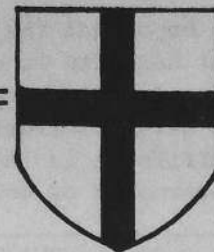


# BRETON NEWS



*A Bulletin issued by*  
**The Breton Information Bureau**

All correspondence to be addressed to LINTON, Fassaroe Lane, Fassaroe, BRAY, Co. Wicklow

No. 27

Dublin

May 15th, 1962

## LAW-PROGRAMME FOR BRITTANY

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A 50-pages supplement to

"La Vie Bretonne", April 1962, gives the full

text of the draft of a Second Plan and Law-Programme for the development of Brittany. (See B. News No.26). For reasons of expediency, however, it concerns only 4 of the 5 Breton departements. It has been prepared so as to fit in the French 4th Plan due to go into operation this year. It has been established in close co-operation with a large number of Breton organisations, and reflects therefore the Breton people's will. Its application would allow our country to go through the difficult period ahead, during which new forms of employment will have to be effected. The aim of the Breton Plan is to bring up Brittany's standard of living and rate of economic growth to the same level as in France.

To stop emigration, 90,000 non-agricultural jobs must be provided before the end of 1965, apart from those already anticipated.

The draft reckons with a redistribution of the Breton population during the next 10 years. The urban population is expected to rise by 40%, whatever is done. If the present trends are left unchecked, the rural population will fall by 14-18%, and increasing burdens will be its lot. If the Plan is fulfilled, it will fall only by 6-9%, while the total population would rise by 2%. Under the headings "Transport", "Agriculture", "Industry", "Handicraftsmen", "Sea-fishing", "Tourism", "Commerce", "Social Equipment", it puts forward the arguments in favour of the various claims, which are then summed up in bold type, in the form of articles and paragraphs, indicating for each measure the amount of investments required, as well as the source of these credits. Special attention is given to the need of research in all branches and to vocational training.

The Chapter "Social Equipment" includes proposals for the "Cultural Equipment", such as the opening of a College of Breton Popular Culture, cultural centres, an academy of Breton arts, a recording studio for radio programmes corresponding to the Breton needs. In particular, it asks for a series of measures in favour of the teaching of the Breton language, in order to remove the complex of inferiority affecting the Breton-speakers in general. "All the sectors of the economy will benefit from the balance and dynamism that will result from a renewed awareness of the Breton personality". Among such measures, we note the opening of a test-school and of 3 model-schools to determine the best methods for teaching Breton, as well as the setting-up of training courses for the teachers and the provision of a special fund for the publication of schoolbooks. On the wireless, a Breton course should be broadcast twice a week.

The application of the Law-Programme should be entrusted in an assembly composed of representatives of the population of the 4 departements, working in co-operation with the CELIB's Commission for Economic Expansion and specialised regional bodies. Within the limits fixed, decisions should be taken at the Breton level without having constantly to refer to Paris.

Commenting on the draft of the 2nd Breton Plan, L'Avenir (3-5-62) regrets that it does not cover all of Brittany.

"We know that CELIB is endeavouring to bring the Nantes area into the Plan. They will be helped by a new Government mistake placing Tours at the head of the administrative region to which Nantes is attached.

We hope that the General Assembly of CELIB to be held at Lorient in June will.... not hesitate to confront Government with the fact of Breton unity.

In this draft, Mr. Philipponneau too often refers to the government departments. Let us have no illusions about their good will. The only plan which has a chance of fulfilment is the one we shall put into operation ourselves, in co-operation with the government of course" (1)

#### CULTURAL LANDMARKS

The "Beilhadegou" are coming to a close for this year. So are the numerous "Festou-Noz" of Central Brittany. The Leon area, around Brest, had its first Beilhadeg recently at Plouenan, where a camp for Breton-speaking children was open from the 13th to the 29th of April.

A festival will be held at Bourbriag near Gwengamp on May 27th, with the participation of 300 pipers, singers and dancers. If in Paris, go and see the festival of Poissy on the 2-3/6/'62 (Gouel ar Vretoned).

A camp to introduce children of 9-15 years to Breton culture will be open at Elliant (E. of Kemper) from July 16th to 29th.

Another camp at Elliant will be open from August 6th to 15th for Breton-speaking children of the same age.

The Interceltic Camp for Breton Speakers will be open at St-Nikolaz ar Pelem, 1-15 August: lectures in the morning, excursions in the afternoon, ceilis (parties) in the evening. This is the 15th Interceltic camp. Young people under fifteen not accepted unless accompanied by their parents. Write to Mme de Bellaing, 28 Rue des 3 Freres Le Goff, St-Brieuc, Cotes-du-Nord.

The Celtic Congress will be held at Landreger (Treguier) from Aug. 18th to Aug. 22nd.

BRETON CULTURAL CENTRES exist now in St-Brieg (see BN 26), Brest (20 rue Algesiras: dancing and singing on Tuesdays 8.0pm, Breton classes on Wednesdays and Thursday evenings), Kemper (lectures every fortnight to 150-200 listeners) Rennes, Paris (Kervreiz).

Other projects are being studied, in order to open such centres in St-Nazaire, Nantes, St-Malo, etc. bring knowledge of the "Breton lore" to the educated people. (Breiz, May, Al Liamm, No. 91).

DO THEY WANT THEIR LANGUAGE TAUGHT IN SCHOOLS? "When I opened a Breton class in the college in which I teach, I did not know what response my pupils would give to my appeal. But I was amazed by the burst of joy which shook the school from top to bottom. Between 60 and 70% of them enlisted immediately and I shall long remember the first lesson which I gave to about 90 listeners. They were everywhere, on the floor, on the window sills..."

Of course since Breton classes meant extra work for them, while their comrades were out playing, their number decreased with time and only those who had made a good start, about 40, continued.

The proof was given however that the young Bretons, even the twist fans among them, are quite enthusiastic about their country and their language. National and international at the same time, that is a healthy and necessary attitude nowadays."

(from an account by E. Evenou, in Sturier-Yaouankiz, No. 21)

Which are the Herrenvölker? 49 languages are spoken in Europe. 45 of them are taught effectively in schools. Four are not: Breton, Catalan, Occitan and Basque.

The French Supreme Council of Education has again expressed itself against the admission of these languages in the Leaving Certificate examinations. (Breiz, April).

The Catalans and Basques on the other side of the Pyrenees are subject to a similar tyranny.

EUROPEAN FEDERATION In the public lectures which were banned recently by the Rennes and Nantes prefects, Y. Fouere rejected the concept of a centralised European superstate. He supported the proposal for a federation of cells of roughly equal size and power (3-5 million people) such as recommended by the Conference for Regional Economies at Brussels last December. (W. Hallstein and R. Marjolin have recognised the need to build Europe according to the principle of Unity in Diversity, and to safeguard the ethnical entities against mass transfers for the sake of material gains only. The federal conception which has proved successful in Switzerland, Germany and Italy, and is about to be applied in Belgium, should be extended. It is far more likely to lead to peace and stability than an artificial state, created, like France, by oppressing the smaller nations composing it. (Ref. L'Avenir 3/5/62).