

CELTIC NEWS

Bulletin of the Celtic League

Alba — Breizh — Cymru — Éire — Kernow — Mannin

Autumn, 1963.

B R I T T A N Y The French Education Murder Machine
+ = + = + = + = + = + is spotlighted by the Dr. Etienne case.

For 9 months Dr. Etienne has been deprived of family allowances for his two eldest children, because he is teaching them at home - through Breton! The following details of the correspondence between Dr. Etienne and the French Educational Authorities reveal the peculiar conception of human rights prevailing in France.

The Rector of Rennes Academy in a reply to Dr. Etienne's letter quoted a number of regulations concerning the control of education (given at home) and referred to eventual sanctions on failure to comply ...

Dr. Etienne's reply pointed out that all the conditions required by law were fulfilled and that the school certificates were being refused solely because the children were being taught through Breton, their mother tongue.

The French Minister of Education then received a letter from Dr. Etienne, which restated the case together with the arguments of the Educational Authorities and asked for a reconsideration of the inspector's decision. "I regret", added Dr. Etienne, "that I should have to defend an elementary right, which has been defined and guaranteed by almost every country".

The Deputy-Inspector next visited the Etienne family, clarifying that the state claims all the rights for the education of children. The family has no rights, except those delegated by the state. In particular all subjects must be taught in French.

At the General UNESCO Conference a convention on the Prevention of Discrimination in the field of Education was signed by France on Dec. 15th, 1960 and ratified on Sept. 11th, 1961. The deputy-inspector readily dismissed this! "It is only a Convention and France does not have to take it into account. France has her own laws. So long as those laws have not been cancelled by the French Government, International Conventions are void. French law prescribes that school teaching must be in French from the very beginning. Brittany belongs to France, therefore it is natural that the French would seek to defend their language, here.

Dr. Etienne in the course of his reply commented, "The French are the only people to find such a law natural. Others see it as a crime, internationally defined under the name Genocide! The teaching, which we give our children is in all respects consonant with the UNESCO principles and we keep ourselves informed of what is being done in the countries which apply those principles"... "if we decided to teach our children other languages than their mother tongue (French, for example) it is for their intrinsic merit, not because of the oppressive pretensions of a state!"

The French Dept. of Education in a letter, dated 30th July, 1963, confirmed the deputy-inspector's declarations. "As it (French) is of primordial importance for the formation of the child's mind". It stresses that if teaching is given at home, the family must carry out the state's mission. "A decree from 1887 specifies that French only can be used in the school".

C O R N W A L L Clouds over Cornwall
Continuing inhibition by remote control is seen in the effect of the rail threat in preventing the arrival of any important new industry this year; the rise in Cornish unemployment from 2.7% to 3% from August to September and the anticipated unemployment of 6-700 men at Falmouth Docks; the first great population rise (1931-51) was followed by a net loss of 3,141 from 1951-61; the proposed obliteration of many ancient boundaries for seemingly theoretical reasons; and the Admiralty threat to the classic Cornish scenery at Zennor.
The first indignation at the Beeching proposals passed into confusion, but hardened when the Chacewater-Newquay rail

was to be taken up. On this proposed vandalism Mebyon Kernow persuaded the County Council and four of the five M.P.s for Cornwall to make a further approach to the Minister. Now several main line stations are to be closed. Western National buses were granted their claim for higher fares, whilst it is clear that road improvements will be made to wait on those of richer areas.

Scol Haf Kernowek 53 people, including visitors from the other Celtic Nations attended the first Annual Summer School of Cornish at Truro. The accent was on the spoken language and this new venture proved an outstanding success.

I R E L A N D The Arts The President, Mr. Devalera laid the foundation-stone of the new Abbey Theatre Building, early in September. Meanwhile the "Olympia" is for sale and it would be scandalous if Dublin were to lose one of its Theatres to property speculators.

A bi-lingual quarterly "Ceol" devoted to Irish music has commenced publication. (47 Páirc Frascati, An Charraig Dubh, Baile Atha Cliath, 10/- per annum).

Home and Abroad An Comhchaidreamh, (Association of Gaelic-mined graduates and under-graduates) held its annual conference at Gweedore, in the Donegal Gaeltacht, the accent being on "Technology in Ireland".

At another (Peat) Conference in Leningrad the Irish delegates presented 12 papers. Except for the U.S.S.R., Ireland has the biggest peat extraction industry in the world.

Irish Meat Packers, of Leixlip, has been steadily expanding its exports. In view of its labour content any increase in the ratio of carcass meat to cattle-on-the-hoof is very desirable.

The Kennedy visit has given a useful fillip to the sale of Irish cottage industry products in the U.S.

Aer Lingus has had the highest seat utilisation on the highly competitive Atlantic route.

The 7 Year Plan has been outlined, aiming at an annual increased production of 4%. In this connection a National Economic Planning Council is being set up. Its success will depend largely on industrial harmony.

Labour Relations are not too good. Although a strike of Dublin Deep-Sea Dockers has just been resolved, the "Public Sector" is not very bright.

Mr. Hilliard, the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, gives the lie to the old chestnut that gaelic is synonymous with inefficiency. The nondescript non-gaelic complexion of Telefis Eireann is largely his responsibility. Whatever the rights or wrongs of the matter his department has been partly to blame in causing a strike of Sub-Postmasters, which lasted 7 weeks. During his tenure of office, he has failed to argue on behalf of his Department, so that the Telephone section is overstretched and in need of very heavy capital outlay.

The Official Language Something of a break-through has been made for the use of Irish. A question on the subject of Social Welfare put by Mr. Colley and answered by the Minister, Mr. Boland, in the Dáil, - in Irish caught some of the newspapers napping. No doubt they will revise their view that Irish is reserved for unimportant matters, and ensure that their coverage is more complete in future!

Official Recognition for the Six Counties seems to have become an obsession with Captain O'Neill. The poor man perhaps has a sense of insecurity because of his embarrassingly Irish name. If Mr. Lemass was not ready to guarantee the integrity of "Ulster", Mr. Brooke, the English Home Secretary, duly obliged. Various Indian rajahs and other colonial hangers-on have long been looking ruefully at similar "guarantees". Meanwhile six republican prisoners lie rotting in Belfast's Crumlin Jail!

M A N The retirement of the Second Deemster takes place at the end of this month, and the status of his successor in the Legislature is likely to be a major issue when the Council opens its new session next month. Deemster Macpherson has filled the office with ability, and he has displayed this both as a Judge and a Legislator.

The duties of a Deemster are two-fold - legislative and judicial - and this has become a controversial point. A section of the House of Keys hold that the Second Deemster should keep strictly to the judicial bench. There are others who believe that the Deemsters render a great service in the Legislature.

What the future holds for the ancient office of Second Deemster remains to be seen, and if it is decided to exclude him from the Legislature, the Council will be poorer.

The Isle of Man, as one of the oldest self-governing communities in the world; must be progressive and keep up to date in constitutional as well as in other matters, but the new state must be better than the old. Through the years the power of the Legislative Council has been lessened. The House of Keys - the voice of the people - now has the last word, though the Council can still cause delay. It will remain to be seen if the exclusion of the Second Deemster from the Legislature will be of any advantage to the Keys.

The wind of change sweeps over the Island.

S C O T L A N D Unemployment Prospects:

Despite the London Government's assurances that everything would be all right for those seeking jobs in Scotland, the recent figures of the Ministry of Labour foretell that the beginning of 1964 will be even worse than at the same time this year. Already the unemployment figures are rising. With one out of ten Scots out of work in 1963, it is reasonable to forecast yet another rise in emigration figures. The life-blood of Scotland is being ebbed away too fast for recovery.

Radio Free Scotland began its 1963/64 season of broadcasting in September. Already operating three transmitters on a regular weekly basis, the organisation is contemplating a fourth transmitter to be set up to serve yet another area of Scotland. Plans are being laid to cater for the Voice of Scotland to be heard during the next General Election.

The Scottish Council (Development and Industry) have recently issued the findings of a Survey conducted by them. In the Survey, it is mentioned that North American firms employ no less than seven per cent of Scotland's manufacturing employment. Investment by American companies in Scotland is currently valued at £76 million. Indeed, for every American dollar invested in Scotland another dollar is earned. This is further proof that Scotland could well look after itself when she becomes economically independent of the parasitical growth grafted on to her stock by the English Government.

The Scottish National Party recently sent out a memorandum, which stated the fact that the Liberal Party, as do the Tories and Socialists, got a vast press coverage for their recent Annual Conference at Brighton. Yet the coverage in Scotland of the Annual Conference of the Scottish National Party was scanty in comparison. One cannot rely on the Press in Scotland, the so-called "Scottish" press, to tell the people of Scotland what goes on, and what Nationalists are trying to achieve. Scotland is indeed an occupied country!

Young Edinburgh "Scottish" education is bound up with the status quo, yet not all young Scots are amenable to the brain-washing process. A group of schoolchildren in Edinburgh schools are organising a nationalist section. They will work in conjunction with the Scottish National Party, holding meetings, instigating research and generally ensuring that Edinburgh children have the opportunity to see how Scotland's ills are to be remedied. They intend to consolidate, during the coming academic year and hope to spread their movement to the whole of Scotland. Those interested should write to Alastair MacDonald, Torphin, Torphin Road, Colinton, Edinburgh, 13.

Beeching's Axe It is noticeable that Scotland, scheduled to have 15,000 sq. miles without a railway, is already suffering from the implications of the Beeching proposals. Planned goods traffic is being ignored and wooden wagons are being withdrawn. High-salaried, high-pressure sales posts are being created in the feather-bedded English areas, while potential business in Scotland is ignored. Of course, British Railways deny these charges, at the same time refusing to show the breakdown of their costings; we know the answer - Scotland is expendable!

W A L E S Greatest Change Per Denez, Breton national leader, editor and writer appeared on B.B.C. Television to discuss the Celtic League with Mr. J. E. Jones, its Welsh Secretary. The greatest change M. Denez had noted in Wales since his first visit in 1948 was "The growth of Plaid Cymru and the growth of the Welsh-medium schools".*

Official Status for Welsh? In 1938 the nationwide petition demanding recognition of Welsh as an official language was thwarted by the advent of war (in conjunction with the London

government). A committee under the chairmanship of Sir David Hughes Parry is to advise the Westminster Government on matters relating to the Welsh Language. Various Societies and Organisations are now preparing memoranda for presentation to the committee.

Still in Prison! Mr. Emyr Llew Jones and Mr. Owen Williams, who caused destruction to the plant at Tryweryn (where Liverpool, with governmental blessing, but against the votes of ALL the Welsh M.P.s, are building a huge reservoir to steal Welsh resources) are still in prison. "If Wales was ever united over its opposition to the Tryweryn project. And what good did that do? How could the little nation carry the day against the big nation when the big nation was judge in its own cause? It is not surprising, in view of this, that there is a growing frustration in Wales, and that that frustration should erupt in acts of violence." ("Daily Express leading article.")**

New Magazines The third issue has just appeared of "Y Gwyddonydd" (The Scientist), edited by Dr. Glyn Phillips, a nuclear chemist; in this glossy quarterly, all manner of scientific subjects are dealt with by experts, in the Welsh language. "Hon" (She), another glossy quarterly for women, sold close on 10,000 copies of its first issue, during the Summer. "Barn", a monthly with articles on topical, literary and general-interest subjects, started a year ago and has built up a circulation of some 3,000 copies. ("Y Gwyddonydd", University Press, Caerdydd, 2/6; "Hon", 25 Carn-glas Av, Sgati, Abertawe, 2/6d., annual subs. 10/-; "Barn", Gwasg y Dryw, Llandybie, 2/-).

Protest against Depopulation The depopulation and impoverishment of rural Welsh Wales has gone on for half a century, under English government policy. Plaid Cymru has campaigned against it for many years and now others are realising the tragic consequences. Ald. S.O. Thomas of Carmarthenshire raised his voice against it. Lord Brecon, for the London Government, claimed the Government was doing what it could to bring secondary industries there. How comic a statement - or, how tragic! If the government had the will, it could easily find the way. It lacks the will; only a Welsh

Government will have the will to bring prosperity to the whole of Wales.

Editor's Notes: *See two articles in Celtic League Annual "Celtic Nations" for details of growth of Plaid and Welsh Schools. **The "Daily Express" often features Welsh articles on Thursdays.

MEETING AT BANGOR = The Central Council of the Celtic League met at Bangor, N. Wales on Sept. the 7th and 8th. There were 16 delegates, representing the 6 Celtic countries.

The General-Secretary reviewed the efforts made during the year to organise the C.L. and build up its membership. We now have a satisfactory structure except for Ireland and the Isle of Man, where posts remain to be filled. Celtic News and the Annual had appeared on schedule, thanks to Dr. C. Thomas. The membership drive was helped by publicity in nationalist publications, but the annual Celtic Nations had proved, especially in Wales, the best means to win members.

Dr. Thomas wished to be relieved of the post of editor. It was decided to request her to remain in charge of the annual. P. O Conchuir agreed to take over Celtic News.

New targets were fixed for the membership figures in each country. These could be quickly reached by advertising the annual. There are also potential members among our countrymen living overseas.

The delegates decided in favour of a memorandum to the United Nations, stating the case for self-government in the Celtic countries, stating that we look forward to a confraternity of our nations within a Europe re-organised on an ethnical basis.

The London Committee is to aim at organising a Celtic folksong festival in London, to coincide with the presentation of the memorandum.

The meeting adopted Gwynfor Evan's proposal that we organise a mobile exhibition to display the economic and cultural achievements of our countries by means of maps, photo-

graphs and publications so as to show their living force and dispel the "Celtic Twilight" notion. There would be a political emphasis on the exhibition to be held in 3 or 4 centres in each country.

Yann Goulet undertook to investigate the possibility of realizing a parallel project: an exhibition of painting and sculpture by artists in the Celtic countries. Finance would be the main problem here.

Those present were not competent to discuss W. MacLellan's project for a Celtic Ballet. The General-Secretary will take it up with folkloric groups.

I. MacNair's proposal for an inter-Celtic Summer camp was noted with interest. Consultations will be held with nationally-minded youth organisations, such as Urdd Gobaith Cymru and Skaouted Bleimor.

The Celtic League will carry on the campaign against linguistic discrimination in Brittany (pamphlet, memorandum to the UNO-sub-commission on Human Rights, press release, containing the reply given by the Council of Europe to the C.L. memorandum.)

It was finally decided to ask the Scottish and Cornish nationalist organisations to co-ordinate their action against the Beeching Plan with Plaid Cymru. Railway closures would affect Scotland, Wales and Cornwall more severely than outlying English districts. The question was political. A joint memorandum would be sent on behalf of the Celtic League to all M.P.s representing Celtic countries at Westminster.

Sunday afternoon the delegates were invited by Mr. Hywel Hughes to his beautifully situated residence at Menai Bridge and were delighted with the cordial reception he gave them.

MEMBERSHIP FEES. Those who joined the Celtic League during the autumn of 1962, please send 10/- (or equivalent) for 1963-64 now - to your national secretary or to Dr. N. Davies, Coolagad, Greystones, Co. Wicklow, Ireland. It will simplify the work of the secretaries and spare the unpleasantness of reminders.

For more information about the Celtic League write to the Gen. Secretary, 9 Br. Cnoc Sion, Dromchonnrach, Ath Cliath, 9, Eire.

U.N.O. The decision of the Celtic League to prepare the case for Self-Government for Wales, Brittany and Scotland and present it to the United Nations has aroused much interest in Wales, even from outside the membership of Plaid Cymru.

Celtic Tradition has sufficient vitality to make its impact on other cultures. On the 29th and 30th of October the Rutland Boughton musical adaptation of Hardy's "Queen of Cornwall" was produced at St. Pancras Town Hall. Meanwhile the living Celtic Culture is not so highly considered. A request for financial help in the publication of an English-Gaelic Dictionary was flatly refused by the "Scottish" Secretary and the "Scottish" Department of Education. Such cavalier treatment was enough to strain the long-suffering patience of An Comunn Gaidhealach to breaking point.

Library List. While the Celtic League is concerned with the Present and Future rather than with the past, anyone who thinks that Scotland to-day is a natural development of History could be advised to read "The Highland Clearances" by John Prebble (Secker & Warberg, 35/-). Dr. Beeching seems determined to complete the "Civilising" mission undertaken by the absentee landlords of the last century.

It sticks in the gullet of many Celts that they are largely dependent on English (or French) for information about other Celts. Any Irishman making that complaint would be advised to buy "Bás nò Beatha", a translation by Mairtin Ó Cadhain of Saunders Lewis's B.B.C. lecture on the future of Welsh (Sáirséal agus Dill, 6/3p, post free).

Celtic Festivals. The Summer and early Autumn have seen the annual Festivals in the Celtic Countries. At the Eisteddfod, the senior of these, the Blaid tent received much attention. An t-Uachtarán, Mr. De Valéra was among the notable guests at the Dublin Oireachtas. In Brittany, the various cultural organisations continue to make headway. In Perth the Mod and at Zennor the Gorsedd have continued to grow.

The New American Embassy at Ballsbridge, Dublin is now well in course of construction. It is a rotunda or entirely circular building in pre-cast concrete and will be the first

such building in Europe.

An t-Uachtarán, Mr. De Valéra received a delegation from the Celtic League on September 20th. They presented him with a copy of the "Celtic Nations".

Ireland & America. The Kennedy visit to Ireland was followed by a visit by Mr. Lemass to the U.S.A. The itinerary included Philadelphia, Chicago, Washington, New York and Boston, as well as an address to the General Assembly of the United Nations. All this helped further to dispel the old picture of an Ireland, in which it is difficult to move a step without tripping over leprachauns emerging from the mist which does be on the bog. An Taoiseach stressed the preference for American know-how rather than the mere investment of American dollars. His picture of un-occupied Ireland as a new state with a bright economic future is to some extent confirmed by the steady rise of Irish industrial shares on the Stock Exchange. Capt. O'Neill made a corresponding American tour, which generated decidedly less enthusiasm.

Sir Alec Douglas-Home is to be the new British Premier, we note on going to press. It is cold comfort to Scotland that she is to be mal-administered by a government headed by a Scot. The whole circus terminating in Sir Alec's "evolution" has occasioned widespread comment. Celtic League members are probably rather saddened by the ease with which Celts can be found to fall in with the exigencies of English party-politics and to administer a system so blatantly prejudicial to their own country's interests.

To the electors of Kinross and West Perth falls the honour of being represented by the erstwhile Fourteenth Earl. Those of them who like to bask in reflected glory from London can take further pride in one of the candidates being a priest of the new Television Goddess Mr. Rushton of "This Was the Week that Was". The B.B.C. has at length broken its conspiracy of silence by mentioning a Radio Free Scotland broadcast in favour of Mr. Arthur Donaldson, the Nationalist candidate. It remains to see if the authorities will be stung into grasping the nettle by taking legal action against the "pirates". All in all, the more sophisticated English political savoir-faire (in contrast to the French) is likely to

leave the matter as it stands. Otherwise the Home Secretary will be embarrassed by Scottish as well as Welsh and the perennial Irish Political prisoners.

"This is Brittany" the supporting film showing with the "VIPs" will do little towards introducing Brittany to the English-speaking world. The innocent cinema-goer would assume that Brittany was just another corner of France without its own language and culture. Though made by an American company the film is a classic example of the efficiency of the French propaganda machine and as such merits a visit. The relatively long life of O.A.S. posters and wall slogans as compared with those of the Breton Freedom Movement is an interesting sidelight on the French attitude - The O.A.S., misguided or not, are French!

SPONSORS. A resolution was carried at the A.G.M., "That this Meeting agrees that the League be supported by various well-known sponsors or patrons who may or may not be members, but who support our objectives". Individual members are asked forward their suggested names to their National Secretary. Such names could belong to the world of Science, Letters, Entertainment, etc., and should help the prestige of the League.

Editorial Note: A world of apology is due to the sub-editors for the relative lack of consultation with them due both to the time factor and the perhaps inevitable stumbling apprenticeship of a new editor. For readers it should be explained that a better allocation of space has meant that the first draft has been supplemented in a hurry, accounting for the haphazard sequence of the various items.

Readers, with suggested news items for inclusion or with comments to make regarding Celtic News, should write to their national sub-editor:-

Alba F.G.Thompson, 17 Viewfield Road, Culcabock, Inverness.

Breizh J.Le Noac'h, 18 Vesey Place, Dún Laoire, Co. Dublin.

Cymru J.E.Jones, Melin-y-wig, I Heol Esgyn, Cyncoed, Caerdydd.

Eire P.O Conchúir, 82 St.Alban's Ave, Bedford Park, London W4.

Kernow R.Green, Travellers' Rest, Illogan Downs, Redruth, Cwll.

Mannin Miss M.Cannell, Rheyn Cullyn, Kirk Michael, I. of Man.