

Release of the remaining Herbusta prisoners

This morning, Alexander McMillan, Donald Beaton and John McDonald, the rest of the Herbusta crofters who were sentenced to two months imprisonment at the High Court of Justiciary for mobbing and rioting, were liberated, their period of durance having expired. The men were asked yesterday by the prison officials to leave the town this morning early and had passes given them to take them north by the 5 o'clock train. They refused to go however without seeing their friends and accordingly they were not liberated till 8 o'clock this morning, the hour at which it is usual to let the prisoners free.

A crowd of about 200 persons were waiting at the prison gates and the scene of a month ago when the other batch was liberated was re-enacted. A couple of pipers headed the procession which was formed and to the tune of "Highland Laddie" and "Glendaruel" the men marched by the North Bridge to Buchanan's Temperance Hotel. Here the crofters were entertained to breakfast over which Mr Dugald Cowan presided. Mr Dugald spoke of the bad laws under which the men were imprisoned and said the sentence was an extraordinary one to pass on men who really did nothing at all.

Mr Smith of the Trades Council followed and presented a sum of money to each of the men. McMillan replied in Gaelic and so did McDonald the latter saying that though they had been in prison, Colonel Fraser of Kilmuir had had a worse prison in Skye through the treatment he had received at the hands of the agitators.

Mr G Sutherland spoke of the advantages of organisation and Mr McLeod and Mr John McDonald dealt with the crofter's grievances. Mr C. J. Mackay, secretary of the Sutherland Association advocated Home Rule. The men who leave for the West tomorrow say that they were well treated in prison and express thanks for the way in which their wives and families have been looked after by friends in Edinburgh and Glasgow.