

# Viscount Made Freeman of His Mother's Town

"THIS is one of the proudest days of my life," said Viscount Kilmuir of Creich, the Lord Chancellor, when he was made a Freeman of Dornoch yesterday.

The open-air ceremony took place in front of the County Buildings and practically within sight of the house in which Lord Kilmuir's mother was born.

It was a red-letter day for Dornoch. Schoolchildren were given a half-holiday. The burgh's pipe band piped the Lord Chancellor's car from the entrance to the Square to the side of the platform on which the ceremony was held.

The band struck up the march "Dornoch's Welcome to Lord Kilmuir," which was specially composed for the occasion by Pipe-Major Kenneth Macrae. Viscount Kilmuir is the second Lord Chancellor to be made a Freeman of Dornoch. A similar honour was conferred on Viscount Jowitt in 1946. Lord Kilmuir received the Freedom of the burgh in recognition of his services to the State, his present position as Lord Chancellor, his pre-eminence in the administration of the law of the country, the sympathetic interest shown by him in the great social problems of the day, and his family ties with Dornoch and the parish.

## Youngest Burgess

After Mr William C. Wright, town clerk, had administered the Burgess oath, the Lord Chancellor signed the Burgess roll.

Provost the Rev. William MacLeod, who presented the Burgess ticket, extended a welcome to Dornoch's youngest Burgess on behalf of the Town Council and citizens of Dornoch.

Turning to the Lord Chancellor, the Provost said: "Your high office, many distinctions and honourable attainments entitle you to a special place in the esteem and affection of your mother's town."

Returning thanks, Lord Kilmuir said it was difficult to find words adequate to express his gratitude for the great honour that Dornoch had done to him. "It is a joy to me, and it would be, if she were here, a joy to my mother, that this honour is being conferred on me practically within sight of the house in which she was born," he said.

"I am glad to think that not only have I heard continually of Dornoch from her in my earliest recollections, but her father and her brother were residents in the Royal burgh."

Lord Kilmuir said that to him this was a family occasion unsurpassed by any in his life.

## No Rootless Burgh

Looking across the Square to Dornoch Cathedral, the Lord Chancellor said Dornoch was no rootless burgh. Nearly 750 years had passed since the cathedral was first raised by

the saintly Bishop Gilbert on that site.

Proposing the toast of "The Youngest Burgess" at a luncheon which followed, Provost MacLeod said that Lord Kilmuir had honour and eminence that commanded profound respect and high regard in every part of their land. He was to-day among his own people and in the community in which his forebears played a worthy part. It was an honour to Dornoch to have such a distinguished Freeman as Lord Kilmuir.

"We are proud of his achievements and we believe that his outstanding career will be an inspiration to others, whose roots are in the North," he continued.

"Is it not somewhat striking that these northern parts, commonly called the Crofting Counties, should provide for the Mother of Parliaments at Westminster men to preside over the House of Commons and in the House of Lords? Westminster should take great care of the Crofting Counties."

## 30 Years Wed

In reply, Lord Kilmuir said that he had felt that day "a great sense of coming home."

He added: "I am very sorry my wife was unable to be with us, for this is the thirtieth anniversary of our wedding day."

But she had visited and fallen in love with Dornoch before, and she was with them in spirit.

Referring to the great Scottish

traditions, he said that just after the war Mr Vyshinsky had dined with him one St Andrew's Day in Germany, and by chance the Scots Guards, with which Lord Kilmuir had served, were providing the ceremonial guard.

"I got a Scots Guard piper to pipe in the haggis," he said, "and our ceremony, our music, our feeling, had an extraordinary effect on Mr Vyshinsky. I am creditably told that our national music was the talk of Moscow in the most exalted sense."

## Fresh Lustre

In reply to the toast of "The Guests," proposed by Dean of Guild W. Grant, Sheriff-Principal Francis C. Watt said there was, and, he believed, there always would be, something about Scotland, and particularly the North, which raised men of courage, character and ability, whose spirit of high adventure sent them south to seek their fortunes, and, by the realisation of their ambition, to shed fresh lustre on the pages of their country's history.

To-day they met to pay tribute to a distinguished descendant of the North. Every boy who thought about this wonderful career should be stimulated and inspired by the knowledge that there were yet great rewards for stout and courageous hearts.

The toast of "The Royal Burgh of Dornoch" was proposed by Mr G. J. Grant, Golsnie, convener of Sutherland. Baillie D. Mackenzie replied.