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Q.—Was that in consequence of a family quarrel?—No; I could not make out the reason.

Q.—Were you on bad terms with your brother?—Yes.

Q.—In consequence of this you went to Dr Barclay because you thought he (your brother) was insane? Was your brother indignant at it being suggested that he was insane?—Yes. He did not quarrel with him over that.

Q.—Did you get into difficulties with your employer—Lord Zetland—in consequence of your brother being in the house?—Yes.

Q.—Was that Lord Zetland's objection to your brother staying in the house? Was not the objection taken to your brother because he was a poacher?—No; he was not a poacher at that time.

Lord Trayner—What was Lord Zetland's objection to his staying in the house?—It was because he was my brother, and was conducting himself wildly.

Cross-examination continued.—Witness had a quarrel with his brother in the winter of 1893, and it was after that that he started to poach. His brother had a very violent temper, and that was the reason he could not live with him. When he left the house at Glenmore, he left his brother there. Afterwards there was a summons served by witness to make him quit the house. He then went and lived in an unoccupied house about a mile off. He left the house in Glenmore in March, 1893, and he had not seen him since then, except one day at a distance. He did not see him since then to speak to.

THE OVERSEER AT ROSEHALL.

Alexander Graham, overseer, Rosehall, spoke to having had prisoner in his service in 1893, and to MacCallum having barricaded himself into his house. He declined to let witness in, and witness went away, but could not say it was because he was afraid.

Mr Blair read a letter from witness to the inspector of poor stating that MacCallum had become insane, and requesting the inspector to have him examined and declared insane. Mr Blair added that he had got the letter only that day, and it was not among the productions.

Lord Trayner—That is quite irregular, Mr Blair. You had no right to read it when it was not produced.

Mr Blair—But, my Lord—

Lord Trayner (warmly)—It is no use arguing about it, Mr Blair. It is quite irregular and wrong.

Mr Blair—I got the letter to-day only.

Lord Trayner—That might be an excellent reason for asking me to read it, but it is no excuse for anyone else reading it.

Mr Blair—May I put the question, my Lord, if he (witness) wrote this letter?

Lord Trayner—Certainly; but you should not have read it.

Mr Blair—I beg your Lordship's pardon.

Witness then admitted writing the letter, but did not remember the circumstances under which it was written.

Did you also write to accused's brother, Donald MacCallum?—Yes.

Did you remember what you wrote him?—No.

Did you have at the time of this Rosehall incident conversations about religious matters?—Yes.

What did he say?—He asked to be introduced to the Free Church minister, stating that he wished to join the Church.

Did he say anything about his labouring under a conviction for sin?—No.

Cross-examined by Mr Mackenzie, witness said that accused complained of being depressed, and he asked him to come and stay with him. Accused stayed with witness a few days, and behaved very quietly the whole time. One day he took a gun out of witness's house, and shut himself up in his own house.

The facts on which he thought accused was insane were because he locked himself up, and because he was depressed.



Rev. JOHN ROSS, F.C. Minister, Rosehall.

Rev. John Ross, Free Church minister, Rosehall, said that in June of 1892 he was asked to go and see Allan MacCallum, because he had shut himself in a house, and would let no one in. In consequence of the report, he went down to see him. He found the door shut, and the window, or window, covered with a bedcover or something like that. He was not admitted at first; but, so far as he remembered, he thought MacCallum asked if he were alone, and one or two who were with me I told to go away, so that I could see him alone. He then opened the door. MacCallum's excited appearance seemed somewhat strange to him, and naturally he tried to reason with him, but he seemed quite incapable of grasping anything he said to him, and he came away with the impression that he was mentally unsound. He sat in a bowed attitude, and his face was covered with his hands, he only occasionally taking them away.

Cross-examined—He had been twice at the house, and MacCallum seemed low-spirited and melancholy.

Do you think that the prisoner was then suffering from remorse?—He had the impression of hearing that MacCallum said that a young man who was preaching for him (witness) preached at him.

Lord Trayner—You said that on a first visit he seemed incapable of grasping anything you said to him. What were your topics?—I cannot remember.

Your memory is blank on that, but it is not blank as to the result left in your mind?—No. Were the subjects of conversation abusive?—Oh, I do not think they would be.

Lord Trayner—That is not an answer. Were they or were they not?—No.

Were they simple statements?—Yes.

Would he not have grasped them?—Not if he was mentally unsound.

THE DOCTORS DIFFER.

Dr John Macdonald, Bridge Street, Inverness, was then examined on the medical report, and said the direction of the shot seemed to be upwards.

Lord Trayner—If the gentleman who drew up the report said that it took a different course, that would simply be an incorrect expression of views?—Yes.

Mr Blair—Do you think the wound might have been caused accidentally otherwise than suicidally?

Lord Trayner—Suicide would not be accident.

Witness in answer to further questions, said there was nothing in the appearance to exclude the idea of accident. If a man had been cleaning the gun for example, and was accidentally discharged, the course of the shot might be as in this case.

Lord Trayner—There is nothing in the report inconsistent with the gun having been fired with intention to kill?—No. If the gun was fired horizontally I would have expected to find the apex of the heart blown

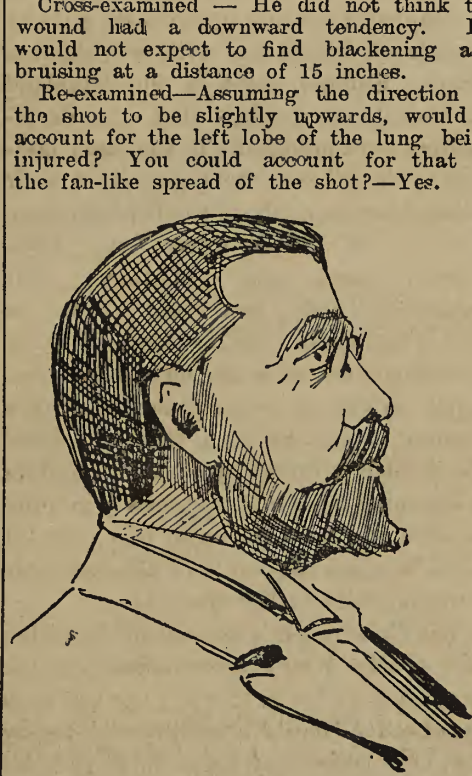
away, and the other appearances which are absent.

Lord Trayner—Is there anything in your experience, doctor, known to be more irregular, or which gives more frequent surprise, than the course a bullet or pellets may take after penetrating a man's skin?—That may be so.

Witness then said that, in conjunction with Dr Lang, he made some experiments about gun wounds with a No. 16 smooth-bore gun. The appearance that most resembled the one described in the doctor's report was produced at 18 inches. In his opinion, after these experiments, the shot was fired between 15 inches and 21 inches. Their experiments at a distance of three feet did not coincide at all with the opening in the coat. He had heard most of the evidence, and he considered that at the time of the Rosehall incident accused was suffering from melancholia. He had examined accused with reference to his sanity. He understood that prisoner had been in Patagonia, and that he could not stand the sun. Witness inferred that accused had had a touch of sunstroke.

Cross-examined—He did not think the wound had a downward tendency. He would not expect to find blackening and bruising at a distance of 15 inches.

Re-examined—Assuming the direction of the shot to be slightly upwards, would it account for the left lobe of the lung being injured? You could account for that by the fan-like spread of the shot?—Yes.



DR GORDON LANG, M.D., C.M., of Aberdeen University.

Dr Gordon Lang, M.D., C.M., of Aberdeen University, said he had been in practice in Inverness for six years, and was altogether in practice for nine years. He had read the report of the case, and there was nothing in the account of the nature of the gunshot which could not have been accidental. The direction of the shot had a somewhat upward tendency. If the shot had entered horizontally he should have expected that the central tendon of the diaphragm would have been injured and the front portion of the lung. He had made experiments with a gun somewhat similar to MacCallum's.

Mr Morris, the solicitor, was with him at the time. He had no doubt that MacCallum's gun was loaded, because a large part of the chamber was occupied with some substance, and no air went through the



PATRICK J. BLAIR, Senior Counsel.

Mr P. J. Blair, for the defence, said the first thing they had to do was to satisfy themselves that the case presented by the Crown rested upon substantial evidence. The very fact that there were these two charges in the case was an acknowledgment that the Crown would have been unable to prove the second charge without the first. It was not for him to say how the gun had gone off. The slightest knock against the butt of a rickety old gun like that produced might have done it. The importance of the defence of insanity could not be over-estimated. There were circumstances amounting to weakness of mind which would entitle them to bring a verdict of culpable homicide. If the jury found the accused guilty of murder, the course of law required that the last penalty should be passed upon him. If they were satisfied that there was something in the man's mental condition which, though actually not amounting to insanity, would be understood by most as weakness of mind, that fact would entitle them to bring in a verdict of culpable homicide, and he asked them to remember that a verdict of murder meant a penalty of death—(slight applause).

LORD TRAYNER'S SUMMING UP.

Lord Trayner, in his charge to the jury, referred to the serious nature of the case in its aspect for the prisoner, and also as to personal violence, especially directed against those doing duty as officers of the law. As to the plea of insanity, a high authority had said, if the jury believe that a prisoner when he committed the act had sufficient mental capacity to know, and did know, that the act was against the law, and punishable by law, it would be their duty to convict him. His lordship pointed out that absolutely not a single witness spoke to insanity on 20th December last. All the evidence led had been to the effect that nothing was seen wrong; that accused was sensible; and that there was neither action nor gesture to indicate that his mind was off the balance. It would have been far more important if there had been evidence as to the state of mind of the prisoner on 20th December. He was glad to see that one consideration might present itself to the jury—that they were of opinion that this man was entirely upset prior to December last, so that a little or less excitement than might affect other people prevented him fully realising he was committing an offence—in short, made him not fully responsible for the moment. They would be quite entitled to take that into account in the verdict. They had also to distinguish between the control spoken to in this case and the control every man ought to have of his temper. The law gave no protection to what had been done in the exercise of violent temper. If, however, they were of opinion on the evidence that prisoner's mind was so weakened by previous disease that when this act was committed he had lost control of himself, they would consider as to returning a verdict accordingly. The case was absolutely in the hands of the jury, who had a duty to the prisoner, the Crown, and the public, and it was their duty not to acquit the prisoner if satisfied that he committed the capital offence.

nipple end. In witness's opinion, the shot had been fired at a distance of 18 to 21 inches.

Now, what do you think about the Rosehall incident?—My opinion is that at that time accused was in a state of dangerous lunacy.

Lord Trayner—What was his mania?—Melancholia.

Lord Trayner—But melancholia is not mania medically?—No.

Well, how would you class his mania?—I do not know.

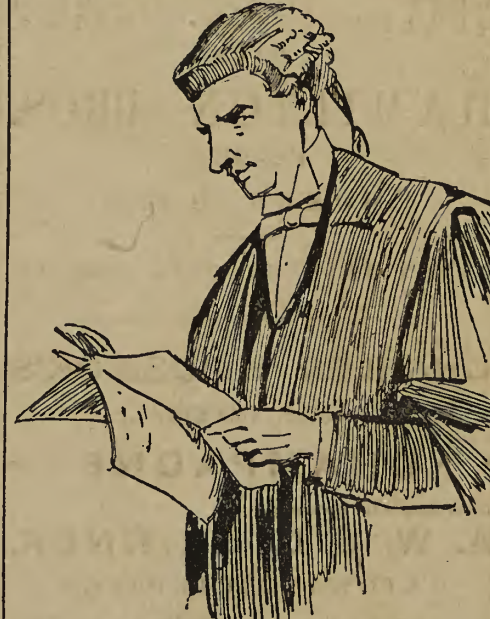
You say he was a dangerous lunatic. How would you class his mania?—I am not sure, except as melancholia.

Lord Trayner—And that is not mania?—That is not mania.

Lord Trayner—Your opinion is that he suffered from melancholia. He did not say anything as to the sun having caused his illness in Patagonia?—No.

After slight cross-examination of this witness, the case was closed, and the jury retired for a little before counsel spoke. The speeches of counsel and the Judge's charge to the jury occupied more than an hour.

ADDRESSES OF COUNSEL.



MR C. KINCAID MACKENZIE, Advocate-Depute.

Mr Mackenzie, for the prosecution, said he felt it was his duty to ask for a verdict of murder against prisoner. He thought they would agree with him that the evidence of what happened on the forenoon of the day labelled had a most material bearing upon the questions they had to consider in the second charge. There was a special defence that the prisoner was insane when the deed was done. That, however, did not absolve the Crown from proving that the prisoner did shoot King. He submitted that the special defence had not been proved, and said that if he could, consistently with his duty, ask a verdict of culpable homicide, he would most gladly do so, but he felt that that was absolutely impossible for him to do. The facts were, upon the facts as they had been proved, to ask the jury to bring in a verdict of guilty as libelled.



PATRICK J. BLAIR, Senior Counsel.

EVIDENCE AND SENTENCE.

The Jury, after a few minutes' absence, returned, and through the foreman, Mr MacConquodale, gave a verdict of unaniously guilty of the charge of threatening Constable Macniven, and by a majority guilty of culpable homicide on the second charge.

The Advocate-Depute moved for sentence, and Lord Trayner said the Jury had taken a very merciful and humane view of the case. Culpable homicide was sometimes of a very trivial character, and at other times so close to the capital offences as to be on the very verge of murder. He did not wish to say anything that would aggravate prisoner's position, but he was unable, in the circumstances, to pronounce sentence of less than

15 YEARS' PENAL SERVITUDE.

Prisoner, evidently much relieved, bowed to the Judge.

The Judge thanked the Provost, Magistrates, Town Council, and Jury for their attendance, and the Court rose.

Ten of the Jury were for culpable homicide, four for murder, and one for not proven on the second charge.

Mrs Macleod of Cadboll was, next to the presiding Judge, the most noticeable figure on the Bench. She was richly attired, and wore a magnificent diamond brooch, a triple row necklace of pearls, and white kid gloves. The proceedings after a time became somewhat tedious, but Mrs Macleod seemed to be able to dispel the ennui which at times crept over the Court by toying with a formidable quill pen, which evidently formed part of the furnishings of the Bench. Mrs Macleod was accompanied by her husband, Captain Macleod.

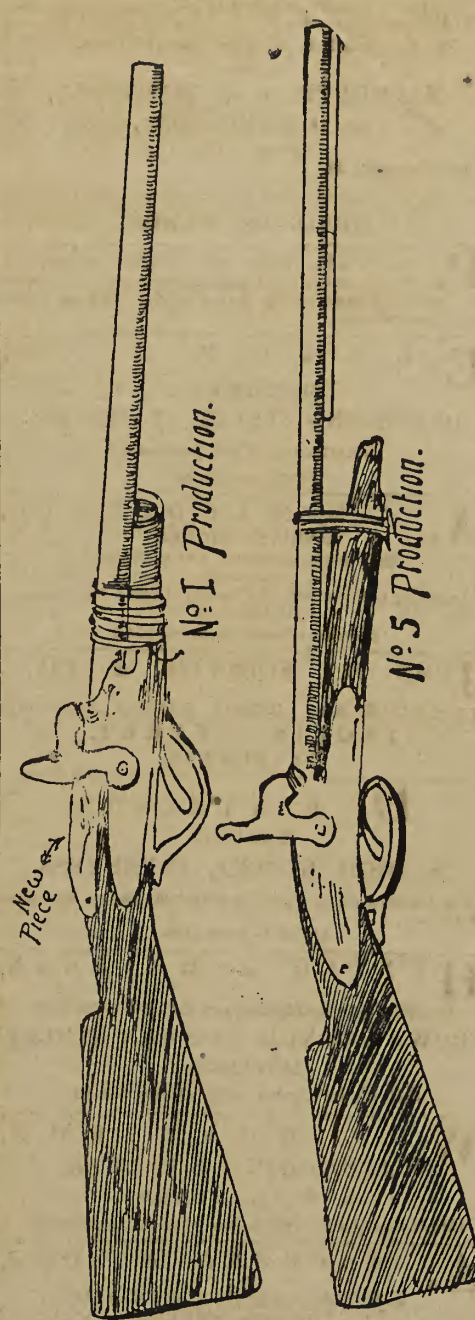


WILLIAM ANDERSON, Depute Procurator-Fiscal, Inverness.

The public subscriptions in aid of the widow and family of Constable King Abernethy, amount to over £1200. Many police constables throughout the country have joined in the generous response to the appeal by the Committee. The secretarial duties have been ungrudgingly performed by Mr William Anderson, Procurator-Fiscal Depute.

In view of the interest taken in the trial, we are sending to the public a copy of the pamphlet 'The Truth about the Game Laws.'

THE GUNS.



No. 1 is the picture of the gun which was (so Constable Macniven said) lying across King's legs—but THERE IS A DOUBT IF KING WAS SHOT WITH No. 1. For explanation, see 'The Highland News' of next week.

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The past fortnight has been the busiest in our experience. No fewer than 2500 persons visited our Warehouse on Monday, the opening day of our sale. The crush was great indeed, but the inconvenience attending it was more than compensated by the GENUINE BARGAINS we gave, and the assured appreciation of our customers, large numbers of whom personally expressed themselves highly delighted with their purchases, while hundreds of others silently indicated an equal appreciation by their pleased looks, as they went from Department to Department, eagerly buying what they wanted, at such tempting reductions in price as have already been given in detail in our advertisements, and which will be continued during the term of Sale.

ON MONDAY
We shall be prepared with a Large Number of
NEW ATTRACTIONS
IN
EVERY DEPARTMENT.
Owing to the immense crowds daily visiting the Warehouse, we were not able to bring forward all the numerous Lots we mean to dispose of during this GENUINE SALE.
By working, however, to a late hour last night, we were able to bring forward many

SPECIAL LOTS
Not hitherto exhibited, and which for honest value in many cases exceed anything we have yet offered, and that is saying a good deal. This being in every sense of the word a
CLEARANCE SALE,
We are not able to give with any certainty details of the various Bargains, for in many cases the number of articles are limited, and when sold cannot under any circumstances be repeated. Consequently we content ourselves by enumerating a few of the most prominent lines which we shall offer on Monday and throughout the Week.

MANTLE DEPARTMENT.
The demand for Coats and Skirts last week has been so great that we have been obliged to order delivery of several numbers that we intended should appear in our first Spring Show next month. These Goods are the pink of perfection in fit, style, and workmanship, and further, we have decided to offer them at SALE PRICES, thus affording our customers a double benefit—namely, ADVANCED FASHIONS at SALE PRICES.
VERY SPECIAL—Ladies' Tailor-Made Coats and Skirts, in four Colourings, perfect fitting. The Skirts full size with fashionable Boy Pleat at back. Sale price, 18s 11d; well worth 27s 6d.
Ladies' Black Cloth Jackets to be cleared at 4s 11d; former price, 12s 6d.
Many other such lines as will be on Sale in this Salon today.
Remaining Shirts and Blouses to be cleared at 1s 11d to 3s 1d.

MILLINERY SALOON.
Our reputation for keeping only HIGH-CLASS and EXCLUSIVE Designs in Millinery is now so well known that we only had to mention the fact that we had a CLEARANCE SALE to get a large and appreciative crowd of Ladies daily in this ever-popular Saloon. No sooner were the GOODS put into our window than they were picked up, so great was the demand for these CHOICE HATS and BONNETS during every day of the past week.
TO-DAY we shall continue to give the same extraordinary Bargains, for every Hat and Bonnet in this Saloon must be cleared out during the next week.

SEE OUR WINDOWS.
To say that we have been very busy during the past week in this ever-growing Department is but putting it very mildly. The fact is we have been busy days creating out, and no wonder, the VARIETY and EXTENT of the Stock on SALE here, and at such tempting prices, was bound to bring us a crowd of eager buyers. These Bargains are by no means exhausted yet. We shall offer to-day a large assortment of LADIES' and CHILDREN'S GARNISHES for DAY and NIGHT WEAR, at prices that will both please and astonish the most fastidious. Visit us for everything you want for your own or your Children's wear, for we can suit you.

DRAPERY DEPARTMENT.
Probably no other department in the Warehouse was more largely patronised during the past week than the Drapery. Here are to be found so many necessary and useful articles for household purposes, and at prices that are most tempting; for instance, in Towels, Tablecloths, Counterpanes, Table Napkins, Pillowcases, Sheets, Blankets, Down Quilts, &c., &c., we have some EXTRAORDINARY BARGAINS, and when these are sold they cannot possibly be repeated at their present prices.
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DRESS DEPARTMENT.
The crowds of eager buyers which lined our Dress Counter from Monday to Saturday afternoon is another proof that the value we give is appreciated by a wide circle. In order to make the THIRD WEEK OF SALE in this Department as successful as the first, we have gone carefully through the Stock, and picked out a number of DRESSES which we have FURTHER REDUCED IN PRICE. For all Dress Lengths must be cleared out.
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The Highland News
INVERNESS, Saturday, Feb. 18, 1899.
SUMMARIES.
A special report of the Nethy-Bridge murder trial, profusely illustrated, will be found on pages 2 and 3.
The Inverness-shire Farmer Society held their annual seed show and dinner yesterday. Page 8.
M. Felix Faure, President of the French Republic, died in Paris on Thursday evening, the result of an apopleptic seizure.
Londonderry City yesterday returned Count Arthur Moore (Nationalist) as member of Parliament by a majority of 42 over his opponent, Mr. A. Herdman (Unionist). Page 5.
Inverness Liberals met last night, and elected Dr. F. M. MacKenzie president of the Burgh Association, in room of Mr. Henry Munro, who, to the regret of every member, has been obliged to resign on account of ill health. Page 5.

THE HIGHLANDS IN PARLIAMENT.
To those who have experience of the House of Commons it is well known that an amendment on the Queen's Speech is not the best means of bringing any public question before the attention of Parliament. But as things go now it is about the only opportunity that is left to private members to bring questions in which they are interested before the House. Following the usual custom, the Member for Ross and Cromarty raised a discussion on the Highland question on Tuesday last. Notwithstanding that the result was a foregone conclusion, the discussion and the division which followed showed that Liberals had lost none of the interest of former years in the condition of the Highlands, and it also showed that the obduracy of the Tories against the amendment of the Crofters Act remains unchanged. That, it has to be confessed, was about the only result of the discussion, and to most people neither position needed any fresh proof.

The amendment itself, compared with some of the amendments submitted by the Member for Ross to the Queen's Speech of past years, was somewhat better drafted, and it enabled the question to be discussed from two well-defined standpoints, namely, the admission of the small leaseholders to the benefits of the Crofters Act, and the proper utilisation of the land scheduled by the Royal Commission of 1892. The Lord Advocate's argument against the inclusion of the small leaseholders was not new, and will not bear a moment's examination. No one knows that better than the Lord Advocate himself. He claims to take his stand on the historical facts on which the Crofters' Act is based. We have often been not a little amused at the zeal with which leading Tories for some years past desire to vindicate the historic basis of that Act. At the time of the passing of the Act they, led by the present Leader of the House of Commons, took up a very different attitude. But, so soon as they found, as they think, that the historical argument could be turned to some advantage in preventing the extension of the Act, they suddenly become its most strenuous supporters. The same argument was trotted out again by the Lord Advocate on Tuesday, notwithstanding the fact that during the discussion on the Second Reading of Sir George Trevelyan's Crofters Amendment Act in the session 1895 the right honourable gentleman who now holds the office of Lord Advocate, if we mistake not, practically admitted the justice of the claim of the small leaseholders to redress, and declared that the then Opposition would not oppose

that part of the Bill. But to any one who knows the facts it is as clear as noonday that there never was a real contract entered into in the case of the small leaseholders in the Highlands. The tenants in question had to accept such leases as the landlord chose to give them, under threat of eviction. The so-called leases were a cunning device to endeavour to win the Highland people from the belief that the land belonged to them and not to the landlord, and to accustom them to a perpetual witness to that important fact. Against the Lord Advocate's views we may quote the definition of a crofter given in the report of the Royal Commission of 1883, where it is declared that a crofter is a tenant of a holding not exceeding thirty pounds of annual rent with or without a lease. Further, some of the Highland landlords, recognising that the leaseholders were practically in the same position as the other crofters, permitted their leaseholders to apply to the Crofters Commission, to which course the Commission took no objection. But argument and fact are lost on the Government. They are evidently determined not to budge on the question. But from some news published in another column it will be seen that the small leaseholder question in certain quarters is assuming a grave aspect, and it is quite possible the Lord Advocate may, when it is too late, see the error of the inflexible attitude which he has taken up.

The Government's answer to the other part of Mr. Weir's amendment was the Congested Districts Board. But not even the Lord Advocate could pretend to say that that Board had made much progress with the extension of holdings. He claimed that they did some other useful things. But that was beside the question. The question was the extension of holdings; and if the Government have no better plan than that of the Congested Districts Board time will show that in the passing of the Act constituting that Board they have done very little indeed to carry into operation the opinions announced and the promises made by Mr. Arthur Balfour in the House of Commons on the eve of the bye-election in Inverness-shire in the summer of 1895. A settlement of the Highland question is not to be got from the present Parliament. Any attempt made there is but beating the air. It may help to keep the question before the public, and may enable certain members to keep themselves before their constituents. But that is all. Before any Parliament will deal radically with the question much work has to be done outside Parliament. It was not in Parliament that the original Crofters Act was really won, but on the Braes, on Ben Lee, and in the valleys of Glendale. It is becoming clearer and clearer every day that the Highland Land Restoration Act of the future must be made possible in Parliament by the action, determination, and decision of the people who desire to occupy new holdings. Is the young and rising generation of Highland men equal to the task? The waste straths and glens of their native land await the answer. How long?

OUR NEW STORY.—For particulars of our New Story, "Princess Delilah," by Mrs. George Corbett, see page 10. A thrilling and absorbing tale.
Notices of births, marriages, and deaths, funeral announcements, &c., will be found on page 1.
TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Pressure of a more than ordinarily heavy nature on our space this week has compelled us to hold over many items of interest.
HOUSEBREAKING.—Yesterday three men, named Frank Donnelly, Wm. Kirkland, and Wm. Tolmie, were charged before Sheriff Scott-Moncrieff at Inverness, at a pleading dated with the theft by housebreaking of a jacket and vest. The alleged offence was committed at Fort-Augustus. Wm. Kirkland pled guilty, and was sentenced to 14 days imprisonment. The others pled not guilty, and the case against them was adjourned until the second diet, which will be held to-day.

APPOINTMENT OF PARISH REGISTRAR.—Last night Mr. George Macbean, chief assistant in the office of Mr. James Ross, law agent for the town, was appointed to the office of Registrar for the parish of Inverness and Bona at a meeting of Inverness Town Council. There were six applicants for the post, namely, Messrs George Macbean, D. W. Call, Wm. Mackintosh, J. C. Stewart, Robert Macgregor, and Alex. Humphrey, all of Inverness. Mr. Mackintosh had been assistant with the late Mr. Fraser, registrar, for five years, and on behalf of this young man a strong appeal was made by Bailie Clark. Messrs Stewart and Macgregor were not nominated, and the result of the first vote was—Call 10, Macbean 6, Mackintosh 3, Humphrey 1. The second vote showed 10 for Macbean, and an equal number for Call. Macbean was appointed by the casting vote of the Provost.

THE KIRKILL CATTLE-DEALING CASE.—In our last issue there appeared a paragraph relating to the liberation of Mr. Andrew Fraser, cattle-dealer, Kirkhill. The paragraph, as furnished, we regret to say, was inaccurate. The facts, we understand, are that Mr. Fraser was brought before the Sheriff at Inverness on a charge of theft. He had some cattle at the Muir of Ord Market. Two of these he sold to a farmer, who paid down 10s of the price, and undertook to pay the balance to Mr. Fraser's credit with the bank at Beatty. The purchaser had not the money with him at the time, but some days afterwards he did lodge the money. Fraser detained the cattle meantime, and, according to his own version of it, not having heard that the money was paid, he re-sold the cattle. He was then charged with theft. He pled not guilty, and was represented by an agent, Mr. John Sinclair Fraser, at the trial, but the Sheriff found him guilty, and sentenced him to twenty-one days' imprisonment. His friends then came forward, and he instructed an appeal, and he was liberated with no other bail than his own recognisances. The hearing of the appeal was not put down for the Circuit Court, as mentioned in the paragraph, nor is the date fixed, but it is expected that it will be heard in Edinburgh within a fortnight.

THE PETTY CUSTOMS.—Lord Balfour of Burleigh, the Secretary of State for Scotland, received in his office in Edinburgh on Monday a deputation from the Convention of Royal and Parliamentary Burghs on the subject of the legislative proposals made in last session of Parliament, and likely to be renewed in the present session, for the compulsory abolition of the Petty Customs in all the Scottish burghs. There were representatives from nineteen burghs, including Inverness, Elgin, Dingwall and Dornoch. Inverness was represented by Bailie Macdonald, Treasurer Ross, and Mr. Kenneth Macdonald, Town Clerk. The deputation was introduced by Mr. J. B. Balfour, Q.C., M.P., who stated that these burghs would be willing to consider the Bill if any adequate compensatory provision was made from the source from which the customs came or from any source other than rating the community. Treasurer Ross stated the case for Inverness, stating that the abolition of the Petty Customs would mean a loss of £2000 annually, and to provide that sum a tax of 5d in the £1 would have to be imposed. Lord Balfour, in his reply, pointed out that the Bill was not his, and he was not specially bound to answer the arguments against it. As to the argument about the ministers he reserved his opinion. It was certain that no compensation would be given from the Imperial Exchequer, whatever might be the result of this agitation, and he thought that some of the speakers had underrated the force that was working against the continuance of this form of raising money. He would pay careful attention to what had been said, but he did not wish to conceal from them that there were considerable difficulties to be faced.

A Sutherlandshire F.C. minister's letter in reply to a Free Church Catechist on the Union question will be given next week.
Sir Robert Finlay, M.P., has sent a cheque for £5 5s for behoof of the widow of William Munro, recently killed at Inverness Station.
Mr. Geo. Gordon, C.E., Inverness, has been appointed engineer of the water works at Forres recently acquired by Forres Town Council.

Mr. D. Campbell, editor of the "Northern Chronicle," read a selection of "Notes on the Exchequer Rolls of Scotland" at the ordinary meeting of the Gaelic Society of Inverness on Thursday evening.
An interesting and informative paper on "Brochs" was read by ex-Provost Dr. Alex. Ross, Inverness, at the monthly meeting of Inverness Scientific Society and Field Club, held on Tuesday evening in the Royal Hotel.

A motion of no confidence in the Government was moved at a political debate by the members of the Inverness High Church Guild by Mr. Wm. Charles Macbean, on Thursday night, and carried by a majority of two votes.
Raining's School buildings and grounds were exposed for sale in two lots in the Caledonian Hotel, Inverness, on Wednesday, at the combined upset price of £1800. The upset price was not bid, however, and the sale was adjourned.

Mr. P. Burgess, bank agent, Fortrose, and for many years factor and commissioner on estates in the county of Inverness, has been appointed by the Earl of Craven land agent on his lordship's estates in England.

The dues collected at Inverness Harbour during the past nineteen weeks amount to £627 10s, being an increase of £64 over the corresponding period last year. Mr. Munro, the collector, has been instructed to enforce payment from the fishermen, many of whom at present evade the tax.

Sheriff Scott-Moncrieff and a jury on Wednesday conducted an inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Wm. Munro, private policeman, who was recently killed on the Highland Railway at Inverness. The juryman's fees, amounting to 35s, were ordered to be given to the widow.

The congregation of the Inverness United Presbyterian Church on Tuesday evening held their annual social and business meeting in the Bank Street Hall. Mr. John Maclean, Chairman of the Managers, presided during the transaction of the annual business. Rev. Mr. Stewart the pastor, afterwards taking the chair.

Mr. Ernest Denny on Wednesday delighted a crowded audience in the Theatre Royal, Inverness, with his masterly recital of several well-known elocutionary pieces, including a condensed version of "Macbeth." The entertainment, given under the auspices of the "Etiles' Trust," was an unqualified success.

PERSONALITY OF THE LATE MRS. BURTON.—The estate of the late Mrs. Katherine Innes or Burton, Boleiskine, Forres, who died on 29th November last, has been returned with the Commissary Clerks at Inverness at £14,210 1s 6d. The estate consists of £8595 1s 6d of movable property, and £7625 of heritable property, the net value of the estate being £10,351 14s 6d.

THIS YEAR'S HIGHLAND VOLUNTEER CAMP.—The Highland Volunteer Brigades camp will be held on Gordon Castle grounds from 17th to 24th June next. The brigade will be under the command of Brigadier-General Cluny Macpherson of Cluny, and will consist of the following battalions:—1st (Ross Highland) V.B. Battalion, 1st (Banffshire) V.B. Battalion, 1st (Morayshire) V.B. Battalion, 6th (Banffshire) V.B. Battalion, 6th (Inverness-shire) V.B. Battalion, and 1st (Inverness-shire) V.B. Battalion.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.—During next week several events of considerable interest to people in the town are advertised to take place. On Monday the annual meeting of the Blind Institute will be held, when Sheriff Scott-Moncrieff is expected to preside. In expectation of the coming cricket season, the St. Andrew Cricket Club meet on Tuesday for the election of officers and members and preparatory business. The Hotel dining-room should be well filled on Friday, when a lecture under the auspices of the Inverness Chamber of Commerce is to be delivered on the subject of commercial education by Mr. Thomas Ross, who is manager of the Northern Assurance Company, ensures thorough practical knowledge of commercial methods. Local fair fanciers will be much interested in the Club show of the Inverness Ornithological Association on Saturday first, which will take place in the Old Kindergarten School, Academy Street.

GLASGOW INVERNESS-SHIRE ASSOCIATION.—People are looking forward to the annual social gathering of this Association on Friday, 24th inst., with considerable pleasure. The chair is to be occupied by Dr. Charles Fraser-Mackintosh—the prince of Highland gentlemen—and from a letter recently received by Mr. John Maclean, Mitchell Street, from that gentleman, he is looking forward to his visit to Glasgow with keen pleasure. The musical programme to be presented on that occasion is one of exceptional excellence, the artistes being Miss Jessie N. Macdonald, Mr. Scott Skinner—the Strathguy King—Mr. Mac Fraser, Inverness; Miss M. A. Macdonald, Mod Medallist; the Misses Downes, Mr. George Neill, and Mr. A. B. Worth. The Association pipers, Messrs E. E. Henderson, W. Macdonald, and R. S. Robertson, will attend, along with a company of Highland dancers. Every thing points to an excellent gathering in the Queen's Rooms.

"PULLMAN, LIMITED."—Travellers on the Highland Railway are familiar with the Pullman cars which run regularly on the night trains between Inverness and Perth and vice versa, but it is necessary in this country to pay a visit to the Metropolitan to see a train made up solely of Pullman cars. Such trains are run between London and Brighton from the London Bridge and Victoria Stations of the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Company; and recently through the "rogue" counsels of Mr. Marks, the managing director of the Pullman Car Company in this country, the time occupied by this train-de-luxe between the Metropolitan and Brighton, a journey of 51 miles, has been reduced to 60 minutes. An interesting fact in connection with the Pullman trains is that nearly all the attendants hail from Scotland, and are from the Highlands.

THE PETTY CUSTOMS.—Lord Balfour of Burleigh, the Secretary of State for Scotland, received in his office in Edinburgh on Monday a deputation from the Convention of Royal and Parliamentary Burghs on the subject of the legislative proposals made in last session of Parliament, and likely to be renewed in the present session, for the compulsory abolition of the Petty Customs in all the Scottish burghs. There were representatives from nineteen burghs, including Inverness, Elgin, Dingwall and Dornoch. Inverness was represented by Bailie Macdonald, Treasurer Ross, and Mr. Kenneth Macdonald, Town Clerk. The deputation was introduced by Mr. J. B. Balfour, Q.C., M.P., who stated that these burghs would be willing to consider the Bill if any adequate compensatory provision was made from the source from which the customs came or from any source other than rating the community. Treasurer Ross stated the case for Inverness, stating that the abolition of the Petty Customs would mean a loss of £2000 annually, and to provide that sum a tax of 5d in the £1 would have to be imposed. Lord Balfour, in his reply, pointed out that the Bill was not his, and he was not specially bound to answer the arguments against it. As to the argument about the ministers he reserved his opinion. It was certain that no compensation would be given from the Imperial Exchequer, whatever might be the result of this agitation, and he thought that some of the speakers had underrated the force that was working against the continuance of this form of raising money. He would pay careful attention to what had been said, but he did not wish to conceal from them that there were considerable difficulties to be faced.

LEWIS.

TIDE TABLE.
High Water at Stornoway
FEBRUARY.

Date of Month.	M.M.	E.M.
Su. 19	1 57	2 43
Mo. 20	3 31	4 14
Tu. 21	5 43	5 18
We. 22	6 18	6 32
Th. 23	6 45	6 58
Fr. 24	7 14	7 27

STORNOWAY.

The U.P. Church congregational meeting and several local items of news are held over.

"Fionn's song of the week is entitled 'A Lewis Lament,' and will be found on page 11 of this issue.

SCHOOL BOARD.—The ordinary monthly meeting of the Stornoway School Board was held on Monday. Rev. J. H. S. Hunter presided. There were also present Provost Anderson, Bailie J. M. Morrison, Mr. John Mackenzie, Mr. John Macdonald, and Mr. Alex. MacArthur, also Messrs. Fraser and Donald Macfarlane, managers of Nicolson Public School. It was unanimously agreed to increase Miss J. Fraser's salary by £10 per annum as from November last, and also to give a similar increase to Mr. Crawford, to take effect as from November last. Rev. Mr. Hunter reported that the town clergyman had conducted the religious knowledge examination in the Nicolson Public School on 20th January, and that the various examiners were well pleased with the results. The resignation of Mr. Campbell, assistant in Aird Public School, who has been appointed headmaster of Cromore Public School, was accepted, and he was allowed to leave immediately. It was agreed to advertise for a male or female assistant to take Mr. Campbell's place, at a salary of £40 a year. Several defaulting parents were examined. One man created some merriment by stating, in answer to the question whether he could sign his name, that he had never given him as much education as that he could do that, but he himself had seven children, and all of them could read and write, and one of them was to be a minister!

BOAT WRECKED—NARROW ESCAPE OF THE CREW.—The fishing boat "Diligent" (No. 1132, skipper John Macleod) left North Tolsta on Monday morning and proceeded to Balalann to obtain a cargo of mussels for bait. She returned between 11 and 12 o'clock the same evening, and, as wind and sea were rising, the crew determined, in spite of the darkness of the night, to land their cargo at the usual spot, about midway between Gress and Tolsta. Just as the boat ran alongside a heavy swell dashed her against the rocks and tore off part of the keel. Immediately afterwards her rudder was carried away and the stern stove in. Five of the seven members of the crew immediately jumped for the rocks, and the next instant the boat was driven to the other side of the point with two men clinging to it. One of these, John Murray, fell into the sea, but managed to seize the halibut of the sinking boat and again clamber on to the gunwale, whence he sprang to the rocks, and then by help of a piece of wood he dragged his companion, Murdoch Maciver, the oldest of the crew to land. The rock on which the crew found themselves is an island, except at very low tides; and the unfortunate men passed the whole night, which was wet and stormy, clinging to it as best they could. About two o'clock on Tuesday morning their cries and signals attracted the attention of Donald Macmillan, Glen Tolsta, who, with a companion, Norman Macinnis, determined to put off at that time, and rescue the two women. Mr. Donald Macmillan and Mr. John Macmillan, bravely assisted the men to launch the heavy boat, venturing waist deep into the sea to do so. The two men eventually reached the rock and took off the exhausted crew. Strange to relate, the exception of a few bruises, none of the men were injured.

CONCERT FOR THE POOR.—On Friday night of last week a concert for the benefit of the poor of Stornoway was given in the Masonic Hall under the auspices of the Fortrose Lodge of Freemasons. The hall was neatly done up for the occasion, the platform being tastefully decorated with plants and the windows draped with curtains. There was a very large attendance, the brethren of the Lodge having to stand in the ante-room to make room for the general public. The duties of Chairman were efficiently discharged by Mr. Hector Smith, Past Master of the Lodge. In thanking those present for their interest in the concert, as announced by the press, he said that no doubt numerous claims were made on the sympathy and generosity of many of them on behalf of the poor, besides being taxed in the ordinary way for their support. The few of no place of the size of Stornoway where such splendid provision was made for the poor, and the authorities of the town and island deserved very great credit for their efforts in this respect. As they were aware, the proceeds of that evening's entertainment were to be distributed among the deserving humble poor—not necessarily the poor friends of Freemasons—and in order to have the distribution efficiently and satisfactorily carried out they had asked the Medical Officer and Inspector of Poor to cooperate with a committee of the Lodge. Proceeding, he said that, so far as the poor friends and relations of Freemasons were concerned, they had been fairly liberally provided for already this year. They had also other ladies annuitants on their books who received £10 each a year. They had also other ladies receiving smaller sums and some receiving weekly allowances. Besides this they had been able to give a donation of £2 a year to that deserving and justly popular institution the Lewis Hospital (applause). At the commencement of this year, he said, the Masons had in view the starting of a soup kitchen something on the same lines as those they had in former years, but looking to the fact that the modest poor would derive but little benefit, they abandoned that idea, at least for the present, and as they had a considerable amount of musical talent in the Lodge they decided to meet their effort for the poor in the shape of a concert, by which they hoped to get some money, which would be more acceptable to these modest poor people, as it would enable them to buy some clothes at this cold season of the year. (Great applause.)

Whole, he thought the Freemasons of Stornoway—no matter what might be said about them—were fairly entitled to take some credit to themselves for what they were doing for the poor in this way. (loud applause). The following programme was gone through every item passing off successfully:—Part I.—Selection of airs, Masonic String Band; song, "Afloat," Serp-Major Craig; song, "Cam ye by Athole," Miss Macrae; duet, "I know a Bank," the Misses Macleod; song, "Tell me with your eyes," Mr. Grigor; violin solo, Mr. R. S. Anderson; quartette, "Tell me, Flora," Misses B. J. Mackenzie and M. Macleod, and Messrs. Tolmie and Craig; song, "The Promise of Life," Miss M. Macleod; Gaelic song (encored), "Eilean na Fraoich," Miss Murray; Part II.—Selection (encored), Masonic Band; song, "The Bannockburn" (encored), Mr. J. O. Smith; song (encored), "There grows a bonnie brier bush," Miss B. J. Mackenzie; quartette, "Oh, hush thee, my baby," Misses J. B. Macleod and J. Macrae, and Messrs. Grigor and Craig; song, "Rolling Home," Messrs. "Once again in Bonnie Scotland," Mr. Tolmie; Irish recitation, Mr. Morris; song, "The Spanish Muletter," Miss J. B. Macleod; and duet from Figaro, Miss B. J. Mackenzie and Mr. J. C. Smith. Miss Morrison, with her wonted efficiency, acted as accompanist. Voice of the choir, the singers, proposed by Dr. Murray, and to the Chairman, moved by Provost Anderson, followed by the singing of the National Anthem, brought a most enjoyable evening's entertainment to a close. The drawings amounted to £13 9s, including a contribution sent by Dr. Macdonald, who was unable to be present.

STORNOWAY BURGH COMMISSION.

REASONS OF DISSENT REFUSED.
DISSENTS RECORDED AGAINST
THEIR REFUSAL.

At the monthly meeting of the Stornoway Burgh Commission, held on Monday night, there was a full attendance of members—Provost Anderson presiding. The first item on the card was Commissioner Alexander Fraser's.

REASONS OF DISSENT

against Provost Anderson's motion regarding the Disjunction Question, which was carried at the December meeting. The reasons were as follows:—(1) That it is most improper that the Commission, as such, should be asked to pass a resolution for the purpose of confirming or denying statements made by any of its members or their supporters, while contesting seats on the Parish or County Councils in the landward division of the parish, or while promoting the candidature of others; (2) That the resolution can only have one effect, that of raising or prolonging bad feeling between the people of the landward division of the parish and the people of Stornoway; and (3) That it degrades the Commission, and allows itself to be used as a convenience for electioneering purposes.

At the request of the Provost, the Clerk read the motion in connection with which the reasons of dissent were given in. The motion was as follows:—"That the Commissioners now resolve that no further steps be taken by the Commission for the disjunction of the burgh from the landward part of the parish of Stornoway."

Provost Anderson said he had hoped Mr. Fraser would not have persisted in giving in reasons of dissent. There was not a word in the motion in connection with what Mr. Fraser stated, and the reason he considered an undue reflection on the Commission, and altogether uncalled for. He for one did not think the reasons given should be recorded in their minutes.

Mr. Fraser replied that these were his reasons for dissent, and they were founded on what transpired during the discussion on the motion, and reflected the view he took of the matter. He did not consider it was competent to refuse the motion, but it was competent to answer them. He had seen that done, at any rate, on former occasions, in connection with other bodies.

Mr. Eneas Mackenzie also thought that was the course usually taken by public bodies in matters of this sort.

Bailie J. M. Morrison said reasons might be given in that were not competent. He could conceive of reasons being put in that had no bearing whatever on the motion, and that were utterly irrelevant. Was the time of the Commission to be taken up in answering such reasons as he had indicated? He should fancy was in the power of the Chairman or of the meeting to say whether certain reasons were relevant or not.

Mr. Eneas Mackenzie said they should have insisted on Mr. Fraser lodging his reasons there and then; but when permission was given to hand in the reasons for dissent afterwards he could not see how at this stage they could refuse them.

Provost Anderson—We did not give Mr. Fraser permission.

Mr. Eneas M. Mackenzie—Facility, you did. You did not dissent.

Provost Anderson—Oh! that's a different matter. The reasons, he considered, were quite irrelevant. They made undue reflections on the Commission, and were entirely out of place. He never heard of such reasons being submitted there before, and he thought it very improper of Mr. Fraser to do so. He would have them to be recorded in the minutes.

Bailie J. M. Morrison said he understood that Mr. Fraser's reasons of dissent were not so much against the motion itself as against the way in which the motion was being discussed.

Mr. Fraser—You cannot dissociate the one from the other. So far as he was personally concerned, he did not care a pin-point whether the reasons were refused or not. He was not one of those who was put out by a thing like that. He had differed from the majority of the Commission on former occasions but he had never before asked to have his dissent recorded. From the language used during the discussion, he formed certain conclusions, and therefore he dissented, and undertook to give in his reasons.

Bailie J. M. Morrison thought the motion was a very innocent one. There was nothing sinister about it nor did it cast any reflections on past or present Commissioners. The reasons of dissent, it seemed to him, did not bear at all on the motion.

Mr. Eneas M. Mackenzie had the utmost sympathy with what Mr. Fraser had said. A good many things were introduced into the discussion that did not bear at all on the motion, and he thought it would be quite a different matter. But, as he had said, extraneous matters were brought into the discussion and allowed by the press at the time, and he thought they must have agreed to Mr. Fraser's dissent. Although the motion on the face of it was simplicity itself, yet that motion was the outcome of a circular letter which was issued by Provost Anderson to ratepayers in the landward part of the parish.

Provost Anderson (interrupting) objected to bringing that into the discussion.

Mr. Fraser asked if they wished him to justify his reasons of dissent. He did not know that Mr. Eneas Mackenzie was to refer to any of these matters. He had no consultation with him on the subject, as Mr. Mackenzie knew. If they wished him to justify his reasons he was prepared to do so.

Provost Anderson did not think they could entertain them.

Mr. Fraser—If you rule that they are irrelevant I must prove them.

Mr. Eneas Mackenzie—Quite so.

Bailie J. M. Morrison said there were remarks passed on both sides while the motion was being discussed, but it was not to be supposed that remarks made in support of the motion were to be excluded in the motion itself, and he thought the substance of what they were at was the motion carried and recorded. He considered it was quite irrelevant to record in their minutes reasons of dissent which did not appear in the motion.

It was absurd to record reasons of dissent against statements made in support of a motion. If it were not against the motion, but against statements in connection with the motion, it would not be put in, then he could not see why they should burden their minutes with them.

Mr. Fraser—I say that the motion arose out of certain things that took place outside the Commission's political matters.

Provost Anderson—This wasn't political; it was social.

Mr. Fraser—Well, social; it was electioneering. How could they dissociate the discussion that took place on the motion from the motion itself?

Bailie J. M. Morrison—The motion stands on the minute for all time, but the discussion does not, and consequently, your reasons, if recorded, would apply to something that is not in the minutes at all.

Mr. Fraser—This motion would never have come forward here but for certain things that took place in the landward part of the parish. Individual liberty everybody has and should have, but I say that the authority of this Commission should not be lent for the purpose of electioneering.

Mr. Kenneth Maclellan (interrupting) objected to Mr. Fraser going into this point.

Mr. Fraser (continuing) said that at the meeting at which the motion was brought in it was stated that there was a strong feeling in the landward part of the parish against the burgh. He held that that feeling arose because of certain gentlemen from Stornoway going down into the landward part without being wanted.

Provost Anderson—How do you know they were not wanted?

Mr. Fraser—Because they sent them back again.

Provost Anderson—Who do you refer to?

Mr. Fraser did not see any occasion to mention names, but

Provost Anderson again demanded the names.

Mr. Fraser—Well, there was Mr. Macleod at Back, and yourself at Point.

Provost Anderson—Mr. Macleod was quite entitled to go to Back.

Mr. Fraser—Yes; under the wing of others. They are the kind of people who, in election times, they would take up old matters, and, moreover, the Provost, in a circular issued to the people of Point, stated that the disjunction question would not be raised again. Provost Anderson—Was that circular addressed to you?

Mr. Fraser—No.

Provost Anderson—Then what have you got to do with it?

Mr. Fraser—Do you deny that you issued a circular with that effect?

Provost Anderson—I haven't got the circular before me just now.

Mr. Fraser (continuing) asked if this question was not to be raised again, why did these gentlemen go and stir it out, and the Provost, he said, after they had raised the people of the landward part, they came to Stornoway as peace-makers, and proposed the motion against which he had dissented. He spoke only for himself, but he saw the intention of the Provost in the landward part was that these people did not want gentlemen from Stornoway to go down there for electioneering purposes. Hence the language he had used in his reasons of dissent.

Provost Anderson—I don't see the intention of the Provost in the landward part was that these people did not want gentlemen from Stornoway to go down there for electioneering purposes. Hence the language he had used in his reasons of dissent. The intention of the Provost in the landward part was that these people did not want gentlemen from Stornoway to go down there for electioneering purposes. Hence the language he had used in his reasons of dissent.

Provost Anderson was sorry Mr. Fraser should have introduced this matter, and he thought about people going to the landward part, and also about giving effect to some new legislation. Perhaps, when Mr. Fraser was a member of Parliament, he would be able to do what took place in the landward part. Well, he (the Provost) could tell them—necessities in that connection, but he did not intend doing so at that meeting. But he must tell Mr. Fraser that what he presented an imaginary picture of what had taken place in the landward part. It was not he (the speaker) that raised the disjunction question in the landward division; it was other people from Stornoway who raised it.

Mr. Fraser replied that these were his reasons for dissent, and they were founded on what transpired during the discussion on the motion, and reflected the view he took of the matter. He did not consider it was competent to refuse the motion, but it was competent to answer them. He had seen that done, at any rate, on former occasions, in connection with other bodies.

Mr. Eneas Mackenzie strenuously denied this, and Mr. Eneas Mackenzie supported his denial, stating that he was present at the meeting at Back.

Provost Anderson (proceeding) said Mr. Fraser's reasons were the most unseemly he had ever heard brought before a public meeting. The object of his (the Provost's) motion was not to stir up strife, but to allow a safe.

Mr. John Mackenzie said that Mr. Maclellan, who seconded Provost Anderson's motion, in doing so said that the disjunction question would never be raised again, and the Provost at once dissociated himself from that statement, but they had the very same statement in the forefront of Provost Anderson's own address to the electors of Point.

Provost Anderson—Well.

Mr. John Mackenzie—Yes, you have, and you were the first to dissociate yourself from the statement when made by Mr. Maclellan. And you lodged this motion with the Clerk to back yourself up in what you had done before.

Mr. John Mackenzie—I think it is high when they are inside the four walls of this Commission they are only Commissioners. If I brought in such a motion as Provost Anderson's I would be told to take my hat and go. Yes, because he proposed it, it was carried in our teeth, as if we were puppies. We are not, and we won't have it. We mean to stand up for what is right and true and honorable and faithful.

Mr. Fraser said what he objected to was to bringing up matters at that Commission that arose when certain gentlemen were electioneering in the landward part of the parish. What had they, as a Commission, to do with such matters?

Provost Anderson—We have a great deal to do with it.

Mr. John Mackenzie—Yes, to make a bear garden of the Commission. We have served under Chief Magistrates, and it was a pleasure to do so; we were not treated then as we are now.

Bailie J. M. Morrison said, he said, for himself he had these reasons recorded. They seemed to him to be quite irrelevant. He was sorry the matter was discussed with so much warmth. Mr. Fraser clearly said that he was not so much against the motion that he dissented, but against the remarks made at the time. He (the speaker) was one of those who took part in the discussion. It seemed to him, he said, that the disjunction question was a hot one, and that Mr. Eneas Mackenzie, he thought, was the man who first raised the disjunction question.

Mr. Eneas Mackenzie—The question came from the Burgh Commission.

Bailie J. M. Morrison—You were the first who raised it.

Mr. Eneas Mackenzie denied this.

Bailie J. M. Morrison—And, if I am not mistaken, you spoke to me about it before it came up at the meeting at Back.

Mr. Eneas Mackenzie—I did not.

Bailie J. M. Morrison—Well, you were among the first, in any case.

Mr. Eneas Mackenzie—Yes, I took a leading part in it, but it was raised in the Burgh Commission.

Bailie J. M. Morrison, proceeding, said the matter had never been finally settled by the Commission.

Mr. Eneas Mackenzie—The Commission could not finally settle it. It is a matter for the ratepayers, not the Commission.

Provost Anderson—Bailie Morrison has the floor just now.

Bailie J. M. Morrison, continuing, said he did not think there was anything degrading to the Commission in the motion, nor was there anything disrespectful in his own remarks concerning it. He would be the last man to say anything that would degrade the Commission, or anyone connected with it. Therefore he would not agree to have it recorded on their minutes that they had degraded the Commission. He hardly thought Mr. Fraser would ask him to consent to that, and he would move that the reasons be not recorded.

Mr. Fraser (speaking with some warmth) said he claimed the rights of a member of the Commission. These reasons of dissent were his reasons, not Bailie Morrison's or any other person's reasons. He was dissatisfied altogether from the political matters to which he had referred, but he could see through a stone wall as well as any other body, and he could not dissociate the remarks from the motion in connection with which they were made.

Mr. Kenneth Maclellan seconded Bailie Morrison's motion.

Provost Anderson (to Mr. Fraser)—Do you make an amendment?

Mr. Fraser—Don't see that an amendment is needed. I have given in my reasons as I undertook to do in accordance with the minutes. You yourself, Provost, have done it, and others have done it. Why am I to be treated differently? I told you at the commencement that you could answer my reason if you liked to, but I don't think you can refuse them.

Bailie Thomas Morrison begged to support Bailie Morrison's motion because of the disrespect shown by Mr. Fraser to the Commission in giving his reasons of dissent to the press before the Commissioners saw them.

Mr. Fraser said "The Highland News" reporter was present at the meeting when the motion was discussed, and he had no intention to be disrespectful to the Commission when he gave his reasons of dissent to the reporter for insertion.

Provost Anderson having asked for a show of hands for the motion, they supported it. The Provost, Bailie J. M. Morrison, Bailie Thomas Morrison, Commissioner Maclellan, and Commissioner Macleod—5.

Mr. John Macleod—It's carried unanimously; there's no amendment.

Mr. Eneas Mackenzie—It is not carried unanimously; I dissent.

Mr. M. D. Macfarlane said he sympathised with Mr. Fraser, and thought his reasons should be recorded, as it was distinctly stated in the minutes that he was to lodge them. He said that if they were not recorded, he would have voted against the motion to do away altogether with the disjunction question. He considered it might be a very good thing if the

town was disjoined from the landward part. The Clerk was instructed to minute that the motion was carried, Messrs. Fraser, Eneas Mackenzie, and John Mackenzie dissenting. Mr. John Mackenzie would like to know if reasons of dissent were to be treated in this way in future.

Provost Anderson said they would be dealt with on their merits as they arose. Reasons of dissent couched in proper language would, he said, always receive due consideration.

Mr. Fraser—They were couched in quite proper language. If your motion was introduced by me, I know what I would be told to do.

Mr. Eneas Mackenzie (hear, hear).

Mr. Fraser was again proceeding to refer to political matters and electioneering.

Provost Anderson—You have had your say. We will now proceed to business.

Mr. Fraser—Well, keep politics out of this Commission.

The matter was then allowed to drop.

NOTES FROM THE HEBRIDES.

BANK APPOINTMENT.—We understand that Mr. James Fraser, agent of the branch of the Caledonian Bank, Lochmaddy, has been appointed agent for the same Company at Fortrose. Mr. Fraser had his early training in the Fortrose Caledonian Bank, and is a son of the late Mr. Fraser, Governor of the Black Isle Combination Poorhouse.

SKYE NEWS.

KYLEAKIN—TEMPERANCE LECTURE.—A lecture was given on Tuesday evening in the Schoolroom on the social, economic, medical, and physical aspects of the Temperance question by Mr. M. Mackenzie, supervisor of Inland Revenue, Gairloch. The speaker's remarks were most appreciatively received, and at the close members present expressed their desire to become members of some Temperance Society. Rev. J. N. Maclellan occupied the chair, and to Mr. A. Mackenzie, Inland Revenue, Kyleakin, is due much of the credit for the success of this as well as many other philanthropic meetings held in the district.

BROADBAND—OPENING OF BRANCH BANK.—The Caledonian Banking Company have arranged to open a sub-branch of the bank at Broadband, under the Portree Agency, on the 21st inst. This step on the part of the bank has been taken to meet the desire of a number of influential business men in the parishes of Strath and Sleat, who have hitherto had to conduct their banking business at considerable inconvenience with banks at Portree or elsewhere. The new sub-branch will therefore supply a distinct want, and will undoubtedly prove a boon to this important district of Skye which has substantial business resources.

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