

The Minister's speech at
Opening of Sloy Power Station
Wed 18th Oct 1945

Your Majesty, My Lords,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Thirteen centuries in time have rolled
since hereabouts the Dalriadic Scots founded
their Kingdom. Nearby too was the
boundary of Pictland, and a few miles down
the loch was Dunbritton, the capital of
the Britons of Strathclyde.

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Beneath the shadow of Ben Lomond
three ancient Kingdoms met and struggled for
survival.

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And now to-day a united Scotland
faces with courage and optimism another
struggle - this time an economic one - to
harness part of the abundant water resources

are employed as here in the Highlands of
Sir Edward Macdonald, the eminent hydro-
of the Highlands so that from them may pour
and multiply the amenities of life and the
productive forces of our land.

7" The present consumpt of electricity
in Scotland, and from all sources - coal,
diesel oil, and water power, is in the
neighbourhood of

4,000,000,000 units

7" We propose in the next five or six years,
from water sources in the Highlands alone,
to step up that figure by ~~4,000,000,000~~
another

2,000,000,000 units

And when our 102 presently considered
projects

are completed we have the estimate of
Sir Edward MacColl, the eminent hydro-
engineer, who is Deputy Chairman of our
Board, and in whose brain was born this
Sloy and other Schemes, that the
addition to output might well be

10,000,000,000 units

or $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the present consumpt in
all Scotland.

Our construction costs,
although steeply increased in common with
all other costs during the past 5 years,
still maintain their lower ratio with
coal station costs - some $15\frac{1}{2}\%$ lower -
and as fast as skilled labour and equipment
are available we are distributing supplies
to the rural areas in the Highlands and
Islands.

" We are linking up 20,000 new householders or approximately 70,000 people per annum in our area, and playing, we trust, a major part in maintaining rural population and in stemming its drift south.

" Here at Loch Lomond Side, in the most besung area in the world, our engineers, contractors, and workmen, have performed marvellous feats of skill and endurance. Great tunnelling and climatic difficulties have been overcome - last month over 26 inches of rain fell here. Greater than a whole year's rainfall in London.

" A Greek engineer, five centuries B.C., has lived in history because he built a tunnel 1,400 yards long through a hill of limestone, and because his tunnel cut from both ends was only a yard out in his jointure measurements.

But here at Loch Sloy our two tunnels met with less than a quarter of an inch out to the engineers' calculations.

To-day we have here at Sloy almost the completion of 130,000 kilowatts available for peak load operation -- our first large scheme in itself able to meet half of Glasgow's kilowatt demand -- and being linked up with the grid over there at Windyhills near Kilpatrick, where, as some historians aver, Saint Patrick was born.

And now this afternoon to assist a United Scotland in this mighty enterprise for economic survival has come Her Majesty the Queen. It is not a mere courtesy of speech, but a great and unassailable truth that everywhere from the Orkneys to the Cheviots there is a feeling of

gratitude and uplift that the best regarded
Lady in all Scotland should have consented
to perform this opening ceremony.

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In the name of hundreds of
thousands of Scots folk of every caste and
rank in the land we would now invite Her
Majesty the Queen to release this great
cascade of power and declare the Loch
Sloy Scheme formally in operation. "

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