





LEWIS LICENSING COURT.

STRONG MUSTER OF J.P.'S.

A CERTIFICATE THAT WAS NOT ACCORDING TO FACT.

The annual Licensing Court for Lewis was held at Stornoway on Tuesday. As in former years, keen interest in the proceedings was evinced by the public, and the Court-house was crowded. On the motion of Provost Anderson, Sheriff Smith was appointed Preses, and the other Justices present were—Provost Anderson, Mr James Macrae, Mr J. P. Helm, Mr John Macdonald, Mr Kenneth Smith, Bailie Ebenezer Ross, Mr Peter Liddle, Mr Angus M. Mackenzie, Mr Wm. Russell, ex-Provost Smith, Mr John Mackenzie, merchant, Mr J. P. Helm, Galsoun, Dr Mackenzie, Stornoway; Mr John Morrison, Linnel; Mr Chas. Orrock, Mr Angus Macleod, Portvoller; Mr Peter Liddle, Gress; and Rev. Donald MacCallum, Keose.

Mr Clarke, assessor, read Superintendent Smith's report to the Justices, in which it was stated that besides the three hotel licenses there are in Stornoway 23 Excise licenses, held by 12 individuals. These licenses he stated were the greatest possible course that could be in any community—(applause). They were granted without any inquiry as to the suitability of the applicant or his premises, and the Sheriff hoped their Honours would make some effort to have these licenses withdrawn. He observed from the newspapers that an application for license was to be made for new premises on South Beach. These buildings were not sufficiently far apart from the existing ones to enable him to form any opinion as to their suitability, but considerable progress could be made with them before the Court day.

In reply to Mr Donald Mackenzie, the assessor read the report received after the Court in April 1901 from Somerset House, in answer to the Justices memorial with reference to the wholesale licenses, which was in effect that in the present state of the law they cannot refuse a license to any one who paid the proper duty, irrespective of his character or the suitability of his premises.

Sheriff Smith said the purport of the letter was that the authorities had at present no power to interfere and that they would have to direct their efforts to the getting the law amended.

Provost Anderson moved that the Committee of the Justices already appointed in connection with the licensing of the Somerset House be continued, and be instructed to memorialise the Secretary for Scotland craving that the law be amended so as to include in the applications to the Justices the wholesale licenses now granted by the Excise authorities without permission of the Justices.

Mr Donald Mackenzie seconded, and the motion was unanimously agreed to. On the motion of Mr Angus M. Mackenzie, Sheriff Smith was appointed Convener of the Committee in place of Sheriff Campbell. Provost Anderson's name was also added to the Committee.

"THE CLEAN STATE." Ex-Provost Smith said he observed that this year as in the past, the Superintendent of the Police had given a clean certificate to the 3 hotels mentioned in his report. He wished to refer them to the clause in the Act that states that the police are bound to report to the Procurator-Fiscal of the Court any notices issued from any public-house the worse of liquor.

The Assessor read a letter from the J.P. Fiscal stating that he would be absent from town on business, and asking him if there was any question as to reports from the police against licensed premises to state that he had received none.

Ex-Provost Smith asked Superintendent Smith whether his constables were aware of the clause in the Act to which he had referred, and which had just been read by the Preses.

Superintendent Smith—They are—every one of them.

Ex-Provost Smith—I may ask another question. Do you understand the provisions of the Act, that you are not aware, and that it has not come under your observation, that anything contravening that clause of the Act has occurred during last year?

Superintendent Smith—That is so.

Ex-Provost Smith—You are not aware of it?

Superintendent Smith—That is so, and it has not been reported to me. The understanding of that clause.

Ex-Provost Smith—You can give your own understanding of it. I have mine—(laughter). I withdraw that remark; it is for the Preses to say whether you should give your explanation or not.

Sheriff Smith—Mr Smith's answer to the question is in the negative. Do you wish to make any explanation?

Superintendent Smith—No; the Act is there—(applause).

OBJECTION TO A J.P.

Mr W. A. Ross, agent for all the applicants, said he had to raise a simple question, but rather a delicate one. It was with regard to Provost Anderson's presence on the Bench. He did not think the Provost was entitled to sit on the Bench seeing he is a practicing agent.

Sheriff Smith said there was no objection to a practicing agent sitting on the Bench as was a Justice of the Peace, and that before stating that he would not practice in the J.P. Court or anything connected with it.

Mr Ross referred to the Act of Parliament on the subject, and submitted that the interpretation of the clause had been so general as to exclude a Justice acting at all.

Sheriff Smith was perfectly familiar with the law on the subject, and he had no hesitation in saying that the law was as he had stated it, and if Provost Anderson had written such a letter he was quite entitled to it.

Provost Anderson said he quite appreciated Mr Ross's position and the delicate view he took of the situation. He (the speaker) had not written a formal letter to the Clerk, and he should not take further part in the meeting, so that Mr Ross need not be alarmed at any influence he (the Provost) might have with the Court—(laughter).

Afterwards the Provost wrote and handed the necessary letter to the Clerk. THE APPLICATIONS FOR RENEWALS. The first application was that of Mr Duncan Mackenzie, Royal Hotel, for a renewal of his certificate.

Bailie Macleannan moved that it be granted, and Mr Angus Mackenzie seconded.

Provost Anderson suggested as a mid course that the Justices have a conference with the applicants as to the reduction of the Bar accommodation, and perhaps a small committee might be appointed to visit the hotels with that view. The Justices were there to arrange matters in a satisfactory way. The complaints had been as to the large drinking bars, and he thought his proposal was a way out of the difficulty.

Mr W. G. Russell said there were no complaints before the Bench, and he did not consider Provost Anderson was in order.

quite cognizant of the fact that the license was before them on former occasions, but the applicant was before the Court that day as at the beginning of a license. His services were that of a first-class waiter, and of the greatest possible misery that was inflicted on the poor people of the island. He could not shut his eyes to the fact that it produced poverty, immorality, and pauperism—(applause). No one could deny that.

Mr W. G. Russell—I would like to know— Ex-Provost Smith—You can speak again, Mr Russell, I will not interrupt you—(laughter).

Mr W. G. Russell—We are not here to listen to a sermon, Mr Preses—(laughter and applause).

Ex-Provost Smith said he was speaking from his experience and he must explain himself. There is, he said, scarcely a family that is not directly or indirectly suffering from the ravages of this traffic. I have no ill-will in my heart, but I am only against the traffic they are engaged in, for I know what misery it is causing throughout our poor island—(applause)—and I must say these licenses are not for the benefit of the locality. Let others do as they like; I say that I cannot give my way to grant licenses for the reasons I have stated.

SHERIFF SQAIR'S POSITION.

Sheriff Sqaire said that, appearing as he did for the first time amongst them as a licensing magistrate, he would like to explain his views in connection with the licensing question a little in detail. Like, he believed, all the Justices present, his view was that they must administer the law as they found it irrespective of what their own private opinions might be—(applause). They were not there to make laws, but to administer the law as laid down by the legislature of the country. Of course where the law laid down specific rules for their guidance, they must follow those rules both in the spirit and letter of them. It was, however, that, founded as the law was to a great extent upon expediency, much was left to the discretion of the Justices on the ground that they knew best the requirements of the particular district with which they had to deal. But it was in regard to this particular that the diversity of opinion existed, and it was, of course, only in regard to expediency of it that any views could be expressed. It was with regard to that diversity of opinion that he should like to express his own views. The different views proffered by different administering Justices might, he thought, be classified under two heads—(1) Those who say that no license at all should be granted; that no licenses are necessary; (2) Those who say that only such licenses should be granted as are absolutely necessary; (3) Those who say that the number of licenses should be reduced to a minimum; and (4) Those who say that all applications should be granted. To begin with the last first, let them look at the state of matters that would follow the granting of all applications of that nature. They would have a most unhealthy competition between the vendors of liquors, and the trade would not be lucrative enough to enable one to make a decent living in it, and so they would put the trade into such a state that it could not be carried on respectably. Then the facilities for getting drink would be such as to put a most objectionable temptation in the way of the public, and the standard would be reduced. Again, where they granted only a minimum number they gave a monopoly to certain individuals to sell drink, and what followed? The profits were very great. The parties who got licenses amassed as much money as possible in as short a time as possible. They then sold their businesses, and left their children to take the money and do as they pleased—(applause)—whereas if the licenses had been held by several respectable persons the money would be spent in the district itself. Besides, it created a congested state of trade. There was such a number of licensed houses that people resorted to other means to obtain what they could not get in a fair way. They applied for wholesale licenses, and they in Stornoway had had experience of what that meant—(applause).

The law was defeated on all sides, and the people drank to their own houses, and the sale by the licensed vendors went on as before. They sold exactly the same quantity, but by this new method was sold a quantity of liquors one and above the average of what was sold as was previously sold by the retail license holders. He had made inquiry on this point at a source that did not err, and he was quite satisfied of the correctness of his statement—(applause). Now let them look at the state of matters where no licenses at all were granted. In that case what did they do. The law said that they shall grant a certain number of licenses, and by refusing all they were acting in direct contravention of what the law said—(applause). Not only that, but they were laying themselves open for the public to combine against them and to conspire to defeat what they were attempting to do. People resorted to shebeening and other illegal practices, and the result was a general lowering of the public—(applause). Then they had remaining one other course, viz., to grant such licenses as were absolutely necessary. If they did that, so far as he could read of it, he was not saying that he had his own private views, but they were the views he was inclined to adopt in accordance with his reading of the law as laid down by the public. They might be just or unjust, but he would not be remiss in demanding that the public were entitled to make under the law of the country. In this way they contravened those who attempted to evade the law, and they put the traffic into the hands of licensed persons, and they were in control—(applause).

These were the views which, from a careful consideration of this matter and an experience which extended over a great number of years, commended themselves to him. He might tell them that he had private views of his own. He was quite at one with those who held that this traffic did a lot of harm, but it was an evil which they could not terminate and which they would have to tolerate to some extent. It was only by educating the people gradually that they could hope to succeed. They could not end the traffic in a day, and they must administer the law in the best way they could for the locality in which they dwelt—(applause). While he said all that, he was a comparative stranger in their midst, and he could not put his own views against those of gentlemen who had spent all or most of their days, or several years in the district. These views he respected. He believed every gentleman was acting conscientiously according to his own lights, but until he was able to see for himself and form his own opinion, he did not propose to alter the existing state of matters. He stated that he had maintenance of the "status quo." He would vote for the existing licenses and for no others until he was fully acquainted with the wants of the locality.

THE VOTE. To be taken—Messrs Jas. P. Helm, John Morrison, Angus Macleod, Dr MacCallum, Ebenezer Ross, Kenneth Macleannan, James M. Mackenzie, W. G. Russell, Charles Orrock, Peter Liddle, Rev. Don MacCallum, James Macrae, and Sheriff Sqaire, 13.

Refuse—Messrs Donald Mackenzie, John Macleod, Kenneth Smith, John Mackenzie, and ex-Provost Smith. Provost Anderson did not vote. The application was accordingly granted.

THE LEWIS HOTEL.

The application by Mr Robert Hoger for a renewal of the Lewis Hotel license was now considered.

The voters were precisely the same as in the case of the Royal, and the license was granted.

IMPERIAL HOTEL.

Mr W. A. Ross, solicitor, who appeared for Mr Malcolm Macintyre, stated that this application was in exactly the same position as the others, with the difference that Mr Macintyre contemplated making additions and alterations to his premises. He submitted to the Court the plans of the proposed changes, so that they might know what was contemplated. They consisted, on the ground floor, of a coffee-room, smoking-room, billiard-room, stock-room, and conveniences. The upper floor consisted of drawing-room, parlour, bedrooms, &c.

Sheriff Sqaire—Have these plans been presented to the Court before?

Mr Ross—No. Sheriff Sqaire—So they are just sprung upon us now?

Mr Ross—This is the first Court held since Mr Macintyre resolved to go on with the additions and alterations.

Sheriff Sqaire—The Justices can hardly be expected to study these plans now. You had better intimate your motion now, and take it up at next Licensing Court.

Mr Ross—But we contemplate proceeding before next Licensing Court.

Sheriff Sqaire—You act under the Licensing Justices, and you cannot rush things through in this fashion.

Mr Ross—Of course you could not license these additional premises to-day, as they do not exist. My purpose is simply to acquaint the Justices with the intentions of the applicant.

Sheriff Sqaire—You can go on with the additions, and take your chance of their being licensed.

Mr W. G. Russell—Mr Macintyre is not asking for a license for the additions to-day.

Ex-Provost Smith—What is his object, in submitting the plans?—(applause).

Mr Ross—I ask you to proceed on something that will be a fact on a certain date—(laughter). Part of the premises are at this time ready for occupancy.

Sheriff Sqaire—Are there four rooms?

Mr Ross—No, there are four, but I believe there are two.

Sheriff Sqaire—You will be better advised to take up this application when your premises are completed.

Mr Ross—But we get the license now, and I guarantee that we will be in good condition before we sell any liquor on them.

Mr Angus M. Mackenzie—Is it not competent to adjourn this Court for a month?

Mr Angus M. Mackenzie—Yes, for a month.

Mr Angus M. Mackenzie—I formally move that we do adjourn for a month.

Mr Helm seconded.

Ex-Provost Smith said all those who examined the building state that it is not in accordance with the requirements of the Act. So far as he knew, it might take six months to complete them, and here they were asked to adjourn to see if the applicant could prepare two or three corners to come within the definition of the Act.

He thought, with the exception that he postponed his application till next Licensing Court. He begged to move that the matter be allowed to stand over for six months in the usual course.

Sheriff Sqaire—Your motion is to dispose of the application now?

Ex-Provost Smith—Yes.

Mr Donald Mackenzie—Is the house fully plastered?

Mr Ross—No.

Mr Donald Mackenzie—Is it fully floored?

Mr Ross—No.

Sheriff Sqaire—I think it is absolutely illegal to grant the application, but there is a motion to adjourn, and that is a competent motion.

were thoroughly completed to the satisfaction of the Court, or of the Superintendent of Police, or of the Chief Constable of the county. They intend to furnish the premises and conducting them as a first-class hotel.

Sheriff Sqaire—The gentleman who signs the certificate says the buildings are not complete. Superintendent Smith says so, and you yourself admit it. The Act states that the expression "hotel" shall, in towns and the suburbs thereof, refer to a house containing at least four apartments set apart exclusively for the sleeping accommodation of travellers. This certificate says the premises "are," not "shall be," but are of suitable construction and accommodation, that there were on 17th March four rooms for the exclusive use of the public, but that, it is now admitted, is not according to fact on what I think it is wise to be proceeding with that, Mr Ross?

Mr Ross—On the condition I mention that it is equipped with every requisite and appurtenance that goes with a well-equipped hotel before any liquor is sold on the premises.

Sheriff Sqaire—The rooms are not absolutely ready?

Mr Ross—They will be ready before this license comes into force.

Sheriff Sqaire—What are you asking us to do when I consider a most illegal thing?

Mr Ross—There is nothing illegal in asking a certificate for premises which will be ready for occupancy at 15th May; my license cannot come into force before then, and I sincerely I am entitled to complete my premises.

Sheriff Sqaire—We are proceeding upon a certificate granted some time ago, and that certificate says certain things are what according to fact they are not. Can you ask us to do what is not a fact?

Mr Ross—I ask you to proceed on something that will be a fact on a certain date—(laughter). Part of the premises are at this time ready for occupancy.

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do his duties to the advantage of those whose lives and properties he had to protect. I always esteemed Mr Macdonald for the splendid command he had over his troops, and the sound advice he could give to those who were inclined to break the law. I never knew Mr Macdonald to use his tongue or hand unnecessarily. I know he feels his position here to-day parting from so many old comrades, and this day's event will always remain fresh in his memory, not so much for the valuable presents he is getting, as for the large turnout of officers and men, and presided over by our warm-hearted Superintendent, who is always first to contribute liberally to a function of the kind—a gentleman of sterling qualities, who has our interest at heart, and not the police alone, but also the poor of our neighbourhood receives the attention of his generosity—(applause). Well, gentlemen, after all we can say or do, we cannot please everybody. As I find that there is a charge at the instance of the fair sex standing against Mr Macdonald, my friend did not see his way clear to take a lady into his confidence to guide his pilgrimage to here, but hoping, now that he is retiring on a good pension and returning to his native land, Eilean a' cheò (Isle of mist), he will make a good selection to comfort him in his retirement and leisure to enable him to read himself of the ladies' complaints.

Ex-Sergeant Macdonald made a suitable reply.

Inspector Galbraith moved a vote of thanks to Superintendent Douglas for presiding.

STORNOWAY TOWN COUNCIL.

A CARNEGIE LIBRARY.

TENDERS FOR SLAUGHTER-HOUSE.

THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL WAS HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 14, 1902, AT 8 P.M. IN THE TOWN HALL. PRESENT: Provost Anderson, Bailie K. Macleannan and John Macleod, Councillors Angus M. Mackenzie, Donald Maciver, Alexander Fraser, and Murdo Macleod, with Mr Archibald Munro, Town Clerk.

A DESIRABLE IMPROVEMENT.

At the meeting of Council Committee it had been decided to approach Major Matheson in view of the laying down of the pavement in front of the new hotel on South Beach, offering to construct a similar pavement, kerb, and gutter in front of his adjoining property, provided he removed the porch and railing, so as to give the street there a uniform appearance.

The matter was allowed to drop.

THE CLERK'S EMOLUMENTS.

Provost Anderson, after the Clerk had been requested to retire, introduced the question of his emoluments. In course of his remarks he said Mr Munro had been a very faithful clerk and had proved himself a worthy successor to Mr John Ross (applause). The work had been increasing year after year, and he thought it right that the Council themselves should take notice of the fact and not wait for an application to be made.

After consideration it was unanimously agreed to advance Mr Munro's salary by £15 per annum.

On Mr Munro being called in the Provost informed him that in view of his faithful services and the growth in his work as Clerk, they had without application agreed to increase his salary by £15.

Mr Munro thanked the meeting for their appreciation of his services. The advance had come unsolicited, and he felt very grateful for their kindness—(applause).

CONVENTION OF ROYAL BURGH.

Provost Anderson reported on his visit to the recent Convention of Royal Burghs, referring especially to the action he had taken with regard to the question of the expense of extinguishing fires and the trailing question.

The Council approved of his action, and thanked him for having represented them.

HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS.

On the motion of Bailie Macleannan, seconded by Councillor A. Fraser, Provost Anderson, Bailie Macleod, and Councillor Angus M. Mackenzie were appointed to represent the Council on the Harbour Board.

Councillor Angus M. Mackenzie took the place vacated by the resignation from the Council of Bailie J. M. Morrison. Provost Anderson and Bailie Macleod are re-elected.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSE.

Six tenders received from contractors for the erection of the new slaughter-house were submitted, and that of Messrs Ross & Mackenzie—£695—being the lowest, was accepted.

The question of extending the burgh boundaries to include the new slaughter-house was brought forward by Councillor Angus M. Mackenzie, and the matter was committed to a committee consisting of the Magistrates, with Councillors Angus M. Mackenzie and Alex. Fraser, for consideration and report.

MARKET PLACE.

A number of applications for the tenancy of the Market Place shop, with which goes the cartaking of the Market, were submitted, and Angus Campbell, burgh lamp-lighter, was unanimously appointed.

A CARNEGIE LIBRARY FOR STORNOWAY.

The following letter, dated 5th April, was read from Sheriff Campbell:—"It gives me very much pleasure to be enabled to state for the information of your Council that Stornoway has been selected to maintain a public library, and provided a suitable site, my friend, Dr Andrew Carnegie of Skibo, will be glad to give the money needed for the building."

It is a matter of great interest and one fully appreciated by the Council and the community, and if I can assist the Town Council in arranging any further details in connection with it, I shall be pleased.

The Clerk stated that he had a subsequent letter from Sheriff Campbell intimating, in the way which he has not necessary for the case of any misapprehension on the point, that the information conveyed by him to the Town Council was contained in a letter from Dr Carnegie to him (Sheriff Campbell).

Provost Anderson said as there were a number of members present who were not on the Council when Mr (now Dr) Carnegie was first approached he desired to make a few remarks of explanation. Dr Carnegie was in Stornoway in the autumn of 1897, and he had been in the place since that introduction through Dr Watson of Liverpool. Thereafter a memorial signed by the then Provost, Mr Donald Smith, members of the Town Council, and members of the Library Committee, was forwarded to Dr Carnegie, and as a result they received a promise of £1000 for the purchase of the books and apparatus for the library. Following this there was another communication signed by Provost Smith and himself (the speaker), in which it was explained that the proposal was to have a Town Hall as well as a library, and to this there was no reply. After he (Mr Anderson) became Provost he opened up communications with Dr Carnegie, who said he could not increase his gift, but he agreed to the £1000 being put into the building. He wrote again asking for an interview on his way to Edinburgh, but Dr Carnegie replied that he preferred to leave matters as they were. After that he twice wrote Mr Hew Morrison, Edinburgh, who acts for Dr Carnegie in these matters, and in July last he met him in Edinburgh. Mr Morrison explained that there were difficulties in the way, which it was not necessary for him (the Provost) to recount. He (the Provost), on behalf of the Council, stated to Mr Morrison that they had secured a site, that they would apply the library rate to maintain the building, that the two buildings would be kept separate though erected together, and that the plans and estimates would be submitted to him (Mr Morrison). A letter to this effect was sent to Dr Carnegie. Several communications took place between them, the last of which was effected from Mr Morrison stating that Dr Carnegie had waived objection to the Town Hall and

library being erected on the same site, and asking the plans to be submitted when ready. The Council had obtained several sets of plans, reduced them to a lot of two, and the final decision was reached in a few days. In autumn last Sheriff Campbell obtained certain papers referring to the scheme from the Town Clerk, but the Council, fearing complications, seeing the matter was in Mr Morrison's hands, asked for the return of the papers. He (the Provost) considered that they were going to get all the money necessary for the building from Dr Carnegie, and he told the Council on 14th August. He was not aware of a case in which a Town Council took up a matter of this kind with Mr Carnegie, where they did not carry it through. He personally was thankful for the assistance of any friend outside the Council, but they themselves had gone about this work very carefully, energetically, and harmoniously, and he made this explanation to show that they had done their duty. His motion would be that they thank Sheriff Campbell for the information contained in his letter, but seeing they had opened up communication with Mr Hew Morrison, who is an accredited representative, they should continue to carry on their negotiations through Mr Morrison.

Bailie Macleannan asked if there was any danger of the interests of the ratepayers suffering through the non-co-operating with Sheriff Campbell's scheme. In communication with Dr Carnegie direct.

Provost Anderson did not see how Sheriff Campbell could co-operate with them now as he was away from Stornoway.

Bailie Macleannan pointed out that Sheriff Campbell offered his services in arranging details, and asked if there was any danger of Dr Carnegie withdrawing his promise if they refused the Sheriff's services.

Provost Anderson said they had not had any difficulties yet in arranging details, and they had taken Mr Morrison into their confidence.

Bailie Macleannan thought they should accept the Sheriff's offered services in order to safeguard the interests of the ratepayers. Councillor Alex. Fraser thought they should accept the Sheriff's services if he could assist them any further.

Councillor Angus M. Mackenzie said there were one or two points which he liked cleared up. The Provost, he understood, said that Dr Carnegie had agreed to both buildings being erected on one site?

Provost Anderson—I will be very glad. Councillor Angus M. Mackenzie said there were one or two points which he liked cleared up. The Provost, he understood, said that Dr Carnegie had agreed to both buildings being erected on one site?

Provost Anderson—Yes, I understand so. Councillor Angus M. Mackenzie said he believed that the Sheriff Campbell was somewhat ambiguous on that point, and that the inference to be gathered from it was that he would prefer separate buildings.

Provost Anderson's understanding was that Dr Carnegie agreed to a common site for both.

Councillor Angus M. Mackenzie said he was going on a remark that fell from ex-Provost Smith at the meeting of the Building Committee, and he thought Mr Smith was speaking with authority. Probably he had seen the letter.

Bailie Macleod—He said not.

Provost Anderson—He said he did not see the letter.

Councillor Angus M. Mackenzie—If Dr Carnegie agreed to both buildings being erected on the same site, why should he pass over Mr Morrison and write to Sheriff Campbell?

Provost Anderson said the letter was they had not Dr Carnegie's letter before them, and they did not know whether Sheriff Campbell was asked to communicate this information to the Council. If they had the letter or an excerpt from it, he would have something to go on. In his opinion, their best plan was to continue working through Mr Morrison. He did not know, but he was told, how Dr Carnegie came to be in a false position. However, he had now that they had drawn up his bell, and now that they had drawn up his bell, he would tell them for he felt the matter very keenly himself. At an important function Sheriff Campbell made a statement to the effect that if Dr Carnegie had been properly approached, he had no doubt he would have done something for Stornoway. He (the Provost) felt that remark very much, for it reflected on them as if they were not doing their duty, and it put them in a false position. However, he had now that they had drawn up his bell, and now that they had drawn up his bell, he would tell them for he felt the matter very keenly himself. At an important function Sheriff Campbell made a statement to the effect that if Dr Carnegie had been properly approached, he had no doubt he would have done something for Stornoway. He (the Provost) felt that remark very much, for it reflected on them as if they were not doing their duty, and it put them in a false position. However, he had now that they had drawn up his bell, and now that they had drawn up his bell, he would tell them for he felt the matter very keenly himself. At an important function Sheriff Campbell made a statement to the effect that if Dr Carnegie had been properly approached, he had no doubt he would have done something for Stornoway. He (the Provost) felt that remark very much, for it reflected on them as if they were not doing their duty, and it put them in a false position. However, he had now that they had drawn up his bell, and now that they had drawn up his bell, he would tell them for he felt the matter very keenly himself. At an important function Sheriff Campbell made a statement to the effect that if Dr Carnegie had been properly approached, he had no doubt he would have done something for Stornoway. He (the



UNITED FREE EAST CHURCH SALE OF WORK.

Yesterday a sale of work in aid of the Building Fund of the United Free East Church, Inverness, was opened in the Town Hall. There was a large attendance, among those present being—Mrs A. D. Ross, Mr and Mrs Kenneth Macdonald, Mrs and Mr Arnott, Mrs Cran, Buncher, Miss Macdonald, Aithrope; Mrs and Miss Cameron, Netherwood; Miss Peele, Brookhill; Mr Batches, draper; Mr Alexander Fraser, cabinetmaker; Mr Fraser, of Messrs Fraser & Davidson; Mrs and Miss Wilson, Cuchullin Lodge; Mrs Mackintosh, Kilmuir; Miss Todd, Mr Cameron, National Bank; Miss Walker, &c. The Provost Ross presided. The Hon. Mrs Baillie of Dochfour, who opened the proceedings, was escorted to the platform by the Chairman. Others supporting the Provost were Very Rev. Norman Macleod, D.D.; Rev. Gavin Lang, Rev. Charles Macleod, Rev. Canon Brook, Rev. Allan Cameron, Mr D. W. Cameron, Mrs Kay, Mr James Ross, Morkinch School; Mr John Mackenzie, bookmaker; Mr William Munro, Eastgate; Mr Simon Mackay, Mr Cameron, Ironmonger, &c. Rev. Dr A. C. Macdonald and Mr Groves arrived later. The Provost said he felt deeply honoured of the honour the United Free East Church had conferred upon him in asking him to preside. He was personally interested because of his hereditary connection with the old East Church in the early days before the Disruption—not that he was there, but his forebears were—who had issued from that church at the formation of the Free High Church. In addition, he was interested in the church, because the pastor, Rev. Allan Cameron, and himself, of the same name, had received their preliminary education together before Mr Cameron entered the University. That fact was an additional pleasure to him as being asked to preside. He considered it an honour to have the privilege of introducing to the Hon. Mrs Baillie of Dochfour, who had come to open the sale of work. Mrs Baillie was probably better known in Inverness than he was himself. The Dochfour family had long been associated with the church, and she was the good of the town, and ever since Mrs Baillie had come to the district she had exerted herself in the promotion of objects similar to theirs. The Provost congratulated the East Church congregation on their successful bazaar of some months ago. Various articles had been left unsold on that occasion, and other goods had been since sent in, and he had every belief that the success which had attended the bazaar would now be supplemented. The congregation had added to the architectural beauties of Inverness by the new church which they had built, and he thought that every citizen, no matter of what persuasion, would support them because of what they had done in that respect. He asked Mrs Baillie to declare the sale of work open. Mrs Baillie, in a clear voice, said—I now declare the sale of work open, and I wish it very success—(applause). Dr Norman Macleod said he had a very agreeable duty to discharge before they proceeded to the business of the day. He was sure it would be according to their wishes that they should return a very hearty vote of thanks to Mrs Baillie for her kindness in coming to the district, and he sometimes disposed to sympathise with those who were called upon to engage in such service as this. Those of them who not infrequently required to do so at all events had the satisfaction of feeling that they were being paid forward a good cause, and that the best reward any man could have. They were always pleased when Mrs Baillie went to Inverness or elsewhere throughout the country for the promotion of the public good either in Church or State. The high position she occupied with it, and the responsibilities as well as privileges, and he was sure that none of them should ever forget that the greatest honour they could receive, or the most precious luxury they could enjoy, is to do good to others so far as they are able. For Mrs Baillie's kindness in coming there, and the graceful manner in which she had performed the duty entrusted to her their very best thanks were due—(applause). Mrs Baillie thanked the company. She very much appreciated the honour done her. The Provost had taken the words out of her mouth when he said they ought to do everything they could to help the church—(applause). Rev. Allan Cameron returned his thanks to Mrs Baillie for her attendance. He moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman, and invited the ladies to spoil the Egyptians—(laughter). The Provost Ross read a witty acknowledgment, and the business of the day was then begun. The sale of work (writes our lady correspondent) most certainly deserved the title given by a local clergyman of "Bazaar," so well filled and prettily got up were the stalls. The Town Hall lends itself admirably to this purpose. Quite the most interesting figure was the Hon. Mrs Baillie of Dochfour, who looked so graceful and spoke so delightfully at the opening ceremony. Mrs Baillie afterwards purchased generously from each stall, everything she acquired being of a strictly useful character. She wore a lovely gown of brown satin striped cloth, with bolero and opening small white silk lappets, fastened with jewelled buttons, a corsage bouquet of lilies of the valley and a touch of pink. Her hat was of white tulle cloth, edged with white fur, tipped with brown, and magnificent scales. The first stall, which contained some lovely Indian work, beautiful frames, and no end of useful dainty children's garments, was presided over by Mrs Ross, who was in black with a blue silk bolero, assisted by Mrs Inglis, Miss Cameron, and Miss Macleod. Adjoining was the Manse Stall, showing exquisite table centres and beautiful cushions. Mrs Cameron was gowned in black, pale blue silk being revealed through open curved figures in the bodice, and worn black hat with feathers. Her assistants were Miss Macgruther, in pale purple mervre over black; Miss Dick, Miss Sage, and the Misses Maclean, one young lady wearing a pale blue gown with black hat, trimmed with forget-me-nots, and the other in pink, her large black hat loaded with pink rosettes. The Refreshment Stall, always popular, was presided over by Mrs Mackenzie, assisted by Miss Cameron, Mrs Macleod, Miss Mackenzie, Misses Drummond, Miss Henderson, Miss Gray, Miss Cumming, Miss Cameron, Miss Gordon, and Miss Thomson. Specially attractive and useful articles were on sale at Miss Batches and Mrs Macleod's stalls. Right in the centre of the hall, adding its quota of lovely colours, was the Floral Stall, presided over by Misses Ross, Riverfield. Mrs Baillie sent some lovely flowers from Dochfour. A low and general order of most stall was in charge of Miss F. Cameron, assisted by Miss Buckley, who wore a pale green gown with white veil, and a pale blue hat with black feathers. The Art Stall in close proximity showed some excellent work, and was in charge of Mrs Macdonald, assisted by Miss Fraser. A heavily laden Provision Stall was presided over by Miss Cumming, helped by Miss Gordon, Mrs Mackintosh, Miss Cameron, and Miss Main. There were a number of excellent side attractions, perhaps the most popular being a ping pong tournament. The competitors were close and exciting, the following being declared winners:—Ladies—Miss K. Mackay, Cromb; 2 Miss Eva Buckley, Ross; 3 Miss E. Mackenzie, Gentlemen—1 Mr Grant; 2 Mr Lowe; 3 Mr Kelly. Several chamber concerts were given in the course of the afternoon, and Messrs Reid, Fraser, and Gowenlock greatly contributed to the success of the variety entertainment. In the Gaelic concert programme Mrs Hutchison and Messrs McLeod and Matheson figured most acceptably. An excellent concert was contributed by the choir of the church, led by Mr Armstrong, conductor of Psalmody. We understand that the financial results of yesterday's sale have been very gratifying. Business begins to-day at 2 p.m., when Sheriff J. P. Grant is to perform the opening ceremony.

"THE HIGHLAND NEWS" MOD COMPETITION.

With reference to the fund inaugurated by "The Highland News" for giving money prizes to Highland teachers for the teaching of Gaelic, we have now received the award from the examiners, Macleod. The total amount subscribed was £24 10s. The expenses of collection, printing, stationery, postage, &c., amounted to £2 10s. We have, however, resolved to place the full sum subscribed without any deduction whatsoever to the credit of the prize fund. Dr Macleod has divided the money into five prizes to be awarded as follows:— First prize—Mr D. Urquhart, Staffin Public School, Skye, £8. Second prize—Mr John Macnab, Kilmuir Public School, Skye £6 6s. Third prize—Mr A. Polson, Inverdale Public School, Poolwee, £4 4s. Fourth prize—Mr W. Cameron, teacher, at Beaulieu Public School, now Poolwee, £4. Fifth prize—Mr W. Weir, Farr Public School, Bettyhill, Thurso, £2. We have handed Mr John Mackintosh, solicitor, Queensgate, Inverness, secretary for the Mod, cheques for the above amounts, and no doubt we shall have some successful competitors in due course acknowledgments of the generosity of the subscribers to our fund. To those who so untrudgingly collected for our fund we tender our heartiest thanks as we do to the capable and energetic examiners. Those who have supported "The Highland News" in its efforts to propagate Gaelic without theatricalism or self-advertisement can have the comfortable feeling that they are practically alone in recognising what has been done for our language, and that "The Highland News" Mod Fund and the publication of a cheap Gaelic dictionary more practical work has been done for Gaelic than probably by all other methods put together.

**BEAULIEU QUAREY ACCIDENT.**

**ENQUIRY AT INVERNESS.**

Yesterday, before Sheriff Grant and a jury, an enquiry was held in the Castle, Inverness, in regard to the circumstances attending the fatal accident to Murdoch Macleod, labourer, Redburn Quarry, near Beaulieu, on 28th March. Mr William Anderson conducted the case, and Mr Robert Macleod, one of H.M. Inspectors of Mines, watched the evidence, and cross-examined witnesses. Donald Macdonald, the quarry owner, said that on the afternoon of the accident they were engaged in blasting operations. Only black powder was used, and the witness had lit the fuse, he, the deceased Macleod, and another man, named Mackenzie, retired fifty yards. When the explosion occurred they waited about ten minutes. Macleod first went back to the scene of the shot, followed by Mackenzie and witness. Witness noticed that the earth above where the blast took place was falling down, and he shouted. Macleod was completely covered, and Mackenzie pinned by the explosion. Corroborative evidence was led. Macleod was at once attended to, and sent to the Northern Infirmary, Inverness. Dr Taylor, medical superintendent of the Infirmary, stated that Macleod died a few minutes after he was brought in. He had sustained a fracture of the right frontal bone, and right thigh, with extensive lacerations round the legs and chest. The jury, of which Mr Petrie, coal merchant, was foreman, returned a verdict to the effect that Macleod died through injury received by falling upon him, which had been dislodged by the explosion of blasting operations. The jurymen gave instructions that their fees be handed to the minister of the parish on behalf of the widow and children of deceased.

**THE HOLIDAY QUESTION.**

[TO THE EDITOR OF "THE HIGHLAND NEWS"]

Sir,—In the "Courier" of 11th inst. Mr J. Kyle Mackintosh has fallen into several mistakes in regard to the above, which he could easily have set right had he first applied for information to Mr Fred A. Black, secretary of the Inverness Building Federation, or the secretary of the Inverness Trades' Council. The Merchants' Association, at a meeting held in the Town Hall last year, succeeded in having the day changed from Wednesday to Monday, and that by a majority of 21 against 4. If Mr Mackintosh imagines these 21 merchants represent the general body, I am afraid he is going a bit out of his way. The real point at issue is whether the holiday should be held on Monday or Wednesday. Again, the community are not to be dragged by any Society, but what they object to is the Merchants' Association acting on their own free will without first consulting the general public. What do the Merchants' Association represent? Indeed! The Trades' Council, who took the matter up, represent from 800 to 900 working men, and the plebiscite just taken is the conviction of those concerned. The Trades' Council has no desire to interfere with the Merchants' Association or any other such Society; but upon whose instruction has this Association acted to alter the holiday from Wednesday to Monday? I may tell Mr Mackintosh that the tradesmen are determined to have their holiday on Wednesday, and they will stand out the assistance of any outside party; and any attempt made by the Merchants' Association to act the part of High Priest and dictator will certainly fall flat.—I am, Sir, yours &c., LAURANCE HASSAN, Chairman, Inverness Trades' Council, 34 King Street, Inverness, 12th April, 1902.

**"THE REASON WHY."**

[TO THE EDITOR OF "THE HIGHLAND NEWS"]

Sir,—Why are local rates amounting up every year as the age advances? Why is house rent so high, and why has it advanced 50 per cent. during the last twenty years? Why is there still extreme poverty as of yore alongside of wealth? Your dry-as-dust political economists, so called, rubs his hands with that air of knowing what he knows, and other charitable institutions in a proportional ratio with the great prosperity and the high rate of wages. He does not tell us, and never will tell us, why those things should be, in an advancing civilization, because he is the mouthpiece of certain class of monopolisers, and paid not to see or refer to those disagreeable truths and facts. He is an admirable exponent of the art "how not to see things as they are," and rather than do that, he will talk for hours about the extravagance, the drunkenness and the idle habits of man, any red herring across the track of truth, war! anything—but do not think. Be not like Cassius, a reader of books, an observer, and "look quite through the deed of man, in the wish of every modern Caesar of political economy. But it is all in vain. Men will think, and will reason out things in general, and will wonder why land is so dear, and why coal-rates are so high, and rates are mounting up. Why some are rich and others poor, why some fatten whilst they sleep or wake, whilst night and day, year out and year in, others toil and can scarce keep the wolf from the door. How can the bottom of these questions be reached? Why? Because man cannot

THE NEW TAXES.

LOCAL OPINIONS AND CRITICISMS.

A representative of "The Highland News" has questioned Inverness grain merchants and a number of leading bakers with the view of ascertaining their opinions as regards the taxes just imposed on food stuffs.

Mr Henry Munro, corn factor, said he looked upon the whole question not as a political one, but from the economic point of view from which he considered it was altogether indefensible. The tax only showed that the old fallacy of Protection still lingered among us. How could they raise two or three million pounds without affecting some interests? Some bakers of persons must surely pay. Let him take the case of a baker who used, say, 100 sacks of flour a week, the duty on each sack being 1s 6d or 4s 2d on a week's trade. Either the baker had to pay the extra tax on the basis of his current orders or had it to the price of the loaf. He was not aware that the baking business in Inverness was so profitable that it could bear the extra tax, but he was sure that the price of the loaf, the least coin being put on was 1d, and taking 96 loaves as a fair average number in a sack of flour, that worked out at 4s per sack. Mr Munro has remarked that he had to the public to make their own deductions as to the injustice either to the baker or the consumer. Co-operative Stores were known to use 200 sacks of flour per week, which their present expenditure on a year's trading, which, in such a case, must be taken entirely out of the profits. Asked how the farmers regarded the tax, Mr Munro replied that in many instances they were rather pleased, but he thought it was a pity that it was of a somewhat capricious character, in that they found they had to pay duty on imported food stuffs, such as maize, beans, peas, &c. Many farmers were mainly breeders and feeders of stock, and the duty on these imports was considerably in excess of any advantage that might be derived to them in the sale of their home grain. Mr Munro was asked what he thought of the new tax as a protection for farmers. In reply, he said he did not see why the farming community should be protected, and he thought the duty on the grain distillers in the south would suffer more seriously, as they depended almost entirely upon foreign grain, and used up very large quantities of it. He regarded the tax as altogether retrograde, and he had looked upon Sir Michael Hicks-Beach as one of the best men in the Government, and he thought the country had a right to expect better things of him.

Mr James Macintosh, corn factor, said his firm impression was that the tax was simply the beginning of a very much larger impost. The Government, he thought, had had before them the outcry of the English farmers through their associations, and also the views expressed in the House of Commons by certain members, who for years had been wanting a large import duty on grain in order to protect English farmers. It did not affect them in the north immediately, except in the matter of corn. The barley course was, of course, over, but he would doubt, be affected as well. The tax did not affect distillers so much as brewers. It would have an immediate reaction on the Scotch feeding trade, in which last year the imposition of the sugar duty raised feeding prices 5s per ton, and the price of maize affected feeders to the tune of 5s, 6s, or 7s per ton of grain, according to quality. Maize, for instance, which feeders largely used, would be affected to this extent, and also Indian corn, to the amount, perhaps, of 5s per ton. With regard to the tax on malt, Mr Macintosh did not think that this would lead to an increase in the price of bread locally. The tax was not likely to affect the price of bread so much as the quality, and an impost of 1s per sack did not, he considered, justify a rise in the price of bread. Though the tax was not felt by consumers through the raising of the price of the loaf, bakers might recompense themselves for their extra outlay per sack by using a quality of flour of a higher standard.

Mr John Macdonald, the Stores, Castle Street, being asked his opinion, said that as a matter of business he did not approve of the tax because in the first place the middleman—that was the trader—paid the impost on the imported and milled flour, and then having advanced the price of flour and grain equal to 1s per sack, or 1s per quarter. The traders could hardly ask their customers to pay the increase, and bakers, he supposed, would be in the same position. He thought the tax would seriously injure the local imports into the country, because it was not only the advance of 1s, but that the idea would be borne in on foreign exporters that the British markets would be closed to them, and they would send their supplies elsewhere, which ultimately meant a considerable advance in the price of produce in this country to the consumer.

Mr K. A. Gillanders, the Steam Bakery, said the tax was a serious matter in that it included cereals such as foreign wheat, rice, macaroni, arrowroot, &c., and would certainly affect the price of these articles of consumption. In the meantime the 1s per sack on flour must come out of the pockets of the bakers.

Mr J. Macintosh, Castle Street, described the tax on flour as an iniquitous one, which would come entirely off the bakers. The impost came directly from profits.

Messrs Burnett Bros., bakers, High Street, stated that the tax fell altogether on the shoulders of the bakers.

Mr James Asher, baker, Eastgate, held a similar view. It would make no difference, he thought, to farmers in this district, as there was very little wheat grown here, and he thought the tax was more paving the way for a higher impost.

Mr Anderson, of Messrs Anderson & Co., bakers, Academy Street, remarked that so far as Inverness was concerned the duty would be borne entirely by the bakers. The amount of the tax was so small that it gave no scope for putting up the price of the loaf.

Baillie Sinclair, confectioner, Academy Street, thought the impost hardly warranted an increase in the price of the loaf, and that the amount of the tax might lead to a reduction in their weight.

**TAXING LAND VALUES.**

[TO THE EDITOR OF "THE HIGHLAND NEWS"]

Sir,—The question of taxing land values has advanced, seeing that there are five of our Town Council members who are in favour of it. They can see no other alternative to wipe off the enormous debt contracted through the South African War. There will be no faltering till such time as the Government has advanced of forty millions from this source. As the majority of your readers are already aware, 4s in the £1 was the original tax on all values of land in the reign of King William. This tax has never been levied, and would, now that the values have risen, bring the aforesaid forty millions. The patriotic howlers always like everything under the heavens to be taxed, but oh! don't think of the sacred land! They are so awfully patriotic especially when their own pockets are not touched. I would suggest to the present holders of land that true patriotism consists in making sacrifices for one's country, as the best thing they can do in order to show that they are true patriots, not pretenders, is to immediately submit to a tax on the true annual value of land. I can see no other way for them to save the country, which they are such distinguished patriots.—I am, Sir, yours, &c., J. M.

LOCAL OPINIONS AND CRITICISMS.

Yesterday afternoon a meeting of the Finance Committee appointed in connection with the celebrating of Coronation Day in Inverness was held in the Provost's Room, Town Hall. Mr Charles M. Brown, banker, Caledonian Bank, who is convener, presided, and among other gentlemen present were Provost Ross, Mr Kenneth Macdonald, Mr John McLeod, Woodlands; Baillie Sinclair, Melven, and Guild, Mr George Macbean, Registrar; Mr A. M. Spence, Mr T. G. Henderson, Mr Steele, banker; Mr James Barron, Mr Graham, solicitor; ex-Treasurer Mackintosh, and Mr T. D. Campbell. Apologies for absence were intimated from ex-Provost Macbean, Treasurer Birnie, Mr T. Wilson, and Mr Murray. The meeting was opened by the Provost, who was agreed to prepare circulars, which would be sent to likely subscribers; to issue subscription sheets, to be placed in banks or other suitable centres; and to ask for contributions through the medium of the local newspapers. A further meeting of the committee will be held within a fortnight, when it is expected that estimates of the expenditure of the various committees will be submitted. At a meeting of the Works and Improvements Committee of the Town Council held on Tuesday—Councillor Clark, convener, in the chair—Provost Ross's remit as to what steps should be taken to decorate buildings belonging to the town was considered. After discussion, it was agreed, in view of the formation of the General Corporation and Committee, that the town was not to be asked to decorate their premises. It was also thought best that for the decoration of the Town Hall the flags which the Council already possessed should also be used. The general opinion was that the feeling of the Committee appeared to be that expenditure in this direction should be avoided so far as possible, thus, it was considered, leaving room for liberality in connection with the treats to the children and to the poor.

On the invitation of Mr Thos. G. Henderson, High Street, who is convener, a very representative gathering of ladies and gentlemen were present in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, on Wednesday afternoon, the purpose being to arrange for a ball to be held in connection with other entertainments on Coronation Day. Mr Henderson explained the proposal in detail, mentioning that permission had been given to utilize the Northern Meeting Rooms for the event. After discussion it was agreed to hold a calico ball; fancy dresses, however, being indispensable. Prices of tickets were fixed at 10s for gentlemen, and half that sum for the fair sex. Baillie Guild and Mr Wm. Anderson were appointed joint honorary secretaries, and a Committee was formed to forward the matter. On the motion of Mr Anderson it was resolved to hold a children's ball prior to the calico ball, if found practicable.

Last night a meeting of the Inverness Wine, Beer, and Spirit Trade Association was held in the Imperial Hotel—Mr T. G. Henderson, president, in the chair. About a dozen gentlemen were present. Discussion took place as to whether or not licensed premises should be closed on Coronation Day, and after an exchange of views the meeting separated without arriving at any resolution on the question.

**CORONATION EXPENSES.**

**AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND.**

As there has been a good deal of dubiety as to whether or not the local authorities in Scotland could devote any portion of the rates to the purpose of celebrating the Coronation of the King the editor of "The Highland News" thought it well to get an authoritative statement on the subject from Lord Balfour of Bureigh, the Secretary for Scotland. From it will be observed that different from the English Local Government Board the Scotch Board have no power to authorise the expenditure of rates for other than statutory purposes. The following is Lord Balfour's letter:—

"Scottish Office, Whitehall, S.W., 8th April, 1902.

"Sir, "CORONATION EXPENSES.

"In reply to your letter of the 2nd inst. I am directed by the Secretary for Scotland to inform you that, in his opinion, any rate for the above purpose must be of a voluntary nature, clear intimation being given of the assessment notices that payment of the rate is not compulsory.

"I am to add that while the English Local Government Board in the case of local authorities whose accounts are subject to the audit of the Board's auditors has power under statute, in anticipation of the audit to authorise the charging of such expenditure against the statutory rates, no similar powers exist in relation to Scotland.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant.

"W. C. DUNBAR.

**INVERNESS-SHIRE LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.**

**MR SHAW, K.C., M.P., PRAISES THE MEMBER FOR INVERNESS-SHIRE.**

At a meeting of the above Association held on 25th March, at which about 200 resolutions were agreed to, copies were ordered to be sent among others to Mr Shaw, M.P., who has sent the following reply to Messrs Macintosh & Gibson, solicitors to the Association:—

DEAR SIRS—Your recent letter with copy resolutions of the Inverness-shire Liberal Association duly reached me. I am very glad to observe the terms of both resolutions. Mr Dewar's bill to enlarge the powers of the Congested Districts Board, and would curtail the real weakness of the existing system, viz., the absence of compulsory powers to take land. Without such powers all existing administration will remain halting and ineffective. I have more than once submitted to you a list of things to the Government in the House of Commons, but hitherto without avail; and I am glad that Mr Dewar has so carefully addressed himself to the problem and has tabled his Bill.

The other resolution is also satisfactory, and I am glad that the new clause introduced by me meets with the Association's approval. If I were to be become game in the ordinary preserved sense of having a close time it seems eminently reasonable to give one of his inmates the same position as every one else with regard to their preservation, and that landowners should no longer be permitted of law to practice their arts, which in the case of other citizens would be the case of the poacher, and the criminal. I feel quite assured that no reasonable landlord thinks otherwise.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) THOS. SHAW.

**COMING EVENTS.**

Messrs D. Gray & Co., gunsmiths, Union Street, intend to hold their third annual clay pigeon competition at the Longman on 2nd May.

**FIELD CLUB.**—The monthly meeting will be held in the Waverley Hotel on Wednesday evening, when Rev. Charles Robertson, B.D., minister of Bearn, is to read a paper on the Abbey and Parish of Bearn.

**VISIT OF "THE MAN YOU KNOW."**—W. F. Frame, the celebrated Scotch comedian, along with his talented company, will visit Inverness on Saturday and Monday, the 26th and 28th April, on which evenings he will give one of his inimitable performances in the Music Hall. There are few entertainers on the road who have achieved more genuine fame than has "The Man You Know." The instant he appears on the platform and carelessly sneaks away. If you are feeling out of sorts a visit to Frame will do you more good than all the physic in the world.

CORONATION DAY ARRANGEMENTS.

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At a meeting of the above Association held on 25th March, at which about 200 resolutions were agreed to, copies were ordered to be sent among others to Mr Shaw, M.P., who has sent the following reply to Messrs Macintosh & Gibson, solicitors to the Association:—

DEAR SIRS—Your recent letter with copy resolutions of the Inverness-shire Liberal Association duly reached me. I am very glad to observe the terms of both resolutions. Mr Dewar's bill to enlarge the powers of the Congested Districts Board, and would curtail the real weakness of the existing system, viz., the absence of compulsory powers to take land. Without such powers all existing administration will remain halting and ineffective. I have more than once submitted to you a list of things to the Government in the House of Commons, but hitherto without avail; and I am glad that Mr Dewar has so carefully addressed himself to the problem and has tabled his Bill.

The other resolution is also satisfactory, and I am glad that the new clause introduced by me meets with the Association's approval. If I were to be become game in the ordinary preserved sense of having a close time it seems eminently reasonable to give one of his inmates the same position as every one else with regard to their preservation, and that landowners should no longer be permitted of law to practice their arts, which in the case of other citizens would be the case of the poacher, and the criminal. I feel quite assured that no reasonable landlord thinks otherwise.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) THOS. SHAW.

**COMING EVENTS.**

Messrs D. Gray & Co., gunsmiths, Union Street, intend to hold their third annual clay pigeon competition at the Longman on 2nd May.

**FIELD CLUB.**—The monthly meeting will be held in the Waverley Hotel on Wednesday evening, when Rev. Charles Robertson, B.D., minister of Bearn, is to read a paper on the Abbey and Parish of Bearn.

**VISIT OF "THE MAN YOU KNOW."**—W. F. Frame, the celebrated Scotch comedian, along with his talented company, will visit Inverness on Saturday and Monday, the 26th and 28th April, on which evenings he will give one of his inimitable performances in the Music Hall. There are few entertainers on the road who have achieved more genuine fame than has "The Man You Know." The instant he appears on the platform and carelessly sneaks away. If you are feeling out of sorts a visit to Frame will do you more good than all the physic in the world.

PEACE PROSPECTS.

TWO CONFERENCES WITH BOER LEADERS.

A THREE WEEKS' DELAY.

STATEMENT BY MR BALFOUR.

In the House of Commons yesterday afternoon Mr Balfour said that Lords Milner and Kitchener had had two conferences with the Boer delegates. At their request, Kitchener, while refusing an armistice on military grounds, had agreed to give facilities for the election and meetings of representatives of the various commandos to consider the position. The Boer leaders had left Pretoria for this purpose, and it is not expected that communications can be resumed in less than three weeks.

A SANGUINE ESTIMATE.

Telegraphing last night the Lobby, representative of the Press Association says that the Ministerialist announcement yesterday afternoon is regarded by the Press and Commons as a hopeful symptom of approaching peace in South Africa.

It is inferred that the Boer leaders have agreed on certain terms to be submitted to the Burgers by referendum.

The permission given to elect and consult representatives of the commandos is regarded as implying an informal and unapproved armistice.

**BOER LAAGER SURPRISED.**

**55 BOERS CAPTURED.**

Pretoria, Friday.—General Ian Hamilton's operations in the Western Transvaal continue to have successful results. In addition to the capture of 60 Boers reported yesterday, Colonel Rochfort's column, moving north from Bloemhof yesterday, surprised a Boer laager near Son-der-Reineke, and captured 55 Boers belonging to Tolle de Beer's commando. The prisoners include Hennop de Wet's adjutant and ex-Commandant Douthwaite.

Barker's and Elliot's columns operating in the Orange River Colony yesterday captured 13 prisoners east of Reitz.

**WEARING DOWN THE BOERS.**

Since March 22nd, the date on which the Boer leaders arrived within the British lines to open negotiations, which are still in progress, the Boer forces have been reduced by 861 men killed, wounded, captured, and surrendered.

The Boers are being pursued with the greatest determination and vigour in all parts of the theatre of war.

The results already reported are very satisfactory.

**THE RAILWAY DISASTER AT MACHAVIE.**

**HOW IT OCCURRED.**

A Press Association telegram says—A somewhat serious railway accident occurred on Saturday near Machavie, a station 12 miles east of Klerksdorp. Owing to a mistake, a troop train was allowed to proceed without the line being cleared. The result was a collision with an empty goods train coming from Klerksdorp, in which 13 men of the New Zealand contingent were killed and 12 injured. Four trucks were derailed, and both engines were badly damaged. One bogie truck leaped over and landed on one in front. The drivers and firemen jumped off.

The troop, train, which was coming down an incline, met an empty train coming round a curve. The man who sent the empty train from Machavie discovered the mistake a few minutes after.

The dead were brought to Klerksdorp, where the rest of the contingent had meanwhile arrived. The funeral on Sunday afternoon was a most impressive sight. The whole of the New Zealand contingent formed up in the cemetery. The procession was headed by a firing party, the pipers of the Seaforth Highlanders played "The Land of the Leal," and the band played the "Dead March." Generals Wilson and Barker attended, besides many other officers, all the men in the garrison, and many civilians. Numerous wreaths were sent.

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND FINANCES.**

The finances of the Church of Scotland show an increase on the past year of £12,000.

**THE KING'S PROCESSION.**

The King's Coronation Executive Committee yesterday decided the lines of the larger procession. It will follow pretty closely that of the late Queen's Jubilee procession, and the Coronation procession may be expected to be as nearly on the lines of William the Fourth's Coronation procession as the altered circumstances permit.

**THE DUTCH QUEEN'S ILLNESS.**

A Reuter's telegram says the Queen's illness is deeply felt among all classes of the population. Prince Henry is overwhelmed with anxiety, and hardly leaves her Majesty's bedside. The Queen Mother is also in attendance on her daughter. Whenever her Majesty enjoys a peaceful sleep the Prince is busily occupied in replying in person to the large number of telegrams from reigning Sovereigns and other princely personages, which are constantly arriving from all parts of Europe. Dr Boessingh is staying permanently at the Palace. Nothing is known of the character of her Majesty's illness beyond what is stated in the bulletins. On Wednesday the patient's temperature reached the alarming height of 104 degs. Fahrenheit, but the departure of Professor Rosenstein is considered a most hopeful sign that the crisis is past. It is reported that Queen Wilhelmina recently caught cold by sitting down on a seat in the park against the advice of Dr Boessingh. Loo does not seem to agree with Her Majesty. Cold, combined with changes in the temperature, is said to have made Her Majesty feverish. The whole population shares the sorrow of the Royal Family, and the Queen's illness is the universal topic of conversation. The newspapers all express regret and anxiety.

Canon and Mrs Brook of Viewhill have purchased the Bungalow, observatory, and grounds of Ardkeen from the Misses Galloway. Considerable alterations and improvements are to be commenced without delay, of which plans have been already drawn up by Mr Mackenzie, architect.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.

200 NEW HOLDINGS CREATED.

GOOD WORK IN OTHER DIRECTIONS

The Congested Districts Board for Scotland in their report for the year ending March 31, 1902, state that they have had various proposals under consideration during the year for acquiring land both for migration from congested districts to other parts of Scotland, and also for the settlement of crofters and cottars in holdings near their present abodes within the congested area.

A SATISFACTORY ISSUE

They have been enabled to do so in the following cases: Captain E. S. Sinclair, R.N., of Freetown, has agreed to subdivide certain lands connected with the farms of Borgue, South Ramsay, North Ramsay, and others into 15 new holdings and 26 extensions of existing holdings; while the Freetown business, has agreed to subdivide certain lands connected with the farms of Borgue, South Ramsay, North Ramsay, and others into 15 new holdings and 26 extensions of existing holdings.

200 GOOD HOLDINGS

of varying areas for the occupiers, but the removal of these affords in several cases opportunity for the relief of congestion by the allocation among other tenants of the lands previously in occupation by them.

These holdings have been commenced on the lines which they found to be satisfactory last year their distribution of potatoes for planting and of seed oats. They have in this way distributed 549 tons 2 cwt. of potato seed and 577 bushels of oats.

STALLIONS, BULLS, AND RAMS.

During the year they had added to their stock for use in congested districts 107 rams, 55 bulls, and 2 stallions while they have voted grants in aid of premium for 20 stallions belonging to other owners. Their experiments in potato spraying were continued last summer with satisfactory results.

PEOPLE INTERESTED

in the subject, who obtained spraying machines, and in some cases chemicals from the Commission, and who report generally that both as regards the control of the blight and the process proved of much benefit. A beginning had also been made with fair results in Lewis to show the advantages of turnip growing and the cultivation of vegetables.

TELEGRAPH OFFICES

they have made grants for an 22 in number, and are situated in the counties of Inverness, Ross and Cromarty, Sutherland, and Caithness. The miscellaneous works include quarrying for building stone at Northton, Harris, fencible in Caithness, our land settlements, a beacon at Tannasgar, Loch Carlaway, Lewis, and five minor guiding lights in Lewis, Skye, and Zetland.

TELEGRAPH OFFICES

at Eriskay, South Uist; Culnacnock, Kilmuir, Skye; Shawbost, Lewis; Inveravale, Caithness; and at other places, additions at Inveravale and Sandness, Zetland. During the four years from 1st April, 1898, to 31st March, 1902, they have made the following grants:—For marine works, £31,552 2d; for roads, bridges, and paths, £29,956 4s 2d; and for miscellaneous works, £4682 13s 9d; or in all, £66,191 2s 1d. They have also undertaken liability to an annual maximum amount of £306 10s for telegraph extensions, £15 5s for money order and savings bank offices.

SKYE NEWS.

STAFFIN—SUCCESS OF A NATIVE.—Mr Ronald Mackinnon, medical student, Glasgow University, has passed the second professional examination for the degree of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery.

UNITED FREE SYNOD.—The U.F. Synod of Glenelg met at Portree on the 9th inst. Rev. Alex. Grant, Broadford, was elected moderator. Rev. Mr Lamont, now of Bessal, formerly clerk to Synod, tendered his resignation, as he was now translated to another Synod. The resignation was accepted, and Rev. Mr Macdonald, Kilmuir, Skye, was unanimously elected clerk. Rev. Mr Macmillan, Ullapool, moved the following resolution:—"Whereas considerable unbelief exists in the minds of many of our faithful people as to the tendency of some recent publications by ministers of this Church, notably, Professor G. A. Smith's book 'The Preaching of the Old Testament,' and Dr Moffat's book on the New Testament, it is hereby humbly overtured by the Synod of Glenelg that the General Assembly take such steps as in its wisdom may seem fit to relieve the prevailing anxiety." The motion was seconded by Mr John Mackenzie, elder, and agreed to unanimously.

THE LATE MRS CLOW, COEDRACH.—On Thursday, the 10th inst., the grave closed over the mortal remains of the late Mrs Clow, of Coedrach. The deceased lady, who had been seriously ill for some months, was recovering, when a sudden relapse carried her off at the ripe age of 83. It is difficult to speak moderately of one who was so much to so many for so long a time. Than here, no name was better known, none more profoundly revered over all the north end of Skye. Cheerful and sunny by nature, her abundant kindness and sympathy and unaffected piety endeared her to all, and made her influence like a sweet perfume which was felt far and near. Wherever there was one to help, to comfort, to counsel there Mrs Clow was a ministering angel. Sweet and beautiful in her life, she was greatly honoured in death, and her remains were laid to rest in the old churchyard, and the large number who followed on foot from Coedrach to Kilmuir, a distance of nine miles, testified to the place the deceased lady had in the hearts of her humble neighbours.

LINSEED COMPOUND—Trade Mark of Kew's Compound Extract of Linseed, cures Coughs and Colds.

SUTHERLANDSHIRE NEWS.

NEW J.P. FOR SUTHERLAND.—On Tuesday Sheriff Mackenzie administered the oath of allegiance to the Rev. Mr Sparks, Clynne, Chairman of the Parish Council of that parish.

DORMOCH—APPOINTMENT.—The Committee of the Associated Golf Clubs in North Berwick have appointed Mr H. Hamilton, lately head gardener at Skibo Castle, to be head greenkeeper at North Berwick.

All the licenses in the county were renewed at the Licensing Court on Tuesday, and the Chief Constable reported that the recommendation of the Justices as to early closing and short hours on special days were well complied with.

TONGUE U.F. PRESBYTERY.—The following have been appointed Commissioners to the U.F. Presbytery:—The Rev. Messrs Adam Gunn, Durness; D. Pinlinton, Kinlochewe; J. R. Macneil, Tongue; ministers, Messrs James Macdonald, W.S., Edinburgh; Hew Morrison, Public Library, Edinburgh; Alexander Murray and J. P. Dalhivig, Forsinard, Sutherland—elders.

LAIRG—PARISH CHURCH VACANCY.—At a meeting of the congregational committee in the church on Tuesday evening it was unanimously resolved to make and propose Rev. John K. Maclean, M.A., F.R.S., to the congregation, with a view to his election as minister of the parish in succession to Rev. D. Macrae, B.D., now of Edinboro.

DORMOCH—SHERIFF COURT.—On Tuesday (before Sheriff Mackenzie—John Mackay ("Beag") Scourie, pleaded guilty to committing a breach of the peace at the Scourie Hotel, and was fined 10s 6d, with the alternative of seven days' imprisonment.

HELMSDALE—NOTES.—Spring work is well advanced in this district. The weather is all that can be desired for the occasion.—The lobster fishermen have lost their creels by the late southerly sea storm, and are busy manufacturing new ones. Their work is being again a great number of deaths of old residents have taken place during the winter and spring.—A political campaign is to be begun on the north coast of the county by Mr William Webster, secretary of the Scottish Liberal Association.

LAIRG—A SUCCESSFUL STUDENT.

Among those who received the Master of Arts degree at Aberdeen University last week are pleased to notice the name of Mr Charles Mackenzie, who received his early education at the Lairg Public School. There, having won several bursaries, he proceeded to Gordon's College, Aberdeen, where he had a very successful career. From Gordon's he went to the University of Aberdeen in October, 1899, obtaining a university bursary of £20 for four years. Mr Mackenzie had a very successful university course, obtaining high distinctions in systematic zoology, practical zoology, botany, and geology. Some of his most successful success as a student may be gathered from the fact that the total value of the bursaries won by him amounts to over £250.

LAIRG—DEATH OF A FREE CHURCH ELDER AND HIS WIFE.

Last Saturday there passed away, in his eighty-first year, Mr John Mackay, Ballone, Lairg, a much-respected elder of the Free Church. Mr Mackay, who has been ailing since November last, had latterly appeared to be improving in health, but there came a sudden change for the worse, and he passed peacefully away to his rest as above stated. One of the quietest and most unassuming of men, it might be truly said of him that he was "clothed with humility," while his consistent Christian character was manifest to all. A large concourse of the parishioners testified their respect by attending his funeral. His devoted wife, who had attended him with unwearied care during his illness, died herself, has not long survived him. She passed away on Monday afternoon. Mrs Mackay has been an invalid for years, though able to move about, until a few weeks ago, when she was entirely laid aside. The details of these worthy persons is a serious loss to this community. A family of four sons and two daughters, all grown up, are left to mourn their loss. Three of the sons are farmers in New Zealand.

TAIN NEWS.

IMPROVEMENT SCHEME.—The embankment of the Carse land adjoining the river is now in course of construction, and it is understood the steel suspension bridge will soon be in position. Last Monday evening Mr James Mackenzie applied for a loan for a temporary loan of not more than £900, and when the works are completed, to obtain a fixed loan, repayable by a general improvement rate, aided by Government grant, for 25 years. It is estimated that the loan will be repaid by the tenants of the property in the form of a rate of interest within this period.

PROVINCIAL SYNOD OF ROSS.—This Synod met in the Parish Church on Tuesday, when Rev. James Macpherson, B.D., Dingwall, retiring moderator, presided. On the motion of Rev. Mr Macpherson, Rev. Donald Macrae, Edinboro, was unanimously appointed moderator. Votes of confidence were passed to the relatives of the late Rev. Mr Campbell, Glen-Urquhart, and the late Major Jackson, of Swinzie. On the motion of travelling expenses, Rev. Mr Watson, Kiltara, stated that the matter had been discussed by the general committee for a long time, and they have now come to the conclusion to recommend the Assembly to pay the expenses of Synod members attending certain meetings of the Assembly Committee. He believed the suggestion of the General Committee would be carried on Monday, and they have now come to the conclusion to recommend the Assembly to pay the expenses of Synod members attending certain meetings of the Assembly Committee. He believed the suggestion of the General Committee would be carried on Monday, and they have now come to the conclusion to recommend the Assembly to pay the expenses of Synod members attending certain meetings of the Assembly Committee.

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LINSEED COMPOUND—Trade Mark of Kew's Compound Extract of Linseed, cures Coughs and Colds.

THE TEACHERS' DRAWING CLASS.—The report on the drawing classes for teachers held last winter in the Royal Academy, Train, by Mr P. Delavault, art master, Inverness Royal Academy, prepared by Mr Ewen, H.M.I.S., has been issued. Under Mr Delavault's guidance, says the report, much valuable work was done. The work taken up in this course comprised chiefly free-drawing of still and nature forms to a large scale on wall surfaces and on large sheets of brown paper, direct drawing with brush and with black-lead pencil of common objects. Those whose attendance and progress at the course is regarded as satisfactory by the Scotch Education Department are:—Frank R. S. Black, Annie Brodie, Colin Campbell, John Ewing, Janet Gair, Annie Gilchrist, Isabella Graham, Kenneth Kemp, Nellie J. Litch, Esy M. Mackay, Annie Mackenzie, Isabella Mackenzie, Maggie A. Mackenzie, Ritta Mackenzie, John Mackintosh, Katie R. Mackintosh, Kenneth Maclean, George C. Macleod, Nellie Macleod, Annie Matheson, Ronald Matheson, Thomas G. Meldrum, Christie Munro, Jessie Munro, Mary A. Munro, Charlotte C. Murchison, William Neilson, Mary A. Rose, Euphemia Ross, Maggie Ross, Minnie Ross, Charlotte Smith, John Stewart, Maggie Urquhart, James Watt.

ESTATE APPOINTMENT.—Mr W. Lawson, from the office of Messrs Innes & Mackay, solicitors, Inverness, has been appointed assistant to Mr Wetherston, factor on the extensive Cromarty Estates. Mr Lawson was, prior to his entering Messrs Innes & Mackay's office two years ago, assistant to Mr Braid, factor on the Durris Estate, Deeside, for a number of years. Mr W. Lawson is the youngest son of Mr Lawson, estate manager, Mar Lodge, Braemar.

THE LATE DR ALEXANDER MACGREGOR.—The death occurred suddenly, at his residence, Queen Street, Berkeley Square, London, last Saturday, of Dr Alexander Macgregor, a well-known Scottish medical man, who had a large practice in the Metropolis. A native of Invergorry, Ross-shire, deceased was educated at Aberdeen University, and was graduated in Arts and Medicine, and after acting as demonstrator in anatomy in Marischal College, Aberdeen, for about a year, he continued his studies at Vienna and Berlin. In 1880 he commenced practice in Aberdeen, and soon gained a leading position in the medical profession. He was assistant to the professor of medical jurisprudence, and afterwards assistant to the professor of medicine, but he resigned the latter position on the death of his superior, and was appointed to the University of Aberdeen, where he was then Lord Rector. For a number of years Dr Macgregor was on the medical staff of the Sick Children's Hospital, and was Surgeon-Chief of the Aberdeen Medical Staff Corps. He also took an active share in the work of the Aberdeen Highland Association. Dr Macgregor, who left Aberdeen in 1885, was about 60 years of age, and is survived by his widow, a daughter, Dr A. Crody, London. The cause of death was heart disease.

WESTER ROSS NEWS.

U.F. PRESBYTERY OF LOCHCARBON.—Assembly representatives, Revs. John Mackenzie, Ullapool; William Johnston, Sheldale; Roderick Morrison, Lochcarbon; Alexander Macdiarmid, Glenelg—ministers, and Messrs Oliphant Smeaton, David A. Scott, J. A. Dalmauq, William Walker, all in Edinburgh—elders.

GAIROICH SCHOOL BOARD.—This School Board met at Poolewe on Wednesday, the 10th inst., when Mr J. Dingwall presided. Arrangements were made for the examination of the schools in religious knowledge. A Committee reported that Mr Ross, M.A., had been appointed to the post of headmaster of the school, and entered on his duties on 16th or 17th inst. It was also arranged that all the schools have the 26th and 27th June as Coronation holidays, and that each child be presented with a book commemorative of the event.

THE RESCUE AT KYLEAKIN.—At a meeting of the Committee of Management of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution last week in London, the thanks of the Institution, inscribed on vellum and framed, were awarded to the crew of the lifeboat, and to Mrs J. Birnie, daughters of the lighthouse-keeper at Kyleakin, Isle of Skye, and a pecuniary reward to their brother, Robert W. Birnie, for gallantly putting off in a boat, during his illness, a young man who had been seized with a smallpox, midway between the Kyle rock and the lighthouse, on the 18th ult.

INTERESTING DECISION UNDER THE CROFTERS ACT.—Three cases were called on in the Dingwall Small Debt Court last week at the instance of the Committee, under the Crofters Common Grazings Regulations Act, 1891, of the townships of Aulgrishan and Aulphadric, in the parish of Gairloch, against three of the crofters in the township of Aulphadric, for their respective shares of the wages for the common herd appointed by the Committee on 16th May to 16th October last. The crofters resisted payment on several grounds. Mr Arthur Ducaan, solicitor, acted for the Committee, and Mr T. S. H. Burns, solicitor, for the defenders. At the outset, Mr Burns took objection to the inference that the Committee had the right to sue. He argued that the Committee was the creature of the statute of 1891, and its powers, duties, and obligations were governed by the provisions of the Act, which gave the Committee no right to sue. Mr Ducaan, on the other hand, contended that the Committee was a body of trustees, and that the regulations made under the Act, and approved by the Crofters Commission, gave the Committee power to engage and employ a herd, but that the regulations were silent as to the mode of payment of the wages from recalcitrant crofters. For the Committee Mr Ducaan said that the Act gave to the Committee full powers to carry out the provisions of the Act, and surely a power to sue for the wages of a herd employed by the Committee. Mr Burns made avizandum, and has issued his interlocutor, upholding the objection and dismissing the actions. His lordship in the course of his judgment says:—"My sympathies are entirely with pursuers. I think the defenders ought to pay their share of the herd's wages, and if they are dissatisfied with existing regulations, they should apply to the Crofters Commission to have these amended. In the circumstances, while I have no alternative but to dismiss the action, I shall make no finding as to expenses."

THE PROOF OF THE STARCH IS THE RESULT OF THE IRONING.

Colman's Starch is a Starch that makes good ironing.

See that the Bull's Head is on the Colman's Name and the Box.

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DINGWALL NEWS.

"FREE" CHURCH SYNOD.—This Synod met on Tuesday in the Temperance Hall—Rev. Mr Maciver, Resolis, being Moderator. The usual reports were submitted and approved. An overture with reference to the "Free" and "Free" Presbyterian Churches was moved for transmission to the General Assembly by Rev. Mr Munro, Ferintosh. Rev. Mr Macqueen, who seconded, made a reference in characteristically bad taste to Rev. Principal Rainy. The overture was adopted.

TEACHERS CLASSES.—Mr J. T. Ewen, H.M.I.S., has issued his report on the Saturday classes in drawing conducted in Dingwall during the past winter by Mr John Gibson, science master, Dingwall Academy. The following have secured certificates from the Scotch Education Department:—Annie Allan, Margaret Bain, James H. Bisset, Joanna A. Brock, Agnes G. Cooper, E. D. Grant, Edward Dickson, F. Fleming, William Fowler, Jessie R. Fraser, Robina C. Lucas, Donald Macrae, Annie E. Munro, Williamson Munro, Jessie Macdonald, Donald Mackay, Katie Mackintosh, William Mackintosh, Kenneth A. Maclean, William Maclellan, Katharine Macleod, Jeanie R. Macnab, Eliza Rennie, Mary Ross, Lila R. Sutherland, Mary A. Symington, Davina B. Urquhart, Marjorie E. Urquhart.

"FREE" CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL MEETING.—The annual meeting was held in the Temperance Hall on Monday evening. In the absence of Rev. Mr Munro, Rev. Mr Maciver, Resolis, was Moderator. Mr Moy, occupied the chair. Mr J. Fraser, saddler, submitted the report on the Sustentation Fund, to which the sum contributed during the year was £119 4s 6d. Mr Martin, carpenter, gave in the report on the Congregational Fund, which showed that for the year the receipts totalled £222 1s 9d, the expenditure being £189 17s 7d, leaving a credit balance of £32 4s 2d. Mr A. Munro, superintendent of the Sabbath school, submitted a favourable report on the working of the school, which was also mentioned that the total contributions of the congregation were £403 8s 5d. The Chairman congratulated the church on its vigorous and flourishing condition. At the close the following were adopted, and hearty votes of thanks passed.

TESTIMONIALS TO MR AND MRS GUNN, STRATHFER.—A deputation representative of the tenants, employees on the Cromarty estates, of personal friends and gentlemen with whom he was connected in public business, waited on Mr Gunn, late commissioner for Cromarty estate at Nutwood last Friday evening, and expressed their warmest regards and esteem. Nor was Mrs Gunn forgotten. Sir Hector Munro, Bart. of Foulis, presided, and Mr Archd. McCorquodale, Meddair, made the presentation. The gifts consisted of a beautiful gold bracelet for Mrs Gunn, and a silver cross bar, suitably inscribed, along with a cheque for 300 guineas for Mr Gunn. Sir Hector Munro, Mr Walter Arras, Fodderty, and Mr Macdiarmid each spoke in most appreciative terms of Mr and Mrs Gunn, and their services to the community in official service on the estate, and Mr Joass, on behalf of the tradespeople, also spoke. Mr Gunn made a touching reply. Mr W. P. Gunn replied for Mrs Gunn, and presented a petition for the grant of the estate, and the petitioners were then enthusiastically pledged from the chair, and the proceedings terminated with the awarding of the usual votes of thanks. Mr W. R. T. Middleton acted as hon. treasurer, and Mr A. Macdiarmid, jun., as secretary of the presentation Committee.

THE TOWN COUNCIL AND THE LIGHT RAILWAY TERMINUS.—A special meeting of the Town Council was held by the Town Council last Friday—Provost Macrae in the chair. Colonel Ross of Cromarty, C.B., who represented the promoters, discussed the origin of the scheme, and said that if the Town Council of Dingwall would forward the petitions and memorials, it would tend to wreck the railway. The plans already drawn up proposed that the line should run by Comon. As soon as the Order came before the Board of Trade, they heard that Dingwall was pushing forward reasons to show why they should not get the railway to Dingwall. This, continued Colonel Ross, would be equivalent to stopping the Order for the time being. (The promoters were just as anxious as the Dingwall people to get the railway to Dingwall, and they were sure that the Council should not put forward these petitions, but should include them in a supplementary order after the railway had been granted. Ex-Provost Macleay moved, that the Council leave the petition in the hands of Mr Bignold, and express their hope that everything would be done to preserve notes and reminiscences hitherto unrecorded of interesting personages and events of the past history of Glasgow, as well as drawings, sketches, and photographs of the old Glasgow life, character, and characteristics. He gave a sketch of the history of the city from the early legendary period to the stirring times of the Reformation and Revolution, illustrating the growth of the common population, and characteristics of the city by statistics. The lecturer also included brief sketches of the outlying districts of Partick, Govan, and Gorbals, as well as some of the characters of the old Glasgow life, character, and characteristics. 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STORNOWAY.

TIDE TABLE—HIGH WATER—APRIL. Morning. Evening. Sunday 23..... 6.14 .. 6.31. Monday 24..... 6.10 .. 6.27. Tuesday 25..... 6.07 .. 6.24. Wednesday 26..... 6.04 .. 6.21. Thursday 27..... 6.01 .. 6.18. Friday 28..... 5.58 .. 6.15. Saturday 29..... 5.55 .. 6.12.

An extended report of Lewis Licencing Court and other articles will be found on page 3.

Customs.—It is officially notified that Mr. G. Moffatt, second division clerk (Upper Section), London, has been appointed clerk in charge, Stornoway—Inverness district.

VOLUNTEER INSPECTION.—The annual volunteer inspection takes place on Thursday first, giving the day returning in town as a public holiday. The inspecting officer is Colonel Purvis, R.A.

MARVIG—A SIGN OF THE TIMES.—Not a few crofters have this year discarded seaweed as manure for potatoes, and have made a trial of an artificial composition. It is to be hoped that the results will follow, as the work of getting and carrying the weed is a laborious task and a sore drain on the strength of the women. The price per cwt. runs about 5s., and the quantity suffices for a number of plots.

MARVIG—CONGESTED BOARD'S QUA.—It may be recalled that last season the Congested Districts Board, through Mr. Kerr, distributed a quantity of prime tartar oats on condition that the recipients should return the same quantity next season. This has now been done, and a second distribution made. The crofters are very much pleased with the results, and are grateful to the Board for the assistance given. The method of giving the oat returning is a satisfactory feature to the men.

FOOTBALL MATCH.—In Goshill Park on Saturday a football match took place between teams representative of the volunteers and Naval Reserve instructors. The afternoon was showery, and a strong breeze blew obliquely across the pitch, which marred the enjoyableness of the game both for players and spectators. The result was a win for the volunteers by 5 goals to nil. The contest last year between these teams resulted in a draw.

A LEWIS BOY IN THE MAURITIUS.—"The Planter and Commercial Gazette" (Port Louis, Mauritius), of a recent issue contains an interesting editorial on a proposal to reconstruct the Lewis and Clarke island. The article proceeds to detail that the matter was first brought before the local Chamber of Commerce by Captain Murdoch Macdonald, who spoke of the anomaly of having a working clock and her boot on, and after she fell her left foot must have come in contact with the fire, for the boot was partly burned and the foot charred. The cause of death was choking through the loss of her head cap or much clothing tight round the throat when she fell or fainted, being alone at the time.

FOUND DEAD.—About seven o'clock on Sunday evening Captain Maclean (68), a pauper, residing alone at Cross, Ness, was found dead on the floor in her house there. Deceased had not been observed going to church, and her sister, who lives near by, went to her house and found her as described. She had been working clothes and her boot on, and after she fell her left foot must have come in contact with the fire, for the boot was partly burned and the foot charred. The cause of death was choking through the loss of her head cap or much clothing tight round the throat when she fell or fainted, being alone at the time.

PRESENTATION.—At their annual gathering the United Free Church congregation of Kilchroman (Lochaweside) presented their pastor, Rev. Mr. Fraser, and Mrs. Fraser, with a complete and beautiful silver tea and coffee service, also a massive oak silver-mounted tray bearing the inscription "Presented to the Rev. J. M. Fraser and Mrs. Fraser by the United Free Church congregation of Kilchroman and Sonachan." The many good services rendered by Mr. and Mrs. Fraser and the upright conduct that has characterized their work during their eight years' stay in the district has won for them the esteem of all. As a friend, as a man, and as a preacher Mr. Fraser has gained golden opinions and that fair fame that is the reward of the worker of good deeds. The children—Masters Ian, Willie, Nealy, and Miss Margaret—were each presented with a gift of money.

SMALLPOX SCARE.—Superintendent Smith, sanitary inspector, reported to the Town Council on Monday that in consequence of a telegram received by Dr. Macrae, medical officer, from Dr. Macnaughtan, Gairloch, he had been named William Mackintosh, a native of Aulbha (who had landed at Stornoway on the "Claymore") placed in the Isolation Home at Mossend, as it was suspected that he had left one of the smallpox-infected huts at Aulbha, where he had been working as a navy. According to the man's own story, he had not been allowed to land at Gairloch, and had to come to Stornoway with the "Claymore" on which he was engaged. The report concluded by the welcome statement that Dr. Macrae considered that Mackintosh could now be safely set at liberty, and Superintendent Smith said him away by the steamer on Monday night.

CORONATION CELEBRATIONS.—At the Town Council meeting on Monday Provost Anderson had on the card a motion that the Council take steps to arrange for the celebration of the Coronation in June. He did not know what form their celebrations should take, but at any rate he thought they should take the lead in the matter as a Council. They had no Common Good out of which to defray expenses, and they could not apply any portion of the rates, but they could use a voluntary assessment if the ratepayers were agreeable. At the 1887 Jubilee celebration they had had a turn-out of the volunteers and of the school children, and a thanksgiving service. He proposed that the whole commission be appointed a Committee to consider the matter, and that a public meeting be summoned to take it up. So far as the town school children were concerned, he said it was his intention to present each with a Coronation medal. He proposed to have the King and Queen on the obverse and the town arms on the reverse side, and he hoped the Council would see their way to grant him permission to use the idea. The proposal was unanimously agreed to and the sanction asked for granted.—At an earlier stage of the same meeting Councillor Alexander Fraser moved in terms of notice given that an effort should be made to have the foundation stone of the new municipal buildings laid on Coronation Day. He had, he said, hinted at this several weeks ago, and he thought, in view of the difficulty of deciding what should be done to celebrate the Day, that the laying of the foundation stone of the Town Hall would be one very desirable item in the programme of events. By Coronation Day the town would be practically free from the large number of strangers gathered for the fishing and there could be no objection to the erection of the barricades. He also thought it was desirable that an early beginning should be made with the building in view of the undertakings given to certain of the subscribers to the Building Fund. Municipalities, he said, were at their wits' end to devise means of celebrating the Coronation, and in his opinion the laying of the foundation stone of the Town Hall would be a very appropriate item and would help to put in a good part of the day. It would be an event of historic interest affecting not only them, but future generations, and there could be a good deal of ceremony in connection with it—perhaps a procession of the various bodies and the laying of the stone with Masonic honours. In view of the advanced stage of the preparations he thought the matter could be arranged if the Council really desired to do it, and he therefore moved that an effort be made to have it done. Councillor James M. Mackenzie seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

VITAL STATISTICS.—The registrar returns for the parish for the week ending Thursday are—Births, 5 males; marriages, 2; deaths, 3 (1 male and 2 females).

TOWN HALL.—At a meeting of the Town Hall Building Committee the list of competitive plans was further reduced to two, the one plan submitted under the name of "Experience" and the other of "Muirneag" (No. 2). On opening the sealed envelopes it was found that the former were submitted by Mr. John Robertson, Inverness, and the latter by Messrs. Cameron & Burnett, Inverness. The Clerk was directed to communicate with both these firms informing them that they were on the short list, and that their plans had been measured by two surveyors, who reported that the work would cost considerably over their estimated figure, and to ask them for an explanation. Messrs. Cameron & Burnett wired a reply suggesting communication with the Committee, and this was arranged for Tuesday evening. No reply had been received from Mr. Robertson for consideration at Monday's Town Council meeting. Provost Anderson on Monday intimated a subscription of £10 to the building fund from the services of Mr. Ross and Cromarty and Sutherland.

LEWIS STUDENTS.—At the end of another session we are glad to see that the Lewis students are maintaining their reputation. The most conspicuous success has been that of Mr. Donald Maclean, B.A., who graduated M.A., with first-class honours in English, at Aberdeen University. Mr. Maclean also tied for the first prize in English. Mr. R. W. Maclean, Callanish, also received the M.A. degree. At the same university Mr. Angus L. Macdonald, Ness, is 7th prizeman (equal) in Logic. Mr. D. J. Macleod, Stornoway, has the ninth place in German and fourteenth in French. Mr. Malcolm Macleod, Stornoway, passed his third professional examination in medicine. Mr. Malcolm Macleod, Ballanah, his second professional, and Mr. Kenneth Mackinnon, Ballanah, his first. Mr. Angus Macrae, Stornoway, has passed the preliminary examination in medicine, and Mr. John Macrae, his preliminary in arts. At Glasgow University Mr. George Beaton has passed his first professional in medicine. At Edinburgh University Mr. John Maclean, B.A., has taken a diploma in place of the diploma in Greek, and Mr. Robert M. Maciver, Stornoway, a very distinguished place in the honours classes of Latin and Greek.

ST. PETERSBURG HERRING MARKET.—The following report has been issued by Messrs. William Miller & Co., St. Petersburg, 5th April:—As customary before the commencement of the Lewis fishing, and the opening of the navigation here, we beg to wait on our friends in a paper with a review of the herring trade during the past year, and to offer a few remarks on the present position and future prospects of the market. The following gives the progress of the importation as compared with the preceding year.

Table with columns for 1901 and 1902, showing herring imports in barrels and value in sterling. 1901: 1,000 barrels, £100,000. 1902: 1,200 barrels, £120,000.

ARRIVALS.—By 1st June 1900, 1901, 1902. By 1st June 1900, 1901, 1902.

SCOTTISH HORSE.—ANOTHER SQUADRON TO BE RAISED.—The Duke of Atholl has received the sanction of the Secretary of State for War to raise another squadron (110 men) to reinforce the Scottish Horse, commanded by his son, Lieutenant-Colonel the Marquis of Tullibardine, D.S.O. The terms are the same as those offered to the Imperial Yeomanry, and recruiting for this draft will commence on Monday, 14th April, at the following military stations, namely:—Edinburgh, Glasgow, Ayr, Perth, Aberdeen, and Inverness, when it is hoped that as fine a class of men will be forthcoming as he has previously sent out to the regiment in Scotland, who have been very highly approved by their commanding officer, and who have distinguished themselves on every occasion on which they have come in contact with the enemy. Candidates are advised to lose no time in applying, as it is expected that the squadron will fill up in a very short time.

Table with columns for 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, showing herring imports in barrels and value in sterling. 1898: 1,000 barrels, £100,000. 1902: 1,200 barrels, £120,000.

REBRIDEAN NOTES.—OUTER ISLANDS MAIL SERVICES.—At the Town Council meeting on Monday night a letter was read from Mr. Orr Ewing, M.P., stating that he had submitted to the Postmaster-General the request of the Town Council of Oban that no alteration should be made in the running of the Outer Islands mail steamers without the Council being heard on the subject, and also their application with reference to the early morning mail train to Oban, and Lord Londonderry had intimated that a reply would be sent within the least possible delay.

REMOVAL NOTICE.—HECTOR MACLEAN & CO., GENERAL MERCHANTS, LOCHMADDY.

REMOVAL NOTICE.—BEG to thank their customers in North Oban and district for the kind patronage bestowed on them during the past 18 months, during which time they have carried on the business in the old shop situated in the West End of Oban. They have to intimate that they have now completed arrangements for the immediate erection of a new, commodious, and up-to-date BUSINESS PREMISES on the most central and convenient site in Lochmaddy, where they will be in a position to cater for the varied wants of the community, and for the convenience of the bodies and the laying of the stone with Masonic honours. In view of the advanced stage of the preparations he thought the matter could be arranged if the Council really desired to do it, and he therefore moved that an effort be made to have it done. Councillor James M. Mackenzie seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

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HALF-HOLIDAY QUESTION.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "THE HIGHLAND NEWS"] SIR,—It was with pleasure I read the article in last week's "Highland News" about the above. I do hope something will be done to make the shop assistant and apprentice's life worth living. That we have long hours no one will deny. An extension of the half-holiday season during the months of July, August, September, and October would be greatly appreciated by a large number of apprentices, and even masters. I would propose that a meeting of masters, assistants and apprentices be held at an early date to see if any arrangement can be made.—I am, Sir, yours, &c.

EULOGISED BY THE PROVOST.

A special meeting of the Inverness Town Council was held on Monday evening—Provost A. D. Ross in the chair—when the Town Clerk, Mr. Kenneth Macdonald, intimated that he had received a letter from Bailie Squair resigning his seat at the Council Board. Bailie Squair asked the Town Clerk to express his deep sense of his indebtedness to the members and his regret at having to sever his connection with the Council. Provost Ross said they had met that evening with mingled feelings of regret and pride—regret that by the will of His Majesty, King Edward, they were deprived of the services of one who adorned the office to which his fellow-townsmen had elected him. When appointed to the Council Mr. Squair had at once come to the front, and he had proved to those who appointed him that he was a man who might be made in electing other councillors, but he had made no mistake in sending Mr. Squair to represent them. He had taken a leading part in everything that tended for the good of the town, and in his position as a Town Councillor he had acted on various Committees in a way that every one of them admired, and possibly some of them envied. These services were suitably recognized in the report which he presented to the Council when he was elected to that position, and where his legal skill helped him in no small degree, he had shown by his natural ability and by the common-sense way in which he looked at questions and difficulties which came before the Magistrates, that he was the right man in the right place.—(applause). They had feelings of regret that he was no longer to adorn the Council Board, but at the same time a considerable amount of pride that he had been taken from their midst to fill the very important and difficult position of Sheriff of Stornoway.—(applause). It was patent to the world, continued the Provost, that were somewhat difficult to look at with a degree of comfort on the part of those whose duty it was to exercise authority; but again, Sheriff Squair's mother wit, and his (acting) of great experience in his work, with them in Inverness, came to the rescue. His very presence appeared to have thrown oil on the troubled ecclesiastical waters, and the threatened troubles were averted to a great extent by his methods. Sheriff Squair adopted in one of his first duties in the island—(applause). They had to express their regret at Sheriff Squair's departure, and to record in their minutes a sense of the loss sustained by the town, and to congratulate him on his departure.

ANOTHER HALF-HOLIDAY.

INVERNESS TOWN COUNCIL AND SHERIFF SQUAIR.

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THERE IS NO ESCAPE DELUSIVE CREDIT SYSTEMS. From the FATAL CONSEQUENCES of dealing on pernicious instalment schemes. The honest buyer may not only find himself saddled with a worthless watch or other article, but pays for those who are unable to keep up the never ending series of weary payments.

H. SAMUEL'S GREAT SENSATIONAL OFFER!! SEND A POSTCARD TO-DAY FOR THE GREAT BARGAIN BOOK. The shrewd buyer's friend! OPENS THE DOORS OF THE FACTORY to all! Reveals the secret of how to SAVE MONEY! 250 Pages, 300 Illustrations. SILVER WATCHES 66, GOLD DIAMOND RINGS 76, GOLD & SILVER BROOCHES, CUTLERY, CLOCKS! MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, &c. SENT NEXT MAIL-FREE, EVERY ARTICLE SUPPLIED ON A MONTH'S FREE TRIAL. Full Amount Returned if Dissatisfied. 15/6. CUT THIS OUT and send it with your Order 15/6. It will entitle you to a FREE BONUS PRIZE of a magnificent BAVARIAN GOLD (Type) ALBERT FROG. (Signed) H. SAMUEL. Write To-Day DEPT. H. SAMUEL 384 Market St. MANCHESTER

NEW DESIGNS. PLEASING EFFECTS. MONUMENTS. CARRIAGE PAID TO STORNOWAY.

IN returning best thanks to their friends of the West of Scotland for past favours, MESSRS JOHN HOOD & SON would beg to again remind the Lewis people and those of the surrounding districts that they are to offer their very large stock of MONUMENTS in MARBLE, GRANITE, or FREESTONE at WHOLESALE PRICES and PAY CARRIAGE TO STORNOWAY on all orders received during May and June of this year. WRITE AT ONCE TO Lick for Patterns and Prices, which will be SENT FREE.

Inscriptions Cut or Monuments Renewed very moderately during May. Orders left at the Shop of Mr. NICHOLSON, Stationer, North Beach Street, Stornoway, will have best attention. WREATHS and GLASS SHADES in great variety; also GRIND-STONES, FLAG-STONES, SCYTHE-STONES, IRON RAILS, STONE BORDERS, &c., &c. EDAY FREESTONE is famous for Building purposes. Durable, pretty colour, and low priced; very fine to cut.

JOHN HOOD & SON, SCULPTORS and QUARRYMEN, WICK, and EDAY, ORKNEY. ESTABLISHED 1820. TELEGRAMS—"HOOD, WICK."

LAY THIS PAST AFTER PERUSAL; YOU WILL REQUIRE OUR ADDRESS.

THE LEWIS BAKERY. TIMBER YARD, LEWIS STREET.

OLDEST ESTABLISHED BUSINESS IN TOWN AND STILL HOLDS THE FORE FRONT. MR MATHESON has pleasure in informing his numerous Patrons and the General Public that he has just had his Bakery fitted up with the NEWEST and BEST MACHINERY for bread-making. Part of the Machinery, which is Electro-Plated, is the identical article that was exhibited by the makers at the Glasgow Exhibition, where they were purchased by Mr. Matheson for delivery at the close of the Great Show.

MR MATHESON'S COMMODIOUS AND WELL-VENTILATED BAKESHOP is at once the most complete and up-to-date in town. Electro-Plated, is the identical article that was exhibited by the makers at the Glasgow Exhibition, where they were purchased by Mr. Matheson for delivery at the close of the Great Show. All kinds of Plain and Fancy Breads, Biscuits, and Hot-Plate Work. Pastries of every description in stock or made on shortest notice.

Town and Country Orders promptly attended to. HUGH MATHESON, BAKER AND GROCER, 11 and 13 CROMWELL STREET, STORNOWAY.

SPRING CLEARING SALE. NOW GOING ON. THE WHOLE STOCK SUBJECT TO GREAT REDUCTIONS.

EXTRA REDUCTIONS ON ALL SURPLUS STOCK. NOW IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO GET CHEAP BARGAINS.

NOTE ADDRESS—JOHN MORRISON, 35—CROMWELL STREET—35, STORNOWAY.

HARROW WOOL MILLS, WICK. The Harrow Wool Mills Co. take this opportunity of thanking their numerous customers throughout the island for the large measure of support they have received in the past.

ALEX. MACLEOD, BAKER & CONFECTIONER, 23 NORTH BEACH STREET, STORNOWAY.

TO LET, at 24 Newton, Stornoway, Parlour and Double Bedroom, furnished. No attendance.

COTTAGE and GARDEN to Let (furnished). Two bedrooms, one public (bath), closet, kitchen, scullery, fine bathing and fishing bay. Four miles out of Stornoway. For further particulars apply to Macleod, Portvoller, Stornoway.

WANTED, two good men for steam drifter from Maiver, fabruar, Stornoway. Apply at Maiver, until 6th September. Apply Duncan News Office, Inverness.

WANTED to Lease or Purchase in Stornoway, a Fishing Bay with or without Kilgriff House. Apply, stating lowest terms, to X.Y.Z., Husband News Office, Inverness.

GENERAL SERVANT wanted. Must be early riser. Apply No. 1320 Highland News Office, Stornoway.

TEACHER, Male or Female, wanted very soon for Cromros Public School, Lewis. Salary, £80 per annum, payable quarterly—less superannuation charge—and a house rent free. Drawing Art, 1911 (4) and singing by note recommended. Letters of application, in duplicate, with two copies of testimonials, stating age and experience, with two copies of testimonials, to be lodged before the 1st May next with William J. Clarke, School Board Office, Stornoway.

ASSISTANT MISTRESS—Normal trained—wanted for the Sandwickhill Public School, one mile from Stornoway. Salary, £60 per annum—superannuation for superannuation. Drawing qualification essential. Applications, stating age and experience, with two copies of testimonials, to be lodged before the 1st May next with William J. Clarke, School Board Office, Stornoway.

BURGH OF STORNOWAY. Notice is hereby given that the Provost, Magistrate, and Councillors of the Burgh of Stornoway propose, by virtue of the powers conferred upon them by the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892, to borrow upon the security of the Burgh General Assessment the sum of £700 for the purpose of erecting a Public Slaughter-House, and that the proposal, to borrow with or without the sanction of the Town Council, is to be held at a meeting of the Council Chambers here, on the 9th day of June, 1902, at 7 o'clock p.m.

CONTRACTORS. The Lewis District Committee invite Offers for the Repair and Maintenance of the Sections of the Public Roads in the Town District, and Sections 1, 2, and 3 in the Parish of Lochs, on the 15th May, 1902. The specification of the works can be seen in the hands of the undersigned, and each Offer must be accompanied by a copy of the Offer attached to the specification, with relative forms of offer, will be supplied by the Subscribers to Intending Contractors, and no offer will be entertained unless on the printed form. Offers to be lodged with the Subscribers not later than Tuesday, 6th May next. The lowest or any other offer need not necessarily be accepted. By Order, HUGH MILLER District Clerk, Stornoway, 14th April, 1902.

FLOWER and KITCHEN GARDEN. Just to hand a large and varied stock of Vegetables, Flower and Field Seeds from some of the largest seed growers in Scotland. Any seeds not in stock will be obtained on Three Days Notice. Letter orders promptly attended to. ANGUS MACDONALD, 15 CROMWELL STREET, STORNOWAY.

THE Subscriber begs to announce that he some time ago added a New Branch to his already increasing business, viz., LADY TAILORING, and he is in a position to undertake all kinds of work in the above line. Patterns of dress stuffs, &c., supplied on application, and Plates of Latest Designs can be seen on the premises. MALCOLM MACARTHUR, 40 CROMWELL STREET, STORNOWAY.

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT. JOHN MACKAY, PAINTER, DECORATOR, PAPERHANGER, &c., begs to announce to the General Public that he has severed his connection with the firm of MACKAY & MACDONALD, of which firm he has been a partner for the last four years, and has commenced business on his own account in Stornoway and Lochmaddy. Having a thorough knowledge of both Town and Country Trade, Patrons may rest assured every satisfaction. He will give strict personal attention to all work entrusted to him, and as his motto is Cheap Rates and Thorough Workmanship, he anticipates a growing share of public patronage. ESTIMATES GIVEN ON APPLICATION. P.S.—Messrs, and until further notice, Orders to be left at 72 Cromwell Street, Stornoway.

REMOVAL NOTICE. The Subscriber begs to intimate to his Customers and the General Public that he has PURCHASED THE BUSINESS Hitherto carried on under the name of the LEWIS GROCERY STORES, and in future he will carry it on under the name of the IMPERIAL CASH GROCERY STORES. While thanking his Customers for the patronage bestowed on him, he begs to be kept advised by strict personal attention to business to secure an increasing share of public patronage in future. All kinds of Groceries and Provisions at LOWEST CASH PRICES. Daily Supplies of Aberdeen Smoked Haddock, Fresh Butter, and Fresh Cream. NOTE ADDRESS—JOHN MACLENNAN, IMPERIAL CASH GROCERY STORES, (LATE LEWIS GROCERY STORES), 33 POINT STREET, STORNOWAY.

HIRING! HIRING! HIRING!! HORSES CAN BE HAD ON HIRE on very Moderate Terms from J. H. GRIGOR, 6 SOUTH BEACH STREET, STORNOWAY.

COALS! COALS! COALS! The Subscriber begs to intimate that they have the steamer "Duddon" due here on Thursday, 24th, with a large quantity of the BEST QUALITY SCREENED ENGLISH HOUSE COALS, which will be delivered ex Steamer at reasonable prices. COAL LORRY WILL VISIT THE VARIOUS DISTRICTS OF THE TOWN DAILY, and Coals can be

