

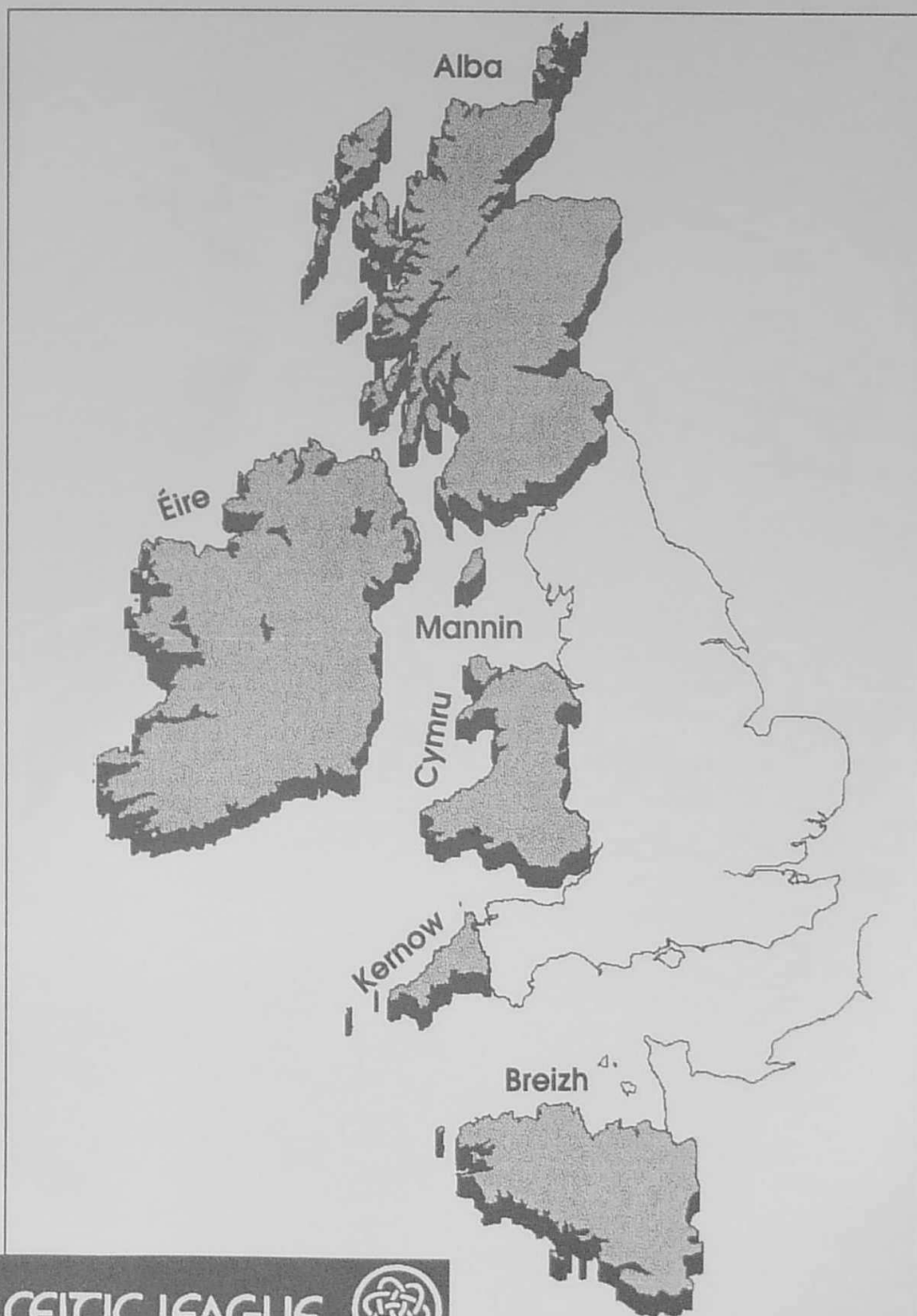
CAWPN

A LINK BETWEEN THE CELTIC NATIONS

No. 98

Summer 1997

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- **Tories no More!**
General Election 1997 -
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COMMEEYS CELTIAGH

CELTIC LEAGUE



ALBA

Québec + A' Chuimrigh = Alba

O chionn fada, fada, nuair a bha a' Ghàidhlig aig na h-coin; no aig feadhain dhuibh, bha daoine a' cumail barail ro ghòrach nach robh Achd-Pàrlamaid freagarrach air son ath-bheothachadh cànan sam bith.

Ach, an duigh ch' sinn cho feumail is a tha lugh tomchuidh, ann an Québec, sa Chuimrigh as nar meas ann an Alba.

Thàinig luchd na Fraincis gu Canada nuair a bha iad agus luchd na Beurla, le chèile, a' srì eadar an t-seachdamh linn deug agus an t-ochdamh linn deug. Tha luchd na Fraincis a' fuirich air a' mhòr chuid ann an roinn Québec fhéin agus tha feadhain ri fhaotain ann an New Brunswick, Ontario is pàrtean de Manitoba agus àitean eile ann an Canada.

An deidh an darna cogaidh chaidh a' h-uile càil am feabhas... dìreach mar a bha e a thaobh na Gàidhlig cuideachd. Agus sa bhliadhna 1969 reachdaich Pàrlamaid Chanadach an Achd *Official Languages*. Bha cuid de na roinnean nàimhdeil. Ach bha Ontario is New Brunswick coibheil; agus bha Québec toilichte leis an lagh seo; bhon a tha a mhòr-cuid de luchd na Fraincis a' fuireach an seo chòrd an Achd math gu leòr riutha.

Sa bhliadhna 1982 chuir an riaghaltas còirichean nam mion-chànainean san buinn-stèidh Canadach fon ainm *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. Sa bhliadhna 1977 reachdaich Québec Bill 101 mar *Charter of the French language*.

reachd coltach ris a sin a thaobh na Gàidhlig feadh Alba!

Rud eile, dh'orduich am Bill 101 a h-uile clàr-bùtha agus comharradh follaiseach a bh' sna Fhraincis. Ach 's urrainn an comharradh a bhiodh ann an cànan comheach nach eil sa Bheurla! Ach chan eil sin cho fòirneartach idir. Chan eil an lagh seo freagarrach do na h-eaglaisean agus ch' sibh san dealb' bhith an grosar ionadail SHALIMAR cadar-theangaichte san Urdu agus 's ann a' bh' bhith mhòr ainmichte *Eaton's* sa Bheurla! Dh' fhaic sinn sna Fhraincis ach *Eaton's* 'S docha gum bhiodh sin na reachd math feadh Alba leis a' Ghàidhlig an àite na Fraincis!

A nisd, tilidh sinn thairis air a' Chuan Stiar agus a' Chuimrigh. Bha trì Achdan ann, té sa bhliadhna 1942 far a bheil a' Chuimreis ceardichte san chùitean-lagha. Chan e sin a' chùis ann an Alba fhathast a thaobh na Gàidhlig. Bha ach eile mu pàipearan oifigeil sa Chuimreis còig bliadhna air fhichead an deidh sin.

Shluig an *Welsh Language Act 1993* (c.38) na h-Achdan eile agus rinn i a' Chuimreis agus a' Bheurla co-ionann. Ach chan eile inbhe na Gàidhlig idir cho rd' ris a' Bheurla idir, idir... agus tha Comann na Gàidhlig eagalach a thaobh na cànan agann, oir tha Comataidh an Fhoghlaim, Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd a' bagairt a' h-uile clas a' teagasg tre na Gàidhlig a dhùndadh feadh gach àite san Roinn na Gàidhealtachd, an Eilean Sgitheanach, am Ploc, Loch Carrann air a' chosta an Iar, gu Loch Abar, Inbhir Nis is Cataibh.

A rèir Comataidh an Fhoghlaim seo, tha iad gann de sòras agus chan eile inbhe tearainte idir ag a' Ghàidhlig mar a tha i aig a' Chuimreis, taing don Achd 1993 (c.38).

Mar sin, tagraidh Comann na Gàidhlig an Riaghaltas air son Achd cho làidir ris an té [1993 (c.38)] a tha a' dìonadh na Cuimreis. Abair gum biodh ar cànan agus teagasg tre na Gàidhlig sàbhailte; taing don Achd 1993 (c.38) a thaobh na Cuimreis; no am Bill 101 air son luchd na Fraincis ann an Québec!

Chan eile Achd na Gàidhlig agann fhathast. Ach cuimhnic air na thuirit am Pàrtaidh Laborach a thaobh na h-Alba. Thuirit iad gun robh iad deònach Pàrlamaid Albannach air choireigin a stèidheachadh san t-Sheann Ard Sgoil ann an Dùn Eideann na buannaicheas iad an Taghadh Mòr air Latha Buidhe Bealtain... buannaich iad an Taghadh...

Mata, mur eile Westminster deònach Achd na Gàidhlig a reachdachadh, is docha gum biodh a' Pàrlamaid Albannach deònach air sin a dhèanamh!

Gilleasbuig MacMuirich (Gilleasbuig Lachlainn 'Ileasbuig)

A compelling debunking of an assertion that was about some years ago that no kind of legislation can be of assistance in enhancing the fortunes of a language.

The legislative experience of Québec and Wales is drawn upon.

Gaelic News Gaelic Education Crisis:

Good News....

The current cash crisis being faced by the reorganised Scottish councils has led Gaelic activists to fear for the future of Gaelic education. February saw the announcement that South Lanarkshire Council was considering the closure of the Mount Cameron Gaelic medium unit in East Kilbride near Glasgow as part of a plan to make a 4.5% cut in their education budget. The announcement was a tremendous shock to the Gaelic movement as the unit is one of the largest in Scotland with over 53 pupils. The proposed closure of a highly successful unit purely on the grounds of a short term financial crisis without regard to its educational value or to the future of Gaelic raised the spectre of the loss of Gaelic medium education throughout the central belt and in all but the most strongly Gaelic areas of the "Highlands".

The fact that closure of the unit was even considered reflects the ill effects of the Conservative reorganisation/ gerrymandering of local government. The former regional councils like Strathclyde and Grampian covered large areas and provided Gaelic medium education reflecting the needs of the regions as a whole. The reform of local authorities has meant that Scotland has been left with councils that are fragmented and often very small. The redrawing of the local government map means that GMUs which belonged to Strathclyde region for example are now the responsibility of Argyll and Bute, Glasgow, South Lanarkshire and West Dumbartonshire councils and that other ex-Strathclyde areas no longer have any facilities for Gaelic medium teaching.

Gaelic units are now often in the hands of councils who know little or nothing about Gaelic medium education and who played no part in their establishment. The new authority boundaries often leave councils such as South Lanarkshire paying for Gaelic units which serve a large percentage of children from other council areas such as Renfrewshire and North Lanarkshire. Such factors mean that Gaelic medium education is likely to be the first to suffer at times of economic hardship as can already be seen from the closure of the Peterhead unit in Aberdeenshire last year. Such situations are unlikely to be avoided unless a co-ordinated national policy is developed by central and local government and official status is given to the language.

The unexpected announcement that the unit was threatened led to immediate action by Gaelic bodies including Comann nam Parant and the Celtic League. Welsh language activists also aided the campaign. Scores of letters were sent to the council and parents involved in the unit organised

a petition which collected 3000 names. On 24 February the council decided not to close the unit. This decision has given great hope to Gaelic activists through showing them their power and has made those involved in education more determined than ever that the future of Gaelic education should never again be under the control of local councillors who are unaware of the existence never mind the function of the Gaelic medium units which they control. As South Lanarkshire found out to their cost, Gaelic is a national issue.

.... and Bad News

At the end of February Highland Council announced that their visiting Gaelic teacher service was to be scrapped and the teachers made redundant due to the current local government funding squeeze. The visiting teachers taught basic Gaelic to children being educated through English and their withdrawal raised the possibility that the majority of Highland children would no longer come into any contact with the language at primary school.

Particularly disturbing about this cut was the fact that it was rushed through by the council before the public and Gaelic organisations had a chance to have their voices heard on the matter. There is evidence to suggest that Gaelic has actively been discriminated against in this matter. Visiting teacher services for PE, art and music suffered a 10% cut as compared to the 100% cut for the Gaelic service. At a meeting held in Portree at the beginning of March, councillors Drew Millar and Allan Beaton alleged that there was a strong anti-Gaelic feeling in some areas of the council and among many Highland councillors. Councillor Millar told the meeting that, apart from himself, all other members of the education sub-committee said that "if there were to be cuts in the visiting teachers, then it should be Gaelic because the others were more important".

As happened in the East Kilbride campaign, the sheer strength of the opposition to the cuts has surprised the council. School boards, PTAs and Comann nam Parant (the Gaelic parents' support group) have made it clear that the cuts are unacceptable and the latter have been considering legal action against the council under the 1918 Education (Scotland) Act which states that "Education authorities must make provision for the teaching of Gaelic in Gaelic speaking areas". Parents have picketed the offices of the council and Val MacIver the Chair of the Education has admitted to receiving a mailbox of objections from all over the world. The

volume of faxes to the council was so large that the chief executive of the council, Arthur McCourt is reported to have switched off his overworked fax machine.

While the council have confirmed their intention to axe the visiting teacher service, the education chair has promised that there will be no reduction in the Gaelic service provided to schools, though the council has not yet said what form this teaching will take. It is unlikely that Gaelic teaching of any sort would have continued to be provided had it not been for such vigorous campaigning.

Alasdair MacCaluim



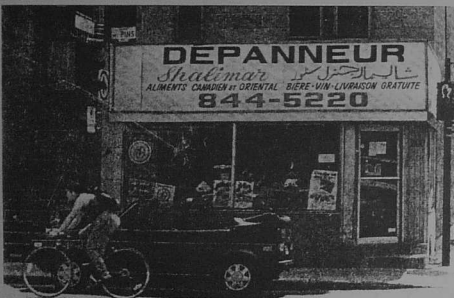
Sabhal Mòr expands

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Scotland's Gaelic college has announced a five year development plan. In September 1997 a full time immersion course is to be launched and it is expected that the number of students will rise to 70. Work is also hoped to begin this year on phase one of the new Sabhal Mòr campus which should be completed by September 1998. 1998 will also see the first year of a degree course in Gaelic studies, to be followed the next year by a degree course in Celtic/North Atlantic Studies. These will be through the medium of Gaelic. Projected student numbers for 1999 are 162.

For more information about short courses and full time courses, write to: Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, An Teanga, Sléite, an t-Eilean Sgitheanach, IV44 8RQ

SPEAKING OUR LANGUAGE

The innovative and popular Gaelic learners series "Speaking our Language" is now being screened throughout the "UK" as part of BBC 2's late night "Learning Zone". It is being screened at 4 am each Friday starting on the 18th of April. For information about backup materials for the series write to Cànán Limited, PO Box 345, An t-Eilean Sgitheanach, IV44 8RQ or phone 01471 844345.



Gu h-annoch san naoidheamh linn deug agus gu trath san fhicheadamh linn rinn luchd na Beurla geur-leanmhainn air an Fhraincis — cha robh ach Beurla i-fhèin oifigeil a-mhàin ann am Manitoba. An sin 'sa bhliadhna 1912 sgrieadh teagasg tre na Fraincis — rinn iad an aon rud an aghaidh na Gàidhlig ann an Achd an Fhoghlaim 1872 nuair a chuir luchd na Beurla stad air teagasg tre na cànan agann!

Bha ceist ann... dé mu dheighinn na coigrich a tha daonna a' tighinn a-steach do'n roinn Québec... mar Shimich à Hong Kong, Hiataich, Lebanonaich, Greugach, Portagalach agus mar sin air adhart... agus an fhreagairt... an fheadhaim oig a chuir gu sgoilean far a bheil teagasg na tre na Fraincis... Shorhbhich an reachd seo... taing do Ni Math... bhon a tha aireamh de bhreith nam pàisdean Québecich sior dol sìos! Dé mu dheighinn

SECURE STATUS

The Gaelic development agency Comunn na Gàidhlig (CnaG) has finally launched their official status proposals in a paper entitled "Securing the Future for Gaelic". CnaG's objective as stated in the report is to give Gaelic "an official measure of status through achieving equal validity with Welsh, thus enabling it to develop its full potential". The report goes on to say that "this could be described as 'secure status' and acceptance of such a principle would move the language issue from basic questions of survival and maintenance to purposeful and progressive development in the normal domains of a modern living language". This would be achieved through legislation based on the 1993 Welsh Language Act.

In the short term Comunn na Gàidhlig hopes that "secure status" would lead to the strengthening of existing legislation for Gaelic education, the provision in Gaelic of many official documents and a Gaelic-speaking contact-person in all public bodies operating in the Highlands and Islands. In the longer term, CnaG envisages a basic level of public-sector provision for Gaelic throughout Scotland in documents and services. These aims would be implemented in stages.

To achieve the aims of the report CnaG is attempting to persuade the political parties to commit themselves to achieving "secure status" for Gaelic within the lifetime of the next parliament. A body similar to the Welsh Language Board would be responsible for working out the details of and implementing "secure status". The report also calls upon the parties advocating a Scottish Parliament to make Gaelic a recognised language of that Parliament.

While the response of Gaelic activists to "secure status" has been positive, many feel uneasy about the establishment of what seems to be a language quango and to the Highland/Lowland division contained in Comunn na Gàidhlig's proposals. For a copy of "Securing the Future for Gaelic", write to Comunn na Gàidhlig, 5 Caolshràid Mhicheil, Inbhir Nis (Inverness), IV2 3HQ, Alba.

Scottish Socialist Alliance
a broad-based coalition of socialist activists from different parties who favour Scottish self-determination. Enquiries and subscription details for its magazine "Red", can be obtained from: SSA, PO Box 980, Glasgow G14 9QQ.

The Very Bastards Of Creation: Scottish International Radicalism - A Biographical Study 1688 - 1995

by James D Young; Alba Publications, 135 London Road, Glaschu,
Alba G1 5BU; Stg£10 plus p & p £1.50; ISBN - 1 873586 80 9.

The words of the title are not by James D Young. They come from a former English MP and Lord Mayor of London, no less - John Wilkes. His disparaging quote about the Scots and Scotland dates from the late 18th century, but unfortunately his racist attitudes to his neighbouring countries' populaces are still alive and well. Witness certain English newspapers portrayal of 'whinging jocks' and their lies about the Scots being 'subsidy junkies'. The stereotypical racist 'joke' treatment of Welsh and Irish people is also regularly seen in the English/British media.

This book is unique - it is the first to adequately cover the history of 18th, 19th and 20th century Scotland from the viewpoint of ordinary Scots and the lives of eleven of the bravest, most outspoken radical thinkers, writers and activists. The strength of James Young's text is the reviving and uncovering of these mostly forgotten men. Many of their equivalents in Eire have important railway stations, public buildings and streets named after them! Even present day Scottish Nationalists will probably only have heard of three of the eleven radicals studied - John Maclean, Kier Hardie and Lewis Grassie Gibbon.

Inter Celtic activity briefly mentioned includes the activities of John Murdoch, the Highland League, the United Scotsman and how the Scots were assisted and inspired by their Irish equivalents. Henry Joy McCracken and Michael Davitt were two of the most helpful in this respect. The inspiration of James Connolly and the co-operation between Jim Larkin and John MacClean are documented.

James Young's political stance is unashamedly left-wing and nationalist, but perhaps the greatest service the book provides is making us question why so much of our history has been lost and suppressed (particularly those who opposed English rule). I am sure most, if not all the Celtic countries have had the knowledge of important and politically energising events and activists suppressed. The limited educational access for Protestant 'Unionists' (in the six counties) to their Irish language, history, music and sports is well known.

This book has very extensive references and is a labour of love so I feel it is important to support outspoken authors who are trying to improve justice and democracy by alerting people to their real history!

Les Mac an Ulaigh.

Comann an Luchd-Ionnsachaidh "for Gaelic learners and supporters"

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tro

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SCOTVEC update

Carn 96 reported Sabhal Mòr Ostaig students' campaign for Gaelic certificates. Following pressure from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig graduates, the Celtic League and Comann an Luchd-Ionnsachaidh, the certification body SCOTVEC has written to Sabhal Mòr promising Gaelic certificates for their 1996 intake of students. As of 1 April however SCOTVEC will be replaced by the Scottish Qualification Authority and it remains to be seen what decision the new body will take on the issue of Gaelic certification.

Scottish Militant Labour publishes an interesting weekly newspaper called "Scottish Socialist Voice", which has a special introductory subscription of five pounds for 12 issues. Contact by writing to SML, PO Box 399, Glasgow G15BZ.

Tories No More?

On the 290th anniversary of the Union of the parliaments of Scotland with England, the Tories lost every MP they had in Scotland. The ten scalps were shared by New Labour 5, Lib Dems 2 and SNP 3 (one of which was knocked out in the Perth & Kinross by-election in 1995 and the SNP for the first time held that by-election gain at the General Election).

In Scotland the notorious British first-past-the-post electoral system delivered 56 New Labour MPs for 45.6% of the votes cast, 10 LibDem MPs for 13%, nil Tories for 17.5%, and 6 SNP for 21.9% of the votes which included 45 second places. The SNP MPs are Alex Salmond, Banff & Buchan; Margaret Ewing, Moray; Andrew Welsh, Angus; Roseanna Cunningham, Perth, John



Mary Denovan, former Celtic League Secretary for Scotland, joins her husband and two distinguished SNP Councillors, who have been waiting 52 years since they voted Labour in 1945 to gain Home Rule. They supported SNP candidate, Cllr. Margaret Paterson, for Ross, Skye and Inverness West who gained third place in her contest with 20% of the vote.



Alex Salmond

Margaret Ewing

Andrew Welsh

Swinney, Tayside North; and Alasdair Morgan, Galloway & Upper Nithsdale.

You would think that this was an unanswerable case for proportional voting but the New Labour government may only deliver it for their proposed Scottish Assembly - "to stop the SNP winning there" as their campaign director, Jack McConnell put it in the heat of the campaign.

So Scotland (and Wales) emphatically wiped out Tory MPs. While more than four out of five Scots favour a Scottish Assembly or parliament only one in five supported the SNP this time for Independence in Europe. 18 years of Tory bogymen have been exercised so New Labour will have to deliver. But what will they deliver?

Since their economic spending plans are the same as the Tories for the next two years what will happen to the list of justifiable demands made by their voters? If the election is a watershed in any one way it was the way the SNP won the

argument that Scotland is not subsidized by London. Indeed the Treasury admitted that since 1979 Scots taxes and revenues have piled up a £31 thousand million surplus in the London coffers.

New Labour claimed that only a vote for their candidates would oust the Tories. The truth is as every more complex. Many reasons drive voters and the constitution is only one. However it was commonly held that any future Scots parliament election will be very different. Indeed wise heads in the Conservative and Unionist Party know it could be their way to gain a proportion of seats. A poll for the Sunday Times in Mid April suggested respondents were split 38% to vote SNP and 39% New Labour in the proposed Scots Assembly.

Scotland is promised an autumn referendum with two questions. One on the principle of a Scots parliament, the other at Blair's insistence on whether people want it to have tax varying powers of up to 3%. In comparison with the SNP pledge to control

97% of Scots finances while 3% going from VAT receipts to Brussels, Labour's offering is very limited indeed. It prompted Tony Blair to suggest defensively that it would not have more powers over finance than an English parish council. So much for the Claim of rights signed in the Scottish Constitutional Convention eight years ago by all but one of his Scottish MPs.

While Blair blatantly declared that sovereignty would remain with English MPs it will take some time to see just how his government will proceed. Meanwhile Trident missiles remain on the Clyde, students will be forced to take out loans, 16 & 17 year olds will not receive benefit and a question-mark hangs over continued prosecutions for non-payment of Skye Bridge road tolls. New Labour has a host of unanswered questions to face in this Tory free Scotland. Real opposition this time comes from the much more radical LibDems and SNP.

Rob Gibson

Fàilte

The 1997 edition of Comunn na Gàidhlig's "Fàilte - Welcome to Scotland's Gaelic Renaissance" brochure is now available. The magazine which is available in Gaelic, English, French, German, Italian and Spanish is aimed at visitors and potential visitors to Scotland as part of CnaG's policy of promoting Gaelic through cultural tourism.

For a free copy of the brochure, write to Comunn na Gàidhlig, 5 Caolshràid Mhicheil, Inbhir Nis, Alba IV2 3HQ or e-mail: fns@cng.org.uk

Alasdair MacCaluim

BREIZH

Yezh Bro-Elzas Hag He Stad

Istor Bro-Elzas E Berr Gomzou

Evit kompren mat stad ar yezh e Bro-Elzas eo ret anavezout un tammig istor ar vob. Betek ar Iañ kantved a-raok H.S. e oa Bro-Elzas ur vro getiek. Elzas a zo bet gant kreiz ha mervent an Alamagn kavell ar Gelted. Da heul aloubadeg ar Romaned e teuas da vezañ ur vro c'halianroman. Bez' ez eus kalz krugelloù kelteiek er c'hoadeter a-hed ar Ren c'hoazh met nebeut a c'hérou galianroman a zo bet (Cambete, bremañ Kembs, Brocumagus; bremañ Brumath, Argentorate; bremañ Strasbourg).

Er Vvet kantved e teuas an Alamaned hag ar Franked (div boblad c'herman) hag o yezh. An elzaseg a zo ur rannyezh alamanek hag a zo rannet etre div isrannyezh: adalek Bro-Suis betek Strasbourg e vez komzet alemaneg (e gallek: alémanique) hag en hanternoz da Strasbourg e vez komzet frankeg (e gallek: francique) evel er Rheinland-Pfalz (e Bro-Alamagn). Met elzasegerien Kayserberg, da skouer, a c'hell kompren elzasegerien Strasbourg.

Adalek ar Vvet kantved betek 1648 eo bet Bro-Elzas ur broviñs eus an Impalaeriezh C'herman, da lavarout eo ur broviñs alamanegerezh. E 1648 ar roue Loeiz XIV a stagas Bro-Elzas ouzh rouantelezh Frañs. E 1871, ez eo bet adkemeret gant Bismarck ha setu-hi alaman adarre. E 1918 e tistro d'ar C'Hallaoued hag e 1940 e teu ur wech ouzhpenn da vezañ ur broviñs eus Bro-Alamagn. Erfin abaoe 1944 Bro-Elzas a zo adarre ur rannvro c'hall.

Stad Ar Yezh A-Hed An Istor

Ar Gelted a zeuas er vro en Xvet kantved a - roak H.S. (martee kentoc'h?) Ur yezh kelteiek a veze komzet betek ar IVvet goude H.S. met ne vez ket kavet kalz anvioù-lec'h a orin kelteiek hiziv an deiz, nemet Brumath ha Kembs evel meneget, ha Le Donon a zeu diwar ar galianeg Dunum. Ar C'hermaned kentañ a zo testenietek adalek aloubadeg ar Romaned! Ar Suevii, a oa ur meuriad german, a gemmigas a-enep Kiaser e Bro-

Elzas dija! Gant an aloubadegoù Barbar e teuas da vezañ ur vro c'herman e pep keñver: yezh, kustum ha poblañs!

Met menel a reas romanegevad war un uheder bennak An dud-se ne gomzont nemet ur rannyezh roman, hiziv an deiz c'hoazh: "Welsche" a vez graet anezho gant an elzasegerien. Welsh a dalvez Kement saozneg a zeu diwar ar memes gwirizenn c'herman. Betek 1648 an elzaseg a zo ar yezh komzet hag an hochdeusch (ar yezh lennegel standard goude an Disvoud) a zo ar yezh skrivet.

Etre 1648 ha 1789 ar gallek a grogas d'en em skignat met ne oa c'hoazh nemet yezh ar vob-hiziv vras hag ar re - mañ a oa divyezhek. Etre 1850 ha 1871 ar gallek en em led muioc'h-muioc'h met an elzaseg hag an hochdeusch a van yezh an ilizoù, al lennegezh pobl, ar c'helaouennoù, ar bobl hag ar yezh pemdezhek. N'eo nemet e-pad an Dispac'h Gall (1789-1794) e voe gouderouzet ar yezh evit ar wech kentañ.

E - pad ar stagidigezh ouzh Bro-Alamagn (1871-1918) an dibab yezhel a zeu da vezañ un dibab politikel met ar bobl a gomz elzaseg hag a skriv en hochdeusch, peurliesañ. Er metoù gallgar, moarvat, en em skign ur menoz faos: evito an elzaseg a zo disheñvel diouzh yezh Bro-Alamagn. Gant an distro d'ar "Republik", ar skoll glask digreskiñ levezon hag implij ar yezh evel yezh pemdezhek (evel e Breizh, Euskadi, hag all...)

E - pad ar brezel 1939-1945 al lealded e - keriver Bro - C'Hall a gлот gant elzaseg. Goude 1945 ha betek 1960 lost da vat e vez sellet ouzh ar yezh evel ur yezh en abeg d'he liammoù gant yezh Bro-Alamagn. Erfin e 1972 (!) an alamaneg a vo kenteliet adarre e klasoù divyezhek.

Hiziv en deiz, e 1997, 70% eus ar boblañs a anavez ar yezh. Komzet e vez e pep korn eus Bro - Elzas. He c'hlevet a reer e pep lec'h: er staloù, er salioù - fest, el labouradegoù... An dud oadet a 35 bloaz pe vuoc'h a zo elzasegerien holl pe dost. En-enep an dud yaouank betek 25 vloaz a gomz gallek bepred pe dost. Ul lod mat anezho a anavez mat ar yezh met ne

gomzont ket elzaseg etrezo. Diwar ar sifroù, n'eus nemet 30% eus an dud yaouank (<25 bloaz) a gomz ar yezh. Klevet a vez war ar maez dreist-holl Evel-just er c'héroud bras e vez komzet muioc'h gallek eget elzaseg, met n'eo ket diant an elzaseg. E hanternoz Bro-Elzas, war dro Haguennau ha Wissembourg ez eus paozredigoù ha méré'hedigoù a zo elzasegerien pa grogont da vont d'ar skoll! A-hed ar Ren an dud yaouank a gomz c'hoazh aliesik a - walc'h elzaseg etrezo!

Dazont

Daoust d'ar sifroù n'eo ket gwall skedus an dazont evit ar yezh evit meur a abeg: - An dud yaouank ne gomzont ket ar yezh kenetrezo, peurliesañ e reont gant ar gallek. - Ne vez ket embannet kalz levrioù en elzaseg. - N'eo ket dedennet-tre ar yaouank gant ar yezh na gwall chalet gant he dazont. - Nevez zo ez eus bet embannet ul levr diwan-benn ar yezh hag he stad hag eo bet anvet "D' Letschte" (=ar re ziwec'hñ). Un anv diskulius marteze? Bez' e vefe trist evit Bro-Elzas!

José Calvete

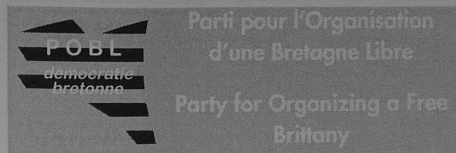
Summary

Alsacian, consisting in fact of two dialects of German, has been commonly spoken in Alsace for about 1500 years but unrelenting French pressure is pushing it towards extinction. While 70% of the people are still conversant in it, most of those under 25 generally speak French among themselves, and they appear unconcerned with the future of their ancestral language. (Dialects cannot compete with an officially, one might say aggressively promoted, other major language). In my view, Alsacians can hope to save theirs, and with them their native culture, only by giving even more attention to learning and speaking standard German.

A.H.

TO THE BELGIAN READERS OF CARN

If you pay your Carn subscription by means of an international money order (postwissel/mandat de poste), you must pay an additional 300 - BEF of costs (postage etc). In order to reduce these costs - that exceed half the subscription amount! I would like to propose to pay our subscriptions in one payment, thus each paying only a fraction of the postal costs. Kindly send your reaction to S. D'Haeyer Volkegemberg 23 9700 Oudenaarde.



P.O.B.L. is a Breton political party. It was founded in 1982 by Yann Fouéré, Yvon Pélard, Fanch Klavelly, Gilbert Monroy, Jean-Michel Tilly and Pading Montauzier.

Yann Fouéré was active long before the Second World War, in particular on the language front. He is also well known as the author of a number of books on the Breton movement and as a theorician of federalism. His main work is that field, "l'Europe aux cent drapeaux", has been translated into several European languages. Like many Breton activists, he had to flee to Ireland after the war, in order to escape the terrible repression which fell upon anyone even remotely linked to the defence of the Breton language or the promotion of home rule for Brittany. By indiscriminately charging every Breton-minded person with collaborating with the Germans, the French authorities endeavoured to discredit the Breton movement and "at one fell swoop" get rid of Breton distinctiveness.

It was a hard blow indeed, but not a complete success from the French point of view and in 1958, with the founding of M.O.B. (Mouvement pour l'Organisation de la Bretagne), the Breton movement reared its head anew. After promising beginnings and spectacular progress in terms of membership, due to the resuming of the pre-war line held by the Breton movement (to wit "Neither white, nor red, Breton only!"), M.O.B. suffered a split in

1962 when part of its members, adopting the Marxist ideology, set up a break-away party: the U.D.B. (Union Démocratique Bretonne). That new Party has sought electoral pacts the French Socialist Party and the French Communist Party.

We cannot look on, indifferent, when our language is being steam-rolled out of existence, when our economy goes to the drains on account of Paris mismanagement, when one-fifth of our territory (the Nantes area) is administratively severed from the rest of Brittany.

Those of us who know the untaught history of Brittany, know that our country was once a proud, prosperous and independent country: a sharp contrast to what it has become. For centuries, Brittany had to stave off the concurrent claims of France and England and succeeded in maintaining its independence through playing off the one against the other. Alas, after the fatal war of 1487-1488 which Brittany had to fight alone, and defeat at Saint-Aubin-du-Cormier, Brittany was finally conquered and incorporated into the French kingdom. The Duchy lost its last rights during the French Revolution.

To the long list of countries once subdued but which have recovered their independence since the beginning of the century (Norway, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Slovakia, Croatia, the Ukraine, Hungary, Slovenia, etc.), we want to add Brittany, but also all the ethnic minorities in Europe.

We are in favour of federalistic structures and would welcome the creation of a federation of Celtic countries within the federal Europe yet to come.

We believe that we, the small nations, have an essential role to play in the building of Europe. The Nation-State has outlived its usefulness and is on the way out. Together, we can transform this continent into a better place to live in, a place where all nations will be equal in dignity. Europe must be a model for the rest of the world. To that end, we do need to work more closely together.

We regularly invite to our congresses leaders from other European movements. Thus, Boris Pahor, a famous Slovene writer, was our distinguished guest a couple of years ago. Leonid Pliouchich represented the Ukraine at one of our recent congresses.

Conversely, we sent delegates to participate in the celebration of the newly acquired independence of Slovakia in January 1993. We were also officially invited to the ceremonies for the proclamation of the independence of Padania in Venice in September 1996. By the way, Padania which roughly covers the territories of the former Cisalpine Gaul, forcibly latinized by Rome, is far more real than the official media have made it out to be.

We seek contacts with the like-minded movements in the Celtic countries. Besides, a number of our members are active within European Federalist Organizations. Yann Fouéré has already been mentioned. Marcel Texier, who regularly contributes to our monthly, "l'Avenir de la Bretagne", is the former secretary general of A.I.D.L.C.M. (International association for the defence of threatened languages and cultures). As to Pierre Lemone, former deputy mayor of Quimper, he is honorary president of the U.F.C.E. (Federalist union of ethnic communities in Europe).

Unfortunately, we cannot boast of a large membership yet. Nevertheless, we have had interesting contacts lately with Breton members of the French Parliament, and also various people in responsible positions who more or less share our ideas. More and more young people seem to be attracted to us, which is undoubtedly very encouraging for the near future.

Thierry Jigouard
(translation by Marcel Texier)

Celtic League A.G.M.

will be held in
Caernarfon, Wales,
25/26 July, 1997.

Please contact Welsh/National Secretaries for further information.

Please Note

The views expressed in Carn are not necessarily those of the Editor nor the Celtic League.



P.O.B.L. militants in front of the burnt Breton Parliament building, Rennes, February 1, 1997



Sign the European Charter for Minority Languages, Pondivi, 12-04-97

French Constitution Against Charter

France cannot sign the European Charter for Minority and Regional Languages. Its Council of State found it would be contrary to the Constitution, as its article 2, added in 1992, specifies that "French is the language of the Republic".

That is that! It means that none of the other languages spoken on the periphery of the State's territory can have legal status. After all the hopes which Chirac had kindled in Kemper a year ago when he said he would be favourable to the signing, the verdict of the Council of State, made known in February, caused consternation among those who, in spite of contrary signs, thought that France could adopt the very modern recommendations made by the Council of Europe. MPs such as J.Y. Cozan who have given support to the Breton language were dismayed. But like all the others in the French National Assembly, they voted in 1992 for the Art. 2 amendment which gave French its exclusive official position (rather: it confirmed it). Assurances were then given that it was not directed against the "regional" languages, didn't everybody agree that those precious elements of the French cultural heritage should be "preserved", cherished, etc.?

Ah! everybody in Europe and elsewhere surely understand that France is an exception. France is all for the rights of linguistic minorities in Central Europe but by definition, there are no minorities in France. It is as simple as that. As Herve Person in *Combat Breton* (April 97)

reminds the readers, there is no intermediary collectivity or institution in France between the State and the individual. So, don't talk about rights for regional languages. They have really no right to exist! They are tolerated, given crumbs only because one expects them to be dead soon, what a nuisance that they refuse to give up the ghost but keep on kicking!

More people realise now that the way is blocked for any step that would put our language on a legal basis, that we have to rely on ourselves to redress its situation. Le Peuple Breton which normally as the organ of the UDB advocates no radical changes could not repress a "cri du coeur" with a heading "amender la constitution ou quitter la France"... The second alternative would be a reversal of its recent trend of seeking cooperation with ethnically-French regional organisations for a federal French state. For the EMCANN party there was never any doubt that "the survival of Breton can only be guaranteed by our having the power to rule our own country".

In the mean time, "we must ask our elected representatives in our various councils to adopt the European Charter and implement it" (*Combat Breton*, April). On April 12 about 1,500 people demonstrated in the streets of Pondivi still demanding that France sign the Charter. But it should be clear that all the efforts should be directed at mobilising public opinion in Brittany.

Tried in Paris

15 Basques accused of ETA membership and 5 Bretons who gave them refuge went on trial in Paris on March 24. The Basques did not recognise the court. The Bretons maintained that they were motivated by the apprehension that the refugees would, if extradited, be subjected to torture in Spain. Sentences of 3 to 10 years were requested against the Basques, and of 1 to 2 years against the Bretons. The verdict is to be given on May 26. On March 23, over 1,500 people including numerous singers and musicians took part in a demonstration and concert in Glomel to express support for the accused. Proceeds were given to the association Skozell Vreizh to help pay for their legal costs.

For 2 months a delegation of elected representatives of the Herri Batasuna party toured Europe to present its view of the situation in the Basque Country. They were officially received in the Kemper, Karnez and Spezed townhalls.



Basque MPs received by EMCANN, Lorient (courtesy *Combat Breton*)

Gwenn Ha Du,

journal nationaliste breton. Bimonthly, in French, 28 pp. Subs. 150F/170F outside State. J. Le Maho, 190 bis, Ave de Clichy, 75017 Paris.

In the April-May issue, Yann Fouere writes about the loss of sovereignty inherent for France and the other EU countries, in the adoption of the EMU; there is an assessment by the Breton Cultural Institute of the importance of the Cultural charter "granted" 20 years ago by President Giscard d'Estaing; a continuation of the notes taken by the late historian, Henri Pousson for a biography of the interwar leader of the Breton National Party, F. Debeauvais; a survey of links between Basques and Bretons reproduced from a German newspaper, etc...

No to Nuclear Station



Nantes, 24/3/97 Against Nuclear Station (courtesy of *Breman*)

(Written on May 1) A big demonstration is being organised by a Fédération Anti-Nucléaire, (FAN-44), for May 31 and June 1 to oppose the construction by Electricité de France (EDF) of a nuclear station at Le Carnet near Paimboeuf, on the South side of the Loire. Participants are to form a human chain of 53 km between the site and Nantes. All the area between this city and St. Nazaire is densely populated. A release of radioactivity from the planned station could immediately affect the lives of up to a million of people.

EDF has made repeated attempts in the past 20 years to build such a station in Brittany (Erdeven, Plogoff, Le Pellen) but had to give up in the face of resolute popular opposition. Brittany does not need more electricity than is at present

available. The production at Le Carnet would be for export.

However permission has been given to proceed with groundwork. But protesters have already been able to bring this to a halt. A first demonstration against the project was attended by 6,000 people in Nantes on 25/1/97. It was followed by another with 10,000 participants on 22/3/97. FAN-44 will have a stand at the Breton Language Festival in Loueragad (between Morlaix and Gwengamp) on May 17/18 to publicise the demonstration due to take place a fortnight later. This event will also be marked by debates, a concert with Breton musicians (G. Servat, EV) and a fest-noz.

F.N. man sues Breton papers

Court action is being taken by Fernand Le Rachinel, a key man in J.M. Le Pen's Front National against Joël Guégan, editor of the monthly *Le Peuple Breton*, and Martial Ménard, editor of the weekly *Bretagne-Infos*. The trial is due to take place on June 19 or 26 in St. Brie. Le Rachinel is claiming damages of 2 million francs from each of the defendants for defamation. Yet he does not dispute the veracity of the information they gave about him, only that their articles caused him to lose clients. He is also suing the mass circulation Rennes daily *Ouest-France* which, like other papers, reproduced the information, first published in *Bretagne-Infos* (Dec. 23, 1996), revealing that Le Rachinel, since 1993 owner of the old printing company Presses Bretonnes of Saint-Brie, was one of the Front National's main printers and financial backers. Details were given about items of F.N. propaganda literature and words from extreme right wing authors printed by "Presses Bretonnes". The role devolved to Presses Bretonnes fits in with the Front's endeavour to win more support than it has

so far enjoyed in Brittany. This is of all the "French" regions the one in which it gets the lowest percentage of votes. But recently confidential documents were discovered in Nantes which revealed that its militants were being instructed to infiltrate the Breton organisations and that a special effort should be made to bring over those reputedly so faithful Bretons to the ranks of the French patriots. Indeed Le Pen has made some flattering noise about them, the Breton flag has been seen flying beside the tricolour at some F.N. gatherings and festivals. But a broad spectrum of those involved in Breton activities is vehemently opposed to Le Pen's policies. Several periodicals have called for vigilance, warning that the NF would install a fascist regime totally inimical to the Breton aspirations. There is no doubt that if Le Rachinel's claims were upheld by the court, the two organs of Breton information with probably the largest circulations would have to cease publication.

A.H.

Letter

A Chairde,

I would like to comment upon Celtic Esperanto. As Garbhan Mac Aoidh so ably points out, (Cam 96) the development of such a language requires enormous efforts, and the result would not be likely to be used by many people. However, a Gaelic koine is certainly a possibility, and Gaelic television could be a stepping stone towards this. This would require Gàidhlig programs being broadcast in Ireland, and Gaelic programs being broadcast in Scotland (both to be broadcast in Mannin), and cooperation in developing modern vocabulary. The most painless way to introduce this would be to begin with cartoons, dubbing one character in each Gàidhlig cartoon into Irish, and one character in each Gaelic cartoon into Scottish Gaelic, so that children watching the cartoons would grow up familiar with the other language, or at least with its rudiments. An adult version of this could be a soap opera with one character from the other country, speaking in a simple version of his/her own language. At a later date, full programs in the other language could then be introduced. A version of this has proved successful in Ireland where speakers of the various dialects used to have some difficulty in understanding each other, but Ráidíó na Gaeltachta acted as a link that broke this isolation. No one version or dialect of the language has been imposed as the standard to the detriment of the others, and I feel this model could be used between the various Gaelic languages to form a Gaelic speech area, without any one variety threatening the other languages in their written and spoken forms.

As my ignorance of the Brythonic languages is great - I know no Welsh or Cornish, and little Breton - I do not know whether this model could also be used for them, perhaps at a later date. What certainly can be done is at least to encourage borrowing between them in forming new terminology. The Internet is a great tool in this regard, as a database can be set up for access by any telephone anywhere. It can also be used for wider distribution of literature in our languages, and for "publication" of works which have been refused by the publishing houses, whether due to lack of funds or because it is deemed unsaleable. However, this is a separate subject, which I hope someone in the know will inform us upon in the near future.

Colm de Búrca,

Cam 9

CYMRU

PIGION CELTAIDD

Yr Alban

cymhedrol yn yr iaith. Erbyn heddiw mae gan Mebyon Kernow (Meibion Cernyw) un cynghorydd sirol, pedwar cynghorydd dosbarth a nifer fawr o gynghorwyr plwyf a thref.

Iwerddon

Iaith y gweithlu

Mae'r galwedigaethau canlynol, yn ôl Cyfrifiad 1991, efo canran llawer uwch na'r cyfartaledd o siaradwyr Gwyddeleg yn y gweithlu:
- ffermwyr ar unedau o dan 10 erw; rheolwyr fferm; gweithwyr ffôn; argraffwyr; clerodwr gwaith adeiladu; postymn; pelotiaid awyrennau; gweithwyr clerigol; heddlu; gweision safon; gweision cyhoeddus; deimydion, milfeddygon a meddygon; nyrsys; barnwyr; bargefrethwyr; clyfrethwyr; aftrawon a darlithwyr; gweimigion ac offeiriad; swyddogion y lloedd arfog

GOGONJAN?!

Dim Toriaid ar ôl yng Ngholtia

Gallwn ni i gyd lawenhau wrth weld nad oes gan y Toriaid bellach yr un aelod seneddol ar ôl yng Nghymru, nag yng Nghernyw, nag yn yr Alban, nae yn y Chwe Sir. Y blaidd honno yn fwy na neb arall sydd wedi gwadu i'r Alban ac i ninnau unrhyw fesur o ymroethdros y deng mlynedd diwethaf, a dyna nhw wedi colli'r deg o seddau oedd ganddyn yn yr Alban, a'r chwech oedd ganddyn yng Nghymru, a'r tair oedd ganddyn yng Nghernyw a 'doedd ganddyn yr un sedd i'w cholli yn Iwerddon. Ond peidiwn ag anghofio bod digonedd o gefnogaeth yn dal i'r Toriaid yn

Lloegr. Er bod y rhan fwyaf o seddau Lloegr wedi mynd i Lafur, am y rheswm bod seddau'r Ceidwadwyr yn fwy o ran maint (seddau gwledig gan fwyaf) mae tua hanner Lloegr i'w weld yn las ar y map gwleidyddol - dros hanner os ydyw fy synwyr mesur yn iawn, mae'n rhy agos i faru'n hawdd o'r un bynnag. Felly, a chofio bod y Ceidwadwyr newydd *emill* rheolaeth ar ryw wyth o gynghorau unedol yng ngwlad y Saeson, fel Hampshire oedd yn nwylo'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, gallwn fod yn sicr y bydd y Ceidwadwyr yn ôl mewn grym yn Lloegr ymheli rhai blynyddoedd ac mae'n rhaid i'r Celtaid achub y gweithlu seneddol yng Nghaerdydd os bydd rhaid i ni wnebu referendwm i'w hysbysu.

Er gwaethaf llwyddiant Plaid Cymru i gadw'r pedair sedd yn yr etholiad, a dod yn gryfach o lawer yng Ngheredigion, a brwdfrydedd amlwg rhai yn y Blaid Lafur dros gynulliad i Gymru, nid wyf yn optimistaidd y gweithlu seneddol yng Nghaerdydd os bydd rhaid i ni wnebu referendwm i'w hysbysu. Ydi hi'n amser i ni feddlw am ymgyrch "boicotio'r referendwm", fel y bydd posib i ni ddiwedd ar ôl y bledlais "Na' nad oeddem wedi cytuno â'r ffordd yna o benderfynu ein tynges!"

Gwahanol yw'r gobethion yn yr Alban lle mae'n edrych fel tasai'r rhywyt olaf i sefydlu rhyw fath oesedd wedi mynd. Cryfhaodd Plaid Genedlaethol yr Alban ei llais drwy ennill dwy sedd newydd. Cadwodd llywydd yr SNP, Alex Salmond, sedd Banbhi is Buchan (Banff & Buchan), a chadwodd Andrew Welsh sedd Aonghas (Angus) gyda mwyafrif o dros 10 mil yr un. Cynyddodd Margaret Ewing ei mwyafrif wrth gadw Moirreabh (Moray), a chadwodd Roseanna Cunningham sedd Peart (Perth) a enillodd mewn is-etholiad. Enillodd John Swinney sedd Donald Gogledd Tayside dros y blaidd genedlaethol, ond yn sedd Galgahaidhealith a Strath Nit Uchaf (Galloway & Upper Nithsdale) y cafwyd y fuddugoliaeth orau pan gipiodd Alasdair Morgan sedd i'w cynygrifennodd gwladol Ian Lang. Dyna felly chwech o genedlaetholwyr, ond y Blaid Lafur sy'n rheoli.

Pedair democrat Rhyddfrydol ac un llafurwr sydd yng Nghernyw yn awr, a'r Ceidwadwyr wedi colli eu tair sedd. Deallaf bod aelod seneddol newydd Porthia (St. Ives), y democrat Rhyddfrydol Andrew George, yn gefnogol i Gernyw a'r iaith. Disgwylw i'w daw lles o hynny.

Yn Iwerddon y gwelwyd y buddugoliaethau mwyafrif arwyddocaol i'r mudiad cenedlaethol, lle enillodd Sinn Féin dwy sedd. Ail-gipiodd Gerry Adams, y llywydd, sedd Gorrlewin Beal Feirsteo'r SDLP gyda mwyafrif ysgubol. (Enillodd yr SDLP sedd Gerry Adams yn 1992 gyda mwyafrifnach, pan ddywedwyd gan rai bod yr SDLP wedi gwario mwy o arian ar yr ymgyrch nag oedd yn gyfreithlon.) Ac enillodd Martin McGuinness sedd Canol Ulaidh (Ulster Mid) o unoliaethwyr eithafol y DUP. Dyna lais da i'r gwerniaethwyr yn y trafodaethau i ddiol.

Robat ap Tomos

WALES AND THE ELECTION

The General Election on May 1st resulted in an overwhelming victory for the Labour Party who now have over 180 more seats than all the other parties. Over the past 18 years the Conservative Party, a minority in Wales and Scotland, were able to control the whole state through their support in England. This time they were beaten in England too, and the total power which is held by a majority party in the London parliament passed to the English Labour Party, which, from the point of view of Wales gaining a degree of self-government, was far from the best outcome.

The swing of support from the ruling Conservatives to the Labour party in England in the General Election was reflected also in Wales, though the swing was not so great since the Tories did not have that much support to lose in the first place. However the swing was enough for the Tories to lose every one of the six seats they held in Wales so that the former government now hold no seats at all in Wales, Cornwall or Scotland - they formerly relied on their majority in England to govern the Celtic countries, and now it is only in England they have any MPs. It is significant to note that while the Labour party do hold a majority of English seats, much of England is still held by the Tories. It is possible in England to travel from the Tamar valley on the Cornish border to Folkestone in the South East corner of England, nearest France, without leaving Conservative held seats, and similarly on from there to the Welsh border (Leominster), and from there again you can travel, without leaving an unbroken swathe of Tory-held seats, up to the Scottish border (you would need a boat to cross the Humber estuary), but no further.

In Wales, Labour won 34 of the 40 seats, gaining five seats from the Tories. The safest Tory seat, Clwyd West, fell to a Welsh-speaking Labour candidate, Gareth Thomas, who had declared his enthusiasm for the language and devolution during the campaign. We will be hoping that this materializes. The failure of the Tories, the only party who are completely against any sort of self-government for Wales, to hold any seats is a cause for satisfaction. The Liberal Democrats, who are in favour of a parliament for Wales, went up from one to two seats, gaining the Brecon & Radnor seat from the Tories where we hope the incoming MP, Richard Livesey, will continue to give the support to the Welsh language that he has shown in the past.

Plaid Cymru held the four seats they had before - Caernarfon, Meirionnydd Nant

Conwy, Ceredigion and Ynys Môn, which was regarded as satisfactory by many. The Caernarfon and Meirionnydd Nant Conwy seats had been regarded as fairly safe for Plaid president Dafydd Wigley and Eifyn Llwyd respectively, both of whom took over 50% of the vote. Plaid did well to hold off a strong challenge from Labour in Ynys Môn, with Ieuan Wyn Jones doubling his majority, but the seat remains marginal. The large number of English (and Irish, unfortunately) immigrants in Môn (Anglesey) ensure there is a large unionist vote, and this battle will have to be fought again at the next election. Plaid's best result, possibly, came in Ceredigion, the seat Plaid Cymru first won in the last election in 1992. Cynog Dafis held the seat with a substantially increased majority and over 40% of the vote. The nearest Plaid came to winning a fifth seat was in Carmarthen East & Dinefwr where they increased their vote and finished 8% behind Labour. There was some disappointment at the failure to win, but it had been an uphill campaign in this seat. Over all, Plaid Cymru took about 10% of the votes in Wales, falling to make progress among the non-Welsh speaking population. The Plaid vote would have been larger were it not for the electoral system.

It is the English Labour party who are in total control in Wales, as in the rest of the state. The size of their majority means they are, in effect, an elected dictatorship, and with such power they can be expected to treat the Celts with contempt. The attitude of the new Prime Minister, Tony Blair, to Wales was shown a few days after the election, when in selecting his team of three ministers to run the Welsh Office he did not include any fluent Welsh speakers. It is the first time a government has chosen not to include a Welsh-speaker in the Welsh Office team - even the Tories kept one there until, towards the end of their reign, after the Rod Richards scandal, they had no Welsh-speakers left to put there. It is believed that Blair considered Rhodri Morgan, the Welsh-speaking MP for Cardiff West who was expected to be given the post in question, to be "too Welsh" to fit the image of the new government.

Labour's policy is to set up a Welsh parliament with limited powers, but only if such a plan is approved by the population of Wales in a referendum. Given the anglicised nature of the population living in Wales (80% unable to speak Welsh), it is highly unlikely that a referendum will favour a Welsh parliament. A similar referendum in 1979

rejected a proposal for a very weak assembly by 4 to 1. A referendum for an assembly could be won if the Labour Party threw its full strength behind it, but this is unlikely to happen as there is much reluctance and some total opposition within that party. So those of us who want to see some democratization of government in Wales are faced with a problem which the national movement will have to address in the coming months.

Robat ap Tomos

News of Wales

Post Office language policy

The (English) Post Office have issued a draft version of the Welsh language scheme which they are required to produce in accordance with the generally inadequate Welsh Language Act.

They claim to be adopting as a principle a policy of treating Welsh and English equally in Wales. The draft states that on addresses, only those Welsh names of places that have been recognised by the local authority will be given equal recognition. Bilingual postmarks will start to appear, but where bilingualism is "impracticable" they will remain in English only (postmarks in Ireland are in Irish only). A stated policy of making Welsh versions of leaflets "equally available with the English version", if implemented, would mean an end to the old custom of hiding the Welsh version under the counter.

RapT

Road Signs in Caerdydd

Caerdydd/Cardiff Council's draft Welsh language scheme states that all road signs will be bilingual. However recently erected direction signs in the capital, while showing some Welsh, leave many items untranslated. Names of districts of the city like Riverside (Glanyrafon) are in English only even though the Welsh-speaking inhabitants use the Welsh for them. And even terms like "Welsh National Tennis Centre" seem to be regarded as untranslatable. Abuses such as these show the inadequacy of the Welsh Language Act.

Carn 11

A NEW BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR WALES?



There's no doubt that 1997 is going to be quite a year in Welsh political life with both the General Election and the Devolution Referendum. A year that will hopefully see the rebirth of accountability and the flowering of a renaissance in Welsh radicalism, where Welsh people are able to see that a fairer more participative form of democracy is within their grasp.

1997 will also be something of a personal landmark for me. In October I will reach the grand 'old age' of thirty, which means that whilst I may not be past my self-by-date just yet I suppose it would be possible to describe myself and my contemporaries as examples (albeit not very good ones) of 'Thatcher's Children'. I would consider myself as someone who has always been fairly politically aware yet I can only vaguely remember the last Labour government although I do remember most vividly the disastrous devolution referendum and the ascension of the 'Prophets of Privatisation' to the Free Market Throne.

The fact that so many of my generation have for so long taken Tory rule for granted; one of those unfortunate irritations of ones' youth such as teenage acne, rampant hormones and intolerant adults; should not be forgotten. However, now as 'mature adults' there is at last a real possibility that things just might change.

The \$64,000 question is of course, will things change for the better? At our recent AGM Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg set out our demands on any future Labour administration. Following the success of our 'Cymru Newydd/New Wales' rally in November last year, which attracted over 1,000 people, we published a radical agenda that we believe is necessary to ensure the future of the Welsh language and the promotion of accountability and democracy in Welsh political life.

Our three basic demands are:

1. A new comprehensive Welsh Language Act that includes the private sector and gives the Welsh language true equal status to English in Wales. The present act is both too weak and ineffective to ensure true linguistic equality.
2. An Education Act for Wales that would establish a distinct and accountable education system in Wales. This would mean that at long last Wales no longer

meekly aped the English system but created a truly independent and distinct education system that would provide relevant education for all in Wales.

3. Last but certainly not least, a Property Act for Wales. This measure will be the focus for much of Cymdeithas' direct action campaigning during the next twelve months. We believe that only through such a radical measure will it be possible to safeguard Welsh communities and the language.

Cymdeithas realises that it would not be possible to enact all such legislation immediately. However, an incoming Labour Government could certainly demonstrate its goodwill and an open-mindedness towards such an agenda, sadly lacking during the last eighteen years of Tory misrule, by implementing the following measures within the first twelve months of its administration.

1. Direct local authorities to undertake immediate research into the housing needs of local communities – as a first step towards introducing a Property Act for Wales during its five year term of office.
2. Direct local authorities to draw up Education Plans for their counties as the first step towards an Education Act for Wales.
3. Take immediate steps towards making the education, language, housing and economic quangos answerable to democratic fora as a temporary measure until their abolition and the democratic restructuring of their functions.
4. The strengthening of the responsibilities of the proposed Welsh Assembly – which Cymdeithas views as merely the first step towards full national freedom.

All of these proposals are practical measures, none of which would require primary legislation except for that to establish the Welsh Assembly, to which the Labour Party is already committed. We await their response with interest and yes, also perhaps with just a little hope. For the sake of our unique culture and the democratic future of our country let us all pray that such hopefulness is not misplaced.

Gareth Kiff
Cadeirydd Cenedlaethol/National Chair
Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg

Better

Dear Editor

I have a comment on N. Mac Coitir's statements in "Political Correctness for Celts, The British Isles", in Carn No. 94, Summer 1996, page 20.

But first a bit of stage-setting. I live in the United States of America, a land with an amusing informal name, that is: America. America should really be considered to include both north and south continents, so any New World inhabitant could be called American. Yet it is universally accepted that America means the United States, even though the region including both continents was named after an Italian who only explored the southern continent. No one has a major problem with that, despite the shaky logic.

When Columbus arrived he thought he was in India, so he called the inhabitants Indians. Some purists say that Native Americans is more appropriate, even though this is not quite perfect either, due to the source of the name America. But almost everybody, including most Indians, is content to use the term Indian. This is also in spite of its complete lack of logic.

Both of these terms are convenient. This is a key aspect of language. People will use terms which communicate most efficiently, that is they convey the desired meaning adequately with minimum effort. We all accept this continuously in our common speech. Consider *so long*, as a parting salutation. Does that make any sense? No, but we know what is intended by it, so it works.

Therefore, the proposed term *West Europe Isles* is doomed as it is too awkward. The *Anglo-Celtic Isles* may not be 100% free from ambiguity, but it is more accurate than *Brittish Isles*, which is an insulting name. It is still a bit awkward, however. I prefer the more pompous-sounding *Celtic Archipelago*, shortened to *Celangia*.

Sincerely, le meas,
Jack Nelson.

BYE- ELECTION RESULTS

In bye-elections for Gwynedd Council Plaid Cymru kept their representation at Gerlan (Bethesda) and Hiraet (Bangor), while Labour kept Hendre (Bangor).

CJ

ÉIRE

Stádas Oifigiúil don Ghàidhlig

Ag Comhdháil biantúil CNAG (Cumunn na Gàidhlig) in Inbhirnis anraidh, rinnadh moltair ar fhorbairt na Gàidhlig mar theanga bheo, rud a chuirfeadh ar chumas na teanga bheith ina cuid lárnach de chultúr agus saol na hAlban. Bunaíodh grúpa oibre leis na moltair a mheas agus scrúdú a dhéanamh ar stádas na Gàidhlig. Is í mí na Márta i mbliana a foilsíodh an tuarascúil a chuir an grúpa oibre le chéile trídúil go leor mar a tharla go dlúid sé amach díreach roimh an Olltogháin agus an deis a bheith ag pobal na Gàidhlig tacaíocht a lorg ó na páirtithe leis an plean a chur i bhfeidhm?

Bhí trí stádas éagsúla faoi mheas ag an nGrúpa oibre, trí cinn a bhí faoi chuabhdúil cheana ó am go chéile, siad sin: (1) aitheantas oifigiúil; (2) stádas dithúil; (3) stádas oifigiúil. Glactar leis go bhfuil stádas dithúil ag an Ghàidhlig cheana sa mhéid is nach bhfuil sé i geimne an dlí bhfuil tearmaim leis an méid sin féin. Ach mar is eol dúinn is beag is fí a leibhéal de stádas le cóg a thabhairt ar mhéid na cúirte, nó ag a dhéanamh in oifig rialtais nó leis an Chomhairle Áitiúil.

"Se an bunaidhm atá ag CNAG go gcuirfí an Ghàidhlig ar chombéim dithúil leis an mBreatnais i gCymru agus go dtíofaigh fás agus forbairt ar an teanga dá bharr sin. Cuirfeadh síos ar an stádas seo mar stádas caomhnaithe, i nGàidhlig inbhe tearainte agus i mBearla *secure status*. Meastar go bhfuil dun chun cinn mór déanta i saol na Gàidhlig ó 1985 i leith, i gcúrsaí oideachais, ins na meán chumarsáide agus ins na healaíona. Tá sé tábhachtach tógáil ar a bhfuil baint amach go dtí seo sa chaoi go bhfásfaidh an Ghàidhlig ar mhóid nádúrtha féinchothaitheach ina theanga bheo. Chuirfeadh seo is gá an stádas caomhnaithe."

Aidhmeanna agus Spriocanna

Thabharfadh stádas caomhnaithe (nó stádas dearbhaite b'fhéidir, ach is giorra dá chéile na focail *caomhnaithe*) i nGaeilge

agus *tearainte* i nGàidhlig an ceart - dóthúb siúd a éilfionn é - an Ghàidhlig a úsáid go forleathan, chomh fada agus is féidir sin a dhéanamh go praiticiúil. Táthar suite de go geatfhear éascaíocht a dhéanamh don teanga seachas an éigeanas a bhfuil an oiread sin drochmheas air. Thabharfadh an stádas caomhnaithe deis do na hÚdaráis Áitiúla, do na Bóird Siad, do na heaglaisí, agus do ghrúpaí agus lucht gnó ar fud na Gáidhealtachd a gcuid seirbhísí a chur ar fáil i nGàidhlig. Maidir leis an earnáil phoiblí ní mór suíomh deamagrafach phobal na Gàidhlig in Albain na linne seo a chur san áireamh i bplean forbartha na teanga. Bheadh tréimhe áirithe sochair leis an earnáil phoiblí (ní deirtear cén fhad a bheadh i gceist) le (a) seirbhís bunúsach nGàidhlig ar fud na hAlban agus (b) seirbhís níos cuimsithe sa nGáidhealtachd a chur ar fáil.

Éilimh gearrthéarma

An reachtaroicht a bhaineann le hoideachais i nGàidhlig agus trí mheán na Gàidhlig a neartú. Leagan Gàidhlig de chaireisí áirithe oifigiúla. Cainteoir Gàidhlig mar dhuine tadhaill fostaite ag gach udaráis poiblí a fheimhíonn sa nGáidhealtachd.

San bhfadéarma

Éilítear seirbhís bhunúsach i nGáidhlig san earnáil phoiblí ar fud na hAlban; tacaíocht phoiblí don teanga i bhifigraí, i soláthar cáipéisí agus i ngach réimse eile de saol an phobail de réir mar is cuí.

Feidhmíú dréachtpholasaí CNAG

Chuirfeadh seo ní leor iarrachtal CNAG féin, cé go bhfuil an eagraíocht sístia gach dícheall a dhéanamh. Cuirfeadh breis acmhainn ar fáil don Ghriopa Oibre agus cuirfeadh é ar bhonn fochiste a mbeidh de chóram air an cás ar son stádas caomhnaithe a chur chun cinn. Déantar seo trí idir bheartaíocht agus chomphléle

heagrás agus dreamanna eile; agus bheadh dréachtú reachtaíochta ag teacht ón nGrúpa chomh maith. Airítear gur cuid rianach na den plean an reachtaíocht. Bheadh Act na Breanais (the Welsh Language Act 1993) inghlactha mar eisimpliáir don reachtaíocht a theastatíonn leis an Gháidhlig a thabhairt slán.

Táthar ag súil go nglacfaid na páirtithe polaitíochta uilig i bprionsabal le stádas caomhnaithe don Gháidhlig agus go gcuirfeadh i gcrích é le linn saoité na Parlaiminte seo. Moltar go mbunfaí Bord na Gàidhlig, ar aon dul le Bord yr Iaith Gymraeg, nó bord ar leith a d'fheileadh do rianachas phobal na Gàidhlig. Bheadh an Bord seo freagrach i bhforbairt an stádas chaomhnaithe; as cláracha agus beairtís sonraíoch chun an teanga a leathnú i gcúrsaí cultúrtha, san oideachas agus sa saol gnó, caitéir an bord a mhaoinú leis an oibar seo uilig a chur i gcrích.

Bheadh ról léranach ag na hÚdaráis áitiúla i bhfeidhmíú an pholasaí, go háirithe i gcúrsaí oideachais. 'Siad a shocratón cé mhéad argid a cuirtear ar fáil do na ranganna Gàidhlig ins na bunscóileanna agus ins na naonáir.

I ndeireadh na dála brathann sé cuid mhaith ar lucht polaitíochta le go n-éireodh le CNAG stádas ar leith a ghléadóid don Gháidhlig. Faoi léithir táthar ag bráth ar rialtas Westminster, cé go bhfuil siad ag súil go dtíofaigh athrú ar an seol seo tar éis an Olltogháin seo, agus gur i nDún Éideann a mbeidh Parlaimint na hAlban feasta. Seáil eile é céard iad na cumhachtaí a mbeidh ag an Parlaimint díchéiteach.

Níor chaill CNAG mórán ama ag cur tús leis an bheartchais stóacraicé a measc na bpolatíoirí. Laistigh de sheachtain tar éis foillís na tuarascúla, shiogh anor déag teachta Parlaimint ó gach páirt in Albain rón tacaíochta leis, nín a mhí Calum Mac Donald - T.P. nan Eilean, páirtí an Lucht Oibre. Is ar an bpartí seo is mó a mbeitear ag bráth ó tharla gur aige atá tromlach na suothain in Albainna agus seans maith go gcuirfeadh leo Lá Bealtaine.

Maidir leis an SNP bheifeadh ag súil go mbeadh an páirtí go láidir taobh thar den feachtas chun stádas ar leith a bhaint amach don Gháidhlig in Albain. Tar éis scrúdú a dhéanamh ar an gClár breá snasta toghchánaíochta a d'éisigh an páirtí, ní bhéinn iontach dóchasach. Ar éigean gurgá dom a rá nach bhfuil aon fhoicil i nGáidhlig sa 30 leathnach atá an Election Manifesto 1997 (*We can win the best for Scotland*), ach is beag trácht atá ar an teanga féin.

Sa leathnach agus trian a tugtar do chúrsaí oideachais, tá trí líne ar *Gaeilte medium education*. An corr tugtar eile a déantar don Gháidhlig luaitear C.P. (Ceartais Polaitíochta) na linne nó an é go bhfuil an Albainis anois ar chombhéim leis an nGáidhlig? Is dócha nach i nGaeilte ná na hAlban is mó atá lucht vótála an SNP. Gníothúid an páirtí breis sáthchinn Lá Bealtaine cé nach mbeidh an líon teachtaí goibhneas leis an céatáid den vóta atá aige mar gheall ar an góras toghchánach atá ar trí. Caithear an córas seo a athrú

(cont.)

Conradh Demands for New Government

At the Conradh na Gaeilge Ard Fheis, held on 9th-11th May in Portlaoise, the General Secretary, Seán Mac Mathúna, reported on a year of wide-ranging activity by the organisation and its branches played a very active role in supporting the Gaelscoileanna which were not recognised last year by the Minister for Education and in fund-raising for them. Campaigns were waged on language rights, education, mass media and the Gaeltacht. The organisation has about 200 branches in Ireland, with 20 branches overseas.

A successful year was reported for the youth organisation Ógas and for the Irish language festival, An Oireachtas, which was held in Gaoith Dobhair, in the Donegal Gaeltacht last October. The 1997 Oireachtas is to be held in Belfast from 24th Oct. to 2nd Nov. and Albert Fry (long time language activist in Cumann Chláir Ard, well known singer and President of Conradh na Gaeilge 1979-82) is the Festival President for this year. With a general election expected in weeks the Ard Fheis presented demands concerning the Irish language for the incoming government covering the areas listed below (somewhat summarised):

Status: Official recognition for Irish in the North; official recognition for Irish as a full official and working language in the EU; no diminution of the status of Irish in the Constitution; that the European Council Charter for Regional and Minority Languages be signed with a special protocol for Irish.

Language Rights: A Bill of Rights for Irish which would give practical implementation to its Constitutional status; an Ombudsman for Irish; bilingual forms and leaflets for all government and state functions; implementation of the law regarding Irish on road signs; an active policy on cultural and linguistic tourism.

Education: An effective policy to teach Irish as an attractive modern language at all levels in the educational system; equitable rules for recognition of new Irish medium schools to facilitate their expansion; a separate Education Board for Irish Language and Gaeltacht schools; a third level Irish language institution; specific requirements for services in Irish for all third level institutions.

An Ghaeltacht: More resources for infrastructural development; Government



Seán Mac Mathúna

and Public bodies to ensure services through Irish for Gaeltacht communities; state support for job creation in the Gaeltacht; increased state support for Gaeltacht cooperatives; linguistic matters to be considered in planning applications in the Gaeltacht.

Mass Media: Ensure reception of Teilifís na Gaeilge over the whole country and control by the Board of TnaG of the broadcasting channel used; use of quotas to ensure local radio stations covering Gaeltacht areas produce a broad range of Irish programmes; use of quotas to ensure adequate range of Irish programmes on all radio and television stations; the setting up of a national Irish language radio station for young people.

The Belfast journalist, Gearóid Ó Carraillín, was re-elected, unopposed, as Uachtarán (President) for the coming year.

Sinn Féin Gains in Election

If the polls predicted a large Labour win in the British General Election few were prepared to predict the outcome of that election in some constituencies in the North of Ireland. Some tried to influence the result viz. Irish Taoiseach, John Bruton, stating to the Northern electorate that a vote for Sinn Féin was a vote for violence. In the event Sinn Féin held its share of the vote at 16%. It also gained two seats with Gerry Adams winning the West Belfast seat back from the SDLP's Joe Hendron and Martin McGuinness taking the Mid Ulster seat from DUP vitriolic pastor Rev. Willie McCrea. Gerry Adams won his seat with 56% of the votes and a majority of almost 8,000. In Mid Ulster Martin McGuinness's

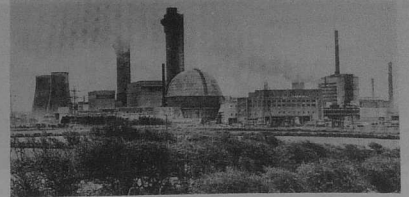


Martin McGuinness

margin was smaller, only about 1,800, but the victory was savoured even more if anything in ousting McCrea from the seat which he held in a constituency with a large nationalist majority due to previous split voting on the nationalist side.

The election of Adams and McGuinness and the holding of the Sinn Féin vote was seen as a boost for their stature within the Republican movement and as a message to all that Sinn Féin must be allowed to enter all party talks. With the arrival of a new Labour Prime Minister, Tony Blair, in Westminster and his appointment of Moe Mowlam as Northern Secretary of State there is some optimism that progress can be made in the area of making clear what process must be followed and guarantees put in place, to achieve this and the necessary second IRA cease-fire. Let us hope that Blair's government will be proactive and not squander chances and goodwill as did John Major.

In the local elections Sinn Féin fared even better, increasing their vote by 5%, with an overall gain of 23 seats. They now hold 13 seats on Belfast City Council (as against one in 1983) and for the first time ever the unionist parties have lost control of the council.



Sellafield's Wider Danger

The people of the Irish sea area are well used to pollution alerts and breaches of good safety practice by the Sellafield reprocessing plant. They also face the added danger from the large number of other British nuclear plants which surround the region.

This weeks news that pollution from Sellafield is increasing in parts of the Arctic region give an added impetus to our work of opposition to the plant. European Regional concerns about the nuclear menace are sure to be sharpened by this latest revelation. We, along with other Sellafield opposition groups, should harness these concerns to build a truly global strategy of opposition to the plant.

In the past ten years the Irish and Manx governments have cooperated in their policy of opposition to Sellafield and it is really via these governments that is significant progress will be made. The two "anti-Sellafield partners" should be actively

canvassing the Canadian, Soviet, Icelandic and Nordic governments to join in a combined campaign against the British government and BNFL.

BNFL is "laughing" at the environmental groups and it is contemptuous of the derisory fines imposed upon it for safety breaches by the British Courts. For the first time in a decade pollution levels are up and the Irish sea, always under threat, now faces its greatest danger as BNFL push to have discharge levels further relaxed.

The new evidence from Canada indicates that we do not face this new threat alone. If the governments in those countries (Canada, Iceland, Norway, and the Soviet Union etc.) which ring the Arctic ignore what is happening at Sellafield today they will regret it in years to come.

Sellafield is like a "creeping Chernobyl". Its pollution now poses a threat to the whole northern hemisphere.

J.B. Moffatt

agus ionadafocht cionmbar de chineál éigin a chur ina áit. Is cinnte go bhfuil athruithe móra in ann d'Alabain ins na blianta le teacht. Cibé rud a tharlós feicfidh CNAG agus pobal na Gáidhlig chaithe go mbeidh stádas ceart ag an teanga i saol na tíre.

Plastic Bullets Abuse

Brid Heussaff

The Celtic League has protested to the Northern Ireland Office following an incident in Lurgan, Co. Armagh when a plastic bullet was fired into the face of a thirteen year old child. Last August the Celtic League's Annual General Meeting, in Lorient, Brittany, condemned the continued use of the weapons.

The Celtic League have also written to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child pointing out that plastic bullets have killed seven children in the north of Ireland and maimed countless more. The Commission of Enquiry by US Senator George Mitchell queried the wisdom of continuing to use the weapons. There is evidence, documented by the Irish National Caucus, that British Security Forces have deliberately misused the special guns which discharge the rounds, this would seem to be what happened in the latest incident.

The British government has so far ignored calls to ban the weapon.

Bernard Moffatt

Detainees beaten again

The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) have agreed to consider a strong complaint submitted by the Celtic League following the beating of a number of civilians arrested in the South Armagh area on 10 April. Three of those arrested have since been charged with terrorist offences and IRA membership. There is no doubt excessive force was used at the time of the arrests as some of the men required hospital treatment and the arrest site was described by eye witnesses after the event as 'being like a butcher's yard'.

The League protested to the N. Ireland Office, the CPT and also wrote to all EU Embassies, the US Embassies in London and Dublin and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture.

B. Moffatt

Letter

Dear Editor,

I write with reference to **Carn 96** (Winter 96) and particularly about the article by John Garton on p. 15 about Roger Casement. The content is a bit superficial and some of the assertions are a bit astray.

1. RC's family does in fact come from Man, in fact from what is now West Kella by Sulby in Lezayre. Then it would have been the Kella (East Kella being known as Balnahouin).
2. The Casement's farmed the Kella (= 'farm of/by the wood' *G. Baile na Coille*) for generations, and a section of them went over to the Grange. In 1749 Ewan Casement of the Kella sold up in July of that year for £265, and went to live with his wife in Ballisillery, Co. Antrim - his wife came from there, and EC was already living there when he sold up in Lezayre. He left probably because his wife wanted to go back home.

3. RC's family tree (from the time EC left Man down to RC himself) can be found in the family history society's archive in Athol St. Peel.

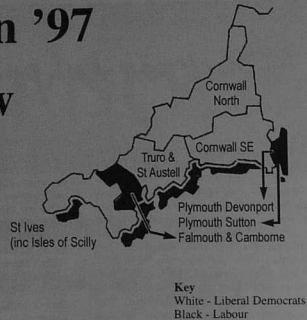
4. I am in fact related to RC via my family in Man through the Casements of the Grange. Casements of Raymotors, Ramsey, are also relatives of mine.

5. RC was apparently pro-German and was well in with the German Celticists Kuno Meyer and Julius Pokorny (actually Austrian), particularly the latter. RC is on record as saying that rather than an Irish Republic, he would like to see the son of Kaiser Wilhelm II (the last German Kaiser, as it turned out) set up as the 'King of Ireland'. A book on the activities of German Celticists for the Irish cause is shortly to be published here in German.

Best Wishes
Dr George Broderick

Carn 15

Election '97 Kernow



In Kernow there were two elections on 1 May, the UK general election and the Cornwall Council Election. In the general election Mebyon Kernow put up candidates in four out of the five Cornish Constituencies. In the St Ives Constituency Mebyon Kernow endorsed officially, former MK and CL member, Andrew George. This is the first time that MK have entered into a UK general election since 1979 when only three seats were contested. Also in the Cornwall Council election MK entered 13 official candidates plus a number of others who are MK members yet preferred to stand as independents.

In the area covering the South East Cornwall constituency KM had 5 candidates compared with the Conservative and Unionist Party's 3 candidates. The General Election results were as follows:

St Ives (which includes the Isles of Scilly)
Michael Faulkner (Ref) 3,714 (6.8%)
Chris Fogan (Lab) 8,184 (15.1%)
Patricia Garner (UKIP) 567 (1.0%)
Andrew George (Lib Dem) 23,966 (44.4%)
William Hiches (BHMBCM) 71 (.1%)
Kevin Lippiatt (R Alt) 178 (0.3%)
William Rogers (Con & Unionist) 16,796 (31.1%)
Graham Stephens (Lib) 425 (0.7%)
Maj. 7,170

FALMOUTH CAMBORNE
Seb Coe (Con & Unionist) 15,463 (28.7%)
Candy Atherton (Lab) 18,151 (33.7%)
Terry Jones (Lib Dem) 13,512 (25.1%)
Ruth Lewarne (MK) 592 (1.1%)
Peter de Savery (Ref) 3,534 (6.5%)
Jim Geach (Ind Lab) 1,791 (3.3%)
Garry Glitter (Loony) 161 (0.2%)
Paul Homes (Lib) 527 (1.0%)

TRURO & ST AUSTELL
Neil Babcock (Con & Unionist) 15,001 (26.4%)
Peter Boland (NLP) 117 (0.2%)
Michael Dooley (Lab) 8,697 (15.3%)
Alan Hautwaite (UKIP) 576 (1.0%)

Martyn Miller

Political Correctness for Celts

'Little Britain'

'An Bhreatainn Bheag' in Ireland; 'An Bhreatainn Bhig' in Scotland. Two almost identical terms, both meaning 'Little Britain'. But in Ireland the term refers to Wales, while in Scotland it refers to Brittany! Surely Inter-Celtic understanding is not helped if one group of Gaelic speakers thinks another group is talking about the wrong country!

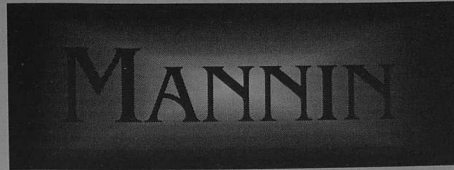
How did this confusion arise? In Dineen's Irish dictionary, printed in 1927, the English for 'An Bhreatainn Bheag' is: 'Armorica, now *alternately* Wales'. So up to that date at least the Irish agreed with the Scots that 'Little Britain' referred primarily to Armorica or Brittany. This makes sense historically, as Brittany was the 'Little Britain' formed from British Celts fleeing the Saxons.

But why had the Irish begun to use it for Wales? It seems to be a combination of two things. Firstly, the name 'An Bhreatainn' was coined at some recent point to refer to Brittany, leaving 'An Bhreatainn Bheag' redundant. Secondly, the traditional name for Wales was the same as that for Britain ie 'An Bhreatainn' (Manx today still has 'Bretn' for Wales). Today 'Breatainn' still means a Welsh person and 'Breatainn' their language (literally 'Briton' and 'British'). The Irish obviously decided that 'An Bhreatainn Bheag' would do nicely to describe just Wales now that 'An Bhreatainn' was used instead for Brittany. It no doubt also seemed to complement 'An Bhreatainn Mhór', or Great Britain.

But not only is 'An Bhreatainn Bheag' meaning Wales unhistorical and confusing, it is quite possibly offensive as well.

I think it is obvious that we Irish should abandon 'An Bhreatainn Bheag' in favour of a better name. The Scots already have 'An Chumrigh', a lovely Gaelic form of 'Cymru'. I believe we should follow their example by using 'An Chumrigh' as the Irish form (to avoid mispronouncing 'Cymru'). We do not have to adopt 'Cumrach' and 'Cumrais' instead of 'Breatainn' and 'Breatainnis', anymore than we have to call Irish 'Eireannais' or English 'Sasanais'. Perhaps also the Scots could consider adopting 'An Bhriotain' for Brittany (the Manx already have 'Yn Vritain') as the Bretons might feel it more appropriate nowadays than 'Little Britain'. Then 'Little Britain' with all its confusions could be allowed to fade into history, where it probably should belong.

Niall Mac Coitir



Yn Chynskyl-Eiraght

Paart dy vleeantyn er dy henney, va sleih ayns Carnac sy Vritaan goail yindys moghrey dy row. Ren ad doostey dy 'eddyn dy row ny moar-chlaghyn ard-ghoosht (famous megaliths) ee Carnac cruimit mygeayrl lesh faalyn-streng. Cha dod sleih shooyl faggys da ny shenn chlaghyn araghy. Va cummaltee Charnac corree. Quo va er nyanno yn aqum shoh?

V'eh jeant ee reilys y Rank dy firringh. Dooyrt sleih sy reilys shen nagh row ad agh coodey ny claghyn veih'n they. She tashtey yindysaghy va yn claghyn as begin da'n reilys jannooshy chikyr nagh row rittanyn jannooshy assee daue. Agh ren cummaltee Carnac briaght cre'n fa nagh row dy reilys cur faalyn-streng mygeayrt ny keeadyn dy voar-chlaghyn eley nagh row ee Carnac hene. Cha dod y reilys cur freggyt kiart.

Fy yerrey, hooar cummaltee Charnac magh dy row claare-obbtie follil ee y reilys. Marshl lugh-dellal, 'ad gearree troggal park-hashtee (theme park) ee Carnac. Ta millioon dy 'leth cheet lesh shillee er ny moar-chlaghyn gagh blein as ta argid ry-chosney assee daue. As red beg elley, dooyrt y reilys as y lugh-dellal, shagin dooin stroie balley beg cheerye dy broggal y phark-hashtee. Mannagh vees cummaltee y valley beg cheerye arylaghy dy gharraghey, bee ny thieyn oc kionnt er egin.

Myr smooingh oo, cha nel y sleih sy valley beg cheerye row wooingh mychione shoh. Dy Jarroo, un ven er y chooid sloo, t'ish er ghra nagh bee ish gharraghey noodyr. Foddee dy jean ee gharraghey as ish ny corp marroo, t'ee gra. Myr shen, t'eh jeaghyng dy bee boirey dy liooar cheet dys Carnac kyndaghy rish yn chynskyl-eiraght (heritage industry).

Haink lioar amaasagh magh er y ghernd mychione yn chynskyl-eiraght. T'eh ennyssit 'The Heritage Crusade and the

Spoils of History', Iorish David Lowenthal (Clou Viking). Ta'n ughtar gra nagh vel eiraght as shennaghy yn un red. Dy Jarroo, t'eh goll foddey ny sodje na shen. My t'ou gobbraghey son 'eiraght', t'eh gra, shagin dhyt l'heamyssey shennaghy (deform history). Eiraght, shen creidjey sy tra hie shaghey. Shagin dhyt ve biaghlagh da'n chredjey shen, as cha lhiass dhyt ve shirrey yn 'irinnee.

Ta shennaghy goll er screu ocsyn hooar laue yn eaghthyr. Agh, coordail rish Lowenthal, ta eiraght l'heusyn ren coayl y caggey, ta shen dy ghra, ny urallee (victims). Paart jeusyn ta cheet veih sleih hooar laue yn eaghthyr, bare l'neue ve marsh ny urallee. My t'ou Americanaagh, Frangagh ny Sostagh, t'ou ayns fema jeh red enghagh ta ee sleih ren coayl y caggey. Ta Lowenthal screu mychione ben-ynsee voish Paris ta gaccan er y fa nagh vel Britaannah eck. Kyndaghy rish shen, ta trimshy uree as t'ee gra 'Cha nel chengey aym, cha nel cultoo aym'. Fer Oarpaghy elley, by vie lesh ve goll rish ny Injinee Americanaagh.

Son shickyr, shimme keayrt ta 'eiraght' curri da sleih ta heese, goll rish y chooid smoo jeh ny Celtice. As, dy Jarroo, t'ish shen, by vie lesh ve goll rish ny Injinee Americanaagh. Son shickyr, shimme keayrt ta 'eiraght' curri da sleih ta heese, goll rish y chooid smoo jeh ny Celtice. As, dy Jarroo, t'ish shen, by vie lesh ve goll rish ny Injinee Americanaagh. Son shickyr, shimme keayrt ta 'eiraght' curri da sleih ta heese, goll rish y chooid smoo jeh ny Celtice. As, dy Jarroo, t'ish shen, by vie lesh ve goll rish ny Injinee Americanaagh.

Er l'ham dy vel eh scanshool dy vel lioar Lowenthal er jeet rish. Shoh y chieed cheerye ta mish er nakin y l'heid screut sheese. Stoo goll rish 'ta eiraght croo

cooinaghtyn as jannooshy neu-neeche jeh feeridyn neu-enechaghy ('heritage invents memories and excludes inconvenient facts'). As 'Jarroo ny ta cur yn oik ortin, shen cadjin as ymmirghaghe yn un cheayrt' ('Forgetting what displeases us is not only normal but necessary'). Ta ny Celtice toggal shoh feer vie!

Shinyn ta streu dy choodey as biaghlaghy ny cultooyn ain, ta shen toggal y dia raad: raad yn 'eiraght' as raad y scoillaght. Raad yn eiraght curri da l'hoobey 'yn 'irrinney' beggan (ny ram) as raad y scoillaght curri da'n irrinney. Agh ny keayrtyn cha nel eh baghail dy vel daa raad aym. Ny keayrtyn ta'n daa raad cheet ry-cheillee as ta arganys aym. 'Yn 'irrinney' - c' red t'eh?

Ayns The Tashtey yn Antrapoylleaght ayns Vancouver, ta fogrey mie va screut ee dooinney dooghysaghy: 'My t'ou l'acal freayll eiraght, shagin dhyt croo'. Ta mish credjal shen, choold' nagh vel shen l'hoobey shennaghy rouyr. Shagin dooin goail ny jeelmyn as croo, croo, croo. Shagin dooin cur oosheyle da'n chendmaght, agh ee y tra cheddin shagin dooin croo seillil noa lesh y chengey as y kiuall, goail ymyyd jeh gagh red, shen as noa, ta mygeayrt y mooin. Cha nodmayd aa-voghiey y seihll myr v'eh ayns ny shenn laghyn (Cre ny shenn laghyn t'ou loayrt mychione).

Un red ta shickyr ayns Baarle, ta'n foekle 'eiraght' er jeet dy ve sollagh Ayns Sostyn, myr sampleyr, ta Shrivetsaghy yn Eiraght dellal rish y cronghyr. As ayns Mannin, by vie lesh Undinys Eiraght Vannin caghlaa yn ennym echee. Agh ta oyr elley aym dy chaghlal yn ennym. Ny deimey moorey ayns y Tashtey ta reil harrish Mannin, t'ad smooingh dy vel Undinys Eiraght Vannin yn un red as Eiraght Aashoogh Vannin. Cha nel ad toogal yn oyr dy vel yn Undinys geddyn argid eeche veih'n reilys tra ta Eiraght Aashoogh Vannin geddyn millioonyn hannah. Yee, sae shun oolley.

Oriee Crennell

A useful book analysing the world-wide heritage industry has been published. It points out that, by its nature, 'heritage' involves invention. Call it creation and things are not too bad.

From the Editor

For various reasons some articles submitted for this issue have not been published. I hope contributors will bear with me, if you have not heard otherwise, the articles will be carried at a later date.

Mec Vannin News

Annual General Meeting

Mec Vannin, the Manx Nationalist Party, held its AGM on 30 April. The following officers were elected:

Chairman/PRO: Mark Kermode
 Asst. Chair: Bernard Moffatt
 Secretary: Paul Kelly
 Treasurer: Jackie McVerry
 Int. Relations: William Costain
 Cultural: Phil Gawne
 Editor: Greg Joughin
 Youth: Wendy Hurst

The following resolutions were adopted:
 This AGM: "reiterates its policy commitment that a careful balance between population, infrastructure and environment must be maintained to ensure the long term viability of the Island's economy, ecology and quality of life - and - deplores the recent attempts by estate agents and developers to further de-stabilise the Island's population"

This AGM: "aware of recent figures which indicate the Manx indigenous population is in a minority - reminds the Isle of Man government of its adoption in May 1969 of the Genocide (Isle of Man) Act"

Note: The Schedule to the above act cites specifically ARTICLE II (c) of the GENOCIDE CONVENTION.

In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts... (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part.

This AGM: Reiterates the commitment of Mec Vannin to the furtherance of a sovereign Manx Nation

This AGM: Congratulates the Isle of Man government over its continued support for the Manx language in schools and particularly urges continued support for the GSCCE equivalent to be introduced in the Autumn term of this year.

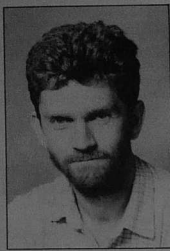
The Party agreed to devote most of its energies to fighting the threat of renewed immigration which it claimed is being 'aggressively promoted'.

In a press statement they warn that a nationalist backlash would be inevitable if the Manx people face the threat of becoming an increasing minority yet again.

Assistant Chairman Bernard Moffatt said untrammelled development and uncontrolled immigration are 'probably the two most controversial aspects of the modern Manx economic miracle'.

He warned: "The signs indicate the Manx Government seems set on increasing overall population as part of the vehicle for continued 'growth'."

"To service this anticipated influx, the construction and estate agency sector would like to see more land "freed" for development to hold down increased housing costs.



Chairman, Mark Kermode

"This "Isle of Man ple for sale" initiative coincides with the announcement that the Manx people are once again hovering on the edge of becoming an increasing minority in their own land.

Mr Moffatt said that, despite warnings, successive governments have been unable to break the 'dangerous cycle' of uncontrolled development and immigration.

"It is hardly surprising, he said, "As undoubtedly there are those who have reaped disproportionate benefits from development, particularly on the construction side, where properties have long seemed suspiciously overpriced.

"Given events in the 1970s with the campaign by Fo Haloo (Manx Underground) and the more recent FSFO campaign, the government and those misguided commercial elements invite a reaction which seems inevitable.

Mr Moffatt said that the last wave of discontentment was sparked by protests over what he described as "economic and environmental vandalism" coupled with a concern that the Manx language and culture would be submerged.

But he said the government reacted at the time and many positive developments resulted.

However, he warned: "Should, however, this new administration cave in to greedy elements who seek untrammelled development these concessions to the Island's social and cultural heritage will be exposed as simply 'beads and trinkets to appease the natives'."

In recent years the Manx government and Tynwald has exhibited a decidedly nationalist hue.

"Should that nationalism simply be a veneer of convenience they should be aware that there are still true nationalists watching and waiting."

Yn Ghaelg

Summer Courses in Manx Gaelic 1997

The courses are meant for those interested in learning the native language of the Isle of Man. The 1997 courses will be slanted towards those who already have some knowledge of Manx, but committed beginners will be able to cope.

The spoken language will be stressed, but grammar will be presented in some detail. The language of instruction will be English with Manx Gaelic being used wherever possible. There will be opportunities to experience other aspects of Manx culture, such as the music and songs.

There will be two five-day courses, held in the Manx Museum, Douglas:

Course A: Monday 28th July until Friday 1st August 1997.

Course B: Monday 4th August until Friday 8th August 1997.

Course B will be slightly more advanced than Course A, but you can take either Course A or Course B on their own (Course fee £10), or Course A followed by B (Course fee £15). Cheques payable to 'Isle of Man Government'.

Information on travel and accommodation is available from Dr. Brian Stowell, 16 Hilary Road, Douglas, Isle of Man IM2 3EG, British Isles.

e-mail: bstowell@mcib.net



Isle of Music '97 Festival

4-7 July at Peel Castle

An exceptional gathering of Celtic Artists including:

Capercaille, Sharon Shannon, Carlos Núñez, Sínead Lohan, Emma Christian, Christine Collister, Shooigenifry, La Bottine Souriante, Salsa Celtaica and many, many more.

Contact: P.O. Box 45, Ramsey, Isle of Man. IM99 4HW.

Tel: 0324 706050; Fax: 01 878 7511

Thie Vanannan/House of Manannan

Official Opening

When the President of Ireland, Mary Robinson, officially opens the new £5.75 million cultural Centre in Peel for the Manx people in July it will be almost fifty years since an earlier prominent personality of the Irish Republic paid an equally important visit to Mann.

In July 1947 De Valera, then in opposition, visited Mann and on learning of the critical decline in Manx Gaelic co-operated, when in power again as Taoiseach, by providing equipment and resources for Yn Cheshaghil Ghaillkagh to commence recording the last native speakers. The joint action undoubtedly saved the Manx spoken word from virtual extinction.

It is fitting that the President of Ireland was asked to open the new centre. Manx-Irish links in language, culture and purpose continue to be strong.

However reliable reports have been received that the Manx language is all but ignored at the new Heritage Centre. This follows the general trend of the Manx National Museum organisation to play down the significance of the most distinctive and enduring elements of our heritage and culture. When compared to heritage sites in



Ned Maddrell (centre left) with Taoiseach Eamon de Valera (centre right) outside Harry Kelly's Cottage, Creaghass, July 1947.

other Celtic countries, it is positively embarrassing. This could also prove to be a colossal embarrassment to the organisers, considering Mary Robinson's commitment

to the Irish language on her inauguration, surely on accepting the invitation she will be aware of De Valera's visit and its significance for the Manx language.

British Loan Manx the "Stolen" Chronicles

Pride of place in the exhibits at the new Heritage Centre, Thie Vanannan, will be the mediaeval Latin text *The Chronicles*. In securing its "loan" from the British Library the Manx Museum have ensured no embarrassing demonstrations mar the opening. Nationalists however will continue to campaign for the circumstances surrounding its "theft" by the English to be resolved.

The mediaeval Latin text known as the "Chronicles of the Kings of Man and the Isles" is of singular importance to Manx history, being the oldest written record of the Norse-Gaelic period.

The news of its loan to the Manx Museum and National Trust by the British Library indicates astute political manoeuvring by the Manx Museum and its Director Stephen Harnson.

The loan by the British Library is however just that - a loan. No time limit has been indicated and one can only hope that the loan will be of extended or indefinite duration. It will however at some stage end, and then the issue of the Chronicles and their ownership will again surface.

This is no "Elgin Marbles" issue. The Chronicles are, in terms of the British Library collection, insignificant. However they are of key importance in the Manx historical context. The Isle of Man and the United Kingdom enjoy good relations, have



Mary Robinson, President of Ireland

a shared head of State, and unless independence manifests itself this will remain unchanged. In these circumstances it should not have been beyond the wit of politicians and our cultural guardians to reach a settlement with the British Government and British Library.

The loan of the Chronicles is good news in the short term. In the long term, if the issue remains in contention, all Manx interest groups should work to ensure their permanent return.

J.B. Moffatt

Breton not Brittaneg mar plij!

We are a small group of people who are interested in studying Breton in London. There are only six of us so far but we hope to grow and have received the support of LACE the London Association for Celtic Education. Our aim is eventually to re-establish a regular Breton class the last one ended in 1988. We also hope to form an Anglophone - Breton Society. English is undoubtedly the world language and so access to Breton via English can only be of benefit. Many of us don't speak French thus we are de facto "monoglot" Breton speakers when in France. A flourishing Welsh-Breton Society exists, their contact address is Andrew Currie, 4 Meadow Close, Hirwaun, CF44 9QX.

Breton is thriving on the Internet too, including free lessons created by Saobhal Mor Ostaigh and a free Magazine emailed to your home. The new technology enables us to be Celtic anywhere so let's use it. If you are interested in studying Breton or practising your spoken Breton please do contact me at the address given. If you know of native Breton speakers in London please put them in touch.

Petroc ap Seisyllt, Glas y Dorlan, 97 Breakspears Rd, Brockley, SE 4 1TY, England. mjik@doc.ic.ac.uk

CELTICA

Relations with Galicia

The question as to why Galicia is not recognised by the Celtic League as a Celtic country has been raised by some of our members and subscribers to *Carn*. I believe our position should be stated again.

The Galicians who correspond with us whom we have met in their country always maintain that their people are Celts. Generally however they have declined to join this organisation unless they could constitute a duly recognised national branch of it.

A request was made in the mid-eighties for the admission of a Galician branch and an Asturian branch with associated status. After discussion at our 1986 and 1987 AGMs a resolution, published in the following issue of *Carn* (Nr 59), was adopted which recognised that in the two areas not only did "vestiges of Celtic influence remain" but that "some people still consider themselves Celts". We therefore expressed friendship with them and wished "to encourage them in their efforts to develop the Celtic elements in their heritage". However we reiterated firmly that "the Celtic League has a specific function within Celtia, i.e. to work for the reinstatement of our languages to a viable position". "By putting the emphasis on the Celtic languages we could claim recognition as 'distinct cultural communities', as 'distinct nations'..." "This special function must remain undiluted". Evidence of it is provided by the numerous expressions of support for our language movements to be found yearly in our AGM resolutions which are communicated to the authorities concerned, also by the place given to articles in and about these languages in *Carn* and by the first article in the Celtic League constitution. This leaves no doubt about where we stand in relation to the Celtic language of each of our member countries, unlike many of our national or autonomist

parties which shily relegate them to the bottom of their programmes.

We added that we considered it would be inappropriate and condescending to offer a limited status to Galicia and the Asturias, but that individual membership of the International Branch was appropriate.

Having restated our position, I would like to offer a few reflections for the attention of our members. They commit nobody but myself. When we say that we are Celtic peoples or Celtic nations, we don't ignore the fact that the Celtic languages, which have at least two dozens of common grammatical characteristics distinguishing them from other language groups (see *Celtic, a comparative study*, D.B. Gregor, The Olear Press, 1980), are spoken by only small percentages of our populations and that they have not been spoken for several centuries in parts of some of our countries. But nevertheless there is good evidence that significant numbers of our compatriots, no matter where they live, value them as characteristics of their nationality or collective identity and are favourable to the struggle for their survival. We advocate their use in every part of our countries.

Sympathy and even support for our aims comes from people in several other European and American countries and also from Japan and Australia. In Europe this is not confined to members of minorities, it is also expressed by people belonging to large linguistic groups such as the Dutch and Flemings, the Germans, the Catalans. There exists now in the European Union a current in favour of recognising the rights of ethnic/linguistic minorities but it needs to be strengthened in order to be translated into really effective means of ensuring cultural freedom for all. To that end, we need friends ready to canvass support for our aspirations among their elected representatives so as to bear pressure on

those who want to assimilate us. I would hope that our call for support would find particular resonance in countries where the ancient Celts have left their mark or an awareness of the contribution made by them to their history and traditions.

This is the case in Galicia and Asturias, though their languages are derived from Latin. The Galicians point to the fact that their country was inhabited in pre-Roman times by Celtic tribes such as the Artabri and that, as in the Breton peninsula, the Celtic substratum was reinforced by immigrants from Britain in the 5th/6th centuries. I don't know if it is possible to say whether Celtic survived there during the Roman occupation, or how long the Brittonic language continued to be spoken after the seventh century in the diocese of Santa Maria de Bretóna (as far as I am aware it has left hardly any vestige of its use in Galician place-names so that it can be assumed that the immigration from Britain was numerically not as strong as in the greater part of Brittany).

Still the Celtic elements in the Galician culture are particularly noticeable in the field of music. Attending a performance in Dublin by a Galician ballet company I found that several of the tunes were similar in their modes to those of Breton ones which I consider as Celtic, being quite distinct from typical French airs. The lively manner in which Galician pipe music is played reminds me of the *Soneter Du or Diaouled ar Menez* in Brittany. Galicians participate every year in the Lorent Interceltic Festival and Bretons (like Irish musicians) in turn take part in the corresponding Corunha Celtic Festival. I don't think much of the Lorent event as a Celtic thing, given the insignificant role allocated in it to the Breton language as well as its touristic character but it has given the impetus to the creation of musical works of great quality by the like of Sivell and Shaun Davy.

A Galician committee was launched last December in the village of Santa Maria de Bretóna near Mondonedo. Its founders have for some time published a 16 page quarterly in Galician "*Galiza-Breizh, 5 and Nr 6* give prominence to information about the Breton movement, the historical relations between the two countries, how to learn Breton, publicity for records of Celtic music or conferences on Celtic matters. It announces the setting up of a Liga Celta Galiza with the aim of campaigning for Galician national emancipation and reference to Celtic roots, traditions and cultural values among which they mention the solidarity between persons of the Galiza-Breizh committee, Anxo Abellán, was appointed to liaise with the Celtic League and see how a cooperation between the two organisations could be developed. There is no doubt that good will is not lacking on their part. I suggest it is up to us to discuss with them how we can reciprocate.

Alan Heusaff

THE BASQUES:

Their Struggle for Independence

by Luis Nunez Astrain, trans. by Meic Stephens with an introduction by Ned Thomas, Welsh Academic Press, £12.95 (1995) ISBN 186057 0186

This is an excellent introduction to the heroic struggle of the Basques to preserve their identity and achieve independence. In his introduction Astrain remarks that the first and last chapters are the 'essential reading' but it would be a shame if any reader were to miss out the intervening seven chapters.

One of the many strengths of the book is the many figures with which it abounds. These will enable readers to make comparisons, formulate ideas and draw conclusions of their own. In allowing readers to participate in this way the author is to be congratulated; it's thoroughly democratic! The figures relating to language are most interesting. In chapter two we learn that of the 2,873,512 inhabitants of the Basque country, some 681,630 (23.7%) speak the language. There are wide variations - from the 9.3% (25,300) of Alava to the 64.5% (18,897) of Basse Navarre. The decline is mapped for us in chapter five, where there are seven maps. Rather worryingly, only 58.3% of Basque speaking families use the language at home, 44% of them with friends and only 37% at work. Another survey indicates that half of Basque speakers are more at home in either Spanish or French. A more hopeful sign is that 22.2% of children are receiving their education largely through Basque - and a further 19.5% partly through it (and 48.4% in the autonomous region). It is to be hoped that the Basques will not follow the Irish mistake by putting all the responsibility onto the children.

Elsewhere in the book we learn that only a third of the population are ethnically Basque, a third of the population are migrants from other parts of the Iberian peninsula while a further third are the children of these. The author prefers to tell us this with the phrase: 'the Basque population can be divided into three parts, according to its geographical origins.' These figures ought to set Celts thinking - especially when it is borne in mind that many of us are, one way or the other, minorities in our own countries. One often sees it written that the non-Basque population strongly identify with their

adopted home yet what does this mean? Set against the language figures of 23.7% it can be deduced that around two thirds of the ethnic Basques retain their language (unless the immigrants have switched language on a large scale - which I doubt, drawing upon analogies nearer home). The various nationalist parties poll 51.7% of the vote (55.8%) south of the Pyrenees, 8.3% north of them) or around 620,000 votes. These numbers must be related to the strength of the language - although no figures are presented on this. However, Herri Batasuna have their stronghold in Guipuzcoa (45.8% Basque speaking), the PNV in Vizcaya (18.4% Basque speaking) while the Spanish PSOE (socialist) are dominant in Alava (only 9.3% Basque speaking). This might be compared to the situation in Wales where Welsh speakers are far more likely to vote nationalist than English speakers. This is one among a number of Welsh parallels missed by the author and which added together could have made a rather interesting chapter. Instead, he chooses to draw Irish parallels.

While concerned essentially with the contemporary struggle the book does delve into history (chapter 5). Among the more interesting facets of this is the Basque part in the Carlist wars of 1833-39 and 1872-76, which saw the Basques running a state of their own for the first time since the conquest and partition of Navarre in 1512 - a date close in time to the annexations of Wales and Brittany.

The Irish-Basque parallels make interesting reading. Significantly, Herri Batasuna - who are often likened to Sinn Féin - are the strongest nationalist party in Navarre - which was excluded from the Home Rule agreement... The fundamentally anti-democratic nature of partition, the repression and state directed terrorism are all issues which unite the experiences of Basque and Irish yet the chapter is spoilt by an attitude summed up by the phrase: 'In both countries the (Catholic) Church tends to favour the oppressor... with whom it largely agrees.' That is utter nonsense. While generally stopping short of support for violence the church has been the great guardian of Irish

nationality since the Reformation. What about the 200 priests who attended the Sinn Féin convention of 1918? What about those 278 Basque priests and 125 monks who were imprisoned or deported to other parts of Spain by Franco - or the 16 whom he put to death? What about those elderly priests who were sentenced to twenty year long prison sentences - which they had no chance of surviving? As with Irish patriots Basque patriots have, historically, seen no conflict in their love for their country and love of the Church. Of this we hear nothing.

The strong communal and egalitarian spirit of the Basques is another theme (chapter 8). We learn that 20% of the population are employed by the famous Mondragon co-operative. This is one of the many illustrations of grass-roots inspired initiatives; another one is the Movement of Basque Speaking Districts, established in 1989. Currently numbering twenty District councils (9 in Guipuzcoa, 8 in Vizcaya and three in Navarra, all of which are 80% or more Basque speaking, the aim of the movement is to draw into all 100 solidly Basque speaking districts, which have combined population of 100,000. Further aims include an insistence on using Basque in official communications and the appointment of Basque speakers to posts as doctors, police, bank clerks and shop assistants. The result will be the 'normalisation of the language in a small part of the country'. This all calls to mind developments in Wales.

Another theme is the disgraceful behaviour of successive Spanish governments - not Franco's with which we are all familiar - but with democratically elected ones. It says something for the health of Spanish socialism when its government has been involved in a shoot to kill policy against Basque patriots. We read in horror at the torture and murder perpetrated by the forces of law and order in democratic Spain. For the period 1982-89 484 cases of torture were reported. There are around 500 Basque political prisoners in Spain and 50 in France. The shoot to kill policy is examined: 25 names with dates and locations of their murder are listed by the author. The deportation of Basques refugees from France to various destinations in the Third World are detailed. Covert operations by Right Wing extremists in collusion with the police are explored - activities which include the most heinous of all crimes the rape of women. In 1991 the police broke up 172 protests and 120 in 1992 and 186 in 1993. Much of these activities have been the subject of investigation and condemnation by Amnesty International.

In summary this is an excellent book and well worth the £12.95.

Kevin Collins

Celt or Saxon? "The Scots-Irish," Gaelic and Celtic Identity

by Peter Gilmore; 32 pages, published in 1996 by Unicorn Limited, P.O. Box 397, Bruceton Mills, West Virginia 26525, USA. Price \$10 including post and packaging.

This is very well-researched work which deals with fundamental questions about the linguistic and cultural heritage of the so-called *Scots-Irish*, and their descendants in North America.

By *Scots-Irish* the author means the Protestant people of largely Scottish extraction who emigrated from Ulster to North America from roughly the beginning of the 18th century onwards, and the author conclusively demonstrates that their heritage is essentially Celtic and Gaelic. In fact, in view of current attitudes to this question, the author's conclusions may well have a revolutionary impact on the cultural and political consciousness of many Americans.

The author is an American academic of Scots-Irish extraction himself, who has learned both Irish and Scottish Gaelic, and, by providing a key to unlock their history and genuine linguistic heritage, his work is of fundamental importance for the Scots-Irish community in North America.

However, the work is also of major interest and importance for Scottish and Irish readers. It has a wealth of fascinating detail and little-known facts about Scotland's linguistic history, and it shows that the Scottish identity is based essentially on the Gaelic language, and on its associated culture.

AL LIAMM, bimonthly literary magazine in Breton, subs. 180 FrF/outside State 200 FrF, to Per ar Bihan, 16 r. des Fours à Chaux, 35400 Saint-Malo.

AL LIAMM has now reached its 300th issue. Credit for having brought it so far is given to the editor Ronan Huon and to P. ar Bihan, the treasurer. The most substantial contribution to this issue is the third instalment of Yann Gerven's murder investigation which is told with plenty of humour in a language close to the dialect of the Kallag area. From ar Bihan, there is a study of the racist attitude of the French who conquered Algeria about 150 years ago - he had access to papers entrusted to the

The fact that Scotland was a mainly Gaelic-speaking country for most of its history is virtually unknown in Scotland itself, anti-Gaelic prejudice is rife, and Gaelic is still described and regarded as peripheral in Scottish history and culture. In fact, it is no exaggeration to say that these negative perceptions of Gaelic are the most serious obstacle to attempts to maintain and revive Gaelic.

This work illustrates the centrality of Gaelic in Scotland, and to the whole of Scotland, and demonstrates that it was still a spoken language in parts of so-called *Lowland* Scotland as recently as the late eighteenth century, with individual speakers surviving into the nineteenth century.

The interest for Irish readers is that it demonstrates the former extent of Gaelic speech among Ireland's northern Protestant population, and shows that the Gaelic language is the common heritage of Catholics and Protestants alike. In this respect it follows, and the author acknowledges his debt to, the work on this subject by the Irish historian Pádraig Ó Snodaigh, whose *Hidden Ulster* has coincidentally just been re-published in an enlarged form.

Houghton Library, Harvard, by Meven Mordiern whose father was an army doctor. From a variety of contributions which include poems, stories, 20 pages of information on the Breton cultural scene, Yvan Guéhennec's is the one most likely to interest *Carn* readers: answering the question as to who Taliesin was, he tells us about this 6th century bard whose poems, later recorded in Middle Welsh, sang the praise of Urien, King of Rheged (now Cumberland/SW. Scotland) and of others who fought against the advancing Angles. Taliesin was renowned in Wales throughout the Middle Ages, but also in Brittany, where he met Gweltaz (the Gildas of *De Excidio Britanniae*) and where boys were given his name.

A.H.

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All those who agree with the constitution and aims of the Celtic League are eligible for membership. The membership fee (including *Carn*) and subscription rates are IR£10; Stg£10; 90FF or US\$20.00 (US funds, cheques drawn on a US bank). Europe Stg.£10 outside Europe Stg.£13.00 airmail.

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