

Manx Notes 294 (2017)

THE REVIVAL OF THE MANX LANGUAGE (14)

GRAND PAN-CELTIC BAZAAR IN RAMSEY

(1907)

[5e] An event long contemplated. the outcome of much perseverance, labour, and careful preparation, was consummated in Ramsey under very successful circumstances on Wednesday. We refer to the grand Pan-Celtic Bazaar, which was quite unique in many respects, and possessed quaint historic, and fascinating features, which placed it altogether outside the ordinary category of functions of this description. For many long months this bazaar had been in preparation, The Ladies' Sewing Guild all this time was hard and industriously at work. Many other agencies were requisitioned. Much help was volunteered in numerous ways, and there were many generous gifts. The object of ail this effort was that of rendering aid to the Waterloo Road Church Renovation and Circuit Funds. Wednesday's climax showed a result which should satisfy the most carping and fastidious. The bazaar was held in the Pavilion, which had bean most effectively transformed from its ordinary aspect into a quasi-Manx Fair (*Yn Margey Gailckagh*), though for the nonce in beauty and splendour it bore resemblance in many respects to an Oriental bazaar. The stalls, typical of the several nationalities which make up the British Constitution, were a blaze of gorgeous colouring—yellow heliotrope, crimson, green, turquoise blue, amber, and white being conspicuous. These were admirably arranged and well stocked with a wealth of articles, useful, ornamental and substantial. Then there were prettily-attired damsels in the most picturesque costumes, bewitchingly and industriously, as well as successfully, doing their level best to allure people to buy. Manx, Welsh, Scotch, Irish, Breton, all were more or less in evidence plying their respective callings. The room itself was exquisitely adorned, the front of the platform and refreshment stall were decked with ivy, and the Manx coat of arms was conspicuous. In a word, nothing could have been more delightful and effective, To translate into English an oft used and worn out expression, the effect was at once as striking as it was pleasing, was generally admired as a faithful and successful effort reflecting the utmost credit on all concerned, the ladies, as usual, not only claiming, but being thoroughly entitled to the lion's share. Before leaving this part of our report, it should be stated that the typical Manx cottage, fully furnished, was a novel and successful venture, and was generally voted so. It contained many of the orthodox features, both outside and in the interior, though to explore the inner mysteries of the later a small levy was made by the faithful custodians.

There was a large attendance at the opening ceremony. Mr J.H. McGaul, J.P., of Liverpool, presided, and Mr Edward Allen, of Liverpool, had undertaken to open the bazaar. The Rev. R. Davidson, M.A, and the Rev S. Miles were on the platform, and

amongst those present were the Revs G.H. Bellamy, J. Keddie, F.H. Ashton, and many ladies and gentlemen.

The proceedings opened by singing the hymn "O Lord of heaven and earth and sea," after which the Rev S. Miles offered prayer.

The Chairman, who was received with applause, said he remembered very well the last time he presided at the opening of their bazaar, but on that occasion the ladies or gentlemen or both of them who had decorated that room had so exerted themselves that they had achieved a result beyond anything he had seen even on the other side of the water (applause). He might say at the outset they had done themselves very great credit indeed. He was sure if the people resident in Ramsey and those who were visitors could only see it they would be induced, if only in recognition of the tasteful and elaborate labour the ladies had expended upon the stalls, to support them upon that occasion. In looking over the programme he almost thought it a piece of impertinence to ask him to come and assist such a large army of workers (laughter). He took the trouble on Saturday night to try and count how many names there were on the programme, but fell asleep when he had got half way through (laughter). He woke up tried again, and another sleep, and then finished (laughter). He believed the number was 213. If those 213 would all come and buy, as ladies and gentlemen ought to do who got up a bazaar, there would be no reason for himself or Mr Allen to do anything. They could, however, go round and admire those beautiful things, and then if there should be a trifle left after others had finished buying perhaps they would allow them to buy it though he was very doubtful whether there would be. The object of that bazaar was to pay off debt. That generally was the case. It was said that a church, and especially a Wesleyan Chapel, was never happy unless in debt. All he could say was, as trustee of two or three chapels on the other side of the water, he was never happy until he got them out of it. Such was the object of that bazaar, to get out of debt, and, once they had done that, to get into it again as quickly is possible. (Laughter.) He did not think there was any occasion for him to introduce Mr Allen to Ramsey. He was as well known as many of the natives, perhaps better. He trusted when the bazaar was over they would have realised their expectations. (Applause.)

Miss Norah Boyde, in Welsh costume, then gave a beautiful rendering of the pathetic Pan Celtic anthem, her melodious [5f] well-trained voice, and clear enunciation being heard to advantage, gave manifest pleasure, and she was enthusiastically applauded.

Mr Allen, who was greeted with hearty applause, said his special duty that afternoon, and he had great pleasure in performing the duty, was to declare the bazaar open, but before doing so he must say something. His heart had been touched by the very beautiful song just sung and by the earnest way that song was delivered. Two things be inherited, and one was love for the Isle of Man. His father was born in the Island and served his apprenticeship in Ramsey, and though ha was not so

fortunate to be born there, yet he and his children had a great passion for these shores and for the Isle of Man. Another thing was his love and devotion to the Wesleyan Church, and it was because of these two reasons he had great pleasure in being there that day (applause). They were fortunate as a Church in being universal. They were universal, having branches all over the world and they were heartily in sympathy with the work that was being done by other sections of the Church throughout the world. The work they had been doing was to make their place of worship beautiful, and they had succeeded. As the Chairman had told them money spent must be paid off. They first got out of debt, then into it and out of it again. (Laughter.) But if they got into debt for as worthy an object as on the last occasion, they would find the money to help them out of it. They must not, however, forget the many friends who were not members of their Church. They had a greater church, the church universal composed of all who loved the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. They were glad to see members of other Christian Churches present to show sympathy with their work, and who were in many cases personal friends of theirs. He hoped the result of that effort would be a blessing and gratifying to the treasurer. The Chairman had referred with a cultivated knowledge to the beauty and taste displayed on the stalls and with that he would merely say he cordially agreed. The colours were very beautiful, the forms were very beautiful and the ladies attending at the stalls were very beautiful also. (Applause.) In conclusion he urged them to buy everything that day and not leave anything until the morrow and then said he had much pleasure in declaring the bazaar open. (Applause.)

The Rev. R. Davidson said he had an appendix to make to Mr Allen's speech. He was glad to say that gentleman had handed him a cheque for £5. (Applause.)

The Chairman said he would be very much obliged if all who had money would spend it. He jocularly remarked that a disaster very nearly occurred to him before coming to the bazaar. That was he very nearly forgot to bring any money (laughter). He was not, however, going to put a cheque in, but would go round the stalls (applause).

The business of the bazaar was then proceeded with. By kind permission of Col. Senior and officers, the band of the 2nd York and Lancaster Regiment, under the battalion bandmaster, Mr W.H. Salmon, played admirable selections of music adjacent to the tennis grounds outside the Pavilion. Amongst a variety of attractions were concerts, living waxworks, the scientific crystal gazer, a post or telltale office where messages and billet deux (business and otherwise) were delivered to all parts of the bazaar. In the evening there was a large attendance.

The following is a list of the stallholders, Committees, etc., and others who have been interested in the bazaar: Scotch Stall (Ladies' Guild)—Mrs H.K. Callow (Convener), Mrs G.H. Bellamy, Mrs J. Brown, Mrs W.T. Crennell, Mrs Hastings, Mesdames J.E. Hoyle, J. Keddie, J. Kennedy, S. Miles, R.J. Sharpe, Misses Bellamy, E. Clarke, Cowin, Harrison, Phillips.

Manx Stall (Refreshment)—Mesdames Miss T. Teare (conveners), Bainbridge, A. Brown, Brew (Ballakillingan), Caley, W. Clague J.B. Clague, W. Corkill, Jos. Corlett, J.H. Crellin, J.J. Dawson, Fairless, J. Fargher, R. Gale, C. Hughes, Jas. Kee, R. Kennish, W. Kermeen, H.C. Kerruish, G. Kewin, Lavary, S.W. Lynn, T.C. Radcliffe, Schofield, J.P. Skillicorn, Wattleworth, Misses Callow (West Quay), Christian (Lezayre Road), Corkill (Ballure Mount), Corlett (Victoria Road), Quayle (May Hill), Clague (York House), Collins, A. Corkhill, Corkill (Auckland Terrace), M. Corlett, Criggall, S. Cubbon, Fairless, Fairnington, Gibbons, Healy, Kellam, Kennedy, Kermode (Bride), S.M. Kerruish, Kewish, A. Kewley, H. Kinrade, J. Kneale (Parliament Street), Taggart, Teare (Birchham Avenue), Voke, Wade (May Hill), Wade (Lezayre Road), Miss Ward.

Breton Stall (Flowers and Fruit)—Misses E. Bellamy (convener), Richmond, Alldritt, L. Christian (Lezayre Road), Ivy Christian, E. Clague (Stanley Mount), Corlett (South Promenade), E. Cowley, Curphey, A. Gawne, Hobson, K. Joughin, M. Quayle, E. Teare (Brookfield).

Welsh Stall (China)—Mesdames V.C. Joughin (convener), G.B. Cowan, R. Cowley, T. Cowley, F. Southward, A.H. Teare, Misses Alston Cath. Brew, F. Cleator, L. Joughin, Nellie Teare.

Irish Stall (Basket and Toy)—Miss Callow Maycroft, convener; Mrs Barlow, Mrs F.W. Callow, Mrs Jas. Callow, Mrs Thos Callow, Mrs T.H. Corkhill, Misses Edith Callow, M. Callow, J. Crennell, E. Joughin, M. Joughin, B. Kinvig, A. Quayle, M. Teare.

Breton Stall (Sweet)—Miss Barlow Brookfield (Convener), Misses Looney (Waterloo Road), A. Brew, D. Christian, E. Dawson, E. Faragher, C. Kee, Nora Kennedy, M. Kerruish, E. Mortimer, Quarrie, Edith Quayle (Old Cross), E. Sharpe, S. Shepherd, W. Southward, Wattleworth, and E. Warrener.

Manx Stall (Gentlemen)—Messrs F.W. Callow (Convener), Alston, P. Boyde, J. Brew, junr, A. Brown, J.W. Callow, H.K., [5g] Callow, Jas Callow, T. Callow (Fairfield), W.K. Callow, J.E. Cannell, J. Cannell (Windsor Mount), A. Cannell (Lezayre Road), J.B. Clague, C.H. Kee, P.M. Corlett, W.L. Kennedy, T.H. Corkhill, G.W. Kewin, W.L. Corlett, A. Looney, W.T. Crennell, T.O. Radcliffe, G.B. Cowen, A. Schofield, Dr Cowin, R.J. Sharpe, T.B. Cowley, J.P. Skillicorn, J.J. Dawson, J.E. Southward, R. Gale, W. Storey, M. Gibbons, A.H. Teare, C. Hughes, Thos Teare, J.E. Hoyle, E.G. Teare, V.C. Joughin, T.C. Teare, D.C. Joughin, W. Radcliffe, J. Radcliffe (South Africa).

Entertainment Committee—Revs F.H. Ashton and T.C. Teare (Coveners), Miss J.B. Clague, Misses Hague, Barlow, Collins, M. Corkill, A. Gawne, A.M. Joughin, Nellie Kennedy, Messrs W. Brown, F.W. Callow, Jas Callow, J. Callow (Windsor Mount), A. Cannell (Lezayre Road), J. Clarke, L. Corkill, Thos Corkill (Ballure Mount), Wilfred Corkill, D.C. Joughin, W.L. Corlett, C.H. Kee, Dr Cowin, R. Kerruish, W.P. Cowley, W. Kennedy, J. Craine, Stanley Mortimer, J.T. Craine, R.J.

Sharpe, E Crellin, K. Storey, W.T. Crennell, A.H. Teare, J.E. Hoyle, E.G. Teare, V.C. Joughin, and B. Underhill.

Decoration Committee—Messrs Wilfred Corkill (Convener), Bainbridge, M. Brown, H.K. Callow, F.W. Callow, J.B. Clague, W.L. Corlett, G.B. Cowen, T.H. Corkhill, J.V. Craine, C. Hughes, Joe Joughin, C.H. Kee, E.C. Lavery, Quilleash, A. Schofield, B. Sharpe, W Storey, T. Teare, jun., W Teare.

SECOND DAY

According to the official programme, the bazaar was to have been opened on the second day by Mr R.S. Corlett, H.K., but, for reasons explained below, the hon. member for Ayre, was unavoidably absent on the principal of the Scotch proverb that “the best laid schemes of mice and man, gang aft agley.” The Rev S. Miles took charge of the proceedings, and introduced the Rev. R. Davidson, as the efficient treasurer, to open the bazaar.

Mr Davidson said he was there to occupy the post because no one else could be found. He was sorry to say that the opener for the day had not been able to be with them. Mr Corlett was a man greatly interested in agricultural affairs, and when he promised to open the bazaar he lost sight of the fact that the agricultural show took place on the same day. He had been in the habit of attending the show since he was a boy, and having 20 exhibits he felt that he could not absent himself. But the bazaar having been opened the previous day, it required very little more to be done to open it the second day. He expressed his admiration at the interest the ladies had manifested in the work—honourable ladies, who for months previous to the bazaar had given time and work at the Ladies’ Sewing Guild. To them in a large measure they were indebted for the issue they saw that day (hear, hear), and others had been working in their own homes making preparations for the bazaar. They had, he explained, expended nearly £1500 in the work of renovating the chapel. They began by proposing to expand £1058, but the money came in so freely they thought they might venture a little further. The original contract, for instance, did not include the new windows they had put in the Chapel. They had put in new windows at an additional cost of about £150. Then they decided to alter the lower front part of the exterior of the Chapel, and having done that they thought the upper should be made to correspond with the lower part, which led them to alter the whole front at a cost of £50. Besides doing that they had put in new linoleums upstairs and down and new cushions on the seats at a cost of £60. New gas brackets had to be found and alterations made, which led to a further cost of £20. Then they had new umbrella stands provided and the pews numbered, which cost £10 more. The architect’s fee was £46, but he gave them a contribution of nine guineas, which reduced his charge considerably. Altogether they wanted £250 in order to comply with the conditions of the Chapel Committee. The Committee allowed them to leave a debt of £150, and they expected, a grant of £60 from the Twentieth Century Fund. He hoped they

might be able to clear off the amount required by means of that bazaar. But the elements were against them on the previous day, which he was afraid reduced their takings, especially in the evening. However, they realised £122 the first day, and if they could only get as much as that the second day he would guarantee that the fund should be closed. Mr Corlett had sent them a cheque for a guinea, and he (Mr Davidson) would be glad to give as a contribution £5. (Applause.) He did not know what the ladies would do with the surplus stock, if any, and whether they would dare attempt the holding of a sale of work about Christmas time, or what they would do, but he had no doubt they would devise some method to help them out of their difficulty. He had great pleasure in declaring the bazaar open for the second day. (Applause.)

The weather was beautifully fine, in contrast with the previous day. The concerts and other attractions proved very enjoyable.

The following assisted at the Manx concerts, under the direction of Miss E. Barlow, which proved highly interesting; Mrs Ogden, Miss Norah Boyde, Miss Mason, Misses Maud Stott, M. Purcell, D. Quarrie, Clague, Christian, Sharpe, and A.M. Joughin, Messrs T. Dodd (Douglas), J.E. Curphey, J.T. Craine, H. Curphey, T. Collins, Eric Boyde, and W.P. Cowley.

Mrs Baxter Clague had charge of the waxworks.

The receipts were: First day, £122; second day, £83. The total with £11 ticket money, etc., amounted to £223, a very handsome sum and which must be a source of gratification to all responsible for the effort. We ought specially to mention the Rev. R. Davidson, M.A., and Mr R. Radcliffe, who did yeoman service.

“Grand Pan-Celtic Bazaar in Ramsey.” *Ramsey Courier* 9 August 1907:
[5]f–h.

STEPHEN MILLER, 2017

