

No. 1196.—23RD YEAR

(REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE AS A NEWSPAPER.)

INVERNESS, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1906.

EIGHT PAGES.—PRICE ONE PENNY.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

Notice of Birth, 1s 6d; Marriage Notice, 2s 6d; Death Notice, 1s 6d—with Funeral Intimation, 2s 6d.

BIRTHS. At Cornton, Beaumont Road, Inverness, on the 31st August, the wife of J. Martin-Synington of a daughter.

MARRIAGES. At the Commercial Hotel, Inverness, on the 31st August, by the Rev. A. Stuart, James Innes Grant, composer, eldest son of James Innes Grant, David, to Kate, youngest daughter of the late James Fraser, hatter, Leamington, Warwickshire.

DEATHS. At Springhill, Inverness, on the 28th ult., aged 65, Margaret Young, widow of the late John Macrae.

INVERNESS LIFE-BOAT SATURDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, 7th and 8th SEPTEMBER, at 3 p.m.

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF THE PROVOST, MAGISTRATES, AND TOWN COUNCIL. GRAND PYROTECHNIC DISPLAY. And Magnificent Illumination of Ness Islands with thousands of Lamps, Lanterns, &c. Avenues of Colossal Fire Pictures—MAN THE LIFEBOAT.

PUBLIC NOTICES.

WINNING NUMBERS for Phonograph, 713. ST. V.R.Q.O.C.H. RIFLE CLUB—Practices 10-to-12 (Saturday), 1st, and Wednesday, 3th September. Usual Hours. J. M. R. Secy.

THE SCOTCH SHOPKEEPERS' AND ASSISTANTS' UNION.—The usual Monthly Meeting will be held in the Queen's Hotel on Monday, September 3rd, at 8.15 p.m. A full attendance is requested. D. M'P. Secy.

COMMUNAL GAI'DHEALACH. INBHERNIS.—INVERNESS BRANCH OF THE HIGHLAND ASSOCIATION.—A Meeting of this Branch will be held in the Educational Bureau, Free Library Buildings, on Monday, 3rd September, at 8 p.m. K. FRASER, Hon. Secy.

SOODIE'S HOME BAZAAR, INVERNESS. It is requested that all accounts connected with this Bazaar may be sent to Mrs Fountain Walker, Cooperator, at Oaklands, Inverness, at once.

TO CARPENTERS AND JOINERS. An Aggregate Meeting of the Trade will be held in the Workers' Club at the evening of Tuesday First, the 4th inst. Chair to be taken at 8.15 p.m. Business important. A. F. Secy.

INVERNESS CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, LTD.—In accordance with Resolution of last Quarterly Meeting, a Special General Meeting of Members is hereby convened to be held in U.F. East Church Hall, on Friday, 8th September, at 8 o'clock p.m. Business—Election of Secretary and two Members of Committee.

ROYAL BURGH OF INVERNESS. NESS ISLANDS. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE NESS ISLANDS will be Closed to the Public from 5 p.m. onwards on Friday and Saturday, 7th and 8th September, 1906, on the occasion of the Petes to be held in the Islands in aid of the Inverness Life-Boat Saturday on those dates.

REGISTRATION OF VOTERS—LIBERAL INTEREST. All Liberals who consider themselves entitled to be on the Register of Voters, and whose names do not appear on the Draft Register, which will be issued shortly, are requested to communicate immediately with the undersigned.

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PUBLIC NOTICES.

Property for Sale and to Let will be found on page 8.

THE GREAT EVENT OF THE SEASON.

YE OLDE HIELAN CLACHAN FAYRE

WILL BE HELD IN THE LARGE MARKET AND MUSIC HALLS, INVERNESS, On the 27th, 28th, and 29th SEPTEMBER.

The Spacious Market Hall will be encircled with a Panorama of the most Romantic and Historic Highland Scenery, including the WILDS OF KINTAIL, GLENQUOH, and GLENMORISTON; also Reproductions of the KING'S STABLES (Gillies), CUMBERLAND STONE, and PRINCE CHARLES O'BYE, &c., &c.

HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP. In the Market Hall a TYPICAL HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP will be erected, where Spinning, Weaving, Knitting, and other Highland Industries will be seen in progress.

ENTERTAINMENTS. A Series of Novel and Attractive ENTERTAINMENTS will be given, including Shooting Gallery, Archery, Golf Putting Green, Electric Fish Pond, &c., &c.

EXHIBITION OF FANCY PIGEONS. Interesting Competitions to be held at intervals.

THE FINE ART EXHIBITION which will form part of the Fair, WILL BE HELD IN THE MUSIC HALL.

where a Choice Collection of Work by Old Masters, and many examples of famous Scotch and English Painters, Old Engravings, Rare Prints, Antiques and Curios relating to the Highlands, will form part of the Collection.

The object in view is to raise a sum of £1300, on order to extinguish the remaining Debt upon the Green Church, Inverness.

ENTERTAINMENTS. THE SCOTSMAN IN PARIS. The Intensely Funny Musical Comedy, THE TRIPPERS.

Time and Prices as usual. Plan at Messrs Logan & Co., Ltd.

HIGHLAND GATHERINGS. TO-DAY. TO-DAY. GLEN-URQUHART ANNUAL GAMES.

These Sports will be held in the Cricket Field, Blairgowrie, to-day (Saturday), September 1st.

All Entries must be made not later than 10 a.m. on 31st of August.

Attractive Programme, to be had on application to Messrs G. GLAIST, Secy., Drumadrocht, August 7th, 1906.

THE NORTHERN MEETING. INSTITUTED 1788. PATRONS. His Royal Highness the PRINCE OF WALES, K.G., K.T., K.P.

BALL AND GAMES on THURSDAY and FRIDAY, 20th and 21st SEPTEMBER next.

Particulars as to issue of Ball Tickets and Entry Forms for Games now ready.

Pipe Music, Dancing, Throwing Stones and Hammers, Vaulting with Poles, Foot Races, Jumping, &c., &c.

Demonstrations on both days by an Athletic Team of the Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) from Fort George.

The Splendid Band and Pipes of the same Regiment will play popular Selections of Music on both days of the Sports.

Cheap Fares by Highland Railway and Canal Steamers.

By order. Colonel Sir HECTOR MUNRO of Foulis, Bart., A.D.C., Convenor.

THOMAS G. HENDERSON, Secretary, Highland Club Buildings, Inverness, 27th August, 1906.

CYCLISTS!

The Dark Nights are Coming and you will require a LAMP!

BREMNER,

Baron Taylor's Lane, Has a Large Stock of GAS AND OIL LAMPS, CARBIDE AND OIL AT REDUCED PRICES.

TYRE TUBES, BELLS, SPANNERS, TOE CLIPS, HORNS, CARRIERS, SADDLES, PUMPS, FREE WHEELS, BRAKES, PEDALS, CAPES, OIL CANS, AND TROUSER CLIPS, ALL REDUCED IN PRICE.

A FEW SHOP SOILED CYCLES CHEAP From £5, fitted with Dunlop Tyres, 2 Roller Brakes, Pump, Bell and Lamp.

DUNLOP COVERS, 11s 6d.

BREMNER'S CYCLE DEPOT,

52 AND 54 BARON TAYLOR'S LANE, INVERNESS. Telephone—No. 1872.

WHY PAY RENT when 6d a day set aside for 5 years will enable you to purchase a second hand 230/- Eighty per cent. of the value of a house advanced immediately. For particulars send post-card to E. Todd, 9 Drumadrocht Inverness.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.

ARTHUR MEDLOCK, GOLDSMITH, JEWELLER, WATCHMAKER, AND HIGHLAND ORNAMENT MANUFACTURER.

In returning sincere thanks to his many Patrons and the Public generally for the liberal support he has enjoyed for the past thirty years, begs to intimate that his large and valuable Stock is now complete, and contains a great variety of GOLD, SILVER, AND PLATINA ORNAMENTS OF HIGHLAND AND SCOTTISH CHARACTER, well worth the attention of Tourists and others.

The Stock is well known to consist of the HIGHEST CLASS GOODS, and is exceptionally large at present.

PRESENTATION COMMITTEES AND PRIZE GIVERS supplied with Articles of superior quality, and at the Lowest Prices obtainable anywhere.

INSPECTION AND COMPARISON INVITED. Special Designs and Estimates on Application. LETTER ORDERS PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO.

MEDLOCK'S HIGHLAND JEWELLERY ESTABLISHMENT, 6 BRIDGE STREET, INVERNESS.

LOST OR FOUND.

LOST, in vicinity of Hill Street, Gold Ring, five Rubies, Reward, 47 Hill Street.

LOST, between Shore Street and Hill Street, a Pedometer. Reward Ferguson & Macbean, Union Street.

LOST, on the 31st inst., a Bracket of Moorish Coins, between Switchback and Abernethy Road. Finder rewarded on application to Bookless Bros., Union Street.

TENDERS INVITED.

ROYAL BURGH OF INVERNESS. GREIG STREET FOOT-BRIDGE.

Offers are wanted by the Inverness Town Council for the Flooring of Greig Street, Foot-Bridge. Specification may be seen and Schedules of Quantities obtained at the Office of Mr. T. H. Scott, Burgh Surveyor, on payment of Five Shillings, which will be returned on receipt of a bona-fide tender.

The lowest tenders may not be accepted. The Architects will be on the site at 11.30 a.m. on Wednesday, the 5th prox., to point out work to be done.

Quenagata Chambers, Inverness, 27th August, 1906.

SEA-FORTH SANATORIUM.

TO CONTRACTORS.—Tenders are invited for the following Works in connection with the Seaforth Sanatorium, to be erected on Brahan Estate, near Maryburgh, Highland, Inverness.

I. For Formation of Approach Road and Excavations of Site for Building.

II. Water Supply from Somerby Well.

III. Sewerage Drain and Filter Tank, &c.

Plans and Specifications to be seen with Ross & Macbeth, architects, Inverness, and Tenders lodged with them on or before Monday, 13th September.

The lowest tenders may not be accepted. The Architects will be on the site at 11.30 a.m. on Wednesday, the 5th prox., to point out work to be done.

Quenagata Chambers, Inverness, 27th August, 1906.

SITUATIONS WANTED OR VACANT.

GROVER, Experienced, wanted at once. Apply Campbell, Cramoig Villa, Greig Street.

WANTED, immediately, two reliable, steady Post-boys. Apply Macrae & Dick.

SMART Salesman wanted; mostly for Drapery. Journeymen preferred. Apply to A. Macaulay, 11, 13 North Beach Street.

SITUATION Wanted by steady respectable Man as Storekeeper or Caretaker; highest testimonials. Apply No. 314 Highland News Office.

DAIRYMaid Wanted—must be capable of taking care of Dairy Farm; good wages to suitable party. Apply Thos. Macgillivray, ironmonger, Inverness.

WANTED, 2 Women, Milking and Outwork. House given. Apply Thos. Macgillivray, ironmonger.

WANTED, Cook (Local), £30, another £25; Bread and Under-grounds; Laundry between, Barnard, several Harvest Hands. Mrs Ross, 20 Bridge Street.

SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE Wanted for Lead-Ing Ordinary Life Office to open up Inverness. Journeymen preferred. Representative could be whole or part time, and remuneration would be by salary and commission or otherwise. Apply stating experience, to Chas. A. Bodie, 218 Union Street, Aberdeen.

DOUBLE your Salary by qualifying yourself to become an Electrical Engineer. We are doing this for you at home. Write for our Free Book, "How to Become an Electrical Engineer" to Elect. Eng. Inst., 43, Norwich House, Southampton Street, Holborn, London.

ALBERT HOTEL, EASTGATE.

HAVING been newly re-decorated and fitted throughout with Electric Light, the Proprietor,

MR M. MACDONALD, begs to intimate to the General Public and Commercial Gentlemen that he is now in a position to cater for

MARRIAGES AND PRESENTATIONS AT REASONABLE RATES.

BREAKFASTS, LUNCHEONS, DINNERS AND TEAS AT MODERATE CHARGES.

SPECIFIC ARTICLES FOR SALE. FOR Your Saturday Requirements remember where you get satisfaction—Lindsay's Cash Grocery. Open all day Wednesdays.

A TREAT for the Rich and the Poor—Old Ferintosh Distillery Whisky. Macdonald's Imperial Stores, Grant Street, Inverness.

FOR SALE, Highland Dress, also Belts and Sporrans, all in excellent condition. Can be seen with Fraser, tailor, 35 High Street, Inverness.

CHRISTIE, Optician to the Faculty, Queensgate, uses only First Quality Pure White Lenses in his Spectacles and Felders.

WHERE'S my Spectacles? Here they are. No, not those; give me the pair I got from Christie.

CHRISTIE, Optician, Queensgate, agent for Mitax Bi-ocular Lenses; can see to read as well as at a distance.

TYPEWRITERS Adjusted and Repaired by Christie, Queensgate, Official Mechanic for Barlock Agency.

WHO'S this Christie? Why, the OPTICIAN in QUEENSGATE, Famous for Spectacles. Try this pair I got from him.

ROOFING OF SCHOOLS.—Buy your Boys' and Girls' Garment Kicker Suits, 6s 11d up; Sailor Suits from 5s 6d. Macmillan's, Lombard Street.

WATERPROOF COLLARS of a material which will not curl, crack, or turn yellow; great saving on Laundry bill; in all shapes and sizes, only at Macmillan's, Lombard Street.

WANTS—Gig, almost New, Varnish Gratings, 24 feet long, a beautiful Boat. Apply G. Will, 46 Hilltop, Dundee.

COSTUME TWEEDS and Herring Bone Suitings in the Newest Autumn Colourings, for 3s 11d, carriage paid. Patterson Frce. Hargreaves's Dress Warehouse, Leith.

Dainty Styles for Autumn wear in Ladies' Blouse Lengths, in each, carriage paid. Patterson Frce. Bradford Dress Warehouse, Quebec, Bradford.

WALLPAPERS from 14d per roll. Any quantity, large or small, bought at Wholesale Prices. Stock exceeds 100,000 rolls. Write for Patterns, stating what class you require (Dept. 402), Barnett's Wallpaper Warehouse, Manchester.

DRESS—Engagement, Wedding, and Rehearsal. Ring a Jewellery. Donald Macrae Jeweller, Eastgate, Inverness.

FOR genuine value in Tea—Prices, 1s 6d, 1s 7d, 1s 8d, 2s—Come to Gillanders, Queensgate, Inverness.

GOOD... BETTER... BEST...

We started with GOOD HATS. We advanced to BETTER HATS. We know we keep the BEST HATS, and yet we sell CHEAPLY. It's hard to avoid what might seem extravagant language in praise of our

AUTUMN RANGE. Just see them for yourself. That tells the story better than words could do. No charge for showing them; we're proud to show them. It doesn't make any difference whether you're ready to buy or not. You'll be ready soon, and we want you to know what we sell.

A. FRASER & CO., THE HATTERS, HOSIERS, AND NECKWEAR SPECIALISTS, 47 CHURCH STREET, INVERNESS.

COALS! COALS! COALS!

We are now offering all Classes of COALS and COKE at low rates. Special Quotations for THREE TONS LOTS OR UPWARDS. The unexcelled qualities always in stock. Orders respectfully solicited.

ENGLISH. Best ENGLISH HOUSEHOLD (Durham Wellhead). Best NORTHUMBRIAN WALLESDEN. Best KITCHEN SMALL and NUTS. Best SCOTCH HOUSEHOLD. Best CHIRL COAL. Best SCOTCH STEAM COAL. Best MAINTING COKE. Best FURNACE COKE. Best GAS COKE. BRICKETTES and FIREWOOD.

English Coals in Truck Loads direct from Steamer at Inverness Harbour, and Scotch Coals and Coke in Truck Loads direct from Pits at Wholesale Rates.

M'GRUTHER & MARSHALL, COAL MERCHANTS, 16 LOMBARD STREET, INVERNESS.

Telephone—No. 14. Telegrams—"M'Gruther, Inverness."

W. B. TAYLOR, MANUFACTURING JEWELLER, 27 CHURCH STREET, INVERNESS.

SPECIAL DISPLAY OF LATEST DESIGNS IN CAIRNGORM AND METHYST JEWELLERY.

WATCH, CLOCK, AND JEWELLERY REPAIRS DONE ON THE PREMISES.

INEXPENSIVE SHOOTING LODGE FURNITURE, &c.

EVERY HOUSEHOLD REQUISITE FOR MANSION HOUSES, SHOOTING LODGES, &c., supplied at less than London Prices.

DINING-ROOM FURNITURE in various Woods, and upholstered in Leather, Velvet, Moquette, &c.

BEDROOM FURNITURE in Solid Woods, from £5 15s per Suite upwards. SERVAANTS' FURNITURE from 4s per Suite.

DRAWING-ROOM FURNITURE in all Styles and Designs.

PARLOUR SUITES from 45s to 90s per Suite. HALL

ACHAIRI MÒR PHOLLTALOCH.

'N uair a chuir an a' bheairt e,
Fànaidh a' cur tacan anmach,
Gu'n labhair an fèar-thìris...

Chuala 'm mac bh' shìne as 'nuair a
bha e sìghidh 'gus fòcasach iomradh air
Achairi Mòr Pholltaloich...

Tha 'n a' chùis a' dèiligeadh air a' chùis,
ach 'n a' chùis a' dèiligeadh air a' chùis,
ach 'n a' chùis a' dèiligeadh air a' chùis...

CLARSACH NAN GAIDHEAL.

Table with 4 columns: No. 490, AN T-EACH-ARAINN, KEY C, and musical notation.

Bha 'n a' chùis a' dèiligeadh air a' chùis,
ach 'n a' chùis a' dèiligeadh air a' chùis,
ach 'n a' chùis a' dèiligeadh air a' chùis...

'N uair a chuir an a' bheairt e,
Fànaidh a' cur tacan anmach,
Gu'n labhair an fèar-thìris...

Chuala 'm mac bh' shìne as 'nuair a
bha e sìghidh 'gus fòcasach iomradh air
Achairi Mòr Pholltaloich...

Tha 'n a' chùis a' dèiligeadh air a' chùis,
ach 'n a' chùis a' dèiligeadh air a' chùis,
ach 'n a' chùis a' dèiligeadh air a' chùis...

LITERARY NOTES.

RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS.
'The Boy's Own Paper,' 'The Girl's Own Paper,'
'Every Day's Monthly,' 'Friendly Greetings,'...

The short coat cut on Empire lines with
the basque added above the waist line is
much seen, and is very charmingly
fashioned with the most ingenious devices...

THE OLD DOCTOR.

A CHAPTER IN HIGHLAND EDUCATION.

Inverness and Inverness-shire and northern
peoples generally will have no difficulty
in identifying the good 'old doctor'
described in the following article...

Now, I am aware that there would have
been no special reason for narrating this
incident were it not that I happen to know
that the letter the old man was writing...

GIRLS AND BEAUTY FOODS.

'Much of the "muddy," coarse, or other
complexion blemishes are produced by the
inordinate craze many girls have for acid
flavourings and strong tasting sweets...

THE GREATER COMMON GOOD.

The Petty Customs of Inverness are dead
and gone for ever. An antiquated and
irksome impost, a squalid relic of Protectionism...

THE ASSESSMENT FOR PETTY CUSTOMS.

A meeting of the Finance Committee of
the Town Council was held in the Council
Chamber on Wednesday...

THE GREAT SKIN CURE.

BUDDEN'S SKIN OINTMENT will cure
itching after one application; destroys every form
of Eczema; heals old Wounds and Sores...

GAELIC PROHIBITED IN BARRACKS.

At the present time when there is
an existence an active and energetic party
bent on obtaining for the Gaelic language...

PROVOST ROSS AND ROYALTY.

Invited to Aberdeen. Provost Ross at the meeting of the Town
Council on Monday intimated that he had
received an invitation to be present at
Marischal College, Aberdeen...

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The world-wide popularity of
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1. Mix slowly into a smooth paste one
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To Their Majesties
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GENUINE PURE CANE SUGAR
IS BEST.
AS "GLEBE" CONTAINS NO BEETROOT, THE PUBLIC
HAVE AN ABSOLUTE GUARANTEE OF PURITY.

PETTY CUSTOMS ABOLISHED.

MEETING OF TOWN COUNCIL. INTERESTING DEBATE. A special meeting of the Inverness Town Council was held on Monday evening. The members of Council with one exception were present. Provost Ross presided.

The Town Clerk Depute read a letter from Messrs Skene, Edwards, & Garson, Edinburgh, intimating that a joint minute had been lodged in the Court of Session in the action for interdict at the instance of the Caledonian Canal Commissioners in opposition to the proposed abolition of the Petty Customs. The Lord Ordinary had in terms of the minute refused interdict, allowing expenses to the Canal Commissioners.

A letter was also read from Mr George Young, as secretary to the Ratepayers' Association, enclosing copy of a resolution setting forth reasons against the Council adopting the Provost's motion for abolition. These reasons were based on the present position of the Petty Customs account, the fact that other towns had not abolished customs or had made terms different for those proposed in Inverness, and that no mandate had been given to the Council for the proposed abolition.

Provost Ross said that they all knew the result. The report would come up at the first ordinary meeting. Bailie John S. Fraser said the opposition of the Canal Commissioners was no longer before them; it was withdrawn. Provost Ross having ruled the questions out of order, then went on to move the resolution, of which notice had been given. His motion had been for a good many months shivering on the brink, and he now intended to take the plunge with it, and he hoped to come out safe on the other side. They all desired the abolition of the Petty Customs which had existed for so many years to the detriment of the best interests of the whole community. They all wanted abolition, but some wanted it one way and some another. His way was stated in his motion, which was as follows:—

That the Town Council, in virtue of the powers conferred upon them by (1) the Burgh Customs (Scotland) Act, 1870, as amended by the Act 42 Vic. cap. 13, and (2) the Town Customs (Scotland) Act, 1900, resolve to abolish, and do hereby, as from and after midnight on the 1st day of September, 1906, abolish the whole Petty Customs or duties levied or payable in the Burgh of Inverness, and resolve further that in lieu thereof there shall be levied an assessment not exceeding 3d per 41.

Efforts had been made several months ago to abolish these customs, but they found themselves stumped by the Canal Commissioners, and there was a general impression that the Commissioners had driven rather a hard bargain with them. Their terms were that they should be paid £2000 before they would consent to withdraw their petition for interdict. The trading community had risen as one body in favour of abolition, and now that the difficulty with the Canal Commissioners had been removed there was no longer any question as to whether they should be abolished or not. He did not wish to seem invidious, but he could not refrain from mentioning the name of Councillor R. L. Mackintosh, who had sacrificed time and money in connection with the matter. They should also recognise the efforts of Mr Whitelaw and the directors of the Highland Railway, who had done so much to make the matter easy. They should also acknowledge the generous action of the canal businessmen and Mr David Macbrayne, who, though not directly interested, gave handsomely for the general welfare of the town. In ordinary circumstances he (the Provost) would have favoured a plebiscite, but to take a plebiscite on such a question as that savoured a little of schism.

If they went and asked a man who was not paying Petty Customs if he desired to be taxed he would be certain to say "Leave things as they are." On that ground he could not see that a plebiscite would be quite fair. Councillor Macgregor had no doubt in his own mind that he could abolish the tax without imposing any rate in lieu of it. If Councillor Macgregor had accomplished that end, as he had set forth in the Inverness newspapers, he did not know what monument would be great enough to be erected in his honour. He knew the difficulties which were in their way, and he could not understand how Councillor Macgregor was going to work out this financial scheme, which he had at his finger-ends, he was shut up to the moving of the motion which he had read (applause).

Bailie Gossip said he had great pleasure in seconding the motion. A question arose at this stage as to precedence, Councillor Macgregor holding that his motion was an amendment to the Provost's, while Councillor Young's was a separate motion. Provost Ross ultimately called upon Councillor Young, for it made really no difference which went first. Councillor Young characterised the Provost's speech as a very lame one. Provost Ross said he had done his best, though he could not equal Councillor Young (laughter).

Councillor Young moved his amendment, which was to the effect that the Council take a vote, by ballot or otherwise, of the ratepayers for or against the passing of the Provost's resolution being adopted by the Council. In support of his amendment, Councillor Young made a very lengthy and detailed statement. He pointed out that the Provost's action now was inconsistent with his utterances in October last, when he favoured the taking of the opinion of the ratepayers. Bailie J. S. Fraser, too, had told his constituents in the Crown Ward that they could not wait for a plebiscite. They were then in the midst of a panic over the proposals for amalgamating the Highland and Great North Railways. Councillor Macgregor had told them then that the Canal Commissioners would require to be reckoned with. Councillor Lamont, too, had said that the speed they were moving at was too quick, and that they should first look to their ways and means. Councillor Macgregor had judged rightly, the Canal Commissioners had stopped their progress; they had lodged a caveat; an action had been raised; there were threats of interdict; they had secured £2000, but what of the expenses incurred? They had been taunted with going to the Press instead of discussing their affairs at the Council Board. He thanked God for the Inverness. They were being pressed to abolish at 15 September. The assessments for the next year had been fixed, and the scheme had passed the Finance Committee. The imposition of these taxes was adjourned through some unknown motive.

Treasurer Birnie—The reasons were given at the time. There were the possibility that the Petty Customs might be abolished at this time, and the necessity of putting on a rate in place of them. Councillor Young said the question was being madly rushed. The Provost and other members took up a position not in accordance with their convictions. The proposal to burden the ratepayers without consulting them was unjust. Their minds should be ascertained by plebiscite or referendum. The method he suggested was natural and reasonable. It was objected that a plebiscite was not provided for in the Act, but neither was it debared. The ratepayers should make a difference as to what the action of the Council should be. Councillor Young concluded by stating the result of a plebiscite he himself had taken of the voters in the Harbour Ward. He had sent out 411 cards, and of these 231 had been returned. The result showed that only 125 were in favour of abolition.

Ex-Bailie Macdonald seconded Councillor Young's motion. He protested against the Council taking such an action as to abolish the Petty Customs without an appeal to the ratepayers. He would like to see the Petty Customs abolished, but it would be unfair to abolish them and make the ratepayers pay a tax without asking their consent. The ratepayers were the greatest part for their abolition were paying the most. Feeling the pinch more than others he did not wonder at their being anxious to have them abolished. It was very hard for the poor working man who had only a limited wage if he had to pay rates for the abolition of the Petty Customs. Besides the traders he did not think it right that the Highland Railway, who paid something like £500 a year, should get off simply because they wanted something like £1200. If the Canal Commissioners safeguarded those whom they represented, so should the Council. The Council proposed throwing away a sum which, capitalised, came to something like £26,000. The abolition was being rushed. He saw no reason why it should not be brought up and discussed in November.

Councillor James Macgregor said he had come prepared to move an amendment to the Provost's motion, but he had been ruled out of order. The Provost was wrong. He was trying to choke him off. Provost Ross said Councillor Macgregor could move his motion now. He hoped that no other member of the Council thought of preventing Councillor Macgregor from moving his amendment.

Councillor Macgregor said he did not desire to move his amendment now. By the Provost's motion they were not abolishing the Petty Customs, but merely changing the name and transferring the receipts to the present payers to the whole of the ratepayers. The landlord would receive the benefit. What he would have proposed was that they should arrange with those who were paying, and report by the 1st October, how much they were prepared to pay in order to be freed from the Customs, and that then they should resolve to cease to collect the Customs except at the Canal, as the Commissioners were demanding their receipts. The Council should then move a motion to the above effect. It was not, however, seconded, and fell to the ground.

Councillor R. L. Mackintosh said Councillor Macgregor's motion was a silly one. I meant that the Council could at any time do away with an asset of the burgh without substituting anything for it. The opinion of counsel had been taken on the matter, and it was to the effect that it was compulsory on the Council to provide an equivalent for the amount of the Petty Customs. The town was safeguarded by the fact stated by Councillor Young, that it required two-thirds of the Council to carry a resolution abolishing the Petty Customs. He held that railway amalgamation had nothing to do with the question. It was the removal or non-removal of the railway works. The tax paid by the railway was not on goods that they brought in, but on stores for themselves, and they felt it a grievance. They could carry on their works somewhere remote and pay no Petty Customs. The Petty Customs had done such harm to the town, and their abolition would benefit the whole community.

Councillor Gillanders said that notwithstanding the result of the plebiscite taken in the Harbour Ward, they should abolish the Customs. The electors had given a fair warrant in November for their abolition. They were a great hindrance to the trade of the town.

Ex-Bailie Maclean said that though he was returned as a ratepayer of the Customs, they had got such a fright in regard to the removal of the railway works that he was now resolved to vote for the abolition of the Customs.

Councillor Duncan Macpherson said that ever since he joined the Council he had been troubled by the injustice of the Petty Customs. Every one admitted that they were unjust and inequitable, and hindered the prosperity of the town. It was only a proper and honest course was to abolish them at the earliest possible moment. He had no sympathy with a proposal to ask those who had for years suffered and groaned under an admitted injustice to pay for their deliverance at twenty years' purchase. He believed their abolition would promote the town's industries. He had much pleasure in supporting the Provost's motion.

Councillor Charles Mackay said he had been all his days in favour of abolition. The people who paid most of the Petty Customs would also pay most of the tax. No working man who looked to the general interests of his class would oppose the abolition of the Petty Customs, which would mean additional prosperity to the industries of Inverness.

Councillor William Gill said that though the proposed abolition had been advertised for weeks the only protest received was a letter from the Ratepayers' Association. The great majority of the electors at election times used the Customs as a stalking-horse to the electors, and instead of discussing the question on its merits spoke with their eye on the barometer and their finger on the pulse of public opinion (laughter). Councillor Gill then referred to the inconsistency of the opinions expressed by Councillor Young at a meeting of the ratepayers some time ago and his attitude that evening. He had been preventing Councillor Macgregor's motion (the Councillor Gill) could not for the life of him see how a man could stand up for the retention of the Petty Customs which he considered unjust. Some were always dragging in the poor working man and arranging the only philanthropists on earth. God knew how little some of these people would alter all do for the working man.

Treasurer Birnie said he was all along in favour of the abolition of the Petty Customs. He had no objection to the Council abolishing them without bringing in some revenue by taxation. He lived outside the area covered by the Petty Customs, but he was willing to pay the tax. The Petty Customs were doing immense harm to Inverness. Councillor Macgregor's proposal was quite impracticable. If they abolished them the result would, he was sure, be increased development in the trade and commerce of Inverness.

Ex-Proprietor Maclean held that on such an important question the ratepayers should be consulted by means of a plebiscite. He was afraid a rate of 2d per 41 would not be sufficient to meet the deficit if they abolished the Customs. If, however, the ratepayers said they desired it, he would how to their decision. He did not believe that the Customs were the cause of the present trade depression. Inverness was suffering in common with other towns like Glasgow, Dundee, and other centres. He said Inverness had prospered during the last thirty years, notwithstanding the Customs, as much as any town in Scotland. Bailie John Smith Fraser said that ex-Proprietor Maclean forgot that the town itself was paying £230 a year in Customs. The stridings made by Inverness were mainly due to the Railway Company and its works. By the retention of the Customs they ran the risk of losing the works.

Provost Ross having said a few words in reply, the vote was taken as follows:—

For abolition—Provost Ross, Bailies Gossip, John S. Fraser, John Mackenzie, Alex. Fraser, Dean of Guild Clark, Treasurer Birnie, Councillors Wm. Gill, Duffy, Lamont, Maclean, R. L. Mackintosh, Charles Mackay, Red. Fraser, Duncan Macpherson, and Kenneth A. Gillanders—16. For the plebiscite—Ex-Proprietor Maclean, Councillors D. Macdonald, Macgregor, and Young—3.

The Council accordingly resolved to abolish the Customs, and the matter was remitted to the Finance Committee.

A Corn Flour Blancmange, served with any stewed fresh fruit in season, is eaten with zest by old and young. But it must be Brown & Polson's "Patent" Corn Flour. Please look at your packet—has it the words Brown & Polson's Patent?

INVERNESS ACADEMY BOARD. MR WILLIAM ANDERSON AND THE MACKINTOSH FARR BURSARY.

LEAVING CERTIFICATE RESULTS. The adjourned meeting of the Inverness Academy directors was held on Monday. Provost A. D. Ross presided, and there were present Rev. Gavin Lang, Rev. Allan Cameron, ex-Proprietor Maclean, Bailie J. S. Fraser, ex-Bailie Macdonald, Mr William Anderson, Mr Watson, rector, Mr Hugh Fraser, treasurer, along with Mr G. S. Laing as clerk in the absence of Mr Kenneth Macdonald.

The Chairman said the first business was to consider a circular from the Scotch Education Department in regard to the certification and preliminary training of teachers. Mr Watson having given his views in regard to the circular said he thought the safest thing for them to do at that stage was to appoint a committee to deal with the matter and report to the next meeting of the directors. Under the new regulations contained in the Blue Book on the subject of the training of teachers reference was made to the provincial centres and universities. A boy who intended to go in for teaching as a profession would require to obtain first of all an intermediate certificate, and an application being made to the County Council, he could obtain the leaving certificate. This would be only for two or three years.

Rev. Allan Cameron—And his own expenses paid? Mr Watson—He gets a certain allowance. The school which he attends gets a grant of £100 a year. With regard to the junior students, the present Academy staff was in a position to deal with them, and the only difficulty which he saw was in regard to the matter of method. The junior student would like to gain experience in teaching, and he would also require to get some instruction in regard to the theory of teaching. He did not know whether the Department would agree to allow him as head of the school to devote some of his time to looking after the junior students and the course, because he thought there should be a guide to see about that. He was, of course, assuming that they were going to make application in regard to the leaving certificate. He had not the least idea as to how many would attend.

Mr Allan Cameron—At what age? Mr Watson—I think it would be mainly confined to Inverness-shire and the district of Nairn. Provost Ross—Was there not a meeting held the other day in Dundee in regard to the same matter? Mr Watson—I did not see that. Rev. Mr Cameron—Have we any idea as to whether there will be any other centre? Mr Watson—No. The work would be very serious, because he thought of bringing up of all candidates for studentship.

Mr Wm. Anderson—At what age do you propose they should enter? Mr Watson—At 15 or 16, and they can leave at 18 or 19. Mr Anderson asked whether a pupil-teacher would be competent without going to the University.

Mr Watson—It is not quite that. An ordinary elementary teacher does not need to go to the University, but a teacher in a secondary school must go to the University. Bailie J. S. Fraser—Have you any idea as to how this will interfere with the general work of the Academy? Mr Watson—Some of the boys who are out of the junior students would be treated alongside the other students, and the course would be the same. It would not go beyond the sixth class.

Bailie Fraser—Have you boys nineteen years of age in your sixth class? Mr Watson—Yes. Bailie Fraser—I am surprised to hear that. Rev. Mr Cameron—It will add considerably to the importance of the Academy.

Mr Anderson—As one of the County Clerks, I understand that letters asking if any of the teachers wish to enter have been forwarded to the High School, Beaulieu, Dundee. Mr Watson—The Academy is regarded as a Higher Grade School. After further talk Mr Watson's suggestion was agreed to, and the following committee was appointed:—Provost Ross, ex-Proprietor Maclean, Rev. Allan Cameron, Bailie Fraser, and Mr Watson.

Mr Watson said that Mr Buchanan, the classical master, had resigned. He had a salary of £130, while in the Inverness Academy, and he (Mr Watson) now asked the permission of the Directors to be allowed to advertise for a successor. Ex-Proprietor Maclean—At the same salary? You will get very few good men at that.

Mr Anderson—I hope the rector will not mind what I say, but at a long time there has been talk as to salaries paid to our teachers as being too high. If we want to reduce the salaries now is the time. I do not wish the reporters—Bailie Fraser—Do you wish this to be kept private? Mr Anderson—I don't mind. Bailie Fraser—I do not wish to force your hand, but I would like to know is there any reason why this should be kept private? Mr Anderson—No. If you really wish to reduce the salaries of your teachers now is the time, and if Mr Watson can conscientiously tell us that we can get as good a classical master at a less salary, then we should like to do so.

Ex-Proprietor Maclean—I may mention that the Burgh School Board advertised for a classical master at a salary of £120 or £130, rising by £5 a year, but we only got four or five applications, and they were not worth looking at. Rev. Mr Cameron—What are his duties? Ex-Bailie Macdonald—Perhaps a candidate would jump at the Academy job sooner than he would do in the case of a school. Mr Watson—That may be. Rev. Mr Cameron contended that it would be a great drag upon the rector and the Academy if they did not get a properly qualified classical master. Mr Watson—We cannot get an inferior teacher.

Provost Ross—Do you agree to allow Mr Watson to advertise for a classical master? Bailie Fraser—I think it is a waste of time to advertise. Mr Watson—I think I could get a master for £120. Mr Wm. Anderson—That will show the ratepayers that we are anxious to reduce the expenditure even if it is only to the extent of £10.

Mr Watson—I believe I could get a young man who is well qualified to discharge the duties of the classical master in the meantime at a salary of £2 10s a week.

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Provost Ross—Is that not rather high? Bailie Fraser—I think so. Mr Anderson—Would this not be placing the youth in the same position as the classical master? Provost Ross—It might be a reflection upon the teacher when he would find that he was getting no more than this young man.

After discussion, Mr Watson's suggestion was agreed to. The next business was the allocation of bursaries and free scholarships. Mr Watson made a verbal statement in regard to the above. He said there were twenty candidates for the bursaries, and the results were very good. Fifteen candidates out of twenty had made over 50 per cent., and the first on the list was Miss Sophia Harte, daughter of Mr B. C. Hoare, Kembar Street, Miss Hoare made 56 out of 450 marks. She was a High School pupil, and she was entitled to a bursary of £10. With regard to the free scholarships, the first on the list was Robert Cran Maclean, Drummond (High School), who had 350 marks. The second was Horatio Alister Macbean, son of the late Mr Macbean, jeweller, with 342 marks. In regard to the University bursaries, Mr Watson said that there was only one application.

Mr Shaw—That shows how little your bursaries are appreciated. Rev. Mr Cameron—Only for one year. Mr Anderson—I was Clerk of the Academy Board, and I know that there were not more than one or two applications during my time.

Provost Ross—I think the scheme is a good deal to blame. Mr Anderson—I think we are a good deal to blame ourselves. Bailie Fraser—This has been settled at a full Board. Provost Ross—We cannot go back on it now.

Mr Anderson—We can hardly help commenting upon it. Mr Watson said that the advertisements regarding the Mackintosh Farr Bursary had appeared in the local papers. He was informed that there was no application for this bursary. Provost Ross—We had this up at the last meeting.

Mr Anderson—Do I understand that as a result of all these advertisements we have only had one application for the University and none for the Mackintosh bursary? That shows how little your bursaries are appreciated. Mr Watson tabled the results of the leaving certificate examination.

Rev. Allan Cameron—I think we should get a report from Mr Watson as to how the Academy stands as compared with other schools in the burgh. Mr Anderson—I presume you will give permission to the Clerk to publish the results. Provost Ross—I think we should get a report from the rector first of all.

Mr Anderson—I have had applications from parents who are most anxious to know the results. The Provost's suggestion was agreed to, and the Board agreed to meet again to consider and to hear the report read.

LEAVING CERTIFICATE RESULTS. The results of the Leaving Certificate examinations held in June are as follows:—The Leaving Certificate has been obtained by the following:—Duncan J. Cameron, Mary F. Macleod, George Mackenzie, C. C. Whyte. The Intermediate Certificate has been obtained by:—Henry Bellisfield, Agnes E. Bookless, Andrew H. Brown, Margaret Davidson, Annie Gordon, Annie C. Laing, James G. Macgregor, Hugh Maclean, James A. R. C. Mackintosh, Frederick Maclean, Malcolm Morrison, Edith W. Reid, Mary Ross, Donald Ross.

The following are the results of examination in separate subjects:—Henry Bellisfield, Higher Mathematics, Higher English, Higher Latin, Higher Greek, Dynamics, James A. R. C. Mackintosh, Lower Mathematics, Lower English, Lower Latin, Lower Greek, Dynamics; Alex. E. Campbell, Lower Mathematics, Drawing; Andrew H. Brown, Lower Mathematics, Lower English, Lower Latin, Lower Greek, Dynamics; James D. Davidson, Lower English, Drawing; James D. Davidson, Higher Mathematics, Higher English, Lower German, French, Archibald Fraser, Isobel Fraser, Lower English, Lower German, Lower French, George & Malcolm, English, Drawing; Alister Kennedy, Drawing; Donald J. Kennedy, Drawing; Annie C. Laing, Higher Mathematics, Lower Latin, Higher French; James G. Macgregor, Higher Mathematics, Lower Mathematics; Christina Mackay, Lower English; John A. Mackay, Higher English, Higher Latin, Lower Greek; George & Malcolm, Higher Mathematics, Higher English, Higher Latin, Higher Greek; Higher French; Lower Mathematics, Lower Latin, Lower Greek; Alister C. Mackintosh, Lower Mathematics, Lower English, Science; Roderick Maclean, Lower English, Lower French; Mary F. Macleod, Higher Mathematics, Higher English, Higher French; Elizabeth S. Marr, Drawing; Malcolm Morrison, Lower Mathematics, Higher English, Lower Latin, Lower Greek; Caroline Oberbeck, Higher English, Higher French, Lower German, Drawing; Elizabeth J. Philon, Lower French, Drawing; Edith W. Reid, Lower French, Lower German, Drawing; Lionel Robertson, Lower Mathematics, Lower English; Helen Ross, Higher English, Higher German, Drawing; Donald Ross, Higher Mathematics, Higher English, Higher Greek, Dynamics; Edward Ross, Higher Mathematics, Science; Elizabeth Cattel, Drawing; Helen Duguid, Drawing; Gordon Chalmers, Drawing.

TO MOTHERS.—Mrs Winslow's Soothing Syrup has been used for over 50 years by millions of mothers for their children while teething, with perfect success. It will relieve the poor sufferer immediately. It is pleasant to taste, it produces natural, quiet sleep by relieving the child from pain, and the little cherub awakes "as bright as a button." Of all chemists, 1s 4d per bottle.

SCOTTISH LIBERAL ASSOCIATION AUTUMN MEETINGS.—It has been arranged that the autumn meetings of this Association will be held at Peebles this year on Thursday and Friday, 4th and 5th October. The General Council of the Association will hold its opening meeting in the Chambers Institute on the Thursday, resuming on the following day. On the Friday evening the Right Hon. R. B. Haldane, M.P., Secretary of State for War, will address a public meeting in the Drill Hall. Various other functions, including a reception, are also expected to be arranged for.

WONDERFUL OFFER! A PERFECT SUMMER SUIT IN LIGHT, MEDIUM OR DARK GREY FLANNELS. READY TO WEAR. 21 INCHES CHEST MEASURES. TO MEASURE. 25 INCHES CHEST MEASURES. PATTINGREW & STEPHENS LTD. 15 SAUCHEHALL ST. GLASGOW.

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Eclipse Oat Cakes should always be toasted before use. This will give the crispness so much desired.

Every Housewife knows That now, as for years past, the People's Standard Biscuits are Crawford's Abernethy Biscuits. Their superiority is absolutely unquestioned. Ask anyone—anywhere. They will tell you Crawford's are the very best. Every good grocer has them.

A SAFE REMEDY FOR ALL SKIN & BLOOD DISEASES. If you are suffering from any disease due to an impure state of the Blood, such as Eczema, Scrofula, Scurvy, Bad Legs, Blood Poison, Glandular Swellings, Abscesses, Boils, Pimples, Rheumatism, Gout, &c. you should test the value of Clarke's Blood Mixture, the world-famed Blood Purifier and Restorer. It is warranted to cleanse the blood from all impure matter, free, radiator, cure arising.

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WINDMILLS COFFEE ESSENCE MAKES THE MOST DELICIOUS BEVERAGE. It is PURE, Rich in Flavour, Delightfully Fragrant, and is made in a minute. Insist on Symington's. The Luxury of the Doct's World. Large and small Bottles. PUREST AND BEST. OF ALL GROCERS.

A 3-Fold Benefit. When you don't feel well you should at once correct the ailment if you would avoid serious illness. You can't afford to be sick. May be your condition is due to a disordered stomach, liver or bowels, you can't say which—in any case it is time to take a course of

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E.F.A. BOOK, ANIMALS Treatment. R.E.P. BOOK, HUMAN Treatment. HUMANER, MUG, Inverness Academy, 331; Margaret Macdonald, Staffin, Portree Public School, 322; John Macpherson, Staffin, Portree Public School, 338; Margaret G. Fraser, Staffin, Portree Public School, 364; Malcolm Graham, Uig, Kingussie Public School, 248; Alfred S. Barton, Carboun, Baleshare, Kingussie Public School, 236; Mary Macneil, Castlebay, Notre Dame Higher Grade School, Downhill, Glasgow. Additional bursary—£7 10s—Margaret R. Mackenzie, Beaulieu, Inverness Academy, 361.

COUNTY SECONDARY EDUCATION. THE SUCCESSFUL BURSARS. The following are the names of the successful bursars under the scheme for 1906-7: District Bursaries, £15—Total marks, 250—1st District, Mary Muir, Clava Public School, 204; 2nd District, Alice Grant, Invermoriston Public School, 170; 3rd District—John Macqueen, Moy Public School, 183; 4th District—Mary Macpherson, Bannockburn Public School, 153; 5th District, Christy Macdonald, Staffin do., 190; Angus Grant, Dunsdale do., 190; Christy Macleod, Uig do., 194; 6th District—Lachlan Macphail, Carinish do., 144; 7th District—John Maclellan, Sir Edward Scott do., 178; 8th District—Annie Macneil, Castlebay do., 157.

Additional bursaries, £15—Dorothea R. Gunn, Kyleakin Public School, 239; Peter Morrison, Petty East do., 228; Jeannie S. Gill, Inchmore do., 212; Adam Sinclair, Duthill do., 212; David Tunch, Beaulieu do., 211. Centre bursaries, £5—Ian de Wattville, Kingussie Public School, 221; John MacCall, Fort-William do., 214; Jessie Macneil, Portree do., 199; Robert D. Cameron, Glen-Urquhart do., 198; Allan Young, Fort-William do., 197; Dorothy Bain, Kingussie do., 193; Kenneth J. A. Gillanders, Portree do., 191; Margaret Muir, Fort-William do., 192; Doris D. Cumming, Portree do., 189; Agnes McColl, Fort-William do., 182; George Hay, Kingussie do., 178; Jessie Cameron, Fort-William do., 177; Bella Ross, Kingussie do., 165; David Gorrie, Kingussie do., 163; Jeannie Macpherson, Kingussie do., 167; Nellie Muir, Kingussie do., 167; Alexander Macleay, Kingussie do., 166; George Fraser, Glen-Urquhart do., 159; Isabella Macneil, Fort-William do., 157; Mary Macintyre, Fort-William do., 152.

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We send 1 doz. Bottles carriage paid to any address in the Highlands. By parcel post the extra charges are—1 Bottle, 6d; 2 bottles, 7d; 3 bottles, 11d. Guaranteed 7 Years Old - - - 5s per Bottle. Guaranteed 10 Years Old - - - 3s 6d. A Fine Mellow Whisky - - - 2s 6d.

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ESTABLISHED 1858. D. & A. DAVIDSON, GRANITE, MARBLE, AND STONE WORKS, INVERNESS. Memorial Crosses, Mural Tablets and Monuments of every Style and Price.

The Highland News

INVERNESS, Saturday, September 1, 1906. THE TWO BARRICADES.

It is appropriate that this year, which has witnessed the Free Trade colours successfully resist a determined attack, should see the ancient burgh of Inverness freed at last from the irritating Petty Customs—a relic of Protection in its crudest and narrowest sense. In the old days, before the nation as an industrial organism had become unified by the multitude of its inter-relations in processes of sale and exchange, the Petty Customs were certainly a satisfactory and convenient way of raising the revenue of the burgh. But, long since, they should have been relegated to oblivion. There is still a disposition, among the working classes especially, to regret their abolition. They fear that with additional rates, amounting to 3d per £1, a decided set-back will be given to the prosperity of the town. While they admit the hardship and injustice of the impost to the traders, they claim that these should buy their freedom at a great price. Now, the Customs have been removed because the community have come to the conclusion that they hinder and curtail the trade of the town, and that their retention would be cause of further friction, loss, and possible danger. If the Customs are acting, then, to the detriment of the community, it is surely unfair that the cost of their removal should be saddled on the shoulders of one class. The fact is that this barricade to the progress of trade in the town is invisible to many. Year after year the obstruction was suffered, and objected to but by few. The railway complained and the traders grumbled, but the burgh rulers preserved a nonchalance from which they would not be disturbed. When the Railway Company refused the usual facilities for collection the barricades were made visible, and the town became the laughing-stock of the country. The barricades were ever present as surely as when they took concrete form at the Station exits. Then it at once became apparent that their continuance could on no account be suffered. With the threatened removal of the Railway Works the town woke up to a sense of its danger, and from that moment the historic impost was doomed. The great cost of collection should long ago have convinced the citizens that the Petty Customs had become antiquated and unprofitable. The Canal Commissioners and the Railway Company, however, stand in a different relation to the Petty Customs and the prosperity of the town from the ordinary trader. The traders, being part and parcel of the town, have rightly enough escaped being mulcted for the benefit of the community. The Commissioners, on the other hand, disclaim all direct interest in the burgh, have claimed and received in compensation their full pound of flesh. The railway stands on a different footing. The prosperity of the town and of the Highland Railway are inseparably linked together, but as much of the relief experienced by the Company goes to benefit shareholders far distant from Inverness, we are of opinion that something should be done by them in return for the gift they receive. The town is not entitled to demand payment in cash, but the Company is morally bound to make some recompense. The railway works are admitted to be far behind the needs of the line, and we would suggest now, as we have previously done, that something like the sum saved annually by the Company, in virtue of the abolition of the Petty Customs tax should be capitalised and invested in the improvement of the works at Inverness. This would at once be a boon to the town and no loss to the Company. It would go far to heal the wounds inflicted during the amicable fight, and would win support for the "Highland" in any future struggle with a rival Company.

The abolition of the Petty Customs promises to make visible yet another "barricade." The increase of 3d per £1 in the rates forces before the eyes of the most unthinking the fact that our municipal expenditure is increasing beyond all bounds. Like that of southern cities, it affords cause for anxiety and foreboding. Excessive rates are a barricade to all progress readily recognised, and if the effect of this new levy is to give pause to the heaping up of loyal expenditure, and helps to open the eyes of the community to the indiscriminate borrowing and unprofitable commerce trading which are luring the big towns to the verge of bankruptcy, the two barricades will be looked back to in the future as among the most helpful factors in pointing out the true path of progress and of duty.

THE PREMIER'S LOSS.

In the hour of his triumph the Prime Minister is stricken with the sorest bereavement that any man can suffer. On Thursday, at Marienbad, Lady Campbell-Bannerman quietly and painlessly passed away after a long illness. The sympathy of the entire nation will be extended to the Premier in his sorrow, for at such a time as this all strife is hushed and all hearts go out to the man who was able to forego the most pressing public duties only to watch by the bedside of his dying wife. No British statesman has been more popular or more respected and loved than those great men, and they have been many, who found in the joys and duties of family life the best relaxation from the cares of public business, and the recuperation and renewed impulse for further effort. Lady Campbell-Bannerman never lived before the public as did the late Mrs Gladstone. She was never to the outward gaze an outstanding figure in social or political circles. The extreme delicacy of her constitution prevented her undertaking the trying duties that a public life demands. Nevertheless in the privacy of all the political movements in which her husband has been engaged, and all his plans submitted to her for approval and advice. With unerring instinct, with tact and sympathy, she guided her husband on the path which has so lately ended in such signal success. Removed by her retiring nature and illness from the heat of partisan strife, she was enabled, almost intuitively, to form a cool and unbiassed judgment, and to give direction and guidance at many times of crisis. While it is pleasing to think that she lived to see the day of her husband's triumph, there is something touching in the fact that she who shared and lightened her husband's burden during the long and thankless days in the wilderness should so soon be taken away when the summit of his success had been attained—when he had just started with a gigantic task which bids fair to be carried through, and which is bringing him so much honour and applause. Her help and encouragement will be greatly missed by the Prime Minister, and his loss is the loss of the Liberal Party and of the nation. The King has sent Sir Henry a letter of sympathy and condolence, and the Throne in this way, as it should do, only voices the heart and feelings of the country. Inverness Liberals have been quick to feel with their sorrowing leader, and both the Burgh and County Associations, as well as prominent individual members, have sent messages to the Prime Minister conveying their sympathy in his sore bereavement.

THE SUTHERLAND ROADS.

But a few years since the motor car was regarded by old and young as an object novel and curious. Suddenly appearing in the stream of vehicular traffic in London streets—a noisy, ramshackle, erratic machine, the terror of the horse, and the joy of the street urchin, alternately chafed and cursed by the cabby, idolised in the parks, and stared at in the Strand—this latest toy of the millionaire focussed the attention of all classes. Speed is its attribute; suddenly it appeared, and quickly it grew and multiplied; quickly it excited attention, and as quickly became an object familiar and commonplace; rapidly it came in contact with old-established customs, and as rapidly the old life adjusted itself to the new environment. The motor car is a great revolutionist and radical—it is no respecter of persons. It quickly finds out the weak spots in the social organism. It proves the adaptability of healthy living institutions to new conditions. It dusts the hedgerows and empties the wayside houses of their tenants. It tears up the roads and destroys the repose of country thoroughfares. But it has brought good in its train as well as evil. It is extending the towns out into the country districts. The city man who formerly dined in town can now afford to reach the family table—he is oftener at home, and home life, the foundation of society, is thereby augmented. It opens up fresh country districts, where railways dared not venture, to trade and inter-communication. Wealth is increased. To meet the necessities of the time, the old roads are improved and new ones built. Where life is healthy and thriving, the advent of the motor is more a boon than a burden. It is not so in all parts of our island. To many County Councils the upkeep of the roads, due to the wear and tear by motor traffic, is more than their sorely-tried ratepayers can bear. Perhaps nowhere is this more forcibly borne out than in the County of Sutherland. Here the County Council have reached the bottom of their purse. The motor does not confine itself to the wealthy communities of the south. The charms of Highland scenery bring the tourist with his car over the slimly-built tracks of the northern counties. These, though amply sufficient for the needs of a few years past—an odd cart or two and an occasional horse-trap—are totally unsuited for motor traffic. In Sutherlandshire the roads have been deeply cut and furrowed until they present a couple of parallel ruts through which a horse might safely be allowed to drag a cart without guidance from a driver. In wet weather a heavy and powerful motor driven at full speed literally skins and peels the road at thirty miles an hour. The surface grit is thrown off from the four wheels like shavings from a turning-lathe. Little wonder that the Road Board are at their wits' end. The proper upkeep of the roads is beyond the resources of the county. Subscriptions have been offered by wealthy motorists like the Duke of Westminster, but these are but a drop in the bucket where money has to be poured out in a never-ending stream. It has been pointed out that most of the damage is done by passing strangers, who do their damage and are gone, and it is claimed that for the money spent by the county the ratepayer gets no adequate return in the shape of services rendered. It is not forgotten,

however, that the destruction is also caused by the new and successful company of trading cars which are opening up and serving the county. Is the Road Board supposed to keep the roads in order for private traders? This is a question which may become very important in the near future. The railways have a covetous eye on the King's highway. It is thought that motors might link up outlying districts and serve as feeders to the main railway line. Railway managers point out to their share-holders that where railway extension might not pay motor cars stand a chance of being successful. There is no upkeep required for the permanent way. At one time such a development bid fair to be the salvation of the Highlands. From the recent experience in Sutherlandshire it is more likely, if adopted, to become a veritable incubus. What is to be done—what is to be the result of it all? The Road Board, meeting at Lairg this week, adopted a resolution bringing their case before the Secretary for Scotland in order if possible that some assistance may be given from the public purse. If this is not forthcoming it looks as if the toll gates will have to be re-erected and the cars mulcted as they pass. This would be putting back the hands of the clock with a vengeance.

Now, the reason of the deadlock is not far to seek. The Highlands have been neglected by the rest of the country. It is a land which has been allowed to become drained of the best of its life. It has fettered while the rest of the country has advanced. Yet the up-to-date institutions which a progressive country has made possible were handed over to the Highlands equally with the wealthiest counties in the south. Doubtless the claims of Local Government could be met under the conditions existing when it was granted. But there was no margin left for adaptability to new conditions. The upkeep of the roads was just possible before the advent of the motor upsets all calculations. The increased taxation for the modern requirements of education, sanitation and the like, are utterly beyond the resources of the Highlands. Where people have been unjustly driven off the land and the country handed over to sport and pleasure it is small wonder life has become stagnant. What is needed first of all is help—and an opportunity to get the land back to a healthy and natural state. The Land Bill presently before Parliament is a step in this direction, and it is to the interest of all who consider the welfare of the land they live in to further its progress in every way in their power.

SUNSET IN INVERNESS DURING ENSUING WEEK.

Table with 2 columns: Date and Sunset Time. Latitude 57° 28' 45" N; longitude 4° 13' 45" W. September 1 Sun sets 7:15 p.m., 2 " 7:12 " 3 " 7:9 " 4 " 7:6 " 5 " 7:4 " 6 " 7:1 " 7 " 6:59 "

Cyclists light up one hour after sunset.

NOTE TO READERS.—A letter on "The Teaching of Gaelic in Highland Schools" is held over till our next issue.

THE JUVENILE MOD.—A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inverness Branch of the Cornish Gaidhealach will be held in the Teachers' Bureau on Monday afternoon to receive the report on the Juvenile Mod.

ADIEU, PETTY CUSTOMS.—Last night saw the last of the Inverness Petty Customs. The resolution passed on Monday by the Town Council means the 1st September as the first day of the town's emancipation, from the ancient impost.

CARVED ALTAR FOR LOCHGILFERRAD.—Messrs Maciver & Co., Church Street, are engaged upon a beautiful altar and reredos from designs by Mr Robertson, architect, for the Episcopal Church at Lochgilferrad, which will occupy about a year's time in executing.

FRASER STREET CHURCH.—To-morrow Fraser Street Church will be re-opened, and special services will be conducted. Rev. Mr Lamont will preach in Gaelic at 11 a.m. At 2 p.m. the pulpit will be occupied by Dr Norman Macleod, and Rev. G. S. Macleod will officiate in the evening. The extensive alterations provide comfortable seating accommodation, and the other arrangements are appropriate.

NOTICE TO BURGH LIBERALS.—Burgh Liberals would do well to put themselves in communication with Mr George Ross, solicitor at Mr Joseph Macleod, Liberal organiser, in anticipation of the new register of voters, which will be issued shortly. The above gentlemen will give every attention to all qualified to be entered for the new voters' roll.

PREPARING FOR THE HARVEST.—Preparations are now fast being made for harvesting in the burgh. The weather this week was of the most favourable kind. Thursday was the hottest day this season. Some farmers were cutting this week, and if the good weather continues cutting will be general all over the north. Although the crops may be under the average yield, it is expected that they will not be nearly so light as those of last year.

PRESENTATION TO MR JAMES LESLIE.—A number of friends entertained Mr James Leslie, commercial traveller, Parkirk, to a complimentary supper in the Railway Hotel on Tuesday evening on the occasion of his marriage. In the course of the evening Mr John Dougan, on behalf of the subscribers, presented Mr Leslie with a valuable roll-top desk. The gift was suitably acknowledged by Mr Leslie, whose bride (Isabella Dingwall Munro) was resident in Inverness for a considerable time.

THE THEATRE.—September is always a good month at the Theatre, and first week will see no end of fun and frolic from Mr Charles Majilton's company of eccentric comedians. This company are known all over the kingdom from the success which attended their production of "Round the Clock," and doubtless in "The Scotsman in Paris" and "The Trippers," which are to be staged first week, they will add to the success of former visits. The plays are not far from a degree, and abound in songs and dances and all the light conceits that go to make up a happy evening.

DEATH OF LADY CAMPBELL-BANNEWMAN.—SYMPATHY FROM INVERNESS.—Mr George Ross, solicitor, hon. secretary of the Inverness Burgh Liberal Association, on hearing the sad news of the death of Lady Campbell-Bannerman, telegraphed to Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman expressing the deep sympathy of the members of the Association. Sir Henry Munro telegraphed conveying his sincere sympathy in Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's sore bereavement, and Mr Thomas Gibson, solicitor, hon. secretary, Inverness-shire Liberal Association, also wired to Sir Henry expressing the heart-felt sympathy of the members of the Association.

DEATH OF A SUTHERLAND MAN IN INVERNESS.—We regret to record the death of Mr James Macleod, of Craig Street, on Thursday of Mr John Macdonald, formerly of Inchbry, Kirkhill, and latterly in the service of the Inverness Corporation. The deceased was a well-known and active Liberal, and took much interest alike in the burgh and county contests. He was a man of upright character, and was much respected by all who knew him. He was a native of Clashmore, Dornoch. He leaves a widow and two of a family, for whom much sympathy is felt. The funeral will leave Abbotsford Terrace on Monday morning at 10 o'clock for the Railway Station, and thence by train to Dornoch.

SHERIFF COURT—BOX DAY.—The 19th of September has been fixed as the Sheriff Court Box Day.

PAINTING CONTRACT.—Mr Thomas Tulloch, Church Street, is the successful contractor for the painting of the Sheriff Court House.

BAZAAR.—It is understood that a bazaar will be held in the autumn of 1907 in aid of the Sanatorium for Consumptive Patients in Inverness-shire.

A SUCCESSFUL CONTRACTOR.—Mr Hector Macvinish has secured the contract for the laying down of a concrete pavement at Kingsmills Road, which is being proceeded with.

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.—The following appointments have been notified.—Seaford Highlanders (Ross-shire Buffs, the Duke of Albany's)—F. W. Fraser vice G. W. Tweedie, resigned.

THE PURCHASE OF TOMNAHURICH CEMETERY.—The question as to the purchase by the town of Tomnahurich Cemetery again came before the Finance Committee of the Town Council on Monday afternoon.

DISTINGUISHED TRAVELLERS.—Lord Tweedmouth, First Lord of the Admiralty, passed through Inverness on Monday on his way to Tomich. The Right Hon. James Macleod, Chief Secretary for Ireland, arrived in town on Monday after visiting Mr Andrew Carnegie at Skibo Castle.

RESIGNATION OF COLONEL B. SHAW, V.D.—1st (Inverness-shire Highlanders) Volunteer Battalion the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders—Lieut.-Colonel and Hon. Colonel D. Shaw, on completion of his period of service, is retired, with permission to retain his rank and to wear the prescribed uniform.

THE TWO BRYCES IN IRELAND.—The Irish Chief Secretary arrived at Belfast on Tuesday from Scotland. On Wednesday Mr Bryce was joined by his brother, Mr Annan Bryce, M.P., with whom he intends to pay an extended visit, lasting for at least ten or twelve days, to the North and North-West Coast of Ireland.

A STORNOWEGIAN IN TROUBLE.—James Maclean, belonging to Stornoway, was brought before Dean of Guild Clark at the Police Court on Thursday morning, and charged with being drunk and disorderly. He pled guilty, and was sentenced to pay a fine of 10s, with the alternative of five days' imprisonment. He went to prison.

MEACHE'S GAELIC-ENGLISH DICTIONARY.—This Dictionary is prescribed by the Scotch Education Department for the teaching of Gaelic in schools. It is got up in a handy form, and should prove an invaluable aid to those desirous of learning the Gaelic language. Price 2s 6d. From the Highland News' Office, Inverness.

CULCABOCK GOLF COURSE.—The following names have been adopted for holes at Culcabock:—1st Long hole; 2nd Dyke End; 3rd Fluke Street; 4th Drakies; 5th Quarry; 6th Inshes; 7th Cross; 8th Cottage; 9th Wall; 10th Old Culcabock; 11th Burn; 12th Spion Kop; 13th Island; 14th Meadow; 15th The Stray; 16th Kingsmill; 17th Viewfield; 18th Home.

MOTOR CAR BREAKS DOWN.—On Wednesday forenoon a motor car belonging to Mr Thomas Potter, ironfounder, Pollockshields, broke down at the junction of Church Street and Bridge Street owing to the steering gear and axle getting out of order. The car had to be removed in a lorry to Messrs Macrae & Dick's garage works, where it was repaired. Although the car broke down at a very busy juncture, the traffic was not interrupted.

SALVATION ARMY.—Captain McKeown returns to-day, and will conduct special meetings to-morrow (Sabbath). The harvest festival of the local corps will take place about the end of September, and it is hoped that all the townspeople will help to make it a success. On Monday evening in Bank Street Hall, Commissioner Resdell delivered a very interesting lecture on South Africa. The Rev. Dr Black presided.

NOTE TO READERS.—We would direct the attention of all Liberals in the county of Inverness to the advertisement in our columns calling upon lodgers, tenants, or sub-tenants or otherwise to see that they are entered on the new register of voters if qualified. If there is any doubt they should put themselves in communication with any of the gentlemen whose names are mentioned in our advertisement column. The 21st September is the last day for lodging claims.

INVERNESS FOOTBALLERS IN ENGLAND.—Local football enthusiasts will be glad to learn that in their match with Blyton to-day Alick Campbell, late of the Clachnacuddin, and Hector Shand, late of the Thistle, are to play for the Middleborough team. As is well known, they have already taken part in several trial matches, and their selection to play against the well-known Liverpool team shows that the Middleborough management have recognised the undoubted capabilities of Campbell and Shand.

A PLEASANT SAIL.—On Tuesday evening the new steamer James Crombie will leave Aberdeen for a trip to the Moray Firth and Inverness, and passengers will be conveyed from Inverness to Fort-Augustus by one of the Canal steamers. The fare for the trip is very moderate, and those who take advantage of it will have an opportunity of viewing the Channel Fleet in the Cromarty Firth. Messrs James Crombie & Sons, Trinity Buildings, Aberdeen, have made excellent arrangements in connection with the trip.

INDEPENDENT LABOUR PARTY PROPAGANDA.—Of late the members of the local branch of the Independent Labour Party have been carrying on a successful propaganda, and it is significant to note that the lectures by well-known Socialist advocates have been well attended. On Saturday evening Mr E. Muir, of the Glasgow Clarion S-outs, delivered a lecture entitled "The Labour Party," and on Sunday in the afternoon and evening his subjects were "Individualism and Socialism," and "Drink and Poverty."

MR DEWAR, M.P., YACHTING IN THE WEST.—Mr John A. Dewar, M.P. for Inverness-shire, is to be yachting among the Western Isles during this month. It is expected that he will spend the first week in Barra, North and South Uist, and Harris, and the second week in Skye. It is hoped the hon. gentleman will be able to suit his visit to the time of the annual markets in West next week. This would afford him an admirable opportunity of discussing the terms of the new Land Bill with his crofter constituents.

A MAGNIFICENT HEAD.—Messrs W. A. Macleay & Son, taxidermists, Church Street, have received from Mr Vernon Watley, Fannich Forest, a magnificent royal, which is the best he has ever seen by the above firm. The following measurements may be of interest to sportsmen:—Length, right horn, 37 1/2 in.; left horn, 35 in.; width inside both horns, 29 1/2 in.; brow points, right, 12 in., left, 12 in.; bay points, right, 9 in., left, 8 1/2 in.; tary points, right, 11 in., left, 13 1/2 in.; tops, right, 9 1/2 in., and 13 1/2 in.; left, 4 in., 8 1/2 in., and 10 1/2 in.

INTERESTING GIFT.—Mr Malcolm Macdonald, proprietor of the Albert Hotel, Eastgate, has presented a gold badge to the Thistle management, who are to award it to the player who secures the most points for training during the season. The badge (supplied by Mr Macrae, jeweller, Eastgate), which is of solid gold, has a representation of the town's coat of arms, and is beautifully embellished. The Thistle management are greatly indebted to Mr Macdonald for his gift, which will, doubtless, be keenly competed for. Mr Macdonald has also signified his intention of presenting a similar badge to the Highland League, who will arrange the conditions under which the badge will be won.

LETTER FROM LACHIE.

A SPECIALIST IN SPELLING. MY DEAR EDITOR.—I donno whither to be proud or ashamed of the meetin we had in the Sniddy on Wednesday. Whenever we came in the Doctor says to me—"Lachie, you have reason to be proud this day."

VISIT OF LORD ADVOCATE TO THE HIGHLAND CAPITAL.

VIEWS ON LAND BILL. We have it on the best authority that arrangements have almost been completed for a visit to Inverness of the Lord Advocate, Mr Thomas Shaw, K.C., to take place about the middle of October, when the right hon. gentleman will deliver an address on the Land Bill.

INVERNESS LIFEBOAT SATURDAY.

What has come to be known as the Inverness Lifeboat Saturday is to cover two days this year, and the demonstration is to be an unusually brilliant one. The dates, as will be seen from our advertising columns, are Friday and Saturday next, the 7th and 8th inst. A monster display of fireworks in the Islands is to form part of the fête, the arrangements for the exhibition being in the hands of the well-known firm of Wells, London. The Town Band is to discourse music during the evenings, and the British Women's Temperance Association are to purvey refreshments, any profits upon which are to be devoted to the lifeboat fund. Tickets are now for sale in the hands of the town booksellers, and there is to be a special entrance reserved for those who come provided with tickets. It is not necessary to say one word in commendation of the object aimed at in this annual and interesting pageant. No charity or nation ought to apall more strongly our humanity, and very especially so in the Highlands of Scotland, where there are so many of the population who go down to the sea in ships, with a very large section of their entire population.

NORTHERN COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

Visitors of opera will be pleased to hear of the promised visit of the famous operatic artist, Mr Charles Manners, who is to lecture, adjudicate, and distribute the prizes at the annual concert of the Northern College of Music, to be held next month. In these days of commercialism in art, as in other things, it is sweet relief to come across so genuine an artist as is Mr Manners. In the operatic world he occupies a place analogous to that of the "Courier," wherever they are, may report what they please. It may be best for them to "lean to the tree they get shelter from;" but it might be as well, in ordinary everyday fairness to everybody, if they either left Mr Manners to get on as he likes, or treated him anywhere near fairly. Several of my constituents have already mentioned these matters to me, and I desire them all to know it, therefore this letter. Provost Ross having condemned my article, I would again remind him that "example is better than precept." He also suggested a monument in my honour if I could work out the financial scheme of abolishing the Petty Customs without a tax in lieu of it, as proposed by my letter. Well, now, I am not wanting a monument yet; a live dog is better than a dead lion. But he has nearly managed it himself, as I see from your print to-day that the tax is fixed at 1d. in the 6d. and the 2d. July the 1st, and if the bank overdraft on the Common Good account were dealt with as I proposed the 1d. would also disappear. Of course the electors at the November election will most likely take this into consideration when they are going to elect their Sir, yours, &c., JAMES MACGREGOR, Craignorrie, Inverness, August 31, 1906.

FAREWELL.

SIR ROBERT KNOWS WHEN HE IS THOROUGHLY BEATEN. The Inverness Unionists are on the hunt for a stalwart to defend their cause (if they have one) at the General Election, when that unlikely event will take place. Naturally, the party did not like to overlook Sir Robert Finlay, who, it must be admitted, had at least done his best to hold a seat he did very little in Parliament to win. In those days it used to be, when any important event came on at Westminster, "Mr Finlay absent." At the polls the working man turned his temporary absence at St Stephen's into a permanent rest, and now Sir Robert, he himself engaged with the working man that should have been retired, and he has entered into the spirit of the thing. All will regret that Sir Robert did not see his way at the critical moment to remain a good Liberal, and now that he has found out his mistake, he acknowledges that he is not a man for the Inverness Borough, who sympathise with him in his belated wisdom, and trust that his future may benefit from the mistakes of the past. The following correspondence shows some interesting points.

THE "COURIER" OFFICE.

Dear Sir Robert.—The members of our Unionist Executive in Inverness have hitherto entertained the hope that you would be a candidate for the constituency which you represented to long and with so much distinction in the House of Commons. At a recent meeting they instructed me to communicate with you, so as to prepare the way for your nomination with the after Borough. It is a recognition that this is an early date to consult you, but in view of the uncertainties of the political situation, they think that an early date is desirable. I do not say that the party in the Borough realise in the least measure the debt which they owe to you for past services. Under your leadership they have been carried through a long and arduous campaign extending over many years. Our late defeat was due to conditions which operated throughout the Borough, and it would be unwise to place personal onus and achievements. The confidence which you have always inspired in the party remains unimpaired. If you can see your way to consider once more the possibility of being a candidate for the constituency, I am sure that you will be warmly welcomed by your friends, and many new ones, will work for you with unabated earnestness and zeal. I am, yours faithfully, JAMES BARROE, Right Hon. Sir Robert Finlay, K.C., G.C.M.G., Newton, Nairn, N.B., 22nd August, 1906.

INVERNESS ASSAULT AND ROBBERY CASE.

PROBABLE HIGH COURT TRIAL. From enquiries made at official quarters it is believed that John Long, labourer, Alford Place, who, along with another young man named Hugh Fraser, junior, Castle Street, was arrested last week in connection with an alleged charge of assault and robbery, will be remitted to the High Court to be dealt with. As regards Fraser it is not yet definitely known what will be done in his case. Both the accused are presently in the general prison at Portfield.

MOTORS IN COLLISION.

A motor car, the property of Dr Kerr, was practically wrecked yesterday evening in consequence of its having come into collision with a much stronger car at a dangerous turn on the north road near the town. The Inverness car was proceeding towards Beulah in a fair pace, and was rounding a sharp curve the other car dashed into it. The impact was terrific, and resulted in rather severe injuries to Dr Kerr, who was in the car at the time, and to the other occupants. The motorist of the other car, who was proceeding to Inverness, happened to be passing at the time, and the injured parties were conveyed to town, where they were attended to.

MR MACGREGOR AND THE "COURIER."

[To the Editor]. Sir.—May I trouble you with a few remarks rather of a personal kind concerning the Town Council meeting held on Monday last? Your Bank Lane contemporary has been in the habit of not only giving reports of meetings at which I have taken part, but also leaving out words and whole sentences, which often put me in a false position. The report of last Monday's meeting has taken another form, it leaves out the speech altogether, but inserts the criticism. It would appear that my name is only dragged into the report to show off some other person, and in this way puts me in an unfair position. Of course, the proprietors of the "Courier," whoever they are, may report what they please. It may be best for them to "lean to the tree they get shelter from;" but it might be as well, in ordinary everyday fairness to everybody, if they either left Mr Macgregor to get on as he likes, or treated him anywhere near fairly. Several of my constituents have already mentioned these matters to me, and I desire them all to know it, therefore this letter. Provost Ross having condemned my article, I would again remind him that "example is better than precept." He also suggested a monument in my honour if I could work out the financial scheme of abolishing the Petty Customs without a tax in lieu of it, as proposed by my letter. Well, now, I am not wanting a monument yet; a live dog is better than a dead lion. But he has nearly managed it himself, as I see from your print to-day that the tax is fixed at 1d. in the 6d. and the 2d. July the 1st, and if the bank overdraft on the Common Good account were dealt with as I proposed the 1d. would also disappear. Of course the electors at the November election will most likely take this into consideration when they are going to elect their Sir, yours, &c., JAMES MACGREGOR, Craignorrie, Inverness, August 31, 1906.

BURGLARY CHASE ON LOCH NESS.

ACCUSED BEFORE THE SHERIFF YESTERDAY. What is known as the Invermoriston burglary case was tried yesterday before Sheriff Grant and a jury. The accused were named John Dey and William Maciver, both labourers, and the charge against them was that on the night of the 25th of the morning of the 26th July they had broken into a shop at Invermoriston occupied by Ronald Dean, merchant, and had stolen therefrom one pair lady's boots, one pair lady's hand-made boots, three pairs men's shoes, eight ounces of cut tobacco, and a wooden money box, also having stolen a boat and a pair of oars from Invermoriston pier.

MR JOSEPH MACLEOD.

Naturally Mr Joseph Macleod, who is so much in news now, by application, but all the while the question of the land—deeply interested in the Land Bill laid on the table of the House of Commons by Captain Sinclair. So far as his knowledge goes, he is of the opinion that the Bill will be hailed with enthusiasm. And the reason for this, he was satisfied, would be found in the character of the Bill itself. Its provisions were of a far-reaching character, and well calculated to effect the most beneficial reforms among the agricultural peasantry of Scotland in general and the Highland people in particular. The mere inclusion of small tenants under lease was itself an invaluable concession. These lease were often of an intolerable character. Even the landlords were generously treated under the Bill—perhaps a little too much so in the parts dealing with the assignment of holdings. Some details of the Bill might all for amendment, but altogether it was one likely to result in untold benefit to the Highlands, and to the people of Scotland generally.

AN OLD RADICAL.

Mr Sinclair's Bill is to be welcomed for several reasons. One of the first place is that it is a genuine desire on the part of the Liberal Government to tackle one of the most important and knotty of Scottish questions. Of course it is quite possible that the Bill may have to undergo slight alterations before it passes, but that is no reason why it should not prove beneficial. It seems a little out of place to assert that Mr Sinclair experienced great difficulty in getting the Bill approved of by the members of the Cabinet. We have only to revert back to that interesting event in national politics when the present Premier addressed a mass meeting of electors in Inverness on the eve of the election, and when he made a very important announcement regarding the land question. The views of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, as expressed on that historic occasion, and that of Mr Sinclair in regard to the question are almost identical, and it may rest assured that Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman will do all in his power to assist the Secretary for Scotland in carrying the Bill through the House.

INVERNESS AND THE LAND BILL.

INTERESTING INTERVIEWS. In Inverness, as in other Scottish towns, great interest continues to be taken in Captain Sinclair's new Land Bill, which has been well received by the country at large, and which, if it becomes law, is bound to prove a beneficent measure to thecrofting community. Appended we give the opinions of a few well-known citizens on the merits of the Bill, as ascertained from our representative in the course of personal interviews.

SIR HENRY MUNRO.

Sir Henry, on being asked his opinion of the Small Landholders Bill, said, speaking generally, it was the sort of measure that the situation demanded. He had for a long time taken an interest in the question of the land. It was one that affected the whole population, and was closely connected with the economic progress of the country. All were interested in it. He had considered the Bill so ably introduced and explained by Mr Sinclair in the House of Commons, and he was deeply impressed with a sense of its adaptability to the purposes aimed at. He was an ardent supporter of the Bill, and the apparent opposition of certain parties in the press and elsewhere, the Bill would pass with comparative ease. Opposition was the fate of most measures, and especially those dealing with the land, but in the case of the Crofters Act, it was in a very short time met the approval of the class who now affected to disapprove of its provisions. He was convinced that the landlord class would not suffer. This nation would never feel in a stingy fashion with the powers conferred on the whole land of Scotland irrespective of rent. Up till recent times the large farmers rather held aloof from the crofter movements, but under the Crofters Act they had had an object lesson, and now many of the larger farmers were more generous or similar legislative conditions being applied to all sizes of farms. Such a thing need not interfere with freedom of dealing between landlord and tenant. Both sides must endeavour to be moderate in language and temper, and to be reasonable. There was no need for unkind words or thoughts between landlords and tenants, or between the supporters of either class. The class of men which the Bill would embrace are the bones and sinew of the country. It is a very radical measure, but it is a very rational measure, and it is a very economical, honourable in its dealings, and self-reliant, useful citizens. They will deserve the encouragement which the Bill was, in his opinion, so well calculated to afford.

DR F. M. MACKENZIE.

Dr F. M. Mackenzie, President of the Burgh Liberal Association, has been long actively associated with every description of political reform; especially the very radical and important question of the land. Interviewed on the subject of the Small Landholders Bill, Dr Mackenzie said he was in full approval of all its provisions. That there should be show of opposition to the Bill was no more than was to be expected. It was ever so, and the anti-landlord came from the same quarter. The unpatriotic expedient of emigration as a means for land evils was an unwise one. Were the same conditions prevailing in the home which obtained in the Colonies very few would think of leaving their homes for a foreign land. He had no doubt the Bill would pass the House of Commons. Of course the Government would be bound to advance the cause of land and other reforms. He believed the passing of the Bill now issued would be the beginning of a new era of prosperity for the country. The emancipation of the tenant in many of Scotland, and would result in some degree in the reaping of the hills and glebs of the Highlands. Many who were hark once more to enjoy the new order of things.

COUNSELLOR GILL.

Councillor Wm. Gill said he had always taken a keen interest in the land question. He believed that Mr Sinclair's Bill was the right line, and he hoped it would become an accomplished fact. What was really wanted in the Highlands was ways and means to keep people on the land. It was a most regrettable fact that year after year the bone and sinew of their race were leaving the glens and straths and seeking their homes in the Colonies. The only Brother Jonathan seemed to be swallowing all and sundry. The land belonged to the Crown, and the owners were simply trustees with moral obligations to discharge to the higher authority. Mr Sinclair's Bill might be regarded as an encroachment upon the liberty of the subject, but that was an erroneous idea. It was quite ridiculous that large tracts of land should go out of cultivation simply because of the sporting practices of the owners thereof. The State ought to interfere and say to the landlords—"You must till this land for the benefit of the common people." On the whole the Bill was a good one, and he hoped it would be passed by the Government.

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Naturally Mr Joseph Macleod, who is so much in news now, by application, but all the while the question of the land—deeply interested in the Land Bill laid on the table of the House of Commons by Captain Sinclair. So far as his knowledge goes, he is of the opinion that the Bill will be hailed with enthusiasm. And the reason for this, he was satisfied, would be found in the character of the Bill itself. Its provisions were of a far-reaching character, and well calculated to effect the most beneficial reforms among the agricultural peasantry of Scotland in general and the Highland people in particular. The mere inclusion of small tenants under lease was itself an invaluable concession. These lease were often of an intolerable character. Even the landlords were generously treated under the Bill—perhaps a little too much so in the parts dealing with the assignment of holdings. Some details of the Bill might all for amendment, but altogether it was one likely to result in untold benefit to the Highlands, and to the people of Scotland generally.

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MR DUNCAN MACLAVISH.

Mr Duncan MacLavish, corn factor, is a gentleman who has for many years taken a deep interest in all phases of the land question. He is one of the few surviving members of the Inverness Highland Land Law Reform Association recently reconstituted. His interest in the present Land Bill of the Government is not that of a mere outsider. Not a few of the suggestions formulated and given forth by him from time to time are embodied in the Bill. In the course of a conversation with a representative from our office, Mr MacLavish classed the following opinions regarding the measure. He was, he said, convinced it would effect the greatest social reform Scotland had ever seen, not only materially but, by establishing the independence of the landholder, it would raise the social and moral status of the small landholder class. It was just 100 years ago that Stein, in Prussia, conceived and successfully carried out, on the same principle but by a different method, the settlement of the people on the land in the interests of the nation at large, through the foundation of the prosperity of Germany. The Bill affected two-thirds of the landholders of Scotland, but did not affect more than one-third of the agricultural land, thus showing that a large accession, both in the number of the holders and the enlargement of the small existing holdings, there might be created by the powers embodied in the Bill. The benefits to be looked for were not confined to the small landholder class, but would extend directly and indirectly to the whole of the country at large, and especially the small towns and villages throughout the country whose trade and commerce should largely benefit from the restriction of the land to the small consequent increase of comfort to the landholder the effect of the Bill should be in some measure to arrest the emigration of the best and most vigorous of the country's manhood; it would ensure a supply of the best of the people to manufacturers and to the towns. It would tend to stop some of the causes of unemployment, and in thus colonising our own country would secure the best wealth and greatest security that the country could possess. The financial resources at the command of the Land Court would facilitate the relief of the congested districts in the Highlands and Islands, in taking away the burden of the cottages and squatters and provide for them better holdings on suitable lands, and devoted to sport. It would also provide for better sanitary conditions, improved agriculture, and foster co-operative methods for the collection and sale of the produce of the small holder. The power to be given to the Land Court under the Bill were full and unrestricted, and there lay the safeguard for its being worked in a manner calculated to carry out satisfactorily the purposes for which it had been devised.

A SOCIALIST.

To use a vulgarism, the Crofters Act Amendment Bill shows how the wind is blowing. It is a very radical measure, but I can well understand that Mr Sinclair had some difficulty in getting the assent of his Cabinet colleagues to it. Of course a measure for the amendment of the Crofters Act of 1886 had been promised in the King's Speech at the opening of the session. On the other hand, it is not to be assumed that the Bill will transform the present state of matters and produce a veritable paradise, but it is undoubtedly a stepping stone to further legislation if that be possible. People talk about the poor landlord suffering if the Bill becomes law, but that is a fallacy. The Bill is likely to receive strenuous opposition from the land-owning class, because they do not desire to see their privileges and rights given to the tenants which were denied them by the so-called owners of the soil. The Bill is sound in principle, and is far from being a revolutionary one.

A PROMINENT CITIZEN.

A prominent citizen who takes a keen interest in municipal and national politics, said he hoped the Bill would be passed into law at a very early date. It was evident from the provisions contained in the Bill that the object of the Government was to cheapen and simplify the settlement of disputes between landlord and tenant, to remove the tenant from petty restrictions and wriggling covenants, which on some estates hamper and impede the tenant in the cultivation of the small piece of land he holds, and in which he takes a keen interest. The Government also sought to provide for the payment of a reasonable sum in way of compensation where a tenant is expensively and arbitrarily evicted. On the whole, Mr Sinclair's Bill becomes law it will greatly improve the position of the tenant farmer by making applicable to agricultural holdings principles and practices already in operation on the best managed estates in the country.

DANCE AT TOREVEAN LAST NIGHT.

A most enjoyable dance, arranged by a number of young men who are presently occupying the neighbourhood, was held at Torevean last night. There was a good attendance, and excellent music was supplied on the bagpipes and violin. A happy function broke up at an early hour this evening when the customary "gala" of thanks were proposed to the gentlemen who arranged the dance and provided the music.

FREE CHURCH HIGH JENKS AT FORRES.

On Saturday last the members of the Ardserie Free Church Choir and the Sabbath School teachers held their annual "gala" at the spot chosen for the Torevean last night. The party set off in high glee in the early day, but St Swifthin being reluctant to belie his reputation, even in favour of the Free Church of 1843, sent the rain coming, prone-descending rain which rendered the invasion of Clunies a somewhat precarious attempt. It was therefore deemed more discreet to draw upon the resources of the town of Forres, and accordingly the party engaged the "Mechanics' Hall," where they were met with shelter and cordial welcome. Being well soaked, and no other means being convenient, the chorists and teachers, snapping their fingers at quails regarding "movable type," took a leaf from Prince Charlie's hundred pipers and "danced themselves dry to the pibroch sound." So at least our informant goes. Songs, recitations, and parour games filled up the forenoon, the rain ceasing, the party full of enthusiasm set off for Clunies Hill, and Nelson's Tower. Having disposed of these interesting spots, they set of once more for the Mechanics' Hall again to engage in the congenial occupations of the forenoon. We shall not venture to say it was a case of demonic possession, or what spirit it was the party, but true it is that it is not in Gath—they halted at the watchstone and solemnly wished a wish, which they no doubt expect will be duly gratified through the good offices of some Pagan divinity which watches over the destinies of the ancient town. On reaching the hall tea and cake were partaken of, after which the company, moved by the inspiring strains of the bagpipes, tripped it on the light and fantastic till the clock struck the hour for retiring, when they all proceeded to the station, and joining their train, arrived at Ardserie at half-past seven o'clock. Delighted with their day of diversion and party-making, where the hilarity was so general, it might almost seem invidious to name the leading performers, or to inquire who were the beaux and belles of the ball but among those who accompanied the trip were Rev. Mr. Davie, Mr. James Munro, choir leader, Mr. Robert Lawson, superintendent of the Sabbath School, Mr. James Campbell and Miss Campbell Smith, Mr. Fraser, jun., blacksmith, and others. It will be interesting to watch what the Free Church Presbytery of Inverness will have to say to such departures from the rigidly Puritanic norms promulgated at the last General Assembly regarding innovations. Of course no edict has been issued against the bagpipes or dancing, but what about choirs, songs, and parour games?

INVERNESS SPRAT FISHING.

OPERATIONS SUSPENDED. Although the Inverness sprat fishing opened earlier than usual this season, a fair measure of success has attended the efforts of those engaged in the industry. This week, however, the fleet were only out two days, and it was reported that the fish have not yet arrived in the upper reaches of the firth, although they are reported to be very plentiful between Cromarty and Tairbert Ness. Meantime operations have been suspended until the situation improves.

ROMANTIC WEDDING COUPLE IN INVERNESS.

DOING THE HIGHLANDS. On Thursday Mr James Baird Jackson, owner of the stean yacht Eileen, and whose romantic marriage with Miss Mary Slater, Huntly, was reported in our issue recently, arrived at the Muirtown Wharf, along with his lady, who is well known in Inverness. They motored to the railway station, and left in a special train for the Muirtown Wharf. A large number of people witnessed the departure of the acion of Gairt-sherrie and his bride.

MEETING OF LOCAL AUTHORITY YESTERDAY.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the County Local Authority was held in the Castle yesterday—Mr Macdonald of Torbroek presiding. The business was comparatively unimportant. Some conversation took place regarding the expense of dealing with the sheep scab trouble in Skye, and the necessity for the exercise of the utmost economy in connection with inspections. A report was read from the veterinary surgeon of the Board of Agriculture, who had carried out inspections in Skye and Rona along with the Local Authority's Veterinary Surgeon. The condition of the sheep is on the whole satisfactory, and it was expected would improve in the future as the farmers and crofters realised the benefits to be derived from dipping. It was reported that there were still in Rona cases of refusal to dip, and the Clerk was instructed to take actions against certain persons not complying with the Order. A letter was read from Sir Samuel Scott, North Harris, intimating his objection to there being two collections of the sheep in the season when the deer were coming in, thus disturbing the forest. He considered that a single collection would be sufficient. It was agreed that efforts should be made in future to have the summer collection made at an earlier date.

REPRODUCTION OF A HIGHLAND CLACHAN.

AN INTERESTING FORTHCOMING FETE.

The "Fayre" which is to be held in the course of the present month on behalf of the funds for extinguishing the debt of £1200 upon the Crown Church, Inverness, is sure to prove a unique and altogether an interesting event. It is quite a way from the usual style of things associated with a sale of ladies' work, though that element is also to be fully in evidence. There will be stalls and stall-holders, but the former will not be the conventional uninteresting erections. The whole ensemble is to be a reproduction of a Highland Clachan, in the thatched cottages forming which may be seen in progress the occupations common to the thrifty crofter, the small farmer, and village tradesman of the olden time. These industries comprise the spinning (wool-working) in all its processes of teasing, carding, spinning, weaving, and knitting. Even the goodwives and daughters who conducted the evening self-help operations are to be improvised for the occasion, and we are certain their "stalls" will have been as attractive or the least interesting feature of the "Fayre." It was surely a happy thought that struck the person who is to be credited with suggesting the Highland Clachan idea. This portion of the fete is to be located in the Muirtown Wharf, which is also to be otherwise "treated" in order to make the setting as well as the central scene as realistic as possible. Mr Colla Mackintosh, our local artist, who has achieved no small success as a painter, has been engaged for some time in the painting of mountain and hill and glen surroundings appropriate to a Highland hamlet. Some of the scenes represented in the fete are the Wilds of Knairn, Glenloch, and Glenmoriston, and such historic spots as Prince Charlie's Caves, the Field of Culloden, and the Cumberland Stone and the King's Stables. Besides what will be stored in the cottages, the Market Hall will have been brought into requisition for the sale of an endless variety of articles, embracing produce, game, carved and marqueterie work, books, curios, confections, and refreshments. There will further be a number of side shows, devoted to new and attractive entertainments—among other things a shooting gallery, an archery range, a putting green, an electric fish pond, and other descriptions of enjoyment. One of the most instructive and interesting items will be an exhibit of modern birds to the most sophisticated of modern birds. The adjoining Music Hall is to be devoted to a fine art exhibition, where will be shown a large collection of works by old masters and by modern painters of eminence. The amount of work being prepared by numerous and willing friends is very large, and when the whole collection is brought together and displayed we surmise the appearance of the "Highland Clachan" will suggest more the possession of Aladdin's lamp than the result of a fete being prepared by voluntary agencies for bettering the lot of the Highland peasantry. Given good weather, the Crown Church "Fayre" ought to prove beyond doubt the event of the season.

THE IRISH OIREACHTAS.—We have before us a copy of the programme of the programme of the Oireachtas, the Irish Parliament, which is to be held in the Mechanics' Hall, on the 12th August. We fear the so-called Celts of the North and West of Scotland will have serious qualms of conscience about being associated with a Society that winds up the week's work of the annual festival by devoting the concluding day (Sunday) to hurling, football, and camogiehead tournament.

PRESENTATION BY QUEEN STREET CHURCH CHOIR.—On Monday evening an interesting function took place in the hall of the Queen Street U.F. Church, when Miss Isabel Grant, daughter of Mr Alex. Grant, Glen-Ugart, was presented with a quantity of the choir, Sunday School teachers, and Christian Endeavour workers and presented with a handsome silver tea service on the occasion of her marriage. Rev. Andrew Grant, pastor of the congregation, presided over a large attendance of ladies and gentlemen, and the presentation was made by Mr Grant in a very appropriate speech, which conveyed the sentiments of all present. Miss Grant made a witty and acknowledging, and warmly thanked the subscribers for their valuable gift, which she would greatly treasure. Wherever she went she would always remember the happy days she spent while connected with the Queen Street U.F. Church, and she was glad to find that she left them on the best of terms. Thereafter eulogistic speeches were delivered by Mr Hugh Macdonald, Mr Teaton, and Mrs Grant, and other members of the choir and ladies' workers respectively. During the course of the evening tea was handed round, and at the close the ladies, who had kindly provided it, received a very hearty vote of thanks.





