

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Aimhreit an t-Sròim (1)

A special programme, in the form of a “letter”, designed for Gaelic learners who already have some knowledge of the language. A short vocabulary and comments on points of grammar and figures of speech are included with the text. If you have comments, Ruairidh can be contacted at rodny.macleon@bbc.co.uk. This is Litir 743. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 439 corresponds to Litir 743.

Bha mi ag innse dhuibh mun SS Ferret a bha uaireigin a’ frithealadh nan eilean à Port an t-Sròim ann an Ros an Iar. Bha am Ferret ann an Astràilia nuair a bha tachartas aig an t-Sròim a chuir am baile beag sìtheil sin air aire muinntir Bhreatainn. Airson greis, cha robh an t-àite buileach cho sìtheil. Tha mi airson innse dhuibh mu Aimhreit an t-Sròim ann an ochd ceud deug, ochdad ’s a trì (1883).

Bhiodh iasg gu leòr a’ tighinn bho iasgairean an taobh an iar do na trànaichean anns an t-Sròim. Bhiodh sin a’ tachairt a h-uile latha san t-seachdain, eadhon air an t-Sàbaid. Rinn muinntir na h-Eaglaise Saoire gu h-ionadail gu math soilleir nach robh iad toilichte mun chùis.

Chaidh aontachadh gum biodh na bàtaichean-smùide a’ ruigsinn an t-Sròim tràth gu leòr Disathairne ’s gum biodh a h-uile rud air bòrd nan trànaichean ro mheadhan-oidhche. Gu mì-fhortanach, air sàillibh droch shìde is ghnòthaichean eile, cha robh sin a’ tachairt fad na h-ùine.

Thàinig ghnòthaichean gu ceann air Disathairne an dàrna latha dhen Ògmhios. Mu mheadhan-oidhche bha bàta aig a’ chidhe agus bha na maraichean is luchd-obrach na rèile a’ feuchainn ris an stuth a thoirt aiste. Ach bha daoine a’ cur stad orra. Bha maidean aig feadhainn dhen luchd-iomairt.

Chaidh an crann a bha a’ togail nam bogsaichean a bhriseadh. Ach bhathar fhathast a’ falamhachadh a’ bhàta. Bha tòrr bhogsaichean ann, agus iad làn sgadan. Aig uair sa mhadainn, thàinig dàrna bàta a-steach, làn èisg. Bha còrr is ceud neach-iomairt ann a-nise.

Dh’fheuch an luchd-obrach ri mìneachadh do mhuinntir na h-Eaglaise gun robh an carago luachmhor agus gun robh e mar dhleastanas orra a bhith a’ falamhachadh nam bàtaichean. Ach thuir an luchd-iomairt gun robhar a’ briseadh lagh Dhè. Ghèill an luchd-obrach agus sguir an obair.

Bha manaidsear an stèisein air fios a chur a dh’Inbhir Nis mun t-suidheachadh. Aig aon uair deug sa mhadainn, air an t-Sàbaid, thàinig **seachdnar phoileas** air tràna a bh’ air a chur air dòigh dhaibh gu sònraichte. Nam measg bha an t-Àrd-chonstabal airson Siorrachd Rois, Dòmhnall Rothach. Cha do chòrd an gnothach ùr seo ris an luchd-iomairt idir. Bha timcheall air ceud gu leth aca air a’ chidhe agus dhiùlt iad falbh.

Ged nach robh an sguad poilis uabhasach mòr, thug Dòmhnall Rothach òrdugh dhaibh leum a-staigh am measg an luchd-iomairt airson an iomain far a’ chidhe. Dh’fheuch iad sin sia tursan. Dh’fhuiling an dà thaobh buillean cruaidh. Bha

feadhainn air an goirteachadh. Ach, a dh'aindeoin sin, cha robh taobh seach taobh deònach gèilleadh.

Bha ministear aig an Eaglais Shaoir, a bhuineadh do Na Hearadh, a' fuireach anns an Taigh-òsta ann am Port an t-Sròim. Leis gun robh Gàidhlig aige, thabhann e a thaic do na poilis, **feuch an gnothach a rèiteach** gun tuilleadh aimhreit.

Chaidh e a-mach a bhruidhinn ris an luchd-iomairt agus dh'iarr e orra leigeil le luchd-obrach na rèile tilleadh don obair aca. An robh e soirbheachail? Innsidh mi dhuibh anns an ath Litir.

* * * * *

Faclan na Litreach: Port an t-Sròim: *Stromeferry*; Aimhreit an t-Sròim: *The Stromeferry Riot*; gu h-ionadail: *locally*; chaidh aontachadh: *it was agreed*; bàtaichean-smùide: *steamboats*; sgadan: *herring*; sgudad: *squad, group*.

Abairtean na Litreach: a chuir am baile beag sìtheil sin air aire muinntir Bhreatainn: *that brought that peaceful village to the attention of the people of Britain*; cha robh an t-àite buileach cho sìtheil: *the place wasn't quite so peaceful*; eadhon air an t-Sàbaid: *even on the Sabbath*; muinntir na h-Eaglaise Saoire: *the people of the Free Church*; air bòrd nan trànaichean ro mheadhan-oidhche: *on board the trains before midnight*; air sàillibh droch shìde is ghnòthaichean eile: *because of bad weather and other matters*; bha na maraichean is luchd-obrach na rèile a' feuchainn ris an stuth a thoirt aiste: *the crewmen and the railway workers were attempting to get the stuff off her*; bha maidean aig feadhainn dhen luchd-iomairt: *some of the protesters had sticks*; chaidh an crann a bha a' togail nam bogsaidhean a bhriseadh: *the crane that was lifting the boxes was broken*; bhathar fhathast a' falamhachadh a' bhàta: *the boat was still being emptied*; gun robh an carago luachmhor: *that the cargo was valuable*; gun robh e mar dhleastanas orra: *that it was their duty*; a' briseadh lagh Dhè: *breaking God's law*; ghèill an luchd-obrach agus sguir an obair: *the workers gave way and the work stopped*; a bh' air a chur air dòigh dhaibh gu sònraichte: *that was put on for them specially*; dhiùlt iad falbh: *they refused to leave*; airson an iomain far a' chidhe: *to drive them off the quay [but not into the water!]*; dh'fhuiling an dà thaobh builean cruaidh: *both sides suffered severe blows*; a dh'aindeoin sin, cha robh taobh seach taobh deònach gèilleadh: *despite that, neither side was willing to yield*; leigeil le luchd-obrach na rèile tilleadh don obair aca: *allow the railway workers to return to their work*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: thàinig seachdnar phoileas air tràna: *seven police officers came on the train*. Seachdnar means 'seven people' and is one of the numerical nouns (following on dithis, trìuir, ceathrar etc). It commands a noun in the genitive plural eg seachdnar mhac, seachdnar chluicheadairean, seachdnar bhoireannach. Phoileas is the (indefinite) genitive plural form of poileas, which slenderises to form its nominative plural poilis.

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: thabhann e a thaic do na poilis, **feuch an gnothach a rèiteach**: *he offered his assistance to the police, in an attempt to sort out the matter*.

Tha "Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh" air a maoinachadh le MG ALBA