

Clann na h-Alba Pamphlets, No. 1.

Brosnachadh.

'S i a' Ghàidhlig cànan dùthchasach na h-Alba. B'i cànan nan daoine bho'n d' thainig sinn, cànan nan rìghrean, nan laoch, 's nan naomh a bha ann o shean. Gu ma h-i is cànan do na daoine a thig.

Ma gheibh a' Ghàidhlig bàs, gheibh Albainn mar dhùthaich air leth, bàs cuideachd. Theab iomadh cainnt eile bàs fhaotainn roimhe so; chaidh cainnt choigrich a chur an àite na cainnt dùthchasaich, agus, 'na lorg sin, fhuair naimhdean nan dùthchannan so làmh an uachdair orra. Thainig ath-bheòthachadh air cuid de na cànainean so, agus an sin thainig leasachadh nach bu bheag air gach dùthaich dhiubh; mur bhith ath-bheòthachadh na cànan dùthchasaich, cha d' thainig leasachadh idir orra. Ma thig aiseirigh na seann chànan Albannaich, thig leasachadh mòr air ar dùthaich féin.

GAELIC—The National Language of Scotland.

One of the most foolish and suicidal things a nation can possibly do is to cast aside its distinctive language. The anti-Gaelic policy of past generations has done more harm to Scotland than the overthrow of its army on many a stricken field. Yet it cannot be doubted that a revival of Gaelic, our national speech, would have the same beneficial results that have followed in the footsteps of the Gaelic language movement in Ireland and the similar language movements of other countries.

It is therefore the duty of all Scotsmen and Scotswomen to support in all possible ways the revival of that Scottish Gaelic tongue which, alone among languages, can mark us out as a nation apart.

It is important for us to remember that there is practically no portion of the Scottish mainland in which Gaelic, for long known as the *Scottish* language, was not generally spoken at one time or another.

In those parts of Scotland, such as the Western Isles and the greater part of the mainland, where Gaelic is still a living tongue, the *least* that should be done for it is to make it the predominant language

of the home, the church and the school. The teaching of the Gaelic language, literature, music, and history and the use of Gaelic as the medium of communication and instruction between children and their parents and teachers are two extremely important educational reforms which should be brought about as quickly as possible.

In those districts in the South and East of Scotland where Gaelic has died out as a spoken tongue, apart from immigrants from the North and West, the language could be introduced into the schools with great advantage even from a purely educational standpoint. It is usually admitted that the bilingual child has a superior mental equipment to the monolingual child. In addition to this, even a moderate knowledge of Gaelic would make the child—or the man—more at home in his own land; for example, he would no longer be a stranger to the meaning of its mainly Celtic placenames. The way would be opened for a better understanding of the past history and the present needs of Scotland. Therefore let Gaelic be introduced as an additional language into such districts, replacing the mere smattering of French or Latin which is too often inflicted upon school children and which is absolutely useless to the great majority. Of course, the substance of these remarks would also apply to the Gaelic-speaking districts.

In this connection, it is necessary to emphasize the desirability of the adequate remuneration of the Gaelic teacher and the necessity for ensuring, as far as possible, that only those persons are elected to school-boards who are in favour of Gaelicising the schools, by insisting on definite and explicit pledges on the subject, as opposed to mere vague and meaningless professions of sympathy for the purpose of catching votes. Another important educational reform, in view of the foregoing remarks, is that Gaelic should take its proper place in the curriculum of the training colleges for teachers.

For these reasons and for many others that might be given, let us endeavour to do justice to the claims of our National tongue.

At Elections—Vote only for Pledged Gaelic Candidates.

SUAS LEIS A' GHÀIDHLIG.