiona Maclaren. Gaelic Intermediate "A," Catriona Thomson. Gaelic Intermediate "B," Eva Mitchell. Gaelic Junior, Ina Mackay. Handcraft, Ella Mackay. Sewing, Averil Kelly. Sports—Senior, Fiona Maclaren; Junior, Eva Macniven. Best Working Team, Fiona Maclaren's Team. Special Prize for Best Individual Effort, Mary Fraser.

D. J. M.

Galar Na Gaidhlighe

Le IAIN A. MACLEOID

(Air A Leantainn)

An rùith na bliadhna seo a chaidh seachad chuala sinn agus leugh sinn gu leòr mu Czecho-Slovakia. Aig aon àm b' e ainm na dùthcha sin Bothémia, agus tha cuid de'n bheachd gun d' fhuair i an t-ainm sin bho threubh Cheilteach a bha uair-eigin a' còmhaidh anns an fhearann. Biodh sin mar a dh' fhaodas e, bha sluaigh na dùthcha seo fad iomadh linne air an cuairt-eachadh le Gearmailtich ceart mar a tha iad an diugh. Bha a' Ghearmailt air an dara làimh, agus Austria air an làimh eile. Aig àm an Ath-leasachaidh ghabh muinntir Bhothémia ris a' chreideamh Phròstanach, ach lean Gearmailtich Austria air Pàpa. Bho'n bhliadhna 1526, bha riaghlair Austria, "Impire Naomh na Ròimhe," a' tagairt còrach air rìgh-chathair Bhothémia; ach an uair a dh' eug an t-impire, anns a' bhliadhna 1617, ghabh muinntir Bhothémia an cothrom sin gu rìgh a thaghadh de'n aon chreideamh rù féin. Air ball bha an ceòl air feadh na fìdhle. Thòisich an cogadh, agus b' e an cogadh e. Lean e deich bliadhna fichead, agus cha mhór rìoghachd anns an Roinn Eòrpa nach do rinn còmhrag air aon taobh no taobh eile. Bha an Gearmailteach ainmeil sin, Biosmarc, de'n bheachd gun tug a' Ghearmailt còrr agus dà cheud bliadhna mun d' fhuair i os cionn a' chogaidh ud, agus cha b' e idir Bothémia a bu luaithe a fhuair thairis air.

Ghléidh an t-Impire greim air rìgh-chathair Bhothémia. Rinneadh tàir agus bualadh-sìos air cànan na dùthcha. Chaidh a bacadh air tùs anns na h-àrd-sgoilean, agus an sin chaidh a crosadh anns gach sgoil air feadh na tìre. Sgrìosadh mòran de leabhraichean, agus thogadh an còrr air falbh leis na saighdearan do gach ceàrn de an Roinn Eòrpa. Tha e air aithris, mu thimcheall na bliadhna 1790, gu robh e ro-choltach gu robh cànan Bhothémia air àireamh nan nithean sin a bha air faighinn bhàis, agus air nach biodh iomradh gu bràth tuilleadh.

Ach cha b' ionann sin agus mar a thionndaidh a' chùis. Dh' éirich air tùs trìùir ghaisgeach as leth na cànaiche, ach ré ùine mòire b' éiginn gach oidhirp brosnachaidh a rinneadh a bhith air an dèanamh anns a' chainnt Gearmailtich air neo an Laideann. Bha eadhon an t-aba Dobrobhsci (Dobrowsky) a rinn saothair ionmholta air taobh na cànaiche, agus a sgrìobh eachdraidh litreachas na dùthcha, e fhéin de'n bheachd nach tìgeadh an teanga sin beò a chaoidh tuilleadh, agus sgrìobh esan an eachdraidh ud an Laideann. Tha luchd-eachdraidh

anns a' choitcheantas a' deanamh fianaise gun d' ath-bheoithach muinntir Czecho-Slovakia cànan a bha gu ìre bhig glan marbh gun deò. Bha a' chaonnag fada agus air uairean fuilteach. Fhuair iad iomadh tuiteam truagh agus bualadh déistinneach, ach dh' éirich iad gach uair le rùn suidhichte gun toireadh iad buaidh air neo gum faigheadh iad bàs.

Bha àireamh mhór de leabhraichean air an clò-bhualadh; bha pàipearan naidheachd air an cur air chois; chaidh luchd-teagaisg agus luchd-brosnachaidh gun sgitheachadh air feadh na rìoghachd. Anns a' bhliadhna 1848, thug Seanadh Fhlath na tìre binn gum feumadh a' chainnt dhùthchail a bhith air a teagas anns na h-àrd-sgoilean, agus dà bhliadhna dheug an déidh sin, cho-éignich iad gum biodh i air a cleachdadh anns gach sgoil bhig is mhóir air feadh na tìre. Bho'n bhliadhna 1897, chan fhaigheadh duine comhphàirt an seirbhìs a bhuneadh do riaghladh na dùthcha gun eòlas a bhith aige air cannt an t-sluaigh; agus bho 1903, b' éiginn do na h-uile a bha an geall air glacadh oifige no dreuchd do am buineadh ùghdarras air bith, dearbhadh a thoirt air tùs do luchd-ceasnachaidh air an ealantachd an cànan na dùthcha.

Tha e coltach gun do chuir an sluaigh romhpa nach biodh iad sàsaichte gu bràth gus am faigheadh iad cuidhte is cuing Austria, agus gus am biodh iad gu buileach saor gu riaghladh an tìre fhéin mar a chitheadh iad fhéin ceart. Tha fios aig an t-saoghal mar choimhlean iad am bòidean. Shuidhich iad Ard-Chomhairle am mìos an Iuchair anns a' bhliadhna 1918, agus trì mìosan an déidh sin, ghairm iad iad fhéin neo-eisimeileach do gach cumhachd fo'n ghréin, agus saor bho gach riaghaltais air thalamh. Bho'n uair sin gu bho chionn beagan mhìosan, bha *Czecho-Slovakia* air aon de na rìoghachdan a bu bheartaiche agus a bu dicheall-aiche air taobh a' cheartais anns an Roinn Eòrpa. Ach rinn iunntas na dùthcha ath-dhùsgadh air sannt nan Gearmailteach, agus tha làithean dearbhaidh a rithist air teachd air sluaigh *Czecho-Slovakia*; ach ge air bith deuchainnean agus dubhaisean a tha ceilte orra fhathast am bolg an fhreasdail, dh' earbamaid rìù, anns gach streup agus carraid, iad fhéin a ghiùlan gu fearail, subhailteach, treubhach, mar a bu dùth do ghineal nan laoch euchdail a thug buaidh a cheana.

B' amhlaidh cuineasan an Dùthaich Fhinn (*Finland*). Eadar na Suanich air an dara

An còrr air t.d. 69)



AN GAIDHEAL ÓG

MIOSACHAN COMUNNA NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar VI

AN T-SULTUIN, 1954

Aireamh 9

Clach an t-Siosalaich

ANNS a' bhliadhna 1430 thàinig tighearna Aird-ghobhar air sgrìob do Raineach agus phòs e nighean do thighearna Shruthain, ceann-cinnidh Chloinn Dhonnchaidh. An uair a thug fear Aird-ghobhar a bhean leis gu a chaistéal féin, chuir fear Shruthain cóignear ghillean sgairteil maille ri a nighinn a bha 'nan càirdean dileas dhi agus a'ns am faodadh i a h-earbsa a chur am measg choigreach. Thug uachdaran Aird-ghobhar seilbh fearainn do'n chóignear òganach sin dlùth d' a àite-còmhnaidh féin, agus rinn e gach nà na chomas a chum gun soirbheachadh leo. Bha iad measail aig muinntir Aird-ghobhar air sgàth na ban-tighearna d'an robh mór-spéis aca, agus chan 'eil teagamh nach gabhadh iad féin agus an sliochd 'nan déidh còmhnaidh air fearainn Aird-ghobhar mur b'e mar a thachair.

Bha gach aon de'n chóignear a chaidh o Raineach treun agus gaisgeil, ach thug am fear a bu lugha dhiubh barrachd air càch uile, a thaobh gaisge agus tapachd, agus gu sònraichte a thaobh a theòmachd euchdaich le bogha is le saighead. B'e Alasdair Beag MacDhonnchaidh a b' a'ann do'n òganach ealanta seo, agus cha b'fhada gus an do dhùisg a lùth-chleasan eud agus gamhlas 'na aghaidh ann an cridheachan luchd-leannhainn Aird-ghobhar.

Là de na làithean, dh'èirich connsachadh eadar Alasdair Beag agus òganach sgiamhach eile de muinntir Aird-ghobhar. Chaidh na fir am fionnsan a cheile ach cha b'fhada gus an do leag Alasdair Beag an t-òganach gun deò air an raon. Cha desnadh fuireach feum tuilleadh. B'èiginn do MhacDhonnchaidh am fireach a thoirt air gun dàil sam bith. Thug e na buinn as air ball, agus cha do ghabh e tàmh no fois gus an d'ràinig e a cheann-feadhna euchdach agus cruadalaich féin, Iain Dubh Gearr, no (mar a theireadh cuid ris) "Iain Dubh nan lann," a bha a' gabhail còmhnaidh ann an Gleann Duibh, ris an abrar a nis Gleann Lìobhainn. Dh'innis e do'n treun-laoch, Iain Dubh, mar a dh'èirich dha an Aird-ghobhar, agus thubhairt Iain ris, "Chan

eagal duit, a MhicDhonnchaidh; gabh fasnadh fo mo sgéith-sa, agus ma thig mac màthar o Aird-ghobhar a chur dragha ort, cha téid e dlhachaigh a dh'innseadh a sgeòil."

Fàgaidh sinn a nis Iain Dubh agus Alasdair Beag ann an Gleann Lìobhainn, a' tighinn air an gnìomharan gaisgeil féin m'a seach, agus théid sinn le ar sgeul car tamaill bhig gu Srath-ghlais ann an Siorramachd Inbhir-Nis.

Air là àraidh bha an Siosalach, uachdaran Shrath-ghlais, agus buidheann thaghte maille ris, a mach a' sealgaireachd air feadh nam beann. Air dhaibh a bhith air an sàrachadh le siubhal nam beann, chaidh iad a steach, aig cròn-ach an annoich, do bhòthan bantraich through a bha ri taobh an rathaid, agus, gun a cead iarraidh, mharbh agus dh'ith iad an t-aon laogh a bha air a seilbh. Cò a thachair a bhith a staigh anns an àm ach duine bochd o Gheann Lìobhainn a bha a' siubhal o àite gu àite ag iarraidh na déirce! Cha robh na cùisean a' còrdadh ris an duine bochd air chor sam bith, agus thòisich e ri bhith a' cur dheth agus a' gearan.

Thionndaidh an Siosalach agus thubhairt e, "Cìod a tha a' cur ort, a bhodaich leibidich dhrandanaich?" "Chan 'eil a bheag," deir an duine bochd, "ach tha fios agam air aon nì—agus cha bhinn leat a chluinntinn—tha fios agam far nach biodh a chridhe aig an t-Siosalach e féin a ghiùlan mar a rinn e anns a' bhòthan seo." Las an ceann-cinnidh naibhreach le corruich agus thubhairt e. "Innis domh, a bhodaich dhona, càit nach biodh a chridhe agamsa mo thoil féin a dheanamh?" "Is soirbh an nì dhòmhsa sin a dheanamh." arsa am bodach bochd. "oir ann an dùthaich Iain Dubh nan lann dh'fheumadh tu a bhith umhal." Mhionnaich an Siosalach gun b'iodh dearbhadh aige-san air sin mun rachadh mòran làithean sea-had.

Thug an duine bochd nach biodh cùisean réidh, agus cha do chaill e ùine sam bith gus an d'ràinig e Iain Dubh nan lann agus gus an d'innis e dhà, fagal air fhacal, mar a

thachair. Fhuair Iain Dubh coire mhór do'n duine bhocht air son a luathas-teanga, ach thug e maithneas da, agus thòisich e air gach n-l a dheanamh deas air son teachd an t-Siosalaich.

Cha b'fhada a chuir an Siosalach dàil anns a' ghnòthach, oir cha deachaidh seachdain thairis an uair a bha fir Shraith-ghlais agus an uachdaran air an ceann air fraighibh Ghlinn Liohbhainn.

Bha freiceadan aig muinntir a' Ghlinne a mach a' gabhail beachd air gach bealach, agus chunnaic iad na tuathaich naimhdeil a' tarraing am fagus.

An uair a roghnaich an Siosalach àite-tàimh freagarrach air a shon féin agus air son a cheatharnach, chuir e teachdaireachd a dh'ionnsaigh Iain Duibh, ag innseadh dha cuirm a bhith deas aige air son beagan cuid-eachd a bha a' teachd a dh'amharc air o'n Aird-a-tuath. "Agus mur bi—," arsa an Siosalach, ach cha dubhairt e tuilleadh.

Fhuair Iain Dubh an teachdaireachd, agus thug e gu ro-mhàith a seagh. Ghrad chuir e fios air ais gum biodh gach ni deas a bha freagarrach air an son, agus iad a thighinn air an aghaidh gu h-ealamh. "Ach ma thig—," arsa Iain Dubh, agus stad e an sin!

Thuig na laoch air gach taobh gu robh na cùisean gu fhith garbh, agus air gach taobh rinneadh uigheamachadh air an son. Chaidh na Siosalaich gu faicilleach air an aghaidh, agus bha Iain Dubh Gearr mar gum b'ann air aotromas le mire-chatha a chum deannal cruaidh teth a thoirt daibh. Bha seachdnar mhac aige, agus bu treun iad. Bha iad 'nan òganaich cho clis agus ealanta is a ghlùlain riamh iubar agus òrlach. Chaidh ceathrar diubh air làimh dheis an athar, agus an triùir eile air a làimh chll, maille ris an robh mar an

ceudna Alasdair Beag MacDhonnchaidh, a bha comharrachite 'na linn féin air son cuimse a ghabhail le saighead.

Theirinn an Siosalach air ceann a dhaoine a chum na li-aibhne an uair a bha na Liohbhannaich thall f'an comhair air an taobh eile. Bha ceann-feadhna Shraith-ghlais air éideadh o a bhàrr gu a bhonn le lùirich-lannaich, clogaid agus ceann-bheairt, air chor is nach ruigeadh saighead air a leòmadh. Bha an là grianach, agus chunnacas gathianan na gréine mìltean air astar, a' deàrsadh mar ghrad-bhoillsgeadh an dealanaich air armachd nan laoch. Thog an Siosalach a chlogaid suas os cionn a shùl agus air a' mhionaid sin thilg Alasdair Beag saighead a bhual an clàr an aodainn ceannard nan Siosalach. Ghrad spàrr an duine leòte a làmh air an to, ach ghlaodh MacDhonnchaidh, "A Siosalach, gheibh thu an t-saighead air do chùlaibh," ach bha an Siosalach gum chomas freagairt, oir thuit e marbh air an làraich!

Tha an t-àite far an tug e suas an deò fathast air a chomharrachadh a mach le cloich ris an abrar agus an là an diugh, "Clach an t-Siosalaich." An uair a chaill na naimhdean an ceannard, thréig am misneach iad agus thionndaidh iad an cùl air na Liohbhannaich. Chuir Iain Dubh an ruaig orra, agus cha d'fhàgadh mac màthar diubh beò ach am piobara a mhàin. Thugadli cead dhàsan dol dachaigh a dh'innseadh sgeul a' bhròin d'a chàirdean agus d'a chinneach.

Goid an déidh sin thug Iain Dubh nan lann a nighean 'na mnaoi do Alasdair Beag MacDhonnchaidh, agus tha e air innse gu bheil an sìochd fathast lionmhor anns na crìochan sin.

LE ALASDAIR MACGRIOGAIR ("Sgitheanach")

("Fear-Tathaich nam Beann," 1849).

Campa Comunn Na h-Oigridh, 1954

BHA uallach gu leòir ormsa aig toiseach mìos an Iuchair gu robh agam ri bhith 'nam "athair" is "mathair" do'n chloinn a bha a' tighinn gu Cnoc-nan-ròs—an dachaigh ùr aig Comunn na h-Oigridh—ach cha ruigeadh sin a leas uallach sam bith a chur orm, oir bha a' chlànn cho modhail riannail ri buidheann de òigridh a bha riamh cruinn còmhla. B'e seo a' cheud oidhirp agamsa 'nam cheannard air Campa Comunn na h-Oigridh, agus tha mi toilichte gum faod mi a nis a ràdh gun deachaidh gach ni leinn cho math is a ghabhadh a bhith.

Bha sinn ann an drip agus an cabhaig agus an taigh a bhith deiseil air choinneamh na cloinne, agus fo dheagh stiùradh na Mnà Uasal, Bean Iain Mhic Ghille-na-brataich, is

ann mar sin a bha. Bha gach ni 'na àite fhéin agus an taigh le a chuid àirneis cho glan ris an òr an uair a thàinig a' chlànn air an treas là de'n Iuchar.

Chruinnich dà fhichead is a còig de chail-eagan is balaich á Eileanan na Gaidhealtachd, agus is ann a chaidh gach là seachd ro-sgiobalta. Bha cluichean is lùth-chleasan riaghailta is saor-thoil, cuairtean air feadh na dùthcha, cuirm-chnuic, cuairtean anns a' bhaile, céilidhean is danns ann an Cnoc-nan-ròs 'nan cur-seachad aig a' chloinn, agus is iomadh gaire cridheil a rinn sinn fad nan deich là sin. Mar a bha Andrea ag ràdh non là a bha e a' gabhail fàsagaidh fo chraoibh is fras throm ann, "A bhalach, cha b'fhuilear dhòmhsa *rhone-pipes* a bhith orm an diugh,"

agus ged b'fheadar dhòmhsa spochadh a thoirt chuirge air son an facal Beurla sin a chleachdadh, cha b'urrainn dhuinn gun ghàire a dheanamh aig an àm.

Chaidh aon de na céilidhean a bha againn a chur air clàir leis a' Bh.B.C. agus a chraobh-sgaoileadh, Duine sam bith a chuala an céilidh sin, thuigeadh e gu robh a' chlann gu sunndach toilichte aig a' champa.

Thog a' chlann orra dhachaigh air Di-màirt agus iad uile a' bòideachadh gun tilleadh iad an ath-bhladhna ach an cothrom a bhith aca.

Mun toir mi an t-ìomradh seo gu crìch, bu mhath leam mo thaing fhéin a chur an cèill do na h-inbhich a dh'oibrich cho cruaidh a chum is gum biodh làithean sona aig a' chloinn ann an Cnoc-nan-ròs. B'iad sin Peigi NicFhionghuin, Oighrig NicDhòmhnaill, Iain A. ("Jake") MacDhòmhnaill, Iain Og MacGille-na-brataich, agus a' bhan-chòcaire, Ceit NicDhonnchaidh.

D. I. MACGILLEATHAIN,

Ceannard a' Champa.

An Sionnach

GHEIBHEAR an sionnach cha mhór anns gach ceàrn de'n domhan. Buidhidh e do'n aon seòrsa ris a' mhadadh. Tha a dhath donn, a bheil biorach, a chluasan àrd agus dreach, agus a earball fada, dosach, agus breac. Tha an toll anns a bheil e a' gabhail còmhnaidh am bitheantas fo'n talamh no ann an sgeiribh chreag. Chan fhàg e a gharadh gu feasgar, agus an sin théid e a mach air feadh nan coillteach agus an fhearainn air son còbhartach, agus fanaidh e a muigh gu madainn. Is e biadh dha a' mhaighreach, an coinean, cearcan, agus eunlaith de gach seòrsa. Ithidh e mar an ceudna fainn, radain, agus luchaidh, agus tha e ro-dhéidheil air ùbhlán agus gach gné meas.

Ged tha an sionnach ro-dhùbhalach am measg eunlaith agus uan, tha e a' deannamh fóm mór le bhith a' cur as do iomadh creutair millteach agus gràineil. Ann an Sasann agus ann an iomadh àit eile de'n domhan tha an sionnach a' toirt mór-shùgraidh agus aigheir do luchd-seilge. Tha na sealgairean a' marcachd 'na dhéidh agus 'ga ruagadh le madaidhean, ach is tric a sgithicheas e na coin, na h-eich, agus na sealgairean, agus faodaidh e a bhith, an déidh dhaibh a leantainn car leth-cheud mìle, gun toir e an car asda mu dhèireadh, gun ruig e ionad-falaich éigin, agus gun téarainn e a bheatha.

Tha an sionnach ro-innleachdach a chum breith air a chobhartach, agus chum a

naimhdean a sheachnadh. Tha seo cho aithnichte do gach neach is gun abrar mar ghnàth-fhacl air duine carach agus cuilbheartach, "Gu bheil e cho seòlta ris an t-sionnach." Is iomadh sgeul a dh'innsear mu thimcheall nan innleachdan a tha e a' gnàthachadh a mhealladh a naimhdean. Bha aon de na creutairean seo gu tric air a dhùth-leantainn le madaidhean, ach chaidh e as a ghnàth le bhith a' ruith gu mullach creige corraich far an robh àite-tuimidh aige, agus is minig a thachair e, an uair a bha na madaidhean an dian-thòir air, gun deach iad thar na carraige agus gu do mharbhadh iad.

Le bhith a' gabhail beachd air an àite seo, fhuair an luchd-seilge a mach mu dhèireadh gu robh garadh aig an t-sionnach ann am beul aodann na carraige agus gu robh e a' greim-cachadh le a fhiaclan ri slait làidir a bha a' fàs aig taobh a thuill agus air an dòigh seo 'ga thilgeadh féin a steach ann. Ach tha innleachd an duine na's mo na seòltach an t-sionnach. Gheàrr na sealgairean an t-slat, agus a chum an car a thoirt as an t-sionnach dh'fhàg iad i 'na seasamh far an robh i. An ath-uair a chaidh an sionnach a ruagadh, ruith e gu bile na carraige mar a b'abhaist da, rug e air an t-slat 'na fhiaclan ach ghéill i roimhe agus thuit e sìos car air char gu iochdar na carraige, agus air an dòigh seo reubadh 'na bhloighdean e.

(A Dara Leabhar nan Sgoilean Gaidhealach, 1837.)

Sgeoil Bheaga A Sina

Bha A Cheann An Cunnart

BLIADHNA a bha an seo, o chionn fhada, bha cogadh eadar dà dhùthaich an Sina, an Dùthaich mu Thuath agus an Dùthaich mu Dheas. Cha robh taobh seach taobh a' faotainn na buadha, agus bha e glé choltach gum biodh an dà armailt an sin air a' bhlar-chatha gus am fàsadh iad uile 'nam bodaich fheusagach.

Ià a bha an seo chaidh fear de oifigich-airn na Dùtchea mu Thuath far an robh an t-Ard-chomann-dair a bha air ceann armailt na dùtchea sin.

"Le bhur cead, a Mhórachd," arsa esan, "tha innleachd agamsa air na naimhdean a chur air theicheadh agus a ruagadh dhach-aigh d'an tìr féin."

"Seadh, a charaid," arsa an t-Ard-

AN GAIDHEAL OG

chomann-dair, "agus ciod an seòrsa innleachd a tha an sin?"

"Le bhur cead, a Mhórachd," arsa an t-oifigeach, "b'fheàrr leam gun sin innse do dhuine beò, agus gabhaibh sibh mo lethsgheul mur innis mi dhuibhse e."

"Bì falbh, ma thà," arsa an t-Ard-chomann-dair, "agus feuch ort! Ach mur dean thu an rud a gheall thu—"

An oidheche sin fhéin shnèag an t-oifigeach gu falachaidh a steach gu campa nan naimhdean, agus a steach do'n phàillion anns an robh Ard-chomann-dair armait na Dùthecha mu Dheas 'na chadal. Cha do mhòthaich duine dha, agus thug e leis cùrtean na leapa bho leabaidh an Ard-chomann-dair. An ath latha chuir an t-oifigeach an cùrtean air ais a dh'ionnsaigh an Ard-chomann-dair, agus còmhla ri sin chuir e fios gun dh'fhuair fear de shaihgdearan na Dùthecha mu Thuath an cùrtean am feadh is a bha e a' trusadh connaidh.

An dara oidheche shnèag an t-oifigeach air ais a rithist gu campa nan naimhdean, agus an turus seo ghoid e leis chluasag Ard-chomann-dair na Dùthecha mu Dheas, agus anns a' mhadaim chuir e a' chluasag air ais chuide leis an teachd-aireachd, "Seo rud eile a fhuaradh ann an achadh le aon de na fir againne."

An treas oidheche shnèag an t-oifigeach air ais gu campa na Dùthecha mu Dheas agus ghoid e leis an dealg á dual-chùil falt an Ard-chomann-dair. (Mar a tha fhios againh, b'e cleachdadh nam fear an Sina am falt a bhith air a cheangal 'na dhual fada caol air cùl an cinn.)

An uair a dhùisg Ard-chomann-dair armait na Dùthecha mu Dheas anns a' mhadaim agus a mhothaich e d'a fhalt sgoilte a mach air a' chluasaig agus gun sgeul air an dealg, chaidh e 'na bhreislìch leis an eagal, agus ghrad ghairm e na h-àrd-oifigearan aige a chur a chonharle riutha.

"Eisidibh seo," arsa esan. "A' cheud oidheche chail mi cùrtean na leapa; an dara oidheche ghoideadh a' chluasag orm; an raoid dh'fhalbh an dealg a bha 'nam falt. Feumaidh sinn tilleadh a dh'ionnsaigh na dùthecha againn féin gun dàil, oir, ma dh'fhanas sinn an seo oidheche eile, theid mo cheann a ghoid bhnam!"

Ròpa is Rud Ris

BHA iomadh dèigh neònach aig na Sinich air peanas a dheanamh orrasan a fhuaradh ciontach de cucoir sam bith.

Là a bha an seo bha fear a' coisearchd troimh an bhaile agus brang (no coileir fiodha)

aige m'a amhaich—rud trom mi-chomhfhurtail a bha air a chur air mar pheanas.

Thachair càirdean dha air.

"Gu dé air an talamh mhór a rinn thu, a dhuine," arsa iadsan, "an uair a chuir iad an rud maslach sin ort?"

"Cha d'rinn mise dad sam bith," arsa esan. "Cha d'rinn nise ach pìos ròpa a thogail a chunnaic mi 'na laighe air an rathad mhór, agus thug mi leam dhachaig e."

"Ach tha fhios," arsa na càirdean ris, "nach do chuir iad am brang sin ort a mhàin a chionn gun do thog thu pìos ròpa bho'n rathad mhór?"

"Uill," arsa an duine, "thachair gu robh dàmh an ceangal ris an ròpa!"

Aois na Caillich

THALL an Sina anns na làithean a dh'fhalbh (ciod air bith an dòigh a tha aca an diugh), bha e 'na chleachdadh aca nach fhaiceadh fear a bhean roimh là na bainnse. B'iad na pàrantan air an dà thaobh a bha a' deanamh còrdadh-phòsaidh air son na càraid, agus a' réiteachadh gach nì fa chomair na bainnse.

Bha fear ann, agus, an uair a phòs e agus a fhuair e a cheud sealladh air a' mhnaoi a thagh a phàrantan dha, bha droch amharas aige gu robh i cus na bu shine na an aois a chaidh innse dhàsan a bha i. Mar sin, dh'fhoighnich e dhith ciod an aois a bha i.

"Tha mi còig is dà fhichead bliadhna a dh'aois," arsa ise.

"Ged thà," arsa esan, "tha e air a chur sìos anns a' chòrdadh-phòsaidh gur e oched bliadhna deug ar fhichead a tha thu. 'S e sin a thubhairt do phàrantan."

"A dh'innse na frinn," arsa ise, "'is ann a tha mi dà fhichead bliadhna agus a ceithir-deug!"

Chuir seo an duine gu smaointinn, ach cha robh e fhathast riaraichte gur e an fhìrinn a bha aice, agus chur e roimhe cuilbheart air chor-eigin a chleachdadh a chum is gum faigheadh e eòlas cinnteach air a h-aois.

Mus deachaidh iad mu thàmh air an oidheche, thubhairt e, "Is fheàrr dhomh falbh agus an soitheach salainn a chòmhach le brod, air eagal is gum ith na radain an salann."

"A dhuine through," arsa a' bhean, "nach tu a tha aineolach? Radain ag ithe salainn! Cò riamh a chuala n' leithid? Tha mise trì fichead bliadhna agus a h-oched a dh'aois, agus is e seo a' cheud uair a chuala mi iomradh air radain a bhith ag ithe salainn!"

(*Ur-àithris le T.M.M.*)

làmh, agus na Ruiseanaich air an làimh eile, cha bu chùis fharmaid muinntir na tìre seo fad choed ceud bliadhna. Bho'n dara linn deug gu toiseach na naoidheamh linne deug, bha an sluagh fo uachdaranachd nan Suaineach, agus bu bhronach, truagh an càradh. Thogadh na fùrain a bu tapaidhe anns an dùthaich, agus tha an gaisge ainmeil an eachdraidh na h-Eòrpa, ach is ann a' sabaid an arm na Suaine a bha iad. Ghlac na Suainich a' chuid a b' fheàrr de'n fhearann, agus shaltair iad anns an ùir gach dùil is dòchas. Thug strì agus ainneart, gort agus plàighean an tìr gu staid ro-ìosal. Ré dhà cheud bliadhna mun tàinig a' cheud smaaisleachadh air an ath-bheothachadh, bha a' chànan a' fulang gach tàire agus tailceis, gach màbaidh agus ana-ceartais a ghabhadh smuaineachadh orra. Chuir na màithean an cùl rithe air tùs, agus an sin, a chuid is a chuid, dhi-chuimhnic na mithean i cuideachd. A mach air a' Bhìobull, is beag de sgrìobhadh eile a bha ri a fhaotainn an cainnt na tìre. Gach duine a bha a' toirt a bheag no a mhór de thlachd do litreachas, bha e gu bitheanta a' sgrìobhadh anns a' chainnt Shuainich, no anns a' chainnt Ghearmailtich, air neo an Laideann. Bha an sluagh air call an uail cinnidh: bha gach dualachas agus gach dùthchas air dòl air dì-chuimhne; bha a' chànan mar gum b'eadh is clochar a' bhàis 'na sgòran.

Fhuair an Ruis còir air an dùthaich anns a' bhliadhna 1809, agus cha b'ann bho'n uair sin a b'fhusa cùisean. Ma bha uallach nan Suaineach éiginneach, bha eire nan Ruiseanach pailt cho duilich a giùlan. Ach bha beagan de bheothachadh air tighinn anns na cànhan tioram an gleann no a dhà air feadh Tìr-Fhinn roimhe seo, agus aon uair is gun do dhùisg an sluagh gu bhith a' gabhail tlachd an beul-aithris an eachdraidhe, agus gu bhith a' glacadh cùraim do chainnt an dùthcha fhéin, a dh'aindeoin gach innleachd is feart a chleachd Céasar na Ruise riù, agus an aghaidh gach armailte is feachd a chuir e 'nam measg, cha do lùb agus cha do ghéill iad.

Bha luchd-dàimh na cànaine an sàs an iomadh dòigh. Thòisich iad le muinearan a chur bho àite gu àite a chum sùilean an t-sluaigh fhosgladh, agus a chum blas an cainnt fhéin ùrachadh dhaibh. Thog iad sgoilean anns an robh gach obair is ceàird a bhùineadh do thuath air an teagasg. Cheannaicheadh oighreachdan farsaing bho na tìghearnan fearainn, agus shuidhicheadh an sluagh orra mar shealbhad-airean. Bha oilean is fòghlum a ghnàth a' faotainn a' cheud àite 'nan sealladh. Bha àireamh mhór de leabhraichean de gach seòrsa air an cur an clò agus air an craobh-sgoileadh.

Anns a' bhliadhna 1850, thug Céasar na

Ruise òrdugh teann a' bacadh clò-bhuailadh sgrìobhadh air bith an cànan na tìre, ach bha e car annoch. Bha an sluagh agus a' chànan a nis air cinntinn ro-làidir, agus thàinig an àithne seo gu neoni. An déidh sin chuir e mìlith mòr uaithe gu bhith 'na dheachdaire os cionn Tìr-Fhinn uile; ach rinn an t-aramach anns a' bhliadhna 1905 lagachadh mór air a' Chéasar, agus b' éigin do a àrdan lasachadh. Gidheadh, anns a' bhliadhna 1910, rinn Ard-Riaghaltas na Ruise reachd a bhathas a' meas a chuireadh crìoch chinnteach air eas-ùmhachd agus neo-eisimeileachd Tìr-Fhinn. A sin suas bha an rìoghachd sin gu bhith mar mhir de'n Ruis anns gach nì fo'n ghréin. Ach bha cobhair fagus do Thìr-Fhinn. Thug an Cogadh Mór briseadh air a cuibhrichean, agus dh'fhuasgail e urchail sluagh na dùthcha. Ri linn an iomsgaraidh mhóir anns an Ruis, anns a' bhliadhna 1917, fhuair iad cead-taghaidh air fir-ionaid gu tagradh an cùisean; agus an uair a fhuair na Boilsebhich làmh-an-uachdar, fhuair Tìr-Fhinn a làn-shaorsa. Cha robh trioblaidean an t-sluaigh gu léir thairis le sin, ach tha iad an diugh 'nan sluagh ainmeil air iomadh dòigh. Tha an rìoghachd saobhair, soirbheachail; agus chan 'eil càirdean aca an àite air bith cho làidir air an taobh ri Co-mhaoinearan na Ruise.

Dh'fhaodamaid mac-samhail an t-seanchais seo innseadh mu fhichead tìr air feadh na Roinn Eòrpa. Na's fhaigse làmh dhuinn chì sinn rud-eigin de'n t-seòrsa cheudna a' gabhail àite an measg ar càirdean fhéin anns a' Chuimridh agus an Eirinn. Le bhith a' gabhail beachd air gach nì mar seo a thachair anns gach ceàrn de'n Roinn Eòrpa, feumaidh sinn aideachadh nach 'eil staid na Gàidhlig idir thar leigheis ma thogras na Gàidheil oidhirp a dhèanamh gu a tèrnadh. Bha cor diblidh gach cànaine dhiubh siud faicsinneach do'n t-saoghal, agus tha rola eachdraidh gach aoin diubh sgaoilte fa chomhair nan uile le an miann a leughadh. Tha galaran na Gàidhlig de'n aon ghné, agus a' fas suas bho na freumhan ceudna, agus bhiodh e dualtach na nithean a leighis càch nach fàilnicheadh iad an cùis na Gàidhlig. An siud is an seo is dòcha gum faigh sinn frith theagasg an bhùineas gu sònraichte do threan fa leth, ach anns an iomlan gheibh sinn an aon phrìomh theachd-aireachd a' co-chòrdadh, agus is éigin do lighichean na Gàidhlig an teachdaireachd sin a fhòghlum agus a gabhail gu cridhe mun leig iad a leas sùil a bhith aca ri mór-thoradh air an saothair as leth na cànaine.

Am bi a' Ghàidhlig, ma tà, gu bràth a' tighinn gu bhith a' mealtainn na slàinte sin agus an neirt sin a bha aice? Saoilidh mi gur ceist i seo d' a bheil e eucomasach freagrach còmhnaid

a liubhairt—ceist d'a bheil am fuasgladh "am méinn nan dia bith-bhuan." Bheir gach duine a bharail fhéin oirre, ach chan 'eil anna sin gu léir ach beachdan tuaireamach, agus ged dh'fhoadas iad gum teagamh a bhith air an stéidheachadh air nithean a ghabh àite a cheana, tha an coimhlionnadh an crochadh air nithean ri teachd, agus tha iad sin folaichte bho na sùilean as léirsinnich agus bho na h-aignidhean as géire.

Gidheadh, tha e ceadaichte dhuinn beachdachadh air nì no a dhà a dh'fhoadas beagan soltais a chur air a' cheist. Tha ceithir nithean sònraichte feumail do neach a tha tinn ma tha e an geall e a bhith air a leigheas. An toiseach, is éiginn da a bhith mothachail air a ghalar agus air a fheum air slàinte. Os bàrr, imiridh e lorg lighichean fiosrach, seòlta, eòlach air a thinneas. Bhiodh e còmhnaich, cuideachd, chan e a mhàin gum biodh creideas aige gu bheil leigheas ann air a shon, ach mar an ceudna gum biodh earbsa aige as na lighichean, agus urrachd as na meadhonan a tha iad sin a' gnàthachadh do a thaobh. Is e an ceathramh nì feumail, maoin gu leòr a chum gum bi e an comas da dioladh air son nan lighichean as teòma, agus air son an eiridinn as coimhlionta.

Càite, ma seadh, a bheil a' Ghàidhlig a' seasamh? Tha muinntir na Gàidhealtachd mothachail air iomadh rud a tha docair 'nan tìr, ach is tearc iad a ch'na nithean as aobhar dhaibh sin, no d'an léir an coimhcheangal a tha eadar iad fhéin agus an cànan. Is i ceud fheum nan Gàidheal, ma tà, luchd brosnachaidh ùrloisgeach, fileanta, a chum an dùsgadh as an tàmhneul a thàinig orra, agus muinearan fòghlumte, ùrlabhrach a thoirt soilleireachaidh dhaibh air an galaran, agus air na nithean a tha 'gan aobhrachadh. An sin bidh cruaidh fheum air luchd-stiùiridh glic gu cur an cùisean gu tabhail; lighichean geurchuiseach le léirsinn fharsaing; ceannardan ceannsgalach, gaisgeil, nach taisich ri aghaidh cruadail; daoine le inntinn aon-fhillte, agus le eud neo-chaochlaideach do aobhar na Gàidhlig. Saoilidh mi gum faodadh luchd-steòrnaidh mar seo earbsadh as na Gàidheil an uile dhicheall a dhèanamh gu cuideachadh leòr an cànan a bheothachadh, agus gus a togail a dh'ionnsaigh an ionaid àird sin bho an do thuit i. Ach an seo tha stachail ànrach agus cnap-starra dochannach, bochdainn ar daoine. Nam biodh saobhbheas saoghalta nan Gàidheal idir ri a choimeas ri am maoin spioradail, cha b'fhada gum am biodh a' Ghàidhlig a' fàgail leabaidh na tùrainneachd.

Ach ge air bith cinn-feadhna a dh'éireas air taobh na Gàidhlig, agus beag no mór a' bhuaidh a gheibh iad troimh an euchdan fhéin no troimh aonachd-tograidh agus comh-oibreach-

adh nan Gàidheal, tha trì nithean àraidh air am feum atharrachadh a thighinn mun tig a' Ghàidhlig gus an inbhe àrd sin anns am bu mhiann le a càirden a faicinn. Tha trì prìomh aobharan air a staid iosail, agus gus an tig muthadh orra sin, cha dèan i mór adhartas air an t-slighe gu làn lùthas agus tul thrèòir.

Is éiginn do'n fhearann a bhineas do'n t-sluagh, agus a chaill iad air uairean le ainneart agus aig amannan eile le an aineolas fhéin, a bhith air a ath-aiseag dhaibh. Cha le rìgh no uachdaran am fearann le còir, ach le mór shluagh na tìre, agus is cubhaidh do Ard-Riaghaltas na rioghachd rian a chur air chois gu seilbh a ghabhail air an talamh an ainm an t-sluaigh, agus cùram a ghabhail nach bi duine leis am bu mhath fearann, agus a dhèanadh feum dheth, as aonais a' mheud as a bhiodh e comasach a chur gu deagh bhuil.

A rithist, mar nach 'eil anns a' Ghàidhealtachd ach, mar gum b'eadh, mir de bhodhaig Albann, tha cor na Gàidhealtachd an crochadh ri cor Albann gu léir. Do bhrìgh sin, chan fhaic mi slàinte mhaireann aig ar cànan am feus gus am bi làmhnan slugh Albann air am fuasgladh, agus gus am bi an cùmhnant leth-oireach, leibideach ud a rinneadh anns a' bhliadhna 1707 air a chur fa sgaol. Chan fhaic mi adhartas mór air ar cànan cho fad is a tha muinntir Albann 'nan tràillean 'nan taigh fhéin, a' tighinn beò air an sprèadhan a thuiteas bho bhùird mhóra am maighistirean anns an Iar-mhinistir.

Anns an treas àite, ged as ceart dhuinn gu léir feum a dhèanamh de'n Bheurla, agus a fòghlum gu mionaideach, cha ch'oir dhuinn a bhith riarachte gu siorruidh gus am bi an dara àite aice mar chànain air feadh ar tìre—ann ar sgoilean agus ann ar n-oil-thaighean; ann ar n-eaglaisean agus ann ar taighean; ann ar pàipearan-naidheachd agus ann ar leabhraichean; anns gach ceàird agus dreuchd, anns gach gnìomhachas agus gnòthach air fad agus air leud Albann—gus am bi ar cànan bhrèagh fhéin a' riaghladh ann ar rioghachd mar a bha i anns na làithean bho shean. Cha bhì bonn stàth dhuinne an cuimeachadh air nì gearr air a' chuspair seo. Mur bi a' chumise àrd is ann do'n làr a thèid an saighead.

(R' a leantainn)

Is fearr bannag le sith na baile le stri.
Is geur an t-inneal an teanga, ge maol i.
Is minig a thàinig trod mór á aobhar beag.
Tha an uaisle mar a chumar i.
Cha mhise sgeul mhath aithris dà uair.

Provincial Mods

SUTHERLAND

The County of Sutherland Mod was held at Golspie on 4th June.

The first-prize winners were:—

Junior Section

LITERATURE. Dictation—Nigel Munro, Melness. Translation—George Gunn, Dornoch.

ORAL. Reading poetry—Mairi Ross, Lochinver. Reading prose at sight—Mairi Ross. Reciting from memory—Mairi S. Cunningham, Helmsdale. Conversation—Sheena Whyte, Durness. Conversation (learners)—Jessie Mackay, Melness. Repeating Psalm (under 12)—Derick Mackenzie, Lochinver. Comunn na h-Oigridh competition—Nigel Munro.

VOCAL MUSIC. Solo singing (girls under 12)—Alice Munro, Lochinver. Boys under 12—Derick Mackenzie, Lochinver. Girls, 12-16—Gladys Finlayson, Helmsdale. Boys, 12-16—Harry F. More, Dornoch. Song by Sutherland bard—David Morrison, Durness. Duet—Marlene Repson and Gladys Finlayson Helmsdale.

CHORAL. Two-part Harmony—Lochinver School Choir. Unison—Helmsdale J. S. School Choir.

Senior Section

ORAL. Reading unseen prose—Miss M. Graham, Lochinver. Recitation—Miss M. Graham and Mrs. A. Munro, Lochinver (equal). Sgeulachd—Miss M. Graham.

VOCAL MUSIC. Solo singing (female voices)—Ishmar Mackenzie, Golspie. Male voices—Jack Sutherland, Lochinver. Song by Sutherland bard—Donald Mackenzie, Lochinver. Former prize-winners—Iris J. Matheson, Lochinver. Duet—Mrs. Macpherson and Mrs. Repson. Quartette—Golspie S.S. School quartette. Puir-a-beul—Mrs. Macpherson, Helmsdale.

CHORAL. Four-part harmony—Lochinver Senior Choir. Ladies' voices—Golspie Ladies' Choir.

Instrumental Music

Bagpipe-playing (March, Strathspey and Reel—under 16)—D. I. Sutherland, Golspie. 16 and over—Christopher Macleod, Rosehall. Chanter-playing—D. I. Sutherland. Violin—Harry F. More, Dornoch. Pianoforte (under 14)—Wilma Mackenzie, Lth. Pianoforte (14 and over)—George Macpherson, Golspie. Theory of pipe music—Donald Clyne, Golspie.

NATIONAL MOD, PERTH, 1954

MOD ENTRIES

	Juniors	Seniors
Literary	50	21
Oral	137	110
Solo & Duet	276	485
Choral	33	34
Instrumental	10	30
Celtic Art	1	24
Cslarsch	—	13
Compilation of Music	—	4
	<hr/> 507	<hr/> 721
Total Entries	1228	

Trophies

JUNIOR SECTION. Wilson Challenge Cup for highest aggregate in oral section—Mairi Ross, Lochinver. Sir Edgar Horne Challenge Cup for choral singing in two-part harmony—Lochinver School Choir. H. F. Buxton Challenge Cup for unison singing—Helmsdale J. S. School Choir. East Sutherland Challenge Cup for piping—D. I. Sutherland.

SENIOR SECTION. Londonderry Challenge Cup for highest aggregate in oral section—Miss M. Graham. Duke of Sutherland Challenge Cup for choral singing (in four-part harmony)—Lochinver Senior Choir. Lawrence Kimball Challenge Cup for choral singing (ladies voices)—Golspie Ladies' Choir.

KINTYRE

The Kintyre Mod was held at Campbeltown on 10th and 11th June. The adjudicators were: for Gaelic, Mr. Neil Shaw, Rev. D. Budge, and Mr. Iain Black; for Music, Mr. J. Gilmour Barr and Miss Mary L. Hogg. Mr. Iain Black presided at the Mod Concert, at which Mrs. J. J. Currie presented the trophies and prizes. The guest artiste was Miss Aunice Gillies.

The first-prize winners were:—

Junior Section

ORAL. Conversation—Rayma Hughes. Reading prescribed prose—Rayma Hughes. Reading poetry—Mary M. M. Mundell. Reading prose—Kathleen M. Henry. Reciting poem—Mary E. Campbell. Reciting from memory three Gaelic proverbs—Allan I. Cameron. Conversation—Margaret MacIsaac. Verse-speaking—Whitehouse School Group.

VOCAL MUSIC. Solo singing (girls, own choice, 12-16)—Barbara Penman. Boys, 12-16—Peter McKinlay. Own choice, girls under 12—Mary Smith. Boys under 12—Alasdair F. Cameron. Prescribed songs (boys, 12-16)—John McKinlay. Girls, 12-16—Mary Graham. Former first-prize winners—Peter McKinlay. Duet—Barbara Penman and Ishbel J. Macpherson. Singing Psalm—Peter McKinlay.

CHORAL. Action song—Dalintober Primary School Choir. Unison—Dail-an-Tobair Junior Choir. Two-part harmony (Tangy Shield)—Dail-an-Tobair Junior Choir.

Pianoforte—Mairi Macdougall.

Senior Section

VOCAL MUSIC. Solo Singing (female voices, own choice)—Margaret M. Muir. Men—Tom MacIntyre. Girls, 16-18—Mary M. McSpornan. Former first-prize winners—Helen McKerral. Puir-a-beul—Mrs. Isabel Campbell. Prescribed songs (female voices)—Margaret M. Muir. Men—Tom MacIntyre. Duet—Isabel and Mary Colville. Quartette—L. S. D. Quartette.

Trophies

Sheriff MacMaster Campbell Medals for junior solo-singing: girls—Isabel Colville and Barbara Penman (equal); boys—Peter McKinlay. Rona MacVicar Memorial Prizes: boys—Allan Johnstone; girls—Mary Smith. Prizes by Mrs. Campbell, Lochgilphead, for highest aggregate marks in reading and reciting Gaelic: girls—Mary Campbell; boys—Donald McLarty. Tangy Shield—Dail-an-Tobair Junior Choir.

T. S. Macpherson Memorial Medals for senior solo-singing: men—Thomas MacIntyre; ladies—Margaret M. Muir.

MOD DHAILRIADA

The 26th Mid-Argyll Mod was held at Lochgilphead, on 15th June. There was no Senior Section. The adjudicators were: for Gaelic, Mr. Neil Shaw, Rev. Neil Mackay, and Rev. T. M. Murchison; for Music—Mr. J. Gilmour Barr. Mr. Neil Shaw presided at the Mod Concert.

The first-prize winners were:—

LITERATURE. Best collection of wild flowers with their Gaelic and English names—Elizabeth MacLarty, Lochgilphead.

ORAL. Reciting Psalm (under 10)—Effie R. Ferguson, Lochgilphead. Reading poetry (under 14)—Elspeth Campbell, Lochgilphead; Special prize—John Ferguson, Lochgilphead. Reading prose (under 14)—Kathleen Henry, Tarbert; Special prize—John Ferguson. Reciting poetry (under 14)—Catriona Fair, Port Ann. Reading prose at sight (under 16)—Donald MacLarty, Ardrishaig. Reciting poem (under 16)—Margaret Campbell, Kilmartin; Special prize—John Ferguson. Recitation (under 14)—Margaret Campbell. Conversation—John Ferguson, Lochgilphead, and Alex. Macleod, Achnaib (equal).

VOCAL MUSIC. Solo-singing (girls under 16)—Ann E. Muir, Tarbert. Boys under 16—Hector Burnett, Ardrishaig, and Ramsay Shaw, Ardrishaig (equal). Prescribed songs (boys and girls, 12-16)—Hector Burnett. Gold pendant for highest aggregate in solo singing (presented by Miss Madge Campbell Brown in memory of Ex-Provost Archibald Brown and Mrs. Brown)—Catriona Fair. Own choice (under 8)—Isabel Munro, Inveraray. Own choice (boys and girls, 8-12)—Kathleen N. Henry, Tarbert. Prescribed songs (boys and girls)—Elspeth Campbell, Lochgilphead. Singing Psalm—Kathleen N. Henry. Ross Memorial Cuach in memory of Dr. Donald Ross (for highest aggregate marks in Gaelic in solo-singing)—Catriona Fair. Puir-t-a-beul—Isobel Hannah, Tarbert. Duet—Anne E. Muir and Nora McGlynn, Tarbert.

CHORAL. Two-part harmony (Silver Cup presented by late Ex-Provost Brown)—Kilmartin Primary School Gaelic Choir. Unison (James Buchanan Strang Memorial Challenge Shield)—Tarbert J. S. School Gaelic Choir "A."

INSTRUMENTAL. Pianoforte (Prizes presented by Miss Madge Campbell Brown)—Eric MacGuinness, Kilmartin.

MOD IONADACH NA DREOLLUINNE

B'e là frasach, dorcha a bha an Di-ciadaoin, an 24mh 'n Og-mhios, agus na neibh gu h-ìosal os cionn Mhuile 's a Chaoil; ach 'chan 'eil ceò an taigh na h-ùiseig,' agus cha do bhac uisge no fuachd na Muilich o thighinn 'nan ceudan gus gach talla, no astar o'n Ros fhéin na bu mhò an cuid charbad-olaigh o Ionadh Sràid-a'-chladaich an Tobar-Mhoire, far an do chumadh ceud Mhòd Ionadach na Dreòlluinne o'n a bhris cogadh-mòr Hitleir a mach.

Gun tighinn air òrain-chàraide, bha seachd còisirean ann, agus trì-fichead 's a còig de luchd-inntrinn singilte ann—agus a h-uile neach dhiubh á Muile fhéin; agus phàidh trì fichead deug aig an doras.

B' iad na brithemhan mar a leanas: Caint —an t-Urr. Alasdair MacDhòmhnaill, Mr. Fionnladh I. MacDhòmhnaill, an t-Urr. Niall MacDhòmhnaill, agus an t-Urr. Eachann MacSuain; Guth-cheòl—Mgr. Dòmhnall Deòir, Mgr. Fearchar MacRath, Mgr. Niall MacGille-

sheathanaich, agus Mgr. Iain A. MacSuain; Litreachas—an t-Urr. Uilleam MacMhathain.

Ghabh Mgr. Niall MacGille-sheathanaich a' Chathair aig a' Chuirm-chiùil anns an fheasgar, far am b'urrainnear luchd-buidhinn nam prìomh-dhuaisean anns gach comh-fharpais a chluinntinn mar as àbhaist, agus sheinn na trì còisirean inbheach le chéile fo iùl Dhòmhnail Deòir. Chaidh an là a chomh-dhùnadh le pannal-ringidh mus do sgaoil na h-eileanaich.

B' iadsan a choisinn na prìomh-dhuaisean mar a leanas.

Earrann na h-Oigrìdh

BEUL-AITHRIS. Leughadh earrainn de rosg no de bhàrdachd—Fearchar MacAonghuis. Leughadh air a' cheud sealladh—Leacsaidh Chaimbeul. Ur-aithris air mheomhair—Dòmhnall MacGilleathain. Còmhraidh (Comunn na h-Oigrìdh)—Dòmhnall MacGilleathain, Dòmhnall Mac-an-léigh, agus Eilidh Nic-an-t-saigairt (co-ionann).

GUTH-CHEOL. Oran aon-neach (fo 11 a dh'aois)—Iain MacGille-Mhoire. Oran aon-neach (balaich)—Fearchar MacAonghuis. Oran aon-neach (cailean)—Eilidh Mhoireasdan. Oran-càraide—Màiri Nic-an-fhleisdeir.

COISIREAN OIGRIDH. Comh-sheirm—Còisir-òigrìdh Sgoil Bhun-easain. Seinn aon-fhuaimneach (Sgiath an t-Sàilein Mhuilich)—Còisir-òigrìdh Sgoil Bhun-easain. Còisirean o sgoilean le dusan sgoilear no na's lugha—Còisir-òigrìdh Sgoil Mhòr-innis.

Earrann nan Inbheach

LITREACHAS. Oidhirp-litreachais mu eachraidh a' Mhòid—Donnchadh MacDhuinn-shléibhe. Comh-chruinneachadh ainmeannan-àitean a cuid de ionad a' Mhòid—Aoidhrig Chaimbeul bean Lachlainn MhicGilleathain. Sgeul goirid—Dubhghall MacCormaic.

BEUL-AITHRIS. Leughadh ruisg—Mórag bean MhicNeacail, Ur-aithris air mheomhair —Mórag NicAmhlaidh. Sgeulachd a réir an t-seann nòis—Morag bean MhicNeacail.

GUTH-CHEOL. Oran aon-neach nach robh riabh an clòdh-bhualadh—Eòghann MacLaomainn. Oran aon-neach a bhuneas do ionad a' Mhòid—Eòghann MacLaomainn. Oran aon-neach (boireannaich)—Mórag NicAmhlaidh. Fireannaich—Eòghann MacLaomainn. Oran-mór (boireannaich)—Anna Nic. a' Ghobhainn. Fireannaich—Niall MacDhòmhnaill. Oran-càraide—Mórag bean MhicNeacail agus Anna NicPhàil. Oran ceathrair—Ceathrar Bhun-easain.

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AN GÀIDHEAL

THE GAEL

. XLIX

OCTOBER, 1954

No. 10

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Leabhar XLIX

AN DAMHAR, 1954

Aireamh 10

Co-Chruinneachadh nan Ceilteach am Baile Ath Cliath

BHA còrr is deich duine fichead á Albainn aig deireadh an Iuchar an Ath Cliath, ceanna-bhaile na h-Eireann, far an do chumadh Co-chruinneachadh nan Ceilteach am bliadhna. Cha deachaidh an uibhir seo á Albainn do'n chruinneachadh riamh roimhe. A thaobh àireimh, cuideachd, thug na h-Albannaich bàrr air na dùthchannan Ceilteach eile. Is fheudar gur ann mar thoradh air a' chruinneachadh shoirbheachail a bha againn an Glaschu an uiridh a ghabh an taobh againne uiread de ùidh ann an cruinneachadh na bliadhna seo.

Gu a dhol thairis air càch, bha ceithir-deug á Eilean Mhanainn, a h-aon deug as a' Chuimridh (no a' Bhreatainn Bheag, mar a thair na h-Eireannaich), a dhà-dheug á Breatainn na Frainge (cha toigh leotha fhéin an t-ainm seo), agus dithis as a' Chòrn.

B'ann air pleuna a ghabh a' chuid mhór de na h-Albannaich an turas agus cha robh coltas tinneas-adhair air duine rathad seach rathad. Ràinig iad fhéin agus muinntir nan dùthchannan eile baile mór na h-Eireann feasgar Di-màirt, agus o'n cheud chéilidh aig na chuireadh fáilte orra gus a' chéilidh mu dheireadh an ath Dhi-màirt chunnaic is chuala iad móran agus dh'fhiosraich iad coibhneas is deagh-ghean nach leig iad air di-chuimhne air chabhaig.

Chuir am Priomh-Bhritheamh Conchubar MacUidhir fáilte air na h-aoghean aig a' cheud chéilidh. Bha Mgr. de Valera an làthair cuideachd, agus fhuair cuid de na h-Albannaich cothrom bruidheann ris. Thug an dannsair barraichte againn fhìn, Seumas MacCoinnich, ruidhle no dhà dhaibh, agus fhuair sinn òrain bho Bheithidh NicLeòid agus bho Iain MacRath. Bha Mairead NicMhaoilein a' seinn cuideachd, ach cha d'ràinig ise gu deireadh na seachdainne.

Thug na rùnairean seachad an cumntasan bliadhna aig a' choinneamh Di-claodain. Tha aobhar aig Meur Albann a bhith toilichte gu bheil Mgr. Uilleam Hume fhathast 'na rùnaire acasan.

An dèidh mheadhon latha thugadh na Ceiltich gu Aros an Uachdarain, far an d'fhuair iad fáilte chridheil o Uachdaran na h-Eireann, a Shoillse Sean O' Ceallaigh. Thachair gu robh iad a' cumail cuimhne an t-seachdain ud air toiseach Oil-thaigh na h-Eireann ceud bliadhna air ais. Mar sin, bha móran bho Oil-thaighean eile còmhla riutha. Eatorra uile agus na càirdean a bha ann, bha mu dhà mhìle aig Aros an Uachdarain, ach bha lianagan farsainn an siud agus biadh is annlan—agus ceòl—gu leòir dhaibh uile.

Feasgar fhuair sinn òraid mu phìobaireachd bho Sheumas MacNèill. Tha meas mór aig na

h-Eireannaich air ceòl na pioba, agus bha mòran dhiubh eòlach air Mgr. MacNèill roimhe. Chuala sinn tuilleadh piobaireachd Di-sathurna aig co-fharpais far an robh buidhean as gach ceàrna. Bha Mgr. Eòghann MacDhiarmaid cuideachd a' cuideachadh le piobaireachd aig na céilidhean.

Chuir sinn Di-ciadaoin seachd a' gabhail cuairt gus an taobh an iar. Thug an tràan thairis air meadhon Eireann sinn cho fada ri Gaileamh. An sin bha busaichean a' feitheamh agus chaidh sinn air sgrìob troimh Chonamara. Stad sinn aig sgoil bhig a muigh air an dùthaich far a bheil sgoilearan mu chòig bliadhna deug a dh'aois a' cur seachd sia seachdainean ag ionnsachadh saoirsneachd is còcaireachd is fuaigheal is a leithid sin. Chan 'eil facal air a chleachdadh an seo ach Gàidhlig.

Bha coinneamhlan gnothaich ann madainn Di-haoine. Chuir iad rompa an seo cruinneachadh na h-ath-bhliadhna a bhith ann Breatainn na Frainge. An déidh mheadhon-latha thadhail sinn an Colaisde na Trianaid far a bheil an leabhar ainmeil sin, Leabhar Cheannanaid (*The Book of Kells*). Bha òraidean againn feasgar mu sheann eachdraidh bho sgoilear Cuimreach, an t-Ollamh Aled Williams, agus o aon de luchd-teagaisg Oil-thaigh na h-Eireann, an t-Ollamh Aoidheach MacAodha.

Air Di-sathurna bha aon as gach dùthaich a' bruidheann air na leabhraichean a tha air ùr-thighinn a mach. Bha Dòmhnall Grand a' bruidheann air leabhraichean Albannach. Thubhairt e aon rud ris na ghabh na h-Eireannaich gu togarrach—gun gabhadh na leabhraichean-sgoile Eireannach a dheanamh freagarrach le beagan atharrachaidh air son sgoiltean na h-Albann, agus gum faodadh na h-Eireannaich fhéin an clò-bhualadh dhuinn.

An déidh sin bha sinn air aoigheachd aig Ministear an Fhoghlum, an Similear Maolchatha, an Gairdeana Uibh Eachach (*Iveagh Gardens*), agus feasgar chunnaic sinn trì dealbhan-clùiche Gàidhlig, aon dhiubh le buidheann de chloinn a thàinig o'n taobh an iar.

Bha roghainn sheirbhisean anns na h-eaglaisean Di-Dòmhnach.

Bha Di-luain air a chur air leth air son turais gu Teimhir nan Rìgh (*Tara*), agus an déidh sin gu Mainistir Magh Nuat (*Maynooth*), aon de cholaisdean mòra nan sagart. Tha mòran de sheann litrichean agus de ulaidhean iongantach eile anns a' mhaistir seo, agus tha an dealbhachadh agus an obair-ghrèis anns an t-seòmair-aoraidh fhéin 'na aobhar-ionghnaidh do na h-uile a chì e.

Bha òraidean againn a rithist Di-màirt. Chuireadh na h-Eireannaich, na h-Albannaich, agus na Manannaich còmhla, agus chuireadh a' cheist ris na h-òraidichean, "Ca bhfuil ar

dtrìall?" ("Càit a bheil sinn a' dol?"). Labhair An Seabhac air son na h-Eireann, Dòmhnall Grand air son Albann, agus Brian Stowell air son Eilean Mhanainn.

Chrìochnaich an cruinneachadh le céilidh an aon de thallachan an Oil-thaigh. Fhuair sinn òraid an sin bho'n Phrofeasair Delargy, Ceann-suidhe Coimisiun Beul-Oideas na h-Eireann.

Bha Cruinneachadh Ceilteach eile seachd. Air son an fheadhainn a bha thall air an turas seo co-dhiubh, ma bhios iad air a' chothrom, bidh iad aig an ath chruinneachadh am Baile Ath Cliath.

Dé am feun a rinn an cruinneachadh? Is e sin ceist a dh'fheumas fuireach gu turas eile.

D. G.

THE LATE MRS. KENNETH MACLEOD



Many friends in many places learned with sorrow of the passing of Mrs. Christina Macleod at Inverness in July, and among them those who did not have the privilege of knowing Mrs. Macleod personally but who knew her from her writings. Her poems and songs, and especially her action-songs for children, have enriched our modern Gaelic literature, and two fine books, *Còlvraibh Cridhe* and *An Sìreadh*, will perpetuate her memory as long as Gaelic literature is read.

A frequent and successful Mod competitor herself, she encouraged and helped many others in their Gaelic studies. In former years this Magazine was enriched by contributions from her pen, especially during the editorship of her friend, the late Rev.

(Continued on p. 80)

The Celtic Congress, Dublin, 1954

by ANGUS DUNCAN

COINCIDING, as it did, with the centenary of the opening of the Catholic University of Ireland, there was a danger that this year's Celtic Congress would be overshadowed by the galaxy of ecclesiastics and scholars that met in Dublin to honour the memory of Cardinal Newman, founder and first Rector of the Catholic University, the precursor of University College, Dublin, which housed the Celtic Congress for a very full week near the end of July.

Only a few days, however, sufficed to show that the men and women of Dublin were aware that the Congress was meeting once more, after an interval of seven years, in their city. The success of last year's Congress in Glasgow, with a whole day in Edinburgh, ensured a strong contingent from Scotland on this occasion; and to say that one came from Scotland, and was attending the Celtic Congress, was to have all Dublin for the asking!

Branch Reports

Encouraging reports were submitted to the Congress from the six Celtic nations participating. It was significant that the Breton branch, which only sent one delegate to the Isle of Man in 1952, and three to Scotland a year ago, had as many as ten delegates in Dublin this year. Only Breton is used at meetings of this branch, and only speakers of Breton can become members. Articles on Ireland appear regularly in Breton newspapers, as well as translations of Irish poems and tales, while news of the six Celtic nations is published in the form of a duplicated Bulletin, ninety-two numbers of which have already been circulated.

Slow, but steady, progress was reported from Cornwall, the only Celtic country still without an organised branch of the Congress. Exposed, as the country is, to Anglicising influences, the two Cornish representatives expressed their need, in Cornwall, of a new inspiration that would build up their Cornish nationality. An unexpected piece of news was given by the general secretary, who told of her liaison work in sending a Cornish choir to this year's Tostal celebrations in Killarney, the organisers of which felt that their Celtic programme would be 'incomplete without a Cornish choir, singing in the Cornish language.

Reports from the Isle of Man showed that everything possible is done to foster the Manx tongue. There is a well-organised branch, with members who are very much alive. It was reported that Manx scholars who were not professional teachers are engaged by the Education Authority to teach the native language, while study-groups, meeting in Manx homes, are preferred by some. Recordings of the native speech have been made on the island, and now, for every Manx speaker removed by death, two, or even three, take his place. As in Glasgow and Edinburgh last year, Manx visitors gave an exhibition of their native folk-dances, recovered twenty years ago before they had passed out of memory.

Reports from Wales spoke of a virile Celtic movement in the Principality. To speak Welsh was normal practice in Wales, and Welsh was taught in the schools. 'We do not call a man a Welshman unless he speaks Welsh,' said a delegate from Aberdare. It was interesting to hear that Wales had a branch of the Celtic Congress in three centres. This, with its indisputable propaganda value, could, surely, be emulated by some of the other Celtic countries, especially by Eire, and, perhaps, by Scotland, which might have a couple of branches, representing East

and West, and building up by this means a membership that would be nearer the flattering figure of 200,000 reported for Scotland by one of the Dublin daily newspapers.

Although the organisation of this year's Congress was the main work of the Irish branch since the last general meeting, the branch secretary reported that she had found time to visit the Welsh branches at Aberdare and Swansea. Progress in Eire, as one of the Irish leaders claimed, went on naturally and smoothly like the growth of the branches on a parent tree.

Irish Scholarship

A visit to Dublin gave an opportunity of ascertaining the provision made in the Republic for the higher study of the Celtic languages. In University College, Dublin, there are three chairs in Irish, and one in Welsh, with a lectureship in Scottish Gaelic; and, in University College, Cork, there is a chair in Old Irish, and one in Modern Irish. University College, Galway, has also two chairs in Irish, and a lectureship in Celtic languages, including Welsh. Trinity College, Dublin, the oldest educational establishment in Ireland, has one chair in Irish; one in Early Irish specially created for the present occupant, Miss Eleanor Knott; an honorary professor of the Irish language (Prof. O'Rahilly); with two lectureships, one in Irish and one in Celtic languages, and an assistant lecturer in spoken Irish. Even St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, a large training centre for priests, has a chair of Irish, recognised by the National University of Ireland. There is, in addition, the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, with Professor O'Brien as director, and Professor Myles Dillon head of the School of Celtic Studies there.

It would not do to omit the Royal Irish Academy, in which many ancient manuscripts are preserved, and which helps the present-day student of Scottish and Irish Gaelic by the publication, in parts, of its great historical Irish dictionary. The facilities for the higher learning already indicated ensure a steady stream of scholarly men and women to continue the labour entailed in such an undertaking, modestly described by the editors as "contributions to an Irish dictionary."

Irish Publications

A visit to the Stationery Office shop, in the centre of Dublin, shows that many books in Irish Gaelic, chiefly cheap books, are published by the government, the most remarkable of these being a series of children's books by a young Irish writer. These books, of which I counted forty titles in one window, have a coloured picture cover, and are priced sixpence, ninepence, and a shilling.

The formation of a Gaelic Book Club five years ago has encouraged both writers and publishers to produce books in Irish, the well-known writer, Liam O'Flaherty having recently written his first book in Irish for many years. The Book Club, with a membership of 2,450, which they hope to increase to 3,000 before the end of the present year, has already issued twenty-six volumes to its members.

In addition to such popular books, there is in preparation a new English-Irish dictionary, as well as a new, up-to-date edition of Dinneen's Gaelic and English dictionary. A translation into modern Irish of Dante's *Inferno* by the President of University College, Galway, was reported at one of the Congress

Sessions, the same scholar being engaged on an Irish translation of the *Odyssey*, which reminded Scottish delegates of Ewen MacLachlan's Gaelic translation of the *Iliad*, that began to appear in the old "Gael" eighty years ago, at the same time as Professor Stuart Blackie was appealing for ten thousand pounds to endow a Celtic Chair in Edinburgh University.

Interest in Scotland

Among Irish scholars, there is a warm interest in Scottish publications. Mr. L. S. Gogan, M.A., of the National Museum, having a copy of Ian Finlay's "Scottish Crafts" on the desk before him when the present writer was introduced to him. There is the same interest in Scottish Gaelic books and magazines, Trinity College Library, Dublin, being entitled, like

our own National Library in Edinburgh, to a free copy of every book printed in Great Britain and Ireland, including the Irish Free State.

The work of Edinburgh University School of Scottish Studies is watched with evident enthusiasm, and one was glad to meet Professor Delargy, a man of great personal charm, who, as head of the Irish Folklore Commission, presented to the school the valuable collection of microfilm copies of folk-tales, principally collected by Calum Maclean.

A new link with Gaelic Scotland has recently been forged by Radio Eireann, which now broadcasts a weekly Newsletter from Scotland, written by a member of the Scottish branch of the Celtic Congress who speaks Irish fluently, and can write modern Irish as well as any Irish-born Celtic scholar.

Galar Na Gaidhlighe

Le IAIN A. MACLEOID

(Air A Leantainn)

Tha iomadh nì eile ann a dh'fheumas lighichean na Gàidhlighe a chumail anns an amharc, agus d'an cubhaidh dhaibh deagh aire a thoirt; ach chan 'eil anna sin uile ach monaran fadharsach an taic riù seo. An seo tha trianaid nan uireasbhuidhean air chumha am bi a' Ghàidhlig air a h-aiseig gu fòirfeachd slàinte, agus as eugmbais am bi gach oidhirp eile neo-éifeachdach, faoin, gun stàth, eadhon co-ionann ri bhith a' tilleadh na tùilinn le tàbh, no a' toirt meath-ionnsaigh air bràiseal na coille lasraich a bhàthadh le stealladair-làimhe.

Tha iad eadhon anns a' Ghàidhealtachd a thèir ruinn gu bheil a' Ghàidhlig air leabaidh a bàis; nach tig an latha a théid i air a casan; nach 'eil ach tabhastal buairesach agus buan obair arraideach, gun bhuanachd, ann a bhith a' feuchainn ri dàil a chur 'na triall. Anabarrach freagarrach air son an leithid sin tha am freagairt a thug an tàillear a roimhe do'n taibhse, "Chì mi sin," arsa esan, "agus fuaighidh mi seo." Ceart mar a chaidh an tàillear curanta air aghaidh an ceann a sheirbhise fhéin, is amhlaidh sin as ar deasnas-ne cathachadh gu treun, neo-sgàthach an aghaidh gach tannaig agus tàcharain, gach fathaich agus fuaithaich, gach uamhlach agus bòcan a tha a' brath ar cànan a fhògradh á tir nam beò.

Far nach 'eil creideamh, thàtar ag ràdh, théid an sluagh bàs. Tha dàimh dhiomhair eadar creideamh a' chreutair agus a shonas. Mar an ceudna tha coimhcheangal anabarrach làidir eadar creideamh misneachail sluagh agus soirbheachadh an t-sluaigh sin. Tha seo 'gar toirt air ais gu buaidh an spioraid thairis air nìthean corporra, talmhaidh.

Ann a chuaiirt gheàrr air an talamh rinn ar Slànaighear nìthean móra am measg sluagh Chanaain—nìthean a bha cho iongantach 'nan sùilean is gu robh iad 'gam meas mar mhiorbh-

uilean. Gidheadh, tha cunntas againn air ceàrn àraidh anns nach do rinn e "móran de oibrìbh cumhachdach," agus sin a chionn mì-chreideamh an t-sluaigh. An àite eile, air do dhìthis dhall teachd do a ionnsaigh a chum gun leighiseadh e iad, thubhairt e riu, "Biodh e dhuibh a réir bhur creidimh." Tha an sgrìobtur a' toirt fianaise gun d' fhuair iad an radharc, ach saoilidh mi gu robh a' chuid mhór de an eucail seachad mun do bheanadh ri an sùilean. Bha iad astar math air an radharc gu fallaineachd an uair a thuit an sgleò bhàr sùilean an inn-tinne, agus a thàinig iad gu bhith mothachail air an doille. Thug iad ceum mòr eile air slighe na slàinte an tràth a ghlac iad creideamh gu robh leigheas ann air an son-san; agus cha robh ach aon cheum eile—ceum na h-oidhirpe earbsaile—eadar iad is an léigh mór, tròcaireach a rinn còmhndadh leò.

Tha sinn a' leughadh an àite eile (Mata, xvii.) gun tugh duine àraidh mac dha, a bha tinn leis an tuiteamas, gu deisciobuil Chrìosda, agus nach b'urrainn daibh a leigheas. Ach air do Iosa cronachadh an deamhain, "dh'imich e as, agus shlànaicheadh an leanabh o'n uair sin a mach," An uair a dh'fheòraich a dheisciobuil de Iosa ciamar nach robh e comasach dhaibh-san an deamhan a thilgeadh a mach, dh'innis e dhaibh gum b'e am mì-chreideamh fhéin a b'aobhar. "Nam biodh agaibh," arsa Esan, "creideamh mar ghràinne mastauid, theireadh sibh ris a' bheinn seo, 'Atharraich á seo an siud,' agus dh'atharraicheadh i; agus cha bhiodh nì air bith eu-comasach dhuibh."

Bhuaithe seo tha sinn a' tighinn gu bhith a' co-dhùnadh gur h-éiginn creideamh a bhith aig na lighichean amhail mar acasan air a bheil an easbhuidh slàinte, ach an làthair creidimh nach 'eil nì air thalamh do-dhèanta.

Saoilidh mi, ma tà, gum faodar a ràdh ris na

(An còrr air t.d. 77)



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar VI

AN DAMHAR, 1954

Aireamh 10

Eachdraidh Mu'n "Bhounty"

(*Tha eilean anns a' Chuan Mu Dheas ris an abrar "Pitcairn's Island," agus tha eachdraidh iongantach co-cheangailte ris an eilean sin. Chan 'eil fad sam bith o chunnacas eachdraidh ceud àiteachadh an eilein air a dhealbhadh ann am film. Seo, ma thà, giorrachadh air an eachdraidh sin mar a sgrìobhadh an naidheachd ann an 1848 an Gaidhlig.*)

THA ann am feadhainn de na h-Eileanan anns a' Chuan mu Dheas an aon chraobh as briogmhoire agus as luachmhoire air uachdar an t-saoghail, cho fad 's as aithne dhuinne—a' Chraobh-arain (no *Bread-fruit Tree*, mar a theirear rithe). Oirre seo tha meas a' cinntinn a tha ro-mhór ann an tomad, agus car coltach ri aran cruithneachd 'na bhlas, agus a nì biadh fallain maith, gun deasachadh gun ghreidheadh ach a shìleagachadh leis an sgithinn agus a itheadh cho luath is a sgathas tu bhàrr na craoibhe e. Tha i a' toirt seachad an toraidh seo car ochd mìosan de'n bhliadhna, agus nì a dhà no trì chraobhan am pailteas lòn do theaghlach ré na bliadhna. Tha cairt na craoibhe a' deanamh aodaich, agus tha iomadh feum eile innte a bharrachd air seo. B'i a' chraobh seo ann an tomhas mór a bu mhàthair-aobhair do na nithean a leanas.

Bha na Breatannaich ann an Innsen an h-Aird-an-Iar (*West Indies*) déidheil air a' chraobh ud fheuchainn 'nan Eileanan féin, agus aig an iarrtasan-san chuir luchd-stiùraidh na riochachd anns a' bhliadhna 1787 a mach soitheach-rìgh do'n Chuan mu Dheas air son faillinean dìth a thoirt do Jamaica agus do na h-eileanan eile mun cuairt dha. Is e am *Bounty* a b'ainm do'n luing seo, agus is e Caipitean Bligh a bu sgiobair no ceannard oirre. Bha ceithir is dà fhichead de sgioba aige, agus bha an soitheach air gach dòigh air a h-uigheamachadh cho maith is a b' àbhaist aon de chabhlaich mór agus buadh-mhor Bhreatnainn a bhith.

Dh'fhàg iad Breatann deireadh bliadhna 1787, agus toiseach an fhoghair anns an ath-bhliadhna ràinig iad Otaheite, aon de na h-eileanan air

an robh iad an tòir. Fhuair iad muinntir an eilein sin ro-chàirdeil chòmhstach, agus chuir iad air bòrd mòran de na craobhan-arain. Fhuair iad gach nì an òrdugh a rèir am miann, agus dh'fhàg iad an t-eilean deireadh an earraich 1789. Ach cha b'fhada a chaidh iad air an aghaidh an uair a thàinig atharrachadh mór air an cor.

Oidhche a bha an sin, beagan an déid dhaibh seòladh, dh'éirich a' chuid mhór de'n sgioba an ceannairc an aghaidh a' Chaipitein. Cheanngail iad a làmhann agus a chasan mun robh fhios aige càit an robh e; agus anns a' mhadainn thilg iad e féin agus ochd fir dheug eile ann an té de bhàtaichean na luinge, agus fuair iad ma sgaoil air aghaidh a' chuan mhóir iad.

Feumaidh sinn iad seo a leantainn car mionaid no dhà, oir rinn iad an t-aon turuscuan as iongantach air an cuala sinn riamh iomradh. Cha robh ann bàta anns an do chuir eadh iad ach trì troighean fichead air fad—sgoth chaol a bha fosgailte o thoiseach gu deireadh, gun òirleach dùnaidh no *deck* oirre. Bha naoi fir dheug innte. Cha robh de bhìadh aca ach na dh'fhòghnadh glé ghann car naoi làithean le ceartas, ach air a' bhochdainn bhronaich seo thainig iad suas car sheachd seachdainean. Anns a' bhàtachan bheag seo sheòl iad còrr agus trì mìle de mhilltean, pailt cho fada agus a tha New York an America bho Bhreatann, agus a' chuid mhór de'n astar agus de'n ùine sin bha doineann gharbh a' séideadh riutha; bha an lunn daonnan trom; am bitheantas a là is a dh'oidhche bha bàrr nan tonnan móra a' dòrtadh a staigh orra, agus aca ri taomadh le an uile neart. Cha robh teine, cha robh plaidè no dìon air bith aca o'n t-sion, agus is e an dòigh a b'fheàrr a fhuair iad gu iad féin a ghleidheadh o mheileachadh, an uair a bhiodh an aodach bog fiuch le uisge an adhair, a chur dhiubh agus a thumadh anns an t-sàile, agus bha iad ag radh gu robh blàths ann an seo an coimeas ri fuarachd àitidh uisge an adhair.

Thug iad ionnsaigh neo dha air dol air tìr feadhainn de na h-eileanan nach robh fada bhuapa anns a' Chuan mu Dheas, ach bha

muintir nan eileanan sin ro-bhorb riutha; mharbh iad ann fhear de'n sgioba agus is ann air éiginn a fhuair càch as.

Mar seo, cha robh ach a ghleidheil air an aghaidh fhad is a shlàmhadh an eithear beag an earbsa ri tròcair an Tì a tha a' riaghladh os cionn onfhadh na fairge agus a' gleidheil nan gaothan 'na ghlaic, oir o an co-chreutairean féin cha robh iochd no tròcair ri fhaotainn. Mu dheireadh ràinig iad eilean anns a' Chuan Inneaneach an Ear, (*Indian Ocean*) d'an ainm Timor far an robh tuineachas aig na Dùitsich; agus an seo fhuair iad gach cneasdachd agus gach coibhneas. Sheòl iad, mar a thubhairt sinn, còrr agus trì mìle de mhiltean troimh fhaigre thruim dhoinneanaich. Bha iad fliuch fuar agus daonnan air an cràdh leis an acras. Ach 'na dhéidh seo gu léir cha do chailleadh a h-aon diubh ach am fear a chaidh a mharbhadh. Chaohail còignear dhiubh 'na dhéidh seo air tìr, agus fhuair an còrr dhachaigh air soithichean Breatainnach a bha a' tilleadh á Innsean na h-Aird-an-Ear.

Ach tilleamaid ri luchd na ceannairc a ghabh seilbh anns an t-soitheach mhór, am *Bounty*. Cha robh fuath air bith aca seo air an sgiobair, Caipitean Bligh, agus cha robh ni air an aire anns an ionnsaigh uamhasaich a thug iad ach saorsa fhaighinn gu fantainn ann an Otaheite no am fear eile de na h-eileanan mun cuairt; oir bha iad a' deanamh dheth gum biodh beatha shàsda shòghmhor aca an sin air bheag dragha—gum biodh iad 'nan làn-mhaighistearan air na daoine dubha. Bha ceithir ar fhichead ann de na *Mutineers*, mar a theirear riutha. Cho luath agus a fhuair iad an soitheach dhaibh fein, sheòl iad gu fear de na h-eileanan a dh'fhàg iad as an déidh, agus an seo chaidh iad air tìr gu tuineachas ann. Ach rinn, muintir an eilein uiread is a b'urrainn iad 'nan aghaidh. Chaidh iad féin thar a chéile gu mór, agus an déidh iomadh connsachadh agus iorghaill, agus an déidh an soitheach a losgadh a chum is nach faighteadh a mach iad ged chuirteadh tòrachd orra dhealaich iad 'nan dà bhuidhinn.

Chaidh sia-deug dhiubh gu Otaheite, agus thog ochdnar orra gu eilean air chor-eigin eile far nach cualas forthais orra car còrr is fichead bliadhna. Ach thainig an tòrachd air càch mar a bha eagal orra. Cho luath is a ràinig Caipitean Bligh Breatainn chaidh soitheach-cogaidh a ghrad-chur a h-uile ceum gu Otaheite as déidh nam *Mutineers*, oir rinn iad ni a bha tuilleadh is an-dàna gu sealltainn thairis air. Thàinig ceithir-deug dhiubh seo agus strìochd iad iad féin do'n luing Bhreatainnach, am *Pandora*; oir cha d'fhuair iad an t-eilean mar a bha fuighair aca ris—bha iad sgith dheth. Theich dithis dhiubh do na coiltean far an deachaidh cur as daibh le muintir an àite.

Rinn am *Pandora* gach rannsachadh air son an ochdnar eile, ach dh'fhairtlich oirre an lorgachadh, agus chuir i a h-aghaidh ri Breatainn leis an fheadhainn a fhuair i. Cha d'ràinig i riamh. Bhual i air sgeir chlaibh Astràlia agus chailleadh ceithir de na prìsonaich agus àireamh mhór de'n sgioba ann an seo. Fhuair an còrr dhachaigh air soitheach eile. Chaidh na prìsonaich—no na *Mutineers*—a ghrad-chur air dheuchainn. Leigeadh ceathrar dhiubh as. Chaidh siathnar a dhiteadh gu bàs, ach cha do chuireadh ach trìuir gu bàs dhiubh.

Chaidh guth-thairis air an ochdnar eile car iomadh là is bliadhna. Ach, anns a' bhliadhna 1808, air do shoitheach Americanach tadhal ann am *Pitcairn's Island* chunnaic i an sin fuidheal nan *Mutineers* agus cuid de an sliochd. Cha do ghabh na h-Americanaich a bheag de ghnòthach riutha, agus cha robh iomradh gu robh an leithidean ann gu sia bliadhna 'na dhéidh seo—an 1814—an uair a thadhail dà shoitheach Bhreatainnach anns an eilean cheudna agus is ann le mór-iongnadh a chunnaic iad dithis ghillean ro-fhoghainteach eireachdail a' tighinn air bòrd, le aghaidh agns cumachd coltach ri Breatainnach ach neul na bu duirchie air an craicinn, agus iad a' bruidhinn Beurla cho deas spalparra agus ged b' ainm an Lunnainn a rachadh an àrach. Chaidh oifigich nan soithichean air tìr leotha, agus fhuair iad an sin aon seann duine de mhuintir na *Bounty* d'am b'ainm Smith an toiseach ach a thug Adams air fhéin an déidh tàmh anns an eilean ud, agus còmhla ris-san bha mu thrì fichead pearsa—mnathan, clann, agus oghachan nan seòladairean.

Thug esan an cunntas a leanas air na dh'éirich dhaibh. An déidh do'n dà bhuidhinn dealachadh shocrach an ochdnar ann am *Pitcairn's Island* agus ghabh iad uile mnathan de mhuintir an àite mun cuairt. Car tacain chaidh gach cùis gu maith leotha, ach mu dheireadh rinn iad de ucoir air muintir an eilein anns gach dòigh agus gun d'éirich iad seo 'nan aghaidh is gun do mhòrt iad ceathrar dhiubh. Chaidh Adams agus fear eile d'am b'ainm Young a chaomhnadh air iartras am mnathan, agus theich dithis eile—McKoy agus Quintal—do'n choille. Fhuair iad seo cead tilleadh air an ais ri ùine, ach cha b'ann am maith a bha an àite.

Bha McKoy an làithean a òige cleachdte ri deanamh uisge-beatha, agus cha do chlos e agus an d'fhuair e dòigh air spiorad millteach de'n t-seòrsa cheudna a tharraing à luibhean a bha a' fàs anns an eilean sin. Cho luath is a fhuair e an t-innleachd truagh seo a mach, bha e féin agus Quintal air mhìsg o mhoch gu dubh.

(R'a Leantainn)

Am Buachaille Laogh

BHA siod ann roimhe bantrach aig an robh aon mhac, agus, an uair a bha an gille mu aois deich bliadhna, thubhairt e r'a mhàthair gu robh esan a nis air tighinn gu aois a bhith 'na urra chuideachaidh d'a mhàthair, agus le a cead gu robh e a' falbh gun dàil.

"Ma tha thu a' falbh a dh'iarraidh cosnaidh," arsa a mhàthair, "theirig a dh'ionnsaigh an tuathanaich 'nad bhuchaille. Cha téid thu ro-fhada air falbh, agus an uair a laigheas an crodh fodaoidh tu tighinn dachaigh greis, ach ma's ann aig na laogh a bhios tu cùm do shùil orra is na leig as do shealladh iad agus na dealaich riutha air na chunnaic thu riamh."

Leis an sin fhuair e beannachd a mhàthar agus thog e air is dh'fhalbh e.

Cha robh e fada air an t-slighe an uair a thachair seann duine ris.

"Nach ann ort a tha am fonn, a laochain?" arsa an seann duine. "Càit a bheil thu a' togail rithe?"

"Tha mi a' dol a dh'iarraidh cosnaidh a dh'ionnsaigh an tuathanaich." arsa an gille. "Ma tà," arsa an seann duine, "bheir mi comhairle ort. Na gabh muinntireas ach far am faic thu an cat ann an deagh bhian air ceann shìos na séiseache."

"Tapadh leibhse," arsa am balach. "Cumaidh mi sin 'nam chuimhne." Agus chùm e air aghaidh gus an tàinig e gu abhainn a' ruith troimh ghleann.

Thàinig e chuice le leum roid agus an tiota bha e air taobh thall na h-aibhne.

Chùm e air aghaidh gus an d'ràinig e taigh tuathanaich. Chaidh e a staigh, is cha do thàr e suidhe an uair a dh'iar e cosnadh air bean an tuathanaich.

"Iarr air fithich 's air feannagan e,

Iarr air an fhad-bhuinn 's air ursannan an doruis e,

Iarr air luchain an ard-doruis e," arsa bean an tuathanaich.

Cha b'fhada gus an tàinig an tuathanach dhachaigh is dh'fhasdaidh e am balach 'na bhuchaille laogh.

"Caidlidh tu air leid-fheòir ri taobh an teine," arsa bean-an-taighe.

"Is fearr leam cadal air an t-séiseach, le bhur cead," arsa aun gille.

"Do thoil fhéin," arsa bean an tuathanaich, is i cho tuath-barra.

Bha an cat 'na sheargair truagh air a' chagailte an oir na luathadh air a dhàthadh 'na bhallan dubha is buidhe is donn. Chaidh an t-suipear a chur air a' bhòrd, agus is e

miallaich a' chait a bu cheòl daibh. Cha d'fhuair e greim no balgam.

Bha am balach ri buaicheallachd nan laogh, ach cha robh e a' faighinn dachaigh a choinhead air a mhàthair.

Thàinig am mulad air.

Mhothaich bean-an-taighe gu robh am balach air fàs tùrsach agus dh'fhoighnich i dheth ciod a bha a' cur air.

Dh'innis e gu robh mulad ajr nach robh e a' faicinn a mhàthar corr uair.

Thug i cead dha a dhol dachaigh uair anns a' mhìos air feasgar Di-sathuirne is e a thilleadh moch Di-luain.

An uair a bhiodh e a' dol dachaigh, bha e a' coiseachd troimh an abhainn, ach an uair a bha e a' tilleadh á taigh a mhàthar air Di-luain ghabhadh e an abhainn le a leum roid.

Latha de na làithean is e a' tilleadh do thaigh an tuathanaich moch Di-luain, thachair an seann duine ris.

"Tha mi a' faicinn," arsa an seann duine, "gu bheil thu a' gabhail na h-aibhne le do leum roid an uair a bhios tu a' tilleadh á taigh do mhàthar, agus a' grunnachadh an uair a bhios tu a' dol dachaigh."

"Tha," arsa am buachaille. "Chan 'eil de lùth annam na ghabhas leum roid a' dol dachaigh."

"Bheir mi comhairle ort," arsa an seann duine, "ach gabh mo chomhairle."

"Gabhaidh," arsa am balach. "Tha mi glé dhuilich nach do ghabh mi bhur comhairle o thùs."

"Moch am màireach," arsa an seann duine, "bheir thu a staigh laogh do'n chidsin mun éirich càch, is bi a' dòrtadh cuinneag bhainne 'na amhaich an uair a bhios bean-an-taighe a' tighinn a steach. Abraidh i riut, 'Gu dé as ciall d'a leithid seo?' Abraidh tusa, 'Feumaidh an laogh a dhiol bainne mun téid e air an togail.'"

Is e seo an rud a rinn am buachaille làrna-mhàireach, mar a dh' iarr an seann duine air.

Thug bean an tuathanaich an sanas, agus fhuair gach duine anns an taigh agus gach beathach a muigh a leòr bidh a mach o'n là sin.

(Bho RAONAIÐ NICLEOID.)

Ged as dlùth do'n duine a chòta, is dlùithe dha a léine.

* * * * *

Ged as dubh am fitheach, is geal leis a isean.

* * * * *

An uair as mò an éiginn dearbhar an caraid dileas.

Sgeul A Sina

Eolas A Tha Feumail.

UAIR a bha an seo thall an Sina, chaidh lighiche a ghairm a steach gu taigh ach an deanadh e cobhair air fear a bha glé thinn.

Dh'amhaire an lighiche air an duine thinn, cheasnaich e e, agus rinn e gach ni air an do smuainich e, feuch an tuigeadh e ciod an tinneas a bha an seo.

An sin, theann an lighiche ris an duine a leighreas, agus thug e dha an dà chuid locshlaint agus comhairle.

Ach an oidhche sin dh'eug an duine.

Anns a' mhadaoinn thàinig an lighiche a choimhead air an duine, agus gun fhios aige gu robh e a nis marbh. Cho luath is a nochd an lighiche a staigh air an doras, rug càrdean an duine mhairbh air, agus cheangail iad e, agus iad an rùn peanas a chur air a chionn is nach do leighis e am fear a bha tinn.

Dh'fhàg iad an lighiche ceangailte ri craoibh gu feasar, agus iad fhéin trang ri gnothaichean eile.

Fad an là, fo theas na gréine, bha an lighiche bochd 'na sheasamh an sin, is e an ceangal ris a' chraoibh, agus gun fhios aige ciod a dh'éireadh dha, agus e a' caoidh mar a bha e. Ach thòisich e air feuchainn ri faighinn as, agus mu dheireadh dh'amaid e air a' chòrd a bha 'ga cheangal fhuasgladh agus theich e cho cruaidh is a bha aige, agus b'fheudar dha snàmh a null air abhainn mhóir mus d'fhairich e e féin téarainte bho'n teaghlach aig an robh a leithid de fhuath dha a chionn is nach do leighis e am fear a bha tinn.

Ràinig an lighiche an taigh aige fhéin, agus e sgìth, fiuch, acrach.

An uair a chaidh e a steach, cò a bha a staigh roimhe ach a mhac fhéin agus e 'na shuidhe aig bòrd agus leabhar mòr aige m'a choimneamh agus e 'ga leughadh gu dìcheallach. Bha am mac a' rùnachadh a bhith 'na lighiche coltach r'a athair, agus b'e sin a dh'fhàg cho dìcheallach e am bad nan leabhraichean.

"A mhic," arsa a athair ris, "na bi cho fìor dhìcheallach ris na leabhraichean sin. Tha eòlas ann a bhios eus na's fheumaile dhuit na dotaireachd nan leabhraichean, agus is e sin eòlas air snàmh. Faigh an t-eòlas sin cho luath agus as urrainn duit, oir chan 'eil eòlas eile cho feumail do lighiche ri sin!"

Am fear a théid anns an droigheann domh, théid ni anns an dris dha.

* * * * *

Am fear a ghlèidheas a theanga, gleidhidh e a charaid.

An Ealtainn

Chan 'eil eun san ealtainn
Nuair as caise 'n ruaig
Dh'fhàgas ann an astar
Té nan lannaibh ruadh.

(Oran do Bhàta.)

Tha sinn an dòchas gu bheil òigridh na Gaidhealtachd, air Tir-mor agus anns na h-Eileanan, mar a bha sinne, an uair a bha sinn òg, a' gabhail ùidh is tlachd ann an eunlaith a tha cho lionmhor mun cuairt orra; a' gabhail beachd air an caochladh dhathan, agus a' mealtainn sòlais ann a bhith ag éisd-eachd ri an ceileireadh binn. Tha iteagan bòidheach air na h-eòin a tha 'nar dùthaich féin cho math riùsan a tha fad as.

Tha sinn an dòchas gu bheil buill Comunn na h-Oigridh geur-sheallach, beachdail do thaobh gach ni gluasadach 'nan sgìrean féin, agus is ann a chum am misneachadh a tha sinn air a' mhìos seo a' tairsinn leth-bhreac de'n leabhar, "Bàird A' Chomuinn," do'n ghille no do'n nighinn a chuireas chugainn an àireamh as mò de ainmean eunlaith a tha a' tathaich nam monaidhean, nan coilltean, is nan cladaichean air a bheil iad eòlach, agus dh'aithnichteas iad le an sùilean féin. Gabhaidh sinn ri ainmean nan eun sin a tha a' tighinn à dùthchannan céine a chur seachad an t-samhraidh 'nar coimhearsnachd. Ach earal beag dhuibh: bithibh air bhur faicill, oir tha deagh bharail againn air na h-eòin a tha nàistinneach do gach roinn. Bidh sinn amharasach mu iolairean an Tiridhe no tàrmachain an Sgalpaidh!

Cuiribh na h-ainmean, ann an Gàidhlig, air paipear gu pongail, agus seòlaibh e chun an Fhìr-dheasachaidh mar a tha sin air iarraidh air a' cheud duilleig de'n Mhìosachan seo, agus biodh e 'na lánhan-san roimh an 30mh là de'n mhìos seo féin.

Bidh co-fharpais eile againn dhuibh air an ath-mhìos.

NIALL.

Seadh. Am Faca?

Is iomadh rud a chunnaic mi
Nach fhac' duin' eile riamh:
Craobh a' fàs gun bhàr gun duilleig
'S i gun bhun gun fhriamh;
'An iolaire a' treabhadh,
'S an fheannag trang a' cliathadh,
An dreathann-donn ag uirsgeuladh,
'S an luch a' cur gu fiadhaich.

(Seo rann a' Gleann Urchardainn a fhuair sinn o Dhòmhnall MacPhàil. Buidh e do'n t-seòrsa ris an abrar "Rannan Bréige." "Ag uirsgeuladh"—a' sgaoilleadh innearach no mathachaidh air an achadh, an e?)

Gàidheil mar seo: 'Is mithich dhuibh mosgladh as bhur dùsal: tha an t-àm dhuibh dùsgadh as bhur pràimhneul. Leigibh dhìbh a bhith a' brolaich ann bhur brùadar mu Thir nan Og, agus fàgaibh air an dlò clann Rìgh Lochlainn: is ni suail an geasan-san an coimeas ris an draoidheachd fo a bheil sibhshe. Grad éiribh air bhur casan; crathaibh an t-slabhraidh còmhraigh, agus séidibh còrn nam beus. Is neònach an ni mur 'eil fuidheal beò de shliochd Chumhail a chuireas sibh an òrdugh-catha gu bhur càinam agus bhur cinneadh a theasairg-

inn. Chan 'eil e fhathast tuilleadh is amoch. Tha galaran eugsamhail agus eucailean sàrachail air a' Ghàidhlig gun amharus; ach ma tha bhur creideamh-se làidir chan 'eil iad sin a chum bàis. Gidheadh, tha creideamh gun stàth a dh' easbhuidh oibre. An tábhadh bhur gnìomha fhéin agus an dian dhealas bhur n-aighe tha slàinte agus soirbheachadh bhur càinaine ag co-sheasamh. Ann bhur làmhann fhéin tha bhur leigheas: annaibh féin a mhàin is éiginn duibh bhur stéidh agus bhur muinghinn a bhith: annaibh féin is eadh a ta rioghachd nèimh.'

Provincial Mods

PERTHSHIRE

The Perthshire Provincial Mod was held at Aberfeldy on 16th June. The adjudicators were:—for Gaelic—Rev. Alex. Macdonald, Rev. M. A. MacCorquodale, and Rev. Wm. Macdonald; for Music—Mr. D. McAllister, Mr. James Curr, and Pipe-Major Wilkie.

At the Mod Concert the prizes were presented by Mrs. R. Wemyss Honeyman, Derculich, Strathtay.

The first-prize winners were:—

Junior Section

ORAL. Reading prose (own choice) (native speakers)—Georgina Wilson, Pitlochry. Learners (under 12)—Janet Butters, Weem. Learners, 12-16—Marjory Renwick, Weem. Reciting poem (learners, 12-16)—Marjory Renwick. Scripture (under 12)—Mary Macgregor, Strathtay. Conversation—Georgina Wilson. Recitation—Mary Macgregor.

VOCAL MUSIC. Solo-singing: girls under 12—Mary Campbell, Aberfeldy. Boys under 12—Robert G. Gillies, Rannoch. Girls, 12-16—Marjory Renwick. Boys, 12-16—Henry Murdoch, Weem. Girls, 16-18—Georgina Wilson. Boys, 16-18—Ian Campbell, Aberfeldy. Duet (learners)—Morag and Una Hunter, Pitlochry.

CHORAL. Unison—Aberfeldy Junior Choir.

Senior Section

ORAL. Reading prose—Morag Maclean, Pitlochry. Reciting poem—Morag Maclean. Prose (native speakers)—Mrs. Margaret A. McLeish, Perth. Poem (learners)—Mary Shaw, Aberfeldy. Sgeulachd (Perthshire tale)—Mrs. Maclellan, Manse of Weem. Acted dialogue—Mrs. Macdiarmid and Miss Elizabeth Macdiarmid, Lawers.

VOCAL MUSIC. Solo-singing (prescribed: ladies)—Mary Shaw, Aberfeldy. Men—Archie Maclean, Perth. Oran mor (ladies)—Marjory H. McLeish, Perth. Men—Archie Maclean. Perthshire song—Iain M. R. Stewart, Aberfeldy. Memorial Prize—Archie Maclean. Former first-prize winners—Mrs. Marion Gwozdz, Aberfeldy. Own choice (ladies)—Morag Maclean, Pitlochry. Men—Archie Maclean. Duet—Miss Whiteford and Miss Kate Fraser, Weem. Quartette—Aberfeldy.

CHORAL. Three-part harmony—Pitlochry Ladies' Choir. Four-part harmony—Logierait Church Choir.

Instrumental Music

BAGPIPES. March, strathspey, and reel (senior)—Alex. Spence, Aberfeldy. Junior—Lindsay Mowbray, Aberfeldy.

VIOLIN. Gaelic air, strathspey, and reel (senior)—Alex. M. Macdonald, Bridge of Tilt. Junior—Peter Watson, Dunkeld.

PIANOFORTE. Highland march, strathspey, and reel (junior)—Margaret Anderson, Grandtully. Senior—Winifred Hutton, Stanley.

LOCHABER

The Lochaber Mod was held at Fort William on 17th June. The adjudicators were: for Gaelic—Rev. Dominic MacKellaig, Mr. L. Macleod, Mr. Donald Macphail, Rev. J. Galbraith, and Rev. A. J. Maclean; for Music—Mr. J. Gilmour Barr, Mr. A. Soutar, Mr. Ewen Cameron, and Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Sutherland. Cameron of Lochiel presided at the Mod Concert.

The first-prize winners were:—

Junior Section

ORAL. Reciting—Rachel MacBeath, Kilmonivaig. Verse-speaking—Onich School Group. Reciting poetry—Eleanor Stewart, Kilmonivaig. Unseen prose—Christie Anne MacMillan, Fort William. Reading prose—Effie Johnson. Reciting—Effie Johnson. Conversation—Christie Anne MacMillan.

VOCAL MUSIC. Solo Singing (girls under 11)—Sheila Crowder, Glen Urquhart. Boys under 11—Donald C. Mackenzie. Girls, 11-15—Christine Cameron. Boys, 11-15—Alastair Gillies. Boys and girls, 11-15 (members of Comunn na h-Oigridh)—Alastair Gillies. Own choice—Boys, 11-15—Angus MacDonnell. Girls, 11-15—Christine Cameron. Duet (under 16)—Agnes MacCabe and Elizabeth Anderson. Solo-singing—Flora Martin.

CHORAL. Unison (small schools)—Roy Bridge School Choir. Open—Mallaig School Choir. Harmony—Mallaig School Choir.

Senior Section

ORAL. Unseen prose—Martha Mackinnon. Reciting poem—Elizabeth MacNeil and Mary A. Johnston (equal). Reciting prose—Mary A. Johnston and Elizabeth MacNeil (equal). Arranged competition—Catherine Mackinnon. Acted dialogue—Donald MacNeil and Ina Macdonald. Sgeulachd—May MacEachan and Mary A. Johnston (equal). Speech—Mary A. Johnston.

VOCAL MUSIC. Solo-singing (ladies)—Isa Macdonald, Mallaig. Men—Andrew Macpherson, Loch Treig. Ladies (own choice)—Flora Martin. Men—William Lawrie. Duet—Donald MacNeil

and Catherine Miller. Puirt-a-beul—Flora Martin. Former first-prize winners—Donald Macdonald.

CHORAL. Fort William Gaelic Choir.

Instrumental Music

Chanter playing: March and Strathspey—Rona Macdonald; Special prize—Alastair Gillies. Piping (under 18)—Rona Macdonald.

Pianoforte: Gaelic air—Adrian S. Mackintosh.

Trophies

Junior verse-speaking Trophy—Onich School. Junior oral (Kilmallie Cuach)—Christine Anne MacMillan. Senior oral (Graham Coll Memorial Trophy)—Mary A. Johnston. Junior solos (Arisaig Trophy)—Christine Cameron. Senior solos: ladies (Lochaber Cuach)—Isa Macdonald; men (Glengarry Cup)—William Lawrie. Junior solos (boys and girls under 11) (Hobbs Challenge Cup)—Donald Mackenzie and Sheila Crowder. Junior choirs (unison singing) (Macgregor Cup)—Mallaig School Choir. Junior choir (challenge shield)—Mallaig School Choir. Senior choir (challenge shield)—Fort William Gaelic Choir. Junior solo (boy) (Moffatt Pender Cuach)—Alastair Gillies.

LEWIS

The Lewis Provincial Mod was held at Stornoway on 17th and 18th June. The adjudicators were: for Gaelic—Messrs. A. Macdonald, M. Macleod, A. Matheson, D. J. Maclean, R. Morrison, J. Buchanan, and Derick S. Thomson, Rev. Malcolm Maclean, and Misses C. Mackay and M. Macleod; for Music—Dr. T. McCourt and Mr. H. MacGill. The guest artiste at the Mod Concert was Mr. A. Matheson.

The first-prize winners were as follows:—

Junior Section

ORAL. Reading from Scripture (under 12)—Willina Macleod, Aird. Reciting—John Macleod, Tarbert. Dialogue (under 16)—Bragar (Morrison Cup). Unpublished sguelachd (under 15)—Mary A. Macritchie, Laxdale. Reading from Gaelic Reader (12-15)—Calum Maclean, Back. Reading at sight (12-15)—Annie Carmichael, Lemreway. Reciting and conversation—Murdo Mackay, Tarbert.

Oral competitions for Nicolson Institute. 1st Year—Reading—Catherine Morrison. Recitation—Catherine Morrison. 2nd Year—Reading—Rhoda Campbell. Recitation—Rhoda Campbell. 3rd Year—Reading—Malina Mackenzie. Recitation—Malina Mackenzie.

VOCAL MUSIC. Solo-singing: prescribed (girls)—Catherine G. Macleod, Laxdale, and Catherine A. MacIver, Laxdale (equal). Boys—Hector Macleod, Laxdale. Own choice (girls)—Catherine Maclean, Laxdale. Boys—Derek MacLauchlan, Sandwick. Boys and girls (under 8)—Christine Macdonald, Nicolson Institute. Prescribed (girls)—Joey Morrison, Lionel. Boys—Malcolm Morrison, Lionel. Own choice (girls)—Barbara Nicoll and Catherine Mackay, Nicolson Institute (equal). Boys—Malcolm Morrison, Lionel. Unpublished song—Mary A. Macritchie, Laxdale. Duet—Catherine Mackay and Kathleen Macdonald. Silver medal winners: girls—Joey Morrison, Lionel; boys—Malcolm Morrison, Lionel.

CHORAL. Under 13—Lionel (Mackenzie Shield). Unison (four-teacher schools and over)—Nicolson Institute. Unison (three-teacher schools and under)—Bragar (Cuach a' Chomuinn). Two-part harmony—Nicolson Institute (Lewis and Harris Shield). Unison (Co-operative Society Shield)—Nicolson Institute.

Unison (Londonderry Cup)—Nicolson Institute. Action song—Nicolson Institute "B" (Norman Harris Cup).

Senior Section

ORAL. Reading at sight—Christy A. Macdonald. Reciting verse or prose—Effie Kennedy.

VOCAL MUSIC. Solo-singing. Prescribed (ladies)—Sandra Watt. Men—Angus Macleod. Own choice (ladies)—Muriel S. Mackenzie. Men—Angus Macleod. Gold Pendant Finals: ladies—Sandra Watt; men—Angus Macleod. Gold Pendant Winners: ladies—Sandra Watt; men—Angus Macleod. Duet—Rhoda Morrison and Mary Morrison. Quartette—Stornoway Choir "B."

CHORAL. Four-part harmony (Macbrayne Cup)—Stornoway Gaelic Choir. Ladies (Stornoway Choir Shield)—North Lochs Gaelic Choir. Male voices—Stornoway Gaelic Choir. Unison—North Lochs Gaelic Choir.

Pianoforte. March, strathspey, and reel (under 16)—Christine MacArthur.

SKYE

The Skye Provincial Mod was held at Portree on 22nd and 23rd June. The adjudicators were: for Gaelic—Messrs. A. J. MacAskill, J. Mackay, D. J. Maclean, D. Ross, Donald Macphail, J. Mackinnon, L. Mackinnon, and D. A. Maclean, Rev. D. J. Macleod, and Rev. T. M. Murchison; for Music—Miss E. R. Bassin, Mr. A. M. Shields, Dr. Allan Macdonald, and Colonel J. Macdonald.

Rev. T. M. Murchison presided at the Junior Concert on Tuesday evening and the prizes were presented by Mrs. Macdonald, Sr., of Tote. At the Senior Concert on Wednesday, Colonel Macdonald presided at the first house and Mrs. J. Ross at the second, and the prizes were presented by Mrs. Campbell, Ardvasar. The guest artistes were Mary C. MacNiven and Angus Macleod.

The first-prize winners were:—

Junior Section

LITERATURE. Translation (elementary schools)—Nellie J. Macleod, Struan. Story and translation (1st year, post-qualifying)—Flora A. Mackinnon, Portree. Essay (2nd and 3rd years, post-qualifying)—Jessie Mackinnon, Portree. Translation—Morag Montgomery, Broadford.

ORAL. Reading poetry—Louisa Mackenzie, Portree S. S. School. Reading unfamiliar prose (elementary schools only)—Nellie J. Macleod, Struan. Reading unfamiliar prose (intermediate pupils)—Jessie Mackinnon, Portree S. S. School. Reciting from memory—Anne M. Robertson, Portree Sec. School. Sguelachd—Jessie Mackinnon. Original talk—Donald J. Fraser, Portree S. S. School. Pendants for highest aggregates in oral competitions—Jessie Mackinnon and Norman MacSween.

VOCAL MUSIC. Solo singing: own choice (girls under 12)—Patricia Scranage, Kilmuir. Boys under 12—Peter Macdonald, Broadford. Prescribed songs: boys, 12-16—Donald A. Mackinnon, Broadford. Former first-prize winners—John MacRaid, Portree S. S. School. Girls, 12-16—Betty Robertson, Broadford. Duet—Ann Cusack and Rhona Macleod, Staffin. Silver Pendants for solo-singing: girls (presented by Mr. D. S. MacMillan)—Betty Robertson; boys (presented by Mr. J. MacIntyre)—Donald A. Mackinnon.

CHORAL. Two-part harmony—Portree Secondary School Junior Choir. Unison—Staffin J. S. School Choir and Portree Secondary School Junior Choir

(equal). Mrs. Macleod of Skeabost Trophy for highest marks in harmony and unison singing—Portree Secondary School Junior Choir. Unison (choirs trained by local teacher) (Miss Macdonald of Viewfield Cup)—Staffin School Choir. Action song—Staffin J. S. School Choir.

Bagpipe-playing (four-part march)—Sandy Owens, Portree Secondary School. Chanter-playing for beginners—Peter MacSween, Dunvegan.

Senior Section

LITERATURE. Gaelic poem—Jonathan Macdonald, Kilmuir. Original play—Mrs. Catherine Douglas, Kilmuir. Collection of unpublished Skye songs—Mrs. C. Douglas. Collection of place-names—John D. Gillies, Portree. Essay—Kenneth Macpherson, Kilmuir. Essay—F. MacLennan, Portree. Essay on local historical incident—J. Macdonald. Winner of Carinish Cup presented by Mr. D. A. Maclean for highest aggregate marks in literary competitions—Jonathan Macdonald.

ORAL. Reading unfamiliar prose—John A. Macpherson, Portree Secondary School. Local Sgeulachd—Mabel Macdonald, Portree Secondary School. Reciting poem—Christina M. Mackay, Portree Secondary School. Acted dialogue—Christie Mackay and Catherine Fraser, Portree Secondary School. Winner of pendant presented by Mrs. D. Ross for oral competitions—Christie Mackay, Portree Secondary School.

VOCAL MUSIC. Solo-singing; own choice (girls under 18)—Kenna Campbell, Portree S.S. School. Own choice (ladies)—Catherine Fraser, Portree Secondary School. Men—Ewen Stewart, Portree Secondary School. Prescribed songs: ladies (gold pendant)—Catherine Fraser, Portree Secondary School. Men (gold pendant)—Ewen Stewart. Traditional song—Mrs. Margaret Bennett, Portree. Skye song—Donald Macleod, Portree. *Puirt-a-beul*—Jonathan Campbell, Kilmuir. Duet—Catherine Fraser and Catriona Macleod, Portree Secondary School. Quartette—Portree School Quartette "B." Former first-prize winners—Mrs. A. Thompson, Portree.

CHORAL. Ladies voices—Portree Secondary School Girls' Choir. Four-part harmony—Portree Gaelic Choir. Unison—Portree Gaelic Choir.

ARDNAMURCHAN

The Ardnamurchan Provincial Mod was held at Strontian on 29th June. The adjudicators were: for Gaelic—Messrs. J. M. Bannerman, Neil Shaw, and Donald Thomson; for Music—Miss Mary Hogg and Mr. Donald MacAllister.

The first-prize winners were:—

Junior Section

ORAL. Reading at sight—Jessie Graham, Strontian. Recitation (native speakers)—Murdo MacKillop, Ardgour. Recitation (learners)—Joan MacLachlan, Lochaline. Conversation—Jessie Graham.

VOCAL MUSIC. Solo singing (girls)—Jessie Graham. Boys—Murdo MacKillop. Learners (under 10 years)—Ewan MacMaster, Mingarry. Learners (10 years and over)—Yvonne Pirie, Lochaline. Duet—Jessie Graham and Annie Cameron, Strontian.

CHORAL SINGING—Lochaline School Choir. Junior choir with highest marks in Gaelic—Lochaline School Choir.

Senior Section

ORAL. Reading at sight—Donald Cameron, Ardtornish. Recitation—Donald Cameron, Ardtornish. Recitation—Donald Cameron, Ardtornish, and Mrs. Sinclair, Lochaline (equal).

VOCAL MUSIC. Solo singing: own choice (ladies)—Neileen Munro, Strontian. Men—Peter MacQueen, Ardgour. Unpublished song—Isobel Gillies, Lochaline. Morvern song—Neileen Munro. Prescribed song (ladies)—Neileen Munro. Former first-prize winners—Creina MacGregor, Lochaline. Ardnamurchan Mod Silver Pendant (ladies)—Neileen Munro. (No entry for men's Silver Pendant). Duet—Morag Brown and Neileen Munro, Strontian.

Editor's Postbag

The Monoglot English

DEAR SIR,—It is not necessary that I should refute Constance Harwood's contradiction of a statement in a letter of mine; Iain A. Macleod has done that more competently and far more devastatingly than I would or could have done.

She reminds me of Henry Ford when he stated one could have a Ford car in any colour provided that colour was black! Pupils in English—or Scottish—schools may be taught any language, provided it is taught through the medium of English.

It may surprise your very English correspondent to learn that some sixty-five years ago I and all my class-mates in Tobermory school were being taught French, Latin, and Greek; German could also be taken—but *not Gaelic*. But all these were being taught through the medium of English, and with the definite aim and purpose of making us monoglot, that is, to discipline our minds into thinking in English.

And this is the objective in the Lowland as well as in the Highland schools. Why, there is hardly a school-leaving pupil in Scotland who can read the very diluted Scots used by Robert Burns! And how many know that there were any other poets in Scotland except Burns?

During the period of their ascendancy in this country (South Africa) the English—assisted by the Scots—tried to establish English as the teaching medium in the primary schools, but the Africaners (much tougher material than the Scots) insisted on the mother-tongue being the medium of education, and now English "bows down in the house of Rimmon," as it should.

The Africaners are taught English, of course, but through the medium of Africaners. Gaelic is a dying language, and will continue to be, until the Gaelic children are taught through the medium of their own language.

That is the cure—the sole and only cure, and the sure cure—for the ill-health of Gaelic.

Pretoria.

D. LIVINGSTONE,

Treasurer's Notes

National Mod Perth, 1954

Received at Perth—

Previously acknowledged	£1,408 17 4
Miss J. M. Fraser, Perth	1 — —
Miss M. Graham, Perth	10 — —
Edinburgh Branch	10 — —
A. Crooks, Esq., Blairgowrie	1 — —
P. Douglas Kelley, Esq., Aberfeldy..	— 10 —
Brian G. Lane, Esq., Yorks, England	— 10 6
The Celtic Union, Edinburgh	3 3 —
Stirling Branch	7 10 —
Ceilidh nan Gaidheal, Inverness	1 1 —
Gaelic Class, Blairgowrie High School	
Continuation Classes	7 10 —
J. B. Macdonald, Esq., Perth	2 2 —
Lochinver Branch	2 2 —
Edinburgh Local Mod Committee	10 — —
Ceilidh in Town Hall, Aberfeldy, 14/7/54	25 — —
Kinloch Rannoch Branch	13 — —
Mrs. B. E. MacLeod, Perth	3 — —
Mrs. I. MacLeod, Ardrishaig	1 — —
Miss A. M. McGregor Arbuckle, Edinburgh	— 10 —
Miss Jessie A. MacLeod, Lewis	5 10 —
Mrs. MacLaren, Glenlyon	— 10 —
Proceeds of Stop Watch Competition	
per J. Mackay, Esq., Perth	5 15 —
Stop Watch Competition	24 1 7
Proceeds of Prize Draw	602 5 6
Crieff and District Highland Association	30 — —

£2,175 17 11

Received at Headquarters—

Previously acknowledged	£121 12 —
Angus C. Paterson, Esq., Campbeltown	2 — —
Northumberland and Durham Caledonian Society	2 2 —
"Caraid gun ainm"	10 — —
Charles Hunter, Esq., Stornoway	— 5 —
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Total to date .. £2,348 17 5

Central Fund

Previously acknowledged	£29 16 8
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Grantown Branch	5 5 —
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£48 8 2

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This month, after seven years, we return to the "fair city" of Perth for the National Mod. This is the first time in the post-war years we have paid a second visit to any place. All who were at the Perth Mod in 1947 will know what to expect—a fine city, its history reaching back into the dim past, its busy streets proof of its continuing importance. Here too we shall find, as in 1947, a warm welcome from the people of this historic city.

New Members of Staff

In recent months two new members of staff have taken up and entered upon their duties at the Glasgow Headquarters of An Comunn, Miss Joey Campbell and Miss Catriona Macleod, and we here cordially welcome them and wish them well in their work. Miss Chris Turner, after eight years' service with An Comunn, has gone to another appointment. She carries with her the sincere thanks of us all.

(Continued from page 74)

Malcolm Macleod. A loyal and enthusiastic member of An Comunn, she rendered outstanding service on the Northern Committees. Many will carry with them the fragrant memory of a gracious Highland lady.

To her husband, Mr. Kenneth Macleod, formerly Rector of Fortrose Academy, and to the family we extend our deep sympathy.

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XLIX

NOVEMBER, 1954

No. 11

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Leabhar XLIX

AN T-SAMHUIN, 1954

Aireamh 11

Oraid A' Chinn-Suidhe

(Aig fosgladh a' Mhòid Nàiseanta am Peairt air a' cheathramh là de'n Damhar, 1954).

AIG toiseach tòiseachaidh Mòd Nàiseanta na bliadhna seo ann am baile rìomhach Pheairt, is e mo dhleasdanas agus gun teagamh miann gach ball anns a' Chomuinn gun cuirte an cèill taingeachadh a' Chomuinn mhàthaireil do'n Chomhairle Ionadail fo stiùradh ar deagh chàirdean, Ruairidh Mac-Fhionghuin (Fear-gairme), Seumas T. Dùbghlas (an Rùnaire), agus Iain Sutharlan (an Taisgear). Rinn iad sin, agus miltean de chàirdean ann am Peairt agus air feadh Alba gu léir, obair a bha air leth ionmholta ann a bhith a' deasachadh ghnòthaichean ré dhà bhliadhna fa chomhair an aona Mhòid dheug thairis air an dà fhichead.

Tha ar taing, cuideachd, aig Pròbhaist agus aig luchd-riaghlaidh a' bhaile air son cho fialaidh fiùghantach is a tha iad d'ar taobh-ne. Anns an dòigh sin, co-dhiubh, chan 'eil atharrachadh rùn aig Comhairlichean Pheairt o'n thàinig an Comunn Gaidhealach a steach air geatachan còire a' bhaile dà fhichead bliadhna air ais. Ach ciamar nach biodh na h-àrd-riochdairean ach coibhneil, còir, an uair a tha sluagh a' bhaile fhéin cho aoigheil, càirdeil?

Tha fìghair againn ri Mòd air an t-seachdain seo a bhios mar bu dual do Mhòd a bhith—'na ùrachadh spioraid agus 'na abohar gàirdeachais do na h-uile aig a bheil suim no ùidh ann an

obair a' Chomuinn. Is coma ged tha feadhainn ann a nì fanaidh gun tarcaiseach air oidhirpean a' Chomuinn agus air ar Mòdan—fhad agus as urrainn dhuinne seachdain mar seo a bhith againn, làn gràidh chuireadail, ag aithris agus a' seinn anns a' Ghàidhlig bhlasda bhinn, faodaidh sinn truas, agus chan e fearg, a nochdadh d'an taobh!

Ach chan 'eil sin ri ràdh gum faod sinn a bhith féin-spéiseil anns a' ghnòthach, agus a bhith a' smaointinn gun cumar a' Ghàidhlig beò gun ghnoimh gun obair. Is duilich ri ràdh, ach chan 'eil meuran a' Chomuinn idir cho lionmhor no cho dealasach agus a bu chòir dhaibh a bhith—no feachdan Comunn na h-Oigridh air am brosnachadh agus air an cuideachadh a' mach agus a staigh mar bu chòir.

Chan 'eil buill a' Chomuinn—co-dhiubh a tha iad anns a' Chomuinn mhàthaireil no ann am meuran—an còmhnaidh a' cumail rùintean bunaiteach a' Chomuinn fo an sùil. Mur deanar sin, tha e furasda gu leòir a bhith riarachaidh le céilidhean is le seinn, agus a bhith a' smaointinn nach 'eil iarraidh sam bith air obair chruaidh a dheanamh gu buill ùra a thoirt a steach no meuran ùra a stéidheachadh, no a bhith ag obair anns a' chearn sin anns a bheil sibh a' fuireach gu, maith dh'fhaoidte, dorus

na sgoile a tha dùinte do'n Ghàidhlig fhosgladh.

Nach 'eil e furasda aithneachadh nach 'eil sinne mar Ghaidheil idir déidheil air a bhith a' leughadh Gàidhlig, an uair nach 'eil ach suas ri seachd ceud ann an Alba gu leir a' leughadh mìosachain a' Chomuinn, "*An Gaidheal*."

A nis, shaoilinn-sa, ged bhiodh sibh dall agus bodhar agus fios agaibh gur e seo dòigh anns am faodar a' chàinain a chuideachadh, nach diùlteadh sibh sia sgillinn anns a' mhìos air son leabhraibh bhig mhìsneachail a tha a' riarachadh an rùin ghràdhach a tha 'nar cridheachan a thaobh a' Chomuinn agus ar daoine féin. Cha chosgadh e ach luach pacaid gu leth de *cigarettes* an t-aon anns a' bhliadhna do Ghaidheil Alba, a h-uile mac màthar dhuibh, a bhith 'nam buill de'n Chomuinn.

Nach e guth làidir a bhiodh aig a' Chomuinn ann an gnothaichean Comhairle an Fhoghlum anns na siorramachdan agus ann an Dun-éideann, nam biodh Gaidheil deònach a' Ghàidhlig a chur air thoiseach air an tombaca no a bhith deònach sògh air chor-eigin eile a thoirt suas air sgàth cor na Gàidhlig.

Sheas sinn gu duineil agus thug sinn taic mar Ghaidheil ann an iomadh cruadal, agus

cha b'ann air ar sgàth féin. Nach 'eil an t-àm ann gus "farum a bhith 'nar ceuman," agus sinn ann an gràdh agus ann am bràithreachas a' falbh gualainn ri gualainn, chan ann gu mill-eadh no sabaid a dheanamh, ach gu sinn féin a shàbhaladh mar Ghaidheil—gu ar càinain a dheanamh slàn, fallain, foirfe air bilean an t-sluaigh, agus gu sònraichte am measg òigridh nam bailtean beaga is mòra anns a' Ghaidhealtachd. An fhìach e an t-saothair? Mur as fhìach, chan aithne dhòmhsa obair eile ann an t-saoghal seach a' mhinistrealachd a tha na's àirde na e.

Is e spiorad agus anam ar daoine mar Ghaidheil, co-ionann agus co-cheangailte mar a tha iad sin le ar càinain is ar n-eachdraidh, a tha ann an cunnart bàis.

Ma tha nì seach nì a bu mhath leam a ràdh mus leig mi dhìom mo dhreuchd mar Cheann-suidhe a' Chomuinn Ghaidhealach, is e sin gur ann le gnìomharan a mhàin a bheir sinn ar rùintean is ar gear-thograidhean a thaobh ar càinain is ar daoine gu buil iomlan. Agus leis a' ghnìomh, ma tha sinn ann an co-mhiann le chèile ann an gràdh agus ann an grinneas, bidh beannachd Nì Maith an cois ar n-obair agus bidh sùim airidh mar chinneadh air ar saothair.

President's English Address

I pay tribute at the beginning of our National Mod week in Perth to the work of the Local Mod Committee under the convesnship of Mr. Roderick Mackinnon, Chief of the ancient and honourable Gaelic Society of Perth. Theirs has been an arduous task for the past eighteen months in raising the finance to enable the Mod to be staged, and to help An Comunn in its daily work throughout the coming year to nurture and develop our beloved language, its music and traditions. We have happy recollections of our Mod here in 1947. Now as then, the Provost and Magistrates and the good people of this proud city have given us real highland welcome and encouragement. This city may be territorially on the borders of the Highlands and Lowlands, but there is no borderline in the hearts of its people. This is as it should be, for our Gaelic Heritage belongs to the whole of Scotland and not just north of the Highland line.

It is An Comunn's earnest endeavour to spread appreciation of our language and cultural aims. Without lowland Scotland's knowledge and sympathy and practical backing, in the educational sphere particularly, our efforts would have little success. We have our critics, but critics come and critics go, but An Comunn Gaidhealach goes on for ever.

Whatever else of dissolution affects our people—summed up in the word depopulation—our cultural movement, centred in An Comunn, blooms yearly at our National Mod. It is a flower that increases in beauty and size as each annual show succeeds another. Who can gainsay that the flower must have a stem and roots, and when also on the stem one sees some sixteen smaller blooms, albeit simpler and more natural flowers, representing our annual Provincial Mods, then indeed should our critics be confounded. But in grudging vein they shift the incidence of their

attack and proceed to point out how shallow the soil that nurtures the flower and how soon it will lose all its fertility. This, in the face of the endeavours being made throughout each year by An Comunn to put new heart into the cultural soil of Scotland! But if we are criticised adversely and unfairly at times, we are often fair game—for we Highlanders, instead of answering the critic by deeds, in our turn waste a great deal of our energy in talk.

If we did so in Gaelic, that talk would be of use, but our self-criticism and talk is carried on in voluble English that can do little more than make our critics more sceptical still of the ultimate success of our purposes as the Highland Association of Scotland. But, whether in Gaelic or English, talking in the main should be left to the critics and action be our watch-word.

While we refute attacks on our Mods and intend to make them bigger and better and more numerous, we are sadly aware that the Gaelic soil of Scotland grows poorer every year. The critics point to that poverty and bid us have no delusions.

We know however the situation at least as well as they, and in the past and in the present our fight as an Association to arrest the decay is represented in—

(1) the formation of Comunn na h-Oigridh, our Gaelic Youth Association, through which thousands of the youth of the Highlands pass annually, learning something of their traditions as Gaels.

(2) our fight to have Gaelic taught in the schools of the Highlands, and to have Gaelic made a subject of equal status with French in our Scottish schools.

(3) our publications of Gaelic Primers and Plays, of poetry, dictionaries, and of *An Gaidheal*, our monthly magazine.

(4) our assistance to Celtic Art in Schools and Mods.

(5) our encouragement of the use of Gaelic and development of folk-song, individual and choral.

(6) our encouragement in the wearing of the highland dress and of piping and shinty.

(7) the establishment of branches everywhere pledged to the basic Gaelic purposes of An Comunn.

and finally (8) the holding annually of about sixteen Provincial, one and two-day, Mods, and the climax of our year—our National Mod.

Each of these is a potential improver of the Gaelic soil—no critic can truthfully aver otherwise. He does, however, attack us on the grounds that our overall plan is cultural and takes no account of the economic. But we have long ago determined that our furrow be the cultural one—let some other authority or movement draw the economic furrow. Necessary we know to be—but our lesson from the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society is a pertinent one—theirs was initially a cultural and economic two-furrow plough and the cultural ploughshare now rusts in the discard.

If our critic applauds our single-mindedness, he makes his last and most telling comment in decrying our overall plan and its lack of success.

Many of your branches, he says, are on paper only, and that goes for Comunn na h-Oigridh as well. Many schools throughout the Highlands have no Gaelic teacher. The crofter and his wife are not members of a branch of An Comunn. In other words, your Mods are not rooted in the people who surely are the vehicle of your hopes as an Association for the saving of the Gaelic language and traditions.

Here, then, lies the challenge to us as Highlanders and as members of An Comunn. The critic at last has made vital comment. We ourselves have known of this long ago. We have attempted to counter the situation by talk and committee meetings, neither of which is good manure for any soil. If our glorious heritage, our dear language, our world-famous folk-song, are to perish—if the wonderful blooms of the Provincial Mods and National Mods are not to wither

and die, then talk must cease and action take its place.

If 10,000 Gaelic speakers took the 6d monthly magazine *An Gaidheal*, then Mr. Murchison could add pages to its present format and have something over for the Central Fund. Even if one could not read it all or at all, is 6d per month too much to ask of the Highlander to sustain the Gaelic Cause?

If Branch Secretaries and Treasurers joined their members at 5/- per annum to An Comunn Gaidhealach Central Organisation, then there would be no need to issue dictates about unification of membership which many apparently and so ardently desire.

If Feachdan of Comunn na h-Oigridh were so organised, there would be thousands of recruits to An Comunn every year as the youngsters grew up.

Finally, Highland parents, I appeal to you—give your children the Gaelic chance—neither you nor they should have any fear that there is a lack of security in the anchor of your faith, your language and your traditions, no matter life's storms.

In An Comunn's aims are no ulterior selfish motives, no aggrandisement, no envy, no malice. I pray that my fellow-Highlanders have not the seeds of dissolution in themselves—that division and jealousy and just talk may not so weaken our efforts that as a flower in a cold soil we droop and die.

My term of office as President, extended as it was, is over, when this National Mod ends on Saturday next. My sincere thanks I tender to all who have been so kindly, so helpful, and, I might add, so patient with me, in and out of the chair. I was indeed privileged, as my father before me, to serve the Gaelic cause in this high office. I have the happiest of memories to take with me. I have the conviction that our cause will prosper, if our words and plans are translated into resolute action—for recruitment of the people of the glens and straths to our cause—to give Gaelic its rightful place in the schools—to make our branches live and virile, and, finally, to have loyalty among ourselves to the great purposes of our beloved Comunn Gaidhealach.

Luath Air A' Chagailt

Le RAGHNALL MACLAOMAINN

(Chòisinn a' bhàrdachd seo Crìon na Bàrdachd aig Mòd Nàiseanta 1954)

1. Gun shearg deachdadh a' ghaoil orm,
'S e mo chleachdadh tha baoth dhomh,
Fìor sheachdadh neo-mhaothail;
Gur e smàladh gun éibhleig
Agus spàgladh gun léirsinn
Chan 'eil déine no beatha 'nam smuain.
2. Tha mo chasan a' tuisleadh,
Chan 'eil cabhag 'nam chuisle,
Chan 'eil lasadh no misneach;
Thàinig tràghadh air sòlas
Agus smàladh air dòchas
Phaisg an ceò mi gu dùmhail mun cuairt.
3. 'S mi am bàta air faondradh,
Gun bhàsaich a' ghaoth orm,
Chan 'eil ràmhan ach faoin dhomh,
Tha na sìuil 's iad 'nan lùban,
Chan 'eil tùr anns an stiùir dhomh;
Can 'eil iùil dhomh air aodann a' chuain.
4. 'S mi birlinn na linne,
Dealbh-inntinn a' ghille,
Air a liomhadh gu sgileir;
Thig plathadh o'n chreachainn,
Cuirear car oirr' a seachad,
'S tha na creachan air chall anns an ruaig;
5. Duilleag sheacta a' gheamhraidh,
Air a sracadh o'n mheanglan,
Air a glacadh an teanntachd,
Air a luasgadh le osaig,
Air a fuadach gu oiseim,
Ghlac an reothadh an greim mi ro-chruaidh.
6. 'S mi truaghan a' phrìosain,
Fo ghruain is fo mhìl-ghean,
Chan e truas a tha dhìth orm
Ach séideadh de'n àile
Bho speur nam beann àrda
Agus tàladh gaoth osnach mu thuath.

7. 'S mi ùinich gun riaghladh,
'Nuair dhùisgear an iarmaid
'S a spùinneas na siantan,
A' gràbhadh nan ùbhlán
Bho àirde nan ùr-chrann;
Chan 'eil sùgh a bheir faochadh no suaimh.

8. 'S mi cruithneachd na tuaithe,
'S clach-mhuillinn air m' uachdar
A' ruidhleadh 's a' bruanaidh,
'S gach gràinne 'ga rùsgadh
'Ga fhàsgadh 's 'ga bhrùthadh
Gun 'san liùbhradh ach càthan gun luach.

9. Bu tu ùr-ròs a' ghàrraidh
A bha cùbraidh is bàn-dhearg
A bha ciùin agus àillidh.
Dé thàrlaidh do d' fhliùran,
Do d' bhlàth air a spùinneadh?
Chan 'eil 's a' chrùn domh ach drisean ro-
chruaidh.

10. Tha am blàths air a smùradh,
Chan 'eil deàrsadh ach shùilean
Mar a b' àbhaist 's mi dlùth dhut;
'Nuair dhruiddinn ri m' chliabh thu
Cha tig ruthadh air fiamh dhut;
Cha tug an lionadh ach tiùr domh bho'n
chuan.

Mod Diary

THE 51st National Mod, held at Perth from 4th to 8th October, 1954, will be remembered, not for outstanding performances, not record numbers of competitors or spectators, but for the pleasantly harmonious spirit that prevailed throughout, and for the fact that Mod Week turned out to be the best week in a dismally inclement autumn. When we speak of harmony, we are not forgetting some obstreperousness at the Annual General Meeting, but we have been at more difficult A.G.M.s in the past and we look forward, if spared, to taking part in more difficult ones in the future!

Perth, in the autumn sunshine, of which we got a good share that week, was "fair" as ever, so fair indeed that, one afternoon, having spent a pleasant hour at the Arts and Crafts Exhibition, we could not bring ourselves to go back into the halls of song, and, instead, had a pleasant saunter round by the Inches and the riverside and the "Fair Maid's House." The Perth folk were as kindly and hospitable as they had been on our last visit seven years ago, and the local Committee had spared no pains to make all the necessary arrangements.

For those fortunate enough to get to Perth early enough, the Mod began with a Broadcast Gaelic Service in St. John's Kirk on the afternoon of Sunday, 3rd October. We listened in and should like to thank the Rev. Ronald Robertson, Scone Old Church, for a most appropriate sermon. We also greatly appreciated the praise led by Mr. Duncan Mackenzie, Edinburgh, and the choir. We were also very sorry to miss the lecture on Gaelic folk-song by the Rev. William Matheson on the Monday afternoon.

On Monday evening, the official opening of the Mod was held in the City Hall, with a large audience present. Pipe-Major James Macphee, of Perth Gaelic Society, piped on the platform party, and after an opening prayer in Gaelic by the Rev. John Mackay, Mr. J. M. Bannerman, President, welcomed Lord Provost James Smart and the Lady Provost and Magistrates, the Countess of Erroll (Hereditary High Constable of Scotland), representing our Patron, H.M. The Queen, the Duke of Atholl, and the other distinguished guests present. The Lord Provost cordially welcomed the Mod to Perth, and thereafter the President delivered his Gaelic and English orations, which are reproduced at length elsewhere in this issue. He then welcomed the delegates—from Wales, Mr. G. Brynallt Williams (Financial Secretary of the National Eisteddfod of Wales) and Dr. Haydn Morris; and from Ireland Miss Aine Ni Cheannain and Dr. Liam O Maolchatha (a member of the Oireachtas Committee). Mr. Williams and Dr. O Maolchatha conveyed fraternal

greetings, as also did Professor Charles W. Dunn from the Gaelic Society of Toronto. Mr. Melville Dinwiddie, Scottish Contoller of the B.B.C., was welcomed and thanked for the help given by the B.B.C. to the Gaelic cause. Mr. Dinwiddie briefly addressed the gathering. A ceilidh followed, with Mr. Roderick Mackinnon, Convener of the Local Committee, as Fear-an-tighe.

By reason of inescapable duties in Glasgow, we missed the Official Opening and made our entry into Perth at 8.45 a.m. on the Tuesday morning, congratulating myself that we were in nice time to get to the Kirkhouse to begin our task of adjudicating junior orals at 9 a.m. But, alas, a young policeman who didn't know his city very well, put us on the wrong track and by the time we had trudged a mile or two we at last arrived, perspiring and full of apologies, to find a good audience of hopeful competitors and their equally hopeful relatives impatiently awaiting our arrival half-an-hour late. We soon got underway, however.

Notable today were the successes that went to Lewis and to Skye, via Glasgow. The Nicolson Institute Choir carried off four trophies and some of their soloists did well. The Silver Medals went to Glasgow Sgìthanachs—both Macleans. Dail-an-toibair Choir also shone, but all the choirs acquitted themselves well. We wonder whether the Action Song competition doesn't need more precise definition. The two Lewis choirs put on magnificent, colourful, and charming performances, and the Carradale Choir also did their piece excellently, but how can adjudicators compare like with like when they have before them two entirely different types of performance in the one competition? Our "big hand" for the day goes to the gallant little choir from Lochinver—eight small girls and one small boy. Theirs was the longest journey and the most tedious and difficult, and, if they did not take trophies home, at least they won the admiration of all. If places nearer hand showed such enthusiasm as Mr. Ross's, we should have to give a whole week to the Junior Mod alone!

The Junior Concert in the evening, over which the Lord Provost presided, was voted the best we've had for a long time.

This evening, too, the Literary and Art awards were announced. Congratulations to Mrs. Johar Macleod for her many successes. Congratulations too, to the Bard. Mrs. Macleod, Mr. Lamont, and Mrs. Kate Douglas gave Skye special prominence in the prize lists.

Wednesday, "20,000 sheep invaded the city of song," according to one of our great popular daily papers. We presume this was not meant to refer to the

dult competitors who this day appeared in their cores. We saw no sheep and heard no bleating, but we did hear a lot of very good singing and a lot more of quite so good. We may be all wrong, but we have a feeling that our Gaelic solo-singing is not quite what it was a few years ago—on the average. By evening we knew who the "finalists" for the coveted Gold Medals were. Seven of the eight had been in the lists before, some more than once, but there was one newcomer, Malcolm Cameron, Aberdeen, and remembering what James Smith did at his very first Mod in 1951, we wondered whether a "first-timer" mightn't pull it off again.

Joan Mackenzie distinguished herself today by winning the Scotia Trophy for the second successive year, for folk-singing in which she has at present few equals.

In the afternoon we visited the Arts and Crafts Exhibition, so well organised by Mrs. Edgar and her Committee, in the Guildhall. There we saw many interesting and beautiful things, especially the silk pulpit fall, beautifully embroidered, with which Mr. Thomas Shennan, Paisley, won first prize, and the beautifully carved set of wooden netting needles made by Mr. John Byars, Newburgh. The spinners, Mrs. Isobel Fotheringham, a Skyewoman from Aberlethy, and Mrs. Mary Ann Ferguson, a St. Kildan from Kincardine-on-Forth, demonstrated their fine skill, handed on from many generations, and were a popular "draw."

In the evening the Lord Provost and Magistrates gave a Reception, and the many guests were well entertained by an excellent programme of Scots songs and Country Dancing arranged by Mr. Ian McLeish. This evening, too, a ceilidh was broadcast from the West Church Hall.

Thursday morning, excitement rose to a high pitch as the Medal finalists went in for the final round. The Large City Hall was packed. We ourselves spent a pleasant forenoon listening to orals in a small room off the beaten track, and we had our reward. We heard some fine tales we hadn't heard before, and we heard Iain an Fheilidh's magnificent eulogy of Niall MacGille-sheathanaich, and we heard an entertaining and very original speech on "Na Fasanan Ura" by Mrs. Hutchison, who lives in Perth but belongs to South Uist. We managed to get in to the Large Hall in time to hear the last competitor and the adjudication in the Gold Medal Finals. Congratulations to Nan Hunter and Finlay MacKeachan, and may all the other finalists come again.

Any choir good enough to beat Lochgilphead must be a very good choir indeed, and Portree did it this year in the Lorn Shield competition, while Southend took the Macmaster Campbell Cuach. With Miss Sanchia Pielou we had a pleasant afternoon listening critically to the clarsach competitions. It would have been much pleasanter, had there been a lot more competitors. We were specially intrigued with the playing of the Rev. Victor MacEchern, who is a learner of two or three years' standing and put up a fine performance.

Thursday night's concert was presided over by Bailie Dr. Robert Ritchie and was a most enjoyable one. The guest artiste was Miss Aunice Gillies.

On Friday—"Big Choir Day"—we missed Campbelltown very much, but the "G.G." set so high a standard that the other choirs had to let them carry off no less than three trophies—the Lovat and Tullibardine Trophy, Mull and Iona Shield, and Greenock Gaelic Choir Cup. London Choir came second to Stornoway in highest marks for Gaelic for the *Weekly Scotsman* Cuach. The Margrat Duncan Trophy went to the Uist and Barra Association Choir, and the Esme

Smyth Trophy to Greenock Gaelic Choir. We liked Mr. Cedric Thorpe Davie's arrangement of "Màiri Mhin Mheall-shuileach" much, much better than we did the arrangement of "Mo Nighean Donn Bhòidheach" at last year's Mod. "Cumha Iain Ghairbh" needs no praise from anyone; the melody itself has a haunting beauty with the sea and heart-ache in it.

It is a great pity that instrumental music—piano and violin, as well as clarsach—does not attract more competitors. Probably the reason is that in many places still musical instruments are very hard to come by, and instructors and tutors still rarer.

The two Grand Concerts on Friday evening attracted packed houses. The first was chaired by Colonel A. Gomme-Duncan, M.P., and the second by Sir Compton Mackenzie. As our more energetic friends went to the Grand Ball, we ourselves went gladly to bed, greatly tempted though we were to stay and share in Dr. Donald Macdonald of Gisle's ceilidh.

Not an outstanding Mod, but a pleasant and friendly one. Unfortunately, Perth could not provide all the accommodation necessary, and there were those who were billeted as far away as Coupar Angus, Auchterarder, and Crieff. Again, thanks to the Local Committee, not only for the magnificent Mod Fund which they raised (some £2,300) but also for the arrangements made. Their Convener, Mr. Roderick Mackinnon, Chief of Perth Gaelic Society, gave an interesting broadcast talk on the Tuesday night, telling of Perthshire's place in the history of Gaelic and of the work done in preparation for this Mod.

A special word of thanks to our Secretary, Mr. Malcolm Macleod, and his able lieutenant, Mr. D. J. Maclean. Mr. Shaw must have felt proud to see how smoothly things went in the hands of the new staff. Thanks, too, to Miss Young and to the Assistants for whom Mod Week is a strenuous time without "footlights."

The Importance of Gaelic

ON Thursday of Mod Week Mr. J. M. Bannerman, President of An Comunn, addressed Perth Rotary Club, Sir Robert Nimmo presiding.

Mr. Bannerman outlined the history of An Comunn Gaidhealach. Today, he said, their objects were unchanged from the time An Comunn was founded in 1891. These were and are to preserve the Gaelic language and promote interest in our Highland heritage in its various aspects.

There was a danger sixty years ago that these things would be lost to Scotland, because at that time the Highlands were in a poor way and the people were leaving to go south and abroad. Many were ashamed that they were not fluent in English, and they tried to hide the fact that they were Highlanders with a language of their own.

The founders of An Comunn felt it was necessary to instil a proper pride into them, and to make them realise that they had a heritage worth holding on to.

An Comunn had made considerable progress and was now finding sympathy and support everywhere. Nowadays people do not say, as they did fifty years ago, "Forget about the Gaelic! You're only a remnant, anyway. Die off!" In fact, many non-Gaelic-speaking Scots give more help than Gaelic-speaking Scots. The Lowlanders now appreciate the traditions of the Gaels.

If people learn Gaelic, they will not only arm themselves with a second language, but will discover in it the key to their own native tradition, their heritage from the past, and so enrich their lives.

Annual General Meeting

THE Annual General Meeting of An Comunn Gaidhealachd was held in the Lesser City Hall, Perth, on 9th October, 1954, Mr. J. M. Bannerman presiding.

The President thanked all who had shared in making this "a good Mod"—the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and people of Perth; the officials and members of the Local Committee, especially Mr. Roderick Mackinnon (Convener), Mr. Douglas (Secretary), and Mr. Sutherland (Treasurer); and the press representatives. Mr. Mackinnon briefly replied on behalf of the Local Committee.

The Secretary then announced the result of the voting for the election of Office-bearers and Council. For the office of President, the voting was: for Mr. Neil Shaw, 680 votes; for Mr. Farquhar Macrae, 519 votes. Mr. Shaw was accordingly declared elected. Mr. Donald Thomson was elected a Vice-President, and the following ten persons were elected to the Council without a contest: Mr. J. M. Bannerman, Mrs. M. Barron, Miss Lucy Cameron, Mrs. M. C. Edgar, Rev. John Macdonald, Rev. A. C. MacGillivray, Captain Wm. Mackay, Mr. Angus Macleod, Mr. John A. Macrae, and Mr. Ian M. Millar.

In calling on Mr. Shaw to take the Chair, Mr. Bannerman said—what all of us must have deeply felt—that the members had been faced with a most difficult task in being called upon to choose between two excellent men, Mr. Macrae and Mr. Shaw, both of whom had served An Comunn so long and so well.

On taking the Chair, Mr. Shaw said: "Tha mise a' seasamh an seo ann an àite anns nach robh dùil agam a bhith cho fad 's a bu bheò mi, agus tha mi an comain nan ball air son an t-urram seo a chur orm. Chan 'eil meas no urram as àirde a chuireas muinntir a' Chomuinn air neach na a thaghadh mar Cheann-suidhe. Tha mi a' guidhe gum bi mi air mo threòrachadh air an t-slighe cheart a chum maith na Gàidhlig." Mr. Shaw referred to his long connection with An Comunn, beginning with the Rothsay Branch in 1906, and said he hoped to be able to do a great deal of work for An Comunn during the year that lay ahead, and appealed for the help of all members. He paid tribute to the outstanding work done by Mr. Bannerman during his five years as President.

The three Vice-Presidents, Rev. T. M. Murchison, Mr. Lachlan Mackinnon, and Mr. Donald Thomson, paid tribute to Mr. and Mrs. Bannerman, and Mr. Bannerman briefly replied.

A press representative also paid tribute to Mr. Bannerman for his kindness to the press. Messrs. Shaw and Bannerman expressed appreciation of the work of the Secretary, the Northern Organiser, and the office staff, and Mr. Shaw referred appreciatively to the work done by Mr. Farquhar Macrae, Convener of the Mod and Music Committee. Mr. Kenneth Macdonald said that without Mrs. Bannerman in the past five years there would have been no Comunn. He also paid tribute to the work of Miss Young, Treasurer.

The reports and accounts for the year 1953-54 were submitted and approved, and the auditors were re-appointed.

The question of the place and date of the 1956 National Mod was remitted to the Executive Council, since no invitations had been received.

Rev. T. M. Murchison and Mr. Donald Thomson were given permission to withdraw the amendments to the Constitution standing in their names and relating to the regulations for membership of An Comunn.

Mr. Kenneth Macdonald was permitted to withdraw his proposed amendment of Rule 14:—"The subscriptions of Ordinary Members shall be five

shillings per annum, and of Junior Members shall be one shilling per annum, and shall be payable in advance on the 1st day of May in each year. The name of any Ordinary or Junior Member who is twelve months in arrears with his subscription may be struck off the roll."

Mr. Donald Thomson's motion that "The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held at a convenient place and time fixed by the Executive Council," was defeated on a vote.

Rev. T. M. Murchison's motion to delete Rule 28 and substitute the following was approved: "The President shall be *ex officio* a member of all Standing Committees. Each Committee shall consist of twelve members in addition to the President."

Miss C. B. Cameron was given permission to withdraw her motion, which was to the same effect as the foregoing.

Mr. Kenneth Macdonald, Convener of the Finance Committee, submitted a report of a joint-meeting of the Finance and Propaganda Committees in pursuance of a remit from the Executive Council with reference to uniformity of membership and rate of membership. The report was in the following terms: (1) There should be uniformity of membership in An Comunn Gaidhealach at a uniform membership fee of 2/6 per annum. (2) Branches of An Comunn can be set up only by members of An Comunn. (3) No one can be a member of a Branch without being a member of An Comunn. (4) Branches may charge any fee they consider necessary for the conducting of their own local affairs.

In the course of discussion on this report Mrs. Bannerman pointed out that in the past year or two there had been an increasing trend for members of branches to become members of the Central Association also, and during the present Mod Week 191 new members had been enrolled.

It was agreed to remit the report to the Executive Council for consideration.

Mr. Donald Grant criticised certain features of the printed programme for the Perth Mod and asked that more information be provided under certain heads. It was explained that the excisions had been made in the interests of economy but the matter would be reconsidered.

Speakers expressed dissatisfaction with the choice of songs for junior choirs, and complained that boys were asked to sing a lullaby, that published Mod music was unsatisfactorily printed, and that Mod music was issued too late. Mrs. Mackintosh, Carradale, pleaded for more encouragement for choirs from the less populous areas where there were fewer children from which to select a choir. She also urged the importance of publishing a book of action songs suitable for Mod purposes.

This concluded the business.

Executive Council

The Preliminary Meeting of the Executive Council was held immediately after the Annual General Meeting, Mr. Neil Shaw, President, presiding.

The Standing Committees were re-constituted, with the following Conveners: Mr. Donald Thomson (Education), Mr. Lachlan Mackinnon (Publication), Rev. John Mackay (Propaganda), Mrs. M. C. Edgar (Art and Industry), Mr. J. M. Bannerman (Mod and Music), Mgr. Domhnull MacPhail (Clann and Fraoch), Mr. Lachlan Mackinnon (Comunn na h-Oigridh).



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar VI

AN T-SAMHUIN, 1954

Aireamh 11

Cleasan Is Cleachdannan A Bha Ann

Is mór an t-atharrachadh a thàinig air an t-saoghal, agus gu seachd sònraichte air a' Ghaidhealtachd, bho linn ar seannar. Dh' fhalbh na taighean dubha; thàinig na taighean geala. Dh' fhalbh an crùisgean; thàinig solus an dealain. Carbadan-ola is itealain, tractoran is an ràdio, biadh Gallda is aodach Gallda, agus Beurla an àite na Gàidhliche. Tha mòran de na dòighean is innealan ùra a chum maith sluaigh, ach is math cuimhne a chumail air na dh' fhalbh, agus is còir greim daingean a dheanamh air na seann nithean anns a bheil buannachd is beannachd fhathast, eadhon anns an t-saoghal ùr a tha a' fosgladh romhainn.

Anns na leanas tha iomradh air nithean is dòighean is cleachdannan a bha ann. Chan e a mhàin gu bheil iad gu mór air dol á cleachdadh, ach tha iad gu ìre mhór air dol á cuimhne. Ma tha nithean air an ainmeachadh an seo a tha ùr dhuibh, ceasnaichibh cuid-eigin as sine na sibh féin, feuch an innis iad dhuibh dad m' an deighinn.

I. Crom-an-Fhàsaich (Seann Lùth-chleas)

(Sgrìobhadh na leanas an 1907 le fear, Dòmhnall Peutan, thall am Fearann na Ban-rìgh an Astràlia. Dh' fhàg e Muile mu'n bhliadhna 1850.)

CHRUINNICHEAMAIÐ air raon no ann an taigh. Shuidheamaid an uchd a chèile, am fear a bu mhò agus a bu chomasaiche 'na cheann, agus càch uile 'nan sreath 'na uchd.

A steach thigeadh Crom-an-fhàsaich, "Dìdeaga, Dìdeaga, Dì an Seo."

An Ceann-suidhe—"Fàilte ort fhéin, a Chrom-an-fhàsaich, cia as an diugh a thàinig thu?"

Crom-an-fhàsaich—"A m'fhonn, á m'fhearann, 's á m'fhàsasch féin."

An Ceann-suidhe—"Dé a chuir fonn is fearann is fàsach agadsa, agus mise gun fhonn, gun fhearann, gun fàsach idir?"

Crom-an-fhàsaich—"Mo chruas, mo luaths, 's mo làidreachd fhéin. Feuch a bheil aon ghearran bàn bacach agadsa a dh'fheuchas mi?"

Iarraidh an sin an Ceann-suidhe air an fhear as fhaisge do'n Chrom éirigh. Nì e sin, agus tòisichidh a' ghleac, gach fear mar a chòisnichear e a' suidhe an leth-taobh. Ma bheir aon air bith buaidh air Crom-an-fhàsaich, thig esan gu bhith 'na Chrom-an-fhàsaich an déidh sin, agus mar sin sìos gu crìch na cluiche.

Sìod mar a dh'ionnsaicheamaid gleac 'nar balaich o chionn trì fichead bliadhna. A bheil e air a chleachdadh a nis anns an àm seo anns a' Ghaidhealtachd, no a bheil e air fhuadach mar a tha sinne ann an dùthchannan cian na talmhainn?

II.—An Là A Dh'fhàg Dòmhnall Dearabhaig

(Dh'fhàg Dòmhnall Peutan Dearabhaig am Muile mu'n bhliadhna 1850, agus e 'na àhuine òg a' togail air gu Astràlia air cheann an shortain.)

AN là a dh'fhàg Dòmhnall Dearabhaig, b'e sin an là—mu dhà fhichead pearsa, eadar bheag is mhór, a' triall gu cladach, agus Gilleasbuig MacPheadrais air an ceann, leis a' phìob a' seinn, "Mo chùl, mo chùl, mo chùl ri Muile." Mun d'ràinig e ceann a' bhaile b'fheadar dha a' phìob a phasgadh.

B'e sin an sealladh! Cha robh fear ri bean no pàisde anns a' bhaile nach robh a' sìleadh nan deur gu frasach, a' fàgail beannachd aig gach aon a bha a' triall.

A thaobh seann chleachdainnean agus chleasan a bha cumanta ri linn Dhòmhnail an Dearabhaig, shearg is chrìon iad. Air an là an diugh chan 'eil cliabh mòna no srathair no sumag no corain-shachdaich ri fhaicinn anns an sgìreachd. Chan 'eil snìomhadh no càrdadh. Chan fhaicear brat no plaide air leabaidh. Na h-uile snàthain aodaich Gallda. Chan 'eil figheadair no tàillear anns an àite. Chan 'eil caman ri fhaicinn aig Nollaig no aig Càisg.

AN GAIDHEAL OG

Chan 'eil àtha no muileann; an còrr nach do shearg, chaidh am fuadach. Chan 'eil a h-aon de na seann eich Mhuileach, sean no òg, anns an dùthaich. Tha pòr ùr de gach nì againn a nis. Caoraich an àite nan daoine anns a' Chill-mhóir, ann an Atha-an-tuim, anns a' Choir-eachan, agus an Druim-na-croise. Chan 'eil gearradh feamann 'ga dheadhann. Chan 'eil bàta an Dearbhaig an diugh ach a h-aon.

Nach b' e an dà là e seach na làithean o chian! Chan 'eil ach Beurla shìos is shuas, air a measgadh le Fraingeis. Chan 'eil cuinneag, cuach, measair, meadar, no nogainn ri fhaicinn ann an taigh an diùgh. Chan fhaicear coran air an achadh-bhuana; gach dias air a ghearradh le speal. Chan 'eil fraoch sìomain a' dol na's mò. Chan 'eil tughadh chonnlach air taigh an Dearbhaig an diugh. Seo cor an àite.

III—Air an Airigh

(Sgrìobhadh seo an 1909).

Tha e 'na chleachdadh o chionn fhada air feadh Leòdhais gu léir a bhith a' teicheadh leis an spréidh gu àite taghta air a' mhòinteach, agus a' fuireach an sin ag ionaltradh na spréidh ré mios no sia seachdainean de'n t-samhradh.

Is ann air cnoc beag ri taobh lochain mu thrì mìle seachad air Loch-àirigh-na-lìc, a tha cuid de àirighean a' bhaile againn fhéin, agus gu dearb is e àite bòidheach a tha ann aig an àm seo de'n bhliadhna.

Tha am bothan ris an can sinn an àirigh air a thogail de chip glasaich agus de chlachan (ma bhios iad r'am faotainn), agus mullach air a chur air de sgrathan. Tha dà dhorus air an àirigh, ach cha bhì fosgailte ach am fear a bhios air cùl na gaoithe.

Tha a' chaileach—an t-àite laighe—air a deanamh de fheur is de luachair air an sgaoil-eadh air sgrathan; agus tha àit anns a' bhalla air son a bhith a' cumail na biota agus soithichean eile.

Bhithinn ag éirigh a h-uile madainn mu shìa uairean air son an crodh a ghluasad o'n àirigh gum am biodh tìde am bleoghann. Cha do dhearc mi air sealladh a riamh a b' àillidhe na bha romham an uair sin agus an dealt fhathast air gach feòran.

Bha an cnoc air a chòmhdach gu trom le

fraoch dorcha purpur. Bha glasach réidh ri cois an locha, agus ditheanan de gach seòrsa am measg an fheòir, agus uisgeachan an locha a' dealradh mar ghloinne anns a' ghréin shamhraidh—iad sin uile a' cuideachadh le àilleachd an àite.

Cha robh mi fad air m' adhart an uair a chuir guth na circe-fraoich no na naoisg fáilte orm, agus iad ag éirigh romhan o an neadan anns an fhraoch. Cha robh feannag ghorm air an tìgnn nach biodh coineanaich gheal-earballach a' ruith romham agus 'gam falach féin am measg an fhraoich. Chaidh agam gu tric air an lean-tainn gu an tuill, agus uair no dhà, air dhomh mo ghàirdean a chur a steach, fhuaire mi nead le leth-dusan de fheadhainn bheaga a bha dubh, gun an sùilean fhosgadh.

A' tighinn dhachaigh chun na h-àirigh is e an còmhnaidh an rathad a tha ri cois an locha a bha mi a' gabhail. Bha am fear ann an seo gu fada réidh, agus ditheanan fiadhaich de gach seòrsa a' fàs 'na mheasg, agus mar seo bha e anabarrach breagha, cuartichte mar a bha e le fraoch trom dearg. Air sealltainn dhomh a mach air an loch chunnaic mi faoil-eagan agus tunnagan fiadhaich agus learg no dhà, agus thòisich mi ri smaoineachadh càit am biodh na neadan aca. Bha gob caol a' dol a mach fada do'n uisge, agus smaoinich mi gur math dh' fhaoidte gum faighinn neadan ann.

Air dhomh a ruighinn thòisich mi ri sealltainn am measg an fheòir, agus chaidh agam nu d'heireadh beagan uibhean tunnaig agus a dhà no trì uibhean faoilig fhaighinn. Cha d' fhuair mi aon ubh leirg, agus fhuaire mi a mach gu robh iad a' neadachadh ann an eilean beag am meadhan an locha.

Bha mi mar an ceudna a' gabhail tlachd mhóir ann a bhith ag iasgach bhreac le slait is le lion, oir bha iad glé phailt anns an loch ged nach robh iad ro-mhór.

Cha do chaith mi mìos a riamh na bu thoilichte na a' mhìos seo air an airigh. Cha robh taobh a shealltainn nach robh rud-eigin a thogadh smaintean àrda annam. Bha uaigneas agus aonaranachd an àite, bha fáilleadh cùbhraidh a bha a' tighinn o'n fhraoch, agus a bhith a' faicinn nan laogh òga 'gan cluich fhéin, gu léir a' dùsgadh smaointean diomhair agus aoihbheach annam.

An Griasaiche Agus Na Sidhichean

(Sgeul le Grimm air ùr-aithris le T.M.M.)

ANN an àit àraidh, uair de'n t-saoghal, bha a' fuireach griasaiche, duine ion-raic, a bhiodh daonnag ag obair gu cruaidh. Ach, a dh'aindeoin mar a dh' oibrichheadh e, cha b' urrainn dha de airgead a chosnadh na chumadh beò e. Mu dheireadh,

cha robh aige anns an t-saoghal ach pìos leathair a dheadh aon phaidhir bhòg.

Ghearr e an leathair agus e an rùn éirigh tràth anns a' mhadaoin agus tòiseachadh air a' phaidhir bhòg. Bha a chogais gun smal agus a chridhe aotrom a dh'aindeoin a dhraghannan,

AN GAIDHEAL OG

agus chaidh e a laighe agus chaidil e gu ciùnn.

Dh'èirich e glé thràth anns a' mhadainn, bheannaich e an là, agus dh'ith e greim bidh, agus an sin chaidh e a steach do'n t-seòmair-oibreach a chum is gun tòisich ead e air deanamh a' phaidhir-bhròg, an aon phaidhir-bhròg mu dheireadh a rachadh aige air a dheanamh a chionn is nach robh tuilleadh leathair aige agus nach robh airgead aige a cheannaicheadh an còrr.

Ach, feuch ort, nach ann a bha na brògan cheana deante m'a choinneamh air a' bhòrd-oibreach! Cha robh fhios aig an duine chòir gu dé a theireadh e no gu dé a dheanadh e. Cha robh facal aige. Thug e sùil gu gear cùramach air na brògan agus cha robh coire r'a fhàtainn d'an taobh. Bha gach greim is snaim is ceangal cho ceart dòigheil is a dheanadh e féin iad.

An là sin féin có a thàinig a stach ach duin-uasal, agus e a' sireadh paidhir bhròg. Dh'fheuch e na brògan ùra air agus bha iad cho freagrach dha agus cho snasail cumadail air an deanamh agus gun tug e do'n ghriasaiche air an son prìs mòran na b' àirde na b' àbhaist dha fhàtainn air paidhir bhròg. Leis an airgead a fhuair e cheannaich an griasaiche tuilleadh leathair a chum is gun deanadh e dà phaidhir eile.

Anns an fheasgar gheàrr e an leathar agus éiridh e mu thàmh caran tràth a chum is gun éiridh e gu moch agus gun tòisich ead e air na brògan a dheanamh. Ach, an uair a dh'èirich e anns a' mhadainn, nach ann a bha na brògan deante roimhe! Cha b'fhada gus an tàinig luchd-ceannachd a steach agus fhuair e an deagh phris air na brògan, agus cheannaich e tuilleadh leathair a chum is gun deanadh e ceithir paidhrichean eile. Gheàrr e an leathar feasgar agus anns a' mhadainn bha na ceithir paidhrichean bhròg deante roimhe.

Lean gnothaichean mar seo air son greis. An leathar a ghearradh is a dh'ullaicheadh esan air an oidhche, bha e uile deante anns a' mhadainn, air a dheanamh suas 'na bhrògan snasail comhfhurtail.

Shoirbhich an griasaiche agus dh'fhàs e saoi bhir.

Aon fheasgar, mu àm na Nollaige, agus e féin agus a bhean 'nan suidhe gu socair ri taobh an teine agus iad a' seanchas, thubhairt e rithe, "Tha mi a' smaoinichadh gum fan sinn an nochd 'nar caithris ach am faic sinn có idir a tha air feadh na h-oidhche a' deanamh nam bròg dhomh." Chòrd seo ris a' mhnaoi. Mar sin chuir iad solus crùisgein ann an oisean an t-seòmair agus chaidh iad fhéin am falach air cùlaibh cùrtein ann an oisean eile, agus dh'fhan iad sàmhach feuch ciod a thachradh.

Cho luath is a bhuaill an clag dà phong dheug a' mheadhoin-oidhche, có a thàinig a steach

do'n t-seòmair ach dithis dhaoine beaga ruisgte. Shuidh iad aig a' bhòrd-oibreach, rug iad air an leathar, agus shìn iad air obair cho luath is cho cruaidh is a bha aca, na meuran beaga aca a' fuaigheal is a' ceangal is a bualadh nan tàirghean cho luath ri gille-mìreìn. Agus bha an griasaiche agus a bhean 'gan amharc le iongnadh, agus an sùilean a' seasamh 'nan ceann!

Chùm na daoine beaga orra gus an robh an obair deante, agus chuir iad na brògan a rinn iad air a' bhòrd, agus an sin theich iad a mach cho luath ris an dealanach fhéin, agus cha robh sgeul orra. Bha seo greis mhath roimh theachd an latha.

An ath là thubhairt a bhean ris a' ghriasaiche, "Tha na bodaich bheaga an déidh sinne a dheanamh beairteach. Saoil nach bu chòir dhuinn ar buidheachas a nochdadh dhaibh air dhòigh air chor-eigin? Is duilich leam am faicinn a' dol mun cuairt cho ruisgte ri sìod, agus an tide cho fuar. Tha mi a' smaoinichadh air léine is còta is peitean is paidhir bhriogais am fear a dheanamh dhaibh, agus faodaidh tusa paidhir bhròg a dheanamh dhaibh cuideachd."

Chòrd an rùn seo gu maith ris a' ghriasaiche, agus aon fheasgar, an uair a bha a h-uile càil ullamh is deiseil aca, chuir iad air a' bhòrd oibreach, an àit an leathair a b' àbhaist dhaibh a chur air, an t-aodach agus na brògan beaga, agus chaidh iad am falach air cùl a' chùrtein.

Aig meadhon-oidhche nochd na daoine beaga, a' danna is a' gearradh shùrdag. Chuir iad cuairt air an t-seòmair agus an sin chaidh iad a shuidhe is a dh'obair aig a' bhòrd, ach gu dé a bha romhpa an sin ach an t-aodach agus na brògan beaga a rinneadh dhaibh, agus an uair a chunnaic iad seo chan 'eil fhios gu dé cho toilichte is a bha iad. Rinn iad gàire, is rinn iad othail, is rinn iad toileachadh mòr mòr.

An uair sin ann am prìobadh na sùla chuir iad umpa an t-aodach agus chuir iad orra na brògan beaga, is dhanns is leum iad le cridhealas, gus mu dheireadh an do dhanns iad a mach air an doras.

Chan fhaca an griasaiche agus a bhean tuilleadh iad, ach riamh as déidh sin shoirbhich gach ni gu maith leo cho fad is a bu bheò iad.

Bidh làmh an dicheallaich beartach, ach thig làmh an leisgein gu bochdainn.

* * * *

Cuir a' mhuc do'n t-seòmair; is ann anns an òtrach a gheibhear i.

* * * *

Na brògan as fhèrr aig an fhear as muiche a dh'èireas.

Leughaibh Seo

Chaidh na ceithir taobhan-duilleig seo, "An Gaidheal Og," a chur air leth gach mìos a chum is gum biodh cothrom aig an òigridh Ghàidhlig, agus gu sònraichte buill Comunn na h-Oigridh, air an cuid sgrìobhaidh féin fhaicinn an clò. Cuiribh chugainn sgeulachdan, naidheachdan, tòimhseachain, rannan, rud annasach sam bith, no innsibh dhuinn ciod na nithean is na cuspair-ean a bu mhath leibh fhaicinn anns na duilleagan seo. Mur faigh sinn cobhair ann an lìonadh nan duilleag seo, feumaidh sinn "An Gaidheal Og" a stad. Siuthadaibh: bithibh tapaidh!

Dh'fheòraich i de'n chèò, "Ma chailleas mi thu, càit am faigh mi thu?" Air mullach nan beann," arsa an ceò.

Dh'fheòraich i de'n ghaioith, "Ma chailleas mi thu, càit am faigh mi thu?" "Air mullach nan càrn," arsa a' ghaioith.

Dh'fheòraich i de'n chliù, "Ma chailleas mi thu, càit am faigh mi thu?" "Caill mise aon uair," arsa an cliù, "agus chan fhaigh thu gu bràth tuilleadh mi!"

Eachdraidh Mu'n "Bhounty"

(AIR A LEANTAINN)

Chaidh a eanchainn-san an ùine ghoirid troimh a chéile agus ann an teum cutaich thilg e e féin thar creige agus chaidh as da. Lean Quintal air an òl, agus leis an òl mar as dual thàinig gach droch-bheairt 'na cheann. Bha e a' feuchainn ris an dithis eile a spùinneadh agus uair no dhà thug e làmh air am beatha. An uair a chunnaic iad seo rug iad air agus chuir iad as dhàsan mar an ceudna.

Cha robh a nis ach an dithis a làthair. Dh'fhan iadsan stuama, agus uidh iad n-uidh thàinig iad gu smaoinreachd air an gnàthachadh, air Dia agus air slorruidheachd. Chaidh Adams a thogail an Sgoil-Shàbaid ann an làithean a òige; agus fada mar a bha na teagasgan a fhuair e air an dì-chuimhneachadh agus air an saltairt fodha, dh'èirich iad a nis eadhon mar as an uaigh agus gach aon dhiubh 'ga ghairm gu aithreachas agus gu pilltinn ri Dia. Bha Bìobull aige mar an ceudna ris an de lean e troimh gach allaban agus gach amdaeachd troimh an deachaidh e, agus a nis dh'fhosgail e a dhuilleagan naomha agus gràsbor. Leugh e mu thròcair Dhé ann an Crìosd, agus rinn e ùrnuigh dhùrachdach air na thròcair sin. Lean Young an deagh eisimpleir, agus an ùine ghoirid fhuair iad le chéile soilleireachadh agus stiùradh uaithe-san 'aig nach 'eil tlachd ann

am bàs an aingidh' agus a tha "ri fhaotainn leòsan a ghairmeas air ann am firinn."

Chaochail Young beagan 'na dhéidh seo, agus bha Adams 'na ònrachd air a chaomhnadh de a chompanaich uile. Ach cha robh e neo-mbothachail air a' ghràs iongantach a chaidh a nochdadh dha. Thòisich e gun dàil air teagasg a chloinne féin agus na cloinne a dh'fhàg càch, agus, ged nach robh e fòglumta, bha e dùrachdach, agus bha mòr-bhuaidh leis. Bha e gach Sàbaid a' cruinneachadh na cloinne ann an aon àite, a' cur an cèill dhaibh meud nan nithean a rinn Dia air a shon-san, a' teagasg dhaibh eòlas an Tighearna agus 'gan cuireadh gu Crìosd.

Thàinig atharrachadh mòr orra gu léir fo chomhairleachadh an duine seo, agus anns a' bhliadhna 1825 bha mu cheithir fichead fo a stiùradh de shliochd nan seòladairan, agus bha iad uile tuigsach, teòma air gach obair a bha feumail 'nan cor—uile le taighean glana, seasgair, òrdughail—uile stuama, riaghailteach 'nan gnàthachadh, càirdeil, coibhneil ri chéile, agus a réir gach coslais 'nam fìor Chrìosdaidhean a' gleidheil aoradh an Tighearna moch is anamoch agus anns gach nì a' cur maise air teagasg Crìosd.

Chaochail Adams anns a' bhliadhna 1829, aig aois còig is trì fichead. Anns a' bhliadhna 1830 chuir Rìgh Bhreatainn soitheach g'an coimhead le adach, le àsainn tuathanachais, agus mòran ghoireas eile air an son.

Beathaichean Ceithir-Chasach

"Caoraich is buar 's gach ainmhidh fòs
tha 'g imeachd air an t-sliabh."

(Salm 8).

Air a' mhìos seo chaidh dh'iarr sinn air an òigridh iad a chur chugainn ainmean nan eun a b'aithne dhaibh 'nan coimhearsnachd féin. Tha sinn am feum seo a sgrìobhadh mun urrainn dhaibh an ceud shanas a fhreagair, ach tha sinn an làn dòchas gun ruig mòran litrichean sinn roimh an ám shònraichte.

Mar a gheall sinn, tha sinn a' tairgse leth-bhreac eile de "Bhàird a' Chomuinn," ach an uair seo air son ainmean nan creutairean ceithir-chasach as aithne dhuibh aig baile, am monadh, agus anns a' chladach. Cuiridh sinn an leabhar chun an aoin a chuireas chugainn an àireamh as mò de ainmean, ach feumaidh iad a bhith nàistinneach do'n dùthaich.

Bithibh tapaidh a nis, agus biodh bhur litrichean, air an seòladh mar a dh'ìarradh roimhe, ann an làman an Fhìr-dheasachaidh roimh an là mu dheireadh de'n mhìos seo.

NIALL.

Domhnall Chaluum, 1870-1953

(CLUER, NA HEARADH)

A Mhór, cà bheil am bàt' bha aig Dòmhnall Chaluum,
An Dòmhnall Chaluum ud bha stòlda, grinn,
's tapaidd?
Nach toirear tuair'sgeul oirre mu'n cuairt na h-Aird' Móir?
An d'fhalbh i as ar sealladh mar théid fras thar aodainn Sgalpaidd?
Cà bheil na laoi ch bha innte, gun mhaoimeadh, sgairt, no sgaomean?
'Ga saodachadh 's a' ghaoir-ghaoith' le taod-sgòid gladhach?

A toiseach air an fhairge is i a' fàgail Stoc'nis, B'e Dòmhnall bha 'ga gléidheadh gu gramail dhe sgeir an locha,
'Ga brosnachadh gus a' chuan le ciùneas ealamh làimhe,
A sròn a' gearradh astair gun bhacadh troimh na tonnán,
Mu bheil dubh na h-oidhche air Taigh-soluis na h-Eiste,
'S i a' leum 's a' dannsadh réidh, 's a' cur an céill a treisead.

* * * * *

Is cuimhn' leinn bhith làthair 's a' gheamhradh air mhadaoinn,
Rìghinn reodhadh air an làthach, 's na h-eòin gu fuar, lag, acrach,
Ach gun diblidheachd, gu sodanach bha ealta spògach chòrr
'Gan cruinneachadh 'nan tosd le sult ri h-oir na mara,
Toic lìngeineach nan tonn iadhadh mu an casan stobach,
Gu foisneach, foighd'neach, sìor-choimhead gu ciallach, socrach.

"Cà bheil na daoine uile dol?" ghlaoidh Mór ag Bhàn ri h-athair,
A' paisgeadh ceirsle shnàth 'na làimh, is Dòmhnall air an stairsnich,
"Tha Calum Dhòmhnall 'ic Ruairidh ann, am Bàrd, Iain Beag, 's Iain Mór."
"Tha othail an diugh dá-rìreadh ann," 'na chabhaig ars' Dòmhnall Chaluum.
"Dol an toiseach gu Grosebhaigh a chàradh ciste Sheònaig,
Is a toirt air bòrd leinn i, gu h-adhlacadh an cladh Ròghdail."

Bha ciste Sheònaig 'na sìneadh air lion sgadain gu h-ìosal,
Litreachan gearrte air a' chlàr, "Tillidh air ais an Spiorad;"

Bha mìn-bhriseadh na fairge ann is bogha-frois troimh an t-sàl,
Bidein na Hearadh 's an iar, 's an ear dubh-ghorm creagan Sgìthe,
'Na òig-mhnaoi chunnaic Seònaig iad, is Niall Mór aice nuadh-pòsda,
Falt donn is bathais lònneil oirre, is fonn ag éirigh uaithe gu ceòlmhor.

* * * * *

Air an latha an diugh aig Cluer chan 'eil inbhrach Dhòmhnall ri fhaicinn,
Dh'fhalbh i rathad a' Chaoil 'mun do chaochail a maighistear;
Chan fhaicear tuilleadh iad—a Shaoghail, is diombuan ar sult!
Gidheadh de latha 's d'oidhche, ré fèath' is side gailbhich',
Bithidh cuimhne againn air Dòmhnall, bithidh a chliù againn mairsinn,
A dheagh mhic Chaluum Iain Chaluum 'ic Fhionnlaigh bha am Pabaiddh.

I. M. M-P

Ayr Branch

THIS Branch held a very pleasant and successful Ceilidh in Trinity Church Hall, Ayr, on 10th September. Mr. Alastair MacKechnie, President, was in the Chair. This special ceilidh was held to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Branch. Mr. Neil Shaw, who formed the Branch on 25th February, 1929, was present and gave a short address in Gaelic and English. He congratulated the members on completing twenty-five years of continuous service on behalf of An Comunn, and thanked them for their loyalty and support. He was pleased to see a number of the original members with them that evening, and mentioned particularly Mr. Colin Fergusson, who was the first Secretary of the Branch.

The President read the Minute of the first meeting and gave a short resume of the work achieved by the Branch during these years—Gaelic reading classes, singing classes, country dance classes, Senior Gaelic Choir (the lady members of which competed at the Oban Mod of 1934). The Junior Choir, under the conductorship of Mr. Donald MacIsaac, gained premier honours at the local Musical Festival and were going forward to compete at the Perth Mod.

A member of the Branch baked a Birthday Cake, and with its twenty-five candles burning brightly in the dimmed hall lights evoked much applause. Miss Jamieson, retiring Secretary, cut the cake and each of the hundred people present was served with a portion.

The programme was a varied one, with pipe music, Gaelic and Scottish songs, violin and accordion music, and dancing. This ceilidh augurs well for the future meetings of the Branch.

Annas A' Mhaileid

Facal air son "Television"

A MHC-CRIDHE,—Chan 'eil e ro-dhuilich Gàidhlig a chur air "Television." Car son nach gabh sinn facal leth Gheurgais is leth Ghàidhlig is nach abair sinn "televís" no "telefise"?

Ach ciod e an tairbhe an dealbh no an comh-chur fhacal is sinn gun mheadhon air an dean-amh aithnichte do ar luchd-Gàidhlig? A chionn sin tha gach urra a' gabhail a shlighe féin agus tha a' Bheurla dhiongmhalta mar thonn-bhàthte air a' Ghàidhlig.

Co-dhiubh a dh'fheumas a' Ghàidhlig iasad no nach fheum, feumaidh i ath-leasachadh air neo théid i aog. Tha nithean nodha, beachdan nodha, smaointean nodha a' seuldha oirnn gach latha, agus iad uile ainmichte an cànan air chor-eigin, an àireamh mhór an Beurla, agus ar leam gur i bhur ceist fhéin, "An còir dhuinn gabhail ris na nithean nodha sin fo'n ainm anns a bheil iad a' tighinn dhuinn, no an còir dhuinn ainmean Gàidhlig a dhealbhadh air an son, no, air an rud as lugha, an còir dhuinn na h-ainmean nodha, iasad no eile, a dhreachadh a reir taibse is riaghailtean na Gàidhlig?"

Ach co "sinne"? A thaobh na Gàidhlig, a bheil am facal "sinne" ceart mar dhealbhadh air na Gaidheil? A bheil e 'nar comas a bhith aonaichte agus aon-sgeulach mar a tha am facal sinn a' ciallachadh?

Ar leamsa nach 'eil an comas sin againn a chionn nach 'eil meadhan aontachaidh againn. Tha sinn mar arm ruaigte, di-mhìnsichte, gun umhail, gun smachd. Sin an fhirinn, agus chan 'eil tairbhe sam bith ann a bhith 'ga seachnadh. Cha téid againn air ath-leasachadh ar cànan as eugmhais smachd litreachais. Agus chan 'eil litreachas againn a nis. Tha mi cinnteach gu bheil sibhs, mar mise, a' leughadh nan leabhraichean Gàidhlig a tha a' srùladh a mach as na clòdhan Eireannach anns an "nua-Ghaeilge," no, ma thogras sibh, an Gàidhlig ath-leasaichte, Gàidhlig a tha comasach air gach nì, sean is nodha, a dhealbhadh. Thàtar, fo smachd litreachais, a' stéidheachadh caighdean (no "standard") air son Gàidhlig Eirinn, agus gu h-éifeachdach.

Is sin toradh teagasg na cloinne-sgoile tre mheadhon an cànan mhàthaireil. Agus cha bhì litreachas Gàidhlig, no smachd litreachais, an Albainn gu bràth mur bi a' chlann-sgoile air an teagasg mar an ceudna. Gabhaidh clann agus inbhich ris a' cheud chànan a gheibh buaidh air an intinn is air am meomhair, agus roghnaichidh agus taghaidh iad litreachas anns a' chànan sin; agus nì iad talach is bidh

seòrsa fuatha aca air litreachas sam bith eile, oir tha an cinne-daonna rud beag leisg, agus an uair a gheibh iad aon rud a nì am feum, tha iad suarach an rud eile de'n ionann gnè. Fògh-naidh an t-aon rud dhaibh.

An 1922 cha robh a leithid de rud ri Africaans ann. Bha dual-chainnt (*patois*) thuathanach, ris an abrar "de Taal" agus air nach robh mòran meas is nach robh sgriobhte, air a labhairt am measg nan tuathanach anns an dùthaich seo, mar a tha a' Ghàidhlig an Albainn a nis. Bha ar comh-luchd-dùthcha cìosnaichte agus gun mhìsneach an déidh call a' chogaidh, agus bha a' chlann-sgoile air an teagasg am Beurla is an Dùitse na h-Olainde. Ach am mór-thaghadh na Pàrlamaide an 1924, fhuair na Dùitsich làmh-an-uachdair, agus dh'éirich mìsneach ùr annta agus meas orra fhéin, agus thréig iad an t-ainm Dùitsich is dh'ainmich iad iad fhéin "Africaaner," agus dh'atharraich iad lagh an oideachais a chur "Africaans" an àite na Dùitse mar mheadhon teagasg anns na sgoilean; agus dh'áithn iad a' chlann uile a bhith air an teagasg tre an chànan mhàthaireil.

Chaidh iad uile gu fonnmhor a dh'ath-leasachadh an cànaire, gu h-àraidh a' chléir. Dh'eadar-theangaich iad am Biobull is chuir iad a mach faclair oifigeil a stéidheachadh caighdean na cànaire. Agus, an diugh, chan 'eil gnothach, eòlas, feallsanachd, litreachas, no nì sam bith an sguab-inntinne a' chinne-daonna air nach 'eil an Africaans comasach agus freagarrach.

An trìùir de na seachd oil-thaighean tha an teagasg is an imeachd uile an Africaans; an trìùir eile am Beurla; agus an aon anns an dà chànan, ach barrachd mòr an Africaans na am Beurla. Tha barrachd litreachais is barrachd phaipearan-naidheachd is eile an Africaans na tha am Beurla. Agus thachair sin uile an aon ghluin a mhàin! Toradh na cloinne a bhith air an teagasg tre mheadhon an cànan mhàthaireil.

An toiseach tòiseachaidh bhàtar anns an imeachd cheudna is a bheil sibh fhéin mu fhacail ùra no fhacail iasaid air son nithean nodha. Dhealbhadh iad facail ùra agus rinn iad iasad mar a fhreagar, ach smachdaich iad gach facal-iasaid fo riaghailt taibse an cànaire fhéin. Agus bha iad aon-sgeulach an leas an cànaire agus an gabhail iùil agus seòladh o'n fheadhainn a ghabh os làimh a' chànan ath-leasachadh.

B' iadsan "sinne." Cuin a bhios na Gaidheil "sinne"? Chomharraich mi dhuibh an t-slighe. An ceumnaich "sinn" i?—Le meas, Pretoria. DONNCHADH MACDHUNLEIBHE.

Mod Prize List

LITERARY COMPETITIONS

ADJUDICATORS—John A. Macdonald, M.A.; Rev. John Mackay, M.A.; Donald Grant, M.A., B.A., Ed.B.; Angus Macleod, M.A., B.Sc., F.E.I.S.; James Thomson, M.A., F.E.I.S.; Donald Macdonald, M.A.; Miss Marie L. Hogg, M.A., L.R.A.M.; Miss Annie I. Macmillan, M.A.; Finlay J. Macdonald.

Junior Section

Group "A"—(1) Book prizes for secondary schools. (2) Merit certificates for primary classes. Awarded to pupils from following schools—Bäck Junior Secondary, Bellahouston Junior Secondary, Cornaigmore Junior Secondary, Dingwall Academy, Fort-William Junior Secondary, Lionel Junior Secondary, Lurebost Junior Secondary, Oban High School, Portree Junior Secondary, Inverness Royal Academy, Sir Edward Scott Junior Secondary, Nicolson Institute, Woodside Senior Secondary.

Group "C"—University or Training College Students: (1) Translation into Gaelic—1, M. A. Macleod; 2, Mary Morrison; 3, Rachel Macdonald; 4, K. A. Macleod; 5, K. M. Macdonald. (All of Jordanhill Training College, Glasgow). (2) Essay—1, Euphemia Macleod; 2, D. J. Macvicar; 3, Finlay MacNeill; 4, John MacAskill; 5, John J. Sinclair. (All of Jordanhill Training College).

Group "D"—Special competition: Gaelic essay on life of Elijah (Prizes presented by late Mrs. Stewart, Simla): Boys—1, John MacLeod, Nicolson Institute; 2, Ewen Mackinnon (Sir Edward Scott J.S. School). Girls—1, Lily Mackenzie (Sir Edward Scott J.S. School); 2, Catherine M. Macleod, Nicolson Institute.

Senior Section

Silver Cup (presented by the Earl and Countess of Cassilis, awarded to competitor having highest marks in senior literary competitions in which he or she has been a prize-winner)—Mrs. Johan Macleod, Glasgow.

Gold Medal (presented by Miss Millar-Weir, Alexandria), given to the most distinguished prize-winner in the literary competitions (former winners debarred)—Mrs. Johan Macleod.

Poem on any subject (Prize of £5 presented by Ceilidh nan Gaidheal, along with Bardic Crown and Bardic Scroll, and retention for one year of the Ailsa Trophy)—1, Ronald Lamont, Campbelltown; 2, Iain Paterson, Fife.

Short Story (not exceeding 500 words) (Hugh MacCorquodale (Fingal) Memorial Prize of £3)—Mrs. M. I. Miller, Kingussie.

Story (extending to 2,000 words or more) (Prize of £5 by Gaelic Society of Glasgow)—Mrs. Johan Macleod.

One-Act Play ("Founders' Memorial Prize," presented by Ceilidh nan Gaidheal)—No Award.

Songs for children (three original songs suitable for children's competitions) (The Robert Macmillan Prizes)—1, Mrs. K. Douglas, Kilmuir; 2, Mrs. Johan Macleod.

Compilation of unpublished Gaelic vocal music—Mrs. K. Douglas.

Arrangement in harmony of a Gaelic song (Angus Robertson Memorial Prize of £5 presented by Glasgow Skye Association)—No Award.

ART AND INDUSTRY COMPETITIONS

ADJUDICATORS—Colin Sinclair, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.I.B.A.; Alexander Nicolson, M.A.; Miss Nan D. Macgregor.

Section "A"—Home Industries. Jumper in 3-ply

wool with Celtic design—1 (Comunn Gaidhealach Trophy and £3), Mrs. P. S. Govan, Lochgilhead; 2, Helen L. Wood, Rothesay. Hand-knitted clan tartan hose—1 (Silver Cup and £3), Helen L. Wood; 2, Mrs. Catherine Brown, Dunoon.

Section "B"—Design. Original Celtic design for trolley cloth—Helen L. Wood.

Section "C"—Handcraft. Netting needles—John Byars, Fife.

Section "D"—Needlework: any article with Celtic design—1, Thomas C. Shennan, Paisley; 2, Mrs. Catherine Brown; 3, Mabel M. Rowan, Edinburgh.

Section "F"—Any article in pottery or china with Celtic design—1, Kate MacLaine, Glasgow; 2, W. Parlane Mackenzie, Glasgow.

TUESDAY

Junior Section

ORAL DELIVERY

"Rev. George W. Mackay, D.D., Memorial Cup," awarded to competitor with highest aggregate marks in reading, reciting, and conversation—Margaret A. Campbell, Port Ellen.

SESSION HOUSE "A." ADJUDICATOR—John Macdonald, M.A.

Reading with expression a piece of prose or poetry (12-16 years)—1, Matilda E. M. J. MacLachlan, Bridgend; 2, Margaret A. Campbell, Port Ellen; 3, Catriona M. Maclean, Glasgow; 4 (equal), Angus J. Hutchison, Perth, and Martha Shepherd, Glasgow.

Excellence in Gaelic conversation—1, Catherine MacArthur, Stornoway; 2, Mary C. Morrison, Stornoway.

Reading at sight an unfamiliar prose piece chosen by adjudicator—1, Mary C. Morrison, Stornoway; 2, Margaret MacIver, Stornoway; 3, Ann F. Mackay, Stornoway; 4 (equal), Catherine MacArthur and M. M. MacIver, Stornoway.

Narrative based on some local incident, tradition, or legend, followed by conversation with adjudicator—1, Catherine Mackinnon, Glasgow; 2, Catriona M. Maclean, Glasgow; 3, Angus Shepherd, Glasgow.

SESSION HOUSE "B." ADJUDICATOR—Alex. J. MacAskill, M.A.

Reciting from memory, "Linn an Aigh"—1 (equal), Margaret A. Campbell, Port Ellen, and Ann Fraser, Kyle; 3, Catherine Mackinnon, Glasgow.

Reading with expression a piece of prose or poetry (under 12 years)—1, Christine I. Campbell, Port Ellen; 2, David D. C. Morrison, Durness.

Comh-fharpais air son Comunn na h-Oigridh (Comhradh ris a' bhritheamh air cuspair a roghnaicheas an comh-fharpaiseach)—Aonghus I. MacUisdein, Peairt.

KIRKHOUSE "C." ADJUDICATOR—Angus Macleod, M.A., B.Sc., F.E.I.S.

Reading with expression a piece of prose or poetry (12-16 years) (Learners)—1, Catriona M. Fair, Lochgilhead; 2, Kenneth Macgregor, Kyle; 3, Anne Connell, Lochaline; 4 (equal), Kathleen N. Henry Tarbert, and Mairi Ross, Lochinver; 6, Margaret Mowat, Lochaline.

Reading with expression a piece of prose or poetry (under 12) (Learners)—1 (equal), Mary L. Campbell,

Whitehouse and H. A. Jamieson, Lochawe; 3 (equal), Derrick Mackenzie, Lochinver, and Irene Potter, Lochawe; 5 (equal), Peter A. Carter, Loch Awe, and Iain Potter, Loch Awe.

Repeating Scripture (St. Matthew xi. 25-30) (Under 12 years). Boys—1, Derrick Mackenzie, Lochinver; 2, H. A. Jamieson, Loch Awe; 3, Peter A. Carter, Loch Awe. Girls—1, Rosemary L. Johnstone, Whitehouse; 2 (equal), Mary Macgregor, Strathay, and Irene Potter, Loch Awe.

KIRKHOUSE "D." ADJUDICATOR—Rev. T. M. Murchison, M.A.

Reciting from memory, "Do'n Chuthaig." 1, Irene Potter, Loch Awe; 2, Catriona M. Fair, Lochgilphead; 3, Rosemary L. Johnstone, Whitehouse.

Reading prose at sight—Mairi Ross, Lochinver.

Vocal Music

MAIN HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: James Thomson, M.A., F.E.I.S. Music: J. Gilmour Barr, M.A., L.R.A.M.

Solo singing (Silver Medal Competition—Girls); Songs prescribed: "Na trì eòin," and "Smeòrach sa mhàdainn chitinn."—1, Catriona Maclean, Glasgow; 2, Mary C. Morrison, Stornoway; 3, Catherine Mackay, Stornoway.

Solo singing (Silver Medal Competition—Boys); Songs prescribed: "Chì mi Muile" and "Shuidh mi air cnoc."—1, Norman Maclean, Glasgow; 2, Maurice Mackenzie, Edinburgh; 3, Donald A. Mackinnon, Broadford.

Traditional singing of unpublished song—1, Catherine MacIver, Stornoway; 2 (equal), Mary MacIver, Stornoway, and Mary C. Morrison, Stornoway.

Duet singing (Songs: "Chluinn mi na h-eòin")—1, Catherine MacKay and Catherine MacIver, Stornoway; 2, Margaret A. Campbell and Robina Campbell, Port Ellen.

Unison singing by junior choirs (50 per cent. of each choir must be Gaelic-speaking) (Songs prescribed: "A' Bheart-fhighe" and "A' bhean a bh' aig an tàilliar chaol") (Mrs. Campbell Blair Trophy)—1, Nicolson Institute Junior Choir; 2, Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association Junior Choir.

Choral singing in two-part harmony (50 per cent. of each choir must be Gaelic-speaking) (Songs prescribed: "Eòghann Bàn" and "Buain nan dearcan") (*Oban Times Challenge Trophy*)—1, Nicolson Institute Junior Choir; 2, Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association Junior Choir. Mrs. Hobbs of Inverlochry Trophy for highest marks in Gaelic in this competition—Nicolson Institute Junior Choir.

LESSER HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Neil Macleod, M.A. Music: Dr. Herbert Howells.

Solo singing (girls 12 to 16 years, Learners) (Songs prescribed: "Crodh Chailein" and "O, teannaibh dlùth is togaibh fonn")—1, Edith Pollok, Ayr; 2, Mary Graham, Campbeltown; 3, Nance Muir, Tarbert.

Solo singing (girls, under 12) (Songs prescribed: "Maol Ruanaidh" and "M'ionam air a' ghille bheag")—1, Deirdre S.C. MacLeish, Perth; 2, Gwendoline Henderson, Carradale; 3, Pamela Smith, Skye.

Unison singing by junior choirs (Songs prescribed: "Fòghnan na h-Alba" and "Seinn O Churadail") (Rona MacVicar Trophy, presented by Campbeltown Gaelic Choir)—1, Dail an Tobair Junior Choir; 2, Tarbert J.S. School Choir.

MAIN HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Neil Macleod, M.A. Music: Dr. Herbert Howells.

Action Song (Shiant Shield, presented by Sir Compton Mackenzie)—1, Nicolson Institute Gaelic Choir A; 2 (equal), Carradale Junior Gaelic Choir and Nicolson Institute Gaelic Choir B.

WEST CHURCH HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Donald Thomson, M.A., F.E.I.S. Music: Dr. Sydney Northote.

Solo singing (boys, Learners) (Songs prescribed: "Chuir iad an t-sùil a Pilot" and "'S fheadar dhomh bhith togail orm")—1, Peter MacKinlay, Campbeltown; 2, Duncan Macdonald, Oban; 3, Allan Cowan, Ayr.

Duet singing (Learners) (Song: "Caidil fu là'") 1, Rosamund MacMillan and Margaret Fisher, Campbeltown; 2, Lindsay J. Stewart and John MacIntyre, Oban.

Solo singing (boys and girls, 16-18 years)—1, Kathleen Macdonald, Stornoway; 2, Joan MacIver, Glasgow; 3, Avril J. M. Mundell, Whitehouse.

Verse-speaking (by groups of 6 to 10 speakers) (Prescribed piece: "Am Bann Fraoch")—Lochinver J.S. School Choir.

Choral singing in two-part harmony (Songs prescribed: "Oran tàlaidh an eich uise" and "Creag Ghuanach") (Mrs. Miller's Trophy)—1, Nicolson Memorial Junior Gaelic Choir; 2, Carradale Junior Gaelic Choir.

Solo singing (former prize-winners only) (own choice) (Coach presented by Skelmorlie and District Highland Association)—1, Mary Graham, Campbeltown; 2, Duncan Macdonald, Oban; 3, Mary Smith, Port Ellen.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

LESSER HALL. ADJUDICATOR—Mrs. Jenny M. B. Maclean, J.P.

Playing of slow Gaelic air and march (bagpipe setting) on pianoforte (Kilt Pin presented by Mrs. J. M. B. Maclean)—1, Ann Bone, Glasgow; 2, Marjorie Mackintosh, Kyle; 3, Sandra Finlayson, Plockton.

WEDNESDAY

Senior Section

VOCAL MUSIC

MAIN HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: James Thomson, M.A., F.E.I.S. John Macdonald, M.A.

Best rendering of two unpublished folk-songs in the traditional manner (The Scotia Trophy)—1, Joan M. Mackenzie, Garrabost; 2, Johan Macleod, Glasgow; 3 (equal), Calum M. Kennedy, Lewis, and Alex. J. Macdonald, Glasgow.

MAIN HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: James Thomson, M.A., F.E.I.S. Music: J. Gilmour Barr, M.A., L.R.A.M.

Solo singing (confined to former Gold Medalists and First-Prize Winners) (Songs prescribed: "An gille dubh ciar-dubh" (ladies) and "Cuir a' chinn dilis" (men) (Duncan Johnston Memorial Trophy, presented by Glasgow Islay Association)—1, Joan M. Mackenzie, Garrabost; 2, Nan D. Hunter, Duror; 3 (equal), Finlay A. G. MacKeachan, Glasgow, and Ian M. Macmillan, Glasgow.

Solo singing of following songs by Lorn bards, "Oran seachran selge" and "Mo shùil ad dhèidh" (Oban and Lorn Association Commemoration Medal, 1914-18, 1939-45, presented by Glasgow Oban and

orn Association)—1, Calum M. Kennedy, Lewis; (equal), Johan Macleod, Glasgow, and Ian M. Macmillan, Glasgow.

MAIN HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Angus Macleod, M.A., B.Sc., F.E.I.S. Music: J. Gilmour Barr, M.A., L.R.A.M.

Best rendering of a song from Mrs. Kennedy-raser's "Songs of the Hebrews" (male and female voices) (Songs prescribed: "The Embarrassed Maiden" and "An Egg Boat Song")—1, Freda Raitlon, Onich; 2, Elizabeth Macphail, Lochgilhead.

Solo singing (competitors to be natives of Glenmoriston, Glenurquhart, or Stratherrick districts, or, failing such, natives of the county of Inverness, including burghs of 2,000 or more) (Mrs. Quintin MacLennan Prizes)—1, Johan Macleod, Glasgow; 2, Ruth M. Macpherson, Corroun.

LESSER HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Rev. T. M. Murchison, M.A. Music: Dr. Herbert Howells.

Solo singing (ladies: learners) (Prescribed song: "An Gille Guanach")—1, Freda Raitlon, Onich; 2, Marjorie Lochhead, Glasgow; 3, Eppie Murray, Lybster.

Solo singing (men: learners) (Prescribed song: "Is toigh leam a' Ghaidhealtachd")—1, Henry MacEwen, Inverness; 2, Charles N. Cochrane, Glasgow; 3, Andrew Macpherson, Corroun.

Solo singing (men: learners) (Prescribed song: "Mi 'n so 'nam ònar")—1, Ronald MacKellaig, Glenfinnan; 2, Henry MacEwen, Inverness; 3, Charles N. Cochrane, Glasgow.

LESSER HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Neil MacLeod, M.A. Music: Dr. Herbert Howells.

Solo singing (ladies) of song, "Gleann Baile Chaoil" (James Grant Memorial Prizes)—1, Nan D. Hunter, Duror; 2, Johan Macleod, Glasgow; 3, Ina MacDiarmid, Greenock.

Solo singing (ladies) of the oran-mor, "Alasdair Ghlinne-Garaidh" (Jessie N. MacLachlan Memorial Prizes)—1, Nan D. Hunter, Duror; 2, Joan M. Mackenzie, Garrabost; 3, Johan Macleod, Glasgow.

WEST CHURCH HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Alex. J. MacAskill, M.A. Music: Dr. Sydney Northcote.

Solo singing (ladies: learners) (Prescribed song: "Coille Chaoil")—1, Margaret M. Muir, Campbelltown; 2, Mary W. MacCall, Glasgow; 3, Marjorie Lochhead, Glasgow.

Solo singing of unpublished song connected with Mull or Iona (Prizes presented by Glasgow Mull and Iona Association)—1, Finlay A. G. MacKeachan, Glasgow; 2, Hugh Lamont, Bunnisan.

WEST CHURCH HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Donald Thomson, M.A., F.E.I.S. Music: Dr. Sydney Northcote.

Solo singing (men) of song, "Cead deireannach nam beann" (The L/Cpl. Lachlan Maclean Watt Memorial Prizes)—1, Calum M. Kennedy, Lewis; 2, Finlay A. G. MacKeachan, Glasgow; 3, Alex. J. Macdonald, Glasgow.

Solo singing (men) of the oran-mor, "Oran do Mhorair Ghlinne-Urchaidh" (The Bessie Campbell Memorial Prizes)—1, Finlay A. G. MacKeachan, Glasgow; 2, Murdo Ferguson, Stornoway; 3, Malcolm Cameron, Aberdeen.

WEST CHURCH HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: James Thomson, M.A., F.E.I.S. Music: J. Gilmour Barr, M.A., L.R.A.M.

Solo singing of the songs, "'O, 's tu 's gura tu th'air m'aire" (ladies) and "A Mhàiri Bhan, gur barrail thu" (men), along with song chosen by competitor (learners' finals competition)—Ladies: 1, Eppie Murray, Lybster; 2, Marjorie Lochhead, Glasgow. Men—1, Henry MacEwen, Inverness; 2, Charles N. Cochrane, Glasgow.

Learners Finals Aggregates. Ladies—1, Marjorie Lochhead, Glasgow; 2, Margaret M. Muir, Campbelltown; 3, Eppie Murray, Lybster. Men—1, Henry MacEwen, Inverness; 2, Charles N. Cochrane, Glasgow; 3, Ronald MacKellaig, Glenfinnan.

THURSDAY

ORAL DELIVERY

Gold Medal (presented by Glasgow Skye Association for highest aggregate marks in specified oral delivery competitions)—Grace Baxter, Tiree.

Dr. John Cameron Commemoration Prize for most distinguished competitor in Learners' Oral Section—Margaret Mackinnon, Glasgow.

SESSION HOUSE "A." ADJUDICATOR: John Macdonald, M.A.

Recitation of "An Ròn" from memory—1, Donald D. MacIsaac, Ayr; 2, Morag Maclean, Scalpay.

Recitation of prose piece, "Gaisgeach na Sgeithe Deirge"—1, Grace Baxter, Tiree; 2 (equal), Ina Macgregor, Kyle, and Margaret Macmillan, Skye.

SESSION HOUSE "B." ADJUDICATOR: Rev. T. M. Murchison, M.A.

Reading of unfamiliar prose piece chosen by adjudicator—1, Grace Baxter, Tiree; 2, Mary Campbell, Glasgow.

Recitation of piece of original poetry composed by competitor (Calum MacPharlain Memorial Prizes, presented by Paisley Highlanders' Association)—Iain M. Moffatt-Pender, Glasgow.

Ancient folk-tale (preferably unpublished) narrated in traditional style (Anglo-Chilean Society Shield) 1, Johan Macleod, Glasgow; 2, Mary A. Hutchison, Perth.

Best prepared original speech on any subject—Mary A. Hutchison, Perth.

LESSER HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Alex. J. MacAskill, M.A. Angus Macleod, M.A., B.Sc., F.E.I.S.

Recitation of poem, "Guth a' Chuain" (learners) —1, Elizabeth C. MacDiarmid, Lawers; 2, Mary J. M. Shaw, Dunkeld.

Acted dialogue (Queen Elizabeth Coronation (1937) Trophy)—Isabel Campbell and Mairi Stewart, Lochgilhead.

Recitation of prose piece (own choice: learners)—1, Elizabeth C. MacDiarmid, Lawers; 2, Margaret Mackinnon, Glasgow.

Reading at sight a passage selected by adjudicator from "An Gaidheal" (1954) (learners)—1, Margaret Mackinnon, Glasgow; 2, Margaret E. Lowe, London. Speech (learners)—Margaret Mackinnon, Glasgow.

VOCAL MUSIC

MAIN HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: James Thomson, M.A., F.E.I.S. Music: Dr. Herbert Howells.

Nova Scotia Competition (Songs prescribed: "Dh'fhalbh mo rùn" and "Màiri nighean Dòmhnail") (Confined to first-prize winners in premier solo competitions at provincial mods) (Medals presented by the Cape Breton Island Gaelic Foundation)—1,

(Gold Medal), Neil Campbell, Luig; 2, (Silver Medal), Helen M. MacKerral, Campbelltown; 3 (Bronze Medal), Johan Macleod, Glasgow.

MAIN HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Donald Thomson, M.A., F.E.I.S. and Neil Macleod, M.A. Music: J. Gilmour Barr, M.A., L.R.A.M. and Dr. Sydney Northcote.

Solo singing of the songs, "Coire Cheathaich" (ladies) and "Fàilte do'n Eilean Sgitheanach" (men), along with a song chosen by competitor—Ladies: 1, Nan D. Hunter, Duror; 2, Joan M. Mackenzie, Garrabost. Men: 1, Finlay A. G. MacKeachan, Glasgow; 2, Murdo Ferguson, Stornoway.

Gold Medallists (aggregate of marks in specified competitions)—Ladies: 1 (and Gold Medal), Nan D. Hunter, Duror; 2, Joan M. Mackenzie, Garrabost; 3, Johan Macleod, Glasgow. Men—1 (Gold Medal), Finlay A. G. MacKeachan, Glasgow; 2, Calum M. Kennedy, Lewis; 3, Murdo Ferguson, Stornoway.

MAIN HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: John Macdonald, M.A., and Angus Macleod, M.A., B.Sc., F.E.I.S. Music: Dr. Herbert Howells.

Choral singing of the songs, "Ailte" and "Ho ru gun togainn air hìgan fhathast" (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 Colonel and Mrs. Iain Campbell of Airds)—1, Portree Gaelic Choir; 2, Lochgilhead Gaelic Choir; 3, Laxdale Gaelic Choir; 4, Kildalton Gaelic Choir.

Dalriada Cup (presented by Mr. and Mrs. S. Smith, Lochgilhead) for choir with highest marks in Gaelic in Lorn Shield Competition—Laxdale Gaelic Choir.

Quartette singing of the song, "Mi 'm shuidhe 'm ònar"—1, Brisbane Quartette; 2, Stornoway Gaelic Choir Quartette.

LESSER HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Alex. J. MacAskill, M.A., and Neil Macleod, M.A. Music: Dr. Sydney Northcote.

Choral singing of the songs, "Nunn do Mhuile" and "Till, till, ògh mo rùn" (confined to choirs from rural districts, excluding towns of more than 2,000 population) (Sheriff Macmaster Campbell Memorial Cuach)—1, Southend Choir; 2, Ardrishaig Gaelic Choir; 3, Lochalsh Gaelic Choir.

Duet singing of a song (own choice)—1, Nan D. Hunter and Mary Hunter, Duror; 2, Janet A. Macdonald and Catherine C. Macdonald, Lewis.

CLARSACH COMPETITIONS

WEST CHURCH HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Rev. T. M. Murchison, M.A. Music: Miss Sanchia Pielou.

Solo singing, with self-accompaniment on the clarsach (open) (Prescribed song, "Birlinn nan guala gelaich" with song of own choice) (Prize presented by Mrs. Iain Campbell of Airds)—1, (Silver Clarsach Brooch and Hilda Mary Campbell Clarsach Trophy), Marjorie H. MacLeish, Perth; 2, Kelty Macleod, London.

Accompanying a singer with clarsach (prescribed pieces: "Deirdre's Farewell" and "The Weaving Lilt.") (Prizes presented by Miss Madge Campbell Brown and Miss Jean Campbell)—1, Kelty Macleod, London; 2, C. V. A. MacEchern, Creetown.

Solo singing with self-accompaniment on clarsach for those who have played for from one to four years (Tearlach MacEchern Memorial Clarsach, presented by Rev. J. Reid Christie, and other prizes by Miss Rhoda Macpherson and Mrs. Neil Orr)—1, C. V. A. MacEchern, Creetown; 2, Sheila F. Patton, Perth.

FRIDAY

MAIN HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: John Macdonald, M.A. Music: Dr. Herbert Howells.

Choral singing (male voices) of two songs in three or four-part harmony, "Baran na Sròine" and "Sine Bhàn" (Mull and Iona Shield, presented by Mr. and Mrs. Neil Cameron)—1, Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association; 2, Greenock Gaelic Choir; 3, Ballachulish Male Voice Gaelic Choir.

Choral singing of the puirt-a-beul, "Mirean, mirean, miug, miug," etc. (Greenock Gaelic Choir Cup)—1, Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association; 2, Greenock Gaelic Choir; 3 (equal), Stornoway Gaelic Choir and Southend Gaelic Choir.

MAIN HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Neil Macleod, M.A., and James Thomson, M.A., F.E.I.S. Music: Dr. Herbert Howells and Dr. Sydney Northcote.

Choral singing of two songs, "Cumha Iain Ghairbh" and "Màiri Mhìn Mheall-shuileach," (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, Oban Gaelic Choir; 4, London Gaelic Choir.

Weekly Scotsman Cuach for choir with highest marks in Gaelic in Lovat and Tullibardine Trophy Competition—Stornoway Gaelic Choir.

LESSER HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Alex. J. MacAskill, M.A. Music: Dr. Sydney Northcote.

Choral singing (female voices) of the songs, "Fhir a dhìreas am bealach" and "Oran na maighdin mhara" (Esme Smyth Trophy)—1, Greenock Gaelic Choir; 2, London Gaelic Choir; 3, Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir.

LESSER HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Angus Macleod, M.A., B.Sc., F.E.I.S., and Donald Thomson, M.A., F.E.I.S. Music: J. Gilmour Barr, M.A., L.R.A.M.

Choral singing in four-part harmony of the songs, "MacGriogair o Ruadh-shruth" and "He 'n clò-dubh" (Confined to choirs from towns of over 2,000 population; at least 25 per cent. of each choir must be Gaelic speakers) (Margrat Duncan Memorial Trophy, presented by Glasgow Islay Association and friends)—1, Uist and Barra Association Choir; 2, Dunoon Gaelic Choir; 3, Stirling Gaelic Choir.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

WEST CHURCH HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Piano-forte: Mrs. Jenny M. B. Maclean. Violin: Mr. Charles Sutherland.

Playing of Highland march, strathspey and reel on pianoforte (confined to amateurs) (The Aberdeenshire Targe, presented by the Aberdeen and District Pipers' Society)—1, Eileen M. Mackenzie, Carbridge; 2, Helen M. Bonnington, Loch Awe; 3, Nina Smith, Tulloch.

Playing of Highland march, strathspey and reel on violin (confined to amateurs) (Sutherland Cup, presented by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sutherland)—1, A. J. M. Mackenzie, Invergordon; 2, Andrew Johnston, Perth; 3, Duncan Henderson, Carradale.

Playing of strathspey and reel on violin (competitors must be natives of Glenmoriston, Glenurquhart, or Stratherrick districts, or, failing such, natives of county of Inverness, excluding burghs of 2,000-population or more) (Mrs. Quintin Macleannan Prize)—1, A. J. M. Mackenzie, Invergordon; 2, John Grant, Tulloch.

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CLAR-INNSIDH

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Leabhar XLIX

AN DUBHLACHD, 1954

Aireamh 12

Sgeul mu "Latha nan Car"

Leis a' Mhnaoi-uasail M. NIC A' MHUILLEIR, Cinn-ghiùthsach.

(Choisinn an sgeul goirid seo Duais-chuimhneachain Eòghainn Mhic Thorcadail aig a' Mhòd Nàiseanta, 1954).

CHA robh tlachd sam bith aig Seònaid no aig Sine anns an fhearas-chuideachd a bha an cois "Latha nan Car;" bha nithean cudthromach acasan ri frithealadh dhaibh—theireadh iad—agus bu dìomhain a bhith a' cur seachad ùine air faoinis. Tha "Latha nan Car" agus a leithid air dol as an fhasan agus is mór an diùbhal e. Cha mhath a bhith a' micheadh mire is aighear no aon de na nithean a tha a' cur deagh-ghean ann an cridheachan dhaoina a thaobh càch a chéile agus a tha a' fògar eud is fuath is uabhar agus gach nì eile truaillidh agus o dhroch-chlìù, a tha a' gin nan cogaidhean fuara air a bheil sinn a' cluinntinn iomradh anns na làithean deireanach seo.

Bha Seònaid is Sine 'nam mnathan-taighe barrachte; cha na comharran uile an siud. Glanadh is sgùradh gun chrìch; fir an taighe an déidh an obair-là a' cur am brògan dhiùbh aig an doras agus a' coiseachd a staigh air an corra-bid; luchd-eòlais 'gan tionndadh air falbh o'n doras, ma thadhail iad air latha na nigh-eadarachd no na fuine, na mnathan fhéin daonnan 'nan cabhaig, is cas crosta mar bu dual do bhana-Chriosdaidhean air an robh an saoghal a' cur cùram. Cha b'ionnan idir am

bana-choimhearsnach, Peigi. Bha a beachd-se calg-dhìreach an aghaidh am feadhnach-san air gach nì fo'n ghréin; b'e caise eagallach a bhacadh ise bho aoiageachd a nochdadh do luchd-tadhail. Bha tlachd aice ann an taigh glan, ach cha robh i a' creidsinn anns a' ghloine neo-thruacanta a bha a' toirmeasg na comh-fhurtachd, an t-socair, agus an t-sith a b'e dlighe a fir 's a cloinne 'nan dachaigh.

Bitheadar a' tuigsinn nach robh Peigi agus an dà bhean eile ro-mhór aig a chéile. Mnath-achas-taighe! B'e seo "an t-aon nì feumail"; b'e seo "crioch àraid an duine," agus, a réir na slait-thomhais acasan, b'e droch-bhean-taighe a bha ann am Peigi, agus mur biodh gu robh dreuchd aice anns an W.R.I. agus mór-mheas oirre an sin, cha bhiodh gnothach aca rithe idir. Bha Peigi laghach tugaideach, ach bhiodh i farranach air uairibh 'gan cluinntinn a' cnàmhan m'an trainge is mu gach uallach trom a bha iad a' giùlan agus mu dheireadh smaointich i gun deanadh i rud-eigin a bhros-naicheadh iad gu beagan féin-cheasnachaidh a dheanamh a chum is gum faigheadh iad roinn de thuigse a thaobh dé na nithean a b' fhiach luach a chur orra anns an t-saoghal.

Bha "Latha nan Car" am fagus. Air

madainn an là sin fhuair an dà bhean litir o bhean a' Choirneil anns an taigh-mhór air a' chnoc, 'gan cuireadh gu 'tea' anns an fheasgar.

Theab iad an ciall a chall le moit. Cha robh iad riamh air spiris cho àrd seo. Bha iad an teis-meadhon glanadh mór an earraich, ach ghrad-stad sin. Chaidh iad gu 'Eilidh' a dh'fhaighinn am falt a chur suas anns an fheasan. Cheannaich Seònaid brògan ùra. Sgeadaich iad iad féin gu rìomhach. Ach cha d'fhoghainn sin. Cha b'fhiach is cha b'fhiù ach "taxi" fhaighinn g'an toirt air an turas. Ràinig iad an ceann-uidhe. Thubhairt iad ri fear-an-taxi dol dhachaigh agus tighinn air an tòir an ceann dà uair. Dh'fhosgail searbhanta an doras dhaibh.

"Innis do d' bhana-mhaighistir," thubhairt iad rithe, agus an cinn anns an adhar, "gu bheil sinne an seo."

"Tha mi duilich," ars a' chaileag; "tha a' bhean-usal ann an Lunnainn."

Gun aon dìog a ràdh thionndaidh iad air an sàil agus mar an dealanach ghreas iad do'n rathad agus dhachaigh. B'fheudar dhaibh a h-uile ceum de'n rathad a choiseachd. Bha casan Seònaid air an ciorramachadh anns na brògan ùra. Chaidh fear-an-taxi air an tòir, mar a gheall e, agus b'fheudar dhaibh deich tasdain a phàidheadh dha. Bha iad aig doras taigh Sìne mun dubhairt iad facal ri càch a chèile agus an uair a bhruidhinn iad b'e na thubhairt iad, "Thug i an car asainn!"

Chan 'eil eachdraidh ag innseadh cò 'i' air an do leag iad an amharas. Cha mhò a tha i ag innseadh an tàinig an nì a bha aig Peigi anns an amhar gu crìch—an robh ar dà bhana-charaid bhuaithe seo a mach mothachail gu robh "Rud eadar ciall is cuthach."

Alasdair Mór

Is duilich an sgeul a thàinig chugainn an diugh, gun do chaochail Iain N. MacLeòid ('Alasdair Mór). Le a bhàs rinneadh beàrn da-rìribh am measg nan Gaidheal. Nach iomadh facal a chuir a pheann air paipear; nach iomadh seanchas grinn a thàinig o a bhèilean; nach mór an cur-seachad agus an togail-intinn a thugadh dhuinn le a sgrìobhaidhean; nach math na h-earailean a chuireadh f'ar comhair.

Fad còrr math is dà fhichead bliadhna bha Iain MacLeòid anns a' cheud shreath am measg cinn-ùil na Gàidhlig. 'Na shaothair mar fhear-teagais is mar mhaighistir-sgoile, mar òraidiche, mar fhear-sgrìobhaidh, mar fhear-eachdraidh, mar chomhairliche glic is dealasach anns a' Chomunn Ghaidhealach agus an iomadh comunn eile, agus, os cionn sin uile, mar dhuine gasda càirdheil aoigheil còir, choisinn

ar caraid nach maireann dha fhéin mòr-mheas air feadh nan Gaidheal gu léir.

Chan 'eil cothrom againn air dad a bharrachd a ràdh uime aig an àm, agus an clò-bhuailtear a' feitheamh ruinn, ach bidh dùil againn làn-iomradh a dheanamh air a bheatha agus a shaothair anns an ath-àireamh.

* * * * *

As we go to press, we learn, with very great regret, of the death of Mr. John N. Macleod ('Alasdair Mór'). By his passing a busy pen has been laid aside, a fine personality taken from our midst, a rich treasury of lore and wisdom closed. For half-a-century Mr. Macleod was in the front rank of Gaelic writers and lecturers. As teacher, play-wright, essayist, wise counsellor in An Comunn and on other bodies, he played a distinguished part and his name is known among the Gaels throughout the world.

We hope to include a fuller tribute to his life-work in our next issue. We express our deep sympathy with the bereaved family and friends.

Rev. Dr. Coll A. Macdonald

By the death of the Rev. Coll A. Macdonald, D.D., a fine Highlander, richly gifted, has passed from this human scene. A native of Iona, minister at Ardrishaig, Arrochar, and (for over 30 years) at Logierait, Perthshire, Dr. Macdonald has left behind a record of able and faithful ministry. There was no more devoted supporter of the Gaelic cause, and in these last years of retirement in Edinburgh he became a welcome participant in the meetings of the various Highland societies in the Capital. We in An Comunn Gaidhealach have reason to pay tribute to his memory with gratitude, for in the early days of our Association he gave himself without stint to the work of propaganda, addressing meetings and founding branches, and many will recall his reminiscent article in last year's Jubilee Mod Souvenir Programme.

We express our deep sympathy with Mrs. Macdonald and the family.

Fada bho'n t-sùil, fada bho'n chridhe.

* * * * *

Cha do mhill foidhidinn mhath duine riamh.

* * * * *

Is fearn an teine beag a gharas na an teine mór a loisgeas.

* * * * *

The way to a people's heart is through its language (*Jean Paul Richter*).

The moment Gaelic dies, the Highlander dies (*John Stuart Blackie*).

Turus Samhraidh

Le DOMHNALL GRANN

(Choisinn a' Bhàrdachd seo Prìomh-Dhuais ann an Co-fharpaisean Comhairle nan Ealdhain an 1951 an co-cheangal ri Mòr-Fhéis Bhreatainn.)

Sòlas sìor do neach air bhoil,
le strìth is trod an t-saoghail chruaidh,
Triall le sunnd a tìr nan Gall,
air turus samhraidh do'n taobh tuath.

Ceistean cuiridh eòlaich air,
"Car son a shìneas tu ri tuath?
Am faic thu 'n diugh na càirdean ann?
Ma chì thu glinn, am faic thu sluagh?"

Feithidh freagairt luath 'na bheul,
"Ged a tha na taighean fàs,
Chì mi bhuan o iomadh còc
muir is monadh mar a bha."

Comhairle bheir càirdean dha,
"Seachainn fuachd is sìleadh trom.
Gabh a nunn gu tìreadh céin
sgriob a chuireas tu am fonn."

Ceum cha chairich e o bheachd:
car chan aom iad e o mhian:
Guth air géilleadh cha bhí ann;
freagraidh e le faclan dian:

"Séideadh stoirm is sìleadh sruth,
guth air gearain cha tig bhuam.
Dhuibhse grian na h-àirde deas:
dhòmhsa gaillionn an taoibh tuath."

Làidir leòsan fuaim a ghuth:
chì iad solus ùr 'na ghnùis.
Co-ionnan cuideachd ri a dhreach
a chridh' a staigh a réir a chliù.

Bailtean briagha nunn thar sàil,
iomadh iognadh geallar dha.
Bothan beag as ionmhainn leis,
lùchairt lìombach thar a chàil.

Moladh mòr air muir is raon
's tric a chluinneas tu 'na bheul:
Ged nach d' rinn e uàil mun shluagh
chan ann air sluagh as lugh' a spéis.

Ionndrainn air a' chuid a dh'fhalbh
cha toir neach an seo air bàrr.
Tadhal tìr 's an robh iad beò
sòlas dhàsan chan e cràdh.

Dorsan dùinte bitheadh ann,
iomairean le luibhean làn,
Buaile far nach faicear bó,
gàrradh-crìch' a' dol gu làr.

Truagh leinn tìr mar seo gu fìor,
is cha chùm e aonta bhuan.
Dhàsan tha an t-àite làn
liuthad smuain ag éirigh suas.

Aisling ait an i a chuir
aoidh air 'aodann, saod 'na cheum?
Faileasan a' falbh as ùr,
cruth nan daoin' a bh'ann an dé?

Cosnaidh cnuic is iochdair dha
saorsa spioraid, tuilleadh treòir.
Gheibh e fois an tìr a bhreith
nach d'fhiosraich e o làithean òig'.

Có a chuireas le guth mòr
cuimhne chealgach as a leth?
Cleachdadh bha aig cuimhne riamh
math a thaghadh, olc a chleith.

Aobhar iognaidh cha bhí ann
dealbhan dreachmhor bhith 'na shùil;
Na bliadhnanachan mar ghloinne dhait
cur loinn na h-òige air gach cùis.

Dealbh fad as air achadh feòir,
àile cùbhraidh thig 'na leum,
Saoghal ùr aig bun gach stath,
diasan feòir cho àrd ris fhéin.

Suainte mu gach smuain cho teann
nach tig an toinneamh as gu bràth:
Coltas té air feadh gach dealbh,
an té thug breith is àrach dha.

Bha sonas ceangailt' ri a ceum
cluasan biorach feitheamh fuaim.
Dubhar dha i bhith air falbh,
gath na gréin' i bhith mun cuairt.

Mios a' chéitein chuimhnich e
casan rùisgt' mu dheireadh thall:
Toileachadh troimh chom gu léir
a' dìreadh suas bho shàil gu ceann.

Toileachadh a dh'fhoillsich dha
talamh fhéin ag innseadh dhuinn
Fìrinn nach do thuing e òg,
doimhneachd dàimhe do a cloinn.

Greann a' gheamhraidh tarraing dlùth,
teachdaireachd roimh aimsir reòt':
Comhairle na talmhainn fial,
seasgair socair taic nam bròg.

Feargair samhraidh fiathach thall,
sìobadh slait mach bho sgeir,
Companach le còmhradh ciùin,
saoghal rompa réidh gun chnead.

Iasgach eile chuimhnich e
bàta beag a' ghluasad mhìn;
A' mhoit a bh' air nuair mhol na fìr
mar a dh'iomair e gun sgìos.

Aon uair eile bheachdaich e
air ainm gach rudha, sgeir, is òib,
Lorgan lean ris domhain riamh
mar a rinneadh iad 'na òig'.

Thuig e mar o shean an aoidh
chuir 'na ghruaidhean rudhadh blàth
Ruigheachd dhachaigh le gad éisg
slaodadh sleamhain sìos gu làr.

Mar leig e air nach b'fhiach siud dad
nach mòr an dragh a thug e dha;
Gidheadh bha 'chridhe làn de dh'uaill
e air a mheas 'na dhuine fàs.

Coimeas caitheamh latha ri siud
siubhal tràigh le sùil air tìùrr:
Ioghnaidhean a chumadh riut
is ri gach neach a bh'ann bho thùs.

Cladach làn a h-uile ceum,
feamainn air gach cumadh ann:
Maorach, ainmhidhean na tràigh,
acainn luingeis nach bu ghann.

Doirbh an diugh a thuigsinn leis
comas balaich aig an àm:
Eallach connaidh air a dhruim
b'fheadar tric gu robh e fann.

Gliocas bhliadhnachan mar sin
chuir air òige solus ùr:
Iarraidh òganaich a ghnàth
bhith mar fhireannach an clùì.

Seasaidh sònraichte meas chàich
làithean eil' a mach 'na chuimhn',
Reothairt deanamh oitir lom,
buain nam muirsgian bial an tuinn.

Sealladh anabarrach air tràigh
nach fhaicear gann ach uair sa' bhliadhn';
Iongantas thug bàrr air sin
'ga tadhal oidhche ghealaich bhriagh'.

Sgrìob a nunn do'n choille chnò,
turas taitneach a bhitheadh ann;
Cha b'fhad' gum bitheadh poca làn
aig fear nach trusadh iad gu mall.

Sa' mhonadh choimheadh e gu mion
air làraich nam puill-mhòna shuas;
Air éigin lorgadh e an t-àit,
baic air fàs cho staoin gum bhuaìn.

'Na chuimhne las an aimsir ait,
buain na mòna cùl an t-sléibh:
Chan iarradh fir no mnathan falbh,
do chloinn e cha bu ruith ach leum

Rinn cuid le tuigse mhóir seach càch,
glic eadhon thar am barail fhéin,
Aighear de na bhitheadh 'na dhragh,
a' chlann 'nan cluich a' deanamh feum.

Am bu shòlasaich de'n là,
suidh aig biadh aig ceann a' phuill.
Cuirm na b'fheàrr air thalamh riamh
cha chuala duine is cha chluinn.

'S iomadh uair a dh'iarradh cead
biorainean a chur air dòigh,
Uisg' an fhuairin thoirt a nall,
tein' a dheasachadh le fòid.

Glan a chuimhn' air teas na tì,
aran coirc is uibhean cruaidh,
Acras a' cur blas air biadh,
còcaire as àirde luaidh.

Mun tug e cùl ri tuath a ris
chail an àireamh bheag seo aon,
Aon a chaidh air turus buan
nach fhaodar chur an dara taobh.

Do'n tiodhlacadh chaidh fear ar sgeòil,
mar chaidh gach fear le cothrom slàint';
Cleachdadh cubhaidh a bhith cruinn,
beachdachadh air cumhachd bàis.

Briathran freagarrach mar chleachd:
sheas fear togail sailm a muigh:
Buaidh na seinn bha air an t-sluagh
na sreithean réidh bho bheul a' ruith.

Corp an caraaid ghiùlain iad
gun chabhaig astar réir an nòs.
Dhearc na h-ainglean 's dh'aithnich iad
spéis 'ga nochdadh mar bu chòir.

Là na Sàbaid thog e air
do'n eaglais, rathad eòlach dha;
Sàbaid Comanachaidh a bh'ann;
choisich esan mar bu ghnàth.

Càr le muinntir eaglais tric
fad an rathaid sìos gu luath:
Air adhart chum e ceum air cheum
cuideachadh cha d'iarr no truas.

Fhuair e àite-suidhe fhéin,
Bìobull fuaraidh leis an aois
Theann na smuaintean air gu tigh
umpanan a bh'ann 's a dh'aom.

Ràinig 'fhaireachaidhean àird,
nuair a dh'éirich iad gu'n Bhòrd:
Thill iad, ar leis, a ris gu thaobh
le'n aghaidh nèamhaidh a' tighinn beò.

Am fear-turus thill fa-dheòidh,
mac-meanmainn làn de dhealbhan ùr:
Dòigh nan daoìn o'n tàinig e
lean am feasd do aigne dlùth.

'S mòr an sòlas dha mu dheas,
bitheadh saoghal còir no cruaidh
Na chunnaic is na chual e greis
'na turus samhraidh do'n taobh tuath.



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar VI

AN DUBLACHD, 1954

Aireamh 12

Corrochriostag Agus Am Plocach

BHA siud ann roimhe Corrochriostag agus Plocach an Ruamhair. Bha Corrochriostag cho leisg agus bha am Plocach cho easgaidh.

Bha Corrochriostag a' cur seachad a h-ùine air chéilidh nan taighean an uair a bhiodh am Plocach a muigh ag obair. Bha e cho math gu obair is gun tug daoine "am Plocach" mar fhar-ainm air.

Là de na làthaichean a thàinig am Plocach dhachaigh, thubhairt e ri Corrochriostaig, "Nach 'eil an t-àm agad clò a dheanamh dhomh, a Chorrochriostag?"

"Dheanainn sin," ars ise, "nam biodh clòimh agam."

"Càit a bheil a' chlàimh a thug mise dhachaigh Là Fhéil Brianain seo chaidh?" ars am Plocach.

"Tha an tuill a' bhalla," ars ise. "Ma tha toil agad gun dean mise clò dhuit, thoir a' chlàimh á tuill a' bhalla."

Fhuair am Plocach a' phlàta bheag is thug e a' chlàimh á tuill a' bhalla, agus chuir e a' phlàta air a beulaibh.

Chuir Corrochriostag toban beag de'n chlàimh air a' chuigeal is shìomh ri criopag bheag is thig i siud suas air mullach na leapa.

"Gabh suas an sin," ars ise, "far a bheil an còrr de do sheòrsa," agus dh'fhalbh i air chéilidh.

Bha am Plocach a' gabhail fadachd nach robh e a' cluinntinn iomradh air a' chlà.

Là de na làthaichean a thàinig e dhachaigh, thubhairt e ri Corrochriostaig, "An deachaidh an clò riamh do'n bheart, a Chorrochriostag?"

"Tha mi a' falbh leis an diugh fhéin," ars ise. "Rach suas air mullach na leapa agus tilg a nuas na ceirslean a gheibh thu ann an sin," arsa Corrochriostag.

Suas am Plocach air mullach na leapa.

"Chan fhaic mise an seo ach aon chriopag bheag," ars am Plocach.

"Tha ceirslean gu leòr suas an sin, ma tà, is tilg a nuas iad," arsa Corrochriostag.

Thig am Plocach chuice a' chriopag.

Thig Corrochriostag suas i air mullach na leapa a rithis air cùlaibh a' Phlocaich, is bha iad air an iorram sin gun an d'eubh Corrochriostag, "Tha a' phlàta làn agam, a Phlocaich."

Dh'fhalbh Corrochriostag leis an t-snàth anns a' phlàta a dh'ionnsaigh na ban-fhìghiche.

Bha am Plocach a' gabhail fadachd nach robh e a' cluinntinn iomradh air a' chlà.

Là de na làthaichean a thàinig am Plocach dhachaigh, thubhairt e ri Corrochriostaig, "Na luaidheadh an clò riamh, a Chorrochriostag?"

"Thug mise," ars ise, "an clò suas gu leacann an locha ud shuas, is dh'eubh mi, 'Fhithichibh is fheannagan is fhaoileagan, thigibh is luaidhibh an clò;"

Fhithichibh is fheannagan is fhaoileagan, thigibh is luaidhibh an clò;

Fhithichibh is fheannagan is fhaoileagan, thigibh is luaidhibh an clò." Cha tàinig fiteach no feannag no faoileag. "Thig no na tig," arsa mise, "tha mise a' falbh," is dh'fhàg mi aca e."

"Obh! Obh!" ars am Plocach, "nach truagh mi fhéin leat! Cha do stad thu riamh gus na chuir thu a shiubhal an t-saoghail mi."

Thog e leis a' phlàta is dh'fhalbh e a shiubhal an t-saoghail.

Cha b'fhada gus an cual e trotan beag as a dhéidh. Sìil d' an t'ug e, có a bha an seo ach Corrochriostag?

"Càit a bheil thusa a' dol, a Chorrochriostag?" ars am Plocach.

"Far am bi thusa, bidh mise," arsa Corrochriostag.

"An do dhragh thu a' chòmhlà as do dhéidh?" ars am Plocach.

"Cha do dhragh," arsa Corrochriostag.

"Till, ma tà," ars am Plocach, "agus dragh a' chòmhlà as do dhéidh." Thill i.

Cha b'fhada gus an cual am Plocach slaodadh is stàrlaich as a dhéidh a' tighinn.

Có a bha an seo ach Corrochriostag is i a' slaodadh na còmhlà is nan ursannan as a déidh!

“Nach ann a dh’iarr mise ort an doras a dhùnadh?” ars am Plocach. “Fàg an sin iad, a’ chòmhlà is na h-ursannan.”

“Far am bi mise, bidh a’ chòmhlà is na h-ursannan,” ars Corrochriostag.

Dh’fhalbh iad, is Corrochriostag a’ slaodadh no còmhlà is nan ursannan as a déidh.

Am beul na h-oidhche, an dealachadh nan tràthan, chunnaic iad solus beag air ùrlar glinne, agus, ged a b’fhada bhuaith iad, cha b’fhada ’ga ruighinn iad, is rinn iad dìreach air.

Ciod e a bha an seo ach uaimh robairean, teine mór aig a ceann shuas, is poit mhór anns an robh fiadh a’ goil air an teine!

Thug Corrochriostag a’ chòmhlà is na h-ursannan a steach do’n uaimh, is sùil d’an tug i chunnaic i sparran aig mullach na h-uamha.

“Suas leis a’ chòmhlà air na sparran,” arsa Corrochriostag.

Chuir iad a’ chòmhlà is na h-ursannan suas air na sparran.

Mhothaich i an sin do chuaich ann an oisean na h-uamha. Thog i làn na cuaiche de’n enraich a bha anns a’ phoit.

Shuidh i fhéin is am Plocach, duine air gach taobh de’n teine, ag òl balgam ma seach as a’ chuaich.

Cha b’fhada gus an cual iad fuaim a’ tighinn. Cò a bha an seo ach na robairean! Siud Corrochriostag is am Plocach suas air a’ chòmhlà air na sparran!

Thàinig na robairean a steach. Dhòirt iad na pocannan òir is airgid air an ùrlar is thòisich iad ri cumntas an airgid.

Dh’fhadaidh fear duibh an teine is chaidh e air sùrd an t-suipear a chur air a’ chlàr (truinn-sear mór fiodha).

“Dh’èirich an toit mu na sparran.

“Tha mise gus mo thachdadh,” arsa Corrochriostag.

“Nach bi thu sàmhach?” ars am Plocach.

“Mo shùilean, mo shùilean leis an toit!” ars Corrochriostag.

“Nach fhan thu sàmhach, a Chorrochriostag!” ars am Plocach.

“Tha am pathadh orm,” arsa Corrochriostag.

“Thugainn a dh’iarraidh dibhe, a Phlocach. Tha mise a’ falbh.”

Ghluais Corrochriostag gu ceann shìos na còmhlà. Dh’fhalbh am Plocach gus a cumail air ais. Siud sìos a’ chòmhlà leo le chéile! Bhuail iad mu’n phoit a bha air an teine, a’ chòmhlà is Corrochriostag is am Plocach! Leum steall as a’ phoit air an fhear a bha aig a’ phoit, an còcaire. Leig e (dh’eubh e) na creachan! A mach càch is thug iad an sliabh orra. Lüg am fear a chaidh a sgaldadh do’n mhòintich.

Lion Corrochriostag is am Plocach a’ phlàta bheag leis an òr is leis an airgead, agus thill iad dachaigh do’n bhòthan as na dh’fhalbh iad. Fhuair iad còmhlà is ursannan ùra, is bha iad sona riamh tuilleadh.

BHO RAONaid NicLeoid.

Sgeul Uilleim Tell

(Air ùr-aithris an Gàidhlig le T. M. M.)

ANN an teis-meadhan na Roinn-Eòrpa tha dùthaich bheag ris an abrar anns a’ Bheurla Switzerland, dùthaich anns a bheil beanntan àrda còmhdaichte le sneachd, lochan móra, glinn mhaiseach. Ach tha nì eile aig na Suissich a tha mòran na’s luchmhoire leo na maise na dùthcha, agus is e sin an saorsa mar shluagh. Is fada bho choisinn iad an t-saorsa sin—ceudan bliadhna air ais—agus air dhaibh an saorsa a thoirt a mach cha do ghéill iad riamh do chumhachd no do ùghdarras sam bith eile, agus anns na cogaidhean móra dh’amais iad air fantainn ann an sìth an teis-meadhan tuasaid mhóir an t-saoghal.

Tha iomadh sgeul is naidheachd aig na Suissich mu na h-oidhirpean a rinneadh le an sinnsirean ann an toirt a mach na saorsa. Bidh sinne an Albainn a’ luaidh air Uilleam Ualas is Raibeart Brus mar cheatharnaich a choisinn d’ar dùthaich-ne saorsa bho chuing choimhich mòran linntean air ais. Am measg

nan ceatharnach air am bi na Suissich a’ deanamh luaidh tha Uilleam Tell, ach buinidh eachdraidh an duine seo, chan ann a mhàin do na Suissich, ach do chloinn nan daoine gu léir.

Bha Uilleam Tell ’na shealgair ainmeil agus ’na mharaiche gleusda, agus bha a chòmhnaidh aige ann am bothan beag air slios na beinne ri taobh loch Uiridh. R’a linn-san cha robh gunnachan no armachd an là an diugh fhathast ann, ach bha Tell iomraiteach mar fhear-bogha. Bha sùil is làmh aige a ghabhadh cuimse cho cinnteach agus gun leagadh e an t-eun air a sgéith. Cha bu tric a sheachnadh am fiadh a shaiaghead dhireach mharbhteach.

Bha Uilleam Tell a’ tighinn beò gu socair sìtheil, còmhlà ri a mhnaoi agus a dhithis bhalachan òga. Bha na dh’fhòghnadh de bhìadh aca bho shealgairreachd nam beann is nan coilltean is fo iasgach an locha. An uair a

(An còrr air t.d. 47)

bhiodh airgead a dhìth air, rachadh Tell do'n bhaile a b' fhaigse, Altorf, le eallach de chraicnean fhìadh air a mhuin, agus leis an airgead a gheibheadh e orra anns a' mhargadh cheann-icheadh e goireasan is comhfhurtan d'a fhéin is d'a theaghlach.

Aig an ám anns an robh Uilleam Tell beò, thachair gu robh a' cheàrn ud de'n dùthaich an déidh tuiteam fo ùghdarras Impire Austria, agus b'e fear d'am b'ainm Gessler a bha mar Mhaor a' riaghladh thairis air an t-sluagh an ainm an Impire. Duine cruaidh an-ìochdmhor, b'e sin Gessler, agus chuir e roimhe, chan e a mhàin gun cumadh e na Suissich fo làn-smachd, ach gun toireadh e dhaibh gach masladh air an smaoinicheadh e. Dlùth do bhaile Altorf thog e daingneach làidir, le seileirean fo na tùr mar phrìosan dhaibh-san a dh'iùltadh a bhith umhal dha fhéin agus do'n Impire. Cha b'e sin a mhàin, ach thug e air na Suissich an daingneach a thogail dha, ged as math a bha fhios aca gur ann a chum iad féin a chionnachadh a bha an togail seo 'ga cur suas.

Cha robh cur-seachad ann a bu docha le Gessler air a bhith ag amas air dòigh ùir air chor-eigin air masladh a thoirt do na Suissich, agus seo aon de na nithean a dh' àithn e a dhean-amh. Chuir e suas post no stob air cnoc am meadhan ionad-margaidh Altorf, agus air a' phost chroch e ad, "ad an impire," mar a thubhairt e fhéin; agus thug e òrdugh gum feumadh a h-uile neach, air dhaibh a bhith a' gabhail seachad, glùn a lùbadh is ceann a rùsgadh agus modh a nochdadh do'n aid, air neo—.

Là a bha an seo có a thàinig a steach gu Altorf ach an sealgair còir, Uilleam Tell, e fhéin agus fear de na balaich aige, Bhàtair? Thàinig iad a reic chraicnean fhìadh anns a' mhargadh agus a cheannach nithean feumail. Ann an gabhail seachad air "ad an impire," sheall Uilleam Tell an rathad eile. Cha deanadh esan modh do aid air bàrr stuib, is e nach deanadh. Cha strìochdadh duine onarach sam bith do'n mhasladh ud!

Gu grad bha saighdearan a' Mhaoir 'na bhàd, agus cha b'fhada gus an tàinig Gessler e fhéin, agus e air muin eich. Chuireadh Uilleam Tell an greim. Chruinnich an sluagh mun cuairt, ach ciod a b'urrainn dhaibh-san a dheanamh? Bha fhios aca gum bu duine urramach Uilleam Tell, ach có a bhiodh cho dàna agus gun seasadh e air a sgàth fa chomhair sleaghan fada nan saighdearan, agus có idir a dhùraigeadh facal a ràdh ri Gessler borb?

Sheall Gessler air Tell, agus sheall e an sin air Bhàtair òg.

"An ann leat am balach?" arsa esan.

"Is leam e," arsa Tell, "ach na dean cron air. Cha d'rinn esan coire sam bith."

"Cha dean mise cron air," arsa Gessler. "Ma nithear cron air, is tusa a nì e. Tha iad ag innseadh dhòmhsa gur e fear-bogha gleusda a tha annad. Dearbh dhuinn cinnte do chuimse!"

Thionndaidh Gessler ri fear de na saighdearan aige. "Beir air a' bhalach," arsa esan, "agus ceangail ris a' chraoibh ud thall e."

Thuit uamhann air an t-sluagh, agus gun fhios aca ciod a bha am beachd an duine eucoraich.

Agus, an sin, arsa Gessler ri Uilleam Tell, "B'e mo rùn do chur gu bàs air son gun do dhiùlt thu urram a thoirt do shuaicheantas an impire. Ach is duine trocaireach mi! Behr mi dhuit cotrom do bheatha a shàbhladh o bhinn a' bhàis. Cuiridh sinn ubhal air ceann do mhic, agus feuchaidh tusa saighdear air an ubhal le do bhogha-tarsainn aig astar ceithir fichead sèinteg. Ma bhuaileas tu gu glan air an ubhal, leigidh mi ma sgaoil thu. Mar buail do shaigneair air an ubhal air a' cheud ionn-saigh, caillidh tu do cheann! Feuch ort!"

Dh'fhàs aodann Tell bàn le cràdh-cridhe.

"A bheil thu gu tur gun iochd?" arsa esan ri Gessler. "A bheil thu a' saoilinn gum feuchainn ri mo bheatha fhéin a theasainginn le beatha mo mhic a chur an cunnart?"

"Tha mi a' nochdadh fàbhair dhuit," arsa Gessler. "Smaoinich! Ma dh'amaiseas tu gu ceart, théid thu fhéin is do mhac saor."

"Ciamar as urrainn athair cuimse cheart a ghabhail air ball-amais a tha a mhàin òirleach os cionn eanchainn a mhic?"

"Tha do roghainn agad," arsa Gessler.

"Feuch air, no faigh bàs!"

"Faiגעam bàs, ma thà," arsa Tell. "'S e sin as fhéarr na gun deanainn dochann air mo mhacan òg."

"Ach mus faigh thu bàs," arsa Gessler, "cuiridh mise do mhac gu bàs fa chomhair do shùla."

An uair a chuala Uilleam Tell na briathran brùideil sin, "Thoir dhomh mo bhogha," arsa esan. Chuir e a làmh anns a' bhalg-shaignead agus thagh e dà shaignead. Chuir e aon dhiubh 'na chrios agus chuir e an t-saignead eile ri sreang a' bhogha.

Thàinig tosd air na bha a làthair. Cha leigeadh an t-eagal agus an t-uamhas le neach fù anail a tharraing.

Sheas Uilleam Tell car tiota, a cheann crom, mar gu robh e ri ùrnuigh. An sin sheas e dìreach stòlda. Tharraing e am bogha ri a ghualainn. Chuir e a shùil ri ite na saighde.

Sgolt an t-saignead an ubhal 'na dà leth, agus dh'èirich òlach aoihbneis bhò'n t-sluagh.

“Is math a rinn thu,” arsa Gessler ri Tell. “Ach innis dhomh, car son a chuir thu an t-saighead eile ‘nad chrios.”

“Nam biodh a’ cheud té air mo leanabh-sa a leòn,” thubhairt Tell, “chuirinn an dara saighead troimh do chridhe-sa, agus bhiodh tu anns an dearbh mhionaid seo ‘nad chlosaich air an t-sràid!”

“O, seadh,” arsa Gessler. “Tha mi an cunnart mo bheatha, a bheil? Cumaidh mi mo ghealladh dhuit. Cha chuir sinn gu bás thu, ach cumaidh sinn fo ghlais thu. Cuiridh tu seachad an còrr de do bheatha an toll-dubh na daingnich agamsa, agus cha bhith cothrom agad air bagairt air mo bheatha-sa.”

Chuireadh Uilleam Tell an greim as ùr. Cheangladh e, agus thugadh sìos do’n chladach e, agus chuireadh air bòrd long a’ Mhaoir e, a chum a ghiùlan do’n phrìosan as nach robh dùil aige teicheadh gu bràth tuilleadh.

Ach am feadh is a bha an long a’ seòladh tarsainn air an loch dh’èirich stòirm ghàbhaidh agus bha a choltas ann gum biodh na bha air bòrd air an call. Chumhnich an sgioba gum b’e fear-stiùraidh math a bha an Uilleam Tell, agus e cho eòlach air uisgeachan is cladaichean an locha, agus mar sin chomhairlich iad do Gessler leigeil le Tell an long a stiùradh air neo cha ruigeadh iad cala gu bràth.

“Fuasglaidh e agus thoiribh dha an ailme,” arsa Gessler.

Cha b’fhada a bha Tell air an stiùir an uair a thòraich e an long gu uisge a bu chùine, ach ann a bhith a’ deanamh sin stiùir e i a steach ri oir a’ chladaich far an robh stallachan àrda; chuir e a deireadh ri tìr agus thug e aon duibh-leum gu creig agus a mach a bha e á sealladh!

Rinn Tell dìreach air bealach cumhang am measg nam beann far an robh fhios aige a bhiodh Gessler agus a chòmhlán a’ gabhail seachad air an rathad dhachaigh. Chaidh e am falach ann am fearsan fearna agus dh’fhan e gu foidhidneach furachail le a bhogha air lagh.

Thàinig feadhainn is ghabh iad seachad. Thàinig luchd-turuis eile is ghabh iad seachad. Mu dheireadh, nochd Gessler agus a chuideachd. Tharraing Tell am bogha. Leig e as an t-saighead. Thuit Gessler bhàrr an eich, le saighead Tell troimh a chridhe.

Thug euchdan Uilleim Tell misneach do’n t-sluagh. Chruinnich iad gu cath air son saorsa an dùthcha, le Tell air an ceann, agus ri ùine thig iad dhiubh cuing impire Austria. Bu mhiann leo Uilleam Tell a bhith ‘na rìgh thairis orra, ach dhùilt e an cuireadh agus thill e dhachaigh do’n bhòthan aige fhéin a bha na bu phrìseile leis na lùchairt air thalamh.

“Uilleam Tell” Gaidhealach

Chuala mi iomradh uair-eigin mu fhear a bha o chionn fhada an Uibhist a Deas, Gille-Padraig Dubh Staoiligearraidh. Bha e ainmeil mar fhear-bogha. Chuala Triath Chloinn Raghnaill a chliù agus chaidh e ga dhearbhadh, agus b’e seo an dearbhadh. Dh’iarr e air Gille-Padraig saighead fheuchainn air ubh air mullach ceann a mhic. Bhuail Gille-Padraig an t-ubh gu glan. “Tha mi a’ faicinn gu bheil saigheadan eile agad an sin. Car son?” arsa am Mormhair.

“Nan robh mi air mo mhac a mharbhadh,” arsa Gille-Padraig, “dh’amaisinn air an eun as àirde anns an ealtainn!”

Bha seo a’ ciallachadh a’ Mhormhair fhéin.

Chan aithne dhòmhsa ach sin de’n eachdraidh. A bheil neach ann—an Uibhist a Deas no an àit air bith—a chuireas chugainn an làn-sgeul? Bidh sinn gu mòr ‘nur comain.

AM FEAR-DEASACHAIDH.

Am Maighistir Agus An Gille

BHA tuathanach ann uair-eigin agus cha ghabhadh e gille sam bith mar sheirbhis-each ach gille a dh’fhanadh còmhla ris gu ceann seachd bliadhna agus nach iarradh de thuarasad ach na ghlacadh e ‘na bheul de’n t-sìol an uair a bhiodh e a’ bualadh an arbhair anns an t-sabhal.

Thàinig gille òg far an robh e is thubhairt e, “Gabhaidh mise tuarasdal agad.” Agus rinn e fhéin agus an tuathanach còrdadh, agus is e an tuarasdal a bha gu bhith aig a’ ghille na ghlacadh e de bhiceanan sil ‘na bheul am feadh is a bhiodh e a’ bualadh an arbhair anns an t-sabhal, agus cead an sìol sin a chur agus na chinneadh as an t-sìol a ghlèidheadh.

Ré a’ cheud gheamhraidh cha do ghlac an gille ‘na bheul ach trì biceanan sil, ach ghléidh e iad sin gu cùramach, agus an tàinig an t-earrach agus an sin chuir e iad. Chinn asda sin trì diasan agus bha air gach dias trì fichead biceanan matha sil.

Ghléidh an gille iad sin gu cùramach, agus ciod air bith biceanan sil air an d’rug e, chuir e còmhla riu iad. Chuir e iad sin a rithist as t-earrach agus air an fhogharadh bha toradh aige cho math is a bha aige a’ bhliadhna roimh sin.

Lean gnothaichean mar sin bliadhna as déidh bliadhna gu ceann nan seachd bliadhna, agus a nis bha aige de shìol na ghabhadh uile fhearann an tuathanaich a chum a chur. Is ann a b’fheudar do’n tuathanaich màl a phàidheadh do’n tuathanaich a b’fhaise air son fearainn anns an cuireadh an gille an còrr sil a bha aige, agus b’fheudar dha pàirt de’n spréidh aige a reic a chion grunnda air an ionaltradh iad, agus cha deanadh e bargan air a’ cheart dòigh ri gille gu bràth tuilleadh.

(Bho “Sgeulachdan Gaidhealach” a’ Chaimbeulaich, le beagan atharrachaidh.)

Executive Council

A MEETING of the Executive Council of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in the Highlanders' Institute, Glasgow, on Saturday, 13th November, 1954, Mr. Neil Shaw, President, in the Chair. Over thirty members were present.

The President cordially welcomed the new members present, and referred to the Hon. Mrs. Maclean of Ardgour's attendance for the first time since her serious accident.

Minutes of the Extraordinary and Preliminary Meetings of the Council were approved. There had been some misunderstanding about the Convenership of the Publication Committee, and it was confirmed that Mr. Angus Macleod had been appointed to succeed Mr. Lachlan Mackinnon.

A minute of the Advisory Committee was adopted.

Minutes of the Finance Committee were approved. Mr. Donald Grant was appointed Convenir in succession to Mr. Kenneth Macdonald. Mr. Grant paid tribute to the work done by Mr. Macdonald during his four years as Finance Convenir.

Minutes of the Mod and Music Committee were approved.

Asked about the locus of the 1956 Mod, Mr. J. M. Bannerman, Convenir, said the Largs Branch had been approached, and he invited Miss May Hunter, Branch representative, to speak. Miss Hunter said that her Committee had discussed the proposal to have the Mod at Largs in 1956 and were prepared to invite the 1957 Mod to Largs, when more accommodation would be available. Mr. Ramsay of the Skelmorlie and District Highland Association, and Mr. Neil MacEachnie of the Greenock Tir nam Beann Association, pledged the support of their Associations for 1956 if the Largs Branch were prepared to accept the Mod for that year. Mr. Donald MacPhail, speaking on behalf of the Inverness Branch, said that they could not take the Mod in 1956, but were prepared to send an invitation for 1957. Captain Wm. Mackay, President of the Inverness Branch, concurred. After some discussion, it was agreed to send a delegation to Largs to confer with the Branch Committee and review the position with regard to having the Mod in Largs in 1956.

Minute of the Education Committee was approved. There was some discussion on the questionnaire regarding the teaching of Gaelic in schools. Mr. Angus Macleod reported on the deputation to the Scottish Education Department. Mr. Alex. Nicolson reported on the deputation to Jordanhill Training College, the object of which was to secure facilities for Gaelic graduates to observe and practise the teaching of Gaelic in schools. Mr. Donald Grant remarked that he did not think there was any reluctance on the part of the authorities, but the scarcity of students was the difficulty. With regard to the teaching of Gaelic in Glasgow schools, Mrs. Angus Whyte suggested that Knightswood School, as proposed by the Committee, was not a good choice, as this was a technical school, and proposed Whitehill School instead.

Captain Wm. Mackay, Inverness, was appointed a member of the Committee on Further Education in place of the Rev. Malcolm Maclean, resigned.

Minute of Propaganda Committee was submitted. The Committee's recommendation to accept the proposal received from Mod Dhailriada, that seniors from the mainland of Argyll be allowed to compete at the Dalriada Mod, was rejected by the Council.

With regard to English competitions at the Kintyre Mod, the Council rejected the Committee's recommendation that no action be taken, and it was agreed to send a deputation to Campbeltown to confer with the local committee on the desirability of bringing the Kintyre Mod into line with other districts by eliminating the English section.

Minute of Clann an Fhraoich Committee was approved. It was reported that copies were now available of the new booklet of Gaelic phrases for use in the conducting of meetings. Mr. I. M. Moffatt-Pender had generously defrayed all printing expenses, and it was agreed that the booklet be sold at one shilling per copy and that the proceeds go to the funds of the Committee.

Minute of Comunn na h-Oigridh Committee was approved.

Minute of joint-meeting of Finance and Propaganda Committees concerning uniformity of membership was submitted, and the matter was remitted back to the joint-meeting for reconsideration and report to the January meeting of Council.

It was unanimously agreed that copies of minutes of Executive Council and Standing Committees should, in future, be sent to all members of the Executive Council.

The next meeting of Council was fixed for 15th January, 1955, in the Highlanders' Institute, Glasgow.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

An t-Oireachtas, 1954

ATTENDING the Oireachtas of the Irish Gael is at once a privilege and a revelation to a member of An Comunn Gaidhealach.

In this country we are accustomed to hear Irish song represented to us by such charming ditties as the 'Rose of Tralee' class. And it was something of a revelation, to the writer at least, to hear at the Oireachtas for the first time genuine Irish Gaelic song animated as it was with the true dignity, timelessness, and serenity of the old Gaelic airs. The various youth movements, too, are on a scale beyond the rosiest dreams of Comunn na h-Oigridh. This is, of course, largely attributable to the fact that in Eire it is recognised that the perfecting of the true self of the Gael, through the development of the native culture within him, is worth at least some of the time that is spent teaching Highland girls trigonometry or Highland boys strings of irregular French verbs.

Hence the native Gaelic youth movements in Eire get all the financial and educational support, backed by a genuine official 'will for victory,' which accounts for the scale on which they are able to operate. These youth organisations sing Highland as well as Irish airs (rightly drawn from the common treasury of Gaelic tradition). Commencing through the schools, they continue in student and later associations.

If many of the Irish songs may seem to lack some of the development in theme and variations of our Highland songs, the answer is perhaps contained in what some of themselves said. That is, that the Gaelic tradition had in Eire been driven nearer to extinction than we in the Highlands. And today, perhaps, Alba can repay Eire by helping to rebuild that Gaelic musical tradition, the foundation of which she once received largely from her.

Historically also it was interesting to hear that the 'Culloden' of Eire is regarded by many as being the Battle of Kinsale in 1601, rather than the Boyne. For it was this disaster which finally broke the Irish clan system, and consequently the Gaelic way of life.

Many other things strike the Highland visitor to Eire, such as the new approach of the Irish Gaelic movement, 'Cara.' And the piper will be intrigued by the remarkable playing technique of the Irish 'uilleann' pipes.

But space forbids digression. The Oireachtas itself well deserves a visit. F. S. CAMERON-HEAD.

The Bloody Stairs

THE old castle of Rothesay stands in the middle of the town of that name, a mute witness of the stirring scenes of other days. Within the ruins is all that remains of the chapel dedicated to St. Michael. From the east gable of the chapel there is an old stair leading to the top of the walls of the castle. This stair has been known from time immemorial as the "Bloody Stairs," having gained this name, as legend tells us, from a dark deed that was enacted on its steps in the dim past. The legend has been turned into a very cleverly written ballad.

The joint authors of the *History of Clan Donald* quote the ballad, introducing it by a lengthy historical note. They think that the "dark-eyed chief" of the song is Roderick, grandson of the mighty Somerled, who made the castle of Rothesay his main residence for a time. "Roderick made it his residence during his occupation of Bute, and if the legend of the 'Bloody Stair' of which the 'dark eyed chief' is the theme, have any foundation in fact, the character of our naval hero must be depicted in much darker hues than we would wish to have it portrayed" by quoting at length the following ballad, being the only evidence of the tragic deed ascribed to our clansman:—

Oh, Rothesay's tour is round about,
And Rothesay's tour is strong;
And loud within its merry wa's
The noise of wassail rang.

A scald of Norway struck the harp,
And a harper good was he;
For hearts beat mad, and looks grew wild
Wi' his sang o' victory.

A dark eyed chief has left the board,
Where he sat as lord and liege;
And he called aloud amidst the crowd
For Thorfinn, his little foot page.

"Go, tell the stranger, Isabel,
That she stir not from the bower
Till darkness dons her blackest dress,
And midnight marks the hour.

And tell the Ladye Isabel
To come when the least is o'er,
And meet upon the chapel stair
The chieftain Rory Mor."

The legend then goes on to tell of the meeting on the stairs, and of the high words that passed between the lady and the chief.

"I am Rory Mor, the Island chief;
I'm Roderick, Lord of Bute;
For the raven of Norway flies above,
And the lion of Scotland's mute."

The chief tells the lady how he hates her kith

and kin and has sworn to be their foe all his lifetime, yet he swears to love and wed her, though she bear the blood of the High Stewart. But the lady would have nothing to do with him and upbraids him as a rank butcher, accusing him of slaying her father and three brothers. At length the chief, as he could not gain his desires, drew his dagger.

An eye might be seen with revenge to gleam,
Like a shot star in a storm;
And a heart was felt to writhe, as if bit
By the never-dying worm.

A struggle was heard on the chapel stair,
And a smothered shriek of pain—
A deadened groan, and a fall on the stone—
And all was silent again.

The morning woke on the Ladye's bower,
But no Isabel was there;
The morning woke on Rothesay's tower,
And bluid was on the stair.

And oft in the mirk and midnight hour,
When a' is silent there,
A shriek is heard, and a Ladye is seen
On the steps o' the Bloody Stair.

The authors of *Clan Donald* do not say where they obtained the ballad.

Hugh MacDonald, the well-known author and journalist of the first half of last century, quotes the ballad in full in his *Days at the Coast* published in 1857. He introduces it as follows:—

There is an abiding stain of blood upon the old castle also; and, if tradition may be credited, it is actually haunted by presences which are not of this earth. The narrow stair behind the ruined chapel, and up which we climb to the battlements, is called the "Bloody Stair," from a deed of horror of which it was the scene in bygone years. The legend we have heard in prose; but it is better told in a ballad which appeared, a goodly number of years ago, in a clever local publication, called the *Salt Water Gazette*. We committed the verses to memory at the time; and, reader, if thou wilt sit with us on the green castle wa' for brief space, we shall even chaunt them for thy delectation.

Then follows the whole ballad.

William Love, printer, Glasgow published MacDonald's collected poems and songs after his death, edited and prepared for the press by W. W. Scott. In this volume is included the ballad *The Bloody Stairs*, the editor supposing it to have been composed by MacDonald himself, his introduction being only a literary subterfuge. The editor need not be censured for this error because nearly all MacDonald's verse is scattered through his prose writings, and it is extremely difficult to decide what is MacDonald's own and what is other people's composition. For instance, he puts the

credit of a "rhyming friend of ours," "who, after wetting his whistle by a draught from a small pocket-flask," made the echoes of Kenmuir ring with the following, which he sung to an old Gaelic air, "I am asleep, do not waken me"; then follow the verses beginning

When spring from the blue lift comes smiling,
 'The friend of ours' was really MacDonald
 himself, and the song is among the best that
 came from his pen.

In the instance of the ballad under discussion MacDonald told no more than the truth when he says it appeared in print before he quoted it. The author was a MacKay who in the early years of last century was a parochial school-master in Bute, but of whose life and death we have no particulars. The authority for the authorship of the ballad is James Hedderwick, contemporary journalist, Glasgow, who was a close friend of MacDonald's.

This then is the history of the ballad of *The Bluidy Stairs*, and those who possess a copy of the monumental history of Clan Donald can make a pencil note on the margin to say who the author was. And, by the way, when a new edition is called for, the many printers' errors should be removed, and the occasional lapses of the authors be corrected; on one or two occasions they contradict themselves.

J. E. S.

Gaelic Names of Birds

From General Sir Philip Christison, Bt.

The Croft,
 MELROSE, 8th November, 1954.

SIR,—I am engaged in collecting the general and local names in Gaelic of our Scottish Birds.

I am anxious to have local correspondents in every part of the country who would co-operate with me.

May I ask the courtesy of *An Gaidheal* to make this known?

I shall be delighted to send a prepared list of the birds in English to all who will help, and lists should be returned to me here when completed.

We are doing much to preserve local poetry, song, and music; let us ensure that the familiar Gaelic names of our birds are not forgotten.—I am, Sir, Yours faithfully,

PHILIP CHRISTISON.

* * * * *
 Is toigh leis an fheannaig a h-isean garrach
 gorm.

* * * * *
 Goirteas a' chinn fhéin a dh'fhairicheas a
 h-uile fear.

Naidheachdan Na h-Airde Tuath

SINCE returning from the National Mod at Perth I have been kept "on the move" visiting branches. This being my first winter as Northern Organiser I try my best to accept the kind invitations I receive from Branches to be present at their first Ceilidh of the new session, but, as the area is so wide, I have found it impossible to be present at the first ceilidh of all Branches, and had to postpone some of my visits to a later ceilidh.

I have visited Branches in Dornoch, Tain, Aberdeen, Brora, Helmsdale and Balmacara. In all these places I have found the people friendly, homely and hospitable, and all members, without exception, show great interest and enthusiasm for the Gaelic Cause. The Ceilidhs in all these different areas were well attended and from what I could gather about their proposed activities during the winter months the position as regards the enthusiasm for the well-being of the language is most encouraging.

Members of the Aberdeen Branch are going all out this year in preparation for the National Mod in 1955 and I have no doubt whatever that competitors and "faithful followers" of the Mod will get a real Highland Welcome in Aberdeen.

All branches are striving for an increase of members. At a ceilidh in Balmacara their very able secretary appealed for more members to come forward. We appreciate very much the fact that we have untiring workers in remote areas like Mrs. MacDonald of Balmacara Hotel, who has kept the interest of the people in that area alive and has shown, by an increase in their donation to the Central Fund this year, that much could be done in the different areas by having an enthusiastic person running their activities.

Bu mhath leam an cothrom so a gabhail air móran ting a thoirt do gach neach ris an do thachair mi air mo chuart air son an coibhneis, an aoigheachd agus an teò-chridheachd.
 D. J. McL.

The Clarsach Society

The annual report of "Comunn na Clarsaich" for 1953-54 reports steady progress. The clarsach is increasing in popularity, and Victor MacEchern's clarsach-playing in the B.B.C. Scottish Children's Hour "so delighted the young people that many wrote to enquire as to how they could learn to play and to hire clarsachs." All the clarsachs belonging to the society, except two being repaired, were in constant hire. Two additional clarsachs have been purchased. Considerable space is given in the report to a summary of the interesting lecture delivered to the Society by the Rev. William Matheson on "Gaelic Songs associated with the Clarsach."

At the Annual General Meeting of the Society held at Perth during Mod Week, Mrs. Iain Campbell of Airds retired from the Presidency after having served in that office for 23 years. As founder, and first President, Mrs. Campbell has rendered outstanding service, and this was suitably recognised by appointing her "Honorary Life President." The new President is General Sir Philip Christison, Bt. The Hon. Secretary is Mrs. Herbert J. Wilson, 30 Dirleton Avenue, North Berwick.

Co A Mharbh Mac 'Ille Dhuinn?

AN uair a chaidh na ceud oil-thaighean a chur air chais ann an Albainn, mar a bha Cill-rimhinn agus Obar-dheadhain, bha na h-oileanaich a' còmhnaidh anns na colaisdean.

B'e fear d'am b'ainm Mac 'Ille Dhuinn an t-àrd-dorsair a bha ann an Colaisde an Rìgh an Obar-dheadhain. Cha robh e féin agus an òigridh a' comh-chòrdadh. Bha e ro-ealamh air innse do'n luchd-raghlaidh mu bhriseadh sam bith a dheanadh iad air riaghailtean na Colaisde no an taigheadais.

Air là de na làithean fhuair an dorsair fios gu robh cuid-eigin air son a fhaicinn anns an *Red Lion*—taigh-òsda anns an nàbachd. An uair a chunnaic e an rud a bha roimhe anns an rùm, rinn e air son tilleadh a mach, ach cha robh tilleadh air a shon. Bha an dorus glaiste, agus fear le armachd 'ga dhion. Air cathair aig ceann bùird anns an rùm bha fear ann an gruaig is trusgan siorrain. Timcheall a' bhùird bha luchd-lagha 'nan suidhe le pinn is paipearan.

Leugh an clèireach a' chasaid an aghaidh Mhic 'Ille Dhuinn.

"Ciontach no neochiontach?" arsa an Siorram.

Thug fianaisean an teisteanais. Bhruidhinn fear-lagha 'na aghaidh, agus fear air a shon.

"Ciontach," thubhairt an Siorram. "Is e binn na cùirte gum bi do cheann air a sgaradh bho do cholainn. Fhìr na làimh-thuaigh, dean do dhleasdanas!"

Chòmhdaich iad sùilean a' phrìosanaich. Rùisg iad a amhach, agus chuir iad 'na laighe e air sgonn fiodha. Thàinig fear na làimh-thuaigh a nuas air a sgòrnan—chan b'ann le tuagh ach le tubhailt fhliuch!

"Eirich, a nis," thubhairt an Siorram.

Cha d'èirich agus cha do ghluais esan. Thàinig an fheala-dhà gu feala-trì. Chaidh e à cochull a chridhe, fuar marbh!

Bha a nis an ceòl air feadh na fìdhle.

Tha e anns an aithris gur e mac Morair nan Eilean am fear dhiubh a tharraing a bhiodag agus a chuir air am miannan iad nach innseadh agus nach aidicheadh a h-aon diubh gu bràth gum b'aithne dhaibh dad mu'n chùis.

Sgioblaich iad an rùm. Dh'fhàg iad e mar a fhuair iad e, ach a mhàin an truaghan a bha fuar air an ùrlar.

Thuit an t-amharas air na h-oileanaich. Chruinnicheadh iad uile agus chaidh miòn-cheasnachadh agus rannsachadh a dheanamh;

ach lide mu'n chùis cha d'fhuaradh a mach bho aon seach aon. Mu dheireadh thall ghlaodh an t-àrd-fhear-ceasnachaidh, "Tha cuid is cuibhreann aig a h-uile mac màthar agaibh ann am bàs Mhic 'Ille Dhuinn!" A. M.

(Tha sinn an comain "A.M." air son an sgeoil seo. Tha e ag ràdh, an uair a bha e fhéin 'na oileanach an Oil-thaigh Obar-dheadhain o chionn lethcheud bliadhna, gum biodh a' chlànn air an t-sràid ag éigheach ris na h-oileanaich anns a' Bheurla Obar-dheadhanach, "Fa kilt Downie?" Gheibhear cunntas mu'n tachartas seo ann an leabhar, "Life at a Northern University," le Niall MacGilleathain. —F. D.)

News from Nova Scotia

IN his latest annual report, Major C.I.N. Macleod, Gaelic Adviser of the Adult Education Division of the Department of Education, Nova Scotia, states that during the year to 31st August last "a definite effort was made to promote the Gaelic language through the medium of adult classes, radio, press, and lectures." He feels, however, "that more basic emphasis is still required on language, as against the apparent colourful attributes of our Scottish Heritage, such as Piping and Highland dancing." Gaelic may now be taught in the day-school curriculum of schools in Nova Scotia by teachers who receive credits in Gaelic at the Nova Scotia Summer School for teachers.

Individuals and agencies requesting the guidance of the Gaelic Service are on the increase. Eighteen teachers attended the Gaelic courses at the Summer School at Dalhousie University. A summer School in Gaelic, Gaelic singing, piping, and Highland dancing was also held in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, in August. The School was the first of its kind ever held in P.E.I., and was very successful.

Cordial relations exist between the Canadian Broadcasting Company, the B.B.C., and the Gaelic Service, and regular news-letters are recorded at Sydney and re-broadcast on the Scottish Home Service. Gaelic radio lessons were broadcast weekly.

Major Macleod continues his weekly articles in "The Casket," and is preparing Series 2 of his "Simplified Gaelic Lessons for Beginners." A Gaelic Service Reference Library has been established in the Sydney Office, and the books are in constant demand. Dr. John Lorne Campbell of Canna has made a valuable gift of Gaelic books to this library. Fifty unpublished Gaelic songs were recorded during the year.

Altogether, the Adviser's report is a most creditable and encouraging one.

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JANUARY, 1955

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 'Na bhrat cur fiamh air firichean,
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Leabhar L

AM FAOILLEACH, 1955

Aireamh I

Chaill Sinn Laoch

IAIN N. MACLEOID NACH MAIREANN

ANNS an àireamh mu dheireadh de'n *Ghaidheal* rinn sinn iomradh gu h-aithghearr air an fhìor-Ghaidheal nach maireann, Iain N. MacLeòid, agus sinn an déidh sgeul a bhàis fhaoitainn is gun cothrom againn aig an àm mòran a ràdh m'a thimcheall. Ach is airidh, agus is seachd airidh, esan gum biodh luaidh air a chliù anns a' mhìosachan seo anns an tugadh am follais mòran de a chuid sgrìobhaidhean.

Rugadh Iain N. MacLeòid an Cill-bhaclair air an sgrì Chille-Mhoire anns an Eilean Sgitheanach air an ochdamh là fichead de'n t-Sultuin, 1880. Air dha crìoch urramach a chur air cùrsa an fhòghluim anns a' Cholaiste shuidhicheadh e 'na mhaighistir-sgoile an Eilean Bheàrnaraidh an Leòdhas, agus gu e fhathast ach 'na dhuine glé òg. Ged nach d' fhan e an sgoil Bheàrnaraidh ach beagan is trì bliadhna, ri linn dha a bhith an sin chuireadh tùs air a' dhlùth-cheangal a bha eadar e fhéin agus an t-Eilean sin. Phòs e ban-Bheàrnarach, a chèile chaomh a tha an diugh 'ga chaoidh. Choisinn e meas is càirdeas muinntir an eilein, agus bha a leithid de thaobh aige ri Leòdhas agus sgrìobh e uiread mu thimcheall an eilein sin agus gu robh cuid de'n bheachd gum b'e Leòdhasach a bha ann.

Thug Iain MacLeòid greis a' saothrachadh as leth a' Chomuinn Ghaidhealaich, an uair a bha mòr-fheum air a leithid gu bhith a' teagasg na Gàidhlig, ag oileanachadh choisrean òga ann an ceòl nan Gaidheal, agus a' brosnachadh a chomh-Ghaidheal gu an nàire m'an seann chàinain a leigeil bhuapa. Bha e air aon de na

cinn-iùil a choisinn a' bhuaidh le cothrom ùr a thoirt do'n Ghàidhlig ann an Achd an Fhòghluim, 1918.

An déidh dha a bhith greis air cheann na sgoile air an Dòrnaidh chaidh e gu sgoil Earagaidh an Srath Fharragaig, agus an déidh sin gu sgoil a' Chnuic Bhàin an Sgrì-Mhuire dlùth do Inbhir-Nis. B'ann an sgoil a' Chnuic Bhàin a chuir e seachad na bliadhnan deireannach mar mhaighistir-sgoile agus, an uair a leig e dheth uallach na sgoile, chaidh e a dh'fhuireach am Manachainn Mhic Shimidh.

Fad lethcheud bliadhna cha robh neach am measg nan Gaidheal a sgrìobh uiread ann an Gàidhlig is a sgrìobh esan, agus bu tearc iad a bha cho math ris air sgrìobhadh na Gaidhlig. Tha a chuid sgrìobhaidhean air an sgaradh air feadh mòran mhìosachan is irisean, agus, ma tha e doirbh sgrìobhaidhean Eachainn Mhic-Dhùghail a lorg gu h-iomlan, is duilghe gu mòr iomradh coimhlionta a dheanamh air sgrìobhaidhean Iain MhicLeòid.

Sgrìobh e gu tric ann an *Alba*, am paipear seachdainneach, uile an Gàidhlig, a chuireadh a mach le Ruairidh Arascain is Mhàirr anns a' bhliadhna 1908. Sgrìobh e an sin mu bhàird Leòdhasach, mu bhàrdachd an Eilein Sgitheanach, mu'n deise Ghaidhealaich, mu'n Ghàidhlig fhéin, agus mu shaobh-chràbhadh Gaidhealach.

Anns an *Deò-Gréine* (an t-ainm a bha air a' *Ghaidheal* seo againn an toiseach), a thòisich an 1905, agus anns a' *Ghaidheal* fhéin, sgrìobh e na lionadh iomadh leabhar tomadach. Am

measg nan sgrìobhadh ean a thàinig bho a pheann agus a dh'fhoillsicheadh anns an *Deò-Greine* eadar 1906 is 1918, dusan bliadhna, bha na leanas: "Airighean Leòdhais," "Luadh Bantrach Sheòrais," "Céilidh Taigh Dhòmhaill Sgaitich," "Coinneach Odhar (dealbh-chluich)," "Fionnghal a' Phrionnsa (dàn-chluich)," agus àireamh chòmhradh-ean-dithis an Gàidhlig a bharrachd air naidheachdan ann Beurla mu chuairt a ghabh e gu Oireachtas na h-Eireann ann 1910, mu chuairt do Uibhist a Tuath, agus mu'n Mhòd Nàiseanta.

Cha d'fhuair sinn cothrom no ùine chuige seo air feuchainn ri làn-chunntas a dheanamh air gach nà a sgrìobh e, ach foadar a chur an cuimhne ar luchd-leughaidh gun do lean e air sgrìobhadh anns a' mhiosachan seo, gu sònraichte anns a' *Ghaidheal Òg*, gus o chionn ghoirid. Bidh cuimhne aig mòran air na speulachdan air an d'rinn e ath-aithris agus na naidheachdan tlachdmhor a bha aige mu na bàird a b'aithne dha. Sgrìobh e mar an ceudna ann an Duilleagan Gàidhlig *Beatha agus Obair* agus ann am feadhainn de na paipearan Gaidhealach.

Bha Iain MacLeòid sònraichte math air dealbh-chluichean agus air còmhradh-ean, agus nach iomadh uair a chuireadh cridhealas air a' chumraichd le "Réiteach Móraig" is "Pòsadh Móraig?" Ach, ciod air bith mar a dh'èireas do gach obair eile a rinn e, mairidh dà leabhar leis cho fad is a bhios neach air fhàgail a leughas Gàidhlig na h-Albann.

Thàinig "*Bàrdachd Leòdhais*" a mach ann 1916. Thug e trì bliadhna deug a' cur an leabhair seo ri chèile. "Stiùir am Freasdal mi 'na mo bhalach òg," sgrìobh e, "do Eilean Bheàrnraidh," agus an sin thòisich e air cruinneachadh bàrdachd an eilein, agus bho rud gu rud thàinig e mu dheireadh do'n chodhùnadh "nach robh baile beag eadar Taigh nan Cailleachan Dubha ann an Uige agus Taigh MhicDhùghaill ann an Nis anns nach robh bàrd no dhà a rinn òrain a b'fhiach a bhith air an cumail air cuimhne." Seo leabhar as am bu chòir do mhuintir Leòdhais a bhith uasal, agus a bu chòir toirt orra meas a chur air an Eilean Sgitheanach a thug dhaibh am fear ealanta a shàbhail an cuid bàrdachd bho uaigh na dì-chuimhne.

Anns a' bhliadhna 1917 thòisich paipear Steòrnabhaigh air tighinn a mach, agus an ùine ghoirid thòisich Iain MacLeòid, fo'n ainm "Alasdair Mór," air litir sheachdainneach an Gàidhlig a sgrìobhadh anns a' *Ghazette*. Chùm e air an obair sin gus o chionn ghoirid, agus is cinnteach gun do sgrìobh e dlùth air dà mhiclitir anns na seachd bliadhna deug ar fhichead a bha e ris an obair sin. An 1932 chuireadh a mach ann leabhar tiugh àireamh

mhath de na litrichean sin fo'n ainm "*Litrichean Alasdair Mhóir*," leabhar a tha a' cur dreach air litreachas na Gàidhlig 'nar latha-ne. Seo mar a sgrìobh an t-Ollamh Dòmhnall Seumas MacLeòid mu'n leabhar: "Ma tha naidheachdan an taigh-chéilidh a dhith air neach, gheibhear an seo iad, agus sin an Gàidhlig ghlan nan eilean a tha a' nochdadh gnàths-cainnte gnèthheil a tha ro-thearc 'nar latha-ne. Bithidh an leabhar a tha seo feumail fada an dèidh linn Alasdair Mhóir—'s e sin a rùnaicheadh e fhéin—air son gach boillsgeadh a tha e a' toirt seachd air dòighean, air smuaintean, air cleachdaidhean, is air cànan air dùthcha. Fàsaidh an leughadair eòlach air Fear Bheàrnraidh, air Calum Sheòrais, air Calum Ruadh nach mair-eann, air Sine is Bean Bhil, air Barraich, Uibhistich, is Eileanaich air fad, is cha mhìd e sin. Agus eadar dà cheann an leabhair chan fhaigh neach ni sam bith a bheir oibheum dha. Tha feum air leabhraichean Gàidhlig de'n t-seòrsa seo an diugh air an sgrìobhadh gu cothromach an rosg shnasail agus a tha a' cumail greim air nithean a bhuineas do'n linn againn fhéin cho math ris na linntean a dh'fhalbh."

Bha a' Ghàidhlig ann an smior nan cnàmh aig Iain N. MacLeòid, ach, na's fhearr na sin, bha gràs Dhé' na chridhe agus 'ga fhoillsicheadh féin, chan b'ann an cràbhachd fhuar ach ann am bàidh is deagh-ghean do gach seòrsa. Bha e 'na Eildear ann an eaglais na sgrì, agus, tha mi de'n bheachd, 'na Chléireach an t-Seisein, agus bha e glé eòlach anns na Sgrìobrturan. Tha cuimhne agam a' cheud uair a thachair mi ris, ged a chuala mi uime fada roimh sin, b'ann a' tighinn air a' bhàta *Loch Ness* a bha mi, oidhche ghruamach, eadar Steòrnabhagh is Caol Loch-Aillse, agus mi 'nam shineadh an seòmar-toit an t-soithich, agus Iain MacLeòid agus Iain MacMhathain nach maireann a bha 'na Eildear anns an *Highlanders' Memorial* an Glaschu 'nan suidhe aig bord beag agus cathaca air còmhradh mu chuspairean anns an t-Seann Tiomnadh, agus MacLeòid a' toirt a bheachd do'n fhear eile mu'n linn anns an robh Iob beò.

An uair mu dheireadh a bha mi a' còmhradh ri Iain MacLeòid, b'ann air an t-sràid anns an Oban aig a' Mhòd Mhór an uiridh, ged a fhuair mi litir neo dhà bhuaithe bho'n uair sin. Duine laghach gasda còir, aig an robh tàlantan neo-chumanta agus a rinn mór-fheum dhiubh. Cha d'fhàg e a mhac-shamhail as a dhéidh.

Tha aobhar aig a' Chomunn Ghaidhealach a bhith a' toirt buidheachais air son na rinn e, chan ann a mhàin mar fhear-sgrìobhadh an Gàidhlig, ach mar neach a chuidich gu mór le a shaothair agus le a chomhairle ann an obair a' Chomuinn Ghaidhealach. Bidh sinn 'ga chumhneachadh is 'ga ionndrainn.

Story of An Comunn

By THE EDITOR.

On 30th April, 1891, *An Comunn Gaidhealach* was formally instituted. Last October the Jubilee National Mod was held in Oban. This, the Fiftieth National Mod, would really have been the Sixty-second Mod, had it not been for the two World Wars which prevented the holding of National Mods in the years 1914-1918 and 1939-1945. Next October the official magazine of *An Comunn* will attain its jubilee. The first number appeared in October, 1905.

With so much history behind us, and especially in view of the fact that much of what *An Comunn* has done for the Gaelic Cause seems to be unknown to or forgotten by so many of the more voluble critics of the Association, the time seems opportune to tell the story of *An Comunn Gaidhealach* in some detail, and this we propose to do in this and succeeding numbers. We shall draw mainly on the minutes of the Executive Council and the Annual General Meetings of the Association.

I. THE FORERUNNERS

RIGHTLY to tell the story of *An Comunn Gaidhealach*, one must begin much further back than 1891. Indeed, one ought really to begin by reviewing the history of Gaelic in Scotland and trace the stages by which, and indicate the reasons for which, the Gaelic area steadily contracted until at last patriotic men were stirred to action in defence of their ancestral language and culture.

It must suffice, however, to do two things by way of introduction. One of these preliminaries is to recall those societies that were busy in the interests of Gaelic long before *An Comunn* was thought of. The other is to describe the position of Gaelic in Scotland, and especially in the educational system of Scotland, during the 18th and 19th centuries. This latter we reserve until later. Meanwhile we deal with societies which may in some sense be regarded as forerunners of *An Comunn Gaidhealach*.

"Man is a social animal," said a philosopher of old, and nowhere is this more clearly seen than among the Gaels. For centuries the Clan, an enlargement of the family, was the unit of social, and even military and economic, organisation. When the Clan System disintegrated, the gregariousness of the Highlander, more especially the Highlander in exile, found expression in an extraordinary number and variety of societies and associations—clan and territorial, benevolent and cultural, and sometimes simply convivial. That admirable publication, *The Scots Year-Book*, lists the hundreds of such societies which now exist all over the world, a large number of them having a long history behind them.

Our concern here, however, is with those societies which, like *An Comunn Gaidhealach*, have applied themselves, in greater or less degree, to the preservation and cultivation of Gaelic language, literature, and music.

Gaelic Society of London

The premier Gaelic Society is, of course, the Gaelic Society of London, which was founded in 1777 by a group of about twenty-five persons (nineteen of them Gaelic speakers), mostly officers in Highland regiments soon to be engaged in the American War of Independence. One of the objects of the new society was the foundation of a Gaelic professorship in a Scottish University (a century was to pass before that dream came true), and its first great achievement was the part it played, with the assistance of the Marquis of Graham and Fraser of Lovat, in securing the repeal in 1782 of the obnoxious Disarming Act of 1747 which proscribed the use of Highland dress and discouraged much that was truly distinctive of the Gael.

Highland Society of London

When the American War was over, the Gaelic Society of London had a considerable addition of new members, mostly military men, but the result was a

swamping of the Gaelic element in the membership by a Lowland element who, feeling that "Gaelic Society" was too restricting a title, changed the name to "Highland Society of London" in 1782.

In 1807, the Highland Society of London sent Alexander Stewart on a tour of the Highlands to collect Gaelic poetry and tales. Stewart had been, with Donald Stewart, joint-editor of a Collection of Gaelic Poetry published at Edinburgh in 1804 and was the author of the popular song, "Màiri Bhòidheach," which he composed in honour of Mary, daughter of the Rev. Allan MacQueen, Minister of North Uist.

In 1808, a minority of the Highland Society of London revived the Gaelic Society of London, their leader being the Rev. Duncan Robertson who instituted a fund (which amounted to £4,000) for the support of a Gaelic preacher in London. In 1808 the Highland Society of London suggested the formation of a branch in Inverness. They also urged the establishment of a Chair of Celtic Literature in one of the Scottish Universities and sought to encourage the teaching of Gaelic in schools. Moreover, they suggested the establishment of a National Academy of Pipe Music and proposed the name of Lieutenant MacCrimmon as Professor. They thought the Government should do something in the matter, as pipe music was necessary for the Highland regiments. Their idea was that Lieutenant MacCrimmon (possibly the person referred to in *Bàrdachd Ghàidhlig*, 2nd ed., page 288, as having a farm in Glenelg) should be promoted by the Army authorities "from half-pay to a higher and permanent rank in the garrison of Fort Augustus or of Fort William, which to him would be equivalent to a salary, on being made Professor of the establishment." "Mr. McCrummen," they said, "is the last of the celebrated race of pipers of that name; he is skilled in the theory and practice of the ancient pipe music, and is now in the vale of years."

"The Sons of Morven"

The Gaelic Society of London, resuscitated in 1808, continued to 1816, in which year a non-Gaelic majority of the members had the name changed to "The Club of True Highlanders," but the Gaelic minority soon afterwards re-established the Gaelic Society under the new name of "The Sons of Morven." Despite this change of name, Gaelic was used in conversation at all the meetings. Some of the members of the Highland Society of London, including Stewart of Garth, joined "The Sons of Morven," who devoted themselves to literary interests and debates, gave prizes for essays on Celtic subjects, and collected a library of books, pamphlets, and manuscripts. Unfortunately, a disastrous fire, which broke out in the hotel which was the Society's meeting-place, destroyed the minutes and library of "The Sons of Morven" and the Society, as a result, was suspended for a time. In 1830, however, a remnant of the members re-instituted the still-existing Gaelic Society of London. From then

until now the two Societies, the Highland Society of London and the Gaelic Society of London, have continued side by side.

In the 1830's a petition, organised by the Gaelic Society of London and signed by 500 persons, was presented to the House of Commons by Sir George Sinclair, urging the establishment of a Professor of Gaelic in at least one of the Scottish universities, possibly Aberdeen. A similar petition was again presented in 1839.

In the "Hungry Forties," when famine was widespread in the Highlands, the Gaelic Society of London was one of the first organisations to raise funds for the relief of the destitute.

In 1869 the Society appointed a committee to pursue the matter of a Celtic Chair, and in the same year they issued a questionnaire which elicited the information that at that time, out of 3,395 places of worship of all denominations in Scotland, no less than 461, or over 13 per cent., had regular weekly services in Gaelic. These 461 consisted of: Established Church 235, Free Church 166, Roman Catholic Church 36, Baptist Church 12, Episcopal Church 9, and Congregational Church 3. A comparison with today's figures would be interesting but depressing.

The Gaelic Society of London was prominent in the effort to establish the Celtic Chair in Edinburgh University (to which reference will be made later), and all along, both last century and this century, they gave great encouragement to Gaelic in schools, as we shall see. Meantime, enough has been said to indicate the important part played by this Society in championing the cause of Gaelic. For a century they had worked practically single-handed. As was said by Mr. Alexander Mackenzie in 1871, "Whilst some of them (the Highland societies) were drinking toddy, the Gaelic Society of London was labouring to raise its race and language from insignificance."

Highland Society of Scotland

The next society to be mentioned will merit much less space. The Highland Society of Scotland was instituted in Edinburgh in 1784. The objects of the Society were declared to be to enquire into the state of the Highlands and the condition of their inhabitants and the means of their improvement, by establishing towns and villages, roads and bridges, by advancing agriculture and extending fisheries, and by introducing useful trades and manufactures. "The Society shall also," it was stated in the "Regulations," "pay a proper attention to the preservation of the Language, Poetry, and Music of the Highlands." Influential Scotsmen were among the founders and leaders, the Duke of Argyll being first President and the Earl of Moray, the Lord Advocate (Islay Campbell) and Macdonald of Clanranald, Vice-Presidents. For many years valuable cash prizes were given for essays on various subjects relating to the objects of the Society, mainly on agriculture, fisheries, and industries. One of the few prizes given for a Gaelic theme was awarded to Captain Donald Smith of the 84th Regiment (a brother of the Rev. Dr. John Smith of Campbeltown, who published *Sean Dana* and produced a version of the Gaelic Psalms and Paraphrases), for his "Remarks on some corruptions which have been introduced into the orthography and pronunciation of the Gaelic, with proposals for removing them and restoring the purity of the language."

The two major contributions made by the Highland Society to the cause of Gaelic were the "Report on the Authenticity of the Poems of Ossian," published in 1805, and the great "Dictionary of the Gaelic Language," published in 1828. The Society, however, now known as the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society, has long since ceased to evince any interest in Gaelic.

(To be continued)

Seacharan Seilge

Le SEONAG NICLEOID, Glaschu.

(Choisinn an sgeul seo duais Comunn Gàidhlig Ghlaschu aig a' Mhòd Nàiseanta, 1954).

BHA a' mhadainn ceòthach ciùin an uair a dh' éirich mi, ach mu aon uair deug thog an latha air agus chuir mi romham dol do'n bheinn an déidh ghearran. Thug mi leam mo ghunna caol agus beagan fùdair 'nam phòca, agus a mach ris a' mhonadh gun d' rinn mi le ceum sgiobalta. Cha tug mi ceapaire leam; cha bhiodh feum air, oir bha dùil agam tilleadh tràth feasgar.

Cha b' fhada a chaidh mi an uair a chunnaic mi dà ghearr air faire, agus gun dàil chuir mi mo ghunna ris an té a b' fhaigse dhiubh. Bha i 'na sìnneadh gu bog marbh agam air tolmán ri mo thaobh an ceann tiota. Bha là an àigh a nis ann—gathan na gréine a' cur nam braon de dhriùchd a bha 'nan laighe air bàrr an fhraoich 'nan teine le lasair de mhìle dath.

Thog mi leam mo ghearr air mo ghàirdean agus le mo ghunna gu tèarainte fo m' achlais dhìrich mi suas na b' àirde air slios na beinne. Thug mi stùil mun cuairt orm air an t-sliabh a bha a' sìnneadh slios thun na mara gu creagach tolmánach. Bha an cuan fhéin air a chòmhd-

achadh le plaide bhòidheach bhàn de chèò. "Là an àigh da-rìreadh," arsa mieu riun fhéin. "B' fheàrride thu, a bhòirnein, t' àrail a leigeil agus ceò a thoirt as do phìob." Le sin shuidh mi air cnocan beag uaine agus thu mi ise gu cùramach as mo phòca; lìon mi suas i leis an tombaca a b' fheàrr—is abair gur mi a bha air mo dheagh dhòigh!

Is ann agam a bha an sealladh air muir is monadh! Cha robh beinn eadar na Hearadh is Barraidh nach fhaicinn a' nochdadh a mach as a' chèò a bha air aghaidh a' chuain. Thug mi stùil air binnean na beinne os mo chionn is bha stioman de chèò a' snìomh mu'm mullach. Ar leam nach robh sealladh air an t-saoghal air fad a bheireadh bàrr air an fhear a bha fo m' chomhair. Leig mi m' anail mar sin car greise a' toirt deagh-tharraing air mo phìob, ach an uair a sheall mi chugam is bhuan is ann a bha an ceò a' tuiteam is a' dùmhlachadh mu m' thimcheall na bu mhiosa na chunnaic mi riamh e. Chuir mi mo ghunna is a' gheàrr ri mo thaobh far am biodh e furasda dhomh an lorg



AN GAIDHEAL ÓG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar VII

AM FAOILLEACH, 1955

Aireamh 1

A' Bho Ruadh

Le UISDEANN MACPHADRAIG

THA sùilean agus cluasan aig na clachan anns a' bhaile againne, ach, ged a tha fhéin, feumaidh mi innse dhuibh mar a thàinig a' bhó ruadh aig Aonghus Mór gu crìch a saoghaill. Ach, air na rinn sibh riamh, na tugaibh guth air ri duine beò air neo gheibh mise agus Cailean Og ar deagh ghreidheadh air son ar cuid oibre.

Air là àraidh a bha siud bha mi a' tighinn dachaigh de'n chroit cuide ri m'athair agus, air dhuinn a bhith a' dol seachad air taigh Aonghuis Mhóir, bha Aonghus fhéin 'na shuidhe aig an doras. Chuir m'athair fàilte air Aonghus is dh'fhaighnich e dheth, "Ciamar a tha a' bhó ruadh agad an diugh, Aonghus?"

"Chan 'eil ach glé mheadhonach," fhreagair Aonghus, "chan 'eil mi a' deanamh dheth gun tig i bhuaithe idir."

Thug m'athair ceum an àirde gu doras a' bhathaich is thug e sùil a steach air a' bhoine.

"Aonghuis," arsa m'athair, "cha d'rinn i ach cus de'n roid ithe. Cha bhì dad oirre. Cùm thusa pailteas de'n tribhilich rithe agus thig i bhuaithe cheana."

"O! cha tig," arsa Aonghus le fìor dhroch ghreann air a aodann, is e a' toirt sùla ghruamaich suas rathad taigh Chailein Iain aig ceann eile a' bhaile. "Cha tig i bhuaith; tha de bhaobhan bhoireannach anns a' bhaile seo na chuireas as dhì."

Thug m'athair glé mhath gu dé an smuain a bha a' ruith ann an intinn Aonghuis. Bha e soilleir gu leòr gu robh e a' cur air Iseabail, bean Chailein Iain, gur i a leig a sùil air a' bhoine agus a dh'aobharaich a tinneas. Thug m'athair gu falbh is thuir e ris is e a' toirt sùla mhìchiataich air anns an dealachadh.

"Ach Aonghuis a' laochain, bi 'nad thosd, chan 'eil ann ach an dearg amadanachd a bhith a' bruidhinn mar sin."

Bhithinn fhéin agus mo nàbaidh, Cailean Og mac Chailein Iain, daonnan an cuideachd a chéile, anns an sgoil agus anns gach

taigh céilidh air feadh a' bhaile. An uair a chuala Cailean Og mu dheighinn na magaid bhaoith a ghabh Aonghus Mór 'na cheann bha e air bhoile le feirg airson a leithid de dhroch-bheirt a bhith air a cur as leth a mhàthar. Cha bu toigh leinn riamh Aonghus Mór, agus a réir coltais cha robh meas mór aige-san oirne. Bheireadh e sùil neo-choibhneil an rathad a bha sinn anns an dol seachad, ach cha leigeadh e air gu robh e 'gar faicinn idir—a' leigeil ris dhuinn cho beag is a bha e a' saoilinn dhinn!

Air a' cheann thall is e a bha ann gun do chuir sinn romhainn gum feumadh sinn feuchainn ri beagan dibhearsain a bhith againn air a thàilleamh. Oidheche a bha siud, ma tà, fhuair sinn an taigh dhuinn fhéin. Shuidh sinn aig an teine a' cur air dòigh na h-innleachd leis an robh sinn am beachd clisgeadh-cridhe a chur air ar nàmhaid. Bha Cailean air an dara taobh de'n chagailt a' fuaigheal is a' deanamh pocan beag cainbe. Bha e glé mhath air obair leis a' chois-chruim an ám a bhith a' cur a' bhuntàta, ach cha robh mór sgìl aige air fuaigheal. Bha e a' deanamh a dhìchill, gun teagamh, ach chluinninn "oich, oich" aige an dràsda is a rithist an uair a chuireadh e an t-snàthad 'na mheur.

Bha mise air an taobh eile de'n chagailt glé thrang a' snagaireachd criomaig fhiodha, is mi a' feuchainn ri cruth is iomhaigh beothach ceithir-chasach a thoirt air. Tha eagal orm nach robh an snaidheadh ach cearbach, ach air a' cheann thall dh'aicidh Cailean, is a theanga 'na phluic, gu robh am beothach, gun teagamh, leth char coltach ris a' bhoine thinn. Chuir sinn snàthain dearg clòimhe mar earball oirre is sgàil sinn tarrang bheag troimh bhroilleach na brùide bho thaobh gu taobh. Chaidh an iomhaigh a chur anns a' phocan chainbe. Bha trì chlachan beaga cruinne agam 'nam phòcaid a fhuair mi anns an tràigh, là a bha mi a' tionail fhaochag, air an robh dathan anabarrach neònach, agus chaidh an tilgeil anns a' phocan cuide ris a' bhoine agus, a chum crìoch choimh-

lìonta a chur air a' chùis, cheangail sinn beul a' phocain le criomag de ribin dearg.

Bha a nis am pocan draoidheachd deas. Cha do chuir sinn droch ghuidhe 'na chois, ach, gu dearbh, fhuair sinn ioma gàire cridheil ri linn dhuinn a bhith 'ga chur ri chèile. B'e ar beachd nach robh banabhuidseach anns an dùthaich a bhiteadh comasach air rud a dheanamh a chuireadh an corr ionghnaidh is an corr eagail air Aonghus Mór.

Cho luath is a dhorch an oidhche dh'fhalbh sinn a chèilidh gu taigh aig ceann eile a' bhaile agus anns an dol seachd thig sinn am pocan a steach fo dhorus a' bhàthaich aig Aonghus far an robh a' bhó thinn.

An larna-mhàireach bha Aonghus air a chois moch anns a' mhadainn is ghabh e a mach do'n bhàthaich a dh'fhaicinn ciamar a bha a' bhó. Air dha a bhith a' fosgladh dorus a' bhàthaich thug e an aire do'n phocan is thog e e. Le intinn làn ionghnaidh is eagail, is e 'ga bheannachadh fhéin, dh'fhuasgail e an ribin a dh'fhaicinn gu dé a bha ann. Laigh a shùil air a' chùis-uamhas, agus theab e tuiteam as a sheasamh leis a' chlisgeadh a ghabh e.

Iasgach an Sgadain

MU lethcheud bliadhna air ais bha Maighistir-Sgoile a' deanamh imrich as an Eilean Sgitheanach do Dhiùra agus dh'fhoighnich cuid-eigin de aon de na sgoilearan an robh fhios aige càit an robh Diùra. "Tha," ars an gille beag, "far am bi iad ag iasgach an sgadain leis na slatan." Bha an fhirinn aige, ge b'è co bhuaith a chual e an ràdh, ach nan robh iad air inneadh dha mu shruth Choire Bhreacain cha chreid mi gum biodh e buileach cho tarcuiseach mu ar dòigh iasgaich. Shaoil leam nach robh neach, sean no òg, co-dhùit air taobh siar na h-Alba, nach cuala iomradh air Coire Bhreacain agus air a' Chuartaig as cunnartaiche gu mór na am Maelstrom aig Eileana Lofoden faisg air cladaich Lochlainn. Tha a' Chailleach, mar a their muinntir Dhiùra ris a' Chuartaig, 'na boil ris gach sruth lìonaidh, ach chan 'eil am Maelstrom cunnartach ach ri gaillinn chruaidh bho'n àird an iar-thuath. Tha mu shè ceud slat eadar Diùra agus Sgarba, agus a' Chailleach mu chòig ceud troigh a mach bho chladaich Sgarba. Tha an caol mu shè ceud troigh air doimhneachd agus an uair a smuainicheas sibh air a' chudthrom uisge sin a' ruith troimh an chaol aig trì mìle deug san uair tuigidh sibh nach deanadh lìon sgadain mòran feuma fad mhiltean bho'n Chaillich. Tha i aig a h-àirde ris an reothair agus ma tha gaoth làidir

Ach gu mì-shealbhach, bha na bu mhiosa ri thighinn air. Thug e an ath-shùil a steach do'n bhàthaich, agus, mo thruaighe, chunnaic e a' bhó ruadh is i 'na sineadh marbh 'na bualaidh!

Aonghus bochd! Air dha seasamh tamall 'na thosd, a thaice ri ursainn an doruis, thionndaidh e air ais a dh'ionnsaigh an taighe. Aig a' cheart àm thachair do Chailean Iain a bhith a' dol seachd is e a' falbh, le cabaig, do'n chladach fheamann.

Is e bodachan beag ciùin neochiontach a bha ann an Cailean Iain aig nach cualas riamh guth mór no droch fhacal. Chuir e fàilte na mainde gu h-aogheil furanach air Aonghus is dh'fhaighnich e dheth, "Ciamar a tha a' bhó ruadh an diugh, Aonghus?"

Thionndaidh Aonghus anns an dorus agus thug e sùil fhiaidhaich air Cailean a chuir eagal a bheatha air an duine chòir.

"Faighnich," arsa Aonghus, is e a' togail a làimhe deise agus a' caitheadh a' phocain-draoidheachd, le a uile neart mu chasan Chail-ein. "Faighnich de'n mhnaoi agad ciamar a tha a' bhó ruadh: is ann aice as fheàrr a tha fios."

a' séideadh bho'n Chuan Siar tha conbhadh oirre a chuireas uamhas air a' mharaidhe as calma. Bha mo dhachaigh-sa deich mìle bho Choire Bhreacain agus an uair a bhiodh oiteag chùin a' séideadh bho'n àirde sin chluinneamaid gaoir na Caillich gu soilleir.

Is iomadh làn craidhleig de sgadan a dh'iasgaich mise leis na slatan. Is e m'athair, mar bu trice, a bhiodh a' fannadh, agus bhiodh e ag earalachadh oirnn gun spiodadh làidir a thoirt air an t-slaic oir tha peirceall an sgadain cho maoth agus gur gann a thogas e a chudthrom fhéin air an dubhan. Ris a' mharbhsruth, air feasgar ciùin, rachamaid a mach gu doimhneachd a dh'iasgach leis an dorgha. Bheireadh seo dhuinn mu ochd sgadain air a h-uile tarraing. Gheibheamaid sanas gu robh sgadan pailt an uair a chitheamaid muc-mhara san linne. Chluinneamaid a séidrich air cùl nan cnoc.

Mu ochd bliadhna mun tàinig am Maighistir Sgoile seo oirnn as an Eilean Sgitheanach thàinig sgaothan mòra sgadain gu Loch an Tairbeart, air taobh siar Dhiùra, agus gu Loch Gruineard an Ile. Ann am beagan ùine thàinig cabhlaichean iasgach as gach ceàrna agus an neo-ar-thaing mur d'fhuair iad iasgach math fad mòran sheachdainnean. Air an oidhche an uair a lasadh iad lanndairean

shaoileadh sibh gum b' e baile mór a bha fa bhrì comhair.

Bha frith fhiadh an Diùra aig an àm sin a bha ainmeil feadh na h-Alba, agus thug uachdaran na frithe òrdugh do na forsairean sùil gheur a chumail nach biodh na h-iasgairean a' marbhadh nam fiadh. Bha bràthair màthar dhòmhsa air aon diubh agus chuir mi seachd beagan ùine còmhla ris a' faire nam fiadh. Bha sinn a' cadal is a' gabhail ar bidh anns an taigh-sheilge, a' siubhal a' chladaich ré an latha

agus air an fheasgar a' saodach nam fiadh ris na monaidhean. Chuir sinn eòlas air mórán de na h-iasgairean agus b' iomadh gad sgadain is briosaid chruaidh a fhuair sinn bhuapa.

Cha robh mise fada ag ionnsachadh ciod a bha na litrichean móra a bha air gach bàta a' ciallachadh, mar bha C.N., T.T., K.Y., B.F., agus theagamh B.D., ach cha chumhne leam na litrichean sin fhaicinn.

Sin agaibh far an robh iasgach sgadain an Diùra—agus cha b' ann leis na slatan! NIALL.

Ceatharnach-Coille Loch Cuaich

(Sgrìobhadh na leanas an 1841. Tha e a' toirt seallaidh dhuinn air mar a bha chùisean anns a' Ghaidhealtachd o chionn beagan is ceud bliadhna.)

ANN am meadhon Loch Cuaich, fo dhubhar nam beanntan arda a tha ag èirigh air gach taobh dheth, tha eilean beag, mar leth-acair fearainn air mheudachd, air a bheil corr chraobh bharrach a' fàs. Tha an t-eilean beag seo mar cheathramh-mhìle do thìr, agus tha e uile gu léir 'na àite cho uaigneach, aonarach, dìomhair agus as urrainnear a smuaineachadh.

Air an eilean bheag seo tha seana Ghaidheal a chòmhnaidh—duine colgarra, gruamach, a tha a' cur laghannan na rìoghachd agus na dùthcha gu dùbhlán. Is ainm do'n duine seo Eòghann Mac-a-phì. Tha a nis os cionn dà fhichead bliadhna bho'n ghabh an duine seo an t-òr agus a chuir e suas a' bhonaid ghorm agus an ite ann an rèisimeid Ghaidhealaich anns an robh uachdaran an fhearainn air an robh e a chòmhnaidh 'na oifigeach. An uair a ghabh e an t-òr, ghealladh dha, mar as tric a nithear, nach b' fhada a bhiodh e 'na shaighdear, gun éireadh e ceum air ceum gum am biodh babag òir air gach gualainn. Bha Eòghann Mac-a-phì anns an àm sin 'na cheatharnach cho lùthmhor, easgaidh, foghainteach is a bha anns an dùthaich uile. Bha e 'na shaighdear glan, eireachdail, dreachmhor, agus ealanta teòma anns gach car agus gluasad a chuireadh m'a choinneamh. Ach, ged a bha, cha d'fhuair e na b' àirde na bhith 'na shaighdear singile.

Là de na làithean ghabh e a chasan agus theich e. Thàr e as, agus stad cha d' rinn e agus an d' ràinig e tìr nam beann. Chuireadh as a dhéid agus ghlacadh e. Chuir na saighdearan a bha air a thoir glas-làmh air agus thug iad air falbh 'na phriosanach e. Mar a bha iad a' siubhal leis troimh Shrath-earraig air seòrsa de cheum ainm-leathann ri taobh beinne, thug e a chlisgeadh an duibh-leum thairis air àrd-chreig chorroich chais, agus thàr e as. Loisg na saighdearan as a dhéid ach, ma loisg, cha do bhean iad da. Bhuail e a' ghlas-làmh ri creig agus bhris e gach cuibhreac. Bha e a

nis 'na dhuine saor am measg garbhlaichean nam beann ann an tìr a òige.

Thog e bothan-àirigh dha féin anns a' Choire-bhuidhe air fearann Mhic-Dhòmhnaill-duibh, àite cho uaigneach is a bha r'a fhaotainn anns a' Ghaidhealtachd uile. Anns an diomhaireachd seo dh'fheuch e e féin a chleith car ùine fhada, ag iasgach is a' sealgairachd agus ag àrach ghothar, gun duine ag ràdh ri Eòghann gum b' olc, gun duine ag iarraidh màil air, no a' feòrach dheth ciod a' chòir a bha aige air fuireach anns an àite ud. Ach bha Eòghann 'na aonarach bochd trom-chridheach. Dh'fhiosrach e nach robh e math do dhuine a bhith leis féin, agus chuir e uime sin roimhe ban-chompanach fhaotainn. Thug e a chridhe do ainmrig òig àlainn. Ruithe e air falbh leatha; phòs iad; agus a nis tha còighear chloinne aca. Ach mu dheireadh bhuaidhaich an lagh 'na aghaidh agus b' éigin da an Coire-buidhe fhàgail. Thog e air. Cha robh an imrich doirbh r'a giùlan. Dh' iarr e fasgadh ann an Loch Cuaich, far a bheil e gu tèarainte seasgair.

Thog e bothan beag dha féin, taigh-slaite, anns a bheil e féin is a theaghlach a' tuineachadh. Rinn e seòrsa de bhàta beag anns an gabh e an t-aiseag an uair as àill leis gu tìr-mór. Tha aige lethcheud gobhar ag ionaltradh anns na beanntan mun cuairt. Tha iasgach math anns an loch, agus tha sidheann anns na monaidhean, air alt agus nach 'eil dìth no uireasbhuidh am bitheantas air Eòghann. Ach anns a' gheamhradh chan 'eil cor an teaghlach bhig seo air uairibh ach bochd na's leòir. Tha Eòghann air éideadh le a bhreacan is le a fhéileadh, agus tha e fhathast 'na dhuine cho curanta, treun, tlachdmhor ri amharc air is a chithear anns an dùthaich uile. Cha téid e a mach latha gun a bhiodag air a chliathaich.

Tha seòrsa de sgàth air muinntir an àite roimhe. Tha cuid fo sgàth a thaobh ainm curanta gaisgeil an duine, agus cuid a' smuaineachadh gu bheil beagan de eòlas aige nach 'eil

ro-mhath, seòrsa de bhuidseachd agus fhiosachd, do nach 'eil e cneasda oibheum a thabhairt.

Is ann uathie seo a tha e gu tric a' tachairt gu bheil bolla mine, mulchag chàise, cuman ime, ceathramh muilthfeolach, agus iomadh nì eile air an cur a dh'ionnsaigh Eòghainn do'n eilean leis na coimhearsnaich air gach taobh de Loch Cuaidh. Tha e féin fo bhàrail gu bheil seun àraidh aige a chumas air falbh gach oic; ach a dh'aindeoin seo cha téid e oidhche d'a leabaiddh gun an gunna a bhith r'a taobh, deas gu losgadh ma thig fàth cunnairt air.

An uair a chaidh an t-uachdaran ùr, a cheannaich am fearann seo o Mhac-mhic-Alasdair, suas do'n dùthaich seo an uiridh a dh'amharc an àite is a ghabhail seilbh ann, chaidh Eòghann Mac-a-phi g' a choimhead, agus thairg e cùmhnant a dheanamh ri Mgr. Ellis an t-uachdaran, mur cuireadh Mgr. Ellis dragh air-san, nach robh esan toilich dragh air bith a chur air Mgr. Ellis.

Chuir coslas an duine seo mór-iongantas air an t-Sasannach chòir; chuir e roimhe gach gnè coibhneis a thaisbeanadh do Eòghann, agus tha sinn làn-chinnteach gun dean e sin. Chan fhiach an t-eilean seo a bheag do neach air bith ach Eòghann a mhàin; agus is làn-dearbhte sinn, fhad 's as beò e, nach cuirear dragh air agus gu bheil a aonta de'n àite cho fada r'a làithean. Tha e a nis os cionn trì fichead bliadhna a dh'aois. Tha a theaghlach a' fàs suas ann an aineolas mór; tha a bhean 'na boireannach tlachdmhor maiseach, làidir fallain; tha beagan sgoile aice a fhuair i 'na h-òige, agus tha dòchas againn leis a seò gun toir i na's urrainn di do'n teaghlach.

Tha bàidh mhór aig Eòghann d'a mhnaoi is d'a leanaban. Chaochail aon de na pàisdean air an eilean uaigneach seo, gun lighiche gun choimhearsnach dlùth, gun chuideachd gun sòlas. Bha Eòghann bochd anabarrach dubhach brònach. Chaidh e thairis gu tìr-mór, ràinig e bothan-àirigh a bha air an taobh thall, far an robh buachaille chaorach a chòmhnaidh, agus ghuidh e air tighinn maille ris agus cuideachadh leis a chum ciste-mhairbh a dheanamh do'n phàisde, "oir," ars esan, "tha crith cho mór am làimh-sa leis a' bhròn is o bhristeadh-cridhe is nach 'eil e am chomas tàl no tuagh a laimh-seachadh." Chaidh am buachaille leis. Sgoilt iad cuid de chraobhan beithe, agus theannaich iad r'a chéile iad mar a b'fheàrr a b'urrainn iad le crann-tàirngean agus thiodhlaiceadh an leanabh beag seo ann an eilean beag far a bheil cladh an-àite aig ceann an locha, far a bheil cnàmhan agus ùir nan daoine treuna o'n tainig Eòghann air an càramh.

Mar seo tha sinn a' faicinn gu bheil a h-aon fhathast de na seana cheatharnaich Ghaidhealach beò, duine àrd-inntinneach, colgarra,

treun, do-cheannsaichte. Car son nach 'eil miostear no maighistir-sgoile no duine iochdmhor a thaobh-eigin a' toirt foghlum do Eòghann bochd, leis am faodadh e an Leabhar Naomh a leughadh, a dheanadh sòlasach e 'na uaigneas, agus a dh'fhosgadh suas da sealladh air saoghal as fheàrr?

"Uilleam Tel" Cuimreach

Fhuair sin litir bho Frank G. Howard, an Wrexham, agus tha ar taing aige. Tha e a' ràdh mar seo:

"Thubhairt Fear-deasachaidh a' Ghaidheil Oig gu bheil iomradh Gaidhealach mu fhear ann an Uibhist a Deas agus e coltach ri Uilleam Tel mar fhear-bogha ainmeil, agus gum b'èiginn dha fhéin saighead fheuchainn air ubh air mullach ceann a mhic.

"A reir sgeòil ann an leabhar sgrìobhte Cuimreach ré na ceathramh linn deug mu fhear àraidh ris an abrar Madoc, thachair an aon rud anns a' Chuimridh. Seo an t-eadar-theangachadh air an sgeul Chuimreach.

"Thig e air an ubhal a bha air mullach ceann a mhic, Madoc Vychan, a réir òrdugh Mallt Walbri, ban-tighearna Brycheiniog, agus buail e an ubhal is a mhac téarainte. Chaidh Madoc le bráthair a athar, Ringyll Du, agus ghlac iad a' bhan-tighearna agus chroch iad i agus a mac bho thùr a caisteil fhéin. An déidh sin a dheanamh, chaidh iad 'nan ceatharnaich anns a' choille Glyn Cothi."

Radhan mu'n Chat

Faodaidh cat sealltainn air rìgh.

* * *

Is ann glas a tha a h-uile cat as t-oidhche.

* * *

Is maing a dh'iarraidh rud air a' chat 's e féin a' miamhail.

* * *

Is oic a bhith a' slaodadh cait air a earball.

* * *

An uair a dh'fhàgas na cait am baile, bidh na luchan a' dannsa.

* * *

Tha an cat 's an luath; thig frasan fuar.

* * *

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

* * *

Is ann air a shon fhéin a nì an cat crònan.

* * *

Cha dean cat miotagach sealg.

* * *

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

agus thubhairt mi rium fhéin gum biodh e cho math dhomh suidhe far an robh mi gus an togadh an ceò a rithis, oir, nan rachainn air seacharan an seo, cò aig a bheil fios càit am faighte mi—chan 'eil am monadh seo cneasda r'a shiubhal ann an ceò!

Chuir mi an ùine seachad a' feuchainn ri rann no dhà de bhàrdachd a chur ri chèile mu'n t-sealladh eireachdail a bha mu m' choinne mun do thuit an ceò, ach an déidh oidhirp no dhà thàinig orm aiceadhachd nach bu bhàrd idir mi. Ghabh mi duanag no dhà òrain agus ceò eile as a' phìob an uair a thàinig e a steach orm gu robh an là a' dol seachad agus nach b'fhada gus am bithte 'gam mharbh-iarraidh mur togainn ceann aig baile. Dh'fheith mi greiseag eile far an robh mi is an sin thog mi orm le dòchas làidir gun ruiginn mo cheannuidhe gun dochann air bith.

Shaoil leam an uair a bha mi a' coiseachd mu thri chairteal na h-urach gum bu chòir dhomh a bhith a' tighinn a steach os cionn Orboist, agus sheas mi tiotan a' gabhail beachd air na chithinn de'n t-saoghal mun cuairt orm; ach cha robh e a' tighinn rium a muigh no a mach. Thàinig togail bheag anns a' chèo an sin agus air m'onaire fhirinnich chan fhaca mise riamh roimhe air mo shùilean an dearbh bhad anns an robh mi am sheasamh. Bha an ceò a' sìor thogail agus neo-ar-thaing nach robh an gleann a bha a' fosgladh a mach mu m' choinne bhòidheach; ach cha b'e Orbost no Clasdal no idir Gleann-dail no gleann eile a chunnaic mise riamh a bha ann!

Bha mi mar sin car tacain 'nam sheasamh a' tachas mo chinn agus gun fhios agam fo shileadh nan speur càit idir an robh mi an uair a chunnaic mi an té mhòr spàgach seo a nuas an leathad chugam. Thug mi taing do'n Agh gu robh sluaigh anns an àit a bha ann co-dhiubh a dheanadh cobhair orm. Ghabh mi sìos 'na coinne le ceum eutrom, ach an uair a theann mi na bu dluite oirre is a thug mi sùil cheart oirre—gun mhasladh a thoirt do thé eile—chan fhaca mi riamh na bu ghràinne de na i. Bha dath lachdunn air a craiceann, croit air a druim, i cam-shuileach, agus dà spàg coise oirre a bha foghainteach. Tha mi cinnteach nach robh cothrom aiceise air a coslas, brònag!

"Tha feasgar math ann," arsa mi fhéin. "Am biodh sibh cho math is gun innseadh sibh dhòmhsa càit a bheil mi?"

"Tha," ar se, "dreach am Baile Chnò."

Is iomadh rud a thàinig a pluim ormsa o'n rugadh mi—ged nach 'eil mi ach òg—ach thug seo bàrr urrainn orra air fad. Rannsaich mi m'eachainn ach an robh àit anns a' choimhearsnachd air an robh Baile Chnò mar ainm, is cha robh beachd agam air aonach ach Baile

Chnò Màiri an òran Nèill Dhòmhnail nan Oran. Thug mi sùil eile air an té a bha ri mo thaobh is sheulaich sin a' chùis. Cha b'e seo Baile Màiri idir; nan robh na mnathan air fad air dreach na té-sa is e aoir a bu choltaiche a dheanamh dhaibh na òran!

Mun do ghluais mi as an t-seasamh bonn nochd òganach pearsanta agus mial-chu r'a shàil. Thug e sùil gheur orm o mhullach gu bonn. Thug e ceum chugam agus am priobadh bha an gunna agus, mo chreach! a' gheàrr air an toirt bhuam. Thàinig taomaidhean fodham tarraing air, ach thubhairt mo chiall rium nach biodh sin glic, agus cha tug mi an craiceann bhàrr mo bheòil. Thug an té ghrànnda spochadh air an cainnt nach robh mi a' tuigsinn, ach cha tug esan feart.

"Lean mise," ar se esan gu fadhaich, agus abair gum b'e ceum air ghàig a bha agamsa a' tighinn leis an leathad 'na dhéidh. Lean mi e chun an taighe a bu mhò a bha am meadhan a' ghlinne, agus mi glé mhothachail gu robhas 'gam gheur-amharc troimh gach uinneig a bha anns a' ghleann. Sheas e an sin aig doras an taighe agus thug e òrdugh cruaidh cabhagach do dhà ghille ghlas luidheagach a bha 'nan slaodan ris an ursainn. Dh'éirich iad gu grad is sheas iad, fear air mo chùlaibh is fear eile air mo bheulaibh. Chaidh e fhéin a steach air an doras agus bha mise air m'fhàgail 'nam stob a muigh is nach leigeadh eagal mo bheatha leam nùidheadh mun tigeadh na bu mhiosa orm.

Cha b'fhada gus an do phill esan—am fear òg—agus shuair mise òrdugh a dhòl a steach. Bha mi anns a' chogadh mar a bha a' mhòr-chuid a tha mu m'aois, ach cha deachaidh mi riamh cho aindeònach mu choinne oifigich is a chaidh mi troimh an doras ud agus gun fhios agam ciod a bha romham. Bha seòmar mòr taobh a staigh an doruis agus aon deich cait 'nan suidhe mu theine math guail. Bha blàths an sin a chuireadh cat nàdurra air bith do na cùiltean, ach cha b'e sin do'n fheadhainn seo. An ceann shuas an t-seòmair bha bòrd fada agus 'na shuidhe aige slaodanach mòr bodaich le feusag liath air. Gu deimhin ch a robh esan e fhéin air na taghaidh an coslas. Bha dà shùil dhearg phrabach 'na cheann, géilligean fada odhar air mar a bha air a' cheud té a thachair orm, bilean móra tiugha dubh-ghorm, agus dà bhun fiacail an doras a bheòil. Ar leam nach b'urrainn do'n t-Sàtan fhéin a bhith dad na b'iargalta na e.

"Dé thug an seo thu?" ar se an.

"Seacharan seilge," arsa mi fhéin.

"Glé choltach," ar se an gu magail.

Mhothaich mi an sin gu robh coltas sìdhiche beag glas-neulach a' sgrìobhadh na bha sinn ag ràdh le ite iolaire air pìos de chraiceann

caorach. Chuir seo iongnadh nach bu bheag orm, ach cha d'fhuair mi beachd-smuaineachadh air ro-fhada an uair a labhair an iomhaigh a bha mu m' choinne a rithis.

"Cìod a chuir armachd agad a' tighinn an rathad seo?" Bha a h-uile facal a bha a' tighinn as a bheul mar urchair á beul gunna.

"Armachd?" arsa mi fhéin, is mi a' toirt sùil air a' ghunna chaol a bha nise mu m' choinne air a' bhòrd. Rinn mi snodha gàire.

"Seadh," arsa esan, "armachd! A réir lagh a' ghlinne seo tha neach air bith a bheir armachd a steach ann air a pheanasachadh."

Bha an gnothach a nis a' dol os cionn bùrda cho mòr is gu robh e a' tòiseachadh air fìor dhragh a chur orm.

"Nach do dh'innis mi dhuit cheana gu robh mi a' sealg?" arsa mi fhéin.

"Neo-ar-thaigh nach innis thusa," arsa esan, "ach chan 'eil mise a' riaghladh a' ghlinne seo mìle bliadhna gun fhios a bhith agam ciamar a dh'aithnicheas mi éighear breugach de do sheorsa-sa."

An uair a chuàla mise iomradh air mìle bliadhna thàinig fuar-fhallus tromhann agus bha eagal mòr orm nach b'fhada gus am biodh mo ghluinean a' bragadaich r'a chéile cuid-eachd is cha deanadh e an gnothach idir nochdadh dhàsan gu robh eagal mo bheatha orm.

"Togaibh leibh e," arsa esan ris an dà ghille luideagach, "agus cuiribh fo gheàrrd e gus an gairm mise a' chómhairle is an sònraich sinn cìod a nithear ris."

Chan aithne dhòmhsa ciamar a thug mo chasan mi do'n t-seòmar bheag d'an do thrèoraich na gillean glasa mi. Shuidh iad an sin, fear air gach taobh dhiom, agus iad 'gam bhìtheadh le innealan beaga geura an dràsda is a rithis air son spòrs dhaibh fhéin. An uair a gheibhinn-sa fàth bha m'inntinn a' dol thairis air na thachair o'n dh'fhàg mi an taigh anns a' mhadainn. Cha deanainn bun no bàrr dheth. Bhiodhte riamh ag ràdh gu robh na sìdhichean coibhneil, déidheil air ceòl, ach cha robh coltas air bith aig a' ghràis seo ri sìdhichean. Is e a bha anna daoine borba aineolach, measail air cait—oir chithte anns gach àit iad, cuid beò agus iomhaighean cuid marbh. Bha blàths anns an àit a bha 'gam fhàgail tinn agus a dh'aindeoin sin bha crithean fuachd orm is mi dearbh chinnteach gu robh am bàs a' teannadh orm gu clis. Bha amharas agam gun tàinig m' uair, agus cha robh mi fada ceàrr.

Dh'fhosgail an doras agus thàinig grèòdan de bhodaich a steach, fear an déidh fir. Bha a h-uile duine dhiubh a h-uile buille cho grànnda ris an fhear a bha air an ceann. Sheas

iad 'nan steòcan mu m' choinne agus thug am fear mòr a mach a' bhinn:

"Tha thu air t'fhaighinn ciontach leis a' chomhairle de bhall-airm a thoirt a steach do'n ghleann agus, a thuilleadh air sin, ainmhidh ceithir-chasach de ghnè nan cat, a tha 'nà bheathach naomh againne an seo, a mharbhadh am fuil fhuair. Air son do chionta gheibh thu bàs gun dàil."

Cha d'fhuair mise cothrom facal a ràdh air mo shon fhéin. Chaidh mo ghreasad a mach as an t-seòmar agus na gillean glasa air mo shàil 'gam shìor pheanasachadh le an cuid bìdidh. An teis-meadhon a' ghlinne bha craobh mhòr ghiuthais agus dul de shìoman air a thilgeadh thairis air meanglan garbh a bha mu ochd troighean o'n talamh. Chuimhnich mi gu cianail le cràdh cridhe air mo dhaoine a bha cho fada bhuan is am bàs nàr seo a' tighinn orm air son cionta nach robh 'na cionta idir. Ach cha robh cràdh cridhe gun chràdh cuirp. Bha gach mac màthar a bha an làthair a' dalladh air cur shleaghan beaga biorach 'nam aodann is 'nam làmhan gus an robh mi gus mò rian a chall. Is ann taingeil a bha mi an uair a chuireadh an dul mu m'ambaich, oir b'fheàrr gu mòr a bhith marbh na bhith 'gam chiùrradh mar seo. Bha an sìoman gu min ri sìoda, is gann a theireadh tu gun tàchdadh e duine gu bràth, ach mar bu teinne a bha e a' fàs bha fhios agamsa gun deanadh e a' chùis math gu leòr.

Bha an anail 'ga tachdadh as mo chliabh agus mo chasan a' fàgail na talmhainn an uair a dhùisg mi! Cha robh cuileag mheanbh eadar Hiort is Peairt nach robh an déidh m'aodann is mo làmhan a thoirt as a chéile, agus feasgar bog bruithheil ann. Chrath mi mi fhéin agus thug mi taing dhùrachdach do Dhia gum b'aisling a bha ann. Dh'éirich mi gu brùite, agus chan e a h-uile gearr a bheireadh orm sìos leathad na beinne a' deanamh air an taigh. Bha an ceò a' togail agus an aimsir bruthainneach. Theagmh gur e am blàths a chuir an t-suain uamhasach ud orm. Cha robh dragh no iomagain air an fheadhainn a bha aig baile an uair a ràinig mi, ach bheir mise mo ghealladh gum bi ainm air an là a théid mise a shealg do'n bheinn a rithis.

An rud anns an téid dàil théid dearmad.

* * *

Ge bè a bhios gu math rium, bidh mi gu tric aige.

* * *

Is fheàirre gach math a mheudachadh.

* * *

Is math am modh a bhith sàmhach.

Leabhraichean Ura

“LORNA,” le I. M. Moffatt-Pender, M.A. (Bell & Bain, Ltd., Glasgow, 83t.d.).

Seo leabhar eireachdail, anns a bheil barrachd is eireachdas o'n taobh a muigh. An seo tha còig dealbh-chluichean leis an ùghdar ghleusda, agus gach aon dhiubh anns a' Ghàidhlig Albannaich agus anns a' Ghàidhlig Eireannaich, an dà chànain mu choinneamh a chèile—“Màiri Nic Leòid,” “Silis,” “Fionnghal Nic Dhòmhnaill,” “Gleann Còmhann, A.D. 1692,” agus “Caraid nan Gaidheal.” Chuala sinn feadhainn de na pìosan seo 'gan cluich air an àrd-ùrlar aig a' Mhòd, agus leugh sinn aon diubh anns a' Ghaidheal. Is airidh an t-ùghdar a mholadh air son na h-oibre dhìomhaalta a tha aige anns an leabhar seo. Tha dreach air a' Ghàidhlig seo mar a tha air gach facal a thig bho pheann an ùghdair. An seo tha pearsachan is tachartasan sònraichte an eachdraidh nan Gaidheal air an toirt f'ar comhair ann an dòigh a nì druidheadh air inntinn is mac-meanmnain an luchd-amhairc agus an luchd-leughaidh. Rinn an clò-bhuailtear a obair fhéin gu snasail, agus tha àireamh dhealbhan breagha anns an leabhar. Chan aithne dhomh ciod e prìs an leabhair, no am faighear e ri cheannach, ach tha sinn a' cluinntinn gun do chuir Mgr. Moffatt-Pender mìle leth-bhreac de'n leabhar mar thiodhlac saor is an asgaidh gu òigridh na Gaidhealtachd agus mìle eile gu òigridh na h-Eireann. Sin gaibh falaideachd! Fhuaradh iomadh dearbhadh cheana air gu bheil Iain Mór an Fhéilidh 'na shàr-dhuine am measg na muinntir a nochdas am meas air aobhar na Gàidhlig, chan ann le brosgal beòil ach le fosgladh sporain.

* * * * *

IRISLEABHAR CEILTEACH. Tha Leabhar II, Aìreamh 4, de'n ràitheachan bheag seo air tighinn chugainn á Toronto, agus is duilich an naidheachd gur e seo an àireamh mu dheireadh. Is mór agus is math an t-saothair a rinn an lighiche Iain MacAoidh agus a charaid Pádraig O Bróin ann an cur a mach an leabhraìn seo, ach cha d'fhuair iad an cuideachadh a dh'fheumadh iad agus tha e ro-throm orra an obair a chumail air aghaidh, agus móran eile an earbsa riu. Nach tric a chuala sinn an sgeul? Nach iomadh mìosachan is iris a chaidh an ùine ghearr á bith le dith cobhair? Tha an leabhran beag seo làn de nithean blasda, agus is e a' dòchas nach fhada gu an togar a' bhratrach seo a' rìthist ri crann.

* * * * *

Tha dà leabhar eile againn f'ar comhair, agus gu dearbh is fada o bha iad air ar cogais,

oir tha àireamh mhiosan bho thàinig iad as a' chlà-bheairt agus cha tug sinn iomradh orra fhathast. Is iad 'sin *Bàird A' Chomuinn*, comh-chruinneachadh de'n bhàrdachd a choisinn an Crùn aig a' Mhòd Nàiseanta bho 1923 gu 1951, deasaichte le Lachlan MacFhionghuin (An Comunn Gaidhealach, 100 t.d., 7/6), agus “*Fasgnadh*,” bàrdachd Ghàidhlig le Seumas MacThòmais (118 t.d., 8/6). Is e as aobhar nach tug sinn àite dhaibh roimh seo nach 'eil beachd mhór sam bith againn oirnn féin mar fhear-breith air bàrdachd Ghàidhlig, agus dh'iarr sinn air neach eile, as comasaiche gu mór na sinne, an dà leabhar seo a leughadh agus a bhreith a thoirt orra air a shocair, agus gun toireamaid dha caob math de'n mhiosachan a chum na crìche sin. Tha sinn duilich gu bheil, à réir coltais, aobharan sònraichte ann, a bhacas an fear-sgrùdaidh seo bho'n obair seo a dheanamh mar a gheal e agus mar a dh'iarr sinne. Feumaidh sinn, mar sin, cuid-eigin eile a lorg no dol an car na h-oibre sinn féin. Chan abair sinn an còrr an dràsda, ach a mhàin seo: seo dà leabhar as fhiach an ceannach. Tha sinn an duil làn-iomradh a dheanamh orra aig a' cheud chothrom.

* * * * *

THE SCOTS YEAR-BOOK, 1954-55. (150pp., 2/6)

This is the 49th annual volume of this marvel of compact information. It lists the hundreds of Scottish, Highland, and Gaelic societies throughout the world, some of them in very out-of-the-way places. It gives the names and addresses of secretaries. It includes interesting notes about the activities of many of these societies. It includes book-reviews and brief articles of general interest. Here is a book for 2/6 which has no equal at the price or at any price. We compliment the editor, Mr. T. Atholl Robertson. The book may be obtained through any bookseller.

Making A New Language

ACCORDING to a news item in the press recently, English is becoming a “back seat” language in South Africa. “The deterioration of English has gone on parallel with the vigorous growth of Afrikaans, which has been fostered by the zeal of a dozen cultural organisations and the enthusiasm of an ambitious people, imbued with a *volk* ideal. While a few years ago one rarely heard Afrikaans spoken in the cities, it is now spoken everywhere, in offices, shops, and factories.”

The Afrikaans language has shown a remarkable development in the last quarter-century. From being a patois it has become a national

language, and no effort has been spared to make it an effective and up-to-date medium of communication. Much attention is given to the devising of new words and terms for modern use.

In 1949 a Bureau for Technical Terms was set up, with the aid of a government subsidy, and its first task was the compiling of a list of building terms. Within a few months the Bureau issued its first list of 18,000 to 20,000 terms in Afrikaans, many of them simple translations, others new creations. The method adopted was to make a list of the terms for which Afrikaans equivalents were required, discover whether an Afrikaans equivalent already existed or could be adapted, study the purpose or function of the thing or process to be described, consult specialists and ordinary people using the term, and then try out the new term in practice.

Already the Bureau has published several long lists of new words, including 9,000 chemical terms, 6,000 educational and psychological terms, geological terms, a military dictionary and an agricultural list.

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Chan 'eil nì cho fìor shoirbh ri coire fhaotainn.

* * *

Cha tig á nead an fhithich ach am fitheach dubh mar e fhéin.

* * *

Tha gu leòr cho math ri cuilm.

* * *

Nam b'e an diugh an dé.

* * *

Smiaran dubha anns an Fhaoilleach agus uibhean fhaoileag as t-Earrach.

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 'S am fear bhios maol gheibh e faobhar cruadhach.

Iain Mac a' Ghobhainn.

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REV. T. M. MURCHISON, M.A.

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CLAR-INNSIDH

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AN GEARRAN, 1955

Aireamh 2

Bho Dha-Rìreadh Gu Fealla-Dha

Le DUGHALL MACCORMAIC

(Choisinn seo a' cheud duais aig Mòd na Dreòllainne, 1954).

O cho fiuch is a bha an t-sìd an uair a ràinig mi an taigh an là ud aig toiseach mìos na Samhna! Bha an t-uisge a' sìleadh a nuas dìreach, a chionn cha robh deò gaoithe ann. Bha mi ceithir làithean aig an taigh mun d'fhuair mi mo shròn a mach air doras agus, an uair sin fhéin, cha d'fhuair mi dol fada!

Oidhche Di-ciadaoin thàinig an t-uisge a nuas 'na mhìll is 'na mheallan. Lean e mar sin gu meadhon-là Diar-daoine agus an sin thàinig seòrsa de thuradh. B'è seo a' cheud chothrom a fhuair mi air dol a shealg. Lìon mi té de na gunnathan is chaidh mi troimh an ghàrradh feuch am faicinn beathach no eun. Choisich mi sìos agus thug mi sùil troimh bhealach beag agus chunnaic mi coineanach! A nis, chunnaic an coinean mise cuideachd, ach bha e cho fiuch is ged bhiodh e air a bhogadh anns an loch fad na h-oidhche. Chunnaic e mi ach an àite teicheadh is ann a thug e glamhadh air pìos eile de'n fheur, agus an uair a chunnaic mi cho fiuch is cho acrach is a bha e chaidh mi ceum air ais, thug mi na h-urcraichean as a' ghunna, agus, an uair a thill mi a steach agus a dh'innis mi do m'athair mar a rinn mi, rinn e lachan gàire a dh'fhaodadh tu chluinntinn aig an taigh-sgoil!

"O m'eadail, mo shealgair!" arsa esan, ged bha mi cinnteach gun dealgadh e fhéin a' cheart rud a rinn mise. Nan do theich an coinean,

mharbh mi e, ach, O, cho fiuch agus cho acrach is a bha e! B'è murt a bhiodh ann logadh air.

Thàinig Di-haoine mun d'fhuair mi dol a mach a rithist, ach an uair a smaointicheas mi air an sgeul a fhuair mi an là ud b'fhiach i feitheamh rithe.

Dh'fhalbh mi mu aon uair an déidh a' mheadhon-là. Thug mi leam gunna caol, a chionn cha robh fuighair agam n' fhaicinn air an deanainn feum, ach cha robh Donnchadh Ban nan Oran riann na bu ghaolaiche air companas gunna na bha mise.

Sheachain mi taighean a' chlachain agus rinn mi mo rathad sìos do'n chladach. Cha robh eun, cha robh beathach ri fhaicinn. Cha robh uimhear is gob-saic fhéin ann! Ràinig mi Port na Bà Bàine, is dhìrich mi an cnoc a tha eadar sin is Port a' Ghàrraidh-chóinnich. An uair a thug mi a mach mullach a' chnuic, thug mi sùil an iar is a deas, agus anns an iar-dheas chunnaic mi bun froise.

A nis, nan robh mi leth-ghlic fhéin, thill mi gu na taighean, ach an àite sin is e a rinn mi, ruith mi cho luath is a bha agam gu taobh deas a' phuirt far a bheil stalla àrd agus air a bonn tha creagan móra, is bha fasgadh am measg nan creag fhad is a bha a' ghaoth anns an deas no an iar-dheas.

An uair a ràinig mi na creagan leig mi sìos an gunna is thòisich mi a' tresadh bhioran is mi a' dol a dheanamh teine. Bha gu leòir de

bhiorain ann agus bha tòrr math agam cruinn mun tàinig an t-uisge. Fhuair mi an sin badan de fheur a bha cho caoin is cho tioram is ged nach robh uisge riamh ann.

Chuir mi sios bad math feòir is chuir mi spong ris, bioran air a mhuin sin, agus an uair a dh'fhalbh an toit thigh bhà coltas teine gasda a' dol a bhith agam.

Shuidh mi is bha mi a' lìonadh na pioba an uair a ràinig Lachainn. Bha bliadhna no dhà o'n thachair sin agus bha an fhàilte cridheil. Thàinig an sin gille òg eile. Bha luchd cèilidh a' dol a bhith agam!

Cha robh sinn ach glé ghoirid còmhla an uair a thàinig an fhras agus stoirn dhearg leatha! Ach bha sinne air ar neo-ar-thaing. Cha robh boinne a' tighinn 'nar còir.

"An ann a' siubhal a' chladaich a bha sibh?" thubhairt mi ri mo chompanaich, agus as a sin thòisich na sgeulachdan mu shiubhal cladaich agus na bhiodh a' tighinn air tìr ri àm droch-shìde.

Dh'innis mi fhìn mu'n tosgaid a fhuair mi anns an Fhang-bheag, agus mar a shaoil mi gu robh m'fhortan deanta! Cha b'fhada gu an deach an sgeul feadh a' bhaile, "Fhuair Mac Nèill tosgaid làn ùillidh is i falamh!"

Sin mar a chaidh an sgeul innse leis na balaich bheaga eile.

Ach labhair am fear òg mu dheireadh, "O, nan robh thu an seo an uair a chaidh an *Labrador* air tìr air sgeir Mhic Coinnich. Sin agad far an robh cobhartach!"

"Chaidh i air tìr ann an ceò, ach chunnaic sinn anns na paipearan nach deach duine a chall. Lean an t-sid cho feathail ri àm foghair, is gun ghluasad idir ach gann air a' mhuir. Sheall mi troimh an uinneig madainn a bha sìod agus chunnaic mi rud-eigin dearg air an tràigh. Bha muir-làn reothairt ann, agus cha robh a' mhuir seachad air ceud slat bhò'n doras.

"Dh'fhalbh mi sios do'n tràigh agus, an uair a ràinig mi, cha fhaca mi a leithid de shealladh ùbhlán riamh! Bha am port làn dhiubh. Thog mi té dhiubh is thug mi greim aise. O, is i a bha math! Thàinig mi an sin chlugam fhéin agus ghreas mi dhachaigh. Dh'innis mi aig an taigh mar a bha. Thug mi leam an cliabh-mòna is thug mi an tràigh orm. Bha an cliabh làn agam mun tàinig m'athair, ach cha ruigeamaid a leas uimhear de chabhaig a bhith oirn.

"Thàinig muinntir eile a' bhaile a thrusadh ùbhlán, ach cha b'fhada a lean sin. Chaidh bàtaichean a chur air bhog agus chaidh iad a mach do'n chaoil. Bha aon gheòla nach robh deich mionaidean air falbh an uair a thill i agus ceithir baraillean aice gun bhristeadh. Bha càch air a' cheart dòigh. Ann an ùine ghoirid cha robh taigh anns an àit anns nach

robh baraille no dhà de ùbhlán. Cha robh mi fhìn a' smaointinn gu robh uimhear ùbhlán air an t-saoghal!

"Tha cuimhne agad mar a bhios na feannagan is na ròcaidich a' dol a h-uile feasgar do choille Choin-ard far am bidh iad a' cur seachd na h-oidhche. Bha, ma tà, a h-uile aon dhiubh a' tadhal anns a' Phort Bhàn air an rathad, agus rachadh gach té dhiubh dhachaigh agus ubhal 'na spuirean! Tha a bhàlht is a bhuihl an duigh ann, a chionn, ma théid thu do Choin-ard mun falbh thu a rithist, chì thu am measg na beithe is na calltainn craobhan ùbhlán a' fàs a tha na's àirde na thu fhéin! Chan 'eil mi ag ràdh gu bheil measan orra, ach tha iad ann, gu leòir dhiubh—nach 'eil, a Lachainn?," is e a' tionndadh ris an fhear eile.

"Tha sin cho fìor is a tha thu ag innse," arsa Lachainn, "ach innis dha mu'n duine mharbh a fhuair thu."

"Och," arsa Niall, "tha mi cinnteach gun cuala e sin cheana."

"An e mise?" arsa mi fhìn. "Ciamar a chluinninn-sa rud mar sin? Cha chuala mise nì bhò'n thàinig mi ach sadadh an uisge!"

"Glé cheart, ma tà," arsa Niall, "seo agad mar a bha. Dh'atharraich an t-sìd feasgar Di-sathurna a bha sìod. Thàinig sgrìob ghasda de ghaoith o'n iar-dheas, dìreach a' ghaoth a bha a dhìth oirn. Anns a' mhadainn Là na Sàbaid sheall mi troimh an uinneig is chunnaic mi gu robh an caol gu math robach. B'e seo an là a bhiodh ministear Eilean Chaluim a' tighinn a nall a shearmonachadh anns an taigh-sgoil, a chionn anns an àm ud cha robh Eaglais Stéidhichte idir air an taobh seo. Bha cìrean geal air a h-uile tonn anns a' chaoil, agus leis a sin cha b'urrainn do'n mhinistear an t-Eilean fhàgail. Bha mise an sin a' guidhe gun stadadh a' ghaoth a chum is gun faigheadh am ministear tighinn! Is ann de'n Eaglais Shaoir a tha sinne, is bha fhios nach robh a chridhe agam dol a shiubhal cladaich Là na Sàbaid ged nach biodh ministear anns an àit idir, ach rachadh muinntir na h-Eaglais Stéidhichte a shiubhal cladaich, ministear a bhith ann no as!

'Is ann air son sin a bha mi a' guidhe gun tuiteadh a' ghaoth, a chionn, nam biodh searmon ann, cha bhiodh uimhear dhiubh a rachadh a shiubhal cladaich! Co-dhiubh, thàinig an t-àm againne falbh do'n eaglais a bha còrr is dà mhìle an ear oirn, ach, O, bu bheag a bha m'inntinn-sa air eaglais no air searmon! Anns an eaglais cha robh mi ach ag éirigh is a' suidhe le càch, is gun mi a' chuinntinn dad ach na tonnan a' bristeadh air a' chladach. Bha mi cho bodhar dall mu gach nì a bha a' dol is gu robh an searmon

seachad mun do mhòthaich mi is gus an robh feadhainn 'gam phutadh a mach as an àite-suidheinn!

“Cha robh mi na b'fheàrr dheth an uair a fhuair mi dhachaigh. Bha coinneamh a' dol a bhith anns an taigh-sgoil aig seachd uairean is dh'fheumainn dol ann. An uair a dh'fhàs e dorcha, fhuair m'inntinn beagan fois, a chionn cha bhiodh duine a' siubhal cladaich anns an dorcha, ach air an rathad dhachaigh rinn mi suas m'inntinn gum bithinn air mo chois roimh la Di-luan. Is e sin a rinn mi. Chaidh mi do'n leabaidh cho luath is a ràinig mi an taigh. Shaoil mo mhàthair gu robh mi tinn, ach an uair a dh'innis mi nach robh dad ceàrr orm leig i leam.

“Chaidh mi gu trom agus, an uair a dhùisg mi, shaidh mi gu robh an là geal ann! Leum mi as mo leabaidh, chuir mi orm m'aodach, is shnàg mi a mach cho sàmhach ri luch.

“A nis, is e a bha romham tòiseachadh air a' chladach a shiubhal tuath agus an sin tilleadh gu'n deas. Rinn mi air Port na Mòna ach, an àite dol dìreach, is e a rinn mi dol seachad Taigh a' Phuirt agus suas gu Bràigh a' Bhaile. Bha an rathad na b'fheàrr anns an dorcha. Ràinig mi an dail bhàna a tha a' dol sìos dìreach gu Port na Mòna, mar a tha fhios agad, agus thionndaidh mi an iar. A' dol sìos anns a' ghlaic ud thòisich mi air feadaireachd agus b'e sin a' cheud eagal a ghabh mi! Bha mise a' feadaireachd agus thòisich feadhainn eile air feadaireachd air gach taobh dhìom! A nis, chuir sìod ann an lòn falluis mi, ged bha fhios agam nach robh ann ach mac-talla! Stad mise, is sguir an ceòl!

“Tha seann ghàrradh fhloc aig bonn na dàil bhàin ud agus boglach air an taobh eile. An uair a ràinig mi an seann ghàrradh, thug mi roid asam is leum mi gu tom luachrach a tha air an taobh eile, ach, O, fhicacais, an uair a ràinig mo shàiltean an tom dh'èirich gob-saic le sgrìach oillteil a chuir a leithid de eagal orm is gun do thuit mi air mo bheul is air mo shròin, is mo chridhe shuas aig mo chich-shluigean! A nis, bha fhios agam nach robh ann ach eun ach, ged a bha, cha d'rinn sin mise dad na b'fheàrr.

“Dh'èirich mi an ceann tacain is mi air chrith. Dh'fhalbh mi an sin is chaidh mi air m'aghaidh. Bha am bruthach a nis leam is choisich mi gu socrach sìos am frith-rathad a tha a' dol do'n phort. Stad mi greis a shealltainn mun cuairt. Cha robh deò gaoithe ann, ach thàinig an fheathra, math is fada, air son stad a chur air muinntir na h-Eaglais Stéidhichte! Sheall mi a null gu Eilean Chalum, ach cha robh solus ri fhaicinn. Bha corran caol de ghealaich os cionn an Eilein a bha coltach ri ionga famhair a bhiodh a' bearradh ingean òrdaig mhóir is a

leig a nuas i bho shaoghal air chor-eigin eile. Dh'fhalbh gach eagal bhuan. Cha chuireadh dad eile eagal orm an déidh an eòin ghrànda a chuir ann a leithid de phreathal mi! Ghabh mi sìos do'n phort is chaidh mi do'n taobh a tuath, is mi a' dol 'ga rùrach.

“Bha mi tràth ceart gu leòir, a chionn is ann a bha e a' fàs dorcha an àit a bhith a' soilleireachadh. Thòisich mi gu socrach is mo shùil air an tiùrr. Cha deach mi fada an uair a chunnaic mi rud bàna. Chrom mi sìos feuch am b'fhiach dhomh a thoirt leam. Chuir mi sìos mo làmh dheas, agus O, chruithreachd!, is ann a chuir mi m'òrdag ann an sùil duine mhairbh!

“Eagal! Cha b'e eagal a ghabh mi ach an dearg chuthach! A mach ghabh mi suas am bruthach. Tha mi ag innse dhuit, nan robh maigheach romham air an rathad, nach deanainn ach a bhreabadh as an rathad is gum faighinn ruith ceart! Aig mullach a' bhruthaich thionndaidh mi sìos craoich ùr Dhòmhnaill 'Ic Iain Bhàin. Tha boglach eile aig bonn na dail sin, ach mo thogair! Sìos ghabh mi le stàdagan fiadhaich a' leum thar a h-uile dad—lòin is creagan is tuileamainean, uisge a' spreadhadh thar mo chin! Ràinig mi Port MhicAoidh. Chaidh mi tarsainn air an tràigh. Suas ghabh mi do'n taigh. Aig a' bhruthach bheag ud mu dheich slatan o'n dorus dh'fhalbh mo chasan bhuan is thuit mi gun ghliog air mo bheul is air mo shròin!

“A nis, nan robh anail idir ann am chom, b'ann an sìod a rinn mi raoc, a chionn bha mi a' toirt orm fhìn a chreidsinn gu robh meòir an duine mhairbh a' gabhail greim air cùl m'amhaich! Dh'èirich mi air dhòigh-eigin is rinn mi air an dorus! Dh'fhosgail mi e, is fhuair mi a steach is leig mi mi fhìn 'nam splog air mo bheul is air mo shròin anns a' cheann-teine gun dìog agam a sìos no nìos!

“Ma chaidh mi a mach sàmhach, rinn mi gu leòir de straightlich a' tilleadh, is cha robh mi fada an sìod an uair a thàinig mo mhàthair. Shaoil i gu robh mi ann an laigsinn is chaidh i do'n chuinneig uisge; lion i soitheach is, an uair a fhuair i mi air mo dhruim, thilg i an t-uisge 'nam aodann, is cha mhór nach do bhàth i mi!

“Ach, coma leat, rinn an t-uisge feum dhomh, is fhuair mi innse do mo mhàthair dé a fhuair mi ann am Port na Mòna. Thàinig an sin m'athair is, an uair a chuala e mo sgeul, dh'iarr e air mo mhàthair biadh a dheasachadh is gum faigheamaid an corp a chur far nach fhaigheadh na feannagan e. Cha robh fada gus an robh sin deas. Chuir m'athair mise suas gu taigh Eachainn feuch an tigeadh Aonghas leinn agus, ma thigeadh, am bara-làimhe a thoirt leis. Dh'fhalbh mi. B'i bean Eachainn a thàinig do'n dorus agus dh'innis mi mar a bha

is, an uair a bha sinn a' bruidhinn, thàinig Aonghas fhéin a mach is, an uair a chuala e an gnothach, thuir e gum biodh e deas an uair a thillinn fhéin is m'athair. An uair a chaidh mi fhéin is m'athair suas, bha Aonghas deas agus am bara-lámhe aige. Chaidh sinn do'n phort agus cha robh bàta air flod ach bàta Alasdair. Chaidh mise a chur a null a dh'iarraidh coincheall de'n bhàta, ach bha Alasdair na b'fhèarr na sin—thàinig e fhéin cuideachd.

'An uair a chunnaic Alasdair am bara-lámhe, thuir e nach deanadh e feum, agus a' tionndadh riumsa thubhairt e, 'Rach a null gu cùl an taighe agamsa agus gheibh thu sgonn de fhàrdh leathann an sin, is bheir a nall e.' Fhuair mi am fàradh. Chaidh crann a' bhàta a thogail; chaidh am fàradh a chur tarsainn anns an deireadh, agus dh'fhalbh sinn.

Dh'iomair na fir gu socrach. Fhuair sinn gu ceadha (seann fhear) Phort na Mòna. Chaidh na fir air tìr agus am fàradh. Cha leigeadh m'athair leamsa dol a null. Thug e orm suidhe ann an sìod gus an ghladhadh e orm. Leig mi fhaicinn dhaibh a' chreag far an robh an corp air taobh eile na creige.

'Choisich iad gu socrach agus, an uair a bha m'athair faisg air a' chreig, thug e dheth a cheap is thug Aonghas dheth a cheap cuideachd. An uair a fhuair m'athair gu taobh eile na creige thilg e a cheap air an làr, rinn Aonghas lachan gaire a dh'fhoadadh daoine a chluinntinn anns a' Phort Bhàn! Dh'èirich mise a dhòl a null, is iongantais orm cho cridheil is a bha iad. Ach an sin ghlaoth m'athair rium am fàradh a thoirt a nunn.

'An uair a ràinig mi iad, bha gach aon air an leth-ghlùinean is iad a' feuchainn cliathach muice! Cliathach muice! Bha i ann an sìod agus i air a sgoltadh troimh mheadhòn a sròine a sìos an cnàimh droma agus, air m'onair, bha leth an earbail fhéin ann! Dh'aontaich na fir air fad gu robh a' mhuc cho ùr math is ged thigeadh i à bhàth feòladair. Dh'èirich m'athair ag ràdh, 'Muc! Smaointichibh air, fheara, mise a' toirt dhìom mo cheap air son muice!' Thionndaidh e an sin riumsa, ag ràdh, 'Ma chluinneas mise gun innis thu dé a chunnaic thu, bheir mi an ceann as an amhaich agad!'

'Chaidh a' mhuc chiatach a chur air an fhàradh. Anns a' bhàta shuidh Alasdair anns an deireadh. Chaidh am fàradh a chur tarsainn a chum is gum faigheadh na fir iomram, agus dh'fhalbh sinn.

'Cha deach sinn fada an uair a thuir Alasdair ann an guth Ìosal, 'Dean fodha, Aonghas; iomair, a Nèill.' Rinn iad mar a dh'iarraidh orra, is thionndaidh iad feuch dé a thug air Alasdair a leithid de òrdugh a thoirt dhaibh, ach thuir Alasdair, 'Chan fhaca sibh muinntir

an tòraidh air a' cheadha?' 'Is e a nì sinn,' lean e, 'cuiridh sinn an seòl mu'n mhuc, agus cuiridh mi geall gun tig ceap no dhà eile bharr cheannaibh a dheanamh ùmhlachd do'n mhuc.' Cha d'iarr càch na b'fhèarr. Chaidh a' mhuc a dheagh chòmhach agus rinn sinn air a' phort. An uair a dh'fhogail sinn a mach Carraig an Fhaing, chunnaic sinn an sin an grunnan mhnathan is fhear a bha a' feitheamh gus an tigeadh an 'corp.'

'Ràinig sinn, agus cha b'urrainn an làn a bhith na bu fhreagarraiche! Bha Lachainn an seo ann, is a cheap 'na phòca, is e a' deanamh greim air ceann an fhàraidh. Chuir Aonghas dà bhalach gu taighean a' chladaich air son dà chliabh. Chaidh an giùlan a thogail gu cùramach agus a ghiùlan gu na clèibh far an deach a leigeil sìos leis a h-uile urram is onair! Bha Alasdair air a chuartachadh le mnathan a bha a' caoineadh, ach thuir té dhiubh ris, 'Dé seorsa aodaich a tha air?' 'Aodach,' arsa Alasdair, 'chan 'eil stiall air a corp ach mar a rugadh d'a màthair i, is tha i goirid dheth sin fhéin! Is e ise a tha ann, a mhnathan, is chan e esan.' 'O chiall, a chiall! O, an creutair truagh! Saoil sibh, Alasdair,' arsa té dhiubh, 'am faigh sibh a pàrantan?' 'An tà,' arsa Alasdair, 'cha bhì e idir furasda a cuideachd a lorg.' 'An tiodhlaic sibh ann an seo i, ma tà?' 'O,' arsa Alasdair, 'théid a tiodhlaic ann an caochladh àite; bhiodh e na's saoire mar sin.' 'A bhrùid gun iochd,' arsa a' bhean, 'tha nigheanan agad fhéin. Ciamar a chòrdadh e riut iad a dh'fhaotainn bàis mar a fhuair an truaghan seo?' 'An tà,' cha chòrdadh e idir rium, arsa Alasdair, 'ach rachamaid suas far a bheil an giùlan. Tha mi a' faicinn Dhòmhnail a' tighinn is bidh an Leabhar aige.'

'Cha robh toil aig duine cleas a thoirt á seann Dòmhnall, agus chaidh an 'corp' a rùsgadh. B'ann an sin a bha an làn-aighear! Chaidh a' mhuc a roinn, agus cha robh té a leig deur as a sùil nach do mhol blas na té a chuir a leithid de mhulad oirre, a chionn fhuair gach aon a bha a làthair stiall mhath de'n 'duine mharbh' a fhuair mise ann am Port na Mòna! Sin agad, mar a thuir mi riut, a chaidh an da-rireadh gu fealla-dhà.'

Bha sinn greis ann an sìod mun do stad an fhras, ach fhuair sinn dhachaigh tioram ach, ged nach fhaigheadh, b'fhiach sgeul Nèill deagh fhliuchadh.

A bheil sibh ag aontachadh leam!

Na creid an droch-sgeul gus an dearbhar i.

* * *

Is dàna duine 'na chùil féin.

Executive Council

A MEETING of the Executive Council of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in the Highlanders' Institute, Glasgow, on 15th January, 1955, Mr. Neil Shaw, President, in the Chair.

The President paid tribute to the work done for the Gaelic cause by the late Mr. John N. Macleod ("Alasdair Mór") and the late Mrs. Gunn (Margaret Hill-Boyle). He also referred to the passing of Miss C. Cameron and Mr. Stewart MacInnes.

A minute of the Finance Committee was approved.

A minute of the Education Committee referred, among other things, to the question of Gaelic in secondary schools, the proposed questionnaire on Gaelic in Highland schools, and Gaelic in Glasgow and Edinburgh schools. It also noted with appreciation the gift of two sets of recorded Gaelic lessons from Mr. William Hamilton.

Approval was given to a minute of the Publication Committee which recommended that a quantity of back-numbers of *An Gaidheal* be made available to secondary schools where Gaelic is taught, and that *An Gaidheal Og* be reduced from four to two pages per month, on the understanding that at least half of the entire magazine would continue to be in Gaelic. It was noted that the first issue of the official magazine appeared in October 1905, and it was agreed that a special jubilee number of *An Gaidheal* be issued to celebrate the jubilee. It was reported that the new revised edition of *Bardachd Ghaidhlig* is in course of preparation, and that enquiry is being made as to the possibility of having the recorded Gaelic lessons of the B.B.C. made available to An Comunn. Blackie's *Gaelic Reader*, Book IV, has been reprinted. On the suggestion of Mr. Donald Grant, following upon his visit last summer to the Celtic Congress in Dublin and contacts he made there, it was agreed to enquire about the possibility of having a Scottish Gaelic edition of certain illustrated Irish school readers.

The Propaganda Committee reported on the remit from last Council meeting regarding the inclusion of English competitions in the Kintyre Mod. Mr. Shaw, who had visited Campbeltown and conferred with local parties, submitted a report. After discussion it was agreed to permit, for the present year, a much reduced number of English competitions.

The Mod and Music Committee reported that the Largs Branch had agreed to invite An Comunn to hold the 1956 National Mod at Largs, and this invitation was cordially accepted.

A minute of joint-meeting of Finance and Propaganda Committee dealt with the remit on uniformity of membership, but, after discussion, it was agreed to let the matter lie over meantime.

A minute of joint-meeting of the Art and Industry and Education Committees presented proposals for holding a Gaelic Summer School at Aberdeen from 4th to 15th July, to include language, Celtic Art, and music classes. This was approved.

The next meeting—the all-Gaelic one—was fixed for March.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Secretary's Notes

BEING indisposed, I regretfully had to cancel my visit to the Govan Branch on 14th October. I hope to pay this Branch a visit in the near future. On 3rd November, I attended the opening night of the Glasgow (Central) Branch. Mr. Farquhar MacRae presided over a large audience. The evening took the form of a Ceilidh Dance. There were artistes galore, among them Finlay A. G. MacKeachan, who won the Gold Medal at the National Mod in Perth. Special mention must be made of the Bone family, Mr. and Mrs. Bone and their daughter, Anne. Not only did they provide music for the dances but Mrs. Bone and her daughter played the accompaniments for the singers and Ann contributed vocal and piano solos.

On 10th November a party of singers and a violinist, all from Glasgow, provided the programme for a Ceilidh sponsored by the Luss and District Highland Association. The proceeds of this Ceilidh were given to the Central Fund of An Comunn.

The Paisley Highlanders arranged to make our President, Mr. Neil Shaw, an honorary member of their Association on 27th November. As Mr. Shaw was indisposed at the time, the event had to be postponed till a later date. It has now been arranged that Mr. Shaw will be honoured in this way at a function to be held on Saturday, 22nd January. On 27th November I had the honour of presiding at the Association's Ceilidh. Despite the inclement weather there was a good attendance. The vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Trushell, a Vice-President of the Paisley Highlanders', who has learnt Gaelic and is a fluent speaker.

On 11th December I presided at the monthly Ceilidh of the Edinburgh Branch. There were over 150 people present. In addition to monthly meetings, two Gaelic classes, 30 students in each class, are being conducted under the guidance of the Branch President, Mr. Duncan MacKenzie.

M. M.

Miss Margaret Hill-Boyle

The death took place in December of Margaret Hill-Boyle, wife of Mr. George Gunn, and by her passing, one of the most charming and most popular personalities in the Gaelic movement has been removed from the human scene. An accomplished musician, she had for many years been seen and heard playing, on piano and organ, at almost all the great Highland gatherings, while for over twenty years she had been an official accompanist at the National Mods. She was unsparing of her talent and time and energy, and by her gifts and gracious-

ness and friendship gave much joy to many. We lament her passing while still in the prime of life, and we express our deep sympathy with her husband and relatives.

Mr. Stewart MacInnes

Mr. Stewart MacInnes died at Inverness in December. A native of Ballachulish, he was associated with the Inverness Gaelic Choir. In 1925 he won the Mod Gold Medal at Greenock. He was well known throughout the Highlands and Islands, and we express our sympathy with the relatives.

Story of An Comunn

By THE EDITOR.

I.—THE FORERUNNERS

(Continued)

In a volume of "Prize Essays and Transactions of the Highland Society of Scotland," published in 1812, it is stated:—"The Language, the Music, and the Poetry of the Highlands were original objects of the Society's institution. It has, accordingly, not been inattentive to them. It appointed . . . in 1792 a teacher of the Gaelic language, attached to and on the establishment of the Society. It carefully superintends, by a Committee of its members, the annual competition for the premiums given by the Highland Society of London to the best performers on the ancient musical instrument of the Highlands, the bag-pipe. It has instituted an enquiry, conducted with considerable labour and by a very extensive correspondence, into the authenticity and history of the poems of Ossian, a subject highly interesting to any man of taste and literature."

As already noted, however, the Report on Ossian and the Gaelic Dictionary of 1828 constitute the major contribution of the Highland Society to the cause of Gaelic, its interest being mainly in agriculture, commerce, and industry.

In 1815 a Highland Society was established in Inverness to co-operate with the Highland Societies of London and Edinburgh (Scotland), the objects being to preserve the language, national speech, dress, music and antiquities of the ancient Caledonians, and to preserve from oblivion the valuable remains of Gaelic literature, and to establish and support Gaelic schools. In 1816, however, we find the Inverness Highland Society resolving to establish a market for sheep and wool—the start of the famous Inverness "Wool Market," which continued until our own time. Once again economics had triumphed over culture.

Edinburgh Celtic Society

There were other Societies also, going back a century or more, as, for example, the Celtic Society in Edinburgh. In 1825 we find this Society distributing 100 guineas in prizes to twenty-five Highland schools for habitual wear of the Highland dress and proficiency in Gaelic, and in 1832 seventy-two competitors from six schools, led by two pipers and many in Highland dress, assembled at Kingussie to compete for thirty-two prizes for Gaelic awarded by the Society.

Many of the older Societies, which did good work in their day, have long since disappeared. Duncan Kennedy, editor of a volume of Gaelic Hymns published in 1834, says he himself was the means of founding

three Gaelic-speaking clubs in Glasgow—one in 1790, another in 1795, and a third (which continued for eighteen years) in 1800. Fines were imposed on those who spoke English at the meetings.

It was, however, from the second half of the nineteenth century that most of the still surviving Highland societies date. Most of these, of course, are sectional, that is, they cater for the people of a particular region or district or clan, and almost all have as their primary object the promotion of social intercourse. Some, like the numerous shinty clubs which flourished over fifty to eighty years ago, were devoted to sport and conviviality. There was, indeed, at least one attempt to unite the Highlanders of Glasgow. In the 1870s there flourished in Glasgow the "Glasgow Highland Association" (Comunn Gaidhealach Ghlaschu), which had premises in Hope Street, including a reading-room with a library of Gaelic and English books and committee rooms where the many "Highland Soiree Committees" held their meetings. It appears, however, that it was unable to overcome the "Sectionalism" of the many Societies "of a local character," as a writer in *The Highland Echo* put it in 1877.

Gaelic Society of Inverness

It would seem that between about 1850 (when the destination of the "Hungry Forties" had well nigh reduced the Highland people to despair) and about 1870 (when signs of hope began to appear) the prestige of Gaelic was at its lowest, in the view both of its enemies and of its friends. 1871 was the turning-point, for that was the year in which, "as a result of numerous private conversations and some public correspondence," thirty-five persons met on 4th September to institute the Gaelic Society of Inverness. The circulars calling the meeting had been issued by Mr. (later Dr.) William Mackay (later President of An Comunn Gaidhealach), father of Captain William Mackay and grandfather of Mr. Iain Mackay, now active in An Comunn.

Indirectly, the Gaelic Society of London had much to do with the lighting, or re-lighting, of the flame in Inverness. Within a few years both Gaelic Societies (Inverness and London), along with others which came into being, and under the inspiring leadership of Professor John Stuart Blackie, were campaigning—and successfully—for a Celtic Chair in Edinburgh University. The example of Inverness was followed elsewhere. Gaelic Societies and Highland Associations sprang up in many places, including Oban.

Lorn Ossianic Society

The Lorn Ossianic Society was instituted in Oban in 1872 for "the cultivation of the Gaelic language and Celtic literature, the preservation of the traditions of the country, and the collecting of books, manuscripts, and relics bearing on the history of the Scottish Highlands." The first Secretary was Mr. Hugh Skinner, schoolmaster, Oban. Each September the Lorn Ossianic Society, in addition to its regular monthly meetings (for lectures and discussions) every winter,

conducted Highland Games, and on the evening of Games Day held contests in Gaelic singing and recitation. These games and Gaelic contests became very popular and were, indeed, a feature of "The Oban Season." The Society, however, ceased to exist sometime in the early 1880s, and it was from its ashes that some ten years later there arose, phoenix-like, An Comunn Gaidhealach, for surviving members of the Lorn Ossianic Society were among those who by their counsel and otherwise helped to institute An Comunn in 1891.

II. THE POSITION OF GAELIC

HAVING referred at some length to the various societies which, in greater or less degree, interested themselves in Gaelic prior to the founding of An Comunn, we now proceed to a consideration of the position of Gaelic on the eve of the founding of An Comunn.

It is a long road and a long story, from the 12th century, when almost all Scotland was Gaelic, to this present time when not even Lewis is all-Gaelic. It has been a long retreat, a bitterly fought rearguard action. In the last three centuries, especially, the struggle has been fierce. The surprising thing is that up till our own time the linguistic frontier remained much as it was three centuries ago.

The Gaelic Frontier

Almost ninety years ago Sir James Murray (later editor of the great English Dictionary) sought to discover the precise limits of native Gaelic. He sent out the following enquiry, "Is Gaelic spoken by any natives (not immigrants), regardless of the fact that English may be spoken by a majority of the people?" His findings he published in a little book.

Starting at a point three miles west of the town of Nairn, the linguistic boundary went south towards Loch Clans and then south-east to Geddes, thence south and east by the south-west boundary of the parish of Auldearn and on to Coulmony on the Findhorn. From there it ran south-east to the Knock of Moray, and then across the Spey at a point midway between Cromdale and Ballindalloch to Lyne on the Avon, and along the southern watershed of Glenlivet to Aberdeenshire. It then crossed Strathdon, almost on the line of the Inverness-Balmoral road, to a point on the Dee three miles above Ballater. On the south bank of the Dee the boundary continued from a point six miles above Balmoral and on to the Forfar-Perthshire boundary, on to Mount Blair, and then across Glenshee and Strathardle, and then south-west to the Tay between Dunkeld and Dowally. Thence, by Birnam Wood and the southern watershed of Strathbran, the line passed to Glenalmond, and then south by the head of Glen Turritt to Comrie. From Comrie the line ran along the braes of Doune to the Teith, three miles below Callander, and then by the north side of the Lake of Menteith to Gartmore; and thence to Rowardennan on Loch Lomondside, and then through Glen Douglas to Loch Long, and down to the eastwards of Bute, Arran, and Kintyre.

The south end of Bute, the south end of Kintyre, and the districts round Dunoon and Toward were considered to be non-Gaelic, as were also the north-east corner of Caithness and a small area south of Cromarty.

A False Prophecy

In the beginning of the 16th century Gaelic had been spoken over the greater part of Galloway and Carrick in Ayrshire, and throughout the shires of Dunbarton, Stirling, and Fife, although along the east coast and the town's English was rapidly gaining ground. Writing in the reign of King James VI and I, Sir Thomas Craig, a learned Scottish lawyer and statesman, was quite

sure that all Scotland, including the Highlands, would be completely anglicised during the 17th century. "I myself," he wrote, "remember the time when the inhabitants of the shires of Stirling and Dunbarton spoke pure Gaelic, but nowadays that tongue is almost relegated to Argyll . . . so that one rarely comes upon any who speak it . . . I have not the slightest doubt that before the (17th) century is over Gaelic will no longer be spoken on the mainland and islands of Scotland."

But Sir Thomas was wrong! At the beginning of the 18th century Gaelic was still spoken in parts of Galloway, and in such places as Glenapp and Ballantrae it is said to have continued until after 1750. It was also still spoken in the greater part of Fife, in the Ochil Hills, and in the uplands of Forfarshire (Angus), where indeed it continued until last century. "It still survives to some extent in Braemar and in the heights of Banffshire," wrote the late Professor W. J. Watson in 1939.

In 1845 Gaelic was the daily language of most of the inhabitants of northern and central Perthshire and was still in use in Corrie and Crieff and still preached in Callander, and still heard in Aberfoyle and around Doune. The last Gaelic sermon at Inversnaid was preached in 1868, and in Luss, on the opposite side of Loch Lomond, in 1821.

The Census and Gaelic

Speakers of Gaelic were specially enumerated for the first time at the Census of 1881—and this as the result of an agitation by Gaelic leaders—when enumerators were instructed to take note of "every person who speaks Gaelic habitually." The Census returns showed that in 1881 there were 231,594 "habitual speakers of Gaelic" in Scotland, out of a total population of 3,425,151, or 6.76 per cent. It was claimed, however, that these figures were misleading, since many people (especially in the towns) who knew Gaelic did not put themselves down as "habitual speakers" of it, and it was asserted by responsible Gaelic leaders that the Gaelic population amounted to about 300,000. The 1891 Census question on Gaelic was phrased more precisely. It asked for a return of (a) persons speaking Gaelic only and (b) persons able to speak both Gaelic and English. Of the former there were 43,738, and of the latter 210,677, a total of 254,415 Gaelic speakers, or some 23,000 more than in the 1881 Census, which fact seems to prove the contention of those who alleged that the word "habitual" in the 1881 Census had produced a false picture of the situation. It is probable that there was not in fact an increase in Gaelic speakers between 1881 and 1891, but that the number returned in 1881 had been an under-estimate.

The essential point, however, in regard to the position of Gaelic in the latter half of last century was not the actual number of speakers in the country nor the precise location of the Gaelic-speaking areas. The crucial feature in the situation was the attitude adopted towards the language, and this is a matter which cannot be described in a few words. It would be entirely misleading to say that Gaelic was despised

and persecuted. There were those then, as there are now, even among Gaelic speakers, who, to use a modern phrase, "couldn't care less." To these, Gaelic had no value or appeal whatsoever; to some of them it was a positive hindrance. But there were many who deeply cherished all Gaelic things, but at the same time were not of one mind on what should be done about Gaelic or what was best for the Gaelic people, who, in the mid-nineteenth century, passed through great economic distress. Perhaps the best line of approach to the matter is to review the place of Gaelic in the educational system. English, of course, was the language of the majority of the Scots people. It was the language of the major institutions of the nation. There was not at that time the regard for, and appreciation of, the rights of minorities that we find in the twentieth century, although, alas, in many quarters today the rights of minorities are getting short shrift.

The School Societies

Prior to the Education (Scotland) Act, 1872, Scottish education was in theory based upon the ideal first adumbrated by the Reformers, namely, a school in every parish, but it took a long time to carry out that plan in the Highlands and Islands.

Even when every Highland parish came to have its own parochial school, the extent of these parishes was so great and the population at that time so large that the parish schools had to be supplemented by other schools, maintained by voluntary subscriptions. Among the bodies which rendered outstanding service in this way through many generations were the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge (founded in 1709), the three Gaelic School Societies (the Edinburgh one founded in 1811, the Glasgow one in 1812, and the Inverness one in 1818), the Church of Scotland General Assembly Schools (begun in 1825), the Free Church Schools (begun after 1843), the Edinburgh Free Church Ladies' Association (founded in 1850) and a similar body in Glasgow (founded in 1852)—both these now represented by the Ladies' Highland Association of the Church of Scotland.

It was inevitable that among so great a variety of educational bodies—mostly dependant on subscriptions from the public—there was a large degree of inequality, alike in the accommodation provided, the qualifications of the teachers, and the quality of the instruction. It must be remembered, too, that at that time, in comparison with other professions, the teachers were most miserably paid, attendance at school was not compulsory, fees were in many cases charged, and the mass of the Highland people were in great poverty. It is not surprising, therefore, that a large proportion of the people remained illiterate (alike in Gaelic and in English).

S. P. C. K.

How fared Gaelic in those schools? Surprisingly well. It is true that the S.P.C.K., for the first sixty years or so of their existence, forbade the use of Gaelic in their schools, because of the strong desire in the rest of the country to secure the pacification of the Highlands by conforming the north-west as far as possible to "the more civilised" mode of life of the south. This, however, did not prevent the S.P.C.K. from employing such fervid Gaelic as Alasdair Mac Mhaighistir Alasdair and Dugald Buchanan as teachers nor from publishing Macdonald's Gaelic Vocabulary in 1741—the first Gaelic dictionary. It was the S.P.C.K., too, who first gave the Gaelic people the Scriptures in their own language. In 1767 the S.P.C.K. abandoned their anti-Gaelic policy, and in 1824 the directors, after careful enquiry, concluded that great injury had been done by neglect of the vernacular language in Highland education, and they ruled that

the children should be taught to read Gaelic first before being taught English.

In the General Assembly Schools the regulation was laid down from the start that the children should have a course in Gaelic reading before taking up English.

The schools of the various Gaelic School Societies all taught Gaelic, the Edinburgh one doing so exclusively in its earlier years. That there was no strong discrimination against Gaelic even in the parochial schools is indicated by a statement from the Secretary of the Committee of the Privy Council on Education (the forerunners of the Scottish Education Department) to the Senior Inspector of Schools in Scotland in 1849, saying that "it is expedient that a better provision should be made for the education of Her Majesty's subjects in the Highlands of Scotland by promoting the employment of the Gaelic as well as the English language as a means of instruction in Highland schools."

Economic Stress

Much, of course, depended on the schoolmaster, who might be pro-Gaelic, anti-Gaelic, or neutral; but even more depended on the attitude of the Highland people themselves, and for most of them this seemed to be the dilemma, "Remain in poverty, or learn English and qualify for a livelihood elsewhere." So long as there could not be found within the Highlands and Islands an adequate livelihood for the Gaelic people, it was inevitable that they should seek to better themselves elsewhere, and to do that English was necessary. It was sheer economic necessity that induced so many Gaels to develop an inferiority complex about their own language, not the anti-Gaelic prejudice of school-teachers. The pity was that so many failed to understand that it is quite unnecessary to jettison Gaelic in order to acquire English.

It may be claimed that in the pre-1872 schools of the Highlands, whatever other deficiencies they had, Gaelic did have no unimportant place. The language was used and taught in a large proportion of them. It may be that the reading of the Gaelic Bible comprised almost the whole of Gaelic tuition in those days (and what better education could be given, spiritual, moral, and literary?), but the fact is that more than the Bible formed the material of Gaelic instruction, and copies of the various Gaelic school text-books, especially those prepared for the General Assembly's schools, may still be picked up in second-hand bookshops.

The 1872 Act

Then came the Education (Scotland) Act, 1872, following upon a very thorough investigation by educational commissioners (including an invaluable report on Highland schools by Sheriff Nicolson), and inaugurating a new era in Scottish education. This Act nationalised and secularised the schools (the Church schools were handed over without compensation), and made attendance at school compulsory for children from five to thirteen years. From many points of view this Act was a great step forward, but from the Gaelic point of view, to say the least, it was most unsatisfactory.

Under the Act educational administration was entrusted to locally elected School Boards in every parish and burgh, the cost being met partly from local rates and partly by grants administered by the Scottish Education Department which dictated the content and method of education. For the first quarter-century or so the School Boards were concerned primarily with providing the necessary school accommodation and appliances, erecting many new buildings, and ensuring attendance at school. Gaelic fared ill during this period, up to the end of the last century. There was

o mention of Gaelic in the Act; it was not among the recognised school subjects for which grants were payable or rates exigible; qualified Gaelic-speaking teachers were scarce. Many Highland schools had to be staffed with non-Highlanders, some of excellent quality, but too many of them were compelled to serve in the Highlands because they had failed to find appointments elsewhere, and were thus inclined to the bitterness of disappointment, dislike of their Gaelic environment, and frequently a bitter anti-Gaelic complex, all of which expressed itself too often in savage treatment of the children whose most monstrous crime was to be heard speaking their mother-tongue within the school precincts.

It is not surprising, then, that the generations of school children which passed through the schools between 1872 and 1900 and even later turned out, not only illiterate in their own language, but frequently using Gaelic and pretending they knew it not.

Hard-Won Concessions

Slowly, however, one small concession after another was gained, by dint of much effort on the part of loyal Gaels, who, year in year out, pleaded and campaigned for recognition of Gaelic in the educational system. Before the 1872 Act was passed a deputation from the Gaelic Society of Inverness had pleaded with the Government for provision for Gaelic in the Act, but in vain. In 1874 the Free Church Synod of Ross overruled in favour of Gaelic in schools, and the same year a deputation from the Edinburgh School Society, led by Dr. Thomas MacLachlan, asked the Lord Advocate to have Gaelic introduced into the schools, but nothing was done.

In 1875 the Gaelic Society of Inverness petitioned Parliament for the teaching of Gaelic in Highland schools, the recognition of Gaelic as a "specific subject," and the granting of certificates of competency in Gaelic to teachers, entitling them to a grant. The following year a circular from the Scottish Education Department to 103 Schools Boards in the Highland area elicited the information that 65 Boards (or 72 per cent.) were in favour of Gaelic in schools, 53 Boards said they could get Gaelic-speaking teachers, and 208 schools (with 16,331 pupils) were prepared to introduce Gaelic if permitted. At the same time Mr. Charles Fraser-Mackintosh, M.P., doughty champion of the Highlands, presented a motion in the House of Commons on the teaching of Gaelic. The net result of all this effort was that permission was given to use Gaelic in testing the intelligence and knowledge of the younger children.

Attitudes to Gaelic

In the 1870's and 1880's four main views were held about Gaelic:—

(1) There were those who held that it was much better that there should be only one living language for the whole country—the language of legislation, justice, and commerce—that is, English. In the words of the Registrar-General for Scotland, in 1871, "The Gaelic language may be what it likes as to antiquity and beauty, but it decidedly stands in the way of the success of the natives in life, and shuts them up from the paths open to their fellow-countrymen who speak the English tongue. The Gaelic language ought, therefore, . . . to cease to be taught in all our national schools; and, as we are *one* people, we should have but *one* language."

(2) There were those who maintained that Gaelic, being the living language of the majority of the Highland people and used in conversation and the business of life, should be taught in schools.

(3) Some took the view that it was sufficient to have Gaelic recognised as a "specific subject" in the schools.

(4) Many held that Gaelic should be used for instructing the young Gaelic-speaking child and enabling him to learn English more rapidly.

A. C. Cameron of Fettercairn, a much-respected Highland schoolmaster, said in 1877 that twenty per cent. of the clergy, teachers, etc., who knew Gaelic and whose duty it was to use it, "make no secret of their wish to see it dead and gone."

The subject of Gaelic in the schools evoked considerable and unceasing public debate, and frequently bitter controversy. Some of the strongest opponents of the language were Gaelic-speaking school inspectors who contended that Gaelic had no commercial value, had no literature worthy of study, and hindered the acquisition of English. A Lowlander, Mr. Wm. Jolly (Inspector for Inverness-shire) was regarded as a friend of the language, since he favoured its use as a medium of instruction for younger children and as a "specific subject" for older children, although he held that children should be taught English first.

The Celtic Chair

At this time the Gaelic Cause was greatly strengthened by the energetic campaign led by Professor John Stuart Blackie, assisted by the Gaelic Societies of Inverness and London and other bodies, for the establishment of a Chair of Celtic in Edinburgh University. Queen Victoria donated £200 to the fund, and by 1879 £12,000 had been raised for the Chair. The first Professor, Donald Mackinnon, entered upon his duties in 1882. (The Celtic Chair at Oxford had been founded in 1876).

In 1878 a deputation to London, with petitions from various societies and School Boards, and a motion in the House of Commons by Fraser-Mackintosh, resulted in permission being given—at the discretion of the School Boards—for Gaelic to be taught during ordinary school hours by a certificated teacher or a person specially employed for the purpose, the cost to be met from the rates. This was regarded as so encouraging that Messrs. Nelson published a series of Gaelic school-books, being their famous "Royal Readers" series with Gaelic and English on opposite pages, under the supervision of the Rev. J. Calder Macphail, Pilrig. This concession, however, was of no great benefit, for no grant was given for Gaelic, and the School Boards, many of them on the verge of bankruptcy, naturally preferred to concentrate on grant-earning subjects. A plea was now made, therefore, to put Gaelic on the list of grant-earning "specific subjects." Mr. Jolly went the length of suggesting a three-year course in Gaelic and advocated the preparation of a "Gaelic anthology" and a Gaelic grammar for the purposes of such a course.

The Crofters' Commission

The next big step forward came as a result of the Report of Lord Napier's Crofters' Commission in 1884. Not only did the crofters' *magna carta*, the Crofters' Act of 1886, issue from this Report, but the Report had strong things to say about the neglect of Gaelic in Highland schools. Gaelic, said the Report, was "entitled to something more than permissive recognition." It was "entitled to a place among specific subjects, with special grants allowed for them." "All children whose mother tongue is Gaelic should be taught to read that language." "A knowledge of the language ought to be considered one of the primary qualifications of every person engaged in the carrying out of the national system of education in Gaelic-

speaking districts, whether as school inspectors, teachers, or compulsory officers."

The effect of these pointed words on officialdom was the sending of Dr. Craik (later Sir Henry Craik) to the Highlands to report on Highland education, as a result of which Gaelic was recognised in 1885 as a "specific subject." The Scottish Education Department, however, delayed for years the issuing of the "Gaelic schedule" giving official guidance on the teaching of Gaelic as a specific subject, although the Gaelic Society of Inverness tried to meet the need by drafting a scheme of study for Gaelic as a specific subject. It was not surprising that, lacking official direction, only four schools had by 1888 taken advantage of Gaelic as a specific subject.

This, then, was the situation when An Comunn Gaidhealach was founded in 1891. One of the very first enterprises of An Comunn was the publication of an excellent little manual for teachers, "Gaelic as a Specific Subject."

An Ceard Siosal

D'H'EISD mi ris an t-seanachas a bha aig an Urramach Calum MacGilleathain air an radio mu thimcheall eachdraidh agus beatha ann an Sgarp anns na làithean a dh'fhalbh. Mur do thog mi an duine còir ceàr—is, ma thog, bidh mi a' sgrìobhadh gu mì-chiatach—thubhairt e gur e an ceàrd Siosal a thug a' cheud Bhìobull do'n eilean.

Ar leam gur e ceàrd spàinean a bha anns na Siosalaich seo. Anns na làithean sin is e spàinean adhairc a bha anns a' chumantas, agus thubhairt seann duine rium gu robh am brochan na bu bhlasda asda na an fheadhainn fhleodair.

Is e a chuir uiread seagh agam am briathran Mhgr. Mhic Ghilleathain gu bheil anns a' bhaile fearainn as dlùithe dhomh dail d'an ainm Dail-a'-cheàrd, agus, a réir beul-aithris nan seann daoine, is ann air son gun deachaidh ceàrd a thiodhlacadh innte a fhuair i an t-ainm. Bha e air a ràdh gur e Siosalach a bha ann.

Saoil an ann de'n aon dream a bha e féin agus am fear a dh'ainmich Mgr. MacGilleathain?

Bha na ceàrd ri móran siubhail feadh na Gaidhealtachd agus anns na h-Eileanan an Iar. Mar dhearbhadh air seo foadaidh mi naidheachd bheag innte mu Dhruman Mór, ceàrd spàinean eile.

Cheannaich Druman each bho'n ghobha Stiùbhart a bha an Gléann-Eilge. An uair a bha e 'ga bheairteachadh anns a' chairt thubhairt e, "Hup in, Charlie!"

"Ciamar," arsa an gobha, "a tha fios agad gur e Charlie a tha air?"

"Nach mi fhéin," fhreagair an ceàrd, "a reic e ri Alasdair Og an Ath-tharacail!"

Tha oghaichean is iar-oghaichean do Alasdair Og an sin fhathast, ach chan 'eil fios agam

co-dhiubh a tha iar-oghaichean do'n ghobhainn an Gléann-Eilge is nach 'eil.

Tha cuimhne agam air ogha do Dhruman Mór—"Dòmhnall Druman," mar a theireadh sinn ris, ged as e Stiùbhartadh a bha ann. An uair a bha a bhean agus a chlann leis, bha cairt is each aig Dòmhnall agus e ri tinearachd mar a thubhairt e fein, ach, an uair a bh'aithne dhòmhsa e, cha robh e ach a' dol mun cuairt 'na ònar.

Bha seo a' cur air, agus is tric a thubhairt e, "A Dhòmhnail bhochd, chumnaic thusa làithean a b'fheàrr. Is iomadh each a bha agad, a Dhòmhnail, maith is dona. Ach is ann mar sin a tha an saoghal—là a bhàn agus là an àirde!"

Cha ghabh e àicheadh nach robh tomhas de smior na firinn am briathran Dhòmhnail.

TAOBH-TUATH EARRAGHAIDHEAL.

"Ghabh E San T-Sroin E"

Tha daoine ann a tha déidheil air a bhith a' deanamh spòrs mu mhuintir eile, ach cùl do làimhe ri facal de'n t-seòrsa sin a ràdh umpa fhéin!

Bha teaghlach anns na Hearadh a bha sònraichte air son cho mór crom is a bha sròn gach duine aca. Bha nàbaidh aca leis am bu mhath a bhith a' tarraing asda.

Là, is iad anns an achadh-bhuana agus esan a' dol seachad, thuir e facal-tarsainn riutha thar a ghuailne. Ghabh iad an cuthach. Thug e ceum aithghearr air ais ag ràdh, "Cha mhór rud a chuireadh sròn oirbh!"

S. S.

Am Ministear

Agus An T-Uachdaran

Bha siud ann roimhe ministear agus tòrr de uirceanan beaga aige.

Aon latha bha an t-uachdaran a' dol a thighinn agus bha toil aige té a thoirt do'n uachdaran, agus thubhairt e ris an t-seirbhiseach a dhol sìos agus a leithid a dheanamh, ach e a chuimhneachadh a h-uile facal a chanadh e, "Sir" a ràdh cuideachd.

Dh'fhalbh an seirbhiseach agus, a' tachairt ris an uachdaran, thuir e ris, "Chuir Sir ministear a nuas Sir mise le Sir uircean ann an Sir poca gus a thoirt dhuit-sa!"

Prainnseas MacAonghuis (aois 10)

(Sgoil Bhrèithig, Eilean Bharraidh.)

(Chuala mise mar seo e: "Chuir Sir ministear Sir mise gu Sir thusa le Sir muc ann an Sir poca."—*Am Fear-deasachaidh.*)



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar VII

AN GEARRAN, 1955

Aireamh 2

Cailleach Mhaol-domhnaich

BHA siud ann roimhid bean aig an robh trì gillean, is thuir am fear a bu shine, "Tha mise a' falbh a shiubhal an t-saoghail agus feumaidh mi aran air son an rathaid."

Dh'fhaighnich a mhàthair, "An gabh thu bonnach mór le mollachd no bonnach beag le beannachd!"

Thuir e rithe gun gabhadh e bonnach mór le mollachd, agus dh'fhalbh e.

Cha robh e fada air an rathad gus an tàinig an oidhche agus an t-acras air. Shuidh e ri taobh cnuic is thàinig feannag os a chionn is thòisich i ri éigheach, "Thoir dhòmhsa pìos dheth sin; thoir dhòmhsa pìos dheth sin."

"Fhalbh, a chreutair ghrànda, is riatanach mi fhéin air," arsa esan, is dh'fhalbh e, is bha ise ag éigheach as a dheoghaidh, "Gu ma dona dh'éireas dhuit; gu ma dona dh'éireas dhuit!"

Cha robh e fada air an t-slighe gus am faca e solus. Rinn e air an t-solus is chunnaic e gur e taigh beag a bha ann. Chaidh e a staigh is shuidh e ri taobh an teine is chuir e suas an dà chù aige ri taobh an teine.

Thàinig beataidh chun an doruis is dh'eubh e, "Cò tha siud?"

"Tha mise, Cailleach Bheag Bhoched Mhaol-dòmhnach," agus leig e a staigh i.

Cha robh i a' tighinn a nuas idir is bha e ag ràdh rithe, "Nach tig thu a nuas, a chaillich!"

Thuir i, "Bidh na cearcagan beaga bochda agam a muigh leis an uisge."

Bha i a' sìor thighinn a nuas is shuidh i ri a thaobh is thug i ròineag as a ceann is chuir i mun cuairt cluasan nan con i.

Thòisich na coin air sabaid gus an do mharbh iad a chéile, is thòisich iad fhéin air sabaid. Agus rug i air slachdan is bhuail i air bàrr a chinn e is mharbh i e is thiodhlaic i fo'n ùrlar e.

Mu dheireadh thubhairt an darna fear gu robh e a' falbh a dh'iarraidh a bhràthar. Rinn a mhàthair dà bhonnach agus dh'fhaighnich i, "An gabh thu bonnach mór le mollachd no bonnach beag le beannachd?"

Thuir e rithe gun gabhadh e bonnach mór le mollachd, is dh'fhalbh e.

Cha robh e fada air an rathad gus an tàinig an oidhche agus an t-acras air. Shuidh e ri taobh cnuic is thàinig feannag os a chionn is dh'eubh i, "Thoir dhòmhsa pìos dheth sin; thoir dhòmhsa pìos dheth sin."

"Fhalbh, a chreutair ghrànda; is riatanach mi fhéin air." Is dh'fhalbh e is bha i ag éigheach as a dheoghaidh, "Gu ma dona dh'éireas dhuit; gu ma dona dh'éireas dhuit!"

Mu dheireadh chunnaic e solus agus thàinig e gu taigh beag. Chaidh e a staigh is thòisich e ri taobh an teine is chuir e na coin ri a thaobh is thàinig am beataidh chionna chun an doruis is dh'eubh e, "Cò tha siud!"

"Tha mise, Cailleach Bheag Bhoched Mhaol-dòmhnach," is leig e a staigh i.

Cha robh i a' tighinn a nuas idir is bha e ag ràdh rithe, "Nach tig thu a nuas, a chaillich?"

Thuir i, "Bidh na cearcagan beaga bochda agam a muigh leis an uisge."

Bha i a' sìor thighinn a nuas is mu dheireadh shuidh i ri a thaobh is thug i ròineag as a ceann is chuir i mun cuairt cluasan nan con i.

Thòisich na coin air sabaid gus an do mharbh iad a chéile, is thòisich iad fhéin air sabaid is rug i air slachdan is bhuail i air bàrr a chinn e is mharbh i e is thiodhlaic i fo'n ùrlar e.

Mu dheireadh thuir an treas gille, "Tha mi a' falbh a dh'iarraidh mo dhà bhràthar."

Rinn a mhàthair bonnach beag agus bonnach mór is thuir i, "An gabh thu am bonnach mór le mollachd no am bonnach beag le beannachd?"

Thuir esan, "Gabhadh mi am bonnach beag le bhur beannachd," is dh'fhalbh e.

Thàinig an oidhche agus an t-acras air-san cuideachd is thàinig faoileag os a chionn is bha i ag éigheach, "Thoir dhomh pìos dheth sin; thoir dhomh pìos dheth sin."

"O trobhad, a chreutair bhoched, tha thu cho riatanach rium fhéin air," is thug e dhì pìos. Bha i ag éigheach as a dheoghaidh, "Gu ma math a dh'éireas dhuit; gu ma math a dh'éireas dhuit!"

Mu dheireadh chunnaic e solus agus thàinig e gu taigh beag. Chaidh e a staigh is shuidh e ri taobh an teine is chuir e na coin r' a thaobh is thàinig beataidh chun an doruis is dh' eubh e, "Cò tha siud?"

"Tha mise, Cailleach Bheag Bhoichd Mhaoil-dòmhaich," is leig e a staigh i.

Thuir e rithe, "Nach tig thu a nuas, a chaillich?"

"O cha tig: ithidh na bruchlachan, brachlachan sin mise. Buail an slachdan sin air an ùrlar is gheibh thu do dhà bhràthair."

"Bidh sin agam is do bhàs," thubhairt esan.

Bhuail e slachdan air an ùrlar is thàinig a dhà bhràthair beò is bhuail e an slachdan oirrese am bàrr a' chinn is mharbh e i is thiodhlaic e fo'n ùrlar i.

Calum Mac an t-saoir (aois 10)

(Sgoil Bhréithig, Eilean Bharraidh).

An Cuala Tu Seo?

CHA robh an cliù a b'fheàrr aig Fearchar Dubh an measg a luchd eòlais. Tha e air aithris gun do mharbh e caora le nàbaidh dha aon uair, agus cha luaithe a chuir a charaid seo an aghaidh dha na chuir e e fhéin gu bàs mar an ceudna.

Theich Fearchar le a bheatha agus sheòl e as an Eilean Sgitheanach a dh'ionnsaigh na Hearadh, ach shéid doineann gharg agus b'fheudar dha fàsadh a ghabhail air eilean beag dlùth air Bhatairnis. Chuala MacLeòid Dhun-bheagain mar a thachair, agus dh'fhalbh e le a bhirlinn air sàil an fhìr a bha fo'n choill gus na lorg e far an robh e a' gabhail fàsaidh. Cha robh dòigh aig Fearchar air dol as, ach tharraing e a bhogha agus spàrr e cas MhicLeòid le saighid ri crann na birlinne, ag ràdh, "Bha e a cheart cho farasda dhòmhsa an t-saighhead a chur troimh do chridhe ri a cur troimh do chois. Chaomhain mi do bheatha; leig thusa leamsa tàrsaing as."

Thug MacLeòid cead a chois dha agus rinn Fearchar air na Hearadh far na ghabh e còmhnaidh beagan bhliadhnachan gus nach b'urrainn e fuireach 'na fhògarrach na b'fhaid, fada bho a dhàimhean anns an Eilean Sgitheanach.

Thog e air gu Dun-bheagain a chur impidh air Fear an Dùin maitheanas a thoirt dha. Dh'ontaich MacLeòid seo a dheanamh air aon chumha.

"Cuiridh mi ubh na circe air ceann do bhràthar," arsa esan. "Tha làmh mhath agad air do bhogha. Ma chuireas tu saighhead troimh an ubh, gheibh thu maitheanas saor. Mur cuir, tha am bàs a muigh ort!"

Thugadh a bhràthair an làthair.

"Glé mhath," fhreagair Fearchar.

Tharraing e a bhogha agus chuir e an t-saighhead troimh mheadhon an uibhe agus choisinn e a shaorsa. Ach thionndaidh e ri MacLeòid agus thubhairt e, "Bha dà shaighhead 'nam bhalg. Nan robh mi air mo bhràthair a mharbhadh, bha an t'èile ullamh air do shon-sa."

Uilleam Tell eile!

THIG-MI-RITHIST.

Na h-Iarrtasan

BHA siud uair ann roimhid bodach agus cailleach, agus aon latha chaidh am bodach a dh'iasgach is ghlac e iasg. Thuir an t-iasg ris, nan leigeadh e air falbh e, gun toireadh e dha trì iarrtasan. Leig am bodach an t-iasg air falbh.

Aon latha beagan an déidh sin bha a' chaillich a' cur a mach brot is thuir i gum b'fheàrr gu robh lodair aice. Mun do sheall i chuire no bhuaipe bha an lodair aice! An uair a thàinig am bodach dhachaigh, dh'fhaighnich e dhith càit an d'fhuair i an lodair.

"Cha duirt mise ach 'B'fheàrr leam gu robh lodair agam,'" arsa a' chaillich.

"B'fheàrr leamsa gu robh e 'nad amhaich," thuir am bodach, agus mun do sheall e chuire no bhuaithe bha an lodair 'na h-amhaich.

Thòisich ise ri leum mun cuairt an taighe, agus thubhairt am bodach mu dheireadh, "B'fheàrr leam gun tigeaidh e as t'amhaich!"

Chaill iad mar sin na trì iarrtasan.

Praimseas MacAonghuis (aois 10)

(Sgoil Bhréithig, Eilean Bharraidh).

D'Ar Leughadairean Oga

Tha sinn duilich gum b'fheudar dhùinn *An Gaidheal Og* a ghearradh bho cheithir taobhan-duilleig gu a dhà. Rinneadh sin a chionn nach robh sinn a' faotainn cobhair ann a bhith a' lìonadh duilleagan *A' Ghaidheil Oig*. Tha sinn toilichte innse gun d'fhuair sinn pasgan gasda de sgeulachdan bho Sgoil Bhréithig am Barraidh, agus tha ar mór-bhuidheachas aca fhéin agus aig am maighistir-sgoile air son a' chuideachaidh seo. Feuchaibh gun cuir sibh tuilleadh chugainn. Agus cuireadh sgoiltean eile a steach na tha aca ri thoirt seachad mar seo—sgeulachdan is eile. Agus cò aig a bheil fhios nach bi culaidh fhathast air *A' Ghaidheil Oig*, ged is caol tana air a' mhìos seo e!

Na abair do shean-fhacal gus an toir thu do long gu cala.

* * *

Na àireamh a chaidh an t-iasg gus an tig e as a' mhuir.

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Vol. L

MARCH, 1955

No. 3

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O'm biodh am bàta stiùradh,
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Leabhar L

AM MART, 1955

Aireamh 3

An Rud a Bhios 's an Dàn

Le IAIN A. MACLEOID

(*Choinn an sgeul seo a' cheud duais an co-sharpaisean litreachais fo iùl a' Chomuinn an 1939*).

B'U shìtheil, sàmhach an gleann am feasgar fann foghair ud, ceud bliadhna air ais. Bha na cruic uaibhreach, chiar, còmhdaichte gu am bàrr le fraoch is fianach, ag éirigh mar bhalla dlionaidh an ear agus an iar deth, ach air an taobh tuath bha an cuan farsaing, gun bhreiseadh gun phreasadh air a aogas sìobhalta, 'na sgàthan fìorghlan do na mill gheala a bha mar chiombaill de chlàimhtich canaich a' seòladh gu h-àrd air aghaidh nan speur. Air anail chùbhraidh na h-osaige ciùine, cadaalach bho ùrlar a' ghlinne, chluinnteadh air éiginn, an dràsda agus a rithist, glugail an uilt a bha a' teàrnadh gu h-athaiseach bho ghluamaig gu glumaig gus an robh e mu dheireadh 'ga chall fhéin an measg nan clachan muil aig ceann tràighe anns an robh mìle a dh'fhad. Cha robh dad eile ri a chluinntinn.

Ach mur an robh mòran ri a chluinntinn, bha nithean neònach ri am faicinn anns a' ghleann. Bha ballachan nan taighean cho àrd is a bha iad a riamh, ach bha gach fàrdach gun druim ach adhar. Cha robh cabar no spàrr, treasnan no sràbh tughaidh an uachdar orra. Bha tudanan beaga sùithe an siud is an seo a' nochdadh nach robh ùine ro-fhada bho chaidh am falamhachadh. Bha eadhon rota luatha mun cuairt air cagailtean cuid diubh, ach bha na feannagan ceithir thimcheall orra gun an àiteachadh, agus cha robh beò-chreutair ri a fhaicinn air an àruinn. Air aon taigh a mhàin bha ceann. Air a chùlaibh-san bha grunnan

chruachan arbhair an iodhlainn, agus làimh ri sin bha am bùntàta fhathast gun an togail. Bha nàdur de cheò-bàn a' sùghadh a mach troimh mhullach an taighe a' foillseachadh gu robh cuid-eigin a' gabhail còmhnaidh ann.

Nan robh thu am fianais an àite goirid roimh chiaradh an fheasgair ud, chitheadh tu trìuir fhear a' coiseachd sìos am bealach, agus a' deanamh ball dìreach air an taigh seo. Cha robh glas air gàirneal, no gàd air dorus anns a' cheàrnaidh ud aig an àm a bha siud—chan 'eil eadhon an diugh fhéin, no feum orra—agus gun urram gun uaisleachd, gun stad ri bualadh, chaidh an dealan doruis a tharraing, agus a steach ghabh an trìuir.

Bha àrd an teinntean an làr an taighe, agus mu choinneamh an teine bha bean òg 'na suidhe air stòl beag ag altram naoidhean 'na sgùird. Bha dìthis phàisdean òga a' mireag air an ùrlar, agus an uair a chuala iad fuaim na còmhla 'ga fosgladh, rinn iad roideag bheag taobh na starsaich an dùil gun h-e an athair a bha a' tighinn, ach, an uair a bhual an sùil air na coigrich, theich iad le gealtachd, agus ghreimich iad ri sgòd aodaich air gach taobh de am màthair.

"Tha mi a' creidsinn nach i an fhàilte as fheàrr a tha romhainn," arsa am fear a bha air thoiseach.

"Tha mi gu mòr air mo mhealladh air neo chan e aobhar fàilteachais no fàth furain a thug an Saighdear agus a chuid ghillean air an astar seo an diugh," fhreagair a' bhean òg.

“Chan 'eil do bhreithneachadh cus am mearal, a bhean,” arsa esan. “Ach, a Chatriona, tha fhios agadsa gun d'fhuair sibhse fathamas nach d'fhuair teaghlach eile anns a' ghleann, agus gur h-ann troimh dheagh-ghean an uachdarain, agus le gean-math Fhìr na Dail ud thall nach robh sibh air bhur gluasad an uraidh mar chàch. Mur b'è cho fagus an càirdeas is a tha thu fhéin agus Aonghus Gobha do'n t-Saighdear, is math a dh'fhaoidte nach robh sibh air bhur fàgail cho fada air an tulach seo.”

“Seadh, a Thormaid chòir,” fhreagair ise. “Is math as eòl duit-sa nach bi an càirdeas ach mar a chumar e, agus chan 'eil e an ainfhios duit a bharrachd gun caill Fear na Dail ud thall taghadh a' chiobair an là a chuidhticheas Aonghus Gobha an dail a bhos.”

“Bidh am freagairt fagus do na mnathan,” thubhairt Tormad. “Ach càit a bheil fear an taighe, no am bi e fada gun tighinn dachaigh?”

“Tha fear an taighe air a' mhòintich,” arsa a' bhean, “agus cuin a thilleas e, gu baile chan fhios domh. Is ann a tha sin aig mar a théid an là leis.”

“Chan 'eil e gu atharrach a dheanamh air aon chor,” arsa Tormad. “Tha e air a chur mar fhiachaibh ormsa leigeil ris duibh gur h-éiginn duibh bhur cuid a sgioblachadh, agus an t-àite seo fhàgail gun mhaile. Mar as aithne dhuibh a cheann, tha fearann air a chur air leth dhuibh an Sgarabost, agus chan 'eil teagamh agamsa nach bi sibh glé dhòigheil an sin. A nis, fheara,” arsa esan, agus a' tionndadh ris an dithis a bha maille ris, “is aithne dhuibh bhur gnothach, agus bitibh sgiobalta.”

Cha do smiogleich a' bhean òg as an àit anns an robh i 'na suidhe, agus cha mhotha a chuir na h-earraidean dragh air bith oirre. Chuir iad air tùs ball no dhà de àirneis an taighe a mach air a' bhàr. An sin leig iad solus an là a steach air toll a rinn iad anns an tugh aig bonn na corra-thulchain. 'Na dhéidh sin bhàth iad an teine; ach air dhaibh na deas-ghnàthan sin a chrìochnachadh bha e coltach gu robh iad riarachte gu leòr le an seirbhis. Mun d'fhàg iad, thug “an Saighdear” earal teann do bhean an taighe gun i gamhlas a chosnadh dhi fhéin no do a fear le dàil a chur 'na h-imrich, ach leig ise a bhriathran seachd siar mu a cluais mar nach biodh i a' cluinntinn smid. Cha d'fhosgail i a beul le “is math,” no “is olc,” agus le sin dh'imich na fir romhpa a mach am bothar, agus thill iad air a' chois-cheum cheudna air an tàinig iad.

Cha b'ann idir as an cadal a thàinig an trioblaid seo air Aonghus Gobha agus air a' mhnaoi. Bha slugh eile an àite air am fudach an sear is an siar bho chionn còrr agus

bliadhna, agus bha fios is cinnt aig an dithis nach biodh suidhe ro-bhuann acasan, agus nach cuireadh iad seachd shùthan an mach anns an Dail Mhóir an déidh chàich. Mur b'è a' mhìochuis a bha aig Aonghus Gobha anns a' chiobaireachd, agus mar sin cho feumail is a bha e do Iain MacCoinnich, Fear na Dail, is dòcha nach robh iad air dàil idir fhaotainn. Gidheadh, cha d'fhàg sin an gnothach car na bu taitnichte an uair a thàinig an t-àm gu dealachadh ris an àite, agus ged bha a' chùis cruaidh orra le chéile, bha i buileach drùidhteach air Aonghus, oir b'ann anns an Dail Bhig a chaidh a bhreith is a àrach, mar a chaidh a shìnnsearan fad iomadh linne roimhe.

Ràinig e a dhachaigh bho allaban nan caorach conadaid fann, acrach gu leòr, am beul annoch na h-oidhche, ach chaidh an luchd air an lag aige, agus thuit a thid is a shad as buileach an uair a dh'aithris Catriona dhà, facal air an fhacal, tuairisgeal an là; agus mar nach b'è fois d' a intinn a bha a' feitheamh air air an oidhche sin, cha mhotha a b'è cìos d'a bhodhaig a bha anns an dàn dà iomadh là agus oidhche 'na déidh.

Bha Sgarabost mu astar chòig mìle bho'n Dail Mhóir. Cha robh ròidean rìgh cho farsaing, réidh, no innealan iomchair idir cho lomhhor, goireasach is a tha iad an diugh, agus b'éiginn do Aonghus Gobha agus d'a mhnaoi an clann agus an àirneis, am biadh agus an connadh, gach bile teilbh agus gach dealgan fiodha a bhùineadh dhaibh a ghùlan air an druim thar chnuic is chòmhnaird, thar chruais is bhùige, suas gach dìreadh, agus sìos gach cromadh fad nan còig mìle. Tha e fìor nach robh innsreadh an taighe ro-thomadach, agus gun d'rinn an luchd-dàimh còmhnadh leò, ach an déidh sin uile faodar a thuigsinn gun do chaith iad iomadh là ànrach, labanach, agus iomadh oidhche claoidhte, airsealach, mun do shuidhich iad dachaigh ùr, agus mun do shocraich iad iad féin innte.

Bha mir mòr fearainn aca an Sgarabost, ach bha e cho cnocach, creagach is gu robh e andoirbh ri a shaothrachadh; agus ged bha an nàbhadh carthannach, càirdeil gu leòr riu, cha do dhi-chuimhnich iad a riamh an Dail Mhóir, no an dòigh air an deachaidh an sgaradh bhuaithe. Mar sin cha do ghabh muinntir Sgaraboist mòran ionghnaidh, dà bhliadhna an déidh sin, an uair a chunnaic iad Aonghus Gobha agus Catriona a' reic an cuid seilbhe uile, agus a' togail orra gu ruig Canabha Uachdrach.

Ach mu nuar mòr, air dhaibh ruigheachd a null bha e soilleir gum b'è sin an tionndadh “as an teine do'n ghriosaich” dhaibh-san. Le còmhnadh chòimhearsnach a bha car gann agus fada bho chéile, thog iad taigh fiodha a

bha dìonach, seasgair, agus chuir iad àsuing air ghleus gu pàirt de'n fhearann dhithreabhach ud a réiteachadh. Ach cha b'e sin an sùgradh na an ceòl-gàire, am measg coille a bha cho còmhnaidh, dlùth is gu robh i a' toirt dhiùbh nan speur.

Am measg iomadh deuchainn eile a bha a' toirt dùbhlann daibh cha b'e an duilgheadas a bu lugha teanntachd dùbhlacha a' gheamhraidh, an uair a bhiodh na cuithean sneachda a' dìreadh suas ri àrd stuaghan nan taighean, agus an uair a dh'fheumadh neach an deagh chòmhachadh mun rachadh a reodhadh leis an éighre a bha cho fuathasach geur is gum milleadh i faghart na cruadhach air an tuagh mur a rachadh a garadh air tùs. Cha mhór gum b'fhasa na sin aintean loisgeach an t-samhraidh, an t-àm a bhiodh plàigh de chuileagan gràineil a' toirt tàire do dhuine is do ainmhidh, agus a bhiodh mathain bhéiseil agus madaidh allta a' deanamh calldachd mhóir am measg an tréid.

Cha bhiodh éifeachd ann a bhith a' leudachadh air gach geur-airc agus éiginn, air gach sàrachadh agus cruaidh-chàs troimh an deachaidh iad mun d'fhuair iad gu cotrom, cinnteach air am bonnan. Fuair iad teaghlach ciatach mhac is nighean, agus air dhaibh sin teachd gu ìre tuathanachais, bha iad 'nan cuideachadh fìor bhoadhach do'n dithis. Ach an uair a bha gach cùis a' coimhead gu breagh dòigheil, an tràth a bha a' ghrian mar gum b'eadh a' boillsgeadh gu boidheach anns an iarmailt, agus a bha gach neul air teicheadh, dh'fhàillnich slàinte Aonghuis Ghobha, agus an ùine gheàrr chaochail e.

Ri ùine, phòs fear agus té mu seach de'n chloinn gus mu dheireadh nach robh ach Peigi, an nighean a b'òige, gun chleamhnas. Ach dìreach mu'n àm sin, chinn miann muldach agus ionndrainn iarganach an aigne na bantraich. Bha i air bhith còrr agus deich bliadhna fichead 'na fògarach, ach chan fhòghnadh dad air thalamh a nis gus am biorsadh a bha 'na cridhe a mhùchadh, ach gun tilleadh i air a h-ais a dh'ionnsaigh na seann dùthcha; agus a chaoidh bho leag i a h-intinn air an seo, cha do mheal i sonas no sòlas gus an do sheòl Peigi leatha a' cur an aghaidh air tìr a h-òige.

Goirid air dhaibh ruigheachd a nall ghabh iad dòid fearainn an àite ris an canadh iad Gràbhaig, baile beag mu thuairream sè mìle tuath air na Dailean. Mun tàinig an ath-earrach bha Peigi fhéin pòsda agus air thagheadas còmhla ri a màthair, agus chan fhaca Canada tè seach tè dhiùbh tuilleadh.

B'iongantach a' bhean Catrìona. Cha robh fear no bean, sean no òg, an Gràbhaig cho math rithe air moch-eirigh. Air cho tràth is gum

bhiodh aig duine ri bhith air a chois, bhiodh ceò aig Catrìona air thoiseach air. Agus aig tim treabhaidh, no aig àm buana, ge air bith mar a dh'éireadh do chàch, bho cheud mhoch-bhreachadh an là gu teuiteam do dhùbh-bhrat na h-oidheche, chan fhaicteadh ise a' stad gu tarraing analach no gu a sgìos a leigeil. Bha i cho stuthail, smiorail, calma is gur e 'A' Chailleach Iarainn' an t-ainm a gheibheadh i gu coitcheannta am measg sluaigh an t-sìosa.

Ach bheir aois is aimsir, a lìon beag is beag, buaidh eadhon air an iarann fhéin, agus thàinig àm anns am bhiodh càch a muigh air an iomair, agus ise air a fàgail a staigh an urra ris a' chloinn. Bu lìonmhor luinneag aighearach, aig-eannach leis an do bheothaich i gu sunnd iad an uair a bhiodh iad thòsach, muldach; agus cha bu teirce na sin na crònan chianail, chumhadach leis an do thàlaidh i gu cadal iad air dhaibh a bhith trom, trachlaichte am beul an annaich. Cha tigeadh sgìos oirre a' dèanamh inneis dhaibh air iongantasan Chanada—"air an Talamh Fhuar," mar a theireadh i fhéin. Is minig a bheireadh i sgrìob air tim a h-òige, agus b'aoibhinn na sgeulachdan a dh'innseadh i mu fhleadhan is bhainsean air feadh a' gheamhraidh, mu ghainne is ghradan an tùs an fhoghair, mu chruadal is chunnart air muir is mòintich. Agus nam bhiodh i am fìor-ghleus geanail, gheibheadh iad seanchasnan glideachail air brachadh is togail, air trasg is brailis, air stòpan is buidealan nam briuthas is nan taighean staile. Gu bitheanta b'e co-dhùnadh na h-eachdraidh seo cunntas air eucoir an luchd-tòrachd, agus air ana-ceartas a dh'fhuiling cuid-eigin de a luchd-èòlais fhéin ri linn aintighearnas an luchd-riaghlaidh.

Ach là de na làithean a bha i a muigh air chuairt, bhuaill neul de laige i, agus, ged nach do thuit i buileach, b'ann le taic a' bhalla a thug i a mach an dorus. Seachdain an déidh sin dh'èug i, agus chaidh a h-adhlacadh an rath-thiodhlaic a cuid dhaoine, aig ceann fìor-sheann teampuill bhig an cois a' chladaich. Bha am bàrd bho shean a' guidhe a' chluas a chur,

“ri fuaim eas mór

Le a chrònan a' teàrnadh o'n chreig,”

ach 'na cluais-se daonnan tha gaoir a' chuain, agus buan-chrònan sluaisreadh na mara.

B'ann goirid an déidh sin a chaidh rioghachdan na h-Eòrpa an rian, agus a chaidh an saoghal gu léir bun-os-cionn an léir-sgrìos cogaidh. Ré cheithir bliadhna bha fàrdachean falamh, cùnnan ciùrte, agus cridheachan cràidhteach a ghnàth a' dol an lìonmhorachd air feadh an domhain. Troimh na h-uile uamhas agus gàbhadh a bha ann, thill ceathrar de oghaichean Catrìona Gobha gu sàbhailte gu an dachaigh an Gràbhaig, agus air dhaibh

an uchd a chur ris a' gharmain a rithist, rinn iad oidhpir air na seann snàithleanan briste a thàthadh, agus chaidh iad air aghaidh an ceann an gairme làitheil mar a b'fheàrr a rachadh aca air, agus shaoil leo gu robh cuibhile an fhreasdail ach beag 'na stad.

Ach cha b'ionann sin agus mar a bha a' chùis. Bha na Dailean fo chaoirich mar a bha iad fad cheithir fichead bliadhna, ach b'e Coinneach, mac Iain MhicChoinnich, a bha a nis a' riaghladh an àite. Mu fhichead mìle deas air na Dailean bha baile-mór a bha a' sior-dhol am meud, agus a chionn gu robh éis mhór air muinntir a' bhaile seo a thaobh bainne, shuidhich Coinneach MacCoinnich gum biodh e ro-ìomchuidh meadhon a chur air chois a bhiodh buanachdail dha fhéin agus a chum feuma do shluagh a' bhaile. Thog e an sin bàthaichean móra, agus dh'ullaich e an t-àite mar thac cruith-bleoghain; ach mun do chuir e sil bainne a dh'ionnsaigh a' bhaile-mhóir, thàinig Ard-riaghaltais na rìoghachd anns an eadraiginn, agus ghabhadh seilbh air na Dailean, a chum earrannan a dheanaimh air an fhearann, agus an toirt mar mheadhon beòshlainte do chuid de na seòid a thill beò as a' chogadh. Chaidh mar sin am fearann a roinn, agus chaidh cròinn a leagadh, agus an ùine gheàrr dhùisg ceòl is gàir anns na glinn, agus dh'ath-bheathaich cur agus buain air raghar fuar nan Dailean.

Gidheadh, bha am mìr fearainn a bu taislealaiche air fad air a chur air leth gu bhith an cois treabhair Fhir na Dail, agus do bhrìgh nach fhaighteadh thall no a bhos duine a cheannaicheadh na taighean, bha iad sin bàn iomadh bliadhna. Ach gu sgeul fada a chur an giorad, is e bun a bha aig a' chùis gun do thaing fear á Gràbhaig na taighean a cheannach; gun do ghabh Ard-Chomhairle an Tuathanachais an Albainn ri a thighse; agus gun d'fhàg sin Peigi, nighean Aonghuis Ghobha, agus Aonghus Og, a mac, a' còmhnaidh an taigh-mór na Dail, agus ag àiteachadh a' chuid as fhèarr de'n fhearann.

Mar as dual do ghillean agus do chaileagan air feadh an t-saoghail, phòs Aonghus Og seo, agus ni as neònaiche uile gu léir, cha b' aon eile a roghnaich e mar chéile ach Seònaid, nighean Choinnich Mhic Choinnich, ogha do Fhear na Dail ud a chuir a sheanair air faondradh. Tha còrr agus còig bliadhna bhò ghabh sin àite, ach gus an seo chan 'eil duine cloinne aig a' chàraid. Chan 'eil nì eile a dh'aobhraicheadh barrachd aoibhneis do mhuinntir nan Dailean na oighre fhaicinn aca, ach ge air bith àgh no mì-àgh a tha ceilte am bolg an ama ri teachd a thaobh Aonghuis Oig agus a mhnà, chan 'eil neach d'an aithne iad fhéin agus eachdraidh an athraichean nach 'eil ullamh gu leòr gu aideachadh gur ni ro-dhiomhair oibreachadh freasdal Cruithear na cruinne.

Story of An Comunn

By THE EDITOR

III. THE BEGINNINGS

THE genesis of An Comunn Gaidhealach may be traced, wrote one of the Founders later, to "certain communings" which took place in 1890 in Oban between Dugald MacIsaac, John Campbell, and John MacMaster Campbell. All three were ardent lovers of the Gaelic language and strong protagonists of whatever promised well for the good of the Highland people. Valuable as was the work of the Gaelic Societies of London, Inverness, and Glasgow and the influence of the Chair of Celtic in Edinburgh University, these three men felt that something less academic and more popular was required. Most of the numerous Highland societies of the time were mainly concerned with social activities. "Lulled by the strains of a thousand pipers, for whom there was no lack of encouragement, the folk culture of the Highlands . . . was apparently doomed to wilt and die, and it became the eventual resolution of the three of us," wrote MacMaster Campbell years later, "that, if Gaelic and all that it represented in the history and life of the Highlands of Scotland were destined for destruction, it could not be said by the generations to come that it went to its resting-place, unwept, unhonoured, and unsung."

It happened also that in 1890 Professor Masson, of the Chair of English Literature in Edinburgh University, visited the Welsh Eisteddfod and was so impressed that, on his return, he wrote a striking letter to an

Edinburgh newspaper, urging the formation of a similar organisation in the Scottish Highlands. This helped to ripen public opinion and a newspaper correspondence followed.

The First Steps

It would, however, have been a case of "much talk and little done" (*Mìran 'ga ràdh is beagan 'ga dheanamh*), had not the three Oban pioneers proceeded to take practical steps. They decided to appeal to their fellow countrymen for support for a scheme which was taking shape in their minds. At this stage they were joined by Hugh MacCowan and H. G. Clements, Mus. Bac. (an Englishman who was organist in the Pro-Cathedral in Oban).

On 14th October, 1890, an informal meeting of this pioneer group was held in John Campbell's house, "with a view to initiating in the Highlands a national festival on lines similar to those of the Welsh Eisteddfod." Seven persons were present, including the five already named. Hugh MacCowan presided in the absence of Provost John MacIsaac. John MacMaster Campbell moved "that a committee of four be appointed for the purpose of consulting the authorities of the Welsh Eisteddfod with a view to obtaining such information as was necessary to enable them to frame a constitution, and to ascertain and report on the extent of the financial support likely to be given to a

similar movement in the Highlands." Dugald MacIsaac seconded the resolution, which was unanimously approved. It was agreed that all those present should constitute themselves a Provisional Committee, with Provost John MacIsaac as Chairman and John Campbell as Interim Secretary, while the committee of four above-mentioned was to consist of John MacMaster Campbell, H. G. Clements, George Henderson, and John Campbell.

Thanks to Mr. W. Walker of *The Oban Times*, that newspaper (which has all along been second to none in its support of An Comunn Gaidhealach and the Mod) published, in its issue of 18th October, a very full report of the foregoing proceedings. This was the first published intimation that the movement was afoot.

In these preliminary stages much adverse and discouraging criticism was expressed, in the press and otherwise. Many thought and said that the movement was doomed to failure from the outset. It was remarked, "We have not even a word in the Gaelic language to describe the proposed institution," which was being referred to at this stage as the "Highland Eisteddfod."

Encouragement

There were encouraging voices, too. Professor Blackie urged the Highlanders "to put their hearts and hands to the work," to be self-reliant, and not to depend on the aid of outsiders. *The Oban Times*, in a leading article on the inauguration of the new Association, remarked that "The prophets of failure were in every instance gentlemen of the sort who detect in everything that is not the product of their own hands and brains the deficiencies of inexperience and ill-directed enthusiasm. Like adversity, however, the barking cynic has his uses, and it is nothing derogatory to the programme of the association that it has utilised to some extent the criticisms of even those who made no secret of their desire to strangle the movement at its birth."

Despite criticism and even opposition, the Provisional Committee proceeded vigorously with the necessary spade-work. The advice of men prominent in Highland affairs was sought. The assistance of the Welsh Eisteddfod Association was obtained in preparing the draft constitution of the proposed association. "Professedly Gaelic Societies" were approached for "their counsel, countenance, and support." The Gaelic Society of Glasgow unanimously and heartily approved of the project. The Gaelic Society of London—unwitting inspirer of the movement, as already remarked—approved by a majority, the minority being convinced "that the Highlands were not ripe for this movement, and that under existing circumstances and auspices the movement was not practicable and ought not to be encouraged." The Gaelic Society of Inverness showed a surprising aloofness, which lasted until 1896. The Invernessian Gaels apparently misunderstood the real aims of the new body and were suspicious of a possible rival.

Constitution and Rules

The first Minute-book of An Comunn begins with a paste-in of the "Constitution and Rules of The Highland Association (An Comunn Gaidhealach)," from which we select the following matters of interest.

"The name shall be THE HIGHLAND ASSOCIATION (AN COMUNN GAIDHEALACH), and the Annual Gathering of the Association shall be termed 'Am Mod Gaidhealach.'" The Objects are declared to be:—

"1. To promote the cultivation of Gaelic Literature and Music and Home Industries in the Highlands.

"2. To encourage the teaching of Gaelic in Highland Schools.

"3. To hold an Annual Gathering at which competitions shall take place and prizes be awarded.

"4. To publish at intervals a volume of such prize compositions as may be selected by the Executive Council.

"5. To raise by means of Members' Subscriptions and of Donations a fund which shall enable the Association to carry out these objects."

The Membership was to consist of Life Members, paying £5/-, and Ordinary Members, paying 5/- per annum. The Association was to be managed by "an Executive Council, consisting of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and 25 other members elected annually, and one delegate from every Highland Association having similar objects and contributing not less than £1 yearly to the funds of the Association." The office-bearers were to retire annually but to be eligible for re-election.

"The first Annual Gathering shall be held at Oban on a date to be fixed by the Executive Council. The place and date of the succeeding Annual Gathering shall, in each year, be fixed at the Annual Business Meeting." "The several departments of the Annual Gathering shall be arranged and conducted by Committees to be selected by the Executive Council." "The prizes given in the different competitions shall be awarded by judges, to be appointed by the Committees of the several departments."

"The Annual Business Meeting of the Association shall be held at the same place as, and immediately on conclusion of, the Annual Gathering."

The First Office-Bearers

The Constitution and Rules are printed in English and Gaelic versions, and then follows:—

"PATRONS: The Duke and Duchess of Sutherland; The Marquis of Breadalbane; The Marquis of Lorne; The Right Rev. Angus McDonald, R.C. Bishop of Argyll and the Isles; Professor Masson; Professor Blackie; Professor Mackinnon; Mr. John McKay, C.E., Hereford; and Mr. Hector MacLean, Islay.

"PRESIDENT: Lord Archibald Campbell.

"VICE-PRESIDENTS: Rev. Dr. Stewart, Nether Lochaber; Mr. Magnus MacLean, M.A., Glasgow; Provost McIsaac, Oban; Mr. Peter McLeod, Glasgow; Rev. Dr. Norman McLeod, Inverness; and Rev. Dr. Blair, Cambuslang.

"SECRETARY: Mr. John Campbell, Solicitor, Albany Street, Oban.

"TREASURER: Mr. Donald MacKay, Ardmore Villa, Oban.

"EXECUTIVE COUNCIL: Professor Campbell Black, Glasgow; Dr. Farquhar Mathieson, London; Dr. McNicol, Dalnally; Rev. J. McNeill, Cawdor; Dr. N. M. Campbell, Oban; Rev. Alex. Duff, M.A., Oban; Mr. Maitland Malcolm, Auchnacraig, Mull; Bailie McCowan, Oban; Councillor Campbell, Oban; Councillor Munro, Oban; H. G. Clements (1st Mus. Bac., Oxon), Oban; Mr. Donald Mackay, Ledaig; Mr. George J. Campbell, Solicitor, Inverness; Mr. Malcolm McFarlane, Paisley; Mr. John MacKay, Kingston, Glasgow; Mr. William Jolly, H.M.I.; Mr. Henry Whyte ("Fionn"); Mr. Duncan Reid, Teacher of Gaelic, Glasgow; Mr. T. D. McDonald, London; Mr. Alexander Carmichael, F.S.A., Edinburgh; Mr. J. G. MacKay, Portree; Mr. Alexander McDonald, H.M.I., Glasgow; Mr. Neil MacLeod, Edinburgh; and Mr. George Henderson, Oban."

These are the names as given in the Minute-Book, but, according to MacMaster Campbell, two others were also members of the first Executive Council—

Mr. W. A. Cameron (of *The Oban Times*) and Mr. William MacKay (Inverness).

What memories these names evoke! What a wealth of devotion to the Gaelic Cause they represent!

The Inaugural Meeting

Then follows "Minute of Meeting at which the above Rules were adjusted and approved, the Association constituted and office-bearers appointed." The Minute states that on 30th April, 1891, "a meeting of those interested in the above movement was held in the Masonic Hall, Oban, Provost McIsaac in the Chair. There were about fifty present." "Rev. Dr. Stewart, Nether Lochaber, moved the first resolution, that this meeting form itself into an Association for the purposes intended. This was seconded by Mr. Peter McLeod, Glasgow, and unanimously agreed to. The Interim Secretary then read the Constitution and Rules, and Mr. J. G. MacKay, Portree, suggested an addition thereto. Dr. Stewart moved that the foregoing Constitution and Rules as amended be adopted. Councillor John M. Campbell, Oban, seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried. The office-bearers named in page II were then elected. The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman on the motion of Nether Lochaber."

Here one may note a curious point. *The Oban Times* of 10th October, 1953, reproduced "a copy of the handbill calling the public meeting at which an Comunn Gaidhealach was formed." The handbill is in the following terms:—

Comh-fharpais nam Bard Albannach THE HIGHLAND EISTEDDFOD

A Public Meeting

of those interested in the above Movement will be held in the Masonic Hall, Oban, on the evening of Thursday, 23rd April, 1891, at 8 o'clock.

Business:—

1. Adoption of Draft Constitution and Rules.
2. Appointment of Office-Bearers.

JOHN CAMPBELL,
Interim Secretary.

Oban, 9th April, 1891.

The record in the Minute-book of an Comunn states, however, that the meeting was held on 30th April, 1891.

Choosing the Right Name

The Gaelic Society of Glasgow was represented at the meeting by its President Mr. (later Professor) Magnus Maclean, and its Secretary, Mr. Malcolm MacFarlane, both of whom gave great assistance. Immediately prior to the public meeting, John Campbell and John MacMaster Campbell met with Magnus Maclean to consider certain points still unsettled. In particular, the names of the new Association and of its annual gathering had still to be agreed. The first printed copy of the constitution and rules called the Association "The Highland Bardic Association," with the Gaelic title of "Comunn air son Leasachadh Ceol agus Litreachas nan Gaidheal." MacMaster Campbell, who had been acquainted with a society in Glasgow called "The Highland Association" ("An Comunn Gaidhealach"), which by 1891 was defunct, proposed that these names should be adopted for the new Association, and his two colleagues agreed.

With regard to the Annual Gathering, the Gaelic Society of Glasgow, through their Secretary (Malcolm MacFarlane), had proposed the name, "Comh-fharpais nam Bård." John Campbell favoured "Féis-ciùil." MacMaster Campbell preferred "Mòd-ciùil." It was agreed that Magnus Maclean should be the final arbiter, and (by a stroke of genius, shall we say?)

he chose, simply, "Mòd." The following year, after the first Mòd was over, this comment is made in the Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness (Volume XVII, p. xiv): "The revival of the feeling of Celtic—or rather Gaelic—brotherhood, as evidenced by Clan Societies, shows no signs of a reaction; and it is with sincere pleasure we record the success of the great Gaelic gathering at Oban, a la the Welsh Eisteddfod. Our only regret is that it should be called by the very Saxon and objectionable name of *Mod* (that is, Moot), when the good Gaelic word *Coinne* or an equivalent was at hand."

"*Mod*" it was, however, and "*Mod*" it has remained, and, whatever the origin and earlier connotations of the word, the past sixty-three years and fifty-one annual gatherings—not to mention multitudes of provincial gatherings of a similar kind—have stamped the word "*Mod*" with a new and unique meaning, known the world over.

The first meeting of the Executive Council was held at Callander on 30th May, 1891, when the following attended: Messrs. Magnus McLean (Chairman), Peter McLeod, Henry Whyte, Dr. McNicol, Dr. Campbell, Duncan Reid, John MacKay (Kingston), John M. Campbell, Malcolm MacFarlane, Donald MacKay (Ledaig) and John Campbell (Secretary). Mr. Magnus McLean was appointed Chairman. A draft Manifesto was submitted by the Secretary, considered and adjusted. Messrs. Whyte, MacFarlane, and Reid were appointed to translate it into Gaelic. "When completed, the Manifesto is to be printed as a piece of news if possible in the Highland papers and copies sent to Canadian papers. The meeting instructed that the Manifesto be printed as a circular, and that copies be sent to Chairman of School Boards in the Highlands, Teachers, Gaelic Societies, and Members of Council." 3,000 copies were to be printed, "and also sufficient quantities of applications for membership and copies of Constitution and Rules."

Plans and Preparations

"The following Sub-Committees were appointed:

"(1) EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE, with full powers to prepare School Books, suitable for requirements of Code with due regard to the financial support received. Messrs. Malcolm MacFarlane (Convener), Reid, Whyte, Neil Macleod, Magnus McLean, Alexander McDonald, and John MacKay.

"(2) MUSICAL COMMITTEE. To prepare Music Books for children and for adults. Messrs. Whyte (Convener), MacFarlane, and H. G. Clements.

"(3) FINANCE COMMITTEE. John Campbell, John M. Campbell, D. Mackay, Peter McLeod, Dr. McNicol, Dr. Campbell, Provost McIsaac (Convener).

"All these Sub-Committees to have power to add to their number."

"The Oban Section of the Executive Council was also authorised to see what can be done in the way of organising choirs and music classes. All the other members of the Executive to do their best in getting money and members. All Sub-Committees to do everything but incur expenses until authorised by the Finance Committee." "Mr Donald McKay, Teacher, Ledaig, was assumed as a member of the Executive Council in place of Mr. John McKay, Oban, who has withdrawn."

At a meeting of Finance Committee at Oban on 17th August 1891 it was resolved to open an account with the Commercial Bank, Oban.

The second meeting of the Executive Council was held at Callander on 26th September, 1891. There were present: Messrs. Jolly (Chairman), J. M. Campbell, Henry Whyte, Dr. McNicol, Magnus Maclean, Donald McKay (Ledaig), Duncan Reid,

Malcolm Macfarlane, and John Campbell. "The Secretary reported that there was the sum of £—— (blank) in Bank, including £11 5s 9d, the proceeds of the Gaelic Concert held in Oban lately, and the names of those who had joined the Association were read over." "The Music Book Committee was instructed to proceed at once with the harmonisation of a Gaelic song book suitable for schools, and also with a book for adult choirs, taking counsel with other workers in the same field."

"Mr. Malcolm Macfarlane reported on behalf of the School Book Committee that the draft of the first Gaelic book, preparatory and leading up to the first stage of the specific subject of Gaelic, was prepared and ready for publication." The Committee was instructed to proceed with the preparation of the second part, and it was left to the sub-committee to decide whether the two parts should be published separately or together. The Committee were also instructed to make the best arrangements they can for publishing this book but to consult with the Finance Committee before incurring expenditure.

"After some discussion, it was deemed necessary that the first Mod should be held at Oban in 1892, and the Oban Section were instructed to prepare a scheme for the various competitions to be held and arrangements generally, and to submit same to the meeting of Executive Council to be held in December, at which the exact date of the Mod will be fixed."

"The Secretary was instructed to send to Highland and County Societies in Glasgow and elsewhere a copy of the Rules and to respectfully ask them to take united action with this Association."

"Mr. Daniel Johnstone, Teacher, Dalnally, was assumed as a member of the Executive Council in place of Mr. War. Cameron."

The Gaelic Concert referred to was one held in Oban by the Glasgow St. Columba Church Gaelic Choir, which thus deserves credit for enabling the Executive Council to proceed with the arrangements for the first Mod "with an easy mind." Moreover, the lack of published Gaelic choral music, which was a serious difficulty at that time, was supplied by the St. Columba Choir's Conductor, Mr. Archibald Ferguson, who came to the rescue by publishing in book-form the harmonies used by his choir. The *Coisir-Chiuil* appeared in time to facilitate the formation of a choir at Oban and the re-organisation of the Ballachulish and Glencoe Choirs.

Secretary's Notes

THIS is the time of year when we find it possible to pay visits to Branches and Affiliated Societies. On these visits it is interesting to note the core of Gaelic-speaking "exiles," supported by a good following of those who, although unable to speak the language, are keenly interested in its songs and music. When we compare the "exiled" Gael with those resident on their native heath, we feel that the former are more interested in the preservation of our language and culture while the latter take too much for granted. Recently, I visited the Highland Associations in Helensburgh and Skelmorlie and the Branch in Largs. These meetings were very well attended and the audience were most appreciative.

At a Ceilidh of the Paisley Highlanders' Association held on 22nd January, our President, Mr. Neil Shaw, was made an Honorary Member

of the Association in recognition of his outstanding services to the Gaelic language and its culture. It is worthy of note that only two people were previously honoured by the Association in this way—Mr. Graham and the late Mr. John Cameron, the Bard.

On 28th January officials from Headquarters attended a meeting of the Mod Local Committee in Aberdeen. The meeting was very well attended. Arrangements for the forthcoming National Mod are proceeding very smoothly. The Mod Local Committee are unsparring in their efforts to raise the necessary funds required to run the Mod. An imposing number of functions has been planned to augment the Mod Fund. Here are the details:—

8th February	..	Ceilidh Dance.
26th " "	..	Film Show.
12th March	..	Lantern Lecture.
19th " "	..	Coffee Morning.
16th April	..	Daffodil Tea.
22nd " "	..	Concert.
7th May	..	Jumble Sale.
25th June	..	Feill (Bazaar).

May we remind readers that the burden of raising the Mod Fund is not the entire responsibility of the Mod Local Committee. The Mod, being a National Festival, ought to be supported by the whole country. Contributions in cash or kind will be gratefully received by the Mod Local Treasurer, Mr. Jack W. Mort, Clydesdale and North of Scotland Bank, 133 King Street, Aberdeen.

On 31st January the inaugural meeting of the 1956 Mod was held in Largs. Miss May F. Hunter was unanimously chosen as Convener of the Mod Local Committee. The meeting was well-attended, and it is gratifying to note that Branches and Affiliated Societies in the area have already promised their support to the Largs Branch. The Mod will be held during the first week of October. The Mod Local Committee are determined that the 1956 Mod, the first to be held in Largs, will be an outstanding success.

M. M.

New Affiliated Societies

The following organisations became affiliated to An Comunn Gaidhealach during the year ended 30th April, 1954:

- Hamilton & District Highlanders' Association.
- Lothian Celtic Choir.
- Manchester Gaelic Choir.
- Manchester Gaelic Study Circle.
- Portree Gaelic Choir.

Naidheachdan Na h-Airde Tuath

NORTHERN ORGANISER'S NOTES

“A NN an Dùbhlachd garbh a’ Gheamhraidh cha b’e àm bu ghainne spòrs

“Am a’ Gheamhraidh, Am nam marag’— bha a h-uile cuid dhiubh sin againn bho’n sgrìobh mi mo naidheachd mu dheireadh.

An t-side—chan fhaca is cha chuala duine riamh mu aimsir cho uamhasach is a bha againn an seo—agus chan ’eil fhios gu dé a bha air tachairt anns a’ Ghaidhealtachd gun chuideachadh nan itealan sin—*helicopters*. Bha mi fhéin gu math taingeil, toilichte nach robh mi fada air falbh bho mo chairtealan nuair a thàinig a’ chreach seo a nuas oirnn as na speuran, cha bhiodh ann dhomh ach mo cheann a chur fo mo sgéith far an tuiteadh an oidhche orm—ach co-dhiubh no co-dheth seo mo naidheachd-sa.

Tha mi toilichte innse gu bheil “Céilidh nan Gaidheal an Inbhir-nis” a’ slor-chumail air adhart leis an oidhirp mhath sin le a cuid céilidhean far nach cluinnte facal fad na h-oidhche ach a’ Ghàidhlig.

The Inverness Branch have held very successful Ceilidhs which were well attended. At a recent meeting a Film was shown, giving the history of the Clan Tartans and the different processes in the manufacturing of tartan cloth in Pringle’s Holm Mills. An expert in the tartan industry gave an interesting and enlightening talk on the similarity of the sett in what appeared to be totally different tartans.

When I visited Kyle of Lochalsh a very pleasant night was spent with sgeulachdan and songs. The night was stormy and wet but, despite that, there was a fair attendance. The following night, with no change in the weather, I was present at a Ceilidh in Lochcarron. The people of Lochcarron show great enthusiasm for everything connected with our language and culture, and their friendliness and hospitality show that they are “Gaels to the back-bone”—“Gàidheil gu’n cùl.”

I was present at a Ceilidh in Elgin, where there is a flourishing Branch of An Comunn, and I was glad to see that part of the programme was sustained by children. Let us hope the young people will follow in the footsteps of those who are doing so much for our language at present. A large number in the audience were Gaelic-speaking, and we had a real “get-together” during the interval, while tea was being served by the ladies of the Committee.

Concerts are being arranged for the spring season by some of the Branches in the North, when they expect to have some artistes from the South on their programmes. The Branch in

Dornoch had made arrangements to have their Annual Concert on 21st January but, of course, the weather ruled this out and not enough funds were available to participate in “Operation Snowdrop.” This concert will be held at a later date.

I have covered most of the mainland in the Northern Area and very soon now I’ll take “The Road to the Isles.”

D. McL.

Greyfriars Memorial to Duncan Ban MacIntyre

Duncan MacIntyre (Donnchadh Bàn nan Oran), the celebrated Gaelic bard, was born in Glenorchy in 1724 and died in Edinburgh in 1812 and was buried in the Greyfriars Churchyard there. In that famous Churchyard, where so many illustrious Scots lie at rest, there stands a memorial to Duncan Ban which was erected by public subscription in 1855. The unique feature of this memorial is the series of carved symbols on the obelisk, “representing the arts of war and peace and the objects of the chase.”

In 1932, as the result of an appeal by the Celtic Union, funds were gathered and the stonework of the memorial was carefully strengthened and repaired and the carvings preserved in their entirety. But now, because of the ravages of time and weather, the beautiful carvings are fast disappearing, the stonework is beginning to scale and fall away, and the very existence of the memorial is threatened.

At the request of the Royal Celtic Society and the Celtic Union, the Ancient Monuments Division of the Ministry of Works has kindly given advice on the measures required to preserve the memorial, and is prepared to execute the necessary work if funds are provided. The amount required is estimated at £60. The two societies named are prepared to undertake responsibility for the work of preservation and the collection of the necessary funds.

An appeal is therefore being made to the public to contribute to this most worthy cause. The appeal is signed by Mr. Neil Shaw, President of An Comunn Gaidhealach, Mr. Donald S. Macdonald, Chairman of Council of the Royal Celtic Society, and the Rev. J. K. Murchison, President of the Celtic Union.

It is felt that many Highland societies and associations, as well as individuals, will wish to associate themselves with this project by contributing to the cost. Contributions should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer of the Celtic Union, Mr. John A. Smith, 189 Newhaven Road, Edinburgh, 6, who will gratefully acknowledge all sums received.

Iain Ban an Taillear

DURING the eighteenth century Bunawe was a hive of industry. The iron-smelting furnace situated there provided a lot of work, and a large number of people were employed at the various subsidiary jobs connected with it. Like every community, the village had its tradesmen who provided for the wants of the inhabitants. Among these was a worthy known as "Iain Ban an Taillear," or John MacCallum.

John was a native of Muckairn. Physically he was a little below the medium height. Rather thick-set, he was inclined to corpulency. He carried himself as straight as a guardsman. Notwithstanding his weight, he was very light on his feet and was the neatest of dancers, an accomplishment of which he was rather vain. In addition, he was an excellent performer on the violin, his friends declaring that he was even better than the great Patrick Macdonald, ministear of Kilmore, but he did quite equal Iain Ban an Tuairnear, Culnadalach. Naturally such an accomplished gentleman as the tailor was in much request for weddings and other rural merry-makings.

Iain Ban was also what we would call a "dandy" in these times. He was always finely dressed, and was so full of himself that he had the impression that no lady could resist his attractive appearance. Others did not think so highly of him as he did himself, and declared that he was a slippery customer and well worth watching in any dealings with him. His code of honour was not very high.

On an occasion there was a wedding at Culnadalach, and all the people of the countryside were gathered there for the festivities. A dance being called, the tailor approached a young girl and asked her to be his partner. Whether or not the girl did not trust him, she, to his consternation, refused his offer. Iain Ban flew into a temper and addressed her:

Heman-du hiri-oho-ro
Heman-du, an ainnir Chaimbeul;
Heman-du, dhiùlt thu dhòmhsa,
Hiri-oro, dol a dhannsa,
Heman-du an Gleann Urchaidh,
Heman-du 's Sandaidh Hothir
Hiri horo, toirt duit purgaid.''

The Sandy Hothir mentioned was a half-wit practising as the Dr. Hornbook of his time in Glenorchy.

John MacCallum was a bard as well as a fiddler, and he is said to be the composer of the following gross libel on the good folks of Strontoiller.

'S iomadh sneachd th'air a' Mhaol-odhar,
'S iomadh sruth tha ruith do Lonnan,
'S iomadh ceò th'air Tom-na-mòine,
'S iomadh òinseach tha 'n Sròn-toilleir.

He is also the author of a long poem of sixteen quatrains with an eight-lined chorus. Here are a few of the verses.

Bha Marcus Earraghaidheal ann
A' seasamh àite searbhant',
Bha tighearna Srath-churra ann
A' trusadh a chuid meanbh-chruidh.

Bha "Mistress Vids" 's a' "Bhrigate" ann,
Is collich aic' air earball,
Bha "Port Dundas" a' ceirleireachd
Toirt goil air poit na h-eanraich.

Bha còcairean an Impir' ann,
'S iad frideamachd do Mhairearad,
Ban-lar' an Eilein Ilich ann
A' pronnadh eigh le farachan.

Bha 'm mult a b' bhearr bha 'n Cruachan ann
'Ga chruachadh ris a' ghealbhann
Is cailleach mhór nan curran
'Ga shluaisdeireach le farman.

Bha taigeis a bha reamhar ann
'S i teannaichte le dealgan,
Lan greallaich, càl is uinneinan,
'S gach duine a' toirt cearb dhith.

And so the song goes on. The chorus is as follows.

'S e Dòmhnall, 's e Dòmhnall,
'S e Dòmhnall a rinn a' bhanais;
'S e Dòmhnall, 's e Dòmhnall,
A rinn a' bhanais ainmeil.
Bha 'n taigh ud air a ghealachadh,
Le gaireal Lan-na-garbha;
Bha greit a thain' á Carran ann,
Is clachan geala marmair.

The song was sung to its own tune, but whether the tailor composed it or not I do not know. As far as I know, it has never appeared in print. For the benefit of those who do not know the district, I may say that Culnadalach is near Achnacloich station. J. E. S.

Tha taobh dubh is taobh geal air, mar a bha air bàta Mhic Iain Gheàrr. (Is e spuinneadair-mara a bha an Gilleasbuig Mac Iain Gheàrr, agus bhiodh atharrachadh dath aige air a' bhàta aige agus air na siùil ach am mealladh e daoine a chitheadh a' dol seachad e).

Thall Am Muideart

1. B'e mo mhiann bhith thall am Muideart;
'S ann as cùbhraidh fàil' a' bharraich.
Hoirinn O, hoirinn O.
Ho-ro, 's na ho-ro gheallaidh.
Hoirinn O.
2. Far a bheil na dailtean uaine,
Sòbhrach 's neòinean bun gach bealaich.
3. Suaicheantas Chlann Raghnaill nam
buadhan
Fraoch a' cìntinn air gach tulach.
4. Breac bho'n fhaireg anns a' Gharbhallt,
'S bradan tarra-gheal an Loch Seile.
5. Spréidh ag ionaltradh air mòintich,
Crodh le 'n àl ann agus aighean.
6. 'S ann a chluinnte fuaim na ploba,
Ceòl na fìdhle agus aighear.
7. 'S gruagaichean le luinneag òran,
'G iomain bhò is laoigh gu baile.
8. Ach 's mìthich dhòmhsa sguir de m' chrònán
'S neul na duibhre tarraing thairis.
9. 'S ceò an anmoch mar bhrat-sgàil
Bho bhàigh Sgardrais gu Rudh' na h-Airde.
10. Cur gu sàmhchair ceòl na còisridh
Bha ri séist measg coill nam meangan.
11. Beannachd nis leat, a Mhùideart,
Tir na h-àbhachd, aoigheil, fhallain.

TAOBH-TUATH EARRAGHAIDHEAL.

"Ubique"

CHAN e facal Gàidhlig ùr a tha sin, no atharrais Gàidhlig air cnàmhan na Beurla, ach am facal Laideann a tha mar shuaicheantas aig na gunnairean.

Their cuid ge bè àite de cheithir ranna ruadha an domhain a bhuaileas duine, gun coinnich Leódhasach ris.

Bha mo sheanair nach maireann a' leughadh anns a' phaipear-naidheachd mu'n charragh-eighe a chuir fodha an *Titanic*. Thionndaidh e ris an luchd-céilidh agus thuir e, "Ach a bheil fios an robh Leódhasach air?"

Bha e là eile an eathar a bha ag iasgach thros g eadar na h-Eileanan Flannach is Hiort, is thàinig bàta Leódhasach an rathad.

Thuir e, "Tha iadsan anns a h-uile àite— an Albainn is an Sasainn, America is Astràlia, agus air son an droch-àite—tha e làn diubh! Dé math dhomh a bhith a' bruidheann? Ged thuiteadh fear agaibh a mach air a' mhuir, choimicheadh fear dhiùbhsan ris mun ruigeadh e an grund!"

TARAN.

Ubh Eich

Chuala Mi'n Sgeulachd Seo Bho Chionn Fhada

BHA bodach as ceàrn iomallach de na Hearadh, agus thàinig e agus chun an Tairbeirt. Bha iongnadh mòr aige de chuid de na rudan a bha e a' faicinn anns na bùthan. Co-dhiubh, ann an té de na bùthan gu dé a chunnaic e ach "Melons." Cha robh am bodach air meas mar seo fhacinn riamh agus thubhairt e ri fear na bùtha.

"Mo chreach, a Phàdraig, agus gu dé na h-uibhean mòra uamhasach tha agad an seo?"

"Sin agad, Iain," arsa Pàdraig, "uibhean eich." "Agus a bheil thusa ag innse dhòmhsa, a Phàdraig, gun tig isean eich as an ubh sin mar a thig isean as ubh na circe?"

"Thig, a bhròinein," arsa Pàdraig, "ach feumaidh tu an t-ubh a chumail ann an clòimh air lic an teinntein fad shia sheachdainean."

Cheannaich am bodach aon de na h-uibhean agus dh'fhalbh e leis agus e aige gu cùramach 'na achlais. Bha aig Iain ri frith-rathad a ghabhail air fiaradh a' mhonaidh agus suas mu leitheach slighe bhualt a chas ann an toman fàroich agus sid air a bheil is air a shròin d' an tuge. Còmhla ris gach tubaist chaill e a ghreim air an ubh agus siud an t-ubh sìos car mu char ri bearradh.

Thachair gu robh gearr aig bonn a' bhearradh agus an uair a dh'fhairich e an ùpraid os a chionn leum e aise agus mhothaich am bodach dha.

An ath-turus a thàinig am bodach do'n bhùth bha Pàdraig a' faighneachd dha ciamar a bha isean an eich a' deanamh. Dh'innis am bodach mar a thachair, agus thubhairt e gum feumaidh gun do bhris an t-ubh agus ars esan, "Mo chreach, ma's e isean eich a thàinig as an ubh bha e cho luath is gun toirinn-sa mo mhionnan nach beireadh an droch spiorad fhéin air—abair thusa nach beireadh!"

D. McG.

Biadh-Caileach An Nisich

Thar a chéile tha daoine an Nis cho àrd, foghainteach, deanta is a gheibhear an àit air bith.

Bha Leódhasach as gach àite cruinn aig biadh ann an Steòrnabhagh. Chuir iad a' cheist ris na Nisich car son a bha iad cho mór, làidir, treun, agus is e seo am freagradh a fhuair iad.

"A' bhiorach bheag mhaol òg am bial na Bealltainne, air a giorradh 'na fuil is 'na h-athainn fhéin, am biadh socair sàmhach cnàmhach neo-ghluasach as fheàrr a fhuair mac òg an Nisich riamh, mur faigheadh e an garran creige, is sin làn miodair de ola dhonn na caomhaig. Is theireadh e, 'Bu bheag siud, ach bu mhat!' "'—S.S.



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar VII

AM MART, 1955

Aireamh 3

Iain agus Alasdair

BHA siud ann roimhe dithis bhràithrean, Iain is Alasdair. Bha iad a' fuireach còmhla gu réidh, rianail, aontach, gu h-ullamh, eallamh, easgaidh, is aoigheil ri gach neach a rachadh an rathad.

Bha fearann is fonn, crodh is caoraich aca, is bha iad gun dìth gun deireas. Air feasgar earraich thàinig Iain dachaigh agus thilg e a chas-chrom ann an cùl na còmhla.

"Cha gheàrr mise ploc leat ach na gheàrr! Tha mi a' falbh am màireach aig gairm choileach," arsa esan ri Alasdair. "Chan 'eil luach a shaothrach aig duine air son a obrach an seo. Is fearr a dhòl do'n bhaile-mhór. Is e moch am màireach an latha!"

"Chan àm falbh bho'n taigh àm nan trì slòl," arsa Alasdair. "Nach fhan thu gus an dean sin an t-àiteach? Nach iomadh uair a chuala thu, 'Is fearr an teine beag a ghairesas tu na an teine mòr a loisgeas tu?'"

"Chan 'eil air no dheth agad air ach seo," arsa Iain; "tha mi a' falbh am màireach aig gairm choileach."

Dh'éirich iad roimh là agus, an uair a bha Iain deiseil gu falbh aig gairm choileach, thug Alasdair an coileach thar an spiris.

"Cuir an coileach fo t'achlais," arsa esan. "Is eun beannaichte an coileach, is chan éirich beud dhuith cho fad is a bhios e agad. Fàgaidh mi sgrìob de'n rathad thu, a bhràthair."

Dh'fhalbh iad.

"Gu soirbheachadh leat, a bhràthair," arsa Alasdair, anns an dealachadh. "Cuimhnich gun leig thu brath chugam ciamar a bhios a' dol dhuith!"

"Nì mi sin," arsa Iain, is dhealaich iad.

Lean Iain air is an coileach fo a achlais, ceum air a' cheum, gus an tàinig e gu baile-mór anns nach fhaca iad coileach riamh. Ghabh muinntir a' bhaile-mhóir iongnadh mòr de Iain is de'n choileach is dh'fhoighnich iad dheth dé am beathach a bha aige mar siud.

Thubhairt Iain gu robh fiosaiche.

"Gu dé an fhiosachd a nì e?" arsa muinntir a' bhaile-mhóir.

"A h-uile seòrsa fiosachd a tha sibh air son fhaighinn a mach," arsa Iain.

"Am bi là math am màireach ann?" arsa muinntir a' bhaile-mhóir.

Dh'fhàisg Iain air a' choileach.

"Gog!" arsa an coileach.

"Dé a tha e a' cantainn?" arsa muinntir a' bhaile-mhóir.

"Bidh deagh là am màireach ann," arsa Iain.

"Tha nigean an rìgh againn tinn. An leighis i?" arsa muinntir a' bhaile-mhóir.

Dh'fhàisg Iain air a' choileach.

"Gog!" arsa an coileach.

"Gu dé a tha e a' cantainn?" arsa muinntir a' bhaile-mhóir.

"Gun leighis," arsa Iain.

Is ann a reic Iain an coileach ri muinntir a' bhaile-mhóir is fhuair e poca òir is poca airgid air. Chaidh e gu barbar is chuir am barbar air dòigh a ghruag. Chaidh e gu tàillear is cheannaich e deise ùr, is có ach Iain!

Bha Alasdair a' feitheamh guth bho Iain, ach guth no facal cha chuala Alasdair.

An ceann là is bliadhna thog Alasdair air agus rinn e air a' bhaile-mhór feuch am faigheadh e sgeul air Iain. Cha robh Alasdair fada air an t-slighe an uair a thòisich i air cur is cathadh agus chaidh e a ghabhail fasgaidh do thaigh bantraich a bha air an t-sliabh mar a bha e a' gabhail an rathaid.

Bha aon mhac maol bacach aig a' bhantraich agus bha e trang a' snìomh an t-sìomhain fhraoich. Bheannaich Alasdair dhaibh is bheannaich iad dha.

Fhuair e aoigheachd an taigh na bantraich fad beagan làithean agus chuidich e an gille maol bacach ri snìomh an t-sìomhain is caran beaga cìle gus an do thòisich i ri aiteamh. Thog e air an uair sin is dh'fhalbh e le beannachd na bantraich is a mic.

Ràinig e am baile-mór. Sin far an robh an ùpraid, brataichean a' seòladh anns a' ghaoith, is pìobaireachd.

"Gu dé aobhar an aoigheil a tha seo an

diugh?" arsa Alasdair ri neach anns a' bhaile-mhór.

"Tha nighean àrd-bhàillidh an rìgh agus òg-bhàillidh an rìgh air ùr-phòsadh. Seas an sin air a' chabhairs—seo agad iad a' tighinn, a' chàraid òg is muinntir na bainnse!"

Suil d'an tug Alasdair air a' charbad anns an robh fear is bean na bainnse, ghlaodh e, "Iain, mo bhràthair! Iain, mo bhràthair!"

Stad an carbad agus leum Iain a mach as. "Gu dé a chuir thusa an seo, a' tighinn a thoirt mo nàire asamsa?" arsa Iain ri Alasdair. "Siud tòi tasdain agad a gheibh biadh." Agus air ball thill Iain do'n charbad.

Cha robh fhios aig Alasdair dé a theireadh no a dheanadh e. Thàinig na deòir 'na shùilean. Choisich e a mach as a' bhaile-mhór gus an tàinig e air frith-rathad a bha a' dol troimh choille. Lean e air an rathad seo gus an tàinig e air craoibh mhóir dharaich is toll mór 'na stoc. A muigh ri taobh an tuill bha frannach is duilleach nan craobh 'ga thiomachadh. Smaointich Alasdair nach deanadh math dha an oidhche a chur seachad anns an toll, gu robh beathach fiadaich air chor-eigin a' cadal ann.

Is ann a chaidh e suas am measg an duillich. Cha b'fhada gus an cuala e séideadh a' tighinn. Có bha an seo ach a' bhiast! Chrath i an t-séid gu math aig beul an tuill. Shocraich i an sin anns an toll i an stoc na craoibhe. Shuidh i an sin am beul an tuill air a màgan.

An tacan beag cò a thàinig ach am mathan! "Fàilte ort fhéin, a mhathain," arsa a' bhiast.

"Fàilte ort fhéin, a bhiast," arsa am mathan. "Gu dé do naidheachd as a' bhaile-mhór?" arsa a' bhiast.

"Tha nighean an rìgh a' cur ris a' bhàs," arsa am mathan. "Chan 'eil dotair ann a leighiseas i. Tha an rìgh a' cantainn, dotair sam bith a leighiseas a nighean, gum faigh e i ri pòsadh, agus leth na rìoghachd cho fad is a bhios e fhéin beò is an leth eile air a bhàs."

An uair a ghabh a' bhiast mu thàmh is a chuala Alasdair srann aice, lùg e sìos a dh'ionnsaigh an tobair is bhuan e Lus Moire is thog e air air son lùchairt an rìgh agus thubhairt e ri muinntir an rìgh gu robh leigheas aige do'n nighinn.

Dheasaich e an Lus Moire an uisge fuarain agus air a' cheud spàin dh'fhosgail nighean an rìgh a sùilean. Air an dara spàin dh'èirich i 'na suidhe anns an leabaidh. Air an treas làn-spàine bha i cho slàn is a bha i riannh.

Air là na bainnse aig nighean an rìgh is Alasdair fhuair Iain àite taghte am measg na cuideachd, ach có a nochd ann an carbad ri taobh nighean an rìgh ach Alasdair!

"Alasdair, mo bhràthair! Alasdair, mo bhràthair!" ghlaodh Iain le mór-iongnadh. "Cò a rinn dotair dhìotsa?"

Dh'innis Alasdair ann am beagan bhriathran. "Nach ann air mo thri tasdain a bha sealbh 'ar sa Iain. "Thoir dhomh iad, ma tha iad agad."

Thug Alasdair dha na trì tasdain is dh'fhalbh e do'n choille anns an robh a' chraobh mhór a bha an toll 'na stoc.

Chaidh e suas do'n duilleach agus thàinig a' bhias is am mathan ann an ciaradh an fheasgair.

"Gu dé do naidheachd as a' bhaile-mhór, a mhathain?" arsa a' bhiast.

"Phòs nighean an rìgh is an dotair mór a leighis i an diugh," arsa am mathan.

Dh'innis thu dhaibh mu Lus Moire!" arsa a' bhiast, is i a' deanamh greim air a' mhathan is 'ga uganachadh gu math.

Ghlaodh am mathan na creachan! "Cha do dh'innis mise e," ghlaodh am mathan. "Cha mhise a dh'innis e, is tha sin cho cinnteach is gu bheil an Lus Moire a' fàs aig an tobair ud shìos."

"Cò eile a dh'innis e ach thusa?" arsa a' bhiast. "Cha robh fhios aig a' chòrr air ach mise is thusa."

"Rach suas do'n chraoibh feuch a bheil duine ann a tha a' farcluais," arsa am mathan.

Suas a' bhiast do'n chraoibh. "Tha e agam," arsa a' bhiast, is i a' tilgeadh Iain gu làr.

"Cha mhise a dh'innis e ach Alasdair mo bhràthair," arsa Iain.

"Is tusa a dh'innis e," arsa a' bhiast, is i a' toirt greim à cùl a chas.

"Cha mhise a dh'innis e ach Alasdair mo bhràthair, is tha sin cho cinnteach is a tha Lus Moire a' fàs aig an tobair ud shìos," arsa Iain.

"Gu dé a chuir do'n chraoibh idir thu?" arsa a' bhiast. "Geall dhòmhsa nach tig thu an seo tuilleadh."

Rinn Iain sin agus lùg e air falbh do'n bhaile-mhór is e leth-mharbhh le cràdh a chas.

An uair a dh'eug an rìgh fhuair Alasdair an leth eile de'n rìoghachd, is bha e an uair sin 'na làn-rìgh.

Bho Raonaid NicLeòid.

Am Piatan

BHA siud ann seann chailleach agus cha robh aice ach aon phiatan, agus an latha a bha seo bha i a' dol 'ga chur suas air an tobhta a dh'ithe an fheòir a bha a' fàs air an tobhta, ach an uair a thàinig beul na h-oidhche bha i a' fiachainn ri a thoirt a nuas, agus leis na dh'ith am piatan bha e gu spreadhadh.

Chaidh i suas is shlaod i e le a earball gus an tàinig an t-earball as! Mur biodh sin, bhiodh an sgeulachd agam na b'fhaide!

Niall MacGilleathain

(Sgoil Bhrèithig, Eilean Bharraidh).

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AN GAIDHEAL

THE GAEL

M. L

APRIL, 1955

No. 4

372

Am Fonn Thar Gach Fonn

Ged shiùbhlainn an saoghal feadh aonach is fonn,
Ged shiùbhlainn gach àite feadh bhàrcaich nan tonn,
Ged thriallainn gach gleann agus beann tha fo'n ghréin,
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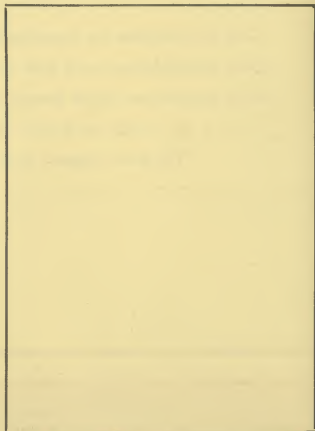
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AN GAIDHEAL

THE GAEL

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF
AN COMUNN GAIDHEALACH

Editor

REV. T. M. MURCHISON, M.A.

All correspondence should be addressed to the Editor, except that concerning advertising, which should be addressed to the Secretary, while Subscriptions should be sent to the Treasurer.

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AN GIBLEAN, 1955

Aireamh 4

Mac 'Ic Ailein agus Gille-Pàdraig Dubh

Ann an Aireamh na Diùblachd de'n GHADHEAL Òg chuir sinn an clò "Sgeul Uilleim Tell" an Gàidhlig, agus thubhairt sinn gun cuala sinn iomradh air fear-bogha ainmeil a bha uair-eigin an Uibhist a Deas, Gille-Pàdraig, agus gum bu mhath leinn sgeul fhaotainn uime. Seo sgeul mu Ghille-Pàdraig, ma thà. Is e Donnchadh Dòmhnallach nach maireann, à Peighinn-nan-Aoirean, a dh'aithris an sgeul, agus is e a mhac, Dòmhnall Iain (a chrìonadh mar Bhàrd a' Chomuinn an 1948), a sgrìobh air pa'pear e. Tha sinn gu mòr an comain Oil-thaigh Dhun-èideann, THE SCHOOL OF SCOTTISH STUDIES, air son na sgeulachd seo, agus tha ar taing aig Aonghas Mac-Dhonnchaidh air son a cur chugainn.

IS e Rudha an Taigh-mhàil an t-ainm a tha air an àite ann an Loch Aoinear, far am biodh an tuath a' pàidheadh a' mhàil le gràn a h-uile bliadhna.

A' bhliadhna a bha an seo, an uair a thàinig là pàidheadh a' mhàil, bha iad a' cruinneachadh ann as gach taobh le saic ghràin, agus bha duine aig Mac 'Ic Ailein anns an taigh-mhàil a' tomhas a' ghràin le peice.

Cò a ràinig ach Gille-Pàdraig Dubh, agus dà shac ghràin aige. Theann fear an tomhais ri a thomhas, agus am peice mu dheireadh de'n ghràn a bha e a' tomhas, bha inneadh air.

"O!", arsa fear an tomhais ri Gille-Pàdraig Dubh, "tha am peice a tha an seo gann agad.

Chan 'eil agad de ghràn na lionas e, agus bha còir aige a bhith làn a thaobh a' mhàil a tha agad ri phàidheadh."

"Stad thusa mionaid," arsa Gille-Pàdraig ri fear an tomhais, "agus bidh e làn an ceartuir," agus e aig an aon àm a' breith air chùl amhaich air agus a' sponnadh na sgeine-duibhe bharr a chliathaich fhéin. Chàirich e air a sgòrnan i, agus chum e e os cionn a' pheice gus an robh e làn le a chuid fala.

"Seo a nis!" arsa Gille-Pàdraig, "tha e làn a nis!," agus fhuair e e fhéin air dòigh agus thill e dhachaigh.

A nis, an uair a chuala Mac 'Ic Ailein ann an Ormicleit an gnìomh a rinn Gille-Pàdraig Dubh air an fhear a bha a' gabhail a' ghràin aige, bha e duilich dha tighinn gu co-dhùnadh mu'n dòigh air an deanadh e dioghaltas air. Bha e mòr leis a dhòl a mach air, a chionn bha Gille-Pàdraig 'na shaighdear ainmeil agus bha a leithid ro-fheumail do Mhac 'Ic Ailein uair sam bith a bhiodh naimhdean a' bagairt air. Ach is e an dòigh a ghabh e, chuir e fios gu Gille-Pàdraig Dubh e a tighinn far an robh e gu ruig Ormicleit, agus e Iain Dubh, a mhac, a thoirt leis còmhla ris; agus gu robh strainnsear a staigh aige-san an dràda bharr Tir-mòr, agus gun do chuir esan geall ris gu robh saighdear aige air an oighreachd a bhrìsteadh an t-ubh air mullach ceann a mhic leis an t-saighdear aig a leithid seo de dh'astar, gun bheud a dheanamh do'n duine; agus dh'ainmich e an là a bha aig

Gille-Pàdraig ri bhith ann an Ormcleit, agus a mhac còmhla ris.

A nis, an uair a thàinig an là, thog Gille-Pàdraig air, e fhéin is a mhac, agus dh'fhalbh e as na Geàrrachan, a chionn is ann an sin a bha a chòmhnaidh, agus ràinig iad le chéile Ormcleit. Neo-ar-thaing nach robh làmhnan sgaoilte rompha ann an sin! Fhuair iad fáilte a chur orra, agus biadh is deoch.

Thug iad an uair sin tarraing air a' ghniomh a bha aca ri dheanamh, agus dh'fhalbh iad a mach. Chuir Gille-Pàdraig a mhac 'na sheasamh ann an àite sònraidhte m'a choinneamh, agus Mac 'Ic Ailein agus a Bhan-tighearna agus an strainnsear a bha còmhla riu 'nan seasamh air leac a' ghradanaidh agus a bhith a' faicinn ciamar a bhiodh a' chùis.

Thug Gille-Pàdraig saighead as a' bhlag-saighead agus chuir e sìos i fo ghartan na coise deise, agus tharraing e saighead eile as a' bhalg agus chuir e sìos fo ghartan na coise clì i. Chaidh an t-ubh an uair sin a chur air mullach cinn a mhic.

"Siuthad, a mhic!" arsa Gille-Pàdraig, "tionndaidh do chùl rium."

"Cha ruig mi a leas, athair," arsa a mhac, "a chionn, ma nì sibhse mo dheifir-sa, chan ann agaibhse a bhios a' choire."

Thug an uair sin Gille-Pàdraig an treas saighead as a' bhalg agus chuir e anns a' bhogha i, agus ghabh e deagh chuimse, agus leig e air falbh an t-saighead, agus chaith e an t-ubh do na speuran!

"Glé mhath!", arsa Mac 'Ic Ailein, "tha mi toilichte gun d'rinn thu an gnìomh ann an làthair an t-strainnseir a tha ann an seo bharr Tìr-mór, agus fios agam nach 'eil duine air an oighreachd aige-san a dheanadh a leithid. Ach an innis thu a nis dhomh gu dé an reusan a bha agad air saighead a chur fo gach gartan an toiseach?"

"Bha," arsa Gille-Pàdraig, "nam bithinn-sa air beud a dheanamh do mo mhac, bhiodh an darra té dhiubh annadsa, agus an té eile anns a' Bhan-tighearna!"

"Falbh! Falbh!" arsa Mac 'Ic Ailein, "chan 'eil reusan a bhith riut."

Dhealaich Gille-Pàdraig agus Mac 'Ic Ailein gu càirdeil an uair sin, agus dh'fhalbh e fhéin agus a mhac dhachaigh do na Geàrrachan, agus cha deachaidh an còrr dioghaltais a dheanamh air air son an duine a mharbh e anns an taigh-mhàil ann an Loch Aoineart.

* * * *

A complete set of the Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness has been presented to the library of the House of Commons by Mr. Jack Macleod, M.P. for Ross and Cromarty.

Secretary's Notes

Manchester

ON 19th March I was able to fulfil a promise made at the National Mod last year to visit the Comunn Branch in Manchester. This is a singular Branch in that it is the only Branch of An Comunn in England. Despite the wintry conditions at the time, I was eagerly looking forward to this visit, and hoped that a further fall of snow would not force me to abandon the journey. My wife accompanied me, and, despite snow and frost, we had a most comfortable journey. On our arrival we received a very warm welcome from our hostess, Miss Ronnie MacFadyen, who is Secretary of the Manchester Gaelic Choir.

Before the Ceilidh we were introduced to all the members present. The Branch President, Dr. Marian Maxwell Reekie, presided over a well-filled hall. This was a "local" talent night, and I was surprised at the number of artistes who contributed to the Gaelic part of the programme. Evidence of the good work being done by the Manchester Gaelic Study Circle was apparent when one listened to the soloists and the Gaelic Choir under their conductor, Mr. P. G. Curley. Native speakers are in the minority, and Mr. William G. MacDonald who teaches the language must be congratulated on the good results achieved. Solo and Choir items were interspersed with Scottish Country Dancing. It was interesting to meet "exiles" from Harris, Lewis, Mull, and Skye, who are painstaking in their efforts to teach Gaelic to all who are interested in acquiring the language. Needless to say, the piper at the Ceilidh was of Uist descent. During the evening I was given an opportunity to address the gathering on the work of An Comunn.

Killin

More recently I paid my first visit to the Killin Branch. The Branch Ceilidh on 11th March was very well attended, there being around two hundred people in the audience. The Branch President, Dr. MacColl, was in the Chair. A first-class programme, consisting of Gaelic and Scots songs, dances, and instrumental music, was submitted. This Branch is fortunate in that a commodious hall is at their disposal for Ceilidhs, but unfortunately there are many other associations in Killin and the Committee are unable to book the hall as often as they would wish. I was afforded the opportunity of speaking to the gathering on the aims and work of An Comunn. On this occasion Mrs. Macleod and myself received kind hospitality from Mr. Neil McGill, the local schoolmaster, who is Secretary of the Branch.

M. M.

"Nochd Gun Chadal"

By KATHERINE DOUGLAS, Peinora, Kilmuir, Skye.

(This song, composed in June 1950, depicts the doubts and fears assailing the mind of a maiden, while awaiting the return of her lover from the sea, when his boat has not returned to port at the expected time.)

KEY Ab *Plaintively*

CHORUS.

{ | I₁ : - : t₁ | d.m : - : - | r : - : d | t₁.s₁ : - : - | }

Nochd gun chadal, 's raoir gun chadal,

{ | I₁ : - : t₁ | d,r : - : - | m : - : r | m : - : - | }

Nochd gun chadal Hù - ro i;

{ | m : - : s | l : - : s | m : - : r | m.s₁ : - : - | }

Raoir 'sa nochd 's gach oidhch' gun chadal,

{ | I₁ : - : t₁ | d : - : m | m : - .r : t₁ | I₁ : - : - || }

O gur maigh - dean bhrònach mi.

VERSE 1.

{ : (I₁) | d : - : r | m : - : r | m : - : r | m : - : s₁ | }

Di - luain an uair a thriall am bà - ta,

{ : (.s₁) | s₁ : d : m | s : - : l | l : s : m | I₁ : - : - | }

Leis na h - ias - gair - ean air sgrìob;

{ : t₁ | d : - : r | m : - : s | l : - : s | m.r : d : | }

Bha fuaim a' chuain 'nam chluais a' gàirich,

{ : I₁ | d : - : I₁ | m₁ : - : m | m : - .r : t₁ | I₁ : - : - || }

"Gu bràth cha till do ghràdh, cha till!"

Chorus:—

Nochd gun chadal, 's raoir gun chadal,
Nochd gun chadal hù-ro-i;
Raoir 's a nochd 's gach oidhch' gun chadal,
O gur maighdean bhrònach mi.

3. An oidhch' o dheireadh fhuaire mi cadal
B'e aising deurach buair mo chridh',
'Nad éiginn bha thu, luaidh 's a chagair,
Mu ghrundd a' chuain 's tu fad o thir.

1. Di-luain an uair a thriall am bàta
Leis na h-iasgairan air sgrìob,
Bha fuaim a' chuain 'nam chluais a' gàirich,
"Gu bràth cha till do ghràdh, cha till!"

4. Ach nuair a dhùisg mi anns a' mhadainn,
Thàinig dòchas ùr do m' chridh';
Bha smeòrach briodal riom le caithream,
"O thig e, thig e, 's bi aig sith!"

2. O 's truagh nach robh mi 'm mhaighdean
mhara,
'N oidhche a chaill sibh cùrs' sa' chèò;
Stiùirinn an culaidh dhuit gu cala,
'S bhiodh m'ulaidh leam an Tir-nam-beò.

5. Ach 's mi bhiodh mùirneach, 's e bu diù leam,
Mo mhàthair chiùin bhith nochd san tìr,
Is mi 'nam phàisdean, 's i 'gam thulgadh,
'S chaidlinn sona, 's bhithinn aig sith.

(N.B.—Anyone not wishing to sing the whole song may sing the stanzas 1, 3, and 4, and it will be quite suitable.—K.D.)

(We are grateful to Mrs. Douglas for allowing us to publish this song, which we heard sung at the Skye Provincial Mod at Portree last summer.—Ed.)

Story of An Comunn

By THE EDITOR

IV—THE FIRST MOD

IT is a measure of the extraordinary growth of An Comunn Gaidhealach and of the Mod that, while today a Mod fund of £2,000 is considered necessary for every National Mod, the first Mod was prepared for with less than £50 in hand.

The meeting of Executive Council held at Callander on 26th September, 1891, instructed the Secretary to call the next meeting of Council at Callander "about Christmas-time," but there was no meeting in December, and the Council next met at Oban on 4th May, 1892, when there were present: Mr. H. G. Clements (Chairman), Donald MacKay (Treasurer), J. M. Campbell, Provost McIsaac, John Campbell (Secretary), George Henderson, Dr. Campbell, Bailie McCowan, and John Munro. The Treasurer reported a balance of £24 7s 6d in Bank after payment of all accounts up to date. "He also stated that he found it impossible to carry on the work of Treasurer, and it was remitted to the Finance Committee to find an Assistant or interim Treasurer."

Arrangements

"The Prize List and Conditions were read over and confirmed. It was explained that as many as possible of the absent members had been consulted and that they concurred in the Prize List and Conditions. It was intimated that Lord Archibald Campbell was to give a prize for Harp-playing. After discussion, the Secretary was instructed to engage the Argyllshire Gathering Hall, Oban, for the day and evening before the Argyllshire Gathering Games for the first Mod or Annual Gathering of the Association, and to pay the extra demanded by the Contractor for extra labour involved, amounting to £24 10s. It was agreed to intimate to the newspapers the date and place of meeting. The advertising and general arrangements as to the meeting were remitted to a Sub-Committee consisting of Provost McIsaac, Messrs. J. M. Campbell, H. G. Clements, Dr. Campbell, Donald MacKay (or Interim Treasurer), and John Campbell (Secretary), with power to add to their number."

There follows a minute of meeting of "above Sub-Committee" held in the Secretary's office on 6th July, 1892. Present: Messrs. McIsaac (Chairman), Dr. Campbell, John Campbell (Secretary), and J. MacMaster Campbell, and H. G. Clements. The Secretary said he was willing to act as Interim Treasurer until the Annual Business Meeting, in room of Mr. Donald MacKay.

Another meeting of Sub-Committee was held on 9th August, those present being: Messrs. McIsaac (Chairman), H. G. Clements, J. MacMaster Campbell, Dr. Campbell, and John Campbell (Secretary). "The following Judges were appointed for the Competitions on 13th September 1892:—

"For Singing and Harp-playing. Messrs. Allan MacBeth (Principal of the Glasgow Athenaeum), with Dr. Stewart (Nether Lochaber) and Mr. Malcolm Macfarlane, Paisley.

"Poetry and Prose. Dr. Stewart, Henry Whyte (Fionn), and Malcolm Macfarlane.

"Recitation. Dr. Stewart, Henry Whyte (Fionn), and Malcolm Macfarlane.

"Harmony. Mr. MacBeth alone.

"Mr. Fraser Mackintosh's Prize was left to the judgment of the Gaelic Society of London.

"The Oban Burgh Medal. Pipe-Major Ronald Mackenzie.

"For admission during the day, 1/-."

The Faithful Few

Writing many years later, MacMaster Campbell reminisced as follows:—

"When the last day for individual entries had almost approached, and it was found that these were, for all subjects, to be numbered on the fingers of one hand, there was something approaching dismay among the local members. Stock was taken of all possible competitors throughout the districts of Lorn and Mull, and the names of several of these were entrusted to each member of the local executive, who pledged themselves to exert what influence they could to secure further entries. The expedients to which these zealous committee-men had to resort to capture competitors were both curious and amusing."

There is no account of the Mod in the Minute-books of An Comunn, and what follows has been gleaned from several sources—*The Oban Times*, *The Celtic Monthly*, and the reminiscences of persons who were present.

The first National Mod was held in the Argyllshire Gathering Hall, Oban, on 13th September, 1892. It was a fine, sunny day, and Oban looked its best. The town was busy as usual, but there was little interest in the historic gathering taking place that day. Proceedings began at 11 a.m. and were all over by 3 p.m. There was a fair attendance of the general public, along with the small band of enthusiasts, among them the four pioneers, John Campbell, John MacMaster Campbell, Dugald MacIsaac, and Hugh MacCowan. Lord Archibald Campbell presided, and among the representatives of leading Argyll families present was Princess Louise, Marchioness of Lorne. There were speeches by Dr. Alex. Stewart ("Nether Lochaber") and MacMaster Campbell, and thereafter the competitions began.

There were eight competitions altogether, and the competitors were correspondingly few. The first four competitions were oral, and the largest number competing in any one of them was six, but what was lacking in numbers was compensated for in quality, even if only one competitor is recalled, Neil Ross, later President of An Comunn and editor of this Magazine.

Neil Ross Inspires

"The first competition, which was decided before the audience," said *The Celtic Monthly*, "was that of Gaelic Reading or Recitation, and the first prize was easily carried away by Mr. Neil Ross, Glendale, who, appearing in a neat Highland dress, recited with captivating power and grace that patriotic poem by Mr. Neil Macleod, the Skye bard, 'Am faigh a' Ghàidhlig bàs?' Even those who did not understand the language had no difficulty in realising the dramatic power of the reader. The burden of this poem is that the Gaelic shall not die—and when we recollect that there are over 250,000 people in Scotland who speak the language, we need not be surprised at the hopeful tones in which Mr. Ross declaimed the poem."

MacMaster Campbell's account of Ross's heartening performance is as follows:—

"It is sufficient to know that when the morning of the first Mod dawned, the Association was in a position to challenge the world with a respectable number of competitions and an equally respectable number of competitors. But it was nevertheless with extreme trepidation that we posted the officials at the door—a trepidation which the performance of the first few

competitors did not perceptibly ally. It was not till, in the tartan of his clan, Neil Ross stepped upon the platform, that our courage began to grow; and when, by-and-bye, the audience rose like one man to his bold declamation of 'Chan fhaigh a' Ghàidhlig bàs,' we felt that our first Mod was saved. Mr. Ross, then a young student, gave the tone to all the subsequent competitions and competitors, and at the close of the day the new venture was universally voted successful beyond our hopes."

Màiri Mhór nan Oran

"The Skye poetess (Mrs. Mary Macpherson) introduced this competition (female voices). She shook hands with all the gentlemen on the platform, and then invaded the judges' portion of the platform, shaking hands very heartily with the Rev. Dr. Stewart, who conducted her to the singer's desk amid applause; Mrs. Macpherson sang 'Breacan Màiri Uisdein.' She was not in good voice, but her song was listened to with the greatest respect and attention. It should be mentioned that before she sang she eulogised Lord Archibald Campbell for his defence of the tartan. Lord Archibald Campbell, at the conclusion of her song, conducted the Skye poetess off the platform in the most chivalrous and thoughtful fashion, amid loud applause." (*The Oban Times*.)

"The solo singing for female voices was one of the most interesting events on the programme, but the judges could have but little difficulty in deciding who the first-prize taker should be, as Miss A. Mackechnie, Oban, by her sweet and sympathetic rendering of the late D. Macphail's beautiful song, 'An t-Eilean Muileach,' carried all before her. Miss Mackechnie has a sweet voice, and every word was enunciated with remarkable clearness and without the least taint of *Blas na Beurla* or affectedness. The second prize was won by Miss Mary Macdonald, a member of St. Columba Gaelic Choir—a native of Tiree, for an excellent rendering of 'Fear a' Bhàta.'"

(*The Celtic Monthly*.)

"An Dubh-Ghleannach"

"The competition in Solo Singing did not bring forward so many competitors as we would have liked. While the first-prize taker sang a sweet taking melody with considerable taste and culture, there is no doubt that the song rendered by Mr. Angus Macdonald, Glencoe, who was adjudged second, was the more characteristic of the two. The song, which is more of the nature of a recitative, was the graphic description of a boat called 'An dubh ghleannach,' as she weathered a terrific storm. The reciter was thoroughly familiar with his subject and did the composition every justice." (*The Celtic Monthly*.)

"Angus Macdonald, Glencoe, had a wonderful command of the Gaelic, and was of all the singers completely at home in his part. He sang an old composition entitled 'An Dubh Ghleannach.' Macdonald was ten minutes on the platform, pouring out a stream of the best Gaelic possible, but with no culture or cadence. He was listened to with astonishment by the audience, who probably never heard such a stream of Gaelic song from the throat of any character—professional or amateur.

"James MacMillan, Fort William, sang 'Màiri Bhàn Dhail an Eas.' He had pianoforte accompaniment, which is rather modern for the language spoken in Eden." (*The Oban Times*.)

Clarsach and Choirs

"The president of the Mod, Lord Archibald Campbell, being anxious to revive the playing of the

Highland harp, or *clarsach*, offered a valuable prize for the best Gaelic song, with accompaniment on the *clarsach* by the singer. Two only competed—Miss Kate Macdonald and Miss Lizzie B. Mackay, both members of St. Columba Choir, Glasgow, and, being equal, the prize was divided.

"The Choir competition was, without doubt, the leading feature of the Mod. Four choirs entered the lists—two being connected with Oban, one from Glasgow, and one from Ballachulish. The honours were easily carried away by the St. Columba Choir, Glasgow (Mr. Archibald Ferguson, conductor). The second prize was divided between the Oban Choir (Mr. Clements, conductor) and the Ballachulish Choir, conducted by Mr. D. Ferguson, the judges being unable to decide which of them excelled. For clear enunciation and a firm grip of the words the Ballachulish Choir outstripped the others." (*The Celtic Monthly*.)

The Prize-List

The Prize-List of the first National Mod was as follows:—

Gaelic prose—1, John MacFadyen, Glasgow; 2, Ewan Macdonald, London.

Recitation—1, Neil Ross, Glendale; 2, Archibald Muon, Oban.

Original poem or song—1, Neil Ross, Glendale; 2, Alexander Macdonald, Inverness.

Translation from Gaelic poetry—1, A. Stewart, Glenlyon; 2, Rev. N. Campbell, Kilchrenan.

Solo singing (female voices)—1, Miss M. A. Mackechnie, Oban; 2, Miss Mary Macdonald, Glasgow.

Solo Singing (male voices)—1, K. D. Mackenzie, Glasgow; 2, Angus Macdonald, Glencoe.

Clarsach competition—1 (equal), Miss Kate Macdonald, Glasgow, and Miss Lizzie B. Mackay, Glasgow.

Best harmony of any Gaelic air—1, H. G. Clements, Oban; 2, Archibald Ferguson, Glasgow.

Choral competition—1, St. Columba Gaelic Choir, Glasgow; 2, (equal) The Oban Gaelic Musical Association; Ballachulish Gaelic Choir.

Concert and Dinner

"The Gaelic Concert, held in the evening, was (reported *The Celtic Monthly*) an unqualified success, being attended by Royalty itself—the Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne being present, as well as the aristocracy of the county. The programme was sustained by Miss Jessie N. MacLachlan, the ever-popular Gaelic vocalist, and the successful choirs and soloists." Jessie MacLachlan had the previous week sung Gaelic songs in the presence of Queen Victoria in Balmoral Castle.

After the Concert, those who had taken part were piped from the hall by the Inveraray Pipe Band to the Alexandra Hotel, where they were the guests to dinner of Lord Archibald Campbell, President of An Comunn.

First Annual Business Meeting

The proceedings at the Mod having been completed by 3 p.m., the first Annual Business Meeting of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held that afternoon "at the conclusion of the first Mod." Fifteen persons are named as having been present, but possibly these are the names of members of Council present. Those named are: Magnus Maclean (Chairman), Dr. McNicol, Dr. McDiarmid, Alex. Carmichael, Dr. N. M. Campbell, Malcolm Macfarlane, Donald Mackay (Ledaig), J. G. Mackay (Portree), T. D. Macdonald, H. G. Clements, Henry Whyte, Dr. Blair, John Campbell (Ledaig), and John MacMaster Campbell, and John Campbell (Secretary and Acting Treasurer).

The Secretary's statement of accounts and auditors' report were submitted and approved. Lord Archibald

Campbell was re-elected President, and the Vice-Presidents were re-elected with the addition of the Rev. J. G. MacNeill, Cawdor. Mr. John Campbell was re-elected Hon. Secretary and "Mr. John Mackintosh, Ivy Bank, Oban, was appointed Treasurer and Acting Secretary at a salary of £10 per annum." (This was the first paid-appointment made by An Comunn). The Executive Council was re-elected with the exception of Professor Campbell Black and Mr. Maitland Malcolm, and with the addition of Dr. R. C. MacDiarmid, Whiteinch, Mr. Archibald Sinclair, Printer, Glasgow, and Mr. John Campbell, Postmaster, Ledaig ("Bàrd na Leideige").

"It was agreed that the next year's Mod be held at Oban about the same time as this, the Secretary to fix the exact date later on, and the Executive to do their best to obtain such local support as would justify the Association holding the Mod at Inverness in the succeeding year."

"An application was read from Mr. John Cameron, S.S.C., Secretary of the Clan Cameron Society, that the Association should subscribe towards a memorial to the late Mrs. Mary McKellar. The meeting was of opinion that they had no power to vote money from the funds but that it heartily recommended members to subscribe individually."

The Council was also to have representatives "from each of the following Societies which have affiliated for the current year":—The London Argyllshire Association (Mr. Alex. Robertson, Chemist, Oban), The Clan Grant Society (Mr. James Grant, Hillhead, Glasgow—now commemorated by the "James Grant Memorial Prizes" at the National Mod) An Comunn Ieanch, Glasgow (Mr. Duncan Brock, Glasgow), and The Clan Campbell Society (Councillor Angus Campbell, Writer, Glasgow).

Arranging for Second Mod

The Executive Council met at Callander on 15th October, 1892, when Mr. Peter Macleod presided. A letter was read intimating that the Directors of the Clan Macleod Society had agreed to affiliate with the Association and had appointed Mr. Malcolm Macleod as their representative on the Executive. This was their entry into An Comunn of one of its most notable leaders, later President from 1912 to 1918.

"A discussion took place as to the appointment of Judges at the recent Mod, and it was agreed that the appointment of Judges and important matters of that kind should be fixed by Executive Council." "It was agreed to advertise next year's Mod shortly in each of the papers in which the Mod was formerly advertised, as also in *The Celtic Monthly* and *Highland Monthly*." The competitions were to be the same as last year, with the following changes—It was agreed to separate the Readings from the Recitations and give prizes for each. It was also agreed to have a competition for School or Junior Choirs, not exceeding 16 years of age, in two or three part harmony, not less than 9 voices to be in each choir. Messrs. Macfarlane, Clements, and Whyte (were) appointed to arrange songs for this competition. They were also appointed to fix four songs for the adult choir competitions, and songs for soloists."

"It was agreed that the subject of competition for the Oban Burgh Medal be a pibroch, the Town Council to be asked to agree to this." "It was also agreed that there be a competition for writing Gaelic to dictation, competitors under 16 years of age." "It was agreed that from and after this meeting "the members of Executive Council should receive their travelling expenses attending meetings of Executive Council."

The next meeting was held in the Waverley Temperance Hotel, Glasgow, on 2nd June, 1893. Mr. Malcolm Macleod was present for the first time. A

letter was read from Mr. Archibald Ferguson, "Leader of the St. Columba Gaelic Choir, offering on behalf of his Choir £1/- each to the best male and female juvenile singers under 15." The School Reading Book for Gaelic as a Specific Subject was submitted by Mr. Macfarlane. It was agreed to have the book printed, cloth-bound and published at 1/-. 1,000 copies were to be printed at a little over £18. Copies were to be sent to the various School Boards. "It was agreed that the Mod be held on the day preceding the Argyllshire Gathering . . . (that) the competitions should all take place on the one day, and it was thought desirable that there should be two concerts, one on the night of the Competitions and the other on the following night." The arrangements for these were left with the Oban Committee. The following Judges were appointed:—

Musical (Choral and Solos)—Messrs. Allan McBeth, Henry Whyte, and Malcolm Macfarlane.

Poetry and Prose—Messrs. Neil Macleod, Duncan Reid, and Rev. Alex. Stewart (Nether Lochaber). "If Mr. Macleod is to be a competitor, Mr. Macfarlane was appointed in his room as Judge."

Reading and Recitation—Rev. Alex. Stewart and Messrs. Henry Whyte and Malcolm Macfarlane.

Dictation—Messrs. Duncan Reid and Magnus Maclean.

Sgeulachd—Rev. Mr. MacDougall, Duror, and Rev. D. McInnes, Oban.

Toimhseachain a Sgoil Bhreidhig

1. Cho uaine ri feur, 's chan e feur e.
Cho dearg ri fuil 's chan e fuil e.
Cho dubh ri fitheach 's chan e fitheach e.
2. Fear fada caol dubh,
'S a bhràthair air a mhuin,
A mhionach ag éigheach,
'S cha chan e fhéin guth.
3. Théid e null air an abhainn;
Thig e null air an abhainn;
Innsidh e sgeulachd,
'S cha chan e fhéin guth.
4. Choinhead mi mach air uinneag mo sheanamhar,
Is chunnaic mi a' mharbh a' tarraing a' bheò.
5. Cròg mhór nan cóig uamhachan.

Freagairt nan Toimhseachan.—(1) Smeuran. (2) Taigh-tughaidh. (3) Litir. (4) Sgoth le daoine. (5) Miotag.

The Rev. Angus Duncan, B.D., a native of Harris and for many years a valued contributor to this and other periodicals on Gaelic and Highland subjects, has received an appointment at the School of Scottish Studies in Edinburgh University. We understand he is to devote himself to the indexing of the extensive Gaelic folklore collection.

Na Fiacan-Fuadain

A Pheigi, a bhrònag,

Seo sgrìobag a gheall mi, is (a dh'innse na firinn) cha mhòr mo chàil gu sgrìobhadh is mo bheul cho goirt, ach feumaidh mi faochadh air chor-eigin fhaighinn, 's bho nach téid agam air bruidhinn riùsan a tha mun cuairt orm tha e cho math dhomh litir a sgrìobhadh chugad fhéin.

Ma thà, bha mo bheul cho goirt is nach tàinig facal asam fad an fheasgair, agus is ann a thuir Fearchar, an duine aig Iseabail, "Nach e bodach nam fiacan am balach, an uair a chuir e glas-ghuib air Raonaid againne!" Bha Fearchar riamh 'na bhurraidh! Car son a phòs Iseabail riamh e chan aithne dhòmhsa! Ach tha e laghach gu leòir 'na dhòigh fhéin, an duine bochd; nach ann a thairig e pìos aran-coirce a chagnadh dhomh aig àm na tea.

Ach, a Pheigi, feumaidh mi innse dhuit. Dh'fhalbh Iseabail leam do thaigh an deudair an déidh na dinnearach, 's an déideadh 'gam léireadh. Leum sinn air bus is am prìoba na sùla ràinig sinn is leum sinn dheth, is eadar gach leum a bh'ann agus gach leum is tulgadh a rinn an carbad mosach gleadhrach cha mhòr nach deach mi seachad leis a' chràdh a bh'anns a' chùlaig mhóir 's i dìreach air a' chridhe a thoirt asam.

Ràinig sinn doras mòr an deudair 's mi eadar a bhith am fhallus 's am chrith, 's thug Iseabail tarraing air clagan an doruis. Cha luaithe a rinn an clagan faram a staigh na dh'fhalbh an déideadh ormsa. Rud miorbhuilteach! Cha robh smid ceàrr orm. Chaidh a' chùlag ghrànda 'na tàmh, rud nach d' rinn i o oidhche Shamhna 's mi a' cnagadh cnò do Ruairidh beag Uisdein.

"Tiugainn dhachaigh, Iseabail," arsa mise, 's mi 'ga slaodadh air falbh o'n doras. "Chan 'eil feum agamsa air deudair no deudair. Chan 'eil fhios dé thug an seo sin. Nach e busaichean Ghlaschu fhéin a tha foghainteach, an uair a chuireas iad cabhaig ris an déideadh!"

"Is sinn nach téid dhachaigh," arsa Iseabail, 's i caran crosda. "Leig mise seachad mo chothrom air seasamh san t-sreath aig bùth an fhineadair ach am faighinn bonnach milis, 's air m'fhacal chan ann gu bhith a' triall leatsa air feadh a' bhaile a rinn mi sin. Fan far a bheil thu. Cha luaithe a bhios tu aig an taigh na thòisicheas an déideadh a rithist. A seo cha ghluais mi."

Ach mun d'fhuair i an còrr ri ràdh, 's mar tha fhios agad fhéin chan 'eil Iseabail chòir gann de fhacail uair sam bith, dh'fhosgail an doras is thòis caileag is còta fada geal oirre is threòraich i a staigh sinn gu seòmar mòr farsaing. Bha triùir a staigh romhainn—

cailleachag bheag is coltas a' chuthaich oirre, agus boireannach òg slioma is gille beag air a glùn 's e a' rànaich.

"Gun bhuaidh air!" arsa mise rium fhéin, "'s ann a tha e a' fàgail mo chinn goirt," is thuir mi ri Iseabail os ìosal, "'B'fheàrr leam gun dùnadh am brogach sin a bheul; tha e a' toirt air a' chùlaig leum a thoirt aise a rithist."

Ach chuala màthair a' bhalachain mi, 's thug i an t-sùil ud orm, is an uair a thug cò bh'agam ach Oighrig nighean Cheit Eachainn. Shaoileadh tu gur i bean a' mhorair a bh'inn te 's i cho math air a gabhail aice. Nach e maighdeanan a' bhaile againn a tha air togail orra! Is math a tha cuimhne agamsa air an t-seòrsa creutair stiallach a bh'inn te mus do phòs i an gille glas a' Gobhan a thachair oirre ri linn a' chògaidh 's i anns na "Waafs."

Thòisich, ma thà, an seachas, ach an ceann tacain thàinig caileag a' chòta ghil a dh'iarraidh na cailliche. Bha mi fhéin a' cumail cluais bhioraich ris an doras feuch dé a chluinninn. Agus, a Pheigi, nach do thòisich fuaim is turaraich mar gum biodh beairt an t-seann "Ghlenceo" (bheil cuimhne agad oirre, a Pheigi, seann bhàta Phort-rìgheadh? Nach iomadh uair a bha sinn air a clàr!).

"Gu dé am mallachd a tha siud?" arsa mise.

"Siud agad," arsa Oighrig, "an deudair ag iomairt a bheairt 's e a' toirt nam fiacan as a' chaillich."

"Beannaich mise!" arsa mise, "'S ann 'na closaich a thig i mach. Tha mise a' falbh!"

"Air do shocair," arsa Iseabail 's i a' breith orm, "chan eagal duit!"

"Eagal!" arsa mise, "'b' fheàrr leam fichead uair an Gobha Mór e fhéin a thoirt na chùlaig asam leis an teanchair. Nach mise gu robh 'nam bhòthan fhéin a rithist, déideadh ann no as!"

Bha mi 'nam fhallus, ach an tiota thàinig a' chaileag bhàn a dh'iarraidh Oighrig 's an leanabh, 's an ceann tacain eile 's mi ag ochanaich rium fhéin air eagal gun cluinneadh Iseabail mi, 's i cho fanaideach, thugadh a staigh sinn do'n t-seòmar oillteil.

Neo-ar-thaing mur an robh coltas laghach gu leòir air an fhear a bh'ann—duine àrd caol is còta geal air fhéin, ach, a chiall, nam faicheadh tusa, a Pheigi, na bha de ghnothaichean san rùm ud! Ach mus d'fhuair mi cothrom sealltainn mun cuairt dh'iar bodach nam fiacan orm gu modhail suidhe ann an cathair neònach a bh'aige an siud is thuir e rium mo bheul fhosgladh. Rinn mise sin is thug e treis ag amharc a staigh.

“Feumaidh iad tighinn asad, a h-uile gin aca,” arsa esan.

“An tà,” arsa mise, “is iad nach tig. Chan 'eil grid dhiubh ach a' chùlag mhór a fhuair an damaist oidhche Shamhna.”

Thòisich iad orm, e fhéin is Iseabail, is mu dheireadh bha mi cho seachd searbh 's gun dubhairt mi ris, “Thoir leat na thogras tu, mo cheann 's gu léir!” Ach, arsa mise rium fhéin, “Is math a dh'aithnich mi ort, a bhlaoghdair mhosaich, gun sinedh tu air droch riasladh a dheanamh orm; cha bu tu fhéin an Dotair Bàn còir againn fhéin; is bochd nach d'fhàg mi a' chùlag air a chùram-san!”

“Bheir mi dhuit toit de ghas,” arsa bodach nam faclan, “'s cha bhí faireachadh agad air an toirt asad.”

“Tà, is sibh nach toir an seo sifeadh de ghas dhòmhsa,” arsa mise. “Shaoil leam gur e Hitler 's a sheòrsa a bhiodh a' maoidheadh air daoine le gas, agus co-dhiubh thilg mise do'n t-sitig o chionn fhada a' chidhis-ghas a bh'agam fad a' chogaidh.”

Rinn fear a' chòta bhàin lasgan mór gàire, chaog e a shùil ri Iseabail is stob e pìobag chaol fo mo shròin is thuit mi seachad.

Bha na h-eòin a' ceileireadh is an t-alltan beag a' crònaich is mi fhéin a' faireachadh cho suilbhir ait, an uair a chuala mi guth Iseabail.

“Tha i a' tighinn chuige,” arsa ise.

“Tha,” arsa guth eile.

Dh'fhosgail mi mo shùilean, 's an tuainealach uamhasach ud 'nam cheann, is nach ann a bha mi ann an cathair mhóir an deudair 's e fhéin fa mo chomhair is cóig faclan móra grànda aige air méis.

“A shiorraidh againne!” arsa mise, “cò leis iad?”

“Tha leat fhéin, a bhana-charaid,” ars esan, “ach cha chuir iad dragh ort tuilleadh.”

“A shealbh,” arsa mise, “an do thuit iad asam? Cha d'fhairich mi diog.”

“'S iad nach do thuit,” arsa Iseabail, “'s ann a tha an duine bochd air e fhéin a shàrachadh 'gan slaodadh asad. Nach ann a bha e a toirt 'nam chuimhne an oidhche a bha gillean a' bhaile a' slaodadh an tairbh odhair as an t-sùil-chruthaich.”

“Seo,” arsa bodach nam faclan, “thoir sgladh air do bheul le sin.” Is shin e dhomh làn glaine de stuth air chor-eigin.

“Air bhur slàinte, a dhuine,” arsa mise, is chuir mi ri mo cheann e.

“Stad ort,” dh'èigh e; “na òl e. Gabh balgam 's cuir a mach e.”

“Gonadh ort,” arsa mise, “tha mi air mo phuinnseanachadh agad!”

“Chan eagal duit,” arsa esan.

Ma tà, a Pheigi, cha robh an sin ach a' cheud latha. Chaidh mi fhéin is Iseabail a choimhead air a' bhodach ceithir turuis an déidh sin, agus is ann a dh'fhàs sinn glé chàirdeil. Agus, mu dheireadh thall, cha robh aon fhiaicail fhéin agam. Nach iongantach an rud e, a Pheigi, cha d'fhairich mi fhathast na faclan a' tighinn asam. Tha fhios gur e stuth math a th' anns a' ghas ud, ach neo-ar-thaing mur an robh goirteas 'nam bheul an déidh-làimhe! Ach co-dhiubh tha an déideadh air falbh, is mìle beannachd leis.

Ma tà, a Pheigi, a sheòid, tha agam ri fuireach an seo mìos eile gus am faigh mi faclan fuadain bhò'n deudair. Chan 'eil fhios ciamar a thèid agam leo. Cha mhór feum a rinn na faclan a chuir luchd-an-airm an Alasdair bochd. Tha iad grinn gu leòir 'na bheul; 's ann a ghabh mi gaol eile air a' cheud là a thàinig e dhachaigh leo, ach cha dean an gaol Alasdair còir a bheathachadh. Feumaidh mi an coire a chur air ach am bi strùpag againn.

Slàn leat, a Pheigi,

RAONaid.

Ann an Taigh Iain Aonghuis

A RSA Murchadh Mór rium, “Càit an robh thu a' céilidh an raoir?”

“Ann an taigh Iain Aonghuis.”

“Cò bh'ann?”

“Bha an taigh làn. An uair a thàinig Iain Dubh a steach, is ann anns a' chùil mhòna a rinn e sorchan dha fhéin. An uair a chaidh mi a steach, is Pàdraig air mo shàil, cha robh a staigh ach Dòmhnall air a' bheinge agus paipear-naidheachd sgaoilte air a' bheulaibh.”

Arsa Pàdraig, “A bheil dad anns a' phaipear a tha agad ann an sin?”

“Tha,” arsa Dòmhnall, “tha e làn, ach srionag gheal a tha sìos ris an oir, ceithir thimcheall.”

“Chan 'eil facal a their thu rium,” arsa Pàdraig, “nach 'eil cho cam ri W” (an litir W).

“Seadh,” arsa Dòmhnall, “no cho cam ris a' chrich a tha eadar an lot agad fhéin agus lot Thormaid Iain—thu fhéin a' tolladh innte an siud 's an seo, agus esan a' deanamh a leithid ceudna air an taobh eile. Ach tha rud anns a' phaipear agus is gann gun creid thu e. Tha an Riaghaltas a' dol a thoirt cóig tasdain san t-seachdain do na h-uile fear is té anns an Rìoghachd fhada as beò iad, aon uair is gun ruig iad trì fichead bliadhna 's a deich.”

“An ann an da-riribh a tha thu?”

“'S ann. Tha e an seo ann an dubh is an geal.”

"Nach greas iad orra ach an gabh mi aon daorach a bhios iomraiteach!"

Bha grunnan a nis air tighinn a steach agus arsa fear dhiubh, "Sin an seòrsa daoraich a ghabh thu an oidhche a chaidil thu air a' ghlasaich ann an Inbhir-Uige."

Arsa fear na cùil-mhòna, "Cha b'e smùid a chuir a chadal e an oidhche sin ach sgleog bho Ghallach anns an t-sabaid mhóir."

"Cha tug agus cha d'fhuair mise sgleog, ach fhuair na Gallaich barrachd air na thug iad. Thug iad na cùltean orra an uair a thòisich Aonghus Greum á Siadar a' sadadh nam baraillean sgadain 'nam measg!'"

"Chuala mi sin," arsa cuid-eigin, "ach a bheil e fìor?"

"Chan 'eil duine sam bith," thubhairt Pàdraig, "a chunnaic Clach Aonghuis Ghreum," a tha an cois an rathaid-mhóir eadar Barabhas agus Steòrnabhagh, nach creid gun tilgeadh am fear a chàirich a' chlach ud far a bheil i baraille sgadain thairis air a' ghualainn. Aig a' chùirt bha an Greumach air a' mhionnan agus cha b'urraim dha a ràdh an e baraillean no leth-bharaillean a bha e a' tilgeadh, an robh iad làn no falamh. Tha e cho furasda dhòmhsa a chreidsinn ri gu bheil mi fhéin a' dol a dh'fhaighinn crùin Di-haoine, agus nach 'eil an ath Dhi-haoine ach tiota air falbh. Tha mi a' dol dhachaigh leis an naidheachd gu Catrìona Liath. Ach, mar a thubhairt am bàrd, 'Tha dòrainn ceangailt' ri gach maith'. Chan 'eil fhios nach dean Murchadh, mo bhràthair, a tha 'na bhantraich, an donas leis a' chrùn!'"

A. M.

Reviews

"A HISTORY OF SCOTLAND," Book I. By I. M. M. Macphail. (Edward Arnold, London, 256pp., 6/6).

Dr. Iain Macphail, who is Principal Teacher of History in Clydebank High School, has had published the first volume of a two-volume "History of Scotland for Schools." Book I covers the period from the earliest times to 1747.

There are several very good short histories of Scotland already available, but this new one has special features which will, we hope, commend it, not only to school-teachers, but to the general public, and especially all interested in the Highlands. In this book much greater prominence is given to the history of Celtic Scotland, and the author, himself a Highlander, has not been sparing in the use of Gaelic names, terms, and phrases—and all accurately used and correctly spelt. While political history takes up most of the narrative, considerable space is devoted to economic and social history, while there are frequent references to the art and literature of Scotland. In the chapter on "The

End of the Middle Ages," Dr. Macphail, writing of the reigns of James IV and James V as "The Golden Age of Scottish Literature," says, "It would be wrong, however, to think that the Scots had no literature before this time. We must remember that up to the sixteenth century probably the majority of Scotsmen still spoke Gaelic." He goes on to mention the Old Gaelic manuscripts, such as the Book of Deer, the Book of the Dean of Lismore, and the ancient tales and ballads of Gaelic Scotland. The chapter on "The Highlands and Islands under James VI" is of special value. The book is well supplied with illustrations, maps, and plans, and a useful Time Chart. There is an excellent index. We look forward to Book II.

"CLAN MACLEOD MAGAZINE," 1955. Edited by the Rev. Donald Mackinnon (Published by the Clan Macleod Society).

This well-produced magazine makes its annual appearance, and, while of interest primarily to the clansfolk for whom it is chiefly intended, contains much that many others will be glad to read. The indefatigable Chief, Dame Flora Macleod of Macleod, having several times toured Canada and the U.S.A., has recently been to New Zealand and Australia, and she, more than any other person, has given the idea of Chiefship and Clanship a new importance in the modern world. Brenda Macleod writes about "A Skye Chief at Home," the Chief being Iain Breac who became Chief in 1664, "a patron of the arts," who gathered round him the best pipers, harpers, and bards of the day. On his death, a new regime began. The change forms the theme of the Blind Harper's "òran mór." Mr. Alick Morrison writes informatively about "The Old Macleods of Berneray, Harris." There are genealogical notes and queries, clan society news, obituaries, and a "Young Clansfolk's Page" with a Cross-word Puzzle.

Cha ghléidh thu clach anns a' chladach.

* * * *

Chi duine acrach fada uaithe.

* * * *

Cha diùlt peann breug.

* * * *

A' deanamh cuain mhóir de chaolas cumhang.

* * *

Tha an uaisle mar a chumar i.

* * *

Tha mi na's eòlaiche air coille na a bhith fo eagal na caillich-oidhche.

Treasurer's Notes

National Mod—Perth, 1954

Received at Perth—

Previously acknowledged	£2,326	4	10
Whist Drive Proceeds	5	5	—
	<u>2,331</u>	9	10

Less Expenses on Functions (already acknowledged gross) organised by Mod Local Committee	166	13	7
	<u>£2,164</u>	16	3

Received at Headquarters:—

Previously acknowledged	£237	15	—
The Celtic Society, Glasgow	4	10	—
Oban & Lorn Association	3	—	—
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Ceilidh nan Gaidheal	£5		
Glasgow Skye Association	5		
Clan Munro Association	3		
	—	13	—

236 5 —

Final Total as per Mod Account £2,401 1 3

Magazine Fund

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Balmacara Branch	12	—	—
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£116 18 2

* * * *

A Gaelic Society has been formed in Kirkcaldy, and the Hon. Secretary is Mr. Robert Blance. A Gaelic class is conducted by Mr. Alistair Macdonald, who belongs to South Uist.

Provincial and Local

Mods

Northern Area

April	29—Badenoch-Strathspye.
May	13—Wester Ross.
„	27—South-West Ross.
June	3—Sutherland.
„	16-17—Lewis.
„	21-22—Skye.
„	23—Lochaber.

Southern Area

April	23—Edinburgh.
May	13—Islay.
„	19-21—Glasgow (Central Branch).
June	3—Oban.
„	3—Perthshire.
„	21—Dalriada (Juniors only).
„	23—Mull.
„	28—Ardnamurchan.

Leabhran Feumail

“*Cainnt agus Facail Iomchuidh air son Coinnimh*”

Chan 'eil ach ochd taobhan-duilleig anns an leabhran a chuir Clann an Fhraoich a mach o chionn ghoirid mar sheòladh mu chainnt is mu fhacail iomchaidh air son coinnimh. Is iad seo na diùlnaich a tha air an ainmeachadh aig toiseach an leabhair, agus tuigidh sinn gur iad seo a chuir an leabhran ri chèile: Niall MacGille-sheathanaich, Dòmhnall MacPhàil, Dòmhnall Grandd, agus I.M. Moffatt-Pender.

Is math agus is feumail an obair a rinn iad. Neach sam bith a nì feum de'n leabhran seo, dearbhadh e dha féin is do dhaoine eile nach 'eil a' Ghàidhlig idir 'na teadhair no 'na glasg-ghuib ann an coinneamhan-gnothaich, agus gum faodar a h-uile nì a thoirt air aghaidh a cheart cho dòigheil soilleir an Gàidhlig is a nithear am Beurla.

Gheibhear an leabhran bho Oifis a' Chomuinn air prìs tasdain.

Gaelic Drama

The Community Drama movement has become increasingly popular in the Highlands. This year there were 106 entries for the Drama Festival in the Highland Division. Of these, however, only three were Gaelic, and all three were entered for the Stornoway Preliminary Festival.

Proposals are being considered with a view to encouraging more Gaelic Drama Groups.



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar VII

AN GIBLEAN, 1955

Aireamh 4

An "Cricket"

CHAN ann air a' Chluich a tha a mhiann orm sgrìobhadh aig an ám, ach air creutair beag ceòlar a gheibhear an cuid de thaighean. Tha e a' tighinn beò eadar a' chagailt agus toll na luatha, a' leumadaich mar siud is mar seo, agus ciamar nach 'eil e a' faighinn a sgiathan air an dathadh is ann aige féin as fearr a tha fios.

Tha am Foclair a' toirt dhuinn ainm Gàidhlig air a' chreutair seo, "Greollan"—ainm neobhòidheach, is cha do ghabh muinntir an eilein againne, co-chiubh, ris. A thaobh "Cuileag-theallaich, chan 'eil an sin ach mìneachadh air an t-seòrsa creutair a tha ann. Cha chuala mise riamh ach *Cricket* air, agus sin bho sheann daoine aig nach robh ach gann facal Beurla 'nan cinn. Bha am facal *Cricket* annasach leo, agus lean iad ris. Cha chreid mi gu bheil e lìonmhor air feadh na Gàidhealtachd, ach bhithheadh an comain neach sam bith a sgrìobhadh uime, ged nach biodh ann ach an t-ainm Gàidhlig air a bheil e aithnichte anns a' chearn anns a bheil iad a chòmhnaidh.

Tha an *Cricket* de'n aon ghnè ris an Leumadair-fheòir, no Fionnan-feòir, mar as fearr a thuigeas cuid. Bidh luchd-leughaidh na duilleig seo eòlach gu leòir air-san, oir tha mi cinnteach gur tric a chunnaic is a chuala iad e am measg an fheòir is na luachair, gu h-àraidh an uair a bhiodh beagan trìuchd orra agus a' ghrian a' deàrrsadh. Is ann le a bhith a' suathadh an casan is an sgiathan ri chéile a tha iad a' deanamh an fhuaim a thug a leithid de thoileachadh dhuinn an làithean ar n-òige. Tha dath bòidheach uaine air an Fhionnan-fheòir ("leumnach uaine" nam bàrd), ach chan 'eil mi cho cinnteach as an fhear eile, ach tha mi am beachd gur ann dorchadh-dhonn a tha e—dheanadh ceò na mòna an t-atharrachadh. Thèid agam air innse gu bheil an *Locust* de'n aon ghnè ris an dà chreutair cheòlar seo, ach cha bhì gnothach againn ris-san an dràsda.

Cha robh an *Cricket* anns a' chearna de'n eilean anns an d'fhuair mise m'àrach, ach bhithinn, 'nam bhalach beag, a' dol sgrìoban do Chnoc Crom a dh'fhaicinn piuthar màthar

dhomh. Bha teaghlach aice, co-aoisean ar teaghlach fhéin, agus mar sin cha bhiodh dìth companais no fearas-chuideachd orm. Ach is e gu mòr a b'fheàrr leamsa an uair a rachadh an lòchran a lasadh agus a chruinnicheadh mun cuairt na cagailte. Is ann an sin a rachadh an *Cricket* 'na ghleus, casan is sgiathan a' dol mar gum biodh figheadar nan spàl, agus creideadh sibhse gum b'e an ceòl ud a thug togradh is toil-intinn dhòmhsa! An uair a phillinn air ais do'n Bhuaille Bhuidhe, cha b' i a' cheud cheist a chuireadh piuthar no bràthair orm, "Ciamar a dh'fhàg thu iad an taigh Dhòmhnail Dhonn-chaidh?," ach "An cuala tu an *Cricket*?"

Tha iomadh là is bliadhna bho'n a bha mise an Cnoc Crom, agus chan 'eil fios agam co-dhiubh a tha no nach 'eil an *Cricket* a' cumail ciùil riutha fhathast. Chaidh innseadh domh gu bheil am beagan a tha air fhàgail ann air fàs cho Gallda is gun do sguir iad de bhuan mòna. Chan fhiach leo ach an gual dubh, agus tha eagal orm nach còrd sin cho math ris a' *Chricket*!

NIALL.

Cigein agus Cuaigein

CIGEIN agus Cuaigein là bha iad a' fuine an arain fhluir.

"Fuin fhéin e," arsa Cigein.

"Fuin fhéin e," arsa Cuaigein.

"Fuineamaid le chéile e," arsa Cigein.

"Mar sin fhéin e," arsa Cuaigein.

Dh'fhuin iad an t-aran.

"Bruich fhéin e," arsa Cigein.

"Bruich fhéin e," arsa Cuaigein.

"Bruicheadh le chéile e," arsa Cigein.

"Mar sin fhéin e," arsa Cuaigein.

Bhruich iad an t-aran.

An uair a bha am bonnach ullamh, leum e bharr a' ghreideil gu cùl an doruis. An uair a bha iad dìreach gus a bhith aige, rìghil e a mach air an dorus.

Bha am bonnach a' rìghleadh is a' rìghleadh gus an do thachair e air grunn robairan.

Dh'fhaighnich iad de'n bhonnach am faigh-eadh iad pìos dheth.

Thubhairt am bonnach nach fhaigheadh.
 “Thàinig mi o Chìgein is thàinig mi o Chuaigein is thàinig mi o chùl an doruis is, ma thoilicheas mi, thig mi bhuaibhse.”

Rìghil e air falbh is thachair e ri duine air muin eich. Dh'fhaighnich e am faigheadh e pìos dheth.

Thubhairt am bonnach nach fhaigheadh.
 “Thàinig mi o Chìgein is thàinig mi o Chuaigein is thàinig mi o chùl an doruis is o luchd na mollaich is, ma thogras mi, thig mi bhuaibhse.”

Leum an duine bharr an eich is rug e air a' bhonnach is rinn e dà leth air. Dh'ith e fhéin pìos dheth is thug e am pìos eile do'n each.

*Praivnseas MacAonghais (Aois 10).
 (Sgoil Bhrèithig am Barraidh).*

An Da Bhrathair

BHA dà bhràthair ann o chionn fhada. Bha iad pòsda le chéile, ach bha fear dhiubh bochd dheth agus bha am fear eile beartach. Bha teaghlach aig a' bhràthair bochd, ach cha robh duine teaghlach aig a' bhràthair bheartach.

B' àbhaist do'n bhràthair bochd a bhith a' dol a dh'iarraidh cuideachaidh air a' bhràthair bheartach. Bha e làthaichean gun a dhòl 'na chomhair, agus bha e a' gabhail fadachd nach robh e a' tighinn a dh'iarraidh rud. Thuirt a bhean ris, “Tha mo mhàthair a' fàs sean agus cuiridh sinn a null i ann an ciste le aran agus càise còmhla rihte, agus chì i troimh tholl iuchair na ciste dé tha dol.” Sin mar a rinn iad.

Bha latha de na làthaichean an t-acras air a' chloinn aig a' bhràthair bochd. Dh'fhosgail iad a' chiste, dh'ith iad an t-aran agus an càise agus thachd iad a' chailleach le pìos càise. An uair a thàinig am bràthair beartach a dh'iarraidh na ciste, bha a' chailleach marbh.

“O,” arsa a' bhean, “cha do chuir sinn uisge idir anns a' chiste agus chaidh a tachdadh.” Rinn iad tiodhlaiceadh na caillich.

Dh'fhalbh an seo gillean a' bhaile do'n chladh agus thug iad an t-anart thar na caillich agus thug iad do'n duine bochd e, agus chuir iad a' chailleach 'na seasamh ann an taigh a' bhràthair bheartach agus a dà làimh ann an crannachan. An uair a dh'èirich iad anns a' mhadainn, thuirt iad, “Cha d'rinn sinn tiodhlaiceadh ceart dhì.”

Rinn iad an sin a leithid eile le cuirm mhór. Dh'fhalbh iad do'n chladh leis a' chailleach ach bha gillean a' bhaile deas air an son a rithis. Thog iad a' chailleach uair eile agus thug iad an t-anart do'n duine bochd, agus air an turas seo cheangail iad a' chailleach ri loth anns an

stàbulla aig a' bhràthair bheartach. An uair a chaidh esan a mach anns a' mhadainn a leigil a mach nan each, dh'fhalbh an loth agus a' chailleach ceangailte sin a mach air an loch.

Sin mar a chuala mise.

*Bride NicNeill
 (Sgoil Bhrèithig, Eilean Bharraidh).*

Rocabarraidh

CHAIIDH ceathrar dhaoine a mach á Tangas-dail a dh'iasgach. Chuir iad na linn, ach an déidh dhaibh na linn a thogail thuit ceò trom orra is chaill iad an rathad. Mu dheireadh thàinig iad gu eilean nach do dh'aithnich iad is chaidh dithis air tìr. Thachair fear orra a dh'innis dhaibh gum b' e seo Rocabarraidh, agus dh'iarra e cead faighinn air ais còmhla riutha a Bharraidh.

Phòs an duine seo ann am Barraidh agus thog e teaghlach anns an robh aona mhac dheug. Mu dheireadh dh'fhàs an duine sean is dall, agus dh'iarra e air feadhainn de na gillean a thoirt air ais gu Rocabarraidh a dh'fheitheamh a bhàis.

Thog iad seòl is stiùir iad do'n iar. An ceann ùine dh'iarra an athair orra na duirgh a chur a mach agus beathach éisg fhaighinn. Rinn iad seo agus fhuair iad iasg. Dh'fhaigh an duine dall an t-iasg le a làmhnan agus thubhairt e, “Tha sinn astar ri dhòl fhathast.”

An deidh seòladh astar dh'iarra e na duirgh a chur a mach agus iasg fhaighinn. Rinn iad sin agus dh'fhaigh e an t-iasg agus thuirt e, “Chan 'eil sinn faisg fhathast.”

An ceann ùine dh'iarra an athair na duirgh a chur a mach aon uair eile agus beathach éisg a ghlacadh. Rinn iad sin is dh'fhaigh e an t-iasg, ag ràdh, “Tha sinn a nis gu bhith aig ceann-turuis.”

Agus mar a thubhairt b'fhlor, oir bha eilean mór breagha m'an coinneamh anns an iar. Chuir iad an athair air tìr is chan fhacas sealladh tuilleadh air-san no air an eilean.

*Calum Mac an t-saoir (aois 10)
 (Sgoil Bhrèithig, Eilean Bharraidh).*

Toimhseachain A Breidhig

- (1) Fear fada caol dubh a' mire san t-sruth.
 Chan 'eil an Albainn no'n Eirinn a leumas air a mhuin.
 - (2) Chì mis' a h-uile là e;
 Chan fhaic an rìgh ach corra là e;
 'S chan fhaic Dia idir e.
 - (3) Mios mhór liath is muillean toll òir innte.
- Freagaritean — (1) Easgann. (2) A leithid fheim. (3) An Speur.*

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MAY, 1955

No. 5

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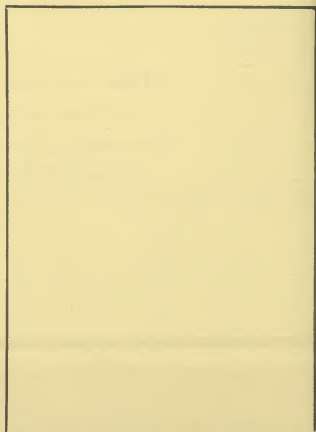
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THE GAEL

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF
AN COMUNN GAIDHEALACH

Editor

Rev. T. M. MURCHISON, M.A.

All correspondence should be addressed to the Editor, except that concerning advertising, which should be addressed to the Secretary, while Subscriptions should be sent to the Treasurer.

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CLAR-INNSIDH

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AN CEITEIN, 1955

Aireamh 5

Rob Donn

Le ALASDAIR IAIN MACASGAILL

Choisinn an oidhirp-litreachais seo a' cheud duais—£5—a thugadh seachad leis an Urr. Iain G. MacNeacail, Sgùth Fhodhratidh, aig Mòd Nàiseanta na bliadhna 1947.

RUGADH am bàrd Rob Donn aig Allt na Caillich an Dùthaich MhicAoidh anns a' bhliadhna 1714. A réir na tha air a thoirt f'ar comhair an eachdraidh, cha robh cus sìth no sàmhair anns a' Ghaidhealtachd aig an àm sin, oir bha gu tric gach treubh is fineach an aghaidh 's an amhaich a chéile; ach, gidheadh, cha robh an ceàrnaidh seo de'n dùthaich idir cho bun-os-cionn 's a shaoilear, agus bha cur is buain is ciobaireachd an deagh-mheas.

Bhiodh fuaim agus farum air gach tuathanach agus sgagal gach earrach is foghar, ach chan 'eil teagamh air bith nach robh ceòl is aighear aca san taigh-chéilidh agus gach cur-seachad eile a bha cho togalach, tlachdmhor ann an seann làithean a' chabair-sùith. Cha b'e bumail-earan fuilteach, aineolach, gun chridhe, gun thruas, is gun iochd idir a bha seo, ach daoine coibhneil, modhail, suas ri càch a chéile, a' toirt an bith-beò agus an teachd-an-tìr a' talamh cruaidh, neo-thorrach, agus a' cuid-eachadh a chéile ann an cruaidh-obair agus gabhadhean an latha.

Cha robh sgoiltean an uair sin cho lionmhor, doigheil agus a tha iad an diugh, agus na bu mhòtha cha robh cus iarraidh orra, oir cha robh bith-beò ach bho'n làimh do'n bheul co-dhiubh, agus mar sin bha cuideachadh talmhainn air a shùileachadh bho gach sean is

òg. Ach chan e sin idir a ràdh gu robh iad gun tuigse 's gun eòlas, oir tha fòghlum ann nach tig a chaidh a mach air ballaichean taigh-sgoile—fòghlum saoghalta a thogas sùil gheur, bhiorach agus inntinn fhallain, fhosgailte à cruaidh-chàsan a' chomuinn gu h-iomlan, ach gu sònraichte bho am freasdal fhéin 'nan dol-a-mach gach là.

Cha d'fhuair, mar sin, Rob Donn mòran sgoil no sgoil idir ach an t-sràic, ach cha robh e idir gun ionnsachadh air son sin, oir, mus d'fhàg e riamh glùn a mhàthar, is iomadh sgeul is òran a thug sparradh air a mhac-mheanmhainn agus fosgladh 'ùr air a inntinn. Gu dearbh, a réir aithris, cha b'fhada gus an robh Rob fhéin ri cur fhacal geur, cothromach ri chéile, agus thàtar ag ràdh nach robh e ach trì bliadhna an uair a chualas a' cheud rann bho a bhilean.

Tha e glé choltach gu robh còta beag 'ùr aig Rob air fhaighinn bho'n tàillear, ach gu mì-fhreagarrach b'ann air a chùlaibh a bha e a' dùnadh, agus dh'fhàilnich air ar caraid dad air bith a dheanamh dheth. Ach cha do chuir siud smuairan air Rob. Thilg e an còta a thaoibh agus a mach á seo e lom liormach! Cha do chòrd an dànas sin idir ri a mhàthair, faodaidh e bhith, ach bu bheag dragh a bha aige-san, agus cha robh freagairt fad as. Arsa Rob:
"S maith dhòmhsa bhith 'n diugh gun aodach

Le slaodaireachd Mhurchaidh 'ic Néill,
Mo bhroilleach chur air mo chùlaibh,
'S nach 'eil a dhùnadh agam fhéin."

Cha bu dhona am facal sin gu dearbh aig trì bliadhna!

Is mór, gun teagamh, a théid a chur air duine mór deanta 'na òige, ach eadar cur dubhairt Rob na briathran sin agus iomadach rabhd eile a chuireadh as a leth no nach dubhairt, tha e soilleir gu léir cho geur 's a bha e air a theanga. Cha b'fhada gus an do chraobh-sgaioileadh an naidheachd, agus chaidh am fuaim uile feadh na tìre, agus bha suim agus urram mhór air a' bhalachan, agus bha laithean móra air an cur roimhe.

Ach cha robh duine a bha an sin cho mór air a thaobh ri Iain MacEachainn, tuathanach cho math dheth agus a bha an Dùthaich Mhic-Aoidh aig an àm, agus anns an robh fìor ghné a' bhàird e fhéin. Ghabh esan Rob Donn air mhuinntireas mus robh e càil ach seachd bliadhna a dh'aois gu bhith 'na bhuaichille timcheall nan cùiltean ud fhéin. Cha d'fhuair, mar sin, am bàrd sgoil air bith ach, mar a thuir sinn a cheana, chan ann troimh a chluasan a mhàin a dh'fhòghlumas duine, agus bha a intinn fallain agus a shùil léirsinneach, fogsailte.

Mar a b' aosda e a' fàs 's ann a b' fhaide a chuairt air gnothach a mhaighistir troimh bhailtean is mhonaidhean na Gaidhealtachd. Cha deach càil air chall air an dearbh shùil a bha siud, agus sin gu h-àraidh ann a bhith deanamh fìor aithneachaidh agus breithneachaidh air dol-a-mach gach fìr is mnatha, gach gille 's òigh laghaich, mhaisich a bha tighinn 'na lùib. Agus nach tric a thig sinn tarsainn 'na òrain air tuigse gheur, mhion-eòlach fear-an-rathaich air gach iomadh car cam a tha an cois mhic an duine! Tha a leithid seo buileach soilleir ann am marbhrannan ar bàird, Rob Donn, agus faodar a ràdh da-rèradh gur e am fìosrachadh saoghalta seo a dh'ardaich a chliù thar chàich anns an leithid seo de dh'obair-intinne.

Thàtar gu tric a' tilgeil air Rob Donn gu robh e ro-dhùinte suas 'na dhùthaich bhig fhéin, agus mar sin gu bheil sinn ri call suim agus brìgh a bhàrdachd a chionn 's nach 'eil cuspairean nan òran aige aithnichte dhuinn. Bitheadh sin mar a bhithes e an dràsda, ach tha aon rud cinnteach co-dhiubh—nach do labhair Rob Donn air cuspair air bith, air cho suarach 's cho ìosal 's a bha e dheth fhéin, nach do chuir e a fhiamh fhéin air ann a bhith 'ga àrdachadh gu nì cliùiteach, fìor-ainmeil agus tìomail.

Chan 'eil crìochan sam bith air an fhìrinn, agus mar sin is iomadh facal fìrinneach cotromach a labhair am bàrd seo, eadhon ged nach

aithne dhuinn na creutairean mu'n robh iad sgrìobhte, agus bu bhòidheach snasail an cur ri chèile.

Chì sinn gu tric anns na marbhrannan smuaintean air an robh Rob Donn fhéin gu tric ri breithneachadh mar dhuine eòlach air obair Freasdail—mar seo, air a' bhàs:—

"Tha 'n teachdair-s' air tòir
Gach neach a tha beò,
'Gan glacadh an coir no 'n eucoir;
Na gheibh e 'na dhòrn
Cha feic e air òr;
Ri gul no ri deòir chan éisd e.

Cuideachd:—

"'S ged dheanamaid dùn
Cha cheannaich e dhuinn
Aon mhionaid de dh'ùin' o'n 'eug sin."

Agus a rithist:—
'Ged thàrladh tric am bàs gun iochd,
'S e an t-àrd-rìgh glic tha stiùradh;
'S e dh'abacih riadh do chainnt 's do ghnìomh
Air chinn na crìch bha rùn air."

Agus saoilidh mi nach b'ann gun deagh fhìos is fhàireachdainn air intinn fhèidmhoir a cho-chreutairean a sgrìobh Rob Donn mar seo:—

"Labhraidh buidheann gun chreidimh
Le mòran glagus 'nan ceann,
Ach nuair thig iad gu cleachdadh
Chan fhaighear am facal ach fann;
An teis-meadhan am pailteis
Mar 's an airc bithidh iad gann,
'S nuair is toirmnich am farum
Gur corp gun anam a tha ann."

Agus tha na briathran ceudna sin a cheart cho cotromach an diugh cuideachd.

Is maiseach ciùin cèolmhor marbhrannan Roib Dhuinn. Is mór an urram a fhuair gach siad ris na thog esan a ghuth. Ann a bhith a' leughadh, glacaidh sinn mar gum b'eadh samhlaidhean brioghmhòr air curaidhean is seanairean taghte a' chearmaidh ud de'n dùthaich, dreach an gnùis agus buadhan spioradail an anama, agus coslas na fìrinn air gach cliù a dh'ainnicheadh orra. Mar a thuir Rob Donn fhéin:

Fìor mhasgull duinn pàidheadh
No stad gealtach le gàbhadh,
Brìgh mo bheachd-s' ann an dànaibh
'S mi nach deanadh 's nach d' rinn.

No a rithist:

Cha do luaidh mi mu'n duine-s'
Ach buaidh a chunnaic mo shùil air.

Bu mbath gu dearbh do chomh-aoisean-sa, fireann is boireann, a bha a' cur urram orra fhéin agus air Dia le an coibhneas agus an giùlan gach là, oir chaidh an cliù-san a sheinn ann am briathran nach cuirear air dhì-chuimhne fhad 's a bhios fìor Ghaidheal san fhearann:

Air 's buain a chuimhne bheir bàrda
Oir deagh bhuaidhannaibh nàdur

Na 'n stoc cruinn sin a dh'fhàg iad
Is còmhstri chàirdean 'ga roinn.

Bha cothrom anabarrach grinn aige air mòran firinn a chur ann am beann bhriathran, agus is tric ann am beul ar luchd-dùthcha na smuaintean blasda snasail cudthromach a bha a' sruthadh cho ealanta 's cho furasda o bhilean an t-sàr-bhàird. Nach bu cheart cothromach agus fìor an samhla seo do ar staid gu h-ìomlan:

Sinn mar choinneal an lanntam

'S an dà cheann a' sior chaitheadh.

'S ann am Marbhrann Eòghainn a bha am bàrd mar sin a' meòrachadh air ar suidheachadh, agus ged a tha e glé choltach nach do chòrd na briathran gu léir ri Eòghann, b'ann bho chridhe a' bhàird a bha iad uile ri sruthadh. Biodh iad beag no mòr, beartach no gann an stòras, cha robh bacadh air an clùì ma b'airidh an gnìomharan air an leithid sin. 'S ann anns na Marbhrannan sin a chithear gu soilleir glan caitheamh beatha cùramach agus glic air a chur fo ar comhair le meas, tlàths agus grinneas, agus chan 'eil neach a leagas a shùil orra nach fhairich foirfeachd gach smuain agus ceòl gach faicail, clùì a b'àrde air a shnìomh le sàr fhear-obrich.

Tha cuid a' cumail a mach nach robh mòran suim aig Rob Donn do riaghladh na rìoghachd, oir, ged a bha a h-uile càil a bh'ann triomach air shearrach aig an àm sin, 's e fìor fàth bochd a gheibh sinn air taobh seach taobh foidhe-san. 'S iomadh bàrd eile a fhuair clùì is urram ann a bhith a' daingneachadh spiorad an t-sluaigh an aghaidh gach cruaidh-chàs agus gàbhaidh a thàinig 'nan lùib ri linn na h-ùpraid sin, agus 'gam pìobrachadh agus 'gam brònachadh gu bhith a' cathachadh ri mì-stiùrranan agus làmhachas-làidir nan naimhdean, ach is corra fhacal gu dearbh a fhuair sinn bho Rob Donn air deuchainnean cruaidh an linn seo. Ach, gu tà, cha deach seo idir seachad gun fhios air, agus tha e cinnteach gu leòir gur ann leis a' Phrionnsa Teàrlach a bha e, ged a bha MacAoidh Mór a muigh 's a mach leis an taobh eile. Agus na bu mhò cha do chail Rob Donn riamh a dhàimh ris a' Phrionnsa, eadhon an uair a bha e fo'n ruaig, ged nach b'e sin e do mhóran de a choimhearsnaich. Bu trom Rob Donn orra air son sin cuideachd:

'S maith an airidh gum faicteadh

Dream cho tais ruibh a' cumhnadh,

Bhith tilgeil dhìbh bhur cuid bhreacan

'S a' gabhail chasagan dubha.

'S math dh'fhaoidte nach robh Rob Donn idir cho daingean sa' chùis ri bàird eile linn a' Phrionnsa, ach tha e ann an seo co-dhiubh a' sparradh a luchd-dùthcha,

'S deanaibh 'ur deudach a thrusadh

Mun téid bhur busan a cheangal.

Agus, a réir aithris, chaidh a chur an greim air son an dearbh òrain sin, "Na Casagan Dubha."

Ach bha e fhéin seòlta agus carach gu leòir sa' ghnothaich, agus an uair a leughadh an t-òran air beulaibh an t-Siorraidh, dh'eubh Rob nach d'fhuair e ceartas anns a' chùis oir gu robh rann no dhà ann fhathast air nach tug iadsan an dèird. Bha dà rann aige deiseil cuideachd, a' gabhail ris "an Rìgh à Hanobhar," agus gun iarraidh aige fhéin ach "cur air adhart an t-aon as lugha 'm bi pheacadh," agus mar sin b'fheudar dhaibh a chur fa gaoil.

(*R' a Leantainn.*)

Na Constabuill

RI mo cheud chuimhne bha dithis no trìur de mhuinntir gach baile air feadh an eilein againn air an cur air leth air son frithealadh do chùisean mar sumachadh, réiteachadh aimhreit mu chrìochan, comharrachadh blàir mhòna, agus a leithid sin. An uair a bha obair gun tuarasdail ri dheanamh, mar togail gàrraidh, is ann troimh na constabuill a bha an oighreachd a' cur fios gu muinntir nam bailtean.

Bha corr fhear de na constabuill 'ga shaoil-sinn fhéin ceum air thoiseach air a choimhearsnaich. Ach mar a thuir Fear Eòropaidh, "Chan 'eil nì nach caochail ach faochagan is feamainn." Thàinig caochladh nach beag air croitearan agus air croitearachd. Dh'fhalbh na constabuill. An uair a thàinig a' cheud "Achd nan Croitearan" a mach (an 1886), arsa Murchadh Buidhe, "An eubh a leig am fear mòr ann an Lunnainn, chuir e Iain Bàn a' Ghàrraidh air a thòin ann an t-Hàbost!" A. M.

(Am fear mòr ann an Lunnainn—Gladstone. Iain Bàn a' Ghàrraidh—constabull ainmeil.)

School for Conductors

Thirty-six persons from Sutherland, Skye, Barra, Uist, Lewis, and the Ross-shire mainland recently attended a four-day school for choir conductors in Stornoway. The school was sponsored by the Carnegie Trust and the Ross-shire Education Committee, and the lecturer was Dr. Herbert Wiseman.

The course, which included appreciation of music, covered all grades of school work from Infants to Secondary, as well as youth work and adult education, with special emphasis on vocal music and choir conducting.

Those attending, included school teachers, choir leaders, and church precentors. Special attention was given to the old Scottish psalm tunes.

This is the sort of enterprise that is sorely needed and greatly appreciated in rural districts, and especially in the north-west.

Tributes

Rev. J. K. Murchison

The passing of the Rev. John Kenneth Murchison, B.A., for over twenty years' minister of St. John's West Church, Leith, has been a heavy loss to the Highland community of Edinburgh and district. For many years President of the Celtic Union, and, also of the Edinburgh Gaelic Choir, he was a prominent member of the Celtic Congress, and in his own quiet but forceful way a strong support to the Gaelic movement.

A native of Nova Scotia, whither his grandfather had emigrated from Lochalsh, ancestral district of the Murchisons, he was a native speaker of Gaelic. He served in the First World War, holding a commission in the Royal Field Artillery. After a period in an estate office in Ross-shire, he trained for the ministry and served in Broxburn for seven years before going to Leith in 1933.

We record our sympathy with his wife and two daughters.

Dr. D. J. Macleod

Mr. Donald James Macleod, O. B. E., D. Litt., died on 3rd March at the age of 76, and so closed a brilliant career as scholar and educationist.

Born at Carishader in the parish of Uig, Lewis, "D. J." (as he was familiarly known to many in later years) attended the Nicolson Institute, Stornoway, of which he was dux in 1896. After a brilliant career at Aberdeen University, where he graduated with honours in modern languages, he became headmaster of Staffin School, Skye, but after a short stay there joined the School Inspectorate in 1907. From 1938 to his retirement in 1945 he was Chief Inspector of Schools in the Highland Division.

Dr. Macleod's scholarship was varied, deep, and sound. His was not the flashy veneer of learning that consists of other men's findings at second-hand. He went to the original sources and he used his own penetrating intellect. Unfortunately, his caution and fastidiousness as a scholar, as well probably as the demands made on his time and energy by a peripatetic inspectorate, prevented his leaving with us a greater volume of published material.

For a French translation of the poetry of Duncan Ban MacIntyre he received in 1929 the degree of Doctor of Letters from the University of Rennes. This degree, it was stated at the time, "is a very jealously guarded one The oral part of the examination, the sustaining of the thesis, is a formidable

matter. It is an ordeal extending over five hours, in French."

As might be expected from his early nurturing in rural Lewis, before the "the acids of modernity" had eaten away so much of the old tradition, Dr. Macleod had a full command of the Gaelic vernacular, but had also given close study to all phases of Gaelic. He was no mere pedant, but a writer of Gaelic of distinction and charm, and a racy raconteur.

Early in life he was a prize-winner in literary competitions at the National Mod, and one of his prize-winning Gaelic essays, a comparative study of the two great 18th century bards, Duncan MacIntyre and Alexander Macdonald, was printed both in this magazine and in a small volume of Gaelic essays, "*An Sòlaraithe*," which appeared in 1918.

Dr. Macleod inherited from an older generation a wealth of idiom and phrase and lore, and in recent years much of this was shared with a large and appreciative audience who heard his occasional broadcast talks in Gaelic. He made a special study of phonetics and contributed to the Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness a valuable paper on "The Standardisation of Gaelic Pronunciation," in which he adapted the international phonetic alphabet to Gaelic uses. On many occasions, he acted as a Gaelic adjudicator at National Mods. He edited a Gaelic and English edition of the New Testament for the National Bible Society of Scotland, and also prepared a new edition of MacEachen's Gaelic Dictionary. He also edited, with a valuable introduction, the edition of Martin Martin's "Description of the Western Islands of Scotland," which was published by Eneas Mackay, Stirling, in 1934. He wrote a commendatory preface to "Litrichean Alasdair Mhóir," by his life-long friend, John N. Macleod, who died last November and to whom "D. J." paid a very moving tribute on the radio. To the Celtic Congress and learned societies, Dr. Macleod delivered erudite lectures on the history and language and literature of the Celts. He also published in a small booklet radio talks in English on Gaelic folklore.

A past Chieftain of the Gaelic Society of Inverness, of which he was also Hon. Secretary (in succession to Professor W. J. Watson), President of the Dingwall Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach, a member of the Forestry Commission and of the former Broadcasting Advisory Committee for Scotland, and of many other public and professional bodies and learned societies, "D. J." will be best remembered by many for the man he was, humble despite his

eminence, friendly with all and sundry despite his erudition. Those of us who as pupils were examined by him and later in adult life shared his friendship, will ever cherish his memory with respect and affection. Our first impression of "the Inspector" with the glinting spectacles and the frown may have been somewhat awesome but as we got to know him we came to love him. Behind the seeming sternness were great kindness and good humour. One recalls evening strolls with him at Glenelg, when he used to come to visit the school and spent the night and sought out the parish minister, not long before a boy under his inspection. How he could talk—of Gaelic poetry and place-names, of new books, of history, of Gaelic idioms! One's last brief contact with him was on the sea-front at Stornoway last September, when he was revisiting (as he loved to do) the scenes of his youth.

We salute the memory of a great and fine man, and we are grateful for having known him. We express our sympathy with his wife and daughters.

Mr. John Macpherson

It was with very great regret that many people the world over must have learned of the death in February of Mr. John Macpherson, Northbay, Isle of Barra, better known as "The Coddie," "The Uncrowned King of Barra," as someone called him, was a unique personality. His was not the fame of great erudition garnered in what are known as "places of learning," but he had something more precious, because rarer, the profound traditional lore of his people. Barra and the people of Barra, in whom the ages of the past still live, were his college. His was not the fame of high public office, although he did faithfully serve his fellow-citizens on the district and county council. The service he rendered was that of being the man he was, genial, gracious, kindly, sharing his friendship with all kinds and classes of people. This tribute to him ought really to be in Gaelic, but those who will cherish his memory include many more than those who know Gaelic.

Seo fear nach fhaicear a leithid a rithist. Dh'fhàgadh beàrn am Barraidh nach lionar a chaoidh.

Mrs Isabella Macphee

This fine old Highland lady passed away on 12th March in her 93rd year. A native of Ballachulish, she early came to Glasgow and was one of the early members of St. Columba Church Gaelic Choir. To the end she retained her keen interest in Gaelic songs. She combined the devoutness of simple faith with a bright and happy disposition and the graciousness

and charm that characterised the older generation. She saw her sons come to places of honour and influence—Hugh as Gaelic Producer of the B.B.C., James as President of the Gaelic Society of London and Mod Gold Medallist, and John as a journalist, while her three daughters were around her to the end. We are glad to have had the privilege of knowing Mrs. Macphee, and we express our sympathy with the family.

Mr. Angus MacMillan

The death took place on 2nd April of Mrs. Angus MacMillan, at the age of 96. A native of Islay, for thirty years he was schoolmaster at Dervaig, Isle of Mull, a fine example of the good old Highland schoolmaster—not the masters who, following the Education Act of 1872, set out to "hammer" the Gaelic out of their pupils, but the other kind, of whom there were not a few, who, native Gaels themselves, imparted to their pupils a love for their Highland heritage, long before the facilities and encouragements of the present time were thought of.

Throughout his whole life Mr. MacMillan devoted himself specially to Gaelic. He taught Gaelic classes, wrote on Highland subjects, and translated John Brandane's play, "Rory Aforesaid," into Gaelic. He had the satisfaction of seeing his family following his example in devotion to Gaelic, and three of his daughters are Mod Gold Medallists, Annie, Helen, and May Margaret.

This was a long and full life, well lived. "Nothing is here for tears." We salute the memory of a fine Highlander, who instilled in successive generations of school-children an abiding love for their Gaelic heritage. We record our sympathy with the family.

Rev. Alex. Macdonald

The Rev. Alexander Macdonald, M.A., Minister of the parish of Ardchattan, died suddenly on Sunday evening, 24th April. He had completed a typically full Sunday's duties in his far-flung parish. Morning service in the Parish Church at Achnaba, an afternoon service in the Island of Lismore (where he was Interim Moderator), an evening service at Bonawe, and then, returning home, he collapsed and died at the Manse door at the age of 58.

A native of North Uist, Alick Macdonald was educated at Kingussie School and the University of Glasgow. He served in the R.A.F. in the First World War, was minister of St. Kieran's Church, Govan, for two years, and was inducted to Ardchattan in 1926. There he endeared himself to his parishioners and to many others.

An excellent speaker and preacher in Gaelic, he was keenly interested in the Gaelic movement, served on the Executive Council of An Comunn Gaidhealach, and frequently adjudicated at Provincial and National Mods. He was particularly interested in Comunn na h-Oigridh, and his visits to the summer camps were always greatly appreciated by those attending. An outstanding shinty player, he got his shinty 'blue' at Glasgow University,

played for Oban Camanachd Club, and was instrumental in getting shinty clubs started in the Lorne area.

A most companionable man, with a ready wit, he will be much missed. We express our sympathy with his wife and three young children, and his close friend, Mr. Willie Gemmill, who often accompanied him to the National Mod.

An Ard-Chomhairle

CHUMADH Coinneamh Ghàidhlig Ard-Chomhairle a' Chomuinn Ghaidhealach ann an Aitreabh nan Gaidheal an Glaschu air Di-satharna. an 26mh de'n Mhàrt, 1955. Bha an Ceann-suidhe, Mgr. Niall MacGille-sheathanaich, anns a' Chathair, agus bha àireamh chuimseach de na buill a làthair.

Anns a' cheud dol-a-mach rinn an Ceann-suidhe iomradh iomchuidh mu cheathrar a dh'eug o chionn ghoirid—an t-Urramach Iain Coinneach MacCalmain, a bha cho dealasach ann an aobhar na Gàidhlig; an t-Ollamh Dòmhnall Seumas MacLeòid, a bha barraichte mar sgoilear Gàidhlig; a' Bhean-usaich Nic a' Phì; agus Mgr. Raibeart MacCaluim am Manchester.

Bheachdaicheadh air Geàrr-sheanchas Comhairle an Ionmhais. Thug am Fear-gairme, Mgr. Dòmhnall Grann, fa chomhair na h-Ard-Chomhairle mar a tha ionmhas a' Chomuinn aig an àm. Thàtar an dùil gum bi còrr is mìle not de chall air obair na bliadhna-sa, agus sin a chionn is nach 'eil an tighinn-a-steach a' fòghnadh fa chomhair cosdasan a' Chomuinn. Feumar làn-oidhirp a dheanamh aig gach Mòd buill ùra a thrusadh agus mar an ceudna barrachd cuideachaidh fhaotainn bho na Meuran. Rùnaicheadh litir a chur gu gach Meur ag iarraidh orra ceann-latha a thaghadh gu cuirm-chiùil no oidhirp eile a chumail a choisneadh airgead a chum feum a' Chomuinn. Thuirte gum bu chòir do bhuill na h-Ard-Chomhairle dol air feadh na dùthcha a dh'innse mu obair a' Chomuinn a chum is gum bi an sluagh air am brosnachadh gu barrachd taic a thoirt dha.

Ghabhadh mar an ceudna ri Geàrr-sheanchas Comhairle an Fhòghluim. Dh'innsedh gun do dhùilt luchd-stiùraidh an Fhòghluim ann an Siorrachdan Inbhir-nis is Earraghaidheal am paipear-cheist a chraobh-sgoileadh anns na sgoilean aca, agus an Comunn a' feuchainn air an dòigh seo ri eòlas fhaotainn mu chor na Gàidhlig anns na sgoilean Gaidhealach. Dh'aontaicheadh a' chùis a thoirt gu aire Ard-Chomhairle an Fhòghluim an Dun-èideann, agus dh'iarraidh air an Ard-Chomhairle sin

coinneachadh ri luchd-tagraidh bho'n Chomunn. B' iad an luchd-tagraidh a thaghadh fa chomhair seo: Mgr. Dòmhnall MacThómais, Mgr. Aonghas MacLeòid, Mgr. Seumas MacThómais, agus an t-Urr. T. M. MacCalmain. Thugadh taing do Fhear-stiùraidh an Fhòghluim an Glaschu air son bu bheil e deònach sgrùdadh a dheanamh mu Ghàidhlig a theagas ann an sgoil no dhà eile an Glaschu a bharrachd air na dhà anns a bheil a' Ghàidhlig cheana. Fhuaradh fios bho Fhear-stiùraidh an Fhòghluim an Dun-èideann gum biodh e toilichte ullachadh a dheanamh gu Gàidhlig a bhith air a teagas ann an Sgoilean nan ceud trì sreathan, ach nach biodh e idir furasda gabhail ri Gàidhlig mar chuspair anns na h-Ard-sgoilean. Tha Mgr. Aonghas MacLeòid is Mgr. Seumas MacThómais ris a' chùis a thogail a rithist.

Thugadh iomradh air cùisean a bha fa chomhair Comhairle a' Chlò-bhualaidh. Thàtar ri iarraidh air a' Bh.B.C. na leasanan Gàidhlig a chraobh-sgoileadh as ùr. Bho'n tha iarraidh air leasanan Gàidhlig air clàir, tha rannsachadh 'ga dheanamh an ceartuair feuch an gabh seo a dheanamh air prìs a bhios freagarrach agus aig cosdas air an ruig an Comunn. Ghabhadh beachd air cosdas leabhraichean-leughaidh le dealbhan a chlò-bhualadh—is e sin, clò-bhualadh an Gàidhlig Albanaich de na leabhraichean-leughaidh Eireannach a tha cho freagarrach air son na cloinne. Rùnaicheadh cur mu dheighinn aon no dhà de na leabhraichean a chlò-bhualadh.

Ann an Geàrr-sheanchas Comhairle a' Chraobh-sgoilidh thugadh fios mu na Mòdan Dùthchail a shuidhicheadh air son na bliadhna-sa, mu thuath is mu dheas—còig-deug uile gu léir agus maith dh'fhaoidte aon an Uibhist a Deas mar an ceudna. B'e beachd na comhairle gum bu chòir oidhirp is brosnachadh a dheanamh gu Féis Dhealbh-chluich a chur air bhonn anns na h-Eileanan an Iar, agus dh'aontaich an Ard-Chomhairle leis a' bheachd sin. Thug Mgr. Dòmhnall MacGilleathain, Fear-deilbhe na h-Aird-a-tuath, iomradh air cuairtean a thug e anns na h-Eileanan.

Ann an Geàrr-sheanchas Comhairle a' Ghnìomhachais agus nan Ealdhan dh'innseadh cho soirbheachail is a bha am Foillseachadh air Ealdhain Cheilteach aig Mòd Pheairt. Thadhail còrr is còig cead pearsa an talla-foillseachaidh, agus bha ùidh aig na h-uile anns an t-sìomh agus anns a' chàrdadh. Aig a' Mhòd an Obar-dheadhain 's t-fhoghar bidh Foillseachadh Ealdhain Cheiltich ann an aitreabh an Y.M.C.A.

Bheachdaicheadh air Geàrr-sheanchas Comhairle a' Mhòid is a' Chiùil. Fa chomhair Mòd Nàiseanta 1956 chumadh Coinneamh Tùs-gnothaich anns an Leargaidh Ghallda. Chuireadh Comhairle Ionadail air chois leis a' Mhòd. Uasal M. F. Nic-an-t-sealgair mar Bhean-ghairme. Gheall a' Chomhairle Ionadail an dicheall a dheanamh gu £2,500 a chruinneachadh air son Maoin a' Mhòid. Dh'innseadh gu do chruinnich Comhairle Ionadail Mòd Obar-dheadhain còrr is mìle not cheana fa chomhair Mòd na bliadhna-sa, agus tha làn-dhùil aca £2,500 a chruinneachadh uile gu léir. An measg nithean eile a tha fo aire Comhairle a' Mhòid is a' Chiùil tha iad ag ullachadh co-chruinneachadh ghnìomh-òran a chuirear an clò a chum feadh chòisearan àigrìdh ann an co-fharpaisean ghnìomh-òran aig a'

Mhòd. Bheachdaich a' Chomhairle air an rùn a chuireadh an céill aig a' Choinneamh Bhliadhnaile an uridh—is e sin, gum bu chòir farpaisean air leth a bhith aig Còisearan Dùth-chail agus Còisearan nam Bailtean Móra ann an Earrann na h-Oigridh. Rùnaicheadh nach biodh e idir comasach gabhail ris an rùn seo, gu h-àraidh a chionn is nach 'eil ann ach aon là air son na h-Oigridh agus nach biodh e comasach gabhail ri tuilleadh farpaisean.

Leughadh Geàrr-sheanchas air Coinneamh de Chomhairle Clann an Fhraoich.

Leughadh Geàrr-sheanchas air coinneamh de Chomhairle Comunn na h-Oigridh, agus thugadh fios mu na campaichean is cuirmean-cnuic is gnothaichean eile a thàtar ag ullachadh aig an àm.

Leughadh Geàrr-sheanchas air co-choinneamh de Chomhairle an Fhòghluim agus a' Ghnìomhachais is nan Ealdhan, anns an d'rinneadh iomradh air ullachadh gu Sgoil-Shamhraidh a chumail an Obar-dheadhain 's t-samhradh.

Shònraicheadh an ath-choinneamh de'n Ard-Chomhairle a chumail air an 18mh de'n Og-mhios, agus thugadh a' Choinneamh gu crìch le taing chridheil a thoirt do Fhear-na-cathrach.

Story of An Comunn

By THE EDITOR

V.—THE FIRST TEN YEARS (1891-1901)

HAVING inaugurated the Annual Gathering known as the "Mod," the leaders of An Comunn Gaidhealach devoted almost all their energies for the next ten years to developing the Mod, and stimulating interest in it, in various parts of the country.

Getting Around

From the very start it was intended that the Mod should change its venue each year, lest it should be thought that this was a purely local undertaking centring in Oban. The first two Mods were held in Oban (1892 and 1893). It was hoped that the third would be held in Perth or Aberfeldy or, failing that, in Inverness, but in December 1893 the Secretary of the Perth Gaelic Society reported that, while they should like to have the 1894 Mod in Perth, they could not be ready for it by then, but would try to prepare for it in 1895 and set up a Gaelic Choir in readiness for it. The third Mod (1894) was also held in Oban. The 1895 Mod was held in Glasgow, and the 1896 one in Perth, where (it appears) the local committee had given "substantial encouragement in the shape of a guarantee to collect £50 by subscriptions for Choirs' travelling expenses." A similar undertaking was given by the Inverness people, the local convener there, being Mr. William Mackay, and the 1897 Mod was held in the Highland Capital. In 1898 the Mod returned to Oban, and in the following year it went to Edinburgh for the first time. In 1900 it was back in Perth and in 1901 back in Glasgow.

Year by year the number and variety of the Mod competitions grew, and more and more competitors,

both young and old, came forward. "New subjects were, from year to year, introduced with more or less success into the Syllabus of the Mods—some by An Comunn itself and others at the instance of prize-donors. Some were continued and some were abandoned, according to the measure of success or non-success which attended them." (*An Deo-Greine* i, 5). Among the donors of prizes were the Highland and Gaelic societies of London, the Burgh of Oban (which for some years provided the Gold Medals), and individual benefactors such as Lord Archibald Campbell, John Mackay, Hereford, and Wm. Birkmyre, M.P.

The Syllabus Extends

The competitions at the first Mod in 1892 have already been detailed (*An Gaidheal* L-33). In 1893 the new competitions were: Gaelic Reading, Unpublished Sgeulachd, and (for Juveniles) Gaelic Dictation and Solo and Choral Singing. In 1896 the new competitions were: an Open Solo Competition (for professional singers and former medallists), Gaelic song on the War of Independence (won by Alastair Macdonald, Inverness), an Essay on the progress of Gaelic (won by Dr. H. Cameron Gillies and Neil Ross, equal), and an Essay on any Perthshire bard (won by Chas. M. Robertson). That year also a Celtic Art competition (a design for membership card) was introduced, the winner being Thomas MacLaren, Perth.

In 1898 Duets and Quartettes were included, and prizes were given to school teachers for the highest percentages of passes in Gaelic (these prizes being

provided from a fund collected by *The Highland News*). Other new competitions that year were an Essay (confined to Skye school-children) and a Solo Competition for Skye songs, and a Gaelic translation of Burns's "Epistle to a Young Friend." New competitions in 1899 were a letter-writing competition (for Juveniles), a prose account of the battle of Killiecrankie (won by Alex. Stewart, Glenlyon), a Gaelic metrical version of "The Graves of a Household" (won by Mrs. K. W. Grant), an ode in honour of Flora Macdonald (won by John MacFadyen), and an essay confined to Reay school-children. In 1899 there was also a competition in Gaelic Technical Terms, which was repeated in the next two years and helped in the preservation of many terms which were in danger of being lost. In 1899 the Rev. Charles M. Robertson was the winner, in 1900 Mrs. K. W. Grant, and in 1901 Mr. Robertson again.

In 1900 a written "Comhradh" was introduced. A competition in the singing of humorous songs was tried out but apparently "did not warrant a repetition." In 1901 there was a competition for Idiomatic Phrases, a written Comhradh (illustrative of the wisdom and power of Gaelic proverbs), Gaelic Terms of Affection and Invective (won by Rev. Charles M. Robertson), Solo-singing competitions for Lorne songs, Rob Donn's songs, and a number of others. This increase in competitions brought a considerable increase in entries that year.

Oban, 1893

The Second National Mod was held in the Argyllshire Gathering Hall, Oban, on Tuesday, 12th September, 1893, and, according to *The Celtic Monthly*, "was a splendid success, and in every respect an improvement upon that of last year. The attendance was larger, the competitors were more numerous, and the talent was better than on the former occasion." Lord Archibald Campbell presided. In the prize-list the following names are worthy of note.

Sgeulachd—1, J. MacFadyen, Glasgow; 2, A. Stewart, Glenlyon.

Gaelic Prose—1, J. MacFadyen; 2, Neil Ross, Glendale.

Gaelic Poetry—1, Neil Ross; 2, J. MacFadyen; 3, A. Stewart.

Recitation—1, Neil Ross; 2, Archd. Munn, Oban. *Reading*—1, A. Munn; 2, Neil Ross.

Junior Choral Competition—1, Oban Junior Gaelic Choir; 2, St. Columba (R.C.) School Choir, Oban.

Senior Choral Competition—"This event was very keenly contested, and it was only after repeated trials that the judges decided to award the first prize to the Glasgow St. Columba Choir, the second to Oban, and a special prize of £5 from Lord Archibald Campbell to the Ballachulish Choir."

Solo Competition for Seniors (1st Prize—Oban Burgh Gold Medals and £1)—"Seven ladies and twelve gentlemen took part in this competition." Ladies—1st, Miss M. A. Mackenzie, Oban (last year's winner); 2, Miss M. Mackenzie, Morven; 3, Miss Margaret Macdonald, Glasgow. Gentlemen—1, K. D. Mackenzie, Glasgow (last year's winner); 2, Peter M. Macdonald, Glasgow; 3, Donald MacCallum, Oban.

In the evening a grand concert was held in the Gathering Hall, "every seat being filled long before the time advertised to commence." "The principal feature of the programme was the rendering of several songs by the combined choirs, under the leadership of Mr. Archibald Ferguson, and the spirit and taste with which these melodies were given evoked the enthusiasm

of the audience. Miss Jessie N. MacLachlan rendered several songs in her usual excellent style." During the course of the evening Lord Archd. Campbell presented Mr. Archd. Ferguson, Conductor of the Glasgow St. Columba Church Gaelic Choir, with a conductor's baton, which bore the following inscription, "To Archibald Ferguson, for invaluable services in the cause of Celtic music, from the President at Oban Mod, 1893." "The members of the Inveraray Pipe Band, whose services were much appreciated during the day, were each presented with a silver medal by the Executive of the Association. Mr. John Campbell, Secretary, was also the recipient of a drinking cuach from his lordship. The members of the Executive and friends supped together in the Royal Hotel, Lord Archibald occupying the chair. Speeches were given and toasts drunk, and a very enjoyable time was spent. And so ended this eventful day!" At the supper, according to *The Celtic Monthly*, "we had also the usual Highland Honours," but the *Monthly* comments that "the custom, as presently practised, is not pretty," and questions the authenticity of the custom.

Oban, 1894

The Third Annual Mod was held in the Volunteer Hall at Oban on Tuesday, 11th September, 1894. Colonel J. Wingfield Malcolm, C.B., presided. The hall was well-filled. The proceedings, which commenced at 11 a.m., were, with the exception of the Chairman's opening remarks, conducted in Gaelic. For the competitions there were numerous entrants from all parts of the Highlands, which indicated, the Chairman stated, "that the society was a growing and active body." The principal prize-winners were:—

Original Gaelic poetry—1st, John MacFadyen, Glasgow; 2nd, Alastair Macdonald, Inverness. *Translation from Gaelic*—1st, Malcolm MacLucas, Duror; 2nd, Alex. Stewart, Polmont. *Gaelic Prose*—1st, Neil Ross, Glendale; 2nd, William Gillies, London. *Gaelic Recitation*—1st, Archibald Munn, Oban; 2nd, John MacFadyen, Glasgow; 3rd, Miss M. MacArthur, Campbeltown; 4th Alex. Macdonald, Glasgow. *Gaelic Reading*—1st, Miss M. MacArthur; 2nd, Archd. Munn; 3rd, Alex. Stewart, Glenlyon. *Junior Choral Competition*—Balgarvie School, Lismore. *Solo-singing*—1st, Miss Johanna Lawrie, Oban. *Oban Boys' Brigade Pipe Band Competition* (the Judges were Dr. Stewart, Campbell of Dunstaffnage, and Dr. Campbell)—1st, Donald Hunter; 2nd, Donald MacCallum.

Choral Competition for Seniors. "Six choirs entered and it was evident that considerable progress had been made in this branch since last Mod, the quality of the tone and the attention to expression being much in advance of former competitions. There were two choirs from Oban, two from Glasgow, and one each from Campbeltown and Glencoe." The judges placed the following three choirs first (equal)—St. Columba Gaelic Choir (Mr. A. Ferguson, conductor); Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association (Mr. N. Macdonald, conductor); and Oban Gaelic Musical Association (Mr. Clements, conductor).

Ladies' Solo Competition. "There were eight entrants, the majority being from Glasgow, and the audience was treated to a charming selection of Celtic airs, many of them being admirably rendered." The prizes went to: 1st, Miss Margaret Macdonald, Glasgow; 2nd, Miss Tina Carmichael, Glasgow; 3rd (equal), Miss I. Munro, Glasgow, and Miss M. MacArthur, Campbeltown.

Solo-singing (Male Voices)—1st, Roderick Macleod, Inverness; 2nd, P. Macdonald, Glasgow; 3rd, W. Campbell, Glasgow.

The Celtic Monthly commented on the Mod as follows—"The third annual Gathering of the Comunn Gaidhealach . . . proved even a greater success than those of former years. The attendance both at the competitions and at the evening concert was much larger than before, while the talent displayed by the competitors in the various departments was a distinct improvement. This was especially notable in the musical competitions. The Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association and the Campbeltown Choir certainly deserve praise for the excellent appearance they made, this being their first public performance. The St. Columba Choir deserved first honours, their rendering of *Caisneachd Chloinn Chmrain* being worthy of the best traditions of the Choir. Two lady members of this choir succeeded in securing first and second places in the solo competition. Sutherlandshire, in the person of Mr. R. Macleod, was represented this year for the first time among the competitors, and we were pleased indeed when our countryman carried off first prize for male soloists."

At the evening Concert, in the Volunteer Hall, MacLaine of Lochbuie presided, and the town being full of visitors on account of the Argyllshire Gathering, there was a large and fashionable assemblage.

At the annual business meeting following the Mod, Mr. John Mackay, C.E., Hereford, was appointed President, while Lord Archibald Campbell and Lord Breadalbane were appointed Patrons of the Association. Accessions to the Executive were Rev. James Macdougall, Duroo, John Whyte, Edinburgh, and R. Fergusson, Stirling. "A discussion took place in regard to proposed presentation by Provost McIsaac on behalf of Lord Archibald Campbell to certain of the Choir Conductors at the Concert, but no definite decision was arrived at." (There follows a blank page where the remainder of the minute ought to be).

Glasgow, 1895

Of the first Mod held in Glasgow in 1895 *The Celtic Monthly* carries no report other than the prize-list, and we have been unable so far to make good this unfortunate lack. The prize-list was as follows:—

Best Original Gaelic Poem—1st, John MacFadyen, Glasgow; 2nd, Neil Ross, Glendale. *Translation from Gaelic Poetry*—1st, Rev. W. M. Whyte, Echt; 2nd, A. Stewart, Glenlyon. *Gaelic Prose*—1st, Neil Ross; 2nd, John MacFadyen. *Gaelic Recitation* 1st, Neil Ross; 2nd, A. Stewart, Glenlyon. *Gaelic Reading*—1st Miss Margaret H. MacEachran, Oban; 2nd, Archd. Munn, Oban. *Choral Singing (Juniors)*—Milton School Choir, Glasgow, and Baligarve School, Lismore (equal). *Solo-singing (Junior Female Voices)*—1st, Joan Little, Oban; 2nd, Dora Black. *Solo-singing (Junior: Male Voices)*—Vincent Wilson, Lismore. *Solo-singing (Senior: Ladies)*—Miss Cathie Macneill Robb, Glasgow (Gold Medal); 2nd, Annie Carmichael, Glasgow; 3rd, Lizzie Mackenzie, Inverness. *Solo-singing (Senior: Gentlemen)*—1st, Angus Brown, Glasgow (Gold Medal); 2nd, W. A. Spence, Oban; 3rd, J. E. Cameron, Inverness. *Choral Singing (Seniors)*—1st (equal), Oban Gaelic Choir and Choir of Northern Institute of the Blind, Inverness; 3rd, Glencoe Choir. *Solo, with Clarsach Accompaniment*—1st, Miss Emily Macdonald, Cathcart; 2nd, Miss M. A. Mackechnie, Oban.

Perth, 1896

The Fifth Annual Mod was held in the City Hall, Perth, on Friday, 23rd October, 1896. "The weather was pleasant, and there was a large and representative attendance of Highlanders from all parts of Scotland." In the absence through illness of the President, Mr. John Mackay, C.E., Hereford, the chair was taken by

Dr. Donald MacGregor, ex-M.P. for Inverness-shire, one of the Vice-Presidents. In his opening address Dr. MacGregor "referred in eloquent terms to the objects of the Mod, which were to encourage the teaching of and fostering a love for Gaelic literature and music, and the developing of Highland home industries. He referred to the antiquity and philological value of the language, and advocated that only Gaelic-speaking teachers should be appointed to schools in Gaelic districts. The Clergy were often to blame, as many who had been appointed to Gaelic charges on the understanding that they should preach in Gaelic had failed in their duty. If the clergy made the service attractive and intellectual to the people, they would certainly stay behind to hear a sermon in their mother tongue. The learned doctor also referred to the various industries which the crofter could cultivate to advantage, urging this as an argument why the rural population should be retained on the land and not left to drift into the great cities. The address was eloquent and earnest and gave great pleasure to the large audience."

The Prize-list included the following:—

Original Gaelic Poetry—1st, R. Fraser Mackenzie, Fortrose; 2nd, Mrs. K. Whyte Grant, Appin. *Best harmony of Rob Donn Mackay's song*, 'Is trom leam an àirigh'—1st, Dr. J. Bell, Glasgow; 2nd, J. Lindsay Mackay, LL.B., Glasgow. *Juvenile Choral Competition*—Baligarve Choir, Lismore. *Junior Solo (girls)*—Miss Mary Black, Lismore. *Junior Solo (Boys)*—Henry Wilson, Lismore. *Senior Choral Competition*—1st, Blind Institute, Inverness; 2nd, Oban Gaelic Musical Association; 3rd, Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association. *Senior Solo (female voices)*—1st, Miss Isobel Munro (Gold Medal); 2nd, Miss Lizzie Mackenzie (a blind lady); 3rd, Miss Margaret MacArthur, Oban. *Senior Solo (male voices)*—1st, William A. Spence, Oban; 2nd (equal), Murdo Macleod, North Leith, and James E. Cameron, Cromarty. *Solo singing, with Highland Harp accompaniment*—1st, Miss M. A. Mackechnie, Oban; 2nd, Miss Emily Macdonald.

"An adjournment was made during the competitions, when Lord Provost Dewar entertained a hundred ladies and gentlemen to luncheon in the Salutation Hotel, at which toasts were drunk and appropriate speeches made."

"A Grand Gaelic Concert was given in the City Hall in the evening, the Lord Provost presiding. The prize-winners and choirs took part, ably assisted by the St. Columba Gaelic Choir, Glasgow, conducted by Mr. Archd. Ferguson."

At the Summer Meeting, Charles Fraser-Mackintosh, Esq., of Drummond, Inverness, was appointed President, and Alex. MacBain, Inverness, was appointed a Vice-President.

After the evening concert, Dr. MacGregor entertained the Executive Council, the Perth Committee, and the adjudicators to supper in the Salutation Hotel.

Meeting at Dunblane on 6th February, 1897, the Executive recorded their regret at the death of Dr. N. M. Campbell, Oban, who had played an active part in the work of An Comunn from its inception.

Inverness, 1897

The Sixth Annual Mod was held at Inverness on Wednesday, 15th September, 1897, on the day before the first day of the Northern Meetings games. Dr. Charles Fraser-Mackintosh presided. Delegates from the Irish Féis-Céil and the Welsh Eisteddfod were present and presented addresses. After the chairman's address, "which was worthy of such an important gathering," the choral competitions were held, while the literary competitions were held in the Town Hall, Councillor

William Mackay presiding. "During the day, Dr. Fraser-Mackintosh entertained 300 guests at his beautiful seat, Lochardill. The whole proceedings passed off most successfully, the Gaels of Inverness having risen equal to the occasion. The concert in the evening, presided over by Lord Lovat, was a brilliant gathering, the hall being crowded, and the programme submitted being perhaps the most varied and attractive ever presented at a gathering of Highlanders." Unfortunately, a prize-list is not available.

At a meeting of Executive at Dunblane in November, 1897, Mr. Malcolm Macfarlane and Dr. Magnus Maclean were appointed delegates to the forthcoming Oireachtas meeting in Ireland. It was agreed, after long discussion, "that choirs travelling to the Mod should be allowed travelling expenses and that the local committee should be recommended to raise funds for their personal and hotel expenses." "It was decided that in the musical competitions at the next Mod there should be four judges, two for music who should be allowed a maximum of 20 marks for each competitor, and two men for the Gaelic who should be allowed 10 marks." Mr. John M. Campbell explained "that the Oban members were formulating a scheme to raise funds for the encouragement of rural choirs."

Oban, 1898

The Seventh Annual Mod was held at Oban on 13th September, 1898, "and proved the most successful yet held." Dr. Charles Fraser-Mackintosh, "whose name is revered by Highlanders all the world over," presided. The weather was unfavourable and the attendance was only fairly good at the beginning, but when the music competitions commenced, the hall was crowded." The Chairman referred to the recent deaths of Evan MacColl, the bard of Loch Fyne, and Alexander Mackenzie (of *The Scottish Highlander*). Mr. Macfarlane intimated the result of the competition for school teachers showing the highest percentage of passes in Gaelic, as follows:—

1st, Hyllipol, Tیره (£11); 2nd, Kilchoan (£9); 3rd, Cornaigmore, Tیره (£6 6/-); 4th, Oban (£4 10/-).

"During the proceedings in the forenoon reports were submitted from the delegates of the Mod to the Eisteddfod in Wales, to the Féis-Cóil in Belfast, and to the Oireachtas in Dublin. Mr. D. A. S. Mackintosh said that he had visited both the Féis-Cóil and the Eisteddfod and that at both places he had received the most flattering reception. Mr. John Mackay, Hereford, who also represented the Mod at the Eisteddfod, gave an interesting account of the proceedings and described his election as a bard. Mr. Malcolm Macfarlane, as the delegate of the Mod to the Oireachtas, said that he had had a most cordial reception from the Celts of Ireland. Mr. John MacNeill, Mr. Macnally, and Mr. A. W. Martin represented the Gaelic League of Ireland.

It is unnecessary to give the prize-list in detail. The following items are worthy of special mention. *Gaelic Poem or Song*—1st, Donald Mackechnie, Edinburgh; 2nd, Alex. Stewart, Glenlyon, and William Macphail, Tیره (equal). *Gaelic Essay by Shye School Children*—1st (equal), John Macleod, Rona, and Catherine Nicolson, Rona, 2nd (equal), Kenneth MacLennan, Rona, and Bella Nicolson, Rona. *Junior Choral*—1st, Oban Gaelic Musical Association Junior Choir; 2nd, Rhinns Junior Gaelic Choir, Islay. *Solos (Junior Girls)*—1st, Jessie Duncan, Islay. *Boys*—1st, Edmund Black, Islay. *Gold Medal Solo Competitions (Ladies)*—1st, Miss Lizzie Mackenzie, Inverness. Men—1st, D. D. Macdonald, Skye. *Duet*—Miss Kate McColl and Miss E. MacEachran, Oban; and Miss Mary Ann Mackechnie and Mr. W. A. Spence, Oban (equal). *Quartette*—Inverness Gaelic Party. *Solo Singing (Open)*—Roderick Macleod, Inverness. *Senior Choral*—1st,

Oban Gaelic Musical Association; 2nd, Inverness Gaelic Choir; 3rd, Perth Gaelic Society Choir.

The Annual Business Meeting was held in the Volunteer Hall, Oban, in the afternoon and it was agreed to hold the next Mod in Perth, and, "on the understanding that the Mod should be held in Perth," The Marquis of Tullibardine was appointed President, Lord Provost Dewar of Perth and Sir R. Pullar were added to the Vice-Presidents, and Mr. John A. Stewart, Perth, was appointed Joint Hon. Secretary.

(To be continued)

Treasurer's Notes

NATIONAL MOD—ABERDEEN, 1955

Received at Aberdeen—

Miss H. Mackenzie, Aberdeen	£—	12	6
Dr. H. Crow, Aberdeen	2	—	—
Anonymous, per Miss C. M. Mackenzie, Aberdeen Branch Treasurer	—	17	—
Mrs. Andrews, Bucksburn	2	2	—
Clan Donald Society of Aberdeen	25	—	—
Mrs. Gordon, Cults	—	18	6
The Deeside Field Club, Aberdeen	20	—	—
John Williamson, Esq., M.A., Blairgowrie	1	—	—
Dr. Donald Macdonald, Stornoway	1	1	—
Miss Lillias MacGibbon, Aberdeen	1	17	—
Mrs. Joan Wolridge-Gordon, Esslemont	1	—	—
Major Duncan MacCallum, M.P., Taynult	1	1	—
Mrs. Anderson, Aberdeen	—	10	—
Sir Alan McLean, Alford	5	—	—
Commander J. W. Hobbs, Inverlochy Castle	2	—	—
Iain M. Moffatt-Pender, Esq., M.A., Glasgow	50	—	—
Mrs. B. M. Campbell, Aberdeen	5	—	—
Entertainments Committee	115	17	8
Highland Fair, 11th September, 1954	924	4	7
Ladies Committee	71	4	5

Individual Efforts—

Miss C. M. Mackenzie	£—	10	—	
Miss C. M. Munro	17	3	3	
Mrs. J. M. Henderson	22	17	3	
Miss Robertson, Inverurie	3	11	—	
D. C. Cowan, Esq.	17	12	—	
		61	13	6
		£1292	19	2

Received at Headquarters—

Specific Prizes not awarded at Perth, brought forward—				
Ceilidh nan Gaidheal	£5	—	—	
Glasgow Skye Association	5	—	—	
Clan Munro Association	3	—	—	
		13	—	
Sutherland Provincial Mod Committee	5	—	—	
Mr. Duff, Fort William	3	3	—	
Clan Maclean Association, Glasgow	10	—	—	
Colonsay S.W.R.I.	5	—	—	
Comunn Tir nan Beann, Duncideann	1	—	—	
Miss Mary B. Maclean, Glasgow	1	1	—	
Mr. & Mrs. Hugh W. Johnstone, Inverness	2	—	—	
Miss Katie MacLaine, Glasgow	—	10	—	
William Hume, Esq., Glasgow	—	1	1	
		£1334	14	2



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar VII

AN CEITEIN, 1955

Aireamh 5

Turus chum an Tuir

Le DOILEAG NICCOINNICH

BHA an samhradh a nis againn, oir bha bruthainneachd an latha, teas tlàth na gréine, agus beothalachd a' chrinne-ché 'ga dhearbhadh gu socair, soilleir. Bu bhregha da-rìribh na Hearadh air an là chiùin ud! Bha mi fhéin cuideachd an deagh fhonn, agus an sgoil a nis dùinte. Cha robh math gun là cho bòidheach a bhuileachadh, agus chuir mi fhéin agus mo dhà charaid romhainn gun deanadh sinn là mór dheth. Rinn sinn air an Tuir.

Tha an Tuir air a shuidheachadh ann am baile Róghadaill ann an ceann a deas na Hearadh—teachdaire bho'n t-seann aimsir, ma tha de thuigse agus de thìde againn na leughas a naidheachd. Is i eaglais Chaitliceach a bha an seo là d'an robh i ach chan 'eìl seirbhisean air an cumail innte an diugh ann, ged tha i fosgailte mar chulaidh ionghnaidh do'n fhear-turuis. Thogadh an eaglais seo mu àm Choluim-Cille, oir tha beul-aithris a' cumail a mach gun e naomh sònraichte a thàinig do na h-Eileanan an Iar a sgapadh an t-Soisgeil a thog i.

Bha a' ghrian 'na h-àirdead an uair a ràinig sinn i, agus bha an Tuir an siud f'ar combhair gu h-uabhair, cianail, mar sheann laoch a' ruamhar air na dh'fhalbh. A smaointean a' snamh air ais troimh linnntean a dh'aom. B'ùmaidh agus dall an intinn air nach deanadh an sealladh mun cuairt greim air chor-eigin. Cha robh smid aig duine againn, ach cha robh cridhe gun ghluasad.

Chaidh sinn an toiseach do'n chladh. Bha m'ar coinneamh uaigh boireannaich chòir a chaidh a thiodhlacadh an là sin fhéin. Bha i ceud bliadhna a dh'aois, agus bha mòran de fhùraichean bòidheach air a h-uaigh. Bha an là an dé an seo a' breith air làimh air an là an diugh. Lorg sinn uaigh Iain Gobha na Hearadh. Bha an seo carragh-cuimhne eireachdail air a thogail mar chuimhneachan air a' bhàrd ainmeil seo le muinntir an eilein air fad, agus stad sinn le deòin a chur urraim air a bhuanhan ceòlmhor beannaichte. Bha sinn a

nis air son uaigh Màiri Nighean Alasdair Ruaidh fhaicinn. Dh'fheuch sinn shuas is ann an iomadach caibeal, ach cha d'fhuair sinn idir lorg oirre. Is mór mo bharaill gur fhada o'n dh'fhalaicheadh i leis an fheur a bha a' cur an àite fodha fhéin.

Nochd sinn a steach do'n eaglais. Bha an seòmar ìosal farsainn, fuar agus dorcha. Bha na ballachan air am fìor chlachaireachd le làimh ghriinn, agus bha an t-ùrlar air a chur sìos air an dòigh cheudna.

Mhothaich sinn do uaigh MhicLeòid air a suidheachadh far an robh lomhaigh Alasdair Chrotaich air a gràbhaladh as a' chloich dhuibh. Bha e sgeadaichte ann an aodach cogaidh, làn-Ghaidheal san fhéileadh, le claidhnean air a bhroilleach, agus aig a chasan bha nathraichean 'gan suaineadh fhéin mu amhaichean dà choin. Bha mòran sgrìobhaidh timcheall na h-uaighe ann an Laideann, agus thug sinn greis a' geur-amharc air seo. Bha dà uaigh eile anns an t-suidheachadh cheudna sin, agus cuideachd bha mòran de dh'uaighean eile anns an ùrlar le croisean is Laideann orra nach do thuig sinn, oir bha iad os cionn ar sgoilearachd. Chaidh sinn troimh chùiltean uaigneach, gruamach, is suas àraidhean fiodha a bha ceangailte ris an ùrlar gus an d'ràinig sinn am mullach. Is b'e siud an sealladh àlainn a fhuair sinn air beinn, abhainn is loch!

Air taobh a muigh na h-eaglaise bha dealbh na h-Oighe Moire air a shnaidheadh as a' chloich. Bha cuideachd dealbh na Leisge air an taobh an iar de'n eaglais, agus gu tuath bha acair air obrachadh gu h-innleachdach anns a' chloich. Nach bu ghriinn a chaidh an luchd-ceaird ris a' ghnòthach anns na làithean cruaidhe, an-ìochdmhor ud!

Bha sinn duilich a leithid de dh'àite beannaichte fhàgail air an fheasgar bhòidheach seo, ach cha bhiodh againn ri ràdh tuilleadh nach fhaca sinn aon de na h-eaglaisean a bu mhaisiche is a b'aoisda ann an Albainn.

(A Leabhran Bliadhnaidh Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir-nis, 1954).

Am Piobaire

BHA siud ann roimhid piobaire agus bha e a' falbh gu banais; is chan fhalbhadh e leis fhéin idir is thug e leis dithis eile còmhla ris is dh'fhalbh iad.

Thàinig iad air àirigh is chaidh iad a staigh is thòisich am piobaire air cluich na pioba. Thòisich a chompanaich air damnsa. Mu dheireadh thuirtear fear dhiubh, "Nach bochd a nis nach robh boireannaich againn a thigeadh a dhannsa!"

Cha luaithe a thuirtear sin na dh'fhosgail an dorus is thàinig dà bhòireannach a staigh is thòisich iad air damnsa.

An ceann ùine thuirtear aon té de na boireannaich ris a' phìobaire, "Cuir bhuaht a' phìob sin agad," ach thuirtear esan nach cuireadh. "Is binn leam fhéin an ceòl a tha innte."

Thuirtear e an uair sin, "Tha mise a' falbh a mach." (Mhòthaich e gur e crodhanan a bha air na boireannaich).

Thuirtear ise ris gun dhol a mach idir, gun teicheadh e.

"Seo dhuit, ma tà, ceann mo bhreacain guailne," arsa esan is dh'fhalbh e a mach, is thug e a' phrìne a bha a' cumail a' bhreacain guailne is stop e anns an ursann i is shuain e ceann a' bhreacain guailne mun cuairt air a' phrìne is theich e.

Bha e a' ruith is a' ruith is chuala e fuaim air a chùlaibh, is bha i a' tighinn as a dheoghaidh. Thàinig e gu pàirce mhór a bha làn each. Chaidh e chun an eich a bu mhòtha is cha robh de lùths ann na leumadh air an eich is cha d' rinn e ach a làmh a shuaineadh mun cuairt air muing an eich is bha e a' cumail an eich a' dol mun cuairt is cha tobh i a' faighinn chuige is bhiodh an t-each 'ga breabadh air falbh.

Mu dheireadh aig gairm choileach dh'fhalbh i 'na splanganan teine do na speuran.

An uair a ràinig am piobaire an àirigh far an robh an dithis eile cha d' fhuair e ach na cnàmhan aca!

(Bha daoine a' creidsinn nach robh e ceart a ràdh, "B'fheàrr gu robh a leithid seo de dhùine còmhla ruinn," air eagal thachairt mar a thachair anns an sgeulachd-sa.)

*Calum Mac-an-t-saoir (Aois 10)
Sgoil Bhréithig am Barraidh.*

Fearchar Og

BHA siud ann roimhid fear ris an canar Fearchar Og. Aon là dh'fhalbh e do'n bheinn a shealgairachd is thug e leis an cù agus an gunna.

Thàinig an oidhche air, agus cha robh àite ann anns am faigheadh e fagsadh. Mu dheireadh chaidh e a bhroinn uamha mhóir. Thog e teine is rinn e suipeir de eun dha fhéin is do'n chù. Shin e e fhéin air ùrlar na h-uamha is chaidh e.

Feadh na h-oidhche dhùisgeadh Fearchar Og le grumalladh a' choin, agus, ag éirigh, chunnaic e cailleach mhór 'na seasamh aig dorus na h-uamha. Rinn e greim air a' ghunna, ach cha do loisg an gunna dha idir, is thuirtear e ris a' chù a dhol am bad na té a bha anns an dorus.

Leum an cù 'na bad is shlaod e air falbh bho dhorus na h-uamha i, agus bha sabaid mhór aca a muing. An uair a shaoil an cù gu robh e shìos, bhiodh e air muin na caillich, agus an uair a shàoil a' chailleach gu robh i shìos bhiodh i air muin a' choin.

An uair a chunnaic a' chailleach nach deanadh i an gnothach air a' chù, dh'eubh i air Fearchar Og an cù a chasg. Rinn e sin, agus an uair a thàinig an cù chunnaic e nach robh ribe clùmh-taich air!

Chaidh Fearchar Og dhachaigh leis a' chù, agus bha an cù a' tighinn air n-aghaidh a h-uile latha. Cha robh uair a rachadh Fearchar Og do'n bheinn an deaghaidh sin nach robh an cù còmhla ris.

Ach chan fhacas sealladh tuilleadh air a' chaillich.

*Prainnseas MacAonghais (aois 10)
Sgoil Bhréithig am Barraidh.*

Biaist Mhiughlaidh

BHA siud ann roimhid fear a bha a' fuireach ann am Miughlaidh is bhiodh biaist 'ga ruith.

Là bha siud chaidh e far an robh fiosaiche is dh'fhaighnich e de'n fhiosaiche an cuidicheadh e e air son a' bhiaist a chumail air falbh.

Thuirtear am fiosaiche ris, "Faigh thusa cnap geire, is tog teine mór an meadhon an taighe. Agus faigh boghta iarainn, agus bi a' leaghadh na geire leis a' bhoghta, is an uair a thig ise a staigh cuir am boghta 'na h-amhaich."

Rinn an duine mar a dh'iarr am fiosaiche, agus an uair a thàinig a' bhiaist a staigh chuir e am boghta 'na h-amhaich.

Dh'fhalbh i a mach agus chaidh i le sloc is chan fhaca e riamh tuilleadh i.

Beagan an deaghaidh sin dh'eug e fhéin an déidh na rinn e de shabaid rithe is 'ga cumail air falbh.

(Tha sloc ann am Miughlaidh ris an canar "Sloc na Bèiste.")

*Calum Mac-an-t-saoir (Aois 10),
Sgoil Bhréithig am Barraidh.*

BAS CARAID

Bidh na balaich is na caileagan a thachair air aig Campaichean Comunn na h-Oigridh duilich a chluinntinn gun do chaochail an t-Urramach Alasdair Dòmhnallach, Ministear Aird-chatain. B'fhuair-charaid e do'n òigridh, agus bidh mòr-ionndrainn againn air.

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General Secretary

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JUNE, 1955

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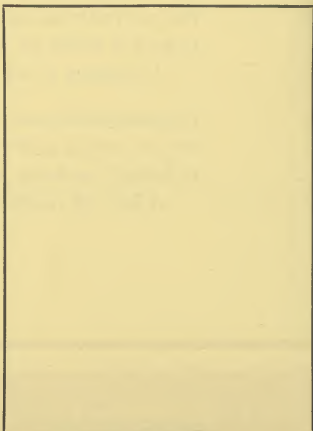
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THE GAEL

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF
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Editor

REV. T. M. MURCHISON, M.A.

All correspondence should be addressed to the Editor, except that concerning advertising, which should be addressed to the Secretary, while Subscriptions should be sent to the Treasurer.

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AN T-OG-MHIOS, 1955

Aireamh 6

Rob Donn

Le ALASDAIR IAIN MACASGAILL

(Air A Leantainn.)

B'E Donnchadh Bàn, gun teagamh, sàr-bhàrd an t-seilg, an aonaich, is a' mhonaigh, ach ged nach 'eil Rob Donn cho blasda ris ann a bhith a' seinn sòlas inntinn gach frith is beinn, tha e glé choltach gu robh e fhéin cion gu leòir a "bhith an soc nam meall garbh" agus anns an Oran gu Morair Mhìoghradh chì sinn gum bu tric a inntinn far an robh "fùdar a' lasadh eadar clach agus òrd." B'e a bheachd-san cuideachd, a réir aithris, gu robh a' chòir far an robh am fiadh agus, mar sin, cha robh e fhéin agus am maor gu tric réidh, ach is mór a nì rabhd guineach agus facal geur gu "cothrom na Féinne" fhaighinn gun taing dhaibh. 'S math dh'fhaoidte nach 'eil am bòidhchead ciùin agus an ceòl aoibhinn domhainn a chuireas sùrd agus sàmchar milis ann an cridhe an fhir-éisdich idir cho mothachail blasda ann an òrain seilge Rob Donn agus a tha iad ann an sàr-obair Bàrd Ghlinn Urchaidh, ach aig a' cheart àm chì sinn anna fìor smior an deagh spioraid aig an robh sìor iarraidh air saorsainn inntinn dha fhéin is do chàch.

Is trom, da-rìreadh, an t-eallach an gràdh agus có a thuigeas far am buail e, no idir an dòrainn a thig 'na chois gun fhios gun iarraidh? Tha e sgrìobhte gur e Anna Nic a' Mhuire a' chuid chaileag anns an do chuir Rob Donn a

dhùil, ach ged bu mhór a ghaol dhi-se is beag dheth a thàinig air ais chuige. Bha féill mhór air "Anna chich-chorrach, chaol-mhalach, shliob-cheannach, chruinn," agus b'e freagairt faoin glioganach a thug i do'n bhàrd:

"Tha seathnar 'gam iarraidh o bhliadhna do thiom,
'S cha b'airidh le càch thu thoirt bàrr os an cionn."

Agus a mach a thug i leis an t-saor is dh'fhàg i Rob Donn air an allaban, "air a bhuaireadh le brudraichean gaoil." Ach an déidh sin bha a chridhe slàn fallain gu leòir fhathast, agus is iomadh stùil chaogach a chuir e an taobh seo agus an taobh ud eile mus tug e mu dheireadh thall a làmh do Sheònaid NicAoidh mu'n bhliadhna 1740. Bha e a nis air taigh Mhic-Eachainn fhàgail, ach b'ann aige a bha Rob fhathast air thuarasdail, agus is iomadh sgrìob ainmeil a thug e troimh an Ghaidhealtachd a bha 'na fhosgladh inntinn dha fhéin is do chàch.

Timcheall air 1759 is ann a ghabh ar laochan greis do'n Arm, ach is iongantach leinn gun do chail Rob Donn mòran falluis ri linn sin. Bha cur-seachad agus aoibhneas gu leòir air aire-san agus is fìor chinnteach gur iomadh gàire mór neo-lochdmhor a thug na saighdearan ud air a losd. Cha b'fhada gu dearbh a laigheadh

gruaim no mìghean far am biodh esan, agus faodar a chreidsinn gur mór a bha acasan m'a dheighinn, agus nach robh càil ach fearas-chuideachd de'n t-seòrsa air iarraidh air.

An ceann greis, co-dhiubh, thug am bàrd an dachaigh air a rithist, agus fluair e car ùine cosnadh aig MacAoidh Mór fhéin, ach cha robh frasadh a' choire idir ri tighinn ris, agus is ann a ghabh e fhéin sgalag 'na àite fhad 's a bhiodh esan 'ga lianagaich fhéin aig an taigh. Ach na bu mhó cha do chòrd leisgean de'n t-seòrsa sin idir ri MacAoidh; deanadh e beagan dheth, gun teagamh, air bòrd a' chòcaire mar a thuirnt an t-seana bhean ris a' choileach!—'s mar sin b'fheudar do'n bhàrd a chasan a thoirt leis gu fearann eile. Cha b'fhada mar sin e, gu tà, agus an uair a thàinig Uisdean MacEachainn, mac an deagh athar, dhachaigh, á tìrean céine agus a thog e àite a athar, bha Rob Donn a rithist ann an obair, agus bha e fhéin agus a theaghlach—'s cha bu bheag sin a réir aithris—sona gu leòir dheth.

B'e òrain agus rabhdan a bheatha do Rob Donn, oir cha robh stad air a bheul-san agus b'aighearach éibhinn ann an cuideachd e. Agus b'ann dha fhéin a thigeadh a dhòl an ceann bùird aig banais. Siud far am biodh an othail—lachain chridheil shona agus mire gun lochd. Chan e idir nach biodh e guineach gu leòir an uair a thogradh e fhéin, ach an déidh sin cò a b'urrainn gun ghàire a dheanamh ag éisdeachd cur-a-mach a' bhàird aig banais Iseabail NicAoidh. Tha e glé choltach nach d'fhuair esan cuireadh idir do'n bhanais, ach chaidh fios a chur air an oidhche sin fhéin, oir cha b'fhèairde a' chuideachd idir a bhith as aonais, agus an uair a ràinig e siud esan gu gnìomh is gu fuaim. Thug e dhaibh an siud an seasamh nam bonn "Briogais Mhìc Ruairidh" agus is iongantach mun do shrac iad uile ri gàireachdainn. Chan 'eil facal searbh mì-mhodhail an seo, ach briathran spòrsail, cho meannnach suigeartach 's a chaidh a riamh an clò. Cò a chuireadh umhail a réisd ged a b'àrd a chliù agus a urram 'na dhùthaich fhéin?

Their cuid, gu tà, nach robh mòran làimhe aig Rob Donn air fìor bhàrdachd chudhromach ach cha tu fhìrinn sin idir, agus ma bheir sinn sùil car tiota air "Oran a' Gheamhraidh" aige chì sinn beagan de a chomas mar shàr-bhàrd. Chan 'eil sinn idir ag ràdh gu bheil e cho ceòlmhor mìn agus sèimh ri òran no dhà eile air an dearbh chuspair seo fhéin ach gidheadh tha na briathran làn brìgh agus léirsinneachd agus gach dealbh cho deanta cumanta agus nach b'urrainn facal eile a chur ris. Cò nach fhaic dha fhéin:

Am bradan caol bharr an fhìor uisg',
Fliuch slaod-earballach fuar,
'S e gu tàrr-ghlogach ronnach

Clamhach gheàrr-bhallach lannach,
Soills' nam meig air 'na earradh,
Fiamh na gainn' air 's gach tuar,
'S e gu crom-cheannach burrach
Dol le puimne 'na chuaich.

Mura ruig ar tuigse gu léir air gach facal, is cinnteach co-dhiubh gun dean ar n-aignidhean sùgradh riutha. Dé an còrr a dh'iarrar air sàr-bhàrd?

Cha robh càil a chluinneadh no a chitheadh Rob Donn nach cuireadh e rann air, beag no mòr dha robh e. Tha cuid de na cuspairean sin air nach 'eil sinne glé eòlach, ach an déidh sin gun fhios orra chan aithne dhuinn dùthaich MhìcAoidh aig an àm ud. Tha cuid de'n bheachd nach bu chòir bàrdachd a chur air ni sam bith nach 'eil diomhair miòr-bhuileach agus urramach dheth fhéin, ach biodh e a chaoidh mar àrd-chliù aig Rob Donn gu robh a shùil anns an t-saoghal mu'n iadh a' ghrian, agus gach cuspair air an tug e aithris, air cho ìosal bochd 's gum biodh e, gun do chuir e le a bhriathran snasail ceòlmhor urram air. Cha b'e a h-uile duine—cha b'e no duine idir ach e fhéin—a dheanadh e. Is iomadh fear a chrìochnaich roimh geurad a theanga, oir air uairean tha barrachd cumhachd aig a' pheann na aig a' chliaidheamh fhéin. B'fhèairde an dùthaich e; chuir e sìos air an t-slaodaire 's air an leisgean agus chuir e an àrd luchd an deagh ghniomh agus ceartas cridhe. Mar sin bha e fhéin cho math ri "seasonin" sam bith—cò dheidheadh air seachran nach cluinneadh e fhéin agus am baile e? Mar a thuir e fhéin:

Bu mhat leam an ciontach a bhualadh
'S cha b'ail leam na t-usal a shealg
'S ged chuireas mi gruaim air a' chuireach
Cha ghabh an duine onarach fearg.

Tha cuid de a chainnt nach urrainn dhuinn gu tric no gu h-iomlan a leantainn, ach tha a' mhòr-chuid dhith làn tuigse agus faireachdainn agus chan 'eil teagamh air bith nach 'eil Rob Donn, chan e a mhàin 'na urram do Dhùthaich MhìcAoidh ach aig a' cheart àm air fìor thoiseach prìomh bhàrd na Gaidhealtachd gu léir. Bha ann a thug bàrr air an siud agus an seo, ach mar bhàrd iomlan le gach seòrsa dàn seo, ach mar bhàrd iomlan le gach seòrsa dàn seo, ach mar bhàrd iomlan le gach seòrsa dàn seo, ach mar bhàrd iomlan le gach seòrsa dàn seo,

Chaochail e anns a' bhliadhna 1778, còrr is trì fichead bliadhna 's a ceithir a dh'aois. Bu mhór an t-ainm a fhuair e 'na dhùthaich fhéin agus b'airidh e air gach ball dheth, oir bha e usal 'na chridhe, agus gasda tuigseach 'na inntirn. Thug e, ar leam, do bhàrdachd na Gaidhealtachd ceòl agus aighear agus àrd-smuaintean a mhaireas cho fada ri Tim—

Leis gach britheamh d'an eòl dàn
Bidh cuimhne gur bràth air Rob Donn.

(A' CHRIOCH)

Oraid Air Seann Oilean Nan Gaidheal

LE DIARMAID DONN AN TUIRC

A REIR coltais cha b'ionnan nàdur do'n draoidheachd is do'n chleasachd a bha air a teagasg anns an Sgoil-dhuibh. Tha mi anns a' bheachd seo a chionn gu bheil cunntas againn gur ann anns an Eadailt a bha fòghlum air spleachas ri fhaighinn, agus a ris a chionn nach robh meas aig ar n-athraichean air obair no cleasaibh de'n t-seòrsa seo.

An robh, ma tà, oilean a b'fhearr aca féin?

Is còir gur luaithe tuigse na breitheanas ann an ceist de'n t-seòrsa seo. Bha ar sinnsre am beachd gu robh eacdhraidh a' chinne-daoine air a riaghladh a réir cùrsa na gréine; gu robh uisgeachan agus sùghan fu smachd na gealaich; gu robh de bhuaidh aig stàilinn na cheannsaicheadh fuathaich; agus gu robh leigheas anns an airgead air son sùil bheuma.

Tha na nithean seo fìor no mearachdach a réir an t-seagha anns an gabh sinn iad. An robh na seann Ghaidheil 'gan tuigsinn?

Chan 'eil mi a' cur romham a bhith a' caith-eamh ùine le bhith a' coimeas ealdhain an là an diugh ris an ealdhain a bha ann o shean. Tha e fìor gun do shluig am fòghlum d'a bheil sinn a' toirt géill mòran de'n fhòghlum a bha aig na seann daoine. Tha e fìor gu bheil daoine tuigseach anns gach àm de'n t-saoghal a' sealltainn romhpa agus 'nan déidh, ach chan 'eil e soilleir gur e seo a bha air a chiallachadh le bhith ag ràdh gu robh daoine "a' deanamh eòlais" agus "a' deanamh fiosachd."

Chuala mi sluagh ag ràdh gu robh galair ann ri linn ar n-athraichean nach 'eil a' cur dragh oirne a nis. Chuala mi iad ag ràdh gu robh an crodh na b'fhaidhaiche, agus gu robh da-rìreadh feum air laogh thulchainn. Chan 'eil e eu-coltach gu robh daoine-fuadain ann, a bha mì-dhealbhadh 'nam pearsa agus 'nan giùlan, agus gu robh stéidh àraidh aig na sgeulachdan a bha air an aithris mu iomadh bàs obann, sgiorradh, dosgairn, goid, agus an leithidean sin nach 'eil soirbh dhuinn a chreidsinn air an là a tha ann.

Tha seo fìor gu leòir, agus bhiodh e na bu taitnichte a bhith ag éisdeachd ri duine a' mìneachadh na frìnn a tha anns na sgeòil seo na ri duine a fhuair dòigh air foichad a dheanamh orra. Aig a' cheart àm, ged tha gliocas gach linn aon-sgeulach, tha iomadh dòigh air a' ghliocas seo a leigeil ris, agus tha mi am barail nach 'eil stéidh sam bith an oibre na cruinne air son cuibhrrinn mhòir de'n oilean a tha a làthair no de'n oilean a dh'fhalbh.

Tha mòran de seo a' seasamh ann an co-aontachadh.

An uair a théid duine do na h-oil-thaighean as maireann, tha e a' faighinn eòlais agus urraim, ach tha earrann mhòr de'n luach a tha fuaighte ris na cuspairean sin ag éirigh o ch-thuigse am measg dhaoine. Ann an gnòthaichean a bhuineas do chreideamh, tha seo soilleir gu leòir. Ann an gnòthaichean a bhuineas do ùil cunntais, tha seo cinnteach gu leòir. Tha "X" cho math ri "Y" air dòigh; ach tha duais anns na samhlaidhean sin a ghnàthachadh gu riaghailteach ged nach bi bunait nàdurra aig an riaghailt.

Chan ann uile gun aobhar a bhiodh na Gaidheil a' dol deiseil air gach còmh-dhail chudthromach. A réir beachd nan seann dhaoine bha gach taobh de'n duine 'na shamhladh air roinn de'n domhainn mhòr. Bha e feumail aig toiseach turuis gun rachadh na samhlaidhean seo a ghnàthachadh. Chan 'eil an cleachdadh a bhith a' toirt spuir á amar uillt-chrìche bonn na's doirbhe ri thuigsinn na mòran de na toimhseachain anns an robh sluagh aon uair a' gabhail tlachd.

A bheil cead againn a ràdh, ma tà, gur e aineolas a mhàin a chumas a leithid seo air chuimhne?

Tha e amaideach gu leòir a bhith a' smaoin-eachadh gun do mharbh Diarmaid Donn an torc dlùth air Tobar-nam-bas-toll; no gu robh nì a bhuineas do Chormaig air a chur an gnìomh ri taic an uillt a tha air ainmeachadh air a' ghaisgeach sin. Ach, air an làimh eile, cha robh e amaideach do na Gaidheil an uair a thigeadh iad do dhùthaich ùr na seann ainmean a thoir air ionadan do'n tàinig iad.

Cha ruig sinn a leas gach nì a thig á beul amadain a chur suarach. Is tric a thachair e gur e an duine a nì seo as amaidh de'n dithis.

Tha am feum a gheibhear ann an oilean de'n t-seòrsa seo a réir mar a chumar e. Is iomadh facal a tha suarach gu leòir a dh'fheumas duine ionnsachadh a tha a' leantainn an lagha, a chionn gur e sin am facal a chleachd na daoine a bha roimh seo an cumhachd.

Is iomadh sgeul a tha faoin gu leòir, ma tha i sean, a gheibh inbhe àrd an bàrdachd. Agus os bàrr seo chan 'eil dearbhadh as cudthromach ann an rannsachadh air bith na gnòthach a bhios cho suarach is gun deachaidh a leigeil air dì-chuimhne air gach taobh.

Is i cainnt ar màthar seann chainnt ar dùthcha, agus a chum a chum a tuigsinn tha e feumail

gun gabhadh sinn beachd air iomadh facal a tha air a chunntadh suarach a chionn nach 'eil e air a ghnàthachadh leis a' mhòr-chuideachd. Ach cha mhòr cothrom a fhuair daoine riagh nach 'eil fuaighte ri mì-chothrom agus cha mhòr mì-chothrom nach 'eil a' giùlan cothrom.

Bhiodh e maslach do na Gaidheil nam biodh e ri ràdh gur e Sasannaich a mhàin aig a bheil meas air oilean na Gaidhealtachd agus aig am bi toiseach slighe a chum an tobair as a bheil Breatainn a' tarraing a eòlais.

Story of An Comunn

By THE EDITOR

V.—THE FIRST TEN YEARS (1891-1901) (Continued)

Edinburgh, 1899

At a meeting of Executive at Dunblane in November, 1898, Mr. J. A. Stewart explained that the general feeling in Perth was that the Mod "should not be held there in 1899 as it would be rather soon after last Mod there. They would be very pleased to have the Gathering in the following year." The Secretary read letters from Mr. Archibald Menzies, S.S.C., Edinburgh, heartily inviting the Association to hold the next Mod in Edinburgh. This was agreed, and a local committee was formed with Mr. Menzies as Convener. He was also made a Vice-President of An Comunn. A Musical Committee, consisting of Malcolm Macfarlane, A. B. Ferguson, and John A. Stewart, was appointed.

The Eighth Annual Mod was held in the Music Hall, Edinburgh, on 5th October, 1899, Sir Robert Menzies, Bart., presiding. The hall was well-filled. The Chairman strongly advocated that Gaelic should be taught in all Highland schools. Addresses were delivered by Lord Castleton and Messrs. E. Fournier and P. H. Pierce, who represented kindred societies in Ireland. Mr. Henry Whyte read the report of the adjudicators on the literary competitions, from which it appeared "that no less than 79 papers had been sent in and the standard of excellence was greatly improved on former years." Among the prize-winners may be noted—Neil Ross (1st for original poem and 1st for recitation), Mrs. K. W. Grant, John MacFadyen, Alexander Stewart, Glenlyon, and Rev. Charles M. Robertson. The prizes for schools with highest percentage of passes in Gaelic went to—1st, Paible, North Uist (49); 2nd (equal), Oban High School, Hyilipol (Tiree), Balemartin (Tiree), and Stafin (Skye) (46 each). The gold medallists were—Miss Tena Carmichael, Glasgow and Mr. Allan Hunter, Oban, Inverness Gaelic Choir won the Senior Choral Competition, and Rhinnis Junior Gaelic Choir, Islay, won the Junior Choral Competition. Prizes for the best Gaelic essay on any topic of local interest (open only to boys and confined to schools in the Reay country) went to two boys from Melness. Three children from Rona, Skye, monopolised once again the prizes for best essay by pupils in Skye schools.

At the evening concert, the Music Hall "was crowded with one of the most influential and enthusiastic Highland gatherings ever held in Edinburgh. The capital has always been notorious for its coldness towards things Highland, but on this occasion it belied its reputation. The concert was entirely Gaelic, and every item was applauded. On several occasions the five combined choirs, assisted by the famous Reel and Strathspey Band and the organ, gave a splendid

The mórán de cheistean cudthromach gu leòir a dh'fhaodas a bhith air am fuasgladh le eòlas de'n t-seòrsa seo, ach tha iuchair na ceiste as cudthromaiche a' sìor-dhol am falach.

Olc no math 'gam bi an suidheachadh anns am faigh duine e fhéin, is e an staid sin a tha a' fosgladh dhàsan doras a chum a leas, agus tha iuchair an doruis seo mar as trice ri fhaighinn ann a bhith a' leantainn gu dlùth ris na nithean as measail a tha ann an comas ar làmhnan.

(*Bho Cho-chruinneachadh Nèill Chaimbeul*).

rendering of favourite songs, such as probably no one in the hall ever heard the like before. After this experience, no one need say that a programme must be almost entirely English or Lowland to secure a good audience."

Perth, 1900

The Ninth Annual Mod was held in the City Hall, Perth, on 29th November, 1900. In the absence through illness of the President, Mr. John Mackay, Hereford, Mr. William Mackay, Inverness, presided. He declared that "never before had so much attention been given to the collecting and preserving of Gaelic music," but "there was yet much to be done in the way of collecting the thousands of Gaelic melodies which are still to be heard in the land." He believed that "there were more Gaelic-speaking people now living than in the past." "Music was a valuable means of preserving a language, and so long as Highlanders sang their native melodies the Gaelic could not die." He referred to the recent publication of "two handsome volumes" of "ancient hymns, incantations, and prayers." The reference was to Alexander Carmichael's "Carmina Gadelica."

"The attendance at both Mod and Concert was excellent, but the musical standard was not so good as that of previous years. This was undoubtedly due to the absence of the five leading choirs—St. Columba, Glasgow Musical, Oban, Inverness, and Blind Asylum." In the choral competition, Perth Gaelic Society's Choir was 1st, and Dundee Gaelic Choir 2nd. The Gold Medallists were Kate Munro, Dornoch, and James Ross, Glasgow. There was a solo singing competition confined to those able to converse in Gaelic, and another open to professionals, former gold medallists and prize-winners (won by Mary M. Macleod). The premier soloists among the juniors were Miss Duncan, Glasgow, and Charles MacQueen, Logierait. The usual names appear in the literary competitions: Mrs. K. W. Grant, Donald Mackechnie (best song on "Gaise nan Gaidheal an Coghad na h-Airic"), A. Stewart (Glenlyon), John Whyte, Neil Ross, John MacFadyen and Charles M. Robertson.

"At one o'clock an interval took place, when Mr. John A. Dewar, M.P., entertained 200 guests to luncheon in the Salutation Hotel."

Glasgow, 1901

The Tenth Annual Mod was held in the St. Andrew's Halls, Glasgow, on 19th September, 1901. "There was a crowded attendance in the Berkeley Hall, where the Marquis of Graham presided." The Chairman said that "the Gaelic language spoke to the Highlander of all that was grand and great in the past," but they

needed 'mods, schools, and congresses' to help maintain and spread the Celtic languages. Gaelic had more than once been threatened with extinction. "The difficulty of preserving the language lay in the fact that they had now no Gaelic words to express many things in everyday use. They had to borrow words from the English language."

The Gold Medalists were Mary M. Macleod and John Cameron, both of Glasgow. The premier senior choir was Oban Gaelic Musical Association, and the leading junior choir was Islay Junior Gaelic Choir. Neil Orr appeared in the solo-singing prize-lists, while, in the literary competitions the new names included the Rev. Donald MacCallum, Lewis, and Alexander Mackinnon, Tiree.

The First Decade

As already noted, for the first ten years, effort was concentrated almost entirely on developing the Annual Mod, widening its scope and appeal, encouraging literature and music by means of the Mod competitions, and stimulating interest in the objects of the movement in the various places where the Mod was held from year to year. As we shall see in the next chapter of the story, a new policy was soon to be adopted in order to give the Association deeper roots throughout the land by establishing branches.

The key-men in the Association in those first ten years were John Campbell, who was Hon. Secretary from the beginning to 1903, and John Mackintosh, who was Treasurer and Acting Secretary from 1892 to 1903. To begin with, Mackintosh's remuneration was £10 per annum, raised to £15 in 1895, and to £20 in 1899. It became the practice also to appoint a Local Secretary at the Mod venue to help organise the preparations for each Mod. Many of those named as members of the first Executive Council in 1891 served for many years. Among the most notable members of Executive between 1891 and 1901 were John Macmaster Campbell, H. G. Clements, Dr. K. Campbell, Hon. Stuart Ruairidh Erskine of Marr, Archibald Ferguson, James Grant, D. A. S. Mackintosh, Hugh Macdonald (Oban), Bailie Macleish (Perth), Alexander Mackenzie (of *The Scottish Highlander*), Dr. MacNicol (Dalmally), Bailie MacCowan, Malcolm MacFarlane, John Mackay (of *The Celtic Monthly*), J. G. Mackay (Portree), Neil Macleod, Dr. Farquhar Mathieson (London), Archd. Munn, Duncan Reid, Archd. Sinclair (printer, Glasgow), Henry Whyte ("Fionn"), and John Whyte. The long list of Vice-Presidents included Dr. Alex. Stewart ("Nether Lochaber"), Magnus Maclean, Provost MacIsaac, Rev. Dr. Norman Macleod (Inverness), Rev. Dr. Robert Blair, Dr. Donald Macgregor, M.P., Wm. Birkmyre, M.P., Surgeon-Major John Macgregor, Dr. Alexander Macbain (Inverness), William Mackay (Inverness), and Archd. Menzies (Edinburgh).

The early Presidents were Lord Archibald Campbell (1891-94), John Mackay of Hereford (1894-96), Charles Fraser-Mackintosh of Drummond (1896-98), and the Marquis of Tullibardine (1898-1904). The Presidents usually presided only at the Mods, and not always then. The Executive Council meetings appointed their own Chairman for each meeting. In 1900 and 1901 Sir James Colquhoun of Luss is shown as "Hon. President."

Wider Contacts

From the beginning fairly close contact was maintained with the similar movements among the other Celtic peoples. The Mod, as already noted, owed much of its initial inspiration to the Welsh Eisteddfod.

Delegates were appointed to represent An Comunn as follows:—

To the Welsh Eisteddfod: in 1897, Mr. John Mackay, Hereford, and in 1899, John A. Stewart and John Mackay, Hereford.

To the Feis-Ceoil in Belfast: in 1897, Councillor MacFarlane (Dumbarton), and A. S. MacBride; and in 1899, J. Macmaster Campbell and D. A. S. Mackintosh.

To the Oireachtas in Dublin: in 1897, Malcolm MacFarlane and Magnus Maclean; and in 1899, Malcolm MacFarlane and Dugald MacIsaac.

To the Pan-Celtic Congress in 1899, D. A. S. Mackintosh and A. S. MacBride.

Delegates from these bodies were welcomed at the Mods from time to time, but apparently not every year.

At the Eisteddfod in 1898 An Comunn was formally represented for the first time, the delegates being as above noted, Mr. John Mackay of Hereford and Mr. D. A. S. Mackintosh. "The appearance on the platform of two such stalwart representatives of the Highland race, dressed in the tartans of their respective clans created quite a sensation among the vast audience of 8,000 persons." An Englishman described the two Gaels as "a pair of venerable stalwart Highlanders, neither below 6 feet in height and well-proportioned in breadth. Mr. Mackay is close-cropped and shaven, but his companion has flowing locks and beard, whitened by the snow of years. Both were in full Highland costume, and wore the plaids and brooches of their respective clans. Two such magnificent and picturesque figures are rarely seen on an Eisteddfod or any other platform. Beside them even *Hwfa Men* was for a moment of secondary importance. The Irish deputation, who wore ordinary civilian dress, were indistinguishable from the crowd."

(To be continued)

Provincial and Local Mods

EDINBURGH

The Edinburgh Local Mod was held in the Central Halls on 23rd April, and there was an encouraging number of entrants, not only from Edinburgh, but also from Glasgow, Perth, and Fife. The adjudicators were: for music, Mr. George MacVicar and Mr. Pat Sandeman, and for Gaelic, Messrs. Angus Macleod, James Thomson, and Malcolm Macleod (Secretary of An Comunn). At the evening concert the Chairman was the Rev. William Matheson, of the Celtic Department in the University of Edinburgh, and the guest artiste was Mr. Murdo Ferguson. The prizes were presented by Mrs. MacIsaac, wife of Mr. Alex. MacIsaac, Mod Convener.

The first-prize winners were:—

Junior Section

Recitation. Under 12 (confined)—Christopher MacKnight. Words and phrases—Eva Mitchell. Conversation 12-16 (learners)—Eva M. Mitchell, Glasgow. Reciting poem—Maurice Mackenzie.

Solo-singing. Under 7 (confined)—Mary MacNab. Under 12 (Boys)—Torquil Macleod. Girls—Morag MacNab. 12-16—Rosina Jamieson. Under 16 (Open)—Sine Flemington. Puir-a-beul—Doreen Mullen. Psalm (unaccompanied)—Rosina Jamieson and Eva M. Mitchell (equal). Jacobite song—Maurice Mackenzie.

Highest single mark in Gaelic—Maurice Mackenzie. Highest single mark in music—Maurice Mackenzie and Sine Flemington (equal).

Senior Section

Reading at sight (open)—Mrs. Christina Macleod, Cupar.

Solo-singing. Female voices (Confined)—Jean B. Balfour, Markinch. Open—Christine MacBride, Glasgow. Two songs (female voices)—Sheila A. Macdougall, Glasgow. Male voices—Murdo Macleod. Male voices (open)—Islay MacTaggart, Glasgow. Prescribed songs (Isobel Fairbairn Memorial Prize, presented by Edinburgh Gaelic Choir)—Jean M. Balfour. Duets—Sheila A. Macdougall and Christine MacBride. Puirt-a-beul—Murdo Macleod. Unpublished modern song—Islay MacTaggart. Unpublished folk-song—Murdo Macleod. Psalm—Margaret Mackinnon, Glasgow.

Highest mark in Gaelic—Murdo Macleod. Highest mark in music—Cona Maclean, Islay MacTaggart, Murdo Macleod, and Sheila A. Macdougall (equal).

Pianoforte—Mabel M. Rowan.

BADENOCH-STRATHSPEY

The Badnoch-Strathspey Provincial Mod was held at Newtonmore on 29th April. The adjudicators were: for Gaelic, Messrs. A. J. MacAskill and Donald Macleod, and for music, Miss Ethel Bassin and Mrs. Violet Mathieson. At the evening concert the guest artistes were Miss Madge Campbell Brown and Mr. Duncan Mackenzie, and the prizes were presented by Miss Margot Campbell.

The first-prize winners were:—

Junior Section

Reading poetry—Harriet Macdonald, Laggan. Reading at sight—Donald Macmillan, Nairn. Reading metrical Psalm—Harriet Macdonald. Conversation—Neil Campbell, Dulinain Bridge, and Donald Macmillan, Nairn (equal). Highest mark in junior orals—Harriet Macdonald.

Solo-singing. Girls under 12—Fiona M. Mathieson, Nethybridge. Boys under 12—Nigel M. Fraser, Aviemore. Boys, 12-17—Robert J. M. Fraser, Aviemore. Girls, 12-17—Dawn Robertson, Laggan. Boys and girls under 17 (own choice)—Margaret Macdonald, Laggan. Duets—Elizabeth Kennedy and Jessie Ross, Newtonmore.

Highest aggregates in music. Girls—Zena MacIntosh, Newtonmore. Boys—Robert and Nigel Fraser, Aviemore (equal).

Choral singing. Unison—Newtonmore Junior Choir. Two-part harmony—Abernethy School Choir. Action song—Abernethy School Choir.

Violin playing (under 12)—Fiona M. Mathieson. Piping (under 18)—Mary Hogg, Grantown. Practice chanter (under 14)—Donald Macdonald, Laggan.

Senior Section

Essay (learners)—Sheila Harris, Newtonmore. Reading at sight—Mrs. Elizabeth Cameron Robertson, Laggan. Reading metrical Psalm (learners)—John Russell, Laggan. Recitation (learners)—Baillie Wm. Mackay. Sgeulachd—Annie Macdonald, Newtonmore.

Solo-singing. Female voices—Mrs. Margaret Kennedy, Newtonmore. Male voices—David MacIntosh, Laggan. Song by local bard—Peter MacKerrall, Nethybridge. Former first-prize winners—Peter MacKerrall. Duets—Mr. and Mrs. Peter MacKerrall. Trio—Newtonmore A.

Choral singing. Female voices—Grantown Ladies' Choir.

ISLAY

The 22nd Islay Provincial Mod was held at Bowmore on 13th May. There were 150 entries.

The adjudicators were: for music, Mr. Cedric Thorpe Davie and Mr. James MacTaggart, and for Gaelic, Mr. Finlay J. Macdonald, Mr. Malcolm MacLeod, and Rev. D. Mackenzie. At the Mod Concert the Chair was occupied by Mr. F. J. Macdonald and the guest artiste was Mr. Donald Macleod (Mod Gold Medallist). The prizes were presented by Mrs. Ann MacKechnie, Port Ellen.

Mr. Malcolm Macleod, paying his first visit to Islay as Secretary of an Comunn Gaidhealach, not only helped with the adjudication but also took the opportunity of visiting the Feachdan of Comunn na h-Oighridh.

The first-prize winners were:—

Junior Section

Reading. Under 12 (J. T. Christie Memorial Medal)—Alasdair Baker, Bridgend. Reciting poem (under 12)—Flora Campbell, Port Charlotte. Recitation. 12-16 (The Texa Challenge Cup)—Ena Campbell, Port Ellen. Comhradh—Alasdair Baker.

Patrick MacLaughlin Prize for highest aggregate marks in junior orals—Alasdair Baker.

Solo-singing. Under 11 (Silver Pendant)—Moira MacDuffie, Kilmey. Gold Pendants. Girls—Mairi Macdougall, Bridgend. Boys—Neil C. Maclean, Kilmey. Former pendant-winners—Fiona MacKerrell, Bowmore.

Choral singing. Unison (Mr. MacIntyre's Challenge Cup)—Bowmore Junior Choir. Two-part harmony (Mr. Morrison's Challenge Cup)—Port Ellen Junior Choir.

Senior Section

Recitation—Mrs. Ann MacKechnie, Port Ellen.

Solo-singing. Ladies' Gold Pendant (qualifying round)—Mrs. MacArthur, Bowmore. Final Round—Mrs. Ann MacKechnie. Winner of Pendant (aggregate of two competitions)—Mrs. MacArthur. Gentlemen's Gold Pendant (qualifying round)—Alexander Johnson, Eorrabus. Final round—Ian Shaw. Winner of Pendant (aggregate of two competitions)—Ian Shaw. Former winners of pendants—Catherine Smith, Bowmore. Duncan Ban solos (Miss MacIntyre Memorial Challenge Cup)—Mrs. Ann MacKechnie. Duncan Johnston solos (Glasgow Islay Association prize)—Neil MacCalman, Bowmore. Patrick MacLaughlin Prize (for highest Gaelic mark in Duncan Johnston solos)—Mrs. Ann MacKechnie and Neil MacCalman (equal). Duets—Mrs. MacKerrell and Mrs. MacArthur, Bowmore. Quartettes—Port Charlotte.

Choral singing. Three-part harmony (Mr. Cameron's Challenge Cup)—Bowmore Gaelic Choir. Unison (Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir Challenge Cup)—Bowmore Gaelic Choir. Puirt-a-beul (Greenock Gaelic Choir Challenge Cup)—Kildalton Gaelic Choir. Margrat Duncan Memorial Trophy (for choir with highest aggregate mark in music and Gaelic)—Bowmore Gaelic Choir. Duncan Johnston Memorial Challenge Cup (for choir with highest aggregate mark in Gaelic)—Bowmore Gaelic Choir.

GLASGOW

The Glasgow Local Mod, under the auspices of the Glasgow (Central) Branch of an Comunn, was held in the Highlanders' Institute on 19th, 20th, and 21st May, and there were well over 200 entrants. The adjudicators were: for Gaelic, Messrs. Donald Thomson, James Thomson, and Kenneth Cameron; for music, Messrs. Robert H. Howie and James MacTaggart; and for pipe-music, Pipe-Major Hector Maclean and Piper Angus Morrison. The grand concert on Saturday evening was presided over by Mr. Donald Thomson, Oban, and the prizes were

presented by Mrs. Neil Shaw. Mrs. Morag Edgar, President of the Branch, expressed appreciation of the hard work of the branch office-bearers, especially in preparation for the mod.

The first-prize winners were:

Junior Section

Reciting prose—John A. Finlayson and Norman Maclean (equal). Reciting poem—Murdo M. MacSween. Sgeulachd—Norman A. Macdonald. Verse-speaking groups—Bellahouston Academy Team C.

Learners. Reciting poem (under 14)—Marion M. Munro. Reciting prose (under 14)—Violet Maclean. Reciting poem (14-16)—Margaret Mackenzie.

Fluent speakers. Reciting poem (under 14)—Ishbel M. Edgar. Reciting prose (under 14)—Ishbel M. Edgar. Reciting poem (14-16)—Norman A. Macdonald.

Solo-singing. Own choice (girls, 16-18)—Catriona Maclean. Boys, 16-18—Ross Macmillan. Prescribed (boys under 11)—David Macdonald. Girls under 11—Margaret Mackenzie. Boys, 11-16—Alan M. Cowan. Girls (Uist and Barra Association Trophy)—Mary M. Smith.

Duets (under 16)—Sine MacQueen and Eva Mitchell. Choral singing (unison, under 16)—Woodside Secondary School Junior Choir.

Senior Section

Solo-singing (qualifying competitions for National Mod Nova Scotia Medals): male voices—Iain Thomson. Female voices—Mabel A. Kennedy. Male and female voices (song by Neil Maclean)—Islay Mactaggart. Kennedy Fraser song—Rhona Macleod.

Piping

March on chanter (under 14)—Freena MacFadyen. Strathspey and Reel on chanter (under 14)—Evan C. Mackay. Piobaireachd (under 18)—Neil Macleod. March (under 18)—Neil Macleod. Strathspey and Reel (under 14)—Calum M. Carmichael.

Duan Chiosmuil

A dhuine, seallaibh air an aitreabh
Tha mise faicinn le m' shùilean,
Ciosmul Mhìc Nèill am Barraidh
Tighinn a steach as ùir òrain;
Teaghlach modhail ceutach,
Far am bi ceann fine gach diùca;
Pìob 'ga spreigeadh eadar thrannsa,
Stranntraich each is farum chruidhean.
'S ann san stéidh a thogadh an aitreabh
Far am faighte a' ghlaire riomhach,
Ruma glas is fion na Frainge,
Mar sin agus branndaidh riomhach.
Mu dheighinn bidh cha leig mi leas bhith 'g
innshe,

Cruithneachd, briosaigean, muc 'ga sgrìobadh,
muil 'ga ruagadh,
Tabhann nam buadh móra.
'S éibhinn an sluagh thàinig mun cuairt da,
A' cur seachad an saoghail gun ghruaimean.
Beannaich an làmh a chàirich na clachan,
'S iad tha snaighte, neartmhor, làidir,
Ma's mise saor a' ghiubhais

Is buidheach mi a dh'obair an làmhnan,
'S nan deanainn le m' bheul innse mar tha
m' inntinn 'ga ràdha,
Cha do rinn 's cha deante obair
Coltach ris a' chaisteal seo làmh ruinn.
'S iomadh àit 'an d'fhuair mi eachdraidh
Air na h-aitreabhan bha ainmeil,
Air an eaglais mhóir bha 'n Glaschu
'S air a' chaisteal a bha 'n Struighlea.
Tha té dhiubh le ursannan òir 's le còmhlanan
airgid.

A leithid sin de dh'aitreabh chan fhacas 's chan
fhaicear air faire
'Ga togail le aol is clachan,
Cho geal ri sneachd nan garbhlach.
Nuair a chaidh mi steach do'n tranntsa
Sheall mi os mo chionn gu diblìdh,
Chunnaic mi gach n' bha éibhinn,
Coinnlean céire bhith 'gan lasadh
Mu bhòrd snaighte de'n fhiodh riomhach,
Or is airgead fad mo sheallaidh,
Sgàthan 's a' ghlaire gu Ìomharr,
Far an tig luingean nan gunnathan móra
Le 'n cuid sheòl a steach gu dhorus.
Thig gach caiptean steach de dheòin ann
'S éighidh e gur mór an t-annas
An aitreabh àrd air tìr 's a slios cho geal ri
sgéith na h-eala;

Teannamaid a steach 'ga h-ionnsaigh
'S gum faiceamaid sùrd a balla.
Nuair a théid iad a steach air an doras
Suathaidh iad am brògan dubha,
An carpet buidhe 's fiamh an òir deth,
'S falbhaidh iad gu socair sàmhach
Modhail nàrach feadh gach seòmair,
An ad 's am bròg 'nan achlais.
Is lapach an ceann sgiùd iad,
Gabhaidh iad eagal is nàire,
Teichidh iad air tonnan breac ballach
Gorm is geal a' streap ri guailleann,
'S cha stad iad gus an ruig iad Lunnainn
Toirt urram a dh'aitreabh Ruairidh.

(Fhuair sin an duan seo bho Raonaid NicLeòid am Barraidh, agus tha sinn gu mór 'na comain. Tha i ag ràdh gun deachaidh an duan seo a chur ri chéile le "Saor a' Ghiubhais" an uair a chaidh Caisteal Chiosmuil a leasachadh is an tùr a thogail agus seachd seòmraichean ùra a chur ris a' chaisteal ri linn Ruairidh an Tartair. Co-dhiubh, is e sin a chuala ise aig na seann daoine linn no dhà air ais.)

Comunn Na Clarsaich

Mrs. Iain Campbell of Airds, who recently resigned from the Presidentship after 23 years' outstanding service, has been honoured by the Society. In addition to a personal gift to her, a clarsach commemorative of her services will be made available for the use of members.

Naidheachd Na h-Aird-a-tuath

NORTHERN AREA NEWS

The following items are taken from the First Number (May 1955) of "Teachdaire na Gaidhealtachd," "The news-letter of An Comunn Gaidhealach's Northern Area."

There are 26 active Branches in the Northern Area, where Monthly Ceilidhs, Gaelic Classes, Social Functions and Talks on subjects of general Highland interest occupy the main part of the programme.

Branches

Aberdeen has a branch which is very much in the public eye this year, as the organising body of the 1955 National Mod. That the Branch is strong and in good fettle goes without saying, and members of the Comunn from all parts of the Northern Area are looking forward to making its acquaintance in September.

Elgin's enthusiastic and flourishing Branch will aid the Aberdeen Gaels with financial backing for the Mod. Ceilidhs in Elgin are bright and well attended.

Inverness, the Highland Capital, has just completed its first winter session with a revived Branch which has not functioned for some years. Mr. Donald MacPhail, former Northern Organiser, ran a successful Gaelic Conversation Class during the winter.

Badenoch and Strathspey support several branches, where hard work is going to the preparation of the Provincial Mod. Teachers are doing grand work among the children to foster the movement.

Beauly members hold regular Ceilidhs and hear Talks on Highland subjects.

Dingwall's well-supported Branch crowned last season's activities with a highly successful Gaelic Concert in two "houses." This Branch is sending its choir to the National Mod at Aberdeen.

Tain Branch retain an active and useful interest in Cnoc nan Ros, the home of Comunn na h-Oigridh, apart from their own Branch activities.

Cromarty has the first Branch in the Black Isle. It has been thriving well since it was formed in October.

Dornoch, where the Sutherland Provincial Mod will be held in June, attracted public interest with a successful concert in March.

Golspie Branch numbers Piping Tuition among its activities and, in addition to this useful facility, Ceilidhs on the usual lines are popular.

Brora and Helmsdale Branches make the most of their Ceilidh nights, too.

Lochcarron, where the Branch was re-constituted in December, has Ceilidhs and Dances under An Comunn auspices.

Plockton, like Golspie, has Piping Classes for its members and also runs Ceilidhs.

Kyle, right in the Gaelic-speaking region, has very authentic Ceilidhs, at which Sgeulachds are heard, as well as Songs.

Balmacara, together with Plockton and Kyle, have an enthusiastic following for Country Dancing, as well as for traditional Ceilidhs.

Portree Branch of An Comunn entertains its members at Ceilidhs and Social functions.

Stornoway, one of the strongholds of the language, shows a gratifying interest in Gaelic Amateur Drama, as well as in other Comunn activities.

Comunn Na h-Oigridh Camps

A Camp for fluent Gaelic speakers will be held from 2nd to 14th July. The Ross and Sutherland Camps are scheduled for 18th to 26th July. Learners of Gaelic will have their own Camp, taking the form of a school, from 29th July to 12th August.

Finance

It costs about £1,200 per annum to run the Northern Area Office at Inverness, and pay the travelling expenses of the Organiser. Approximately £350 in addition to this is expended on Cnoc nan Ros each year. An appeal is being made for a concerted effort by the Northern Branches towards the raising of these heavy expenses.

Committees of the Northern Area

The following Committees meet at regular intervals in Inverness, members coming from as far as Balmacara and Durness:—

Propaganda Sub-Committee. Convener:—

Mr. Ian R. Mackay.

Education Committee. Convener:— Mr.

K. Fraser, M.A.

Comunn na h-Oigridh Sub-Committee.

Convener:—Mr. Ian R. Mackay.

Doideag an Gucag Uibhe

BHA bàta turus a' dol a mach á Loch Suaineart agus chunnaic fear de na bha air bòrd gucag uibhe agus luchag innte pios beag air an fhuaradh. Agus, air dha tuigsinn an cunnart a bha ann dhaibh dragh sam bith a chur oirre ghrad dh'innis e do fhear na stiùire mar a bha agus dh'iarr e air cumail air falbh. Ach bha fear na stiùire cho fad 'na bharail fhéin is cho earbsach as an deagh bhàta a bha fo a chasan is gun do fhreagair e, "Ge b'è air a bheil eagal, teicheadh e." Ach, a mhic-a-chridhe, an uair a chunnaic an té a bha anns a' ghucaig gu robh am bàta a' teannadh ro-dhlùth dhi, thubhairt i àird a claignn, "A Dhonnchaidh Mhóir a' Bhreunain, seachainn mo shàth."

Cha do leig Donnchadh air gun cuala e i ach ghabh e seachad agus cha mhór nach do luchdaicheadh a' ghucag leis an stuaigh a bha a' briseadh o ghualainn a' bhàta. Thòisich an té a bha anns a' ghucaig air guidhe, agus seo na bheil air chuimhne de na thubhairt i:

A Dhonnchaidh, ge mór do bhòsd,
Gheibh thu aobhar bròin gun dàil;
Nuair thig gaoth á ifrinn fhuair,
Och mo thruaigh na tha air sàil;
Chuinnear sgeul mu'n oidhche nochd
Dh'fhàgas iomadh té fo sprochd.

Cha tug Donnchadh a bheag de chreideas do'n bhagradh seo aig an àm, ach cha robh e fada gus an do thuing e gu robh cho math dha aghaidh a thoirt air a' chaladh a b'fhaisge dha. Dhubh an iarmailt, shéid a' ghaoth, bheic an cuan, agus bha Donnchadh agus a ghillean tapaidh 'nan cruaidh chabhaig a' beagadh air an aodach agus a' feuchainn mar a b'fheàrr a b'urrainn daibh ri caladh a thoirt a mach. A dh'aindeoin na rinn iad chaidh an cur air cladach far an deachaidh am bàta 'na connalaidh ach fhuair iad fhéin sàbhailte as air éiginn. Tha e air aithris gun deach call mór a dheanamh air muir agus air tìr an oidhche ud. Có a bha anns a' ghucaig, ma tà, ach té de na doideagan Muileach is i a' dol a dh'amharc a càirdean do'n Eilean Sgitheanach no do Leódhas!

(Bho Sheanchas Nèill Chaimbeul).

New Affiliated Societies

The following organisations became affiliated to An Comunn Gaidhealach during the year ended 30th April, 1955:—

Blairgowrie and District Highland Association.
The Caledonian Society of the Gold Coast.
Whangarei St. Andrew's Gaelic Society.

Na Maidean

THA feadhainn anns a' bhaile againne ris an canar "Na Maidean." 'S dòcha gur ann air son cho rag, dìorrasach, fada 'nan ceann fhéin 's a bha iad a thugadh am farainn sin orra. Tha raigionn is raigionn ann—raigionn an eòlais is raigionn an aineolais. Cha tig e as dhòmhsa a ràdh có aca a tha anns "Na Maidean," ach is e aon ni anns a bheil mi cinnteach, agus is e sin gu robh sgoil is fòghlum aca nach robh aig daoine eile a' bhaile.

Chunnaic mi fear aca is e air leabaidh a bhàis, ann am briaruillean. Bha e a' sìor-chur as ann am briathran nach robh duine a bha a staigh a' tuigsinn, agus bha dùil aca gur ann as a chiall a bha e. 'S ann an déidh dhomh a bhith a' strì ri fòghlum a thuing mi gur e bàrdachd Laideann is Greugais a bha aige.

Bha nàbaidhean aig "Na Maidean," agus is e "Na Cuilcean" a theireadh iad riutha—daoine caola fada, a' lùbadh tu an taobh a thogradh tu. Bha fear de "Na Maidean" is e 'na bhalach cas-ruisgte, là a' tighinn a nuas o'n chladach is sgonn fiodha aige fo a achlais. Có a choinnich ris ach inbheach de "Na Cuilcean"—fear leis am bu toigh a bhith a' tarraing á balaich.

Arsa esan, "An e darach a tha sa' mhaide?"
"Chan e," arsa am balach, "ach a' chuile bhrùite."

Tha am balach sin an diugh 'na phearsa eaglaise an àit-eigin mu dheas. Bha e a' dol air tìr là air eilean a bhreith agus leum e a mach as an eathar is e tuilleadh is fada o'n laimrig. Thug fear a bha anns an eathar an aghaidh air, ach thionndaidh esan is thubhairt e, "Ud! Seòlaidh ministear maide co-dhiubh!" S. S.

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AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar VII

AN T-OG-MHIOS, 1955

Aireamh 6

Sgeulachd nam Braithrean

BHA siud ann roimhid rìgh, agus bha trìùir mhac aige agus aon nighean. Dh'eug a bhean is phòs e a rithis, agus bha an darna bean air son na gillean a chur air falbh a chionn is gu robh iad a' faighinn a' chuid a b' fhearr agus bha ise a' faighinn a' chuid a bu mhiosa. Is thuirte ris an rìgh gum bu chòir dha an cur air falbh.

Chuir an rìgh air falbh iad a dh'àite far nach fhaigheadh iad as.

Bha an nighean cho truagh. Aon latha chaidh an nighean far an robh fiosaiche a bha anns an àite is dh'fhoighnich i dheth ciamar a gheibheadh i a bràithrean air ais. Thuirte am fiosaiche rithe, mur bruidheadh i air son trì bliadhna, agus trì léintean geala a dheanamh dhaibh air canach an t-sléibhe, gum faigheadh i air ais iad.

Rinn an nighean mar a dh'iarrrte oirre. Chaidh i a staigh do phàirce mhóir g'a bhuaib. Aon là bha bodach a' dol seachad is bhruidhinn e rithe is cha do bhruidhinn i ris idir, is thuirte e ris fhéin gum pòsadh e i. Is phòs e i.

Bha gille beag aice agus chuala bean an rìgh gu robh gille beag aice agus dh'fhalbh i g'a choimhead. Thàinig an oidhche is cha d'ràinig i an taigh gus an làrna-mhaireach. An uair nach robh an nighean a' coimhead thug i leatha am pàisde is thuirte i gum faca i an nighean a' falbh leis a' phàisde is 'ga thilgeadh sìos ann an sloc. Ach thuirte am bodach gum leigeadh e leatha.

An ceann na bliadhna bha aon té de na léintean aice deiseil.

An ath bhliadhna bha pàisde eile aice is rinn bean an rìgh an aon rud is thuirte i gum faca i an nighean 'ga thilgeadh ann an sloc. Ach thuirte am bodach gum leigeadh e leatha an turus seo.

An ceann na bliadhna bha léine eile aice deiseil.

An ath bhliadhna a rithis bha nighean aice, agus rinneadh an aon rud oirre, is thuirte am

bodach gum feumadh e ceal a chur oirre. Is bha iad a' cruinneachadh mòine is biorain is a h-uile rud a gheibheadh iad agus iad a' dol g'a losgadh.

Bha a h-uile duine a bha anns a' bhaile a' cruinneachadh agus chitheadh iad feadhainn a' tighinn is bhiodh iad ag ràdh, "'S fheàrrrde dhuinn feitheamh gus an tig iad."

An uair a bha a h-uile duine air cruinneachadh, chunnaic iad trìùir air muin eich agus thuirte iad gum fuiricheadh iad riutha. Agus an uair a ràinig iad an t-àite chaidh an nighean far an robh iad. Dh'aithnich i ad anns a' mhionaid agus có a bha ann ach na trì bràithrean agus trì bocsaichean beaga aca.

Chaidh i far an robh a' cheud fhear is thuirte i ris, "Meal do léine lìn, a bhràthair!" Agus thuirte esan rithe, "Meal thusa do mhac, a phiuthar!" Dh'fhosgail e am bocsa agus bha a' cheud ghille a bha aice ann.

Chaidh i far an robh an darna fear is thuirte i ris, "Meal do léine lìn, a bhràthair!" Agus thuirte esan, "Meal thusa do mhac, a phiuthar!" Dh'fhosgail e am bocsa is bha an darna gille a bha aice ann.

Chaidh i far an robh an treas fear is thuirte i ris, "Meal do léine lìn, a bhràthair!" Agus thuirte e rithe, "Meal thusa do nighean, a phiuthar!" Is dh'fhosgail e am bocsa agus bha an nighean aice ann.

An uair a chunnaic a companach gu robh i a' bruidhinn rinn e toileachadh mór is thuirte an nighean an uair sin riutha nach b'ise a bu chòir dhaibh a losgadh idir ach bean an rìgh.

Is dh'fhalbh iad is rug iad air bean an rìgh is chàirich iad an teis-mheadh an teine i.

Dh'fhalbh na daoine dhachaigh is rinn an duine banais mhór is bha i cho fada ri seachd mìosan mun do sguir i.

Prainnseas MacAonghais
(Sgoil Bhréithig am Barraidh).

Bo Na Caillich

BHA siud uair ann roimhid seann chailleach agus bha còig mairt aice, agus an oidhche a bha seo thàinig ceithir mairt dhachaigh agus bha an còigeamh tè air chall.

Bha a' chailleach a' siubhal is a' siubhal na beinne agus mu dheireadh chunnaic i solus ann an uamha.

Chaidh i suas agus bha sìdheanach a' marbhadh na bà aice, agus thuirnt an sìdheanach, "Cha chreid mi fhéin nach 'eil thu ag aithneachdainn a' mhairt."

"Tha," arsa ise, "is e am mart agam fhéin a tha ann."

Agus thuirnt an sìdheanach, "Cha bhi thu fada gun mhart," agus thug e crogan dubh thar a' bhùird agus slatag, agus chaidh e a null far an robh seann chailleach ghlas, agus thug e dhi slaichd de'n chuipe agus thionndaidh a' chailleach ghlas 'na bó, agus thug a' chailleach leatha i, agus a h-uile uair a leigeadh i a mach i bha i a' deanamh air an t-sidhean.

Ach latha de na lathaichean chuala i gun tàinig bàta agus dròbhairean a cheannach bheothaichean do'n Bhàgh-a-tuath. Dh'fhalbh i agus chuir i ròpa air a' bhoinn, agus ghabh i tarsainn na beinne gus an d'ràinig i am Moraghan, agus a thàinig i air an rathad mhór.

An uair a ràinig i far an robh iad a' ceannach nam beothaichean, ghabh i a dh'ionnsaigh an dròbhair.

"An ceannaich thusa a' bhó seo?" arsa ise.

"Ceannaichidh," arsa an dròbhair. Agus chuir iad a stàigh do'n bhàta i.

Sheòl am bàta air son Uibhist, agus bha iad a' cur aise nam beothaichean air ceidhe Uibhist, agus bha bó na caillich cho doirbh a cur a mach agus tharraing fear de na dròbhairean sgaile de'n bhàta oirre, agus thionndaidh a' bhó 'na caillich ghlas, is chan fhaca iad riamh tuilleadh i!

Niall MacGilleathain

(Sgoil Bhrèithig am Barraidh).

Cead Na Sgoile

LE CAIRSTIONA NICAOIDH

Tha thìde bhith togail air falbh,
Tha thìde bhith togail air falbh,
Thar lochan is linne, thar mhòintich is ghlinne,
Do'n dachaigh bhith togail air falbh.

Tha làithean na saorsa seo ris;
Cuir cùl ris gach mullad is bròn;
A' fàgail na Galdachd 's a' dol gu ar
n-nasachd,
Gu dé chuireadh iomagain oirm?

A' fàgail na Beurla as ar déidh,
Cha bhi sinn 'ga h-ionndrainn co-dhiùbh;
'S i as fheàrr leinn a' Ghàidhlig, fìor-chànan nan càirdean,
Nach bàsaich 's nach cail leinn a cliù.

Bidh sinn oidhche Dhiar-daoin anns a' Chaol,
Cuid a' danns 's ri iomadh seòrs' caoich;
Is cuid dol fo'n phlaide a dh'fheuchaim ri cadal,

Làn fadachd gu'n ruig iad an daoin'.

Théid cuid dhinn a dh'Uibhist nam beann,
Cuid eile gu Eilean a' Cheò;
Air tonn is air fearann théid òigridh na Hearadh,
Gun tinneas na mar' cur orr' sgleò.

Aig taigh bidh an tìde mar sgàil,
Théid i seachad mar phrìobadh nan sùl;
An ceam co'-la-deug sinn tilleadh gu cianail,
Gu ùpraid 's gu obair gun mhùirn.

Ach an dràsda bhith togail air falbh,
Bidh sinn sòlasach greiseag gu dearbh;
Thar mhòintich is ghlinne, thar lochan is linne,
Do'n dachaigh bhith togail air falbh.

(A Leabhran Bliadhnaidh Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir-nis, 1954).

Ni Gaire Leigheas

Bha siud uair ann roimhid pearsa-eaglais, is an uair a bha e air an rathad seachad chunnaic e gu robh bó caillich bochd, is thuirnt e, "Ma bhios i na's fheàrr, tha sin math gu leòir; is mura bi, biodh i a' gabhail an rathaid!"

An ceann treise as deoghaidh sin dh'fhàs am pearsa-eaglais fhéin bochd, is chaidh am boireannach g'a choimhead. Thuirnt i ris, "Ma bhios e na's fheàrr, tha sin math gu leòir; is mura bi, biodh e a' gabhail an rathaid!"

Rinn am pearsa-eaglais sgal gàire is spreadh an lionnachadh a bha 'na amhaich, is bha e gu math an ùine ghoirid!

Praimseas MacAonghais

(Sgoil Bhrèithig am Barraidh).

Siu Mar A Gheibh Sibh Iad

THEIREAR mu chuid de dhaoine gun cluinn iad an fear a' fàs, agus mu chuid eile gun faic iad an rud nach 'eil ann.

Bha Bior-chluas is Sùilidh là a' siubhal an aonaich agus leig iad an sgrìths diubh air ùrlar glinne.

Arsa Sùilidh, "A bheil thu a' faicinn nam meanbh-chuileag a tha a' dannsa air mullach nam beann?"

"Chan 'eil," arsa Bior-chluas, "ach tha mi a' cluinntinn farum an cas!"

S. S.

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AN GAIDHEAL THE GAEL

Vol. L

JULY, 1955

No. 7

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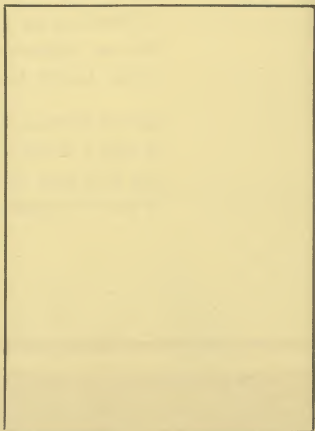
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THE GAEL

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF
AN COMUNN GAIDHEALACH

Editor

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AN T-IUCHAR, 1955

Aireamh 7

Air Chuairt An Cuil-fhodair

Le ALASDAIR I. MACASGALL

(Choisinn an oidhirp-litreachais seo prìomh-dhuais aig Mòd Nàiseanta 1953)

BHA a' ghrian 'na h-àirde, agus, ma b'fhlor am facal, bha na fithich a' cur a mach an teanga aig bruthainneachd an là. Nach b'ann agam fhéin a bha a' bhun obair, bhrùdch a steach air m'inntinn, a' toirt turuis á rothadair air a leithid siud de là? Stad mi car tacain leis an smuain, a leigeil dhìom mo sgùths. Leig mi mo thaca air an inneal, agus thug mi sùil air ais an taobh as an tàinig mi.

Bha Inbhir-Nis, prìomh-bhaile na Gaidhealtachd, mar gum b'eadh a' norradaich anns a' ghréin, le currag de chè suainte os a chionn, mar nach do dh'fhàg bruich-theas an latha de thrèòir innte na bheireadh àirde nan speuran oirre, oir cha robh deò air a' ghaoith. Eadar mi agus an t-Eilean Dubh bha an làn-mara ga aoirneagach fhéin fo ghathan tlàtha na gréine, gun ghurt gun ghò, mar sheana-chat sìnte mach ri aghaidh carthannas gaibhan Geamhraidh.

Bha na craobhan gu dosrach stobach sàuhach, agus an duilleach gun ghluasad mar ann am marbhan cadail; bha na h-eòin fhéin an crannaibh, agus an coilcach-teas a bha eadar mi agus na cluaintean ioma-dhathach breagha air taobh thall na h-aibhne, 's ann a shaoilinn gu robh anail 'na uèd — gu fìor-chinnteach cha robh an rìghle dannsa àbhaisteach 'na chasan, mar gum biodh esan,

cuideachd, air a chlaoidh le dian-ghoil na gréine. Bha mi fhéin, a nis, 'nam bhraon falluis, agus seach gu robh e na bu chomh-fhurtaile a bhith a' gluasad na 'nam sheasamh gun sgàile gun dubhar fo lom-dheàrsadh na gréine, thilg mi mo chas a rithist thar an rothadair gu leisg, mì-shuundach, agus thog mi orm, oir cha b'ann gun cheann-turuis a thàinig mi cho fada. Cha robh a' gluasad ach na b'fheadar aig baile no air raon. Bha mo chasan-sa a' dol timcheall car air char leotha fhéin, ach bha m'inntinn 'na cadal, agus mi an greim aig an là.

Dé cho fada agus a lean seo cha b'urrain mise, an dràsda, le firinn innsendh; ach, co-dhiùbh, agus mo chasan gu call an lùths, thàinig mi air rathad a bha còmhdaichte air gach taobh le craobhan àrda, stiomach, cho fada agus a chitheadh an t-sùil. Cha robh beò-chreutair romham no as mo dhéidh, ach an cladhan cnol, dìreach, falamh seo fad an t-siubhail. Bha dìomhaireachd anns an aonranachd seo nach b'urrain peann sam bith a litreachadh gu còimhlionta — seadh, no eadhon samhla a thoirt da. Bha sàmhchair do-thuigseach, do-runnsaichte an seo a bha a' laighe trom air spiorad agus air mac-meanmna. Bha trùinead co-mheasgaichte le urram anns a' chùbhraidheachd ùrain seo.

Gu fìrinneach, ann an ciùinead sòimh na

láraich, bhuaig gu h-obann an guth ud a bhruidhinn ri Maois orm gu soilleir, "Fuasgail do bhéog an do chosaibh, oir is talamh naomh an t-áit air a bheil thu ad sheamsaigh." Agus cha b'ann gu bròn a chaidh sin dhomh. Dh'úr-bhothaicheadh mi car tiota; dh'aom smaointean sólaichte sólasach a steach orm air cuspaircan urramach, sean is nuadh, agus air dhomh beagan astair a chur air mo chúl anns a' ghleace-intinn seo, tháinig mi gun fhaireachdainn dhomh air mo cheann-uidhe.

Stad na craobhan an oir an rathaid, agus ghabh iad brúigh air an rathad air son astair ceud slat, a' fágail fosglaidh úr air uaine fa mo chomhair. B'e seo e, b'e seo e, da-ribh!—Cuil-fhodair! Sheas mi gu rag, dhreacht, ann an ùmhlaich agus ann an urram ear mionaid. Cha b'e gu robh dad mar sin agus anns an amhare an toiseach, ach cha b'urraim dhomh a leasachadh, oir bha rud-eigin domhair do-rannsaichte anns an réilig tholmach ud a bha a' deanamh teann-ghreim air aignidhean a' Ghaidheil annam agus a' deachdadh ro-urram agus fior-ùmhlaich.

Chuir mi mo rothadair a thaobh, agus thug mi sùil mun cuairt. Air mo làimh chli bha càrn cloiche, agus gu modhail sólaichte thug mi ceum air cheum chuige. Bhiodh e mu chóig troighean deug de áirde, de ehlachan beaga is móra co-mheasgaichte, le craoibh bhig air gach taobh agus muran a' fás air a bhàrr. Ann an aghaidh a' chàirn tha leac air a bheil sgrìobhte (ann am Bcurla), "Chuireadh Blàr Chuil-fhodair air an aonach seo air an t-siathamh là deug de'n Ghiblein, 1746. Tha uaignean nan Gaidheal treuna a chog air son Albann agus a' Phrionnsa Teàrlach air an comharrachadh le ainmean an cinnidhean."

Leugh mi a rithist e, thug mi sùil air na flùraichean seargte a bha air an cur aig bonn a' chàirn, agus sheall mi mun cuairt. Air taobh thall an rathaid bha na h-uaignean, air iomadh cumadh, fada agus leathann, beag is mór, le cloich-comharrachaidh aig ceann gach aoin aca. Cha deach mi a null chuca fhathast, ach thog mi mo shùilean chum nam beann air cùl-a' mhonaidh. Chuir iad beag eagal orm, cho duaichnidh brònach agus a bha an sealladh; bha iad lom, aonranach, agus chanadh tu gu robh iarraidh aca air bruidhinn ged nach tigeadh comhradh as an talamh. Bha iad car greannach, cuideachd, mar chreutairean fo mhùig; chunnaic iad seo, gun teagmh, sealladh iargalt, dubhach a chuir uamhann agus trom sprochd orra, agus bha an cruth lom tiamhaidh a nis ag innseadh gu follaiseach nach do chòrd e riutha.

Bha annta seo, 'nan laighe an glac a chéile gu brònach, lom, sìmhach, comharradh air mealladh-dùile agus briseadh dòchais, mar bhéo-chreutairean fo gheasaibh, agus bha

buaidh shònraichte aca air m'aignidhean, a' dùsgadh co-fhaireachdainn á doimhneachd beachd-smaoineachaidh air an drìod-fhortan a rug air na ruibh, eadhon fo am brat-sgàile-san, far an robh sùil aca ri téarainteachd agus buaidh-láraich. Thachair an là gu cruaidh riutha, agus tha an gruaimean gu follaiseach air aogas nam beann ud fhathast.

Bha m'intinn mar seo air a gleusadh ris an t-seann aimsir aig an t-sealladh mun cuairt, agus, gun an tuilleadh dàlach, bha mo mhac-meanmna a' treabhadh iomair a chuir dol seachd nam bliadhnaich bann, ach a bha fhathast an seo, le a sheann laraichean làn-chomasach air dian-dhrùidheadh a dheanamh air spiorad agus aignidhean. Dh'fhàg mi an càrn agus chaidh mi tarsaing an rathad, a' geur-amhare air na tolmair uaine ud, far an robh na loich a nis aig an sonas.

Bha uaigh fhada chaol fa mo chomhair, agus th' bheag leathann shuas bhuaipe. "Na Friselaich," thuir a' cheud chlach rium, agus bha "Am measg a chéile" air an té eile. Ruith mi le mo shùil air gach tolmair, agus dhear mi air cloich air ceann gach tulaich, a' cuimhneachadh fa leth, "Clann an Tòisich," "Clann Mhic Ghille Bhràigh," "Na Camshronaich," "Stiùbhartaich na h-Apam," agus ri taobh "Tobar nam Marbh" ann an oisean deus na réilig bha "Clann Mhic Ghilleathain," "Clann Mhic Lachlainn," agus cuid de chinneadh "Mhic Ghille Bhràigh," suainte an cadal a' bhàis an glac a chéile anns an aon toll.

Sheas mi ag amhare, gu balbh tosdach. Dh'fhalbh m'intinn agus mo mhac-meanmna leam fo bhuaidh domhairachd agus uaignean na laraich. Dé a dh'éirich do na fir chalma urranta a bha fo'n talamh seo, cho fada bh'o'n càirdean agus bho chriochan an eòlais? Cia meud a bha ann aca? An d'fhuair iad Cothrom na Féinne air là an àiraidh ud? Bhriúid na ceistean sin agus ceud eile a steach air m'intinn, agus, leis an tul-fhrinn innseadh, chaill mi mì fhéin fo bhuaidh smachdachaidh nan tobhtan ud.

'Nan bhruaillean chunnaic mi, ar leam, dorcha, ceòthach mar troimh ghloine, laoch Gaidhealach na lùn éideadh cogaidh a' deanamh orm bh'o aon de na h-uaignean agus 'gam gheur-sgrùdadh mar nach biodh e buileach cinnteach asan. Is e duine fior eireachdail a bha seo an là d'an robh e, ach bha e an seo a' sruthadh fala, a chamagan bàna, air an suidheadh an Gleann-garaidh cho bìdeach uasal uair-eigin, a nis 'nan ribeanan cruaidhe gisreagach aig fallus is gaorr, ach bha a shùil fhathast beò gineach, agus bh'o a dhosan gu a bhàrran bha cumadh agus sund an deagh àrmuinn air. Arsa mise leam fhéin is mi ag amhare air, "Gu cinnteach,

'ille, cha bu truaghan a b'athair dhuit-sa!'

Stad e car tamaill, began astair bhuan. Thug e súil dhíbhidteach chotromach orm. Shaoil lean gun d'rimn e beag chrathadh air a cheann, agus an sin rinn e dhreach orm a rithist.

"An Gaidheil thu?" dh'fhoighnich e dhomh as a ghuth thámh, agus cho luath is a dh'fhosgail mi mo bbeul ann an Gáidhlig dh'aotromaich a shnuadh, shaoil mi, thámig gáire do na súilean aige, agus slúin e a lámh chugam.

"Cuir ann an siud i," arsa esan. "Ghabh mi eagal an toiseach bho t'aodach—cáit bheil am féileadh? — cha mhath an comharradh! Rinn iad a réisd a' chéis oirnn da-ríbh!" (Bha srutan còmhraidh aige an seo ach cha d'fhuair mise aon chotrom fios freagairt a lrigheadh ris do na dian-bhriathran ud.)

Thill e an sin gu a cheud smuain agus ghabh e air adhart.

"Bha anharas agam an toiseach," arsa esan, "nach b'ann de ar daoine thu idir, ach is math do chaimnt agus tha an t-seana bhlas oirre fhathast, mo bheannachd! Bheil thu a' deanamh cáil dhiomsa? Chan 'eil? Is misc, ma tà, ged as leisg orm innseadh — chan 'eil náire air bith orm air a shon — is mise Mac Mhic Alasdair á garbhlaicean na Ceapaich, ged as e seo as leabaidh dhomh a nis. Bha là cile aig fear na mónach, ach chan 'eil duine gun dà là ach duine gun là idir, agus mar seo dhúinne tuilleadh e. An ann a' sireadh ar sgeòil air là na dunaidh ud a tha thu an seo? Is math gun do thachair thu orm, oir tha an droch sgeul sin agamsa bho a ceann faisg air gu a h-carball. Tha mise, cuidcadh, air son bhur naidheachd fhaighinn á Gaidhealtachd, agus mar sin is e Sealbh fhéin a chuir gu chéile sinn."

Ma thuirte mise biùg chan 'eil cuimhne air bith agam, ach co-dhíubh fluair mi a sgeul-san mar a leanas, agus thug i ràn air mo chridhe — thug agus, mhionnaichinn, eadhon air na clachan m'ar timcheall.

* * * *

"Cha ruig mi a leas toiseach seanchais a thoirt duit," arsa esan. "Thámig ann Prionnsa gu a chéir-bhreith, agus cha b'e ruith ach leum leinn ar taic a chur ris. Ach cha robh an t-aonachd ann." (Thainig smuaircean de dhubb-bhròn air a aodann an seo leis a' chuimhneachan; dhùin e a dhòrn agus shaoil leamsa co-dhíubh gun do chas e a fhiaclan.)

"Tha mi an dòchas," arsa esan, "gun tug siud rabhadh do na Gaidheil an déidh-lámbe." Stad e, mar gum b'ann a' feitheamh ri faeal bhuaimsa. Thóisich mise gu bristeach lethsgéulach a' cur faeail air an fhacal mu chúisean ar latha. Cha b'ann gu banais a chaidh sin dhàsan. Oir cha robh mi fada air

m'adhart an uair a leig e an guidhe mór sin as agus dh'fheuch e a bhròg air toman feòir m'a choinneamh!

"Stad, stad, an drásda!" ghlaodh e, agus fearg a' còmhrag ris an tàmailt ann: "Is leòir siud gus an crìochnaich mise mo sgeul. Tha chúisan dhreach mar a bha idir, tha e coltach — cuid a' sùileachadh cobhair an sind, feadhainn eile ag iarraidh dàlach gus an tigeadh cuidcèadh a' sion. Gaidheil! Gaidheil! Dé am feum a bhiodh aca air iasad no déire nan ionradh iad le chéile? A' bhuidheach air na tais-chridheachan ud, an dlobhail-misnich, agus an spògail air son déire agus corathan nan còimheach!"

Stad e gu grad, thilg e smugaid le tàir air an talamh, agus a aodann dearg greannach ann am buirb a nàduir aig na chuala e. Thug e greiseag 'na thosd, ach an sin thog e a shùilean orm agus bhruidhinn e a rithist.

"Cluinneamaid an còrr de'n sgeul a dh'aithearr, ach an drásda gu mo sgeul! Co-dhíubh, am measg a' bhàlanaich a bha ann aig na gealtairan thrusadh na fìor cheatharnaich, thug sinn sgriob do Shasainn, agus abair thusa ruith agus ruag romhainn! Ach dhreach an uair a b'fheàrr 's a b'fheàrr a bha a' dol leinn — ged nach robh an sgiobaireachd ach glé leam-leat — b'fheudar tilleadh air ar n-ais agus cha deach tom tulaich air a' chùis bho'n là sin. 'S e a bha na laoch chalma thapaidd againne ag iarraidh a dhòl an greim agus an claidheamh mór a ghleusadh air sgòrnanan nam balgairan Sasannach. Cha robh lùgadh fo'n choill agus an cùlaibh ri nàmh a' tighinn ris na dùilnaich dheante righinn ud idir, ach feuch thusa riut an toireadh sinn na h-àrd-cheannardan as am beachd?"

"Ach gu bearradh sgeòil. Ràinig sinn air dòigh no ml-dhòigh air chor-eigin na coillean uachdarach seo, ach an uair sin bha, gu cinnteach, an càl da-rìribh air dhòl a dhòlaidh, le brunndail air gach taobh ri stiùradh nan sgiobairean. Cha robh fois ann. Sgapadh an t-arm — cuid a' sireadh bìdh (cha b'fheàrrde sinn cho beag is a bha againn deth), agus cuid eile a' toirt ionnsaigh air caistean daingnichte an nàmhaid.

"Bha mi fhéin agus Mac Dhòmhnail Duibh — siud agad an sàr laoch agus ceann a' ghliocais; cha do dheoghail na bu treasa, na b'fhiosraile no na bu chothromaiche riamh cloch màthar — bha mi fhéin agus fhéin a' cuairteachadh a' Ghearasdain, ach thill sinn gu camp a' Phrionnsa air an aonach seo air a' cheathramh là deug de'n Ghiblein.

"Bha a' champ fo aon othail. Fhuaras fios fàtha gu robh an t-Arm Dearg a' caismeachd oirnn agus gu robh mac an rìgh, Cumberland,

an Inbhir-Narunn air son oidheche. Cha robh ar eibsean ach leibideach, agus bha cruaidh-fheum air danadas agus air rath freasdail.

“S e mu dheireadh a thàinig as an t-seanchas cogaidh gun deantar ionnsaigh oidheche air Inbhir-Narunn agus, nan tugtar Cumberland am braidheanas le fàth ionnsaigh na h-oidheche, gun toirheadh sinn an ceann as a' choileach gu glan ceart agus nach b'eagal leinn a' ghairm no an spiolladh a dheanadh e tuilleadh. Ged bha dùbh-thràth na h-oidheche, mar thà, oirnn, agus ged bha na suinn sgìth claidhte a cheana, chuireadh air bhonn iad agus b'fheudar falbh, le Morair Dheòrsa air an ceann agus Clann an Tòisich 'gan stiùradh, oir bha an t-slighe doirbh briste cumnartach, agus bha iadsan mion-eòlach aig gach boglach is breunloch a bha air an starsaich fhéin. Ach, eadhon ged a bha, cha robh an t-adhartas ach mall, agus aig dà uair anns a' mhadainn (dh'fhalbh iad aig a h-oidhe) cha robh ach astar sia mille air an cùl agus bha ceithir cile co-dhùibh romhpa. Cho-dhùnadh bhò seo nach robh rian aca a bhith aig an ceann-uidhe roimh bhrieadh na faire, agus bha iad làn-chinnteach, mur tigeadh iad air an nàmhaid gun fhios daibh, nach biodh ann ach léir-sgrìos agus cur-as dhaibh féin ionnsaigh a thoirt orra ann an làn sholus an latha agus cho beag neasan ann an taca ris na Sasannaich. Cha

robh air ach tilleadh air ais air a' cheum cheudna.

“Thàinig cùl an latha agus thàinig làn an latha mus d'ràinig iad aonach Chuil-fhodair agus mu'n uair sin cha robh aig na seòid ach srucadh chas leis an sgìths airtnealach a thug a' bheatha asda aig deuchainnean na h-oidheche. Shad iad an cloisichean gu ro-thoilich air an fhraoch cho luath agus a ràinig iad, agus cha bu luaithe a bhual an druim an fòd na dh'fhalbh an cadal leotha. Ach, gu mì-rathail, mar a bha an driadh-flòrtan an dàn, cha bu luaithe anns a' mharbh-chadal iad na fhuaras an naidheachd oillteil mhi-ghealltanach gu robh an t-Arm Dearg air ar tòir, agus mur éirceadh iad gu grad gum biodh iad air sgòrnan orra gun fhàireachdainn dhaibh.

“Cha robh air ach crìceann nam bonn a chur air a' bhathais agus chaidh gach mac-màthar an éideadh catha cho math agus a leigeadh marbhalachd spioraid agus ragair-eachd aignidhean leotha. Chaidh na ceannardan gu cabhag agus chuireadh an t-arm an òrdugh catha mar a bha iad agus far an robh iad. Chùm, mar sin, freasdal Cothrom na Féinne bhuaipa, agus chùim lapachd agus meatachd an sgiobaireachd cothrom a' bhruithaich, air an robh iad cho cion, bhuaipa.”

(R'a Leantainn)

Story of An Comunn

By THE EDITOR

VI.—RE-ORGANISATION AND NEW VENTURES (1902-14)

FOR the first twelve years of its existence, the leaders of An Comunn concentrated mainly on the Annual Mod and little else was attempted. The Mod steadily grew in size and popularity, and, as it itinerated from place to place year after year much interest and enthusiasm were stirred up in the districts visited. Steadily rising musical standards and considerable literary activity, among both juveniles and adults, were marked features of the movement. In 1904 the Rev. Malcolm N. Munro wrote as follows:—

“The movement is yet in an early stage of development, for it has been of slow growth, and perhaps on that account is the more healthy The great attraction of the Mod for the multitude, and indeed its chief motive power, is Gaelic vocal music. The Mod is essentially a great Song Festival.” Pointing out that the Mod also encouraged the writing of original Gaelic poetry and prose and the composition of music, as well as story-telling, reading, reciting, and conversing in Gaelic, he yet admitted that “vocal music is what has made the movement really popular and effective. It has done what the bagpipe and the sword dance and tossing the caber and such feats, useful as they are and worthy of encouragement, could never do. It has touched the heart of the people The founders of An Comunn were wise in their generation when they enlisted in the language movement the fairy aid of Music and her twin-sister Poetry. The

promoters of the Mod have invoked, and with good effect, the cunning charm of the Gaelic muses to win the indifferent, to kindle enthusiasm, and to disarm prejudice.”

More Support Needed

That was well and truly said. It appears, however, that, if the heart of the people was touched, great numbers of those who flocked to the Annual Mod neglected to join the movement. In 1904, after thirteen years of Activity and propaganda, An Comunn had (after a drastic “purging of the roll”) only 27 life members, 164 ordinary members (“besides the members of the Oban branch”), and 12 affiliated societies.

It was stated in *The Celtic Monthly* in 1904 that, “It cannot be said that Highlanders generally have supported the work of the Highland Association with that enthusiasm which it deserved, and indeed that it has managed to survive for so many years and achieved so much is largely due to the strenuous labours of a few of its prominent officials.”

An out-spoken article (probably by Malcolm MacFarlane) in *An Deò-Gréine* in 1905 declared: “A great drawback to the work of the Comunn Gaidhealach is that its friends are more disposed to be critical than practical. Some of these speak and write as if the movement were an automaton. You have simply to turn a handle and off it goes—or rather the Comunn has only to turn a handle. They

—the critics—when did they offer to turn the handle? Others of its friends put forward suggestions which are analogous to asking a smack's crew to sink a line-of-battle-ship with pea-shooters."

It was disappointing that, of the numerous Highland societies, so few had become affiliated. The Gaelic League of Ireland, founded five years later than An Comunn, had by 1905 attracted much greater popular support. Why? Because, it was said, "prior to the advent of the Gaelic League, there were no thousand-and-one societies working at cross purposes, to which Gaelic men were tied by sentimental associations of a paltry kind such as those which are prevalent in Alban. When, therefore, the Gaelic League stepped forward to raise the Gaelic banner, there were no other societies with banners of their own offering counter-attractions."

New Ventures

The leaders of An Comunn might have remained content to continue along the lines already laid down, satisfied if at each Annual Mod they could report a larger entry and bigger audiences. That would have been easy. It would also have been fatal.

Fortunately, in the early 1900's, as there had been a decade earlier, there were men of vision and resource in the movement—and women too. Beginning in 1902 with Miss Ella C. Carmichael (later Mrs. W. J. Watson), several capable women served on the Executive, the most notable being Mrs. Margaret Burnley Campbell of Ormidale, one of the greatest leaders An Comunn has ever had.

The years from the beginning of the Twentieth Century to the outbreak of the First World War were for An Comunn a period of ever-increasing activity, steady expansion, and constant venturing into new fields, and all this was done to the accompaniment of much (and not infrequently virulent) criticism from without and acrimonious debate within!

From October, 1905, onwards, the Association's official monthly magazine provides a very detailed record of An Comunn's history, to supplement the more formal and sometimes not very informative minutes of the Executive Council. Indeed, there is so much material to draw upon that selection from it is no easy task.

Varied Activities

The history of the 1902-1914 period may be summarised as follows. The membership of the Association rose in those twelve years from under 200 to over 2,000. The first ten branches were formed between 1902 and 1907, and by 1914 there were almost a hundred throughout the land, north and south. An increasing number of kindred societies became affiliated to An Comunn. Between 1903 and 1906 a series of far-reaching changes shaped the original Constitution into what it has since continued to be, practically without change, to the present time. The three most important features of the new Constitution were these: (1) provision for local Branches; (2) the setting up of Standing Committees of the Executive Council for specific purposes; (3) the dropping of "figure-heads" so that the office-bearers and executive council became a body of active workers, with few "passengers" or "sleeping partners." The great three-day Feill or Bazaar held in Glasgow in 1907 gave An Comunn a capital sum of £8,000 which enabled the Association to develop its work considerably, and especially to do two things—to appoint (from 1908 onwards) a full-time Secretary and Organiser (a step fully justified by the results) and to devote more attention to its third main object, the development of Highland home industries and arts and crafts. Not the least important aspect of An Comunn's work between 1902 and 1914

was its unremitting fight in the interests of Gaelic in Highland schools. This fight it waged through its Education Committee and in co-operation with other Highland associations and Gaelic societies. There were meetings, conferences, deputations, appeals to the public, the exerting of pressure on School Boards, and the inaugurating of an Annual Summer School. In addition to the official magazine, several publications were issued. And all the time, year after year, the National Mod increased in size and popularity, while local juvenile mods were started and grew in number and range.

Overhauling the Machinery

That is but a bald survey of An Comunn's main activities between 1902 and 1914. Each topic deserves more than a passing mention. Let's begin with the revised Constitution, the inauguration of branches, and the setting up of Standing Committees.

The original Constitution of 1891 made no provision for branches. At the annual meeting in 1899 at Inverness a telegram was read from J. MacMaster Campbell, "regretting his inability to be present and suggesting that the meeting should consider the advisability of forming branches of the Association." It was unanimously resolved to form branches "where Gaelic societies do not already exist," and it was remitted to a committee to frame the appropriate rules. At the annual meeting in November, 1900, a rule was inserted in the Constitution allowing for the formation of branches. The first branch was formed at Oban on 22nd September, 1902, when the members of An Comunn resident in Oban and district resolved to form themselves into a branch "on condition that membership of the branch should infer full and direct membership of the Association." At the annual meetings in 1903 and 1904 various schemes of re-organisation were proposed and debated. One proposal was that An Comunn should be re-organised on a basis of separate district societies, linked by representation on a Central Council. The main alternative, which was the one finally adopted and (with further revision in 1911) still the framework of An Comunn's set-up, was that of a central association with life and ordinary members, along with branches and affiliated societies, the Executive Council consisting of representatives of the branches and affiliated societies along with annually elected office-bearers and members.

The new Constitution of 1904 made provision for three Standing Committees (Education, Publication, Finance and Propaganda), along with an Advisory Committee (consisting of the Vice-Presidents and Conveners of Standing Committees). Later three Special Committees were appointed, one for Industries, another for Celtic Art, and a third for Mod and Music. By 1909 all these had become six Standing Committees—Finance, Propaganda, Education, Publication, Mod and Music, and Arts and Industries, along with an Advisory Committee.

Formation of Branches

The first branch was formed at Oban in 1902, and the second at Dingwall about the end of 1904; the third at Stornoway before the end of 1905; the next three at Inverness, Ardrishaig, and Kilmodan in 1906, with others at Tobermory, Bute, Fort William, and Stirling in 1907. Balquhider, Tarbert (Loch Fyne), Stenhousemuir ("Comunn Gaidhealach Monadh Tigh na Cloiche"), Appin, and Benderloch followed in 1908 and 1909.

In 1909, W. J. Watson pointed out that there was still a very large field quite untouched by the expanding work of An Comunn. It had not so far found a footing in Sutherland, or in Lewis outside Stornoway, or in Skye, and had only slightly touched the mainland of

Inverness-shire. In fact, it was largely confined to Argyll.

In 1909-10 An Comunn had 1,864 members of all kinds, and in 1910-11 it had 2,945. In 1910 a branch was formed in Govan, and in 1912 Neil Ross founded six new branches in Skye. In 1913 there were almost a hundred branches, 34 of them newly formed within the last year, the year of Mr. Neil Shaw's appointment as Secretary.

(To be continued)

Provincial Mods

PERTHSHIRE

The Perthshire Provincial Mod was held at Aberfeldy, on 3rd June, 1955. The adjudicators were: for music, Mr. Fyffe, Glasgow; for Gaelic, Rev. John Mackay, M.A., and Mr. Malcolm Macleod, Glasgow.

The first-prize winners were:—

Junior Section

Reading Prose (learners)—Janet Butter, Weem. Recitation (learners, 12-16)—Thomas Lambie, Killin. Recitation (under 12)—Caroline Adam, Grantully. Recitation (open)—Margaret Macdiarmid, Lawers.

Solo-singing (girls under 12)—Jean C. Campbell, Rannoch. Boys (under 12)—Calum Gillies, Rannoch. Girls (12-16)—Margaret Maclean, Kinloch Rannoch. Boys (12-16)—Robert Cannon, Tullimet.

Duets (learners)—Barbara Stewart and Mary Campbell. Choral singing (unison)—Dunolly Hostie Choir, Aberfeldy.

Bagpipe playing—Cathel Morrison, Aberfeldy. Violin playing—Malcolm Gillies, Ballinluig. Piano playing—Flora Bray, Birnam.

Senior Section

Reading at sight—Morag Maclean, Pitlochry. Reciting Poem—Morag Maclean. Reciting Prose—Mrs. Mackay. Sgeulachd—Jessie Hutchison, Perth.

Solo singing (ladies)—Mary Shaw, Aberfeldy. Oran mor (Ladies)—Mary Shaw. Oran mor (men)—George J. Clavey, Killin. Mixed voices—Mary Shaw, Mixed voices—George J. Clavey. Own choice (ladies) Mary Shaw. Men—George J. Clavey.

Duets—Misses E. Whiteford and K. Fraser, Weem. Choral singing (ladies' choirs)—Perth Ladies' Gaelic Choir.

Violin playing—John MacMillan, Fortingall. Piano playing—Mrs Catherine Crichton, Aberfeldy.

LORN, MORVEN and MULL

The Lorn, Morven, and Mull Mod was held at Oban on 3rd June. The adjudicators were: for music, Messrs. J. Gilmour Barr and John A. Macrae; and for Gaelic, Mr. Derick Thomson and the Rev. Messrs. Angus Macleod, Kenneth MacMillan, Wm. J. MacIntyre, and T. M. Murchison. Mr. Murchison presided at the evening concert, at which the guest artistes were Miss Evelyn Campbell and Mr. Donald MacVicar. The prizes were presented by Mrs. D. Thomson.

The first-prize winners were:—

Junior Section

Reading poetry (learners under 14)—Gilleasbuig MacMillan. Reading prose at sight—Morag Maclean. Reading prescribed prose—Mary Mackinnon. Reciting poetry—Irene Potter. Reciting poetry—Kay Carson. Sgeulachd—Mary Mackinnon. Versc-speaking—Oban High School Group "C."

Solo-singing (own choice, 9-12)—Mary MacLarn. Own choice—Iain Potter. Prescribed songs (boys

and girls)—Kay Carson. Own choice (girls)—Kay Carson. Boys—Duncan Macdonald.

Duets—Christine and Isobel Ferguson. Choral singing (unison)—Rockfield School Choir. Two-part harmony (prescribed songs)—Oban Treble Clef Junior Choir. Two-part harmony (prescribed and own choice)—Rockfield School Choir.

Piano playing—Anne Gillies.

Senior Section

Reading at sight—Effie Clark. Reciting poetry—James Burnett.

Solo singing. Own choice (ladies)—Isobel Gillies. Men—A. Mackechnie. Prescribed songs (men and women)—Isobel Gillies. Former pendant winners—Anne Mackenzie. Puirt-a-beul—Anna Macdougall. Gold pendant winners—Isobel Gillies, and James Burnett and A. Mackechnie.

Duets—Nancy Muir and James Burnett. Choral singing (ladies voices)—Oban High School Senior Choir.

Nova Scotia News

Gaelic in the Schools

It is encouraging to hear that Major C. I. N. Macleod, Gaelic Adviser, Nova Scotian Education Department, has succeeded in introducing the teaching of Gaelic into the day-school curriculum. Last summer the Deputy Minister of Education permitted him to initiate the teaching of Gaelic in schools located in Scottish communities, provided permission was also given by the local Inspectors of Schools and the School Trustees. Inverness County was chosen as the first field of operation, as it contains the highest percentage of Gaelic speakers in the Province, and a start has been made with West Mabou School, where all grades, a total of 28 pupils, will receive a half-hour's instruction per week, and at St Joseph's Convent School, West Mabou, where 30 pupils in two grades will receive similar instruction. In both schools there are teachers who have been awarded "credits" in Gaelic at the Nova Scotia Summer School. Altogether, 44 teachers have been awarded "Gaelic credits" at the Summer School between 1950 and 1954. It is hoped that the other Scottish communities in Cape Breton and on the mainland of Nova Scotia will also make provision for Gaelic teaching, where a qualified teacher is available. In order to assure a steady supply of qualified Gaelic teachers the Gaelic Courses at the Summer School, which is held each year at Dalhousie University, will be continued.

Proposed Highland Clachan

In the Nova Scotian Legislature Mr. Stewart W. Proudfoot and other members have been pressing a proposal to erect a Scottish or

Highland village in Nova Scotia, preferably in Pictou County, as a reminder of the Scottish heritage of the Province. The idea was first discussed almost two years ago in the home of the late Mr. Angus L. Macdonald, Premier of Nova Scotia, others present including Major Calum I. N. Macleod. It is proposed that the "clachan" should be identical with that in the Empire Exhibition at Glasgow in 1938, which drew 1,649,396 visitors in six months, and plans were made available by Dr. Colin Sinclair, architect of the 1938 Clachan.

Speaking on the subject in the Legislature, Mr. Proudfoot, "garbed from head to toe in Scottish costume, including a kilt of Nova Scotia tartan," and "scorning the wrath of the Irish" (it was St. Patrick's Day!) urged the appointment of a special committee to select a site where up to 20 acres of land might be made available for the Clachan and for parking space for 1,000 cars. "This village," he said, "will have great picturesque and educational value, in addition to being a citadel of Scottish culture in North America. A wise nation preserves its records; gathers up its monuments, decorates the tombs of its illustrious dead, repairs its great public structures, and fosters national pride and love of country by perpetual reference to the sacrifices and glories of the past." He went on to urge that the Clachan should be located in Pictou County, since Pictou was the site of the landing of the *Hope* and the *Hector* with "precious cargoes of sons and daughters of the heather." "One vessel in 1802 brought 370, all from the Island of Barra, the ancestral home of the MacNeills. All went to Cape Breton Island, and there are more MacNeills to-day, I am told, in one polling section of Victoria County than there are in the whole Island of Barra. Between 1802 and 1827, 25,000 Scots came through Pictou alone. The settlers who founded St. Ann's, Cape Breton, first lived in Pictou."

Aberdeen

Mod Preparatons Well In Hand

As everyone knows, or ought to know, the successful running of the National Mod nowadays calls for a vast amount of work on the part of many people, both in arranging the many details of organisation and accommodation and in raising the "Mod Fund," which is expected, not only to pay for the Mod, but also give a surplus to supplement the ordinary income of An Communn.

This work of money-raising falls chiefly on the Local Mod Committee, and from all we hear the Aberdeen Committee have not spared themselves and have the situation well in hand. It is confidently expected that the target of £2,000 will be exceeded, but there is still time for those who have not yet helped to send what help they can.

For months, right up to the end of June, there has been a function or meeting almost every week, among the latest being a Choir Concert and Beetle Drive on 14th May and a Jumble Sale on 15th May. The last major function was a "Highland Fling" on 25th June. This included a Sports Cavalcade, in co-operation with the Council of Physical Recreation. There was also a Men's Stall, with articles made by men for men, sporrans, walking sticks, etc.

Gaelic Society of Inverness

Lord Kilmuir as Chief

It should be a source of considerable satisfaction to Scotsmen, and especially to Highlanders, that the House of Lords and the House of Commons are presided over by distinguished sons of the North and Islands, namely, respectively, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Kilmuir of Creich, and the Speaker, the Right Hon. W. S. Morrison.

Lord Kilmuir adds one more to the succession of distinguished men who have been Chiefs of the Gaelic Society of Inverness. Presiding over the annual dinner of the Society, the Lord Chancellor said that the Gael has three advantages. These are a living sense of history, a visual geography that needs no cinemascope, and what he preferred to call proximity in separation.

"I believe that it is a good thing when the past is vivid and our yesterday extends into centuries. Sometimes inconsiderate people have accused us of living in the past. This is nonsense. The past is a spur, not a cushion."

With regard to the quality of "visual geography," Lord Kilmuir said, "The picture of our own country is always in the eye of the heart. Every exile carries with him a vividness impervious to the passing years, his own Tir-nan-og. Proximity in separation is a quality deeply rooted in the history of our race, which for five centuries has sent its sons to the ends of the earth. From whatever corner of the world there has been for five centuries a community of thought and spirit."

Sgeul air Tuaradaire Teallaich

Dh'aithriseadh an sgeul seo le Donnchadh Dòmhnallach nach maireann, Peighinn-nan-Aoirean, agus sgrìobhadh e le a mhac, Dòmhnall Iain. Tha ar taing aig Dòmhnall Iain, agus aig an SCHOOL OF SCOTTISH STUDIES, Dun-èideann, air son cead an sgeul a chlà-bhuailadh, agus aig Aonghas MacDhonnchaidh air son a chur chugainn.

Chaidh Tuaradaire Teallaich latha dha'n tràigh is chuala e sporghail fo chreige, is shìn e mach. Agus cò a choinnich e ach Cromach nighean a' Chromach?

"Càit 'eil sibh tu dol?" arsa Cromach nighean a' Chromach.

"A' teicheadh roimh an bhrà."

"Cò chunnaic 's a chual e?"

"Mise chunnaic 's a chual e," arsa Tuaradaire Teallaich; "'s ann gam' bhonnaibh fhéin a bha e."

Shìn Tuaradaire Teallaich a mach is Cromach nighean a' Chromach, agus cò a thachair orra ach Tamhasg nighean an Tamhasg?

"Càit 'eil sibh a' dol?" arsa Tamhasg nighean an Tamhasg.

"A' teicheadh roimh an bhrà."

"Cò chunnaic 's a chual e?"

"Mise chunnaic 's a chual e," arsa Tuaradaire Teallaich; "'s ann gam' bhonnaibh fhéin a bha e."

Shìn Tuaradaire Teallaich a mach is Cromach nighean a' Chromach is Tamhasg nighean an Tamhasg, agus cò a thachair orra ach Bòcan a' bheul-àth?

"Càit 'eil sibh a' dol?" arsa Bòcan a' bheul-àth.

"A' teicheadh roimh an bhrà."

"Cò chunnaic 's a chual e?"

"Mise chunnaic 's a chual e," arsa Tuaradaire Teallaich; "'s ann gam' bhonnaibh fhéin a bha e."

Shìn Tuaradaire Teallaich a mach is Cromach nighean a' Chromach is Tamhasg nighean an Tamhasg, agus cò a thachair orra ach Fàs a chùl an t-sionnach?

"Càit 'eil sibh a' dol," arsa Fàs a chùl an t-sionnach.

"A' teicheadh roimh an bhrà."

"Cò chunnaic 's a chual e?"

"Mise chunnaic 's a chual e," arsa Tuaradaire Teallaich; "'s ann gam' bhonnaibh fhéin a bha e."

Shìn Tuaradaire Teallaich a mach, agus Cromach nighean a' Chromach, agus Tamhasg nighean an Tamhasg, agus Bòcan a' bheul-àth, agus Fàs a chùl an t-sionnach, agus cò a thachair orra ach Ruairidh Mór na Creige?

"Càit 'eil sibh a' dol?" arsa Ruairidh Mór na Creige.

"A' teicheadh roimh an bhrà."

"Cò chunnaic 's a chual e?"

"Mise chunnaic 's a chual e," arsa Tuaradaire Teallaich; "'s ann gam' bhonnaibh fhéin a bha e."

Shìn Tuaradaire Teallaich a mach, agus Cromach nighean a' Chromach, agus Tamhasg nighean an Tamhasg, agus Bòcan a' bheul-àth, agus Fàs a chùl an t-sionnach, agus Ruairidh Mór na Creige agus cò a thachair orra ach am Fear liath 's a mhac?

"Càit 'eil sibh a' dol?" arsa Fear liath 's a mhac?

"A' teicheadh roimh an bhrà."

"Cò chunnaic 's a chual e?"

"Mise chunnaic 's a chual e," arsa Tuaradaire Teallaich; "'s ann gam' bhonnaibh fhéin a bha e."

Shìn Tuaradaire Teallaich a mach, agus Cromach nighean a' Chromach, agus Tamhasg nighean an Tamhasg, agus Bòcan a' bheul-àth, agus Fàs a chùl an t-sionnach, Ruairidh Mór na Creige, agus am Fear liath 's a mhac, agus cò a thachair orra ach a' Chliamhainn 's a chruit?

"Càit 'eil sibh a' dol?" arsa a' Chliamhainn 's a chruit.

"A' teicheadh roimh an bhrà."

"Cò chunnaic 's a chual e?"

"Mise chunnaic 's a chual e," arsa Tuaradaire Teallaich; "'s ann gam' bhonnaibh fhéin a bha e."

Shìn Tuaradaire Teallaich a mach, agus Cromach nighean a' Chromach, Tamhasg nighean an Tamhasg, Bòcan a' bheul-àth, agus Fàs a chùl an t-sionnach, Ruairidh Mór na Creige, am Fear liath 's a mhac, a' Chliamhainn 's a chruit, agus cò a thachair orra ach Fiadh eadar-a-chnoc?

"Càit 'eil sibh a' dol?" arsa Fiadh eadar-a-chnoc.

"A' teicheadh roimh an bhrà."

"Cò chunnaic 's a chual e?"

"Mise chunnaic 's a chual e," arsa Tuaradaire Teallaich; "'s ann gam' bhonnaibh fhéin a bha e."

Shìn Tuaradaire Teallaich a mach, agus Cromach nighean a' Chromach, Tamhasg nighean an Tamhasg, Bòcan a' bheul-àth, Fàs a chùl an t-sionnach, Ruairidh Mór na Creige, Fear liath 's a mhac, a' Chliamhainn 's a chruit, agus Fiadh eadar-a-chnoc, agus cò a thachair orra ach Madadh ruadh an sloc?

"Càit 'eil sibh a' dol?" arsa Madadh ruadh an sloc.

"A' teicheadh roimh an bhrà."

"Cò chunnaic 's a chual e?"

"Mise chunnaic 's a chual e," arsa Tuaradaire

Teallaich; "'s ann gam' bhonnaibh fhéin a bha e."

Shin Tuaradaire Teallaich a mach, agus Cromach nighean a' Chromach, Tamhasg nighean an Tamhasg, Bòcan a' bheul-àth, Fàs a chùl an t-sionnaich, Fear liath 's a mhac, Ruairidh Mór na Creige, a' Chliamhain 's a chruit, Fiadh eadar-a-chnoc, agus Madadh ruadh an sloc, agus có a thachair orra ach Bloigh Mèiseadh?

"Càit 'eil sibh a' dol?" arsa Bloigh Mèiseadh.

"A' teicheadh roimh an bhrà."

"Cò chunnaic 's a chual e?"

"Mise chunnaic 's a chual e," arsa Tuaradaire Teallaich; "'s ann gam' bhonnaibh fhéin a bha e."

Shin Tuaradaire Teallaich a mach, agus Cromach nighean a' Chromach, agus Tamhasg nighean an Tamhasg, agus Bòcan a' bheul-àth, agus Fàs a chùl an t-sionnaich, Fear liath 's a mhac, a' Chliamhain 's a chruit, Ruairidh Mór na Creige, Fiadh eadar-a-chnoc, Madadh ruadh an sloc, agus Bloigh Mèiseadh, agus có a thachair orra ach Cùl Càise?

"Càit 'eil sibh a' dol?" arsa Cùl Càise.

"A' teicheadh roimh an bhrà."

"Cò chunnaic 's a chual e?"

"Mise chunnaic 's a chual e," arsa Tuaradaire Teallaich; "'s ann gam' bhonnaibh fhéin a bha e."

Shin Tuaradaire Teallaich a mach, agus Cromach nighean a' Chromach, agus Tamhasg nighean an Tamhasg, Bòcan a' bheul-àth, Fàs a chùl an t-sionnaich, Ruairidh Mór na Creige, Fear liath 's a mhac, a' Chliamhain 's a chruit, Fiadh eadar-a-chnoc, Madadh ruadh an sloc, Bloigh Mèiseadh, agus Cùl Càise, agus có a thachair orra ach Blàr buidhe air bois.

"Càit 'eil sibh a' dol?" arsa Blàr buidhe air bois.

"A' teicheadh roimh an bhrà."

"Cò chunnaic 's a chual e?"

"Mise chunnaic 's a chual e," arsa Tuaradaire Teallaich; "'s ann gam' bhonnaibh fhéin a bha e."

Shin Tuaradaire Teallaich a mach, agus Cromach nighean a' Chromach, Tamhasg nighean an Tamhasg, Bòcan a' bheul-àth, Fàs a chùl an t-sionnaich, Fear liath 's a mhac, a' Chliamhain 's a chruit, Ruairidh Mór na Creige, Fiadh eadar-a-chnoc, Madadh ruadh an sloc, Bloigh Mèiseadh, Cùl Càise, agus Blàr buidhe air bois, agus có a thachair orra ach Dithis bean a' gleac?

"Càit 'eil sibh a' dol?" arsa Dithis bean a' gleac.

"A' teicheadh roimh an bhrà."

"Cò chunnaic 's a chual e?"

"Mise chunnaic 's a chual e," arsa Tuaradaire

Teallaich; "'s ann gam' bhonnaibh fhéin a bha e."

Shin Tuaradaire Teallaich a mach, agus Cromach nighean a' Chromach, Tamhasg nighean an Tamhasg, Bòcan a' bheul-àth, Fàs a chùl an t-sionnaich, Fear liath 's a mhac, a' Chliamhain 's a chruit, Fiadh eadar-a-chnoc, Madadh ruadh an sloc, Ruairidh Mór na Creige, Bloigh Mèiseadh, Cùl Càise, Blàr buidhe air bois, agus Dithis bean a' gleac, agus có a thachair orra ach Bean a' buain suip?

"Càit 'eil sibh a' dol?" arsa Bean a' buain suip.

"A' teicheadh roimh an bhrà."

"Cò chunnaic 's a chual e?"

"Mise chunnaic 's a chual e," arsa Tuaradaire Teallaich; "'s ann gam' bhonnaibh fhéin a bha e."

Shin Tuaradaire Teallaich a mach, agus Cromach nighean a' Chromach, Tamhasg nighean an Tamhasg, Bòcan a' bheul-àth, Fàs a chùl an t-sionnaich, Fear liath 's a mhac, a' Chliamhain 's a chruit, Fiadh eadar-a-chnoc, Madadh ruadh an sloc, Ruairidh Mór na Creige, Bloigh Mèiseadh, Cùl Càise, Blàr buidhe air bois, Dithis bean a' gleac, agus Bean a' buain suip, agus có a thachair orra ach Gearran bacach bàn na mònadh.

"Càit 'eil sibh a' dol?" arsa Gearran bacach bàn na mònadh.

"A' teicheadh roimh an bhrà."

"Cò chunnaic 's a chual e?"

"Mise chunnaic 's a chual e," arsa Tuaradaire Teallaich; "'s ann gam' bhonnaibh fhéin a bha e."

"Trohadaibh sibhse air mo mhuin-sa," arsa Gearran bacach bàn na mònadh, "agus sàbhailidh mise sibh."

Leum iad air fad air muin Gearran bacach bàn na mònadh, agus dh'fhalbh e leotha, agus ghabh e a mach air a' mhuir leotha, agus bhàthadh a h-uile gin aca!

* * * * *

Altachadh

Tha biadh aig cuid nach ruig air càil,

'S tha càil aig cuid gun bhiahtachd.

Ach fhuair sinn biadh is càil gu'r miann,

'S do Dhia biodh taing na fialachd.

(Le Raibeart Burns, air a chur an Gàidhlig leis an Urramach Iain Mac-an-aba nach moireann.)

* * * * *

A bheil thu a' leughadh pios Gàidhlig a h-uile latha? Cuin a cheannaich thu paiper no leabhar Gàidhlig mu dheireadh?

Mort Nan Eigeach

CHAIDH Iain Buidhe MacLeòid a dh'iarraidh bean a dh'Eige. Bha bàta aige agus ceathrar dhaoine. Thàinig e air trì aig taigh athair a' bhòireannaich. Tha e còltach nach robh fir an àite air son gum faigheadh MacLeòid am boireannach, ach thachair gu robh iad tràth a mach an là ud, agus leig a h-athair le MacLeòid am boireannach a thoirt leis.

Air an turus dhachaigh dh'èirich stòirm agus thilgeadh am bàta air ais air Eige, agus cho luath is a bhuail i an cladach bha fir an àite am bad an Leòdaich. Thug iad uaithe am boireannach agus cheangail iad an duine agus a cheathrar ghillean agus thilg iad anns a' bhàta iad air a' chuan.

Mu dheireadh ràinig am bàta an t-Eilean Sgitheanach leis a' chòignear innte, agus bha MacLeòid Dhun-bheagain an dèidh tilleadh á Lochlann. Arsa ean, an uair a chuala e an naidheachd mu'n mhasladh a rinneadh air a dhaoine, "Diolaidh mise air na h-eucoraich an rud a rinn iad!"

Mar sin, chaidh MacLeòid agus buidheann de a dhaoine gu Eige agus theich sluagh Eige do uaimh mhòir, agus cha d'fhuaradh lorg orra. Chruinnich na Leòdaich gach nì a gheibheadh iad, crodh is eile, is chuir iad romhpa falbh.

Thàinig fear a mach as an uaimh feuch am faiceadh e an d'fhalbh na Leòdaich dhachaigh. Ach bha sneachd air an talamh agus lean na Leòdaich làrach chas an duine gu ruig an uamh. Thug esan an uamh air agus lean iad e, seachd fheadhan dhiubh uile gu léir.

Dh'iarr na Leòdaich orra a thighinn a mach as an uaimh, ach dhùilt iad. An sin dh'iarr na Leòdaich orra an fheadhainn a rinn an eucoir air na Sgitheanaich a chur a mach chuca, ach dhùiltadh seo mar an ceudna.

Ghabh na Leòdaich fearg. Bhris iad na taighean agus thàinig iad leis a' chonadh. Leig iad an t-uisge rathad eile agus thachd iad a h-uile duine dhiubh anns an smùid.

(*Bho Sheanchas Nèill Chaimbeul*.)

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Alasdair Mór an t-Sruthain

THA mar as trice sgeul aig a h-uile eilean an Inse Gall mu dheighinn euchdan a rinn daoine, agus gu dearb tha a cuid féin aig Uibhist a Tuath, ma's e breug no firinn iad. Ach cuiridh mise mo chluas air a' gheall gur e smior na firinn a tha ann an sgeul a tha mise a' dol a dh'innse dhuibh—sgeul a chuala mi aig seann bhodach as a' bhaile againn, agus gu dearb is math a b'aithne dha a h-aithris.

Bha ann roimhe seo a' fuireach air an t-Sruthan Ruadh ann an sgrì Sholais duine mór treun d'am b'ainm Alasdair Mór. Cha robh duine 'na là cho làidir ri Alasdair còir, oir bha sin glé dhoirbh dhaibh a bhith.

Bha Alasdair o a òige a nuas làidir curanta. Bha e àrd, mót-chnàmhach 'na chruth, agus bha na fèithean 'na ghàirdean cho cruaidh ris an iarann.

Is iomadh sgeul a tha air aithris mu a threisead agus a euchdan nach creideadh neach mur faiceadh e iad.

Bha Alasdair aon là a' tighinn dhachaigh á Loch-nam-madadh le làn cairteach de mhin, an uair a thug an t-each truagh aige thairis aig Cnoc 'Ic Eòghainn. Cha do chuir seo smal air mo laochan. Is ann a thog e an t-each bochd do'n chairt, agus dh'fhalbh e fhéin a' draghadh na cairteach agus na bha innte as a dhéidh fad trì mìle agus an d'ràinig e a dhachaigh!

Uair eile gheall Fear Bhaile Raghnaill sìol dha, nan tigeadh e fhéin 'ga iarraidh. Cha bu ruith ach leum le Alasdair a dhòl a dh'iarraidh an t-sìl, agus e cho gann aig a h-uile duine a' bhliadhna ud. Thachair gu robh pradan de ghréigheir aig Fear Bhaile Raghnaill a dh'fheuc a char a thoirt á Alasdair. Ach cha robh sin aige-san mar a chuid fhéin. Bha gòir an ceannach aige gu dearb air a chuid chleasan.

Seo mar a dh'fheuch e a char a thoirt as an fhuamhair mhór seo. Cha tug e leth is a bu chòir de'n t-sìol do Alasdair, agus e an dùil nach toireadh Alasdair an aire. Ach cha robh Alasdair cho faoin is a bha e an dùil!

Mun do thàrr Alasdair air falbh as an t-sabhal thug e an aire nach robh gu leòr sìl ann. Bha fhios aige roimhe seo nach robh anns

a' ghréigheir ach am bumailear, agus a mach a thug e as a dhéidh. Rug e air gu cruaidh daingeann. Shad e e o aon cheann de'n t-sabhal chun a' chinn eile, agus mur 'eil mise air mo mhór-mhealladh bhreis e a h-uile cnámh 'na chorp. Cha do dh'fheuch an gréigheir a char a thoirt á Alasdair Mór tuilleadh.

Uair eile chaidh bó le Alasdair an poll a muigh anns a' mhòintich, agus cha robh fear aig baile a chuidicheadh e g'a toirt as. Mar sin chaidh Alasdair 'na aonar g'a sàbhaladh. Chuir e a làmhan treuna timcheall oirre agus thog e i slàn fallain as a' pholl. Cha deanadh sin an gnothach! Is ann a thog e i air a dhruim agus dh'fhalbh e dhachaigh leatha. Sin gaibh balach treun!

Uair eile fhuair e cuireadh gu coinneachadh ri duine anabarrach làidir á fear de na h-eileanan eile. Dh'fhalbh Alasdair gu Loch-nam-madadh a dh'fheitheamh a' bhàta a bha a' giùlan an duine threun seo. An uair a choinnich iad ri chéile rug Alasdair air làimh air. Bha a gheim cho làidir is gun do bhris e a dhà no trì de mheuran an duine eile. Bha dùil aig an duine roimhe seo nach robh a choimeas fhéin anns an Eilean Fhada gu léir. Ach bha e air a mhealladh. Thachair a sheise ris an là ud. Bhris an fuamhair seo a mheuran agus theich e dhachaigh le a bheatha cho luath is a bheireadh a chasan cothrom dha.

Ann an linn Alasdair Mhóir bha ùpraid uamhasach air feadh Albann gu léir. Is ann aig an àm seo a bha 'Falámhachadh na Gaidhealtachd' ann, agus is iomadh bròn dórainneach a thug sin a dh'ionnsaigh nan Gaidheal. Is ann aig an àm seo a chuireadh 'Blàr Sholais' agus Alasdair Mór 'na theis-meadhan.

Bha Alasdair Mór ag obair air an fhearann an uair a thàinig an maor agus na saighdearan a spùilleadh. Ghabh iad gu taigh Alasdair an toiseach, agus b'fheàrr dhaibh riann nach deach iad 'na chòir. Chuala Alasdair iomradh air seo agus dh'fhàg e na h-eich agus an crann agus gheas e dhachaigh. An uair a thòisich e ri sabaid bha e mar leòghann borb agus fiadhaich. Fhuair e greim air cabar maide agus bha na

saighdearan mar na meanbh-chuileagan fo a làimh. Bha an làn gun teagamh le Alasdair, ged chaill mòran de na daoine an dachaighean.

Chan fhaicear a leithid seo de dhuine anns an àm seo. Car son? Tha dìreach gum biodh na daoine anns an t-seann aimsir ag ithe an leòir de phròs, lite coirce agus eòrna, agus aran eòrna am pailteas. Cha chuir daoine an là an

diugh am beul air a leithid de bhìadh seo. Is fheàrr leo an stuth Gallda a gheibh iad anns na bùthannan. Thoir dhòmhsa an t-aran coirce! Is e seo a dheanadh na daoine làidir treuna mar a bha Alasdair Mór. Gu dè bhur beachd féin air a' ghnòthach?

Iseabail NicAsgaill

(Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir-Nis)

“An rud a nithear a dh'aindheoin”

AIR oidhche àraidh mu thoiseach an t-Samhain ioma bliadhna air ais chaidh an seanfhacal seo a dhearbhadh fìor dhòmhsa. Cha robh mi ach òg aig an àm, agus cha robh mòran tlachd agam air a bhith a' dol a mach air an oidhche, seachd àraid anns a' gheamhradh; ach, ge b'òil leam, thàinig orm a dhol a mach air an oidhche seo agus bu ghoirt an ceannach a bha agam air.

Bha muinntir an taighe air fad air a dhol a mach a chèilidh ach mi féin is m'athair. Bha mise a' leughadh leabhair fa chomhair teine mòr mòna, agus bha m'athair agus sruth falluis dheth a' càradh bhòrag an meadhon an làir.

Mu sheachd uairean bhuail am pathadh e agus chaidh e a mach a dh'iarraidh dibhe. An uair a dh'fhosgail e an dorus fhuair e oiteag de ghaoith reòta anns an aodann. An uair a chaidh e chun na tobrach bha am bùrn air reothadh cho cruaidh ri cloiche. Phill e dhachaigh agus mus do nochd e a steach an dorus dh'eubh e rium, “Tha i a' reothadh gu biorach, a bhalaich! 'S fheàrr dhuit do bhòrag a thilgeil ort agaus a dhol a chur a steach an reatha.”

Cha robh mise ach leisg éirigh air falbh bhò'n teine bhlàth thaitneach ud, agus thionndaidh mi cluas bhodhar do'n òrdan ud. Mus do chrom m'athair sìos chun nam bròg a rithist mhothaich e nach robh guth agam air falbh. Cha do chòrd sin ris. Dh'eubh e a mach, “An cuala tu an rud a thubhairt mi riut? Thoir do chasan leat a mach á seo no bheir mi dhuit am pìos leathair seo mu chùl nan iosgaidean!”

Thug mise an uair sin nach robh feum dhomh a bhith a' breabadh an aghaidh nan dealg. Chòmhdach mi mi fhéin le aodach mòr tuigh, agus dh'fhalbh mi gu leisg, slaodach, mall a mach gu Cnoc na Cloiche far an robh an reatha ceangailte.

Bha oidhche bhriagha shoilleir rionnagach ann, an talamh cho cruaidh ri iarann agus e a' bristeadh le brag beag cruaidh fo mo bhòrag móra tacaideach. Ged bha mi 'ga ghabhal gu sligeach, ràinig mi an t-àite mu dheireadh thall gu sàbhailte. Thog mi an cipean agus dh'fhalbh mi do'n bhàthaich leis an reatha agus cheangail mi 'na àite fhéin e.

An déidh dhomh a cheangal gu tèarainte mhothaich mi de sgealbain bhuntàta ann am bocsa agus smuainich mi gu robh e a heart cho math beagan a thoirt do'n bheathach. An uair a chrom mi mo cheann air son a bhìadh a chur fo a shròin thug mi an aire gun do ghabh e ceum air ais, ach bha mi cho gòrach agus gun do smuainich mi gur ann a' feuchainn ri teicheadh bhuan a bha e, ach b'fhada a gabh e bhuaith. Thug a' bhias boc as agus dh'fhàg e agam a dh'àdhaich chumhachdach an clàr an aodainn. Chuir a' bhuille seo mi car-a-mhuiltean a null gu casan na bà a bha ann an ceann thall na bàthcha. Mun d'fhuair mi mo chasan fodham a rithist leig a' bhò breab aiseid agus ghlac i mo luirgean.

Dh'fhalbh mi a null do oisean na bàthcha agus mi a' rànaid le cràdh agus air at le feirg. Cha leigeadh an t-eagal leam a dhol dhachaigh oir bha nàire orm innse mar a thachair. Mhothaich mi do sheann bhonaid a bha air a thilgeil chun na sitig an là roimhe, agus chuir mi mu mo cheann i gus am falaichinn làraich adhaircean an reatha air mo mhalaidh.

An uair a shaoil mi gu robh mi an suidheachadh freagarraich air son a dhol dhachaigh, dh'éirich mi, rug mi air an reatha agus thilg mi chun na sitig e. An sin dh'fhalbh mi dhachaigh agus thubhairt mi ri m'athair nach fhaca mi sgeul air an reatha. Cha b'e an taing a b'fheàrr a fhuair mi. “Mur faca,” arsa m'athair, “tha mi a' creidsinn gur e cho beag is a rinn thu a choimhead air a shon a bu choireach air a sin.”

Cha dubhairt mise an còrr agus, ged nach robh an oidhche ach òg, dh'fhalbh mi 'nam dheann do'n leabaidh air eagal gum feòraicheadh e dhomh dé air an t-saoghal a bha a' fàgail a' bhonaid ragaich ud orm.

Anns a' mhadainn bha mo mhalaidh air ais gu a h-àbhaist, ach cha do thug m'athair riamh, ged bha amharas math aige, ciamar a bha teadhar an reatha am broinn na bàthcha agus an reatha fhéin a muigh!

Coinneach Mac-a-Phì

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AN GAIDHEAL

THE GAEL

Vol. L

AUGUST, 1955

No. 8

LINN AN AIGH

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Sògh is fialachd air gach làimh;
Airc cha d'fhiosraich duine riamh,
Is cha d'iarr aon neach riamh cuid chàich.

Bha coibhneas, comunn, iochd, is gràdh,
Anns gach àit am measg an t-sluaigh,
Eadar far an éirich grian,
'S far an laigh i 'n iar sa' chuan.

Iain MacCuarraig.



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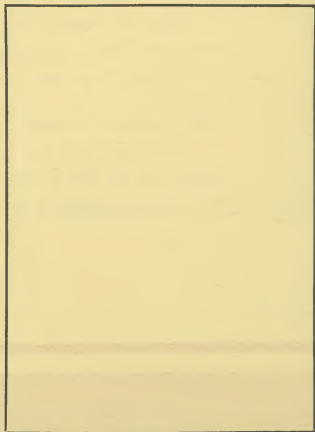
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AN GAIDHEAL

THE GAEL

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF
AN COMUNN GAIDHEALACH

Editor

REV. T. M. MURCHISON, M.A.

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CLAR-INNSIDH

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AN LUNASDAL, 1955

Aireamh 8

Air Chuairt An Cuil-fhodair

Le ALASDAIR I. MACASGAILL

(Air a leantainn)

“ACH cha robh math a bhith ris no m’ a dheighinn, agus b’ fheudar seasamh air an làr lom, gun ghleidheadh, gun chuideachadh, bho aimsir no talamh.

“Air an làmh dheas bha fir Athail, Mac Dhòmhnail Duibh agus a dhaoine calma, treuna, tapaidh, Stiùbartaich na h-Apann, na Frisealaich, Clann an Tòisich, Clann Mhic Lachlainn, agus Clann MhicGilleathain, le Morair Deòrsa air an ceann. Agus air an taobh chli bha na Dòmhnallaich aig Mac 'Ic Ailein, Loch-garaidh, agus agam fhéin, fuil uasal na Ceapaich—agus càit an robh an samhail? Agus nach b’e sin cùis an tàmailt?—an t-urram agus an t-onair as an robh mo chinneadh-sa cho uasal, moiteil, bho choisinn iad e aig Allt a’ Bhonnaich—is e sin, taobh deas na catha—a nis air an sponadh as an làmhan gun aobhar agus fiù agus foighneachd! Sin agad an seòrsa sgiobaireachd coma-co-dhiùbh a chuir as dhuinne! Air ar cùlaibh bha na h-eich air an tional, agus air cùl an airm gu h-ìomlan bha am Prionnsa fhéin le còmhlan beag fhear air son cuideachaidh an àit air bith, nan tigeadh e cruaidh air ar daoine an siud no an seo anns a’ bhàr; agus, mar sin, air bheag eideachaidh agus gun cus stùrd no sunnd, sheas sinn ri aghaidh na bha air thoiseach oirn. Chaidh aon nì sònraichte a sheirm ’nar cluasan,

seach gu robh uimhir de bhuaidh aig ceud-ionnsaigh nan Gaidheal an còmhnaidh air an nàmhaid, agus gu robh droch-fheum air brais-bhriseadh an siud, chroiseadh dhuinn gu dian dùrachdach gun aon chòmhlan no duine ceum sios a thoirt anns an ionnsaigh gus an éibhteadh an t-òrdugh, oir bhiodh làn éifeachd na h-ionnsaighe air a ciorramachadh mur déidh-eadh an t-arm gu léir sios ceart còmhla.

“Cha b’fhada gus an robh na Sasannaich m’ar coinneamh, agus cadar deich agus aon uair deug thòisich an gunnathan mòra a’ losgadh, agus abair thusa frasadh! Cha robh againne ach a dhà no trì de rudan beaga bochda anns nach robh mòran éifeachd, ach, a dhuine thruaigh a tha thu ann, bha gunnathan Shasainn—bha ceudan acasan ann—a’ deanamh miast-aidh a bha cianail, gu h-àraid an measg fir Athail a bha air an làr lom gun dhion sam bith. Nam faiceadh tu siud! An cuireadh tu umhail orra ged dh’fhàs na fir ud an-fhoiseil agus gun chothrom aca a dhol an greim. Bha na laoiich ud a’ tuiteam mar na sligean, dìreach rud a bha ’na uamhas.”

Stad m’fhear-seanchais. Thug e sùil timcheall agus, an uair a sheall mise, shaoil leam gu robh àrmuinn bhorba fhoghainnteach eile a nis timcheall air, a’ geur-amharc air-san leis an urram agus uaisleachd a bha aig na Gaidheil

a riamh do gach ursainn-catha de sheòrsa sin, agus mar a bha esan a' meudachadh air a sgeul mu'n fhliùdradh chianail a bha gunnathan Shasainn a' deanamh, chunnaic mi 'nan sùilean-san na dhaingnich gun b'è an tulfhirinn a bha aige, agus ar leam gu robh feadhainn eile, mar gum b'eadh, a' sealltainn dhomh an leòintean fuilteach fosgailte, a' dearbhadh an léirsgrìos a thuit orra. Ghabh esan a rithist air adhart leis an sgeul.

"Bha an luaidhe mharbhteach seo a' pronnadh agus a' sgapadh, ach cha robh guth air an òrdugh gu ar laoch a leigeil chuca, ged bha iad a nis mar choin-seilge air iall is fuil ri an sròin. Thòisich na fir a' glaothaich air son fuasglaidh, agus chuir na cinn-feadhna ìmpidh air Mac Dhòmhnail Dhuibh e a dhòl far an robh Morair Deòrsa agus cead fhaighinn air son na h-ionnsaigh anns a' bhad, air neo nach robh rian aig na sùinn ud, treun cròdha is gu robh iad, fuireach ri aghaidh a' chasgraidh sgrìosail ud gun a dhòl an greim. Dh'fhalbh Mac Dhòmhnail, ach fhad is a bha esan a' dian-chonnsachadh ri Morair Deòrsa, ghabh Clann an Tòisich a bha am meadhan an t-sreath-chatha an dearg chuthach (agus am b' iongnadh e? nach robh e 'na thid?), thug iad ionnsaigh air na Sasannaich, òrdugh ann no as, agus cha b'è ruith ach leum leis na bha deas orra as an dèidh. Siud a nis an taobh deas againne an sàs anns na balgairan ud agus, ged nach robh an ionnsaigh réidh, òrduichte mar bu mhiann, thug iag tulg math asda gun am fìor bhriseadh. Ach dh'fhuirich na Dòmhnallaich far an robh iad a réir an òrduigh a fhuair iad, ach co-dhiùbh is ann glé leam-leat a bha iad, oir thug an tàmailt a chuireadh orra an cridhe agus an spionnadh asda. Ach nan robh an Ceannard air an òrdugh a thoirt bho thoiseach bhiodh iadsan 'nan àite agus cha robh am mac-mallachd fhéin air an stad aon uair agus gun toireadh iad a' cheud cheum. Seach gur ann mar siud a bha, gun aonachd gun òrdugh, chaill ar daoine éifeachd na h-ionnsaigh a b' àbhaist briseadh a thoirt air an nàmhaid, agus fhuair na Sasannaich cothrom air an ath-anail a tharraing agus a rithist a dhòl an greim. Cha robh an taobh deas acasan an sàs idir seach nach deach na Dòmhnallaich 'nan càraibh, agus nach ann a thòisich iad a' losgadh a steach air cliathaich nan Gaidheal a bha an sàs. Bha iadsan, na Gaidheil, mar bu nòs, air am musgaidean a thilgeil aon uair agus gun do thòisich iad ri dol sìos a chum cothrom na b' fheàrr a thoirt do'n chlaidheamh mhór gu briseadh is gu spealgadh chnàmhan 'nan làimh. Abair thusa, cuideachd, gun do chuir iad smior bog Sasannach gu leòr ri gaoidh, ach bha an losgadh cliathaich seo a' deanamh sgrìos orrasan a bha cianail. Bhrosnaich mi fhéin na Dòmhnallaich, tàmailt ann no

as, gun déidheadh sinn an sgòran nan trusdairean leibideach dearga ud, ach ghabh iadsan anns an t-sròin gu buileach e, agus aon cheum cha toireadh iad air adhart. An uair a chunnaic mise sin, rug mi air mo chlaidheamh, agus, ged bha e a nis gu tur follaiseach gu robh an là gun fheum dhùinn, rinn mi fhéin agus a dhà no trì de na Dòmhnallaich nach robh air son m'fhàgail a steach do'n chapraidh fuilteach ud, agus bheir mise mo ràthunn dhuit gun do phàidh na coin ud gu daor ann am fuil agus an gaorr air son ar beatha."

Stad e a nis, agus bha e faicsinneach bho ghnùisean nan àrmunn urranta timcheall air an siud nach b'aon fhacal bréige a bha aige. Thug e beag-cheum na b'fhaisge orm.

"Sin agad mo sgeul-sa, ged as duilich i. Tha e fìor-chinnteach nach b'è dìth dhìchill a dh'fhàg mar sin i, agus cha ruig a' Ghaidhealtachd a leas nàire sam bith a bhith oirre air ar son-ne. Ach mo chreach! siuthad, crìoch-naich a nis dhunne do naidheachd á garbh-beann agus á gleanntan ar gràidh. Is cinnteach nach 'èil i gu tur agus gu h-iomlan cho dona agus cho mì-mhìneachail ris na chuala sinn a cheana—na leigeadh Freasdal e! Siuthad, air t'adhairt!"

Dh'innis mise dha mar a bha cùisean, facal air an fhacal, gun bhréig is gun mhearachd. Dh'èisd esan agus a laoch riomsa an siud gu sàmhach modhail tosdach, agus mar bu mhò a dh'innis mise is ann bu nochdaichte an lionndubh agus am mealladh-dùile a ghruamaich cho soilleir an cruth agus an coltas. Thuit an sùilean gu làr agus aig ceann mo sgeòil thog Mac 'Ic Alasdair (oir tha mi fhathast cinnteach gur e a bha ann) a làmh rium gu slaodach mì-dhòigheil. "Stad, stad," ghlaodh e le blas na feirge 'na ghuth; "eas-aonachd, dìth-creidimh, agus cìon féin-earbsa! O mo mhallachd orra! An e sin a thàinig as ar n-oidhirp? Èisd ri mo chomhairle-sa agus bidh soirbheachadh leis a' Ghaidhealtachd agus mothar' math fhathast aig cànan ceòlmbhor milis ar daoine. Can seo ris na h-ablaichean sin mu'n robh thu a' bruidhinn. Ma nì iad _____."

Dreach anns an fhacal chuala mi mabadaich agus onghail oillteil air an rathad shuas bhuam. Sheall mi suas, agus an sin bha carbad ola breagha glan, agus a' taomadh a mach as bha coigrich de gach seòrsa cruth agus cumaidh le cruaidh-chainnt bhigeach fhalamh ris nach gabhadh eadhon mactalla nam beann ud, agus lachanaich nach robh idir a' tighinn ri solaimteachd an àite, luchd-cuairt á bad-eigin. Sheall mi ri mo chompanaich, ach cha robh aon sgeul agam orra. Bha mise 'nam aonar an siud, crom air uaigh, agus aig a ceann leugh mi, "Na cinnidh co-mheasgaichte,"

sgriobhte am Beurla oirre. Bha na beanntan fuara duachmhidh air mo chùl, agus a' ghrian 'na làn-ghlòir ann an soilleireachd nan speuran.

Thug mi ceum asam, ràinig mi mo rothadair agus rinn mi air an taigh. Dh'fhàg mi Beurla chruaidh nan coigreach air mo chùl. Bha an rathad air ais sùmhail socrach mar a bha e a' tighinn, na craobhan dlùth air gach taobh dhìom. 'Nam intinn bha mi a' meòrachadh air dé an earail agus a' chomhairle agus an leigheas a bha aig m'fhear-seanchais air son cùisean gruamach ar latha mus do bhris na h-ùmaidhean ud ar saorsa. A bheil seòbladh idir anns na gnothaichean ud dhuinn? 'Nam

mhac-meanmna, ar leam gum faicinn an siud agus an seo am measg nan craobh sàr-laoch 'na làn-uirgheam-cogaidh a' ruith fo'n choill, dearg le a' fhuil chraobhaich fhéin agus còineadh gonaidh 'na bheul. Thàinig Inbhir-Nis air faire agus a' cheò fhathast suainte m'a cheann. Ach a bheil fhios dé an seòrsa fàilte a chuir prìomh-bhaile na Gaidhealtachd air na fògarraich chràiteach leòinte ud an là an dearbhaidh, smuainich mi leam fhéin, agus dé an seòrsa bàidh agus caomhalachd a tha aige ris a' Ghàidhlig an diugh? Nach iomadh galair a thig air laogh mear nach robh shùil aig a mhàthair ris? Agus leis an smuain sin ràinig mi am baile.

Story of An Comunn

By THE EDITOR

VI.—RE-ORGANISATION AND NEW VENTURES (1902-14)

(Continued)

Two-Day Mod, 1904

ALONGSIDE the steady, if unspectacular, expansion of the movement throughout the country, by the formation of more and more branches, the Annual Mod itself continued to grow from year to year, presenting its organisers with many difficult problems, at least two of which are still with us, namely, the matter of adjudication in Mod competitions and the difficulty of accommodation (which includes both the fitting of the many competitions into the time available and the housing of the concerts in places where public halls are inadequate or lacking).

The Eleventh Annual Mod was held in Dundee in September, 1902, and was "by far the most successful gathering ever held under the auspices of An Comunn Gaidhealach," much of the success being due to the Local Secretary, Mr. John Abrach Mackay. The number of competitors and the attendances were the highest so far. The Twelfth Annual Mod was held in the Music Hall, Inverness, in September, 1903. "Owing to the large number of events and entries, the competitions were carried on in three halls and proceeded all day." The Mod Concert attracted a vast audience, "hundreds being unable to obtain admission." It was evident that the Mod could no longer be contained within the limits of one day. Therefore, the Thirteenth Mod, held in the Town Hall, Greenock, in 1904, was a two-day affair, and proved most successful, the credit being mainly due to the indefatigable Local Secretary, Mr. Alexander N. Nicolson (for many years now the much respected and honoured Secretary of the Gaelic Society of Inverness), the directors of the Greenock Highland Society forming the Local Mod Committee.

Three-Day Mod, 1906

The Fourteenth Mod, in September 1905, was held in Dingwall, and, greatly daring, the Mod organisers hired a marquee, 120 feet by 50 feet, accommodating 1,000 persons, which was filled to overflowing for the Grand Concert. This also was a two-day mod, but the Fifteenth Mod, held in Oban in September 1906, extended to three days, when for the first time a whole day was devoted entirely to the junior competitions. At Oban, too, as at Dingwall, some makeshift had to

be found because of the lack of a large enough public hall. The expedient adopted was that of using the railway station, a floor being laid to cover the rail tracks between platforms. Mr. John Anderson, manager of the Oban and Callander Railway, was made an honorary life member of An Comunn as a reward for his services in this connection.

The Sixteenth Mod was held in Glasgow in 1907, but here there were no problems of accommodation. In 1908 the Seventeenth Mod was held in Rothesay. The decision to do so caused much head-shaking. The place was too far off the beaten track! There wasn't a big enough public hall! And so on! But the then leaders of An Comunn were not diverted from their purpose. Certainly the Mod attracted fewer than the immediately previous mods had, but it proved a great occasion nevertheless. For the Grand Concert the roofless old Castle of Rothesay was used, a temporary roof being provided at An Comunn's expense, which fact resulted in a net loss of some £60 on that particular Mod. The Rothesay Mod was notable for several other reasons, too. There were three innovations—a Gaelic oration was given at the Official opening by Henry Whyte ("Fionn") and this custom continued until our own day (the duty falling to the President for many years past); an exhibition and sale of Highland home industries was held; and there was a Gaelic book-stall. At Rothesay, too, the Welsh delegates added a colourful touch by appearing in 13th century Welsh costume.

The changes, modifications, and additions to the Mod syllabus would take up too much space. Junior medals for solo-singing (male and female) were introduced in 1901. For the first four years these were gold medals but, because of the risk of confusion with the senior gold medals, they were changed to silver medals in 1905 and have remained so ever since. The Lovat and Tullibardine Trophy for senior choirs was introduced in 1903, and the *Oban Times* Shield for junior choirs was presented in 1907. In 1904 Mod music first began to be printed in staff notation as well as in sol-fa.

Gaelic Adjudication

One difficult and recurring problem, and one not yet satisfactorily solved, was that of adjudication.

From time to time much dissatisfaction was expressed. Sometimes there were protests against particular adjudicators and against particular competitors. There was the difficulty of differentiating between a "native speaker" of Gaelic and a "learner." When does a "learner" cease to be a "learner" and become a "fluent speaker?" Most vexed of all was the question of the different dialects.

It may be some comfort to those today who still have the thankless task of tackling these problems of adjudication to recall the names of some of the Gaelic adjudicators of some fifty years ago. Among them were Professor Donald Mackinnon (of the Edinburgh University Chair of Celtic), Rev. Dr. Alexander Stewart ("Nether Lochaber"), Dr. George Henderson, Dr. Magnus Maclean, Neil Macleod (the Skye bard), Duncan Whyte, Malcolm MacFarlane, and Henry Whyte ("Fionn.")

In 1903 a suggestion was rejected that the judges in choral competitions should be screened off so that they could not see the choirs. A proposal that the judges be seated apart was also rejected.

In 1904 a lengthy memorandum for Gaelic judges was prepared and approved by the Executive Council. In the early years of the Comunn's life, it stated, "it was difficult to find persons having all the requisite qualifications for the judging of Gaelic singing. This condition still remains as it was." It was and remained necessary, therefore, to appoint two sets of judges, one set for music, the other for language. The outcome of this arrangement was not always satisfactory, the Gaelic judges being too often carried away by the singing and giving far higher marks than pronunciation and expression warranted.

Guiding Principles

The Gaelic judges, therefore, are instructed to confine themselves to pronunciation and expression, and give no heed to the quality of the voice or the style of the singing. "No notice should be taken of real dialectic peculiarities, be they even offensive to the taste of the judges." Eclipsis, although un-

recognised in written Gaelic, should not be accounted a defect; he who sings "Tir na meann" for "Tir nam beann" is to lose no marks. But where dialectic pronunciation interferes with rhyme, it should be accounted a fault. Care must be given to those sounds which learners find difficult, e.g. t, d, l, n, gh, ao. Good expression included clear enunciation and correct sounds and length of vowels, and softer or finer rendering of the several verses of a song, and the swelling or attenuating of cadences according to the sense, as also a facial expression which is not in disagreement with the nature of the subject being sung. Gaelic judges must not let themselves be swayed by the musical rendering, and should sit as near as possible to the competitors. The judges should assume competitors to be perfect before being heard and as their defects are disclosed deduct marks and half-marks.

The apportionment of marks as between music and language varied from time to time; sometimes it was 40 marks for music and 20 for Gaelic, sometimes 60 and 40 respectively. Now, of course, music and language marks carry the same maximum. When choosing Gaelic judges for one particular Mod, a suggestion was considered that no judges of Gaelic be appointed who cannot rid themselves of their provincial prejudices in regard to dialect and *blas*. For a time there were no language judges in vocal music competitions confined to Gaelic-speaking competitors, but soon thereafter we find protests being made against certain prize-winners who were alleged to have been admitted to competitions open only to those capable of conversing in Gaelic. Severe criticism was made of "the unauthorised extreme leniency of the Examiners who were appointed to apply the conversational test." The protests were not sustained by the Executive Council, but in future more precise instructions were to be given to the Examiners. Another proposal was that genuine "native-speakers" should make a declaration to that effect before a Justice of the Peace!

(To be continued)

Mod Ionadach Na Dreolluinn

U AIR a bha sìod thachair mi air dithis aig ceidhe Thobair-Mhoire a dh'fharraid dhìom am b'e Maol Chinn-tìre a bh'ann! Ar leam nach biodh a leithid sin de mhearachd air a deanamh le coigreach air bith a bhiodh a' tadhal anns an t-Sàilean Mhuileach Di-ardaoin an treas là fichead de'n Og-mhios, eadar deich uairean sa' mhàdainn (an uair a thòisich na comh-fharpaisèan) agus deich uairean feasgar (an uair a sgaoil a' chuirm-chiùil), le cho tric, binn, còdmhor 's a chluinnteadh "An t-Eilean Muileach," "Caol Muile," agus iomadh òran ionadail eile, 'gan seinn mu thimcheall talla a' bhaile. Chan abair mi smid mu'n t-sid, ach gum b'ann de'n ghnè fhior-Mhuilich a bha i—! O'n is e "Sàilean dubh Chalum-Chille" teis-meadhon an eilein, ann an seagh, chruinnicheadh na Muilich 'nan ceudan chuige; agus, ged nach ceadaicheadh fad a' chlàir-eagair briseadh mu mheadhon-latha, bhiodh greim is balgann no biadh-nòin cho blasmhor 's a ghabhadh e r'am faotainn an uair a thogradh

tu am pàilluinn faisg air a' mhòd fhéin.

A bharrachd air na comh-fharpaisich aon-neach (tri fichead) agus na buill-choisre eile (ceithir fichead 's a h-òchd), bha dà cheud inbheach 's a leth-cheud 's a dhà cruinn, agus dà fhichead clann 's a ceithir a thuilleadh. Ghabh Calum MacLeòid, Rùnaire a' Chomuinn Ghaidhealaich, a' Chathair aig cuirm-chiùil an fheasgair, agus rinn an t-Urramach Dòmhnall MacCoinnich, ministear na sgrèachd, aithnichte do'n t-sluagh e. Sheinn Iomhaire Chaimbeul, am measg luchd-bhuidhinn gach ciad duais; thug Neiliann NicGillinnein cuideachadh-chiùil dhi, agus is iad a thaitinn an luchd-èisdeachd. Chomh-dhùnach an tional le pannal-ringeidh.

B' iad na britheamhnan: air son cainnte, Iain Caimbeul, Anna NicIain, Calum MacLeòid, agus Dòmhnall MacThòmais; air son ciùil, Dòmhnall Deòir, Neiliann NicGillinnein, Iomhaire Chaimbeul.

Choisneadh prìomh-dhuaisean mar a leanas:—

Oigridh

Leughadh earrainn de rosg (fo 11)—Ceit NicGill-Fhaolain, Tìr-Odhrain. Leughadh earrainn de rosg no de bhàrdachd—Eilidh NicGille-Mhoire, A' Pheighinn-mhór. Leughadh air a' chiad sealladh—Fearchar Mac-Aonghuis, Calgaraidh. Ur-aithris air mheomhair—Caitriona NicAsgaill, Tobar-Mhoire. Còmhradh (Comunn na h-Oigridh)—Anna NicCumbhais, Tìr-Odhrain, agus Caitriona NicAsgaill, Tobar-Mhoire (co-ionnan). Dealbh-chluich (Comunn na h-Oigridh)—Feachd Peighinn-a' -Ghaidheil ("Ceilearadh Thómais")

Seinn. Oran aon-neach (fo 11)—Màiri Nic-Coinnich, Aros. Seinn an òrain, "An t-Eilean Muileach" no "Caol Muile" (caileagan os cionn 13) (Ciumhneachan Caitriona bean Dhonnchaidh Mhic-Dhuinn-shléibhe nach maireann)—Eilidh NicGille-Mhoire, A' Pheighinn-mhór. Oran aon-neach (balaich os cionn 11)—Ruairidh MacAmhlaidh, Sòrn. Cailean os cionn 11—Moibeal NicDhòmhnaill, An Sàilean Muileach. Oran-càraid—Anna agus Seònaid Chaimbeul, Bun-easain.

Comh-sheirm. — Sgoil Thobair-Mhoire. Seinn aon-fhuaimneach (Sgiath an t-Sàilein Mhuilich)—Sgoil Pheighinn-a' -Ghaidheil.

Dolar, air a thiodhlacadh le Seumas mac Garraidh (San Bruno, California), air son a'

chom-fharpaisich aon-neach a b' òige—Iain MacGille-Mhoire, Calgaraidh.

Inblich

Ur-aithris air mheomhair—Caitriona bean Chailein Mhic-an-Fhleisdeir, Torr-loisgte. Còmhradh-dithis—Mórag bean Thómais Mhic Neacail agus Anna NicPhàil, Gleann Arois.

Mith-òran (boireannaich)—Ciordan bean Aindrea Briggs, Ceann-loch. Mith-òran (fireannaich)—Niall MacDhòmhnaill, Peighinn-a' -Ghaidheil. Oran ionadail (boireannaich)—Caitriona bean Chailein Mhic-an-Fhleisdeir, Torr-loisgte. Oran ionadail (fireannaich)—Dòmhnall MacGill-Iosa, Tobar-Mhoire. Oran aon-neach (boireannaich)—Ealasaid bean Alasdair Chatanaich, An Sàilean Muileach. Oran aon-neach (fireannaich)—Donnchadh MacFhionghuin, Tobar-Mhoire. Oran-mór (boireannaich)—Caitriona bean Chailein Mhic-an-Fhleisdeir. Oran-mór (fireannaich)—Dòmhnall MacGill-Iosa. Oran-càraid—Ealasaid bean Alasdair Chatanaich agus Màiri bean Alasdair MhicUalraig, An Sàilean Muileach. Oran-ceathrair—Ceathrar an t-Sàilein Mhuilich.

Seinn aon-fhuaimneach — Còisir-chiùil Ghàidhlig an t-Sàilein Mhuilich. Comh-sheirm (An Sgiath Mhuileach)—Còisir Inbheach Bhun-easain is Pheighinn-a' -Ghaidheil.

A. T. L. (*Runair-Urr.*)

Executive Council

THE Extraordinary Meeting of the Executive Council of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in the Highlanders' Institute, Glasgow, on 18th June, 1955. Mr. Neil Shaw, President, occupied the Chair.

The Chairman paid tribute to the life and work of the following, who had recently passed away, and who, in various ways had been actively associated with the Gaelic movement—Mr. Angus MacMillan, Mr. Donald Cameron, and the Rev. Alexander Macdonald, Ardchattan.

The Finance Committee reported that the Income and Expenditure Account for the year 1954-55 showed a deficit of over £1,000, as compared with a surplus of almost £1,000 in the previous year. This was largely due to there being £2,000 less in the surplus from the National Mod. It was noted that it takes £4,500 a year to cover ordinary expenditure. It was noted with satisfaction, that the Northern Propaganda Sub-Committee has launched a campaign to extend interest and solicit greater support for An Comunn, in the hope that, in time, the Northern Area might be able to provide funds to meet the expenditure in the Area. It was also noted with satisfaction that the

Governors of the Catherine McCaig Trust had voted a grant of £100 and a guarantee of £100 towards the cost of the proposed Scottish Gaelic edition of School Readers. It was agreed to take steps to alter Bye-Law 46 so that in future the financial year should run from 1st April to 31st March.

The Education Committee reported that four representatives of An Comunn had conferred with officials of the Scottish Education Department in regard to the proposed Questionnaire on Gaelic in Schools, and the next steps proposed were explained. It was noted with regret that the scheme for Gaelic Informal Education had had to be suspended meantime, because suitable persons willing to act as Organisers were not at the moment available. Appreciation was expressed of the support given to the scheme by the Highland County Education Committees concerned and the Scottish Education Department. The Northern Education Sub-Committee reported favourably on Gaelic continuation classes in the area, and the Sub-Committee also had under discussion the teaching of Gaelic in schools in the Northern Area.

The Propaganda Committee reported that an appeal had been sent to branches and provincial mod areas asking them to recruit members, and help in selling Gaelic publications. It was noted, with satisfaction, that all the members of the Manchester Branch were Representative Members of An Comunn. It was reported that the Wester Ross and South Uist Mods would not be held this year, and that the Kintyre Mod was being held on 16th and 17th June. The Committee expressed appreciation of the proposal made at a recent conference in Inverness that there be a separate festival of Gaelic Plays; as distinct from the Scottish Community Drama Association Festival. In discussion on this matter in the Council, it was evident that several members, while approving of an all-Gaelic Drama Festival, insisted that Gaelic plays should still be eligible for the S.C.D.A. Festival. Satisfaction was expressed at the News-letter recently issued by the Northern Propaganda Sub-Committee. The Northern Propaganda Sub-Committee had sent letters of appreciation to the Editor of *The Stornoway Gazette* for the place given to Gaelic in that newspaper, and to Mr. Hugh Smith, Schoolmaster, Brevig, Barra, for articles by his pupils which had appeared in *An Gaidheal Og*.

The Art and Industry Committee reported that its section of the Syllabus for the 1956 National Mod had been prepared.

The Mod and Music Committee reported on arrangements for the forthcoming National Mod at Aberdeen, from 26th to 30th September. The Chairman at the Mod Concerts would be: Junior Concert, Mr. Frank Scorgie (Director of Education for Aberdeen); Rural Choirs Concert, Rev. Professor John M. Graham; and Grand Concerts, Lord Provost Stephen and Lord Aberdeen. The Official Opening would be in the Music Hall, Aberdeen, on Monday, 26th September, at 7.30 p.m. The Mod Gaelic Service would be held on 25th September and would be conducted by the Rev. Norman Macdonald. Arrangements are being made for a "Mod Club." Delegates were appointed as follows: to the Oireachtas, Mr. D. J. Maclean (Northern Organiser) and Rev. T. M. Murchison (Vice-President); and to the Eisteddfod, Mrs. C. M. B. Dunlop and Mrs. J. M. B. Maclean.

The Accounts and Reports for the year 1954-55 were submitted and approved, nominations for the various offices which fall vacant at this time were reported on, and intimation was given of notices of motion to be considered at the annual general meeting on 1st October.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Island Heritage

Folksongs and Folklore of South Uist, by Margaret Fay Shaw. (Routledge & Kegan Paul, London. 50/-).

Anyone who knows anything of Canna under the regime of the present laird, John Lorne Campbell, knows that it is a hive of industry as regards the study of Gaelic material. The publications of Mr. Campbell are well known to the Gaelic public: here we have Mrs. Campbell, or Margaret Fay Shaw, offering her first major contribution to work in the Gaelic or Highland field. Her name was already known to students of folk-music through her publication of thirteen Gaelic songs from Uist in the *Journal of the English Folk Dance and Song Society*, Vol. 5.

This book, although it is mainly concerned with Gaelic songs, covers a much wider field than that. It is indeed an attempt to present a picture of a remote Hebridean community, in its work and its recreation, at a period (1920-35) when social, economic and cultural change was only beginning to threaten it. The picture presented is already somewhat out of date: that is part of its value. If it seems partly antiquarian, it is not falsely so, and it gives a picture, and an assessment of a mode of life which was common, in various degrees, to many parts of the Hebrides. If it survives at all now, it is in corners even more remote than Glen Dale, South Uist, where Margaret Fay Shaw lived and worked in the early Thirties.

The account given is a composite one, appealing to the eye and the ear and the mind. We have a lavish selection of photographs, of landscape, of people, of houses, implements and the like. These are presented with a warmth of sympathy. Selected aspects of the life are presented in greater detail: the traditional mode of thought is suggested in a selection of proverbs and sayings, and in stories told by Seonaidh Caimbeul, the best-known of a family of local bards. The marvellous and the practical are blended in a selection of cures for various ailments. That for a stiff neck, I noticed without relief, is to "put the tongs about the neck and massage back and forth." Another interesting section deals with recipes for dishes.

The main section of the book is that on the songs, with Gaelic text and English translation, staff notation, references and notes. In all, 109 songs are given, 34 of these being waulking songs. It is a collection of great interest and variety, ranging over four centuries down to the middle of the present one. Many of these songs have already been published in collections such as *An t-Oranaiche*, K. C. Craig's *Orain Luaidh*, Frances Tolmie's collection of 1911, *Eilean*

Fraoich and other books, but in the great majority of cases the tunes noted here are either published for the first time or are variants not previously published. Some particularly interesting items are "Cholla mo Rùin," "Dà Làimh 'sa' Fhìob," "Mo thaobh Fodham" (said to be all connected with the *Uamh an Oir* tale), "Till an crodh, faigh an crodh," "Tàladh Choinnich Oig" (which may probably be dated in the early 1570's), "Se Diùram, 'se Diùram," good versions of "Gura mise tha fo éislein" and of "Rinn mi mocheirigh gu éirigh." The traditional story of "A' bhean iadach" is given, along with a Uist version of words and air.

Transcriptions are sometimes given of variant airs, and throughout the modes are named by Mr. A. Martin Freeman. The author has been scrupulous about acknowledging sources, and there is an index of first lines, a selective bibliography, and a general index.

National Mod—Aberdeen, 1955

MOD ENTRIES

	Juniors	Seniors
Literary	12	35
Oral	141	78
Solo and Duet ..	221	405
Choral	36	72
Instrumental ..	9	33
Celtic Art	3	31
Clarsach	—	8
Compilation of Music	—	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	422	663
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Total Entries, 1085

Letter to the Editor

BROADCAST GAELIC

A Charaid,—Whilst I do not claim to be any more than a Gaelic learner, I am distressed by a trend in recent B.B.C. Gaelic broadcasts, especiallycrofting discussions.

This is a tendency for the speakers to come out with such remarks as: "Oh, yes, yes, tha mi a' tuigsinn" or "Well, well, tha sin ceart" etc.

Surely this an unhealthy sign, as it would seem to imply that the speakers are beginning to *think* in English instead of in Gaelic. Let us keep the Gaelic pure. At present one is painfully reminded of a certain cartoon in that admirable Gaelic quarterly *Gairm*, of which the caption runs, ". . . agus a h-uile h-èffort a dheanamh a' Ghaidhlig a chumail pure!"

Is mise,

SRATH-PHOFAIR. PADRUG MACCEALLAIGH.

Provincial Mods

SOUTH-WEST ROSS

The South-West Ross Mod—"Scotland's biggest one-day Mod"—was held at Kyle of Lochalsh on 27th May. The adjudicators were:—For Gaelic, Messrs. Alasdair Fraser, D. J. Maclean, J. MacKinnon, Hume D. Robertson, and Rev. D. Macleod; and for music—Miss Ethel Bassin, Mr. John A. Macrae, Mr. T. K. Hetherington, and Dr. Allan Macdonald.

The Chairman at the Mod Concert was Mr. Donald J. Maclean, Northern Organiser, and the guest artistes were Miss Joan Mackenzie and Mr. Calum Cameron. The prizes were presented by Mrs. Nicolson, wife of Mr. Torquii Nicolson, Mod Convener.

The first-prize winners were:—

Junior Section

Literary:—Essay—Catherine Morrison, Duncraig Castle School. Dictation—Etta Morrison, D.C.S. Translation to Gaelic—Henrietta Gillies, D.C.S. Translation from Gaelic—Etta Morrison, D.C.S. Silver Medal (from Mrs. Macdougall) for highest aggregate in junior literary competitions—Etta Morrison, D.C.S.

Oral Delivery:—Reading from Bible—Ann MacKinnon, Plockton School. Recitation (under 12)—Anne Fraser, Kyle. Over 12—Annie Murray, D.C.S. Pecting Psalm (Beginners)—under 9—Christina Maclean, Letterfearn; 9-12—Christine Macdonald, Lochcarron School; over 12—Morag MacRae, Plockton School. Conversation—Henrietta Gillies, D.C.S. Verse-speaking (native speakers) (Barry Miner Cuach)—Duncraig Castle School Group. Verse-speaking (learners)—Craig Primary School Group. Silver Medal (from Mr. M. K. Macleod) for highest aggregate in junior orals—Jessie Mackinnon, Duncraig.

Solo-Singing:—Own choice—Girls under 12—Kay Clubley, Kyle. Boys under 12—Donald A. Mackintosh, Plockton. Girls over 12 (Silver Medal from S.C.W.S.)—Jessie Moore, Kyle, and June Gillies, Plockton (equal). Boys over 12 (Silver Medal from S.C.W.S.)—Thomas Moore, Plockton. Singing traditional song—Dolina MacRitchie, D.C.S. Duet—Dolina MacRitchie and Janet Smith, D.C.S.

Choral Singing:—Unison and puirt-a-beul (Dalby Peters Rose Bowl)—Kyle School Choir. Two-part harmony (S.W. Ross Junior Shield)—Plockton Secondary School Choir. Highest music mark—Kyle School Choir.

Instrumental:—Pianoforte (Boys and Girls)—Under 12—Colleen Stewart, Kyle. Over 12—George Glasgow, Plockton. Violin—Donald Mackenzie, Plockton. Chanter—George Glasgow.

Senior Section

Literary:—Poem—Isobel Campbell, D.C.S. Essay—Isobel Campbell, D.C.S.

Oral Delivery:—Sgeulachd—Catriona Campbell, D.C.S. Acted dialogue—Christina Campbell and Catriona Campbell, D.C.S. Recitation—Mary A. Maclean, D.C.S. Reading—Catherine MacRae, Plockton. Reading (Beginners)—Mary Macpherson, Kyle.

Solo-Singing:—Own choice—Female voices—Nina Campbell, D.C.S. Male voices—Angus MacLennan, Kyle. Prescribed songs—Female voices—Nina Campbell. Male voices—Angus MacLennan, Margaret Macdonald Medal—Nina Campbell. Douglas Memorial Medal—Angus MacLennan. Song by local bard (Mrs. D. Nicolson's Medal)—Hector Mackenzie, Balmacara. Former prize-winners (John N. Macleod Memorial Medal)—Jean Matheson, Kyle. Best aggregate in three competitions (Donald Macdonald

Memorial Medal)—Peggy Macdonald, Duncaig. Duet—James Miller and Malcolm K. Macleod, Kyle.

Choral Singing:—Unison (Margrat Duncan Cup)—Kyle Gaelic Choir (Ladies). Four-part harmony (S.W. Ross Senior Shield)—Kyle Gaelic Choir. Ladies' voices—Plockton Choir.

Bagpipe Playing—Angus Stewart, Plockton.

SUTHERLAND

The County of Sutherland Mod was held at Dornoch on 3rd June. A feature of the Mod was the ninth successive win by the Lochinver School Choir in the Sir Edward Horne Trophy Competition for junior choirs.

The adjudicators were:—For Gaelic, Messrs. J. M. Bannerman, A. J. MacAskill, J. M. Mathieson, and D. MacPhail; for music—Messrs. Pat Sandeman, Eric Watt, and William Macdonald.

The first-prize winners were:—

Junior Section

Reading poetry — David Morrison, Durness. Reading at sight—Anne Munro and William R. Morrison, Dornoch (equal). Reciting poem — David Morrison and Joey Campbell (equal). Conversation (native speakers) — Janet Matheson, Lochinver. Learners—Margaret Morrison, Kinlochbervie. Repeating Psalm (under 12)—David Morrison, Durness. Comunn na h-Oigridh Competition — Donald Mackinnon, Melness. Wilson Trophy for junior orals—Joey Campbell and David Morrison (equal).

Solo-Singing:—Girls under 12 — Alice Munro, Lochinver. Boys under 12—David Morrison, Durness. Girls, 12-16 — Gladys Finlayson, Helmsdale. Boys, 12-16—Derick Mackenzie, Lochinver. Song by Sutherland bard—David Morrison. Duet—Anne Matheson and Derick Mackenzie, Lochinver.

Choral Singing:—Unison (Buxton Trophy)—Lochinver School Choir. Two-part harmony (Sir Edward Horne Trophy)—Lochinver School Choir.

Senior Section

Old Local Place-Names — A. F. M. MacLennan, Brora.

Reading at sight—Murdo J. Macleod, Helmsdale. Recitation—Murdo J. Macleod. Sgeulachd—Murdo J. Macleod. Londonderry Cup (for senior orals)—Murdo J. Macleod.

Solo-Singing: — Female voices — Mrs. Patricia Boomer, Brora, and Jean Sutherland, Golspie (equal). Male voices — J. Stewart Cunningham, Helmsdale. Sutherland song — Jean Sutherland. Own choice (former prize-winners) — Ishmar Mackenzie, Golspie. Puir-t-a-beul—Mrs. Macpherson, Helmsdale.

Duet — Jack Sutherland and Angus Ross, Lochinver. Quartette—Earl's Cross Hostel Quartette, Dornoch.

Choral Singing—Four-part harmony (Duke of Sutherland Cup)—Dornoch Choir. Ladies' voices—(Lawrence Kimball Cup)—Dornoch Ladies' Choir.

Instrumental

Bagpipe-playing (under 16) (East Sutherland Cup)—Innes Macdonald, Dornoch. Violin—Harry More, Dornoch. Piano-forte (under 14)—Wilma Mackenzie, Culgower. Over 14—J. Stewart Cunningham, Helmsdale.

LEWIS

The Lewis Provincial Mod was held at Stornoway on 16th and 17th June. The adjudicators were:—For music—Miss Margaret Stobo and Dr. John Fyfe; for Gaelic—Rev. J. MacDougall, Miss Mary Macleod, Dr. D. Macdonald, and Messrs. A. Macdonald, R.

Morrison, J. Buchanan, D. J. MacLean, J. MacArthur, J. MacKenzie, C. Morrison, and A. Matheson.

The first-prize winners were:—

Juniors under 12

Reading Scripture—Norma E. MacIver, Airigh-an-tuim. Recitation—Willina Macleod, Aird. Dialogue or sketch (under 16) (Morrison Cup)—Bragar School. Unpublished sgeulachd (under 15)—John Macleod, Laxdale, and Norah Alice Stewart, Sandwick (equal).

Solo-Singing:—Prescribed songs — Girls — Willina Macleod, Aird. Boys—Alasdair Maclean, Tong. Own choice—Girls—Catherine Mackenzie, Aird. Boys—Hector Macleod, Laxdale. Boys and girls under 8—Murdo Angus MacRae, Nicolson Institute.

Choral (under 13):—Unison—Prescribed songs (Mackenzie Shield)—Lionel School Choir. Unison—Own choice (four-teacher schools and over)—Bayble Junior Boys. Unison—Own choice (three-teacher schools and under) (Cuach a' Chomuinn) — Leurbost School.

Juniors over 12

Reading from Gaelic Reader II—Margaret A. MacInnes, Lemreway. Reading at sight—Jessie Etta Macdonald, Lionel. Recitation — Christeen C. Maclean, Laxdale.

Confined to Nicolson Institute Pupils:—Reading—1st Year—Mairi C. Campbell. 2nd Year—Mary Ann Macleod. 3rd Year—Annie F. Mackay. Recitation—1st Year—Mairi C. Campbell. 2nd Year—Christy A. Maclean. 3rd Year—Rhoda Campbell.

Solo-Singing:—Prescribed Songs—Girls—Catherine MacIver, Nicolson Institute. Boys—Donald J. Mackenzie, Laxdale. Own choice — Girls — Catherine MacIver. Boys—Angus J. Montgomery, Lemreway. Girl's Silver Medal—Catherine MacIver. Boy's Silver Medal—Donald J. Mackenzie and Angus J. Montgomery (equal). Singing unpublished song — Joanna Murray, North Tolsta.

Choral:—Two-part harmony (Lewis and Harris Shield)—Nicolson Institute. Unison—Prescribed (Rural Schools) (Co-operative Society Shield)—North Tolsta. Own choice (Londonderry Cup) — Nicolson Institute. Playlet (with songs or songs with action) (Norman Harris Cup)—Nicolson Institute.

Senior Section

Reading — Christina Macdonald. Recitation — Catherine Matheson.

Solo-Singing:—Prescribed songs (Ladies)—Rhoda Morrison, Laxdale. Own choice (Ladies)—Rhoda Morrison. Gold Pendant Finals — Margaret Mackenzie. Gold Pendant Winner — Rhoda Morrison. Former prize-winners — Janet Macdonald. Duet — Joan Mackenzie and Catherine Macleod. Quartette — Stornoway Choir "B."

Choral:—Four-part harmony (MacBrayne Cup)—Laxdale Gaelic Choir. Unison—North Lochs Gaelic Choir. Ladies' voices (Stornoway Choir Shield)—North Lochs Ladies' Choir. Male voices—Lews Castle Senior Boys' Choir.

KINTYRE

The Kintyre Mod was held at Campbeltown on 17th June. The adjudicators were:—For Gaelic, Mr. Murdo Macleod, Mr. Ronald Lamont, and Rev. Donald Mackenzie; for music, Miss Mary H. Pate and Mr. James MacTaggart. The guest artiste at the concert was Mr. Donald Macleod, Mod Gold Medallist. The prizes were presented by Mrs. Currie, wife of Mr. J. J. Currie, President of Comunn Gaidhealach Chinn-tìre.

The first-prize winners were:—

Junior Section

Dictation — Rosemary L. Johnstone. Reading

poetry — Mary M. Mundell and Donald G. McLarty (equal). Reading prose—Catriona Fair. Recitation—Rosemary L. Johnston. Reciting proverbs—Donald G. McLarty. Verse-speaking — Whitehouse School "A." Special prizes for orals (presented by Mrs. Campbell, Lochgilphead) — Donald G. McLarty, Ardrishaig, and Rosemary L. Johnston, Whitehouse.

Solo-Singing:—Psalm—John M. MacIntyre. Own choice—Girls, 12-16—Kathleen M. Henry. Boys, 12-16—John Mackinlay. Prescribed songs—Girls, 12-16—Kathleen M. Henry. Boys, 12-16—John M. MacIntyre. Own choice—Boys, under 12—Allan Johnston. Girls, under 12—Margaret Buchanan. Girls under 12 (own choice)—Rosemary L. Johnston. Sheriff Macmaster Campbell Memorial Prizes—Girls—Kathleen M. Henry. Boys—John M. MacIntyre, Southend. Rhona MacVicar Memorial Prizes—Girls—Margaret Buchanan, Carradale. Boys—Allan Johnston, Campbeltown. Duet—Una Macdougall and Heane Muir.

Choral:—Unison—Dalaruan Junior Choir. Unison (prescribed songs)—Tarbert School Choir. Two-part harmony (Tangy Shield)—Tarbert School Choir.

Pianoforte—Mairi Macdougall.

Senior Section

Translation from Gaelic—Rayma Hughes. Kintyre place-names—Rayma Hughes. Conversation—Rayma Hughes. Recitation — Rayma Hughes. Reading — Rayma Hughes.

Solo-Singing: — Own choice — Ladies — Mrs. Campbell. Men — Raibert MacCallum. Girls, 16-18 — Isabel Colville. Former prize-winners — Margaret Muir. Puirt-a-beul—Mrs. Campbell. Female voices—Sheena Mitchell. T. S. Macpherson Memorial Prizes (Silver Medals) — Ladies — Mrs. Campbell, Lochgilphead. Men — Raibert MacCallum. Duet — Mary and Isabel Colville.

DALRIADA

The Dalriada or Mid-Argyll Junior Mod was held at Lochgilphead on 21st June. The first-prize winners were:—

Oral Delivery—Under 16—Reciting—Effie R. Ferguson, Lochgilphead. Under 14—Reading—Kathleen N. Henry, Tarbert. Under 16—Reading—Thomas Hunter, Lochgilphead. Sgeulachd — Ian Ferguson, Lochgilphead.

Solo Singing—Boys under 16—Donald G. McLarty. Under 8—Archie Campbell, Kilmartin. Under 12—Leslie McNeill, Tarbert. Puirt-a-beul—Catriona Fair. Seniors — Flora Macleod, Lochgilphead. Ross Memorial Cuach (highest aggregate in vocal music)—Donald G. McLarty, Ardrishaig. Pendant winner—Mary Smith, Ardrishaig. Duet — Catriona Fair and Elspeth Campbell.

Choral—Two-part harmony—Tarbert School Choir "B." Unison—Tarbert School Choir "A."

Pianoforte—James Forsyth, Kilmartin.

SKYE

The Skye Provincial Mod was held at Portree on 21st and 22nd June. The adjudicators were:—For Gaelic—Mr. Fred MacAulay, Rev. John Macdougall, Rev. Donald Macleod, Miss A. Macdonald, Mr. John MacKay, Mr. Lachlan MacKinnon, Mr. D. A. Maclean, Mr. Donald Ross, Mr. Alex. Fraser, and Mr. D. Macphail; and for music—Messrs. A. M. Shields and A. A. Soutar, Dr. Allan Macdonald and Col. J. Macdonald. The Chairmen at the three concerts were:—Mr. D. Ross, General Martin, and Mr. J. M. Bannerman.

The first-prize winners were:—

Junior Section.

Translation (Elementary Schools)—Margaret Budge, Kilmuir. Short story — Murdo Gillies, Portree. Essay—Angus Graham, Portree. Translations (Post-Qualifying Pupils) — Mary A. Campbell, Portree Secondary School.

Reading poetry (under 14) — Donnie Mackay, Portree Secondary School. Reading prose at sight (Elementary Schools) — Margaret Nicolson, Struan. Reading prose at sight (Junior Secondary Classes)—Lachlan Macleod, Portree. Reciting poem—Mary MacKinnon, Portree. Sgeulachd — Donald Macleod, Portree. Original talk — Murdo Beaton, Portree. Highest aggregates in orals—Donald Macleod and Louisa Mackenzie.

Solo-Singing:—Own choice — Girls under 12 — Patricia Scranage, Kilmuir. Boys under 12 — Iain G. Maclean, Struan. Prescribed songs—Girls, 12-16—Anne Cusack, Staffin (Mr. D. S. MacMillan's Silver Pendant). Boys, 12-16—Angus MacInnes, Broadford (Mr. J. MacIntyre's Silver Pendant). Former prize-winners—Betty Robertson. Duet—Mary and Joan Macpherson, Broadford.

Choral:—Two-part harmony (Skeabost Targe) — Portree Secondary School Junior Choir. Unison — Portree Secondary School Junior Choir. Unison (Choirs trained by local teacher) (Viewfield Cup)—Staffin School Choir. Action song—Staffin School Choir.

Senior Section.

Poem — Jonathan Macdonald, Kilmuir. Essay — Jonathan Macdonald. Essay on "Ceol nan Gaidheal"—John A. Macpherson, Portree School. Essay (local historical incident) — John A. Macpherson. Original play — Mrs. Catherine Douglas, Kilmuir. Unpublished Skye songs—Mrs. C. Douglas. Old Skye place-names—Donald A. Macleod, Portree School. Carinish Cup—John A. Macpherson.

Reading at sight — John A. Macpherson. Sgeulachd — Donald N. Macdonald, Portree School. Reciting poem—Kenna Campbell, Portree School. Acted dialogue—Christine MacKinnon and Mabel Macdonald, Portree School. Mrs. D. Posa's Pendants—Lachlan MacInnes and Kenna Campbell.

Solo-Singing:—Traditional—Kenna Campbell. Male voices—John M. Morrison, Portree School. Female voices—Mairi Ross, Portree. Skye song — Catriona Macdonald, Uig. Puirt-a-beul — Kenna Campbell. Prescribed songs — Men — Calum Graham, Kyleakin. Ladies — Christine Graham, Kyleakin. Gold Pendants—Ladies—Christine Graham. Men—Calum Graham. Former prize-winners — Donald Macleod, Portree. Duet—Kenna Campbell and Margaret Bain, Portree School. Quartette—Kyleakin.

Choral Singing:—Four-part harmony — Portree Gaelic Choir. Ladies voices — Portree Secondary School Girls' Choir. Unison—Kyleakin Gaelic Choir.

LOCHABER

The Lochaber Mod was held at Fort William on 23rd June. The adjudicators were:—For music—Miss Ethel Bassin and Mr. Alan R. Wylie; and for Gaelic, Messrs. D. Macdonald, D. J. Maclean, and M. Campbell. Rev. A. J. Maclean presided at the Mod Concert, and Mrs. Maclean presented the prizes. The guest artists were Mrs. Petrine Stewart and Mr. Donald Macleod, Mod Gold Medallists.

The first-prize winners were:—

Junior Section

Recitation (under 11)—Anne MacBeath, Kilmornaig; 11-13 — Rachel MacBeath, Kilmornaig. Reading prose — Mary MacLachlan, Fort William

School. Reading at sight (12-15) — Effie Johnstone. Reciting poetry — Effie Johnstone. Conversation — Dolina MacIsaac. Kilmallie Cuach (for junior orais) — Effie Johnstone.

Solo-Singing:—Girls under 11—Sheila Crowder, Drumnadrochit. Boys under 11 — Godfrey Waddington, Fort William School. Girls, 11-15—Janet Waddington, Fort William School. Boys, 11-15—Alasdair Gillies, Kinlochail. Own choice—Girls, 11-15—Violet Murphy. Boys, 11-15—Alasdair Gillies; 15-18—Adrian Mackintosh. Mrs. Hobbs' Cups (Boys and Girls under 11)—Boys, Godfrey Waddington; Girls, Sheila Crowder. Arisraig Trophy (junior solos, girls)—Violet Murphy. Moffatt-Pender Cup (junior solos, boys)—Alasdair Gillies. Duet—Mary Miller and Mary V. Mackinnon, Mallag School.

Choral:—Unison (Macgregor Cup)—Mallaig School Choir. Two-part harmony (Challenge Shield) — Mallaig School Choir.

Senior Section

Reading prose at sight—Flora Martin, Fort William School. Reciting poetry—Mary M. Morrison, Fort William School. Reciting prose—Flora Martin. Competition arranged by judges — Anne Campbell, Fort William. Acted dialogue—Flora Martin and Effie Johnstone. Original speech — Flora Martin. Graham Croll Memorial Trophy (senior orais)—Flora Martin.

Solo-Singing:—Ladies—Christina Mackinnon, Eigg. Men—William Grigor, Drumnadrochit. Own choice—Ladies—Christina Mackinnon. Men—Joseph MacInnes, Fort William. Lochaber Cuach—Christina Mackinnon. Former first-prize winners — Christina Mackinnon. Puirt-a-beul—Flora Martin. Kennedy-Fraser song — Adrian Mackintosh. Duet — Anne Campbell and Rona Macdonald.

Choral:—Harmony (Challenge Shield)—Fort William Choir. Unison—Fort William Choir.

ARDNAMURCHAN

The Ardnamurchan Provincial Mod was held at Strontian on 28th June. The adjudicators were:—For Gaelic, Messrs. Neil Shaw and Malcolm Macleod, and Rev. D. MacKellaig; for music, Messrs. H. D. MacGill and J. A. MacRae.

The first-prize winners were:—

Junior Section

Recitation (native speakers) — Ann Connell, Lochaline. Learners—Elsie King, Lochaline.

Solo-Singing:—Girls — Jessie Graham, Strontian. Boys—Tony McCuish, Mingarry. Learners (under 10)—Morag Cameron, Acharacle, and Elsie King, Lochaline (equal); 10 and over—John Macdonald, Ardgour. Duet—Jessie Graham and Annie Cameron, Strontian.

Choral Singing—Lochaline School Choir. Junior Choir with highest marks in Gaelic (prize presented by Mr. Alasdair Cameron, Bunat'eachan)—Lochaline School Choir.

Senior Section

Reading at sight — Donald Cameron, Ardtornish. Recitation—Mrs. Sinclair, Lochaline.

Solo-Singing:—Own choice—Ladies—Isobel Gillies, Lochaline. Men—John Neil Connell, Lochaline. Prescribed song—Ladies—Isobel Gillies. Men—John Neil Connell. Morvern song (prizes presented by Glasgow Morvern Association)—Isobel Gillies. Former first-prize winners—Neileen Munro, Strontian. Silver Pendant — Ladies — Isobel Gillies. Men—No competition. Duet — Neileen Munro and Morag Brown, Strontian.

Pianoforte—Margaret Mowat, Lochaline.

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Is cruaidh r' a ghiùlan, uabhar is aineolas.

* * * * *

Is lom an tràigh air an cunntar na faochagan.

* * * * *

Cladhaich an tobar mun tig am pathadh.

* * * * *

An tì a chladhaicheas sloc, tuitidh e féin ann.

* * * * *

Is feàrr beagan cuideachaidh ma mòran coir-eachaidh.

* * * * *

Far am bi dìth connaidh théid an teine as.



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar VII

AN LUNASDAL, 1955

Aireamh 8

A' Buain na Monadh

AON uair a bhios obair an Earraich seachad is e an ath rud air am bi daoine a' toirt làimh buain na mònachd. Chan e obair shocair sam bhith a tha an seo idir, ged b'fheàrr leam a bhith rithe na a bhith a' tionndadh, agus feumaidh neach a dhruim is a chridhe a chur innte ma tha e a' dol a dheanamh càil as fhiach dhith. Mar a their an seanfhàil, "Cha dean feadaireachd buain mhònadh."

Mar as trice, ann am bailtean beaga nan Eileanan gu h-àraidh, bidh sgioba aig a h-uile baile—is e sin, aon fhear as a h-uile taigh—agus tha an sgioba sin a' buain na mònachd do'n bhaile air fad, agus is iad fhéin na seòid nach toir fada rithe, aon uair is gum faigh iad na h-iarainn an sàs.

Is ann air bean an taighe a bhios an othail an là a bhios iad ri buain aice, oir is ann aicese a tha ris a' bhiadh a dheasachadh agus am fiadhachadh a steach an uair a tha e deis. Tha balaich na mònachd math air ithe, agus is math a tha fios aig bean an taighe air sin, oir "Is airidh am fear-oibre air a thuarasdal." agus chan 'eil aon taigh anns a' bhaile anns nach faigh iad gu math a bharrachd air na dh'itheas iad. Is ann aca a bhios an là air gruth is uachdar agus air a h-uile biadh eile as fheàrr na chéile!

Ach tha fear no dhà anns gach baile a bhios a' buain air a cheann fhéin. Is dòcha nach 'eil

e a' cosnadh agus gu bheil tìde gu leòr aige ma seach, no gur ann a tha e an ceann a chosnaidh agus nach urrainn da seachdain a ghabhail dheth air son e a dhol còmhla ris an sgioba. No, ma dh'fhaoidte, air an làimh eile, gu bheil gu leòr de dhaoine aige m'a chasan 'na fhàrdaich fhéin nach bi fada rithe.

Bidh iadsan a' falbh 'nan ònrachd no le an sgioba fhéin glé thràth air a' mhadainn agus an déidh dhaibh am fallus a chur a mach anns a' pholl thig bean an taighe a mach, goilidh i an coire air an fhraoch, agus gabhaidh iad am biadh air cnocan beag.

Ach is e am feannadh càil as miosa de'n obair seo, agus mar as trice is e am fear as treise a tha anns an sgioba a gheibh an obair seo, oir cha dean bodach leis an t-siataig feannadh mhònadh, ach bidh cuid de dhaoine 'ga feannadh 'nan tìde fhéin agus bidh i deiseil aca an uair a thig an sgioba mun cuairt.

Aon uair is a bhios am feannadh agus a' bhuaibh seachad, chan 'eil an còrr buileach cho dona—co-dhiùbh, chan 'eil e cho trom air an duine—agus is mór an sòlas is am faochadh a gheibh duine an uair a bhios a' chuid sin seachad is a ch'è a' mhòine anns a' chruaich na an uair a shuidheas e 'ga coimhead a' gabhail ann am mullach an teine.

*Dòmhnall Alasdair Mac-a-Phì
(Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir-Nis).*

Sealladh bho Mhullach Beinne

BHA an là air a bhith teth bruthainneach, ach bha a' ghrian a nis air a dhol fedha air cùl nan cnoc agus bha fionnarachd is ùraileachd an fheasgair air tighinn a thoir facthachaidh dhuinn bho bhlàths agus aintean an latha.

Tha beinn àrd air cùl a' bhaile ach, ged as iomadh greiseag shona, shòlasach a chuir mi seachd air a bàrr, a' gabhail beachd air grinnead agus sgèimhealach na dùthcha agus

nan eilean mun cuairt, cha chuimhne leam gu robh mi riamh anns an ionad ud aig an àm ud de'n fheasgar.

Bha amharas agam, gidheadh, gu robh an sealladh eadhon na bu mhaiseiche aig dol fodha na gréine, agus air an aobhar sin thog mi orm gu mall socair gus a' bheinn a dhireadh.

Stad mi corra uair a shealltainn mun cuairt ach, lion beag is beag, ràinig mi am mullach far a bheil cànan air lianag bheag gorm.

AN GAIDHEAL OG

Thug mi sùil mun cuairt orm. An sin chunnaic mi sealladh cho àlainn maiseach ri càil air an do leag mi mo shùil riamh.

Anns an àird-an-iar bha an t-adhar 'na chaoir dhearg, mar gum b'eadh, agus a theis-meadhan 'na chnap òr-bhuidhe. Ged nach robh i fhéin ri a faicinn, bha fhios agam gur i a' ghrìan a b'aobhar dha seo agus i a' dol fodha 'na làn ghloir anns a' chuan an iar.

Air an làimh eile bha an Cuan Sgìth 'na laighe gu ciùin bàghach mar sgàthan mòr beàrnach air an robh faileasan nam beann agus nan eilean a' leum agus a' cleasachd.

Bha Loch Siophort a' sìneadh agus a' toinneamh 'na òbain agus 'na lochain a' comharrachadh a mach na crìche eadar na Hearadh is Leòdhas.

Air taobh thall a' Chuain Sgìth chithinn an t-Eilean Sgitheanach air a chòmhdach le ceò—cha b'ann le ceò glas an uisge ach le ceò briagha liath-ghorm an teas. Chithinn an Cuilthionn cuideachd, is cha b'e a bu ghrànda, a' togail a chinn gu greadhnach òrdhearc os cionn gach àit eile.

Grunn mhiltean a tuath air seo bha na h-Eileanan Seunta r'am faicinn ag éirigh a mach a' meadhon a' chuain agus a' cur ri àilleachd an t-seallaidh, agus bàtaichean-smùide, beag is mòr, a' gabhail seachad air an rathad a mach is a steach a' cala Steòrnabhaigh.

An iar-dheas air Eilean a' Cheò bu léir dhomh Uibhist air taobh thall Caolas na Hearadh, agus b' àlainn an dealbh a rinn e, fad air falbh is mar a bha e.

Shuidh mi an sin a' geur-bheachdachadh air na bha ri fhaicinn. Cha robh guth no fuaim ri chluinntinn a' tighinn far na mara ach bragadach nan ràmh anns na bacan far an robh eathar beag no dhà ag iasgach mu na sgeirean 's na h-ìolaidhean. Eadhon aig an àirde seo chluinninn am fuaim aca, a' briseadh sàmhchairachd an fheasgair maille ri geumnaich a' chruidh, mèilich nan uan, agus bùirich nam fiadh.

Mu dheireadh thàinig ám dhomh a bhith a' falbh agus m'aghaidh a chur air an taigh. Bha sgailean an anmoich a' tearnadh gu luath mu na lagain agus mu na càirn agus chlisg mi uair no dhà roimh sgread circ-fhraoich a leum a mach a' badan fraoich air mo bheulaibh far an do dhùisg mi as a' cadal i.

Ràinig mi dhachaigh, làn-thoilichte le na bha mi air fhaicinn is air a chluinntin, ach gideadh bha farmad agam riusan a bha a' mealtainn sèimhealachd, àilleachd, agus maise an àite seo an còmhnaidh.

Aonghas MacAoidh

(Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir-Nis).

Toimhseachain

1. An rud nach 'eil, nach robh, 's nach bi. Sin do làmh is chì thu e.
2. Cha mhò e na gràinean eòrna, Is còmhdaichid e bòrd an rìgh.
3. Togaidh an leanabh beag 'na dhòrn e, Is cha tog dà dhuine dheug le ròp e.
4. Fear beag spòrsail a' falbh na mòintich, Le spur is bòtann is beul adhairc air.
5. Chunnaic fear gun sùilean Ubhlan air a' chraoibh; Cha tug e ùbhlán dìth, Is cha d'fhàg e ùbhlán oirre.
6. Chaidh biadh gu dìthis Gu ceann Loch Maol-ruibh; Dh'ith am biadh an dìthis, Is thàinig am biadh dhachaigh a rithis.
7. Bha duine àraidh air son faighinn thairis air loch. Bha madadh-ruadh, giadh, agus adag eòrna aige ri thoirt thairis leis. Dh'itheadh am madadh-ruadh an giadh, agus dh'itheadh an giadh an t-eòrna, agus bha an t-inneal aig cho beag is nach b'urrainn da ach aon diubh a thoirt leis còmhla. Ciamar a fhuair e thairis iad?

Fregairtean

1. Meòirean do làimhe an aon fhad.
2. Clach na sùla.
3. Ubh.
4. An Gille-feadaig.
5. Cha robh aige ach aon sùil. Is e dà ùbhl a bha air a' chraoibh, agus thug e aon leis.
6. Iolair a ghlac cat agus a thug e gu a nead mar bhiaidh do na h-iseanan. Dh'ith an cat na h-iseanan is thàinig e dhachaigh a rithis.
7. Thug e a null am madadh-ruadh an toiseach, is dh'fhàg e thall e. Thug e an sin a null an giadh, agus thug e am madadh-ruadh agus an t-eòrna leis còmhla.

Taghadh Mhatha

Bha siud uair ann roimhid gille, agus bhiodh e a' leanalt dìthis nighean, is cha robh fios aige cò an té a phòsadh e.

Dh'iar e comhairle air a mhàthair, is thuir e a mhàthair ris, "Bheir thusa a nuas na h-ingheanan agus innsidh mi dhuit cò an té a phòsas tu."

Thug an gille a nuas na h-ingheanan agus thug a mhàthair a mach tòrr snàtha a bha troimh-chéile, agus thug i do'n cheud nighean e.

Bha ise a' sìor-fheuchainn, ach cha b'urrainn dhì an snàth a' sgaoileadh, is thilg i bhuaipe e.

Rug an nighean eile air an t-snàth agus gu foidhneach thug i beag air bheag ma sgaoil e.

"Sin an té a phòsas tu," arsa a mhàthair, agus ghabh an gille a comhairle.

Prainnseas MacAonghais

(Sgoil Bhèrèibhig am Barraidh).

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AN GAIDHEAL

THE GAEL

Vol. L

SEPTEMBER, 1955

SEP 1955

No. 9

Thu dol dhachaigh an nochd do'n t-sior thaigh gearhraidh,
Do'n t-sior thaigh foghair is earraich is samhraidh,
Thu dol dhachaigh an nochd air seirm nan canntair.

Geal-ainglean 'gad fheitheamh air bruaich na h-aibhne—

Dia an t-Athair 'na do shuain,

Iosa Crìosda 'na do shuain,

Dia an Spiorad 'na do shuain,

Is caidil gu ciuin, caidil gu ciuin, caidil gu ciuin.



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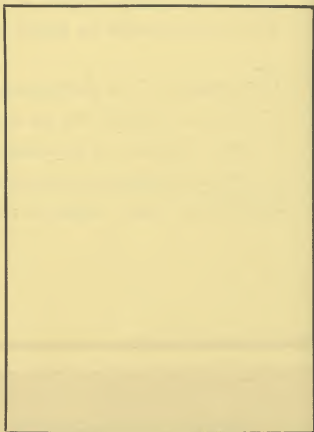
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THE GAEL

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF
AN COMUNN GAIDHEALACH

Editor

REV. T. M. MURCHISON, M.A.

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AN T-SULTUIN, 1955

Aireamh 9

Coinneach MacLeòid

CHAOCHAIL an t-Ollamh Urramach Coinneach MacLeòid air an naothamh là de'n Iuchar, agus dh'fhàg sin caoidh an meag gach seòrsa aig an robh aithne air no m'a thimcheall.

Cha d'rinn Coinneach MacLeòid mòran cuairtearachd an t-rean céine, anns na ceithir fhichead bliadhna agus a ceithir eadar là a bhreith an eilean Eige agus là a bhàis am baile Dhun-éideann. B'ann anns na h-eileanan agus air taobh sìar na mòr-thìr a bha a ghluasad fad a là. Ach nach iomadh siubhal a rinn e air sgiathan na h-inntinne agus 'na mhac-meannna, agus thug sin dha sealbh air rioghachd na's fharsaingeach agus na's saoi-bhìre na bha aig an Impire a bu mhò a bha riamh air thalamh.

A mach bho na leabhraichean de "Orain Innse-Gall" a chuir e fhéin agus a' Bhean-uasal NicUalraig Fhriseil a mach, cha d'fhàg e mòran sgrìobhte againn. Gheibhear rosg Gàidhlig bho a làimh anns an *Celtic Review*, an *Rosg Gàidhlig*, an *Leabhar A' Chlachain*, anns a' mhìosachan seo, agus an àite no dhà eile. Chuala sinn gu robh e a' deasachadh leabhair anns na bliadhnanach deireannach, agus is e ar dòchas gun cuirear an clò e cho luath 's as urrainn.

B'e miann a chridhe gum maireadh subhailcean ar daoine an meag an sìochd, agus gum biodh meas maireannach air ar cànan agus na bhùineas dhi. Chuidich e mar a b'fheàrr a dh'fhaodadh e ri Aobhar na Gàidhlig a neartachadh, agus tre a shaothair-san rinneadh

dileab nan Gaidheal, eadar chànan is cheòl is dheagh-bheusan, aithnichte do'n t-saoghal gu léir.

Seò mar a sgrìobh Coinneach MacLeòid o chionn còrr is dà fhichead bliadhna, agus tha barrachd feum an diugh na bha riamh air aire is ùmhhlachd a thoirt d'a bhriathran.

* * * *

Tha an t-earra-dhubh air bruidhinn, agus gu sònraichte air sgrìobhadh na Gàidhlig. Ma tha no nach 'eil ar sgamhan innte, chan 'eil co-dhiubh an craiceann min bòidheach oirre a bu chaomh leis na h-athraichean. Tha guth na Beurla ann am beul na Gàidhlig; tha ar smuain gun salann; tha ar cainnt gun bhlas, gun ghrinneas. Gàidhlig an là an diugh— a' mhòr-chuid dhith co-dhiubh—chan 'eil mo dhùthaich no mo dhaoine innte; cha do ghluil i le Deirdre an Gleann Eite; cha d'aslaich i le Calum an I; cha do shuidh i air Cnoc na Comhairle le Buachaille nan Eilean; cha tug i sgeul riamh á crann na luinge a sheòlas air an Eilean Uaine an dé agus a sheòlas air a h-ais am màireach. Agus nach 'eil a' bhuil air ar cainnt agus air ar litreachas! Tha iad le chèile a' dol an dìosg, agus le cion a' bheathachaidh tha fuil agus aigne ar daoine a' sìor-dhol am fuarad

An là sin a théid ar cànan agus ar litreachas fo lic, agus a chailleas sinn na subhailcean a bhùineadh do ar daoine, ar n-uaisle, ar teòghalachd, ar dliseachd, ar fearas-fo-thuinn, is e an dearbh là sin deireadh ar sgeòil

B'aon riamh an Gaidheal agus a' Ghàidhlig. Is aon iad fathast. Ach chan aon ro-fhada, mar 'eil de leigheas againn d'an creuchdan ach ceileireadh agus fìdhlearachd.

An uair a bha I mar a bha, deir seann sgeul, is e a thàinig ri latha ach gun do shaoibh fear de na manaich, agus e air tìr-mór, o'n chreideamh naomh, agus ar leis gun d'fhuair e faothachadh nach bu bheag ri linn da sin a dheanamh. Ach, oidhche de na h-oidhchean, agus e a' bruidh, cò a chunnaic e a' cromadh os cionn a leapa ach fear a b'èòl da, agus a dhà shùil cho blàth is gun toireadh iad tiomadh air crìdhe cloiche.

"Eirich," arsa Calum, oir is e a bha ann; "èirich, tiugainn dachaigh; chan 'eil slat an dorus Idhe."

Seal mus do bhlaic an t-eun an t-uisge, bha am manach agus a chuid ghillean seòrs air a' chladach, agus leis an deifir, is eadhar-dhà-sholus fhathast ann, is e a rinn iad ach bàta a thoirt leotha a chumadh treun-fhear 'ga sìor-thaomadh leis mar a bha i air a sgreagadh le gaoith is le gréin. Mu thràth-nòin, fo stiùradh an Fhreasdail, bha iad siar air Muile, agus sruth an lionaidh leotha.

"Fheara mo ghaoil," ghlàodh am manach an ceann treise; "fheara mo ghaoil, chì mi I, chì mi I—ach, O, Dhia nan Gràs, tha am bàta a' dol fodha!"

Thoireamaid an ceart aire gu bheil ar bàta fallan, a chum gun ruig sinn I, agus nach deireadh-sgeòil duinn an t-aigeal fuar sin far an lionmhor sligean failmhe agus taibhsean nan daoine a bha ann.

Seo pàirt de na sgrìobh Coinneach MacLèòid mu'n "Chlachan A Bha Ann," agus saoilidh mi gu bheil againn an seo solus air an t-seòrsa spioraid is inntinne a bha ann fhéin.

"Bha clachan ann, is tha e ann fhathast, ged nach ionnan tuar dha an diugh, is chan 'eil bruidh a thig chugam anns an oidhche nach e as ceann-uidhe dhomh. Thug manaich na h-I deisearachd gréine is cùlachas gaoithe dha, chuir na Lochlannaich ainm, no co-dhiubh ath-ainm, air, agus rùsan leis am b'àill a lorgachadh theirinn gu bheil e ri bonn na beinne is ri taobh na mara, is gum bu chomraich riamh a chladh do luingeas a' Chuain Shiar. Is sgeul-rùin an còrr mur innis na ròin no na lachain e."

Ruith MacLèòid air eachdraidh a' chlachain, linn as déidh linn, mar gum biodh gach nì a thachair a' tachairt a rithist fa chomhair a shùl: "Chan 'eil uair a dhùineas mi féin mo dhà shùil, is mi am aonar anns an oidhche, nach 'eil, mar gum b'eadh, loch fìor-ghlan air nach ruig gaoth a' sgaoilleadh a mach fa mo chomhair,

is anns an uisge chì mi faileas a' chlachain o thùs a eachdraidh agus an là an diugh, is e a' sìor-chaochladh o linn gu linn."

"Canntail nam manach is gair na mara ag iarraidh suas le chèile gus na neòil . . . na longan Lochlannach anns a' chladh, an clachan 'na smùid . . . teine nan Lochlannach a' dol as . . . fir a' bhaile air cnoc na comhairle ag éisdeachd ris a' bhrithreamh . . . na mnathan shìos air a' chòmhnard a' cuigealadh is a' bràthadh . . . na fineachan Gaidhealach an sgròmanan a chèile . . . ceatharn smearail de lasgairean a' fàgail na laimrige am beul an là; prasgan fann de chreuchdaich a' tilleadh am beul na h-oidhche . . . mnathan 'nan seasamh air a' chladach a' caoidh nan gaolach nach till."

Tha e an sin a' gabhail beachd air "beatha làitheil an t-sluaigh, mar a dh'aithriseadh i o bheil gu beul, is o linn gu linn, gus an d'ràinig an sgeul mise. Bha nithean ann, is tha iad air neadachadh am chridhe air a leithid de dhòigh is gum faod mi a ràdh le fìrinn gu bheil mi 'gam faicinn leis an t-shùil a chunnaic is 'gan cluinntinn leis a' chluais a dh'éisd . . . Breith is bàs—léineag is léine . . . cràbhadh is saobh-chràbhadh air an aon ghleus, a' caoineadh is ag aslaich leis an aon teangaidh."

"B'e mo roghainn féin seach gach àite an àirigh, taobh thall na beinne os cionn a' chlachain. Chan 'eil innte an diugh ach taibhsean, ach chunnaic mo dhà shùil na ceart taibhsean sin air an còmhachadh le fuil is le feòil . . . Innsidh feadhainn eile cuin is car son a bha an àirigh ann, an seòrsa cruith, an seòrsa bhòthan, a bhiodh oirre, an seòrsa culaidh a bhiodh air na maighdeanan; ach innseam-sa, air ghiorrad an sgeòil, gnè na muinntir a thriall o' bhaile gu beinn Là Buidhe Bealltainn."

"A' chuid sin nach do thuig mi de ghnè is de bheus an t-sluaigh, is mi leis a' chlachan air àirigh, thuig mi is mi leis a' chlachan air chéilidh. Chì mi fhathast fa chomhair mo shùl an taigh am biomaid a' cruinneachadh— an teine an teis-meadhon an ùrlair—gaimmheach gheal air a sadail air gach spàrr is air gach cabar a chumail na snighe o' thuiteam—na mnathan a' cuigealadh, na fir a' toinneadh sùgain is a' sniomh sìoman—giollan a' frithealadh an teine, giollan eile a' frithealadh a' chrùisgein . . . Is cìod an seòrsa mòid a bhiodh againn? Innseadh seachd riaghailtean na céilidh sin. 1.—Is rìgh fear-an-taighe. 2.—Chan 'eil claon anns a' mhòid. 3.—Is mothaid rud aithris. 4.—Seanfhacal o chùl na mòna, toimhseagan o'n t-slige-chrùsgain. 5.—Min-innseadh nan uirsgeul gu meadhon-oidhche—garbh-innseadh nan uirsgeul

gu gairm-choilich. 6.—Sgeul air an sgeul, is òran air an òran, is deiseal air gach nì. 7.—A' cheud sgeul air fear-an-taighe, is gach sgeul gu là air an aoigh."

"Theagamh gur ann an sgàthan-sgeòil, no am bruarad na h-ionndrainn, no troimh ghuirme na beinne a tha fad air falbh, a tha sinn a' faicinn a' chlachan a bha ann, is nach robh e idir cho sona no cho sealbhach no cho subhailceach is a thàthas ag ràdh. Theagamh nach robh, ach co-dhiubh faodar a ràdh le firinn gum bu bhoedh an clachan a bha ann mur robh e an iomadh dòigh na bu taitniche na an clachan a tha ann. Bha beum-sgèithe gu tric 'ga bhualadh anns a' chlachan a bha ann; cha chluinnear an diugh ach mèilich uan, mar gum b'eadh—is théid luchd na Gàidhliche gu Dun-éideann, no eadhon gu Lunnainn, le am boineid 'nan dòrn, a dh'iarraidh cead an cànan féin a theagasg 'nan dùthaich féin! Cha robh ach seòrsa de cheistear Gàidhlig a' cumail sgoile ris a' chlachan am Bliadhna Theàrlaich; tha sgoil mhór bhregha ann an

diugh—is tha an sluagh a' bruidhinn cànan nach leugh iad, is a' leughadh cànan nach d'fhuair greim fhathast air an cridhe! Chan fhaicteadh ach taighean dubha anns a' chlachan a bha ann; chan fhaicear ann an diugh ach taighean geala—is tha an sluagh a' sior-theicheadh asda gu baile-mór is gu dùthchannan-céine! Cha robh ach aon eaglais anns a' chlachan a bha ann; tha ceithir eaglaisean ann an diugh—is tha an t-eagal air an t-sluagh laoidhean na h-I, no an samhailt, a sheinn!

"Ach chan fhaod e a bhith gur e seo deireadh an sgeòil. Is léir do chuid againn fàir latha an chluinnear an duan-sa feadh eilean is gharbh-chrioch: 'A' Ghaidhealtachd do'n Ghàidhlig —a' Ghaidhealtachd, eadar mhuir is thir, do luchd na Gàidhliche!' Ma's bruarad seo, gu ma fada uainn an dùsgadh."

* * * *

Beannachd leat, a Choinnich, gus am bris an là agus an teich na sgàilean. Tha sinne a' cur cloiche air do chàrn.

Rev. Kenneth Macleod, D.D.

BY the death of Kenneth Macleod on 9th July, one of the great personalities of our Gaelic people has been removed from this mortal scene—great not only in this generation, but in all the generations that have been, and shall be. Kenneth's greatness, it is unnecessary to add for those who knew him, was not that which the world reckons "greatness"—not the greatness associated with those who by their ability, vigour, and energy, exalt themselves and bestride their fellows, but the true greatness of those whose lives radiate goodness and help to make it credible that the ideal may be the real.

The late Mr. Angus Robertson, in his *Children of the Fore-World*, wrote of Kenneth Macleod thus, and his words seem to us to be singularly fitting.

Kenneth Macleod, he wrote, "is one of those rare personalities vouchsafed to generations at long intervals. Atmosphere follows him wherever he is, an atmosphere that haunts the memory of those who know him like the sea-moods of his telling. Should he appear to you in a dream, your attention would be instantly arrested by the warm and kindly glow of his unsophisticated eyes—*ionraic*, a word without its English equivalent, is more expressive. Then a certain nimbus attracts you as surrounding him, which, through your knowledge of the world, you will interpret as gentleness and sincerity, a brotherly exhalation. The sound of his voice charms you while he unfolds the story

of the angel who was not altogether good enough to remain in Heaven, nor bad enough to be sent Elsewhere, but was accredited to Gaeldom to teach the secrets of song-making and music

"Kenneth Macleod does not give us a book from books, but the inherited traditions of Gaelic thought The art of song-maker and tale-man was extracted from a soil prolifically steeped in old-world associations His output is qualitative, not quantitative. Inspiration, not necessity, was the prompter of his muse."

Born and nurtured in Eigg, for many years a missionary-preacher (as were the Celtic saints of old) in many parts of the Highlands and Islands, followed by a six years' ministry in Colonsay and Oransay and twenty-nine years in Gigha and Cara, Kenneth Macleod was possessed of the true inheritance of the Gael and was inspired by the real spirit of our people at their best, as few others have ever been. Moreover, he had the skill and the art by voice and pen to share memorably and enrichingly with others the fruits of his own experience, imagination, and knowledge.

His Gaelic prose writings,—alas, too scanty—are among the best we have. His English prose has nothing with which it can be compared—his choice of words, his turn of phrase, was uniquely his own. The song, "The Road to the Isles," would by itself have won for him a continuing renown, were it not that most of

those who use and value the song know nothing of the author. His *Songs of the Hebrides*, in collaboration with Mrs. Kennedy-Fraser, despite what the critics say, have won for Gaelic music a world-wide audience.

But Kenneth's richest contribution to the life of his times was his own personality. The jealousies and pettinesses that, alas, too often marred the brotherly spirit that should bind together all who, with a common concern and

a common loyalty, labour, as scholars and writers, in the Gaelic Cause, found no place in his heart. His severest criticism of anyone was always kindly and usually gently humorous. It left no rancour. The Gaels have been on the whole a pugnacious race, but Kenneth Macleod had steeped himself so much in the finer ideals of our people that he seemed, as he grew older, to become more and more the embodiment of them. We ne'er shall see his like again.

Null do Mhuile

Le ALASDAIR CAMSHRON

("Taobh-Tuath Earraghaidheal")

"NUNN do Mhuile théid sinn." Is e sin a thubhairt prìomh bhàrd na Mhorbhairne, Iain MacLachainn á Rath-uaidhe, agus a nunn do Mhuile chaidh mi fhéin agus móran eile gu lùth-chleasan na Dreòilinne a bha air an gleidheadh an Tobair-Mhoire air an aona là fichead de'n Iuchar.

Is ann rathad Chaol Mhuile le bàtaichean Mhìc a' Bhruthainn a chaidh a' mhòr-chuid, ach is ann as an t-Sàilean Shuaineartach leis *A' Bhan-tighearna Bhàn* aig MacEanraig a chaidh mise agus grunnan eile.

Bha an aimsir a réir ar miann, là briagha gun deò gaoithe agus sruth tràghaidh leinn. Tha Loch Suaineart agus am fearann air gach taobh bòidheach aig an àm seo de'n bhliadhna; agus gu dearbh bha maise cruthachadh Dhé air a nochdadh gu pailt air a' mhadainn àlainn seo—gach beinn is coire, glac is doire ann an trusgan bòidheach.

Bha Beinn Iadain bràighe Ghleanna-cneip-easdaìl anns a' Mhorbhairne ar leam a sealltainn na b'fheàrr na a piuthar, Beinn Shianta thall ann an Ard-nam-murchan. Gun teagamh, bhò'n tha Beinn Iadain air taobh an dubhair, cha robh uimhir de bhlàth losgadh na grèine air a h-aodann. Tha uisge fìor-mhath anns a' bheinn seo, agus biolair uaine cois gach fuarain. Nach e a thubhairt Donnchadh Mac-a'-phearsain, neo Donnchadh Iain Oig (mar a theireadh na h-èolaich ris),

"Uisge fallain, glan Beinn Iadain,
Ruith gu loch nam bradan lìonmhor."

Tha i glé dhona le sgrìodain, agus tha e a' cur mòr-ionghnaidh orm ciamar a bha a luchd-àitich ceud gu leth bliadhna air ais—"Clann 'Ic 'Ille Mhaoil na Beinne," mar a theirteadh riutha—a' cosnadh am beòshlaint air a bruthaichean casa.

Tha ainmeannan nan eileanan anns an loch, mar a tha Reasga agus Orasa, a' cumail air chuimhne an uair a bha buaidh aig na Loch-lannaich anns a' cheàrn seo. Their seann daoine na dùthcha gu robh caisteal aca aig

Dun-ghallain. Faodaidh seo a bhith fìor a chionn tha Port nan Gall goirid bhuaithe.

Air a' mhadainn àlainn seo bha fuaim gu leòir anns a' chaol eadar Rubha Dhun-ghallain agus eilean Charma, le guileag fhaoil-eag, sgrìachail steàrnain, agus goil rionnaich. Tha an rionnach daonnan a' toirt sgrìob do Loch Suaineart an uair a tha an Iuchar tioram agus teith.

Chuir e ionghnadh orm nach robh canaichean no peileagan, mar a their cuid, ri'm faicinn a' cur car-a'-mhuiltein dhiubh fhéin. Faodaidh gur fheàrr leo a bhith am measg an t-saodthein na am measg nan rionnach.

Bha monaidhean is coillean Ghleann-boradail a' sealltainn glé bhòidheach, agus bha sealladh math air a' chaisteal, ach chan 'eil a' chlach ghoiréal dhearg leis a bheil e air a thogail aig an taigh. Bhiodh clach ghlas fada na bu nàdurra. Tha eas-aonachd eadar sgoilearan agus beul-aithris nan daoine a thaobh ciall an ainme. "Boradal." A reir beul-aithris, is e curaidh Lochlannach a bha ann, agus tha e an tìodhlacadh an seo. Chì neach làrach na h-uaigne aige goirid bho Allt-annis. Their cuid de sgoilearan nach 'eil facal fìrinn an seo, agus gur e a tha an t-ainm a' ciallachadh *fort-dale*, agus gum b'e am fort an Caisteal Breac. Tha Coire Bhoradail anns a' Mhorbhairne, agus chan 'eil fios agamsa gu robh aon *fort* an seo.

Ged as ann a nunn do Mhuile a bha m'aire, tha eilean beag aig Gleann-boradail agus cha bhiodh e ceart dhomh gun iomradh a thoirt air ann an dol seachad. Is e sin Reasga. Is e ainm Lochlannach a tha an seo, agus tha mi a' creidsinn gu bheil e a' ciallachadh "Eilean-nam-preas." Dé an t-ainm a bha air rioimhe sin chan fhios dòmhsa, ach a réir beachdan feadhainn de oileanaich fhòghluimte bha daoine a' fuireach air aig an tim ris an can iad *Prehistoric Scotland*. Tha gearraidhean air na creagan air ceann an iar an eilein agus dùin luaithe. Chan 'eil fios cinnteach dé seòrsa

d'am buineadh an sluagh seo. Saoil am b' iad na daoine beaga a tha air an ainmeachadh 'nan sìdhichean an eachdraidh nan Gaidheal?

Seachad air Carna agus air aghaidh gu Orasa tha an loch a' fàs na's farsaingeach agus bho'n bha A' *Bhan-tighearna Bhàn* a' seòladh dlùth air an fhearann Mhorbhairneach bha an Gleann-mòr agus Rubha Ard-Slignis an Ard-nam-murchan a' sealltainn fad as, agus cha robh Camus-nan-gall ach mar gheòda. Ma chreideas sinn beul-aithris, is ann anns a' chamus seo a thàinig an Naomh Calum-Cille air tìr air a cheud sgrìob do Ard-nam-murchan. Tha an tobar aige goirid bhuaithe taobh an rathaid os cionn Ard-slignis. A reir an sgeòil, thug Calum le ùrnuigh uisge an àird as an talamh air son creidmheach ùr a thachair air a bhaisteadh, agus tha an tobar ann fhathast.

Is e dùthaich fhàsail a tha bho'n Bhàrr gu Rubha-nan-amhlaistean anns a' Mhorbhairne. Ar leam nach 'eil aon neach an diugh a' còmhnaidh ann—a mhàin beagan chaorach agus corra fhiadh no earb. Ach bha là eile ann an uair a bha tuath anns na h-Amhlaistean agus anns a' Bhàrr agus na Sòrnagan.

Bha a nis am pìobaire, Donnachd Mac-Eanraig de sheòrsa Chloinn Mhic Eanraig a bha 'nam pìobairean aig Mac Iain Ghleanna-còmhann, air a' phìob-mhòr a shéideadh suas, agus chuir sinn ar n-aghaidh ri Tobar-Mhoire car mar a rinn Mac Iain Ard-nam-murchan iomadach uair agus e a' dol a thadhal air Fear Dhùbhaird le fuaim na pìoba is ceòl bha rioghail.

Shaoil leam, is mi a' coimhead a nunn ri Cille-Chòmghain, Ormsaig mòr agus beag, gu robh na tha air fhàgail de chaisteal Mhin-gearraidh, seann daingeach Chloinn Iain, a' sealltainn fo mhulad, mar gum biodh a chlachan glasa a' caoidh nan làithean a dh' fhalbh an uair a bha feadhachas 'na seòmraichean. A réir beachd Rois is MhicGibein, is ann anns an treas linn deug a chaidh a' cheud chuid de'n chaisteal a thogail.

Thubhairt Sasannach rium bho chionn ghoirid gun do sheòl e còrsaichean Bhreatainn bho *Land's End* gu ruig am Parbh, ach nach fhaca e na thug bàrr am bòidhchead air Caol Muile agus Loch Suaineart. Agus nach e a thubhairt am Fìor-Urramach Iain MacLeòid, ministear mòr na Morbhairne, a thaobh Caol Mhuile, "'s e b' aite leam riamh an Caol ud ri feath.'" Agus gu dearbh is e sealladh taitneach a bha ann an là seo—am muir aig sàmhchair, agus is gann gu robh gluasadh sruth agha na Gamhna Dubha fhéin an uair a chaidh sinn seachad orra.

Bha mòran bhàtaichean an Bàgh Thobair-Mhoire, agus am *Maggie*, an soitheadh sin a tha a' bùrach air son ulaidh an Armada, air acair dlùth do'n t-seann cheidhe. Bha là saor aice

a chionn chaidh na sgioba gu léir a dh' ionnsaigh nan lùth-chleasan.

Is ann an sin—an dail Bhràighe a' Bhaile— a bha an sluagh, agus iomadh dath tartain ri fhaicinn! Bha strì làidir eadar gillean sùbailte an ruith agus an leum, daoine làidir a' tilgeadh an ùird, a' cur na cloich-neirt is a' chabair, agus 'nam measg caileagan grinn nach deanadh am fear a lùbadh air a' chlàr-dannsa—ach leugh sibh uile, tha mi cinnteach, m'an timcheall anns na paipearan naidheachd, agus mar sin cha bhiodh ann ach dìomhanas dhòmhsa dol g'a aithris as ùr.

Thig crìoch air a h-uile rud, agus thàinig crìoch air lùth-chleasan na Dreòlluinne. Chaidh mise agus mo chompanaich air bòrd anns A' *Bhan-tighearna Bhàn*, agus air ais a rithist do Loch Suaineart, agus dh' fhaodainn a ràdh car am briathran Mhgr. Iain Mhic' Ille-mhaoil nach maireann—

'Seòlaidh mis' a null
Gu Suaineart caomh mo rùin,
Tìr an daraich fhìughail
Is ioma blàth lus raon;
'S far an goir an smeòrach
'S a' mhadainn chàbhraidh Chéit',
Is uisgeag anns an iarmaid
'S a ribheid-chiùil deagh-ghleus.'

Ma bha an là briagha, bha am feasgar neo ar-thaing. Leis gu robh a nis a' ghrian air triall do'n àird an iar, bha e a' soilleachadh gu h-iomlan air fearann na Morbhairne, a' gearradh a mach gu soilleir gach beinn, glac, is còmhnaidh. Cha robh idir 'neul a' bhòin 's a' mhulaid' oirre mar a thubhairt bàrd a' Ruighe Mhóir, Dòmhnall Ruadh MacFhionghuin, ach ar leam gur e a bha esan a' ciallachadh aig an àm gu robh an neul seo oirre leis mar a chaidh sluagh a cuid ghleann fhògradh, mòran dhiubh thar sàile, cuid do bhaile na daorsa far an robh iad gun mhaoin is gun loinn, agus feadhainn eile gu oir nan cladaichean far an do chasg a' bhàirneach agus an fhaochag an acras aig amannan. Ach taing a bhith do Dhia agus buidheachas d'a ainm, dh' fhalbh na làithean sin. Tha a' bhantrach agus na dilleachdain agus iadsan uile a tha fann gun treòir air an coimhead as an déidh na's fheàrr an diugh.

Ged nach robh e idir anmoch, feumaidh gun deachaidh an rionnach a chadal, agus ged a chluich am pìobaire ioma port, chan fhaca sinn aon ròn 'gar leanailt.

Ràinig sinn an Sàilean mu naoi uairean, agus, ma bha a h-aon de'n chuideachd mì-thoilichte no dìombach 'na chrannchur, their mise gur e duine fìor mhì-nàdurra a bha ann, a chionn chan fhaca mise glòir an t-saoghail 's an speur gu léir anns a' cheàrn seo de Earraghaidheal rianh na bu mhaisiche.

Return to Aberdeen

ALL who have at any time visited Aberdeen, and especially those who were privileged to attend the 1946 National Mod there, are eagerly looking forward to renewing acquaintance with "The Granite City" during Mod Week.

Aberdeen is one of the finest, oldest, and busiest cities in the country. Nobody knows how old it really is. It is, of course, not one town but two. Away back in the early centuries a small community began to grow at the mouth of the Don, and there, towards the end of the 6th century, St. Machar founded a centre of Christian influence. Nearby was another thriving community, and so it came about that in the $\frac{1}{2}$ miles between the mouths of the Dee and the Don there came to be two towns, Old Aberdeen and New Aberdeen, which in time came to have two separate universities—King's College and Marischal College.

"Obar-dheadhain," the Gaelic name for Aberdeen, seems to mean simply "the mouth of the Don." Professor W. J. Watson suggests there may be an old river goddess name behind it. The New Statistical Account quotes the opinion of Ewen MacLachlan, of the Grammar School, that "Obairreadhain," pronounced "oberrayn," "signifies the town situated at the bank between two rivers"—aber-dà-abhainn.

Harlaw

The name "Aberdeen" occurs in the 12th century Book of Deer. Tradition has it that Aberdeen became a royal burgh towards the end of the 9th century, but the first known charter is one by William the Lion in 1179. The Aberdonians supported both Wallace and Bruce, and for their loyalty had to endure an English garrison in their castle from 1298 to 1308, in which latter year the citizens, using the watch-word of "Bon Accord," seized the castle and massacred the English soldiery. Edward III burned the city in 1336. In 1411 Donald, Lord of the Isles, graduate of Oxford, led his clansmen to within twenty miles of the city and fought the Battle of Harlaw (Cath Gairbheach), his foes being led by his cousin, Alexander Stewart, Earl of Mar. Among those who fell in the battle were the Provost of Aberdeen, Sir Robert Davidson, and "Eachann Ruadh nan Cath," Chief of the MacLeans.

In 1644 Montrose and Alasdair MacColla and 2,000 followers pillaged the City. The Jacobites held it from 1745 until the Duke of Cumberland arrived in February 1746. He stayed there till the beginning of April when he moved on to Culloden.

In 1773, Dr. Samuel Johnson and James Boswell, on their way to tour the Highlands, spent a day or two in Aberdeen. At that time the city had a flourishing trade in stockings. The travellers were told that "Cromwell's soldiers taught the Aberdeen people to make shoes and stockings and to plant cabbages." Old Aberdeen Johnson described as having "the appearance of a town in decay," while New Aberdeen "has all the bustle of prosperous trade." Johnson was proud to receive the freedom of the city. While there he made the acquaintance of several of the professors, including Professor Macleod, a brother of Macleod of Talisker and brother in law of the Laird of Coll, whom they were afterwards to visit. Talking of "Fingal," Johnson said: "If the poems were really translated, they were certainly first written down. Let Mr. Macpherson deposit the manuscript in one of the colleges of Aberdeen, where there are people who can judge; and, if the professors certify the authenticity, then there will be an end of the controversy. If he does not take this obvious and easy method, he gives the best reason to doubt."

For centuries it was true to say that England had only two universities, and so also had Aberdeen. King's College was founded by Bishop Elphinstone in 1494, and Marischal College by George Keith, Earl Marischal, in 1593. The two were united in 1860. The present buildings of Marischal College have been described as a "cluster of snow-white pinnacles" and "a piece of architectural showmanship," while the Chapel of King's College is one of the most beautiful and interesting in the country.

Ewen MacLachlan

Older than King's or Marischal's, however, is the Grammar School, which is heard of as early as 1256. Among its Rectors was the Gaelic bard, Ewen MacLachlan from Lochaber. Readers will be familiar with John Mackenzie's account of how Ewen competed for one of the coveted bursaries at King's College, and how with his fellow-candidates he awaited the examination results in the lobby of the great College Hall. "The rustic dress of the young Highlander, his diffident manner, and rather awkward appearance drew upon him the ungenerous gibes and unmerited contempt of several coxcombs, his rivals. It was sneeringly recommended to him to make a speedy retreat to the wilds of Lochaber, while he was comforted with the assurance that he had not the slightest chance of success. Enduring all this

banter with meek but firm forbearance, he merely advised his assailants not to prejudice his case. The door of the hall was at length opened, the names of the successful competitors were announced, and the officer first called Ewen MacLachlan as being the best scholar and first bursar." After a distinguished course Ewen became in 1800 "teacher of the Grammar School of Old Aberdeen," and also assistant librarian at King's College and later librarian at Marischal College. It was in Aberdeen he lived his "life of incessant literary toil and scholastic labour" and he received the freedom of the city. When he died, still in his prime, in 1822, every mark of respect was shown. "A great concourse of the most respectable persons in and around Aberdeen, including the Professors of both Universities, the Magistrates of the city, and the Highland Society of Aberdeen" met to pay their last respects.

A Skye Family

MacLachlan, if perhaps the most illustrious, was but one of the many Highlanders who, for generations, have made of the Aberdeen college gates the portals of distinguished careers. Suffice it to select one family whose sons in successive generations studied at King's College. Iain Bàn Mac a' Phearsain lived in Sleat early in the 17th century and lost his life defending Knock Castle, stronghold of the Macdonalds, against the Macleods. His son, Martin, was minister in South Uist and Duirinish, and his grandson, Dugald, was minister of Duirinish also. Dugald was a Glasgow graduate, his son, Martin (minister at Strath), and probably his other son, John (schoolmaster at Orbost), were graduates of King's College. As also were Martin's son, the Rev. John Macpherson, D.D. (minister at Barra and Sleat), and two grandsons, Sir John Macpherson (Governor-General of India), and the Rev. Martin Macpherson, D.D. (minister at Sleat); and John of Orbost's son, Martin (minister at Glenelg and Golspie), and grandson, Rev. Hugh Macpherson, D.D. (Professor of Hebrew, and later of Greek, and also Sub-Principal at King's College).

Aberdeen Gaels

Aberdeen has certainly had its Gaelic-speaking community for a very long time. About 1778 we find Gaelic services being held in the choir of the Church of St. Nicholas, the principal church of New Aberdeen. These services were held on Sunday mornings before the ordinary English services. Later the Gaelic services were held in St. Mary's Chapel in the crypt of St. Nicholas's. The Gaelic worshippers

were organised into a congregation with their own minister in 1781, when the Rev. Kenneth Bayne was settled as their pastor, and in 1795 a Gaelic Chapel was built in Belmont Street.

For many years, and not least in recent years, the Celtic Department of Aberdeen University has played a notable part in Celtic Studies, both by the scholars it has produced and the publications it has inspired and sponsored.

For many years, too, the University Celtic Society and the local branch of An Comunn have done outstanding service. In 1946 it fell to the Gaels of Aberdeen and neighbourhood to inaugurate afresh, after the years of war, the Annual National Mod, and now nine years later we return to "the silver city by the sea," assured of a happy and interesting week among a most hospitable people.

Cleas-Cluiche

Dh'fhoillsicheadh seo air tús anns an Celtic Monthly an 1906 (Leabhar xiv, t.d. 94), agus b'e Dòmhnall Peutan an Astralia a sgrìobh e. Thubhairt esan gum faca esan a' chluich seo air ghleus an Arasaig mu'n bhliadhna 1848, agus chuala e seo 'ga ghabhail air son na h-uaire mu dheireadh an 1853 aig cèilidh an Dearabhaig am Muile. Faodar seo a choimeas ri "Tuaradaire Teallaich" a bha againn anns "A' Ghaidheal" ann an àireamh an Iuchair.—F. D.

DH'FHALBH Dubhag-tòn-ri-teallaich do'n tràigh a dh'iarraidh maoarach. Chan fhaca i tràigh no lionadh riamh roimhe, agus, an uair a thàinig an lionadh mun cuairt dì, shaoil i gu robh am bràth (deireadh an t-saoghail) air tighinn.

Dh'fhalbh Dubhag-tòn-ri-teallaich agus ràinig i Pocan-a'-bhaile-fhàsaich.

"A bheil thu staigh, a Phocain-a'-bhaile-fhàsaich? Seo am bràth air tighinn!"

"Cò chuala no chunnaic e?" arsa Pocan-a'-bhaile-fhàsaich.

"Mise chuala 's a chunnaic e," arsa Dubhag-tòn-ri-teallaich, "fo m' bhonnaibh a thàinig e."

An sin dh'fhalbh Dubhag-tòn-ri-teallaich agus Pocan-a'-bhaile-fhàsaich agus ràinig iad Fàsach-a'-bhaile-fhionnaich.

"A bheil thu staigh, Fhàsaich-a'-bhaile-fhionnaich? Seo am bràth air tighinn!"

"Cò chuala no chunnaic?" arsa Fàsach-a'-bhaile-fhionnaich.

“Mise chuala ’s a chunnaic e, arsa Dubhag-’
tòn-ri-teallaich; “fo m’ bhonnaibh a thàinig
e.”

Dh’fhalbh Dubhar-tòn-ri-teallaich agus
Pocan-a’-bhaile-fhàsaich agus Fàsach-a’-
bhaile-fhionnaich agus ràinig iad Tighearna
Loch-obha.

“A bheil thu staigh, a Thighearna Loch-
obha? Seo am bràth air tighinn!”

“Cò chuala no chunnaic e?” arsa Tighearna
Loch-obha.

“Mise chuala ’s a chunnaic e,” arsa Dubhag-
tòn-ri-teallaich; “fo m’ bhonnaibh a thàinig
e.”

Dh’fhalbh Dubhag-tòn-ri-teallaich agus
Pocan-a’-bhaile-fhàsaich agus Fàsach-a’-
bhaile-fhionnaich agus Tighearna Loch-obha
agus ràinig iad Gobha-bhaile-bhric.

“A bheil thu staigh, a Ghobha-bhaile-
bhric? Seo am bràth air tighinn!”

“Cò chuala no chunnaic e?” arsa Gobha-
bhaile-bhric.

“Mise chuala ’s a chunnaic e,” arsa Dubhag-
tòn-ri-teallaich; “fo m’ bhonnaibh a thàinig
e.”

Dh’fhalbh Dubhag-tòn-ri-teallaich agus
Pocan-a’-bhaile-fhàsaich agus Fàsach-a’-
bhaile-fhionnaich agus Tighearna Loch-obha
agus Gobha-bhaile-bhric agus ràinig iad
Minidh agus Ceap.

“A bheil thu staigh, a Mhinidh agus a Chip?
Seo am bràth air tighinn!”

“Cò chuala no chunnaic e?” arsa Minidh
agus Ceap.

“Mise chuala ’s a chunnaic e,” arsa Dubhag-
tòn-ri-teallaich; “fo m’ bhonnaibh a thàinig
e.”

Dh’fhalbh Dubhag-tòn-ri-teallaich agus
Pocan-a’-bhaile-fhàsaich agus Fàsach-a’-
bhaile-fhionnaich, Tighearna Loch-obha,
Gobha-bhaile-bhric, Minidh agus Ceap, agus
ràinig iad Daorad-am-sgailc.

“A bheil thu staigh, a Daorad-am-sgailc?
Seo am bràth air tighinn!”

“Cò chuala no chunnaic e?” arsa Daorad-
am-sgailc.

“Mise chuala ’s a chunnaic e,” arsa Dubhag-
tòn-ri-teallaich; “fo m’ bhonnaibh a thàinig
e.”

Dh’fhalbh Dubha-tòn-ri-teallaich agus
Pocan-a’-bhaile-fhàsaich agus Fàsach-a’-
bhaile-fhionnaich, Tighearna Loch-obha,
Gobha-bhaile-bhric, Minidh agus Ceap, agus
Daorad-am-sgailc, agus ràinig iad am Fear-a-
bha-san-t-sloc.

“A bheil thu staigh, Fhir-a-bha-san-t-sloc?
Seo am bràth air tighinn?”

“Cò chuala no chunnaic e?” arsa am Fear-a-
bha-san-t-sloc.

“Mise chuala ’s a chunnaic e,” arsa Dubhag-
tòn-ri-teallaich; “fo m’ bhonnaibh a thàinig
e.”

Dh’fhalbh Dubhag-tòn-ri-teallaich, Pocan-
a’-bhaile-fhàsaich, Fàsach-a’-bhaile-fhionnaich,
Tighearna Loch-obha, Gobha-bhaile-bhric,
Minidh agus Ceap, Daorad-am-sgailc, agus
am Fear-a-bha-san-t-sloc, agus ràinig iad
Tuthadair-na-h-àtha.

“A bheil thu staigh, a Thuthadair-na-h-
àtha? Seo am bràth air tighinn!”

“Cò chuala no chunnaic e?” arsa Tuthadair-
na-h-àtha.

“Mise chuala ’s a chunnaic e,” arsa Dubhag-
tòn-ri-teallaich; “fo m’ bhonnaibh a thàinig
e.”

Dh’fhalbh Dubhag-tòn-ri-teallaich, agus
Pocan-a’-bhaile-fhàsaich, Fàsach-a’-bhaile-
fhionnaich, Tighearna Loch-obha, Gobha-
bhaile-bhric, Minidh agus Ceap, Daorad-am-
sgailc, am Fear-a-bha-san-t-sloc, agus
Tuthadair-na-h-àtha, agus ràinig iad Tuth-
adair-a’-mhuilinn.

“A bheil thu staigh, a Thuthadair-a’-
mhuilinn? Seo am bràth air tighinn.”

“Cò chuala no chunnaic e?” arsa
Tuthadair-a’-mhuilinn.

“Mise chuala ’s a chunnaic e,” arsa Dubhag-
tòn-ri-teallaich; “fo m’ bhonnaibh a thàinig
e.”

Dh’fhalbh Dubha-tòn-ri-teallaich, agus
Pocan-a’-bhaile-fhàsaich, Fàsach-a’-bhaile-
fhionnaich, Tighearna Loch-obha, Gobha-
bhaile-bhric, Minidh agus Ceap, Daorad-am-
sgailc, am Fear-a-bha-san-t-sloc, Tuthadair-
na-h-àtha, agus Tuthadair-a’-mhuilinn, agus
ràinig iad an Gearran-bacach-bàn.

“A bheil thu staigh, a Ghearrain-bhacaich-
bhàin? Seo am bràth air tighinn!”

“Cò chuala no chunnaic e?” arsa an Gearran-
bacach-bàn.

“Mise chuala ’s a chunnaic e,” arsa Dubhag-
tòn-ri-teallaich; “fo m’ bhonnaibh a thàinig
e.”

Dh’fhalbh Dubhag-tòn-ri-teallaich agus
Pocan-a’-bhaile-fhàsaich, Fàsach-a’-bhaile-
fhionnaich, Tighearna Loch-obha, Gobha-bhaile-
bhric, Minidh agus Ceap, Daorad-am-sgailc,
am Fear-a-bha-san-t-sloc, Tuthadair-na-h-
àtha, Tuthadair-a’-mhuilinn, agus an Gearran-
bacach-bàn, agus chaidh iad uile gu léir a
bhàthadh anns a’ bhràth.

Story of An Comunn

By THE EDITOR

VI.—RE-ORGANISATION AND NEW VENTURES (1902-14)

(Continued)

The Great Feill, 1907

Thrice in its history An Comunn has by means of a "Feill" or Grand Bazaar considerably augmented its funds—the 1907 Feill brought in over £7,000; that of 1927 over £10,000; and the 1950 Feill raised about £8,000 for the War Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund. Those who have shared in or witnessed any of those efforts will agree that they were memorable experiences. The organisers of the second and third Feills benefited greatly from the experience gained in organising the first, but those who planned and promoted the first had no precedents to guide them and their achievement is all the more impressive on that account.

The idea of holding a Feill was first mooted at the Dingwall Mod of 1905 by Dr. Kenneth Campbell of Oban, and in October of that year a Committee, with Mrs. Burnley-Campbell as Convener, was appointed to organise the Feill. After much hard work the Feill was held, "under the Patronage of Highlanders all over the World," in the St. Andrew's Halls, Glasgow, on Thursday, 31st October, Friday, 1st, and Saturday, 2nd November, 1907. The Feill was officially opened each day by the following in turn, H.R.H. Princess Louise Duchess of Argyll, the Marchioness of Tullibardine, and Lady Margaret Sinclair, daughter of the Countess of Aberdeen and wife of the then Secretary for Scotland. The Chairmen on the three days were, successively, Lord Provost Bilsland of Glasgow, Principal Sir Donald MacAllister of Glasgow University, and Lord Provost Gibson of Edinburgh. The joint-secretaries of the Feill were David N. Mackay and Thomas H. Paterson, and the Treasurer was Alexander Murray, C.A.

There were many stalls—London and Aberdeen-shire; Edinburgh and the Southern Gaels; Glasgow, Lanarkshire, and the Clans Associations; Argyll; Inverness Town and County; Ross and Cromarty; The Islands; Stirlingshire; Perth and Perthshire; Greenock; Friends across the Sea; Industries; Books and Art; Children's Stall; Game; Flowers and Sweets. Tweeds, tartans, and tomahawks; Shetland shawls, metal work and wood work; lace from Lewis and Loch Fyne; cowrie shells from India; Maori products from New Zealand; marble work from Iona; a 10-foot dinghy; a cannon ball from Tobermory Bay; several terriers; a 157-year-old Shetland spinning wheel—these were some of the wares on sale. There was also a Loan Exhibition with the Brooch of Lorn, Jacobite relics, and other historical articles.

"An Clachan"

The highlight of the Feill was "An Clachan," a representation of a typical Highland village, with a background of the hills of Kintail and Loch Duich and Eilean Donnan Castle and also, for variety, the hills of Glen Quoich. Thatched cottages were furnished in the old-time style, with willow-pattern plates on the dresser, a "slabhraidh" over the fire, and the Gaelic Bible, Doddridge's "Rise and Fall" and "Caraid nan Gaidheal" on the table. The occupants spun and wove and ground corn with the hand-querren and from time to time children danced on the village green. Peat burned in the old-fashioned fireplaces. All this was to be found in the Kent Hall, and it is recorded that "two aristocratic-looking ladies, with looks of the most intense disgust on their faces," were

seen in the Octagonal Hall, near the Clachan, "Oh! is it not horrible? Where is it coming from?" exclaimed one. "The other placed a gold-mounted pinc-nez on her offended nasal organ as if to help in locating the odour which so disconcerted them"—*toit na mòna!*

There were concerts, plays, recitals and many other forms of entertainment, including fortune-telling and palmistry, and a magic well. The Gaelic play was "Dioghaltas Lachainn" by Alexander D. Maclean. On 29th October there had been a Grand Highland Ball and Pageant in the Grosvenor, Glasgow, which attracted 1,000 people and contributed greatly to the Feill fund.

Souvenir publications issued in connection with the Feill were "Am Bolg Solair" (A Literary Miscellany) (3/-), Fairy Tales in Gaelic and English (1/6) (this is believed to have been the first Gaelic book with coloured illustrations), and the Feill Cookery Book (1/6), with over 500 recipes. There was also an Industrial Stall Book for 6d and a Bazaar Souvenir Programme for 1/-.

The Feill Trust

The total sum received from the Feill was over £7,000, and the next business was to decide what to do with it. The Feill had been organised for the double purpose of spreading a knowledge of the work and objects of An Comunn and of raising a fund "to enable it to carry out its patriotic and useful programme in its entirety." More specifically, the purpose was to enable the Association to appoint a full-time Organising Secretary, to help Gaelic-speaking young men and women to become teachers in the Highlands, and to further Home Industries, one of the objects of An Comunn hitherto inadequately carried out from the lack of funds.

To conserve wisely and use to the best advantage the large sum now made available the Feill Trust was formed, consisting of seven persons appointed by An Comunn, and in connection with this a Memorandum of Objects of the Feill and of An Comunn was, after much disputation and amendment, approved at the Annual Meeting at Rothesay in 1908. A first charge upon the Trust Fund was to be the salary of a full-time official, "a good business man, a ready speaker and writer in Gaelic and English, with, preferably, sufficient knowledge of music to enable him to organise and advise Choirs." "It may also be found necessary to employ additional salaried officials as the work develops." The income from the Trust Fund was also to be used for publishing Gaelic books, putting An Comunn's magazine on a sound financial basis and increasing its size; encouraging Gaelic-speaking lads and girls to become teachers and help them to become qualified to teach in Gaelic-speaking areas; training suitable Gaelic-speaking youths to become teachers of music and masters of choirs, and so opening up a new profession for Highlanders and providing qualified adjudicators for the Mod; encouraging the teaching of Celtic art and re-establishing the old artistic skill in Sculpture, Illumination, and Decoration; and promoting Home Arts and Industries.

Full-time Secretary

As already noted (June Number, p.53), John Campbell, the first Secretary of An Comunn, continued

as Hon. Secretary until 1903, when that office was abolished. John Mackintosh was Treasurer and Acting Treasurer from 1892 to 1903, at first with a honorarium of £10 a year, which rose to £15 in 1895 and to £20 in 1899. At the Annual Meeting of 1903 a honorarium of £30 was allocated to the office of Secretary and one of £10 to that of Treasurer, Mackintosh being appointed to the former office and John Abrach Mackay to the latter. In 1904, however, John Mackintosh was given both offices for £50 a year.

In June 1907 Dr. Kenneth Campbell proposed that the time had come to appoint a full-time Secretary, but this was rejected. In September John Mackintosh resigned the joint-office of Secretary and Treasurer but was persuaded to continue meantime. The Annual Meeting that year agreed to appoint a full-time Secretary and Organiser, In January 1908 the Council fixed the salary at £150 per annum, and on 29th February appointed Mr. Thomas D. Macdonald to the office, with headquarters at 68 Gordon Street, Glasgow (in preference to Inverness, which was favoured by some). At the same time John Mackintosh continued as part-time Treasurer with a honorarium of £15 a year. In December 1909 Robert MacFarlane became Treasurer with a honorarium of £15 15/- a year, and this office he held for twenty-nine years.

Mr. T. D. Macdonald

T. D. Macdonald, the new Secretary and Organiser, had been born in Galson, Barvas, Lewis, but before he was two years old the family moved to Inverness, and at the age of 12 he went to live in Glenelg for some years. Later he went to London, became the Secretary of the Gaelic Society of London, and edited *The London Scot*; and to Bristol, where he founded the Celtic Society of that city. He was abroad for a time and founded the Caledonian Society of Toronto. Returning to Scotland, he founded the Gaelic Society of Stirling. He was a member of the first Executive Council of An Comunn, was Convener of the Publication Committee, managing director of An Comunn's magazine, and the author of several books and many articles in English and Gaelic.

Under Macdonald the Association steadily progressed. On 1st July, 1911, he was succeeded as Secretary and Organiser by John Maclean, a Glasgow-born Highlander who had been President of the Glasgow High School Gaelic Class Ceilidh. Mr. Maclean was succeeded on 24th May, 1913, by Mr. Neil Shaw.

Highland Home Industries

While the promotion of "Home Industries" had been included in the objects of An Comunn from the very beginning, not much, if anything, was done about this matter for many years.

In July, 1903, it was proposed by a member that the time had now arrived "when the third object of the Constitution (Highland Home Industries) should receive the attention of the Association," and that a special committee of seven should be appointed to gather a fund of £50 to employ an organiser to form branches in a selected district and at the same time "see to the thorough development of Home industries in connection with these Branches."

It was not, however, until October, 1906, that a special committee was appointed, to be called the "Highland Industries Committee," "to collect information concerning, to arouse interest in, and help to foster the industrial developments of the Highlands." The same committee, of which James Grant was Convener, was also to function as a "Celtic Arts Committee." By 1908 this had become the "Arts and Industries Committee," with Mrs. Burnley Campbell as Convener.

(To be continued)

Treasurer's Notes

National Mod—Aberdeen, 1955

<i>Received at Aberdeen—</i>	
Previously acknowledged	£1,853 — 1
Aberdeen University	
Celtic Society	5 — —
Ladies' Committee, per	
Mr. & Mrs. A. White,	
Fort William	5 — —
	£1,863 — 1

<i>Received at Headquarters—</i>	
Previously acknowledged	£160 17 6
Robert C. Masson, Esq.,	
Glasgow	— 10 —
Rev. W. Wortley French,	
New Zealand	— 5 —
Dugald Rankin, Esq.,	
West Lothian	— 5 —
Archd. MacLean, Esq.,	
Isle of Tiree	— 14 —
Mrs. A. C. Anderson,	
Edinburgh	— 14 —
Malcolm MacLean, Esq.,	
Tobermory	1 — —
Mrs. E. T. Junor, Perth	3 3 —
Ian MacLeod, Esq.,	
Inverness	5 — —
Dr. Hector Macdonald,	
Stornoway	1 1 —
Rev. Wm. Matheson,	
M.A., Edinburgh	2 2 —
Archd. McEwan, Esq.,	
Mauchline	1 — —
Miss Agnes M. McLaren,	
Edinburgh	— 10 —
James Gardiner, Esq.,	
Inverness	— 10 —
R. MacLellan, Esq.,	
Glasgow	— 10 —
Mrs. M. Morrison, Stor-	
noway	— 10 —
Dr. The Hon. Ewan &	
Mrs. Forbes-Sempill,	
Alford	10 — —
Mrs. A. M. MacLeod,	
Tobermory	— 5 —
Mrs. Catherine Kennedy,	
Minard	— 5 3
Anonymous	1 5 —
Miss E. S. McKerracher,	
Stirling	— 7 6
	190 14 3

£2,053 14 4

Central Fund

Previously acknowledged	£187 19 —
Kilmarnock Branch	5 5 —
Anonymous	— 4 —
John Mackay, Esq., Linlithgow	1 1 —
	£194 9 —

Magazine Fund

Previously acknowledged	£17 2 —
John Macleod, Esq., Glasgow	— 4 —
Dugald Macdonald, Esq., Stonehaven	1 1 —
Mrs. H. M. Campbell of Airds, Amersham	— 4 —
H. S. Shield, Esq., Fife	— 14 —
Wm. Gemmel, Esq., Bonawe	— 4 —
Mrs. Mary M. Black, Bearsden	— 6 —

£19 15 —



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar VII

AN T-SULTUIN, 1955

Aireamh 9

Sgeirean, Bodhannan, agus Eileanan Na Mara

IS anabarrach lionmhor na tha de bhodhannan agus de sgeirean anns a' mhuir timcheall nan eilean agus a mach bho chòrsa an iar na Gaidhealtachd. Tha cuid dhiubh sin, agus gu sònraichte an fheadhainn air a bheil ainm, mu' m bheil sgeulachdan araon duilich agus eibhinn air an innse.

Tha aon sgeir chaol, dhìreach, agus glé fhada, d'an tabhairn na h-uile an aire an ám falbh is tighinn, faisg air eilean Bheàrnaraidh na Hearadh. Is e Sgeir na Caillich as ainm dhi seo. Phòs fear a mhuinntir Bheàrnaraidh bana-Sgitheanach uair, is chaidh i maille ris a chòmhnaidh do Bheàrnaraidh. Cha robh i fada ann sin an uair a bhuail an cianalas i, is bha i a' miannachadh faotainn air ais do a dùthaich féin. Air dhi a dòchas a chall nach faigheadh i seòl air tilleadh a chaoidh, dh'fhalbh i a mach air Di-luain Samhraidh le sluasaid 'na dòrn, is thòisich i air deanamh rathad mór a bheireadh do'n Eilean Sgitheanach i. Fhuair a' chailleach air adhart gu math leis an rathad is an uair a thàinig Di-sathuirne nach ann a bha i deagh astar a mach an loch leis. Mu dheireadh, air do'n t-Sàbaid tighinn oirre, sguir a' bhana-chosnaiche de a h-obair. Chuir i an t-sluasaid air a gualainn is rinn i air an dachaigh, ach bho'n oidhe sin féin, dh'fhàg i an rathad do'n Eilean Sgitheanach dìreach mar a chì sinn an diugh e, gun chrìochnachadh.

Tha saobh-chràbhadh nan Gaidheal a' deanamh iomradh air cailleach eile a bha ann an toiseach an t-saoghail, aig an robh làmh ann an obair a' chruthachaidh, gu sònraichte a' chuid sin dheth a bhùneas do'n Gaidhealtachd. Bha meudachd aibheiseach anns a' chaillich seo. Mar a dh'fhaodas sinn a thuigsinn, cha robh na sléibhteas as àirde agus na cùntan as doimhne dhi ach mar nithean staoin, agus bhiodh i a cheart cho tric ag imeachd gu h-àrd anns an iarmailt is a bhiodh i air an talamh a bhos.

Là a bha ann, mum facas riamh a' cheud sealladh de Innse-Gall, bha a' chailleach a' seòladh anns an adhar le cliabh loma-làn de chip is de chlachan air a druim agus a h-aghaidh

air an iar-thuath. Làidir agus foghainteach is gu robh dronnag na ban-fhuamhair, dh'fhaireich i an cliabh car beag anshocrach is thug i an grad thogail ud da air a druim air son a cheartachadh, ach, ma thug, leum an gnìomhadh as àite, is thuit meall shìos is shuas, thall 's a bhos, anns a' chuan gu h-ìosal, is a' chuid nach deach a mach air beul a chléibh, chaidh e a mach troimh na taghaistean. Cha robh ionad anns an do laigh a' bheag no mhór de'n luchd, nach d'rinn e eilean an sin féin, agus siud a réir sgeòil mar a chaidh na h-Eileanan an Iar a dheanamh.

Bha an sgeul dhuilich mu'n nighinn a cheangladh ris an sgeir ri bhith air a cluinntinn uair-eigin gu coitcheann anns gach ceàrn de'n Gaidhealtachd. Tha eadar-dhealachadh oirre mar a chuala mise i anns an Eilean Sgitheanach.

Bho chian nan cianachan, bha Ailleg an fhuilt bhuidhe air a fàgail 'na dilleachdan gun mhàthair. Phòs a h-athair a rithist is bha Ailleg bhochd am freasdal muime, a dh'fhàs gu luath glé choma dhith.

Chaidh bliadhna is bliadhna seachad is bha Ailleg a' fàs 'na h-ighinn mhóir, chuimhir, ach, mar a bha piseach a' tighinn air an té òig, bha eud is gamhlas na seann bhaobh a' cinntinn d'a réir. Air là teth Samhraidh bha i féin agus a muime anns an tràigh dhuiligh. Bha an tràigh cho mór agus gum faighte gu soirbh a dh'ionnsaigh sgeire a bha tur fodha an uair a thigeadh a' mhuir-làn. An sin thubhairt an té chruaidh-chridheach, "Nach gòrach dhuinn a bhith 'gar sàrachadh an seo air là cho briagha; théid sinn tacan 'gar blianadh féin thun na Sgeire Bàine."

Bha eadhon feamainn bhuilgeanach, bhadanach na sgeire, tioram, blàth, le neart na gréine an uair a laigh an dithis sìos. An sin thòisich a' bhean gun iochd air seinn tàladh tiamhaidh, trom, agus an ùine gheàrr gun do bhuaill an cadal Ailleg, ach, mo chreach 's mo léireadh, is beag a bha i a' gabhail a staigh gur e an cadal deireannach a bha ann. An uair a bha i air dol seachad 'na trom shuain, theann a muime ri ceangal

gach dos is dual de'n chuailean bhòidheach le cruaidh shnaim ri bun nan gasan dubha feamann a bha a' fàs gu daingeann bho'n chreig. An sin dh'fhàg i i is thug i orra gu bràighe a' chladaich.

Mu dheireadh thall, uidh air n-uidh, thàinig an Ìonadh, a' chuid is a' chuid, theann a' mhuir-làn air deanamh eilean de'n sgeir is air èirigh thairis orra. Dhùisg Ailleag bhochd, ach a ceann cha b'urraim dhì thogail, a chionn e a bhith cho teann an ceangal. Chualas caoidh is àrd-ghlaoth no dhà, is ann an tiotan beag bha i balbh 'na tosd anns "an dara h-uaiigh" ud nach robh idir cho domhain, fuar, ri fuath na muime.

Chuala mi caochladh iomraidhean a bha air an deanamh le maraichean mu dhùthchannan iongantach nach d'fhuaradh a mach riamh roimhe is a bha a' tachairt orra an druim a' chuain mhóir air taobh eile an t-saoghail. Bha beachd éignidh air a ghabhail ann an sgrìobhadh air an dearbh bhad de'n chuan, is goirid 'n a dhéidh, an uair a chaidh soitheach a mach a lorg an àite cheudna, cha robh sealladh dheth ri fhaicinn na's motha na ged nach robh e air a bhith ann bho thoiseach a' chruthachaidh. Bha e air aithris mu aon no dhà de na tìrean ud gur e dùthchannan torrach a bha anna, a bha air an àiteachadh le daoine geala air an robh coltas a bhith sònraichte céillidh, foghlumite, adhartach is math air an cothrom.

Tha gach seul a bha air a h-aithris mu ionadan feallta de'n t-seòrsa seo a' toirt 'nam chuimhne aon a bha air a h-innse le bodach a bha ri mo cheud chuimhne a' fuireach am bràighe an Taobh Sear, ris an abradh iad Goiridh an Lòn-fhéarna.

"Bha iasgairan a bhuineadh do'n àite seo," arsa Goiridh, "là aig muir aig iasgach linn-mhóra. An sin thàinig iad gu eilean nach faca aon dhiubh roimhe is air nach cuala iad iomradh. Dhèanaich an sgioba, co-dhiù, gun rachadh iad air tìr. Rinn iad seo is tharraing iad an eithear suas an oir na tràghad. An sin, chum iad romhpa ceum goirid air adhart, is rinn iad teine a bheothachadh ann an àite tioram, am fianais a' chladaich, ann an rùn biadh a dheasachadh. Cha robh an teine ach aiteal a' gabhail co-dhiù, an uair a mhothaich na bodaich do'n eilean a' dol fodha fo'n casan a' chuid is a' chuid. B' éiginn dhaibh teicheadh is deanamh air an eithear cho luath is a bha aca. Cha robh sian ann ach gun do thàrr iad as is gun d'fhuair iad a steach am broinn na sgoth gu tèarainte. Dé a bha anns an eilean ach crùbag mhór a bha 'na cadal air bàrr an uisge, is cho luath is a dh'fhairich i teas an teine air a druim, ghabh i an t-eagal is rinn i 'na grad chabhaig air fionnarachd na doimhne!

TORMOD DOMHNALLACH.

A' Chomhstri eadar Dubhaird agus Loch Buidhe

MAR ann an eachdraidh gach sluaigh is rioghachd eile, gheibhear ann an eachdraidh nan cinnidhean Gaidhealach a h-uile subhailc is dubhailc a chuireadh riamh as leth an duine—gràdh is fuath, dilseachd is ceilg, curantachd is geilt.

Mar eisimpleir, seo gaibh seul ghoidir mu dheighinn na còmhstri a bha eadar Mac-Gilleathain Dhùbhaird agus a choimhearsnach, MacGilleathain Locha Buidhe.

An uair a bhàsaich fear de chinn-fheadhna Locha Buidhe cha d'fhàg e 'na dhéidh mar oighre ach leanabag òg d'am b'ainm Murchadh Gearr. Aig an àm seo bha duine garg gionach a' còmhaidh an Caisteal Dhùbhaird (air taobh eile an eilein), agus chunnaic esan cho furasda is a bhiodh e fearann an oighre òig fhaighinn dha fhéin. Cha luaithe a thàinig an smuain 'na inntinn na chruinnich e a luchd-cinnidh is thug e ionnsaigh air dùthaich Mhurchaidh Gheàrr. Chaidh an là leis, ach gu fortanach cha d'fhuair e greim air Murchadh. Shàbhaileadh e agus thugadh a dh'Eirinn e, far an d'fhuair e tearmunn.

An uair a dh'fhàs Murchadh 'na dhuine treun tapaidh, mhionnach e gum faigheadh e a oighreachd fhéin air ais a rithist. Le buidheann Eireannach thog e siùil is rinn e air a shean dachaigh. Air dha an tìr a ruigsinn cé a choinnich e ach a' bhanaltram a bha aige 'na òige, agus thubhairt ise gun toireadh i cobhair dha. Bha a fear-céile 'na dhorsair an Caisteal Locha Buidhe agus thug i air an dorus fhoghladh do Mhurchadh is a dhaoine. An sin ruith an t-oighre òg a steach, a luchd-cuideachaidh còmhla ris, agus, le cho obann is a thachair a h-uile dad, bha an caisteal aca mun robh fhios aig an naimhdean dé a bha ceàrr.

Goirid an déidh sin thug an dithis—Dùbhaird agus Loch Buidhe—cath d'a chèile agus bha a' bhuidh aig Murchadh. An oidhche sin bha Murchadh a' tilleadh dhachaigh o'n bhlar-chatha, agus nach ann a chunnaic e Dùbhaird 'na shuain chadal air a' mhonadh. Tharraing e a bhiodag, thoimn e am falt a nàmhaid i is bhuail e a steach anns an talamh i. Air do MhacGilleathain dùsgadh anns a' mhadainn, chunnaic e na thachair is dh'aithnich e a' bhiodag. Bha fhios aige a nis cho còir is a bha Loch Buidhe agus cuideachd cho olc is a bha e féin. Air ball chaidh e gu caisteal Mhurchaidh is dh'iarra e air-san a leisgeul a gabhail. Riamh an déidh sin dh'fhan an dà theaghlach an dlùth-chairdeas.

Dòmhnall M. MacGilleathain
(Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir-Nis).

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General Secretary

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AN GAIDHEAL

THE GAEL

Vol. L

OCTOBER, 1955

No. 10

"AN DEO-GREINE"

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Theid iad gu neo-chearbach

Fo do dhealbh-bhrataich.

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(An Deo-Greine, Air. I)



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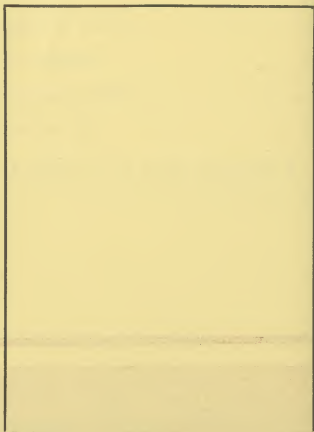
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THE GAEL

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF
AN COMUNN GAIDHEALACH

Editor

REV. T. M. MURCHISON, M.A.

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AN DAMHAR, 1955

Aireamh 10

Thog Sinn An Deò-Ghréine Ri Crann

(*Seo a' cheud earrann an ceud àireamh a' mhìosachain an 1905.*)

IS iomadh uair, tha sinn a' creidsinn, a chaidh na faacil sin aithris an talla an tréith is am both a' ceatharnaich, an uair a bhiodh an t-aos-dana a' leigeil uaith nan dàn sin a tha a' toirt iomraidh air àgh is mì-àgh na Féinne anns na linntean o chian, an uair, ma's fìor, a bha na Gaidheil 'nan sluagh cumhachdach, fo mheas aca féin agus allail am beachd nan cinneach mun cuairt. Ach is beag a bha an triath is an ceatharnach is an t-aos-dana ud an dùil gun togteadh a rithis An Deò-ghréine ri crann anns an naodhamh ceud deug is a cóig. Ach is ann mar sin a tha. Tha an triath air ar tréiginn; tha an ceatharnach mì-mhisneachail; tha an t-aos-dana, ach gann, balbh; ach có aige tha fios, an uair a sgaoillear a rithis anns a' ghaoith a' bhratach gheal—stròicte is mar a tha i—nach tig farum am meas nan cnàmhan tioram, agus nach seas an triath is an ceatharnach is an t-aos-dana taobh ri taobh an taice a croinn, a chum a chumail réidh dìreach agus a ghiùlan gu buaidh. Có aige tha fios? Mur 'eil fios againn an tràth seo, bithidh fios againn gun dàil.

Có thusa a tha anns an éisdeachd, agus boinne-fala Ghaidhealach 'nad chridhe, as urrainn seasamh gu dìomhain anns an latha seo, le do shùil air an làr, do làmhan 'nad phòca, do chasan anns a' pholl, am feadh a tha dìlsean

do chinnidh a' streap ris an t-slighe chais a tha a' treòrachadh gu aigne meannmach agus buaidhean foghainteach aiseag do'n t-sluagh d'am buin thu? Ma's fèarr leat gun a bhith a' triall gualainn ri gualainn 'nan cuideachd air an rathad seo a tha garbh, is gun do làmh a chur leo anns an obair chruaidh ionmholta seo a tha fo iùl aca, is ùmaidh gun toirt thu agus ion air bhith 'nad bhall-magaidh aig caraid is aig eas-caraid do chinnidh. Ma's fèarr leat siud: Truis; a mach ort; tha sinn réidh is thu!

Ach ma's Gaidheal a tha annad a tha mothachail air mì-adhartachd do chinnidh, agus gur léir dhuit gur sruth a tha a' tràghadh iad, gur barrach a tha a' seargadh iad, gur crodh a tha a' dol an diosgadh iad, gur treabhachas a tha a' dol fàs iad, agus gur maith leat an sruth sin a bhith a' lìonadh, am barrach sin a bhith ùrar, an crodh sin a bhith a' toirt bainne, is an treabhachas sin a bhith fo bhàrr, teann ruinne. Triall far am faic thu An Deò-ghréine air a togail ri crann.

Ar leinn gun cluinn sinn Ao-dòchasach a' cànrann gu bheil e tuilleadh is anmoch air son ar bratach a thogail; gu bheil a' ghrian a' cromadh air sléibhteann nan Gaidheil; is gu bheil An Deò-ghréine a tha ann 'na crith-sholus fann a tha a' sìoladh troimh neul-bhrat a tha 'ga còmhach is a' bagairt a' falach gu

tur. Tha còrr is ceud bliadhna o na thòisich an cànan sin; is tha triall na gréine air sléibhlean nan Gaidheal fòs; is mur 'eil An Deò-ghréine, a thaobh nan neul duachnìdh shuas, cho breagha boillsgeach is a dh'fhaodadh i a bhith, tha fios gu bheil gaothan nan uamhann 'nan dùisg is a' borbnachadh; is ma dh'èireas gum brùchd iad a mach, cò their nach cuir iad mar sgaoil na neòil a tha eadar sinne agus ar grian.

Cò iad na neòil seo a tha a' cur dall-bhrait air an t-solus, is a tha a' cumail air ais fàs is toradh is abachadh an treabhachas nan Gaidheal? Seo iad na neòil: aineolas air eachdraidh is ealain is litreachas an cinnidh féin; déidh air àbhaistean—gu h-àraidh droch àbhaistean—nan coigreach: tograidhean baotha a tha a' lagachadh spionnadh cuim, dealas cridhe, is géiread inntinn; foill-labhairt nan coimheach; bòilich na muinntir dhùthchasaich; doilleir-

eachd air a sìor-chur leis an dream a fhuair fòghlum; tràillealachd air altram leis na maithean. Cò iad na gaothan as urrainn an dall-bhrat seo fhuadachadh? Seo iad na gaothan: eòlas air eachdraidh is air ealain is air litreachas a' chinnidh d' am buin iad; déidh air deagh àbhaistean an sinnsir; measarrachd an cainnt is an cleachdadh; faicill roimh an mhìodalaiche liomhaidh a tha ag iarraidh an rìbeadh is an cumail 'na ghàrradh càil féin; spiorad na saorsa is na neo-eisimeileachd; dìongmhaltas, fosgarrachd, is fùghantais. Siud iad na subhaicean a bheir fo mheas a rithis sluagh na Gaidhealtachd, an dà chuid 'nam beachd féin is am beachd a' choigrich.

Roimh theachd nan gaothan ud thug sinn ar crann, an dùil gum faicear an aithghearr iad a' cleasachd mu'n t-sròl againne—An Deò-ghréine—is i a' tàladh sùilean ar cinnidh o amaideachd gu gliocas.

Ar Fir-Dheasachaidh (1905-55)

Le NIALL MACGILLE-SHEATHANAICH

“Thog sinn an Deò-Ghréine ri Crann”

LETHCHEUD bliadhna an ama seo thug gairm na Féinne ata shuas sanas gu robh An Comunn a' togail na brataich as ùr, cha b'ann an dùbhlán, ach a nochdadh do luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig gu robh feum air leabhnan de'n t-seòrsa a chraobh-sgaioleadh a rùintean, agus gu robh earbsa aig a luchd-comhairle gun gabhadh iad ris gu toileach, agus gun deanadh iad cleachdadh air a bhith a' leughadh an cànan féin. Tha a' bhhratach fathast am bàrr a' bhata ach fo atharrach ainme.

Dh'iarr Fear-deasachaidh an là an diugh ormsa, bho'n a b'aithne dhomh an t-seachdnar a chaidh roimhe, beagan a sgrìobhadh m'an deighinn. Ghabh mi sin os làimh, oir bu daoine iad uile a bu mhath do mo leithid-sa aithne agus eòlas a bhith aige orra.

Bidh fòghlumaichean nan linn-tean a tha air thoiseach oirnn a' sealltainn air ais a dh'fhiosrachadh cìod an seòrsa sgrìobhaichean a bha againn anns an linn anns a bheil sinne beò, agus, le cead an Fhir-dheasachaidh, bheir mi iomradh ann am beagan fhacal air a' mbeud is a chuir Fir-dheasachaidh mìosachan a' Chomuinn ri ar litreachas, taobh a muigh an dheanais a chòimhlioin iad cho taitneach dhuinne.

Mgr. Calum MacPhàrlain

Cha do chuir e iongnadh air neach sam bith aig an àm gun deach Calum Mac-

Phàrlain a thaghadh mar Fhear-deasachaidh a' mhìosachain ùir, oir dheasach e roimh siud àireamh de leabhraichean Gàidhlig air son a' chlà, mar a bha “An t-Eileanach,” “Sgeulaiche nan Caol,” agus “Am Fear-Ciùil.” A bhàrr orra sin bha “Dàin Thaghte” (air son a' Chomuinn), “An Uiseag” (leabhar òran le ceòl), agus Foclair Gàidhlig, “Am Briathrachan Beag.”

Cha b'fhear-seisreach Calum MacPhàrlain. Bha a ghuth mar bu trice an aghaidh na Comhairle, de an robh e air aon de na ceud bhuill. Thug e suas an dreuchd aig ceann chòig mìosan, ach, air a shon sin, bha taobh blàth aige ris a' Chomunn gu ceann a réis, mar as math as aithne dhòmhsa.

Rugadh Calum MacPhàrlain aig Dail-àbhaich, taobh Loch Obha, anns a' bhliadhna 1853, ach an uair a bha e glé òg rinn a phàrantan imrich gu Elderslie, am baile beag sin faisg air Paislig. Cha d'fhuair e cothrom air Gàidhlig chluais a thogail, ach cha robh 'na là neach a bu chòimhliontaiche a sgrìobhadh i. Chaochail e anns a' bhliadhna 1931, agus chuireadh clach-chinn suas mar chuimhneachan air an cladh Bhaile-Eòin. Cho fad is a bhios “Mo Dhachaigh” air a sheinn, bidh cuimhne mhaireannach air Calum MacPhàrlain.

Na h-Urr. MacGillinnein is MacGille-Bhràth

Cha robh “An Deò-Ghréine” mòran

mhòsan a dh'aois an uair a dh'éirich connspoid mu litreachadh an ainme—cuid a' cumail a mach gum b'e "An Deò-Gréine" an dòigh cheart air a sgrìobhadh. Is math as fhiach e a leughadh am mineachadh a rinn am Fear-deasachaidh, no fear-eigin eile, air mar a bha na faicail seo air an cleachdadh 'nar seann litreachas. Co-dhiubh, ghéill an luchd-comhairle agus aig ceann mìos is bliadhna thilg "An Deò-Gréine" an litir a thog an iorghaill.

Chuireadh an earrann Ghàidhlig fo chùram an Urramaich Calum MacGillinnein, B.D., a mhuinntir Uige an Leòdhas, agus an earrann Bheurla fo chùram an Urramaich Dòmhnall MacGille-Bhràth, B.D., Peitidh.

Cha deach aon diubh riamh ainmeachadh mar Fhear-deasachaidh. Bha Mgr. MacGillinnein 'na Fhear-gairme air Comhairle a' Chlò-bhuailaidh, agus b'ann mar sin a bha e air ainmeachadh ré na h-ùine a bha an earrann Ghàidhlig fo a chùram. Cha robh dreuchd sam bith air a chur as leth Mhgr. MhicGhille-bhràth, ach gu robh sgrìobhaidhean Beurla ri an cur chuige. Lean an dithis fhear seo air ceann "An Deò-Gréine" ré dhà bhliadhna iomlan agus mheal iad taing na Comhairle air son na h-obrach a rinn iad.

Chuir Mgr. MacGillinnein seachad cuid de a ùine an Canada, agus chuir e ri a fhòghlum an Oil-thaigh Mhic a' Ghoill am Montreal, a bhuilich àrd-urrann D.D. air. Ré na h-ùine a bha e 'na mhinistear an Dun-éideann shaothraich e gu dìcheallach an aobhar na Gàidhlig. Chlò-bhuail e Leabhar-leughaidh gu feum oileanaich Ghàidhlig. Dheasaich e "An Fhianuis Ghaidhealach," agus dh'eadar-theangaich e as ùr "Turus a' Chrìosdaidh." Ré dheimh bliadhna fichead bha e ag eadar-theangachadh gu Gàidhlig na duilleagan laghadh sin as math as cuimhne le cuid againn, "Am Fear-tathaich Miosaill." Dheasaich e mar an ceudna Foclair Gàidhlig is Beurla air a stéidheachadh air Foclair MhicAilpein. Chaochail e anns a' bhliadhna 1931.

Chan fhiosrach mi gun do chlò-bhuail Mgr. MacGille-Bhràth a bheag, no dad idir, an Gàidhlig, ach bha e eudmhor ann a bhith 'ga teagasg agus 'ga cleachdadh. Bha e 'na bhrithreamh aig Mòdan far an do theagaisg ris.

Mgr. Donnchadh MacGille-Ruaidh

An déidh an dithis fhòghlumach ghasda sin thaghadh Donnchadh MacGille-Ruaidh mar Fhear-deasachaidh. Rugadh esan anns a' Chlachan an Cinn-tìre, far an do theagaisg

e mar fhòghlumach òg anns an sgoil gus an tàinig e do Ghlaschu gu bhith 'na chléireach le marsantan fiodha. Thòisich e air teagasg Gàidhlig anns an Sgoil-oidhche an Ard-sgoil Ghlaschu, agus trid sin stéidhich e an comunn gasda sin, Céilidh Ghàidhlig Ard-sgoil Ghlaschu. B'e féin a bu Cheann-suidhe ré móran bhliadhnan air a' chòmhlán sin. Dheasaich e Gràmar Gàidhlig a chum teagasg a chuid oileanach féin, agus 'na dhéidh sin leabhar teagaisg eile, a ghabh An Comunn os làimh, agus, ged a rinn Tormod MacLeòid nach maireann móran atharrachaidh air, tha e anns a' mharhadh fhathast fo'n ainm a thug Mgr. MacGille-Ruaidh air, *Elementary Course of Gaelic*. Chaidh mu dheich mìle de'n leabhar sin a reic.

B'e Donnchadh MacGille-Ruaidh a sgrìobh oran-brosnachaidh a' Chomuinn, "Suas leis a' Ghàidhlig," agus òran gasda eile, "Clanna nan Gaidheal ri Gaoilbh a Chéile." Chaochail e anns a' bhliadhna 1912.

Mgr. Dòmhnall Mac-a-Phì

Bha e ceithir mìosan an déidh bàs Dhonnchaidh MhicGhille-Ruaidh mun deach Dòmhnall Mac-a-Phì, a bha 'na Iar-cheann-suidhe, a thaghadh gu a àit a lionadh agus bha "An Deò-Gréine" ré na h-ùine sin fo chùram Iain MhicGhilleathain, an Rùnaire.

Bha Dòmhnall Mac-a-Phì a mhuinntir Ròthaig anns an Eilean Sgitheanach, agus fad móran bhliadhnan bha e 'na mhaighistir-sgoile an Cuimir-nan-allt. Bha alt gasda aige air sgrìobhadh Gàidhlig is Beurla, agus cluinnear "An Loch," a sgrìobh e aig àm a' Cheud Chogaidh Mhóir, an earrann na h-aithris aig Mòd Obar-dheadhain.

Mar a tha fios aig na h-uile, thug Achd Ur an Fhòghlum, 1918, ùghdarras Gàidhlig a bhith air a teagasg do chloinn air a' Ghaidhealtachd d'am bu chainnt mhàthaireil a' Ghàidhlig. Cha robh leabhrachean freagarrach againn a chum Gàidhlig a theagasg mar chuspair anns na Bun-sgoilean, agus b'èiginn do'n Chomunn dol an greim agus an easbaidh sin a leasachadh. Chuireadh Dòmhnall Mac-a-Phì air ceann a' ghnòthaich agus dheasaich e dà leabhar air son na cloinne bige agus trì leabhrachean-leughaidh. Bhris air a shlàinte mun d'fhuair e dol an greim Leughadair a Ceithir, agus b'e Iain MacDhòmhnaill, M.A., a dheasaich an leabhar sin.

Cha robh Mgr. Mac-a-Phì, mar a thuigeas sibh, comasach air "An Deò-Gréine" a dheasachadh, agus shònraich Comhairle a' Chlò-bhuailaidh, aig coinneamh am mìos a'

Ghearrain, 1922, gun gabhainn-sa an dreuchd os làimh gus am biodh, mar a bha dòchas, Mgr. Mac-a-Phì air aiseag gu slàinte. A dh'aindeoin a laighe chaidh aige air an earrann Ghàidhliche a sgrìobhadh gu mìos roimh a bhàs anns an Lùnasdal. An déidh sin bha "An Deò-Gréine" fo mo chùram-sa. Fhuair mi cuideachadh math agus deagh thrèorachadh bho Chalum MacLeòid (Baile-Ghobhainn).

An t-Ollamh Niall Ros

Chaidh an t-Urramach Niall Ros, B.D., a thaghadh an àite Dhòmhnail Mhic-a-Phì, agus thòisich e le àireamh an Fhaoilltich, 1923.

Chaidh ainm a' mhìosachain atharrachadh gu "Gailig" air an dearbh mhìos a thòisich Niall Ros. Bha Aonghas MacDhonnchaidh 'na Cheann-suidhe aig an àm, agus bha e am beachd gun tairngeadh an t-ainm ùr, a bha so-fhuaimneach do na h-uile, aire luchd-foilseachaidh, agus rinn e sin car tacain. Cha robh an t-ainm ùr a' còrdadh ris an Fhear-dheasachaidh, agus chuir seo iongnadh air cuid òir cha robh sgrìobhaiche eile a chleachd an dòigh litreachaidh sin cho tric ris fhéin roimh siud. Aig a' Choinneamh Bhliadhnail an Inbhir-Nis an 1923, an déidh mòran deasbuid, chaidh an t-ainm atharrachadh gu *An Gaidheal* mar a tha e an diugh.

Choisinn Niall Ros mòran dhùisean aig na Mòdan, a' tòiseachadh le aithris aig a' cheud Mhòd (1892), agus 'na dhéidh sin le bàrdachd agus rosg. Bha e 'na shàr sgoilear Gàidhliche agus ro-chomasach 'na labhairt air àrd-ùrlar. Bha e 'na Cheann-suidhe air a' Chomunn bho 1930 gu 1934. Cha robh neach eile co-cheangailte ris a' Chomunn a fhuair na h-uimhir de àrd-urraman ris. Ann an 1928 fhuair e an D. Litt. air son a leabhair mu Dheadhan Liosmór; an 1933 C.B.E.; agus D.D. bho Oil-thaigh Ghlaschu an 1936. Thug e suas dreuchd Fir-dheasachaidh an 1936, agus chaochail e an 1944.

An t-Urr. Calum MacLeòid

Ghabh an t-Urramach Calum MacLeòid, M.A., a mhuinntir Uige an Leòdhas, an dreuchd os làimh anns an Lùnasdal, 1936. Bha e aig an àm 'na Iar-cheann-suidhe, agus rinneadh Ceann-suidhe dheth aig Coinneamh Bhliadhnail 1938. A réir mo sgrùdaidh-sa, chuir e barrachd de a obair féin anns a' mhìosachan na neach air bith a chaidh roimhe anns an dreuchd, agus sin air choacladh chuspairean. Rì am a' chogaidh sgrìobh e mòran de na tha anns an

dà leabhran, "Airgead an Rìgh" agus "Seirbhis a' Chrùin," a dheasaicheadh gu sònraichte air son feum nan saighdearan, seòladairean, is gillean-adhair Gaidhealach. Chuireadh iad sin còmhla fo'n ainm, "An Feachd Gaidhealach," a gheibhear air crùn bho Rùnaire a' Chomuinn. Leabhar eile a dheasaich e agus a chumas a chuimhne air mhaireann, "An Laoidheadair." Dh'eadar-theangaich is chlà-bhuail e leabhran laghach, "Comasan na h-Urnuigh." As déidh a bhàis chuireadh an clò leabhar grinn de na searmonan Gàidhlig aige, còmhla ri iomradh air a bheatha, fo'n ainm, "An Iuchair Oir." Mu thrì mìosan roimh a bhàs, anns an Ogmhios 1946, fhuaras aithisg gu robh Oilthaigh Dhun-éideann a' dol a thoirt urram D.D. dha, ach thàinig e gu ceann a réis beagan làithean roimh an àm a shònraicheadh an fhallainn a chur m'a ghuaillean. Duine urramach agus Gaidheal g'a chùl, agus, mar a sgrìobh mi uair roimhe mu neach-eigin eile, b'e dleasnas a cheann-iùil agus b'e a rùn a bhith dileas.

An t-Urr. T. M. MacCalmain

Ghabh an t-Urramach Tómas M. MacCalmain, M.A., a rugadh an Glaschu agus a dh'àraicheadh anns an Eilean Sgitheanach, thairis dreuchd Fir-dheasachaidh am mìos Lùnasdail 1946, agus tha sinn toilichte, taingeil gu bheil e leinn fhathast. Tha sinn gu mòr 'na chomain air son na dòigh chìataich anns a bheil e a' deasachadh ar leabhraim, mìos as deidh mìos; agus tha ar co-fhaireachdainn aige mar an ceudna. Chan 'eil ach leth an àireamh dhuilleag aige a bha acaas a chaidh roimhe, agus cha mhò a tha e a' faighinn a' chuideachaidh a bha iadsan a' faotainn, bho sgrìobhaichean mar a bha a' Bhean-usal Catriona Ghrann, Dòmhnall MacEacharna, Coinneach MacLeòid, agus oidhirpian litreachais Mhòdan bho churaidhean eile. Chan e "An Gaidheal" a mhàin a tha Mgr. MacCalmain a' deasachadh. Tha duilleagan Gàidhlig mìosachan Eaglais na h-Alba fo a chùram, agus mòran de dhleasanasan cudthromach eile. Dh'earb Comunn-Bhìobull Nàiseanta na h-Alba ris clò-bhualadh ùr de'n Bhìobull Ghàidhlig ullachadh, agus tha e an sàs anns an obair sin an ceartuair.

Bu mhath leam, anns a' cho-dhùnadh, iarraidh air luchd-sgrìobhaidh Gàidhliche an là an diugh, agus tha mòran duibh ann, iad a chuimhneachadh air "A' Gaidheal" agus air an duin'-usal a tha air a cheann. Tha esan coingheallach e fhéin, agus is làn-airidh e air cùl-taice.

Jubilee of "An Gaidheal"

1905-1955

THE first number of the official monthly magazine of An Comunn Gaidhealach was published in October, 1905. The name of the new magazine was "An Deò-Ghréine" the significance of which is thus explained in an editorial in the first number.

"Throughout the numerous folk ballads which have been collected in Scottish Gaeldom during the last century and a half, frequent references are made to the banner of Fionn, one of the principal heroes of those ballads. In general, although not always, the name given to Fionn's banner is 'An Deò-ghréine,' which, when rendered freely into English, is 'The Sunbeam.' The Comunn Gaidhealach have adopted that name for this their official organ. It is reminiscent of a glorious, though perhaps fanciful past, and is suggestive of the purpose of this organ's being, namely, to spread light on subjects of interest to the Gaelic people.

"To quote from the ballads referred to, 'Thog sinn an Deò-ghréine ri crann'—'We have raised the Sunbeam aloft.' And there it waves, inviting the friends of the Gaelic Language Cause to rally around it and carry it forward to success.

"We have no apology to offer for this attempt to establish a magazine to represent the Gaelic Cause in Scotland

Possibilities

"The language which we have in view to preserve and promote is one which, we believe, at one time possessed a comparatively high culture and which, although it has ceased to expand, by reason of its having failed to assimilate modern ideas, has not lost the capacity for expansion. Its possibilities in that respect are greater than those of some of the languages which have undergone regeneration. Whether or not the facts are so, it has still a service to render to humanity, and especially that section of humanity which has not ceased to speak it

"Altogether, there is, to say the least, nothing absolutely hopeless—as some think—in the cause we have taken in hand. The forces opposed to us are formidable, no doubt, but not such as to engender despair. It is the wavering hesitancy of the forces behind us which tends to lower hope and slacken zeal. It is the main purpose of 'An Deò-ghréine' to remove that hesitancy, and to imbue the movement, which The Comunn Gaidhealach is endeavouring to lead, with the rigidity it requires to enable it to work out success."

It was not without much hesitancy that An Comunn at last resolved to issue its own magazine. Before the magazine came into being, the practice was to publish the prize-winning literary efforts at the National Mod in the Highland newspapers and *The Celtic Monthly*. For example, in January 1904, there is this minute of the Executive Council.

"A report by the Consultative Committee, showing the allocation of prize papers at last Mod among the newspapers, etc., for publication, was submitted and considered satisfactory. The Secretary intimated that the allocation of these papers among newspapers never seems to give satisfaction to any of the newspapers concerned. It was decided that in future a list of prize papers should be made out by the Secretary, that offers for the right of the first publication should be invited from *The Oban Times*, *Highland News*, and *The Celtic Monthly*, and that the papers should be awarded to the highest offerers."

The desire to facilitate the publication of Mod prize papers was undoubtedly one of the reasons for founding the magazine, but the chief reason was the need to publicise the work of An Comunn and enlist support. The question of cost had, however, to be faced, and it is evident that very exhaustive enquiry was made before the final decision to proceed was taken.

The First Move

At a meeting of the Executive Council in the Christian Institute, Glasgow, on 16th January, 1904, on the motion of Dr. Kenneth Campbell, seconded by Mr. Drummond Norie, a committee was appointed "to consider the advisability of publishing a pamphlet in connection with the Association." The committee consisted of Malcolm MacFarlane, Mr. Mackillop, Mr. Drummond Norie, Dr. Campbell, and Henry Whyte.

At the next meeting, on 11th June, Mr. MacFarlane, "on behalf of the Committee appointed to consider the proposal to institute a Magazine in the interests of the Association"—which appears to refer to the aforementioned "Pamphlet Committee."—"submitted a detailed report containing the views of the various members on the subject. Mr. MacFarlane had prepared estimates and stated his opinion that the proposed Magazine could not be made a paying concern. Another member of the Committee suggested that a Publisher might be found to undertake half the risk, while a third member suggested that a Publisher might be asked to take up the undertaking at his own risk, finding the advertisements and the necessary material, with the exception of a few pages which should be devoted entirely to the interests of the Association. The Executive Council recommended that the Magazine should be proceeded with, and the Committee were thanked and continued with instructions to have a definite proposal to be laid before the Annual Business Meeting of the Association. It was also agreed that this Committee should take up the duties formerly entrusted to the Publication Committee. Mr. Archibald Menzies was elected a member of this Committee, and Mr. Malcolm MacFarlane was appointed Convener.

On 30th July, Mr. MacFarlane submitted an exhaustive report to the Executive Council. The feeling of the meeting was that the proposed Magazine should be a monthly one published at a penny. "The Committee were continued with instructions to have definite proposals and estimates for submission to the Annual Business Meeting."

Guarantee Fund

The Minute of the Annual Meeting, held in Greenock, makes no mention of the proposed magazine, but at the Executive Council on 29th October, Mr. MacFarlane submitted a report on the matter. The Publication Committee recommended that the project should proceed and also considered that "it would be necessary to raise a guarantee fund to meet any deficiency which might be expected for the first two or three years of publication," and recommended that the Finance Committee be asked to make an effort to raise the required guarantee. The Convener and Vice-Convener of the latter Committee, however, declined to do so. It was thereupon remitted to the Publication Committee to raise the proposed guarantee fund of £80.

In January it was reported that over £32 had been subscribed for the guarantee fund, which Mr. MacFarlane thought was very satisfactory as a beginning. By March £50 had been subscribed to the Magazine Fund and £27 guaranteed. Some of the subscribers regarded the price of the magazine as too low, and the opinion of future subscribers on this point was to be sought. "The Magazine being now practically assured, the Committee had remitted to a Committee of four to deal with the general scheme and other details."

At the Executive Council at Stirling on 10th June, 1905, the Publication Committee reported that £56 2s had been subscribed for the Magazine, and £33 10s had been guaranteed against loss, which sums exceeded the guarantee asked for (£80) by £9 12s. The Committee recommended that the Magazine be called *An Deo-Grèine*, and that it be issued monthly at 3d per copy of 16 pages including covers. That the work of preparing the first number be proceeded with; that the first issue be 3,000 copies to be used mainly for pushing the sales of future issues; that the offer of Eneas Mackay, Stirling, for printing and publishing be accepted, and that Malcolm MacFarlane be appointed Editor and Manager. All this the Council approved, and so the first number appeared in October, 1905, the chief features of which were an English article on "the inception and development" of An Comunn, the first instalment of Donald Mackenzie's "Am Fiaidh," and an article by Mrs. K. W. Grant on "Na Cunnartan A Tha Bagradh na Gàidhlig."

Photographs

The second number contained a number of photographic illustrations—that year's Mod Gold Medallists, Mr. Thomas Lawrie and Miss Jessie M. MacLennan; a full-page photo of the Countess of Cromartie (that year's President), members and officials of An Comunn and others present at Dingwall Mod 1905; a photo of the canvas pavilion specially erected to house the Mod concert; and the *cuach-bhrochain*, or porringer, presented to the Countess of Cromartie for her newly born son and heir, the inscription being, "Suas leis a' Ghàidhlig: sios leis a' bhrochan." There were also illustrations of the Gold Medals and of the Lovat and Tullibardine Trophy.

In April, 1906, it was reported to the Council that the magazine's finances were causing anxiety and it was decided to re-open the Magazine Fund. The Magazine was apparently discussed at the annual meeting at Oban in September, 1906, and in October the Executive Council debated the subject. One point of discussion was the name. A motion to change it name to "Alba" was defeated. It was finally resolved "that the magazine be proceeded with under the present name with the aspirate dropped, and that it be remitted to the Publication Committee to consider and to recommend to the Executive Committee a new name." The name thus became "An Deò-grèine," and the word "Sunbeam," which had also been used hitherto, was dropped from the title.

More was required, however, than the dropping of an aspirate to put the magazine's finances on a satisfactory basis. Few rendered greater service to the Gaelic Cause and to An Comunn than did Mr. Malcolm MacFarlane, but he was not an easy man to work with and some of his criticisms of fellow-workers in the movement were, not unjustly, resented. There were squabbles and differences of opinion and MacFarlane soon resigned, his last number being that for February, 1906.

Editors

Rev. Malcolm MacLennan, Edinburgh, became Gaelic Editor, and Rev. Donald MacGillivray, Petty, English Editor, and this arrangement continued

until October, 1908 when Mr. Duncan Reid became Editor. By this time the accumulated debt on the magazine had risen to £107, a very considerable sum in those days, especially in proportion to An Comunn's capital resources and income at that time.

Reid died in 1912, and was succeeded by Mr. Donald MacPhee, schoolmaster at Cumbernauld, and after Mr. MacPhee's death in 1922, Dr. Neil Ross became Editor as from the beginning of 1923. At the outset of Dr. Ross's editorship the name of the magazine was changed to "Gailig" and remained so for a few months, and then to "An Gaidheal," the name it still bears.

Dr. Neil Ross was succeeded in 1936 by the Rev. Malcolm Macleod, and on the death of the latter in 1946 the present Editor was appointed.

Of all the Gaelic or Gaelic-and-English periodicals—and there have been many in the past century and more—none has continued for so long a period as has this magazine. This is due, not to the support of the Gaelic public, but to the fact that all along An Comunn has subsidised the publication of the magazine. For many years until a few years ago the magazine was sent free and post free to every member of An Comunn. This practice continued even after the cost of producing the magazine was much greater than the ordinary membership fee.

In these fifty years the work of the best Gaelic writers, both in prose and verse, as well as much valuable material in English, bearing on the language, art, music, and history of the Gael, and also on current affairs, has been made available in these pages. All along there have been items of special interest to the younger Gaels, regular features for Comunn na h-Oigridh, and, since January, 1949, a four-page (now two-page) Youth Supplement, *An Gaidheal Og*.

In its early years this magazine had as its friendly rivals such excellent periodicals as *The Celtic Monthly*, *The Celtic Review*, and *Guth na Bliadhna*. During these past fifty years quite a number of Gaelic journals have been begun, but only to fade out quickly. Now we have a lively youngster alongside us in the field, by the name of *Gairm*, and the 90,000 Gaelic speakers in Scotland could surely, if they cared, give sufficient support to both to ensure their continuance for a long time to come.

At no time during its fifty years of existence has the magazine paid its way, and from time to time the question of its continuance has caused grave concern. Always, however, the conclusion has been that, despite the cost, to cease publication would be to pull down the flag.

Paper-rationing and soaring costs of paper and printing bore heavily on the magazine during the late War. From 16 pages with cover it was reduced gradually to six pages without cover. When rationing ended, although costs of production remained high, a determined effort was made between 1949 and 1951 to strengthen the position of *An Gaidheal*. It was enlarged to 16, and sometimes 20 pages, including a four-page Youth Supplement. It was given a coloured cover with photographs on the cover and inside, and the text was set in three narrow columns. The new format elicited appreciation in many quarters. The contributors included John N. Macleod, Hector Macdougall, I. M. Moffatt-Pender, J. L. Campbell, Dr. Evan M. Barron, Neil M. Gunn, Angus MacVicar, A. D. Mackie, and Francis Collinson. New advertising was secured and circulation increased, but not to the extent hoped for. The price had been raised from 2d to 6d, but the cost of production averaged 1/- per copy. The experiment was therefore abandoned, with great reluctance, and the magazine reverted to a more ordinary format and 12 pages with cover.

Na Faoileagan Seolta

Le IAIN S. MACNEACAIL, Bhancoubhar.

(IAIN A' CHAOIL)

BHO chionn a dhà no trì bliadhna air ais bha mi a' fuireach air fearann a tha agam air taobh tuath Eilean Mhór-roinn Columbia, agus tràth anns an Earrach chaidh mi fhéin is caraid air turas-iasgaich anns an sgoth aige troimh na h-amaraichean a tha eadar an t-Eilean agus a' Mhór-thìr.

Anmoch an dara oidhche chuir sinn ar lin agus, a' fàgail fear-faire air a' chlàr-uachdair, chaidh sinn sìos a ghabhail norradh-cadail. Ach cha b'fhada a mhair sin, oir glé mhoch dh'eubh fear orm a dhòl suas, air neo gum biodh na lìn air am bristeadh le cudthrom an sgadain. Dhùisg mi gu grad is chaidh mi suas agus cha b'ann roimh-an-mhithich a fhuair sinn na lìn a staigh.

Chaidh long seachad ré na h-oidhche is ghlaodh fear innte ris an fhear-fhaire gu robh an t-amar làn throsig is bhradan an déidh an sgadain agus, nan cuireadh sinn an driamlach a mach air an taobh chli, gheibheadh sinn am pailteas.

"Fuidh," arsa Uisdean; "chan 'eil mise a' cur a mach nan lìon-mhóra is gu leòir oibre againn mar a tha leis an sgadan."

An deidh beagan càraidh a dheanamh air na lìn, chaidh sinn air aghaidh gun an d'ràinig sinn rubha mór le eilean beag faisg air, air an robh taigh-soluis geal, àrd agus laimrig dhìon. Gu h-àrd an sin bha duine a' crathadh brataich gu dian, mar gum biodh e ann an teinn air chor-eigin. Air teannadh dlùth ris a' bhodach a bha ann, dh'fharraid sinn an robh dad a dhith air, agus fhreagair e gu robh e gann de uisge agus, nan toireadh sinn làn crogain da, gum biodh e glé thaingeil. Rud a rinn.

"Chuir sinn a mach am bàta an dé," arsa esan, "ach bha e cho stoirmeil is gun d'fhairtlich e oirnn a' Mhaol a ruigheadh."

Chuir sinn a mach an gebla againn, ma tà, le uisge fionnar air bòrd a fhuair sinn an là roimhe, agus bha iad glé thoilichte leis. Chaidh sinn suas le Mac-a-Phi, am bodach bruidhneach — bha am bodach eile bodhar — agus fhuair sinn cotrom air an taigh-sholuis fhacinn.

"A bheil sibh gann de lòn idir?" arsa mise ris.

"Is sinne nach 'eil," arsa Mac-a-Phi. "Tha an còrn-chlàr againn a ghnàth lan chanastairean agus, mar a chì sibh fhéin, bidh na bàtaichean a tha a' dol seachad a' toirt dhuinn na h-uimhir sgadain is nach aithne dhuinn gu dé a nì sinn leotha."

"Is dona," arsa MacAoidh, "sgadan a bhith agad gun deoch ri làimh."

"Bidh sinn," arsa Mac-a-Phi, "gan tilgeil do na faoileagan bho'n chlàr-uachdair seo sìos do na creagan. Là fuar sa' gheamhradh chunnaic mi té a bha gun chas, agus bha mi na bu bhàidheile rithe na bha mi ris an fheadhainn eile. Thigeadh iad le chéile anns a' mhadainn, agus gach là dheanainn dearbh-chinnteach gum faigheadh an té air leth-chois a cuid féin. An uair a thig doineann a' gheamhradh, tha an t-àm sin dorrbh air eòin na mara le a ghainne, bho nach 'eil na soithichean móra a leanas iad cho pailt, oir tha iad agaibhe air an taobh thall. Os bàrr air sin, bidh luasgan na tuinne a' cumail fodha nan cudaigean, agus mar sin bidh na h-eòin air an tolladh leis an acras ré na h-aimsir seo.

"Tha a h-uile nì air leth anns a' cheàrnaidh seo — an tìr, an aimsir, agus na h-eòin. Is ann anns na craobhan as àirde a bhios iad a' togail an nèadan an còmhnaidh, los gum faic iad na soithichean fada as. Anns an t-seann dùthaich, an uair a bha sinne 'nar balaich chas-ruisgte, is ann anns na h-eileanan beaga air feadh nan lochan a bhiodh sinn a ghnàth a' faighinn nan uibhean aca air an làr. An seo is fheudar dhaibh fuireach ri taobh na mara gu cumail beò fhad is a bhios na cladaichean blàth is taitneach, an àite sneachd agus fuachd nan sléibhteann àrda. Is tric nach fhaicear ach na giuthais do-àireamh o mhullach nam beann gum a' inhuir. Chì sibh cuideachd a' ruith a mach o abhainn Tuath an siud is an seo na h-easan a' dòrtadh uisge sìos do'n t-sàl."

Cha robh iongantais idir orm gun d'fhuair am bodach sunndach bacadh air ruigsinn tìre an dé, le faire is cladach cho buaireasach agus dian-ghaath a tuath ann. Cho fad is a chith-eadh stùil, cha robh geòdha, beàrn, taigh no neach air léirsinn air fad a' Mhaoil chruinn ghairbh ud.

"Bu ghnàth leinn," arsa am bodach, "a bhith a' faighinn an uisge o na neòil, ach theagamh," arsa esan le gàire, "gu robh sinn ag ithe cus sgadain."

"Ciamar," arsa mi fhéin, "a bhios sibh a' faighinn bhur cuid lòn?"

"Bidh an soitheach-furtachd a' tadhal oirnn aon uair sa' mhios le badhar is le litrichean," arsa esan, "ach air a' chuairt mu dheireadh thubhairt sinn gum faigheadh sinn fhéin an t-uisge."

"Aon là mu dhà mhios air ais, an déidh dhuinn an solus a chur as," arsa esan, "chunnaic mi gu robh trì faoileagan air leth-

chois a' feitheamh air son dìot bheag na maidne an measg chàich, agus shaoil mi gur e an t-iasg craosach a spion bhuapa an casan a chum is nach biodh iad aig làimh aig àm togail nan lion. Cha robh mòran bìdh agam, agus is e na faoileagan leòinte a fhuair a' chuid as motha de'n lòn an là sin, le càch cho feargach is gun tigeadh iad suas an aghaidh a' chlàir, a' deanamh sgrìachail chianail is ag èigheach gu bagarrach, agus mhothaich mi gur i a' Bheurla Shasannach a bha aca, an guth *Police*. Dh' eubh mi 'Siuthadh,' riutha, agus dhùin mi an uinneag, ach am màireach bha iad air ais na's lionmhoire, agus bha an t-àireamh bacach a' meudachadh gach là gus an do sheall mi a mach aon là fuar agus bhà na h-uile a' seasamh air leth-chois agus ag eigheach 'Biadh,' 'Biadh' !'

Is fhada o chuala mi, 'Air là nan trioblaid thig a' Ghàidhlig air ais', agus, mar a tha cùisean a' dol, chan fhada gus am bi sinne a' sealltainn suas a shìreadh mar a bha sinn a' leughadh anns a' Bhiobull mu dheighinn mana.

Air an taisdeal dhachaigh chuir sinn a mach na driamlàichean mòra le sgadan mar bhàthadh, agus cha b'fhada gus an robh sinn 'gan toirt a steach loma-làn *halibut*, seòrsa de bhradan-leathann.

Tha an t-iasg fìor phàilt anns a' mhuir seo, ged as i obair chunnartach a tha ann a bhith 'nad iasgair leis an iomadh sgeir bhàidhte a tha romhad, le làithean ceòmhron is air uairibh le ioma-ghaoith a thig ort fo sgàile nam beann àrda, coltach ri Beinn Thianabhaig faisg air Port-rìghtheadh anns an Eilean Sgitheanach. Tha mòran de an leithid sin timcheall *British Columbia*, agus is iomadh bàta a chaidh thairis leotha.

Co-dhiùbh, cha bheir am bàs air neach sam bith mur e toil an Tighearna sin a dheanamh, agus mar sin cha bu chòir dhuinn a bhith ro-chùramach no a bhith a' gearan.

A' fàgail ar beannachd leis an t-seann seòladair, Mac-a-Phi, thog sinn oirn dhachaigh, agus dh'fhàg sinn a' chomhairle seo aige: 'Na dean oidhirp air tìr-mór a ruigsinn gus am bi am muir socrach agus comas agad a dhol air tìr.'

Is e a bhriathran fhéin a dh'aithris mi fad an earrainn seo.

Skye in Autumn

Thou winged isle, grand Isle of Skye,
Of rowans, chestnuts, firs, and towers,
Of noble lochs and mountains high,
Of mighty chiefs and warring powers.

Land of romance and story,
Island of sunset glory!

The Cuillins black with craggy heights,
Strange Blaven and the Red Hills bare,
Where cloudy mist with sunshine fights,
On Sgur nan Gillean, Alasdair.

Grim Loch Coruisk, dark as of old,
In sun the sea-lochs glitter gold.

There wandered Charles, and Flora came
To guard him, loyal, true and kind,
That none might hear that royal name,
Nor cruel foe the Prince should find.

Land of romance and story,
Loyalty its steadfast glory!

Proud on its rock Dunvegan stands
And guards its precious treasures rare:
Its fairy flag, its horn, its lands,
Its gallant Dame, so brave and fair.

Towers high Duntuilm's gaunt, ruined keep,
Nearby a thousand warriors Sleep.

The rowan-berries brilliant red,
The quivering birch-leaves now are gold,
The larch-tree waves its feathery head,
Down winged Skye the mists have rolled.

Farewell, romance and story,
Island of sunset glory!

M. E. MACDONALD CLARK.

Marbhrann

Marbhrann do Chailean Caimbeul, Tighearna Ghlinne-fallach a chaochail a bheatha anns a' bhliadhna 1806.

- 'S e an sgeula seo fhuair mi
Chuir an cruadal air m' aigne,
Dh'fhàg m' inntinn fo smuaircan
(Deur gu buan) air mo rosgaibh;
Gleanna-fallach an t-àrmunn,
An t-usal àlainn deas tlachdmhor,
Tha e nis air a chàradh
An leaba shàmhach an tasgaidh.
- 'S e do chadal gu sìorruidh
Dh'fhàg na ciadan fo smalan;
'S e chuir gruaim air do chàirdean
A bhith 'gad chàradh 's an anart,
Ann an léine chaol fhuar
'S i gun fhuaiagheal air a bannaibh,
An ciste chumhainn chaol chlàraidh
Is na tàirnean 'ga ceangal.
- Nam b' e fòirneart luchd-miourin,
A chuir a dhìth oirn thu, Chailein,
Càit a bheil ann an rìoghachd
Fear bu lionmhoire caraid?
Dh'èireadh Iarla Bhragh-Albann,
Bu dìleas dearbht' bhur da sheanair;
Locha Dochart 's Gleann Lìobhann,
'S leat cinnteach Mac Caillein.

4. Bu tu sealgair na sìdhne
 Dol a dhìreadh nan àrd-bheann
 Leis a' ghunna nach diùltadh
 Rì ùdlaiche làn-dhaimh,
 Nuair a loisgeadh tu 'm fùdar
 Bu bhrùite leis àirnean,
 'S bìdh do ghillean gu sunndach
 'Gan giùlan a fàsach.
5. Tha do thuath-cheatharna an tràth seo
 Mar uan gun mhàthair as t-earrach;
 Nuair a bha thu 'd cheann-ihùil daibh,
 Bu bheag an cùram roimh ainnis.
 Chaill iad caraid 's a' chùirt
 A thagradh cùis mar bu mhath leo;
 Nis ged nithear orr' eucoir
 Chan 'eil feum dhaibh a leanailt.
6. Ach 's aobhar misneach do d' chàirdean
 Is do () air fad e,
 Gu bheil Uilleam a làthair,
 T'òighre gràdhach 's do mhac e.
 Guidheam deas-làmh an Ard-riogh
 Gu d'chur sàbhailte dachaigh
 Gu t'ionad 's gu t'aros—
 Taigh bàn Stùchd a' chaibeil.

The manuscript, which is in places difficult to decipher, has a note appended as follows:—

Capt. Campbell, Sir,

Nearly for my own private amusement I compose some Gaelic poems among which I made an eulogium of the ever lamented Colin Campbell, Esq., Glenfallach, and having wrote a copy of it () to transmit the same to you. I beg to be excused for taking the liberty.

I have the honour, Sir, to be your most obt. and most Humble Servt.

JAS. ANDERSON, Private Grs.

Weeley Barracks, 2d. 79 Regiment.
 Apl. 16, 1807.

We are indebted to Mr. Alex. D. Macdonald, Carinish, North Uist, and late of the Glasgow City Police, for permission to use the above and for information about it. Mr. Macdonald received the MS. from Mrs. Christina Brown, Australia, who is sixth in descent from Angus Og, brother of the Gaelic bard, "Alasdair MacMhaighistir Alasdair." Mrs. Brown's grandmother, Reginalda Macdonald, with her husband, Neil Rankine, and family emigrated to Australia in 1848, and before emigrating, she was given this MS. by her aunt Jessie's husband, Major Campbell of the Dochart family (related to the Glenfalloch family), who had the Change-house at Arisaig. Reginalda's mother Flora (who was married to Captain Ranald Macdonald of the Gordon

Highlanders, who fought at Waterloo and had a fort named after him, "Fort Macdonald") and Jessie (wife of Major Campbell) were daughters of Alexander Macdonald, Fourth of Dalilea (see Clan Donald, III, p. 285). We have no information about the subject or author of the elegy.—EDITOR.

John Macdonald, Footman

IN the course of our time we have read many books in various branches of literature; indeed, we can claim to have read nearly all the classics of English literature. Some of them we have enjoyed, while in others we could never find any interest. Curiously enough, one of the best written books we ever read, and one we thoroughly enjoyed, was written by an obscure individual named John MacDonald, a footman.

MacDonald has told us of his life up to the age of forty in a volume of "Travels" published in 1790. Though he calls his book "Travels," it might be more aptly named "Memoirs," as it contains much that is at once interesting and unique concerning many of the notables of his time with whom he came into contact in the humble position of footman, or valet as we should call him now. He did a vast amount of travelling in Scotland, England, Ireland, France, Spain, Germany, and the Netherlands. He also voyaged to India and there remained four years. During all these journeys he kept a journal in which he jotted down his observations on men and things. This journal he had printed, and it was ushered into the world of literature under the editorship of James MacPherson of "Ossian" fame, who wrote the preface and did little more than make the text intelligible where it tended to be obscure. At the time of the book's appearance the rumblings of the French Revolution began to trouble the polite world, and Society was not in a mood to encourage memoirs by footmen; hence the volume did not find a ready sale, and little was heard of it, and today it is almost unknown, which is a pity.

In many places the book rises into poetry. His story of the trudge to Edinburgh reads like a piece of epic poetry. His description of the shepherd boys playing on the flute round Aix-la-Chappelle, as he and his master journeyed on into the evening, is a beautiful piece of writing. It is pure poetry. The Indian woman by the well, the procession of the Passion in the streets of Cadiz, his visit to Joanna Island, are all beautiful pen-pictures. Indeed, there is not one dull page in the whole book. We are

carried along from start to finish by its variety, interest, and description. All the various incidents are told in simple but expressive language. In fact, it is a remarkable book.

To students of English literature the most interesting passage in MacDonald's book is his description of the passing of Sterne, the humorist, author of *Tristan Shandy* and *Sermons by Yorick*. By a chance circumstance MacDonald was the only person present when Sterne breathed his last. "I went into the room, and he was just a-dying. I waited ten minutes, but in five he said: 'Now it is come.' He put up his hand as if to stop a blow, and died in a minute."

In 1774 MacDonald was footman to James MacPherson of "Ossian" fame. Strange to say, no reference to Ossian is made in the book. Afterwards he was footman to James Coutts, the famous banker. At different periods he was footman to, among many others, Mr. Ferguson, brother to Sir Adam Ferguson; Mr. Campbell, brother to Mr. Campbell of Shawfield; and the Earl of Crawford. In all, he was footman to twenty-nine notable personages in their day.

We know no more of MacDonald than what he tells us himself. He was born in 1741 in Glen Urquhart, on Lochness-side. His father was a cadet of the house of Keppoch. He was a grazier and rented a thousand acres from the laird of Grant. On the outbreak of the "45" he joined Prince Charles and remained with the Jacobite forces until he fell at the battle of Culloden. He was a captain in the MacDonald regiment. When he joined the Jacobites the ages of his family were Kitty, 14; Duncan, 10; Daniel, 7½; John, 4½; and Alexander, 2½ years. About the middle of September, 1745, Kitty and her three brothers set out to walk to Edinburgh, all the money in their possession being twenty-three shillings and fourpence in English money. They arrived in the capital two months later after many adventures.

For a time after their arrival John and his brothers begged their bread on the streets. This being against the regulations, they were taken up by the City Guard and put in the guard-house, where they were kept for three nights and two days, "living well, by the side of a good fire, with three rolls and three pints of beer a day."

MacDonald, during his travels in Spain, met a girl named Malilia, whom he married. She was the daughter of an inn-keeper in Toledo, and, after he returned to London with his master, he squared up his affairs and set out for Toledo, where he duly arrived. "Next day I went to Mr. Logaro, at the Hotel de Naples,

and there I was employed to my satisfaction: so now I end the history of my travels." We know no more of MacDonald.

He earned fame in one way as the first to use on the streets of London an umbrella to ward off the rain. Like all pioneers he was subjected to much abuse, and even violence, by the crowds for his innovation, but he persevered and before long saw the use of the umbrella become universal.

J. E. S.

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Leabhar VII

AN DAMHAR, 1955

Aireamh 10

Oidheche Air Cheilidh

C O de eileanaich an là an diugh a theireadh o lochdar an cridhe gum b'fhearr leo oidheche air cheilidh anns a' bhaile aca fhéin na gach cuirm-chiùil anns na bailtean móra? Tha iad ann gun teagamh, ach cho ainneamh cha mhór ri rionnag anns an oidheche fhrasaich.

Is fhada o chuala sinn am facal, "A' cheud sgeul aig fear an taighe agus sgeul gu latha air an aoi," ach chan ann mar sin a tha an diugh. Bha uair-eigin a chiteadh taigh-dubh làn bhodach, ceò an tombaca cho tiugh is nach mór nach gearradh sibh i le sgèithinn, fàileadh deathach na mòna cho cùbhraidh a' snàmh mun cuairt mar gum biodh i a' deanamh fanaid air a' ghaillinn a bha a muigh. Ach dh'fhalbh an là sin. Cha chuala mo linn-sa a leithid de bhruidhinn mu thaibhsean riamh is a bha ann ri linn mo sheanar.

Co-dhiùbh, is an a bha mi a' dol a dh'innse dhuibh mu cheilidh an là an diugh. Bha mi fhéin is mo sheanair 'nar suidhe mu'n teine, is mo sheanamhair a' deanamh "balgam neartachaidh" mar a bha aice fhéin air an tea. Chuala sinn srucadh nan cas anns an dorus. "Thig a steach, thig a steach, a bhal-aich," arsa mo sheanamhair. "B'e am balach e!" smuainich mi fhéin, oir có a bha seo ach Ragnhall agus e còrr is trì fichead bliadhna a dh'aois!

"Suidh a steach ris an teine is i fuar," ghlaodh mo sheanair. Rinn Ragnhall sin, agus ann an uair glé ghoirid cha robh cuimhne air an tea.

"A bheil cuimhne agad, Iain, air an là a bha mi fhéin is tu fhéin ag iasgach còmhla ris an Lord air Loch na Morchadh?"

Bha iad air tòiseachadh. Cha robh stad orra.

"Siod sìos a thug e air a dhruim air ùrlar na geòla," arsa Ragnhall, ag innse na h-eachdraidh, agus is ann da fhéin a thigeadh.

Thàinig stàplaich eile do'n dorus. Nochd Aonghas a steach—duine mear, toilichte 'na intinn.

"Iain, a dhuine, nach toir thu dhuin port air an fheadan?" arsa Aonghas, oir bha meas mór aige air ceòl. Thàinig am feadan am follais.

"Sin thu fhéin, Iain," arsa Aonghas; "cluichibh *Stumpy*."

"Gabh fhéin cuairt air, a nis," arsa mo sheanair. Bha iad ag obair air an rud éigieach seo air son ùine àraid. Bha a nis ceò an tombaca dhuibh a' dol am mìosad gus mu dheireadh am b' fheadar dhomh a dh'ol a mach air son fàileadh gaoithe fhaighinn. Thàinig an tea mu dheireadh agus chaidh a cur mun cuairt. Bha Aonghas a nis ag innse mu dheighinn an uair a bha e ag iasgach nam breac ann am Peairt. Thug iad an uair sin sgrìob chun an ama an uair a bha iad anns a' "mhilisidh." As a sin thòisich mo sheanair air innse sgeòil dhaibh air an oidheche a dh'fhàg e Rosyth air son a' Chuain a Tuath. Bha e am meadhan seo an uair a ghairm an coileach.

"Bàs am bad air chor-eigin," arsa mo sheanamhair is i a' coimhead air an uair. Thug seo sinn gu na fuathan. Bha Coinneach Odhar is sean-seanamhair mo sheanair air an ainneachadh gu tric oir bha na bustrichean aice!

Bha m'fheòil air chrith air mo chnàmhan mun robh iad ullamh! Mu aon uair deug dh'èirich iad gu falbh. Bha mo shùilean goirt leis a' chadal. Bhòidich mi nach bithinn a staigh an ath uair a thigeadh céileadairean, ach is iomadhadh oidheche o'n dh'fhàg mi an taigh a mhiannaich mi a bhith air ais cuide ri luchd na céilidh.

*Doileag NicCoinnich
(Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir-Nis).*

Soluis-Mhanaidh

THA mi a' creidsinn gun abair gu leòir agaibh an uair a chì sibh seo, "Nach b'i an ònseach i a' creidsinn ann an taibhsean!" Chan 'eil mi a' creidsinn ann am bodaich no an cailleachan aognaidh geala a bhios a' falbh air feadh an àite anns an dorchdach, ach is iomadhadh uair a chunnaic mi soluis-mhanaidh. Tha iomadach taigh anns na Hearradh air a bheil daoine a' faicinn mhanadh—gu h-àraid dà thaigh far a bheil manaidhean air am faicinn o linn mo shinnseanar.

Tha fear de na taighean faisg air a' bhaile agam fhéin—taigh Chaluim Sheumais. A' cheud oidhche a chunnaic mise an solus seo, bha grunnan againn 'nar seasamh mu cheithir mìle o'n taigh. Bha Cairistiona, nighean Chaluim Sheumais, cuide ruinn.

"Seall," arsa mise ri Cairistiona, "an solus aig an taigh agaibh."

Chòimhead ise, ach, ged bhiodh i ag amharc gus an là an diugh, cha deanadh i a mach an solus, ged bha a h-uile duine eile 'ga fhaicinn. Cha robh ri fhaicinn an toiseach ach bìugan beag soluis. Bha am bìugan a' fàs na bu motha agus na bu mhotha gus mu dheireadh an do spreadh e 'na shradagan anns na neòil. Aig uair eile, an uair a bhios e 'na bhall cruinn teine, is ann a thuiteas e sìos do'n chladach. Chan 'eil fios aig duine gu dé as ciall do'n t-solus seo, ach tha mi a' creidsinn nach 'eil duine anns an àite nach fhaca e.

Tha taigh eile faisg air an Tairbearr far a bheilear a' faicinn solus-manaidh. B' àbhaist do sgoilearan a bhith a' fuireach anns an taigh seo, agus bhiodh iadsan ag innse dhuinn gum biodh solus mar dhealan-dé a' tighinn a steach do'n t-seòmar air feadh na h-oidhche agus a' falbh air feadh a' bhalla. Aig amannan bhiodh daoine a' faicinn an t-soluis air taobh a muigh an taighe, agus bhiodh esan cuideachd a' tuiteam sìos leis a' bhearradh do'n chladach.

Tha iomadach taigh eile anns na Hearadh far a bheil na soluis-mhanaidh seo air am faicinn, ach is iad sin na dhà as ainmeile.

Cairistiona NicAoidh
(Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir-Nis).

Bha E Beo Ro-fhada

BHA siud uair ann roimhid duine a bha a' fuireach ann am Brèibhig, agus bha iad a' faighinn bocsaichean ime air a' chladach, agus dh'éirich esan an là a bha seo cho tràth agus chaidh e mun cuairt a' chladaich agus fhuair e bocsa ime, agus thachair e ri sidheanach agus rug e air agus bha na fìaclan a bha air uimhir ri cabar féidh, agus thòisich e ri a sgailgeadh ris na creagan.

Bha e a' deanamh air an taigh an uair a chunnaic e an uamha seo fosgailte roimhe, agus chunnaic e duine beag 'na shuidhe 'na theis-mheadhon, agus dh'èubh e a staigh air.

Bha iad a' còmrhadh ri chèile ùine mhór, agus thuir an duine gu robh an t-àm aige falbh, agus dh'fhaighnich an sidheanach dha an robh fios aige dé an ùine a bha e an seo.

"Tha mu thrì uairean ann," arsa an duine. Ach thuir esan, "Tha naoi linntean air tighinn air an t-saoghal o thàinig thu an seo."

Dh'fhalbh an duine is bha e a' coimhead

feuch am faicadh e an taigh anns an robh e a' fuireach, ach chan fhaca e ach làrach an taighe. Bha e a' siubhal agus thachair e air an duine a bha seo.

"An cuala tusa mu'n duine a chaidh mun cuairt a' chladaich?" arsa esan.

"Chuala mo sheanair aig mo shinn-seanair is chuala mise aig mo sheanair," arsa an duine.

Thuir e gum b' fhéarr a dhòl a dh'ionnsaigh an t-sagairt agus innse mu dheighinn an rud a thachair dha. Agus dh'innis e do'n t-sagart mar a thachair dha.

Thuir an sagart ris gu robh e na b' fhaide air an t-saoghal na bu chòir dha a bhith. Chaidh an sagart a mach do'n eaglais còmhla ris, agus thuir an sagart ùrnuigh, is thuir an duine air beulaibh na h-altarach marbh.

Niall MacGilleathain
(Sgoil Bhrèibhig am Barraidh).

An Airigh

Port a bh'agam fhìn,
Port a bh'aig mo sheanair,
Port a bh'aig mo sheanmhair
Nuair a dh'fhalbh mo sheanair.

Thall air a' chul-cinn
Tha'n crodh-laoigh 's na h-aighean,
Théid sinn thun na h-àirigh
Leo mu Là Féill Sheathain.

Port a bh'agam fhìn, &c.

Shuas air liana luim
Bothan cruinn de sgrathan,
Ann an sùil na grèin'
Bho h-èirigh gu a laighe.

Port a bh'agam fhìn, &c.

Ged a bhios sinn sgìth
Suaimhneach bidh ar cadal,
Ann ar cluais bhidh tàladh
Torman tlàth nam bras-allt.

Port a bh'agam fhìn, &c.

Bidh ar dùsgadh binn,
Moch ged bhios a' mhadainn;
Cha bhi feum air uair,
'S eòin nan cluain 'ga sanais.
Port a bh'agam fhìn, &c.

Rogha teachd-an-tìr
Toradh frith is abhainn,
Bainne blàth is uachdar,
'S mil nam bruch na's math leinn.
Port a bh'agam fhìn, &c.

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AN GAIDHEAL

THE GAEL

Vol. L

NOVEMBER, 1955

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No. 11

A' Ghàidhlig, thog i ceann a suas.
 Is dh' fhàs i buadhail anns an tìr;
 Tha sròl ri crann 's cha tig e nuas,
 Gu mair a suaicheantas gu sior,
 Gach eilean 's innis sa' Chuan Shiar,
 Gach baile 's clachan air tìr-mòr,
 Tha 'n teachdaireachd a' dol air sgiath
 Iad chur an iarmad chun a' Mhòid.

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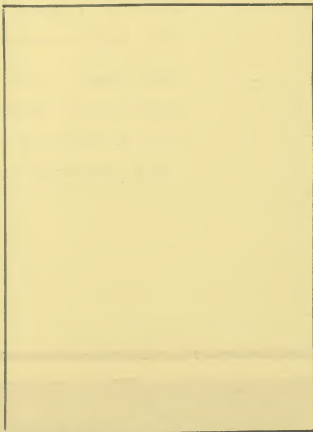
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AN GAIDHEAL

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THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF
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Editor

REV. T. M. MURCHISON, M.A.

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CLAR-INNSIDH

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AN T-SAMHUINN, 1955

Aireamh '11

Oraid A' Chinn-Suidhe

(Aig fosgladh a' Mhòid Nàiseanta an Obar-dheadhain air an t-siathamh là fichead de'n t-Sultuin, 1955).

A Phrìomh-Fhear a' Bhaile, Bhur Mòrachd, a Mhnathan 's a Dhaoimaisle. Nach ann ormsa a thàinig an dà latha! Mi bhith 'na mo sheasamh an seo anns an inbhe àird anns an do chuir sibh mi! Tha mi gu mòr ann bhur comain air son an àrd urram a bhuilich sibh orm agus, ma gheibhear mi easbhaidheach ann an cuid de nìthean, mo làmh dhuibhse nach fhaighear mi easbhaidheach ann a bhith a' seasamh còirichean a' Chomuinn agus na tha e a' riochdachadh as leth ar cànan is ar dualchais.

Tha mi a' dol a labhairt ribh mar labhair mi as leth a' Chomuinn aig na ceudan coinneamh, agus a' dol a chomharrachadh a mach dhuibh dleasan a tha an earbsa ri buill a' Chomuinn a thoirt gu buil.

Mar tha fios agaibh, chaidh An Comunn a stéidheachadh a sheasamh còirichean na Gàidhliche, a mnisneachadh agus a bhrosnachadh na muinntir sin d'an dual-chainnt i, iad a bhith dìleas, treibhdhireach air a cùl. Is cànan aosmhor a' Ghàidhlig, agus innte tha suainte eachdraidh, gnàthasan, is modhannan nan daoine bho'n tàinig sinn. Theagamh nach misd sibh beagan de a h-eachdraidh a chluinntinn.

Chan 'il ach ochd bliadhna goirid air mìle agus ceithir cheud bliadhna bho thòisich Calum-Cille air searmonachadh an t-Soisgeil

ann an Gàidhlig an Eilean I, agus cha ghabh e àicheadh nach robh i air bilean an t-sluaigh linn-tean roimhe sin.

B'i a' Ghàidhlig a' chainnt choitcheann an Alba bho'n uair sin gus an aona linn deug. Is i a bha air a cleachdadh an Cùirt nan Rìghrean gus an do phòs Calum a' Chinn Mhóir a' Bhan-Phrionnsa Mairearad á Sasann. B'i a' ghaoth an ear chranndaidh, ghrànda a chuir i fhéin is a bràthair air fuadach air a' chladach leis. B'e sin latha na duanaich do'n Ghàidhlig an latha a phòs i Calum! Rinn i mar a mnathan pòsda am bitheantas; chuir i an luchairt foidhpe féin agus chuir i, le a Beurla, a' Ghàidhlig a mach air an doras!

Cha b'fhéarrde gnothaichean do thaobh na Gàidhliche gun do rinn a' Cùirt imrich blo Sgàin gu Dùnfarrales. Theagamh gur ann an uair sin a thug Clag Sgàin a' chomhairle-- "an rud nach buin ùit na buin da."

Tha e air a ràdh, an là air an do chrùnadh Calum a' Chinn Mhóir mar Rìgh, gun d'aithris seanachaidh a shloinntireachd a réir nòs an ama, agus sin ann an Gàidhlig.

Ach, a dh'aindeoin na thachair an Cùirt an Rìgh, b'i a' Ghàidhlig a chleachd na Cinn-chinnidh anns na h-eileanan agus, los gum b'urrainn dha bruidheann ri uachdarain agus iochdarain nan ceàrnan sin 'nan cànan féin, dh'ionnsaich Rìgh Seumas a Ceithir a' Ghàidh-

lig, agus tha e an sgrìobhadh gu robh e coimhlionta 'na labhairt. Is esan am fear mu dheireadh de na Rìghrean, a rèir coltais, as urrainnear a ràdh uime gum bruidhneadh e a' Ghàidhlig.

A thaobh teagaisg, cha d'fhuair a' Ghàidhlig cothrom na Fèinne gus ar latha féin. Mu mhèadhon na seachdhan linne deug rinneadh ullachadh air modh teagaisg, de sheòrsa, Beurla a sparradh air a' chloinn, a dheòin no a dh'aindeoin. Aig deireadh na linne sin shuidhicheadh sgoiltean anns gach sgìre, no, co-dhiùbh, dh'fheuchadh ris.

Rinneadh oidhirpean gu mòr na b'fheàrr anns an ochdamh linn deug. Ghabh daoine fùghail os laimh eadar-theangachadh gu Gàidhlig a dheanadh air an Tiomnadh Nuadh. Cha deach am Biobull gu h-ìomlan a chlàbhualachd an Gàidhlig gu dara bliadhna na naothamh linne deug. Rinneadh, anns an dà linn sin, obair ionmholta agus chliùiteach leis a' Chomunn a chaidh fo'n ainm, "Comunn a dh'adhartachadh Eòlas Crìosdaidh," no, mar as feàrr a tha e aithnichte bho gheàrlitrichean na Beurla, "S.P.C.K." B'ann fo laimh a' Chomuinn seo a chaidh an Tiomnadh Nuadh agus am Biobull a chlàbhualachd. Chuireadh Comunn Sgoil Gàidhlig air bonn an Dun-èideann aig toiseach na naothamh linne deug, agus rinneadh obair mhaith leòsan a bha air a cheann. Chuireadh meur de'n Chomuinn seo air bonn an Glaschu. Bho'n àm sin chaidh mòran leabhraichean Gàidhlig a chlàbhualachd, Laoidhean Spioradail, Bàrdachd agus Rosg. Cha b'fheàrr a' Ghàidhlig an t-Achd Ur Fòghluim a thàinig a mach bho cheann ceithir fichead bliadhna—Achd an trì fichead 's a dhà-dheug, mar theirear rithe. Tha atharrachadh sgeòil air cor na Gàidhlig an diugh, mar chluinneas sibh bhuan anns a' chànan eile, ach is e glaoth an luchd-riaghlaidh is an luchd-teagaisg, "O, nan gabhadh na pàrantan ùidh anns a' chànan agus meas airidh a chur oirre!"

Chan 'eil an sin ach fìor gheàrr iomradh air eachdraidh ar cànan, ach tha dòchas agam gun do leig e ris dhuibhs a tha 'ga mo thuigsinn na h-eu-cothroman a fhuair a' Ghàidhlig troimh na linn-tean. Nach e an t-iongnadh e gun do mhair i beò idir? Agus có a tha ri mholadh air a shon sin? Tha na seanachaidhean, na bàird, agus na laoch a chuir gu dùbhlán a h-eascairdean, agus d'am b'fhacail-faire, "Cuimhnich na daoine bho'n tàinig thu," agus "Lean gu dlùth ri cliù do shìmsre." Tha ar n-àireamh air tuiteam gu ceud mìle, ach nam biodh an t-sradag a bu lugha de dh'eud annain, boinne beag de fhior fhuilt a' Ghàidheil 'nar cuislean, cha leigeamaid leis an àireamh tuiteam na's ìsle na tha e. Deanamaid feum

de na cothroman a tha againn, cothroman air son an do shaothraich iadsar a chaidh romhainn anns a' Chomuinn. Chan urrainn duinn a' chòire a chur air an riaghaltas. Tha an cnap-starradh as déine an aghaidh na Gàidhlig ri fhaighinn aig ar stairnich féin. Is cruaidh na faicil sin, ach is cruaidhe gu mòr an càs anns a bheil ar cànan.

Thug mi iomradh, an àm tòiseachd, gu robh dleasan an earbsa ri buill a' Chomuinn. Seo agaibh a' cheud ann agus, ma bhèicear gu buil i anns gach teaghlach, cha bhì a' ghairm seo gun éifeachd. Tha mi a' labhairt gu h-àraidh riùsan, fa leth, a tha air am beannachadh le teaghlach òg, mic agus nigheanan. An àm an altruim, is iad 'nan laighe ann bhur sgùirde, no ann bhur n-uchd, an do thàlaidh sibh iad gu cadal sàmhach le crònan Gàidhlig? An uair a bha bhur cridhe a' taomadh thairis le gràdh agus taingealachd, an d'fhairich sibh co-chòrdadh eadar bhur n-aighe agus briathran sìmplidh a' chrònan Gàidhlig, a bha mar laoidh bheannachaidh. Tha fios gu d'fhairich, ach is i a' cheist chudthromach an do leau sibh air bruidhinn riù ha ann an Gàidhlig an uair a ghabh iad an casan agus a bha iad a' leumart-ach air feadh an taighe? Is e an t-ionnsachadh òg an t-ionnsachadh bòidheach. Cha bhreugaichear an sean-fhacal, agus is e sin an t-àm taitneach, an t-àm anns an gabh a' Ghàidhlig freunh. Is e cuimhne chaidreabhach na h-òige a mhaireas. No an do dhì-chuimhnich sibh na tàlaidhean a thug sòlas do bhur cridheachan? Ma dhì-chuimhnich, rinn sibh dearmad air bhur dleasna do thaobh na Gàidhlig.

An uair a chaidh mise do Mhuile a thabhairt seachad duaisean airgid bho'n uasal, Niall Camshron, do phàrantan aig an robh clann òg a bhruidhneadh Gàidhlig, dh'earalaich e orm mi a cheasnachadh na cloinne n' an coimhlionantachd an Gàidhlig 'nan taighean féin is an làthair am pàrantan. Is e duine glic agus fad-sheallach a tha 'nar caraid. Cia meud ceann teaghlach 'nam éisdeachd an nochd a dhleasadh duais mar dhleas iomadh pàranta ann am Muile?

An dara dleasna a dh'iarraamaid oirbh, sibh a' sparradh air an òigridh a tha fo bhur cìram iad a chleachdadh labhairt anns a' chànan aig gach uair agus cothrom. Aon dòigh air a gleidheadh gun mhergeadh, a bhith ag aithris bàrdachd, no eadhon a' seinn òrain. Cha tug a' Ghàidhlig rudhadh gruaidhe do'n fhìor Ghàidheil riamh, ach, ma tha iad ann leis am bu mhaith a h-aicheadh, cùl ar làimhe riuthasan. Is luchd-brathaidh iad!

An treas dleasna, bruidhnibh a' Ghàidheil ri càch a chèile agus leigibh ris do na dh'fhaodas a bhith anns an éisdeachd gu bheil sibh uasal

as bhur cainnt mhàthaireil agus nach 'eil nàire oirbh a labhairt gu follaiseach. Chan ann aig Mòdan a mhàin a tha sinn ag iarraidh oirbh seo a dheanamh.

Tha sinn air ar meas mar shluagh modhail, gu bheil sin nàdurach dhuinn, ach tha cus modha a' cur as do'n Ghàidhlig. Bitheamaid uasal, modhail ris a' choigreach, agus tha sin gu math 'na àite féin. Thubhairt fear roimhe, Coinneach MacLeòid is dòcha, gum faodamaid gabhail gu bàidheil ris a' choigreach agus pailteas aoigheachd a nochdadh dha gun an taigh a' sparradh air 'na shaor thiodhlac.

Tha am Mòd a nis anns an fhuil againn, agus nach beag an t-iongnadh is sinn air tàs suas

leis. Co-dhiùbh, is ann mar sin a tha mise a' faireachdainn, agus, ann a bhith a' guidhe làithean sona dhuibh aig a' Mhòd, co-dhùnaidh mi le a bhith ag aithris dà rann de'n bhàrdachd leis an do choisinn mi an duais aig a' Mhòd dà fhichead bliadhna is a dhà air ais.

O, cha tig Mòd ach mi bhith beò,
Nach dean mi seòl air a bhith ann,
'S an cluinn mi 'n fhuaim a chual mi òg
'S bu tric thug sòlas dhomh sa' ghleann.

A Ghàidhlig chaomh, a Ghàidhlig bhlàth,
'S ait leam an là 's a bheil mi beò,
'Gad fhaicinn tighinn air ais gu t'ait,
'S An Comunn Gàidhealach dol am mòid.

An Dealbh

Le IAIN MOIREASTAN, Uibhist a Tuath.

(Choisinn a' bhàrdachd seo Crùn na Bàrdachd aig Mòd Nàiseanta 1955)

THA Tim 's i air stad dhomh,
Is mo smuain dol air ais troimh gach
bliadhn',

Gu lagan beag glas-ghorm
Far an d'fhuair mi 'n dealbh-cairte bu
bhriagh';

Thu 'nad sheasamh gu mùirneach,
Do làmh an àrd eadar sùil agus grian,
Is do chuailean gaoth-sgaoilteach,
'S gàire dùsgadh 'nad aodann gun srian.

Bha t'aghaidh làn sòlais,
Bha éibhneas beatha as beòthail 'nad ghnùis;
Bha do bhith 'na h-àird bhòidhchead,
Bha grian t'òige a' teòghadh mì-rùn;
Thu ri pàisd-chluich mu'n bhruthach,
Gàir an t-sruthain a' sruthadh gun diù,
Togail tallaichean gaineanb—
Mo chreach, mhair iad na b'fhaide na thu.

Ach stad, a dh'aindeoin gach gàire,
Tha rud-eigin àraidh toirt buaidh;
Oir leamsa gu faic mi
Nì eile air a ghlasadh ann suas;
Tha sgàil dubhach 'nad shùil-sa,
Sealladh fada tha 'g ùrachadh smuain;
Tha air cùlaibh a' chùirtein
Nìthean diomhair tha dùsgadh dhuit gruaim.

Is beag a shaoil mi san là sin
Gum biodh a' choinneal 'ga smàladh cho
luath,
Gu robh 'n Cuan-réis a' tràghadh,
Is cas-sruth làidir 'gad thàrradh-sa bhuam;
Thill an lionadh 's cha tàinig,
Ach builgean diombuain air bhàrr-gheal nan
stuagh,
Chuir oiteag gaoithe gu sgàineadh,
Gu sgaoileadh thairis air tràighean is
bhruaich.

Mhùchadh glòir-nhais' na gréin' dhomh,
Is chuireadh boillsgeadh nan reultan fo
sgàil;

Dh'fhalbh a' chraobh anns na freumhan,
Thuit a h-ùr-mheas le bréineid gu làr;
Chaill mi thusa, mo cheud-ghin,
Chaill mi m'urras is m'èibhneas 's mo chàil;
Rinn gach sochair mo thréigsinn,
Theirig sìochantachd Céiteim mo là.

O Bhàis, 's tu tha fiadhaich,
'S e do làmh nì an riabhadh 's an leòn;
Gràdh cha b'e bhiodh tu riaghladh,
Is e bu chompanach riamh dhuit am bròn;
Bu tu fear millidh is spùillidh,
'S tu spionas an ùr-nhais' o'n òig';
'S fear gun iochd is gun diù thu,
Fear neo-thlachdmhor, neo-chlùiteach, neo-
chòir.

Is tu fear-bristidh a' phòsaidh,
Nì thu dilleachdan òg de'n pàisd;
Bu tu fear-cinnidh an dòluim,
'S tu gadaiche 'n t-sòlais 's a' glàir;
'S tu sgrùdas 's a dh'fhuasglas,
Ann an iomalaid aon-uair de'n là,
Snaimean cudthromach diomhair
A cheanglaibh le bliadhnaich gràidh.

Thà 'n inntinn bhochd 's i a' smeurach,
Mar dhall 's e gun léirsinn gun treòir,
Sios, air ais troimh gach bliadhna,
Troimh chnaip-starra an iargain 's a' bhòrni;
A làmh a mach air son doruis,
'S air son a' chlaidhein nach fhaigh e na's
mò,
'S iad cailte sa' ghaol tha 'na chadal
Ann a di-chuimhnean aisling a' bheò.

Tha 'n aon ghàir aig an t-sruthan,
 Ach cha chluinn mi ach tuiream 'na cheòl;
 Chì mi sealladh gun bhruthach,
 'S e gun neòinean gun duilleach gun phòr;
 Tha na caisteil air fàondradh,
 Tha ghaineamh air aonadh dh'an chòs;
 Chluinn mi 'n oiteag le sanaisean dubhaich,
 'S e òran mairbh tha i duinealaich dh'òmh's'.

Gaol—neo-bhasmhor gun chaochladh,
 Ma chaochail, chan e gaol a bha ann;
 Làmh Tìm cha chuir aois air,
 Cha chuir doilgheas no aonrachd air call;
 Tha bhuaineadh neo-chrìochnaicht',
 Ruith na bliadhna sior mheudachadh ann;
 Goirteas bàis cha toir buaidh air,
 Troimh dhòimhneachd na h-uaigh' togaidh
 caonn.

Chaidh na bliadhnanachan seachad,
 Cha till iad air ais dhomh ri m' bheò;
 Tha mo chiabhag air gasadh,
 Is tha 'n aois a' cur bacadh 'nam thròir;
 Ach tha thusa gun chaochladh,
 Tha 'n aon ghàire 'nad aodann gun ghò,
 A chaoidh 'na l sheasamh san lag ud
 Mar ath-ghairm caidreabh na h-òig'.

Her Majesty's Message

Birkhall,
 Ballater,
 4th October, 1955.

Dear Mr. Shaw,

I have been commanded by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother to write and say how much Her Majesty and Princess Margaret enjoyed the Grand Concert on Friday night.

Queen Elizabeth was so impressed with the natural beauty of the voices, and bade me tell you how pleased she was to have the opportunity of being present.

Her Majesty hopes you will convey her warmest thanks to all those who helped with the arrangements, and made it such a particularly enjoyable evening for her.

Yours sincerely,
 (Signed) MURRAY ST. CLAIR,
 Equerry to Queen Elizabeth
 The Queen Mother.

NEIL SHAW, Esq.,
 President, An Comunn Gaidhealach,
 65 West Regent Street,
 Glasgow, C.2.

President's English Address

I HAVE just completed the fulfilment of a task imposed on the President of An Comunn by its Bye-laws that, at the Official Opening, he shall deliver a Gaelic address. I am now, in the other language, continuing a custom that has prevailed at National Mods almost since their inception.

This is my 36th Mod and I have listened to ten Presidents delivering 34 addresses, all of them of a very high order, and to none of which can I hope to rise. But if sincerity of purpose and length of service mean anything, I can, at least, approach them on these points.

In preparing this address, I resisted the temptation to be over reminiscent for the reason that, having been concerned, in a minor capacity, in the progress made during the past 42 years, I might lay myself open to a charge of egoism. I have too great a respect and admiration for those men and women who laboured unselfishly to bring An Comunn to its present eminence and who, by their kindness, counsel and encouragement, guided me along the path of duty, to assume any credit for the wonderful progress made during these years.

I would ask, however, that you pardon me if I am, occasionally, reminiscent. Indeed I had hoped that you would wish me to indulge in such in comparing the past, of which I have some experience, with the present.

My first Mod, as a competitor, was that held in Rothesay in 1908. The total number of entries at the Mod was 458. The numbers increased from year to year until they reached their highest level at Oban in 1934 with a total of 1738. Although the numbers have decreased since then, it is not due to any lack of interest in the competitive side of the Mod. In the Oral, Solo and Choral classes, in both Junior and Senior sections, the numbers remain fairly consistent,

fluctuating only as the venue of the Mod may be nearer, or farther, from the main Gaelic areas. Changes in the Junior Literary section of the Syllabus are responsible for the decreased over-all entries. These changes conform more to the present-day curriculum in Primary Schools, but we are not entirely satisfied with the response from these Schools. Every effort is being made to bring these literary competitions to the notice of the teachers concerned.

The 1946 Mod at Aberdeen, postponed from 1939, attracted an entry of 621, a very satisfactory figure considering the nerve-racking experiences—yea, and heavy losses—of the second World War. We are very happy to be back in Aberdeen again and, with an entry of 1085, we look forward to a successful and pleasant week in, as someone else has said—

“The old University town
 Between the Don and the Dee.”

While the National Mod remains, and must remain, the focal point in our Gaelic world, we must pay tribute to those who, year after year, promote our Provincial Mods. There are hundreds of people who, for varying reasons, are unable to attend a National Mod, but who can have it in miniature brought to their villages. Miniature forsooth! What about Kyle of Lochalsh with its 600-odd entries and only one day to devote to the Mod! During the past session 13 Provincial Mods were held in the Gaelic-speaking areas. In addition, our Branches in Edinburgh and Glasgow staged very successful Local Mods, and our good friends, the members of the Gaelic Society of London, organised a Mod in the Metropolis with such success and enthusiasm that they attracted competitors from the homeland. We heartily congratulate them and thank them very sincerely for their efforts to uphold the language and customs of their race.

The cry in the Provincial Mod areas is for teachers of music and we are assured, and from experience know, that, if it were possible to employ one or more teachers, much good work would result, and Local Committees would be relieved of much anxiety. But, alas, teachers of the required qualifications are not available, and I would like, from this platform, to thank all Provincial Mod Committees for the splendid work they are doing. The Propaganda Committee is most grateful to them and will come to their aid when they are metaphorically, if not physically, able to lay hands on a teacher.

Before departing from the subject of propaganda I feel I must refer to the Branches of An Comunn. Branches were my chief concern during the happy and prosperous years between the two World Wars, and I have always retained a special interest in them. I should like to see an effort being made to resuscitate the many Branches which lapsed during the War, allowing, of course, for the depopulation that has taken place since 1920-21 and 1922, when the late Dr. George MacKay of Killin made his memorable tours during his term as President. The General Secretary should be released, as I was, to visit as many centres in our Southern Area as possible, and particularly those areas where the every-day speech of the people is the language we are committed to preserve. The Northern Area may safely be left to our Subcommittee at Inverness and to the resident Organiser there.

The people of the Highlands and Islands must be brought into closer touch with An Comunn, and the surest, and indeed the only, way of bringing these good people into our organisation is by the formation of Branches. These should be considered to be the life-blood of our Association, and they should be visited periodically by someone with authority from the Propaganda Committee—someone who will tell them with conviction of the vital part they are expected to play in the preservation of our beloved language and all that it connotes to us as a race. The embers that have been smothered for far too long must be stirred up and kindled into flame, and, old as I am, I am willing to take my share in the stoking up.

I have most pleasant recollections of visits to 253 towns and hamlets in Scotland proclaiming the aims and objects of An Comunn. The rough journeys by sea and road are forgotten, and the mind only carries fond remembrances of a warm welcome and, in some clachans, the glow of a peat fire to make the weary traveller feel at home.

I have only one regret to record in my reminiscences and that is that I was unable to take part in the drive for signatories to the petition claiming the recognition of Gaelic in the Scotland (1918) Education Act. The first World War was raging at the time and I was serving with the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. But those at home, who were over military age, waged a campaign of their own and its objective was handsomely won. They gained what they sought, the embodiment in an Act of Parliament that instruction in Gaelic must be provided in all schools in the Gaelic-speaking areas.

Only two weeks ago my attention was drawn to the latest publication from Her Majesty's Stationery Office dealing with the system of education in Junior Secondary Schools. This Memorandum, as it is called, was prepared by a panel of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools and carries a Foreword written by the Secretary of State for Scotland. The Memorandum devotes eleven pages to Gaelic, aggregating about 5,500 words, and is both enlightening and encouraging. The recommendation that teachers should make use

of Gaelic as a medium of instruction for Gaelic-speaking pupils is most heartening, and confirms the opinion held by many within the ranks of An Comunn. It seems the very negation of practical teaching for a bi-lingual teacher to employ English to give the rudiments of their native language to Gaelic-speaking pupils. This recalls to my mind the method of instruction employed in the little school which I attended in Jura. Every subject in the curriculum, from the Alphabet to Latin, was taught through the medium of Gaelic, the only language we knew. I hope all teachers, who have the educational welfare of our Highland children under their care, will read this Memorandum carefully and ponder over the methods recommended by the Scottish Education Department experts. There are other notes which are well worth quoting:—

“Teachers of Gaelic should (therefore) aim at giving their pupils as complete a mastery as possible of the spoken language and at devising courses which will lead them to regard their own language with respect, to find its study satisfying and rewarding, and to continue its use in the future.

There is need for a review by Gaelic-speaking teachers of the methods employed with Gaelic-speaking pupils and for an enquiry into ways whereby, without detriment to their acquisition of English, increased use can be made of Gaelic as a medium of instruction.

If Gaelic-speaking teachers generally, and not merely those who are directly engaged in teaching it as a subject, were to make more use of Gaelic than they do, both in and out of school, the language would come to have increased interest and prestige in the eyes of the pupils.”

There is the importance of the attitude of the parents, a subject on which An Comunn has been dilating for years. The Memorandum says; “It is important that Gaelic-speaking parents should co-operate with the schools in their efforts to preserve the language. Too often in the past, Highland children were actively discouraged by their parents from speaking Gaelic and, in fact, from including it in their curriculum in the secondary school, in the mistaken belief that its use retarded their progress in English and other subjects.”

We have to thank the efforts of our predecessors in An Comunn for this most favourable change in the attitude of the powers that be, and we also thank those who are making the most of the facilities offered to improve the position of Gaelic in the schools. We have in the foregoing quotations authority for all essential means to equip our children with a sound knowledge of their mother tongue, and we confidently rely on our own Education Committee to press for the fulfilment of the powers enacted.

Ours is a great cause, the preservation of our ancient language, the heritage of over 1,500 years. It is up to us to unite whole-heartedly and, with a long pull, a strong pull and a pull all together, ensure the preservation of all that is best and noblest in us as a people. Let us bequeath these attributes to the generations yet unborn.

Tha 'n seilean fh dhion,
Thig gaillionn is slan.

* * * * *
Am fear nach cuir snaim
Caillidh e a cheud ghrèim.

The 52nd Annual Mod

ABERDEEN, 1955

“**A**BERDEEN 1955” was not the biggest Mod we've had, in point of numbers competing or size of audiences, but it ranks high in the long series of National Mods by reason of the quality of performance, and very high indeed as a friendly and stimulating “get-together” of Gaels from far and near. We must not forget that this last is by no means the least important aspect of the Mod; otherwise we shall be left with a “Literary and Musical Festival” without the festivity and without the infectious friendliness characteristic of the Mods.

We were favoured with excellent weather. Aberdeen was looking its best. The people of Aberdeen were their kindly selves. The Mod Local Committee, so ably led by Mr. Dugald Macdonald, Mrs. Westland, and Mr. Iain Smith, had thought of everything by way of preparation for the invading hosts.

The Gaelic Service broadcast from Trinity Church on the afternoon of Sunday, 25th September, inaugurated the week's proceedings. The service was conducted by an able son of Harris, the Rev. Norman Macdonald, B.D., with another Harrisman, Mr. Murdoch MacSween, M.A., leading the praise, assisted by the Aberdeen Gaelic Choir. The lessons were read by Mr. Neil Shaw and Mr. Dugald Macdonald.

Official Opening

Monday evening saw the Music Hall well-filled for the Official Opening. Mr. Neil Shaw, President of the An Comunn, occupied the Chair. The opening prayer in Gaelic was offered by the Rev. T. M. Murchison, Vice-President. Lord Provost George Stephen extended a cordial welcome on behalf of the Magistrates and citizens. Greetings from Wales and Eire were conveyed, respectively, by the Rev. John Dynnall Owen (Arch-druid of Wales) and Mr. Sean MacGearailt (President of the Oireachtas). Mr. Owen was accompanied by Mrs. Owen and Mr. Edgar Phillips, Grand Sword-bearer of the Gorsedd of the Bards of Wales, while Mr. MacGearailt was accompanied by Mrs. MacGearailt. In the absence of Mr. Melville Dinwiddie, Scottish Controller of the B.B.C., Mr. A. Swinton Paterson, of the Aberdeen Broadcasting Station, addressed the gathering. The President's orations in Gaelic and English are published elsewhere in this number. Mr. Dugald Macdonald proposed the votes of thanks and thereafter presided over a ceilidh, the following contributing to the programme: Mrs. Draper (Ann Maclean) (Mod Gold Medallist, 1946), Mr. Iain MacSween (Mod Gold Medallist, 1946), Mr. Charles Sutherland (Violin), and the St. Nicholas Dancers who included in their display two new dances, “Provost Skene's House,” and “The Aberdeen Mod.”

“Latha na h-Oigridh”

Tuesday morning we were up bright and early to discover that, all unbeknown to us, a “row” had blown up overnight and that the A.A. welcome signs bade us “Mile Fáilte” and not the usual “Ceud Mile Fáilte.” It was gratifying, however, to be reassured, through the columns of the press, that, even if the prospects of televising the Mod were alleged to be dim, if not non-existent, nevertheless, on very good authority, “a thousand welcomes from Aberdeen is worth a hundred thousand from Glasgow.”

We proceeded to the Silver Medal competitions at 9 a.m., but, alas, we had to wait over half-an-hour before the first competitor mounted the platform. Apparently, competitors had not been forward for the Gaelic test at 8.30 a.m., as instructed in the pro-

gramme. It was also learned later that another “row” was blowing up over the Gaelic test. It was made very plain, however, that (a) the Gaelic test is necessary, and (b) the test is not unreasonably difficult, and (c) that it is as fair as is humanly possible. Both junior and senior aspirants for Mod honours should note that, for solo-singing, they have the choice of competing in the “learners” or in the “fluent speakers” classes, and, if they choose the latter, for which alone the premier awards are available, they must take pains to add to their skill in singing a certain minimum of acquaintance with the Gaelic language.

The Silver Medallists were Helen MacInnes, Glasgow, of Luing parentage, and Donald Mackinnon, Broadford, Skye. Others who did well in the solo prize-lists were Mary Smith (Port Ellen), Marion Gray (Glasgow), Catriona Maclean (Glasgow), Dorothy Murray and Elizabeth Strang, from Glasgow, Mary Graham from Campbelltown, Morag Mackenzie (Portree School), Ronald MacRae (Plockton), Margaret MacRae (Kyle), and Kathleen Henry and Agnes Sinclair from Tarbert.

Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association Junior Choir made a clean sweep of the trophies for “fluent Gaelic” choirs—The Campoll Blair Trophy, the *Oban Times* Challenge Trophy, and the Hobbs of Inverlochty Trophy—while Dail-an-Tobair Junior Choir won the two competitions for “learners” choirs—the Rona MacVicar Trophy and the Miller Trophy. Carradale were awarded the Shiant Shield for an action song, but what a pity it was that so many choirs which had entered did not appear in this competition!

Junior Orals

The junior oral competitions are, for the discriminating, not the least interesting and important of all the various sections of Mod week. Unfortunately, apart from teachers and relatives of the competitors, few bother to come to listen. Portree and Oban, Kyle and Lochinver, Whitehouse, Tarbert, and Glasgow all shared in the prize-lists, but special mention must be made of Lochawe School, whence come the two Potters, Irene and Iain, who between them carried off five prizes. Would that there were more mothers like Mrs. Potter! Kathleen Mackinnon, Oban, won the Dr. George Mackay Cup as the most distinguished competitor in junior orals.

Fyvie, Glasgow, and Oban shared the prizes for piano playing.

The Junior Concert on Tuesday evening was a very pleasant experience. All the performers acquitted themselves with distinction. Mr. Frank Scorgie, Director of Education for Aberdeen, presided. He reminded us that we are living in a scientific age, with astounding advances being made in certain directions (aeroplanes, radio, television, etc.). But, he said, we may be paying too great a price for all this and many of us are apprehensive about the future. There is the danger that we shall all be moulded into one dull uniform pattern. It is therefore all the more important that we should cherish our best and most characteristic traditions and develop our Gaelic heritage, and especially see to it that Gaelic gets its proper place in the country's educational system. The principle of teaching Gaelic in schools has been conceded but much remains to be done, and there must be no going back. The chief obstacle seems to be, not the ill-will of the non-Gael but the non-will of the Gael. Mr. Donald Thomson, Convener of the Education Committee and Vice-President of An Comunn, proposed the vote of thanks to Mr. Scorgie and to Mrs. Scorgie who presented the prizes.

Following the concert a ceilidh was held under the auspices of Clann an Fhraoich with Mr. Donald MacPhail as Fear-an-tighe.

According to custom, the list of literary competition awards, both junior and senior, was made public at the Tuesday evening concert. We learned with satisfaction that this year's Bard is one who has already given full proof of his bardic gifts, Mr. John Morrison, North Uist, a native of Scalpay, Harris, in whose praise he has composed several songs. We congratulate him and also the other literary prize-winners, some of whom have won successes at many previous mods—Mrs. Millar, Mrs. Douglas, Mrs. Johan Macleod, and Mr. Iain M. Moffatt-Pender. It is disappointing that so few schools and so few competitors show any interest in the junior literary competitions. Can anything be done about this? Or must we accept it that the Gaelic pupils have no energy or time left over from their school work to enter for the Mod competitions? Or is there something lacking in the competitions themselves?

Wednesday

Wednesday morning, having scanned the headlines to learn of the latest "row," so beloved of the press, we sallied forth, this being the day when, as the result of certain qualifying competitions in solo-singing, the fittest survive for the Finals, both in the learners classes and for the much-coveted Gold Medal.

It was unfortunate, and annoying for the audience, that so few competitors appeared in the folk-song competition, and that the port-a-beul competition had to be cancelled for lack of competitors. After a day of, on the whole, first-class singing, despite (according to the musical adjudicators) some crooning of a non-Gaelic kind and some sticking of lip-stick on to notes, we learned that Eppie Murray, Lybster, a former member of the London Gaelic Choir, and Islay MacTaggart, Glasgow, were the victors in the "Learners Aggregates," while the finalists for the Gold Medals were Iona Macdonald, Calum Kennedy, Calum Cameron, Murdo Ferguson, Anne Mackenzie, Joan Mackenzie, John A. MacRae, and Marjorie Lochhead.

While the finalists, in preparation for the trials of the morrow, went early to bed—or so we hope—some 700 of us hied us to the Beach Ballroom to the Civic Reception given by the Lord Provost and Magistrates of Aberdeen. It lacked nothing in interest, in hospitality, and in cordiality. The programme included songs by Ann Maclean and Alan MacRitchie, violin music by Hector MacAndrew, piping by Pipe-Major Donald Morrison, country dances by the St. Nicholas Dancers, and dancing to the music of Leslie Thorpe and his orchestra. Meanwhile Mr. Donald Thomson presided over a largely-attended ceilidh in the Music Hall, part of which was broadcast.

Thursday

Thursday morning saw the Music Hall crowded for the Gold Medal Finals. Lewis has reason to be proud that both Gold Medals have gone this year to "Eilean an Fhraoich," so worthily won by Joan Mackenzie and Calum Kennedy. Of the others in the finals we expect to hear more at future Mods. The Nova Scotia Medals were won by Margaret Muir, Campbelltown, Johan Macleod, Glasgow, and Sheila Macdougall, Glasgow.

Thursday afternoon was devoted to rural choir competitions, while the clarsach competitions were held in the Y.M.C.A. Hall. Unfortunately, despite the praiseworthy efforts of the Clarsach Society, the clarsach competitions have not been attracting many competitors in recent years, but yet how much

poorer the Mod would be for many of us if there were no clarsach playing.

The costs of sending choirs to the Mods are now so burdensome that it is no wonder that the less populous areas and smaller communities are finding it a very great deterrent. That is probably why fewer junior choirs and fewer rural choirs are forward than used to be. For the Macmaster Campbell Cuach only two choirs competed, Lochalsh gaining $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. over Ardrishaig. For the Lorn Shield there were four competing choirs. Laxdale took first place, with Portree and Lochgilphead $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. behind, and Salen Choir, from Mull, whom we were glad to welcome to the Mod for the first time, only 1 per cent. behind these. These were indeed close contests, and the Dalriada Cup for Gaelic went to Portree with a Gaelic margin of only $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. over Laxdale.

The Chairman of the Rural Choir Concert was the Rev. Professor John M. Graham, Ex-Lord Provost of Aberdeen, and the prizes were presented by Mrs. Dugald Macdonald. Rev. T. M. Murchison proposed the vote of thanks.

Friday

Friday saw the "big choirs" going into action. Greenock's victory in the Lovat and Tullibardine Competition was a popular one, although it was regretted that the choir's conductor, Mr. Donald McAllister, was prevented by illness from sharing his choir's triumph. Congratulations to Dr. Ian Macdonald on so successfully deputising for Mr. McAllister. Greenock also won the Esme Smyth Trophy (ladies voices), while Campbelltown won the puit-a-beul contest, and the "G. G." the male voice competition. Oban gained the *Weekly Scotsman* Cuach for Gaelic. The Margat Duncan Memorial Trophy went to Dingwall.

Only a few competitors appeared in the pianoforte and violin competitions, and here again, as with the clarsach, the question must be asked: What more can be done to increase interest and encourage more competitors?

Royal Visitors

As the large hall emptied after the afternoon's session of choral singing workmen were busy preparing for the evening concerts. The first concert, at 6.30 p.m., was indeed a royal occasion, and a packed hall, in addition to the crowds outside, gave a great ovation to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret, both of whom had, with the Queen (then Princess Elizabeth) attended the Friday evening concert at the Aberdeen Mod of 1946, while all three had looked in at the Glasgow Mod of 1938.

Prior to the concert officials of An Comunn and of the Mod Local Committee were presented to the royal visitors, to whom the chairman, the Marquis of Aberdeen and Temair, Lord Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire, addressed appropriate words of welcome from the concert platform. An all-too-short but very enjoyable programme followed, the principal prize-winners taking part, and An Comunn's Secretary, Mr. Malcolm Macleod, capably compering the show. Following the crowning of the bard the Queen Mother graciously presented the premier trophies and awards, and so, after the Psalm Tune "French," there ended, with ringing cheers, a memorable occasion.

The second concert, at 8.45 p.m., was presided over by Lord Provost Stephen, and it also attracted a full house. The prizes and trophies were presented by Mrs. Neil Shaw, and Mr. J. M. Bannerman, Convener of the Mod and Music Committee, proposed the votes of thanks.

Arts and Industry Exhibition

During the week the Y. M. C. A. premises, adjacent to the Music Hall, housed an arts and crafts exhibition, arranged by the Arts and Industry Committee (Mrs. Edgar, Convener). Most of the goods on show were from commercial houses—Scottish and Celtic jewellery, sports equipment, pottery and basket-work, leatherwork, textiles, and tweeds, while young Norman Kennedy demonstrated spinning and weaving. The articles submitted in the arts and crafts competitions of the Mod were, though too few, of very good quality, design, and workmanship. We were especially interested in a rug embodying a design which represented the galley depicted on Alasdair Croctach's tomb in St. Clement's Church, Rodel, Harris, and another rug with a pattern adapted from that on an old Celtic stone in Fortingall Kirk.

Mod Club

"The Mod Club," so capably initiated and organised by Mrs. Westland, seemed to us an excellent project. The services provided by the Club met a very real need, and it would be a pity if this sort of project were not continued at future Mods, perhaps with some modifications in the light of experience.

A word of thanks to Mrs. Bannerman and her assistants, so busy enrolling new members, and to the staff in the Office and at the bookstall. Much interest was aroused by the model of "Cnoc-nan-ròs."

And so to Largs next—and it looks as if Miss Mary Hunter and her Committee are determined, not only to maintain but, if at all possible, to surpass the standards of Mod organisation already attained.

Annual General Meeting

THE Annual General Meeting of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in the Music Hall, Aberdeen, on Saturday, 1st October, 1955, at 10 a.m. Mr. Neil Shaw, President, presided over a well-attended meeting.

The President thanked the Mod Local Committee for the great work they had so successfully done for the Aberdeen Mod just concluded, mentioning especially Mr. Dugald Macdonald, Convener, Mrs. Westland and Mr. Iain Smith, Vice-Conveners, Mr. James Macleod, Secretary, and Mr. Jack W. Mort, Treasurer, and Mr. Welsh, Convener of Stewarding. In addition to the arrangements for the Mod itself, the Committee had raised a Mod Fund of over, £2,600. Rev. T. M. Murchison and Mr. Donald Thomson, Vice-Presidents, added their tributes to the work of the Aberdeen Committee.

Mr. Dugald Macdonald returned thanks on behalf of the Local Committee, and expressed his appreciation of the support given by the people of Aberdeen, the press, and the societies which helped. He referred especially to the success of the Mod Club, organised by Mrs. Westland. He regretted the lack of monetary support from so many branches of An Comunn. It was not sufficiently realised that the National Mod is the concern of all branches and not only of the Mod Local Committee. Some of the smaller branches had contributed generously, but some of the larger ones had given not even a five-pound note.

The President expressed appreciation of the work of Mr. Malcolm Macleod, Secretary, Miss Young, Treasurer, Mr. D. J. Maclean, Northern Organiser, and the other members of An Comunn's staff. He also thanked the B. B. C. for the broadcast facilities provided.

The Secretary intimated the result of the election of Office-bearers and Council, those elected being: President, Mr. Neil Shaw; Vice-President, Mr. Donald Thomson;

Members of Council, Miss C. B. Cameron, Mr. Donald Maclean, Rev. Malcolm Maclean, Mr. Farquhar MacRae, Mrs. Grant Washington, and Mrs. Whyte. There remained four vacancies on the Council which would require to be filled by the Executive.

The Reports and Accounts for the year ending 30th April, 1955, were submitted and approved, after several items had been discussed.

A letter was read from the Inverness branch of An Comunn, inviting the 1957 Mod to be held there. This was unanimously and cordially approved.

The motions standing in the name of Miss C. B. Cameron, "that no member of Executive Council be a member of more than two Standing Committees," and that "Each member of same be nominated and duly seconded individually," were, after some debate and after a vote was taken, remitted to the Executive Council for consideration.

Mr. Donald Maclean moved, "That the publication of *An Gaidheal* should cease forthwith, in view of its financial loss, as there is no demand for it among Highlanders or Comunn members." Mr. Maclean said he was not finding fault with the publication as such, but he regarded the deficit of £250 incurred on the Magazine as not justifying its continuance.

Mrs. Cameron Robertson, in seconding, said that the Magazine was dead.

A general discussion then ensued in which almost all the speakers favoured the continuance of the magazine, while at the same time making various suggestions for improving the situation, arousing greater interest, attracting more advertising, and increasing circulation.

Rev. T. M. Murchison, Editor of the Magazine, made a statement in which he reminded the meeting of the following facts. If the Magazine had had to depend upon the demand for it among Highlanders or even among Comunn members, it would never have

been started or, having been started, would not have continued long. Exactly fifty years ago that day the Magazine was first issued, not because there was a great demand for it but because a few people of vision and discrimination were convinced of the importance and value of having a magazine. To look through the fifty annual volumes already published, was to be grateful to those pioneers. Long after An Comunn itself ceased to exist, the volumes of the Magazine would survive to convey to future generations a fairly complete record of Gaelic literary activity in the first half of the 20th century. The Magazine had never in its whole history paid its way. There had always been a deficit. Certainly the deficit was much larger now, because production costs had risen enormously. It was the case that the circulation had fallen, but it had to be remembered that until a few years ago the Magazine used to be sent free and post free to all members, whether they wanted it or not, until the fantastic situation arose when each member, paying 5/- yearly, got the Magazine free at a cost of 12/- per year to An Comunn, so that each new member meant a net loss of 7/- per annum! It was in face of that situation that the free issue had ceased, but out of the over three thousand members of An Comunn, and the many more thousands of branch members and members of affiliated societies, only about 400 bothered to buy the Magazine. Five years ago a determined effort was made, by introducing a new style of format, illustrations, etc.,

to make the Magazine more attractive and to get branches and societies to aid in the selling of it, but that experiment had to be abandoned. With regard to the contents of the Magazine, there were now fewer Gaelic writers of the calibre of those who had been contributing to it in earlier years. In the last few years we had lost a number of valued contributors by death. If the motion was really meant to be an attack upon the Editor, then three things ought to be said: it is not necessary to destroy a magazine in order to get rid of the editor; the present editor, like some of his predecessors, undertook the task with some reluctance and was willing to relinquish it at any time if that were considered desirable; if, however, the motion was aimed at the editor, then the straightforward thing was to say so and to specify wherein the editor's work was unsatisfactory. The £250 deficit on the Magazine represented a subsidy of 1½d per month from the 3,400 members of An Comunn. The situation was certainly not satisfactory, but to drop the magazine altogether was not the way to deal with it.

Mr. Maclean, replying to the debate, said he did not intend his motion to be regarded as an attack on the editor.

On a vote being taken, the motion was overwhelmingly defeated.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Executive Council met to reconstitute the Standing Committee.

Mod Prize List

LITERARY COMPETITIONS

(Figures in brackets after names indicate marks. Where three numbers are given, first is Gaelic mark, second is Music mark, and third is total.—EDITOR.)

ADJUDICATORS:—Donald Grant, M.A.; Lachlan Mackinnon, M.A., F.E.I.S.; John A. MacDonald, M.A.; Donald Thomson, M.A., F.E.I.S.; Finlay J. MacDonald, Miss Annie I. MacMillan, M.A., Miss Mary L. Hogg, L.R.A.M., Rev. T. M. Murchison, M.A.

Junior Section

Group "A"—Book prizes for proficiency in Gaelic. Awarded to pupils in the following schools—Bäck Public, Bellahouston Senior Secondary, Cornaigmore Junior Secondary, Dingwall Academy, Fort William Junior Secondary, Lionel Junior Secondary, Lurebost Junior Secondary, Oban High School, Portree Senior Secondary, Inverness Royal Academy, Sir Edward Scott Junior Secondary, Nicolson Institute, Woodside Senior Secondary.

Group "B"—Special competition: Gaelic essay on the life of Joshua (Prizes presented by the late Mrs Stewart, Simla). Boys—1, John Macdonald; 2, Kenneth MacPhee. Girls—1, Chrissie Macdonald; 2, Mary C. MacAskill.

(All pupils of Sir Edward Scott Junior Secondary School, Harris.)

Senior Section

Silver Cup (presented by the Earl and Countess of Cassillis, awarded to prize-winner with highest aggregate marks in stated competitions)—Mrs. Mary I. Millar, Kingussie.

Gold Medal (presented by Miss Millar-Weir, Alexandria), awarded to the prize-winner with highest aggregate marks in stated competitions (former winners debarred)—Mrs. Katherine Douglas, Kilmuir.

Poem on any subject (Prize of £5, along with Bardic Crown and Bardic Scroll, and retention for one year of the Ailsa Trophy)—1, John Morrison, Kersavagh, North Uist; 2, Iain M. Moffatt-Pender, Glasgow.

Short Story (not exceeding 600 words) (Hugh MacCorquodale (Fingal) Memorial Prize of £3)—Mrs. Johan Macleod, Glasgow.

Story (extending to 2,000 words or more) (Prize of £5 from Gaelic Society of Glasgow)—Mrs. Mary I. Millar.

One-Act Play (Prize of £10, including "Founders' Memorial Prize" presented by Ceilidh na Gaidheal) Iain M. Moffatt-Pender.

Essay on any subject ("Major Charles John Munro of Fyrisch Bequest Prize")—Christina Macleod, Cupar.

Three original songs for children (Robert MacMillan Prizes)—Mrs. Katherine Douglas.

Compilation of unpublished Gaelic vocal music—Mrs. Katherine Douglas.

Arrangement in harmony of a Gaelic song (Angus Robertson Memorial Prize of £5 presented by the Glasgow Skye Association)—F. G. Thompson, Stornoway.

ART AND INDUSTRY COMPETITIONS

ADJUDICATORS—Miss Nan D. Macgregor, Angus Mackenzie, and Dr. Colin Sinclair.

Section "A"—Home Industries. (1) Jumper in 3-ply wool with Celtic design—1, Helen Wood, Rothesay; 2, Mrs. Brown, Dunoon. (2) Hand-knitted hose for kilt with Celtic design—1, Helen Wood; 2, Mrs. Brown.

Section "B"—Design. Original Celtic design for table runner—1, Helen Wood; 2, Mrs. Shann.

Section "C"—Handcraft. (1) Floor rug in Celtic design (Comunn Gaidhealach Trophy and £2)—1, Mrs. Cameron, Rhynd; 2, W. A. J. Cunningham, Stornoway. (2) Netting needles—1 and 2, John Byars, Newburgh.

Section "D"—Needlework. Any article with Celtic design—1, Miss McDowall; 2, Mrs. Shann; 3, Helen Wood.

Section "E"—Boys and Girls under 17. Hand-woven tartan scarf—1, Bessie Urquhart, Dunraig; 2, Kathleen Allan, Dunraig.

Section "F"—Any article in China or Pottery with Celtic design—1 and 2, Walter P. Mackenzie.

TUESDAY

Junior Section

ORAL DELIVERY

Rev. George W. MacKay, D.D., Memorial Cup, awarded to competitor with highest aggregate marks in reading, reciting, and conversation—Kathleen Mackinnon, Oban High School.

Y.M.C.A. TOP FLAT. ADJUDICATOR—Angus Macleod, M.A., B.Sc., F.E.I.S.

Reading with expression a piece of prose or poetry (12-16 years)—1, Ann Robertson, Portree Secondary School (92); 2, Kathleen Mackinnon, Oban High School (91); 3, Catriona Thomson, Oban High School (89); 4 (equal), Flora A. Mackinnon, Portree Secondary School and Louisa Mackenzie, Portree Secondary School (88); 5, Janet Nicolson, Portree Secondary School (87).

Reading, with expression, a piece of prose or poetry (under 12 years)—1, Anne Fraser, Kyle (90).

Reading at sight an unfamiliar prose piece chosen by adjudicator—1, Kathleen Mackinnon, Oban High School (89); 2, Flora A. Mackinnon, Portree Secondary School (88); 3 (equal), Catriona Thomson, Oban High School, and Louisa Mackenzie, Portree Secondary School (87); 4, Ann Robertson, Portree Secondary School (86).

Y.M.C.A. BACK ROOM. ADJUDICATOR—Miss Annie M. Mackenzie, M.A.

Reciting from memory, "An Dileab"—1, Ann Robertson, Portree Secondary School (94); 2, Kathleen Mackinnon, Oban High School (93); 3, Anne Fraser, Kyle (92).

Excellence in Gaelic conversation—1, Kathleen Mackinnon, Oban High School (92); 2 (equal), Catriona Thomson, Oban High School, and Ann Robertson, Portree Secondary School (91).

Narrative based on some local incident, tradition, or legend, followed by conversation with adjudicator—1, Kathleen Mackinnon, Oban High School (94); 2, Ann Robertson, Portree Secondary School (92); 3, Catriona Thomson, Oban High School (91).

MUSIC HALL (ROUND ROOM). ADJUDICATOR—Rev. Norman Macdonald, B.D.

Reading with expression a piece of prose or poetry (learners) (12-16 years)—1, Roderick Mackenzie, Lochinver (93); 2, Marion C. Livingstone, Whitehouse (91); 3, Kenneth Macgregor, Kyle (89); 4, Kathleen N. Henry, Tarbert (87).

Reading with expression a piece of prose or poetry (learners) (under 12)—1, Irene Potter, Lochawe (93); 2, Iain Potter, Lochawe (91); 3, Rosemary L. Johnstone, Whitehouse (90); 4, Sandra Kennedy, Lochinver (87); 5, Alice Munro, Lochinver (86).

Reciting Scripture (St. Mark X., 13-16) (learners) (Prizes presented by late Mrs. Stewart, Simla). Boys—1, Archie Johnstone, Whitehouse (94); 2, Iain Potter, Lochawe (93). Girls—1, Margaret Mackenzie, Glasgow (97); 2, Irene Potter, Lochawe (96); 3 (equal), Rosemary L. Johnstone, Whitehouse, and Sandra Kennedy, Lochinver (94).

MUSIC HALL (SQUARE ROOM). ADJUDICATOR—John Macdonald, M.A.

Reciting from memory, "An t-Sòbhlach Mhuileach" (learners)—1, Iain Potter, Lochawe (92); 2, Margaret Mackenzie, Glasgow (91); 3 (equal), Kenneth Macgregor, Kyle, and Rosemary L. Johnstone, Whitehouse (90).

Aithris air mheomhair (comh-fharpais air son Comunn na h-Oigridh) (fo ais oich bliadhna deug)—1, Catriona NicFhionghuin, Ard-sgoil an Obain (92); 2 (co-ionann), Mairead Nic-an-t-saoir agus Catriona NicThómais, Ard-sgoil an Obain (91); 3, Màiri NicFhionghuin, Ard-sgoil an Obain (90).

Còmhradh ris a' bhrithcheamh air cuspair sònraichte (Bull Comunn na h-Oigridh fo ais oich bliadhna deug)—1, Màiri NicFhionghuin, Ard-sgoil an Obain (91); 2, Louisa NicChoinnich, Ard-sgoil Phloirt-rìghtheadh (90).

Reading prose at sight (learners)—no competition.

VOCAL MUSIC

Y.M.C.A. MAIN HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Rev. T. M. Murchison, M.A. Music: Dr. Sydney Northcote.

Solo singing (Silver Medal Competition—Girls). (Song prescribed, "Tàladh")—1, Helen M. MacInnes, Glasgow (88, 88, 176); 2, Robina Campbell, Port Ellen (87, 82, 169); 2 (equal), Anne Bone, Glasgow (87, 80, 167), and Marion C. M. Gray, Glasgow (86, 81, 167).

Solo Singing (Silver Medal Competition—Boys.) (Song prescribed, "Lag nan Cruachan")—1, Donald A. Mackinnon, Broadford (87, 83, 170); 2, Donald N. Kennedy, Glasgow (86, 83, 169); 3, Gilbert Stevenson, Port Ellen (88, 79, 167).

Traditional singing of unpublished song—1, Catriona Maclean, Glasgow (88, 88, 176); 2, Marion C. M. Gray, Glasgow (87, 85, 172); 3, Mary Smith, Port Ellen (86, 85, 171).

Duet singing (prescribed song, "Muile nam Mòr-bheann")—1, Dorothy Murray and Elizabeth G. M. Strang, Glasgow (84, 87, 171); 2, Chrissie Campbell and Mary Smith, Port Ellen (86, 81, 167).

Solo singing (boys and girls, 16-18) ("One n Elizabeth Coronation (1937) Trophy")—1, Mary L. Graham, Campbelltown (87, 90, 177); 2, Rosamund MacMillan, Carradale (87, 89, 176); 3, Donald A. MacRitchie, Glasgow (88, 87, 175).

MUSIC HALL (MAIN HALL). ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Donald Jackson, M.A. Music: Cedric Thorpe Davie.

Solo singing (girls, 12-16) (learners) (Prescribed song, "Mo Robairmeach Gaolach")—1, Morag

Mackenzie, Portree Secondary School (90, 85, 175); 2, Jessie Moore, Plockton Secondary School (88, 84, 172); 3, Jane Cameron, Oban High School (88, 83, 171).

Solo singing (boys) (learners) (Prescribed song, "A' fagail Dhùra")—1, Ronald MacRae, Plockton Secondary School (90, 87, 177); 2, John MacKinlay, Campbeltown (89, 87, 176); 3, Robert J. M. Fraser, Aviemore (89, 85, 174).

Solo singing (former prize-winners only) (own choice) (Cuach presented by Skelmorlie and District Highland Association)—1, Mary Smith, Port Ellen (90, 90, 180); 2, Donald A. Mackinnon, Broadford (89, 87, 176); 3, Edith F. Pollock, Ayr (89, 85, 174).

MUSIC HALL (BALLROOM). ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: James Thomson, M.A., F.E.I.S. Music: Alec Redshaw.

Solo singing (girls, under 12) (learners) (Song prescribed, "Gheibh thu caorach")—1, Margaret MacRae, Kyle (86, 85, 171); 2, Gwendolyn Henderson, Carradale (86, 83, 169); 3 (equal), Catherine Chubley, Kyle (84, 84, 168), and Rosemary L. Johnstone, Whitehouse (84, 84, 168).

Duet singing (learners) (Prescribed song, "Crodh Chaillein")—1, Kathleen N. Henry and Agnes R. Sinclair, Tarbert (86, 87, 173); 2, Ann Matheson and Roderick Mackenzie, Lochinver (87, 85, 172).

Y.M.C.A. MAIN HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Miss Annie M. Mackenzie, M.A. Music: Dr. Sydney Northcote.

Unison singing by junior choirs (50 per cent. of each choir must be Gaelic speaking) (Songs prescribed, "Caol Muile," "Fhir a dh'ith am bonnach mòr," "Tha toll air a' bhàta mhòr") (Mrs. Campbell Blair Trophy)—1, Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association Junior Choir (90, 92, 182); 2, Portree Secondary School Junior Choir (91, 88, 179).

Choral singing in two-part harmony (50 per cent. of each choir must be Gaelic-speaking) (Songs prescribed, "Am Fiadh" and "Am Bàta Rannach") (*Oban Times* Challenge Trophy)—1, Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association Junior Choir (91, 91, 182); 2, Oban High School Gaelic Choir "A" (89, 89, 178). Mrs. Hobbs of Inverlochly Trophy for highest marks in Gaelic in this competition—Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association Junior Choir (91).

Verse-speaking (by groups of 6 to 10 speakers) (Prescribed piece, "Tir nam Beann Ard")—1, Portree Secondary School (92); 2, Oban High School "A" (91); 3, Lochinver School (90).

Action Song (Shiant Shield, presented by Sir Compton Mackenzie)—1, Carradale Junior Gaelic Choir (92, 92, 184).

MUSIC HALL (MAIN HALL). ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Rev. T. M. Murchison, M.A. Music: Cedric Thorpe Davie.

Unison singing by junior choirs (Songs prescribed, "Tighinn a mach à Steòrnabhagh," "Cò th'ann ach Anna mo nighean," and "Somhairle agus Màiri Bhàn") (Rona MacVicar Trophy, presented by Campbeltown Gaelic Choir)—1, Dail-an-Tobair Junior Choir (174, 178, 352); 2, Ayr Junior Gaelic Choir (175, 174, 349).

Choral singing in two-part harmony (Songs prescribed, "Bruthaichean Ghlinn Braoin" and "Maol Ruanaidh") (Mrs. Miller's Trophy)—1, Dail-an-Tobair Junior Choir (175, 187, 362); 2, Nicolson Memorial Junior Gaelic Choir (175, 177, 352).

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

MUSIC HALL (BALLROOM). ADJUDICATOR—Mrs. Jean Sutherland.

Playing of slow Gaelic air and march on pianoforte (Kiilt Pin presented by Mrs. J. M. B. Maclean)—1, Catriona E. Macleod, Fyvie (36); 2, Anne Bone, Glasgow (32); 3, Catriona Thomson, Oban (31).

WEDNESDAY

Senior Section

VOCAL MUSIC

Y.M.C.A. MAIN HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Miss Annie M. Mackenzie, M.A., and Donald Jackson, M.A.

Best rendering of two unpublished folk-songs in the traditional manner (The Scotia Trophy)—1, Johan Macleod, Glasgow (182); 2, Ewen Lamont, Milngavie (181); 3, Catherine A. MacNiven, Glasgow (180).

Y.M.C.A. MAIN HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Miss Annie M. Mackenzie, M.A. Music: Cedric Thorpe Davie.

Solo singing of port-a-beul (strathspey and reel) (own choice) ("Duncan Johnston Memorial Trophy" presented by Glasgow Islay Association)—no competition.

Solo singing of a waulking song (own choice) (ladies) (learners)—1, Margaret M. Muir, Campbeltown (92, 88, 180); 2, Elizabeth M. Cattanach, Mull (92, 87, 179); 3, Mrs. James Grant, Ballachulish (91, 87, 178).

Solo singing of a rowing song (own choice) (men) (learners)—1, Islay Mactaggart, Glasgow (91, 90, 181); 2, A. H. M. MacRae, London (92, 85, 177); 3, Archie Mactaggart, Glasgow (89, 87, 176).

MUSIC HALL (MAIN HALL). ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: James Thomson, M.A., F.E.I.S. Music: Alec Redshaw.

Solo singing of the song, "Och nan och, tha mi fo mhulad" (ladies) (learners)—1, Eppie Murray, Lybster (88, 86, 175); 2, Mrs. James Grant, Ballachulish (89, 82, 171); 3, Anne Macdearmid, Aberdeen (85, 85, 170).

Solo singing of following songs by Lorne bards, "Rìgh gur mi tha aighearach" and "Caisteal a' Ghlinne" (Oban and Lorn Association Commemoration Medal, 1914-18, 1939-45, presented by Glasgow Oban and Lorn Association)—1, Johan Macleod, Glasgow (93, 87, 180); 2, Ewen Lamont, Milngavie (91, 88, 179).

MUSIC HALL (BALLROOM). ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Angus Macleod, M.A., B.Sc., F.E.I.S. Music: Dr. Sydney Northcote.

Solo singing (men) (learners) (Prescribed song, "Mo Chruinneag Ileach")—1, Islay Mactaggart, Glasgow (90, 87, 177); 2, A. H. M. MacRae, London (88, 85, 173); 3, Archie Mactaggart, Glasgow (90, 82, 172).

Solo singing of unpublished song connected with Mull or Iona (prizes presented by Glasgow Mull and Iona Association)—1, Archie Mactaggart, Glasgow (88, 84, 172); 2, Ina Macgregor, Kyle (89, 82, 171).

Best rendering of a song from Mrs. Kennedy-Fraser's "Songs of the Hebrides" (male and female voices) (Songs prescribed: "Fionn's Keening" and "The Galley of Clanranald")—1, Anne Macdearmid, Aberdeen (89, 86, 175); 2, Johanna M. MacIntyre, Clydebank (89, 85, 174).

MUSIC HALL (MAIN HALL). ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Donald Jackson, M.A. Music: Alex Redshaw.

Solo singing (ladies) of song, "O 's tu 's gura tu th'air m'aire" (James Grant Memorial Prizes)—1, Joan M. Mackenzie, Lewis (92, 89, 181); 2, Ina Macgregor, Kyle (91, 88, 179); 3, Anne M. Mackenzie, Oban (90, 88, 178).

MUSIC HALL (MAIN HALL). ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Rev. T. M. Murchison, M.A. Music: Cedric Thorpe Davie.

Solo singing of the songs, "Gur gile mo leannan" (ladies) and "An gaol a thug mi òg" (men), along with song chosen by competitor (learners' finals competition). Ladies—1 (equal), Eppie Murray, Lybster (182, 177, 359), and Elizabeth C. Macphail, Minard (183, 176, 359). Men—1, Islay MacTaggart, Glasgow (182, 179, 361); 2 (equal), A. H. M. MacRae, London (184, 171, 355); 3, Archie MacTaggart, Glasgow (181, 174, 355).

Learners Finals Aggregates. Ladies—1, Eppie Murray, Lybster (361, 348, 709); 2, Elizabeth C. Macphail, Minard (359, 344, 703); 3, Margaret M. Muir, Campbeltown (357, 341, 698). Men—1, Islay MacTaggart, Glasgow (363, 356, 719); 2, A. H. M. MacRae, London (364, 341, 705); 3, Archie MacTaggart, Glasgow (360, 343, 703).

Y.M.C.A. MAIN HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: James Thomson, M.A., F.E.I.S. Music: Dr. Sydney Northcote.

Solo singing (men) of song, "An cluinn thu mi" (The L/Cpl. Lachlan Maclean Watt Memorial Prizes)—1, Calum M. Kennedy, Lewis (82, 86, 178); 2, John A. MacRae, Glasgow (89, 87, 176); 3, Archie Maclean, Perth (87, 88, 175).

Solo singing (competitors to be natives of Glenmoriston, Glenurquhart, or Stratherrick districts, or, failing such, natives of the County of Inverness, excluding burghs of 2,000 or more) (Mrs. Quintin MacLennan Prizes)—1, Elizabeth L. Mackinnon, Caol (85, 89, 174); 2, Jessie MacKerrall, Nethy Bridge (85, 86, 171).

MUSIC HALL (BALLROOM). ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Donald Thomson, M.A., F.E.I.S. Music: Cedric Thorpe Davie.

Solo singing (men) of the oran-mor, "Tuireadh Iain Ruaidh" (The Bessie Campbell Memorial Prizes)—1, Calum M. Kennedy, Lewis (93, 86, 179); 2, Murdo Ferguson, Lewis (93, 82, 175); 3, Calum Cameron, Aberdeen (90, 84, 174).

Solo singing (ladies) of the oran-mor, "Mort Ghlinne Comhainn" (The Jessie N. MacLachlan Memorial Prizes)—1, Joan M. Mackenzie, Lewis (94, 90, 184); 2, Ina MacDiarmid, Greenock (92, 87, 179); 3, Johan MacLeod, Glasgow (93, 85, 178).

THURSDAY

ORAL DELIVERY

Gold Medal (presented by Glasgow Skye Association for highest aggregate marks in specified oral delivery competitions)—Ina Macgregor, Kyle.

Dr. John Cameron Commemoration Prize for most distinguished competitor in Learners' Oral Section—James C. Burnett, Oban High School.

MUSIC HALL (ROUND ROOM). ADJUDICATOR—John Macdonald, M.A.

Reciting poetry, "Marbhann do Mhgr. Seumas Beattie" from memory—1, Ina Macgregor, Kyle (94); 2, Donald D. McIsaac, Ayr (93).

Reciting prose, "An Loch" from memory—1, Ina Macgregor, Kyle (95); 2, Christina Macleod, Cupar (94).

Reading unfamiliar piece of prose—1, John A. Finlayson, Glasgow (94); 2, Christina Macleod, Cupar (93).

MUSIC HALL (SQUARE ROOM). ADJUDICATOR—James Thomson, M.A., F.E.I.S.

Recitation of piece of original poetry composed by competitor (Calum MacPharlin Memorial Prizes, Presented by Paisley Highlanders' Association)—1, Norman Maclean, Glasgow (87); 2, Iain M. Mofatt-Pender, Glasgow (86).

Ancient folk-tale (preferably unpublished) narrated in traditional style (Anglo-Chilean Society Shield)—1, Norman Maclean, Glasgow (93); 2, Grace Baxter, Tiree (92).

Best prepared original speech on any subject—1, Jessie E. Hutchison, Perth (91); 2, Katie Mackinnon, Glasgow (89).

Acted dialogue—1, Mrs. C. L. Christie and Neil Macleod, Oban (92); 2, Katie Mackinnon, Glasgow, and Mrs. N. Macleod, Clydebank (90); 3, C. Mackinnon, Eigg, and Alex. J. Maclean, Torridon (88).

Y.M.C.A. TOP FLAT. ADJUDICATOR—Rev. T. M. Murchison, M.A.

Reciting poem, "Ealaidh Ghaoil," from memory (learners)—1, James C. Burnett, Oban High School (87); 2, Amy Smith, Lochgilphead (85).

Reciting prose from memory (own choice) (learners)—1, Amy Smith, Lochgilphead (86); 2, James C. Burnett, Oban High School (85).

Reading at sight a passage selected by adjudicator from *An Gaidheal* (1955) (learners)—James C. Burnett, Oban High School (86).

Speech (learners)—James C. Burnett, Oban High School (87).

MUSIC HALL (MAIN HALL). ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Miss Annie M. Mackenzie, M.A. Music: Alec Redshaw.

Nova Scotia Competition (Song prescribed: "E horo mo nighean donn") (Confined to first-prize winners in premier solo competitions at provincial mods) (Medals presented by the Cape Breton Island Gaelic Foundation)—1, (Gold Medal), Margaret M. Muir, Campbeltown (89, 90, 179); 2, (Silver Medal), Johan Macleod, Glasgow (93, 83, 176); 3, (Bronze Medal), Sheila A. Macdougall, Glasgow (89, 84, 173).

MUSIC HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Rev. T. M. Murchison, M.A., and Angus Macleod, M.A., B.Sc., F.E.I.S. Music: Cedric Thorpe Davie and Alec Redshaw.

Solo singing of the songs, "Griogal Cridhe" (ladies) and "O Righ nan Dùl" (men) along with a song chosen by competitor. Ladies—1, Marjorie M. Lochhead, Glasgow (178, 182, 360); 2, Iona Macdonald, Harris (179, 177, 356). Men—1, Calum M. Kennedy, Lewis (182, 187, 369); 2, John A. MacRae, Glasgow (180, 176, 356).

Gold Medalists (aggregate of marks in specified competitions). Ladies—1 (and Gold Medal), Joan M. Mackenzie, Lewis (370, 350, 720); 2, Marjorie M. Lochhead, Glasgow (355, 357, 712); 3, Iona Macdonald, Harris (358, 349, 707). Men—1 and Gold Medal, Calum M. Kennedy, Lewis (367, 359, 726); 2, John A. MacRae, Glasgow (358, 346, 704);

3 (equal), Calum Cameron, Aberdeen (359, 342, 701), and Murdo Ferguson, Lewis (362, 339, 701).

MUSIC HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Rev. T. M. Murchison, M.A. Music: Cedric Thorpe Davie.

Choral singing of the songs, "Mo Rùn Chailin'" and "Tha'n Samhradh air Tighinn" (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 Colonel and Mrs. Iain Campbell of Airds)—1, Laxdale Gaelic Choir (181, 178, 359); 2 (equal), Portree Gaelic Choir (182, 174, 356), and Lochgilphead Gaelic Choir (180, 176, 356); 4, Salen Gaelic Choir (179, 173, 352).

Dalriada Cup, presented by Mr. and Mrs. S. Smith, Lochgilphead, for choir with highest marks in Gaelic in Lorn Shield competition—Portree Gaelic Choir (182).

Choral singing of the songs, "Far an robh mi'n raoir" and "Cuachag nan Craobh" (confined to choirs from rural districts, excluding towns of more than 2,000 population), (Sheriff Macmaster Campbell Memorial Cuach)—1, Lochalsh Gaelic Choir (180, 172, 352); 2, Ardrishaig Gaelic Choir (178, 171, 349).

CLARSACH COMPETITIONS

Y.M.C.A. MAIN HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Miss Annie M. Mackenzie, M.A. Music: Miss Kathleen Barry Milner.

Solo singing with self-accompaniment on the clarsach—no competition.

Playing two contrasting airs on clarsach (Prizes presented by General Sir Philip Christison)—1, Marjory H. McLeish, Perth (61); 2, C. Victor A. MacEchern (57).

Accompanying a singer with clarsach—Special prize to C. Victor A. MacEchern.

Solo singing with self-accompaniment on clarsach for those who have played for from one to four years (Tearlach MacEacharn Memorial Clarsach, presented by Rev. J. Reid Christie, and other prizes by Cecil Lady Matheson of Lochalsh, and Mrs. Neil Orr—Ivy M. Beaton, Dennistoun (61).

FRIDAY

MUSIC HALL (BALLROOM). ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Rev. T. M. Murchison, M.A. Music: Alec Redshaw.

Duet singing (own choice)—1, Nan Mackenzie, Dunstaffnage, and Anne M. Mackenzie, Oban (89, 88, 177); 2, Christine M. McBride and Sheila A. Macdougall, Glasgow (90, 86, 176).

MUSIC HALL (BALLROOM). ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Donald Jackson, M.A., and Miss Annie M. Mackenzie, M.A. Music: Alec Redshaw.

Quartette singing of song, "Mo nighean chruinn donn"—1, Oban Gaelic Choir Quartette (91, 87, 178); 2, Aultnaskiach Quartette (90, 85, 175).

Choral singing (female voices) of the songs, "Ghràidh, an tig thu" and "Thàinig an gille dubh" (Esme Smyth Trophy)—1, Greenock Gaelic Choir (179, 181, 360); 2, Oban Gaelic Choir (184, 175, 359); 3, Campbeltown Gaelic Choir (181, 175, 356).

MUSIC HALL (MAIN HALL). ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Angus Macleod, M.A., B.Sc., F.E.I.S. Music: Cedric Thorpe Davie.

Choral singing of the puirt-a-beul, "An Fhaighir

Mhuileach" and "Banais Nighean Màiri Anna" (Greenock Gaelic Choir Cup)—1, Campbeltown Gaelic Choir (89, 90, 179); 2, Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association (90, 88, 178); 3, Greenock Gaelic Choir (90, 85, 175).

Choral singing (male voices) of the songs, "Am brudair a chunnac Anna" and "Oran muidaid" (Mull and Iona Shield, presented by Mr. and Mrs. Neil Cameron)—1, Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association (178, 175, 353); 2, Ballachulish Male Voice Choir (181, 171, 352); 3, Coisir-fhear Inbhir-Nis (178, 173, 351).

MUSIC HALL (MAIN HALL). ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Donald Jackson, M.A., and Angus Macleod, M.A., B.Sc., F.E.I.S. Music: Cedric Thorpe Davie and Dr. Sydney Northcote.

Choral singing of two songs, "Tog orm mo phìob" and "Braith Rùsgaich" (at least 50 per cent. of each choir to be Gaelic speakers) (Lovat and Tullibardine Trophy)—1, Greenock Gaelic Choir (182, 183, 365); 2, Campbeltown Gaelic Choir (181, 180, 361); 3, Oban Gaelic Choir (183, 177, 360); 4 (equal), Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association (181, 168, 349), and London Gaelic Choir (179, 170, 349).

Weekly Scotsman Cuach for choir with highest marks in Gaelic in Lovat and Tullibardine Trophy Competition—Oban Gaelic Choir (183).

Y.M.C.A. MAIN HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: John Macdonald, M.A., and James Thomson, M.A., F.E.I.S. Music: Alec Redshaw.

Choral singing in four-part harmony of the songs, "S tu mo rùn" and "Null do dh'Uidhist" (Confined to choirs from towns of over 2,000 population; at least 25 per cent. of each choir must be Gaelic speakers) (Margrat Duncan Memorial Trophy, presented by Glasgow Islay Association and friends)—1, Dingwall Gaelic Choir (179, 176, 355); 2, Edinburgh Gaelic Choir (178, 173, 351); 3 (equal), Dunoon Gaelic Choir (179, 170, 349), and Stirling Gaelic Choir (177, 172, 349).

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Y.M.C.A. MAIN HALL. ADJUDICATOR—Mrs. Jean Sutherland.

Playing of a Highland march, strathspey, and reel on the pianoforte (confined to amateurs) (The Aberdeenshire Targe, presented by the Aberdeen and District Pipers' Society)—1, Ivy M. Beaton, Glasgow (86); 2, Catherine Crighton, Aberfeldy (80); 3, Eileen Mackenzie, Carrbridge (78).

Y.M.C.A. MAIN HALL. ADJUDICATOR—Hector MacAndrew.

Playing of a Highland march, strathspey, and reel on the violin (confined to amateurs) (Sutherland Cup, presented by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sutherland)—1, Alexander Grant, Carr Bridge (80); 2, I. Kennedy, Fort William (75); 3, Duncan Henderson, Carradale (60).

Playing of strathspey and reel on the violin (competitors must be natives of Glenmoriston, Glenurquhart, or Stratherrick districts, or, failing such, natives of County of Inverness, excluding burghs of 2,000 population or more) (Mrs. Quintin Macleanian Prizes)—1, Alexander Grant, Carr Bridge (75); 2, I. Kennedy, Fort William (70).

The Story of An Comunn

By THE EDITOR.

(Continued from p. 88)

At Rothesay, in 1908, an Arts and Industries Exhibition was held for the first time at the National Mod, and the proceeds from admissions and sales amounted to over £60. Highland Home Industries and Arts and Crafts had, of course, a prominent place in the 1907 Feill.

In February, 1909, a conference on Home Industries, under the auspices of An Comunn, was held in Edinburgh, in the home of the Rev. Dr. Alex. Whyte of St. George's United Free Church. There was a large attendance presided over by Mrs. Burnley Campbell. Among the papers and reports submitted to the conference were:—the Tیره wood-carving industry; the Glengarry spinning and weaving industries (which had existed for fifty years); and a sketch of the conditions and industries in Barra. There was also an exhibition of Celtic art in the Outlook Tower, Edinburgh.

Following upon the conference, it was decided to form a Co-operative Council for Highland Home Industries, and among those promising support were: Argyllshire Gathering (Industrial Section); Glengarry Industries; Lochaber Industries; Tarbert Lace School; Lochalsh Village Industries; Portree Basket-making Industry; the Home Industries of Craignish, Lewis, and Jura; Gruline Home Industries Class; the Tarbert (Loch Fyne) Wood-carving Class; The Crofters' Agency; Northern Counties Arts and Industries Society; Galloway Home Industries; Connel Wood-carving Class; and Bute Home Industries. The Marchioness of Bute was appointed President, and Miss Campbell of Inverneill, Secretary and Treasurer. This was the beginning of the Highland Home Industries Association, with which An Comunn has all along remained in close liaison. Both bodies co-operated in promoting the "Clachan" in the Scottish Exhibition of National History, Art, and Industry of 1911 and another "Clachan" in the Empire Exhibition of 1938.

The 1911 Clachan

The Clachan of 1911 was designed by Mr. Colin Sinclair and situated on the bank of the River Kelvin ("Caol-Abhainn"), in the Kelvingrove Park, Glasgow. Covering two acres of ground and costing almost £4,000, it consisted of a group of thatched cottages of various types, with a "Taigh-Osda," a Village Store, and a Concert Hall seating 300. Various Highland industries were demonstrated and products exhibited and sold. The Clachan proved a popular "draw," and An Comunn and the Highland Home Industries Council shared the profit, An Comunn's share being £1,500, which was added to the capital of the Feill Trust.

In connection with the Clachan an excellent little book, still of value, was published. This was *Leabhar A' Chlachain* (Home Life of the Highlanders, 1400-1746), copies of which may still be got second-hand. Articles on various aspects of Highland life, activity, and literature were contributed by W. M. Mackenzie, Sheriff J. Macmaster Campbell, Colin Sinclair, W. C. Mackenzie, Rev. Lauchlan Maclean Watt, William Mackay, Rev. M. N. Munro, Dr. Hugh Cameron Gillies, Dr. George Henderson, Rev. Donald Lamont, Duncan MacGillivray, Kenneth Macleod, and Neil Munro. The editor was Mr. David N. Mackay.

Year by year An Comunn's Art and Industries Committee organised a sale of Home Industries. For example, a three-day sale in the St. Andrew's Hall,

Treasurer's Notes

National Mod—Aberdeen, 1955

Received at Aberdeen—	
Previously acknowledged	£2,648 15 7
Received at Headquarters—	
Previously acknowledged	£206 10 3
Miss Flora Macmillan, Glasgow	1 1 —
Edinburgh Gaelic Choir	3 — —
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Paisley Highlanders' Association	3 3 —
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Mrs. Iain Campbell of Airds, Amersham	2 — —
	<hr/>
	£253 1 9
	<hr/>
	£2,901 17 4

Central Fund

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A. C. Paterson, Esq., Campbeltown	— 9 —
R. J. G. Millar, Esq., Wick	— 10 —
Mrs. E. G. Croll, Glenuig	10 — —
	<hr/>
	£213 19 —

Magazine Fund

Previously acknowledged	£19 15 —
Alastair Cameron, Esq., Bunaltachan	— 1 10
	<hr/>
	£19 16 10

Glasgow, in 1912, drew £500 which went to the crofters whose goods were sold. The same year An Comunn's committee established a department in R. G. Lawrie's, Renfield Street, Glasgow, for the sale of hand-spun and hand-woven tweeds. In 1913 there was a great sale of Highland home industries at Dundee, which realised £300, and there were other sales in other places afterwards.

It may also be noted that in 1912 the Art and Industries Committee established an Employment Bureau to enable Highlanders to find jobs. This continued for some time.

(To be continued)



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar VII

AN T-SAMHUINN, 1955

Aireamh 11

Mac An Leir

THA na sgeòil a leanas mu fhear de Dhòmhnaill Ghleann-a-comhann aig an robh taigh an Aird-nam-murchan.

I.

Bha bàta aige, agus taobh dheth dubh agus an taobh eile dheth bàn.

Bha e thall aon uair ann an Loch nan Eala agus, ge bè dé an duin'-uasal a bha air an àite, is ann a thug e leis Mac an Leir a ghabhail sgeulachdan dha, agus bha leabaidh air a deanamh dha ann an seòmair an duin'-uasail. Dh'fhuirich e an sin a' gabhail sgeulachdan gus an do chaidh Fear Loch nan Eala. An sin dh'èirich Mac an Leir agus ghabh e am bàta agus na daoine deas aige agus thug e am bàta leis agus chaidh e do Mhuile. Thàinig e air tìr aig Ceann Loch Speilbh agus ghoid e crodh, agus bha iad anns a' bhàta aige agus thàinig e air ais do'n Apainn, agus an sin do Mheadar-loch, agus chaidh e a laighe do'n leabaidh, agus bha e ann an sin mun d'èirich an duin'-uasal. Agus fhuair an duin'-uasal 'na laighe e an sin anns a' mhadainn.

Thàinig tòir air, agus chaidh a thoirt air beul cùirt, agus dh'innis Fear Loch nan Eala gu robh e cuide ris an oidhche a bha a' ghoil air a deanamh, agus bheireadh e a mhionnan air. Ach chuir Mac an Leir a chas air cois Loch nan

Eala, mar rabhadh dha nach robh feum dha a dhol air a mhionnan. Fhuair Mac an Leir fa sgaoil.

II.

Ghabh am fear seo shuas baile an ceann shìos Aird-nam-murchan. A nis, b'ann a mhuinntir Mhuile a bha a mhàthair, ged bu Dòmhnallach á Gleann-a-comhann a athair, mar a thubhairt sinn cheana. Chuala e gun do shiubhail a mhàthair, agus cha robh a chridhe aige tighinn g'a còir. Thàinig e fhéin agus fear eile feadh na h-oidhche. Bha daoine ri faire an ceann eile an taighe agus an corp an seòmair cùil. Dh'èisd Mac an Leir agus a chompanach. Chaidh dithis a chur a dh'iarraidh uisge-beatha as an taigh. An uair a dh'fhalbh iad sin chaidh Mac an Leir agus tholl e air an taigh agus ghoid e corp a mhàthar a mach air an toll sin. An uair a bha iad a' toirt a' chuirp a chum a' bhàta có a thachair orra ach na daoine a' pilltinn leis a' bhuideal agus rinn companach Mhic an Leir suas riutha agus thairg e am buideal a ghiùlan agus bha iad air an sàrachadh leis agus leig iad leis an fhear seo a ghiùlan. Bha e a' dol air adhart gu luath leis agus mu dheireadh thug e car as an sealladh agus ràinig e am bàta. Mar sin thug Mac an Leir a mhàthair dhachaigh agus uisge-beatha an tiodhlacaidh.

Am Fear a Mhallaich an Talamh

BHA duine òg ann an aon de na h-Eileanan, air oidhche fìor-dhorcha, a' coiseachd gu bras gu a dhachaigh féin an déidh do'n chéilidh sgaoleadh. Cha robh rionnag ri fhaicinn air aghaidh nan speur a bheireadh a bheag no mhór de sholus dha a' tighinn troimh chrìomag de'n fhearann a bha car beag starbach, slocach, mu gheàrr-astar bho'n taigh. Mar a bha e a' cumail roimhe le sùdaig, dé a thachair ach gun do bhuail e cuinnean a bhòige le miapadh ann an aodann bruaich, is mun tug e an aire dha féin, bha e air a bheil 's air a shròin air an talamh! Air dha a bhith 'na dhuine crosda, leig e rann de mhionnan as do'n bhruaich agus an sin dh'èirich e gu grad.

Cha bu luaithe a fhuair e a steach air an dorus, co-dhiù, na chuala e am fuaim a bu chruaidhe air mullach an taighe, bualadh chlach agus phloc air an dorus agus mun cuairt do'n taigh gu léir.

Thug e roid do'n dorus a dh'fhaicinn dé a b'aobhar do'n tachartas iongantach, ach cha b'urrainn dha seasamh ann an sin mionaid na h-uarach air neo bhiodh e air a dhalladh agus air a spadadh. Bha ultaich phlocan agus dòirneagan chlach a' tighinn 'nam mìltean, mar gum b'ann as an adhar is bho gach àirde, agus a' sìor-stialladh gu cruaidh air an taigh.

Chùm seo air adhart gus mu dheireadh gun do thug e nach e ni nàdurra a bha ann. An sin,

AN GAIDHEAL OG

chiumhnich e mar a mhallaich e an talamh an uair a thuit e greiseag roimhe seo.

Leis an uamhas a ghabh e nach seasadh an taigh na b'fhaide ris a' gharbh bhualadh, chaidh e do'n doras agus ghuidh e gu h-àrd ris a' chumhachd a bha a muigh e a stad, agus bhòidich e nach leigeadh e an ath-mhionnann as agus nach mallaicheadh e an talamh a rithist r'a bheò.

Mar gun toireadh na spioradan neo-fhaicsinneach géill d'a aidmheil, sguir an frasán chlach is phloc is cha do chuir iad dragh tuilleadh air.

TORMOD DOMHNALLACH.

An t-Amadan Aig Mac 'Ic Ailein an Uibhist

(Le Murchadh Dòmhnallach bho aithris Alasdair MhicCuinn an Taigh a' Gheàrrraidh.)

ANNS an aimsir a chaidh seachd bhiodh Pìobaire, Bàrd, is Amadan aig a h-uile Ceann-feadhna anns a' Ghaidhealtachd. Agus cha b'ann a chionn gum bhiodh e 'na amadan gu nàdurra a bhiodh a leithid sin de sheirbhiseach aig ceann an teaghlach, ach a chionn is gum b'e duine anabarrach seòlta, deiseil 'na chainnt, a bhiodh ann.

Is ann mar sin a bha an t-amadan a bha aig Mac 'Ic Ailein.

Chaidh an t-amadan seo turus air chuairt do'n Chomraich, agus is ann an sin a chunnaic e a' cheud mhuileann a chunnaic e ag oibreachadh le uisge riamh, agus chuir an inneal a bha ann iongnadh ro-mhòr air.

An uair a thill e dhachaigh do Uibhist, thubhairt e ri Mac 'Ic Ailein, "Car son, a Mhic 'Ic Ailein, nach 'eil muileann agadsa mar a tha aig Ailean Beag na Comraich?"

"Gu dé," arsa Mac 'Ic Ailein, "an seòrsa muilinn a tha aig Ailean Beag?"

"Ochan," arsa an t-amadan, "is ann aige a tha am muileann. An uair a chaidh mise a staigh innte, thàinig muillear mòr breac liath a staigh, agus a cheann cho geal ri a léine, is a léine cho geal ri a cheann. Rug e air maide stilledh, 's leig e steall mu cheann a' mhuilinn, 's b'e sin an steall! Ghluais a' chramaille mhòr a bha a muigh, agus, ma ghluais, ghluais a' chramaille mhòr a bha a staigh. Ghluais an onathlais mhòr a bha an teis-meadhan na h-an-riaghailt, 's bha buille aig a' mhaide-mhulchdainn air a' mhaide-stalcainn, 's bha an gràn a bha an obair nan gràs a' tighinn a nuas 'na mhin bhàn chorca gu ciste na tròcair. Agus tha mise ag ràdh riut, a Mhic 'Ic Ailein, ged a b'e earball na làire bàine a chuireadh tu fo'n onathlais mhòir, rug tigeadh e a nuas 'na mhin bhàn chorca, bho éirigh na gréine gu a dol fodha air cùl Hirt!'

Toimhseachain—Ceartachadh

ANN an Tòimhseachan a Seachd ann an àireamh mìos Lùnasdail, tha sinn duilich gu robh an fhreagairt a thugadh seachd mearachdach, agus cha thug sinn sin fa-near gun an robh e ro-anmoch. Fhuair sinn dà litir mu'n chùis, agus tha ar taing acasan a sgrìobh, ged nach biodh ann ach gu bheil seo a' nochdadh gu bheil dithis co-dhiubh a' leughadh na tha anns A' GHÀIDHEAL OG.

Seo litir bho Eòghann MacCumhais, am Manchester:

Tòimhseachan a Seachd. Chan 'eil seo ceart. Ma thug e a null am madadh-ruadh, gu dé a bha an giadh a' deanamh ris an eòrna? Ma bha an t-inneal aig cho beag is nach b'urrainn da ach aon diubh a thoirt leis còmhla, ciamar a thug e am madadh-ruadh agus an t-eòrna leis còmhla?

Seo mar a thug e a null iad.

Thug e an giadh a null an toiseach. Thug e an sin a null an t-eòrna, agus thug e an giadh air ais leis. Dh'fhàg e an giadh air an taobh a bhios agus thug e a null am madadh-ruadh. Dh'fhàg e am madadh-ruadh agus an t-eòrna air an taobh thall, agus thug e an sin a null an giadh an dara turus.

Seo litir bho Fheachd Sgoil Bhrèibhig am Barraidh:

Le bhur cead, tha sinne a' smaointinn gun itheadh an giadh an t-eòrna ann am freagairt an t-oimhseachain anns an àireamh mu dheireadh.

Nach ann mar seo a dh'aisig an duine iad? Thug e an toiseach an giadh a null. Thug e an sin am madadh-ruadh a null agus thill e leis a' ghiadh. Dh'fhàg e an t-eòrna thall agus thill e air son a' gheòidh.

Seo dhuibh t-oimhseachan car coltach.

Tha trì daoine dubha air trì daoine geala a jarraidh a dhòl tarsainn air abhainn. Chan 'eil aca ach eathar nach gabh ach dithis, agus cha dean math barrachd dhaoine dubha air daoine geala a bhith còmhla, air neo marbhaidh iad na daoine geala. Ciamar a gheibh iad a null?

Seo an fhreagairt.

- (1) Aon duine geal agus fear dubh a null.
- (2) Thill an duine geal agus chaidh dithis dhubha a null.
- (3) Thill fear dubh agus chaidh dithis gheala a null.
- (4) Thill fear dubh agus fear geal agus chaidh dithis gheala a null.
- (5) Thill an duine dubh agus dh'aisig e fear dubh ma seach a null.

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An cànan milis màthaireil;
Cha labhair féidh nam fàsaichean,
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A labhras Beurla 's Gàidhlig ruinn,
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Le fir tha stri ri bàtaichean,
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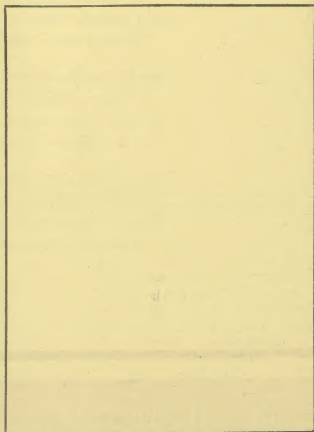
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THE GAEL

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF
AN COMUNN GAIDHEALACH

Editor

REV. T. M. MURCHISON, M.A.

All correspondence should be addressed to the Editor, except that concerning advertising, which should be addressed to the Secretary, while Subscriptions should be sent to the Treasurer.

65 West Regent Street,
Glasgow, C.2.

Telephone: DOUGLAS 1433.

CLAR-INNSIDH

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AN DUBLACHD, 1955

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Seonaid

LE SEONAG NICLEOID, Glaschu

(Choisinn an sgeul goirid seo Duais-chuimhneachain Eòghainn MhicThorcadail aig Mòd Nàiseanta 1955.)

CHIA do chreid mi riamh na bhiodhte ag ràdh mu Sheònaid a bha anns a' bhaile againne an uair a bha mise òg, agus cha chreidinn fhathast e cuideachd mur biodh gum faca mi i ri a cuid oibreach le mo dhà shùil fhéin; is chan e sin a bhàin ach b'fheadar dhomh aideachadh gu robh éifeachd anns an obair cuideachd, nam b'airidh e air éifeachd a ràdh ris.

Bha Alasdair Tàillear gu seachd àraidh trom air Seònaid is, nan gabhadh esan creidsinn, cha robh bó eadar Hiort is Peairt bho nach tug i an toradh uair no uair-eigin. Bhòidicheadh e gu dùrachdach gum biodh i a' sìtheadh an adhar air cas sguabaich a bha i a' gleidheadh gu falachaidh anns a' chùlaiste.

"S iomadh oidhche," ars esan, "a chunnaic mi fhéin i a' dol as mo shealladh far guala na Beinne Guirme a' deanamh air Cùlabost."

Ach ged a bhiodh Alasdair mar sin a' toirt beum á Seònaid an dràsda is a rithis le a theanga chan aithnicheadh mac màthar gu robh naimhdeas air bith eatorra an nair a thachradh iad. Chuireadh Alasdair an fhàilte bhlàth ud oirre, is cha chuala neach riamh faclan a thiginn eatorra gun an là a dh'ith an gamhainn ceannfhionn a bha aig Seònaid bàrr a' bhuntà luathaireachl a bha aig Alasdair an lochdar na pàirce.

Bha mi fhéin a' buachailleachd agus Alasdair còir ag innse nan sgeul dhonn mar a b'abhaist an uair a thog e a shùil agus a thug e fa-near an gamhainn gu a dhà chluais anns a' bhuntà. Thàinig fìor choltas colgarra air agus, ged a bha Seònaid bhochd 'na deann-rùith is a h-anail 'na h-uchd a' tighinn a dh'iarraidh na brùide, dhall Aiasdair oirre. Dh'fhan mise far an robh mi ri cùl cùirn, an dara h-uair taingeil gun d'fhan is an uair eile an dùil gur dòcha gun cuireadh Alasdair fàitheam air a theanga nan robh mi an làthair.

Fhearaibh! Fhearaibh! siud far an robh a' mhadainn. Chaidh an tìod gu aithiseachadh is, ma bha gnàthan ana-cneasda ri'n cur as leth Seònaid, théid mise an urras dhuit gun d'fhuair i an là ud iad eadar an dà shùil, agus abair gu robh spòrs agamsa. Bidh e coltach gu robh Alasdair a' suiridhe air Seònaid agus fìor dheònach a pòsadh an uair a bha e na b'òige, is cha d'fhàg ise sin gun chur 'na chuimhne. Mu dheireadh theirig tilgeannas air gach taobh agus cha chanainn idir nach b'ann aig Seònaid a bha a' bhualadh aig a' cheann thall. Thill Alasdair thun a' chùirn mar chù a bhiodh air dhroch shabaid is, ma bha Seònaid dubh roimhe, bu duibhe buileachl a nis i!

Co-dhùibh, chaidh sin seachad is throaigh fearg Alas-lair cho luath is a thug e tarraing no

dha air a' phìob. Thog sinn oirnn dhachaigh is, mun tàinig am feasgar, cha robh guth agamsa air trod na maidne. Thug mi cuairt gu cùl a' ghàrraidh an ciaradh an fheasgair agus, air d'nomh sùil a thoirt sìos rathad an t-sruthain, ar leam gum faca mi cuid-eigin crom eadar mi is leus. Ghabh mi car mu chnoc air an duine a bha ann, oir bha amharas agam nach robh dad de mhianin aige gum faicte no gun aithnichte e. Ràinig mi bearradh creige dìreach os cionn far an do shaoil mi am faca mi an creutair a' gluasad, is có a bha agam ach Seònaid? Cha chuala i riamh a' tighinn mi is cha robh iarraidh air bith agam guni faicheadh no gun cluinneadh i a nis mi. Bha mi greis 'ga còimlead mun do ghabh mi a steach a ceann turuis do'n t-sruthan. Bha corp creadha snasail aice air a dheanamh agus aon fhichead dealg aice air an stòigeadh ann an siud is an seo. Chuir i 'na shìneadh anns an t-sruthan e is i a' gabhail dàn nach tuigeadh is nach cluinninn-sa ged a rachainn air mo cheann dìreach. Bha an gnòthach a bha ann cho fìor mhì-choltach anns an là anns an robh sinn beò is gun tug e fìor shamhnt gàire orm. Dh'fhaic mi truas agam ris an ònseach bhòchd a bha an dàil cron a dheanamh air duine sam bith air an dòigh seo! Chuir mi romham gun rachainn g'a innse do Alasdair aig àm na tuachailleadh an ath mhadainn.

Ràinig mi an taigh is ghabh mi mu thàmh, ach cha robh an tàmh fada. Dhùisg bean Alasdair mi mu dhà nair anns a' mhadainn dh'fheuch an rachainn a dh'iarraidh an dotair is Alasdair ri uchd bàis le pian. Cha do chumhinn mise riamh air obair Seònaid an toiseach gus an cuala mi bean Alasdair ag ràdh gu robh e fhéin ann an cràdh mòr bho aon uair deug an raoir. Dh'fhaic mi fuar fhallus a' brùchdadh romham, ach cha do ghabh mi dad orm ri bean Alasdair. Leum mi 'nam

chuid aodaich is dh'fhalbh mi còmbla rithe. Chaidh mi a steach is thug mi sùil air Alasdair anns an dol seachd, is shaoilinn gun do shìl e as bho'n chunnaic mi e anns a' mhadainn. Bha e am pian mòr is boinne falluis a' tuiteam air a' chluasaig an dràsda is a rithis. Tharraing mise 'nam ruith ach cha b'ann idir air lighiche a rinn mi ach dìreach air Seònaid. Cha tug mi fada 'ga cur as an leabaidh, agus shaoilinn mi romham i a mach thun an t-sruthain is i leth-ruisgte. Bha gnè sgàig agam roimhe an toiseach, ach mhaoidh mi gach ministear is éildear is seisean oirre nan deanadh i a leithid r'a maireann. Dh'fheuch i an toiseach ri dhòl as àicheadh, ach cha robh feum ann. Bha an fhianais agam oirre agus is math a bha fios aice air. Mhionnaich is bhòidich i dhomh gu deurch nach cuireadh i làmh 'na leithid gu bràth tuilleadh, a mhàin nan geallainn nach canainn faic m'a dheighinn ri anail bheò.

Bha fios agam nach deanadh e móran feum ged dh'innsinn do'n t-saoghal a cuilbheartan is dh'aontaich mi deanadh mar a dh'iarr i. Chaidh an corp creadha a chur an dara taobh is gach dealg a thoirt as. Ge b'è dé an dàn a ghabh Seònaid dha an turus seo, cha robh teagamh agam gu robh cron ann do dhuine air bith a nis. Chaidh mi a dh'iarraidh an lighiche chòir ach, mun tàinig e, bha Alasdair air faothachadh fhaighinn is cha robh feum aige air locshlaint. Cha d'innis mise riamh mu'n chùis do Alasdair no do dhuine eile. Is fhada bho shìubhail iad le chéile ach gu là a bhàis cha chreideadh Alasdair nach robh feartan sònraichte ana-ceanas aig Seònaid.

"Ach nach b'iongantach leatsa nach d'rinn i cron rianh orm fhéin," theireadh e; "bha aobhar aice air, brònag, nam b'urrainn di."

B'e an gliocas Alasdair fhàgail 'na bhàrail fhéin!

Executive Council

A MEETING of the Executive Council of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in the Highlanders' Institute, Glasgow, on 5th November. Mr. Neil Shaw, President, was in the Chair, and there was a good attendance of members.

The President made reference to the recent death of Lord Alness, who, as Mr. Robert Munro, had been Secretary for Scotland at the time of the passing of the Education (Scotland) Act of 1918, and who had been very helpful in meeting the demand by An Comunn and others to have "the Gaelic Clause" inserted in the Act. Lord Alness had been a member of An Comunn for many years.

The President expressed the good wishes of

the Council for the speedy recovery of Mr. Donald MacPhail, at present in the Royal Northern Infirmary, Inverness.

Minutes of the Advisory Committee were submitted and approved. Questions were asked about the approach to the Scottish Education Department for the appointment of an Organiser for Comunn na h-Oigridh. Mr. Donald Thomson explained the situation, the steps already taken, and the steps to be taken, and stated that no definite action would be taken without the approval of the Executive. Meanwhile certain information was being collected.

On 10th September the Advisory Committee had agreed that the following letter should be

sent to the Secretary of State for Scotland: "The Advisory Committee of An Comunn Gaidhealach views with grave concern the possible effects of the proposed establishment of a Rocket Range in South Uist on the cultural and social well-being of the community, especially in view of the uncertainty as to the nature and extent of the project, and urges that, if the project be proceeded with, adequate measures be taken to safeguard the interests of the Gaelic-speaking community." The Secretary read a reply received from the Secretary of State, acknowledging this letter and saying that all interests concerned would have an opportunity of expressing their views.

A minute of the Finance Committee reported that only one reply had been received to the letter sent to branches asking that a function, for the benefit of An Comunn, should be included in the winter's syllabus. The Convener, Mr. Donald Grant, expressed disappointment that not all the Standing Committees had submitted their budgets for the current year. The procedure in making grants to Junior Choirs for Mod expenses is under review, but there is no intention of being less generous than at present in this regard. The Committee expressed dissatisfaction with the way in which the charge of 5/- per day for children attending the summer camps had been reduced to 3/-. A proposal to disallow discount on music sold to choirs was, on a vote, remitted to the Mod and Music Committee for consideration.

A minute of the Education Committee reported that Mr. Donald Grant had translated the text of Book I of the Irish Readers into Scottish Gaelic and work on Book II was in progress. It was noted with satisfaction that the University of Glasgow is taking steps to establish a Chair of Celtic. Glasgow Provincial Training Committee is to be asked to arrange, if possible, to hold a class in Gaelic in the summer of 1956. The questionnaire-survey of Gaelic in schools was still in hand. Approval was given to steps taken by the Northern Sub-Committee in regard to the teaching of Gaelic in Plockton Secondary School. It was reported that the new enrolments in the Gaelic classes in Woodside and Bellahouston Schools, Glasgow, amounted to 64. Satisfaction was expressed at the space given, and the statements made, with regard to the teaching of Gaelic, in the recent Scottish Education Department Memorandum on "Junior Secondary Education."

A minute of the Propaganda Committee was submitted. The Northern Sub-Committee had recommended the publication of a Gaelic song-book for primary schools, and the Publication and Mod and Music Committees were to be consulted. Thanks was expressed to the Tain branch for donating a gramophone for the use

of Comunn na h-Oigridh at Cnoc nan Ros. Mr. Shaw had visited Islay and re-constituted three branches there, and the Islay Provincial Mod Committee had been re-formed. Appreciation was expressed of a gift of £120 in behalf of the Mull Provincial Mod. Rev. John Mackay, Convener, reported that he had recently conducted a Gaelic service in St. Andrew's Church, Liverpool, and had met a keen company of Gaels there. The Secretary read a letter from the Secretary of the Highland Division of the Scottish Community Drama Association stating that, although the S.C.D.A. were in favour of a separate festival for Gaelic drama, it was not intended that Gaelic plays should be excluded from the national festival. It was agreed that Mr. Malcolm Macleod, Secretary, and Mr. D. J. Maclean, Northern Organiser, should represent An Comunn on the Committee for the proposed Gaelic Drama Festival. The Secretary read the recommendations of the Conference on Gaelic Drama held at Inverness on 15th April, under the Chairmanship of Dr. J. A. Maclean, Director of Education for Inverness-shire. Among the recommendations were these:—(1) Closer contact between An Comunn and the S.C.D.A. (2) There should be a separate all-Gaelic drama festival. (3) Gaelic-speaking adjudicators and producers should be specially trained. (4) A play-writing competition for Gaelic plays. (5) A Gaelic plays library. (6) The winning Gaelic play to go to the final of the S.C.D.A. Festival. (7) A Gaelic drama festival might be held in Stornoway or Oban. (8) Eventually there might be an Inter-Celtic Festival, bringing in Irish and Welsh drama. Some useful discussion followed, and it was suggested that a beginning might be made by arranging a class for the training of Gaelic drama producers and adjudicators, perhaps in Glasgow.

Minutes of the Mod and Music Committee were submitted. The Committee had placed on record its cordial appreciation of the splendid work done by the Aberdeen Mod Local Committee and especially their Convener, Mr. Dugald Macdonald, and Vice-Conveners, Mrs. Westland and Mr. Iain A. Smith. The Committee had considered the suggestion that "at the Crowning of the Bard Ceremony, the Bard should read his poem," but "it was agreed that, as tremendous risk was attached to this proposal, the Ceremony should follow its usual simple form." It was reported that a letter had been received from the Town Clerk, Pitlochry, stating that the Town Council would like to invite the Mod to Pitlochry. A reply had been sent that Pitlochry would be a good centre, provided that the hall and hotel accommodation were adequate. Mr. George Sutherland raised objections to the

suitability of making a choral arrangement of the song, "Brataichean na Feinne." It was agreed to reconsider the matter. Mr. Donald Grant urged, in the interests of economy, that music adjudicators for the National Mod should be sought nearer home. Letters of thanks had been sent to the Gaelic Adjudicators at the National Mod, all of whom always give their services without fee; and also to the Director of Education for Argyll for giving leave of absence to members of his teaching staff to attend the Mod as adjudicators.

Lughadh gearr-sheanchas air Coinneamh de Chomhairle Clann an Fhraoich. A chionn is gu robh am Fear-gairme, Mgr. Dòmhnall MacPhàil, anns an taigh-eiridinn, agus nach robh e comasach do mhóran sam bith de na buill eile a bhith an làthair, b'fheudair brath a chur gu Céilidh nan Gaidheal, Glaschu, nach b'urrainn Clann an Fhraoich dol còmhla riu, mar a bha dùil, aig céilidh an ath-fheasgair.

Minutes of the Comunn na h-Oigridh Committee were submitted. There was some discussion on the proposal to provide battle-dress style blouses as a distinctive uniform for the members of Comunn na h-Oigridh. The opinion was expressed that, in view of the smart and attractive uniforms of other youth organisations, great care must be exercised in this matter. It was also suggested that the badge was sufficiently distinctive and uniform was unnecessary.

In the absence through illness of Mr. Donald MacPhail, Rev. T. M. Murchison, at Mr. MacPhail's request, and with the approval of

the meeting, submitted the motion of which Mr. MacPhail had given previous notice: "That no paid official of An Comunn Gaidhealach be permitted to enter for any competition or competitions at Provincial Mods nor at the National Mod of An Comunn Gaidhealach." Mr. Murchison said he understood that some dissatisfaction had been expressed by competitors and others that a member of the staff of An Comunn had competed this year both at a Provincial Mod and at the National Mod. There was certainly no rule against this at present, but the question had been raised whether it was really wise for employees of An Comunn to compete at Mods, and Mr. MacPhail felt that a ruling should be given on the matter. Mr. Kenneth Macdonald seconded the motion. Mr. Farquhar MacRae moved that the motion be rejected. Mr. Donald Thomson, in seconding the rejection, said that this motion sought to interfere with the liberty of individuals. In any case the question did not often arise, this was an isolated case, and he felt the motion was unnecessary. On a vote, the motion was rejected by 15 votes to 14.

Rev. John Mackay, Mr. Donald Grant, Mr. Donald MacCulloch, Mr. I. R. Mackay, and Mr. James Thomson were appointed to fill vacancies among the elected members of the Executive Council. Vacancies on Standing Committees were also filled.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Executive Council should be held in Glasgow, on 14th January, 1956, and the meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

An t-Oireachtas

S DOCHA gu bheil cuid agaibh ann an duathar gu dé a tha An t-Oireachtas a' ciallachadh. Sin agaibh, ma thà, an Fhéill mhór a bhios ann an Eirinn a h-uile bliadhna mar a bhios am Mod Nàiseanta againn fhéin.

Chaidh mise a thaghadh am bliadhna còmhla ris an Urramach T. M. MacCalmain mar riochdair o'n Chomunn Ghaidhealach. A dh'innse na firinn, cha robh othail sam bith orm a' falbh—'s gun fhios agam cò ris a bha e coltach neo gu dé bh'air thoiseach oirnn. Ach chòrd an gnòthach cho math rium agus gur ann a bhios ceud fadachd orm gus am faigh mi an cothrom a ris.

Air dhuinn an "Aer Phort" aig Ath-Cliath a ruighinn bha dithis de luchd na Comhairle 'nar coinneamh le càr, agus thug iadsan sinn do'n Taigh-òsda a bha gu bhith 'na dhachaigh againn fad na seachdain. Mhìnich iadsan a mach dhuinn na bha air a' chlàr oir, a chionn 's gur ann sa' Ghàidhlig Eireannaich a bha e

air a sgrìobhadh, bha beagan ann anms nach robh sinn sàr-chinnteach.

Bha an t-Oireachtas air fhosgladh—neo, mar a theid iad fhéin, "osgailt oifigiuil"—aig seachd uairean feasgar agus, as déidh na h-òraidean a bhith air an toirt seachd, chaidh failt a chur air na teachdairean bràthaireil, an dithis againne o'n Chomunn Ghaidhealach agus dithis as a' Chumrigh. Thug Mgr. MacCalmain chuca beannachdan agus deagh-rùn o'n Chomunn.

Cha robh an oidhche ach òg fhathast, agus thòisich comh-fharpaisean nan còisirean. Bha iomagain mhór air an luchd-riaghlaidh nach robh barrachd chòisirean an làthair, ach feumaidh sinn a thoirt fa-near gu bheil cosdas mhór comh-cheangailte ri còisirean a' thoirt á bailtean iomallach gu ruig Ath-Cliath. Sheinn gach còisir trì òrain agus b'fhuasda aithneachadh gu robh iad air an deagh dheasachadh.

An ath latha bha cluich aca ris an can iad "hurling"—rud-eigin coltach ri iomain ach cus na's luaithe agus theirinn-sa na bu chunnartaiche. Bha cóig duine deug anns gach buidheann agus gu dearbh cha robh caomhnadh aca orra fhéin neo air na camain. Bha mise an lán-dhùil nach biodh cnàimh slàn ann an duine aca mu dheireadh.

Air an oidhche bha co-fharpaisich a' seinn òrain san t-seann nòs, fir agus mnathan, agus an fheadhainn sin a fhuair duaisean dh'fhaodadh iad seinn ann am farpais a' bhuinn òir. Chòrd an t-seinn rium fhéin glé mhath, ged a bha an dòigh seinn aca tur eadar-dhealaichte bhò'n dòigh againne.

Tha iad aig an Oireachtas a' toirt barrachd àite do dhealbh-chluichean na thia sinne agus bha buidhnean as gach ceàrn a' feuchainn. Bha an fheadhainn bhò'n àird-a-tuath na b'fhasa dhuinn an tuigsinn, agus rachadh againn air an dealbh-chluich a leantainn gu

math. Chaidh trì feasgair a chur seachad le dealbh chluichean.

Ann an comh-fharpais air son "ceòl Gaidhealach" chuala sinn ceol-feadain, ceol-fidhle agus inneal-ciùil nach cuala mise riamh roimhe, piob-uileann. Feumaidh gu robh na h-Eireanaich bhò shean cus na bu ghleusda na bha sinne an uair a chuir iad balg gaoithe air a' phìob an àit a bhith aca ri séideadh innte. Tha ceòl na pioba seo gu math binn agus a chionn cho socair, séimh is a tha e cha bhi duine air a bhodhradh leatha ged rachadh a cluich ann an seòmar glé bheag.

Chaidh an t-seachdain seachad ro-luath agus bu mhath leinn ar taing a chur an céid do luchd-dreuchd an Oireachtais. Sheall gach aon dhuibh coibhneas is teò-chridheachd dhuinn agus rinn iad uile na b'urrainn dhaibh d'ar taobh air dhòigh agus gum bi dhèigh chuirmh againne air an fhàilte is aoigheachd chridheil a fhuair sinn. D. I. MACGILLEATHAIN.

At the Oireachtas, 1955

By T. M. MURCHISON

MR DONALD J. MACLEAN, Northern Organiser, and I flew to Dublin by Aer Lingus on Saturday, 22nd October, returning on the following Saturday, as delegates from An Comunn Gaidhealach to the Oireachtas, which may be regarded as the Irish counterpart of our National Mod, although there are some striking differences between the two, as will be noted later. Mr. Maclean and I are very grateful for the honour of representing An Comunn and the opportunity of being at the Oireachtas. It was a very happy and stimulating experience, especially for myself, since this was my first visit to Ireland.

On the eighty-minute flight from Renfrew to Dublin, on a beautifully clear morning, one realised as never before just how close together Ireland and Scotland are, a fact which accounts for much in our Highland history and Gaelic culture. The Glens of Antrim and Islay and Kintyre, and even Iona and Colonsay, are really, geographically speaking, within the same region.

A Cordial Welcome

No sooner had we disembarked at Dublin airport than two young officers of Aer Lingus approached us and gave us a most cordial Irish welcome. Mr. Sean MacGearailt then arrived, accompanied by another of the Oireachtas leaders, and we were driven to our hotel, where we met the Welsh delegates, Alderman Emyr Williams (accompanied by Mrs. Williams) and Mr. Dilwyn Miles. We were presented with the printed programme of the Oireachtas and with all the admission and invitation cards needed for the whole week, and given much useful information about the various functions and competitions. Throughout our stay we were accorded such hospitality as I, for one, have not experienced in many years of attending functions and gatherings. It was a very great pleasure to be welcomed by Mr. and Mrs. Sean MacGearailt, who were the Oireachtas delegates at our own National Mod at Aberdeen in September last. During the week we also met, and usually more than once, a large number of people whose acquaintance we had already

made in Scotland, at National Mods and at the Celtic Congress, among them An Seabac and his wife, Father A. MacAodhagain, Mr. Oscar MacUillis, Eibhlin Nì Chathairiabhagh, Aine Nì Cheannain, and the O'Shaya family.

The Oireachtas had begun with special church services on the Saturday forenoon, but we arrived too late for these. Nor were we able to attend the Saturday afternoon competitions. These were Chess and Solosinging competitions. There were (according to the programme) six solo-singing competitions with piano accompaniment, namely (the figures indicate the number of competitors in each), mezzo-soprano (4), tenor (7), soprano (3), bass (3), contralto (4), baritone (3). There was also a competition for violin-and-piano duets (three pairs entered).

The Official Opening

On Saturday evening the spacious and beautiful circular ball-room of the Mansion House was almost full (possibly a thousand people present) for the Official Opening. Round the galleries were inscribed the names of the patriots, pioneers, and martyrs in the cause of Irish national independence and in the struggle for language and culture. In front of the platform were inscribed the words which indicate the manifold activities included in the Oireachtas—"Ceol, Rince, Dramaiocht, Amhranaiocht, Fala, Litriche, Filiocht, Bealoideas, Stair, Sealaiocht" (Music, Dancing, Drama, Singing, Arts, Literature, Poetry, Folklore, History, Story-telling). Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. de Valera.

Lil Nic Dhonnchadh, "Uachtaran an Oireachtais," presided. Proceedings began with a long oration in Gaelic by Thomas O Muircheartaigh, "Uachtaran" of "Connradh na Gaeilge" (The Gaelic League). This oration, which dealt with several matters of great importance to the language movement in Ireland, and from which we also might learn something in our rather different situation, will be found in full in the November number of the Irish magazine, "Feasta."

Thereafter the fraternal delegates from Scotland

and Wales were formally received and welcomed, and Alderman Williams and I made brief speeches in our own languages. Perhaps one should say at this point that, apart from these few words in Scottish Gaelic and Welsh, all the proceedings throughout the whole week were entirely in Irish. There was no English used at all, except in so far as the Irish, like ourselves and perhaps even more than we, make use of English words among their Irish, quite often with no attempt at "Irishising" them.

There followed two choral competitions. In the first two (the prizes being—1st, £60, 2nd, £40), two choirs from Dublin each sang five songs of their own choice. In the second (prizes—1st, £30; 2nd, £15), two ladies' choirs from Dublin sang a prescribed song and two songs of their own choice. It was very good choral singing, but it did not seem to me to reach the standard of our Lovat and Tullibardine competition. We were interested and delighted to find our own Miss Helen T. MacMillan among the panel of adjudicators for these choral competitions.

Following the choral singing, there was the presentation of prizes and trophies won in the numerous literary competitions. Thereafter the adjudications on the choral singing were given. All adjudications were, of course, in Irish, and there were not, as we have, separate adjudicators for language and music.

Solo-Singing

It would take too much space to recount the events of the week in detail, but for purposes of comparison with our own National Mod certain features should be described. During the first half of the week there were the following solo-singing competitions (again I give the number of competitors entered although not all actually competed). Unaccompanied singing—men (5), women (11). Traditional singing—men (6), women (9). The top competitors in the three classes (accompanied, unaccompanied, and traditional) later sang again in final competitions for the three Gold Medals (one for each of these three types of singing). There were also competitions in story-telling—for ages 18-25 (1 competitor); over 25 (3). Dialogue or comhradh (2 pairs competed). Labour songs (2 pairs competed). The quality of the solo-singing varied greatly. Some was almost as good as we expect in our own Gold Medal finals; some was as bad as the worst we've heard at our own Mod. I was disappointed with these adult competitions—not only in the numbers and quality of those competing but in the very small audiences which assembled to hear them and in the slowness of the proceedings. On the Monday afternoon, for example, story-telling competitions were billed to start at 3 p.m., but by that time there were only five persons in the hall, and proceedings actually started at 3.50 p.m., when there were 33 persons present. One competition was cancelled altogether. On the Tuesday evening, proceedings began forty minutes late. We certainly have had experience of late starts at our Mods, but we dared not think of the sort of Annual Meeting that would follow a Mod where so few competitors turned up in important competitions and so few people bothered to hear them and everything ran so late! We also formed the impression that a small number of people from one area of the Gaeltacht more or less monopolised the solo-singing competitions. In fairness, it should be said that we were told that the solo-singing classes were not up to the standards of previous years, and we do know that the Oireachtas officials are as efficient as any. The blame for the situation referred to must be laid at the door of the general public and the competitors who arrived late or not at all.

Later in the week there were competitions in instrumental music—violin, piob-uileann, an fheadag

mhór, accordion, ceilidh bands—but these we unfortunately missed, as we had to return home early on Saturday. We understand that these competitions drew larger crowds than did the solo-singing.

What I enjoyed most of all, and what tempted one to envy our Irish friends, was two features of the Oireachtas that we in Scotland lack entirely. The first was the drama competitions. There were three sessions of Irish plays, each consisting of three plays. This was something worth going to Dublin to see. The standard of production and of performance seemed to me to be very high, and the plays themselves were of excellent quality.

The Youth Rallies

The other feature of the Oireachtas which proved a most inspiring experience was the great rallies of young people. On the Tuesday evening there was one for Training College Students, the future teachers in the Irish schools. On Wednesday afternoon—"La na nog"—hundreds of pupils from secondary and technical schools filled the Mansion House ball-room. The programme consisted of music by a boys' brass band, six girl harpists who played beautifully, two school choirs who sang delightfully, a short play (somewhat melodramatic and violent for our taste), an interval of impromptu solo-singing and reciting by volunteers from the audience, and a stirring address by our friend, Father MacAodhagáin. There were children present from Antrim in the North and Waterford in the South, and representatives from some twenty schools in Dublin City and County. Father MacAodhagáin made a strong plea for greater devotion to Gaelic music, the great treasure of the nation. He recalled some of the repressive measures of the past—how, for example, Queen Elizabeth in 1603 had ordered that harpists should be hanged, and how the Cromwellian soldiers destroyed all the harps they could lay hands on. He made mention of the place given to children's competitions at our own National Mod.

On Thursday forenoon there was an even bigger rally of children from primary schools, many schools being represented. There was the boys' brass band again, community singing, a play, a dancing display, instrumental music, and a stirring address, appealing to the sense of patriotism and inspiring to pride in the Irish heritage.

On the Monday evening there was a grand reception and ceilidh in the Gresham Hotel, among those present being the President of Eire, Mr. John O'Kelly; the Prime Minister, Mr. Costello; Mr de Valera; Chief Justice Connor Maguire; the Minister for Education, General Richard Mulcahy; the Lord Provost of Dublin, Mr. Larkin; and other leading personalities.

On the Thursday evening there was a largely attended and very happy tea-ceilidh in the Mansion House. A similar function was to take place again on the Saturday evening. The Dublin branch of the Celtic Congress also invited the Welsh delegates and ourselves to a very pleasant tea-ceilidh, with about thirty people present.

Several organisations linked with the Oireachtas arrange meetings during Oireachtas week. There was, for example, the dinner of the "Club-Leabhar." This Irish Book Club—an idea we might copy—has already issued 80,000 volumes to its members, and Gaelic writing and publishing have benefited greatly. Mention should also be made of the Oireachtas Art Exhibition, consisting of some hundred paintings and a dozen pieces of sculpture, held in the City Museum.

Another feature of Oireachtas week was the final of the hurley match for the major trophy, under the

auspices of the Gaelic Athletic Association. This attracted some 30,000 people.

Teaching Through Irish

Monsieur Padraig de Bruin, President of the Galway University College (in which members of the staff are qualified to teach through the medium of Irish) lectured on "University Education through the Medium of Irish Gaelic." Four classes of people, he said, are opposed to the revival of Irish. Firstly, those who are convinced that the language is fated to die within a very short period and say it is therefore useless and harmful to teach through a language which will live only a couple of generations. Secondly, those who believe that, however, useful Irish may be as an everyday language, it is not adapted for philosophical and scientific discussions, although they are satisfied that it should be preserved in the Gaeltacht. Thirdly, those "mocking-birds" who ridicule the language. Fourthly, the strongest and most dangerous class—those who are opposed to higher education through Irish—the educationists who examined and reported on teaching through Irish in the all-Irish schools and concluded that these schools are dead or about to die. Dr. de Bruin said the Gaeltacht was the only hope for the Irish language. He believed that the majority of English speakers would accept the teachings of Pearse if they were encouraged to overcome the difficulties concurrent with the learning and use of the language. He declared that it was not true that the all-Gaelic schools were dead, and that university education through the medium of Irish was impossible. Students from the all-Irish schools had proved themselves to be the best they had.

Once one recovered from the surprise of finding that Nelson on his tall pillar dominates the main street, O'Connell Street, and indeed the city, one soon discovered Dublin to be a city, in part beautiful as Edinburgh, in part drab like our own dear Glasgow, but full of historic and literary interest. In contrast with our National Mod, the more leisurely time-table of the Oireachtas allowed plenty of time for sight-seeing. The Cathedrals, the Castle, the National Library, the National Museum, the Phoenix Park—all were fascinating, and not least interesting were the many bookshops by the Liffey. We also visited the Government Publications Office and saw and sampled the enviable range of Irish publications, serious and light, for young and old. We had hoped to visit "Tara of the Kings," but, unfortunately, this could not be arranged in time.

Possibly we expected too much, but we heard no Irish spoken anywhere in Dublin, except by those attending or going to or coming from the Oireachtas functions. It was interesting to walk around and note the double nomenclature of the Streets (Irish and English), and wonder about some of the translations—Plas an Aird Bhig (Hardwick Place), Srad Mhaoil Ebride (Marlborough Street), Srad Mór nan Caorach (Great Shepherd Street), Lana na nGort Arrhair (Frederick Lane). Perhaps the most moving experience was to come on a memorial in St. Stephen's Green to a young patriot who gave his life for Ireland, "poet, essayist, patriot"—who "died not for flag nor king nor emperor but for a dream born in a herdsmen's hut and for the secret scripture of the poor."

Eire's Problems

One gathers from the Irish press and from the speeches one heard at the various functions that in Eire, as in the Scottish Gaidhealtachd, there are two main concerns—firstly, the steady weakening of the Gaeltacht by emigration; secondly, the parlous state of the native language. Despite the many advantages

the Irish have, as compared with us, their situation, both economically and culturally, is anything but satisfactory. The extraordinary stream of emigration is draining the life-blood from the most Gaelic areas. Despite the fact that for over a quarter of a century every school child in Eire has been taught Irish, it would seem that a very large number forget or neglect the language as soon as school-days are over. There is, of course, in Eire a very large body of people who do take pride in their language, and the numerous societies and organisations and publications and periodicals are evidence of that. The Government also gives a large measure of support and encouragement, although not as much as many of our ardent Irish friends would wish. It was interesting and encouraging to meet people whose grand-parents had been native speakers of Irish, but whose parents were English-speaking only, while they themselves are enthusiastic Irish-speakers, fine examples of the new Ireland, proud of their heritage. Again and again, in the speeches we heard there was the note of warning against the Anglo-American outlook, reinforced by press and radio, which threatens to submerge all that is characteristically Irish.

One evening we went to the Abbey Theatre (at present housed in the Queen's Theatre, since the old Abbey Theatre building has been damaged by fire) to see a new play, "The Last Move," by Pauline Maguire—a typical Irish comedy, dealing seriously with one of Ireland's social problems.

Dublin is an intellectually stimulating city. One is not surprised that it has been the home of poets, writers, and playwrights, and quite remarkable literary coteries have been rooted here. It is perhaps in the sphere of literature that Eire today is making greatest progress—that is, in Irish new writing. The numerous papers and periodicals in the Irish language give considerable scope to writers of Irish, while the Oireachtas itself does much to encourage writing—the competitions for drama, historical writing, and fiction offering two prizes of £200 each, three of £100, two of £75, and several of £50 and less. Compared with these the inducements offered to Gaelic writers by the National Mod and An Comunn are shamefully trivial.

One thing that surprised me greatly was how people turned and stared at my companion's kilt. I had thought that the kilt was almost as familiar a garment in Ireland as among ourselves, but apparently not. There it seems to be worn almost exclusively by pipers. Invariably as we passed children on the Dublin streets, we heard the whisper, "Look, a piper!"

We were very glad to have the company of one of our Comunn members, a faithful attender at our own Mod and equally interested in the Oireachtas—Mr. Thomas Hope.

Again, thanks to our Irish friends for a memorable week!

An Comunn Copyright

We draw the attention of all concerned to the following regulation in the "Rules and Conditions" governing National Mod Competitions:—"All works for which prizes are given shall become the property of An Comunn."

Certain sections of the Celtic Art Competitions are excepted, but the regulations covers the literary competitions.

This must be made clear in view of the fact that recently a prize-winning literary composition was published in the press without the consent of An Comunn Gaidhealach to whom the work in question now belongs. This is the second time this has happened in recent years.

Thall 's A Bhos

NOTES AND COMMENTS

National Mod, Inverness, 1957.—At a well-attended meeting in Inverness, on 12th November, a Mod Local Committee was formed, with Mr. I. R. Mackay as Convener, Miss Ena MacInnes and Miss Chrissie Mackinnon as Joint Secretaries, and Mr. Murdo Macleod as Treasurer.

National Mod, Largs, 1956.—The Local Committee are energetically striving towards the attainment of the target of £2,000 for the Mod Fund, and encouraging progress has already been made. One of the latest money-raising functions was a Fashion Show in the Marine Hotel, staged by Mrs. Logan, of the Marine Hotel, and by Mrs. Lyle. A wide selection of Scottish knitwear was modelled, and Miss Ina MacDiarmid and Mr. Donald Maclean contributed Gaelic songs, accompanied by Mr. Donald MacAllister. Mr. Finlay J. Macdonald, B.B.C. Drama Producer, capably compered the show. Later the same week a capacity audience saw three films lent by the Scottish Film Council. There were also Gaelic songs from Angus C. Macleod and Mrs. Boyd, with Jack Murray at the piano. Mr. Alasdair Brown, President of the Largs branch, presided. Miss May Hunter and her Committee have many other functions planned, including a ceilidh on 8th December, when members of the Kilmarnock branch will provide the programme.

Chair of Celtic at Glasgow.—It is announced that the University Court of Glasgow University have decided to take steps to establish a Chair of Celtic. This has been made possible by the receipt of the sum of £12,000 from the Ross Trust, which, with the funds already available, will raise the endowment fund to nearly £20,000. Glasgow University Ossianic Club has been instrumental in collecting several thousand pounds for the Chair Fund. The founding of a Chair of Celtic at Glasgow University is long overdue.

Ayr branch (President, Mr. Alasdair Mackechnie), at one of their recent ceilidhs, had as singers, Finlay MacKeachan, Jean Cameron Greer, Edith Pollock, and Mrs. Clark, with Barbara Sumner at the piano.

The Dunoon branch (President, Mr. Gilbert MacAllister) opened their winter session with a well-attended ceilidh in the Masonic Hall. Mr. Mackechnie, Greenock, was Fear-an-tighe,

and the singers were Ina MacDiarmid, Mary MacGilp, and Ian MacKie, with Margaret Mitchell as accompanist, all being from Greenock. The piper was Jim Henderson, Sam George played accordion selections. At a later date a basket whist drive was held in aid of the branch funds.

The **Hamilton Highland Association** (President, Dr. A. A. Wilson) is going strong. Over a hundred people turned out to a recent ceilidh at which a party from Greenock Tir nam Bann provided an attractive programme. The Greenockians were Ina MacDiarmid, Margaret MacGilp, Mrs. MacLellan, Colin MacInnes, and Walter Rae, with Margaret Mitchell at the piano. Miss Jessie Shaw, President of Tir nam Bann, was Bean-an-tighe. The piper was Kenneth Waller.

The opening ceilidh of the **Inveraray branch** attracted a large audience, despite inclement weather. The chair was occupied, first by Mr. A. Macdonald, Quebec, and then by Rev. D. W. Mackenzie. There was an excellent programme of vocal and instrumental music. Mrs. Robert Young succeeds Mrs. W. Ross as branch treasurer, and Mrs. Ross was cordially thanked for her services these years past.

At the general meeting of the **Salen (Mull) branch** a new committee was elected, with the following office-bearers: President, Mr. Duncan Macdonald; Vice-President, Mr. Cameron Macdonald; Secretary and Treasurer, Miss Nan MacPhail. A ceilidh followed, the programme including songs, stories, and piano-forte selections.

The re-constituted **Bowmore branch** (President, Mr. Tom Crawford) had, at their opening ceilidh, a lecture on "The Wild Geese of Islay" by Mr. John Turner. Epidiascope illustrations added to the interest of the lecture. A Ceilidh-dance followed, all the artistes being from Port Ellen.

Bowmore Gaelic Choir staged a Grand Carnival Dance in the public hall in aid of the Choir's Mod fund. Mrs. Tom Crawford, President of the Choir, presided.

The opening ceilidh of the **Glasgow (Central) branch** (President, Mrs. Morag C. Edgar) attracted a very good audience. An excellent

programme was sustained by Jean Campbell (clarsach), Margaret Mackenzie, Cathie MacNiven, Marjorie Lochhead, Anne Bone, Finlay MacKeachan, Murdo Ferguson, Pat MacLaughlin, Piper Neil Macleod, and Morag Bannerman (accompanist). The greetings of the parent association were conveyed by Mr. Malcolm Macleod, Secretary of An Comunn, and during the evening congratulations were offered to Mr. and Mrs. Donald MacCulloch on celebrating their silver wedding.

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Kilmarnock branch (President, Rev. Archd. M. Beaton) had over 120 members and friends present at a recent ceilidh, when songs and music were provided by Helen T. MacMillan, Catherine Ramsay, Donald D. MacIsaac, Mrs. Stevenson, Bob Mullen, Bob MacQuaker, Sturrock's Ceilidh Band, and Dorothy Hunter (pianist).

* * * * *
As we go to press we regret to hear of the death of Mr. Lachlan MacLachlan, President of the **Motherwell and Wishaw Highlanders' Association**. We hope to have a tribute to him in the next number. The Association hold regular monthly ceilidhs in the Masonic Hall, Motherwell. At a recent ceilidh, the artistes were Angus Macleod, Allan MacRitchie, May Jarvie, Chrissie Macdonald, Stewart Shearer, Donald W. MacRitchie, Pipe-Sergeant Brown, and Robert Pew (at the piano).

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Mr. Malcolm Macleod, Secretary of An Comunn, was Fear-an-tighe at a largely attended ceilidh of the **Stirling branch** (President, Mr. John MacNicol, who is at present recovering from a serious operation). The artistes were Johan Macleod, Bessie Reid, Murdo Ferguson, Donald I. Maclean, John Gordon, David Irvine, Piper John Oliver, and Jean Fraser (accompanist). The first annual Gaelic service of the branch was held in Logie Church, and was attended by over 200 worshippers. The service was conducted by the Very Rev. Dr. Alexander MacDonald, Glasgow, and the praise was led by the Stirling Gaelic Choir (Conductor, Mrs. Bonar), with Mr. Gaelic at the organ.

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The **Govan Highlanders** (President, Mr. Neil Ferguson) continue to draw crowded attendances to their weekly Thursday evening ceilidhs.

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The **Edinburgh branch** (President, Mr. Duncan Mackenzie) hold monthly ceilidhs, and at the November ceilidh an all-Gaelic programme was submitted by Maurice Mackenzie, Mairi Birnie, Alex. Robertson, Mrs. Margaret Ruthven, Murdo Macleod, Donald Ferguson,

Piper James Turnbull, and Messrs. Bolton and Johnson (accordion and guitar). Mr. Farquhar Macleod gave a short talk on Gaelic proverbs and idioms.

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The **Cornaig (Tiree) branch** had a full house at their opening ceilidh, and a large number of artistes provided an excellent evening's entertainment.

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At the opening ceilidh of the **Balmacara branch**, Rev. M. M. MacSween was Fear-an-tighe, and the programme was sustained by prize-winners at the recent Aberdeen National Mod, including, in addition to junior competitors, Ina MacGregor and Jean Matheson and the Lochalsh Choir.

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Mr. D. MacMillan, recently appointed Procurator-Fiscal, was Fear-an-tighe at a ceilidh held by the **Portree branch** (President, Colonel Jock Macdonald), and an excellent programme was sustained by a number of singers and instrumentalists and by the Portree Gaelic Choir.

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The **Edinburgh Local Mod Committee** (Convener, Mr. Donald MacIsaac) have begun preparations for the Edinburgh Local Mod to be held in May next. Disappointment has been expressed at the meagre support given by the great majority of Highlanders in the city. Were it not for the help given by enthusiastic learners and non-Gaelic supporters, there might indeed be no Mod at all!

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The Council of Scottish Clans Societies are proceeding with a project to establish a Clan Centre, or "**Hall of the Clans**," in Edinburgh, similar to the Highlanders' Institute in Glasgow. It is hoped to acquire the use of suitable premises in the reconstructed St. Thomas's Episcopal Church at the West End, near the Caledonian Railway Station.

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The **Glasgow Skye Association** have made a presentation to Mr. Calum Beaton in appreciation of his long and faithful services, especially as Treasurer of the Association for over twenty-three years.

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The late Mr. John N. Macleod's collection of Lewis songs, poems, and hymns, "**Bàrdachd Leòdhais**," first published in 1916, has now been reprinted by Messrs. Alex. MacLaren & Sons. Because of greatly increased costs of production the price of the book is now 18/6, but, by present-day values, it is still a bargain, and no Gaelic-speaking home should be without a copy.

At the annual meeting of the **Scottish Gaelic Texts Society** (President, Mr. Angus Macleod; Secretary, Mr. Hugh Watson), it was reported that the volume of the Gaelic prose writings of the late Professor Donald Mackinnon, edited by Mr. Lachlan Mackinnon, will be published early in 1956.

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The London branch of **Comunn na Clarsaich** plan to hold four ceilidhs during the present session. The Branch Secretary is Cecil Lady Matheson, and the Branch Secretary is Miss A. Margaret Imbey, 70 Hillside Gardens, Barnet, Herts. It is intimated that nylon harp strings, hitherto obtainable only in the U.S.A., can now be bought in this country. They are said to last longer and require less tuning than those of gut, although some may prefer the tone of the latter.

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The Editor will be grateful for reports from branches and affiliated societies for insertion in the Magazine.

Learners' Camp, 1955

Girls from Bellahouston and Woodside schools in Glasgow, from Helmsdale and Embo in Sutherlandshire, all learners of Gaelic, attended the Camp for a fortnight during August.

This is mainly a camp for learners and every encouragement is given to those who attend, by means of Gaelic conversation, nature lessons, and games. We note with interest the progress made by each one of them and allocate prizes accordingly. Lessons in reading and translation were given, and a test at the end of the fortnight showed that they were attentive and enthusiastic.

A period at the camp would not be complete without having a function at Cnoc nan Ròs, when we could invite friends to an evening's entertainment. Such an evening was spent in song and display of dancing before the end of the Camp. The children were grateful to Aggie Ross and his Ceilidh Band for sustaining the musical side of the programme, which was enjoyed very much by young and old alike.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the people of Tain for their support and for the interest they took in the children of Comunn na h-Oigridh.

Bu mhath leam as mo leth fhéin agus air sgàth na cloinne taing chridheil a thoirt do'n luchd cuideachaidh a bha còmhla rium aig an dà champa. B' iad sin Kay NicMhathain, Rhoda NicDhòmhnaill, Sine Wallace, Iain MacGille-na-brataich agus Eachann Mac-Coinnich.

D. J. M'L.

Treasurer's Notes

NATIONAL MOD—ABERDEEN, 1955

Received at Aberdeen—

Previously acknowledged	£2,648 15 7
Less—'Highland Fling'	
—approximate total acknowledged in October Magazine— see below	58 13 5
	<hr/> £2,590 2 2

Inverness Male Voice

Choir	5 — —
Dr. Lamont, Foyers	2 2 —
Ferintosh Social Club	9 — —
Glasgow Skye Association	5 — —
Professor John Macleod, M.A., D.D., Aberdeen	2 2 —
Iain Hilleary, Esq., Bernisdale	3 3 —
H. D. Welsh, Esq., Aberdeen	1 18 2

Ladies' Committee of

Mod Local Committee	— — 9
Beaully Branch	10 — —
Rothsay Branch	5 5 —
Portree Branch	20 — —
Kinloch Rannoch Branch	5 — —

Individual Efforts—

'Highland Fling,' Music Hall, Aberdeen, 25/6/55	50 11 9
Grand Concert Programmes, per Mrs. A. G. Westland and H. D. Welsh, Esq.	31 8 —
Cookery Books	34 5 3
Sundries	1 6 1
	<hr/> £2,776 4 2

Received at Headquarters—

Previously acknowledged	£253 1 9
Mrs. Donald Macleod, Broadford	5 — —
Miss Margaret O. Brown, Milngavie	6 — —
Anon. per H. D. Welsh, Esq., Aberdeen	— 10 —
Oban & Lorn Association	3 — —
	<hr/> 267 11 9
	<hr/> £3,043 15 11

Central Fund

Previously acknowledged	£213 19 —
Glasgow High School Gaelic Class Ceilidh	5 5 —
Tain Branch	4 4 —
	<hr/> £223 8 —

Magazine Fund

Previously acknowledged	£19 16 10
Taken at Annual General Meeting	1 5 —
J. R. MacDonald, Esq., Berkeley, California	— 10 2
Rev. D. A. MacRae, M.A., Benbecula	— 4 —
D. Urquhart, Esq., Natal	2 5 —
Miss R. Dingwall, Hamilton	— 4 —
	<hr/> £24 5 —



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar VII

AN DUBLACHD, 1955

Aireamh 12

Iomhair A' Bhogha Mhaide

(UILLEAM TELL BHARRAIDH.)

ANNS a' chòmhradh air feasgar agus an gocaman (an fear-faire) a' spaisdearachd air barr-bhalla Caisteal Chiosmùil, nìthaich e do bhirlinn choinnich a' seòladh gu gleusda a steach gu Poll-na-faochaig—caolas beag a tha eadar Glaic Chòineach is Eilean Orasaidh.

Bha ceatharnach mòr àrd 'na sheasamh anns an toiseach. Ghrad dh'eubh an gocaman air Iomhair, an t-àrd-bhoghadair a bha aig MacNèill.

Suas Iomhair gu barr-bhalla a' chaisteil is tharraing e a bhogha is thilg e an ceatharnach a bha an toiseach na birlinne. Ghrad-chuir iad mun cuairt i is thug i an Cuan Sgìth oirre.

"Nach glan a rinn thu, Iomhair," arsa MacNèill, "is bidh a bhlàth 's a bhuil."

Thug MacNèill bogha do Iomhair air son an euchd, nach robh a leithid ach ainneamh.

Bogha cruaidh fallain de iubhar Bhraghadh-Albann;

Calpa le taifeidean cainbe is sìoda na Gailbhinn;

smeòirne is gáinne lìomhta an glaic le iteach an fhìreoin.

"Is e mo mhiann gun téid a' cheud shaignead as a' bhogha ùr iubhair an lurga Mhic 'Ic Ailein," arsa MacNèill.

"Chan e sin mo mhiann-sa," arsa Iomhair.

"Nach e," arsa MacNèill. "Ma tà, tilg a' cheud shaignead air ubh 'na sheasamh air mullach ciun do mhic."

"Nì mi sin," arsa Iomhair.

Dh'iarr e air a aon mhullach mic seasamh air Càrr a' Chait—clach mhór a tha thall aig Caolas Orasaidh—gus am biodh e a réir barr-bhalla a' chaisteil far am biodh e fhéin 'na sheasamh leis a' bhogha.

Rinn an gille sin is an t-ubh air mullach a' chinn. Tharraing Iomhair a bhogha is thilg e saighead a sgoilt an t-ubh.

"Car son a tha saighead eile agad 'nad chrios, Iomhair?" arsa MacNèill.

"Gus a chuir 's an eun as àirde 's an ealtainn, nam marbhainn-sa mo mhac," arsa Iomhair.

Ghrad rug MacNèill air a' bhogha iubhair á làimh Iomhair is thug e dha bogha de mhaide nach bu mhór a b' fhiach.

"Seo," arsa esan ri Iomhair, "is e sin t'arm a mach o'n diugh."

Is mar sin a thugadh "Iomhair a' Bhogha Mhaide" air Iomhair.

Cha b'fhada gus an deachaidh geimhleag na drochaid thogalaich aig a' chaistal air aìmhreit, is b'fheudar cur a dh'iarraidh Iomhair gus a cur air dòigh. Rinn Iomhair sin, agus bha e fhéin is MacNèill cho àraid is a bha iad riamh is thug MacNèill da a bhogha air ais.

Tha cuid de shliochd Iomhair am Barraidh agus an là an diugh, agus tha Càrr a' Chait thall aig Caolas Orasaidh riamh fhathast.

Bho Raonaid NicLeòid.

Sgeul A Gearasdan Uilleim, Ontario

THA an sgeul seo air a h-innse mu òigear Gaidhealach a dh'fhàg a dhùthaich an déidh crìoch a thiginn air Cogadh Bhoniparti, agus a dh'fhalbh air luing a null thairis. Ged a b'fheumail e do'n dùthaich an àm na h-éiginn, cha robh ann a nis ach aon dhùibhsan ris an dubhairt am bàrd (ged nach b'e sin smuain a chridhe féin), "bàrlach gun fheum."

Bha an t-òigear usal air éideadh ann an

deise Ghaidhealaich. Bha e fo thùrsa is a shùil air cladach a dhùthchais a bha a nis a' tuiteam na b'isle fo sgòthan na h-àird-an-ear.

Bha Sasannach barrasach air bòrd, agus cha bu luaithe a fhuair e a shùil air an fhéileadh na dhùisg an sin spiorad na sgeig a tha cho dual do'n t-Sasannach an uair a tha Albannach anns a' chuideachd. Bha daonnan sgeilm aige mu "ghlùinean rùisgte," mu "chalpannan fuinntach," is an leithid sin. Ach an uair a

chunnaic e an Gaidheal air uachdar fàl-beòil na luinge ag amharc fada air falbh, bhuair a spiorad magail macnasach e cho fada is gun deach e a null air a chùl gu foill.

Thog e cìrb an fhéilidh òirleach no dhà os cionn iosgaid a' Ghaidheil, thionndaidh e ris a' chòrr a bha 'nan seasamh mun cuairt, agus rinn e glag cruaidh gàire.

Thug an Gaidheal stùil ealamh thar a ghuaile feuch ciod a b' aobhar do'n fhearas-chuideachd. Chunnaic e mar a bha agus smaointich e gun tàinig an t-àm gu stad a chur air a' chùis.

"Am fear a bhuaileadh mo chù, bhuaileadh e mi fhéin," tha an seanfhacal ag ràdh, agus chan 'eil e na's lugha firinn gun dean esan a nì sgeig air an éideadh Ghaidhealach sgeig air a' Ghaidheal fhéin.

Thug an t-òigear stùil ealamh eile air na bha mun cuairt, agus, gun ghuth a ràdh, siud sìos d'a rùm féin a ghabh e.

Mur do ghàir an Sasannach na bu mhotha an uair a thug an Gaidheal, ar leis, a chùl ris an àraich—cha robh, co-dhiùbh, a thoil-inntinn na bu lugha. Ach cha do lean an cridhealach fada. Am bloigh mionaid chunnacas an Gaidheal a' tighinn is dà chlaidheamh aige!

Tharraing e strìach le crioman caice air clàr-uachdair na luinge. Sheas e féin air an dara taobh, thilg e saighdean a shùil an clàr-aodainn an t-Sasannaich, ghlac e gach claidheamh, aon eadar dà mheur de a làimh dheis agus aon anns an dòigh cheudna 'na làimh chll.

"Do roghainn de'n dà arm," arsa esan ris an t-Sasannach. "Ma's fhiach thu làn spàine de bhainne lachdann cìoch odhar do mhàthar, cuir do leathar-buinn ris an t-sriach seo."

Cha robh dath am "Breacan Màiri Uisdein" nach do ghabh seilbh an gnùis an t-Sasannaich, aon an déidh aoin, agus cuid eile nach robh anns a' bhreacan àlainn sin sin! Co-dhiùbh, cha do ghabh e an tairge is dhùilt e an claidheamh a ghlacadh. Cha mhò a dh'fhuirich e anns a' chuideachd na b' fhaide, agus thug e as dhi.

Cha ruigear a leas aithris nach d'rinn e an còrr sgeig air a' Ghaidheal, air a éideadh, no air na glùinean a bha gun éideadh idir.

S. J.

("Teachdaire nan Gaidheal.")

* * * *

Big, big, bigein,
cò chreach n'o neadan?

Ma's e gille mòr e,
cuiridh mi le lòn e;

Ma's e gille beag e,
cuiridh mi le creig e;

Ma's e gille beag bidcach e,
fàgaidh mi aig a mhàthair fhéin e.

Campa Comunn Na h-Oigridh

BHA Cnoc nan Ròs am bliadhna seo a ris 'na àite far an cluinnte fuaim, cluich, agus ceol-gàire na cloinne a thàinig bho gach ceàrn anns a' Ghaidhealtachd is na h-Eileanan gus dà sheachdain thoilichte a chur seachd ann an cuideachd a chéile. Bha side ann nach fhaca duine beò a leithid le teas gréine agus ciùineachd, agus dh'fhàg sin a' chlann ann an deagh-ghean aig gach cluich a bha a' dol air adhart fad an là.

Ged nach robh an àireamh a fhritheil a' champa am bliadhna cho mòr is a bu mhatht leinn, bha sinn toilichte clann fhaicinn á ceàrnach cho sgapte bho chéile ri Leòdhais is Ard-driseig, Barraidh is Diùra, agus á Géirinis an Uibhist a Deas—ait as a bheil còmhlan laghach de chloinn a' tighinn gach bliadhna.

Chòrd an gnothach cho math ris gach aon is gur ann a bha an cianalas orra an uair a b' fheudar dhaibh tilleadh dhachaigh aig deir-eadh na Campa.

D. I. M.

Lomnochd Thainig Thu Do'n t-Saoghal Seo

AN uair a bha mi anns an sgoil bha gobha anns a' chlachan d'am b' ainm Calum Mac-a'-phearsain. Bha e 'na Eiidear anns an Eaglais Shaoir, agus bhiodh e a' dol mun cuairt a' trusadh airgid air sgàth na h-Eaglaise.

Uair a bha seo, agus e a' trusadh air son talla choinneamhan anns a' chlachan, chaidh e far an robh an Dotair Mac-a'-phì na Beithich anns a' Mhorbhairne, deagh chùl-taic do'n Eaglais Shaoir anns an sgìreachd.

Thubhairt an Dotair ris nach robh e a' dol a thoirt sgillinn da a chionn is gu robh iad a' tighinn cho tric. Thionndaidh Calum air falbh agus thubhairt e, "Lomnochd thàinig thu do'n t-saoghal seo, agus lomnochd fàgaidh tu e," anns a' Ghàidhlig—cànan nach robh aig an Dotair.

Co-dhiùbh, dh'fhoighneachd an Dotair de'n t-searbhanta a bha anns an éisdeachd dé a thubhairt e. Dh'innis i, agus an uair a chuala e seo chuir e i as déidh Chaluim g'a thoirt air ais.

Thill Calum leatha agus fhuair e airgead air son cuideachadh ri costas na talla.

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* * * *

An ràmh as fhaig air làimh, ionair leis.

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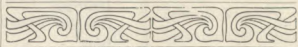
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Thug ainneart fògraidh uainn iad,
Is leis na coimhich buaidh mar 's àill:
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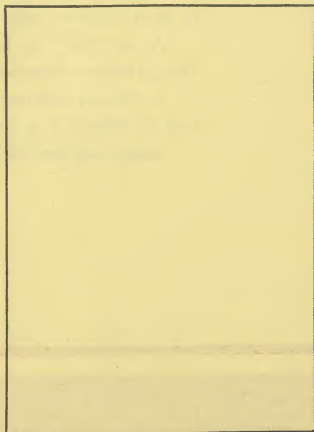
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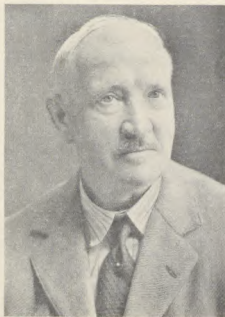
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(Bha seo air a chraobh-sgaioileadh air an ràdio.)

FHUAIR sinn fios an diugh a chuir guin 'nar cridheachan, gun do chaochail caraid dìleas agus Gaidheal eudmhor an Inbhir-Nis an raoir, Dòmhnall MacPhàil, a bha còrr agus fichead bliadhna 'na Fhear-deilbhe aig a' Chomunn Ghaidhealach anns an Aird-a-tuath.

Rugadh Dòmhnall MacPhàil ann an Dail-mhàilidh, agus bu mhac e do Chalum Caimbeul MacPhàil, am Bàrd Latharnach. Fhuair e fhòghlum ann an sgoil Dhail-mhàilidh, agus 'na ghille òg, mar a rinn iomadh gille Gaidhealach eile, thog e air gu Glaschu agus fhuair e cosnadh mar chléireach le fear Mac-an-rothaich aig longphort na Banrigh. Anns an dreuchd sin bha e a' tachairt air móran de ghillean Gaidhealach a bha 'nan seòladairean air bàtaichean malairt agus mar sin a' cleachdadh seachas riutha ann an Gàidhlig aig gach cothrom. Ré na h-ùine a bha e anns an dreuchd sin bha e a' frithealadh aig coinneamhan Céilidh nan Gaidheal, far an do thachair mise ris an toiseach. Bha e eòlach air a bhith a' labhairt air caochladh chuspairean an Gàidhlig aig a' Chéilidh. Bha a' choimhliontachd sin gu mór-fheum dha 'na chuaritean as leth a' Chomuinn. Bha e mar an ceudna 'na bhall de Chomunn Ceòlraidh Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, agus,

ma's math mo chuimhne, bha e greis a' teagasg Gàidhlig do bhuill na Còisre.



Ach b'ann mar Fhear-deilbhe a' Chomuinn a fhuair Dòmhnall cothrom air na gibhtean labhairt a bhuilicheadh air a chur gu feum.

Chan 'eil clachan no baile anns na roinnean mu thuath agus anns na h-Eileanan Siar anns nach do labhair Dòmhnall gu sgartheil toiniseigil as leth aobhar na Gàidhlig, agus bidh cuimhne mhàireannach air a dhealas is air a dhìlseachd mar riochdaire a' Chomuinn. Gu h-àraidh bidh cuimhne aig a liuthadh gille is nighean a fhrithheil aig campaichean Comunn na h-Oigrìdh air ar caraid. Bha e aig gach campa a chumadh aig Sonachan agus aig Inbhir-ailltear, agus b'è féin an caraid agus am fear-stiùraidh eagnaigh. Bha e cho òg 'na intinn agus cho easgaidh 'na bhodhaig agus gun rachadh e an gleus lùth-chleasan is iomain cho smearail ris a' ghille a b'òige. Ghabh e ùidh mhòr ann an dreuchd seo, agus is iomadh boinne falluis a shuath e bho a bhathais ann a bhith ag uigheamachadh fa chomhair teachd na h-òigrìdh agus a' réiteach an déidh dhaibh an campa fhàgail. Chuir e uile Fheachdan na h-Aird-a-tuath air bhonn, agus bhiodh e a' tadhal orra bho àm gu àm, 'gam misneachadh agus 'gam brosnachadh.

Bha aire mhór aige do na meuran is do na Mòdan Dùthchail 'na roinn féin, agus bu lionmhor turas a ghabh e air ais is air aghaidh 'gan neartachadh agus 'gan cuideachadh. Dheanadh e dleasnas brithemh Ghàidhlig cho cothromach ri àrd-fhòglumach, oir bha e fhéin gu nàdurra 'na fhear-aithris sgeulachd is bàrdachd. Bha e mar an ceudna mion-eòlach air dealbh-chluicheadh agus 'na dheagh fhear-cleas e féin. Is math as cuimhne leinn cho

coimhlionta is a chluich e ann am "Mairead" is "Dòmhnall 's an Tombaca."

Bha e air Comhairle an Fhòghluim an Inbhir-Nis agus air comhairlean eile aig an robh taobh sam bith ris a' Ghàidhlig. Mar mhac daimheil chlo-bhuail e—air a chosdas fhéin—co-chruinneachadh de bhàrdachd a athar, *Am Fìlìdh Latharnach*.

Chaill a' Ghàidhlig ursann agus cùl-taice an uair a thug an t-eug bhuainn Dòmhnall Mac-Phàil, ach dh'fhàg e eisimpleir aig òigrìdh, seadh, is inbhich, ar latha-ne as airidh air a leantainn agus, ma nì iad sin, cha do shaothraich Dòmhnall gu diomhain. Bha buill a' Chomuinn measail air mar sheirbhiseach dileas agus mar cho-obriche dùrachdach.

Tha ar co-fhaireachdainn a' dol a mach an nochd chun a bhantraich, a nighean, agus an t-ogha òg.

B'fhear-teaghlach blàth e, duine a bha treibhdhìreach, dileas anns gach aobhar a bha a' co-sheasamh cliù a dhaoine, a' chliù sin d'an tug e spéis cho mór is a dh'ardaich e 'na ghiulan is 'na chaithe-beatha. Duine suairce air am bi mór-ionndrainn.

Illness of the President

The members of An Comunn Gaidhealach and his many other friends wish for Mr. Neil Shaw a speedy recovery to his usual good health. He has been confined to bed for some time, but we are glad to learn, as we go to press, that his condition is much improved.

The Late Mr. Donald MacPhail

The large gathering at his funeral in Inverness on 28th November—assembled from all over the North, from the Isles, and from the South—indicated the widespread esteem that Donald MacPhail had so worthily won for himself by the man he was and by the work he did. It seemed to us that, in the concourse that slowly followed the pipe-lament to Tomnahurich, members of the teaching profession and educational administrators were in the majority, and rightly so, for Donald's most enduring service has been that performed for the young people of the Gaelic area.

Little did we think, as Donald MacPhail accompanied with us at the last National Mod at Aberdeen in September, and as we heard him speak at the annual meeting of An Comunn, that he was so near the end of his earthly course. After a comparatively short illness he passed away on 24th November.

Born and brought up in Dalmally, Argyll, Donald MacPhail was steeped in the lore and tradition of his people. His father, Calum

Campbell MacPhail, who was born in 1847 in Muckairn and who won first prize for original Gaelic verse in the first and second annual Gaelic literary competitions sponsored by the Lorn Ossianic Society (founded in 1877), enjoyed widespread esteem as a leading citizen and a fine bard. A volume of his poems, *Am Fìlìdh Latharnach*, was first published in 1878, and his son, Donald, brought out a new edition a few years ago.

Donald MacPhail, on leaving the parish school at Dalmally, served for a time as teacher in charge of side-schools in Glencoe and Glen Shira. In early youth he went to Glasgow and was employed for a period by the Clyde Navigation Trust, and for twelve years was superintendent with a firm of stevedores. His work at the Queen's Dock, Glasgow, brought him into constant touch with seafaring islesmen.

During those years in Glasgow Donald was active in Gaelic circles, especially in Ceilidh nan Gaidheal and the Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association. He was an excellent lecturer

and debater, but his special interest was in Gaelic drama. He was both actor and producer.

After some years in business in Lanarkshire Mr. MacPhail became Northern Organiser of An Comunn Gaidhealach in 1932, and in that office he continued until he retired in 1952. From his headquarters at Inverness he covered the whole northern area of the mainland, as well as Skye and the Outer Hebrides. In these twenty years of continual travelling he and his two cars, "Carnegie I" and "Carnegie II," generously gifted by the Carnegie Trust, traversed many thousands of miles on rough roads. He was a familiar figure on the ships that serve the isles. There were very few villages in which he did not plead the cause of Gaelic, few schools in which he did not exhort the children to cherish the fine traditions of their people. In Comunn na h-Oigridh he enrolled thousands of boys and girls. He never missed a summer camp, and was foremost in all the plays and activities, as well as doing the major part of the hard work involved in preparing and tidying up.

During the last war Donald MacPhail rendered outstanding service as war savings organiser for Inverness burgh and county, and the area invested over four million pounds in war savings. During the war he also organised Gaelic concerts for forestry and other workers in isolated areas.

For many years he was an active and most useful member of the Inverness County Education Committee. He was secretary of the Joint-Committee on Gaelic Informal Education; vice-president of the Schools' Camanachd Association; founder, 14 years' secretary, and latterly president of Ceilidh nan Gaidheal an Inbhir-Nis. He was also a Justice of the Peace.

Many years ago Donald MacPhail organised a Gaelic drama festival in Uist, but his main work was the forming and re-forming and encouraging of branches of An Comunn and of Comunn na h-Oigridh, while an important part of his work, on which he did not spare himself, was the organising, in conjunction with local committees, of the many provincial mods in his area.

Although Donald retired from office in 1952 he continued to work for the Gaelic cause. Until his death he was convener of An Comunn's Standing Committee for "Clann an Fhraoich." He was a good seulaiche and had the bardic gift although he did not exercise it much. He was a facile writer and a ready speaker of excellent Gaelic.

We express our deep sympathy with his widow, daughter, grand-child, and other relatives.

T. M. M.

Other tributes will be paid to Donald MacPhail in a more fitting language than is at my command. But I should like to mention some of his qualities, the worth of which I was perhaps peculiarly able to assess and appreciate as former Treasurer of An Comunn. A faithful steward of affairs at a distance must be a man of character. Donald MacPhail was such. He conserved the moneys of An Comunn passing through his hands as they were his own and his accountings were always timeous and correct to the last penny. Correspondence he dealt with promptly and adequately. I cannot recall having had to send Mr. MacPhail a reminder at any time and seldom if ever was it necessary to put a supplementary question to him. He was a man diligent in business. In any emergency on the administrative side at Mod times, Donald was ever willing to help out and, if he said he would do a thing, it was as good as done. The hospitality of his home on several occasions and many other personal kindnesses I shall long remember. Of Donald MacPhail it may truly be said—"Well done."

J. T. G.

Obituaries

The Late Mr. Lachlan MacIachlan

By the death of Mr. Lachlan MacIachlan, president of the Motherwell and Wishaw Highland Association for over a quarter of a century, the Gaelic movement has lost a stalwart supporter.

Mr. MacIachlan belonged to Luing and came to Wishaw in 1899, where he was one of the founder members of the Association, which under his leadership has gone from strength to strength.

We express our deep sympathy with his widow and sons.

The Late Mr. Thomas Atholl Robertson

Mr. Thomas Atholl Robertson died in Crieff on 14th December. Born in Dunkeld in 1874 he began his business career in Glasgow and then moved to London. He travelled extensively in connection with his business as publisher. In London he was actively associated with many Scottish societies there. He was best-known, however, as the editor of *The Scots Year Book*, the fiftieth annual issue of which has recently appeared. Mr. Robertson had been associated with it from its inception.

The Late Mr. Neil Macdonald

We regret to learn of the death of Mr. Neil Macdonald, Peninerine, South Uist, a brother

of the late Duncan Macdonald, the well-known seanchaidh. Like his brother, Neil also was a good seanchaidh, and we are glad to know that a large part of his treasure of songs and tales has been recorded by his nephew, Donald John Macdonald (a National Mod Crowned Bard), for the School of Scottish Studies, Edinburgh.

Appointment

Mr. Sam Maclean

We heartily congratulate Mr. Sam Maclean on his appointment as headmaster of Plockton Senior Secondary School.

Better known as "Somhairle Mac-Gilleathain," one of the best Gaelic bards we have had for a long time, Mr. Maclean is an

honours graduate of Edinburgh University, and has been principal teacher of English in Boroughmuir School, Edinburgh, since 1947. He comes from the Island of Raasay and belongs to a notable family, of whose achievements their fellow-Gaels should be very proud. His brother, John, formerly H.M. Inspector of Schools, is Rector of Oban High School; Calum has been doing valuable work as a folklore expert with the Irish Folklore Commission and now with the School of Scottish Studies; Alasdair is parish doctor in South Uist; Norman is a doctor in England; and Isabel and Mary are school teachers.

Sorley Maclean's poems, *Dàin do Eimhir*, were published in 1943, when he was on active service. He served in the Royal Corps of Signals during the last war and was twice wounded.

Chan Fhaigh Iad Seachad

Sgeul mu Aon de na h-Eileanan an Iar

leis a' Mhnaoi-Uasail Mairi I. Nic a' Mhuilleir, Cinn-ghiùthsach.

(*Choisinn an sgeul fada seo duais £5 bho Chomunn Gàidhlig Ghlaschu aig a' Mhòd Nàiseanta, 1955.*)

"CHAN fhaigh iad seachad," thuirnt air Gaidheal. "They shall not pass," thuirnt air Gall. "On ne passera pas," thuirnt am Frangach.

Air madainn shònraichte ré a' chogaidh a bha "ri crìoch a chur air cogaidhean," b' iad seo na ceud bhriathran, anns a' Bheurla, a leugh mi an uair a dh'fhosgail mi am paipear-naidheachd.

Bha an nàmhaid a' tighinn air adhart 'na dheann, agus bha saighdearan Bhreatainn is na Frainge 'gan iomain roimhe mar mhol roimh an ghaioith. Ach, an uair a ràinig iad àite sònraichte a bha an sin, chaidh òrdugh a thoirt daibh an grunnad a sheasamh, stad a chur air an nàmhaid ge bè dé a' chosgais ann am fuil is an ionnhas. Ceum seachad air an ionad seo agus bhiodh a' bhuaidh leis an nàmhaid agus bhithamaide agus slòigh eile na Roinn-Eòrpa fo uachdaranachd cho brùideil is cho oilteil is gum b' fheàrr am bàs.

Bha an comandanair a' bruidhinn ri sliochd nan sonn a bha anns 'an t-Sreath Chaol Dhearg' agus ann an iomadh cruaidh-chàs eile. Bha fios aige gum biodh iad "dileas gu bàs," agus cha d'fhuair e briste-dùil. Cha d'fhuair an nàmhaid seachad.

Ach chan ann air a' chogadh seo a tha mi a' dol a sgrìobhadh an dràsda. Is e as aobhar gun tug mi iomradh idir air gun do leum na briathran gu mo chuimhne is gu m'aire an uair a dh'innis an t-seana-bhean, Seònaid a' Ghobhainn, dhomh mu'n chòmhdhail iargalta annasach a thug muinntir an eilein bhig d' am

buineamaid le chéile do shaigndearan na Ban-rìgh an uair a thàinig iad a chumail smachd air luchd-brisidh an lagha ann. Nach b'e an fhealla-dhà e gum b' fheudar meur de'n Arm a chur do'n eilean a chur fo smaig grunnan de chroitearan is de choitearan aig neach robh cionta r'a chur as an leth ach gu robh iad a' tagar an còirichean le braise nach robh a' còrdadh r'an uachdarain agus, an uair nach deach feairt a thoirt orra, gun tug iad dùbhlán do'n lagh agus rinn iad mar a chunnaic iad fhéin iomchuidh! Bha an Gaidheal cleachdte ri eucoir. Neo-ar-thaing mur an robh is mur a bheil cuimhne is meas air an uair a tha an dùthaich ri aghaidh bualaidh is ceatharnaich a dhith g'a dìon!

"Nuair thig oirnn an cruaidh-chàs,

Có sheasas an stoirm?

O có ach na balaich

Le'm bonaidean gorm."

Bu ghasda le Seònaid a bhith a' chuinntinn mu chogaidhean is aimhreitean eile. Bha euchdan nan sonn anns a' bhàr 'ga brosnachadh is 'ga beothachadh. Chuala mise iomradh uair is uair mu'n chòmhraig an là a thàinig na saighdearan do'n eilean, ach cha deach an sgeul innse dhomh o thoiseach gu deireadh agus an do chuir mi eòlas air Seònaid, agus b'e sin dlùth air deich bliadhna fichead gun do thòisich cogadh 1914-1918. Bu shuarach gach blàr air an cualas iomradh riamh an coimeas ri "Blàr a' Cheidhe'"—co-dhiùbh, a réir mar a

dh'aithris Seònaid e. Nan robh am bàillidh cho eòlach is a bha e aineolach air nàdur an eileanach, cha do ruig an t-Arm a leas dol anns an eadraiginn, ach cha chumar sluagh sam bith sios le làmhachas-làidir am feasda. Cha robh am bàillidh a' tuigsinn seo. 'Na làthair-san bha an croitear tosdach is fo sprochd. Shaoilte nach leaghadh im 'na bheul, agus bha am bàillidh air a mhealladh. Bha dùil aige gu robh an croitear ciosaichte, strìochdte, nach togadh e a ghuth is nach buaileadh e buille, ged a rachadh a shaltairt fo na casan. Bu bheag a bha fhios aige nach robh anns a' mharbhadh seo ach cleòca-luaithe a bha a' folach eibhleagan beò a dh'fhadadh an oiteag a bu lugha gu lasair bhras dhearg. Is e nàdur a' Ghaidheil leum anns a' chaonntaig gun smaoin a thoirt do'n dochann a dh'fhaodas e faighinn innte, ach theagaisg linntean de smachdachadh is de shàrachadh dha gabhail air a shocair. Cha bhuaileadh e gus am biodh e glé chinnteach gum biodh a' bhuille a chum buannachd is adhartas na cùise a bha e a' seasamh. Bu dìomhain da a bhith a' tagar ceartais ann an dòigh sam bith eile; cha robh e ach "a' breabadh an aghaidh nan dealg." Cha robh tighearna an fhearainn a' tighinn a chòir an eilein agus bha a seirbhisich, am bàillidh, uile-chumhachdach agus, coltach ri mòran eile de'n chinne-daonna, m'ar bu mhò a bha aige de ùghdarras bu lugha a bha aige de ghràs Dhé. Chuireadh e suas no sios m'ar croite mar a thogradh e, agus, nan tigeadh an croitear fo dhiomb ann an dòigh sam bith, cha robh e aindeònach a thionndadh, le a theaghlach, a mach as a' chroit agus as a dhachaigh, agus cha ditedh a chogais e is cha chailleadh e oidhche cadail air a thàillibh.

Bha naidheachd bheag éibhinn aig Seònaid a bhiodh i ag innse mu'n àm a bha na nithean seo air an ceadachadh. Rugadh leanabh do chàradh a bha an coimhearsnachd a h-athar is a màthar. Chaochail dà phiuhtar màthar a' phàisde ré na bliadhna, agus b'àill leatha an ainmean, Sine agus Màiri, a thoirt air a' chaileig bhig, ach, an uair a dh'innis i dé a bha 'na beachd d'a fear, thog e a làmhan os cionn a chinn agus thuirt e, "A bhoireannaich, a bheil 'nad bheachd sgrìos a thoirt oirnn? Ma chluinneas am bàillidh dé a tha 'nad bheachd, cuiridh e suas am màl, agus is ann aig an Agh a tha brath gu bheil am màl trom agus ro-throm cheana!" Chan fhadhadh gum biodh a dhà de ni sam bith aig a' chroitear, nam fòghnadh aon, agus, nam fòghnadh bloigh, cha robh feum air aon. Tha fios nach robh an sgeul seo ri ghabhail, facal air fhacal, mar fhìrinn, ach tha i a' foillseachadh an anshocair, an cùram, agus an iomagain a b'e cuid is crannchur a' chroiteir fad uile làithean a

bheatha. Ach tha na làithean fìor dhona sin seachad. Uidh air n-uidh thàinig atharrachadh air sluagh an eilein. Thàinig dùsgadh 'nam measg is gluasad. Bha iad fhathast buailteach tighinn fo dhiomb a' bhàillidh agus a bhith air am peanasdachadh anns an dòigh àbhaisteach, ach cha robh geilt orra na's mò. Theagamh gum b'e a b'aobhar da seo gu robh Achd an Fhòghluim, 1872, a' teannadh ri toradh a ghlùil. Bha na fìr òga a' bruidhinn Beurla. Bha iad a' leughadh nam paipearan-naidheachd agus, an uair a chruinnicheadh iad an taigh Lachainn Ruaidh air chèilidh, cha robh an oidhche 'ga cur seachad gu buileach a' seinn òran is ag innse sgeulachdan no a' cur thòimh-seachdan. Bhiodh iad ri seanachas pongail cudthromach roinn m'had de'n fheasgar mu chor na dùthcha, mu chor an eilein fhéin gu sònraichte. Bu m'had leo fios a bhith aca dé a bhàtar ag ràdh is a' deanamh anns a' Phàrlamaid. Bha eachdraidh a' Ghaidheil aca air barraibh am meòir, agus bha an fhuil a' dol air ghoil an uair a bhiodh iad a' leughadh nan caibideilean dòrainneach anns an robhtar ag innse mu dheuchainnean is fhulangas an sinnsir anns an àm a bha an dachaighean 'gan losgadh os cionn an cinn agus iad fhéin is an teaghlach-ean air am fadach thar sàile a dheanamh àite do chaoraich is do fhéidh.

Bha a' Phàrlamaid fa sgaoil agus bha na buill anns an robh i a' co-sheasamh air an ais is air an aghaidh feadh na dùthcha a' toirt cunntais air an stiùbhartachd agus a' sreadh taic an t-sluaigh gu an cur air an ais do'n Phàrlamaid ùr. Thàinig Mgr. Dunlop, a bha a' seasamh air son Earragaidheil anns an t-seann Phàrlamaid, do'n eilean. Thàinig, cuideachd, Mgr. MacGriogair air an turus cheudna—b'e sin a dh'iarraidh taic nan eileanach g'an cur a sheasamh an cùise anns an ath Phàrlamaid.

Bha an dà dhuin'-usal seo calg-dhìreach an aghaidh a chéile a thaobh dé a bha ceart is iomchuidh a dheanamh as leth nan croitearan. Chùm iad coinneamhan feadh an eilein. Aig a' cheud choinneamh dh'innis am fear-cathrach, am bàillidh, an t-seirbhis ionmholta a thug Mgr. Dunlop do'n Ghaidhealtachd, agus thug e dian chomhairle dhaibh a chur air ais.

Dh'éirich Mgr. Dunlop fhéin an sin, agus, an déidh ùine a chur seachad 'ga mholadh fhéin, chuir e cùmhnant orra a thilleadh do'n Phàrlamaid agus làn-earbsa a chur annsan gum deanadh e a dhìcheall air gach ni a bha e a' smaointinn a bha a chum am math fhàighinn daibh. Dh'éirich an t-Ollamh Donnchadh MacPhàrlain, ministear na sgrìeachd, duine còir aig an robh tuigse agus comas-labhairt thar chumantais. Thuirt e gum faodadh e a bhith nach robh an duin'-usal agus na croitearan de'n aon bheachd a thaobh dé a bha a chum am

math, agus gum biodh iad 'na chomain nan cuireadh e dé a bha e a' ciallachadh ann an cainnt na bu shoilleire. Agus, a chum gum biodh làn thuigse aig Mgr. Dunlop air iarrtasan a' chroiteir, dh'iarr agus fhuair am ministear cead gach puing a chur f'a chomhair aon uair eile. Rinn e sin gu comasach.

Bha a' chroit tuille is beag, agus bha an croitear ag iarraidh a meudachadh air chor agus gum faigheadh e fhéin is a theaghlach beòshlaint aisde a b'fhiach an t-saothair. Agus bha e ag iarraidh am mál a thoirt sìos. Bha fir òga fhòghainteach—coitearan—anns an eilean air an robh acras is tart air son gìobain fearainn anns an eilean anns an d'rugadh iad is far an robh an sinnsir o chian nan cian. Chan fhaigheadh iad "leud am bròige," ged a bha dlùth air an treasa cuid de'n eilean—agus b'e sin a' chuid a b'fheàrr dheth—air thuathanachas aig triùir Ghall. Am biodh Mgr. Dunlop cho math is gun innseadh e dhaibh a bheachd a thaobh seo? An robh leasachadh aige air son aingidheachd de'n t-seòrsa? Os cionn gach nì eile bha an croitear a' sireadh tèarainteachd a thaobh a chroite. Bha e ag iarraidh gum biodh e air a thoirmeasg do bhàillidh, do dhùica, no do mhorair, a charachadh aisde cho fad is a phàidheadh e am mál.

Shuidh am ministear agus dh'éirich Mgr. Dunlop. Bha rudha air a ghruaidh air an turus seo, mar nach robh e cho cinnteach as fhéin is a bha e.

"A chàirdean ionmhainn," thuir e, "tha sibh gu dearbh fortanach 'nur fear-tagraidh. Tha e a' deanamh bhur cor soilleir da-rireadh. Tha co-fhaireachdainn agam ruibh agus, nan gabhadh cobhair a dheanamh oirbh ann an aithghearras, b'e mise a bhiodh toilichte, ach tha còrr agus sia ceud duine anns a' Phàrlamaid, agus tha e mar fhiachaibh air a h-uile fear dhiubh cùisean na feadhnaich a chuir an sin iad a sheasamh gu dìcheallach. Feumaidh sibh foidhidinn a bhith agaibh agus cuimhn-eachadh gu bheil còrichean aig daoine eile cho math ruibhse. Cha do thogadh an Ròimh ann an latha. Ann an lánachd na h-aimsir gheibh sibh réidh 's an eucoir a tha sibh a' cur as leth an luchd-riaghlaidh, agus bidh sibh sona sàsaichte am feasda tuille."

Dh'éirich curaidh nan croitearan. "Bu mhath leam," thuir e, "fharraid de'n duin'-uasal cuin a dh'fhaodas sinn fughair a bhith againn ri lánachd na h-aimsir? Tha amharas aig a' chroitear gur e Là a' Bhreitheanais a tha e a' ciallachadh. Nach 'eil e a' fantainn o là a bhreith gu là a bhàis ris a' chobhair a thàtar a' gealladh tha? Dé cho fada a bharrachd air sin a b'áill leis an luchd-riaghlaidh e a dh'fhantainn? Cha do thogadh an Ròimh ann an latha, tha e fìor; ach tha sgeul eile

againn mu'n Ròimh a tha ag ràdh gu robh Nero a' fìdhleireachd is an Ròimh ri theine fa chomhair a shùla. Leis a sin am biodh e a chum buannachd a' chroiteir no neach sam bith eile an Ròimh a ghabhail mar bhall-sampaill? Tha sia ceud a' fìdhleireachd ann am Pàrlamaid na rìoghachd agus miltean de an co-chreutairean a' tighinn beò—no a' dol gu bàs—ann am bochdainne do-chreidsinn!"

Cha d'fhuair Mgr. Dunlop air ais do'n ath Phàrlamaid. Ann am Mgr. MacGriogair bha aig na h-eileanaich rogha is taghadh a' Ghaidheil—duine a réir an cridhe féin. Thogadh a sheanair, dh'innis e dhaibh, air a' chroit. Dh'fhàg e an t-eilean agus rinn e a dhachaigh ann an tìr chéin, do bhrìgh nach robh e coltach gun rachadh a chor am feabhas am feasda anns an eilean d'am buineadh e. Shoirbhich leis. B'iomadh uair a dh'éisd e r'a athair is r'a sheanair ag innse sgeul dhrùidhteach mu bheatha a' chroiteir anns na h-eileanan anns na làithean a dh'fhalbh, agus bhòidich e gun sireadh e cothrom air luchd-dàimh anns an eilean a chuideachadh là-eigin. Bha e an dùil gu robh an là sin am fagus.

Anns a' bhliadhna 1886 bha iolach mhór am measg sluagh m'èilein-sa. Bha Achd nan Croitearan a nis ann an Leabhar-laghannan na Rìoghachd, agus bha air a bhualachadh air a' chroitear saorsa is sochairean a bheireadh sineadh saoghail tha. Cha d'fhuair e fhathast gach nì a bha a dhith air agus a b'e a dhlighe, ach 'is e obair latha tòiseachadh." Bha Tìr a' Gheallaidh anns an t-sealladh.

Tha iomadh bliadhna bho'n chaidh na fearainn mhóra ann am eilean a bhriseadh suas agus a roinn am measg na feadhnaich a bha feumail orra.

Chaochail tuathanach a' Ghlinn-uaine anns an earrach mu robh na croitearan fo dhion an Achd air an tug mi iomradh agus, gun chead no cuireadh, ghabh mu dhusan de chroitearan agus de choitearan còir air an fhearann seo, agus, cho luath is a bha am fear nach maireann fo'n fhòd, thòisich iad air an fhearann àiteachadh. Chuir an dalmachd mór-fharran air a' bhàillidh. Leum e air muin na làir dhuinn agus a mach ghabh e a chur stad orra is g'an triseadh dhachaigh. Bha e an dùil gum biodh barrachd meas aca air nam biodh e a' marcachd. Ràinig e an t-achadh anns an robh na ceannaircigh ag obair. Bha Lachann Ruadh a' treabhadh agus an còrr trang aig obair eile—cuid a' sgoileadh tobhair, cuid a' cladhach a' ghruinnidh le spaid, cuid a' cur sìl. Chunnaic iad a' tighinn e ach cha do leig iad dad orra. Cha do thairg aon diubh an geata fhosgladh tha, agus bha e air fìor dhroch shaad an uair a ghlaodh e, "Thigibh an seo, 'illean," ann an guth làn àrdain is mì-thlachd.

Dhìrich iad an druim agus choisich iad air an soicair far an robh e.

“Dé a tha sibh a’ deanamh an seo?” thuirt e.

“Saoil nach ’eil sibh a’ faicinn dé tha sinn a’ deanamh,” arsa Lachann, is e a’ combarrachadh le a chorraig ris a’ chrann is ris an t-seisreach.

“Gabhaidh dhachaigh, ma tà,” arsa esan.

“A bheil fios agaibh gu bheil sibh a’ briseadh an lagha, agus am peanas a tha an cois sin?”

“Tha cuid de laghannan as fheàrr briste,” arsa Lachann.

Thug am bàillidh togail bheag air fhéin anns an diollaid agus rinn e greim air a’ chuip mar gum biodh e a’ dol ’gam bualadh leatha, ach mhothaich e lasag ’nan sùil a chuir bacadh air agus shuidh e air ais anns an diollaid. Smaointich e a nis gum b’fheàrr a bhith sodalach riutha agus thuirt e, “‘Illean, sguiribh de’n amaidheadh seo agus cha chluinn sibh an còrr ionraidh air. Ma gheibh an lagh meur air seo, creidibh mise, ’s e sibhse a gheibh a’ chuid as miosa dheth. Gheibh sibh miosa prìosain.”

Cha dhuirt iad dìog. An ceann ùine bhig thuirt Lachann, “Mur ’eil an còrr agaibh ri ràdh, théid sinn air ar n-ais gu ar n-obair. Feasgar math leibh!” agus, le sin a ràdh, thionndaidh iad an cùl ris agus mhèars iad air an ais gu an obair.

Bha an duine mòr cùiseil a nis leis fhéin— a bheil fosgailte, ach gun aon fhacal a’ tighinn as. Nach ann air a thàinig e! Is esan a fhuair an t-ìsleachadh agus sin aig a’ cheart àm anns an robh dùil aige gu robh iad fo a shàil. Cha robh fodha ach tilleadh dhachaigh. Chaill e roinn mhath de’n t-stràic leis an do tharraing e a mach mun d’ràinig e a dhachaigh. Chuir e fear-dìon an lagha a chur casg orra agus thàinig feachd de a “bhràithrean” à Tobar-Mhoire g’a chuideachadh, ach cha tug na seòid feart orra. As a dhéidh seo thugadh fa-near gu robh litrichean ann an làmh-sgrìobhaidh a’ bhàillidh a’ dol gu’n Dùica, ach, ge bè ciamar a thachair e—cha bhì sinn a’ sròiseasachadh ro-dhlùth a staigh anns a’ ghnòthach!—bha fios aig gach fear is té anns an eilean dé a bha anns na litrichean mun d’ràinig iad an Dùica. Thug seo cothrom do na h-eileanaich a bhith ullachite an uair a thàinig bàta-cogaidh le luchd shaighdearan g’an ceannasachadh. Cha robh nì a bha mallachite, grànda, sgreatail, draghail is o dhroch chliù anns an eilean nach robh cruinn air a’ cheidhe a’ feitheamh ris na saighdearan. Bha fios cò an là a bha am bàta-cogaidh a’ tighinn. Bha fios air an uair, agus is gann nach robh fios air a’ mhìonaid a bhiodh i air acair.

Bha na fir fo airm nach biodh gu mòr-fheum anns a’ bhàr ’nar latha-ne—bata, gràpa, forc, rásdal, sùisde, ceapa, sluasaid, dùirn—nì sam bith a bhuaileadh buille. Bha

iad a’ cur romhpa nach faigheadh an nàmhaid seachad air a’ cheidhe. Leig Rab Donn agus Seumas Og ma sgoail tarbh duineideach a’ bhàillidh. Bha an creutair ag ionaltradh gu sìobhalta lethcheud slat o’n taigh, agus bu mhór dànadas na feadhach a ghabh gnòthach ris. Rinn iad dà earrainn air an fhéide—fear air ceann an ròpa air gach taobh dheth, is, nam biodh e ro-bhras, bheireadh an dara fear sgobadh air an ròpa is bha a’ bhrùid ceannsaichte agus a’ coiseachd gu stòlda an meadhan an rathaid. Bha an ceidhe beag eadar dà bhruthach, agus sheas Rab is Seumas, fear air gach bruthach, air ceann an earrainn fhéin de’n ròpa. Leig iad sìos an tarbh air a’ cheidhe dìreach an uair a bha na saighdearan dlùth làimh; chùim iad e bho thuiteam a mach air a’ mhuir anns a’ cheart dòigh anns an do chùim iad e an meadhan an rathaid mun d’ràinig e an ceidhe. Bha còrr is fichead poit mhór làn tèarr a’ blàthachadh is a’ leaghadh air teintean de sgàindeagan is de mhòine. Chaidh an tèarr a thaomadh air a’ cheidhe aig an àm chothromach. Bha bean-fhios a’ feitheamh riutha—droch bhoireannach, a bha a’ guidhe àird a cinn gach mallachd air an cinn. Bha ‘buidseach’ an eilein an siud—seann bhoireannach baobhail preasach, aon fhiacail òirleach gu leth a dh’fhad agus dubh le sùgh tombaca, an crochadh ri a càirean; bha i duaichnidh is bha i salach. Bha aona ghille an siud a’ teicheadh roimh an tarbh. Bha a cùlaibh ris ach an uair a thionndaidh i is a sheall e air a h-aghaidh thill e do’n tarbh! Agus, an uair a bha na saighdearan, cha mhór, aig a’ cheidhe, cò a chunnacas ach Eachann Màiri is e a’ giùlan chunnac?

“Càit a bheil e?” bha e a’ glaochaich; “càit a bheil am bàillidh breac? Tha mi a’ dol a ghearradh nan casan dheth.”

Bha am ministear agus am bàillidh ’nan seasamh air òb agus, air eagal gun deanadh Eachann dochann leis an speal, choisich am ministear air a shocair far an robh e agus thuirt e, “S tu fhéin mo laochan, Eachainn! Chan ’eil cùram dhuinn a nis. Teichidh iad mar luchd o’n chat an uair a chù iad Eachann is an speal! A bheil faobhar maith oirre, Eachainn?”

“Tha sin oirre,” arsa Eachann.

“Thoir dhomh nì mionaid,” thuirt am ministear. Shìn Eachann dha i. Gheàrr am ministear badan feòir leatha.

“Gasda,” thuirt e. “Seo agad lethchrùn, Eachainn. Falbh do’n bhùth agus ceannaich dà unnsa tombaca dhuit fhéin—is maith an airdh air thu.”

Dh’fhalbh Eachann. Bu mhath a bha fios aig a’ mhinistear dé a thachradh. Smogadh Eachann a h-uile bileag de’n tombaca gu an

tigeadh òrrais air, agus an sin leigeadh e 'na shineadh air a' chomhlach anns an t-sabhal agus cha bhiodh cuimhne air a' bhàillidh no air an speal.

Chaidh am ministear air ais far an robh e mun faca e Eachann, greim aige air an speal le a dhà làimh. B'ann aig a' cheart mhionaid sin a thàinig na saighdearan gu taobh a' cheidhe agus, an uair a thog iad suas an sùilean ris na cnuic, b'e an sealladh iongantach a chunnaic iad feachd de dhaoine fo na h-airm air an tug mi iomradh agus ministear an t-Soisgeil air an ceann le speal! Bha dà phiobaire a' deanamh gleadhair le an innealan-ciùil—fear dhiubh a' cluich "Tha na Caimbeulaich a' tighinn,"

fear eile 'Bail' Ionar-Aora." Bha fear-dìon na seilge a' losgadh urchair an dràsda is a rithis air cùl cnuic. Bha unlaith, mucan, crodh, is caoraich fa sgaoil air an rathad agus eich is cairtean tarsaing air, agus cha robh seòrsa treallaich nach robh a' deanamh chnapan-starraidh air an rathad. Cha robh sgeul air a' bhàillidh a bu chòir a bhith 'gan coinneachadh is 'gan trèorachadh gu àite tàimh is sìthe. B'e am ministear—is gann a ruigeas mi a leas a ràdh—a fhuair dòigh is seòl air an iorghall is an ùpraid a thoirt gu crìch aig a' cheann mu dheireadh.

Fhuair na saighdearan seachad, ach cha b'ann gun spàirn.

Some Eisteddfod Impressions

By Mrs. C. M. B. DUNLOP

(Mrs. Dunlop and Mrs. J. M. B. Maclean represented An Comunn at the National Eisteddfod in August last.)

TO a visitor the most salient feature of the Eisteddfod is the vitality of the Welsh language. English was very rarely heard, and in the town the housewife bought her commodities in her native tongue and her change was counted out in the same language.

Around the main pavilion there were numerous marquees selling books and printed matter in Welsh and dealing with all manner of subjects. There were also many periodicals. The school books, especially those for younger classes, were particularly colourful and attractive. This abundance of Welsh printed matter again revealed the virility of the language. The Arch-druid attributed the strong position of Welsh to the fact that it was the language, first of the home, then of the Sunday School, and, lastly, of the Church.

The Eisteddfod took place in a field, three to four acres in size, with a pavilion seating more than 8,000 people as the focal point. Around were smaller pavilions exhibiting various sections of the movement—photography, contemporary art paintings, souvenirs, arts and crafts, refreshments, handicrafts, plans for building construction, ambulance and mine-rescue teams, and many other exhibits. Loud-speakers relayed the programmes to those enjoying the brilliant sun outside, among them hundreds who could not get seats in the main pavilion.

The Eisteddfod got a good send-off by a three-quarter-hour television programme on the day before the festival opened. This depicted the pageantry of the crowning of the Arch-druid within the Gorsedd Circle. During the week all important items were televised, broadcast, or recorded. Between thirty and forty reporters were accommodated below the stage, each with the name of the newspaper represented clearly indicated. The whole pavilion was tastefully decorated with hundreds of flowers and masses of foliage.

Wales is training its youth to be instrumentalists and orchestra-conscious. The various sections, from trios to the National Youth Orchestra and brass band section, gave pleasing performances. In orchestral arrangements the Welsh harp came into its own and was certainly heard to advantage. It was rather ironical, however, that it was an orchestra from England which carried off a £200 prize. The choirs were large (the minimum being 80), and the Eisteddfod Choir was 500-strong. It was front-page news that a

choir from London spent £425 and won only a £25 prize, so that we, with personal pride, could say that a Gaelic Choir from the same city travelled to Mods all over Scotland spending much more money than that and for a much smaller reward.

It was disappointing that, after hearing the first three finalists—presumably finalists from many Eisteddfodau—we did not hear these singers again. One would have enjoyed a concert similar to our own Mod prize-winners' concert rather than "Judas Maccabaeus" and "Stabat Mater," rendered into Welsh. It would have given us greater pleasure had there been more Welsh folk-music on the programme, instead of arias and songs divorced from the languages in which they were originally written. An Comunn's idea of having a competitors' concert has much to recommend it and could be advantageously copied by the Eisteddfod.

To aspire to the Bard's Chair the competitor has to compose an ode (awdl) of not more than 350 lines in strict cyghanedd (Alliteration) metre. The exciting moment comes when he is called for three times from the platform and, on the third call, he stands up somewhere in the audience. The Mistress of the Robes, herself garbed artistically in green, accompanied by two purple-clad Rod-bearers, advances to where the Bard stands. He is duly robed and led to the platform, where he is "chaired" amid the acclamation of thousands of voices. The Chair becomes the Bard's own property and is usually a work of rare craftsmanship. Thus, by competing at various Eisteddfodau, the Bards can become the proud possessors of a unique collection of Bardic Chairs.

Equally exciting is the moment when the Crown Bard's name is called out three times as the winner of a composition in prydded (an ode in free metre). He also is robed and escorted with great pomp and ceremony to the platform and there crowned by the Arch-druid. The compositions of the Chair and Crown Bards are considered as of equal status. As far as I am aware, neither bard gave utterance to their compositions at any part of the proceedings. They are silent just as is the bard at our own National Mod.

The Procession of the Gorsedd

This is certainly a most spectacular event and the high-light of the Eisteddfod. The procession is

headed by standard-bearers who carry a large emblematic banner, while the members of the Gorsedd, clad in blue, green, and white flowing robes and head-dresses, walk with due solemnity. Those robed figures enter the Gorsedd Circle, which is formed by placing several druidical stones in a ring with the Maen Lios facing into the eye of the sun. The important part of the procession is headed by the Sword-bearer robed in white and carrying a six-foot Sword of Peace by the point before the Arch-druid. This Sword of Peace is never fully unsheathed and bars the entrance to the Gorsedd until the stranger proclaims with hand on the blade that he comes in peace and truth. After performing this rite the new claimant for the Arch-druid's crown is allowed to enter.

From the Maen Lios (or Logan Stone), reminiscent of an ancient altar, the Recorder reads the proclamation declaring the worthiness and works of the candidate who is duly elected Arch-druid for a period of three years. The new Arch-druid is proffered the Hirlas Horn containing the Wine of Welcome, then a sheaf of corn, the Aberthged, in which is mingled wild flowers, symbolic of the fruits of the earth. Various honours are then conferred on members at certain stages in the ceremony, and hymns and invocations are sung to harp accompaniment. The final episode of this long ceremony is the proclamation that "at a year and a day a Gorsedd and Eisteddfod will be held at the town of _____." The whole ceremony, carried out in the open air under ideal conditions, was unique, interesting, and decidedly colourful, if at some parts a little theatrical.

Regalia and Dress

At this point it might be appropriate to mention some of the articles of dress and the symbolism they denote.

The name of God is held in great reverence in the Gorsedd, and is symbolised by what is known as the Mystic Mark, really a triple sign signifying Love, Truth, and Justice.

The Half Sword is a short sword divided lengthwise. One half is kept in Brittany, and the other half in Wales, and, whenever a Joint Gorsedd is held by these two countries, the halves are united to show the spiritual unity of King Arthur's sword.

The chief office-bearers wear white flowing robes and head-dresses. The robe of the Arch-druid is of ivory-coloured satin, his foot-wear white, and on his hands white gauntletted gloves. The Arch-druid's crown is a bronze chaplet of oak leaves encircling a white cap. He wears a large ring and carries a sceptre bearing the crystal of his authority. He also receives as the insignia of office a gold breastplate or gorget on which there is a design of supposed Celtic origin. Along with the Recorder he wears the Gorsedd ring.

The Bard's Crown consists of a purple velvet cap surrounded by a chaplet of silver leaves and pearls, symbolic of mistletoe, and culminating in a circle which encloses the dragon of Wales.

The Cyon Gwlad or Gorsedd Trumpets are two in number, made of silver and decorated with heraldic banners. Fanfares are played on them at the opening and closing of the Gorsedd.

These are a few of the articles in the Regalia, but it was surprising that there was no use made of the heritage of the Celtic peoples—its decorative art. Much of the decorative effect was rather conventional in design, and one looked in vain for the interlacing pattern or scroll-work which usually embellishes articles connected with similar organisations in other Celtic countries.

The Eisteddfod is certainly doing great work for Wales, and the amount of work which went into the

preparation and carrying through of it can only be described as colossal. Before it began £38,000 had been subscribed to defray expenses!

Within its precincts the visitor was well catered for both mentally and physically. One could put through a phone call to America from a miniature bright-red post office standing on four wheels, and could buy anything from a sausage roll upwards, while listening to the Welsh Symphony No. 1, Opus 1! But perhaps the most moving experience was in the gloaming of a summer night, when a full moon made a path of silver on a quiet sea, and from a group at the edge of the strand came, wafted on a gentle breeze, the spontaneous harmonies of Welshmen's voices as they praised their Maker that Sunday night.

Arainn

'Hoo's a' wi' ye?
Is the bairnies a' weel?'

'The wee yin's gotten a sair neb:
The lave's a' right.'

Sin agaibh a' Bheurla! Is maith dh'fhaoidte nach i a' Bheurla a tha aca an Oxford, ach is i a' Bheurla a tha innte.

Tha muinntir Arainn (an Eirinn) ag ràdh gu bheil a' Ghàidhlig aca—agus tha. Is i an fhirinn, ceart gu leòir, gu bheil a' Ghàidhlig aca. Tha iad, mar an ceudna, ag ràdh gu bheil a' Bheurla aca—agus tha. Tha iad uile fìor mhaith air a' Bheurla. Ach cha do thuig iad gu ro-mhaith na faicil uthard shuas—agus cha do thuig mise gu ro-mhaith cuid de'n Ghàidhlig, agus cuid de'n chòmhradh, acasan. Is maith dh'fhaoidte gu bheil mòran de'n Ghàidhlig air feadh na Gàidhealtachd air a labhairt air an aon dòigh agus a tha a' Bheurla leathann air a labhairt againn féin—am Baile Ghlaschu, có dhùibh!

Ge bè air bith, chuala mi sgeul air easbaig a bha aca an Arainn, agus seo an sgeul duibhse, dìreach mar chuala mi fhéin e.

Bha an t-easbaig latha a' dol a null an bàta o Arainn gu ruig a' Cheathramh Ruadh, an Conamara. Bha duine o'n Eaglais Ath-leasaichte air a' bhàta cuideachd. Mu'n d'fhàg am bàta Arainn, thubhairt an duine seo ris an easbaig:

'Tha mi an dòchas gun ciùinich sibhse a' mhuir an diugh agus nach bi luasgadh no garbhachd idir ann—nach bi na tuinn idir ag éirigh—gum bi a' mhuir còmhnaid agus ciùin—gum bi fèath nan eun ann.'

'Ha! Ha!' arsa an t-easbaig ris, "ged tha ughdarras agam air na daoine a tha air na h-eileanan seo, agus orrasan, mar an ceudna, a tha a' gabhail còmhnaidh fo sgàil nam Beanna Beòla ud thall, nach 'eil a fhios agaibhse gun séid a' ghaoth, air muir is air tìr, far an àill leatha?'

* * * *

Chaidh an t-easbaig air adhart gu ruig Baile Atha Cliath. Bha e 'na sheasamh aig oisinn

na sràide, a' feitheamh gus an robh an solus "uaine" a' toirt cead da dhòl thairis. Mu'n do ghluais e, dhlùthaich duine dall ris, agus gun fhios aige cò e ris an robh e a' bruidhinn, thubhairt an duine dall ris an easbaig:

"Tha mi dall. An treòraich sibhshe gu taobh thall na sràide mi?"

"Treòraichidh," arsa an t-easbaig ris. "Is iomadh duine a threòraich mise gus an taobh thall."

Chaidh an dìthis a null le chèile. Air ruigheachd an taobh thall daibh, thubhairt an dall a rithist ris an easbaig:

"A nis, a charaid, an treòraich sibh gu an taigh-òsda as fhaisge oirn mi?"

"Ma tà," arsa an t-easbaig, "feumaidh sinn a dhòl air ar n-ais gus an dearbh àit aig an oisinn ud a dh'fhàg sinn."

* * * *

An déidh sin, bha an t-easbaig an Canada. An uair a bha e an Quebec, arsa boireannach latha ris, agus i 'na seasamh aig doras an taighe aice féin:

"Le bhur cead, a athair, cuin a bhios sagart againn?"

"Ach, a Bhean Uí Ghallchobhair," arsa esan rithe, "tha sagart Frangach agaibh, mar thà."

"Frangach!" arsa a' bhean gu feargach.

"Is eadh, Frangach," fhreagair an t-easbaig.

"Tha a fhios agaibh, a bhean, gun do chruthaich Dia na sagairt Fhrangach dìreach mar a chruthaich e na sagairt Eireannach."

"Ma chruthaich," arsa ise, "cha robh mòran air làimh aige air an àm sin."

Bha am facal mu dheireadh aig Bean Uí Ghallchobhair, agus b'ann a bha a fhios maith aice air sin—agus aige-san, mar an ceudna.

I. M. MOFFATT-PENDER.

Inverness County and Gaelic

SOME time ago the Inverness County Education Committee appointed a special committee to investigate the position of Gaelic in the county. On 14th December, the Education Committee approved a memorandum submitted by the special committee, the main recommendations of which were:—

- (1) That the aim of the schools should be to make Gaelic-speaking children completely bilingual.
- (2) That Gaelic should be taught in all schools in Skye and the Outer Isles where there are Gaelic-speaking children.
- (3) That Gaelic should be used as a medium of instruction wherever practicable without detriment to the learning of English.
- (4) That the teaching of Gaelic as a school subject should begin when the children

are approximately eight years of age, that is, at Primary Class IV stage.

- (5) That suitable text-books should be provided.
- (6) That an examination in Gaelic should be held at the end of the primary school course.
- (7) That there should be adequate inspection by H.M. Inspector of Schools of the teaching of Gaelic in primary schools.
- (8) That emphasis should be laid on oral work and self-expression.

Gaelic in the Hebrides

IN an interesting article on "Rockets and the Western Isles," contributed to *The Saltire Review* (Volume II, Number 8, Winter 1955), Mr. Finlay J. Macdonald says that "The Gaelic language is, fundamentally, the element which blends the 35,500 people who live between the Butt of Lewis and Barra Head into one single community. It transcends differing ways of life and differing creeds and integrates a race. . . . In the Hebrides there is no language panic because people are too busy talking it."

Mr. Macdonald gives the following figures:

	Total Population	Gaelic Speakers	Percentage of Gaelic Speakers
Lewis (including Stornoway) ..	23,731	19,960	84.18
Harris	3,991	3,666	91.83
North Uist	2,221	1,994	89.88
South Uist (including Benbecula)	3,764	3,370	89.58
Barra (including Eriskay)	1,884	1,692	95.18
Total Population of Western Isles ..	35,591	30,692	86.28

Mr. Macdonald points out that the percentage of Gaelic speakers in the Outer Isles has declined by only 4.4 per cent. in the past fifty years—"not a discouraging figure." He points to Mull where, in fifty years, the percentage of Gaelic-speaking has declined from 79.4 to 34.4. He remarks, however, that, if (as is proposed) some 1,500 defence personnel are to be stationed in Benbecula in connection with the Rocket Range, then, immediately, the Gaelic census figures for South Uist and Benbecula will, instead of as above, read as follows:—Total population 5,264; Gaelic speakers 3,370; Percentage of Gaelic speakers 64 per cent. "An immediate drop of from 89.5 per cent. to 64 per cent! And that would only be the beginning."

Mr. Macdonald also notes that most of the opposition to the proposed Rocket Range comes from outside the Isles. The majority verdict in Uist itself seems to be in favour.



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar VIII

AM FAOILLEACH, 1956

Aireamh 1

Domhnall MacPhail

Deagh Charaid Clann nan Gaidheal

Slàn leat, a Dhòmhnaill,

Bu charaid thu do chloinn nan Gaidheal.

An iomadh cuairt air muir is tìr,

Nach iomadh fliuchadh 's tàire fhuair

'Nad shiubhail bhos is thall.

Slàn leat, a Dhòmhnaill,

Chan fhaicear tuilleadh do ghnùis aoiheil
gràidh

Aig céilidh 's campa 's còmhlan clann nan sonn.

Do bheul a dh'innseadh sgeul

'S a thogadh misneach dhaoine fann

Tha 'n diugh 'na thosd.

Slàn leat, a Dhòmhnaill,

Tha Comunn Oigridh nam Fìor-Ghaidheal

'Gad chaoidh, ach buidheachas bhith dhuit

Air son na rinn thu dhuinn,

Dh'fhàg eisimpleir is dhùisg ar miann

Gu bhith gu dìleas mar a bha thu fhéin.

Slàn leat, a Dhòmhnaill,

Chan fhaicear tuilleadh thu aig mòd

Gu calma còir cur fàilt' air sean is òg.

Do cheum bha làidir luath

Tha 'n diugh aig clos.

Bidh ionndrainn ort fad iomadh là, a
charaid chaoimh.

Slàn leat, a Dhòmhnaill,

Le saothair na beatha seachad 's tu aig fois.

Ni sinne saothair, mar a nochd thu dhuinn,

Air sgàth ar cànan uasail, dìleab dhaoine
treun.

Cha lasaich sinn 's chan fhannaich anns a'
chath

Gu là na buaidh.

Slàn leat, a Dhòmhnaill,

Gu 'm bris an là nach teirig 's an teich gach
sgàil

'S an solus glan na sìorruidheachd dearbhar
buaidh

Gach saothair dhileis rinneadh feadh gach
lìnn.

Slàn leat, a Dhòmhnaill.

T. M. M.

Mar A Thainig Na Ruagalaich do Alba

THA an treubh dhaoine seo—na Ruagalaich no, mar a theirear gu coitcheann, “na cèardan”—a nis ùine cho fada 'nar meas is gum faod mòran a bhith a' saoil-sinn gum buin iad do'n dùthaich seo fhéin, ach chan ann mar sin a tha a' chùis.

Tha luchd-rannsachaidh air lorg a mach gur ann a thuinich iad air srathan abhainn Indus an taobh an iar nan Innsean, oir tha mòran fhaclan 'nan cainnt a tha a' co-fhreagairt ri briathran cànan na dùthcha sin.

Tha e 'na cheist gu dé an t-aobhar a bha air am prìomh dhachaigh fhàgail ach is e barail cuid gu robh iad air am fògradh leis a' cheannard bhuadhach sin, Tamerlane, anns a' cheathramh linn deug. Sgaoil iad air an aghaidh gu ruige Persia, agus as a sin do'n Aisia Bhig is do'n Roinn-Eòrpa.

Bha ainmean air leth aca anns gach dùthaich anns an robh iad air chuairt. Thug sluagh na h-Olaind “na fineachan” mar ainm orra. Ghair na Gearmailtich is na Lochlannaich “Tartars” dhiubh, agus anns an Spàinn is e a theirteadh riutha “Gitanos,” ainm a bha a' comharrachadh gu robh iad làn chleasan is chllcean.

An uair a ràinig iad Sasainn bha dùil gur ann as an Eiphit a thàinig iad, do bhrìgh tuar dorch a coltais, agus is e “Gypsies” no “Eiphitich” a chaidh éigheach orra.

Tha cuntas orra ann an Alba aig deireadh a' chòigeamh linn deug, agus an sin fhuair iad mar ainm “luch-cèird,” gu h-àraidh ann an ceann a tuath na dùthcha. Anns an là sin cha robh neach air a chunntadh 'na làn dhuine mur biodh e deas air son cogaidh, oir ma bha c'orram

AN GAIÐHEAL OG

sam bith air neach bha e a' toirt ri ceàird—griasachd, tàillearachd, tuairnearachd, is a leithid sin. B'i an obair-san a bhith a' deanamh is a' reic spàinnean adhairc agus mìosan is cuinneagan stoin, agus bhiodh iad cuideachd ri cruinneachadh ghiobagan.

Bha iad lìonmhor mun cuairt do Obaireadh-ain, agus shloinn iad iad féin air na fineachan a b'urramaiche agus a bu choitcheann anns a' cheàrnaidh — Dòmhnallaich, Stiùbhartach, Mac-a-phì—ach cha robh dàimh fala sam bith aca ri treubhan Alba.

Bha cleachdaidhean àraidh aca dhaibh féin a thaobh fhòsaidhean is thiodhlaicidhean,

An Cath A Bha Eadar Fear Bhalaidd agus Fear Bhearnaraidh

CHAIÐH Fear Bhàlaidd agus Fear Bheàrnaraidh a mach air a chéile, agus cha robh ann ach a chéile fheuchainn le dà chlaidheamh ann an Seallair (an Uibhist a Tuath). Cha b'fhuilear do bhean Fear Bhàlaidd ann faicinn, agus chaidh i leis a' phrosbaig chun na h-uinneige. Is e Fear Bhagasdaill agus Mac 'Ic Ailein a bha a' faicinn a' cheartais air taobh Fear Bhàlaidd; agus MacLeòid Dhunbheagan agus MacLeòid na Hearadh a' faicinn a' cheartais air taobh Fear Bheàrnaraidh.

Thàinig an uair, agus thòisich na fir air a chéile, dithis fhear-claidheimh cho ainmeil agus a bha anns na h-Eileanan aig an ám. An uair a bha iad ag obair air a chéile greis, chuir Fear Bhàlaidd am putan a b'àirde as a' chòta aig Fear Bheàrnaraidh, agus dh'fhoighnichid e dheth an deanadh siud an gnothach leis.

Thubhairt am fear eile nach deanadh, agus thug iad ionnsaigh eile air a chéile. Gheàrr Fear Bhàlaidd an uair sin bàrr na sròine aig Fear Bheàrnaraidh le gob a' chlaidheimh, agus dh'fhoighnichid e dheth an deanadh siud an gnothach leis, ach thubhairt am fear eile nach deanadh.

"Ma tà," arsa Fear Bhàlaidd, "b'fheàrr dhòmhsa an ceann a chur dhìot na siud a dheanamh!"

"Ma tà," arsa Mac 'Ic Ailein, "na toir an cothrom tuilleadh dha mur toir e suas."

Sguir Fear Bheàrnaraidh an uair sin, agus chaidh Clann Dòmhmaill dhachaigh do Bhàlaidd agus chaidh Clann MhicLeòid do Bheàrnaraidh. Bha toileachadh mòr orra ann an eilean Bhàlaidd gun deachaidh an là le Fear Bhàlaidd, oir is e fìor dhuin'-uasal còir a bha ann, agus fìor dhroch bhean aige.

An uair a ràinig iad Bhàlaidd bha dinneir mhór a' feitheamh orra. Shuidh iad aig a'

agus b'e an creideamh aidmheil na dùthcha anns an robh iad, air a mheasgachadh le mòran de shaobh-chràbhadh. Bha na seann mhnathan 'nam measg a' leigeil orra gum b'aithne dhaibh fiosachd a dheanamh—ni a dh'aobharaich aimhreit iomadh uair am measg theaghlachan.

Chan 'eil iad an diugh mar a bha iad, oir is éiginn dhaibh a bhith umhail do laghan na rioghachd ann an cùisean fòghluim is pòsaidh is adhlacaidh. An déidh a bha aca bho thùs air a bhith a' triall bho àite gu àite, lean e riu air chor agus ge b'e rioghachd de'n t-saoghal gum faod neach a dhòl, is iongantach mur tachair e ris na ceàrdan siubhail.

Niall MacDhiarmaid.

bhòrd, ach cha suidheadh ise idir. Cha robh i ach a' staireachd sìos agus suas agus thubhairt i ri a companach, "Car son nach tug thu an ceann bhàrr a' choin?"

Thubhairt Fear Bhagasdaill gun tug Fear Bheàrnaraidh suas an gnothach.

"B'fheàrr leam," arsa ise, "am faicinn a' tighinn dhachaigh agus do cheann ann am breacan aca na deanamh mar a rinn thu!"

Dh'fhalbh i an uair sin agus rug i air neapaige dubh sìoda a bha mu amhaich an duine aice agus chuir i chur toinneamh ann, agus cha robh a staigh na dh'fhuasgladh a greim gus an do gheàrr Mac 'Ic Ailein an neapaige leis an sgiàn-duibh, agus an duine an impis a bhith air a thachdadh.

B'e seo an t-sabaid fuidse mu dheireadh a chaidh a chur le claidheamh ann an Uibhist a' Chinn a Tuath.

Chì sibh gur ann aig a' bhoireannach a bha am facal mu dheireadh!

Bho A. D. McDh.

Fine Ur

Aon là bha fear-turuis air son an latha air an dùthaich. Bhris a charbad sìos agus cha robh moran eòlais aige air a chur ceart. Bha e a' lorg neach a chuireadh ceart e an uair a thachair seann duine ris. Dh'fhiosraich e dheth an e "mechanic" a bha ann.

"Mechanic!" arsa am bodach le tàir; "gu dearbh fhéin chan 'eil aon bhoinne de fhuil nam mechanics annamsa. 'Se th'annamsa an deagh Dhòmhnallach!"

Catriona NicAoidh

(Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir-Nis.)

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 Tìr nan sàr-fhear gleusda;
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 Tìr as uaisle féile;
 An tìr bhòrcach, nam frith rò-mhor,
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 An tìr bhraonach, mhachrach, raonach,
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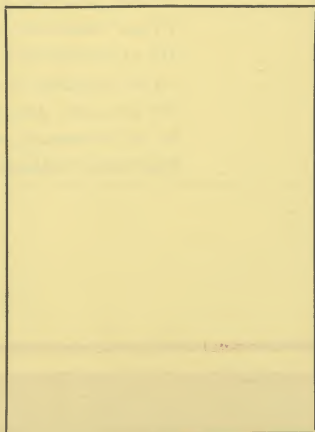
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Leabhar LI

AN GEARRAN, 1956

Aireamh 2

Is Dual do'n Duine Bròn

Rinneadh an t-eadar-theangachadh Gàidhlig seo air Man was Made to Mourn le Raibeart Burns leis an Urramach Iain Mac-an-aba, nach maireann, a bha 'na mhinistear an sgrìobh Sgibinnis bhò 1922 gus an do chaochail e an 1939, Tha mi an comain Mhgr. Teàrlach Reppke air son seo a chur 'nam thairgse.—F.D.

1. Nuair ruagas gaillinn fuar na tuaithe
Gach cluan is fireach àrd,
Air feasgar geamhraidh 's mi air chuairt
Mu bhruachan abhainn Air,
Fear-turuis choinnich mi 'nam ruaig
Fo uallach trom de chràdh:
Bha failleadh bhliadhnachan 'na ghruaidh
'S a ghruag gu tana bàn.
2. "Cìod e do thòir air raon 's an uair?"
Thuir rium an deòiridh aosd';
"N e gòraich' mhaoth na h-òig' tha bhuaite
No stòras meallt' an t-saoghail?
No 'n d'fhuair do chridh' an t-eòlas buan
Dh'fhàg mise luaineach faoin,
A' siubhal bhruach 's a' caoidh nan truagh
As dual do chloinn nan daoin'?"
3. A' ghrian tha cromadh cùl nan cruach
Le sluagh fo dhuibhre bròn,
Na miltean fann le fallus gruidh
'S gur gann tha 'n cead bhith beò,
Ra-geamhraidh chunna mi 'na cuairt—
Ceithir fichead uair is còrr,
'S gach uair thug dhòmhsa urras nuadh
Gur dual do'n duine bròn.
4. "An tùs a ré gun suim no ciall
Tha 'n duine feadh gach linn:
Caoin-shuarach mar tha 'n uair a' triall
'S na bliadhnachan nach till;
An fheòil 's an saoghal 'ga shladadh clì
Le claonadh fiar o' n chòir;
Is sgrìobht' an cois gach gnìomh a bhinn
Gur cinnteach dhàsan bròn.
5. "S na beachdaich air 'na òig' a mhàin;
Tha 'dhùil 's a dhòchas beò;
Is caraid dhàsan lùth nan làmh
'S cùl-taice neart nan dòrn.
Ach faic e dlùth air bruaich na h-uaign
'Na dheòiridh truagh gun treòir,
An ainns liath 'na fianais bhuan
Gur dual do'n duine bròn.
6. "Tha cuid an seilbh air sporan làn,
Gun ghainne bàrr no lòin,
Ged 's tric nach càraich airgead cràdh
'S nach glacadh slàint' le òr:
Ach 's lionmhor iad, mo chreach, d'an dàn
A' ghanntair fad am beò—
Gach oidhch' is là o'm breith gu'm bàs
Fo chàradh bochd a' bhòin.

7. 'Is iomadh acad ghuineach gheur
Tha 'n luib ar crè r' ar beò,
Ach 's miosa 'n t-olc a dhealbh sinn fhéin
Le mi-rùn eud is leòm:
'S an sluagh d'an tugadh solus nèimh
Is iomhaigh Dhé mar ghloir,
Tha 'n ainneart trom air cach a chéil'
A' dioladh péin is bròin.
8. 'Faic aoranach na slinnein chrom
Cho tàireil com is dòigh,
Ag aslachadh bho 'bhràth'r 's an fhonn
Gum faigh e saothair a lòn:
Is faic an t-urra mór 's a bhonn
'Ga ruagadh bhuaith gun treòir,
Gun iochd ri màth'r a' chridhe throm
No pàisdean lom a' bhròin.
9. 'Ma chaidh mo chruthachadh 's an rùn
Gur dùth dhomh bhith 'nam thràill,
Car son a fhuair mi anam 's tùr?
B'e staid na brùid a b'fhearr!

'S mur deachaidh, ciamar tha mi 'n dràs'd
Fo smachd is sàil fir mhòir?
'S car son the cead aig neach tha làthair
A bhràthair thoirt gu bròn?

10. 'A bhàis, tha sàmheach ann ad dhàil,
'S tu caraaid blàth nam bochd;
Fait' air an là 's am faigh mi tàmh
'S am bi gach cràdh 'na thosd!
Is culaidh-uamhais thu do'n àl
Nach d'fhairich tàir no sprochd,
Ach 's bàidhear beannaichte do làmh
Do dhream a' chridhe ghoirt.
11. 'Ged 's bochd an diol tha 'm brìgh mo
Na creid gur buan an seòl; dhuain,
Gheibh gaol is sìth ri tìm a' bhuaidh
Is tionndaidhear caoidh gu ceòl.
Do'n chinne-daonn' tha 'n gealladh fìor
Gun siabar dhinn na deòir;
Tha dùil ri dachaigh nuadh o'n Rìgh
'S bidh crìoch air là a' bhròin.'

Tara Hill

By ANNE GUNN

WE chose a day to visit Tara when the rest of Dublin's visitors were at the Spring Show. "Quite mad," said the others, hurrying off to Nelson's column to join the bus queue for Ballsbridge. I have to admit that until the previous evening I knew nothing about Tara. Memory recalled some school book poem with a line, "The harp that once through Tara's Halls."

We set off in a much more leisurely bus than our friends, which started off from beside the Liffey at a bookstall, reminiscent of Paris and its river. My companion knows something of Ireland's pagan history; so during the twenty miles' journey I learn about the ancient Kings who dwelt at Tara. I am fascinated with the story of the great Cormac, described in the "*Ancient Book of Navan*." "Golden hair, flowing and curling; and neck torque of gold; a girdle of gold inlaid with precious stones. A wonderful cloak with wide descending folds around him; two shoes of gold, and he himself symmetrical of form and without blemish or reproach." There must really have been such golden ornaments. I saw the collection in the National Museum the following day. I am told that Tara was a temple before it was a palace; therefore, it has been the seat of Gods and Kings.

We descend from the bus, and walk to the hill along a pleasant leafy lane. One Irish writer wrote that he "approached Tara with a heart full of heroic memories of the nursery

of Ireland's heroic past, only to find a field heaved up into a long green mound crowned by a statue of Saint Patrick, and nearby a small square-towered Protestant church. A most depressing hill!" But when you approach it as we did on a bright May morning, and reach its heights, you cannot but admire the broad prospect it commands of five counties. The traces of the banqueting hall, a thousand feet long, are still seen. King Cormac had the power to order all the lesser Irish Kings to attend, and every chief had his place marked by his shield hung upon the wall.

We imagine the scene at such a feast—a night in early November, when the harvest is over and safely gathered in. A thousand chiefs assembled in robes blazing with precious stones, seated at tables in rows. In the middle turf fires blazing. Servants carry in great joints and fish. The room is ventilated by holes in the roof. We can almost see the majestic Cormac seated at the head, wonderful to look upon in his attire of purple and gold.

We cross over to inspect the reputed Lia Fail, a standing-stone said to have been the coronation stone of these ancient kings. Nearby, the rather tawdry statue of Saint Patrick reminds us that this is the scene of the Saint's attack on the headquarters of Druidism.

It was the Saturday evening of Holy Week. Saint Patrick and his companions had climbed Slane Hill, and contemplated Tara Hill ten miles away. Here the Druids had held sway

for at least one thousand years undefined. The Saint's duty was to light a paschal torch by a flint spark. In the Christian religion, the new fire from which all fires and torches for the Easter ceremonies were to be lit, was to be lit tonight. The Druid religion insisted that no light must be shown until the signal had been given by a Druid fire on Tara Hill. Saint Patrick dared to show the first flare. We imagine the scene and hear the warning to the King, "If that fire is not put out, it will burn forever." It did burn, and the conquest of Tara and Ireland had begun.

We walked over the mounds where the ancient

kings are buried. How deserted it all is not a living person to be seen! We linger to admire the bright yellow of the whin bushes, which give a warm living glow to the Hill. No sign of commercialism here; nowhere to eat; so we say, "Good-bye" to the ancient cultural, religious, and political capital of Ireland, and join the leisurely bus back to Dublin.

Our friends tell us we have missed a wonderful day at the "Show."

"What did we see at Tara?" We find it difficult to tell them.

"Nothing!"

"Mad, quite mad," they reiterate.

Domhnall Mac Iain 'Ic Sheumais agus Domhnall Mór Dughallach

THA e air aithris mu'n dithis seo—Dòmhnall Mac Iain 'Ic Sheumais agus Dòmhnall Mór Dughallach—nach b'aithne dhaibh a chèile gu ám Blàr Chàirinis anns a' bhliadhna 1601, agus nach do dhealaich iad ri chèile riamh tuilleadh.

B'e Dòmhnall Mór a' cheud duine de Chloinn Dughail a chualas iomradh air ann an Uibhist riamh, agus is ann bho'n churaidh threun seo a thàinig a h-uile duine de Chloinn Dughail a tha anns na h-Eileanan Uibhisteach gus an là an diugh.

Fear-claidheimh ainmeil mar a bha ann am Mac Iain 'Ic Sheumais féin, bha an seo dithis ghaisgeach nach robh an leithid eile ann an Alba aig an ám, agus bidh an ainm beò anns na h-Eileanan Uibhisteach cho fada agus a bhuaileas stuagh air tràigh.

An déidh do Mhac Iain 'Ic Sheumais a bhith air a leòn gu dona aig Blàr Chàirinis, agus an ruag a chur air Cloinn MhicLeòid, is e Dòmhnall Mór a ruith as déidh Mhic Dhòmhnail Ghlais agus a mharbh e anns an stuaigh air oitir Chàirinis, no, mar a tha i air a h-ainmeachadh bho'n là sin, "Oitir Mhic Dhòmhnail Ghlais."

An ceann ùine ghoirid an déidh am blàr fuileachdach seo a chur, bha Mac Iain 'Ic Sheumais agus Dòmhnall Mór a' tilleadh leis a' bhirlinn as an Eilean Sgitheanach gu ruige Uibhist, agus an uair a bha iad ann am meadhon a' Chuain Sgitheanach thàinig gailleann agus cathadh mór orra, agus chaidh am fuadach leis a' ghaioith agus gu mì-fhortanach càit an do sgìrsadh iad ach do Róghadail anns na Hearadh, dìreach fo thaigh MhicLeòid.

Bha comh-dhalta aig Mac Iain 'Ic Sheumais anns na Hearadh, agus an uair a thàinig iad a steach leis a' bhirlinn choinnich i iad air a' charraig.

Bha iad a' gearan air cho fiadhaich agus a

bha an aimsir agus thubhairt an comh-dhalta, "Fuiricheadh sibhse an seo agus thèid mise suas agus gheibh mi intinn MhicLeòid."

Seo mar a bha. Chaidh i suas agus thubhairt i ri MacLeòid gum b'fhiadhaich an oidhche a bha ann, agus thubhairt MacLeòid gum b'eadh gu dearbh.

"Dé," arsa ise, "a bu chòir a dheanamh ri daoine a thigeadh gu t'fhearann le an-uair is le droch-shìde, ged b'e do naimhdean iad, agus gun olc 'nan aire?"

"O dé," arsa MacLeòid, "ach gabhail riutha mar dhaoine eile. Ged nach robh naimhdean agamsa riamh cho mór ri Mac Iain 'Ic Sheumais agus Dòmhnall Mór Mac Dhùghail a mharbh mo dhaoine aig Càirinis, cha b'urrainn mi ach fagadh a thoirt dhaibh, nan tigeadh iad air a leithid seo a dh'oidhche."

"Sin agad, ma tà," arsa ise, "a' cheart dithis a tha air a' charraig shìos an siud, agus iad air am fuadach le gailleann air dhaibh a bhith a' tilleadh as an Eilean Sgitheanach."

"Ged b'e sin féin an dithis a bhiodh ann," arsa esan, "thoir tusa a nuas iad, oir thug mise m'fhacal gum bi tèarainteachd aca fo dhruim mo thaighe."

Thill i sìos gu h-ealamb, agus dh'innis i mar a chaidh dhi. Chuir iad a mach ball falaich (is e sin, ball a bhiodh air a chur a mach le acair, ceudan slat bho thir), agus an sin cheangail iad a' bhirlinn le ball eile ris a' charraig, agus chaidh iad suas gu taigh MhicLeòid, an dithis ghaisgeach agus sia fir dheug.

Choinnich MacLeòid gu càirdeil iad agus rinneadh cuirm dhaibh, biadh agus deoch gu leòir, agus MacLeòid féin aig ceann a' bhùird.

"A nis," arsa Mac Iain 'Ic Sheumais ri Dòmhnall Mór, "suidhidh tusa mu mo choinneamh-sa gus, ma thigear ormsa air mo

chùlaibh, gum faic thusa, agus gum faic mise ma thigcar ortsa."

Bha an oidhche a' dol gu math, agus iad uile air an dòigh, an uair a thàinig gille beag (mac do'n fhear a chaidh a mharbhadh air Oitir Chàirinis) a steach agus thubhairt air MacLeòid, "Cuin a chaidh Blàr Chàirinis a chur?"

Chàin an seann duine e. Thubhairt e gu robh siud seachad, agus gun fhacal a bhith m' a dheighinn gu bràth tuilleadh, agus chuir e an gille beag a mach as an t-seòmar. Ach thàinig an gille beag a steach a rithist agus ghabh e dìreach far an robh an Dùghallach Mór agus thubhairt e, "Is tusa a mharbh m'athair-sa."

Thuig an Dùghallach Mór gu robh feadhainn air taobh a muigh an t-seòmair a bha a' stiùradh a' ghille bhig air son aimbreit a thogail. Las e le feirg agus tharraing e an claidheamh mór agus thubhairt e, "Is mi a sgoilt a cheann gu a dhà ghualainn leis an fhear ghlas uid!"

Leum Clann MhicLeòid gu an airm, ach thubhairt MacLeòid nach faodadh còmhstri a bhith fo dhruim a thaghe-san, agus chàin e an gille beag agus dh'òrdaich e gum biodh e air a chur a laighe.

Thubhairt MacLeòid an sin gun caidleadh Mac Iain 'Ic Sheumais agus an Dùghallach Mór ann an Taigh Mór Ròghadail agus gum faodadh na gillean cadal anns an t-sabhal far an robh feur gu leòir, agus gum biodh iad sàbhailte an sin gus an tigeadh side cheart.

Ach thubhairt Mac Iain 'Ic Sheumais gun caidleadh esan far am biodh na gillean.

Is ann mar sin a bha, agus chaidh iad uile do'n t-sabhal.

Dh'fhan comh-dhalta Mhic Iain 'Ic Sheumais 'na dhùig, agus fios aice gu dé a thigeadh as a' ghnothach aig a' cheann mu dheireadh. Bha fios aice fhaid is a bha a' chuir a' dol air adhart gu robh teachdairean air feadh na Hearadh a' cruinneachadh nan daoine aig MacLeòid air son tòrachd Blàr Chàirinis a thogail, agus mu àm gairm a' choilich thàinig tìochdladh air an t-side agus dhùig i an fheadhainn a bha 'nan cadal anns an t-sabhal.

"Ma rinn thu riamh e, a Mhic Iain 'Ic Sheumais, bi air do chois, agus na fuirich an seo na's fhaide," arsa ise. "Tha soirbheas math air bhonn do Uibhist agad, agus bi air falbh!"

Dh'èirich iad agus chaidh iad sìos gu a' bhirlinn, agus bha am ball gualainn air a' ghearradh agus a' bhirlinn a mach am meadhon a' bhàigh, ach leis a' bhall-fhalaich rinn iad greim oirre agus air bòrd ghabh iad agus thog iad na sìuil is thog iad rithe.

Cha robh iad ach air sin a dheanamh an uair a chunnaic iad an sabhal a' dol suas 'na lasaig. Is ann an sin a chuir Cas Odhar, am pìobaire aig Mac Iain 'Ic Sheumais, suas a' phìob agus chluich e a' phìobaireachd, "Tha 'n dubh thuill air MacLeòid."

Bho A. D. McDh.

Executive Council

A MEETING of the Executive Council of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in the Highlanders' Institute, Glasgow, on 14th January, 1956. Rev. T. M. Murchison, Senior Vice-President, occupied the chair.

The Chairman, on his own behalf and on behalf of the President, extended New Year Greetings to the members. He expressed the regret of all at the President's illness and the hope that he would soon be restored to health.

The Chairman paid tribute to the late Mr. Donald MacPhail, who for twenty years had served An Comunn and the Gaelic Cause so devotedly as Northern Organiser, and the late Mr. Lachlan MacLachlan, President of the Motherwell and Wishaw Highland Association, and expressed the Council's sympathy with the bereaved families and also with the Rev. Malcolm Maclean, a member of Council, on the death of his wife.

Apologies from absent members having been intimated and the minute of the previous meeting approved, minutes of the Standing Committees were submitted and considered.

Mr. Donald Grant, Convener, in submitting the minute of the Finance Committee, drew attention to various items. Thanks to a substantial donation, the Rally Account had closed with a credit balance of £165, which would go to the Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund. Appreciation was expressed of a donation of £52 10s. (the proceeds of a Highland Ball) sent by the Highland Society of London. Appreciation was also expressed of the great generosity of Mr. I. M. Moffatt-Pender in offering to defray the share of the junior Choir expenses which would otherwise be chargeable to the Largs Mod Fund. To encourage more junior choirs to compete at the Mod the share of expenses met by the Mod Fund is now raised to 25 per cent. Appreciation was also expressed of Mrs. Croll's further help in executing a bond of annuity for £10 per annum in favour of the Central Fund. The newest branch of An Comunn—the Buchanan Branch—had donated £7 13/-.

The minute of the Education Committee recommended that an effort be made to organise a Gaelic Summer School at Portree or Oban

from 16th to 27th July. Later in the meeting, the Council considered in private a report by Mr. Donald Thomson on the questionnaire on Gaelic in schools. It was agreed to seek conference with the educational administrators concerned before proceeding further. The Chairman drew attention to the eight-point plan recently approved by the Inverness County Education Committee. Mr. Donald Thomson was cordially thanked for his work in connection with the questionnaire.

The minute of the Publication Committee intimated that the McCaig Trust had voted a grant of £100 and a further £100 guarantee against loss for the proposed series of Gaelic Readers with illustrations. The first two volumes would be published as soon as possible. On the Chairman's suggestion it was agreed to delete the proposal concerning the Malcolm Macleod Memorial Fund from the minute. Mr Angus Macleod reported that *Bàrdachd Ghàidhlig* had been revised and estimates for printing the new edition were being sought. A sub-committee was appointed to consider the position of *An Gaidheal*, especially in view of a further rise in printing costs. It was also agreed that *An Gaidheal* Prize Fund, the residue of a gift by the late Mr. Duncan Macleod of Skeabost, should be used to provide prizes for the best contributions (in prose or poetry) published in the magazine. Appreciation was expressed of Mrs. Westland's gesture in dividing the surplus from the Aberdeen Mod Club between the Magazine Fund and Comunn na h-Oigridh funds.

The minute of the Art and Industry Committee reported on the arrangements being made for the exhibition at the Largs Mod.

Minutes of the Mod and Music Committee reported on arrangements for the Largs Mod, and also preliminary arrangements and prescribed pieces for the Inverness Mod of 1957. At Inverness a Local Mod Committee had been formed, with Mr. Iain R. Mackay as Convener, Messrs. A. J. MacAskill and Kenneth Fraser as Vice-Conveners, Misses Ena MacInnes and Christina Mackinnon as Joint Secretaries, and Mr. Murdo Macleod as Treasurer. It was agreed that the form of the Mod Syllabus booklet should be changed—the main part (with description of competitions and rules) to remain unchanged over several years and only information detailing the prescribed pieces to be printed afresh each year. This would save considerable expense. It was agreed to discontinue the 25 per cent. discount hitherto allowed on orders from choirs for mod music, this to apply to junior and senior choirs and to provincial and local, as well as national, mods.

In reply to a question by Mr. Donald Maclean, the Chairman said that those whose expenses at a National Mod were a charge on the Mod Fund were the people who had essential duties to perform—the President, the Convener of the Mod and Music Committee, Adjudicators, Delegates from Ireland and Wales, Guest Artists, the Bard, and the office staff.

A minute of the Comunn na h-Oigridh Committee was submitted. It was agreed that the erection of the memorial gates at Cnoc-nan-Ros be proceeded with. Appreciation was expressed of a collection of flowers, with names in Gaelic and English, gifted to Cnoc-nan-Ros by Miss L. Maclean, Dunvegan.

It was agreed that An Comunn should be represented on the Highlanders Institute Building Fund Committee. Branches in Mull and Iona were authorised to appoint a representative to the new Mull Social Service Council.

The next meeting was fixed for 24th March, 1956.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Sgeul a Winnipeg

Le IAIN S. MACNEACAIL, BHANCOUBHAR.

B' IAD na Gaidheil a' cheud mhuinntir a stéidhich anns a' chearn seo de Chanada.

Ann an 1799 bha mu thuaiream leth malairt nam beann molach 'ga chur air adhart leis na Gaidheil. Roimhe seo dh'fhoillsich Alasdair MacCoinnich roinn mhór de Chanada an Iar. Còmhla ris bha Alasdair MacAoidh a rannsaich am fearann mu thimcheall steud shruthan bhras abhainn mhór MhicCoinnich, a tha air a h-ainmeachadh air an duin'-uasal sin.

Gu misneachail treunmhor, gun eagal gun fhiamh, chùm iad an iar (eadhon an cunnart a' bhàis, oir aig an àm sin bha an tìr làn de Innseanaich fhìadhaich), gus mu dheireadh, an dèidh naoi mìosan de thìm, ràinig iad Cuan Ciùin na h-Aird-an-iar. B'e Gaidheal misneachail eile, Mgr. Sim Friseil, a chaidh suas an abhainn Friseil anns a' bhliadhna 1807.

Fad àireamh bhliadhnachan bha aimhreit agus co-spàirn fhuilteach eadar na marsantan agus na daoine malairt air an dara taobh agus na h-Innseanaich fhìadhaich air an taobh eile.

Anns na làithean dorcha muladach, an uair a bha iad a' fuadach nan Catach à seilbh an fhearainn anns a' Ghaidhealtachd, thàinig àireamh dhiubh bho'n t-siorramachd sin agus rinn iad àiteachas an seo, timcheall air Cill-Donain.

Bha pailteas Gàidhlig 'ga labhairt anns an dùthaich seo aig an àm sin, agus bha ann mar an ceudna misneach agus treubhantais. " 'S coma leam cogadh, no sìth, " theireadh iad, agus rinn na marsantan mòra buannachd leotha.

Tha seann-duine fhathast beò 'nar measg, MacGill-Iosa, aig a bheil cuimhne air an uair a bha iad a' fuadach nam Frangach à baile-mór Winnipeg, agus a chunnaic iad iad a' snámh thairis air an abhainn a' teicheadh air falbh. Aig àm cruinneachadh nan Gaidheal anns a' gheamhradh sheinneadh iad uile an t-òran Gàidhlig, "He 'n cló-dubh, och o-ro-seinn, " agus iad a' bualadh an dùirn air a' bhòrd a' cumail tim agus le pailteas de'n uisge-bheatha mun cuairt, "a chuireadh blàths air a' chridhe nuair bhiodh e fuar. "

Ach is e atharrachadh iongantach a tha ri fhàicinn a nis. Dh'fhàs fàsaichean an Iar làn de shluagh a thàinig as gach tìr de'n Roinn-Eòrpa, agus tha iad uile a' cumail suas an càineachan dùthchasach fhéin, le paipearan naidheachd agus leabhraichean, agus a' co-obrachadh mar seo tha iad a' cinntinn air adhart gu math.

Air an là an diugh tha na Gaidheil air an sgapadh gu h-iomlan anns gach cèarn, agus mar sin chan 'eil mòran dhiubh còmhla an aon àite sam bith. Chaill cuid dhiubh an càinain agus cleachdanan an sinnsre. Bha mi anns a' bhùth-leabhraichean as mò a tha anns a' bhaile seo o chionn ghoirid, agus cha robh leabhar sam bith an Gàidhlig 'ga chumail ann. Cha robh eadhon "Eachdraidh Albann. " A bheil e iongantach, ma tà, gu robh na ceudan de fhir a thàinig o'n Ghaidhealtachd gu obair ann an Canada an Iar, agus a' mhor-chuid dhiubh ag obair air son am bòrd.

Nam biodh na seann Ghaidheil air a chéile a leanailt an uair a thàinig iad do'n dùthaich ùir seo cha bhiodh a' chùis mar seo. Bha a h-uile cinneadh eile a' deanamh sin agus tha iad na's làidire a nis an àireamh.

Tha a' mhòr-chuid de na h-Eileanaich a thàinig a mach an seo an uiridh mu thimcheall Féidh Ruaidh (*Red Deer*). Bha mi an sin fad mìos an 1910, agus chan fhaca mi fiadh fhad is a bha mi ann. Tha an cèarn sin glé àrd, ceithir mìle troigh na's àirde na a' mhuir.

Chunnaic mi na h-Eileanaich fhad is a bha iad a' fantainn ann an Winnipeg air an turas an iar. Bha roinn dhiubh a thàinig anns a' chogadh mhór, gaisgich threuna is eireachdail. Bha pailteas chloinne agus seann dhaoine 'nam measg. Cheannaich na gillean ùbhlán is òr-mheasan eile, agus fhuair gach bodach agus leanabh criomag nar a bu ghnàth leis ann an

Gàidhlig. Cha chuirear gu bàs le gort no fuachd na feumaich, fhad is a bhios Gaidheal beò.

Cha robh sgàile sannt féineil an t-saoghail an seo, agus bha na pàisdean neo-dhàna, gun chomas ruigheachd air an toraidh bhrosnachail.

Chuir mi paipear a dh'ionnsaigh fear dhiubh, balachan tapaidh a bha air luing an àm a' chogaidh, agus fhuair mi fios air n-ais ag aithris gu robh e fad Là Nollaig a' leughadh an *Oban Times*, ann paipear a chuir mi d'a ionnsaigh, agus gum b'e a' cheud phaipear a chunnaic e anns an dùthaich seo. Thubhairt e nach robh an dòigh a bha aca ag àiteach a' còrdadh ri feadhainn dhiubh. Bha e ag ràdhainn, ged a tha na h-Eileanaich freagarrach cruadalach, gidheadh bha na tuathanaich coigreach fòirneartach. Chan 'eil fhios romhath agam mu thimcheall nan gnòthaichean sin, ach tha deagh bharaill agam air fulangas nan daoine bochda anns an dùthaich chruaidh a tha seo.

Bha mi an Alberta anns an t-samhradh, 1919, agus aig an àm sin bha teas anabarrach anns an dùthaich. Bha na treudan a' bàsachadh le cion an fheòir a bha loisgte, agus leis a' phathadh. Bha connadh agus gual cho gann is gum b'èiginn do chuid de theaghlachaichean an àirneis a losgadh anns a' gheamhradh fhuar. Tha na taighean-sgoile gann agus fada air leth. Air uairibh bidh am buntàta 'ga reothadh anns an talmh, agus an dràsda is a rithist marbhaidh an reothadh-samhraidh na meanglain. Gu h-aingim agus gu tearc chì na Gaidheil paipear-naidheachd o'n dachaigh, mar charaid o'n t-seann dùthaich. Gheibh iad naidheachdan an t-saoghail air còig cèntichean, ach cha leasaich sin an deagh bheusan. Thàinig na daoine bochda seo fò'n bharaill gu robh a' Ghaidhealtachd ro-lionta de shluagh (gidheadh tha talamh treabhachail gu leòr an sin fhathast), agus gu robh na cruaidh-chàsan aca seachad an uair a thàinig iad do'n dùthaich seo. Tha mi duilich air son nan daoine bochda a thàinig air son a bhith 'nam fir fhearainn, agus leis a' ghort agus le cisean troma chailt iad na h-uile.

Is iomadh Gaidheal ionraic òg a tha air a mbealladh le fìosan mearachdach agus le companaich chealgach. Air son gu bheil fìor Ghaidheal 'na dhuin'-uasal, cha chuir e amharas air neach sam bith eile. Air an taobh eile tha an dùthaich seo slàinteil grianach agus gu tric siolmhor. Tha àitean anns an iar far an urrainn beathachadh taitneach a bhith aig fear, ach chan 'eil iad ag ràdh mòran mu na h-àiteachan sin.

(Sgrìobhadh seo an "Teachdaire nan Gaidheil" an Canada o chionn àireamh bhliadhnachan.)

Notes and Comments

The drive for funds for the 1956 National Mod at Largs proceeds apace. In **Lochranza** a very successful concert was organised by Mary Duchess of Montrose. Mr. Neil Shaw, President of An Comunn, presided. Those taking part were Anne Gillies, Margaret Mackinnon, Mrs. MacGarrity, Mrs. Fraser, James Currie, Duncan Brown, Donald Henderson and Jean Beveridge. Miss Beth MacMillan, Brodick, was specially thanked for her share in the arrangements.

In the Highlanders' Institute, **Glasgow**, an Afternoon Tea and Bring-and-Buy Sale, in aid of the **Largs Mod Fund**, was organised by Miss Young and Miss Macpherson, and was opened by Mr. Neil Shaw. Almost £50 was realised from the effort.

The **Taynuilt** branch of An Comunn was resuscitated at a ceilidh held in the village hall on 23rd November. Mr. Neil Shaw acted as Fear-an-taighe and was in excellent form, giving fine renderings of several songs and also a recitation. Mr. Malcolm Macleod, Secretary of An Comunn, addressed the gathering on the aims of An Comunn and the work to be done by branches. The artistes were Kenneth Lawrie, Sheena Campbell, Mrs. Brown, and Leezie Macdonald (accompanist), and also Mrs. Bella Maclean, Dennistoun, a native of Islay, who accompanied Mr. Shaw and Mr. Macleod from Glasgow, and whose contributions to the ceilidh programme were greatly appreciated. At the close of the ceilidh the branch was reconstituted with the following office-bearers:—President, Rev. Angus Macleod; Secretary, Mrs. Bell; Treasurer, Mrs. Brown.

It has now become an established annual practice of the **Luss and District Highland Association** to hold a ceilidh, the proceeds of which are given to An Comunn. At the ceilidh on 9th November, Mr. Malcolm Macleod, Secretary of An Comunn, was present, accompanied by a party of singers and an accompanist from Glasgow—a party to whom An Comunn is greatly indebted in that they seek no reward for their services. A number of local people also contributed to the programme. Mr. Macleod conveyed the greetings of An Comunn and thanked the Association for their generous gesture.

The youngest branch of An Comunn is that recently formed at **Balmaha**, when a ceilidh was held under the auspices of the Buchanan W.R.I., with Mrs. J. M. Bannerman presiding. There was a large attendance and the following contributed to the programme—Angus Macleod, Nan D. Hunter, Carol Galbraith, Elizabeth Bannerman, Margaret Mackinnon, John W. Bannerman, Angus and Arthur MacIver, John Galbraith, and Charles Maclean.

For some years the **South-West Ross-shire Mod** at Kyle of Lochalsh has been the largest of the one-day provincial mods, attracting over 600 entries (which is about half the number for the four days of the National Mod). At the annual general meeting of the S.W. Ross Mod Committee it was agreed that next year, as an experiment, the competitions should begin on the evening before the customary Friday of the Mod. Mr. D. J. Maclean, Northern Organiser, conveyed the thanks of An Comunn for the fine work being done in this area. The office-bearers of the mod committee for 1956 are:—Convener, Mr. Torquill Nicolson;

Vice-Conveners, Mrs. Margaret Macdonald and Mr. Calum K. Macleod; Secretary, Mr. H. Mackenzie; Assistant Secretary, Mrs. M. E. Lowe; Treasurer, Mr. Eoghan Campbell; Assistant Treasurer, Mr. D. Macdonald. For the first time for some years Applecross and Glenelg are represented on the Committee.

It is learned with great regret that the **Stornoway Gaelic Choir** has been disbanded. At the National Mods since the war the Choir has been prominent in the major choral competitions, and the Mod will be the poorer for its absence, which we hope will be only a temporary one.

"A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country." Too often the same is true of the bards. We are glad to note, however, that **Mr. John Morrison**, Crowned Bard at the 1955 National Mod, has been honoured by the people of Lochmaddy, among whom he lives and works, and was presented with a silver-mounted full-dress sporran and an inscribed silver-mounted sgian-dubh, while Mrs. Morrison received a travelling clock. Included in a programme of songs and recitations was the reading of Mr. Morrison's winning poem by Mr. Donald J. Macdonald. We should like this custom to spread.

Mr. Duncan Mackenzie has been re-elected Convener of the **Edinburgh Local Mod Committee**. Other office-bearers are:—Secretary, Miss Mary Sutherland; Assistant Secretary, Miss K. Goodwin; Joint-Treasurers, Mr. D. M. MacPhail and Miss Catherine Macleod. The next mod will be held in the Central Halls on 26th May.

At the final ceilidh for 1955 of the **Edinburgh Branch** of An Comunn, some 200 people attended. Mr. Malcolm Macleod, General Secretary, introduced by Mr. Farquhar Macleod, branch Vice-President, addressed the gathering. Those contributing to the programme were Mr. Duncan Mackenzie (branch President), Mrs. Johan Macleod (wife of the General Secretary), Madge Campbell Brown, Donald Ross, James Campbell, Mrs. Dorothy Graham, Lilian Blackie, and Messrs. Johnson and Bolton.

At the annual general meeting of the **Royal Celtic Society**, held in Edinburgh, the following office-bearers were appointed:—President, Lord Macdonald of Macdonald; Vice-Presidents, Sir Thomas Innes of Learney (Lord Lyon King of Arms), Sir Compton Mackenzie, and Major-General Douglas Wimberley; Secretary, Iain C. Cameron; and Treasurer, Joseph G. S. Cameron.

Officials of An Comunn Gaidhealach will note, with excusable envy, that, because of the healthy financial position of the Society, it was agreed that there should be no annual subscription. How does one join this Society, which we have seen described as "this most exclusive of societies"? We are not sure whether this means "gentlemen" as against ladies or "gentlemen" as against the "hoi polloi."

In any case, the Royal Celtic Society, which was founded in 1820, continues to do what it can to promote interest in the history, traditions, language, and arts of the Highlands and Islands, and has given substantial financial assistance to many good causes.

At the recent meeting among the suggestions made was that serving soldiers should be helped to attend the National Mod, that a prize be provided for the best paper from a Highland regiment attending the School of Piping at Edinburgh Castle, and that photographic copies should be made of paintings of people in Highland dress which are still found in many old mansion houses.

Ann's A' Mhaileid

Mod Issue

SIR,—I should like to compliment you on the general interest of the Mod issue of *An Gaidheal*, and, in particular, the inclusion of the separate Gaelic and music marks gained in the various competitions.

The latter made most interesting reading, and I trust will continue to be made available in every Mod issue.—Yours faithfully,

CHAS. REPPKE.

“Seonaid”

A Fhir-dheasachaidh,—Bu chaomh leam meal a naidheachd a chur air Seonaig NicLeòid. Tha an sgeul seo fìor thaitneach. Tha toiseach ann, tha meadhan ann, agus tha crìoch ann. Tha Gàidhlig an Eilein Sgitheanaich gu léir ann. Tha e furasda duinn Seònaid a' fèin fhaicinn—boireannach coibhneil 'na dòigh, ach boireannach crosda, cuideachd—boireannach air bheag seagha, gun mhóran toinise. Boireannach, is dòcha e, anns a bheil cridhe cruaidh nan Ceilteach. Nach e dath glas a tha air a sùilean?

Agus Alasdair Tàillear—nach fhaic sinn gu furasda esan, cuideachd! 'Na dhuine mór, mall—ach 'na dhuine cainnteach, bruidhneach, ma tha dad aige ri ràdh! 'Na dhuine tuigseach, mar an ceudna; ach cha do phòs e Seònaid—agus cha phòsadh! Tha a fhios aige càit a bheil an ròsarnach— agus chan ann timcheall air Seònaid an t-àite sin!

Ach a nis focal no dha mu litreachas an sgeòil:

Stuigeadh. Ciod e am focal seo? (Tha a fhios agam gu bheil am focal “stuigeadh” ri fhaotainn anns na foclaire, ach chan ann idir air an t-seagh seo a' bhrìgh a tha air.)

Oinseach. Nach e focal boireann a tha anns an focal seo? Mar sin, nach bu chòir duinn an tuiseal tabhairteach fhaicinn ann?

Fad an Sgeòil. “Sgeul anns nach bi os cionn sè ceud focal.” Nach 'eil an sgeul tuilleadh is fada?—Is mise, gu dileas,

I. M. MOFFATT-PENDER.

Treasurer's Notes

National Mod—Aberdeen, 1955

Received at Aberdeen—

Previously acknowledged £2776 4 2

Less sundries (included
in error) 1 6 1

£2774 18 1

Cookery Books, addi-
tional (Individual
Effort) 6 10 —

Anon. — 7 1

£2781 15 2

Received at Headquarters—

Previously acknowledged £267 11 9

Comunn na Clarsaich .. 6 — —

Fees and Expenses re-
linquished—

Donald Thomson, Esq.,
Oban 3 2 10

Miss Lucy Cameron,
Lòch Sunart 4 1 —

Mrs. Jean Sutherland,
Fraserburgh 6 6 —

Mrs. J. M. B. MacLean,
Dunoon 8 8 —

Miss K. Barry Milner,
Duncaraig 3 3 —

298 12 7

£3080 7 9

Magazine Fund

Previously acknowledged £24 5 —

Less total for last year carried forward
in error 15 12 —

£8 13 —

Mrs. Westland, Aberdeen—half net
proceeds of Mod Club 25 10 —

Anon. — 4 —

John G. Nicolson, Esq., Vancouver 3 — —

Duncan Hunter, Esq., Lochgilphead — 14 —

G. E. Anderson, Esq., Toronto — 13 —

J. A. D. McIntosh, Esq., Glasgow — 12 6

£39 6 6

Central Fund

Previously acknowledged £223 8 —

Less Total for last year carried forward
in error 151 14 5

£71 13 7

Add 5d not carried forward from July
to August Magazine — — 5

£71 14 —

Lochalsh Gaelic Choir 5 — —

Sutherland Provincial Mod Committee 30 — —

Dingwall Branch 5 — —

Lochytaside Branch 2 2 —

Buchanan Branch 7 13 —

£121 9 —

Recorded Gaelic Lessons

For some time there have been enquiries as to the possibility of making available a set of recorded Gaelic lessons, and An Comunn has taken up the matter with some of the firms likely to be interested.

We are now informed that the Linguaphone Institute is making arrangements to produce a course of recorded Gaelic lessons, as it is felt that there is a demand for such a course.

We have no information about the contents of the lessons, nor do we know by whom they are being prepared for recording. We are informed, however, that it is estimated that a set of records will cost twenty guineas, assuming that five hundred sets will be sold.

Anyone interested is advised to write direct to the Linguaphone Institute, Ltd., 207-209 Regent Street, London, W.1., or to their representative, Mr. William Mackay, 141 Adelaide Road, Hampstead, London, N.W.3.

Let's Tell The World

The Northern Area News-letter says of the proposed South Uist Rocket Range, "Lamentation combined with apathy will achieve nothing."

How true this is! There is plenty of evidence that the Western Isles have survived invasion in the past by absorbing alien influences into their own peculiar pattern of living. Atmosphere, environment, and custom are on our side, but the Gaels must show enthusiasm and endurance in the face of indifference, ridicule, and opposition.

It is sad, though understandable, that many native speakers, on entering modern society, deny their heritage and model themselves on the Transatlantic ideal—not because it appeals to them more, but because they are afraid of seeming "different." It we could make Gaelic a popular fashion, it would achieve an enviable distinction and an assured future.

I am not suggesting that you hire a spot on Radio Luxembourg, get our Medallists into the Hit Parade, and thus acquire a horde of "fans;" but propaganda is undoubtedly one answer. The Gaelic cause does have a large and sympathetic following which is virtually untouched by most of An Comunn's publications. By all means let us keep *An Gaidheal*, but let us see more about our movement in other publications also. It is no use saying, "We are here ready to supply information." People are too lazy to ask; they require to be told, clearly and attractively

and often. In this fiercely competitive world An Comunn cannot afford to be old-fashioned or diffident about advertising.

At the same time the product must be worthy of public favour. Much of An Comunn's effort is weakened by the behaviour of some of their own supporters. There is a cabalistic element evincing an attitude of selfishness and suspicion—"We'll accept your help, but we're not sharing our treasure!"

"Keeping ourselves to ourselves!" How should we fare if indeed left to ourselves! As a guest speaker at the Mod has said, the real obstacle seems not the ill-will of the non-Gael but the non-will of the Gael. C. M.

Gaelic Notices at National Mod

We regret that, in our report of the National Mod at Aberdeen last September, no reference was made to one feature on which we heard many appreciative comments. We now gladly rectify the omission.

Exhibited in the halls were various notices in Gaelic, of which the following is, we think, a fairly complete account:

Runaire Ionmhasair
Co-fharpais Co-fharpaiseach
Bi samhach re nan co-fharpaisean
Na las piob no eile
Gabhair ri buill do'n Chomunn an seo
Braisdean nam Ball/'gan reic an seo/a'
phris 3/6
Deuchainn Gaidhlig.

These notices, beautifully executed, were provided at the expense of an ardent supporter of An Comunn, who wishes to remain anonymous and who first suggested that there should be such notices. We express to him our gratitude.

'Teachdaire Na Gaidhealtachd'

We are glad to welcome the Second Number of the Northern Area News-Letter. This number is duplicated, not printed. It contains news of many of the branches in the north. Flag-day collections have been taken in various places in aid of Comunn na h-Oigridh. Reference is made to the lamented death of Mr. Donald MacPhail, the appointment of the Crofters' Commission, the South Uist Rocket Range, and the Inverness County Education Committee's proposals for improving the position of Gaelic in the schools.

Distribution of Gaelic

Questionnaire

MR REGINALD HINDLEY, M.A., F.R.G.S., 43 Daisy Bank Road, Victoria Park, Manchester, 14, has for some time been engaged upon research into the area distribution of the Scottish Gaelic language since 1800, as part of a wider study of the contrasted fortunes of Irish, Scottish, and Manx Gaelic. He feels strongly that, in view of the rapidly changing situation, the sort of information he is seeking must be obtained now, otherwise in many districts of the mainland and the Inner Isles it may too late.

Mr. Hindley is interested in the application of lessons learned in the schools of Ireland and Wales to those of the Highlands and in possible ways of stemming the decline in Gaelic speaking.

Mr. Hindley will be glad to hear from any readers who may be willing to give him information about the past or present position of the language in their own localities and the various causes of its decline. He also wishes to have information or suggestions which might help to date the retreat of the language from any particular locality at any stage of history since the Reformation.

Mr. Hindley has prepared a detailed questionnaire, copies of which may be obtained from him, and by means of which much useful information may be elicited, even if few are able to complete the form.

The questionnaire deals with such topics as the chief occupations of the people, the proportion who can speak Gaelic and those who habitually do so, the various attitudes to the language, the place of Gaelic in church services, its place and use in the schools, Gaelic in public life, the reading of Gaelic publications, the effects of emigration, tourism, evacuees, compulsory military service, direction of labour, and development schemes, and the influence of radio, mobile cinema, and improved transportation.

A final question is: "Do you think anything can, should, or will be done to halt the decline of Gaelic? What?"

We hope that Mr. Hindley will get the help he deserves in carrying out this important survey.

* * * *

Thoir am bainne, a bhó dhonn,
Thoir am bainne, gu trom 's gu torach;
Thoir am bainne, a bhó dhonn,
Is na h-aislean tighinn do'n bhaile.

Fuasgladh na Ceist

BHA deasbairreachd fhada eadar dithis bhodach uair, mu phong bheag a bhuineadh do'n Sgrìobtur, aon de na ceistean sin a bhios a' cumail cagnaidh is cnuasachaidh ri daoine anns gach linn, ach ma dh'fhaodte anns nach 'eil a bheag de theagag no de chomhfhurtachd do'n inntinn, ged bhiodh i air a fuasgladh d'am miann. Leis cho treun is a bha gach fear 'na bharaile fèin, dh'fhàs a' chonnspaid cho teth agus gun dubhairt an dara h-aon gun toireadh iad a' chùis fa chomhair a' mhinisteir air son a bheachd fhaotainn. An uair a dh'éisid am ministeir riutha, cha do mórhan e taobh seach taobh, ach thug e an deasbairreachd gu crìch le cosamhlachd a labhairt.

"Thachair do dhà chaoira," arsa e fèin, "a bha ag ionaltradh air bearradh nan àrd-chreag, teàrnadh sìos air slighe aìmhleathan, chunnartach, do uirigh ghorm ann am meadhon creige, anns an robh coltas air an fheur a bhith cus na bu shùghmhoire is na bu mhìlse na bha e an àite sam bith eile. Bha e mòran na bu doirbhe do na creutairean teàrnadh sìos do'n uirigh na bha e dhaibh faotainn aisde air do'n aon T-slighe a bhith cho cas.

"An taobh a staigh de leth-uair, dh'ith iad gach bile fèoir a bha mun cuairt, gus fadhbaidh, gun d'fhàg iad an T-ionad cho dubh ri talamh-àitich. Nan rachadh am fàpail ann an sin, cha robh a' feitheamh orra ann an ùine gheàrr ach am bàs cinnteach, rachadh iad leis a' chreig ag iarraidh sreup as, no bhàsaicheadh iad le acras. Is e nach tugadh tuigse dhaibh air a' chòrr a thug orra dol 'na lethidh de ghàbhadh air son chrìomagan gorma nach cumadh beò iad ach fad là no dhà, am feadh is a bha gu leòir agus ri sheachnadh de bhìadh aca ann am buailtean is am machraichean còmhnard, tèarainte na tìre. Tha sibhse, a tha an impis cur a mach air a' chèile le connasachadh anns nach 'eil brìgh no taìrbhe, a' cur nan caorach amaideach 'na mo chuimhne!

"Nach lionmhor na cluaintean torrach, ann am fìrinnean soilleir a' Bhiobuill anns am faod sibh beatha is slàinte fhaotainn ged nach biodh sibh ag iarraidh a bhith a' ruigheachd air ionadan cumhang, deacair agus dìomhair, anns nach faigh sibh, ged ruigeadh sibh orra, cus de bheatha spioradail!"

Chunnaic an dà sheanair gu luath nach robh ann ach fìor-dhiomhanas dhaibh a bhith a' dol an amhaichean a chèile mu nì cho faoin, agus dh'fhàg iad taigh a' mhinisteir cho còirdte ri dà cheann eich!

TORMOD DOMHNALLACH.



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar VIII

AN GEARRAN, 1956

Aireamh 2

“Bord MhicLeod”

Le CAIRISTIONA NICLEOID

(Choisinn an oidhirp litreachais seo “Duais àhileib Theàrlaich Iain Mhic an Rothaich Fhoighris” aig a’ Mhòd Nàiseanta, 1955.)

THA seann sgeulachd ag innse mar a thugadh “Bord MhicLeòid” mar ainm air a’ bheinn ris an canar Healabhal Mhór an Dùthaich MhicLeòid anns an Eilean Sgitheanach.

B’e Alasdair Crotach an t-ochdamh ceann-cinnidh de Chloinn Leòid an Dun-bheagan. Bha e ’na dhuine tapaidh, foghainteach, ach an uair a bha e òg fhuair e leòn an cath Loch a’ Bhàigh. B’e sin an t-aobhar gu robh e crom-shlinneach, agus mar sin theireadh daoine gu robh e crotach. Ach, anns an t-seann aimsir, bha far-ainm de’n t-seòrsa sin ’na chomharradh air cuid de na triathan ainmeil, mar a bha Dòmhnall Gorm Shlèibhte, Dòmhnall Gruamach nan Eilean, Dòmhnall Dubh Lochiall, agus Iain Borb Dhun-bheagain.

Tha e air aithris gun tug Alasdair Crotach cuairt do bhàile Dhun-éideann anns a’ bhliadhna còig ceud deug agus còig-deug ar fhichead. Còmhla ri triathan Gaidhealach eile fhuair e cuireadh gu cuirrm ann an lùchairt Rìgh Seumas a Còig, Rìgh na h-Alba. Bha an rìgh a’ fuireach aig an àm sin ann an lùchairt *Holyrood*. Bha Alasdair Crotach ag amharc le iongnadh air greadhnachas na talla anns an robh a’ chuirrm. Laigh a shùil gu sònraichte air sreath de choinnleirean air an robh lainnir òir agus anns an robh coinnean céire a’ lasadh. Thug fear de na h-uislean Gallda gàire air a’ chuid-eachd le bhith ag ràdh ri Alasdair Crotach nach

robh an leithid siud de choinnleirean no de bhòrd anns an Eilean Sgitheanach.

“Ma tà,” arsa Alasdair Crotach, “ma thig thusa ’gam thadhal-sa anns an Eilean Sgith-eanach, seallaidh mise dhuit coinnleirean agus bòrd as breagha gu mòr na iad sin.”

Chuala an rìgh am freagradh agus an cuireadh agus thubhairt e ri Alasdair Crotach, “Thig mise agus feadhainn de mo chuid uislean do’n Eilean Sgitheanach, agus feuch thusa gun coimhlion thu do bhriathran.”

Mar a thubhairt, b’fhìor. Thàinig an rìgh agus a chuid uislean. Thug Alasdair òrdugh gum biodh eich le diollaid is gille-cinn an t-aon aig a’ chladach a’ feitheamh ri birlinn an rìgh. Chaidh a’ bhuidheann rìoghail a ghùlan suas air slios na beinne a’ marcachd nan each. Bha an oidhche a’ ciaradh an uair a ràinig iad mullach Healabhail Mhóir. Bha cuirrm sgaoilte an sin air bratan lìn air an fhraoch, agus bha ceud gaisgeach deas ’nam seasamh mun cuairt le claidheamh air an leis, le sgiath ’nan làimh chli, agus dreòs giuthais a’ lasadh ’nan làimh dheis.

Sheas Alasdair Crotach an làthair an rìgh agus labhair e mar seo: “Le cead bhur Mórachd Rìoghail, sin a nis mo bhòrd air a’ bheinn, le lùchairt nan speur os mo chionn; agus sin agaibh mo choinnleirean òir, mo ghaisgich threuna, a tha deas agus deònach an rìgh a dhìon, mu thuath no mu dheas, air muir no air tìr.”

Am Bodach agus na Pileachan

BHA a’ fuireach ann an aon de eileanan na h-Albann duine aig an robh each àraidh. Bha an t-each seo cianail leisg. An uair a ruigeadh e bonn bruthaich agus eallach air, cha dìreadh e am bruthach idir.

Bha an duine bochd seo a’ fàs searbh de’n each, agus thog e air a dh’ionnsaigh an lighiche-

chruidh feuch am faigheadh e a mach dé an t-aobhar a bha a’ toirt air an each fàs cho leisg aig amannan cho mì-fhortanach. Dh’innis e do’n lighiche facal air an fhacal mar a bha. Dh’èisd an lighiche ris gu cùramach agus an sin thug e dha dà phìle— aon fhear gorm agus am fear eile buidhe—ag ràdh, “Thoir am pile gorm

AN GAIÐHEAL OG

do'n each uair air bith a dhiùltas e am bruthach a dhìreadh. Mur dean sin feum sam bith, thoir dha am fear buidhe."

Ghabh an sin a' bodach bochd dhachaigh, na pileachan a' glagadaich am bucas 'na phòcaid.

Goirid an déidh seo thachair e air an lighiche anns a' bhàile aon là, agus dh'fhoighnich an lighiche dheth ciamar a chaidh leis.

"Chaidh gu math, a dhuine," arsa ean, "agus abair sin! Air dhomh a dhol dhachaigh an oidhche ud, bha mi a' toirt eallach mòna dhachaigh air son na Sàbaid. Mar a b' àbhaist cha dìreadh an t-each am bruthach. An sin smuainich mi air na pileachan agus rinn mi mar a dh' iarr sibh orm. Thug mi dha am pile gorm agus, a dhuine bhochd a tha thu ann, am prìoba na sùla siud an t-each air falbh cho luath ris a' ghaoith, agus bha agam fhìn ris a' phìle bhuidhe a ghabhail air son gum beirinn air!"

Leig an lighiche lasgan gàire as agus chùm e air. Bha am bodach làn chinnteach as an lighiche.

IAIN MACLACHLAINN.

(Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir-Nis.)

Creag A' Mhaistrìdh

THA creag faisg air mo dhachaigh-sa ris an can iad "Creag a' Mhaistrìdh."

Is iomadh bliadhna bhò'n fhuair a' chreag an t-ainm seo, agus lean e rithe chun an là an diugh.

Tha sgeulachd ag ràdh gu robh seann duine a' dol dhachaigh anmoch air oidhche ghruamach gheamhraidh, agus gu robh an cridhe gu leum as leis an eagal a chionn gu robh aige ri dhol thar monaidh dhuirch.

Bha a' chreag mhór dhuaichnidh seo roimhe, agus an uair a bha e a' tarraing dlùth oirre chuala e fuaim neònach. Stad e. Siud am fuaim faramach a rithist! Bha am bodach bog le fallus agus gu dhol à cochull a chridhe. Bha am fuaim seo coltach ri fuaim maistrìdh. Is ann a smaoinich an duine gu robh na sìdhichean an seo cinnteach gu leòr. Thàinig na h-uimhir a mhisneachd chuige an sin agus gun tug e a chasan leis cho luath is a b' urrainn dha—agus is ann gu math spàgach a bha sin fhéin.

Chan 'eil fios againn gu dé am fuaim a chuala an duine, ach is ann mar seo a fhuair a' chreag an t-ainm seo.

Ged nach 'eil mòran a' creidsinn ann an sìdhichean anns an là an diugh, anns an t-seann aimsir bheireadh iad làn chreideas do'n sgeul seo.

MAIRI NIC A' BHIUCAIR.

(Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir-Nis.)

Campa Comunn na h-Oigrìdh

A H-UILE bliadhna riamb aig àm an t-samhraidh, agus mar as trice aig toiseach mìos an Iuchair, bidh gu leòr de chloinn a tha seachad air dà bhliadhna dheug a dh'aois a' falbh as na h-Eileanan an Iar do Champa Comunn na h-Oigrìdh.

Is e Dòmhnall MacPhàil a bha 'na cheannard air a' champa o chionn grunnan math bhliadhnaichean, agus bha a' chlànn uile glé thùrsach an uair a leig e bhuaithe an obair sin agus gu seachd àraidh an uair a chuala iad gun do chaochail e.

A nìs fhuair iad ceannard eile ris an abrar Dòmhnall Iain MacGilleathain, agus is i an uiridh a' cheud bhliadhna a bha e 'na cheannard air a' chloinn.

Is e Cnoc-nan-Ròs an dachaigh ùr aig Comunn na h-Oigrìdh a nis, agus an uiridh bha Dòmhnall Iain MacGilleathain ann an drip agus ann an cabhaig gus an taigh fhaighinn deiseil air son na cloinne. Co-dhiùbh, an uair a thàinig iad air an treas là de'n Iuchar bha an taigh cho glan ris an òr.

Chruinnich còrr is dà fhichead dhiùbh, agus, chuir iad seachad na deich là gu sona le bhith a' falbh chuaritean air feadh na dùthaich, le bhith a' deanamh cuirm-chnuic, a bhith a' falbh a' céilidh, agus le bhith a' deanamh chleasan eile de'n t-seòrsa sin.

Doileag NicLeòid

(Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir-Nis.)

Briogais nan Dusan Toll

(Sgeul Bheag à Uibhist a Tuath)

Là a bha siud bha Dòmhnall, balach òg leis a' mharsanta, a' spaisdearachd sìos is suas air ùrlar bùth a athar, le clobha air a ghualainn, ma's fhìor a' cluich na pìoba, an uair a thàinig nàbaidh a steach.

"Dé a tha thu a' deanamh, a Dhòmhnall?" dh'fheòraich an nàbaidh.

"Nach 'eil thu a' faicinn dé a tha mi a' deanamh? Nach 'eil mi a' cluich na pìoba," fhreagair an gille gu gocanta.

"Agus a bheil am port seo agad, 'Briogais Dhubb nan Dusan Toll'?"

"Chan 'eil," arsa am balach, "ach tha a' bhriogais fhéin agam!"

Iain I. MacLeòid

(Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir-Nis.)

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MARCH, 1956

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NA SEANN ORAIN

O, creid gur firinn a tha mi 'g innse,
Is ionmhas prìseil do thir a h-òrain;
Cha dileab shuarach o'n bhàrd a dhuanaig,
Ged 's beag, mo thruaighe, chuir i 'na phòca.

O, ceòl ar dùthcha, is spiorad iùil e
A tha 'gar stiùradh air cùrsa mòrachd;
An cumail ùrail 'nam beusan fiùghail,
A choisinn cliù dhuinn an cùis na còrach.

Domhnall MacEacharn.



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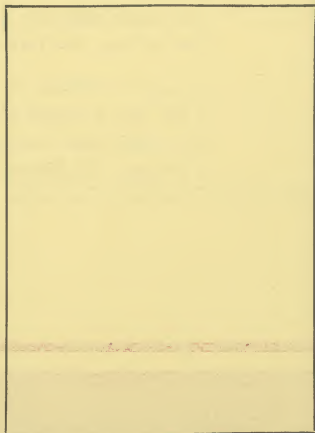
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AM MART, 1956

Aireamh 3

"A.D. Da Cheud Dheug Ceithir Fichead 's a Sia" 1286 A.D.

le IAIN M. MOFFATT-PENDER.

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An t-Aba	An t-Ard-Athair Anastasius
An Sagart	An t-Athair Calum
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Ban-rìgh na h-Alba	A' Bhan-rìgh Yolande

A' Choisir, Saighdearan, Mnathan-Uasal

Cha robh Alasdair III ach ochd bliadhna de aois aig an àm a fhuair a athair, Alasdair II, bàs. B'ann a thaobh an rìgh òig a bhith 'na bhalach a bha luchd-eachdraidh a' toirt uiread de chunntas air na nìbhibh a thachair aig a chrùnadh. Am measg nìthean eile a bha iad ag ràdh, thubhairt iad gum b'ann an Laidinn agus am Fraingis a bha na mìonnan-crùnaidh air an cur an cèill. Agus bha e air a ràdh, an

uair chuir easbuig Chill Rìmhinn an crùn air ceann an rìgh òig, an déidh da a bhith air a' ungadh le h-olaidh, agus e 'na shuidhe air Clach a' Mhanaidh—is e sin ri a ràdh, an Lia Fàil—an eaglais Sgàin, gun d'aidich a chuid thighearan ùmhchlach da air an glùinibh, agus gun do sgaoil iad an cuid bhrat fo a chosaibh. Agus an sin gun tàinig Seanchaidh Gàidhealach ann, agus gun d'innis esan do'n rìgh òg ainmean

nan rìghrean uile a bha ann roimhe, air an ais do ionnsaigh a' cheud rìgh a bha riamh air a chrùnadh an Albainn, agus gun do chuir an seanchaidh an sin crìoch air na bha e ag ràdh le: 'Beannachd do rìgh na h-Alba, Alasdair mac Alasdair 'ic Uilleim 'ic Eanruig 'ic Dhaibhidh 'ic Chalm, ' agus gu robh an rìgh òg an sin air a leigeil air falbh, luchdaichte le tiodh-lacaibh luchmhora.

(Eachdraidh na h-Alba.)

Is ann an talla mór Dùn nam Manach a tha a' chluich seo air a reachdachadh.

B'ann mu fhichead mìle air astar bho Dhùn-Eideann, air a shuidheachadh air rudha aonaranach. faisg air a' mhuir, agus os cionn creagan a' chladaich, a bha Dùn nam Manach.

Is ann mu mheadhon darna mìos an Earraich (am Màrt) anns a' bhliadhna dà cheud dheug ceithir fichead 's a sia a tha an t-àm.

Tha am feasgar ann, agus tha dorchadas na h-oidhche a' tuiteam air an Dùn, air an tir mu a thimcheall, agus air a' mhuir.

Tha na cruisein air an lasadh anns an talla mhór, agus tha lasair chridheil theine ann cuideachd.

Chan 'eil duine sam bith, an toiseach, anns an talla mhór, ach tha A' CHOISIR a' seinn *Nunc Dimittis* an eaglais an Dùin, ri taobh an talla, agus cluinnear gu soilleir an ceòl.

A' CHOISIR (a' seinn)

A nis, a Thighearna, tha thu a' leigeadh do d' sheirbhiseach siubhal an sìth: a réir t'fhocail.

Oir chunnaic mo shùilean: do shlàinte.

A dh'ullaich thu: roimh ghnùis nan uile shluagh.

Solus a shoilleachadh nan Cinneach: agus glòir do phobuill Israeil.

Glòir do an Athair, agus do an Mhac: agus do an Spiorad Naomh.

Mar a bha air tùs, a tha a nis, agus a bhitheas gun bràth: saoghal gun chrìch.

Amen.

Cuirear crìoch air an t-seirbhis leis an Aba. Cluinnear gu soilleir guth an Aba, ged nach faicear esan.

AN T-ABA.—Gun gléidheadh sìth Dhé, a tha os cionn gach uile thuigse, bhur cridheachan agus bhur n-intinnean an eòlas agus an gràdh Dhé, agus a Mhic Iosa Crìosd ar Tigh-earna: agus gu robh beannachadh Dhé Uile Chumhachdaich, an Athar, a' Mhic, agus an Spioraid Naoimh, 'nur measg, agus gun gabhadh e còmhnaidh maille ribh do ghnàth. Amen.

Thig an t-Aba agus an Sagart a steach, agus seasaidh iad am meadhon an talla mhòir.

AN T-ABA—Is e seo an ceathramh Di-Ciadaoin de an Charghas seachad, nach e?

AN SAGART—Le bhur cead, a Ard-Athair, chan e seo an ceathramh, ach an treas.

AN T-ABA—Ciod é?

AN SAGART—Cha chreid mi nach i seo ach an treas seachdain de an Charghas. Nach ann an diugh féin a tha a' cheathramh seachdain de an Charghas a' tòiseachadh?

AN T-ABA—Cuin' a bha an Inid?

AN SAGART—Bha Di-Mairt Inid againn bho chionn trì sheachdainean an dé. Nach robh?

AN T-ABA—A bheil thu cinnteach as?

AN SAGART—Le bhur cead, a Ard-Athair, bha Di-Mairt Inid againn bho chionn trì sheachdainean an dé. Nach 'eil cuimhne agaibhse, le bhur cead, gum b'ann air an latha sin a dh'fhàs an t-each bàn agaibhse crùbach an uair a bha sibh a' marcachd air—a' tighinn dachaigh á Dun-Eideann?

AN T-ABA—Bu mhaith leam a' bhith cinnteach as. Ciod é a tha an Seanchaidh ag ràdh? Càit a bheil e?

AN SAGART—Cha chreid mi nach 'eil e fhathast anns an eaglais, a Ard-Athair. Gheibh mi e.

Théid an Sagart a mach, agus tillidh e air ball leis an t-Seanchaidh.

AN T-ABA—Tha sibh ann, a Ailein Iain. Cuin a bha Di-Mairt Inid againn? A bheil cuimhne agaibh? Ach ciod e a tha ceàrr, a Ailein Iain? Ciod é a thàinig ort? Car son a tha sibh cho bà, agus nach 'eil bhur com gu léir a' crith?

AN SEANCHAIDH (*a ghuth fann agus briste*)—Bha mi ri ùrnuigh, le bhur cead, a Ard-Athair. Bha mi shìos air mo ghluinibh.

AN T-ABA (*a' coimhead gu geur air Ailean Iain*)—Cha mhór nach 'eil sibh air bhur toirt thairis, a Ailein Iain. (*ris an t-Sagart*)

Faigh deoch air a shon, a Chaluum. Bi tapaidh. Deoch fiona no *acqua vitae*. (*ris an t-Seanchaidh*)

Dèanaibh suidhe, a Ailein Iain, gus am faigh sibh deoch.

Nì an Seanchaidh suidhe. Théid an Sagart a mach, agus tillidh e air ball le gloine 'na làimh, agus deoch innte. Bheir an Sagart an deoch do an t-Seanchaidh. Olaidh an Seanchaidh i.

AN SEANCHAIDH—Tha mi a' faireachdainn na's fearr, gu robh maith agaibh.

AN T-ABA—Ciod é a thug buaidh oirbh?

AN SEANCHAIDH—'Nuair bha mi ri ùrnuigh chaidh duine seachad air an taobh a muigh; sheall e a steach air fuinneag mliór na h-eaglaise.

AN T-ABA—Cò b'é? Am b'aithne duibh e?

AN SEANCHAIDH—B'aithne: is e an rìgh a bha ann: bha an crùn air.

AN T-ABA agus AN SAGART (*le chèile*)—An rìgh!

AN SEANCHAIDH—B'e, agus bha a chrùn air a cheann.

AN T-ABA—An do labhair e? An duirt e focal?

AN SEANCHAIDH—Cha duirt. B'ann an sin a thàinig an t-Athar Calum air mo shon.

AN T-ABA—Feumaidh mi a fhaicinn feumaidh feumaidh

AN SAGART—Feumaidh mise a fhaicinn cuideachd.

Thèid an t-Aba agus an Sagart a mach an dèidh a chèile, An t-Aba an toiseach. Tha an Seanchaidh air a fhàgail leis fhéin. Thèid esan sìos air a ghluinibh, a shùilean dùinte.

AN SEANCHAIDH—Chan fhaic sibh dad. Chan fhaic sibh an rìgh. Cha ruig sibh a leas a dhol a mach. Chunnaic mi fhéin e, ach chan 'eil na sùilean agamsa agaibhse.

Fosglaidh an Seanchaidh a shùilean agus ch'è nach 'eil an t-Aba no an Sagart ann. Cuiridh an Seanchaidh an sin a anam fo chrois, cuiridh e a làmhnan a mach roimhe, agus labhraidh e ris fhéin.

AN SEANCHAIDH—Beannact do rig na h-Alban! Beannact Dé dó! D' imtig sé ar Slige na Fìrinne! Solas na bFlaites dó!

Seo an coigeamh latha deug de an Mhàrt. Thàinig e. Dh'fhalbh e. Nach e seo an latha air an do thuit Ceasar? Cha chreid mi nach e. An coigeamh latha deug de an Mhàrt. Thàinig an latha. Nach facas an speur anns a' mhadainn buidhe agus dearg? Nach cualas a' ghaoth ag éirigh? Nach robh i gu h-àrd, agus a' séideadh gu cruaidh fad an latha? Agus, a nis, nach 'eil i a' dol an lughaidh? Nach 'eil an aimsir a' fàs ciùin? Tha—tha i ciùin—agus bidh i fhathast na's ciùine A Alasdair mac Alasdair 'ic Uilleim 'ic Eanruig 'ic Dhàibhidh 'ic Chalum A Alasdair mac Alasdair 'ic Uilleim 'ic Eanruig 'ic Dhàibhidh 'ic Chalum

Thig an t-Aba agus an Sagart a steach a rithist do'n talla mhór, ach seasaidh iad aig an doras, agus seallaidh iad air an t-Seanchaidh.

Ciod é thubhairt m'athair fhéin air an latha sin, bho chionn faisg air dà fhichead bliadhna, an eaglais Sgàin, an uair a bha an crùn air a chur air ceann Alasdair, agus e 'na leanabh,

an rìgh òg, gun bhith ach ochd bliadhnaichean de aois:

A Rìgh! Idus Martii! Gabh beachd air!
A Rìgh! Idus Martii! Gabh beachd air!

AN T-ABA (*a aghaidh gu bàn agus gun fhuil*)—Agus an e seo féin, an latha an diugh féin, an latha sin? An e seo Idus Martii? *Cave Idus Martias!* Gu dearbh, *Carle!*

AN SAGART—Is e. Cha chreid mi nach e, le bhur cead, an Ard-Athair.

AN SEANCHAIDH (*a' dol air a adhart, gu mall*)—Agus nach robh m'athair còmhla ris an rìgh òg shuas air Dùn Shruibhle, seachdain no dhà an dèidh da làmh an uachdar fhaotainn air Hako agus air an fheachd Lochlannach air Blàr Làirg, agus an rìgh a' coimhead air an dùn mhór, ùr, a bha e aig an àm sin a' togail air Creag Shruibhle, agus air an latha sin, nach duirt m'athair fhéin gu tric rium, nach do sheall an rìgh air an abhainn foidhe, a' toinneamh agus a' tionndadh gu ruig a' mhuir agus an sin nach do chuir an rìgh a aghaidh ris na beannta móra, fada air falbh ann an Aird an Iar, a' Bheinn Laoimeann, a' Bheinn Mheanbh, a' Bheinn Lìdi, a' Bheinn Mhór, agus a' Bheinn Mhùrlaig—air cho gorm agus air cho mór agus a bha iad 'nat' seasamh a mach an aghaidh soilleireachd an speura—air cho foillseachail agus a bha an sealladh gu léir—agus an sin nach do mhothaich an rìgh do an abhainn cheudna ud, 'na toinneimh agus 'na tionndaidhean a' tighinn a nuas do ionsaigh an Dùin bho na beanntaichean sin, agus nach b'ann an sin gun duirt an rìgh ris a' chuideachd a bha a làthair—agus m'athair fhéin ann 'na meag: "Nach ann mar an abhainn sin a bu chòir duinn an rioghachd againn a' riaghladh, bho bheanntaichean na Gàidhealtachd eadhon gu ruig Dùn Eideann?"

Thig Màiri a steach, a' saltairt air corra-bìod, agus thèid i air a ghluinibh ri taobh a sean-athar, agus cuiridh i a làmh air gualainn an t-Seanchaidh.

Tha Màiri air a sgeadachadh an deise bàn, agus tha a grnag a' tuiteam a nuas thairis air a gualainn.

AN SEANCHAIDH (*a' dol air a adhart*)—agus thàinig m'athair a mach as a' chuideachd agus sheas e fa chomhar an rìgh, agus is e a thuir e: "A Rìgh Alasdair, aig a bheil sloinneadh a tha a' dol cho fada air ais ri Fearghas mac Arcaith 'ic Chonghail 'ic Fhearghais 'ic Fhionnghail nam Buadh, cìsd riumsa, ma is e bhur toil rioghail e. Dèanaibh cho maith agus as urrainn duibh am feadh agus a tha sibh beò, oir cha tig mac no duine cloinne agaibh as bhur dèidh ach

a mhain aon ogha-nìghinn, agus ged a théid ise éigheach 'na Ban-rìgh as bhur déidh cha mhair ise fada, agus air feadh iomadh bliadhna bidh an dùthaich seo 'na fásach bun os cionn, bidh bhur dùthaich 'na thrù-thrà, bidh bhur dùthaich àlainn triomach air shearrach, bidh àimreadh agus buaireas agus làmhachas làidir ann, bidh leir-mhortadh agus sasmharbhadh ann, bidh ceannairc agus àr a mach ann, bidh daorsadh agus tràillealachd ann, agus nì bhur dùthaich gul agus caoidh air bhur son, ach aig an deireadh thall bidh

Thig an Teachdaire a steach do an talla, ach seasaidh e aig an doras an uair chì e có iad a tha ann. Tha an t-Amadan-Cleasaiche 'ga leantainn. Tha culaidh mharcachd air an Teachdaire, agus tha spuir aige air a bhrògan fada. Tha an Teachdaire 'na fhliuch fhallus agus tha an anail 's an uchd aige. Tha a chulaidh salach, agus làthachail, agus sgaoille.

AN TEACHDAIRE—Cha chuala sibh-se an naidheachd?

AN T-ABA—Cha chuala. Ciod i an naidheachd?

Thig an t-Amadan-Cleasaiche a steach do an talla, a' leim 'na shùrdagan agus a' gearradh shìnteag.

AN T-AMADAN-CLEASAICHE—Thàinig an rìgh! Thàinig an rìgh! Is geal gach nodha gu ruig snothach an fheàrna! Thàinig an rìgh! Thàinig an rìgh!

Eiridh Màiri agus nì i greim air làmh an Amadain-Cleasaiche, agus théid ise agus esan a mach as an talla, le chèile.

AN SEANCHDAIDH (a' dol air a adhart)—“ach aig an deireadh thall bidh duine treun ann, agus air a' mhachair a tha sinn a' faicinn as an seo, agus le feachd mór a thig còmhla ris as gach cèarn de an rìoghachd, bidh an luchd casgairte agus muinntear na h-eucorach air an sguabadh air falbh mar dhuslach. Gheibh an duine treun seo agus a chuid shaighdear calma làmh an uachdar air an nàimhdean agus bidh bhur dùthaich a rithist saor agus sealbhmhor agus soirbheasach, bidh, bidh.”

AN TEACHDAIRE—Nach cuala sibh naidheachd an rìgh?

AN T-ABA—Cha chuala. Ciod i an naidheachd?

AN TEACHDAIRE—Chaidh an rìgh leis a' chreig agus

AN T-ABA (le h-ìoghnaidh agus le fuath)—Chaidh an rìgh leis a' chreig? Càite? Ciod é a thachair?

AN TEACHDAIRE—Chaidh an rìgh agus an t-each air an robh e a' marcachd leis a' chreig. Tha an rìgh marbh.

AN T-ABA (a' cur a anma fo chrois)—Tha an rìgh marbh? Ciod i an naidheachd so? Is an-aobhinn an sgeul 'nar neòil

Togaidh an Seachaidh a cheann, ach chan abair e focal. Seallaidh e dìreach roimhe, agus cromaidh e a rithist a cheann.

AN TEACHDAIRE (a' tighinn a steach do an talla)—Bha mi

Thig an Ceannard-Airm a steach anns an talla. Tha culaidh mharcachd air. Nì an Teachdaire stad an uair thig an Ceannard-Airm ann.

AN CEANNARD-AIRM (ris an Teachdaire)—Ciod é a bha thu ag ràdh?

AN TEACHDAIRE—Bha mi a' tighinn dachaigh o Dhùn-Eideann còmhla ris an rìgh. Bha gaoth mhór ann, mar a tha a fhios agaibhse, agus dorchadas na h-oidhche, agus bha gach uile rud fìor chunnartach. Bha mi fhéin air son gun cuireadh an rìgh an oidhche seachd an taigh seasgair ri taobh an rathaigh mhóir—taigh a bha aig aon de an luchd-choimheadachd aige fhéin—ach cha robh an rìgh idir air son stad—b'ann a bha e daingean 'na bhàrail fhéin—agus ghabh sinn air ar n-adhart. An uair bha sinn a' dol seachd aig ceann creige àrde a bha romhainn b'ann a shleamhnaich an t-each a bha fo an rìgh, agus chaidh an t-ainmhidh agus a mharcach leis a' chreig. An uair ràinig mi an t-àite anns an robh e 'na laighe aig bonn na creige bha e cheana marbh. Bha

AN CEANNARD-AIRM—Bha e cheana marbh?

AN TEACHDAIRE—Bha—bha e cheana marbh.

AN CEANNARD-AIRM—Nach robh ann ach an rìgh a mhàin?

AN TEACHDAIRE—Dìreach an rìgh a mhàin.

AN CEANNARD-AIRM—Cò é a bha a' marcachd ri taobh an rìgh—no cò é a bha ann 'na dhéidh?

AN TEACHDAIRE—Bha mise 'na dhéidh—cha robh duine ann ri a thaobh.

AN T-ABA—Càit an robh Aonghas Dubh? Nach robh Aonghas Dubh ann?

AN CEANNARD-AIRM—Nach robh duine sam bith ann ach thu fhéin?

Thig an t-Amadan-Cleasaiche ann, a' leum agus a' gearradh shìnteag mar a rinn e roimhe. Thig Màiri ann, 'na cabhaig, 'na dhéidh.

AN T-AMADAN-CLEASAICHE—Thàinig an rìgh. Thàinig an rìgh! Tha an rìgh a' tighinn!

AN CEANNARD-AIRM—Cùm do theanga.

(R 'a Leantainn)

The Late Mr. John Currie

WE regret to note the death of Mr. John J. Currie, Kildalloig, Kintyre. Born at Ballachulish, Mr. Currie was well-known as a farmer and hotel proprietor. Ford Hotel, Loch Awe, and Cuilfail Hotel, Kilmelford, were his for many years. He was prominent in agricultural circles as a breeder of Highland cattle, and was president of the Highland Cattle Society. He served as a show judge at shows in England as well as in Scotland. For a number of years he served in the Argyll County Council.

Mr. Currie was a past president of the Campbeltown branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach.

We express our sympathy with his widow, his sister, Mrs. Jenny M. B. Maclean, and other relatives.

Annas A' Mhaileid

“Gabhaidh sinn an rathad mór”

Dear Sir,—I wonder if any of your Gaelic readers can throw some light for me on the above-mentioned poem.

- (1) Who wrote the verses and when?
- (2) With what episode in Highland history are they connected?
- (3) Who are the “Sinn” who were taking the road?
- (4) Why are the MacIntyres specially mentioned?
- (5) Who were “Bodaich mhaol an lagain?”
- (6) Are not the Stewarts “sluagh an righ”—not the MacNabs as given in Blackie's Gaelic Reader III?

L. S. DAIR.

Celtic Design

Sir,—Like the writer of the “Eisteddfod Impressions” in the January number, I was surprised to learn that no use was made of Celtic decoration on the regalia or dress, particularly in the form of embroidery.

I have been reading recently about wonderful examples of quilting produced by cottage craftsmen and women in Wales and Durham, under the guidance of the Rural Industries Bureau, using traditional methods and styles of design, scrolls and diamond units, to form all-over patterns entirely covering the quilts. There was an accompanying photograph, from which anyone familiar with the Pictish School of Celtic Art would recognise the basic shapes of “Saltire” lattice-work, trefoils, and spirals. Although the effect was pleasing and the execution excellent, the design was extremely

simple—only a faint reflection of the glorious masterpieces produced with such profusion by the Celtic artists of the past.

It is gratifying to be able to claim these triumphs of skill and ingenuity as a native industry, peculiar to one of the Celtic nations; but how seldom one finds their characteristics adapted to present-day use (except on jewellery and tombstones). A Celtic tea-cosy would be much more beautiful, original, and truly Scottish than a pseudo-tartan one! Jesting apart, these mathematically exact and balanced patterns are fit to compete with any of the popular modern abstractions, as George Bain's carpets have shown.

Their seeming intricacy has perhaps discouraged amateur craftsmen and needlewomen, but, in fact, “it's easy when you know how.” I feel that if the general public could disassociate the idea of Celtic art from “mouldy old stones,” and see it translated into shapes and colours on contemporary articles, their heritage would be a revelation to them.

I am, etc.,

C. M. MACKENZIE.

Comunn Na h-Oigrìdh

The Southern Sub-Committee of An Comunn's Comunn na h-Oigrìdh Committee held a ceilidh in the Highlanders' Institute, Glasgow, with Mr. J. M. Bannerman as Fear-an-tìghe. There was a very good attendance. A varied and much appreciated programme was sustained by Carol Galbraith, Margaret Mackinnon, Anne Bone, Angus Macleod, Norman Maclean, and Charles Maclean, and included piping and accordion selections. Miss Chrissie Turner was accompanist, and a vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Colin Palmer.

National Mod, Largs

2nd to 5th October, 1956

The following publications for the National Mod are now available—Syllabus, 1/-; Junior solos, 2/-; Junior Choral Booklet, 1/4; Junior Recitation, 8d.; Senior Solos and Recitations, 3/-; Senior Choral Booklet, 3/6.

Orders under 5/- in value must be accompanied by the appropriate remittance. Postage extra, 1½d per copy.

N.B.—Mod Entries close on Saturday, 2nd June. Entries for the Nova Scotia Vocal Solo Competition must be submitted at the close of each Provincial Mod.

The above publications are available from, and entries should be sent to, The Secretary of An Comunn Gaidhealach, 65 West Regent Street, Glasgow, C.2.

Is Manx Dead or Dying?

A WARNING TO THE GAEL

SOME months ago Messrs. Thomas Nelson published the second of a series of monographs being issued by the Linguistic Survey of Scotland. This was "Contributions to the Study of Manx Phonology," by Professor Kenneth H. Jackson, of the Chair of Celtic in Edinburgh University.

Professor Jackson visited the Isle of Man in 1950-51 to investigate the language of the few remaining native speakers of Manx. There were then, it is stated, only ten native speakers left, of whom four have since died, while the ages of the remaining six, if still surviving, range from 77 to 102.

Following upon a review of the book in a Scottish newspaper, a correspondent, writing from Aberystwyth, wrote as follows:

"It is startling and horrifying to read in your issue today that only six native speakers of Manx remain—the youngest of them 77. What a shame and disgrace to the present generation that they have failed to preserve their own tongue! Their vaunted independence and ancient legal ritual, including the proclamation of new laws annually in Manx, are thus become but an empty farce . . .

"It is sincerely to be hoped that the moral

will not fail to be noted in the rapidly shrinking area of Scotland which is still Gaelic-speaking. Far more drastic action than any that has yet been contemplated is obviously called for. There is but one part of Britain where the rot of Teutonisation is beginning to be arrested, viz., Wales; and there it is being done by providing a complete education through the medium of Welsh . . . It is quite clear that this is the only way to re-establish any declining language; this has become obvious to the Welsh people, but how is it that it has not yet become equally so to the Scottish Gaels?

"It would be a terrible pity if the only Celtic language to survive finally were the least mellifluous and the least attractive one (albeit by far the simplest to spell!) If there were no other reason for keeping Gaelic alive than that songs should continue to be sung in it naturally, and not as an artificially fostered pseudo-cultural 'stunt,' this reason would suffice in any world where the sense of values was not already almost hopelessly perverted. For can anyone point to a corpus of folk-song anywhere on the face of the globe that can hold a candle to that of the Scottish Highlands and Islands?"

"Mist on the Hills"

IT is always a pleasure to hear from Mr. Edward McCurdy, than whom the Gaelic Cause has no more enthusiastic or better informed supporter. His home is in Surrey but his "heart's in the Highlands."

A recent contribution from his pen tells how, long years ago, he felt the desire to investigate the legend of Saint Brendan, who, according to the story-tellers, voyaged the western ocean in search of the earthly paradise. A poem by Matthew Arnold, on the episode of Brendan's seeing Judas on an iceberg, whetted his appetite. Later he bought a copy of *The Voyage of Bran* by Kuno Meyer and Alfred Nutt from the latter's own hand in David Nutt's bookshop in the Strand. On Alfred Nutt's suggestion he also bought H. Cameron Gillies's *Elementary Gaelic Grammar* in order to begin the study of the Celtic languages.

"I make no claim to have mastered Gaelic," writes Mr. McCurdy, "but I have gone far enough to see that the study of it is worth all the effort that I can ever hope to give, and more."

He quotes the following words of Alfred Nutt, and remarks that they are as true now as they were fifty-eight years ago when they were written:

"I would urge increased study of the Celtic past by the English-speaking communities. They are pledged to it alike by filial piety and political expediency, for the Celtic element in their civilisation is considerable, and, though it may sometimes change its form, it is not likely to decrease. As far as the purely scientific aspects of the study are concerned, the facts speak for themselves; as far as its interest and beauty are concerned, there again the facts speak for themselves. But I rest my advocacy of the fostering of Celtic studies upon other than scientific or aesthetic grounds; I believe it to be a task, patriotic in the highest sense of the word, as tending to sympathetic appreciation of a common past, to sympathetic union in the present and future of all the varied elements of a common nationality."

Cultural Traditions and Military Interests

WE are very grateful to a valued correspondent for sending a translation of an article by Reidar Th. Christiansen, Professor of Folklore in the University of Oslo which appeared in the Norwegian paper *Dagbladet* in January.

Some of our readers will recall with pleasure Professor Christiansen's lecture to the newly formed Folklore Institute of Scotland in Glasgow a few years ago. Many, we hope, are familiar with his book, *"The Vikings and the Viking Wars in Irish and Gaelic Tradition,"* published in 1931.

Professor Christiansen remarks how in all countries military defence has become a dominant factor, demanding an increasing amount of money and also more and more land, and often coming into conflict with other interests. He goes on to describe South Uist and discusses the possible effects of the proposed Rocket Range.

"If you go to South Uist," writes Professor Christiansen, "you will soon discover that the island is inhabited by unusual people." This, he explains, is the result of their past history and their isolation. He outlines the story of the prehistoric dwellers, the Gaels, and the Norsemen, and describes the legacy these peoples have left behind—brochs and towers, language and place-names, and a rich tradition.

"This tradition, with its historical background, its heroes and legends, may be regarded as the last living link with the Middle Ages In a society of this kind story-telling has an important function. In order to realise this fact it is enough to listen to one of the good story-tellers, such as Duncan Macdonald (of South Uist), who died last year. He told his stories in a quiet, dignified manner, and he was conscious of his ability to give his stories a worthy form. They were not the short, simple type of tale, but quite long; they took about two hours to tell and fill 20-30 printed pages. Their style was extremely artistic and with a literary flavour; they were told in a form which can be traced back to Old Irish literature. . . . The subject matter is partly derived from the Irish heroic literature, and partly from international folk-tales which are here retold in a new manner."

Professor Christiansen shows how inseparably related are this kind of tradition and the type of society that has fostered it, and which is threatened by the pressures of the modern age. The old-fashioned techniques and terminologies are gradually disappearing as new methods are adopted and old implements disposed of. "The people are not sentimental dreamers; they need a keen realistic sense of values in order to exist, and in speech and deeds they give incisive expression to this outlook."

Notes and Comments

The **Balmacara branch** of An Comunn held a successful ceilidh and dance. A two-minutes' silence was observed in tribute to the late Mr. Donald Macphail, to whom tribute was also paid by the branch President, Rev. M. M. MacSween. Mr. D. J. Maclean, Northern Organiser, was Fear-an-tighe, and was accompanied from Inverness by Miss Chrissie Mackinnon and Mr. A. J. Maclean, and all three contributed to the programme, others taking part being Donnie Finlayson, Mrs. M. MacRae, Mrs. Eric Gillies, Katie Ann Morrison, Mr. T. Matheson, Master Iain Matheson, and the Kenraeson Band. Mr. I. R. Mackay, Inverness, convener of the northern propaganda sub-committee, was present, accompanied by Mrs. Mackay, and they were given a cordial welcome.

Bowmore Gaelic Choir are making energetic efforts to raise funds to send both their senior and junior choirs to the National Mod at Largs, and a very successful ceilidh-dance was held recently.

The **Kilmény branch** held "a real old-fashioned ceilidh" in the Keills School, the audience being seated round the school room, which had a big fire at one end. The branch President, Mr. Gilbert MacPhail, Mod Gold Medallist, was Fear-an-tighe.

At a ceilidh organised by the **Bowmore Branch** the chairman was Mr. John Forrest, who was introduced by Mr. Tom Crawford, branch President. All the artistes were from the Ballygrant district, with the exception of Piper Rodger MacDougall and a team of young Highland dancers from Bowmore.

Mr. A. H. MacPhail was Fear-an-tighe at the December ceilidh of the **Cornaig (Tiere) branch** of An Comunn. An interesting programme of song, story, and music was submitted and was greatly enjoyed.

At the November ceilidh of the **Dunoon branch**, Mr. Gilbert MacAllister presided, and Mr. James Weir, Greenock, gave a lecture on "The Highlands in Photograph," showing a view of beautiful Highland scenery. Gaelic and English songs were sung by Mr. Neil Maclean, accompanied on the piano by Mrs. Maclean, while Mr. James Henderson gave piper selections.

At a ceilidh in Stornoway Town Hall under the auspices of **Comunn Gaidhealach Leodhuis**, a much

enjoyed old-fashioned ceildh was given by singers from villages on the west of Lewis.

At its second ceildh of the winter, under the auspices of the **Tobermory branch**, Captain M. Black was Fear-an-tighe, and an enjoyable programme was submitted, which included a short sketch by Mrs. N. Mactaggart and Mrs. Kay Matheson.

At a meeting of representatives from Sutherland branches of An Comunn held in Lairg, with Mr. J. Maclean, Dornoch, presiding, it was agreed to hold this year's **Sutherland Mod** at Golspie on 1st June. There was a credit balance of £246 on the last county mod, and donations were made as follows—£30 to An Comunn's Central Fund, £5 to the National Mod, and £30 to Dornoch branch to promote Gaelic in that area.

At an enjoyable ceildh held by the **Dornoch branch**, Mr. John Maclean, branch President, being Fear-an-tighe, a varied programme was sustained by members of the Brora branch.

At a ceildh held by the **Golspie branch** (Mr. A. M. Paul, President), the programme was sustained by artists from Inverness, Helmsdale, and Golspie. The Northern Organiser, Mr. D. J. Maclean, took part in the proceedings.

At the opening ceildh of the **Killin branch**, Dr. D. MacColl, President, was Fear-an-tighe, and an excellent programme was submitted.

The **Johnstone Highlanders' Association** was originally formed in 1887 and continued until 1914. It was revived in 1929, and it is interesting to note that several descendants of the leading members of the earlier period are still active in the Association. At the annual gathering in November, the chairman, Mr. Norman Keanie, made a strong plea for greater support for the Association. The Association's President is Mr. Alex. Fraser.

Mr. D. C. Murray, branch President, was Fear-an-tighe at a successful ceildh held by the **Grantown branch**. Selections were given by the Grantown Ladies' Choir.

The **Gaelic Society of London**, at a special "Gaelic evening," has had an opportunity of hearing a selection of entries submitted at the Society's last mod for the competitions in poetry, prose, and "new word formation." We hope that some of these contributions may appear in print.

At a ceildh held in Gladstone's Land, Edinburgh, by the Edinburgh branch of **Comunn na Clarsach**, General Sir Philip Christison, President of the hall na Clarsach, spoke of the scarcity of clarsachs. A great many instruments, he said, had been exported to the United States of America. The lack of clarsachs is restricting the number of learners of this ancient and beautiful musical instrument.

At a later meeting of the branch Miss Jean Campbell gave a talk on the history of the clarsach followed by a programme of music on the clarsach. The singers were General Sir Philip Christison, President of Comunn na Clarsach, Mr. Iain Robertson, and Mrs. Gilbert Mitchell, accompanied on the clarsach by Miss Campbell. Clarsach selections were played by Mrs. Rose Begbie, Mrs. H. J. Wilson, and Miss Jane

Gray. Among those present were representatives of the Clan Campbell and Clan Diarmid Societies.

At the February ceildh of the **Kyle branch** of An Comunn, Captain D. Macleod, of M.S. "Lochmor," was Fear-an-tighe. A programme of song, story, and instrumental music was provided by Donald Joseph Mackinnon (Barra), M. D. Macdonald (Lewis), N. MacRaid, D. Nicolson, E. Nicolson, D. A. Macdonald, Miss J. Clayton, and the Chairman. A presentation was made to Mr. D. A. Macdonald, piper to the branch, who is retiring, and who played his specially composed march, "The Kyle Ceildh."

At a ceildh held by the **Golspie branch**, there was an excellent programme of songs and recitations, and selections on the accordeon and on a set of miniature bagpipes. Mr. William Macdonald, Lairg, was Fear-an-tighe.

Mr. Harry Macrae, Ferintosh, was Fear-an-tighe at a ceildh held by the **Dingwall branch**.

Perth Gaelic Society Ladies' Choir, a comparatively new organisation, are hoping to compete at the National Mod at Largs.

The **Clan Donald Societies** have raised a fund to provide a Flora Macdonald Memorial in South Uist. Some time ago a plaque was placed on the cairn that marks Flora's birthplace. Now the residue of the fund has been used to provide a silver cup, embellished with Celtic designs, entitled "The Flora Macdonald Trophy—1956." It is to be presented annually to the best piper in "the Long Island."

A very enjoyable Gaelic concert was held by the **Ullapool branch** of An Comunn, in aid of the funds of the **Wester Ross Provincial Mod**, which is to be held in Ullapool on 11th May. Artists included a party from Inverness and Mr. Donald Maclean, Northern Organiser.

At a ceildh held by the **Beauly branch** Mrs. Mackintosh was Bean-an-tighe. The speaker was Mr. Murdoch Murray, M.A., H.M.I.S. The programme was sustained by Chrissie Macdonald, Chrissie Mackinnon, Ruth Macpherson, Catherine Macleod, Helen Macrae, Margaret Lobban, Alex. Mackenzie, Norman Macleod, Pipe-Major C. Macdonald, George Wiseman, and the Castle Troupe of Dancers.

The **Fort William branch** celebrated Old New Year's Day with a tattie and herrin' ceildh in the Town Hall, with Rev. J. Galbraith as Fear-an-tighe.

The **Edinburgh branch** of An Comunn has begun to hold its monthly meetings in the newly reconstructed St. Thomas's Hall at the West End (Rutland Place). About 150 members and friend almost filled the hall for the first ceildh there.

At the annual business meeting of the **Gaelic Society of Inverness** Mr. D. J. Macdonald, Rector of Inverness Royal Academy, was appointed Hon. Secretary in succession to the late Dr. D. J. Macleod. Mr. Alex. N. Nicolson, continues as Secretary and Treasurer, an office which he has occupied with marked distinction for a very long time.

The **London Mod**, organised by the Gaelic Society of London, is to be held on Saturday, 21st April. Copies of the syllabus may be obtained from Miss A. N. Fraser, 27 Wallingford Avenue, London, W.10.

Fear Ghriminis agus Fear Bheinn-a-bhaoghla

B'E Dòmhnall Breac, mac dìolain aig Iain Mac Uisdein, Fear Ghriminis, duine fiadhaich ro-threun a dh'fhalbh gu tìr-mór.

Bha Fear Ghriminis trì fichead bliadhna agus a còig a dh'aois an uair a phòs e nighean Fear Bheinn-a-bhaoghla, agus gun i ach seachd bliadhna deug. Fhuair e mar thochradh leatha sia mairt dheug agus tarbh.

Cha robh e fada air a toirt dhachaigh an uair a thàinig àm buan na mòna, agus chaidh sgioba a mach à Ghriminis agus Fear a' Bhaile air an ceann. Thubhairt e r'a bhean mun d'fhalbh e i a bhith cinnteach biadh nan gillean a chur a mach do'n mhonadh aig a leithid seo de uair, agus thubhairt i gun cuireadh.

Thàinig an uair a dh'ainmich e agus am feasgar agus cha deachaidh biadh nan gillean a mach. Thàinig e fhéin dhachaigh agus fearg mhór air, agus is ann a bha a' bhean òg air mullach Sìdhean Mòr Chalanais cuide ri cloinn bhig nan sgalagan, a' slaodadh leathagan feamann agus i air a salach le lannan a feamann.

Chaidh e far an robh i agus thubhairt e, "Gu dé, a nighean a' bhodaich mheallaich sgallaich, a thug ort nach do chuir thu a mach biadh nam fear mar a dh'iarra mise ort?"

Leig i daoi ràn aiseid, dh'fhalbh i bhàrr na coilleig, agus thug i a h-aghaidh air a' mhonadh.

Chùm i roimhe agus cha do lasaich i gus an d'ràinig i taigh a h-athar am Beinn-a-bhaoghla.

Ghabh a h-athar fearg mhór an uair a chunnaic e coltas na h-ghinn aige, agus chuir e air falbh sia fir dheug agus fear air an ceann do Uibhist a' Chinn a Tuath a dh'iarraidh ceann Fear Ghriminis agus an tochradh.

Bha Fear Ghriminis 'na shuidhe aig an teine 'na thaigh féin, a cheann crom eadar a dhà ghualainn le mulad is mì-thoileachadh. Bha searbhanta aige agus thubhairt i ris, "Fhir Ghriminis, chì mi duine a' tighinn an rathad seo, agus chan fhaca mi duine riamh o'n rugadh mi cho mór ris."

Dh'èirich Fear Ghriminis agus sheall e a mach.

"Cha robh an uair a bu chruaidhe a bhiodh ormsa riamh nach d'fhuasgail Dia orm," arsa esan. "'S e Dòmhnall Breac, mo mhac, a tha ann."

Thàinig e a steach agus rug an seann duine air a dhà làimh air agus theann e air caoineadh leis an toileachadh.

"Dé, athair, na daoine a tha mi a' faicinn timcheall an taighe a muigh an siud?" arsa esan.

Dh'innis a athair dha mar a phòs e nighean Fear Bheinn-a-bhaoghla agus mar a theich i dhachaigh. "Agus siud agad, a' Dhòmhnail," arsa esan, "feadhainn a tha bho Fear Bheinn-a-bhaoghla ag iarraidh ceann t'athar agus an tochradh a fhuair mi leatha."

"An tug sibh biadh dhaibh?" arsa Dòmhnall Breac.

"Cha tug. Bu bheag mo shannt air," arsa a athair.

"Deanar biadh dhaibh gu h-ealamh, ma tà, agus bruidhnidh mise riu a rithist," arsa Dòmhnall Breac.

Rinneadh siud agus ghabh iad am biadh agus iad glé fheumach air.

An uair a bha sin seachad thubhairt Dòmhnall Breac, "Dé an gnothach a bha agaibhse ri m'athair-sa?"

B' fheudar do'n fhear a bha air an ceann innse dé an gnothach air an tàinig iad. An uair a chuala Dòmhnall Breac dé a bha dùil aca a thachradh, thug e sgian-dubh a mach agus dh'fhuilic e air a làimh leatha agus thubhairt e, "Ma bheir sibh uread siud de fhuil air m'athair-sa, chan fhàg mise ceann air mac màthar agaibhse. Cha ruig sibh a leas a ghreasadh," arsa esan, is e a' toirt am follais a' chlaidheimh mhóir. "Falbhaibh a nis dhachaigh agus innisibh sin do Fhear Bheinn-a-bhaoghla."

Rinn iad sin, agus an uair a ràinig iad gun cheann gun tochradh, cha robh fearg Fear Bheinn-a-bhaoghla riamh cho mór is a bha i.

An ceann là no dhà thubhairt Dòmhnall Breac r'a athair, "Faigh a nis an dà lach as fheàrr a tha agad, agus gun rachainn féin 's tu fhéin do'n Cheann a Deas a choinhead air t'athair-céile, Fear Bheinn-a-bhaoghla."

"Cha rachainn ann ged gheibhinn an Ceann a Deas dhomh féin," arsa esan.

"Théid thu ann gun teagamh, is na biodh eagal sam bith ort is mise cuide riut," arsa Dòmhnall Breac.

Dh'fhalbh a athair còmhla ris an aghaidh a thoile.

An uair a bha iad gus a bhith aig taigh Fear Bheinn-a-bhaoghla, chuir Dòmhnall Breac a làmh 'na sporan agus thug e a mach dà neapaige, fear geal agus fear dearg, agus thug e d'a athair iad.

Thubhairt e an sin, "An uair a ruigeas sinn, théid thusa gu t'athair-céile, agus bidh mise am falach làimh riut. Ma's e fearg a bhios air, bheir thu a mach an neapaige dearg agus suathaidh tu do shròn leis. Agus ma's e sìth a

bhios ann, bheir thu a mach am fear geal agus crathaidh tu e."

Rinn e mar sin, ach is e fearg mhór a bha air Fear Bheinn-a-bhaoghla.

Annas a' mhionaid a thug Mac Uisdein a mach an neapaige dearg agus a chunnaic Dòmhnall Breac e, ghrad-leum e sìos agus am fear eile a' bagairt air a athair a mharbhadh. Thug e a mach an claidheamh mór agus thubhairt e, "Mu bheir thu uiread is fuil creitheig air m'athair-sa, chan fhàg mise ceann air amhaich ann an dùthaich Chloinn Raghnaill, agus bidh an t-eun as fheàrr anns an ealtainn agamsa leis a' cheud bhuille."

"Rinn e droch dhòil air ino nighean," arsa Fear Bheinn-a-bhaoghla.

"Thoir a mach an seo i agus cluinnidh sinn dé a rinn m'athair-sa oirre," arsa Dòmhnall Breac.

Chaidh a h-athair a steach ach cha tigeadh ise a mach.

"Mur tig," arsa Dòmhnall Breac, "ruigidh sinn i far a bheil i agus feumaidh i innse."

Thugadh an uair sin a mach i.

"Seadh a nis," arsa Dòmhnall Breac; "dé a rinn m'athair-sa ort?"

Cha robh i air son innse, ach mu dheireadh b'fheudar dhi.

"Thubhairt e rium," arsa ise, "A nighean a' bhodaich mheallaich sgallaich, gu dé a thug ort nach do chuir thu a mach biadh nam fear mar a dh'iarr mise ort?"

"Ma tà," arsa Fear Bheinn-a-bhaoghla, "bu mhise sin gun teagamh, a bhean gun nàire, an uair a chuireadh tu umhail dé a theireadh an duin'-uasal riut. Bha dùil agamsa gur e droch dhòil a rinn e ort an uair a ràinig thu mi anns an oin anns an robh thu."

Thug Fear a' Bhaile a staigh iad agus bha an t-sith deante.

Rinneadh air son tilleadh do Ghriminis, agus is e Dòmhnall Breac a thug bean a athair air a chùlaibh an lùib a bhreacain a null air na fadhaichean.

Is ann bhuaipe seo a thàinig Dòmhnallaich Bhaile-Raghnaill agus teaghlaichean ainmeil eile anns a' Cheann a Tuath.

Cha seas càrdeas air leth-chois.

* * *

Crann a réir a' bhàta.

* * *

Gabh an latha math as a thoiseach.

* * *

Is math cobhair nam bìoran le chéile.

* * *

Is rioghachd do gach duine a thoil.

Treasurer's Notes

National Mod — Aberdeen, 1955.

RECEIVED AT ABERDEEN.	
Previously acknowledged	£2,781 15 2
RECEIVED AT HEADQUARTERS.	
Previously acknowledged £298 12 7	
The Glasgow Celtic Society 4 10 —	
	303 2 7

Final total as per Mod Account £3,084 17 9

Central Fund.

Previously acknowledged	£121 9 —
Anon, Edinburgh	5 —
D. B. Macdonald, Esq., Somerset	3 —
Luss and District Highland Society	2 15 —
Vale of Leven Branch	5 —
	<u>£132 9 —</u>

National Mod — Largs, 1956.

RECEIVED AT LARGS.	
Coffee Morning, per Miss Hunter ...	£26 0 0
Afternoon Teas, per Mrs. Baird ...	20 —
Jumble Sale Proceeds	74 10 9
Treasure Hunt, per Miss Hunter ...	10 11 —
Market Fair Proceeds	232 10 10
Edinburgh Tattoo Outing	41 7 3
Fashion Show, per Mrs. Logan ...	100 —
Whist Drive, per Miss MacKenzie ...	28 15 6
Surplus at Police Concert	1 12 8
Bring and Buy Sale, per Miss Young	
and Miss MacPherson, Glasgow	56 17 10
Country Dance, per Miss Todd ...	15 —
Ceilidh at Fairlie, per Miss Hunter	81 10 6
Largs Sailing Club	2 —
Mrs. Renton, Largs	1 —
Peter Mackay, Esq., Glasgow ...	0 10 0
Misses Sinclair, Largs	3 3 —
Miss M. H. Crawford, Dunoon ...	1 —
D. MacRitchie, Esq., Glasgow ...	1 1 0
J. Shaw Grant, Esq., Stornoway ...	2 2 —
Mrs. Junor, Perth	3 3 —
Mary, Duchess of Montrose, Arran ..	20 —
Miss McLellan, Largs	5 —
Mrs. Kyle, Largs	7 5 —
George Gunn, Esq., Glasgow ...	1 —
Miss Margaret Grant	1 5 —
Hugh B. Frazer, Esq., Fairlie ...	1 —
Sundries	1 6 6
H. M. Ross, Esq.	150 —
Miss Macfarlane	2 5 6
Mr. and Mrs. A. E. M.	50 —
Dr. D. MacDonald	1 1 0
Miss Marshall, Largs	— 10 —
Sutherland Mod Committee ...	5 —
Helmsdale Branch	5 —
Govan Branch	10 —
Killin Branch	4 —
	<u>£967 8 4</u>

RECEIVED AT HEADQUARTERS.

William Mackay, Esq., Inverness ...	£1 1 —
Fee relinquished—John A. MacRae,	
Esq., M.A., L.R.A.M., Glasgow ...	2 2 —
Mr. Duff, Fort William	3 3 0
Vale of Leven Branch	10 —
Helmsdale Branch	5 —
	<u>£21 6 —</u>

Grand Total, National Mod, 1956 ... £988 14 4



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar VIII

AM MART, 1956

Aireamh 3

Each Buidhe Ronaidh

O CHIONN fhada, an uair a dh'fheumadh muinntir nan Eileanan an Iar beòshlaint a thoirt as an fhearann agus as a' chuan, b'abhaist do mhuinntir a' Bhaile-Shear a bhith a' dol a mach do eilean ris an abrar Rònaidh a dh'fheamanadh.

Aig an ám seo is e Uisdean a' Bhaile-Shear an ceann-cinnidh a bha an seilbh air an eilean sin, agus air Earrach araidh chaidh e fhéin agus a fhir a mach a dh'fheamanadh. Thug iad leotha eich anns na h-eathraichean. Rinn iad mórán obrach agus, an uair a thill iad dhachaigh mu mheadhon an t-samhraidh, dh'fhàg iad as an déidh seann làir a chionn gu robh i a' fàs cho lag agus nach b'fhiach i a gearmhachadh.

Chaidh trì bliadhna seachd mun deach iad a Rònaidh a rithis, agus ciod a chunnaic iad ach each mór buidhe breagha 'na sheasamh ri taobh na làir? Thuig na fir gu robh serrach anns an làir an uair a dh'fhàg iad as an déidh i.

Thug iad leotha dhachaigh an làir agus an t-each. Agus b'e sin an t-each! Chan fhacas agus cha chualas anns na h-eileanan riamh a sheise. Cha robh oidaigh nach robh e a' gleidheadh agus cha robh luchd nach slaodadh e.

Chualas air a' Ghalldachd fathann air cliù an eich, agus thàinig Gall dhachaigh le mial-

chù a bha ainmeil air son a luathais. Chuir e geall ri Uisdean gum bu luaithe an cù na an t-each.

Shuidhicheadh àite anns am feuchadh iad réis, agus b'e sin ceithir mìle de thràigh thioram chruaidh air cùl a' Bhaile-Shear.

Chòimhlig iad agus an toiseach bha an cù dìreach air sàilean an eich, ach mu dheireadh bha an t-each a' fàgail a' choinn as a dhéidh mean air mhean.

Bha fhios aig Uisdean, nam beireadh an cù air an each, gun toireadh e, agus cha bu luaithe a bha an t-each a staigh na dhùineadh an dorus. Bha an cù cho luath agus nach b'urrainn dha stad agus chuir e an t-eanchainn as fhéin ri còmhla an doruis!

Mar sin chaill an Gall a chù agus a gheall, agus bha Each Buidhe Rònaidh na b'ainmeile na bha e riamh.

DOMHNALL MACDOMHNAILL

(Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir-Nis).

Anns an Dorchadas

A ON oidhche bha Murchadh a' dol a choinneachadh a charaid, Dòmhnall.

Bha iad a' dol a shloag bhradan còmhla ri chéile tràth air madainn Di-luain.

Air oidhche na Sàbaid thuit Murchadh 'na chadal air son a dhà no trì uairean a thìde agus, an uair a dhùisg e, bha e an dùil gur e madainn Di-luain a bha ann. Fhuair e an lìon deiseil agus dh'fhalbh e a choinneachadh Dhòmhnall shìos aig an abhainn.

Bha creutair neònach 'na sheasamh an sin. Bha Murchadh an dùil gur e Dòmhnall a bha ann, agus thòisich e a' bruidhinn ris.

Aon fhacal cha fhreagradh e. Dh'eubh Murchadh a rithis ris. Cha robh smid aige air ais. Thòisich a chridhe a' leumadaich agus

bha a theanga tioram 'na bheul. An ceann ùine mhothaich e gu robh casan pluitach air a' chreutair neònach seo. Bhraon e le fallus; bha e gu dhol á cochull a chridhe!

Chaidh an creutair as a dhéidh le sgithinn, agus a h-uile ceum a thug e dh'fheuch e ri a leagail. Bha an creutair gus an sgian a chur ann. Leig Murchadh sgiamb agus ruith facal ùrnuigh air a theanga. Siud am beathach as an t-sealladh ann an steall teine agus thuit Murchadh 'na chlod air an làr!

Tha sinn glé chinnteach nach téid Murchadh a shloag bhradan air là na Sàbaid no air là sam bith eile gu bràth tuilleadh.

SANDRA NICSUAIN.

(Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir-Nis.)

Creideamh

OIDHCHE bha siud bha seann chailleach a' falbh dhachaigh bho Chomanachadh air an Tairbeart. Bha slighe fhada roimhe agus bha i glé sgith. An uair a bha i a' dol thairis air monadh dorcha doilleir, nach ann a thuit ceò, agus cha robh aice air ach suidhe sìos far an robh i.

Bha am boireannach bochd glé sgith agus ann an ùine ghoirid thuit i 'na cadal.

Thàinig a' mhadainn, ach cha do dhùisg ise. Thachair do shealgair a bhith a muigh air a' mhonadh agus, a' faicinn na caillich, thog e a ghunna air son losgadh oirre, agus e 'ga gabhail

an àite feidh, ach cha robh e cus ro-chinnteach. Leag e an gunna agus smaoinich e. Choisich e suas gus an rud a bha ann, agus cha mhór nach do leum a dha shùil as a cheann an uair a dhearc e gur e boireannach beò a bha seo. Dhùisg ise. Dh'innis e dhi mar a theab e losgadh oirre.

"A!" arsa a' chailleach, "bha fhios agamsa dé bu chuireach nach do loisg thu orm. Chuir mise m'earbsa ann an Dia mun deach mi a chadal, agus bha fios agam gun cumadh e mi bho gach cunnart!"

MORAG NICCHOINNICH

(Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir-Nis.)

Eilean Bhatarsaidh

Is e eilean Bhatarsaidh aon de na h-eileanan as lugha de na h-Eileanan an Iar anns a bheil daoine a' fuireach. Tha an t-eilean seo fad as an rathad. Chan 'eil bùithean ann idir, agus feumaidh na daoine a dhol tarsainn air mu mhìle de shàile mun faigh iad biadh. Uaireanan anns a' gheamhradh an uair a bhios an tìde dona, bidh iad suas ri seachdain mun faigh iad a dh'iarraidh bidh agus gach nì eile a bhios a dhith orra.

Chan 'eil anns an eilean ach aon sgoil agus aon eaglais. Is e croitearan a tha anns a' chuid as mo de na daoine, oir chan 'eil obair air bith eile anns an eilean. Ach gèd tha Bhatarsaidh cho fad as, bidh iomadh cuairtear a' tighinn ann as t-samhradh, agus bidh iad uile a' moladh an àite.

MAIRI NICGHILLEATHAIN.

(Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir-Nis.)

Donnchadh Bàn Mac an t-Saoir

IS iomadh deagh òran agus bàrdachd a leugh mi, ach is e na h-òrain aig Donnchadh Bàn a b'fheàrr a chòrd rium na òrain sam bhith a chuala mi riamh.

Rugadh Donnchadh Bàn an Gleann Urchaidh, agus chuir e seachd a' chuid a bu mhò de a òige an sin. Is ann mu na h-àitean sin a rinn e gu leòr de na dàin bhreagha aige. Cka deach Donnchadh Bàn do'n sgoil riamh, ach cha robh e gun fhòglum a thaobh sin. Cha robh lus no flùr no eadhon bad fraoich nach togadh a aire.

Ach is e an rud a b'fheàrr le Donnchadh Bàn a bhith a' sealg. Is ann mu na féidh agus na frithean a rinn e gu leòr de na h-òrain mhaiseach aige—"Beinn Dóbhain," "Cumha Choire Cheathaich," agus iomadh òran eile. Rinn e òran mu'n ghunna aige, "Nic Coiseam," cuideachd.

Ach is e an t-òran a b'fheàrr leam fhéin de na h-òrain aige air fad, "Cead Deireannach nam Beann." Rinn e an t-òran seo an uair a chaidh e air feadh frithean a òige air son an turuis mu

dheireadh. Ann an toiseach an dàin seo tha Donnchadh Bàn ag innse mu'n t-sealladh éibhinn a bha e a' faighinn an uair a bha e a' sealg.

B'e siud an sealladh éibhinn,
Bhith 'g imeachd air na sléibhteann,
Nuair bhiodh a' ghrian ag éirigh,
'S a bhiodh na féidh a' langanaich.

Chì sinn cuideachd anns an rann mu dheireadh cho toilichte is a bha e a' fàgail a bheannachd aig na frithean.

Na blàran a bha priseil,
'S na fasaichean bha lionmhor,
O's àit a leig mi dhìom iad,
Gu bràth mo mhìle beannachd leo.

Mar sin, tha Donnchadh Bàn r'a mholadh air son nan òran matha a rinn e, agus fhad is a mhaireas cainnt na Gàidhlig mairidh òrain agus ainm an duine mhaith seo air a' Ghaidhealtachd.

IAIN MURPAIDH

(Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir-Nis.)

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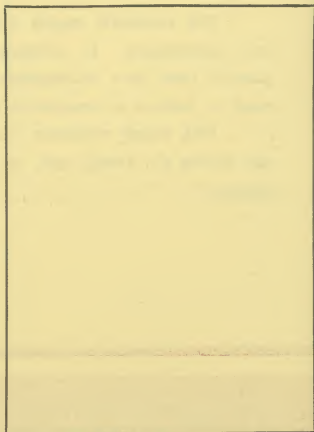
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Leabhar LI

AN GIBLEAN, 1956

Aireamh 4

"A. D. 1286"

le IAIN M. MOFFATT-PENDER.

(Air A Leantainn)

Tha An t-Amadan-Cleasaiche 'na ruith mór-thimcheall an talla.

AN T-AMADAN-CLEASAICHE (a' seinn)—Ruidhleadh Alasdair, dhannsadh Alasdair, Ruidhleadh Alasdair 's an cù breac, Ruidhleadh Alasdair, dhannsadh Alasdair, A null 's a nall air drochaid Pheairt, Cabar féidh gu bráth agus cuidich an rìgh

Beiridh Màiri fa dheòidh air làimh air an Amadan-Ch'leasaiche, agus théid iad a mach le chèile. Ealaidhidh An Teachdaire a mach air an doras, mar an ceudna, gun aire do chàch.

AN SEANCHAIDH (a togail a chinn)—Cuidich an rìgh! Cò é a thuir sin? Nach iad sin na focail a bha aig Coinneach Mac Coinnich 'ic Coinnich anns a' choille an uair thug am fiadh mór ionnsaigh air athair ar rìgh féin? Cuidich an rìgh! Mo chreach 's mo léirsinn—nach 'eil e a nis tuilleadh is fada? Nach 'eil nach 'eil?

AN CEANNARD-AIRM—Càite bheil Mac Alasdair Eachainn? Càite an deachaidh e? Càite bheil e?

AN T-ABA—Bha Mac Alasdair Eachainn an seo. Feumaidh gun deachaidh e a mach an uair bha Tomas Troich ann.

AN CEANNARD-AIRM (ag éigheach)—A Mhic Alasdair Eachainn!

AN T-ABA (ag éigheach cuideachd)—A Mhic Alasdair Eachainn!

AN CEANNARD-AIRM—Feumaidh gun d'fhalbh e feumaidh ach càite? agus car son? A Mhic Alasdair Eachainn, càite bheil thu? Càite an deachaidh thu, a Mhic Alasdair Eachainn? Feumaidh nach 'eil e ann. Theich e oirn. Rachamaid an tòir air. Rachamaid 'na thòir.

AN T-ABA—Théid mise còmhla ribh.

AN SAGART—Agus mise.

AN CEANNARD-AIRM (a' dol a mach)—Thigibh. Chan 'eil tiota ri chall.

Théid an Ceannard-Airm, an t-Abha agus an Sagart a mach 'nan cabhaig. Tha an Seanchaidh air a fhàgail anns an talla leis fhéin.

AN SEANCHAIDH (a' coimhead mór-thimcheall)—Càite a bheil iad? Nach 'eil neach sam bith ann? An d'fhalbh iad gu léir? An d'fhalbh clann an rìgh gu léir cuideachd? Dh'fhalbh, mo dhalladh siorruidh, dh'fhalbh. Chan 'eil duine a nis beò de an teaghlach rìoghail ach an aon ogha-nighinn Lochlannach, Mairgearad Bheag, agus i gun a bhith ach ochd

bladhnaichean, agus tha iad ag ràdh nach 'eil ise làidir. Mo chreach, mo chreach! Nach fìor na thuirt an rìgh Solamh: "Is an-aoibhinn duit, a rìoghachd, an uair is leanabh as rìgh duit." Is an-aoibhinn, gu dearbh, agus is seachd uairean seachd na's mìosa e an uair is nighean an leanabh sin—O! 'S eadh! 'S eadh! 'S eadh! Ach cò sibhse a tha a' tighinn a steach? Cò sibhse, le bhur cead?

Thig an Ceannard-Airm, an t-Aba, agus an Sugart air an ais, agus thig Ban-rìgh na h-Alba ann, cuideachd, agus ise a' leigeil a taic air gàirdean an Aba. Thig Màiri ann 'na dèidh. Thig Mnathan-uasal agus Saigndearan ann, agus aig an deireadh thig Aonghas Dubh ann, na òganach mu fhìchcad brìadhna de aois. Tha Aonghas Dubh sàraichte, tha a chulaidh sracta, agus tha e fhéin salach bho mhùilach gu bonn. Tha cabhag mhór air, agus buailidh e air a adhart, gu dìan agus gu h-obann, seachad air a' chuideachd. Gabhaidh an Ceannard-Airm greim air.

AN CEANNARD-AIRM—A Aonghas Duibh, cìod é a tha a' cur ort?

AN T-OGANACH (AONGHAS DUBH)—Le bhur cead-sa, a Cheannard Shonhairle, agus le bhur cead, a Mhòrachd, agus le bhur cead, cuideachd, a Ard-Athair, dh'fhalbh Mac Alasdair Eachainn oirn

AN CEANNARD-AIRM—Cìod é?

AN T-OGANACH (an anail 's an uchd aige)—Dh'fhalbh . . . dh'fhalbh Mac Alasdair Eachainn . . . dh'fhalbh Mac Alasdair Eachainn oirn

AN CEANNARD-AIRM—Dh'fhalbh Mac Alasdair Eachainn oirn? Car son? Car son? Cìod é a tha thu a' ciallachadh?

AN T-OGANACH—O! Chan 'eil a fhìos agamsa, le bhur cead, ach tha eagal mòr orm gum b'esan a chuir an rìgh am mearachd. Is maith dh'fhaoidte gu robh a fhìos aige nach bu chòir dha an rìgh a threòrachadh air a' cheum sin air an robh iad

AN CEANNARD-AIRM—Cia mar a tha a fhìos agad air sin?

AN T-OGANACH—Mar a tha a fhìos agaibhse, le bhur cead, bha mi fhéin faisg orra aig an àm, agus chunnaic mi anns an dorchadas cho maith agus a b'urrainn domh, agus ged nach faod mi a bhith idir cinnteach as, b' e sin a bha 'nam cheann aig an àm

AN CEANNARD-AIRM—Agus Mac Alasdair Eachainn fhéin, càite bheil e?

AN T-OGANACH—Bha mi dìreach air son sin innsadh duibh, le bhur cead. Lean mi ri Mac Alasdair Eachainn, agus chunnaic mi gun tàinig e a steach anns an talla seo, agus an uair chaidh e a mach as, lean mi a rithist ris. Chaidh e 'na dheann-ruith do ionnsaigh bruch an uillt far a bheil an t-eas a' dol dìreach a bhàn gu ruig a' mhuir, agus b'ann an sin as an sin gun do leum MacAlasdair Eachainn a sìos a steach air a' mhuir bho bhruch an easa, trì cheud troigh foidhe mar a tha a fhìos agaibhse, agus dh'fhalbh e mar sin oirn. Chaidh mi fhéin a sìos, cho tapaidh agus a b'urrainn domh, gu bonn an uillt, ach leis mar a bha e dorcha cha b'urrainn domh dad a dhèanadh. Chan fhaca mi dad, agus bha an fhaire cho fiadhaich

Tha othail agus ùpraid a nis ann aig dors an talla mhóir. Tha corp an rìgh nach maireann air a ghiùlan a steach anns an eaglais, ach chan fhaicear an corp no na daoine a tha 'ga ghiùlan.

Théid a' chuideachd gu léir ann, ach a mhàin an Seanchaidh, Màiri, agus Aonghas Dubh. Fanaidh an Seanchaidh air a ghliùimh anns an aon àite anns an robh e an còmhnaidh ann. Tha Màiri faisg air a sean-athair, air a ghliùimh féin. Cuiridh ise a làmh air darna gualan an t-Seanchaidh, agus cuiridh Aonghas Dubh, a tha air a ghliùimh cuideachd, a làmh air a' ghuailain eile.

Tha a' Chòisir agus an sluagh a tha anns an eaglais a' seinn, agus cluinnear gu soilleir an ceòl, agus cluinnear, mar an ceudna, clag nam marbh. Uidh air n-uidh fàsaidh an talla mòr dorcha, agus aig an deireadh cha bhì ann ach solus an teine, ach bhìd an solus a tha a' tighinn bho na lasraichean a' dealradh air an trìuir a tha fhathast anns an talla —air an t-Seanchaidh, air Màiri, agus air Aonghas Dubh.

A' CHOISIR (a' seinn)—Chuala mi guth bho nèamh ag ràdh rium: Sgrìobh,

Is beannaichte na marbh a gheibh bàs:

Ann an Tighearna á seo a mach.

Seadh, tha an Spìorad ag ràdh:

Chum gu faigh iad fois bho an saothair.

Thig am brat a mas.

A' CHRIOCH.

The Prose Writings of Professor Donald Mackinnon

THE publication of a new book in Gaelic is now so rare an event, alas, that almost any kind of book, when it does appear, is sure of a welcome—at least from the few people whose enthusiasm for Gaelic culture makes them willing to buy Gaelic books. There is a special welcome, however, for a new book of the quality of the latest publication of the Scottish Gaelic Texts Society. This is *The Prose Writings of Donald Mackinnon, 1839-1914*.

Donald Mackinnon was the first Professor of Celtic in the University of Edinburgh. Born in Colonsay in 1839, educated in the little old school of which he wrote so graphically and movingly later in "An t-Seann Sgoil," and steeped in the rich living traditional culture of his native isle, Mackinnon trained as a teacher, served as a dominie in Sutherland for a few years, and returned to Edinburgh University and took his M.A. degree with first-class honours in philosophy, winning the Hamilton Fellowship. He served as clerk to the Church of Scotland's Educational System and Endowed Schools and Hospitals, and after the Education Act of 1872 became first clerk and treasurer of the Edinburgh School Board. He gained a high reputation as an efficient administrator. He was also a member of Lord Napier's Crofters' Commission, whose work led to the passing of the Crofters' Act of 1886.

Throughout the years Donald Mackinnon diligently applied himself to Celtic studies and kept himself abreast of the scholarly researches of such Celtologists as Zeuss, Stokes, and Windisch. When the Edinburgh Chair of Celtic was founded, largely because of the zeal and energy of Professor John Stuart Blackie, Donald Mackinnon became its first occupant. He occupied the Chair from 1882 to 1914, and died a few months after his retirement.

During his long tenure of the Chair Mackinnon trained many who later showed themselves fine scholars and writers in the Gaelic field. We have in our possession some notebooks with notes of his class lectures on Gaelic grammar and literature taken down by a friend now deceased, who was one of Mackinnon's best students. We also possess an interleaved copy of Mackinnon's "Reading Book for the Use of Students of the Gaelic Class in the University of Edinburgh," with extensive mss. notes which we think are in his own hand-writing. From these sources we know how thorough and excellent was the instruction which he gave.

Fortunately, Donald Mackinnon plied an assiduous pen, both in Gaelic and in English, and contributed many articles to various journals, notably the old *Gaidheal*, *The Celtic Magazine*, *Mactalla*, *The Scotsman*, and "The Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness." Unfortunately, scattered over a number of periodicals not readily available, much of what he wrote is difficult of access.

The Scottish Gaelic Texts Society have placed us further in their debt by making available this fine volume, containing all of Mackinnon's Gaelic prose writings. There are thirty-three essays or articles altogether—fourteen on Gaelic proverbs, in which we find Mackinnon's discursive and wide-ranging style at its best, thirteen on the literature of the Gaels, especially the hymns, elegies, satires, nature poetry, and Rob Donn, and a number of historical pieces.

This volume has been edited by Mr. Lachlan Mackinnon, Gaelic Master in Fort William Secondary School, Vice-President of an An Comunn and Convener of our Comunn na h-Oigridh Committee, and already our benefactor by his editing of *An Seachaidh*, *Cascheum nam Bard*, and the new edition of Blackie's Gaelic Readers. Mr. Mackinnon has done his work superbly well. He has allowed Donald Mackinnon's writing to stand as he wrote them, except for some modernising of the orthography and an effort to achieve consistency in form and spelling. It is almost impossible to achieve an unblemished Gaelic text, and we noticed both "Breatann" and "Breatunn," but that is a minor point. It is interesting to note that Professor Mackinnon did not eschew "Englishisms" in his Gaelic writing. It is doubtful if any bilingual person can avoid a "carry-over" of the idiom of one language into the other.

The book runs to 330 pages, and costs 25/- (free, of course, to members of the Scottish Gaelic Texts Society whose annual subscription is £1 1/-). There is a bibliography, an adequate introduction, a brief note on language and style, notes on proper names, and a vocabulary. The book is published in the high-class style we associate with Messrs. Oliver and Boyd.

Am fear as fhaide a bha beò riamh fhuaire bàs.

Cha robh duine riamh gun dà latha ach duine gun latha idir.

An Ard-Chomhairle

CHUMADH a' Choinneamh Ghàidhlig de Ard-chomhairle a' Chomuinn Ghaidhealaich ann an Aitreach nan Gaidheal, Glaschu, air Di-sathurna, an 24mh là de'n Mhàrt, 1956, agus bha àireamh mhath de na buill a làthair. Anns a' Chathair bha, aig a' cheud chuid de'n choinneamh, Mgr. Dòmhnall MacThómais, Iar-Cheann-Suidhe, agus as déidh sin an U-urr. T. M. MacCalmain, Iar-Cheann-Suidhe.

Ghabhadh ri gearr-sheanchas na coinneimh roimhe agus bheachdaicheadh air gearr-sheanchasan bho na Comhairlean Seasmhach a leanas—Ionmhas, Fòghlum, Gnìomhachas is Ealdhan, Mòd is Ceòl, Comunn na h-Oigrìdh, agus Co-choinneamh de Chomhairle an Fhòghlum agus Comhairle a' Ghnìomhachais is nan Ealdhan.

Rinn Mgr. MacThómais iomradh air Mgr. Iain MacMhuirich, a chaochail o chionn ghoirid, agus a bha 'na thaic làidir do'n Chomunn. Bha e 'na Cheann-suidhe air Meur a' Chomuinn an Ceann-loch. Chuir Mgr. MacThómais an cèill co-fhaireachadh na h-Ard-chomhairle d'a mhnaoi agus d'a phiuthair, a' Bhean-uasail Seònaid Bean Nèil MhicGhilleathain, agus na càirdean eile, agus mar an ceudna co-fhaireachadh na h-Ard-chomhairle ris a' Mhnaoi-uasail Chaimbeul nan Airdean agus fios air tighinn gun do chaochail a mac, Ailean, agus do Mhgr. Camshron-Head, Inbhir-aileart, a thaobh bàs a pheathar.

An ainm na h-Ard-chomhairle ghuidh Mgr. MacThómais gach soirbheachadh is sonas do Mhgr. Dòmhnall Iain MacGilleathain, Fear-deilbhe a' Chomuinn anns an Aird-a-tuath, agus e ri pòsadh a dh' aithghearr, agus dheònaich na bha a làthair tiodhlac pòsaidh a chur chuige.

Ann an gearr-sheanchas Comhairle an Ionmhais leigeadh ris gu robh £2,620 8s 9d ann Maoin a' Mhòid Nàiseanta an Obairdean, an déidh gach cosdas a dhìoladh. Tha dùil gun cuirear beagan fhathast ris an t-suim seo an uair a théid gach nì a shocrachadh. Mholadh an obair a rinneadh le Gaidheil Obairdean agus an càirdean agus an soirbheachadh a lean air an saothair.

Fhuaradh fios bho Luchd Urrais Charnegie nach robh iad a nis a' toirt cuideachaidh do chomuinn òigrìdh mar a b' àbhaist, agus mar sin nach 'eil maoin aca as an toireadh iad airgead gu càr ùr a cheannach do Fhear-deilbhe na h-Aird-a-tuath.

Dh'innseadh gun do phàidh na Meuran an Cill-Daltain agus an Còrnaig Mhóir cosdasan siubhail an Runaire agus gun tug iad aoigh-eachd dha, air dha tadhal orra bho chionn

ghoirid, agus rùnaicheadh taing a chur gu rùnairean an dà Mheur sin air son am fialaidh-eachd.

Ann an gearr-sheanchas Comhairle a' Ghnìomhachais agus nan Ealdhan dh'innseadh gu bheil a' Bhean-uasail NicFhearghuis deònach frithealadh aig a' Mhòd Nàiseanta anns an Leargaidh Ghallda agus gun dean i càrdadh agus snìomh an sin ann an Seòmar-foillseachaidh na Comhairle. Thugadh iomradh air na co-fharpaisean a shocraicheadh air son Mod Nàiseanta Inbhir-Nis an 1957.

Ann an gearr-sheanchas Comhairle a' Mhòid is a' Chiuil dh'innseadh gu bheil Fo-chomhairle a' taghadh òran a bhios freagarrach le rian-cìbil càraid a chum leabhar ùr de Òran Càraid a chur an clò. Tha sgrùdadh 'ga dheanamh air Clàr-iomairt agus Rìnghailtean a' Mhòid Nàiseanta. Thàtar a' rìnachadh clàr-iomairt a chur a mach a sheasas ré àireamh bhliadhnachan agus duilleag air leth a chlà-bhuiladh gach bliadhna a dh'innse ainmean nan òran agus nithean eile a tha ag atharrachadh gach bliadhna. Bidh seo na's saoire na an dòigh a chleachdadh chuige seo.

Ghabh an Ard-chomhairle gu toileach ri tairgse bho Mhgr. Seòras Gunn gun toireadh e geall-dùbhlain do'n Chomunn mar chumhneachan air a mhnaoi nach maireann, Mairead Hill-Boyle. Dh'aontaicheadh, le cead Mhgr. Gunn, an geall-dùbhlain a shocrachadh air son co-fharpaisean pàno na h-òigrìdh.

Ann an gearr-sheanchas Comhairle Comunn na h-Oigrìdh dh'innseadh gun do choinnich Fear-deilbhe na h-Aird-a-tuath agus Mgr. Iain R. MacAoidh ri Fear-stiùraidh an Fhòghlum an Siorrachd Inbhir-Nis a bheachdachadh air staid Comunn na h-Oigrìdh. Chliùthaich am Fear-stiùraidh aire a thoirt do leth-dusan feachd a mhàin anns an dol a mach. An uair a rachadh iad sin a chur gu gnìomh, bhiodh iad 'nam ball-eisimpleir do fheachdan eile. Tha am Fear-stiùraidh a' dol a sgrìobhadh chun nan sgoilean a roghnaichear a dh'iarraidh air na maighistirean-sgoile gach cuideachadh a thoirt do'n Fhear-dheilbhe aig àm dha tadhal air na feachdan. Tha oidhirp 'ga deanamh mar an ceudna air feachdan anns an àird-a-deas a bhrosnachadh gu coinneachadh uair anns a' mhìos co-dhiubh, agus obair a dheanamh mar a tha sin air a chur sìos an Clàr-obrach nam Feachd. Tha Feachd an Luchd-ionn-sachaidh an Glaschu a nis fo stiùradh Mhgr. Chailein Palmer.

Ghabhadh beachd air an t-suidheachadh a thaobh nan geatachan cuimhneachain agus a' chlàir-chuimhne a thàtar ri chur suas aig Cnoc-nan-ròs, agus thaghadh fo-chomhairle gu sealltainn ris an obair.

Cumar Campa nan Eileanach an Cnoc-nan-ròs bhò'n 30 de'n Ogmhios gu 13 de'n Iuchar, agus Campa an Luchd-ionnsachaidh bhò 14 gu 28 de'n Iuchar.

Thàtar ag ullachadh a chum Sgoil-shamhraidh Ghàidhlig a chumail am Port-rìgheadh bhò 16 gu 27 de'n Iuchar, ma dheònaicheas àireamh chumseach tighinn chuire. Taingear clas-ai-chean an Gàidhlig, Ceòl, Gnìomhachas is Ealdhain.

Ghuidh Mgr. MacCalmain deagh-shoirbheachadh do'n Mhaighdinn-uasail Seonag Chaimbeul agus i a' fàgail seirbhis a' Chomuinn agus a' dol gu cosnadh an oifis eile.

Dh'innis Mgr. MacCalmain gu robh e a' cèilidh air a' Cheann-suidhe, Mgr. Niall MacGille-sheathanaich, o chionn là no dhà, agus gu robh e fìor-thoilichte a ràdh gu bheil e air faighinn seachad air an tinneas a bha air, agus gu bheil e a' coimhead cha mhòr cho slàn fallain is a bha e roimhe. Bha buill na Comhairle toilichte an naidheachd seo fhaotainn.

Shuidhicheadh an ath-choinneamh de'n Ard-chomhairle a chumail an Glaschu air an treas là fichead de'n Ogmhios.

Chriochnaicheadh a' choinneamh le taing chridheil a thoirt do'n dithis a rinn gnìomh Fear-Cathrach.

Enthusiasm and L.S.D.

HOW MUCH DO YOU PAY IN SUPPORT OF GAELIC?

ON another page we publish a notice of the latest publication of the Scottish Gaelic Texts Society. Elsewhere in this issue there is a letter by Mr. George Hay drawing attention to the deplorable fact that the latest published list of members of the Gaelic Texts Society runs to no more than fifty names—and this from the 93,000 Gaelic speakers in Scotland, and many more thousands outwith Scotland and throughout the world!

It is, indeed, lamentable that so worthy a cause should be so shamefully disregarded, and we were particularly discouraged to observe how many of those, whose voices are loudest and pens are busiest in expatiating on "Gaelic culture" and even in criticising the efforts of other labourers in the field, are missing from the list.

Apparently a guinea a year is too much to ask for from these enthusiasts for the dissemination of Gaelic literature.

There are lots of ways in which Gaelic enthusiasts—and what Gael should not be an enthusiast?—can help forward the Gaelic Cause, but we respectfully suggest that the minimum proof of genuine enthusiasm is that a person should year by year support the following: Scottish Gaelic Texts Society (£1 1s.), Gaelic Society of Inverness (at least 10/6), An Comunn Gàidhealach (5/- ordinary membership, 6/- for "An Gaidheal," and, we hope, at least a further donation of 8/6), *Gairm* (10/- per annum). That makes a total of £3 1s. 0d per year.

That represents the enormous sum of 1 2/4 per week! Are there not at least 10,000 persons among the 100,000 Gaelic-speakers throughout the world who can afford that sum? And if 10,000—or even 5,000—did support the

societies and periodicals indicated, what a transformation!

Instead of the Gaelic Texts Society taking twenty-five years to publish five volumes, we should get a handsome volume every year. Instead of the Inverness Gaelic Society having to allow an interval of several years between its volumes, it could produce a volume yearly. *An Gaidheal* would no longer be caught up in the vicious circle of rising costs and a shrinking circulation and the fear of launching out with new ideas in case they prove too costly.

Gairm is still enjoying the first flush of a new venture, but we know nothing of its financial position. We know that it was launched with the backing of a Guarantee Fund of over £1,000, but whether, or to what extent, that Fund has had to be drawn upon we know not. It would appear, however, that printing costs being what they are and postage rates having recently risen steeply, *Gairm* is kept going, not so much by the subscriptions of readers as the amount of advertising which, fortunately, it has so far been able to attract. It should be realised, however, that dependence on advertising is precarious. Advertisers, or some of them, may be willing to take space for a time to help a new venture, but they will not do so indefinitely if they feel that their money might, to their own greater advantage, be spent on advertising in journals enjoying a wider clientele or on advertising in some of the new media, such as commercial television which is due to begin in Scotland in the near future.

The only satisfactory basis for Gaelic societies and publications is that a reasonable proportion of the Gaelic public should care enough to devote twopence a day to the support of the Cause that they keep saying they support.

Notes and Comments

We offer our hearty congratulations and most cordial good wishes to our Northern Organiser, Mr. Donald John Maclean, on his marriage. Gu ma fada beò e fhéin is a chéile, ann an sonas agus ann an soirbheachadh agus leis gach beannachd.

Mr. Alasdair Maclean Sinclair, Halifax, Nova Scotia, has been chosen as Rhodes Scholar for Nova Scotia for 1956. He is at present completing an Honours course in Economics and Philosophy at Dalhousie University, and is to proceed to New College, Oxford, in September next.

Alasdair is a son of the Rev. D. Maclean Sinclair M.A., minister of Fort Massey Church (United Church of Canada), Halifax, whom many of us were glad to meet when he was across here during the last war, when he was a naval chaplain. The name of Maclean Sinclair is an honoured one among all who value our Gaelic literary heritage. Alasdair's grandfather, the Rev. A. Maclean Sinclair, made a most valuable contribution to the printed literature of Gaelic by publishing such books as "Clarsach na Coille" (1881), "The Glenbard Collection of Gaelic Poetry" (1890), "Gaelic Bards" (three volumes covering the period from 1411 to recent times), "Mactalla nan Tùr" (1901), "Fìlìdh na Coille" (1901), "The Maclean Bards" (two volumes), and "The Poems of Iain Lom Macdonald" (1895). The Rev. Alexander Maclean Sinclair, was a grandson of John Maclean ("Bàrd Tighearna Cholla"), and much of the material in his books came from Maclean's collection of Gaelic MSS.

We very much hope that Alasdair Maclean Sinclair will manage to visit Scotland and the native district of his island forbears.

Although the winter is past and summer approaches, the Largs Mod Local Committee show no lessening of the pace they have set themselves in their all-out effort to make the first Largs National Mod an outstanding success. The Convener, Miss May F. Hunter, and her Committee have been untiring and versatile in their activities. Among recent efforts organised in aid of the Mod Fund we note a concert in Largs by the Nicolson Memorial Junior Gaelic Choir, Greenock, a country dance organised by a member of the Largs Country Dance Society, and a gala performance by the Largs Players and the Largs Operatic Society (two items being a "beauty competition" and a "most glamorous granny" competition!—this attracted over 900 people—and also a "clan whist drive," as well as several ceilidhs.

At a ceilidh and dance held by the Balmacara branch, at which the Kyle Drama Club performed their winning play of the South-West Ross Drama Festival, the hall was packed and many people had to be turned away.

At a recent monthly ceilidh of the Taynuilt branch, the artistes included Irene and Ian Potter, Dalmailly, well-known little personalities in the junior section of the National Mod for some years past. In addition to songs there was instrumental music, including the jew's harp, accordion, mouth organ, and recorder.

Bowmore Gaelic Choir's "Tartan Ball" was a colourful spectacle and greatly enjoyed by all present. Tartan decorations of all kinds, clan coats of arms, tartan kilts, tartan sashes, tartan ties and rosettes, tartan doilies—in fact, tartan everywhere!

Mr. Malcolm Macleod, General Secretary of An Comunn Gaidhealach, recently paid his first visit to Tiree and received a most cordial welcome. At an all-Gaelic ceilidh at Cornaigmore, with Mr. A. H. Macphail as Fear-an-tìghe, Mr. Macleod conveyed the greetings of An Comunn and of the President, Mr. Neil Shaw, and complimented the local leaders on their sustained efforts on behalf of Gaelic.

A new branch of An Comunn has been formed at Corpach, Lochaber. The office-bearers are:—President, Councillor Dugald Cameron; Vice-President, Mr. Alexander MacCalman; Treasurer, Mr. Roderick Mackinnon; Secretary, Mrs. Beaton. Mr. W. P. Cameron introduced Mr. D. J. Maclean, Northern Organiser, who presided over the ceilidh and spoke about the work of An Comunn. An excellent programme of vocal and instrumental music was greatly enjoyed.

At the March ceilidh of the Edinburgh branch of An Comunn, Mr. Donald MacIsaac, Vice-President, who presided, made suitable reference to the loss sustained by the branch in the death of Mr. David Proudfoot, a most faithful member. The programme was provided by a party of artistes from Glasgow, organised by Mr. Donald W. MacRitchie.

At the annual general meeting of the Scottish branch of the Celtic Congress, held in Glasgow, it was reported that the large deficit remaining after the 1953 Celtic Congress in Glasgow had, thanks to the efforts of the committee, been paid off and there was a small credit balance on last year's working. It is essential, however, that the branch funds be considerably increased in preparation for the next Scottish meeting of the Congress, due to be held in Edinburgh in 1959, or possibly 1958. The 1956 Celtic Congress is to be held at Portjeun in Cornwall during the last week in August, in conjunction with the Celtic International Youth Camp.

The 1955 Congress was held in Brittany and there was only one Scottish representative, Mr. David Stevenson.

Office-bearers of the Scottish branch were appointed as follows:—President, Mr. Euan Macdiarmid, Edinburgh; Vice-Presidents, Rev. Malcolm Maclean and Rev. T. M. Murchison; Hon. Secretary, Mr. Donald Grant, 95 Monro Road, Glasgow, W.3.; and Treasurer, Mrs. C. M. B. Dunlop.

Kilmarnock branch of An Comunn (President, Rev. Archd. M. Beaton) held a well-attended ceilidh at which a party from the Knightswood Highland Association, led by their President, Mrs. Mackinnon, provided the programme. The visitors were accompanied by Rev. Angus M. Nicolson, Scotsstoun West Church.

A ceilidh, mainly in Gaelic, and attended by 250 people from far and near, was held recently at Rosdhu, Loch Lomondside, by Lady Colquhoun of Luss. The programme was sustained by Duoona Gaelic Choir, conducted by Mr. Neil Maclean, and Messrs. Angus and Arthur Maciver, Glasgow. Sir Ivar Colquhoun welcomed the company, and Mr. Neil Maclean was Fear-an-tìghe.

Presiding at the annual gathering of the Clydebank Highlanders in Clydebank Town Hall, Mr. Calum M. Maclellan, Glasgow, said that the encouragement

of the Gaelic language was included in the constitution of all Highland associations, but examination of each society's syllabus showed how little was done about it. "Ceilidhs and whist drives and even the National Mod are not enough," said Mr. Maclellan, "and societies should awaken to the fact that Gaelic must be given its rightful place in their activities, for, once a society forgets the Gaelic, it is on the downward slope." Mr. Maclellan also spoke of the lack of co-operation among Highland societies. He also pleaded for tolerance for "the city-born enthusiast's attempts at speaking the language, for better a conversation in half-Gaelic and half-English than one conducted entirely in English."

At a ceilidh-concert held by **Musselburgh Highland Association** the artistes included a party who had motored through from Oban. Mrs. M. M. Campbell presided.

The organisers of the **Edinburgh Local Mod**, due to be held on 26th May, urge that competitors should come forward in encouraging numbers and that they should submit their names to the Secretary, Miss K. Goodwin, 29 Moray Place, Edinburgh, by 5th May. They also appeal for the generous support of all Highland societies in Edinburgh and all Highlanders in the city.

It would be a good thing if more Highland societies included in their syllabus a number of evenings devoted to a local bard or local history or other matter of local interest. The Glasgow **Oban and Lorn Association** (President, Mr. Dugald MacColl) recently held a "Duncan Ban" night, when a number of singers sang some of the bard's compositions and Mr. Donald W. MacRitchie commented on the various items. Unfortunately, there was only a small attendance.

Comunn Gaidhealach an Obain have for many years held an annual "Donnchadh Ban Ceilidh," and this year's was particularly successful. Some of the bard's finest songs were sung by Donald MacVicar, Helen T. Macmillan, Bessie Campbell, and Donald Fletcher. Mr. Donald Thomson, who was Fear-an-tìghe, told the audience that the greatest monument to the bard is the edition of his works edited by Mr. Angus Macleod, formerly Rector of Oban High School. The Oban branch have agreed to take care of the Duncan Ban Memorial at Dalmailly.

At the March ceilidh of the **Cornaigmore** (Three) branch, the programme included an interesting Gaelic dialogue, "An Dileab."

The College of Piping, in conjunction with the Arts Council, organised a recital of piping and Gaelic songs in the Burgh Hall, **Dunoon**, on 16th March. There was a very large audience. The programme included Gaelic songs sung by Neil Maclean and Joan Macleod, Scots songs by Iain Hamilton, and piping by Seumas MacNeill, John Macfadyen, and Pipe-Major Donald Maclean. The accompanist was Mrs. Neil Maclean (Jenny Currie). The Chairman was Mr. Gilbert MacAllister. The committee of the Dunoon branch of An Comunn and the Secretaries of the Cowal Highland Gathering assisted in the arrangements for the concert.

At the end-of-session ceilidh of the **Tobermory branch** of An Comunn, Mr. Donald MacAskill was Fear-an-tìghe. The programme included a sketch by Mrs. Mactaggart and Miss K. Matheson and songs by the Tobermory School Junior Choir.

A team of six from **Liurbost, Lochs, Lewis**, has been invited to perform a "luadh" or "waulking" at this year's Edinburgh International Festival. The arrangements have been made through the agency of Mr. James Ross, of the School of Scottish Studies, who has already, along with Mr. Francis Collinson, recorded a number of waulking songs in Lewis.

During the past two winters many audiences at Highland gatherings and concerts and ceilidhs have been greatly impressed by the masterly rendering of Gaelic songs by a sojourner in our midst. **Dr James Kalokerinos**, although of Greek descent, as his name indicates, is an Australian who has been doing medical work in this country. On the eve of his return to Australia the gymnasium of the Highlanders Institute was packed to capacity to bid him farewell. This farewell ceilidh was organised by the Scottish Pipers' Association, with the co-operation of many Highland societies. Mr. John Maclellan, President of the Highlanders' Institute, was Fear-an-tìghe. On behalf of the various societies, Pipe-Major Robert Reid presented Dr. Kalokerinos with a suitably inscribed gold wrist-watch. Dr. Kalokerinos takes back to Australia a tape-recorder with recorded songs and messages, including about 100 songs by Miss Flora MacNeill and other traditional singers, with which he hopes to give himself and the Gaels of Australia many happy hours. He also takes with him a wealth of good wishes and leaves behind the memory of a charming and talented and enthusiastic supporter of the Gaelic Cause.

About Ben Adhem

Le LEIGH HUNT

(*Air eadar-theangachadh le Dòmhnall Grannd*)

Bha fear, Abou Ben Adhem, anns na dùthchannan thall;

cha robh a leithid ach tear—b'e sin an call.

Bha Abou Ben Adhem, an duine còir,
an sàmhchair na h-oidhche ag aisling gun ghò.

Dhùisg e, is dé bha 'na ionad-tàimh,

an solus na gealaich, ach aingeal ri 'làimh!

Bha dealradh san t-seòmair mar lili fo bhlàth
is an t-aingeal a' sgrìobhadh an leabhar gun tàmh.

Bha dreach an leabhair air dreach an òir.

Le suaimhneas an àite ghléidh Abou a thròir.

Chuir e ceist ris an tannasg. "Dé sgrìobh thu an dràs?"

Fhreachair esan, "A mhuintir do Dhia a thug gràdh."

"A bheil m'ainm-sa air aon diubh?" arsa Abou gun dàil.

"Chan 'eil," deir an t-aingeal. Thuirt Abou 'na thràth,

le guth caran ciùin ach suilbhir a ris,

"Cuir sios mi mar fhear a ghràdhach gun dìth
na càirdean mun cuairt air an eòlach mi."

Chuir an t-aingeal siud sios is dh'fhalbh e gu luath.

Dhùisg an solus an ath-oidhche Abou o shuain.
Anns an leabhar bha 'n àireamh a dh'fhoillsich gràdh Dhé.

Feuch! Bha Abou Ben Adhem air thoiseach gu léir.

Provincial and Local Mods, 1956

- May 10-12—Glasgow.
 ,, 11 —Islay, at Bowmore.
 ,, 24-25—South-West Ross and Glenelg, at
 Kyle of Lochalsh.
 ,, 26 —Edinburgh.
 June 1 —Lorn, Morven, and Mull, at Oban.
 ,, 1 —County of Sutherland, at Golspie.
 ,, 5-6 —Skye, at Portree.
 ,, 8 —Badenoch-Strathspey,
 at Grantown-on-Spey.
 ,, 14-15—Lewis, at Stornoway.
 ,, 15 —Mull, at Tobermory.
 ,, 15 —Perthshire, at Aberfeldy.
 ,, 26 —Ardnamurchan, at Strontian.

The date of the Dalriada Mod (at Lochgilphead) is still under consideration.

The Lochaber and Kintyre Mods will not be held this year.

Comunn Gaidhealach a' Ghearasdain reports:—"Owing to difficulties in organisation and in getting competitors, it has been decided to forego the Lochaber Provincial Mod for one year. The Committee has come to this conclusion reluctantly, as this was to have been the Silver Jubilee of the Mod. Inaugurated in 1931, the Mod has annually drawn up to 300 competitors from the wide area between Inverness and Kinlochleven, Mallaig and Tulloch. Next year, however, the Committee is planning to hold the Silver Jubilee of the Mod, when a special effort is to be made to increase the number of competitors and of competitions."

It is reported that the Kintyre Mod, because of lack of support, is not to be held this year.

According to a press report "there is an extensive Gaelic library housed in the Royal Scottish Corporation Hall, Fetter Lane, London, which fact seems to be little known." This library has recently been re-catalogued by Miss A. Hilder, a member of council of the **Gaelic Society of London**, and at the Society's meetings a selection of books from the library has been on view. Much interest seems to have been aroused by the inclusion among these books of a copy of the **Arabian Nights** in Gaelic. We may say that the Rev. John MacRury's Gaelic translation of **The Arabian Nights** can be purchased very cheaply from the publishers, *The Northern Chronicle* Office, Inverness.

Obituaries

Mr. Angus M. MacDonald

The Gaelic Cause has sustained a great loss in the death of Mr. Angus M. Macdonald, Glasgow. A native of Kilmuir, Skye, he had spent most of his life in Glasgow in the service of the Post Office, from which he retired some time ago. He was best-known, however, as a Gaelic playwright and actor. Many of his Gaelic plays have been broadcast on the radio, and he himself acted many times in Gaelic plays. He had marked gifts as a character actor, while his Gaelic writing showed profound understanding of the Highland way of life, and the idiosyncracies of the Gael.

Mr. Macdonald was a leading member of Ceilidh nan Gaidheal and was Gaelic tutor to the Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association. He also won the premier awards at the National Mod in oral competitions.

As the fruit of his travels in the Middle East during military service in the First World War, Mr. Macdonald published an interesting little book.

The very large concourse of mourners at the funeral to Lambhill Cemetery, Glasgow, was eloquent testimony to the width of his interests, the range of his friendships, and the universal esteem in which he was held.

We express our sympathy with his wife and daughter.

Mrs. Pursell

We extend our sympathy to Mr. Edward Pursell, one of our Mod Crowned Bards, on the death of his wife. Mrs. Pursell was Caitriona Campbell, a native of Oban.

Miss Cameron-Head

We also extend our sympathy to Mr. Francis Cameron-Head of Inverailort, a member of the Executive Council of An Comunn, on the death of his twin-sister, Miss Christian Mary Cameron-Head.

Mr. Donald Mackay

We regret to record the death of Mr. Donald Mackay, who had a life-long connection with the Highland movement in Glasgow and was a former President of the Jura Association and of the Highlanders' Institute. We express our sympathy with his family.

We learn that the London branch of the **Clan Maclean Association** has published a book dealing with the history and traditions of the Clan, **Clan Gillean**, edited by James N. Mackenzie Maclean, and obtainable from Mr. A. Maclean, 22 Smallbrook Mews Craven Road, London, W.2., for 8/- (post free).

Annas A' Mhaileid

Litir As Na h-Eileanan

A Charaid,—Chan e sgoilear mór Gàidhlig a tha annamsa, ach tha mi a' toirt an oidhirp seo ann a bhith a' fiachainn a bhith a' sgrìobhadh mar as urrainn mi an dràsda mo bheachd co-cheangailte ri mìosachan a' Chomuinn Ghaidhealaich, *An Gàidheal*.

Is e mo bheachd, ma tà, aig an àm-sa gur e mìosachan Gàidhlig fìor laghach a tha anns A' Ghaidheal. Chan 'eil fad bho thòisich mise a' ceannach 's a' leughadh a' mhiosachain seo. Saoilidh mi gu bheil mi a' tuigsinn an uiread seo, gu robh e 'na mheadhon air mòran litreachais Ghàidhlig a chumail ri chéile a bhios feumail 's dòcha do linntean nach tàinig fhathast.

Tha e a' cuideachadh leamsa a thaobh na Gàidhlig, saoilidh mi co-dhiùbh, gum biodh e 'na chuideachadh do na h-uile neach.

Tha mi a' smaoinreachadh nach bu chòir do ghillean no do nigheanan òga Gaidhealach, ma's urrainn dhaibh idir, gun a bhith a' faighinn A' Ghaidheil. Cha chosg e ach seachd tasdain is sia sgillinn anns a' bhliadhna, agus is math as fhiach e e, ged nach biodh ann ach na pìosan briagha bàrdachd, sgeulachdan is eile a bhiodh 'nam meadhan air meudachadh an eòlais air cainnt mhàthaireil ar dùthcha—Tìr nam Beann, nan Gleann, 's nan Gaisgeach.

Mise, le spéis,

DOMHNALL BAN.

Sir,

Scottish Gaelic Texts Society

You will doubtless be commending to your readers the latest volume published by this Society—the *Prose Writings of Donald MacKinnon*, edited by Lachlan MacKinnon, a truly excellent work. What is probably the most revealing feature of this splendid book is the Society's membership list, which is printed at the end. From this will be seen the shameful fact that the ordinary membership stands at the meagre total of 51. It is noteworthy that this list includes few of those platform personalities whose patriotic platitudes in Gaelic or English have for years deaved concert-hall crowds, or disturbed the ether through B.B.C. microphones. Equally conspicuous by their absence are the many mod medallists who, like the *Lorelei*, have charmed our ears with their music and in the process done very well for themselves.

Surely, even in these days of decreasing monetary values, it is not too much to suggest that the work of the Scottish Gaelic Texts Society is deserving of a more adequate measure of popular support and that its annual sub-

scription of one guinea is well within the means of most people. Many must spend more each month on cigarettes alone, or on ceilidhs or clan and district society junketings, with little profit to themselves or to the Gaelic movement. It is earnestly to be hoped that many of your readers will enrol in the Society, whose honorary secretary and treasurer is Mr. Hugh Watson, 16 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh.

The lack of response to such literary efforts in the past is, of course, well-known and no great credit to the Highland people. One is forced to the grim conclusion that a race which cannot—or will not—do better hardly deserves the survival of its ancient language.

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE HAY.

Is Fuath Leam

Is fuath leam:

- (1) am facal "croitear;"
- (2) am facal "peasant" an Eirinn;
- (3) am fèilidh a bhith air duine (anns an t-sràid) gun chòmhdach-cinn a bhith air;
- (4) muinntir Obaireadhain (agus Gaidheil eile, mar an ceudna) aig nach robh a fhios gum b'e Eòghan MacLachlainn a chuir "Marbhrann do Mhgr. Seumas Beattie" ri chéile, agus gu robh Seumas Beattie 'na ollamh anns an Oilthigh an Obaireadhain.

I. M. MOFFATT-PENDER.

"Ivrit"

A Linguistic Achievement

"Ivrit" is the name given to the official language of the State of Israel. It is a modern version of the ancient Hebrew language. We quote the following from an article in *The Glasgow Herald* some months ago.

"The resuscitation of what was, for about the past 2,000 years, almost as restricted a medium of speech as Latin is something of a miracle. It is, to take a rough analogy, as if Gaelic were, in the space of a generation, to become the language of the whole of Scotland. In a way, the linguistic achievement of Israel is even more striking, since Gaelic is still the everyday language of 100,000 souls, whereas, until the turn of the century, Hebrew was merely an adjunct to religious studies. Even after the end of the First World War, there were only 50,000 Jews in Palestine and by no means all that number spoke Hebrew. Today, Ivrit is the official tongue of Israel and is spoken by over 1,500,000 persons."

Can You Help?

A Job for Branches and Members

FOR some years past the Linguistic Survey of Scotland, under the auspices of Edinburgh University, had been busy studying and recording all kinds of material having to do with the speech and cultural heritage of the Scottish people, including Gaelic.

The Executive Council of An Comunn Gaidhealach has asked whether the branches and members of our Association might help in this urgent work.

Professor Kenneth Jackson, writing on behalf of the Linguistic Survey, has accepted the offer in the following terms.

"We should be most grateful to An Comunn if it could care to co-operate with the Linguistic Survey. I think the way in which it could be most useful would be if some of your members in the Gaelic-speaking parts of the Highlands would care to make collections of notes on rare and strange words in the local dialect, with their meanings; or ordinary words used with unusual meanings; or of phrases and idioms which seem strange or unusual; or current grammatical usages which are not in accordance with normal grammar.

"Lists of plant names and bird names, etc., if they can be identified with the English or scientific equivalent, would be most interesting.

"In every case a detailed note should be given on the source from which the words, etc., were derived: (1) his name; (2) where he lives; (3) where he was born and brought up; and (4), if possible, where his parents were born and brought up. I don't mean your member, but the local man and from whom he gets the information.

"If a word or usage is common in the locality the above detailed information would not be necessary, though the place in question should be clearly specified; but in areas where scarcely any Gaelic is spoken any longer these details are very important, as one wants to be certain in such cases that an informant is a truly local man, not an immigrant from, say, the Hebrides or the son of such parents."

Branches of An Comunn might find it of great value to include some such research as the foregoing among their winter's activities. Any material collected may be sent to the Office of An Comunn or to the Linguistic Survey, Department of Celtic, Minto House, Chambers Street, Edinburgh.

Cha luaithe a sguireas an tinneas dhiot na thòisicheas an tachas ort.

Treasurer's Notes

National Mod—Aberdeen, 1955

Received at Aberdeen—

Previously acknowledged	£2781 15 2
Cookery Books, further addition (Individual Effort)	5 16 —
	<u>£2787 11 2</u>

Received at Headquarters—

Previously acknowledged	303 2 7
Revised Final Total as per Mod Account	<u>£3090 13 9</u>

National Mod—Largs, 1956

Received at Largs—

Previously Acknowledged Concert by Nicolson	£967 8 4
Junior Choir, Greenock "Clan" Whist Drive, per R. H. Barnett, Esq...	11 1 3
Ceilidh at Kelburn Arms, Fairlie, per Mr. and Mrs. Macmillan	47 16 3
Alexander Leitch, Esq., Stirling Branch	50 — —
Gourock Highlanders' Association	— 10 —
Ross and Cromarty Assn., Edinburgh	5 — —
Glasgow Sutherland Assn., Kettering Caledonian Society	5 — —
Clan MacRae Association, Glasgow	1 1 —
	<u>£1099 17 10</u>

Received at Headquarters—

Previously acknowledged Glasgow Jura Association, Whist Drive	£21 6 —
	7 10 7
	<u>28 16 7</u>
	<u>£1128 14 5</u>

Magazine Fund

Previously acknowledged	£39 6 6
Mr. and Mrs. Iain R. Mackay, Inverness	— 10 —
	<u>£39 16 6</u>

Central Fund

Previously acknowledged	£132 9 —
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Cove and Kilcreggan Literary Society	1 1 —
Ardrishaig Gaelic Choir	3 3 —
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Stirling Branch	5 — —
Mr. and Mrs. Duncan C. MacLean, Jura	— 5 —
Ayr Branch	5 5 —
	<u>£157 10 —</u>

In last month's Largs Mod official list, item of £20 as from Mary, Duchess of Montrose, Arran, should have read:—Surplus from Concert at Lochranza, per Mary, Duchess of Montrose. £20.



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar VIII

AN GIBLEAN, 1956

Aireamh 4

Corra Smuain air Srath-Ghlais

Le SEORAS MACMHOIRIS, Ceasog, Inbhir-Nis.

IS toigh leis gach neach a fhearann dùthchais féin. Is caomh leamsa Srath-ghlais agus na trì gleanntan a tha a' tighinn a nuas d'a ionnsaigh o Dhrum Albann mu chrìochan Chinn-t-sàile. Is iad sin Gleann Aifric, Gleann Canaich, agus Gleann Srath Farrair. Theirteadh "Bràigh na h-Aird" ris a' chearn seo. Is bràigh e taca ri dùthaich MhicShimidh sìos gu Poll-an-Ròid (no Linne Bhealaidh), agus anns na sean làithean theirteadh "Clann a' Bhràighe" ris na Sìosalach aig an robh a' chuid as mò de'n chearn.

Cluinnear gu minig gun tàinig an t-ainm "Beauly" o'n Fhraincis a bha aig na manaich a bha an sin ceudan de bhliadhnan air ais. Faodaidh sin a bhith ceart, ach tha sgeul eile am beul-aithris Shrath-ghlais. Air tùs, an linnibh cian, bha àireamh bheag de thaighéan an àite fo'n ainm "Achadh a' Bhealaidh," air a' ghiòrachadh gu "Bealaidh." Fada an dèidh sin thogadh thaighéan agus air a' Mhanachainn do'n tuath a bha ag oibreachadh an fhearainn agus an iasgach aig na manaich. Thugadh an sean ainm do'n bhaile sin agus mhair e agus an là an-diugh. A thaobh atharrachadh gu "Biùlaidh," tha a leithid am facail eile: is iad sin "peallach no piullach," "reannag no riunnag," "leann no liunn," agus feadhainn eile. Bha an nòs ann cuid-eachd an t-ainm "Manachainn" a thoirt do'n àite gu léir, agus mhair sin agus an là an-diugh, ged nach robh a' mhanachainn féin ann idir o chionn ceudan de bhliadhnan.

Tha sgoilearan a' cantainn gun tàinig "Srath-ghlais" o bhriathar "glas" an Gàidhlig àrsaidh, a' ciallachadh "uisge." Bha sgeul eile aig sean daoine an Srath-ghlais m'a dheighinn agus mu'n ainm sin, "Gleann Srath Farrair." Cha do mhòthaich mi riamh ainm eile le "gleann" agus "srath" le chèile mar sin. Fad o shean b'e Farrar no Parrar ainm do'n abhainn Bealaidh, agus b'e Srath Pharrair ainm d'a srath sìos gu Poll an Ròid (no Linne Bhealaidh). Bu Linne Pharrair i an tràth sin. Thugadh an t-ainm "Bealaidh" do'n abhainn an sin a chionn gu robh an

t-iasgach a' buntainn do na manaich á Bealaidh. Uime sin, b'e Gleann Srath Pharrair an gleann a bha a' tighinn a nuas gu Srath Pharrair. B'e Aifric ainm na h-aibhne eile agus an d'aoaich i le Farrar. Thugadh an t-ainm "An Srath Glas," le "glas" a' ciallachadh "uaine," do shrath faicheach fearach Aifric, le "Gleann Aifric" air a' chearn as garbhe anns a' cheann siar. Tre thìde thugadh Glas mar ainm na h-aibhne agus dh'atharraich "An Srath Glas" gu "Srath Ghlais."

Cluinnear gu bitheanta gum bu Nornain na Sìosalach air tùs, agus nach b'fhìor Ghaidheil iad. Tha aon sgeul ag innseadh dhuinn gun tàinig iad á Rubha-Chat. Tha sgeul eile ag ràdh gun do thèirinn iad o uasal d'am b'ainm Sir Robert Sìosal (Chisholm) a thàinig á taobh deas Alba gu Caisteal Urchadainn an seirbhis an Rìgh mu thimcheall na ceathramh linn deug. Fhuair e fearann anns a' choimhearsnachd, agus b'ann uath-san a thàinig Sìosalach Shrath-ghlais. Ma's fìor sin, is fìor e a màinn mu na ceannardan agus an teaghlach. Bu Ghaidheil na h-Ìsleann agus tuath na dùthcha, agus bha an sinnsearan ann fada roimh 1066, ged thugadh an t-ainm "Sìosalach" dhaibh air do Shìosal an oighreachd fhaighinn, do bhrigh is gu robh iad a' leantainn agus a' buntainn do Shìosal.

Bha Dòmhnallaich an Gleann Canaich am measg nan Sìosalach, Thàinig iad, no an sinnsearan, o thaobh Loch Carrain ach b'ann á Gleann Garadh a bha iad air tùs. Theirteadh "Clann Iain Uidhre" riù timcheall Loch Carrain a chionn is gum b'e an sinnsear Iain Odhar Mac Mhic Dhòmhnail á Gleann Garadh. An Gleann Canaich bha iad 'nan Sìosalach, is e sin, 'nam fir-leannhainn do Shìosal. Bha spéis mhòr aig Sìosal do na Dòmhnallaich, agus bu bhuanachan no luchd-taic iad leis, agus ghùilaineadh bratach nan Sìosalach leòsan an àm cogaidh fad cheudan de bhliadhnan.

Bha bratach na fine air a giùlan an Cath Chuil-fhodair le Uilleam Sìosal, duine ro-làidir agus fear-claidheimh a b'fheàrr anns an t-srath. Thàinig e gu tèarainte as a' chath, ach

chaidh a mharbhadh le Sasannaich am measg nam beann far an robh e am folach. Rinneadh òran cumhaidh da le a bhantraich.

Bha cùirt bàillidh a' bharrain anns an t-Srath gu òrdugh agus ceartas a ghleidheadh. Thugadh fear à Gleann Canaich, de'n ainm Uisdean Mac Uisdein Mhic Dhòmhnaill, air beulaibh na cùirte anns a' bhliadhna sè deug ceithir fichead 'sa dhà-dheug. Bha e ag òl an uiread de uisge-beatha is nach bu làmh da a mhàl a dhiol do Shiosal. B'i seo binn na cùirte nach cead-achte da barrachd air leth-bhodach uisge-beatha a cheannach aig an aon àm air neo bhiodh an t-uisge-beatha air a thoirt uaith agus dhìoladh e deich puinnid Albannach mar unlagh gach uile thràth a pheacaicheadh e. Anns a' bhliadhna sè deug ceithir fichead 'sa naoi-deug chaidh deuchainn air duine à Gleann Canaich de'n ainm Dòmhnall Mac Alasdair Mhic Dhòmhnaill Duihbh, agus dhearbhadh gum bu chiontach e de mhèirle chaorach agus tairbh agus diùbhras nì eile ré iomadh bliadhna. Chaidh a chrochadh an Comar.

Bha Srath-ghlais saobhair an daoine agus crodh anns na làithean sin, gus a' bhliadhna ochd deug trì fichead tràth chaidh faobhachadh an t-sratha agus fuidan a' phobuill. Bha sean òran a' cantainn—

Srath-ghlais a' chruidh chinn-fhionn

Cha robh mi ann aineol.

Is ro-mhath a b'èòl domh

Gleann Canaich an fheòir.

Bha bàireadh mòr ann mu ochd deug fichead 's a sè, agus bha ceud is caogad de dhaoine òga a' cluich. Bha a' chluich mar bu nòs daibh, eadar am Bràigh agus ceann iochdar sear de'n chearn, agus chaidh buaidh leis na bràighich.

An uair a shir iad suas an ceòl

Is sheinn iad pìob gun smùirnein,

An dùil gun géilleadh laoiach a' Bhràigh

Do bhodaich ghràis an ùrlair.

Bha cuinthe aig na sean daoine ré m'òige air an àm tràth chaidh treudan mòra gu Féil na h-Eaglaise Brice. Chaidh fir Lochabar thar mhòintich Rainich, agus treudan à Sgi agus Mùideart tre Lochabar. Chaidh treudan à Cinn-t-sàile, Eilg, agus cuid eile à Sgi, sios Gleann Moireastan no Gleann Garadh. Ach o na cearnan tuath air sin thàinig iad tarsainn air Gleann Canaich, Srath-ghlais, Gleann Moireastan gu Cill-Chuimein, suas Coire Ghearraig, tarsainn Bàideanach agus sios tre Athall. Dh'innseadh sgeul mu thaigh-òsda Gallda eadar an Eaglais Bhreac agus a' Chrìoch Ghaidhealach far an deach drobhair a mhurt air son a chuid airgid. Thàinig Abrach do'n taigh an ath là agus bha banoglach Ghaidhealach a bha ag obair ann a' feuchainn ri rabhadh a thoirt da. Bha i a' gabhail òrain agus a' cur a facail féin nach do thuig na Goill

anns na rainn mar seo:—

Fhir a thàinig à Lochabar, cuimhnich na caidil trom;

Feuch nach dean thu cadal idir, cuimhnich na caidil trom.

Cuir do làmh-sa fo do leabaidh 's gheibh thu corp cho rag ri bonn.

Fhir a thàinig à Lochabar, thoir Lochabar ort ad dheann.

Thuig an t-Abrach agus theich e.

Tha àit anns an t-Srath ris an abrar "Craobh nan Clag." Fhuair e an t-ainm mar seo. An àm na sean Eaglais Cheiltich bha naomh Gaidhealach a' tàmh an sin còmhla ri dithis chompanach. Bu Mheirheard a b'ainm dha. Mhothaich e bó bhàn a' sealltainn air craoibh àraidh là as déidh là. Ruamhair e aig bun na craoibhe agus fhuair e trì cluig. Chàidh innseadh dha am brudair gum bu bheite dhaibh falbh an caochladh àirdean, le clag aig gach fear, agus eaglais a thogail far an fuaimnich-eadh an clag an treas uair. Rinn iad sin. Chaidh fear dhiubh sear agus thog e eaglais an Cill-Taraghlain. Chaidh fear eile do'n iar agus ràinig e an t-Ath-leathann anns an eilean Sgitheanach. Ràinig Meirheard féin Gleann Moireastan agus tha "Clachan Mheirheard" an sin fathast. Bha an clag ann gus a' bhliadhna ochd-deug trì fichead 's a deich, ach chailleadh e mu'n tràth sin.

A' Fagail Uibhist

1. An oidhch' dh'fhàg mise an t-eilean àlainn, Far an deachaidh m'arach nuair bha mi òg,
Bha mo chridh' air fhàgail an taic an t-sàile,
Nuair chaidh mi steach do'n bhàt', 'Loch Mòr.'
2. Nuair theann am bàta a mach o'n àit ud,
Cha robh m'inntinn idir làn de cheòl,
Seach mar a bha i an tùs an là ud,
'S cha robh dàil ann a bhith sìleadh dheòir.
3. An déidh beagan ùine thàinig ceò bha dùmhaill
A dh'fhàilich mo dhùthaich 's gach àit gu léir;
Bha gach eilean mun cairt bho shealladh mo shùla,
'S chan fhaicinn fad lùdaig 'nam dhéidh.
4. Ach a dh'aindeoin sin ràinig sinn caladh sàbhailt',
Bha ciaradh an là ann a' falbh o'n Chaol,
'S bha fortan an dàn dhuinn seach mar a b' àbhaist,
Nuair rachamaid do'n charbad a bha cho luath ri gaoith.

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THE GAEL

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LI

MAY, 1956

No. 5

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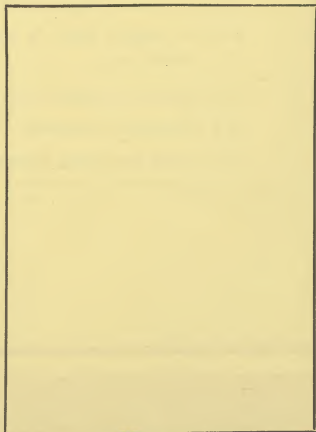
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THE GAEL

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF
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Editor

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AN CEITEIN, 1956

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La an Anraidh

Le ALASDAIR IAIN MACASGAILL

Choisinn an sgeul seo a' cheud duais—Duais Comunn Gàidhlig Ghlaschu—aig a' Mhòd Nàiseanta 1953.

BHA Seumas agus a thac ris an ursann. Bha a phìob gu daingean 'na phluic. An dràsda agus a rithist chluinnear brag a bhilean air cas na pioba, agus an sin bha deagh chnap ceòtha a' dol mu sgaoil gu rèidh cothromach gu àirde nan speuran. Bha a aghaidh ris an iarmailt, agus e gu cothromach a' cnuasachadh nan dùilean agus a' meòir-eachadh air dé a bha aca ri ràdh. Cha robh e gu buileach air a dhòigh agus a chùisean ag iarraidh foillseachaidh nach robh na speuran gu ro-chinnteach a' gealltainn.

Bha an là cruaidh fuar, là math Earraich. Bha ceò bhlàth chathrannach as gach taigh mun cuairt, ach cha robh anam beò an astar còmhraidh. Co-dhìubbh, ma bha, cha do mhothaich Seumas dhaibh agus e air a shlugadh suas cho mòr an siud 'na smuaintean féin. An sin chualas fuaim air a' chachailleith, agus abair thusa brag! Chlisg Seumas a mach as a bhruaillein agus thug e an droch shùil sin sìos an starran, oir cha robh dad aige mu dheighinn gun toireadh droch cheartas do'n challaid a bha a' cur dìon ro-fheumail air an fhearann. Cha bu gheann fada e.

"An tu fhéin a tha ann, a Mhàiri Bheag? Nach tu a tha fada gun ar ruighinn an diugh! Càit an robh thu?"

Cha dubhairt an leanabh facal, ach le a h-òrdag 'na beul sheas i mu choinneamh Sheumais.

"Nach tu fhéin a tha briagha!" arsa esan rithe, gu toileach laghach, "leis an ribean sin 'nad fhalt! An ann g'a shealltainn do Chaitriona againn a thàinig thu? Tiugainn a steach, ma tà, ach am faic sinn a bheil càil ghasda aice dhuit."

Dh'fhosgail Seumas dorus an talainn, agus suas gun deach iad 'nan dithis, agus sin far an robh an fhàilte agus an fhurann ris an leanabh. Ach bha a ghnothaichean fhéin aig Seumas, agus bha iad ag iarraidh cabhaig.

"Dé a tha iad a' deanamh thall aig an taigh, a ghràidh?" dh'fhoighnich esan de'n leanabh. "Chan 'eil fhios agam," fhreagair ise gu modhail doicheadlach.

"An do sgròb t'athair an lion?"

"Chan 'eil fhios agam."

"An cuala tu e ag ràdh gu robh e a' dol do'n tràigh?"

"Cha chuala," arsa Mairi gu cùin socair, le fiamh a' ghàire.

"'S ann de na daoine i," arsa Seumas, agus e ri lachanaich r'a mhnaoi. "Chan innis i aon dùrd."

"'S fheàrr dhuit a dhol a null far a bheil

t'athair, agus can ris gum bi mise air do shàil, oir tha am muir-làn a nis gu math air tionndadh, agus cha chreid mi nach deanadh sinn maorach gum leòir tuilleadh."

A mach gun deach ise a lìrgeadh na naidheachd agus a craos làn de shiùcairean Cairtriona.

Air cùl an dà uair dheug agus am biadh 'nam broinn, bha ceum air cheum aig Seumas agus a nàbaidh a steach an rathad, peile beag air gach gàirdean, spaid an làimh an urra, agus cutag gheur 'nam pòcaid.

"Tha mi an dòchas nach e eallach gun thairbhe a tha anns an spaid," arsa Eachann ri Seumas. "An saoil thu am faigh sinn an luga cho tràth ri seo?"

"Tha dòchas agam gum faigh oir tha am fiasgan air fàs gann oirnn, agus na chuir thu umhail nach 'eil an t-iasg idir cho math orra agus a b' àbhaist? Leis an luga shluigeadh iad, tha mi cinnteach, an earball as a déidh."

Rinn Eachann lachan gàire. "Chan 'eil mise 'gad àicheadh an sin—is mi nach 'eil," arsa esan.

Ghabh iad romhpa gu socair dòigheil, am beul anns gach naidheachd a bha a' dol, bho iasgach an t-samhraidh gu ceann-teagaisg na Sàbaid a chaidh, a' togail agus a' stialladh gu fiosaichail dian-bhriathrach, gun lochd gun thnú, feallsanaich a' bhaile air nach fhairt-licheadh cuspair no ceistean, air cho doirbh cruaidh iad. Thadhail iad anns an dol seachad air Iain, air Murchadh, agus air Seòras, an còrr de'n sgioba, ach cha robh iad sin a' feitheamh orra.

"Chan ann a' cadal na maidne a tha am fear a tha seo idir," arsa bean Mhurchaidh, le gàire 'na sùilean agus gun ghamhlas 'na cridhe, an uair a bha iadsan a mach an doras, ach bha Seumas cus ro-eòlach oirre air son facal freagairt a shadail oirre.

Ràinig iad an cladach, agus sin far an robh an othail le aon fhichead calpannach tapaidh gu dripeil a' trusadh biathaidh, oir anns an là ud bha suas ri deich eathraichean ri iasgach an lìn bhig a mach bhò'n Mhòl Mhòr. Is ann dhaibh féin a b' aithne turas a thoirt à cladach, agus anns an tilleadh bha Seumas agus Eachann gu h-àraid glé dhòigheil le an rath tràighe, le lugaichean cho math ris na fiasgain, agus bha iad a' sùileachadh toradh an saothrach a dh'aithghearr.

"A nis," arsa Seumas, oir b' esan an sgiobair, mus do dhealaich iad ri càch, "falbhaidh sinn an càil an là mar as àbhaist, a' coinneachadh an taigh Mhurchaidh. Na biodh duine na's fhaide na leth-uair an déidh sia, oir mar as luaithe air cuan sinn is ann as tràithe dhachaigh sinn, agus chan 'eil na speuran cus ro-gheallt-annach an diùgh fhéin."

Cha dubhairt duine aon "agus," oir bha

earbsa gu leòir acasan as mar mharaiche nach robh a shamhail air sàl, agus bha iad ro-eòlach air gun fhios a bhith aca cuin a bhiodh iad umhail.

An ath mhadainn—Diar-daoin—mus do bhlaiss an t-eun an t-uisge bha na h-iasgairan an uigheam, deas gu cathachadh ri dùil agus doineann, gu am beòshlainte a tharraing á doimhneachd na fairege. Bha Seumas agus Eachann le dà bhòtainn mhór gu an iosgaidean, geansaidh mór clòimhe nach fhaca riamb bùth, currag ola air an ceann, agus air an druim sgùil am fear le còta ola a' còmhach an lìn bhig, le ceum a' mhonaidh aca a steach an rathad gu taigh Mhurchaidh.

"Eachainn," arsa Seumas as a ghuth thàmh, "dé as coltas do'n aimsir, an saoil thu?"

"Och, uil, a dhùine?" fhreagair esan gu slaodach, "ma dh'inneas mi an fhirinn chan 'eil mi buileach cinnteach. Chan e coltas math a tha oirre idir, ach cha chreid mi gum bi càil de eagal dhuinn an diùgh, oir cha bhris i buileach cho luath sin—saoilidh mi, co-dhiùbh."

"Am faca tu," arsa Seumas a rithist, cha mhór ris fhéin, "cho faisg nochdaidh is a bha beanntan na Mór-thir an dé? Chitheadh tu gach sgùrr agus tulach dìreach ri do thaobh, cha mhór, agus bhiodh na bodaich ag ràdh nach bu mhath an comharradh. Na's mò, cha bu chaomh leam idir cho faisg agus a bha na rionnagan an raoir. An do mhothaich thu dhaibh?"

Cha dubhairt Eachann facal, ach dìreach an uair a bha iad gu bhith aig starran Mhurchaidh, mar gum b'ann gu e fhéin a bhrosnachadh agus Seumas a mhisneachadh, fhreagair e, "Och, chan eagal duinn an diùgh, oir chan ann cho luath ri sin a bhriseas i. Seall, tha mi a' faicinn soluis aig Seòras Fhionnlaigh, agus, ma tha esan a' meatraigeadh a mach, faodaidh tu a bhith cinnteach nach eagal duit, oir chan 'eil duine air an astar seo cho math a leughas na speuran ris a' bhodach acasan."

Le sin chaidh iad a steach far an robh an còrr de'n sgioba a' feitheamh orra.

Chuir iad na lunnan air mol, an dromannan ris an sgoth, agus cha b'fhada gun an robh i àir bhog aca. Chàirich iad innte gach sgùil, shocraich iad am balaist chlachan-muile air a h-ìochdar, agus, gun an là fhathast ceart air soilleseachadh, thug iad bruthadh do'n sgoth a mach á beul-mara, agus a nis chluinneadh tu far am agus dìosgail nan ràmh ann an co-sheirm ri clapadaich sluaisreach an-foiseil nan tonn, agus iad a' luasgadh nan clachan beaga muile am beul na fairege. Chuir ceithir eathraichean eile gu muir còmhla riutha, agus gum b'e an sealladh aoihbheach éibhinn iad a' togail a mach ris an sgeir mhóir. Càit am

faiceadh tu diùlnaich chnaphach làidir a shamhail nam fear ud, cho greamach 's an dòrn no cho treunta toinisgeil 'nan cridhe?

Shuidh Seumas gu socrach aig an stiùir, gu h-òrdail deas-bhriathrach a' riaghladh gach mara is aimsire a thigeadh. Thogadh an crann, agus an uair a fhuair iad a mach á luimead an fhearainn thog iad aodach rithe.

"Ceann eile rithe," chluinneadh tu aig Seumas an ceann gach greise agus cha b'fhada agus an robh an seòl air a làn thugadh le soirbh-eas bho'n iar-thuath, agus bha an sgoth gu sgiobalta glan a' deanamh air doimhneachd cuan na h-adaig le cop caoirgheal a' sraonadh 'na déidh.

A' streap ris na deich uairean bha iad air tòir an éisg. Leag iad an seòl agus an crann. Bha Seumas le a shùil ri fearann a' togail a mach nan comharraidhean—Muirneag, eaglais a' bhaile, agus Cuimhneachain a' Chogaidh, agus le "Leig air thoiseach i," "Beagan gu deas," "Gu cli a nis," dh'iomradh an sgoth do'n dearbh làrach a bha sùil fhiosrachail an iasgair a' miannachadh. Chaidh gach lìon beag a mach gu réidh easgaidh, gach druim a' dubadh fodha leis na dubhanan deagh bhiaidhte, guineach gu marbhadh na h-adaig, agus, an uair a bha am puta mu dheireadh a' seòladh gu beòthail tulgach ann an co-chluich aigh-earach ris na tonnan, shuidh na fir air ais gu socair air na tobhtaichean, a' fàsgradh an làmhan, deas a nis gu ceò a thoir a' piob, gu connspaid agus gu seanchas air son uair a thide no dhà, fhad agus a bhiodh an t-iasg a' gabhail a' bhiaithaidh.

Bha leth-uair a thide bho chuireadh na lìn. Bha na seòid air ruag a chur air acras agus air anfhainneachd le meanarann-beathachaidh a' chabair-sùidhe, aran coirce is eòrna, im is càis, agus bha bruidhinn agus dearbhadh a nis air bhonn. Bha Seumas 'na shlaod anns an deireadh, a phlob 'na phluic agus a làmh gu rag air an stiùir. Chlìsg e gu h-obann. Shuidh e an àrde. Mhothaich càch cho iomagaineach agus a bha a choltas agus stad am bruidhinn.

"Thugaibh seo, fheara," arsa ésan, agus anns na faicil thug càch sùil air an cùlaibh.

Eadar iad agus tir bha an cuan dorcha-uaine, glutach mar a bha e roimhe, ach gus an iar-thuath orra (bha a' ghaoth air tionndadh cuideachd) bha dorchedas air muir agus dùmh-lachd os cionn na mara a bha iargalta, mar stoirm air ghoil, nimheil an-ìochdmhor 'na coltas. Foidhe bha an fhaire greannach faolagach agus bha an stoirm gu cinnteach a' deanamh orra mar each air chuthach, a' mhuir a' dorchnachadh agus a' dol air mhìre mar a bha i a' strìch agus a' stampadh thairis oirre.

"Fuaradh froise," arsa Seumas, "tha seo chugainn. Deanaibh greim air na ràimh mus

goid an fhaire leatha iad. Air bhur faicill, fheara, agus chan eagal duinn. 'S math dh'fhaoidte gun gabh i seachad leis an taomadh seo fhéin."

Chaidh gach mac màthar an cabhaig. Rug iad air na ràimh, shuidh gach fear gu daingean air tobhta, gach féith is cuisle air bhiod ri aghaidh gàbhaidh obainn air bith, nan tigeadh e. Bha sùil Sheumais air a' chunnart a bha a' dlùthachadh orra le luathas mì-nàdurach. Mar a b'fhaigse a' tighinn e is ann a' b'oilteile an sealladh, oir bha an àrde sin a nis 'na aon sgleò dhùmhail dhuibh, agus bha an fhaire a' leum agus a' beucail foidhe mar gum biodh an doineann 'ga stialladh as a chéile.

"Chis an uamhas," arsa Eachainn fo a anail, agus Seumas a' cumail toiseach na sgotha ris a' chunnart.

"Tha i gu bhith againn," dh'euibh esan, "agus an Tì Math gu robh leinn!"

Bha gach duine sàmhach. Bhuail an stoirm iad. Thàinig uspag gaoithe a theab dìreach an sgoth a thogail á faire. Dhòirt tuil uisge, agus dh'èirich a' mhuir ann an tiota—rud a bha 'na uamhas. Bha an sgoth a' leumadaich, mar àrc ann an sruth aibhne 'na leum. Bha Seumas 'na mhàl a' cumail greim bàis air an stiùir, agus an doineann a nis a' bagradh a' spionadh as a làmh; nan ruitheadh i siud saor eadhon aon diog, cha bhiodh an còrr air an son, ach chuir esan sròn na sgotha ri stoirm ge b'oil leatha, air cho d'rainneach mì-cheasda agus gu robh an an-uair, agus chùm càch an greim air na tobhtaichean. Bha a' mhuir caoirgheal air ghoil timcheall orra, a' maoidheadh an slugadh. Bha na làdaich a' slapraich fo'n sgoth le fuaim uillebheist air tòir cobh-artaich, agus bha an onghail agus a' bheucail bhàsmhor sgrìosail r'a chluinntinn.

Chaidh a' cheud ionnsaigh seachad cha mhòr gun fhios, dìreach mar a thàinig i. Bha a' mhuir fhathast beagan bararach, ach is ann a bha feath oirre an taca ris na chaidh seachad. Cha dubhairt duine falac, ach bha an aon smuain 'nan cridhe.

"Togamaid na lìn," arsa Seumas riutha, "agus deanamaid air taigh. Tha am feath seo mì-nàdurach. Greasaibh oirbh, oir cha chaomh leam an coltas."

Bha dìreach an dàrna lìon aca a staigh an uair a bhuail an ath uspag iad. Bha fhathast greann gu n-ear-thuath a' bagradh ana-cneasachd mhì-choltach air chor-eigin, agus cha b'fhada gus an d'innis agus an do dhearbh i i fhéin. Shéid a' ghaoth gu sgreadh oillteil agus chaidh a' mhuir a rithist 'na corruich. Cha chreideadh tu gu robh a mach á ifrinn sealladh cho iargalta agus a rug air gach eathar a bha siud an uair ud.

(Air a leantainn.)

Books Worth Knowing

By the EDITOR

THE purpose of this series of articles is to draw attention to certain books in the field of Gaelic studies. From the larger number which might be included in the series a selection must be made, and it cannot be expected that one person's selection will please everybody. Many of our readers will already be familiar with all or most of the books here mentioned, but we know from letters we get from time to time that there are those who would welcome some guidance in this matter.

Books are the readiest means whereby the knowledge, experience, and wisdom of persons and peoples are preserved and made available for those who come after. The written or printed word is not, of course, the only method of perpetuating knowledge. Today we are becoming familiar with new methods, such as the recording machine and the film. Oral transmission and the strength of human memory were the means which had to suffice in the pre-literate stage of history of every race and nation, and we cannot but admire the remarkable powers of memory possessed by the seanachaidhs, even down to our own day. Nevertheless, it is undeniable that much of what used to be orally transmitted has passed completely into oblivion, and we owe a deep debt of gratitude to those who have preserved for us in writing some at least of our literary heritage.

This series will be concerned with books which we regard as treasure-stores of Gaelic tradition, lore, literature, and history, or as valuable contributions to the study of these subjects.

Our first idea was to entitle the series, *Books Worth Having* or even *Books Worth Buying*, but we discarded these alternatives for two reasons. Firstly, some at least of the books to be mentioned are somewhat expensive in price, and some are out-of-print and difficult to buy at any price. Secondly, it is much more important to *know* a book than to *own* it. A man may have a well-stocked library and still be ignorant of the contents of his books. A man may possess few books and yet by good use of libraries be a master of many books. The ideal, of course, is that, when one comes across a book such as those we shall mention, which are really inexhaustible store-houses of knowledge and inspiration, one should want both to own them and to know them.

I. "Carmina Gadelica"

The full title of this magnificent work is: "Carmina Gadelica—Ortha nan Gaidheal,

Urnan agus Ubagan, le solus air facla gnatha agus cleachdana a chaidh air chul cnuasaichte bho bhialachas feadh Gaidhealtachd na h-Alba, agus tionndaidhte bho Ghaidhlig gu Beurla, le Alastair MacGilleMhicheil." The English title is: "Hymns and Incantations, with Illustrative Notes on Words, Rites, and Customs, Dying and Obsolete; Orally Collected in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland and Translated into English by Alexander Carmichael."

This great work consists of five large volumes beautifully produced by Messrs. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh.

Alexander Carmichael was born in Lismore in 1832. He died in 1912 and was buried in his native isle. He spent his life as an Inland Revenue official, mostly in the Hebrides. From his early years he took a keen interest in Gaelic lore and, fortunately, early began to write systematically. He got to know the inner life of the Gaelic people to a remarkable degree, and collected and left in manuscript a vast mass of material, much of which, but for his assiduity, would undoubtedly have vanished into oblivion. He was interested in antiquities, as well as in the customs, traditions, literature, and language of the people. He contributed to the Transactions of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, the Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness, the old *Gaidheal*, *The Celtic Review*, *The Highlander*, and other journals. He assisted J. F. Campbell of Islay in his collecting of Gaelic folklore. He contributed a valuable chapter on Highland land customs to his friend Skene's "*Celtic Scotland*," and a fuller account to the Report of Lord Napier's Crofters' Commission.

Carmichael, of course, had the assistance of many people in making his collection of lore, notably that of the Rev. Father Allan Macdonald of Eriskay.

Carmichael's daughter, Ella Carmichael, who edited *The Celtic Review*, became the wife of Professor W. J. Watson, of the Celtic Chair in Edinburgh University, and their son, James Carmichael Watson, succeeded his father in that Chair.

The details of the five volumes of *Carmina Gadelica* are as follows:

Volumes I and II (355pp. and 383pp., £1 12.-). First (limited) edition in 1900; second edition (with slight revision by Ella Carmichael), 1918.

Volumes III (395pp., 18/-) published in 1940, and volume IV (367pp., 21/-) published in 1941. Both edited by James Carmichael Watson.

Volume V (403 pp., £1 16/-) published in 1954. Edited by Mr. Angus Matheson, Celtic Lecturer in Glasgow University.

All these volumes consist of the Gaelic text on the left-hand side and an exact English translation on the opposite page, with notes in English (in both Gaelic and English in the earlier volumes), and variant readings in Volumes III-V.

It is understood that at least one more volume is being prepared for publication from the Carmichael manuscripts.

Carmichael described the material in these volumes thus. "This work consists of old lore collected during the last forty-four years. It forms a small part of a large mass of oral literature written down from the recital of men and women throughout the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, from Arran to Caithness, from Perth to St. Kilda. The greater part of the collection has been made in the Western Isles."

"Gaelic oral literature," he writes, "was widely diffused, greatly abundant, and excellent in quality—in the opinion of scholars unsurpassed by anything similar in the ancient classics of Greece or Rome. Many causes contributed towards these attainments—thecrofting system, the social customs, and the evening 'ceilidh'."

"Gaelic oral literature," wrote Carmichael, "has been disappearing during the last three centuries. It is now becoming meagre in quantity, inferior in quality, and greatly isolated. Several causes have contributed towards this decadence—principally the Reformation, the Risings, the evictions, the Disruption, the schools, and the spirit of the age."

"Whatever be the value of this work, it is genuine folklore, taken down from the lips of men and women, no part being copied from books. It is the product of far-away thinking, come down on the long stream of time. Who the thinkers and whence the stream, who can tell? Some of the hymns may have been composed within the cloistered cells of Derry and Iona, and some of the incantations among the cromlechs of Stonehenge and the standing-stones of Callarnis. These poems were composed by the learned, but they have not come down through the learned, but through the unlearned—not through the lettered few, but through the unlettered many—through the

crofters and cottars, the herdsmen and shepherds, of the Highlands and Islands."

As the late Rev. Dr. Kenneth Macleod pointed out, Campbell of Islay described his own collection of Gaelic lore as "a museum of curious rubbish about to perish, given as it was gathered in the rough," but Alexander Carmichael "was essentially one of ourselves.

We never thought of him as one merely collecting and dissecting our beliefs in the more or less sacred name of science; we thought of him rather as one who saw with our eyes, who felt with our heart, and who reproduced our past because he loved it himself and was proud of it." If it be said that Carmichael idealised us, not merely our past but our present, he had "the prophet's eye," wrote Macleod, "to see beyond our faults and to find what of godly thought and sentiment lay behind." It was "the glow of sympathy" which made him a great collector and a great interpreter.

Volume II includes over 150 pages of valuable notes on Gaelic words and usages and customs. As Carmichael said, "With each succeeding generation, Gaelic speech becomes more limited and Gaelic phraseology more obscure."

Invocations and prayers, the seasons of the year, saints' days, the domestic round from the morning kindling to the evening smoozing of the peat fire, the manifold labours of communities bravely struggling for life's necessities on land and sea (reaping and milking, weaving and seafaring, and all the rest), charms to protect and to cure ailments, lore about birds and beasts, great and small, life's crises, birth and death, the uses of plants and herbs, and fragments of ancient song and ballad. These are among the riches of these five handsome volumes. But let each one explore this treasure-house for himself!

A melancholy interest attaches to "*Carmina Gadelica*." James Carmichael Watson, having in a short life greatly enriched Gaelic scholarship, including the publication of Volumes III and IV of his grandfather's great work, made the supreme sacrifice on war service in 1942 at the age of thirty-two. In his "Editor's Note" to Volume III he had looked forward to explaining in the fifth volume how he had dealt with the material, but added—by what now seems a strange premonition—"lest the opportunity should be withheld, I say now without reserve that I have made as little change as possible." How much we have lost by the untimely death of James Watson, but we are still fortunate in our Gaelic scholars, and the fifth volume, edited by Mr. Matheson, is in every way worthy of the preceding four, and we look forward to the sixth.

Gaelic Technical Dictionary

TEN years ago, we suggested in the pages of *An Gaidheal* a project for the compilation of a glossary of Gaelic words and phrases for the things and ideas of the modern world. The response was disappointing, but we were very grateful to receive from Mr. Charles Loch a large amount of material which he had been assembling for many years. In the hope that we might get more material from other sources, and also in the hope that we might have more leisure at some time to supplement and edit Mr. Loch's compilation, we have kept his material unused. Mr. Loch, in the course of his professional work as a mining engineer, spends long periods abroad, and we have not been in touch with him for some years. We hope he will approve the publication in these columns of some of the material he so generously placed at our disposal. In view of the current interest in Gaelic drama, we begin with Mr. Loch's vocabulary on that topic. It must be emphasised that Mr. Loch intended these lists only as a preliminary draft needing correction and amendment. We shall welcome constructive suggestions.—EDITOR.

The following extracts are from Mr. Loch's notes on his Technical Dictionary:

"This English-Gaelic Classified Dictionary of Technical Terms has been arranged on a system somewhat similar to the well-known German 'Duden.' Instead of words appearing in alphabetical order from A to Z, they have been classified under headings representing all branches of human knowledge.

"As few Gaels have any idea of what a wealth of technical terms have appeared in Gaelic literature, it is thought that this classified system will be of more use in showing together all available words of the subject in which the enquirer is interested at the time.

"We have been told by our Scottish Quislings that the Gaelic language could make no progress, as there were no scientific or technical terms. The Compiler has found almost more than he could conveniently deal with.

"Some fifty years ago there were no technical terms in use for Aviation or Radio. This did not stop the invention and production of Aeroplanes and Wireless Sets. The demand produces the supply, and it will be so with Gaelic.

"There is no end to the number of Technical Words in use for any specialised trade or industry, most of them quite unknown to the general public. It is hoped that the words given here will be in the normal vocabulary of every educated Gael.

"The Compiler considers this dictionary of the utmost importance to the future progress of the Gaelic language. These words are not of the Compiler's making. He has collected them from all available sources, 99 per cent. of them have occurred in print in Gaelic literature. They are good Gaelic words and have been used by educated men.

"It will be noticed that we are well supplied with Gaelic terms for boat-building, agriculture, and weaving. We are, on the other hand, badly off—at present—for Gaelic words in connection with branches of modern science, such as radio. It is hoped that this will be remedied.

"During the fifty years from the end of the 19th century to the middle of the 20th—which might be called the Golden Age of Modern Gaelic Literature—the review *Guth na Bliadhna*, the newspapers, *MacTalla* and *Alba*, and the magazines, *An Gaidheal* and *An Sgeulaiche*, were all discussing contemporary problems, and numbers of technical terms were in use. This is sometimes forgotten nowadays, and new words are being invented for which those a generation ago were well known but have temporarily gone out of use."

The words in this Technical Dictionary were compiled from, among other sources, Dwelly's Gaelic Dictionary, MacIennan's Gaelic Dictionary, and the publications mentioned above. (*m.* = masculine. *f.* = feminine. *pl.* = plural. *adj.* = adjective.)

The Theatre

Theatre or Playhouse ..	tigh-cluiche, tigh-cleasachd, amharclann, tigh-àisidigheachd.
Theatre, National ..	theatre nàiseanta.
Box	bocsa (<i>m.</i>).
Curtain	chuirtein (<i>f.</i>), brat-sgàile (<i>m.</i>).
Gallery	aradh (<i>m.</i>) lobhta (<i>f.</i>), faradh (<i>m.</i>), gail-eiridh.
Row (of seats)	sreàd (<i>m.</i>), sreath (<i>f.</i>).
Scenery	dealbh-choltais, brat-seallaich.
Cloakroom	Seòmar nan cleòc-aichean.
Actor or Player ..	fear-cluiche (<i>m.</i>), dealbh - chluicheadair (<i>m.</i>), fear-gnìomha (<i>m.</i>), fear-arlataidh (<i>m.</i>), cleasaiche (<i>m.</i>), urlatach (<i>m.</i>), gille-cleas (<i>m.</i>).

Actress .. ..	.. bana-chleasaiche (<i>f.</i>).
Actors .. ..	.. luchd-chluiche.
Actors, Company of	.. buidheann-chluiche.
Chorus .. ..	.. co-sheirm (<i>f.</i>), luinn-eag (<i>f.</i>).
Chorus, Man of the	.. fear-fuinn (<i>m.</i>).
Harlequin .. ..	.. àmhuilteach (<i>m.</i>), gealtan (<i>m.</i>).
Tragedian .. ..	.. cleasaiche bròn-chluich, slaonasair (<i>m.</i>).
Wardrobe keeper	.. sgaballach (<i>m.</i>).
Mask .. ..	.. cidhis (<i>m.</i>), sgàil-bréige (<i>f.</i>).
Spangle(s) .. ..	.. spaigan (<i>pl.</i>), puicne-sgreabhal.
Spangled .. ..	.. reannagach.
Wig .. ..	.. piorbhuic (<i>f.</i>), faragruag, piorrabhuig (<i>f.</i>).
Applaud, To .. ..	.. basgair, basgaird.
Applaud by clapping	.. bas-bhuail.
Applause .. ..	.. basgairreadh (<i>m.</i>), basgaire (<i>f.</i>).
Applause, Shout of	.. ceud-luaidh (<i>m.</i>).
Clapping of hands	.. basgair (<i>f.</i>), basghair (<i>f.</i>), làmh-chomhart (<i>m.</i>).
Entertainment Tax	.. gearr-suim (<i>f.</i>), inn-treas (<i>m.</i>).

The Drama

Drama .. ..	.. dan-chluiche, dràma (<i>m.</i>), dràmuidheachd.
Drama, Gaelic	.. dràma Gàidhlig.
Drama, National	.. dàn-chluiche cinneachail Gàidhlig.
Dramatic Festival	.. Féill nan Dealbh-chluichean.
Entertainment or Performance	.. coimhliadh, gnìomh (<i>m.</i>), deánadas (<i>m.</i>), deananaich, féisd (<i>f.</i>), féisdear (<i>m.</i>), fuirean (<i>m.</i>), seis (<i>m.</i>), gnìomhachadh.
Play .. ..	.. cluiche (<i>m.</i>), dealbh-chluiche (<i>f.</i>), cleasachd (<i>f.</i>), cluiche-àbhachd, sgearadh (<i>m.</i>), dealbh-chluich àbhachdach.
Burlesque .. ..	.. sgeigreachd (<i>f.</i>), fochaid, cainnt bhalls-gach (<i>f.</i>), balls-gach (<i>adj.</i>), baòth-dhràma.
Comedy .. ..	.. cluich-àbhachd (<i>m.</i>).
Dialogue .. ..	.. co-labhairt (<i>f.</i>), aig-ealladh (<i>m.</i>), còmh-radh-dithis (<i>m.</i>).

Epilogue .. ..	.. crìoch-chluiche (<i>f.</i>), òraid-crich cluiche.
Pantomime .. ..	.. baòth-chleasachd (<i>f.</i>), cleasachail (<i>adj.</i>).
Tableau .. ..	.. dealbh-shiubhal (<i>m.</i>).
Tragedy .. ..	.. bròn-chluich (<i>m.</i>), slaonasadh (<i>m.</i>).

The Cinema

Pictures .. ..	.. na dealbhan (<i>m. pl.</i>).
Picture-house .. ..	.. tigh-dhealbh (<i>m.</i>), dealbh-thigh, tighnan-dealbhan.
Film .. ..	.. sgrath (<i>f.</i>), sgannan, sgàilean, seicean (<i>m.</i>), sgann (<i>f.</i>), sreathan (<i>m.</i>), sreathan (<i>m.</i>), lann (<i>f.</i>), nasg (<i>m.</i>).
Film Company	.. cuideachd-sgannainn.

Radio or Wireless

Wireless .. ..	.. fritheud (<i>m.</i>), (frith-theud), cagar-adhair (<i>m.</i>), dìth-dhealg, guthan-dì-dhealgach, radio, raidio, facal-dealachaidh, sanas-adhair (<i>m.</i>).
B.B.C. .. ..	.. Buidheann Bhreantannach a' Chraoibhsgaoilidh. Cuid-eachd - Chraolaidh Bhreantannach (<i>f.</i>).
Broadcasting or transmitting station	.. ionad - craobh - sgaoilidh, ionad lionsgaraidh, lionsgaraidh.
Burghead Broadcasting Station	.. Aite-craobh-sgaoilaidh Ceann-Bhuirgh.
Receiving station	.. ionad-gabhail, ionad-glacaidh (<i>m.</i>).
Aerial .. ..	.. slat-adhair (<i>f.</i>), aerial (<i>f.</i>).
Aerial and wire	.. slat-adhair agus teud.
Aerial wire (of copper)	.. sreang-copair (<i>f.</i>), teud-copair (<i>f.</i>).
Amplifier .. ..	.. leudachair (<i>m.</i>).
Coherer .. ..	.. inneal-teannachaidh.
Microphone .. ..	.. adharc-labhairt (<i>f.</i>), innleachd thubais-dich, mion-guthan.
Oscillator .. ..	.. riab-steallag.
Radio-set .. ..	.. bocsa-raidio (<i>m.</i>), beart an fhrith-euid.
Valve .. ..	.. lantair (<i>m.</i>), lann-tear (<i>m.</i>).

Aerial adharail (*adj.*), adhartha (*adj.*), iar-mailteach (*adj.*).

Air Waves tonnan adhair, cearc-allan crith (*m.pl.*), stuaghannan crith (*f.pl.*).

Amplification spleadhaireachd (*f.*).

Amplify, To spleadhaich.

Amplitude leòrachd (*f.*).

Circuit inneal-stiùraidh.

Wave length tonnan de'n aon fhad, fad tuinne (*f.*).

Announcer fear-ainmeachaidh(*m.*), fear-iomraidh (*m.*).

Broadcast by air a chraobh-sgaoil-eadh le.

Delivered over the air air a liùbhradh air an adhar.

By Wireless le fios fritheuda.

On the Radio air an fhritheud, air an radio.

Recorded by air a chur air clàr le.

Switch on cuir car de thnap.

Turn or switch off the machine gearr dheth an t-inneal.

Brains Trust urras-breithneachaidh.

Television

Television sealladh-dealain.

Notes and Comments

Mr. John M. Bannerman presided at a Gaelic and English concert held in Barrfields Pavilion, **Largs**, on 7th April, in aid of the **National Mod Fund**, when about 600 people attended, including several from Glasgow. An enjoyable programme was sustained by Evelyn Campbell, Moira Leitch, Kenneth Macrae, Donald Macvicar, Mary B. Maclean, the Garnock Choral Society, and the Cairngorm Scottish Dance Band. Jinty Maclean was Accompianist. The Chairman was introduced by Mr. Alasdair Brown, President of Largs branch, and Mr. R. H. Barnett, Vice-President, moved the votes of thanks.

Other efforts on behalf of the Mod Fund include a ceilidh in Glasgow by the Tíree Association, with artistes drawn from Greenock and Port-Glasgow, a concert in Ayr by the Ayr Junior Gaelic Choir (conducted by Mr. Donald MacIsaac), and a "coffee morning" in Skelmorlie and in the Castle Hotel, Largs.

On 24th April a joint-venture by the Glasgow Gaelic Society and the Glasgow (Central) branch of An Comunn, in aid of the National Mod Fund, took the form of "A Matter of Opinion." The Chairman was Rev. John Mackay, and the panel consisted of Messrs. Calum Robertson, Donald Grant, Farquhar Macrae, John A. Macdonald, and Rev. T. M. Murchison.

At the final ceilidh of the winter session of the **Taynuilt branch**, the President, Rev. Angus Macleod, was fear-an-tighe. Piper K. Lawrie, Oban, was presented with a cromag in appreciation of his services to the branch. The artistes were: Piper Lawrie, Sheena Campbell, Miss M. Fraser, Anna Macdougall, Mr. D. Fletcher, James Burnett, Mrs. S. Macdougall, Mr. D. Morrison, Mr. R. Gillies, Mr. D. Jackson, Miss Beaton, Andrew and Jane Macintyre, Mr. D. Macdonald.

The branch held a variety concert on 20th April, when the artistes were Piper Lawrie, Aunice Gillies (Mod Gold Medallist), Ewan Lawrie, Donald Fletcher, Niall Maclean, Miss M. Kidd (accompanist), and Calum Ross and his band. The Aldersyde Players presented Joe Corrie's one-act play, "First o' the Year."

At the **Dingwall branch's** final ceilidh of the season Mr. Hume D. Robertson was fear-an-tighe, and the programme was sustained by Pipe-Major Addison Watson, Mrs. W. Mackenzie, Mrs. Campbell,

Messrs. D. Maclean, B. Mackintosh, W. Macdonald, B. Campbell, and Donald Macleod.

At a ceilidh held in the Maclaren Hall, **Killin**, Dr. D. MacColl was fear-an-tighe, and the programme was sustained by the Junior Choir (Mr. G. Clavey, conductor), Mrs. Kennedy, Miss I. Allan, Miss L. Stilt, Mr. W. Allan, Mr. G. Clavey, Master D. Allan, Maimie Hay, Messrs. Clark (Glenogle), Mr. W. Lambie, and Mrs. Christie, and the Junior girls gave a display of Highland dancing.

At a ceilidh held by **Kirkcaldy Gaelic Society** there was a display of Scottish country dancing, music on the accordeon, piano, bag-pipes, and violin, as well as Gaelic and Scots songs.

The **Celtic Union**, Edinburgh, has issued an appeal for funds for the care and preservation of the Duncan Ban MacIntyre Memorial Cairn at Dalmailly. Donations may be sent to the Duncan Ban MacIntyre Fund, c/o Edinburgh Savings Bank, 28 Hanover Street, Edinburgh.

At a concert in the Aros Hall, **Tobermory**, the following choirs combined to provide a programme of unusual interest and quality—Kilninian and Kilmore (conductor, Mrs. Kenneth Mackenzie, Calgary), Salen (conductor, Miss Turner), and Tobermory (conductor, Mrs. A. M. Mackenzie). The soloist was Miss Helen T. Macmillan, Glasgow. Sir Charles F. Maclean of Duart presided.

The Arts Council sponsored a concert of bagpipe music and Gaelic songs held in **Portree**. Those taking part included Seumas Macneill and John Macfadyen, of the College of Piping, Angus Macleod (Mod Gold Medallist), and Marjory Lochhead. The Chairman was Colonel Jock Macdonald, Viewfield.

The last ceilidh of the session of the **Balmacara Branch** attracted a large audience. Mr. Sam Maclean, headmaster of Plockton School, was fear-an-tighe.

Mr. Duncan M. Mackenzie, president of the **Edinburgh branch** of An Comunn, presided at a ceilidh in aid of the Local Mod Fund. A varied and greatly appreciated programme was presented.

Over a hundred people attended a ceilidh in the Stag's Head Hotel, Golspie, when Saily Macpherson, on behalf of the **Golspie branch**, presented Mr. D. J. Maclean, Northern Organiser of An Comunn, with a coffee percolator, on the occasion of his recent marriage.

At a ceilidh and dance held in the Ardingrean Hall, **Lochbroom**, the chairman was Mr. T. Campbell, Ullapool. The programme included Gaelic songs and choruses, music on the bagpipes, violin, accordion, and drums, and dancing. The sum of £17 5/- was realised for the funds of the Wester Ross Provincial Mod, to be held at Ullapool on 11th May.

At the closing ceilidh of the **Bowmore branch** (Mr. Tom Crawford, President), the programme was sustained by Greenock Gaelic Choir, with solos by members of the Choir. Mr. Donald MacAllister, conductor of the Greenock Choir, composed the programme, and Mr. John Forrest, Vice-President of the branch, moved the votes of thanks.

The joint annual gathering has been held in Hamilton Town Hall of the **Hamilton, Motherwell and Wishaw Highlanders' Associations**. Dr. A. A. Wilson, President of the Hamilton Association, introduced the Chairman, Provost Mrs. Mary Ewart of Hamilton. The programme was sustained by Pipe-Majors Donald and John Maclean, four Mod Gold Medalists (Mary C. MacNiven, Anne Gillies, Donald MacVicar, and Angus Macleod), John Tainsh and Norma Goldie, Pipe-Major James Brown, Piper Kenneth Waller, and James K. Borland (accompanist), and there was Highland dancing by the Bruce Kilties. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. J. Park, president of the Motherwell and District Association. The proceeds were in aid of the National Mod Fund.

Course in Gaelic Drama

FOLLOWING upon the conference held at Inverness early in 1955 and resulting negotiations, the Scottish Community Drama Association and the Glasgow Education Authority, with the co-operation of An Comunn Gaidhealach, organised an eight-week course for Gaelic drama producers. The course began on 10th April and the response is regarded as encouraging. It is hoped that as a result of this course several new Gaelic drama groups will be formed next winter and that, in the near future, it may be possible to organise an all-Gaelic drama festival.

High hopes are held in certain quarters that the new Gaelic drama movement will act as "a vitalising force in a fading language."

They Can't Read Gaelic!

At a meeting of Stornoway Town Council recently, according to a press report, none of those present would undertake the task of reading a Gaelic inscription typed on a piece of paper. They are Gaelic speakers. Can't they read their native language?

Conference of Gaelic-Speaking Teachers

3rd-6th July, 1956

THE decision of the Glasgow Provincial Committee for the Training of Teachers to hold a residential conference of Gaelic-speaking teachers at Jordanhill College, Glasgow, during the first week of July is welcome and timely. The need to stimulate interest in the Gaelic language has been felt in many quarters for some time, and any activity such as this, which is designed to help the language at its present critical stage, deserves the support of all who can give this encouragement.

The main purpose of the conference is to provide an opportunity for those who teach Gaelic as a language, or who use Gaelic as a medium of instruction, to meet and discuss their common problems. The conference is open also to all Gaelic-speaking teachers, whether or not they are employed in Gaelic-speaking areas or engaged in teaching and using the language.

An interesting programme of talks and discussions has been arranged, covering not only the classroom difficulties which arise in primary and secondary schools and the Gaelic texts available, but also the problem of bilingualism in general. Gaelic in the Universities and Training Centres will also be discussed. Speakers are coming from Wales and Eire to tell of the problems which have been encountered in their own countries in the effort to preserve the native language and to indicate how these problems are being met.

The speakers and lecturers will include: Mr. H. P. Wood (Director of Studies, Jordanhill College), Dr. J. A. Maclean (Director of Education, Inverness-shire), Mr. John Maclean (Rector, Oban High School), Miss C. J. Davies, H.M.I.S. (Wales), Mr. Ronald Macleod, H.M.I.S., Mr. A. L. Urquhart (Nicolson Institute, Stornoway), Mr. J. A. Macdonald (Bellahouston Academy, Glasgow), Mr. Derick S. Thomson (Glasgow University), and a representative of the Eire Ministry of Education.

There is no fee for the course, but the cost of accommodation and meals will be £3. For members who choose to reside with friends meals will be available in the College Refectory. Teachers wishing further information should apply to the Director of Studies, Jordanhill College, Glasgow, W.3., from whom forms of application are obtainable. These forms should be returned not later than 31st May, 1956.

Mr. Donald MacVicar

There will be general regret among the Gaels of Glasgow, that Mr. Donald MacVicar is relinquishing his appointment as manager of the Highlanders' Institute. He is to become manager of a large hotel in Edinburgh.

Mr. MacVicar, known throughout the country as a Mod Gold Medallist who is ever ready to give of his best on the concert platform or in the homelier ceilidh, has proved an efficient and popular manager of the Institute, and, while we regret the loss his going east causes in Glasgow, we send with him our most cordial good wishes.

The Gaelic Camps

Two all-Gaelic Camps are being held this year at Cnoc nan Ros, Tain, the headquarters of Comunn na h-Oigridh.

The first is for boys and girls who are fluent Gaelic speakers and will be held from 30th June to 12th July. It is hoped that many will attend.

The second is for learners of Gaelic, and will run from 18th July to 1st August.

Treasurer's Notes

National Mod — Largs, 1956.

Received at Largs—	
Previously acknowledged	£1,099 17 10
Received at Headquarters—	
Previously acknowledged	28 16 7
Gaelic Society of Glasgow	5 — —
Ceilidh nan Gaidheal, Glasgow	5 — —
Gleneil Branch	7 — —
Miss Mary A. Murchison, Glasgow	10 — —
Mrs. A. M. Hoyle, Manchester	4 — —
Noel Stevenson, Esq., Glasgow	1 — —
W. M. Alexander, Esq., Aberdeen	1 — —
Professor A. H. Campbell, Edinburgh	1 1 —
Gen. Sir P. Christison, Melrose	1 1 —
D. Stewart MacLagan, Esq., Glasgow	1 1 —
Miss C. R. Wanklyn, Cambridge	1 1 —
Miss Anita T. Selfridge, Glasgow	5 — —
Sir David Russell, Markinch	1 — —
D. J. Fwing Hunter, Esq., Helensburgh	1 1 —
Dr. D. Ferguson, Connel	1 1 —
Comunn Tir nan Bann, Duneideann	5 — —
John C. Dryden, Esq., Wallington, England	1 — —
Miss Rosemary B. Purvis, Paris	2 — —
Miss M. M. Whigham, Edinburgh	1 1 —
Mrs. J. J. McAlpine, Stirling	1 — —
Hector MacPhail, Esq., Rutherglen	10 — —
Miss M. A. MacKinnon, Greenock	10 — —
Thomas Hope, Esq., Moffat	2 — —
Miss J. F. MacKinnon, Edinburgh	1 1 —
Mrs. Boyle, Fairlie	2 2 —
Miss B. Mackay, Lairg	15 — —
Mull and Iona Association	3 — —
M. McKerrow, Esq., Lauder	10 — —

Mrs. A. M. Stewart and Miss Anna Stewart, Balfron	5 — —
Rev. B. B. and Mrs. Blackwood, Campbelltown	10 6 —
D. Scott, Esq., London	7 6 —
R. Howlett, Esq., Inverness	5 — —
Dugald MacLeod, Esq., Kinlochleven	10 — —
Inverness Branch	10 — —
Miss Isa Macdonald, Balerno	10 — —
Andrew Torrance, Esq., Johnstone	5 — —
Glasgow High School Gaelic Class Ceilidh	5 5 —
Salen Branch	5 — —
Mrs. M. C. de Glehn, Edinburgh	1 10 —
D. B. Cook, Esq., Blanehead	10 — —

£1,210 16 5

CENTRAL FUND.

Previously acknowledged, as at 31st March, 1956	£157 10 —
Largs Branch	1 1 —
Very Rev. Dr. Alex. Macdonald, D.D., Glasgow	1 — —
Miss K. Macaskill, Pitlochry	10 — —
Inverness Branch	5 — —
Miss Jean B. Stewart, Blairgowrie	10 — —
Dunoon Branch	7 10 —

£15 11 —

MAGAZINE FUND.

Previously acknowledged, as at 31st March, 1956	£39 16 6
Miss Jean B. Stewart, Blairgowrie	10 — —

AN COMUNN GAIDHEALACH.

Life Members.

On Roll at 30th April, 1955	895
Additions to Roll, during eleven months, <i>less</i> deceased	37
On Roll at 31st March, 1956	932

Ordinary Members.

On Roll at 30th April, 1955	2,527
Additions to Roll, during eleven months, <i>less</i> transferred to Life, deceased, resigned and lapsed	123
On Roll at 31st March, 1956	2,650

Junior Members.

On Roll at 30th April, 1955	229
Additions to Roll, during eleven months, <i>less</i> transferred to Ordinary, resigned and lapsed	21
On Roll at 31st March, 1956	250

Affiliated Societies.

On Roll at 30th April, 1955	65
Additions to Roll, during eleven months, <i>less</i> lapsed	—
On Roll at 31st March, 1956	65

St. Columba Gaelic Church Choir became affiliated to An Comunn and the Sutherland Association, Edinburgh, was reinstated.



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar VIII

AN CEITEIN, 1956

Aireamh 5

Iain Garbh, Mac na Bantraich

AIG an ám a bha Mac 'Ic Ailein, triath Uibhist, a' fuireach ann an Ormaclait, agus a bha MacNèill mór-mhaor Bharraidh a' còmhnaidh anns an taigh-mhór an Eòlagaraidh bha a h-uile bliadhna aig Làimh Mhàrtainn crodh dubh a' falbh as na h-eileanan gu ruige féill mhór na h-Eaglaise Brice.

A nis bha seann ghunna mòr ann am meadhan dail na féille agus an uair a bha an reic agus an ceannach seachad agus a bha daoine a' deanamh deas air son nan cluichean a b' àbhaist a bhith aca, thigeadh dròbhair mór Sasannach agus dh'fhiadhaicheadh e duine sam bith a bha anns an làthair a thighinn agus a neart fheuchainn leis a' ghunna a thogail. Mur tigeadh duine, thogadh e fhéin e gu h-àrd os cionn a chinn.

Bha seo a' tachairt a h-uile bliadhna, agus is e a bha a' cur tàmailt air na Gaidheil nach robh treun-fhear aca a sheasadh ris an t-Sasannach agus a chuireadh suarach e. Is e, ma tà, a bhòidich MacNèill agus Mac 'Ic Ailein treun-fhear fhaighinn a dheanadh a' ghnòthaich air an t-Sasannach.

Ach cha robh sin cho furasda dhaibh. Shìubhail MacNèill Barraidh agus na h-eileanan deas air Barraidh, ach cha d'fhuair e an aon duine anns an robh an spionnadh a bha riatanach.

A' dol do Uibhist chuidich e Mac 'Ic Ailein air an turus cheudna ach cha deach dhaibh na's fheàrr an sin, ged a shìubhail iad bhò' n Cheann a Tuath gu Caolas Bharraidh.

Is ann air an rathad dhachaigh tarsaing na fadhach a tha eadar an Ceann a Tuath agus Beinn-a-bhaoghla, fo champar le mealladh-dùil, a mhothaich iad do chàraid, cas-ruisgte air an tràigh mhaorach. Is e a bha ann boireanach agus cnapach mór de bhalach ruadh còmhla rithe.

Chuir e iongnadh air na fir iad a bhith a muigh leis a leithid de dhroch shìde, agus chaidh iad suas far an robh iad.

Chuir Mac 'Ic Ailein ceistean orra ach cha robh MacNèill ag ràdh guth. Fhuair iad a mach gur e bantrach bhochd a bha innte a chuireadh a mach á taigh is á fearann le maor an-ìochdmhor, agus nach robh tighinn-beò aice

fhéin agus a h-aona mhac ach am maorach a thrusadh iad air tràigh no an t-iasg a ghilcadh iad air carraig.

Is ann an uair sin a thuirt MacNèill, "Cho fad 's gum bi dual ruigear a cheann, agus mur 'eil mise air mo mhealladh tha an duine a tha sinn a' sìreadh againn an seo."

Is ann an uair sin a bheachdaich Mac 'Ic Ailein garbhachd a' ghille ruaidh, agus cha robh teagamh aige nach dubhairt MacNèill fìor.

Co-dhiùbh, air son an sgeul a dheanadh goirid, thugadh a' bhantrach agus an gille do Ormaclait agus rinneadh gach nì air an son an sin.

Chà robh deuchainn sam bith a thugadh do Iain Garbh (oir b'e siud ainm an òganaich) a dh'fheuchadh a neart nach d'rinn e agus mu dheireadh gun tug iad dha an deuchainn a bha aig na ceatharnaich o shean—casan daimh, an déidh fheannadh, a bhristeadh aig an alt le làmhna loma. Cha robh strì aige sin a dheanamh agus cha robh an uair sin ach a bhith a' feitheamh agus an tigeadh Làimh Martainn agus Féill na h-Eaglaise Brice.

Chan 'eil feum innse anns an sgeulachd seo mu'n turus fhada a bha aca a' dol le crodh dubh air an aiseag á Loch Eibhneart agus an Eilean Sgitheanach, agus an déidh an saodachadh tarsaing air an eilean fhada sin cha b'e aiseag ach snàmh dhaibh, ceann ri earball, a null air a' chaolas aig Caol Reithe gu Glinn-Eilge.

Bho sin rachadh iad troimh bhealaichean is làirigean, a' leantail nan seann rathaidean chruidh, gus mu dheireadh an ceann trì seachd-ainean no barrachd bha iad anns an Eaglais Bhrìc. A thaobh is gu robh an crodh r'am feurachadh cha deanadh iad na's mò de astar na deich mìle anns an là.

Co-dhiùbh, a' bhliadhna a bha seo, bha Iain Garbh a' dròbhaireachd a' chruidh, agus ràinig e an Eaglais Bhrìc là no dhà roimh an fhéill. Bha na tighearnan a' feitheamh an sin, agus is ann an uair sin fhéin a dh'inseadh do Iain gu robh aige-san ri dùbhlán an t-Sasannaich a choinneachadh.

Thugadh e do'n dail air son an gunna fheuchainn, agus, cinnteach 'gu leòir, bha an gunna mòr air a thogail aige os cionn a chinn gun strì.

Creideadh sibhse gu robh aoibhneas air na tigheanan an uair a chunnaic iad sin, ach cha b' e sin do Iain. Mar a bu mhò a smaointich e gum feumadh e a bhith air beulaibh an t-sluaigh mhòir 'na ònrachd, is ann as mò a ghabh e eagal gun bu dheireadh nach robh ann dha ach an aon rud—teicheadh!

An oidhche ud chuala ciobairean fada suas air an t-sliabh gluasad air taobh a muigh a' bhothainn aca. Sheall iad agus cò a bha an sin ach an gille bochd is e air seachran, agus e air a stiùradh leis an t-solus aca!

Fhuair iad bhuaithe a naidheachd agus is e an rud a bu mhò a chuir de iongnadh orra an t-astar a rinn an gille anns an ùine o dh'fhàg e an Eaglais Bhreac. An déidh dhaibh biadh a thoirt dha, thubhairt fear de na ciobairean ri Iain:

'Bhiodh tu faoin nan saoilleadh tu gun rachadh agad air do rathad a dheanamh leat fhéin troimh na garbhlaichean a tha romhad. Is e an rud a nì thu—tillidh tu am màireach agus thèid mise còmhla riut. Chuala mise mu'n bhuanastair Shasannach agus b'fhìor thoigh leam Gaidheal fhàicinn a bha cho math ris. Ach a bharrachd air an sin, gheibh sinn dòigh leis an dean thu an gnothach air. Gheibh sinn eich a bheir air ais sinn—pàidhidh Mac 'Ic Ailein mi.'

Agus is ann mar sin a thachair.

A nis bha Mac 'Ic Ailein agus MacNèill fad na h-ùine seo fo iomagain agus fo bhriseadh-dùil mu'n ghille. An déidh dhaibh am baile uile a shiubhal cha d'fhuair iad sgeul air a' ghille ruadh, agus mu dheireadh thuig iad glé mhath gun do chaill Iain a mhiseachd agus gur e teicheadh a rinn e.

Thàinig là na féille. Reiceadh an crodh ris na ceannaichean, agus thàinig an t-àm na cluichean tòiseachadh. Ach ma thàinig, siud uair eile an dròbhair mòr a' seasamh aig a' gunna agus mar bu ghnàth a' toirt dùbhlain seachad do dhuine beò a neart fheuchainn ris. Agus mar bu ghnàth cuideachd cha tàinig duine am follais a dheanadh a leithid. Mu dheireadh ghlac an dròbhair an gunna eadar a spàgan mòra a' dol 'ga thogail, ach ri mòr-iongnadh an t-sluaigh cha deach aige uimhear agus an gunna a ghluasad!

'Cò a rinn an cleas seo?' dh'eubh e le feirg. 'Tha an gunna lionte le clachan!'

Ach is ann bu mhò a bha a fhearg an uair a chuala e a' ghàire a thàinig o'n luchd-amhairc.

Is ann an uair sin a chualas guth ag ràdh, 'Stad ort, a dh-ròbhair, agus faic fear an seo, ged nach 'eil ann ach am balach, anns a bheil sgoinn nach 'eil annada!''

Cò bha an seo ach an ciobair, agus cha luaithe a thàinig na faclan as a bheil na chualas cuideachd Mac 'Ic Ailein ag eubhach le gàird-eachas, 'Siuthad, Iain, a laochain, leig fhaicinn dha smior agus spionnadh Chloinn Dòmhnail!'

Chaidh Iain Garbh suas gu ciùin, agus, a' togail a' ghunna gu h-àrd seachad air a ghualainn, bhual e sìos e, 'ga thiodhlaicheadh gu h-ìomlan anns an talamh.

Agus tha an gunna an sin fhathast, maith dh'fhaoidte, ma thogras duine a dhol g'a chladhach!

(Bho Sgoil Bhrèibhig am Barraidh.)

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BHA còmhlan fhear anns an taigh-òsda latha, agus thòisich co-fharpais eatorra feuch cò a dh'inneadh an ròlaist a bu duilghe chreidsinn.

Thòisich iad an sin agus is e seo an ròlaist a ghléidh.

'Bha mi a' cluich na pioba aig ceann an taighe là roimhe,' thuir fhear, 'agus dh'iarr mo mhac beag cead orm e fhéin port a chur oirre. Thuir mi ris gu robh e ro-bheag fhathast agus nach rachadh aige air a séideadh. Ach bha am balach cho mì-thoilichte is gum b'fheadar dhomh a sineadh dha. Shéid e suas i gun strì, ach cha luaithe a bha a' mhàla làn agus a thòisich e air port na siud suas e fhéin 's a' phìob a' dìreadh do'n speur. Leum mi a staigh air son a' ghunna agus leis a' cheud urcham chuir mi toll anns a' mhàla. A nuas chugam thàinig e gu socair, agus, creidibh mise, fheara, cha do sguir e de chluich fhad 's a bha e shuas!'

(Bho Sgoil Bhrèibhig am Barraidh.)

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AN T-OG-MHIOS, 1956

Aireamh 6

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Le ALASDAIR IAIN MACASGAILL

Choisinn an sgeul seo a' cheud duais—Duais Comunn Gàidhlig Ghlaschu—aig a' Mhòd Nàiseanta 1953.

(Air a leantainn)

"Dhachaigh," arsa cuid-eigin gun fhios da, an dearbh smuain a bha aithnichte an sùilean gach duine aca.

"Da-riribh," dh'eubh Seumas os cionn an onfhais. "Fàgaidh sinn na lin eile air chùil. Ma gheibh sinn iad a rithist, is math; ach ma gheibh sinn sinn fhéin as, faodaidh sinn a bhith coma. Tuglaibh i. A Mhurchaidh, suas an crann, agus feuch ceann no dha aodaich rithe. A mach á seo sinn!"

Bha na putan timcheall a' dannsadh air na tonnan mar ghrioglachan reothadh geamhraidh. Bha an cuan a' sior éirigh, agus na tonnan cho árd agus nach mór nach robh iad a' toirt bhuaipa tìre.

"Tha càch a' teicheadh cuideachd," arsa Seumas. "Tha dà sheòl no trì deas oirnn."

Cha b'ann roimh an mhithich. Ged a bha an sgoth fo sheòl, cha deanadh i cus sgoltaidh air an t-seòrsa fairge ud, suas is sios mar a bha i. Chanadh tu an uair a rachadh i fodha nach éireadh i an àrde am feasda. Suas, sios; suas, sios! Bha e cruaidh air an sgioba an greim a chumail. Is ann ag éirigh a bha a' ghaoth, agus gun fhaireachdainn bhuail uspag ro-mhór iad a theab an seòl a shracadh air falbh.

"A steach ceann, a Mhurchaidh," ghlaodh

Seumas á sgòrnan tioram, agus a dh'aithghearr, "Fear eile, fear eile!"

Thug an sgoth plùm 'na toiseach agus bha dùil nach éireadh i. Leagadh an seòl gu h-ìomlan mus déidheadh an sgoth air a ceann dìreach do'n ghrunnnd. Dh'fheuch iad na ràimh, ach cha robh éifeachd air bith annta ann a leithid siud de fhairege, gach tonn 'gan slupradh leis, agus e eucomasach dhaibh fhéin an tobhtaichean a chumail. Bha "sliop, slap" aig gach fairege air a deireadh agus bha siaaban a' mharcan-sìne 'gan dalladh agus 'gan drùidheadh. Mu dheireadh thòisich a' mhuir a' taomadh a steach air a deireadh leis gach bàirlinn. Cha dubhairt fear facal, ach bha a nis gach duine le a bhòtannan leitheadh dheth, oir nan tigeadh an uair gu ro-chruaidh orra cha bhiodh annta sin ach ribe bàthaidh. Bha Murchadh agus a cheann crom mar ann an coltas ùrnuigh, ged nach robh gluasad 'na bhilean. Bha am bàta a' lionadh. Bha an cuan 'na bhreislich, agus bha cuisean a' brath a bhith searbh.

Thog Seumas a cheann.

"Cha dean seo a' chùis, fhèara," arsa esan gu sèimh, socair, rianail. "Ma ruitheas sinn roimh an stoirm, gu cinnteach sluidig i sinn. Chan 'eil rian againn caladh air bith a dhean-

amh dheth mar seo an dràsda. 'S e mo bheachd gum feum sinn sròn na sgotha a chur ri àirde agus cathachadh mar as fheàrr a théid againn air 'na h-aghaidh gus an lagaich i. Feuchamaid timcheall i leis na ràimh."

Dh'fheith iad an fhaireg gu furachail, agus le "A nis" air cùl làdaich rinn iad an oidhirp. Bha i leth-thimcheall an uair a bhuail an ath mhuir i. Chaidh an sgoth air a' chuthaich, ghabh an bòrd beòil an sàl, agus bha dùil nach tilleadh i, ach anns a' mhithich cheartaich an sgoth i fhéin, agus a nis bha a toiseach as an stoirm. Bha an uair duilich, ach cha strìochdadh na fir ud gun an deagh spàirn, oir far a bheil an anail cha bhàsaich dòchas.

Aig baile bha gach duine fo iomagain agus fo imcheist, agus mu thròth bha an cladach le daoine. Cha robh càil ri fhaicinn aig muir ach tonnan sgarach caoir-gheal, agus cha chluinneadh tu do ghuth fhéin le ulfharthaich ghonail na faireg a bha a' briseadh a nis air a' mhòl le brag bàthaidh. Bha an aon smuain an cridhe gach mnà, ach cha robh càil 'ga leigeil orra. Bha buidheann bho bhuidhinn a' stàirich suas is sìos, a' geur amharc gu muir, deòir ri an sùilean aig a' ghaoith ghuinich rag làn siaban mara a bha 'gam frasadh, gun ghuth a ràdh air an iomradh a bha 'nan cridhe, ach cha dearcadh duine air aon rionnag dòchais, oir cha robh i ann. Bha grunnan fhear a' cagair ri chéile am beul a' mhuil. Chaith iad siud am beatha aig muir agus bhiodh am féin-fhiosrachaidhean-san ro-fheumail, nan ruigeadh eathar port, ach, os iosal, cha robh iad a' smaoineachadh gun tigeadh duine beò á stialladh mara cho cianail agus a bha e a nis m'an coinneamh. Dh'fheuch iad ris na mnathan a chur dhachaigh, ach aon cheum cha déidheadh iad á siud gus an toireadh am muir fios air chor-eigin chuga.

Aig muir bha an sgoth fhathast air uachdar. Air son còrr is dà uair de thìde bha na ceatharnaich an craos a' bhàis, an tì an slugadh gach mionaid, ach fhathast a' còmhrag ri dian-ghàbhaidhean an droch-fhreasdail leis an dhorras spioraid agus an spàirn chorpora a bhios miann beatha gun fhaireachdainn a' deachdadh aig àm a' chruaidh-chàis. Gu deimhinn, bha iad a nis air tàrradh as cho fada agus gur ann a bha sradag an dòchais ag ùr-bheothachadh gu math dh'fhaoidte gur ann a gheibheadh iad carthannas na tìre fhathast. Nach mór an spionnadh dòchais? Bha an fhaireg fhathast dòlasach doineannach, ach bheireadh na fir a nis caog-shùil an dràsda agus a rithist air an iarmailt a' sgrùdadh na h-àirde, ach cha robh dùrd aig duine. Ach a dh'aithghearr chualas guth Eachainn os cionn osnaich ghearach na faireg, mar ghuth mì-chneasda agus gun duine air bruidhinn bho chionn fhada

anns an an-uair ghoireiseachail ud, agus ghlacadh rud-eigin mar "A' togail oirre . . . ri àirde." Cha b'esan a' cheud fhear a shaoil siud, ach cha bu dùraig dhaibh a ràdh gun fhios nach robh ann ach dòchas a' mhic-meanmna, ach gu cinnteach bha an aimsir a' sglabadh aig an ear-thuath, bha an sgoth a' tulgadh agus a' rànaid air uachdar, agus bha tèarainteachd ag eubhach riutha.

Ach cha robh dòchas idir air tìr. Thug na h-uairean de thìde leotha e, agus, ged a bha na buidheann 'nan stob rag reòite air a' mhòl fhathast, cha robh ann ach còmharadh air buaidh an spioraid air cinnt dhearbhadh na h-inntinn. Air a' chnoc a b' àirde bha còmhlán fuar 'nan seasamh, a' sgrùdadh na mara, ach bha i a cheart cho falamh agus a bha i a' cheud uair a sheall iad. Ach fuirich! Tha cuid-eigin an siud agus a làmh sìnte gu muir. Mhothaich buidheann bho bhuidhinn dha, agus thug iad réis chuige.

"Seall, seall, tha rud-eigin an sin a mach air an sgeir!"

Chan fhaca càch dad, ach bha esan cinnteach. Bhà, bha an sgoth an siud da-rìribh! Bha an fhaireg air leigeil foidheg gu math, agus uidh air n-uidh bha an sgoth a' dlùthachadh ri caladh, agus Seumas gu dùr teann-bhileach 'ga stiùradh eadar na tonnan.

Ràinig i beul a' mhuile. Bha na fir air tìr ullamh gu spàirn oir ged a bha na h-iasgairnean cho faisg air tìr bha an cunnart a' feitheamh orra fhathast, oir bha beul na mara 'na aon mhuir briste, na làdaich a' ruith a chéile agus a' briseadh le brag bagarach air a' mhòl. Bha Dòmhnall Mór os an cionn, agus ròp timcheall air gach fear aca. Theann an sgoth a steach . . . leth-cheud slat . . . fichead slat.

"Cùm an sin fhéin an dràsda i," dh'eubh Dòmhnall le mothar uamhasach os cionn na gaoithe. "Sùil air a' mhuir mhóir sin; thig air cùl an ath làdaich."

Bhris an làdach air cladach ach leig Seumas gu tìr an sgoth. Bhuail a toiseach morghan, agus leum dithis a mach aise. Rug an còmhlán tìre oirre agus lonadh i, le trìuir fhathast innte. Bha na sghùil fhalamh a' seòladh air uachdar na mara, mar shràbh an sruth. Theich an tonn ud—agus bha an trìuir le greim bàis fhathast air na tobhtaichean. Bha na mnathan gu dhòl as an toiniseg—bha caoidh agus eubhach an siud!

Sheas an sgioba a nis air tìr—cha mhór gun creideadh iad e! Bha na h-eathraichean eile gun lorg orra, agus chan fhaca iadsan an dubh no an dath. Bha an là a' ciaradh; bha a' mhuir fhathast beucach, ach cha robh i coltach ris an onghail a chunnaic an là.

An ath mhadainn bha fèath air muir agus air

tir. Cha chanadh tu gum b' e an aon saoghal a bha ann. Bha fir agus mnathan a' feitheamh air a' chladach, ach bàta eile cha do thog ceann.

An ceann trì làithean thàinig trì eathraichean air tìr anns an Rubha, agus aig ceann na seachdain fhuaras na cuirp cha mhór air an cladach fhéin. Bha, mar gum b' eadh, a' mhuir air

fóghnadh dhaibh, ach bha i riarachta leis a sin, agus bha i a nis ag ionnlaid nan corp gu raointean amhlaigeadh an eòlais. Cha robh tonn au là ud air muir mar gu robh i a' gabhail an aithreachais. "Fhir na tìre," thuir an là, "chan 'eil fhios agad cionnas a tha fear na mara beò."

Books Worth Knowing

By the EDITOR

2. Campbell's West Highland Tales

Printed Gaelic prose—that is, original prose—is late and scanty. Until Norman Macleod ("Caraid nan Gaidheal") and his associates established and wrote for the Gaelic periodicals with which his name is associated in the 30's and 40's of last century, printed Gaelic prose consisted almost entirely of translations of English religious works, mostly the writings of the Puritan divines. Most of this work, as translation, was exceedingly well done, but theological abstractions cannot easily be rendered into natural Gaelic and, reading these works, one has the feeling that one is reading a Gaelic that was never spoken.

Norman Macleod has long been regarded as the exemplar of Gaelic prose style, but such an estimate is subject to certain qualifications. His style was a consciously literary style—certainly rich in native idiom, but not exactly the sort of Gaelic heard from the lips of the common people of his time. Dr. Archibald Clerk's edited selection of Macleod's prose writings represents a further stage in "refinement." A comparison of Macleod's writing as originally printed in *An Teachdaire Gaidhealach* and *An Cuairtear* with the same as reprinted by Clerk is illuminating.

For thoroughly natural and native Gaelic prose we must go to the tales, long and short, told and re-told at the winter Ceilidh and in the summer sheiling and in the chief's castle—in "taigh-mór" and "bothan"—through many centuries. The Dean of Lismore in the 16th century and MacRae of Fernaig in the 17th and an increasing number of collectors from the 18th century onwards diligently collected and recorded the traditional poetry of the Gael—song and ballad—but nobody bothered about the prose tales until comparatively recent times—not, in fact, until "Iain Og Ile" began his work of collecting in 1859. Bishop Carsewell knew that the tales of the heroes of old were popular in his time, but he disapproved of them as idle worldly tales. Martin Martin makes a passing mention of the tales but that is all. Norman Macleod must have been familiar with many old tales, but he includes very few of

them in his writings, and then only in what we may suppose is his own revised version, usually with a moral attached. The best known of the old stories found in Macleod's writings is "Spiorad na h-Aoise" ("The Spirit of Eld").

Today, we are fortunate in having a quite considerable body of Gaelic prose literature, some of it the original writing of such excellent writers as Donald Mackechnie, John MacRury, John MacFadyen, Hector Macdougall, John N. Macleod, Kenneth Macleod, Donald Lamont, Donald Mackinnon, Malcolm Macleod, Donald Macphie, and Neil Ross. Some of it, however, consists of ancient tales written down. In recent years many such tales have been recorded by the Irish Folklore Commission, the Folklore Institute of Scotland, and the School of Scottish Studies, as well as by individual collectors. Some can be found in print in the Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness, *The Celtic Review*, our own *An Gaidheal*, and other periodicals. But the great printed collection of Gaelic tales is that made by Campbell of Islay ("Iain Og Ile").

John Francis Campbell was born in Edinburgh in 1821, educated at Eton and Edinburgh, called to the bar in 1851, held a succession of appointments in the public service (including that of secretary of the Mines Commission and Secretary of the Lighthouse Commission), travelled extensively in many parts of the world, and died at Cannes in 1885. He began his great work of collecting and recording Gaelic traditional prose and verse in 1859. In 1860-62 he published his "Sgeulachdan Gaidhealach" ('Popular Tales of the West Highlands Orally Collected') in four volumes. These four volumes were re-issued, almost without change but with a long list of errata, in 1890-93 by the Islay Association.

In his long Introduction to Volume I Campbell tells of his methods of collecting and recording and the kind of people from whom he got the tales. He also discusses the value and importance of the material. To many of his contemporaries, as indeed to many today, these

ancient Gaelic tales were—as to Bishop Carswell long ago—a sheer waste of time. Campbell shows how important they are in themselves as samples of natural un-self-conscious idiomatic Gaelic and as materials for the scientific study of folklore or what he called “Storyology.”

The late Mr. John G. Mackay points out the unique ability and qualifications Campbell had for the task of collecting Highland tales and legends. He had an intimate acquaintance with the Highlands and Highlanders. He spoke Gaelic as only a native could, and he had the happiest knack of making friends. He understood the art of collecting, had great enthusiasm for the work, and scrupulously recorded as far as possible the exact words of his reciters, without subtraction or addition.

Campbell enlisted the help of many Highlanders, including Alexander Carmichael. His two chief helpers were Hector Maclean, school-

master at Bridgend, Islay, and Hector Urquhart, a gamekeeper on Loch Fyneside.

The four volumes of Campbell's West Highland Tales—out of print but from time to time appearing in second-hand catalogues at from £3 10s. to £4 10s a set—contain 86 prose tales, with translations and abstracts of as many more. Volume IV is devoted to the Ossianic controversy, but ends with a valuable list of some 800 stories in English and Gaelic which Campbell had collected. Campbell's manuscript collections, including many more than 800 stories, are in the University of Edinburgh. In 1940 a large and handsome volume, *More West Highland Tales*, transcribed and translated from the original Gaelic, taken from the Campbell Mss., was published by the Scottish Anthropological and Folklore Society (540 pp., 25/-), and it is understood that a further volume is in preparation.

Leum Ruairidh

Le CATRIONA CHAIMBEUL, Achd-ille-bhuidhe

(Choisinn an oidhirp-litreachais seo a' cheud duais an Earrann nan Inbheach aig Mòd Dùthchail Taobh Siar Siorrachd Rois, 1956.)

RUGADH agus thogadh anns an t-Srath-mhór duine cho sgiobalta is cho làidir agus a dh'àraicheadh riamh 'nar Gaidhealtachd. Bha e cho smearail ri Fionn, agus nach math an clù sin?

Is e sealgair sìdhne a bha ann an Ruairidh (oir b'e sin ainm a' cheatharnaich), agus is iomadh fiadh luath luasganach a chuir e a shlaic ri talamh.

Cha robh e mosach leis an t-sìdhne; is ann a bha e glé fhialaidh leatha. Cha do leag Ruairidh damh cròcach riamh nach d'fhuair a chàirdean agus a choimhearsnaich an cuibhreann fhéin.

Bha luchd riaghlaidh agus daoine glíce na rìoghachd glé dhiombach an sealgair a bhith a' còmhnaidh anns an t-Srath-mhór, agus mu dheireadh thall is ann a chaidh muinntir an rìgh a chur air a lorg. Is iomadh sloc iomallach agus glac uaigneach a rannsaich iad air feadh choilltean dosrach is bheanntan àrda Loch Bhraoin.

Bha dùil aig Ruairidh nach robh a h-aon bèa a bhrathadh e, ach, O! mo chreach, bha, agus tha, agus bithidh “Iudas” anns gach linn.

Ghlacadh Ruairidh, agus chaidh a mharcach gu Dun-éideann agus a thilgeil a steach do tholl-dubh a' phrìosain, far an do chuir e seachad iomadh latha tùrsach doilgheasach, a' cuimhneachadh gu tric air na h-oidhchean crìdheil a chuir e seachad air chéilidh ann an taigh Thormoid a' Mhaoir.

Tha mi a' creidsinn cuideachd gur iomadh

aisling thaitneach a chunnaic e air na daimh ghiobach robach a leag e anns a' ghleann lochach choillteach anns an d'rugadh e. Nach ann leis a bu mhiann a bhith a rithist ann!

Có—gu fortanach do Ruairidh—a thàinig do'n t-seana bhaile cheòthach (“Auld Reekie”) aig an àm seo ach Eireannach stairneil a bha 'na churaidh ceatharnach dàna 'na dùthchaich fein!

Chaidh an clag a bhualadh, chruinnich daoine a' bhaile-mhóir timcheall air a' churaidh chunnartach a bha 'na sheasamh air clach-na-còmhlaich, agus labhair e mar seo:

“Tha mi a' toirt dùbhlain do shluagh Dhun-éideann taghadh dhuibh féin duine a nì còmhrag riumsa, air neo, mura tagh, no mura faigh, 's e mo thruaighe gach mac màthar a tha a chòmhlaidh taobh a staigh bhur ballachan!”

Chrith iad mar shlat sheilich an t-srutha, oir b'fhada bhò'n chuala iad uirsgeulan tràill-ealachd an Eireannaich mhosaich, agus is math a bha fhios aca nach e plosgaire Gallda a dheanadh còmhrag ris a' churaidh ud.

Anns a' cheart mhionaid sin chuimhnich riaghladair a' bhaile air Ruairidh, an ceatharnach Gaidhealach, a bha a' riarachadh lagh na rìoghachd ann an toll-dubh.

Ruith e 'na leum dearg, agus air dha dorus daraich a' phrìosain fhosgladh, thubhairt e, “A Ruairidh, ma chuireas tu an ruaig air an Eireannach ghràineil ghrànnda, a tha an dùig

gun cuir e am baile againn fo a chasan, gheibh thu do shaorsa!"

"Nì mise sin," fhreagair Ruairidh, "air cumha gum beathaich sibh mi fad mìos air Leann builgeanta breac, Aran cruaidh corc, Uibhean eireagan òga, Agus dòrn mhath mhairt."

Nach e a dh'iarr biadh a' Ghaidheil, biadh a chuir fuil 'na chuislean agus smior 'na chnàmhan!

Air an là a chaidh a shònrachadh, sheas an Gaidheal agus an t-Eireannach aghaidh ri aghaidh. Chas Ruairidh a fhiaclan, theannaich e a dhòrn, agus tharraing e air an Eireannach anns a' pheircill i. Thuit an t-Eireannach air a dhruim dìreach agus a pheircall mar na sligean!

Fhuair mo laochan a shaorsa, agus nach e a choisinn i?

An làrna-mhaireach bha Ruairidh air an rathad dhachaigh le ceum aotrom uallach sùrdagach agus a chridhe taingeil toilichte.

Tha e air innse dhuinn, an uair a nochd e ris an t-Srath-mhòr, gun do stad e agus gun do choinhead e mun cuairt air an t-sealladh a bu bhòidhche, ar leis, a chunnaic e riamh—na beanntan àrda biorach sgorrach a' stobadh an cinn anns na neòil, a' ghrian mar bhall-teine a' dol fodha anns a' Chuan Sgith, agus craobhan nan coillean dosrach tiugh le duilleach briagh gorm. Leis an togail a thug an sealladh seo d'a intinn gheàrr e aon chruinn-leum a bha dà throught ar fhichead a dh'fhaide—cruinn-leum nach tug is nach toir Gall no Gaidheal no Eireannach cho fad agus a bhios an saoghal seo air a shìolachadh le daoine nach òl agus nach ith deoch agus biadh Ruairidh—

Leann builgeanta breac,
Aran cruaidh cruaidh corc,
Uibhean eireagan òga,
Agus dòrn mhath mhairt!

The Late Mrs. A. D. Mackay

It was with great sorrow that her many friends heard of the death of Christina Macdougall, M.A., wife of Mr. Alex. D. Mackay, M.A., in the very prime of life. A native of Mull and a former pupil of Oban High School and a graduate of Glasgow University, she was Gaelic Teacher in Bellahouston Academy, Glasgow, before her marriage. A lover of her native language and expert in its use, she served as a mod adjudicator. Gifted with a fluent pen, she contributed a woman's page to the quarterly, *Gairm*.

We express our deep sympathy with her husband and snial daughter and relatives.

News from Nova Scotia

IN "New Scotland" there are 175,000 people of Scottish extraction, mostly of Highland stock, and they have been striving hard to make Nova Scotia "more Scottish than Scotland." There are both patriotic and commercial motives behind their efforts.

There are Gaelic communities in Nova Scotia, especially in Cape Breton, where not only does the Gaelic language continue as the popular daily speech but even the old dialectal differences carried from old Scotland a century and a half ago still persist. Among these communities there is a strong sense of kinship with "the land of their fathers," and Gaelic song and story still flourish. In other areas of Nova Scotia, even though Gaelic may now be "a gone language," there is considerable pride in Highland ancestry. The people of Pictou County have not forgotten that it was there the first Highland settlements were made in 1803.

Tourism has become an increasingly important industry, and the drive towards the encouragement of colourful traditions and customs is no doubt in large measure aimed at attracting more and still more visitors.

The "Scottising" of Nova Scotia began when the Mayor of Amherst, who happened to be a Jew, persuaded the Government to arrange that a six-foot-four pipe-major, with his pipes in full blast, should welcome summer visitors entering Nova Scotia from New Brunswick. Playing an average of 125 pipe tunes and posing for an average of 500 photographs daily during July and August, the piper has apparently given a considerable boost to the tourist trade. A Chinese restaurant-owner in Antigonish seats his customers with a smile and a Gaelic greeting, "Ceud Mile Fáilte." Gardeners are cultivating heather.

It is not surprising that in 1954 between 90,000 and 100,000 Americans visited Nova Scotia, and 30,000 of them crossed the Strait into Cape Breton.

The boat trip across the Canso Straight need no longer deter the holidaying Americans. Last August the Canso Causeway was officially opened, with 400 pipers leading the procession of 20,000 people across from the mainland to Cape Breton, while another 20,000 looked on. Thus was fulfilled a dream of that most perfervid of Gaels, the late Angus L. Macdonald, Prime Minister of Nova Scotia, who honoured us by his presence at the Jubilee National Mod in Oban in 1953. The Causeway which carries both a rail-road and a motor-road, is an outstanding feat of modern engineering. Gaelic was used at the opening ceremony.

The latest "Scottish" scheme in Nova Scotia is to create a "Highland Village." This has been talked of for some time. It was also one of the ideas much in the mind of the late Angus L. Macdonald. The general idea is that the Highland Village should "house an educational and cultural centre for our Scottish heritage and traditions, containing the following sections and facilities: Library, Displays, Short Courses, Gatherings, Pageants, Plays." Naturally, many districts have claimed the honour of being chosen as the location of the Village, and it has not been an easy choice to make. Many aspects of the problem have had to be considered—historical, geographical, present-day background, environment, atmosphere, scenery, highway facilities, "and the question of drawing the utmost tourist business to the Province as far east as possible without, of course, placing the Village in too isolated a location." There was also the question as to whether Gaelic was still a living language in the location chosen.

The Nova Scotia Association of Scottish Societies appointed a small Highland Village Selection Committee, with Major Calum Iain N. Macleod as Chairman. The final choice lay between Pictou on the mainland and the Iona district in Cape Breton, and the latter was chosen, but it was also agreed that "the second Highland Village" be in Pictou County. At Iona there is unrivalled scenic beauty, appropriate historical associations, and a still living Gaelic culture.

It is an interesting project, but more important we feel is the work being done, unspectacularly but faithfully and not without results, by Major Macleod, one of our own Crowned Bards (his song "Long Mo Bhrudair" is prescribed for the Nova Scotia Medal Competition at this year's National Mod.)

According to the latest report by Major Macleod, who is Gaelic Adviser to the Nova Scotian Department of Education, a total of 238 students attended eight grant-aided classes in Gaelic and Piping. 18 teachers enrolled at Summer School Gaelic Courses, and two public schools in Cape Breton have included Gaelic in the curriculum. The total number of teachers with "credits" in Gaelic since 1950 is 53.

Major Macleod was also concerned with the recruitment and organisation of 18 senior and junior provincial pipe bands, comprising 234 pipers and 145 drummers, to take part in the opening ceremonies of the Canso Causeway. He has also contributed many Gaelic articles to the press, broadcast Gaelic lessons on the radio, and maintained a close liaison with the numerous Scottish Societies and cultural organisations.

Notes and Comments

The effort to enlist the fullest support for the **Largs National Mod Fund** has in no way slackened with the coming of the summer-time, and a number of special efforts fall to be recorded. This, of course, is by no means a complete list, but we can record only those events of which we receive information.

At a Branch Ceilidh at which Ex-President Mr. T. T. Mackay was Fear-an-tighe, the artists included Catriona Mackinnon, Ina MacDiarmid, Helen Taylor, J. A. Macrae, L.R.A.M., Colin MacInnes, and Mrs. Keen's orchestra. Miss J. McGilp was accompanist.

At another Branch Ceilidh, at which Mr. Ian Miller presided, those taking part included Calum Kennedy, Margaret Mackinnon, Jean Cameron Greer, Mr. McConnochie, and Mr. and Mrs. Keen.

Very successful coffee mornings have been held at Skelmorlie and at the Castle Hotel, Largs.

For a dance featuring Scottish country dancing on 23rd May, bus parties arrived from Kilmarnock, Greenock, Inverkip, and Skelmorlie, and all tickets were sold.

At this writing plans are made for an outing by the **Knightswood Highlanders to Largs** on 9th June, to hold a ceilidh there, for which they will provide the artists.

A Market Fair is to be held at Southannan, Fairlie, on 4th July. The usual stalls are being arranged, and it is hoped that friends of the cause from near and far will support this effort.

The **Greenock Gaelic Choir** staged a ceilidh in the Tontine Hotel in aid of the Largs Mod Fund, and over 140 members and friends attended. Mr. Donald W. MacRitchie, of the Govan Gaelic Choir, was Fear-an-tighe. Songs were sung by Ina MacDiarmid, Janet McGilp, Betty Barclay, Christine MacNaughton, Margaret Mitchell, Donald Maclean, Tom Allan, Walter Rae, and Alasdair Mackinnon. The accompanists were Donald MacAllister and Jinty Maclean.

Bowmore Gaelic Choir staged a variety concert in Bowmore Public Hall in aid of the Choir's Mod Fund. A large number of children took part, and a long and interesting programme was presented, which included songs and instrumental music and a sketch.

It is regrettable that the **Edinburgh Local Mod**, which was to have been held on 26th May, had to be cancelled because of lack of sufficient entries. Only fifteen local Gaels out of the 2,000 Gaelic-speakers in Edinburgh had entered for the competitions.

Mr. Sorley Maclean, well-known Gaelic bard and headmaster of Plockton Secondary School, was Fear-an-tighe at a ceilidh held at **Kyle of Lochalsh** in aid of the local mod funds.

At the business meeting of the **Beaully branch**, Dr. J. G. Munro was appointed President, with Mrs. J. Harris as Secretary and Mrs. M. Morrison as Treasurer.

Under the auspices of the **Edinburgh Clarsach Society** a largely attended ceilidh was held at the home of Ex-Lord Provost Sir Andrew Murray. The Rev. Murdo Ewen Macdonald was Fear-an-tighe, and a very enjoyable evening was spent.

A full house marked the final ceilidh for the session of the **Musselburgh Highland Association**. Mrs. M. M. Campbell, President, occupied the chair. The

ceilidh was organised by Mrs. J. Brodie, conductor of the Fisherrow Fishwives' Choir, and her choir contributed largely to the programme.

In Edinburgh the two rival clans, the Clan Campbell Society and the Clan Diarmid Society have amalgamated under the title of **Clan Campbell Society**. An outing to Inveraray is to be held on 30th June.

Mr. Duncan M. Mackenzie, who has been for many years President of the **Edinburgh branch** of An Comunn, has retired from that office and has been succeeded by Mr. Alexander MacIsaac. The Vice-Presidents are Mr. Farquhar Macleod and Mr. Angus Macleod.

Mr. Donald M. Macleod, of Borve, Skeabost Bridge, Skye, has been appointed to succeed Mr. Donald MacVicar as Manager of the **Highlanders' Institute**, Glasgow. We wish Mr. and Mrs. Macleod well in their new appointment.

Local and Provincial Mods

GLASGOW

The three-day mod sponsored by the Glasgow (Central) branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in the Highlanders' Institute on 10th, 11th, and 12th May. While the junior entries were down, there was a record entry of 52 in the piping section, and the senior competitions were well supported. There were large audiences. The adjudicators were:—for music Miss Mary Pate and Mrs. Nan Cameron; for pipe-music, Pipe-Major Nicol MacCallum and Roderick Macdonald; and for Gaelic, Derick Thomson, Lachlan Robertson and Farquhar Macintosh. At the Mod Concert the Rev. A. F. Mackinnon, St. Columba's, presided, and Mrs. Mackinnon presented the prizes. The guest artistes were Anne Gillies and Iain R. Douglas, Mod Gold Medallists.

The first-prize winners were as follows:—

Junior Section

Reciting poem (under 12)—Kirsteen Grant. Reciting poem (learners, 12-16)—Annie Maclean. Reciting Psalm (12-16)—Margaret A. Mackenzie.

Solo Singing. Girls (under 11)—Margaret Mackenzie. Girls (11-16) (Uist and Barra Trophy)—Agnis Macleod.

Choral singing. Unison (Margrat Dunca Trophy)—Knightswood Junior Gaelic Choir.

Senior Section

Solo singing. Own choice (girls, 16-18)—Christine Mackenzie. Boys (16-18)—Cameron Macaulay. Prescribed song (male voices)—Alasdair M. Grant. Female voices—Norma M. Campbell. Neil Maclean song competition (Govan Ceilidh Shield)—Margaret A. Mackinnon. Mrs. Kennedy-Fraser competition—Islay MacTaggart.

Duet singing—Alice M. Urquhart and Mabel M. Rowan.

Piping

March on chanter (under 14)—Evan Mackay. Strathspey on chanter (under 14)—Evan Mackay. Piobaireachd (under 18)—Thomas Spiers. March (under 18)—Walter Brown. Strathspey and Reel (under 18)—Evan Mackay. Special prize presented by Pipe-Major William Reid—Colin Murray.

WESTER ROSS

The Wester Ross Provincial Mod was held at Ullapool on 11th May. Although entries were slightly down this year, the standard of both music and Gaelic was high, and the adjudicators had great praise for the teachers in the area. The Mod Committee are also worthy of praise for all their hard work during the winter and on the day of the Mod. Two concerts were run at night in the evening, with packed houses. The guest artistes were John A. Macrae, Glasgow, and Donald Macleod, Contin.

The first-prize winners were as follows:—

Junior Section

Literary. Dictation (under 12)—Murdo M. G. MacLennan, Achiltibuie. 12-16—Catherine I. Macrae, Achtercairn. Translation into Gaelic (12-16) Catherine I. Macrae. Translation from Gaelic (under 12)—Simon Mackenzie, Achiltibuie. 12-16—Murdo Mackenzie, Achtercairn.

Oral. Reading poetry—Murdo M. G. MacLennan. Reading prose at sight—Murdo M. G. MacLennan. Reciting poem—Murdo M. G. MacLennan. Under 8—Jessie A. Macleod, Achiltibuie. Conversation (fluent speakers)—Margaret E. MacLennan, Laide. Learners—Doreen MacLennan, Laide. Reciting Scripture (under 12)—Agnes MacLennan, Achiltibuie. Under 8—Jessie A. Macleod, Achiltibuie. Comunn na h-Oighridh Competition—John Gunn, Laide.

Special prize to mother of most successful child in literary and oral section—Mother of Murdo M. G. MacLennan.

Solo singing. Own choice (girls, 8-12)—Christine MacLennan, Achiltibuie. Boys (8-12)—Simon Mackenzie, Achiltibuie. Boys (under 8)—Iain Macnab, Achiltibuie. Oran Talaidh (girls under 9)—Mary Macdonald, Ullapool. Song by Ross-shire bard (Caberfeidh Trophy)—Simon Mackenzie. Prescribed song (girls, 12-16)—Catriona Macritchie, Ullapool.

Duet singing (Mrs. Ronald Maclean Challenge Cup)—Norah Campbell and Catherine Macritchie, Ullapool. Choral singing (unison) (Junior Choir Cup)—Achiltibuie Junior Choir.

Example of traditional art or handicraft—Donella Macleod, Ullapool.

Senior Section

Literary. Poem on any subject—Catherine Mackenzie, Ullapool. Essay on local historical incident—Catherine Campbell, Achiltibuie. Place-names with meanings—Jim Muir, Achiltibuie.

Oral. Reading unfamiliar prose—John A. Campbell, Achiltibuie. Reciting poem—Ann Munro, Laide. Acted dialogue—Ann Munro and Jessie MacIver, Laide.

Vocal. Solo singing (prescribed songs) female voices—Nancy Mackinnon, Ullapool. Male voices—James Mackenzie, Ullapool. Own choice: male and female voices—Roddie Wheelan, Aultbea. Song by Ross-shire bard (Mifford Challenge Cup)—Norman M. MacIver, Inverisdale. Highest aggregate in male solo singing—Norman MacIver.

Duet singing—Nancy Mackinnon and James Mackenzie, Ullapool. Quartette—Male Voice Quartette, Aultbea. Choral singing (four-part harmony) (Senior Choir Cup)—Ullapool Gaelic Choir.

Pianoforte (march, strathspey and reel)—Mrs. Macritchie, Ullapool.

Needlecraft or handicraft with Celtic design—Mrs. Macgregor, Aultbea.

ISLAY

The Islay Provincial Mod was held at Bowmore on 11th May. The audiences at the competitions were the largest for many years and the public hall was packed for the mod concert. The adjudicators were: for music, James MacTaggart and Donald MacIsaac; for pipe music, Mr. James MacEachern; and for Gaelic, Rev. Donald Mackenzie, Rev. Archd. Beaton, and Mr. Malcolm Macleod (Secretary of An Comunn). Rev. Donald Mackenzie presided at the concert and the prizes were presented by Mrs. Gilbert Macphail. The guest artistes were Donald MacIsaac and Gilbert Macphail, Mod Gold Medallists.

The first-prize winners were:—

Junior Section

Literary. Gaelic letter (under 16)—Mairi Macdougall, Bridgend.

Oral. Reading (under 12)—Catherine Macmillan, Port Charlotte. Reading (12-16)—Mairi Macdougall. Reciting from memory (under 12)—Mary Livingstone, Port Charlotte. Reciting (12-16)—Mairi Macdougall. Comhradh (Comunn na h-Oigrìdh)—Catherine Macmillan, Port Charlotte.

Solo singing. (Girls under 11) (Silver Pendant)—Margaret Gillespie, Bowmore. (Girls, 12-16) (Gold Pendant)—Irene MacArthur, Bowmore. (Boys, 12-16) (Gold Pendant)—Cameron McGhie, Ballygrant. Puirt-a-beul—Neil Maclean, Keills. Former pendant winners—Gilbert Stevenson, Port Ellen.

Duet singing—Robina Campbell and Flora MacIntyre, Port Ellen. Choral singing (unison)—Bowmore Junior Choir B. Two-part harmony—Bowmore Junior Choir B.

Senior Section

Oral. Reading unfamiliar prose—Mrs. J. Carmichael, Paphroaig. Recitation—Mrs. J. Carmichael.

Solo singing. Song by Duncan Johnston—Neil MacCalman, Bowmore. Song by Duncan Ban MacIntyre—Duncan MacCalman, Port Ellen. Gold Pendant preliminary competitions (ladies)—Anna Macdougall, Bunahaven. Men—Alistair Currie, Ardnahoe. Gold Pendant winners (ladies)—Anna Macdougall. Men—Alistair Currie. Former gold pendant winners—Mrs. Marion MacArthur, Bowmore.

Duet singing—Cathie Smith and Nan Macnicol, Bowmore. Choral singing (ladies)—Kildalton Gaelic Choir. Unison—Bowmore Gaelic Choir. Puirt-a-beul—Bowmore Gaelic Choir. Four-part harmony—Bowmore Gaelic Choir. Margrat Duncan Memorial Trophy for choir with highest aggregate mark in music and Gaelic in senior choral competitions—Kildalton Gaelic Choir and Bowmore Gaelic Choir (equal). Duncan Johnston Memorial Challenge Cup for choir with highest aggregate mark in Gaelic—Kildalton Gaelic Choir.

Piping

March, strathspey and reel—Robert MacEachern, Corrary.

Gaelic Technical Dictionary

(Compiled by Charles Loch)

Arithmetic and Mathematics

Arithmetic	.. ..	cunntas (<i>m.</i>), àireamh-achd (<i>f.</i>), eòlas-àireamh (<i>f.</i>), riomh-àireachd (<i>f.</i>), uibhir-eachd (<i>f.</i>).	Miscalculate, To .. mear-chunnt.
Arithmetic, At	.. ..	ris a' chunntas.	Count, To àireamh, cunntas.
Arithmetician	.. ..	cunntair (<i>m.</i>), àireamhair (<i>m.</i>), riomhair (<i>m.</i>), uibhireach (<i>m.</i>), uibhreacan (<i>m.</i>)	Counting cunntas (<i>m.</i>).
Arithmetical—	.. ..	àireamhachail (<i>a.</i>), uibhireach(<i>a.</i>), uibhreachail (<i>a.</i>)	
.. Rule ..	.. ..	riaghailt àireamhachail (<i>f.</i>).	
.. Question	.. ..	ceist (<i>f.</i>), ceisd (<i>f.</i>), cùis (<i>f.</i>).	
Solution of a problem	.. ..	fuasgladh (<i>m.</i>), min-eachadh (<i>m.</i>).	
Annumerate, To	.. ..	iol-àireamh.	
Annuneration	.. ..	iol-àireamh (<i>m.</i>).	
Calculate or Compute	.. ..	cunnt, meas, nuimh-rich, riomhair.	
Calculation or Computation	.. ..	cunntas, àireamh, meas, suim, nuimh-reachadh (<i>m.</i>), riomhair (<i>m.</i>), riomh-àireachd (<i>f.</i>).	
			Number àireamh (<i>m.</i>), cunntas (<i>m.</i>), lion (<i>m.</i>) nuimhir (<i>f.</i>), uimhir (<i>f.</i>)
			Numeral cunntach (<i>m.</i>).
			Numerical àireamhach (<i>a.</i>).
			Number, In an lionnhoire.
			,, To nuimhrich.
			,, Cardinal .. freumh-uibhir (<i>f.</i>), meud-àireamh (<i>m.</i>).
			,, Conjoined .. daor-àireamh (<i>m.</i>).
			,, Independent .. saor-àireamh (<i>m.</i>).
			,, Ordinal .. eagar-àireamh (<i>m.</i>).
			,, Proportionate .. dùth (<i>m.</i>).
			,, Repeated .. àireamhan aithriste (<i>m.</i>) (?)
			,, Total .. iomlan àireamh (<i>m.</i>).
			Numbering nuimhreachadh (<i>m.</i>).
			Numbered Repetition .. aithris àireamhaichte.
			Numbers, Equal in coimhlean.
			Numerals na ceud fhigearan cunntais (?)
			Numeration àireamhachd (<i>f.</i>), àireamhachadh.
			Arithmetical signs .. comharraidhean àireamhachd.
			Divided by ÷ slad eadar dhad.

Equal =	..	..	càraid shlatag.
Greater than >	..	..	gob deas.
Less than <	..	..	gob cli.
Multiplied by ×	..	..	crasgan claon.
Minus —	..	..	slat.
Minus Quantity —	..	..	ios-mheud (m.), iosas.
Plus +	..	..	crasgan dìreach.
Plus quantity +	..	..	uas-mheud (m.), uasas.

Scientific Numeration deas-àireamhachd

Thirty	..	..	..	trichead.
Forty	..	..	..	ceithreachad.
Fifty	..	..	..	caogad.
Sixty	..	..	..	siathad.
Seventy	..	..	..	seachdad.
Eighty	..	..	..	ochdad.
Ninety	..	..	..	naochad, naogad, naontach (f.).
Ninety-four	..	..	..	naochad 's a ceithir.
One tenth $\frac{1}{10}$	..	..	..	deicheamh (m.).
One half $\frac{1}{2}$	..	..	..	leth.
One Quarter $\frac{1}{4}$	..	..	..	ceathramh, cairteal.
Three-quarters $\frac{3}{4}$	..	..	..	tricheathramhnan.
Five-eighths $\frac{5}{8}$	..	..	..	coig-ochdaimh.
Fiftieth	..	..	..	caogadamh (a.).
Hundredth	..	..	..	ceudamh (a.).
Eighth	..	..	..	ochdamh (a.).
Ninetieth	..	..	..	naogadamh (a.).
Third Part	..	..	..	treas-cuid (f.) trian.
Three Times	..	..	..	tri-chuairt (a.).
Five parts	..	..	..	coig-roinn (f.).
Seven-fold	..	..	..	seachd-dùbhailt (a.), seachd-fillte (a.).
Centuple or In Hundreds	..	..	..	ceudach (a.).
Dozen	..	..	..	dusan (m.).
Score	..	..	..	fichead.
Thousand	..	..	..	mile, sùsdan (m.).
Million	..	..	..	muillion (m.).
Millions	..	..	..	muillionan (m. pl.).
Myriad (10,000)	..	..	..	marag (m.).

Accumulative	..	..	..	cnuasachd (a.), cruinneachail (a.), cruinneachd (a.).
Aliquant	..	..	..	corr-phàirteach (a.).
Complement, Proportion or Equitable Share	..	..	..	dùth (m.).
Comparative, Co-equal	..	..	..	coimeas (a.).
Equal	..	..	..	ionann (a.), co-ionann (a.), comhad (a.).
Equality	..	..	..	ionannachd (f.), co-ionannachd (f.), coimeas (m.).

Quantity or Sum	..	..	..	uibhir (f.).
Quantity, Repeated	..	..	..	uiread àireamhaichte.
Surplus or Excess	..	..	..	còrr (m.), barrachd (f.), barrachdan, còrrlach (m.), anabarr, anabharr.

Unequal	..	..	..	neo-ionann (a.).
Decimal	deich-roinn (f.), deicheamh (m.).
„	deich-roinneach (a.), deicheamh.

Add, To	cur ris, meudaich, leasaich.
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Addition	cur r'a chéile, meudachadh (m.), leasachadh (m.).
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Subtract, To	thoir uaithe.
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Subtraction	toirt uaithe.
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Multiply, To	filrion, meudaich.
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Multiplication	meudachadh.
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Multiplier	filliche (m.).
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Divide, To	roinn, eadar-sgar.
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Division	roinn (f.), pàirt-eachadh.
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Divisor	roinneadair (m.).
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Divisible	so-roinneadh (a), so-roinnte (a.), so-roinn (a), pàirt-eachail (a.).
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Fraction	bristeadh, mir, bloigh.
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Fraction, Decimal	deicheamh-bhristeadh.
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Denominator	ainmeanichte (m.).
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Percentage s a cheud.

Logarithms	logarithmean (pl.).
Power	cumhachd (m.), comas (m.).

Root	freumh (m.).
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„ Square	ceithircheàrnag (?).
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„ Cube	tri-cheàrnag (?).
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Average	meadhonan (m.), eadar-mheas.
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Approximate	faisg (a), dlù (a.).
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Proportional Parts	earrannan co-ionann (f pl.)
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Inverse Proportion	co-ionannachd tarsainn (f.).
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Ratio	ruith (f.).
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Square, To	ceithir-cheàrn.
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Squared	ceithir-cheàrnaichte (a.).
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Cube, To	triplich.
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Cubed	triplichte.
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Metric System	An Rian (m.).
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Mensuration

Mensuration	tomhas (m.), àireamh-tomhais (f.), miòsarachd (f.), ceart-thomhasadh (m.).
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Mensuration of Surfaces	clàr-thomhas (m.).
" of Solids	meall-thomhas (m.).
Mensural, Measured	.. tomhasach (a.), tomhasail (a.).
Measurement	.. tomhas (m), miosarachd (f.).
Area	.. raon (m.), magh (f.).
Average	.. meadhonan (m.), tuaiream (f.), ruith (f.), cuibheasachd (f.), eadar-mheas (m.), thar-cheann.
" On an	.. a réir eadar-mheas.
" To strike an	.. dean meadhonan.
Bulk	.. meudachd (f.), tomad (m.), dòmhlachd, meud (m.), mórchuid (f.), uiread.
Capacity, (Holding)	.. glac-mheud (m.), glacthomhas (m.).
Contents	.. meud-thomhas (m.).
, Superficial	.. clàr-mheud-thomhas (m.).
, Cubic or Solid	.. meall-mheud-thomhas (m.).
Equal Bulk, Of	.. comh-mheallach (a.), comh-thomadach (a.).
Equal Space or Capacity, Of	.. comh-fheadhach (a.), comh-ghlacadh (a.).
Extent, (Acre) in Equivalent to	.. (acair) air mheud.
Girth	.. ag comhfhreagairt ri dòmhlad (m.), gairbhead (f.), cuairt (f.), diolta (m.).
Increase, Of	.. de àrdachadh.
Massive	.. cudthromach (a.), trom (a.), tomadach (a.), uibeach (a.).
Quantity	.. meud (m.), tomad (m.) uibhir f. uiread m.
Quantity, Great	.. meudachd (m.) namhas.
Size	.. meud (m.).
Thickness	.. tiughad, tiuighead, dòmhlachd, tighead (m.).
Square Mile	.. mìle ceithir-chearnach.
Volume	.. tomad, tomadas.
Weight	.. cothrom (m.), cudthrom (m.), truimead.

(To be continued)

MAGAZINE FUND.

Previously acknowledged	£— 10 —
Donald MacNiven, Esq., Dunkeld	— 7 6
	£— 17 6

Treasurer's Notes

National Mod — Largs, 1956.

Received at Largs	
Previously acknowledged	£1,036 17 10
Jumble Sale (Men's Committee)	55 — —
Dance at Cragburn, Gourrock, per N. Nicolson, Esq., Skelmorlie	10 — —
Concert, Barrfields, Largs, per Miss Hunter	50 — —
Coffee Morning, Castle Hotel, per Bailie Mrs. Young	110 — —
Miss Kelso, Mull	— 10 —
Mrs. Menzies, Galston	— 10 —
Anonymous, Aberdeen	1 — —
Mr. and Mrs. Iain Mackay, Inverness	2 — —
Dunfermline Highland Society	2 10 —
Ayr Branch	20 — —
Saltire Society, Edinburgh	1 1 —
Laggan Branch	5 — —
Musselburgh Highland Association	5 — —
Kildalton Branch	5 — —
Caledonian Society of Kenya	2 2 —
Clan Cameron Society, Glasgow	5 5 —
Edinburgh Branch	10 — —
Sale of Cookery Books, per Miss Hunter	12 10 —
	£1,397 5 10

Received at Headquarters

Previously acknowledged	£110 18 7
Alastair Cameron, Esq., F.S.A. (Scot.), Ardour	— 4 —
David S. Stewart, Esq., Rugby	— 12 6
Misses Livingston, Clydebank	— 7 6
Archd. McEwan, Esq., Mauchline	1 1 —
Misses Kelso, Aros	1 — —
Miss A. MacNeill, Colonsay	1 — —
Mrs. Winifred M. Parker, Fairlie	1 — —
Aberdeen Branch	20 — —
Cromarty Branch	1 1 —
Miss Margaret MacPhee, Glasgow	— 10 —
F. G. Thompson, Esq., Stornoway	— 12 6
Mrs. Stewart of Fasnacloich, Ardrishaig	1 — —
Donald Urquhart, Esq., Durban North, Africa	1 10 —
Allan Mitchell, Esq., Paisley	— 5 —
Hon. Mrs. Leith Hay, Kennethmont	— 5 —
	141 7 1
	£1,538 12 11

CENTRAL FUND.

Previously acknowledged as at 31st March, 1956	£157 10 —
Mrs. E. G. Croll, Glenuig (additional)	7 7 10
	£164 17 10
Previously acknowledged	£15 11 —
Mrs. A. C. Anderson, Edinburgh	— 13 —
Edinburgh Branch	10 — —
Donald MacErlich, Esq., Linlithgow	— 5 —
Beaulay Branch	4 4 —
Aberdeen Branch	2 2 —
Cromarty Branch	2 2 —
	£34 17 —



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar VIII

AN T-OG-MHIOS, 1956

Aireamh 6

Naidheachd Air Uibhist

FHUARADH ann an Uibhist beagan bhliadhnan air ais leabhran làmh-sgrìobhte anns a' Bheurla anns a bheil eachdraidh nan eaglaisean, nan cladhannan, agus nan ionadan naomha a bha anns an eilean sin anns na linn-tean a dh'fhalbh, air a cur sìos. Is ann, anns a' mhòr-chuid, bho bheul-aithris nan daoine a fhuaradh an eachdraidh sin. Sgrìobhadh an leabhran anns a' bhliadhna 1886 agus ged nach tug an t-ùghdar dhuinn a ainm tha e follaiseach gur e sagart a bha a' fuireach ann am Baghasdal aig an àm a bha ann.

Ach a bharrachd air an eachdraidh sin tha an sgrìobhadair a' toirt dhuinn dealbh air an dùthaich, iomradh air cor nan daoine aig an àm, agus fiosrachadh air seann ghnàthasan a bha dualach dhaibh.

"Chan 'eil teagamh," tha e ag ràdh, "nach tàinig athrarrachadh mòr air an eilean seach mar a bha e uair-eigin. Tha e air a dhearbhadh nach fhàs craobhan an diugh, ach tha freumhaichean agus bunan craobha a gheibhear tiodhlaicte anns a' mhòinteach ag innse gu robh an t-eilean uair-eigin fo choille.

"Chan fhàs craobhan a nis a thaobh an sàile a bhith 'gam marbhadh, agus feumar a chreidsinn aig an àm a bha craobhan cho lìonmhor gu robh iad aig astar na's fhaide o'n mhuir. Tha a' mhachair thorrach fharsaing a tha aig cois a' chuain air taobh an iar an eilein 'na thalamh gainmhidh, ach fodha sin tha doimhneachd de thalamh dubh mòineach. Bha a' ghainmheach mhìn gheal seo, aig àm fada bhuaithe, air a siabadh leis an fhairge bho thìr a bha na's fhaide an iar, agus chun an là an diugh tha an fhairge a' sìor bhristeadh a staigh air an fhearann."

Tha an t-ùghdar a nis a' sgrìobhadh mu na lochannan gun àireamh a tha beò le bric agus le easgannan. Air na h-easgannan tha seo aige ri ràdh:—

"Tha feadhainn dhiubh a' ruigheachd meudachd nach gabh creidsinn. Tha na seann daoine ag ràdh, an uair a tha na h-easgannan a' ruigheachd a' mheudachd seo, gu bheil iad

a' deanamh an rathaid air uachdar na talmhainn gu ruig a' mhuir. Bha mi fhéin 'nam fhianais air aon de na h-easgannan móra ud 'ga sealltainn fhéin fad bhliadhna ann am meadhon locha am Baghasdal, a' slaidheadh an uisge le a h-earball agus a' toirt stuadh air an loch, ach a dhà no trì bhliadhnan air ais dh'fhàg i an loch agus chan 'eil i a nis ri fhaicinn.

"Cha do chuir seo iongantas sam bith air na daoine, oir tha an dùil aca gun dean a h-uile béist de'n t-seòrsa a rathad, aig deireadh, chun na mara.

"Thuirt fear rium turus gu robh e fhéin agus feadhainn eile cruinnichte air feasgar Dì-dòmhaich, agus gum faca iad sgaoth de fhaoileagan a' cruinneachadh os cionn pàirce, gach aon a' deanamh sìtheadh an dràsda 's a rithis gu talamh. Chuir seo iongnadh orra, agus chaidh iad a fhaicinn dé a thug air còmhlan mòr de fhaoileagan cruinneachadh mar seo. Air dhaibh an t-àit a ruigheachd, dé a chunnaic iad ach àireamh de easgannan móra a' deanamh an rathaid gu loch, agus bha an loch a dh'fhàg iad leth-mhìle a dh'astar bhuapa.

"Chan ith muinntir Uibhist easgannan air na chunnaic iad riamh agus chan 'eil spéis aca air feadhainn a tha ris a leithid."

Tha an sgrìobhadair a nis ag innse gur e Ceiltich a' cheud phobull a chaidh a shuidheachadh anns na h-eileanan, gu bheil na dùin, na crom-leacan, na càrnain, agus na barpan a chithear fhathast, a' toirt teisteanais air an sin, agus gun tàinig na Lochlannaich fada as an déidh. Dh'fhàg iadsan cuideachd càrnain-cuimhne, ach chan 'eil iad cho lìonmhor.

Mu dheighinn nan dùn tha seo aige ri ràdh:

"Gu eileanan anns na lochannan theich muinntir na dùthcha bho ionnsaighean nan naimhdean Lochlannach. Air na h-eileanan sin tha ri fhaicinn fhathast na dùin a thogadh aig an àm sin. Bha stairreach air a chur sìos fo'n uisge gu ruige a h-uile dùin agus am meadhon an stàirich clach-fhaireachaidh. Bha fuaim na cloiche seo air a ghiùlan bho chloich gu cloich gu ruige an dùn, agus bha fàilte neo-chridheil

bh'o'n bhogha-shaighead a' feitheamh air coigreach sam bith a thigeadh gun rabhadh!'"
Air cor nan daoine 'na là fhéin tha seo aige ri ràdh:

"Fhuair muinntir an eilein an droch dhòladh bho na bàillidhean, tha mi duilich a ràdh. Chunnac mi daoine a bha air an deagh shuidheachadh ann am bailtean fearainn ann an Ormacleit, Bòrnais, Baile-a'-mhuilinn, agus Phròbòd Tuath agus Deas. Chaidh na daoine sin a chur a mach as an fhearann agus am fuadachadh gu Améiriga; agus am beagan a fhuair fuireach anns an eilean, chaidh an suidheachadh anns a' mhonadh no am measg chroitearan eile. Bha fearann nan croitearan sin air a ùr-roinn air neo bha croitearan air an cur a mach dhaibh air a' mhór-roinn. Cha robh a nis de fhearann aig teaghlach na dheanadh an gnothach, oir thugadh cuideachd beinn nan caorach bhupa. Bha clòimh ann roimhe air son aodaich, agus bainne agus ìm a bharrachd, ach cha robh a nis dhaibh ach dol chun nam marsantan. Chaidh iad ann am fàchan ris na marsantan ach a dh'aindeoin sin cha deach lùghdachadh air màl."

Chaidh an Creideamh Crìosdail, tha e ag innse, a shuidheachadh anns na h-eileanan le manaich á eilean Ithe. Aithnichear fhathast, tha e ag ràdh, na h-àitean far an tàinig iad air tìr. A' cheud ghnìomh a rinn na manaich is e àit aoraidh a thogail. Bho nach robh iad sin ach air son ùine, cha tugadh fada 'gan crìoch-nachadh. Chithear, ma tà, gu robh na h-eaglaisean sin air an togail le clachan tioram gun aol 'gan ceangal. Tha làraichean nan togalaichean sin r'am faicinn air rubha aig Loch Greanabreac ann am Baile-a'-mhuilinn ris an canar "Cladh-air-an-Dùgain" agus a leithid eile deas air Loch Chill-Donain air ainm "Cùl nan Draoidhneach."

Tha an t-ainm sin a' toirt air an sgrìobhadair sgrìobhadh mu na Cùiltich (*Culdees*) air a bheil na h-ollamhan a' deasbaireachd gus an là an diugh. Chan 'eile e ag aontachadh idir gu bheil am facal seo a' ciallachadh "Cùl Dé," mar a tha feadhainn a' deanamh a mach. Is e a bharail nach robh anns na "*Culdees*" ach manaich agus gun d'fhuair na fir chràbhach an t-ainm a thaobh iad a bhith daonnan a' còmhnaidh ann an àitean uaigneach. Is iadsan a chùmsolus a' Chreidimh a' boillsgeadh gus an deach Alba a chur fo stiùradh Easbaigean aig an àm a bha Calum a' Chinn-Mhóir 'na rìgh agus air son ùine as a dheoghaidh.

'Na bheachd-san tha am facal *Culdees* a' tighinn bho *Cultus Dei*, agus, ged maith dh'fhaoidte bha am facal air a chleachdadh aig na manaich 'na ainm a bha aca orra fhéin,

cha tug a' mhuinntir dùthecha orra riamh ach "Draoidhneach," mar a tha an t-ainm "Cùl nan Draoidhneach" a' foillseachadh.

Tha an t-ùghdar a nis a' dol gu dragh seòladh a thoirt air na h-àitean ann an Uibhist far am faicte làrach sheann eaglaisean agus chladh-annan. Is e seo iad—Cill Bhrìghde, Loch Baghasdal (Cill Choinnich), Cill Pheadair, Baile-a'-mhuilinn (Cill Dhùgain), Cill Donain, Loch Eighneart (far an robh baile-chailleach uair-eigin), Ard Mhìcheil, Hoghmór (Cill Mhoire), agus anns an Iochdar (Cill Bhànain).

Mu dheighinn Ard Mhìcheil sgrìobh e:

"Aig astar mu dhà mhìle á Bòrnais tha làrach seann eaglais agus cladh a bha air an coisrig-eadh ri Naomh Mìcheil. B'e Mìcheil naomh-chomaraidh (*patron saint*) an Eilein Fhada, agus bha Làimh-Mìcheil air a chumail 'na là-féille air son iomadh linn. Bha daonnan deasachadh 'ga dheanamh air son na féille seo. Bha bean an taighe trang an là roimhe a' fuinne 'strùthain' anns an robh uibhean, uachdar, agus mìlsean, agus bha bonnach 'ga fhuite air son gach urra anns an teaghlach.

'Thad is a bha mi anns a' cholaide cha do dhìochuimhnich mo mhàthair choir a leithid de bhonnach fhùine dhomh, ged nach d'fhuair mise crioman dheth.

'Air là na féille thigeadh cha mhór a h-uile òganach eadar fadhail Bheinn-a-bhaoghla agus Caolas Bharraidh a' marcachd gu Ard Mhìcheil, gach fear agus té aig a chùlaibh. An déidh na h-aifrinne anns an t-seann eaglais, thòisicheadh réiseadh each air an tràigh chruaidh còmhndard a tha an sin, nam biodh an làn freagarrach, no air a' mhachair mur bitheadh.

Tha iad a nis air sgur de'n t-seirbhis agus de na réisean aig Ard Mhìcheil, ach tha an strùthain air a dheasachadh fhathast."

Aig deireadh an leabhair tha sgeul air Staoilgearraidh far an robh taigh Mhìc Mhuirich. Bha an t-urram aig an taigh sin a bhith 'na dheis-dé a thaobh agus gun d'fhuair MacMhuirich a fhearann le cùmhnant-sgrìobhte o'n Chrùn.

"An uair a mharbh Dòmhnall Gorm Mac Iain Mhùideartaich an treabhaiche, Fearchar Mac Alasdair ann an Ormacleit, bha e a' sireadh cuideachd mic an treabhaiche air son an cur gu bàs, agus chuir e na coin-sheilg air an tòir. Theich aon mhac gu ruige crìochan MhìcMhuirich. Gu mì-fhortanach thàinig fear MacGille-riabhaich an coinneamh a' ghille agus thig e srian an eich 'na làmhan. Ghlacadh an gille, Ragnall MacDhòmhnail, mar sin agus is e bonn sia sgillinne a fhuair an duine aingidh seo air son a' ghnìomh shuarach a rinn e."

(*Bho Sgoil Bhrèibhig ann Barrraidh*)

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Aireamh 7

Comunn Nam Fìor Ghaidheal

Le NIALL MACGILLE-SHEATHANAICH

THEAGAMH nach 'eil dad ùr agam r'a innsadh do chuid de mo luchd-leughaidh; mur 'eil, biodh iad foirdh-neach. Tha mòran, tha fios agam, aig nach 'eil ach gann eòlas iomraidh air cuspair m'òraid.

Tha sinn a' toirt urram na h-aoise do Chomunn Gàidhealach Bhaile Lunnainn a chaidh a stéidheachadh o cheann naoi fichead bliadhna. 'Na lorg-san thàinig Comunn Gàidhealach Alba, aig an robh mar aon de a rùintean aire shònraichte a thabhairt do gheidheadh ann an staid fhallain cànan, bàrdachd, agus ceòl na Gàidhealtachd. Cha do mhair an dealas sin ro-fhada, agus tha an Comunn sin an diugh iomraiteach air son a dhealais do thaobh "fheudail is buar 's gach ainmhidh fos." Is ann a dh'fhaodar a ràdh mar thubhairt neach éiginn eile roimhe mu Eilean Idhe—

"An àite guth nihanach
The geum bà."

Is ann bliadhna *Waterloo* a chuir Alasdair Ghlinne Garaidh air bhonn an Inbhir Lòchaidh Comunn nam Fìor Ghaidheal air tùs, agus a réir sgrìobhadhnan chaidh an sgeul air feadh na rìoghachd, agus chuireadh air bonn Comunn thall 's a bhos. Bha Dòmhnall Spalding, á Ile, agus MacCoinnich á Loch Braon, air ceann na cuideachd an Lunnainn, agus tha iomradh gun deach Comunn a stéidheachadh an Glaschu aig an ám cheudna.

Tha dearbhadh a thaobh fathann an aon de phaipearan Inbhir-nis am bliadhna *Waterloo*, air a' chòigeamh là deug de'n Ogmhios, gun do chuireadh air bonn an Inbhir Lòchaidh, fo stiùradh Mhic 'ic Alasdair, Comunn ris an abradh iad "Comunn nam Fìor Ghaidheal." Chaidh Comunn Gàidhealach Lunnainn a stéidheachadh mu thuairream trì bliadhna deug ar fhichead roimhe seo, ach b'e seo aon de na ceud Chomuinn a chaidh a stéidheachadh an Alba an déidh a' Chomuinn Ghaidhealaich a chaidh a chur air bonn an Dun-éideann an 1783 agus air an tug mi iomradh cheana.

Bha gnothaichean a' Chomuinn an Lochabar air an giùlan air aghaidh anns a' Ghàidhlig, agus bha gach triath dligheach 'na Iar-Cheann-Suidhe, agus 'nam meag-san bha an Ceann-Suidhe air a thaghadh. Chaidh Gleanna Garadh a roghnachadh an dara bliadhna mar Cheann-Suidhe, agus bha an t-Ollamh Eóghann MacLachainn 'na Rùnaire. Am meag nam ball urramach bha am Marshall MacDhòmhnail, Diùc Tharentum. Bha an seanchaidh ainmeil sin, Còirneal Stiùbhart Ghairt, am meag na feadhnaich a bha aig a' cheud Choinneamh Bhliadhnail. Bha ceòl is dannsa aca, agus bha na h-uaislean uile an éideadh an cuid Réiseamaid, neo anns an éideadh Ghaidhealach. B'i bean Ghlinne Garaidh agus an Còirneal Stiùbhart a dh'fhosgail an dannsa.

Dh'aobharach stéidheachadh a' Chomuinn dealas agus ùidh mhór as leth cànan agus leas nan Gàidheal, agus cha b' iongnadh e agus fear litreachais cho ainmeil ri Eóghann MacLachainn air a cheann. Sgrìobh e dàn no dhà an Gàidhlig is am Beurla an éirig a' Chomuinn. Bha bàrd ainmeil eile comh-cheangailte ris a' Chomuinn seo an Lochabar, Ailean Dall, bàrd iomraiteach Ghlinne Garaidh.

Dà bhliadhna an déidh a chéile chumadh féis agus cluichean fo bhuaidh a' Chomuinn seo— aon an Inbhir Garaidh agus aon an Inbhir Lòchaidh.

An déidh seo chan 'eil cunntas againn air coinneamhan a bhith an Inbhir Lòchaidh, ach choinnich iad uair no dhà gu suipeir ann an Lunnainn. Bha am Mòrar Seumas Moraidh anns a' chathair aig aon diubh, agus bha leis à duthaich Adhoil na fìdhlearan ainmeil Clann a' Ghobha, agus bha le Alasdair Ghlinne Garaidh a phìobaire féin.

Tha e coltach gun do shluigeadh suas an Comunn seo le Comuinn eile, ach cha tug sin bho Lochabar an t-urram a leithid de Chomuinn a chur air bonn.

Chan 'eil fios le cinnte co-dhiubh is e meur de Chomuinn Inbhir Lòchaidh a bha anns a' Chomuinn an Lunnainn, ach tha dearbhadh gu robh còrdadh math eatorra. Tha iomradh coibhneil air an taing a thugadh do Ghleann Garadh air son sidheann-fhiadh a chuir e gu Cuirm Chamanachd a' Chomuinn an Lunnainn.

Tha sinn a' tuigsinn gur e am meur seo de'n Chomuinn an Lunnainn a stéidhich a' Chuirn air Latha Naomh Andreis an toiseach, agus a tha a nis air a cumail gu dìleas air feadh an t-saoghail far a bheil a bheag no mhór de Albannaich a' tuineachadh.

B'ann goirid an déidh seo, bliadhna no dhà, a ghlèidheadh an deuchainn ainmeil air Ban-rìgh Caroline, agus mar as math a thuingeas sinn bha iomachomhairle am measg an t-sluaigh choitichinn mu bhuil na cùirte. Choinnich an Comunn anns an dòigh gnàthaichte, Dòmhnall MacMhuirich anns a' chathair, agus tharraing iad suas, an dòigh shnasail, briathran comh-haireachail ris a' Bhan-rìgh, agus chrùinnich iad, mar a rinn mòran bhuidhnean eile, a chum a liubhairt. Bha buill a' Chomuinn uile air an sgeadachadh am breacan an fhéilidh agus air an giùlan an dusan carbad, ceithir eich gheala anns gach aon diubh agus dà phìobaire 'nan suidhe anns an fhear thoisich, is bratach shìoda am bàrr a' bhata. An uair a chuireadh iad uile an òrdugh agus a thàinig a' Bhan-rìgh air a h-aghaidh, rinn i sméideadh coibhneil ris na Gàidheil. Chaidh Fear na Cathrach a thoirt fa chomhair na Ban-rìgh agus leughadh na briathran a chaidh a shònrachadh, ann an Gàidhlig, 'na h-éisdeachd. An déidh freagrach

fhaoitinn, phòg na Gàidheil agus an cuid bhan làmh na Ban-rìgh.

Cha do shoirbhich cho math le buill a' Chomuinn lathra tìodhlacaidh na Ban-rìgh seo, an uair a dh'fheuch iad, le Dòmhnall Spalding air an ceann, ri rathad a dheanamh dhaibh féin am measg na cuideachd mhì-riaghailteach a bha ann. Bhóidich buill a' Chomuinn an déidh sin nach biodh cuid no pàirt aca an co-chruinneachadh no an co-labhairt, aon chuid politiceach no creidmheach.

Bha an Comunn seo a' toirt àite urramach do chànan agus do chèol nan Gàidheal, agus a chum na rùintean seo adhartachadh bha Sgoil Ghàidhlig air a cumail an taigh aon de na buill, fear d'am b'ainm Mac a' Ghreidhich. Chan 'eil e 'na iongnadh leinn a chluinntinn gu robh gainne leabhraichean orra, ach chaidh aca air beagan fhoclair fhaighinn a' Alba.

Bha aig a' Chomuinn seo, mar a tha aig gach Comunn dùthchail eile, an toil agus an rùn an co-chreutairean a chuideachadh ma bha feum aca air, agus faodar a bhith cinnteach gur ioma Gàidheal ànrach sgìth a fhuair cuid an rathaig agus deagh chòmhnaidh bho na daoine gasda a bha air ceann Comunn nam Fìor Ghaidheal an Lunnainn.

Aig an àm sin bha àireamh nach bu bheag de ar luchd-dùthcha a' dol troimh Lunnainn air an turas gu Tìr Van Diemen agus cearnaidhean eile. Nach bu bhinn, bhlasda 'nan cluasan cainnt an dùthcha am measg choigreach, agus nach bu bhlàth a' bheannachd an àm dealachaidh—"Slàn Leat!"

Cha robh an Comunn gun roinnean 'na mheasg, agus chaidh iad thar a chéile gu searbh salach mu leabhraichean a bha an cumail a' Chomuinn. Ghabh Dòmhnall MacMhuirich atharrachadh beachd air a' chòir ris a' chuid eile agus ghabh e seilbh air na leabhraichean. Chaidh iad gu cùirt agus, ged a bhuidhinn an Comunn, b'e crìoch a' gnòthaich neoghasda seo gun do chuir Dòmhnall is a chàirdean air bhonn Comunn ùr.

Cha d'rinn an Comunn air a bheil mi ag iomradh dearmad air cleachdaidhean agus cleasan nan Gàidheal, oir shònraich iad latha Bealltainn, no an latha freagrach as fhaise air, a chum cluich chaman, agus tha a' chluich sin air a cumail suas gus an là an diugh.

Bidh e a chum eòlas agus buannachd do mhuintir Cèilidhean an ama seo a chluinntinn an dòigh anns an robh luchd-dreuchd a' Chomuinn 'gan giùlan féin aig na coinneamhan. Bha an Ceann-Suidhe a' gabhail na cathrach aig ochd uairean feasgar, agus bha a' Chomhairle air gach taobh dheth. Bha an Cléireach a' suidhe cho faisg air agus gum b'urrainn dhaibh còmhradh a dheanamh gun ghluasad a chur air càch. Direach air an uair dh'éireadh

an Ceann-Suidhe agus, air faicinn gu robh gach neach gu socrach, dh'eubhadh e an t-Slàinte—"Aobhar an deagh chaidreibh is gràdh thar an domhain" ("The cause of good fellowship and charity all over the world.") An déidh na ceud Slàinte bha an Ceann-Cinnidh a' seinn òrain, agus an sin a' gairm air cuid de na buill mar a chitheadh e iomchuidh. Aig naoi uairean dh'fhaodar pìoban a lasadh, agus bha an sin an Cléireach a leughadh Iomradh na Coinneimh roimhe. Bha ceasnachadh sònraichte air a chur orrasan a bha ag iarraidh gu bhith 'nam buill de'n Chomunn.

A' cheud cheist—"An do leugh thu na Riaghailtean?"

An dara ceist—"An cuidich thu cho fad agus as comasach dhuit na Riaghailtean a ghiùlan a mach a réir am fìor rùn agus an ciall?"

An uair a rachadh na ceistean a fhreagairt gu h-òrdail, theireadh an Ceann-Suidhe: "Ann a bhith 'gad fhàilteachadh mar bhall de'n Chomunn seo, a réir ar sean ghnàths, tha gam ri ràdh riut gum feum do ghluasad a bhith cothromach aig gach àm—ach gu h-àraidh an uair a tha thu anns an éideadh Ghàidhealach—

oir bheir thu fa-near an uair sin ann ad inntinn, an uair a tha thu air do sgeadachadh ann am breacan gur Albannach thu, agus gu bheil na h-uile neach a choinnicheas riut a' saoilinn sin; air an aobhar sin, gnìomh neo-mheasarra air bith aig an àm sin, bheir i mì-chliu, chan ann a mhàin ort fhéin ach air Alba, an tìr d'an suaicheantas am breacan."

Bha an Pìobaire agus an Dorsair, an làn éideadh Gàidhealach, a' frithealadh aig gach coinneamh choitcheann, an Dorsair a' giùlan tuagh Lochabar agus Sgiath Ghàidhealach. Cha robh am Pìobaire ri cluich ach an uair a dh'iarraidh an Ceann-Cinnidh.

Chan fhios dhòmhsa cuin a thàinig Comunn nam Fìor Ghaidheal gu crìch, ach tha e coltach gum b'fhuaran e bho'n tàinig Comuinn eile agus, a réir sgrìobhaiche "Leabhar Comunn nam Fìor Ghaidheal," is freumh dheth Comunn na Gàidhlig an Lunnainn.

Bha a latha féin aig a' Chomunn agus, ma tha e an comas do neach air bith an leabhar fhacinn, foghlumaichidh e mòran bho a sgrìobhaidhean agus a dhealbhan.

Cadal sàmhach dhaibh-san a riaghail e air dòigh cho dùthchail, dàimheil.

Books Worth Knowing

By the EDITOR

3. Nicolson's Gaelic Proverbs

THIS, most certainly, is a book worth possessing as well as knowing. Like a dictionary or encyclopaedia or anthology, it is to be referred to and browsed in rather than read right through. The man who set out to read the dictionary right through complained that it made rather disjointed reading! Nicolson's Gaelic Proverbs is a treasure-house of wit and wisdom and lore.

The story of this work begins with the Rev. Donald MacIntosh, who described himself as "a priest of the old Scots Episcopal Church, and the last of the Non-Jurant Clergy in Scotland." MacIntosh was born in the parish of Blair Atholl in 1743. He received such education as the local school could provide and, being physically unequal to the rigours of farming life, spent his early years tutoring children in the neighbourhood. In 1774 he sought his fortune in Edinburgh. His first job was as "a penny postman," collecting and delivering letters, but, being a good writer, he was employed transcribing documents, became private tutor to a family, and later was ordained a priest of the Scots Episcopal Church, adhering to that section of it which, after the death of Prince Charles Edward Stuart, refused to transfer its allegiance from the House of Stewart

to the House of Hanover. On a meagre stipend MacIntosh served an extensive area, from Loch Katrine to Banff, ministering to his small and scattered flock. From 1785 to 1789 he was "Clerk for the Gaelic Language" to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, and in 1801 he became "Gaelic Translator and Keeper of Gaelic Records" to the Highland Society of Scotland, with a salary of £10 a year. He compiled lists of, and transcribed, Gaelic MSS. in the possession of the Society. MacIntosh died in 1808, bequeathing his library of 2,000 volumes to Dunkeld.

It was in 1785 that MacIntosh's "Collection of Gaelic Proverbs and Familiar Phrases, with English Translations, illustrated with notes," was published in Edinburgh. It ran to no more than 84 pages. The material for the book had been obtained mainly from a John Wallace, Lettoch, Blair Atholl, and from a John MacIntosh, whom Donald MacIntosh had met during a tour of Lochaber in 1784. "Though small in bulk, and in several respects defective, MacIntosh's Collection was a valuable contribution to Celtic literature," wrote Sheriff Nicolson. "It was at that time, and has continued to be, the only collection of Celtic Proverbs gathered into a book and translated

for the benefit of the world." A second edition running to 252 pages, was published in 1819. It was edited by Alexander Campbell, who also edited a collection of Scottish and Gaelic songs called "Albyn's Anthology". The considerable additions in the second edition may have been made from materials left by MacIntosh, who had himself intended to issue a second edition, but Campbell unfortunately "Englished anew," as he said, the Gaelic proverbs, and many of his English equivalents are, to say the least, odd, if not misleading. For example, "leann-dubh air mo chridhe" (*black beer at my heart!*). "MacIntosh's translations," wrote Nicolson, "are on the whole creditable, sometimes happy; the new ones substituted for them are rarely changes for the better; much oftener they give nonsense for sense, and turgid commonplace for pithiness."

In view of the defects of these two editions of MacIntosh's Collection—not the least being their omission of many of the most familiar and popular sayings—Sheriff Nicolson prepared a new edition, which included a considerable addition of proverbs gathered from various sources. He also translated the whole collection anew. In his task he had the assistance of such men as Professor Donald Mackinnon, Dr. Alexander Stewart ("Nether Lochaber"), Donald C. Macpherson, and Dr. Clark of Kilmallie. The first edition of Nicolson's Collection of Gaelic Proverbs and Familiar Phrases, based on MacIntosh's Collection, was published in Edinburgh in 1881. It ran to 421 pages, and contained over 3,900 phrases as against 1,305 in the 1785 edition and 1,538 in the 1819 one. A second edition or printing of Nicolson's Proverbs appeared in 1883, and it is said there was also a third edition.

Alexander Nicolson was born at Husabost, Isle of Skye, in 1827, graduated with distinction at Edinburgh University, studied law, and in 1872 became Sheriff-Substitute of Kirkcudbright. He died in 1893. He plied a facile and prolific pen, wrote some excellent poetry, and served on the Commission on Scottish Education for which he wrote an invaluable report on the state of education in the Hebrides (1866). He was also a valuable member of Lord Napier's Crofters' Commission. It is said that he declined the offer of becoming first occupant of the Chair of Celtic at Edinburgh University.

Nicolson's Collection is enriched by his citing of many parallels in other languages, by well-informed notes, and by an excellent introduction in which he discusses the insight given by their proverbs into the mind and character and ideals of the Gaelic people.

In 1951 the Caledonian Press, Glasgow, published an exact reprint of Nicolson's Gaelic Proverbs, along with an invaluable 45-page index of topics compiled by another eminent Skyeman, the late Mr. Malcolm MacInnes, who also financed the publication. This fine book sells at 30/-. Previous to its publication second-hand copies of Nicolson's book sold at from 35/- to £2 10/-.

Mod Ionadach na Dreolluinn

THA cuid ann a chreideas nach 'eil leithid de bhaile ri Thobar-Mhoire ann idir, air neo gur e leth-bhaile druidheach a tha ann, leth-astar eadar Hy Bhrasail agus Tiran-Og, air a chruthachadh á ceò a' Chuain Siar le buidseachd cheòlmhor Harry Lauder! Shaoileadh neach, 's a bharail sin aige, gum b'ann a' cur ri àireamh an cuid thaighean—cleas luchd-togail rìgh-chathair Artair—a bha na sidhichean, Di-bhaoine, an cóigeamh là deug de'n Og-mhios, le cho binn Ìonmhor 's a bha na h-òrain àrsaidh, agus feadhainn ùra cuid-eachd, a chluinnteadh feadh an latha an Talla Arois (Sràid a' Chladaich) agus m'a thimcheall.

Far an robh na blàthan agus—a thaobh an toil-intinn-san a bha an làthair—na measan cho pailt, sultmhor, cha b'fhurasda na fìor "chinn cinntinn" fhaicinn fo'n chòrr—na bha iad ann idir, an da-rìreadh, rud nach 'eil cinnteach: cha chreid mi fhéin nach b'ann an teampull sean Eaglais Naomh Mhuire a bha a h-aon diùb, agus Anna NicIain á Barraidh a' cumail còmhraidh leis a' chloinn òig an sin, mu'n leithid de chuspairean agus "gearcan mo sheanmhar," "turus do Ghleann-gorr" agus "Tìrìodh" Thug na britheamhnan-cainnte an binn seachd anns a' Ghàidhlig, agus is coltach gun d'rinn na britheamhnan-ciuil adhartas air chor-eigin 's an aon rathad.

B'e là fèathail, grianach a bha againn, gun a bhith ro-bhlàth; de'n ghnè side a mhealas sinn aig toiseach an t-samhraidh agus nach reic sinn do na Goill. An déidh do'n Mhòd a bhith seachd chumadh cuir-m-chiuil, leis an Urr. Uilleam MacDhòmhnaill, a rugadh is a thogadh anns an eilean, anns a' chathair; far an tug guth binn-bheulach Iomhaire Chaimbeul, mar as àbhaist, tlachd mhór do'n t-sluagh gu léir, chuir an luchd-buidhne an céill cho ceart is a bha na britheamhnan fad an latha, agus sheinn Alasdair MacEachairn rogha de rainn *An Eilein Mhuilich* agus Dòmhnall Deòir á Eisdeal a' stiùradh an dà chuid nan còisrean le chéile agus an luchd-éisdeachd. Chomhdhunadh an tional le panna-ringidh.

B' iad seo na britheamhnan. Air son cainnte

—Anna NicIain, Aonghas MacLeòid, Calum MacLeòid, agus Dòmhnall MacThómais. Air son ciùil—Iomhaire Chaimbeul, Dòmhnall Deòir, agus Iain A. MacSuain. Air son litreachais—an t-Urr. Uilleam MacMhathain.

Seo luchd-buidhne nam prìomh-dhuaisean anns na comh-fharpaisèan.

Earrann nan h-Oigridh

Beul-aithris. Leughadh roisg (fo 11)—Eòghann MacGille-Mhoire. Leughadh roisg no bàrdachd—Niall MacGille-Mhoire. Ur-aithris—Eòghann MacGille-Mhoire. Còmhradh (Comunn na h-Oigridh)—Caitriona NicAsgaill. Dealbh-chluich (“Dealbh Mo Sheanar”) (Comunn na h-Oigridh)—Feachd Pheighinn-a'-Ghaidheil.

Guth-cheòl. Oran aon-neach (fo 11)—Iain MacGille-Mhoire. Balaich—Niall MacGille-Mhoire. Cailean—Fiona Chaimbeul. Oran-caraid—Anna agus Fiona Chaimbeul.

Comh-sheirm—Sgoil Bhun-easain. Seinn aon-fhuaimneach (sgoilean beaga)—Sgoil Mhòr-innis. Seinn aon-fhuaimneach (“Sgiath an t-Sàilein Mhuilich”) — Sgoil Pheighinn-a'-Ghaidheil.

Comh-fharpaisich a b'òige (dolar gach fear, o Sheumas MacGaraidh—cha chreid mi nach 'eil “rud-eigin aig” ar caraid, Seumas, an seòl): balachain—Eachann MacUalraig. Cail-eagan—Ciordan NicGilleathain.

Earrann nan Inbheach

Litreachas. Oidhirp-litreachais—Eòghann MacLaomainn. Sgeul goirid—Eòghann MacLaomainn.

Beul-aithris. Leughadh roisg (air a' cheud sealladh)—Eòghann MacLaomainn. Ur-aithris—Ealasaid Logannach. Còmhradh-dithis—Ceiteirein NicMhathain agus Seòdaid Bean Nèill Mhic-an-t-sagairt. Sgeulachd—Eòghann MacLaomainn.

Guth-cheòl. Mith-òran (duaisean le Màiri NicCaluim, Bean DhòmhnailMhic Phàrlain): boireannaich—Ealasaid Bean Alasdair Chatanaich. Fireannaich—Alasdair Catanach. Oran ionadail: boireannaich—Ealasaid Bean Alasdair Chatanaich. Fireannaich—Alasdair MacEachairn. Oran aon-neach: boireannaich—Eiordan Bean Aindrea Briggs. Fireannaich—Donnchadh MacDhòmhnail. Oran-mór: boireannaich—Ealasaid Bean Alasdair Chatanaich. Fireannaich—Alasdair MacGill-Fhionnain. Oran-caraid—Ealasaid Bean Alasdair Chatanaich agus Màiri Bean Alasdair MhicUalraig. Oran-ceathrar—Ceathrar an t-Sàilein Mhuilich.

Seinn aon-fhuaimneach—An Sàilean Muileach. Comh-sheirm (“An Sgiath Mhuileach”) —An Sàilean Muileach.

A. T. L. (Runair-Urr.)

Executive Council

THE Extraordinary Meeting of the Executive Council of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in the Highlanders' Institute, Glasgow, on Saturday, 23rd June.

The members of Executive were glad to welcome back the President, Mr. Neil Shaw, after his long illness. Mr. Shaw thanked the Council for their forbearance and goodwill and expressed his pleasure at being again present at a Council meeting, although he did not yet feel fit enough to preside over the business.

Bailie Donald Thomson, Oban, one of the Vice-Presidents then, at Mr. Shaw's request, took the Chair and conducted the business of the meeting.

Tribute was paid to the following members and workers in the Gaelic cause who had passed away—Mr. Angus Macdonald, Glasgow; Miss C. M. Gordon, who had been a prominent worker for An Comunn's Feills; Mrs. A. D. Mackay; and Mrs. Pursell, Campbeltown.

Congratulations were expressed to Mr. John Bannerman, Junr., on his recently achieving second-class honours in Celtic at the University of Glasgow.

Miss Chrissie Turner, who was recently

re-appointed to the headquarters staff, was present and was cordially welcomed.

Minutes of the following Standing Committees were submitted, discussed, and approved—Advisory, Finance, Education, Propaganda, and Mod and Music.

It was noted with regret that, since only three persons had enrolled, the proposed Gaelic Summer School at Portree, for which a minimum of twenty students was necessary, had had to be cancelled.

The question of Gaelic in Edinburgh schools is still under consideration.

Reference was made to the conference for teachers in Gaelic-speaking areas, to be held at Jordanhill in July, and appreciation was expressed for the good services of the College authorities in making the necessary arrangements.

It was reported that there is a demand for Gaelic Continuation Classes in Glasgow to be extended to the summer months, and it was agreed to investigate the possibility of an extension.

It was reported that the course for producers of Gaelic plays, held in Glasgow recently, had

been attended by fifteen potential producers of plays.

In recent months a number of branches and affiliated societies have been visited; the Cruchan Branch at Taynult has been re-constituted, and it is proposed to revive the Dumbarton Branch.

Following upon a propaganda tour in the Lochaber area by the Northern Organiser, it is hoped to form several new branches.

It was noted with regret that it was not possible to hold the provincial mods at Campbeltown, Fort William, and Edinburgh this year, but altogether thirteen mods had been held.

Messrs. Angus Macleod and James Thomson were appointed as delegates from An Comunn to the Oireachtas in Dublin next October.

Mrs. Grant Washington made certain proposals with a view to enlisting the branches in an effort to increase the circulation of the official magazine. Mr. J. M. Bannerman stressed the need for a scheme of regular and systematic visitation of districts and areas in

order to encourage existing branches and establish new ones, and it was agreed that the proposal should be carefully examined with special reference to any necessary re-arrangement of the Secretary's and Northern Organiser's work in their respective offices.

The "Rules and Conditions" for the National Mod Competitions, which had been revised and re-arranged, were submitted for consideration, and powers were given to the Mod and Music Committee to have them printed when finally approved.

The statement of Treasurer's Accounts for 1955-56 was submitted and considered, as were also the annual reports of the Standing Committees, and these were passed for submission to the annual general meeting in October.

Nominations for the offices of President, Vice-President, sixteen members of Executive Council, and Auditors were lodged and read.

Notices of motion were called for, and thereafter the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Notes and Comments

We welcome Miss Chrissie Turner back to the headquarters office of An Comunn Gaidhealach.

Mr. John Macdonald, M.A., Reader in Celtic in the University of Aberdeen, has retired, and we express to him our very good wishes for a long and happy retirement, our thanks for the work he has done these many years he has been head of the Department of Celtic Studies at Aberdeen, and our hope that he may put us further in his debt by devoting some of his leisure to the production of some work in the field in which he is a master.

We offer our congratulations to Mr. Derick S. Thomson, M.A., B.A. (Cant.), on his being appointed to succeed Mr. John Macdonald as Reader in Celtic in the University of Aberdeen. Mr. Thomson is, as our readers know, a son of Lewis, a bard of rare quality and originality, and a thoroughly equipped scholar. Eminent among the succession of first-class Gaelic scholars who have been trained in Aberdeen under Mr. Macdonald, Mr. Thomson also studied at Cambridge University, was assistant in Edinburgh University, and for the past few years a lecturer in the Celtic Department of Glasgow University. He is joint-editor of the quarterly, "Gairm." We wish for Mr. Thomson a successful career in his new post, and to him and to Mrs. Thomson (better known to many as Carol Galbraith, Mod Gold Medallist) our very good wishes.

Heartiest congratulations to Mr. John Bannerman, Jr., on gaining second class honours in Celtic at Glasgow University. We wish "Iain Og" every success in his career.

It was our good fortune to be invited to help with the adjudication at the Perthshire Provincial Mod, held recently at Aberfeldy. It was our first visit to Aberfeldy and to the Mod. It was a refreshing and

encouraging experience. This year three of the Provincial Mods have had to be cancelled because of lack of support, two at least of them in areas where there are more Gaelic-speakers than there are in Perthshire. A small but keen band of enthusiasts, ably led by Rev. Ian MacLellan, Weem, Rev. John Robertson, Strath-tay, Mrs. Petrine Stewart, and Mrs. Henderson (daughter of the fine Gael and National Mod prize-winner, Alexander Stewart of Glen Lyon), are in a very real sense "holding the fort."

The linguistic boundary between Gaelic and English lay right across Perthshire for many centuries, and, although English has long since flooded in beyond the frontiers, there are these outposts of resistance in north-west Perthshire. We heard two excellent junior choirs, one from Aberfeldy and the other from Killin. We heard quite a number of youthful competitors who, if not fluent in conversation, were at least learning the language and had worked hard at their prescribed tasks. In addition to the native speakers, of whom there are only a few now, there are Gaelic-speaking incomers from further north and west who are, we are glad to say, playing their part.

One competition that greatly interested and impressed the Gaelic adjudicators, was that on "The Gaelic Names of Birds." We scrutinised quite a number of entries, all well done and some excellently done. The best entries consisted, not of a mere list of Gaelic names of birds with their English equivalents, but of a coloured drawing of each bird mentioned, with the Gaelic name and a note about it.

At this year's Perthshire Mod a new trophy, the George A. Matheson Cup, was presented in memory of the late Mr. Matheson, who had been a stalwart supporter of the Gaelic movement. The Cup is awarded for the highest aggregate marks in the senior solo-singing competitions, and the first winner was Mrs. C. A. Douglas, Pitlochry, a native of Skye. The

Cup was handed over to her by Mrs. Mitchell, daughter of the late Mr. Matheson.

At the Mod Concert in Aberfeldy Town Hall, before a full house, the first-prize winners provided a first-class programme, assisted by Mr. Alex. Brown, Mod Gold Medallist, and, by special request, **Mrs. Petrine Stewart** and **Mr. George Clavey**. Mr. Clavey conducts the Killin Junior Gaelic Choir. He himself is a learner of Gaelic but, to hear him sing, one would conclude that he was nurtured in the Gaelic from the cradle.

We always look forward to the annual report of the Mull Provincial Mod, otherwise known as "**Mod Ionadach na Dreòlluin**." This is one Mod where no effort is spared to make it ALL-GAELIC, and it shows what can be done. We must confess, however, that we were in some doubt about "pannal-ringidh"—our own Gaelic being somewhat *ersatz* as some of our more candid, if less polite, friends tell us. At first we had visions of something in the nature of a midnight romp on the heights of Tobermory, but we went to the Oireachtas in Dublin last October and, as we looked at the various activities listed in Irish Gaelic and saw the word "rice," we at once remembered the "pannal-ringidh" of "Mod na Dreòlluin" and we understood!

Priorities.—We have heard that, while three Mods were cancelled this year, some others report fewer entries, especially in their senior section competitions. On the other hand, we have the encouragement of the South-West Ross Mod spilling over into a second day. Nevertheless, it is plain that considerable and speedy effort must be made, first, to encourage and revive existing branches and to form new ones in new areas, and, secondly, to strengthen the Provincial Mod Committees. This matter was mooted at the recent meeting of the Executive Council, and one very much hopes that the suggestion will be followed up and without delay.

It is true that An Comunn derived its initial impetus and inspiration from a small band of enthusiasts in Oban and Glasgow, but its period of greatest expansion and greatest influence was when it had the largest number of "live" branches, and that was achieved by regular and systematic visitation of areas. We realise that the pressure of work on the officials of An Comunn grows no less, but we are convinced that it will be in the interests of An Comunn to make it easier than it is at present for the Secretary to spend more time in the field. And this task and duty are not the Secretary's alone. It should be possible to arrange for a number of office-bearers and members of Council to share in the work of visitation and in propaganda tours. In an organisation like ours personal contacts matter much more than more formal and less personal work, however necessary the latter may be.

We learn that the Kirk Session and Congregation of Gigha are proposing to erect a suitable memorial in the parish church to the late **Rev. Dr. Kenneth Macleod**, for a quarter of a century minister of Gigha, and known and loved by Gaels everywhere. It is felt that many would like to be associated with this tribute to his memory. Contributions may be sent to the Rev. R. P. Aitchison, The Manse, Island of Gigha, Argyll.

Speaking at the Concert held in Oban in connection with the Lorn, Morvern, and Mull Provincial Mod, the **Rev. Kenneth MacMillan**, Appin, said: "Without the knowledge of the Gaelic language, we cannot be true Highlanders or Islanders. And without a

knowledge of Gaelic language and culture no one can understand and appreciate fully the Highland background." Gaelic, he said, used to be persecuted; it was being slowly murdered by outside influences. Now, however, if Gaelic is losing ground, it is because it is being cold-shouldered by the Highland people. "If it is dying, it is because we are neglecting it, starving it, allowing it to fall out of use."

We were sorry to hear some time ago of the death of **Mrs. Rachel Robertson**, widow of the late Mr. Angus Robertson, who from 1922 to 1927 was President of An Comunn Gaidhealach. The news of her passing recalled the remarkable personality her husband was, with his burning enthusiasm and his flow of eloquence. With many others who have been awarded the same, we cherish among our most prized possessions a small gold medal given by him for the encouragement of Gaelic in the senior secondary school of his native island. We also from time to time refresh our drooping spirits by looking into his volume of poems, "*Cnoc an Fhadhairc*," and when our Gaelic vocabulary and prose style need toning up, we go back to "An t-Ogha Mór."

We do not possess a television set, but on occasion we are kindly permitted to "look in" at a friend's house. The other day we went along to see a certain programme and were in time for the last few minutes of "The Brains Trust," and the question they were dealing with was of special interest, since a day or two before we had had a discussion about "**An Gaidheal**" at the Executive Council meeting. The question was about the disappearance of so many magazines in recent years. Cyril Connolly, who has been concerned with several magazines, said, if we remember aright, that, while before the war a small magazine might make ends meet on a circulation of 3,000, nowadays it would need a circulation of at least 15,000. Rising costs, the competition of other interests, a decline in interest in serious literary matters—these are among the reasons. It would seem that, between the "popular dailies," with circulations running to millions, and mass entertainment by radio, television, and film, there is less and less room for the literary magazine. The fact that so many other journals have their difficulties and so many have ceased altogether does not help us to solve our own special problem, but at least it gives us a little comfort to know that our magazine difficulties are not peculiar to ourselves.

We learn that a new society has been founded in Edinburgh to popularise the wearing of the kilt. It is called "**Am Feile Beag**" (The Kilt), and anyone interested is asked to communicate with Mr. J. M. Duncan, 16 Southfield Avenue, Barrton, Edinburgh.

NATIONAL MOD, LARGS, 1956.

Mod Entries.

	Juniors.	Seniors.
Literary	12	28
Oral	46	81
Solo and Duet	104	396
Choral	23	83
Instrumental (Pianoforte and Violin)	7	19
Clarsach	—	13
Art and Industry	—	11
Compilation of Music	—	6
	192	637

Total Entries, 829.

Ayr Branch

ONE Jura man succeeds another as President of the Ayr Branch of An Comunn. Mr. Alasdair MacKechnie, who has just relinquished office after ten years' occupancy of the Presidential Chair, is a competent Gaelic scholar, as might be expected of one who completed his education in Oban High School. He is a nephew of the late Sheriff Principal Dugald MacKechnie and has inherited much of the natural talent associated with his clan in Jura.

Mr. Donald MacIsaac, who succeeds Mr. MacKechnie as President, gained the Gold Medal for solo singing at the National Mod in Fort William in 1932. He also gained first prize for reciting the poem, "An Ròn", at the 1954 Mod in Perth.

Since taking up residence in Ayr, Mr. MacIsaac has formed a Junior Gaelic Choir which has gained many honours at the Ayrshire Musical Festival and at the National Mod. One of the highlights of the Branch's session is the Annual Concert of the Ayr Junior Gaelic Choir. They have also appeared in Glasgow. We wish Mr. MacIsaac every success in his high office, an office which we know he is well qualified to fill with distinction.

Mr. MacIsaac's brother, Alasdair, has recently been appointed to succeed Mr. Duncan MacKenzie as President of the Edinburgh Branch. Jura, notwithstanding its diminishing native population, is making a notable contribution to the aims and objects of An Comunn. We thank the retiring Presidents for their splendid services during the past few years.

It will be of interest to our members to know that the Ayr Branch was formed in February, 1929, as the result of an approach being made to Headquarters by the Rev. D. Ferguson on behalf of members of the Gaelic Class which he had formed and conducted in the town. Mr. Neil Shaw, General Secretary, accompanied by Mr. Donald MacIsaac as guest singer, attended the first meeting and formed the Branch. Also attending this meeting were Major and Mrs. Stewart (Fasnacloich) who were resident in the vicinity at the time. The Marquis of Ailsa, better known to members of An Comunn as the Earl of Cassillis, took, as was expected, an interest in the Branch, and presided over one of the Concerts. The Rev. Mr. Ferguson would not accept any office, and Mr. John MacAskill was appointed President with Major Stewart (Fasnacloich) as Hon. President. Mr. Colin Ferguson was appointed Secretary and, although not holding any office at present, he is most regular in his attendance at the monthly

meetings. A Senior Gaelic Choir was formed and gave much support to the Branch in its early years.

The Ayr Branch has a fine record of good and continuous service to our cause.

Naidheachd A Cill Odhran

DONNCHADH BAN. "Bha mi 'n dé 'm Beinn Dòbhrain." Bha mi fhéin ann cuid-eachd, a Dhonnchaidh, agus bha Stiùbhartach òg agus Ciarraigheach bàn ann còmhla rium— agus cha chreid mi gu robh a leithid riamh ann còmhla riutsa! An robh?

JAFFRENNOU. Chaochail ar caraid Jaffrennou. Bha e sean gu leòir—trì fichead is a seachd deug. Bha e an Albainn an uair a bha Cruinneachadh nan Ceilteach ann bho chionn trì bhliadhna. Bha e fhéin agus Ella Nic Ghille Mhicheil (bean Uilleim I. Mhic Bhàtar) ann aig a' cheud Chruinneachadh—anns a' Chuimrigh, bho chionn dà fhichead bliadhna is a seachd deug. Ach dh'fhàs Jaffrennou sgìth de Chruinneachadh nan Ceilteach—"Un congrès de vieilles femmes," mar thubhairt e fhéin. *Agus, air mo shon deth, chan fhaca mi riamh gun do rinn an congrès cail air son na cànaire.*

"GABHAIDH SINN AN RATHAD MOR." Gheibh L. S. Dair iomradh air an òran seo anns an leabhar a chaidh a chur a mach le Teàrlach Stiùbhart—*The Killin Collection* (1884). Mur 'eil an leabhar seo aig L. S. Dair, faodaidh e thighinn air chéilidh orm, agus seal-laidh mi dha e.

"ENTHUSIASM AGUS L.S.D." Ceart gu leòir, a Thòmais! Car son nach pàidh gach duine againn 1/2^d air an t-seachdain air sgàth na Gàidhlig?

NA DEALBHAN CLUICHE: Mar tha a fhios agaibhse, tha trì nithean feumail—airgead, fir-chluiche, agus luchd-éisdeachd. A bheil iad ri am faotainn?

"LA AN ANRAIDH." Nach maith an sgeul seo a sgrìobh Alasdair Iain MacAsgaill! Thaitinn an sgeul gu mòr rium. Agus, mar an ceudna, an t-iomradh a thug Alasdair Iain duinn an *Gairm* air Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir-Nis.

LACHLANN AGUS DOMHNALL. Tha sinn cho toilichte gun do chuir Lachlann MacFhionghain a mach an rosg a sgrìobh Dòmhnall MacFhionghain. Is maith a rinn thu an obair ud, a Lachlainn! Chan fhaca mi Dòmhnall riamh. Bha mi cheana anns an arm an uair a dh'eug e. Ach an dèidh sin, an uair bha mi an Colabhach, chaidil mi, air feadh còrr agus sè seachdainean, anns an leabaidh anns an do chaochail e.

I. M. MOFFATT-PENDER.

Gaelic Technical Dictionary

Mathematics

Mathematics àireamh-tomhais (*f.*),
matamatachd (*f.*),
matamatics (*f.*),
tomhas-ùil.

Mathematical matamatach (*a.*).

Mathematician matamataicean (*pl.*),
(?)

Algebra

Arithmetical Series sreath àireamhachail
(*f.*).

Binominal Theorem triall-dearbhaidh dà-
ainmeach.

Combinations co-aontachdan (*pl.*),
co-cheangail (*pl.*).

Equations co-fhreagarrachdan
(*pl.*).

Factors.

Formula.

Geometrical Series.

Logarithmic Series sreath logarithmeach.

Permutations muthaidhean (*m.pl.*)

Quadratic ceithir-chearnach (*a.*).

Trinominals tri-ainmeach (*.*) (*pl.*).

Co-ordinate Geometry

Co-ordinate comh-inbheach (*a.*).

Co-ordination comh-inbheachd (*f.*).

Graphs dealbhachd.

Graphical Diagram

Maxima mòrachd (*f.*).

Minima lughad (*f.*).

Trigonometry

Trigonometry triantanachd (*f.*).

Trigonometrical triantanach (*a.*).

Trigonometrical Ratio ruith triantanach (*f.*).

Sine of an angle uachdach (*m.*).

Co-sine comh-uachdach (*m.*).

Secant

Co-secant

Tangent beanailt (*m.*).

Co-tangent comh-beanailteach
(*m.*).

Tangential beannailteach (*a.*).

Degree ceum (*m.*), beann (*f.*).

Radian

Reciprocal Ratios ruithean malairteach
(*pl.*).

Solution of Triangles fuasgladh thri-chearn-
aich (*m.*).

Calculus

Calculus calculus (*f.*).

Derivatives

Differential diùbhrasach (*a.*).

Integral coimhlionta (*a.*) (?)

SOME ADDITIONAL WORDS

Theatre

Actors actaran (*pl.*)

Actor, Leading
(leading man) am prìomh-actar.

Platform àrd-ùrlar (*m.*), àrd-
ùrlaran (*pl.*).

Drama

Scottish Drama Society Comunn Dràma na
h-Alba.

Dramatic Festivals Féisean Dràma.

Dramatic Art Ea'dhain Dràma.

Plays Dealbh-chluichean
(*pl.*).

Produced at the festivals air am foillseachd
aig na féisean.

Gaelic Dramatic Féis Dràma Gàidhlig.
Festival

Students of Drama Oileanaich dràma.

Producers of plays Luchd-dealbhachaidh
chluichean.

Cinema

Mobile Movies or
Pictures Dealbhan-glusadach
air chuibhleachan.

Radio or Wireless

Broadcast craobh-sgaoileadh.

Broadcast on the radio craobh-sgaoiliche air
an radio.

Announcing the
programmes ag ainmeachadh nam
prògramman.

This news was recorded Chaidh an naidheachd
seo a rècordadh.

Gaelic news on the radio an t-ìomradh Gàidhlig
air an radio.

Gramophone gramafon.

Microphone a' mhicrofon (*f.*).

Was recorded air a rècordadh.

Radio plays dealbh-chluichean air
an radio.

Woman's Hour "Uair nam Ban" air
an radio.

On the air air an adhar.

Council of the B.B.C. Comhairle a' Bh.B.C.

Recording-machines (?) Innealan-deachdaidh.

Gaelic representative on the B.B.C.	Fear-cuideachaidh ann an Oifis Ghàidhlig a' Bh.B.C.
Scottish Orchestra	Cèòlraidh Albannach a' Bh.B.C.
On records	air clàir.
Radio or Wireless	An labhran-sìdhe, an radio.

Television

Television	teilibhisean, céin-léirsinn, cian-amhairceachd.
On the television	air an teilibhisean.
Television mast	crann-sgaoilidh teilibhisein.

Comunn Na h-Oigrìdh

Rules and Syllabus

A new edition has been published of this little book, describing the history and aims of Comunn na h-Oigrìdh, An Comunn Gaidhealach's Youth Movement, and giving essential information about the organisation of the Feachdan (or Local Groups), the Camps and Summer School, and the Permanent Centre at Cnoc-nan-ros. Schemes of work for the different age-groups are provided, as well as a programme of "Camp Routine," and various activities and opportunities of service.

Illustrated with several interesting photographs of camp scenes, this booklet is well worth ninepence, and we commend it to all interested in our Gaelic youth.

"Gairm"

It is some time since last we made mention of the all-Gaelic quarterly, *Gairm*. We are glad to note that it continues on its way with vigour and acceptance. The Summer Number maintains the high standards of the preceding fifteen numbers. There is excellent reading material here, interesting photographs, and amusing cartoons, and all for half-a-crown. *Gairm* Office is located at 227 Bath Street, Glasgow, C.2.

* * *

Cha robh coille riamh gun chionnach.

* * *

Cha truaigh cù agus marag m'a amhaich.

* * *

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

Treasurer's Notes

National Mod—Largs, 1956.

<i>Received at Largs—</i>	
Previously acknowledged	£1397 5 10
Concert, Barrfields, per Mr. D. M. MacCallum	55 — 6
Country Dance, Barrfields, per Misses Todd, Blackstock and Adamson and Mr. Hamilton	63 10 —
Knightswood Highlanders Ceilidh	8 — —
Mrs. Maclean of Ardgour	2 2 —
Dr. L. E. B. Buchanan, Largs	5 5 —
Dr. Hector Macdonald, Stornoway	2 2 —
David Henderson, Esq., Aberdeen	5 — —
Mrs. A. E. Barrowclough, Largs	10 — —
Miss I. McLennan, Largs (second contribution)	5 — —
Mr. & Mrs. P. Robertson, Largs	5 — —
Wester Ross Association	2 2 —
Lochtayside Branch	3 3 —
Lochinver Branch	2 — —
Largs Operatic Society	5 — —
Edinburgh Argyll Association	5 5 —
Northumberland & Durham Caledonian Society	5 5 —
	<hr/> £1581 — 4

<i>Received at Headquarters—</i>	
Previously acknowledged	£141 7 1
Robert MacLellan, Esq., Glasgow	— 10 —
Miss F. H. Kennedy, Whitehouse	1 — —
The Glasgow Lewis & Harris Association	15 15 —
Miss Sara Carmichael, Lochgilphead	1 — —
Mrs. A. M. MacLeod, Tobermory	— 3 —
Mrs. R. Holmes, Edinburgh	1 1 —
Miss E. M. Johnston, Edinburgh	1 — —
John Macleod, Esq., Glasgow	— 4 —
Neil Cameron, Esq., Sunderland	5 — —
Miss Morag McLean, Clarkston	— 5 —
	<hr/> 167 5 1
	<hr/> £1748 5 5

Central Fund

Previously acknowledged	£34 17 —
Dundee Highland Society	2 10 —
A. Urquhart, Esq., Stornoway	2 — —
Kilmarnock Branch	5 5 —
Skelmorlie & District Highland Association	2 2 —
	<hr/> £46 14 —

Magazine Fund

Previously acknowledged	£— 17 6
Ceilidh nan Gaidheal, Dundee	5 — —
	<hr/> £5 17 6



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar VIII

AN T-IUGHAR, 1956

Aireamh 7

Corra Sgeoil o Ghlasach

I Le SEORAS MACMHOIRIS, Ceasog, Inbhir-Nis.

I

IOMADH bliadhna air ais, bha duine ann, Muireach MacRath, d'am bu dùthaich Cinn-t-sàile mu thaobh Loch Dubhthaich. Bha leobhrachadh inilt aige bh'o'n t-Siosalach air fearann an ceann siar Ghlinn Canaich agus bha lìon mór de chrodh aige an sin. Bu chòir soimeach an duine e, air deagh eineach am measg Ghlasach, agus b'e 'Muireach Fial' a bha aca air. Bu nòs da càise, im, agus gu sònraichte mairtfeoil air an ladhar, a reic ri muinntir baile Inbhir-Nis.

Air an trobh dheireannach, mar a thachair, air da a bhuar a reic agus a bhuchailleann fhàgail 'na dhéidh gu coiseachd, bha e a' sibhalh ris an t-sràth air muin eich gu a chonair a dheanamh suas Canaich no Aifric gu ruig Cinn-t-sàile. Tràth ràinig e Sruith, far an robh taigh-còmhnaidh, bha greadhainn de dhaoine garbha ag òl an sin. Chaidh Muireach a steach do'n taigh-òsda gu dìot fhaghail, agus air da acras agus iotas a shàsachadh, dhìol e na fhuair e agus chaidh e a mach a ris a dh'ionnsaigh a eich. Mhòthaich na daoine ud, ré na h-ùine sin, gu robh tòrr airgid aige, agus bha iad a mach roimhe. Tràth thòisich Muireach air a thurus a ris, bha iad a' feitheamh air, agus rug iad air a chum a chuid airgid a thoir uaithe le fòirneat. Mu dheireadh mharbhadh Muireach Fial agus thugadh an t-airgead agus a chuid aodaich féin uaithe agus thilgeadh a cholann anns an abhainn agus theich na mèirlich.

Dh'fhalbh an t-each aig Muireach agus ràinig e taobh Loch Dubhthaich leis fhéin, agus le sin dh'aithnich na coimhearsnachd gun do thachair rud-eigin do Mhuireach. Chruinnich buidheann diubh le deifir agus dh'fhalbh iad an deanna nam bonn air eagal gu robh Muireach Fial an teinn agus feumach air cobhair.

Chaidh cuid diubh troimh Ghleann Canaich agus an còrr troimh Ghleann Aifric agus choinnich iad mu Inbhir Chanaich gun fhor no fhathann fhaighinn air Muireach. Chunnac iad, cuideachd, na buachailleann aig Muireach, ach cha robh fios idir acasan ach a mhàin gun

do thriall Muireach Fial air aghaidh romhpa. Chùm na Sàilich air adhart sìos Srath-ghlais agus an d'ràinig iad Sruith, far an d'fhuair iad fios gu robh Muireach MacRath anns an taigh-òsda mu dhà là roimhe sin agus gun do thriall e a ris gus an t-slighe suas Srath-ghlais a ghabhail. Bu tearc iad a dh'aithnich ciod a thachair do Mhuireach, agus bha iadsan car tosdach a chum nach tùrlingeadh d'oghaltas nam mèirleach air an ceann féin. Mu dheireadh, fhuair na Siaraich fios gun d'rug buidheann mhèirleach air Muireach agus nach facas e tar-éis. Bu chinntè leo, le sin, nach bu bheò do Mhuireach a gheibhteadh tuilleadh, ach bu leasg leo tilleadh gun dearbh-fhios fhaotainn. Chualas brogaich òga a' glaothaich 'nam measg féin gun d'fhuair iad taite air so geal neònach, fàisgte eadar freumhan craobh an doimhne linne. Thachair gun deachaidh na Sàilich a bhàn an deasmaras gu sin fhaicinn agus gun d'fhuaras colann Mhuirich an sin le aileanna nam biodag a' nochdadh na dòigh anns an d'fhuair e bàs.

Air dhaibh a phasgadh am plaidè no sgaball agus a cheangal air muin eich, dh'fhalbh na Siaraich air an conair gu taobh siar na droma. A' dol daibh seach Clachan Comar chunnac iad adhlacadh a' dol air adhart an sin—buidheann Ghlasach le ciste-laighe agus leac aca. Loisg na Sàilich urchairean os cionn nan Glasach agus theich na Glasach a shaoil gu robh iad an cunnart am beatha agus iad gun airm. Thug na Sàilich an leac maille riu agus, an uair a dh'adhlaic iad Muireach 'na dhùthaich féin, chuir iad an leac os a chionn. Tha ri fhaicinn fhathast, ceudan bliadhna tar-éis, air uaigh Mhuirich Fhéil an cladh air taobh Loch Dubhthaich an Cinn-t-sàile, leac a bha uallamh gu a cur air uaigh Ghlasach an Clachan Comar an Srath-ghlais.

II

BHA fearann ionaltraidh aig muinntir Ghiùthsachain am measg nam beann eadar Ghiùthsachan an Srath-ghlais agus ceann shuas Ghlinn Moireastan. Ghearradh

feur an sin cuideachd agus bha sobhal aca gu a chumail. Bha am bothan sin air a thogail ri taobh bruaich agus bha an dorus-cùil air an talamh air an leth a muigh ach an àird air a' bhalla air an leth a staigh. Bha e mòran na b' thasa dhaibh feur a chur a steach agus a thilgeil sìos o'n dorus sin na a bhith 'ga chur a steach air an dorus-bheulaibh agus 'ga thilgeil suas.

Bha dithis cheàrd, no fir-siubhail bhochda de sheòrsa-eigin, ag imeachd a' Gleann Moireastan gu Giùthsachan. Tràth ràinig iad am bothan sin, ged nach robh e anmoch de'n là, chuir iad romha gum fanadh iad gus an ath-là anns a' bhòthan sin ionnas gu robh fàsgadh agus blàths gu cadaal ann. Chaidh iad do'n dorus-chùil agus cheumaich a' cheud fhear air an fheur. Thuit e sìos a sealladh anns a' bhàd agus an déidh aon sgrìach oillteil cha robh guth ri chluinntinn ach beagan smuiseleachaidh fo'n fheur. Chunnai an fear eile gu robh còmhach feòr o' bhalla gu balla gu thuit àrd anns a' bhòthan ach fo sin far an do thair a chompanach bha ri fhaicinn sgaorr uamhasach de nathraichean.

Bu chinnte leis gu robh a chompanach marbh mar a bha, oir chunnai e sin, agus cha b' urrainn da rud sam bith a dheanamh co-dhiubh, agus dh'fhialbh e a bhàn gu Giùthsachan. Chaidh daoine suas a sin a dh'fhaicinn

na bha air tachairt. Bha gobhlagan fada aca agus o'n dorus-chùil ghluais iad beagan feòr o' mhullach na bha a staigh. Chunnai iad an sin nach robh feur anns a' mheadhon idir sìos agus an làr ach ceudan, seadh mìltean, de na nathraichean. Shnàig iad sin a steach fo'n dorus-bheulaibh, 's dòcha, a shireadh àite far am fanadh iad fad a' gheamhraidh. Le nathair air nathair a' teachd a steach mbalc am feur no dh'fhàisgeadh e do'n taobh, agus bha àireamh fhuathasach diubh a staigh le feur os an cionn a dh'fhan suas mar sin gus an tàinig cudthrom an duine air.

Théid nathraichean cearta còmhla mar sin an toll no uaimh fad geamhraidh. Chan 'eil mòran cunnairt annta, nan tachradh duine orra, do bhrìgh is gum bi coltas cadail thruim orra gus an tig blàths an earrach. Ach anns a' bhòthan sin le blàths an fheòir gun fhuachd talmhainn no creige umpa bha fad mòran na bu bheòthaile is na bu chunnartaiche agus cha bu bheò an duine bochd mionaid air tuiteam da 'nam measg.

Bha e 'na ceist air na Glasaich dé a dheanadh iad, agus dh'aontaich iad gum b'e an rud a b' fheàrr a dheanamh am bothan agus na bha ann a chur 'na theine. Rinn iad sin agus loisg e cho luath agus cho dian is nach d'fhuair nathair idir beò as.

Niall Mór Cheann-loch

"NACH uamhasach an spionnadh a tha ann am feadhainn seach feadhainn eile," arsa mo sheanair rium latha. "Tha cuimhne agam fhéin air Niall Mór Cheann-loch. Is ann an siud a bha an duine sgairteil, da-rìribh. Ach feumaidh mi sgeulachd innse dhuit m'a dheighinn.

"Bha poit-dhubh aig Niall Mór Cheannloch ann an Eilean Shannraidh. Bha fear Aonghas MacNéill còmhla ris aig an obair mhì-laghail sin agus, cho fad 's as fiosrach mise, 's e sin a' phoit-dhubh mu dheireadh a bha anns na h-eileanan. Bha i fo chleit aca aig cois na mara agus sruthan a' ruith a nuas a' fuaran chuire. (Dh'fheumte sruth air son cliath na poite duibhe). Cha robh dòigh air faighinn chun an àite ach le eathar agus mar sin cha ghlacte gun fhios iad. Bha smac aig Niall Mór, agus is ann an Tobar-Mhoire a bha e ag reic an uisge-bheatha.

"Bha fios glé mhath aig na gàidsearan mu'n uisge-bheatha a bha seo, ach cha robh dòigh aca air fhaighinn a mach càit an robh a' phoit-dhubh am falach aig Niall Mór Cheannloch.

"Mu dheireadh thàinig na gàidsearan an là a

bha seo ann an soitheach gu Bàgh a' Chaisteil far an robh an smac aig Niall Mór air acair. Ghlac iad Niall Mór innte agus thuir iad ris gum feumadh e a dhol còmhla riutha do Dhun-éideann a sheasamh cùirte, a chionn gu robh dearbhadh aca gu robh e ag reic uisge-beatha ann an Tobar-Mhoire.

"Thuir Niall Mór Cheannloch riutha nach robh e idir deònach a dhol do Dhun-éideann a bhith a' feitheamh cùirte an sin, ach gum falbhadh e an uair a thigeadh am na cùirte. Is e a rinn na gàidsearan, an uair a chuala iad sin, a' ghlac-làmh a chur air. Ach, na chuir, cha b' ann air son fada, oir, a' cur car mun cuairt de a làmhnan, bha a' ghlac-làmh briste aig Niall Mór m' an coinneamh!

Chan fhaca is cha chuala na gàidsearan a leithid tachairt riamh agus is ann a thuir iad ris gum fàgadh iad aig an taigh e gus am faigheadh e brath a thighinn do Dhun-éideann.

Is ann mar sin a thachair. Chaidh Niall Mór Cheannloch do'n phrìosan ùine agus an uair a fhuair e dhachaigh cha chualas gu robh e riamh tuilleadh ri obair na poite-duibhe ann an Sannraidh."

(Bho Sgoil Bhréibhig)

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AN LUNASDAL, 1956

Aireamh 8

Caraid Nan Ceilteach

TOMAS MACNEACAIL NÀCH MAIREANN

THA sinn glé dhuilich fios fhàotainn gun do chaochail Mgr. Tómas MacNeacail, An Caisteal Nuadh, Sasann. Chaochail e air an t-siathamh là deug de'n Mhàrt seo chaidh, ach cha chuala sinne an sgeul duilich seo gus am faca sinn iomradh air le Aindrias O Muimhneachain anns a' mhiosachan Eireannach, *Feasta*, o chionn ghoirid.

Is e aon turas a mhàin a choinnich sinn ri Tómas MacNeacail—agus sin aig coinneamhan Co-chruinneachadh nan Ceilteach—ach is iomadh litir a fhuair sinn bhuaithe. Aireamh uairean bha rud-eigin bho a làimh anns a' mhiosachan seo againn fhìn. Bidh cuimhne aig cuid againn air na sgrìobh e mu chóg bliadhna air ais mu'n Ghàidhlig anns na sgoiltean an Eirinn.

Rugadh MacNeacail anns a' bhliadhna 1891 am baile-beag Kirkoswald an Cumberland an ceann-a-tuath Shasainn, ach b' Albannaich a dhaoine. Dh'innis e fhéin uair is uair mar a dhùisgeadh fuil a shìnnis ann air tùs. Là a bha an seo, an uair nach robh e ach mu ochd bliadhna a dh'aois, có a thàinig a dh'ionnsaigh an àite ach buidheann phìobairean? Bha Tómas agus clann Kirkoswald gu léir ag éisdeachd riutha le ionghnadh, ach is e a chuir an t-ionghnadh buileach air Tómas gun do shìn na piobairean, an uair a sguir iad de'n phìobaireachd, ri

labhairt ri chéile an cànan nach tuigeadh e. Arsa esan r'a sheanamhair, "*What language is that?*" "*That is the Gaelic,*" arsa ise, "*the language everyone in Scotland spoke when Scotland had a king of her own.*" Cha robh a' Ghàidhlig aiceas na aig gin de'n teaghlach, ach cha robh i idir aineolach air a' charraig bho'n do ghearradh a mach i.

Riamh bho'n là ud rùnach Tómas gun cuireadh e èolas air tìr agus teanga na dùthcha d'am buineadh a mhuinntir. B'e "Sean-fhacail Ghàidhlig" an t-Siorraim MacNeacail a' cheud leabhar Gàidhlig air an do chuir Tómas eòlas. Ri ùine dh'ionnsaich e a' Ghàidhlig Albannach agus a' Ghàidhlig Eireannach, agus labhradh is sgrìobhadh e anns an dà chainnt sin mar gum bu Ghaidheal no Eireannach e a dheoghail a' chànan bho a mhàthair. Bha eòlas anabarrach aige mar an ceudna air na ceithir chànaichean Ceilteach eile. Cha d'fhuair e mòran sgoile 'na òige, ach bha inntinn bhreithneachail aige, agus thog e fòghlum is fiosrachadh nach bu bheag. Aig aois dà bhliadhna dheug ghluais an teaghlach do'n Chaisteal Nuadh, agus chaidh Tómas a dh'ionnsachadh càirde. B'ann anns a' bhaile sin a chuir e seachad a shaoghal, ach a mhàin ùine ghoirid a chuir e seachad a' teagasg na Gàidhlig Eireannaich an Eirinn fo iùl Connradh na Gaedhìlge. Rinn e mór-shaothair a' teagasg chlasaichean agus dhaoine fa-leth agus air gach

dòigh a b' urrainn dha a' cuideachadh aobhar na Gàidhlig.

B'e prìomh-mhiann a bheatha agus sàrdhùrachd a chridhe gun seasadh na Ceiltich còmhla ann an càirdeas agus an co-chaidreabh, agus do bhrìgh sin bha mòr-ùidh aige ann an Co-chruinneachadh ann Ceilteach.

"Is fuath leam fhéin," arsa esan, "Gaidheil a' càineadh an co-Ghaidheil, no a' deanamh magaidh agus a' sgeig air dual-chainnt no labhairt nach 'eil r' am faotainn 'nam paraist fhéin." Bu chùis-bhròin dha gu robh na slòigh Cheilteach cho aineolach agus cho coma mu chàch a chéile. "Tha aithne agam air Eireannaich," arsa esan, "agus is fuath leo na h-Albannaich. Tha aithne agam air Albannaich, agus is fuath leo na h-Eireannaich." B'e a mhiann an t-aineolas a sgapadh agus am fuath a chur air theicheadh, agus b'i an dòigh air sin a dheanamh, arsa esan, na h-Eireannaich a chur a leughadh litreachas Gàidhlig na h-Albann, agus na h-Albannaich a chur a leughadh litreachas na h-Eireann.

Is mór an call a leithid de dhuine a bhith 'gar dìth.

Gaelic Teachers' Conference

Over sixty persons from all over the Highlands and Islands attended the Conference of Gaelic-speaking Teachers, held at Jordanhill Training College, Glasgow, on 3rd to 6th July.

The speakers were: Miss C. J. Davies (H.M.I.S., Wales), Mr. M. Kinsella (Depute Chief Inspector of Primary Schools, Eire), Dr. J. A. Maclean (Director of Education for Inverness-shire), Mr. Ronald Macleod (H.M.I.S., Northern Division), Mr. John Maclean (Rector, Oban High School), Mr. Derick S. Thomson (Department of Celtic, Glasgow University), Mr. Alex. L. Urquhart (Gaelic Department, Nicolson Institute, Stornoway), Mr. John A. Macdonald (Gaelic Department, Bellahouston Academy, Glasgow, and Gaelic Lecturer, Jordanhill College), and Mr. S. Sanderson, (School of Scottish Studies, Edinburgh University).

Those present included Professor Kenneth H. Jackson and the Rev. William Matheson, of the Celtic Department of Edinburgh University, Mr. Angus Matheson (Celtic Department, Glasgow University), Dr. Annie M. Mackenzie (Celtic Department, Aberdeen University), Mr. John Mackinnon (H.M.I.S.), Mr. Neil Shaw (President of An Comunn Gaidhealach), Mr. Donald Thomson (Vice-President of An Comunn), Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Bannerman and Mr. I. M. Moffatt-Pender.

The lecturers covered the following subjects: "The General Problem of Bilingualism", "Bilingualism in Wales", "Bilingualism in Eire", "The School and the Collection of Traditional Material", "Gaelic in the Primary School", "Gaelic in the Secondary School", "Gaelic in the Training Colleges and Universities", and "The Supply of Gaelic Texts".

During the conference a display of selected Scottish Gaelic, Irish and Welsh publications for use in schools was on view.

There was keen discussion on all the topics under consideration and many useful suggestions were made. The two matters of greatest concern were the position of Gaelic in the primary schools and the supply of suitable text-books for learners and native speakers, and it is understood that it is proposed to take certain steps in this connection.

Gaidhlig Ghallda

FHIR mo chridhe.—Mìle mathanas! Fhuair mi do litir bho chionn fhada agus cha b'e an dearmad no an diochumhne a thug orm gun sgrìobhadh roimhe seo a t'ionnsaigh, ach a' chabhadh. Tha fhios agad, o'n cheud là a shinear crann no caibe toiseach an earraich agus am falaichear sùil a' bhuntata fo'n ùir anns a' Chéitein, nach i a' chléit as leannan duinn air an dùthaich. Gabh mo lethsgheul ma tà an dràsda, agus chan 'eil fhios, an uair a leigeas mi m'anail, nach innis mi dhuit faclan no dhà mu Dhòmhnaill MacFhionnlaigh nan Dàn; agus ma chaoimhnar mi an déidh sin, sgeul goirid mu Iain Lom—dithis a tha fo'n fhòid an Tom Aingeal.

Chan 'eil teagamh nach tàinig iomadh caochladh air Lochabar roimh linn na còmhachaidh, agus iomadh mùthadh is tionndadh bho bhàs Dhòmhnaill MhicFhionnlaigh agus an àn diugh. Cò as urrainn innse cuin a bha Mac a' Bhrith-eimh ann, cuin Fearghus, cuin Torradan—triùir a dh'eug mun robh Dhòmhnaill anns an Fhearsaid? An robh an leithid de dhaoine ann? Bha, agus bha iad a' fuireach anns an Fhearsaid mun robh Aonghas Mac Alasdair Charraich ann; dhearg a bhad an ainmeannan air fonn na Fearsaid ged a bhiodh (mar nach 'eil) a' chòmhachaidh a' togail fianaise-bréige. Ach nach coma, thriall iad fhéin agus an iarmad uile! De na bha de chinn-fheadhna eadar Cnoc a' Chualaich agus Caolas Mhic Phàdraig agus eadar Clach-an-fhuarain agus Màm-chlach-àrd, faodar a ràdh gun deach iad uile an talamh-toll, ach Mac Dhòmhnaill Duibh, oighre Shir Eòghainn, 'na ònrachd—agus maireann buan da! Mar seo choimhlichadh an fhàisteachd:

An Lochabar a tha thu,
Ach tràghaidh e mar an gaineanh;
Thig linn eile 'nar n-àite—
Bàsaichidh linn nan mollachd!

Choinhlonadh fàistneachd a' 'ghuth 's an speur' a chuala Gille-Moire a bha an Achadh-a'-mhadaidh, agus e a' dol seachad air Achadh-na-craoise. Chan 'eil cleith air. Ach is gann a shaoileas mi gun cuireadh Alasdair Carrach as gu buileach do'n t-sluagh agus miadh cho mòr air daoine anns na h-amannan ud. Air an achd cheudna chan 'eil e a' gabhail agam gun do sgrìosadh as na Pìocaich. Ach dubh, dona mar a tha sinn, tha ann as mìosa cor. Duan gach duine—"caoraich 's uain'", "luinnseach ghlas am bun gach tuim", "a' Ghaidhealtachd a' dol gu neo; na Gaidheil 's an cinn fodha; agus a' chaint a dh'ionnsaich ar màthraichean duinn, am ball-sinnsreacht a bha a' ruith air gach duine bho'n tàinig sinn, a' Ghàidhlig aosda a' dol air a h-uilinn, agus sinn fhéin (ge nàr e) le ar coire fhéin 'ga cur aog a dh'aindeoin! Mo chreach MacLachainn, MacLeòid, agus Munro!"

Gun teagamh tha na Goill 'nar measg agus sinne am measg nan Gall. Ach tha ann a their gu bheil iad cho math ruinn fhéin, agus, mur biomaid cho simplidh is a tha sinn, gun ionnsaicheadh iad a' Ghàidhlig.

Is aithne dhomh fhéin an iomadh ceàrna de'n Ghaidhealtachd teaghlaichean diubh a rinn seo agus a tha an diugh na's miadhaile uimpe na an tromlach dhinn fhéin! Chan fhaic thu balach as urrainn fead-ghlaic a dheanamh nach fimir e a chù a leigeadh is a stuigeadh am blialum as gann a thuigeas e fhéin no a chù. Cha chluinnear ach: "*Cam ear ahent!*", "*Ger away pack, hoot pye!*", "*Haud tait!*", "*Laigh toon ther!*", "*Cam en to my fuht!*", agus griasadan eile air nach cualas iomradh an gleann no an coire ri linn ar seanairan.

Is culaidh mhulaid e! Tha fhios agam gun abair thu, "Tha a' chùis gu h-olc." Ach ciod a their thu an uair a dh'inneas mi dhuit, mar nach biodh fios agad air, gu bheil na sgoilearan (a bhuidhe ri Gobha-nan-duan, cha d'fhuair mi fhéin a bheag de sgoil ann agus is e as lugha dragh)—'s eadh, na sgoilearan—a' toirt a h-anama-fàis aisde. Ma leanas iad ach goirid air an t-seòl a tha aca—gun fhios dhaibh fhéin, 'ga cuthainneachadh, mar a theireadh an t-seana bhean-chlàd e, le cìasnan no olainn Ghallda—éiridh fhathast, agus a' Ghàidhlig 'na suain fo'n lic, Gearmailtich agus theagamh Turcaich a bheir a chreidsinn air a' mhac nach d'rugadh gur Beurla a bha aig Gaidheil an là an diugh—gum bu Ghalldachd a' Ghaidhealtachd!

Nach cuimhne leat balachan beag beac-luirgneach leas-ruisgte a bhith air an aon leasan

ruinn—Lachann sgoilear an giullan-siùbhail? An uair a ghabh sinne soiridh bhuan leis 'An Treòiriche' agus leis an sgoil, lean esan riutha. Chuireadh a mach do Dhun-éideann e, agus fhuair e air adhart gu h-anabarrach math. Tha e an dràsda aig an taigh, agus e ri a dh'icheall ag ionnsachadh do'n òigridh Gàidhlig a leughadh agus a sgrìobhadh, agus is ann da as aithne. Tha e mion-fhiosrach mu gach rudanachd a bhùineas do thairbseach na Gàidhlig, agus neo-ar-thaing mur d'fhuair e làn-eòlas mu dheas air a pethraichean—fhuair, agus air a sinn-sirean a chrìoch cian mun d'rugadh e. Bu cho math leis duine 'ga bhualadh anns a' chamaigh-gharraidh le trì dùirn de bhata Dhoch-an-fhasaidh ri aon tuisleadh fhaotainn aig ceum na Staire-nobha (is aithne dhuit i, os cionn Buinne MhicBheathainn)—'leathann ri leathann, is caol ri caol'. Ach a dh'aindeoin sin uile tha e a' fairtleachadh air (ma tha fiach ris ann) smaoin sam bith a dheilbh ach air uaidnean na beirte Gallda.

Bha e là a bha an siod am Bruaich Màiri (anns a' Ghearasdan). Bha soitheach-sgadan a' fiaradh na Linne-duibhe agus long Lochlan-nach an acarsaid Chamas-nan-Gall. Bha an là fiathail, agus smaoinichear e dol a dh'fhaicinn na luinge agus fastaidhear bàta beag. An uair a bha e 'ga shocrachadh fhéin air an tobhta, le tubaist air chor-eigin tionndaidhear am bàta air a bheul fodha agus faighear am fleasgach tumadh math bàthaidh, agus atharraichear beachd agus tillear air ais.

A nis, tomhais ciamar a dh'innis e seo an oidhche roimhe an taigh an tàilleir? "Bha mi," arsa esan (agus e a' feuchainn geal na sùla), "air là àraidh am Bruaich Màiri. Bha soitheach-sgadan a' bualadh Loch-Linne na Loch-Ial, agus long de Lochlann an Camas-nan-Gall. Bha an là neo-stoirmeil agus shaoil mi dol a dh'fhaicinn na luinge agus thuarasdlaich mi bàta beag; ach ann a bhith 'gam shocrachadh fhéin air a' bheinge, le sgiorradh air chor-eigin thionndaidh am bàta bun-os-cionn, agus bha mise air tumadh math bàthaidh fhaotainn, agus thréig mi mò rùn agus thill mi air m'ais."

Is beag sin de Ghàidhlig Lachainn. Ged nach 'eil e a' creidsinn anns na sidhichean, agus ged nach d'ionnsaich e sgeulachd riamh, tha e 'na dheagh chnacaiche, ach bheireadh e ort do chhlì a chall a' gàireachdaich, tha e cho frithearra fada 'na bheachd fhéin. Tha e fulangach air fuachd agus air acras, ach chan fhuinge a e sheòladh. Is ann a their e, "A bhurraidh a tha thu ann, siod mar a their iad anns a' Bheurla". Cha nàr leis idir tighinn a mach le briathrachas mar seo: "stad air son mionaid" an àite "stad beag, moille bheag"; "leig leam faicinn" an àite "cuimhnic orm," "fuirich orm"; "a' snàmh an ailneas" an àite

“air snàmh”; “àitean far a bheil a’ Ghàidhlig air a labhairt” an àite “dùthchannan no àiteachan far am beileas”; “is coigrich sinn do’n bhainne” an àite “tha am bainne ’na annas oirnn” no “tha sinn fhéin ’s am bainne ’nar coigrich” no “nar n-athnìchinn air a chéile”; “tha sinn ullamh gu bhith a’ faotainn coire do dhaoine” an àite (ma’s fàgail no laigse-nàduir a tha aige ’na bheachd) “tha sinn deas air coire fhaotainn do dhaoine”; “seirbhis-shìobhalta” an àite “seirbhis na Ban-rìgh”; agus “airgead-crochaidh” an àite “pàidheadh-rìgh”.

Cha dad idir am briathrachas làmh ris an fhaclachadh. Chan ’eil uiread na cloinne-bìge nach ’eil a’ gabhail seirbhe dheth—rinn iad “pioc-an-coimheach” dheth. Chan ’eil àite anns an tachair iad, ged a tha e a’ maoidheadh beum-clachain orra, is ag innse gur ann mar siod a sgrìobh an Stiùbhartach e, nach dean iad “mìle-chuartaig” a’ gabhail a’ chèileiridh seo:

Thuit an gavinn
Anns an avinn
Oidhche Shavinn
’S bhris e avach
Is a chnavan!

Is duilich leam ri innse dhuit nach urrainn do Chalum tàillear gluasad gun na luirg; ’s e an neoni an saoghal! Bha uair a bheireadh e air na maighichean, agus tha Rob a’ cur air gu robh geall-réise eatorra. Ach coma, nach ’eil cuimhne agad an là a chaidh sinn ’nar triùir a chòimhead Clach-an-turramain agus Uamha Shomhairle? Nach bu chlis sìubhlach an là sin

e? Tha iadsan an Gleann Nibheis fhathast, agus a réir coltais bithidh gu “là-nan-creach” cia-dhiubh. Cha do dhùisg a’ chlach as an turra chadal, agus tha an uamha dubh dorcha an siod mu choinneamh Bun-na-stille, le a beul cumhang is le a h-ùrlar farsaing.

Dh’innis cuid-eigin do Lachann gur ann anns an uamha seo a rinneadh “Cha till sinn tuilleadh”, agus an là roimhe togar air is rachar a chòimhead na h-uamha. Is aithne dhuit fhéin Rob—bheireadh e conas as a leth lurgainn. Thuig e gu robh an tàillear a’ gabhail seirbhe de Ghàidhlig Lachainn, agus iarrar air a’ ghille chòir cunntas a thoirt seachad mu a thurus do Ghleann Nibheis. Thòisich Lachann: “Ann a bhith a’ dol dhomh a chòimhead Clach-an-fhulaig air là àraidh, chaidh mi gu Uamha Shomhairle a tha farsaing aig a h-ìochdar agus caol aig a mullach. Chunnac mi—” An uair a chuala an tàillear seo, chaidh ceòl na h-oidhche air feadh na fìdhle, chaill e a chluas-éisdeachd, ruith an fhoidhidinn, agus ghlaoidh e le àird a ghuth, “*Stop it, Lachie, none of your conundrums here!*”, agus thugar togail air a’ chrasgaig agus, mur biodh Aonghas Mór còir làmh ris, thuiteadh diubhail a bu lugha na thuit an Cuil-fhodair!

Is mithich sgar de’n Ghàidhlig Ghallda mun tilg thu orm, “An inisg ’ga cur ’s a bun aig a’ bhaile”.

Abrach (Domhnall Mac Mhuirich)
(An Gaidheal, 1873).

Books Worth Knowing

By the EDITOR

4. Mackenzie’s Beauties of Gaelic Poetry

IN writing of Campbell’s West Highland Tales we said that, while printed Gaelic original prose is late and scanty, there was considerable activity in the writing down and the collecting of Gaelic poetry. First, there was the Dean of Lismore’s Book in the early 16th century; then the Fernaig Manuscript in the late 17th century. There followed an increasing number of collectors during the 18th and early 19th centuries. Thus there came into existence various MS. collections of Gaelic verse, such as the MacLagan Collection, the MacNicol Collection, and Irvine’s Collection. What we are here concerned with, however, is *printed* Collections of poetry. The first was that published in 1776 by Ronald Macdonald of Egg, a son of the Gaelic bard, Alasdair Mac Mhaighistir Alasdair. It was reissued in 1782. A second edition, prepared by Patrick Turner with some minor changes, appeared in 1809.

The Egg Collection, as it is usually called, contains 106 poems, of which 76 are by named authors, 43 in number. The authors represented include Ronald’s own father, as well as Iain Dubh Mac Iain Mhic Ailein, Iain Lom, Mairi Nighean Alasdair Ruaidh, and Murchadh Mór Mac Mhic Mhurchaidh.

In 1786 John Gillies, printer and publisher, Perth, issued his Collection of Gaelic Poetry. These pieces were “transmitted from gentlemen in the Highlands of Scotland to the Editor,” who is said to have been the Rev. James MacLagan of Blair Atholl. There are just under 120 pieces in the book, by various authors but quite a number are anonymous. There are several “Ossianic” lays.

In 1804 there was published in Edinburgh “A Choice Collection of the Works of the Gaelic Bards”, collected in the Highlands and Islands, by Alexander and Donald Stewart,

about 130 pieces in all. Rob Donn, Mary Macleod, Iain Lom, and William Ross are among the bards represented. In 1813 came Patrick Turner's Collection of Choice Gaelic Poems, "never before printed." This contains 120 poems, of which 93 are by named authors, including Ailean Buidhe, Iain Lom, Iain Ruadh Stiubhart, Rob Donn, and Silis Nighean Mhic Raghnaill.

There were other collections, but in 1841 appeared the one which has proved most popular of all, "Sàr-Obair nam Bàrd Gaidhealach" ("The Beauties of Gaelic Poetry and Lives of the Highland Bards, with historical and critical notes, and a comprehensive glossary of provincial words.") The compiler was John Mackenzie, "Honorary Member of the Ossianic Society of Glasgow, the Gaelic Society of London, etc."

John Mackenzie was born at Mellon Charles (Meallan Theàrlaich), in the parish of Gairloch in 1806, and he was a great-grandson of "Am Ministear Làidir" (*The strong minister*), Rev. James Roberston of Lochbroom. He was apprenticed to an itinerant carpenter and thus, travelling the countryside, became familiar with the songs and traditions and dialects of the various districts. In 1823, when employed as a joiner (Hugh Miller, author of "My Schools and Schoolmasters", being the mason) at the building of an additional wing to the Manse of Gairloch, John Mackenzie fell and was seriously injured, and soon after he relinquished his trade and embarked on a literary career. His first literary venture was to collect and edit the poems of William Ross, who had been parish schoolmaster at Gairloch and had died in 1790 at the age of twenty-eight. His poems had survived on the lips and in the hearts of the local people, and Mackenzie, it is said, spent twenty-one evenings writing down Ross's poems as dictated from memory by an older man who had known the bard well. In 1833 Mackenzie left Gairloch for Glasgow and became a clerk in the Glasgow University printing office. A few years later he entered the employment of Messrs. MacLachlan and Stewart, an Edinburgh firm of booksellers. There, for a meagre wage, he turned out Gaelic translations of a large number of works, including some of John Bunyan's. He also edited other works previously translated by other hands. He compiled an English-Gaelic Dictionary to accompany Neil MacAlpine's Gaelic-English one and in so doing greatly offended MacAlpine. Mackenzie helped in editing Norman Macleod's periodical, "Cuaritear nan Gleann" (1840-43), and published a Gaelic account of the Forty-five, "Eachdraidh a' Phrionnsa," to which he appended a collection of Gaelic poems from

various sources. In 1848 John Mackenzie returned to his native Gairloch, his health undermined by his incessant (and, we may suspect, poorly recompensed) literary labours. Later that year he died, and thirty years later a monument to his memory was erected in Gairloch, between the road and the churchyard where he was laid to rest.

Mackenzie's greatest and most lasting monument is "The Beauties of Gaelic Poetry." The first edition in 1841 was followed by another five editions between 1865 and 1904, with later reprints. In 1863 an edition was published in Halifax, Nova Scotia. In "The Beauties" is the cream of our Gaelic poetry. To quote Professor Magnus Maclean, "Here are to be found in concise compass the best productions of the best bards during the last three hundred years, with brief biographical sketches, critical and explanatory notes, and other elucidations." The poems of thirty-six of the best Gaelic bards from the 17th century onwards are represented. It may be true, as has been alleged, that only eight pieces in "The Beauties" never appeared before, but, since Mackenzie's versions usually differ from previously printed versions, he may be regarded as no mere copyist but a genuine gleaner from oral sources. It is not uncommon for different versions of the same poem or song to be in circulation in different districts.

The book has a long introduction by James Logan on "the manners, habits, etc., of the ancient Caledonians". Mackenzie includes three samples of "ancient Gaelic poetry"—"Mordubh", "Collath", and "Miann a' Bhàird Aosda"—but these are said to be the compositions of one of his own contemporaries, the Rev. Duncan MacCallum, minister of Arisaig.

"The Beauties" is the largest and most representative anthology of Gaelic poetry that is available. Here, in one volume, are the best productions of our best bards, and many poems by minor bards, and also (we regret to say) one or two surprising items of questionable taste. Unfortunately, most, if not all, editions contain many spelling and printers' errors. A new, critical, and well-edited edition of "The Beauties" is long overdue. The selection of pieces requires revision, by way of pruning and addition. The text needs to be carefully collated. The notes require to be brought up to date, and Logan's historical introduction should be replaced by a new one, sketching the history of Gaelic culture and poetry against the background of our people's history. A proper glossary is also needed. Such an undertaking would be very costly but it would be well worth while. Nevertheless, pending a new edition, copies of the various existing editions of "The Beauties" are still in great demand.

Sgeul Mu Orduighean Ghearrloch

le IAIN MACNEACAIL, BHANCUBHAIR

BHA dithis no trìthir Ghaidheal ag éisdeachd ri ceòl na pioba o chionn ghoidir ann an talla mòr nan “Seaforths” ann an Bhancubhair, agus bha còmhradh beag aca nam measg fhéin mu na seann làithean.

Thòisich aon diubh—bodaich liath—ri aithris air an àm a bha e 'na bhalachan og a' fuireach le a phàrantan aig na h-Obainean air an taobh deas de sgrì Ghearrloch, agus air cho diadhaidh is a bha a' nhuinntir anns a' cheàrn sin. Bha dà thaghadh-còinnimh an sin, agus air a h-uile Là-Sàbaid thigeadh bodaich agus cailleachan bho mhiltean air falbh ann freasdal nan coinn-eamhan a bha air an cumail le éildearan, agus os bàrr bhiodh iad a' coinneachadh ré na seachdain cuideachd.

Bha an Eaglais Shaor mhór, leis a' mhinistear, nu dheidh mìle air falbh bhuainn air an taobh eile de loch Ghearrloch, leis an rathad mhór, ach, nam biodh an t-aiseag r'a fhaotainn aig Bad-a'-chrò, ghearradh e an turus 'na leth. Tha Bad-a'-chrò mu thrì mìle bho na h-Obainean, agus thigeadh feadhainn an sin bho'n Rudha Ruadh, a bha mu thrì mìle gu leth na's fhaide air falbh na na h-Obainean, agus dh'fheumadh iad a bhith ag éirigh moch-thrath air chor is gum biodh iad aig an aiseag gu pongail aig deich uairean, is bhiodh aca ri dà mhìle eile a choisceadh mun ruigeadh iad an Eaglais Shaor.

Aig a' chala am Bad-a'-chrò bhiodh na h-iasgairnean a' feitheamh le am bàtaichean-iasgaich ullaichte air son falbh aig an àm a chithheadh iad cailleach astar air falbh a' crathadh sgàilean, agus cha rachadh an seòl an àirde gus an d'ràinig i, coma cho fadalach is a bhiodh sinn. Cha d'iarr iasgair sgillinn ruadh riamh air son aiseig, oir is ann a bhiodh e an aghaidh ùmhlachd do Dhia agus 'na thàmailt dha nan tairgeadh neach bonn dha air son an aiseig. Aig àm nan Orduighean bhiodh gach bàta làn gu a beul de shluagh, agus cha chualas riamh gun deach aon dhiubh thairis, oir bha an Tì sin a' cumail sùla orra a bhàtar, eadar òg is sean, a' toirt ùrram dha mar Chrùitear.

Nam bicdh aimsir bhlàth ann ré seachdain nan Orduighean, bhiodh feadhainn de na coinn-eamhan air an cumail a mach fo'n iarmailt an àit a bhith a staigh anns an eaglais. Agus bha àite freagarrach air son seò ann an Leabaidh na Bà Bàine—lagan mòr cruinn gorm le gainmh-each, eadar an dà eaglais, an Eaglais Shaor agus Eaglais na h-Alba, agus mu choinneamh a' chladha anns an robh am bàrd Uilleam Ros air a thiodhlacadh. Mu thimcheall a' chladha seo tha garradh àrd de chlachan mòra gearrte,

agus a staigh ann tha mòran chlachan mòra tiugha duilleagach, agus is ann ris a' bhalla seo a bhiodh na marcaichean a' ceangal an cuid each leis na giogachan aig an àm ud.

Gu h-ìosal, ann an Leabaidh na Bà Bàine agus anns an teis-mheadhnan bha taigh no bocsa mòr anns am biodh gach ministear a' liubhairt an t-searmoin, agus bhiodh ceithir no còig de na ministearan ann treis ma seach. Aig aon uair deug anns a' mhadainn thòisicheadh iad, agus bhiodh iad an sin gu feasgar, agus mòran an sin gun ghluasad fad na h-ùine.

Bha Là-Sàbaid nan Orduighean 'na là fada air son na cloinne, agus gu tric b'e seo an t-aon chothrom a bhiodh aig na màthraichean air an t-soisgeul a chluinntinn, leis gum biodh na daoine air falbh o'n taigh aig an iasgach. Leis a' chloinn a' caoineadh agus luaineach, dh'éireadh té an dràsda is a rithist agus dh'fhalbhadh i leo air son sgrìob a null do'n chladh, far am biodh na h-eòin a' seinn is na seillein a' crònan is na bodaich a' cagnadh tombaca. An àm a rachainn air ais do'n t-searmon bhiodh clann a' caoineadh agus bodaich is cailleachan a' cromadh an cinn an turra-chadal leis a' mhinistear ag éigheach is 'gar cumail 'nar dùisg, agus gu tric bhuaileadh e a' chùbaid le a dhòrn!

Is ann air là anabarrach blàth mar seo a bha mi air taobh a muigh a' choinmhlthionail air oir na bruaich, agus ri mo thòibh an sin bha seann charaid, Iain Mac a' Phearsain agus a bhean agus leanaban leo. Cloinnich e fhéin agus a bhean an seo, agus bha e a nis 'na fhear-òibre aig an taigh-òsda aig Loch Ma-Ruibhe mar fhear-bàta leis na h-uaislean an sin, agus thàinig e le dithis eile agus gìog is each. Fhuair e am frith-ainm, “Am Bogus”, a chionn gu robh e 'na shealgair math anns a' choille. Bha a bhean air a' bhàta còmhla rium fhìn a' tighinn a nall as na h-Obainean.

Bha aon mhinistear an sin 'na dhuine beag, ach chluinneadh tu e bho'n rathad mhór a bha astar math air falbh, agus chan fhaiceadh tu dheth ach a cheann mòr os cionn na cùbaid agus e a' sior mhalachadh an deoch làidir gu dian. Bho àm gu àm chanadh an gille òg ri a mhàthair, “Car son a thàtar a' cumail an duine sin a staigh an sin? Nach leig iad a mach e?”

“Tugainn air son sgrìob,” arsa Iain, ach air dhaibh tighinn air ais cha do laisich neart an duine bhig. “Is e deoch làidir,” bha e ag ràdh, “an rud a bu mhiosa air an talamh,” agus ann an seagh, anns na làithean ud, cha robh e cho fada ceàrr, ach bha a bhàrail fhéin aig Iain air a' chùis, oir is iomadh uair, an

uair a bhiodh e a muigh air an loch, a bheireadh na h-uaislean dha deoch a chuireadh blàths 'na chridhe agus a chumadh a mach am fauchd.

"Cumaibh air falbh bhò'n deoch làidir," dh'eubh am ministear. Dh'éirich Iain gu grad. "Cìod a tha a' cur ort?" arsa a bhean ris, agus i a' faicinn gu robh aogasg fada air. "Càit a bheil thu a' dol?"

"S' ann a chiumhnich mi," arsa esan, "nach tug mi deoch do'n each."

"Bi cinnteach," arsa ise, "gur e an t-each a gheibh an deoch, or chualas gu bheil pòit-earan dubha á Mealabhaig a' tighinn gach bliadhna aig an àm seo air gnòthach uaigneach, agus cumaibh bhuaip."

Dh'fhalbh Iain agus cha do stad e gus an d'ràinig e dubhar a' chladha agus fo sgàile nan craobhan mòra an sin choinnich e ri fir-eagair fhéin aig an robh rud-eigin air an sléisnean! An uair a thill e far an robh a bhean bha sùil a' mhinistear air ach bha e coma. Bha lasradh 'na shùil an uair a shuidh e sìos ri taobh na mnà a rithist, agus mur an robh faile mhic-na-bracha gu làidir de a anail!

"An tug thu deoch do'n each?" arsa ise.

"Thug", arsa esan.

"Is coltach," arsa ise, "gun tug e fraochan dhuit-sa cuideachd!"

"Nach 'eil sin mar bu chòir dha a bhith?" arsa esan.

Provincial Mods

SOUTH-WEST ROSS

The South-West Ross-Shire Mod was held at Kyle of Lochalsh on 24th and 25th May. Over the past eight years this Mod has steadily increased until it became the largest of the one-day mods. This year the experiment was tried of having an extra session on the previous evening. This took the form of three solo-singing competitions and a choral unison competition, along with songs sung by Mr. Alasdair Fraser, recitations by Mr. Tom MacIver, and bagpipe selections by Mr. J. Mackenzie, Uig, Skye. There was an excellent attendance, presided over by Mr. Sam Maclean, headmaster of Plockton Secondary School.

On the Friday competitions went on all day. This year, for the first time, there was an art competition, and paintings, drawings, and examples of handiwork were exhibited and attracted much attention.

Guest artistes at the Mod Concert were Carol Galbraith and Calum Kennedy (Mod Gold Medalists), and Mr. D. J. Maclean, Northern Organiser, presided. The trophies were presented by Mrs. D. J. Maclean.

The adjudicators were: for Gaelic—Messrs. Derick Thomson, D. J. Maclean, John Mackinnon, and Alasdair Fraser, and Miss Mary Macleod. For music—Messrs. Cedric Thorpe Davie, Eric Watt, and T. K. Hetherington. For pipe music—Dr. Allan Macdonald, Uig.

The first-prize winners were as follows:—

Junior Section

Literature. Essay—Ishbel A. Smith, Duncaig Castle School. Dictation—Annie Murray, Duncaig Castle School. Translation into Gaelic—Annie Murray. Translation from Gaelic—Catherine Macdonald, Duncaig Castle School. Silver Medal for Junior Literature—Ishbel A. Smith.

Oral delivery. Reading prose from Bible—Anne Fraser, Kyle School. Recitation (under 12)—Kay Clubley, Kyle School. Over 12—Ishbel Smith. Recitation (beginners) (under 9)—Farquhar Macgregor, Kyle. 9-12—Christie Maclean, Letterfearn. Over 12—Annabel Macsween, Plockton School. Comhradh—Ishbel MacIver, Duncaig Castle School. Sgeulachd—Dolna Maclean, Plockton School. Verse-speaking (fluent speakers) (Cuach)—Duncaig Castle School Group. Learners—Duncaig Castle School Group. Silver Medal (for highest aggregate in specified junior oral competitions)—Dolna Maclean.

Vocal music. Solo-singing. Own choice (girls under 12)—Anne Fraser, Kyle. Boys under 12—Kenneth Mackenzie, Plockton. Prescribed song (girls over 12) (Silver Medal)—Mairi Ishbel MacRae, Plockton School.

Boys over 12 (Silver Medal)—Alasdair MacRae, Plockton School. Traditional solo-singing—June Gillies, Plockton School. Duet—June and Barbara Gillies, Plockton School. Prizes for Junior Competitors with highest marks in music—Anne Fraser, Kyle, and June Gillies, Plockton. Extra Junior Medal for 1955 for Jessie Moore who tied with June Gillies.

Choral. Unison singing and puirt-a-beul (E. J. Dalby Peters Rose Bowl)—Kyle School Choir. Harmony (Junior Challenge Cup)—Plockton Senior Secondary School Girls' Choir.

Instrumental. Pianoforte playing (under 12)—Catherine Mackay, Plockton. Over 12—Morag MacArthur, Duncaig Castle School. Violin—Don. Mackenzie, Plockton School. Practice Chanter (under 18)—Ian Matheson, Balmacara.

Senior Section

Literature. Gaelic poem (senior schools)—Dolna Mackay, Duncaig Castle School. Essay (senior schools)—Mary Morrison, Duncaig Castle School.

Oral delivery. Sgeulachd—Jessie Mackinnon, Duncaig Castle School. Recitation—Dolna Mackay. Reading unfamiliar prose—Mary Gordon, Kyle. Acted dialogue—Dolna Mackay and Nellie Morrison, Duncaig Castle School.

Vocal music. Solo singing. Own choice (female voices)—Jessie Moore, Plockton. Male voices—Hamish MacMurchie, Kyle. Prescribed song (female voices) (Mary Macdonald Medal)—Mary Mackenzie, Kyle. Male voices (Douglas Memorial Medal)—Hamish MacMurchie. Song by local bard (Silver Medal)—Miles MacInnes, Killilian. Former first-prize winners (John N. Macleod Memorial Medal)—Jean Matheson, Kyle. Duet—Jean Matheson and Ann Grant, Kyle. Quartette singing (mixed voices)—Plockton "A" quartette. Male voices—Kyle Choir quartette. Donald Macdonald Medal (for highest aggregate for solo singing)—Jessie Moore.

Choral. Unison (Margaret Duncan Cup)—Kyle Ladies' Choir. Harmony (Senior Challenge Shield)—Kyle Gaelic Choir. Ladies' Voices—Kyle Ladies' Choir.

Bagpipe-playing (march, strathspey, and reel)—Alex. Stewart, Plockton.

Art Competitions

Primary Section. Painting of Highland village scene—1a, Robert Whitley, Lochacorn. 2a, Helen Macdonald, Plockton. 3a, No Name, Achmore. 1b and 3b, Margaret Renwick, Inverinate. 2b, Eain Scott, Inverinate. Illustrations in black and white

for Gaelic poem or song—1a. Jack Livingstone, Kyle. 2a, Kenneth Jack and Donald Greer, Kyle. 1b and 2b, Margaret Renwick. 3b, Nigel Scott, Inverinate. Pattern for cushion cover—1st, Elizabeth MacRae, Lochcarron.

Secondary Section. Painting of Highland scene—Scot Watson, Balmacara. Illustration in black and white for Gaelic song or poem—Kenneth Macgregor, Pluckton. Pattern for cretonne—Ishbel MacIver, Duncraig. Pattern for frieze—Malcolm Finlayson, Balmacara. Textile design—Margaret Mitchell, Duncraig.

Senior Section. Still life, landscape or portrait—Andrew Barlow Mackay, Kyle. Piece of weaving suitable for head-square, bolero or skirt—Mrs. Duncan, Pluckton Craft House. Shopping, log, or fishing basket—Catherine MacRae, Pluckton Craft House.

LORN, MORVEN, AND MULL

The Lorn, Morven, and Mull Provincial Mod was held at Oban on 1st June, and there was a gratifying entry in almost all sections of the syllabus.

The adjudicators were for music—Miss Evelyn Campbell and Mr. Malcolm G. MacCallum. For Gaelic—Mr. Malcolm Macleod, Rev. W. J. Mackenzie, Rev. Angus Macleod, and Rev. Kenneth MacMillan.

At the Mod Concert Rev. Kenneth MacMillan presided, and the guest artistes were Joan Mackenzie and Angus Macleod (Mod Gold Medalists), and Evelyn Campbell.

The first-prize winners were as follows:—

Oral delivery. Reading (under 14)—Mary MacMillan. Reading at sight—Catriona Thomson. Recitation—Fiona MacLaren. Verse-speaking—Oban High School (Girls). Recitation—Irene Potter. Reading prescribed prose—(a) Mary MacMillan. (b) Archie Cameron. (c) Jessie MacNeill. (d) Catriona Thomson. Recitation—Catriona Thomson. Sgeulachd—Norman Cameron.

Solo singing: own choice (9-12)—Irene Potter. Under 9—Iona Dunlop. Prescribed song—Hugh MacQueen.

Solo singing: own choice (female voices)—Anna Macdougall. (Male voices)—Neil Macdonald. Prescribed song—James Burnett.

Solo singing: prescribed song (male and female voices)—Anna Macdougall. Own choice (boys)—Donald MacLarty. (Girls)—Mary MacLaren.

Duet—Christine and Isobel Ferguson. Puir a beul—Anna Macdougall. Duet—Ina MacAllister and James Burnett.

Piano-playing—Catriona Thomson.

Choral. Unison singing (junior choirs)—Rockfield School Choir.

SUTHERLAND

The County of Sutherland Mod was held at Golspie on 1st June.

The first-prize winners were:—

Junior Section

Literature. Writing unfamiliar piece of prose—Nigel Munro, Dornoch. Translation—Nigel Munro.

Oral delivery. Reading poetry—William R. Morrison, Dornoch. Reading prose at sight—David Morrison, Dornoch. Reciting poem—Mairi S. Cunningham. Comhradh (fluent speakers)—George Mackenzie, Golspie Technical School. Learners—David Munro, Dornoch. Repeating Psalm (under 12)—Christine Macleod, Lochinver. Commun na h-Oigridh competition—David Morrison, Dornoch Academy. Wilson Challenge Cup (for Junior Orals)—David Morrison.

Vocal music. Solo singing (girls under 12)—Alice Munro, Lochinver. Boys (under 12)—Colin Mackenzie,

Lochinver. Prescribed songs (girls, 12-16)—Gladys Finlayson, Helmsdale. Boys, 12-16—David Morrison. Duet—Marlene and Joan Sutherland, Lochinver. Song by Sutherland bard—Gladys Finlayson.

Choral. Harmony (Sir Edgar Horne Cup)—Lochinver School Choir. Unison and puir-a-beul (H. F. Buxton Cup)—Lochinver School Choir.

Senior Section

Literature. Poem—Murdo J. Macleod, Helmsdale. Essay on local historical incident—Mrs. Murray, Lochinver.

Oral delivery. Reading unfamiliar prose—Murdo J. Macleod. Recitation—Mrs. J. Murray. Sgeulachd—Miss Graham, Lochinver. Acted dialogue—Miss Graham and A. N. Other, Lochinver. Londonderry Cup for Senior Orals—Murdo J. Macleod and Mrs. Murray.

Vocal music. Prescribed song (female voices)—Mrs. J. Murray. Male voices—Kenneth Mackenzie, Dornoch. Song by Sutherland bard—Ken Sutherland, Brora. Former prize-winners—Ken Sutherland. Puir-a-beul—Jean Sutherland, Golspie. Duet—Mrs. M. Rapson and Mrs. Macpherson, Helmsdale. Quartette—Earl's Cross Quartette, Dornoch.

Choral. Ladies' voices (Kimball Silver Challenge Cup)—Brora Ladies' Choir.

Instrumental. Pianoforte (under 14)—Marlene Rapson, Helmsdale. 14 and over—Wilma Mackenzie, Loth.

SKYE

The Skye Provincial Mod was held at Portree on 5th and 6th June. The adjudicators were: for Gaelic—Miss A. Macdonald, Miss M. Macdonald, Miss Helen T. Macmillan, Messrs. D. A. Maclean, Donald Ross, Finlay J. Macdonald, and D. J. Maclean, and the Rev. Donald Macleod. For music—Messrs. James Curr and A. A. Souter.

The first-prize winners were as follows:—

Junior Section

Literature. Translation (elementary schools)—Mary Lamont, Kensaleyre. 1st Year Post-Qualifying (short story and translation)—Morag Beaton, Portree. 2nd and 3rd Years Post-Qualifying (Essay)—Flora A. Mackinnon, Portree. Translation—Flora A. Mackinnon.

Oral delivery. Reading poetry (under 14)—Morag A. Macdonald, Portree School. Reading unfamiliar prose (elementary schools)—Mary Lamont. Reading unfamiliar prose (junior secondary pupils)—Mary Ann Shaw, Portree School. Reciting poem—Mary A. Shaw. Sgeulachd—Mary Lamont. Talk on any subject—Mary A. Shaw. Pendants for highest aggregates in Junior Orals—Mary Ann Shaw and Donald A. Lamont.

Vocal music. Solo singing. Own choice (girls under 12)—Jean Ann Macleod, Staffin. Boys under 12—Aonghas M. Campbell, Ardsvar. Prescribed songs (girls, 12-16) (Silver Pendant)—Anne Macleod, Portree. Boys, 12-16 (Silver Pendant)—Douglas Mackenzie, Portree. Duet—Janet Nicolson and Rhona Macleod, Portree.

Choral singing. Two-part harmony—Staffin Junior Secondary School Choir. Unison—Portree Secondary School Choir 'A'. Unison (choirs trained by local teacher) (Viewfield Cup)—Staffin School Choir. Action Song—Staffin J. S. School Choir. Skeabost Targe (highest marks in harmony and unison singing)—Staffin J. S. School Choir.

Senior Section

Literature. Poem—Donald N. Macdonald, Portree. Essay—Kenny Macpherson, Kilmuir. Essay on 'Bardach an Eilein Sgitheanaich'—Donald N. Macdonald. Essay on local historical incident—

Donald N. Macdonald. Original play—Mrs. K. Douglas, Kilmuir. Collection of unpublished Skye songs—Mrs. K. Douglas. Place-names—Alasdair K. Macleod, Portree. Carinish Cup (highest aggregate in literary competitions)—Donald N. Macdonald.

Oral delivery. Reading unfamiliar prose—Lachlan Macleod, Portree School. Sgeulachd—Donald Macleod, Portree School. Reciting poem—Donald A. Macleod, Portree School. Acted dialogue—Lil Munro, Kilma-huag, and Mary MacInnes, Duntulm. Pendants (for highest aggregates in orals)—Morag Montgomery and Ian Fergusson.

Vocal music. Solo singing. Own choice (female voices)—Kenna Campbell. Male voices—John M. Morrison. Former prize-winners—Mrs. Annie Thompson. Girls under 18—Morag Mackenzie. Skye song—Morag Mackenzie. Traditional singing—Mrs. Annie Thompson. Puirt-a-beul—Kenna Campbell. Prescribed songs (male voices) (Gold Pendant)—John M. Morrison. Female voices (Gold Pendant)—Morag Mackenzie. Duet—Morag Mackenzie and Mary Macpherson. Quartette—Portree Gaelic Choir Quartette "A".

Choral. Female voices—Portree Secondary School Choir. Harmony (Macdonald Targe)—Portree Secondary School Choir. Unison and puirt-a-beul—Portree Gaelic Choir.

BADENOCH-STRATHSPEY

The Badenoch/Strathspey Mod was held at Grantown on 8th June, and attracted competitors from a wide area. The adjudicators were: for Gaelic—Rev. Malcolm Maclean, Mrs. D. Macleod, Mr. D. J. Maclean. For music—Messrs. Eric Watt, John A. MacRae, and Pipe-Major W. Macdonald.

The trophies were presented at the Mod Concert by Mrs. Mackintosh of Mackintosh.

The first-prize winners were:—

Junior Section

Oral delivery. Reading poetry (learners)—Harriet Macdonald, Laggan. Reading unfamiliar prose (learners)—Harriet Macdonald. Reading Psalm—Harriet Macdonald. Comhradh—John Finlayson, Newtonmore. Highest aggregate in Junior Orals—Harriet Macdonald.

Vocal music. Solo singing. Prescribed songs (boys under 12)—Jim Miller, Laggan. (Girls under 12)—Fiona Mathieson, Nethybridge. Girls, 12-17—Shona Mackenzie, Nethybridge. Boys, 12-17—Ian Grant Mackay, New Elgin. Own choice (boys and girls under 12)—William T. Reid. Boys and girls, 12-17—Robert Fraser, Aviemore. Duet—Shona Mackenzie and Jean George, Nethybridge.

Choral. Harmony—Coisir-chiuil an Lagain. Unison—Abernethy School Choir. Action song—Abernethy School Choir.

Instrumental. Orchestra (Highland airs)—Nethybridge Youth Orchestra. Violin (under 12)—Fiona Mathieson. 12-16—Isobel Rose, Nethybridge. Piano-forte (under 12)—Gillian J. Macgregor, Kingussie. 12-16—Florence M. Macdougall, Kingussie. Piping (under 18)—Alex. D. Macdonald, Elgin. Practice chanter (under 14)—Alex. D. Macdonald.

Senior Section

Literature. Collection of old place-names—Morna Mackenzie, Grantown.

Oral delivery. Reading at sight (native speakers)—Mrs. Margaret M. Campbell, Kincaig. Reading Psalm (learners)—Dawn Robertson, Laggan. Recitation (native speakers)—Mrs. Margaret M. Campbell.

Vocal music. Solo singing. Former prize-winners—Mrs. Jessie MacKerrall, Nethybridge. Prescribed songs (female voices)—Mrs. Sigrid Tittertoning, Laggan. Male voices—Evan T. Cattanan, Kingussie. Song by local bard—Mrs. MacKerrall. Duet—

Elizabeth C. and Dawn Robertson, Laggan. Trio—Grantown "A".

Choral. Female voices—Grantown Ladies' Gaelic Choir.

LEWIS

The Lewis Provincial Mod was held at Stornoway on 14th and 15th June. The adjudicators were: for music, Miss Margaret Stobo and Mr. John Fyfe; for Gaelic, Rev. John Macdougall, Mr. D. J. Maclean (Northern Organiser). The prizes were presented at the Thursday evening concert by Miss Morag Bannerman sister of Mr. J. M. Bannerman, and daughter of the late Mr. J. R. Bannerman, both former Presidents of An Comunn; and at the Friday evening concert by Mr. John A. Smith, Deputy Director of Studies, Jordanhill College, Glasgow.

The first-prize winners were as follows:—

Junior Section

Oral delivery. Reading from Bible—Maletta Macleod, Shawbost. Recitation—Willina Macleod, Aird, and Chrissie M. Nicolson, Laxdale (equal). Dialogue or Sketch (An Comunn Trophy)—Shawbost. Sgeulachd—Angus J. Martin, Shawbost. Reading from Leabhar Leughaidh II—Mina Montgomery, Lemreway. Reading at sight—Chris A. Macdonald, Kershader. Recitation and Conversation—Christine C. Maclean, Laxdale. 3rd Year Pupils: reading at sight—Annie F. Mackay, Nicolson Institute. 3rd Year Pupils: reciting verse—Annie F. Mackay. Oral competitions confined to Nicolson Institute only: 1st year, reading—Christina G. Macleod. 1st year, recitation—Christina A. Macleod. 2nd year, reading—Don. J. MacIver. 2nd year, recitation—Don. J. MacIver.

Vocal music. Solo singing. Prescribed songs: girls—Willina Macleod, Aird. Boys—Iain A. Murray, Tong. Own choice: girls—Joyce Gillies, Sandwick. Boys—Alex. M. Mackay, Tong. Boys and girls under 8—Christine Elizabeth Buchanan, Balallan, and Dolina Mackay, Lionel (equal). Prescribed songs: girls—Agnes Macdonald, Nicolson Institute. Prescribed songs: boys—Malcolm Morrison, Lionel. Own choice: girls—Shona Morrison, Tarbet. Boys—John Macdonald, Tong. Unpublished songs—Angus J. Montgomery, Lemreway. Silver Medals: girls—Shona Morrison, Tarbet; boys—John Macdonald, Tong.

Choral singing. Prescribed songs. Mackenzie Shield—Laxdale and Aird Schools (equal). Unison (boys) (own choice) (Donald Matheson Memorial Cup)—Sandwick School. Unison (own choice) (4-teacher schools and over)—Laxdale "B". Unison (own choice) (3-teacher schools and under) (An Comunn Cup)—Lurebost. Two-part harmony (prescribed songs) (Lewis and Harris Association Shield)—Tarbert School. Unison (prescribed songs) (Co-operative Society. Shield)—Bayble School. Unison (own choice) (Londonderry Cup)—Nicolson Institute.

Senior Section

Oral delivery. Reading at sight—Isabel Macleod.

Vocal music. Solo singing. Prescribed songs: Ladies—Kathleen Macdonald. Men—Angus Montgomery. Own choice: ladies—Isobel Mackay. Men—Angus Montgomery. Pendant finals—Kathleen Macdonald and Isobel Mackay (equal). Pendant Winners: ladies—Isobel Mackay. Men—Angus Montgomery. Duet—Catherine Macleod and Joan Mackenzie. Quartette—Stornoway "A".

Choral singing. Mixed voices (MacBrayne Cup)—Stornoway Gaelic Choir. Ladies voices (Stornoway Gaelic Choir Shield)—Stornoway Ladies' Choir. Mixed voices (unison)—Laxdale Gaelic Choir. Male voices (unison)—Laxdale Male Voice Choir. Ladies' voices (unison)—Lochs Ladies' Choir.

Notes and Comments

The Gaels of Vancouver held their Gaelic Mod in April and among the successful competitors, we are interested to note, the name appears of the veteran protagonist of Gaelic, Seumas MacGaraidh, who won several prizes in the literary competitions.

The Stornoway Gazette (of 17th July, 1956) published, in traditional form and with accompanying diagram, a version of *Pythagoras's Theorem in Gaelic*. This was the work of a correspondent ("MacThomas"), who hopes this effort may be the beginning of a Gaelic Geometry Book. We make no comment on "MacThomas's" Gaelic nor on his geometry other than to commend his zeal and to note with satisfaction that he acknowledges his indebtedness to the extracts from Mr. Charles Loch's "Gaelic Technical Dictionary", which have appeared in our pages.

The Aberdeen branch of An Comunn has had a successful session. The Membership stands at 150. The office-bearers are: President, Mr. J. Macleod; Vice-President, Mr. G. Colman; Secretary, Miss N. MacIver; Treasurer, Miss C. Mackenzie. A weekly Gaelic conversation class has proved very popular, and a commendable innovation is a special hospital visiting committee to arrange for the visitation of Highland patients in Aberdeen hospitals.

At the annual general meeting of the Association of Gaelic Choirs, the following office-bearers were appointed: President, Mr. Angus MacIver; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. Hector MacNeill and Donald U. Johnstone; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. Iain Thomson, 59 Killearn Street, Glasgow, N.

Treasurer's Notes

NATIONAL MOD—LARGS

Received at Largs—

Previously acknowledged	£1581	—	4
Market Fair at Southannan, Fairlie	300	—	—
Lord Glasgow	5	—	—
Lady Glasgow	5	—	—
Lord Inverclyde	5	5	—
David Findlay, Esq., Ayr	1	—	—
A. M. Greenshields, Esq., Paisley	2	2	—
Glasgow Central Branch	7	7	—
Greenock Gaelic Choir	10	—	—
London Clarsach Society	—	10	—
Dundee Highland Society	10	—	—
Manchester Branch	28	—	—
Huntingdon Caledonian Society	2	2	—
Oban Branch	10	—	—
Ceilidh nan Gaidheal, Inverness	3	3	—
Ayr Junior Gaelic Choir	25	—	—
Sale of Cookery Books by Miss Hunter	13	4	—
			£2008 13 4

Received at Headquarters—

Previously acknowledged	£167	5	1
Miss M. M. Morison, Ayr	1	—	—
Donald M. MacLeod, Esq., Dingwall	—	10	—

Hugh Paterson, Esq., Balmacara	2	—	—
Peter MacDonald, Esq., Glasgow	—	5	—
Anonymous	150	—	—
Sister C. H. Campbell, Glasgow	—	5	—
Archd. MacLean, Esq., M.A., Tیره	—	14	—
Neil G. MacRaid, Esq., Kyle of Lochalsh	1	—	—
W. H. Mackintosh, Esq., London	—	5	—
David W. Christie, Esq., Carluke	1	14	—
Dr. A. M. Campbell, D.S.O., O.B.E., T.D., Edinburgh	—	10	—
Wm. Gemmel, Esq., Bonawe	1	—	—
Mrs. Mitford, Ullapool	—	10	—
Rev. B. B. Blackwood, Campbeltown	—	3	—
Malcolm MacLean, Esq., Tobermory	1	—	—
D. A. MacLachlan, Esq., Ballachulish	1	1	—
James Carr, Esq., Conon Bridge	—	19	—
Mrs. M. A. Matheson, Kyle	—	10	—
Balmacara Branch	5	—	—
Mr. & Mrs. J. Macdonald, Pitlochry	2	10	—
D. Logan, Esq., Aberdeen	—	15	—
Miss M. F. MacArthur, Glasgow	1	—	—
Rev. Angus Duncan, B.D., Edinburgh	1	1	—
Wm. Campbell, Esq., Edinburgh	1	1	—
Mrs. Mary H. M. Gilmour, Invershin	1	—	—
Donald MacLean, Esq., Prabost, Skye	—	10	3
Misses Dudgeon, Musselburgh	—	10	—
			343 18 4
			£2352 11 8

Central Fund

Previously acknowledged	£46	14	4
Dingwall Branch	3	3	—
H. H. Foers, Esq., Stockton on Tees	—	9	—
Wm. Gemmel, Esq., Bonawe	1	—	—
Balmacara Branch	14	—	—
Mrs. Anne Macdonald, Inverlochy	—	9	—
			£65 15 —

Magazine Fund

Previously acknowledged	£5	17	6
H. S. Shield, Esq., Cupar	—	14	—
Wm. Gemmel, Esq., Bonawe	1	—	—
John G. Nicolson, Esq., Vancouver	2	—	—
Balmacara Branch	2	—	—
Derrick S. Thomson, Esq., Aberdeen	—	14	—
Mrs. Iain Campbell of Airds, Amersham	—	4	—
Rev. John Mackay, M.A., Glasgow	—	4	—
Hugh D. Welsh, Esq., Aberdeen	—	4	—
			£12 17 6



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar VIII

AN LUNASDAL, 1956

Aireamh 8

Co-fharpaisean Comunn na-Oigridh

I. Aois 12 gu 15, balaich agus caileagan

Litir Ghàidhlig gu Dòmhnall Iain MacGilleathain mu'n chuspair, "Saor-làithean na Càisge."

B' iad seo a mheasadh airidh air na duaisean:—

Balaich. A' Cheud Duais (Ball-coise)—Ailean Mac-an-tuairneir, Sgoil Tairbeart na Hearadh.

An Dara Duais (Sgìan-truaille)—Gilleasbuig MacLulaich, Sgoil Dhalabroig an Uibhist a Deas.

Caileagan. A' Cheud Duais (Tonnag Bhreacain)—Ohna NicDhòmhnaill, Sgoil Dhun-bheagain.

An Dara Duais (Uigheam air son Obair Ghréis)—Rena NicNeacail, Sgoil Dhun-bheagain.

Fhuaradh litrichean bha na leanas mar an ceudna: Oighrig NicLeòid, Dun-bheagan; Mairearad NicDhòmhnaill, Dìorbhail NicMhaoilein, Màiri Catriona NicGill-fhaolain, Cairistiona NicMhaoilein, agus Ina NicLeòid, uile á Loch-nam-madadh; Seumas ? agus Ragnall MacNèill, Bàgh-a'-chaisteil am Barraidh; Mairearad NicAonghais, Seonag Nic-an-t-saoir, Dòmhnall A. MacMhaoilein, Seonag Pheutan, agus Móróg Nic-a'-Fhùcadair (*Walker*), uile á Dalabrog; Peigi NicAsgaill, Iainina (*Johnina*) NicAsgaill, Seasaidh Mairearad NicGilleathain, Iain Mac-an-rothaich, Dòmhnall I. MacAsgaill, agus Coinneach I. MacAsgaill, uile á Beàrnairidh na Hearadh; Anna NicDhòmhnaill, Doilidh NicDhòmhnaill, Cairistiona Mhoireastan, Una NicGill-fhaolain, agus Criosaidh NicGill-fhaolain, uile á Tairbeart na Hearadh.

II. Aois 10 gu 12, balaich agus caileagan

Dealbh air a tharraing le dathan-peanta.

B' iad seo a mheasadh airidh air na duaisean:—

Balaich. A' Cheud Duais (Bocsa Pheant-aichean)—Denis O Suilleabhain, Sgoil Bhàgh-a'-chaisteil am Barraidh.

An Dara Duais (Uigheam a dheanamh itealain bhig)—Murchadh M.G. MacGillinnein, Sgoil Achd'ille-bhuidhe an Siorrachd Rois.

Caileagan. A' Cheud Duais (Bocsa Pheant-aichean)—Teresa NicDhòmhnaill, Sgoil a' Bhàigh a Tuath am Barraidh.

An Dara Duais (Paidhir Mhiotagan *Fair Isle*)—Màiri Bhrannagan, Sgoil Loch-nam-madadh, Uibhist a Tuath.

Duais Chomhfhurtachaidh—Seasaidh Aileas NicLeòid, Achd 'ille-bhuidhe.

Fhuaradh oidhirpean bho na leanas mar an ceudna: Niall MacAonghais, Iain Mac-a'-bhreatnaich, agus Ragnall MacNèill, Am Bàgh a Tuath, Barraidh; Micheil I. Caimbeul agus Dòmhnall MacNèill, Bàgh-a'-chaisteil, Barraidh; Niall MacMhuirich, Bréibhig am Barraidh; Dòmhnall MacMhathain agus Ragnall MacAonghais, Na Torran, An t-Eilean Sgitheanach; Móróg A. NicDhòmhnaill, Gill-easbuig Dingwall, Sandaidh MacArtair, agus Seòras W. Witham, Loch-nam-madadh; Móróg Fhriseil, Cairistiona NicGillinnein, Dòmhnall I. Caimbeul, Eachann MacCoinnich, agus Edmund F. MacGriogair, Achd'ille-bhuidhe an Siorrachd Rois.

Tha dùil againn feadhainn de na litrichean a chlà-bhualadh ann an seo. Tha na h-uile a sgrìobh litir no a rinn oidhirp air dealbh a tharraing airidh air am moladh. Mur d'amais thu air duais a thoirt a mach air an turus seo, feuch a rithist. Cuimhnich air Raibeart Brus agus an damhan-allaidh! Bheir Dòmhnall Iain fios mu'n ath cho-fharpais de'n t-seòrsa-sa aig a' cheud chothrom.

A nis, feuchaibh seo! Bheir am Fear-deasachaidh còig tasdain mar dhuais do neach sam bith de Chomunn na h-Oigridh a bheir dha Gàidhlig na's fheàrr na tha aige shuas an seo air son "Sheath-knife", "Tartan Scarf", "Embroidery Set", "Box of Paints", "Model Aeroplane Construction Set." Siuthadaibh!

Ainmean Chat

THA cóig bliadhna air dol seachad bho sgrìobh mi mu nithean a thachair aig Bothan an Fhuarain far am b' àbhaist do bhean an taighe is dhomh fhéin a bhith a' cur seachad cuid de'n t-Samhradh. Dh'innis mi dhuibh mu chat is dà phiseig a bha romhainn ann an cùil na mòna an uair a ràinig sinn, agus mar a thug an cat air falbh iad, aon an déidh aoin. B'ann an déidh mo cheud iomraidh air tarraing-chailleach a' chait air na piseagan a chuala mi ciod a thubhairt a' bhan-tuathanach a bha 'nar coimhearsnachd an uair a chuala i mar a thachair. "O", ars ise, "is i 'Muriel' a bhíodh ann!" Nach b'e sin an t-ainm a thoirt air creutair cait!

Dhùisg seo mo mhac-meannna agus chuimhnic mi air ainm annasach eile a chuala mi a bhith air cat. Bha seo aig Mòd Dùthchail air taobh siar Siorramachd Rois; chan innis mi càite, ged tha còrr math is fichead bliadhna bhò'n uair sin. Chuireadh air mo chùram breith a thoirt air farpaisean a' Bheòil-aithris an Earrainn na h-Oigridh. B'e aon diubh seo "Còmhradh eadar an Co-fharpaiseach agus am Britheamh." Mar as math a tha fios aig Britheamhan na co-fharpais se, is i aon as duilge a riarachadh ann an Earrainn a' Bheòil-aithris. Cha dean "Cha bhì", "Cha robh", no "Bithidh" math sam bith mar fhreagairt. Cha chòmhradh sin idir.

Am measg na cuideachd a thàinig fa mo chomhair bha gille beag smearail, agus dh' aithnich mi air blas a' cheud fhacail a labhair e nach robh dith Gàidhlig air. Dh'fhiosraich mi uaidh gu robh croit aig a athair, agus dh' iarr mi air innseadh dhomh, air a shocair, an seòrsa bheathaichean a bha aca. Rinn e sin gu pongail; bha each aca, a dhà no trì mairt, grunnan beag chaorach agus cù. "Agus," arsa mise, "a bheil cat agaibh?" "Tha," ars esan. Chan 'eil fhios agam ciamar a bhual e orm fhaighneachd d'hean an robh ainm air a' chat. Thubhairt e gu robh agus dh' iarr mi air an t-ainm innseadh dhomh. Chrom e a cheann gu miapaidh, a shùilean donna, bòidheach a' geur-amharc air an ùrlar agus coltas iomagaineach air a ghnùis mar gum biodh e a' dol a dh' aidaeachadh cionta. Mu dheireadh ghlac e misneach. Thog e a cheann agus, ars esan, "Ghandi! !"

Bidh e a nis 'na làn duine, agus tha dòchas agam nach do rinn an Cogadh Mòr dochann air. Theagamh gu bheil gille beag aige fhéin agus, ma thà, bhiodh e 'na iongnadh leamsa niur cial e iomradh air 'n Innseanach agus air a' chat a bha an taigh a sheanar.

Niall.

An Seann Ghaidheal Agus Am Ministear

Bha seann Ghaidheal ann an àit àraidh, agus air dha fàs gu tinn chuir e fios air a' mhinistear. Ruith e thairis air mòran de eachdraidh a bheatha agus de a dheanadais nach gabhadh fireanachadh. Thubhairt am ministear ris gun d' innis e mòran de a dhroch-bheirt; an robh ni math idir aige r'a innse?

"Tha sin agam," arsa an seann Ghaidheal. "Bha o chionn fhada bàillidh cruaidh feitheche-anta anns an dùthaich. Dh' fheumadh an tuath am màl a bhith deas aca air an là, no bhiodh a' bhàirlinn aca. Air bliadhna àraidh nach robh an aimsir fàbharach, bha na croitearan air bheagan barraidh. Thàinig Là a' Mhàil, agus thàinig am bàillidh. Sgrìob e leis gach sgillinn a chuir na daoine bochda gu h-éiginneach cruinn. Thachair mi air anns an oidhche, agus e a' dol dachaigh. Leag mi e, agus le mo ghluin air a uchd thug mi bhuaith an t-airgead, agus thug mi an cuid féin do na daoine bochda. Nach robh sin 'na ghnìomh math?"

Iain MacGille-bhàin
(An Gaidheal, 1874)

Ro-Dhaor

THAINIG bean a' cheàird gu taigh àraidh an là a bha seo agus mhothaich i do bhéin choineanach crochte ris a' bhalla.

"Dé tha thu ag iarraidh air na béin?" dh' fhoighnich i de fhear an taighe.

"Tha mi ag iarraidh cóig tasdain a' phaidhir orra," arsa esan.

"Chan ann ag reic bhian a tha thusa idir," arsa ise, "ach ag reic do chuimhseas!" . . .

(Bho Sgoil Bhréibhig am Barraidh.)

Mi-Mhodh

AN uair a bha an Dotair MacAmhlaidh 'na lighiche ann an Uibhist stad boireannach e air an rathad mhór an là a bha seo agus bhruidhinn i mar seo, "Mur 'eil e mi-mhodhail dhomh fhaighneachd, a Dhotair, có tha bochd shìos anns a' bhaile agus ciod a tha ceàrr?"

"Maith dh' fhaoidte," fhreagair an Dotair, "nach 'eil e mi-mhodhail dhuit-sa sin fhaighneachd, ach bhiodh e mi-mhodhail dhòmhsa innse."

Agus dh' fhàg e mar sin i.

(Bho Sgoil Bhréibhig am Barraidh.)

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SEPTEMBER, 1956

No. 9

URRAM PHARA MHOIR MhicCRUIMEIN, 1651

“Thug mi pòg, is pòg, is pòg,
Gun tug mi pòg do làimh an rìgh;
'S cha d' chuir gaoth an craiceann caorach
Fear a fhuair an fhaoilt ach mi.”



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AN T-SULTUIN, 1956

Aireamh 9

Domhnallach na Tòisigheachd Air Toir Bardachd Oisein

le IAIN N. MACLEOID nach maireann

(Tha greis bho thug ar caraid nach maireann seo dhuinn, ach cha d'fhuair sinn cothrom feum a dheanamh dheth gu seo. Tha sinn an comain bantrach ar caraid air son cead feum a dheanamh dheth a nis.)

Gheidhear iomradh goirid air a' chuairt seo a rinn an Dòmhnallach ann an "Leabhar na Féinne," maille ri cuid de'n bhàrdachd a chruinnich e.—F.-D.)

CHAN 'eil fios aig mòran an diugh gun do chuir an t-Ollamh Iain MacDhòmhnaill, ministear ainmeil na Tòisigheachd, cuairt air cuid de sgìrean na Gaidhealtachd anns a' bhliadhna 1805 air son lorg fhaighinn air a' chuid de bhàrdachd Oisein a bha air chuimhne aig na seann daoine.

Is e an Comunn ris an canar an diugh Comunn Gaidhealach an Tuathanachais a thug m'an airidh gun deanadh an t-Ollamh an rannsachadh sin, agus dh'fhàg e fhéin cunntas mionaideach air a' chuairt sin air a sgrìobhadh am Beurla Shasainn, agus fhuair mise an làmh-sgrìobhainn sin o a dhubh-ogha, an t-Urr. Iain MacDhòmhnaill Ros, a tha 'na mhinistear an Livingstonia. Cha robh fios aig Mgr. Ros fhéin gu robh a leithid siud de làmh-sgrìobhainn am measg nam paipearan a bhuneadh do'n

Ollamh chòir gus an robh mi fhéin is e fhéin a' rùrach am measg searmonan an Dòmhnallaich oidhche is mi air aoigheachd aige an uair a bha e 'na mhinistear an Srath Ghlais.

Fhuair mise an làmh-sgrìobhainn sin, agus thug e dhomh cead feum sam bith a thoilichinn a dheanamh dhith. Tha am paipear air a bheil an cunntas air a sgrìobhadh air fàs gu maith crìon agus, ged a bha an t-Ollamh 'na sgrìobhadair cuimr, dealbhach, tha an aois air seacadh mór a thoirt air obair a làimhe, agus mar sin is ann le cuideachadh gloine-leughaidh a bha mi comasach air pàirt de'n làmh-sgrìobhainn a dheanamh a mach.

Tha an làmh-sgrìobhainn luachmhor a chionn gu bheil cunntas innte air beachdan dhaoine as gach cèrnaidh mu bhàrdachd Oisein. Is e seo an t-eadar-theangachadh a rinn mi air an làmh-sgrìobhainn sin.

* * * *

9 de'n t-Sultuin 1805.

Dh'fhàg mi Gallaibh.

10 de'n t-Sultuin.

Ràinig mi taigh a' mhinistear am Far, agus chaidh an t-Urr. Mgr. Dingwall còmhla rium a dh'amharc air fear, Seòras MacAoidh á Dail-bhìogais, aois 55. Dh'aithris e dà dhàn

de bhàrdachd Oisein, "Diobair Dligh" agus "Conn Mac an Leirg," agus sgrìobh mi sìos iad. Bha e comasach air na dàin ud agus òrain eile aithris na bu choimhlionta an uair a bha e òg. Is ann o Mhgr. MacAoidh a bha an Càrnachaidh a dh'ionnsaich e iad.

11 de'n t-Sultuin.

Ràinig mi an t-Urr. Mgr. MacCoinnich, Tunga, agus chuir esan fios air Alasdair MacAoidh, aois 63, a bha fuireach an Ribigil. Thuir esan gu robh uair a bha mòran de bhàrdachd Oisein aige air a theangaidh, ach a nis gu robh meirg a' tighinn air a chuimhne. Dh'aithris e "Eitribh Mhaonais" no "An Teilgreach Mòr," "Laoidh Dhiarag," agus "Iomachd Naodhnar," i.e. "sabaid naodhnar," agus sgrìobh mi sìos iad.

14 de'n t-Sultuin.

Thàinig mi gu Hob, ach cha d'fhuair mi duine an sin a bheireadh fiosrachadh sam bith dhomh.

15 de'n t-Sultuin.

Ràinig mi Euraboll, ach, o nach d'fhuair mi neach sam bith an seo a bheireadh fiosrachadh dhomh, chaidh mi gu Diùranais.

16 de'n t-Sultuin.

An Diùranais. Bha an sgìre seo uair cliùit-each air son bhàrd, agus is ann innte a bha Rob Donn ainmeil a' fuireach. Tha nìgean bràthair Roib, Barabal Dhonn, aithnichte air son a meomhair làidir, agus chan 'eil ni a' cur dragha air an intinn aice ach a bhith ri aithris bàrdachd. Gu mì-fhortanach, cha robh i anns an sgìre aig an àm ud. Thuir iad rium gu robh cuibhreann mhór de bhàrdachd Oisein aice. Tha seann duine, Niall MacAoidh, à Pollaidh, aois 84, aig a bheil mòran de bhàrdachd Oisein. Bha an t-astar cho fada is mo chuairt cho goirid agus mar sin cha d'fhuair mi tadhal air.

17 and 18 de'n t-Sultuin.

Dh'fhuirich mi anns an sgìre seo. Thadhail mi air grunnan de sheann daoine anns an nàbachd, ach cha d'fhuair mi dad o aon aca ach dìreach gun dubhairt iad gu robh bloighean de bhàrdachd Oisein aca an uair a bha iad òg, agus gun d'ionnsaich iad sin o an athraichean. Chan 'eil guth aca air bàrdachd a nis. Dh'aithris Iain MacAoidh as a' Chnoc-bhreac faisg air Diùranais "Diobair Dligh," "Laoidh Dhiarag" agus "Conn Mac an Leirg" gu maith eagnaigh, ach cha do sgrìobh mi iad a chionn gu robh iad agam cheana.

19 de'n t-Sultuin.

Thàinig mi gu Ach-risgil, clachan a tha mu leitheadh eadar Diùranais agus Eadar-da-chaolais. Cha d'fhuair mi càil an seo, ach tha chuimhne aca air Oisean, agus tha fios aca gu robh treubh ris an canar an Fhéinn beò uair-eigin, agus chan 'eil aon teagamh aca mu'n chùis sin.

20 de'n t-Sultuin.

An Eadar-da-chaolais. Chan 'eil fada o'n thàinig an t-Urr. Iain MacCoinnich do'n sgìre, agus cha b'urrainn e dad innse dhomh. Ràinig mi an oidhche sin an taigh aig Caipitean MacAoidh, an Dubhard-beag, agus chuir esan fios air aon de'n tuath aige d'am b'ainm Dòmhnall MacCoinnich, aois 61, agus dh'aithris esan "Diobair Dligh," "Duan Dhiarag" agus "Conn Mac an Leirg," agus thuir e gu robh mòran eile de bhàrdachd Oisein aige an uair a bha e òg agus gun d'ionnsaich e iad o Iain MacAoidh à Sgobhairigh, a chaochail deich bliadhna fichead roimhe siud aig aois 81.

A nis, tha mi a' dol a dh'fhàigal na sgìre, agus chan urrainn mi gu luaidh a dheanamh air an aoigheachd chàirdeil a bheir muinntir na sgìre seo do choigric. Is e sealladh glòrmhor a tha anns na beanntaibh àrda agus na glinn dhomhain a tha a' còmhachadh aghaidh na tìre, ach tha an dùthaich gun rathaidean móra, agus chan 'eil e mar sin comasach do luchd-siubhail a dhol air astar fada troimhpe.

21 de'n t-Sultuin.

Thàinig mi gu Asainn. Choinnich mi ris an Urr. Mgr. MacCoinnich aig tiodhlacadh Caipitein Seobie, Ard-bhàrr.

22 de'n t-Sultuin.

Shearmonaich mi an eaglais Asainn.

23 de'n t-Sultuin.

Chaidh an t-Urr. Mgr. MacCoinnich còmhla rium a dh'amharc air Coinneach MacCoinnich, aon de'n tuath aige a bha ceithir fichead is a deich air a' cheud là de'n t-Samhuinn. Ged bha an duine sin comasach air a dhol mun cuairt, bha a chuimhne air diobairt, agus mar sin cha b'urrainn da dad de bhàrdachd Oisein aithris, ged bha mòran de'n bhàrdachd sin agus seanchasan Fhinn aige an uair a bha e eadar còig deug agus fichead. Thuir e gun d'ionnsaich e iad o na seann daoine agus gu robh a' bhàrdachd glè shean. Dh'aithris e beagan rainn de "Bhlàr Beinn Eidinn," agus bha an dàn sin uile aige air a theangaidh an uair a bha e òg.

25 de'n t-Sultuin.

Thàinig mi gu Ullapal an sgìre Loch-bhraoin, baile beag nasail a thogadh o chionn ghoirid agus tha mòran de bhàtaichean sgadain a' tadhal ann. Cha d'fhuair mi duine an sin a dh'innseadh ni dhomh mu bhàrdachd Oisein.

26 de'n t-Sultuin.

Thadhail mi air an Urr. Mgr. Srònach a stiùir mi gu fear, Alasdair MacCoinnich, an Cill-Donnain, anns an nàbachd, air son fios-rachaidh fhaighinn uaithe mu Oisean.

27 de'n t-Sultuin.

Ràinig mi taigh Sheòrais MhicCoinnich an Cill-Donnain, agus chuir esan fios air Alasdair a dh'aithris cuid de'n bhàrdachd a fhuair mi

cheana. Tha fear, Ruairidh MacLeòid, aon de'n tuath aig Seòras, agus tha iad ag ràdh gu bheil cuid de bhàrdachd Oisein aige-san, ach tha e ag iasgach an sgadain an dràsda. An taigh MhicCoinnich an Cill-Donnain chunnaic mi a mhàthair, Anna NicCoinnich, a rugadh ann 1698, agus tha iad a ràdh gur i as sine anns an taobh-tuath an diugh. Lean a buadhan uile rithe ach a claisneachd a mhàin, agus cha robh cur-seachad a b'annsa leatha an uair a bha i òg na bhith ag aithris sgeulachdan air Oisean is Fionn, ach a nis chan 'eil cumhne aice air dad ach ainmean nan curaidhean sin.

28 de'n t-Sultain.

Thàinig mi gu taigh Mhgr. Russell, ministear Pholl-iùbh. Chaidh Mgr. Russell còmhla rium a dh'amharc air Caiptean MacCoinnich, an Gruinard, agus chaidh esan 'nar cois gu taigh Choinnich Ghrannnd anns an nàbhadh. Dh'aithris esan cuid de'n bhàrdachd a fhuair mi cheana, agus gu h-àraidh an "Teilgimeach Mór" gun mhòran atharrachaidh. Chaidh a' cheart duine-uasal seo còmhla rium gu Slagan a dh'amharc air Alasdair MacCoinnich aig an robh ainm a bhith 'na bhàrd. Dh'aithriseadh esan "Blàr Beinn Eidin," "Dàn na h-Inghinn," "Conn Mac an Leirg" agus feadhainn eile, ach o'n bha e cho dripeil le obair an fhoghair, cha b'urrainn da fuireach còmhla rium fhad 's a bhithinn 'gan sgrìobhadh.

1 de'n Damhair.

Thàinig mi gu Earradal a Tuath, faisg air Gearrloch. Stiùradh mi gu fear Alasdair MacRath a rugadh anns a' bhliadhna 1725. An uair a bha esan eadar sia deug agus fichead bha mòran de sgeulachdan is de bhàrdachd na Féinne aige air a theangaidh. An uair nach b'urrainn da an là a chur seachad còmhla rium le drip na h-obrach, chaitrhis mi an oidhche còmhla ris agus sgrìobh mi sios o a aithris an dàn fada agus ainmeil, "Blàr Beinn Eidin," agus bha gach facal aige gu h-eagnaigh dealasach. Dh'aithris e cuideachd mòran de na dàn a fhuair mi roimhe, mar a bha "Dàn na h-Inghinn" agus "Conn Mac an Leirg." Fhuair mi sgeul mu shinnsireachd Fhinn uaithe agus sgrìobh mi sios e. Leig mi soiridh leis an t-seann duine choibhneil seo an uair a dh'éirich a' ghrian agus a thòisich esan ri obair an fhoghair. Thuir e fhéin agus feadhainn eile rium gu robh bràthair aige an Sannda air an robh Iain agus gum faighinn fiosrachadh uaithe-san mu Oisean, ach bha e aig iasgach an sgadain aig an àm.

3 de'n Damhair.

Fhuair mi aiseag o Earradal a Tuath gu Port-rìghheadh agus choinnich mi ris an Urr. Mgr. Caimbeul an oidhche a ràinig mi. Bha e a' deanamh deiseil air son a dhòl gu Inbhir-nis

a choinneachadh an Ridir Iain Mac na Ceàrdadh air son co-chruinneachadh de bhàrdachd Oisein a rinn e anns an Eilean Sgitheanach a thoirt dha. An uair a bha sinn a' còmhradh mu'n chùis, thuig mi uaithe gu robh e an rùn an co-chruinneachadh sin a chlà-bhualadh le eadar-theangachadh agus mìneachadh am Beurla Shasainn, còmhla ri beachdan mu dhearbhadh bàrdachd Oisein. Thuir e gu robh cuid de eadar-theangachadh MhicMhuirich aige, agus gu robh iad glé choltach ris an eadar-theangachadh a rinn e fhéin. Thuir e rium gun do chruinnich e na bha de bhàrdachd Oisein air chuimhne anns an Eilean Sgitheanach, agus le sin cha robh feum dhòmhsa a dhòl air an t-siubhal as a dhéidh.

4 de'n Damhair.

Chaidh mi air aiseag do'n Chomraich. Cha b'urrainn an t-Urr. Mgr. MacCuinn mo sheòladh gu duine anns an sgìre a chuidicheadh mi le bàrdachd. Sheall e dhomh "Dàn na h-Inghinn" a sgrìobhadh beagan bhliadhnanach roimhe sin le ministear Sgitheanach, ach cha robh mòran eadar-dhealachaidh eadar an dàn sin agus an dòigh anns an robh i sgrìobhte agam fhéin, agus mar sin cha do chuir mi sios i.

5 de'n Damhair.

Ràinig mi Loch-carrann anmoch an oidhche sin.

6 de'n Damhair.

Shearmonaich mi ann an eaglais Loch-carrainn.

7 de'n Damhair.

Cha robh an t-Urr. Mgr. MacCoinnich (Mgr. Lachlann) comasach air seòladh sam bith a thoirt dhomh. Thàinig mi gu Atadal agus thadhail mi air Caiptean MacMhathain. Bha leabhar de bhàrdachd Ghàidhlig sgrìobhte an Gàidhlig Eireann aige a dh'fhàg bràthair athar dha a chaochail o chionn greise, ach cha leughadh e fhéin e agus mar sin cha robh fios aige ciod an seòrsa bàrdachd a bha ann. Cha robh an leabhar anns an taigh aige an uair a thadhail mi, ach bha e cinnteach gu robh cuid de bhàrdachd Oisein ann. Thuir e gun do chuir an Dotair Saighdear (Kemp) an leabhar gu Comunn na Gaidhealtachd o chionn bhliadhnanach agus gun do chuir iad air ais e ach gum faigheadh an Comunn sin a ris e o nach robh neach sam bith ann a dheanadh feum dheth.

9 de'n Damhair.

Thàinig mi gu Feàrnaig an Loch-aillse.

10 de'n Damhair.

Ràinig mi tigh a' mhinistear an Loch-aillse, agus am feasgar sin fhéin chaidh mi a dh'amharc air an duine a bu shine a bha iad ag ràdh a bha anns an taobh-tuath. Bha mi greis a' còmhradh ris, ach bha e glé bhodhar, ged a bha a bhuidhean uile gu maith làidir. Tha e air laighe na leapa

o'n ghabh e droch fhiabhras o chionn bhliadh-nachan. Cha b'urrainn da mórán cunntais a thoirt mu a aois ach gu robh e naoi ar fhichead a' bhliadhna a bha Blàr Sliabh an t-Siorraidh ann an 1715, agus dh'fhàgadh sin e ceud agus naoi deug. Gus an d'fhàs e lapach b'abhaist dha a bhith a' dol timcheall o thaigh gu taigh a' deanamh a bheòslaint air aithris bàrdachd Oisein. Bha a mheomhair air tréiginn cho mór is gur e glé bheag de bhàrdachd a b'urrainn da aithris. Thug e dhomh beagan rann de "Dhàn na h-Inghinn" agus "Blàr Beinn Eidinn." Dh'fhoighnich mi dheth an robh e a' creidsinn am bàrdachd Oisein. "A bheil mi a' creidsinn anns a' Bhìobull?" ars esan!

11 de'n Damhair.

Thàinig mi gu Gleann-eilge. Bha an t-Urr. Mgr. MacIomhair air falbh o'n taigh, ach dh'fhuirich mi gus an tàinig e dhachaigh an ath latha.

13 de'n Damhair.

Shearmonaich mi an eaglais Ghlinn-eilge.

14 de'n Damhair.

Rinn Mgr. MacIomhair rannsachadh air mo shon feuch an robh duine anns an sgìre aig an robh bàrdachd Oisein, ach bha iad uile cho trang eadar obair an fhoghair agus iasgach an sgadain is nach b'urrainn daibh tighinn a dh'amharc orm.

15 de'n Damhair.

Thadhail mi am Beàrnairidh faisg air Gleann-eilge far am faca mi Cairistiona Nic Mhuirich aig an robh seann dàin. Dh'aithris i "An Teilgimeach Mór," ach bha i cho dripeil le obair an fhoghair agus nach fuiricheadh i gus an cuirinn facal sìos uaithe.

16 de'n Damhair.

Ràinig mi an t-Urr. Mgr. MacRath, an Gleann-seile, ach cha b'urrainn e dad innse dhomh mu bhàrdachd Oisein. Thuirt e rium gu robh uair a bha seann daoine anns an sgìre aig an robh a' bhàrdachd sin ach gun do gaochail iad uile.

17 de'n Damhair.

Thàinig mi gu taigh ministear Chinn-t-Sàile, an t-Urr. Ruairidh MacGhille-Mhoire, fìor dhuine-usal a bha glé fhileanta anns a' Ghàidhlig. Bha e duilich nach b'urrainn da mo sheòladh gu duine anns an sgìre aig an robh fios air bàrdachd Oisein. B'e sin crìoch mo thuruis, agus thog mi orm gu Dun-èideann.

Beachdan

1. Feadh mo chuairt troimh an Ghaidheal-tachd cha do choinnich mi ri duine, cho fada agus a tha cuimhne agam, nach cuala mu'n Fhéinn—mu Fhionn, Oisean, Osgar agus Goll,

ged nach b'urrainn daibh aithris a dheanamh air an sgeulachdan is am bàrdachd.

2. Anns gach sgìre agus siorramachd troimh an deachaidh mi, thachair orm daoine aig nach robh co-cheangal sam bith ri chéile an dàimh no an litreachas, agus thug iad uile dhomh na h-aon sgeulachdan agus na h-aon dàin air an Fhéinn gun atharrachadh gun fhiaradh anns a' bu mhotha.

3. Tha luchd an fhòghluim cho maith ri daoine gun fhacal sgoile anns a' Gaidhealtachd a' creidsinn gu robh an Fhéinn ann o chionn fada fada, gun d'rinn na curaidhean sin bàrdachd, agus gu robh sgeulachdan àrsaidh r'an aithris m'an deighinn.

N.B.—Tha e air aithris gu coitcheann gum buineadh an Fhéinn do Albainn agus gu robh an còmhnaidh gu tric an sin, ach gum biodh iad gu minig a' dol do Eirinn, gu h-àraidh aig àm cogaidh agus togail creiche.

Sgeul air Athraichean Fhinn

B'Albannaich a' bhuidheann o'n tàinig an Fhéinn. Bha iad a' còmhnaidh an siorramachd Earraghaidheal. Chaidh athair Fhinn do Eirinn a thogail chreachan agus a thoirt na rìoghachd o Gholl le làimh làidir agus e an uair sin a' riaghladh. Mur do shoirbhich e aig an àm sin, fhuair e sealladh de'n tìr agus ghabh e beachd mar a ghlacadh e i an àm iomchuidh.

Dh'iar Pàdraig air Oisean sgeul air eachdraidh na Fèinne. Fhreagair e:

"Thàinig an Fhéinn a mach o Ghair Donn Mac Deaghan, is b'e Cuir-aoth a b'ainm d'a mhac; Aoth air mac Cuir-aoth; b'e mac Aoth Peathan; bu mhac do Pheathan Treunmor; bu mhac do Threunmor Luthach; bu mhac do Luthach Cumhail nan Cleas; bu mhac do Fhionn fathach mise (Oisean); bu mhac dhòmhsa Osgar."

"Osgar nan cath,
Dh'imich mo rath,
O'n chaidh e san tìr,
'S nach 'eil mo dhùil
Ri a thighinn beò."

Is ann o Alasdair MacRath an Earradal a Tuath a fhuair mi an t-sinnsireachd seo.

THE LATE MR. F. G. HOWARD

We regret to learn of the death of Mr. Frank G. Howard, Wrexham. He was a life member of An Comunn and particularly interested in "An Gaidheal." We express our deep sympathy with his sister and other relatives.

Books Worth Knowing

By the EDITOR

5. The Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness

ANYONE who possesses the thirty-eight volumes (actually 37, since Vols III and IV are bound together) of "The Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness" need never weary. He has at his command a vast repository of Highland history and antiquities, of folk-lore and tradition, of philology and etymology, excellent Gaelic prose and a varied assortment of Gaelic verse, mostly old and not found elsewhere.

Here is the distillation of the scholarly researches of practically all those who in the past four-score years have applied their talents and time to Gaelic studies—some of them "professional" scholars, most of them "amateurs." There are the professors and lecturers—Donald Mackinnon, William J. Watson, George Henderson, John Fraser, Angus and William Matheson, Sir Edward Anwyl, John Stuart Blackie, and Sir William Ramsay.

There are the historians—Dr. William Mackay, Dr. W. M. Mackenzie, Donald A. Mackenzie, W. C. Mackenzie, Dr. Adam Gunn, Dr. Archibald B. Scott, and Dr. Charles Fraser-Mackintosh. There are the experts on Gaelic poetry and music and song—Rev. Thomas Sinton, Dr. Neil Ross, Colin Chisholm, Neil Macleod ("The Skye Bard"), Rev. A. Maclean Sinclair, and Dr. Alex. Stewart ("Nether Lochaber"). There are the researchers on dialects and place and personal names—Dr. Alexander Macbain, Rev. Charles M. Robertson, Rev. John Kennedy, Dr. Alexander Cameron of Brodick.

Among other notable names, too numerous to mention, are Lachlan Macbean, Dr. Thomas MacLauchlan, Mrs. Mary MacKellar, Alexander Carmichael, Dr. J. J. Galbraith, Dr. D. J. Macleod, Malcolm Macfarlane, Rev. John MacRury, John N. Macleod, Donald MacIver (of Lewis), Roderick Barron, Murdoch Murray, John Mackay (Hereford), J. G. Mackay (Portree), John Maclean, and Sorley MacLean.

It was on 4th September, 1871, that about thirty-five gentlemen gathered in Inverness—"the result of numerous private conversations, and some public correspondence, on the subject of a Gaelic Society in Inverness." The Society was thus begun, and on 19th October the inaugural lecture was given by the Rev. A. D. Mackenzie, Kiltarlity. From that date until now, session after session, without interruption, papers have been prepared and delivered (an

average of four or five per session), and most of them have been published in the Transactions.

Unfortunately, in common with all other ventures in support of Gaelic, the Society has at no time enjoyed the full measure of encouragement it deserves. The result has been that for many years it has been impossible to keep the publishing of papers abreast of the delivery of them, and there is much leeway to make up.

Volume XXXVII, which appeared in 1946, made available the papers delivered in the years 1934-36. Volume XLI was issued in 1953. It was explained that this volume was made possible by the generosity of Sir Denys Lowson (then Lord Mayor of London and Chief of the Society in 1952). Sir Denys, a son-in-law of the first Lord Strathcarron (Sir Ian Macpherson, a former Chief of the Society), met the cost of the volume, which includes the papers read during his Chiefship and the immediately preceding years. Volume XLI, therefore, covers the years 1951-52. The papers for the years 1937 to 1950 still await publication in Volumes XXXVIII to XL.

Complete sets of the Transactions are rarely offered for sale. £15 to £20 would be a bargain price for a set. Most of the more important libraries possess sets.

Many eminent men have been Chiefs of the Society, but the "key-men" all along have been the Secretaries and Honorary Secretaries—such men as Dr. William Mackay (a former President of An Comunn), William Mackenzie, Duncan Mackintosh, Professor W. J. Watson, Dr. D. J. Macleod—but to no one is greater credit due than to that stalwart veteran, Mr. Alexander N. Nicolson, who for the past thirty-five years has been Secretary and Treasurer, and we sincerely trust that he will have the satisfaction of seeing many more volumes added to the Transactions.

A valuable feature of the Transactions is that for many years it has been the practice to include, as an Introduction to each volume, a survey of social and economic conditions in the Highlands, and a review of the more important books on Gaelic and the Highlands issued since the previous volume appeared. Volume XXXIV includes an Index of Papers, and an Index of Contributors of Papers, for Volumes I to XXXIV, covering the period 1871 to 1928.

Let's Have More To Read

Some Ideas from Idaho

SOME years ago we read an article in which the writer alleged that, after going to all the trouble of learning to read Gaelic, she found there was nothing worth reading. It is, unfortunately, only too true that the available reading material, *suitable for the ordinary reader*, is very scanty.

There is, of course, a vast amount of Gaelic "literature," if we think of the mass of oral tradition, tales and songs, which have survived from the past. We are grateful that so much of this material has been recorded, on paper or on tape, but the fact is that very little of it has been produced in book form, and of that little still less has been presented in such a way as to make the reading of it, especially for the person who has learned Gaelic, pleasant as well as profitable.

Many of our printed texts are out of print. When obtained second-hand or from a library they present so many problems to the ordinary reader—problems that a good glossary and good notes would overcome—that he needs much patience and perseverance who would master them.

What we lack especially are books that tell a story in good simple Gaelic, so that they are read, not only for the sake of the Gaelic, but for the sake of the story. For each person who, out of his keen interest in Gaelic for its own sake, is prepared to slog at his texts, with the aid of dictionary and grammar, there must be twenty, if not more, who just can't be bothered with all that effort, but who would find pleasure in reading a simple but interesting Gaelic story. When, for example, are we to have the first detective story in Gaelic?

The writing of Gaelic stories in the modern style has been greatly encouraged by the B.B.C. Gaelic Department's feature, "Sgeul na h-aon Oidhche," in which series we have heard, among some tales along traditional lines, a number of stories which, for plot and construction and dramatic suspense, showed what can be done in this line.

We have been prompted to pen these words by the receipt of a letter from a correspondent, Mr. Marcus J. Hare, Idaho, U.S.A.

Mr. Hare says that in January, 1955, being anxious to learn Gaelic, he ordered from Scotland a number of Gaelic books, including Divisions II and III of *Sgeulachdan Arabianach* ("The Arabian Nights' Tales," translated into Gaelic by the late Rev. John MacRury). He glanced at these, but was unable to make any headway with them. He then obtained Macleod

and Reid's "Elementary Course of Gaelic" (published by An Comunn), and also MacLaren's "Gaelic Self-Taught" and Dwelly's Dictionary.

"By the use of these," writes Mr. Hare, "and by a careful study of Macbain and Whyte's 'How To Learn Gaelic,' and a reading of the literary examples and readings in the last-named book, I have slowly but surely improved my ability to read and understand Gaelic. I have also used the Gaelic Bible considerably."

Recently Mr. Hare came across a copy of the first chapter of *Am Feall-Glacadh*, a translation of R. L. Stevenson's "Kidnapped," translated by the late Rev. Dr. Archibald Macdonald of Kiltarlity and published serially in *The Northern Chronicle* in the years 1914-1916. "I found," writes Mr. Hare, "that I was able to read and understand this first chapter of *Am Feall-Glacadh* without too much difficulty. Of course, I had to use Dwelly and from time to time referred to the English original to be certain that I was arriving at a reasonably correct translation. However, the comparative ease with which I, a newcomer to the Scottish Gaelic, could read and translate this first chapter made me feel that it would serve a great purpose to students of the Gaelic if it were available in book form. It would also arouse and stimulate the interest of the native speakers and readers of Gaelic, both young and old. To my mind there is no more exciting and interesting novel, with a Highland theme, than *Kidnapped*."

"After this experience with *Am Feall-Glacadh*," writes Mr. Hare, "I went back to Division II of *Sgeulachdan Arabianach* and found that I could readily read the first chapter in it. I shall continue to read this because I think the simplicity of its style and the familiarity of the stories will enable me to build my vocabulary to the point where I can go to more complicated subjects."

Mr. Hare adds: "I am convinced that the publication of *Kidnapped* in Gaelic would be of significance. If the works of Robert Louis Stevenson, such as *Kidnapped*, *Treasure Island*, and *The Master of Ballantrae* were available in Gaelic versions, I feel that it would appeal to both students, such as myself, and native speakers and readers of the language. I realize that there is expense in publishing books such as these, and one would have to be assured of sufficient sales to cover the cost at least. If there is no other way, would it be possible to publish *Am Feall-Glacadh* and *Treasure Island* (which I understand exists in manuscript form)

in instalments in *An Gaidheal*? The set type could be saved from the instalments and the book finally produced when the serial was completed. If the type cannot be saved for such purpose, the instalments could still be produced in book-form by off-set printing."

"There is yet another way," says Mr. Hare. "Through An Comunn Gaidhealach and *Gairm* could not a Gaelic-Book-of-the-Month Club be organised, which could underwrite through advance subscriptions the publication of such needed books? I should be pleased to subscribe to such an organisation."

Mr. Hare is a member of An Comunn Gaidhealach and receives *An Gaidheal*. With help from the dictionary he can read some of the Gaelic in the magazine, especially in *An Gaidheal Og*. "I do want you to know," he writes, "how I appreciate the magazine and the fine quality of it." We thank him for the compliment.

Now and again other correspondents have written us with suggestions similar to those now put forward by Mr. Hare, and we have had these matters very much at heart, but found ourselves unable to get anything done. Somebody must take the initiative, and we ourselves have become so over-burdened with various responsibilities that we cannot at the present time contemplate taking on any more, whether by way of organising or writing.

The manuscript of the late Mr. Jonathan Mackinnon of Nova Scotia's Gaelic translation of *Treasure Island* was brought to this country by the kind offices of Mr Edward McCurdy, and is now in the custody of An Comunn Gaidhealach

and securely lodged in a safe. Mr. McCurdy also donated £50 to An Comunn to help publish it, and this money is held in trust for that purpose by An Comunn, but printing costs are now such that a very much larger sum will be required. At the present time, An Comunn is committed to publishing a new and much needed edition of *Bàrdachd Ghàidhlig*, an indispensable text-book in our secondary schools and universities, and also a Scottish Gaelic edition of an attractive set of children's Readers. These two projects will take at least £1,000.

The Book-of-the-Month idea is an excellent one. We have mooted it on previous occasions, and the editors of *Gairm* made a similar proposal some time ago. Even if it were only a Book-of-the-Year or Book-of-the-Quarter, that would be a great advance. The Irish Gaels have a very successful Club-Leabhar, and by means of it and in other ways the Irish reading public have at their command a long and growing list of popular books, some original (detective stories, thrillers, etc.), some translations from other languages (including books by Neil Munro and R. L. Stevenson.)

The Gaelic translation of *Treasure Island* runs to over 95,000 words. Even if we could allow four pages (3,500 words) for each monthly instalment, it would take well over two years to complete its publication serially in *An Gaidheal*. It would be much more satisfactory to have it published initially in book form rather than as a serial.

We shall welcome comments on the matters discussed above.

Ann's A' Mhaileid

"Gabhaidh Sinn an Rathad Mor"

Sir,—I am surprised that no one has replied to the queries of your correspondent in the March number. I have seen the day when half-a-dozen pens would have done so, and the varying opinions expressed would start a fierce controversy. Other days, other ways. I do not attempt to answer his queries in this note.

First as to the tune. It is of the type termed by pipers a "Quick-step," a rousing one with a bold spirit of martial defiance. It is said to have been composed by Iain Breac MacEanrick, one of the noted Hendersons of Glencoe, who flourished about the period of the wars of Montrose, who is also said to have written the old words associated with the tune. These words are apparently no more than a piper's mnemonic, a necessary adjunct when pipe music was never written and, even if it was, pipers could not read it.

There are others who claim that the air was composed by a later member of the same family who was "out" in the "Fifteen," and some support is supplied to this view by the fact that the tune was known as "The Shirramuir March" and appears in the collections under that name, as well as those of the "Highway," "The Stewart's March," "The MacIntyre's March," and occasionally under the absurd title of "Ca-Foozle-Um."

This last title is due to an enterprising London publisher of music who recognised the excellence of the melody, and had it set to words of the music hall type in the early "Seventies" of last century. It proved a profitable speculation for the publisher, as it became exceedingly popular on the stage. So much so that it also appeared in those ephemeral publications entitled "Young Lady's Companion," "Drawing Room Companion" and such like,

so common at one time. Before me now lies one of those Victorian publications with the tune arranged as a polka named "Ca-Foozle-Um Polka."

So much for the air; now for something about the words. I think I am quite safe in saying that those now sung to the air were composed by Dr. Stewart ("Nether Lochaber") in 1874. It was in that year that they first appeared in print and at the time the music hall had made the melody very popular. It may be noted that "Nether Lochaber" knew more about the modern words than anybody else. He also was emphatic that they were associated with the MacIntyres of Lochawe, and he was very friendly with some members of that clan. Then and for long afterwards he was a frequent contributor of verse to the magazines, periodicals, and journals under a great variety of pen-names in Gaelic and English. Though he made no pretensions to the name of bard, his verse is good and very readable. The English translation was made by Professor Blackie, a close friend of "Nether Lochaber," and appeared soon after the Gaelic. One may be pardoned for suggesting that the two collaborated in writing both Gaelic and English.

For obvious reasons no faith need be placed in the introductory note to the tune in the Killin Collection. Sober history does not support the remarks regarding the air, but the story of the murder of the Earl of Menteith is quite historical.

It may be mentioned that Iain Breac MacEanrick was the best sword and dirkman between Clach Toll in Appin and Kilcuimin on Lochness, according to "Nether Lochaber."

The writer is one of that diminishing band who can remember seeing the gifted minister of "Nether Lochaber." Eheu! Tempus fugit.

JAMES E. SCOTT.

Nicolson's Gaelic Proverbs

Sir, — I possess the first edition of this work. It contains many additions in pen and pencil.

I do not think the third edition ever appeared. I have some papers in connection with it from which it can be gathered that this edition was to incorporate the whole of the original edition, as well as those proverbial sayings given in *Reliquiae Celticae*, and scores of others which had appeared scattered in various periodicals and journals, the whole almost doubling the size of Nicolson's Collection. But alas L.S.D. proved to be too tightly fixed in the pockets of those who ought to have been proud to finance the proposal, and the project never went further than the good intentions. The late Kenneth Macleod published his collection since

in *The Celtic Monthly*, while "Fionn" published his in various journals at intervals.

At one time, there was a demand for copies of the *Filidh* of James Munro. This is an excellent collection of song and music long out of print and very scarce. To meet the demand "Fionn" offered to reprint it if 300 subscribers came forward at one shilling a head. Here again the price of forty cigarettes in those days was considered far too much to pay for such an excellent little collection, and "Fionn" dropped the idea.—Yours, etc.,

JAMES E. SCOTT.

Co d'an aithne an t-òran seo?

A Charaid, — Chuala mi òran o chionn ghoidir air a sheinn. Chan 'eil agam de na facail aige ach seo :

'Piseach le clannaibh mo ghaoil,
Soirbheachadh math leis na Gaidheil
A choisinn am blàr anns an fhraoch.'

An urrainn neach de leughadairean "A' Ghaidheil" innse troimh an mhìosachan cò a rinn an t-òran agus cuin a chaidh a dheanamh agus cò am blàr m'a bheil e?—Mise, le spéis,

DOMHNALL BAN.

Notes and Comments

We congratulate Mr. Hugh MacPhee, Head of the B.B.C. Gaelic Department and previously Assistant Secretary of An Comunn Gaidhealach and recently Convener of the Mod and Music Committee, on his election as Chief of the Gaelic Society of London, the President being his brother James, former Mod Gold Medallist. The Gaelic Society of London is the oldest Gaelic Society in the world, but it is as lively now as it has been in the 186 years of its history.

We congratulate Mod Gold Medallist, Miss Joan Mackenzie, Lewis, on her recent marriage, and we wish her and her husband, Mr. Roderick M. Macleod, "slàinte, sonas, agus soirbheachadh."

We are always very grateful to receive copies of the magazines issued by schools in the Highlands and Islands, especially those which include Gaelic items, and we shall be happy to have permission to reprint for our own readers some of these Gaelic contributions. The Oban High School Magazine for 1956 has come to hand. What about the Nicolson Institute, Inverness Royal Academy, Portree, Dingwall, Fort-William, and the rest?

Mr. Edward Porsell, on his retreat after twenty-four years as headmaster of Kinloch School, Campbeltown, and forty-three years' service to education in Argyll, has received a presentation from his colleagues and friends. He was Crowned Bard of the National Mod in 1939 and has been a frequent prize-winner in the literary competitions, while his "Tuireadh Iain Ruaidh" has become very popular. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

The Royal Tour

Message of Welcome from An Comunn

On 8th August, prior to the commencement of Her Majesty the Queen's visit to the West Highlands and Islands, the following message was sent to Her Majesty's Private Secretary on behalf of An Comunn:

Dear Sir,—On the occasion of Her Majesty's visit to the Western Isles, we, on behalf of the members of An Comunn Gaidhealach of which Her Majesty is graciously pleased to be Patron, humbly beg you to extend to Her Majesty and the Royal Party our hearty and loyal welcome to the Gaelic-speaking Hebrides.

This Association remembers with gratitude the Royal recognition conferred upon it and its activities on behalf of the Gaelic language and its literature, music and culture.

We respectfully beg you to convey our very sincere wishes that Her Majesty and the Royal Party may have a happy sojourn in the Islands

of the West and among the Gaelic people, than whom there are none more devoted and more loyal to Her Majesty's Person and Throne.—We are, Sir, Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) NEIL SHAW, *President.*

(Sgd.) MALCOLM MACLEOD, *Secretary.*

The following reply was received by Mr. Shaw:

Dear Sir,—The Queen, to whom I have shown your letter of the 8th August, is most grateful for the message which you have sent to Her Majesty on behalf of the members of An Comunn Gaidhealach.

Her Majesty would be grateful if you would convey to all concerned her appreciation of their loyal and kind good wishes and of their welcome to the Outer Hebrides.—Yours truly,

(Sgd.) MARTIN CHARTERIS.

Suggestions For Action

By KENNETH M. MACKINNON

THE "News from Nova Scotia" in the June number of *An Gaidheal* certainly seems to draw a comparison with Scotland, which, to say the least, is not very favourable to us. It seems that Nova Scotia, with a Gaelic-speaking population only one-third that of Scotland, uses Gaelic in its communal life to a far greater extent than we do. It would seem that the Press over there regularly carries Gaelic material, and the educational authorities are interested in the problem of Gaelic literacy. Moreover, the preservation of the Gaelic way of life seems to be a feature of the official tourist and cultural policies of that province. I wonder how many of those 90,000 U.S. tourists have been encouraged by what they have seen in Nova Scotia to visit Scotland and have returned disappointed, having found a nation in decay?

Apart from the Highland weeklies, the *Weekly Scotsman* is the only newspaper with a regular Gaelic feature, to my knowledge. Is there no Gaelic public to justify a regular Gaelic feature in one of our national dailies? If we are interested in encouraging Gaelic literacy, we should interest ourselves in providing more lively reading matter of topical and general interest, well produced and well illustrated. *Gairm* has given us a lead, and it is to be hoped that its lead will be taken. Could not An Comunn follow with an expanded and illustrated *An Gaidheal*? This measure

would surely result in increased sales after a short while. This would only be the beginning of the provision of incentives towards greater Gaelic literacy.

The problem of Gaelic education has been tackled by Inverness so far as its Gaelic areas are concerned in the new policy of complete bi-lingualism in the schools. Could not An Comunn encourage the other Highland counties to follow the example? In Wales it was the churches which promoted the widespread literacy in the native language which, today, supports a vigorous press and native publishing concerns. Do not the Highland churches see the value of literacy in enabling their members to read the Scriptures and devotional works in their native language? *Life and Work* has a Gaelic supplement. Would that all its Highland subscribers could read it.

Next there is the question of the Highland way of life and the tourist industry. What is there distinctive about the Highlands today excepting the scenery? Half the fun of a foreign holiday lies in the distinctive characteristics of the foreign nation and its people. I have no doubt that visitors to the Highlands are disappointed by the seeming anglicisation of the Highlands and the positively non-Highland hospitality and fare of the hotels and inns. Gaelic is scarcely used at all upon official signs and the fascias of shops in the Gaelic-speaking areas. Such is the standardisation

of these things over the whole country that a tourist might feel almost as if he had never left his own home ground. Bi-lingual street, route and shop signs and better attention to our native culinary arts in the hotels would all help to give the tourist a better impression that he had come to a distinctive and interesting region. Perhaps the Scottish Tourist Board could be interested in such a policy?

Lastly there is the question raised by Nova Scotia's "Highland Village" idea. Is it not surprising that we have no such establishment in the Highlands? Apart from being a tourist draw, a representative Gaelic community developed as a venue for gatherings, courses, conferences, conventions, field and folk-lore studies, festivals and mods would give a good focus to Gaelic cultural pursuits. Such an enterprise should surely give an example to be followed in the preservation and re-establishment of Gaelic in the public and communal life of our Highland communities. We have seen in Nova Scotia how such was the clamour for such an establishment in their areas by the various localities that two have now been chosen. We might have two ourselves, a mainland village and a Hebridean one.

Perhaps An Comunn in connection with the Scottish Tourist Board, FIOS and other interested foundations and societies might find this a progressive and needed step to take in our cause? It is, of course, sheer futility to expect any outcome from protests to government departments concerning proposals of theirs which seem inimical to our cause. On the other hand, our course is clearly, in any case, to mobilise public opinion and kindred organisations to implement positive measures to stop the rot in the Highland way of life. Protest and discussion are only a secondary task of the Gaelic movement. The primary task is concerned in more positive measures which do entail a measure of faith and some financial problems. However, with faith and a bold, publicised policy, problems do tend to resolve themselves. Advertising always pays. In this letter are some points for such a new Gaelic policy which An Comunn in conjunction with other bodies could do very much indeed to promote. What are the reader's ideas—and An Comunn's?

Solo singing (Mr. Scott of Stronachullin Prizes)—Catriona Fair. Singing Psalm—Catriona Fair, Ross Memorial Cuach—Catriona Fair. Puir-t-a-beul—Catriona Fair. Duet—Mary and Elizabeth Smith, Tarbert.

Choral singing. Harmony—Lochgilhead Junior Secondary School Gaelic Choir "A". Unison—Tarbert Junior Secondary School Gaelic Choir "A".

Instrumental. Pianoforte—Mairi Macdougall, Tarbert.

Provincial Mods

PERTHSHIRE

The Perthshire Provincial Mod was held in the Town Hall, Aberfeldy on 15th June. The adjudicators were: for Gaelic—Rev. Malcolm MacCorquodale and Rev. T. M. Murchison. For music—Mr. James Curr and Mr. H. D. MacGill. Mr. Murchison presided at the Mod Concert over a full hall, and the trophies were presented by Mrs. Petrine Stewart and Mrs. Mitchell, who presented the new trophy, the George A. Matheson Cup, awarded to the person with the highest aggregate marks in senior solo singing.

The first-prize winners were as follows:—

Junior Section

Gaelic names of birds—Margaret J. Macdiarmid, Lawers.

Oral delivery—Reading prose (learners)—Mary Butters, Weem. Recitation (learners, 12-16)—Isobel Clark, Killin. Recitation (under 12)—Margaret Keay, Grandtully. Recitation (open)—Jennifer Adam, Grandtully.

Vocal music. Solo singing. Girls under 12—Leslie Stitt, Killin. Boys under 12—Alasdair Fraser, Killin. Boys, 12-16—Henry Murdoch, Weem. Girls, 12-16—Norma MacAulay, Fortingall. Girls, 16-18—Marjory Kenwick, Weem. Duet (learners)—Margaret Maclean and Betty Wilson, Dunolly Hostel.

Choral. Unison—Killin Junior Choir. Harmony—Aberfeldy Junior Gaelic Choir.

Senior Section

Oral delivery. Reading prose at sight—Mrs. C. A. Douglas, Pitlochry. Reciting poem—Mrs. C. A. Douglas. Reciting prose—Mrs. C. A. Douglas. Reciting poem (learners)—Elizabeth C. Macdiarmid, Lawers. Sgeulachd—Mrs. C. A. Douglas.

Vocal music. Solo singing (ladies)—Mrs. C. A. Douglas. Men—J. G. Scott, Kinloch Rannoch. Oran-mor (ladies)—Mrs. C. A. Douglas. Male and Female voices (Ian M. R. Stewart Aberfeldy Memorial prize)—Ishbel Eirlick, Acharn. Former prize-winners—Mrs. Millie Morris, Aberfeldy. Mixed voices—J. G. Scott. Own choice (ladies)—Mrs. Margaret A. Macleish Perth. Male voices—J. G. Scott. George A. Matheson Cup (for senior solo-singing)—Mrs. C. A. Douglas, Duet—Mrs. Jessie MacRae and Archie Maclean, Perth. Quartette—Logierait Quartette.

Instrumental

Juniors. Violin—William Gerry, Blair Atholl. Pianoforte—Flora Bray, Birnam. Accordion—Margaret Anderson, Grandtully.

Seniors. Pianoforte—Catherine Robertson, Pitlochry.

MOD DHAILRIADA

The annual Junior Provincial Mod was held at Lochgilhead on 19th June, and no less than ten choirs competed. The adjudicators were: for music, Dr. MacCourt; for Gaelic, Rev. John A. Macdonald and Mr. Malcolm Macleod (Secretary of An Comunn). At the evening concert the Rev. J. A. Macdonald presided and the guest artistes were Mod Gold Medalists Nan Hunter and Alexander Brown. The prizes were presented by Mrs. A. I. MacCallum, wife of Provost MacCallum.

The first-prize winners were as follows:—

Oral delivery. Recitation (under 14)—Donald Macdonald, Lochgilhead. Prose (under 14)—Donald Macdonald. Poetry (under 14)—Kathleen N. Henry, Tarbert. Poetry (under 16)—Catriona Fair, Lochgair. Comhradh—Donald Macdonald.

Vocal music. Solo singing. Girls—Catriona Fair and Kathleen N. Henry (equal). Prescribed song—Catriona Fair. Gold medal—Kathleen N. Henry. Solo singing (8-12 years)—Ann L. Smith, Ardrishaig.



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar VIII

AN T-SULTUIN, 1956

Aireamh 9

Gobhair

'S e bainne nan gobhar
Le chobhar 's le bhlàth,
A chuireadh an spionnadh
'S na gillean a bha.

THA a' ghobhar air a h-àrdachadh an diugh seach mar a bha i uair, agus tha an Riaghaltas a' toirt cuideachadh do'n tuath bhig a chum am misneachadh gu gobhair àrach, agus tha suim airgid air a thabhairt dhaibh-san a ghlèidheas ceann-stuic math. Is math gu bheil sin mar sin agus an deagh fhàbhar na tuatha bhig, oir ionaltraidh a' ghobhar g'a riar far am bàsaicheadh a' chaora.

Mar tha an rann shuas ag ràdh bha bainne nan gobhar air a mheas fallain agus beathail. Tha e so-thuigsinn mar a mheas ar n-atrachaichean gu robh am bainne torrach, ach ciamar a dh'fhiosraich iad gu bheil cumhachd iochslaint-each an anail nan gobhar agus air an aobhar sin gu bheil e buannachdail do'n chrodh gobhar a bhith còmhla riu anns a' bhàthaich?

Bha ar sinnsirean 'nan daoine geur-bheachdail agus theagamh gun d'fhògluim iad mu'n chumhachd iongantach seo bho bhith a' toirt fa-near mar a mharbhas gobhar an nathair, a dearg nàmhaid. Tha a' ghobhar a' séideadh a h-analach oirre gus an toir i uaithe a lùths agus an sin éirigh i air a casan deiridh agus thig i a nuas oirre le sgàile làidir le a casan toisich. Tha an seo sean-fhacal a chuala mi bho charaid bho thòisich mi air beachdachadh air a' chuspair seo: "Mar ghobhar ag itheadh nathrach, 'ga càineadh is 'ga caitheamh.'" Cha chuala mi gu sin gun itheadh a' ghobhar an nathair, ach bha fios agam air an dòigh a ghabhadh i air a marbhadh.

TOIMHSEACHAN

Chaidh dithis chailleach le uibhean thun a' mharbaidh. Thubhairt té dhiubh ris an té eile, "Thoir dhòmhsa dà ubh, agus bithidh a dha uiread agam ort."

"Cha toir," ars ise, "ach thoir thusa ann dhòmhsa, agus bithidh uibhir is uibhir againn." 'S i a' cheist a nis, cia meud ubh a bha ag gach té?

(Faic an fhreagairt air taobh-duilleig 18).

Tha e air a dhearbhadh an diugh gu robh na seann daoine ceart 'nam barail agus gun cuir gobhar anns a' bhàthaich, còmhla ris a' chrodh, casg air galar, mar tha a' bhith a' tilgeil nan laogh. Is cuimhne leam fhéin gobhar a bhith againn anns a' bhàthaich.

Anns na seann làithean, ri linn mo shinnseanar, bha grunnan gobhar aig an tuath bhig mar an còir féin, agus is iadsan a bha cùramach m'an deighinn. Bhiodh iad a' dol air àirigh leo mar a bhiodh muinntir eile a' dol air àirigh leis a' chrodh, mar a tha air a dhearbhadh leis an ainm, "Airigh nan Gobhar." Bheireadh gobhar anns an àm ud mu cheithir pinnt bhainne anns an là, ach an diugh chan fhiach iad mur toir iad dusan pinnt. Far an robh àireamh dhiubh bu mhór an cuideachadh ceithir pinnt bho gach aon diubh a dheanamh ime is càise fa chomhair annlain a' Gheamhraidh.

Ged a bha treudan gobhar air feadh an eilein an uair a bha mise 'nam bhalach, agus a tha fhathast, cha robh iad air an cruinneachadh gu mainnir a chum am bleoghann ach leigeil leo a bhith a' ruith fadhaich an aodann nan creag. Bhlais mi air bainne gobhar air a shon sin, ach cha b'ann anns an eilean againn fhéin, agus cha b'ann mar a thàinig e as a' ghoghan.

Is fada bho'n là sin is mi air chuairt mara mu chladaichean na h-Eadailte. Bha sinn a' lìonadh suas le gual agus, ann an oidhirp an stùr a chumail a mach, bha gach doras, toll, is fròg air an còmhdach thairis gu cùramach. Mar sin cha robh dòigh air tràth bidh ullachadh is bha an t-acras air gillean òga. Dh'ith mise tuilleadh mheas is a bha math dhomh, siris a' chuid a bu mhò, agus cha mhòr nach do chuir sin mi air laighe na leapa. Air ar turas dhach-aigh thadhail sinn an *Gibraltar* is chaidh mise a thoirt gu lighiche Breatannach. Am measg na bha agam ri thoirt leam a chum m'aiseag air ais gu slàinte àbhaistich bha seipin de bhainne goibhre. Cha robh e ceadaichte a thoirt air bòrd gun e a bhith air a sgàldadh, agus an déidh beagan blasad air cha robh mòran càil agam dha. Ach, dona is gu robh e, bha e mar uisge fuarain am blas an coimeas ri ìm chaorach a cheannaich a' Bhaintighearna Mairead air eilean Anti Milo anns a' Mhuir Ghreugaich.

Neach air bith a dh'itheadh sud dh'itheadh e rud sam bith! Is mise a bha taingeil fhaicinn a' dol thar na cliathaich.

Bha e 'na lagh o shean anns an duthaich seo, mur 'eil e an diugh ann, nach robh màl ri phàidheadh air son a bhith ag àrach ghothar. Mar a thubhairt mi, bha treudan aig luchd nam bailtean beaga agus ge bè a dh'aobharaich e, no ciod an teum a bhuail am Bàillidh, thugadh uatha na gobhair. Bu chall mòr seo do na coitearan, agus ghluais e aon de mhnathan Chnoc-cruim gu bàrdachd.

'S fheudar dhomh bhith beò,
Chaidh na gobhair dhìom;
Ciamar gheibh mi 'n smuairan
Seo chumail dhìom.

'S fheudar dhomh bhith beò,
Chaidh na gobhair dhìom.

Feumaidh gu robh mòran ghothar aig an tuath bhig, oir, a réir an òrain, bha an t-ionaltradh farsaing, bho thaobh gu taobh de'n eilean, mar a thuigeas sinn bho ainmean nan àitean anns an robh na treudan air an cruinnachadh air là na dunaich ud. Ciod a chaidh a dheanamh ris na bha sin de ghothar cha chuala mise.

Ged a sguireadh de bhleoghann nan gobhar, bha na h-uachdarain is na tuathanaich a' gabhail còir orra, agus chuireadh iad crùn an ceann orra nam biodh iad a dhìth air son na poite. Tha an fheòil aca tioram, mì-bhlasda, gun choimeas idir ri saill is sult na caorach.

Tha na gobhair déidheil air bàrr dearg, agus cho cinnteach 's a thig an reothairt mun cuairt tèarnaidh iad bho na mullaichean chun a' chladaich fheamann.

'S ioma creag is mullach
Air an dean iad fuireach;
Feamainn air gach rubha
Chuideachadh an sil.

Is sealladh breagha e am faicinn anns a' chladach no an aodann nan creag. Againne co-dhiubh bha iad dubh, geal, is breac ('uadh is geal agus dubh is geal). Is seòcail, stàiteil am boc mòr e fhéin ("Boc Liath nan Gobhar" mar a thuirr am piobaire), 'na sheasamh, a' cnàmh a chire, air creig àird le a fheusaig bhadach is a adhaircean fada fiar.

Tha an sean-fhacal ag ràdh, "Miann gobhar goath a dhol an aodann chreag," agus is fìor e. Bha sean-fhacal eile aig mòr mhàthair nach fhaca mi riamh an clò: "Is galar bàis e do'n ghothair mur a h-ith i an t-eidheann." Chan urrainn mi dad a ràdh mun ghalar, ach tha mi deimhinn as mu'n eidheann. Bha creag mhòr ris an canadh na seann daoine "Creag an Eidhinn" mu choinneamh na taighe sgoile anns an d'fhuair mis; am beagan fòghluim a tha agam, agus is iomadh sgràilleadh a fhuair sinn

bho'n t-seana Mhaighistir an uair a bhiodh na gobhair mun cuairt. Bhiodh ar sùil na bu trice air na gobhair a' streap ris a' chreig na bhiodh i air an leabhar-leughaidh!

Bho'n as ann mu làithean m'òige as mò a tha mo sheanchas, nach faod mi an oidhirp bheag seo a thoirt gu crìch le innseadh dhuibh mar a thachair do pheata minn a bha agam is mi 'nam bhalach beag. B'e cìobair a bha an Calum mo bhàrthair, agus bhiodh e tric a' siubhal monaidh is cladaich air cheann a dhleasnaid. Feasgar a bha siud thàinig e dhachaigh is meann aige an lùib a bhreacain. Ghabh mise còir air, agus bu bhòidheach e! Ach nach 'eil a h-uile meann is uan bòidheach? Bha am fear seo cho dubh ris an fhìtheach—gun uiread is blàr geal an clàr an aodainn. Chuir mi air theadhair e, agus bhithinn a' toirt dha bainne mar a bhithreamaid 'ga thoirt do'n uan a chail a mhàthair, ach a dh'aindeoin mo choibhneis is mo chùram cha robh dol agam air a challdachadh. Là a bha siud, is mi a' dol a thoirt dha a thràth bainne, thug e sìtheadh air an teadhair, agus siud i bhàrr a' chipein is a mach ri bruthach mo phiatan! Lean mi e cho dian is a b'urraim mi, ach bha e mar a' ghaoth luath Mhàrt a' deanamh cùrsa dìreach air a' Bheinn Bhric as an tàinig e. Nach 'eil fios gu robh mi 'ga chaoidh. Cò am balach nach bitheadh? Ged rinn e orm mar a rinn e, bha mi fo iomagain m'a dheighinn, oir bha an teadhair m'a amhaich is caob dhith a' slaothadh ris. Bha eagal orm gun aobharaicheadh seo sgiòrradh dha am measg nan creag, ach co dhiubh a dh'èirich tuisaist dha no nach d'èirich chan fhaca mise a dhubb no dhath riamh tuilleadh.

NIALL.

A' Chuairt Rioghail

Tha fhios gu robh là mòr aig balaich is caileagan na Gaidhealtachd agus nan Eileanan air do'n Bhanrigh agus Dùc Dhun-éideann, agus am Prionnsa Tèarlach agus a' Bhan-phrionnsa Anna, a bhith air chuairt 'nam measg.

Bhèir sinn dà dhuais seachd tasdain is sia sgillinn air son an dà litir Ghàidhlig as fheàrr a gheibh sinn (roimh dheireadh mìos na Sultuin), bho na leughadairean òga againn, ag innse mu "An Là A Thadhail A' Bhanrigh Oirmn."

Seòlaibh bhur litrichean gu Oifis a' Chomuinn an Glaschu.

Cia Meud Ubh?

Freagairt an Toimhseachain air t.-d. 17.

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AN GÀIDHEAL
THE GAEL

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OCTOBER, 1956

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No. 10

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'S na laoiigh òg, bhallach, riabhach,
A' deoghal is a' cleasachd chiùin,
A' ruidil is a' sgiathlaich.

Na beanntan corrach, creagach, àrd,
Ceò bàn m'am bàrr ag iathadh ;
Mar chailleachan cruinn a' càrdadh pheàrrd,
Is falt an cinn air liathadh.

Am muir mar chriostal, gorm is geal,
A' breabail is a' riagail ;
A' trod 's a' sabaid anns gach stall,
An òrdugh cath cho rianail.

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Leabhar LI

AN DAMHAR, 1956

Aireamh 10

Am Bocsa

Le CATRIONA STORRAR

(Leis an sgeul seo choisinn piuthar na ban-ighdair, a' Bhean-uasal C.A. Dhùbhghlas, Baile-chloichridh, a' cheud duais air son aithris sgeulachd aig Mòd Sìorrachd Pheairt an Obar-pheallaigh, An t-Og-mhios, 1956. Buinidh na feathraichean seo do'n Eilean Sgitheanach. Bidh sùil againn ri tuilleadh de'n t-seòrsa bhuapa.)

THA fichead bliadhna o phòs Murchadh is Màiri. Tha deagh chuimhne agam air là na bainnse. Feumaidh mi aideachadh gu robh mi duilich air an son. Cha robh aig Murchadh a chuireadh e air ach a sheann dheise ghlas, is deàrrsadh aise leis an aois. Chunnaic gùn Màiri là na b' fheàrr, ach, le a h-ad ùr, bha i bòidheach. Phòs am ministear iad anns an eaglais bhig aig ceann shuas a' bhaile. Dh'òl sinn an slàinte an taigh a mhàthar-san, agus thug an dotair iad 'na charbad gu taigh beag croiteir air taobh na beinne.

Cha robh mòran fearainn aig Murchadh, ach bha dà mhart aige agus beagan chaorach. Reic e bainne agus clòimh, agus, mar a chaidh na bliadhnanach seachad, chuir e beagan mu seach.

Thàinig an cogadh agus bha feum air Murchadh air an fhearann. Dh'oibrich e fhéin is Màiri a là is a dh'oidhe, agus thàinig là, an uair a bha an cogadh seachad, a cheannaich Murchadh tuathanachas air an robh taigh mór geal. Bha

iad math dheth a nis. Cha robh duine cloinne aca, ach bha iad sona le chéile.

Ach cha d'innis mi dhuibh, mu'n bhocsa dhubh!

Air là àraidh, fichead bliadhna bho'n là a phòs iad, bha Murchadh a' dol gu féill anns an ath bhaile. Dh'fheumadh e na brògan móra tacaideach a chur dheth agus brògan iosal spaideil a chur air. Fhuair e aon bhròg losal, ach càit an robh an t'èile? Sios air a ghlùinean chaidh Murchadh feuch an robh i fo'n leabaidh. Cha d'fhuair e a' bhròg, ach fhuair e bocsa—bocsa dubh nach fhaca a shùilean riamh. Tharraing e a mach e, ach bha e glaiste.

"A Mhàiri," dh'eubh e, "gu dé a th'agad sa' bhocsa dhubh?"

Thàinig Màiri is greann oirre.

"A Mhurchaidh," arsa ise, "ma chuireas tu corrag air a' bhocsa dhubh, cha bhruidhinn mi riut gu sìorruidh tuilleadh."

"Agus," fhreagair Murchadh, "mur innis thu dhòmhsa gu dé a tha thu a' cleith, cha bhruidhinn mise riutsa."

Fhuair Màiri a' bhròg eile, agus thilg i air Murchadh i. Gun ghuth gun ghabhadh chuir e uime a chuid aodaich agus dh'fhàg e Màiri leatha fhéin.

Shuidh Màiri air cathair, is na deòir a' ruith o a sùilean.

“A Mhurchaidh, a Mhurchaidh,” ghlaodh i, “nach robh de mhisneachd agamsa na dh’innseadh dhuit-sa an nì a tha mi a’ falach ort!”

Chaidh an là seachad agus thàinig ciaradh an fheasgair. Cha robh sgìal air Murchadh. Bha cridhe Màiri bhochd briste. Is dòcha gu robh e air a bhàthadh anns an Abhainn Mhòir! Is dòcha gun do mharbh carbad e air an rathad air ais.

“Till, a Mhurchaidh, is innsidh mi dhuit gu dé a tha anns a’ bhocsa! Car son nach do loisg mi am bocsa is na bheil ann o chionn fada?”

Bha Murchadh air an rathad dhachaigh, ceum san uair aige agus coltas glé mhì-thoilichte. Cha b’ fhiaich prìsean; chan fhaca e mòran èolaich; b’ fheàrr leis nach d’ fhalbh e riamh. Ach cha robh cabhag dhachaigh air gu Màiri is a bocsa dubh! Dé an sonas a bhiodh aige mur cluinneadh e guth Màiri tuilleadh? Shuidh e air cloich ri taobh an rathaid, agus le a cheann ’na dhà làimh rinn e suas a inntinn gum b’ fheàrr leis Màiri le a bocsa na bhith as a h-eugmhais buileach.

Dhìrich e e fhéin agus le ceuman fada rinn e air a dhachaigh. Chunnac Màiri e a’ tighinn agus ruith i g’a ionnsaigh.

“A Mhurchaidh,” arsa ise, “thig còmhla riumsa is chì thusa dé a tha anns a’ bhocsa dhubh.”

“A Mhàiri,” fhreagair Murchadh, “tha mi coma ged a bhiodh tu a’ gleidheadh cuirp ann!”

Le chéile chaidh iad a steach, agus le a h-ìuchair dh’fhosgail Màiri am bocsa. A measg phaipearan thug i gun briagha geal!

“Gu dé a tha thu a’ dol a dheanamh le sin?” arsa Murchadh.

“Bheil cuimhne agad air là na bainne?” arsa Màiri. “Rinn mi an gùn seo le mo dhà làimh fhéin, ach bha fhios agam nach robh agadsa ach do sheann dheise ghlas, is cha b’ urrainn mi do nàireachadh. Ghléidh mi riamh e, agus is iomadh uair a sheall mi air an uair a bha mi leam fhéin.”

“Lean mise, a Mhàiri,” arsa Murchadh, agus thug e i gu ceann shuas an t-sabhail. A mach as an fhodar, thug e bocsa—bocsa dubh glé choltach ri bocsa Màiri. Dh’fhosgail e e, agus á measg phaipearan thug e deise bhriagha ghorm!

“Thachair dhòmhsa mar a thachair dhuit-sa, a Mhàiri,” arsa esan. “Rinn an tàillear an deise dhomh, ach bha sinn bochd le chéile, agus cha d’innis thu dhomh gu robh gùn agad. Ach éisd rium a nis, a Mhàiri! Chì mise am ministear. Iarraidh mi air tighinn oidhche na Sàbaid. Cuiridh tusa ort do ghùn, agus mise mo dheise ghorm, agus pòsaidh e sinn uair eile.”

Mar a thubhairt, b’ fhiort! Chunnac Murchadh am ministear, agus bha am ministear deònach. Air oidhche Sàbaid cheangail e a rithist am paidhir a bha ceangailte fichead

bliadhna—Màiri ’na gùn briagha geal, agus Murchadh ’na dheise bhriagha ghorm. Cha dhùndadh an gùn air Màiri, agus bha putan an siud is an seo fosgailte air deise Mhurchaidh, ach cha robh fiamh a’ ghàire air adonn a’ mhinisteir.

Largs

IN going to Largs for the National Mod An Comunn Gaidhealach might be supposed to be deserting the “Gaelic area” entirely, as was also alleged, indeed, when the Mod first went to Aberdeen. After all, it is argued, Glasgow and Edinburgh have substantial Gaelic communities within them, while Rothesay is on an island of the West. But Largs. . . . !

It would surely be sufficient justification to hold the Mod in Largs that the time had come to show appreciation of, and give encouragement to, the very active branches of An Comunn which for years past have flourished in South-West Scotland. In any case, if the National Mod is to be a truly national festival, it must make its presence felt in hitherto unvisited and “unevangelised” areas.

In this article, however, we are not concerned with the present but with the past. We always like to know something about the past history of the places selected for our great Gaelic festival, and in gleaning some information about Largs we find three interesting links, however tenuous, with our Gaelic movement.

Largs is situated in the Cunningham district of Ayrshire, and it is known that Gaelic was spoken in Galloway and the Carrick district of Ayrshire until the 17th Century, even, according to some, in Robert Burns’s lifetime in the late 18th century. The Cunningham district, too, must for a time have been within the Gaelic area. Watson cites a number of place-names in this area which he derives from Gaelic, including the name “Largs” itself, which he takes to be “English plural of *learg*, a slope.” Largs may, therefore, be regarded as a one-time Gaelic parish.

The Battle

Secondly, Largs has long been associated with the memory of the battle fought there in October, 1263, when Norsemen and Scots clashed on the shore, south of the present town, and in consequence, it would appear, the Norse lost their hold over “Innse-Gall”. The Battle of Largs was a vital factor in the history of Gaelic. Had the Norse been successful, they might have continued their sway over the West-Highlands and Hebrides for centuries longer, as they did in Orkney and Shetland, and Gaelic might not have emerged victorious from the Norse Occupation as it in fact did.

“Rustic Beaux and Belles”

Thirdly, according to the Statistical Accounts (1792 and 1842), an annual fair used to be held at Largs, every midsummer on St. Columba's Day (Columba is believed to have established a mission in Largs and so became the patron saint of the parish), called St. Come's Day or Combsday. At this fair Largs became the meeting-place of Highlands and Lowlands. Here “they (the Highlanders) made exchanges and purchased goods that served them through the whole year. It might be called a congress between the Highlands and Lowlands, and occasioned a vast concourse of people for some days. The spectacle of boats from all quarters, the crowds of people, the sound of music; ashore, dancing and hilarity day and night on the green; and farther up a new street or town formed of the stands of merchants and filled with a press of people, formed altogether an amusing spectacle.”

By 1792, it was stated, “this congress has decreased much; because there are many shops now through the Highlands, and travelling chapmen frequent almost every part of that country. However, there is still a respectable concourse of rustic beaux and belles, from east and west, by land and sea.”

The New Statistical Account (1842) says: “This fair” (which was held on the second Tuesday of June, old style) “used to be famous all over the West of Scotland, and multitudes came to it, especially from the Western Highlands. The night previous to the fair was spent in frivolous amusement, which frequently ended in riot. This is no longer the case. The attendance has greatly fallen off in consequence of the general diffusion of merchandise by steam-boats, which carry to the islands of the west the comforts of civilised life at all periods of the year.”

So the National Mod, with its vast concourse of people, its hilarity, by day and night, and “the sound of music”, at competitions and ceilidhs, bringing together Highlanders and Lowlanders, rustic and urban ‘beaux and belles’, will be but a revival of an old custom gone into desuetude!

“Sequestered Spot!”

Largs, of course, is one of our most popular holiday resorts, and has long been famed as such. At one time, it would appear, it was regarded as somewhat out-of-the-way and its inhabitants not well-disposed to strangers.

The Old Statistical Account, describes the Parish of Largs as “pleasantly situated along the Firth of Clyde, from north to south, having the islands of Bute and Cumbræ opposite to its shores; beyond which are seen the lofty moun-

tains of Arran, with their heads often above the clouds. It is a magnificent prospect; the eye passing over the sea, from island to island, till at last the view is thus nobly terminated.” Then, referring to the “range of mountains” enclosing Largs on the east, the Account goes on: “It is a very sequestered spot, and hence perhaps the common proverbial saying, ‘Out of Scotland into Largs’. The air is pure, the water clear and bright; snows generally melt as they fall, seldom lying near the shore. There are here scarce any fogs, while the rest of the country, forty miles round, is often buried in them; so that this parish has been, by some, called the Montpelier of Scotland. It has been frequented a good deal of late, in the summer months, by many persons and families, for the sake of health or amusement, and it would be still more if there were better accommodation.”

Bracing Breezes

The 1842 Account states: “Largs has long been in high repute as a watering-place. From the end of May till the middle of October there is an additional population, varying from 300 or 400 to upwards of 1,000. Few places afford greater facilities for sea-bathing The sea-breezes are of a peculiarly bracing and invigorating character.”

It was the invention of the steam-engine that made Largs a watering-place. The old pier was erected in 1832. “Before that,” we are told, “the natives were exclusive and unapproachable. The place was hard to get at but now people came with the steam-boats and new ideas soon caught on.” In 1885 the railway came to Largs. Largs became a Burgh in 1876.

The Mod week is a busy one for all concerned, and there may not be much time for looking around. Some, surely, will reach the monument commemorating the Battle of Largs, which, however momentous its results for Scotland and for Gaelic, “seems,” according to one writer, “to have been nothing more than a succession of fortunate skirmishes in which a formidable armament was effectively destroyed by the fury of the elements, judiciously seconded by the bravery of the Scots.” It may be mentioned that Hacon's fleet was not the only one to come to grieve on this coast. In 1588 a ship of the ill-fated Spanish Armada was wrecked at Fairlie; a piece of cannon from the ship was still around the place last century; while some of the Spaniards settled and left descendants in the parish.

“The Prophet's Grave”

In 1647 the parish of Largs was devastated by a plague. The people fled to the glen, and their young minister, William Smith, then aged

28 years, followed them to minister to their needs. He caught the plague and died—the last victim—and his grave, known as ‘The Prophet’s Grave’, is marked by a flat stone on four upright stones in the grounds of Brisbane in Noddsdale glen, two miles from the town.

Domhnall Piobaire

AN uair a dh’fhàsas duine suas ann am bliadhnachan bidh a smuaintean tric air na làithean a dh’aom—làithean na h-òige, làithean a’ chridhealais is na saorsa. Chan ’eil mise saor bho’n ionndrainn sin, ach, ma thuigeas sibh ciod a tha mi a’ ciallachadh, chan ’eil cianalas sam bith orm, oir bha mo làithean cho sona gu ruige seo agus gu bheil a bhith a’ cuimhneachadh air na seann daoine a bha anns a’ Chlachan a bha ann ’na irachadh spioraid is misnich dhomh. A rithis, cha robh mi riamh, air muir no air tìr, gun a bhith an cuideachd luchd-labhairt Gàidhliche.

Bu ghasda, gu dearbh, a bhith am measg nam bodach, agus is iomadh nì a dh’fhòghlum mi uatha. Bha iad sona le an crannchur, ag obair na croite is ag iasgach leis na slatan, ann am bàta le maghar no air carraig le maorach, a chuideachadh an annlain nach robh air dhòigh eile ach gann aig amannan. Bha iad cho math air aithris sgeulachdan aig céilidhean a’ Gheamhraidh is a bha an co-aisean an àitean eile air feadh na Gàidhealtachd. Ach is ann air Dòmhnall Piobaire, am fear a b’òige de na bodaich, a tha m’aire is mo sgeul aig an ám.

Chaidh Dòmhnall ’na ghille òg do Ghlaschu agus dh’ionnsaich e mar chéird a bhith ’na shaor-bhàtaichean. B’e an sàr-shaor e agus, ged as mór am facal e, cha robh air an àird-an-iar a thogadh geòla cho snasail ris. Bha e greis air soitheach seòlaidh, agus ràinig e cho fada siar ri *Prince Edward Island*. Nach beag a shaoil mise, is mi ag éisdeachd ri Dòmhnall ag innseadh do na bodaich eile mu a thurus cuain, gum bithinn fhéin air chuairt anns an eilean àlainn sin a’ riochdachadh a’ Chomuinn aig cruinneachadh Gàidhealach air raon Uige.

Aig an ám a bha Dòmhnall a’ togail na cèairde bha e ag ionnsachadh piobaireachd le fear a bha ainmeil ’na là, Dòmhnall MacPheidearain, a thug dhuinn an ruidhle mhór, “Duntròin,” a chluinneas sibh tric aig piobairean as airidh an a-tainn. Tha taobh blàth agamsa ris an ainm oir is ann an sin a rugadh mi.

Bha e soilleir gu leòir gun d’fhuair Dòmhnall a dheagh theagasg agus dh’fheuch e, gu faidh-dinneach, ged nach robh an subhaile sin ri chur as a leth, ri thoirt dhòmhsa na fhuair e fhéin. Cha b’e a mhàin ceòl aotrom ach ceòl mór. Cha robh car no trì-bhuille eadar an taorluth agus an crunluth breabach nach togadh e, air a shocair,

Another site of antiquarian interest is the Skelmorlie Aisle, all that remains of the old parish church in the old kirkyard, in the centre of the town off Main Street. This was the burial place of the Montgomeries of Skelmorlie and has several unique features.

NIALL.

as an leabhar, ach air son cluich a bheireadh sòlas do chluais-chiùil, cha robh sin an comas Dhòmhnall. Nan robh e cho math air cluich na pioba is a bha e air togail bhàtaichean bhiodh e ainmeil ’na là. Ged bu MhacRaing e, cha robh boinne de fhuil nam piobairean Muil-each ’na chuisean ach, air a shon sin, bha déidh mhór aige air a’ phìob.

An là a bu shona a bha aig Dòmhnall eadar dà cheann na bliadhna b’e là na Nollaig Uire, an là a bhiodh na sgoilearan a’ cruinneachadh do’n Taigh Mhór air son dannsaidh is feadhachais. Air an là seo, agus an là seo a mhàin, bheireadh Dòmhnall a’ bhonaid bhiorach as a’ chiste agus, le a phìob air a gualainn, b’aotrom uallach a cheum air an rathad mhór agus sinne ’nar sreath òrdail as a dhéidh. B’e an ceud phort a chluicheadh e, “Gabhaidh Sinn an Rathad Mór”, agus bhiodh sinne a’ seirm an guth isosal air a shàil:

Gabhaidh sinn an rathad mór,
Gabhaidh sinn an rathad mór,
Gabhaidh sinn an rathad mór,
Olc air mhaith le càch e.

Chluicheadh e am port sin thairis trì no ceithir a dh’uair, agus an sin thionndadh e gu ‘Mhic Iain Ghasda’. Bha sinne deas agus am fonn seo a thogail gun atharrachadh air ceum:

Càit an robh thu ’n diugh ’s an dé
Mhic Iain Ghasda, Mhic Iain Ghasda?
Bha mi air mo ghnothach fhéin

Feadh nam bailtean, feadh nam bailtean.

Bhiodh port eile aige mun gabhadh e anail, “Mo ghille dubh gur fad thu muigh”, ach b’iad na facail a bha againne, a chuala sinn bho na seann daoine:

Tha gheòla dubh air bhàr an t-sruth,
Tha gheòla dubh gu h-aotrom;
Tha gheòla dubh air bhàr an t-sruth
'S gur coma sruth no gaoth leath’.

Is e seo am fonn ris an can iad anns a’ chainnt eile. “A man’s a man for a’ that”. Cha robh ùghdar nam facal Beurla mall gu togail fuinn Ghàidhealach!

An uair a ruigeamaid an Taigh Mór, bhiodh a’ Bhaintighearna agus an t-Uachdaran aig an doras a chur fàilte oirnn. An déidh sin rachadh ar treòrachadh chun an t-seòmair rìomhaich, agus b’e sin an sealladh sùla do bhalaich is do

chaileagan! Craobh air teis-meadhan an ùrlair a' deàrsadh mar an grioglachan bho shoillse fìched coinneal ioma-dathach. Bha i trom luchdaichte le mìlsean, is leabhraichean air son dhuaisean, a bha air an roinn oirne roimh dheireadh na h-oidhche. Cha robh aon againn cho inntinneach, suigeartach ri Dòmhnall fhéin, agus chumadh e a' dawnsadh sinn fad na h-oidhche nan togramaid. Cha robh seann duine anns a' chlachan againne a bha cho déidheil air cuideachd òigridh ri Dòmhnall Pìobaire.

Is crìoch do gach comunn dealachadh, agus bu shona an còmhlan beag a bha sinn ann, a' deanamh air ar dachaighean, cuid air rathad mòr an rìgh agus cuid eile thar àth is mòintich.

Bha e 'na ionghnadh le cuid cìod a b' aobhar do Dhòmhnall am baile mòr fhàgail far am faigheadh e cosnadh math, mur an robh a' mhuir a' còrdadh ris. Bha piuthar agus bràthair aige a bha dall, agus bha am bràthair a bu shìne de'n teaghlach ag obair na croite is gun a shealladh fhéin ro-mhath. B' i Ceit a bu bhean-taighe agus is e mo bheachd gum b' ann a chumail taighe os an ceann, agus comh-fhurthachdan eile a bhith aca, a' b' fhìor aobhar do Dhòmhnall cùl a chur ris a' Ghalldachd.

Cho fada air ais agus as cuimhne leam bha Eòghann, am bràthair a bha dall, a' fuireach le tuathanach mu shè mìle bho' n t-seann dachaigh. Bha e mìorbhuileach an obair a dheanadh e mu' n bhaile. Choisicheadh e còrr is mìle air an rathad mhòr leis fhéin, agus an uair a ruigeadh e àite sònraichte am bruthach an Achaidh Mhóir rachadh e bhàrr an rathaid agus spionadh e de fhraoch na chumadh a' snìomh shùgan e fad seachdain. Bha e math am bàta cuideachd. Bha an t-aiseag fo chùram an tuathanaich leis an robh e a' fuireach, agus gach uair a rachadh an *Slag* fo sheòl bha Eòghann air aon de'n sgioba. Bha e 'na duine làidir, agus cha mhór air ceann tobhta a spionadh ròpa coltach ris. Faodar a ràdh uime mar a thubhairt am bàrd Tiriseachd anns an òran, "A Chaluim Bhig", "An greim a gheibh thu ad inghean cha diobair thu e." Anns na seann làithean bha treudan chruidh á Ile agus á ceann eile an eilein air an aiseag bho Rubha Chamuis gu tìr-mór, agus bho' n laimrig air taobh eile na linne bha an spréidh sin air an iomain gu Féill na h-Eaglaise Brice. Tha mu leth-cheud bliadhna bho thàinig an t-aiseag dreuchdail sin gu crìch.

Dh'innis mi mar thà gu robh piuthar aig Dòmhnall a bha dall, agus b' ainm dhise Ciorstan. Chaith i na bliadhnanachan a b' aithne dhòmhsa i anns an leabaidh, ach aig àm Earr-ach bhuaileadh teum i is bha i air a' bonnaibh agus nigheadh i, ar leinn, gach bad is plaide a bha anns an taigh. Cha mhaireadh an sùrd sin

ach greis de'n là agus bha i air a h-ais do'n leabaidh a rithis. Chan fhaca mi riamh i 'na suidhe air langasaid no an cathair. Bha i geur, sgaiteach le a teanga, agus an uair a bhiodh Dòmhnall a' toirt leasain dhòmhsa air an fheadan chluinninn momhhar anns an leabaidh, mar gum biodh i a' bruidhinn rithe fhéin— "nach e sin an dranndan"; "seillean 'na bhonaid", is faicail spideil eile. Cha b' fheàrr i an uair a thòisicheadh Dòmhnall air gleansadh na pìoba. Mhaireadh seo cho fada is gum dì-chuimhnicheadh e am port a bha e a' ciallachadh a chluich dhòmhsa. Bheireadh e an goathaire as a bheul agus theireadh e rium gu cabhagach, "Dhomh greim air; dhomh greim air" A dh'aimeoin cho spideil is a bhiodh Ciorstan, cha tug Dòmhnall riamh achmhasan, math no dona, dhi; dìreach cluas bhodhar. B' fhada o bhith bodhar Ciorstan!

Chaidh na làithean sona seachad is thog mise orm gu cosnadh, a' seòladh sear is siar, ach bhithinn a' gabhail cotroim air tilleadh a chur seachad greis de'n Gheamhradh anns an t-seann dachaigh. Thachair dhomh a bhith aig baile an uair a thàinig a' chrìoch air mo charaid am pìobaire.

Air là an tiodhlacaidh chruinnich sinn anns a' bhòthan thughaidh leis an stuadh fhuadain, an cois a' chladaich. An déidh na seirbhis àbhaistich aig a leithid thog sinn an giùlan gu falbh. Dh'èirich Ciorstan 'na suidhe anns an leabaidh agus arsa ise, ann an guth briste, "Leigibh dhomh mo làmh a chur air." Chuir sinn a' chiste ri taobh na leapa, shìn i a gàirdean nochdte, seacte agus chuir i a làmh air a' chiste, cha b' ann aon uair ach a dhà no trì a fàgail beannachd leis a' bhàthair nach fhaca i riamh le a sùilean. Chan aithne dhomh cìod an drùdhadh a rinn siud air na bha cruinn, ach air mo shon fhéin dheth cha téid dealachadh Ciorstain ri Dòmhnall as m'aire cho fad 's as beò mi. Bhiodh a smointean fhéin aig Ciorstan, agus theagamh gu robh cuid de choire agamsa i bhith, air uairean, cho sgaiteach 'na cainnt ri Dòmhnall. Thaisg sinn mo charaid anns a' chhill far a bheil duslach a athraichean. Duine caomhail, gun lochd, gun droch fhacal, agus air an robh mòr mheas anns an eilean.

Thug na peathraichean dhòmhsa na leabhraichean ciùil a dh'fhàg e, aon diubh, co-chruinneachadh de cheud gu leth port aotrom a chaidh a chlà-bhualadh fo làimh Aonghais MhicAoidh, pìobaire na Ban-righ, ceud bliadhna 's a còig air ais. Tha e luachmhor leamsa mar chuimhneachan air Dòmhnall Pìobaire, agus a thaobh is gu bheil ainm Gàidhlig air a h-uile port a tha eadar a dhà chlàr.

A' chlach seo air do chlàr, a Dhòmhnall!

Books Worth Knowing

By the EDITOR

6. On the History of the Highlands and Islands

ANYONE who makes good use of the books already recommended will in due course become possessed of a very extensive knowledge of the Gaelic language, literature, and traditions, and Highland history. We had not intended to continue the series further, but several correspondents have asked for guidance on books about certain topics. We therefore propose to try to meet this demand.

We do not, of course, profess to be experts—and the professional scholars may not always agree with our views—but all we are doing is to say, "These are some of the books that interested and helped me."

History has many aspects—economic and social history, ecclesiastical history, and so on. In this article we confine ourselves to general history and we shall mention half-a-dozen books which readers may find useful.

There are, of course, hundreds of books about the Highlands. There are numerous clan histories—e.g., Mackenzie's series and the excellent series of brief clan histories now being published by Messrs. W. & A. K. Johnston, Edinburgh. That monumental work in three large volumes, "Clan Donald," by the late Rev. Drs. Archibald and Angus J. Macdonald, is itself a history of the Highlands. There are numerous "district" histories, of varying quality. One thinks, for example, of W. C. Mackenzie's "History of the Outer Hebrides," Dr. Colin Macdonald's "History of Argyll," and Mr. Alex. Nicolson's "History of Skye". There are important books on certain periods, e.g., "The Lyon in Mourning", which deals exhaustively and fascinatingly with the 'Forty-Five'.

With regard to general histories, however, our advice is to begin with the late W. C. Mackenzie's "The Highland and Isles of Scotland: A Historical Survey". It was first published in 1937. A second (revised) edition (312 pp., 21/-) was published by the Moray Press, Edinburgh, in 1949. It succinctly surveys the whole range of Highland history, from the earliest historic times until after the First World War. Numerous notes and references indicate other books in which the reader may follow up interesting topics. Mackenzie was not content to draw on previous historians. He did a considerable amount of original research in the official records and in unpublished manuscripts, and his section on the relations between the West Highlands and Ireland in the 16th century breaks new ground. Not all of Mac-

kenzie's views, however, are beyond criticism. He comes to grief over the question of the Picts as so many others have done.

Away back in 1906, when he was a very young man, the same author published "A Short History of the Highlands and Isles" (389 pp.) which passed through three editions. The later book is not a re-hash of the earlier one, and both are worth reading. Both books are illustrated, and the 1906 one has a map of clan territories in the 16th century.

Having acquired a general introduction to the subject by reading Mackenzie's book or books, the reader may go on to Donald Gregory's "History of the Western Highlands and Isles of Scotland, from 1493 to 1625, with a Brief Introductory Sketch from A. D. 80 to 1493". The first edition was published in Edinburgh in 1836, and a second in 1881. Although over a century old, Gregory's book has not been superseded by anything better, and it is still regarded as a standard work.

As a supplement to Gregory, one might look into the four volumes of "Highland Papers", (1914, 1916, 1920, 1934), edited by the late Sheriff J. R. N. Macphail and published by the Scottish History Society. These volumes include clan histories and other important documents among the numerous manuscripts collected and transcribed by Donald Gregory and acquired after his death by the Society of Antiquaries.

An interesting book well worth consulting is W. F. Skene's "The Highlanders of Scotland; Their Origin, History, and Antiquities, With A Sketch of their Manners and Customs, and an Account of the Clans into which they were divided and of the State of Society which existed among them." This was first published in 1836, but one should be careful to use the second edition, published in 1902, which was edited by Dr. Alexander Macbain. Macbain reprinted Skene's first edition with exactitude, even reproducing the misprints of the first edition, but in an "excursus" and numerous notes he corrected the defects and errors of Skene's work that "two decades of scholarship" brought to light, as well as incorporating Skene's own maturer views as indicated in his "Celtic Scotland."

The reader might next turn to Skene's great work, "Celtic Scotland: A History of Ancient Alban", in three volumes (1st edition, 1876, 1877, 1880; 2nd edition, 1886, 1887, 1890). Skene's aim was to get rid of the "fables" that

had too long passed for authentic history, to go to the sources and clear out all that was spurious and fictitious, and to criticise the 'rash assumptions' of previous historians. His first volume deals with 'history and ethnology', the making of Scotland up to the death of Alexander III; the second volume sketches the history of the Celtic Church and its influence on the culture of the people; the third volume discusses the early land tenures, early tribal institutions and laws, and the development of the clan system. Skene's work was epoch-making and has had a profound influence, but he did not manage to be as critical and scientific as he had intended, and his work needs correction.

Two other works deserve to be mentioned. The first is Dr. Dugald Mitchell's 'A Popular History of the Highlands and Gaelic Scotland from the Earliest Times till the Close of the Forty-Five' (published at Paisley in 1900 and running to 683 pages). The other is a much older work, 'A History of the Highlands and of the Highland Clans', by James Browne, in four volumes (published in 1850). Browne drew on Gregory and on Skene's earlier work, and much in his book needs to be corrected in the light of

later research, but, if one has the patience to plod through the four fat volumes of small print, there is the occasional reward of a surprising and even amusing item. There are many illustrations, armorial bearings, a large clan map, and coloured plates of tartans.

A work which occasionally turns up in second-hand shops and is worth having is 'History of the Scottish Highlands, Highland Clans and Regiments', edited by John S. Keltie, and revised by William Melven, with an account of the Gaelic language, literature, and music by Dr. Thomas MacLauchlan, and an Essay on Highland Scenery by Professor John Wilson ('Christopher North'). This edition was originally published in twenty parts at 2/- each or five divisions at 10/6 each. The five volumes now sell for about 37/6. The work includes general history, social and political, including the clearances and up to the Napier Commission, and the histories of the individual clans and of the Highland regiments, with numerous illustrations, including coloured plates of tartans. MacLauchlan's chapter on the Gaelic language, literature, and music is a masterly brief survey.

A' Chailleach

BHA agus tha agus bithidh àite sònraichte aig a' chaillich ann an eòlas agus ann am fiosrachadh an duine. O thoiseach eòlais gu deireadh ùine tha smior is smuais na caillich a' toirt cumaidh is deilbhe air cruth chlann nan daoine air an talamh. Bhiodh i a' tàladh dhaoine gu cumnart agus a' sàbhaladh cuid eile o an dunaidh. Bha bith a' chruinne agus neart an uisge 'na gnè. Bha i a' samhhlachadh toradh na talmhainn is ulaidh a' chuain. Biodh i 'na maighdeann-mhara no 'na maighdeann-bhuana, 'na giosrag uisge no 'na glaisteag lìonaidh, tha eòlas oirre ann am mith-eòlas is an saobh-chreideamh gach linn. Bha i 'na cuspair-duain aig na bàird agus bha fìlìdhean an domhain a' snìomh agus a' toinneamh an seanchais as a cuailleal dualach—"S tu mo chadal, 's tu mo dhùsgadh; anns a' mhadainn 's tu 's cruic-chiùil dhomh."

Bhiodh i a' cumail òigridh aineolach o lochan is o aibhnichean a bha 'nan cunnart bàthaidh dhaidh, no o àitean coisrigte a dh'fhaodadh iad a spùinneadh.

Cò a chumnaic riamh loch am meadhon mòintich no ri oirthir a' chuain is beanntan àrd m'a thimcheall, nach fhaca, air an loch, cruth is dealbh na caillich agus caochan na gaoithe a' ruith troimh ghleanntan cumhang agus a' falbh gu siùbhlach dubharach air aghaidh

na h-aigeann, ospag iteagach a' snìomh is a' toinneamh an uisge 'na cruth? No mar an ceudna a' toirt cainnt d'a guth?

Bha a' chailleach a' bleith na mine do dhaoine o thùs. Tha i a nis, chan ann a mhàin a' bleith ach mar an ceudna a' deasachadh am bidhe, a' toirt soluis dhaibh a staigh, agus 'gan garadh mu'n teine. Tha i a' toirt guthan is cruth an duine o àite gu àite air feadh ceithir rannan ruadha an domhain.

Chan e a mhàin sin, ach tha na nithean, a bha uair-eigin 'nan cùis-eagail is 'nan aobhar breislich do dhaoine air muir is air tìr, an diugh a' tàladh is a' tarraing mhiltean ann am beadradh inntinne le togradh ion-mhìannaichte, feuch am faic iad an rud nach 'eil ann—Uile-bheist air Loch Nis—a' chailleach!

Ged a rinn a' chailleach feum eagsamhail ann an eachdraidh dhaoine le bhith a' beothachadh am buadhan agus a' dùsgadh am mac-meanmna, cha d'fhuair i riamh an inbhe a thug an ginealach againne dhi.

Ach stad ort! Thàtar ag ràdh gu bheil bodach anns a' ghealach, agus anns a h-uile càinain air a' bheil a' bheag no mhór de eòlas agam, is ann boireann a tha a' ghealach, agus na bodaich a bha a' cur amharais air a' chaillich, dh'fhan iad gun fhòsadh! S. S.

Obituaries

Mr. Archibald Campbell

The death occurred at 'Cnoc Donn', Portree, Isle of Skye, in July of Mr. Archibald Campbell who had been many years in business in Rothesay. He was one of the founders of the Bute Branch of An Comunn and held the office of Treasurer for many years, and also served for a period as President.

Mr. Campbell was of a quiet and unobtrusive nature, and was highly respected by all classes in Rothesay. His love for Gaelic was profound, and his regard for An Comunn, of which he was a Life Member, was as sincere as his every action in life. He was in his ninetieth year.

The Bute Branch was formed in 1906 and, under the guidance of Miss Campbell of Jura, gave much support to the Great Feill of 1907. The Mod of 1908 in Rothesay was the result of much propaganda work by members of the Branch.

Lectures in Gaelic and English were features of the Branch's activities, and among those who contributed were John N. Macleod ('Airighean Leòdhais'), Lieutenant Henderson ('With Cycle, Camp, and Camera'), and Malcolm Macleod (on 'The Gaelic Movement'). An Evening Class was held for a number of years in the Public School, and a Junior Choir was formed which competed successfully at National Mods. The Branch has been kept in being during these fifty years, thanks to the loyalty and enthusiasm of successive Office-bearers. The present President is Canon John MacQueen, and the Hon. Secretary is Mrs. Johnstone, a daughter of one of the founders.

Mr. John McNicol

There passed away at his farm, Pendreich, near Bridge of Allan, on 22nd August, Mr. John McNicol, who had been President of the Stirling Branch of An Comunn for over twenty years. A native of Argyll, he was deeply interested in his native language, and by his kindly manner and obvious sincerity he endeared himself, not only to members of the Branch, but to the community at large. He was ever ready to promote the cause of Gaelic by word, action, and financial aid. In every way he was a fit and proper person to occupy the office of President of a Branch of An Comunn.

Mr. McNicol was instrumental in forming the Stirling Gaelic Choir as an adjunct to the branch and he felt well rewarded for his labours when the Choir distinguished itself by gaining a place in the prize list at the recent Aberdeen Mod.

The funeral service in Logie Church was largely attended, and a Gaelic prayer was offered by the Rev. Malcolm A. MacCorquodale, Callander. Mr. Neil Shaw, President, represented An Comunn at the service and at the burial.

Mr. McNicol was the prime mover in arranging for the Gaelic service held some time ago in Logie Church, and shortly before his death he was arranging for a broadcast Gaelic service from the same Church, of which he was an elder. We extend deep sympathy to his widow and family of three sons and two daughters.

N.S.

Notes and Comments

Gaelic Classes in Glasgow. There is no excuse for anyone in Glasgow not acquiring some knowledge of Gaelic. The usual range of classes is offered under the Adult Education Scheme. The following information may be of use.

Introductory Class (Mr. John A. Macdonald), Mondays, 7.30-9.30 p.m., at Glasgow University, beginning 8th October.

Intermediate Class (Mr. John A. Macdonald), Thursdays, 7.30-9.30 p.m., at Glasgow University, beginning 11th October.

Advanced Class (Mr. Alex. Nicolson), Wednesdays, 7.30-9.30 p.m., at Baillie's Institution Library, 18 Blythswood Square, beginning 10th October.

26-week courses at Bellahouston and Woodside Schools began in September, as did also courses in Irish Gaelic at Holyrood School and St. Mary's (Calton) School.

Congratulations to **Dr. Christopher MacRae** on his appointment to the Chair of Industrial Administration in the Royal Technical College, Glasgow. Dr. MacRae belongs to Kintail, Ross-shire, graduated

with honours in history at Glasgow University, won numerous prizes and scholarships, including the Macleod of Skeabost Scholarship, and spent two years at New College, Oxford, taking his D.Phil. degree there in 1939. He entered the Scottish Home Department, but since 1946 has been Secretary of the Scottish Council (Development and Industry). He was awarded the C.B.E. recently. Dr. MacRae, in addition to his other accomplishments, is a piper, and was a prominent member of the Glasgow University Ossianic Society.

Congratulations also to the **Rev. Donald Mackinnon**, Free Church minister at Kennoway, Fife, on his receiving the degree of Doctor of Letters from the Flora Macdonald College, Red Springs, North Carolina. Mr. Mackinnon is one of our most expert Highland genealogists and most assiduous researchers and in recent years has been working in the Charter Room at Dunvegan Castle. He is editor of 'The Clan Macleod Magazine.' His publications include 'The Macleods of Arnisdale', 'Clerical Sons of Skye', 'History of a Skye Parish (Portree)', as well as numerous articles. Mr. Mackinnon belongs to Appiecross.

At the first meeting for the session of the **Edinburgh Branch** of An Comunn the programme for the winter's activities was arranged. Mr. Alexander MacIsaac, President, occupied the chair. A ceilidh will be held on 13th October in the Hall of the Clans, Rutland Place. The November ceilidh will be under the auspices of the Edinburgh Gaelic Choir (Conductor, Miss Madge Campbell Brown).

We learn that plans are being made to establish a **College of Piping at Borreraig**, Isle of Skye, to be run as a summer school. Borreraig, of course, was for centuries the site of the piping college of the famous MacCrimmon pipers. The College of Piping, Glasgow, has enlisted the support of the Clan Macleod Societies throughout the world, and an appeal for funds will be issued at an early date.

Ann's A' Mhaileid

"Gabhaidh Sinn An Rathad Mor"

From Major-General Douglas Wimberley (Colonel, The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders)

Sir,—With reference to the letter signed "James E. Scott" in your September issue, it may interest some readers to know that this stirring quickstep was the first march tune selected to play the 79th Cameron Highlanders out of Fort William, when, having mustered in Lochaber in December, 1793, they set out on their first march for Stirling in January, 1794, en route for the Low Countries under the command of Major, later Major-General, Alan Cameron of Erracht.

Ailean an Earrachd was to be known later among the men of the Highland regiments by the soubriquet of "Old Cia Mar Tha", in consequence of his invariable habit of addressing all soldiers he met with the salutation, "Cia mar tha thu?"—Yours, etc.,

DOUGLAS WIMBERLEY.

For Domhnall Ban

Dear Sir,—Lines resembling those quoted are found in "Oran A' Chogaidh", composed by John MacLeod of Shawbost, Lewis, at the time of the South African War.

The MS. was lost, but after the bard's death a few of his friends were able to put together some of his songs from memory. Ten of these were published in a booklet, "Bàrdachd Ghàidhlig", about 1945, by the Lewis Society of Glasgow.

Despite the defective memories of the bard's friends and some lapses by the composers, "Oran A' Chogaidh", even as printed, is a notable poem and contains many passages of more than ordinary merit. It runs to 288 lines, with a refrain:

'O, buaidh le comunn mo ghaoil;
Piseach le cuideachd mo ghaoil;
Soirbheachadh math le na càirdean
Ri aghaidh a' bhàl' anns an raon."

If "Domhnall Bàn" has any difficulty in procuring the poem, I can supply him with a copy with fewer mistakes than the printed version.—Yours sincerely, J. A. MACLEOD.
54 Otto Terrace, Sunderland

A Charaid,—Is e ainm an òrain a tha Dòmhnall Bàn ag iarraidh, "Oran Cogadh Africa" no "Cogadh nam Boers," mar a theireadh cuid.

Is e an t-ighdar Iain MacLeòid (Iain Thormaoid Bhig) á Siabost, a rugadh anns a' bhliadhna 1855 agus a chaochail an Siabost air an 29 de'n t-Samhuinn 1938.

Is e òran fada tha seo—ceithir rann thar fhichead—agus seo am fonn gun mhearachd:—

'O! buaidh le comunn mo ghaoil,
Piseach le comunn mo ghaoil;
Soirbheachadh math le na càirdean
Air aghaidh nan blàir is nan raon."

Ma tha thu ag iarraidh an òrain seo, a Dhòmhnail, cuiridh sinn thugad e.

LEUGHADAIR.

("Domhnall Bàn" will find "Oran A' Chogaidh", or a version of it, in the late Mr John N. Macleod's "Bàrdachd Leòdhais", page 201. There it is stated, "Rinneadh an t-òran seo le Iain MacLeòid, á Siabost, an dèidh blàir Abhainn a' Mhodder."—EDITOR.)

Na Doideagan

NACH iomadh sgeul a chuala mi an uair a bha mi òg mu thimcheall bhuidhsichean! Cha mhòr gu robh ceàrn de'n Ghaidhealtachd anns nach robh a h-aon diubh r'a faotainn, agus bha feadhainn dhiubh na bu chumhachdaiche na chéile.

'S e 'Na Doideagan' a theireadh iad ri buidsichean Mhuile, agus, a réir innse sgeòil, coltach ri feadhainn de na mulachagan càise ag MacPhàidhean cha robh iad 'slac.' Is ann de Chloinn Leathain a bha iad agus 'nan luchd-leanmhainn do theaghlach Dhubhaird. Gu math tric bhiodh iad a' cur an cumhachd an gnìomh le bhith a' deanamh corp-creadha de'n duine a bha gamhlas aca dha no iomhaigh céire de nithean a bu mhat leo a mhilleadh.

Is ann mu thimcheall 1588 a bha an té a bu chumhachdaiche dhiubh an làthair. Bha i a' fuireach air mullach na Beinne Móire an Muile. An uair a chuala i gu robh Rìgh na Spàinne a' cur a chabhlaich ainmeil sin, an Armada, an aghaidh cabhlach Shasainn, rinn i deas gu a neart is a buadhannan sgrìosail féin a chur an céill. Agus seo mar a rinn i.

Thug i leatha samhladh creadha de shoitheach cogaidh sìos gu taobh na mara. Chuir i an t-soitheach air a' mhuir agus thòisich i air a tulgan is a cur mun caoirtean gu grad, agus a

h-uile uair a lionadh i le sàile is a rachadh fodha bha siod long-chogaidh le Rì h na Spàinne air a call.

Mar a tha fios agaibh, thàinig a h-aon de'n luingeis seo, am "Florida," do bhàgh Thobair-Mhoire. Air a bòrd bha Ban-phrionnsa Spàinnteach d'am b'ainm Bheola.

Bliadhnaichan roimhe seo chunnaic i ann am buadar gaisgeach briaghna pearsanta. Ghabh i a leithid de ghaol airis gun do bhòidich i nach gabhadh i fois gus am faicheadh i anns an fheòil e. Sheòl i air an "Florida," agus is ann an Tobair-Mhoire a chunnaic i rùn a cridhe, agus b'e sin MacGilleathain Dhubhaird.

Ma bha ise an geall air-san, bha esan a cheart cho dèidheil air a bhith 'na cuideachd-sa. Chuir seo uimhear de fharmad is eud air a' bhean aige-san agus gun do chuir i fios air an Doideag air son an t-soitheach a chur fodha. A réir an sgeul dh'fheum i ban-bhuideach nan Camshronach, Gormshuil Mhór na Maighe, fhaotainn g'a cuideachadh.

Chaidh am "Florida" fodha agus chaidh Bheola a bhàthadh. Thàinig an corp aice air tìr anns a' Mhorbhairne. Chaidh a tiodhlacadh an cladh Chill-Chaluim-Chille am bràigh Loch Alainn, fada fada bho thìr a h-eòlais.

Mur cuir Fear-deasachaidh a' Ghaidheil bacadh orm, dh'fhaodadh gun toir mi cunntas goirid dhuibh mu Ghormshuil mum falbh a' bhliadhna seo.

Beannachd leibh an dràsda.

TAOBH-TUATH EARRAGHAIDHEAL.

News from Nova Scotia

The report of the Gaelic Service of the Adult Education Division of the Nova Scotia Department of Education for the year to 31st July, 1956, indicates that during the period under review, "the Gaelic Service promoted and fostered the Scottish heritage of Nova Scotia through the medium of the press, radio, adjudications, public addresses, and the facilities of the Gaelic Service reference library. A total of 165 adults attended nine grant-aided classes in Gaelic, Gaelic Singing, and Piping.

"At the Nova Scotia Summer School twelve teachers enrolled in the Gaelic Courses instructed by the Gaelic Adviser, and Gaelic was taught by accredited Gaelic teachers in the day-school curriculum of four Cape Breton schools. There are now fifty-five accredited Gaelic teachers in the Province. Gaelic Radio Lessons, prepared by the Gaelic Service, were broadcast once weekly over the New Glasgow Radio Station from November 1955 to April 1956.

"The Gaelic Adviser maintained a close liaison with committees responsible for the planning of Highland Gatherings in Antigonish, Pugwash, Truro, Coxheath, and Rothesay, N.B. He continued to record unpublished Gaelic folksongs in Cape Breton, to adjudicate at Music Festivals and Highland Gatherings, and to write a weekly Gaelic column for the local press."

We congratulate Major Calum I. N. Macleod, Gaelic Adviser, on the fine work he has done these years past, and rejoice with him on the good results being increasingly seen.

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AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar VIII

AN DAMHAR, 1956

Aireamh 10

Dealbh Anna

AN uair a fhuair mise camara an toiseach bha feadhainn anns an sgìre nach deach an dealbh a thogail riamh; agus 'nam measg bha teaghlach anns a' bhaile againn fhìn—dà phiuthar agus bràthair a bha air a dhol seachad air aois pòsaidh.

Bha na peathraichean gu h-àraid fad as 'nan dòigh. Cha ghabhadh iad uair sam bith rathad an rìgh, nam biodh dòigh eile air an ceannuidhe a thoirt a mach; agus, nan dearcadh iad air coigreach mìle air falbh, cha chuireadh iad sròn a mach air toll doruis.

Ach, ged a bha colair geal ormsa a' tighinn dhachaigh as an Ard-sgoil as t-samhradh, gheibhinn faisg orra a chionn is gu robh mi air a bhith a mach 's a steach as an taigh aca riamh 'nam bhalach. Ach b'e bruidhinn riutha aon rud, agus an dealbh a thogail rud eile! Ma bha duine a' dol a thogail an dealbh, cha b'ann le iarraidh orra, agus b'fhasa guilbneach a ghlacadh na tighinn orra gun fhios.

Is ann le foill a thug mi car à Anna. Bha bhùth anns an ath bhaile a bhiodh a' reic a' phaipear-naidheachd, agus bhithinn 'ga leughadh dhachaigh romham gach là. Feasgar a bha seo, is mi air mo shlighe dhachaigh as a' bhùth leis a' phaipear, có a chunnaic mi ach Anna a' toirt a steach bùrn na Sàbaid á fuaran a bha mu fhichead slat bho'n doruis!

Bha an t-inneal agam 'nam chois, agus cha b'fhada gur an robh e air dòigh is e agam fosgailte air cùl a' phaipeir, glan deiseil. Ghabh mi ceum an taobh a bha Anna is chum mi facal còmhraidh rithe gus an robh mi m'a coinneamh is am fad ceart bhuaipe.

"Tha mi a nis," arsa mise, "a' dol a thogail do dhealbh."

Sguab mi am paipear a thaobh, agus mus d'fhuair i air am peile geal a bha 'na làimh a leigeil as is a h-aghaidh fhalach dh'fhàisg mi air a' phutan. Bha i agam!

Bha de mhòit orm gun deach agam air dealbh Anna fhaghinn is nach b'urrainn dhomh fuireach gu Di-luain gun an aon eile a bha a chòrr a thogail. A mach leam an ath fheasgar, ged a b'e an t-Sàbaid a bha ann, is thog mi dealbh an taigh-sholuis. Chuir mi an spàl air

falbh a dh'Obar-dheadhain, agus thug mi seachdain a' feitheamh a' phuist gach madainn.

Mu dheireadh thàinig na deilbh, is abair gu robh iad glan, faileasach. Sheall mi tromhpa, is fiamh a' ghàire orm ris gach fear mar a thigeadh (oir bha a' chuid mhòr dhiubh air an togail an darna cuid gun fhios air neo gun taing!): Fionnlagh Mór air a dha chois lomnochd a' tighinn chun an rathaid le poca mònach; Iseabal Gaoidh a' tionndadh a culaibh is i air an cliabh tochair a dhòrtadh ann an cabhaig; Iain Mhurchaidh 'na shuidhe air sgiath na cartach a' falbh a tharraing smùir; Iseabal Eachainn a' dol do'n choinnimh Diar-daoin; Dòmhnall Chaluim anns a' bhùth-ghriassachd a' cur leth-bhoinn fo bhròig; Fionnlagh Thormoid air a chreagach le maorach; Tormod Sheonaidh air a' chidhe a' sgoltadh bhiorach; agus dealbh an taigh-sholuis.

Ach càit an robh Anna? Cha robh i ann idir! Ruith mi orra a rithist agus chunnt mi iad. Bha na h-ochd ann ceart gu leòr, ach cha robh sgial air Anna. Nam b'e an taigh-soluis a bhiodh a dhith thuiginn gur e breitheanas a thàinig orm, ach chaidh seo seachad air mo sgoilearachd.

Mu dheireadh bhuaile e agam; an aon rud a ghabhadh a bhith ann—buisneachd! Bha Anna an déis an toradh a thoirt as a' chamara!

Cha robh mi air innse do dhuine gu robh mi air a dealbh a thogail, agus an uair a chunnaic mi mar a bha cha tug mi guth air a' chùis ri duine riamh.

Ach an là roimhe nach tàinig mi tarsaing air na seann deilbh a rithist; agus ann a bhith a' beachdachadh air na sgòthan a bha os cionn an taigh-sholuis shaoil leam gu robh aon aca anabarrach coltach ri peile geal air a chliathaich. Thionndaidh mi an dealbh 'na sheasamh is thòisich mi 'ga sgrùdadh; agus ann an sgor an aghaidh na creige nach do lorg mi aodann Anna! Tha i an siud le guailleachan m'a ceann dìreach mar a bha i am feasgar ud aig an tobar. Ach gu mì-shealbhach chan fhaic duine i ach mi fhìn. Ged a dh'fhiach mi uair is uair r'a sealltainn do dhaoine eile, cha léir do dhuine aca dad ach creag dhubh Màs an Rubha; agus—

rud as dorra leam na sin—is gann gun creid iad mo sheanchas.

Tha greis a nis bho dh'fhalbh Anna, ach cha téid a h-ìomhaigh gu bràth as mo chuimhne-sa cho fad 's a bhios a dà shùil a' coimhead rium a mach as a' charraig. Is fhada bho dh'fhalbh a' cheud chamara a bha agamsa cuideachd, agus tha fear an diugh 'na àite nach leig leam dà dhealbh a thogail air muin a chèile.

“Dun Eisdean”

(Bho *Leabhran Bliadhnaid Ard-sgoil an Obain*, 1956.)

Nighean an Rìgh

BHA siud ann roimhe rìgh agus barrigh ag an robh dithis nighean. Bha gàrradh briagha aca a chaidh a mhilleadh, agus is ann air té de na ban-phrionnsan a chaidh fhàgail. Thug an rìgh àir falbh i agus mharbh e i.

Uine an déidh sin chaidh soithichean a bhristeadh agus is ann air an té eile a chuireadh a' choire. Thug an rìgh air falbh i do'n fhàsach agus cheangail e ri craobh i agus ghearr e dhith na làmhan agus dh'fhàg e an sin i.

Thuirte ise, “Bior nimhe bhith 'nur cois gus an toir mo làmh dheas as i.”

Thachair gu robh trìùir ag iasgach air an loch fo'n àit anns an robh i agus chuala iad i ag eubhach. Chaidh iad suas far an robh i agus thug iad air falbh leotha i.

Thug an fhear dhiubh dhachaigh còmhla ris fhéin i agus an ceann ùine ghoirid phòs e i. Dh'fhalbh esan an uair sin air turus agus dh'fhàg e ise còmhla r'a mhàthair. Ach cha robh a mhàthair idir laghach rithe. Bha pàisde aice, agus dh'iarr i oirre am pàisde a cheangal air a muin, gu robh ise a' falbh.

Cha robh i air a dhol astar fada an uair a thàinig am pathadh air a' pàisde. Cha robh fhios aice gu dé a dheanadh i ris. Thàinig i mu dheireadh gu tobar agus chrom i anns an tobar a' dol a thoirt deoch do'n pàisde, agus thuit e anns an tobar. Cha robh fios aice ciamar a gheibheadh i as e agus gun làmhan oirre.

Ach thàinig làmhan oirre. Thog i as e agus lean i oirre.

Cha robh fada gus an tàinig i gu taigh tuathanach agus dh'fhaighnich i dhiubh an sin an gabhadh iad bean-taighe. Thuirte iad gun gabhadh, agus thòisich i air obair.

Ruith an ùine agus dh'fhàs an leanabh cho mòr agus gun deach e air choiseachd.

An là a bha seo thàinig fear chun an doruis a' faighneachd am faca iad boireannach a' gabhail an rathaid. Dh'fhaighnich iad an aithnicheadh e i, agus thuirte gun aithnicheadh.

Padraig Ruadh

AIR là fuar gailleannach an uair a bha Pàdraig a' tarraing feamainn as a' chladach bhuail an déideadh e gu goirt. Chuir e roimhe gun rachadh e do Thobar-Mhoire far an robh dotair nam fiacail is an fhiacail a tharraing los nach cuireadh i dragh air gu bràth tuilleadh.

Thog e air, agus cha robh bàta na smùide fada gus an d'ràinig i Muile nam mór-bheann. Rinn Pàdraig dìreach air taigh an dotair, is bha e fhéin an siud le a chòta fada geal is mìle beart is snàthad air bòrd r'a thaobh. Bha cathair mhór ann am meadhon an t-seòmair is shuidh Pàdraig oirre, ged a bha a chàsan air chrith fodha.

An uair a fhuair e e fhéin air a shocrachadh, thubhairt an dotair ris: “Tha stuth ùr aca a nis, a Phàdraig, air son tarraing fhiacail; tha e na's daoire na an seann rud, ach cuiridh e a chadal thu is chan fhuiling thu pian no cràdh. Cò as fheàrr leat?”

“O,” arsa Pàdraig, “s' fheàrr leamsa an stuth ùr agus daot.”

An sin thug e a mach a sporan as a phòcaid is thòisich e air cumtas airgid.

“Tud, tud, cha ruig thu a leas mo phàidheadh an dràsda!” arsa an dotair.

“O, gu dearbh,” arsa Pàdraig, “chan ann a' dol g'ur pàidheadh a tha mi idir; is ann a tha mi a' sealltainn dé na tha agam de airgead, oir is coigreach sibh dhòmhsa, is cò aig a tha fios dé a nì sibh orm an uair a chuireas sibh a chadal mi. Nach 'eil e a cheart cho furasda dhuibh rud a thoirt as mo phòcaid ri rud a thoirt as mo bheul?”

Ach an uair a dhùisg Pàdraig bochd cha robh fiacail 'na cheann ach bha a h-uile sgillinn gu sàbhailte 'na phòcaid.

“Eala Bhan”

(Bho *Leabhran Bliadhnaid Ard-sgoil an Obain*, 1956.)

Thàinig ise chun an doruis is dh'aithnich e i, agus thug e air ais dhachaigh còmhla ris fhéin i.

An ceann greise an déidh sin chualas gu robh an rìgh bochd agus nach robh cothrom coiseachd aige.

An là a bha seo chaidh ise g'a choimheadh is dh'fhaighnich i de'n bhanrigh am faodadh i an rìgh fhaicinn, gur e banaltram a bha innte.

Fhuair i cead an rìgh fhaicinn agus thug i am bior le a làimh dheis as a chois, agus bha iad còmhla riamh tuilleadh.

(BHO SGOIL BHREIBHIG AM BARRADH.)

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Bidh deathach thlàthmhor 's gach tobht tha fàsail ;
Bidh manran Gàidhlig 's gach lagan caoin ;
Bidh clann gu gàireach is spréidh ag àlach
'S na gleannain bhàigheil tha 'n dràsd gun daoine' ;
Bidh slios an àitichte mar a b' àbhaist,
Gu torach, pàirteach, ag àrach laoi ;
Bidh bradan crom-ghob air uisg' nam beanntan
'Na chobhair samhraidh do chlann na dùthch'.

Dòmhnall MacIomhair.



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THE GAEL

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Leabhar LI

AN T-SAMHUIN, 1956

Aireamh 11

Oraid A' Chinn-Suidhe

(Aig fosgladh a' Mhòid Nàiseanta anns an Leargaidh Ghallda air a' cheud là de'n Damhar, 1956).

FHIR a' bhaile 's chàirdean ionmhuinn, Fàilte dhuibh is slàinte leibh! Aon uair eile, mar theireadh ar caraid nach maireann, Dòmhnall MacPhail, 's e a' sineadh a làimhe a chur fàilte air a shean èolaich. B' i sin an fhàilte chridheil, le fàsghadh-làimhe nach ceileadh an dùrachd a bha 'na chridhe. Bidh sinn a' toirt iomraidh air Dòmhnall aig àm eile, ach cha bu mhath leam gun saoilèadh neach air bith a tha san làthair an nochd nach robh mi cuimhneachail air co-sheirbhiseach a bha cho saotharachail, agus cho dileas, ris a' charaid a tha sinn ag ionndrainn.

Chaidh a' chuibhle mun cuairt agus tha sinn, air son na ceud uaire, a' cumail ar Mòid san Learga Ghallda. Cha robh e daonnan Gallda, co-dhiu cha robh e gun Ghàidhlig, agus air an t-seachdain seo ni sinn e cho Gaidhealach ris an Oban is ri Inbhir-nis.

Tha sinn fada bho'n bhaile a thug aoigheachd dhuinn an uiridh, ach tha sinn cleachdte ri imrich is ri cuairtearachd. Tha fios againn gu bheil an dara baile a' strì ris a' bhaile eile a dh'fheuch cò as fialaidhe ruinn le an aoigheachd. Chan 'eil eagal sam bith oirnn nach bi sinn air ar deagh ghabhail againn san Learga Ghallda. Tha sinn cinnteach as mar tha.

Tha aon ni againn an seo nach robh againn an Obaireadhain. Nach fhaic sibh na h-eileanan bòidheach sin thall mu'r coinneamh? An

t-Eilean Bódach, a' Chumradh Mhór 's a' Chumradh Bheag, agus Arainn le a bheanntan àrda, a' Chìr Mhór is Gaoth-bheinn, le an curraicean geala a' cur fàilte bhlàth oirnn 's 'a' toirt tir ar rùin as ùr 'nar sealladh, gach stùc is bealach is càrn.' Chan fhaic sinn à seo, ged thà, an Coileach Arannach, ach bidh sinn ann a bhiodh toilichte a ghairm a chluinntinn air madainnean cadalach a' Mhòid!

Tha ceithir làithean air thoiseach oirnn anns am bi sinn a' mealtainn ceòl is caidreamh. Bho linntean cian bha meas aig na daoine bho'n tàinig sinn air an dà nì sin. Bha oidhche air chèilidh cho oileanach dhaibh-san is a tha sgoiltean an là an diugh do'n ghinealach d'am buin sinn. Bha acasan air mheomhair sgeulachdan is dàin a' cumail tràil dhaibh modhannan is cleachdaidhean an athraichean, cha b'ann mar tha sinne a' fòghlum bho leabhraichean fo stiùradh eagnaigh Ollamhan móra.

Tha am Mòd a' toirt an ceann a chèile sean is òg, as gach cèarna, a tha a' gabhail a' chothrom seo air a bhith a' nochdadh an spéis do'n chànain aosda, agus an togradh a tha ann dhaibh, aon uair eile, a bhith an cuideachd sean èolaich. Cha do shearg bliadhnanan is cha do chaochail gnàths an comas tàlaidh a tha aig a' Mhòd air muinntir ar dùthcha. Tha e an diugh an nì ceudna a bha e lethcheud bliadhna air ais, agus gu ma fada mar sin e.

Tha iad ann gun teagamh, agus is math gu bheil, a chumas suas an dealas a tha am Mòd a' dùsgadh, agus a chumas fa chomhair an co-Ghaidheal an dleasnas a tha an ceangal riutha a chum ar cuideachadh gus a' chàinain a chleachdadh agus a cumail am bith. Ach tha cuid ann, tha eagal orm, nach 'eil cho dèingeann 'nan creud agus, le caoin-shuarachas, a nì dearmad air na chunnaic is na chuala iad aig a' Mhòd.

An Gaidheal aig a bheil tlachd agus ùidh an cleachdaidhean, càinain, is ceòl a dhaoine, gheibh e aig a' Mhòd a shàth de na nithean ciatach sin a thiodhlaiceadh dhuinn tre bheul-aithris bho ghluin gu gluin, mar gum b'eadh. Nithean a bheir toil-inntinn agus togradh dha, agus a dh'ardaicheas a mheas air an obair a rinneadh leòsan a stéidhich An Comunn agus am Mòd, agus leòsan a lean 'nan déidh.

Cluinidh sinn air gach taobh an suaicheantas àrd, "Lean gu dlùth ri cliù do shìnsre", ach cha ruig sinn a leas dol na's fhaide air ais na trì fichead bliadhna a dh'fhaighinn dearbhaidh air buil leantainn ris an t-suaicheantas sin le léirsinn agus misneach.

Ach tha tuilleadh agus Mòd fo aire agus fo chùram a' Chomuinn, mar a chluinneas sibh an nochd fhathast. Ged tha am Mòd 'na mheadhon air tarraing aire dhaoine de gach inbhe chun nan oidhirpean a thàtar a' deanamh a chum ar càinain mhùirneach a chumail beò air bilean an t-sluaigh le aithris, le seinn is le co-fharpaisean litreachais, tha Comhairlean eile a' beachdachadh air nithean cudthromach mar tha fòghlum, clò-bhuailadh, is gnìomhachas.

Tha buidheann de dhaoine òga ag éirigh suas, agus tha sinn moiteil as an ùidh a tha iad a' gabhail ann an oibricean ioma-ghnèitheach a' Chomuinn. Lìonaidh iadsan, le ciall agus breithneachadh, na beàrnan a nì aois 'nar sreathan. Cha chreid mi gun gabh iad gu dona bhuamsa, a dh'fhàs liath agus maol anns an t-seirbhis, an earail seo fhàgail aca, iad a bhith cuimhneachail air na laoiach a threabh an talamh-feurach agus a chuir am pòr a thug beatha as ùr do'n Ghàidhlig. Tha iad làn airidh air an eisimpleir a bhith air a leantainn.

Agus ann a bhith a' bruidhinn air eisimpleir tha sinn am feum, a ghnàth is gun tàmh, a bhith a' toirt gu aire phàrantan, iadsan aig a bheil Gàidhlig, a bhith a' sparradh air an cloinn a' chàinain a chleachdadh. Deanadh iad sin gu ciùin, faireachail, a' leigeil ris dhaibh gu bheil iad an làn da-rìreadh. Tha cumnartan a' bagradh na Gàidhliche bho gach taobh, agus tha dearbhadh agam, bho m'fhiosrachadh féin, gu bheil an ceud chunnart ann do'n chloinn an uair a théid iad òg do'n sgoil agus a mheasgaicheas iad le cloinn gun Gàidhlig. Is ann an uair sin a dh'fheumas pàrantan a bhith air am faicill.

B'aithne dhomh clann a chail a' Ghàidhlig air an dòigh seo, ach le dealas, eud, is oilean nan pàrantan thill i air a h-ais dhaibh is lean i riutha.

Chan 'eil dol air thoiseach air deagh eisimpleir anns an dachaigh. Do thaobh litreachais agus cnuasachd thairis air toradh breithneachaidh nam bàrd is nan seanchaidh, tha e 'na iongnadh leinn cho beag agus a tha comasach air leabhar Gàidhlig a thogail agus a leughadh gu toiniseil air a' cheud sealladh. Bha làn dùil againn, aon uair is gun tòisicheadh iad air teagasg Gàidhlig anns na sgoiltean, gum biodh ginealach againn a nis a bhiodh coimhlionta, an dà chuid air Gàidhlig a sgrìobhadh is a leughadh. Cha tàinig là an àigh air a' Ghàidhlig anns na sgoiltean fhathast, ach chaidh adhartachadh a dheanamh bho cheann beagan bhliadhnan anns na Bun-sgoilean. Bha na h-Ard-sgoilean air an uigheamachadh gu math, is gu ro-mhath, fada roimhe sin.

Ach ciod a bhuil gus a bheil an òigridh a tha a' fàgail na sgoile aig an aois shuidhichte a' cur an teagasg a fhuair iad, beag no mòr gu robh e? Tha eagal orm nach ann ri leabhraichean Gàidhlig a tha iad a' tionndadh, is cha ghabhainn uatha an leisgeil gu bheil iad tearc. Cia meud taigh air tìr-mòr na Gaidhealtachd is anns na h-eileanan anns am faic thu mìoschan a' Chomuinn, *An Gaidheal*, no an ràitheachan, *Gairm*? A bheil e fìor a ràdh nach 'eil ginealach an ama seo cho déidheil air leabhraichean Gàidhlig is a bha an athraichean? Ri làithean m'òige-sa cha mhòr taigh anns nach faiceadh tu rogha is tagha de leabhraichean matha, rosg is bàrdachd. Theagamh gu bheil cuid agaibh a' saòilsinn gu bheil mi ro-chruaidh air òigridh an là seo, ach, ma tha iadsan dearmadach mu na nithean feumach seo, ciamar idir a bhios an ath ginealach?

Rinn An Comunn spàirn chruaidh, le deagh chòmhnadh nan eaglaisean, a chum a' Ghàidhlig a chur air an aon bhunait ri càinaine eile 'na dachaigh fhéin. Tha mi ag aslachadh oirbh, a chàirdean, gun sibh a chur an suarachas na nithean móra a rinneadh air son ar càinain agus a tha air an deanamh aig an àm seo le luchd-teagasg agus ar luchd-comhairle féin.

Mur an nochd ar muinntir féin ùidh is dealas do thaobh cor an càinain, chan ann a dhìth brosnachaidh. A dhaingeachadh a' bheagan a thug mise dhuibh, seo agaibh rann bho Niall MacLeòid, a thug barrachd earailean air a cho-Ghaidheil na bàrd eile as aithne dhomh:

Altruimibh le beus gun truaillleadh,

Gach nì tha maiseach agus uasal,
Le spiorad rìoghail mar bu dual dhuibh

Bho bhur sinnsir;

'S cainnt bhur màthar cumaibh suas i,

Gun a diobradh.

Oidheche Na Leargaidh

le IAIN MACALASDAIR MOFFATT-PENDER

(Choisinn a' bhàrdachd seo Crùn na Bàrdachd aig Mòd Nàiseanta 1956)

1. Mhàire, b' thu-sa lasag Leòdach!
Dualchas nòsan altrum àl;
Bhuait chan iarrainn nàire nochdadh,
Dhomh-sa foillsich barant bàigh.
 2. Taisbean Ghàidhlig, fiosachd, furtachd,
Slachdan-druidheachd, càrdeas ciùin;
Bha ri d' theaghlach mothar, mùirneach,
Geat' an Dùin e Teamhair Tùir.
 3. Mhìc a' Mhaighstir! Crith-cheòl cluaise!
Duanair' mùinte, ròlaist réic;
Sgaoil teann tharam thonnag-thoinisg,
'S t' uirghioll fhocal, thasgaidh thréin!
 4. "Birlinn Raghmaill," "Moladh Mòraig,"
Laoch bha dòmhail, anntoil aoir;
"Allt an t-Siùcair," "Amhran Ailein,"
"Peata Chalmain," mànrán maoth.
 5. Dhùghail dhìadhadh Linne Lànaigh,
Bhàird ar Slànuighir, Chliaraich' chli!
Blàth gun chrannach, gnéidheil, gràdhach,
Maiseachd! Tlàitheachd! Séimheachd!
Sìth!
 6. B' aithne dhuit-sa bearradh bearnach,
'S cumhang bhealaich Uaicheil uaith;
Dithribh Shruibhle, earraid Eideann,
Srathan Téadhaich, Charrainn, Chluaidh.
 7. Slàint' is àgh dhuit, Dhonnchaidh Dhobh-
rain!
Treubhach, foghainteach, gasda, gleusd;
Dhream cha d' thàinig stròdhail, sailleach—
Dòigheil, aigheach, teann-ruith, teist.
 8. Streapainn mhullach Dhobhrain déineid,
Clàrsach ghleusainn, piocaid, piob,
Ranntachd fhaighinn dàintean dhéanamh,
Bhàird is Cheannaird, Chinn-fhìn' chliar!
 9. Rosaich Ghearrloch—tùrsa Tearlaich,
Ceò is sneachd ann—Soraidh slàn!
Thig a' Bhealltainn, suilbhir samhraidh,
Bòrcadh aimsir, beòtachd, blàths.
 10. Rosaich chaointich! Fhìle fhìnealt!
'N chualas riamh t' ealaidh éigh!
Seòl an dòigh dhomh, Uilleim uasail,
Bàrdachd shnuadhach tharraing teinn.
 11. Maghan machrach, bràighean brìoghmhor,
Air' ghean righeach, cleitean chreag;
12. Buidhe foghar, coirce, craobhan,
Frithean fraochach, tulach, tom;
Preasan samhraidh taobh-ghorm tuiteam.
Dithein, lusan, feoighte, fann.
 13. Caorthann dearg, arbhar abaich,
Meanglain bhachlach, duilleach donn;
Calltuinn, cuileann, cuilteach, claiseach,
Fàs gun fhasgadh, laimh-theann, lom.
 14. Slios an mìne, cluaintean, crìochan,
Fèur is cinneas tionndadh tuair;
Sgitheag ruadh, seileach srathach,
Daithte rasain, muic mhuadh.
 15. Raighneach ruiteach, càthrach, cnocach,
Poste bog fo chosaibh cruaidh;
Lus Naomh Mhìcheil sgaoilteach, seòlta,
Geal na neòinein breacadh brugh.
 16. Feòrag ghiobach geathdaich gheugan,
Easgaidh leumnaich chabar chàrn;
Al chearc-thomain astar arbhair,
Eagal 's faicear taghan tàrr.
 17. Farspach dàna, fiteach fearail,
Fang is feannag spoltadh spoll;
Eiginn éirigh capall coille—
Gràinn 'na bhroilleach, plub-cheann
pronn.
 18. Sgairbh dhubha, sgiathan sgaoilte,
'N aghaidh gaoithe, séideadh sgeir;
Sùlair ciocrach cionn a' chaoilais,
Stiùireadh, taomadh, goin-shùil gheir.
 19. Loch am bealach bruthach beinne,
Fradharc cleitheach sùileig suidht' ;
Bric 'nan ceudan uachdar uisge,
Seirmeach shruthan, fionnar, fuar.
 20. Abhainn Ghogo casadh, clisgeadh,
Fhuaran tighinn, borrgiant, bras;
Easan dèanamh, càradh chlachan,
Beumach, farmach, allta, ait.
 21. Caochan cobhrach ghleanntan gladhach,
Subhach, taoghail, còsan, coir' ;
Trileant, tuilteach, trògbhail, togail,
Mòirneas borb, omh' nach, odhar.

* * * * *

* * * * *

22. B' e ar righ an triath taiceil,
Tuigseach, tapaadh, ridir' réidh;
Treóraich' calm', làidir, lasrach,
Maith air taisdeal siubhal sléibh.
23. Leum air creagan còmhnard crotail,
Cathadh copach, mìrneach, min;
Choma leis e, fliuchadh fear' said,
Glùinteach bhreacan sruthladh sil.
24. Dhearca e bhuaipe, shùilean sgàilte,
Fhaicinn bhàighean, colaais, cuain;
Ghabh e suim ri sùighean sumaid—
Bàbhun Chumraidh cuairt-linn cruinn.
25. Sealladh thugadh eilean earbach,
Sléibhteach, gleannach, stòrach, sgòir;
Faoibhar bheanntan, rìoghail, r'omhach,
Liosan trioplach luchairt lòn.
26. Chreachan corrach aisgeir Arainn,
Chunnaic trapan lionmhor long;
Creach' drea Lochlainn raoiteach, rapach,
Murrach, gaisgeil, ceudan coit.
27. Dian is smiorail armachd Alba,
Fir ro gharbh, slabhnan spionn;
Folaicht', deiseil, doirngheal, dannarr';
Rabhadh ghairm, conbhach, cinnt'.
28. Labhair os Ìosal: "Caingeis Chéitein,
Là na Féille, Sruibhle soir,
Abhainn Dubh i, Camus Choinnich,
M'athair coiseachd Ròd an Rois.
29. 'Mise ochd bliadh'n', socrach, sunndach,
Mìle duine sulghorm, sùrd;
Blàthain, Lididh, Cumhang Lànaigh,
Chriothann, Mhàilidh, Chilltinn Chùirn.
30. 'Mìle duine tulchuis', tuimseach,
Feachd a' gluasad, ceathairn chruaidh;
M'athair chuir roimh Dubh-Ghall dhìbirt,
As a threan, coimhirp chuing.
31. "Goirt dhomh fhéin e, sgeulachd sgiabail
Duilich sligheach mhithean 's mhaith;
D' eug an righ ann, sgathadh, sreachdach,
Eilean Chearbhair, d' airtneal aign'.
32. "Shìolaidh as e Caisteal Chearbhair—
Rium a d'earb—earail éigh—
Fois gun ghabhail, tiomsach thionail,
Dubh-Ghall liodairt, ladhar, léis.
33. "Nàile! Thigeadh doinninn Dàmhair,
Aimsear lànachd, geibnigh, gil';
Faisgear teann iad, sgreaidail, sgraideal,
Trusdair Haco meilear mion.
34. "Alba aosda, mhòinteach, mhìogach,
Triath mo thìre, chreathlach, chreadh;
Ghleantach, bheanntach, ghràs-mhor,
ghràdhach,
Eachdrail, bhàrdail, rodaidh, réidh.
35. "Bòidheach, lurach, mòrdhail, maiseach,
Bidein chabrach Arainn àird;
Eagach, fiachlach, bearnach, bràigheach—
Buaidhean-ghàirean—'s coilltean chlàr.
36. "Féidh 'sna frithean, crionna ceiltinn;
Coisreach, ceilreach clòimheach chraobh;
Feudail adh' reach siubhal socrach,
Saltair stolda bainne bhraon.
37. "Fàilteach, fial Alba aoigheil,
Buidheach laochraidh, clannail, còir;
Sleaghan, airm, shithein sùileach,
Borb brùchdadh, gàbhach, gnò.
38. "Bearnan-brìghde, canach, conasg,
Bealaidh, droigheann aomadh aoghair';
Bidh ri h-ùine oilthigh òigridh—
Aite còisridh—aitreabh aoil.
39. "'S bidh ri h-ùine soithich sneachdail,
Seòladh deathach, lùthmhor, lom;
Abhainn Chluaidh lombair, longach,
Fairge chomair—ceannsgal coip.'
- * * * * *
40. Theann am fagus maighdeann maothrain,
Sgith is claidhte, ceann-uidhe cuairt;
Crios a' còmhdach' mailghean màlda,
Muineal dàicheil, clocha cruth'.
41. Bha a gruaig dreachmhor, dualach,
Orach, cuachach, tùiseach, tiugh;
Guailean rùisgte, lomhaidh, lòghmhor,
Thusail nòsan, còmhradh cruinn.
42. Phòg i modhail, soitheamh, sìtheil,
Làmhnan sinte, fialmhor 'n fhlaith;
'Maith is eòl duit Brìghde Bhrandain,
B' mhise caraid t' athar ailt.
43. "Cearbhar fàsail, deanntag, droman,
Cìob is copag, grian-mhuin' gheur;
Dìleab dhuit-sa, luigheachd luachmhor—
Chalmachd bhoadhach buaidh-làrach
bhleith.
44. "D' fhàgadh agad theòmachd theistheil,
Beithir theinntidh, déineachd dreig—
Thuit le tartar cladach Chaisteil—
D' fhosgail adhar soillsgeach spur.'
45. Labhair rithist e, feitheamh freagairt,
Near't ga ghéilleadh, ghlasdaidh ghlàir:

- ‘Oigh-bhean chliùteach, bhanaid,
bheusach,
Mhùirneag, bheil ort sloinneadh, seòl?’
46. ‘Comhstach leapach, ait-cheas, ainir,
Chan fhiach laighe, feallsa, faoin;
Maighread bean leam, sòbhrach Shasainn,
Blasda, gasda, strìochdail, saor.
47. ‘Luthais, Montfort, Eanraic, Eideard,
Breitheimh gheura bheireadh breith;
B’ fhearr gu mòr leam ‘n lein-chrios
leantainn
‘N àite sgreamhail Lochlann leum.
48. ‘Càirdean dhomh-sa giùlan gòrsaid,
Brataich sròlaich, ùbraid ùird;
Talamh Bheannaicht’, Cogadh Croise,
Cinnich lorgadh, tòir nan Tùrc.’
49. Solus feasgar ciaradh chreagan,
Marbh, deurach, greannach ghaoir;
Easan aibhne tùirseach, tiamhaidh,
Féitheil riag aig gainnead gaioith’.
50. Reultan oidhche tosdach tionndadh,
Sùrdail, briogach, sìorruidh, suthainn;
Dèanamh chleasan, oirchis, ortha,
Cinntinn oirfeid chriosdail ciuil.
51. ‘Fàth do thuruis, Bhrìghde Bhrandain,
Gnothach, car dhuit—còmhdaidh cròdh?’
Dòlas domh-sa, Iùbhrach iùlcheist,
‘S feadar tús domh Lochlann leòn.’
52. ‘Tràth ‘sa’ mhadainn,’ arsa ‘n Ailleag,
‘Luath d’ fhàgadh sgeirean slige;
D’ imich sunndach aiseag Air-nis,
‘S d’ éirich là air cladach Chirc.
53. Leódhas glasach, Chirc chobhraich,
Luasgadh thonnan, reothairt raoichd;
Tràigh a’ Bhràighe ‘s Baile Bhaipeil,
Faire chlachan, Shuanaich Shaoidh!
54. Eilean Leódhais g’ h-Uinneag Uladh,
Abhairt Dùnain, Arainn aosd’,
Eilean braonghlas, Breatann Bhreamh-
ainn,
‘S mhòthaich Eireag Mhanainn mhaoil.
55. Chearc bheag spàgach, lachach, lochach,
Cìrean coileach Arainn àird;
Doiteag Mhuile, Màire Mhanainn
Leò-san astar shiubhlainn slàn!
56. B’ aognaidh, cianail, faondrach, falbhach,
Sgaoileadh, sgaradh, snuadh-mhor, snodh’;
Chunnaic dràs mi Taoiseach Triath,
Uasail ghil thu, Rùn mo Rogh.’
57. Gheàrr i croisean, ceithir croisean,
Làmh air thogail, dearcadh deis;
Oidhche tighinn, teintean tarraing
Glasan Machrach, ‘s Creagan Ceit.
58. ‘Dia bhith riut-sa, ghasain ghasda!
Aingeal clagadh—cluinneam ceò!
Moire ghrasmhor frasadh fàilte!
Moire ‘s Pàdraig ‘s beatha beò!
59. ‘S tù an ùrshlat, siubhlach, stocach,
Chaith an corran, calpa, crann;
‘S fear thu dìreach—cliathan còmhraig—
Treun an còlainn, tair’ seach, teann!’
60. ‘Maith gu mòr leam, bhriathran bàigheil,
Bhrìghde àlainn, Rìoghchran Ròis!
Innis grad dhomh: cleasan catha
Muintir Haco sgriobadh sgròb.’
61. ‘Muintir Lochlainn frioghail, friotach,
Réiceil, sìleach, breabraich, breun;
Chas bu dhàna, ceannsal, cairtidh,
Drùiseach, salach, déisneach, déin’.
62. Chuala Haco naidheachd nàireach,
Bràighich Alasdair bualadh beum;
Chruinnich feachdan, strìochdadh,
sgaoileadh,
Tiolpadh, slaodadh, ciorbhadh, cleas.
63. Cheuman mórail, ghnàthan gnoiceach,
Thréig a ghoil e, chomas crom;
Chuir e roimh, dorch, dalach,
Sorchan Arcaibh fhàgail foil.
64. D’ fhàg e caladh, achfuinn aindeas,
Duaichnidh, lapach, gòrlais ghuth’,
Cailleach Arcaibh liubhairt longphort,
Teintean losgadh Diathan Dubh’.
65. Cabhlach Lochlainn feitheamh fannain,
Néamhan manadh bròin is brauin;
Rinn a’ ghealach briseadh buadh-mhor,
Ghrian dubhadh—còmhdaidh cuain.
66. D’ fhàs gu dubhach speuran sprochdail,
Tuilteach, copach, doilleir, doimh;
Boil’ na mara, bagrach, baoghlach,
Grànnda, fraochail, mucach, moil.
67. Iargailt, dùbhlachd, anntlachd, ànradh,
Garg is bàsmhor, torchrach, truagh;
Tuinghorm ghailbheach, tàirmeanach
blàrach,
Haco ràplach reubta-ruadh.
68. Gaillionn gaimhraidh dallach, dileant,
Meanglainn sìnte, chraobhan, chrann;
Blàthain, lusrach, seargta, spionta,
Tùirseach sìd i, truaillte, trom.

69. Uair a' gheamhraidh chrosda, chroiseach,
Cheathach, dhoirbh—biothfhuinn bàis;
Mallaicht' mionnan, toibheum, tabhann,
Nàimhdean carach creinte, cràidht'.

70. Boileach fairge, sruthan sloisreach,
Toirm oillteil, beucail, bras;
Cladach Chiarain, oitir òrdail,
Dhuit is eòlach ghrinneas glan.

71. 'S iomadh bàta cuanach chiùrradh,
Briagh ùrluinn, cònan clàr;
Masladh Lochlainn leigeil teisteis
Taplach-beathrach, ball-chrith bàit'.

72. Doineann fiadhaich, loingeas Lochlainn,
Tiùrr air molan ùigein uaigh';
Daoinne borb laighe leagta,
Mùcht' am meallan, sàraicht', smuaist'.

73. Sguidseadh, sracadh, briseadh, brocladh,
Leadairt loingir, soithich, goth';
Leannain deurach, càirdean caointeach,
Olghar caoineadh—oilbheum, oillt.

74. Gabh-sa comhairl' Thairbh Theamhrach,
Mhair a reachdan, riaghailt, réim;
Gabh-sa comhairl' Chliabhair Chlàmhainn,
Fòrmhor làidir, fùran Féinn'.

75. Fàinne Ghàidheal, Brian Boroinh'!
Goll Clann Mhorna! Mànas Mór!
Blàths na Nodhlaig, fàilte Fhìneig',
Dubh-Ghall lomhta, bàrlag bròig'!

* * * * *

76. D' imich Brìghde, maighdeann m' aisling
Ailleag àlainn, rìghinn rùn;
Thàinig 's d' fhalbh—FORTUNA FUGIT
—SLAN DO SHIUBHLACH—CHEIST
A' CHRUIN.

MR. SHULDAM-SHAW ON THE MOD

Some readers may recall that, a number of years ago, we published in these pages a searching and stimulating criticism of the National Mod by Mr. Patrick Shuldham-Shaw. Mr. Shuldham-Shaw was present at the Largs Mod, and at the annual meeting said that in the seven years since he had last been at the Mod, the standard of choral singing had been vastly improved. Since then, in *Arts Review* on the Scottish Home Service, Mr. Shuldham-Shaw has broadcast his summing up of this year's National Mod. There were many improvements, he found, including a higher standard of choral arrangements, but he felt that the choirs did not "let themselves go," especially in such a vibrant open-air piece as *Moladh Beinn Dòrain*. There was too much colourless and over-polite solo singing. He praised the folksong singing and the violin playing. He felt that some of the set pieces for the junior competitions were unsuitable for children, and he suggested that greater care should be taken in planning the Mod syllabus to work towards an evening concert offering balance and variety of items. He also felt there was not enough attention paid to the traditional style of singing, and he suggested that one way of achieving this would be by not letting the adjudicators see a printed copy. Let them just listen!

CORRECTION

In the October Number, the signature "Niall" on page 94 should have been appended to article on "Domhnall Piobaire" at foot of page 95.

President's English Address

MR. PROVOST, LADIES, and GENTLEMEN—
We are paying our first visit to Largs with the National Mod and are very grateful to the members and officials of our Local Branch for their kind invitation and for the arrangements made to make our annual Gaelic Festival a success. We are also grateful to the Town Council for giving us their patronage, and to the people of Largs and surrounding districts for the splendid support they have given to the many efforts promoted to ensure the financial success of the Mod.

In our school days Largs was only referred to in our history books as the place where Alexander III of the Scots defeated the invader, King Haakon of Norway, but I venture to predict that, in the years which lie ahead, 1263 as the year of the clashing of targes and claymores will be superseded by 1956, the year the National Gaelic Mod came to Largs with the

lilt of Gaelic songs to compete in friendly rivalry for shields and silver targes!

The Royal Tour

Before I deal with the work of our Association during the year and what is envisaged for the future, I must refer to the visit to the Western Isles of our beloved Patron, Her Majesty the Queen. It is a matter of special pride to us to know that Her Majesty and her Royal Party, notwithstanding inclement weather, greatly enjoyed their visit to these outposts of Her Majesty's realm. The Queen, by her gracious manner and the light-hearted way in which she braved the elements to adhere to her time-table, endeared herself to her loyal subjects. We had the honour and privilege of extending to Her Majesty, on behalf of our members, a hearty and loyal welcome to the Western Isles, with an assurance of the loyalty and devotion of her Gaelic-

speaking peoples. Our message was graciously acknowledged, and Her Majesty wished us to convey to all concerned her appreciation of their loyal good wishes. We wish to thank our own Gaelic-speaking people for their warm-hearted welcome to Her Majesty and Her Royal Party and for the atmosphere of Gaelic tradition and culture which permeated the whole tour. The Gaelic benediction at Iona, the singing of Gaelic songs, and the Gaelic greetings displayed on banners were most fitting to welcome a Queen who had been graciously pleased to become our Royal Patron.

The past twelve months were notable for the Royal recognition of our people and their language. It was with genuine pride and satisfaction that we welcomed the presence of Her Majesty The Queen Mother and Princess Margaret at the Aberdeen Mod last year. This was The Queen Mother's fourth visit to the Mod and the third occasion on which she presented the prizes. Her Majesty's interest in the Mod is so real and earnest that she was able to recall the names of some of the principal prize-winners at the Aberdeen Mod of 1946.

In my address last year I offered my services to help resuscitate lapsed Branches and form new ones but, owing to the illness which I contracted in December, I was completely incapacitated for four months, by the end of which the season was too far advanced to organise meetings with any hope or promise of success. In this connection I should like to thank Vice-Presidents Rev. T. M. Murchison and Mr. Donald Thomson, who deputised for me at meetings of the Executive Council. I also thank the members for their forbearance. I wish to acknowledge with grateful thanks the many kind enquiries received from members and friends of the movement during the critical days of my illness. These were of great comfort to my wife and to myself.

Work of the Committees

Now I will deal with the work of three of our Committees.

The Propaganda Committee and the Executive Council are deeply concerned about the lack of Branches, particularly in areas where there is still a considerable population of Gaelic speakers. But, as this very important aspect of our movement is on the agenda for discussion at the Annual General Meeting on Saturday, I shall not refer to it further than to say that a supreme effort will have to be made to increase the number of Branches, thereby re-establishing ourselves in the real homeland. I should like here to thank office-bearers and members of existing Branches for their services to our cause, and I want, particularly, to stress the importance of the work done by committees of Provincial Mods. Year by year these Provincial Mods bring before the people of their respective districts an example of what is being done throughout the land to preserve our language and to foster a love and respect for the traditions of our race.

The Education Committee continues to do excellent work in stirring up enthusiasm among those qualified to teach the language and in keeping in close touch with Directors of Education in the four Gaelic-speaking counties. These, one is gratified to record, are in sympathy with our Committee's aspirations, but we realise that they have their own difficulties to contend with in the matter of staffing their primary schools with teachers of the required qualifications.

We record our pleasure and satisfaction at the action of the Inverness-shire Education Committee in appointing a Special Committee to investigate the position of Gaelic in their county. The recommendations of this Special Committee were approved by the parent committee, and these include—that the aims of the schools should be to make Gaelic-speaking

children bilingual; that Gaelic should be used as a medium of instruction where practicable; that an examination of Gaelic should be held at the end of the Primary School course; and that there should be adequate inspection by H.M. Inspector of Schools. We heartily thank the Inverness County Education Committee for the important step they have taken, and we, with equal heartiness, recommend their attitude to Gaelic to the other Authorities concerned. We also thank the Glasgow Education Committee for the continuance of Gaelic as a subject of instruction in their senior secondary schools at Bellahouston and Woodside. These day classes are well supported and good progress is made in all grades. I had the pleasure of responding to an invitation to attend the annual prize-giving at Woodside Secondary School last June, and can testify to the warm reception accorded the Gaelic pupils when they were called upon to receive their prizes. A similar ovation, I understand, is accorded the Gaelic pupils at Bellahouston Senior Secondary School.

Conference on Gaelic-teaching

Reference was made last year to the Memorandum issued from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, dealing with the system of education in junior secondary schools. The recommendations contained therein were most favourable to Gaelic, and it was particularly noticed that with the methods employed with Gaelic-speaking pupils, increased use could be made of Gaelic as a medium of instruction. The Glasgow Provincial Committee for the Training of Teachers brought us a step nearer our heart's desire by the holding of a Residential Conference of Gaelic-speaking teachers at Jordanhill College, Glasgow, last July. The main purpose of the Conference was to provide an opportunity for those who teach Gaelic as a language or who use it as a medium of instruction. It also gave teachers an opportunity of meeting and discussing problems confronting them in their work. The Conference was open to all Gaelic-speaking teachers, whether or not they are employed in Gaelic-speaking areas. Speakers and lecturers were well qualified to deal with their apportioned subjects, and their reasoning, from their own experience in the profession, must have been of great interest and help to those teachers present who are employed in teaching Gaelic.

The discussions which followed added greatly to the usefulness and importance of the conference, and much good is sure to follow the interchanging of ideas and the differing methods of approach to the various aspects of the subject under review. We feel sure that the purpose of the Conference was fully realised, and that we may look forward hopefully to the increased status of Gaelic in our Highland schools. Through the courtesy of Mr. Smith, Deputy Director of Studies, I was privileged to attend one of the sessions, and there also attended Mr. and Mrs. John M. Bannerman. One is glad to know that An Comunn's efforts to preserve and perpetuate the old language are recognised and appreciated by those in authority. Its representatives are always accorded a very cordial welcome and given a sympathetic hearing.

At the Conference to which I have just referred, Gaelic books, Scottish and Irish, used in schools, were prominently displayed and An Comunn's contribution was not inconsiderable. This brings me to the splendid work done by our Publication Committee. Books on hand for publication in the immediate future are *Bardachd Ghaidhlig* (third edition) and a set of books for juniors, transcribed from Irish Gaelic by Mr. Donald Grant. We are much indebted to our Irish friends for granting us permission to transcribe these lessons, and also for granting us the loan of the coloured plates to illustrate the lessons. The Publication

Committee would welcome donations towards the cost of producing books that are urgently required to meet the needs of teachers in our Highland schools. Would that we had a few more funds like that of the McCaig Trust, and directors of a like discretion in disbursing them! Gaelic literature has been enriched by the support given to publishers and authors by the McCaig Trust.

Gaelic Drama

I have pleasure in quoting thus from our Official Magazine: "Following the Conference held at Inverness in 1955 and resulting negotiations, the Scottish Community Drama Association and the Glasgow Education Authority, with the co-operation of An Comunn Gàidhealach, organised an eight-week course for Gaelic Drama producers. The course began on 10th April and the response is regarded as encouraging. It is hoped that as a result of this course several new Gaelic Drama groups will be formed next winter and that, in the near future, it may be possible to organise an all-Gaelic Drama Festival". To this I add that it is sincerely hoped that the formation of these Groups will greatly encourage the use of Gaelic as the everyday speech of the people in our homeland, and that they will be made to realise that the native language is equally capable of giving expression to high ideals as it is to entertain at ceilidhean.

As one of the old brigade, I should like those

responsible for this most welcome revival of Gaelic Drama to remember what was done 35 years ago. The first-ever production of a full Gaelic Play was staged in the Athenaeum, Glasgow, on one of the evenings of Mod Week, 1921. Wide publicity was given to this performance, and *Mairread*, the £100 prize Play, was later staged in Edinburgh and Greenock. During the years which followed the staging of short Gaelic plays was a feature of many of our Branches' activities. *Peigi Bheag* and *Am Fear a Chail a Ghàidhlig* were great attractions at the winter ceilidhean. Stir up your nests, ye Branches, and emulate the work of those who went before!

That is, ladies and gentlemen, a short review of our Association's work throughout the year. To make it comprehensive enough to include reference to all our activities would probably tax your patience. The work of the members of the Art and Industry and Mod and Music Committees culminates at the National Mod, and the result of their labours will be laid before you during the coming week, for your inspection and pleasure.

As for those of us who have the privilege of speaking on platforms, we shall continue, as heretofore, to encourage our own Gaelic-speaking people to take a more practical and patriotic interest in the preservation of our language and by doing so remove the reproach that our worst enemies are those of our own flesh and blood.

The National Mod at Largs

WHATEVER else may be said about the 1956 National Mod—and a good deal has been said about it, most of the talk being very ill-informed—this at least must be said: that Miss May F. Hunter and her Mod Local Committee deserve the highest praise both for the thoroughness of their organisational work and for the great success achieved in raising a Mod Fund of some £3,000. The arrangements made for the comfort and convenience of competitors and public were as good as could be expected—and one has to keep in mind certain disadvantages caused by distance of halls from each other, and the limits of hall accommodation. Above all, the various officials and their assistants carried through their duties with unflinching courtesy and geniality.

The Mod Gaelic Service was held in St. Columba Parish Church and was broadcast. The preacher was the Rev. Archd. M. Beaton, DunDonald, and the lessons were read by Mr. Neil Shaw and Mr. Archd. Cameron. The praise was led by Greenock Gaelic Choir (with Mr. Peter Macleod as Precentor).

The Mod began under a shadow, as it was learned on the Tuesday morning that Sir Eric Skaife, one of the delegates from Wales, had died suddenly in his hotel on the Monday night, soon after returning from the official opening.

The Barrhields Pavilion was filled to capacity for the official opening on the Monday evening. Mr. Neil Shaw, President of An Comunn, presided. The Gaelic prayer was offered by the Rev. T. M. Murchison, a Vice-President. Provost Robertson formally but cordially welcomed the Mod to Largs, on behalf of the magistrates, councillors, and townsmen.

The President then delivered his Gaelic and English orations, the text of which can be read elsewhere in this issue. Mr. Shaw gave a useful survey of the work being done by the various standing committees of An Comunn, and his statement should be an "eye-opener" to those who ignorantly complain that An Comunn does nothing between one Mod and the next.

The President welcomed the delegates from Wales—Sir Eric Skaife and Professor Watkins (who had been unable to arrive in time for the opening)—and from Eire—An t-Athair Diarmuid O'Loighaire and An t-Uasal Seamus O'Tallamhain. Sir Eric Skaife, speaking in Welsh and then in English, conveyed greetings from the Gorsedd of the bards of Wales and from the National Eisteddfod. Mr. O'Tallamhain conveyed the greetings from Eire, and especially from the Oireachtas.

Mr. Melville Dinwiddie, Scottish Controller of the British Broadcasting Corporation, briefly explained the coverage being given to the Mod on sound programmes and on television, and drew attention to the series of broadcast Gaelic lessons about to begin and the new booklet issued in connection with them.

The President moved a vote of thanks to Provost Robertson, the delegates from Wales and Eire, and to Mr. Dinwiddie. He then expressed An Comunn's appreciation of the excellent work done by the Mod Local Committee, under the convenueership of Miss May F. Hunter.

Miss Hunter, in a well-phrased Gaelic speech, and also in English, expressed the pleasure of the Gaels and friends in Largs and vicinity at having the Mod in their midst, and moved a vote of thanks to the President.

Following the more formal proceedings, tea was served, and a ceilidh was held, with Mr. Ewen Dingwall as Fear-an-tìghe, and the following contributed to an excellent programme—Miss Mary Ramsay, Mr. Colin MacInnes, Mrs. Isobel Campbell, John Bannerman, Junior, and Mr. and Mrs. Kean, Fairlie.

In comparison with most previous Mods, Tuesday, usually the busiest day of all, with many scores of enthusiastic youngsters hurrying from hall to hall, seemed rather quiet. The junior entries this year numbered only 192 as compared with 422 at Aberdeen last year. For this decline the distance of Largs from the Gaelic areas of the north-west was blamed, and

certainly one missed the competitors from such places as Lewis and Harris, Skye and Uist, which were not represented at all, unless by children from the south who have parental ties with the districts named.

The young competitors who did turn up at Largs gave a good account of themselves. We ought really to institute some sort of recognition for the teachers and parents who do so much to encourage their children to try and try again, even if they don't always get into the prize-list. One thinks, for example, of the young folk from Whitehouse, Kintyre, and the Potters from Dalmally, and there are others one might name. Whitehouse and Dalmally and Loch Awe side did, as a matter of fact, win prizes, and so did competitors from Ayr and Islay. Catriona Thomson, Oban, had a field-day, with five firsts, and won the Dr. MacKay Trophy for orals and a second in piano-playing. Catriona Fair and Kathleen Henry continued their series of provincial and national mod successes. The silver medals went to Agnes Macleod, Glasgow, and Gilbert Stevenson, Port Ellen. The successful choirs were: Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association Junior Choir (Campbell Blair and *Oban Times* Trophies), Bowmore Junior Choir (Shiant Shield), and Ayr Junior Choir (Rona MacVicar and Miller Trophies). Kathleen Henry became the first winner of a new trophy for piano-playing—the Margaret Hill-Boyle Trophy, presented by Miss Hill-Boyle's husband, Mr. George S. Gunn. We are all very glad to have this trophy in memory of a talented and charming musician, who for so many years had been a familiar figure on concert platforms and at mods, and whose career and was so soon cut short.

At the evening concert, which was a very happy one, the programme was sustained by the leading prize-winners. Bailie Mrs. H. T. Young presided; Mrs. Alastair Brown, presented the trophies; and the vote of thanks was moved by Bailie Donald Thomson, Vice-President of An Comunn.

Wednesday was the day when the "storm broke," Urgent duties elsewhere called us away from Largs, but we learned from the press that five aspirants for the gold medals had failed to pass the Gaelic test and hard things were being said about the Gaelic testers. We have no wish to offer any comment other than to quote what was written by the Glasgow Correspondent of *The Oban Times*:

"It was rather a pity that undue prominence was given to the grievances of dissatisfied competitors, who failed to pass the one test, and that not a difficult one, when one considers that the stipulation made in connection with the Gold Medal series only is that 'competitors must be fluent Gaelic speakers.' The fact that some of them were given a pass on previous occasions does not alter this year's decision, as these tests are made progressively more advanced as the competitor, theoretically, continues with his learning of the language. They could well follow the pattern of one competitor who studied and passed his Higher Gaelic examination to be proficient in the language for the competition. The complaint was also made that some of those failed in the Medal test passed that for the choirs, but it is common knowledge that the test given for choirs is a simpler one than that for the Gold Medal competitions. Sufficient encouragement is offered the learner of Gaelic in the many competitions for which there is no test whatsoever, and, from personal experience, I know that the Gold Medal tests are made more lenient in the case of learners than for the obvious native speaker."

All one need add is to record An Comunn's indebtedness to the Gaelic testers—this year, Mr. Donald Thomson and Miss Lucy Cameron—for the efficient, fair, and sympathetic way in which they carried out their duties.

After a day of solo-singing, Wednesday evening disclosed the names of the finalists for the Gold Medals. On the Thursday morning John A. MacRae, Glasgow, and Ina MacDiarmid, Greenock, emerged as the winners. Although Iona Macdonald took second place in the Medal Aggregates, she collected an impressive list of awards—being first in the Ladies' Oran-mor, the James Grant, the Oban and Lorn, and the Nova Scotia competitions, and second equal for the Scotia Trophy. In the rural choirs' competitions the Lorn Shield went to Portree, the Dalriada Cup (for Gaelic) to Laxdale, and the Macmaster Campbell Coach to Southend. In senior orals Kathleen Mackinnon, Glasgow, and Donald M. Macleod, Dingwall, shared the Glasgow Skye Association Gold Medal, while James C. Burnett, Oban High School, won the Dr. John Cameron Cup (for learners) for the second year in succession.

Friday brought us some very beautiful choral singing, and in the major competitions markings were close. The Stornoway Ladies took the Esme Smyth Trophy, and the Inverness Men took the Mull and Iona Shield. Dingwall Choir won the Margat Duncan Trophy, three points ahead of the Lothian Choir, one of our newest choirs. In the puirt-a-beul competition Greenock Choir defeated Govan Choir by one mark, while in the Lovat and Tullibardine Competition, Campbeltown took first place, with the "G.G." second and only 5 points behind.

"Boos and hisses at the Mod" was the headline we read in a responsible Scottish newspaper on the Saturday morning. We ascertained, however, that the report was somewhat exaggerated. Baiting the referee is a well established Scottish custom, and contradicting the adjudicator is no innovation at the Mod.

We regret that we were unable to be present at as many of the competitions as we should have liked, and therefore cannot report on, among others, the pianoforte, violin, and clarsach-playing competitions. We did manage to get half-an-hour at the Arts and Industries Exhibition, arranged by Mrs. Edgar and her Committee, and were much impressed with the work on show. Mrs. Ferguson, formerly of St. Kilda, favoured us once more with demonstrations of carding and spinning. A feature of the exhibition was the pictures by pupils of the Art Department of Largs Higher Grade School.

The Thursday evening concert was presided over by Dr. H. Stewart Mackintosh, Director of Education, Glasgow. The prizes were presented by the Hon. Mrs. Maclean of Ardgour, and the vote of thanks was proposed by the Rev. T. M. Murchison. On Friday evening there were three concerts—two houses in the Barrfields Pavilion and an overflow concert in the Dunn Memorial Hall, with Mr. Donald J. Maclean, Northern Organiser in the chair. At Barrfields, Mr. W. T. H. Inglis, Director of Education for Ayrshire, presided at the second concert, while the trophies were presented by the Countess of Glasgow at the first house and by Mary Duchess of Montrose at the second. Votes of thanks were proposed by Mr. J. M. Bannerman at the first house, and by Mr. Farquhar MacRae at the second.

We have left to the last any mention of the literary competitions, but this does not mean that we think them the least important feature of the Mod. On the contrary! We are glad that so many secondary schools merit inclusion in the prize-list, but why are so few primary pupils put forward for certificates of profi-

ciency in Gaelic. And why does only one school enter for the Stewart of Simla Essay Competition? Turning to the seniors, Mr. Iain M. Moffat-Pender's success in winning the bardic crown was a popular one, while Mr. Neil Macdonald and the Rev. Colin Mackenzie (a former crowned bard) also did very well. We are glad to note once again the name of Mrs. Katherine Douglas, who continues her most praiseworthy work of collecting unpublished songs.

Mention should also be made of the fact that the Provost and Magistrates of Largs gave a Civic Dinner

on Wednesday. It had not been possible to arrange a civic reception, but this token of hospitality was greatly appreciated.

Gaels, of course, are not perfectly satisfied with the ration of broadcasting time given them, but during Mod week there was very extensive coverage on sound radio, as well as an excellent quarter-hour with the mod children on Tuesday on television, while the Wednesday night grand ceilidh, with Donald Thomson as Fear-an-Tighe, went over very well, both on sound and television.

Annual General Meeting

THE annual general Meeting of An Comunn Gaidhealach was held in the Stewart Memorial Hall, Largs, on Saturday, 6th October, 1956. Mr. Neil Shaw, F.S.A. Scot., President, occupied the chair, and there was a very good attendance of members.

Appropriate reference was made to the sudden death of the Welsh delegate, Sir Eric Skaife, on Monday evening, and those present at the meeting stood in silent tribute. Reference was also made to the death of Mr. Donald Macphail, former Northern Organiser, since last National Mod.

The meeting also learned with regret of the death of Mr. Dugald Cowan, who had been Finance Convener of the Aberdeen Mod Local Committee last year.

Mr. J. M. Bannerman, Convener of the Mod and Music Committee, moved a vote of thanks to the Mod Local Committee for all they had done. They had raised the truly magnificent sum of close on £3,000. He paid special tribute to the Convener, Miss May Hunter, and to Mr. Alastair Brown, President of the local branch, Mr. Barnett (Vice-Convener of the Mod Committee), Miss Bruce (Secretary), and Mr. MacIachlan (Treasurer).

Thanks were also expressed to the Provost of Largs and his wife, the magistrates and councillors, and all the people of the town, and especially the hotel-keepers and boardinghouse-keepers.

Mr. Shaw expressed the thanks of An Comunn to the B.B.C. and to the press for their coverage of the Mod.

The Secretary read the list of office-bearers newly appointed. Mr. Farquhar MacRae was appointed President in succession to Mr. Shaw, who, after two years in office, did not wish to continue. Rev. T. M. Murchison was re-elected a Vice-President for a further period.

Mr. MacRae, on taking the Chair, thanked the members for the honour conferred on him. It was also, he said, a great responsibility. There was great work to be done, and it could be done only with the support of the members and friends of An Comunn. Mr. MacRae then paid

tribute to the work done by Mr. Shaw for An Comunn in his two years as President, following upon forty years as Secretary.

The annual reports and accounts were submitted and approved.

With regard to the place of the 1958 Mod, it was intimated that no written invitation had been received, but the Provost of Dunoon had by telegram sent an invitation. After discussion, during which it was stated that the Dunoon branch of An Comunn would prefer to have the Mod in Dunoon in 1959 rather than 1958, the matter was remitted to the Executive Council.

The Secretary and the Northern Organiser submitted reports on branches in the Southern and Northern Areas respectively, as well as on Gaelic classes, provincial mods, and other activities sponsored by An Comunn. Training of choirs was greatly hindered by the lack of visiting music teachers. It was stated that the educational authorities in the north were very co-operative. There were, however, a number of districts where not much could be done, for various reasons, including lack of local leaders and numerous counter-attractions.

Under the heading of "Other competent business" a number of points were raised, and suggestions made, and these will be considered by the appropriate committee in each case.

Mr. Farquhar MacRae, President, expressed appreciation of the hard work done by An Comunn's own officials and staff, and the meeting cordially approved his sentiments.

Following upon the annual meeting, the preliminary meeting of the Executive Council was held, and Standing Committees were appointed.

B.B.C. GAELIC LESSONS

Beginning in October (for dates and timings see *Radio Times*), the Scottish Home Service of the B.B.C. are broadcasting weekly Gaelic lessons, actually a re-broadcast of the previous very popular series. In connection with these radio lessons a new booklet has been prepared.

Mod Prize List

(Figures in brackets after names indicate marks. Where three numbers are given, first is Gaelic mark, second is Music mark, and third is total.—Editor.)

LITERARY COMPETITIONS

ADJUDICATORS—A. J. MacAskill, M.A.; James Thomson, M.A., F.E.I.S.; Donald Morrison, M.A.; Donald Grant, M.A., B.A.; Derick S. Thomson, M.A.; Malcolm G. McCallum, A.R.C.O., L.R.A.M.; Rev. T. M. Murchison, M.A.

Junior Section

Group "A" (1)—Book prizes for proficiency in Gaelic (Secondary pupils). Awarded to pupils in the following schools—Bach Junior Secondary, Bellahouston Senior Secondary, Cornaigmore Junior Secondary, Dingwall Academy, Fort William Senior Secondary, Inverness Royal Academy, Lionel Junior Secondary, Lurebost Junior Secondary, Nicolson Institute, Oban High School, Portree Senior Secondary, and Woodside Senior Secondary.

Group "A" (2)—Certificates of Merit for proficiency in Gaelic (Primary pupils). Awarded to pupils in the following schools—Lionel Junior Secondary, Lurebost Junior Secondary, and Port Ellen Junior Secondary.

Group "D"—Special Competition: Gaelic essay on the life of Moses (Prizes presented by the late Mrs. Stewart, Simla). Boys—1, Allan R. Turner; 2, Donald Munro. Girls—1, Mary A. MacLennan; 2, Christy M. MacLennan. (All pupils of Sir Edward Scott Junior Secondary School, Harris.)

Senior Section

Silver Cup (presented by the Earl and Countess of Cassillis, awarded to prize-winner gaining highest aggregate marks in stated competitions)—Neil Macdonald, Harris.

Gold Medal (presented by Miss Millar-Weir, Alexandria), awarded to the prize-winner with highest aggregate marks in stated competitions (former winners debarred)—Neil Macdonald.

Poem on any subject (Prize of £5, along with Bardic Crown and Bardic Scroll and retention for one year of the Alsa Trophy)—1, Iain M. Moffatt-Pender, Glasgow; 2, Kenneth Finlayson, Glasgow.

Short Story (not exceeding 600 words) (Hugh MacCorquodale (Fingal) Memorial Prize of £3)—Rev. Colin N. Mackenzie, Kilwinning.

Long Story (extending to 2,000 words or more) (Prize of £5 from Gaelic Society of Glasgow)—Neil Macdonald.

One-Act Play (Prize of £5, including "Founders' Memorial Prize", presented by Ceilidh nan Gaidheal)—Rev. Colin N. Mackenzie.

Essay on any subject ("Major Charles John Munro of Fyrish Bequest Prize")—Rev. Colin N. Mackenzie.

Three original songs for children (Robert MacMillan Prizes)—Neil Macdonald.

Compilation of unpublished Gaelic vocal music—Mrs. Katherine Douglas, Kilmuir.

Arrangement in harmony of a Gaelic song (Angus Robertson Memorial Prize of £5 presented by the Glasgow Skye Association)—F. G. Thomson, Stornoway.

ART AND INDUSTRY COMPETITIONS

ADJUDICATORS—Miss Nan D. MacGregor and Dr. Colin Sinclair.

Section "A"—Home Industries. (1) Stole in three-ply wool with Celtic design—Mrs. Catherine Brown, Dunoon. (2) Hand-knitted hose for kilt with Celtic design—Mrs. Catherine Brown.

Section "B"—Design. Original Celtic design for a fire screen—1, Rev. Colin N. Mackenzie, Kilwinning; 2, Miss H. L. Wood, Rothessay.

Section "C"—Handcraft. Lamp shade in parchment with Celtic design (An Comunn Gaidhealach Trophy and £2)—Miss H. L. Wood, Rothessay.

Section "D"—Needlework. Italian quilted cushion in Celtic design—1, Miss C. M. Mackenzie, Aberdeen; 2, Mrs. Catherine Brown, Dunoon; 3, Miss H. L. Wood, Rothessay.

TUESDAY

Junior Section

ORAL DELIVERY

Rev. George W. Mackay, D.D., Memorial Cup, awarded to competitor with highest aggregate marks in reading, reciting, and conversation—Catriona Thomson, Oban.

STEVENSON INSTITUTE. PLAYERS' ROOM. ADJUDICATOR—Mrs. W. W. Murray, M.A.

Reading prose with expression (12-16 years)—1, Catriona Thomson, Oban (91); 2, Ishbel Edgar, Glasgow (86).

Reading prose with expression (under 12)—Mary MacMillan, Loch Awe (89).

Reading at sight an unfamiliar prose piece chosen by adjudicator—Catriona Thomson, Oban (92).

STEVENSON INSTITUTE. COMMITTEE ROOM. ADJUDICATOR—John Macdonald, M.A.

Reciting from memory, "Do Nèinean"—1, Catriona Thomson, Oban (92); 2, Ishbel Edgar, Glasgow (91); 3, Mary MacMillan, Loch Awe (90).

Excellence in Gaelic conversation—1, Catriona Thomson, Oban (92); 2, Mary MacMillan, Loch Awe (90).

Narrative based on some local incident, tradition, or legend, followed by conversation with adjudicator—Catriona Thomson, Oban (95).

STEVENSON INSTITUTE. TABLE TENNIS ROOM. ADJUDICATOR—John Mackay, M.A.

Reading with expression a piece of prose or poetry (learners) (12-16 years)—1, Catriona M. Fair, Lochgilphead (92); 2, Kathleen N. Henry, Tarbert (91); 3, Irene Potter, Dalnally (90); 4 (equal), Iona Campbell, Glasgow (89), and Rosemary L. Johnstone, Whitehouse (89); 5, Amy J. Snowdon, Whitehouse (88).

Reading with expression a piece of prose or poetry (learners) (under 12)—1, Iain Potter, Dalnally (92); 2, Catherine Carter, Loch Awe (90); 3, Mary E. Campbell, Whitehouse (89); 4, David Mundell, Whitehouse (88); 5 (equal), Mary M. Milloy, Whitehouse (87), and Catriona M. Taylor, Whitehouse (87).

Reciting Scripture (St. Matthew xviii. 1-6) (learners) (Prizes presented by late Mrs. Stewart, Simla). Boys—1, Iain Potter, Dalnally (93); 2, David Mundell, Whitehouse (89); 3, Ben Mundell, Whitehouse (86). Girls—1, Margaret M. Mackenzie, Glasgow (93); 2, Kirsteen Grant, Glasgow (92); 3, Catherine Carter, Loch Awe (90).

STEVENSON INSTITUTE. OLD READING ROOM. ADJUDICATOR—Neil Macleod, M.A.

Reciting from memory, "Sile" (learners)—1, Mary E. Campbell, Whitehouse (91); 2 and 3 (equal), Irene Potter, Dalnally (90), and Kirsteen Grant, Glasgow (90).

Aithris bhò mhoenhair (Co-fharpais a'is son Comunn na h-Oighridh fo aois 18)—Catriona NicThòmais, An t-Oban (92).

Reading prose at sight (learners)—1, Catherine Carter, Loch Awe (89) & 2, Irene Potter, Dalnally (87).

Vocal Music

— STEWART MEMORIAL HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: A. J. MacAskill, M.A. Music: Cedric Thorpe Davie.

Solo singing (Silver Medal Competition—Girls) (Song prescribed—"Dean bà-bà, mo leanabh")—1, Agnes M. Macleod, Glasgow (89, 85, 174); 2 (equal), Margaret Currie, Port Ellen (89, 81, 170), and Robina Campbell, Port Ellen (88, 82, 170); 3, Christine Campbell, Port Ellen (87, 80, 167).

Solo singing (Silver Medal Competition—Boys) (Song prescribed—"Eilean Fraoich")—1, Gilbert Stevenson, Port Ellen (88, 82, 170); 2, Donald N. Kennedy, Glasgow (86, 79, 165); 3, Robin Whyte, Port Ellen (87, 77, 164).

Traditional singing of unpublished song—1, Margaret Currie, Port Ellen (89, 84, 173); 2, Gilbert Stevenson, Port Ellen (88, 83, 171); 3, Christine Campbell, Port Ellen (87, 83, 170).

Solo singing (boys and girls, 16-18) (Songs prescribed—"Muile nam Mòr-bheann" (boys) and "Mo ghille dubh" (girls))—1, Anna F. MacDougall, Bonnaven (91, 86, 177); 2, Mary L. Graham, Campbeltown (90, 85, 175); 3, Mary Ann Currie, Glasgow (90, 83, 173).

BARRFIELDS PAVILION. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Dr. Annie M. Mackenzie. Music: Dr. George A. Armstrong.

Solo singing (girls under 12) (learners)—(Song prescribed—"Chaidh mo lothag air chall")—1, Lorna Peribon, Glasgow (90, 87, 177); 2, Isobel Ferguson, Easdale (89, 85, 174); 3, Kirsteen Grant, Glasgow (89, 83, 172).

Solo singing (boys) (learners) (Song prescribed—"Soraidh")—1, Gordon Currie, Ayr (90, 84, 174); 2, Allan Cowan, Ayr (89, 84, 173); 3, Tom Caskie, Bowmore (88, 84, 172).

Solo singing (boys and girls) (former prize-winners only) (own choice) (Cuach presented by Skelmorrie and District Highland Association)—1, Edith Pollock, Ayr (91, 87, 178); 2, Deirdre S. C. Macleish, Perth (91, 86, 177); 3, Helen M. MacInnes, Glasgow (91, 85, 176).

STEVENSON INSTITUTE. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Rev. T. M. Murchison, M.A. Music: Dr. T. M. McCourt.

Solo singing (girls, 12-16) (learners) (Song prescribed—"Air a' ghille tha mo rùn")—1, Catriona M. Fair, Lochgilphead (91, 90, 181); 2, Kathleen N. Henry, Tarbert (89, 89, 178); 3, Deirdre S. C. Macleish, Perth (90, 87, 177).

Duet singing (learners) (Song prescribed—"Mo chùbhrachan")—1, Kathleen N. Henry and Agnes R. Sinclair, Tarbert (88, 92, 180); 2, Mary E. MacIsaac and Edith Pollock, Ayr (89, 89, 178).

DUNN MEMORIAL HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Neil Macleod, M.A. Music: Dr. T. M. McCourt.

Unison singing by junior choirs (50 per cent. of each choir must be Gaelic-speaking) (Songs prescribed: "Am bothan beag", "Na maragan aig Ruairidh", and "Am Muileann Dubh") (Mrs. Campbell Blair Trophy)—Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association Junior Choir (90, 88, 178).

Choral singing in two-part harmony (50 per cent. of each choir must be Gaelic-speaking) (Songs prescribed: "Toirt m'aghaidh ri Diùra", and "A Dhòmhnail bhig") (*Oban Times* Challenge Trophy)—Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association Junior Choir (89, 89, 178). Mrs. Hobbs of Inverloch Trophy for highest marks in Gaelic in this competition—Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association Junior Choir (89).

Action Song (Shiant Shield, presented by Sir Compton Mackenzie)—Bowmore Junior Gaelic Choir (90, 86, 176).

BARRFIELDS PAVILION. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: John Mackay, M.A. Music: Dr. George A. Armstrong and Cedric Thorpe Davie.

Unison singing by junior choirs (Songs prescribed: "Mo nionag bhoidheach Ubhisteach", "S' ann an Ile", and "Dòmhnall Beag an t-siùcair") (Rona MacVicar Trophy, presented by Campbeltown Gaelic Choir)—1, Ayr Junior Gaelic Choir (181, 168, 349); 2, Nicolson Memorial Junior Choir (177, 171, 348).

Choral singing in two-part harmony (Songs prescribed: "An t-Eilean Muileach" and "Hug Oireann O") (Mrs. Miller's Trophy)—1, Ayr Junior Gaelic Choir (183, 174, 357); 2, Tarbert Junior Secondary School Choir (178, 167, 345).

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

BARRFIELDS PAVILION. ADJUDICATOR—R. J. Collins, F.T.C.L.

Playing of slow Gaelic air and march on pianoforte (Margaret Hill-Boyle Memorial Trophy, presented by Mr. George Gunn; along with Kilt Pin presented by Mrs. J. M. B. Maclean)—1, Kathleen N. Henry, Tarbert (33); 2, Catriona Thomson, Oban (31); 3, Mairi Macdougall, Tarbert (30).

WEDNESDAY

Senior Section

VOCAL MUSIC

STEWART MEMORIAL HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Neil Macleod, M.A., and Mrs. W. W. Murray, M.A.

Best rendering of two unpublished folk-songs sung in the traditional manner (The Scotia Trophy)—1, Donald A. MacRitchie, Glasgow (89); 2 and 3 (equal), Iona Macdonald, Harris (88), and Catherine A. MacNiven, Glasgow (88).

Solo singing of port-a-beul (own choice) (Duncan Johnston Memorial Trophy)—1, Johan Macleod, Glasgow (91); 2, Neil MacCalman, Bowmore (90); 3, Duncan MacCalman, Port Ellen (89).

BARRFIELDS PAVILION. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: A. J. MacAskill, M.A. Music: Cedric Thorpe Davie.

Solo singing of following songs by Lorn bards, "A Mhàiri bhàn òg", and "O 's toigh leam an cibeir" (Oban and Lorn Association Commemoration Medal, 1914-18, 1939-45, presented by Glasgow Oban and Lorn Association)—1, Iona Macdonald, Harris (93, 87, 180); 2, Calum Cameron, Glasgow (91, 88, 179).

Solo singing of the song, "Eilean mo ghaoil" (ladies: learners)—1, Jean Matheson, Kyle (90, 86, 176); 2, Mary L. Graham, Campbeltown (89, 84, 173); 3, Elizabeth M. Bannerman, Balmaha (90, 82, 172).

DUNN MEMORIAL HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Dr. Annie M. Mackenzie. Music: Dr. George A. Armstrong.

Best rendering of a song from Mrs. Kennedy-Fraser's "Songs of the Hebrides" (male and female voices) (Songs prescribed: "Hebrides Sea Riever's Song" and "Isle of my heart") (In memory of the late Mrs. Kennedy Fraser)—1, Calum Cameron, Glasgow (92, 88, 180); 2, Stella M. Galbraith, Campbeltown (90, 85, 175).

Solo singing of a rowing song (own choice) (male voices: learners)—1, Duncan A. Ferguson, Edinburgh (90, 89, 179); 2, Tom Crawford, Bowmore (91, 87, 178); 3, Calum Duncan, Greenock (90, 86, 176).

STEVENSON INSTITUTE. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: John Macdonald, M.A. Music: Dr. T. M. McCourt.

Solo singing of a waulking song (own choice) female voices: (learners)—1, Mary L. Graham, Campbelltown (90, 88, 178); 2, Mary M. Mundell, Whitehouse (89, 88, 177); 3, Elizabeth L. Mackinnon Caol (90, 86, 176).

Solo singing of the song, "Cruachan Beann" (male voices: learners)—1, David S. Stewart, Rugby (91, 85, 176); 2, Robert McQuaker, Ayr (89, 86, 175); 3, Tom Crawford, Bowmore (91, 82, 173).

Solo singing of unpublished song connected with Mull or Iona (prizes presented by Glasgow Mull and Iona Association)—1, Calum Cameron, Glasgow (92, 86, 178); 2, Stella M. Galbraith, Campbelltown (89, 87, 176).

BARRFIELDS PAVILION. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Neil Macleod, M.A. Music: Dr. George A. Armstrong.

Solo singing (ladies) of song, "Mo ghille dubh" (James Grant Memorial Prizes)—1, Iona Macdonald, Harris (89, 89, 178); 2, Elizabeth M. Cattanan, Mull (89, 88, 177); 3, Zandra Watt, Laxdale (90, 86, 176).

BARRFIELDS PAVILION. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Dr. Annie M. Mackenzie and John Macdonald, M.A. Music: Dr. George A. Armstrong.

Solo singing of the songs, "Miann an Eilthirich" (ladies) and "Gruagach òg an fhuilt bhàin" (men), along with song chosen by competitor (learners' finals competition) Ladies—1, Jean Matheson, Kyle (177, 176, 353); 2, Kirsteen Maclean, Greenock (178, 169, 347). Men—1, Tom Crawford, Bowmore (181, 175, 356); 2, Duncan A. Ferguson, Edinburgh (175, 169, 344).

Learners' Finals Aggregate. Ladies—1, Jean Matheson, Kyle (355, 347, 702); 2, Mary L. Graham, Campbelltown (354, 340, 694); 3, Kirsteen Maclean, Greenock (356, 335, 691). Men—1, Tom Crawford, Bowmore (363, 344, 707); 2, Duncan A. Ferguson, Edinburgh (354, 340, 694); 3, David S. Stewart, Rugby (355, 330, 685).

STEWART MEMORIAL HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: A. J. MacAskill, M.A. Music: Dr. T. M. McCourt.

Solo singing (men) of song, "An cluinn thu, leannain" (The L/Cpl. Lachlan Maclean Watt Memorial Prizes)—1, John A. MacRae, Glasgow (93, 87, 180); 2, Calum Cameron, Glasgow (92, 86, 178); 3, Murdo F. J. Macleod, Edinburgh (91, 86, 177).

Solo singing (own choice) (competitors to be natives of Glenmoriston, Glenurquhart, or Stratherrick districts, or, failing such, natives of the County of Inverness, excluding burghs of 2,000 or more) (The Mrs. Quintin MacLennan Prizes)—1, Murdo F. J. Macleod, Edinburgh (92, 87, 179); 2, Elizabeth L. Mackinnon, Caol (90, 88, 178).

STEVENSIN INSTITUTE. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Dr. Annie M. Mackenzie. Music: Cedric Thorpe Davie.

Solo singing (men) of the oran-mor, "Tha Cheapach 'na fàsach" (The Bessie Campbell Memorial Prizes)—1, Murdo F. J. Macleod, Edinburgh (91, 87, 178); 2, John A. MacRae, Glasgow (92, 85, 177); 3, Murdo Ferguson, Lewis (92, 82, 174).

Solo singing (ladies) of the oran-mor, "Fhir a dhreas am beachach" (The Jessie N. MacLachlan Memorial Prizes)—1, Iona Macdonald, Harris (92, 92, 184); 2, Ina MacDiarmid, Greenock (91, 88, 179); 3, Sheila Ann Macdougall, Glasgow (92, 85, 177).

THURSDAY Oral Delivery

Gold Medal, presented by Glasgow Skye Association, for highest aggregate marks in specified oral delivery competitions—(equal) Kathleen Mackinnon, Oban, and Donald M. Macleod, Dingwall.

Dr. John Cameron Commemoration Prize for most distinguished competitor in Learners' Oral Section—James C. Burnett, Oban.

STEVENSIN INSTITUTE. TABLE TENNIS ROOM. ADJUDICATOR—Dr. Annie M. Mackenzie.

Reciting poem, "Oran do Bhàta", from memory—1, Donald M. Macleod, Dingwall (93); 2, Kathleen Mackinnon, Oban (93).

Reciting prose, "Sealladh o mhullach beinne an Earraghaidheal", from memory—1, Kathleen Mackinnon, Oban (93); 2, Neil Macdonald, Harris (92).

STEVENSIN INSTITUTE. TABLE TENNIS ROOM. ADJUDICATOR—John Macdonald, M.A.

Reading unfamiliar piece of prose—1, Donald M. Macleod, Dingwall (92); 2, Murdo F. J. Macleod, Edinburgh (91).

STEVENSIN INSTITUTE. OLD READING ROOM. ADJUDICATOR—Derick S. Thomson, M.A.

Recitation of piece of original poetry composed by competitor (Calum MacPharlain Memorial Prizes, presented by Paisley Highlanders' Association)—1, Colin N. Mackenzie, Kilwinning (88); 2, Iain M. Moffatt-Pender, Glasgow (82).

Ancient folk-tale (preferably unpublished) narrated in traditional style (The Anglo-Chilean Society Shield)—1, Colin N. Mackenzie, Kilwinning (95); 2, Neil Macdonald, Harris (85).

Original speech on any subject—1, Neil Macdonald, Harris (87); 2, Colin N. Mackenzie, Kilwinning (85).

Acted dialogue (Queen Elizabeth Coronation (1937) Trophy)—1, Isabel Campbell, Lochgilphead, and Mairi Stewart, Ardrishaig (89); 2, Neil Macdonald, Harris, and Johan Macleod, Glasgow (88); 3, Katie Mackinnon, Glasgow, and Mrs. N. Macleod, Clydebank (86).

STEVENSIN INSTITUTE. PLAYERS' ROOM. ADJUDICATOR—Mrs. W. W. Murray, M.A.

Reciting poem, "A' Ghrian", from memory (learners)—1, James C. Burnett, Oban (90); 2, Elizabeth C. MacDiarmid, Lawers (89).

Reciting prose from memory (own choice) (learners)—1, James C. Burnett, Oban (92); 2, Elizabeth C. MacDiarmid, Lawers (91).

Reading at sight a passage selected by adjudicator from *An Gaidheal* (1956) (learners)—1 (equal), James C. Burnett, Oban (87), and David S. Stewart, Rugby (87); 2, Elizabeth Logan, Bunnass (86).

Speech (learners)—1, James C. Burnett, Oban (91); 2, David S. Stewart, Rugby (88).

VOCAL MUSIC

BARRFIELDS PAVILION. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: John Mackay, M.A. Music: Dr. George A. Armstrong.

Nova Scotia Competition (Song prescribed: "Long mo bhruadair") (Confined to first-prize winners in premier solo competitions at provincial meetings) (Medals presented by the Cape Breton Island Gaelic Foundation)—1, (Gold Medal) Iona Macdonald, Harris (93, 90, 183); 2, (Silver Medal) Margaret A. Mackinnon, Glasgow (92, 86, 178); 3, (Bronze Medal) Hamish A. S. MacMurchy, Kyle (91, 86, 177).

BARRFIELDS PAVILION. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: A. J. MacAskill, M.A., and Derick S. Thomson, M.A. Music: Cedric Thorpe Davie and Dr. T. M. McCourt.

Solo singing of the songs, "Òch nan och is mi fo léireadh" (ladies), and "Tuireadh Aird Chobhar" (men), along with a song chosen by competitor, Ladies—1, Ina MacDiarmid, Greenock (181, 177, 358); 2, Sheila Ann Macdougall, Glasgow (183, 165, 348). Men—1, John A. MacRae, Glasgow (185, 172, 357); 2 (equal), Neil Campbell, Luing (182, 161, 343), and Murdo F. J. Macleod, Edinburgh (184, 159, 343).

Gold Medalists (aggregate of marks of specified competitions). Ladies—1 (and Gold Medal), Ina MacDiarmid, Greenock (361, 351, 712); 2, Iona Macdonald, Harris (362, 341, 703); 3, Sheila Ann Macdougall, Glasgow (363, 336, 699). Men—1 (and Gold Medal), John A. MacRae, Glasgow (370, 344, 714); 2, Murdo F. J. Macleod, Edinburgh (366, 332, 698); 3, Neil Campbell, Luing (362, 330, 692).

BARRFIELDS PAVILION. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Neil Macleod, M.A. Music: Dr. T. M. McCourt.

Choral singing of the songs, "Oran Mór MhicLeòid" and "S i mo leannan an té ùr" (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 Colonel and Mrs. Iain Campbell of Airds)—1, Portree Gaelic Choir (179, 176, 355); 2, Laxdale Gaelic Choir (180, 174, 354); 3, Bowmore Gaelic Choir (178, 175, 353); 4, Salen Gaelic Choir (176, 172, 348).

Dalriada Cup, presented by Mr. and Mrs. S. Smith, Lochgilphead, for choir with highest marks in Gaelic in Lorn Shield competition—Laxdale Gaelic Choir (180).

BARRFIELDS PAVILION. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: John Macdonald, M.A. Music: Dr. George A. Armstrong.

Choral singing of the songs, "Tha 'n samhradh air tighinn" and "Cead dreannach nam beann" (confined to choirs from rural districts, excluding towns of more than 2,000 population) (Sheriff Macmaster Campbell Memorial Cuach)—1, Southend Gaelic Choir (180, 180, 360); 2, Ardrishaig Gaelic Choir (180, 173, 353); 3, Lochalsh Gaelic Choir (178, 172, 350); 4, Lochgilphead Gaelic Choir (179, 170, 349).

CLARSACH COMPETITIONS

STEWART MEMORIAL HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Mrs. W. W. Murray, M.A. Music: Miss Sanchia Pielou.

Solo singing with self accompaniment on the clarsach, of "Oran Mór MhicLeòid" and a song chosen by competitor (Hilda Mary Campbell Clarsach and Silver Clarsach Brooch, presented by Mrs. Iain Campbell of Airds)—1, A. M. Impey, Herts (77, 80, 157); 2, C. V. A. MacEchern, Creetown (75, 75, 150).

Playing two contrasting airs on clarsach (Prizes presented by Mrs. A. E. Matheson)—1, Gwendolen McGill, Ayr (85); 2, C. V. A. MacEchern, Creetown (80).

Accompanying of a singer on clarsach (Songs prescribed: "An là a' glasadh" and "Tha mi 'g ionndrainn nan gilleann") (Prizes presented by Edinburgh Branch of Comunn na Clarsaich and Mrs. H. J. Wilson)—1, Gwendolen McGill, Ayr (80); 2, A. M. Impey, Herts (78).

FRIDAY

DUNN MEMORIAL HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Dr. Annie M. Mackenzie, Music: Dr. T. M. McCourt.

Duet singing (own choice)—1 (equal), Catherine and Tom Crawford, Bowmore (92, 90, 182), and Duncan A. Ferguson and Murdo F. J. Macleod, Edinburgh (92, 90, 182); 2, Ann Grant and Jean Matheson, Kyle (92, 89, 181).

Quartette singing (mixed voices) of song, "S i luaidh mo chagair Móràg"—1, Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association Quartette No. 3 (90, 90, 180); 2, Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association Quartette No. 1 (88, 86, 174).

DUNN MEMORIAL HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: John Mackay, M.A. Music: Cedric Thorpe Davie.

Choral singing (female voices) of the songs, "Mar-aichean nan tonn" and "A' Chuthag" (Esme Smyth Trophy)—1, Stornoway Gaelic Choir (181, 176, 357); 2, Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association (179, 174, 353); 3, Campbeltown Gaelic Choir (177, 175, 352).

BARRFIELDS PAVILION. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Neil Macleod, M.A. Music: Dr. George A. Armstrong.

Choral singing of the *puirt-a-beul*, "Brochan lom" and "Bodachan a' mhìreinn" (Greenock Gaelic Choir Cup)—1, Greenock Gaelic Choir (90, 88, 178); 2, Govan Gaelic Choir (88, 89, 177); 3, Dunoon Gaelic Choir (89, 87, 176).

BARRFIELDS PAVILION. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: John Macdonald, M.A. Music: Dr. George A. Armstrong.

Choral singing (male voices) of the songs, "An cluinn thu mi" and "Triall mara na h-I" (Mull and Iona Shield, presented by Mr. and Mrs. Neil Cameron)—1, Coisir Fhear Inbhir-Nis (180, 180, 360); 2, Greenock Gaelic Choir (180, 178, 358); 3, Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association (179, 176, 355).

BARRFIELDS PAVILION. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: Dr. Annie M. Mackenzie and Derick S. Thomson, M.A. Music: Cedric Thorpe Davie and Dr. T. M. McCourt.

Choral singing of two songs, "Griogal Cridhe" and "Moladh Beinn Dòrain" (at least 50 per cent. of each choir to be Gaelic speakers) (Lovat and Tullibardine Trophy)—1, Campbeltown Gaelic Choir (179, 179, 358); 2, Greenock Gaelic Choir (179, 174, 353); 3, Glasgow Musical Association (176, 174, 350); 4, Oban Gaelic Choir (177, 167, 344).

Weekly Scotsman Cuach for choir with highest marks in Gaelic in Lovat and Tullibardine Trophy Competition—(equal) Campbeltown Gaelic Choir (179) and Greenock Gaelic Choir (179).

DUNN MEMORIAL HALL. ADJUDICATORS—Gaelic: A. J. MacAskill, M.A., and John Macdonald, M.A. Music: Dr. George A. Armstrong.

Choral singing in four-part harmony of the songs, "O 's tu 's gura tu air m'aire" and "O hi ri ri e a tighinn" (Confined to choirs from towns of over 2,000 population: at least 25 per cent. of each choir must be Gaelic speakers) (The Margrat Duncan Memorial Trophy, presented by the Glasgow Inlay Association and friends)—1, Dingwall Gaelic Choir (183, 179, 362); 2, Lethian Celtic Choir (180, 179, 359); 3, Edinburgh Gaelic Choir (178, 170, 348).

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

STEWART MEMORIAL HALL. ADJUDICATOR—R. J. Collins, F.T.C.L.

Playing of a Highland march, strathspey, and reel on the pianoforte (confined to amateurs) (The Aberdeenshire Targe, presented by the Aberdeen and District Pipers' Society)—1, Ronald MacKellaig, Glenfinnan (36); 2, Alice M. Urquhart, Edinburgh (35); 3, Mabel M. Rowan, Edinburgh (34).

Playing of a Highland march, strathspey, and reel on the violin (confined to amateurs) (The Sutherland Cup, presented by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sutherland)—1, I. Kennedy, Fort William (35); 2, D. Henderson Skipness (34); 3, Glen Macfarlane, Glen Masson (33).

Playing of a strathspey and reel on the violin (Competitors must be natives of Glenmoriston, Glenurquhart, or Stratherrick districts, or failing such, natives of County of Inverness, excluding burghs of 2,000 population or more) (The Mrs. Quintin MacLennan Prizes)—1, J. Grant, Culloch (35); 2, I. Kennedy, Fort William (34).



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar VIII

AN T-SAMHUIN, 1956

Aireamh 11

Co-fharpaisean Comunn na h-Oigridh

Annas A' Ghaidheal Og, Lùnasdal seo chaidh, dh'fhoillsich sinn ainmean na feadhna a choisinn duais air son litir Ghàidhlig a sgrìobhadh gu Dòmhnall Iain MacGilleathain mu'n chuspair, "Saor-làithean na Càisge."

Seo a nis na litrichean a choisinn na prìomh duaisean.

Balaich: A' Cheud Duais

Sgoil Sir Edward Scott,
Tairbeart na Hearadh.
12 Chéitean, 1956.

A Dhòmhnail Iain, a Charaid,

Gur mise bha toilichte an latha a dhùin ar sgoil air son Cead Sgoile na Càisge. Air son seachdainean roimh an latha, seadh eadhon miosan, gur tric a bha mi ag aisling troimh an latha air na làithean sona ud a bha air thoiseach. Ged a shaoil mi mu dheireadh nach tigeadh an latha ud idir, thàinig e. Chuir mi gach smuaint mu dheighinn Laidinn, Ceistean, agus gach nì de'n t-seòrsa sin a mach as mo cheann, agus air dhòmhach tighinn dhachaigh thilg mi mo leabhraichean ann an cùil agus dhòchoimhnich mi iad gu grad. Tha mi a' creidsinn gur iad ar maighistirean-sgoile a fhuair am faothachadh an uair a chunnaic iad am plathadh mu dheireadh dhinn a mach an dorus!

B'e an t-Sàbaid as déidh sin Di-dòmhnach Càisge, agus tha sean-fhacal a bha aig ar sinnsearan ag innseadh dhuinn roimh-làimh cuin a thig Di-dòmhnach Càisge a steach gach bliadhna. Is ann mar seo a chuala mi fhéin i: "A' cheud Di-màirt de'n t-solus Earraich, Di-màirt Inid, agus seachd seachdainean bho'n latha sin, o bhreith gu bàs, Di-dòmhnach Càisge." Tha seo cho frinneach is a ghabhadh e bhith.

Fad na seachdain sin bha mi a' cur buntàta, agus an uair a bhà sin ullamh thòisich mo bhràthair is mi fhéin air buain na mònachd. Annas a' chearn seo de na Hearadh feumar am buntàta a chur fo'n talamh le spaid; tha an talamh ro-chreagach air son innleachd sam bith eile. Ach chòrd an obair glé mhath riùmsa—cha robh mòran buntàta r' a chur. Cha bhí e dorrbh a thuigsinn car son a chaidil mise "mar ròn" na h-oidhcheannan sin!

Gu fortanach bha an aimsir blàth, tioram, is fad dà latha bha mo bhràthair is mi fhéin a' buain na mònachd. Bha mi greis annas a' bhac-mònadh, agus greis air an iarann, is mar sin roimh Di-sathurna bha i deiseil. Ach chan ann ag obair a bha mi fad na h-ùine idir—gu dearbh, cha ann! Bha mo bhràthair is mi fhéin a' sealg gu math tric, agus, ged nach do mharbh mise beathach, thug e toilicheadh inntinn dhomh gun do ghabh iomadh coimeanach eagal roimh mo luaidhe!

Ach tha mi de'n bheachd fhathast gun do mharbh mi sgarbh, oir an déidh dhomh loisgeadh is a chaidh e fo'n uisge bha itean gu leòir air bàrr an uisge. Nam biodh an sgarbh ud air tighinn air tìr chan fheumadh e spionadh co-dhùibh! Ach is fheàrr dhomh gun innseadh idir mu'n iasg mhór mhòr a chail mi. Tha mi a' creidsinn nach fhaic mi gu bràth a leithid.

Ach aon latha dhùisg mi agus thàinig smuaint 'na mo cheann a dh'fhàg mi fann—bha an sgoil a' fosgladh an diugh. An latha sin, an uair a bha sinn aig Laideann, bha mi a' smuainteachadh gu tìrsach air Cead Sgoil na Càisge a chòrd rium cho math. 'S e altan a' mhaighistirean-sgoile air bàrr mo chinn a thug air ais m'aire gu far an robh mi. Ach 's e aon nì cinnteach nach do chòrd ùine cho goirid cho math ruim o chionn fhada.

Feumaidh mi a nis mo litir a thoirt gu crìch.

Mise leis gach spéis,

AILEAN MAC-AN-TUATRNEIR (Aois 14.)

Caileagan: A' Cheud Duais

8 Sgiathnadain,

Dun-bheagan,

An t-Eilean Sgiathanach.

An 18mh de'n Chéitean.

A Dhòmhnail Iain, a Charaid,

An uair a dh'innis ar bana-mhaighistirean-sgoile dhuinn gu robh sibh ag iarraidh oirnn sgrìobhadh thugaibh, agus gu robh duaisean ann air son nan litrichean a b'fheàrr a gheibheadh sibh, tha mi a' smuainteachadh gun d'rinn a h-uile sgoilear suas 'inntinn gun esan no ise a gheibheadh an duais.

AN GAIDHEAL OG

Tha làithean-féille taitneach aig a h-uile h-ám agus is iad as fhaide na feadhainn as taitniche. Tha làithean-féille na Càisge, ged a tha iad mar as trice goirid, glé thlachdmhor. Is ann do sgoil Dhun-bheagan a tha mise a' dol, is am bliadhna dhùin i air an naoidheamh latha fichead de'n Mhàrt, agus dh'fhosgail i air an dara là deug de'n Ghiblin—greiseag bheag laghach foise.

Bha side brèagh ann feadh nan làithean-féille uile, is gu dearbh cha mhór nach canainn gu robh e ro-mhath, oir a h-uile latha math bha obair ri dheanamh a muigh! Bha buntàta ri chur, agus ged a bha mi fhéin agus mo dhruim glé ghoirt, chòrd an obair rium glé mhath. Bha mòine ri buain, agus gu dearbh is e sin obair as toigh leam a bhith a' deanamh. Fàsaidh mi cho salach ann am poll-mòna, agus an uair sin tha a h-uile duine a' smaoinichadh gu robh mi ag obair gu trang.

Chaidh mi cuideachd suas gu mullach Beinn MhicLeòid, agus gu dearbh is e seallaidhean brèagh a chì neach bho mhullach na beinne ud.

Campa Comuna na h-Oigrìdh, 1956

CHA robh an t-side air an t-samhradh seo idir cho tioram no cho blàth is a bha i na h-oigrìdh, ach cha duhairt sin nach do chòrd A' Champa ris a' chloinn a thàinig gu Cnoc nan Ròs. Bha ceithir deug ar fhichead ann as gach càrn, cuid dhiubh a bha còmhla ruinn roimhe, ach a' chuid mhór dhiubh 's e seo a' cheud uair riamh a bha iad an Cnoc nan Ròs, agus gu leòir dhiubh b'e seo a' cheud uair dhaibh a bhith air falbh o'n dachaigh cho fada.

B'ann anamoch oidhche Di-sathuirne a ràinig iad, as déidh oidhche a' chur seachad air a' bhàta; còig uairean a shìde a' sràidearachd an Malaig mun d'fhuair iad am bàta do'n Chaol, far an d'fhuair iad an trèan. Bha a h-uile dùil againne gum biodh iad leth-mharbh, mus faigheadh iad do'n leaba, ach feuch thusa an robh! 'S iad a bha aighearach, toilichte, agus boil air gach fear is té aca ag innse dhòmhsa gach rud annasach a' chunnaic iad air an turus. Chan 'eil mi a' creidsinn nach robh iad toilichte gur e an t-Sàbaid a bha ann an ath là gus cothrom a bhith aca faighinn seachad air an sgìos.

Gu math tràth madainn Di-luain bha iad air an cois, agus cabhag orra feuch am faigheadh iad tòiseachadh air cluich, ach mun do thòisich a' chluich bha obair aca ri dheanamh. Bha an taigh ri ghlanadh aig na caileagan, agus bha aig na balaich ri fiodh a' ghearradh air son

Bha an latha grianach, ciùin, agus bha a h-uile eilean beag a' coimhead cho àlainn anns a' mhuir ghurim, fada air astar anns a' Chuan Sgiathanach.

Chuir mi an còrr de na làithean-féille seachad le a bhith a' falbh air m'each-iarainn agus a' deanamh obair-taighe—obair nach 'eil mi ro-mheasail air idir. Chaidh na làithean mu dheireadh seachad gun fhios dhomh, agus mus robh fios agam càit an robh mi bha mi a' deanamh deiseil air son na sgoile. Chaidh mi fhéin, agus tha mi a' creidsinn a h-uile sgoilear eile, air ais do'n sgoil an déidh làithean-féille gu math taitneach a chur seachad. Tha sinn a nis a' coimhead le aoibhneas ri làithean-féille an t-Samhraidh, agus bithidh sinn an dòchas nach 'eil iad cho fad air falbh.

Mar sin, ma tà, chan 'eil an còrr naidheachdan agam dhuibh, agus bithidh mi a' crìochnachadh na litreach seo leis na beannachdan.

Is mise, le deagh dhùrachd,

OHNA NIDHOMHNAILL (Aois 14.)
(Sgoil Dhun-bheagain.)

teine a bhith aca fhéin feasgar. Seo mar a bha iad a' cur seachad cuid mhath de gach madainn, agus bha fad an là aca as déidh sin air son gach cluich is cleas mar a thogradh iad.

Chaidh sinn aon là a mach gu cuirm-chnuic is lùth-chleasan a bhith againn. Mun robh sinn leitheach thàinig an deàrsach uisge. Bha sinn bog fliuch mun do ràinig sinn an taigh ach ma bha mo thogair, chòrd an là ruinn agus cha robh teine mór fiodha fada a' tiormachadh gach sgòd aodaich a chaidh a fhliuchadh.

Bhiodh céilidh agus dannsa againn a h-uile feasgar, agus an là bha seo có a thigeadh a' thadhail oirnn ach Eòghann Mac-a-Phi o'n Bh.B.C. agus an uair a chuala esan cho math is a bha a' chlann air seinn chaidh céilidh a chur air chlàr agus tha mi cinnteach gum do chòrd seo ris gach neach a chuala e air an ràdio.

Cho math is gu robh a bhith an Cnoc nan Ròs thàinig òra dhuinn dealachadh, agus thog a' chlann orra dhachaigh. Tha amharas agam nach ann buileach gu léir je sùnd a dh'fhalbh cuid dhiubh dhachaigh. Mhothaich mi gu robh an cianalas air feadhainn agus an cridhe trom a' dealachadh ri companaich nach fhaiceadh iad a ris gus an ath shamhradh.

Siùthadaibh sibhse, a chlann—bithidh Cnoc nan Ròs an siod, agus gach nì an òrdan math a dh'fheitheamh oirbh an ath shamhradh.

D. I. McG.

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Ruaig Cuain

Le NIALL MACDHOMHNAILL

(Choisinn an sgeul fhada seo Duais Comunn Gàidhlig Ghlaschu aig a' Mhòd Nàiseanta, 1956.)

IS iomadh sgeul a tha air innse mu thimcheall nithean a thachair no a ghabh àite anns na h-Eileanan an Iar. Is e eileanan iomraiteach eachdraidheil a tha annta—eileanan air an do righich na Lochlannaich thairis fad ceithir cheud bliadhna. Tha ainmeanan nam beanntan, nan lochan, agus nam bailtean a' nochdadh sin dhuinn glé shoilleir.

Nach ann air na h-Eileanan an Iar a chuir am Prionnsa Teàrlach a aghaidh an uair a thàinig e a nall as an Fhraing a thagairt còir air crùn Bhreatainn, agus a rithist far an do chuir e seachad iomadh latha an uair a bha e fo'n choill an deidh blàr Chuil-lodair?

Cha leig mi a leas innse dhuibh mu'n ghnìomh a rinn Fionnghal NicDhòmhnaill: cò nach cuala an sgeul ud? Cò a rithist nach cuala iomradh uair no uair-eigin mu'n linn uamhasach ud ris an canadh na seann daoine "Linn nan Creach"? Chan ann mu thimcheall ni dhuibh sin a tha mo sgeul dhuibh an dràsda. Chuala mi an sgeul a leanas air a h-aithris le seann duine còir a bha a' streap suas ris a' cheithir fichead bliadhna.

O chionn còrr agus ceud gu leth bliadhna air ais, an uair a bha Breatainn agus Ameireaga a' cogadh an aghaidh a chèile, bhiodh soithichean-cogaidh Breatainnach a' siubhal cladaichean nan Eileanan an Iar agus a' togail leò neach sam

bith a roghnaicheadh iad air son an cur a null thairis. Is iomadh dachaigh anns an do dh'fhàgadh beàrn.

Air madainn àraidh, suas mu dheireadh an fhoghair, bha Loch Róghadail an ceann a deas na Hearadh cho ciùin is gach nì mun cuairt cho sàmhach is cho sìtheil. Dh'fhaodadh neach a ràdh gur e peacadh a bhiodh ann an t-sàmh-chair a bhriseadh. Bha Tùr Chliamain mar a bha e o shean 'na sheasamh gu h-àrd os cionn an locha, sgeadaichte le dreach na h-aoise agus coltach ri neach a bhiodh a' cumail faire thairis air luchd-àiteachaidh a' ghlinne. Tha feadhainn a tha ainmeil ann am bàrdachd is ann an eachdraidh, mar a tha Alasdair Crotach, Màiri Nighean Alasdair Ruaidh, agus Iain Moireastan ("Gobha na Hearadh") 'nan cadal buan ri a thaic.

Ach air a' mhadainn chiùin seo chaidh sàmhchair an àite a bhriseadh an uair a ghoid soitheach-cogaidh a staigh a Loch Róghadail a cheart cho fiata ri cat a bhiodh a' sealg air luch.

Dh'acraich i am meadhon an locha, agus thàinig trìthir shaighdearan, is oifigeach air an ceann, gu trì aisele le eathar beag. Chuir iad an aghaidh air bothan beag tughaidh a bha fo sgàile creige astar goirid air falbh, agus choisich iad a staigh a cheart cho dàna is ged a b'ann

leo fhéin a bhiodh e, gun fiù is an dorus a bhualadh.

Cha robh air a chois aig an ám ach aon ghille mór tapaidh, is e 'na shuidhe aig a' bhòrd a' gabhail a thràth-maidne. Thuig an gille glé mhath dé an turus air an robh na saighdearan. Gun ghuth no facal a ràdh, thug fear dhiubh ionnsaigh gu greim a dheanamh air, ach, ma thug, cha b'ann gu bhanaid. Chaidh an gille air a bhonnan is rug e air cùl na cathrach air an robh e 'na shuidhe le a dhà làimh, agus le aon bhuille bhris e 'na blioghean i air an ùrlar.

Le sgealb de'n chathair 'na làimh thionndaidh e air na saighdearan, agus thòisich an t-sabaid, buille thall 's buille bhos, is ged a bha ceathrar dhiubh m'a choinneamh leag e iad, fear an déidh fir, gu làr. Cha deanadh math dha a nis fuireach na b'fhaide an Róghadal, oir bha deagh fhios aige, nan tuiteadh e an làmhan an airm, gum bu cheart cho math dha a bhith marbh ri e a bhith beò. Chuidhtich e an taigh is am baile, agus chaidh e tarsaing na beinne gus an ath bhaile, Srannda, a bha mu chuairt air mìle air falbh.

An uair a bha an gille a' cromadh sìos cliathaich na beinne os cionn Shrannda, thug e an aire do chuid-eigin shìos aig a' chladach. Chùm e cho dìreach is a ghabhadh e deanamh dha air an duine seo, agus ge b'fhada air falbh e cha b'fhada 'ga ruigheachd.

Chuir an gille a theachdaireachd an céill do'n iasgair a bha a' faighinn an eathair deiseil gu falbh a thogail nan cliabh ghriomach. An uair a chuala e sgeul a' ghille, an esan, "Cha dean math dhuit dàil a dheanamh anns an àite seo. Feumaidh tu do cheann a thoirt fodhad a dh'ait-eigin, agus cha dean thu nì na's fheàrr na t'aghaidh a chur air Pabaidh, is faodaidh tu an t-eathar agamsa a thoirt leat."

Gun an còrr dàil no maille a dheanamh chaidh an t-eathar a chur air bhog agus leum gille Róghadail 'na broinn, is mun do ruith mionaid na h-uaireach bha e air a rathad fo sheòl.

Théid sinn a nis a null gu Róghadal ach am faic sinn dé a tha a' dol air adhart anns a' bhaile ud.

An uair a thàinig na saighdearan gu am mothachadh fhéin anns a' bhothan bheag ud, faodaidh neach a thuigsinn dé a rinn iad is cò air an tug iad oidhirp.

Shiubhail iad gach cnoc is bealach, agus cha do dh'fhàg iad sabhal no bàthach gun rannsachadh, ach aon sgeul cha robh air an fhear a thug leth-phronnadh orra. An teis-meadhon na h-ùpraid a bha ann, thug fear de na saighdearan a bha gu h-àrd air mullach cnuc an aire do bhàta beag fo sheòl agus i a' cumail an iar troimh Chaol na Hearadh. Bhuail e ris gu

làidir gum b'e siud am fear air an robh iad an t-oir teicheadh air falbh.

Chaidh an eubh mun cuairt, agus chuir na saighdearan an aghaidh air a' chladach is air an long-chogaidh. A nis, duine sam bith a chunnaic Caol na Hearadh riamh tuigidh e gur e caolas glé chamachadh a tha ann, làn sgeirean is bhodhannan, agus cha b'fear gun eòlas a ghabhadh air fhéin a làmh a chur air falmadair gus bàta a thoirt troimhe, eadhon bàta na bu lugha na long-chogaidh.

Cha b'eagal do'n long seo, gu tà, no do neach a bha air bòrd innte, oir bha fear-iùil innte cho math is a bha air na h-astair.

B'e sin fear a mhuinntir Chaolas Stocinis (baile beag air taobh an ear na Hearadh) ris an canadh iad "Alasdair Dubh nan Ceannt". Is e Alasdair MacLeòid an t-ainm ceart a bha air (agus caraide mór do MhacLeòid Róghadail), ach choisinn e am far-ainm ud le gnìomh oilleiteil a rinn e bliadhnanachan roimhe siud.

Cha bu luaithe a chaidh na saighdearan air bòrd na long-chogaidh na chaidh an t-acaire a thogail. Chuireadh an soitheadh fo làn uigheam, agus a sròn a chur do'n àird-an-iar troimh Chaol na Hearadh le Alasdair Dubh nan Ceannt air an stiùir.

Bha gille Róghadail le a fhalmadair fhéin 'na làimh anns an eathar bheag, agus e air earrann mhath de'n chaol fhàgail as a dhéidh a nis. An dràsda 's a rithist bheireadh e sùil thairis air a ghualainn gun fhios nach do mhòthaich na saighdearan dha a' teicheadh air falbh, agus gum faodadh iad tighinn air a thòir.

Ach cha robh nì ri fhàicinn no ri chluinntinn ach eunlaith na mara air ais 's air adhart, agus ròn air sgeir an siud 's an seo. Eadar a' ghaoth is an sruth a bhith 'na fhàbhar agus a cheannuidhe a nis 'na fhianais, bha e 'ga fhàireachadh fhéin tèarainte' bho gach cunnart air muir is air tìr.

Ach mo chreach! sùil dh'an tuc e an turus ud air a chùlaibh, thug e an aire do bhàta is i a' coimhead glé mhór a' tighinn timcheall Rubha nan Sgarbh an eilean Easaidh. Thug e sùil eile orre agus cha robh teagamh sam bith mu'n chùis a nis—b'e siud an long-chogaidh, a cheart bhàta is a chunnaic e an Loch Róghadail agus, a réir a h-uile coltais, i a' deanamh calg-dhìreach air an aon chala ris fhéin.

Coma co-dhùibh, bha e a nis gu bhith air tìr, agus cha bu luaithe a bhuail toiseach an eathair aige an grunnn na bha e 'na dheannruith suas an tràigh. Cha do sheall e taobh seach taobh gus an do bhuannaich e leac-anteintean an taighe a b'fhaisge air. Duine cha robh fo na cabair ach seana bhean agus a' cur mun cuairt lite a bha air gheall ann am poit mhóir phraisich a bha crochte air slabhraidh iarainn os cionn an teine.

Dh'innis an gille dhi mar a thachair dha an Róghadal is gu robh na saighdearan a nis air a thóir is gum biodh iad air tìr uair sam bith tuilleadh. Chomhairlich bean an taighe dha ceann eile a' bhaile a thoirt air, far an robh na fir uile 'aig faing chaorach agus far an robh i cinnteach am faigheadh e àite dìon math. Rinn an gille mar a chaidh iarraidh air, agus fhuair na seòid a bha roimhe an siud àite dìomhair dha far an robh iad deagh chinnteach nach lorgadh saighdear no duine eile.

Bha an long-chogaidh air am port a' bhuannachadh a nis, agus feadhainn de na bha air bòrd innte a' coiseach gu dian a nuas o'n tràigh. Chùm iad air a' cheart thaigh d'an deach an gille an toiseach ach, mar a rinn sealbh dha, bha esan air a chasan a thoirt leis.

Choisich iad a staigh dìreach mar a rinn iad an Róghadal beagan uairean an uaireadair roimhe siud, gun ghuth no facal a ràdh. Ach, ma choisich, bu luaithe na sin iad a' tilleadh a mach! Cha robh iad ach gann air nochdadh a staigh air an doras bheag an uair a thog an t-seana bhean lodair mór fiodha agus stiall i orra leis an lite ghòileach. Ghabh iad taobh-cùil na còmhlaidh is cha b'ann air an socair! Dh'aidich an t-oifigeach an déidh-làimhe gum bu cheart cho math leis seasamh ri aghaidh luaidhe a' ghunna latha sam bith de'n t-seachdain seach lite ghòileach na caillich.

Cha do chuir siud stad orra idir, gu tà; bha deagh amharas aca gu robh am fear a theich á Róghadal an àit-eigin anns an eilean seo. Chunnaic iad an t-eathar mun do bhuail i an tràigh agus bha fios aca nach fhàgadh duine sam bith eathar air tràigh no an àite eile gun gabhail aice ach fear nach biodh aige fhéin, air neo fear air am biodh cabhag mhór, agus cha robh rian no rathad aige a nis a bhith fad as.

Mun do ruith leth-uair an uaireadair bha am baile tiugh le saighdearan agus thionndaidh iad am baile bun os cionn, ach aon lorg cha d' fhuair iad air gille Róghadail.

Gun fhios dé a dh' fhaodadh tachairt, smaoinich fir an eilein gum b' fheàrr dhaibh àit air chor-eigin eile fhaotainn do'n ghille. Cha robh iad air son cus dàileach a dheanamh, agus am marbhan a' mheadhon-oidhche dh' fhalbh iad leis gu geodha a bha an cùl an eilein, ris an canadh iad "'A' Gheodha Ruadh'". Leig iad sìos innte e air ròp, oir cha robh an còrr rathaid no dòigh air faighinn innte bho thìr ach mar siud.

Chuir na saighdearan an ath latha seachad o mhoch gu dubh a' siubhal nan cnoc is nan cladaichean, ach a dh' aindeoin an cuid siubhail is rannsaichadh thill iad air ais falamh mar a dh' fhalbh id. Thachair an aon ni an ath latha, agus an ath latha a rithist. Cha robh muinntir an eilein a' deanamh dearmad air an fhear a bha

anns a' Gheodhaidh Ruaidh idir, is iad nach robh. A h-uile oidhche mar a bha a' tighinn bha iad a' dol chuige le biadh is deoch agus 'gan leigeil sìos chuige le ròp.

A nis, am measg na bha a' fuireach an Pabaidd aig an àm ud bha fear ann ris an canadh iad "'Alasdair Ruadh'". Bha Alasdair beagan na b' fheàrr dheth 'na chrannchur na càch, agus mar chomharradh air sin bha balla an taighe aige gealaichte le aol. Mar sin bha aige ri fathachd a thoirt do shaighdearan a' Chrùin, co-dhùbbh a bha e air son sin a dheanamh gus nach robh.

Anns an dol seachad faodaidh mi beagan innse dhuibh mu Phabaidh.

Is e Pabaidd aon de na h-eileanan a tha ann an ceann an iar Caol na Hearadh. Chan 'eil ann ach eilean beag, mu chuart air trì mìle mór-thimcheall, agus an cnoc as àirde a tha ann mu mhìle troigh os cionn na mara. Anns a' bhliadhna 1841 bha trì cheud, fichead is ochd-deug a' gabhail còmhnaidh ann, ach cha robh ann ach dithis an 1881 (dà chlobair). Mar a thachair ann an iomadh àite eile, chaidh am fuadach as air son àite a dheanamh do chaorach agus féidh.

Tha an talamh a tha ann anabarrach math air son a h-uile seòrsa bàrr. Timcheall mu'n àm air a bheil sinn a' bruidhinn bha na Pabaich (mar a theirt riutha) ainmeil am measg nan eileanach air deanamh na deoch-làidir. Is iomadh buidéal a reic iad ris na h-Uibhistich. Is ann á Pabaidd a thàinig deoch tòrraidh Alasdair Chrotaich, ach chaidh seachd bliadhna seachad mun deach am buidéal fhosgladh. Is sgeul eile sin, gu tà, agus a thachair fada roimh àm na sgeòil seo.

A reir beul-aithris, bha Màiri Nighean Alasdair Ruaidh air a fuadach ann. Tha cuid ann nach 'eil uile gu léir cinnteach mu'n chùis sin. Saoilidh mi gu bheil beagan shreathan 'na bàrdachd fhéin a tha a' toirt dearbhadh dhuinn gu robh i ann. Anns an òran, "'Pòsadh MhicLeòid'", tha i ag ràdh:

Mi 'nam shuidh' air chaolas rònach;
M'aghaidh air Hirt nan ian gorma.

Tha an caolas ud air taobh an iar Phabaidh, caolas cumhang a tha eadar Pabaidd agus eilean eile ris an canar Seilleidh. Tha Seilleidh ainmeil air son na bhios a' cruinneachadh ann de ròin, gu h-àraidh suas mu dheireadh an fhoghair aig àm dhaibh tighinn gu tìr a bheire an àil òig.

Tha i ag ràdh a rithist anns an duan, "'Crònan an Taibh'":

Chun an taighe nach gann
Fò an leathad ud thail,

Far bheil aighear is ceann mo mhànrain.

Sir Tormod mo rùin,
Olgharach thu,
Foirmeil o thùs t'àbhaist.

Tha cinnt gu leòir againn air gu robh Sir Tormod a' fuireach ann Beàrnaraidh, agus ch'itheadh Màiri a' taigh à Pabaidd, oir chan 'eil an dà eilean glé fhada bho chèile. Tha mise de'n bheachd gur e an taigh aig Sir Tormod a bha Màiri a' ciallachadh leis na briathran, 'Fo'n leathad ud thall', dìreach mar gum biodh i ag amharc air àite a bhiodh faisg air làmh.

Tha Niall Moireastan ('Bàrd Phabaidh') a' toirt iomradh air Màiri a bhith air a fuadach ann. Bha Niall 'na chobair ann Pabaidd mu mheadhon na linn a chaidh seachad, agus chan 'eil teagamh sam bith nach biodh fuadach Màiri air bilean an t-sluaigh eadhon aig an àm ud fhéin.

Ann an "Oran a' Chianalais" a rinn am bàrd a' cheud gheamhradh a chuir e seachad am Pabaidd ch'ì sinn na sreathan:

Chaidh roimhe ban-Leòdach
chur air fògradh do'n àite seo;
Rinn i luinneagan 's crònain
chur air dòigh ann am bàrdachd dhuinn.
Bhiodh i gearan a cluasan
iomadh uair 's cha bu nàir di e,
Ag éisdeachd gàirich a' chuain
bha cho cruaidh ris na tàirneanaich.

Bha caraiche neo-chumanta a' gabhail còmhnaidh ann am Pabaidd aon uair ris an canadh iad Pàdraig Gobha; agus a réir beul-aithris is ann uaithe-san a thàinig sinnsearachd Gobha na Hearadh. Is sgeul eile sin agus té a tha gu math fada.

Théid mi a nis air ais gu mo sgeul.

Bha latha an déidh latha a' dol seachad, is gun ghuth no iomradh aig na saighdearan air Pabaidd fhàgail. Cha robh eathar a thigeadh no a dh'fhalbhadh nach robh iad 'ga sgrìdadh, agus am port air a gheàrrd a latha 's a dh'oidhche.

Bha e glé choltach gun do chuir iad romhpa gun leagadh iadsan an làmhann luath no mall air an fhear a fhuair as an làmhann an Róghadal. Mar a thubhairt mi cheana, bha latha is latha a' dol seachad, ach mu dheireadh an ceann an fhicheadamh latha chunnacas buidheann de na saighdearan a' falbh le ròpan is cabair fhiodha.

Dh'aithnich na Pabaich gu robh rud air chor-eigin fa-near dhaibh an uair a chunnaic iad iad a' falbh le ròpan, nì nach do rinn iad chuige seo. Ach cha robh teagamh sam bith mu'n chùis a nis—b'e a' Gheodha Ruadh an ceann-uidhe. Bha e eu-comasach dhaibh nì air bith a dheanamh a nis, agus cha robh aca ach fuireach far an robh iad agus feitheamh ris a' chuid a bu mhiosa.

Cha robh an fheitheamh glé fhada. Chunnacas mu dheireadh na saighdearan a' tilleadh air ais agus gille Róghadail eadar dithis dhiubh. Chùm iad dìreach chon na laimrig far an robh an t-eathar beag aca, agus beagan shlatan a mach o'n chladach bha am bàta mòr fhéin air acaire.

O'n fhuair iad a nis greim air an fhear a bha a dhìth orra, cha do rinn iad an còrr maille. Chaidh gille Róghadail a chur air bòrd an eathair bhig gun dàil agus iomradh a mach a dh'iomsaigh na long-chogaidh.

Cha robh duine beag no mór a bha air druim an eilein nach robh an làthair. An uair a bha an long-chogaidh deiseil gu falbh is an t-acaire air a thogail, sheas Alasdair Dubh nan Ceann 'na toiseach agus ars esan, "Fheara agus a mhnathan, tha mise a' làn-chreidsinn gu bi Alasdair Dubh nan Ceann gu math dubh 'nur measg an diugh, ach tha Alasdair 'nur measg fhéin as miosa dhuibh na am fear sin."

Bha an long-chogaidh a' fàgail a' phuirt mun dubhairt Alasdair na faicail mu dheireadh. Sheòl i air falbh a mach as am fianais, agus chan fhacas is cha chualas guth no iomradh air gille Róghadail riamh tuilleadh.

Rinn e maorach an uair a bha an tràigh ann. —He collected shell-fish on the ebb tide. (Cf. "Making hay while the sun shines").

Ubh an trithein dol a dh'iarraidh ubh a' ghèidh.—The wren's egg going to seek the goose's egg. (That is, a small outlay in the hope of big returns).

Bean griasaiche is làir gobha, dithis as miosa caiseart.—Two are worst shod, a shoemaker's wife and a smith's mare.

B'e sin meadhg a thoirt do'n bhanachaig.—That were to give whey to a dairymaid. (That is, giving inferior stuff to a connoisseur).

From "Proverbs from Lewis", by Angus Matheson (*Journal of Celtic Studies*, 1949).

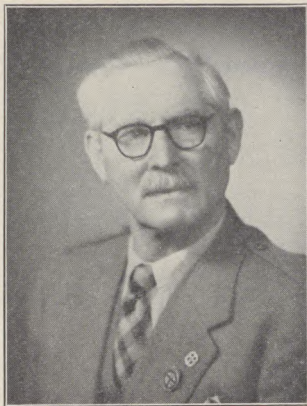
(Contd. from p. 124)

their visits, and the boys and girls enjoyed their company.

The following are the prize-winners at the Learners' Camp: Swordale Cup (for best all-round girl)—Ishbel Edgar. Prizes for Gaelic: 1st Year, Jennifer Calder; 2nd Year, Moira Westwater; 3rd Year, Ishbel Edgar. Special Prize for Best Progress—Christine Mackay. Sewing—Geraldine Oswald. Handcraft—Jessie Buchanan. Best Team—Violet Maclean. Joan Macpherson, Barine Mowat. Best-kept Room—Violet Maclean, Joan Macpherson, Kay Watson, Catherine Mackay, Ishbel Edgar.

D. J. McL.

Our New President



AT the Annual General Meeting of An Comunn Gaidhealach in October last, Mr. Farquhar MacRae was unanimously elected President in succession to Mr. Neil Shaw.

A native of Wester Ross, Mr. MacRae can look back on a long career of varied public service. A graduate in Arts and Science of Glasgow University, he began his teaching career in Glen Urquhart Higher Grade School, then moved to Paisley, and then to Govan and Glasgow. His forty-seven years of school teaching embraced all grades of pupils, from Infant Room to University Standard, rural and city schools, elementary and secondary schools, day schools and residential schools. For ten years he was Headmaster of Queen's Park Senior Secondary School, Glasgow.

A University Blue and Scottish International in Athletics, Farquhar MacRae has all along been keenly interested in the physical, as well as the intellectual and moral, welfare of youth. He has been an enthusiastic organiser of school concerts and camps, hobbies clubs and literary clubs. Himself a shinty player of renown, he has been President of the Southern Shinty League and of the Glasgow and District Schools Hockey Association. He has been a Scoutmaster and a Rover Commissioner.

A member of Glasgow University Officers' Training Corps prior to the 1914-18 War, Mr. MacRae was an Officer Instructor to young officers during that war, and is at present in command of the County of Renfrew Army Cadets, with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

He has been a Session Clerk for twenty-six years, is an administrator of the Royal Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and a Branch Chairman of the National Society of Scotland.

Among Mr. MacRae's present appointments we may mention the following:—President of the Glasgow Teachers' Choral Society (for the past twelve years); member of the B.B.C. Scottish Advisory Committee on Music and Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Piping; Chairman of the Ossianic Club Sub-Committee for Raising Funds for the Glasgow University Celtic Chair; member of the Marriage Guidance Council; and Chairman of Glasgow Celtic Society.

Farquhar MacRae's interest in An Comunn and its activities began some sixty years ago, and he has been an elected member of the Executive Council for almost twenty years. He has served on all the Standing Committees, has

been Convener of the Education Committee and of the Mod and Music Committee, and also a Vice-President.

To the Presidential Chair of An Comunn Mr. MacRae brings a wealth of experience; a keen

mind, and a vigorous personality, and we wish him well in this important office, which he has so richly deserved and in which he can make such a valuable contribution to the work of An Comunn.

Executive Council

THE Executive Council of An Comunn Gaidhealach met in the Highlanders' Institute, Glasgow, on Saturday, 10th November. Mr Farquhar MacRae, President, occupied the Chair, and there was a fair attendance of members.

The President made suitable reference to the deaths of the following friends of the Highlands: The Very Rev. Dr. Dugald MacFarlane, Kingussie, who had done so great a work for Highland education; Mr. Roderick M. Nicol, a Trustee of the Feill Trust; Mrs. Malcolm J. MacIntyre, a hard-working supporter of An Comunn's war-time and other special efforts; and Ex-Provost Campbell and Ex-Provost Dallas, Kingussie, both of whom had been shinty stalwarts.

A minute of the Finance Committee drew attention to certain funds at the disposal of An Comunn, which had not been drawn upon for some considerable time--the Gaelic Drama Fund, instituted by a gift of £250 from the late Mr. Duncan Macleod of Skeabost in 1922; *An Gaidheal* Prize Fund, also instituted by the late Mr. Macleod; and "Canadian Officers' Prize Money". It was suggested that use might be made of the two latter funds, and that further investigations be made regarding the Drama Fund.

The minute also recommended certain arrangements with regard to the staffing of the Northern Organiser's office at Inverness.

A minute of the Education Committee recommended that an effort be made to hold a Gaelic Summer School in Oban in 1957, preferably the latter half of July, or, failing that, earlier in July or early in August. With regard to the Committee's efforts to get information about the position of Gaelic in schools, it was agreed to draft a report on the matter, from what information is available, with a view to approaching the Scottish Education Department with a request for a full investigation into the position. It was also agreed to make an approach to the Director of Education for Renfrewshire concerning the possibility of introducing Gaelic into schools in Paisley and Greenock, and the Director for Sutherland with regard to Gaelic in Dornoch Academy. Dr. Wilson drew attention to the demand for a Gaelic continuation class in Hamilton, but no teacher was available. It was thought this need might be met. The

minute also expressed cordial appreciation of the labour expended by Mr. Charles W. Loch in compiling a Gaelic Technical Dictionary and of his great generosity in presenting five bound MS. volumes of the work to An Comunn.

A minute of the Publication Committee reported that the revised (third) edition of *Bardachd Ghaidhlig* was now in the printers' hands, and that advice and estimates were to be sought with a view to changes in form and content of *An Gaidheal* in the hope that thereby both the number of subscribers and the advertising revenue might be increased. There had been a proposal from Colonel Norman Macleod that An Comunn might consider publishing a Gaelic atlas of Scotland. It was felt that An Comunn did not have the resources for so great an undertaking, and it was agreed to suggest to Colonel Macleod that he submit his proposal to the Royal Scottish Geographical Society. He was assured that An Comunn would give what help it could in the preparation of the place-names. Failing the production of an atlas, Colonel Macleod had proposed the publication of an English-Gaelic Gazetteer. It was agreed that such a publication would be very useful.

The minute of the Propaganda Committee noted that the Executive Council had approved the Committee's recommendation that members of the Committee could help to form new Branches and visit existing Branches. The Committee recommended that Branches should be resuscitated in Portmahaven, Rothesay, and Millhouse, and that an effort should be made to establish new Branches in Aberfoyle, Callander, Lismore, Lochgilphead, and Tarbert (Loch Fyne). It was also recommended that the Northern Propaganda Sub-Committee should arrange to form new Branches in Embo, Bonar Bridge, Lairg, Melvich, Melness, Tongue, Kinlochleven, Ullapool and Scourie.

It was reported that the Secretary had visited the Branches in Dundee, Govan, Vale of Leven, and Kilmarnock. The Dundee Highland Society is arranging to hold Gaelic classes as in previous years. A Gaelic class in Kilmarnock is conducted by the Branch President, Rev. Archd. M. Beaton. The Secretary had also visited the Skelmorlie and District Highland Association, and appreciation was expressed for the generous donation of £200 made by this Association to the Largs Mod Fund. It was

noted with satisfaction that Branches and Affiliated Societies in the Largs area had contributed substantially to the Mod Fund, and many of their members had given invaluable service at the recent National Mod.

There was some discussion on a reference in the minute to the Gaelic test for children at the Mod, and the matter was remitted to the Mod and Music Committee for consideration. It was recommended that meetings might be arranged in Islay with a view to encouraging the use of Gaelic among children.

A minute of the Art and Industry Committee reported that at the National Mod at Largs, although entries in the Art and Industry Section were much less than in previous years, the standard of works submitted was very good. Appreciation was expressed for the assistance given by various people, especially the Art Department of Largs High School. The proposed competitions for the 1958 Mod were submitted and approved. It was agreed to retain the same competitions for Juniors, and to make a special effort to encourage schools to submit entries. In a discussion on ways of increasing interest in the Art and Industry Section of the Mod several useful suggestions were made, e.g., that a direct approach be made to the arts and crafts departments of Highland secondary schools, that photography and painting (of Highland subjects) be included, and that old traditional arts and crafts (not necessarily with Celtic designs), like creel-making, be considered.

Minutes of the Mod and Music Committee were submitted. With regard to the Largs Mod it was reported that neither the Local Secretary, Miss Bruce, nor the Local Treasurer, Mr. Maclachlan, wished an honorarium for their services. This generous gesture on the part of both officials was greatly appreciated and it was agreed to offer them a gift each as a memento and as a token of gratitude. With regard to the 1958 National Mod, it had been confirmed that the Dunoon Branch—while eager to have the Mod, say, in 1959—felt unable to house it in 1958. It had therefore been suggested to the Glasgow (Central) and Govan Branches to consider whether the 1958 Mod might not be held in Glasgow. Both Branches had expressed their willingness to invite the Mod to Glasgow for that year, but, on learning that the Highlanders' Institute Building Fund Committee were planning for a special money-raising effort in 1958, the Council resolved to send a deputation to confer with the Highlanders' Institute Executive Committee before proceeding further in the matter.

The minute of Comunn na h-Oigridh Committee recommended that the new Youth Headquarters at Cnoc-nan-Ros, with the Mem-

orial Gates, be officially opened on the Monday of the Inverness National Mod, 1957. Certain proposals were made for fuller use of Cnoc-nan-Ros, when not required for Comunn na h-Oigridh purposes. It was reported that 34 boys and girls had attended the Native Speakers' Camp, and 23 the Learners' Camp. It was agreed that the "Hector MacDougall Memorial Prize", founded by the Coll Association in memory of the late Mr. Hector MacDougall, for many years "Athair" of Comunn na h-Oigridh, should be used for a literary competition in connection with the Camps at Cnoc-nan-Ros. It was reported that six chanters had been provided for the Grimsay Feachd.

The next meeting of the Executive Council was fixed for Saturday, 12th January, 1957, at 10 a.m. in Glasgow.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the President.

The Oireachtas

By JAMES THOMSON

THE sun was shining brightly over the Irish Sea as we flew in comfort to the Oireachtas Festival, held in Dublin from the 20th to the 28th of October. In no time we sighted the north-east coast of Ireland, and found it easy to understand why in early times there was so much intercourse between Northern Ireland and Western Scotland. Hugging the coast-line within sight of the Mountains of Mourne, we had a perfect view of the neat, green fields stretching down to the seashore between Newtownards and the Liffey.

This year's Oireachtas was considered one of the most successful held since the festival was revived in 1939. It opened, as usual, on Saturday morning with Mass and Divine Service, attended by the leading people in the Gaelic movement.

Competitions in solo singing were held throughout the afternoon, followed by the official opening in the Mansion House that evening. It is customary at the official opening to have a formal address by some prominent scholar. The theme this year was "Love of Fatherland", and the speaker was An t-Athair Seamus Mac Amhlaobh. After the opening speech the Scottish delegates were formally presented to the President of the Oireachtas and invited to address the gathering. All the proceedings were, of course, in Gaelic. Indeed, one of the distinctive features of the festival was the exclusive use of Gaelic on all occasions.

After the opening ceremony choral competitions were held, and, although only three senior choirs competed that evening, they sang between them fifteen songs—five songs per choir. Mr.

Donald MacRitchie, one of the music adjudicators, commented favourably on the standard of choral singing.

With the distribution of very substantial prizes for original work in the varied literary and musical classes the first day of the festival closed, but the people were in no hurry to leave the hall. They loitered and repeated their farewells and shook hands vigorously. One might well imagine that one was back in the Hebrides!

Competitions were held, or displays given, during the whole week. The number of competitors in solo singing, duets, and quartettes, was much smaller than we are accustomed to hear at the Mod; and it would seem that less stress is laid on singing. The practice and use of the State language takes priority.

It was very pleasing, however, to see the response of schools—primary, technical, and secondary—to exhibitions in singing, dancing, instrumental band playing, etc. Large groups of boys and girls from widely scattered areas performed cheerfully and skilfully, and they were rewarded by long orations by officials at the end of each performance.

National games and sports found a place in the week's programme. Hurleying, or shinty, drew by far the largest crowd, 37,000 paying for admission. An exhibition of contemporary art in Eire was widely advertised. But dramatic shows, mostly one-act plays, proved most popular. Four sessions were devoted to drama. Altogether fifteen groups, representing all the Gaelic-speaking areas, competed. The plays were well received by large audiences. These productions were the work of amateurs, but reflected great credit on authors and actors.

One is tempted to make comparisons between the position and prospects of Gaelic in Scotland and Ireland. The primary aim of the Oireachtas is to preserve and encourage an increasing use of the Gaelic language. It is the national language of Eire, and the Government gives it full backing. It is a living language in the State schools, where it is the medium of instruction in all subjects except English. But only 40,000 or so speak it as their ordinary everyday language, whereas in Scotland there are at least 92,000 Gaelic speakers.

Official Irish survives in all the Departments of State, but one seldom, if ever, hears a word of Irish spoken in the streets of Dublin. Will the native Irish speaker survive? So far it would seem that, notwithstanding the full State backing, an Irish-speaking community is not being fostered, while all the time emigration is constantly draining away the young from the purely Irish-speaking districts.

Eire is very much better off for Irish reading matter than Scotland. School texts are varied

and plentiful. Magazines, books, and newspapers to suit different tastes and needs are ready to hand. This is very far from being the case in Scotland, where official backing is largely lacking.

Certain memories of our visit to the Oireachtas stand out. The zeal and attention of the organisers was remarkable. The kindness and hospitality of our hosts will be cherished and remembered by my wife and myself for many a long day.

The leisurely pace of the proceedings left time for visits and sight-seeing. A car run into the valleys of Wicklow County to the sites of relics of a bygone age, a visit to a girls' Protestant college, where everything breathes of Gaelic, even the map names and mathematical text-books, and the courteous welcome to and generous hospitality in the home of one of the college masters, will not readily be forgotten. The longing for privilege of gazing at the famous Book of Kells, treasured in Trinity College, was uplifting. And, best of all, the oft repeated hope to see us back again.

(Mr. and Mrs. James Thomson were the official delegates from An Comunn Gaidhealach to this year's Oireachtas.—Editor.)

Secretary's Notes

The **Govan Branch** held their Annual Concert in the South Govan Town Hall on Friday, 7th September. The Secretary of An Comunn presided and was introduced by the Branch President, Neil Ferguson. There was a good turnout of members and friends, who were delighted with a varied programme of piping and Gaelic and Scots songs. The vote of thanks was ably proposed by John MacFadyen, who is the Secretary of the College of Piping. This Branch holds Ceilidhs every Thursday in the Cardell Hall, near Govan Cross.

Travelling further afield on 9th October, I had the privilege of taking artistes from Glasgow to the opening Ceilidh of the **Skelmorlie and District Highland Association**. The Gaelic artistes who accompanied me were John A. MacRae, (this year's Mod Medallist), Johan Macleod, Peter MacKay, Iain Thomson, and accompanist Chris Turner. To those artistes and others I would like to say "Thank You" for giving such willing service, not only on this occasion but at other times. The genial President of this Association since its inception is Mr. Malcolm Ramsay. It would be appropriate to record here An Comunn's gratitude to the Skelmorlie and District Highland Association for their handsome donation of £200 to the Largs Mod Fund.

The following Friday, 12th October, I paid my first visit to the **Dundee Highland Society**. This Society has been regarded as a Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach for many years. The Society was instituted in 1818. The evening took the form of a Ceilidh and Matter of Opinion. The Chief, John McHardy, M.B.E., M.A., F.E.I.S., presided. It was encouraging to see such a large turnout of members and supporters. During the evening the Secretary, F. G. Lorimer, appealed to members and others to enrol in Gaelic Continuation Classes. It is hoped that sufficient numbers will enrol to form a Beginners' and an Advanced Class.

On 19th October I attended the Annual Gathering of the **Kilmarnock Branch**. John M. Bannerman, O.B.E., Ex-President of An Comunn and Convener of the Mod and Music Committee, was in the chair, and was introduced by the Branch President, Rev. Arch. M. Beaton, M.A. Arrangements for the Gathering were in the capable hands of the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Archibald McEwan. In addition to monthly Ceilidhs, Gaelic Classes are being held weekly in Kilmarnock Academy. There is a possibility, depending on the response from members and supporters, of holding extra meetings between Ceilidh nights, at which talks on Highland subjects will be given.

The **Vale of Leven Branch** held their opening Ceilidh in the Lesser Co-operative Hall, Alexandria, on Wednesday, 24th October. The hall was packed to capacity, and here again I was indebted to the following artistes who accompanied me from Glasgow—Betty MacLean (Scots singer), Johan Macleod, Peter MacKay, Donald Johnston (Violinist), and Chris Turner (Accompanist). An enjoyable programme was greatly appreciated by all present. We were pleased to meet, during the evening, Miss Millar Weir, a keen supporter of the Branch and of An Comunn. Miss Millar Weir presents each year a Gold Medal to the most distinguished competitor in the Senior Literary Competitions at the National Mod.

C. McL.

The Celtic Congress Truro, 1956

By ANGUS DUNCAN

SCOTTISH delegates to this year's Celtic Congress, held in the Cornish capital from August 27 to September 3, realise better than ever before that, even if conditions differ radically in the six countries represented by the Congress, they are the heirs of a common Celtic tradition, being, as the leader of the Breton delegation actually said, "a peculiar people" in the best sense of these words.

The Gorsedd

Of the resurgence of the Celtic spirit in Cornwall itself there was ample proof, culminating in the

annual Gorsedd of the Bards of Cornwall held on the first Saturday of September, and conducted entirely in the Cornish language, when delegates to the Congress watched the impressive open-air ceremony, and saw more than a hundred "bards" of both sexes pledge their loyalty to the ancient Celtic kingdom of Cornwall. The same evening, delegates were guests of the Gorsedd committee at their annual concert, when they were privileged to hear the strong Cornish choir that won the premier award for Male Voice choirs at this year's Welsh National Fisteddoff; and, as some of the Scottish delegates remembered a time when the Trelawny song was quoted by leaders of our Scottish Gaelic renaissance, it was interesting to hear it sung by a large audience at this concert:

And shall Trelawny live?
Or shall Trelawny die?
Here's twenty thousand Cornish men
Will know the reason why.

The musical evenings, with dancing, organised by the local Congress committee, were excellent entertainment, each nation making an attractive contribution to the programme, the Scottish contingent having been augmented on one occasion by members of the Cornwall Scottish Society, who had come from St. Ives, the well-known holiday resort. Others who entertained delegates at those musical evenings were young men and women from Brittany and Wales attending the first Celtic international youth camp to be held in Cornwall.

Congress Meetings

Formal addresses were given during the week, the retiring president, Mr. David Craine, M.A., C.P., giving an admirable address on "Women in Manx folklore and history". This address showed that the Isle of Man shares the Scottish and Irish traditions regarding Deirdre, as well as the Celtic saints, including St. Bride, whose day used to be celebrated by the ceremony of "Bride's Bed", the ritual of which was almost the same as that described in *Carmina Gadelica*. Delegates were pleased to learn that, as a result of Mr. Craine's researches in Manx history and tradition, the Manx Museum and National Trust, of which Mr. Craine is Vice-chairman, had published his first book, entitled, "Manannan's Isle".

Two of the formal lectures were of special interest to the Scots present, the first, by Dr. Annie M. MacKenzie, University of Aberdeen, on "The Scottish Bardic Tradition", and the other, entitled, "An Outline of MacPherson's Work", by Chief Justice Conor Maguire, president of the Irish branch, who was nothing if not up-to-date, reading passages from Derick Thomson's book, *The Gaelic Sources of MacPherson's Ossian*, and having in his possession the B.B.C.'s typescript of Robin Lorimer's recent broadcast talk in the series entitled, "Forgers, Scholars, and Critics".

Branch Reports

Reports from branches were encouraging. A long report by the Breton leader, M. Jean Kerlann, told of much activity, branches of the Celtic Congress being found everywhere, and the national language also making progress in other Breton societies. Several books in Breton had been published, and the children were taught to sing in Breton, while one schoolmaster had asked permission to teach Breton, as an experiment, in his school. The most interesting news, however, was that the French government, yielding at last to pressure, was sending a deputation to Wales to see how bi-lingualism was used in the schools there.

Miss M. E. Cannell, secretary of the Isle of Man branch, submitted a report which showed that their membership was steadily increasing, new members being drawn from all over the island. The branch

was very active, holding frequent meetings in various parts of the island, and, while there were many flourishing Manx societies, their branch of the Celtic Congress was regarded as the most virile of them all.

Mr. Michael Kennedy reported on the language movement in Ireland. The position, he said, had worsened in the Gaelic-speaking areas, and he believed there were more Gaelic-speaking Irishmen to-day in the cities and towns of Great Britain than there were in the whole of the *Gaeltacht* of Ireland. Referring to the Gaelic Book Club, Mr. Kennedy stated that no less than thirty-five titles had been issued to members since the inception of the club seven years ago. (The latest news from Ireland is that a Junior Book Club has now been formed. For an annual subscription of ten shillings, members will receive each year five volumes similar in form and size to the popular Penguin books.)

The Cornish branch, re-formed eighteen months earlier, owes much to its president, Mr. R. Morton Nance, who is also Grand Bard of the Gorsedd and presided at the annual Gorsedd already mentioned. Tribute was paid by Miss Audrey Humphries, local secretary, to this remarkable Cornishman. In Cornwall, members are drawn from all over the county; one gentleman has started classes in Cornish; and another has edited a Cornish-English dictionary. Three plays, written in Cornish, have been produced.

Mr. Euan MacDiarmid, president of the Scottish branch, spoke of the preparations being made for the 1959 Congress, which will be held in Edinburgh, and gave an example of inter-Celtic collaboration when he told of the joint meeting last winter of the Welsh Society and the Celtic Union, when the latter were guests of the Edinburgh Welsh Society. He also mentioned the Brains Trust held by the Edinburgh Celtic Union last session, with the four members of the panel drawn from four of the six Celtic nations. Another Scottish delegate reported on books and periodicals in Scottish Gaelic, and gave an imposing list of recent publications, and of new books and new editions in preparation.

It was a matter of regret that the Welsh branch was not officially represented, especially when one recalls the long association with the parent body of Welsh supporters since the National Union of Welsh Societies organised the first Celtic Conference in 1917. As it happened, the absence of official delegates from the Principality was not conspicuous, the Rev. D. R. Evans, St. Merryn Vicarage, North Cornwall, who was chairman of the local Congress committee, and attended all the meetings, being a Welshman who has learned Cornish, and is a keen student of the Celtic dialects, including Scottish and Irish Gaelic. The young Welsh visitors from the camp at Porthpean also helped to fill the gap.

General Meeting

Only one office changed hands this year. Mr. Richard Jenkin, Cornwall, and Miss E. Ni Chathail-riabhagh, Dublin, were re-elected secretary and treasurer respectively, but, as Mr. Craine's term of office as international president had expired, Chief Justice Conor Maguire, of Dublin, was elected president for a period of five years.

At the general meeting held on Thursday, August 30, the names of former members and friends who had passed away were read by the Secretary, and delegates stood for one minute's silence as a tribute to their memory. They included Mr. Thomas MacNicol, of Newcastle, who was in charge of the Celtic correspondence circle, Mrs. Malcolm MacLean, The Manse, Cononbridge, and Dr. Kenneth Macleod, whom Mr. Craine described as "the Scottish stalwart, who will be forever remembered."

The same meeting accepted an invitation from the

Isle of Man branch to hold the next Congress there immediately after Easter in 1958, that is, during the week commencing April 7, 1958, an early date being necessary to allow Manx members to attend before their busy season begins. A Scottish resolution that the Congress should meet each year between the dates July 1 and August 20, when those holding scholastic appointments are free, was afterwards accepted with the addition of the words, "where possible".

The new president lost no time in congratulating the Cornish branch on having the Congress, which had proved such a great success. He also thanked the Royal Institute of Cornwall for the use of the museum rooms for meetings; the Mayor of Truro for his welcome to the delegates in the City Council Chamber on the eve of the Congress; and last, but not least, Mr. David Craine, who has presided over the Congress for the past five years with such ability and charm.

Learners' Camp at Cnoc-nan-Ros, 1956

AS the heading suggests, this Camp at Cnoc-nan-Ros is for members of Comunn na h-Oigridh who are learners of Gaelic. The majority of those who attend have Gaelic in school, but at Cnoc-nan-Ros they have a chance of speaking the language, and they are encouraged to speak the language during their play periods.

Whilst at the fluent-speakers' camp it is all play and no work, the learners have to attend classes and go on nature-study rambles as well as play.

This year we had girls from Bellahouston and Woodside Senior Secondary Schools and from Embo and Helmsdale. The girls worked hard, and, of course, played harder. We had an outing to Tarbat Ness lighthouse. The day was too windy and cold for us to hold our usual sports, and we spent the afternoon in a sheltered bay by the shore where we had our picnic—sandwiches, ices, lemonade, and lollipops.

At the end of the Camp they had a written test for which we gave prizes. During the time they were at Cnoc-nan-Ros the helpers and I kept our eyes open to see who was the best "all-rounder", the best team at washing-up, and whose was the best-kept room. Prizes were given to them all.

I would like to express my thanks to all who helped at the Camp—Mary Hutchison, Kay Matheson, Jean Wallace, Calum Mackay, Murdo Macleod, and John Bannerman, Junior. I am sure the boys and girls who attended the Camps would like me, on their behalf, to thank members of the Tain Branch of An Comunn who visited Cnoc-nan-Ros and took such an interest in the Camps. Alasdair Maclean and Wilson Davidson were regular visitors. They enjoyed

(Continued on page 118)



AN GAIDHEAL OG

MIOSACHAN COMUNN NA H-OIGRIDH

Leabhar VIII

AN DUBLACHD, 1956

Aireamh 12

Orain air son Cloinne

Le NIALL MACDHOMHNAILL

(Choisinn na trì òrain seo, air an ùr-dheanamh, a' cheud duais aig a' Mhòd Naiseanta, 1956.)

Mo Nighneag

Chì mi 'n nighneag d'an tug mi gealladh,
Nighneag bhòidheach an òr-fhuilht bhuidhe.
Chì mi 'n nighneag d'an tug mi gealladh.

Gur tric mi bruadar mu'n nighneig usail
D'an tug mi luaidh nuair bha mi 'nam bhalach.
Chì mi 'n nighneag d'an tug mi gealladh.

Chì mi 'n dràs d' a' snìomh 's a' càrdadh,
'S i seinn nan dàn anns a' chàinain bhlasda.
Chì mi 'n nighneag d'an tug mi gealladh.

Gur tric mo smuaintean san lagan uaine,
Ri taobh a' chuain far an d'fhuair i h-altrum.
Chì mi 'n nighneag d'an tug mi gealladh.

Ged gheibhinn-s' oighreachd san dùthaich thall
seo,
B' fheàrr leams' an gleann far a bheil mo leannan
Chì mi 'n nighneag d'an tug mi gealladh.

Nam faighinn iùbhrach gum b'e mo dhùrachd
Bhith stiùradh cùrsa air tìr nam beannaibh.
Chì mi 'n nighneag d'an tug mi gealladh.

Ho o ro, 'Ille Bhig

Séisd: Ho o ro, 'Ille bhig,
'Ille bhig bhòidhich,
Ho o ro, 'Ille bhig.

Théid sinn chun na bainnse,
Bidh cainntearachd is ceòl ann.
Ho o ro, 'Ille bhig, etc.

Théid sinn chun na laimrig,
Bidh bàtaichean a' seòladh.
Ho o ro, 'Ille bhig, etc.

Théid sinn chun na buaile,
Bidh crodh is laoih òg ann.
Ho o ro, 'Ille bhig, etc.

Théid sinn chun an aonaich,
Bidh cearcan fraoich 's na frògan.
Ho o ro, 'Ille bhig, etc.

Théid sinn chun na ceàrdaich,
Bidh 'n Gobha leis an òrd ann.
Ho o ro, 'Ille bhig, etc.

Théid sinn gu taigh Màireid,
Bidh iad ri luadh a' chlà ann.
Ho o ro, 'Ille bhig, etc.

Théid sinn chun a' chéilidh,
Bidh fonn ac' air na h-òrain.
Ho o ro, 'Ille bhig, etc.

Théid sinn chun na tràghad,
Is ruithidh sinn gun bhrògan.
Ho o ro, 'Ille bhig, etc.

An Cuilean Ban

Dh'fhalbh an cuilean bàn
Saoil sibh càit an deach e;
Fhuair e mach Di-màirt,
'S ghabh e 'n àird an leathad.
Dh'fhalbh an cuilean bàn.

Shil gu trom mo dheòir,
'S tha mi brònach dubhach,
'Ga do chaidh gach là,
O Dhi-màirt-s' a chaidh.
Dh'fhalbh an cuilean bàn.

Bha do bhian cho bòidheach,
Cha robh sheòrs' ri fhaicinn,
Geal 's air tuar an òir,
Bu tu pròis na dachaigh.
Dh'fhalbh an cuilean bàn.

Is tric a bha sinn còmhla,
Buain nan neòinean geala,
Ruith 's a' cluich le chéil'
Slos is suas an rathad.
Dh'fhalbh an cuilean bàn.

AN GÀIDHEAL OG

Bha thu laghad còir,
'S bu tu 'm peata lurach,
Daonnan ri mo shàil
Ge bè àit a rachainn.

Dh'fhalbh an cuilean bàn.

Dé a nis a ghluais thu
Suas gu fuachd nam beannaibh,
O, ma tha thu beò,
Feuch an till thu dhachaigh.

Dh'fhalbh an cuilean bàn.

(Tha sinn an dòchas gun cuir cuid-eigin ceòl air na trì òrain ghrinn seo. Is e mo bheachd nach d'fhuair sinn òran ùr air son na cloinne cho math ris an fhear seo, "An Cuilean Bàn", bho rinneadh "Sile".—AM FEAR-DEASACH-AIDH.)

Sgeul mu Chu

THACHAIR mo charaid, Dòmhnall, orm aig deuchainn chon bho chionn ghoirid.

Bho'n as ann a dh'fhacinn gliocas, tuigse, agus ealantas a' choin chaorach a thàinig sinn, bha cuid de'n t-seanchas orrasan. "An cuala tu," arsa Dòmhnall, "mu'n chù a bha aig bodach a bha am Blàthaich?"

Thubhairt mi ris nach cuala, agus b'e sin smior na firinn, a chionn cha chuala mise mòran riamh air thimcheall Bhlàthaich fhéin gun tighinn air bodach agus cù a bha a' fuireach ann.

"Ma tà," fhreagair Dòmhnall, "bha e 'na chleachdadh aig a' bhodach a bhith a' dol air uairean do'n Ghearasdan. Mum falbhadh e, bheireadh e a staigh deagh ultach connaidh no mòine agus theireadh e ris a' chù, 'A nis, a laochain, cumaidh tusa an teine a' dol gus an till mi.' Agus cho cinnteach is gun deach an dé seachad, an uair a thilleadh am bodach bhiodh deagh theine roimhe."

"Turus a bha seo thubhairt e ris a' chù, agus e a' dúnadh an doruis, e a bhith cinnteach nach leigeadh e as an teine gus an tilleadh esan.

"Gu mi-fhortanach, thachair eòlach no dhà air a' bhodach anns a' bhaile, agus theich na h-uairean. An uair a thàinig e thar an aiseig bha am feasgar a' ciaradh, agus thubhairt e ris fhéin gum biodh leac an teintein glé fhuar a chionn 's nach d'fhàg e gu leòir de mhòine aig a' chù.

"Ach cha b'ann mar sin a bha. An uair a dh'fhosgail e an doruis, chunnaic e gu robh an teine a' dol mar a b' àbhaist, ach cha b'e mòine a bha air ach aon de na cathraichean anns a' chidsin! Ged a theirig a' mhòine, chuir an cù roimhe gun coimhlionadh e òrdugh a mhaigh-istir, agus mar sin chuir e cathair air an teine, agus an uair a theirig i chuir e té eile air!"

Chan 'eil mise ag iarraidh ortsa, a leughadair,

an naidheachd seo a chreidsinn, mur togair thu. Ach, ma tha do ghoile cho farsaing agus gun sluig thu i gun aon bhuille cagnaidh, is e làn di do bheatha sin a dheanamh!

TAOBH-TUATH EARRAGHÀIDHEAL.

Co-fharpaisean Comunn na h-Oigrìdh

Balaich: An Dara Duais

Dalabrog, Uibhist a Deas.

28/5/56

A Dhòmhnail Iain, a Charaid,

Tha làithean-saora na Càisge a nis seachad, agus tha sinn air tilleadh do'n sgoil. Fhuair sinn dheth aig deireadh a' mhios a chaidh seachad.

Bha mi fhéin gu math toilichte a' dol dhach-aigh, oir bha dùil agam a bhith ag obair air an fhearann.

Latha an déidh dhomh a dhol dhachaigh thòisich mi air treabhadh. Bha dà achadh ri threabhadh, agus bha mi air mo chumail a' dol gus an robh mi deiseil.

An uair a bha mi deiseil dheth sin, thuir m'athair rium gum faighinn latha dheth. Smaointich mise gur e seo an t-am anns am biodh na h-eòin a' neadachadh. Chaidh mi fhéin agus mo charaid Iain a shiubhal air son neadan. Fhuair sinn sia neadan curraicag, agus bho'n a bha sinn faisg air làimh do thaigh Iain fhuair sinn a shlat agus chaidh sinn a dh'iasgadh.

Thòisich mi air Di-luain air a' ghàrdh againn a chladhach. Chuir mi mòran fhrasan agus cuide ri sin fhùran. Chuir mi iad cho dòigheil 's a b'urrainn dhomh, oir bha latha air a chur a mach a h-uile bliadhna anns am bi na daoine a' toirt nam flùran aca air son fhaicinn có aige a tha an gàrradh as fearr.

An ath latha ghabh mi cuairt air a' chladach. An déidh dhomh a dhol astar math, chunnaic mi sail mhór. Bha i deagh phios a mach air a' mhuir, agus thuir mi rium fhéin gum fuirichinn gus an tigeadh i a staigh. An déidh domh fuireach leth-uair phill mi sìos gu ruig an cladach. Bha i an sin air an tràigh gu deiseil. Bho'n a bha sgian agam, chuir mi m'ainm oirre.

Chuir mi seachad a' chuid eile de na làithean saora agam a' deanamh oibreach mun cuairt air an taigh. Anns na feasgair bhithinn a' cluich ball-coise còmhla ri gillean eile.

Ge mór a bhiteas rud, feumaidh e tighinn gu crìch, agus an ceann nan deich làithean bha mise air mo rathad air ais do Dhalabrog.

Do charaid,

GILLEASBUIG MACLULAICH (Aois 14).

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