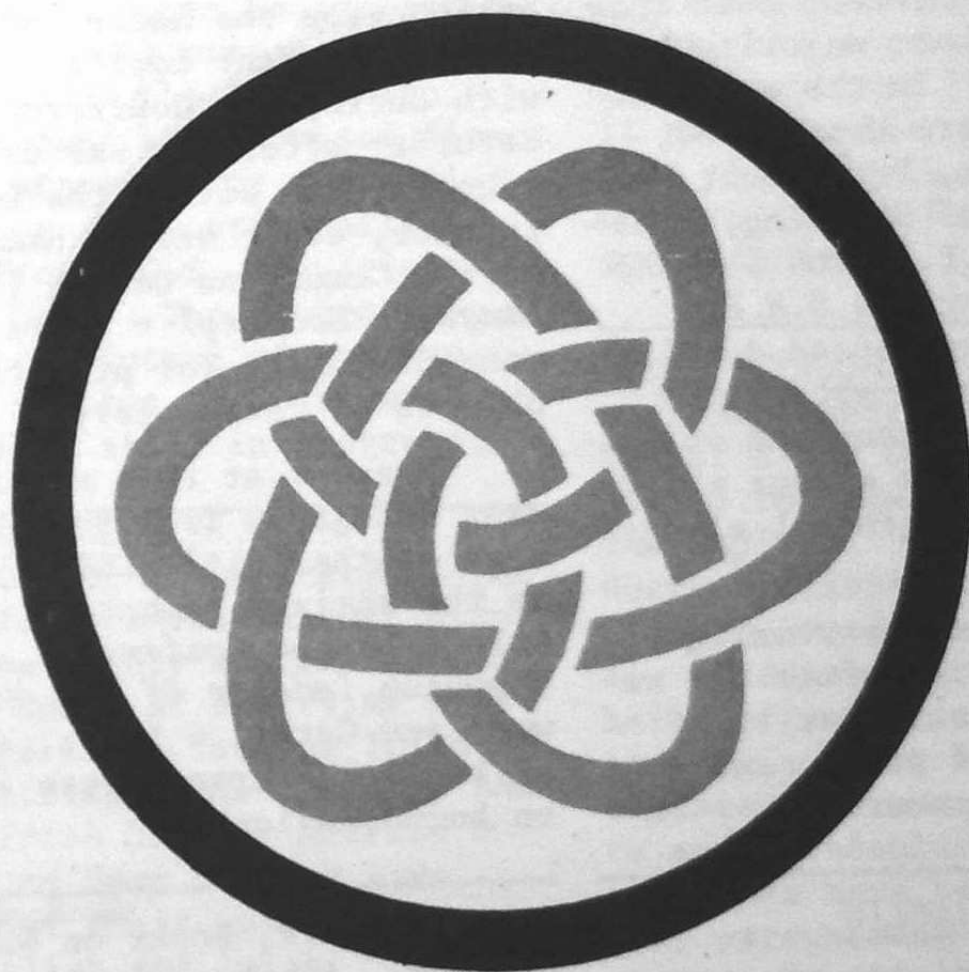


CELTIC NEWS

Alba Breizh Cymru Éire Kernow Mannin



The Celtic Knot

Symbol of Celtic Unity

NUMBER 30

Christmas 1971

ALBA

ELECTORAL SHOCK FOR LABOUR AT THE STIRLING BURGH BY-ELECTION.

In September, the Labour Party were defending a twenty-two-thousand plus majority. Most factors seemed to favour them; high unemployment, U.C.S. etc. It was thought in some quarters that they might increase their majority by as much as 10%. In the event it was reduced by more than 5,000, while the veteran, Dr. Robert MacIntyre, Provost of Stirling, President of the S.N.P., (and in 1945 the first M.P. for the S.N.P.) came a challenging second doubling his general election vote with more than thirteen thousand votes. The Conservative was a poor third, thus reversing the general election sequence.

This is a very heartening trend for the S.N.P. after the rather bleak electoral results of the last couple of years, and a big set-back to Labour.

TEACH YOURSELF GAIDHLIG

A welcome addition to the "Teach Yourself" series is Gaidhlig by Roderick MacKinnon. This volume which has received favourable mention by experts has graded exercises up to O level. This is the third of the Celtic Languages to be dealt with so far in this series, there having been

CELTIC LEAGUE CONFERENCE

During the first weekend of October, the Glasgow and Clydeside group of the Scottish branch of the Celtic League, was host to the Annual Conference of the League. This drew quite an amount of attention from the media, and a number of important topics were dealt with during the Conference. The Saturday afternoon was devoted to a conference within the League conference, as it were - namely that of the Comunn na Canain (Scottish Language Society) - where ideas were discussed for promoting the objects of the society.

Present at this meeting were many delegates from the other branches of the Celtic League, as well as the society members. After the Celtic League Conference, Frank Thompson (editor of the Annual Volume) and Cathal O Luain, secretary of the Irish branch were interviewed on Sound Radio.

prior to this, books on Gaeilge and Cymrag. Another teaching development is the provision on STV of a programme somewhat on the lines of those available on T.V. for the principal continental languages, though shorter. It is called *Beagan Gaidhlig* - a little Gaelic. A programme "Who are the Scots", covering prehistoric times to the Wars of Independence of 13th and 14th centuries is currently running on BBC Scotland.

(ALBA)

U.C.S.

This grouping survives partially due to the backing of industrialist Hugh Stenhouse. The new company is called Govan-Shipbuilders; the original U.C.S. consisted of Govan, Linthouse - Sootstown and Clydebank. When Stenhouse took over he indicated that he was only prepared to support two of the four units. The government has promised financial guarantees for the building of four ships originally ordered from U.C.S. for Irish Shipping Ltd. The ultimate shape of the future of the new grouping remains in doubt with negotiations still in progress.

CUIRT FILIOCHTA

Following immediately on the C.L. conference was another series of the highly successful Scots-Irish Court of Poetry. At this recent one three leading Irish poets, Caitlin Maude (wife of the sec. of Irish branch), Mairtin O Direain and Sean O Tuama, gave readings of their poems alternately in English and Irish. Three young Scottish Gaelic poets also read their work. Readings were also given in Aberdeen and Edinburgh. This function was under the auspices of the Scottish Arts Council, chaired by John Murray of Glasgow University Celtic Department and editor of the Gaidhlig Books Council. Readers of

IRISH SOLIDARITY MARCH

Recently in Glasgow, an Irish Solidarity March was attacked by a counter demonstration (shades of Burntollet) led by Jack Glass, a cleric of the Paisley cast of mind (he is in fact a close associate of "The Good Doctor"). This was clearly a sectarianly inspired action, as all the assailants seemed to belong to extreme Protestant groups. It remains sadly true that the greatest obstacle to effective Celtic cooperation in Scotland is moronic-sectarianism.

B.B.C. CENSORSHIP: There has been much amusement recently over the axing of a BBC Scotland film which purported to take a 'humorous look at the English'. Even such a die-hard North British-Unionist paper as "The Glasgow Herald" saw through the shallow excuses about the programme not being of sufficiently high standard, and had a witty leader about it. The excuses were unconvincing as the Scots and particularly those in the Glasgow area have been the butts of so many patronising London inspired programmes in the last few years.

"filiochta" cont.

"Celtic News" will recall how the "Scots-Irish Court of Poetry" was revived earlier this year after a three hundred year lapse, when a number of leading Scottish Gaelic poets gave a series of readings of their works in Ireland

CELTIC LEAGUE FLAG

There are two proposals:

a) A design suggested by A. Edwards at the Glasgow AGM consists of a white ring placed centrally upon a background of black and green. Dimensions recommended: if the inner diameter of the ring is "D" then the outer would be 1.4D. The entire flag would be 2D in height and 3D in width, divided horizontally in an upper green field and a lower black area. Symbolism: the ring is a Celtic symbol of unity and eternity that has been in use for over a millennium. It is used as the Fainne or Cruinne as a Celtic language symbol. Black and white are Breton and Cornish flag colours. Green is the national colour in Cymru and Eire. The horizontal division with the central symbol follows the design of Y Ddraig Goch. The circle of Iona represents Alba and Mannin.

b) The second design suggested by two members in America consists of a triskel (three-leg Celtic symbol) in gold within a golden ring placed centrally upon a green background; the smaller fields between ring and the legs of the triskel are in blue. Dimensions: outer diameter of the ring being D, the height of the flag is 1½D and the width 2D. Symbolism: green for the earth and concrete reality, blue for the sky and revolutionary change, gold for the riches of life. The colours and the ringed triskel do not belong to any Celtic country in particular.

Members are asked to contribute to a decision by commenting and stating their preferences.

SPECIALS CO-OP

A would be visitor from Ireland and one photograph returned bearing to a Welsh political prisoner was a tell-tale endorsement, about the asked to supply photographs before-hand. Her application was refused an Irish police officer.

FOR CELTIC LEAGUE ADDRESSES, see previous issues of Celtic News. The Secretary General, 9, Br. Cnoc Sion, Ath Cliath, 9. will readress correspondence if necessary.

BREIZH

ADSAV 1532 is engaged in a campaign to reactivate the Treaty of 1532 which stipulated - that no taxes were to be levied in Breizh without the consent of the *Etats Generaux* (national assembly), that the Breton law system and right to conclude trade agreements was to be maintained. A government attempt to prevent the setting-up of the association, failed on constitutional grounds. ADSAV is operating legally since it is asking for the implementation of the only juridical act binding Breizh to France.

The Treaty having been broken unilaterally by France in 1789, a more independent line would be to consider that Breizh is now free from her obligations and to struggle to make this a de facto situation. However, Minister Marcellin is not taking the ADSAV approach lightly. Its organisers have been threatened with court action.

FRENCH REGIONAL POLICY

A regional reform was announced by President Pompidou when he visited the French naval base in Brest. Consultative regional councils, to which some of the functions of the department councils could be delegated, will be set up. How revolutionary the reform is will be seen from the fact that the department councils have no powers of decision and no independent budgets.

Pompidou was booed and whistled at in spite of the preventive arrest of students and the turning away of farmers at road blocks. Thousands demonstrated demanding WORK IN BRITTANY! CELIB, representing the wealthy, had put forward the idea of a contract between the French State and

Brittany. They received a verbal promise from Minister Bettencourt that 50,000 industrial jobs would be created in Brittany during the period of the 6th French plan. This would mean 20% of the planned total for an area with 4.9% of the State population, an amazing contradiction of the planners' principle that priority must be given to the development of already prosperous areas.

Minister Fontanet's remark that Brittany is the only reservoir of labour left in the E.E.C. illustrates better the official view and could serve as a warning to other Celts wishing to join the rich man's E.E.C. club.

(BREIZH)

HUNGER STRIKES were staged in the churches of Plonevez-ar-Faou and Fouenant in support of 8 people who were jailed following demonstrations in Brest by tradesmen against the supermarket threat to their livelihood.

EMGLEV BELEINN VREIZH, a new association formed by 52 priests, has come out strongly against the economic, social and cultural violence perpetrated by the French institutions against the Breton people (247. SAV BREIZH Nr 4). In the same issue there is a first hand account of the GALV march from Ploué to an Orient in support of Breton language claims.

AN UHEL - GONIDEG. 500 people attended a commemoration in Plouared (10-10-71) in honour of F. an Uhel (1821-1895), the author of the largest, if mostly unpublished, collection of Breton folk tales, religious plays, songs and ballads. The 150th anniversary of the publication of J.F. Gonideg's "Dictionnaire de la Langue Bretonne" was celebrated in Konk-Leon on the same day. Participants called for road signs to be made bilingual.

FRENCH It was proposed in Glascu that a couple of articles in French should be published in the Annual Volume. Do Breton readers think this would attract more readers in Breizh?

CONSTITUTION OF THE CELTIC LEAGUE

1. THE FUNDAMENTAL AIM OF THE CELTIC LEAGUE is to contribute to the struggle of the six Celtic nations to secure or to win their full freedom (political, cultural, social, economic). This includes:
 - a) fostering co-operation between the Celtic peoples;
 - b) developing the consciousness of the special relationship and solidarity between them;
 - c) making our national struggles and achievements better known abroad.
 - d) encouraging acceptance of the need for a formal association of the Celtic nations once two or more have obtained political independence, and whether or not it is decided to become formally linked to one of the politico-economic blocks;
 - e) recognising that, on achieving freedom, the national resources of each Celtic country must be used for the benefit of all the people of that country.
2. The Celtic League is headed by a General Council and composed of branches-six national branches, and international branches where a minimum number of members originating from at least two Celtic countries co-operate locally.
3. The co-ordination of the activity of the Celtic League is ensured by the secretary general and the branch secretaries.
4. a) The work of the Celtic League is assisted at a general level by the publication of the periodical CELTIC NEWS and of an annual volume.
b) special commissions may be set up to carry out certain decisions under the supervision of the secretaries;
c) at branch level, the work of the League is assisted by branch committees.
5. a) The General Council is headed by an honorary president and composed of the general executive officers (secretary general, editor of the annual volume, editor of the periodical, treasurer), the branch secretaries, two representatives each of the national branch committees and one representative each of the international branch committees.
b) when the general council meets, it elects its chairman who holds office until the next meeting;
c) chairman's meetings will be summoned in association with the general council meetings.
6. The General Council delegates to the general executive officers the task of carrying out the League's

6. cont.
general work and confirms them yearly in their functions; advises the secretary general through its chairman.

7. The secretary general coordinates the general work of the League:

- a) he consults the general council through the intermediary of the branch secretaries before deciding on important issues;
- b) he receives proposals for action from officers and members;
- c) he puts proposals for action before the branch secretaries;
- d) he supervises the activity of the branches with a view to ensure efficiency and adherence to the constitution;
- e) he provisionally ensures recruiting in non-national areas other than those covered by international branches and is responsible for the same work as a branch secretary in those areas.

8. The editor of the annual volume makes the necessary arrangements for the preparation, publication and distribution of the volume in consultation with the general and branch secretaries; ensures that the volume does not carry material at variance with the League's aims and policy unless specifically stated; ensures the publication of the volume by schedule.

9. The editor of the periodical makes similar arrangements for

CELTIC NEWS and ensures its regular publication.

10. The treasurer general pays the Celtic League bills; supplies financial reports at the request of the secretary general.

11. The branch secretary -

- a) organises the recruiting of members in his/her area;
- b) is responsible for the prompt mailing of C.L. publications to members and subscribers;
- c) informs members of details of general and branch meetings;
- d) consults with the branch committee on important issues;
- e) relays circulars from the secretary general to the other members of the general council in his/her area;
- f) advises the secretary general on behalf of the branch;
- g) ensures that financial contributions from the branch are adequate for the progress of the League;
- h) coordinates the work of the branch, being responsible for delegating functions within the branch after consultation with the Branch committees;
- i) supplies quarterly reports to the secretary general on the state of membership and finance within the branch.

12. The branch committee advises the secretary.

13. The branch chairman has authority to draw the attention of the secretary general to failure on the part

13. cont.

of the branch secretary to carry out his/her duties satisfactorily.

14. The chairman of the League has authority to draw the attention of the General Council to failure on the part of the secretary general to carry out his duties satisfactorily.

15. a) The post of honorary president of the League is created for one year and will continue subject to review at annual general meetings;

b) the League's chairman is elected yearly by the General Council;

c) the general officers are appointed by the General Council;

d) the branch secretary is elected by the branch committee in consultation with the secretary general.

16. a) The members of the branch committee are elected by the members of the League in that branch at the branch AGM, or, if the AGM cannot be held, by annual postal ballot of the members in the branch. Proxy voting is allowed subject to a letter of authority;

b) membership of the committee should be at least 3;

c) branches are encouraged to form local area groups and study circles responsible to the branch committee;

d) local and branch meetings should be held in the national language where possible.

17. a) membership of the League is open to all who subscribe to the constitution;

b) members may join whichever branch they choose but can be members of only one branch at a time;

c) membership is effective only if the annual fee has been paid for the current year or in certain cases for the previous year.

18. a) Decisions on important issues are taken on behalf of the League by the secretary general after obtaining unanimous agreement from the branch secretaries and the other general officers;

b) decisions on particular issues not directly concerning all branches may be taken autonomously by the branch secretary on behalf of his branch;

c) if more than 3 branches take a decision it will be announced as taken on behalf of these branches of the League; in all cases of autonomous decisions, the secretary general will be consulted before they are made public.

19. The minimum membership fee - fl. surface mailing, this year - will be attributed to the central fund after deduction of the costs of branch administration.

20. This constitution is adopted as from October 3, 1971, subject to annual review. A copy should be given to all members on joining. Any proposed amendments should be in the hands of the general secretary before the end of May for circulation to members with the annual volume.

GENERAL SECTION

ANNUAL CONFERENCE The annual general conference of the Celtic League was held in Glasgow (1-3/10/'71). About 30 people attended, including representatives of all branches except the Manx. Accounts were given of the climate of opinion in each country regarding the struggle for freedom. The secretaries reported on activities in their respective areas. Total membership is now over 1,000.

The constitution of the League was reviewed and amended. A resolution proposing approval of the decision of the Irish branch to set up a fund for Welsh and Scottish soldiers (see Irish section) was put to a vote: 7 representatives were for, 1 against and 1 abstained. Unanimity was required. The con-

APPEAL We still have £220 to pay for the 1971 Annual Volume. Our aim is to clear this debt within 2 months. We shall then see if we can publish Celtic News on 20 instead of 12 pages. We need your help to find new members and subscribers. NOTE that the minimum annual fee is now £1. (surface mail) or £1.60 (\$4.00) if air-mailing is required to non-European countries. Impending new increases in postal charges risk nullifying these increases in fees. Donations will be gratefully acknowledged.

ference addressed a message of solidarity to the Committee of Shop Stewards, UCS, on their decision to take over their shipyard.

It was decided to plan for an Interceltic summer-school in Ireland in 1972: part of the time to be given to a beginners' course in Irish, and part to a seminar on problems of common interest to our national movements. We ask those interested to specify early what period suits them best, and what subjects they wish to be discussed. Cost will be about £1.50 per day. If applicants are not numerous enough, an alternative Irish course will be provided at a summer school in Connemara.

PICKET The Celtic League was represented by 4 of its members in Dublin in the picket organised by Conradh na Gaeilge and placed on the English Embassy, Dublin, in protest against the heavy jail sentences imposed on members of Cymdeithas yr Iaith in Mold.

BADGE A badge representing the Celtic Knot (La Tene design) was officially adopted by the C.L. at the Glasgow AGM. It can be obtained from A. Edwards, 2 Clos Tonn Mawr, Rhiwbina, Caerdydd, or from the sec. gen. for 30p + postage.

KERNOW

COMMON MARKET

The Common Market will bear more heavily on the rural parts of Britain further from the continental centre. This again means that the Celtic countries are at a disadvantage economically as well as finding it harder to achieve political status in a centralised Europe. The great majority of Cornish people are opposed to entering the Common Market but only one MP for Cornwall voted against the Market and against his party. It is perhaps no coincidence that out of Cornwall's 5 representatives he is the only Cornishman.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Though unemployment is increasing throughout Britain the increase is greatest in the Celtic countries. It is particularly bad in Cornwall where sackings and laying off by major employers like English China Clays and Heathcoat's have added to an already high figure. The average unemployment in Cornwall is about twice the average figure for Britain and in bad spots reaches 10 to 14% of the work force.

CORNISH STUDIES

Cornwall County Council, perhaps spurred on by the growing demand for wider knowledge of our Cornish history and cultural heritage, has joined with Exeter University to set up an Institute of Cornish Studies. Its first director is Professor Charles Thomas of Leicester University and formerly of Edinburgh, who is a leading authority on Early Christian Archaeology, especially in Cornwall and Scotland. Professor Thomas is a true Cornishman and will ensure that the Institute remains Cornish in fact as well as in name.

Another sign of the growing awareness of the importance of our Cornish heritage was a course on 'Cornwall and the Cornish' arranged for teachers at the County's Residential Teachers' Centre. The majority of teachers on the course agreed that Cornish Studies should be introduced into the schools and that they should be not merely local environmental studies but truly Cornish, giving children knowledge of all their Cornish background. It still remains for the Education Authority and the heads to agree as well.

KERNOW cont.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHANGES

In their proposals for Local Government the Tories have recognised the strong feeling of all sections of Cornish opinion that the integrity of Cornwall must be maintained. It is generally felt, however, that the proposed size of districts is too large to suit rural Cornwall. The Cornwall County Council has proposed six areas of approximately equal population. MEBYON KERNOW has

proposed six areas based on the ancient *Hundreds of Cornwall*, a land division that antedates the English Conquest.

The Gorsedd has recommended that, wherever possible, historic names, especially those of the ancient Hundreds, should be given to the new districts.

one very interesting suggestion in the report is that a university should be established to help broaden the Manx economy.

PLANNING AT LAST

Destruction of Manx natural beauty by indiscriminate building has become so serious that at last Tynwald is showing signs of alarm. An overall plan is being prepared as the first stage of an attempt to restrict new building to certain sites. There have been several disgraceful cases in recent years of spoliation of beauty spots by the erection of ostentatious houses for rich English "new residents". The existing planning laws have proved too feeble to resist the assaults of the new residents and their Manx agents.

MANNIN

ECONOMIC SURVEY COMPLETED

An economic survey, commissioned by the Manx Government, has been carried out by an English firm of management consultants. The main conclusion of the survey was that *MANNIN'S* economic base is too narrow. Much of the income from manufacturing industry, which is significantly larger than is generally assumed, is from only one firm. Also, immigration is almost entirely dependent on tax advantages. The survey claims that Manx farms are too small, and points out the continued decline of tourism. In spite of the gloominess of some of the report, the general feeling is one of optimism for *MANNIN'S* future. One of the consultants said, perhaps ominously for the Manx people, that he believed that *MANNIN* "should have a colourful and exciting future."

EIRE

SEAN Ó RIADA

Sibelius came to personify Finland and it looked as though Sean Ó Riada would have a similar function in Ireland. Unlike other Irish composers and musicians of international repute he was steeped in the Irish musical tradition, lived in the Gaeltacht and had the ability to dress Irish music in classical garb without losing its intrinsic character. The greatest Irish composer of this or the last century, his recent death in his early forties is a tragic loss. Ar dheis De go raibh a anam.

AMNESTY AND TORTURE

"Amnesty" is accepted as a responsible and many would claim, too responsible a body. It has now committed the cardinal sin of calling for an international enquiry regarding the ill-treatment of internees. Coming very shortly after Senator Kennedy's demand for the withdrawal of "British" troops from Ireland, Amnesty's intervention is an embarrassing confirmation of the Senator's comparison of the situation with that of Vietnam. Thanks to the military authorities acceding to hardline pressure from Stormont, rather than to the IRA, a war psychology on both sides has

O'BRIEN IN LABOUR

Discussions have been in progress regarding the amalgamation of the Irish Labour Party (26-County) and the main (non-resident) opposition in Stormont, the SDLP. Such an amalgamation is complicated by the failure of the Irish TUC to squarely condemn the policy of internment without trial and by Dr. Cruise O'Brien's Northern pontifications which have provided food for the propaganda machine of the English Embassy in Washington.

BEN VOOR

The crying need for the League's task of inculcating Celtic Consciousness among our peoples was further exemplified by an explosion in Cork. Attributed to Saor-Eire as a gesture against waterfront prostitution, this geligniting of the Manx Vessel "Ben Voar" was a most regrettable instance of Celt attacking brother-Celt. A letter from the Secretary-General condemning this senseless act was published in the three national dailies.

Amnesty cont.

been engendered. In a climate of this nature any English enquiry can be regarded only as a whitewashing exercise by one of the protagonists

EIRE)

SLANTED NEWS

As mentioned before in this section, those readers dependent on "British" newspapers for information on what is happening in the 6 Counties have a very distorted impression. This can be readily tested by comparing one of the 3 Irish national dailies (none of which are inclined towards the policies of either branch of Sinn Fein) and "British" accounts of the same incidents. Purchase of "The British Press and Northern Ireland" by Eamonn McCann (N. Ireland Socialist Research Centre, 22 Raleigh St. London, N.I., price 15p post free) is strongly recommended. Mr. McCann establishes very effectively that English reportage has been unprofessional in the extreme and has consisted mainly of an unchecked regurgitation of official army and police handouts.

To His Excellency

The British Ambassador 1/11/71 in Ireland. Your Excellency, I should like to ask you to convey to your gov. that the Irish branch of the C.L. associates itself with the protests against the trial in Mold (North Wales) of members of the Welsh Language Society and supports the demand for a full television service in Welsh as a necessity for the survival of this language.

Sincerely yours,

CELTS IN THE 6-COUNTIES

Frequent claims by the military authorities and by Mr. Faulkner that the IRA are all but crushed are as frequently belied by events. All League members must be seriously concerned by the use of Scottish and Welsh units in this urban guerrilla situation. Plaid Cymru has demanded the withdrawal of Scottish and Welsh troops, as have the Breton and Scottish branches of the League. The Irish branch has expressed its concern at this unscrupulous use of Celt against Celt more forcibly by setting up a Fund for the Rehabilitation of any Scottish or Welsh soldiers who repudiate their function as England's hirelings and make their way over the border.

Although no legal opinion was sought it can be assumed that sponsorship of the Fund infringes English law. As the English Queen's writ does not run in the 26-Counties and not too well in the remaining 6, the "British" branches of the League can hardly be impugned for this sacrilegious effrontery of the Irish branch. However little or much the Fund is called upon, its existence is in itself an institutionalised challenge to England's traditional Celtic Divide-and-Conquer policy. Were it not tragic it would be funny to consider that as a result of this policy credit must go to the IRA for "Saving the Argylls".

CYMRU

CYMRUETHAS YR LAITH CYMRAEG

Three members of the Welsh Language Society were given heavy prison sentences in Mold in early November. Ffred Ffrancis, sec. of the Society was sentenced to 2 years and an additional year of a previously suspended sentence. Two other members were sentenced to one year each with an additional month for a previous sentence. A fund started by the Society to meet the costs of the trial in Swansea has now received £1882.48 in contributions.

FISHING: A new type of action by the Society is planned for spring of next year. This is to prevent a development that is threatening to bring all fishing rights in Wales into the hands of English fishing clubs and so prevent Welshmen from fishing in their own country. The action planned is as follows:

1. Members of the Society will buy fishing licences and take care to fish within the permitted season.
2. They will warn owners of the fishing that 'illegal' fishing will take place giving details of time & place.
3. If they are arrested they will co-operate with officials and admit their actions.
4. If they are taken to court they will use the occasion to draw attention to their grievances.
5. Action will start on 1st March 1972 in the area of the Gwynedd water board.

CYNHADLEDD PLAID CYMRU

At the Plaid Cymru conference at Porthcawl at the end of October a motion was passed by an overwhelming majority declaring "that the only solution to the peace and well-being of Northern Ireland is to unite the whole of Ireland under one constitutional and democratic government".

SCOTS-WELSH CONCERT.

Two leading national singers will unite to give a combined concert at Wrecsam on November 27th at the William Aston Hall, these are Dafydd Iwan and Alistair McDonald. It promises to be an inspiring occasion.

LABOUR PARTY CHOICE FOR ABERDAR

For the first time since 1835 the L.P. have chosen an English candidate, Mr. John Elswood, to represent them in Aberdar. Plaid Cymru did extremely well in this constituency at the last General Election and are well represented on the local councils. The moment of truth will come.

DEMONSTRATION AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT

The biggest demonstration since the 1930s stopped traffic on Saturday, November 13th, in Cardiff. The parade which was made up of nearly all Trades Unions in South Wales included a contingent from Plaid Cymru. "Congress of Welsh Workers" was also represented.

