

AN FORTH



N. 3

EDITORIAL

An Forth No. 3 appears at a time when we have two successes to chalk up - both on our border. A letter from the Cornwall Council at Truro informs me that in future all Devon County Boundary signs will be erected in Devon - this follows the disappearance of the DEVON roadsign erected at Gunnislake in Kernow. I hope that whoever has removed it will ensure that it is not thrown in the river Tamar - no one wants to see a Cornish river polluted!!!

I also hear that Cornwall-Kernow signs are to be put up at other border spots. Bearing in mind that the Devon signs - erected recently - were paid for by the Devon County Council, I hope our own national border signs will not now be a charge on the Cornish Gorsedd. All Cornish people would gladly see our own Cornwall Council bearing the cost.

So much for our Cornwall Councillors - well done this time! - but what of our M.P.'s? Full marks for most of them - in the service of their centralist masters - but very few have they scored in their service to Cornwall. Take the latest Tory vote catching gimmick - a region for Devon and Cornwall (in that order of course!) Just like the Devon and Cornwall Police, the Devon Hospital Authority that covers much of North and East Cornwall, the S.W.W.A., and the regional set ups of the nationalised industries. Let us look at one example - the Police, Cornish police cannot remain in Cornwall in many cases if they want promotion, the administrative offices with their employment, potential are at Exeter, contract for supply of equipment are more likely to be placed in Devon than in Cornwall, the top jobs are more highly concentrated in Exeter than elsewhere - net result of Cornish and Devonshire police amalgamation; jobs and supply contracts are lost to Cornwall. The same is true whenever the centralisation of powers in Devonshire, in Bristol in Plymouth or in London, takes place. Cornwall is the loser every time! AND it's the go ahead for a Plymouth takeover of S.E. Cornwall.

Key workers for a factory in Redruth, - ten to a dozen of them. They're given a free trip around the area to persuade them

to come to this beautiful land, shown the amenities etc., and they'll be offered council houses, I doubt not. "Couldn't Cornish workers do these jobs? Haven't we got people here with these skills already?" I asked. "Oh yes!" replied a worker, "We've got Cornish people with these skills alright, but the companies coming in like to employ their own."

With the death of our Treasurer, Jon West, the former Cornwall Youth Officer, Mebyon Kernow has suffered a great loss. Jon was one of those people who made our struggle the more meaningful. Born a Cockney, Jon served Cornish youth and youth internationally with unflinching zeal. A tower of strength who placed a stabilising hand on Mebyon Kernow finances. Jon was the leading example of one who is Cornish by adoption - and he proved himself a better friend to us than many other Cornish, native born. Cres dhys, Jon.

An Forth represents view of many shades - to keep it a relevant and meaningful magazine of political thought, let me have your articles and letters and comments.

Anyone wishing to become a subscriber, please send your name and address and I'll invoice each number of An Forth to you as it appears at irregular intervals - we aim at two issues per year.

Len Truran,
Trewolsta,
Trewirgie,
Redruth, Kernow.

MEBYON KERNOW AND THE TRADE UNIONS

By Malcolm Williams - Steward U.E.E.P.W.

It would not be an incorrect statement to say that Kernow is at its lowest industrial ebb for many years. We know in Mebyon Kernow that the answer to our problems lies in Cornish Control over Cornish industry. However at the present rate of decline there will be precious little industry to control in the not too distant future.

It is easy to indulge in Philosophy, and it is indeed quite right that we should do so, but we should not forget that at this present time the ordinary Cornishman is more interested in having a pound in his pocket rather than who put it there. His main interests are:-

- A) Obtaining a job
- B) Keeping that job
- C) Getting a fair wage for doing that job.

So let us assume he has obtained a job, he is now interested particularly in B and C. How does he protect those interests? In many cases he joins a Trade Union. He believes in doing so he can obtain a measure of job security and a greater chance of obtaining a fair wage. This is how it should be of course. He has faith that the Union is all powerful and can protect him. He reads in the papers and sees on television the power of the Unions with the familiar names he hears in the media, have that same power in Kernow. He is sadly mistaken!

The frailty of the Trade Union movement in Kernow was demonstrated in the recent mining crisis at Wheal Jane and Mount Wellington. Despite the valiant efforts of the T.G.W.U. Area Secretary, Mr. John Foster and his colleagues in Kernow, the mines are to close. Despite the solidarity shown by the mine-workers the mines are to close. Why? Why were the Unions here so ineffective?

Trade Unionism had its birth in Dorset, England, with the Tolpuddle Martyrs. The early aims of the Trade Unions were

to bring equality and security to the working man. Their aims were that the working class should speak with one voice, should be free of the yoke of the employers oppression and should have the means to earn a fair living. These aims have largely held true over the years. Unfortunately a new 'elite' is emerging from the working class. An elite of power. This 'elite'? It is the rich Urban worker who in his vast factories and industrial plants has control of the Trade Union movement. He has become rich at the expense of the rural worker, or the worker in the depressed areas of the British Isles. He has done so because he is well organised, he has 'control of the means of production'. . . he has in fact all, or most, of the cards! He has the ability to hold firms and governments even to ransom to satisfy his demands. He also controls Union Policy because by sheer weight of numbers he can control the policy making machinery of his Union.

Industrial action and 'battles' with government are not to the Union's best advantage when fought in Rural areas such as Kernow. It can be argued that the trade Unions in Kernow can no longer effectively represent their members in large scale industrial disputes or crises (i.e. Wheal Jane or even the E.C.C. dispute). This is not necessarily the fault of the Unions. Unions are a sum of their parts. The 'constitution' exists, unfortunately it cannot be effectively employed because Trade Unionists in Kernow are not 'organised' enough.

So what are the answers. Let us examine the problem more closely in relation to Kernow.

- a) There are many Unions with members in our country. Some of them have numbers of members that can be counted in scores; others (T.G.W.U.) for example have several thousand members.
- b) They have failed to identify with the particular problems of the Cornish worker. In short they are fragmented. They have not unity and cannot speak effectively with one voice.

So until they achieve that Unity they will remain ineffective. They will have little power to preserve jobs or obtain better conditions for their members. This unity can be achieved by two methods. Both of which would be a distinct

improvement on the present situation. Firstly I would advocate the setting up of a Cornish Industrial Union. This Union would initially draw its membership from the Mining, Clay, Quarrying and Engineering Industries. In time it could be expanded to cover ancilliary trades as well. Obviously sub-divisions for skilled men would be required in such a Union, but a parity of wages between skilled workers could more easily be achieved.

Many Unions, in the past, representing totally dissimilar trades have joined together to form one strong Union. I quote the Plumbers Union and the E.T.U. as an example. Such a Union as the C.I.U. would have a number of advantages over existing Unions in Kernow at present.

1. Many of the problems found in the Mining, Engineering and Clay industries are common to all industries therefore there would be common negotiating ground within these industries.
2. The administrative structure could be smaller, more democratic and more efficient.
3. A strong lobby of Cornish workers could be united to fight the injustices of Whitehall.
4. Action on Kernow's very individual type of industrial problems could be more effectively taken.
5. Traditionally Trade Unions have always had an affiliation with the Labour party. A Cornish Union could affiliate itself to the party it though best represented its interests - or, it need have no political affiliation at all. .

Alternatively to these proposals I advocate the setting up of a Congress of Cornish Trade Unions to examine our particular problems and to address itself more directly to those problems. Possibly the C.I.U. may grow out of such a congress. This might be a useful first step to effect Trade Unionism in Kernow.

If anyone, (inside or outside Mebyon Kernow) has any thoughts or comments on these ideas I should be delighted to hear from them, or, alternatively, I would place myself at the disposal of any person or persons wishing to set up such an organisation or organisations. To use a well-worn quote, "Unity is Strength".

4

WHAT FUTURE FOR THE YOUNG OF CORNWALL?

By Julian Faull

Indeed what future is that for the young people of Cornwall? From what we are informed by Tht Mtcha, there seems to be a very bleak future ahead for the Cornish youth.

More and more young people are being forced to leave, and go to England in search of opportunities to train for jobs e.g. teaching, and to obtain jobs in various forms of industry etc. Recently we have seen that 16,000 people are out of work in Cornwall, 12% of the total work force, and the scant figure applies to the town of St Ives which relies heavily on the tourist industry for vast numbers of jobs, and amounts of revenue.

What has a young person leaving school in such an area to look forward to? They have out of two choices to make, either they can a) leave Cornwall and go to one of the large English conurbations in search of work where often they know nobody, and feel very lonely and isolated, or b) stay in Cornwall go onto the dole and have a job for about three months of the year in the tourist season.

Surely the statement by teachers that if you work hard at school, pass your exams, and you will be rewarded with a good job are largely irrelevant in Cornwall.

Even in certain cases if you pass your examinations and go to university/polytechnic/college there is no guarantee that you will be able to obtain a job in Cornwall. A fine example is teaching. Cornwall is the only Local Education Authority where the prospective teacher has to appear before a board before he/she is permitted to apply for a job in The Duchy. Another factor against Cornwall Local Education Authority is that they are reluctant to employ Cornish students who have just left college, and try to emphasise their point by quoting the pathetic argument that "They like Cornish students to gain experience in England, before coming to teach in Cornwall".

There is no hope of anything to the benefit of the young

5

people of Cornwall happening whilst we are being governed from London. Whatever they state the central parties are not interested in unemployment in towns such as Helston and St Ives, of which a vast majority of those in the government will never of heard. The Liberals even stated at their party conference that unemployment was not of major importance to them at that point in time.

Whilst the London government persists in its intentional policy of employing English people in administrative and other jobs there is no future at all for the young Cornish person looking or applying for a job.

As far as I can see the only future for myself and thousands of other Cornish young people is self-government for Cornwall, where Cornish men and women would love preference in appointment to Cornish jobs.

MEEYON KERNOW - THE OPPOSITION PARTY

by John King

The Liberal party depends to a considerable extent on negative support and survives by maintaining a negative stance. We are beginning to understand, now that the euphoria of the Lib/Lab pact has ebbed a little, that it is precisely this negative stance which will always prevent the Liberals from forming a government and exercising real power. It's not so much that Liberal voters (apart from active party workers and a minority of keen supporters) are voting for any particularly positive political line; it's more that they wouldn't be seen dead voting Labour, nor do they feel any strong desire to support the Tories, and so the Liberal party achieves a good deal of its support in a passive way, by default from the two major parties, as a compromise between two equally unacceptable alternatives.

This still holds true even in Devon and Cornwall, the bureaucrat's amorphous "South West", where the Labour party's influence is negligible. As a result, the Liberal party has

become by default the opposition party in the "South West" generally and in Kernow in particular. No matter what the situation in distant Westminster, the status quo in Kernow more or less persists - a generally well-entrenched Conservative party is passively opposed by a broadly based Liberal party - and that is the pattern which is reflected at each and every General Election.

To break through this static barrier, Mebyon Kernow must become an active opposition party, achieving its votes not by default but by option. If there is any gathering of the clans to be done, it must be under an active Mebyon Kernow banner and not under a passive Liberal one. For too long Mebyon Kernow has been a party which seeks votes by default, by general complaint about ill-treatment from Westminster by both Labour and Tory governments, rather than by pursuing the line of active opposition.

If Mebyon Kernow is going to be an opposition party, then we must decide clearly whom we intend opposing, and on which issues, and then pursue those issues rigorously at local level, rather than wait complaining for the magic dream of instant self-government to materialize. We must pursue independence by work, not by prayer and not (God forbid) by threat.

This line of thinking has some important consequences. Firstly, we discount the Liberal party as the party against which we should direct our efforts. Indeed, there are a good number of grass-roots radicals, part of the strong heritage of Methodism, who would willingly defect from a passive Liberal party to join an active Mebyon Kernow opposition, but who are too conscious of the value of their vote to "waste it" as they see it, on a minority party which is no more positive in its approach than the generally more "respectable" Liberals.

Similarly, the Labour party has some friends for us if we can become an active political force and not a passive one. Although solutions differ radically, some of the most urgent concerns of Mebyon Kernow and of the Labour party are shared - the scandal of unemployment is one, for example - and in any

case the Labour party in Kernow is too weak to be a worthwhile target for Mebyon Kernow's concerted opposition.

That means that the party to which Mebyon Kernow must be clearly seen to be in active opposition is - the Conservative party. That's really not such a strange choice. If there is a party which condones *laissez-faire*, second homes, the power of big business, money power and the keeping of things in Kernow exactly as they are, it is the Conservative party. If there is a party which supports the idea of transport, housing, employment and education sorting themselves out under the influence of little more than free market forces, with all the injustice that implies, it is the Conservative party. If there is one party which, if unbridled, would keep Kernow's rich rich and Kernow's poor poor, it is the Conservative party. Look closely at the candidates standing in local elections. It is the Conservative party candidate who most clearly represents the do-nothing, say-a-lot, leave-things-alone centralist policy which Mebyon Kernow abhors.

Now if Mebyon Kernow is to be the strong and viable opposition party in Kernow - if people are to vote either Tory or Mebyon Kernow, with only very small minorities voting Labour, Liberal, CWP, Independent, Communist or whatever, then some clear and unequivocal statement need to be made.

Firstly, Mebyon Kernow must declare its unilateral opposition to racism - and that means racism of all kinds. People born outside of Kernow must not be made to feel afraid of joining Mebyon Kernow. We must let ordinary people know that we are seeking an independent Kernow on the grounds of simple democracy, economic justice and cultural and political integrity - not in pursuit of some vague racial purity. As long as the merest pocket of Cornish Nazism lingers, Mebyon Kernow will be tarred with its brush until it clearly dissociates itself from such extremism.

Secondly, Mebyon Kernow must declare its unilateral opposition to violence. The CWP have shown disturbing increases in their support for the I.R.A. If there is to be a pseudo-military, subversive political organisation in Kernow - or indeed, if there is one already - then Mebyon Kernow must publicly declare its unanimous opposition to it. We must not allow ourselves to be

associated with militarism, sectarianism and political violence. What a hollow victory it would be if Mebyon Kernow were to rise to power on the backs of a violent minority - and what a terrible and awful danger it would be to the Kernow we profess to know and love.

Finally, we must pursue our policy of active opposition much more consistently at local level. If Mebyon Kernow is to be democratically entrusted with the government of Kernow as a nation, that trust from the people must spring from their confidence in years of good service and hardworking representation by Mebyon Kernow members in local government. By all means let us contest General Elections, but let us allocate priority in terms of effort, time and money to local elections. There is no short road - other than a bloody and violent one - to independence. We must work from the grass roots upwards with our feet firmly on the ground.

The day will come - but not of its own accord. If, as seems possible, the next Government in Whitehall is Conservative, we must re-shape the political contours of Kernow, so that when people ask whether you intend to vote Conservative or whether you intend to vote for the opposition, they mean only one party by the word opposition - Mebyon Kernow.

* * * * *

KERNOW RYTH

(i)

"There are wheels of gulls, remorseless complaints over boats manned by hunger we stumble ashore to find our hands in strangers' hands".

No golden age - only bitter loss and grind of intolerable lives that scraped away on slopes, carving tin and sowing blind, expiring into final rock and clay.

Beltane when fire cleansed the beasts left Adam's awestruck by solar fire and suffering axe, always feeling something at root and stem which tore and blessed, rested and broke their backs.

(ii)

"On cabbage leaves and rocks the grizzled Irish sailed to Cornwall"

The granite blocks they hauled up and built Perranzabuloe, sand-sunk memory. Hands made immense by labour winches up the roadside crosses, and local masons were commissioned to chip out cross and Child. Hearts immense with Christ rejoiced at St. Michael's usurpation, where Lug had commanded clouds.

The light was Light, and Jesus walked among traders. All Heaven and earth was a street pageant, a playing-place full of jokes and terrors tangled up in gorse.

- (iii) "Pay unto Caesar ... those that demand have
bottomless thirsts: the Romans, the Angles
and Saxons, the Normans, the kings and
nobility, the new armies of the dark god of
greed, the Enslaver."

Geolfrith's kind enslaved the Celt.
The bondage broke only with a new yoke,
keeps and castles, rents and forced wars.

Wringer of taxes,
Angof defies you,
Leech and predator,
we turn on you,
armed with the symbols of tillage.

Henry VIII broke another Faith,
and he that claimed "Cornubia"
broke our tongues also-
has minions even now
in the plain age of power.

Yet those men who shook London's gates
shall shake them again,
crying injustice.

- (iv) "Mebyon Kernow was founded in 1950 and came
to power in ..."

Show the new generations:
engineers who made England industrial,
show them the miners who dug out its wealth.
Call out the names of farmers and fishermen
cheated by empires, and tricked by their betters.
Show them and let them listen to
sons of Cornwall in their ancient voice,
watch them sweep up from the holiday wastelands.

Hicca.

Cornwall's Legal Right to Internal Self Government
by E. Trewin-Wolle

In order to skin a cat, first catch a cat!

It is quite apparent from sundry articles that are produced
on Cornish Nationalism et al., that many well meaning folk are
ever ready to advise on the best methods of governing Cornwall,
usually under their own particular brand of politics but rarely
do they put forward any practical suggestion as to how the Right
to self government can be obtained in the first place.

That Cornwall has the Right to internal self government is
beyond doubt. The problem which besets us all is, what method
should be used to persuade an unwilling London based government
to recognise the fact? Make no mistake, the bureaucrats of
Westminster are perfectly well aware of Cornwall's Legal and
Constitutional status but they are not the law-abiding body
they pretend to be.

The use of violence as a method to obtain a political aim
is not only repugnant to most decent people, it is costly in
terms of life and money and seldom produces any satisfactory
lasting result, which is agreeable to all concerned.

Some have advocated the method of putting forward Mebyon
Kernow candidates at General Elections vox populi. One has
only to look at the experiences of Wales and Scotland to see the
effectiveness of this philosophy- a devolution Bill which is
unsatisfactory to both countries, where Westminster still holds
the leash. Besides, we have not time left for this slow, costly
and unsure method. Plymouth is all but set to grab S.E. Cornwall
(by foul means.) Regionalisation is already here in form of
District Councils, who are just marking time before they oust the
County Council and assume control under the direction of a
Regional Government at Bristol and, we all know what that means!

The only other way for us to assert our Constitutional Rights
is through the Courts of Law, even if it means, in the final
analysis, appealing to the Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg.

There is bound to be a sympathetic Government somewhere who will assist us in this matter, to be sure.

The Stannary Parliament has already embarked on this method of action, albeit their purpose and system have been grossly misunderstood both in Mebyon Kernow and elsewhere.

Every year we gather at St Kevern to honour the memory of Myghal Josep an Gof and Thomas Flamank but we seem to have forgotten the Birthright which their heroic courage and sacrifice obtained for us ... the people of Cornwall.

It is a common error amongst both the Cornish and others, to believe that the Laws, Customs, Privileges and Charters of the Stannaries pertain solely to the tin miner and tin mining. However, The Charter of Pardon of 1508 was purchased by the tin miners of the Stannary of Blackmore (Haldhu) as a direct result of the 1497 rising. Henry the Seventh, granted the Charter to 'the people of Cornwall' in general and to 'the Miners and every one of their heirs and successors' in particular. It is obvious therefore, that the intent of this Charter was not only to re-affirm the Cornish Right to a Parliament, along with all our other Rights and Privileges but by Granting a Right of Veto, it was intended that Cornwall should be a self-governing Nation, independent from the English legislature- an appanage of the Crown but not withing Crown jurisdiction. Where the King's Writ does not run there his Ministers may not trespass.

As regards the validity of the Charter of Pardon. It was confirmed in the twelfth year of the reign of Elizabeth the First and, subsequently, by several affirmations of the Convocation of Cornwall up and until 1753. Since that date, no attempt has been made to repeal the Charter. The current Lord Chancellor, Lord Elwyn Jones, in a letter to Mr. Dafydd Wigley, Plaid Cymru M.P., stated that to his knowledge the Charter was still on the Statute Book. If we look at the matter clearly nobody but a Cornish Parliament could nullify it. Under the very terms of this Charter, Westminster would be obliged to seek the permission of the Cornish Parliament before it could legally be removed from the Statute Book.

The situation is patently obvious, the Charter of Pardon is as valid to-day as the day it was signed. Under the Law of the Realm, the Cornish are entitled to their own legislature, Convocation on Stannary Parliament, and the task of every true Cornishman and woman today is to see that that Right is fully recognised- not only in Britain but in Europe and throughout the World. The present system by which we are governed, is as illegal as it is unjust, and as Westminster will not acknowledge the situation, then our only recourse is to the Courts of Justice either domestic or if need be foreign.

It does not need too much imagination to realise that the bulk of legislation foisted upon Cornwall since 1753 by the Westminster Government, since it has not been presented to a Cornish Convocation for 'assent and consent', has no real validity at Law within the jurisdiction of the Stannaries of Cornwall. Therefore, by what authority does H.M. Inland Revenue demand Corporation Tax from Mebyon Kernow? On, for that matter by what authority do the Officers of Mebyon Kernow acquiesce to their demands? If the Inland Revenue are so keen to collect Cornish money, let them prove their right to do so before the Stannary Court at Truro. Mebyon Kernow represents many a Cornish miner, as well as the people of Cornwall, and has every right to invoke this Court.

If Mebyon Kernow is serious in its aims, then this is their golden opportunity to champion Cornwall's Rights, once and for all time.

(WITH APOLOGIES TO MURDO WARD.)

You assume your better judgment allows you to deride.
You think our aspirations are not quite bona-fide.
This I could understand if you were English born and bred.
But if you are a Cornishman there's a weakness in your head.

If you can truly prove that we Cornish aren't oppressed.
That the government in England has never been obsessed.
With things East of the border, this would force us all to say
That we Cornish count our blessings and overthrow M.K.

If you follow this debate to its logical conclusion.
In Scotland and in Cardiff their cause is an illusion.
But in India and Africa they set the black men free.
Why can't they do that little thing for whites like you and me?

But there's China Clay in Cornwall and Oil off Scotland's shore.
There's Coal in those Welsh valleys and they need it more and
more.

If you keep an open mind my friend, I'm sure you must agree.
That same government in England can't afford to set us FREE!!

ELIZABETH

by Jan Gwyas

She was hanged at Bodmin in 1813, not an unusual event, a hanging at Bodmin in those days, male or female. She was only twenty but she went to her death 'with calm serenity and surprising fortitude', again not unusual, most of the condemned did. She was probably glad to go. Life was not very pleasant for ordinary people in those days and the Cornish suffered more than most. She must have been either an orphan or a bastard for she had been a parish apprentice and set to work with a farmer 'over to Trevisca'. She stayed with him for some seven or eight years and then was dismissed, ostensibly for misconduct

but probably because he preferred juvenile labour. Children ate less and were not so likely to make trouble, such as asking for wages. It was a common enough practice at the time.

Elizabeth went back on the parish as a pauper and she resented it. The farmer thought 'she bore malice to him'. She had threatened to burn his house down. Three years after being turned out, she did burn a mow of his wheat, all sixty Cornish or one hundred and eighty Winchester bushels of it. She made no attempt to hide the crime, in fact she went around boasting of it to those she met. He wasn't going to eat wheaten bread whilst she had to make do with barley, she said. And this is very significant because, according to the economic historians, by 1795, wheat constituted 94% of the bread corn of England. The poorest labourers, the paupers, the convicts, all refused to eat other bread. Things were very different in Cornwall and were to remain so for many years to come. We had some of the 6% if we were lucky. Often enough, the Cornish went hungry, in food deficient, communication deficient Cornwall. Our miners had about half the wages of English coal miners. Most had come to accept deprivation as inevitable. Elizabeth didn't.

She was, of course, arrested and brought to trial. Berry, in his account, being a charitable, humane man, says she must have been crazy. Neither the judge, nor the jury, nor it would seem the witnesses, agreed with him. 1813 was a very bad year indeed, having the highest cost of living every until 1917. The public resented the destruction of food, no matter how inequitable its subsequent distribution would have been. So she was found guilty and despatched, one hopes, to a better and kinder world.

I do not think that she was crazy either, no more than Micheal an Gof was crazy anyway. I see her as the very embodiment of the history of the Cornish people under English rule, of our continual struggle against exploitation and poverty. For us barley bread has always been deemed good enough.

Our great wealth of minerals went to make Londoners rich, whilst the tinners lived in proverbial dearth. Now, we are officially told, that, even if oil is extracted off our shores, we shall derive little direct benefit from it. That much has

already been decided in the corridors of power. After all, why should we expect to profit? Apart from Elizabeth and Michael and a few others, we have always let them get away with it, so why should they be worried about our reactions now?

Did Elizabeth and our other martyrs die in vain? Well, that is a question to which we, the present Cornish generations, must give an answer to, this year, this week, this very day. Not in the year 2,000, some time, never. Time, for us, is running out. Let them steal that oil, as they have stolen everything else that was ours, and we are finished as a people. Fate has been kind to us in the enormous natural wealth it has given us. It is our fault that we have not benefitted from that wealth. We have been too easy going, too hospitable, too kind, in a word too soft. Can the leopard change its spots? That WE alone can and must decide.

LETTERS

A letter from Lord Arwyn who died a few weeks ago. Lord Arwyn was a member of Mebyon Kernow for several years.

Dear Mr. Truran,

I am catching up at last with old correspondence and deep down I find a letter from you. 8 August last year re flying St Piran's flag. There is reference to "interest" taken by Cornish M.P.'s.

In Wales we fly the Welsh Dragon, here and there in Cornwall I see St Piran's flag and even the Welsh dragon. It has occurred to me that Cornish members of local authorities (not the "clever" ones who settled down here) should hoist the flag on all public buildings and then let the "authorities" take action. We could have Welsh backing. Cornish M.P.'s could go into the attack, and I would certainly fo for it in our end. L'audace! Toujours l'audace! Old Foch's motto. The academic acrobats who run the Civil Service do not like "l'audace". I have many experiences since 1935 when I enjoyed my first clash, once they are winkled out they are in a funk, power behind the scenes is their policy. I feel like a fight, I am "bereft" since last July. It took me 12 years to make the academics realise that we would be out of metalliferous ores early next century, and we had the only supply in Europe.

The one way I found that paid was to get the Press enthusiastic, I think the Cornish Guardian and West Briton might respond it is worth trying. It is no crank idea. The Cornish are Celts, not Germanic Angles. There is a wide difference in temperaments. Early in the 1914 war we were rushed to East Anglia to defend England against German invasion. It was then I realised the wide difference in temperament and attitudes. The Angles are cold and suspicious, in other words Fear plays a strong part. The Celts are the opposite, and we let the Angles boss us. We quarrel too much between ourselves, always after a fight or a row.

The Earl Marshall and the Garter "King of Arms" are both slaves of 'convention' as laid down by our "Double First" acrobats in the Civil Service. They are a class which our educational system has bred, and we shall suffer while we let this Mafia exist. It all comes from the old primary source - Fear.

Da bo Chivi

Arwyn

P.S. Who is going to attack flying the Cornish Celtic flag in Cornwall. He would sign a political death warrant if we counterattacked with zest.

A letter from Harry T. Treace to his friend Reg Stubbs of Friern Barnet in London, England.

Dear Reg:

I want you to know how very pleased and delighted I was to receive the KERNOW flag from you, and also the most interesting reading materials concerning Cornwall. (It is difficult for me to use that name now, after reading the documentary!)

(As you know, some of us transplanted "Europeans" have a keen interest in our antecedents. The only thing in this country of earlier origins are the stone artifacts we find in plenty, but originating from a different race.

I'm enclosing a small contribution to the Kernow movement and ask if you would mind forwarding it to your friend Mr. Len Truran?

My hopes are that Mr. Truran and his cause will eventually succeed. We all have seen the damage and frustrations on the

people resulting from big government too far removed from those governed. I've seen no evidence that the bigger the government the better; in fact, the opposite seems to be more historically true. What little Athens contributed to the future of man's western culture during the Golden Age of Pericles! One never knows how one small group, properly dedicated, can shape the future! When Pericles died in 431 B.C., two years before his death, the Athens adult population consisted of only 50,000 citizens! Perhaps human excellence should be measured by quality and not quantity. And so it may be with Kernow. You don't have to be big to be great.

It appears again impossible this year, but perhaps next year I can arrange to visit you in London and then go to Kernow for a few days. It is becoming a must on my schedule.

Sincerely,

Harry T. Treace.

The Editor,
An Forth.

Dear Sir,

I am prompted to write to you in connection with the disaster caused by the Amoco Cadiz. The president of the association "Secours Populaire Interceltique" (S.P.I.P.) has asked the Celtic League to relay its call for help to the victims of the terrible Black Tide which has deprived thousands of people (fishermen, seaweed gatherers, etc.) of their livelihood for an indefinite period. S.P.I. is a humanitarian organisation which has, over the past 7 or 8 years, made it possible for several hundreds of Northern Ireland children to spend holidays in Brittany, away from the fears and tensions of their towns and cities.

They would welcome contributions, however modest, to the Fund they have set up to relieve distress. They should be

addressed to S.P.I., 2 Rue Frederic Plessis, 29200 Brest, Brittany, If using bank drafts, write them to S.P.I., Compte Bancaire No. 11623, Banque de Bretagne, 56100 Lorient, Brittany, specifying on the back that they are for "Operation Mazout".

Public opinion everywhere must be mobilised to prevent the recurrence of such catastrophies. Various parties were responsible in this case. One of them is the French government: it failed in spite of numerous similar though not as serious previous accidents to foresee and to take preventive measures. After that its claim to ensure the security of Brittany rings somewhat hollow. But since it exercises control over the Breton territory and coastal waters, every pressure should be brought to bear on it to establish from now on a permanent coast watch on tankers' movements and to intervene regardless of (faulty) international agreements whenever the danger of new oil spills reoccurs (as will inevitably happen). Otherwise let the French government endow the Regional Council (or preferably and Elected Breton Assembly) with powers and means to safeguard the very exposed Breton coast: undoubtedly an Authority directly responsible to the people who depend on the sea for their livelihood would take greater care than a distant government whose prime concern as far as the sea is concerned seems to be a strategic one (the mighty French naval forces based in Brest proved of no use to Brittany in its hour of need;) I would therefore suggest to those who realise how vital it is that the sea does not become a huge cesspool that they write to the French President (via the Embassy which represents their country?) in Paris expressing their extreme concern. Promises made during the emergency must not be forgotten.

Sincerely yours,
Alan Heusaff,
Secretary general of the
Celtic League.

MEBYON KERNOW - SALES

CORNISH CALENDAR 1979 - IN CORNISH WITH ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS - NOW READY - 61p. postage paid.

CAR BADGE - To match your AA or RAC badge - with attachments to fit grill, badge bar etc. St. Piren's Cross with choice of KERNOW or MEBYON KERNOW - will be much sought after ... p.p. £3.00

KERNOW CAR BADGES - ST. PIRAN'S CROSS (of course!)
More popular than ever!
Inside - windscreen-type - in cling-on plastic ... 32p
Outside - stick on for the boot - nationality plate ... 32p
Outer and inner pair ... 64p + post

CELTIC CORNWALL ENVELOPES - as designed by the late Stephen Fuller. M.K. 25 pack p.p. 56p

FLY A FLAG FOR KERNOW
CORNISH FLAGS - THE CROSS OF ST. PIRAN.

6' x 3') All flags roped and toggled - ready for flying - in highest quality Nylon and Wool bunting - superior. The last two sizes suitable for yacht flags and superior to previous flags we have made from nylon.	£8.85 + 30p	p&p
4'6" x 2'3"		£7.60 + 25p	p&p
3' x 1'6"		£4.80 + 15p	p&p
1'6" x 9"		£2.85 + 10p	p&p

By Len Truran - answers those important questions - all members should have one p.p. 34p

CORNISH NAMES FOR CORNISH HOMES - A 'Name in Cornish'

book by CRYSTEN FUDGE (nee Truran) B.A. Oxon -
beautifully illustrated by Laura Rowe.

48 pages p.p. 89p

ANORAK BADGES - "I'm Proud to be Cornish" - black on

white + flag 25p + post

With KERNOW only and flag in tasteful

red surround 28p + post

LAPEL BADGES - "KERNOW KENSA" (Cornwall First) ... 06p + post

MEMBERS' LAPEL BADGES - be proud to show you belong! p.p. 58p

MEMBERS' TIES - made by the great tiemakers, Macaseta p.p. 1.35

POSTERS! 18" x 12" Black & White -

"Cornwall's Right - Internal Self-
Government" 05p + post

COUSIN JENNIE'S CORNISH COOKBOOK by Pamela Pascoe -

over 300 proven recipes - most of them

traditional £1.80 + 25p p&p

THE CAROLS OF THOMAS MERRITT - The Cornish composer -

with biographical note - 12 carols in

card cover - new edition p.p. 55p

BALL POINT PENS - retractable. Slogan and MK badge -

superior 18p

CORNISH LANGUAGE TEA TOWELS £1.05 + 15p p&p

CORNISH FLAGS ON COCKTAIL STICKS for sandwich

markers - 1" x 2" 10 for p.p. 30p

CAR PENNANTS - St. Piren's Cross - in felt ... p.p.

28p

ST. PIRAN'S CROSS - stick-on (adhesive backed) flags -

5" x 3" 5p each + post (25 for 6)
