



Photo by

A. Ledingham, Grantown-on-Spey.

ALLT-NA-BIENNE MOIRE BRIDGE.

OPENING OF THE ALLT-NA-BIENNE MOIRE BRIDGE.

THE Club's Bridge over the Allt-na-Bienne Moire was formally opened on Saturday, 3rd August, by a party of members under the leadership of the Chairman—Mr. John Clarke—who very kindly provided luncheon in his country quarters at Boat of Garten. The occasion suggests a brief account of a project in which the Club has taken something of a new departure.

The old bridge had been in a ruinous condition for some years back and had become positively dangerous for crossing, especially in times of spate, so that when the question was taken up by the Chairman in 1910, he found he had a most sympathetic committee to deal with the problem. The idea soon took the shape of building a new and substantial bridge which should be worthy of the Club and at the same time a public benefit. There had been wooden bridges at the place, more or less substantial, within living memory, but they could not withstand the Speyside floods—noted for destruction long before 1829. The last of these bridges was as already indicated in a state of dissolution during recent years, and the floods of last autumn finally carried the frail woodwork down to the Spey. The necessity for a substantial bridge in the line of the right of way through the Larig was so urgent that the Club found they had a good case to proceed with the erection. Accordingly, steps were taken to endeavour to get the co-operation of the laird—Sheriff Grant of Rothiemurchus—an appeal was made to the Club and sympathisers with the movement to provide the necessary funds, and the services of a member of the Club—Mr. James A. Parker, B.Sc., were secured as engineer of the undertaking. Sheriff Grant readily responded to the aspirations of the Club, and was most helpful. The funds came flowing in from far and wide from a multitude of well-wishers, and the work was taken in hand by Mr. Parker as a labour of love. He

bestowed the utmost care on carrying out the idea of the Club, and his success may be judged by the photograph of the structure at page 235. To quote an enthusiastic and poetical member of the Club present at the opening ceremony:—"It is in keeping with the surroundings, full of Nature's beauty, with the commencing rich bloom of the heather just coming to perfection. The near view was a picture in itself. As the little group in a beautifully clear sky looked into the faces of the giant Cairngorms with the Larig dividing them, one could not find words adequately to describe the grandeur of the scene. The sunshine had been simply glorious, but before proceeding to celebrate the occasion a slight shower fell, just to bring out the beauty of contrast, which is often so marked in bonnie Scotland."

For the occasion of the opening a party of members journeyed from Aberdeen, and after luncheon the company drove to the Bridge, which was reached soon after 4 o'clock. They found that an enthusiastic member of the Club, Mr. A. Landsborough Thomson, had walked from Braemar to take part in the proceedings. The party consisted of the following members:—Mr. John Clarke, Chairman; the late Mr. Alexander Copland, vice-President (the then father of the Club); Mr. J. A. Parker, A.C.; Mr. A. P. Milne, Mr. Alexander Spark, Mr. Walter A. Reid, S.M.C.; Mr. W. M. McPherson, Mr. J. McCoss and Mr. J. B. Gillies, Secretary; also Miss Clarke (daughter of the Chairman), Miss Bellairs, and Mr. and Mrs. Neil B. Gunn, Edinburgh. Apologies for absence had been received from the following members of the Club:—Mr. Henry Alexander, Mr. Drummond, Mr. George Duncan, Mr. William Garden, Dr. Levack, and Mr. J. Bruce Miller.

The entrance to the Bridge from Aviemore was fenced by a silk ribbon at the top of the steps.

The Chairman, in a few words, referred to the fact of the Club having taken such a practical step in the interest of mountaineers, and said that this was but a beginning in a vigorous policy of usefulness, which he was confident the Club was determined to pursue; he regretted the un-

avoidable absence of Sheriff Grant, declaring that the desire of the Club was to enlist the sympathy of landed proprietors, and specially referring to the friendly co-operation of the proprietor on this occasion. He expressed the hope that the bridge would prove a boon to all lovers of the mountains and would remain as a memorial of the Club for generations to come. He then called on Miss Clarke to perform the opening ceremony. Miss Clarke ascended the steps and, receiving a knife from the Engineer, Mr. Parker, gracefully cut the ribbon which served as barrier and declared the bridge open. This formal completion of the Club's enterprise was greeted with rounds of applause.

Mr. Copland made a breezy little speech, referring to the feeble structure which was the predecessor of the new bridge, and cordially endorsing the declared policy of the Club. He concluded by complimenting Mr. Parker on the result of his skill, and moved a cordial vote of thanks to him for all his trouble and interest in the design and execution of the bridge.

This was carried by acclamation.

Mr. Gunn gave the sentiment, "Continued Prosperity to the Cairngorm Club," Mr. Clarke returning thanks.

On the call of Mr. McPherson, Miss Clarke was cordially thanked for so graciously performing the opening ceremony.

At the centre of the bridge on the rails are two iron plates facing each other with inscriptions as follows:—

On the up stream parapet, with arrows pointing in the appropriate directions:—

LARIG GHURU ROUTE.

	Hours.	Miles.
To Aviemore	1½	4
To Coylum Bridge.....	¾	2
To Larig Ghru summit (2733 feet).....	3	5¾
To Derry Lodge.....	6½	14
To Linn of Dee.....	8	18
Braemar	10	24½

[It should be noted that the distances had to be worked out from the Ordnance Survey map. The times are

necessarily only approximate; experienced walkers might save considerably on them].

On the down stream parapet the legend runs:—

1912.

THIS BRIDGE

OVER THE ALLT-NA-BIENNE MOIRE

LARIG GHRU ROUTE

WAS ERECTED BY-

THE CAIRNGORM CLUB ABERDEEN

THROUGH ITS COMMITTEE

WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF

MANY MOUNTAIN-LOVING FRIENDS

T. R. GILLIES

JOHN CLARKE

Treasurer

Chairman

There had been an interesting discussion in Committee as to whether the inscription should be in English or in Latin or in Gaelic. No Gaelic version was produced (which is not to the credit of the Club), but a very excellent Latin inscription was composed by the Chairman and had, we understand, the hall mark of the approval of the Professor of Humanity at our University. It ran as follows:—

MCMXII

HUNC PONTEM

IN ALLT-NA-BIENNE MOIRE

E SALTU LARIG GHRUMACH EXEUNTE

SOCIETAS CAIRNGORMIA ABERDONENSIS

FACIENDUM CURAVIT

PRAESIDE IOANNE CLARKE

FISCO DILIGENTER PROVIDENTE T. R. GILLIES

COMITIBUS MULTISQUE AMICIS

MONTIVAGIS ADIUVANTIBUS

Eventually the English version was approved as the most suitable, or at any rate most generally intelligible.

After the ceremony the following members went through the Larig overnight:—J. McCoss, A. P. Milne, W. M. McPherson, J. A. Parker, and J. B. Gillies.

This party left Coylum Bridge at 8 p.m., having laid the foundation for a successful expedition with a very excellent meal provided by a most hospitable cottager there.

Lanterns were lit shortly after entering the Pass proper, and the summit of the Pass was reached about midnight, the path having been lost only once en route. Progress over the stretch of boulders at the summit was slow, but the pools just below the summit were eventually found by the leader, who walked into one of them in the dark! Just below these a short siesta was taken. The party then made straight up the side of Beinn Muich Dhui, the summit of which was reached about 4.10 a.m.:—

“A fine caller morning and all’s well.”

There was snow on the hill so the time spent on the top was short. A quick descent was made past large numbers of deer to below Loch Etchachan, where a delightful breakfast was enjoyed in the crisp morning air. From this point to Braemar—which was reached in time for lunch—the expedition was uneventful.

The thanks of the party are due to “the builder of bridges,” who carried a spirit lamp with him and regaled the party with hot drinks en route.

LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR NEW BRIDGE OVER ALLT-
NA-BIENNE MOIRE, INTIMATED SINCE JANUARY, 1912.

Anonymous Subscriber	...	...	...	...	...	£0	10	6
Mr. E. G. Anderson	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
„ Allan G. Anderson	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Miss Angus, per Mr. R. M. Williamson, Advocate	...	...	...	...	...	0	4	0
(additional)	...	...	...	...	...	0	4	0
Mr. James Bryce	...	...	...	...	...	2	0	0
Professor Bryce	...	...	...	...	...	0	10	6
Mr. John Clarke (further)	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Dr. J. Crombie	...	...	...	...	...	0	10	6
Mr. J. Reid Dean, S.S.C.	...	...	...	...	...	0	10	0
„ George Davidson	...	...	...	...	...	0	5	0
„ Robert J. Drummond	...	...	...	...	...	0	10	0
„ John Grant	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
Professor Grierson	...	...	...	...	...	0	10	0
Mr. Irvine C. Geddes	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
„ J. R. C. Greenlees	...	...	...	...	...	0	5	0

Mr. M. C. Greenlees	...	...	...	...	...	0	5	0
„ George Henschel	...	...	...	...	...	0	15	0
„ Alexander Harrison	...	...	...	...	...	0	7	6
„ T. Harvey	...	...	...	...	...	0	5	0
„ G. T. Harvey	...	...	...	...	...	0	5	0
„ Thomas Jaffrey	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Llandaff	..	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Professor John Marnoch	...	...	...	...	...	0	10	0
Miss G. Martineau	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	0
Mrs. Clara Martineau	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Mrs. Alice E. Macdonell	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
Dr. McKerron	...	...	...	...	...	0	10	0
Mr. Duncan McLaren	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
„ Alexander Mackie	...	...	...	...	...	0	2	6
Dr. Macpherson	...	...	...	...	...	0	5	0
Mr. Ian M. McLaren	...	...	...	...	...	0	5	0
„ J. B. Philip,	...	...	...	...	...	0	10	6
Mr. Walter A. Reid, C.A. (additional)	...	..	...	...	...	0	10	0
„ A. M. Rutherford	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
Miss A. H. Stainton	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
„ A. T. Smith	...	...	...	...	...	0	1	0
Mr. W. C. Welsh	...	...	...	...	...	0	5	0
„ G. G. Whyte, C.A.	...	...	...	...	...	0	10	0
„ J. M. Wattie	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
„ A. G. Wallace	...	...	...	...	...	0	10	0
						<u>£27</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>

ABSTRACT OF BRIDGE FUND ACCOUNT.

CREDIT.

Subscriptions received	. . . . .	£100	11	6	
Interest on sums deposited	. . . . .		0	15	7
			<u>£101</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>

DEBIT.

Messrs. Abernethy, Engineers	. . . . .	£50	1	0
Mr. Lawrence, Builder	. . . . .	36	16	3
Mr. Parker's outlays and cost of photograph, telegrams, posts, etc.		<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>
			94	4	6
Credit Balance	. . . . .	<u>£7</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>

Note.—Subscriptions promised and not yet paid amount to £10 15s. 6d.

The Committee propose to use the balance of the fund in putting up an additional railing at the south end of the bridge, in presenting Mr. Parker with a small memento of the occasion in acknowledgment of his services, and for any future painting required.