



Stair Na Gcoláistí Gaeilge agus Bunú Choláiste Uladh

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STAIR NA GCOLÁISTÍ GAEILGE AGUS BUNÚ CHOLÁISTE ULADH

Nollaig Mac Congáil

Nuair a chuimhnítear ar iarrachtaí iomadúla na n-eagraíochtaí éagsúla ar son Athbheochan na Gaeilge sa naoú haois déag agus san fhichiú haois, caithfear a admháil gur éirigh leo cuid mhór i gceart a chur i gcrích ó shin i leith. Tá stádas na Gaeilge slán i mBunrecht na hÉireann: is í an Ghaeilge an teanga náisiúnta agus an phríomhtheanga oifigiúil.¹ Tá gaisce déanta ag an Ghaeilge sna meáin chlóite agus chraolta. Tá na mílte leabhar Gaeilge den uile chineál i gcló. Comharthaí sláinte agus bisigh atá iontu sin ar fad, gan amhras. An áit is mó agus is fearr a bhfeictear dul chun cinn mórúilteach ó thaobh na Gaeilge de, áfach, ná i gcúrsaí litearthachta agus oideachais. Ábhar riachtanach atá sa Ghaeilge sa bhunscoil, agus sa mheánscoil, agus mar ábhar iontrála don ollscoil de ghnáth. Baintear úsáid as an Ghaeilge mar mheán teagaisc i mbunscoileanna agus i meánscoileanna na Gaeltachta agus uaireanta sa Ghalltacht fosta. Aithnítear fosta an bborradh mór faoin náiscolaíocht go háirid sa Ghalltacht leis na blianta anois.

D'aithin na heagraíochtaí Athbheochana go luath ina saol go gcaithfí an Ghaeilge a lonnú go daingean sa chóras oideachais. Sin an áit a gcaillfí nó a mbainfí cath na Gaeilge agus bhí siad ag iarraidh a mbris a thabhairt isteach ón chéad lá a thosaigh siad amach sa treo sin. Cuireadh an córas bunscolaíochta, mar atá, na scoileanna náisiúnta, ar bun sa bhliain 1831 agus d'fhéadfaí a rá gur cuireadh tús ansin le bunscolaíocht agus bunlitearthacht den chéad uair riamh do phobal uile na tíre ar neamhchead dá stádas, dá maoin nó dá gcreideamh dá mba rogha leo agus dá mb'acmhainn dóibh an deis sin a thapú. Córas oideachais as Béarla amháin agus córas nár cheadaigh an Ghaeilge mar mheán teagaisc ná mar ábhar léinn ar an churaclam a bhí ann go ceann i bhfad. Troideadh cath na Gaeilge sa chóras oideachais i gcodanna áirithe den earnáil oideachais (m.sh. an Ghaeilge mar ábhar breise taobh amuigh d'uaireanta scoile, mar mheán teagaisc, mar ghnáthábhar

scoile, mar ábhar iontrála don ollscoil, an córas dátheangach srl.) thar na blianta agus baineadh na haidhmeanna sin amach idir sin is tráthas.² Obair mhall fhadálach a bhí anseo.

Cath na Gaeilge sa bhunscolaíocht ba thábhachtaí agus ba phráinní mar is léir ón fhianaise seo a leanas.

Do réir TUARASGABHÁIL AN ARD-RÚNAIDHE DO ARDFHEIS 1904 bhí 8,712 de scoileanna náisiúnta in Éirinn. Sa bhliain 1902 bhí Gaeilge á múineadh mar ‘ábhar múinte leasmuigh’ (*extra subject*) i 235 scoileanna; i 1903 bhí sí i 553 scoileanna. Ar 31 Nollaig 1903 bhí 92,619 scoláirí sna scoileanna Náisiúnta as 633,795 ag foghlaim Gaeilge. Léiríonn na figiúirí sin méid na hoibre a bhí le déanamh fós ag an gCoiste Oideachais agus ag an gConradh i gcoitinne.³

Seo a leanas rún ón Choiste Gnó ar glacadh leis ag Ard-Fheis Chonradh na Gaeilge sa bhliain 1905.

*That as only through the effective teaching of the language to the rising generation of the youth of Ireland from their earliest years will it be possible to make the Nation Irish-speaking again, and the Present a rational continuation of our Past, we call upon all the schools to teach the language daily to every school-going child in the country, and also to give adequate instruction in the history and traditions of Ireland and thereby impart such an education on National lines as the Irish People through the Gaelic League desires and demands.*⁴

Tá sé le céill mar sin má bhí an Ghaeilge le teagasc don aos foghlama ba líonmhaire sa tír ar fad, mar atá, na páistí bunscoile, thit an dualgas sin ar na múinteoirí bunscoile. Cé a bhí freagrach as na bunmhúinteoirí a oiliúint de thairbhe theagasc na Gaeilge de – na Coláistí Oiliúna. Is léir nach raibh na Coláistí Oiliúna céanna ag déanamh a ndíchill ar son theagasc na Gaeilge – a athrach ar fad, d’fhéadfaí a rá.⁵

*The [Training] Colleges, with one or two notable exceptions, are making no effort to supply the large and growing demand for teachers qualified to teach Irish. But matters are even less satisfactory than would appear at first sight. The obtaining of the Board’s certificate is after all a not very reassuring guarantee of ability to teach Irish. The question is; are the Training Colleges actually turning out teachers capable of giving instruction in Irish, and in what number? What is the actual status of Irish in these institutions, and what is the provision for training in methods of teaching Irish?*⁶

It is nothing short of amazing to find the Training Colleges making such scant provision for the training of their students in Irish. The Colleges in this connection do not seem to be mindful even of their own interests. Leaving out of consideration the claims of the National Language, as such, on the attention of those responsible for the training of our future teachers, here is a subject which is taught in several schools to some 100,000 children; which is taught widely as an ordinary subject, and is incomparably the most popular of the extras; which may be made the basis of instruction in nearly one-third of the schools of the country – and yet the Training Colleges make less provision for its teaching than they do for the teaching of Latin or Algebra.⁷

Tháinig teagasc na Gaeilge i gceist go mór i réimse eile de chuid Chonradh na Gaeilge, mar atá, sna Craobhacha. Bhí Craobhacha á mbunú ar fud na tíre agus teagasc na Gaeilge ar siúl go láidir iontu. Ach cérbh iad na múinteoirí Gaeilge? Díograiseoirí teanga den chuid is mó⁸ agus aithníodh an laige a bhain lena macasamhail i réimse an oideachais a raibh an oiread sin de chinniúint na Gaeilge ag brath air:⁹

The low level of modern language teaching efficiency in this country has been a terrible drag on the success of the Gaelic League. By its own unaided efforts – more enlightened than any educational efforts outside the movement – the Gaelic League has rid itself of a great deal of this classic incumbrance, and is coming well up to the level of language teaching in the most up-to-date schools and universities of the Continent... We have not yet a sufficient number of competent teachers trained in all the fascinating minutiae of the direct method.¹⁰

Ar bhealach, d'fhéadfaí a rá go rabhthas ag teacht ar an tuiscint go mbeadh gá feasta le hoiliúint agus le gairmiúlacht i gcur chuige theagasc na Gaeilge agus é sin taobh amuigh de chóras oideachais an Stáit:¹¹

Shan Ó Cuív¹² proposed in August 1903 that a special school be established to provide intensive training courses for the League's teachers, and particularly for the travelling teachers. The proposal was accepted and the first Irish College – Coláiste na Mumhan in Ballingearry – was opened the following July. In 1905 three similar colleges were established – one in Tourmakeady, one in Ring and one in Belfast, while two more were added the following year – one in Cloghaneely, the other in Dublin.

THE GAELIC COLLEGES

One of the great obstacles to the spread of Irish in the schools is the lack of properly qualified teachers. Amongst the primary teachers not very many, until lately, had a literary knowledge of the language, and even those who had this were not always able to teach it. All their training had been conducted on the assumption that they were to teach only through the medium of English, and that this, and this alone, was the mother tongue of their future pupils. When confronted with a class which knew little or no English, they naturally were puzzled and hampered. Nor were those of them who, being appointed to schools in an Anglicised district, desired to teach Irish as an Extra Subject, in much better case; they had received no instruction in modern methods of language teaching.

To meet this difficulty the League, within the last few years, established Gaelic Colleges. Of these Colleges there are four chief ones, situated one in each of the Four Provinces. The Ulster, Munster and Connacht Colleges are in Irish-speaking districts, and are in session only for the months of July, August and September each year. Though open to all students of Irish, and attended by men and women of many different callings, not a few of them are foreigners, they are chiefly intended for teachers, and the Board of National Education gives facilities to its teachers who wish to attend the courses. Instruction is given, not only in the Irish language and literature, but also in phonetics, and above all in the most up-to-date methods of language teaching. Other subjects, such as mathematics and Latin, are often taught through the medium of Irish, to show how, in bilingual schools, this can be best be done. The Leinster College in Dublin and Coláiste Chomhghaill, Belfast, are open during the winter and spring. A second Connacht College is to be opened this summer at Spiddal, Co. Galway, and a second Munster College at Dingle, Co. Kerry. A secondary mixed school has been founded at Ring, Co. Waterford, on bilingual lines, under the auspices of the League; there is in Dublin a similar school (St. Enda's) for boys, which is, however, a private enterprise. At Ring School there are Summer Courses for teachers held during the Long Vacation.¹³

Ní miste a rá anseo gur tugadh ainmneacha éagsúla ar na Coláistí seo. Uaireanta, *Gaelic Colleges* nó *Gaelic Schools* nó *Coláistí Gaelacha* nó *Training Colleges* nó b'fhéidir an teideal ab fhearr ar fad, '*Autonomous Gaelic Training Colleges.*' An ceann deireanach sin is fearr a chuireas in iúl a raibh i gceist leis an Coláistí céanna nó caithfear cuimhneamh go raibh na Coláistí céanna neamhspleách.¹⁴

Nuair a tháinig tús na bliana 1906, bhí Coláistí Gaeilge faoi lánseol – ceathrar acu faoin am sin – in áiteacha eile sa tír, mar atá, cinn samhraidh i gceantair Ghaeltachta i gCúige Mumhan (beirt acu) agus i gCúige Chonnacht, agus ceann geimhridh amháin i mBéal Feirste. Cha raibh ceann ar bith ar bun i nDún na nGall ach ba ghearr a mhairfeadh an scéal mar sin óir, roimh dheireadh na bliana sin, bheadh dhá choláiste Gaeilge i mbun oibre sa chontae, mar atá, Coláiste na gCeithre Máistrí i Leitir Ceanainn agus Ard-Scoil

Cholm Cille, nó Coláiste Uladh mar ab fhearr eolas air lá ab fhaide anonn, i nGort an Choirce. Cén fáth a rabhtas chomh mall sin ag toiseacht sa chontae seo agus cén fáth ar cuireadh beirt ar bun chomh cóngarach sin dá chéile chóir a bheith ag an am amháin?

De réir na fianaise scríofa, maítear gurbh é an tAth. Ó Tighearnaigh as Muineachán a mhol ag tús 1905 go mbunófaí Coláiste Gaeilge i gCúige Uladh ar aon dul leis an cheann a bhí á reáchtáil i mBéal Átha an Ghaorthaidh ó bhí an samhradh roimhe sin ann.

Coláiste Uladh

Sgríobh an tAthair Ó Tighearnaigh, as Muineachán... ar choláisde chur ar bun imeasg na nGaedhilgeoirí i gcúigeadh Uladh, mar an gceann a bhí i mBéal Átha an Ghaorthaidh. Bhí sé ag Coláisde na Mumhan agus deir sé gur mór mór an bhuntáiste do chanamhaint Chúigídh Uladh dá mbeadh a mhacasamhail-san de cheann aca féin.¹⁵

Gan amhras, thóg sé tamall sular glacadh lena mholadh ach chaithfí dlús a chur faoi eagraíocht na hAthbheochana ó thuaidh sula bhféadfaí cuimhneamh ar a leithéid fiú amháin, rud a tharla.¹⁶ Ní miste stair na heagraíochta úire Ultaí a thabhairt ina hiomláine anseo ó tharla a leithéid de thábhacht a bheith ag baint léi agus le go bhfeicfear cé na daoine uilig a raibh lámh acu san obair.

THE LEAGUE IN ULSTER
PROPOSED GENERAL CONFERENCE

On Friday of Oireachtas Week an informal meeting of some of the Ulster Delegates to the Árd-Fheis was held in Barry's Hotel, Dublin, for the purpose of devising some scheme for the consolidation of the working units in the North, with a view to the more effective propagation of the aims and principles of the Gaelic League. There were present: Miss Mac Neill, Cushendun House, Cushendun, Miss Lavery, Belfast; Miss Mac Crudden, Belfast; Miss Alice Milligan, Rev. Fr. Greenan, Co. Down; Rev. M. O'Mullin, Carndonagh, Co. Donegal; Rev. J. O'Doherty, Derry; Rev. Fr. Maguire, Donaghmoyne; Mr. Stephen Gwynn, Mr. Roger Casement, Mr. Richard Bonner, Townnawilly, Donegal; Mr. John King, Newcastle; Mr. Seamus Mac Manus, Mountcharles, Co. Donegal; Mr. Ward, Omeath; Prof. Mac Laughlin, St. Columb's College, Derry; Mr. P.J. Flanagan, Derry; Mr. J. Bonner, Barnesmore, Co. Donegal; Mr. J.J. O'Hegarty, Derry; Mr. Cahill, Co. Down and Mr. Tierney, Monaghan.

Mr. Stephen Gwynn presided.

The position of the Movement in Ulster generally was discussed, and proposals were put forward for the amalgamation for the whole province of the Toome conference, at present operating in the North East, and the Ulster Union of the

Gaelic League, working in the North West, the objects of both of which are practically similar.

The secretaries of the two bodies, Miss Lavery of the Toome Conference, and Father O'Mullin and Mr. Flanagan of the Ulster Union, were present at the meeting. Finally, on the motion of Fr. Greenan, seconded by Seamus Mac Manus, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted.

- *That this meeting of Ulster delegates to the Ard-Fheis suggest to the secretaries of the Ulster Union of the Gaelic League and the Toome Conference that they issue a summons jointly signed (sic!) to all members of their respective bodies to attend a conference in Derry at a date to be fixed by agreement between them for the purpose of creating a permanent council to promote the working of the Gaelic League in Ulster, and that they send a copy of the summons with a request for a representative to every branch of the Gaelic League in the province.*
 - *That the secretaries be requested to issue along with their summons the sketch of an agenda paper covering the following points for discussion:*
 - (a) *the formation of an Ulster Training College*
 - (b) *the creation of a machinery for the organization of Ulster*
 - (c) *the cultivation of the Irish tongue and literature in Ulster*
 - *That the secretaries should invite individual members and branches of the League in Ulster to suggest and send in definite motions for discussion at the Conference, that these be circulated amongst all persons invited at least a week before the Conference assembles.*

Members of the two bodies and Gaelic League Branches are requested to send in any suggestions or motions they may have to make on the above scheme as soon as possible to any of the secretaries: Miss Lavery, 18 King Street, Belfast; Rev. M. O'Mullin, C.C., Carndonagh, Co. Donegal, or P.J. Flanagan, Derry People, Derry.¹⁷

Ní miste a rá anseo, a fhad is a bhí sé seo uilig á bheartú, cuireadh Coláiste Gaeilge nó Coláiste Múinteoireachta ar bun ar 13 Mí Dheireadh Fómhair, 1905 i mBéal Feirste. D'iarr Seosamh Cuipéir, Rúnaí Choiste Ceantair Bhéal Feirste ar Sheaghán Ó Catháin a bhí fostaithe mar oifigeach custaim agus máil i mBéal Feirste agus a raibh baint aige roimhe sin le Coláiste na Mumhan, d'iarr sé ar Sheaghán¹⁸ ‘*whether I would not arrange to do something on the Ballingearry lines in Belfast.*’¹⁹ Foilsíodh an cuntas seo a leanas faoi stair bhunú Choláiste Chomhghaill:²⁰

An important step and one sure to be productive of beneficial and lasting results has just been taken by the Belfast Coiste Ceantair in the establishment of a class

for advanced pupils and teachers of Irish. This class will aim at doing for the Belfast teachers and students what the Training Colleges at Ballingearry and Partry have done for the teachers of Munster and Connacht respectively. A programme of work has been arranged to suit the varying requirements of the members of the class. Conversational lessons from language pictures and objects and from reading lessons will be the outstanding feature of the programme. Incidentally the lessons will be of value to teachers who desire to teach on similar lines. Arrangements will in addition be made, either before or after the conversational lessons, by which direct assistance in the method of teaching the language will be given. A course of Irish phonetics, which will be useful alike to teachers and students, will also be included. A course of home work will also be arranged and a composition exercise set weekly. This latter exercise will be suited to the capabilities of each student individually. The class programme will therefore suit the student who is only 'fairly advanced' as well as the advanced student, by the graduated lessons on conversation which will train each one to use his Irish vocabulary orally. It will be particularly helpful to the teacher of Irish; whilst the student who intends presenting himself at Irish language examinations should find the work of the greatest assistance. It is hoped teachers preparing for the Irish Certificate of the National Board will attend the conversational lessons, and indeed every portion of the programme should benefit them. The class will be conducted by Seaghán Ó Catháin, in the League Rooms, Avenue Hall, on Friday evenings, from 8 to 9.30. The first meeting will be held on Friday, 13th inst., when every intending student should endeavour to be present.²¹

Bunaíodh Coláiste Gaeilge i gCúige Uladh i ndeireadh 1905 cinnte agus bhí sé ag cur i gceart leis na Coláistí Gaeilge eile i gCúige Mumhan agus i gCúige Chonnacht maidir le haidhm, curaclam, modheolaíocht agus foireann. Bhí difríochtaí suntasacha, áfach, idir Coláiste Chomhghaill agus na cinn eile. Coláiste Gaeilge geimhridh a bhí ann, an chéad cheann dá short; bhí sé suite i gcroílár cathrach i ndaingean Galltachta, agus, rud faoi cáineadh go minic, Gaeilge na Mumhan a bhí ag an lucht teagaisc, rud nár thaitin le Gaeilgeoirí dílse Chúige Uladh nár mhór a meas ar na Muimhnigh fiú amháin ag an am sin de thairbhe na Gaeilge de.²²

Is fíor nach é blas Gaedhilge Chúige Uladh atáthar a chur rómpa ann. Agus cé gur mhaith linn fhéin blas na nUltach a bheith dá theagasg i ngach a'n chearn de'n chúigeadh, ní thig linn gan meas agus buidheachas a bheith againn ar Sheaghán Ó Catháin agus ar a chomh-Mhuimhnighibh ar son na hoibre atáid a dhéanamh i nGall-Chathair Chúigidh Chonchubhair – Séamus Ó Searcaigh.²³

*The following resolution was passed unanimously...[at meeting of Dáil Uladh]
'That we request the Belfast Coisde Ceanntair to provide that at least one of their*

*language teachers in Colaisde Naoim[h] Chomhghaill shall be a speaker of Ulster Irish...*²⁴

Char socraíodh ceist na canúna i mBéal Feirste go ceann i bhfad.²⁵

Ceann de na difríochtaí móra idir Coláiste Chomhghaill agus na Coláistí Gaeilge eile go dtí sin agus bunús an ama ina dhiaidh sin, go raibh sé i gceartlár cathrach agus na galltacha, chan ionann is na Coláistí Gaeilge eile a bhí i gcoílár na Gaeltachta. Cuimhnítear siar ar thús na haoise seo caite, nuair a bhí *Irish Ireland* in ard a réime, nuair a bhí lucht na hAthbheochana ag cur dá mbuacán fá thábhacht na Gaeltachta agus, lena linn sin, bolscaireacht láidir idé-eolaíoch ar son na Cúise ar siúl acu. Ansin a chónaigh cine glan spioradálta na nGael, iad sin nár choir is nár cháin riamh; na hógmhna mánla dathúla, na hógfhir laochda urrúnta; seandaoine stuama béasacha; ciall acu uilig don cheol agus don scéalaíocht; urraim acu dá chéile agus iad ag dul i gceann an tsaoil mar a d'ordaigh Dia dóibh. Tobar na Gaeilge, lárionad an dúchais, lóchrann léinn is creidimh mar a bhí sa tsean-am in Éirinn ar fad. Sin an cineál smaointe a mheall an chéad sruth Gaeilgeoirí chun na Gaeltachta an chéad lá riamh ar an oilithreacht idé-eolaíoch, rómánsúil seo, is iad sin na Conraitheoirí a tharraing ar Árainn ag deireadh an naoú haois déag. Phlódaigh siad isteach sna Coláistí Gaeltachta ina dhiaidh sin i gCúige Mumhan, Chonnacht agus Uladh agus iad á dtarraingt ag lóchrann an Ghaelachais a shoilsigh amach orthu, á mealladh ionsorthu féin. Tír Tairgire nó Tír na nÓg a bhí ann, shílfeá.²⁶ Ach rith buanna eile leis na Coláistí Gaeltachta seo a mheall daoine ionsorthu: saoire an tsamhraidh a bhíodh ann, aimsir mhaith, rothaíocht, snámh, tírdhreach álainn, seoltóireacht farraige, dreapadóireacht, scoraíochtaí, siúlóidí, aeríochtaí, céilithe, *picnics*, coirmeacha ceoil, amhránaíocht, scéalaíocht, ceantair stairiúla agus, gan amhras, caidreamh idir fir agus mná. Ní dóigh liom go bhfuil a dhath fágtha ar lár sa phíosa bolscaireachta ar son an Choláiste anseo a leanas agus cuimhnítear go raibh na Coláistí uilig ar an ealaín chéanna, feachtas láidir fógraíochta ar siúl acu uilig ag iarraidh mic léinn a fháil fá choinne a gcuid cúrsaí féin, iad ag coimhlint le chéile.

THE ULSTER IRISH COLLEGE

The papers are now full of the doings in the Colleges of Ballingearry and Mount Partry, and the Summer Schools, and I should like to remind those interested that

in about a month the College in Cloghaneely will be open for students. As is already known the object of this College is to help in the revival of the Northern dialect of Irish. It is an anomaly that Munster Irish should be taught in Belfast. The great object of placing the College in Cloghaneely is that here the pupils can gain proficiency in a colloquial knowledge of the language. Nowhere could they have greater advantages. For twenty miles round they will hear Irish spoken. 'Irish in the home, the school, the church.' And no better opportunity could be found in the North by those anxious to obtain certificates for teaching Irish in the schools by the new and direct method. Irish is not a dead language in Cloghaneely, but very much alive, and its people are a great example to the rest of Ulster. In spite of going to England and America for a livelihood, they still uphold their own language, and the children talk it far more freely than the tongue of the foreigner which has, alas! so successfully invaded almost every other part of Ulster.

No difficulty should be experienced in obtaining accommodation at reasonable rates for students within a radius of two miles round the College. The country houses are substantial, clean and good. The people are most hospitable and kindly, living up to the apostolic injunction, and it is to be hoped that Gaelic Leaguers coming to stay among them will remember the old Patriarch's experience and do likewise. Besides the advantages to be gained with regard to the language, no where could a more enjoyable and healthful holiday be spent.

There is bathing²⁷ 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 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.

Cloghaneely 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 may be well for students who wish to come to secure accommodation early. If they write to Miss McNeill, Ardsmore, Gortahork, Co. Donegal, or to Hugh O'Duffy, Gaelic League Organiser, all attention will be paid to their requirements.

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.

*Íde Nic Néill, Rúnaire, Dáil Uladh.*²⁸

Tháinig na baill Ultacha de Chonradh na Gaeilge le chéile i nDoire Lá Fhéile Stiofáin, 1905, agus chuir eagraíocht úr Ultach ar bun leis na haidhmeanna éagsúla ar ar aontaíodh cheana féin a chur chun cinn ar an bhealach ab éifeachtaí ab fhéidir. Dáil Uladh nó *The Ulster Gaelic Union* a baisteadh ar an eagraíocht úr.

*A conference of Ulster Gaelic Leaguers will be held in St. Columba's Hall, Derry, on St. Stephen's Day, to consider, amongst other things, the establishment of an Ulster Training College for Irish teachers, the promotion of an Ulster Feis and the publication of Ulster Irish Literature.*²⁹

*A draft scheme of organization was submitted by Father O'Mullan. To further this it was resolved to establish a new body to be known as the Ulster Gaelic Union. The new Council was asked to make arrangements for a training college in Donegal for Irish teachers.*³⁰

Tá an Tuaisceart ag gluaiseacht ar son na Gaedhilge. Tháinig Ultaigh i gceann a chéile Lá Fhéile Stiamhain agus thoghadar Coisde Gnótha dhóibh féin. Cumann Gaedhealach na nUltach a thugadar mar ainm baiste ortha féin agus a lucht leanamhna. Toghadh fuireann bheag ar an gCoisde agus d'órduigheadh dóibh Ionad Colláiste Múinte do sholáthairt i nDún na nGall. B'é cómhairle an Choisde nár bh'fhuláir an Colláiste do thógbháil i ndúthaigh Ghaedhilge, agus bhí an ceart annsoin aca. Samhluigheann sé dhúinn gur bh'fhéarr le Easbog Ráithe Both dá dtoghfaidhe Leitir Cheanainn i n-a chómhair; acht, do réir deallraimh, ní'l na Gaedhil eile ar aon intinn leis. Is cuma san. Cuirfear an Colláiste ar bun, agus sin é feabhas agus leaghas an scéil. Is beag nach deimhin go mbeidh ceann nuadh eile

againn i Laighnibh i gcómhair an tSamhraidh. Má bhíonn colláistidhe ar siubhal i ngach árd de'n dúthaigh le haghaidh múinte na Gaedhilge fé'n am go dtiocfaidh Árd-Rúnaidhe Gallda na hÉireann i n-ar measc.³¹

Ar thús cadhnaíochta ar chlár oibre na heagraíochta úire bhí bunú an Choláiste Gaeilge i nDún na nGall, ceann a bheadh ar aon dul leis na cinn i gCúige Mumhan agus i gCúige Chonnacht. Tugtar fá dear, áfach, go raibh fríd na hiaróige le sonrú sa tuairisc thuas áit a ndeirtear go raibh Easpag Ráth Bhoth, An Dr. Pádraig Ó Dónaill, i bhfách leis an Choláiste a thógáil i Leitir Ceanainn. Ní bheadh sé sin ar an chéad achrann a tharla idir pearsa eaglaise agus lucht an Chonartha ná ar an cheann deireanach ach oiread.³²

Bí an t-easpag céanna ina bhall mhór san am go náisiúnta agus go hidirnáisiúnta i gcúrsaí creidimh, polaitíochta, oideachais agus Gaeilge. Oibrí díograiseach a bhí ann ar mhaithe leis an Ghaeilge agus leis an léann de agus rinne sé a chion féin sna réimsí sin i rith a shaoil. Cainteoir dúchais a bhí ann chomh maith a rinne cuid mhór rudaí ar son na Gaeilge ina chontae dúchais sa chéad leath den aois seo caite.³³ Is é a thóg Coláiste Adhamhnáin, meánscoil Chaitliceach, i Leitir Ceanainn sa bhliain 1906 agus shíl sé go bhféadfadh sé dhá thrá a fhreastal agus leas breise a bhaint an an fhoirgneamh bhreá úr sin agus as an fhoireann teagaisc ansin dá ndéanfadh sé Coláiste Gaeilge a bhunú ansin seal an tsamhraidh.

Tuairiscíodh an rún sin aige ar nuachtán, áit ar fhógair sé ag Féile Naomh Adhamhnáin, 1905:

*During the month of August native scholars will hold a school of Irish learning in its (i.e. St. Eunan's) halls for National teachers and others who may desire to attend.*³⁴

Is cosúil go raibh a mholadh curtha i láthair roinnt daoine roimh an chéad chruinniú de Dháil Uladh, mar is léir ón tuairisc seo a leanas:

Mr. King proposed that it be an instruction to the next Council to take immediate steps to carry out the proposal to promote an Irish Training College in Donegal. He understood there was an offer from Very Rev. Dr. O'Donnell to provide a school for the coming summer, and it would require all the time of the Council until then to get the scheme carried out successfully.

The Chairman said some place should be named, as it would be quite useless to send pupils to some part of Donegal where there was no Irish spoken. (Applause)

Mr. King said he would strike out Donegal from the resolution, as there was an offer from Dr. O'Donnell for Letterkenny, which was not an Irish-speaking district at all. The location of the college could be decided on its merits afterwards.

Chairman: - Letterkenny is not a proper place at all. I would rather have you decide at once that it be in an Irish-speaking district.

Very Rev. Dr. Maguire proposed that the Executive be instructed to take steps to secure an effective course of training in Letterkenny for the coming summer and to establish a college in an Irish-speaking district for the permanent purpose of training teachers.

Chairman:- I would say exclude Letterkenny and have it in an Irish-speaking district. (Applause) I would be inclined to propose that we have a school established for the training of teachers in Irish, and that the Council proceed at once to make it permanent in an Irish-speaking district of Donegal.

On being put to the meeting the Chairman declared the latter amendment carried and the selection of a site for the proposed college was referred to the Executive Council, to receive a report on the matter from the President of the Council and the Donegal delegates.³⁵

Eilís Ní Mhaeileagáin writes:-

... In August he (the Bishop) will engage the best teachers of Irish that are to be had, and hold classes for teachers and others in the lecture halls and class rooms at the beautiful new college. There will also be a series of public popular lectures on subjects of history and archaeology. This scheme has been in the Bishop's mind for a long time. Indeed he was telling me of these plans and ideas some time ago before the foundation stone of St. Eunan's was laid. He was most anxious to hear all about the project of the Irish Summer College which is to be at Cloghaneely, and it is most important that the latter should be managed in such a way as not to be in rivalry with the Bishop's Summer School. The two schemes could be arranged to fit into and help one another. The teachers from county districts will be impressed by the really collegiate course at St. Eunan's and it will lead many of them to hold Irish history and language in greater esteem. They will be trained to teach in their schools. At Cloghaneely people from all over Ulster, who have rare opportunities of speaking Irish, will be living in the very heart of Gaelic Ireland for a session.³⁶

Tá sé le tuigbheáil as an tsliocht sin thuas go raibh contúirt ann go dtiocfadh an dá choláiste salach ar a chéile nó go raibh siad in adharca a chéile.³⁷ Ní gá gur fíor sin óir ní raibh fianaise cheart á chruthú sin ag an am. Bheadh ábhar ceart easaontais ann lá ab fhaide anonn idir an t-easpag agus Conradh na Gaeilge, ach sin scéal eile.

Socraíodh ag an chéad chruinniú sin de Dháil Uladh go gcuirfí Coláiste Gaeilge ar bun an bhliain dár gcionn i nGaeltacht Dhún na nGall.³⁸ Socraíodh ar thoradh moille ina dhiaidh sin ag cruinniú de Dháil Uladh a tionóladh i bPort an Dúnáin i mí Feabhra 1906 go mbeadh an Coláiste Gaeilge lonnaithe i nGaoth Dobhair.

*Dáil Uladh held a largely attended and most business-like meeting at Port an Dúnáin on Wednesday of last week. Gweedore was fixed upon as the site of the Ulster Training School for this year, the question of alternating with Cloghaneely or Arranmore in future years being left in abeyance. A small sub-committee was named to look after the details of the college organization, and it was decided to advertise for two teachers...*³⁹

Níor leanadh rófhada leis an rún go gcuirfí an Coláiste ar bun i nGaoth Dobhair. Socraíodh ar Chloich Cheann Fhaolaidh agus sin mar a tharla.

*The Rev. Dr. Maguire... reported that some slight difficulty had arisen as to the building proposed for the Ulster Training College at Gweedore, but added that he hoped it would be successfully surmounted.*⁴⁰

Tógadh cinneadh fosta go n-iarrfaí ar an Dr. Dubhghlas de hÍde an oscailt oifigiúil a dhéanamh ar an 3 Iúil.⁴¹ Ag deireadh mhí an Aibreáin, áfach, ag cruinniú de Dháil Uladh i mBéal Feirste, moladh go gcuirfí siar an dáta oscailte go dtí 28 Lúnasa agus glacadh leis. Tá cuntas breise tugtha ar oscailt an Choláiste agus rudaí a bhain leis sin ar fad san Aguisín leisc cur isteach barraíocht a dhéanamh ar leanúnachas na haiste seo.

Maidir leis an churaclam a bhí i bhfeidhm i gColáiste Uladh, is eol dúinn go raibh sé ag cur go maith lena raibh á chleachtadh roimhe sin sna Coláistí Gaeilge eile nó, ar bhealach, aon eagraíocht náisiúnta amháin a bhí ann agus bhí na haidhmeanna céanna acu uilig agus an cur chuige céanna in úsáid acu. Á dhearbhu sin, bhíodh comhdháil ag na Coláistí Gaeilge le plé a dhéanamh ar chúrsaí a bhain lena gcuid oibre go sonrach.⁴² Rud eile de, títheas go raibh baint ag cuid de na múinteoirí agus na mic léinn ar na Coláistí seo le Coláistí eile. Cuirim i gcás, Séamus Ó Searcaigh, a rinne freastal ar an chéad chúrsa riamh i gColáiste na Mumhan (1904), an bhliain dár gcionn seo é ag freastal ar Choláiste Chonnacht, é ar an fhoireann teagaisc as sin amach i nGort an Choirce, agus ina dhiaidh siad ar fhoireann Choláiste Chomhghaill agus Choláiste Laighean. Éamonn Ó Tuathail a

d'fhreastail ar an chéad chúrsa ar Choláiste Chonnacht, castar orainn arís é ag múineadh ar Choláiste Uladh agus ar Choláiste Laighean (níor chaill sé amach ach ar aon Chúige amháin). Bhí Seán Ó Catháin ina phríomhoide ar Choláiste Chomhghaill, ar Choláiste na Mumhan agus ar Choláiste an Daingin. Má bhreathnaítear ar an fhoireann ar na Coláistí éagsúla, aithneofar gur chaith siad seal ag freastal ar níos mó ná Coláiste amháin. Aon ghréasán amháin Coláistí a bhí i gceist – agus Roger Casement ag coinneáil airgid le cuid mhaith acu.

Coláiste Múinteoireachta na Mumhan i mBéal Átha an Ghaorthaidh ar cuireadh tús leis sa bhliain 1904 a leag síos an curaclam a ndéanfaidh na Coláistí eile aithris air. Seo mar a bhí an cúsa sa bhliain tosaigh sin.

1. *Linguistic, comprising phonetics, grammar and prose composition, poetry, reading, recitation and story-telling.*
2. *Methods of teaching, including lectures on methods, demonstration of methods, and practice in same.*
3. *History of literature.*
4. *History of Ireland.*
5. *Vocal music.*
6. *Dancing.*
7. *Lectures on miscellaneous subjects.*
8. *Games and amusements.*⁴³

A leathbhreac céanna a bhí i gceist i gColáiste Uladh féadaim a rá. Bhí an-tóir go deo sna Coláistí Gaeilge ar an fhoghraíocht maidir le teagasc teanga, a bhuíochas sin do thionchar na scoláirí Eorpacha agus a gcuid oibre sa réimse seo. Seo a leanas Seán Ó Catháin ar an téad seo:

'The Fascination of Phonetics. A lecture on Irish Phonetics, usually lasting about twenty minutes, is the next item in our evening's work. I understand there were some amusing conjectures as to this same Phonetics course before we started. Some could think of it only in connection with Pitman's shorthand, or the O'Growney Keywords! There were others whose aesthetic sense revolted at what they thought would be 'a phonetic rendering' similar to what Irish singers occasionally treat us. Fortunately, a few of the students were already good Irish phoneticians, having sat at the Rev. Dr. O'Daly's⁴⁴ feet during two summer courses at Ballingearry. I believe these reassured some of the other students. Now that they understand something of this science, and witness its application in the correct teaching of Irish sounds, I think they agree that a knowledge of Phonetics is as necessary to the teacher of Irish (or of any living language) as a knowledge of

*musical notes is to the teacher of music. When one gets beyond the preliminary stages, too, the study of Irish Phonetics is a most fascinating one. A lecture on Phonetics need never be without its humorous side, which is a blessing*⁴⁵

Rinne Séamus Ó Grianna freastal ar a leithéid de chúrsa agus ní moladh mór a bhí aige air mar mhodh teagaisc Gaeilge.⁴⁶ Galar a bhí ann a tógadh i gCúige Mumhan agus a scaip ar fud na tíre.

D'inis an máistir dóibh cad é an dóigh a raibh úll an sceadamáin i ndiaidh a chéile - go raibh téadaí agus bacáin ann agus dá réir sin. Is cuma cé acu, níor fhág sé leithead pionna ón scornaigh amach go barr na teanga nár mhínigh sé uilig. Nuair a thigeadh an ghaoth fríd na rópaí a bhí sa sceadamán, níodh siadsan glór.

Séamas - Tá sin ceart, deir an mhuintir seo linn a bhfuil an fhoghlaim acu.

Micheál - Ceart nó éigeart, cad é an féim atá leis? Cad é an méid Gaeilge a bheas agatsa de bharráocht ar a bhfuil agat, cionn is go bhfaigheann tú amach gur téadaí atá in úll do sceadamáin a níos an glór? Nó an raibh focal amháin ag na maca léinn de bharráocht le linn seo a fháil amach? Bhí sé chomh maith aige a rá leo, de thairbhe Gaeilge de, gur feadóg mhara a bhí thíos sa scornaigh, agus gach uair a bhfosclóchadh duine a bhéal, go ligfeadh sí béic aisti féin ag iarraidh fáil ar shiúl.⁴⁷

Cuid lárnach de chlár teagaisc na gColáistí Gaeilge an cúram a rinneadh de mhodh teagaisc na Gaeilge nó chuige sin go bunúsach a cuireadh na Coláistí ar bun an chéad lá riamh. Is eol dúinn go raibh *An Modh Réidh* nó *Díreach*⁴⁸ in úsáid agus is modh é sin a bhí bunaithe ar an lámhleabhar teagaisc de réir an Mhodha Dhírigh darbh ainm *An Modh Réidh leis an nGaedhilge do Mhúnadh* a scríobh Pádraic Mac an Fhailge.⁴⁹ Ba mhór an dul chun cinn a bhí sa chóras teagaisc seo ar a raibh ann roimhe sin, ceapadh, agus is cinnte gur chuir idir lucht teagaisc agus lucht foghlama fáilte is fiche roimhe.⁵⁰ Rud inspéise eile, léirigh sé go raibh fonn ar lucht an Chonartha san am an *modus operandi* ab éifeachtaí agus ba nua-aimseartha a bhí ar fáil san am le teagasc na Gaeilge a aimsiú agus a chur in úsáid.⁵¹ Is cinnte gur chuidigh an córas nua seo le hoiliúint ghairmiúil a chur ar na múinteoirí ó thaobh an teagaisc de.

Mar chuid eile den chúrsa teagaisc sa Choláiste, bhí staidéar fosta ar chúrsaí gramadaí agus, lena chois sin, staidéar áirithe ar ghramadach na Sean- agus na Meán-Ghaeilge. Bhí léachtaí ann fosta ó aoiléachtóirí gradamúla ar ghnéithe de stair na hÉireann agus de theanga, de sheandálaíocht, de cheol agus de chultúr na Gaeilge in imeacht na n-aoiseanna.⁵² Agus, gan amhras, ní dhearnadh faillí i dtraidisiún na scéalaíochta agus na hamhránaíochta taobh amuigh agus taobh istigh de na ranganna.

Nuair a bhreathnaítear go cruinn ar chláir iomlán na gcúrsaí sna Coláistí Gaeilge, caithear a rá go raibh sé uaimhianach agus cuimsitheach go maith mar chláir léinn do mhic léinn aosacha den chuid is mó i dtús ama agus é sin uilig déanta taobh istigh de roinnt seachtainí i rith an tsamhraidh. Tá creidiúint mhór ag gabháil don lucht teagaisc a rinne na cúrsaí sin uilig a sholáthar, dá gcuid léinn agus, thar aon rud eile, don díograis mhór a bhí iontu ó thaobh na Gaeilge de. Iadsan ach go háirithe a leag an dúshraith do theagasc ghairmiúil theanga na Gaeilge a gcuirfí barr feabhais agus slachta air sna blianta ina dhiaidh sin sna Coláistí Oiliúna agus sna hOllscoileanna. Shílfeá uaireanta ó na cuntais a scríobhadh ar bhlianta tosaigh na gColáistí Gaeilge, go raibh ré Óige na Críostaíochta i gceist ach, ar ndóigh, bhí siad lán dóchais agus uaimhíne agus dea-mhéine. D'athraigh cuid mhaith de sin le cúrsaí polaitíochta.

B'fhéidir go bhfágfaimid an focal scoir ag comhfhreagraí in *The Church of Ireland Gazette* ag cur síos ar an chúrsa i gCloich Cheann Fhaolaidh sa bhliain 1907:

I first visited Cloughineely in 1907, the year after it was started. It was then lodged in a two-storied, whitewashed house on a bare roadside in the wild country between Errigal and the sea. There were certainly no luxuries or unnecessary refinements about study there. It meant plain living and high thinking for everybody, particularly the staff. Yet, there was never a dull moment. If the day was devoted to work till 3 o'clock, the evenings were enlivened with many a merry céilidhe. We all joined in these: students, teachers and visitors. If you are a very

distinguished visitor, a céilidhe will be given in your honour. If you are a generous visitor you give one to the whole college. Tea and buns are the utmost required to satisfy your guests, so long as there is plenty of gaiety. But the work comes first and foremost, and, only after the principal is satisfied that the students have come there for business, does the question of how many céilidhes will be permitted arise. Other evenings are devoted to debates or lectures in Irish, which are excellent training for following other speakers or speaking yourself. Those of us who have got into the habit of a yearly pilgrimage to an Irish College look forward to our week or our fortnight there as a schoolboy looks forward to his holidays.

The first morning after you arrive you rush up to the College to greet old friends and see how everything is going on. You curl up in your appointed class and fraternize with the student next you. You borrow his or her pencil, look up his textbook, find your own place and plunge straightway into the stream. At luncheon time you find some more friends, and hear how there are more students this year than ever there were. All the Colleges have increased steadily up to the present. Back again to work at phonetics or literature or composition till 3 o'clock, and then you go back to the little hotel to eat a belated dinner, go for a stroll to some Irish-speaking cottage, chat to everyone who is willing to chat to you in Irish, and then, after tea, debate or lecture or dance till 10 o'clock, and home to bed. Here I may say that, though the visitors may stay in the hotel, the students who nearly all spend the session (six weeks) there, lodge in the farmhouses round. The average boarding rate is 10s. a week, for the average student is not rich. He and she are mostly school-teachers, clerks, mistresses, excise officers, and such like. Nearly all are very young, and all will undoubtedly have to work for their living. These Colleges are very democratic in their composition, and it is one great reason of their charm. Within their walls, as within the Gaelic League, are all equal. A common cause, a common enthusiasm, unites all; young and old, Protestant and Roman Catholic, man and woman. As a rule it means a very real earnestness and self-denial in the students who devote their one holiday in the year, not to pure holiday-making, but, to the attempt to become better acquainted with the language, the literature, the history, of their native land, believing that they will be the better citizens for so doing. This is the root idea of the whole Gaelic League: that to the Irish race, the knowledge of their own country, history and language is the one sure foundation on which to build all other knowledge. It is the great idea underlying all educational schemes of the present day in every country; know yourselves. This enthusiasm has inspired the driest and most grinding toil over grammar, phonetics etc. The lessons are no child's play. The teachers are not amateurs.⁵³

Nó achoimre ar ar beartaíodh agus ar ar cuireadh i gcrích i gcaitheamh na mblianta:

'When the Dáil Uladh found it necessary to take prompt and resolute action towards the preservation and cultivation of Irish in the province Cloghaneely was marked out as the nursery. And where is there a more fitting home for an Irish college than among the mountains of Tir Connal, where the very atmosphere teems with old world traditions, and where every inch of ground is filled with historic memories? When it was determined, then, that this College should be established it

was further decided that the living Irish of Ulster should be taught in accordance with the most up-to-date method, so that Cloghaneely might turn out for our cities, towns, villages, and hill sides, teachers who, in their turn, would be fit guardians of the Irish language.’ This has been successfully done. Qualified teachers have carried Irish from this nursery to all parts of the province, where the language is now, unfortunately, dead. And not only has this part of the work succeeded beyond our hopes, but Cloghaneely College has more than justified its existence locally. This is seen by the large increase of Irish speakers notified in the last census of the Irish-speaking districts of Donegal.⁵⁴

Is mór idir an tuar dóchais sin agus an cuntas a thug Tomás Ó Concheanainn, Timire, ar Scoil Náisiúnta Ghort an Choirce agus Chaiseal na gCorr ar thug sé cuairt orthu sa bhliain 1902:

Gorthahork (Mixed) – Michael McFadden, teacher. No Irish taught. 234 on rolls. All Irish speakers but six and they come from Falcarragh. Teacher speaks Irish well and reads a little. Music, drawing and physical drill get collectively about four hours a week but Irish has not a look in. Promises to do something soon. No Irish history taught.

*Cashelnagor (Mixed) – Mr. Breslin, teacher. No Irish taught. 185 on rolls. All Irish speakers, whisper, play, and jump and frolic in Irish. Teacher a good Irish speaker. It was like all the other teachers, save those of Carrowcannon, **an chéad bhiadh tháinig ar shloigeán aige**. He offers no hope until the examination is over. Physical drill and other such fandangoes are not forgotten here. No Irish history taught.⁵⁵*

AGUISÍN

Ó tharla go bhfuil comóradh céid á dhéanamh againn ar Choláiste Uladh fá láthair agus nach dóiche go mbeidh lucht taighde an teacht an bealach seo arís in aicearracht, shíl mé gur cheart blas a thabhairt dá raibh á rá ag an am faoin Choláiste úr. Seo a leanas píosaí a chroch mé as nuachtáin chomhaimseartha ag trácht ar an ócáid. Tugtar fá dear go bhfuil tromlach na dtuairiscí as Béarla ó tharla gurbh é an Béarla teanga na meán cumarsáide agus na bolscaireachta ag lucht na hAthbheochana ag an am.

ULSTER TRAINING COLLEGE

The Opening Postponed Until August

The very Rev. E. Maguire, D.D., Inver, presided at a meeting of the Ulster Gaelic Union in Belfast on Monday. He said that they had arranged that the Training College at Cloghaneely, Co. Donegal, would be opened on the 3rd of July by Dr. Douglas Hyde if possible. They all hoped to see the College opened under the happiest auspices, and with all the essentials of success that could be secured for it. For many reasons those who were on the ground believed that it would be better if the College were opened on a later date than the 3rd July. He thought the months of August and September would be more convenient for the big body of men who would carry the results of their improved training into the schools for the advantage of the children. He proposed formally that the Training College be opened on the 28th August. This was carried unanimously.⁵⁶

Eilís Ní Mhaeleagáin writes:-

... In August he (the Bishop) will engage the best teachers of Irish that are to be had, and hold classes for teachers and others in the lecture halls and class rooms at the beautiful new college. There will also be a series of public popular lectures on subjects of history and archaeology. This scheme has been in the Bishop's mind for a long time. Indeed he was telling me of these plans and ideas some time ago before the foundation stone of St. Eunan's was laid. He was most anxious to hear all about the project of the Irish Summer College which is to be at Cloghaneely, and it is most important that the latter should be managed in such a way as not to be in rivalry with the Bishop's Summer School. The two schemes could be arranged to fit into and help one another. The teachers from county districts will be impressed by the really collegiate course at St. Eunan's and it will lead many of them to hold Irish history and language in greater esteem. They will be trained to teach in their schools. At Cloghaneely people from all over Ulster, who have rare opportunities of speaking Irish, will be living in the very heart of Gaelic Ireland for a session.⁵⁷

Ulster Training College

At the last meeting of the Dáil Uladh there were five applications for the teachership in the Ulster Training College at Cloughaneely. Miss Agnes O'Farrelly, M.A., who generously gives her services gratuitously was appointed principal for part of the session. Mr. Sharkey, Dun Dealgain, was appointed assistant for the whole of the session. It was decided 'That not less than ten free scholarships (including expenses for boarding and free tuition) for native Irish speakers from the ages of seventeen to twenty-two be awarded.' Applications are to be made to the secretaries, Rev. Father O'Mullin, Carndonagh, or Miss MacNeill, Cushendun, County Antrim, not later than the end of June.⁵⁸

‘Ba é an chéad rud eile ar ar cinneadh ná scéim scoláireachtaí Gaeilge chun daoine óga a chur go dtí Coláiste Chloch Cheannfhaolaidh in iarthar Dhún na nGall ar feadh míosa gach samhradh. Ball de choiste rialaithe an Choláiste ba ea an tAthair Maitiú [Mag Uidhir] in éineacht le Séamus Ó Searcaigh, T.P. Mac Fhionnlaigh agus Úna Ní Fhaircheallaigh. Is ann a chaitheadh sé cuid dá shaoire samhraidh gach bliain agus níorbh fhéarr leis aon ní ná scata scoláirí óna pharóiste a bheith thiar ina theannta.⁵⁹

The Committee of Coláiste Uladh makes the interesting announcement that during the first part of its session the College will be in charge of Úna Ní Fhaircheallaigh as Ard-Oide. She is bound to inspire her pupils, young and old, with her own generous enthusiasm for work and her own high ideal in scholarship. Assisting her will be one or more professors. An interesting course of lectures on language, history, teaching methods etc. is being arranged for, and a number of prominent Gaels will visit the College during the session. The students promise to be numerous.⁶⁰

DÁIL ULADH

A meeting of the Dáil Uladh or Ulster Gaelic Union was held in the Town Hall, Dundalk, on Thursday, 5th July. There were present: Very Rev. Dr. Maguire (presiding), Miss Agnes O'Farrelly, M.A., Mr. O. J. Kelly, Rev. Fr. Tierney, Professor of Macartan's, Monaghan; Rev. Fr. Greenan, C.C. (represented); Messrs. J. King, Newcastle, Francis Fearon, Belfast, Henry Morris, Dundalk, Thos. Barry, Castlebellingham, P. Morris, Carrickmacross and J. Sharkey, Gaelic League teachers.

In the unavoidable absence of the secretary, Rev. Fr. Mullen, Mr. Henry Morris acted as secretary to the meeting.

Letters expressing regret for their absence were read from Rev. Fr. Mullen and Mr. F.J. Biggar, Belfast.

A letter was read from Mr. P. O'Daly, General Secretary, Dublin, relative to the organizers in Ulster, and a report from Miss MacNeill giving a list of places in Ulster where Irish classes are established.

THE ULSTER IRISH COLLEGE

The chief business before the meeting was the question of the Ulster Irish College at Cloghaneely, Co. Donegal, which is to open on the 28th August. The Very Rev. Chairman explained that Miss Mac Neill was going there next week to take charge of the house in which the school is to be held; that Rev. Father Sheridan, Mr. Carr and Mr. Duffy (organizers) were looking after the houses in which the students were to stop, and that a regular weekly tariff would be arranged with these houses and published with the prospectus.

Mr. J.C. Ward wrote to say that he would be able to attend the college from the start, so that the staff will consist of Miss Agnes Farrelly, M.A., Dublin, Mr. J.C. Ward, Killybegs and Mr. J. Sharkey, Dundalk.

The Dáil offers ten free scholarships to natives of Ulster and Meath, whether native or non-native speakers. These scholarships are to cover cost of board, lodging and tuition at Cloghaneely, but must not exceed a money value of £5 each. They are allocated to the following counties in the following order: Donegal 2, Fermanagh and Cavan 2, Derry, Tyrone and Antrim 2, Down, Armagh and Louth 2, Monaghan 1 and Meath 1. These scholarships are to be won in open competition and the limits of age have been extended from 17 to 35. Candidates for these scholarships should send in their applications to the General Secretary of the Dáil, Rev. Father Mullen, C.C., Carndonagh, Co. Donegal, on or before 1st August, and must give a guarantee that they will teach Irish as far as practicable either under the National Board or Gaelic League. Examinations of the candidates will be held at the following centres – at the Newcastle Feis (29th July), the Toome Feis (30th and 31st July), the Castleblaney (Co. Monaghan) Feis (12th August), at Dundalk, and at some centres in Donegal, and also in Meath, to suit candidates most conveniently. The examiners appointed are Rev. Fr. Mullen, Miss O’Farrelly and Messers. Duffy and Hegarty, League Organisers.

The examination will be chiefly oral with:

*(a) A piece of dictation from any easy Irish text
and*

(b) A piece of easy Irish composition.

Intending candidates should make no delay in sending in their applications to Rev. Father Mullen.

Resolutions were passed requesting for Ulster more organizers and a better representation on the Coiste Gnotha, and protesting against the paucity of Ulster and Connacht texts on the new programme of the Commissioners of Education.

The next meeting of the Dáil will be held at Toome on the day after the Feis, namely, on the 1st August at 12 noon.⁶¹

Úna Ní Fhaircheallaigh. Miss O’Farrelly, who is an M.A., might be said to have grown with the Language Movement. We could not picture her apart from it, and we could scarcely picture the movement in Dublin without her. She has acquired a notable command of Irish, speaks it steadily, and writes in it gracefully. She prepared the O’Growney Memorial Volume, a veritable labour of love. Of her work in connection with feiseanna, with the Coisde Gnotha, and its several sub-committees it were long to tell. Her attitude to the Gaelic League is one of devotion, her policy – tireless effort.⁶²

Ulster Irish College, Cloughaneely, Co. Donegal. Six Weeks' Session (28th August till 15th October), for National Teachers and Students (advanced and beginners). Prospectus to be had from Rev. M. Mullin, C.C., Carndonagh, Co. Donegal.⁶³

THE DÁIL ULADH
MEETING IN TOOME

A meeting of the Dáil Uladh was held in Toomebridge on Wednesday, 1st August.... On the motion of Úna Ní Fhaircheallaigh...it was decided to offer two special scholarships to candidates resident in the neighbourhood of Cloughaneely, who must not be in such proximity as to permit of their returning to their homes each day, and that the number may be increased, if considered desirable, by the staff of the college.

Miss O'Farrelly was requested to prepare a list of books to form a small college library, and to forward same to the secretaries, who are to procure the works selected.

It was announced that lectures would be given during the college session by Dr. Henry Stephen Gwynn, P.J. Pierce, B.L., F.J. Biggar, M.R.I.A., Joseph Lloyd, and John O'Neill, B.A....

A syllabus of the training college was submitted by Miss O'Farrelly, and referred for final consideration to the next meeting of the Dáil.... Wednesday 8th ...⁶⁴

CLOGANEELY IRISH COLLEGE – THE OPENING TOMORROW

It is hoped Cloughaneely College will be opened by Doctor Douglas Hyde on August 28th at twelve o'clock. It is expected that the ceremony will bring together many of the Gaels of the North to meet and welcome the great leader of Irish Ireland.

The site of the college has been chosen in this remote district because here alone in all Ulster Irish is the spoken language for a radius of many miles. A luncheon will be given in Falcarragh in honour of the president of the Gaelic League, and cheap excursion tickets will be available on the Lough Swilly Railway for all trains.

Extra Train Facilities – Derry Sunday

It was learned tonight at the Gaelic Committee meeting that for the convenience of visitors to the opening of the Ulster Training College on Tuesday at Cloughaneely, in addition to the ordinary train service by which excursion tickets are available, a special train will leave for Falcarragh and Cashelnagore on Tuesday morning at 7.350 leaving Letterkenny at 10 and returning from Cashelnagore at 6.50, Falcarragh at 7, and calling at intermediate stations. The committee regard this as a most important supplemental traveling arrangement.⁶⁵

Ulster Irish College

Yesterday, away in the Donegal Highlands, there was a big hosting of the Gaels of Ulster at the opening of the Irish College for the training of teachers and students in Gaelic. The noteworthy event also attracted to the district many friends and workers in the language revival movement from the other provinces. In the work of systematic organization the Northern province has been slow to move, but now that it has set itself to the task Ulster will not be found far behind Munster and Connaught. The new and energetic spirit which has been aroused is mainly due to the initiation of the Dáil Uladh or Ulster Union of the Gaelic League. The outcome is another striking example of the fruitfulness which attends a policy of self-help. There could not have been found in all Ulster a spot better adapted for the successful carrying out of the work which the Irish College is intended to discharge. For miles around the Irish language is the home speech of everyone, and is constantly used in the transaction of all the affairs of daily life. It is an ideal spot for the student who wishes to become proficient in the use of the native speech. The natural and scenic advantages of the district and its healthful surroundings are not the least attractive features in connection with the selection of Cloghaneely. Near the shore washed by the broad Atlantic surges and entrenched amidst the mountains of 'Dark Donegal,' the newly-opened college is one, we hope, destined to for aye to be an impregnable fortress for the Gaelic in Ulster, and a place whence the knowledge of our native tongue will spread out over the province. The large muster of clergy and laymen at yesterday's inaugural ceremony, and the enthusiasm which marked the proceedings, as well as the practical support which has been given to the project is most encouraging. It was perhaps a disappointment to the visitors that Dr. Douglas Hyde was unavoidably detained from attending the function. But many of the foremost workers in the cause were there, and that the right spirit pervaded one and all was shown by the fact that all the speeches delivered were in the Gaelic tongue. Letters of apologies from several members of the Hierarchy who were unable to attend were read, and His Lordship the Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell marked his sympathy in a generous and practical fashion by forwarding a donation of five pounds towards the funds. The district is an ideal one for the holiday-maker, and abounds in historic associations. Not far away is Doe Castle, the ancient stronghold of the MacSweeneys, noted as the spot where Owen Roe O'Neill landed in 1642. It is not too much to expect that individual sympathizers and branches of the Gaelic League in Ulster will set themselves to work in an energetic way to afford all the support possible to this undertaking, upon the success of which the honour of our province and its utility as a force in the advancement of the language movement unquestionably depends.⁶⁶

[Foilsíodh an t-alt seo in Seosamh Ó Ceallaigh (eag.), *Coláiste Uladh 1906-2006* (Coiste Cuimhneacháin Choláiste Uladh, 2006) 110-40.]

¹ Tomás Ó Máille, *Stádas na Gaeilge: Dearcadh Dlíthiúil* (Bord na Gaeilge, 1990) 3.

² Máirtín Ó Murchú, *Cumann Buan-Choimeádta na Gaeilge: Tús an Athréimnithe* (Cois Life, 2002) 155-240 agus Regina Uí Chollatáin, *An Claidheamh Soluis agus Fáinne an Lae 1988-1932* (Cois Life, 2004) 60-8. Féach go raibh coiste ar leith ag an Chonradh, mar atá, An Coiste Oideachais agus tá cuntas air ag Donnchadh Ó Súilleabháin in *An Piarsach agus Conradh na Gaeilge* (Clódhanna Teo., 1981) 51-62.

³ Luaite ag Donnchadh Ó Súilleabháin in *An Piarsach agus Conradh na Gaeilge* (Clódhanna Teo., 1981) 55-6.

⁴ Luaite ag Donnchadh Ó Súilleabháin in *An Piarsach agus Conradh na Gaeilge* (Clódhanna Teo., 1981) 60.

⁵ De réir tuairisce atá againn don bhliain 1910, cuirim i gcás, tuairiscíodh an cuntas seo a leanas in *Sinn Féin* (5.8.11, 1):

It appears that the Church of Ireland Training College which supplies no teachers to the Irish-speaking population taught no Irish to its teacher-pupils. The Marlboro' Street Training College (practically Presbyterian) qualified 4 out of 198 to teach Irish, and the Catholic Training Colleges, which supply teachers for the Irish-speaking districts, and to a population which wants Irish, supplied altogether 32 out of 642! That is, out of 642 Catholic teachers sent out to educate Young Ireland last year 95 per cent were ignorant of the National language. The manner in which Irish is taught in these Training Colleges is shown by the fact that out of 183 who were examined in Irish only 32 passed – 1 in 6. Where all the teaching is so bad, it is hard to award the leather medal, but De La Salle, Our Lady of Mercy, Blackrock, and Mary Immaculate, Limerick, contrive to show one pass in Irish to every thirteen or fourteen who entered for examination. In the actual number of teachers qualified in Irish De La Salle takes the Anglicisation palm with 3 out of 97. Here is the complete Dishonours List:

| Training Colleges | Teachers Qualified | No. Qualified in Irish |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>De La Salle</i> | 97 | 3 |
| <i>Blackrock</i> | 86 | 3 |
| <i>Mary Immaculate</i> | 51 | 2 |
| <i>St. Mary's, Belfast</i> | 48 | 8 |
| <i>Drumcondra</i> | 87 | 12 |
| <i>Malborough Street</i> | 198 | 4 |

It is idle to think that Irish can be spread in the schools so long as this kind is permitted to go on.⁵
Irish in the Schools

From a summary of a reply given to Mr. Thomas O'Donnell, M.E.P., by Mr. Birrell, we gather that the total number of National Teachers who became qualified to teach Irish since 1905 to the present time is 1,438. Of this number nearly one half were the product of the Gaelic Colleges, the training colleges only accounting directly for 299. During this period about 3,500 teachers were turned out by the Colleges. Thus, even taking the teachers who voluntarily qualify themselves, and the teachers whom the Gaelic League qualifies, the total output of teachers qualified in Irish is only two in five. That is, if all the managers in Ireland to-morrow agreed to have Irish in their schools, it could not be done. They could not find Irish teachers for half of them.

Three years ago the Gaelic League was humbugged by the National Board, which promised to make a second language compulsory in 1911. Relying on that promise, the League dropped the agitation for Irish in the training colleges. The promise has been broken. It was never meant to be kept, and it is up to the League now to fight or fade. If it does not concentrate its strength on forcing the Board to make Irish essential at entrance to the training colleges it will weaken itself. To attempt to save the language while nine-tenths of the teachers are coming out of the colleges ignorant of it is harder than to weave ropes of sand... Sinn Féin (16.12.11, 1).

⁶ 'The Training Colleges,' *An Claidheamh Soluis* (8.4.05, 6-7).

⁷ 'The Training Colleges and Irish,' *An Claidheamh Soluis* (22.4.05, 6-7).

⁸ 'Several hundreds of voluntary teachers all over the country are pondering methods of teaching. The Gouin system, the Berlitz system, the Modh Reidh, and their endless modifications... All these systems, however, require skilled exponents and the large majority of Gaelic League teachers have no training.' – Pádraig Mac Suibhne, 'Teachers and Pupils,' *An Claidheamh Soluis* (11.10.02, 518).

⁹ 'The early teachers in the League were untrained voluntary workers, but among them were a few who appreciated the need for effective teaching methods, for teaching aids, and for qualified teachers' - Breandán S. Mac Aodha, 'Was This a Social Revolution?' in Seán Ó Tuama (ed.) *The Gaelic League Idea* (The Mercier Press, 1972) 21-2.

¹⁰ As léirmheas le G. O'N. [= Gearóid Ó Nualláin] ar *Cainnt le Seaghán Ó Catháin* a foilsíodh ar *The Irish News and Belfast Morning News* (2.11.05, 6).

¹¹ Seo a leanas cuntas ar na Coláistí Gaeilge a eisíodh ag an *Conference of Irish Colleges* sa bhliain 1916: *'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.'*

Ní miste a lua anseo 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.

¹² 'Bhí baint mhór aige le bunú Choláiste na Mumhan i 1904. Ag Dáil na Mumhan i Lúnasa 1903 ba é a mhol go mbunófaí coláiste 'chun cainteoirí Gaeilge d'ullmhú i gcomhair múinteoireacht na teanga' in Diarmuid Breathnach agus Máire Ní Mhurchú, *1882-1982 Beathaisnéis a Dó* (An Clóchomhar 1990) 92. Tá an cuntas seo a leanas tugtha ag Liam de Róisteach ina alt 'The Munster Training College' (*An Claidheamh College* (19.3.04, 6)):

'At the conference held in connection with the Munster Feis in the Assembly Rooms, Cork, last August, it was decided to establish a Training School or College for teachers of Irish... All the delegates present were of opinion that such a College would be of immense advantage to the effective teaching of our language. It was felt, as all of us in the Gaelic League have felt from time to time, that good speakers of Irish were rarely found among those who study the language in classes. This was attributed to the systems of teaching pursued at those classes, an opinion which, I am sure, will be shared by all who have thought upon the subject. In most cases newcomers had to be taught by students who were only a little more advanced than themselves. In branches where native speakers acted as the teachers it was generally found that these, though knowing the language thoroughly and speaking it fluently, seldom imparted their knowledge in a systematic and effective manner. The native speakers did not understand the difficulties of students. They knew not of methods of teaching. They knew not of the phonetics of the Irish language as distinct from the phonetics of other languages. As a result, good speakers of Irish from classes are very few. To remedy this, the Munster Feis Conference begot the idea of a Training College where native Irish speakers may be trained so as to become effective teachers.'

Féach, fosta, ar 'The Ballingearry Training School' ar *An Claidheamh Soluis* (27.2.04, 5).

¹³ *Gaelic League Pamphlets, No. 34: Facts About the Irish Language and the Irish Language Movement* le Mary Hayden (Dublin, 1910) 22-3.

¹⁴ Ná meashtar iad seo leis na 'Summer Schools' a bhí ann roimhe sin agus a bhfuil liosta díobh ar *An Claidheamh Soluis* (5.9.03, 6). Turasóireacht chultúrtha amach is amach a bhí i gceist leo sin, rud a aithnítear láithreach nuair a fheictear gur lonnaíodh iad in áiteacha i nDún na nGall ar nós Bhun Cranncha agus Phort an tSalainn.

¹⁵ *Irish Independent* (6.1.05, 4).

¹⁶ *'A conference of the Ulster branches of the Gaelic League is to be held shortly in Derry to consider the creation of a permanent council to promote the working of the League in Ulster, the formation of a training college and other matters. The secretaries of the conference to whom suggestions or notices of motion may be sent are Miss Lavery, 18 King Street, Belfast; Father M. O'Mullin, C.C., Carndonagh, Co. Donegal, and Mr. P.J. Flanagan, Derry People, Derry,'* in *The United Irishman* (2.9.05, 1).

¹⁷ *An Claidheamh Soluis* (2.9.05, 9).

Féach, fosta: *'In the course of a letter the Hon. Secretaries of the forthcoming Ulster Gaelic League Conference write: 'It has long been apparent to workers in the language movement in the North that, while excellent work is being done in particular districts, and while isolated branches and workers are carrying on the fight successfully, still, if contrasted with the other provinces, Ulster is*

lamentably deficient in organisation. Munster and Connaught have their training colleges, while Leinster has a school of Irish Learning, and in each there is sufficient cohesion among the constituent parts of the League to enable combined action to be taken on any question of moment. In Ulster the scattered units have never been brought in touch with one another. In addition, the necessity for a training college is evidenced by the scarcity of competent teachers to give instruction in the native speech either in the schools or in the capacity of travelling teachers.' A Conference is to be held towards the end of this month at Derry, and the following matters will be considered:

- The establishment of a training college in Ulster
- The creation of machinery for the more effective organization of Ulster.
- The cultivation of the language and literature in Ulster.

The Hon. Secretaries, with whom those interested should put themselves in communication, are Miss Lavery, 18 King Street, Belfast; Father M. O'Mullin, C.C., Carndonagh, Co. Donegal, and Mr. P.J. Flanagan, Derry People, Derry., in *The Leader* (16.9.05, 51).

¹⁸ Tá cuntas air in Diarmuid Breathnach agus Máire Ní Mhurchú, 1882-1982 *Beathaisnéis a hAon* (An Clóchomhar 1986) 55-6.

¹⁹ 'John O'Keane on the Irish Training School, Belfast' ar *The Irish Peasant* (30.12.06, 3).

²⁰ 'An important step and one sure to be productive of beneficial and far-reaching results, has been taken by the Belfast Coisde Ceanntair in the establishment of a class for advanced pupils and teachers in that district. This class, though of course on a much less pretentious scale than the training Colleges of Ballingearry and Partry, will do for the Belfast teachers and students what those colleges have done for their respective provinces,' in *The Irish News and Belfast Morning News* (3.10.05, 3).

Tá cuntas iomlán scríofa agam ar stair bhunú Choláiste Chomhghaill agus foiseofar é sin i *Leabhar Cuimhneacháin Mháirtín Uí Bhriain* (OÉ, Gaillimh) sa bhliain 2006.

²¹ *An Claidheamh Soluis* (7.10.05, 9).

²² 'It is an anomaly that Munster Irish should be taught in Belfast,' in *The Irish Peasant*, (11.8.06, 3).

²³ *An Claidheamh Soluis* (22.6.07, 4).

²⁴ *Sinn Féin* (4.1.08, 1).

'... lucht stiúrtha Choláiste Chomhghaill... a cháineadh go poiblí cionn is nach raibh eolas ar Ghaeilge an tuaiscirt ag aon duine dá lucht teagaisc. Ba léir dóibh siúd go mba dhocharach dá gcoláiste an gearán a bhí á dhéanamh ag an Chú, agus ba mhian leo ábhar an ghearáin sin a chur de dhíth air.' Seán Mac Maoláin, *Gleann Airbh go Glas Naíon* (An Gúm, 1969) 78-9.

Féach, fosta, 'Gaeilge Uladh i gColáiste Chomhghaill' in Gearóid Mac Giolla Domhnaigh, *Conradh Gaeilge Chúige Uladh ag Tús an 20ú Chéid* (Comhaltas Uladh, 1995) 200.

²⁵ Tuairiscíodh ar *An Claidheamh Soluis* (30.12.11, 10): 'It is to be regretted that the Gaelic College controversy still remains unsettled, notwithstanding every effort to effect a settlement. It arose in the first instance when a demand was made that Irish with the Ulster blas should get a standing of equality in Colaisde Chomhghaill, then under the control of the Coisde Ceanntair. This reasonable demand was met by the managing committee of Colaisde Chomhghaill, which had been appointed by the Coisde Ceanntair, declaring its independence of the parent body and refusing to vacate office at the end of the year...'

²⁶ Seo a leanas cuntas ó mhac léinn a d'fhreastail ar an Choláiste:

IN THE ULSTER GAOLTACHT LIFE AT CLOUGHANEELY

If you look at the map where the little thread of railway loses itself in the ultimate wilds 'among the grey mountains of Dark Donegal,' you will find the name of Cashelnagore close to Bloody Foreland. This is the station nearest to Cloughaneely, where the Ulster Irish Training College holds its summer sessions. Here came I a week ago, since when I have lived in Arcadia.

To confess I was not brought here solely by the wish to improve my knowledge of Northern Idiom. Tirchonaiill is attractive to the imagination of the Gael more than any other part of Ireland, and this is my first visit. As you see Donegal in George Russell's pictures – and I find that they are even surpassed by reality – it is glamourously alluring in scenery; and where is the place richer in historical and legendary lore? Here you stand on the rugged cliff and look away over spray-wrapped rock and isle to the far indeterminate Atlantic horizon. Behind you are the flowing hills, gowned by Errigal, with their heathery slopes and shadowy folds, and from your feet the white road winds till it is lost in the upland mists – and you wonder where there is for it to lead to. In the glen are a few cottages among the stonewalled fields, but

all around is solitude, austere and awe-inspiring, as if this were the brink of the world. Here where the twentieth century's bustle and clamour have not yet broken the brooding quiet, you can dream yourself back to the days when bonnaught and gallowglass came hosting over these hills to O'Donnell's banner; or farther still, into the age of miracles, when St. Colmcille preached and laboured and worked wonders before the ancestors of the very people about you now.

Although the district teems with old-world traditions, you will find little of its lore in books. To hear the stories of the saints and heroes whose names are commemorated in the place-names – names of wells and villages and glens and churches – you must go direct to the people. The people, happily, are glad to instruct and entertain you. If you are but a Gael, you are no stranger, but the shanachie will tell you tale after tale in his rich idiomatic Irish, relishing it all as much as you. And not in this way only do the natives shew their true Gaelic hospitality. They welcome the visitors into their social life and do everything in their power to assist what they know to be the cause of Ireland – the preservation of the historic tongue and nationality. They are patient with the beginner and persevere in correcting his blas and idiom. With the advanced students they discuss the affairs of the big world with a rare zest. Incidentally, they are quite unspoilt by the grasping commercial spirit, and make no attempt to 'fleece' their visitors. Very picturesque, too, they are in life and custom. It needs but a glance at the first man you meet on the road to recognize the offspring of the hugh Milesian race. The clear features, the mobile countenance, the clean step at once proclaim the ancient and pure Celtic stock. The women's natural grace is so far undisturbed by the vagaries of modern fashions. The graceful headgear of the elder women (so suited to the windy braes) will at once appeal to the artist. Some of the girl-students, by the way, have adopted the mode with distinct success. But how beautiful are the cordial greetings you receive when you take the street! – 'Sé do bheatha! – so different from the blaise nod and 'how do' of West Britain – is it not eloquent of the simple piety of folk to whom the faith is as real and vital as when it first was preached.

Although the life of Ulster Gaeldom is so absorbingly interesting, I find the routine of College work, so far from being burdensome, is the finest aid to enjoyment of my holiday as a holiday. In such idyllic surroundings there is every inducement to laze and fritter away the time. The four to five hours' study, on the other hand, keeps one keen and intent on getting the most out of one's stay, whilst the pleasures of comparing notes with fellow students is a further stimulus. The College is materially represented by a neat stone building acquired by the generosity of Sir Roger Casement, and which is used during the rest of the year as a parish hall. Everyone knows the fame of the Principal, Miss Agnes O'Farrelly, M.A., Lecturer on Irish at the National University. She is supported by a staff of some of the most capable Irish scholars, and the instruction is carried out entirely by the 'Direct Method.' Advanced students attend classes in Old and Middle Irish under Miss O'Farrelly, and lectures are given on Irish history and literature by acknowledged authorities. Then there is the debating society – that most popular feature of College activities – where all the students are encouraged to compete for the prize medal. Of course, Irish is the sole medium of the debates, and often the novice, carried away by the excitement of the debate, finds himself holding forth in forceful and voluble Gaelic – much to his own surprise.

The efforts of the staff are splendidly supported not only by the co-operation of the native speakers, but by the spirit of camaraderie which prevails among the students. When the learner has spent his morning gleaned new epithets and turns of speech from the Gaelic classics, it is in the social intercourse of the afternoon that he has the opportunity to practice and assimilate what he has learnt. There are boating and swimming and rambling for him to enjoy with his companions, and in the evenings there are the Ceilidhthe at the hall. On a few days there are Seilgi into the hills. Teachers and students sally forth by foot or car to some interesting spot, the buachaillí shouldering the provisions. A fire is lit, and a general pic-nic made. There are dancing and games, music, singing and laughter, and perhaps some local fiddler will come and play old traditional tunes that are the very voice of Ireland: you forget the whole world of the Beurla in pure happiness. At last the waning sun says 'abhaile' and the homeward journey begins through the odorous fields as the dusk gathers. Daylight retreats up the hills like a beaten army; lights begin to glimmer in the valley. As the stars come out you reach the cottage where you are lodging, very tired and very content, and fall into the sleep that brings you health and refreshing.

One day too you can go by boat to Tory Island, when the islanders will show you their famous traditional dancing and sing you their old songs. But there is no end to the enjoyments of Cloich-cinn-fhaolaidh. Here you can see the very soul of the Gaedhealtacht. Here are the old race, the old tongue, the old faith: this is Ireland as she was before the coming of Dane or Norman, Ireland at her loveliest.

So who's going to accept a cead mile failte to the College for the second term? Tusa?

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²⁸ *The Derry Journal* (6.8.06, 3) agus *The Irish Peasant* (11.8.06, 3).

²⁹ *The United Irishman* (23.12.05, 1).

³⁰ *The Irish Peasant* (30.12.05, 3).

³¹ *The Irish People* (6.1.06, 7).

³² Maidir le Coláiste Chonnacht, breathnaítear ar ‘An tAighneas Mór’ in *Coláiste Chonnacht: na Blianta Tosaigh i dTuar Mhic Éadaigh* (2005) 89-103 agus 165-87; maidir le hÁrainn: Regina Uí Chollatáin, *An Claidheamh Soluis agus Fáinne an Lae 1988-1932* (Cois Life, 2004) 51-5; maidir le Coláiste Uladh: Nollaig Mac Congáil, ‘An Crann’ in Anraí Mac Giolla Chomhaill (eag.), *Meascra Uladh III* (Comhaltas Uladh, 2004) 155-86.

³³ Tá cuntas ag an Dr. Pádraig Ó Baoighill faoi ina alt ‘Patrick Cardinal O’Donnell and the Irish Language,’ *Donegal Annual / Bliainiris Dhún na nGall* 56 (2004) 46-53 agus cuntas níos iomláine aige ina thráchtas Ph.D., *Patrick Cardinal O’Donnell, his role and influence in Irish society, with particular reference to County Donegal, 1888-1927*, (University of Ulster, 2003).

³⁴ *The Freeman’s Journal* (16.10.05, 8).

³⁵ *The Derry Journal* (29.12.05).

³⁶ *An Claidheamh Soluis* (12.5.06, 8).

³⁷ ‘From a letter contributed by Miss Alice Milligan to last week’s issue of *An Claidheamh Soluis*, it would appear there is some danger of the proposed Ulster Training College clashing with a Summer School contemplated by the Most Rev. Dr. O’Donnell, Bishop of Raphoe. Miss Milligan, in the course of her letter says....

Why will the promoters of the Irish Summer College at Cloghaneely not keep the Bishop fully informed as to the progress of their project? Does it not seem this duty has been neglected when the Bishop is represented as ‘most anxious to hear all about the project?’ *The Irish People* (19.5.06, 7).

³⁸ ‘At the Conference of the Northern Gaels in Doire Chuilm Chille on Lá Fhéle Stiopháin two important matters were finally decided upon – the formation of Dáil Uladh and the establishment of an Ulster Training College. The consensus of opinion with regard to the latter project was that the College ought, like its Munster and Connaught prototypes, be in an Irish-speaking district. A further meeting which is to assemble in February will discuss localities and other details’ in *An Claidheamh Soluis* (6.1.06, 7).

‘Ulster Gaels are animatedly discussing the prospects of the proposed Training School for the North. The matter engaged the attention of the recent monthly meeting of the Dún na nGall Coiste Ceanntair, the question of site being the one chiefly discussed. On this and other points the Rúnaidhthe were instructed to put the views of the Coiste before the meeting of the All-Ulster Committee, which meets in Port an Dúnáin this week. Craobh Choluim Chille, Gort a’ Choirce, sends us a cheery Irish report telling of a successful annual meeting after a successful year’s work...in *An Claidheamh Soluis* (10.2.06, 8).

³⁹ *An Claidheamh Soluis* (17.2.06, 7).

⁴⁰ *An Claidheamh Soluis* (24.3.06, 9).

⁴¹ *The Irish Peasant* (31.3.06).

⁴² ‘The Gaelic Training Colleges,’ *An Claidheamh Soluis* (18.5.12, 9).

Seo a leanas sampla den chineál comhdhála a bhíodh acu: *An Claidheamh Soluis* (20.7.12, 6, 11):

‘A public meeting of Gaels interested in the Colleges and Schools of Irish, summoned under the auspices of the Comhdháil or ‘Permanent Conference of the Autonomous Gaelic Training Colleges’ was held... The questions for discussion were:

General methods of teaching Irish

Comparative methods according to age and status of pupils

The position of Phonetics

The position of Irish History

Influence of the Schools on the Irish speakers in the district.’

⁴³ *An Claidheamh Soluis* (21.5.04, 7) agus *The United Irishman* (4.6.04, 1). Maidir leis an churaclam a bhí i bhfeidhm i gColáiste Chonnacht, féach, *Coláiste Chonnacht: na Blianta Tosaigh I dTuar Mhic Éadaigh* (Coiste Oidhreachta Thuar Mhic Éadaigh, 2005) 80-3.

- ⁴⁴ ‘Dr. O’Daly... has during the past two years made a special study of Irish phonetics, and is convinced that the reason why the Gaelic League is not making more speakers of the language is because the scientific study of Irish sounds is practically ignored,’ in *An Claidheamh Soluis* (2.4.04, 7).
- ⁴⁵ ‘John O’Keane on the Irish Training School, Belfast’ ar *The Irish Peasant* (30.12.06, 3).
- ⁴⁶ Níor thóg sé mórán blianta gur tosaíodh ar an mhodh chéanna seo a cháineadh agus a cháineadh go láidir agus chan ag Ultaigh amháin sin. In alt leis ‘Direct Methods’ in *Sinn Féin* (23.8.13, 3) dúirt Eamonn Ceannt, i measc rudaí eile: ‘It is surprising that the opponents of Irish have not long since made the discovery that the Direct Method of teaching a language has little or no educational value.’ Breathnaigh, fosta, ar Sean MacCaughan, ‘The Language and the Phrase Method’ in *Old Ireland* (15.5.20, 231-2). Is fiú breathnú fosta ar ‘Phonetics or Fanatics’ le Domhnall Ó Tuathail ar *An Claidheamh Soluis* (9.12.16, 5).
- ⁴⁷ In Nollaig Mac Congáil (eag.), *Castar na Daoine ar a Chéile* (Coiscéim, 2002) 181-2.
- ⁴⁸ ‘Someone discovered that we were not getting any nearer to turning the English-speaking area into an Irish-speaking one; it was at once agreed that reform in methods of teaching was necessary, and letters were written to papers, meetings of teachers were held, and as a result ‘The Direct Method’ under different names and with considerable variation, was put in practice’ – Peadar Ua Maicín, ‘Irish Idiom’ in *Sinn Féin* (30.11.07, 1).
- ⁴⁹ Baile Átha Cliath, An Cló-Chumann, g.d. Tá cuntas fada ar an ábhar seo tugtha ag Seán Ó Catháin ar ‘Modern Language Teaching’ ar *An Claidheamh Soluis* (11.9.09, 11).
- ⁵⁰ Tá cuntas cuimsitheach tugtha ag Seán Mac Mathúna agus Risteard Mac Gabhann ar an mhodh teagaisc seo ina leabhar *Conradh na Gaeilge agus an tOideachas Aosach* (Cló Chois Fharráige, 1981) 50-7.
- ⁵¹ ‘Dr. Henry’s An Modh Díreach (Gill) may be justly described as a boon to teachers of Irish. It is a series of lessons to children on the Direct Method, which is now used in all up-to-date Continental schools. Ireland is quickly coming into line with the Continent’ in *The Irish Peasant* (30.12.05, 3).
- ⁵² Mar shampla, ar *An Claidheamh Soluis* (9.9.05, 4), tugtar cuntas ar an cainteanna a thug an Piarasach agus Mrs. Alice Stopford Green, an staraí cáiliúil as Londain, do scoláirí Choláiste Chonnacht an bhliain sin.
- ⁵³ ‘The Gaelic Colleges,’ in *Sinn Féin* (16.9.11, 1).
- ⁵⁴ Ada McNeill, ‘The Dail Uladh’ in *An Claidheamh Soluis* (9.8.13, 9).
- ⁵⁵ *An Claidheamh Soluis* (29.3.02, 54).
- ⁵⁶ *The Irish Peasant* (28.4.06).
‘At the meeting of Dáil Uladh in Belfast last week it was decided to postpone the opening of the Ulster College at Cloghaneely until August 28th, the local workers having come to the conclusion that an autumn session would prove most convenient to the largest number of intending students’ - *An Claidheamh Soluis* (5.5.06, 8).
- ⁵⁷ *An Claidheamh Soluis* (12.5.06, 8)
- ⁵⁸ *The Irish Peasant*, 9.6.06, 3.
- ⁵⁹ Eoghan Ó Ceallaigh, *An Dá Thaobh* (An Clóchomhar, 1968) 83.
- ⁶⁰ *An Claidheamh Soluis* (16.6.06, 7).
- ⁶¹ *The Irish Peasant* (14.7.06, 6) agus *The Irish News and Belfast Morning News* (11.7.06, 8).
- ⁶² *The Irish Peasant* (18.8.06, 7).
- ⁶³ Fógra ar *An Claidheamh Soluis* (4.8.06).
- ⁶⁴ *The Derry Journal* (8.8.06, 6)
- ⁶⁵ *The Irish News and Belfast Morning News* (27.8.06, 5).
- ⁶⁶ *The Irish News and Belfast Morning News* (29.8.06, 4).