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# ***STAIR BHUNÚ SCOIL SAMHRAIDH AN DAINGIN 1908***

## ***Nollaig Mac Congáil***

Cuireadh tús leis an dara glúin de na Scoileanna Múinteoireachta Gaeilge sa bhliain 1908 nuair a bunaíodh Scoil Samhraidh<sup>1</sup> an Daingin i gCo. Chiarraí. Bhí seacht gcinn de choláistí bunaithe le blianta beaga roimhe sin: 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. Tá cúpla rud ar shlí a ráite faoin liosta sin:

- bhí na coláistí scaipthe ar fud na tíre<sup>2</sup>
- bhí a mbunús lonnaithe i gcontaetha ina raibh ceantair Ghaeltachta<sup>3</sup>
- bhí a mbunús á rith i gcaitheamh an tsamhraidh<sup>4</sup>
- bhí beirt acu lonnaithe sa chathair<sup>5</sup> agus iad á rith i gcaitheamh an gheimhridh

D'éirigh thar barr leis na coláistí céanna sin<sup>6</sup> agus, dá thairbhe sin, cuireadh tús leis an dara glúin díobh sa bhliain 1908 le bunú Scoil Samhraidh an Daingin.<sup>7</sup>

D'imir na Coláistí seo ról láidir tábhachtach i luathstair na hAthbheochana ar an iliomad dóigh. Rinne siad bearnaí ollmhóra sa chóras náisiúnta oideachais a líonadh;<sup>8</sup> chuir siad samplaí den oideachas uilíoch Gaelach os comhair daoine; rinne siad daoine a oiliúint i modheolaíochtaí múinteoireachta; rinne siad múinteoirí de dhíograiseoirí Gaeilge; d'athraigh siad meon na ndaoine i gcoitinne agus mhuintir na Gaeltachta ach go háirithe maidir le Gaelachas;<sup>9</sup> chuir siad cuid de mhuintir na Gaeltachta i dtreo na

scríbhneoireachta; chuidigh siad le heacnamaíocht na Gaeltachta; rinne siad bolscaireacht mhór sna meáin chumarsáide ar son na hAthbheochana; chothaigh siad meon láidir náisiúnaíoch;<sup>10</sup> leag siad dúshraith don oideachas Gaelach a dtógfaí uirthi lá ab fhaide anonn;<sup>11</sup> bhunaigh siad an Ghaeilge i gceantair Ghaeltachta agus láidriugh í i gceantair nach raibh an Ghaeilge go róláidir iontu<sup>12</sup> srl. I mbeagán focal, bhí na Coláistí Gaeilge ar an ghléas ab éifeachtaí riamh in armlón na hAthbheochana agus níl deireadh lena dtionchar fiú amháin sa lá atá inniu ann.

Ní miste beagán de chúlra na gcoláistí a thabhairt anseo. Ag tús an chéid seo caite, cuimhníodh ar scoileanna saoire a réachtáil ar fud na tíre le cuidiú le cur chun cinn na Gaeilge – Gaeilge gan dua, mar a déarfá:

B' é Seán Ó Beoláin, M.P., a chéad-mhol (1900) bunadh na 'Scoileanna Saoire' mar tugadh orthu. Bhí sé tar éis a leithéid a fheiceáil sna Stáit Aontaithe. Ní sa Ghaeltacht amháin a bunaíodh iad... Agus ní chun múinteoirí d'oiliúint a cuireadh ar bun iad. Chuige sin na Coláistí Gaeilge a lean iad.<sup>13</sup>

Sa bhliain 1901 a cuireadh tús leis an scéim ach char éirigh go hiontach leis.<sup>14</sup> Cineál eile coláiste Gaeilge a beartaíodh ina dhiaidh sin a líonfadh na bearnaí agus na heasnaimh a d'fhág na Coláistí Traenála ina ndiaidh ó tharla go raibh na Coláistí céanna ag feidhmiú faoin Bhord Náisiúnta agus nárbh fhiú a dhath iad ag an am ó thaobh na Gaeilge de. Is leor aithris a dhéanamh ar chaint Ardeaspag Bhaile Átha Cliath sa bhliain 1905 ar an téad sin anseo:

*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 to our existing Training Colleges, controlled in their working as they are, by the regulations of the Board of National Education, they can never be made effective*

*for the purpose. This has long since been realized elsewhere, and practical steps have there been taken to supply what is wanting.*<sup>15</sup>

Seo a leanas cuntas ar na Coláistí Gaeilge a eisíodh ag an *Conference of Irish Colleges* sa bhliain 1916 mar léiriú ar a raibh beartaithe:

*The Colleges for training teachers of Irish were established to meet the great demand for qualified teachers of the National Language, and to remedy the defect in our educational system which made no adequate provision for the training of such teachers.*

*During the past 12 years 14 of these Colleges have been founded. The majority of them are Summer Colleges, whose sessions are carried on during the Summer and are situated in Irish-speaking districts in the Counties of Louth, Antrim, Donegal, Mayo, Galway, Clare, Kerry, Cork and Waterford. The Winter Colleges are situated in the Cities of Dublin, Belfast and Cork, and in Mullingar and Navan.*

*Since their establishment the Colleges have been attended by an aggregate of over 13,000 students, and during the past two years the annual total attendance was over 1,500 yearly. The great majority of the students were teachers in Primary and Secondary Schools. The others included prominent men and women in intellectual and public life, not only from Ireland, but from Great Britain, America, France, and many other countries. Nearly every Nationality in the world has been represented amongst the students.*

*The Colleges were the spontaneous development of a notable constructive educational movement. They were founded and administered by voluntary effort.*<sup>16</sup>

Ó tharla gur éirigh chomh maith sin leis na coláistí tosaigh, beartaíodh cur lena líon.<sup>17</sup> Bhí contaetha sa tír a raibh ceantair fairsinge Ghaeltachta maíte orthu, mar atá, Ciarraí<sup>18</sup> agus Gaillimh, agus gan aon choláiste dá gcuid féin acu go dtí sin. Chaithfí an scéal a leigheas. Shíl lucht Gaeilge na gcontaetha sin go raibh éagóir á déanamh orthu. Tosaíodh ar an scéal a chur os comhair an phobail sular beartaíodh ar choláiste a thógáil. I gcás Chiarraí,<sup>19</sup> pléadh an cheist go mion is go minic ar an *Kerryman*. Gan amhras, bhí

Ciarraí chomh Gaelach agus ní ba Ghaelaí ná contae ar bith eile, má b'fhíor do mhuintir Chiarraí, agus níor leasc leo é sin a fhógairt don tsaol mhór:

*It must be admitted despite the energy shown in other places, that Kerry is peculiarly the home and must in any future generation be the nursery of the Irish language. With us, Irish is still a living language. It has come down to us through over twenty centuries as pure today as it was in the days of Brian. Never has there been a breach, no link of the chain is wanting...*<sup>20</sup>

*That Duibhneach is the most Irish-speaking district in the Kingdom cannot be gainsaid, for there the language of our ancestors – protected by the mighty barriers of sea and mountain – has been preserved and cherished adown the years, and clung to by young and old with a peculiar and patriotic adhesiveness.*<sup>21</sup>

Ag deireadh 1906, nuair a bhí na coláistí eile faoi lán seoil agus cuid mhór tráchta déanta orthu sna nuachtáin, tosaíodh ag caint faoi choláiste a chur ar bun i gCiarraí. ‘A Kerryman’ a thóg an cheist den chéad uair i litir ar an *Kerryman* agus an teideal a bhí ar an chomhfhreagras ina dhiaidh sin ‘A Kerry Training School for Irish’:

*It never seems to strike us in Kerry the opportunities we are allowing to go by of doing a practical part in the advancement of the Language Movement programme, by having a thorough **Irish-speaking school** established in a good centre. Yet we possess some of the finest Irish-speaking centre[s] in Ireland, and why a **school** has not ere this been established in one of them, shows a great want somewhere. However, it is no use trying to find out whose fault it is but to examine the question and see what we might do to remedy the want.*<sup>22</sup>

Lean sé air á mhaíomh de réir an eolais a bhí le fáil i nDaonáireamh 1901, go bhféadfaí coláiste a bhunú i gceantar an Daingin nó Chathair Saibhín. Mhínigh sé *raison d'être* agus cuspóir na gcoláistí Gaeilge seo.

*It has got to be recognized at length that if the language is to survive, and spread, it must be taken up as a spoken language from the places where it is most generally used; and accordingly people from Dublin, and other counties all over Ireland, are now looking for places where Irish is to be found to go on their holidays in Summer time, and send their children there, sometimes for as long a period as six months at a time to learn the language.*<sup>23</sup>

Luann sé gur bunaíodh coláiste Gaeilge [*a school for Irish*] sa Rinn, ceantar iargúlta iascaireachta, agus go mbainfeadh an ceantar seo nach raibh lá iomrá air roimhe sin cáil amach feasta mar ionad léinn agus oideachais. Díríonn sé a chuid cainte ansin ar chás Chiarraí mar ionad oiriúnach le haghaidh coláiste Gaeilge:

*What I want to know, Mr. Editor, is, why we can't do something of the same thing in, say, Ballyferriter - which is I think the best Irish-speaking centre in Kerry... I would be glad if you would kindly allow the question to be discussed in the columns of the Kerryman so that we might have the opinions of our thinking Gaelic Leaguers.*<sup>24</sup>

Fuarthas freagra ar an mholadh seo láithreach agus, an tseachtain dár gcionn, scríobh triúr chuig an *Kerryman*, ag aontú le 'A Kerryman' agus ceantar amháin thar aon cheantar eile á chur chun tosaigh acu, mar atá, Baile an Fheirtéaraigh maidir le feabhas na Gaeilge ansin. Luaigh comhfhreagraí amháin an tairbhe a thiocfadh as bunú coláiste i gceantar:

*I think it will be very beneficial. An acorn is inconsiderable, as to size, yet from it springs the noblest tree in the forest. Our unpretentious school may in time become an important educational establishment, where arts and crafts will be taught in our own language. A more immediate benefit would be the attracting to the place of numbers of persons desirous of learning Irish as a spoken language. Students would naturally be anxious to lodge as near the school as possible, and thus people who had suitable lodgings to let would profit largely. And let us not forget the great gain our school would be to our teanga min milis maearda.*<sup>25</sup>

Sa díospóireacht a lean ar an *Kerryman*, cuireadh béim ar thábhacht na Gaeilge labhartha i nGluaiseacht na hAthbheochana agus ar an ghá dá réir a bhí le coláiste Gaeilge (*Irish Language School / Irish College / Irish School*) a lonnú i gceartar láidir Gaeltachta ina mbeadh an Ghaeilge á labhairt ó dhubh go dubh ag óg is ag aosta, mar atá, Baile an Fheirtéaraigh.

*The progress [of the Irish Revival] is very satisfactory, but so far as the speaking of the Language goes, it is something deplorable. Is it possible then that this progress in speaking could be of a more satisfactory character? It is quite possible, Mr. Editor. It is by making proper use of the Irish-speaking districts that Irish idioms can be thoroughly mastered by learners... How are the Irish speaking districts to be made instrumental in turning out Irish speakers?.. It is by establishing an Irish school in a locality where Irish is the sole language of every father, mother and child. The students of such a school could have daily intercourse with the people of the district, and they could learn to speak Irish almost as natural as the child of two or three years learns it from the lips of its father and mother.<sup>26</sup>*

Go dtí sin, aon cheantar amháin a bhí á lua mar ionad oiriúnach don choláiste, Baile an Fheirtéaraigh ach, ag tús mhí na Nollag 1906, tosaíodh ar an chaibidil faoin ionad ab oiriúnaí. Gan amhras, níor bréagnaíodh ná níor dísbéagadh Gaelachas Bhaile an Fheirtéaraigh, ach bhí roghanna eile ann.

*There is, however, another centre for this Irish school which... I would like to bring under the notice of your readers viz. Baile na nGall. It is Irish of the Irish. The language of our forefathers is spoken in all its native purity; the traditions of the Gael are still on the lips of the people and the old-time customs are observed and venerated. Gaelic Leaguers from London, Dublin and elsewhere have patronised the place. This Baile na nGall and vicinity is a veritable treasure-house of antiquities. Its old castles, raths, duns, beehive cells, ogham stones, oratories etc.*

*all point to a historic past. The ruins at Kilmalkedar and the chapel of Gallerus dispute antiquity with the Round Towers themselves.*

*It is also an excellent health resort. Sea bathing and boating can be enjoyed at leisure. It has a postal and telegraph service and is only seven miles from the town of Dingle.*

*Baile na nGall then has many attractions for the Irish-Irelander. An Irish school would not be out of place there: rather it is an ideal spot for one.<sup>27</sup>*

As sin amach ar leathanaigh an *Kerryman*,<sup>28</sup> rinneadh buanna an dá cheantar réamhráite a lua agus a mholadh. Is fiú a rá anseo, sa chuid is mó den chomhfhreagras seo ar an nuachtán, baineadh úsáid as ainmneacha cleite (*Kerryman*, *Spex*, *An Cnuicin Fraoig*, *An Rodaire Dubac*, *Professor*, *An Piobaire Beag*) nó as ainmneacha baiste (*Micheál*, *Larry*, *Tadhg*). Maíodh anois go raibh cúinsí breise eile le cur san áireamh:

*Let us bear in mind though that every spot – no matter how rich it may be in historic remains, or how many and varied its attractions – will not serve our purpose. We must find a building to answer as a school-room; and having found that, with plenty of students ready and willing to be taught therein, we must see that the students can be boarded and comfortably lodged within a reasonable distance of the school. Will Baile na nGall fulfil all these conditions?<sup>29</sup>*

Cuireadh suas cás láidir ar son Bhaile na nGall.

*There is a building in Baile na nGall which would answer admirably as a school-room. It is a spacious, well-lighted apartment with fire-place, grate etc., and I have been authorised by the owner to say that he is prepared to give it, at a nominal rent, as his contribution towards the patriotic project, on the event of Baile na nGall being the site fixed on. Suitable accommodation for at least 30 students can be procured in the village and immediate neighbourhood. The same number, or more, could be boarded.<sup>30</sup>*



Ní raibh an chuid eile de mhuintir Chiarraí ina gcodladh ar an ócáid ach ní raibh siad chomh hard glór le lucht tacaíochta Bhaile an Fheirtéaraigh agus Bhaile na nGall.

*I noticed no contribution from this part of the country. Ballyferriter is not the only Irish-speaking district in Kerry. We have Caherdaniel and other places in this part of the world who are as Irish-speaking as the Dingle district and on this account I am surprised no one from those districts are interesting themselves in the matter. Are the members of the Caherciveen Gaelic League sleeping? If it be decided that the school is to be started I don't understand why Ballyferriter should be the only place spoken about.*<sup>31</sup>

D'fhéach Seaghán Óg (Caomhánach ?) sa chéad phíosa comhfhreagrais as Gaeilge faoin scéal le réiteach a dhéanamh ach lena linn luaigh sé ceantar eile, rud nár chuidigh leis an scéal a leigheas agus nach bhfuair mórán tacaíochta.

Anois go bhfuil an cheist fé dhíospóireacht sa *Ciarraidheach* agus gur mian leis go h-anne an Scoil a bheith fé sheól cad fáth an t-achrann mar gheall air a suidheamh? Dhá áit mhaithe seadh an Buailtín agus Baile na nGall ach ní féidir í bheith ach i gceachtar díobh mar sin sproigtar air áit éigin gan moill ionnus go mbeadh sí i dtreo sa tsamhradh. Níl ach caitheamh aimsire a bheith dhá rádh gur bhfeárr as gur ghaedhealaighe an Buailtín ná Baile na nGall ná an Duailtín n-a cómhair mar tá aon áit aca Gallda a dhóthain! Sé mo bharmhal féin gur bhfeárr & gur bh'áilne Ceann Trágha ná aon áit aca agus dar ndóigh tá sé chómh gaedhealach leó.<sup>32</sup>

Tháinig fear eile chun tosaigh, mar atá, 'Spectator' agus chuir a ladar isteach sa scéal. Mhol sé na ceantair uile a luadh cheana as feabhas na Gaeilge iontu agus mhaígh go raibh ceann amháin chomh maith leis an cheann eile. Ach cá bhfágfaí na ceantair Ghaeltachta eile atá chomh maith leis na cinn a luadh cheana?

*Then why Ballyferriter, or Baile na nGall should be exploited to the exclusion of Annascaul, Lispole, Minard, Cloghane, Dingle, the Cuas, Ventry, Dunquin or the Blasquet Islands, beyond interested motives, is not apparent.*

*I believe one correspondent put forward the claims of Ventry. It certainly has the advantage of scenery while is possessed all the requirement for a college equally with its rivals.*

*The Blasquet Islands would be the ideal situation according to the views of many of your correspondents.*<sup>33</sup>

Luaigh sé ansin gur cheart cuimhneamh ar ‘*the capital of the Barony. It is the central and most other respects far the most suitable. Irish is spoken there with as much fluency as in any rural district.*’ Lean sé air ansin á rá gur comhréiteach iontach céillí a bheadh i roghnú an Daingin, áit a mbeadh chuile áis ar fáil agus go bhféadfadh na scoláirí cuairt a thabhairt ar na háiteanna eile.

Níor thug ‘A Kerryman’ aird ar bith ar an mholadh seo ach mhol Baile na nGall arís agus chuir sé síntiús ar aghaidh le cuidiú leis an obair.

Rinne comhfhreagraí eile, ‘Micheál,’ moladh eile ansin gur cheart do sheisear nó sheachtar ar spéis leo Coláiste Gaeilge a bhunú i gCiarraí teacht le chéile, iadsan coiste feidhmeach a thabhairt le chéile agus é mar sprioc acu aontú ar aon ionad amháin don Choláiste.<sup>34</sup>

Ó tharla gur luadh An Daingean, tháinig comhfhreagraí eile, ‘A Dingleman,’ chun tosaigh le cur ar son an bhaile sin. Luaigh sé na buntáistí móra nach raibh le fáil amuigh faoin tuath: lóistín cuí a riarfadh do chuid mhór daoine; stasiún traenach; seirbhís phoist cúpla uair sa lá agus foirgneamh cuí le haghaidh an choláiste. Bhí ceist chigilteach amháin le socrú, áfach, mar atá, cé chomh Gaelach is a bhí an Daingean. Gan amhras, bhí neart Gaeilge ar an bhaile ach an raibh an baile féin Gaelach go leor? Bhí freagra ag ‘A Dingleman’ ar an scéal sin.

*If Dingle were selected as the centre for the Irish school, the presence of the students would have a very beneficial effect on the Gaelic movement*

*there, and on the inhabitants of the town itself, for goodness knows, with all due respect to them, they require some rousing influence to induce them to shake off the lethargic feeling that seems to possess them.*<sup>35</sup>

An rud is mó nár thaitin leis an chomhfhreagraí ‘A Kerryman’ faoin Daingean ná ceist seo na Gaeilge ar an bhaile.

*It does not possess the claim which is essential for the success of an Irish school, namely: it is not a thoroughly Irish-speaking locality. To say that you will find a good many people there who can speak Irish if asked, is not good enough. A student coming on his holidays wants to come across people whose everyday language it is, and does not want to be asking each person he meets – ‘Can you speak Irish please?’<sup>36</sup>*

Bhí ainm an Daingin ag teacht chun tosaigh go tréan agus, rud eile, ní dhearnadh a bheag de chompond fisiciúil na scoláirí a bheadh ag freastal ar an Choláiste sa díospóireacht.

*It ought not to be because one is desirous of acquiring a knowledge of Irish that all hope of comfort, which would make the task attractive, should be discarded. This same idea, I think, which has obtained with greater or less force up to the present, has been responsible for no small share of the lack of progress, generally speaking, of the language movement. The time for a change has arrived.<sup>37</sup>*

Cuireadh béim arís ar thábhacht Ghaelú an Daingin mar chuspóir le bunú an Choláiste ansin.

*The time is ripe for bringing the Gaelic League and Gaelic Leaguers in force into the towns. For after all is said and done the country without the towns is nowhere, especially in an intellectual movement such as the Gaelic League. Dingle just now too, it would seem, is about to lose the*

*proud distinction for which I have given it credit above, and if the establishment of this Summer School in the town would help to avert such a catastrophe, by all means apply the remedy. Prevention at any stage, remember, is better than cure.*<sup>38</sup>

An fear a chuir tús leis an díospóireacht seo, cha raibh sé sásta géilleadh. Thug sé le fios go bhféadfaí coláistí Gaeilge a thógáil i gceantair eile i gCiarraí amach anseo a raibh teist na Gaeilge orthu ach go gcaithfí dlús a chur le coláiste amháin a bhunú go gasta san áit ab fheiliúnaí fána choinne sin, mar atá, Baile na nGall.<sup>39</sup> Molann sé socrú sealadach le cúrsaí a chur sa tsiúl:

*We should endeavour to do our utmost to try and realise our object next Summer if possible. Even if we only started with a summer school this year it would mean a beginning, and we would probably be able to see our way to something better next year.*<sup>40</sup>

D'aontaigh 'Gaedheal' leis an tsocrú shealadach sin ar ball.<sup>41</sup>

*I think it may be taken for granted that the time for the establishment of an Irish School in Corca Dhuibhne has not yet arrived. 'Kerryman' seems to think so too, as he suggests... starting with a Summer School, to continue over the months of June, July and August. This to my mind, is the more feasible scheme for the present, and may be the very best preparation for the more ambitious Irish Training School.*<sup>42</sup>

Aontaíodh ar Scoil Samhraidh a chur ar siúl i mBaile na nGall sa bhliain sin agus tógadh cinneadh faoi '*establishment of a Summer School for Irish in Baile na nGall this year. If a good number of visitors from various parts of Ireland should find their way there this summer, there is no doubt but we could have an Irish Training School there in another year or two.*'<sup>43</sup> Iarradh síntiúis le cabhrú leis an fhiontar.<sup>44</sup> Seo mar a fógraíodh an t-athrú pleananna:

*An Irish School For West Kerry  
To the Editor of The Kerryman*

*Dear Sir,*

*We are sincerely thankful to all those who interested themselves in regard to having an Irish School established in Baile na nGall and, in particular to yourself, Mr. Editor, for permitting such a lengthened correspondence on the subject. That an Irish School should be established in West Kerry, all who wrote seem agreed, but we fear the diversity of opinion in regard to where it should be located has spoilt the success of the fund for Baile na nGall to a great extent.*

*We now wish to withdraw the appeal for funds, and to say that a Summer School will be held during the months of July and August in Baile na nGall, and we will do our best to satisfy those who come there in search of a knowledge of the vernacular.*

*Faithfully yours,*

*J.J. Lynch*

*John O'Dowd, Hon. Treasurers.<sup>45</sup>*

*The whole work connected with the Summer School in Baile na nGall last year was undertaken by Mr. J.T. Lynch, National Teacher at that place, and it is due to him that such a start was made.<sup>46</sup>*

Sa bhliain 1908 moladh go mbunófaí ‘*an Irish College... in the Dingle district, and now that students are thinking of going on their summer holidays that a commencement should be made this year.*’ An fear a chuir tús leis an díospóireacht tosaigh seo sa bhliain 1906, thug sé freagra air:

*We had a very long correspondence in your paper over a year ago on the very same subject. It ended by our having a Summer School in Baile na nGall during the months of July and August last year, and though the summer was an exceedingly bad one for holidays, being for the most part wet and cold, visitors from London, Lincoln, Sheffield, Dublin, Cork and Killarney found their way there.<sup>47</sup>*

Lean sé air ansin agus luaigh sé ionad don choláiste feasta agus tá a phort athraithe aige an iarraidh seo.

*The question was not finally settled as to what would be the most suitable place for establishing an Irish Training School or College. A number were in favour of the town of Dingle. I, myself, strongly favoured having the school in the most Irish-speaking village in the peninsula, having regard to postal and telegraphic facilities. I find, however, that the question of accommodation in the villages is likely to be detrimental to the success of the project we had in view.*

*I would therefore, on full consideration, suggest that the town of Dingle should be given a fair trial, and hope that everyone interested in the advancement of the Irish language will see the necessity of helping to establish a good Irish College there. Everyone who understands the question agrees that the district is one of the best in Ireland and if the College was established in Dingle no doubt it would be to the advantage of all the outlying places where Irish is spoken for visitors will, wherever the school is established, always make out and take up their residence for a time in places where the language has its strongest hold.<sup>48</sup>*

Gan amhras ní chuile dhuine a bhí sásta le roghnú an Daingin:

*It is, besides, the capital of one of the most Irish-speaking districts in Ireland. Some of the finest Irish speakers living can be found in the town. It is sad to think that, in nine cases out of ten, their children know no more of the language of their fathers, than their fathers, in a good many cases, do of theirs. In Dingle we are*

*unable to uphold a Gaelic League class, though Feis Dhaingin Uí Chúise is said to equal the Oireachtas. The country people, both young and old, still love the old tongue, but the youth of the town are all careless of its existence, save a few real, earnest workers who are thought 'odd' on account of their love of Erin's language, manners and customs. The aristocracy hold their annual ball at the opening and closing of the 'season' (go bhfóiridh Dia orainn!), and we fear that the 'mere Irish' vie with each other for their smiles and patronage. Concerts and other amusements of the kind are held fairly often, and, in justice to the performers, let it be said, they often show exceptionally good merit. What a pity that 'coon' and music-hall songs often find a place in programmes of Dingle concerts! Dingle owns a good football team that glories in the very Irish (?) name of 'Gascons.' In the local papers they are called 'sturdy Gascon-men' from the 'Gascon country.' O, shade of Naomh Branndán! O, spirit of Piaras Feiritéir! Weep, weep. O, ye Irish dead. Corc Uí Dhuibhne that you loved has died with you. Now 'Gascony' claims you. And, in the very field that those Franco-Gaelic players practise in, the ladies of Dingle played, during last summer, golf, basket-ball (never heard of this before), and commenced camóguigheacht, but soon gave it over, owing to the very good reason that it stiffened their fingers. This Anglo-Franco-Gaelic field still exists. I wonder will the pastimes of any additional nations be introduced this year? – The Holy Stone<sup>49</sup>*

I measc na ndaoine a thug tacaíocht láidir don Daingean ar an ócáid bhí Pádraig Ó Duinnín agus is cinnte gur tugadh cluas dó:

Ní dóigh liom go bhfuil áit i nÉirinn níos oireamhnaighe do scoil Ghaedhealaigh ná an Daingean nó áit éigin i dtaobh thiar de cois fairrge. Is tearc ball i nÉirinn is deise ná an ball céadna soin. Is tearc ball go bhfuil an oiread de shéadchomharthaidhibh ann. Agus tá blas agus bail ar an nGaedhilg ann má tá a leithéididhe le fagháil i n-aon bhall i nÉirinn. Ní Gaedhealg *rude* atá innte leis aca

san áit sin acht Gaedhealg fhearamhail láidir acfuinneach, Gaedhealg mhilis bhríogmhar cheolmhar, Gaedhealg go bhfuil blas na fairrge uirthé, Gaedhealg go bhfuil cumhracht bhláth an fhraoigh ag leanamhaint di.

Dá dtéidheadh duine óg – níor ghábhadh dhó nó dhi bheith ‘n-a leanbh – go dtí an ball soin agus fanamhaint ann ar feadh an tsamhraidh, thiocfadh sé nó sí abhaile agus greim daingean aige nó aice ar an nGaedhilg.<sup>50</sup>

Rinneadh cruinniú mór a thionól ar 24.6.08 le plé cuimsitheach a dhéanamh ar Scoil Samhraidh an Daingin.<sup>51</sup> I láthair bhí: *Very Rev. P. Canon O’Leary, D.D., P.P., V.F., in the Chair; Fr. Brennan, Tralee, Fr. Moriarty, Dingle, Messrs. T. O’Donoghue, T.J. Baker, M.C.C., Michael O’Connor, N.T., Lispole, T. Brookes, National Bank, T. Galvin, D.C., Michael McDonnell, Keelnagleragh, John O’Donnell, Michael Kelliher, J. Begley, James Long, Jeremiah Gould, Dr. McGuire, Henry O’Donoghue, G. Johnston, P. Corkery etc.*<sup>52</sup> Socraíodh go mbeadh dhá sheisiún ann sa bhliain sin 1908. Mhairfeadh gach ceann ceithre seachtaine. An chéad cheann ó 15 Iúil go dtí 15 Lúnasa agus an dara ceann ó 17 Lúnasa go dtí 17 Meán Fómhair. Fuarthas foirgneamh breá áisiúil fá choinne na scoile – *‘Beautiful premises have been secured within three minutes’ walk of the railway station – large, airy and commodious.*<sup>53</sup> I gcónaí nuair a chuirtear síos ar na coláistí sin agus an áit ina raibh siad lonnaithe, níthí áibhéil mhór á moladh maidir le háilleacht tírdhreacha, aeráide srl.<sup>54</sup> Ní raibh an Daingean ina eisceacht.

*A magnificent view of Dingle harbour, and the beautiful country districts beyond, can be obtained from the rear window of the classrooms, while from the front and side windows to the north and east, a long chain of hills can be seen with fresh green fields lying in calm repose at their base. Truly an ideal place for the student of Irish, for here in these splendid, airy, lightsome classrooms, his brow will be fanned, and his jaded nerves braced up by the refreshing and invigorating breezes from sea or mountain, while he is engaging in such a difficult task as endeavouring to acquire a new language. This in itself should be a great inducement to intending students of Irish to spend a session or two at the Dingle School of Irish this year.*<sup>55</sup>



Rinneadh cur síos moltach ansin ar shaibhreas cultúrtha, staire, seandálaíochta agus Gaeilge an cheantair. Dá gcuirfí raca ar Éirinn ní bhfaighfeá sárú na háite seo, dar leo. Cuimhnítear go raibh an coláiste úr seo ag tosú amach san obair seo, go raibh na coláistí eile ar fud na tíre seanbhunaithe faoin am seo agus iomrá orthu i bhfad is i gcéin cheana. Bhí bolscaireacht láidir ag teastáil chun daoine a mhealladh chuig a gcuid cúrsaí. Rinneadh trácht ar an chlár teagaisc.

*The services of exceedingly capable teachers have been secured, whose experience of up-to-date methods of language teaching has extended over several years. The teaching will be done chiefly on the Direct Method so as to facilitate the pupils in their efforts to acquire a spoken knowledge of Irish and also to enable them to understand and be understood to some extent when going amongst Irish speakers.<sup>56</sup>*

Iarradh síntiúis le haghaidh na scoile agus fógraíodh go rabhthas réidh le dul i mbun oibre. Is féidir sonraí agus taifid oifigiúla a fháil faoin scoil don bhliain sin agus sna blianta a lean, ach is maith an rud i gcónaí cuntas comhaimseartha a fháil ó dhuine a bhí ag freastal ar chúrsa ansin. Tá a leithéid againn i gcás scoil an Daingin. Bolscaireacht mhór ar son na gColáistí Gaeilge a bhí ina leithéidí.<sup>57</sup>

#### *DINGLE SUMMER SCHOOL OF IRISH*

*Dear Sir,*

*Perhaps a few lines from me as a student of the above-named school may be useful to some of your readers.*

*Some weeks ago I determined to attend a summer school of Irish for a session, and the puzzle then was what school to select. I decided on going to Dingle. Now that I am here over a week, I must say I am very pleased at the decision I came to. Splendid accommodation and board at a very reasonable rate are easily procured*

*quite convenient to the school. The school had been used till lately as a private residence; it is a two-storeyed house, and contains a large number of commodious rooms and out-offices, and is an ideal house for a school. The owner intends furnishing it in the near future, and so convert it into a kind of residential college. The school is in the upper storey, and one does not suffer in the least from confinement, but feels as fresh at the close as if he were the whole time in the open air. It is situated at the lower side of the town, just beside the sea. The principal teacher, Mr. O'Flynn, is kindly, clever and full of energy. How he works! He is so enthusiastic that there is not a minute idled, and it was no easy matter to get him to forego the third meeting on Saturday. There are three meetings per day – one from 10 to 12, another from 1 to 2, and the third from 4 to 6; and among our students is the venerable Pastor of Dingle, Canon O'Leary. The Dingle people, as a rule, all speak Irish; they speak English also, but not so well or so fluently. Saturday last was a fair day here, and when passing through and back to our morning and mid-day classes it was a real treat to hear the crowds of buyers and sellers despatching their business in the beautiful language of the Gael, and among the very large number of Mass-goers on Sunday I could hear the sounds of animated conversation in the native tongue on every side.*

*We get an occasional visitor at the school. A native of Kerry, after thirty years spent in America, paid us a visit, and gave us a splendid speech in Irish. One would imagine that he had been practising his native language all the time he was away, so fluently did he speak it. He expressed his delight at finding on his return a school for Irish in his native county, and said that it was by means of Irish our ancient faith and love of country would be both preserved. And we had a visit from a Ballyferriter farmer named Liam Crich. Mr. O'Flynn even was surprised at the richness of this good man's effusions. How the sounds of his oratory reverberated round the large class-room! There was here no hesitancy or delay in the choice of words, and language (native of course) rolled from him as water from a rushing torrent. He gave us an account of the battle of Clontarf, touched on historic events in Ireland since, and said that even here, round his own parish, the beautiful old tongue was on the wane. He exhorted us to do all we could to preserve and*

*propagate it, and he would give us his blessing, and he prayed that God may also specially bless us as a reward for the good work in which we were engaged. He reminded me of the old man in the song Bodenstown Churchyard, blessing the band who came to raise a monument to Wolfe Tone's memory. We had a visit from Mr. Tom O'Donnell, M.P., on Monday, who addressed a meeting of the townspeople same evening on behalf of the Dingle School of Irish.*

*Dingle is easily accessible, and the scenery on both sides of the Tralee and Dingle Railway is very striking. There is good sea-bathing, some beautiful cycling runs, taking in Ventry Harbour, Sleá and Dunmore Heads, with the Blaskets in the distance, the beehive houses and the Gallarus Oratory, Ballyferriter, Smerwick Harbour etc. Hill and mountain-climbing, sculling and yachting, can be indulged to any extent but, of course, one has not time for all these entertainments while attending school, and I only mention them to show that one's spare and recreation moments may easily and profitably be filled in.*

*I must say I am very pleased I selected Dingle and, if I can, I intend to remain for most or some of the second session. In any case I hope to visit Dingle again, to answer again the roll-call of its school of Irish, to be better able to hold converse with the kindly natives, and to feast my eyes once more on the beautiful scenery profusely surrounding Daingean Uí Chúise. - Liam de Búrca<sup>58</sup>*

Rud eile, níorbh fhiú tráithnín aon choláiste Gaeilge mura ndéanfaí comóradh air i bhfoirm na filíochta.

*SCOIL SAMHRAIDH AN DAINGIN  
(DINGLE SUMMER SCHOOL)*

*Tadhg Ó Foghludha a Scríobh  
(Timothy Foley that Wrote)*

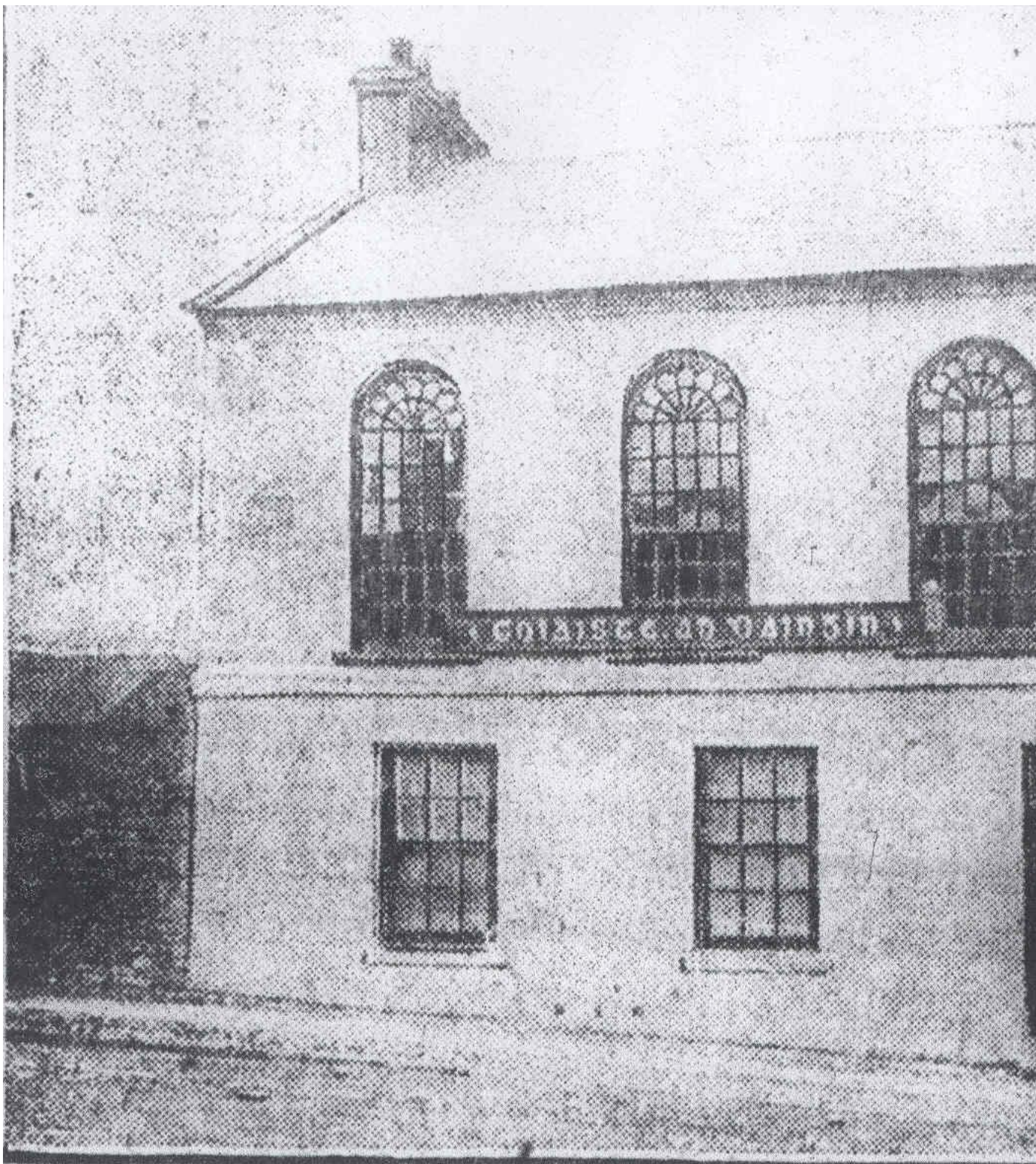
*Maiseadh, a cháirde, tá an samhradh go breágh ‘gainn,  
Is téanam ‘dtí an Daingean gan mhoill –  
Feuch an scoil árd tá thíos cois na trágha ann,  
‘S an Ghaoluinn dá múineadh ann go fíor.  
Táid na scoláirí go fonnmhar ann cnuasda  
‘S iad ag foghlam, gach lá is gach oidhch’,  
Ár dteanga binn milis chun labhartha  
‘S í aithbheochaint arís tríd an tír.*

*Feuch Mícheál ag cur ailuir ga reamhas<sup>59</sup> de,  
Is an leabhairín beag uaithne ‘na láimh,  
Gan caipín gan hata ar a mhaol-cheann  
‘S é ‘múineadh an Mhódh’ Dírigh thar bharr.  
Feuch ag scríobhadh é go fíochmhar ar chlár dubh,  
Is a smuainte go cruinn ar an gceacht,  
Is an chaint uaidh ag gluaiseacht go sár tiugh,  
Nór ataigh<sup>60</sup> deagh-labhartha ‘nár measg.*

*Tá cailíní ró-dheas, grádhmhar, macánta ann,  
‘S iad ag éisteacht, ag caint ‘s a’ cómhradh;  
Go scléipeach go meidhreach scafánta  
Ag gríosughadh do chroidhe ‘stigh le grádh.  
Tá a bpíobáí chómh geal leis a’ sneachta,  
‘S ar a leacnaibh tá fíor-dhath an róis;  
‘S is breágh áluinn iad a gceannacha,  
A mbéilíní, a súilíní, ‘s a snódh.*

*Tá buachaillí sultmhara caomha ann,  
Lán de scléip is de spórt is de ghreann,  
‘S iad ag obair go dícheall le saothar,*

*Ag léigheamh is ag cantan 's ag damhas.  
'S iad na buachaillí bhíodhgfadh an intinn  
Is d'árdóchadh do smuainte le fonn;  
Chun seasamh go fíor le n-ár dtír bhocht,  
Is an Beurla go deo chaitheamh uainn.<sup>61</sup>*



**The Irish College, Dingle, Co. Kerry.**

Scoil Samhraidh an Daingin, 1908

**THE DINGLE SUMMER SCHOOL OF IRISH**

Will open on

July 15<sup>th</sup>, 1908

THERE WILL BE TWO SESSIONS

The first from JULY 15<sup>th</sup> to AUGUST 15<sup>th</sup>, and the second from AUGUST 17<sup>th</sup> to  
September 17<sup>th</sup>.

Fee for One Session, £1, for 2 Sessions, £1 10s.

Irish spoken in the town every day. Fine school-rooms. First-class teachers.

Splendid surroundings. Beautiful scenery. Interesting old ruins, ancient monuments, and historic battle-fields can be visited daily. Come to Dingle. You shall never regret it. First rate accommodation in the families of Irish speakers at moderate charge.

Dúirt ‘Muimhneach,’ colúnaí Gaeilge an *Cork Examiner*, an méid seo a leanas fán scoil sa bhliain 1908:

Do bhí scoil samhraidh acu sa Daingean anuraidh agus do chím trácht ar an scoil sin i ndiaidh múinteora dá raibh ann. Deir sé gur chuaigh daoine chun na scoile sin tar éis dóibh bheith ar chuid de na coláistí eile Gaeilge agus gur bhreá leo scoil an Daingin tar éis na coda eile.<sup>62</sup>

Ar na daoine a raibh baint acu le luathstair an choláiste bhí: Mícheál Ó Floinn, An Seabhac, Pádraig Ó Corcraigh, Seán Ó Catháin, Pádraig Pléimeann srl.

Faoi lucht teagaisc na chéad bhliana, scríobh Donnchadh Ua Loingsigh:

*Mícheál Ua Floinn and Pádraig Ua Corcraigh, both native speakers and experienced teachers, conduct the classes on the most progressive, up-to-date methods. Traditional singing is taught by Mrs. O'Flynn and Mr. Fleming, Killarney. The Very Rev. Canon O'Leary is President of the Committee of Management, and under his sympathetic direction Dingle School bids fair to rival her elder sisters of Ballingearry and Ring.*<sup>63</sup>

Bhí daoine eile ann a raibh dlúthbhaint acu leis an choláiste agus a raibh ardchéimíocht acu i saol na Gaeilge. Bhí baint ag an Seabhac leis an choláiste ar feadh na mblianta fada agus bhí baint aige lena bhunú.<sup>64</sup> Pádraig Ó Corcraigh a bhí ar an fhoireann teagaisc, ceapadh é ina mhúinteoir taistil i nDaingean Uí Chúise sa bhliain 1907.<sup>65</sup> Bhí Seán Ó Catháin<sup>66</sup> ina phríomhoide ar Choláiste an Daingin 1911-2. Bhí dlúthbhaint aige roimhe sin le Coláiste na Mumhan agus le Coláiste Chomhghaill i mBéal Feirste.<sup>67</sup> Bhí Tomás Ó Domhnaill ar choiste bainistíochta an Choláiste ó 1910 amach.<sup>68</sup> Bhí Seán Ó Ciosáin ina ollamh ansin sa bhliain 1924.<sup>69</sup> B'fhiú go mór liosta cuimsitheach a dhéanamh de lucht teagaisc agus de lucht foghlama an Choláiste thar na blianta le léargas ceart a fháil ar éifeacht an Choláiste i saol na Gaeilge agus i sochaí na hÉireann.

Tugann an cuntas seo a leanas ó dhuine a rinne freastal ar chúrsa ansin blas éigin dúinn ar an áit, ar na daoine a d'fhreastail ar chúrsaí ansin agus ar an dóchas náisiúnaíoch Gaelach a speag na Coláistí Gaeilge seo sna daoine a thug cuairt orthu.

*And then what genial companions one meets with at these Irish Colleges. I have often thought that the Saxon tongue is a mantle that has never sat gracefully on the Irishman. He seems to act with infinitely more grace and charm and refinement when wearing the old robe of a gentler speech. I have met the gentle Redemptorist Father from Limerick, imbued with the true spirit of piety and charity, all aflame*



*with the new spirit abroad in Ireland. I have met the University Professor from Washington, come to the land of his ancestors after having travelled and studied in many lands, alert with all the buoyant spirit of a young lad, kind, courteous, unassuming. I have met the Professor from Dublin who watched by the cradle of the new movement, and whose pleasant laugh and genial companionship will be a pleasant memory with many of us in days to come. I have met them all – the stranger and the native – true ladies and gentlemen: fired with a noble zeal for our country and its glory; pioneers whose work, like circles in the water, will ever widen and boom on distant shores when we are long forgotten. God's blessing be with them all and their work now and forever. – Sráid a' Mhuilinn<sup>70</sup>*

Agus cuntas spéisiúil eile ón taobh istigh arís:

*Of course, the real criterion of the genuine success of a Gaelic College is the nature and extent of the work done by its students after they leave the College classrooms. Whilst granting this, it is undoubtedly possible to judge fairly accurately as to the success of a Coláiste by noting the number of its students, the measure of their enthusiasm and progress, and also the quality of the teaching. As to the latter, I merely note in passing that when a young College like that of Dingle, though not far distant from the long-established and well-know Colleges of Ballingearry and Ring, can, in the first week of this session, number eighty students, and in the second week (as I am credibly informed) close on one hundred – well, in such a case, one may naturally conclude that all those students have not come here merely because the 'wild sea waves' and the Gaoluinn are all round us, unrivalled though these latter attractions may be. Yes, Coláiste an Daingin, students throng your classrooms, and they are appreciative and enthusiastic students who will bear to many a remote glen, and to many a College hall, the much-needed lessons of your painstaking professors.*

*Let no-one try to picture to the outside world the life which prevails at a Gaelic College. It can't be done. When I tell you that our work from 9.30 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. (with a short break or two) proceeds day by day with all the method,*

*punctuality and attention to detail of a big academy (but with probably ten times its earnestness), you think that we are all machines and that this is 'hard labour.' It is the very reverse, my friend. The enthusiasm is not confined within the College walls. Note those groups of students leaving the little town this evening. With textbooks in hand, little bands go out to the cliffs, where, heedless of the Atlantic's roar, they prepare the morrow's lessons like little children. Many are off to converse in the soft Gaelic, which, a little outside the town, is the language of old and young. What of those four or five in yonder sheltered cove? If you go over you will see there a nervous young man rehearsing to a few intimate friends (whom he never saw until a few days previously) the lesson which he must teach at tomorrow's dreaded 'criticism.' The rehearsal is often interrupted with advice from his sympathizers, and he must, poor chap, frequently refer to these elaborate notes of his.*

*There is recreation of a cunningly devised kind. We all go for a walking excursion, and before we know what is happening one of our professors is relating some local legend, or unfolding from an Ogham stone the genealogy of some remote ancestor of ours. Some sixty of us go for an innocent drive one Sunday morning. For miles and miles we have a splendid view of the Atlantic. We stop just opposite the Blaskets. The College cailíní have arranged just the right sort of lunch in a sweet kitchen close by. We come out to find quite a crowd awaiting us. There are songs and dances, and on the way home it leaks out that the whole invasion of that peaceful district was planned, for organizing purposes, by him of the Oghams! 'Is fada a bheidh muintir an ghleanna ag caint ar an lá inniu,' he whispers. But we forgive him, for we never spent a more glorious day. Ah, but the parting a week hence, and going back to the world again. – MAQUI<sup>71</sup>*

Tharla sé i gcás coláistí Gaeilge eile gur chuidigh na coláistí le Gaelachas ceantair a neartú agus a láidriú, mar a thugann Caitlín Nic Ghabhann, bean a raibh cur amach aici ar Choláistí Gaeilge, le fios dúinn in alt léi:

Nearthuighthear agus leathnuighthear spiorad na Gaedhilge ar fud ceantair an Choláisde ó bhliadhain go bliadhain. Cuirtear suim ag na daoinibh i ngach a mbaineann le hÉireann. Cuirtear greann agus siamsa agus spóirt ar bun dóibh. Sgairtear abhráin Gaedhilge agus eolas ar dhamhsaibh na hÉireann i n-a measg. Cuirtear sompla rómpa ar céard is caitheamh-aimsire Gaedhealacha ann, agus fásann toradh d’á réir as an obair san ngeimhreadh, nuair nach mbíonn an Coláisde ann. Na Gaedhil duthracha a bhíos ar na gColáisde, bíd mar a bhéadh timthrí ag dul thart imeasg na ndaoine ghá spreagadh chun Gaedhilg a labhairt le n-a gclann srl. Chor leis sin, cuirtear athrughadh intinne ortha siúd a cheapas nach bhfuil aon mheas ar an nGaedhilg, nach gabhadh Gaedhilg bheith ag duine le slighe-bheatha do bhaint amach, nuair feictear na céadta duine ag teacht gach bliadhain ar lorg Gaedhilge, cuid aca as grádh do’n Ghaedhilg, cuid eile mar gheall ar í bheith riachtanach chun slighe-bheatha do bhaint amach.<sup>72</sup>

Tháinig fás agus forbairt ar Scoil an Daingin ó bhliain go bliain<sup>73</sup> agus méadú dá réir ar líon na scoláirí: 25 sa chéad bhliain, 45 an dara bliain, 120 an tríú bliain, 205 sa bhliain 1911 agus 220 sa bhliain 1912.<sup>74</sup> Dálta na gColáistí Gaeilge eile, d’imir Scoil an Daingin ról tábhachtach i stair agus i bhforbairt na Gaeilge ar bhealaí éagsúla. Níl an cháil chéanna ar Scoil an Daingin agus atá ar Choláistí Gaeilge eile a bunaíodh le roinnt blianta roimhe sin agus is é sin is cúis, cuid mhaith, leis an easpa eolais fúithi. Is mithid anois, céad bliain tar éis a bunaithe, stair iomlán na Scoile a scríobh neamhspleách ar an chonspóid a bhain lena bunú.

[Foilsíodh an t-alt seo ar *Irisleabhar Mhá Nuad* (2008) 9-37.]

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<sup>1</sup> Thugtaí ainmneacha éagsúla ar an choláiste seo, mar atá: The Dingle Summer School of Irish / Scoil Samhraidh an Daingin, Coláiste an Daingin, Scoil Ghaeilge an Daingin, Scoil Samhraidh Dhaingean Uí Chúise. Níor lia coláiste ná teideal ar fud na tíre: coláiste / scoil samhraidh / m(h)úinteoireachta / traenála / G(h)aeilge srl.

<sup>2</sup> Cúige Uladh, Chonnacht, Mumhan agus Laighean.

<sup>3</sup> Dún na nGall, Maigh Eo, Corcaigh agus Port Láirge.

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<sup>4</sup> Coláistí Geimhridh a bhí i gColáiste Chomhghaill, Béal Feirste, agus Coláiste Laighean, Baile Átha Cliath.

<sup>5</sup> Eisceacht a bhí i gColáiste na gCeithre Máistrí, Leitir Ceanainn, Co. Dhún na nGall, óir bhíodh sé ar siúl i rith an tsamhraidh, bhain sé le baile mór gallda agus bhí sé ar an dara Coláiste Múinteoireachta Gaeilge a bunaíodh in aon chontae amháin sa bhliain 1906.

<sup>6</sup> Tá caibidil ar na Coláistí Samhraidh ag Donncha Ó Súilleabháin ina leabhar *Athbheochan na Gaeilge: Cnuasach Aistí* (Conradh na Gaeilge, 1998) 103-41.

<sup>7</sup> **Cuimhnítear go raibh Scoil Saoire i nDaingean Uí Chúise roinnt blianta roimhe sin. Bhí an fógra seo a leanas ar *An Claidheamh Soluis* (9.7.04, 9):** ‘Aoinne go bhfuil fonn air Gaodhaluinn fhoghlaim ‘sa cheart, tagadh sé go dtí Daingean Uí Chúise.

Tá an t-aer chómh folláin sin ann ná meathann aon nídh ann acht an Béarla.

Tá lóistín le fagháil ann ar fheabhas. Tá Gaodhaluinn ‘ghá labhairt ann ag óg & aosta, & sin í an Ghaodhaluinn bhlasda. Ní’l aon áit i gCúige Mumhan nó dá ndéarfainn i nÉirinn níos Gaodhaluighe ná Daingean Uí Chúise, & an ceantar mór-thimcheall air. Tá an Daingean ar bhruach na fairrge, & is breagh folláin an áit é.... Tá an sgoil fé chúram Dhiarmuada Uí Síothcháin, múinteoir Gaedhilge. Tá Gaodhaluinn, rínice, abhráil & aithristí dhá mhúineadh ann. Sgríobhaighidh go dtí:- Diarmuid Ó Síothcháin, Múinteoir Gaedhilge, Sráid an t-Srutháin, Daingean Uí Chúise.

<sup>8</sup> Ní gá trácht a dhéanamh anseo ar an neamart a rinneadh sa Ghaeilge faoin Bhord Náisiúnta ón tús ach, chomh maith leis sin, dar le F.S.L. Lyons in *Ireland Since the Famine* (Fontana Press, 1985) 89: ‘*Irish history was virtually ignored and Irish music and poetry might never have existed.*’ Mar léargas breise ar an ráiteas sin, breathnaítear ar an tuairisc seo a leanas a foilsíodh ar an ***Irish Independent*** (22.8.08) 5: *Book That Was Banned: Public attention has recently been directed in the Press and in Parliament to the order of the National Education Commissioners forbidding, for political and religious reasons the further use of Browne and Nolan’s Advanced National Reader in their schools... The portions objected to are extracts from poems by Mangan and D.F. McCarthy, and from historical works by the Archbishop of Tuam dealing with the wars of O’Neill and O’Donnell against Elizabeth’s soldiers. These extracts the Secretary of the Imperial Protestant Federation, in a published letter, declared to be calculated to incite Irish youths to sentiments of disloyalty and rebellion against British rule in Ireland.*

Dúirt Mícheál Ó Ciosáin faoin Bhord Náisiúnta Oideachais in *Céad Bliain 1871-1971* (Oidhreacht Chorca Dhuibhne, 2005) 115: ‘Tá sé lán-deimhneach go raibh Coimisinéirí an Oideachais Náisiúnta go láidir i gcoinne na teanga, i gcoinne sheanchas na tíre a bheith á mhúineadh agus i gcoinne gach gné de chultúr Gael amháil agus nárbh náisiún in aon chor í Éire.’

Chuir An Craoibhín Aoibhinn síos go héifeachtach ar cheist an oideachais in Éirinn ar an *Irish Independent*, 15.6.14, 7: ‘*The idea of a fitting Irish education should be – an Ireland thinking its own thoughts, speaking its own language, writing its own books, singing its own songs, liting its own music, playing its own games – if possible, smoking its own tobacco, burning its own coal, and teaching its own education in its own schools.*’

Scriobh ‘Ultach’ faoin bhunscolaíocht a fuair sé ag deireadh an naoú haois déag: ‘*The accursed system which robbed me of my birthright of history, legend, folklore, music, nature worship, love of Ireland, and national self-regard.*’ (*The Leader*, 19.10.18, 355).

<sup>9</sup> Dúradh an méid seo a leanas maidir le dea-thionchar Choláiste an Daingin ar mhuintir an cheantair sin ar *The Leader*, 2.7.10, 464: ‘*The establishment of an Irish College in the district came not a moment too soon. Anglicisation was year by year increasing its hold upon Dingle town, and it was only a matter of time until its evil influence would permeate the country round. The great success of the Dingle College last year, in what was practically the first year of its existence, came as a pleasant surprise to all concerned, and is a most hopeful omen for the future.*’

<sup>10</sup> Tá alt spéisiúil ar an téad seo ag T.G. McMahon faoin teideal ‘To Mould an Important body of Shepherds: the Gaelic Summer Colleges and the Teaching of Irish History’ in L.W. McBride, (eag.), *Reading Irish Histories, Texts, Contexts and Memory in Modern Ireland* (Four Courts Press, 2003) 118-39. Is fiú Éamon de Valera a lua sa chomhthéacs seo óir bhí baint aigesean le trí cinn de Choláistí Gaeilge, mar atá, Coláiste Chonnacht (Tuar Mhic Éadaigh), Tamhain agus Coláiste Laighean.

<sup>11</sup> Ábhar iontais é nach ndéantar tagairt in Valerie Jones, *A Gaelic Experiment: the Preparatory System 1926-1961 and Coláiste Moibhí* (The Woodfield Press, 2006) don obair cheannródaíochta a rinne na coláistí sin sular bunaíodh na Coláistí Ullmhúcháin.

<sup>12</sup> Táthar ann a chreideann gur mhó an spéis a bhí ag lucht na Gaeilge sa Ghaeilge ná i muintir na Gaeltachta féin. Mar shampla, nuair a bhí galar agus fiabhras fada leitheadach i gConamara sa bhliain 1913 agus aird na meán i bhfad is i gcéin tarraingthe ar an ghéirchéim seo, foilsíodh an litir seo a leanas ón Ollamh Tomás Ó Máille ar an *Irish Independent* (16.5.13): ‘*The district affected is probably the most Irish-speaking in Ireland. Every death means an Irish speaker lost. One of the most practical methods of saving the language is to try and save the individuals who speak it.*’

<sup>13</sup> Brian Mac Giolla Phádraig, *Feasta* (Márta, 1952) 14.

<sup>14</sup> Tá tagairt déanta ag Pádraig Mac Fhearghusa do na scoileanna seo i gCiarraí in *Conradh na Gaeilge i gCiarraí: A History of the Gaelic League in Kerry* (Coiste Dúiche Chiarraí de Chonradh na Gaeilge, 1995) 26.

<sup>15</sup> *The Irish Catholic*, 2.12.05, 1.

Béarla ar fad beagnach a úsáideadh sna cuntais uilig ar irisí agus nuachtáin faoi ábhar na haiste seo céad bliain ó shin. Béarla an meán cumarsáide ba choitianta fiú amháin faoi chúrsaí Gaeilge sa tréimhse sin ar chúiseanna éagsúla.

<sup>16</sup> Ní miste a lua anseo, b’fhéidir, go ndeirtear gur aithris a bhí sna Coláistí Gaeilge seo ar a macasamhail sa Bhreatain Bheag ón bhliain 1903. Féach, Proinsias Mac Aonghusa, *Ar Son na Gaeilge: Conradh na Gaeilge, 1893-1993 Stair Sheanchais* (Conradh na Gaeilge, 1993) 122-3.

Ar an téad seo fosta ní miste an cuntas seo a leanas ó Sheoirse Ó Muanáin ar an *Irish Independent* (13.12.15, 3) faoi na Coláistí Gaeilge a lua anseo: ‘*It is necessary to make clear that each of those Colleges is an independent and self-governing body, governed and managed by its own Committee. Each one is the result of spontaneous effort. They are not controlled by the Gaelic League, and for[m] no part of its organisation. They are purely academical bodies which have confined themselves to, and concentrated themselves upon, this definite work of training teachers of Irish. The only formal bond of union between them is the ‘Conference of Irish Colleges’ which latterly has only met at occasional intervals. Financial and other responsibility rests solely upon the Committee of each individual College... For the present... the Irish Colleges are supplying a defect in our educational system. They are providing qualified teachers to meet a general demand.*’

<sup>17</sup> Scriobhadh an méid seo a leanas faoin teideal ‘Gaelic Doings’ ar *The Irish School Weekly* (4.1.08, 636): ‘*The strong feeling that now exists in favour of the teaching of the National Language requires that such teaching must be effective. Teaching of an effective kind can only be done by teachers who have been thoroughly trained on the best and most modern methods. As a result of the attention which those interested in the Language Movement have been forced to pay to methods of language teaching the voluntary Gaelic Training Colleges have upon their staffs the best equipped experts in language teaching, and in them are practised the most approved and most developed methods.*’

<sup>18</sup> B’fhurasta teist Ghaeilge a chur ar Chiarraí mar a rinne ‘Muimhneach,’ colúnaí Gaeilge, ar *The Cork Examiner*, 19.6.09, 10: ‘Is i gCiarraidhe atá Gaedhilg na Mumhan. Is ann a labhrann na leanbhaí Gaedhilg, agus is ann atá an dá theangain ins na sgoileannaibh. Is as a thagann *An Lóchrann* agus is ann a gheimid ar gcuid múinteoirí Gaedhilge. Dá mbéadh an Ghaedhilge ag dul chun báis i gCúige Mumhan is i gCiarraidhe is déanaidhe do gheobhadh sí bás, & má tá sé i ndán dhi éirighe is ins an gConntae sin is tuisge a leathanófar í agus a churfar dá labhairt í.’

<sup>19</sup> I gcás Cho. na Gaillimhe, cuireadh tús le Coláiste Thamhna sa bhliain 1909 agus Coláiste Chonnacht (uimh. 2) ar an Spidéal. Cuireadh tús le Coláiste Eoghain Uí Chomhraí i gCo. an Chláir – nuair a bhí Gaeltacht ansin – sa bhliain 1911.

<sup>20</sup> *The Kerryman*, 24.11.06, 1. Bíonn caint áibhéalach den chineál seo ar siúl ag muintir na Gaeltachta ar son a gcuid ceantar féin i gcónaí.

<sup>21</sup> *The Kerryman*, 1.12.06, 1.

<sup>22</sup> 3.11.06, 1.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> *The Kerryman*, 10.11.06, 1.

<sup>26</sup> *The Kerryman*, 17.11.06, 1.

<sup>27</sup> *The Kerryman*, 1.12.06, 1.

<sup>28</sup> Is fiú a lua anseo gur thosaigh ‘Kerryman’ ar fheachtas náisiúnta ar mhaithe le coláiste Gaeilge i gCiarraí nuair a foilsíodh píosa leis ar *The Leader*, 1.12.06, 238.

<sup>29</sup> *The Kerryman*, 8.12.06, 1.

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<sup>30</sup> *The Kerryman*, 15.12.06, 1. Scríobh ‘Gaedheal Thuaithe an méid seo a leanas ar *The Leader*, 9.2.07, 408-9:

*And an ideal spot for an Irish School Baile na nGall would be. The neighbourhood abounds in memorials of our past history. Within a radius of two miles of the place are the ruins of the ancient church of Kilmalkedar, the Oratory and the Castle of Gallerus, and clusters of the beehive-shaped houses belonging to a remote age. In the near distance are the ruins of Ferriter’s Castle, and Fort del Or, which witnessed the treacherous breaking of the Saxon’s pledged word almost as soon as uttered, is within easy reach. Verily, Baile na nGall is rich in historical associations. What is, perhaps, more to the present purpose, everybody in the place is a native Irish speaker. Nobody who has not spent some time in the place can have an adequate idea of the extent to which Irish is spoken there. Is not this just what is required to recommend it as a suitable site for an Irish School? The students will, perforce, have to depend on their Irish when holding any communication with the inhabitants of the district during the time they are in attendance at the school. They will hear the language spoken in all its purity by old and young, and cannot fail to profit largely therefrom.*

<sup>31</sup> Litir ó ‘Fair Play,’ *The Kerryman*, 5.1.07, 1.

<sup>32</sup> *The Kerryman*, 2.2.07, 1. Tá leasú beag déanta agam ar an Ghaeilge sa phíosa seo ach ní raibh clódóireacht Ghaeilge sna nuachtáin Bhéarla thar mholadh beirte ag an am sin.

<sup>33</sup> *The Kerryman*, 6.4.07, 1.

<sup>34</sup> *The Kerryman*, 20.4.07, 1. Tá Eoghan Ó Neachtain ar an phort chéanna ina cholún ar an *Irish Independent* (28.5.13, 4) cúpla bliain ina dhiaidh sin: ‘Maith mar tharla Coláiste le Gaedhilg do bheith ‘n-a leithéid sin de thír. Pé beag nó mór de Ghalldachas tháinig i gCorca Dhuibhne, tá de laige ann fós nár dheacair an ruaig do chur ar fad air as an áit sin. Níl aon ní is fearr chun an ruaig sin do chur air ná slugh daoine do theacht d’fhoghlaim na Gaedhilge ann; & le linn dóibh bheith ag a dhéanamh sin, go ndéanaidís teagasg & deagh shompla do lucht na tíre.’

<sup>35</sup> *The Kerryman*, 27.4.07, 1.

<sup>36</sup> *The Kerryman*, 4.5.07, 1.

<sup>37</sup> *The Kerryman*, 11.5.07, 1.

<sup>38</sup> *The Kerryman*, 11.5.07, 1.

<sup>39</sup> *The Kerryman*, 2.2.07, 1.

<sup>40</sup> *The Kerryman*, 2.2.07, 1.

<sup>41</sup> *The Kerryman*, 16.2.07, 1.

<sup>42</sup> *The Kerryman*, 23.2.07, 1.

<sup>43</sup> *The Leader*, 9.3.07, 44.

<sup>44</sup> *The Kerryman*, 23.3.07, 1.

<sup>45</sup> *The Kerryman*, 8.6.07, 1.

<sup>46</sup> *The Kerryman*, 23.5.08, 1.

<sup>47</sup> *The Kerryman*, 23.5.08, 1.

<sup>48</sup> *The Kerryman*, 23.5.08, 1.

<sup>49</sup> *The Leader*, 9.5.08, 185-6. Is fiú an aiste le B.P. ‘Life in Dingle as described by a Girl There’ ar *The Leader*, 13.9.19, 134-5, a lua anseo:

*‘Yes, I live here always, a wild Kerry goat, shut in by the hills all round, and I tell you it is slow. Everywhere outside the town the people talk nothing but Irish, but we Dingle girls know better than that. We want fun, and jazz, and all that sort of thing. Do many people in Dingle know Irish? Yerra, they don’t. Only those from the district who married into the town, and they quickly drop it. None of the best people speak it here, so why should we? Do I know any? What do you think of this? (Here followed a set piece like a firework display.) Sounds as if I had it off by heart? Well, to tell you the truth, you’re quite right. Some of the boys here are very keen on Irish, though. My brother knew a lot, and is teaching it in another part of Ireland, and do you know what the Volunteers here want? Irish only in the schools! Did you ever hear the like? Why, if they knew Irish only, how could the poor children emigrate when they grow up? Are you a commercial traveller? I thought at first you were a Lá Breá and was going to ask you to show me your book; but of course the Lá Breás don’t arrive until July. Funny then that you’re not a traveller. Whatever brought you here if you’re not a Lá Breá or a traveller? Yes, the Lá Breás are very earnest. We cannot help admiring them, but then, you know, they make well out of it. They are nearly all teachers and get extra fees when they are proficient in Irish. There may be exceptions, of course, but you won’t persuade me that many learn Irish for its own sake. I know a bit myself because it pays me to. I’m in a*

shop and some of the country people won't talk anything else. I don't know much, but I understand what they say and can give them what they want. O yes, I know you will find a lot of people who will give you plenty of talk in English about learning Irish, and all that sort of thing, but I never come across many who would be at the loss of a pound or two to help the language. Look over there. It's the picnic party coming back. They have a gramophone in the boat, and it's playing 'The Wedding Bells are Playing for me and my Girl.' Isn't it lovely? We get all the latest from London on the gramophone. It's so easy to learn from it. Now, if those people who give all the talk out of them, and all the high falutin' lectures on Irish music, really meant half what they say, wouldn't they have songs in Irish on the gramophone? I was talking to a traveller about it myself, and he told me that all they would have to do would be to bring a singer over to where they make the records, and place an order for a hundred or so. But they won't, of course. Records cost half a crown each and it's much cheaper to talk about them. Wisha, we have the weight of them. Let them show us they are really in earnest before they come lecturing us. One poor gom here thought that all he had to do was to write to Dublin for Irish records, but that's all he got for it. Those city Johnnies must do more than talk if they want us to revive the language for them. I think it a shame the way they neglect Irish while, all the time, mar dhea, they are trying to save it. I've seen a lot of talk about Irish-speaking gramophone records but I don't suppose I'll ever hear one talk, do you? It seems to me that these people are a half-hearted lot. Isn't there a man among the crowd with the pluck to make a few records? Sure, he could beg or borrow the money if he hadn't it himself, and if he couldn't get it back again when he had the records ready to sell, what's the use of all their talk? If the language isn't dead here long ago, it's very little thanks to any of them. That's the stuff to give them, and let them put it in their pipes and smoke it.'

<sup>50</sup> *The Leader*, 20.6.08, 277.

<sup>51</sup> Tá gearchuntas ag Pádraig Mac Fhearghusa ar Choláiste an Daingin 1908-1910 ina leabhar *Conradh na Gaeilge i gCiarraí: A History of the Gaelic League in Kerry* (Coiste Dúiche Chiarraí de Chonradh na Gaeilge, 1995) 30.

<sup>52</sup> *An Claidheamh Soluis*, 4.7.08, 8. Tá cuntas iomlán ansin as Béarla ar an chruinniú sin agus déanfaidh mé achoimre air anseo.

<sup>53</sup> *Op. cit.*

<sup>54</sup> Féach, mar shampla, ar an chuntas seo a leanas ar Choláiste Uladh sa bhliain 1906 a foilsíodh ar *The Derry Journal*, 6.8.06, 3:

#### THE ULSTER IRISH COLLEGE

*The country houses are substantial, clean and good. The people are most hospitable and kindly... Besides the advantages to be gained with regard to the language, nowhere could a more enjoyable and healthful holiday be spent.*

*There is bathing at high tide within half an hour's walk, quite near Gortahork and at low tide a little further away. The water is far warmer than off the North-East coast. It is more like bathing in France and never can be rough in the sheltered dock-like arm of the sea that runs in near Gortahork.*

*You can get delightful sea fishing off the rocks at Magheraroarte. The air is perfect, blowing in straight off the glorious hills that surround Glenaar.*

*For twenty miles and more round the neighbourhood the roads are good for cycling and many places of interest and beauty within easy reach of the wheel. Such is Doe Castle where Owen Roe O'Neill landed after his arduous campaign on the Continent to face a still more arduous one in his own Province of Ulster. Every Ulster man should visit Doe Castle because of its connection with one of the greatest of Irish heroes. Expeditions can be made with ease to Horn Head, Bloody Foreland, Glenveigh, Errigal, Poisoned Glen and even Gartan can be reached with a little extra energy. There are many places of local interest and connected with tradition near Cloghaneely itself. It is to be hoped that so much temptation as here depicted will not wile away the students from their studies. It is more probable that if they take advantage of such a bracing and delightful holiday their brains will be sharpened for better work. This will be necessary, for as the Bishop of Raphoe told us all at the aonach, 'there is no royal road' to learning Irish and it would not be right to let anyone imagine that it is an easy language to acquire.*

*For those patriot sons and daughters of Ireland who are determined to do so, no more beautiful spot for their labours could be found than Cloghaneely. Glenaar is surrounded on the South and South-east by the glorious ranges of Muckish, Errigal and Aghla, and Reeldrum and Bloody Foreland to*

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*the West. The sight of the grand mountains must inspire determination and high thoughts in the minds of those living near them. They will carry away from here a purer, nobler mental atmosphere, and be better able to fight the degrading surroundings of the towns in which so many of us are forced to live.*

*From the hill of Bealtaine in Glenaar, one of the most lovely views in all Ireland is to be seen. Anyone who feels his patriotism getting weak, had better spend an hour or so there, or join some gay aeraidheacht on its summit with the members of the Gaelic League College.*

*Clohaneeley has one more advantage to be added to its many others. It is easy to reach by rail, Falcarragh and Cashelnagore stations being within 4 miles... It is hardly necessary to remind the public of the distinguished Irish scholars to whom the care of the college is entrusted for this year – Una O'Farrelly, L.C. Ward and S. Sharkey.*

<sup>55</sup> *An Claidheamh Soluis*, 4.7.08, 8

<sup>56</sup> *Op. cit.*

<sup>57</sup> Seo ceann eile ó 'Corcaigh' a foilsíodh ar *The Kerryman*, 7.8.09, 1:

*'This year... I made up my mind to study the tongue of my fathers in one of the last strongholds of the Gael. The combined attractions of mountain, sea and tongue drew me irresistibly to Dingle, and I am firmly convinced that we are but the forerunners of thousands in the very near future. The evening of my arrival was cold and gloomy, and a thick mist lay like a pall on the landscape, on sea and shore alike. A few roods from the railway station convinced me that I was a stranger in a strange land, or rather a prodigal son returning home to a heritage long discarded. I heard the young people speak the most beautiful sounds I have ever listened to. It reminded me of something I had heard in the dim past, and I racked my brain to unravel the mystery, and then I remembered. As a child, I first heard the Coolin, and its notes have been vibrating ever since in my heart. Surely, I thought, this is the Coolin again – the Coolin of language; and the little children went their way, oblivious of the envy they had aroused in the breast of a stranger, for what is to them a heritage of the cradle, and what must be to him a heritage of long and patient hours of study.*

*A month has now gone by and I leave Dingle with regret. I have spent hours of study under two of the most competent teachers it has ever been my fortune to meet, Mr. O'Flynn and Mr. Corkery. I have strolled by the shore, and as daylight died away into twilight, and twilight deepened into night, I have gazed across the magnificent bay where the glorious mountains of Iveragh fringe the horizon...*

*A word as to the people of Dingle. They are magnificent types of Irish manhood and womanhood; the men stalwart, clean-cut, intelligent; the women bright, modest, beautiful, and all brimful of that native courtesy so far removed from the stilted forms of the drawingroom. And the children – I have seldom seen a body of children so uniformly healthy and good-looking. And I looked forward to the time when they would be the fathers and mothers of a future race in the brighter days that are to be in Erin.'*

<sup>58</sup> *The Leader*, 8.8.08, 396. Tá seo i gcló arís ar *The Irish School Weekly*, 8.8.08, 796-7.

<sup>59</sup> Sic!

<sup>60</sup> Sic!

<sup>61</sup> *The Kerryman*, 10.10.08, . [Mar is léir ón téacs, is beag cleachtadh a bhí ag lucht an *Kerryman* ar chló agus ar litriú na Gaeilge, rud a fhágann cuid den dán dothuigthe.] Is minic a bhuaíl fonn filíochta duine de scoláirí na gcoláistí éagsúla agus tá, ar a laghad, dán amháin maíte ar gach ceann acu.

<sup>62</sup> 19.6.09, 10.

<sup>63</sup> *The Leader*, 31.7.09, 568. Tá an t-alt céanna seo i gcló ar *An Claidheamh Soluis*, 7.8.09, 13.

<sup>64</sup> Diarmuid Breathnach agus Máire Ní Mhurchú, *1882-1982 Beathaisnéis a Cúig* (An Clóchomhar, 1997) 237.

<sup>65</sup> Donncha Ó Súilleabháin, *Na Timirí i Ré Tosaigh an Chonartha* (Conradh na Gaeilge, 1990) 98.

<sup>66</sup> Tá cuntas air in Diarmuid Breathnach agus Máire Ní Mhurchú, *1882-1982 Beathaisnéis a hAon* (An Clóchomhar 1986) 55-6.

<sup>67</sup> Féach, Nollaig Mac Congáil, 'Bunú Choláiste Chomhghaill, Béal Feirste' in Micheál Mac Craith & Pádraig Ó Héalaí, *Leabhar Cuimhneacháin Mháirtín Uí Bhriain* (Cló Iar-Chonnachta, 2008).

<sup>68</sup> Diarmuid Breathnach agus Máire Ní Mhurchú, *1882-1982 Beathaisnéis a Dó* (An Clóchomhar, 1990) 99-101. Deirtear ansin fosta go raibh sé 'ar dhuine den dream ba thúisce a mhol go mbeadh coláistí samhraidh ann (litir uaidh in *An Claidheamh Soluis* 11 Bealtaine 1901).'

<sup>69</sup> Diarmuid Breathnach agus Máire Ní Mhurchú, *1882-1982 Beathaisnéis a Cúig* (An Clóchomhar, 1997)



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<sup>70</sup> *The Leader*, 11.9.09, 86. An bhliain dár gcoinn seo ‘Sráid a’ Mhuilinn’ ag trácht arís ar Scoil an Daingin agus aithnítear ina c(h)untas tuairimí na bhfoghlaimeoirí Gaeilge i gcoitinne agus iad ag tarraingt ar thobar bheannaithe na Gaeilge, mar atá, an Ghaeltacht.

*The town of Dingle can lay few claims to beauty; the stamp of decay, all but universal in our land, is on it; yet in far-off days it held its head high, and the haughty Spaniard made it a centre of commerce. But the Gaelic speech lives in it as it lives not in any other town in Ireland; and this may prove a more enduring boast than the possession of wharves crowded with costly merchandise. The Dingle Peninsula has unrivalled attractions to the student, the scholar, the antiquarian, the intellectual pleasure-seeker. Irish of the purest quality is spoken all through the Peninsula, and whole districts have absolutely no English. It abounds everywhere in relics of the past – ogham stones, oratories (such as Gallerus), cromlechs, etc. The views of mountain and sea are magnificent. The inhabitants are splendid types of our Celtic peasantry, tall, supple, intelligent, charming in their native courtesy to strangers. A most interesting land and a people not less interesting. And the students of the College, what a spirit of camaraderie prevailed amongst them! What dreams we dreamed as we wandered by the shore in the beautiful summer twilight – dreams of a land hoary with age, yet ever young, shaking her locks and girding her loins for the final fray, fresh and unconquered after a fight of seven long centuries: whose sons are leaders of men in every clime and helots in their own. And how we used to gaze across the beautiful bay and watch the shadows darken on the glorious hills that cradled him whose voice was destined to reverberate around the world. And away to seaward as we gazed, the surges, crested with foam, came in from the broad ocean, bearing with them the farewell sighs of our kindred as they looked their last on the land of their birth. Sad and lonely by the shores of Erin in the darkening hour to think thus, but filled with an undying hope of a rapidly approaching and inevitable day.*

*Let no man come to this storied land who expects to forget in the whirl of the merry-go-rounds, and the other senseless attractions that crowd our Anglo-Irish watering places, the cares and worries of the business year. Rather, let him approach with reverence as to a shrine, for here are preserved many of the characteristics that distinguished our people in the past when we were free. Above all, let him not forget that here, as nowhere else on this earth, is preserved the living Irish speech that has been handed down in unbroken continuity from time immemorial. Let him come to study the language; let him come to dream away a holiday amid all the varied glories of mountain and sea; let his object be to study the remains of the past so thickly scattered over all the surrounding country; let his object be a combination of all these; whatever his aim, he cannot fail to come in touch with the past of his country, and gather new inspiration from the contact, and face his everyday and commonplace world of duties again a better man and a nobler Irishman. – Sráid a’ Mhuilinn. *The Leader*, 11.6.10, 400-2.*

<sup>71</sup> *The Leader*, 3.9.10, 59-60.

<sup>72</sup> *The Freeman’s Journal*, 15.9.17, 3.

<sup>73</sup> In alt dar theideal ‘The ‘Kingdom’s’ Irish College’ ar *The Kerryman*, 4.9.09, 8, léitear an méid seo a leanas:

*‘The Dingle Summer School that began so humbly in the month of July of last year has developed to an extent that fully justifies the title it receives as a heading to this reference.*

*At first it was merely ‘The Dingle Summer School,’ then in more favourable circumstances, it was designated ‘The Dingle Irish College,’ and now its undoubted and almost phenomenal success makes me bold to suggest that ‘Coláiste na Ríochta’ would be the most appropriate appellation of all.’*

<sup>74</sup> Tugadh na sonraí seo ar an *Irish Independent*, 21.5.13, 7.