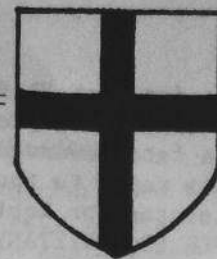


BRETON NEWS



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UNDER FRENCH RULE

Dismantling of Breton Industries continues

Peaceful demonstrations in past years against the threat to close the Henbont foundries in South Brittany, were useless: it has finally been decided to close them in 1967. It is a French government decision. Promises are given for the reconversion of the workers in the Lorient area but most of the 1350 people presently employed in the foundries risk being without a job next year, or having to emigrate.

The factory has been under threat for 18 years. After the 1963 demonstrations, the impression was that the German firm "Giebel" would reanimate one of its sections, but in fact it was a question of giving work to 80 people only. The General Council of Morbihan threatened to resign, but the daily press of Brittany, controlled by the French government, announced with big headlines that Schneider and the Belgian firm Esperance-Longdoz would save the steel mill.

The Committee for the Defense of the foundries failed to call on the Breton organisations to rally in support of whatever action was needed to put pressure on the Government.

THE TANVEZ FACTORY in Gwangamp, Central Brittany, is now threatened in turn. This firm was founded by Bretons in 1856, but in this century it gradually fell under Parisian control. After 1945, it employed some 800 workers. As such it could be considered one of the nuclei for a heavy industry in Brittany. Its activity is divided between a cast iron foundry and a section for mechanical engineering. The foundry is fairly modern, and capable of producing 1500 - 2000 tons of cast iron monthly in full capacity. At present it hardly produces 100 tons. The mechanical section specialises in building equipment for roadwork (bulldozers, etc...)

This year, Tanvez employed only 150 men. Over the years, workers became redundant in such a gradual way as not to cause a sharp reaction at any stage. Control by the French group Gevelot has succeeded in slowing down and practically bringing to a standstill the production of certain items. Commercialisation of other products was given by contract to the French Company Renault, itself nationalised. Sales have amounted to only one third of rentability requirements. Responsibility for the decline of Tanvez rests largely on the French government. (L'Avenir, 12/5/66). According to l'Avenir, 13/10, Tanvez has closed.

CONSEQUENCES OF THE 5th FRENCH PLAN.

The 5th French Plan reckons that in Brittany the number of Agricultural workers, which was 810,00 in 1946, will have to be reduced to 317,000 by 1970.

Very well. It is in line with a general trend. Will then the number of industrial jobs increase correspondingly?

Not in Brittany. They are expected to fall from 162,000 to 147,000.
(Breiz, August 1966)

From GWYNFOR EVANS' first speech "for Wales" in the London Parliament :
"What you are doing in Wales is making a desert and calling it prosperity. I can think of only one European nation which is governed as badly as Wales is governed, and that is the people of Brittany, where the French government is deliberately trying to destroy the nation".
(The Welsh Nation, September)

The document "Reflexions pour 1985", which constitutes a statement of the principles guiding the French Authorities in their long range planning, leaves no doubt about the fate reserved by French rulers to Brittany. Their dispositions are confirmed by this reply to the staff of the Tanvez factory given by the assistant of the French Minister for Equipment Pisani:

"FOR US, BRITTANY IS TO BECOME A COUNTRY FOR HOLIDAY MAKERS".
 Asked by a director whether this would not cause serious reactions, the assistant said: "THAT IS POSSIBLE". He did not seem to care.

It was PISANI who told the Bretons three years ago that they were riding the wrong hobby horse by campaigning for a Law-Programme for the development of their country. Avenir, 15/9/66.

THE SLICE IS TOO THIN. The Rennes CODER (Commission for Regional Economic Development) met in June for 3 days to give its advice on the "Regional Slice" of the 5th French Plan. Some members were prepared to refuse to examine the "slice", knowing that its credit allowance fell very short of the region's needs. However, in order to forestall the government's accusation that they were not fulfilling the role for which the CODERS were instituted, they unanimously advised that employment and housing prospects arising from the plan were insufficient to reduce by a quarter the present rate of emigration, an objective which was set in previous CODER recommendations. They pointed out that "grandiose national operations" are being undertaken in other regions, thus giving the lie to the pretext that there are no credits available for equipment. The low income per capita in Brittany makes it very difficult to raise loans from local bodies, whose resources are already strained to the utmost.

The CODERS must be endowed with other than consultative attributions and become genuine regional institutions if France wants to adapt her structures to the requirements of a modern economy and democracy. If their advice is not heeded, the French government will bear the responsibility for their collapse.

Vie Bretonne, July

E.E.C. would help BRITTANY
 BUT FRANCE IS RESERVED

We mentioned in BRETON NEWS No. 53 the help E.E.C. is giving Italy for the development of the BRINDISI (Puglia) area and the impression which a fact-finding tour organised for European M.P.s. in that region left on the two Breton delegates, Colin and Pleven. The latter are presidents of the General Councils of Finistere and Cotes-du-Nord respectively.

It is the first time that an operation of such magnitude is being carried out in a peripheric under-developed area of the E.E.C. with the help of the European institutions. The preliminary study of the region's possibilities - in order to determine whether a "pole of development" could be created there - was paid for by the Brussels Commission. And half of the credits necessary for the implementation of a complete plan of development was provided by the European Investment Bank. In all, 310 million dollars were lent to Italy for the full development of the area, the modernisation of its agriculture and the creation of heavy and subsidiary industries capable of absorbing equally the male and female labour surplus expected to result from the population drift from land to city areas.

The benefits of this industrialisation effort will extend well beyond the limits of the area. 40 new concerns will give work to 10,000 people by 1970.

Could a similar rescue operation be carried out in Brittany? asks Mr. Colin.

Like Puglia, Brittany is not only under-developed, densely populated and peripheric in relation to the Common Market, but it is also a Maritime area with good natural harbours and great potential openings for trade with Africa and other oversea countries.

The difference is that Italy is willing to borrow 310 million dollars from the European Investment Bank, whereas France reluctantly accepted in all only 71 millions, hardly half of which was allocated to Brittany.

The E.C.C. said Mr. Colin, would help to carry out the preliminary study of Breton industrialisation projects if only the French Government would favour it. He proposed to try and mobilise the regions bordering on Brittany which might be interested. CELIB should prepare the Breton case without specifying the precise location of the "pole of development", then apply to the authorities.

According to Mr. Bernard Legrand, general councillor of Loire-Atlantique, the EEC Commission is prepared to study the case of the "Western areas" of France.

Mr. Legrand wrote to the French Delegate for Regional Action, Mr. Guichard, to try and find out how far his government was prepared to go. He was particularly anxious to know the prospects of the St-Nazaire-Nantes district which seems best to qualify for the role of development pole on the Atlantic.

In his reply, Mr. Guichard did not deny that the EEC had originally proposed to finance a study of the Breton case, nor that the French authorities, which were contacted, had turned down the proposal. It is clear however that it was coolly received, and anyone used to diplomatic language knows that reserve here meant a refusal. Guichard stated positively that a study of the basic structures on the Italian model was possible, but it would be necessary first to determine the specific characters of the region concerned.

"Does this mean that the French Government does not yet know the Breton needs? Have we not acquainted them sufficiently with all our investigations and studies of the past ten years? Have they not heard the appeals sent out from every quarter? Have they forgotten the promises made in 1962 by the highest authorities in the State?

To accept European help is not begging; national sovereignty is not threatened by working with the new Europe for the improvement of our people's living standards."
(Vie Bretonne, July).

THIRTY MEMBERS OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ON STUDY TOUR OF BRITTANY

The members of the Agricultural Commission of The European Parliament were invited to tour Brittany (less Loire-Atlantique) between the 6 and 10th of June. The visit was organised by CELIB and 4 Breton Chambers of Agriculture under the impulsion of Mr. Martray for the purpose of studying the problems of the Breton agriculture. In fact, the visitors were informed of the whole Breton problem by what they heard and saw at meetings and tours of inspection.

On their departure they were handed 3 documents describing a) the general situation in Brittany, with particular stress on emigration and the need for industries; b) Breton Agriculture in 1966; c) industrialisation in Brittany (results so far acquired; prospects, provided European aid is available).

Their tour took them through Rennes, Dinan, Josselin, Lorient, Kemper, Keraez, Montroulez, Brest. They were welcomed in many places by an enthusiastic population, particularly in the depressed area of Menez, SE of St-Brieg, where streamers stretched across village streets carried such inscriptions as:

"We believe in Europe". "Brittany wants to come to life again in a United Europe". At Collinee, a priest said: "Brittany looks confidently forward to the future, because she places her hopes and courage within the dimensions of Europe and of to-morrow's world."

The same ideas were expressed by Mr. Rohou, mayor of Keraez (who since then resigned because of the French decision to dismantle the Keraez-Rosporden Railway).

Mr. Charles, president of the Cotes-du-Nord Chamber of Agriculture suggested a contract whereby Brittany could provide the European market with meat and food products and receive European aid to improve means of production sales and credit facilities.

In Josselin, the President of the Cercle Celtique, introducing folkloric dances, explained that the Bretons were bent on improving their living standards but they also meant to develop their many means of cultural expression. To be good Europeans they must not only preserve but increase the wealth inherited from their ancestors, the principal element of which was the Breton language, and on this basis alone assimilate new social habits.

"If economic development is accompanied by a cultural break, it will have a withering effect".

In Brest, Mr. Martray told his guests: "We want to show the real Brittany to Europe, rid of the worn-out cliches which did us so much harm (... a poor country turned towards the past ...)" - You have seen that Brittany is full of possibilities, but we need aid from the State and Europe. We are, more than many other peoples, attached to our traditions, our Celtic language, our Breton personality. But we are the youngest and most dynamic region in France".

(Vie Bretonne, July -)

EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS UNITE
IN PROTEST AGAINST FRENCH POLICY

On July 8, some 3000 fishermen, shipowners, fishmongers, workers in the canning industry, demonstrated in the streets of Kemper against the French Government's decision to import 8,000 tons of canned sardines and low quality tunny fish. This decision, coming after many other blows to the Breton fishing industry, was taken in the middle of the fishing season when our canning production was showing a surplus. The pretext was the need to stabilise consumer prices in France. Already 68 canning factories along the S.W. coast of Brittany had to close between 1950 and 1966. Apart from the advantage of freezing wages, the French Government will be able to promote the sale of Renault & Dauphine Cars in the countries from which the fish will be imported: Morocco, Portugal, America.

The Kemper demonstrations were characterised by the fact that employers and workers were united in defence of their livelihood. A general strike was observed in all Breton harbours and numerous telegrams of protest were sent from the fishing grounds to the Kemper prefecture. (Avenir)
A mass demonstration, organised by the trade unions of "Region Brittany" will be held in Rennes on October 29. Their motto: BRITTANY'S WILL TO LIVE

REGIONAL ASSEMBLY WITH EXECUTIVE POWERS.

On the occasion of the Fetes de Cornouaille in Kemper, July 23, young members of the organisation AL LEUR NEVEZ and the Association of Breton Students met for their third Annual Conference in the Kemper Chamber of Commerce. This year, they held discussions with a number of prominent persons such as the Mayor of Brest, the president of the Kemper Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Phlipponneau (president of the Club "Bretagne et Democratie) and leaders of the Farmers Unions.

The theme was EMPLOYMENT IN BRITTANY -
It was noted that the 5th French Plan accepted a 5% reduction in the active population of Brittany while reckoning with a 6% increase in the whole of France; that State aid for the development of Brittany would be reduced, but that local bodies would not have the means to finance the new infrastructure (basic equipment) required for industrialisation. The Conference asked those who have responsibility in economic organisations and trade unions as well as elected representatives to show more firmness in dealing with the government and to consider all means of bringing pressure on it in the effort to save our country from ruin.

They asked that the Rennes CODER be transformed into an elected regional assembly endowed with powers of decision.

They decided to constitute a Conference of the Young Bretons to watch closely the evolution of the situation in Brittany and to meet periodically "to consider what action to take in order to show their determination to defend their future which is identical with that of Brittany".

At this meeting, Mr. Lombard, Mayor of Brest, thought they must remain on a non-political level. "To politicise the Breton problem was to court disaster". That is: don't alarm the French government. Spare their anxiety about French unity . . .

Mr. Phlipponneau on the contrary maintained that for him nothing could be achieved unless new political institutions were created.

In the attitudes of some of the "personalities" present, one could detect a pre-occupation with the general elections due to be held in 1967.

Mr. Lombard, who was defeated at the last general election by a Gaullist, is expected to play the Breton economic card in 1967. He admitted being powerless before the overall problem of employment in Brittany

An amazing number of French ministers devoted their attentions to this land of leisure during the summer by coming to enjoy its sunny beaches.

BREIZH NEVEZ is a new association founded to stimulate all the Breton population, particularly the young, to pool their efforts in order to create new enterprises. Its provisional committee was set up on June 12.

THE "ASSOCIATION DES CADRES BRETONS DE LA REGION PARISIENNE" groups more than 1000 people of Breton origin who possess competence, experience and prestige in many fields of technology, science and administration and want to let their home country benefit from their know-how. In the past 3 years they have held successful meetings with such speakers as the assistant general director of the French Electricity Supply Board, the president of the Rennes University, the general director of Citroen, and the director of the "National Electronic Centre" (CNET) of Lanuon.

It is a new departure: for the past 150 years, educated Bretons had been accustomed to betray their country, being prepared to accept high posts elsewhere without regard for the impoverishment of Brittany. This association testifies to a feeling of solidarity, but they are also aware that economic evolution, for all its problems, is primarily a state of mind, and depends in the last analysis on men's will to define its course.

NO HARM DONE

Last March, Jakez Arvor, Yannig Cocher and Alan Gachet were imprisoned in connection with the burning of French flags and the throwing of petrol bottles at the St-Nazeres-prefecture (see B.N.53). They asked for political treatment, but pressure was put on them to desist from such a course. A petition organised during the Spring in support of their demand was signed by 130 people in Ireland, Wales, Cornwall, Scotland and North America. Before this campaign was carried through, an order was made for the release of the 3 men on bail without security. They were to be tried in September. The petition was forwarded at the beginning of September to the examining magistrate in St-Nazaire. At about that time, it was decided to grant them a non-lieu, a "no ground for prosecution".

On September 15, it was learned however that Cocher and Gachet would be tried in the court of petty sessions, St-Nazaire, on October 19, for the destruction of French 'national emblems'. As for Arvor, he seems to have spent four months in jail by mistake.

A EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY FUND was created by young Flemish nationalists to help Arvor, Cocher and Gachet. It will operate on a permanent basis to support anyone in Europe who may be imprisoned for his national convictions.

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AN INCENDIARY DEVICE was discovered in the basement of the Tax Office in St-Brieg on June 17, after the local police had received a telephone call about it. A wooden wedge left probably on purpose prevented the ignition of a can of paraffin. On the can were scratched the letters "F.L.B." which reminded of leaflets distributed by an organisation, the Front de Liberation Bretonne, in the Gwened area, shortly before.

CORNISH - BRETON WRESTLING Yves Vaucher, the well-known champion of Breton wrestling, will no longer compete in tournaments. He wants to leave the field open to younger athletes. He has held the title of inter-Celtic champion since 1952, and won more than 30 trophies. In spite of many inducements to leave his country, he stayed in Brittany, and was always faithful to FALSAB, the Federation of Breton Wrestlers. He has now founded a wrestling school in Keracz "Gouenerien ar Meneziou Du", to advise and train young men who want to practise a virile and noble sport.

Cornish-Breton wrestling is different from Graeco-Roman wrestling. Every year there is an inter-Celtic championship opposing wrestlers from "British" Cornwall and Brittany

26th JUNE: BRETON NATIONAL DAY. A commemoration was held at Bains-sur-Oust, near Redon, to celebrate the anniversary of the battle of Ballon which on June 26, 845, gave Brittany its independence for 7 centuries. Members of all Breton organisations were invited. It was decided to make this date the Breton National Day. Honours were paid to all the Bretons who died for their country. At the end of the ceremony, leading participants went to Redon to lay a wreath at the monument of Nomenoe, the victor of Ballon.

BRETON PUBLICATIONS

An IRIN GLAS, by Ronan Huon. Price 11 fr. Available from the Author, 2 Venelle Poulbriquen, 29N BREST.

"Thirteen short stories written between 1950 and 1965 and collected in a clearly printed ^{book} with an agreeable cover. They deal with small events in the life of common people. On this seemingly plain screen, R. Huon uncovers the wide horizons of human destiny ... His art is to tell much when he appears to tell little. This quality is also found in the language which he uses: very simple at the first glance, in reality, it is most artistic, with carefully chosen words. We are here very far from the style of the popular writers of former times. The era of the 'tasty' dialectal locutions is over. The language is now personal, without being odd however." Ar Bed Keltiek

BRETON DANCES. Erwanez Galbrun's well-known book "La Dance Bretonne", published before the war, but out of print for a long time now, has been republished by SKOL, with a new introduction. It indicates graphically the various steps for numerous dances. It will be useful to the Breton youth groups and also to ethnologists. It is a pity that it was not translated into Breton. However, the Breton words which are sung on the dance tunes, are reproduced in it. The book costs 12 fr. Available from Abbe Calvez, Crec'h Avel, 22 Lannion, Brittany.

AR VRO, which Per Denez founded in 1959 as a "magazine of Breton Studies", has now been taken over by Fant Rozeg-Meavenn. With Per Denez it had become also an organ for all subject nations and minorities fighting for their rights and survival. With Meavenn, it will aim rather at presenting Brittany's intellectual life to a French-reading public. AR VRO aims to be "la revue des Bretons Intelligents". 20 fr/-annum, but 12 fr. for a "publicity sub.". Write to J. Desbordes, B.P. 48, 29 N, Brest.

F.R. Meavenn belonged to the pleiad of writers who created a modern Breton literature between the wars. While wishing AR VRO a continued success under her editorship, readers of Breton would also greatly welcome contributions in their language from her witty pen.

ON June 26, a Conference on Under-Development was held in Rennes under the sponsorship of KELC'H DEBAUVAIS, - a study group named after one of the Breton National Party Leaders of the inter-war period, - and of the philosophical-philological magazine PREDER.

The Interceltic Camp for Breton Speakers was held in Logivi-Plougras, near Lanuon, between July 28 and August 14, 160 people attended. Every morning, there were classes from 9 to 10.30: one for beginners (with the stress on speaking), one to prepare for the Trec'h Kentan (First victory) examination -- which 10 out of 17 candidates passed -- one for advanced students and the fourth, of University level, entrusted to S.A.D.E.D. teachers.

Plays by Roparz Hemon and E. Ionesco were staged. They were recorded for retransmission from Rennes-Radio. Puppet shows featuring translations from Welsh and Spanish, also attended by the local inhabitants, were most successful. They were filmed by the Gaumont Company which also took pictures of other aspects of the "Camp's Life". There were panel discussions on given themes, followed by questions; singing lessons; recitals; accounts of journeys in various parts of the world; a visit to the Plomeur-Bodou Centre for Spatial Communications, where two Breton technicians gave all the explanations in Breton; books exhibitions.

For information about next year's camp, write to An Itron Vefa de Bellaing, 28 rue des 3 Freres Le Goff, 22 St-Brieuc, Brittany. To prepare for the camp, learn Breton by Correspondence from Skol OBER, 30 rue V. Hugo, 29 S Douarnenez, Brittany.

(Al Liamm, Ar Bed Keltiek)

A round Table Conference organised by L'Avenir and chaired by the writer Alain Guel will be held on November 19 in Saint-Brieuc on the theme: FROM BRITTANY TO EUROPE. The 5 speakers will be Yann Fouere, director-editor of L'Avenir de la Bretagne; Yann Brekilien, chief-editor of Breiz, author of "L'Histoire Europeene de l'Europe"; Michel Phlipponneau, professor at Rennes University, president of CELIB's Commission for Economic Expansion; Guy Heraud, professor at Strasbourg University, author of "L'Europe des Ethnies"; Paul Serant, journalist, author of "La France des Minorites". Those interested should write to L'Avenir, 21 Place Duguesclin, 22 St-Brieuc, Brittany.

AN ASSOCIATION "KEVREDIGEZH KELENNERIEN AR BREZHONEG" was created this Summer to promote the teaching of Breton in the Paris area. Its president is Professor R. Riec Jestin, an authority on the Sumerians.

GRANDE NATION, PETTY METHODS.

A car plaque bearing the letter Bzh (for Breizh = Brittany) was forbidden by the Prefets of three of the 5 departments of Brittany. The police has now the power to impose a fine on any one using the Bzh. Many people have been stopped and warned by the gendarmes and their names and addresses taken, some as many as 16 times. There have been no reports of people being actually fined. There is no mistake possible between the Bzh and the regular registration plate.

Where perseverance paid: thanks to the struggle of the Goarnig family, Breton first names are now allowed by law. B.N. readers remember the victimisation of the Goarnigs for refusing to alter their children's names. Last year they took their case to the International Court. Breton names are now on the approved lists.