

ROYAL HOLIDAY.

The good people of Unst, most netherly of the Shetland Islands, gave the Queen a pony filly.

When Valkyrie's old enough to leave her mother she'll be sent to the royal stables. The Queen visited as many of the islands as time allowed, receiving a musical welcome at Housay.

There was a charmingly informal atmosphere about the whole of this tour of Her Majesty's northern islands. They conducted her over their remote, tiny homelands, with the dignity of people living close to nature, and conscious that their ancestors toiled there, ashore and afloat, for many centuries.

Kings Cross, London, meanwhile, prepared for a very important young traveller; the royal baby was being taken to Balmoral. So here are the first newreel pictures of Prince Andrew, who's destined to appear in a great many more. No sign of shyness; all the assurance of six months, and in perfectly good hands. The Station Master satisfied himself that His Royal Highness was safely in the train.

Britannia had now come south to the Orkneys, where even the youngest inhabitants had a sense of the big occasion.

As in the Shetlands, the crews of lifeboats were presented. The 90 islands in the County of Orkney have about 26,000 people and Sailors from here are met in every port in the world. The owner of the general store at Stromsay is a member of the lifeboat crew.

The long northern evening was well advanced when the royal party reached Fair Isle, famous for its hand-knitted woollen wear.

This was the simple life indeed, as the Queen and Duke, with Princess Alexandra, went by lorry on the way to the village hall. Fair Island is only about six square miles in area and has not many more than 100 inhabitants, so that the rather primitive transport is understandable, and, in a holiday atmosphere, quite enjoyable.

Knitting was in full swing when the royal visitors arrived. However much fashions change, Fair Isle jumpers are always in demand in some part of the world. It has been said that the patterns originated at the time when ships of the Spanish Armada were wrecked off the Island.

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The tour of the Northern Islands ended with another informal touch, a drive in the local bus to the quayside, with the Duke at the wheel.

It was goodbye to the Islands. From there the royal party returned to Britannia, to sail south to Aberdeen. The Lord Provost of the granite city received them. Already the baby of the family had been taken on board till the Queen and Duke arrived. And now all came ashore. For a few weeks there will be no more royal engagements. The whole nation wishes the Queen and her family a very happy holiday in Balmoral.