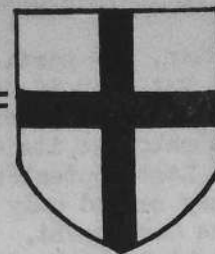


BRETON NEWS



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INTER-CELTIC CONGRESS IN BRITTANY

100 delegates from Ireland, Scotland, the Isle of Man, Wales and Cornwall are expected to take part in the Celtic Congress at Landreger, North-West of St-Brieg, from the 18th to the 22nd of August. The Congress is organised by the Breton branch of the Celtic Association, with Per Denez, Erwanz Galbrun and Vefa de Bellang at its head. There will be interpreters to translate from Breton to Irish and Welsh directly, or to English, thus making it possible to avoid the use of French.

There will be working sessions and entertainments (excursions, artistic performances, etc.)

In the programme, we have noted:

- Saturday 18-8-'62 9 p.m.: a party between friends.
- Sunday 19: religious services, reception, excursion around Landreger, musical and choral performances. (compositions by J. Penven will be presented for the first time).
- Monday 20: 9.30 - 12: working session -- the Celtic languages in education and publication. Speeches by delegates from all 6 Celtic countries, discussion.
2.30- 5 p.m.: literature in the Celtic languages.
5-7: tour of Landreger.
9 p.m.: presentation of films made in the Celtic Countries.
- Tuesday 21 9.30 - 12 the Celtic languages in social life.
2.30 -5: movements working for the languages.
5-7 p.m.: General Assembly (for the members only)
9 p.m. Breton performance: music, dances, singing.
- Wednesday 22 9.30-12 the Celtic countries and the Common Market (Prof. Liam O Buachalla, U.C. Galway, will speak of Ireland's position).
2.30-5 p.m.: proposals for the extension of Inter-Celtic cooperation.
5-7: excursion.
9 : performances by overseas Celts, music dances, singing. Three Scottish singers who were awarded the Mod golden medal, Sean Og O Tuama the well-known Irish radio personality, a dancer from Belfast, are among the performers announced. There will be a display of uilleann pipe music by Irish players.

Productions will be recorded for Radio Eireann. (Ref. L'Avenir, 15-7).

FRENCH GOVERNMENT PROMISES In the discussion of the IV. French Plan for modernisation and equipment, an amendment was presented by the Breton deputies relative to the adoption of a special law for Brittany. To make it more acceptable to the government, the measures it proposed concerned other under-developed areas as well.

This parliamentary intervention came 4 days after the unanimous adoption by 1200 delegates to the CELIB General Assembly at Lorient (see B.N. No. 28-29) and 2 days after the artichoke riot at Kastell-Pol.

Prompted by these events, the Minister for Finance and Economy agreed to incorporate the essential points of the Breton Plan into the French IV. Plan.

A few days before, V. Le Gorgeu, former mayor of Brest, Third Republic politician and old enemy of the Breton nationalists warned in "Le Monde" that a Breton Law-Programme would favour "autonomism". Its principle had been refused by the French government for the past 12 months. Now it has ^{been} conceded up to a point; the law will be for the underdeveloped areas as a whole. No special case is thus recognised for Brittany.

The law will not be introduced till 1963, by which time the government will have consulted the chiefs of administration as well as the committees for Economic Expansion in the areas concerned. For reasons pertaining to the budget, its application could hardly begin before January 1964.

By extending it to other areas than Brittany, it is hard to see how the cultural provisions of the Breton Plan can be taken into account.

In order to obtain satisfaction for the Breton demands, the Secretary of CELIB calls for a sustained effort, first of all by making them well-known to the population, and by pressing for immediate measures for the Breton economy. (Ref. Nouvelles de Bretagne, 22-7-'62)

TIME TO BE STUBBORN. "With the formulation of the Breton plan, public opinion has been mobilised in our country, an inventory of its needs has been taken, our particular case in France and in Europe has been stated.

But even if the government were disposed to adopt the plan, the history of the 1951 law (in favour of Breton teaching) shows that the French administration can be expected to sabotage its execution: they cannot admit that Brittany has a special case.

Last September promises were made too under the impact of the Pontivi "States-General". They served only to bury the Vigilance Committee set up at Pontivi to keep pressure on the Government. The Breton Plan will be carried out when we shall have conquered the right to look after its execution ourselves, and when we shall be in a position to get European aid if France refuses hers. Do not wait for gifts: you shall have only what you take". (summed up from an article by Y. Fouere in L'Avenir, 15-7-'62)

FROM a resolution adopted by the 1200 CELIB delegates at Lorient: "Considering that Breton is an essential element of the Breton personality, and convinced that its teaching will have the most beneficial repercussions from the cultural and social points of view on the Breton youth, the General Assembly asks its Executive Committee and its Parliamentary Commission to intervene most firmly in Paris in order to bring the French government to revoke its hostile attitude towards the language".

Commenting on the work of CELIB, Ar Bed Keltiek (Aug. 1962) points out that it is all done in French, that Breton is mentioned surely as a thing to protect alongside with other "cultural values" (richesses) but that was all. Was that really serious?

A.B.K. says definitely NO.

BEILHADÉGOU SPREADING WESTWARDS. From next autumn onwards, the organisation of stage productions known as "Beilhadegou" (evening companies)

which use exclusively the Breton language will be extended from Treger (Gwengamp-Lanuaon area) to Leon (Around Brest). These performances are considered as the best way to win back respect from many brainwashed people for their own language. The organisers of the Festou-Noz (traditional dances) in Breton Cornwall are urged in L'Avenir (15-7-) to devote some of their evening performances to displays using the Breton language instead of dancing all the time.

AL LIAMM May-June 1962, announces the publication of four books in the near future an outline of the Breton literature before the XIX century, a novel, a collection of popular tales, a book for children.

PIGS IN THE PREFECTURE Farmers who had been unable to sell their young pigs at an acceptable price at the Kemper fair (July 2) brought them in sacks into town and threw a number of them into the Government building (Prefecture) where they caused some confusion. Others were released in the streets among the crowds who had gathered to watch the passage of the Tour de France.

The demonstration aimed at drawing public attention to a crisis in the pig trade. Farmers declared their intention to organise the market themselves. (Ouest-France).

A number of French flags were torn or pulled down during the festival of Cornwall at Kemper (23-24/7/62.) (Ouest-France).

FIGHTING FOR THEIR LIVELIHOOD In the campaign to prevent non-farmers from setting up enterprises which aim at or result in depriving small-holders of their livelihood, thus reducing them to the condition of proletarians, two pig farms belonging to industrialists were raided towards the end of June in the Rennes area. Also near Rennes an absentee landlord owning 80ha was compelled to let 7ha to a small farmer.

The farmers unions of Brittany have sided with the demonstrators, stating that it is presently the only way to prevent the elimination of small properties by a group of anonymous societies which appear to be run in fact by the same people. There is a growing realisation among the farmers that the best defence resides in the formation of cooperatives. They demand that overpopulated areas like Brittany should be allowed to maintain most of the small holdings by developing such "industries" as pig and hen rearing which do not need so much space and provide the farmers with an appreciable additional earning. (Ref. Ouest-France, 2-7-'62, Le Paysan Breton).

AID FOR THE HUNGRY MILLIONS. An association which may be called "Breton-International Aid" is about to be formed. IT IS IN THE NAME OF BRITANNY that its members intend to contribute to the struggle against hunger and destitution in the world. "The official aid given by the European governments - and particularly the French government- to the underdeveloped countries is too often squandered: who knows for instance how much the receptions and the visits of the ministers and ambassadors of the so-called Community are costing?"

Members of the organisation KENDALC'H are asked to help in collecting funds and parcels, which are to be addressed to Mr. Roparz OMNES 15, rue Elie-Freron, Kemper (finistere).

NATO Base at Bodilis, near Brest. About 20 farmers were notified that the decision to build a military base at Bodilis was taken and would be irreversible. They will be expropriated, and cannot expect to find much employment at the base. They were offered new farms elsewhere, but found them unsatisfactory. They can join the proletarian masses.

BRETON CLASSES are held in Brest (2 a week) Rennes (5), St-Brieg (7), Kemper (1), Nantes (1), Gemene/skorv (1), La Guerche (1), Gronvel (1), Paris-Kervreiz (3). There are 4 correspondence courses, the oldest (30 years) by Marc'harid Gourlaouen, 30 rue V. Hugo, Douarnenez, Brittany.