

75 YEARS AGO
(September 5, 1935)

The waters of Free Presbyterianism in the Highlands of Scotland are swollen and are beating against their banks with renewed vigour, because Provost John Murray, Dornoch, a man of prodigious energy and iron will, is not to return to Evelix Church, until his sentence of six months from the rights and privileges of the church has been annulled. The suspension was passed by Evelix Kirk Session and was later approved by the Northern Presbytery of the Church, because dancing took place at a Christmas party in the Provost's home.

The dispute was intensified on Saturday night as the result of a third and final summons from the Kirk Session calling upon Provost Murray to appear at a Session meeting in Evelix Church on Tuesday, so that his opposition meetings at Birichen Library among other matters, might be brought under the ecclesiastical microscope.

Provost Murray, who replied on Monday, made it clear that he is not to attend any meeting of the Church until the Kirk Session honours its summons by reconsideration of his suspension.

"I have no fear of the result," Provost Murray said when interviewed. "I will fight my adversaries until they have admitted the wrong done my wife, my family and myself. They must cancel the suspension illogically passed upon me before I ever enter the church as a member."

Although the third citation does not disclose the fact, this final summons to the Provost means that, unless he appears before the Kirk Session, he will be deposed from the Church by means of a notice displayed before the congregation, and as the

Kirk Session show no desire to remove the ban, and as Provost Murray is equally determined to fight it, this course is likely to be adopted.

75 YEARS AGO
(September 19, 1935)

Provost Murray's services in Birichen Library are to continue yet awhile. This intimation was made after Sunday night's meeting, which was attended by a congregation of over 100 of the Provost's followers. For the first time since his expulsion from the Free Presbyterian Church, because he refused to meet the Kirk Session of Evelix to discuss his holding of services, Provost Murray alluded to the action of the Kirk Session after Sunday night's service.

He said his name had been erased from the roll of the church. He was unable to say meantime what he was to do. He was the third person to be deposed from the church and he could not now go back again.

The question involved, said the Provost, was one of law. It was not a question of what was right or wrong, but distinctly one concerning the law of the church. He alluded to the two others who had been expelled and said he took up the same attitude as they did. What men arbitrarily thought was not the question at issue. Any church which indicted without law was going to split. No public body or church could go on without law and when men put an arbitrary meaning on laws to suit themselves there was bound to be friction.

The Provost went on to say that he intended to associate himself with some other church but he had not definitely made up his mind what church he was to follow. There was no use being in a hurry, but whatever church he joined he would continue to stand by the 43 principles. If it was the wish of the people present that his services should terminate, he was quite prepared to end them. If not, they could continue for a little time yet, and they could ask God to direct them in the course they were to take.

No solitary voice raised objection to the services being held and the Provost intimated that next Sunday's meeting would be at 7pm. Prior to this allusion, Provost Murray read part of the Gospel as contained in St. John, chapter 12, and spoke of the crisis of life. He impressed upon his hearers that there could be no escape from the judgement of this world.

The three persons deposed from the Free Presbyterian Church, referred to by Provost Murray, are:- Rev. Wm. Matheson (now of Canada); Professor John Murray, U.S.A; and Provost John Murray, Dornoch.