

YESTERDAY'S NEWS.3

1910

THE EGG INDUSTRY IN TIREE

THE SCOTTISH AGRICULTURAL ORGANISATION SOCIETY

'At the urgent request of parties interested in the welfare of the smallholders in the island of Tiree, Mr Drysdale, secretary of the Agricultural Organisation Society [founded in 1901 to encourage agricultural cooperatives], visited the island last week, and addressed a series of meetings in the five principal townships. The meetings were well attended, both men and women being present, and a very lively interest was evinced in the scheme which was submitted for their consideration. Mr Drysdale, in the course of his address, dealt with various aspects of the agricultural co-operative movement, but more especially with the aspect of it which seemed peculiarly appropriate to a district situated as Tiree is, viz., the co-operative collection and marketing of poultry produce, and the purchase in bulk of the requirements of the farms and crofts. The output of from Tiree may be put at from 50,000 to 60,000 dozens per annum.' (*Oban Times and Argyllshire Advertiser*, 19 March 1910, p. 5)

'The Agricultural Co-operation Society are erecting new premises in Balemartine for storing the goods that they put on sale to the people. The structure is of wood and is large and commodious.' (*The Oban Times*, 2 April 1911)

Duncan MacKinnon, *Donnchadh Iain Mhòir*, was appointed manager, selling meal (chicken food) and dry goods. Other agricultural cooperatives were set up in Sandaig, Kenovay and Ruaig.

1911

POULTRY IN TIREE

'The fine co-operative poultry societies in the island of Tiree are being this year entrusted with the distribution of a large number of settings of eggs from approved pure breeds of utility fowls. These eggs are being supplied partly by the Congested Districts Board and partly out of the grant which the Highland and Agricultural Society entrusts to the Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society, to be disbursed with a view to improve the breeds of poultry owned by small holders in the Highland counties. During the past year, since the formation of the co-operative societies, the poultry industry has been greatly developed throughout the island. Improved prices have tended to improved management, which in turn stimulates increased production.' (*Orkney Herald, and Weekly Advertiser and Gazette for the Orkney & Zetland Islands*, 19 April 1911, p. 7)

1924

'Co-operation in egg production in the Orkney Islands had been remarkable success. So much was that the case, that the value of the eggs exported was greater than the annual valuation of the islands. In the Island of Tiree, it was reported that the production of eggs was equal to the rent of the holdings on that island.' (*Aberdeen Press and Journal*, 4 July 1924, p. 8)

The Soroby hut closed in 1928, undercut by mainland dealers such as MacFarlan, Shearer and Co. of Greenock, who could ship from the Clyde in the weekly cargo boat. But the crossroads at the bottom of the Balephuill road were called *Turn a' Cho-operative* by the older generation.

1918

AEROPLANES WITH SCOTTISH NAMES

'During the War Weapons Week held in Scotland at the beginning of April, a number of areas invested so generously in War Bonds and Certificates as to entitle them to the privilege of naming aeroplanes. The Air Ministry has intimated to the Scottish War Savings Committee, Princes Street, Edinburgh, that the building of a number of these aeroplanes has been completed, and photographs of the aeroplanes, showing their names, have been sent to the districts interested. Among the areas included are ... the Island of Tiree: Name of aeroplane "Tirisdeach"' (*Scotsman*, 14 August 1918, p. 6).