

Seen and Heard in

# Scotland

## Scotland reels from Canadian invasion

Canada on Tour, Saturday 6.15 Radio Scotland

UNTIL VERY recently the name 'Cape Breton Symphony' fiddlers meant very little to the majority of people in Scotland, but in a ten-day period during August this changed

dramatically. Apart from a few Scottish dance-music enthusiasts with Canadian contacts, their records had been unknown over here until around six months ago, when an

enterprising company in north-east Scotland arranged to distribute their discs and tapes on this side of the Atlantic.

In this connection, leader Bobby Brown returned to his native Scotland earlier this year and Robbie Shepherd, presenter of *Take the Floor*, always quick to spot a winner, arranged an interview with him on his programme which generated a lot of interest. Very soon after this visit a promotional tour was arranged and the Cape Breton Symphony together with Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent - a total of nine

musicians - took Scotland by storm in a hectic tour of ten one-night stands from Ayrshire to the Shetlands.

*Take the Floor* microphones were in place in the Town Hall, Elgin, on Saturday 21 August when the visiting musicians arrived after an arduous 12-hour journey from Yell. Despite their obvious fatigue, the players launched into an hour's rehearsal with the sound engineers until Bobby, standing at the rear of the hall, was satisfied that the sound was correct.

It was interesting to listen and watch as he asked each fiddle to play a solo part, then continued to work his way through a complete permutation of the fiddlers in duos and trios until the four, Wilfred Gillis, Sandy MacIntyre, Buddy MacMaster and John Donald Cameron played together and the front line balance was complete.

Then, almost as an afterthought, he brought in Paul Langley (electric bass), Steve Ozorak (second accordion), Kathy Fraser (piano) and Fred Collins (drums). Here again he listened carefully and made adjustments as each additional instrument was added to the original ensemble. Bobby himself then took the stage and when all nine musicians played we heard a sound which was complete in every sense.

It was interesting to learn that only two of the group were born in Scotland - Bobby in

