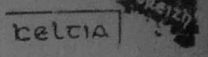


# An Aimsir Ceilteac THE CELTIC TIME

PAPER OF THE CELTIC PEOPLES



THE ORGAN OF INFORMATION WITHIN THE CELTIC PEOPLES AND ABROAD. THE INSTRUMENT OF INTER-CELTIC OUTLOOK & CO-OPERATION

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SEND SUBSCRIPTIONS, ARTICLES, LETTERS, ETC., TO

David Stevenson,  
Temple Cottage,  
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Or:

Michael Haslam,  
Westfield,  
West Park,  
Leeds, 6,  
England.

These are the new Joint Editors. In general, Breton, Welsh, and Cornish material should be sent to Mr. Haslam; Scottish, Irish and Manx to Mr. Stevenson.

Letters, articles and poems in the Celtic languages should be accompanied by a translation in English (or French) if possible. The Sub-Editors will remain the same.

This is the only inter-Celtic paper. Support it by subscribing to it 5/- a year by post (or equivalent in other currencies).

The Editors welcome criticisms and suggestions as to how to improve the contents, layout, and circulation of the paper; also articles, poems, newspaper cuttings, etc.

They apologise for the lack of items in the Celtic languages in this issue.

## A DUE EXPLANATION

Our readers will have noticed a new change in the Editorship in this issue.

To accept responsibility for "An Aimsir Ceilteac" and then withdraw, as I have done, requires an explanation and an apology to all those people who have come to value this lone inter-Celtic organ, and especially to the former Editor, who handed over the paper expecting that the work would be continued by me.

Just after taking over I found my health causing anxiety, and medical advice warned me that unless I curtailed my activities at once and so avoid strain I would have a serious break-down, which would mean, inter-alia, the break down of "An Aimsir." To my grief and disappointment there was then nothing left for me to do but to withdraw.

The splendid spirit and the eagerness of the new joint Editors gives me personally great consolation, and their zeal and prudence will, I have no doubt, be a sure foundation of success.

TOMAS MacNEACAIL.

Inside:

ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS TO-DAY.

Patrick J. N. Bury.

THE CELTIC LANGUAGES . . . Iain MacKinnon

SCOTTISH LAND RAID

CELTIC CONGRESS.

INTER-CELTIC CONVENTION.

PLAID CYMRU WEEK-END SCHOOL.

ANDREO GEOFFROY.

IRISH UNITY AND THE U.S.A.

On Back Page:

WELSH COMMENTARY.

BOMB IN SCOTS PILLAR BOX.

HOME RULE BILL.

POLICE ATTACK WELSH PATRIOTS AFTER EXPLOSION, Etc., Etc.

## BRIEF NOTES

British M.P.'s have had a cable from Mr. Pritt, who is defending Jomo Kenyatta, that the conditions surrounding the trial amount to a denial of justice. He was prosecuted for this statement but acquitted.

Africans have been herded into concentration camps in Kenya, one of them containing a gallo, which is in use. There have been widespread roundups and confiscation of goods and cattle. The Government has been dividing the Africans against themselves, employing some to hunt down others. It has employed witch doctors to carry out 'cleansing ceremonies' against the Mau Mau oath. A Kenya settler told the writer that if the Europeans had lived up to the absolute moral standards of the Christianity which they profess, there would be no Mau Mau.

The Secretary of State for Scotland said, in a reply, that 12 whole area and 3 part area development plans had been submitted to him by local authorities. He has approved one part plan, with modifications. The Minister of Transport similarly said that the Welsh local authority road schemes had been refused loan sanction since June. Mr. Churchill asked for notice of a question, whether he was prepared to nominate a committee of British M.P.'s to go to Northern Ireland during the next elections as observer to see that fair play and justice are accorded to candidates opposing Unionist policy.

Sir D. Savoury remarked—"Surely the Right Honourable Gentleman is aware that the administration of justice in Northern Ireland is above all reproach."—Hansard, 11-12-'52. Mr. Nutting said that H. M.

Government do not wish to ratify the Genocide Convention until and unless they are absolutely certain that they can give effect, in their domestic law to all the provisions and to the spirit of the convention.

In Cyprus the authorities (British) banned a bus excursion, to Nicosia, organised by the National Liberation Coalition, despite assurances that there would be no formal meetings or speeches. Though the excursion was cancelled the police put up barbed wire obstructions on all the roads leading to Nicosia, on 26th October, and subjected travellers to great inconvenience.

Scottish M.P.'s have again complained of the haste with which Scottish matters are dealt with in the House of Commons.

The French Government still keeps Andreo Jeffroy in prison, despite his proved innocence. They have forced the Bey of Tunis to sign "reform" decrees which put a small French minority on an equal footing with a large Tunisian majority in the "reformed" fields of Government.

The British and French Governments are allied in their desire to prevent the United Nations even discussing their "domestic" affairs—i.e., the affairs of all those people they still hold in subjection.

An organisation known as "The Hundred Men"—an allusion to the declaration of Arbroath . . . so long as 100 of us remain, we will in no way yield to English domination." has threatened to prevent the distribution of Coronation souvenir mugs marked E.R. II to Edinburgh school children.

An unprimed bomb was placed as a warning in the, so far, only Scottish pillar box marked E.R. II. The lettering was also daubed with tar. The Covenant organisation have had a good sale for Christmas cards with a picture of Queen Elizabeth giving her Scottish ancestry inside and marked Elizabeth I. They are now producing Coronation souvenirs, such as women's head scarves, marked Elizabeth I. Queen of Scots. Whether or not we agree with Monarchy we might as well have correct titles.

We have a duty to work for the good of our nations. We must not act out of hatred against past enemies, or from a sense of grievance, but to reach what is good peacefully, if possible. But if opponents force it on us, then we must fight in any we honourably can. If there is bloodshed then, here as in other places, the oppressors will be most to blame.

## WELSH BOMB

On October 19th an explosion caused an 8ft. crater in one arch of the Fron Aqueduct, 16 miles from the new Claeuwen valley dam, which the British Queen opened on October 23rd. A half-ton boulder crashed down onto the road the Queen was to take, on October 22nd, 1,000 plain clothes and uniformed police, and many soldiers, were drafted into the area. Police lined the Royal route on the 23rd. The Fron Aqueduct carries Birmingham's water supply from Wales, but many Welsh people in the district are without piped water.—See back page.—Ed.

lic eye, the time is not yet ripe for Home Rule in Cornwall.

The monthly periodical, "An Lef," which has already been mentioned twice in An Amscr Keltek, is still going strong. In the latest, number Mr. R. Morton Nance, Grand Bard of the Cornish Gorsyth, pointed out that we in Cornwall have a banner, which has not been used for a long time, and which is more genuinely the banner of the Cornish people than are the Chough and the Fifteen Bezants so commonly seen. This banner is the banner of St. Pyran, who came to us from Ireland.

As a matter of fact, the banner has been recently used by Mebyon Kernow (a society of Cornish patriots), and also appeared in Friesland at the recent Congress of European Minorities, to which a delegate was sent from Cornwall.

On St. Petroc's day and on St. Michael's day (both saints highly revered in Cornwall) wreaths in memory of the Cornish dead of wars from the time of the battles against the Saxons down to the Korean War were placed upon war memorials in Truro and Bodmin.

Autumn has seen the appearance of a new multigraphed monthly paper, "New Cornwall", whose aim is "to unite all those who have the interests of Cornwall at heart." It is obtainable through Miss H. Charles, Prasygow, Higher Ninnis, Redruth, Cornwall. Editor: R. Morris.

A revised English-Cornish Dictionary, the lack of which has helped to retard the revival of Cornish, is to appear in early spring.

One evening in August visitors to certain inns in the Perranporth district were amazed to hear a party of young men and women conversing in the Cornish language. May it not be their last shock of this sort!

These are just a few humble events and scenes from Cornwall today, but our friends in the other Celtic countries should know that all is not lost with us.

Yours sincerely,

RICHARD GENDALL.

## CORNWALL

Cornwall is small, and has been very much under the influence of England for a long while now, yet there are sparks of our nationality still glowing. The greatest drawback is that these sparks are isolated, and a number of Cornish men and women, mostly young, are endeavouring by various means to gather them into a heap large enough to fan once more into flames.

That these sparks are genuine, and not those of eccentric and romantic intelligentsia, can be shown by the way in which a choir of ordinary working men near Scorrier take delight in learning to sing songs in the Cornish language. In August at Cambren they sang "Bro Gothagan Tasow", "An Eos Whek" and "Verow Trelawny Bras?"

There is a Cornish factory owner (one of the few) who works with his men making springs. He is relearning his forgotten language, and as he learns, so he passes on his knowledge to his men, who speak it with him at work in halting phrases and single words. These men take a pride in being Cornish, and are only indignant that they should never before have been told of the existence of a Cornish language! This will show to what an extent ignorance is the cause of our downfall in Cornwall; and this ignorance is the fault of those whose job it should be to teach the children of Cornwall.

The words "Home Rule" are actually on the lips and in the papers of Cornwall to-day, though not to any very great extent. Sometimes they are scoffed at, at others defended. I heard one man declare in all sincerity that what we really needed for Cornwall was Home Rule. However, good though it is to have the matter in the pub-

# ANGLO-IRISH RELATIONS TO-DAY

BY PATRICK J. N. BURY

"What is all this fuss about the Six Counties?" said the English politician. "I thought there were only four—Connaught, Leinster, Munster and Ulster."

So runs an Irish chestnut. But, unfortunately, the said chestnut has a kernel of truth in it. Stop a man at random in any English street and ask him about the foreign state which is within sight of the British coast, from some points of vantage. He will tell you that "the Irish question" was settled years ago; that the Irish Free State lasted until 1949; that the City of Belfast is the capital of Ulster, or their names; that the President of Ireland is either named Cosgrave or de Valera; that Ulster declared war on Germany in 1939; that her people are all Scots and that the "Southern" Irish (by which term he also means easterners, westerners, northwesterners and midlanders) subsist almost entirely on potatoes.

If you accompany our friend to Dublin and sound him again from time to time on these points it is most unlikely that he will have retracted any of them; for he will spend most, or even all of his time in the Anglicized commercial centre of the city, carefully avoiding all contact with the natives, as he remembers the famous punning injunction to the medieval band English traveller: "Remember, now don't discuss religion or politics with anyone."

Ireland's history and climate being as they are, he decides that discussion of a hidden topic would be even less rewarding than comments on the old standards of small-talks in these islands, and therefore commences only with himself (or, at most, his wife) as he walks down the middle of the pavement in O'Connell Street with a slightly disapproving expression. As for newspapers, he decides that the Irish ones are probably on a par with the "Yorkshire Post" and published in "Erse" to boot. Therefore he buys only the jingoistic sheets of Fleet Street, which are the cause of most of his misconceptions in the first place.

What, then, must be done to break this "paper wall," as Arthur Griffith called it? That there is a deliberate policy of misrepresentation and suppression cannot be denied. During the Anglo-Irish War of 1916-22 (which is often miscalled the "Troubles" or "Civil War") atrocities perpetrated by English men in uniform were glossed over while any action by the I.R.A. was an "outrage." (Much the same attitude has been adopted of late with regard to disturbances in the Levant). One newspaper in London even falsified a plan of Cork in an attempt to prove that the city was burned, not by drunken English "officers and gentlemen," but by its own citizens. The assassination of the Mayor of Cork was blamed on his own compatriots.

The later war between England (with her satellites and allies) and rival imperialists once again showed Fleet Street at its worst. A widespread English view at that time (shared by an American diplomat in Dublin, named David Gray) was that the independent part of Ireland was morally bound to follow the same course as the four Dominions. The author was reminded that the Irish in the Six Counties, the Scots, the Welsh and the Manx were all believers, but such remarks were met with a query as to what choice these

hapless fellow-Celts had in the matter.

Two versions of Irish opinion and policy, mutually contradictory and equally false, were put forward by English journalists, often inspired by hangers-on of the old regime in Dublin's bars and hotels. The first version was that the Irish were apologetic about taking a ringside seat, were anti-Nazi to a man and were only kept out of the war by the allegedly embittered Mr. Eamon de Valera and his henchmen. The second was that neutrality was a cloak for anti-English activity, such as the refuelling and re-arming of German submarines that was alleged to have taken place at lonely spots on the Atlantic coast.

At the war's end Mr. Churchill thanked General Franco negatively, that is for what he refrained from doing, but reserved for Unoccupied Ireland only that vindictive bombast that is reflected in newspapers owned by his friends. This attack drew from Mr. de Valera a dignified reply which caused listeners all over Ireland to stand up and applaud spontaneously when they heard it from their wireless sets.

Another case of English journalistic distortion is the treatment of such topics as the conduct of the police and Government supporters during elections in the Six Counties, the behaviour of the professedly Anglophile people of that region during the war, the allocation of new houses and the condition of old ones in predominantly Nationalist areas controlled by themselves, the repressive laws and the expropriation of land that precede a royal visit.

A certain English newspaper which lists to port politically has an even stronger anti-Irish bias than some of the pro-Tory sheets; yet this same publication made an unpalatable frank comment on the perpetrators of one of the anti-Papist pogroms of the decade before the war. The result was a bomb in the newspapers' Belfast office and a subsequent retraction.

An English reader might say to all this: "All right, perhaps we have not always been scrupulously fair in our commentaries on Irish events. But were the Irish not being unreasonably resentful when they refused to lift a finger to help us against the foe of small nations and ancient faiths? Would they rather have had Germans than Englishmen in their towns and cities? Can they really believe that the Ulsterman will ever join them after this?"

Englishmen do not realise that Ireland's neutrality was more benevolent than would have been the case with many other nations, despite the Irishman's alleged unwillingness to forgive and forget. The Oireachtas did not follow the Swiss example and pass a Foreign Enlistment Act, forbidding Irishmen to fight foreigners' battles. The opportunity to occupy the Six Counties after the German occupation of Normandy and Brittany was not seized. Allied officers were allowed to inspect Irish defensive installations. Allied servicemen who had been interned were, unlike their German counterparts, released in time to take part in the invasion of Normandy and the Low Countries. At least one anti-English publication was suppressed and the minority who are often called West Britons were allowed to solicit subscriptions for *Soffiters*.

Stories of the Nazis' brutality

did not impress those who remembered what the Black and Tans, the Auxiliaries and certain English infantry regiments were doing in Ireland three decades ago. Queries as to what would happen in Ireland should England fall, made some knowledgeable people point, in reply to the treatment of Denmark, the Channel Islands, Slovakia and Croatia, as compared to the Czech provinces, Poland, U.S.S.R. and the Netherlands.

Talk of the Six Counties' contribution to the Allied cause causes to mind the ban that was placed on Orange demonstrations for the duration of hostilities, for fear that visiting English journalists might ask embarrassing questions about the presence at home of so many mufti-clad, able-bodied men of professedly Anglophile sympathies. When it was hinted to Mr. de Valera that a declaration of war on Germany, or at least the lease of Irish ports for Allied use (as in the Azores) would bring about a more accommodating attitude by England's part regarding Partition, he replied, in essence: "Once bitten, twice shy."

Irishmen remember the promise of post-war Home Rule that was used as a bait when Irish cannon-batteries were so badly needed during the first global war, only to be brushed aside when the danger was over. Englishmen tend to cover themselves with smug virtue when they remember that their country refrained from seizing the unoccupied part of Ireland. There are, however, some who will not wish to regard this point. One school holds that the use of Irish harbours and airfields was not of vital importance to England's defence, and that the whole argument was merely a device to blacken Ireland's name. The other holds that, having had experience of the comparatively small number of ill-trained, poorly armed guerrillas of the I.R.A. of 1916-1922, England had no wish to come to grips with a larger, well-trained, better armed Army that was uniformed and therefore could not be shot out of hand if captured.

Mr. Churchill's refusal to grant arms to Ireland is quoted as evidence. Furthermore, the "fifth column," although active, was by then much smaller and easy to suppress if need arose. (In this respect, many people are disquieted by the post-war immigration of ostensibly retired officers of England's three services into Dublin and the coastal regions between Wicklow and Galway.)

Respect for England's stand was tempered in some quarters with remembrance of the fact that England's major wars (always for purely material causes, despite the usual hypocritical cloak of high-sounding abstractions) have never been fought unaided, as Professor Cyril Falls has admitted; besides England, unlike Ireland, has never undergone the supreme test of invasion and occupation. Participation on the part of the Twenty-Six Counties would have increased international tension to point of civil war and, in any case, so far from consequent reintegration of the national territories taking place, Ireland would have been told at the end that the war could have been won without her aid.

The United States' attitude in relation to this question is based on the fact that the Protestant and/or Anglo-Saxon element (which has never lifted a finger to aid Ireland in her fight for in-

dependence, but instead took action against the Irish Republican Brotherhood) is still dominant. These people choose to regard Partition as a purely Anglo-Irish affair, despite their intervention in Trieste and Asia. No arms have been supplied to Ireland, ostensibly because she is not a member of the Western European alliance; but this argument is disproved by the fact that Sweden, Spain and Yugoslavia, to say nothing of Greece and Turkey, all received military aid without signing the Atlantic Pact.

If Ireland, sponsored by the United States and England, eventually enters the U.N.O., we may be sure that the two English-speaking powers will combine to keep Partition off the agenda and in any case, will rest assured that they will have the Irish vote in their pocket in any disagreement with a Communistic nation. Neither of them would promise not to invade Unoccupied Ireland during the last war, and will probably invade in the event of another, under cover of an anti-Communistic "crusade."

At Strasbourg the English delegation, aided by Unionists from Belfast and by M. Paul-Henri Spaak, adopted the theory that an assembly dedicated to the task of unification among several dissimilar States, was not competent to assist the reunification of one small nation. It may be argued in return that Ireland, although broadly anti-Communistic has ungrudgingly refused to join the Atlantic Pact. The answer is that the Irish government will not enter into any agreement with the world that appears to be complete partition as permanent.

A classed behaviour from the alliance and a nation that is not satisfied with its present frontiers has recently been proposed. This was suggested to soothe French fears of German rearmament, but if adopted it will automatically debar Ireland. Besides all this, there is a widespread unwillingness to become involved voluntarily in other nations' wars, especially one which would give the *impulse-motus* to an already tired European civilisation.

"All right," says our English reader at this stage, "if Ireland desires reunion with the north-eastern counties, why did she recognise their separation in the first place, in the Treaty of 1922? Why did she leave the Commonwealth in 1949? In any case, are not the people of the North of different racial origins and intensely Anglophile to boot?" The Treaty can be dismissed as having been signed under Mr. David Lloyd George's threat of "immediate and terrible war," together with assurances that Partition would be only temporary and would not include such predominantly Nationalist areas as the City of Derry and the counties of Tyrone and Fermanagh. (In passing, it is as well to remember that Sir Frederick Ponsonby, in his biography of King George V, states that this Sovereign used his influence on the side of those who desired a permanent separation of six of Ulster's nine counties, a point that is overlooked by the Anglophiles "Irish Times," when, in one of its frequent eulogues of the English Royal family, it reminds its readers that his late Majesty played an important part in bringing about a cease-fire in Ireland three decades ago.)

As for the notorious Plantation of Ulster, it is not generally realised that many of the Scots involved came in from Galloway and nearby regions, which were then mainly within the Scottish

Gaeltacht and, in any case, had been populated by settlers of Gaelic stock from Ulster centuries before. These mostly settled amicably amongst the Irish, many of whom became their tenants, as the authorities concerned found this to be the most successful plan. Only the most powerful Irish clans were sent "to Hell or to Connaught."

Many of the Irish who remained became Protestants, the better to retain their land. Some even Anglicized or Scotchified their surnames, so that many a Davidson, Cambridge, Rawley or Nelson in the North of Ireland to-day is really a MacDavitt, MacAmbrose, O'Reilly or an O'Neill in disguise, as it were. Inter-marriage was widespread.

As for the English, it was found that they made unsatisfactory colonists, being too desirous of quick returns. There were also some Manx settlers, from one of whom Roger Casement was descended.

The Plantation did not include the three counties of Antrim, Down, and Monaghan, but it is in the first two of these that Protestants are to-day most numerous. True, there were many later Protestant settlers whose origins lay in Denmark, the Low Countries, France, and Germany, but these also settled in Leinster and Munster. Among the pioneers, ineluctable Connaught (as Irish people spell it) was practically deserted after the Cambrian-Normans' invasion of the British century.

So much for the discredited Anglophile arguments, which were aired by Mr. J. C. C. M. P. in the Parliamentary Debate on the Ireland Bill in 1949. We must now consider the question of Ireland's relationship to the Commonwealth. Between 1922 and 1937 the Irish Free State was something less than a dominion. The grudgingly-given Oath of Allegiance (to the English Monarch), the Governorship-General and the English garrisons in Cork Harbour, Berehaven and Lough Swilly all disappeared when the plebiscite of 1937 brought in a new constitution which recognised King George VI as head of the Commonwealth for diplomatic purposes (as does modern India) subject always to Irish governmental approval, declared the name of the State to be Eire in the Irish language and Ireland in English, and reaffirmed that the national territory was the island of Ireland and surrounding isles. Thus, the Twenty-Six Counties were a republic for all intents and purposes, despite English claims that they were a dominion.

(To be continued.)

## INTER-CELTIC CONVENTION

An inter-Celtic Convention will be held at Pantyfedwen Hotel, Borth, Cardiganshire, Wales, from 1st-9th April, 1953.

It is under the auspices of Urdd Gobaith Cymru (The Welsh League of Youth), who hope that representatives from all Celtic countries will be able to attend. The charge will be £4 5s. 0d. for the whole period, or 15s. per day for a shorter time. Soap and towels should be taken.

The programme will include talks, discussions, folk music and dancing.

An invitation is extended, to all Celtic friends, by Urdd Gobaith Cymru.

## Andreo Geoffroy in Hunger Strike for the Second Time

The last issue of "An Aimsir" reported the evidence of an all important eye-witness which conclusively cleared Andreo Geoffroy of the charge on which he had been sentenced to death on suspicion.

This evidence was given on oath to the examining magistrate on Sept. 16th. In the face of this, the French authorities made no move. The Press reporters were suddenly kept away from the condemned man's family, and he was deprived of his mail. Andreo Geoffroy particularly resented the latter move, as his mail was his main moral support in his plight.

On the morning of Nov. 13th he went on hunger strike after having informed the authorities of his decision, to protest against his treatment. Shortly after he was transferred to another prison and got his mail freely, subject to the usual censorship. He then stopped his hunger strike about the 5th December, in a very weak condition from which he has been slowly recovering since.

From news received in Wales—and likely elsewhere—"La Chatte," the French woman counter-spy who was to board the English boat with another person under German watch in February, 1942, has been questioned. Her evidence has plainly disclosed that her companion for the planned crossing to England and who was a witness for the prosecution at the trial in November, 1951, had made a grossly misleading statement, while he would have cleared Andreo Geoffroy if he had stated the truth. "La Chatte" herself was not a witness at the trial.

Will justice prevail in the end in spite of the prejudice to be conservative in expression—which has clearly wrapped this case from the start because of Andreo's stand for his country, and which has cruelly been brought to bear on him and his family.

A valuable story of all the facts of the case, in booklet form, has been written by Dr. Noelle Davies and was published by the "Welsh Committee for the Defence of Andreo Geoffroy" last month. It can be got from the Secretary, at 1 Chaddesley Terrace, Swansea, for 3d., plus postage, or 2s. per doz. The readers of "An Aimsir" are invited to make it known and read where this will be done most usefully.

## BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS

9-12-52.

J. M. Thomson asked the Secretary of State for Scotland how many Scottish Planning authorities had now submitted development plans to his Department, and how many have been approved.

Mr. Stuart: 15 Scottish Planning Authorities have submitted development plans, 12 of these cover the whole of the Local Authorities areas and 3 relate to parts of areas. I have approved, with modification, one part plan.

## WEEK-END SCHOOL

A Plaid Cymru (Welsh Party) week-end school will be held at Kilmoragh Manor, Gower, from February 13th to 15th. Good food and accommodation will be provided, overall charge £2. There will be lectures on party organisation, fighting elections, and public speaking among other things. Full particulars from the Organising Secretary, 8A Graighydd Road, Sketty, Swansea. Closing date for applications, 6th February.

## IRISH UNITY AND THE U.S.A.

The Congress of Industrial Organisations, composed of seven million American workers, has asked President-elect Dwight D. Eisenhower to help end the partition of Ireland in the following resolution adopted at the annual convention this month: "Whereas the free peoples of the world are to-day striving to combat oppressive regimes of every type and character; and

"Whereas to justify the contention of the free peoples of the world in their righteous demands to preserve this freedom, they, too, must practice what they preach and show that when they speak of freedom they mean freedom in the universal sense and true liberty under the law;

"Now, therefore, be it resolved, that we the delegates of the Congress of Industrial Organisations in convention assembled do hereby request the President of the United States to use his good office to the end that the people of all Ireland be permitted in free plebiscite to determine their own form of government."

Philip O'Rourke, of San Francisco, California, Vice-President of the American Radio Association, a CIO affiliate, suggested the resolution in an address to delegates.

Calling Britain "the architect of the partition," he said:

"Her propaganda machine has had and is having its effect, not alone on the American people but, more unfortunate yet, on our elected representatives in Congress....

"Those of us who attempted to bring the urgent state of affairs before our State Department and before Congress, were told that the Irish partition question was one that should be resolved by the Governments of Great Britain and Ireland.

"This is the same as saying that the Korean situation is one for the Chinese Reds and the Koreans to iron out.

"To approach Britain on the partitioning of Ireland is meddling in the internal affairs of that country. Exporting thousands of millions of American dollars to Britain for the purpose of stabilising her faltering economy and to build a bulwark against Communist aggression with what is left over, poses no problem either for Washington or London—We are giving and they are accepting."

SEAN KELLY

The text of the resolution passed by the American Congress of Industrial Organisations is not only insinuating with regard to the partition of Ireland but also to all the Celtic countries under the rule of England and France, leading and pious members of UNO and UNESCO.

Editor.

## SCOTTISH LAND RAID

On 28th November four Balmatin (North Unit) crofters carried out a raid, having previously warned the Government through their M.P., on the nearby Balcloon estate. They paced out a field, quartered it, drove in stakes and cut their initials in the turf. The owner's representatives and two policemen stood by and watched.

The crofters did this to raise their starvation level of existence. This appeared the only way to bring their plight to the notice of the authorities. Public opinion on the island is strongly behind them. Malcolm MacMillan, their M.P., said that more and more members of Parliament are supporting his motion backing the claim of the crofters.

## COVENANT LETTER TO SCOTS M.P.'s

A letter with reference to the Queen's title has been sent to all Scottish M.P.s on behalf of the National Committee of the Scottish Covenant Association, by Dr. J. MacCormick, convener of the association.

The letter, released to the press before the latest developments had been announced from No. 10 Downing Street, asked the M.P.s "to raise with Her Majesty's Ministers the question as to whether Her Majesty is guided by their advice in the matter of her title," and to seek from them a public assurance that two press statements which the letter quotes "are completely unfounded in fact."

One quotation was from the "Glasgow Herald" of Thursday that "as the Queen herself has been chosen to be styled Elizabeth II, that point is regarded as settled."

As the Queen's title could be a political question, "in which I have no doubt that Her Majesty would regard herself as being subject to the advice of her Ministers," Dr. MacCormick writes, "My committee cannot believe that Her Majesty, in defiance of all constitutional precedent in the reign of the last four Sovereigns, has taken upon herself to make such a decision."

"Glasgow Herald," Dec. 13th.

## CELTIC CONGRESS

This will be held in Glasgow this year, at the University, from 1953 to 1954. It has been held in the different Celtic countries for the last thirty years and is purely cultural in nature. The programme will be announced later. The Scottish Branch will bear the cost, each one invited to join it at a rate of one shilling or £1 is for life membership. The Secretary is,

William Hume, Esq., B.L., Messrs. Kennedy, Cameron and Allan, 55, West Regent St., Glasgow, G.2.

Another Celtic Congress, for University people, may be held later, by the British Council. We hope to give more information in our next issue.

## KENYATTA'S DEFENCE

Gift From "The Welsh Republicans"

A money order for five pounds sterling has been cabled to Kenyanua from Cardiff by a group calling itself "The Welsh Republicans" to help pay for the defence of Jomo Kenyatta and five Africans on trial with him.

Mr. D. N. Pitt, O.C., who is defending the Africans, said he received the cable yesterday. It stated that the money was a contribution to the "Kenyatta Defence Fund." He did not know who "The Welsh Republicans" were, but had cabled his secretary in London asking her to find out and express Kenyatta's thanks.

Mr. Pitt to-day cabled four British M.P.s charging that conditions of the trial amounted to a denial of justice.

Yesterday the M.P.s sent him a cable that the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Oliver Lytton, had said that apart from an application about the place of the hearing, Mr. Pitt "was satisfied with the arrangements made."

Mr. Pitt has replied that the statement was entirely unfounded and had "caused much amusement." He feels so strongly about the matter that he has undertaken to remain without further fees for as long as the case may last.

"Evening Echo" (Cork), Dec. 12

## THE CELTIC LANGUAGES

We Celts know that the influence of a majority language such as English or French tends to kill a minority language, particularly where the English or French control that territory in which it exists. Such has been the case of the Celtic languages.

What is not generally realised so well is that, in the transition stage, they tend to corrupt the minority language before its final extinction. Many people excuse this wholesale corruption by saying: "Well, English borrows foreign words, why shouldn't we?" This is a fair enough question—every language borrows from its neighbours. English has "garage" and "restaurant"; French has "yacht" and "dock"; in Holland one sees the signs "Lunch Room" and "Tea Room," and so on.

But borrowed words are in these cases comparatively few if we accept the international Greek and Latin derivations such as "telephone," etc. In no case do these languages go in for wholesale borrowing, such as in the case with the Celtic languages. In any case such words, even international ones, fit ill into the pattern of the Celtic languages.

Even true native words have been discarded in favour of foreign imitations. Those who attempt to use them are told by native speakers that they mean something quite different. This is particularly the case in Scottish Gaelic, "Cathair" (chair), "Seann" (ghost), "Scartag" (batle), "Feadalan" (butchers), have given way to "Seathair", "Ruair", "Ghast", "Buid-ein", while "Cathair" has disappeared altogether. The moans of the year are enough in English, as is also the case with denominations of money.

Any modern word is known in the language of the occupier. Thus in Scotland one meets "post-office", "wireless", etc.; in Wales "picnic", "modur"; in Brittany "sinema", "sigarettez", "telumetez", "machines"—French "allumettes". Examples could be quoted ad nauseam.

Certain individuals have compounded neologisms in order to attempt to prevent the complete bastardisation of the languages. But one thing is certain—the native-speaker will not thank you for those neologisms; he prefers to use the borrowed words, however inapt. So in Scotland one hears a hybrid Gaelic-English tongue, and no doubt this also exists in other Celtic countries; in districts in Brittany one hears a mongrel Breton-French language.

What do writers have to say about this? Some, and rightly so, condemn this practice. Borrowed words should be cut to the minimum, and only used (1) if they fit in with the language (2) if no other suitable word or neologism can be found. Neologisms are at best often clumsy but they are preferable to bastardization. Loan words, if possible, should be taken from other Celtic languages in which a particular Celtic language happens to be deficient. Other writers see no harm in the practice, and give a few quotations.

The consequence is that though the Gaelic dictionary contains Celtic equivalents for such modern scientific terms as "chemistry", "cellulose", "bright" as they have obtained no currency among the people, they are not to be regarded as forming part of the language, and even in talking of objects

which move in the familiar sphere of common life for every Highlander that asks for his biadh-ma'dne, nine hundred and ninety-nine would ask for his "breakfast." (Prof. J. S. Blackie in "Gaelic Self-taught"—MacLaren)

It has been (as even the literature shows) subject to English influence for centuries, but as a generation has become more rapid and virulent of late years owing to its weakened vitality. On native speakers' lips today hundreds of English words have, either partly or completely, displaced their Irish equivalents, and many English idioms have modified or ousted the old Irish ones. In fact, Anglicism, or Beurlachas (in its strict sense) has come to be an integral part of modern spoken Irish, just as many French words have won a right of city in English.—To condemn and expel, straightway all Anglicisms is, therefore, quite impossible; an attempt to do so would be ruinous to the life of the language. (L. McCloskey, S.J., in his English-Irish Dictionary.)

An attempt is being made to revive the Cornish language, but not this self-satisfied state of mind persist; here, Mr. Morion Mance writes in his Cornish-English Dictionary: It has also been recognised that hosts of words passed over by Williams as interloping, because of their non-Celtic origin, are nevertheless as much a part of Cornish as the non-Teutonic "jot" or "beef" or "marked" or "beef" are a part of English, so that a Cornish dictionary is only incomplete, and not purified, if it omits them. He adds: "Yet it is true that a well-chosen Chaucerian word can look more at home in a middle-Cornish sentence (in which modern Cornish is founded) than a new made compound made up of Cornish elements, or a re-spelt old Cornish word, or a pedantic Celtic one that is backed by Welsh and Breton together." One wonders whether mediaeval English is a good thing on which to base a modern language!

A more sensible outlook is taken by the Bretons. In his work "La Langue Bretonne et Ses Combats," Roparz Hemon writes: "To those who object that it is hardly worth while, and that it would be easier to use the stated international terms while adapting them to Breton phonetics, Valée replies that these neologisms have the advantage of being easily understood by every Breton-speaker of average intelligence. And, one must admit, that in a certain degree, he is right.

His ideas appear to have been accepted by the majority of writers, especially the younger generation. They have written, they are writing to-day numerous articles in newspapers, magazines, and books, using terms used by Valée or in creating some according to his principles.

It would appear to be the principle that is most likely to save a threatened language from extinction. If neologisms are introduced and extensively used, it can be taken as a sign of national pride. If every word previously unrecorded in the language be borrowed, where is it all going to end? It must inevitably move for final extinction because it displays a lazy frame of mind, a "couldn't care less" attitude.

It is therefore necessary for the Celts to pool their resources, a common word to be adopted and adapted to the requirements of each Celtic language.

IAIN MACDONALD

### Home-Made Bomb in Pillar-Box

A crudely made bomb, about the size of a duck's egg and weighing about half a pound, was placed during the week-end in Edinburgh's latest "E.R.H." pillar-box at the New Inch housing scheme, Liberton. The same pillar-box only a week ago was daubed with tar.

The first news of the incident came to Edinburgh city police when a reporter telephone them that his office had received a phone call from an anonymous man with a cultured voice. The message was:—"An unprinted charge has just been put in the new pillar-box. Tell the police."

#### POLICE PATROL

The police sent four Flying Squad cars to the scene, and for an hour and a half detectives patrolled the vicinity of the pillar-box to prevent anyone posting mail. Others searched the city for Post Office investigators who could open the box. Mr. G. Jamieson, Postal Emergency Officer, accompanied by Mr. James Law, a postman, and Mr. Fernside Avenue, arrived. Mr. Law opened the box and pulled out a few letters and the bomb.

It was inside a brown envelope, the flap of which was sealed with wax. About six inches of fuse wire protruded from the corner and there was more inside the envelope. Printed in ink on

the envelope was the message:—"Danger to the P.M.G. We trust you will pay attention to Mr. Stuart."

The envelope was found to contain a piece of gelignite tipped like an egg and bound with insulating tape, against which was pressed a detonator. At C.I.D. headquarters an expert said that had the bomb gone off it was more than likely that the effect would have been a roar, accompanied by a small sheet of flame.

#### PROBABLY GELIGNITE

The expert said that he would not be able to say what was inside until it had been dissected. He was quite certain that the bomb was made mostly of gelignite, as there was a strong smell of a substance resembling boot polish.

The new pillar-box was unveiled 10 days ago. Less than 48 hours afterwards unknown persons daubed it with a tarry liquid. Police were still investigating the daubing when the latest incident took place. Special patrols cannot, however, be expected to keep a vigil on the box. "Passing patrols," when in the vicinity, will purposely include the street in their itinerary.

—"Glasgow Herald," December 8th, 1952.

## Welsh Commentary

### WHITHER LADY MEGAN?

Those of you who know a little of the intricate pattern of politics in Wales know of Lady Megan Lloyd-George no doubt. You may perhaps know of her through her father, the Welsh Wizard. Some of you may know of her through her brother, Gwilym, who is the London Government's Food Minister and who has recently been called the Wizard of Oz—one oz of cheese, one oz of this, one oz of that!

But in Wales Lady Megan is known in her own right as a staunch Liberal and a staunch Welshwoman. The political spotlight has been fixed on her for weeks now, for she is severing her connection with the Liberal Party. As yet (mid-December) she has not announced her future political intentions, but by the time this commentary appears she will probably be a member of the Socialist Party.

Rumours about her future are rife nowadays. One paper mentioned the possibility of her joining the Welsh Nationalist Party, though the party leaders know nothing of such moves. There are two very good reasons why she will not join this small and able group of patriots. She wants to get back to Westminster as soon as possible, and as yet there is no safe Nationalist seat. The Welsh Nationalist Party's ultimate aim is Commonwealth Status for Wales, and Lady Megan's political beliefs do not seem to embrace such a wide vista.

Whichever way Lady Megan goes she will raise her voice for Wales continually and fearlessly. She is the President of the Parliament for Wales campaign and has made some very outspoken speeches recently though pinning the Campaign down to an Ulster Status Parliament. This would be a very great advance on the present position where-by Wales has no body with any power to act in the name of Wales.

To all intents and purposes Wales is treated as an undifferentiated part of England. True she has an Advisory Council and a part-time Minister for Welsh affairs whose primary task is "keeping the Queen's peace" by looking after prisoners, aliens, juvenile delinquents, Ulstermen, Manxmen and Channel Islanders. These are but sops, for she has no executive power and a people who have no right to control their own destiny have no rosy prospects.

#### MAJOR . . . MINOR

If you've never heard of Mr. David Llewelyn then you will most certainly have heard of his brother and his brother's horse. Mr. David Llewelyn is the brother of Major Llewelyn of Foxhunter fame, and is Tory M.P. for Cardiff North. Until recently he was Under Secretary of State at the Home Office, with special responsibility for Welsh affairs. He resigned his post in September "for special reasons." That is, he was given the sack.

Why? Someone said of Truman, "Every time he opens his mouth he puts his foot in it." The same is true of Mr. David Llewelyn.

When he spoke at the inaugural meeting of the Young Conservatives (few of whom are under thirty) Luncheon Club at Cardiff on September 17 he expressed deep mistrust of "the professional Welshman, the man who tries to make up on the swings of nationalism what he lost on the roundabout of his career." He was opposed to the establishment of a Welsh Parliament because patriotism had

soured into nationalism in such people!

What an argument against Home Rule! Trust the Tories to find the dafdest things to say. Professional Welshmen indeed, why Mr. David Llewelyn can claim no other since he received £1,500 a year for looking after Welsh affairs. The best answer to his remark about gaining on the swings of nationalism is this verse of Emerson's, which every patriot should know:

"Not gold, but only man can make  
A people great and strong—  
Men who for truth and honour's sake  
Stand fast and suffer long;  
Brave men who work while others sleep  
Who dare while others fly,—  
They build a nation's pillars deep,  
And lift them to the sky."

David Llewelyn had put his foot in it and in an attempt to explain himself he put his foot in it even further by saying that he was referring to Communists and Republicans and adding "Every student of the Home Rule movement knows that it includes some respectable and gifted romantics."

The London government is aware of the growth of the Home Rule Movement in Wales and is very anxious to pose as the defender of Wales, and so David Llewelyn had to go. GARNER-EVANS

Wales has 27 Labour M.P.s, 3 Liberals (How are the mighty fallen), 5 Conservatives and 1 National Liberal (i.e., Conservative under an assumed name). The last-named M.P. is Mr. Garner-Evans, who held a post subordinate to the aforementioned and unmentioned David Llewelyn.

Mr. Garner-Evans probably had his eye on the vacant post, for he attacked the Welsh Nationalist Party whilst attempting to make up for David Llewelyn's error by saying that there were some really good people supporting Home Rule.

Had Wales followed the lead of the Nationalists in 1939 he said she would be living under Nazi rule today and anyway she was far too poor to support her own government. His remarks received great publicity in the press, but an immediate reply by much respected Gwynfor Evans, President of the Welsh Nationalist Party, showed how hollow his arguments were. Had Wales followed the path of freedom she would have been able to decide for herself what he would have done in 1939. The cry of "Poverty" is carrying less and less weight nowadays, for more and more figures showing how rich a country Wales is are coming to light. Wales has only 5% of the population of Britain, yet she produces 12% of the deep-mined coal (including 36% of the great dollar earner anthracite), 26% of the crude steel and 98% of the tin-plate. How a country like that can be called poor beats me. And it beats quite a few thousand other people too, and the numbers are growing steadily.

#### LORD LLYOD

The man who followed David Llewelyn is Lord Llyod. There are only two things about him that identify him even remotely with Wales. He has a Welsh name and he served in a Welsh regiment in the war. What a choice! As far as I know he has never been in Wales, but was brought up on a farm in England and speaks no Welsh. What such a man can achieve who knows nothing of the social back-

### POLICE ATTACK WELSH PATRIOTS

The general alert of police following the Fron Aqueduct explosion in October led to an incident at Merai Bridge Fair (Fair Borrh) a few days later when a group of young Welshmen who openly expressed their approval of the attack on the pipeline were violently assaulted by the police. One was struck across the mouth by a police inspector and a second kicked. Only the hostile attitude of the crowd towards the police prevented further of these assaults in the name of English law and order.

This deliberate attempt by the police to provoke trouble is clearly connected with the recent increase of police activity throughout Wales. Extensive local investigations into all Welsh separatist activities have been ordered by English Special Branch detectives in charge of the enquiry into the Claeuven dam explosion.

The Welsh Republican,  
December 1952—  
January 1953.

ground of modern Wales and (I'm sure) still less of her history, I can't for the life of me see.

MAU MAU . . . MIAW MIAW  
A Welsh commentator recently that if you tread on the African's toes the result is Mau Mau, but even if you disembowel the Welshman the only answer is Miaw Miaw.

He's right, of course, and until Wales can make herself much more of a nuisance—and that can be done constitutionally—she will continue to be treated as a little part of England that needs special sop treatment. When we become a nation in reality we will have no use for people like Lord Lloyd. Our test will not be blood and not even language but service and loyalty.

DAFYDD ORWIG JONES  
(Welsh Editor).

#### WELSH

Y MAEN HWN  
(Maen Pencader)

"Na phlennwch y maen hwn;  
Digon i ni ydyw'r geariau,  
Ac afraid y garreg lefn i gofio'r  
gwr.  
Ni thal rhamant yr ornementau,  
A thrimwyd o'r cwarrau  
Ormod o'r cerrig addurn eisoes  
i'n twr.

Yma mae arnom angen y meini  
minig  
I rythu'n frathog ac yn onglow o  
gonglau'n gwlad.  
Fel yr ysgatho'r rhain groen y  
gelyn  
Pan welont ei benelin  
Yn pantu ar Walia;  
Rhoi briw i gynllunwyr y brad.

Na phlennwch y gofeb.  
Ffolineb yw codi ym Mhencader  
Y maen trwm hwn  
Lle na hydd neb yn gwsgu i'w  
gysgod;  
Rheitiach ei glymu am wddf y  
cwislingiaid fyrrd  
Sy heddiw yn Sir Gaerfyrddin  
A gwendid y gened y eu  
ffyrdd;  
Ei glymu am eu mynyglau  
A'u stffio i'w ffac Llanystffan  
Yn basg i'r pysgod."

#### EIRIAN DAVIES

O "Camro Cymru", casgliad o gerddi a ghoeddwyd yn arbenig ar gyfer Rali Pencader y daw'r gan yna. Ni ddylai neb sy'n gallu'r Gymraeg fod heb y gyfrol sy'n cynnwys 15 o ganuon cenedlaethol. Geillir ei gael am 6d o Swyddfa Plaid Cymru, 8, Queen St., Caerdydd.

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### LIBERALS' HOME RULE PLEA

The five Liberal members of the House of Commons are among those who maintain that Parliamentary efficiency is being seriously impaired by the congestion of business, and have accordingly decided to sponsor a motion demanding Home Rule for Scotland and Wales.

They hope, moreover, that in view of the anxieties of other members—some of whom consider that the prestige of Parliament has not fallen so low for 40 years—the Government will allow an opportunity for debate as soon as possible after the Christmas recess.

The motion, which was tabled to-night, states that under the prevailing circumstances—"It is impossible for Parliament to deal adequately with the grave and important public matters that rightly come before it."

It further declares that—"in order to relieve part of the pressure of public business, measures of devolution should be introduced which would leave the affairs of the constituent countries of Great Britain to be dealt with by their own parliaments," thus assisting the Parliament at Westminster "to transact its business with more mature consideration and greater efficiency."

—Glasgow Herald, Dec. 13th.

### THREAT TO STONE MAY BE HOAX

For the second night running extra police were to-night on guard at Westminster Abbey following reports that an attempt would be made to damage the Stone of Scone and the coronation chair with acid. Another report stated that an attempt might be made to remove the stone from the Abbey.

After a day of inquiries, however, the official view is that the threats are a series of hoaxes. Dr. A. C. Don, Dean of Westminster, said:—"I am not in the least worried about the stone. It is still in the Abbey and there it will remain."

Special Branch officers of Glasgow C.I.D. were satisfied that the information which put

### TREASON TRIAL

The English monthly, "History To-day," published by the English Historical Association, referring to famous English trials, says in its current number: "The political issues dominating a whole society may come to be concentrated in a single court-room." So they were concentrated in a court of the Lord Chief Justice of England on the second day of Sir Roger Casement's trial on June 27, 1916.

The Attorney-General of England, the Right Hon. Sir E. E. Smith, ex-gallop to the General Officer Commanding the Ulster Volunteers, had his first great chance to reveal his brilliant gifts in the office to which a complicated series of political intrigues had called him. He poured his scorn and contempt on the friendless prisoner—the pension and the knighthood, the "disloyalty"—it was easy going. The drawing voice lent pungency to the polished "wise-cracks," which won eager appreciation in a court crammed to suffocation. It was not often that English sportsmen have the opportunity to see an Irish traitor hounded to his death, with the dice loaded against him, the verdict pre-ordained, and his character blackened by false accusations.

Casement's address to the court on the fourth day of his trial is among the greatest Irish speeches from the dock—perhaps it was the greatest of all, not only as a classical piece of the struggle for Irish freedom, but for the unflinching courage with which he made it in a courtroom thronged with enemies—Emmet and Mitchel, even the Manchester martyrs, felt the presence of friends who understood and agreed with the principles for which they stood trial. Casement had very few to speak a friendly word, and not a cheer to lend him heart at the end of one of the noblest orations in Irish history.

JAMES CARTY.  
—In the Irish Press.

Scotland Yard on the alert was not sent from Glasgow.

"The call did not originate here, and the source of it is unknown," said a senior officer. —Glasgow Herald, Dec. 15.