

PETITION FOR THE GLEN FESHIE ROAD.

FOLLOWING upon a motion by Mr. John Clarke, the Club at its annual meeting in November decided to renew its representations to the Government in support of the Glen Feshie road scheme, and the appended memorial was prepared and sent to the Minister of Transport, Lieut.-Col. Wilfrid W. Ashley, M.P., an accompanying letter being sent at the same time to Sir Henry Maybury, Director of Roads, on 31st March.

*To, Lieutenant-Colonel The Right Honourable Wilfrid W. Ashley,
M.P., Minister of Transport.*

SIR—The Cairngorm Club begs respectfully to bring the question of the Glen Feshie road before the notice of the Ministry of Transport, and it ventures to do so because, at the present moment, arterial road schemes in various parts of the country are engaging the attention of the Department, and in particular a large undertaking has been sanctioned for the reconstruction, at Government expense, of the main northern Highland road from Perth to Inverness.

The Cairngorm Club, which has its headquarters in Aberdeen, but which embraces members in all parts of the country, is interested in the encouragement of hill climbing and hill walking in the Highlands and more particularly in the Cairngorms. Accordingly, at its annual meeting on December 20, 1918, it adopted a resolution urging the construction of a road from Deeside to Speyside, through Glen Feshie, on the ground that such a road, while presenting no engineering difficulties of any consequence, would facilitate access to one of the finest mountain regions in the country, and also furnish the link which is at present wanting, in a great through route from Aberdeen to Fort William by Deeside, Speyside, and Loch Laggan, thus improving access to the Highlands generally. A memorial to this effect was on December 30, 1918, presented to the Road Board, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster. It may be mentioned that the Rural Transport (Scotland) Committee, which was appointed by the Government in February, 1918, to consider schemes for rural development, deal with the Glen Feshie proposal, and in its report, issued in July, 1919, recommended the construction of such a road.

At its annual meeting on November 30, 1924, the Cairngorm Club again considered the subject and unanimously resolved to submit the present representation to the Ministry of Transport in support of the Glen Feshie road. The work entailed would be the reconstruction of the existing road from Braemar to the Linn of Dee, and the construction of a road from that point to Glen Feshie Lodge and Kingussie—a total distance of some thirty-two miles—but, as the ministry is no doubt already in possession of details, it is unnecessary to enter into further particulars of the undertaking. The Club believes that the construction of this road and the provision of a main artery through northern Scotland, from east to west, is the

natural and necessary corollary to the reconstruction of the main north road, which has now been commenced, and that without the addition of the Glen Feshie road this work will lose a considerable part of its value to the public. The Club also ventures to submit that, like the rebuilding of the great north road to Inverness, the building of the Glen Feshie road from east to west, is a national rather than a local undertaking, the responsibility for which may properly be assumed by the Government.

The views expressed by Sir Henry Maybury in a recent speech on the importance to the nation of encouraging the development of the Highlands as a field of rest and recreation, have been very heartily welcomed by the Cairngorm Club. The Glen Feshie road would greatly assist such an aim, and therefore the Cairngorm Club earnestly hopes that the Ministry of Transport will, at an early date, include this project in its programme of Government road construction.

We are, Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

(Signed) W. GARDEN, *President.*
JOHN A. NICOL, *Secretary.*

The following reply has been received from Sir Henry Maybury:—

8th April, 1925.

Dear Sir,

I have your letter of the 31st ultimo, and am directed by the Minister to acknowledge receipt of the one you addressed to him upon the same subject on the same date.

It will be within your recollection that the Road Board and subsequently the Ministry of Transport, have sympathetically considered the proposal which has been made from time to time by your Club for the construction of the Glen Feshie Road.

Some time ago the Minister appointed a competent engineer to make a survey of the locus in quo, and to submit plans, sections, and an estimate of the probable cost. With the information so obtained before him, the statutory highway authority was approached, but declined to consider the question of the maintenance of the road even though the cost of its construction were met from Government sources.

With the limited funds at his disposal Colonel Ashley cannot enter upon schemes which have not the approval of the statutory highway authorities, and, therefore, I am directed to suggest that you should bring what pressure you can to bear upon your District Committee with a view to a request being made by that body to the Minister for the road to be constructed.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) HENRY P. MAYBURY.

William Garden, Esq.,
President of the Cairngorm Club,
91 Union Street,
Aberdeen.