

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Tormod an t-Seòladair (5)

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 755. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 451 corresponds to Litir 755.

Ma bhios sibh ag èisteachd ri prògraman naidheachd Radio nan Gàidheal, bidh fios agaibh gur e fear le Gàidhlig a tha na Àrd-rùnaire air Caidreachas nam Poileas an Alba. Tha Calum Steele, a bhuineas do dh’Uibhist a Deas, a’ leantainn cas-cheum eileanach eile le Gàidhlig a chuir an Caidreachas air chois. B’ esan ar caraid Tormod MacIlleMhoire, Tormod an t-Seòladair, à Siabost ann an Leòdhas.

Tha mi air a bhith ag innse dhuibh mu Thormod agus saoghal nàdair. Ach bha e ainmeil cuideachd ann an seirbheis a cho-chreutairean a bha ag obair mar phoilis. Anns an fhèin-eachdraidh aige *My Story*, tha e ag aithris gun robh àrd-urrachan na seirbheis gu math mì-thoilichte gun robh poilis ann an aonadh. Bha sin **gu dubh an aghaidh** nan riaghailtean. Ach bha Tormod dhen bheachd gun robh e riatanach gum biodh aonadh aca, oir bha am pàigheadh cho truagh agus an uairean obrach cho fada.

Eadar naoi ceud deug ’s trì-deug (1913) agus naoi ceud deug ’s ochd-deug (1918), bha an t-aonadh ag obair ann an dìomhaireachd. Bha Tormod dhen bheachd gun robh an t-àm ann a thoirt don fhollais.

Anns a’ Ghearran naoi ceud deug ’s naoi-deug (1919) chaidh an t-Àrd-chonstabal don Òban airson bruidhinn ris na h-oifigearan an sin, far an robh Tormod na shàirdseant. An oidhche roimhe, bha coinneamh dhiomhair eadar Tormod ’s na poilis eile san aonadh. Dh’aontaich iad gu h-aona-ghuthach aideachadh **gun robh iad nam buill**. Bhiodh iad a’ diùltadh am ballrachd a leigeil seachad.

Chaidh Tormod a ghairm a-steach na aonar don Àrd-chonstabal. Thuirt an t-Àrd-chonstabal ris gu feumadh e an t-aonadh fhàgail no an t-seirbheis fhàgail. Bhiodh còig mionaidean aige, na sheasamh gu dìreach, airson a cho-dhùnadh a dhèanamh. Thuirt Tormod gum fàgadh e an t-seirbheis. Cha do sheas ach dithis de na h-oifigearan eile ri a ghualainn, ge-tà.

Ach cha b’ e sin deireadh a’ ghnòthaich. Bha muinntir an Òbain cho mì-thoilichte ’s gun do rinn iad coiteachadh mòr. Sgrìobh iad chun a’ Phrìomhaire, Lloyd George. Bha esan air dearbhadh a’ bhliadhna roimhe ann an Sasainn gun robh e tuigseach mu shuidheachadh nam poileas. An ceann seachdain, fhuair Tormod agus a dhithis chompanach an dreuchdan air ais.

Bha stailc aig na poilis ann an naoi ceud deug is naoi-deug (1919) agus thuig an riaghaltas gu feumadh iad rudeigin a dhèanamh. Chuir iad achdan tron Phàrlamaid. Chruthaich iad Caidreachas nam Poileas an Alba agus Caidreachas fa leth ann an Sasainn ’s a’ Chuimrigh.

Cha robh àrd-urrachan nam poileas toilichte le Tormod, ge-tà. Chuir iad a-mach às an Òban e agus dh'fheuch iad ri toirt air a dhreuchd a leigeil seachad tràth air adhbharan slàinte. Nuair a leig e dheth a dhreuchd, le thoil fhèin, bha aige fhèin 's aig a bhean 's an ceathrar cloinne ris an taigh-poilis aca fhàgail taobh a-staigh seachdain.

Thuir Tormod, 'Tha an duine a reiceas a phrionnsabalan airson àrdachadh tuarastail ... aig an aon ìre ri beathaichean an achaidh.' Bha a phrionnsabalan aige agus chùm e riutha gu daingeann. Chaochail Tormod ann an Ceann Loch Chille Chiarain ann an naoi ceud deug, ceathrad 's a naoi (1949). 'Athair Caidreachas nam Poileas'. 'Rìgh nan Nathraichean'. Abair beatha a bh' aige.

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Faclan na Litreach: Tormod MacIlleMhoire: *Norman Morrison*; fèin-eachdraidh: *autobiography*; Àrd-chonstabal: *Chief Constable*; coiteachadh: *lobbying*; stailc: *strike*; Ceann Loch Chille Chiarain: *Campbeltown*.

Abairtean na Litreach: tha na Àrd-rùnaire air Caidreachas nam Poileas an Alba: *who is the General Secretary of the Scottish Police Federation*; a bhuineas do dh'Uibhist a Deas: *who belongs to South Uist*; a' leantainn cas-cheum eileanach eile le Gàidhlig: *following the footsteps of another Gaelic-speaking islander*; a chuir an Caidreachas air chois: *who established the Federation*; gun robh àrd-urrachan na seirbheis gu math mì-thoilichte: *that the service's leaders were very unhappy*; gun robh e riatanach gum biodh aonadh aca: *that it was necessary for them to have a union*; bha am pàigheadh cho truagh agus an uairean obrach cho fada: *their pay was so poor and their working hours so long*; ag obair ann an dìomhaireachd: *working in secrecy*; gun robh an t-àm ann a thoirt don fhollais: *that it was time to bring it into the open*; bhiodh iad a' diùltadh am ballrachd a leigeil seachad: *they would refuse to give up their membership*; chaidh X a ghairm a-steach na aonar: *X was called in on his own*; gu feumadh e an t-aonadh fhàgail no an t-seirbheis fhàgail: *that he would have to leave the union or the service*; cha do sheas ach dithis de na h-oifigearan eile ri a ghualainn: *only two of the other officers stood with him*; gun robh e tuigseach mu shuidheachadh nam poileas: *that he understood the police officers' situation*; dh'fheuch iad ri toirt air a dhreuchd a leigeil seachad tràth air adhbharan slàinte: *they tried to get him to retire on health grounds*; le thoil fhèin: *of his own volition*; aig an aon ìre ri beathaichean an achaidh: *at the same level as the beasts of the field*; chùm e riutha gu daingeann: *he kept to them strictly*; abair beatha a bh' aige: *what a life he had*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: Dh'aontaich iad gu h-aona-ghuthach aideachadh **gun robh iad nam buill**: *they unanimously agreed to admit that they were members*. Nam buill means literally 'in their members'; we use this dative formation quite frequently in this type of construction (and not that it includes the possessive) eg tha mi nam ball 'I'm a member', a bheil thu nad bhall? 'are you (sing) a member?', an robh sibh nur buill 'were you (pl) members?', bha sinn nar buill 'we were members'.

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: gu dubh an aghaidh nan riaghailtean: *completely against the rules*.

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