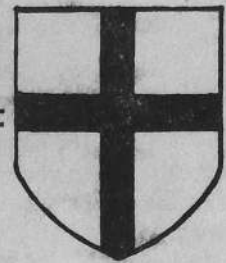


BRETON NEWS



A Bulletin issued by
The Breton Information Bureau

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No. 1.

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WHY WE PUBLISH THIS BULLETIN.

Between 1944 and 1947 the Breton movement as a whole was suppressed by the French government. Its foremost leaders were eliminated. Its publications, cultural as well as political, were banned, their equipment being confiscated and handed over to French press concerns.

It has not been possible ever since to redress this situation. Whereas in 1944 the Breton movement controlled two dailies, two weeklies and many monthlies, since the setback of the Purge it has only succeeded in putting up again a few monthlies and quarterlies.

Nowadays news and information from Brittany can come only through the channels of the Agence France Presse (A.F.P.). But for the last twenty years information in France has been strictly controlled by the State. In fact the French government possess a monopoly in the diffusion and distribution of news to the press and broadcasting system, and A.F.P. is hardly more independent from the State than an ordinary ministerial department.

Consequently, news and information concerning Brittany are nearly always subject to an official screening, interpretation and distortion before reaching the public of foreign countries. More than often especially when relating to the Breton movement, they are not conveyed at all. The French papers and press agencies in Brittany apply the same policy of silence. When the news cannot entirely be concealed, they are biased and aim at throwing doubt about the sincerity of Breton leaders.

We deem it necessary therefore to provide the foreign press with information from genuine Breton sources, free from the French official prejudice. We hope it will be of interest to many journalists now unaware of the Breton problems. We also hope it will be of some assistance to the legitimate aspirations and interests of Brittany by throwing light on the efforts our small Celtic nation is making in defence of her social, cultural and political rights, too often neglected and denied to her by the long standing imperialism of the French State.

BRETON FARMERS THREATEN ILLEGAL ACTION

On October 19th last, the main roads of the Finistère departement were barricaded at 18 different places to protest against the incomprehension of the Government towards agricultural problems. 25 participants were wounded at Roc'h Trevezel, near Morlaix, when police charged them.

On Nov. 13th, delegates of the Federations of Farmers syndicates for all 5 Breton departements met in Gwened (Vannes). They requested the Government through its Préfet in Vannes, to revise its antiagricultural policy and to stop disorganizing agricultural markets by "shock" importations. They demanded the return of indexation of farm products, guaranteeing the vital minimum prices in terms of an index, as well as social benefits and security comparable to those enjoyed by other workers. They asked for a policy of investments in Brittany adapted to the special character of her economy. They threatened illegal action if no satisfaction was given to their claims.

On Nov. 30th. the delegates met again and, recording that such satisfaction was not forthcoming, decided the general mobilisation of the land forces.

On Dec. 14th. 40,000 farmers took part in mass meetings organised in 3 towns of the Finistere département. On the Federation leaders' appeal, the 15,000 farmers gathered in Morlaix refrained from occupying railway installations and all manifestations took place in order and discipline. They restated their claims pressing, giving a last warning and urging the Breton Members of Parliament to intervene more firmly at Government level. A total of 60,000 farmers attended six similar meetings in the other four Breton départements.

Hitherto, such social protests were rarely, if ever carried on to an all-breton plane. The breaking-up of Brittany into 5 separate units (departments) directly administered from Paris made concerted action difficult. The Breton people are coming to realise that their problems require not local solutions, but a solution at an all-breton level. Many Bretons in positions of responsibility, like the President of the Agricultural Chamber of Finistere, recognise that we are penalised, not only as farmers, as fishermen, as dockyard workers, but also as Bretons. Brittany is left out of the French plans of expansion to become more underdeveloped than ever, and therefore to depopulate at an increasing rate.

M.Ps. BECOMING AWARE OF BRETON PROBLEM. In its September issue, the monthly "L'Avenir" quotes at length from speeches by 8 Breton deputies to the French National Assembly, testifying that the critical situation in Brittany is now widely felt by the electorate. The speeches denounce the discrepancy between selling prices at farm and at market levels, the mass exodus from Brittany, the deep discontent bordering on revolt among the population.

A French triennial program of General Economic Equipment had announced last spring the allocation of 440 milliards to the metropole and 350 milliards to the countries of the Community for the period from July 1959 to July 1960. Brittany is the area least favoured in the program. For that reason, as explicitly stated by Pleven, ex-Prime Minister, fourteen Breton deputies have voted against it. In the Senate, some Breton Senators have protested in the same way.

No Tidal Power Station. The program mentioned above made no mention of the project to build a dam at the mouth of the River Rance, near St. Malo. This project going back to 1942 appeared near realisation. It was hailed abroad as an example of French technical genius, as it would be the first station to generate electricity from tidal power. As far as the Bretons were concerned, it would supply them with competitive energy (their electricity now comes from the far-away Pyrenees), provide an incentive to industrialisation, and contribute to stop emigration. It was to cost 32 milliards fr. Ten milliards too much, said the minister.

This technical argument may be quite valid. It remains that Brittany never sees any big project. For political reasons alone France is spending hundreds of milliards on such projects of doubtful value as the Bone (Algeria) siderurgical complex, the Sahara oil exploitation, the Kouilou Dam, etc. Brittany too is underdeveloped. Does France not see any threat to her prestige there?

On June 19th, all public activity stopped in St-Malo, Dinard, Paramé, for two hours in the afternoon, while a mass meeting of 5000 people, organised by employers, workers and farmers alike, protested against the postponement sine die of the Rance Project.

IN BRIEF

Numerous mayors, particularly in Finistère threaten to resign because administration of rural communes impossible in present conditions.

20.12.59. After giving audience to Breton representatives, the French Prime Minister decides to go to Brittany in mid January. French blarney alone will not satisfy the breton farmers.

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MASS MANIFESTATIONS FOR THE TEACHING OF BRETON.

A meagre concession

Breton is a Celtic language closely related to Welsh and spoken by about one million people in the West of Brittany. Until 1951, - if one omits the brief period from 1941 to 1944 - it has been completely excluded from public schools. The situation has hardly changed in spite of the quasi-unanimity of Bretons in favour of its admission to regular teaching.

In 1951, after a vigorous campaign at parliamentary level, a law was passed, allowing teachers to teach breton to volunteer pupils after the regular class hours or during the time allocated to "directed leisure". It also allowed candidates for the leaving certificate to submit for an oral test in the subject. The measure applied to all "regional languages", except flemish.

It made no provision for the formation of the teachers, the lessons were to be outside the curriculum, and no marks were to be gained for admissibility from the test: it could only help already successful candidates to get honours.

So much won after 80 years of petitioning for the teaching of breton.

1951 - Law invalidated by 1959 - Decree. Early last summer, the test was cancelled as the result of an educational reform. Weak though it was, the only incentive to teach and learn breton went overboard.

On July 23rd, a delegation of the Breton Cultural Foundation supported by members of Parliament requested the Minister for Education to reintroduce the test, as had been done for other optional subjects. The Minister refused, not of course without promising to ask his Rectors of Academy to make suggestions for "the safeguard of the folkloric treasure."

He quoted erroneous figures to support his argument. It was true that a small number of candidates availed of the test. But as pointed out in an editorial of the national-minded "Ar Vro", it is not the breton language that the candidates reject (pupils' enthusiasm for their mother tongue has been sufficiently expressed), it is the folkloric toy into which it is made officially. The conditions for both teaching and test are calculated to make them fail.

Breton youth demonstrates. On July 29th in Quimper, and on August 2nd in Brest, on the occasion of folkloric festivals, 2500 viz. 3000 members of pipe-bands and folk-dance groups paraded through the streets with flags and posters, chanting slogans. Such were the mottoes: Breton in every school of Breton-speaking Brittany! Breton in our administration! It is a crime to kill a language, not to teach a language is to kill it! 30,000 Bretons leave Brittany every year: we want work in our country!

Pamphlets were distributed to the public for more detailed information. The marchers gathered in front of the préfectures (seats of the French administration), singing the breton national anthem. Delegates of the cultural organisation "Kendalc'h" were received by the Prefect's representatives and handed them the text of the protests which had been previously read by loud-speaker to the public and participants.

Similar demonstrations took place on a smaller scale in a dozen of other towns during the folkloric manifestations of last summer.

The leader of the Federation of Celtic Circles, P. Monjarret, declared that the groups would refuse their participation to all public festivals, from the 1st of January 1960, if the Government did not reconsider its decision.

Private and public school teachers gathered in camps for Breton studies also protested against the minister's decision and called for an effective teaching of breton in schools.

The Minister thinks again. Faced with this unexpected popular reaction, the Minister decided in October to re-allow the test in the same form as before. It is a Breton success, tempered only by the awareness of the vast inadequacy of the present law.

A meeting was held in Paris in mid-December by representatives of the Breton, Basque, Provençal and Corsican minorities in order to co-ordinate efforts to obtain from the government the right to teach their respective languages in the schools.

DIGEST ON BRITTANY.

Land and Population. Putting out into the Atlantic, Brittany covers an area of the same order as Belgium or Denmark. Its population is about three millions, but half as many Bretons are scattered throughout the world.

The country owes its name to the immigration from Britain at the time of the Saxon Invasions. The population is Celtic. To this, the Breton language, still spoken by one third of the people, bears witness. Brittany has all the characters of a nation.

History. Independent till 1532 and autonomous under her Parliament until 1789, Brittany was one of the most liberal and best ruled states in Europe before the French conquest. At the Revolution, France unilaterally repealed the treaty, but the last official act of the Breton Parliament declared void, so far as Brittany was concerned, all acts of the French Assembly, and resistance was organised by a former fighter in the American War of Independence. In law, Brittany has never relinquished her claim to self-government.

Economic Underdevelopment - Cultural oppression. With the loss of her political liberties, she was deprived of the institutions which could have prevented the neglect of her economic interests and opposed the assimilation policy that France has pursued systematically, by means of her schools, military service and mass media, during the last 80 years particularly.

Apart from the industrial area around Nantes, Brittany's economy mainly rests on agriculture and fishing. For sociological as well as political reasons, Bretons are generally at a disadvantage when competing with French concerns and pressure groups for official attention. The modern exodus from the countryside was aggravated in Brittany by the lack of industrial investment and of rural modernisation. Until recently a demographically healthy area, its population is now declining, because of emigration, but also in its vital quality.

In order to carry into effect the ideology of "France one and indivisible" Brittany's national character was to be obliterated. To this end, Bretons were kept ignorant of their history, and the Breton language was ostracized.

(In our next issue, the struggle which has been carried on for Brittany's survival for the last thirty years, particularly for the last few years, will be outlined.)

KNUCKLEDUSTERS THE ANSWER TO THE BRETON PROBLEM?

On Nov. 7th. a big public Meeting was held in the New Theatre, in Brest, by the Movement for the Organisation of Brittany. This movement, started two years ago, appeals to all Bretons regardless of other political affiliations to unite for the defense of their common interests, and proposes moderate reforms which would allow Brittany to look after her own internal affairs within the framework of the French State. At this meeting the organisers planned to explain their solution for the difficulties from which Brest suffers.

However, as soon as the doors were opened, there was a rush by a hostile large group to occupy the hall. They did not succeed in preventing others to get in. Their leader, a Communist ex-M.P. then exhorted his followers to obstruct the meeting with systematic booing, shouting and whistling. In spite of the noise the powerful voice of the speaker could be heard by interested sympathisers. The obstructers then made for the microphone and loud-speakers. Renewed wrestling ensued, during which a Breton activist was wounded, his nose being fractured by a blow with a knuckleduster. Police then intervened and broke the meeting.

This sabotage was organised by the local communists, who already last August had offered to put their shock-troups at the disposal of the sous-prefet, to deal with the resurgent Breton movement. In 1951 the Breton Communists had supported the Breton language campaign. In the leaflets they distributed on the eve of this meeting, they recognised that the Breton population had genuine grievances. The M. O. B. is not a political party, is neither left nor right. Do the Communists fear in their present complacency towards the De Gaulle Government that the M. O. B. might steal their thunder? Are they so short of arguments that they have to use knuckledusters? Elsewhere they proclaim that they are anti-imperialist, but in Brittany they act as the worst French chauvinists.

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No. 3

DUBLIN, Éire

March 1960.

BRITTANY'S ECONOMY IN 1958.

An official account of Brittany's economic development during 1958 is now available -- with a year's delay. Details are published in the February issue of "l'Avenir".

There is little on the positive side: 2,500 acres of waste land reclaimed for afforestation and pastures; 15 new trawlers in use in Morbihan; a few industrial enterprises previously seated in Paris "decentralised" to Brittany, giving 700 new jobs and means of living to 2,500 people.

On the negative side: no prospect of realisation for the plan to reclaim the Vilaine marshes; slowing-down and lagging in rural electrification; redundancy in some factories and closing of others; 20% of the demands for technical education refused due to the lack of school accommodation.

BRETON ON THE WIRELESS: During the fifties $\frac{1}{2}$ hour of Breton was broadcast every Sunday noon from the low power relay station of Kimerc'h, but was audible only in parts of the Breton speaking area. An association was formed to obtain a better service. To their requests, the Director of Radio-TV answered, with a very nice letter, that a broadcast on high power could not be granted because of the precedent it may create for other "regions". It would not be in harmony either with the general mission of the French Radio-Services. So many listeners would be deprived of their favourite programs.

However, Bretons reflected that the Arabs of Algeria were getting a much better deal. Was it because they spoke a stronger language? Further demands have yielded a little improvement. From now on, Rennes-Thourie will re-broadcast the Kimerc'h Sunday program on the 445m band twice a month from 17 to 1730 Greenwich time. This should be heard in 17 départements instead of $1\frac{1}{2}$ as before. Some may wonder why Rennes could not broadcast something original instead of Kimerc'h rehashes. It would give those who receive Kimerc'h 3 hrs /month instead of 2. The snag is perhaps, that the artists have to work more or less for the pleasure of it. And a good program must be well prepared... No time without money.

STUDENTS ON STRIKE BECAUSE OF UNFAIR DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOLARSHIPS.

University scholarships in France are granted in such a way that the total sum per university is proportional to the number of students. The mean social level of the students is not taken into account. Brittany together with the French SW is mentioned on an OEEC map as an under-developed area. A higher proportion of the students than elsewhere come, in Brittany, from popular classes. The President of the Students' Association of Rennes states in the *Dépêche de Constantine* (23-1-60) that, whereas in the whole of the French higher educational field, 5% of the students are workers' and farmers' children, in the Rennes Academy the corresponding figure is at least 15%.

13,000 students were on strike in Rennes, when the revolt occurred in Algiers in January, in an attempt to obtain the extra 900,000 New Francs needed to give a fair deal to their university.

GOODYEAR not allowed in LORIENT. The firm Goodyear having prospected the French territory for the installation of a factory favoured LORIENT because of the easy delivery of the raw material that its harbour would provide. The French government refused permission for this location, insisting that newcoming American firms set up in the North. Goodyear then chose Amiens. (*l'Avenir*, Feb.)

BRITTANY and DENMARK. Mr. Chombard de Lauwe, Professor of Agriculture in Paris demonstrates in his book "Brittany and Denmark" that these two countries could and should have the same prosperity if France had followed a less erratic policy in agricultural matters.

THE BRETON FARMERS' CAMPAIGN is taking place on a professional, non-political basis, in conjunction with similar actions throughout France. It is interesting from a Breton point of view that the campaign has been most vigorous in Brittany. And the participation of the Loire-Atlantique Federation in inter-breton meetings and manifestations has given the lie to the French officials who, backed by some influential circles in Nantes, have recently cut off that area from Brittany. The vigour of their protests against maladministration brings joy to the Bretons who had hitherto met with indifference among the majority towards their country's decline. This awakening should contribute to safeguard a human potential without which it would be useless to try to preserve the elements of an original cultural life.

OPEN LETTER TO DE GAULLE. In an open letter to President De Gaulle, many thousands of copies of which were distributed in numerous towns on the eve of Debre's January visit to Rennes, the government was urgently requested to give attention not only to the economic, but also to the social and cultural aspects of the Breton problem. The pamphlet, signed by the Breton Revolutionary Movement, pointed to the demonstrations that took place in both rural and urban districts during the previous 6 months in the context of the exodus from Brittany and of the oppression of the country's cultural characteristics. It called for an end to the war in Algeria because of its blood cost to Brittany.

PROTECTION OF MINORITIES IN THE ALGERIA OF THE FUTURE. Commenting on the information given in Les Dernières Nouvelles (Feb. 3.1960) that De Gaulle would reckon with the possibility of an Algerian State associated with France and guaranteeing their rights to its various ethnical components by means of internal federation, La Voix d'Alsace-Lorraine (15-2) writes, in German:

This plan of De Gaulle coincides exactly with the claims of the Alsacians, Bretons and Basques who want, not only a Federal Algeria, but also a federally constituted French State, in which these minorities could find a guarantee for their ethnical and linguistic individuality. It is clever of De Gaulle to think of the day when the French will form a minority in Algeria and will need a guarantee for their rights. France would be in a very strong position relative to the Algerians if in the metropole instead of pursuing an excessive policy of assimilation she had granted a statute to her own minorities.

What by right will belong to the French and Kabyles in the future Algeria, A GUARANTEE FOR THEIR ETHNICAL INDIVIDUALITY, that belongs now by right to the Alsacians, Lorrains, Bretons and Basques.

The Minister for Welsh Affairs announced recently that the British Government will in future allow 3,000 instead of £1,000 a year for the publication of Welsh books. Short as this may be of the need, the Welsh will be envied by their Breton cousins. The only "public" subsidy which the Breton language enjoys is the proceeds of a collection organised, with the authorities' kind permission, by cultural associations on a specific day each year all over Brittany. The success of this "Flag day" confirms the will, clearly expressed by the Breton majority, to have our language publicly recognised and taught. But it is no substitute in a country where all local budgets depend on allocations from the Centralised Government. Bretons pay their share of taxes but not a farthing comes back for their language. So it happens that a scholarly work like R. Hemon's Historical Dictionary of the Breton Language risks never being completely published as publication costs may well be beyond private means.

UP BIDAULT! The argument in favour of Algeria's integration with France is rather frequently illustrated by a comparison between that country and Brittany. The last instance is given by Bidault declaring to Der Spiegel: "Algeria is just as much a French province as Brittany". (Read in 'Het Pennoen' Feb. 60).

Bretons wholeheartedly agree. Though not so logically minded as the French, their hopes are rising with the approach of Liberation for Algeria.

"It looks, writes 'Herria', a basque weekly, "as if the French rulers became aware of rural problems only when the Breton farmers manifested. Their numbers and homogeneity, the superiority of their leading body could hardly be equalled in other areas. They alone broke the hostile silence of the big press and effectively challenged the Prime Minister to action. Their federations are credited with having set up a warning system whereby they all could be mobilised and concentrated overnight.

CITROEN IN RENNES. The Citroen Co. is building a branch factory for various assembly chains just outside RENNES. When the installation is completed it will cover 5/8 sq. mile and produce 1,000 vehicles a day. It will be the most extensive factory in Europe according to the Dépêche de Constantine. Accommodation for staff and families (40,000 people) will be provided near the factory. It is hoped that most of the workers, if not all, will be Bretons.

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"There is indisputable a Breton problem"
Camille ERNST, Préfet of Rennes
opening the Rennes Conference.

ECONOMIC CONFERENCE WITH DEBRÉ IN RENNES. Prime Minister DEBRÉ was back in the Breton capital on March 1st. The primary motive for this journey was to appease the farmers' unrest which, though shared by peasants all over the French territory, is most intense in Brittany. But the farmers' leaders, angered by the official inaction during the past months, decided to boycott the economic conference convened between the Minister and the Prefects on one side, the Breton agricultural federations and the Committee for Study and Coordination of Breton Interests (CELIB) on the other side. The Celib, while expressing complete solidarity with the peasants, decided to attend in the hope of making some progress in the realisation of its "Breton plan" elaborated 7 or 8 years ago.

The conference took place in an icy atmosphere. Debré recognised that a Breton problem existed, but breton interests, he said, could not be separated from the French problem (?). The Minister was surrounded by an impressive security force which served to avoid a repetition of the Amiens disturbances, but also perhaps to remind Bretons that their affairs were in strong hands. He kept referring to the State and its authority: "You are, here, France", he affirmed in his patriotic jargon. He dwelt on the need to maintain a stable currency, but never admitted that the threat to this stability comes chiefly from the Algerian war. He promised the CELIB that a certain number of projects would be realised within 5 years, but he proffered no immediate alleviation to the peasants. The latter, feeling cheated, are contemplating renewed demonstrations as soon as Khrushchchev departs.

SMALL FARMERS TO BE SACRIFICED FOR DE GAULLE'S GRANDEUR. In a situation where they are daily becoming more involved in debt, merely to keep their farms going, Breton peasants could not be interested in DEBRÉ's promises of a special 5-year-plan for Brittany. When you face ruin, what will happen in 5 years does not matter.

Debré has declared that farms of 5 hectares (=10 acres) will not be economic in future. It means that French policy will be geared towards the grouping of small holdings in big farms or estates. It means that one 1/4 or 1/3 of the total Breton population will have to adapt themselves. Debré's 5-year-plan may provide a living for ten or twenty thousands at the very most. Are we going to assist in the emigration of several hundred thousands Bretons in the next few years?

WHAT BRETON ORGANISATIONS PROPOSE. CELIB, the movement for the Organisation of Brittany and the Nationalists all take the view that the country's agricultural difficulties cannot be solved satisfactorily unless such a solution is linked with an extensive industrialisation of Brittany. Much modernisation is certainly needed to make most farms yield the maximum, but a judicious organisation and pooling of equipment, coupled with the installation of industries using rural and marine products, could greatly reduce the exodus from the land. To give an example: for decades now, small farmers in the vicinity of Concarneau continued to exploit holdings of 2 - 5 acres while earning fairly decent wages in canning factories.

THEY ARE ALL FRENCH. The Editor of Barr Heol, an all-breton periodical writes in the March issue. Perhaps what all successive French governments, including De Gaulle's, want is a decrease in the rural population and an increase in the size of farms so as to replace men by machines. That would be easier than to try to maintain an agricultural system based on the family. What does it matter to the Government and to a General to see peasants flocking into towns? For them

they are all Frenchmen, good to be shifted anywhere like civil servants, policemen and soldiers.

SLOW SMOTHERING. "The Breton unrest is not caused by the difficulties of some nameless section of the French population. It expresses the anguish of a nation which is being slowly choked" (J.Y. Veillard, in Kaierou an Emsaver Yaouank, February).

DEBRE'S PROMISES. Among the projects which DEBRE promises to have realised in the next 5 years are: the construction of the famous (!) tidal power station near St-Malo, at a cost of 380 million new francs (instead of the previous 500 m.). If additional costs arise during the construction, the construction will be stopped, said Minister Jeanneney. (Ouest France, 2-3-60); 40 square miles of marsh land at the mouth of the river Vilaine to be reclaimed; 4 technical schools to be created or "decentralised" from Paris; a share in the distribution of the natural gas from Laeg; premiums to be offered for investments and purchase of equipment. A small nuclear station at Brennilis, in the Finistere département, (one wonders if by nuclear, the French mean only atomic?) Ouest-France 21-3-60).

At the Rennes Conference, a speaker said that 15,000 Bretons are now unemployed. 60,000 new jobs are needed in Brittany in the next 5 years. (La Croix de Br.)

TOO MANY CHILDREN IN BRITTANY. Tired from listening to the warnings of CELIB representatives that Brittany's existence was threatened, Debré exclaimed: "Your language is too pessimistic. Brittany's difficulties arise from having too many children". This caused some lively reactions. A Senator left, banging the door.

The Rennes Conference gave attention to the economic problems of 4 Breton départements, not of the whole of Brittany which includes the Loire-Atlantique with Nantes. It gave no attention to Brittany's cultural problems.

MUZZLING OF MINORITY PRESS. The Breton Information Bureau wishes to express its solidarity with the courageous Editor of "La Voix d'Alsace-Lorraine in his appeal against the fine of 2000 Francs imposed on him by a French court. La Voix d'A-L. had republished an article from the Swiss "Weltwoche" relating the experiences of a Swiss ex-member of the Foreign Legion in Algeria. The French authorities did not dare to penalise the internationally known Weltwoche which was allowed to sell unmolested in France. French justice has no such scruples with a publication which dares to fight against the Frenchification of Elsass-Lothringen. Proclaim that France is the home of freedom but ruin anybody who does not accept to "be a Frenchman like the others".

IN PRISON FOR REFUSING TO HELP REPRESSING ALGERIAN UPRISING. In the No. 12 of the French periodical "Esprit", we learn that a Breton, Lieut. Jean Le Meur was in Jail in Constantine for having refused to accept the command of a section fighting the FLN. "By accepting, he writes, I would contribute to repress a revolt which I understand too well, to tame rebels whose cause I cannot in conscience condemn. The misfortune is that too many Frenchmen have accepted to serve a cause which they know to be unjust".

MEETING OF THE BRETON BRANCH OF THE CELTIC CONGRESS AT KASTELLIN, on the 11th of February. The meeting was devoted mainly to the activity of the group "AL LIAMM". - and its publications. Apart from the publication every second month of a literary magazine of 60-80 pages, Al Liamm printed also a novel by Jarl Priel and a collection of short stories by Y. Olier. 1200 Breton books were sold. This year, Al Liamm will reprint 4000 copies of Roparz Hemon's "Elementary Course", and hope also to bring out a novel by the same author. Publicity for Al Liamm has been accepted by about a dozen periodicals, but the "provincial" French-inspired dailies and weeklies have in general refused it.

BIG PROFITS IN LORIENT. Lorient was formerly prosperous owing to her trade with the "Orient". That was at the time of Breton autonomy. To-day it is a military naval base and a fishing harbour. The arsenal, if it gives work locally is a costly State enterprise and gives no return. The fishing harbour is conceded to Parisian businessmen who invest the dividends resulting from 6 milliards transaction with the Banque des Pays-Bas: not a penny of the taxes on this income is left in Lorient.

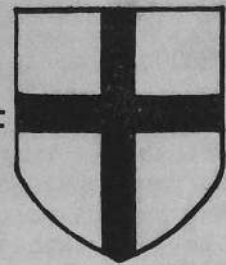
A Breton Youth Hostel will be open at Kerroc'h, Moelan, near Kemperle, from the 5th to the 17th April. For the present the house, situated in an enchanting district, is being renovated. There is manual work to be done by participants, but also a series of lectures which will contribute to the formation of the young generation.

Ex-President PLEVEN. 800.000 Bretons have emigrated since the beginning of this century.

TALK OF DECENTRALISATION. In 1958, an extra 213.000 people came to live in the Paris area, 2/3 of the total increase of the French population.

Why did De Gaulle not propose to Khrushchev to visit Brittany, asks "l'Avenir": because France has here no remarkable achievement to show.

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RIOTS IN KEMPER. At the end of a demonstration by 25-35,000 farmers in Kemper on April 7, 73 mayors tendered their resignation to the French Prefet. 74 others proposed to do the same after seeking their councils' advice. The "Finistère" department comprises 300 "communes". Half the local administration of this division could therefore be paralysed by these resignations.

The demonstrators marched past the Prefecture. Their organisers, anxious to avoid clashes, kept urging discipline and dignity. With difficulty they succeeded in preventing a siege of the government building. From 1530 to 1800 hours 2 or 3000 demonstrators occupied the railway station, blocked 3 trains and delayed 1½ hours the departure of a fourth. At 18.00 the police charged with guns at the ready, threw tear gas. A riot ensued. The demonstrators then tried to hold the Prefecture bridge. Again there were stones, tear gas, blows, and some men were detained.

A similar meeting in Sant-Brieg, attended by about 35,000, took place in a tense atmosphere. (Ref. Ouest-France, Telegramme de Brest, 8-4-)

Our comment: The farmers campaign is carried out on a professional basis. Yet it finds in Brittany a much more determined support than elsewhere. The leaders apprehend a stiffer official attitude should they recognise, as is widely done, that their problems are an aspect of the Breton problem. That is why one of them said in St-Brieg: The Bretons must not form a band apart.

AVOID MASS MEETINGS. According to "La Terre Bretonne-Douar Breiz", 9-4. big meetings were avoided in the Gwened (Vannes), and Naoned areas, the demonstrations taking place instead in a number of small towns, with a total attendance of the same order as in Kemper and St-Brieg. The farmers of the Roazhon (Rennes) sector were sent to Laval, outside Brittany, to swell the ranks of the thinly represented farmers from Normandy, Anjou, Maine. "This dispersion, it is said, was decided in order to avoid mass gatherings of Bretons".

The newspaper further reports that many manifestants attacked directly the head of the State and the Prime Minister. They were appearing for the first time. They represented the extremist elements who have been recently elected in some communes. Their speeches were aggressive, they no longer attacked the usual middlemen (technocrats, MPs, Ministers) but Debré and De Gaulle himself.

BOYCOTTS AND STRIKES. The crisis will extend to industry and commerce, at least in Brittany. The farmers have decided: at St-Brieg: to stop buying material, to boycott the dealers in fertilizers who oppose indexation of agricultural products. At Kemper: similarly, but also to refuse paying taxes on agricultural benefits.

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SKOL SANT ERWAN: Everywhere in Western Europe the right of a child to be educated in his mother tongue is recognised ... except in

De Gaulle's France, and, we are told, in Franco's Spain. The teaching of Breton has to depend mainly on the teachers' initiative, and the scope allowed to them is extremely narrowed by the State control of curriculum and examinations. In our next issue, we shall report on Skol St-Erwan, the one school where the utmost is being done within existing regulations and thanks to the immense courage of its director, Fr. Kalvez, to give an elementary teaching of Breton, and of some subjects through the medium of Breton. Fr. Kalvez has assumed a nearly superhuman task, as he has charge of the 'normal work of a teacher, to teach all subjects through French.

FESTOU-NOZ. For the past few years, a new expression of Brittany's cultural life has become increasingly popular in two Breton-speaking areas, Kernev (Cornwall) and Treger-Gouelou (in the North). At evening gatherings in village halls, singers and storey-tellers alternate with pipers in providing an entertainment which is characterised by its peculiar atmosphere. Everywhere people of all age, crowd in, the halls are too small. Everywhere the same enthusiasm, the same eagerness for collective joy and frank gaiety. Not a single one of these "Festou-Noz" has failed (La Terre-Bretonne 9-4). "People come for the pleasure of hearing their language on the stage, as if hungry", writes a witness in Barr-Heol (March 60). "And they want to hear Breton: as soon as somebody goes over to French, e.g. to give advice, they show disapproval. More details in "Breiz", March-60, the monthly organ of Kendalc'h.

A COMPARISON WITH THE NETHERLANDS

BRITTANY
35.000 km²
2.907.000 inhabitants 1860
the most neglected 1960
"French" province
3.100.000 inhab.
all her harbours declining
her shipyards threatened or
already condemned

A leaflet distributed by the Movement for the Organisation of Brittany makes this striking confrontation.

THE NETHERLANDS
34.200 km²
3.057.000 inhab.
the richest country in Europe
11.900.000 inhab.
the 1st harbour in the world:
Rotterdam
her shipyards in full development

W H Y ?

Brittany can do nothing without Paris authorisation.

The people of the Netherlands can look after their own affairs

BRITTANY'S PLACE IN TO-DAY'S FRANCE

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in "L'Avenir" (April-60) shows for Brittany in relation to the territory of the French State:

The first instalment of a statistical study by the geographer Y. Poupinot

- a very strong rural population.
- a higher representation for youth, with childbirth in excess of the French average
- Town development not sufficient to absorb our demographic possibilities (under-industrialisation)
- a rarity of foreigners
- proportionally speaking, farmers are twice and seamen 6 times more numerous in Brittany than in France.
- a high figure for independent employers, due to the small size of enterprises.
- a very low representation for liberal profession, officials, and a low one for industrial workers.
- a very low figure (53 as against 100) for mechanical energy, showing how Brittany lags in industry and commerce. Things would be still more unfavorable but for the area around Nantes.

A remark by the B.I.F.: The statistics say nothing of the numerically small but politically and economically important element of population of French origin in Brittany. It would be interesting if Y. Poupinot could compute this figure. It appears to be current practice to give high administrative posts to Bretons outside Brittany while giving similar posts to Non-Bretons in B. In the economic field, French societies have also a large direct control.

"WE ARE THE WEALTHY PEOPLE", said De Gaulle in Washington", Satisfied in comparison with the other people" (2 milliards of destitute men in the underdeveloped countries). And he went on to propose France's participation in such projects as the development of the Nile Valley.

Bretons are in favour of aid to underdeveloped countries: theirs is an underdeveloped country. But there is no need for De Gaulle's charity. They would be satisfied if they could invest their own money in Brittany. As the General himself said: One must not look too far nor see too big! (Ref. Figaro, 25-4-).

A LAND OF HOPE. (Excerpts from the editorial of "Ar Vro", March-60).
 ----- Recent history is full of examples which all point towards the
 decongestion of Brittany recommended by the French Prime Minister to his
 associates in January.

1924. Promise by the State of 10 millions francs to help building a tidal
 power station near Brest. Work begins with private capital.

1930: work stops. 1932: the Society is dissolved. The State subsidy
 never came. November 1930: Plans to reclaim the (potentially) fertile
 Vilaine marshes are ready but depend for their realisation on State authoris-
 ation and grant towards 1/7 of the total cost. This grant has been promised
 2 months ago.

December 1932: The Minister for the Merchant Navy deprives St-Nazaire of its
 leading position in the trade with Central and South America and gives it to
 Le Havre, of which town he is the mayor.

1932-33. The customs war between England and France resulting from protective
 tariffs on coal imports from Britain causes Brittany to lose its prime veget-
 able and potatoe market across the channel. Breton farmers "convert" to
 sugar beet but a 1933 law forbids them, thus keeping a monopoly for the big
 planters in the North.

At the same period, to protect the spirits industry in the South of France,
 duties on Iberian porto are doubled. Portugal and Spain strike back with
 duties on cod imports, and St-Malo declines.

Emigration steps up. Passes for the U.S. and Canada are blocked. Bretons
 are thus directed towards the depopulated French South-West, the colonies or
 the army.

The Editor gives other examples and could give many more.

To-day uranium is extracted in 3 Breton departments, with Breton labour. So
 far the material is taken out of Brittany for use.

"In conclusion, where does our money go? The "regional" press has told us
 complacently that the Reggane atomic bomb had cost 126 milliards francs.
 Enough to modernise our agriculture.

... In 1933, clashes occurred already in Kemper, St-Brieg, Rennes, between
 farmers and police. Promises were made. Nothing happened except more
 emigration".

And, we shall add, a dogged struggle by enlightened Bretons to shake the
 French rule, and win control of their own affairs.

NANTES IS IN BRITTANY :

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Various initiatives have been taken by Breton
 groups to oppose an incipient partition of
 Brittany. The latest is an open letter by the

Paris Branch of the widespread cultural organisation KENDALC'H requesting all
 public and private agencies, especially the Government and the Press, to
 avoid speaking of Brittany when only 4 of the Breton departements are meant.
 Brittany comprises since the time of her first king Nomenoe (845) the areas
 now administratively called Finistere, Cotes-du-Nord, Ille-et-Vilaine,
 Morbihan and Loire-Atlantique. Nantes, to all Breton speakers known as
 Naoned, was for a long period the capital of independent Brittany.

Kendalo'h, Paris, asks that in the administrative reform now being pre-
 pared, Brittany's historic and human limits be respected. Other groups
 have warned of widespread resentment in the Breton population, should the
 request be ignored.

The B.I.F. would almost prophecy that such will be its
 fate in the reform being prepared. The French rulers are
 aware of Breton potentialities. Debre repeating in
 Rennes "You are here France" reminds of Gambetta during the
 French defeat in 1870 beseeching the general commanding the
 Breton army: "Forget that you are Breton".

CRISIS IN THE BRETON SHIPYARDS WORSENING. At the same time as De Gaulle
 proposes to increase aid to under-
 developed countries far away, and to continue the Algerian war ad infinitum,
 the Government is compelled to reduce the credits for internal equipment,
 particularly in Brittany, where the industries of the Nantes area are threat-
 ened with asphyxia. Thousands of technicians and workers are directly in-
 volved: the prospect for them is unemployment or forced exile. Trade Unions
 as well as managers recognise that a reconversion of factories is in many
 cases impossible (keel assembling, for instance) Workers from 45 to 65 cannot
 be readapted either.

The demographic evolution in the Nantes area is also causing great concern.
 The number of young people from 15 to 19 will increase by 70% between now and
 1965. Where are they going to be employed? As a reporter writes, in

Le Figaro, 26-4-, "the social climate in this area is fragile".

This fact is stressed by the latest news according to which the launching of the steamer "France" (33,500 tons) scheduled for May 11th, with De Gaulle presiding, may have to be postponed for at least 4 weeks, because the workers and the managers of the Loire-Atlantique shipyards have failed to reach an agreement. There seems to be a question of solidarity with the numerous workers unemployed or threatened with unemployment in this industrial area.

"FRANCE DOES NOT COMPEL..."

Our point of view.

"Wherever the French flag floats, floats perhaps more than anywhere else in the world this great idea that politics must ensure the dignity of life of all men through the free expression of their will.... France does not compel anybody to be French."

Those noble words were spoken by Debre in Algiers on April 12. It is a lofty talk. So much like De Gaulle himself.

How does it apply to the Bretons?

We say nothing of old times. Let history be history. In 1937-38 and ever since 1951, a majority of our people have expressed their will, through their councils and elected bodies, to have our language officially taught in public schools. But the higher councils of the French State, le Conseil supérieur de l'Education namely, are adamant in their resolution to exclude it from all effective recognition. There lives the spirit of France. It is pretty certain that so long as the French flag floats in Brittany, the Breton people will be denied the dignity of having their language officially recognised. France does not compel anybody to be French, but under the Government of De Gaulle himself, the very personification of France, many like Leon Jasson, who were only Bretons, and acted as free Bretons, were sentenced to death and executed (1944-46). They were not collaborators as the official lie has it, but Bretons who did not want to be French. They were not compelled to be perhaps, they were killed.

In one breath, their lordships speak of liberty for the Algerians and affirm that Algeria must remain with (?) France. The oracles could speak less equivocally. There is the threat of partition in case of Algerian secession. Partition is a last weapon to keep a people in subjection.

There is little behind Debre's grandiloquence; except the implicit avowal that compulsion is failing in Algeria.

FOLK SONG COMPETITION IN PARIS: The Entente Culturelle Bretonne organised, on March 26, a folksong competition widely open to all amateurs, 44 rue de Rennes,

Paris. A big crowd attended. Numerous candidates were introduced by Herve ar Menn who has given many years in the service of Breton music. A great variety was offered: solo, unison singing, kan ha diskan (alternations), melodies, recitation, even poem declamation. Preference was given to original, little-known songs.

Only the Breton-speaking area of Brittany was represented, although the Folklore of the Gallo (Eastern) area has been revigorated during the last decade or two. Most remarkable was the originality of the songs from Corn-wall, although the first prize went to a lady from Bro-Wened. The variety of accents was also striking. Every contribution of value was registered on the magneton and will serve for study.

ARMOR PRESSE - in French - a newly created bulletin of informations and documentation for the newspapers of the West (i.e. Brittany and neighbouring area); written by journalists who come from this "region", it means to remain free of all political, denominational, financial and other connections. Informations collected in Paris about the economic and cultural expansion of the region and its problems.

Manager: M. BOURGEOUX, 43 Avenue Emma, La Celle St-Cloud.

Full Scale Desertion in Algeria. In the Sunday Press, Dublin, 24/4/60 we learn of the existence of an underground network engaged in organizing, in co-operation with FLN, the full scale desertion of the young French soldiers in Algeria. Two weeklies, l'Express and France-Observateur, as well as a book, Le Deserteur, have been seized for publishing the news. These deserters have no faith in Debre's High Notion of Liberty.

BRETON NEWS



A Bulletin issued by
The Breton Information Bureau

No. 6.

DUBLIN, EIRE

June 1960

SOCIAL UNREST.

1-5-The Rennes exhibition, traditionally one of the most important fairs for agriculture and agricultural machinery in France, is boycotted by all the Breton farmers Syndicates in protest against government policy.

5-5- 10.000 metallurgy workers at St. Nazaire lay down their tools at 4 p.m. demonstrate in front of the sub-prefecture, claim wages increases.

6-5- After many weeks of conflict between direction and workers in three factories, 450 men occupy the Sambre-et-Meuse steel mills, keep the Director General, who had come from Paris, prisoner, release him after promise of a 10% increase; this is later withdrawn; settlement reached on 25-5, giving a 7% increase; sanctions reserved against 10 workers. (In St. Brieux).

6-5. Powder mill workers on strike at Pont-ar-veuzenn, because of reduction in number of working hours by 4 hrs a week.

12-5. 2000 dealers in Kemper protest against the dirigism of the government.

PROSECUTION AGAINST BRETON EDITOR.

When the French Prime Minister DEBRIE came to Rennes in January, three Bretons were detained for distributing leaflets criticizing the Government. One of them, G. Toublanc, editor of the bi-monthly LABOUR, is now being prosecuted because of his participation in that manifestation.

A communique dated 20.5.60 and signed by G. Toublanc states that the real aim of the prosecution is to stop the publication of the periodical, by imposing on its direction heavy financial costs. (This confirms what we said in our April issue when we mentioned the fining of "La Voix d'Alsace-Lorraine").

The communique proclaims: "We shall continue our action without yielding to threats or blackmailing. We denounce a pseudo-judicial action taken by a tyrannical, pettyfogging authority before a jurisdiction which is not of the Breton people and which we therefore do not acknowledge. Only a Breton court is entitled to deal with a case of Breton activity in Brittany. Such courts no longer exist since the arbitrary suppression by the French of the Breton Parliament in 1790. "We appeal to your sense of Breton solidarity and hope that you will support us to the maximum of your capacity in a test of strength in which we are resolved to fight and not to yield".

----- Inspired by Irishmen, fighting a similar tyranny, other Bretons have in recent years refused to recognize the validity of the French courts in Brittany. In 1938, a group of young Bretons were being tried for their part in the campaign for Breton independence. Their leader, Henaff (Laine) decided to reply only in Breton to the judge's questions. He was not heard, and was sentenced all the more heavily for being so "obstinate". In 1945-46, Bibé and Jasson, former members of the Perrot Unit created by Henaff during the war to fight for Breton self-government, refused to recognise the right of a French tribunal to judge them. Jasson was sentenced to death and executed.

DO WE HOARD OUR MONEY? In a report which he presented to the French

===== "Conseil Economique et Social", Professor J. Milhau established for every "département" a general spending index per inhabitant. At the top of the list came the Paris and the Nice (Riviera) areas with 165 and 162 respectively. Four of the Breton départements are at the bottom with the figures 55, 59, 59 and 65. The Nantes area rises to 83, but this is still below the average French index of 90. (ref. L'Avenir, May 1960).

We bet the "Telegramme de Brest" did not publish these revealing figures. Its under-consuming readers might come to think that the benefits of integration to France are ridiculous!

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO:

LINTON, FASSAROE LANE, FASSAROE, BRAY, CO. WICKLOW, EIRE.

COMMON FRONT OF FARMERS AND INDUSTRIAL WORKERS IN THE NANTES AREA

In a manifesto published in Nantes delegates from the large trade unions, C.F.T.C., C.G.T., F.O. and from the Farmers Syndicates have united to press their claims, blaming the policy of the Government and of the big French magnates for the crisis which affects equally severely the rural and industrial life of the Nantes area. (L'Avenir, May 1960)

Will this common front extend to the whole of Brittany?

BRETON RECRUITS DISCARD THE FRENCH FLAG

UNFURL THE BRETON "WHITE AND BLACK"

All over the French territory, young men are periodically examined, chiefly from the point of view of physical fitness, before being conscripted into the army. Such an examination was held in Kemperle on the 28th of March. According to L'Avenir, May 1960, 70 young men presented themselves carrying the Breton national flag instead of the French tricolour which had been lent to them, as customary, by the townhall, for their parade through the streets. The mayor, the sub-prefect, the army colonel and the gendarmes were wise enough not to take offense at the substitution. A local correspondent was unable to ascertain a rumour according to which the French flag was torn and broken.

The young men were enthusiastically acclaimed by the population of Kemperle as well as of Lorient and other neighbouring towns where they went afterwards. They decided to keep the flag during their military service.

The "Telegramme de Brest" (29-3-60), wondering if these young people claimed for "our old province" the benefit of the principle of auto-determination, expresses dislike at this mark of Breton awareness. The "Telegramme" is one of those provincial papers which carefully avoids any favourable reference to a global Breton problem.

BRETON AT THE SCHOOL DOOR. A French law passed in 1951 lays down the conditions under which the Breton language may be taught in public State schools: an hour a week, outside the regular teaching hours, optional for both teachers and pupils: no training course is provided for the former, and the latter may only use the oral test in Breton to obtain honours if they otherwise get a pass.

How many national teachers avail of this permission we don't know. In the absence of any encouragement or incentive, the majority remains passive. Particularly when it is known that some, who gave Breton lessons to their pupils, have been transferred outside Brittany.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS. In most cases Catholic, they have a greater freedom than the public schools in the choice of their curriculum. The Catholic schools receive directions from the bishops, among whom some have been favourable to the teaching of Breton. However, much is left to the discretion of the teachers, who can be as chauvinistic as their lay colleagues in the process of French assimilation. Even where the teachers, religious or lay, are competent and favourably disposed, competition between the schools and the drive to get exam results leaves hardly any room for such an "unrewarding subject as the Breton language. The author of the 1951 law no doubt realised that.

The teachers who undertake to teach Breton must be strongly willed individuals who dearly care for the language and for a true education of Breton children. They must first of all have gone to the trouble of learning a grammatically correct Breton on their own.

A BILINGUAL SCHOOL IN PLOUEZEC. In September 1957 a bilingual school was opened in Plouezec, near Paimpol, N. Brittany, by Fr. Kalvez. He had spent months investigating bilingual methods on the spot in Wales, Friesland, Schleswig, and published a quarterly, SKOL, devoted in Breton to pedagogical questions. He published the results of his research as well as textbooks in Breton.* When the school started he expected 8 pupils. 21 came, of various ages, most of them boarders, but not all Breton speakers. He had to divide them in 2 classes, and was assisted by Mrs. E. Galbrun. This year he took a second assistant.

Most of the teaching must be effected through French, because of the prevailing social and political conditions, examinations, etc. But Fr. Kalvez has managed to reserve 8 hours a week to the teaching of Breton or: of other subjects through Breton: elements of arithmetic, history, geography, object lessons, religion.

* We have just received the June issue, which contains a 60-pages study of the teaching of Welsh and of the official attitude to it.

He has assumed a considerable burden, but results are encouraging. In exams his pupils have been as successful as any others. And he has instilled in them a sense of participation in his pioneering work.

He aims at setting a standard for the Breton speaking area. An association has been formed to promote similar instruction in other places as well as to provide a sound financial basis for the school.

BRETON RESOLUTION AT
THE F.U.E.N. CONGRESS

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The Breton delegation at the Congress of the Federal Union of European Nationalities, which is to be held at ZUOZ, Switzerland on the 4, 5. and 6th of June, will table the following

resolution:

THE CONGRESS, convinced that Europe can be soundly built only on the foundations of a Federation of its peoples, who are its living reality, and not on the basis of the actual States, which are all the result of mere accident, combination of interests, right of conquest or treachery,

INVITES the representatives of all the European peoples to regroup with- in the F.U.E.N.;

ADOPTS the map of the European nationalities displayed by the Breton delegation as the official map of the European nations;

DECIDES to print this map as soon as the various national movements interested will have given the Secretary of the FUEN details of the tradition- al geographical boundaries of their respective countries.

REQUESTS the General Secretary to lodge officially a copy of this map with the European Parliament in Strassburg, the Council of Europe, the General Secretary of the United Nations in New York and the international Court of Justice at the Hague.

REQUESTS the nationally minded movements of all these nations to act as political parties in order to answer the call of the Parliament of Strassburg to organise general elections by universal suffrage to the European Parliament;

HOLDS that only deputies elected in that manner within the boundaries of each of the European nationalities can validly represent the Europe of the peoples, which does not in the least correspond to the actual States and their present boundaries, outmoded by the world evolution;

SUGGESTS that all the national parties thus constituted open a campaign of mass abstention at the European elections if those conditions are not ful- filled;

REQUESTS these national parties to unite into an active Federalist Party of the United Nations of Europe, the statutes of which should be lodged with the Council of Europe at Strassburg.

The General Council of the Côtes-du-Nord département have re-expressed their wish to see a better organisation of the teaching of Breton in public schools and its admission to examinations. It is the duty of the State to protect the languages of all the peoples on its territory. The study of these lan- guages alongside with French presents many advantages for the intellectual formation of the young people. The largest number possible should benefit from such a teaching which is expressly recommended by the most modern edu- cationalists.

The minority languages in France are entitled to the same status and rights as the arab and malgache languages. (ref. Douar Breiz, 23-5-60).

DE GAULLE LAUNCHES THE "FRANCE"

De Gaulle presided on the 11-5-60 at the launching of the "France" (55.200 tons) from the St. Nazaire shipyards.

On the same day in St. Nazaire a group of activists of the Breton left issued a protest voicing the Breton people's reprobation of this parade by the French head of State at a time when the shipyards were condemned and when the policy of Franco-German collaboration was about to ruin Brittany definit- ively. They demanded a global solution of the Breton problem, negotiations to end the Algerian war, a stop to French nuclear tests, the return to demo- cratic freedom.

A cartoon in "L'Avenir", May 1960, represents the "France" being launched. Underneath a dialogue between a foreman and a young worker :

"And now we close!..

--We should not have minded starting to build the "Brittany".

We would enjoy it too ...

"It is natural that a country with such a marked character should enjoy a sort (?) of autonomy

proportionate to the conditions under which it must live".

This was said by De Gaulle, not to the Bretons, but to the people of Guiana, when he went to see them last April. Yet everybody recognises that Brittany has also a marked character. And as for the conditions under which Bretons must live, they would entitle us to a full measure of autonomy.

THE FRENCH ECONOMIC MIRACLE.

An article titled "High Finance and Social Policy", by Le Huedez, in L'Avenir, May 1960, throws cold water on the commissioned optimism of the French press regarding the French economic situation. "The economic euphoria of the 5th Republic is a mirage, like the end of the war in Algeria. Global French production has increased only by 3% in 1959, compared with an average of 6% in the other common Market countries".

INTOXICATION

Khrushchchev was wondering the other day how France could raise her head, after 12 years of uninterrupted colonial war, --and we add: coming shortly after 5 years of defeat.

Whatever their historical intoxications cost the French people, the Bretons share in the losses has assumed alarming proportions. The most powerful organs of "information" operating on them foster their ignorance of the extent to which they are exploited while losing no opportunity to appeal to their noble feelings or their self-esteem when it can be made to serve alien interests. On the 8th of May, Marechal Juin came to Vannes to commemorate an obscure French victory in the 2nd World War and used the opportunity to award a tie of the Legion of Honour as well as to glorify the magnificent fight of the French army in Algeria -- what a career for the young lads!

"Ouest -France", a daily which bears a heavy responsibility in the drugging of the Breton people, carried in its 18-5-60 issue the following headlines: "THE PATRIOTIC EPOPEE OF THE SEIN SEAMEN WILL BE COMMEMORATED IN GRANITE. DE GAULLE WILL PRESIDE THIS SUMMER TO THE INAUGURATION OF THE MONUMENT".

The objection here is to De Gaulle's part. What have the Bretons got from him and his associates? Apart from medals and red ribbons? And offers to join the French army or to settle in Central France? Or promises which are denied the following week, like in the case of the Rance power station recently?

Certain sections of our people have left no doubt to those gentlemen that they are nauseated by their incense. When de Gaulle comes to the Island of Sein, he will be reminded all along his route that credits are needed, not speeches, for the modernisation of agriculture and for new industries.

In 1932, when President Ed. Herriot came to Brittany to celebrate the 4th centenary of the annexion to France, the monument commemorating the event was blown up by the secret organisation "Gwenn ha Du" in the middle of Rennes, and a few weeks later, when the same President was coming back, this time to Nantes, the railway ahead of his train was disrupted on the border of Brittany, while a signal up the line warned to stop.

In no man's land? The cartoon in Newsweek, May 16th. 1960, showing the Common Market as a fortress on the European mainland, with the caption "British exports keep out!" left all of Brittany outside the barbed wire. Did the cartoonist realise how accurate he was?

BRETON ON THE WIRELESS.

Taken from the NOTES of the March-April issue of AL LIAMM, a literary periodical in Breton:

"On Easter Sunday, while in Treger (A part of the Breton speaking area), we tried to listen in to the Breton Mass given on the wireless. It was funny and... pathetic. Two Masses could be heard at the same time, one in Breton, the other in French. We could not find out where the two Masses were being said nor could we tell the quality of the singing.

When people get so little in their own language, it should be done with care. It should in this case be heard all over Brittany. In Brest, we were told afterwards, the reception was quite good.

Breton musical records are published by Wolf's, 6 rue Astor, Quimper. Two records of songs have recently been brought out with the help of the Paris branch of the Organisation "Kendalc'h". One of the songs is the famous "An alarc'h" (The swan), from the Barzaz Breizh, celebrating the triumphal return of the Duke John the 4th in 1379, to rid Brittany of its French invaders.

BRETON NEWS



A Bulletin issued by
The Breton Information Bureau

All communications to be addressed to

LINTON, FASSAROE LANE, FASSAROE, BRAY, Co. WICKLOW, EIRE.

No. 7.

DUBLIN, EIRE.

JULY 1960.

DECEPTIVE PROMISES. We have already mentioned, in our April issue, the promises made by Debré, the French Prime Minister to the Bretons in Rennes on March 1st. One of them was that premiums would be given for investments and equipment.

In fact a decree was issued on April 15th, declaring 4 out of the 5 Breton "départements" a critical zone. In such a zone, any old or new enterprise giving additional employment to at least 20 workers is entitled to a premium for equipment. Yet before getting it months of procedure are allowed to intervene. Other areas of the French territory have been recognised as "special zones of conversion" in which industries may benefit without undue delays from official subsidies (up to 15-20% of the costs) to readapt their installations and equipment. The official report on which the decree is based admits that in the years ahead the strongest surplus of active manpower in the whole of French territory is likely to arise in these 4 Breton areas.

The Breton General ("County") Councils have substantially subscribed to the capital which a society for the economic expansion of Brittany is raising. In the "Côtes-du-Nord" area in particular a vigorous effort towards acquiring new industries has been made recently. But they have gone as far as possible within the limits fixed by the law.

At the last session of the C-d-N. General Council, M. Pleven regretted that in view of the will to progress which characterizes Brittany to-day, the French government was not more willing to help our region to keep its youth at home by adopting effective measures to stop underemployment. "In this respect, he stated, the April decree does not fulfil the promises made. It is a fraud." (Ref. Breiz, May 1960.

ARTICHOKE FOR THE TAKING

The area around Kastell-Pel in Northern Brittany lives largely from the growing of artichokes and cauliflowers. A boom in 1958 induced the farmers to extend the surface under these vegetables, and this year a total of about 30 square miles was devoted to them by 5000 growers. Most of the production usually finds its way to the consumers through the Paris corporation markets.

In May and June, considerable amounts of artichokes remained unsold at the Kastell-Pol auctions, in spite of catastrophically low prices. To save the market, the producers decided to fix a minimum price of ca 3 pence a head and to dump whatever could not be sold. It is estimated that half the crop (according to Ouest-France, 13-6, 40,000 tons) were thus destroyed. A compensation fund set up by the growers helped to apportion the losses more evenly among them. The public authorities agreed to contribute to this pool and to transport artichokes free of cost towards centres of consumption. In a communique to France Agence Presse, artichokes were offered for the taking (provided they would not be "traded") to anybody willing to come and fetch them. This waste is a sad reflection on a State which proposes to help the world's underfed.

HAVE BRETONS TO GAIN BY REMAINING FRENCH?

Echoing the "Scots Independent", the excellent "revue d'études" AR VRO indicates the number of books published in 1959 for 100,000 inhabitants in various European countries. Norway, Switzerland, Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, Austria top the list with figures varying from 59 to 87, whereas France and Italy come at the bottom with 27.

In the "Welsh Nation", June 1960, Leopold Kohr, Visiting Professor from the University of Puerto Rico, U.C. Swansea, refutes the theory that any form of political contraction into narrower confines would have an impoverishing effect. His argument is based on economic facts which we should like to summarize in a later issue. He explains how a small state like Switzerland can offer its citizens the highest personal living standards of Europe.

PARTITION OF BRITTANY

The French territory will now be divided into 21 regions, representing "viable economic units". The reorganisation purports also to simplify administration. Within each region, the various administrative functions may have their siege in different centres. Thus there will not be any regional capitals!

As we expected, Brittany will be partitioned by this measure. Its industrial sector, the Nantes and St-Nazaire area, will be joined with French départements to the East and South, with which it has economically much less connection than with the rest of Southern Brittany. 'L'Avenir', the organ of Movement for the Organisation of Brittany has published a clear and concise memorandum on this subject. At the time when all Bretons are striving to obtain the industrialisation of their country, the closest connection is needed with the Nantes area, which has belonged to Brittany since the 9th century.

Prime Minister Debré said in Bordeaux on June 12th that he did not believe in "political regionalism". This will confirm many Bretons in their belief in political nationalism. The Bretons will fight for Nantes.

FOR A BRETON ASSEMBLY IN RENNES.

A Breton Farmers' leader had warned last winter that despair in rural districts would soon have reached a point when the men would sack the administrative buildings and march on Paris. Another stated that the solidarity between all categories of Bretons was now strong enough "for us, in case of a general strike, to fall back on our own means and hold out for a long time".

Commenting on these statements a correspondent of L'Avenir, N. Urvoas, calls on all Bretons, threatened as they are in their vital common interests, to march in good order not on Paris, but on Rennes, their own capital, to hold there a general assembly and lay down the foundations of a charter for Brittany.

FUEN CONGRESS. The 10th Congress of the Federal Union of European Nationalities took place in Zuoz, Switzerland, on June 4-6. Delegates were present from most subject nations and Minorities in West and Central Europe, some of which have a juridical status like the Danish Germans and the Slovenes while others remain without international recognition like the Welsh and the Bretons. The Congress was very well organised thanks to the work of the FUEN Secretary, Mr. Povl Skadegard. The Breton delegation presented 3 draft resolutions. A Breton member also presented 3 resolutions on behalf of the Welsh National Party, PLAID CYMRU.

THE CORNWALL FESTIVAL IN KEMPER (21-24/7/1960)

This festival, described in leaflets as "the greatest festival of folklore in Europe" will give visitors to Brittany an idea of the country's popular culture. There will be Breton songs, dances, sung dances, music and dresses representing all the various districts of Brittany, and displayed by thousands of members of the "Celtic Circles".

Will it give a fully authentic expression of our culture? As far as the features mentioned are concerned, we readily believe it will. But where is the Breton language's part? A drama originally written in Breton will be presented in a French translation. Breton is spoken in all the countryside around and even in the suburbs of the town. Why not have staged the play (also) in its original language? Everywhere in Brittany and among the Breton colonies around Paris+ customs and traditions are expressing themselves with renewed vigour in "pardons" and festivals. Such a vitality holds the promise of fundamental changes in Brittany. Many, however, who are struggling to maintain Brittany's essential characters are concerned at the Cinderella part reserved for the Breton language at these, often magnificent festivals.

A Breton school by correspondence has been functioning for the last 30 years under the direction of Miss M. GOURLAOUEN, rue de la Corderie, Douarnenez, Finistere. Her school, "SKOL OBER", uses the most modern methods, teaches the standard form of Breton, is free of charges other than postage.

FRENCH LINGUISTIC IMPERIALISM.

Among the reports presented to the FUEN Congress in Switzerland, we have read with great interest the text prepared by the delegates for the German-speaking minority of Eupen-St Vith in Belgium: it describes a method of linguistic oppression which resembles the one applied in Elsass-Lothringen (and in Brittany) like two drops of water. It is to the credit of the Fuen-Congress to have drawn the attention of the Flemings and the Wallons to the silent wrong committed against these German speakers, by the State.

The Committee for the Defense and Coordination of Breton Interest recently had an active role in organising Breton participation in international fairs (London, Saarbruck). The Committee aims at opening new markets for the Breton products by direct contact with foreign importers.

POLICE VEXATIONS. Following the action taken against the editor of the Breton periodical LABOUR, Mr. H. Lemee who runs a duplicating firm in Rennes and thus helps publishing a number of reotyped Breton magazines was also called before the Judge of Instruction in Rennes. Other Bretons have on various occasions during the past two or three years been subjected to prolonged police interrogations. (Ref. Ar Vro, June 1960).

For instance, at Poissy on the 29th May.

BRETON NEWS



A Bulletin issued by
The Breton Information Bureau

All Correspondence to be addressed to LINTON, Fassarœe Lane, Fassarœe,
BRAY, Co. WICKLOW.

No. 8

DUBLIN, ÉIRE.

AUGUST 1960

Our next issue will appear on the 1st of October 1960.

Against the Partition of Brittany

Among the 21 administrative regions recently created by a French reform, there is one called "Brittany". It is in fact Brittany less the Loire-Atlantique département (Nantes). This area has been attributed to the region of "Loire-Océan" which includes also Le Mans and Angers. A well documented pamphlet published by the Movement for the organisation of Brittany, "Against the Partition of Brittany", gives the reasons why the Bretons will not accept this decision. We can only give a brief summary of it. Ethnologically: the coastal zone of Loire-Atlantique was one of the bases for the Breton settlement in the 5-7th centuries. Breton was still spoken in some places there at the beginning of this century. Historically, Nantes was for 4 or 5 centuries the capital of independent Brittany. The 1st Breton University was founded by the Duke Francis II at the end of the XVth century in Nantes. The representatives of this town were with those of Rennes and St-Malo the most resolute in defending Brittany's freedom and integrity against the French kings and the Revolution.

Culturally. The folklore of Loire-Atlantique belongs to that of Upper Brittany. The whole area of Nantes-St-Nazaire participates through numerous Celtic Circles in the lively folkloric movement of the last 10 years. Many urban councils have asked repeatedly for the teaching of Breton.

Economically, the industry of such a vast rural area as represented by the official "Brittany", with a high labour surplus, can be developed only around an already established industrial complex such as provided by Nantes and St-Nazaire. It was thanks to the influence of Nantes that industries such as canning, developed along the Southern coast of Brittany. Nantes and St-Nazaire should have a capital rôle to play in the economic renovation of the rest of Brittany. Nantes has undoubtedly commercial interests to the East and South, but they could be safeguarded by agreements between Chambers of Commerce. There is no such live connection between Le Mans, in the Paris orbit, Angers, in itself a minor metropolis, and Nantes, which owes its prosperity to the Loire estuary and the sea, as between Nantes and the 4 départements of this truncated "Brittany". Cutting Nantes from them in economic planning (the main pre-occupation of the reform) amounts to depriving them of the only industrial centre capable of providing them with the necessary stimulus, skill and capital for their industrialisation.

The administrative reform has shown once more that French governments are not concerned with the Bretons' interests.

Holiday-makers, if you are going to Brittany, get in touch with "The Breton Tourist Association", Ker Arvor, 21/23 R. Mélinière, NANTES 1 C. The only such association covering all of Brittany.

SGRAFFITI.

"Large tar inscriptions appeared on different walls in Kemper during the Festival of Cornwall, in particular on the walls of the Préfecture (seat of the representative of the French Government)", announces "Ouest-France" (26-7-60). O.-F. appears scandalised and modestly avoids to tell what the inscriptions were. We have learned it though. The slogan "ALGERIE FRANÇAISE" had previously been painted in white on walls in various places in Brittany. Surely Ouest-France found nothing vulgar in that. But unknown hands came and painted (in black!) LIBRE (free) over FRANÇAISE and ut BRETAGNE beside ALGERIE. The slogan became:

ALGERIE, BRETAGNE FRANÇAISE LIBRES

That was of course very bad taste!

THE SCANDALOUS TREATMENT OF THE BRETON PLACE-NAMES

Strong protests are being voiced in Brittany against the distortion of place names, in particular on the sign-posts which are now being erected at every cross-road. All newspapers and periodicals concerned with the respect for the Breton name are campaigning against this treatment and for a proper transcription of names which are not French but Breton. The magazine "Ar Soner" has published a booklet by a topography engineer,

Y.P. BOUCHER, which gives numerous examples of ridiculous "adaptations" of our "barbaric" vocables to the genius of the French language.

Here are some of them:

Kroaz-Hent (Cross-road) becomes Croissant (Crescent), ar Salver (The Saviour, Calvary) La Salle Verte (The Green Hall), Ker Puns (Farm of the Well) Ker Puce (The Villa of the Flea). There is much more humorous: Garzh Mari (Mary's Hedge) turns out as Gras-Marie (Fat Mary?) and Garzh ar Saoz (The Englishman's Hedge) has been trimmed into Garce ar Sausse (The hussy of the Sausse??). There is no doubt, that is good taste for you, with a touch of Rabelaisian or rather Gallic wit!

Bretons are perhaps too serious. They will never understand properly the superiority of French culture! Y.P. Boucher and a number of other people have written to the officer-in-charge of the Department of Bridges and Roads in "Finistere" asking that the inscription of place names be carried out by taking due account of the rules of Breton spelling.

This gentleman has given an answer which is typical of the underhand and relentless hostility of the French authorities towards the Breton language: 1) The road user is not necessarily a Breton speaker or even a Breton. 2) Everybody knows that there are four Breton dialects; that pronunciation varies from place to place.....

All fallacious pretexts, as Yann Moger in "l'Avenir" (July 1960) points out:

1) The place names are always written in the language of the country in which they are situated -- even in France, one does not write Nouilloŕque for New York although it is so pronounced. (The fact is that Bretons are treated like a subject people.) 2) There are dialects in every language including French, but there is also a unified Breton spelling as there is a unified French spelling. The unified Breton spelling is used in all nationally minded publications, but, typically again, it is not recognised by the Rennes University whose authorities do all in their power to boycott it (by refusing permission to use textbooks in this spelling in State schools, for instance). By favouring the parcelling of dialects, the language is further deprived of its value as a common bond between its native speakers.

The Balance of Europe.

On May 31st. 1960, General de Gaulle referred to Western Europe as the indispensable condition of the world balance.

"Europe cannot contribute to the equilibrium of the world unless it is well balanced itself", replies the editor of "Ar Vro" (June 1960). And it will not be well balanced so long as all its nationalities are not recognised. France has avoided a spreading of the Algerian war by de-colonising her former possessions in Western and Central Africa. Similarly the organisation of Europe on the basis of its nationalities will put an end to the internal strife which has so often ruined it. A number of States have understood it: Yugoslavia and Switzerland are federal States; Denmark and Austria practise towards their minorities a very liberal policy. And others also. But the Westerners of Western Europe, England, France and Spain, have not yet, or hardly, begun an evolution which is bound to come. We Bretons will combine our efforts with the other nationalities of Western Europe to bring about the solution of peace, progress and wisdom."

Criticism of "Breton News".

A Breton teacher has pointed out some inaccuracies in the article "Breton at the School Door", published in

our June issue.

We wrote that the teaching of Breton in the public schools was allowed only "outside the regular teaching hours" and that "no training course is provided for the teachers".

The law states that "any teacher who will apply may be authorised to devote an hour per week from the directed activities to the elementary teaching of the local languages and dialects, as well as to the study of selected samples of the corresponding literature". Two or three hours of the time-table come under these directed activities. They may include the initiation to various hobbies, drawing, subjects in any case outside the prescribed curriculum.

The law states also that optional courses will be organised as far as possible in the training colleges. Much seems to be left to the good will of the directors of such colleges as well as to the private "enterprise" of the occasional teacher. We learn that such an optional course is provided in a training college in St-Brieuc, where many students have written end-of-course monographs in Breton.

According to information received so far, Breton lessons are given only in 3 national schools. The general attitude of parents and teachers is the same as towards physical training and drawing: the subjects are not on the examinations list and therefore distract the pupils from the drive to get results. The conclusion is: the Breton language must conquer its right as the official language in the area where it is spoken. The 1951 law is a sham. New propositions of law were tabled in May by representatives of Brittany and Occitania (area of the Oc language including most of the South of the French territory). The proposals aim at a more effective teaching of the "regional" languages. The law of 1951, by leaving aside the methodical organisation of the teaching and failing to give proper recognition of these languages at examinations, has proved a sham.

BRETON NEWS



A Bulletin issued by **The Breton Information Bureau**

All correspondence to be addressed to LINTON, Fassaroe Lane, Fassaroe, BRAY,
Co. Wicklow

NO. 9

DUBLIN, EIRE

October, 1960

DE GAULLE'S EXCURSION IN BRITTANY: THE WAY HE WENT:

- 7. September, Brest, Island of Sein, Douarnenez, Kemper
- 8 - 9 Concarneau, Landerneau, Morlaix, Lannion, St. Brieuc
- 9 - 9 Dinan, Lorient, Pontivy, Vannes
- 10-11 St.-Nazaire, Nantes, Chateaubriant, Rennes
- 11- 9 Fougères, St-Malo, Dinard

From the 7. to the 11th September, the Bretons had the opportunity to view France's monarch at close hand and to treat themselves to some of the finest flowers of his rhetoric. The French press - including the officious Breton *Gallies* - has reported how satisfactory the show was. They don't seem to have made any references to the way the stage was set for the "spontaneous" expression of 'mass welcome'. The information we have received in that respect reveals an alarmingly close similarity between De Gaulle's regime and some recent or present European dictatorships. But first a few remarks on the trip in general.

In St-Malo and Rennes De Gaulle expressed France's trust in Brittany and assured that Brittany could also trust France (she had then ground to distrust?). As a rule he was cheered most when he evoked the Bretons difficulties. He evoked but he would leave it to his ministers to work them out (We shall have a wait with the arch-centraliser Debre). Ref. *Le Monde* 13-9.

De Gaulle visited the 5 Breton départements, shouted "Long Live Brittany" in Nantes, declared in Rennes that in his view the Breton entity was above all administrative divisions (One wonders why he would not allow bits of Flanders or Lorraine to be detached and joined to their northern or eastern neighbours; is France not so strong in those parts that her substance could not dwindle in spite of administrative divisions? Mr. De. Gaulle is the last to allow a supra-national administration to replace - however partially - the French one. By declaring that in Rennes, he acknowledged the unpopularity of the reform separating Nantes and St-Nazaire from the rest of Brittany. (Ref. *Ouest-France* 12-9). Yet the reform was officially sanctioned precisely during his tour. Can Brittany trust De Gaulle? While he goes on soothing, the machine goes on grinding. Even if he wished, he could not stop it.

The farmers federation had given orders to their members not to welcome De Gaulle. It seems that the orders were well obeyed. The workers of the Naval Dockyard at Lorient as well as those of the Nantes-St-Nazaire industrial area received him coolly (Europe 1). They had told they wanted acts (- to dispel the worry about unemployment), not words. Well, he promised "a great prosperity useful to all sons and daughters of France", "because it is the condition of our greatness".

THE BACK-STAGE OF THE VISIT

SECURITY PRECAUTIONS: It is customary for a certain amount of precautions to be taken when a high State personality travels - especially outside his national territory. It appears from the following that in Brittany De Gaulle was protected as nowhere else during his previous (7 or 8) provincial tours.

1. All names of people living in the buildings sited along his route were noted by policemen.
2. People not declared were strictly forbidden to stand on the balconies or at the windows of those houses. (According to a correspondent it was forbidden to open the windows in Concarneau, Douarnenez, Kemper).
3. Police inspected all printing offices whose directors are not "voluntary informers", to know if leaflets were being printed. Workers were questioned and the offices were watched.
4. Police on motorcycles and in radio-cars patrolled the route to be followed day and night - so as to forestall eventual acts of sabotage.
5. Police and army troops ("tens of thousands") swarmed on the streets and on roofs. The Prefectures where De Gaulle would stay overnight were cordoned off all night. Detachments from the North and Centre of France were reported at Lannion and Guingamp.

6. The leaders of the Breton Movement were questioned and their houses searched and watched, to know to what extent they would demonstrate. A number of nationalists were preventively arrested. Mr. Gouarnig was arrested on the 6th of September and kept at the police station at Kemperle during the 5 days De Gaulle spent in Brittany. His wife and 14 years old daughter were also detained.

20 men were rounded up and detained in Brest from 6 to 12 a.m. while the General was there. Among them were the local secretary of the M.O.B. and Andreu Geffroy who, since his release from the death cell at La Sante in 1953, is always one of the first to receive official attentions on such occasions.

4 young men were arrested in Rennes while distributing leaflets. Other arrests were made, according to a last minute report.

"A MASS WELCOME":

7. Directors of both public and private schools wrote to the pupils' parents requesting them to send their children, in rows, with little flags (provided by the Prefecture) to cheer the hero all along his route. The children were on summer holidays till September 20th.

8. Some garagists were "invited" to "lend" their luxury cars to transport the retinue.

9. Employers were "invited" to allow their workers free - on pay - to go and clap hands.

10. Sextons were ordered to ring bells.

11. The population was requested to deck houses with flags. In fact flags were on public buildings, on some hotels where the retinue was being lodged and on a few business premises. "Otherwise one inhabitant in 500 at the maximum" complied with the request.

All the points 1-8 were confirmed by other correspondents.

BLACKMAILING OF KENDALC'H: The administrative Council of "KENDALC'H" the Federation of Celtic Circles and folklore groups which has thousands of members all over Brittany and among Breton emigrants, issued a circular to the group leaders, of which we give here the essential:

"The President of Kendalc'h was sounded by the authorities in view of the eventual participation of the groups in the reception to be given to De Gaulle. He answered by drawing their attention to the unfavourable state of mind created by the reform cutting Nantes from Brittany, thus ignoring many reasonable appeals made against such a separation. In agreement with the administrative council of Kendalc'h he strongly advised the authorities not to seek a participation which could lead to incidents."

Pressure was then brought to bear from various quarters on the leaders of Kendalc'h. They answered by asking their members not to participate, adding for the Prefet "that the Bretons were not court jesters who could be kicked after amusing the king."

The pressure was then renewed. The Prefet of Finistere ordered two groups of Kemper (Hospital and Green Mill) to take part. The group leader Kamus of Brest was called repeatedly to the sub-Prefecture. Mayors were told to threaten the groups with suppression of the public subventions to the folklore groups.

In Brest a group was hired by the authorities. The men handed De Gaulle a letter from the M.O.B. and managed to have him to pass in front of their flag. A picture in Ouest-France (8-9) shows a peculiar expression on De Gaulle's and Debre's faces as they look away from the Breton emblem.

PETITIONS: In 7 towns (Brest, Kemper, Lorient, Vannes, Guingamp, Rennes and Nantes), copies of a letter were handed to De Gaulle by high personalities on behalf of the Movement for the Organisation of Brittany asking for: the teaching of Breton, respect for Brittany's integrity, a Breton Parliament.

He received a similar letter from KENDALC'H - which, in view of the non-political character of this association, omitted the third point.

One may surmise that he passed them on to Debre for whom provincial franchises, parliaments or anything "creating" differences among the French citizens constitutes a deadly danger to France's unity. No reply should be expected then.

LEAFLETS: The French press and radio reported the distribution of leaflets in Rennes, Fougères, Dol, St-Malo, etc. by "obdurate autonomists". The leaflets asked for "work in Brittany" and a "stop to deportation", for the teaching of the Breton language. They were published by the youth section of the M.O.B. or by the "Agence Bretagne Nouvelle". Posters were put up, showing a map of Brittany overwritten with the word "AUTODETERMINATION". Leaflets with the simple slogan "FREE BRITTANY" were thrown into De Gaulle's car at St-Thuriau, St-Malo, Rennes, (here the distributors were apprehended).

The Police did their best to prevent the distribution, by searching the houses of suspects, patrolling the roads, and picking up or tearing down the untimely print.

INCIDENTS. CONCARNEAU. The large canvas flag with a Cross of Lorraine hanging on the walls of the festival hall was pulled down and torn. The authors, still under age, were identified by the police. They were also accused of having made on walls and streets "the inscriptions which you know". (to quote "Ouest-France". 12-9-60)

LORIENT: The beginning of De Gaulle's speech was made inaudible when a factory horn started hooting. Our information is that it was done purposely.

MORLAIX: General De Gaulle: Long live Brittany!

The crowd: Bravo!

G. de G. Long live France!

Voices in the front row: Oooo!

ST-THURIAU: G. de G.: Long live France, long live the Republic!

A young Breton in front of him: Long live Brittany, Sir!

"ISLE OF SINNERS: De Gaulle had come to inaugurate a monument on the tiny island of Sein, commemorating the flight to England of all the male population in 1940. He would have said at that time: "Sein is then a quarter of France. I'll remember that at the liberation".

Indeed, one of his first acts was to suppress, in spite of the prolonged resistance of the islanders, their age-old privilege not to pay any taxes. They could be Frenchmen "like the others". How grateful!

CELIB LETTER TO MAYORS: In a letter circulated by the secretary of C.E.L.I.B. to the mayors of townships which are members of that organisation, attention is called to the importance of a consultation which the "Prefets" of Brittany were carrying out, prior to De Gaulle's visit, concerning the problems of the country.

CELIB advised them to write to their respective prefets stressing the following points:

1. Allotment of Credits: Since the end of the 19th century, Brittany has been constantly disfavoured in comparison with the other regions in the allotment of State credits. Whether it was for rural equipment, vocational education or large investments of public concern, -"our province" has never received the share of credits to which it is entitled on a demographic account. That is the essential cause of Brittany's present economic difficulties. A comprehensive plan ought to be worked out by the government in order to remedy this neglect.

2. Immediate measures to solve transport problems arising from Brittany's geographical remoteness.* Railways (electrification does not extend to Brittany; goods tariffs hampering exports of agricultural products; narrow internal railways); highways in central Brittany to be improved; air routes to be opened.

PRICE OF ENERGY: Brittany pays more for the French coal than the Paris area, while her maritime position would allow her to import foreign coal at "very interesting rates"**. This is a penalisation from which our economy suffers. Similarly the application of the "green tariff" has the result that Brittany pays the highest rates for electricity in France.

3. Brittany has recently been classed a "critical zone". But other areas have since been classed "special zones of conversion" ***, granting much more important advantages to industrialists. "We ask for Brittany to be classed as a 'special zone of conversion' in view of her considerable emigration and of her available man-power."

Breton News' notes.

CELIB, the Committee for Study and Coordination of Breton Interests, is a body officially recognised by the French government.

* Remoteness" in the French economic system!

** Coal could be imported cheaply from across the Channel, for ex.

*** "Conversion" of old uncompetitive industries into new ones.

OUR COMMENT:

DOES DE GAULLE RECOGNISE THE BRETON PERSONALITY?

We note the following statements made by De Gaulle in Brittany: "Brittany of course has duties towards France, but also reciprocally France has duties towards Brittany" (Ouest-France, 9-9).

"Brittany must progress, and France must help her," answered De Gaulle to the mayors who were conveying to him their grievances regarding the country's economic difficulties. (Le Telegramme, 9-9)

"France trusts Brittany and Brittany can also trust France" (Le Monde, 13-9)

What is curious in these statements is not that De Gaulle promises to give attention to the Bretons' need, or that he will help: we are used to a lot of promises made in electoral times (and this visit was much like an electoral

campaign). The curious thing is this repeated juxtaposition of Brittany and France, this acknowledgment of reciprocal duties. The rights and duties of Brittany and France were well defined in the treaty of Union of 1532, and this treaty was unilaterally annulled by the French in 1790, in spite of the strongest protests by the Breton Parliament. Would De Gaulle be prepared to guarantee Brittany's rights by revalidating the treaty, or signing a new one? One of these rights concerns the Breton language, the most remarkable characteristic of the Breton "entity" of which De Gaulle spoke. Nothing so far justifies the trust that France would safeguard it. On the contrary!

Of what sort of Brittany was De Gaulle talking?

UNREST IN RURAL AREAS: A "Rueff" committee appointed to investigate ways of removing the obstacles to French economic expansion has made a number of recommendations to the Government. Those concerning rural leases have met with a lively opposition among the farm-tenants. The area held in rent represents, according to "Le Progres de Cornouaille", 27-8-60, 63% of the arable land in the N. and W. of France. Representatives of the farmers of Brittany and of 8 adjoining "departements", gathered in Nantes, expressed their determination to have the threatened "Statute of Land rent" respected, by force if need be. Adoption of the Rueff report, they argue, would lead to the disappearance of family enterprises, and by favouring those who have capitals would aggravate the exodus of the young from the land. The report favours the remuneration of capital and does not take the value of work into account at all. If accepted it would amount to a social regression of half a century.

A Breton News correspondent reports that De Gaulle has denied, during his tour of Brittany, the Government's intention to adopt the report.

According to a communication from the "Agence Bretagne Nouvelle", "the totality of the farmers of the Plouescat district of NW Brittany are refusing to pay their taxes, in spite of threats of prosecution. The big press (Ouest-France, Telegramme de Brest) make no reference to this refusal, and the French administration, conscious of the danger of a spread, seems to have given instructions to maintain a silence about it.

The following episode reminds one of the land evictions in 19th century Ireland. The tenant of a farm at Ar Merzher (West Brittany) was unable to pay a stiff increase in his rent as requested by his landlord and sanctioned by the Rennes appeal court. He was evicted and the farm, which he had cultivated for at least 20 years, was put to auction. A boycott organised by 500 farmers, who feared a similar fate in the present critical situation on the land, made it impossible to sell even a single cow.

Many small holdings in Brittany are uneconomic. The view of the Bretons is that alternative opportunities for work can - and therefore must, be provided by establishing new industries in the country. It is significant of the awakening of Breton consciousness that the Breton federation of the French Communist party has found it expedient to put up this poster (in Henbont) "The Communist Party will not permit the deportation of the BRETON WORKERS to the Ruhr". Such papers as Ouest-France appeared scandalised by the Breton Nationalists' use of the term "Deportation" when referring to the necessity for workers to leave Brittany. The Communists could have objected to the deportation to the East or the Centre of France just as well!

THE FESTIVAL OF CORNWALL IN KEMPER (24-7-1960) and THE BAG-PIPES FESTIVAL IN BREST (7-8-1960) attracted tens of thousands of visitors, Breton as well as foreign. Their splendour has been described in the local daily press. "Ouest-France (26-7-60) states that the Festival of Cornwall received the honours of the American, German, Italian, Belgian and Arab TV broadcasts. We are left wondering what about the French T.V., maybe it was below their standard? The spectators had the opportunity to witness other manifestations, of a non-folkloric character. At various spots in the town of Kemper, notably at the Prefecture (seat of the French Government representative), inscriptions had been tacked on the walls: NANTES IS IN BRITTANY! ALGERIA x FLN = FACTORIES, but BRITTANY x LOYALTY = NOTHING. To the staffs of the Breton flags carried ahead of the different folklore groups black strips were tied in sign of mourning for the Nantes area separated from the rest of Brittany by a recent administrative reform. This initiative came from the leaders of the Federation of folklore groups. A large Breton flag rose in the air, attached to a balloon. Leaflets published by the MOB (Movement for the Organisation of Brittany) and the association "Youth of Brittany", asking for WORK IN BRITTANY and BRETON SELF-GOVERNMENT were distributed in large numbers. L'Avenir the organ of the MOB was sold by the thousand.

NATIONALIST MANIFESTATIONS IN BREST (7-8-60). The Bag-Pipes Festival which constitutes one of the big events of modern Breton life, was preceded this year by a vigorous campaign of leaflets distribution and wall inscriptions. The themes were: A Parliament for Brittany, Self-Government for Brittany, Nantes in Brittany. This propaganda was provoked by the French Government's partition of Brittany at the beginning of the summer. The last day of the festival was the 28th anniversary of the blasting by the secret organisation "Gwenn ha Du" of the Rennes monument commemorating France's annexion of Brittany in 1532. At 6 p.m. a huge Breton flag (about 200 sq. yards) hung in front of the new unfinished townhall. At the same time, heading the "triumphal march" of 1000 pipers, twenty young men chosen from the various groups carried another large black and white flag horizontally past the rather perplexed authorities. 4 or 5 rockets went up in the air in the vicinity of the Castle and showered the spectators with thousands of leaflets claiming bilingually "Independence for Brittany". Four students were then apprehended and a fifth, the president of "The Breton Student Youth" was also detained when he tried to intercede. Towards 8 p.m. fifty armed policemen in helmets arrived at the new townhall, occupied the building, and one of them in civilian dress tore and took away the flag. An example which was to be followed by young Bretons on the occasion of De Gaulle's visit in September, but applied to French flags this time. When the arrest of the 5 students became known, a delegation of about 100 members of folklore groups marched towards the police station, shouting in unison "RE-LEA-SE THE PRI-SO-NERS". 5 car-loads of policemen charged the demonstrators and dispersed them. The pipers were forbidden to play after 10 p.m. Something like an atmosphere of ourfew descended on Brest after the festivity of the day.

The arrested men were released at 11.30 p.m.

BOLD INITIATIVES: The Breton grocer E. Leclerc has won world fame in recent years by his success in eliminating costly distribution services and thus reducing grocery prices. In our July issue we reported about the "battle of the artichoke" in the Kastell-Pel (St-Pol de Leon) area, and the organisation by the growers of a direct supply line from the fields to the consumers. The scandalous aspect of that crisis was that so much food should be wasted when about half the world population is underfed.

For the last 2 years the farmers of the neighbouring Landivisiau area had followed the advice to concentrate on cattle rearing, given by government planners. The latter expected an increased demand for meat from the Common Market.

Instead, there was such a slump on the marts at the beginning of the Summer that half the cattle had to be brought back to the farms. This was partly due to imports to France and partly to the failure of the numerous middlemen to effect any reduction at consumption level.* Here again the farmers took the initiative and decided to organise the slaughtering of the cattle and the direct sale to consumers. Ref. Ouest-France, 26-7- 29-7- 20-8-60) (The experiment extended to about 15 "communes")

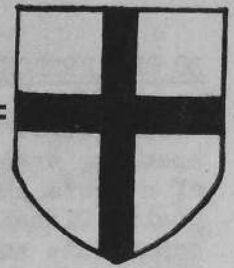
* The fact noticed at military call-ups that a higher proportion of debilitated young men exist in rural areas than in towns is attributed in the 1st Ouest-France article to the under-consumption of food-stuffs other than bread and potatoes.

BRITTANY IS A NATION: Bretons rejoice when they see "new" nations reaching independence and taking their place at the United Nations.

Brittany is also a nation, an old nation which maintained its independence till 1532, its autonomy till 1790, but had then to submit to superior force.

Brittany is also entitled to her place among the newly freed nations of the world, among the free nations of the world. It is not because the Bretons are white that they are to forgo that right and to allow their national characters to be definitely obliterated. In the near future the fate of the other white nations may be influenced by vote countings at the United Nations. It would be fair to count the voices of all the Celtic nations besides the voices of the Tchad, Formosa, Byelo-Russia, France, etc.

BRETON NEWS



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ONE STEP FORWARD, TWO BACKWARDS. A law proposal relative to the teaching of "regional" languages was submitted last July to the Commission for Cultural matters of the French National Assembly. Its humble aims were to obtain 1) a slight improvement of the 1951 law which allowed the teaching of these languages, in "deplorable" conditions; 2) the admission of Breton as a second language to the oral part of secondary school examinations.

The proposal was provisionally rejected by the commission. Reasons: overloaded programs, equating of these languages with patois, etc... As a French proverb says: if you want to drown your dog you accuse him of rabies. Among the fiercest opponents were Parisians and a Guadeloupian.

The proposal was to be discussed again by the Commission after the reconvening of Parliament in October. If accepted, it would go to the full assembly. If successful there, it would face the Government - and the Superior Council of Education which is the Eminence Grise in such matters. If the proposal was again rejected, it would have to wait for a new Assembly. Surely there is no urgency?

In 1937 a similar proposal had succeeded in weathering the cape of the Commission for Cultural matters. But it was wrecked in Government waters, That contributed to many Bretons' determination to take up arms during the war.

The question is asked in the October issue of "Breiz": Is it for the representative of Guadeloupe to decide the fate of the Breton language or for the Bretons? Breiz is the organ of the folkloric movement whose leaders have chosen to abstain from politics. The Bretons who dare answer the question agree with the editorial of Ar Vro No. 7: We must give priority to political action, the success of which conditions all the rest.

A measure of the success which is to be expected for the new law proposal can be obtained from the following informations.

WHERE DOES BRETON COME IN? The "Bulletin de l'Education nationale" (12-9-60) and the French "Journal Officiel" (13-9-60) publish the decree relative to the languages allowed for the optional tests in the Leaving Certificate examination. They are: german, amharic, english, arabic (literary and dialectal), armenian, berber, bulgarian, cambodgian, chinese, danish, spanish, finnish, modern greek, hungarian, italian, japanese, lactian, etc. (13 other languages). No breton.

A WAR OF ATTRITION. In 1959, the one and only official incentive to the teaching of Breton in schools - a hard bone - was already taken away when new regulations concerning examinations were introduced and the optional test for "regional" languages was suppressed. Mass protests followed (see Breton News, No. 1) and the Minister for Education declared that the measure did not affect the Breton test. We now hear again that the optional tests for regional languages have been suppressed in Secondary School Examinations (Decrees of Sept. 12, 1960, and of Sept. 21st, 1960).

So the 1959 demonstrations only happened too soon! The report will confirm a remark by R. Hemon in his book "La Langue Bretonne et ses Combats," Editions de Bretagne, La Baule, 1947: "It is clear, that in Government circles, they hope to gain time, to tire the Bretons' patience." "But, he added, in this they are mistaken."

DO THE BRETONS CARE FOR THEIR LANGUAGE?

During the past 9 months a dozen of stage performances known as "beilhadegou" (evening gatherings) have met with such a success in the Breton speaking area of Tregor that it is possible without any exaggeration to speak of a craze among the population. These performances which remind of the Gaelic Oicheanta Seanchais with their songs, monologues and humorous "sketches" constitute an astonishing demonstration of the vitality of the Breton language and a test of the attachment of the common people to their language. Similar gatherings have been equally successful in Breton Cornwall, not to speak of the Nozvezhieu laouen among the Bretons of Paris, inspired by the Welsh "Noson lawen" or merry nights.

The success is due to the zeal as well as to the spirit of cooperation of people who socially and ideologically often belong to different classes. The organisers represent cultural groups with different objectives, but they are here united by their common devotion to their language.

The sympathetic and exalting welcome given to the beilhadegou proves beyond dispute that the Breton language does not occupy its legitimate place among the public activities of Brittany. These gatherings answer a deep need, and the organisers must be careful not to disappoint a public which expects and demands more performances and renewed programs. There lies an opportunity to make use of the rich store of modern plays in Breton, so far known only to the readers of Breton language periodicals and kept concealed from the overwhelming majority of the Bretons by a system of education which ignores this language and a propaganda which represents it as an uncultivated "patois". The next step should be the constitution of theatrical groups capable of presenting high standard productions.

The organisers must be congratulated for providing the Breton cultural movement with the proof that the masses are ready to support it. The importance of this testimony can be appreciated from a quotation of R. Hemon, the leader of the Breton literary movement: "It is essential for the future of the language to win the support of the people during the coming 25 years". This was written about ten years ago. R. Hemon was saying recently that the evening gatherings could go a long way to counteract the invasion of the French language and culture in this age of radio and TV.

A first record (43 rpm) by some of the best beilhadegou singers has been released by the firm Mouez Breiz (Kemper). It is presented as a "historical document". Ref. Avenir, Oct. 1960 (excellent articles in Breton on the same subject in Barr Heol, Ar Bed Keltiek, in French in Breiz).

STILL A LAND OF HOPE.

We don't know how much Brittany has profited from decentralisation during the first nine months of 1960 - trade union protests indicate that there has been precious little. For 1959 there are recently published official figures ("Decentralisation et localisation industrielle en 1959"):

Number of industrial permits to build granted and number of employments thereby created: none in Finistere ($\frac{3}{4}$ of a million inhabitants).

Operations of industrial decentralisation carried out or decided upon: none in Loire-Atlantique and Morbihan: one in Finistere: two in Cotes-du-Nord.

Employments thereby created: none in the first 2 departements, less than 100 in the 3rd, less than 200 in the 4th.

Factory buildings available: 5 in Morbihan, 10 in C-d-N, about 15 in L-A, and F., about 20 in Ille-et-Vilaine. Ref. l'Avenir October, 1960.

HAS A REGION ANY RIGHTS?

In our No. 9 issue we mentioned the Rueff-Armand Committee appointed officially to investigate the ways to remove the obstacles to France's economic expansion. We considered only one aspect of their report. In "l'Avenir", Oct. 1960, we read that Prime Minister Debré presided the Committee and signed the report. The statement that "the organisation and administrative division of France have given satisfaction for 150 years" could well be his. It certainly does not admit any correlation between the strong centralisation of government and the return to waste of 1/10 of the French territory in that period. Debré himself, speaking on the 18th September in a small town of Central France in a department which loses its population at the yearly rate of one in 50, urged his listeners to rejoice at developments in other areas, even if theirs remained undeveloped. "All that is in France belongs to France... There is no Brittany, Lorraine, or Languedoc when it comes to national achievements."

The Rueff-Armand report also insists on the necessity to favour only such regional schemes and projects as will be useful at national and international levels.

At the beginning of the year, Debré had urged his associates to "populate the Centre of France and take people away from Brittany". This statement caused an outcry and was promptly denied officially.

"The displacement of populations", writes l'Avenir, "though not openly mentioned, is certainly implied in the search for a record productivity. We have reasons to believe ... that the authors of the report had Brittany in mind when they stated that the actual distribution of enterprises and of population among the regions of France does not in many important cases correspond to the conditions for the maximum national expansion."

They admit that it might be useful to help regional economies to regain their balance as strictly free competition would lead to the concentration of Europe's essential activities between the Seine and the Weser. That was for the Government to decide however.

In l'Avenir's view a centralised State was justified only if it enabled each of its regions to attain to a higher prosperity than they would if left to their own devices. The State should be an arbitrator between the regions. But a strong government coupled with overall centralisation results in tyranny. Brittany's only chance lay in a regional administration for her regional interests.

A different view was taken by Y. Olier writing in Breton in "Ar Vro", March 1960. "If Brittany is considered only as a region, as a part of France, she has no definite rights: a part has no claim on the whole, but has to serve the whole. France may consider it in her interest - as in fact she does - to break up the Breton people and to eradicate their language. As Frenchmen, the Bretons have to bow to this superior interest.

As a nation however, Brittany has the same rights as the other European nations: if not independence from them, at least equality with them; in any case the right to self-government."

THE METHODS OF PHENOMENOLOGY are applied by Abanna in Ar Vro No. 7 to show how the French have managed to bring to national self-denial large sections of the Breton population. We shall quote some interesting passages in a later issue. The conclusion is that a regionalist movement which concerns itself excessively with the folkloric vestiges of a shattered Breton order while protesting of its respect and loyalty to the very power that destroyed it, is a historical absurdity.

PERSONALITY CULT. It was announced recently in the press (The Télégramme de Brest devoted even a front page picture to the thing!) that a child had been "christened" DE GAULLE in Paris, with official agreement. But historic Breton names, such as the name of Guran, the Breton leader who fought the Danish invaders, are still refused. (from a correspondent, 3-10-60).

RECOGNISE THE BRETON PERSONALITY. In the "Open letter to General De Gaulle" tens of thousand copies of which were distributed when he travelled to Brittany, we note this passage:
"This summer our Breton national flag was present everywhere, acclaimed, adopted, and recognised. You could now recognise the Breton personality as you have done for Algeria, Martinique and so many other counties which are already or will soon be independent. We proclaim that, apart from the question of skin, we are as "different" as our coloured brothers; we are, if not quite as intelligent certainly just as "evolved" as they are and our national character is even more marked than theirs."

WHEN TO DISOBEY. In the editorial of LABOUR, August-September, 1960, G. Toublane raises the question of obedience to French laws in Brittany. In international law, the Bretons can refuse this obedience. "The treaty of 1532 defining Brittany's autonomy having been unilaterally denounced by France, the Parliament of Brittany in October 1789 declared all French laws void in Brittany unless constitutionally validated by the Breton National Assembly (States-General). This assembly however had been disbanded by French Troops at the beginning of 1789 and did not meet again. Brittany's rights proceed from the rights of Nationalities and these rights are internationally accepted - even by France - as imprescriptible.

"However the facts do not correspond to these principles and the Breton attitude to French laws is whether to submit to force or not.

"For centuries, political thinkers like Gandhi have universally proclaimed the citizens' right and duty to disobey infamous laws imposed by brutal force.

"The French government's action separating the Nantes area "administratively" from the 4 other Breton départements, in spite of mass protests, is in line with the old project of partition of our country in the same way as happened in Ireland and Wales with the "6 Counties" and Monmouth.

"Heads of family who wanted to give Breton and Celtic names to their children have often been refused this right by the French officials and having themselves refused to give any other names, are now deprived of their family allowances (the children are left unregistered).

"Herve Bougeant refused to fight the Algerian people. The State bowed, (after keeping him a few months in jail), but sent him as a teacher to Algeria. Other young Bretons refused to wear the French uniform and went into hiding or into exile, breaking with their families and profession, risking if caught jail sentences and torture.

"We have in our columns refused to follow the general instruction not to talk about the French concentration camps and suffer daily the worst insults as a result.

Last Spring, the young recruits in Kemperle tore a French flag and replaced it by a "Gwenn-ha-Du", since then it was noted, during the summer festivals in particular, that wherever tricolor flags were hoisted, as many policemen would be present. On the contrary, the Breton flags float and rise in the sky with the cheers of the crowds.

"That also is disobedience. The way of disobedience is open again in Brittany."

COMMON RESISTANCE OF FACTORY AND FIELD WORKERS: For the second time in 6 months in the Loire-Atlantique, the representatives of the large workers Trade Unions and of the Federation of Farmers' Unions published in September a joint declaration. They state that the Government's economic policy is in reality that of the big financial groups. Rejecting De Gaulle's gratuitous promises of things to come "within 20 years", they asked for concrete achievements. For the 1st time in Finistere, factory workers and teachers Unions joined with the Farmers Unions to sign a declaration in which stress was laid on the widespread discontent and hardship resulting from the fall in the purchasing power of salaried people and farmers alike, the extension of unemployment, the collapse of prices at production level without any reduction at consumption level, the prospect of unemployment for the young people in the near future, the rural exodus.

They claimed for:

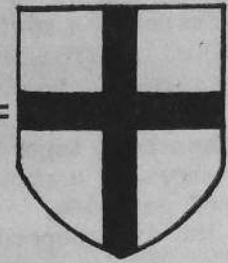
- a fair remuneration of the work of those who produce the wealth of the country
- industrial expansion in the area;
- productive and social investments (building of schools, houses, hospitals, road work, harbour installations);
- a reform of the distribution circuits, so as to reduce the discrepancy between producers' and consumer's prices;
- a reorientation of the economic policy towards peace and social progress by reducing unproductive expenses (no H-Bomb).

A communiqué by the Fougères branch of the C.F.T.C. Union states that decentralisation is left to the good will of the employers; it is not carried out according to any plan that would take the needs of the working population into account. "During the last 2 years the working class has borne the cost of an economic recovery which benefits only the financial groups.. The present liberalism in economic matters does not allow a true decentralisation, considers the workers as instruments of production, leaves them little power."

Similar accusations were contained in the protests made by the workers of the Morbihan industrial centres (Henbont, Lorient) who asked for new employment in Brittany.

ARE THEY TOUGHER? An inquiry conducted recently at the French Students Sanatorium revealed that 25 out of 26 T.B. patients from the Paris, Marseille, Toulouse, Metz, Valenciennes and Poitiers military regions were relieved definitively from the obligation to join the army later, whereas in six cases out of six from the Breton military region only temporary exemption from the obligation was granted. It appears that the procedure is systematic on the part of the Rennes military authorities. Ref. BREIZ, Sept. '60, special edition for the Breton Students. Brittany lost 1 inhabitant in 14 in the first world war, while for France the proportion was 1 in 28. The Breton regiments were the first to be sent to fight the Algerian insurgents. Brittany is a good reservoir for the French infantry. That may be one of the reasons why France holds the "province" so dear.

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APPEAL ON BEHALF
OF BRITTANY TO
THE UNITED NATIONS

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We have received the following communiqué from Strollad Broadel Breizh (Breton National Committee):

"The Breton National Committee, representing the Breton Nation in its struggle for national liberation, has addressed, through the agency of its spokesmen in Ireland, on November 25th, 1960 an

APPEAL ON BEHALF OF BRITTANY
to the representatives of the member-countries of the United Nations Organisation.

"The appeal is based on a United Nations' resolution which lists the protection of minorities as one of the most important branches of the work of the Organisation. "It states Brittany's claims as a nation, exposes the policy of oppression and assimilation pursued by France in Brittany, sets forth the Breton efforts to resist it and points to the impending destruction of the Breton nation if this policy is not halted.

"It brings a charge of genocide against the French State and calls for the protection of international law.

"The recourse to the United Nations follows the failure of all appeals to the French governments during the last 60 years."

DOES THE TERM "GENOCIDE" APPLY TO THE CASE OF BRITTANY?

In the present United Nations' Genocide

Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group as such:

- a) killing members of the group;
- b) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- c) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- d) imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- e) forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

The Bretons constitute a national group, which contradicts the official principle of unity-and-indivisibility of France. In application of this principle, it is official policy to eradicate the Breton language of one million people.

This policy of assimilation has caused and is causing serious mental harm to tens of thousands of Bretons; it results in their being ashamed of speaking Breton, it prevents the normal development of their mind on the basis of their mother tongue.

The colonial type of exploitation applied to Brittany results in the emigration of most of the ablest Bretons as well as of the untrained workers who will swell the lower ranks of the French proletariat. To this "voluntary" exodus can now be added the semi-official scheme for the transfer of populations towards the less populated areas of Central France and the industrial areas ("methodical organisation of the labour market", "decongestion of Brittany"). Conditions of life in Brittany are thus calculated to weaken and finally break up the physical unity of the Breton people.

Many of the Bretons who took a determined stand in defense of Brittany's right to national existence were killed in the name of France and in application of the policy of the French State in Brittany.

The French State is thus guilty in Brittany of the crime of genocide under the headings a), b), and c) of its definition.

France has ratified the Genocide Convention, but does not abide by her obligations. Quoting from the United Nations publication, "The Crime of Genocide", (1959): "Genocide is the most gigantic and atrocious of all crimes. When a nation has been destroyed the great treasures of its spiritual heritage have gone and world culture has been impoverished. The basic resolution of Genocide of December 11, 1946, stresses especially the losses in culture which have occurred because of past cases of genocide. Not only the solidarity of nations in preserving human life, but also the interdependence and mutual borrowing among national cultures is at stake."

BRITTANY, THE LAST FRENCH COLONY, is the title of an article by Andre Figueras in the November issue of "Le Charivari". It does not appear that this French periodical could be sympathetic to Breton nationalism nor that Mr. Figueras would be a Breton. We may take it that he is a fairly impartial witness when he shows that Brittany is subject to a colonial type of exploitation. (He does not say anything about cultural matters). He based his demonstration on a definition of colonialism by Marcel Pellenc:

"A country can be considered as colonized by another when its resources are exploited by its inhabitants, not for their own profit, but for the profit of the other country's inhabitants, who own the means of exploitation and, as a rule, export the raw materials from their colony in order to transform them in their country, thus providing work for their industries and their people."

This type of exploitation, A. Figueras argues, applies to Brittany. Most of his statements seem essentially correct to us.

"There are two important categories of natives in Brittany; the seaman and the countryman. Both toil ceaselessly for the greatest advantage of their exploiter...."

THE SEAMAN

"The fisherman risks his life daily on the sea. He dare not stay idle if, after paying for his fuel, nets and quarter-bill, he wants to feed his family. He often works 20 hours a day. He really works like a black!"

"Lorient has the biggest fishing harbour in Brittany. It is managed by a Parisian company which pays no rates nor dues to the town. At landing the fish is bought for a derisive price but it will be sold next day for 3 or 4 times that price on the consumers' markets in Paris or elsewhere. The monopoly for the fabrication and sale of the ice needed by the fishermen belongs to the Parisian company."

"A slightly better system exists in Douarnenez and Concarneau but there also the profit goes to the fishmongers."

THE COUNTRYMAN

A. Figueras depicts an analogous situation on the land, in particular among the farmers of North Finistere who go in for market gardening. We have referred in our July and October issues to the initiatives taken by the farmers to counteract this exploitation. A similar crisis developed around St. Malo. A. Figueras agrees with the finding that the collapse of the producer's prices was due to their being exploited by the colonists. A fact that the French press did not to reveal.

MINERALS

Brittany's mineral resources are not needed by the French industries and are practically left untapped. "Kaolin is an exception: the Breton quarries produce 76% of the total French needs. But there again we find the colonial method: as soon as extracted, the Kaolin leaves Brittany to be transformed."

The same method applies to the people: "Due to the lack of industries, and consequently of opportunities for trained personnel, Brittany must export most of her ablest people. But for decades she has also been a reserve of navvies and of maids for the colonial power."

"Whatever money the Bretons may save does not serve to improve their position, since the administration - the Railway Company for example - prevents local investments. Savings also leave the country."

"As for the taxes, they are like a tribute since the credits are for the others."

Brittany is a typical colony with its shanties, its underdeveloped economy, its low energy supply and lack of piped water, its rarity of vocational schools etc...

"France is lavishing her money on her former arab and black subjects who did not hesitate to rebel and appeal to the United Nations.* The Bretons are being taxed to support this prodigal policy and see their standard of living sinking every day."

* Editor's note. See the above communiqué.

Read an excellent article on the Breton summer-schools in "Lettres francaises" No. 842, 22-28 Sept. 1960. More about these schools in a later issue of B.N.

The autobahn from Paris towards the West will stop at Le Mans. There is no question of extending it as far as Brittany for the present (Ouest-France).

The Committee for the Study and Coordination of Breton Interests protests against the insufficiency of the credits provided for agricultural investments in Brittany. (Ouest-France, 17-11-60).

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PRESENT SITUATION OF THE BRETON LANGUAGE: "Ar Bed Keltiek" announced in January a new enquiry, under the direction of Roparz Hemon, on the present situation of the Breton language. It should cover about 630 parishes or "communes" in the Western half of Brittany, but great difficulties are expected in collecting data in view of the hostile or indifferent attitude of the State and of most Church authorities. The enquiry must therefore be carried out by private means. Results will be published currently in Ar Bed Keltiek. The February issue contains information for 6 parishes in the Kemper area. The last inquiry, conducted by R. Hemon in 1928, indicated that Breton was then spoken by about 1,200,000 people. R. Hemon's "Cours élémentaire de Breton", which has been used for many years in the "Ober" correspondence course, is now being recorded. By the same author, a new novel "An tri Boulomig Kalon Aour" is obtainable from Roman Huon, 132 rue de Verdun, Brest, Price 9NF.

THE BRETON BILINGUAL SCHOOL of Plouezeg is now in its 4th year. Details of the work being done there are given in Ar Bed Keltiek (February 1960) in a letter from one of the teachers. As a result of the new school laws, the French State gives a certain grant to all private schools but the ministry of education prescribes the curriculum and decides which subjects may be taught, at what age, how many hours a week, etc. The Plouezeg school is subject to these regulations, and has therefore only the one hour a week of "directed leisure" left during which Breton can be taught to the "day-pupils", i.e. those who go home every evening. For the boarders however, an extra half-hour a day can be fitted in after the regular classes. Apart from the language itself, elements of geography, history, arithmetic as well as songs are taught through its medium. In view of the limited time, stress is laid on speech. Last June we had reported that 8 hours a week were devoted to the Breton language at Plouezeg. Now it is 4 hours at the most.

At the beginning of January, the equivalent of £650 was known to have been collected in favour of the Breton language on the public road by the folkloric circles (see YEARLY COLLECTION, B.N. no. 12). "The date chosen for the collection (mid-October) is not the most favourable! We had to take it when the Interior Ministry (Home Affairs) refuse to allow us Ascension Thursday as hitherto and in spite of numerous protests" (Breiz, Jan. 1961).

A new attempt is being made to obtain, through parliamentary channels, a better organisation of the teaching of Breton, Basque, Catalan and Occitan. A bill of law was presented to that effect to the 1st. commission of the French National Assembly towards the end of 1960. Breiz, Jan. 1961 carries the news that the majority of the Commission members will not support the claim of these "regional" languages to admission as "second living languages" at examinations.

THE RESULTS OF THE FRENCH REFERENDUM IN BRITTANY: The government-sponsored French press was intent at pointing out that Brittany had, as much if not more than any other part of the French territory, cast a massive vote in favour of General de Gaulle at the referendum. However, in calculating the percentage of yes votes the government's agencies were careful to only take into account the number of valid cast votes, without taking into account or mentioning the number of abstentions and of the blank-paper votes. This method of calculation gives General de Gaulle in Brittany a proportion of just over 80% of yes against less than 20% of noes.

Here are however the complete official figures for Brittany taken as a whole:
YES: 1,290,143. NOES: 265,051.

Abstentions and blank paper votes: 458, 201. The proportion of yes is therefore only 64% of the electorate.

More interesting still is to compare the results of 1961 referendum with those of the 1958 one, which was held just after de Gaulle had come into power. While the number of Noes in Brittany were nearly the same at the two referendums, 265,051 in 1961 as against 258,976 in 1958, the number of Yes, in spite of an increase of 23,911 in the electorate, shows a drop of 129,479, i.e. about 10% since 1958, while the number of abstentions and blank voting papers shows a sharp increase of 157,132, i.e. of over 50% (458,201 in 1961 as against 301,069 in 1958). Some French papers have given credit to the M.O.B. for this increase in the abstention and blank papers vote. It is also worth mentioning that a number of polling stations paper votes were cast bearing "Autodetermination: YES, for Brittany". These were of course accounted for as spoiled votes.

THE M.O.B. REASSERTS ITS POLICY: The National Congress of the M.O.B. (Movement for the Organisation of Brittany) met on the eve of the French referendum in Rennes, in order to decide upon its position towards the referendum and review its general policy. The Congress unanimously decided to recommend its members and followers to abstain or to return blank voting papers at the referendum. The newspaper of the movement "l'Avenir" comments on this position saying: we cannot cast a negative vote as we are in favour of "autodetermination" for all peoples, Algeria inclusive. We cannot however vote yes, as, according to the way the referendum was brought about, it would mean and imply a general approval of the De Gaulle-government's policy, which Brittany had no reason, on the contrary, to be satisfied with. Furthermore it was pointed out that the M.O.B. could not recommend voting yes, while the people who are the most interested in Algeria's fate, i.e. both the Algerian nationalists and the French settlers, had to decide to vote no. In another resolution the National Congress of the M.O.B. reasserts that the movement aims at securing self-government for Brittany, "by transferring into the hands of Breton agencies, elected and nominated by the Breton people, part of the administrative and governmental powers now into the hands of the Paris government."

PER MOKAER, founder and chairman of KENDALC'H, the confederation^{of} Celtic Circles and Pipe Bands, died on February 4th, 1961, at the age of 73. Since 1910 he had been in the Breton Regionalist movement, devoting himself mainly to its cultural activities. He founded periodicals and contributed to others. "His major concern was to vivify his country's traditional heritage, particularly the Breton culture based on the teaching of the language." (Ouest-France 6-2-61).

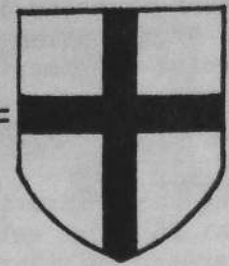
Stevan RIWALLAN, who was awarded the title of "Champion of the Breton minstrels" 9 times in succession, died on Jan. 11th in a road accident, at the age of 28. Riwallan was dedicated to the task of forming a young generation of Breton musicians, but he did not close his eyes to the necessity of political action. One correspondent described him as a fervent nationalist.

DOES THE NANTES AREA WANT TO REMAIN BRETON? An enquiry has been opened by the Committee for the Study and Coordination of Breton Interests on the relations between the département of Loire-Atlantique and the rest of Brittany, from which it was separated by the French administrative reform last year. Elected representatives, and leaders of professional and cultural groups as well as of trade unions are asked to reply to 4 questions concerning the economic and administrative aspect of the problem. This enquiry expressly gives the primacy to economics. The replies are not to allow for the emotive factor. (It might have been wise to add a subsidiary question in that respect, a reply being optional). Ref. La Vie Bretonne February 1961.

In the "Breton Plan" worked out in 1954 by C.E.L.I.B., 1961 was expected to be the threshold of a critical period owing to a sharp rise in the proportion of young men coming on the labour market, 12,000 new jobs a year would have to be provided to absorb them. But only about 10,000 have been created in the intervening years. Only 21 out of 765 operations of decentralisation have affected Brittany. And this has benefited only the Rennes - St. Malo area. Lorient and Brest, in the West, are just as advanced as 5 years ago, if not worse since the reconstruction on bombed sites is finished (from Le Figaro, 31/1/61).

At a meeting of the Federal Union of European Nationalities, held last November in Munich, it was decided to publish a trilingual periodical "Europa Ethnica" devoted to minorities. The Breton delegates were asked about the treatment of the Breton language by the French state. At the next meeting in Brugge (26-28/5/61) they will report on the place of the language in schools and in the French Radio-and-Television Service, as well as on the degree to which the recommendations of U.N.E.S.C.O. relative to the languages other than French are applied in France. (ref. Al Liamm, Nr 83)

BRETON NEWS



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FORMER PRIME MINISTER P L E V E N URGES SOLUTION OF THE B R E T O N P R O B L E M.

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"L'Avenir de la Bretagne" (The future of Brittany) is the title of a book by R. Pleven recently published by Calmann-Lévy, Paris. It has been hailed as an important contribution towards making the Breton people, as well as public opinion in France and Western Europe, aware of the present difficulties in Brittany, thus breaking the wall of silence organised by Paris.

R. Pleven is the chairman of the Committee for the Study and Coordination of Breton Interests, a body which has been striving for the past 10 years to stop the decline of Brittany, or rather of that part of it officially referred to as the 6th Economic Region. Although he shows how indisputably the Nantes area is also Breton, he deals only with that truncated Brittany, and more with its present economic state and resources, than with its future. However the last chapter, "For a Breton programme" is the most important and prescribes what should be done to save the 4 départements.

In their March issues, the two monthlies, LA VIE BRETONNE (1, rue Poullain-Duparc, Rennes), and L'AVENIR (B.P. 89, Brest), give characteristic passages from the book. We reproduce some of them, (underlining and subtitles by us). We specify also that R. Pleven has never championed any but the most moderate reforms to bring improvement to Brittany.

COLLECTIVE AWARENESS.

"...." whatever the social milieu, for a large part of the Breton youth, both girls and boys, the future means leaving their country..." "... the question of their future has brought about a sudden collective awareness" (in Brittany). "In ten years from now, the contest will be won or lost".

"There is a psychological, social, political fact called the Breton temperament, which accepts no longer that Brittany should be considered a reserve of manpower for big industry, the armed forces or the lower ranks of the civil service, to be drawn upon whenever the need arises. France is going towards unsuspected discords if she does not give to Brittany the possibility to develop herself and play her part in the general rise of prosperity."

DISAPPOINTMENT.

The official adoption in 1956 of the Breton Plan remained a dead letter, because its implementation was made dependent on twelve different ministries, each making its own decisions, and because no provision was made to ensure that the necessary credits would be available.

In 1959, a total of 1327 billion francs to be distributed over 3 years were provided by the French budget for the general economic equipment of the territory. Two billions only were attributed to Brittany, and these were subsequently "blocked" (frozen).

"Brittany's legendary patience is exhausted... Numerous are the Bretons who now put their hope in a fundamental constitutional reform which would transfer to regional institutions the responsibility for the development of Brittany, thus endowing her like Sicily with a measure of autonomy".

"We must dare to say it: a large sector of Breton opinion suspects the experts in charge of advising on France's economic and social policy of favouring a de-congestion of the Breton population to the benefit of the French regions which are in full expansion".

A LAW-PROGRAMME FOR BRITTANY.

"It is time to set up and carry out a second Breton Plan specifying the means and modes of implementation and binding the State irrevocably." A law-programme (loi-programme) is needed "in order first to endow the Breton departments with a modern understructure, i.e. the means of communication power stations, facilities for the storage, preservation and transformation of agric-

cultural products, of which I have shown the lack." Such a law was voted for the French overseas departments (Caribbean, Reunion). There is also a recent law for the organisation of the region of Paris. "We are not therefore asking for any special treatment". To encourage the economic development of Algeria, France was inspired by the examples given by Italy in Sicily and the Mezzogiorno. Experiments in many other countries are there to guide the French authorities if they want.

CREDITS

"The basic investments must be provided by the State". "France has given in the last 15 years several thousands of billions (old) francs to her former or present overseas territories. There is no reason why the credits needed by Brittany should be lacking.

"If the Finance department does not think so, we ask that the European Investments Bank be approached : this Bank was created by the Treaty of Rome to promote the modernisation of under-developed areas.

"Brittany is unfortunately in that category. She has a right to participate in the general economic expansion brought about by the Common Market. Europe begins at the Atlantic.

THE PROBLEM OF ENERGY. Electricité de France have signed the agreement to build the + + + + + tidal power station on the Rance estuary near Dinard. This could be hailed as a victory for Brittany. This scheme will be a technological marvel. American and Russian technicians are already interested in it. What will be the repercussions on the Breton economy?

Only secondary work will be done by the local firms. It is not sure that the workers will be recruited in the area either (talk of North Africans). Energy will begin to be produced by 1966, but it is not expected to modify appreciably the present situation where Brittany imports most of her electricity : the Paris industrial area is expected to claim a large share of the supply. Same problem as before.

(Ref. La Vie Bretonne, Feb. 61)

SPREAD THE BEILHADEGOU TO ALL THE BRETON SPEAKING AREA.

P. EVEN, who contributed much to renew the success of the "Beilhadegou" in the TREGER area this year, calls for the help of 3 other promoters in order to extend this movement to the rest of Western Brittany. He considers this the most urgent task of the Council for the Breton Language : if not attended to, nothing more could be done in 10 years from now to save Breton from extinction as a popular language. (Ref. Ar Bed Keltiek, March 1961).

LOYAL TO FRANCE?

G. Latimier, Professor of English in Lorient, has replied in + + + + + "Ar Soner", January 1961, to an anonymous article in the French monthly "Carrousel" (Nov. 1960), where Breton News was dismissed as not very serious. He refutes the claim that the Bretons have been unreservedly loyal to France since 1532 by pointing to the risings of Mercœur (1589-1598), the Red Bonnets (1675), the Pontkalleg conspiracy (1718-1720), the resistance of La Chalo-tais (1764-1765), the 2 Chouans wars (1793-1797), the acts of "Gwenn-ha-Du" (1932-39) and the flight of Bezen Perrot (1943-1945): The latter two organisations were unreservedly anti-French. As regards "living with our time", he makes it clear that, in Brittany, the strongest partisans of European federation are also the people who fight for the recognition of Brittany's rights. The only two countries in Europe where minority languages are excluded from schools are France and Spain, in this sticking to outdated pedagogical principles.

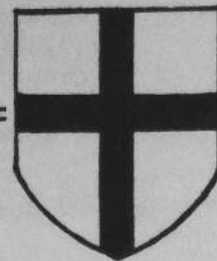
BARZAZ BREIZ, the famous collection of epic and popular songs published in 1867 by Kervarker (La Villemarqué) was reedited in 1959 by the Entente Culturelle Bretonne, 3 rue F. Garnier, Paris 17. This work was attacked particularly during the last 15 years by some people who consider Kervarker as the father of Breton nationalism. F. GOURVIL recently presented a thesis at the University of Rennes, in which he dismissed 33 of the poems as "invented". Less prejudiced critics who have an excellent knowledge of Breton have pointed out the errors and omissions of the thesis (Ar Vro, Al Liamm, Barr Heol, Breiz, etc.). Two issues of PREDER (Dec. 1959 and Dec. 1960) have given a detailed analysis of 18 of the poems, by Abeozen, the historian of Breton literature. The 1959 edition - - - of BARZAZ BREIZ is the same as the 1867 one : the Breton texts are in small type at the bottom of the pages, while most of the space is taken by the French translation and the abundant notes.

WHO WILL BE THE FIRST TO GIVE UP? The "General Councils" (similar to County Councils) of the 3 départements where Breton is spoken have asked again in January 1961 for the admission of this language to regular teaching. For many years past they have adopted similar resolutions regularly. They demand for Breton equality with arabic and berber in the leaving certificate examinations.

"A civilised man's understanding of his own past, of the history, literature and culture from which he springs and which give his life its sense, is what distinguishes him from a savage"

Kingsley Amis and 4 other professors of U.C. Swansea, in The Observer 26/2/61. The French educational system, taken in its widest sense, deprives the Bretons of this understanding.

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VERDIOT IN RENNES TRIAL: In Breton News No. 12, we reported on the trial of Mrs Toublanc, Goarnig and Skanv in Rennes, on Dec. 14th last. They were charged with having organised a demonstration against the French Prime Minister Debre on Jan. 24th 1960.

The defendants had denied the competence of the French court by referring to the clauses of the treaty of Union between Brittany and France, thus taking a stand on international law. The judge dismissed their argument by stating that Brittany was now an integral part of France and that the rules of competence deriving from French law applied there. They were sentenced to pay a fine of 1485 NF, equivalent of £110, and threatened with arrest if they failed to do so (15/3/61).

In a letter dated 24/3/61, they notified the Rennes collector's office that they rejected the verdict and were taking steps to bring the matter to the attention of international authorities.

Another young Breton, E. ar Menn, was recently tried in Gwengamp for having allegedly contravened road traffic regulations. In the view of the Breton nationalists, the prosecution was in fact undertaken in order to stop the campaign of slogans, of the type "Bretagne et Algerie libres", organised last summer in various parts of Brittany, particularly at the time of De Gaulle's visit. E. ar Menn has protested to the St-Brieuc attorney-General against the methods of intimidation used by the police towards him and against their attempt to injure the reputation of a young girl witness.

TOWARDS A BRETON REGIONAL ASSEMBLY? Over 150 municipalities, among which Lorient, have already approved a resolution asking for the creation of a "Region of Brittany" with administrative and financial attributions and powers of decision in all matters of special concern to Brittany. The resolution calls for the immediate convening of a Breton Regional Assembly composed of all the Breton district councillors in Rennes or Nantes. The initiative for this movement comes from the recently constituted "Committee for Regional action". In its preamble, the resolution outlines the critical situation of the Breton economy and the hostile attitude of the French authorities towards the Breton cultural interests. (Ref. "Avenir," April 1961 and "Aux Ecoutes" 23/3/61.)

STOP DECENTRALISATION,

PARIS TO COUNTERBALANCE RHINELAND.: The decentralisation of French industry which made some progress during the fifties aimed at bringing prosperity back to those provinces which the economist J-F. Gravier described as "the French desert" (1947). This movement, which brought hopes but few practical results to Brittany, is now in the process of being reversed, as shown by J. Martray and M. Duhamel in "La Vie Bretonne", April 1961. 4/5 of Brittany had been recognised officially as "critical zones" a year ago and as such were to benefit from some favours. A few weeks later however 5 special "zones of conversion" were instituted. It became clear that the attention of the French Planning Office was going to be reserved for a few privileged areas, and that Paris would maintain its control on whatever decentralisation would take place as well as increase its importance as an industrial centre.

This new trend was stressed recently in 2 official statements. The Officer-in-charge of the French Central Planning declared that "only the Region of Paris could have a power of attraction comparable to that of the urban nebula being built along the Rhine." This region is to extend as far as Rouen and Troyes, and for the Paris agglomeration itself the specialists foresee a rise of population from the present 6 millions to 10-11 millions by 1975. The second pronouncement came from Prime Minister Debre who announced in La Rochelle (Le Monde. 7/3/61) that the first objective of the government's

economic policy was to make flourishing regions more prosperous. The second objective, a national problem, was to increase the importance of Paris. The modernisation and industrialisation of the underdeveloped Southwest regions (including Brittany?) would come after that, in the course of 10-12 years. This policy is already being applied in a project for the improvement of road transport affecting the East of France and the Paris area.

Manpower Reserve. The prospects for the young Breton generation are therefore more than ever: emigration.

The reply given by a French minister who was asked by Mr. Pleven why the proportion of Breton reservists called up to fight in Algeria was so exceptionally high is significant in that context: "there was no risk, he said, of disorganising the Breton economy". Ref. La vie Bretonne.

Backfiring? North-African soldiers were used to fight the Vietnamese, but the only visible result was to spread the spirit of revolt to North-Africa. The Breton soldiers have been used to try and quell the Algerian rebellion, and they have failed. What is their reaction going to be?", D. Morvan wonders in l'Avenir, April 1961

CAN BRITTANY GET HELP FROM THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENTS BANK? In his book l'Avenir de la Bretagne, Mr.

Pleven has suggested having recourse to the European Investments Bank if French credits could not be made available for the development of Brittany. In La Vie Bretonne, M. Philipponeau points to the likely difficulties of application of such a policy:

- 1) resistance on the part of the French regions which aim at counter-balancing the Ruhr-Rhine area.
- 2) French pride adverse to the recognition of "underdeveloped" areas in France and of need for outside help.
- 3) above all, fear for French unity if a province was to get its own plan of development.
- 4) even if the policy coincided with the "national" interest, multiple obstacles coming from a centralised administration.

For M. Philipponeau, two preliminary conditions must be fulfilled in any case:

- 1) a new Breton Plan must be worked out
- 2) all the Bretons must be solidly behind it.

Suspect of autonomism. Mr. Pleven has always tried to reconcile his loyalism towards France with his love for Brittany. Recently he conveyed his New Year's wishes to Prime Minister Debre and used a Breton formula: "Bloavez mad". Debre would have exclaimed, not joking:

"How low has France sunk when a former Prime Minister displays his autonomist intentions in such a manner!" (Aux Ecoutes, 17/2/61.)

AR VRO, March 1961, gives a critical review of Pleven's book "L'Avenir de la Bretagne". "The statistics of this book are the same, brought up to date for 1960, as those which filled 25 or 30 years ago the columns of the nationalist "Breiz Atao". Mr. Pleven would like to reconcile the French and the Breton interests, he seems afraid to show too clearly the particular character of the Breton case" but the Breton problem will never get national priority except from Brittany herself" and "the future of Brittany is identical with the future of her national movement."

BREST A FREE PORT? Reconstruction in Brest, which was severely bombed during the war, is nearly completed. Unemployment is now expected to rise sharply in the area.

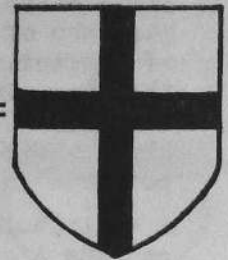
The development of the well-situated harbour of Brest for trans-Atlantic trade has long been one of the main points in Breton economic claims. The Americans proposed between the two world wars to finance such a scheme. The French government opposed it. To-day Brest has lost its importance as a naval base and its 120,000 inhabitants are worried about their future. According to the "Cork Examiner", 8-4-61, the French Central Planning Office have sent one of their engineers, Mr. C. Royer, to study the workings of the Shannon free airport and industrial zone. He previously went to have a look at the Belfast shipyards. Is Brest going to follow the example of Shannon?

Roparz Omnes, has been elected Chairman of the Cultural organisation KENDALC'H following the death of Per Mokaer.

Mr. Omnes is 31. He is teaching spanish at the Kemper Grammar School and at the Naval School of Brest. He comes from Dinan, where Breton was not spoken for centuries, but like many other Bretons from Upper Brittany he has learned Breton.

The Congress of the Federal Union of European Nationalities will be held in Brugge on May 25-28th. Details in BN. 16.

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FRANCE IN UNESCO: No to Breton.

It was known that the two French delegates at the UNESCO congress on bilingualism held last August in Aberystwyth took a negative attitude towards the question of Breton. They had no previous contact with the associations which struggle within the French state for the rights of the so-called "regional" languages. They ignored the letters sent from these associations to draw their attention to France's bilingual problems. Mr. B. Kehrli, a Swiss participant in the Congress, reports in "Gymnasium Helveticum", March 1961, that when the question of the Breton language was raised, (presumably by the Welsh), the French delegates expressed their opposition to any mention of Breton in the final reports. The Swiss author points out that most of the delegates at this congress for linguistic minorities represented not these "minorities" but their governments. The Italian delegate was the official in charge of Italianising South Tyrol. As far as the European dependent European peoples are concerned, UNESCO is a delusion.
(Ref. L'Avenir, May 1961.)

UNDESIRABLE: The head of the Breton cultural centre "Kervreiz" and professor at the international school of St. Germain, Mr. TERS, recently enquired from the French Department of Education whether the candidates to the B.E.P.O. examinations who had prepared for the optional "regional" language test would be allowed to take it. In his reply dated 29th March, the director of Primary and Complementary Teaching regretted that this was not desirable. Excuse: overloaded curriculum, simplification of exams. Like Breton, Arabic is still considered in France as a regional language, but from now on its teaching will be made obligatory in all primary schools of Algeria. The teachers will be trained accordingly. (For the present only 120 teachers could teach Arabic, and there are over 1 million pupils). However the teachers of Breton are left very much to their own devices to acquire proficiency in the subject. The lesson is obvious.
(from L'Avenir, May 1961)

A library was opened at the end of April in the Breton Cultural Centre of Rennes, Rue du Pre Perche. It started with 200 books and 400 magazines, mostly in Breton or dealing with the Breton language, history and geography. Books can be borrowed or read at the Centre. To make the Breton literature more widely known, an exhibition of its most recent publications was held in Rennes during the week from the 11th to the 16th of May. The books were displayed in over 50 shops. Sales of books were also organised at the entrance to the students' restaurants.

A sociological test: A survey of the rate of internment in the psychiatric hospitals of the Seine department (Paris) shows the following figures for every 100,000 inhabitants of that area, according to their origins:

Origin	Men	Women
Seine	287	270
Area surrounding Paris	261	237
French provinces (in their totality)	281	297
Brittany	327	388
Foreign countries (mainly European)	470	455
French Overseas Territories (mainly Algeria)	947	681

The table shows a significant difference between Brittany and other parts of "metropolitan" France.

The author of the survey, Dr. Guillant (Le Concours Medical, 1960, pp. 3429-3440) notes the tendency of "transplanted" Bretons to regroup in certain quarters of Paris and sees in it a sort of defense against the difficulties of adaptation, solitude and nostalgia. The maintenance and the strength of the ties with the original habitat appear to exert a protecting influence. Pride in his traditions and native qualities helps the individual to overcome his isolation and his singularity. But, adds Dr. Guillant, "most of my patients do not belong to any emigrants' associations."

A contributor to "Ar Vro" goes further; to him the comparison of the Bretons and the Algerians suggests that the emigrants who regroup in exile and uphold their national spirit generally escape disintegration. It may be argued that the fact is not purely ethnical but is also determined by the relative isolation which kept the Bretons from sharing in technical progress. But this would simply show that the struggle of an ethnical group for its existence takes place on all levels, economical, political, cultural, and the same holds for the abandonment of the struggle.

"Setting up a Breton state would not remove all the causes of mental disintegration but it would provide the Bretons in general with a stronger structure tending to reduce such causes."

(Ref. Ar Vro, No. 9, March 1961)

THREE REASONS FOR BRITTANY'S DECLINE: Brittany's economy has declined since it came under French control for 3 reasons:

- 1) In the highly centralised French state, this area constitutes an extremity. Beyond a radius of 400 km, the central power's money never circulated freely. Finistere comes last-but-one for the number of factory installations, for example
- 2) The French tariffs policy prevents Brittany from using her harbours to obtain energy supplies at competitive prices. While the classical sources of energy are lacking in the country, fuel could be imported more cheaply by sea from Wales, England, America or Russia than by rail from the North of France. But a tax of 25-30% on the price of imported coals protects the French collieries. Coal and electricity are thus so dear in Brittany that industrialists prefer to stay away.

- 3) Both the state and the big industry have considered it advantageous to keep this demographically strong and energetically poor area as a manpower reserve.

(From a recent report in "Candide" and from "Le Socialiste", Montroulez, 4/3/61).

DO THE BRETON AND THE FRENCH INTERESTS COINCIDE? R. PLEVEN'S book "L'Avenir de la Bretagne" has received

considerable publicity and deservedly so. The editor of "Ar Vro", No. 9, notes that the author was anxious all along to reconcile the interests of France with those of Brittany. His last argument was that "The Breton interest and the (French) national interest coincide".

"This, writes Ar Vro, is a wish. All the book shows that it was not so until now anyway. And it is after all for the French themselves to determine which is France's advantage. It is only in Brittany that you hear that France has to gain by protecting and preserving the Breton personality. In Paris, Brittany's equipment has never been among the national priorities. The Breton problem will get priority from the Bretons only

"It was the great error of the Celtic leaders to look for salvation in the capitals of the countries which dominated theirs. What did the former Welsh nationalist Lloyd George, the former Scotch nationalist Ramsay Macdonald get in London for Wales and Scotland? What could R. Pleven do for Brittany while he was France's Prime Minister? The Welsh Labour leader Huw T. Edwards fought like them to obtain credits, equipment, reforms, in vain. Eventually he abandoned the Labour Party and joined the Welsh Nationalist Party."

-
- ...The 10th Annual public collection for the Breton language was made on May 11th 1961.
 - ...A camp for children of 9-15 years will be open in Breton speaking Elven from the 23-8 to the 6-9-61. It will provide the opportunity to improve or acquire a knowledge of Breton, as well as to learn dances and songs. It is sponsored by Kendaloh.
 - ...The theatrical company "Pevar Hent" (Four Ways) composed of professional actors who gained experience with renowned French companies gave its inaugural performance on Feb. 24, in Paris. It is the first Breton speaking group to undertake regular productions since 1944 when Radio-Rennes had to stop its Breton broadcasts.
 - ... "France must say whether she prefers the Bretons to solve their problems on their own or with her help". The President of the Lorient Chamber of Commerce, in an interview with "Candide".

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15th June 1961.

BRETON FARMERS REVOLT.

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The series of sabotage acts which started at the end of May in the region of Pont'n Abad (South West Brittany) and have since spread to the rest of Brittany have been committed by members of the well organised farmers unions.

The immediate cause of the disturbances was a surplus of certain agricultural products on the market, in particular early potatoes. The collapse of prices had acute repercussions on the livelihood of small holders, who constitute a high percentage of the Breton farmers.

Apart from the fact that there are too many middlemen between producers and consumers, the Breton products are often at a disadvantage on the consumers markets in the French and German industrial centres because of the costs of transport.

One of the Breton demands is for a "perequation" of transport costs, i.e. a scaling of railway tariffs in such a way as to reduce the handicap of distance.

FIRST INCIDENTS.

On May 25th. 1500 delegates of the farmers' unions had gathered in Karaez (Central Brittany) and decided to resort to direct action if their claims were not satisfied.

A few tons of early potatoes were soaked in Diesel oil and strewn all over the streets of Pont'n Abad (26-5) in protest against the collapse of prices.

The streets of the town were blocked with trailers and tractors for 7 hours on the 30/5. Railways were obstructed with girders to prevent the expedition of potatoes sold at low prices.

Five telegraph poles and a cable were cut in the district during the following night.

SABOTAGE OF ELECTIONS.

On Sunday 4th of June, local elections were sabotaged in 4 localities near Pont'n Abad, when small groups took away the ballot boxes and burnt them in the streets. During the following two days, 15 middle-aged farmers were arrested. Other men were appointed by the unions to run their farms while they were in jail. The Federations of Farmers Unions expressed their solidarity with the saboteurs.

The chairman of the Finistere Federation and a few Breton members of the French parliament called in Paris on three ministers in an attempt to obtain the release of the arrested men.

GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS OCCUPIED.

On the 8th of June at dawn, 3000 farmers invaded the administrative centre of Montroulez (Morlaix, N. Brittany), and set up barricades in the main street while a "commando" of 200 occupied the government buildings (sous-préfecture) between 6-10 a.m. This action was organised secretly, with the maximum of surprise. The government representative was obliged to take refuge in the police station. Police reinforcements were rushed in from other Breton cities (Rennes, Kemper, St. Brieg).

In the afternoon, the farmers were forced to disband but were urged by the organisers of the demonstration to resort in future to "direct action", in small groups, by night. Two of the organisers were arrested and a third, who sat during the morning in the sub-prefect's chair, was on the run.

A report in the "Irish Independent" according to which Breton nationalist leaflets calling for a "free Brittany" were distributed among the demonstrators is confirmed by a correspondent of "Breton News". The same correspondent reports that a locomotive was damaged.

REVOLT SPREADS TO THE WHOLE OF BRITTANY.

In the following days, acts of sabotage took place in all other areas of Brittany, while strong police reinforcements were being brought in from outside Brittany. Telegraph poles and signposts were torn down, trees felled across main roads, road-blocks set up outside the principal towns (Nantes, St. Brieg, Gwengamp, Karaez).

On June 16th, 7000 farmers with 1000 tractors invaded the town of Pontivy (Central Brittany) and sealed off its entrances. They crashed the iron gates of the government buildings (sous-prefecture) and delivered an ultimatum demanding the release within 24 hours of the two leaders imprisoned in Montroulez the previous week. Steel-helmeted police used tear-gas to disperse the demonstrators who showered them with rotten eggs and other missiles. Liquid manure was poured at the gates as the police charged (Reuter).

On the 17th at dawn, 2000 demonstrators invested the town of Malestroit (NE of Gwened (Vannes), and occupied a large dairy plant. Here as well as in Gwengamp the same day, they declared that they would continue their action, whatever concessions were made, until the leaders imprisoned in Montroulez were released.

Previously a train was held up for 6 hours on the Paris-Kemper line which was blocked in two places near Lorient.

GOVERNMENT REACTIONS.

The French government had lately become concerned about the worsening conditions in Brittany. At the beginning of April, a prominent Breton, ex-Premier PLEVEN, had a long interview with President DE GAULLE during which they discussed the Breton problem.

In a communique issued after the demonstration in Montroulez, the Minister for agriculture stated that the government was perfectly aware of the particular character of the agricultural problems of Brittany (Ouest-France, 9/6).

At the time of going to press, we read in "The Observer" and "The Sunday Times" that the French government has drawn up emergency measures for Brittany, to stop the spread of the revolt. The plan provides for new abattoirs, the creation of a big new marketing centre at St Pol (N. Brittany), State purchase of excess butter, milk and meat, export of surplus potatoes to Algeria, and help to Breton poultry farmers".

OUR COMMENT. Concessions to more general Breton demands are reported. Brest has been declared a "zone of conversion", to benefit from special credits for industrial development. Rail and road communications are to be improved. During the past ten years, the Bretons have been accustomed to promises not being held and are no longer so easily impressed. They remember that the credits allocated for the implementation of the 1954 "Breton Plan" were subsequently blocked. The measures now promised by the French government are still considered insufficient to give a good start to the Breton economic recovery, and to stop the catastrophic emigration. The farmers have declared their intention to continue the demonstrations until all their demands are met.

The problem is not purely agricultural. The decline in the purchasing power of the farming community and the depopulation of the land affects seriously the income of most other classes (small traders, craftsmen, wholesalers, professional men, etc). It is now more than ever evident that the difficulties of Brittany require a special and urgent solution. The farmers revolt has the sympathy of large sections of the Breton population, which take pride in the daring actions of their countrymen. Although professional in character, it vindicates the claims for self-government which have been made during the past 30-40 years by the nationally conscious Bretons.

.... There is unrest in Auvergne, Normandy and other French agricultural areas also, but so far there is nothing comparable to the disturbances in Brittany. One of the reasons why the acts of revolt are so widespread here is that the Breton economic interests have been particularly neglected by the French government for a long time. Another is that the Breton farmers unions are better organised at the base than their French counterparts.

..... For the past few months, the French press has been paying great attention to the development of the situation in Brittany. "La Croix de Paris" published a long study of Breton emigration. The weekly "Candide" has a detailed account of the Breton economic life. The periodical "Science et Vie" gave a 13-pages report on the Breton revival. "Action municipale", the French local councils' bulletin devotes an entire issue to Brittany. Other publications like "Economies Regionales" and "Rustica" have announced their intention to do likewise.

..... Rural unrest has been a chronic feature of the Breton economic life for the past few years. Mass demonstrations were staged particularly about the 19th of October 1959, the 14th of December 1959, the 7th of April 1960 (they have been reported in Breton News).

..... "At Guingamp, a crowd of 3000 demonstrators... had spent the morning singing Breton songs and chanting insults against the Prime Minister, M. Debré", (The Observer, 18/6).

..... Heard from farmers near Kastellin (W. Brittany): "The Algerians have got what they wanted by violence. We are going to do like them. (A. Figueras, in Liberte du Morbihan, 14/6).

..... Slogans "Free Brittany" are beginning to spread on walls and roads" (A. Figueras).

BRETON NEWS



A Bulletin issued by **The Breton Information Bureau**

All correspondence to be addressed to LINTON, Fassaroe Lane, Fassaroe, BRAY, Co. Wicklow

No. 18

Dublin, Ireland

15th July 1961

END OF REVOLT The 3-weeks old Breton revolt came to an end with the acquittal of the 2 arrested leaders, Gourvennec and Leon, at Morlaix, 22-6-61.

A state of emergency had been declared in the town, with 3000-4000 riot police to maintain order while about 10,000 farmers from all over Brittany waited for the verdict.

Although the events which led to the arrest of the two men undermined the authority of the state, the "public" prosecutor was conciliatory. Matters must not come to a head, and no question was asked which could bring embarrassment to the government.

For the farmers it was time to attend to the harvest.

NEW PROMISES. They had revolted because promises made during recent years had not been held or were of no direct use to them (Rance power station) or had been made ineffectual by the powerful administrative machine.

While the official view was that they were well enough organised to defend their interests by legal means, they felt that only the resort to illegality and violent means had compelled the Government to listen to them.

If the new concessions were not applied, another explosion might take place after the harvest. This warning was issued by Gourvennec and Leon on their release from jail (Mission Bretonne, 1/7). In the meantime the dialogue will be between the French government and the professional and moderate Breton organisations.

RECOGNITION OF BRETON PROBLEM. "The important result is not that concessions have been made which if put into practice will not be negligible; nor that Mr. DEBRE has decided to call Brittany by name instead of referring to "the West" or "the départements which you represent"; but that, from now on, the existence of a Breton Problem is recognised publicly in Brittany, in France, and in the rest of Western Europe". (L'Avenir, July 1961)

WARNINGS. The Breton representatives organised in the "Committee for the Study and the Coordination of Breton Interests" (CELIB) considers the concessions insufficient to solve the Breton problem, and are pressing for the adoption of a law-programme for the development of Brittany as a whole. In their resolution of June 12th, they insisted that there was a special problem in Brittany, and that they had many times drawn the attention of the Government to the critical situation here. They solemnly warned the Government against the dangers which would arise from new delays and neglects. After R. PLEVEN, they called for speedy practical steps to avert irretrievable "splits" (presumably a euphemism for a Breton breakaway?). The warning is echoed in "La Vie Bretonne" in L'Avenir de Bretagne" (July 1961), by the Committee for Regional Action and by French personalities such as Mr. E. Roche, the chairman of the French Social and Economic Council (Combat, 10/6)

IN THE FRENCH PARLIAMENT. A memorandum delivered to Mr. Debré on behalf of the Committee for Economic Expansion of CELIB on June 28th asked that priority be given, in public investments, to rural equipment and to the professional education of young farmers; that a law-programme be established fixing the means of financing a Breton plan of development; that not only Morbihan, but all of Brittany be declared a "Special zone for rural action".

On June 30th, a debate was devoted to the Breton problem in the French National Assembly.

Debré reviewed the steps taken by the Government in the domains of energy and transport (electrification, roads), education (technical schools, development

of Rennes University, new University at Nantes), industrialisation, agriculture.

"It would be a mistake, he said, to establish a law-programme for Brittany. The special measures taken on behalf of this region must be integrated with the general plans for the development of the French territory. Pléven:- Why is there such a law for the Paris area?

Debré:- Paris has specific problems which do not arise in Brittany, the solution of which requires a plan covering many years, with financial provisions.

(Nobody said: And vice-versa, Nor was Debré asked whether he considered a Breton Plan more risky than a Parisian Plan for the integrity of the French territory.)

The deputies just urged the government not to delay with practical remedies. One of them concluded: the problem of industrialisation remains entirely to be solved (Ouest-France, 1/7)

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S O L I D A R I T Y. A striking feature of the June events was the ++++++ solidarity which united farmers "coming from the most opposite ideological horizons" (Le Figaro, 26/6) in their struggle for a better life.

Another surprise was caused by the fraternisation of shipyard workers and farmers at St. Nazaire (20-6). There had already been signs of a good understanding between the two classes in the same area last year, but their solidarity was unexampled in the history of the trade unions in Brittany, or in France, for that matter.

The Kemper workers also expressed their solidarity. The Rennes students distributed leaflets, put up 1000 posters, scribbled slogans on the walls in the Rennes area, demanding the liberation of the farmers leaders, urging the Bretons to unite for a Breton Parliament (15-16/6)

This solidarity among a reputedly individualistic people is said to have alarmed government representatives (Aux Ecoûtes, 23/6). Some commentators wonder if the geographical distribution of the concessions is not designed to foster divisions among the Bretons: Lorient v. Brest, Rennes v. Nantes, Morbihan v. rest of Central Brittany. An appeal addressed by the bishops of Brittany — less Nantes — to the insurgent farmers urged them to be patient. L'Avenir (July) expresses astonishment at this untimely exhortation.

In the same copy, Y. Poilvet considers the demonstrations of solidarity staged by the French farmers as having been rather unrewarding for the Bretons because they allowed the government to play down their claims and deny the necessity of a special plan for Brittany.

"The Bretons are in the vanguard. They must this time be the first to reap the benefits from their initiative."

"Brittany is generous.....she gives her sons to the army.... Perhaps after a new revolt, the Breton peasants will ask for self-determination. It is better to give them now the "technical aid" which France dispenses so liberally to far-away countries..."

(Paris-jour, 9/6)

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The Committee for Regional Action (See also B. News No. 15) has issued the following communique:

Over 300 municipalities of Brittany representing a population of more than 600,000 people, have approved the resolution proposed by the Committee for Regional Action, demanding the convocation of a Breton Regional Assembly and the creation of a Region of Brittany endowed with large administrative and financial powers. The Committee considers that only a federal organisation of France could put an end to its internal difficulties and that such an organisation must be set up urgently in order to avoid irretrievable scissions.

... 32 district councillors were elected in the recent cantonal elections after pledging their support for the programme of the Committee for Regional Action and the establishment of a Special Plan for Brittany. They belong to all political tendencies.

PROBLEM NOT ONLY ECONOMIC: also cultural

+++++ "The farmers of our 5 départements have proved their dynamism. They have understood that there is a Breton problem. But the Breton problem is not purely agricultural: without factories the Breton agriculture will be doomed.

It is not only economic, if the Bretons do not fight for their language and their soul as they fight for their potato prices, nothing will stop Debré from expatriating them and "decongesting Brittany in order to populate other regions." "Breiz, June-July."

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EDITORIAL COMMENT. Will 3 weeks of disorder in Brittany and of generally less violent demonstrations elsewhere have changed the mind of a technocratically inspired government which last year favoured more or less openly a decongestion of Brittany, and would need as many as possible uprooted Bretons to help making of Paris a nebula of 11 millions? Has the government decided to give some concessions only because its authority is presently at an ebb? Will a reinforced central authority revoke them and "drive the small and middle peasantry from the land, allowing only huge mechanized farms to subsist," as we could gather from "Aux Ecoutes" (23/6)?

Our temperament and our landscape are not suitable for huge collective farms. We should rather follow the Dutch example and turn our efforts towards market gardening.

SPIRIT OF INDEPENDENCE: ... During the recent commemoration of the 5th centenary of the University of Brittany, (16/6) the two French flags which had been hoisted on either side of the English, American and Belgian flags on the building of the Arts Faculty, Rennes were pulled down and were not replaced. (a special correspondent).

.... G. Verdeau, editor of "Breiz Santel" and 2 others were arrested on June 6th for having proclaimed "Brittany for the Bretons" and threatened to blow up a prefecture with "plastic". One of the men was remanded in custody for endangering the security of the State.

....In Ploué, the farmers delivered their leader from the policemen's hands while shouting: "Long live Brittany" (Parisien Libéré)

...." The French press has reported cases where the Breton farmers sang the "Marseillaise" during their demonstrations. The "Marseillaise" is possibly the only revolutionary song commonly known to the Bretons after 80 years of French education. But I have witnessed the lack of objectivity in the French news: In the middle of a demonstration, abuse was being hurled at the policemen when somebody proposed to sing the "Marseillaise" to see if they would jump to attention. A dozen men followed the lead, but after 20 seconds their voice was drowned in the uproar and the abuse went on worse than ever. Yet the "Telegram" and a French wireless, reporting on this demonstration said that "the peasants had taken off their hats and sung the Marseillaise before dispersing."

"In a large town of South Finistère, the mayor tried to stop the demonstrators from breaking up the police cordons by waving his tricolor sash, an emblem of French authority. The thing was grabbed from him while a push sent him back into the arms of the "forces of order". This significant incident was carefully ignored by all the French news agencies."

"Not all go so far as to think that here are Bretons rising against the French, still there is a pride in every one's heart seeing that fellow-countrymen are courageous enough to attack the powers that be." (a special correspondent.)

.... "BRETAGNE, kolonie française" is one of the slogans painted recently on Breton roads. It corresponded to a widespread popular feeling. "If Brittany were, in fact, a colony" writes W. Millinship, the current disturbances might have already become a war of independence."

....Among the well documented articles in English which have come to our notice in connection with the Breton events, those published in Ireland (Irish Times, Independent) and Scotland (The Scotsman) refer incidentally to the aspirations to self-government or home rule for Brittany, whereas in the English papers this national aspect is left out, so for instance in the otherwise sympathetic report, "Brittany fights for its future", Times 30/6.

THE REPORT ON THE FLIGHT OF THE BRETON LANGUAGE in Education, administration and Radiotelevision, presented by the Breton delegation to the Congress of European Nationalities in Brugge, May 1961 and published as a supplement to "L'Avenir", B.P. 89, Brest, will be summarised in our next issue. It demonstrates that the application of the minor concessions made in 1951 has been systematically rendered ineffectual by the French government and administration alike.

BRETON NEWS



A Bulletin issued by
The Breton Information Bureau

All correspondence to be addressed to LINTON, Fassaroe Lane, Fassaroe, BRAY, Co. Wicklow

No. 20.

Dublin.

15 September 1961

POSTERS CAMPAIGN. On August 14th, 1500 young Bretons belonging mainly to cultural groups were out from dawn to dusk putting up posters in all towns and villages. There were different editions. CELIB posters called for the solidarity of all professions in demanding a special plan for Brittany. Posters signed by the Committee for Regional Action pointed out that milliards of francs were squandered everyday by the government in Africa, "all from our taxes". And for Brittany? "Nothing is done for our economy and Debre vetoes our language. IT IS TOO MUCH. WE WANT A SPECIAL PLAN FOR BRITTANY."

Clandestine leaflets in Breton and French bear the message: "IN TEN YEARS, BRITTANY WILL BE A FRENCH DESERT OR A FREE COUNTRY BRITTANY WANTS TO LIVE FREE".

A.B.N. correspondent reports that in all the localities he visited "the posters were still up after 10 days. CELIB posters were to be seen stuck by shopkeepers on the inner side of their windows. The freedom of Brittany has become a frequent subject of discussion with its opponents much on the defensive."

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BRETONS UNITE AT PONTIVI. On August 19th, an important meeting took place at Pontivi, Central Brittany. It was organised by CELIB, the Committee for the Defense of Breton interests, in conjunction with the 5 Breton federations of farmers' unions. It was attended by 1500 delegates representing not only the rural workers but also professional groups, city workers' trade unions and cultural organisations. Among them were numerous mayors, members of parliament and other political personalities of different tendencies, from all parts of Brittany. The purpose of the meeting, which some Parisian papers called the "States-General of Brittany", was to demand from the French government the adoption of a special emergency law to deal with the present economic, social and cultural crisis in Brittany. Mr. Martray, the secretary of CELIB, stated: "Brittany is determined to survive at all costs", and a young farmers' leader said: "We shall have our Pontivi Plan or we shall become the fellaghas of Brittany." +

The delegates, considering that the prosperity of all the professional and social groups in Brittany was closely related to that of the farmers

- 1) stated their full solidarity with the latter in their struggle for a better standard of living;
- 2) noted that the French government had so far done nothing to meet the Breton demands;
- 3) called for urgent measures to stop the emigration caused by the notorious lack of public investments in the Breton economic, social and cultural domains;
- 4) demanded therefore the adoption of a plan to insure the harmonious development of all the Breton activities;
- 5) expressed unanimously their readiness to use all means to obtain satisfaction if official steps were not taken before Sept. 15th;
- 6) decided to form within CELIB a vigilance committee to maintain permanent co-ordination between all the Breton organisations.

(Avenir, Sept. 61)

+ not "of the metropole" as reported by Agence France Presse.

EVOLUTION OF THE BRETON PROBLEM: The dailies published in Brittany did not report the revolutionary declarations of rural leaders at Pontivi. They kept their public ignorant of the role of CELIB and MOB at the meeting. Yet at Pontivi, personalities who had never expressed their Breton sentiments previously did so openly. This was in particular the case of A. Gourvenneg, the young farmers' leader who was imprisoned after the occupation of the Morlaix sous-prefecture in June. "In Morlaix, he never pronounced the word "Brittany". Now he speaks of Breton solidarity, the defense of the regional interests, and demands a

special law for Brittany's development."

"--That is precisely what worries us most", said a police inspector present at Pontivi.

The proposal to set up a committee of vigilance and to fix a dead line for the 15th of September came from A. Gourvenneg. It met with the disapproval of some participants who felt inhibited by their loyalty to France. They dropped their objections however after a M.O.B. leader, Mr. Poupinot, had spoken in support of Gourvenneg.

(Ref. Avenir, Sept. 1961 and Rivarol, 31-8-61)

THE PREFECTS OF BRITTANY have been requested by the French Minister for Home Affairs to establish a report on the claims of the various Breton organisations, with recommendations for the minimum measures which could satisfy some of them. The M.O.B. has warned immediately the organisations concerned against this attempt to split their newly won unity. (Avenir, Sept. 61.)

A SECOND DENMARK. At Pontivi, Mr. Mevelleg, president of the Finistere Federation of Farmers Unions, refuted the old legend, accredited by French schools, of "Brittany a poor country incapable of further development". He gave some figures about the country's present agricultural production: "Brittany has 8% of the total cultivated land in France, but she earned 13% of the total earnings in agriculture in 1959. 12% of the milk are produced in Brittany, 40% of all vegetables for canning, 50% of the poultry, 75% of the potatoes. This should make the country a second Denmark." (Ouest-France, 21-8)

COLONIAL EXPLOITATION. "The young Breton farmers - most of them with small holdings - are in the vanguard of progress in vegetable production, poultry farming, pig rearing. Why such a crisis now? The young Bretons feel they are the victims of a criminal policy of internal colonisation on the part of the nation's ruling classes." (Information Agricole, No. 250)

....The June disturbances were started by the Breton farmers, but those who benefited from it were the big wheat growers who got a substantial increase in production prices. (Rivarol, 31-8)

Wheat is not a particularly important item of production in Brittany. The increase will work against the relatively numerous category of tenant-farmers in Brittany as their rents are determined by the wheat prices.

"BRETON IN TEACHING, ADMINISTRATION AND RADIO - T.V. SERVICES". This is the subject of the report⁺ presented last May by the Breton delegation to the F.U.E.N. Congress at Brugge. Its findings were confirmed by the veto which the French government opposed in July to the adoption of a new law for the teaching of Breton and other "regional" languages. Most of the facts have been given previously in BRETON NEWS (Nos. 1, 6, 8, 10, 16, 19). The main interest of the report is that it throws light on the methods by which the Department of Education has thwarted the application of the 1951-law.

There is new information, extracted from the lay teachers' bulletin "Ar Falz", about the number of schools which give Breton "grinds".

2 training colleges (presumably in Kemper and St-Brieg, for male teachers) out of 6 in the Breton-speaking area (tuition only for last-year students, in unfavourable conditions); a dozen secondary schools, classes attended by a few hundred students; a few dozens primary schools out of more than a thousand; lessons often not regular, devoted mainly to the reading of easy texts. About 1,000 pupils in equal parts from primary and secondary schools, take part every year in an easy competition organised by "Ar Falz".

The classes exist thanks to the devotion and courage of their teachers, they are only tolerated by the inspectors. The result of the 1951 concession is therefore, about 50 schools giving a rudimentary teaching of the daily language of a million people.

The interest taken by the pupils in the study of their language is beyond doubt. Once they have overcome the ideas previously instilled into them, that Breton is only a patois, of no use, good only for uncultivated peasants, they rapidly discover the remarkable riches of their language and become attached to it. But time-tables do not allow them to acquire a sound knowledge of it.

The report mentions the effects of this policy of cultural genocide which has gone on relentlessly for 5 generations. Alcoholism, the usual plague of people subjected to assimilation, is one of them; the spiritless acceptance of the rupture of the link

+ Available from "L'Avenir, B.P. 89, Brest, Brittany

between the old people and the children is another (it is considered "natural" for them not to understand one another).+

"The neglect of the Breton economic interests causes nowadays the most widespread discontent, ^{but} linguistic motives inspire the deepest resentment. More and more young people .. consider the decline of Breton as an intolerable injustice and come to judge the French State and France herself only in terms of this humiliating and anachronistic treatment of their language.

"The 1951-law satisfies the minimum requirements of France's membership of UNESCO:⁺ it cannot be said officially that France does not care for her citizens' mother-tongues. Yet the disappearance of the minority languages spoken on the French-controlled territory remains one of the objectives of the French Department of Education."

+ See in this respect BRETON NEWS, No. 12.

*+ France in Unesco: see B.N. 16

... All the pipe-bands and Celtic Circles of Upper Brittany took part in the parade organised at the end of the "Brug" Festival at Fougères (NE of Rennes) on Aug. 13th. They were watched by about 50,000 people, mainly farmers from surrounding districts. Breton flags were everywhere, in particular a huge "Gwenn ha Du" floated at the top of the famous XII. century castle. General Valéry speaking before 30,000 people praised the memory of those who had died fighting for Brittany and called on workers and farmers to unite in order to recover Brittany's freedom.

(from an eye-witness).

LITERARY PRIZES: In BRETON NEWS No. 12, it was announced that prizes would be given by Emgleo Sevenadurel Breiz for unpublished manuscripts in Breton. There were 20 entrances. Awards were made on July 3rd. A prize of 500 Nf was given to J. PRIEL for a play, "Kazh ha Logodenn" (Cat and Mouse), the action of which takes place in Norway during the war. The work will soon be published in "AL LIAMM". An equal prize was given to L. Kergall, a newcomer to Breton literature, for a collection of short stories. There were 4 smaller awards, 3 of the prizes went to Treger writers, 2 others were won by writers whose first language was French.

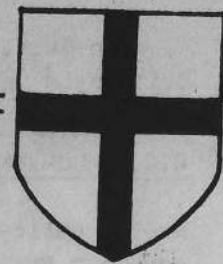
BRETON STUDENTS CONGRESS. About a hundred students took part in the congress held at Lorient on the 9-10/9/61 by the Association of Breton Students. A series of discussions on Saturday dealt with the economic problems of Brittany, another series on Sunday treated the cultural problems. Among the numerous personalities who attended and contributed to the discussions were leading members of various Breton organisations. Mr. Martray, secretary of CELIB, announced amid applause that a telegram had just been sent to the French Prime Minister reminding him of the 15th-of-September deadline. "The Committee of Vigilance will be heard of". A young farmer from NW. Brittany expressed the determination of the Breton rural youth to pursue to the end the struggle started 3 months ago. The discussion on Sunday expressed impatience with the Government for failing to take account of the Bretons' cultural aspirations: these were as worthy as their material needs. In the draft for the Breton emergency law which the Breton organisations were preparing, there will be a cultural section providing for the teaching of Breton in the schools. Professional organisations were being asked to throw in their weight in support of the Breton cultural claims.

... A number of young men walked out from a reception given on the occasion of the Bagpipe Festival at Brest, on the 5-6 of August, when following the Breton national anthem the Mayor proposed to sing the Marseillaise.

... The Celtic Congress held this year in Galway (14-19/8) elected Mr. P. Denez, Breton writer and editor of Ar Vro, as its new president.

... A young girl, Selwenn Rouault, was attacked by four men described as French agents provocateurs while she was distributing Breton leaflets at the Festival of Cornwall in Kemper (23-7). They grabbed the leaflets, twisted her arms and knocked her on the head.

BRETON NEWS



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19 October, 1961

PRECAUTIONS BEFORE THE DEADLINE: Important security measures were taken by the French authorities on the eve of September 15th, the time limit given to the Government by the 1500 Breton representatives at Pontivi, on August 19th. Riot police (CRS) were brought from Northern France to Kemper where the normal guard on the Prefecture was reinforced by armed CRS posted at the four corners of the building or hidden inside. The CRS were billeted at the local army barracks. CRS and tanks were brought to St. Brieg and 50 Senegalese paratroopers to Lorient. Special political police had also been despatched to Brittany.
(from a B.N. Correspondent).

GOVERNMENT DECISIONS: On October 13th, the French Council of Ministers decided to adopt a number of economic measures to forestall a renewal of disturbances in Brittany. The measures affected the 5 départements of historic Brittany, not only the 4 of last year's administrative division. They related to:

ENERGY: import tariffs on industrial coals taken in Breton harbours to be lowered by 19%;

cost of high tension electricity to be reduced by 15-20%;

natural gas from S. France now available in the Nantes area to be supplied as far as Rennes and Lorient.

TRANSPORT: Rail: a differential scale will be applied to the costs of transport of raw materials necessary to the Breton economy and of export of Breton agricultural and industrial products. This will reduce the handicap of distance between Brittany and the large Common Market centres.

Road: 5.5. million NF (ca £400,000) will go to improve main roads, in particular the highway from Loudeac in the East to Kastellin in the West through the much depressed and depopulated central region of Brittany.

Professional formation: In the technical schools to be established, special sections will enable adults to acquire new skills (metallurgy, electricity, etc.)

Rural action and industrialisation: The special zone for rural action instituted last year for the département of Morbihan will be extended to 32 adjoining cantons, i.e. 8 in each of the other départements. Small industries with less than 20 workers will thus be entitled to an equipment premium and preferential transport tariffs in an area roughly equal to 1/3 of the country.

A rural engineer has been appointed to help the Prefect of Rennes to establish within 3 months a plan of action based on these general decisions and on the decrees of application which are to be issued by the various ministries concerned.

Ref: Mission Bretonne, Ouest-France, 16/9

PARTIAL SUCCESS: The DELIB Commission for Economic Expansion gathered at Rennes on Sept. 19th to discuss the Government's decisions. It appeared during the discussion that most of these had been taken in haste and were too hazy, especially in their lack of figures. Precisions concerning the areas and the materials or products to which they would apply would have to be awaited from the ministerial decrees. "While representing a serious effort, the measures adopted will not be sufficient to remedy the Breton crisis, particularly its agricultural aspect."

(La Croix, Sept. 20)

The leaders of the 5 Breton Federations of Farmers Unions met on Sept. 27th at Gwened (Vannes) to study the measures, especially from the Breton point of view. While noting the new promises, they recorded that a number of points had been rejected or deliberately ignored by the government. They reserved the right to adopt whatever form of action they would deem necessary in order to obtain justice. They reaffirmed the professional character of their struggle, thus refuting allegations according to

which they were affiliated or allied to French right-wing associations.

(Mission Bretonne, Sept. 30)

On Sept. 22, Mr. Pleven had an interview with Mr. Debré, bearing exclusively on Brittany's agricultural and economic problems. Pleven insisted on the urgent need for concrete results.

(La Croix, 23-9).

M.O.B. COMMENTS. "Two days before the deadline, when everything was ready for a vigorous and massive action, the Government decided to define its Breton policy ... This was a new departure for Mr. Debré, who had always refused to consider Brittany as a special problem.....

His policy is far from conforming in all points to the Breton demands. There is no question of the BRETON PLAN (law-programme) which has rallied the unanimity of our people. We must wait for the decrees of application before we know if the new measures can be effective.... So far we have only texts, a renewal of old promises ... This partial success is due solely to the determination of our people. If the government sees any wavering, it will give only a minimum of realisation to its promises.

... The official pretext for not adopting a special law for Breton development is that pressures would then be brought on the Government to extend a similar treatment to other regions. Yet, according to economists such as F. Gravier, Brittany is an ideal area for an experiment in regional planning.

(Gleaned and condensed from L'Avenir, October.)

OFFICIAL BLACKOUT ON PONTIVI MEETING: The French Radio and T.V. Services had no reporters at the Pontivi meeting on August 19., although Europe No. 1, Montecarlo Radio and others were on the spot. One of the reporters revealed that on August 18 an order was given on behalf of the French Prime Minister to RTF not to publish any information on the meeting and that pressure was exerted on the other transmitters to dissuade them from reporting. Thus next day there was no mention by Radio Rennes of this vital meeting of 1500 Breton representatives which was taking place 70 miles away while Luxemburg devoted 1/4 hour to it. But Rennes could entertain its listeners with the report of a meeting of 35 farmers' representatives in a Southern French Town. (Avenir, Oct.)

"GREAT WEST": Mr. R. Marjolin, Vice-President of the Common Market, has asked the Western European States to organise themselves in regions of 3-5 million people, comparable to the German Lander, so that the administrative divisions might not be too different from one State to another. In reply, French officials have produced a plan of division of France whereby Brittany and Lower Normandy would be conjugated under the name of Great West. Brittany and Normandy constitute in themselves units of the dimensions defined by Mr. Marjolin. "Breiz" (Sept. Oct. 1961) sees here a French manoeuvre at European level to prevent Brittany from solving her particular cultural problems and asks its readers to send a protest to Mr. Marjolin, 2 rue Ravenstein, Brussels, in a registered envelope in order to make a possible interception more difficult.

FESTOU NOZ. The leaders of 5 Celtic Circles in the North East of Breton Cornwall met on Oct. 7th at the Abbey of Langonned and established the time-table for the festou-noz (evening entertainments) of the coming winter. Between them the 5 Circles will give 26 performances in small towns and villages in the Karaez-Gourin area, beginning on Nov. 4th and ending on March 10th. Dancing, singing and story telling in Breton feature prominently at these popular "ceili's". They were first started 6 years ago by the dynamic and versatile Loeiz Ropars, Professor at the Kemper Grammar School.

(Mission Bretonne, 14-10)

It is clear from a recent reply given by Mr. Debre to 2 Breton deputies that the Government does not want to go beyond the present provisions for the teaching of Breton. There is no intention to give it the rank of 2nd language in the Leaving Cert. examination. A good knowledge of our language is bound under such conditions to remain confined to an elite of tenacious students who are prepared to study 3 languages at the same time. Why such a discrimination against the language of a million people? Do they fear that it might revive a kingdom of Nomenoe"? (Mission Bretonne, 14th Oct.)

"In democracy, if you create regional entities, you must give them the right to elect assemblies. This would be too dangerous for the national unity of our country. A regional organisation of the administration would undoubtedly have its advantages but it involves a risk which old France cannot afford" -- Mr. Debre, in the Senate.

(Avenir August '61.)

. Following prolonged negotiations, Switzerland has opened her markets to the import of Breton eggs, fowl and cattle.

(M.B. 14-10)

BRETON NEWS



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The Breton Information Bureau

All correspondence to be addressed to LINTON, Fassaroe Lane, Fassaroe, BRAY, Co. Wicklow

No. 22

DUBLIN

November 15, 1961

THE SUGAR OR THE STICK? Commenting on last summer's manifestations of solidarity between all social and professional classes in Brittany, the editor of *Barr-Heol* (September 1961) wrote: "Attempts will be made to undo this knot. Three ways are open to the government: make a genuine attempt to solve the Breton problem; neutralise the most influential men by offering them money or honours, while giving enough concessions to keep down discontent; or repress." Had they the second method in mind when they appointed Mr. Gourvenneg one of the leaders of the farmers' revolt last July, as an adviser to the French minister for Agriculture? There is no reason however to doubt the integrity of Mr. Gourvenneg who will see in this appointment an opportunity to press more effectively for the reforms needed by the Breton agriculture.

On the other hand it is certain that the Breton solidarity and the threats of revolt have worried the French authorities. The demand for a special plan of development is equated in the official mind with a disguised demand for autonomy. We are informed that consideration is being given in high places to the means of preventing a certain number of persons from continuing their Breton action.

MINISTER BALLYRAGGED. However great solicitude is being shown to Brittany. On October 22nd there were no less than 4 ministers in this area. Mr. PISANI, Agriculture, was the most noted. He came to inform himself and went around "flea-jumping" by helicopter. He displayed interest in the farmers cooperatives, credit organisations distribution centres, but seemed studiously to shun the places where the crisis is most sorely felt; the small farms. In Plouared, N. Brittany, he found 500 farmers barring his way with tractors. They compelled him to abandon his schedule and took him across country to a small typical farm where he had to answer a number of awkward questions.

During his tour, Mr. Pisani was often reminded by such slogans as: "Enough Promises", "Hear the rumbling of revolt", that he was not on holiday. But he could not announce any major decision. Instead he entreated the farmers to give him more delays. "You have brought us nothing" was the summing-up of the talks by the Chairman of the Breton Chamber of Agriculture. But the minister said NO to the Breton demand for an extension of the 80-canton "special zone for rural action" to all of Brittany. And in an interview given to Mr. Ihuel, Deputy, Gen. De Gaulle said NO to a special Plan for the Development of Brittany.

SHOULD THE LAND BELONG TO THE FARMERS?

Widespread alarm is felt by the Breton farmers because of the acquisition of more and more land by absentee landlords. 2000 men protested recently at Ploumoger near Brest against this practice (Croix du Dimanche, 5/11). Mr. Pisani was asked among other things to introduce a "professional card" for the farmers as a means to put an end to such transactions. All other professions are protected by trade union cards against encroachments on their rights. Mr. Pisani could not promise.

A letter containing the following warning was sent in June to Gen. De Gaulle by some of his war-time partisans in Brittany:

"Favoured by the events, the harassing propaganda of the separatists who were annihilated fifteen years ago is ceaselessly gaining ground and working on the mind of the youth. In the grievous moments we are going through here, you must not underestimate the excitement of the minds... Violence is communicative. Everything must be done before it is too late. We are coming to a point where we shall

no longer be able to resist the adverse pressure unless we oppose it with substantial results... (ref. Ar Vro, No. 11).

M.O.B. CONGRESS. The 3rd Annual Congress of the Movement for the Organisation of Brittany took place at Redon, South of Rennes, on October 14-15. The 200 delegates gathered there represented thousands of Bretons who recognise the need to change Brittany's political status if the country is to subsist and develop as a national entity in the modern world.

A number of resolutions were adopted. They related to:

- 1) The strengthening of Breton unity in order to obtain a special law for Brittany;
- 2) A new meeting of the "Breton States-General" at Pontivy to press for an overall solution of the Breton problem;
- 3) Great-Britain's and Ireland's membership of the E.E.C.
- 4) The evolution of Belgium towards a federal state.

Regarding point 3, it is clear that Brittany stands to gain from a reduction of trade tariffs between the present Common Market and Britain. Breton food products and British coals are complementary. The resulting shift of the main economic streams towards the Channel would provide the sea-faring Bretons with opportunities which are denied to them in the present Common Market.

Without further waiting, the representatives of the Breton economy should establish direct contacts with their counterparts across the Channel and seek profitable bilateral exchanges.*

The Bretons see also in this extension of the E.E.C. the possibility of strengthening the bonds of friendship and cultural affinity which have subsisted between the Continental and the Insular Celts in spite of many centuries of political domination by different powers. (L'Avenir, Nov. 1961)

Speaking at this congress about the demand for a special plan of development for Brittany, Mr. Y. Fouere asked: "Who would implement it? We have numerous examples of such stillborn plans. Powers must be transferred to Breton institutions receiving their mandate from the Breton people if we are to achieve concrete results." The Bretons must create the institutions in fact, they will later be legalised. (Ar Vro, No. 11)

* In "Sturier-Yaouankiz, an excellently produced bilingual magazine for young Bretons, A.J.R. Peniarth examines the numerous possibilities of economic exchanges between the Celtic Countries.

BARZAZ BREIZ, the famous and controversial collection of Breton epic songs and ballads which we owe to Kervarker (La Villemarque) was first published in 1841. It was out of print for many years, but two years ago it was republished by the Breton Cultural Association in Paris. This edition is identical with the 1867 one. It is again no longer available in bookshops, but copies can still be obtained for 10 NF (ca 15 shillings) post free, from Mr. H. Le Menn, 3 rue Fr. Garnier, Paris 17. From the same address: text and music of 80 popular Breton songs collected between 1860 and 1900 by Col. Bourgeois, published last year with comments in French on every song. 12 NF post free.

The Association of the (300) Mayors of Finistere has asked the Prefect of Kemper to include the whole departement, and not 1/5 of it as at present in the "special zone for rural action". They are prepared to stage demonstrations in Kemper, or an indefinite administrative strike, or even to resign if their request is refused.

NOT TO BE TRUSTED? The French government has not forgotten the acts of sabotage committed on the Pont'n Abad railway on June 1st. The Supreme Court has now been requested to take the case from the Kemper district court and hand it over, for reasons of public safety, to the Seine (Paris) district Court. The examining magistrate should here decide whether to drop the case or have it taken up by the Seine Court of petty sessions. (Ouest-France).

This unusual procedure may reflect the fear that the Kemper magistrates could be too lenient or be influenced by mass demonstrations outside the court.

. Four children of a Breton family had not been registered because the administration refused to accept their Breton Christian names. The mother was brought to trial recently. She was defended by Mr. G. Toubanc. She won (Ar Vro, No. 11)

. France is the only member of the Council of Europe which has not yet - after 10 years - ratified the protocol of the Convention for the protection of human rights.

. A meeting similar to the one which preceded the surprise - demonstration organised in Kemper, on July 23rd in protest against Debre's veto on the teaching of Breton was held on November 18th in the same town. Its aim was to strengthen the solidarity of the Breton organisations and decide the best means to develop propaganda in the coming months. (Breton News correspondent)

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Dublin

April 15th, 1962.

OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE MOVEMENT FOR THE ORGANISATION OF BRITTANY.

Public Meetings forbidden. A member of the M.O.B. Central Committee, Mr. Yann Fouéré, was due to speak publicly at Rennes on March 14th and at Nantes on the 16th. His theme was : For a union of the European Peoples as against a union of European States. The idea that a European federation should be built on an ethnical basis is shared among the small European nations, whereas a federation of the existing states, corresponding to De Gaulle's conception of a Europe of Fatherlands, risks leading to a new imperialism or to rivalries between the bigger member-states.

On March 12th, the superprefect of Brittany forbade the Rennes meeting, allegedly to safeguard public order. He was prompted by -- or had prompted himself -- a coalition of local French party bosses which included Communists and Christian-Democrats.

On his injunction, the Prefet of Loire-Atlantique gave a similar order against Y. Fouéré's meeting as well as against a public lecture by Yann Poupinot scheduled for April 6th in Nantes. The argument here invoked was that the situation in France was too grave at the present.

The meetings took place privately, by invitation, in the M.O.B. halls.

Y. Fouéré had spoken publicly on the same subject in Paris a few days earlier.

Posters

No MOB in Finistère. BRETON NEWS of Feb. 15th reported that MOB posters had systematically been torn down by policemen in Brest. In fact, the repression of MOB propaganda was ordered by the prefet of Kemper throughout the Finistère département. It is in this area that the most serious troubles occurred last Summer (Pont 'n Abad, Montroulez) and that a huge military training camp is to be built.

(Avenir, 5/4/'62)

"La Methode de l'Amalgame". This official offensive is accompanied by an underhand campaign in French newspapers and party organs tending to assimilate the Breton political movement with O.A.S. in the public mind. As an example, the prohibition of Y. Fouere's lecture in Nantes was announced in Le Monde immediately underneath a series of news about the repression of OAS activities in the "West" of France.

National liberation movements in Africa, Asia etc. are often described by their opponents as inspired or led by the Communists. This method of assimilation is used in reverse by the communists in Brittany when they attack MOB leaders as "fascists". L'Avenir (5/4) reports also that in a large Breton town, when policemen stop OAS suspects, they first ask: "Are you in the MOB?"

Reason for Calumnies. At the MOB National Council of St-Brieg (18/2/62), a resolution was adopted condemning the OAS and Communist extremists alike and placing responsibility on the French Government, should their quarrel (as exemplified at Issy-les-Moulineaux) spread to Brittany. The Students section of the MOB, Rennes, was still more outspoken in its condemnation of the OAS.

(Avenir, 1/3/'62).

B.N. Comment:

The Breton struggle is no more fascist than communist: it is only Breton, nationally-conscious or not. To increase its chances of success against the French State, it calls on those who have the future of Brittany at heart to unite. This unity would relegate French party issues to a secondary rank. Hence the animosity.

PENALISED FOR BEING NEGLECTED. On Sept. 13th 1961, the French government promised a reduction of rail transport costs to enable Breton goods to compete on external markets. This promise came after the threat of renewed troubles in Brittany. It has not been implemented.

On the contrary, the French Nationalised Railway Company has now proposed a reform, the application of which will heavily handicap the Breton economy. Transport costs will be calculated in terms of the weighted distances, i.e. the real distances modified by a coefficient depending on slopes and curvatures. They will thus be increased by 17-30% on most stretches in Brittany, whereas on the main French lines, improved thanks to State credits in recent years, they will be decreased by 10-18%.

As an example, the distance from the vegetable market centre of St-Pol (NW Brittany) to Lille becomes equal to that between Avignon and Lille, although in reality 164 km shorter.

The Breton organisations are all protesting against a treatment whereby Brittany will be penalised because of State neglect. J. Martray, in La Vie Bretonne (March) denounces it as a provocation. The Bretons have 2½ months to bring about a revision in their favour. On July 1st the reform will go into effect and so will the Brussels agreements on agriculture.

It is not only agriculture, from which 70% of the Breton population lives, that will be affected by the reform. Industrialists will also be discouraged from establishing factories in Brittany.

(Ref. La Vie Bretonne, March; Le Pt Bleu, 31/3)

SALE OF BRETON BOOKS IN KEMPER. Mrs. Kemere runs a handcraft shop in Kemper, but she reserves space for the sale of books in Breton as well. In 1961, she sold 690 of these; in fact 420 were for learning the language, and 270 for reading. A comparison with previous years shows a steady increase: 1958, 407 books, 88 for reading; 1959, 449, 150 reading; 1960, 560, 169 reading. 1961, 690, 270.

Mrs. Kemere writes: "It is a pleasure to see that people who bought grammars and dictionaries a year or two ago are coming back for books to read now. And a lot of them speak Breton quite well now." (Al Liamm, Jan. Feb '61).

LIVELIHOOD of 8-10,000 threatened in HENBONT. 1500 workers accompanied by 3,500 sympathisers (farmers, teachers, business people) staged a 10km march to the Lorient sub-prefecture on 28/3 to demand that the present level of employment at the Henbont foundries be maintained.

A request for 7,000 millions francs necessary for the modernisation of the factories was recently forwarded to Paris for transmission to the Coal and Steel Authority. It was rejected by the French minister for Industry, who proposes to leave enough work for only 200 men at Henbont and to 'reconvert' the rest in the Lorient area.

The workers do not trust the Government promises, and demand that the machinery be installed where they live, not that they be shifted about to suit the technocrats.

The Henbont foundries constitute one of the few basic industries in Brittany and have their place within the framework of the industrial expansion demanded by all Breton organisations. (Vie Bretonne, Telegramme)

Need for short cuts in 2 directions. Speaking of the necessity of a Law-programme for Brittany before a numerous audience at Rennes, R. Pleven denounced the French Government for preventing Brittany from appealing directly to the European Investments Bank. Yet, he stressed, "Brittany will not be saved only with the State's investments."

Pleven thinks that a Regional Assembly would not have enough financial power to be efficient. He favours however the pulling together of the Breton political forces through the General Councils of the 5 departements. (Avenir, 5/4).

STATE OFFENDED Mr. Char Gall, responsible for the half-hourly Breton programmes of Radio-Rennes was suspended for a month in March for having broadcast a popular humorous song about the "occupation" of the Morlaix subprefecture last summer. Following protests gave Bretons an occasion to manifest their union. (Breiz, April).

EFFORTS ABROAD. Thanks to the Interprofessional Committee of Propaganda for the Breton Products, Brittany will be represented this year at the Milan Fair (12-27-4), at the Dublin French Festival (27/4-8/5), at the Saarbrücken Festival (4-9/5), at the Exhibition of Breton Artichokes in Switzerland (June), at the London Food Fair (28/8-12/9), at the New-York Food Fair and A.I.D.A. (8-16/9) at the Brussels Food Fair (10/10-4/11). (La Vie Bretonne, March).

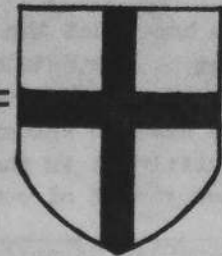
F.U.E.N. Congress. The 12th Congress of the Federalist Union of European Nationalities will be held at Flensburg (Germany) from May 30th to June 2nd. For information, write to the Secretariat-General of the FUEN, Rolighed, Rungsted Kyst, Denmark.

A considerable effort of modernisation and equipment was made by the Breton farmers in the last 10 years. The number of tractors increased from 10,000 to 50,000, of yearly inseminated cows from 52,000 to 686,000. They have now 8 S.I.C.A. (Societies of Agricultural Collective interest), 85 co-operatives for purchase and sale, 49 for cereals, 93 specialised ones. (La Vie Bretonne, March).

A BRETON CULTURAL HALL, with 5 rooms, was opened in the centre of St-Brieg on March 11. It will be opened on Saturdays after 3 p.m.

The Bill for a Breton Law-Programme which has been in preparation since last July, and results democratically from consultations with various professional organisations and discussions within working groups, was presented to the CELIB Commission for Economic Expansion at Rennes on April 2. It constitutes a document of 100 pages, a synthesis of 53 different reports which will be sent to all the Breton collectivities, for them to propose amendments if need be. After that the CELIB General Assembly will decide and ask its Parliamentary Commission to present the bill in the French Parliament. The bill's essential aim is to bring the mean standard of living in Brittany up by 20% to the same level as the French mean, and to reduce the catastrophic emigration. It has a cultural section which, if adopted, would provide some basis for an effective teaching of Breton. (Bretagne Dimanche 3/4).

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May 15th, 1962

LAW-PROGRAMME FOR BRITTANY

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A 50-pages supplement to

"La Vie Bretonne", April 1962, gives the full

text of the draft of a Second Plan and Law-Programme for the development of Brittany. (See B. News No.26). For reasons of expediency, however, it concerns only 4 of the 5 Breton départements. It has been prepared so as to fit in the French 4th Plan due to go into operation this year. It has been established in close co-operation with a large number of Breton organisations, and reflects therefore the Breton people's will. Its application would allow our country to go through the difficult period ahead, during which new forms of employment will have to be effected. The aim of the Breton Plan is to bring up Brittany's standard of living and rate of economic growth to the same level as in France.

To stop emigration, 90,000 non-agricultural jobs must be provided before the end of 1965, apart from those already anticipated.

The draft reckons with a redistribution of the Breton population during the next 10 years. The urban population is expected to rise by 40%, whatever is done. If the present trends are left unchecked, the rural population will fall by 14-18%, and increasing burdens will be its lot. If the Plan is fulfilled, it will fall only by 6-9%, while the total population would rise by 2%. Under the headings "Transport", "Agriculture", "Industry", "Handicraftsmen", "Sea-fishing", "Tourism", "Commerce", "Social Equipment", it puts forward the arguments in favour of the various claims, which are then summed up in bold type, in the form of articles and paragraphs, indicating for each measure the amount of investments required, as well as the source of these credits. Special attention is given to the need of research in all branches and to vocational training.

The Chapter "Social Equipment" includes proposals for the "Cultural Equipment", such as the opening of a College of Breton Popular Culture, cultural centres, an academy of Breton arts, a recording studio for radio programmes corresponding to the Breton needs. In particular, it asks for a series of measures in favour of the teaching of the Breton language, in order to remove the complex of inferiority affecting the Breton-speakers in general. "All the sectors of the economy will benefit from the balance and dynamism that will result from a renewed awareness of the Breton personality". Among such measures, we note the opening of a test-school and of 3 model-schools to determine the best methods for teaching Breton, as well as the setting-up of training courses for the teachers and the provision of a special fund for the publication of schoolbooks. On the wireless, a Breton course should be broadcast twice a week.

The application of the Law-Programme should be entrusted in an assembly composed of representatives of the population of the 4 départements, working in co-operation with the CELIB's Commission for Economic Expansion and specialised regional bodies. Within the limits fixed, decisions should be taken at the Breton level without having constantly to refer to Paris.

Commenting on the draft of the 2nd Breton Plan, L'Avenir (3-5-62) regrets that it does not cover all of Brittany.

"We know that CELIB is endeavouring to bring the Nantes area into the Plan. They will be helped by a new Government mistake placing Tours at the head of the administrative region to which Nantes is attached.

We hope that the General Assembly of CELIB to be held at Lorient in June will.... not hesitate to confront Government with the fact of Breton unity.

In this draft, Mr. Philipponneau too often refers to the government departments. Let us have no illusions about their good will. The only plan which has a chance of fulfilment is the one we shall put into operation ourselves, in co-operation with the government of course"?)

CULTURAL LANDMARKS

The "Beilhadegou" are coming to a close for this year. So are the numerous "Festou-Noz" of Central Brittany. The Leon area, around Brest, had its first Beilhadeg recently at Plouenan, where a camp for Breton-speaking children was open from the 13th to the 29th of April.

A festival will be held at Bourbriag near Gwengamp on May 27th, with the participation of 300 pipers, singers and dancers. If in Paris, go and see the festival of Poissy on the 2-3/6/'62 (Gouel ar Vretoned).

A camp to introduce children of 9-15 years to Breton culture will be open at Elliant (E. of Kemper) from July 16th to 29th.

Another camp at Elliant will be open from August 6th to 15th for Breton-speaking children of the same age.

The Interceltic Camp for Breton Speakers will be open at St-Nikolaz ar Pelem, 1-15 August: lectures in the morning, excursions in the afternoon, ceilis (parties) in the evening. This is the 15th Interceltic camp. Young people under fifteen not accepted unless accompanied by their parents. Write to Mme de Bellaing, 28 Rue des 3 Freres Le Goff, St-Brieuc, Cotes-du-Nord.

The Celtic Congress will be held at Landreger (Treguier) from Aug. 18th to Aug. 22nd.

BRETON CULTURAL CENTRES exist now in St-Brieg (see BN 26), Brest (20 rue Algesiras: dancing and singing on Tuesdays 8.0pm, Breton classes on Wednesdays and Thursday evenings), Kemper (lectures every fortnight to 150-200 listeners) Rennes, Paris (Kervreiz).

Other projects are being studied, in order to open such centres in St-Nazaire, Nantes, St-Malo, etc. bring knowledge of the "Breton lore" to the educated people. (Breiz, May, Al Liamm, No.91).

DO THEY WANT THEIR LANGUAGE TAUGHT IN SCHOOLS? "When I opened a Breton class in the college in which I teach, I did not know what response my pupils would give to my appeal. But I was amazed by the burst of joy which shook the school from top to bottom. Between 60 and 70% of them enlisted immediately and I shall long remember the first lesson which I gave to about 90 listeners. They were everywhere, on the floor, on the window sills...

Of course since Breton classes meant extra work for them, while their comrades were out playing, their number decreased with time and only those who had made a good start,, about 40, continued.

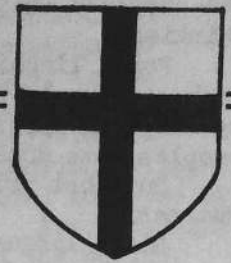
The proof was given however that the young Bretons, even the twist fans among them, are quite enthusiastic about their country and their language. National and international at the same time, that is a healthy and necessary attitude nowadays." (from an account by E. Evenou, in Sturier-Yaouankiz, No.21)

Which are the Herrenvölker? 49 languages are spoken in Europe. 45 of them are taught effectively in schools. Four are not: Breton, Catalan, Occitan and Basque.

The French Supreme Council of Education has again expressed itself against the admission of these languages in the Leaving Certificate examinations. (Breiz, April). The Catalans and Basques on the other side of the Pyrenees are subject to a similar tyranny.

EUROPEAN FEDERATION In the public lectures which were banned recently by the Rennes and Nantes prefects, Y. Fouere rejected the concept of a centralised European superstate. He supported the proposal for a federation of cells of roughly equal size and power (3-5 million people) such as recommended by the Conference for Regional Economies at Brussels last December. (W. Hallstein and R. Marjolin have recognised the need to build Europe according to the principle of Unity in Diversity, and to safeguard the ethnical entities against mass transfers for the sake of material gains only. The federal conception which has proved successful in Switzerland, Germany and Italy, and is about to be applied in Belgium, should be extended. It is far more likely to lead to peace and stability than an artificial state, created, like France, by oppressing the smaller nations composing it. (Ref. 1'Avenir 3/5/62).

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30th June, 1962.

To our subscribers.

This issue of BRETON NEWS is for June and July. In order to compensate for a single issue, we have made it of 4 pages.

VOTE OF THANKS TO SCANDINAVIAN UNIVERSITY TEACHERS

which the national movements of the Celtic countries are represented has requested us to publish the following communique:

"On behalf of the Central Council of the Celtic League, I wish to thank the signatories of the petition addressed by Mr. P. NAERT, University of Lund, to the UNESCO Councils of the Nordic Countries, requesting them to ask UNESCO to adopt protective measures in favour of the languages and cultures of the small ethnical groups."

Signed: A. Heussaff.

PETITION BY SCANDINAVIAN UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS.

=====

A petition, signed by 52 professors and lecturers at 11 Nordic Universities was sent on May 1st by Mr. P. NAERT, assistant professor at Lund University, to the UNESCO councils of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, requesting them to urge UNESCO to adopt measures for the protection of the languages and cultures of the small ethnical groups.

The universities concerned are: Reykjavik, Bergen, Oslo, Aarhus, Copenhagen, Lund, Goeteborg, Stockholm, Upsala, Turku, Helsinki.

Among the languages listed in the appendix, we find, for Western Europe, Scotch Gaelic, Breton, Basque, Occitan, Frisian (in NW Germany but not in the Netherlands).

The Swedish UNESCO Council has already given a favourable reply.

Because of the acute need for such protective measures in the case of the Breton language, we give a detailed account of the text of the petition.

THREAT OF EXTERMINATION. For political reasons or others, the languages concerned are threatened with extermination within one or two generations.

In nearly all countries, there are organisations and laws for the protection of rare plants and animals. But there is not a single officially recognised association for the defence of the small ethnical groups and the preservation of their languages and cultures.

One reason is the ignorance in which the public is maintained concerning them, and the lack of interest and understanding for the values they represent.

But most of the reputedly civilised peoples consider their cultures as superior to those of small nations. Such a superiority may exist from certain points of view, but it does not entitle any people to exterminate others, culturally or physically.

The small ethnical groups are unable to live according to their traditions and to keep their languages because of the expansion or assimilation policies of the big states, where no such pressure exists, like in Iceland and in the Feroes, the native languages are safe.

CULTURAL SUPERIORITY: There is no universally recognised criterion for cultural values. The Western culture presents some characteristics which would make it, by its own standards, inferior to more primitive ones: juvenile delinquency is an example. The developments of hygiene and of techniques are not unmitigated blessings: the one may be correlated with wars of mass annihilation and the other with a lowering of the creative powers and of the quality of products. In art, much is now being borrowed from the so-called primitive peoples.

From a cultural point of view it is therefore important to safeguard the small ethnical groups.

LANGUAGE: KEY FACTOR. For the safeguard of their cultures, the defence of their language is of paramount importance. Language is not, as many imagine, an interchangeable instrument for the expression of pre-existing concepts and ideas; it is on

the contrary indissolubly bound with these concepts and ideas, with the way of thinking.

For a linguist, no language is superior to another. Each has its own merits. Each can supply to its deficiencies in vocabulary (in science and technics for instance) by adapting foreign words or by coining neologisms whenever the need arises. All peoples have done so in the course of cultural development.

But most primitive peoples possess in their languages better ways of expressing nuances.

Since language and thought, and thought and culture are so intimately bound, the extermination of a language is tantamount to the destruction of the culture it expresses.

Neither the Nordic peoples nor the Catalans and Basques would abandon their languages for the sake of English or Spanish, however widespread and practical the use of these may be.

In the case of the Nordics and among most others, it is felt that language and culture are inseparable, are in fact the same thing.

But when, as in the case of the Basques and Ainous (in Japan), the languages are subject to a systematic prosecution and depreciation, they are doomed to become extinct very soon, unless the tendency is quickly checked. And the same fate will overtake relatively important languages.

Let nobody misunderstand us: we recognise fully the advantage for most people to know several languages, particularly those of numerically important neighbours. But one should not have to abandon one's own for that! That is evident for us Nordics, but apparently incomprehensible for many members of the big nations.

Summing up, we insist that by killing a language, one kills a culture and a nation. In actual political conditions, it should be already possible to put into effect measures for the protection of the languages. It must be done urgently.

FIRST STEPS: All those who are concerned with the problem should organise a petition similar to the Scandinavian one and send it to the UNESCO council for their own country.

A committee of linguists should be nominated by UNESCO to make a list of the threatened languages and propose measures for their safeguard.

The most radical solution would be to do away with Article 1 : 2, 7 of the UNO statutes, and give the United Nations the right to intervene in the "internal affairs" of the States. But it is still too soon for this to be practicable.

The signatories of the Scandinavian petition request the Nordic UNESCO councils at their next general meeting in August to give their agreement to the petition and decide on common action at the next General Assembly of UNESCO on Sept. 17th 1962.

It is fitting that the proposal should come from the Nordic countries: they understand better than most others the central role played by language in a people's cultural life; however small their population is in some cases, they are among those who endeavour most to preserve their national languages, while protecting the minority languages within their borders.

DRAFT-BILL FOR A BRETON LAW-PROGRAMME ADOPTED BY CELIB AT LORIENT

June 18th and adopted a draft-bill for a Breton law-programme (See B. News No. 27 for a detailed account of its contents).

The General Assembly of the Committee for the Study and Defense of the Breton Interests (C.E.L.I.B.) met at Lorient on

A law-programme is now being demanded by about 1090 municipalities representing more than 80% of the population in the 4 departments of the administrative region called "Brittany". The demand is also supported by 7 Chambers of Commerce, all the Agricultural Chambers and the 5 General Councils of Brittany. No campaign has ever been so successful in Brittany. The question is how will the French Government treat this clear democratic expression of the Breton ^{will} when it is presented to the French National Assembly by the parliamentary commission of C.E.L.I.B.?

1300 delegates were present at the Lorient meeting which was presided by R. PLEVEN and attended by the prefects of the administrative region.

20 delegates intervened in the discussion to present their mandants' viewpoint: The chairman of the Finistere Federation of Farmers Unions: "If the deputies are not heard by the Government, we shall be ..."

A trade union secretary: "the factories have to be built where the men are."

The Secretary of C.E.L.I.B. asked whether the organisation should limit itself to petitions or rather join with all other forces in order to get the government to act?

He dwelled also on the necessity of re-attaching Loire-Atlantique to the rest of Brittany.

The draft-bill was adopted unanimously. Special attention was given to the question of rail transport tariffs, agricultural production objectives on a regional basis, Breton teaching.

One of the aims C.E.L.I.B. should set itself, said R. Pleven, was to study Brittany's role in the middle of a Common Market including Britain and Spain.

(Ouest-France, 19-6-'62)

The direct participation of Brittany in the talks for the integration of Great Britain in the Common Market is demanded by the Movement for the Organisation of Brittany in view of the primordial importance of her future cross-channel trade.

DUMPING ARTICHOKEs AGAIN. 210 tons of artichokes were dumped on the streets of Kastell-Pol on June 20th. Another 75 tons were thrown away in neighbouring villages in Northern Brittany. This followed a strike in public services, a total collapse of prices and an order by farmers union leaders to destroy unsold crops. After attempts to enforce discipline on independent farmers, there were scuffles with the police. An offensive grenade exploded under a police car. Numerous telegraphic lines were sabotaged in the Kastell-Pol area. 17 tons of artichokes were distributed free to the Brest workers. In Concarneau, 30 tons of fish had to be thrown back into the sea due to superabundance. (Ouest-France, 20-6-'62).

"Agriculture is threatened by capitalist integration. Instances are now frequent of industrial concerns being set up with big capital, for pig or fowl rearing, with the aim of speculating and dominating the trade by ruining the small enterprises. There is only one way to defend ourselves: a powerful and disciplined co-operative.

Industrialists are welcome to Brittany, but we shall not allow our country to be used as a spare colony". (Le Paysan Breton, 12/5).

EXPORTS: French exports of vegetables and fruit increased from 282,000 tons in 1960 to 388,000 tons in 1961. Brittany's part (mainly vegetables) in these figures went up from 29% to 36%. Her main customers were: 1) Germany, 2) Great Britain, 3) Benelux. 16 types of vegetables were involved. Brittany is very much ahead of all French regions in these exports as far as tonnage is concerned. (Ref. Petit Bleu des C-d-N. 9-6-'62).

EUROPEAN FEDERALISTS IN BERN: Representatives of European Federalist organisations in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Euzkadi (Basque Country), Luxembourg, Sweden and Switzerland as well as of the Federalist Union of European Nationalities met in Bern (26-29/4/62) to discuss European federation from the point of view of the small States and ethnical groups.

In their conclusions, they affirmed that federalism was the form of political organisation best adapted to the needs of the European peoples:

- 1) Federalism only makes possible the peaceful co-existence of nationalities by guaranteeing national, regional and local freedoms, and by forestalling the danger of minorities being oppressed by numerically more important nations:
- 2) the European federation must be open to all peoples in Europe which are endowed with free democratic institutions:

- 3) the ethnical groups, now termed minorities, are entitled to effective protection:
 - b) the Council of Europe should end its discrimination against peoples that do not belong to an ethnical group already in possession of a State: at the moment it recognises only such ethnical groups as have an international status (Editor's note: it recognises for instance the South Tyrolians, but not the Basques and the Bretons).
 - c) the European Federal Constitution must guarantee the protection of the ethnical groups, thereby creating a climate of trust.

- 4) It is in the express interest of the small States to take part already in the building of the European Federation. (Ref. Europa, May 1962).

At this congress, Dr. H. Kloss, Kiel, speaking on the Problem of Nationalities in Present-Day Europe, referred to the timid recommendations of the Council of Europe regarding the minorities not legally recognised and stressed the need for more solidarity on the part of the small nations, which risk all becoming minorities if a certain conception of European federation prevails.

A COURAGEOUS FAMILY: It is well known that 5 of the children of the Manrot-Gouarnig family (Moelan, S.W. Brittany) have no legal existence as the French administration has refused to register them under their Breton forenames. Mrs. Gouarnig recently took an action in order to get family allowances, but the Court of Appeal found a loophole and decreed that Mrs. G. was not entitled to the money.

Dailies have also reported about the resistance opposed by the Gouarnig family to the felling of trees on their property, for the sake of putting up an electricity pole. They have reported that a number of policemen forced their way into the property and arrested Mrs. Gouarnig and her 2 eldest children. The following facts, reported by a B.N. correspondent, have not been published:

"The gendarmes have been very nasty. One of them lifted a 4-year old child by the ear. Mrs. Gouarnig was made to kneel by the use of judo. The police lieutenant Bard gave the order: Get them to move, with kicks if need be! A policeman gave a blow with the butt of his rifle to Patrick, 14 year old".

Mrs. Gouarnig had asked the Electricity Company to put the pole at another point, so as to spare her trees.

LAST MINUTE REPORTS: The hand grenade which exploded at Kastell-Pol was thrown into the car of the police lieutenant Bard, who was manhandling the Gouarnigs the previous day.

In the night of June 24th to 25th, Breton farmers set fire to a fowl-rearing

plant. The damage was estimated to be twenty million francs. (B.N. Correspondent).
Act understood in context of passage from "Le Paysan Breton".

In a communique issued on June 1st, Mr. Boulbain, chairman of the Syndicat d'Initiative of Cotes-du-Nord protests against the publication in the weeklies Ici-Paris and Presse-Magazine of tendentious long-range meteorological forecasts by a self-styled expert. These forecasts have proved erroneous and harmful to the tourist trade in Brittany. Breton representatives have already protested against what appears to be a bias against their area in the official meteorological bulletins, but Mr. Boulbain considers there is a definite hostility in the case of the two weeklies mentioned and threatens retaliation by violent as well as lawful means.

FACTORIES AND POLICE BARRACKS: The threat to close the Henbont foundries (see B.N.No.27) may be averted if negotiations with the Giebel firm, Hohenlindburg, Ruhr, succeed. From the technical point of view, the deal was nearly completed. The firm is prepared to re-equip and partly re-convert the foundries. The proximity of the harbour of Lorient, which may be revitalised by the expected increase of trade with Africa, appears to be an incentive to the Germans. Only Henbont people will be employed. (Ouest-France, 16-5).
"Galgénhumor" The Lorient corporation has decided to buy 15 ha of land for the installation of future industries but has rejected a demand by the French ministry of the Interior to give part of the land for the siting of police barracks. The idea seems to be that the police could help as much as industries... (Breiz, June). On the Brest-Rennes road in Treger, a large number of inscriptions have been painted recently. In spite of police efforts to delete them, one can read:

"Up the M.O.B.! Down with fascism and the O.A.S.! Long live Brittany! No military bases in Brittany! A Breton Parliament!" The M.O.B. posters campaign continues in Western Brittany. In spite of government orders, posters showing the enormous credits affected to the army, the police and the military bases were put up in the Bodilis area where the French plan to establish a huge camp. Policemen from neighbouring towns were seen tearing them down on many occasions.

REDUCED TO BEGGING: On May 31st the 11th annual collection for the Breton language was held on the public roads and squares of Brittany with the participation of thousands of young members of the cultural organisations. The proceeds are due to be reserved to support the (voluntary) teaching of Breton. In the absence of any financial allowance from public funds, the Breton youth is called upon once a year to go begging for its language. (The Breton people pay dutifully their taxes. They want Breton taught in the public schools. The fate of Breton should not depend on alms). Between May 26th and June 2nd, Breton books, magazines and records were displayed, in many places under the Breton flag, in the windows of 80 among the biggest shops and stores of Rennes. The population of the capital was thus aware of the existence of a modern Breton literature, a fact which is assiduously concealed by the French propaganda machine.

RADIO BROADCASTS: In a letter dated 15/3, the French Secretariat for Information had notified the Breton Listeners Association that instructions had been given for an improvement both in duration and quality of transmission of the Breton language broadcasts. In its June edition, Breiz could not report any actual change.

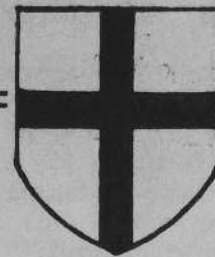
The section devoted to "A CHRONICLE OF THE NATIONS" is a regular feature of the quarterly magazine AR VRO (mainly in French). It gives a review of events or developments in the other Celtic Countries, Euzkadi, Catalonia, Alsace-Lorraine, Flanders, Angola, Kurdistan, etc. AR VRO publishes stimulating studies, political, literary, sociological, from a Breton national viewpoint. Yearly subscription: 10 NF. Write to R. Pennek, 2 Venelle Poullbrienn, BREST, Brittany.

PREDER is one of the publications which bear witness to the will of a small group to make of the Breton language a complete instrument of expression. It has published political, philosophical and scientific works. One of the best issues was recently BEVONIEZH (Biology) by A. EVEN, editor of the philological magazine HOR YEZH.

"Bevoniezh is beautifully duplicated, with numerous pictures as clear as in a printed edition. The text is easy to read for anyone with an ordinary knowledge of Breton, the language is simple and correct, using neologisms from Breton roots as well as adapted international terms." (from AR RED Keltiek).

TREGER FILM: Roger Laouenan's Treger Film Society presents each week throughout Treger (N. Brittany) a newsreel with various features, including sport, festivals (pardoniou), folkloric activities, farmers demonstrations, documentaries on Holland and seafaring, with sound tracks in Breton. The shows are extremely popular. F. Tremel, in L'Avenir, commenting on this effort "which opens our people's eyes to the world and to their own problems", wonders why similar attempts have not been made in the other Breton-speaking areas. Can the 1962 Bretons struggle only on paper and are they loath to use direct action? He argues that pride in their language is the first condition for providing a large public for the Breton books and periodicals. Treger-Film and Strollad Beilhadegou Treger have well under stood this: they now have a public of several thousands.

BRETON NEWS



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August 15, 1962.

INTER-CELTIC CONGRESS IN BRITTANY

100 delegates from Ireland, Scotland, the Isle of Man, Wales and Cornwall are expected to take part in the Celtic Congress at Landreger, North-West of St-Brieg, from the 18th to the 22nd of August. The Congress is organised by the Breton branch of the Celtic association, with Per Denez, Erwanez Galbrun and Vefa de Bellang at its head. There will be interpreters to translate from Breton to Irish and Welsh directly, or to English, thus making it possible to avoid the use of French.

There will be working sessions and entertainments (excursions, artistic performances, etc.)

In the programme, we have noted:

Saturday 18-8-'62 9 p.m.: a party between friends.

Sunday 19: religious services, reception, excursion around Landreger, musical and choral performances. (compositions by J. Penven will be presented for the first time).

Monday 20: 9.30 - 12: working session -- the Celtic languages in education and publication. Speeches by delegates from all 6 Celtic countries, discussion.

2.30- 5 p.m.: literature in the Celtic languages.

5-7: tour of Landreger.

9 p.m.: presentation of films made in the Celtic Countries.

Tuesday 21 9.30 - 12 the Celtic languages in social life.

2.30 -5: movements working for the languages.

5-7 p.m.: General Assembly (for the members only)

9 p.m. Breton performance: music, dances, singing.

Wednesday 22 9.30-12 the Celtic countries and the Common Market (Prof. Liam O Buachalla, U.C. Galway, will speak of Ireland's position).

2.30-5 p.m.: proposals for the extension of Inter-Celtic cooperation.

5-7: excursion.

9 : performances by overseas Celts, music dances, singing. Three Scottish singers who were awarded the Mod golden medal, Sean Og O Tuama the well-known Irish radio personality, a dancer from Belfast, are among the performers announced. There will be a display of uilleann pipe music by Irish players.

Productions will be recorded for Radio Eireann. (Ref. L'Avenir, 15-7).

FRENCH GOVERNMENT PROMISES In the discussion of the IV. French Plan for modernisation and equipment, an amendment was presented by the Breton deputies relative to the adoption of a special law for Brittany. To make it more acceptable to the government, the measures it proposed concerned other under-developed areas as well.

This parliamentary intervention came 4 days after the unanimous adoption by 1200 delegates to the CELIB General Assembly at Lorient (see B.N. No. 28-29) and 2 days after the artichoke riot at Kastell-Pol.

Prompted by these events, the Minister for Finance and Economy agreed to incorporate the essential points of the Breton Plan into the French IV. Plan.

A few days before, V. Le Gorgeu, former mayor of Brest, Third Republic politician and old enemy of the Breton nationalists warned in "Le Monde" that a Breton Law-Programme would favour "autonomism". Its principle had been refused by the French government for the past 12 months. Now it has ^{been} conceded up to a point; the law will be for the underdeveloped areas as a whole. No special case is thus recognised for Brittany.

The law will not be introduced till 1963, by which time the government will have consulted the chiefs of administration as well as the committees for Economic Expansion in the areas concerned. For reasons pertaining to the budget, its application could hardly begin before January 1964.

By extending it to other areas than Brittany, it is hard to see how the cultural provisions of the Breton Plan can be taken into account.

In order to obtain satisfaction for the Breton demands, the Secretary of CELIB calls for a sustained effort, first of all by making them well-known to the population, and by pressing for immediate measures for the Breton economy. (Ref. Nouvelles de Bretagne, 22-7-62)

TIME TO BE STUBBORN. "With the formulation of the Breton plan, public opinion has been mobilised in our country, an inventory of its needs has been taken, our particular case in France and in Europe has been stated.

But even if the government were disposed to adopt the plan, the history of the 1951 law (in favour of Breton teaching) shows that the French administration can be expected to sabotage its execution: they cannot admit that Brittany has a special case.

Last September promises were made too under the impact of the Pontivi "States-General". They served only to bury the Vigilance Committee set up at Pontivi to keep pressure on the Government. The Breton Plan will be carried out when we shall have conquered the right to look after its execution ourselves, and when we shall be in a position to get European aid if France refuses hers. Do not wait for gifts: you shall have only what you take". (summed up from an article by Y. Fouere in L'Avenir, 15-7-'62)

FROM a resolution adopted by the 1200 CELIB delegates at Lorient: "Considering that Breton is an essential element of the Breton personality, and convinced that its teaching will have the most beneficial repercussions from the cultural and social points of view on the Breton youth, the General Assembly asks its Executive Committee and its Parliamentary Commission to intervene most firmly in Paris in order to bring the French government to revoke its hostile attitude towards the language".

Commenting on the work of CELIB, Ar Bed Keltiek (Aug. 1962) points out that it is all done in French, that Breton is mentioned surely as a thing to protect alongside with other "cultural values" (richesses) but that was all. Was that really serious? A.B.K. says definitely NO.

BEILHADÉGOU SPREADING WESTWARDS. From next autumn onwards, the organisation of stage productions known as "Beilhadegou" (evening companies) which use exclusively the Breton language will be extended from Treger (Gwengamp-Lanuron area) to Leon (Around Brest). These performances are considered as the best way to win back respect from many brainwashed people for their own language. The organisers of the Festou-Noz (traditional dances) in Breton Cornwall are urged in L'Avenir (15-7-) to devote some of their evening performances to displays using the Breton language instead of dancing all the time.

AL LIAMM May-June 1962, announces the publication of four books in the near future: an outline of the Breton literature before the XIX century, a novel, a collection of popular tales, a book for children.

PIGS IN THE PREFECTURE Farmers who had been unable to sell their young pigs at an acceptable price at the Kemper fair (July 2) brought them in sacks into town and threw a number of them into the Government building (Prefecture) where they caused some confusion. Others were released in the streets among the crowds who had gathered to watch the passage of the Tour de France.

The demonstration aimed at drawing public attention to a crisis in the pig trade. Farmers declared their intention to organise the market themselves. (Ouest-France).

A number of French flags were torn or pulled down during the festival of Cornwall at Kemper (23-24/7/62.) (Ouest-France).

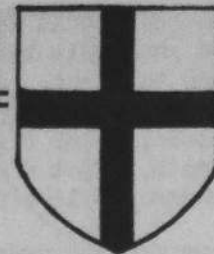
FIGHTING FOR THEIR LIVELIHOOD In the campaign to prevent non-farmers from setting up enterprises which aim at or result in depriving small-holders of their livelihood, thus reducing them to the condition of proletarians, two pig farms belonging to industrialists were raided towards the end of June in the Rennes area. Also near Rennes an absentee landlord owning 80ha was compelled to let 7ha to a small farmer.

The farmers unions of Brittany have sided with the demonstrators, stating that it is presently the only way to prevent the elimination of small properties by a group of anonymous societies which appear to be run in fact by the same people. There is a growing realisation among the farmers that the best defence resides in the formation of cooperatives. They demand that overpopulated areas like Brittany should be allowed to maintain most of the small holdings by developing such "industries" as pig and hen rearing which do not need so much space and provide the farmers with an appreciable additional earning. (Ref. Ouest-France, 2-7-'62, Le Paysan Breton).

AID FOR THE HUNGRY MILLIONS. An association which may be called "Breton-International Aid" is about to be formed. IT IS IN THE NAME OF BRITTANY that its members intend to contribute to the struggle against hunger and destitution in the world. "The official aid given by the European governments - and particularly the French government- to the underdeveloped countries is too often squandered: who knows for instance how much the receptions and the visits of the ministers and ambassadors of the so-called Community are costing?"

Members of the organisation KENDALC'H are asked to help in collecting funds and parcels, which are to be addressed to Mr. Roparz HENNES 15, rue Elie-Freron, Kemper (finistere). N.T.O Base at Bodilis, near Brest. About 20 farmers were notified that the decision to build a military base at Bodilis was taken and would be irreversible. They will be expropriated, and cannot expect to find much employment at the base. They were offered new farms elsewhere, but found them unsatisfactory. They can join the proletarian masses.

BRETON CLASSES are held in Brest (2 a week), Rennes (5), St-Brieg (7), Kemper (1), Nantes (1), Gennevilliers (1), La Guerche (1), Gronvel (1), Paris-Kervreiz (3). There are 4 correspondence courses, the oldest (30 years) by Marc'harid Gourlaouen, 30 rue . Hugo, Douarnenez, Brittany.



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INTERCELTIC CONGRESS IN LANDREGER (N. Brittany), August 19-22, 1962

This year's Celtic Congress, organised by its President Per DENEZ with the help of a spirited team was outstanding for the seriousness of its working sessions, the excellence of its artistic performances and the importance both in quality and number of the delegations which took part in it.

The Irish delegation led by Prof. Liam O Buachalla, chairman of the Senate, and by Máire Uas. Breathnach, assistant-secretary in the Finance Department, numbered 24. From Scotland came 18, from Wales 25 and from Cornwall 10 delegates.

As regards the Bretons, the presence of a large number of young people left a strong impression on the visitors. Many of them had come from the Camp for Breton speakers at St-Nikolaz ar Pelem (see below) and contributed notably to the predominance of Breton throughout the Congress. They knew English, or even Welsh or Irish. They acted as interpreters, thus enabling the participants to dispense with French in a Congress which, for all its taboo on politics, was meant to buttress or to boost the Breton language.

The Congress received wide publicity. The daily press of Brittany, at least in its local editions, gave detailed and conscientious accounts of its proceedings, both work and entertainment. Numerous recordings were made by Radio-Eireann, HBC-Wales and RTF. A Reuter correspondent was also on the spot during the 4 days, and reported on the discussions concerning the Common Market and the appeal to UNESCO.

At the beginning, Prof. Liam O Buachalla brought a message from Mr. F. Aiken, in which the Irish Minister for External Affairs expressed his hope that the work of the Congress would contribute to improve the position of the Celtic language

WORK AND ENTERTAINMENT The six working sessions took place according to plan (see B.N. No. 30). At each of them there was a panel of speakers representing the member-countries. A detailed account will be given in Breton in one of the next copies of the periodical PREDER.

It may be noted that the discussion about "the Celtic languages in Education and publication" recorded a fairly satisfactory situation in Ireland, successful private and public efforts both on the primary school and University level in Wales and stagnation under the French regulations in Brittany. The French Unesco Commission was solicitous about small languages only outside French borders.

A wide range of entertainments was offered during the four evenings:

- a concert of modern music of Celtic inspiration by Breton composers, at which pride of place was given to Jef Penven.
- an exhibition of paintings, in particular by Alain Le Nost whose works express a close identification with problem-torn Brittany;
- a film show of *Man of Aran* and *Mise Eire*; the latter depicting Ireland's climb to freedom was especially acclaimed by the young Bretons present.
- a Breton folkloric performance, away from the beaten tracks. The new note was due to a harp quartet by 4 young girls; a recital of poems by modern Breton writers sung to music by a living composer; the author-composer and cabaret singer Glen Mor, "whose astonishing verve carries away all listeners, whose passionate devotion to his country coexisting with a concern for down-trodden men everywhere compels recognition.." even from critics of Breton nationalism.

The last evening was reserved to performances by 15 well-known Irish, Scottish and Welsh singers, dancers and players.

The Irish ambassador to France arrived during this concert and was received "like a friend, a brother". In an interview, he conveyed the greetings of President DE VALERA to the congress and stated that a close collaboration between the Celtic countries would benefit them all.

The Congress closed with the singing of the Celtic national anthem simultaneously with the presentation of the national flags.

FROM Per DENEZ's final address: "Recently I was asked by a priest, who ought to have a better sense of spiritual values: "Why struggle for the Breton language? What chances have you?" I replied: "If you lived in Soviet Russia or China, what

chances would you have for your religion? You wouldn't give up, would you? "For us, we shall win because our will is stronger than the foreigner's. The problem is only how to fight. We fight on the cultural plane and on the socio-economic plane. But we fight also - whatever the false interpretations of the term - on the political plane. Our fight is one. We have to demolish the old structures which mean our death. Let a new federated Europe give Brittany and all the other small nations the chance to live free and remain themselves."

* PETITION TO UNESCO. The Celtic Congress thanked the Scandinavian University professors who signed the petition to UNESCO in favour of the protection of small languages (see BN 28-29). Measures have already been taken to organise a similar common petition in the Celtic countries.

THE 15th INTERCELTIC CAMP FOR BRETON SPEAKERS held at St-Nikolaz ar Pelem near Gwengamp between Aug. 1st. and 15th drew its largest-ever attendance: 123 people in all, 83 of whom were under 30 years of age. The organisers, R. Huon (editor of AL LIAMM), V. de Bellaing and P. Kalvez were gratified by such an influx of young people who were equally willing to submit to serious work (every morning Breton and Welsh classes and lectures from 8 to 12) and to enjoy the outing and the entertainments. Among the 8 participants from Ireland and Wales were Prof. Cavanagh (U.C. Cork); Jean Hughes, an Aberystwyth student who is preparing a thesis on the short story in Breton literature; Mr. Lloyd Humphreys, who is doing research on the interpenetration of Breton and French at the limit of the Breton-speaking area.

Among the titles of 19 lectures, we note: the Kurd Problem, (by a lecturer at the University of Tunis); Public relations and Publicity; Heredity; Biology; the Committee for Regional Action; Nationality and State.

Films made by R. Laouenan for the Treger Beilhadegou were shown (Al Liamm, July-Aug.)

MILITARY OCCUPATION. Deep apprehension is felt in Brittany at the announcement by the French Minister for Defence at Rennes, on Sept. 10 that six new regiments will be installed in the "West" next year. For each of them, training grounds of 3-400 hectares will be needed. There is already a 6000 hectares camp at Koed Kidan (Central Brittany), but a larger one, of 10-15,000 hectares at least will soon be required in the region. The new regiments are being brought back from Algeria. It has been decided to garrison them in weakly industrialised areas. Two of them will come to Gwened, two to Dinan, one to Brest. Others are to be installed in a year or two in the SE of Brittany and in the adjoining areas. (Ouest Fr. 11-9) (Refer also to B.N. No. 23).

BRITTANY TO PAY MORE THAN OTHER REGIONS FOR RAIL TRANSPORT?

In B.N. 26, we reported that, instead of reducing rail transport costs as promised by the Government after the 1961 rural disturbances in Brittany, the French Railway Company was going to introduce a reform whereby costs would be increased by 17-30% on the Breton lines while they would be reduced on the more modernised lines elsewhere. This reform, based on a weighting of distances, amounts to a penalisation of Brittany for the French neglect of her transport system and will heavily handicap the already strained Breton economy. A palliative was to be granted in the form of a 10% rebate on 1/3 of the agricultural products imported and exported, but this is no longer firmly promised. The reform will probably become effective on October 1st. The members of the Breton Commission for Economic Expansion (CELIB) have issued a solemn warning, drawing public attention in Brittany to the consequence this application will have. They beseech the French Government to abandon the reform which, "by introducing discriminations between French regions, would endanger national unity."

Farmers organisations are prepared to stop the trains. Industrial workers will join with them in view of the detrimental effect of the reform on industrialisation and employment.

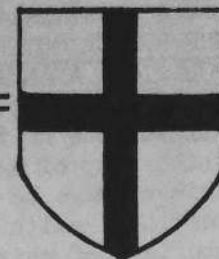
De Gaulle's visit to Lanuon and Pleuveur-Bodou where he is due to inaugurate the French Centre for Telecommunications Studies, on Oct. 2, may take place in a troubled atmosphere. (Mission Bretonne). 15-9-'62.

An account of the teaching of BRETON AT THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ABERYSTWYTH, is given in AR FIED KELTIEK, September 1962, by A. EVEN. The author is the lecturer for Breton and Cornish at this college. An Honours degree can be taken in the Celtic languages in Wales only with Welsh as the major subject. But in Aberystwyth the part of the other languages is much more important than elsewhere. Here are specially appointed lecturers for Irish and for Breton-and-Cornish. Here only can Irish be taken as a minor subject for the BA; and here only can modern Breton be taken as one of the special subjects for Honours.

Breton is taught to 3rd year students. Middle Breton must be taken by all. From 1 to 4 students take every year Modern Breton: during the previous Summer, they go to the Inter-Celtic Camp for Breton Speakers, with a grant from a special College fund. The (written) Breton test is rather tough. Miss Jean Hughes, who is preparing her M.A. on the Breton Short Story since 1925, is one of A. Even's students.

We should welcome an account on the place of Breton at the University of Rennes.

TONKAD 62 (Destiny 1962) is the title of the July-Aug. issue of PREDER, a collection of political writings in Breton by Youenn Olier which we shall review soon.



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October 15th 1962.

A VICTORY FOR BRETON SOLIDARITY IN RAILWAY BATTLE

Background

According to the tariff reform due to be introduced on Oct. 1 for railway transports in France, freight charges would rise by 4.8% for transport from Paris to Brest, while decreasing by 11% from Paris to Bayonne (S-E), by 12% to Le Havre (N-W), 13% to Strassburg (E), 15.5% to Marseille (S) and 19% to Lille (N). For the sake of equality, the Bretons were insisting therefore on the need to reduce all freight charges by 15% on goods in and out of Brittany, as well as for the State to allow credits for the modernisation of their transport system (normal gauge in the regional railway network, 4 ways on the main lines, etc.)

This claim was contained in the proposals for a Breton Law-Programme put forward in May by C.E.L.I.B. (Ref. B.N. 27).

FRENCH PROPOSALS. On Sept. 20th the French Transport Minister came to Rennes to "study" the problem. He proposed a 10% reduction for the transport of some agricultural products, affecting only 28% of the goods. He gave no hint as to future equipment of the railways. The proposals were rejected by CELIB on the 24th. Next day the Farmers Unions of western Brittany came out unreservedly in support of CELIB. Their leaders called on their members to mobilise, and met representatives of a dozen other trade organisations. On the 26th, the government offered a reduction of 15% for agricultural products, 10% for fish as well as for a number of other products. This offer could be interpreted as an attempt to separate the farmers as the most dynamic element from the other sections of the population: it was turned down.

RAILWAY BARRICADES. Early on the 27th, the two main railway lines of Brittany were barred by means of cars and lorries at 5 level crossings.

Trains were delayed for hours. The demonstrators did not clash with the police. They wanted only to give warning. But they threatened more serious action for the following days.

The same day protest meetings were held in 6 towns in W. Brittany and were attended by 15,000 people, farmers, shopkeepers, businessmen, fishermen, workers. Expressions of solidarity came from all other parts of Brittany.

In 1961 it had been a farmers revolt. This time all the population was involved. An administrative strike by mayors and councillors was scheduled for October 1. The Chambers of Commerce gave notice that they would resign their functions. In a communication to the press, the Central Office of the Agricultural Association of Finistere and Cotes-du-Nord expressed indignation "at the treatment inflicted on Brittany whose interests have been systematically sacrificed for many decades past".

TALKS. In view of the massive support given to the demonstrators, the French government decided not to apply the tariff reform in Brittany. So as not to single out the Bretons, the same decision was made concerning 8 departements of Central France, although hardly any opposition had been met there.

The 2% overall increase of tariffs in Brittany was thus cancelled, but most other regions would receive a 15-20% reduction as planned. The discrimination was thus maintained. However, a truce was called, and CELIB declared their readiness for talks with the government. But contacts were established between the various Breton organisations with a view to boycott DE GAULLE'S referendum, if by October 15. they had not got full satisfaction. (ref. Le Monde, 7-8/10/'62.)

Negotiations began on Oct. 9. between Mr. Martray and Mr. Philiponneau on the Breton side, and the French Transport Ministry. After 2 days the following agreement was reached:

a 15% reduction of the new tariffs to be granted on all goods transports to and from Brittany, except for coal which remains subject to the same tariffs as before, and metalurgical products, for which the firms concerned may however seek special arrangement with the Railway Company.

PARTIAL VICTORY. Breton solidarity has thus won the day. The veiled threat to boycott the coming French referendum may have powerfully contributed to it. De Gaulle was due to come to Brittany on October 2, for the inauguration of the Pleuveur-Bodoü spatial telecommunication station. The trip was cancelled shortly before, probably because of the bad climate in the peninsula!

There is still no beginning of a solution to the problem of Brittany's development. Large investments to improve the rail and road transport system are first necessary. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO THE DEMAND FOR A BRETON-LAW PROGRAMME.

POLITICAL ANALYSIS IN BRETON. The last issue of PREDER is a 138-page collection of articles by Youenn OLIER, under the title "Destiny 62". All but one of them date back to 1945-48, when the author, a young graduate of the University of Rennes, had the courage to publish successively two periodicals. For this courage he had to pay. He lost his job, and in consequence of worry and want, lost his health as well. Yet, indomitable, he continues to write, not only short stories, of which he is a master, but also works of political importance in which he demolishes regionalism.

The merit of this collection is to demonstrate that, in spite of the bloody repression of those days, the Breton spirit could not be killed. Y. O. bases his arguments on his Christian beliefs. He advocates passive resistance, not armed revolt. He expects no reversal in France's attitude from changes of regime in Paris. His investigations of the various ways by which Brittany is trying to escape death remind one of a prisoner seeking to break out of his jail. Those who actively fought as well as those now in charge of organising the movement for freedom will be impatient with some of his speculations. No one will deny his independence of mind.

After analysing the internal situation in France, which conditions much of what happens in Brittany, he asks: what should the Bretons do if there is civil war in France? Answer: not to fight, unless it be directly for the liberation of their country. The last article, of 34 pages, throws side-lights on the "peasants" revolt, the CELIB drive for a "law-programme", the M.O.B. His judgement: they all expect too much from changes in Paris. They are too concerned with economics, not enough with the core of the problem, the most obvious characteristic of the Breton nationality, the Breton language. He recognises they are doing good work, but forecasts that, if they win, they would not be the people who could bring the language forward again; because of their exclusive use of the French language. To this, a M.O.B. leader replies: we must get the institutions first, and use in our action the language that most learn in school, read in daily papers, hear on the wireless...

Youenn Olier insists that the Breton movement must again become clearly conscious of its national character. Without it, the drive to keep Brittany from dissolving will be too weak and prove fruitless.

INTERCELTIC CO-OPERATION. The Central Council of the Celtic League held its annual meeting in the offices of Plaid Cymru in Cardiff, on September 30th, under the chairmanship of Gwynfor Evans, the Welsh nationalist leader. The six Celtic countries were represented by 15 delegates, three of them for Brittany. The League was founded last year to foster the national rights of the Celtic peoples in all their aspects -- cultural, economic, and political, including their right to decide their own affairs.

An appeal for individual members giving details of the organisation of the League will be issued shortly. A small quarterly will report significant events in each Celtic country, and the League's activities. A substantial Annual Volume, published each spring, will contain articles by national leaders on the more important developments in the Celtic countries, review their situations, and will also have general articles of special interest to all patriots.

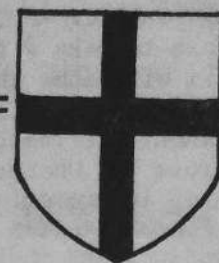
M.O.B. Activity. On June 17th, 1962, on the eve of the CELIB meeting in Lorient to adopt the draft for a breton law-programme, two groups of young activists were arrested by the police for pulling down the French flags in town. They were detained for 24 hours. Two of them were beaten by the policemen.

On September 9th, on the eve of the visit of the French Defence Minister, inscriptions were put up on the walls of buildings, factories and military barracks at Rennes and at the nearby airport. They proclaimed: "No military bases in Brittany! We want factories, not barracks! Messmer, go home (in English!) They were signed "M.O.B." They were removed in the following days.

A few M.O.B. activists were called to the Rennes police station for questioning. On September 19th and 20th, on the occasion of the visit to Rennes of the French Transport Minister, wall inscriptions appeared again, saying: No to the French Railway Tariff Reform".

On the 20th, members of the Gaullist Party U.N.R. were gathered to receive the visit of the Minister. The only visit however was by M.O.B. activists who, in spite of the presence of policemen, distributed "L'Avenir de la Bretagne", and leaflets against the minister's tariff reform.

In all districts of Brittany and particularly in the area of Pleuveur Bodou, where De Gaulle was expected for the inauguration of the Telecommunications Station, green and red posters edited by the Committee for Regional Action were put up towards the 1st of October. On the green half representing a farm and a factory, was written "A Law-Programme for Brittany: YA (= Yes!). On the red half, representing a military camp surrounded by barbed wire, and an atomic explosion in the background: NANN (no)! DE GAULLE'S REFERENDUM. In L'Avenir (4/10/'62), Yann Fouere urges the Bretons to vote against the presidential regime which De Gaulle wants to institute. France has already all the apparatus of a dictatorship, with only tenuous defences against the arbitrary power of a president who is not restrained by local or federal rights, as in the U.S. A presidential regime would be acceptable only if coupled with a federal constitution.



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FRENCH GENERAL ELECTIONS AND THE BRETON PROBLEM

ABSTAIN. A clandestine organisation has circulated leaflets urging the Bretons to abstain at the French General Elections (Nov. 18th and 25th). "Brittany had nothing to gain from French politics in the past. Today she is getting new military bases of credits for her industrialisation, and her language remains in the death cell. She has nothing to gain from the schemings of the new French imperialists. The Breton National Party's motto was always: Brittany free and neutral".

CAMPAIGN ON A BRETON THEME. CELIB, the organisation which with the support of all sections of the Breton people won "the railway battle" last month, is now preparing for another round: the adoption by the French government of the CELIB bill for a Breton plan of development. Its secretary has recently requested all the Breton candidates at the election to state openly whether or not they pledge themselves to support the bill when it comes up for debate in Paris next year. 86 candidates answered in the affirmative. A number of them are members of the M.O.B.

The government has promised to adopt the bill, but the measure would be extended to other underdeveloped regions. This provides a way of escape from the specific Breton aspects of the CELIB proposals, for example those concerned with the teaching of Breton. For CELIB however the most urgent problem is demographic, economic and social.

CELIB has been recognised de facto by the government as representative of Brittany, during the railway tariffs negotiations. A formal agreement was signed by the two bodies on Oct. 11. (Some papers drew a parallel with the struggle of the Breton Parliament against the French monarchy in the 18th century.)

For CELIB, it is important that the Breton deputies who will be members of its parliamentary commission should be fully representative.

For this reason, CELIB is pressing the Breton electors to vote en masse.

CAMPAIGN ON A BRETON-EUROPEAN THEME. Gerard TOUBLANC, who last year challenged the French police and, when brought for trial, denied the validity of French jurisdiction in Brittany, is a candidate of "European Social Action" (European left) in the Kemperle Constituency. His argument: Brittany's unique chance of changing her destiny and safeguarding her economic and cultural interests is in participating directly in a federated Europe.

THESIS IN SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY. G. TOUBLANC was recently awarded the title of Doctor of Law and Literature by the Sheffield University for his thesis on the Treaty of Union of Brittany and France (1532) and its present-day juridical consequences. A summary of this work was published in AR VRO (September 1962). Ref. Breiz, November.

The main conclusions of the thesis were:

The treaty recorded a balance of two opposing forces. It was worded in such a way that it would be later possible to reject or to break it: from the Breton side, because it was imposed by force (this cause of nullity is a guiding principle in the relations of the Bretons with the French down through the ages); from the French side, through the exercise of power.

The authority of the Breton Assembly (State-General) required to validate the treaty in the eyes of the Breton people rests on a Celtic-Nordic tradition of freedom (cf. the Irish Aonach, the Scandinavian Ting) opposed to the French-Latin concept of absolute monarchy.

By establishing a register of the Breton institutions and specifying how they were to work under the French monarchy, the Treaty can be considered as the first written constitution in the world.

The unilateral abolition of the Treaty by the French revolutionaries in 1789 left Brittany de jure in the situation which existed prior to the battle of St-Aubin (1488).

There is only a de facto link between Brittany and France.

This argument has a bearing on political reality in so far as the Treaty constitutes a sum of principles of freedom and law, the negation of which amounts to the renunciation of all concepts of civilisation.

ADVANCED STUDIES The Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies has published an excellently printed volume of 170 pages containing three Middle Breton poems, with a French translation and abundant notes by Roparz Hemon.

BRETON NEWS' NEXT ISSUE, of 4 pages, will be published on January 15th.

ON THE T.V. MARKET

A West German T.V. team on their way from Ireland to the Basque Country stopped a few weeks to make a film of $\frac{3}{4}$ hr. on the cultural and everyday life of the Breton people.

"It will show the national face of Brittany to millions of viewers in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, and later in Canada and the U.S.A." writes a B.N. correspondent.

Among the features will be a tournament of Breton wrestling (known only in Cornwall across the Channel otherwise), and a wedding at Redon at which the nuptial vows were given in Breton.

"Les Nouvelles de Redon" regretted that the French T.V. was not at this magnificent wedding, and that the Bretons would not have the opportunity of seeing the German film. Yet the reporters of Radio-télévision Française were in Brittany on the 29th of September: they filmed the railway barricades at Gwengamp at 5.30 a.m. and the CELIB meeting at Karaez at 10.30. A plane was sent specially from Paris to fetch the film so as to have it on the screen in the evening.

Everything was ready when an order came from the Department of French Information forbidding the broadcast. Vie Bretonne. October.

THERE IS MONEY IN THE BRETON PROBLEM In order to encourage the Breton youth to study the economic and social problems which led to the adoption of a new Breton Plan in Lorient on June 18th 1962, CELIB is organising a monograph competition among the secondary and higher school students during the year 1962-63. They will be free to choose their subject, to work individually or in teams, but they must base their monographs on direct investigation and give their sources. Prizes amounting to 2000 Ff. will be awarded. (Vie Bretonne, Oct. 1962).

EDUCATION IN THE MOTHER TONGUE

"We have a boy and girl of school-going age (7 and 6 respectively). I notified the school inspector that I would teach them myself. The teaching of Breton is not officially recognised but I availed of the UNESCO recommendations that the children should be taught in the mother tongue. All the subjects are therefore taught in Breton. When they will have mastered this language sufficiently, they will learn others.

Later they will have to go to school, but what counts is to open their minds by means of the mother tongue, and that everything would pass through the Breton door."

from an interview given by DR. G. ETIENNE, specialist in psychiatry, editor of the Breton periodical PREDER for Sciences, philology and philosophy, to a reporter of "Ouest France."

At the Interceltic Camp for Breton-speakers held at St-Nikolaz in August, Dr. Etienne was one of those who laid the basis for the creation of a Breton Folk School of University standard, to enable the Bretons to acquire modern knowledge in their own language.

CULTURAL GENOCIDE

At the General Assembly of the French "Conseil National de Defense des Langues et Cultures Regionales", presided over by the Breton P.M. Mevel, an energetic resolution was adopted, describing how they had been manoeuvred by the French government into a blind alley, when they tried to get an improvement of the conditions for the teaching of Breton, Catalan, Basque and Occitan by parliamentary means, during the past 4 years. The government never disputed the legitimacy of the claims, but always took refuge behind technical and procedural details. They admit to have been fooled. (Breiz Nov. '62) The "Conseil National" solemnly denounced the French governments systematic hostility towards the languages mentioned (spoken by about half the population of the French State), calls it a cultural genocide, unworthy of a great country, in complete contradiction to the principles adopted by UNESCO.

They ask the French government to state clearly whether or not it is its policy to kill these languages. (La Vie Bretonne, October 1962.)

It is so obvious! But they will have to wait for a reply.

No discrimination. The Federation of the European Scouts who foster international brotherhood in a Christian spirit has accepted the application for membership of the Bleimor Scouts, thus granting a special status to Brittany among their other members (including France). The Bleimor scouts speak Breton. Their flag, a black cross on a white ground, is Brittany's historical flag from the time of the first crusade down to the 1789 Revolution, the flag of the Breton army and navy during the centuries of independence and autonomy, also the flag of the military unit Bezen Perrot in the second World War.

"Countries such as Scotland and Brittany", said the leader of the European Scouts, "must be considered owing to their history and ancient institutions, as more than simple economic regions". (Sturier Yaouankiz, Oct. 1962).

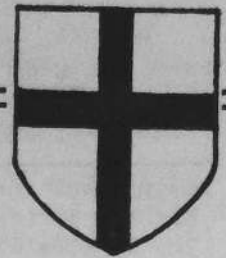
Superiority Complex. In its account of the demonstrations that took place in Brussels last month for parity of Flemish and French, the Telegramme de Brest wrote:

"Flemish is not a language, but a sort of pap hardly good enough for cats".

The Telegramme has a large circulation in Western Brittany. It has probably the highest anti-Breton record of all the French dailies of Brittany. The outlook of their reporter in Brussels seems to be in conformity with the view that the French culture is universally valid and that all others are inferior.

Mr. R. HUON, Editor of AL LIAMM, protested to the Telegramme against its abuse of Flemish

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POLITICAL SCENE

November Elections. The campaign for the November elections to the French Parliament revolved in Brittany around the Breton question. All the candidates elected had pledged to act in favour of the adoption by the French government of the CELIB bill for a Breton plan of development in the course of the year. No candidate went forward on a M.O.B. ticket. Some of the candidates were M.O.B. members; One of them got elected in Fougères. Candidates otherwise favoured by the M.O.B. got 4% of the poll (L'Avenir, 6-12).

Candidates got favourable results when they had won credit previously through their work in public bodies (local or district councils, trade unions). This has led the M.O.B. to adopt a plan to set up "shadow" councils everywhere possible in preparation for future elections. (L'Avenir, 20-12).

The 4th National Congress of the Movement for the Organisation of Brittany was held in the Municipal Theatre at St-Brieg on Dec. 9th.

It was open only to the 200 delegates sent by the M.O.B. sections in Brittany and in Paris. The various reports given by the officials indicate : a strong activity in Brest and Rennes, but the need for a deeper implantation in other towns; the need for a well defined social programme; support for the federation of Europe on the model of the Federal German Republic, the members being the ethnical entities and the natural regions instead of the present States; a claim by the young elements for a more important part in policy-making.

Yann Fouere, president of the Congress, outlined the M.O.B.'s political aims; priority to Brittany's interests; unity of all "local" forces; necessity to recast the political and administrative structure of the French State; federalism as a means to achieve our freedom within a general reorganisation of Europe.

The Bretons should be prepared to take over the administration of their own country. To that effect, the proposal to set up "shadow" municipal and departmental councils as well as a "shadow" Assembly of Breton M.P.'s, to deal with public matters in the same way as the actual councils, was adopted as a resolution.

Observers at the Congress gathered the impression that the M.O.B.'s aspirations go beyond the French framework : they would lead Brittany to participate directly in a Federation of European Regions (ref. Combat, 12-12).

Signs of a more conservative and timorous approach could be seen at the Congress in the presence of the French flag between the Breton and European ones; in the submission to the slanders of Brittany's enemies implicit in the repudiation of the two "bugbears" of autonomism and separatism; in the proclamation of federalism in the double framework of France and Europe.

An outgoing member of the Central Committee advocated a permanent tension, but no opposition, between the M.O.B. and the French State as a way to bring about progress. He favoured also direct contacts with the French authorities, and coordination of action with the reformist groups (CELIB, etc.) The M.O.B. should drop all nationalist claims, and patiently explain that the work for the Breton language was not directed against French unity (... as for the past 100 years).

This member was not successful when elections took place to renew one third of the 20-man strong Central Committee. The result of the election is considered in AR VRO (Dec. 1962) as indicating a hardening of the M.O.B.

Resolutions were passed concerning

a) the adoption of the Law-Programme, the need to recast France's politico-administrative structure, the institution of Brittany as a Region endowed with legislative and executive powers, elected and controlled by the Breton popular forces; finally the creation of economic, social and cultural councils as a first step towards these objectives.

b) Britain's and Ireland's application for EEC membership, favourable to a strengthening of the bonds between the Celtic countries, and to a renewal of activity in the cross-channel trade. This resolution expressed dismay at the French tactics seeking

to postpone or avert Britain's entry in the Common Market.

ILLEGAL ACTIONS. On Dec. 11th, members of the Association of the Young Breton-Speakers, including their president Erwan Evenou were accused at Lannou of having made inscriptions, calling for the teaching of Breton in schools. French parties can make such propaganda without being prosecuted.

The defence was to be presented by G. Toublanc who possessed the qualifications required in a police-court.

The judge refused to hear him, and had him expelled by force.

The editor of Barr-Heol (Dec.) questions the effectiveness of acts of an illegal nature committed recently in Brittany: pulling down of French flags, distribution of leaflets, painting of inscriptions at night. Even if their authors were prepared in case of arrest and trial to defend firmly the Breton case, there is little likelihood that the State would allow publicity for their defence. As regards the painted slogans their meaning is often insufficiently clear to the uninformed readers. A better understanding of their psychology is required if the efforts are to be rewarding.

BRETON CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL Towards 1930 there was sufficient proof that petitions to the French government requesting the teaching of Breton were useless. The lesson was: "Teach it yourself" as well as you could

A first correspondence school had been organised by F. Vallee and R. Hemon in 1928. Marc'harid Gourlaouen took over in 1932, with 59 pupils. Textbooks, grammars and dictionaries were supplied by R. Hemon. By 1942, she had 165 pupils. In recent years, other similar schools have been set up, but in 1962, SKOL OHER (Action) continues with 150 pupils. M. Gourlaouen looks now after the beginners which she prepares for the Trec'h Kenten (= first victory) examination. For the advanced class, she is assisted by Y. Thomas-Ravallig, whose pupils are enabled to pass the Trec'h Meur.

The courses are free of charge, except that pupils have to pay for their stamped envelopes. More than 3000 have learned to read and write their language thanks to Marc'harid. The school has been a nursery of Breton writers and many prominent figures of the National movement have gone through it.

In 1954 the textbooks were rewritten by R. Hemon according to his method of Basic Breton, developed before the war.

100 friends paid tribute to her perseverance and devotion to our language when they gathered around her at Kallag (C. Brittany) on Dec. 23rd. Among them were renowned Breton writers and a large proportion of young people. (Al Liamm, Dec.).

"We shall have a culture of international rank, with Breton as its means of expression, in a Brittany freed from French meddling, or our present turbulent Movement will be replaced by well polished museums of Popular Culture and professional folkloric troops, subsidised from Paris or Rennes. A law-programme would change nothing." (Ar Vro, Dec.)

AR VRO will now be published every second month. It gives the best information, mainly in French, about the trends of Breton political thought. Its contributors have their eyes wide open on the world. The Dec. issue contains a study of the Kurdish question, and a correspondence about the attitude of the Catholic Church towards the Breton movement. Its "Chronicle of Nations" covers 15 pages.

Subscription 15 F/-annum to J. Desbordes, Bat. H 4, Ker Andon, Concarneau, Finistère.

AR HED KELTIEK. "Each of our magazines has its role. A.B.K.'s is to report the main events and the significant developments of our time in every field: politics, science, culture, etc.

Without such a newspaper, the Breton language would be unable to express the things that are on our contemporaries' minds: an abyss would open between it and life, becoming wider every day." (Dec.)

BRETON BOOKS FOR CHILDREN There are now over 20 booklets in this collection, published by Per Denez in association with AL LIAMM. 3 new ones are due out in February. They cost 3/- each, are agreeably illustrated, and suitable for age group 7-10 approx. Little has been done so far to provide reading material for age group 11-15.

IF BRITAIN JOINS... The Economic Commission of CELIB met in Rennes on Dec. 12th to examine the consequences of the eventual entry of Britain (and Ireland) in the Common Market. They considered what Breton action should be taken. CELIB is to seek contacts with British experts with a view to set up a series of working sessions in common with them and other C.M. leaders, culminating in an international conference early this Summer. This would be CELIB's most important manifestation in 1963. (Vie Bretonne, Dec.)

EXTERNAL RELATIONS. Brittany is ahead of a number of French regions in planning because of the attention given by her representatives to foreign experiments (English trading-system for the building of factories, development of Southern Italy, recourse to the European Investment Bank): this enabled them to introduce new methods and techniques.

Numerous foreigners are now interested in the Breton experiments in agricultural reform, industrial development, regional planning. Bretons are being invited abroad to communicate the result of their work. The head of CELIB's Econ. Commission was invited to Belgium, Germany, Morocco, Canada. His experience was availed of in planning the development of eastern areas of the Quebec province. He advised the Canadians to accept the cooperation of regional representatives, thus avoiding errors committed by the French government in respect of Brittany. (vie Bretonne, Dec.)

FORECAST. In the same issue of "la Vie Bretonne", A. Burlot, chief inspector of Economic investigations in Paris forecasts that the world's economic evolution points towards a spectacular development of Western Europe's coastal regions. He bases his argument on :

- 1) an expected reduction in the price of energy (cheap American coal used for thermal production of electricity becoming a fundamental factor in European economy;
- 2) an irreversible decrease in costs of water transport;
- 3) the relative proximity of ore deposits: bauxite (Canada, Jamaica), copper and iron (Guinea, Gabon, Mauretania);
- 4) the pleasant climate as a social factor;
- 5) hinterland resources as a basis for secondary industries;
- 6) the availability of manpower;

and concludes that Brittany is in a privileged position for development in the next decades.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION: not enough credits. The European zone of OECD is lagging far behind the U.S.A., Canada and the Soviet Union in providing educational facilities : this is shown by the percentages of young people studying in secondary schools and universities. This lag will persist till at least 1970, and will be felt for a long time, since research and technical knowledge are now essential factors of economic growth and influence in the world.

The shortage of technically trained workers is an important aspect of Brittany's underdevelopment. It is proving a handicap in her industrialisation. An example is given by the Citroen company, which has built an important branch in Rennes recently. Having experienced difficulties in finding qualified workers in the area, the firm has now decided to stop its expansion there and to move on to Caen (Normandy) where technical schools are more numerous. (Avenir, 1/11).

The CELIB plan puts at 240 million Ffr the credit needed for the next 3 years to redress the situation in 4 Breton departments. It is an emergency minimum.

It has now been announced that only 110 million Ffr have been allocated for the purpose. The figure is totally inadequate. In protest, the Commission in charge of the distribution of the credits in the Rennes academy has refused to do the job. They have just classified the projects for which money is needed. (Petit Bleu des Côtes 29-12)

At the same time, J. Trébert, General Inspector officially in charge of Brittany's economy, writes in LE PAYSAN BRETON that "the main cause of Brittany's renaissance is the dynamism of her people. More than anywhere else, the eagerness to learn shown by her youth justifies an increase in public investments in the field of classical and technical education, and offers to industry a guarantee of quality for workers and staff alike."

INDUSTRIALISATION is coming to a start in Brittany. As many jobs were created in 1962 as between 1949 and 1961. This is due to the Breton anger. Nothing was done between 1949 and 1957. created

Sixty delegates from the groups in secondary schools in Cotes-du-Nord to study various aspects of the Breton question have decided to form a federation. They are resolved to build their future in Brittany. (Avenir, 1/11)

Because of a system of differentiation in salaries which fixed pay rates in Brittany at 40-50% those given in Paris, the Breton workers are being deprived yearly of the equivalent of £100 million. Low salaries in Brittany have been vaunted as a bait to industrialists, but this was a fallacy : because of the very low buying power of the Breton masses, there is but a poor market for the products of industry, a fact which opposes industrialisation.

In Finistère, W. Brittany, the mean annual salary is 5672 Ffr, whereas in Paris it is 10,277 and in France 7701. (Pays Breton, Dec.)

KELC'H SEVENADUREL AR BREZHONEG, in Rennes is now in its 4th year. Its meetings are held at 30, place des Lices, Rennes. Its principal activities are its beginners and advanced Breton classes. Its lending library contains periodicals and books published in the past 50 years. Its social activities include singing, dancing, lectures, parties. In spite of difficulties its promoters have succeeded in arranging for a Breton mass to be celebrated in Rennes on the last Sunday of every month. There is now in the Breton capital the nucleus of an Association of Breton-speaking families, whose children are often brought together. The Circle lends its material to all associations wishing to put a Breton note in their manifestations: many have made use of such facilities. Thanks to its intervention, 10 of the best bookshops in Rennes offer Breton books, the sales for which amounted to £250 in 1962. (Keleier Roazon; Breiz, January).

BEILHADEGOU LEON. Encouraged by the success of Beilhadegou Tregor, - a kind of Variety Show that has been produced in the Tregor area for the last 2-3 years - a group has been formed for a similar purpose around Kastell-Pol, North East of Brest. These shows are playing a capital role in reinstilling respect for their own language among the Breton-speakers.

. PURELY CULTURAL? Until quite recently, a number of organisations in the Breton Movement obstinately refused to venture outside the cultural field. But after witnessing the widespread disturbances of the past two years they are beginning to recognise that the Breton struggle concerns all aspects of life: that it is political.

This was always evident to the nationalists. It was reaffirmed in April 1959 by the Breton Language Council.

To-day thousands of the members of KENDALC'H, an organisation limited by its constitution to cultural matters, may be seen walking down the streets, claiming for Breton in the schools and work to stop emigration.

Last Summer, the purely Cultural Bleuñ-Brug organised a conference on economic questions which lasted 4 days. It was attended by 200 people, including the bishop of St-Brieg, who was amazed at the gravity of the situation depicted by the secretary of CELIB.

The anti-nationalist Emglev Breiz (Breton Alliance) has asked its members to support all the efforts to obtain the Law-Programme (Barr-Heol, Dec.)

CELIB remains above party differences/its effort to mobilise Brittany. It is chiefly concerned with economics - but how long can it keep out of (Breton) politics? It depends on the French treatment of the bill for the Breton Law-Programme.

. BREIZ ATAO : a Flemish novel. "Set without distortion in the historic context of the Breton Movement before, during and after the war, this novel of 230 pages is considered by the critics as one of the best by the well-known Flemish writer Valere Depauw. It tells the dramatic story of Maiwenn, whose husband dies for Brittany. It was published last November by Uitgeverij Westland, Merksem, Belgium. A German edition will be printed soon in Munich, and there are negotiations for a French edition. (Ar Vro, Dec.)

. Biological transmutations. The Breton biologist, Louis Kervran, has published his book on biological transmutations. His discovery brings a solution to numerous problems of biochemistry. He has proved that nature operates the transmutation of elements (Ca into Mg, Na into K and vice-versa) with low energy. This opens new horizons for science, and interest is being shown in his work all the world over. (Bretagne a Paris).

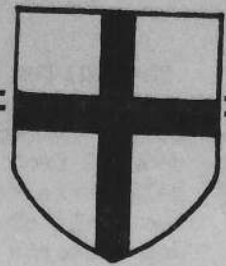
. In order to adapt the Breton agriculture to the situation created by the Common Market, its leaders are making a quantitative study of the conditions under which a farm can give full and remunerative employment to two workers (working 2400 hours a year). To save the Breton rural population from a massive exodus, efforts are being made to bring about cooperation in groups of 3-6 small farmers (pooling their machines). There are 600 such groups at present in Brittany as compared to 2100 in France. (Vie Bretonne).

. The highest concentration of Breton products is to be seen at the Lorient fair, covering an area of 10,000 m², May 17th-26th. 400 stands are available to non-Breton buyers. (Breiz, Jan).

. The Finistere General Council has voted a credit of one million Nf to help towards the industrialisation of Western Brittany. Among other schemes to which it is giving support, there is the Breton School by correspondence directed by V. Seite: it gets a 1000 Nf- grant. (O.F.)

. 77% of the farms in Ille et-Vilaine have no running water. 53% of houses and flats in the same area are over-populated (O. F. 24-11).

BRETON NEWS



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No. 35.

Dublin

February, 1963.

FRENCH MINISTER OPPOSED TO BRETON PLAN.

The French minister for Agriculture, Mr. Pisani, spent four days in Rennes at the beginning of February informing himself of the progress made by the many representing himself of the progress made by the "Western" farmers since the September disturbances. He met representatives not only of Brittany, but also of seven neighbouring "departments". During the negotiations which followed the railway barricades in Western Brittany last Autumn, the Committee for the Study and Coordination of Breton Interests, CELIB, appeared to be recognised by the French government as an important partner, but this time no CELIB delegates were invited to meet Pisani, not even the president of the semi-official and consultative CELIB Commission for Economic Expansion. This is felt as an attempt to divide the Bretons, and some farmers' leaders protested. CELIB had criticised the French government for breaking the Brussels talks: from the Breton point of view it would have been better to accept Heath's proposals. Brittany exported 60,000 tons of products to Britain during 1961, as against 14,000 tons to West Germany. It is feared that England may retaliate by taking measures against the Breton vegetable imports, and diverting tourism towards other areas. The possibility of importing British coal at 80 francs/ton instead of French coal at 130 f/t - as at present can be ruled out for a long time. The energy problem remains unsolved in Brittany.

There were already indications that the French government had no intention to adopt a "Law-Programme" for the underdeveloped regions as promised last October. Towards the end of his visit, Pisani was asked if the government was preparing such a plan for Brittany. He replied that it would be madness, as other regions would want the same treatment. The Bretons had embarked on the wrong course, he added cynically.

Bretons who think of Brittany as a region, as part of France, are disarmed by this argument about the juridicalequality of all Frenchmen and French regions). Only by thinking nationally can they press their claims regardless, because no nation is prepared to allow its ruin for the sake of another nation.

Gaullism and Breton Interests It is hard to know what prompted the Bretons to return a Gaullist majority at the November elections. It may have been chiefly disgust with party politics and the desire for peace.

Some who think first of Brittany's interests hope that De Gaulle might be inclined and would have the authority to permit a measure of devolution to Brittany.

So far there is nothing to warrant this optimism. De Gaulle has a majority of yes-men among the Breton deputies, and need not feel any urgency with the Breton problem. There had been hopes that a new metallurgic complex, similar to the Dunquerque one, would be set up near Brest or St. Nazaire. But it is now almost official that it will be built near Marseille (Pays Breton, Febr. '63), because Southern areas were the most estranged from the Gaullist regime: they have to be placated.

The only group to advise abstention at the elections in Brittany were the nationalists who signed BREIZH ATAV. Were they not realists?

French papers with a wide circulation (l'Aurore, La Croix) have admitted the serious implications for the Breton economy of De Gaulle's rejection of Britain's application to join EEC. They don't deny that "the Bretons" have (again) to make sacrifices to the Raison d'Etat. Of that, in the French Press of Brittany, not a word. But the same press gloats over the installation in Brittany of important air and naval bases for the French army (Ouest-France 11-2).

CELIB is going ahead with the creation of a Breton-British Study-Group in an effort to tackle Cross-Channel trade problems left unsolved by the French government. Students belonging to the MOB demonstrated when Pisani spoke in the Rennes University. They distributed leaflets calling for the adoption of the Breton Plan.

FRENCH BUDGET 1963 : NO SIGN OF BRETON PLAN. In LA VIE BRETONNE Jan. '63.

Professor Phlipponneau analyses the new French budget and finds in its introduction and figures no indications that the adoption of the Breton Plan is considered.

The bill for this Plan which has the more or less unanimous support of the Bretons contains detailed estimates of the minimum credits needed to redress the situation in the various sectors of life in our country. Comparing the figures which can be deduced from the French Budget with these estimates, it appears that it will take 9-12 years to carry out the measures considered as urgent in the 4-year Plan. In the field of education for instance, the share of credits allocated to 4 Breton départements is lower than would be warranted by their proportion of young people of school-going age. And yet, this area was supposed to get top priority of investments in this field.

A simple corrective to the figures will not do: for the realisation of the Breton emergency plan, they should have to be doubled.

Where is the money to come from?

Phlipporneau considers that it would have been spared on military expenditures. These were expected to be cut after the end of the Algerian war. But credits for military equipment have on the contrary been increased by 7.2%: it is the highest budget since 1933, although it is the first time that France is not at war. They are needed for France's nuclear armaments.

Only a reversal of the French defense policy could free the credits necessary for the underdeveloped areas. As this is unlikely, it is very doubtful that Brittany will have "her" plan adopted.

STATE SECURITY AND TRADE UNIONS. A special court has been instituted to deal with acts deemed contrary to the security of the French state. It will be used to deal with the OAS.

But in Brittany especially it is felt that it could have a much wider application. It could be used to repress demonstrations such as have occurred in our country during the past two years.

A clause specifying that obstacles to road traffic would be punishable under the act was amended to apply only to cases when the offenders would be armed, but the text remains sufficiently vague to allow the repression of trade union protests. This is all the more significant that the workers' unions remain the only real opposition to the Gaullist regime.

Under the new act arrested people could be kept incommunicado for 10 days without trial. This is contrary to the European Convention for Human Rights. But this convention, although signed, was not ratified by France: therefore no recourse to it is possible.

The Bretons see in European institutions the possibility to acquire more freedom. The new act puts an obstacle in the way to European unity. It is doubly harmful to Brittany. (Vie Bretonne, January '63).

Demonstrators sentenced. When demonstrations took place in April 1962 against the French agricultural policy in Brittany, French flags were pulled down from the Kintin town hall by an electrician, a student and a farmer. Since then, one of them had been using a flag as a floor mat in his bedroom. The three men were sentenced to pay a fine of 250 francs each.

Douarnenez fishermen had strewn the streets of Kemper with sardines last Summer in protest against the low prices resulting from Moroccan imports. Seven of them were sentenced to 8 days jail "with postponement" (they were bound to peace) and were fined 200 francs each. All the fishermen of the West and South coast of Brittany expressed their solidarity with them, and said they would repeat the demonstrations if need be. (Ouest-France)

When Bretons are determined... We reported in one of our recent issues that Dr. Etienne is providing primary school education for his children at home in Breton. When the French authorities heard of it, they sent an inspector to investigate, and payments of children's allowances were suspended. The authorities were obliged to recognise that the teaching was carried out according to all the school regulations, except that it was in the mother tongue and not in French. The parents acted as interpreters between the inspector and the children. Their standard of education was found to be faultless. Dr. Etienne finally won the case.

Association of Breton-Speaking Families in Rennes. Parents who are bringing up their children in Breton in Rennes met on January 19th to tackle the problems resulting from the fact that the language used commonly around them is French. They decided that the children should know well the relative positions of the two languages, but should be brought up to regard Breton as the language of their family and as the national language of Brittany. Their motto was that, "before trying to win others to our ideas, we must make constant and daily use of the Breton language, as otherwise our struggle would be based on deceit."

BRETON NEWS



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DUBLIN

15th March, 1963.

A Masterly contribution to Breton Historical Research.

At the beginning of the XIII century, the direct contact between Brittany and France, broken for 3 centuries by the Norsemen, the Normands and the Plantagenets, was renewed. Towards 1200, the French king found a good excuse to grab Normandy from John Lackland, and asserting an old, false claim to suzerainty over Brittany took control of this country as well. He was in a good position to assert his "right": the Breton dukes had lost all but a nominal authority in their country: Conan IV was a weakling, his heir a woman, to be succeeded by a young boy who was murdered in 1203 by the English king. Philippe Auguste of France arranged for the female successor to the Breton throne to marry a relative of his, Pierre de Dreux later nicknamed Mauclerc, the Bad Clerk. He trusted that Brittany would thus become his satellite.

Mauclerc is the subject of an admirable piece of research carried out by Jean-Loup Montigny: *Essai sur les Institutions de Duché de Bretagne à l'Epoque de Pierre Mauclerc (1213-1237)*, 216 pages, published in 1962.

The book gives no information about its author. We find him thorough and conscientious. Each page contains footnotes covering at times 1/3 and even 1/2 of the space, indicating the Breton, French and English sources and giving quotations. Among the historians of Brittany, we have the "Brittophiles" and the Francophiles, those who present a national interpretation of our history, and those who put it in the context of a "necessary" rounding-off of the French territory. J. L. Montigny must be commended for his impartiality. His readers will be satisfied that the Bretons of the XIII century did not consider themselves French and wanted to be independent.

Mauclerc was a learned man, but above all a man of action. When he took over, he applied to the administration of Brittany the methods which had proved successful in putting order in the French kingdom. He thus brought Brittany under French influence. The high society became Frenchified, thus preparing for the defeat of 1488. It is significant that the Breton language receded considerably westwards during the XIII century.

Yet some Bretons - among the few who learn their history in spite of the French authorities -- consider that his reign was beneficial to Brittany. He brought to heel the barons and bishops who had taken advantage of the previous anarchy to increase their privileges, he won respect for the ducal authority within a few years. This he owed to his military qualities as well as to his diplomacy. He certainly could be a brutal partner whom repeated excommunications failed to intimidate. He attacked too many at a time and was finally defeated after attempts to secure Breton independence by allying first with Flanders and then with England. But he left to his successors a state machine which enabled them to build Brittany into a prosperous and effectively independent country during the 14 and the 15th centuries.

More than half of this book deals with the institutions of Brittany at the time, the ducal power assisted by a "curia ducis" which evolved during the next 2 centuries into a Parliament and the States-General, finances, justice, local administration, police; the military service; the Church. Mauclerc's conflicts with the bishops of Brittany make him still nowadays a controversial figure among the historians.

FOR SOLIDARITY OF SMALL NATIONS. On the 16-17th February, representatives of national and regional movements in Brittany, Catalonia, Euzkadi (Basques), Flanders, Wallony, etc., met in Paris to try and coordinate their action. In the new Europe, the small nations are threatened by the centralised super-state of the technocrats in the same way as they are by the artificial states, such as France and Spain, which are now trying to destroy their personality. The new political forms to be given to Europe must take account of the ethnical and human factors. Each nation (ethnical community) must have the right of self-determination or of administration of its own affairs by the application of internal federalism. The representatives of the different European peoples and nations should come together to ensure the realisation of this ideal. A permanent secretary was appointed and a study group was formed at the end of the meeting, in order to foster the proposed cooperation.

(L'Avenir, March 3.)

BOOKS. Mari-Vorgan, the new novel by Roparz Hemon, published by AL LIAMM, 2 Venelle Poullbriquen, Brest, 15 f. is acclaimed by all sections of the Breton reading public as a masterpiece. Like the seamen, we are spellbound by this mermaid story half-way between dream and reality. But the style is as limpid as ever. It would be a classic in any other country. But in Brittany, Breton is excluded from the classes. La Bretagne, by Giot, l'Helgoualc'h and Buard, published first in English, and now in French by Arthaud, 22.50 francs, is concerned with prehistory. A lesson to be drawn from it is "that the Breton soil has always developed particular cultures and that these blossomed whenever their bearers turned towards the sea for their relations with other peoples. Brittany's present decline follows her annexion to France, the subsequent ruin of her navy in the sixteenth century and her dependence on North-Eastern French energy sources since the last century. (Avenir, Feb.. 16).

SOLIDARITY. The Bretons are in full sympathy with the 16 Basques imprisoned in Spain because of their struggle for their motherland. They wish to assure the Basques of their solidarity, and are indignant at the collusion De Gaulle-Franco which results in Basque refugees from the South side of the Pyrenees being forbidden to stay among their countrymen on the North side. The Dublin branch of International AMNESTY has taken up the case of F. Arrieta who has been in jail for two years and subjected to torture by the Spanish police. The Celtic League is organising a wide publicity for the case, and has recently sent a letter to the Spanish minister for Justice asking for the release of the prisoner. Individual members of the League are requested to do so already. Details of the case can be obtained from Mrs. Meryl Farrington, 13 Anglesea St. Dublin.

Not a matter of Prestige. Because of the cold weather and the lack of coal, this Winter, classes in a number of secondary schools in Brittany had to be closed. In the Lanuon Grammar School for Girls, the boarders were unable to wash themselves properly for a fortnight, due to frozen water pipes.

We have reported that the Commission in charge of the distribution of credits for school building and equipment in the Rennes Academy had refused to allocate the 112 million francs attributed because the sum represents only 56% of what is absolutely needed.

EUROPEAN FEDERALISM. At the Congress of the Young Members of the European Left held at Reims recently, the Breton branch of this movement was officially recognised. Its president is Gerard Toublan. It aims at promoting in Brittany the cause of a federated Europe within which our country could enjoy political cultural and economic freedom in conformity with the resolution adopted by the Council of Europe on July 27, 1961. (Avenir, 16-2).

GARLONE GOARNIG IN JAIL. The Goarnigs are internationally known because of their stand for the right of the Bretons to give Breton names to their children: as a result of which 5 of the Goarnig children have no legal existence and get no children allowances.

We learn from a report dated 12-3 that 17-year old Garlone, the eldest daughter, "is being held in the Kemper jail for the past 10 days. She is "au secret", is not allowed any visit from her parents, solicitor or journalists. No charge has been brought against her. She is understood to be on hunger strike to protest against this arbitrary detention".

Is Brittany in the "free world"?

"5000 leaflets denouncing the arrest were distributed into letter-boxes in Kemper by night. During this operation, a brother of Garlone and another Breton were arrested and detained 24 hrs. - although no law forbids such distribution. On the same night, slogans "Free the Goarnigs" were painted in many places in spite of the chase organised by the police in radio cars.

The Préfet-governor of Kemper is an ex-police officer, rabidly opposed to Breton freedom".

We wonder if Garlone's arrest has anything to do with the account in AR VRO No.17 of the excellent reception which she and her brother recently got in Flanders? De Gaulle's recent decree, allowing imprisonment without charge, seems to receive here its first application to the Bretons.

DISCRIMINATIONALISTS "The French fascists grouped in the Rennes University under the name of "Federation des Etudiants Nationalistes" (Français) were able to cover, on successive nights, the walls of Rennes with pro-O.A.S. slogans. The police closed their eyes to it. But 2 M.O.B. members were arrested in the same town for putting up posters demanding a Breton Law-Programme and opposing the French Bomb".

LATEST NEWS: F. ARRIETA, sentenced to 7 years imprisonment is now to be freed in 1964. (Communicated by Mrs. Farrington) Further efforts will be made by the Celtic League to secure his release.

BRETON NEWS



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15th April 1963.

FRENCH STATE VICTIMIZES FAMILY FOR TEACHING BRETON TO THEIR CHILDREN.

Dr. and Mrs. ETIENNE are living in the small country town of Chateaulin, in the Breton-speaking part of Brittany. Dr. ETIENNE is an M.D. and Mrs. ETIENNE works at home, looking after their five children. The eldest is 7 years old, the youngest 7 months. They have a maid who lives with them.

Breton is the only language used in the home, and the children cannot at the moment speak any other language. The maid is also a Breton-speaker. And we stress the fact that Breton is the language of the country around.

The two eldest children are of school-age. There are quite a number of schools in Chateaulin. These are either state-schools, or Catholic schools controlled by the Bishop under an agreement with the state. In none of these schools is Breton taught nor is one Breton word pronounced from one end of the year to the other. That is the reason why Dr. and Mrs. ETIENNE decided to give tuition to their children at home. French law authorises the teaching of children at home, provided the tuition is open to control by the Education Authorities. Education, it must be stressed, is here a state-service and teachers are civil-servants.

From September 1961 to June 1962, the elder child spent his first school-year at home, received due education there, and no problem at all arose. In September 1962, the second child, a daughter, reached school-age and she also was educated at home. The Inspector of Education visited them, gave favourable reports and furnished them with school-certificates testifying that their education was up to standard. He even said that in his opinion the children were well above the average.

Family allowances are not paid for children of school-age if these children do not go to school and so, in order to get their allowances, parents have to produce school-certificates. In the case of children educated at home, school-certificates signed by the responsible Education-Authority must be produced every month (114 SS, July 2nd, 1951). Allowances are paid by a special service called Caisse d'Allocations Familiales, - which is a state-institution - out of funds provided both by employers and employees. The Allowances form a not unimportant part of families' incomes. For instance, for a family of five children, whose mother works at home, they amount to 5,271 Francs per year, a good ^{or} more than the minimum wage rate called SMIG which amounts to 3524 per year.

On January 1st 1963 the payment of family allowances to the family of Dr. ETIENNE was stopped. No payment at all has been made since, not even for the 3 children who are not of school-age, nor for the mother who, earning no wages, is entitled to a special allowance. Payments were stopped because the Education Inspector for the Academy in Quimper refused to issue a school-certificate, and will refuse it as long as the children will be taught in Breton. Here is the translation of the letter which Dr. ETIENNE received from the Education Authorities in Quimper. (A photo-copy of the original can be seen at the Breton Information Bureau.)

March 13th 1963.

Sir,

I have the honour of acknowledging receipt of your letter of March 5th inst. about the schooling of your children.

Answering a question which I had put to him, the Minister for National Education directed that school-certificates should be refused, since teaching when performed at home, should be given in such a way that it can be controlled by the Academy's Inspection Services. (Law of March 28th, 1882, modified on August 11th, 1936, paragraph 16).

According to this answer it is obvious that the teaching must be given in French so that it can be effectively controlled by the Inspector of Primary Schools.

Therefore I shall no longer be able to furnish you with school-certificates if you persist in giving education in Breton.

With my regrets, I am, etc.

Signed : the Inspector of Education for the
Academy of Finistere.

From this we conclude that:

1. The French Minister of Education considers that the School-Inspectors which he himself appoints in Breton-speaking areas are not fit to control education given in the language of these areas.

2. When Breton-speaking families living in the Breton-speaking area wish to educate their children in the mother tongue, the French state seeks to compel them to give up that right by depriving them of other important social rights. In this case, a family is deprived by the state of substantial allowances-from a fund to which its head is contributing, in spite of the fact that the teaching given was open to public control, and has even been recognised to be up to standard.

3. This victimization is part of the French assimilation policy aiming at the destruction of the Breton language. It is in open defiance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

CULTURAL GENOCIDE:

The case of Dr. Etienne's home school shows that the French State is as determined as ever to eradicate the Breton language. As the French scholar Jullian said: "Not to teach a language amounts to killing it."

There seems to be no way to save the Breton language except by recourse to the most radical means.

Moderate, "reasonable" means have been tried.

. On the eve of last war, a majority of the municipalities of the Breton-speaking area had demanded the teaching of an hour a week of Breton. Nothing was done until the Germans came. From 1941 to 1944, Breton was taught in schools by those teachers who had prepared themselves to teach it.

This modest concession to the democratically-expressed Breton will was withdrawn at the "Liberation" in 1945.

In 1951, while a Breton, R. PLEVEN, was Prime-Minister in France, a law was passed as if by surprise, allowing again 1 hr./week of Breton and other "regional" languages after the normal classes.

The French administration saw to it during the following 10 years, that this sin against French Unity be properly purged. Today only a few unrewarded really dedicated teachers manage to keep voluntary children, while the others are out playing, in Breton classes from which no benefit can be obtained for examinations.

In 1957 a pilot bilingual school had been opened at Plouezeg. It was a Catholic school, not directly controlled by the State. Its director managed to give 7-8 hrs. of Breton tuition a week. Then a contract was passed between the State and the Catholic Schools, which gave control of the curriculum to the former. The Plouezeg school had to conform, and was reduced to 1 hr./week of Breton, like the others if they wanted. There is equality if not liberty.

In 1960-61 a parliamentary move was made to get a new law for the teaching of "regional" languages. A law bill was carefully prepared by concerted action of Bretons, Basques and Occitans. When everything pointed that the French Assembly could adopt it, the Government vetoed its tabling as anti-constitutional. Now, deputies are again stirring. Has there been a change of constitution.? Not as regards France's commitment to impose her language wherever she rules. The question has been asked: why do the Bretons not set up their own schools? This is ignoring the dictatorial powers which the French administration enjoys. There seemed to be a loop-hole in the French law in 1957 when Fr. Calvez opened the Plouezeg School. The State stopped it. Dr. Etienne found another loophole, and used it at great personal inconvenience. The State could have waited to see how many would go to the same trouble. But, this danger to "national" unity could not be tolerated. Resorting to one of many ways of exerting pressure, they have given a first turn of the screw. Does it not hurt enough? We had the case of the Goarnigs who get no children allowances for 5 of their children because their Breton names are unacceptable to the French unifiers. Financial penalties are the first to be used against delinquents.

Measures have been taken to inform international opinion of the victimization of Dr. Etienne's family. A request will be made to the Celtic League, which federates the national movements of all Celtic countries, to send protests to international instances.

In small countries like Finland and Switzerland the State protects languages like Lappish and Rhetoroman which are spoken by a few thousand or tens of thousand people. In those countries freedom exists. In Brittany, the State ostracises the Breton language spoken by 1 million and robs those who fight for it. To talk here of the free world one needs a solid dose of cynicism.

POLICE ACTIVITY. 2 police services, DST and Renseignements Generaux, are very interested at the moment in the Breton Movement. Not a week passes without their visit to prominent members of the M.O.B.

WATCH ON CORRESPONDENCE? Unexplained delays are more and more frequent in the delivery of mail to some members of the Breton Movement. Thus a few letters posted in Paris on February 7 reached Brest only on March 8.

BRETON NEWS



A Bulletin issued by
The Breton Information Bureau

All correspondence to be addressed to LINTON, Fassaroe Lane, Fassaroe, BRAY, Co. Wicklow

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Dublin

15th May 1963.

THE CRIME OF DR. ETIENNE'S FAMILY.

In our last issue we reported the decision of the French authorities to deprive Dr. Etienne's family of social benefits because its children are receiving their primary education (at home) through the medium of their mother tongue, i.e. in Breton. B.N. thanks all the editors who have acquainted their readers with this scandalous situation. This discrimination on the ground of language is in flagrant contradiction to Art. 2, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations on Dec. 10, 1948, and to Art. 14 of the European Convention of Human Rights adopted by the Council of Europe on Nov. 4, 1950.

Only criminals can be deprived by the State of the social benefits to which citizens are entitled--and to which they contribute by paying taxes. It must then be concluded that

FOR THE FRENCH STATE IT IS A CRIME TO TEACH BRETON CHILDREN IN THEIR MOTHER TONGUE.

The pretext that French school inspectors are not fit to control education in Breton is only an admission that the people are there to serve the Civil-Servants and not vice-versa, the Breton people in their majority want their language taught in schools. It is no excuse either to talk about the law: when attempts are made to obtain a new law, through parliamentary channels, allowing the effective teaching of Breton in school, such procedure is declared anti-constitutional.

The law in France is made for those who are ethnically French. The others are treated like conquered people: their rights are disregarded. From the point of view of progressive international institutions the French authorities are treating the Bretons who are attached to their culture as criminals.

"What if the English in France started English schools?"

On being told that, failing the school certificate, the family allowances could not be paid, Mrs. Etienne rang up the general-secretary of the School Inspection Services in Kemper:

"May I remind you of our request ..." she began.

"Remind? Do you think we have forgotten? Let me tell you you won't get your allowances. The Minister has just decided that if the local inspector cannot himself understand the teaching, the certificates will not be signed. You don't believe we are going to send you an inspector knowing Breton, do you? What if the English in France started English schools?"

- Naturally, said Mrs. Etienne, they would be expected to learn French...

-What about you then?

-We are in our country, in Brittany, that is the difference, and that is why we teach in Breton".

The man appeared horrified. After stammering, he gave up:

"Now, now, now, I can no longer follow you ..."

NOT ENOUGH TEACHERS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO WANT TO LEARN BRETON.

512 students of the Brest and Kemper lycees (Grammar Schools) for boys and girls have handed a petition to CELIB demanding steps for the effective teaching of Breton in the public schools. Two previous petitions (1959 and 1960) were addressed to the French minister for education but brought no result--although they were written in French.

These students expressed their ardent desire to be able to follow Breton classes at normal school hours and have their Breton studies sanctioned by tests in the Leaving Certificate. (La Vie Bretonne, February).

La Vie Bretonne (April) gives this extract from the pedagogical magazine AR FAIZ:

"In the Kemper secondary schools, there is such a large number of pupils who wish to study Breton that it is no longer possible for the professor (who teaches them during the hours of "directed leisure") to cope with the work.

This professor asked to be relieved of 4 or 5 hrs. of French teaching so as to devote that time to the Breton classes.

This request was put directly to the French Minister of Education through the regular channels in Dec. 1961. The then Minister said he would leave it to his representative in Rennes to make arrangements. Proposals were made on behalf of the staff of the 2 secondary schools, to the effect of filling the gap that would be left if the request were granted.

But nothing happened, no relief was possible ... so this professor must keep his Breton classes going as well as he can, refusing pupils and teaching outside the framework of the regular subjects.

Make no concession, and put in the way of the teachers such obstacles that they will eventually be discouraged: this is part of the policy of cultural genocide pursued by all French governments in Brittany.

In the fifties, a new Breton spelling, referred to as "the University spelling" was concocted by Breton "loyalists" and was supposed to be more acceptable to the authorities than the unified spelling to which all prominent men of the cultural movement had agreed in 1941 and which most Breton writers have used ever since.

AR VRO Nr 18 reminds that the approval of the French authorities for the new spelling was considered by a high official as likely to be "the finishing stroke to an already dying language". A bad blow it was indeed, but also an eye-opener to many.

POSITIVE MEASURES TOWARDS A BRETON EDUCATION.

A new organisation whose aim is to give in Breton an education equivalent to that available to young people in all civilised countries, was set up at Kallag, Central Brittany, on April 8: it is the Committee for Secondary School Education. The work of the committee includes:

1) defining the curriculum. 2) publishing the text books. 3) preparing oral and correspondence courses. 4) organising examinations. 5) awarding certificates or degrees.

The teachers will be chosen among the best available. The support of honorary members will be welcome. Pupils can enrol for one or many subjects. Applications are to be sent to Mr. Pol Kalvez, Brehec, Plouha, Cotes-du-Nord, Brittany.

Costs to the pupils barely exceed the cost of postage. All the work will be supervised personally by Mr. Kalvez. Strict adherence to a set of rules is prescribed.

The unified Breton spelling, adopted in 1941, will be in exclusive use.

Oral teaching will be given at camps at given dates. The correspondence course begins on June 1, 1963.

Diplomas for Breton Culture were awarded to eight candidates at Kervreiz (Paris) on Dec. 16th. The tests were organised by Mr. Kerlann. (Breiz, March).

A WHITE COLONY

Brittany is, according to the Mayor of Rennes, the most neglected educational area of the French State. At the present rate of construction, there will be 2,500 rooms for students in 1965, when the total student population is expected to be 11,000. There will not be enough private accommodation available. (Avenir, 6/4). Scholarships available to Breton students amount in the average to about £375 a year, while those available to African students average £780.

France is spending more nowadays in her former African dependences than before their emancipation. Credits help to keep pro-French elements in power, but are used for luxury purposes rather than for the improvement of the population's standard of living.

(La Vie Bretonne, April (1963))

There is no money for the Breton Plan, no money for Breton schools, but there is plenty of it for prestige purposes and nuclear smoke.

M. L. ORVOEN, Breton M.P., has asked the French Minister for Education in writing what he proposes to do to meet the popular demand for the teaching of Breton, in particular to give it a regular teaching as it exists in similar situations in almost every other European country. (French Journal Official 30/3). We don't yet know what (elusive) reply the Minister has given: he was bound to give it within a month.

ASKED TO TRUST. After her imprisonment at Kemper, Carlone Goarnig (see B.N. 36) was told by an official of the Social Services: "At the end of your trial, you will be put under our supervision in a family chosen by the judge. It is a pity you have adopted such dangerous and senseless ideas. You must trust us, you need us greatly".

Fearing to be placed under the same protection, Patrick Goarnig (16) went abroad.

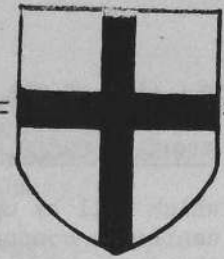
On March 1, Mrs. Goarnig gave birth to her 12th child, who was named Brann, after the name of heroes in the Celtic tales. The name was refused by the civil "authorities", so that there is now a sixth Goarnig without legal existence, without family allowances, without (later) the right to get a driving licence, to get married by a civil officer...

A Dictionary and a Grammar of Old Breton as it existed around the 9th century is to be published by the Librairie C. Klincksieck, 11, rue de Lille, Paris. The author, Leon Fleuriot, has made discoveries which allow for the first time to reconstitute the grammar of our language as it existed at the time when the Breton kingdom was founded, when Brittany was the best-ruled of all Celtic countries. The Dictionary, 380 pages, will cost 88 Ff to those who will subscribe before the 30th of September. The price of the Grammar (430 p. is not known yet. (AR BED KELTIEK, May).

The 13th Congress of the Federation of European Nationalities is to be held at Aosta, Italy, 16-18th May. E. Ollivro, Mayor of Gwengamp, will be one of the Breton delegates. The International Fair organised in Lorient by the Morbihan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, will provide a panorama of all Breton activities (May 17-26). Prizes of 2000 Ff have been offered for a posters - or drawings competition under the theme: Brittany faithful to her past and aware of her present is preparing her future.

26 Municipal Councils and the General-Council of Loire-Atlantique consisting of elected representatives, have now expressed their will to belong to Brittany by rallying to CELIB. (Vie Bretonne, April).

BRETON NEWS



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15th July, 1963.

MEMORANDUM ON DISCRIMINATION AGAINST BRETON SPEAKERS SENT BY CELTIC LEAGUE TO COUNCIL OF EUROPE.

In a 5-page memorandum sent in the name of the Celtic League on June 18th, the attention of the European Commission of Human Rights was drawn on the discrimination practised by the French government against the Breton speakers, particularly against the families which educate their children in the mother tongue. A recent example of this discrimination is the refusal of the French authorities to pay family allowances to the Etienne family on the ground that the two eldest children are receiving their primary school education in Breton. Official evidence, provided by a letter from the

Inspector of the Academy in Kemper, was submitted, alongside with the outline of Dr. Etienne's case (see B.N. 37). A short history of the efforts to obtain the teaching of Breton in the public schools since the beginning of this century should that the small concession made in 1951 has been rendered ineffective by regulations and that the French government by vetoing the discussion of a new bill of law as anti-constitutional left no hope of a revision of its assimilation policy.

Other reasons for appealing to the European Commission of Human Rights, were stated in the memorandum:

- 1) The right of parents to choose the type of education to be given to their children and the enjoyment of this right without discrimination on the ground of language is one of the fundamental rights which the Council of Europe aims at securing.
- 2) The Breton members of the Celtic League as a group are affected by the discrimination which excludes their language from the schools and thereby condemns it to extinction. A language being a social phenomenon they are particularly affected by the repressive measures taken against Dr. Etienne's family.
- 3) The other branches of the Celtic League - Irish, Welsh, Scottish, Cornish and Manx - consider this situation as a threat to the cultural values which they hold in common with the Breton members.

The signatories of the memorandum knew that France had not ratified the European Convention on Human Rights, but they suggested that, if France as a member of the Council of Europe accepted Article 3 of its Statute, it should be possible for the European Commission of Human Rights to act in a fact-finding and conciliating capacity in an effort to bring the French government to reconsider its discriminatory policy towards the Breton people.

The memorandum concluded :

"The exclusion of the Breton language from regular teaching is causing irreparable harm to the Bretons and constitutes a grievous injustice amounting to cultural genocide. The existence of a language spoken by one million people cannot be a danger to France. On the contrary, France can win the confidence of the small European nations and consolidate European unity by making it possible for the Bretons to maintain and develop their culture, in particular by enabling them to teach their language effectively."

In his reply (July 9), the Secretary of the European Commission of H.R. pointed out that the High Contracting Party against which the complaint was made had not recognised the competence of the Commission to receive such petitions: the latter could therefore not act in the manner suggested. Communiqué, Celtic League Secretariat.

SUPPORT ABROAD FOR ETIENNE FAMILY. Numerous press organs have sympathetically related the stand made by Dr. Etienne and the penalisation imposed on him by the French authorities. Letters of protest are still being sent to the French representatives in Ireland, Wales and England as well as to General De Gaulle, to the French Ministers of Education and Justice, to the Academy Inspector in Kemper.

In addition to the Celtic League petition, a protest was made to the French authorities by the Celtic Congress, which also sent details of the case to UNESCO. Further, on the request of 3 Breton organisations, the Federalist Union of European Nationalities decided to take up the matter. (Ar Vro 19)

In reply to a letter sent by a Welshman to the French Consul in Cardiff, the General Consul in Liverpool reminded him that France was not a "united Kingdom", but a nation with only one language. "We don't despise the old languages and regional dialects like Breton, Basque... These regional languages are still taught in some Universities, for historical and folkloric reasons, and valuable works are written in those dialects".

The gist of the reply was : such is the LAW now, therefore things must stay as they are. (Ref. Barr-Heol, June).

SUMMER COURSES. The CENTRE FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATION IN BRETON will give its first oral lectures at the Interceltic Camp for Breton-speakers which will be open at Langonned from July 29 to August 14. The work of this centre is conducted chiefly by correspondence. Its aim is to throw the basis of the future Breton University, and to give the young Bretons an education which all other European peoples, except the Basques, the Catalans and the Alsacians can receive in their mother-tongue.

A series of lectures will be given at Lorient (August 26-31) under the title of "Universite Bretonne d'Ete". It is organised by the Catholic Association "Bleun-Brug", and its theme is : the Breton problems in their European context. It is intended especially for the teachers of the 5 Breton departments who wish to know more about the difficulties which Brittany has to face, and to take account of them in their teaching. The lectures appear to be all in French, although some will deal with the cultural aspect. About 20 speakers are listed. (L'Avenir, 6/7)

CELTIC STUDIES. 35 lectures were given at the 2nd International Congress of Celtic Studies at Cardiff (6-13/7/63). The thesis according to which the Celtic language of Gaul still survived in the Armorican peninsula at the time of the Breton immigration from Britain (5-7th Century) was expounded by Prof. Falc'hun (Rennes) with much self-assurance but no concrete facts were produced in support of it. This thesis has been used since the war to counteract the nationalist ideas, since it suggests that the Breton language belongs after all to the French inheritance.

Unfortunately, France has for many centuries had no use for such a legacy ... And if our information is correct, Prof. Falc'hun failed to convince his listeners in Cardiff.

A GLUT OF POTATOES While half the world population is badly fed, French mismanagement compels the Breton vegetable growers to dump considerable amounts of their products every year. The slump in potato prices which occurred last month on the markets of St -Malo, Lezardrev, Pont-'n Abad was due in part only to an abundant harvest (100,000 tons more than last year). The farmers' associations had informed the French authorities well in time that a glut was expected. But no measures were taken to stop imports from Algeria, Spain, Greece, Egypt.

Disturbances started in Mid-June. A number of municipal councils resigned. Demonstrations took place in front of Government buildings. Loads of potatoes were dumped in streets and rendered useless.

Quickly, imports were stopped and a percentage bonus was offered to cover part of the transport costs over more than 300km. The farmers associations were asked to organise the market themselves : this they are quite willing to do. It will mean planning the production in terms of the demand. But can this be done without regional quotas being fixed?

AND A GLUT OF FISH In June also, many Breton fishermen were unable to dispose of their abundant catches, partly as a result of excessive imports. At Nantes, dockers refused to unload a cargo of sardines from Morocco. At Concarneau and Vannes, it was found possible to put some of the excess production in deep-freeze and use it for canning.

NO SIGN OF BRETON PLAN BEING ADOPTED. On June 18, 1962, the General Assembly of the Committee for the Study and Coordination of Breton Interests (CELIB), presided by Mr. R. PLEVEN, had voted a very comprehensive and detailed bill for a Breton Plan of Development. At the height of rural disturbances, the French Government promised to adopt such a Loi-programme for all underdeveloped areas during 1963.

Since the beginning of this year, government spokesmen and ministers have seriously damped the Breton hopes. Instead of a "law", which would be binding (?) and elaborate, officials propose a solution by means of another "notion" which is cryptically called "operational sections", but which amounts only to suggestions for investments (see Communist view over).

At a joint meeting of its Economic and Parliamentary Commissions at Rennes on June 17th, CELIB undertook to stick to the Breton Plan. They sat under a banner on which was written the historical Breton motto "Death Rather Than Dishonour".

CELIB was not consulted by the French government as to how to distribute the 1963 credits for Breton equipment : these are much inferior to those for previous years which were already derisive.

Attempts are made to divide the 4 "Breton" departements by admitting only two as being particularly in need.

At this meeting, A. Colin, honorary president of the French party M.R.P. said that Brittany's difficulties were due to the fact that she was an economic but not a juridical reality. He asked the Breton members of the French Parliament to act in the name of Brittany. "As for myself," he beautifully added, "I pledge to serve Brittany first."

Such a word in the mouth of a politician reveals a considerable change in the Bretons' attitude towards their own country over the past 25 years. He has his constituents in mind, at least.

An enormous distance exists between the representatives of the Breton people and the administrators who refuse to recognise the economic and psychological unity of Brittany, and spend their time reporting to Paris on the "psychological" climate here instead of tackling the problems.

Decisions are taken without consulting even the loyalist elements like Prof. Philipponneau, who by their work in the economic sphere are better qualified than prefects to brief the French government on Brittany's needs and proposals. In fact, the moderates who struggle for the survival of their "region" are as suspect of autonomism as those who are openly nationalist.

CELIB has lately come to the realisation that political reforms are needed to solve the Breton problem. This may be the reason why the French government is bypassing the Committee, and according to rumours, thinking of getting rid of some of its leaders. They may even suppress CELIB altogether and create instead of the truncated "Brittany" a new region with nothing in its name to remind the Bretons of their identity. Ref. L'Avenir 6-7-'63.

COMMUNISTS ARE TAKING AN INTEREST IN THE BRETON QUESTION.

Since 1951, the Breton Members of Parliament with the notable exception of the Communists were able to short-circuit their Parisian headquarters and bridge their differences by gathering around CELIB — in its efforts to obtain a remedy to the Breton economic crisis.

There was a reluctance to take an interest in Brittany as such among other leftists too. They subscribed to the idea that Brittany was "a land of the past", and that its defenders were all reactionaries or "fascists".

Nowadays, the left parties realise their mistake in standing aside while the country is carried away in a movement of renovation and a struggle for its existence. They realise how deeply it reaches.

It appears that the Breton communists are now preparing a plan similar to that of CELIB, and that they are likely to claim for more drastic measures.

"The Communists are agreed with CELIB, or go even further, in their analysis of the present situation in Brittany": underdevelopment, specific character of the Breton problems, disproportion between her contribution to the French economy and the total income of her population, economic crisis and systematic impoverishment.

In its search for remunerative activities, the Breton agriculture has been engaged in a rush to produce foods which were much in demand and for which competition was not so acute. This would give relief for a few years. But other regions would follow in the track, with smaller production or marketing costs, and the result was a new crisis.

The Breton farmers would try another crop and the same happened again. After the potatoes, they went into vegetable growing, then chicken rearing. Here the critical point has been reached once more.

In spite of their dynamism, there was no progress, but a flight forward. Now the farmers want to organise the markets and to have regional quotas of production allocated by the State.

Not possible in Common Market. Such a distribution of production is not realisable, the Communists say, without a planned (socialist) economy. It is not possible in the capitalist economy, particularly if Brittany is incorporated in a Common Market which is bound to increase free competition.

The integration of the French market into a free European or world market is diametrically opposed to a market planning which would attribute quotas by regions.

In the Common Market, production will be regulated by a sharpening of the competition, profitable to the big enterprises, but ruinous to those like the Breton ones which are at a disadvantage for multiple reasons (lack of credits, poor transport system, distance from industrial areas).

Brittany is not in a position to compete in the Common Market, chiefly because of her poor equipment. Competition can have a stimulating effect when the means at its disposal are adequate. But in Brittany there is a crisis which requires reforms and the greatest precaution during the reconversion phase; the shock of competition can be fatal to small enterprise in such a situation. Brittany is entering the Common Market in a weakened state.

The Communists' proposals for the Breton agriculture include its cooperative organisation (particularly in view of the small size of most holdings), the

farmers' ownership of the land, the creation of new employment by developing agriculturally-based industries.

Criticism of CELIB's Plan. The Breton proposals, voted at Lorient last year, are not realisable within the French Fourth plan and capitalist regime. The communists don't say that the cost of the Breton Plan is excessive, but that it is not applicable unless credits are redistributed within the actual budget. (this can come only from curtailing military expenditures). Half-heartedly applied, it can help only the capitalists to orientate their investments.

The communists don't call on the Bretons to fight first for the advent of socialism; the immediacy and urgency of the Breton needs would deprive them of followers. When their plan comes out, it will probably be a blend of general doctrine and of Breton claims.

Ref. Vie Bretonne June 1963).

AR VRO No. 18 contains articles by J. Ventura (a Catalan): the Theory of proletarian Nations; by Povl Skadegaard (a Dane): Report on the 12th FUEN Congress; by abAnna (the Catholic Church and the Breton Movement), by R. Peniarth (The right of languages in the new Europe).

No. 19 brings contributions from G. Toublane (Brittany's chance in European Integration), the Fleming Henri de Man (Language, the test of democracy), the Scotsman Oliver Brown (Ireland and Scotland), abAnna (the Second Stage of our Revolution)

These two issues contain many other articles, in particular the well documented Chronicle of the Nations which surveys the small nations' struggle for freedom all over the world (Celtic countries, Basque Country, Catalonia, Transylvania, Flanders, Quebec, Kurdistan, Martinique, etc.) The leading article in No. 19 draws attention to the example of Israel. Ar Vro interests therefore others than the Bretons.

Ar Vro is mainly in French. While LA VIE BRETONNE (monthly) maintains its regionalist outlook and puts the stress on economics, AR VRO views Brittany and the WORLD around from a purely Breton standpoint. Normal subscription rate 15 francs/annum; write to M. J. Desbordes, Bat. H. 4, Ker-Andon, Concarneau, Sud-Finistere, Brittany.

The deal with the German firm Giebel which would have saved the Henbont foundries near Lorient has not been brought off. 1500 workers and their dependents risk being soon deprived of their livelihood. The French government is refusing credits to save the only heavy industry existing now in Brittany: they propose instead to install some light industries in the area, leaving it to the workers to readapt themselves if they can. A large number of Breton organisations have promised to demonstrate in support of Henbont. The Government is treading slowly.

"FRANCE BROUGHT PROGRESS TO BRITTANY" Figures computed by the Company Unimarel concerning the use of electricity in the households of the Common Market countries put France third with the index 111, after the Netherlands (127) and West-Germany (113). Among the 21 French administrative regions, 12 have an index superior to 100, 7 others are above 90. Brittany comes last with 68.

(Vie Bretonne).

KER-VREIZH, the Breton cultural centre, 43 rue St-Placide, Paris 6, celebrated its 25th anniversary on June 8th. It was founded on the eve of the war by young Bretons living in Paris who wanted to remain in contact with the culture of Brittany, to practise its language and learn its history, as well as to have Breton entertainments (dances, music, songs).

During the repression of the Breton national movement in the Summer and Autumn of 1939 policemen raided and closed Ker-Vreizh and stole its library. The centre was reopened in the fifties and witnessed important events of the Breton national life.

Recently it has become the seat of - among others - the newly-founded "Association of Breton Actors", composed of professionals who are employed in Parisian theaters and want to devote themselves to making the Breton and Celtic dramas better known through high quality performances. This should also stimulate the creation of new plays and the search for an original Celtic expression on the stage.

The first performance by this group will be given at Lokronan near Kemper (W. Brittany) on August 11 - 12, when they will show Tangi Malmanch's masterpiece, GURVAN. This is the drama of the 10th century knight who goes out to fight the invaders, returns maimed and disfigured to his lady who does not recognise him -- until they meet again in eternity. A theme the symbolism of which has been understood by those who have devoted their life to Brittany. (L'Avenir 20-7).

The May-June issue of AL LIAMM is devoted to Catalonia. (80 pages). Previous issues of this periodical, which is all in Breton, have dealt with Wales, Friesland, Flanders, Israel. There are similarities between the Catalan and the Breton national struggles: the Catalans also have created a unified literary language in spite of the efforts of the Spaniards to foster the dialectal divisions, but their linguistic position is much safer than ours: in Barcelona for instance nearly all speak Catalan. No children publications are allowed, but about a hundred books are published every year.

(Al Liamm, 98)

When a young Breton takes part in our festivals, it is not for the show he is dancing, playing or wrestling for his own pleasure and for his countrymen's... At our more and more numerous winter "festoù", there are no tourists. Here is a vast movement of "return to the sources" affecting a whole people. It is not a survival of the past, but a renaissance.

(Breiz, July-August).



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DUBLIN

October, 1963.

WAITING FOR PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT.

On Aug. 4th, 1962, a French law was passed binding the Government to adopt a programme of public investments in underdeveloped areas before the end of 1963. This would include Brittany and there was a chance that the plan prepared by the Committee for the Study and Coordination of Breton Interests and adopted by 1200 representatives of Breton professional and trade unions at Lorient in June 1962 would guide the French authorities as far as Brittany was concerned.

During the 1st half of 1963, ministers' statements have left the Committee in serious doubt. It is now highly likely that the Government will ignore its own law, or will use some dodge to by-pass it.

The next 2 months will show also how many of the Breton deputies will honour their pre-election pledge to use all means to obtain the said programme. A majority of them went in on a U.N.R. ticket.

As an indication of how seriously the French government is concerned with Brittany's development comes the official news that the Henbont foundries, the only heavy industry in Brittany, will be closed within 2 years from now. They could have been modernised at low cost. But Henbont is not tied with any powerful siderurgical group and lies outside the big French industrial areas. Technocracy was against it.

A branch of Renault's has been promised, so that the Henbont workers can get alternative employment. The same factory was promised 2 months ago to Lorient.

The decision to close Henbont without consulting either management or workers comes as a link in a series of provocations such as the refusal, in spite of legal obligation to adopt a regional plan of development; the refusal, in spite of ministerial promises, to replace the narrow gauge by the standard gauge on part of the Breton railways; the refusal to consult, as provided by law, the Breton Committee for Economic Expansion.

There is little time left to save Brittany. The 1962 census shows a decrease of 82,000 in the active population of 4 of its departments. In 4 or 8 years it will be too late : the demographic evolution will have taken an irreversible turn.
(La Vie Bretonne, Oct. 1963.)

A NEW MEDICAMENT. On September 21, a Comité d'Action pour la Bretagne (4/5 of Brittany, to be accurate) was created at St-Brieuc on the initiative of trade unions and leftist groups in the area. Until now these groups, which are affiliated to French unions and parties (Communist, Socialist, etc.) had considered it reactionary to take part in the defense of Breton interests. The crisis has reached such a magnitude that they too have to react now. They want to organise a popular campaign to compel the government to give priority to regional development over un-productive (nuclear mirages) and prestige (gifts to former colonies) expenditure. They called on all political, economic, social and cultural forces in Brittany to get in touch with them.

On Sat. 12th of October, they held a meeting at Pontivy. Half of those who attended appear to have been members of the Movement for the Organisation of Brittany, but the participation of this body, which places Brittany's interest above party allegiances, was refused. There is also some doubt whether the direct support of the Committee for the Study and Coordination of Breton Interests is wanted. These two organisations however welcomed the creation of the new group, as it can greatly contribute to increase the Breton people's readiness to struggle for their interests.

The C.A.B. plans to take part, "by multiple acts", in the demonstrations to be staged on Oct. 26 in defense of the Henbont foundries. They are calling on the whole Breton population to join in this battle.

(from publications and B. N. correspondents.)

SUMMER SCHOOLS. The 16th annual Camp for Breton speakers held at Langoned (28/7 - 14/8) and organised by Mrs de Bellaing, R. Huon and P. Kalvez, drew its largest-ever attendance with 170 participants. There was plenty of entertainment, but also work : courses for children, adult beginners and candidates for the Trec'h Kentan examination. 20 students passed this test

for proficiency. There were also courses in literature, geography and physics run by the teachers of the new Centre for Sec. School Education in Breton. 14 lectures were given on various topics of actual interest (AL LIAMM, Nr 99).

At least 500 people gathered in different "camps" to study the Breton problems this summer. As Barr-Heol, Sept. '63 points out, few French organisations or groups can boast such a keen interest in their own affairs. At Garlan, the M.O.B. gave instruction in political organisation and campaigning; at Kastellnevez and Benac'h, Kendalc'h viz. AR FALZ were concerned with cultural and educational matters.

But the "Universite Bretonne" organised by the Catholic Association Bleun-Brug and due to take place in Lorient (26-31/8) with the cooperation of well-known writers and economists was forbidden "for reasons so far not divulged

(Barr;Heol, Sept.)

B.N. Comment. Bleun-Brug is controlled by the religious authorities. By dealing with the social and economic crisis in Brittany, the association may have incurred the displeasure of the bishops, anxious as they are to avoid offending the civil powers.

Preoccupation with the attitude of the Catholic hierarchy towards the Breton resurgence efforts is expressed in recent articles of AR VRO, L'AVENIR, BARR-HEOL. The abandonment of preaching in the "vernacular" in the Breton-speaking areas since the war is at variance with papal encyclicals (Pacem in Terris, for ex.) The appointment of a non-Breton as successor-to-be to the Archbishop of Rennes caused surprise in Breton circles as there are at least 20 Breton bishops outside Brittany. Yet he could win sympathy if the interest he showed towards the Basque language is extended to Breton.

"FRANCE BROUGHT PROGRESS" In the Breton department of Cotes-du-Nord, 200 students were refused admission to the 2nd classes and 90 to the 6th class in the classical lycees (grammar school). 887 young people were refused by the technical colleges. Among them, 500 boys and 200 girls had been recognised as being sufficiently able. In 1962 "only" 600 had been refused.

31 mobile prefabricated classrooms were needed for the Colleges for General Education, but only 10 were obtained. In primary schools, 212 repair projects were recognised as absolutely needed, but 12 only were admitted last year. 151 new classrooms should be built for 1964-65, but only 85 will be provided.

There were 47 demands for General College teachers, but only 15 vacancies have been filled. None of the 17 vacancies for agricultural teachers has been filled. According to the unions, 94 fully qualified teachers are needed for the lycees, but the posts will be partly filled, and only with auxiliary teachers.

(cf. LE MONDE, 2-10-'63).

The schools have to absorb those born in the post-war years, when birth rates were high. But instead of providing adequately for their education, the French state has decided to divert its funds to build up a preposterous "force de frappe." POLICE DISPLAY. The prefet of Kemper has given orders to all Finistere police stations to destroy the posters which the Movement for the Organisation of Brittany puts up, even on hoardings approved for the purpose. Publicity by non-Breton organisations, including the French-patriotic O.A.S. is not hindered.

Members of the M.O.B. were arrested and the posters which they had stuck were all torn by police during the Fetes de Cornouaille in Kemper, end of July. Police squads conspicuously framed the pipe-band parades. They tried to provoke incidents by illtreating several pipers (Breiz, September). It appears that the prefet needed a justification for calling in police reinforcements.

THE CELTIC LEAGUE, whose aim is to foster the national rights of the Celtic countries, held its third annual meeting at Bangor, Wales, on Sept. 7-8. Projects for the coming year were discussed, including the organisation of a mobile exhibition to make known the struggle of the member-countries for national survival and development; a memorandum to the U.N.O. on self-government for Brittany, Wales and presumably Scotland; another memorandum to the U.N.O. on linguistic discrimination in Brittany.

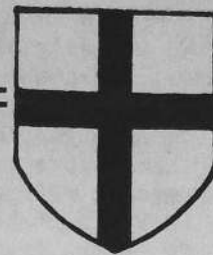
AR VRO No 21 contains a long article on Yann Sohier, a public school teacher and a member of the political council of the Breton National Party, who created AR FALZ to win leftist school teachers to the cause of the Breton language. He died in 1935, exhausted by his Breton activity. He is revealed here as one of the greatest Bretons of our time.

. BODADEG AR SONERIEIEN (the Breton Pipers Association) recently celebrated its 20th Anniversary. To-day it has thousands of members, some of them of a high standard. It started with 8 members in 1943. (Ar Vro, 21)

Breton dancing is also doing well. But the less spectacular singing is much on the decline. In his leading article in Breiz (Oct.), R. Omnes reveals the critical scarcity of choirs, and makes an appeal to competent persons to help the Kendalc'h commission concerned with traditional singing.

. Breton classes have started again at 30, rue des Lisses, Rennes. They take place on Sat. and Mon. evenings. The organisers would like to extend them to 3 other days, but they have a scarcity of teachers. They are training some to help them. There is work for 10 teachers. (Keleier Roazhon)

BRETON NEWS



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DEMONSTRATIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE HENBONT FOUNDRIES.

Breton News No. 42 reported about the struggle to save the Henbont foundries near Lorient.

Demonstrations were organised on October 25-26th in a number of Breton towns and in Paris in order to impress on the French government how concerned the whole Breton people are in this matter.

About 20,000 people, workers, farmers, tradesmen, were mobilised by their unions and the political parties and marched from Henbont to Lorient carrying posters among which, according to eye-witnesses, those of the Movement for the Organisation of Brittany were conspicuous.

In a resolution, they approved the action of the Committee for the Defense of the Foundries. They declared that the promised installation of new industries in the Lorient area would not solve the problem of readaptation of skilled metallurgical workers, nor provide enough jobs to solve the present unemployment problem in the area. Light industries would soon reach a point of saturation. To industrialise Brittany seriously a basic heavy industry of the Henbont type was necessary. They called for the creation of a joint commission representing the workers' interests and the government to discuss the future of the foundries.

Mr. Piriou, speaking on behalf of the Breton workers' unions (CFTC, CGT, FO.) said: "If we allow the closing of the foundries, it will mean that we cannot prevent the government from transforming all of Brittany into a reserve of cheap labour".

Mr. Pogam, representing the Farmers' Unions of Morbihan, said: "The Breton farmers want Brittany to be industrialised so that their sons can have work in their home country. Brittany will be saved only by a strong union of all the Bretons, at home and abroad". (Ref. La Vie Bretonne, Nov. - Dec. 1963).

FRENCH COLONIALISM IN BRITTANY. Brittany is surrounded on 3 sides by a tariff wall preventing the entry of Polish and USA coal, English industrial products, iron from Labrador, Brazil and Africa, at a much lower cost than their French equivalents.

A 45 HP English Tractor worth £700 at St-Malo is sold £1500 to the farmer.

But the Breton agricultural products meet on the French markets unhindered competition from Dutch eggs, butter and chickens, Italian early vegetables, Moroccan frozen fish.

Brittany exports her men as seasonal workers to Jersey and the Paris area, as farmers to Normandy and Aquitaine, as soldiers and seamen to the French forces, as labour to the Rouen and Paris factories, as dish washers to New York etc.

Her savings are spent in Bank Investments elsewhere, on high prices for electricity, coal, gas and petrol, on rents to absentee-landlords, on the education of young people who emigrate, on high transport tariffs (remember last year's railway battle), on profits for foreign chain stores ...

Among Brittany's useless imports are a public authority totally dependent on Paris, an ill-adapted and defective school system and equipment, a centralistic press, French political parties ...

Some figures

The real monthly income of a farmer in Tremel (near St-Brieg) in 1962 was £15, while that of the miners in Northern France was £39 when they went on strike with strong popular support.

An investigation in the Collinee area SE of St-Brieg showed that the income per active worker varied from £10 to £30 per month in farms of over 30 ha.

If 1 represents the average French income, the figure for Paris is 2 and for Morbihan (S.Brittany) 0.5.

In some areas of Brittany, there is a latent wish to return to serfdom. Even communist electors want big landowners to buy their land and they would become salaried workers.

In the Collinee area, the infantile mortality rate is 5.6% as against 2.2 for France. This revelation caused a scandal.

Numerous patients in psychiatric hospitals are farmers' wives who became mental cases because of their debts.

The Breton question is a social question. Our people is being smothered. The French straight-jacket must burst. Brittany needs self-government.

(Ar Vro, No. 21).

IS FRENCH PRESTIGE NOT AT STAKE IN BRITTANY?

An investigation by the INSEE Statistics Office revealed that in Brittany 40% of the dwelling-houses were overcrowded, 30% of the families live in one-room houses, 25% in 2-room, and 20% in 3-room houses. Only half of the families have running water, 17% have gas, 8% central heating, 80% have no baths; 7% have no electricity. Other points of comparison are: vacuum cleaners (15% in Brittany as against 32% in France); refrigerators (10% as against 30%) washing machines (11% - 27%)

AR VRO lists also radio and TV sets, but in view of the deleterious effect of the RTF on the Breton culture, one need not mind too much the discrepancy ... (AR VRO, No.19)

OPEN LETTER TO MINISTER OF EDUCATION

Mr. Fouchet, Minister of French Education, got an agitated reception when he visited Brittany at the end of October. His inauguration of the new Science faculty in Rennes was boycotted by half the professors and students demonstrated because of the lack of teaching staff, lecture rooms, accommodation facilities. The intervention of special police (CRS) was necessary to disperse the students.

Following his visit, the Breton Cultural Foundation wrote to the Minister an open letter denouncing his department's hostility towards the Breton language. The letter listed the following facts:

- a) In 1961, the French Prime Minister opposed the tabling of a bill for the teaching of regional languages (Breton, etc.);
- b) A promise in November 1961 by the then Minister of Education to introduce a few measures to encourage the teaching of these languages was not held;
- c) The French UNESCO Commission ignored the appeal addressed to them by the "French" Council for the Defense of Regional Languages, an appeal based on a Scandinavian petition to UNESCO.
- d) Multiple petitions by Breton secondary school students (one signed this year by 1500) were turned down on the pretext that the programmes were too crowded;
- e) The department refused to hold a round-table conference with the above-mentioned Council.

"The young Bretons are fed-up with your administration's hostility and dodging ... The question is no longer a cultural one : it is now political".

The Breton Cultural Foundation was devoted until now to "purely" cultural action. It warns (!) the minister that its members are taking a new orientation.

(La Vie Bretonne, Nov. - Dec.)

The 5th Congress of the Movement for the Organisation of Brittany was held at Brest on November 17th. On the agenda were reports from the M.O.B. students and Youth Sections, and speeches about Brittany's place in the European economy, particularly in its agriculture.

The Breton literary magazine AL LIAMM celebrated the publication of its 100th issue on November 11. The event was commemorated by the Breton branch of the Celtic Congress at a dinner in Rennes. AL LIAMM is now in its 17th year and has withstood many pressures from "loyalist" quarters. It has published about 10,000 pages. It receives contributions from the best Breton writers.

AL LIAMM No. 99 contains a masterly adaptation by R. Hemon of fragments of the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam. R. Hemon uses a type of versification that was common in Middle Breton; the first, second and fourth verses rhyme with one another while the last syllable of the third verse rhymes with the last but one of the fourth. The verses themselves are alliterative. Notwithstanding this severe discipline the language remains extremely flexible.

However the university of Rennes ignores the modern Breton literature. And the French government pursues doggedly its policy of eradication of Breton.

PREDER No. 41-42, 170 pp. contains the lectures delivered in Breton and English at the Landreger Inter-Celtic Congress in 1962. The Breton texts are also given in English translation. Price £1. PREDER No. 45-46 publishes the Middle Welsh tales of the MARINOGION together with a Breton translation by Abeozen and a Cornish translation of the first two "branches" by Caradar. Price 18/6.

PLUNDERING OF BRETON WORKS OF ART.

Deputy P. Bourdellez protested in the French parliament against the plundering by an unknown "old stones gang" of the Breton monuments and works of art (calvaries, religious statues, crosses, etc.) some of which are priceless and attract tourists to Brittany.

(La Vie Bretonne, Nov. - Dec.)

Breton culture is officially despised, but highly valued by these gangsters.

The Association Skaouted Bleimor which represent Brittany in the Federation of European Scouts is expanding, but the Bishop of St-Brieg has forbidden the group which had been founded at the preparatory Seminary of Kintin. A teacher of the St-Joseph secondary school in Lanuon wrote to request an explanation from the Bishop, warning that this decision could be dangerous at a time when anti-clerical forces are beginning to take part in the defense of Breton interests. Bleimor trains its young members in a Breton and Christian spirit, in accordance with Papal Encyclicals such as "Pacem in Terris".

(L'Avenir, 16-11).