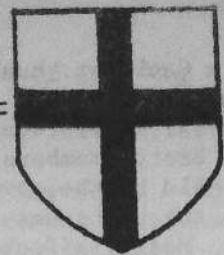


BRETON NEWS



A Bulletin issued by
The Breton Information Bureau

All correspondence to be addressed to 9, Br Cnoc Sion, Dromchonnrach, Baile Atha Cliath 9, Eire

No 56.

SPRING 1967

SUBSCRIPTION 10/

S.A.D.E.D. ANNUAL REPORT

The Association for Secondary Education through the medium of Breton (S.A.D.E.D.) concluded its fifth school year at the end of April. Compared to the previous year, the number of students who took its correspondence courses showed an increase by 58%.

SADED's work is divided between 5 services. Apart from the active members, there are auxiliary members who have undertaken to contribute a regular subvention to help the association clear the costs of its administration. SADED has its head office in the centre of Roazhon (Rennes), at 30, Place des Lices: it has now been renovated and well furnished.

The organisation's aim is to give young Bretons an education and a training which will enable them to work more efficiently for the reconstruction of their country. It provides courses in Breton on the Breton language, literature, history and geography, science and mathematics. But its purpose is not to cram pure knowledge into the heads of its students, but to prepare them for their tasks in the Breton movement. A special course was held in Roazhon, October 1966, for the training of its staff in administration. However, SADED has laid the foundation for a national education which, to be realisable on a large scale, is conditional on the establishment of the Breton state.

Until now, the organisation had to concentrate on satisfying its own requirements (staffing, finances, duplication, co-ordination, etc.). But from now on, it will aim at satisfying external needs, the needs of the groups in which its students will take up work, the needs of the country. Its evolution will be adapted to that of country itself.

Some defects have come to light in the working of the organization.

(1) Part of the staff is overworked, while the other, greater part is doing only light work. From now on, tasks will be allocated more evenly. Those unable or unwilling to carry out theirs will be requested to retire. The initial loss involved in this trial will later be made good by having a responsible body of teachers and administrators.

(2) The teachers are scattered over 3 continents: Europe, Africa, North America. Even in Europe, they are rather isolated, relatively unknown to one another.

(3) Some students tend to take too many subjects at a time and are then unable to finish the course satisfactorily. They are advised not to enrol for the sake of acquiring knowledge in a passive way, like subscribers who, apart from reading a periodical, contribute nothing to its life. SADED is not there to feed knowledge to the hungry: for that, the schools of established states are better equipped. It does not want "sucklings" who do nothing but sleep between the feeds. "The diet we supply remains coarse and lean: it is a diet for soldiers in the battlefield. In Brittany we must create our own culture if we want to live. The student who doesn't intend to undertake a definite task in the Breton movement is wasting his time as well as that of his teachers."

SADED is satisfied with its administration since it ends the year with only a slight deficit (about one tenth of its £1100 budget), in spite of the heavy cost of renovating and furnishing the head office. Travel costs and work performed by the staff all given free, is valued at £10,000.

The 6th year will begin in September 1967 and end in April 1968. It will include 12 courses of study.

TORREY CANYON OIL ON THE BRETON COAST: Beaches now clear?

The oil from the Torrey Canyon, after drifting eastwards for 18 days in the English Channel, changed course towards April 5th and reached the North coast of Brittany on April 10th. The French coasts were officially stated to be ready for the "battle" on March 30th and a Plan O.R.S.E.C. to deal with the oil was announced on the 4th April. Yet, when it arrived, the French authorities were apparently caught by surprise and did nothing effective for nearly a week.

The local authorities were unable to do anything worthwhile themselves because they have no autonomous financial means at their disposal and must account to the Central Government in Paris for every expenditure: they had to wait for orders from Paris. And co-ordination of all the efforts, voluntary as well as military, was slow to become established.

On May 13th, 1000 people from the 23 communes affected by the oil pollution, demonstrated in Lannuon against the inefficiency of the government and burned a dummy representing "the public powers" in front of the townhall. The mayor of Lannuon

is a Gaullist: hundreds asked him to resign. The demonstration was organised by a Committee for the defense of the "Pink Granit Coast" (on either side of Perroz). Several mayors stayed away, preferring to wait and see the real extent of the damage. The Breton members of the french Parliament gathered and demanded that full compensation be paid by the government for all the losses and expenses caused by the oil invasion. But the state was trying to get the local bodies to share the bill.

Mostly affected by the pollution of the shores were the fishermen, because the consumers believed the fish would be poisoned (in the Paris Halles, sales were down by 70% on the Friday following the "invasion"); the oyster-and-mushel-growers, the hotel keepers and generally the people who depend on tourism for a substantial part of the year's earnings (the president of a local tourist board, Rene Martin, stated that for a while enquiries were down to 3 or 4 a day instead of the usual 50 or 60).

All beaches are now said to be clear on the North Coast, but the wilder, rocky parts away from the resorts are still polluted. And oil slicks are reported in places on the Western coast of Brittany.

80% of the seabirds nesting in the Jentilez Islands, North of Tregastell, were stated by an expert to be dead.

On the leaflets, posters, road inscriptions which testified to the widespread discontent, the words Breton, Brittany occurred frequently: "In 3 years, Brittany will 'be like the Sahara -- with or without oil". "Bretons: you can choose between the suitcase and misery". "Bretons! they don't care a damn for you". "Millions for eliminating the mosquitoes in Languedoc, but not a penny for Brittany".

ELECTIONS: The March general elections resulted in a loss of 5 seats by the Gaullists and a marked shift towards the left in the "Breton" representation in the french Parliament. A large number of candidates had stated they would support a demand for the institution of democratically elected regional assemblies. A few of them were elected (Lombard in Brest, Ollivro in Gwengamp among them) and others came near to being elected (Ph.ipponeau in Rennes for instance).

Gwynfor Evans speaks up for Brittany. During the special debate on the war in Vietnam in the House of Commons, Gwynfor Evans, who is the president of the Celtic League, made a most remarkable contribution to the day-long discussions on Vietnam, revealing the fundamental causes of the war. We quote here the parts of his speech which led to his reference to Brittany.

"The Vietnamese, North and South, are but one nation with the same language, the same religions, and a national history of which they are intensely proud ... Very often we find, when we look for the cause of a war, that it is to be found, not in the nations who are struggling for freedom, but rather in those who are trying to oppress them or take away their freedom ... Not all the Vietcongs are communists ... They are fighting for national liberation ... 20 years ago, Vietnam was fighting the French to achieve self-government. The French left. For 12 years now, the Americans have been fighting the Vietnamese. We know that during the latter years, the French effort in Vietnam was underpinned by the United States. We know too that France, democratic as she appears to be, is capable of many tyrannies.

Even to-day I cannot refrain from referring to the policy of genocide which France is following against the Breton nation, though not by military means".

Asked to explain French genocide in connection with the Bretons, Gwynfor Evans said:

"The French are completely ignoring the existence of the Breton nation. They will not teach any Breton in the schools of Brittany. They will not teach the history of the Breton nation in the schools there. They are ignoring in every way the existence of the national community, and they are doing that through centralised powers".

On another occasion, while discussing Wales' prospects in connection with the Common Market and stressing the need for Wales to establish self-government first, Gwynfor Evans pointed to the example of Brittany now ruled or misruled by France. With no Breton state to speak for the Breton nation at Brussels, he said, her economy has suffered since the Common Market came into being, and the French are too busy with their own problems to worry about the Bretons. (The Welsh Nation, June 1967)

DEMOCRACY A CONDITION FOR COMMON MARKET ENTRY?

"In theory, the EEC Commission could give its opinion on the British application quickly enough. Dr. Luns, Dutch Foreign Minister, said all that is required, in essence, is to state that Britain is a democratic European Country" (Irish Times, 26/6/67)

The democratic condition does not seem to apply to States which are already members.

"Since France became a *Republique une-et-indivisible*, she suffers from absolute centralisation. Although Republican in principle, its administrative system is napoleonic. When the powers of the central government are decreased, those of the higher administration remain uncontrolled. If they are increased, the individual

citizens are left defenseless, since there is no regional power capable of standing up to and counter-balance the central power.

"France lacks the balance which exists in the U.S.A., Federal Germany and Switzerland between regional and central powers.

Our "provinces", with their regional assemblies (CODERs) devoid of any power whatsoever, are subject to the paralysing influence of the Parish government. We need regional assemblies elected and endowed with definite prerogatives to replace the CODERs, rendered meaningless by the failure of the central government to take account of their advice in its planning.

These regional assemblies would constitute the basic cells of the future United States of Europe. This could be achieved all the more easily that their equivalents exist already in some of the EEC countries.

(Brest-Eclair, editor G. Lombard, M.P.)

NATIONAL DAY: The commemoration of the victory of the Breton Leader Nomenoe over the French king Charles the Bald in 845 was celebrated in Baen near Redon, on June 25th. This victory marked the foundation of the Breton nation and confirmed its independence for nearly seven centuries. All the associations which are concerned with the task of rebuilding Brittany were invited to take part by the committee of Koun Breizh which organises this yearly event. The theme of the gathering was: National Unity. A wreath was laid at the foot of the statue of Nomenoe in Redon. The ceremony was followed in the afternoon by a popular festival, with dances, sport, and games.* (Communique BIP).

IS THERE WORK IN BRITTANY?

St-Nazaire Strike: The St-Nazaire metal workers went on strike in March against the great disparity between their wages and those paid for similar work in the Paris area: this amounts to 16% in the average. Such differences exist in all industrial sectors in Brittany, electronics, textiles, etc. They result in the emigration of the better qualified workers. Yet the employers' tests and qualification requirements are more severe than in Paris.

The strike lasted over 2 months. It was one of the longest for many years. They received little support from workers in French industrial areas if one excepts Decazeville in the South of France. They were financially supported by workers in other branches of industry and employment in Loire-Atlantique: the Donges refinery, Liquid Air, canning, building, telecommunications, as well as by the seamen, the teachers, the postmen. Funds were collected for the families of the strikers in several neighbouring communes, whose mayors asked the Government to withdraw the Special Riot Police forces from St-Nazaire in order to reduce tension. The fishermen of Western Brittany sent fish for free distribution. "Supporting strikes must be organised all over Brittany if the St-Nazaire workers go again on strike!"

(Le Peuple Breton)

The employers were prepared to reduce the wages disparity by 7%, but "they could not go farther". "If you want the same pay as in Paris, the industrialists will have no reason to set up factories here". Yet they have benefitted from important financial incentives to decentralisation which helped them to create new, well equipped factories. They want a stable, faithful, adaptable manpower. But the workers claim equal wages for equal work. In this respect they are leading in the struggle for a healthier social climate in Brittany.

(Mission Bretonne, 14/5/67)

The crisis in the canning industry continues. In Pont-Aven the Lomenec's workshops which fabricate preserve tins are threatened. The Becherel dairy in the Rennes area, are going to dismiss 30 men ... gradually.

The hundred-year old Cassegrain factory, the biggest in Konk-Kernev (Concarneau) will close in October, leaving 300 workers for "reclassification". This result from a merger between Saupiquet and Cassegrain.

In Louvigne-de-Bais, Ille-et-Vilaine, two hundred farmers prevented the auctioning of two fields. They were protesting against the sale of land at the prohibitive price of 10,000 fr per hectare (equivalent to about £300 per acre). Their argument is that land should be valued as the farmers' means of work and not in terms of speculations arising from the liberalist interplay of demand and offer.

* A special train bedecked with Breton flags, brought participants from Paris. Total attendance numbered about 1500. In the address delivered by Kerlann in Breton, they were reminded that this was the language of Nomenoe

SUMMER SCHOOLS:

THE INTERCELTIC CAMP FOR BRETON SPEAKERS will be held this year in St-Nikolaz-ar-Pelem, near Gwengamp, from the 13th to the 29th of July. It proved impossible to find accommodation in Schools in August. As usual, there will be Breton lessons, examinations, lectures and talks, theatre, singing, dances and excursions. For information write to Mrs. V. de Bellaing, 28 rue des 3 Freres Le Goff, 22-St-Brieuc.

The Catholic Association Breuriez Sant Erwan will hold a camp from the 6th to the

10th of September in Pleuveur-Bodou, N. Brittany. They are devoting themselves to the renovation of an old chapel, but in their spare time there will be study sessions and discussions of Brittany's social and cultural problems. Only Breton will be spoken

150,000 PEOPLE ASK FOR BRETON IN SCHOOL AND ON TELEVISION

The petition organised by the association EMGLEO BREIZ had gathered nearly 150,000 signatures at the beginning of June. About 30 of the cultural groups affiliated to Kendalc'h took a hand in collecting them, and some of them gathered from 1400 to 3000 names. Other groups however did nothing. Many of the signatures were sent in by individuals who had no connection with the "Breton Movement". If the effort could be carried out methodically, it is reckoned that the number of signatures could be doubled within a short time.

A stigma still attaches to the Breton language in the minds of many of its speakers: it is due to the fact that it has no recognition in teaching and in social or public life. Thus a journalist reported how, when talking to a young farmer in the Arre Hills he asked him: "Do you speak Breton?" The man replied: "Oh no, sir!" Five minutes later his father arrived and engaged in a dialogue with him which was obviously not in French!
(Breiz, July)

AN ACADEMIC COMMISSION

Academic Commissions for Regional Teaching were officially created in France last October. Of the measures recommended last February by the Commission for Region "Brittany", two only have been put into effect:

- (1) programmes for the teaching of Breton in public schools are being prepared.
- (2) "Regional" languages (Basque, Breton, Occitan, Catalan) can be taken as subjects for M.A. degrees (licence).

The recommendations were very vague and vastly insufficient. No regulations have been issued for teaching the language, nor even for the training of its teachers.
(Breiz, July).

PUBLICATIONS

Youenn Olier announces the publication of two volumes of memoirs in Breton.

Ar Pevar Mab Emon - 208 pages roneotyped, published by SKOL, is an old story which was known till recently in the Breton countryside. It had its 7th edition in 1928. Abbe Bourdellez gives us a shortened version, expurgated of unnecessary French loanwords which he has replaced with sound Breton ones. It is written in an easy though rich Breton. Abbe Bourdellez is a master of the language. (Avenir).

AR BED KELTIEK. published its 100th issue in April 1967. The magazine was created in 1951 and became a monthly in 1959.

"Our aim is to provide the Bretons with enjoyable or instructive reading material, written in a correct Breton.

We give news of present day events, something that is not found so much in other Breton language publications.

We endeavour also to deal with the problems which occupy the minds of our contemporaries.

We attach great importance to the study of the life and the struggle of the other Celtic peoples.

An important place is given to our history: our readers have become acquainted in these pages with the work of our great historian La Borderie.

We don't neglect works of entertainment; We publish poems, stories, - and considering the increasing importance of oral literature in our time, songs and plays.

Some of these literary works are original, others are translated or adapted from foreign works. It is a necessary and fructuous task to put in Breton the literature of the world.

We leave one thing aside; the petty quarrels about the language. We think it is better to devote space to such works as the (all-Breton) dictionary.

Ours is a creative work, not a destructive one. We see as well as any one else the plight of our country and of our language, and the obstacles in our way. We know however that with unshakable faith and hard perseverant work we shall succeed".

(Roparz Hemon).

BRETON EMIGRANTS

"In the period from 1954 to 1962 15,000 Bretons emigrated every year. 45% of them were aged less than 25 years. 5,000 people aged more than 45 years returned while 100,000 aged less than 45 went away.

At the beginning of the sixties, emigration was somewhat slowed down by the industrial decentralisation which benefitted Eastern Brittany. But after De Gaulle had received 80% of the Breton vote, decentralisation could safely be abandoned, and existing factories closed at an increasing rate. Thus in (Breton) Cornwall alone, some 50 factories were wound up in the past 5 years.

The population loss is worst in the Northern Cotes-du-Nord where it amounts to 4.7% per year, as compared to 3.4% in the Ille-et-Villaine (Rennes district). In

Loire-Atlantique, the balance was maintained.

Between now and 1985, 290,000 Bretons must leave the country! This was stated by Mr. M. G. Badot, a deputy to the top French representative in Brittany, on the basis of the government plan for economic expansion.

About 45% of the Breton emigrants settled in 1962 in the Paris conurbation where the census showed 392,000 people born in Brittany, nearly as much as the populations of the two largest Breton cities combined. The zones with the highest Breton density were Montparnasse and the 14th "arrondissement", but the northern and northeastern suburbs were catching up with them.

These emigrants are slow to be assimilated. Everywhere, Breton associations, Celtic Circles and Pipe-Bands, spring up. At the Brest Festival des Cornemuses last year, the first prize for pipe music went to a Paris Bagad (band).

But too many of them express their attachment to Brittany only by means of folkloric activities, and feel the need to stress that they are French citizens. When they display Breton flags, they dress them up with French tricolour ribbons, as if they were not so sure of themselves. Such an attitude prevents them from analysing and recognizing the colonial character of the Breton situation.

Yet the evolution is favourable: the younger generation is being better informed by means of frequent lectures, conferences, exhibitions, cultural manifestations. They are not lost for Brittany: many would return if given a chance.

Le Peuple Breton, May 1967.

BRETON AGRICULTURE IN DECLINE?

The recent evolution of the Breton agriculture is characterised by

- (1) technical progress in all domains of production, a trend towards industrialisation, mass production particularly in cattle, pig and chicken rearing. In dairy farming, stables for 400-800 milch cows are being built.
- (2) the penetration of capitalism, which is often at the origin of agricultural industrialisation, for instance in fodder production.

Breton agriculture is undergoing an unprecedented transformation. It testifies to its dynamism.

Is it in a leading position? There is a rapid increase in the use of fertilisers, cattle fodder and machinery. Production is being intensified by the practice of culture without soil. Brittany has 11% of the "French" farming population, but 20% of its eggs 25% of its pigs, 11% of its milk and 30% of its chicken production

There are new organisations at:

- (1) production level: Centres for the study of agricultural techniques (CETAs), vulgarisation groups, co-operatives for the use of agricultural material and machinery (CUMAs numbering 1200), banks for the farmers, groups for collective exploitation (GAECs), of which 50 are recognised: all these are becoming more numerous.
- (2) commercialisation level: SICAs, UNICOPA, Landerneau co-operative with a turnover of 300 million Nfr.)

The geography textbooks are out of date. There is a strong spirit of enterprise and co-operation. But the long-term prospects are pessimistic.

"Condemned". The present evolution, in spite of all efforts, leads to the gradual disappearance of the Breton agriculture. Capital forces favour concentration in economically developed areas. The most remunerative productions are leaving Brittany.

The movement started with the peas: in 1950, we had 60% of the French production; in 1965, only 30%. Then poultry farming: its production fell from 45% in 1962 to 30% in 1966 while increasing elsewhere in the French territory. Yet our production was competitive. But it had against it the handicap of distance from the continental consumers centres, an antiquated rail-road-harbour system and high transport costs. This displacement of the Breton agricultural production is unavoidable in a regime of unrestrained competition. In the developing stage, there is little competition, but later, others who are better placed and endowed with more adequate means catch up. We have thus seen in Brittany the passage within a few decades from the intensive cultivation of potatoes, peas, beans to modern poultry farming. Having to compete on unfavourable terms in this field, the Breton farmers are now switching over to pig and bovine production. How far can they go?

Towards new form of Colonialism. Cereal producers in the wheat belt surrounding Paris have already sent agents to investigate Brittany and Poitou-Charentes with a view to get piglets and calves for fattening. The idea is that the economically under-developed Western regions should specialise in the "bearing" stage while the more profitable fattening stage should be reserved to areas close to the consumption centres. The French Government is closing its eyes to this neo-colonialist development. There is a close analogy with the human situation: the under-developed areas being kept as reserves of cheap labour for the more prosperous ones.

All this is justified by France's need to compete in the Common Market! It also illustrates once more the basic antagonism between the supposed French national interests and the Breton interests.

In a Common Market directed by liberalism and free enterprise, the Breton Farmers are doomed. These very principles are opposed to a planning whereby certain productions would be reserved to Brittany.

Group Agriculture. Faced with these problems, the Breton farmers must choose between:
 --- *laisser-faire* and elimination by competition and poor remuneration
 --- integration by private firms, becoming wage-earners, losing responsibility and initiative, and exposing themselves to unemployment the day the firms decide to transfer their production to more profitable areas;
 --- group agriculture at all levels (CUMAs, GAECs, SICAs, etc.) and integration in co-operatives sufficiently powerful to stand up to the capitalist trusts and defend their members interests. The co-operative must become the nucleus of regional development, providing its members with material, machines, technical services, information, credit, production plans, and establishing means for the processing and sale of its products as far as possible.

The choice is between an economy subservient to the capital and an economy subservient to man. It is a political choice. Can the co-operatives become stronger than the private industrial and commercial interests in the present political conditions?

A promising beginning has been made in Brittany, but an enormous amount of work remains to be done. There are as said only 50 GAECs so far, for 150,000 farms of less than 10 acres. The co-operative sector is not sufficiently united, it lacks internal democracy, dynamism and "agressiveness". It cannot develop fully in a capitalist society.

(Le Peuple Breton, May 1967).

Yannig Cocher and Alan Gachet who lost their appeal against the jail sentence passed against them for the burning of 3 French flags, were returned for 2 months jail in April. Gerard Verdeau, Gwened, who had disobeyed a police order to take down the Breton Sign BZH from his car was declared not guilty of any breach of the law. The judge agreed there could be no confusion between the BZH sign and the regular identification plates such as F, GB, IRL.

(L'Avenir)

14 MEN WOUNDED IN CLASH WITH FRENCH POLICE: A demonstration by 8000 Breton farmers, gathered in Redon, South of Rennes, in protest against the dumping of Argentine beef on the French market, led to a clash with riot police in which 14 people were injured on both sides. Police was attacked with rotten eggs, dead chickens and ballast stones from a nearby railway track. Two trains bound for Paris were held up at the local station. The police retaliated with tear-gas grenades.

CELTIC ADVANCE IN THE ATOMIC AGE is the title of the Celtic League 1967 Annual Volume (128 pages, in English), now ready for publication. It contains about 30 contributions by prominent members of the national movements in the 6 Celtic countries. The introduction is by Gwynfor Evans, M.P., President of the League. The writers deal with the political, cultural, economic, social and historic aspects of their country's life, or put forward their proposals to enable the Celtic nations to maintain their identity in this atomic age. The question of bi-lingualism receives especially detailed treatment in three contributions, one of these being by Prof. J. L. Williams, Dean of the Faculty of Education in Aberystwyth and authority on bi-lingual education. Price 15/. Further information from the Breton News address.

BRETON WRESTLING: The annual general meeting of FALSAB, the association which for many decades has promoted Brittany's national sport, met in Arzhanou, in one of the areas where this form of wrestling, common to Brittany and (British) Cornwall, has remained alive among the people. FALSAB organised 36 tournaments in 1966. It has new branches in Brest, Naoned (Nantes), Redon, Elven. It had 160 wrestlers in 1964-65, 142 in 1966, chiefly in Western Brittany. There will be no Cornish-Breton championship this year. If you go to Brittany and wish to watch a wrestling tournament, and other folkloric performances, write to BREIZ, 4 Allee des Ormeaux, 44-La Baule, Brittany, for a calendar of such events.

(Breiz, May).

Strollad Beilhadegou Treger concluded its 8th season at Rostrenen on March 18. It gave 16 performances in Breton during the winter, attended by an average of 400 people. It brought out 9 new songs, a new play and 5 stories as well as sketches by Maria Prad concerned with present events. The group has 19 members.

The lasting success of the Beilhadegou and of the radio-broadcasts from Roazhon featuring them has inspired the composition of numerous new songs, particularly in the North of Brittany. The singers don't confine themselves to the magnificent legacies of the past, they also continue the tradition of living Brittany by singing new songs every year. These are tested at the Beilhadegou and the most successful ones go on the wireless. In Treger, about 40 new Breton songs have become popular since 1960.

This year's Interceltic Congress will be held in Cardiff, from the 26th to the 30th of July. Its theme is : The Youth Movements and Education in the celtic countries. There will be concerts of Celtic music and songs every evening.