

Transactions

OF THE

BANFFSHIRE FIELD CLUB.



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MILITARY ROADS.

An interesting paper was read by Mr Thos. Wallace, Inverness, on Military Roads in the Highlands. He traced the barracks roads of about 1724, and noted that there were no roads in the northern Highlands before General Wade's time, and he gave some indication of the impassable nature of the tracks then in use. He traced at some length the making of the road from Edinburgh to Inverness, noting that the bridge at Torbreck then erected was still standing. He also traced the making of the road from Perth to Fort-George, calling attention to the fact that one of the mile-stones then erected was to be found near Tomintoul on the road over the Lecht. On it

was the inscription that five companies of the 33rd Regiment under the Hon. Lord Charles Hay made the road from there to Spey. Another stone remained at the bridge over the Spey at Grantown with the date 1754. He noted that between 1748 and 1814 there was spent on roads £366,498, besides £34,175 on Wade's roads, and Mr Wallace also noted the existence of the different barracks or forts for the convenience of access to which the military roads were made. Ruthven Castle in Badenoch was the first seat of the Comyns, and it was often visited by Queen Mary. It was burned in 1746, the year in which it was visited by Prince Charlie on his way to Culloden. Ruthven was once a village, and was the birthplace of Ossian Macpherson. Inverlochy Fort was dismantled in 1864. Corgarff and Fort Augustus were also dealt with, and their associations with the Jacobite risings were traced.

Numerous photographs and sketches of Wade's bridges, &c., bearing on the subject were handed round for inspection.