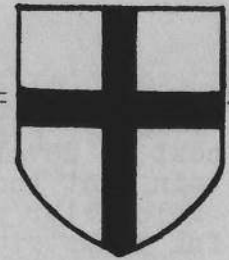


BRETON NEWS



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DECLINE IN EMPLOYMENT CONTINUES.

In the past 3 or 4 months more factories closed or dismissed many of their workers in various parts of Brittany, especially in the St-Nazaire, Nantes, Lorient and Gwengamp areas.

At the beginning of the Autumn, the long-established Vallée paper mills were closed at Benc'h (Côtes-du-Nord). The Braud Company, at St-Mars-la-Jaille (Loire-Atlantique) has also decided to wind up. It employs 400 workers. It produces agricultural machines of good quality -- in particular combine harvesters, at a rate of 2500 a year. It is the only important source of employment at St-Mars. Personal as well as financial reasons underlie the management's decision.

L'Avenir de la Bretagne, monthly organ of the Movement for Breton Home Rule (MOB) asks (9-9-'65): "Has an industrialist the right to transfer a concern on which the livelihood of many thousands depends? After having worked so many years in the factory, the workers should have had a share not only in the management but also in a decision of such an importance".

60 men are unemployed at Gacilly (Morb.) due to a factory closure.

56 workers were dismissed from the Carnaud food canning factory (Loire-Atlantique), because of poor harvests and difficult marketing conditions.

The working week at the Henbont foundries -- which were kept open following mass demonstrations two years ago -- may soon be reduced to twenty-four hours. At Lorient, 200 electricians were dismissed.

One positive development: the sausage factory Olisa, Loudeac, Côtes-du-Nord, was opened with about 50 workers. Plans are to employ 600 people, but there is scepticism about this.

850 young people left St-Nazaire in 1964 because of the shortage of employment. 156 who have reached working age this year are finding no jobs.

In the département of Morbihan the population of which is roughly 1/90 of that of the French State, 4000 small farms a year have been abandoned or absorbed by larger ones during the period 1955-1963. This figure is 1/10 the French rate. Alternative employment is hardly available in the neighbourhood for the people who have to leave the land.

(Ref. Avenir, Peuple Breton, Breiz, Mission Bret.)

PARIS TO ABSORB BRITTANY'S YOUTH.

According to new plans, Paris is to increase its population to 11 millions within the next 20 years. Consequences could be disastrous for the Bretons: not only will this put an end to whatever industrial decentralisation has been taking place in recent years towards Brittany, but the creation of a vast industrial area a few hundred miles from our country is likely to exert an irresistible pull on a population deprived of good employment opportunities. (Ref. Editorial, La Vie Bretonne, Oct. '65)

The plans have been worked out under the direction of the Paris District Commissioner, Mr Delouvrier, with the help of 230 civil-servants working full time. They have cost about £1,300,000.

In the past few years, it was the official policy to put a brake a brake on the growth of Paris by encouraging the transfer of industries towards the less developed areas, particularly West of a line

Caen-Montpellier. This policy is now discarded. (Considering the cost of developing and equipping the overpopulated areas, it is certain that the other regions will be starved of credits.

Delouvrier's plan is not only to extend Paris but to create a powerful industrial zone of 25 million people (half of France's population) between Melun -Meaux to the East and Le Havre on the Channel. This, according to French reasoning, will enable France to hold its own in competition with the Ruhr-Rhine nebula.

The Bretons are counted upon to provide a substantial percentage of the manpower required for this development. An increasing number of young people in Brittany are now reaching working age. Unless it is made clear by vast popular demonstrations that they totally reject this fate, the Bretons cannot expect any serious consideration of their own needs in this new perspective.

There is no longer any mention in the 5th French Plan of Development of measures to help the underdeveloped areas "getting along". A year ago there were proposals to create over 1/3 of the new jobs in France's poor half. This is no longer guaranteed. The 1966 Budget does not provide for the credits which Brittany expected.

The set-back in the evolution of the Common Market in recent months occurred also at a time when the representatives of the Breton economy were applying to the Community institutions for the financial help that is being refused by the French government.

(Ref. La Vie Bretonne, Oct.)

THE BRETON ECONOMY MUST RESOLUTELY TURN TOWARDS THE SEA : this is the title of an article by G. Pierret in the same issue of La Vie Bretonne. After reviewing the efforts of the last 4 years, he shows that the weight of industrialisation felt almost exclusively on electronics; although successful, this activity was not sufficient to absorb but a small fraction of the Breton labour reserves. Pierret states three "imperatives" : housing must be accelerated; the food industry must be recast with a view to export; the whole economy must turn towards the sea. Brittany must count on nobody to help her financially : her town councils must accept to carry the burden, build up credits, lay the basic structure for heavy and semi-heavy industries in the vicinity of her harbours, as well as extending the industries using her agricultural products and fish .

MILITARY CALLING

Military installations are multiplying in the Brest area. Information about what is going on is leaking out bit by bit so as not to alarm the population. It is now known that a nuclear base is to be built in the middle of a densely populated area in Western Brittany.

It always seemed as if each new extension to the military perimeter around Brest was purely a local matter and need not worry those whose land was not appropriated by the State. Thus, when a number of farmers were told, in Landivizio, that they must leave their ground, it was only in order to provide an aeronaval base for NATO. More recently, a wide area around the Benniget Island, West of Brest, was forbidden to fishermen, because it was needed for shooting exercises. The local population protested in each case, but where necessary, resistance could be softened with good money.

There was already an air base at Lanveog-Poulmig, in the Crozon Peninsula. A radar station was installed recently to the East of the Brest roadstead, at Pennkran. No harm in radar.

Then, in September, it was announced that a nuclear submarine base was to be built at Enez Hir, near Crozon, opposite Brest. This city was being selected for an Atomic Headquarters. And a store for war material (missile heads ?) was being sheltered in the Krannou Forest, not far from Pennkran.

Ground is being bought all around Brest for further installations. Military administration will be seated at Rostelleg, material and ammunition will be sheltered at Kernevez, and a new base will be opened at Bodiliz.

Protests. A committee for the Defense of the Crozon area organised a

meeting on September 26, together with representatives of neighboring communes, to discuss the danger that exists for all as a result of the installation of the nuclear base. 2000 families draw their livelihood from fishing along the shores of the Brest Roadstead. They fear that the fish, lobsters and oysters will now be depreciated. They want a solution that will enable them to work under normal conditions. They are worried about the effects of radio-active ashes. The sea prefect (government representative) of Brest has "reassured" them.

The French government is not unaware of the fact that 250,000 people live within a radius of 20 km from Enez Hir, and that a 20 megaton bomb would wipe them out. Within a radius of 60 km, there are 700,000 people.

In Britain, there were mass protests when a similar base was installed at Holy Loch, relatively far from densely populated areas. In Brittany, soothing voices are at work. Mme Ploux, who as the M.P. for Kastellin and Krozon, represents 1/500 of France, has displayed commiseration with her constituents, has spoken of "painful situations", but the decision, she says, is irrevocable. She will only help them to get as much money as possible in compensation. (Avenir, 14-10)

In the South of Brittany, there is another chain of military bases running Eastwards from Lorient to Kiberon. Land is also being bought at Plouharnel for military use. The Plouharnel Council has protested.

Breton nationalists, through their monthly papers, are calling on their compatriots everywhere in Brittany to unite and strongly oppose "militarisation instead of industrialisation".

THE LAND OF BRITTANY BELONGS ONLY TO THE BRETONS (Editorial, Avenir)

It is hardly more than 20 years since there were in Brittany numerous areas where it was forbidden to build new houses and where roads were forbidden to civilian traffic. Fishermen were restricted to certain areas also. Armed sentries guarded the approaches to fortifications and camps.

This situation seemed intolerable to all (?) the Bretons. There was then no dearth of apostles who, from Algiers and London, called for a rebellion to put an end to it, and incited the Bretons and other (??) Frenchmen to use the most violent means to that effect.

To-day, the Farmers around Landivizio, the people of Enez Hir, Lanveog-Poulmig and Plouharnel, the fishermen of Brest, Kiberon, Konk-Leon find themselves brought back 25 years. They are faced again with forbidden housing, traffic and fishing areas, with sentries but in a different uniform. Hundreds of Breton families are being or will soon be expelled. Twenty years ago they could hope to come back. To-day they dare not entertain such hope (???)

French civilian and military authorities have decided against the clearly expressed will of the Bretons, to take possession of large strips of our land. They do so without bothering to consult the interessees, without allowing any recourse to law courts as is offered in all civilised countries. They are turning Brittany into a first order military objective in case of conflict.

Interventions, protests, committees, discussions have not affected the decision of the "Parisian (?) lords in the least. The Finistere Prefet (government representative) has announced that he would forbid and crush all peaceful demonstrations. He has at his disposal another occupation army, the Special Police Squads, foreigners to the country, strong after their experience in Algeria, more reliable than the local gendarmes.

Will the Bretons accept to remain like bondmen in their own land, holding it only as long as it pleases the Princes? Will they allow their homeland to be turned into a French desert and military camp?

(14-10 -'65)

(By means of the question marks, we wish to indicate that we disagree with the wording, as it seems to contradict the title and to acknowledge that Bretons are after all Frenchmen). If this were the case, it would be the French government's right to take over whatever ground they deem necessary for French Defence purposes).

CELTIC LEAGUE MEMORANDUM TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

A 62-page memorandum on the right of Brittany, Scotland and Wales to self-determination and international protection was sent on Nov. 4th by the Celtic League to the Secretary General of the United Nations. Copies were forwarded to the delegations of the 114 member-States at the U. N. General Assembly, New-York.

On the same day, press conferences were held at Dublin, Cardiff, London and Paris to explain this action.

The memorandum states the 3 cases separately that Brittany, Wales and Scotland constitute well-characterized nationalities but that the existence of these nations is gravely threatened as a result of neglect of, or hostility to their interests on the part of the States in which they are incorporated; that for their survival and development they need self-government.

The conclusion of the Breton text is that there is no French solution to the Breton problem. Appeals to France, in the economic and in the cultural fields, have proved futile. The control of Brittany's destiny can no longer be left to a hostile power; an appeal for international protection is made in 6 points with direct reference to U. N. resolutions.

Copies of the memorandum are available from the Breton Information Bureau, in Baile Átha Cliath. (Celtic League Communiqué)

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES.

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The 18th Inter-Celtic Summer Course in Breton was held at Rostrenen (Central Brittany) between July 29 and August 14. There were about 140 participants, a steady attendance figure for the past few years, including this time like last year a high proportion of young people. There were courses for children, and for adult beginners, intermediate and advanced.

The subjects taught to the advanced classes included literature, Middle Breton, Cornish, Chemistry, History, Maths, philosophy, ethnology. The teachers belonged to the staff of S. A. D. E. D., the Breton Secondary School by Correspondence.

A new impetus was given at this Summer Course to the theater in Breton. Two plays, J. Riou's DOGAN and R. Hemon's MEURLARJEZ were staged. "Theater should play an important part in our country's recovery. In past centuries, it occupied a prominent part in our national life. It should be more so nowadays, with the advent of radio and television" (Ar Bed Keltiek, October).

Yann Moign, who directs the group of "Les Comédiens Bretons" and has in the past two years staged Breton plays (Gurvan, Nomenoe-Oe) in French translation intends to present other plays in Breton. His plan is to organise performances in about 50 towns, each to include a play, a talk, an exhibition and a film. He will draw on the Breton and more generally on the Celtic matter. Before starting, he must build up the financial support. In free countries, subsidies from public funds are provided for the cultural institutions. In Brittany, one must rely on private sources only. An appeal is made to supporters for subscriptions or share-taking in the company.

(Al Liamm, Nr 111)

Other summer courses for Breton-speakers were held at Gwezeg (Al Leur Nevez), Plougraz (Breuriezh Sant Erwan), Lannveur (Skol-Hañv Yann Schier). Renovation work at Menez Kamp was carried on by teams of voluntary workers. A meeting of the Breton Language Council was convened at this Centre under the chairmanship of the poet Maodez Glanndour, who insisted on the need for greater solidarity and co-operation between the various groups affiliated to the Council. Reports were submitted here concerning the member organisations (OBER correspondence school, Celtic Congress, Breton Writers Association, Inter-Celtic Camp, Spiritual Union) and publications (Al Liamm, Barr-Heol, Hor Yezh, Skol, Wenig ha Wenig, Studi hag Ober, Preder).

+ also at Kastellnevez-ar-Faou and Porspoder. (V. Br.) (Al Liamm 115)

A seminar was organised at Kemper (23-28 August) by the regionalistic Association Bleuñ-Brug on the theme: The young Bretons.

their problems and their future. Prior to it, an enquiry was conducted among young people concerning employment and emigration. 2150 replies were received from pupils in agricultural, technical and secondary schools. About 90% of them stated their wish to find work in Brittany, but hardly half of them expect it to be possible. Those who are faced with expatriation are very bitter about it and most of them consider a recourse to mass demonstrations, even to violence as the only way to obtain a proper solution to their problem.

Among the speakers was the theologian Fr Danielou, dean of the Paris Faculty of Theology. As a Breton, he said, he shared their worries. Spirituality should be rooted in the homeland. The defence of the Breton culture was not a matter of folklore, but an action in depth, worthy of our engagement. It was our sacred duty to defend and maintain the Breton language. (Breiz, October)

MASS PETITION FOR BRETON LANGUAGE : 25,000 signatures in 4 months.

A petition organised by the regionalist organisation Emgleo Breiz and asking for the regular teaching of Breton in schools and for broadcasts in Breton on T. V. as well as a widening of the place given to Breton language programmes on Sound Radio has been signed already by 25,000 people. This figure is expected to be greatly exceeded in the coming months. The petition was started last Summer after a highly placed official had stated that he would intervene with the French educational authorities if one could show him that 1,000 people were asking for the teaching of Breton.

According to the Secretary General of Emgleo Breiz, about 2/3 of the signatures are sent spontaneously, following appeals through newspapers and radio : they come from people who have otherwise taken no part in the Breton movement, people who belong to all walks of life. The remaining third was collected by members of the movement.

French authorities may well ignore this new expression of popular attachment to the Breton language. What is important is that it demonstrates that in spite of all the official hostility and social pressure to convert to French, the people want their language to live.

BROADCASTS AT A LESS FAVOURABLE TIME.

Since July 4, Breton language broadcasts from Rennes have been transferred from 1.30 pm to 2.03 pm, on Sundays. They are now part of a programme "d'expression régionaliste". The time is much less suitable : it is estimated that the number of listeners has dropped by a half as a result of the shift. Complaints have been made, but the minister who made the decision thinks the time is good enough.

In reply to a query by Prof. M. Philipponneau, chairman of the Breton Commission for Economic Expansion, the Director of the French Radio and Television Network has made it known that programmes in German or in Alsatian dialect total 7hrs 41 mn a week on Radio Strassburg, that programmes in Polish (for miners' families) total 3hrs/week on Radio Lille, but the million Breton-speakers are allowed only a 4th mn weekly programme on Radio Rennes and Kimerc'h plus 5mn daily news which are broadcast from Kimerc'h and are heard only in a limited part of the Breton-speaking area, plus 1 mn (one) on T. V.

It is pointed out that Welsh listeners get 15hrs/weekly on the wireless and 3 hrs on TV of Welsh language programmes. The difference is that the French State takes its civilizing mission seriously and keeps a tight control on the mass media.

PRIMORDIAL ROLE OF BRETON LANGUAGE IN REBUILDING BRITTANY

(from a lecture by Dr Etienne to the Association of Breton Students in Rennes) .

The present Breton community can be described by means of two terms : on the one hand, the vestiges of a dying community, on the other the emergence of a new community.

A dying community : the community constituted by the Breton State between the 5th and the 10th century is rapidly dissolving in the meshes of the French State. A decisive factor, all-pervasive State control, has intervened which is completing the desintegration rapid-

ly. State control is nothing but the adaptation of each people to modern conditions and requirements; it is a healthy development where the State is the expression of the national community. But an acute problem arises where a community, perhaps meaning well, attempts to incorporate alien communities in its neighbourhood.

The problem for Brittany is to choose between pulling herself together, reunifying her community, constituting a sound cell in the pattern of the world communities or to carry on the parasitic role to which her inertia, ^{and} her economic, cultural and human alienation condemn her till the day when she will be physically liquidated.

Brittany has chosen through her national movement. Others could speak to you of the political, economical and social aspects. I shall deal with the language aspect.

(After speaking of the birth of a modern Breton literature around Gwalarn towards 1920, the growth of a scientific and philosophical language, and the work carried out by groups according to strict time-tables, laying the basis for a full primary, secondary and University education through Breton, he concluded:)

"The field is wide open to the Bretons who have understood that there is but one way out for Brittany, that is to regenerate her community, and to regenerate it by reactivating the historical source of this community: its national language. But those who join us in this struggle must know that it is a real struggle which will claim all their strength, and perhaps their life. Because giving a new life to a language and giving its freedom back to a country is one and the same undertaking."

(Breiz, September 1965)

NECROLOGY

The Breton writer JARL PRIEL died on the 20th August, aged 80. A late comer to Breton literature, his first play "An Dakenn Dour" was published and broadcast by Rennes Radio in 1942. His works include a number of plays, a novel of the sea "Al Lestr Pembroke", 3 volumes of memoirs, and translations, some of them from Russian. They were published by AL LIAMM.

"It was for Jarl Priel a decisive experience to discover the power and beauty of his mother tongue, after long years spent in foreign countries. It brought him so much joy that his outlook on life was henceforth brightened and he could bear his poverty more cheerfully. His writings will remain among the best in our literature!"

(Ar Bed Keltiek, Oct.)

Gerard Toubanc, whom we mentioned a few times in connection with his historical articles and his acts of defiance of French rule in Brittany, died accidentally at the beginning of the autumn, aged less than 30. He tried unceasingly to interest his compatriots in the Breton struggle. He was a nationalist candidate at the last general elections to the French Parliament, and co-operated with leftist European federalists.

The Norwegian Alf Sommerfelt, one of the greatest Celtologists, died following a car accident, at the age of 72. In Brittany he was known in particular on account of his report on the Breton spoken in Kastell pol, one of the best studies in Breton phonetics. In 1962, he published a similar report based on notes taken in 1917 on the dialect of Plouezoc'h. He was a reader of Breton News and followed closely the events in Brittany.

EUROPEAN FEDERALISTS MEET IN BREST. Delegates from the Regional Sections of the European Federalist Movement in Brittany, Vendee, Aquitaine, the Basque Country, held a weekly seminar in the Brest townhall between Aug. 9 and 14. They expressed themselves in favour of a European constitution on the model of the German Federal Republic, and against the disruptive policy of the French government towards the European Economic Community. The secretary of the Breton section is Dr Marie Keruhel.

PANORAMA OF EUROPEAN MINORITIES is a booklet by the Breton vice-president of the Federalist Union of European Nationalities, Per Laurent, describing the struggle of a number of small communities for their ethnical survival. Available from Breiz, 4 Allee des Ormeaux, La Baule, L.-A. Brittany. Price 3 F. In French.