

LLYTHYR CEFNOGAETH I MR. SAUNDERS LEWIS

AT ETHOLWYR PRIFYSGOL CYMRU

FONEDDIGESAU A BONEDDIGION,

Dymunwn gymell i'ch sylw ystyriol a phwylllog enw Mr. Saunders Lewis, a gwahodd eich pleidlais iddo yn yr etholiad achlysurol hwn. Fel y gwelwch, y mae llawer ohonom, onid y mwyafrif, heb fod yn aelodau o'r Blaidd Genedlaethol, a rhai ohonom na fyddai gennym ar adeg cyffredin nemor ddim diddordeb mewn gwleidyddiaeth. Er hynny, ac er anghytuno â Mr. Saunders Lewis ac â'r Blaidd Genedlaethol efallai ar fwy nag un pwynt, eto teimlwn yn y dyddiau argyfyngus hyn ar fywyd y genedl Gymreig fod rhesymau cryfion tros ei gefnogi.

Gallwn sôn am Mr. Saunders Lewis y llenor a'r beirniad llenyddol, neu am Mr. Saunders Lewis y cymeriad diffuant a thryloyw: am gefndir eang ei ddiddordeb yng Nghymru a'r ymddiried sicr y gellir ei osod ynddo fel person. Mewn cynrychiolydd seneddol—ac yn sedd y Brifysgol—y mae'r pethau hyn yn bwysig.

**Onid gwahodwn eich pleidlais yn bennaf i Mr. Saunders Lewis y sylwedydd craff, lladmerydd digwyddiadau a dadansoddwr tuddiad-
au; i'r gwleidydd treiddgar ei olwg a di-ildio ei ewylls. Y mae amser
pan yw rhagoriaeth gŵr yn drech na phob ystyriaeth arall.**

Y mae Mr. Lewis eisoes wedi rhoddi prawf o'i awydd a'i allu i ddiogelu buddianau'r genedl Gymreig. Fe gofwn am y gwaith gwerthfawr a wnaeth, ac yntau eto ar staff un o golegau'r Brifysgol, fel aelod o'r Pwyllgor a gododd Prifysgol Cymru i achub cam Cymru gerbron y B.B.C. Credwn y bu gan drylwyrredd paratoad Mr. Lewis cyn y cyd-gyfarfyddiadau, a'i ddycwch ynddynt, ran helaeth yn y gweliannau a gafwyd gan y B.B.C. cyn y rhyfel.

Yna ym mlyneddodd y dŵl, fe gymerth Mr. Lewis achos gwerin ddiwaith Cymru yn erbyn trais amgylchiadau. Ef a gychwynnodd y Clwb Ciniol Diffau, a cheisio gan Gymry gwell eu byd ymwadu ag un ginio'r wythnos er mwyn i'r diwaith, mewn ardaloedd fel Dowlais a Dynfant a Threorci yn y de a Rhosgafan yn y gogledd, gael un pryd da o fwyd ar ddiwrnod mwyaf llwm eu hwythnos. Gwnaeth y Clwb waith rhagorol hyd ddechrau'r rhyfel presennol.

Os etholir Mr. Lewis, deallwn nad ei fwrriad ydyw myned i'r Senedd i wrthwynebu a rhwystru'r Llywodraeth ym mhob peth, na chwaith i leisteirio yndrech ryfel Lloegr fel y cyfryw. *Fe â yno yn unig i amddiffyn Cymru ac i lefaru tros ei buddiannau.* *Diogelwch Cymru fydd unig blanc ei raglen.* Ni chredwn ninnau y dylai Cymru wynebu'r problemau a'r peryglon enbyd a ddug y rhyfel i'w bodolaeth fel cenedl, heb o leiaf un Aelod a esyd broblemau Cymru yn bennaf faes ei ddiddordeb a'i weithgarwch. Nid peth hawdd ydyw cael cydnabyddiaeth i hawliau'r genedl Gymreig. Dyna wers y mesur amherffaith a roddwyd mewn ateb i'r Ddeiseb Genedlaethol. Fel y dengys adroddiad Comisiwn Scott, y mae perygl y cynllunir eisoes ar gyfer yr atrefnu wedi'r rhyfel heb gofio fawr am anghenion arbennig Cymru. **Ni allwn leddwl am well ac effeithiolach ffordd i gadw ein hawliau gerbron y Llywodraeth, i'w hargyhoeddi ein bod o ddirif ynglŷn ag adeiladu Cymru, nag anfon gŵr fel Mr. Lewis i'r Senedd.**

Ymddengys i ni fod gennym yma gyfle i ymuno a chymryd arnom gyfrifoldeb dros ein bywyd—y sawl ohonom a gred ym modolaeth a dyfodol y gymdeithas Gymreig. Byddai ethol Mr. Lewis yn weithred bendant ac ernes sicraf diogelwch ein cymdeithas.

Dyna paham y cefnogwn ef ein hunain ac yr apelwn atoch chwithau hefyd am eich cefnogaeth.

Yr eiddoch yn ffyddlon,

GWELER GYFERBYN.

SIGNATORIES OF THE LETTER OF SUPPORT

ARWYDDWYR Y LLYTHYR CEFNOGAETH

- W. AMBROSE BEBB (M.A., Lecturer, Normal College, Bangor).
TEGWEN CLEE (Miss) (B.A., Girls' County School, Llanelli).
J. E. DANIEL (Prof.) (M.A., Congregational College, Bangor).
D. J. DAVIES (M.A., Ph.D., Gilwern, Abergavenny).
J. KITCHENER DAVIES (B.A., Tonypandy; Pentre, Rhondda, Secondary School, Dramatist).
J. P. DAVIES (Rev.) (M.A., C.M. Minister, Portmadoc).
T. ALBAN DAVIES (Rev.) (B.A., B.D., Congregational Minister, Ton Pentre, Rhondda).
JOHN EDWARDS (Major) (D.S.O., B.A., Ex-M.P. for Aberavon).
GWYNFOR EVANS (B.A., LL.B., Llangadock; Secretary Welsh P.P.U.).
J. CAYO EVANS (Prof.) (M.A., St. David's College, Lampeter; Ex-High Sheriff for Cardiganshire).
J. J. EVANS (M.A., Headmaster, County School, St. David's).
TREBOR LLOYD EVANS (Rev.) (B.A., B.D., Congregational Minister, Penygroes).
D. R. GRIFFITH (B.A., Headmaster, County School, Botwnnog, Caerns.).
EDGAR L. GRIFFITHS (M.A., Elementary Schools, Port Talbot).
J. GWYN GRIFFITHS (M.A., County School, Porth, Rhondda).
MOSES GRUFFYDD (M.Sc., Agricultural Organiser, Aberystwyth).
LESLIE HARRIES (M.A., County School, Llandysul).
W. H. HARRIS (Prof.) (M.A., B.Litt., St. David's College, Lampeter; Canon of St. David's Cathedral).
MARY HORSEFALL (Miss) (President Gwernllwyn House Club, Dowlais, "where Thursday Dinner Club did good work").
D. R. HUGHES (Old Colwyn and London).
LLYWELYN C. HUWS (Rev.) (B.A., Congregational Minister, Gwaun-cae-Gurwen).
R. S. HUGHES (Rev.) (B.A., B.D., Principal Coleg Clwyd, Rhyf).
A. O. H. JARMAN (M.A., Extra-Mural Lecturer, Bangor).
A. E. JONES (Rev.) (Cynan) (B.A., Menai Bridge).
D. LLEWELYN JONES (Rev.) (B.A., Ystumtuen, Secretary of S. Wales District Methodist Church).
E. D. JONES (M.A., Aberystwyth, 1923-9).
FRED JONES (Rev.) (B.A., B.D., Congregational Minister, Talybont, Cards.).
GWENALLT JONES (M.A., Lecturer in Welsh, University College, Aberystwyth).
GWENAN JONES (Miss) (M.A., Ph.D., Lecturer in Education, University College, Aberystwyth).
GWYNEDD JONES (Rev.) (B.A., C.M. Minister, Alltwen, Pontardawe).
IORWERTH HUGHES JONES (Dr.) (M.B., Swansea).
J. W. JONES (Rev.) (C.M. Minister, Crieth, Caerns.).
MORGAN JONES (Rev.) (B.A., Whitland, Ex-President Welsh Baptist Union).
R. E. JONES (B.A., Central School, Dolgarrog).
SIMON B. JONES (Rev.) (B.A., Congregational Minister, Peniel, Carmarthen).
T. GWYNN JONES (Emeritus Professor) (C.B.E., M.A. [Wales], D.Litt [Wales and Eire], Bow Street, Cards.).
P. MANSEL JONES (Prof.) (M.A., B.Litt., Professor of French, University College, Bangor).
PERCY OGWEN JONES (Amlwch, County Councillor, many years editor Labour paper *Y Dinesydd*, and organiser and secretary Caernarvonshire Labour party).

LETTER OF SUPPORT TO MR. SAUNDERS LEWIS

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WALES

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We wish to commend to your calm and dispassionate judgment the name of Mr. Saunders Lewis, and to invite your vote for him in the present bye-election. The list of signatures to this appeal shows that many, possibly a majority of us, are not members of the Welsh Nationalist Party—some of us would at normal times hardly be interested in politics at all. In spite of that, and although we disagree with Mr. Lewis and with the Welsh Nationalist Party on more than one point, we feel, at this critical period in the life of the Welsh people, that there are many and strong reasons for supporting him.

It is not upon Mr. Lewis' qualities as a man of letters and as a literary critic, nor upon his personal integrity of character, that we base our appeal. (We refer to these things only as indications of the breadth of Mr. Lewis' interest in Wales and of the personal confidence he inspires).

It is to his specifically political qualities, in particular to the remarkable combination of acuteness and penetration in the observation and interpretation of events with unbending tenacity of purpose, that we invite your attention. There are times when personal distinction outweighs every other consideration.

Mr. Lewis has already given proof of his desire and ability to safeguard the interests of the Welsh people. We recall the invaluable work he performed, while still on the staff of one of the constituent Colleges, as a member of the Committee appointed by the University to further the claims of Wales to juster treatment by the B.B.C. We believe that the concessions gained before the War were in a large measure due to the thoroughness and tenacity of Mr. Lewis, both before and in the joint meetings.

Mr. Lewis' efforts have not however been confined to the defence of Welsh cultural interests. In the agonizing years of the dole, he made the cause of the unemployed "gwerin" of Wales peculiarly his own. It was he who established the Thursday Dinner Club, whose members denied themselves one dinner a week in order that the unemployed of places like Dowlais and Dunvant and Troorchy in the South and Rhosgadfan in the North might have at least one good meal on the leanest day of their week (the dole was paid every Friday). The Club did excellent work right up to the outbreak of war.

It is not, we understand, Mr. Lewis' intention, if he be elected, to pursue in Parliament a policy of obstruction or to attempt in any way to impede the war effort as such. *He will go to Parliament with the sole purpose of defending the interests of Wales. There will be but a single plank in his platform—the safety of Wales.* We are of the opinion that Wales ought not to face the incalculable problems and dangers that the war has brought to her national existence, without at least one member whose interest and activity is Wales and her problems. The inadequate measure given in answer to the demand of the Welsh language Petition well illustrates the difficulty of extracting any recognition of the claims of Wales from the Government. The Report of the Scott Commission indicates that in the post-war reconstruction programme, which is even now on the stocks, they will receive but scant acknowledgment. **We can imagine no more efficacious method of drawing the attention of the Government to Welsh claims and of demonstrating our serious resolve to rebuild Wales, than the election of Mr. Lewis to Parliament.**

It seems to us that all who have faith in, and a care for the future and existence of the Welsh people, have here a unique opportunity of responsible co-operation in safeguarding them. The return of Mr. Lewis would be the surest earnest of the safety of our Welsh society.

Yours faithfully,

NAMES OF SIGNATORIES OVER.

THOMAS JONES (M.A., Lecturer, University College, Aberystwyth).
 TUDOR JONES (Captain) (B.Sc., Bangor, Royal Artillery).
 R. TUDOR JONES (B.A., President S.R.C., Bangor; President Central S.R.C.).
 MARY LEWIS (Mrs.) (B.A., Llandysul, late Swansea).
 D. MYRDDIN LLOYD (M.A., late Fellow of University of Wales, Aberystwyth).
 D. W. MORGAN (Rev.) (Dramatist) (B.A., Birkenhead).
 BOB OWEN (M.A., Croesor, County Councillor, Organiser Caernarvonshire Community Council, Lecturer).
 D. S. OWEN (Rev.) (B.A., C.M. Minister, London).
 TOM PARRY (M.A., Lecturer in Welsh, University College, Bangor).
 JOHN PIERCE (B.A., County School, Llangefni).
 W. J. REES (Rev.) (Congregational Minister, Alltwen, Pontardawe).
 E. PROSSER RHYS (Aberystwyth, Editor of *Y Faner*).
 KEIDRYCH RHYS (Editor, Poet; Llanybri, near Carmarthen).
 DAVID RICHARDS (M.A., W.E.A. Lecturer, University of Birmingham; Labour Candidate for Welsh University 1929 election).
 D. O. ROBERTS (Headmaster, Gadlys Central School, Aberdare; Sec. Union of Welsh Teachers).
 ERIC ROBERTS (Rev.) (Chaplain of St. Michael's College, Llandaff).
 O. M. ROBERTS (B.Sc., Central School, Llandudno).
 R. C. ROBERTS (Rhosgadfan) (District Councillor, branch secretary Quarrymen's Union, district chairman W.E.A., and on behalf of seventy men who as unemployed received "Thursday dinners").
 R. PARRI ROBERTS (Rev.) (Baptist Minister, Mynachlog Ddu, Pcmb.).
 W. J. ROBERTS (Prof.) (M.A., Professor of Economics and Political Science, University College, Cardiff).
 R. J. ROWLANDS (*Meuryn*) (Editor *Herald*, Caernarfon).
 DEWI SAMUEL (Pte.) (B.A., now somewhere in Africa).
 J. OLIVER STEPHENS (Prof.) (M.A., B.D., Presbyterian College, Carmarthen).
 LEWIS VALENTINE (Rev.) (M.A., Baptist Minister, Llandudno).
 A. W. WADE-EVANS (Rector of Wrabness).
 ABI WILLIAMS (B.A., M.R.S. [Met.], M.L.Q., Surveyor and Engineer, St. Asaph).
 D. J. WILLIAMS (M.A., County School, Fishguard).
 ELIZABETH E. WILLIAMS (Mrs.) (B.A., Gwaclod y Garth, Cardiff).
 FFOWC WILLIAMS (M.A., Headmaster Central School, Llandudno).
 G. J. WILLIAMS (M.A., Lecturer, University College, Cardiff).
 J. E. CAERWYN WILLIAMS (M.A., Theological College, Aberystwyth).
 KATE ROBERTS (Mrs. Katherine Williams) (B.A., Denbigh).
 OLWEN WILLIAMS (Miss) (B.A., Llanelly).
 R. WILLIAMS-PARRY (M.A., Lecturer, University College, Bangor).
 TREFOR WILLIAMS (Rev. Sq./Ldr.) (Chaplain, Royal Air Force).

WALES---MAKE OR BREAK

By J. E. DANIEL

THE University of Wales is to be contested by Mr. Saunders Lewis at the invitation of the Welsh Nationalist Party.

The immediate result of this decision was extremely significant. The National Liberals, to whom, under the terms of the electoral truce the seat "belonged" immediately set about an intensive search not for the best candidate in their own ranks, not even for the best possible candidate irrespective of party, but for the candidate most likely to keep Mr. Lewis out. Their choice has fallen upon Prof. W. J. Gruffydd of Cardiff, who has postponed any serious interest in politics to this, the penultimate stage in his career, and whose intermittent excursions into politics were connected with the Welsh Nationalist Party, of which he claims to have been a member "before Mr. Saunders Lewis," i.e., before 1925, and from which he has never formally resigned. This patched-up and ill-assorted alliance, the parties to which sacrifice their political integrity in the hope of keeping Mr. Lewis out, stands self-confessed as a purely wrecking and destructive manoeuvre, whose success will not only ruin Mr. Lewis' chances, but, and far more fundamentally, will destroy any real chance Wales has of being taken seriously by the Government.

BATTLE OF WALES

The strength of Welsh national feeling in the University and the apprehension it arouses among our enemies shows better than anything else what the real issue in this election is. In a very real sense it is the Battle of Wales that is being fought. Now that Mr. Lewis is standing and that the opposition has openly confessed that all it is concerned about is to keep him out, it can be nothing else. For Mr. Lewis stands for the historic Welsh nation and its indefectible right to live in, through and after this war. And he claims the support of every Welsh graduate, whether he belongs to the Welsh Nationalist Party or not, who believes that *nothing* can justify the surrender and betrayal of our Welsh heritage. Hence every vote cast for him will be an assertion of the right of Wales to live, of the absolute necessity that among the 36 members whom Wales has sent to Westminster there shall be at least *one* the be-all and the end-all of whose political activity is Wales.

Hence equally every vote cast against him will be a denial that among her 36 members Wales shall have even *one* who is not committed to loyalties and disciplines with which Wales has only a remote connection.

WELSH SENTIMENT

This stark and clear-cut antithesis will be blurred by all manner of clever and confusing propaganda. It will be made as difficult as possible for the ordinary Welshman to see the wood for trees. How easy it would be if Mr. Churchill had sought to commend another Sir James Grigg or another Sir Alfred Mond to the electorate of the University of Wales. The influence of the Nationalist Party has made any such choice impossible. It therefore becomes necessary to play the game that has been the stock-in-trade of all the enemies of the Welsh National Movement, and put up a *Welshman*, a *Welsh-speaking* Welshman, a *prominent* Welsh-speaking Welshman, to steal our thunder. Best of all, if such a candidate can be found and persuaded that it is his *duty* to stand, because he is, e.g., a non-party man, or an educationist, or one interested in the academic and cultural side of Welsh life, and who has deserved well of his country in those fields, and is therefore peculiarly fitted to represent its University. We have no doubt that such a candidate has been found, and that he has a perfectly sincere and honest conviction that he is doing the best thing for Wales. Neither have we any doubt that he is in point of fact playing into the hands of the enemies of Welsh nationhood. His election would in effect inform the Government that Welsh sentiment was a bluff that could, without risk, always be called, all sound and fury, signifying nothing. We maintain that to give Government that impression now is to sign the death-warrant of our nation. Our only hope is to convince the Government that Wales at last means business.

(1) Observing that hitherto, there is not the faintest trace of any intention to treat Wales in the reconstruction programme as a national entity, can any one think this is a time to remove all impediments to the full pursual of this policy by the Government? Yet that is what the rejection of Mr. Lewis will necessarily mean.

(2) If it becomes therefore a task that brooks no postponement to inform the Government with the utmost deliberation and seriousness that Wales is a nation and will so be treated both during and after the war, then what method comparable in incisiveness and effect with the election of Mr. Lewis can be imagined?

Mutatis Mutandis from the December number of "The Welsh Nationalist."