THROUGH BEN NEVIS.

Tunnel Completed.

GIGANTIC HIGHLAND SCHEME.

After two years' work, a tunnel has been bored through Ben Nevis in connection with the Lochaber Hydro-Electric Scheme.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

FORT WILLIAM, Sunday.

The fifteen-mile tunnel through the Ben Nevis range has just been completed.

At noon yesterday Mrs Halcrow, accompanied by Mr W. T. Halcrow, the consulting engineer of Messrs C. S. Meik and Buchanan, Ltd., in the presence of Major Death, of the British Aluminium Co., Ltd., Mr Geo. Balfour, M.P., chairman of Messrs Balfour, Beatty, and Co., Ltd.; Mr A. M. M'Taggart, resident director; and Mr James Brown, resident engineer; as well as representatives of the engineers and contractors' staffs, fired off the last shot opening up the new tunnel which has been driven through the Ben Nevis range between Fort William and the valve shaft at Loch Treig.

Tunneling through the rock in this gigantic scheme has now been completed with the exception of the break-through at Loch Treig, which will be the final operation when all other work is completed and the power house ready for commercial use.

Through Solid Rock.

In these days a good deal is being heard of the Channel Tunnel project and of its stupendous nature, but if it be borne in mind that the Ben Nevis tunnel is driven through solid rock there would seem to be no insuperable difficulty in piercing twenty-four miles of chalk.

The main driving at Lochaber was commenced in the early summer of 1926. Work was severely hampered that year owing to strikes and labour trouble, so that the actual driving may be said to have taken about two years.

Huge Undertaking.

Although this lengthy underground waterway is now accomplished, about half of it has still to be lined with concrete, and a good deal otherwise remains to be done ere manufacturing commences.

Without actually visiting the scene no one can have any idea of the magnitude of this undertaking, for, in addtion to the tunnel proper, there are twelve shafts, intake dams, conduits, pipe lines, power house, factory, and tail race, as well as twenty-three miles of access railways.

At Inverlochy.

These works are being executed for the British Aluminium Co., and are designed for a total development of 120,000 horse power. The tunnel is believed to be the largest of its kind in the world.

In preparation for the vast industrial development to follow, the company are erecting a new town near the base of Ben Nevis, on the historic battlefield of Inverlochy.

Providing Work.

The main purpose of the scheme is the manufacturing of aluminium, and when the factory is in operation it is expected that employment will be afforded to several thousand men.

The contract has been carried through by Messrs Balfour, Beatty, and Co., Ltd., who also have the contract for the Grampian Hydro-Electric Scheme. The consulting engineers are Messrs C. S. Meik and Buchanan.

PNEUMONIA IN CITY.

Increased Prevalence of the Ailment.

Facts emerge from the weekly report—for the period ending Saturday, February 9—of the Medical Officer of Health of Aberdeen, which go to show that the incidence of influenza locally is still at a fairly high level. It is stated, however, that "cases are, as a rule, mild and free from complications." During the week, in three cases where influenza was super-imposed on other debilitating diseases, there was a fatal result.

While the incidence of pneumonia has somewhat increased as compared with last week, 53 cases of primary pneumonia having been notified as against 37, and seven cases of influenzal pneumonia as against six, the mortality has decreased. There have been during the week, eight deaths from primary pneumonia and one death from influenzal pneumonia, as against fourteen and two respectively last week. Much the greatest proportion of cases and of deaths has occurred among children, there being thirty cases of pneumonia, two of which have been of influenzal type and six of the total nine deaths.

The return of cases of zymotic diseases notified to the Medical Officer is as follows:—Scarlet fever, fifteen cases (Queen's Road, Richmondhill Place, Loanhead Terrace, Belgrave Terrace, Ferryhill Place, Causeway end, Marquis Road, Back Hilton Road, etc.); diphtheria, eight (Berryden Road, Kintore Place, Leadside Road, Prospect Terrace, Blackfriars Street, and Urquhart Road); measles, two (Wellington Place and Orchard Street); whooping cough, three (Grampian Road, Regent Quay, and Gerrard Street); acute primary pneumonia, fifty-three; acute influenzal pneumonia, seven; erysipelas, two; pulmonary tuberculosis, three; dysentery, two; chicken pox, twenty-one. Forty-nine cases, including four of tuberculosis, were admitted to the municipal hospitals or other public institution, or were within such institution when notified.

SELF-CONTROL.

Dr James A. Stephen's Address to Brotherhood.

There is far too much illegitimacy in this north-eastern corner of Scotland, said Dr James A. Stephen, of the Aberdeen Mother and Child Welfare Centre, at a meeting of the North United Free Church Brotherhood, which was held in the North United Free Church, Aberdeen, yesterday afternoon. Few people realised, he proceeded, that within the last few years one child in ten or twelve had been illegitimate.

Dr Stephen, whose subject was "Self-Control by the Individual and by the Community," said that self-control could best be attained by early training in good habits. One of the most important objects to aim at in the early life of the child was to gain its confidence and trust, and parents should see to it that they never betrayed that trust. When the confidence of the child was attained, control and discipline proved easy.

Playgrounds and open spaces played a part very important and necessary in the moral and physical development of the child.

He had always been impressed by the close relationship between liquor and vice.

Dr Harry Miller, moderator of the U.F. Church, was present at the meeting, and received a cordial welcome from the large congregation of men and youths. He heartily seconded Dr Stephen's remarks in regard to vice.

Your body, he said is the temple of the Holy Ghost, and comes from God. Make it worthy. You younger chaps, keep it clean.

Mr G. H. Swapp presided at the meeting, and the soloist was Mr R. K. Booth.

U.F.C. FIRE INSURANCE TRUST.

The report submitted at the fortieth annual general meeting of the United Free Church of Scotland Fire Insurance Trust, Ltd., held at Edinburgh—Mr T. Stark Brown, writer, Glasgow, presiding—showed a profit for the year to October 31 of £3686 12s 8d, and that the directors had fixed the fire insurance fund at £35,485 16s 5d. They recommended that £2000 should be distributed among the Schemes of the Church—£400 to the Central Fund and £800 each to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund and the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund.

The Chairman pointed out that it was the sixth year in succession that the surplus profits had been distributed to the Schemes, and the total now distributed amounted to £10,500.

DARING BUCHAN BURGLARY.

Post Office Ransacked.

MYSTERY OF FOOTPRINTS NEAR WINDOW.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

ELLON, Saturday.

The general merchant's shop and sub-Post Office at Ythanbank, about four-and-a-half miles from Ellon, was the scene of a daring burglary last night or in the early hours of this morning, when notes and silver amounting to about £13, together with about £3 worth of postage stamps, were stolen.

The business belongs to Mr Robert Watson, who is also the sub-postmaster, and when he left the premises last night every door and window was securely fastened.

On entering the shop this morning it was at once seen that an unwelcome visitor had been intruding, and an examination of the place revealed how an entrance had been effected.

The window in the side of the building had been tampered with. The fastenings had been pushed back with some sharp instrument which allowed the lower sash to be raised, and the rest was easy.

Money Overlooked.

Once inside, the intruder directed attention to the office, where a considerable sum of money was lying in a canvas bag, but, fortunately, it was overlooked, as was a pocket-book which contained notes. There was also a sum of money in the till which was untouched.

Attention had been devoted wholly to the office, where drawers were pulled out and the contents thrown about. The main shop was not entered.

Footprints were plainly visible on the ground outside the window, and, curiously enough, they are supposed to be those of a woman.

The police are making exhaustive inquiries in connection with the burglary.

"MADAME X" DEAD.

Unsolved Mystery of Attack on Woman.

Mrs Kate Jackson, who gave evidence under the name of "Madame X" in a notable trial at the Old Bailey in 1927, died in Swansea Hospital yesterday from head injuries inflicted upon her by an unknown assailant outside her bungalow at Limeslade Bay, near Swansea.

She took a turn for the worse on Saturday night, and early yesterday her condition became so grave that the Chief Constable, Mr Rawson, was communicated with, and arrangements were made to have her depositions taken.

Mr John Lewis, a magistrate, was summoned, but the woman died almost as soon as he arrived at the institution.

Police Inquiries.

Mrs Jackson had made no statement calculated to clear up the mystery, and the police are now pursuing their previous investigations.

A post-mortem examination will be held, but the date of the inquest has not been fixed.

CHURCH UNION.

Approved by Three Aberdeen Congregations.

The question of Church Union was brought before the congregation of St George's-in-the-West Parish Church yesterday evening. After a statement by the minister, the Rev. Dr Neil Meldrum, on the present situation, Mr William Beattie moved for approval. While he was quite satisfied with the Church of Scotland as it is, he said, he could not but feel that Union was in the full stream of true progress. Mr J. Strachan and Mr John Beaton seconded. The congregation rose to its feet in a body for approval. A week ago the kirk session came to the same decision.

The kirk session and congregation of Woodside Parish Church met last night and unanimously approved the overtures.

Explaining the purpose of Union to the congregation of King Street United Free Church last night, the Rev. Dr Hall, secretary of the Home Mission Committee, said there was no shortage of ministers in Scotland. Where the difficulty lay was in the fact that the ministers were badly distributed. That was one of the problems that Union would rectify, and it would enable the Church to handle what was an impossible situation at present.

Three dissentients to the approval of Union recorded their votes, the remainder of the congregation approving of the scheme.

CONFLICTING REPORTS.

Commander Eva Booth's Letter to U.S. Salvationists.

Commander Evangeline Booth, head of the Salvation Army in the United States, and sister of General Bramwell Booth, has sent a message to Salvationists in America, in which she criticises the action of her brother, and says:

I regret exceedingly that I am compelled again to write respecting the dark and forbidding clouds which still hang over our beloved army. I know only too well how perplexed and distressed many of you will be by the conflicting reports and questions of the public concerning the happenings of the past few weeks.

Another passage states that she wishes she "could have protected you and your fellow Salvationists the world over from the humiliation" into which they had been dragged.

Referring to the latest discussion on the deed poll of 1904, she continues:

A blow has been struck at the very foundations of the Army's constitution, a foundation laid under divine guidance by our beloved founder himself.

FERRYHILL CHURCH CONCERT.

There was a large attendance at the concert which was held in Ferryhill Parish Church on Saturday night in aid of the Jubilee Fund for church improvements. The Rev. C. M. Robertson, minister of the church, presided, and Hall, Russell's Male Voice Choir was largely responsible for the excellent programme that was submitted. In addition to part-songs, as diversified as "Duncan Gray," "Little Tommy went a-fishing," "Requiem," and "The Road to the Isles," there was a quartette comprising Messrs J. Wright, B. Wilson, G. M'Robb, and J. Shearer. Messrs J. Harvey, G. Petrie, and R. Milne composed a trio, while other individual performers were Messrs R. Mann F. L. M'Intosh, J. J. Paxton, K. K. Booth, W. Sandison, Bert Wilson, J. Scott, and W. J. Crichton. Mr George A. Innes, A.T.S.C., conducted with ability, while Miss Betty Bruce was an acceptable pianist.

SCOTTISH HERRING EXPORTS.

The total quantity of cured (pickled) herrings exported from Scotland in January amounted, according to information furnished by the Fishery Board for Scotland, to 6578 barrels compared with 7553 barrels in the preceding month, and 9515 barrels in January 1928. The exports were chiefly from Glasgow (3062) and Rothesay (1753), and of the total Germany (Hamburg) took 3813 barrels, Danzig Free Port 10, Holland 275, France 125, England 107, Ireland 109, U.S.A. 2039 and Canada 100.

The quantity of cured gutted herrings on hand in Scotland at January 31 (excluding herrings taken and cured in the Firth of Clyde area) amounted to 11,770 barrels.

FULL OF JOY AND LAUGHTER.

The Christian Life.

DR HARRY MILLER'S APPEAL.

The Right Rev. Dr Harry Miller, Moderator of the United Free Church, continuing his missionary campaign in Aberdeen, declared last night that it was untrue to say that to follow Christ was a stern and severe thing with no joy in it. On the contrary, it was full of laughter and joy.

The Right Rev. Dr Harry Miller, Moderator of the United Free Church, continuing his campaign among the youth of the city, made an earnest appeal last night to the young to seek and acknowledge Jesus Christ.

He was speaking to a huge congregation in the Picture Playhouse at the invitation of the Aberdeen Evangelistic Association.

The Rev. A. Frazer, John Knox United Free Church, who presided, said it was kind of the Moderator, among his many engagements at this time, to come to that picture house and see something of the work that they as an Evangelistic Association were trying to do in the city. Nothing gladdened Dr Miller's heart so much as work of that kind.

Dr Miller dealt with the conversion of St Paul, who was a man whose example they could all follow. Were they ready to do it? Were they ready to be bound, ready to die, ready to be offered for the name of the Lord Jesus? Not one of them would ever say that they had made a mistake if they followed Christ. They had not given a good entertainment to Christ. They had not welcomed Him as they might.

Untrue Belief.

There were people who told them that to follow Jesus Christ was a stern and severe thing with no joy in it. That was not true. It was full of laughter and joy.

He had been in many public-houses—but not drinking—trying to get hold of people he wanted to see, and heard the cackle and laughter, but there was no joy in it. To his mind it was just the same as the flight of geese, and he preferred the geese. All the joy in life was in religion.

Timid Souls.

At the service which he conducted in the Gallowgate U.F. Church earlier in the evening, Dr Miller took as his subject Joseph of Arimathea.

In appealing to the congregation to acknowledge Jesus, he said that it was the Cross of Christ that drew Joseph out from his timid attitude to an open confession of his loyalty to Christ. He appealed also on the ground of that Cross revealing the man to himself and then the Cross revealing the true values of life, and finally, inspiring courage in timid souls.

Conditions of Discipleship.

Dr Miller conducted the service in the West Parish Church yesterday, in room of the Rev. A. W. Scudamore Forbes, who was absent through indisposition. Preaching from the fourteenth chapter of St Luke, 26th verse, on the conditions of discipleship as Jesus stated them, he dealt, first, with the relations of our home life where this had to be brought in the way of the spirit of Christ; secondly, with the relationship of the individual's own life with all his own personal responsibility to God and man; and thirdly, with relation to his possessions—these things which he gathered round him as life advanced.

He closed with a strong appeal to all ages to face the claims of the Master of all life, and to offer to Him their ready obedience as the only way to make life rich and strong.

DYCE AND UNION.

Rev. Dr Cox on Necessities of Situation.

At a largely-attended meeting of the congregation of Dyce Parish Church, held in the Public Hall, the Rev. Dr J. T. Cox, the minister, Principal Clerk to the General Assembly, who presided, stated that the General Assembly had recommended kirk-sessions to ascertain the views of their congregations on the general question of Church Union, and briefly explained the position.

He said that the Union was an absolute necessity if the Home Mission problem in our large cities was to be effectually tackled, and if the many vacant charges, especially in Orkney, Shetland, and the Highlands were to be supplied with competent ministers. The unification of the resources of the two Churches was essential to the efficiency of their various activities, both at home and abroad.

Dr Cox informed the meeting that Tuesday, October 15, had been provisionally fixed as the date of actual Union.

One Dissentient.

The congregation approved of the Union, with one dissentient.

The kirk session had already given their unanimous approval.

The congregational vote was taken at the annual "at home," at which Dr Cox also gave an account of the work of the church during the year, which was regarded as having been satisfactory, especially the financial department.

The Rev. J. J. S. Thomson, John Knox Parish Church, Aberdeen, also addressed the meeting on the needs of the Church at the present time.

Choruses were given by the choir, songs by Misses Miller and Johnston, and a monologue by Miss D Smith. The sketch, "The Unexpected Entertainment," was also presented. Votes of thanks were called for by Mr M'Donald and Mr More.

At a dance which followed, Mr Winchester was M.C., and the music was by Mr Keay's band.

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY.

Rutherford Congregation Fortunate in Its Ministers.

There were large congregations yesterday at both the forenoon and the evening service in connection with the anniversary of Rutherford U.F. Church.

The Rev. J. Esslemont Adams, D.S.O., M.C., D.D., took the morning service. He referred to the long and useful record of service of Rutherford U.F. Church. The church had been very fortunate in the work of its ministers.

Dr Adams spoke in terms of commendation of the pioneer work of the Rev. Mr Stewart, and to the scholarly gifts of Mr MacGilp who followed him in the pulpit. Many of those present would also remember with respect and affection the work of Mr M'Farlane, who had excelled in his pastoral duties, and latterly the congregation had had the benefit of Mr Cameron's services.

They all knew and appreciated Mr Cameron's great gifts for friendship and his delight in searching into Scriptural truths, a faculty which he had inherited from his father.

They could look with the utmost confidence to Mr Cameron to carry on the very fine tradition of service which had been slowly but surely built up at Rutherford.

The Rev. Professor Henderson, B.D., officiated at the evening service.

'PLANE CRASH ON ICE.

Geneva, Sunday.

A British airman, Mr Kennedy, who arrived by aeroplane from St Moritz on Friday, crashed on the ice here yesterday from a height of fifty feet while taking off on his way to Innsbruck. The machine was badly damaged, but Mr Kennedy's injuries were slight.—British United Press.

SUNDAY SHOW FOR AMBULANCE.

"Trouble" at Peterhead.

CHURCH COUNCIL MAKES PROTEST.

(From Our Own Representative.)

PETERHEAD, Sunday.

In aid of the funds of the Peterhead and District Motor Ambulance Committee, a cinema entertainment was given in the Palace Theatre, Peterhead, to-night.

The films "The Duke's Motto" and "In the Frozen North" were shown. Solos and duets were given by Mr R. A. Chatterton (piano), Mr C. Hutchison ('cello), and Mr J. Smith (violin), and incidental music was provided by an augmented orchestra.

Judged by past Sunday evening entertainments, the dimensions of the audience were rather disappointing, the building being only half-filled.

At the close of the performance there was considerable discussion as to whether the attendance had been adversely affected by the protest which had been made by the local Church Council against the holding of a secular entertainment in aid of charitable objects on Sundays.

Council and Sabbath Sanctity

The Council, while expressing every sympathy with such organisations as the Motor Ambulance, contended that the needs of the funds could be adequately met without hurting the susceptibilities of large numbers in the community who entertained a deep regard for the sanctity of the Sabbath.

A deputation from the Church Council met the president and vice-president of the Ambulance Committee last week and urged upon them the desirability of concelling the entertainment.

It was said that the ministers of the town would protest from their pulpits yesterday, but this was not done, nor did the Ambulance Committee depart in any way from their original arrangements.

OBITUARY.

CO-OPERATIVE LEADER.

The death has taken place at his home in Rothesay of Sir William Maxwell, the Scottish co-operative leader.

Sir William, whose name is known to co-operators throughout the world, was in his eighty-eighth year. Sir William was knighted in 1919.

From 1880 to 1908, he was president of the Scottish Co-operative Society, and from 1907 to 1921 he was the president of the International Co-operative Alliance. He was thrice married.

FORMER NIGG FARMER.

The funeral of the late Mr Robert Leith, formerly tenant of Lochinch, Nigg, took place on Saturday from Airypark, Milltimber, the residence of his son-in-law, Mr David Milne, to Allenvale Cemetery, Aberdeen.

Mr Leith was in his eighty-second year, and retired from the farm of Lochinch only last year. A native of Udny, he was engaged in farming for over half a century. Some thirty-five years ago he took the farm of Old Bourtrie Bush in the Portlethen district, from which he removed to Lochinch twenty-seven years ago. Mr Leith was regarded as an enterprising agriculturist. He was of a quiet and retiring disposition, and took no prominent part in social or parochial matters.

Of a kind and genial nature, Mr Leith was a man of sterling character, and was highly respected by his neighbours. He was predeceased by his wife four years ago, and is survived by a grown-up family of two sons and six daughters. The funeral was largely attended.

BARONET'S SON DIVORCED

Mrs J. L. Gilmour Gets Decree in Court of Session.

In the Court of Session, Edinburgh, on Saturday, Lord Murray disposed of an undefended petition of divorce at the instance of the Hon. Victoria Laura Cadogan or Gilmour, Devonshire Terrace, Paddington, London, against John Little Gilmour, of Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London.

The Dean of the Faculty (Mr J. Condie Sandeman, K.C.) and Mr Albert Russell appeared for the petitioner.

The parties were married at St Margaret's, Westminster, on July 22, 1922, and there were two children. The ground of action was the misconduct of the respondent with a woman, whose name was not mentioned, at the Grand Hotel, Folkestone, in August, 1928.

The witnesses examined included the petitioner, Mr Richard Burdn (managing clerk to Messrs Lewis and Lewis, solicitors, London), and employees of the hotel.

A decree of divorce was pronounced, with expenses and custody of the children to the petitioner, the respondent to have access six months each year.

Mrs Gilmour is a daughter of the late Viscount Chelsea and the Hon. Lady Meux, and was at one time Lady-in-Waiting to the Duchess of York. Mr Gilmour is the son of Brigadier-General Sir Robert Gordon-Gilmour of Liberton and Craigmillar, and of Lady Susan Gilmour, who is a sister of Earl Beauchamp.

SHIPPING OF OILS.

Intentions of Aberdeen Companies.

An interesting communication on the importation of oil into Aberdeen is embodied in a report of the Finance Committee of the Aberdeen Harbour Board on the proposed extension of the sufferance privileges of the wharves and quays surrounding Aberdeen harbour, which will be considered at the Board meeting this afternoon.

The letter is from the Surveyor, Customs and Excise, Aberdeen, to the Harbour Engineer, and is in the following terms:—

"With reference to previous correspondence on the subject of sufferance privileges to cover the landing and shipping of dutiable oils at Mearns, Albert, Maitland and Torry Quays, I have to inform you the oil companies in question having now indicated that it is not their intention meantime to import oils from foreign direct to Aberdeen, but to receive all their supplies coastwise or by rail from their main depots, the Commissioners of Customs and Excise have agreed to postpone the question and to carry on meantime on the existing privileges. The approval of the privileges of Aberdeen harbour expires on 8th October, 1929, which will be a convenient date to consider the whole question."

CHILD'S BODY FOUND.

Discovery Behind a Dyke at Scotstown.

The body of a fully-developed male child was found behind a dyke on the croft of Foulpeel, near Scotstown Moor, on Friday forenoon. It was wrapped in a piece of white linen, apparently torn from a tablecloth, with, as an outside covering, a piece of thin brown paper.

The cloth, which measures 39 inches by 22 inches, is well worn but clean, is hemmed along one side, and has a pattern of flowers.

There were no marks of violence, and medical examination showed that the child had been born alive two or three days previously.

FLOOD AND FIRE HAVOC.

£1,000,000 Damage.

AUSTRALIAN FARMERS' HEAVY LOSSES.

Over £1,000,000 damage has been done by flood and fire in Australia.

Sydney, Sunday.

Two persons have been drowned, hundreds rendered homeless, and damage estimated at more than £1,000,000 done by fires and floods which have ravaged townships and farms in various districts of New South Wales.

A fire has wiped out nearly half of the small town of Cooramble, head of the railway line in the Wingadeeshire, causing damage of £250,000.

Serious damage by fire has been wrought in the town of Tottanham.

TRAPPED IN HOMES.

The coastal areas north of Sydney have suffered seriously from disastrous floods. Farms, cattle, sheep, and stock worth £750,000 have been destroyed by the waters, which rose with lightning rapidity and flooded the towns of Gloucester, Taree, and Kempsey.

Hundreds of people were trapped in their homes, and there were many attempts by police and volunteers to rescue them. Two helpers were drowned in trying to rescue the guests in a hotel at Kempsey. The floods receded as rapidly as they rose, but the damage can only be estimated very roughly. — British United Press.

CROMAR WRIGHTS.

Jubilee Dinner of Old Society.

With a large and representative company, including their lady friends and a number of the surviving original members, the brethren of the Cromar Honourable Wrights' Society celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the resuscitation of the Society at a supper and dance in Logie-Coldstone Hall, under the genial chairmanship of Grand Master R. Stuart.

The surviving original members present were:—Bros. Charles M'Connach, Schoolhouse, Braes; Charles Davidson, Ballater; John Glenesk, Craigton, Lumphanan; Alexander Anderson, Mains of Logie; John Anderson, Strathweltie; James Duguid, Culblean Cottage; George Thomson, Fernewhowe; and apologies were received from Bros. Charles M'Connach, Dinnet; Alex. Anderson, Mill Cottage; William M'Connach, Parkneuk; John Downie, Edinbreck, Strathdon; John Stewart, Ordie; John Innes, Braemar; and D. D. Balfour, Montrose.

Only Two Grand Masters.

After the toast of "The King," the chairman outlined the history of the Society.

The Cromar Wrights' Society, he said, was first founded in the district, nearly one hundred years ago. The original society, a benefit one, flourished for nearly thirty years when somehow, it fell into abeyance. About fifty years ago it was resuscitated by some of the members of the original society who persuaded the late Bro. R. Durward to accept the position of Grand Master, and it said much for the harmonious working of the society, that they had only had two Grand Masters during their fifty years' existence. (Applause.)

They were pleased to see so many members, who were at the first Wrights' ball half a century ago. (Applause.)

Good Work Done.

The Society had been a great asset to the district. Their annual reunions were the principal events of the season. By careful management they had handed over a sum to form a nucleus fund for building the magnificent hall in which they were met and which had been such a boon to Logie-Coldstone and the district. (Applause.)

For many years they held an annual picnic and entertained the scholars from Migvie and Logie-Coldstone Schools till newer means of transport led them n search of pleasures further afield.

What the Society had accomplished in the past would be an incentive to the younger members to hand on, unsullied, the good work of the Society and leave it in an even more flourishing state. (Applause.)

The toast of "Original Members" was enthusiastically honoured.

Veterans' Good Wishes.

Bro. Charles Davidson, Ballater, on behalf of himself and other surviving members, thanked the Society for entertaining them.

Their craft went back to before the dawn of civilisation, and did yeoman service during the troublous times of King Charles. Since the Society had been resuscitated it had gone on prospering, and they had now a sub-branch in Ballater. Veterans hoped the Society would continue to prosper. (Applause.)

Bro. Alec M'Connach proposed the health of the specially invited guests—the Rev. R. Robertson and Mrs Robertson, and Mr J. B. Anderson—and extended to them, on behalf of the society, a hearty welcome. Such functions as those fostered the good fellowship that should exist in every rural parish. (Applause.)

The Rev. R. Robertson, on behalf of the guests, thanked the Wrights and wished the Society every success.

Bro. James Coutts proposed "The Ladies" and Mr Alec M'Connach, Dinnet, replied.

The "Lea Rig."

Mr J. B. Anderson, Schoolhouse, proposing "The Secretary," congratulated the Society on its jubilee, and said the success of a society depended greatly on the individuality of the secretary, and in this case their secretary, Bro. George Reid, was the right man in the right place in never sparing himself to make the Society a success. (Applause.) Mr Reid suitably replied.

Bro. James Clark, giving "The Chairman (Grand Master R. Stuart)" said he was to be congratulated on having the Society financially in such a flourishing condition. (Applause.)

At the dance the gay dresses of the ladies and the bright regalia of the Wrights presented a brilliant spectacle.

G.M. R. Stewart read the regulations that had been framed and read at the first dance of the Society fifty years ago.

According to the time-honoured custom the ladies and gentlemen kept separate sides of the hall till midnight when, to the strains of the "Lea Rig" by the band, the brethren unlid and tied up their aprons.

Music was supplied by the Middleton band. Bros. Gordon Reid and James Coutts were M.C.'s, and "Auld Lang Syne" concluded an enjoyable celebration.

LIFE AFTER DEATH.

Large congregations attended the morning and evening services in the King Street U.F. Church, Aberdeen, yesterday, on the occasion of the ministerial semi-jubilee of the Rev. Charles Matheson, minister of the church.

The preacher in the morning was the Very Rev. Principal Cairns, who gave an address on "Immortality." He reminded the congregation that last summer there was a very animated discussion in the newspapers about the immortality of the soul. He could safely say that more people were interested in that subject at the time than in the ordinary and political news.

It was the normal thing for the human race to believe it goes on living after death, and people in all ages in all lands have believed in a life to come. The people who did not have the Christian faith believed the life to come was a poorer life. No wonder they shrank from the thought of dying!

Shall we really know our friends in the hereafter? the preacher asked. The best answer he had heard to that was from a friend: "Why, we shall never know our friends until then."

The Rev. Dr Hall delivered the evening sermon, taking as his subject the incident before the Crucifixion, when Simon was compelled to bear the Cross.

The mutilated body of a man found on the London Midland and Scottish Railway main line near Leighton Buzzard was identified yesterday as that of Lieut.-Colonel William Gregson, Cambridge Road, Southport.

DE-RATING SCHEME CRITICISED.

Nothing for the People.

WHAT MR W. H. MARTIN THINKS OF IT.

Mr W. H. Martin, prospective Labour candidate for South Aberdeen, addressed a largely-attended meeting last night in the Cinema House, Aberdeen. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Independent Labour Party, and Mr A. Mortimer was in the chair.

Speaking of the Government's De-rating Bill, Mr Martin said it was a Bill which proposed to give nothing to the people, nor even to the smaller units of the industrial community, such as the shopkeepers.

Benefiting Big Industries.

The Bill was designed, he said, to give with an open hand to all the big producing industries whether they wanted help or not.

It was proposed through this Bill to give £400,000 to the brewers, than whom there was no part of the community which was less in need of such assistance.

The Government also proposed to give with an open hand to the artificial silk industry and even to the chemical industries, but the Bill did not provide anything for the smaller units of industry, and not a penny to the mass of the people.

BAIL REFUSED.

Mr Brandreth Charged With Fraudulent Conversion.

Charles Albert Brandreth (50) appeared at Marlborough Police Court, London, on Saturday, charged with the fraudulent conversion of £43,000 belonging to Ner-Sag, Ltd.

He was remanded for seven days, bail being refused.

Mr H. D. Roome, who appeared for the Ner-Sag Company, stated that in view of the fact that some evidence had already been given before Mr Cancellor, who was now unfortunately ill with influenza, he was instructed to ask for a week's remand.

Mr Bingley—Well, it will be me again.

Mr Roome said he could not hold out any hope that the case would be a short one.

Mr Bingley asked Brandreth if anyone was representing him, and Brandreth replied that Mr Frampton was.

Ner-Sag Accounts.

Mr Roome explained that under an arrangement Mr Frampton was to attend a little later.

When Mr Frampton arrived, the case was proceeded with, and Mr Cyril Morgan Price, an assistant accountant at the National Provincial Bank in Regent Street, produced a certified copy of a current account in the name of Charles Albert Brandreth, and one of his deposit account. He also produced certified copies of the current account, deposit account, and dividend account of Ner-Sag Ltd., of the current and deposit accounts of Ner-Sag Overseas, Ltd., and of the current account of Seatings, Ltd.

Mr Roome then asked for a remand until next Saturday.

Application Renewed.

Mr Frampton renewed his application for bail. He mentioned that bankruptcy proceedings had been started, and said it was difficult, if Brandreth remained in prison, for his solicitors to get all the information that they needed. In addition Brandreth had been suffering very seriously in health, and had been under treatment in Brixton Prison.

Mr Bingley—Why did he change his name and appearance?

Mr Frampton—I do not know what people do when they are worried. He never could have evaded detection if he had wanted to. He was wanted over this dispute and probably did a silly thing, but there was no attempt to get away.

Mr Bingley—I am not going to pretend judicial ignorance. I read the papers.

Mr Roome submitted that it would be taking a great risk to grant bail. Brandreth was provided with a large sum of ready money, and from his own conduct appeared to have some reason for evading justice.

Brandreth was then remanded.

ANNIVERSARY SERVICES.

The anniversary services of Skene Street Congregational Church, Aberdeen, yesterday were conducted by Professor J. A. Robertson, United Free Church College, in place of the Rev. T. Angus Fraser, who had been taken ill. There were large congregations both in the forenoon and the afternoon.

The Kingdom of God which was launched into the world all those centuries ago, Professor Robertson said at the forenoon service, had been to all seeming lost, swallowed up in a multitude of human concerns. They wondered sometimes what had been the good of the preaching of the Gospel that the earth had witnessed since the days of Christ. Had it been a futile process?

It had been reckoned that there were something like 250,000 sermons preached weekly in these islands, and in their cynical moments the only result they saw was a kind of varnish or thin veneer laid over an essentially pagan heart of modern life.

Probably they had been looking at the wrong things for signs of the coming of the Kingdom when they talked like that. It was not the changes of the outward forms, the institutions, and the material relations of society they had to look at, but at the secret workings of the heart of man.

CHILDREN'S PARTY.

The Aberdeen branch of the United Kingdom Commercial Travellers' Association held their annual children's party in the Imperial Hotel on Saturday, when about a hundred children were the guests of the branch, and were accompanied by a number of adults. After tea the company enjoyed games and dancing and a display from Felix the Cat and partner created great merriment. A conjuring turn was also enjoyed.

The arrangements were in the hands of Mr W. A. M. Findlater, social convener, and committee. The duties of games mistress and pianist were capably carried out by Miss Henderson and Miss Trail respectively. Each child received a gift on leaving.

The branch chairman, Mr R. Wilson, presided, and there was a dance for the adults at the close.

FOR BAIRNS' BOOT FUND

The sum of £39 11s 9d was raised for the "Evening Express" Bairns' Boot Fund by a concert in the Casino, Aberdeen, last night.

A musical entertainment was given by Mr Bobby Watson and the Eight Flashlight Entertainers, and the large audience quickly showed their appreciation with unstinted applause. Two films were also shown: "Jack o' Hearts" and "Desert Blooms."

There were no expenses incurred by the concert, as the proprietors generously granted the gratuitous use of the building, while the artistes, staff, and orchestra also gave their services free, and to these Canon Grant, who presided, proposed a vote of thanks, to which there was a hearty response.

ABERDEEN RATE RELIEF.

Company's Claim

COURT'S ADVICE TO TOWN COUNCIL.

The reclaiming note by the North-Eastern Ice Company in their Court of Session action against Aberdeen Town Council for exemption of machinery from rating has been upheld, the view being that the Council should take steps to modify the right enjoyed by the pursuers under the local Act of 1863.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

EDINBURGH, Saturday.

In this reclaiming note advised by the Second Division of the Court of Session the pursuers submitted to review the decision of Lord Fleming in the action by the North-Eastern Ice Co., Ltd., 7 Golden Square, Aberdeen, against the Town Council of Aberdeen for certain declarators.

The action raised an important question with regard to the effect of the provisions of the Rating (Scotland) Act, 1926, on the relief from the local rates, known as the general and district rates, which was conferred on certain classes of subjects by Section 89 of the Aberdeen Police and Waterworks Act, 1863.

Aberdeen Alone Affected.

This question only affected the city of Aberdeen, as there is no similar provision in the local Acts of other Scottish cities. Section 89 provides that the Town Council shall not impose any general or district assessments on or in respect of the machinery or utensils or district assessments on or in respect of the machinery or utensils of any manufactory, spinning mill, brewery, or other manufactory. Since the passing of the Act of 1863 the assessor for Aberdeen had been in the habit of making separate valuations of factories and of machinery which they contained, and also of making separate entries with respect to these subjects in the valuation roll.

The pursuers are the owners and occupiers of a factory and of the machinery in it. Prior to the year in dispute the cumulative value of the factory, including the machinery, was taken to £1237, and two entries were made in the valuation roll—£928 as being the annual value of the factory and £398 as being the annual value of the machinery. The pursuers were assessed as regarded general and district rates upon an annual value of £928. The pursuers were also entitled to certain relief under Section 37 of the Poor Law (Scotland) Act, 1845.

Uniformity Under 1926 Act.

The leading conclusion in the present action was that the Corporation was not entitled to impose and levy upon the pursuers, as owners or occupiers, general and district assessments computed with reference to an annual value for their factory. This conclusion raised the question whether the exemption of machinery from 1863 rates conferred by the local Act of 1863 was still in operation, notwithstanding the operations of the Rating Act of 1926. The chief purpose of the later Act was to establish throughout Scotland a uniform system of rating as regarded local rates, and to provide as regarded certain specified subjects percentage deductions varying in amount according to classification.

In the Outer House, Lord Fleming dismissed the action as irrelevant. His Lordship was of opinion that, as matters stood, the pursuers were not entitled to the relief which they asked.

The Division recalled the interlocutor of the Lord Ordinary.

For Council to Have Right Modified.

The Lord Justice Clerk said the decision of the question between the parties seemed to him to depend largely if not exclusively on the provisions of Section 12 of the Rating (Scotland) Act, 1926. The pursuers maintained that neither expressly nor by implication was the exempting section of the Act of 1863 repealed by the statute of 1926. The defenders, on the other hand, maintained that, under Section 12 (1) of the Act of 1926, a new system of rateable value was set up, which was entirely inconsistent with the old system, and which must be deemed to supplant it, unless and until, in virtue of Section 12 (2) the pursuers or the defenders applied to the Secretary of State for adjustment or modification.

His lordship was of opinion that the contention of the pursuers was sound, and fell to be affirmed. It was for the defenders to invoke the interference of the Secretary of State if they desired to modify or abolish the statutory right which hitherto had admittedly been enjoyed by the pursuers.

Suggestions to Parties.

While his lordship was prepared to negative the defenders' construction of Section 12 (2), to find that Section 89 of the local Act was neither suspended nor repealed by the Act of 1926, and that it was for the defenders to apply to the Secretary of State, under Section 12 (2), if they desired any modification or adjustment, he was by no means satisfied that the pursuers were entitled de plano to have the first and second conclusions of the action affirmed in their present form.

He thought the convenient course to follow would be, with the findings he had suggested, to continue the case in order that parties might consider their respective positions in the light of these findings. The pursuers might desire to amend their conclusions; the defenders might desire to approach the Secretary of State in terms of Section 12 (2).

Lords Ormidale and Anderson concurred.

FRASERBURGH MAN MISSING.

Since he left his home on January 31 nothing has been heard of Mr Allan G. Emslie, C.A., Fraserburgh.

On that morning he left by train to transact some business in Aberdeen, and, although it is believed that he was seen the following day in Edinburgh, his whereabouts have been wrapped in mystery