

Assynt councillor Mr Iain MacAulay had asked for a report on the possible stockproofing of a new council housing scheme there. During the construction of the houses, sheep had been entering and fouling the sites and he was concerned at the risk of infections being spread via animal excreta, as well as the general nuisance of stray animals wandering through gardens and footpaths.

Mr MacAulay was not present at the housing committee's latest meeting, but chairman Mrs Leila Mackenzie said: "However desirable this proposal would be, I think other representations from crofting villages would have to be taken the same way and it would cost a fortune because of the cost of them we cannot look at them."

50 YEARS AGO (September 18th, 1964)

WHAT was considered to be a Bronze Age burial was turned up by a bulldozer during improvement work on the Helmsdale to Melvich road at a point between Kilphedir and Kilearnan in the Strath of Kildonan. There were two stone slabs, part of a "box" coffin and the remains of a skeleton. The bones were thought, by Mr R. J. Buxton of Smoo Lodge, Durness, a doctor and amateur archaeologist, to be those of an old woman, not more than 5ft 9" tall. She had suffered from arthritis of the spine, said Mr Buxton.

SUTHERLAND County Council office staffs are to be trained in civil defence. This was agreed at Sutherland Civil Defence Committee's meeting last Friday when it was reported that the total strength of civil defence personnel in the county was 315.

There were seven centrally trained and five locally trained instructors. Training had been established in various areas and this was to be extended in the coming weeks.

THE length of Sutherland tartan used at the table at which the Queen sat when she signed the visitors'

book and royal portraits during her recent visit to Dornoch is to be purchased by the town council and used perhaps for a curtain for the council chamber door. This was decided by the council recently when they also agreed to the framing of the autographed portraits of the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh.

THERE should be general satisfaction with the progress of the plans for the opening of the new Dunrobin School for boys in September of next year. The Countess of Sutherland and her husband Mr Charles Janson are providing the castle rent free for this venture as well as a sum of £20,000 as a starting-off gesture. They deserve the greatest possible praise for their initiative in founding this public school and backing their faith with such a substantial material contribution.

75 YEARS AGO (September 21st, 1939)

A SPECIAL meeting of Sutherland county Council took place in the British Legion Club, Golspie, on Friday when a food control committee for the county was appointed and other important business transacted.

At the outset of the meeting, Mr J. Ross, Brora, convener of the county, said he considered it his duty to say a few words regarding the situation in which they now found themselves.

Since the third day of September the country had been at war with Germany in support of Poland. Like many others he had always hoped till the last minute that a way out might be found by arbitration or some other means so as to avoid the horrors of another war.

"But Hitler's mind was made up," said Mr Ross, "and he camouflaged it as he would do. The war's guilt will rest upon his head and on the heads of his confederates for all time." In his final sentence, Mr Ross alluded to the county of Sutherland. He said it

was up to them as a county council to see to it that their brave lads were supported in every way possible until victory was won (applause).

Sutherland in the past always responded to the nation's call of duty. Sutherland, he was sure, would do it again. (Cheers).

He was sure he expressed the wish of every councillor, as well as his own, when he said they all wished those on service their very best invocations. They wished these lads a speedy and scar-free return. (Applause).

A WORK party to make garments for members of His Majesty's Forces has been formed in Golspie under the auspices of the Sutherland branch of the British Red Cross Society. The first meeting took place in the cookery room at Golspie Secondary School yesterday.

INTIMATION has been received that Thom. Mackay, a popular young man in Embo, has made the supreme sacrifice while on active service.

100 YEARS AGO (September 17th, 1914)

SIR - May I appeal through your columns for help for our cavalry horses? I am sure every one just now must be pitying the horses, which are bearing with our soldiers the full brunt of the battle and are experiencing all the terrible sufferings of war. The question arises naturally; Can we do anything to help them?

No civilians are allowed to go to the front, so we cannot help the horses on the battlefield; but there are other sufferings which they are bound to endure on long marches.

Many of the horses that are being commandeered just now are in soft condition and sore backs are bound to follow in greater numbers than the regimental saddler will be able to cope with. Knitted

wither pads, which can be very easily and quickly made, would do much to prevent this trouble.

I venture to appeal to your readers to spare a little of their time to the knitting of these pads, feeling sure that they will be glad to pay this practical tribute to the gallant horses who are doing so much for us.

A pattern pad and full directions will be sent on application to: Mrs Campbell, Tigh-na-Mara, Dornoch, who will forward any pads that are wanted to cavalry regiments where they will be gratefully accepted. Yours, etc., (Miss) D. J. Jackson, Swordale, Evanton, Ross-shire. September 16th, 1914.

THE members of the Dunrobin Rifle Club have risen to the occasion and have done their duty to their county in this crisis. Several members have joined the regular army, one is with the Lovat Scouts and a number are in the territorial force.

A few, who have served in the volunteer force in the days gone by, have been selected by the National Rifle Association to act as musketry instructors to Lord Kitchener's new army. Three of these leave for Bisley on the 28th inst.

IT is reported the Duke of Sutherland's yacht Catania, which has been lent to the Admiralty, is at present being armed with guns and fitted with wireless and will shortly proceed to sea on active service in connection with the fleet and not as a hospital ship as reported.

The Duke has been gazetted temporary lieutenant commander R.N.R., and will be in command of the yacht. It is understood that when the Highland Mounted Brigade goes abroad, the Duke will accompany it on the staff of Lord Lovat the Brigadier.

The Lovat Scouts form part of the brigade.