

AN AIMSIR CELTEAC THE CELTIC TIME

PAPER OF THE CELTIC PEOPLES



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

SEND SUBSCRIPTIONS, ARTICLES, LETTERS, ETC., TO David Stevenson, Temple Cottage, Balmore, Stirlingshire, Scotland.

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

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The views expressed in articles in this paper are not necessarily the views of the Editors. We hope to publish articles from more than one viewpoint on many matters. We invite 'Letters to the Editor' on subjects raised in the paper and on all subjects of Celtic interest. We got one subscription, without any name or address, from a Belfast reader. If he sees this, we will be glad if he writes to us.

PENCADER POEMS

On the day of the rally at Pencader, Sept. 27th, 1952, a collection of patriotic verse was published in pamphlet form, price 6d. (excluding postage) obtainable from Plaid Cymru, 8, Queen St., Cardiff. This booklet contains an excellent collection, including many well known ballads, such as "A Ballad of the Last Battle," (C.1409); "Captain Morgan," "The March of the Men of Hat-eck," and also more recent ones, one of which is included in this issue. The collection is all in English, however.

THE OLD MAN OF PENCADER Noëlle Davies

He stood before the English king,
A Welshman, old and frail,
While round him thronged the conquerors' host,
Haughty, in clanking mail.
He too had joined that host awhile
Yielding to alien force, or guile
But now the love of fatherland
Had set his heart aflame,
And fearlessly he took his stand,
Uttering the clarion prophecy
Which has through many a century
Outlived our slavery's shame.
"No race but this of Wales, O' King,
No other tongue but this,
Shall answer on the Judgment Day
Before the Lord of Bliss.
For this small corner of the earth
The land is ours by right of birth,
We hold it by our Maker's will,
And ours it shall abide!"
The Monarch frowned, but on the hill
Beyond the ring of armed men
The listening Welsh found heart again
And raised their heads in pride.
Now, in Pencader, where long since,
That nameless hero stood,
His words in stone are graven deep—
We swear to make them good!
Yes, even those once lured away
By other masters, pledge to-day
Their faith to Wales; we all unite
Not on the rock alone,
But in our living hearts we write
Those deathless words of prophecy:
Wales shall be Welsh, Wales shall be free,
Till the last trump is blown!

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FOREIGN PRESS

In all the Celtic countries a problem is created by the fact that many of the people read the cheap sensational foreign Press, ignoring national publications. They get all their news from a foreign source, with a foreign slant on it; usually from papers that concentrate on sensationalism, to sell to a wide public, instead of stimulating people to think about ways of solving national and international difficulties. In Ireland Sinn Fein and the Gaelic League are to co-operate in a campaign against the Foreign Press. Similar campaigns in the other Celtic countries would be a good idea.

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GLASGOW UNIVERSITY AND THE BRITISH COUNCIL

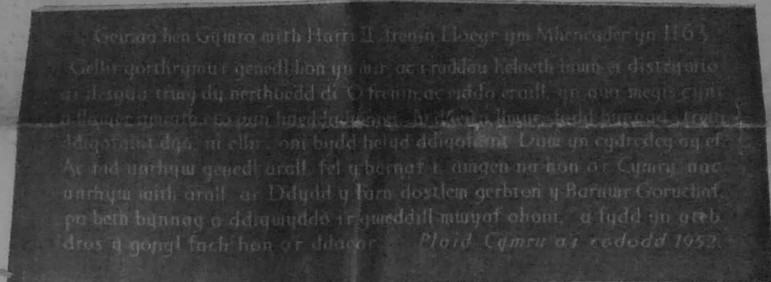
Glasgow University and the British Council are jointly sponsoring an "International Conference on Celtic Folklore." Delegates, mainly drawn from Universities, will attend "by formal invitation." They will spend five days at Stormoway, starting on 5th October, hearing various papers; then four days at Oban, where the Mod is being held. The emphasis is strongly on Gaelic culture.

BRODELOUREIN VREIZH

Ha pa vez ruz hon dorn gant gwad an heñvelboan,
Pa lue'h 'n hol lagad du kounna ar gasoni,
Broadelourien omp, Broadelourien Vreizh.
Ar re omp n'o devo dar greunvaen kaer ebet,
Nag ambrogadegoù, na bleunioù pa varvint
An anaou warno, Broadelourien Vreizh.
Evidomp ne vezo nemet ar galeoù,
Al lazha hag un toull, un tam-gin douar turiet,
Ha kunujenn ur Gall 'vit ar gored ez omp.
Gouezviled ez omp holl, emc 'houesthidi S.S.,
Ar re a fuzuilhet ur mousc 'hoarzh war o gweuz,
Holl gement-se ez omp, Broadelourien Vreizh.
Warnezomp 'z eus an hu, sklaved villiget omp,
Forbanned, treitourien, bourevien a fuster,
Holl gemet-se ez omp, Broadelourien Vreizh.
Ha mar sav an arnev er C'hornog gourdrouzus,
Endeiziou gindik hor bed leun a zrantiz,
E vezimp tonket c'hoazh da gin-nig hor buhez.

1946.

(ar varzhonég-mañ a zo bet skrivet e koun A. G. ha L. J. Fuzuilhet o-daou e Roazhon d'an 19vet a viz Gouhere 1946).



This stone, a 1 1/2 ton slab of granite, was unveiled on September 27th. "The Welsh Stone of Destiny," it carries in its inscription the prophecy of the old man of Pencader, made in 1163. (See "Pencader Poems").

BRIEF NOTES

We are glad to see the number of Celtic and Inter-Celtic Congresses and festivals which are being held. A recent Inter-Celtic political rally in London was a great success, and more are planned. But there are many people who only see the problems of their own countries, who do not see that a principle of freedom applied to their nation should also be applied to others. There are, for instance, Scottish Nationalists who do not see that Wales has a right to self-Government, and as for self-determination for Tunisia or Cyprus "Those Woes" Let us hope that this narrow mindedness is just a curable symptom of Anglicisation. We must work for Inter-Celtic co-operation, and each person in his own national movement should make sure that those around him know the truth about the struggles of other peoples. One way to help this is to persuade your friends (and enemies) to take "An Aimsir"; or why not give them a year's subscription as a present? Mr. Clement Davies, the Liberal Leader, has been speaking up for Parliaments for Scotland and Wales. But he seems to hope

for rather a wishy washy sort of devolution, and has further confused the issue by asking for Parliaments for various parts of England, which have no separate National consciousness, at the same time. England might benefit from internal federation, but we don't want Scotland and Wales to be considered in the same light as English regions. The English are complaining bitterly about Iceland's protection of her fisheries. Recently they fought a Norwegian claim to territorial waters in the international court, and lost. Scottish fishermen, bailed by Scots Nationalists have long been appealing for protection of Scottish waters. In 1707 Scotland had a 14 mile limit, and protected it. Since Scotland became, in effect, incorporated into England, she has had to be content with the 3 mile limit, which suits the English, and even that is not protected. Scottish waters are grossly over fished and Scots net fishers have watched foreign trawlers steaming through their nets. They can do nothing about it, and can get no compensation. They cannot afford new nets. The moral? It is not in England's interest to protect Scottish waters, and Eng-

land's interest comes first with an English Parliament. Besides, Westminster legislates for so many nations (in English colonies) that even English affairs cannot be properly attended to. Scottish or Welsh affairs have no hope. All that the Scots and Welsh get are more committees, so that government is taken further away from the people, and more red tape. The English are fussing a lot about changing the title of their Queen, but apparently she is still to be called Queen of Northern Ireland, and, as to the numeral, no attention will be paid to Scottish history. In Scottish schools English history is often taught, with references to Wales and Scotland rather as rebellious provinces. The writer was taught, at a Scottish School, the "Kings of England from 1066," with no mention of the Scottish Royal line, apart from some picturesque stories of Robert the Bruce, represented rather as a bandit leader. The Royal Commission on Scottish Government has had its first public sittings. Most witnesses have advocated "Administrative Devolution." No doubt, the Commission will sit for a very long time before coming to any conclusions, which needn't be acted on anyway, so there is no point in wasting more space on it.

Anglo-Irish Relations To-Day

... the Twenty-Six Counties were a republic for all intents and purposes, despite English claims that they were a Dominion.

No delegates were sent to Imperial Conferences, no views pronounced on changes in King George's title. All that happened in 1949 was that, trying of a compromise that brought the end of Partition no nearer and caused internal strife in times of crisis, the government in power decided to state with emphasis that the 26 Counties were an independent republic. (True, English politicians accepted India's republican status, and did not insist on a Burman Free State, but the two Asian countries are larger and more distant than Ireland, have not been linked with the English Crown for so long, and did not gain independence at a time of Tory ascendancy).

The Ireland Act, which purports to make Partition as permanent as any English Act of Parliament can make it, was seen as a piece of vindictiveness. Indeed one wonders whether England would be so solicitous for her fair-weather-friends in East Ulster were they settled instead in West Connacht, where there is less scope for heavy industry, and which is less easy to use as a military bridgehead. One notices that no garrison and puppet government were maintained in the Karens' territories of the Irrawaddy Delta and the mountainous Sino-Burman frontier.

An English politician has stated that the Commonwealth wants no unwilling members, but he conveniently overlooked the oft-expressed will of the majority of the people in Counties Tyrone, and Fermanagh, Derry City, the South of County Armagh, and the South and East of County Down, to say nothing of Cyprus. The former Indian Empire was evacuated because it could no longer be held; Malaya is still occupied because of its valuable natural resources. Ceylon, like Iraq, Libya and the former Irish Free State, was allowed its own government only at the price of English naval and/or aerial bases on its soil.

Everything possible was done to keep the Jews of Central and Eastern Europe (and later Asia and North Africa) out of Palestine, while the Dutch were squeezed out of Indonesia, so that England and the U.S.A. could pose as the champions of the Asiatic peoples. So much for Mr. C. R. Attlee's "New Commonwealth," which amounts to nothing more nor less than making a virtue of necessity.

Comparatively few English people are aware that there is any dispute at all over Partition, let alone that the matter concerns their country. They do not know that the north-eastern Statelet was set up entirely on English, Scottish and Welsh votes when the Government of Ireland Bill was passed at Westminster thirty years ago. They do not realise that Tories from England, aided by their co-partisans in Belfast, deliberately incited sectarian strife to smash the Liberal Party and kill Home Rule.

The Tories of north-eastern Ireland keep sectarian divisions alive to-day to maintain their power. They would never consent to a plebiscite that would put them out of office, or even one that would reduce their territory by half, by allowing predominantly Nationalist areas to join the Twenty-Six Counties; indeed some were not happy to see the Protestants of Counties Cavan, Donegal and Monaghan (which all form part of historic Ulster) come under Dublin's ju-

isdiction in 1922 but they accepted the Border as it is because they knew that the inclusion of those three counties would endanger their safe overall voting majority, even with gerrymandering. The present area is the largest that they can dominate, while a smaller area could not support the top-heavy puppet-government with its multitudinous hangers-on (mainly selected on a communal basis) and its private army of plain-clothed special constables, which, like the uniformed branch, are all armed but unlike the uniformed branch, entirely recruited from among the Protestants.

It is often claimed that the region is "occupied by its own sons," but the fact is that the local regiments are comprised mainly of English conscripts. (For that matter, many important public posts in the Six Counties, including the Governorship, are held by Englishmen and Scots. One of the former, who applied for appointment as town clerk was bluntly asked what was his religion. Upon stating that he was an Anglican, he received the post, only to be rejected by the Home Secretary of the region when the latter discovered that the applicant's wife was a Roman Catholic).

PADRAIG S. N. DE BRUGH.
(To be Continued).

ANDREO GEFFROY

Still Andreo Geffroy is in prison. He has spent 15 months in chains, under sentence of death, now. He is held in the "Prison de la Sante" (C.A.M.2/21, 42 rue de la Sante, Paris 14e) where he spends 23 1/2 out of 24 hours alone; heavily chained, in a cold dark cell. The food is foul and he is not allowed to receive food parcels from friends.

He was charged with betraying two English spies to the Germans during the war. The evidence of the German officer who arrested them, and of Mathilde Carre, the French counter-spy, who was to cross to England on the night of the arrest, among others, has long proved his innocence. Perhaps the French authorities hope to kill him by bad treatment, as they would hardly dare to execute him now. It is interesting to contrast the treatment of the Alsatiens of Oradour with that of Breton patriots.

The English "Daily Mail" recently published a few details about the escape of the German battleships, Scharnhorst, Gneisenau and Prinz Eugen through the English Channel during the war. It did not mention the treachery of the English spies, which made it possible, nor have these men in any way been brought to book. The French authorities have made the Breton their scapegoat, forgetting the French traitors who were to have returned to England in the guise of French patriots, by the boat which took the two Englishmen to Brittany. Must an innocent man continue to suffer for other people's sins? If France boasts of justice, let her show it by releasing him.

It might be helpful for people to send their protests to the French Ambassadors in Dublin and London. Further information may be had from the Welsh Committee for Andreo Geogroy, 1 Chaddesley St., Swansea, Wales.

A two-column article on Andreo Geffroy's case in the 13th February issue of the weekly Paris paper, "Rivarol", one of the few French papers with a sense of freedom and justice, impassionately describes the case in all its hollowness, the plain evi-

dence which destroys the charge, and after contrasting the silence of the French Press with the indignation aroused in the Celtic countries, the author feels bound to conclude with the question which strikes any man of good faith in connection with the condemned man: "Is it the betrayer of Englishmen which is meant to be punished, or the Breton Nationalist?"

HIBERNIA

The February issue of "Hibernia," Dublin, contained a few articles of notable interest.

In "Coddling the Common Man" we read words like these which can be meaningful to us:

"... Civilisation is the creation of a few uncommon men and owes its permanence and preservation to them who are so uncommon as to prefer spiritual adventure to common material satisfaction and securities."

"... And elite of the mind and of labour which stems from the people without cutting itself from them and which would truly be the flower and luxury of their vital energies."

"... The intellectual life of the Democratic community must aim at no ideals higher than those of the Common Man, which is to say, it must be dominated by the lowest common denominator of intelligence, taste and character. Whoever resents that resentment is a snob and a prig."

(This 'democratic community' we share is a product of French and English evolution which we have inherited from them even more directly than the other democracies of the west).

"The other Britain and its language" is a well informed article on the position of the Breton language and its "teaching", or pretence of same, even in the smallest degree, written by Rev. Stephen J. Brown, S.J., the author of a series of articles, "Getting to Know One Another," in "An Aimsir."

There is also "A Tene and the Celts" dealing with the Celts at the time of their hegemony in Europe and with some of the finds which have since been got from that period. The article starts with these verses, by the Breton poet, J. P. Calloch:

"To-day, I well know, you are the despised of all,
After being, O Celtic race, the light of Europe,
To-day, like the sun, you have sunk in the west,
But when morning breaks, you will rise with him again."

SCOTTISH REPUBLICAN ARMY

Recently there have been reports of the existence of a Scottish Republican Army. Some English and other papers claim to have had exclusive interviews with its leaders, and have managed to obtain or invent nice sensational stories.

Among other things, some explosives and detonators have been taken, and a telephone call purporting to come from the S.R.A. advised newspapers to watch out for bangs.

The manager of the company, from which the explosives were taken, expressed a fear that the S.R.A. people might blow themselves up.

A Sunday paper has also reported (from an exclusive interview!) that a Free Scotland Radio is to be set up this year, to crash B.B.C. programmes with propaganda and comments.

Much of the Press has been letting either its imagination or its credulity run riot, and some reports have been so fantastic that we can only wait and see what actually happens. But certainly some of the stories are based on fact.

ONE AND ALL

The cultural movement centred around the Celtic Congress has always been geographically complete and includes all the Celtic countries, but the word "Celtic" in the Universities of these islands only applies to the Gaelic and Welsh languages, ignoring what has been until now the most spoken Celtic language, if the poorest with regard to literature, Breton.

In other fields there has been a strong inclination in some circles to restrict the scope of co-operation to Ireland, Scotland and Wales, this often aimed at deliberately for the sake of a certain and rather nebulous expediency, on the plea that we could thus concentrate at first on one Imperialism, the English one.

This might be a good strategic device if the struggle was of a military or diplomatic nature, if the forces—even the moral forces—of the three countries were fully mobilised and could be pitted at will against those of England (though it can occasionally apply on special points and we have here urged, for instance that an alliance be made between the Irish anti-Partitionist and Scottish and Welsh Nationalist organisations for action at British elections) but this would be misrepresenting the position altogether.

Our tasks and our struggle are above all of an internal nature: that of waking up, educating and, if we have men of genius, inspiring our peoples, at least their elites, and in this respect the problems are broadly common to all the Celtic nations. The strength of our movement is mainly idealistic: it is one of life against death and of God-given and human rights against exploitation.

If we mean to be the good shepherds of the Celtic race, we must know ALL our flock and care for it all. If our care was to be only fractional we would be only the hirelings, and hirelings are no leaders.

The existence of Brittany in our midst should in one way at least be welcome as a salutary feature in itself. The Celts of these islands, kept as they have been under a common English influence, can benefit from their acquaintance with the Breton Celts who have been spared that influence; reciprocally the Bretons will find a refreshing source of educative value in the other Celts who have been free from French influence. A truly common Celtic heritage coming from a deep past may thus reshape itself and modern bounds and values thus be cast from material which has stood the test of time.

THE WOLF IN SHEEP-SKIN

The Irish News Agency's paper, "Ireland," under the auspices of the Department of External Affairs, published a report of a lecture on Ireland given at the University of Paris in February, in which the lecturer, by the name of A. Mutterer, (a rather Teutonic one) emphasised that "no Frenchman can ever feel a stranger in Ireland."

In an article published in the daily "Irish Independent", and written by a Frenchman whose name was given as Pierre Bergot we read that a Frenchman is quite at home in Ireland, especially if he happens to be ... a Breton, which is his own case, the author casually informs the reader.

Of course we know of the well fueled standing propaganda which represents France and Ireland as two close mates, and which has been mainly fed on the old "alliance" of Anglo-French hostility times—now 150 years dead. But what appears to be a new feature of that propaganda is that it is prone to make a shrewd and bold use of the kinship between the Breton and the Irish peoples as a spearhead in Ireland—the most striking aspect of it is that a good deal of Ireland's kinship with Brittany resides in the similarity of their plight and problems, past and present, for which France is mainly responsible as far as Brittany is concerned.

AN TOSTAL

(A Hosting).

From April 5th to 26th this year, Ireland is "at home" to visitors, especially to her own exiles.

Galway Tostal Council has arranged for a Breton band to come and give exhibitions of folk-music and dancing, and has invited Scots and Welsh Societies to join in, too. The Breton band hopes to visit other parts of Ireland if it has time. There will be an I.R.A. re-union in Dublin, and the Army will present "a spectacular patriotic show" in the Theatre Royal.

All sorts of entertainments, exhibitions and sporting events are planned.

Further information may be had from Fogra Failte, Dublin.

SCOTTISH PILLAR-BOX

On the 12th of February a pillar box in Edinburgh, the only one in Scotland to bear the offending E.R. II. lettering, was blown to bits. Previously it had been daubed with paint, and cracked with a sledge hammer. It had just been replaced, after the crack had been mended, when it was blown up. Earlier a dud bomb had been placed in it as a warning, addressed to the Post-Master General, followed by a live bomb, "enough to blow up a house," which failed to explode through a fault in the fuse.

The English and English-controlled Press has made much of the "danger to life," but in fact it is plain that those responsible took precautions to see that no-one got hurt. The box has been replaced by one without any inscription.

The whole thing may seem trivial. It is, of course, purely symbolic, but symbolism can be very important. Perhaps the recent explosion is symbolic of a growing determination to use deeds rather than words.

SKEEALYN CHEIL-CHOLLEE

We should have welcomed in our last issue, and do welcome in this one, this new booklet of short stories in Manx. It is entirely in Manx Gaelic, apart from a translation into English of the introduction, written by the Speaker of the House of Keys, President of the Manx Language Society. It may be obtained from Mr. Davies, "Bro Dawel," Tan-yv-Allt Road, Mochdre, Colwyn Bay, Wales, by post, for 2/9d. per copy.

SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR WALES

Read Monthly Papers of National Party of Wales: "Y Ddraig Goch" (in Welsh).

"The Welsh Nation" Annual subscription for one: 4/6; two, 7/-.

Send for list of Publications. PLAID CYMRU (Welsh Party) OFFICES, 8 QUEEN STREET, CARDIFF.

CEANNAIRC NAN GAIDHEAL

Thachair dhomh a bhi a' bruidhinn ri Sasunnach coir mu chor nan Gaidheal, gu'n robh an taobh tuath a dh'Albainn na dhearg-fhasach, agus gu'n thoisich fuadach nan Gaidheal an deigh briseadh Chuil-Thodair.

"Cha d'eirich na Gaidheil le Tearlach, ma 's e sin na tha 'n ur beachd," arsa mise. "Dh'fhaodadh a' Ghaidhealtachd coir agus da mhile dheug thar fhichead a dh'fhearraibh, lan chomasach air airm a ghiulan, a chur do champ a' Phrionnsa aig an am sin.

Tha fhios againn nach robh ach deich mille fear aig Tearlach cruinn comhla far na h-uine a bha e anns an duthaich, agus bha sin Frangaich Eirionnach, Goill agus Sasunnach 'n am measg. Nan d'eirich na Gaidheil uile ri Tearlach, cha d'fhuair am Feoldair a spog mosach riamh air fearann Alba.

Cha d'fhuair mo charaid dad ris 'a mheud sin, agus go goidir 'n a dheigh sin sgar sinn ri cheile. Ach cha do sgar an smaoineamh ri 'm aigne. Ma d'eirich na Gaidheil, d'eirich na Goill cuideachd.

Cha bu luaithe a bhruchd Loch Iallagan na Camronaich a steach an Dun Eideann na thoisich an slugh ri iollach, ri bas-bhualladh, agus ri gairdeachas mor, a' moladh agus a' deanamh uail as a' Phrionnsa.

Ach cha do loisgeadh dachaidhean nan Gall, mar a loisgeadh taighean nan Gaidheal. Cha d'rinneadh laghannan an aghaidh canaine agus acdaich nan Gall, mar a rinneadh an aghaidh canaine agus deise nan Gaidheal.

Comac co dhiubh air taobh a' Phrionnsa no an campa Dhuie Uillean a bha iad. Mar a chan Donnchadh Ban nan Oran: "Tha comannach aig Sasunn oirn. Osmachdaich iad gu buileach oirn. Tha angar agus duilichinn 'S an am so air iomadh fear Bha'n campa Dhuie Uilleam 'S nach feairid' iad gu'n bhuidhinn iad."

TOMAS MAC NEACAIL THE WILD GESE

In January a duplicated monthly, "The Wild Geese" - The Voice of Republican Ireland in Exile - appeared. It is issued by Mac Gearailt Oge, 49 Brockwell Park Gardens, London, S.E. 24, from whom it may be obtained, by post, for 5s. a year. It is small, but it's lively and worth reading.

FRENCH EDUCATION IN BRITTANY

Every year, young masters are employed on probation during summer vacations in a town or another in the French Education Districts. The probation lasts a week or two. The masters are taught new ways of education (excellent ones, as a matter of fact): education in pleasure. In Brittany, the monitors teach only French songs and dances (with the exception of an Upper-Brittany popular song in French and a Gwened ring without any interesting characteristics).

The truth was given by one of the inspectors of the Academy who told a master: "Teaching in Breton should be a very good thing, but YOU KNOW VERY WELL THAT MR. THE RECTOR OF THE RENNES ACADEMY IS OPPOSED TO IT."

AN T.

Government Policy on Partition

The Taoiseach was asked by Mr. S. Collins, (F.G.) in the Dail recently, if he would indicate what policy the Government has to maintain pressure throughout the world against the gross injustice of partition.

Mr. de Valera, replying, said he thought he could not do better than refer the Deputy to a very full reply given by the Taoiseach to a similar question addressed to him by the Deputy on October 31, 1951.

The reply to which the Taoiseach referred was as follows:

"It is the intention of the Government to use to the best advantage every situation arising from time to time that is capable of being used towards the ending of Partition. In international affairs the Government keep this purpose constantly in mind as their primary and fundamental national aim. We will endeavour to make known as widely as possible the facts of Partition - by what methods and for what purposes it was brought about and has been maintained and the evils and injustices that inevitably flow from it.

"We will call, as in the past, on the help and support of men and women of our race in other countries, in seeking to convince the friendly nations of the world that the ending of Partition is a matter of concern to all who desire international peace and security and to convince the Government and people of Britain that the removal of this barrier to unreserved friendship between the peoples of the two islands will be to their advantage as well as to ours. We will also continue our efforts to convince those of our own people in the Six Counties who are at present opposed to national re-union that their true interests will best be served by their participation in the development of an integrated Irish nation." - "Irish Press," 7-2-'53.

STUDENT SPIES

When the Welsh delegation came in Brittany, the Dean of the Rennes University asked a French student named Citeau to find a sufficient number of French students, so that they could prevent the members of the delegation from being spoken to by Breton students.

Some time after a young Breton writer, author of an Anatomy in Breton and of numerous other works applied for a teaching job in Scotland. The Breton Dean, fearing that the writer could be a Nationalist, asked Citeau to take informations about him, wanting to prevent him from going to Scotland if he was proved to be a Breton patriot.

AN T.

S. N. P.

The annual conference of the Scottish National Party is being held in the St. Andrew's Mid Hall, Berkley Street, Glasgow, C. 3., on Saturday, 25th, and Sunday, 26th April, 1953. Delegates will be attending from all over Scotland.

The week before a rally is being held by the Party in London on Sunday, 19th April, the day after the International football match at Wembley.

CARA

The advent of the new organisation, Cara, the Society of Friends of the Language, was welcomed by Mr. Piaras Beaslai, at a meeting organised by Cara in the Mansion House, Dublin.

Mr. Beaslai said that non-speakers of Irish who wished to help the language and to hear it spoken had been too long neglected by the language revivalists. The language movement had made great progress in its early years by enlisting the support and sympathy of the general public, many of whom did not know Irish, he said.

Mr. Cyril Cusack, film and stage actor, said that he believed the Irish personality would always remain incomplete without the national language as the medium of expression.

Rev. Sidney Craig, Vicar, St. Bartholomew's, Dublin, said the Irish language problem had been brought home forcibly to him during four years spent in India. There the native languages were not giving ground to English and would never do so. The people were conscious of the richness of their own language and culture and would never surrender them.

Dr. J. K. Houston and Mr. M. Bell, Secretary of the Society, also spoke.

Mr. P. A. O. Siochain, S.C., who presided, said there were now branches of the organisation in many parts of Dublin and throughout the country. - "Irish Independent," 30-1-53.

KERNOW

During the summer a camp will be held at Redruth for the purpose of learning Cornish, and learning about Cornwall. Details may be obtained from R. Gendall, The Vicarage, St. Stephen, Lancelston, Kernow.

AN KERAR Pavy's yowl kensa mes may a vyth levery's yu kerar hemma.

AN DEIH: Neppvys yu rugs Est, po awar mys Gwyngaba.

PLSYANS: Seyth po dek deth.

IOWL: Amos pellhe Kernewek, ard toras beur . . hem yu, taras us kewsey.

DAFAR: Res vyth dry po carten-tvo po bos rannys mes may a vyth levery's yu kerar hemma. Wy vyth govgunys saw arghans lowr rak pe los ba cunys. Kefys a vyth gwelweg omwolbhy collel, forgha lo, hanaf po fos, ha den blas. Dah su a dhe bys Redruth yu foen po cocha, aga thadow a yl bos cnttelys.

AGENDA: Dysputyans, Redyans, Cwaryow, Noswyth po woswyth yow lowen, pregans-thow Tryow y'n Powdhe dyller-yow ystorek ha kens-ystorek.

FOLKLORE

The Irish Folklore Commission have handed over to the Scots 300 cylinder recordings of Scottish folk songs. A year ago, they gave 10,000 pages of manuscript Gaelic tales and historical materials to Mr. Sanderson, Secretary of the School of Scottish Studies, sponsored by Edinburgh University. Scotland must greatly benefit from this generous gift, as no Scots have done any comparable work.

STAMPED BANK NOTES

For some time bank notes have been stamped, in Scotland, with the words, "Scottish self-Government is overdue." This is part of a non-violent resistance campaign which has been started by the Scottish Congress - on the lines of the late Mahatma Gandhi in India.

Mrs. June Murray, wife of Gordon Murray, an Aberdeen Nationalist, presented two such notes in payment of a bill at the Aberdeen City Chambers. Although strictly legal (messages written on bank notes do not impair their value as legal tender, but the banks withdraw such notes when they pass through them) the police were sent for and Mrs. Murray was taken to the police station and questioned for a considerable time before she was allowed to go, the police retaining the notes and refusing a receipt for them. Mrs. Murray thereupon wrote a strong letter to Chief Constable McCormack, protesting at the arbitrary methods used by the police.

SCOTTISH JOURNAL

Five issues of "Scottish Journal" a monthly magazine published by William MacLellan and Co., 240 Hope Street, Glasgow (yearly subscription by post 13s. 6d.), has now appeared.

It has regular features by some of the best Scottish writers, and covers all aspects of Scottish life. It gives space for the discussion, from all points of view, of Scottish questions of importance. Let us hope that it prospers, unlike so many previous attempts to start such a paper. It seems to be doing so, anyhow, and it lives up to its name.

end. So you, fellow Colts, what do you propose to do about it? Are you going to continue with fair speeches, or do you want something more positive?

IAIN M. KINNON

THE RISING STORM

Apart from Ireland and Brittany, the former, of which most of it is an Independent Republic, the nationalism of the latter having been driven underground by French persecution, nationalism is on the upgrade. Voices from Cornwall and Man tell of Home Rule movements there. While Man nominally has self-government, it is self-government for the English faction there, so that it has become a struggle for self-government by the native Manx. It used to be stated that Cornwall was too small for self-government; but she has some very fertile land which probably could well suffice to feed her population; a fishing industry, tin mines, etc. In recent years she has been previously disappointed with the result of English rule, hence a Home Rule feeling has begun to make itself heard. Cornwall could do well with Home Rule or even as an independent republic, but it is not generally supposed that the Cornish have reached this stage yet.

It is different in Scotland and Wales. Through English misuse, separatist movements do actually exist who are really prepared to fight for their independence. The phase is starting to pass from constitutional action to direct action.

In Scotland the menaces of "extremists" are causing the authorities some concern. People known to be of such political persuasion get regular visits by detectives of the C.I.D. The attempt to blow up the insulting E. H. R. pillar box in Edinburgh in which a charge of gelignite, enough to blow up a four-storey building and a fuse which had been it was found, has seriously alarmed the authorities and caused flutterings in the Press. When a phone call was received on the occasion of Queen Elizabeth's visit to Edinburgh for the Dalkeith wedding that the "Scottish Republican Army would meet

the Queen" the Royal route was guarded by a reinforcement of detectives to ensure that no "terrorist activity" would occur. It is a good thing to have our enemies take us seriously. The "Sunday Post" (10-1-53) declared: "It is feared that the outrages may continue." I am not in a position to say what will happen, but unless I am greatly mistaken, more incidents may be expected from time to time.

While the Scottish incident was small in comparison, its Welsh counterpart failed too, but had it succeeded it would have had resounding repercussions. The cutting off of Birmingham's water supply would have been a major disaster to England. While the fracture of the supply pipe of the Fron aqueduct could no doubt have been easily repaired, it would have forced England to look elsewhere for water supplies possibly as far away as the Lake District. A guard would need to be placed continuously meantime on the Welsh supply lines. Not to mention the inconvenience caused by shortage of water in Birmingham. The Welsh have a real grievance here - they have to go without water supplies themselves while their water goes to England.

The transition from constitutional to direct action methods of approach is being taken by Scots and Welsh who have finally seen that England has no intention of granting Home Rule unless forced to do so. She still intends to procrastinate as long as she can as she did with Ireland. In any case constitutional methods take too long. The only language English understands is force, and until that is effectively pursued, we will be all dead by the time Home Rule is obtained.

Make no mistake, freedom even by direct action will not be easy. It will entail a long persistent struggle. But we, the Celtic peoples, will win through in the

Welsh Day in Parliament—SIX HOURS FARCE

For the past seven years or so Wales has been given one day in which the London Parliament debates its affairs. One miserable day to debate the affairs of a nation, or as an English daily had it "on the one day in the year the Government sees fit to bestow, . . . the grievances, hopes, suspicions and demands of Wales are poured out in debate."

Welsh Day—an annual holiday for the English and Scottish members (that is, all but those conscripted to attend)—lasted but a paltry six hours this time. Six hours to survey Government action (no mention of inaction, which is sometimes even more deadly) on behalf of a nation by a Parliament which recently spent five hours debating whether the word "goose" used by one M.P. in an attack upon a fellow member was unparliamentary or not! What a distorted sense of values these M.P.'s have. No wonder the Welsh abbreviation is A.S.

The strange thing about this particular Welsh Day, held on January 22, was that most M.P.'s were united in saying that it was not enough for Wales. How brave our M.P.'s are; A Socialist said it was a "day of supplication," a Liberal said it was "an insult" and even a Tory said it was "a farce." Fighting words those! They had to use language like this, of course because they know that the people of Wales are fully aware that the whole thing is a futile and undignified performance. Gwynfor Evans, President of Plaid Cymru (Welsh Nationalist Party) said that it resembled a burlesque of the annual preaching meeting in a Welsh Chapel. "A Scotsman takes the introductory part and pronounces the benediction," he said, "and in the four hours left to them 18 preachers follow one another with their potted sermons. . . . There is not even a hymn to break the monotonous round of complaints and exhortations, for there is nothing to be thankful about."

The Welsh M.P.'s know that their speeches on Welsh Day will be avidly read in their constituencies and they know too that the views of those whom Gwynfor Evans leads are steadily gaining ground. As Sir Henry Jones once said: "The Welsh M.P.'s remind me of the wild pigs I saw in Burma: they run well when the forest is afire behind them." If they don't get a move on it'll soon be singing their behinds.

NO POWER.

About an hour and a half of the debate was taken by the part time Minister of Welsh Affairs, Sir David Maxwell Fyfe, or Dai Bananas, as he is often called. The Tories have been very fortunate in their choice of this Minister for he has set about his task of keeping the Welsh quiet with great determination, and with urbanity. Many have been deceived by the amount of time he has spent in Wales speaking, listening and junketing, but a Socialist M.P. summed up his powers and his position (as well as those of the Under Secretary for Welsh Affairs who had until recently never been to Wales): "He is now to be considered somehow as a gathering ground for Welsh sentiment. He may turn out to be the gathering storm, because he and his Man Fridav from another place (House of Lords). We will make things hot for him in Wales before he leaves this life (house) whom I regret to say I would not recognise if I passed him in the City of Cardiff, may explore, may beseech and may supplicate their Ministerial colleagues to consider Welsh affairs

but they cannot command. Their powers are not negligible: they are not existent."

THE ROAD TO . . .

Dai Bananas referred to the great progress of Welsh agriculture and industry which he appeared to think was due to the loving care of the English Tories. He spoke with emotion of the need for speedy rural development but did not outline any plans. He put stress upon the need for improving Welsh roads. The need for a main north to south trunk road is obvious but he referred not to this road of national unity but to the roads of exploitation—those connecting South Wales with the Midlands, where Welsh coal, steel and tinsplate are the life-blood of English secondary industries, which are denied Wales.

STEEL AND STEAL.

During these past few weeks in Wales one topic has caused greater concern than any other—unemployment in the steel and tinsplate industries. It was natural that this should have been the main topic of speeches in the Welsh Day.

Because of the modernisation of the steel and tinsplate industries 12,000 in the old hand operated mills are threatened with redundancy. A typical English euphemism for unemployment, that spectre which once stalked our land in all its naked fury and looks like returning to many of its valleys.

Dai Fyfe said that West South Wales was to be made the centre of the most modern steel tinsplate industry in the world and that it was "in the national interest as well as in the interest of this comparatively small area that it should be developed and modernised." The national interest of course is England's attempt to remain a big power. She is stealing herself to the task and stealing the resources of Wales and Scotland in the process.

ANOTHER COMMITTEE.

On the problem of "redundancy" Dai Bananas tried to quieten the waves of Welsh unrest with the oil of English legislation. The masters in London were well aware that 12,000 people were threatened with unemployment, and, therefore, out of their great wisdom, they were going to appoint a committee "in order to ensure that Government action is speedy and well informed by Welsh opinion." Another committee! From the interference of English Government Departments, from the bungling of English Civil Servants and from more committees, good Lord deliver us.

NO PLANS.

The Labour Government knew years ago of the impending "redundancy" in this part of Wales. It drew up no plans. It lived for the day. The Tory Government has been doing likewise. They are both English Governments, and the disruption of whole Welsh communities means but little to them. A Welsh Government would have planned for the establishing of secondary industries in the redundant mills using the steel and tinsplate produced by the giant strip mills. The English Government builds roads to take the steel and tinsplate to England. Along those same roads the people of Wales have had to go in their thousands and their tens of thousands to seek work in the factories using the steel and tinsplate produced in Wales. Will that happen again?

MEDDLE AND MUDDLE.

While still on the problem of steel, it is interesting to read what the M.P. for Swansea had to say on the Government's refusal

to allow that town to complete its building:—

"On the one hand, we are told it is a question of a shortage of steel; when we demonstrate that the steel can be made available, we are told that it is a restriction on capital investment; and when we point out that if the Government recognised the handicap under which the blitzed areas are suffering they could find the money, they come back and say 'it is a shortage of steel.'" GUARDS.

One of the Tory members—one of the four odd men out of Welsh politics—was very scathing in his criticism of the Welsh Day. "I mention that," he said, "because we must do everything possible to counter the arguments of those who are Welsh Nationalists or Welsh Republicans. We must establish the fact that Welsh interests are being effectively guarded under the present procedure." His very criticism shows how effectively our affairs are guarded!

CASHING IN.

The Tories have been making great play of Dai Fyfe's "achievements" as Minister of Welsh Affairs. They have linked his name with the withdrawal of the War Office from the fair land of Llyn and of the Forestry Commission from Rhandirwyn. But what have these salutary events to do with Sir David Maxwell Fyfe? He happened to be the Minister for Welsh Affairs at the time and he got the praise. No doubt he also advised withdrawal but such action would have been taken, Sir David or no Sir David. Anyone interested in the game of English politics in Wales can see that this was but a Tory move to cash in on the stupidity of the previous Socialist Government in its relations with the farmers of Llyn and Rhandirwyn.

If Sir David Maxwell Fyfe takes the praise for Llyn and Rhandirwyn, then he must take the blame for the crisis in the steel and tinsplate regions. Any politician who takes credit for the rain must take the blame for the drought. Or to put rhyme into reason, and vice-versa:

"We're given Dai Bananas to put us at our ease
And mighty Snowdon, so they say,
has turned to cheese."

DAFYDD ORWIG JONES
(Editor, Welsh News)

THE CELTIC CONGRESS

The arrangements for the Celtic Congress to be held in Glasgow from 12th to 18th August, 1953, are now well advanced.

The last Congress to be held in Glasgow was in 1929 and only once since that year, in 1937, when the Congress was held in Edinburgh, has the Congress returned to Scotland. In fact, no Scottish branch of the Celtic Congress existed until early last year when one was formed. Now there is an active committee represented mainly by Highland Celts but also having representatives of the Welsh and Irish communities. In addition, many Lowland Scots interested in the culture of the Celt have also joined the Branch.

Delegates from each of the Celtic nations, Ireland, Wales, Isle of Man, Cornwall and Brittany are to attend the Congress which will officially be opened at a reception being given by the authorities of Glasgow University. The Congress has also been given the use of class rooms at the University for the lectures and discussions which will take place during the week. On the first full day of the Congress the delegates will read papers on the

Correspondence They Dare Not Read?

Complimentary copies of the last issue were delivered to the porter's lodge of each College in Cambridge. They provoked some comment, including the letter below. We wonder if the writer's nationality can be deduced from his name.

Trinity Hall,
Cambridge,
Tuesday, 10th Feb.

Dear Sir—It is the privilege of the Undergraduates of this College to choose, through the Undergraduate Committee, the magazines and newspapers which are placed in the J.C.R. for general reading.

Recently, copies of your sectarian sheet have been imported clandestinely into our J.C.R. In future any copy found there will be destroyed immediately; so that you may save yourself the trouble. No more correspondence will be entered into on this matter.—Yours faithfully, A. C. MacDONALD, for T. H. Undergraduate Committee.

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER RECEIVED

Dear Mr. Haslam—The Treasurer handed me your letter of January 18th. You may be interested to know that—apparently—the P.O. has no Gaelic speakers and though you did write Edinburgh, Scotland, as well as Dun-deeann, Alba—this was scored out in blue pencil and "Try Aloo" written beside it—next it went to Alva! Until some bright soul wrote "Edinburgh 10", and it arrived, about 23rd or so. I may have enough energy to write a scathing letter about it to the Scotsman.

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HISTORY THAT MAY NOT BE TAUGHT IN WELSH SCHOOLS.

The Rebecca Rising 1834-43

After centuries of English oppression following the deliberate destruction of the Welsh social system, about a hundred years ago the Welsh peasantry broke into open revolt over a large part of South and Central Wales. Organised together with colliers, in the REBECCA MOVEMENT, bands of armed peasants rode by night to conduct a guerrilla war in the old Welsh style against the hated English Administration. Despite the reinforcements of English Dragoons, Yeomanry, Artillery and Police which were rushed into the Rebecca Country, the insurgents nevertheless gained complete mastery of the situation, destroying the toll gates on the roads, sacking the houses and burning the crops of the English landlords and their treacherous Welsh agents in order to force down rents, and in fact administering a crude but effective justice over the large area where the English authorities had lost control.

In 1843 the Editor of the "Times" in London, aware of the growing power of the Welsh insurgents, speculated that, as immediate grievances were righted, the leader of the Rebecca movement would "probably convoke an imitation parliament at Lampeter or Aberayron, appoint 'Becca Magistrates for the settlement of Welsh litigation, propose a 'fixity of tenure' scheme, and crown all by denouncing the oppression of the 'Saxons', and declaring that 'Wales shall be a nation.' He will then be taken either by force or treachery, tried, convicted and translated to the Antipodes" (i.e. transported to a convict penal settlement).

Unfortunately, late in 1843 many rebels were captured, supplies of arms intercepted, and under pressure from well armed troops and the threat of Martial Law, the revolt was suppressed before it reached the stages envisaged by the "Times." That struggle—the struggle to establish an independent Welsh Government, still goes on in Wales, here and now in 1953.

From "The Welsh Republican."

THE SCOTS INDEPENDENT THE PAPER THAT SPEAKS FOR SCOTLAND

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(Journal of the Scottish National Party).

ses his leisure hours.

On the Friday evening of the Congress week, there will be a concert for which the St. Andrew's Halls have been booked. Well known artists, vocalists, traditional singers, dancers and pipers from each of the Celtic nations will appear and the programme will be repeated in the Usher Hall, Edinburgh, on the Tuesday evening of the visit to the Capital.

Religious services for the various denominations have been arranged for the Sunday, one feature being a Protestant Service in three languages. There will also be community singing of Gaelic hymns which is to be broadcast by the B.B.C.

The Annual General Meeting of the Congress will be held in Glasgow when the problems facing the Celtic nations will be discussed and ways and means examined to maintain and strengthen the culture of the Celt.

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