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AN GHAeilGE

agus

THE CONNACHT TRIBUNE

(For Faith and Fatherland)

Ó 1909 GO DTÍ BUNÚ AN tSAORSTÁIT

Nollaig Mac Congáil

Tá stair fhada chasta ag baint le nuachtáin Bhéarla na tíre seo idir náisiúnta agus logánta, bíodh nuachtáin laethúla, nuachtáin tráthnóna, nuachtáin sheachtainiúla nó nuachtáin Domhnaigh i gceist. Is mó is iontach linn an scéal a bheith amhlaidh nuair a chuimhnítear nár tugadh faoi litearthacht sa Bhéarla a sholáthar ar bhonn náisiúnta go dtí bunú na Scoileanna Náisiúnta sa bhliain 1831.¹ Ní féidir léargas ceart a fháil ar stair na tíre seo le cúpla céad bliain anuas gan mionstaidéar a dhéanamh ar chuile ghné de cheist na nuachtán sin óir is iad na nuachtáin an fhoinsé eolais is cuimsithí maidir le sochaí na hÉireann. Tá sin ar shlí a ráite faoi stair na Gaeilge fosta. Tá staidéar déanta ar chuid de na nuachtáin Ghaeilge² ach rinneadh faillí sna nuachtáin Bhéarla ó thaobh na Gaeilge de. Tá cúpla cúis leis an neamart a rinneadh sna nuachtáin Bhéarla ag lucht taighde na Gaeilge: ní dhearnadh innéacs den ábhar Gaeilge iontu riamh, mar rud amháin, ó tharla go raibh siad taobh amuigh de théarmaí tagartha Risteáird de hAe i gcás *Clár Litridheacht na Nua-Ghaedhilge* agus, sa dara cás, tá an t-uafás ama, stró, sclábhaíochta agus taistil i gceist lena leithéid d’obair a chur i gcrích agus gan aon chinnteacht ann go minic go mbeidh toradh fóna ar an ransú sin i ndeireadh na dála.³

Bhí, agus tá i gcónaí, cinniúint na Gaeilge ag brath ar na meáin chumarsáide idir chlóite agus chraolta. Na meáin chlóite amháin is cás linn anseo. Aithníodh tábhacht na nuachtán i bhfad siar ach níor baineadh an leas ab fhearr astu ó thaobh na Gaeilge de ag

an am.⁴ Ag cruinniú tosaigh an Chumainn Ghaelaigh i gColáiste na Tríonóide, dúirt an Reachtaire:

*Today we have in the daily newspaper a weapon of the strength of which bygone days had not the faintest conception. The question of the Irish daily newspapers having Irish culture evident in their columns is a vital one. If the Irish revival is a failure, one of the causes contributing to its failure will be the Irish Press.*⁵

Ar an ócáid chéanna, chuaigh an tAire Earnán de Blaghd céim eile agus chuir sé an-bhéim ar thábhacht na nuachtán logánta:

*Mr. Blythe said... he thought it was the weekly country papers that exercised the greatest influence... In the matter of the Irish language I think the local newspapers particularly will be able to play an important part. It would not be very long until there were great areas of the country in which the majority of the people were able to read newspapers written in Irish.*⁶

Ní raibh Conradh na Gaeilge dall ar thábhacht na nuachtán Béarla i gcur chun cinn na Gaeilge ach an oiread óir ‘Bunaíodh an Coiste Bolscaireachta ar 21 Eanáir 1902 chun eolas faoin gConradh a chur chuig nuachtáin faoin tuath agus chun iarracht ar leith a dhéanamh colún i nGaeilge a fháil ar nuachtán amháin, ar a laghad, i ngach contae.’⁷

Ag éirí as sin, déanaimis staidéar ar nuachtán logánta amháin anseo, mar atá, *The Connacht Tribune*, atá lonnaithe i nGaillimh agus a níonn freastal ar chathair agus ar chontae na Gaillimhe, ó tháinig sé ar an tsaol go dtí bunú an tSaorstáit. Tá stair eile ar fad ag baint le stair na Gaeilge ar an nuachtán sin ó bhunú an tSaorstáit ar aghaidh, gan amhras, agus pléifear an chuid sin den scéal ar ócáid eile.

Seo a leanas an tuairisc faoi atá le léamh ar shuíomh idirlín *CT*.

THE CONNACHT TRIBUNE

Serving the West of Ireland Since 1909

The Tribune Story

The Connacht Tribune first hit the news stands on Saturday, May 22, 1909⁸ and has told Galway's story to its readers every week since then. Through two World Wars, the desperate struggle for

Independence, the hungry years of early Nationhood, from the booming 60s to the high tech 90s the Tribune has carried the story of the West and the growth of Galway...

We tell Galway's story every week and we tell it well. From Clifden to Portumna, from Glenamaddy to Kinvara, through every village and town in the County and in every street and housing estate in our beautiful City of Galway, the Tribune is read and read avidly.⁹

Ní miste cuimhneamh ar an fhíric seo a leanas le bhaineas le luathstair an nuachtáin: ‘*It was found that a very general demand existed for, not only a thorough-going county paper, but for a paper that would serve the whole of Southern Connacht.*’¹⁰

Sa naoú agus san fhichiú haois, gí nach raibh daonra ard i gcathair ná i gcontae na Gaillimhe, bhí an taobh sin tíre go maith as maidir le líon a chuid nuachtán. Liostaítear iad mar seo:

Connacht Sentinel 1925-, *Connacht Tribune* 1909-, *Connaught Champion* 1904 – 1911, *Connaught Journal* 1813 – 1840, *Connaught Leader* 1885 (?) – 1907, *Connaught Patriot* 1859-1869, *Connaught People* 1883-1886, *Galway Advertiser* 1970 - , *Galway American* 1862 - 1863, *Galway Express* 1853 – 1920, *Galway Free Press* 1832 – 1835, *Galway Independent Paper* 1825 – 1832, *Galway Mercury* 1844 – 1860, *Galway Observer* 1881 – 1966, *Galway Packet* 1852 – 1854, *Galway Patriot* 1835 – 1839, *Galway Pilot* 1883 – 1918, *Galway Press* 1860 – 1861, *Galway Standard* 1842 – 1843, *Galway Vindicator* 1841 – 1899, *Galway Weekly Advertiser* 1819 – 1843, *The Irishman* 1835 – 1835, *Warden of Galway* 1853 – 1853.¹¹

Is suntasach go raibh ceithre cinn eile de nuachtáin á bhfoilsíú i nGaillimh san am chéanna le *CT* sa tréimhse ama atá faoi chaibidil againn anseo, mar atá: *Connaught Champion* (1904 – 1911), *Galway Express* (1853 – 1920),¹² *Galway Observer* (1881 – 1966) agus *Galway Pilot* (1905 – 1918). Nuair a bhíonn ceist na Gaeilge i gcomhthéacs nuachtáin á scrúdú in am ar bith, caithfear claonadh polaitiúil an nuachtáin a fhiosrú.¹³ I gcás *CT*, nuachtán naisiúnaíoch a bhí ann.

Tá sé ar shlí a ráite anseo go raibh dhá nuachtán i gCo. Na Gaillimhe a sheas le fada roimhe sin leis an Ghaeilge, mar atá, an *Tuam News* (1871-1904)¹⁴ agus an *Tuam Herald* (1837-). Bheadh alt ar leith de dhíth le cuntas a thabhairt ar ról na beirte sin i stair saothraithe na Gaeilge ar nuachtáin Bhéarla agus b’fhéidir go ndéanfar sin amach anseo. Is leor a rá anseo, faoin am a tháinig *CT* ar an fhód, bhí deireadh leis an *Tuam News* agus

athspionadh ar sheanábharr Gaeilge (aistriúcháin cuid mhaith de) a bhí á fhoilsiú ar an *Tuam Herald* sa cholún *Bolg an tSoláthair*.

Gan amhras, d'imigh cuid de na nuachtáin thuasluaite sin ar shlí na firinne ó shin agus tháinig cinn eile ar an tsaol ina n-áit. Nuachtán logánta Béarla a bhí in *CT* agus d'fhoilsítí é in aghaidh na seachtaine, Dé Sathairn. Foilsíodh an nuachtán den chéad uair ar 22.5.09 ach níor bacadh leis an Ghaeilge ar *CT* go dtí 10.7.09.

Bhí áthas ar lucht Chonradh na Gaeilge go mbeifí ag saothrú na Gaeilge ar an nuachtán nua seo óir aithníodh nach raibh a gcion féin á dhéanamh ar son na Gaeilge ag nuachtáin na Gaillimhe roimhe sin:

PÁIPÉAR NUA

Táthar le páipéar nua do chur ar bun i gcathraigh na Gaillimhe. *The Connacht Tribune* a ainm. Beidh sé ag teacht amach i gcionn míosa agus gealltar dhúinn i n-a thaoibh go dtiubhraidh sé a ceart féin don Ghaedhilg agus dá mbaineann le haithbheochain na Gaedhilge. Ba mhór an sás a leithéad de pháipéar i gConndae na Gaillimhe agus go dtí seo ní mheasaim go raibh Conndae i nÉirinn a bhí chomh cailte leis i n-uireasbaidh páipéir do thiubhradh a cion féin do chúis na Gaedhilge agus d'oibreochadh ar mhaithe leis an tír fré chéile. Má éirigheann leis an bpáipéar nua so agus má ghníonn sé a ngeallann sé, déanfaidh sé leas mór ní amháin do Chonndae na Gaillimhe acht do Chúige Chonnacht ar fad. Acht má's mian leis an dream atá dá chur ar bun cúis na Gaedhilge do chur ar aghaidh, caithfidh siad i bhfad níos mó do dhéanamh 'ná mar atá dá d[h]éanamh ag stiúrthóiribh páipéir mhóir ar bith dá bhfuil i nÉirinn fá láthair. Níorbh' aon chabhair dhúinn giota beag Gaedhilge gach seachtain i bpáipéar le haghaidh muinntir na Gaillimhe. Ba chóir go ndéanfaidhe trácht ar chúrsaibh na tíre ó sheachtmhain go céile i nGaedhilg bhinn bhlasta le haghaidh na sluaigh mór i gConndae na Gaillimhe darab í an Ghaedhilg a dteanga c[h]oitcheannta. Tá súil agam gurab amhlaidh a bhéas an sgéal ag an bpáipéar nua agus má's eadh béidh fáilte is fiche ag Gaedhil Chonnacht roimhe.¹⁵

Foilsíodh an fógra seo a leanas ansin san eagarfhocal faoin teideal *Anam Tíre a Teanga*:

Ó'n tseachtmhain seo amach béidh roinnt ar leith dhe'n leathanach seo le haghaidh teangaidh na nGaedheal agus a lucht fóghlumtha. Béidh an obair seo faoi c[h]úram agus stiúrughadh scoláire Gaedhilg[e] c[h]omh eólasach ina húsáid is tá insa Chúige. Béidh cur síos air imtheachta an t-saoghail agus go háithrid air an saoghal Gaedhealach. Béidh gach uile líne de sgríobhadh i mbriarthuibh glan-Ghaedhilge Cúigidh Connachta; cainnt simplidhe tá ngnáth-úsáideach [sic!] ar aonach agus cois

teallaigh; so-léigte agus so-thuigthe. Is léir dúinn nach mór ná maith [a]tá ag éirghe lé cúis na Gaedhilg[e] i nGaillimh fá láthair, is cuma cé is ciontach leis an lagar do thuit ar na daoineibh, acht tá sin amhlaidh. Nílimid ag dul i gcomórtas lé duine ná dream daoine ar bith; nílimid ag iarraidh creideamhaint mar gheall ar an iarracht seo, níl uainn acht aigne na ndaoineibh d’iompughadh ó’n tseóinínteacht agus a n-aghaidh [a] thabhairt air a dtír féin. Lé é sin a dhéanamh dar linn nach bhfuil aon c[ha]oi níos feárr ná níos dírighe ná ár dteanga d[h]uthchais féin a c[h]uir fé réimh [sic!] arís ‘ar son Glóire Dé [&] onóra na hÉireann.¹⁶

Tá idir nóta dóchais agus éadóchais le sonrú san eagarfhocal sin. Ar thaobh an tsochair den scéal, cuimhnítear ar Ghaillimh an ama sin ó thaobh na Gaeilge de, áfach: an limistéar Gaeltachta ab fhairsinge sa tír i gContae na Gaillimhe (i bhfad níos fairsinge ná mar atá san am i láthair) agus tarraingt lucht foghlama na Gaeilge ar thobar sin an dúchais le fada an lá;¹⁷ Coláiste Gaeilge ar bun i dTamhain ón bhliain 1909 amach agus an dara Coláiste Chonnacht ar an Spidéal ón bhliain 1910 ar aghaidh; *An Stoc* ar an tsaol ó dheireadh 1917 amach; ábhar éigeantach déanta den Ghaeilge le haghaidh an mháithreánaigh sa bhliain 1910;¹⁸ scoláirí Gaeilge ag saothrú léann na Gaeilge san Ollscoil;¹⁹ craobhacha de Chonradh na Gaeilge²⁰ scaipthe ar fud na háite; Feis Chonnacht agus feiseanna logánta á reáchtáil in aghaidh na bliana srl. Níor bheag an chabhair iad sin go léir maidir le próifil na teanga sa chathair agus sa chontae a ardú.²¹ Agus, gan amhras, bhí feabhas ag teacht ar ionad agus ar thábhacht na Gaeilge sa chóras oideachais i gcoitinne le himeacht ama.²² Anuas air sin ar fad, de réir dhaonáireamh 1911, bhí an Ghaeilge ag 82.1% de mhuintir chathair na Gaillimhe.²³

Ar thaobh an dochair, bhí ré órga Chonradh na Gaeilge go náisiúnta ag trá;²⁴ d’imigh cuid den díograis; d’éirigh aighneas idir lucht an Chonartha;²⁵ bhí cúrsaí polaitíochta agus míleata go náisiúnta agus go hidirnáisiúnta ag tógáil aird na ndaoine; ní raibh litearthacht, cumas agus cleachtadh scríbhneoireachta sa Ghaeilge ag mórán daoine fásta sa taobh sin tíre, agus na daoine ab airde stádas agus ba mhó maoin agus cumhacht, ní cáil na Gaeilge a bhí orthu.

In alt a scríobh ‘Mac’ faoin teideal ‘The Gaelic League in Galway’ a foilsíodh sa bhliain 1907,²⁶ tugadh an cuntas diúltach seo a leanas ar scéal na Gaeilge i gcathair na Gaillimhe.

In Gaelic League circles it might reasonably be supposed that the ancient capital of Connacht would lead the way as the pioneer centre of the Irish-Ireland movement in the West. It is very much to be feared, however, that this assumption would not be correct, for the capital of this most Irish-speaking province, which ought

naturally to be the fountain-head of the Gaelic spirit, does not rank as the first, nor even as one of the first few, of the Western strongholds of Gaeldom... Take the language itself. Unpleasant as is the confession, the learning of Irish is, undeniably, making but very poor progress.

Sa bhliain 1906, tháinig grúpa beag de Ghaeilgeoirí díograiseacha le chéile ar 13 Eanáir le droch-chás na Gaeilge i dtéarmaí praiticiúla i gcontae na Gaillimhe i gcoitinne a phlé. Seo a leanas mar a tuairiscíodh ar *The Galway Observer* (10.2.1906, 4):

The small number of branches of the Organisation in the county is one proof of the deplorable lack of practical interest manifested in the success of a movement which has already done so much to nationize Irish life, and which has won the admiration and enlisted the support of our kith and kin in other lands.

We feel that it is not [a] sufficient extenuating argument to say that the language still flourishes in our midst, and is in no danger of extinction, because granted that such is a fact, why should we hold aloof from an Organisation which is engaged in a work of National importance to which all patriotic Irish men and Irish women should extend a helping hand?

In many parts of our county, no doubt, Irish is generally spoken; yet even in those parts there is danger that the Anglicising blight may find its way unless actively guarded against, while, on the other hand, there are unfortunately districts in which our native tongue is rarely, or never heard...

The old people are gradually dropping away, and with them becomes extinct the charming tales, the stirring legends, the sweet songs and the beautiful poems of the bardic past, because, alas! the majority of the younger generation have apparently neither the inclination nor the taste, not to mention the patriotic feeling, which should prompt them to study in the traditional school. It was to encourage that study, and to preserve those relics, that the Gaelic League established the Oireachtas, and recommended provincial and parish Feiseanna; and that those functions have accomplished useful work no one can deny. A great deal, however, yet remains to be done, and nowhere, perhaps more than in the Irish-speaking districts of Galway. We therefore think that an effort should be made to deal with this and the other questions to which we have alluded in some systematic manner.

Le feabhas a chur ar scéal na Gaeilge i gContae na Gaillimhe, bheartaigh siad Coiste Contae a bhunú ‘*which would devote its attention to the all-important work of Organisation, and to the furtherance of the objects of the League.*’ Is iad na daoine a bhí taobh thiar den eagraíocht úr seo: A.J. Mac Consaidin, C.C., P.S. O Mothrain, C.C., Seamus O Beirn, M.B., Micheal O Maille agus Domhnall Ua Duibhne.²⁷ Socraíodh ag cruinniú i mí Feabhra, 1906 ‘*after careful deliberation it was unanimously resolved to establish a Coiste Conndae to be composed of two representatives from each affiliated*

*branch in the County.*²⁸ Cuireadh an eagraíocht ar bun agus bhíodh cruinnithe rialta in aghaidh na míosa acu as sin amach.

É sin uilig ráite, áfach, chuathas i gceann oibre go dóchasach dícheallach. Sna chéad bhlianta sin i saolré *CT*, thugtaí cuntas *as Béarla* ar bhunú craobhacha, ar a gcuid cruinnithe, ar fheiseanna móra (Feis Chonnacht, Feis Uí Mháine m.sh.) agus logánta, ar an chumann dátheangach, ar na coláistí Gaeilge – Tuar Mhic Éadaigh, Tamhain agus an Spidéal, ar aeraíochtaí, ar an Ghaeilge sna scoileanna náisiúnta. Díríodh ar chontae na Gaillimhe ach go háirithe gan ach corrthagairt a dhéanamh dá raibh ag tarlú sa chathair ó thaobh na Gaeilge de m.sh. Ard-Fheis nó Oireachtas. B'fhurast na cuntais ghearra sin a sholáthar ó tharla nach raibh aon ardchumas Gaeilge ná scríbhneoireachta riachtanach fána gcoinne agus, gan amhras, bhí a mbunús scríofa as Béarla. Rud eile de, chuidigh na cuntais sin le soiscéal na Gaeilge a scaipeadh i measc ghnáthmhuintir an chontae agus bolscaireacht a dhéanamh ar son na cúise lena linn – seift a bhí in úsáid go forleathan ag Conradh na Gaeilge le fada roimhe sin.²⁹

Maidir le hábhar fóirsteanach léitheoireachta as Gaeilge a sholáthar ar bhonn leanúnach (in aghaidh na seachtaine), sin scéal eile. Ansin arís, rinne siad iarracht chróga sna chéad bhlianta. I dtús ama, faoin teideal *Irish Ireland*, sholáthraigh Aibhistín Ó Caoimh³⁰ agus Pádraig Ó Fathaigh³¹ aistí Gaeilge don nuachtán ach níor mhair sin i bhfad. Bhíodh dileagra as Gaeilge anois is arís ann ó phearsa eaglaise³² agus scaití píosa ón Timire Gaeilge.³³ Níorbh fhiú a bheith ag brath ar phíosaí ócáideacha amháin, áfach, dá mbeifí ag brath ar bhonn ceart a chur faoi shaothrú na hiriseoireacha Gaeilge in *CT*. Mar sheift amháin, chaithfí ábhar a fháil a mhairfeadh cúpla seachtain agus ábhar réamhdhéanta fosta go minic a bhíodh i gceist leis sin chun an bhearna a líonadh. Gan amhras bheadh deacracht ann teacht ar ábhar a leanfadh thar chúpla seachtain ach féachadh leis. Mhair *Dún na nGaedheal* cúpla seachtain; mar an gcéanna le *Linn na mBradán* le Tomás Ó Colmáin agus dráma *Dónall Diagánta* le Lorcán Ó Tuathail.³⁴ Ní raibh an ceann deireanach iontach sásúil ó tharla go raibh sé á fhoilsiú go mírialta in aghaidh na míosa agus nár críochnaíodh riamh é. Míbhuntáiste mór a bhí san easpa Gaeilge den chineál sin ar an nuachtán ag an am. Ba nósúil ar nuachtáin Bhéarla an ama sin chan amháin sa tír seo ach i dtíortha eile chomh maith go bhfoilsítí leabhair nó stair srl. mar shraith ó sheachtain go seachtain agus, uaireanta, ó bhliain go bliain. Mar shampla, ar *CT* sna

blianta sin, lean an tsraith *Young Ireland* le Sir Gavan Duffy bliain i ndiaidh bliana (*ad nauseam*), *Sweet Briar Hill* le Walter Allen, *The Rise and Fall of the City of the Tribes* le Orbsen, *Shemus Dhu: the Black Pedlar* le Rev. M. Kavanagh, *The Wild Rose of Lough Gill* le Patrick Smyth, *Maureen Dhu: the Admiral's Daughter* le Mrs. J. Sadlier, cuimhní cinn B.N. Hedderman agus í ina banaltra ar Árainn³⁵ srl. Ní raibh scríbhneoirí ná iriseoir(í) Gaeilge acu ná ní raibh an gléas cúnta seo acu ach chomh beag. Má bhí iriseoirí maithe Gaeilge ann ag an am ar de thógáil na Gaillimhe iad, bhí siad ag saothrú a mbeatha in áit éigin eile. Mar shampla, bhí Eoghan Ó Neachtain as ceantar na bhForbacha tráth ina eagarthóir ar *An Claidheamh Soluis* agus ina dhiaidh sin ina eagarthóir Gaeilge ar an *Irish Independent*.³⁶ Bhí Seán Mac Giollarnáth, as ceantar Bhéal Átha na Sluaighe ó dhúchas, seal ina eagarthóir ar *An Connachtach*³⁷ agus ar *An Claidheamh Soluis*.³⁸ Bhí Tomás Ó Máille, as Muintir Eoin, sula ndeachaigh sé le hardléann na Gaeilge ina eagarthóir Gaeilge ar *The Freeman's Journal* agus ina dhiaidh sin ina eagarthóir ar *An Stoc*.³⁹ Bhí iriseoir mór Gaeilge eile ann as Contae na Gaillimhe, mar atá, Tomás Bairéad a bhí ag plé leis an *Irish Independent* agus ina dhiaidh sin leis an *Clare Champion*, ach ní raibh sé i méadaíocht agus ag saothrú a cheirde sa tréimhse ama atá faoi thrácht anseo. Agus, ar ndóigh, an t-iriseoir Gaillimheach ba bhisiúla agus ab oilte ar fad, mar atá, Pádraic Ó Conaire, ní fhacthas lorg a phinn ar *CT*.⁴⁰

Ní fhéadfaí a mhaíomh i gcónaí nach raibh fáilte roimh ábhar Gaeilge sna nuachtáin logánta mar a thugann Pádraic le fios sa phíosa seo a leanas:

*I am a provincial editor myself. I want pages of Irish-Ireland news. I would welcome columns of it by every post. Everything that interests Irish-Ireland interests me. I print Irish, and would print much more of it if I got it or had time to write it. But every day I have to go out and beg for Irish-Ireland news. I send requests for it far and wide, morning, noon and night. And lo, the people who, on the whole, take my entreaties most calmly, most leisurely, are branch secretaries and officials... I would urge Gaelic Leaguers to reconsider the provincial editor.*⁴¹

Baineadh leas as ábhar réamhdhéanta m.sh. *An Siota agus a Mháthair*,⁴² dánta as lámhscríbhinní srl. agus is léir nach raibh i gceist leo sin ach ábhar Gaeilge de chineál ar bith a sholáthar le spás a líonadh. Uaireanta bhíodh píosa béaloidis ann agus ba mhaith sin nó d'fhéadfaí teacht ar sheoda beaga thall is abhus, mar shampla, an phaidir bheag seo a leanas a bhreac T. Ó Colmáin⁴³ síos ó bhéalaithe Nicholas O'Brien ar an Spidéal. Seo cuid di:

*Ón doimhneas screadaim ort, a Thiarna!
Ó, a Thiarna, éist le mo ghlór
Is go dtugaidh Do chluas gheal aire do mo ghuibhe
Má bhreathnaíonn ar mo locht, a Thiarna,
Ó, a Thiarna, cé a leomhnas.....⁴⁴*

FAMOUS CONNACHT COLLEGE.



Staff of the Spiddal, Co. Galway, College (which has just closed its Summer Session).
Standing (let to right)—Dr. MacEnri, Seamus O Murchadha, M. O Droighneain,
Caitlin Nic Ghabhann, Pilib O Bhalldara, An tathair Mac Giolla Sheannaigh.
Seated (left to right)—Tomas Mac Domhnaill, Tomas O Colmain.

Taobh amuigh díobh sin, an Ghaeilge is minice a bhíodh ar an nuachtán téacs óráide a thugadh lucht na hAthbheochana ag ócáidí foirmeálta i gContae na Gaillimhe, ina measc, An Craoibhín Aoibhinn, An Píarsach, timirí, sagairt, easpaig. Ábhar réamhdhéanta a bhí ansin freisin ach ábhar spéisiúil go maith a bhí ann go minic. Bhíodh ábhar eile, as Béarla, i gcló ar *CT* a gcuirfeadh lucht na Gaeilge spéis ann, m.sh. ‘Sanitary Conditions in Irish-Speaking Districts’ leis an Dr. Séamus Ó Beirn⁴⁵ nó dán spráúil *The Williad* a scríobh Eoghan Ó Gramhna faoina mhadadh⁴⁶ nó alt tábhachtach ‘The Spirit of the Gaelic League’ le George Moonan⁴⁷ nó ‘The Language Movement and the Study of Old Irish’ le Julius Pokorny.⁴⁸

Chuaigh scéal na Gaeilge ar an nuachtán in olcas le himeacht ama. Ó cheann ceann 1913, cuir i gcás, ar éigean a bhí Gaeilge ar bith le feiceáil ach amháin clár feise nó clár an Oireachtais, nóta beag faoi chraobh de Chonradh na Gaeilge nó faoin Oireachtas. Bhí píosa fiúntach próis ann faoin Chraoibhín Aoibhinn⁴⁹ agus dán in onóir don Oireachtas.⁵⁰ Ba náirí sin an scéal nuair a chuimhnítear gur tionóladh An tOireachtas i nGaillimh i mbliain sin 1913 agus go raibh eagrán iomlán⁵¹ tógtha suas le tráchttaireacht ar an ócáid agus grianghraif – é uilig as Béarla. Leis an dlaoi mhullaigh a chur ar an scéal, ar leathanach na bhfógraí, bhí an ceann seo a leanas:

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*SUPERB PICTURES. LIVE NEWS. CRISP COMMENTS.*⁵²

Ní raibh aon cholún Gaeilge ann i 1912, 1913 ná i 1914.⁵³ Ag deireadh 1915, faoin teideal *Irish Ireland* bhí an píosa seo a leanas:

An Ghaedhilg

Is beag teach i gConndae na Gaillimhe a léightear an páipéar seo ann nach bhfuil tuigsint ag duine eicint ar Ghaedhilg ann (cé is moite de na bailtibh móra), agus is fada ó chéile teach ‘sa gConndae acht an oiread nach bhfuil duine ann atá i n-ann a bheag nó a mhór Gaedhilge a léigheadh. Dá bhrígh sin, féachfamuid le píosa beag Gaedhilge a chur i gclodh ó sheachtmhain go seachtmhain feasta.⁵⁴

Agus bhí píosa gearr Gaeilge ina dhiaidh ag *Gaedheal*, nós a lean go ceann míosa. Tosaíodh ar úsáid a bhaint as an cheanteideal *Ár dTeanga Féin* os cionn na bpíosaí Gaeilge ag deireadh mhí Dheireadh Fómhair agus c. 300 focal a bhíodh sna píosaí céanna.⁵⁵ Cúrsaí feirmeoireachta, ceantair Ghaeltachta, seanfhocail srl. na hábhair a bhíodh i gceist sa cholún sin. Níor bhliain iontach í 1916 ó thaobh shaothrú na Gaeilge de ar an *CT* (ná in aon áit eile) agus rinne an colúnaí gearán nach raibh mórán spéise á léiriú ag muintir na Gaillimhe sa Ghaeilge níos mó gí gur cuireadh craobh nua den Chonradh ar bun i nGaillimh an bhliain roimhe sin.⁵⁶ Dála an scéil, tosaíodh ar úsáid a bhaint as *Sean-Ghaedhilgeoir* mar ainm an cholúnaí feasta agus is é an duine céanna seo a bhí ina chrann taca – agus é féin amháin d’fhéadfaí a rá - ag an Ghaeilge ar *CT* as sin go deireadh na bhfichidí.⁵⁷

Sean-Ghaedhilgeoir [Séamus Ó Maoldhia (1881-1928) - Mr. Seamus O’Mulloy, Clonboo, Drumgriffin].⁵⁸ Cainteoir dúchais as Cluain Bua, Eanach Dhúin, Co. na Gaillimhe a bhí ann a chaith a shaol ag teagasc na Gaeilge agus páirteach i gcúrsaí polaitíochta leis an *United Irish League*.⁵⁹ Luann sé in alt leis cuid dá (dhuais)iarrachtaí scríbhneoireachta:⁶⁰

Galway Feis 1898, essay on ‘The Condition of Rural Connacht Prior to the Great Famine of ’47’; Galway Feis 1910, essay; Galway Feis 1902, essay; Mayo Feis 1903, essay on ‘The Penal Days’; essay on ‘Dr. MacHale’; translations of Rooney’s ‘Men of the West’; original poem on ‘The Races of Castlebar’; Belmullet Feis 1904, original ode on the Belmullet Feis; Connacht Feis 1904,⁶¹ historical essay, ‘The Siege of Limerick’; essay (non-historical), original story (probably about ghosts); Mayo Feis 1905, original poem on Dr. MacHale; Connacht Feis 1906, essay on Fr. Growney; a two act play (scene laid in an Irish-speaking district in the West of Ireland); original story (about tinkers).⁶²

Foilsíodh cnuasach dá chuid dánta agus amhrán ina dhiaidh sin faoin teideal *Dánta agus Amhrán* (1940).⁶³



MR. SEAMUS O'MULLOY, Clonboo, Drumgriffin, who writes delightfully idiomatic Irish on topical subjects every week in our columns under the pen-name "Sean Ghaedhilgeoir."

Ní raibh aon cholún Gaeilge ar an *CT* ar feadh naoi mí sa bhliain 1917 ná iomrá ar rud ar bith a bhain le cúrsaí Gaeilge, féadaim a rá.⁶⁴ Ag tarraingt ar dheireadh na bliana, chuathas i gceann na Gaeilge arís.

Ar gColumhan Gaedhilge

Mar gheall ar chomh gann is chomh daor is tá páipéar ar feadh an chogaidh uathbhásaigh seo, agus de bhrígh go mb'éigin dúinn an *Tribune* a laghdughadh go dtí n-a leath le goirid, níor chuireamar aon Ghaedhilge i gclodh le tamall anois. Níor mhaith linn an Ghaedhilge a bhrughadh amach dá mbeadh neart againn air, agus tá súil againn go ngabhfaidh lucht a léighthe ár leithscéal, mar tá an saoghal ag dul go cruaidh ar lucht páipéar nuaidheachta fó láthair.

Tá sé de rún againn giota beag Gaedhilge a chur asteach feasta ó sheachtmhain go seachtmhain – nó chomh minic agus is féidir linn, ar chaoi ar bith. Tá na céadta de léightheoiridhe an pháipéir seo i n-ann Gaedhilge a léigheadh, agus, dár ndóigh, badh mhaith leo beagán Gaedhilge a fhágháil innti ó am go h-am.

Cuirfimid síos ar chúrsaidhe an tsaoghail i nGaedhilge mhaith, shimplidhe agus tráchtfamuid anois is arís ar chúis na teangan féin 'sa gConndae. Agus má tá duine ar bith a bhfuil píosa maith Gaedhilge aige nár cuireadh i gclodh cheana – sean-scéal nó scéal úr, dán nó abhrán, sean-fhocla, paidreacha nó píosa seanchuis – agus gur mian leis a chur os cómhair an phobail, cuireadh sé chuig scríbhneoir an cholumhain seo é, fó chúram an Eagarthóra, agus bhéaramuid do'n tsluagh é. Ní'l aimhreas ná go bhfuil sean-phíosaidhe maithe Gaedhilge ar fud na Conndae fós nár cuireadh i leabhar ná i bpáipéar ariamh, agus badh é an truaighe a leigeann amugha agus an tóir atá ag íseal is uasal ar an teangain fó láthair.⁶⁵

Sean-Ghaedhilgeoir

Ar an tSean-Ghaeilgeoir a thit colún na Gaeilge as sin amach. Bhí an colún ag cur go maith leis an chineál duine a bhí ann agus lena chuid réimsí spéise. Bhí trácht ann ar chúrsaí feirmeoireachta, ar na séasúir, aistriúcháin ar dhánta agus amhráin Bhéarla, seanfhocail Chonnacht⁶⁶ agus, le himeacht ama agus de réir mar a bhí tábhacht ag teacht le cúrsaí Gaeilge sa tír i gcoitinne i gcosamar a raibh ag tarlú ó thaobh na polaitíochta de, ceist na gcanúintí, an litriú nua, Gaeilge na Gaeltachta agus Gaeilge mhaide srl.

Aon duine amháin féadaim a rá a sheas fód na Gaeilge ar an *CT* i rith na mblianta sin ar fad. Gaeilgeoir agus díograiseoir Gaeilge a bhí ann níos mó ná iriseoir Gaeilge agus tá a shliocht ar a cholún Gaeilge. Dá mbeifí ag súil go mbeadh rath ar na colúin Ghaeilge ar nuachtáin Bhéarla na hÉireann idir logánta agus náisiúnta, chaithfí teacht ar iriseoirí Gaeilge gairmiúla a mbeadh rud fóna le rá acu a mheallfadh léitheoirí seachas ábhar

Gaeilge de chineál ar bith a scríobh ar mhaithe le bolscaireacht ar son chúis na Gaeilge. Níl rud is fearr a d'fhéadfaí a dhéanamh ná aithris a dhéanamh ar phíosa a scríobh Séamus Ó Grianna, fear a chaith blianta fada ag scríobh as Gaeilge agus as Béarla d'irisí agus do nuachtáin, ar an téad seo.

Many newspapers and magazines give a column now to Irish. And invariably in this column, one finds the same kind of stuff - something about the language - how to revive it, methods of teaching, Gaelic classes and branches, simplified spelling, Roman type and Gaelic etc. These are the things Irish writers think it their duty to put in the Irish column. When shall we realise that we shall never revive the language by writing about it? The ordinary reader does not care a brass button about what Kuno Meyer says about this or Father Toal about that. The ordinary reader wants news. He gets the paper to see the news. Give him the news in Gaelic and he will soon read it. We should boldly take it for granted that Irish is the language of Ireland and not be writing in a half-apologetic tone that it ought to be revived because of its importance - because it was spoken by Pádraig, Brigit and Colum Cille. There is only a small, very small percentage of the people who are prepared to live for Ireland. And hence there is no use asking them to save the language because of its connection with nationality. Nationality be damned if it imposes on us any severer duties than those already placed on our shoulders. ... There is nothing to be gained by writing about Irish in the Gaelic columns as only the revivalists - who are already saved - will read such. We must give the ordinary news in Irish. Public bodies should conduct their work in Irish and report their proceedings in Irish. Newspapers should publish other things in Irish besides meetings of the Feis committees or articles on phonetics. It is the ordinary reader we want to catch. Place before him in Irish accounts and descriptions of the things that interest him and he will soon make it his business to discover what it means.⁶⁷

[Foilsíodh an aiste seo ar an *Journal of the Galway Archaeological and Historical Society* Vol. 60 (2009) 206-22.]

¹ F.S.L. Lyons, *Ireland Since the Famine* (Fontana Press, 1985) 88 ff. Maíonn Diarmaid Ferriter in *The Transformation of Ireland 1900-2000* (Profile Books, 2004) 90: 'There had been a rise in literacy levels from 33 per cent in 1851 to 84 per cent in 1911.'

² Mar shampla *Fáinne an Lae, An Claidheamh Soluis, An t-Éireannach* srl.

³ I mo chuid taighde féin le blianta anuas, tháinig mé ar ábhar fairsing agus tábhachtach Gaeilge ina luí i nuachtáin Bhéarla idir náisiúnta agus logánta le Tomás Ó Criomhthain, Eibhlín Ní Shúilleabháin, Séamus

Ó Grianna, Seosamh Mac Grianna, Fionn Mac Cumhaill, Seán Bán Mac Meanman srl. nach raibh a fhios a dhath fúthu roimhe sin.

⁴ Dúradh ar *The Nationist*, 29.12.1905, 232, mar shampla: ‘Some years ago, Gaelic Leaguers were urged by obviously wise advisers to ‘get hold of the Press.’ The importance of the local Press in this connection was emphasised and re-emphasised in council and on platform.’

⁵ *The Connacht Tribune*, 12.11.1927, 2.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ Donncha Ó Súilleabháin, *Athbheochan na Gaeilge: Cnuasach Aistí* (Conradh na Gaeilge, 1998) 11. Ar ndóigh, pléadh an cheist i bhfad roimhe sin mar is léir ón pháosa seo a leanas:

AN APPEAL TO THE PRESS

Now that the language movement has issued from the catacombs, we would ask the metropolitan and provincial Press, especially the nationalist section of it, to consider their great attitude to this great question, and we would urge upon them the duty of devoting to it the serious attention befitting a national work of paramount importance, a work not belonging to any society or to any party, but to Ireland – to Ireland of the present, to Ireland of the past, but above all, to Ireland of the future. It is hardly necessary to state that we do not ask editors to learn Irish. We do, however, ask them to acquaint themselves with the merits and with the progress of the movement, so that they may be in a position to inform and lead public opinion on the matter. We ask them to recognize that the centre of the Irish language movement is here at home in Ireland, and that the true sphere of its operations is in the Irish-speaking districts, the habitat of the language. We ask them to give the subject as much attention as they bestow, say, on football, giving fitting notice and prominence to such a festival as the recent Macroom Feis, the greatest Gaelic event which occurred in the South of Ireland for centuries, but which was so inadequately dealt with by the newspapers.

It ought to be easy and natural for the Irish Press to throw in its weight heartily and frankly with the language movement. It would certainly not lose in tone, in repute, or in popularity by a thorough-going adoption of the question. No violent change, no disruption is advocated, no displacement of English in its legitimate sphere is contemplated. And, after all, to the English-speaking, English-writing Irishman, it should be a source of satisfaction that though cheated out of knowledge of the language himself, he nevertheless still has his place and his work in this great mission of rescue for the language and for those who speak it. We at least are one voice crying out against the Anglicisation of the country, and our cry is not a wail of despair, but a song of battle and of hope. The cause is really the cause of the country and of our be-starved people, and must succeed, for it is based on truth, on reason, and on absolute necessity. Herein lies the explanation of how the Gaelic League, with little encouragement, with no material resources, with comparatively few workers, with nothing except unsparing energy, faith in the cause, belief in the race, and trust in the God of nations and of Ireland, has accomplished so much. The work will go on. The Press has power to expedite it, none to retard it.

Fáinne an Lae, 23.4.1898, 6.

⁸ ‘An eight-page paper, with eight columns to each page, each column being 22 inches long... The Tribune started with a circulation of close upon five thousand copies per week... In the succeeding winter (1909) seven thousand copies of the Tribune were published and distributed weekly. Launched with the National standard nailed to the masthead, and with the benediction of the leading members of the Irish Party, priests and public men of Southern Connacht, conducted in a spirit of universal fairness and fearlessness, it is not to be wondered at that it bounded forward on its triumphant course... A.F. O’Reilly (manager) and J.W. Kenny (editor)... to-day (Bealtaine 1911) the Tribune has attained a permanent circulation of close upon ten thousand copies per week... has double the circulation of all the other local papers combined...’ ‘The Tribune: Past History, Present Position and Future Hopes’ (6.5.1911, 4).

⁹ *Suíomh idirlín.*

¹⁰ 4.10.1913, 8.

¹¹ Hugh Oram, *The Newspaper Book: a History of Newspapers in Ireland, 1649-1983* (MO Books, 1983) 344. Tógadh breis eolais as James O’Toole & Sara Smyth, *Newsplan, Report of the NEWSPLAN Project in Ireland* (The British Library/The National Library of Ireland, 1998).

¹² *The Galway Express and General Advertiser* for the counties of Galway, Mayo, Roscommon, Clare and Limerick a bhí ar an leathanach tosaigh. Ní nuachtán náisiúnaíoch a bhí ann ach a mhalairt, rud a d’fhág nach raibh focal Gaeilge i gcló air i rith na mblianta agus gan ach tuairisc fhánach ar imeachtaí Gaelacha i

gacitheamh na bliana m.sh. oscailt / dúnadh Choláiste Chonnacht, Feis Chonnacht. Ní réitíonn an Ghaeilge agus an *yacht* nó *tennis club* go maith le chéile.

¹³ Is minic, mar shampla, a cuireadh nuachtán ar bun d'aon turas le tacú le páirtí polaitíochta éigin.

¹⁴ 'The Tuam News and Western Advertiser, whose 'Gaelic Department' ... was the most important forum for new writing in Irish in the 1870s.' Luaite ag Philip O'Leary, *The Prose Literature of the Gaelic Revival 1881-1921: Ideology and Innovation* (The Pennsylvania State University Press, 1994) 7.

¹⁵ Pádraic Ó Domhnalláin ar *An Claidheamh Soluis*, 1.5.1909, 4.

¹⁶ Leath. 4. Más fianaise ar bith an píosa seo, bhí scoláire maith Gaeilge ag teastáil go géar uathu.

¹⁷ Árainn an tobar Gaeilge a bhí ag muintir an Chonartha le blianta fada roimhe sin m.sh. Eoghan Ó Gramhna, Eoin Mac Néill, Stiofán Bairéad, Úna Ní Fhaircheallaigh, agus ag teangeolaithe ón iasacht m.sh. Pedersen agus Finck.

¹⁸ Pádraig Ó Riagáin, *Language Policy and Social Reproduction: Ireland 1893-1993* (Clarendon Press, 1997) 11.

¹⁹ Is ceart firici áirithe faoi Queen's College, Galway thart ar an am sin a thabhairt anseo. Thug an Dr. O'Dea, Easpag Chluain Feartha, an chaint seo a leanas uaidh sa bhliain 1905:

'The total number of students in the College was about 100, about one half of whom came from Connaught, and the other one half from outside the province... Twenty four out of twenty-five people in the province were Catholic, yet three out of every five students were Protestants.

Moreover, there were only 15 Catholic students in the College...

The administration of the College was almost wholly Protestant, and everything they held dear as Catholics and Irishmen was rigidly excluded.' *The Galway Observer*, 14.1.1905, 4.

Bunaíodh an *Celtic Society* san ollscoil sa bhliain 1900 de réir *The Galway Observer*, 10.2.1900.

Maidir le stair na Celtise/Gaeilge san ollscoil, tá an méid seo a leanas scríofa ag Breandán Ó Madagáin ina alt 'Irish: a Difficult Birth' in Tadhg Foley (eag.), *From Queen's College to National University: Essays on the Academic History of QCG/UCG/NUI*, Galway, 353-4: *'The commission set up by the government to examine the progress of the Queen's Colleges issued its Report in 1858, having taken evidence from the officers and professors and from others. It recommended the abolition of the Professorships of the Celtic Languages... The proposed abolition was put into effect as soon as a vacancy occurred in each college... in Galway, in 1862 with the departure of O'Beirne Crowe... In Queen's College Galway as from 1898 it was possible to take 'Celtic' for the 'First year's Literary Scholarship' examination. But when, in 1903, a young freshman from Co. Galway – who had gained an entrance scholarship taking Irish as one of his subjects – proposed taking Irish as a subject towards a BA degree he was rebuffed... The College compromised allowing him to take Irish for his university examinations but without providing any tuition in the subject. When Breathnach reached the third year (1905-6), still without tuition, he and a second-year student in the same situation successfully appealed to the College to provide them both with tuition in Old Irish (required for the Royal University examination). A postgraduate student, Stiofán Mac Donnchadha, a native speaker of Irish who had studied Old Irish in the School of Irish Learning in Dublin, was employed for the purpose.'* Ceapadh ollamh le Gaeilge sa bhliain 1908 agus léachtóir le Gaeilge an bhliain dár gcionn.

²⁰ Ní hamhlaidh go raibh freastal iontach ná rialta á dhéanamh ar chruinnithe de Chraobhacha Chonradh na Gaeilge, fiú amháin sa Ghaeltacht, mar a thugtar le fios sa phíosa seo a leanas ó 'Fear gan Féasóig' ar *The Galway Observer*, 8.4.1905, 3:

SPIDDAL NOTES

The usual monthly meeting of Spiddal Branch was held on Sunday. The attendance was small – very small. This is decidedly discouraging, more particularly so in view of the enthusiasm recently displayed. But then there is the convenient excuse: 'I forgot all about it.' That was the cry heard very generally – when the meeting was over. Well it will not do in future. That's all. And I am determined to refresh, both before and after the event, the memory of those in whom this faculty is inclined to be sluggish. If the proper spirit prevails, the memory will improve wonderfully. All's fair in love and war, and this is both – love for Ireland and Ireland's language, war against their enemies! We want whole-hearted support too in the cause, not a mere cold, nominal, financial attachment. There was a collection for central funds on the 25th March. It excited but little interest, and received but little support. There is plain speaking, but it is true. Then ye who pass by with a sneer or an amused smile, take heed! Take heed, I say, of the contemptible place which your names will occupy in the history of the movement.

Ní raibh scéal Chonradh na Gaeilge róshásúil sa chontae ar fad, dar le J.M.F. i litir leis a foilsíodh ar an *Connacht Leader* ar 20.5.1905 faoin teideal ‘*The Gaelic League in East Galway*’:

At a recent meeting of the Ballinasloe Branch of the Gaelic League it was complained that no work of a permanent nature was being done in the district, and the cause of this it was thought was the prolonged absence of an Organiser. It is evident to any observer that not only in Ballinasloe, but in all Galway between Athenry and the Suck, and from Portumna north to Mount Bellew, no serious work is being done. Irish is taught in an odd school here and there, but the Gaelic League is not a living force in this part of the county. The continuation of such a state of things must soon become a slur on the common sense and patriotism of the people, the teachers and school managers alike. Wexford in the Anglicised east has about 40 affiliated branches of the League but ours, the most Irish county of the thirty-two, has scarcely a round dozen. The language is still spoken and it is depressing to think that in ten or fifteen years it will be as dead as Ogham unless a great effort be made to snatch it from the grave.

²¹ Dar le Dúbhglas de hÍde sa bhliain 1907 go mbeadh rath ar Ghaillimh feasta: ‘*Galway was one of the cities of Ireland that had a great future before it in this movement; it may yet become the mecca of the east of Ireland, for they may yet see hundreds of people coming down here for the very purpose of hearing the people talking in the streets. There is now a great demand for Irish speakers and lecturers, and they in Galway can supply the demand.*’ *The Galway Observer*, 2.11.1907, 3.

²² Foilsíodh an tuairisc seo a leanas ar *The Tuam Herald*, 13.3.1909, 4: ‘*An interesting report on the teaching of the Irish language in the National Schools has just been presented to the National Board by Mr. D. Lehane, District Inspector... ‘Irish is taught in a larger proportion of schools in Galway than in any other county... Circumstances making for the wider spread of Irish teaching are mentioned in the Report, these being: the increase in fees, as compared with 1906-7; recognition by the Board of teachers’ certificates from the Irish Colleges; wider use of the bilingual programme and the appointment of Organisers of Irish.’*’

²³ Luaite ag an tSiúr Eibhlín Ní Chionnaith in *Pádraic Ó Conaire: Scéal a Bheatha* (Cló Iar-Chonnachta, 1995) 39.

²⁴ Scríobh Seoirse Ó Muanáin, fear a raibh dlúthbhaint aige le Conradh na Gaeilge riamh, sa bhliain 1916 ar an *Irish Independent*, 7.8.1916, 3: ‘*The League showed most rapid development in the years 1901-08; its decline has been steady during the past few years.*’ Bhunaigh sé an tuairim sin ar chúrsaí airgeadais na hAthbheochana i gceithre rannóg: (1) An Conradh féin (2) An tOireachtas (3) *An Claidheamh Soluis* (4) *Clodhanna* nó an rannóg foilsitheoireachta. Luadh neart cúiseanna eile le meath na spéise i ngluaiseacht na Gaeilge sna blianta sin a mhíniú. Dúradh in *Pádraic Ó Riagáin, Language Policy and Social Reproduction: Ireland 1893-1993* (Clarendon Press, 1997) 11, mar shampla, go raibh drochthoradh ar an Ghaeilge a dhéanamh ina hábhar éigeantach le haghaidh an mháithreánaigh: ‘*The introduction of a compulsory element into language policies alienated many, and several commentators ascribe the subsequent decline in membership to dissatisfaction with this campaign.*’

²⁵ Dúirt W. Bradley ar *The Leader*, 28.7.1917, 587: ‘*After the first few years of zealous work, a certain amount of apathy became apparent in the working of the League, internal discords arose, and more attention was paid to petty personal squabbles than to its work. This culminated in the resignation of the President, when things looked black indeed.*’

²⁶ *An Connachtach* (Iúil, 1907) 10.

²⁷ Scríobh ‘A Gaelic Leaguer’ chuig an nuachtán an tseachtain dár gcionn (17.2.1906, 3) go raibh scéal na Gaeilge sa chontae ní b’fhearr ná mar a tugadh le fios ag an dream a bhí ag iarraidh Coiste Ceantair a bhunú.

²⁸ *The Galway Observer*, 17.1.1906, 4.

²⁹ Ar an téad seo, luann Regina Ní Chollatáin an t-eagarfhocal seo a leanas ar *An Claidheamh Soluis* (*An Claidheamh Soluis agus Fáinne an Lae 1899-1932* (Cois Life, 2004) 57: ‘*We should take trouble to send reports too to the Dublin as well as to the local newspapers. It is not easy to win against the officialism of this country and we dare not lose, and as we have said often enough before, to succeed there must be at our backs an intense and widespread public opinion. The metropolitan press is the great channel of communication and should be used as far as possible by the League.*’

³⁰ Mar shampla, cuntas ar lá na gcleaslúth i gCinn Mhara (31.7.1909, 7) nó alt eile ar chúrsaí tírghrá (28.8.1909).

³¹ Mar shampla, cuntas ar chúrsaí tírghrá aigesean chomh maith (11.9.1909, 7) chomh maith le cúpla aiste eile.

³² Mar shampla: ‘Díleagra ó na Bráithreachaibh d’Ord Naoimh Proinsias do’n Tighearna is oirbhidnighe Seaghán Ó h-Éaluighthe, D.D., Árd-Easbog Thuama, ar mbeith cúig bliadhna is fiche ‘n a easpog dó’ ar 23.10.09, 11.

³³ Mar shampla, téacs léachta a thug Seághan Mac hEnrígh uaidh i gContae Mhaigh Eo a lean ar aghaidh ó mhí na Samhna go mí na Nollag, 1909. Maidir le Seán Mac Éinrí, féach, Colm Ó Cearúil, *Aspail Ar Son Na Gaeilge: Timirí Chonradh na Gaeilge 1899-1923* (Conradh na Gaeilge, 1995) 134.

³⁴ Ar 11.2.1911; 4.3.1911; 20.5.1911 agus 3.6.1911. Níor críochnaíodh an dráma ina dhiaidh sin agus caithfear cuimhneamh fosta gur éag an t-údar sa bhliain 1909.

Foilsíodh an dráma *Lá an Chíos* ar *An Claidheamh Soluis* ó 24.10.1903 chuile sheachtain go dtí 5.12.1903. Níor foilsíodh riamh i bhfoirm leabhair é.

³⁵ Foilsíodh an t-ábhar sin mar leabhar *Glimpses of My Life in Aran: Some Experiences of a District Nurse in These Remote Islands off the West Coast of Ireland*, Part 1 (Bristol: Wright, 1917).

³⁶ Féach, Diarmuid Breathnach agus Máire Ní Mhurchú in *1882-1982 Beathaisnéis a Trí* (An Clóchomhar, 1992) 130-1. Foilsíodh cnuasach d’iriseoireacht Eoghain ón *Independent* i bhfoirm leabhair, mar atá, *Tiachóg* (Muintir Mhac an Ghoill, 1909*). Thug sé féin cuntas ar an leabhar sin ina cholún ar an *Irish Independent* (22.3.1909, 4): ‘An *Tiachóg* a baisteadh ar an mbailiughadh a rinneas ar na mion-sgéaltaibh beaga a bhí sa bpáipéar so agam le tamall. Thoghas cuid aca sin, cuid de na mion-sgéalta sin, agus chuireas isteach in mo thiachóg iad agus táid siad ar an margadh anois agam má tá aon toluhadh agat ionnta. Bíodh nó ná bíodh, tá siad ar an margadh & ceann aca le fáil ar réal glan. Tá gach uile shórt sgéal ortha a chuirfeadh ceannuidhe ina mhála. Má is aiteas ná greann duit iad tá mé sásta.’

³⁷ Foilsíodh an chéad eagrán de *An Connachtach / The Connachtman: A Bilingual Journal Devoted to the National Revival* i mí Iúil, 1907. San eagrán tosaigh sin, luadh cuspóirí na hirise agus, ina measc: ‘Tá ar *An gConnachtach* a chion féin a dhéanamh leis an fhíor-sprid ghaedhealach a d[h]aingniughadh sna daoinibh; leis an ngaedhilg a leathnughadh; leis an tír-ghrádh a neartughadh. Tá faoi gach ar féidir leis a dhéanamh ar son déantús agus earraidhe na tíre. Seasfaidh sé ar son na measardhachta agus oibreochaidh sé le meas a chur ag an nGaedheal air féin agus ar a thír, ar a stáir agus a litridheacht, a ceól agus a seanchus, a sean-nósa agus a béasa fíor-Ghaedhealacha. Acht thar gach nidh féachfaidh sé le sean-teangadh na nGaedheal a chur i n-árd-réin arís in gach clúid agus ar gach teallach se (sic!) gCuigidh seo go háithrid.’

³⁸ Féach, Diarmuid Breathnach agus Máire Ní Mhurchú in *1882-1982 Beathaisnéis a Trí* (An Clóchomhar, 1992) 55-6.

³⁹ Féach, Diarmuid Breathnach agus Máire Ní Mhurchú in *1882-1982 Beathaisnéis a Trí* (An Clóchomhar, 1992) 122-3.

⁴⁰ I rith a shaoil ghearr foilsíodh an t-uafás scéalta agus aistí leis in irisí agus nuachtáin ach irisí agus nuachtáin Bhéarla, agus cinn náisiúnta, is mó go mór fada a bhí i gceist. D’fhéadfaí sin a mhíniú mar gur theastaigh uaidh ardán náisiúnta agus an líon ba mhó léitheoirí a fháil dá chuid scríbhneoireachta nó b’fhéidir gur bhain cúinsí focaíochta leis an scéal. Ó thaobh ábhar a fhoilsiú ar nuachtáin na Gaillimhe, foilsíodh c. aon cheann déag leis ar an *Galway Express* i 1920 (Tomás Bairéad a bhí i mbun na Gaeilge ar an nuachtán sin), agus, i dtaca leis an *Galway Sentinel* de, 16 i 1925, 49 i 1926, 42 i 1927 agus ceann amháin i 1928. Bhain mé an t-eolas seo as, Evelyn Christina Kenny, *Pádraic Ó Conaire: an Fear agus a Shaothar* Vol. 1 (Tráchtas D.Phil., U.U., 1989). Bhí píosa amháin leis i gcló ar an *Galway Express* sa bhliain 1918.

⁴¹ *The Nationist*, 29.12.1905, 232.

⁴² Crochadh é sin amach as *Irisleabhar na Gaedhilge* agus foilsíodh é i mí Dheireadh Fómhair, 1909.

⁴³ Bhí Tomás an t-am sin ina mhúinteoir sna Forbacha agus dlúthbhaint aige le Coláiste Chonnacht, an Spidéal. Maidir leis an gColmánach, féach, Diarmuid Breathnach agus Máire Ní Mhurchú in *1882-1982 Beathaisnéis a Trí* (An Clóchomhar, 1997) 136-7. Bhíodh litreacha leis i gcló uaireanta ar an *Freeman’s Journal* mar Thomas Coleman, *Hon. Sec. Galway Bilingual Society* (m.sh. 6.8.1908, 7).

⁴⁴ 10.6.1911, 8. Nó an dán *Muire agus Íosaip* a bhreac sé síos ó Cholm Mac Donncha, buachaill a bhí ag freastal ar scoil an Spidéil (17/24.7.1911).

⁴⁵ 3.6.1911, 2. Duine cáiliúil i stair na hAthbheochana i nGaillimh agus go náisiúnta a bhí sa Bheirneach ag tús an chéid seo caite. Féach, Diarmuid Breathnach agus Máire Ní Mhurchú, *1882-1982 Beathaisnéis a hAon* (An Clóchomhar, 1986) 48-9.

⁴⁶ 29.7.1911, 3. Crochadh an dán sin as an *Irish World*.

⁴⁷ 26.2/5/12.3.1910.

⁴⁸ 6.5.1911, 8.

⁴⁹ 2.8.1913.

⁵⁰ 26.7.1913.

⁵¹ 2.8.1913.

⁵² 18.10.1913. Os a choinne sin, áfach, bhí fógra amháin as Gaeilge (20.6.14, 3) ar an nuachtán sna blianta sin, mar atá: DEUNTA IN-EIRINN agus CRÍOCHNUIGHTHE IN-EIRINN CLERICAL SILK FELT HATS (A Speciality).

⁵³ An tréimhse ama seo, is dócha, a bhí i gceist ag Regina Ní Chollatáin nuair a deir sí: ‘Cáineadh an *Connacht Tribune*... as an mbearna a bhí le líonadh acu i gcás iriseoireacht na Gaeilge’ in *An Claidheamh Soluis agus Fáinne an Lae 1899-1932* (Cois Life, 2004) 142.

⁵⁴ 18.9.1915, 8.

⁵⁵ 23.10.1915.

⁵⁶ 21.2.1916, 8.

⁵⁷ Is minic a bhíonn a leithéid fíor i gcás nuachtán agus irisí ó thaobh ábhar Gaeilge a sholáthar. Mar shampla, ‘Muimhneach’ a bhí ina chrann taca ag an *Cork Examiner* ar feadh na mblianta.

⁵⁸ Tá grianghraf de ar *CT* (5.3.1927, 2). Tá mé buíoch de Carmel Nic Eoin, M.A. as an tagairt seo.

⁵⁹ Bhunaigh William O’Brien an eagraíocht sin i gCathair na Mart ar 16 Eanáir, 1898. Sa chuntas seo a leanas ag ‘U.I.L.’ faoin eagraíocht i gConnachta ar *An Connachtach* (Aibr. 1908) 11, tugtar an t-eolas seo a leanas:

‘For good or ill the U.I.L. is the greatest political power in Connacht at the present moment. There are many outside its folds, ‘Sinn Féiners,’ ‘Conservatives,’ ‘Do-Nothings,’ etc., but for all practical purposes the United Irish League holds the field. Connacht gave it birth ten years ago and has ever since given it its undivided support. In that ten years the United Irish League has almost accomplished a revolution.’

Féach, fosta, Philip Bull, ‘The Formation of the United Irish League 1898-1900: the Dynamics of Irish Agrarian Agitation’ in *Irish Historical Studies* Vol. XXXIII (2002-3) 404-23 agus Conal Thomas, *The United Irish League and Land Reform in North Galway 1898-1912* (Annaghdown Heritage Society, 1999).

I measc aidhmeanna an U.I.L. bhí cothú na Gaeilge ach is minic a d’éirigh idir an U.I.L. agus lucht na Gaeilge ar an ábhar gur síleadh nach raibh an U.I.L. gníomhach go leor in úsáid agus i geur chun cinn na Gaeilge, go háirithe sa Ghaeltacht. Féach, mar shampla, ‘The Gaelic League and the U.I.L.’ ar *An Claidheamh Soluis agus Fáinne an Lae* (30.11.1901) 603-4.

⁶⁰ Chuir sé in eagar fosta *Beatha Sheagháin Mhic Éil* (Dublin: O’Brien and Ards) sa bhliain 1903.

Ar *The Galway Observer* (25.4.1908, 4) foilsíodh an dán seo a leanas ‘The Gaelic Class’ le Seamus O’Mulloy:

*Those charming lines by ‘Cailín Óg’
(A ‘cailín maith’ is she),
Innervé me to poetic words,
Though rough these words may be.*

*This poetess sings aloft the praise
Of Galway town,
Whose Gaelic class has gained success,
Despite the shoneens’ frown.*

*Ah, yes, thank God! our Gaelic class,
Is forging on its way,
And shoneens grim, and worthless shams,
Its progress dare not stay.*

*Our native speech was trampled long,
Its voice was almost still’d,
Whose noble strains in olden times,
Our fathers’ stout hearts thrill’d.*

*When long ago our dear old land,
For learning held the sway,
The Gaelic tongue was then the speech,*

From Howth to Galway Bay.

*And shall we now reject that speech,
That won for us such fame?
No! no! the Gaelic tongue shall live –
To lose it were a shame.*

*Our noble work will onward push,
Our native speech to save –
The language of the conqueror,
Doth clearly mark the slave.*

⁶¹ Maidir le Feis Chonnacht 1904, fógraíodh na torthaí ar *The Connaught Champion*, 27.8.1904: ‘*The first prize for an Irish Historical Essay was divided between... and James Mulloy, Annaghdown; ...for an original composition on any subject not historical, first prize was awarded to James Mulloy, Annaghdown; ... for an original story in Irish the prize was awarded to James Mulloy, Annaghdown; ... for the best collection of Irish place names in Connacht or Clare, ... second [prize was awarded to] James Mulloy, Annaghdown.*’

⁶² 11.8.1914, 7. Deir sé in áit eile (10.10.1914, 8) gur bhain sé úsáid as an ainm cleite ‘Conn Céadchathach.’

⁶³ Fuarthas an t-eolas seo in Diarmuid Breathnach agus Máire Ní Mhurchú, 1882-1982 *Beathaisnéis a hAon* (An Clóchomhar, 1986) 87.

⁶⁴ Cuimhnítear, áfach, nach ndearna na nuachtáin laethúla Bhéarla a raibh cáil na Gaeilge orthu ó thús an chéid aon ghaisce ag saothrú na Gaeilge i rith an Chogaidh Mhóir ach an oiread mar is léir ón tsliocht seo a leanas:

THE LEADER, 10.3.1917, 102-3:

‘*There was a column article in English on ‘The Language Movement’ on the leading page of the **Freeman** of March 1st! It was well it woke to the fact that the Language movement, left dead by the **Irish Times**, is still one of the most vital forces in Ireland. The **Freeman**, like the **Independent**, turned its back on the Irish Language movement, but that movement went on, and goes on in spite of all its enemies. Murphy’s paper is still holding out, but the **Freeman** is attempting, or perhaps only making-believe to attempt, to come back furtively to the Irish nation. It would do better if it made a clean breast of it and said that it had done its best to betray the Language movement during the past few years, that it had now seen the errors of its ways, that it was sorry and that it would conduct itself better in future. But no: here is how it commences its article: ‘Public interest in the Language movement has recently been obscured to some extent by dramatic events of a world-wide nature.’ That is incorrect, and the **Freeman** at least ought to know that it is so. During the past few years the Irish Language movement has increased in intensity and volume. The cry of ‘small nationalities’ and the history of the war drove home to many minds, and intensified it in others, the bearing of language on nationality. Two minor forces that did their best to obscure the movement in recent times were the **Freeman** and the **Independent**, and the **Freeman** would be the better of making a clean breast of it. One of its business games naturally is to cut into the **Independent**, and it has everything to gain by putting the Irish language in the front. It should have some Irish every day: indeed the amount of Irish it inserts in two issues in one week – if that is all it has decided to run to – would be better split up into six parts so that Irish might be in every day in the week. And if the company cannot run to special Irish in the **Telegraph**, they might reproduce the morning Irish in the evening, and drop that cartoon from a British paper.*’

⁶⁵ Sean-Ghaedhilgeoir, 13.10.1917, 2.

⁶⁶ Breathnaítear ar an phíosa seo a leanas a foilsíodh ar *The Leader* (24.5.1919, 368): ‘*Mr. Seamus O’Molloy, Clonboo, Drumgriffin, Galway, is collecting the Irish proverbs of Connacht with a view to publication, and he asks to be permitted to appeal to our Connacht writers to help him in the collection. So far he has collected about 400, but he thinks there are probably about half as many more to be found throughout the province. He remarks: ‘Apart from the remarkable wisdom and philosophy displayed in these proverbs they contain the best idiom of the Irish language, and I need not point out to Irish scholars the desirability of preserving them from extinction. Many of them, I regret to say, have already been lost.*

Even at present they are going out of use year by year, and unless an effort be made to save them I fear we shall soon have very few of them left.'

⁶⁷ *The Derry Journal*, 5.11.1920, 6. Féach, fosta:

THE LANGUAGE PROBLEM¹

Sir,

*A word or two about the kind of things writers of Irish imagine it their duty to write for Gaelic columns. Invariably something about the Irish language - about simplified spelling, methods of teaching, standard dialects etc. as if writing about these things would help to spread the language. Writers should not write about the Irish language. They should simply write it, that is all – Maire, *The Irish School Weekly*, 6.11.20, 281.*