

NOTES.

ACCORDING to an article in the *Aberdeen Free Press* of 3 April, summer grazings for sheep in the Mar deer forest, estimated to carry 2500, were then being advertised, the district which it is intended to

SHEEP put under sheep consisting of Glen Ey and Glen Connie.
REPLACING This "conversion" of the two glens, it seems, is the result
DEER. of a visit of inspection by the Food Production Committee for West Aberdeenshire, the members of which spent two

days at Braemar in February investigating the capabilities of Mar forest in the matter of pasturage. The party, in addition to walking up Glen Ey to the shooting-lodge of Alltanour, went up the Dee to the White Bridge and the Bynack, passing on the way the ruins of what was once the large grazing farm of Dalavorar, and also visited Glen Lui, in which there are some fine haughs and grazing, particularly between the Black Bridge and Derry Lodge. The view of the Committee was that Glen Ey and Glen Connie (which runs into Glen Ey) should be thrown open for grazing this summer; and, on representations to that effect being made, the proprietors agreed. Glen Ey is enclosed by grass-covered hills and is thus more suitable for pasturage than the glens on the north side of the Dee, where there is more heather. At one time the glen carried a considerable population, and in the summer-time the cattle were driven up to shielings at Alltanour. About seventy years ago, however, the glen was cleared and converted into a deer forest.

A NOTABLE decline in the value of deer forests, due to the war, was revealed in a number of appeals brought before the Lands Valuation Appeal Court (Lords Johnston, Salvesen, and Cullen) in February.

DECLINING The forests of Invereshie and Invermarkie, in Inverness-
VALUE OF shire, belonging to Sir George Macpherson-Grant of Ballin-
DEER FORESTS. dalloch, were let last year for £450, as against £1,900 formerly, and Sir George contended that, after making allowance for the usual deductions and outlays, the net return for Invereshie was only £96 and that for Invermarkie £100. He accordingly sought to have the valuations fixed at these sums, instead of at £739 and £804, the former valuations. The local Valuation Committee adopted his figures. The Assessor, who was willing to reduce the valuations by 50 per cent., appealed. The Court, Lord Salvesen dissenting, upheld the Assessor's valuations with the 50 per cent. reduction. Lord Johnston, in giving the leading judgment, said the rent was a nominal one, and, having regard to the capital value of the subjects, could not be taken as the fair annual value. If such rents were accepted, then they had no alternative but to accept any rent that was *bona fide* in the sense that this was, however low the rent might be; and the result would be that a large part of the north of Scotland would be expunged from the valuation roll, which would be disorganised fatally for taxation purposes. Sir George Macpherson-Grant also sought to have the

valuation of his part of Glenfeshie deer forest reduced from £1126 to £300, but was equally unsuccessful, although the Court recommended that the question of whether the Assessor's 50 per cent. reduction was adequate should be reconsidered.

THE old controversy regarding the preservation of natural scenery against its invasion for public uses, recalled by Ruskin's denunciation of the

“desecration” of Loch Lomond, quoted by Mr. Clarke

THE LOCHABER in the first article in this number, has been revived by the WATER-POWER proposal to utilise the water-power of Lochaber for the

SCHEME. manufacture of aluminium. The project emanates from the British Aluminium Company, and the design is to

make of Loch Treig a great service reservoir, in which to store the waters of Loch Ossian, Loch Laggan, and the other feeders of the upper Spean.

Loch Treig meanwhile discharges into the Spean at its northern end, but

it is proposed to divert its waters southward, conveying them by a tunnel to be cut through the mountains to the existing power station at Kinlochmore,

adjacent to which (at Kinlochleven) the Aluminium Company has already a factory at work. The scheme is advocated on the ground that further

water-power is required to secure an increased production of aluminium, an augmentation of power by 25 per cent. being anticipated. There can be

little doubt that the scenery of Lochaber would be seriously affected, and the antagonistic views of lovers of the picturesque were voiced by Canon

Rawnsley in a forcible protest. As an illustration of what will happen, it is asserted that the river Spean will be made absolutely a dry ditch for

seven or ten miles. Other objections are urged, such as that the water-power of the Spean should be conserved for the people of the Spean valley

and not diverted to another valley and community, and that if water-power is to be utilised it ought to be in the national interest and not for the benefit

of private speculators. A Parliamentary bill sanctioning the scheme was brought before the House of Lords in the end of April, when much more

stress was laid on these objections than on what Lord Lansdowne characterised as “a violent disturbance of the natural features of an extremely interesting

area of country.” As a result of the discussion, the bill was withdrawn. It is likely to be revived, however, in which event, it is to be feared, still less

heed will be paid to what may be termed scenic considerations. The development of industry after the war—and it is claimed that the production

of aluminium has now become a “key” industry—will be insisted upon so clamantly that utilitarianism is almost sure to triumph over æsthetic considerations.

IN Lord Morley's recently-published “Recollections” there is a striking passage on Irish scenery. Quoting from his Diary, under date October 31,

1893 (at a turbulent time in Irish politics), he says:—

THE “FEEL” “Cleared up papers and boxes at the Lodge [the

IN IRISH Chief Secretary's Lodge in the Phoenix Park, Dublin], and

LANDSCAPE. walked away from that elysian abode. The lawns were

white with hoar-frost, the sunlight warmed the great beech

trunks, the lines of the mountains stood out dark and firm against the clear

sky, like the hills near Lucca. A glorious scene—only, like all the beauty

of Ireland, without the associations of composure and peace. I have often

tried to explain and analyse this feel in Irish landscape. There is none in it of that spirit of happiness that makes the English lakes divine."

But is there really this difference between Irish landscape, abstractly regarded, and other landscape? Are the troubles of "the distressful country" reflected in its scenery? We very much doubt it. We are inclined to view Lord Morley's comment rather as the reflection of a passing mood—a temporary impression that even the Wicklow Mountains were lacking in the composure and peace elsewhere so sadly absent in Ireland; an impression wholly due to his mental environment at the moment. There is doubtless a tendency at times to find in landscape a reflection of our own moods and feelings, but the sentiment evoked is one wholly imparted by ourselves. The English Lake scenery would remain quite as placid even were Cumberland and Westmorland distracted by agrarian outrages.

"It would be interesting to know," said a recent magazine article, "how many people have stood on the topmost points of England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland. Perhaps they would not number more than one from every million of the inhabitants of the British Islands. Many thousands, no doubt, who have climbed Ben Nevis, the highest British mountain, have climbed Snowdon, the highest mountain of Wales, and also

Scafell Pike, the highest English mountain, but few of them will have completed the round by ascending Carrantuohill, the topmost point of Ireland." The reasons why comparatively few people ascend Carrantuohill (3404 feet), the highest point of the highest range in Ireland, Macgillicuddy's Reeks, in County Kerry, are given as follows:—"First, because people do not climb hills in Ireland as an exercise or amusement; and next, because the Reeks are so far away from comfortable sleeping quarters that the journey out and back cannot easily be made on foot in a day." The usual route to Carrantuohill is given in the article as being by a ten-mile drive in a jaunting-car, followed by about six hours of heavy walking, which returns the traveller to the highway about twelve miles from Killarney, unless he returns by boat down the lakes. "In any case, it is a very long and toilsome day, starting early and finishing late."

[The "right starting point" for Carrantuohill (also spelt Carrauntoohill, the height being given as 3414 feet) was stated by Dr. Ernest A. Baker, in an article on "Macgillicuddy's Reeks" in the *C.U.J.*, Vol. V., p 256, to be a homely little hotel at Glencar, eight Irish miles from the railway station at Lough Caragh, on the route to Valentia. The same thing was said by Mr. James A. Parker, in an article on "Glencar, Co. Kerry," contributed to the *Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal* in February, 1914 (Vol. XIII., p 2.)]

AN extraordinary project is announced from America—the conversion of a mountain into a sculptured monument. The monument is designed as a memorial of those who fought and fell for the Confederacy (the Southern States) in the American Civil War; and the mountain selected for the unique commemoration is a mass of solid granite, 1686 feet high, called Stone Mountain, near Atlanta, the capital of the State of Georgia. It is described as a solid stone two miles long, without a single flaw or

fissure in it—is called, indeed, “the big pebble.” Figures of gigantic size are to be cut on the mountain-sides, representing companies of the Confederate army and its famous generals on the march. Some idea of the scheme may be gathered from the statement that the central group, actual likenesses of the generals on horseback, will be about 35 feet high, while the men on the march will cover a space 2000 feet long. At the base of the mountain thirteen huge pillars are to be carved, corresponding to the number of the Confederate States. The sculptor—the designer, that is—is Mr. Gutzon Borglum, and it is expected that it will take hundreds of men eight years to carve the work.

THE following interesting paragraph, which is extracted from the *Aberdeen Journal* of 6th December, 1815, shows that prodigious walking feats were accomplished even a century ago:—

DEESIDE PEDESTRIANISM.—We have been favoured with the POSTMAN’S following from a Deeside correspondent—Having ob- WALKING FEAT. served in several of the Scotch and English papers some notice taken of the walking performed by the Deeside Post, it is but justice to the man, while it will afford some amusement to your numerous readers, to publish a more detailed account of it. Duncan Cumine began to walk as Post Office runner in one of the most mountainous districts of Scotland, from Castletown of Braemar to Charlestown of Aboyne, a distance of 30 miles—three times a week, on the 10th day of October 1807, in the following manner, viz., by going from Castletown to Charlestown, and back to Ballater Village, every Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday, making 40 miles each of these days; and from Ballater Village to Castletown every Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday, 20 miles each day; and this he has performed from the day he began to this hour, keeping all his appointed times of departure and arrival most correctly, *without having been stopped one day* by sickness, the severity of the weather, or any other cause; being 9390 miles in the year, or 75,120 miles on the 10th of October last. Cumine is about 35 years of age, 5 feet 1 inch high, stout made, of very sober habits, and continues in good health and spirits.

[The computation is not quite exact. The yearly mileage should be 9360, and the total mileage for the eight years 74,880.]

I do not say that Fontainebleau is the perfect place to walk in: it is a little too trim; but it is good enough for me. It is a very good place to be alone in, and just now I am glad to be alone. I have

SOLITARY
WALKING.

been bored horribly at the hotel this evening by two artists who could not think how I could care for solitary walking. I was moved to an unexpected pitch of argumentative eloquence. All in a moment I saw why I cared for solitary walking, and I told them so in one long, and, I don’t doubt, rather noisy paragraph. I assumed the character of the contemplative vagabond, and, as near as I can remember now, said this: That the true vagabond is happiest alone. That there is absurdity in two men walking together; three—and the thing becomes grotesque. Hazlitt was right in deprecating conversation: the walker does not want to converse, except with nature and himself . . . There are a hundred reasons why he wishes to be alone: his sacred selfish-

ness demands it ; he came out for it, otherwise he would have stayed in the city ; no one is quite worthy to commune with him, every true vagabond being superior to everyone else ; he detests having his attention called to beautiful things, every true vagabond being the first detector and judge of beautiful things ; he does not want to agree, even less does he want to disagree, for every true vagabond knows best. And I concluded with this epigram : A companion is a mistake in many ways, but chiefly because when he is with you you are not alone.—E. V. LUCAS in "Listener's Lure."

WE note with pleasure that Major (Acting Lieut.-Colonel) Charles Reid, of the Gordon Highlanders, and Major Henry J. Butchart, Yeomanry (Scottish Horse), two of our members, have been awarded

THE CLUB. the Distinguished Service Order : Colonel Reid, by the
AND MILITARY way, was wounded, for the third time, in April. Major
SERVICE. George A. Smith, D.S.O., Gordon Highlanders, has been
gazetted to be second in command. Captain Eric W. H.

Brander, 4th Gordon Highlanders, now a Staff officer, has been promoted Major, and has been twice more mentioned in dispatches.

WE are informed that a set of the first six volumes of the *Cairngorm Club Journal* which belonged to the late Mr. C. G. Cash is for

C.C.J. sale by private bargain. The first volume, it may be
JOURNAL. mentioned, is now very scarce. The copy offered for sale
is, unfortunately, in different binding from the other five
volumes, but, like these volumes, it is in good condition, and has a number
of maps bound up with it. Intending offerers should communicate with the
Editor.

THE frontispiece to this number is a portrait of one of our former Chairmen
—the late Rev. Professor George G. Cameron, D.D.,

PORTRAIT OF of the Aberdeen Free (now United Free) Church College.
PROFESSOR Professor Cameron was the third Chairman of the Club,
CAMERON. holding office for the two years, 1893-4. He died in
1913, and a tribute to his memory appears in Vol. VII

of the *Journal* (p. 279.)