

Celtic News

C E L T I C
L E A G U E
Q U A R T E R L Y

No. 2.

6d. for non-members.

APRIL 1963

WALES

CELTIC LEAGUE: Membership of the Celtic League has grown apace in Wales, I am told by the Wales Secretary, Mr. J. E. Jones; and members are looking forward to each issue of the "Celtic News" and to the Annual Volume which will be issued during the summer. The ten shilling membership fee, which pays for both the "News" and the Volume, should be sent right away to the Wales Secretary at his home address: Melin-y-Wig, 1, Heol Esgyn, Cyncoed, Caerdydd (Cardiff).

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENTS: During recent weeks there have been developments in the use of the Welsh language. While some 50 young people staged a demonstration at Aberystwyth calling upon the local Magistrates to issue the "summons to court" in Welsh as well as in English, and while the Clerk to those magistrates wrote meekly to London to ask for an "opinion", Cardiff just issued a Welsh summons to a person who asked for it. Many people in Bangor and elsewhere have asked for the summonses to be in Welsh.

IN LOCAL COUNCILS: One Rhyl resident, Mr. Philip Lloyd, asked the Town Council to print its Rate Demands in Welsh as well as in English; the council readily agreed to do so. So did the Holywell Council. Both are in anglicised areas. The Llyn Rural District Council, in a wholly Welsh area, has decided to publish everything - notices, forms, etc. etc. - in both languages.

IN COLLEGES: At the Bangor Normal (Teachers Training) College, 400 students asked the college authorities to use Welsh as co-official with English in all affairs and notices and publications; the college decided to do so. At the Bangor University College, a similar demand was made by the students; but the College Senate has not yet agreed; the College Registrar is very English and certainly not pro-Welsh. At the Aberystwyth University College, efforts are being made to make Welsh co-official.

PLAID CYMRU GROWTH: Plaid Cymru, the Welsh National Party, welcomed some 600 new members between last August and April 1963, I was told at their offices at 8 Queen-st, Cardiff. The party's Finance Director, Mr. Elwyn Roberts, reported recently that

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donations in 1962 were the highest ever, a total of over £13,000; but even this is not enough with which to fight successfully the rich anti-Welsh parties.

TWELVE MONTHS IMPRISONMENT: Mr. Emyr Llywelyn Jones, graduate son of a National poet, was imprisoned for 12 months on charges of causing destruction at Tryweryn; at this place, Liverpool is damming a Welsh valley to obtain water (without a penny payment to Wales) to develop its industries; in spite of practically unanimous Welsh opposition, the London parliament gave Liverpool permission to go on with its scheme. On three other occasions there has been destruction of plant, etc. at Tryweryn recently; the first time, two young men were caught and fined; twice, no one was caught.

SCOTLAND

RADIO FREE SCOTLAND now has three stations (illegal) on the air in Scotland. The third transmitter operates for the County of West Lothian. A fourth transmitter is hoped to be in operation later this year.

UNEMPLOYMENT in Scotland is reaching "panic" figures. One Scot in ten is out of work for a variety of reasons, including factory shut-down, redundancy due to failing markets, mines closures, railway closures, and English-controlled factories taking work from Scotland to their own factories in the South. Not that they are to be blamed, for "national" (i.e. English) blood is thicker than water.

The Government seem typically unmoved by the situation.

THE SCOTTISH PLEBISCITE APPEAL FUND has got off to a slow start. Now over a year old, a pitifully small money has been raised; only a fraction of the £100,000 needed to conduct a Postal Ballot throughout Scotland to discover what kind of Government Scots really want. A pilot poll conducted in the Border town of Jedburgh in January indicated that there was a definite feeling for Home Rule of one sort or another.

THE DEMAND for Highland crofts is soaring. At Lochaber, in Inverness-shire, there were ninety applications for one croft, and forty-three for another. People seemed prepared to offer fantastic prices for crofts. Indeed every new economic holding in the Highlands could be multiplied ten times over. But too much of the Highlands is in too few absentee-landlord hands.

3.
CROFTER-FISHERMEN in the North and West of Scotland are to launch a £200,000 co-operative this year for processing, deep-freezing and packaging of all types of shell-fish. The venture is likely to provide a shot-in-the-arm for the economy of the West Highlands and Islands. It will provide increased employment and earnings for those engaged in the Inshore Fishing Industry. It will help areas such as that at Stornoway, in the Hebrides, where unemployment is over 30%.

HIGHLAND AND ISLAND fares for air travel are going up by as much as twenty %. This is admitted by British European Airways who run the air services to the Highlands and Islands, which service losses about half a million pounds annually. Evidently, though they have been approached about it, the Government feel that these depopulated areas should pay their way. Ask a beggar or starving man to pay for a pot of potato-peelings or a crust of bread: that's the attitude!

THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY has appointed a National Organiser for Edinburgh and the East of Scotland. This appointment is the third of its kind in the past few months. At long last the Party seems to be rousing itself from its lethargy.

NATIONALIST CLUBS in the Scottish Universities doubled their membership during 1962, according to a recent report of the Federation of Student Nationalists issued recently.

"NO JOBS" is the dreary prospect for many school-leavers in Scotland. Typical is the Fife area where over nine hundred school-leavers are registered as unemployed. The state of industry is such that it cannot offer suitable places. Many are staying on at school "for something to do".

THE NATIONAL BIBLE SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND have reprinted 100 copies of the Gaelic Pulpit Bible. This is the first reprint since the Bible was published 137 years ago.

CORNWALL

PRESENT STATE OF CORNWALL Cornwall's continued survival as a characteristic entity distinct from England is threatened, especially by economic problems. A hopeful sign, however, is the emergence of a will to solve Cornish problems by the Cornish themselves. This has led some to consider that Cornish problems can only be solved by some kind of political adjustment stopping short of independence.

4. THE PROGRAMME OF A CORNISH NATIONAL MOVEMENT envisaged by this group will include: An assembly in Cornwall to be responsible for the external relations of Cornwall and to regulate the following programme.

(a) The fostering of Cornish culture and the Cornish language, together with provision in the schools for studying spoken Cornish and a due emphasis upon Cornwall in the curriculum. A Cornish University and Cornish influence in broadcasting.

(b) Co-ordination of transport; capital assistance for farmers and fishermen; removal of financial obstacles to mining; subsidies for light industries; development of tourism; marketing of Cornish products; responsibility for Cornish unemployed; the setting up of a Committee of workers and employers to create wage parity with England and to restrict inequitable employment of non-Cornish people.

UNEMPLOYMENT in Cornwall has risen from 3% in September 1962 to 7.1% in February 1963, with Gunnislake, with 17.9% as the second highest in Britain. "West Cornwall has had more persistent unemployment than any other part of Britain," according to the M.P. for Falmouth and Camborne. Yet Cornwall is seldom mentioned in debates or articles on unemployment.

LOSS IN INDUSTRY In mining, quarrying, agriculture, the percentage of insured workers dropped from 40% in 1929 to 20% in 1962. The County Planning Officer estimates a loss of 10,000 young skilled people to Cornwall between 1918-39 and 3,800 between 1951-61.

IRELAND

E.E.C. The Irish application will presumably be withdrawn or share the fate of Gt. Britain's application. Economic difficulties apart, cutting ourselves from one of Mother England's apron-strings had its attractions. One favourable bye-product of our application has been the increase in economic tempo and the scrutiny, with a view to streamlining of individual industries, on a 26-County basis. Thus, legislation will be considered, to prevent short-term letting of agricultural land, which has led to systematic impoverishment of the soil.

5. TRANSPORT The appalling conditions of the England-Ireland surface journey have again brought an increase in the ratio of air-travellers.

Within the terms of his brief, financial self-sufficiency rather than service, Dr. C. S. Andrews has made a marked impact on C.I.E. (The Irish Transport Company). By actively encouraging the use of Irish in the organisation Dr. Andrews example puts most government departments to shame.

The isolation of parts of County Wicklow during the recent arctic spell has led to a decision to purchase (2?) helicopters. Frequently, during stormy weather, the Occupation Base in Derry has been asked to send out a helicopter. Although help was always forthcoming, the necessity of asking was hardly compatible with national self-respect.

HIGHER EDUCATION Although University College, Dublin is a bulwark of English-Vernacularism, its Gaelic Department, under Dr. De Bhaldraithe has achieved excellent results. His students can now benefit from the latest language laboratory equipment.

Dublin Corporation has rescinded a regrettable example of partisanship masquerading as Gaelicism, in ruling that its scholarships are tenable at Trinity College, Dublin.

An indication that Trinity is as Gaelic as our Irish partitionists will permit her to be was the conferring of an honorary doctorate on Micheál Mac Liammóir, one of our most talented and Gaelic-spirited theatrical figures.

CULTURE 1962 was a good year all round for Irish. It was marked by the increased activity of the Gaelic League, the foundation of a group of writers and scholars to answer attacks on Irish, the appointment of a specialist to advise the Dept. of Education on new methods of teaching Irish with emphasis on the spoken language.

A contest was organised to determine which town would make most use of Irish in public activities. It brought to light the store of popular good will towards Irish. Sky or sceptical people soon made use of their knowledge of it. 43 towns took part. Abbeyfeale (W. Limerick) won, followed by Athlone and Nenagh (Midlands). 29 of this year's 57 entrants are in Munster. Factors such as the size of the town, the activity for which Irish is used, the distinction between "old" and new entrants, between Gaeltacht and Galltacht are taken into account by the adjudicators.

6.
An OECD survey published on April 5th in Paris records for the past 4 years a 4.5% average rate of growth of the 26-Counties economy instead of the 2% planned in 1958. To maintain this growth OECD advises against granting new wages claims unless they are matched by a higher productivity!

11-IRA PRISONERS were released in March from Crumlin Rd. Belfast. A campaign for the release of J. Doyle - held in England - and the remaining Belfast prisoners is gaining momentum. It is supported by trade unions and County Councils resolutions, a 28-hr. picket every week-end in front of the Home Office in London, a mass demonstration being organised for April 28th in London. The arguments against Ireland's entry into EEC are set out in a Sinn Féin pamphlet "Nation or Province."

NORTH EAST Capt. T. O'Neill has succeeded Lord Brookeborough at the head of the Belfast government. The sound of his name may raise expectations of Irish Unity among non-Irish readers, but it is denied by other O'Neills that he really belongs genealogically to the great Ulster family. He is as acceptable to the Unionists as his predecessor. Will he be more practical? Attempts made from the South to ease tension have led to informal meetings between the Grand Master of the Orange Lodge and the nationalist Senator Lennon. Another sign of a gradual change in the political climate is the cooperation of men from both sides of the 'border' in publishing "New Ireland" in Belfast University.

Hostility shown lately by fishermen of Dunmore East towards Northern herring fishing-boats went against this desirable trend. Although their legal right to use any Irish port was unchallenged, the Northern fishermen who maintained a dignified attitude throughout, eventually withdrew.

Isle of MAN

THE RESTORATION OF ST. GERMAN'S CATHEDRAL, situated on Peel Islet, is being urged by the Bishop of Sodor and Mann. This diocese, the most ancient in Britain, is the only one without a Cathedral. The Celtic Church was the first Church in the Isle of Man. Christianity was brought by St. Patrick in 447 A.D. The terrible Vikings raids and invasions began towards 700 and lasted into the 10th century.

7.
In spite of the destruction of the Celtic Keeills (Churches), some Celtic way of life continued. The revival of Christianity started again towards 950.

The Chronicle of Man (1247-1375) records that the building of St. German's Church began around 1240. £75,000 is needed now to restore and enlarge the Cathedral which we regard as our National Shrine, the cradle of Christianity in Man. Help is urgently needed.

GAELIC STORY COMPETITION An annual prize of £5 is offered jointly by the Editor of the Scottish Legitimists and by CAIRM Publications for a story of 1000 words or over in Scotch Gaelic. Write to MacNAIR, Juan de Mena, 21/1d, Madrid, for details.

KER ARVOR, 10 Rue Heronniere, Nantes, Brittany, Tourist Agency, seeks correspondents in Celtic Countries.

FOR BOOKS ON SCOTLAND, (history, folklore etc.) write to W. MacLellan, Publishers Ltd., 240 Hope St. Glasgow C.2. At the same address, The International Bureau for Cultural Exchange organises cultural activities (concerts, ballets).

BRITANNY

POLITICS Nationalists arrested.

Carlone, 17, and Patrick, 16, daughter and son of the Gouarnigs - who get no allowances for 5 young children because of their Breton names - were arrested on Febr. 27 while their parents were away. About 30 policemen were mobilised! Patrick was released and rearrested later for helping to distribute 10,000 leaflets calling for Carlone's release. She was kept 10 days in jail, without being allowed any visit, before a charge was brought against her: last year she opposed work authorised by the Government on her parents' farm. Public opinion, alerted, considered the real motive was her nationalist activity. To avoid a scandal in the foreign press, she was released on March 9th.

Every week, prominent members of the Breton movement are visited by special police (DST, Renseignements Généraux), whose aim seems only to intimidate them.

Delays are more and more frequent in the delivery of letters to some of the Breton patriots. It was noted that letters which arrived at Brest on March 8 were posted in Paris on Febr. 7.

Elections: before and after.. On the eve of the French general elections last November, CELIB obtained a pledge from nearly all Breton candidates that they would insist on the adoption by the French government of a Breton development programme. With a majority of yes-men returned for De Gaulle, signs are that this popular Breton demand will not be heeded. The 4th National Congress of M.O.B., the only Breton political organisation was held in December. Resolutions included

- 1) Support for the Federation of Europe as a means of ensuring the freedom of small nations.
- 2) Support for Britain's and Ireland's entry into the Common Market as conducive to strengthening the bonds between the Celtic countries and increasing cross-channel trade.
- 3) Creation of a shadow Breton Assembly and shadow local government.

Cultural struggle 30th Anniversary of the Breton Correspondence School. More than 3,000 people have learnt to read and write Breton thanks to the work of its devoted director, Miss M. Gourlaouen. The school has nurtured Breton writers and many prominent figures in the nationalist movement have taken its courses. No charge, except for postage, is made.

Breton as a medium of education In an effort to overcome the French authorities' refusal to teach Breton in school, a Breton doctor is having his children taught through Breton, at home. An inspector was sent to investigate him, but could find no fault with the standard of education. The case has been taken to higher officials, and is not settled.

ECONOMICS C.E.L.I.B. has criticised the French government for breaking the Brussels talks and damaging Brittany's future development. Brittany exported 60,000 tons of products - mainly agricultural - to Britain in 1961 as against 14,000 tons to West Germany. The French national press recognises the serious implications for the Breton economy. C.E.L.I.B. plans to create a Breton-British study group on the question of cross-channel trade.

During the French Minister for Agriculture's visit to Rennes University, students demonstrated in favour of a Breton development programme. The Minister declared a special programme for Brittany impossible, adding "The Bretons have

embarked on a wrong course". Lecturing to the student section of the M.O.B. the 'farmers' leader Gourvenec said: "With the government the only policy that pays is: Direct Action. State Security and the Trade Union Movement in Brittany. A special court has been instituted to deal with acts deemed contrary to the security of the French State. It is felt in Brittany that this could be used to suppress demonstrations - economic, cultural or nationalist - such as have occurred in Brittany during the past two years. The arrest of G. Gouarnig may also point in that direction.

External Relations The attention given in Brittany to foreign experiments in economic development puts her ahead of French regions in planning. Consequently, many foreign countries now show interest in Breton experiments in agricultural reform, industrial development and regional planning. The Head of the C.E.L.I.B. Economic Commission has been invited to Belgium, Germany, Morocco, Canada, and his advice sought.

SOLIDARITY On March 2, letters were addressed in the name of the Celtic League to

1. The Minister for Justice, Madrid, requesting him to reconsider the case of F. ARRIETA, a Basque imprisoned at S. Sebastian for the past two years, and to grant him an amnesty.
2. The Director of the International Committee for the Study of Group Rights, London, offering our cooperation towards bringing a solution to the problems of "minority" nationalities. This Commission is concerned with the situation of peoples like the Nagas, the Kurds and the Catalans.

On March 21. we were informed by Mt. AMNESTY-DUBLIN, that ARRIETA'S sentence had just been reduced from 7 to 3 years.. Efforts to bring about the cooperation of the small nations ethnical groups of Western Europe resulted in a meeting of representatives of the Basque, Breton, Catalan, Flemish and Walloon movements in Paris (16-17/2/63).

The Celtic League was introduced by Dr. Y. Fouere.

A PUBLIC MEETING organised by the London branch of the C.L. will take place on April 10th, 8 p.m. in the Scottish Corporation Hall, off Fleet St., London. Its theme: The Celtic communities and self-determination. The Celtic nations should decide themselves whether or not, or under what form, they should enter economic-political communities like EEC, EFTA, etc...

10.
TO MEMBERS OF THE C.L. The Annual Volume is due to be published by mid-Summer. A number of contributions have reached the Editor.

Membership of the C.L. is steadily increasing. Send addresses of prospective members to your national secretary. Subscription rate to our publications, for persons who cannot become members, is 10/- annum. Send news items - of interest to readers in the other Celtic countries - to your national sub-editor.

The addresses of the sub-editors are, for

Brittany: Y. Noac'h, c/o General Secretary C.L.
(see P. 12)
Corrnwall: R. Green (see P. 12)
Ireland: P. Ó Conchúir, 82 St. Alban's Ave.
Bedford Park, London W.4.
Scotland: F. G. Thompson, Dumbrook House, Corslet
Crescent, Currie, Midlothian.
Wales: J. E. Jones (see p. 12).

PETITION TO UNESCO Last year, 52 Scandinavian linguists and University teachers from 11 different Nordic Universities, addressed through their National Commissions a request to the General Assembly of U.N.E.S.C.O. to adopt measures for the defense of languages which, for political or economic reasons, are in danger of dying out, or exist under conditions unfavourable for their development. Breton and Scotch Gaelic are included among the threatened languages. A petition has been organised during the second half of 1962 in the Universities of the Celtic countries in support of this request. It has been signed by 182 University professors and lecturers, linguists and editors of cultural publications in countries in which Celtic languages are spoken. A number of the signatories are reputed scholars. The petition has received also the signatures of such well known linguists as Professor Pokorny, Professor K. Jackson, Professor Hartmann.

11.
It will be submitted to the National Commissions of UNESCO in Ireland, Great Britain and France.

The arguments contained in the Scandinavian petition have been summarised in the Inter-Celtic petition as follows:

1. The elimination of a language is equivalent to the elimination of a culture.
2. In the present world political situation, measures for the defence of languages, and to some extent of cultures, constitute an entirely appropriate task for U.N.E.S.C.O., and one which it is uniquely fitted to carry out;
3. The work of rescue must be undertaken urgently.

It is suggested that a committee of linguists be set up by U.N.E.S.C.O. to ascertain which languages are in a threatened situation and also to propose suitable measures for their safeguard.

APOLOGY

In an effort to have this issue of Celtic News published before Easter, the General Secretary, who undertook to look after the duplication, has not had time to submit a number of items (on Ireland, Brittany, Celtic League activities), for which space was found to be available, to the approval of the editor and of the Irish and Breton sub-editors. He wishes to apologize for this transgression.

THE CELTIC LEAGUE President: Gwynfor Evans, President of
Plaid Cymru; Vice-Presidents:

Robert MacIntyre, (Scotland), Yann Fouere (Brittany).

The AIMS of the Celtic League are:

- 1) to foster cooperation between the national movements in the Celtic countries, particularly in efforts to obtain international recognition of our national rights;
- 2) to share the experience of our national struggles and exchange constructive ideas. This will be done by means of:
(a) publications: a quarterly CELTIC NEWS, giving brief reports and comments on significant events in each of our countries; a substantial annual volume of articles on specific aspects of our national life. Their editor is Dr. Ceinwen Thomas, Cardiff, Wales.

(b) occasional meetings, including an annual conference.

Please, make the Celtic League known among the members of your national movement! Ask them to join! The membership fee, which covers subscription to both annual and quarterly, is 10/- annum. This sum may be sent to "The Celtic League", along with the form below, to either of the following League officials:

Hon. Treasurer: Dr. Noelle Davies, Coolagad, Greystones, Co. Wicklow, Ireland.

General Secretary: Alan Heussaff, 9 Br. Cnoc Sion, Dromchonnrach, Baile Atha Cliath, 9. Eire.

or to the secretaries in

Brittany: Ch. Le Goff, 6 rue de la France Combattante, Brest, (deputising for Per Deraz.)

Cornwall: R. Green, Travellers Rest, Illogan Downs, Redruth. C Dulwich, London.

London: Ben Ennis, Overhill Gdns., 114 Overhill Rd.,

Scotland: G. McAoidh is unable to do the secretarial work at present. We are consulting for an alternative.

Wales: J. E. Jones, Melin-y-Wig, 1 Heol Esgyn, Cyncoed, Cardiff.

Further details, leaflets, sample of Celtic News obtainable from the above addresses.

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C E L T I C L E A G U E

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I wish to be a member and to receive the quarterly "Celtic News" and the Annual Volume.

I enclose 10/- (10 francs) as the membership fee for the year.

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