

# CELTIC NEWS

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Summer Edition 1969. No. 22.

K E R N O W \*

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Container or Contained? A Dorset doctor recently said Cornish cream was dangerous

but a Cornish doctor convicted the container after taking thousands of samples. Our container, the "United" Kingdom, does many bad things. Part of Devon is put in Launceston police division. Work is done on the A.38 road for Plymouth, but our A.30 spine-road figures only in plans. Whitehall finance raises water rates, defers sewerage schemes and a hostel for mentally-handicapped children, minimises educational and local-hospital provision. It taxes Scillonians for the few poor roads that they provided for themselves on their islands, and slashes Council mortgage allowances by 75%. Faceless economic forces push out almost the last tin-streaming family and the local baking of bread.

Unemployment in West Cornwall has reached 5.8%, but a visiting minister has said that our vigour and independence has offset our remoteness!

The cream could be better contained! More enterprises are being attracted. The engineering workers at Holman's have

negotiated wages nearer the level of other engineers. At less than its cut to outside travel publicity, the County Council finds equal status with other Celtic nations in a travel exhibition in London. Consolidated Gold-Mines are investing \$6 million in a new mine. It is suggested that dredging could bring tankers comparable with those docking in Bantry Bay to Falmouth for repair. Our National Day saw flags all over Kernow and a furore at County Hall over the slogan "Saint Piran's Day" cut between Saint Pirans crosses in the turf outside the Hall.

MEBYON KERNOW is objecting to the appointment of a candidate from Kent as Registrar in Redruth, though qualified Cornish people were available. SALTASH Town Clerk, however, sees Saltash "more clearly within the Plymouth ambit"?? We may wonder what may really happen when the University of Exeter sets up its Board of Celtic Studies, but the CELTIC CONGRESS at PENSANS (Penzance) heard that there were no doubts about the future of Cornishness. KERNOW BYS VYKEN.

B R E I Z H \* The detention of political prisoners, \*  
\* \* \* \* \* in French jails (in Paris) continues \*  
\* \* \* \* \* since January when about 60 people were \*  
arrested by French Security Forces in Breizh, and in the \*  
Paris region, as suspected members of the "Breton Libera- \*  
tion Front" an organization said to be responsible for a \*  
number of bomb attacks against French administrative build- \*  
ings & installations in Breizh over the last 2 years.

At present 39 are still in prison (one in hospital \*  
seriously ill) while 10 have been released on bail waiting \*  
a trial which is not expected for many months. The prison- \*  
ers have been kept incommunicado for 6 weeks, and it was \*  
only after a hunger strike that the oldest were let out on \*  
bail. A second hunger strike brought about some improve- \*  
ments in their conditions, notably that they are now allowed \*  
to communicate with one another and with the outside world - \*  
they are also allowed to receive Breton books.

The fact that the prisoners represent a wide cross- \*  
section of the Breton people has given the lie to the French

+ Mid-May

claim that these people were "immature, irresponsible people \*  
manipulated from abroad". These smear techniques have failed \*  
and many messages of sympathy have reached the prisoners from \*  
all over the world. A Prisoners Aid Committee (Skoazell Vreizh) \*  
has been formed to aid the prisoners and their families, and \*  
branches have been opened in Paris, Dublin, Cardiff, Montreal, \*  
New York, Scotland and Cornwall. The committee is being well \*  
supported in Breizh itself.

In London members of the Celtic League staged a protest \*  
vigil outside the French Embassy to coincide with De Gaulle's \*  
visit to Brittany. Mr. Gwynfor Evans M.P. sent a letter to the \*  
French government protesting against the treatment of Breton \*  
prisoners, while many letters and telegrams were sent to De \*  
Gaulle by Breton, Celtic and International organizations as well \*  
as by many individuals.

De Gaulle's ill-fated referendum was another attempt to \*  
frustrate legitimate Breton demands - by creating entirely ar- \*  
tificial regions and partitioning Breizh in the process. His \*  
defeat and departure does not solve the Breton problem and it \*  
will take some time for any future French government to accept \*  
the existence of Breizh as a National entity and to take the \*  
appropriate measures to deal with the problem.

The main outcome of the recent events in Breizh has been \*  
the renewed efforts to organise a Breton Front representing the \*  
various political interests, and to unite the present current of \*  
sympathy into an effective political force. Numerous Public \*  
Meetings were held in Breizh and various political personalities \*  
were invited to take part.

Another encouraging development has been the large increase \*  
in the attendance at Breton classes since the beginning of the \*  
year. Correspondence Courses have reported an increase of 100%.

The Breton economy still is run down by the French govern- \*  
ment, and the news that the port for the new "Container-Service" \*  
ships is to be Le Havre in France and not the larger port of \*  
Brest in Brittany indicates the attitudes of the French adminis- \*  
tration. France expands while Breizh is allowed to decline.

C Y M R U \* County and Borough Councils in Cymru are becom- \*  
\* \* \* \* \* ing more opposed to the London Government's \*  
\* \* \* \* \*

proposal of amalgamating our 13 counties to make only 5. Plaid Cymru is giving a lead in this matter. Amalgamations are seen as intended to make bureaucratic and London control of Local Government easier; and not to benefit the Welsh communities and nation.

**HELP FOR BREIZH:** A great number of Welsh people, mainly members of the Celtic League, have given money to help the families of Breton patriots imprisoned by the imperialist French Government. Special thanks have been received.

**MERCHED Y WAWR:** This Womens' social organization, taking the place of the London controlled Womens Institute, has already made rapid progress; over 80 branches have already been set up, and women in many other towns and villages are anxious to set up further branches.

**Plaid Cymru Election Gains:** Plaid Cymru captured its first seat on CAERDYDD (Cardiff) City Council in May; the candidate was Mr. Dafydd Hughes. There was another remarkable win, at Monmouth - right on the English border. 8 seats in all were won at these elections, which were confined to Borough and some District councils. For Parliamentary elections, preparations (especially canvassing) are going ahead in some areas; there is a possibility of winning 6 seats, if thorough work is done well ahead of the campaign.

**Commission on Constitution:** The Commission which will consider self-government for Cymru and Alba has 2 Welsh members and 10 English ones. Its job, Ministers said, was to find out the facts so that people could judge for themselves. Yet the Labour Party has already judged the issue without the "facts"; it took its entire 15 minute Television political broadcast to argue that Alba and Cymru would be worse off if they gained self-government.

**A L B A \*** The local government elections have come and  
\* \* \* \* \* gone, and, if the English newspapers (and their  
\* \* \* \* \* little anglicised brothers in Alba) are to be  
believed - support for S.N.P. is on the wane. The fact is  
that S.N.P. did quite well. Using the enemy's own rope to  
hang him; the TIMES official result table shows that the SNP  
gained 29 seats, lost 9, a net change of + 9. This compares

well with the results for the two big Unionist parties - Tories 24 gains, 7 losses, net change of + 17. Labour 16 gains, 46 losses, net change of - 30. There is, however, no need for complacency and excuses of bad weather and televised "soccer" internationals are not enough. The realization that we are engaged in a battle against oppression must be brought home to the people of Alba. Those actively engaged in this struggle are the candidates whose arms are useless without the ammunition supplied by willing, able and well organised support troops. S.N.P. must return to its original objective which was to "Put Scotland First" and Mr. John McAteer, the new National Organiser of S.N.P. must make sure that this is done.

The Annual Conference of S.N.P. is held at the end of May, and as far as can be gathered no world-shattering pronouncements are likely to emanate from this very respectable gathering. It is hard to see Scottish nationalism just going on for ever along S.N.P. "guide lines". There have already been loud rumblings of impatience both from the left and right of the Scots Nationalist movement, and there is every reason to believe that the pace will be set in Alba in the future, and not in the well-known sheep-pen on Thames side. There are signs that a new awareness and vitality is penetrating the S.N.P. itself. The prospective candidate for THE WESTERN ISLES has been exhorting the crofters on UIBHIST MU DHEAS (South Uist) to hold onto their lands against further encroachments by the English military authorities in extending their Rocket Testing range.

It is a matter of pride that the new Moderator of the Assembly of the Church of Scotland is the Rev. Thomas Murchison, president of the Celtic Congress which met at Pensans. Dignified and forthright, as always, he adequately dealt with the Paisley/Pastor Glass inspired loutish elements which threatened to disrupt the proceedings of the General Assembly during the afternoon of the opening session. He also injected a Celtic note by greeting the Queen in Gaelic - "Failte chridheil do bhur Morachd rìghheil" (A hearty welcome to your Majesty).

It is sinister to note that the televised reports of the General Assembly were beamed exclusively in Alba. Was this because H.M. the Queen was present? Was this designed as more brain-washing of the Scots?

The English invasion proceeds with the speed and precision of a military operation. The massive build-up of Defence

Establishments go speedily forward at Faslane, Rosyth and Uibhist. (Does the instant threat to the livelihoods of the lobster fishermen of Uibhist presage the eventual evacuation of the island?) There are more incursions of Royal Engineers under "Training" on the excuse of "Aid to Communities" - or perhaps the building up of strategical roads and points. To-day one can walk about the streets of Fort William without hearing a Scottish voice (let alone a word of Gaelic), and the same is beginning to happen in INBHIR NIS (Inverness). It is time that Scotsmen awakened to the extent of this invasion. A bright feature is that there are some dedicated people who are shortly coming together to act in respect of the preservation of, and the projection into the future, of the Celtic Community in Alba. This is in no way a "Fuddy-Duddy" movement, but a determined attempt to counteract alien influence, pull together and rebuild the Celtic nation. The people are not befogged by a "Celtic mist", but are thoroughly qualified in various techniques, economics, etc., and are well aware of modern conditions and of modern thought; each able to distinguish between the meretricious and the genuine. The ultimate aim is, of course, Unity with our Celtic bretheren everywhere.

E I R E \* A seminar "Whither Ireland - Whither Irish" took place in May and concluded with a concert in the Continental Hotel (Sunday-11th)-in which pop-singers, & groups performed songs in Irish, Welsh and English. The most interesting feature was the participation of Dafydd Iwan & E. Morris-Jones, singing a satirical song entitled "Carlo" - which is very popular with young people in Wales at the moment for one reason and another. Other groups present included the Johnstons - Breandan O Duill agus Meuris Kennedy. The Breton poet & singer Glen Mor was scheduled for the concert, but to the disappointment of the 1,500 people present he did not appear - no reason was given.

NO SINECURE FOR THE MAJOR: Major Chichester-Clark has replaced his cousin, Captain O'Neill, as a shuttlecock between the statelets' white negroes, its 1690 vintage No-Popers and big brother in Westminster. The once monolithic Unionist Party after 50 years in office - is badly split. Although officially committed to 1 man 1 vote, the mental reservation that Unionist votes must be kept more than equal than the 'fenian' variety undoubtedly

prevails. Nevertheless, the Civil Rights leaders are decidedly less forbearing than the more traditional opposition. No thinking Celt should be ready to set much store by English politicians, even when, like Mr. Wilson, they are of authentic bull-dog breed. However, Mr. Wilson or his successor can rest assured that the Civil Rights pot will remain upon the boil. As Capt. O'Neill found - the Royal Irish Constabulary is no longer capable of batonning the opposition into impotence, on the contrary, there have been several occasions when the Force has been driven off the streets. Thanks to the additional attentions of Protestant extremist groups or (less likely) republican splinter-groups, the water supply of Belfast was badly dislocated. In whichever direction he turns, the gallant major can expect trouble. The available space here gives little scope to thread more than a superficial guide to the Six-County maze. At least one article in the forthcoming Annual Volume will deal with the question. In addition, a useful pamphlet can be recommended; "THE RIGHTS OF MAN IN IRELAND", published by the Dublin Wolfe Tone Society, 30 Plás Gardiner, Baile Atha Cliath 1. (3/- post free).

South (& West) of the Border. The Dublin politicians have not been allowed to make much political capital from the unrest in the North-East and have found that the Civil Rights agitators are decidedly ecumenical in their condemnations. The 26 counties are also witnessing the questioning of old shibboleths. British (English) is best is not necessarily a truism for us "lesser breeds". Lacking a live revolutionary spirit our governments have tended to continue with the administration & institutions they found, making piecemeal amendments when there was no alternative. The English rating system was accepted with all its anomalies. When Dublin Corporation refused to strike a rate sufficiently high to cover the appropriately nationally funded hospital service - a government official was appointed to administer Dublin's affairs & a legally elected representative were suspended.

HEALTHY SIGNS ON THE LANGUAGE SCENE are Plandail Chonnachta, a proposal to develop the Gaeltacht in Connemara, and a new tendency to criticise the ineffective Gaeltacht ministry. As a serious Plandail could not be brought into being without official backing. In the same way the Gaeltacht ministry cannot be brought into being without a radical shift of public opinion-

ion. A pre-requisite for this is to bring the language into politics. With a General Election in the offing both Fine Gael & the Labour Party have discretely indicated that Irish would be an optional subject in their educational proposals. That leaves only Fianna Fail, the Government Party, officially committee to Irish. To date, its commitment has amounted to very little. The (English) Language Freedom Movement is currently campaigning for the few Irish medium schools to switch to English. If they succeed in making Irish into a political issue they could well serve the language in a way they had not intended.

M A N N I N \* After 18 months of negotiation the Isle of Man & the United Kingdom have been unable to reach agreement on the main constitutional issues between the two Governments. This is shown in the vast report issued by the Joint Working party under Lord Stonham, Minister of State at the Home Office. The speaker of the HOUSE OF KEYS, Mr. Charles KERRUISH apologised to the members for being deceived by Lord Stonham's apparent sympathy into trusting in his goodwill. So now we are back to square one, sadder, but one hopes wiser. PLAQUES bearing the Head of MANANAN (the legendary ruler of Mann) have been presented to ELLYNYN-NY-GAEL by Mr. C. Kerruish and Mr. L.N.GIOVANNELLI (Italian born but a Manxman by choice and adoption) these are for competition by Youth groups in various aspects of Manx culture and it is hoped that they will be a means to increase interest in Manx affairs amongst the youth of the Island. Mr. Viovannelli has recently published a book "THE MANX INFLUENCE" dealing with the Manx influence on various European musicians, writers etc. Amongst other Manx publications is Mr. D. Farghers booklet on Manx bird names.

Professor Kinvig. On May 27 Professor Robert Henry Kinvig died in Birmingham aged 75 years. A Manxman, Prof. Kinvig was a life governor of Birmingham University & Emeritus Professor of Geography. He was an unremitting Manx Gael and his works of scholarship on Manx history included "History of the Isle of Mann" (1944); "Manx Settlement in the U.S.A." (1955); and "The Isle of Mann and Atlantic Britain" (1958). His books and lectures inspired several generations of Manxmen to a pride and interest in their heritage and history. His death is a sad loss not only for the Manx but for all Celtic peoples in general.

NEW YORK BRANCH \* Members in the New York area can renew their membership by contacting Mr. Sean Duggan, 551 West 172 Street, New York, NY.10032., and sending their subscription to Mr. Thomas P. Cloonan, 2760 Jerome Avenue, Bronx, NY.10468. It is proposed to form a Celtic League Branch in New York, and to put the annual branch fee at 5 dollars, of which 3 dollars will be remitted to the League's central treasurer while 2 dollars will be reserved for branch expenses.

THE 1969 GENERAL MEETING \* It is proposed that the 1969 General Meeting of the Celtic League be held in Dublin on the weekend 13-14th September (an alternative date would be 20-21 Sept.). The exact date will be communicated in Celtic News 23. ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND. Intending participants should write to their secretaries to let them know what date they would prefer - also to submit resolutions, themes for debate, and any other suggestions. There will be a seminar on the aims and means of the struggle for our National freedom, and stock-taking of the present situation in our countries, also the kind of society we should strive for. Meeting will be held on Sept. 13-14th.  
CRASH COURSE IN BRETON: \* A free crash course in Breton, lasting 12 days, will be organised in Dublin in mid-September if at least 10 students (no age limit) state their firm intention to attend. Reasonable accommodation will be provided. Those interested should write to Alan Heussaff, General-Secretary (address p.12).

THE ENGLISH ROYAL IMPOSTITURE \*\* (An Irish View). The English Post Office has announced that this non-event on 1st July is being marked by the issue of a series of commemorative stamps. According to philatelic sources, stamp collectors are more interested in an 'official' Welsh stamp which is awaited with some curiosity. In the meantime, the protracted trial of alleged members of the "Free Wales Army" can hardly have failed to have occasioned a degree of embarrassment among the English establishment. In conjunction with the ubiquitous police activity, it all adds up to convey the impression that what was intended as a patronising gesture to encourage Welsh obsequiousness must be regarded as a blunder of the 1st magnitude.

(\*\* The CELTIC NEWS makes no claim to purity of its English)

"The Creed of the CELTIC REVOLUTION": A new publication entitled "The Creed of the Celtic Revolution" will be of interest to all Celts. The publication consists of 3 essays by the author Peter Berresford-Ellis on what he deems to be the "Essence" of Celtic nationalism. There is an introduction by the eminent historian & sociologist F.A. Ridley. Price is 5/- (plus 1/- post) and the publishers are Medusa Press, 356 Northampton Buildings, LONDON, E.C.1. Orders may be placed through the London Branch of the Celtic League (Dr. Dafydd Ap Glyn, 23 Belvedere Close, TEDDINGTON, Midd'x) and by so doing you will financially aid the League.

RESOLUTIONS IN AID OF THE JAILED BRETONS. Resolutions in favour of the Breton prisoners were adopted by the following associations in Eire: THE GAELIC LEAGUE at its annual convention in Clones (2-4 May); MISNEACH (militant language organisation); AN COMHCHADREAMH (Pro-Irish Students & Post-graduates); SCEIM NA gCEARDCHUMANN (Pro-Irish Workers & Employees); THE CELTIC YOUTH CONGRESS (Meeting at Corcaigh); The Irish, Cornish, & London Branches of The Celtic League.

The Gaelic League resolution was; "We ask the French Government to free the Bretons who are in jail because of their fidelity to their culture, to give every opportunity to the Breton children to learn their own language and to give the Breton nation its fundamental rights".

The Wolfe Tone Society pointed out that it was contrary to civil rights to keep people so long in jail without a trial as is the case of the Bretons imprisoned in Le Santé (Paris). At the time of writing about 20 men have been released on bail, but 30 are still in prison, and there is no indication when a trial will take place. All resolutions express concern at French hostility towards the Breton language & express understanding for those who could see no further point in peaceful protests. + also The Dublin Wolfe Tone Society.

By the end of May more Breton prisoners had been released pending trial. But 16 remained in jail; they went on hunger strike on June 1, and on a thirst strike on June 6th in protest against detention without trial.

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THE FOURTH CONGRESS of the International Association for "The Defence of Threatened Languages & Cultures" will be held in the residence of the Goarnic family, at Kertelg, Moelen-sur-Mer (between Lorient & Kemper, South Brittany) on the 29 & 30 July, 1969. This will immediately follow the Festival of Breton Cornwall in Kemper 21-28 July, which will have a greater participation than usual from other Celtic countries.

Participants will be accommodated in hostels in the vicinity. The secretary-general of the association invites a numerous attendance; 1969 has already proved an important year for the movement in favour of ethnic freedom and there will be many problems to discuss. Intending participants should write without delay to Professor P. Neart, Nylandsgaten 11C30, Abo, Finland, specifying accommodation requirements.

1969 YEAR BOOK \* Most of the material for the 1969 Year Book of the Celtic League is now in the hands of the editor, Frank Thompson. As in previous years the volume will contain contributions from people in leading positions in our national movements, reports on the work being done to maintain our nationalities, cultural and economic studies, analyses of our political situation plus the proposals for our future courses of action. There is a special feature this year - a series of four or five articles about other countries of similar sizes to our own showing how well they have done in all possible fields, thanks to their independence. They will show, however, that in order to be free we have really to want freedom.

The 1,100 copies of the 1968 volume are sold except for a dozen or two. IT WILL HELP US TO DECIDE HOW MANY TO PRINT THIS YEAR IF ALL MEMBERS RENEW THEIR SUBSCRIPTIONS WITHOUT DELAY, - or at least indicate their intention of doing so.

Among the 36 articles in the 1969 Year Book are included the following:- "Welsh & Scottish Nationalism: 20th century problems and prospects" by Warwick Armstrong & Keith Buchanan (A balanced & perceptive article by two New Zealand professors which analyses our problems, past present and future); "The Nationalist Movement in Scotland" by Rev. Thomas Murchison; "Front Liberation Bretagne and Breton Public Opinion" by Yann

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Fouere; "Wales: Economic review" by Dr. Edward Nevin; "Civil Rights in the Six Counties" by Fred Heatley; "Living Cornwall" by Royston Green; "The Finnish Example" by Richard K. Hemming; "The Celtic Nation" by George Anderson.

GORBALS BYELECTION: The English Labour Party have to face the prospect of another byelection against the formidable opposition of the SNP. The Gorbals constituency in Glasgow is without a member of the English Parliament following the death of Mrs. Alice Cullen (English Labour Party), and the large majority she received at the last election (over 9,000) is surely due to evaporate in the strong wind of National resurgence sweeping the Celtic countries, now that the SNP has decided to fight the seat. Large majorities do not frighten us - we have destroyed them at Caerfyrddin, Hamilton, Rhondda & Caerffili - and the English minority Parties in Alba, the Tories and Liberals, will surely have little part to play in this coming contest. A tradition was established at Hamilton when many young members of Plaid Cymru went to Alba to help their Scottish compatriots with canvassing and other pre-election tasks. At the Caerffili byelection many young SNP supporters came down to help the Welsh, and on the weekend prior to the election Mebyon Kernow (London Branch) also made an appearance in support of the Blaid candidate. CELTIC NEWS hopes that this form of inter-Celtic aid will be continued at Gorbals, and perhaps the Bretons & Irish will also try to help SNP. We wish SNP every success - ALBA GO BRAGH!

CELTIC LEAGUE ADDRESSES: (Nat. Secs.) ALBA: Mrs. Denovan, Errolbank 9 Dalgleish Rd, Dundee. BREIZH: Jacques Derouet, 2 place du Martray, 44-Nantes. CYMRU: J.E. Jones, 1 Heol Esgyn, Cyncoed, Caerdydd. EIRE: Miss Janice Williams, 47 Páirc Liosain, Ath Cliath 6. KERNOW: R. Green, Travellers Rest, Illogan Downs, Redruth. MANNIN: J. Irving, Tynwald Grove, Peel. LONDON: Dr. D. Ap Glyn, 23 Belvedere Close, Teddington, Middlesex. UNITED STATES: Sean Duggan, 551 West 172 St, New York, NY. 10032. Other Officers: GENERAL SECRETARY: A. Heussaff, 9 Br. Cnoc Sion, Dromchonrach, Ath Cliath 9, Eire. TREASURER: Dr. Nòelle Davies, Cùl na Gèid, An Chloch Liath, Co. Cill Mantáin, Eire. EDITOR OF "CELTIC NEWS": Pdraig O Conchúir, 84 Pulleyns Ave., East Ham, London, E.6.