

4/1/36
CARSPHAIRN HONOUR

Presentation to
Mr S. Wilson

On Thursday evening a lantern lecture on the Isle of Skye was given in the Lagwyne Hall by Mr Penman, Dalry. Delightful views portraying the rugged grandeur of this most charming Isle were shown and were most lucidly explained by Mr Penman, the entertainment being greatly enjoyed.

An interesting presentation ceremony took place at an interval in the proceedings when Mr Samuel Wilson was presented with a gold medal and certificate the gifts of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, in recognition of fifty years service as a shepherd at the Shiel under the late Mr William Kennedy, the late Mr Thomas Campbell and under the latter's representatives.

Rev. W.R. Sievewright said that was a unique event in the history of the parish of Carsphairn. He felt honoured in being asked to bear testimony to the sterling qualities and devotion to duty which had always been characteristic of the Wilson family. His acquaintance with the Shiel now extended over almost eleven years. It was unique and interesting to put on record that Mr Wilson was born at the Shiel, schooled from the Shiel, and served that herding for over fifty years with marked skill and ability which had won for him the affection and esteem not only of his employers but also his fellow herds. It was his privilege to know his mother and what a fine woman she was. A son could not but be earnest and devoted, upright and strong who sprang from such a stock. No man could wander from such kindly affection and hope to be successful in life. How she prayed for them that they would be pure and true, that they would be noble men fearing God, faithful to His trust and kindly disposed to all. "From scenes like these old Scotia's grandeur springs." As a shepherd Mr Wilson was without equal at clippings. Few could match him as a man. He could hold his head high and look the world in the face without a tremor in his lips. His employer spoke most highly of him, and assured him that his place at the Shiel would be hard and difficult to fill. There were many things in life which all of them wished for and longed for, but many a time he had looked with envy on Mr Wilson's physique. In his retirement they wished him quietness and peace. They hoped he would have many years yet to enjoy the fruits of his labours and when he looked back on the fifty years which had been given him to serve others and which they commemorated that evening may the memory of their joy and sorrows crown his later years with sweetness and hope and good cheer. They wished him well and asked God's blessing on the years that remained. (Applause).

Mr George C. M'Millan, president of the Carsphairn Show Committee, then presented the medal and certificate to Mr Wilson. He complimented him on his long service at the Shiel and expressed the hope that after his retirement in May next he would have many years of peace and rest.

Mr Wilson in a few well chosen words returned thanks to all.

Mr Sievewright read a telegram from Mr Robert M'Millan, Woodlea, Moniaive, Chairman of the Directors of the Highland and Agricultural Society, stating that he much regretted that he was unable to be present.

On the call of Mr Borthwick Mr Sievewright and Mr M'Millan were accorded a vote of thanks.

At the close of the lecture Mr Penman was warmly thanked for his splendid description on the Isle of Skye, and on the call of Mr Penman, Mr G.C.M'Millan was thanked for his manipulation of the lantern.