

YESTERDAY'S NEWS

Most newspapers based in the west of Scotland carried a 'Tiree' section contributed by a local, anonymous 'stringer'. This selection, from the years 1900 and 1901, shows that life on the island has changed less than we think.

'TIREE. The keenest interest is being taken in the great America yacht race [America's Cup], and the people hope Sir Thomas Lipton's *Shamrock II* may secure the cup this time.' (Oban Times and Argyllshire Advertiser, 5 October 1901, p. 6). The race took place in New York City harbour, and the American yacht *Columbia* won all three races.

'TIREE. Some boats from Tiree are fishing for lobsters in Muil, and so far have been doing fairly well ... Trawlers are now on the coast taking away the fish from our banks. Since they came to the east side of the Island the fishing has gone down very rapidly. The Barra boats find a good many herring out from the Tiree coast, and, no doubt, if a pier were erected on the Island, it would become a fishing centre like Barra and Stornoway, and thus do a great deal of good to the place.' (Oban Times and Argyllshire Advertiser, 22 June 1901, p. 6)

'TIREE. The taking of the census has been completed, and all the schedules forwarded to the registrar ... There have been nine divisions for the census, as follows: Mr Gunn, teacher, had Ruaig, Caolas, and Salum; Mr MacLean, [medical] student, had Kirkapol, Vaul and Gott; Mr MacLean, farmer, had Heanish, Scarinish, and Baugh; Mr MacKinnon, Cornaigbeg and Cornaigmore; Mr MacDonald, teacher, Crosspol, Heylipol, Balinoe, and Moss; Mr MacLean, teacher, Balemartine and Mannal; Mr MacKechnie, postman, Hynish and Balephuill; Mr Alex. MacLean, Balevullin and Kilmoluaig; Mr John MacLean, Sandaig, Barrapol, Middleton, Kilkenneth, and Greenhill' (Oban Times and Argyllshire Advertiser, 13 April 1901, p. 6)

'TIREE. Dr Alex. Buchanan, medical officer for forty years of the parish of Tiree, nephew of the late Professor Robert Buchanan, Professor of Logic in the University of Glasgow, was presented by his parishioners with his portrait in oil and a handsome writing desk as an expression of their high appreciation of his professional skill and services among the people for forty years. The presentation was made by Mr Hugh MacDiarmid, factor for the Duke of Argyll. The Doctor replied in a very feeling manner, referring to the great kindness he had received at the hands of the people, and said that it was such a delight to labour among them. He thanked them all from the bottom of his heart for the kindness they had shown, and hoped these

articles would be long treasured by his family and himself as an expression of their good will towards them.' (Highland News, 29 December 1900, p. 3)

'TIREE. A number of strangers are on the Island at present. With a pier and more house accommodation on the Island, Tiree is bound to become a first class watering place. There is no better place for a quiet holiday than Tiree. Mrs Brown and family from Kilmalcolm are at the hotel; Miss MacIntyre, from Melbourne, Australia, is at Scarinish; and Captain MacKinnon, Australia, is expected soon; Mrs Captain Brodie and family are at Balinoe Farmhouse; and Mrs MacLean and Master MacLean, England, are at Balphetrish Farm ... Miss A. MacFarlane, Baugh [Manse], came home recently from a tour in South Africa. She saw the battlefields of Magersfontein [1899] and Colenso, and brought home some very good specimens of the Boer ammunition, such as two fine shells that were thrown into Ladysmith during the siege, and a bandolier with Mauser bullets, etc., etc. [The Boer War did not come to an end until 1902.] She was greatly pleased with her trip through a great part of Africa, where the climate and weather was all that could be desired for a foreigner. She met hosts of friends.' (Oban Times and Argyllshire Advertiser, 22 June 1901, p. 6)

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