

A Highland Causerie

THE success that never fails to attend Dornoch Highland Gathering derives from the infectious enthusiasm of the secretary, Mr William Skinner, town clerk of the royal and ancient burgh.

Founded in 1887, the Dornoch Gathering, like most institutions, has had its ups and downs. It languished for a while before Mr Skinner assumed the secretaryship twenty-two years ago, since when it has grown in stature and is now one of the most traditionally picturesque gatherings in the Highlands.

Next Friday, when the Gathering comes round again, with Mr Skinner still at the helm, Dornoch and district will hold high revelry.

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DORNOCH-BORN and bred. William Skinner, after leaving the local academy, had his early years in the town clerk's office interrupted by the first world war, in which he served in France with the 5th Seaforths.

Indeed, he was the youngest Dornoch lad to see active service in that war, and was badly gassed at Arras in 1918, losing the power of speech and sight for three months.

Back to Dornoch and the town clerk's office, Mr Skinner's responsibilities and reputation grew and his native ability proved equal to the increasing burden.

When the town clerkship became vacant in 1941 he was the obvious and unanimous choice.

Registrar and collector of rates for the parish and town of Dornoch. Mr Skinner is also secretary to the library committee and factor for the Torrish estate.

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Highland games, piping, and golf owe much to Mr V. Skinner, town clerk of Dornoch.