

# THE STRATHALLIAN

THE MAGAZINE OF STRATHALLAN SCHOOL

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## Editorial

WE feel that the praises we showered on the heads of the present pupils in our last number had a malignant effect, for it was only by really hard work that we induced anyone to contribute at all this term. We are convinced that the School is not absolutely without literary ability, and we would therefore request that others than the recognised few shall make an attempt to get something in the next number. But don't put it off till later in the term; make the effort NOW!

It is not often that we have our Editorial half written for us, but this term, as being the first number since the Old Strathallian Club set up for itself, we wish to publish an appeal from the Club's first President. As a matter of fact, we are gratified at this recognition of the magazine as a link between Old and New, and trust that it will mean a more living support of the magazine by the Former Pupils. As a rule, it is hard to wring contributions from them, and yet, as in the present case, they generally manage to come to our assistance in time of need.

In conclusion, before surrendering our pen to Mr. Oliver Melrose, we should like to express our thanks to all the contributors to the present number, and particularly to I. K. Lawson, who leaves us this year, after serving some two years on the Editorial Board, where he has done yeoman service, and has been a frequent contributor.

The Hirsels,  
Bridge-of-Weir,  
Renfrewshire, 15th March, 1933.

### To those about to leave School.

I wonder if you realise what friendship means? I have no doubt you do in the popular meaning of the word, but it is only when you leave school and start out on life that you can estimate its value.

You are starting your careers in very difficult times, and it is only under such conditions that you find out those who are your friends and those who are merely acquaintances.

Do you know that you have over three hundred friends waiting to welcome you into the ranks of Strathallians? Well you have, and you will find amongst them some of your old schoolmates with whom you can recall happy memories at Strath.

May I suggest that the first thing you do on leaving school is to join the Club, either as a life member at £5, or an ordinary member at 7/6 per annum.

You will never regret it. On behalf of the Club I extend to you all a very hearty welcome.

I am,  
Yours very sincerely,  
D. OLIVER MELROSE,  
*President.*

## School Notes and Notices

SEVERE weather in the early days of the term put a stop to Rugby and led to the cancellation of several fixtures. By way of compensation, however, there were a few days' skating. The frosty weather also came opportunely to check an outbreak of 'flu, which at one time threatened to spread alarmingly. Precautionary measures and an outdoor life in the keen air effectively nipped development in the bud.

Meanwhile, great enthusiasm has prevailed all through the School for Table Tennis, a league being formed, and weekly matches being in order: while private tournaments and championships helped to sustain the interest at the end of term. As a result, the standard of play has definitely improved. We would congratulate the Prefects upon their unbeaten record in the league table. In Jack Shaw they possessed the best individual player, for he won thirty-five of his forty games. We understand that the Masters at one time were considered serious challengers, but changes in the team led to a sad fall from grace in the second half of the term, though in their final game they took a point from the Prefects. The Common Room finished strongly to earn second place. We append the final placings:—

	Played.	Won.	Drawn.	Lost.	Points.
Prefects	10	9	1	0	19
Common Room	10	5	2	3	12
Masters	10	4	2	4	10
Sub-Prefects	10	4	2	4	10
Grub Room	10	3	2	5	8
House-Prefects	10	0	1	9	1

On the last night of term the Prefects played the Rest, and an amazingly keen match resulted in the defeat of the champions by 11 games to 5. Mr. McCutcheon, J. Marr, A. K. Scott and R. L. Paul represented the Rest, Scott winning all four games. Shaw again proved the best of the Prefects, and only lost to Scott.

The Rugby teams, as already indicated, have had a lean time, only five matches being played. In the first, against Stewart's College, the team was obviously below form and out of training, due to the enforced idleness; but on the other hand, seldom has a

more thrilling game been witnessed than the home fixture with Glasgow High School, which was left drawn, though there was a sneaking feeling that Strath. was unfortunate not to win. Certainly they had themselves to blame, for, if not more scientific than their opponents, they at least played with more dash. Against club sides in their final fixtures, with the exception of against L. Fleming's XV., the team played magnificently, to draw twice and hold Dundee High School F.P.'s to an eight point margin. It was only fitting that seven caps were awarded at the end of the season, and we congratulate the fortunate ones upon their success.

The Dramatic Society has enjoyed great activity during the term, and meetings have been well attended. Their end-of-term production was again farcical, and was thoroughly enjoyed. While it seems a pity that the play selected should be so ill-balanced in the matter of characterisation, the Society is to be congratulated upon possessing three or four actors capable of shouldering so great a burden as was in this case necessitated.

We again received a visit this term from the Rev. Rannels-Moss in a further novel by Dickens. "Pickwick Papers" does not offer him the same opportunities as other books, but his recital was thoroughly appreciated. The real success of the lectures this term, however, was the visit of Mr. Hugh B. Cott with an illustrated lecture on "Animal life in the Amazon Basin," and we shall look forward to a return visit of Mr. Cott in the near future.

The Debating Society has had a far more successful term than it enjoyed up to Christmas. Much promising material was revealed among some of the younger boys, and the subjects selected for discussion aroused greater interest than hitherto. As a wind-up to the session, the last meeting took the form of a debate led by members of the Staff, and the innovation proved an enormous success, the whole of the Society being present. Mr. Cole and Mr. Frank moved the motion "That State Control is detrimental to the Individual," and were opposed by Mr. W. E. Ward and Mr. McCutcheon.

The Ciné has proved as popular this term as before, and though no outstanding pictures have been shown, the standard of entertainment has been high. Perhaps the most interesting parts of the programmes have been the comedies, which have been universally appealing. With the help of a wireless set and a gramophone, both kindly lent, it has been possible to lend a touch of variety to the programmes, and it is to be hoped that the orchestra will render interludes next session. O. T. Brown and J. A. Smith have been elected on the committee to fill vacancies.

*Mr. and Mrs. C. Tod, of Shanghai, have kindly presented a Silver Cup for competition amongst the boys of the School, which is to be won outright in 1934. The award is to be made to the boy who has "best furthered the interests of the School," and a committee, consisting of Mr. Riley, two masters and two boys, will be formed to make the award. The Cup is a very handsome one, and will, no doubt, be greatly treasured by the winner. The School offers its best thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Tod for their generosity.*

We congratulate those senior boys who continue to win honours for themselves and the School. All entrants for the external examinations were successful. A. Fleming, T. Chapman, E. Sinclair, I. K. Lawson, W. Carrie, K. G. McKenzie, A. K. Scott and J. Marr all passed the Higher Mathematics Examination as a preliminary to accountancy or engineering; while the three candidates for Medicine passed their pre-registration examination in Physics and Chemistry, A. W. Harrington and R. Taylor at Glasgow, and J. Dawson at Edinburgh.

In part due to these successes, several boys leave us this term, and we wish them every success in their new spheres. G. Dobson will leave a serious gap on the sports side of the School life, for he has been a real stalwart for two years in both rugby and cricket. Others who have made their mark on the rugby field are T. Chapman, A. K. Scott, J. Cooper, J. Dawson, L. Smith and H. Melville, and we hope to hear more of their activities in club football. I. K. Lawson has been largely instrumental for the success of the Ciné Club, and has also been swimming

captain and member of the Editorial Board. H. Allen's departure will be a big loss to the musical side of the School, where he has led the orchestra for several years. L. Smith has also been a hard-working member of the band, and Mr. Fletcher will feel the loss of these two more than anyone.

Several promotions were necessitated by the departure of boys in authority. These were announced at the end of the term as follows:—

Cricket Captain : W. W. Watt.

House Prefects : K. G. McKenzie, W. McKenna, W. Carrie and R. Taylor.

Sub-Prefects : J. Breckenridge, I. Macbride and M. Robertson.

## COMMEMORATION DAY:

24th JUNE, 1933

TO ALL STRATHALLIANS—

Once more we are coming round to another Commemoration Day, when we renew friendship and attempt to show our old skill in various sporting events against the School.

In previous years, Youth has generally conquered Age; let it not be so this year. Every year the numbers present are increasing—it lies with you to see that this year is no exception. Make up your minds you are going to take part in some of the events and show there is still "a kick in the old horse."

The programme of contests with the School is similar to that of last year, but I think it will be generally approved if we omit the cross-country race, as when one leaves School the "wind" is not so good. The following are the events:—Cricket, Tennis, Relay Race, Swimming, Polo and Tug-of-War.

If you cannot compete in any of the events, come up and give your vocal support. Send in your application as soon as possible to me or to any of the members of the Sports Committee.

Take out your diaries now and under 24th June put down "Strath—important."

N. GUTHRIE REID,  
Convener of Sports Committee.

**Chapel Fund Balance Sheet****Receipts**

To Balance from Easter, 1932	...	...	£5	11	5
„ Collection of Summer, 1932	...	...	24	3	0
„ Collection of Xmas, 1932	...	...	23	17	9
„ Collection of Easter, 1933	...	...	17	18	3
			£71	10	5

**Payments**

By Thimblerow Mission—					
Poor Children's Xmas					
Feast	...	...	£18	0	0
Helping Fund	...	...	10	0	0
			£28	0	0
„ Scripture Union	...	...	2	0	0
„ Allocations—					
To Sinking Fund	...	...	£17	17	7
To Improvement Fund	...	...	17	17	8
			35	15	3
„ Balance for Charitable Allocations	...	...	5	15	2
			£71	10	5
Sinking Fund now stands at	...	...	£66	4	4
Improvement Fund now stands at	...	...	70	1	4

**THE DEBATING SOCIETY**

This term has been an interesting and enthusiastic one. The first motion of the term, however, "That the employment of the Leg Theory had a bad effect upon Cricket" proved something of a fiasco, and augured ill for the future.

Fortunately, the auguries were not justified, for the next motion "That Monarchy is preferable to a Republic" aroused plenty of discussion, and was perhaps the most lively one of the session. It was marked also by two maiden speeches, by Mitchell and V. Mackay, which showed considerable promise.

The success of these speakers acted as a spur to others, and the next meeting saw W. Smith and A. Dow supporting the motion "That Japan is justified in her policy in Manchuria," and these also won their spurs.

The most important event of the term, however, was the innovation of a debate in which the masters took a leading part. Mr. Cole and Mr. Frank put forward the motion "That State control is detrimental to the individual," and were opposed by Mr. W. E. Ward and Mr. McCutcheon. Their speeches, particularly that of Mr. Frank, were admirable examples of the marshalling of facts, and it was to be regretted that

a shortage of time prevented the matter being thrown open to debate. The motion was ultimately defeated by three votes.

J. DAWSON, *Hon. Secy.*

**THE DRAMATIC SOCIETY**

The only appointment necessary at the beginning of term was the election of a new advertising manager, vice K. G. McKenzie who was forced by pressure of work to resign the post. J. W. Drummond undertook the task, and for once in a way his office proved no sinecure. A word of praise is due to him for the capable way in which he has filled the office, particularly for the advertisements required for the end of term play.

Trial and rehearsed readings have provided entertainment at most of the meetings. In this way "The Girl," "Providence & Co.," "Shivering Shocks," "The Boy Comes Home" and "The Coiners" were given; while a three act play, "The Younger Generation," was read with considerable success on two successive evenings. It is significant of the Society's growing powers that it was no longer necessary for Mr. Norton to make himself responsible for the preparation of these plays; and from half term, when rehearsals for the Dramatic Social commenced, various members of the committee have undertaken production of one act plays with considerable success.

Two lectures were given during the term by external lecturers. The Rev. Runnels-Moss was here again acting his story of "Pickwick Papers." The session closed with a visit of Hugh B. Cott, Esq., with a lecture on "Animal Life in the Amazon Basin," and both these lectures were much appreciated.

The end of term play was again farcical, the Committee finding it increasingly difficult to find suitable plays for school production. The criticism of "It Pays to Advertise" by Roi Cooper Megrue and Walter Hackett is to be found elsewhere; but we wish to thank the appreciative audience for their generous contribution of £2 11s. 9½d.

A. MACKAY,  
*Hon. Secy.*

## The Dramatic Society Social

Mary Grayson ..... R. L. PAUL.  
 Johnson ..... J. PATERSON.  
 Comtesse de Beaurien ..... J. A. SMITH.  
 Rodney Martin ..... W. C. ROY.  
 Sir Henry Martin ..... Mr. M. NORTON.  
 Ambrose Peale ..... K. G. MCKENZIE.  
 Marie ..... R. AITKENHEAD.  
 William Smith ..... J. A. DOW.  
 Miss Burke ..... R. CLOW.  
 George McChesney ..... T. DISHINGTON.  
 Ellery Clark ..... E. SINCLAIR.  
 George Bronson ..... A. MACKAY.

AT its Easter performance the Dramatic Society presented "It Pays to Advertise," described as a farcical fact, by Walter Hackett and Roi Cooper Megrue. It is quite honestly a poor play with a plot which, though wildly improbable, never escapes into the realms of pure fantasy in which its improbability would be justified. Sir Henry Martin, the soap magnate, whose product is a household word, devises a scheme for curing his son's shiftless laziness. He engages a pretty secretary and uses her as a decoy to lure the chivalrous Rodney to work. But the course of parental guidance never did run smooth. How Rodney lays a countermeasure and how at the last Cupid makes terms with cupidity may at least as well, and much more economically, imagined than described.

To this rather unsatisfactory concoction the Society did, on the whole, ample justice. In the part of the astute but finally outwitted father, Mr. Norton was shown in a new light, as it was one which differed widely from the type with which Strathallan audiences have come to associate him. He was at his best in those brief passages, twice removed from reality, in which he simulated Sir Henry's assumed goutiness and irascibility. As the idle scapegrace Rodney, W. Roy found a congenial and familiar rôle containing some really funny situations. It was a great pity that he marred his performance by not being word-perfect. A lively and well sustained performance was that of K. G. McKenzie as Rodney's publicity agent. In a long and tiring part, McKenzie was never mechanical and was often very good indeed.

Of the minor characters, first place must by common consent be given to E. Sinclair

for the magnificent absurdity of his impersonation of the dandified Ellery Clark. A perfect make-up no doubt helped him to achieve his effects, but his unerring control of voice and facial gesture was the deciding factor in a really triumphant performance. It would be no injustice to the rest of the cast to describe Sinclair's as the one impeccable performance of the evening. Certainly his trio with Roy and Mackenzie in Act II. was the most satisfying passage in the play. A. Mackay was admirably businesslike as the representative of Lewis's of Liverpool, a part which gave him little scope. J. A. Dow was adequate in a colourless part, while as the dun, George McChesney, T. Dishington emitted a rich fruity dialect of uncertain provenance. Paterson made a discreet and well-timed manservant, while R. Campbell, J. W. Drummond and S. K. White made a brief but effective appearance as Rodney's sandwichmen.

There were only two female parts of any prominence. Mary Grayson, Sir Henry's beautiful decoy, was impersonated by R. L. Paul with fitting restraint. Though he looked, stood and moved well, his delivery lacked liveliness, at times, no doubt, to a maidenly reluctance to raise his voice. While sound and tasteful, his performance left one with a vague feeling of disappointment. J. A. Smith made an honest and painstaking attempt at the French Comtesse, but he never succeeded in combining fluency with any approach to phonetic correctness. More practice might have improved this. Aitkenhead's little essay in the same vein was far more successful, and one regretted that his part was not longer. The female cast was completed by the appearance of Clow as a clerk.

The production ran very smoothly, and was generally better than last term. Grouping and movement on the stage were thoroughly well managed, while nearly all the "business" went off without a hitch; and costume and make-up were almost uniformly excellent. A special word of praise is due to J. W. Drummond and his assistants for their bright and convincing posters.

Altogether it was a thoroughly enjoyable evening, marred only by a deplorably chosen play.  
 E. J. F.

## The Club's First President: Mr. D. O. Melrose

At the last Annual General Meeting Mr. D. O. Melrose was unanimously elected as first President of the Strathallian Club, to hold office during the year 1933.

match, he thrilled present-day pupils with his magnificent place-kicking.

Mr. Melrose, on leaving "Strath.", went to Hawick to study the woollen trade and,



Mr. Melrose came to "Strath." in 1920 and soon became a prominent member in many of the school activities. He played for the 1st XV. from 1922 to 1924, when he was elected Captain of Nicol House and Senior Prefect, and during his last year at school he was a member of the 1st Cricket XI. and won the School Golf Championship, played at Gleneagles.

There can be very few who were members of the School during his day who fail to remember his wonderful goal kicks from the touch-line — and smashing drives right out of the cricket ground for "six"; indeed, quite recently, in the Old Boys'

after serving a year, joined the firm of Messrs. William Hall, Junr., Ltd., Wholesale Clothing Manufacturers, Glasgow.

Since the inauguration of the Club, Mr. Melrose has been one of the most prominent workers in making it a success, and by his industry and enthusiasm he has been a source of inspiration to others. Only those, like the writer, who have worked with him in the Club organisation know exactly how much the Club owes to him, and there is no doubt that Strathallians far and wide will join in wishing Mr. Melrose a happy, successful and prosperous term of office.

## THROUGH POLAND IN WINTER

THE thousand mile journey to Warsaw starts in comfort from Liverpool Street station at 8.30 p.m. The crossing is calm enough, and at five o'clock the next morning we change to the train at the quayside, sparkling with a heavy frost. On the Dutch border (for we are travelling by the best winter route *via* Hamburg), we find time is twenty minutes later, and after a brief passport examination, board our next train in the blue glare of arc lamps. In summer much of the country is a mass of flowering tulips, but now it is flat and uninteresting. As we approach Utrecht the canals become fewer, and at Bentheim, on the German border, forty minutes later, we halt again. We have to tell the passport officials just how many marks and how many zloties we possess, for it is forbidden to take more money out of Germany than one takes in.

After another three and a half hours' travel over a line used for testing new trains with propellers and stream-lined Diesel engined coaches, we reach Hamburg. Here we pass the two hours prior to our departure walking sharply about the streets to keep warm. Many uniformed police are in evidence, fully armed, to quell any trouble the Nazis may start this pleasant Sunday afternoon. . . .

About 12.30 that night, on our way to Warsaw, the German passport officials come to examine our money certificates, and a little later come the Polish officials to give us our first opportunity of hearing the weird-sounding Polish language, for at last we are in Poland.

It is at six o'clock next morning when the train runs into the cold, open platforms of Warsaw. It is *really* cold; little icicles form inside your nose as you breathe, while shaggy horses, pulling little sledges, have long white streamers where their breath has frozen on the hair. The policemen, in their thick fur coats, lined with whole sheep skins, stand parallel all the way down the street. The snowflakes are little sharp white needles, which sting one's flesh. Our hotel in Warsaw has double windows to keep in the warmth. The soldiers standing to attention outside are, we learn, conscripts, for every young man has to spend two or more years in the army.

The houses in Warsaw are big buildings, all painted in various designs from roof to

pavement. . . . Much to our dismay, we learn that lunch is not till three or three-thirty. Apparently business is carried on from eight o'clock till three without a break, but at three the day's work ends.

Since the war, Poland has rebuilt the million and a half houses destroyed during the war years, and constructed twenty-six thousand schools. This industry has resulted in their unemployment being reduced to .7 per cent., as opposed to England's 14 per cent. The railways have been converted to broad gauge, but the locomotives seem to have half their works sprinkled outside, and offer striking contrast with the clean-lined, tapering English G.W.R. expresses.

On our train for southern Poland we find radio plugs in all the carriages. Earphones can be hired for 1½ zloty from the "radio girl," and the programme consists of ten-minute snatches from European and English stations. At Cracow we see a little sentry box on the tower of the Church of Our Lady, and it is from here, we learn, the trumpeter sounds that pretty call each hour, which can frequently be heard from the broadcasting station at Cracow.

Sitting in a café, we watch the people skating on the lake, even youngsters of four being proficient in the art. That night we have to start on our return journey, but we shall bear back with us many pleasant memories of our stay in this country, and the appropriate remark seems to be:

"CHRSZCZ BRZMI W TRZCINIE."

D. P.

## COMMEMORATION DAY

Commemoration Day this year falls on Saturday the 24th of June, and it is hoped that a good crowd of Old Boys will be present to engage in the various events against the School.

There will be the usual service in the Chapel at 2.15 p.m., to be followed, at 2.45, by the Cricket Match—Old Boys v. The School. We hope also to arrange other contests, such as Tennis, Relay Race, Water-Polo and Swimming, providing the Old Boys are able to muster representative teams for them.

## THOUGHT WHILE THINKING

NOW for it—as usual the paper's a long one! Oh, he's giving out paper first. How like him to prolong the suspense—Yes, everyone has paper. Get a move on; let's see the worst! Great heavens! Two papers. This is the limit! And he expects us to do all that in two hours. What's that someone said? No passage? There wouldn't be. Just my luck to spend all last night swotting them up for him! At last —!

I suppose he hasn't gone completely balmy, but does he really think we've done this work? "The contexts are easy," he says, but I've never heard of one of them. That's one question I can't do, anyway. It does simplify matters. And those two Shakespeare questions—well, he couldn't have chosen more out of the way things. Why couldn't he have given us the Shakespearean stage which I knew something about? Well, I suppose I must have a shot at something. That one on Gray seems fairly straightforward, and yes, he did give us a note on that, brief but to the point if I remember —

Well, that's that. Good heavens, there's nearly half an hour gone already. I'd no idea I knew so much about Gray. Only hope I do the next as well—here, wait a minute, that fifth context comes from—yes, by Jove! Dot it down lest we forget. What next? Oh, he warned us to do "Oenone," but I never thought he meant it. That's the worst: you never know when he's just bluffing. Still, let's see, there was Paris and Juno, Minerva and Venus. It's worth trying anyway —

Two done! Now Keats didn't seem too bad when we were doing him. Oh, and talking about Keats, that context surely comes from the "Nightingale." Down with it. Well, I know precious little about Endymion but I remember the chief things about "St. Agnes." I'll touch lightly—*very* lightly—on Endymion, and hope he'll think I know more—Good gracious, over an hour gone! Here, I must cut this short —

Twenty-five minutes to do two questions. Hang it! Look at that essay on Brutus in the first question and I never noticed it before. I must have been blind or mad—hope he'll be able to read it, for I really do

know this one—now something about the quarrel scene and—that's context number three—can't stop now though —

Phew! six more minutes. Well, I'll scribble those contexts: I'll manage ten marks on them anyway—Time up?—finish that sentence anyway. Well, I ought to get fifty per cent on that, unless the baby gets on his nerves before he comes to mark mine. — Not a bad paper, you chaps, but I hadn't anything like time to finish. At the end of an hour I was only in the middle of my third question. Anyway, it's all over for another term, always supposing I don't have to see the Boss.

## THIS TERM'S LECTURES

The postponed visit of the Rev. Runnels-Moss materialised this term, and he gave us "Pickwick Papers" on this occasion. This early work of Dickens does not offer the same scope as some of the later works, in part due to its disjointedness. Nevertheless, a pleasant and amusing evening was spent with Dickens' characters, for Mr. Moss is always best with the humorous side of the stories, and here fun abounds. It is always difficult to select any particular episode for especial praise, but Mr. Moss was, as is usual, most convincing in the humorous love episodes, that of Pickwick and Mrs. Bardell especially, and in the trial of Pickwick for breach of promise, wherein his impersonation of Sergeant Buzfuz called for the highest praise.

At the end of term we had an illustrated lecture from Hugh B. Cott, Esq., M.A., on "Animal Life in the Amazon Forests." This certainly proved to be something "new." He conducted us across the Atlantic, touching at the Canary Islands, where one of his slides made one appreciate for the first time what Milton meant to convey by his simile, "like Teneriffe or Atlas unremoved," to the delta of the Amazon. His photographs of the forest were extremely impressive, but it was his slides of the forest inhabitants that won the greatest admiration. He showed us a wonderful selection of the protection Nature provides for her several species, notably the sloth, the lizard, and above all, a peculiar leaf-shaped frog.

M. N.



## Life in the Hudson's Bay Company

WE left Ardrossan on June 16th, 1927—29 of us all told—on the Hudson's Bay Company's new Icebreaker, S.S. *Bayrupert*, of some 4000 tons, and, after a fairly stormy voyage across the "Western," we nosed our way through fog and icebergs into the glorious heat and sunshine of the St. Lawrence.

During our stay of a month in Montreal, we worked in the head office and checked cargo at the docks, etc.

We then set sail for Labrador, and were given a rousing send-off by the gaily dressed crowd who lined the dock wall—our Montreal staff, with relatives and friends of those embarking (some for the first time) to follow in the footsteps of the great company of adventurers who, for 258 years, have kept the Hudson's Bay Company flag flying, from Montreal northward, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and emulating the lead and deeds of men whose names will ever live in the history of Canada, men such as Strathcona, Simpson, Dr. Rae and others.

Ten days later we arrived at Cartwright, the largest and most southerly post in Labrador. All hands set to discharging the varied cargo of provisions, rifles, ammunition, engines, in fact, "everything from a needle to an anchor."

This was our first taste of Hudson Bay Co.'s methods and work at a trading post, and I might add that the enthusiasm of some of the newcomers was slightly damped by this rude awakening from the leisure of a month's voyage to a hard day's work discharging cargo, hampered by the presence of mosquitoes and black flies.

After working day and night, we steamed to Rigolet Post where the same work was gone through, and thence to Makkovik, the first Eskimo post. Here we first saw full blooded Eskimoes, and a tough lot they looked. We left here early in the morning, and proceeded to Davis Inlet, but, unfortunately, the ship struck one of the many reefs on these uncharted shores and was hopelessly wrecked. The lifeboats were immediately lowered and in a short time everybody had left the ship except a few officers and the wireless operator. We

landed nine miles away from the wreck on an island called the Farmyard Island and there we made rough tents from sails, while "Sparks" sent off S.O.S.'s.

The Newfoundland mail steamer, S.S. *Kyle*, picked up the S.O.S. and arrived in six days' time. It was a bedraggled lot who boarded her, as it had rained solidly for three days, and our tents were anything but waterproof; but, after a hearty meal, everyone cheered up and spent a most enjoyable voyage to St. Johns, Newfoundland.

We boarded the S.S. *Nascopie*, another icebreaker belonging to the company and, in a few days, were bound for Arctic waters again.

I was landed at Cartwright Post where I stayed for a year, and was then sent North to Hebron as post manager.

In winter travelling is done by dog team and sleds, or "Kometik" as it is called in Eskimo, and, when on a long trip, as many as twenty dogs are hitched to one sled. The dogs are about the size of the average collie and are wiry, lean brutes, and the sled is 18 to 20 feet long and about 18 inches wide. Sometimes they are shod with iron, but, when possible, with whale-bone.

It is possible to do a hundred miles per day with a good team, but, generally speaking, with average conditions, fifty to sixty miles is fairly good work. It is a slow and monotonous mode of travel but, when one is going through mountainous country, it can have its excitements. On one occasion, we took five days to go over a range of mountains called "Kaittopaiks" in a blizzard, when ordinarily it takes only one day. We were three days without food, finally having to shoot one of the team dogs, and while we chewed the hind leg, the dogs finished the rest.

We were all filled with the romance of life in the "Far North" until we experienced the rigours of such a climate, a temperature of 60 below zero and driving snow. At the end of a day's travel we would build a snow house which takes an expert Eskimo about 1½ hours. Then we would crawl into our sleeping bags and instantly forget the day's troubles.

Work on a post in winter mainly consists of trading or bartering with the Eskimoes. They bring in fox skins and receive provisions and ammunition or perhaps a rifle in exchange. The Eskimoes use the latest types of rifle such as 303 British, 303 Savage, and 44/40 Repeating Winchester, and they are very fine shots.

There are only two white men at each post, an apprentice and a post manager, or trader as he is sometimes called, so that at first it is very lonely, especially as at Hebron we only received one mail per year.

In Spring, all the post buildings have to be painted and repaired, and they look very trim with their red roofs, white walls and red doors. All our boats have to be painted and repaired too, and their engines overhauled, and as we had to do this ourselves, we were kept very busy. As soon as the ice breaks up in July we have to boat supplies to the Eskimoes, and get all our nets ready for fishing trout and codfish. All the nets are made at the post, and then hired out to the Eskimoes; the Company keeping one-third of their catch in payment for hire of the nets. Long trips had to be made in motor boat for supplies from other posts, and a 600 or even 1000 mile trip was quite common there. The boats varied in size from 27 feet to 35 feet long, and were generally fitted with American 2 stroke engines, although some of our posts were

supplied with Thornycroft and Kelvin engines, which were much more economical.

In the "Fall," or Autumn, we had to set seal nets in order to catch the seals as they were migrating, and one Autumn we caught over 2000 in a month. The seals are then taken in motor boat to the post and skinned, and the blubber put through a motor-driven grinding machine and made into oil, which is shipped to London in barrels.

In the south of Labrador there are immense forests of spruce, poplar, fir and birch, but in the north it is barren and rocky. Through the heart of this fascinating country runs a mighty stream called the Hamilton River, with its stupendous fall named Grand Falls, or, by its proper Indian name, "Pitshetonau" which falls three hundred and twenty feet (more than twice the height of Niagara) into a circular basin.

While for my own part I enjoyed every minute of my Labrador experiences, and, I think, benefitted by them, work under the Hudson's Bay Company is not to be recommended for those to whom the city, with its attendant pleasures, constitutes life. For in Labrador a man needs to know himself: his interests are bounded for long stretches by the work in hand and himself, and if extraneous pleasures are a necessity to his existence, he should seek other spheres of activity than the Barren Lands.



Old Strathallian Group. Commemoration Day, June, 1932.

## The Forces of Nature in the Service of Man

THAT "Great Glen" of the Western Highlands, guarded by its age old sentinel, the massive and snow covered Ben (Nevis), famous for the exploits of Bonnie Prince Charlie and General Wade, has at last permitted its rugged fastnesses to echo the garish din of modern machines.

History has passed, leaving only the clustered peaks to guard its secrets for ever.

It was from the same eyries and corries that the eagles swooped on their prey and the straggled blood-stained remnants of the Cameron Clan watched the progress of Wade's meandering road sounding the death knell of their beloved glen, that the engineers took their first observations.

From this humble beginning grew the Lochaber Hydro-Electric Scheme. Begun in March, 1926, with the object of supplying electrical power to the furnaces of the British Aluminium Company's Lochaber Factory, the scheme, which is only one-third completed, has occupied the attention of some of the finest British engineers for nearly five years, and now ranks as one of the foremost engineering feats of modern times.

In order to lead the waters of Loch Treig some fifteen miles to the Power House, the engineers had to construct a tunnel through the heart of the Ben Nevis range, and lay a pipe line to convey the water from the tunnel portal to the factory, 600 feet below.

The first steps were to construct a light railway twenty-six miles long from the base camp at Fort William to Loch Treig, and also to build a temporary power house at Monnassie to light the camps and provide power for the underground workings.

The work on the tunnel then commenced in earnest, the first stage being to sink a vertical shaft at Loch Treig and the boring of eleven horizontal adits into the mountain side to reach the line of the tunnel. As soon as each adit was driven to the required distance, work on the tunnel proper was begun by two gangs of men, one boring in the direction of Fort William and the other towards Loch Treig. In this manner, instead of boring the tunnel in two directions

only, namely from either end, the engineers drilled in no less than twenty-four different sections till all were finally linked as one.

The constructional difficulties were overcome by the careful forethought and exceedingly exact calculations of the engineers. No serious troubles were met, either by water or falls of rock. True, there were one or two large falls, but the tunnel was singularly free from faults, that is, where the rock strata changes direction, and an intrusion of softer material occurs, which, when "firing" takes place, shatters the whole rock and brings down a huge piece of roof.

The tunnel, which is 15 miles long, and 15 feet in diameter throughout its entire length, was hewn out of solid rock, of which there were about fourteen different kinds, ranging from granite through composite to volcanic schist.

Drilling was done by means of pneumatic drills—five or six at each face. After the blasting (in which gelignite was chiefly used) had taken place, the drillers commenced their work again, whilst labourers cleared away the excavated material into trucks. This was taken out of the tunnel by a light electric railway, and dumped on the mountain side. In this way, by working day and night, remarkable progress was made.

The tunnel begins at a spot 100 feet below the surface of Loch Treig and emerges 600 feet up the slopes of Ben Nevis. It runs at various angles, as it is necessary always to have a certain depth of solid rock above it.

Years of work were spent in getting the best concrete for lining to resist the acid of the peaty waters. The most resistant was found to be a French cement called "Ciment Fondu," which has an aluminium base instead of a lime base—the latter dissolving and leaving the pebbles sticking up. Further, owing to the 40,000 tons of concrete needed for the lining of the tunnel alone, and the price of this "Ciment Fondu," it was decided that this special cement should only be used where abrasion

and acid action were greatest, viz., the floor and a few feet up the sides.

At the Fort William end of the tunnel a surge shaft 220 feet deep was constructed, and it is now possible by pressing a button in the power house to shut off the water by means of electrically operated gates. The water then surges up the shaft till it reaches the level of Loch Treig, and then the whole system acts like a "U" tube. Similar gates were constructed at the other end of the tunnel. From the portal the water is taken down to the power house by two large steel pipes 5 feet 9 inches in diameter and in sections 30 feet long, each weighing approximately 10 tons.

The water in the tunnel is, of course, under pressure proportional to the "head" of water at the time above the tunnel mouth at Loch Treig, the maximum being from 80 to 100 feet.

While all this constructional work had been going on, the building of the factory was taking place. The power house was built underground, the roof only showing above the surface of the surrounding land. After a layer of peat had been removed, this great hole 40 feet deep, was hewn out of solid rock. This depth of 40 feet means an extra "head" of water amounting to about 5% additional extra power for ever.

After it has passed through the turbines to the River Lochy, a tail race conveys the water to Loch Linnhe. As the river is a tidal one, very accurate calculations had to be made so that the tide would not raise the level of the water in the tail race high enough to flood the power house, the floor of which is only 24 feet above sea level. To-day the power house contains five 8000 H.P. turbines. In 1936, when the other parts of the scheme are finished, these will be increased to 13, generating a total of over 100,000 H.P.

When the year 1929 was drawing to a close, the engineers were working with feverish haste to have the first part of the scheme finished before the end of that year. In the last few months the adits were blocked up, leaving a manhole in each, so that should it be necessary to empty the tunnel any time for inspection, the engineers would be able to enter at different places without difficulty.

Only a few feet of rock remained between Loch Treig and the tunnel. A large concrete bulkhead was built well behind the gates at Loch Treig entrance. Through the bulkhead was a manhole covered by a steel plate screwed lightly down.

The charges were put in the holes at the face, and the gates were opened. The tunnel and space in front of the bulkhead was completely filled with water (from the vertical shafts) and so acted as a "buffer" for the explosion.

At last, on the afternoon of December 30th, 1929, the final blast of two tons of gelignite took place. No debris was thrown up, not even a column of water, although the explosion took place 100 feet below the surface. After a few seconds there was churning of the Treig waters, which turned from white to yellow. The sound which followed the depression of the switch sounded like a light shell in flight.

As soon as the water entered the tunnel it was met by the bulkhead. The gates were then closed and the water in the intervening space was drained away by means of the manhole through the bulkhead. Everything was found to be exceedingly satisfactory. The orifice was clear and bell-shaped as was desired.

Altogether 1,450,000 tons of rock were excavated, and the tunnel will carry 860,000,000 gallons of water per day when the scheme is finished in 1936. This amount would give an ample supply of water for domestic purposes to half the population of Great Britain.

There has been no hitch from start to finish. What the company—greatly daring—set out to accomplish, it performed. It overcame the greatest forces of nature, and whether considered from the harnessing and transport of water, the generation of electricity, or the production of aluminium, all has worked out according to schedule.

And so among the eternal snows and silences of the Bens of Lochaber, man is gathering and conserving power to the utilitarian uses of mankind for ages to come, and here we leave it—a monument to the memory of a great man who had an idea, and, more than that, had the pluck to apply it and see it through.

A. B. and S. B.

## Sports Notes

### RUGBY

THE rugby programme this term has unfortunately been shortened owing to bad weather. Only five matches were possible, and of these only one was won, two drawn and two lost. The results, however, give a misleading impression of the standard of play of the team generally, for four of the games, three of them against club sides, were creditable performances.

After two weeks enforced idleness, we were beaten by Stewart's College at Edinburgh, not by superior skill, but by extra weight combined with better training; and our team had only themselves to blame for not keeping fit. In the other school game we drew with Glasgow High School, against whom a draw, even at Forgandenny, is considered excellent showing.

Dundee High School F.P.'s have the reputation of being one of the best sides in the Midlands and North, and since the School was only beaten by a small margin by them, it may be taken that they are quite a good side. Bridge of Allan, another strong club this season, were forced to a draw on their own ground, the School crossing their line three times and only yielding one try themselves.

With insides of ability we should have had an excellent side, for the rest of the team is very strong. The forwards, although losing two good men at Christmas, were not seriously weakened. Like last season's pack, they shone particularly in the line-outs, and in a number of games our opponents took scrums instead of throws-in from touch. They were skilful with both hands and feet in the loose, and were often superior to our opponents in quick healing. Although heavy, we were all too often at a disadvantage with being opposed to heavier packs and were, especially towards the end of the game, beaten in the set scrums.

The service of the ball from the forwards to the threes was good, but then indecision,

faulty handling by the centres neutralised good movements which should have brought scores. We had two scoring wings starved for passes. They were responsible for most of the scores, but the openings were made by themselves or engineered by the scrum half. As usual we had capable full backs in plenty, and Macmath and Marr both filled this position very successfully.

The tackling of the team was sound as a whole, but the threes were occasionally guilty of bad marking which left the other side with an extra man.

The Second XV. were good and played well, being beaten by Glasgow High School and Kirkcaldy, but winning against Aberdeen G.S. and Panmure A. Here again the strength of the team is forward, but they have promising outsides in Forrest and Kirkland.

The full results for the season are as follows:—

	Played.	Won.	Drawn.	Lost.	Pts. For.	Pts. Against.
1st XV.	16	7	4	5	124	137
2nd XV.	10	4	1	5	72	83
3rd XV.	4	1	1	2	17	38

### Team Criticism

\*W. C. ROY has been a successful captain. He is a fast and elusive runner, and his opportunism has earned many excellent tries. 1st XV. cap awarded 1932-3.

\*G. DOBSON has a sound knowledge of the game and is an excellent tactician. He has looked after and given every encouragement to his forwards. Always sound and sometimes brilliant, his faults as scrum half are delayed passing and lack of speed. 1st XV. cap awarded 1932-3.

\*K. G. MCKENZIE has led the forwards in fine style and goes all out himself from start to finish. His forte is scrummaging and dribbling. 1st XV. cap awarded 1932-3.

\*T. CHAPMAN has been a stalwart of the forwards for two seasons, and is a very

capable front row forward, and clever in the line-out. 1st XV. cap awarded 1932-3.

\*J. BRECKENRIDGE is a strong runner with a neat side-step. Would have scored many more tries with a centre who could make openings. With more experience of the game and a little extra speed, he will be a very good man. 1st XV. cap awarded 1932-3.

\*R. MACMATH played finely at full back, his recognised position, but was, unfortunately, compelled by circumstances to play at centre three. On form he has a devastating tackle, but in attack tried to cut through and do too much on his own. A safe handler of the ball, he possesses a good kick. 1st XV. cap awarded 1932-3.

J. MARR has played at centre three-quarter and full back. Like Macmath, he is a sound full back, but not a natural centre. He should do well in club football as he is a complete player.

A. W. HARRINGTON has played in the centre and at stand-off half all the season. He was always plucky, and made some tricky runs, but his handling was often very unsafe.

A. MACKAY is a solid scrummager and a hard worker. He is very good in defence, and is well up in all the rushes.

W. MCKENNA has been consistently good all the season. As back rank forward he knows his job, and was always ready to take part in three-quarter movements. He must learn to play the ball when tackled. 1st XV. cap awarded 1932-3.

M. ROBERTSON is an unorthodox forward. He sometimes failed to push his weight in the scrum, but made up for this by excellent defensive work. Many times he was responsible for relieving pressure from persistent attacks by our opponents, and was always dangerous near the opponents' line. 1st XV. cap awarded 1932-3.

W. WATT pushed hard and played hard, and was good in the line-out. Occasionally

he got in the way and stopped quick heeling from the scrums.

T. DISHINGTON is a heavy but slow forward. He scrummaged well, and though never brilliant, played with pluck, and was slowly improving.

A. FLEMING hooked well for his side in the last few matches of the season.

H. SHANKS and J. FORREST both played games at stand-off half this term. The former was good, without being conspicuous, while the latter will do very well next season when he is bigger and faster.

R. A.

**Strathallan v. Daniel Stewart's College,**  
played at Edinburgh on February 4th.

Strath. kicked off against the wind and immediately went into their opponents' half. The pressure was short-lived, however, and soon Stewarts fought back to the visiting "25" by judicious kicking. The School forwards were holding their own against the heavier pack, but the defence, particularly in the centre, was very weak. Harrington was conspicuous in this half for his excellent kicking, but except for several short runs, the backs never looked like scoring. Only real hard work by the forwards and the faulty handling by the Stewart's backs prevented a score against Strath. before the breather.

In the second half, Strath. opened briskly, and pressed into the home "25," where for a time they held their own. Indeed, after ten minutes' play they went ahead, Breckenridge kicking a fine goal from a penalty. The reverse spurred on the home side, and within a minute they had equalised with a good penalty goal. From the restart they exerted continued pressure, and Strath. seemed to crack under the strain, only certain individuals offering a stubborn resistance. Stewarts crossed the School line three times in the last quarter of an hour, only one of the tries being converted. The forwards were the best part of the Strath. side, McKenzie, Chapman and Mackay being especially prominent. Dobson played a clever game at the base of the scrum, and

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\*Played for the team last season.

was always a source of trouble to the opposition.

Result: Strathallan, 3 pts.; Stewart's College, 14 pts.

**Strathallan v. Glasgow High School**, played at Forgandenny on March 9th.

The visitors kicked off, but Strath. carried the early scrums against a heavier pack, only for the backs to fail to make anything of the chances so provided. On the other hand, the visiting threes always threatened danger when the ball came their way, for they moved with machine-like precision, and their handling was excellent. The danger was increased by the fact that the home centres were woefully weak in defence, and Marr opened shakily at full back. After somewhat luckily saving their line for the first five minutes, Strath. improved, and from a fumbled pass just inside the visitors' half, Roy ran through cleverly to score a characteristic try, which was not improved upon. The High School retaliated strongly, and bad tackling by Macmath led to the score being levelled with a scrambling forward movement. Play continued to run in favour of the visitors, whose back division was vastly superior to the home side, and Macmath was again to blame when they went ahead with another unconverted try, which bad marking rendered practically a gift. The reverse spurred Strath., and for a while play was in midfield, Breckenridge and Marr putting in excellent work in defence. The duel between the rival scrum halves was most interesting, and Dobson, well supported by his winging forwards, was effectively bottling up his heftier opposite, Wilson, thereby nullifying the High School's advantage in the three line. Then Roy again nipped in from a dropped pass and ran round under the posts for Breckenridge to convert. The forwards were playing magnificently to keep up a hot attack, and from a scrum near the line Dobson cleverly made an opening for Breckenridge to cross and touch down between the posts for a try he failed to convert.

The High School attacked hotly upon resuming. Their heavier forwards were carrying the set scrums, despite good hooking by Fleming, though Strath. still

continued to dominate the loose and line-out play. With more of the ball, the visiting backs were not long in reducing the lead with a try under the posts. Thereafter, Strath. took up the attack, and splendid kicking by Marr and good work by halves and wings took play into the High School half, where Breckenridge twice broke clear, only to be overhauled by Wilson after beating the full back. Sandwiched between the runs was a brilliant run by Roy from near the half way line clean through the defence. The visitors rallied again, and in the closing minute Macmath again missed his man, and a score resulted in the corner, which was converted with a magnificent kick to bring the score level. That Strath. were a trifle unfortunate only to draw is unquestioned, though they admittedly contributed to their own defeat, faulty place kicking being as much to blame as the weakness in the centre. All the forwards played magnificently, and Roy and Marr were outstanding among the backs.

Result: Strathallan, 14 pts.; Glasgow High School, 14 pts.

**Strathallan v. Dundee High School F.P.'s**, played at Forgandenny on March 11th.

Despite the fact that the visitors outweighed the School in every department, early play favoured the home side, where the forwards packed well to give their backs a good share of the ball. It was fitting that after exerting continued pressure for a quarter of an hour that Strath. should score, Roy discovering a gap in the defence to score under the posts, for Shanks to convert. The lead was short-lived, however, poor defensive work in the centre allowing Ireland, the Dundee stand-off, to score under the posts for an easy conversion. From the restart, Dundee again exerted pressure, and a gap was again found in the centre for a further converted try. Strath. then took up the attack, and good kicking by Marr, and sterling work by the forwards in the loose and from line outs took play to the visitors' "25," and the breather arrived with play right on the line.

The High School opened with a great forward rush, and it was only a matter of

minutes before a forward secured an unconverted try. Strath. rallied and took play to the other end, where good service from Dobson resulted in Breckenridge wriggling his way over for Shanks to convert. Then followed a long period of defensive play in the home "25," ineffective kicking only losing ground. Macmath particularly was to blame in this respect, and he completely starved the rest of the line. Good touch kicking took play right up to the home line, where scrum five after scrum five showed alike persistent attack and dour defence. Eventually, after some ten minutes' hammering, a good kick by Marr brought temporary relief. Just before the close, Ireland slipped round the blind side to let in his wing for a try which was converted. Apart from the weakness in the centre, however, Strath. played a splendid game to a man, and made the club side fight hard for their victory.

Result : Strathallan, 10 pts. ; Dundee High School F.P.'s, 18 pts.

**Strathallan v. L. Fleming's XV.,** played at Forgandenny on March 15th.

Marr and Macmath changed places for this game, which proved a very disappointing one, only the forwards emerging with credit, for they played admirably against a heavier pack, carried the majority of the set scrums, and were absolutely masters in the loose and line out. After the first five minutes, during which the visitors pressed, Strath. established themselves in their opponents' "25" and kept up a hot attack. Fleming hooked splendidly, and Dobson got the ball out to his threes, but movement after movement broke down through faulty handling. Moreover, the attack lacked variety, the ball always coming to Roy, who, besides suffering from the epidemic of buttering passes, was too well policed by Leburn and Gillanders. He did once get clear of their attentions, but was held up on the line. Watt had bad luck also in being grassed after a determined run from the "25" line. Harrington particularly was at fault with his handling, and was much to blame for the change-over arriving without Strath. scoring.

In the second half play was confined to midfield for long periods, Macmath playing

well at full back to save his line with good touch finding. After some fifteen minutes, Strath. went ahead, Breckenridge cleverly side-stepping two men, to run from the "25" and touch down under the posts, Shanks converting. The visitors retaliated, and bad tackling enabled D. Bell to score near the posts, but he failed with the kick. Thereafter, play continued in midfield, and "no side" was called without further scoring, Strath. narrowly winning after what must have been one of the poorest displays witnessed for a long time. One gratifying feature of the game was that the stars of the visitors were Old Strathallians.

Result : Strathallan, 5 pts. ; L. Fleming's XV., 3 pts.

**Strathallan v. Bridge of Allan,** played at Bridge of Allan on March 25th.

In this game the School played one of the best games of the season, due no doubt to the hard training and practice for the house matches. The School attacked from the start, and a brilliant three-quarter movement ended in Roy running strongly to beat three men and score in the corner. The forwards were getting down quicker and shoving harder than their heavier opponents, and with excellent service from the scrum and good handling, the outsides were always dangerous. On several occasions Roy was stopped near the line after good three movements.

The School kept up their fast pace in the second half, and it was disappointing that the home side from their first combined movement broke through and then scrambled the ball over for a try. From the kick-off, however, Roy picked up well and outpaced the opposition to put his side ahead. Bridge of Allan played up strongly, but the School tackling was magnificent, and the attacks were easily checked. Finally they scored by means of a drop kick from the centre of the field. After this, Macmath and Breckenridge put in good runs, and from one of these the ball went out to Roy who was again too fast for the opponents' defence. All the kicks were taken by Shanks, but they were all too near the line and failed, though they were but



inches out. The whole team earned full marks in every department of the game and were very unfortunate not to win.

Result: Strathallan, 9 pts.; Bridge of Allan, 9 pts.

### HOUSE MATCHES

The House matches aroused the usual enthusiasm throughout the School and were productive of some good football. Ruthven and Nicol contested both finals, but each could count itself fortunate to have completed the double.

In the Junior games Ruthven lasted better than Freeland, and were well served both forward and behind the scrum. In the first half Freeland did most of the attacking, but Houston lost several opportunities of giving his side a substantial lead by trying to do too much himself; and on the resumption Mackay, Scroggie (twice) and Gardner scored for Ruthven, while Houston landed Freeland's orphan try for Macfarlane to convert. Scroggie was the outstanding man for the winners, but Peden and Frost also played well in the pack, and Mackay and Gardner shone in the back division. This was perhaps the best game in the whole competition; the other tie between Nicol and Simpson was rather a scrappy affair, and no side was called with the score three points all, I. Wood kicking a penalty to nullify a score by McKenzie.

In the replay, Simpson attacked from the start. Unfortunately, Harrington fell awkwardly during an attack and knocked off his knee cap, which made them two short. They kept up a hot attack, however, R. Auld being prominent with good kicking. Wood had to go off with an ankle injury, but not before Nicol had scored twice through D. Watt and J. Smith, one of which tries Wood converted. Play ran evenly to the close. Auld and Harrington were the pick of the backs for the losers and showed considerable promise, while Wood, Tod, Watt and Smith, without being brilliant, put in good work in defence and attack.

In the final Nicol attacked from the kick-off and Watt was soon over for Wood to

convert. Frost was conspicuous among the Ruthven forwards as Nicol kept up the attack. Wood was injured soon after missing a penalty, but despite the handicap, Nicol went further ahead with a good try by R. Grant which Watt failed to convert. In the second half it was all Ruthven. Gardner opened with a good try from the centre line, but he failed with the kick, and thereafter the Nicol defence prevailed, J. Smith making some good kicks into touch. Peden was prominent in leading forward rushes and just before the close, Gardner was almost through again, but Grant tackled well, and no side was called with Nicol leading 8 pts. to 3.

In the Senior Sevens Nicol did not gain so easy a victory over Simpson as was anticipated. Their speed enabled them to save their line, but Simpson's superiority forward kept the ball away from Nicol's fast wingers. This was particularly noticeable in the second half, for in the early stages Nicol were seldom out of their opponents' half, and Breckenridge opened the score with a try which he converted. Roy added an unconverted try with a fine run from the half way line. The second half was more even and no further scoring resulted. The Freeland-Ruthven match was a ding-dong affair, though the Ruthven forwards never established the complete mastery that was anticipated. Hood on the wing proved a great discovery and early on ran clean through for an unconverted try. Shanks missed an easy chance of equalising from a penalty. Freeland did most of the pressing, however, and would not be denied, Shaw eventually going over for Shanks to put his side ahead by converting. The second half saw Ruthven press strongly, and the Freeland line had several narrow escapes, and McKenzie missed a penalty before Hood again got over to give his side victory.

In the final Ruthven pressed at the start, and Dobson was nearly over from a line-out. They continued to have territorial advantage, but the Nicol backs were much too fast and could always cover up mistakes. Eventually, against the run of the play Nicol went ahead, a kick by Macdonald letting Breckenridge through for an unconverted try. Ruthven continued to press but

despite all Dobson's guile failed to get on terms. The second half was more even, Kirkland catching the eye with clever running and kicking. Macdonald was all but over once, but eventually the superior pace of the Nicol backs told, and Kirkland turned defence into attack by a fine burst of speed which Breckenridge turned to account for a try Watt failed to convert. McKenzie was conspicuous in the Ruthven ranks, and Dobson did many clever things, but the wingers could make nothing against the superior speed of the Nicol back division.

2nd XV. caps were awarded to the following :—A. Fleming, J. Forrest, M. Mitchell, J. Cooper (jnr.), A. Scott, J. Dawson, W. Carrie, R. Campbell, G. Balfour, J. Drummond, R. Kirkland.

### CRICKET NOTES 1933

The outlook for the coming season is very good. Last year's teams enjoyed a successful season, and with four of the 1st XI. and most of the 2nd still here, we should win the majority of our games.

We must congratulate W. Watt on gaining the captaincy, and as this is his third season, he should do well, both as a skipper and a player. Last year he was changing from a slow, unenterprising batsman into a stylist. If this development and progress are continued, he will make a lot of runs. His medium paced bowling is steady and good. He swerves the ball, has a natural break and is certain to take wickets. In the batting he will have the able assistance of Roy, H. Shanks, and Shaw. Roy is a hard hitter who, if he will only take time "to get his eye in" will make more scores like that against the Old Boys last season. Shaw is stolid and should aim at more variety in his strokes, while Shanks, although having the skill, must learn to concentrate at the beginning of the innings and not go out to some easy ball. We have also Macmath of the 2nd XI. who is a good stroke player. Last year he had no idea of the game, but with hard practice and attention to the coaching he should be one of the season's successes. This should be an example to other senior boys, who, after

making several ducks, think they are only golfers!

The attack of the team will not be so strong as the batting, Aitkenhead, last year's stalwart, having left. Roy, bowling medium paced leg breaks was disappointing last season; McKenzie, a fast bowler, requires a smoother delivery of the ball and a greater accuracy to gain his place in the team. Forrest, McKenna, Wood, McBride and Hood are all-rounders from the 2nd XI. who should do well. Dobson, last year's opening bat and stumper, is unfortunately leaving this term, but there are several promising wicket-keepers in the School.

During the last few seasons the fielding has been below standard. Boys must remember that it is just as important to save runs in the field as to make them, and that good bowling can never be effective unless it is backed up by good fielding.

The juniors are all keen, and there should be no difficulty in fielding a strong 2nd XI.

The fixture list is as follows :—

Date.	FIRST XI.	
April 29—	Heriots	- - - (F)
May 6—	Dollar	- - - (F)
" 13—	Gordons	- - - (F)
" 20—	Kilmacolm	- - - (F)
" 22—	Stewarts	- - - (F)
" 27—	Aberdeen	- - - (F)
" 31—	Dunfermline	- - - (A)
June 3—	Morrisons Academy	- - - (A)
" 10—	Hillhead High School	- - - (A)
" 17—	Glasgow High School	- - - (A)
" 21—	Rowan's XI.	- - - (F)
" 24—	Old Boys' XI.	- - - (F)
July 1—		- - - —
" 8—	Poloc	- - - (F)

	SECOND XI.	
April 29—	Heriots	- - - (A)
May 6—	Dollar	- - - (A)
" 13—	Gordons	- - - (A)
June 3—	Aberdeen	- - - (A)
" 10—	Morrisons	- - - (F)
" 17—	Glasgow High School	- - - (F)

R. A.

## Scout Notes

### 73rd PERTSHIRE

THE Troop has had in every respect a busy and happy term. Despite the snow of the early weeks of term there was little interference with the normal programme, and the cold afforded the S.M. an opportunity for testing the Troop's ability in regard to fire-lighting, a test which proved completely satisfactory. The snow-covered ground meant also a chance to show tracking skill. With the coming of finer weather there have been increasing opportunities for outdoor work, with the result that many 2nd class cooking tests and parts of 1st class cooking tests have been successfully passed.

Our Troop-leader, A. A. Mackay, having applied for his warrant as A.S.M., E. T. Sinclair, P.L. of the Owls, was promoted to be Troop-leader, and has done splendid work in this capacity. His 2nd, J. A. Dow, was promoted to be P.L. of the Owls. Scout R. Gillanders of the Seals has been promoted to be second. Scout Hall of the Swifts has been promoted to be second.

There have been Ambulance and Public Health classes held by the S.M. throughout the term, and Pathfinder classes by the A.S.M. Tests for King's Scout badges were carried out by Mr. W. O. McNab, a Perth examiner and an old acquaintance of the Troop, on Saturday, March 18th. We congratulate very heartily P.L. J. A. Dow (Owls) and 2nd R.L. Paul (Lions) on gaining their King's Scout badges. Several badges have been passed during the term.

On February 18th we were visited by the Assistant-District-Commissioner, C. Campbell Penney, who instructed us in the use of hand signals and new methods for old knots and in new knots.

The Trophy this term was presented by Major Fowler of Perth. The Hawk patrol, under P.L. H. Allen, were not only the winners of the Trophy, but also gained the Cup for the best corner (the Wolves running them very close in this), and Scout Worgan, also of the Hawks, gained the Cup for the best individual exhibit. We are sorry that Allen is leaving us after a period of active, loyal work, for which we are very grateful.

The Troop has once more begun to read the "Scottish Scout," the official organ of Scottish H.Q., a process which we feel will bring us into a deeper knowledge of Scouting at large.

Arrangements for the Summer Camp are now being made. We are anxious that as many of the Troop as possible will go into camp this summer. Details of the site of the camp will be given next term.

The positions of the patrols at the end of the term were :—

1. Hawks.
2. Owls.
3. Lions.
4. Eagles.
5. Swifts.
6. Rattlesnakes.
7. Wolves.
8. Seals.
9. Otters.

# Proposed Rules of the Strathallian Club

1. NAME.—The Name of the Club shall be "The Strathallian Club."

2. OBJECTS.—The Objects of the Club shall be :

- (a) To foster the interests of Strathallan and Strathallians ;
- (b) To keep Strathallians in touch with each other and to afford them opportunities of frequent personal contact.

3. QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP.—The following are eligible for election to Membership of the Club :

- (a) All Strathallians who have been at Strathallan for a period of not less than two terms ;
- (b) Boys who are in their last term at Strathallan, subject to the proviso that they shall not be admitted to full membership until they shall have left the School ;
- (c) Any person whom the Club Council, as hereinafter constituted, shall, at their discretion, decide to admit to honorary membership.

4. THE CLUB COUNCIL. — The General Management of the Club shall be vested in a Council consisting of four members, all of whose subscriptions shall be fully paid at the time of appointment. Election to the Council shall take place at the Annual General Meeting, and two members shall retire annually, but shall be eligible for re-election. At all meetings of the Council, three members (excluding members *ex officio*—the President, the Vice-President, and the Hon. Secretary of the Club, and Hon. Secretaries of Branches) shall form a quorum.

5. OFFICE-BEARERS. — The Office-Bearers of the Club shall be :

- (a) An Honorary President ;
- (b) A President, whose appointment shall be made by ballot at the Annual General Meeting, and who shall hold office for one year, after which he shall be known as a Past President ;
- (c) A Vice-President, whose appointment shall be made by ballot at the Annual General Meeting, and who shall hold office for one year ;
- (d) An Honorary Secretary ;
- (e) Two Trustees ;
- (f) Two Auditors.

An Office-Bearer whose subscription falls more than three years in arrears shall immediately cease to act as such.

Any vacancy arising in the list of Office-Bearers shall be filled by the Council, whose nominee shall act until the following Annual General Meeting.

6. PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION.—The Vice-President for one year shall become the President for the succeeding year. Nominations for the office of Vice-President must be signed by at least three members of the Club, and must be in the hands of the Secretary within seven days after Commemoration Day each year.

Names of proposed candidates will be published in the Summer issue of "The Strathallian" magazine, together with a voting form, which must be in the possession of the Secretary before the Annual General Meeting, when a count will take place and the result declared.

7. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. — There shall be an Annual General Meeting of the Club, to be followed by an Annual Dinner, the date, time and place of both functions being determined at the preceding Annual General Meeting.

The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be conducted in the following manner, namely :

- (a) The President for the current year shall take the chair ;
- (b) Notice of the Meeting, together with an Agenda, shall be despatched to each member at least seven days before the Meeting ;
- (c) Every member of the Club shall be entitled to one vote, which may be exercised by proxy ;
- (d) The Chairman shall have a second, or casting, vote to be used only in the event of an equality of division of opinion.

8. SUBSCRIPTIONS. — The Subscriptions, payable on or before application to membership, shall be :

- (a) An Annual Subscription of 7/6, payable on the 1st of July in each year ; or
- (b) A single payment of £5, which shall confer entitlement to Life Membership of the Club.

The names of members whose subscriptions are three years in arrears shall be reported to the Annual General Meeting.

9. EXTRAORDINARY BUSINESS. — Where there arises any question, certified by the President and the two Trustees as being of an extraordinary nature, such question shall be referred to all the members of the Club

through "The Strathallian." Any motion, based on such question, put before the next meeting shall be deemed to be not carried unless 66% of the votes cast are recorded in its favour.

ALTERATION OF RULES. — No addition, or alteration, of these Rules shall be made except at an Annual General Meeting.

## Indigestion

MANY magazines call their "after dinner topics" "Nuts and Wine" or "Pertinent or Otherwise." We are going to call ours "Indigestion," because either you won't agree with it or it won't agree with you. We also remind our readers that, although two blacks may not make a white, they will have to put two and two together and make five before they see some of our jokes.

First, we award a putty medal to the chap who found a piece of kidney in the pie. For one so young it was a magnificent achievement.

Have you heard this one? Doctor Spooner was walking in the corridors of an Oxford—sorry, we thought you hadn't.

We hear that a campaign against muskrats has been inaugurated on the Earn. Look out there, you little fellows!

It is rumoured that a certain gentleman, in order to get into training for a local rugby team, has often pedalled a motor car into Perth. Sweated labour! He also purposely goes to catch the 'bus a minute after the time for its departure. The beauty of the arrangement is that nine times out of ten he catches it!

We quote an extract from the local paper:—"The Runnells-Moss lecture was enjoyed very much, as female interest was not entirely absent."

A certain gentleman recently asked "What do we get when we study history and economics?" A voice answered "Lock-jaw."

After a closely contested ping-pong match the best looking man in the School was heard to say "Gosh, I was so nearly beaten that my hair almost stood on end."

Quotation: "The state allows me to dig in my garden when I want to."

Voice: "You mean when your wife wants you to."

We hear that there was an alteration in the chassis of the M.G. during last term. Yes, where the slipper landed.

We hear that modern poetry after the style of the Sitwell family is now the vogue. There is a classic set to the tune of "Sonny Boy":

When the skies are grey,

Take your cheeks away,

Then it will be blue, cheeky boy.

This may be an exaggeration, but Shylock would certainly have got his pound of flesh from them.

It is rumoured that the Strath. T.T. Race will positively take place this year. We understand that several trees on the estate need to be felled, and it is felt that the easiest way is with a side-car.

We also are given to understand that another well known racing motorist has taken the moth balls out of his car ready for the old crocks race this summer.

### This Term's Fairy Story

Once upon a time a kind man gave a little boy a piece of chocolate so that the little boy strove hard at his lessons, and in particular at his Geography, so that when he grew up to be a clever man, he was able to be a little ray of sunshine in his home—Oh Yeah!

## "O.S." Notes

THE Committee regret to note that there are still some members whose subscriptions are as much as three years in arrears. These should be remitted immediately to Robert Barr, jun., 109 Hope Street, Glasgow, C.2, otherwise it will be difficult to continue to finance the issue of the magazines to those concerned.

The Committee wish also to remind members of the importance of notifying Mr. Barr of any change in address.

D. O. MELROSE, *President.*

We have been informed that our interim Secretary, Mr. G. Steven Brand, C.A., has accepted an appointment with the Civil Service Supply Association, of London, and is thus reluctantly compelled to give up his post as Club Secretary. *In the meantime, Mr. Robert Barr, jun., of Hermiston, Kilma-corm, is undertaking the duties, and all communications should be addressed to him.*

While congratulating Mr. Brand on his appointment, we regret that the Club in Scotland is going to lose his services, but we are sure that he will receive a warm welcome to London from his old School chum, Mr. Clive Montgomerie, Secretary of the London Old Strathallians.

Mr. J. B. Morrison, B.Com., C.A., who has been with Messrs. Brown, Fleming & Murray, of Glasgow, has now been appointed Assistant Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce of Bengal, with headquarters at Calcutta. Many Old Strathallians will remember him, not only as Captain of the School, but as an outstanding personality both on Cricket and Rugger fields. "Jimmy," as he was affectionately known, will carry the good wishes of hundreds of Strathallians, and this paragraph will be read with pleasure in all parts of the world.

The vacancy of Club Co-Trustee (with Mr. Riley), caused by Mr. J. B. Morrison's appointment in Calcutta, is filled by Mr. David Bogie, M.A., B.Com., C.A., of Kirkcaldy. Mr. Bogie is with one of the large Edinburgh firms of Chartered Accountants.

Mr. James Meikle (who, by the way, was married last year) is engaged on building contract work on one of the big estates about four miles from the School. He had an interesting story to tell of a chance encounter with an Old Strathallian in the Lake District. He passed a party of hikers in kilts, and, perceiving a familiar face, drew up his car. There was a mutual recognition, but neither could remember the other's name. Recollection came slowly, nick-name first. Said Jim, as a smile came over the hiker's face, "Ah yes! I think they used to call you the Cheshire Cat, and your name is —". "Yes, and they call you Meikle," was the reply, and the usual reminiscences followed. There must be a great number of Old Strathallians who can fill in the blank, for "The Cheshire Cat" was one of the most popular boys in the School for several years.

Dr. Jack Young, who had a distinguished career at Edinburgh University, and who was out in West Africa with the Medical Service there, has resigned his appointment in order to come home and join his old friend, Dr. John Cruickshank, in partnership at Leigh, Lancashire. We understand that he is to be married in the summer, and we believe that his younger brother, Frank, also an Old Strathallian, will be taking a similar step shortly afterwards.

Mr. James McFadzen, the Forfarshire cricketer, has been appointed an assistant with the Indian General Navigation and Railway Company. His headquarters will be Calcutta, but the first part of his service will be on one of the steamers plying in the Sundarbunds area. He will take with him the good wishes of all Strathallians and his many friends connected with "Rugger" and Cricket in the Dundee area. Few who were present at the Edinburgh University match in 1926 will forget the two splendid tries he scored in the first few minutes of the game, which, with the goal additions, gave us a lead of ten points. May he score many more in the Game of Life!

There must be many who remember Mac and Tinny Clark, and occasionally a letter

comes to hand from them in Monte Video. The writer this time was Mac, who has been on a two years' business trip to the south of the Argentine, where conditions are very primitive. He expects to be home, probably, this year in time for the Old Boys' Dinner, and wishes to be remembered to all his old friends. A warm and cordial welcome awaits them.

There have been many requests for the address of Mr. George Dickinson, and after twelve months' silence a letter has come to hand. He has been serving the statutory one year in the Argentine Army. Having had first-hand information of the life in a conscript army of a South American Republic, where revolutions are the order of the day, he thought it wiser to have himself posted to headquarters as a language expert. The ways and means make amusing reading, but are not for publication! He tells us that Tommy Docherty and Billy Lacey are to spend their holidays with him this year on his estate in South Brazil, where the "locals" are the finest exponents in that part of the world of the art of doing nothing. "Mr. James, from his experience of us at Strath., will no doubt at once suggest that the 'locals' reputation is going to be in serious danger!" Knowing the trio at School, and making due allowance for the fact that they are on holiday, Mr. James believes that the natives will have to look to their laurels! Mr. Dickinson's address at the moment is 2346, Amenabar, Belgrano, Buenos Aires.

We hear that Mr. Billy Lacey has developed knee trouble, after having given one or two very fine displays on the wing at Rugger for one of the Argentine teams. Playing against one of the international wingers, he scored four tries, actually running round his man on more than one occasion. It is a great pity that he will be kept out of the game for a considerable period, for those who remember the many brilliant tries he scored at School were looking forward to his advancement in the game.

Mr. Tom Ferguson called and introduced his wife, who was formerly Miss Martin-Ranger. It was many years since Mr. Ferguson last visited the School, and he

expressed great pleasure and surprise at the great changes. He is home on leave from the Port Commission of Rangoon, in which city he has served a considerable time. Mr. Ferguson was one of our star artists on the cricket and rugger fields at Bridge of Allan, and he had the honour of scoring the first 50 ever recorded for the School. During the War, he served as a wireless operator, and did part of his training at the Crystal Palace along with his friend, Mr. James Wother- spoon. Mr. Ferguson was our first "International," for he played for the British Army against the Australian Army at rugger. He is returning to Rangoon in May with his wife and two little boys, and in the meantime is residing at Sunnyside, Bridge of Allan.

We played Dundee High School F.P.'s a few weeks ago, and at the same time entertained Panmure 2nd. The High School was captained by an old Strathallan captain, Mr. George Smith, and numbered in its ranks Mr. George Ritchie, the Scottish international, and Mr. Leonard Galloway, both former members of Strath. XV.'s. An account of the match is given elsewhere in this issue, and we were pleased to note that they are still real forces on the rugger field. In the Panmure side was Mr. Derek Thomson, who played quite a useful game at centre three-quarter, in spite of the fact that he was on the losing side. He was twitted after the match about being beaten by our "pups." His retort, "Some pups!" was very much to the point, for we have one of the heftiest 2nd XV.'s for some years. We lost the Dundee match, but even the *Dundee Courier* admitted that we made them go "all out."

Among the many Old Strathallians who were spectators was Mr. "Chick" Anderson, who is employed with one of the Trust Companies in Dundee.

The School is down to play Whitecraigs on the 25th of September next, and a good game should ensue. In running over a list of members, numbering about eighty, one finds between 15 and 20 Old Strathallians. One frequently sees in the teams published week by week the names, N. Stevenson, A.

Shanks, M. McGregor, B. Carlaw, H. Kay and A. Moodie, all of whom played for either the 1st or 2nd at School. It is with great regret that we notice that Messrs. Stevenson and Shanks have been rather badly injured, and have decided to give up rugger altogether. It will interest many Old Strathallians to know that Mr. Miller McGregor has entered his father's chocolate business, Mr. Hamish Kay has gone into advertising, Mr. Hamish Mason is with a firm handling dairy products, while Mr. Tommy Lang is with James Finlay & Company. The latter two have been playing for Whitecraigs 2nd.

We learn that Dr. Archie McGeachy, who qualified at the University of Glasgow last September, is now in the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, as Assistant to Dr. Sam Cameron.

A message from Ceylon states that Mr. "Dyke" Lindsay will be home on leave very shortly, and anyone who wishes to get in communication with him can do so by addressing their letters to him c/o the School.

Cartha, one of the Western Union teams, has had the assistance of Messrs. Robert Barr and Willie Frew during the past season in their 1st XV., whilst we have noted the names of Messrs. W. Buchanan, H. T. Campbell and A. Bonthron in the ranks of Greenock Wanderers, T. M. Hart in the Glasgow Academicals' three-quarter line, and Ian Turner in the pack of Kilmarnock.

When the Old Boys play the School on Commemoration Day they will find runs a little more difficult to obtain, for during the past winter the southern boundary has been extended 15 yards, with a rise of about two feet in the run to the boundary. It is calculated that this will make the equivalent of a 25-yard increase to the boundary on this side of the ground.

We have been informed that Mr. Stewart Gowans is taking over, in the early future, the Bunnanoch Hotel, at Kinloch Rannoch, and he will be delighted to welcome any Old Strathallians. It will be of interest to note that Mr. Gowans was present on the day on which Strathallan opened its doors in 1913.

A Christmas card addressed to Mr. Keith Patterson, out in Patagonia, brought forth a reply from him in more civilised parts—Kelvinside, Glasgow! Keith went out on behalf of the Anglo-S. American Bank, which has been involved in the Cosach debacle on the top of very difficult banking circumstances in South American countries generally, and, like many others, he is now looking around for another appointment. He has been in touch with Mr. "Barney" Ferrier, of 318, Esplanade, Island Bay, Wellington, New Zealand, and we learn that the latter is married and has two small sons. "Barney" writes of meeting Mr. R. J. C. Smith, who is married and has settled down in the North Island. We hope to publish his address in the next magazine.

We congratulate Mr. "Sandy" Cruickshank upon his recent promotion in the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada. A few years ago, for family reasons, Mr. Cruickshank returned to this country from Panama, where he had been Assistant Editor of one of the chief Latin-American papers. He then received an appointment with his present company, where his outstanding personality and industry soon gained him advancement. In these difficult days, when the "selling" of insurance is no easy matter, and especially when one is operating as a stranger in a strange town, Mr. Cruickshank attained a high position amongst the most successful "salesmen" of the Company, and received the thanks and congratulations of the President. He was made Assistant Manager of their important West End branch, near Trafalgar Square, and has now been appointed Manager of their Aberdeen office, from which he controls the whole of Scotland north of Dundee. He is now thus in charge of his "calf" country, where his success should be greater than ever. He seems destined to fill even higher posts yet.

We had a visit from one or two Strathallians from the north, who tell us that Mr. Ian Mackenzie, one of the best forwards of our last year's pack, is rapidly winning a name for himself in the Highland team. He should go far in the rugger world for he has a wonderful physique and an excellent knowledge of the game.