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*DEIREADH LE TÚSRÉ NA GCOLÁISTÍ GAEILGE*

*BUNÚ CHOLÁISTE LAIGHEAN 1906*

*Nollaig Mac Congáil*

Ó tharla go bhfuil comóradh á dhéanamh ar bhunú na gColáistí Múinteoireachta Gaeilge amach is isteach ar chéad bliain ó shin le blianta beaga anuas i gCúige Mumhan, i gCúige Chonnacht agus i gCúige Uladh, níor cheart faillí a dhéanamh i gColáiste Laighean [*The Leinster Training College for Irish*], an chéad choláiste dá shórt a cuireadh ar bun i gCúige Laighean.<sup>1</sup> Cuireadh tús leis i mí Dheireadh Fómhair, 1906, i mBaile Átha Cliath. Coláiste geimhridh/earraigh lonnaithe i gceartlár cathrach a bhí i gceist chan ionann is tromlach na gcoláistí eile a bunaíodh le dhá bhliain roimhe sin.

Maidir le dátaí bunaithe na gcoláistí Gaeilge seo, seo a leanas mar a bhí: Coláiste Múinteoireachta na Mumhan, Béal Átha an Ghaorthaidh, 1904, Ollscoil na Mumhan, an Rinn, 1905, Coláiste Chonnacht, Tuar Mhic Éadaigh, 1905, Coláiste Chomhghaill, Béal Feirste, 1905, Coláiste na gCeithre Máistrí, Leitir Ceanainn, 1906, Coláiste Uladh, Gort an Choirce, 1906, agus Coláiste Laighean, Baile Átha Cliath, 1906. Tuigtear cén cuspóir a bhí leis na Coláistí seo an chéad lá riamh.<sup>2</sup> Chomh fada siar le 1903 dúradh an méid seo a leanas faoin chéad choláiste Gaeilge i mBéal Átha an Ghaorthaidh:

*‘The primary object of the school was to train teachers for the special work of teaching in Gaelic League branches... In addition to the lectures on the method of teaching Irish, there would be auxiliary lectures on kindred subjects which would enhance the value of the work of the school. A special course of lectures on the phonetics of the language which would enable the teacher to appreciate the distinction of sounds in the language and help him to impart the proper **blas** to the students; a course of popular lectures on the history of the language, which would give the teacher confidence in his work, and instruction in dancing and singing would form a part of the college curriculum.’<sup>3</sup>*

Cuireadh leis an chuspóir sin, ar ndóigh. Díríodh ar mhúinteoirí cáilithe bunscoile agus meánscoile le teanga na Gaeilge agus modheolaíocht theagasc na Gaeilge a chur ina láthair ós sa bhunscoil agus sa mheánscoil a luigh cinniúint shlánú na Gaeilge. Lena chois sin ar fad, féachadh le Gaeilge a theagasc do dhuine ar bith den phobal aosach i gcoitinne a chuir spéis inti chomh maith le smeareolas a thabhairt ar stair, ar chultúr agus ar thraidisiún béil na Gaeilge. Níor bheag ná níor shuarach na haidhmeanna céanna.

Cuireadh na Colaistí Gaeilge seo sna Cúigí eile ar bun sa ré ba rathúla i stair na hAthbheochana, nuair a bhí lucht an Chonartha ag troid ar son na Gaeilge ar an uile leibhéal agus ceart agus aitheantas á mbaint amach di i réimsí éagsúla de réir a chéile. Ré an dóchais, na díograise agus na hidé-eolaíochta a bhí ann agus ba léir sin i mbunú na gColaistí Gaeilge agus sa bholscaireacht ollmhór a lean díobh i meáin chlóite Bhéarla an ama sin.

Bhí na Colaistí Gaeilge eile bunaithe sna Cúigí eile, iad uilig lonnaithe i gceantair Ghaeltachta ach amháin Colaiste Chomhghaill i mBéal Feirste, sular bunaíodh Colaiste Laighean i mBaile Átha Cliath sa bhliain 1906. Chaithfí freastal a dhéanamh anois ar oirthear agus ar lár na tíre, mar atá, Cúige Laighean, óir is ansin ba líonmhaire daonra sa tír ar fad.<sup>4</sup>

*A teachers' class should form portion of the educational syllabus of the League in every large centre. London has had such a class for years past, and signs on it, The London League has produced half a dozen of the very finest teachers in the organization. The general level of League teaching in Dublin is still lower than it ought to be, and matters are much worse elsewhere. Could not Dublin, like London and Belfast, have a central training-school for its teachers? Such a school should be open as well to teachers of Irish in primary and secondary schools of the city as to League teachers, and its aim should not be so much to teach Irish, as to show how it ought to be taught. The school, in short, would be for the metropolitan area what the Ballingearry School is for Munster and the Tourmakeady School for Connacht. Perhaps the Coiste Ceantair will consider the suggestion.<sup>5</sup>*

Is é Eoin Mac Néill is mó a luadh leis an choláiste seo i dtús báire.

*He (Eoin MacNeill) merely took the opportunity, in conjunction with the Dublin Coisde Ceanntair, of getting an audience together for the purpose of launching a scheme which will do much – which will be even epoch-making – for the realization of the aims of the Gaelic League as far as the propagation of the National language as a living and vital force is concerned.*

*Quietly and earnestly Eoin unfolded his scheme ... The scheme is briefly this: the establishment in Dublin of a college for the training of teachers of Irish on the soundest and most scientific principles and the subsequent universal introduction of Irish, not alone as an extra, but as an ordinary subject in all the Dublin schools... The teaching of the language was often placed in the hands of those who had anything but a perfect knowledge of Irish themselves, and who had no skill in, or*

*taste for language teaching... The object of the Dublin Coisde Ceanntair in establishing this college is not to take over the work that should be done by the 'National' Board, but to afford those teachers who are at present in the Board's service in Dublin an opportunity of qualifying themselves for the proper teaching of the language in the schools. It does not mean that the Gaelic League or the people of Ireland are about to drop the demand that full provision should be made in the Board's Training Colleges for the thorough preparation of the students to act as teachers of Irish. It is a practical protest against the Board's action and attitude towards the National language.*

*Should the College be established – and I see no reason why, with the promises of support which it has already received, it should not be established – and should it be cordially supported by the managers and teachers, there is every reason to hope that five years hence we shall have in Dublin the genuine beginnings of a bilingual Ireland, whose influence will radiate from the Irish capital and rouse every educational activity that now lies slumbering in the North, West, and South, and turn them into effective forces which will help in building up an Irish nation – Tuagh Chatha C.L.S.<sup>6</sup>*

Maíodh fosta gur ó Ardeaspag Bhaile Átha Cliath a tháinig an moladh faoi bhunú coláiste i gCúige Laighean.

*The initiation of the present scheme is due to a suggestion contained in a letter from his Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Walsh, Archbishop of Dublin, to Mr. Eoin MacNeill, B.A. Vice-President of the Gaelic League,<sup>7</sup> on the occasion of a lecture delivered by the latter in October last.<sup>8</sup> In this letter His Grace pointed out that the great obstacle in the way of the revival of the Irish language was the scarcity of fully qualified teachers, and suggested the establishment of a Training College in Dublin, which would offer to the Eastern and Midland districts of the country the same opportunities that the Ballingearry and Partry colleges afford to the South and West. The suggestion was taken up by the Dublin Coiste Ceantair of the Gaelic League, which appointed a committee to consider the question and to draft a scheme of organization. The enclosed plan is the result of the deliberation of the committee, which consisted of Miss A. O'Farrelly, M.A., Messrs. Eoin Mac Neill, B.A., P.H. Pearse, B.A., B.L., and G.A. Moonan.<sup>9</sup>*

Ba chríonna an beart é an ceathrar áirithe sin a chur i mbun pleanála le haghaidh an choláiste úir. Bhí baint ag an cheathrar chéanna le cathanna éagsúla ar son na Gaeilge agus le gluaiseacht na hAthbheochana roimhe sin agus an-bhaint acu le cúrsaí oideachais agus ról na Gaeilge sa chóras oideachais ar fad. As an cheathrar, bhí taithí cheana ag Miss A. O'Farrelly [Úna Ní Fhaircheallaigh – 'Uan Uladh'] ar Choláiste Gaeilge Ghort an Choirce ón chéad lá a bunaíodh é<sup>10</sup> agus eolas aici faoi Choláiste Chonnacht agus faoi

Choláiste na gCeithre Máistrí i Leitir Ceanainn. Ní gá inchur an Phiarsaigh ná Eoin Mhic Néill ná Sheoirse Uí Mhuanáin i stair an oideachais agus na Gaeilge a iniúchadh.

Chuathas ar aghaidh leis an scéim go gasta ó tharla go raibh caint mhór agus bolscaireacht láidir faoi na Coláistí Gaeilge eile sna meáin chlóite ag an am.

#### *DUBLIN TRAINING COLLEGE*

##### *Interesting Scheme of the Coiste Ceantair*

*The scheme for an Irish Training College in Dublin (suggested by the Archbishop) has now taken definite shape. The report of the special committee has been adopted by the Dublin Coiste Ceantair. According to the report the object of the college will be to afford means by which teachers in Gaelic League branches and secondary and primary schools may obtain a thoroughly efficient training in the best methods of language teaching as applied to Irish. Special attention will be devoted to the requirements of teachers who are at present unacquainted with Irish. There will be three courses of study – Irish Phonetics, Methods of Oral Teaching, and General Literary Instruction in Irish on the oral method. The three courses will run concurrently. The sessions commence in October and continue to the following Easter. Classes will last three hours, and will meet twice weekly. Lectures on Irish affairs will be given weekly on evenings not occupied with classes. The staff will consist of a Principal, Staff Professor, and specially qualified assistants and lecturers. The inclusive sessional fee will be £2 2s, nominated students from schools and branch classes being charged £1 2s for every £1 1s branch contribution towards the college funds. Inclusive of the initial expenditure the annual cost of the college will amount to about £420. The affairs of the college will be administered by a representative Committee.<sup>11</sup>*

Ceapadh bord bainistíochta fá choinne an choláiste úir agus, ar an ócáid seo fosta, ceapadh daoine a raibh fios a gceirde acu.

##### *Dublin Training College*

*The Coiste Ceantair Átha Cliath has elected the following representatives on the Committee of Management of Dublin College of Irish Teaching: Micheál Ó hAnnracháin, Seosamh Laoide, Pádraig Mac Piarais (editor An Claidheamh Soluis), Seoirse Ó Muanáin (Uachtarán an Choiste Ceantair), and Seán Ó Caoimh. It was decided at the last meeting that the Coiste Ceantair place £50 at the disposal of the Committee of Management. Rev. Myles Ronan will be the representative of Most Rev. Dr. Walsh.<sup>12</sup>*

An chéad chéim eile ná foireann éifeachtach teagaisc a aimsiú agus a cheapadh.

*The Committee of the Leinster College of Irish at its last meeting decided to advertise for applications for the positions of Principal of the College (who would*

*also act as Professor of Method), Professor of Phonetics, and Registrar. Applications must be received before the 10<sup>th</sup> of September, and details will be found in our advertisement columns. The appointment of assistants was deferred until the Professors have been selected. A subscription of £2 towards the funds of the College on behalf of the Keating Branch was received from Mr. D. Dennehy, being the amount of prizes won by him at the Dublin Feis. The Committee decided that no action should be taken to enable the College to participate in the grants offered under the terms of the advertisement of the 'National' Board. A circular appeal for financial support was approved of and ordered to be circulated amongst the representative people in the province of Leinster.<sup>13</sup>*

Tuigeadh cén tábhacht a bhain le bunú an choláiste seo i mBaile Átha Cliath agus aithníodh gur lena linn sin a bheadh freastal cuí a dhéanamh ar Chúigí uile na tíre maidir le cur chun cinn chuspóirí na gColáistí Gaeilge ar bhonn náisiúnta. Aon ghréasán amháin oiliúna agus oideachais a bhí san fhiontar uilig.

*It will be seen that the primary object of the College is to afford means by which present and prospective teachers of Irish in Primary and Secondary Schools, and in Gaelic League classes, may obtain a thoroughly efficient training in the most approved methods of language teaching as applied to the Irish language. (Students other than teachers will, however, also be catered for.) To carry out this object, courses of instruction in (a) Phonetics (b) the Oral Method of Teaching (c) General Literary instruction, will be conducted by the most highly qualified professors of modern methods of language teaching. The session will extend from October to Easter of the following year, and the lectures – except under special circumstances – will be delivered in the evenings in order to suit the convenience of teachers and others engaged during the day. The fee for the entire session is fixed at two guineas. Subscribers have the right to nominate pupils at a reduced fee of one guinea.*

*The project may safely be said to be the most important yet undertaken in the English-speaking districts, and one which promises the most fruitful results. The two questions of method of teaching, and the supply of well-trained teachers, form the most serious problem in connection with the language movement. Defective methods and the want of teachers are the greatest obstacles to its complete success. On the other hand, the needs of the movement have compelled very many specially qualified people to concentrate their attention on the whole subject of methods of language teaching, and much thought and practice and exchange of views have resulted in a truer knowledge and firmer grasp of the principles and methods of teaching languages. To utilize the knowledge and experience thus gained, and to bring them to solve the problems referred to, will be the principal work of the College.<sup>14</sup>*

Ceapadh an fhoireann agus orthu sin a ceapadh bhí ollúna a raibh dlúthbhaint acu cheana le Coláistí Gaeilge eile m.sh. S.P. Mac Enrí agus R. Ó Dálaigh. Ar thoradh moille bhí baill foirne eile a bhí gortha as feabhas a léinn agus as scileanna múinteoireachta.

*The Committee of Management of Coláiste Laighean has now practically completed the arrangements for the opening of the College. An Dochtúir Seaghán P. Mac Enrí has been appointed Principal, and An tAth. Risteard Ó Dálaigh will assist him, with special charge of Phonetics. The general classes of the College will be held on Monday and Thursday evenings, and our correspondent, Eibhlín Nic Aitcin, will be glad to hear that afternoon classes will be arranged for should a sufficient number of students require them. The College will be housed during the first session in spacious premises at 52 Sráid Uí Chonaill, Uacht. Work will commence early in October, the public opening being fixed to take place about the 8<sup>th</sup>. Craobhacha and individual friends will relieve the Committee from much anxiety by forwarding their subscriptions within the next week or two. Intending students may also send in their names<sup>15</sup>.*

Ceapadh an Ceanntach mar chláraitheoir ar an choláiste.<sup>16</sup> Rinneadh na socrúithe cuí leis an choláiste a oscailt.

### **Coláiste Laighean**

*The arrangement of classes for the Leinster College of Irish has now been made in outline. The classes will meet every Monday and Thursday under the tuition of the Principal, Dr. J.P. Henry, the Professor of Phonetics, Rev. Dr. O'Daly, and assistant. Beginners from 7 to 8.00 p.m., lectures on phonetics from 8 to 9, advanced classes from 9 to 10 p.m., also under the charge of the Professors. The method will not be a purely oral one, while the lectures on phonetics will be devoted to practice rather than to theory. Students who intend to teach Irish will be selected to teach 'criticism' lessons under the supervision and advice of the professors. It has been found necessary to postpone the opening of the classes till the middle of the present month. The premises of the college at 52 Upper O'Connell Street, Dublin, will be ready for occupation immediately. Intending students may obtain information by writing the Registrar, Mr. Éamonn Ceannt, at that address or calling any evening from 5 to 6 or from 8 to 9. Subscriptions for the college are coming in from all parts of Leinster and include one of £10 from Rev. Dr. Delaney, S.J., President, University College. Intending subscribers may address the Hon. Treasurer, Rev. M. Ronan, Archbishop's House, Dublin.<sup>17</sup>*

Chuirfí tús leis ar 15 Deireadh Fómhair agus bheadh an Craoibhín agus an tArdeaspag ann ar an ócáid.<sup>18</sup> Gan amhras, bhí beagán deacrachta ann roimh an tús, mar shampla, le cúrsaí gáis agus le clár ama,<sup>19</sup> ach rinneadh an scéal a réiteach agus cuireadh tús le céim

iontach tábhachtach i gcur chun cinn theagasc na Gaeilge neamhspleách ar an chóras oideachais ag an am sin agus go ceann na mblianta fada ina dhiaidh sin.

Le bunú Choláiste Laighean, bhí deireadh tagtha leis an chéad chéim i stair na gColáistí Gaeilge. Bhí freastal á dhéanamh anois ar Chúigí uile na hÉireann, ar na Cúigí ina raibh na Gaeltachtaí ba leitheadaí sa tír, agus ar an dá chathair ba mhó sa tír ina ndéanfaí freastal ar an dá ionad ba líonmhaire pobal. Roinnt blianta ina dhiaidh sin tháinig éileamh ar choláistí eile i gcontaetha eile, mar shampla, contae Chiarraí, na Gaillimhe agus an Chláir. D'éirigh na Coláistí Gaeilge ní ba líonmhaire in imeacht na mblianta agus lena linn d'athraigh cuspóir na gcoláistí, an curaclam, díograis an lucht teagaisc, aois agus cúlra an lucht freastail – iad sin ar fad ag brath ar dhála na Gaeilge go náisiúnta i rith an ama sin uilig.

Go dtí go raibh staidéar cuimsitheach déanta ar gach aon cheann den chéad ghlúin seo de Choláistí Gaeilge thar na blianta fada dá ré, de na foirne teagaisc a bhí gníomhach iontu, den chineál teagaisc agus bolscaireachta a bhí ar siúl iontu, den éagsúlacht mhór daoine a bhí ag freastal orthu idir Bhéarlóirí agus Ghaeilgeoirí, den chaidreamh a bunaíodh eatarthu, den tionchar a imríodh orthu le linn a gcuid staidéir, den cheangal a rinneadh le hidé-eolaíocht, le hoideachas, le léann, le cultúr, le náisiúnachas, le muintir agus le dúchas na Gaeilge, ní bheidh léargas ceart againn ar éabhlóid na hAthbheochana ó thús an chéid seo caite go dtí bunú an tSaorstáit.<sup>20</sup>

[Foilsíodh an aiste seo in *Feasta* (Eanáir, 2007) 23-7.]

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<sup>1</sup> Breathnaigh orthu seo a leanas, mar shampla: *Iolsgoil na Mumhan* (g.d.); *Coláiste Chonnacht: Na Blianta Tosaigh i dTuar Mhic Éadaigh* (Coiste Oidhreachta Thuar Mhic Éadaigh, 1905); Seosamh Ó Ceallaigh (eag.), *Coláiste Uladh 1906-2006* (Coiste Cuimhneacháin na Coláiste, 1906); Nollaig Mac Congáil, 'Coláiste Chonnacht: na Blianta Tosaigh i dTuar Mhic Éadaigh,' *Feasta* (Meán Fómhair, 2005) 19-22, (Deireadh Fómhair) 19-23; Nollaig Mac Congáil, 'Bunú Choláiste na gCeithre Máistrí,' *An tUltach* (Deireadh Fómhair, 2006) 10-4.

<sup>2</sup> Chomh fada siar le mí Dheireadh Fómhair, 1902, bhí an méid seo a leanas le rá ag Fionán Mac Coluim, Ard-Timire na Mumhan, faoin ghéarchéim ó thaobh ghanntanas na múinteoirí Gaeilge: '*More and more teachers will be required as time goes on, in order to spread, as we hope and intend to do, the Irish language through the whole of Ireland. At present the supply of suitable men is scarcely equal to the demand... As the demand is constantly increasing the problem of efficiently feeding it is one of some moment to those who are organising an Irish Ireland. Candidates for these positions would be required to*

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have a thoroughly good spoken and literary knowledge of Irish, and should be capable of teaching it on the most approved lines, an acquaintance with the Gouin, Berlitz, and other methods of oral teaching, being important.’ As *The Freeman’s Journal* (1.11.02, 6).

<sup>3</sup> *The Freeman’s Journal* (30.12.03, 6).

<sup>4</sup> ‘Beidh Colláiste Múinte na Gaedhilge i mBaile Átha Cliath i dtreo oibre i gcóm[h]air an fhóghmhair. Nuair a cuireadh Colláiste Múinte na Mumhan ar bun i mBéal Átha an Ghaorthaidh chúpla bliadhán ó shoin dubhairt daoine géar-chúiseacha ná tiocfadh as acht cúigeachas – chítear dóibh anois cad tá ag teacht as. Is é tá ag teacht as ná gur gearr go mbeidh Colláiste Múinte Gaedhilge againn i ngach Cúigeadh i nÉirinn.’ As *The Irish People* (27.1.06, 7).

<sup>5</sup> *An Claidheamh Soluis* (7.10.05, 7).

<sup>6</sup> *The United Irishman* (2.12.05, 6).

<sup>7</sup> Seo a leanas cuid dá litir: ‘*I speak now of the schools in and around Dublin. I feel convinced that no real progress is likely to be made, that nothing of an enduring character is likely to be done, until some effective system of training the teachers of our National Schools, not only as teachers of Irish, but as speakers of Irish, is set on foot.*

*As our existing Training Colleges, controlled in their working, as they are, by the regulations of the Board of National Education, they never can be made effective for the purpose. This has long since been realised elsewhere, and practical steps have there been taken to supply what is wanting.*

*It has been done in the South. It has been done in the West. As a result, we have the Munster and Connaught Training Colleges. Ulster, we may be sure, will not fail us. Is there any conceivable reason why that which has been done, and most successfully done, at Gougane Barra, and Mount Partry, and will be undoubtedly be done with success in the North of Ireland, cannot also be done, and done with at least equal success, in Dublin?*

*For my part, if the work is set on foot, I shall consider it a duty to give it what help I can, whether by contributing towards the initial cost of starting the College, or by subscribing annually towards its working expenses, or, I dare say, by doing both.’* As *The Freeman’s Journal* (24.11.05, 6).

<sup>8</sup> Thug an tArdeaspag a bhail féin ar stair Choláiste Laighean ar oíche na hOscailte:

*‘It has, in some way or other, come about that I find myself publicly credited with the originating of the project that has thus been realised. I do not know indeed that I did anything more in the matter than give expression to an idea that must at the time have been in the minds of many of you, and that, if I am not greatly mistaken, had already been given expression to by Mr. MacNeill, and perhaps by others. But somehow or other, when the suggestion happened to be made by me – I remember it was on the occasion of a memorable lecture given by Mr. MacNeill in the Rotunda – the suggestion was at once taken up in a practical spirit.’* As *The Freeman’s Journal* (16.10.06, 8).

<sup>9</sup> *Sinn Féin* (15.9.06, 1).

<sup>10</sup> Tá cuntas iomlán ar Choláiste Uladh le fáil in Seosamh Ó Ceallaigh (eag.), *Coláiste Uladh 1906-2006* (Coiste Cuimhneacháin na Coláiste, 2006).

<sup>11</sup> *The Irish Peasant* (10.2.06).

<sup>12</sup> *The Irish Peasant* (24.2.06).

<sup>13</sup> *An Claidheamh Soluis* (1.9.06, 7).

<sup>14</sup> *Sinn Féin* (15.9.06, 1).

<sup>15</sup> *An Claidheamh Soluis* (22.9.06, 7).

<sup>16</sup> ‘Go bhfuil an Ceanntach Fada (mar bhaist an Laoideach air tráth) toghtha mar sgríbhneoir do Choláiste Laighean.’ As *An Claidheamh Soluis* (29.9.06, 1).

<sup>17</sup> *Sinn Féin* (6.10.06, 1).

<sup>18</sup> *An Claidheamh Soluis* (13.10.06, 1). ‘*Coláiste Laighean opens on the evening of the 15<sup>th</sup> with a formal ceremonial in which, it is hoped, the Archbishop of Dublin and the President of the Gaelic League will take part. Classwork will start immediately.*’ As *An Claidheamh Soluis* (13.10.06, 8).

<sup>19</sup> *Coláiste Laighean*

*A Chara,*

*I have seen in the Press a provisional programme and time table for the Leinster Irish Training College. We have anxiously awaited it, believing that it might be of the greatest importance to our own branch, and to other similarly circumstanced, who must more and more depend on the services of local and voluntary teachers. This syllabus stated that the College was not intended to be solely for the benefit of students residing in the city, and it alluded in general terms to ‘other parts of Ireland.’ However, it may be with*

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would-be teachers from 'other parts' who may perhaps have the leisure and means to spend the winter in town for purposes of study, I could not but feel grievously disappointed at the apparent oblivion of the needs of the County of Dublin shown by the arrangements of the hours for classes.

Take our own case, by no means an extreme or exceptional one. If, as we hoped, three of our voluntary teachers should enter as students, the classes do not begin till 7, and are to last about three hours, till 10 p.m. The next train for this district leaves town at 10.45 and reaches this station about 11.10. Then there is the walk of about a mile along dark roads in the winter night, so that it would be near midnight before home was reached. Most branch teachers have other occupations during the day, and cannot make up by late hours in the morning for curtailed rest at night.

As we are but a short distance from town and none of us have more than about a mile to walk from the train, I think it safe to assume that such hours as would be difficult and inconvenient for us would be absolutely prohibitive for those in more remote districts. I, therefore, venture to ask on behalf of all such whether it might not be possible to arrange a class to meet on Saturdays at any hour from one p.m. and one other afternoon in the week at some earlier hour than 7, so that those attending could leave town at the latest by 10 o'clock.

*Le meas mór ort,*

*Mise Eibhlín Nic Aitcin,*

*Rúnaire,*

Craobh Naoimh Bríghde, Cabán tSíle. *As An Claidheamh Soluis* (13.10.06, 10).

<sup>20</sup> Mhaígh Eoin Mac Néill ar *An Claidheamh Soluis* (23.10.09, 9):

*'The Irish colleges ...[are]... the flower of the Gaelic League endeavour... The Irish colleges are to the League what military colleges are to an army.'*