

OIREACHTAS NA GAELIGE

Headed by the Lord Mayor and Corporation of Dublin leaders of Gaelic culture march in procession to Dublin Pro-Cathedral to celebrate the opening of the 1952 Oireachtas.

Sean O'Kelly, President of the Republic, is today, as ever, among his people, as he enters the Cathedral through the Presbytery door. They that wait know that, by his presence at the ceremony, the President has once more confirmed the power for good which this annual re-affirmation of cultural ideals (blessed as it is by the Papal Nuncio) bestows upon the people of Eire.

To the audience at the Mansion House, the Chief Arch Druid brings greetings from Wales - a gesture which deeply moves Mrs O'Kelly and Mrs. de Valera - as does also the presence of the Reverend Gilleathain, fraternal delegate from Scotland. For, in the world of Gaelic culture, Ireland does not stand alone.

What a tale of achievement Sean O hUadhaigh and his audience have come to hear. Excitement mounts behind the microphone as delegate after delegate speaks in a language which was half-forgotten in 1897, when the first Oireachtas was held.

And now, from the platform, the full richness of Irish music can be heard. Where, half a century ago, there was music for not more than one full day's enjoyment, now there are performers enough for a whole week's delight - and none more highly appreciated by the audience than the Belfast mixed-voice choir, in whose name Miss K. MacDermott receives a well-merited first prize.