

Twrci Rhos, A Stwffin Ominous, But Turns Out To Be Roast Turkey

MAR 1 1958

To the strains of "Men of Harlech," members of the St. David's Society of Montreal trooped in to the annual banquet last night for the traditional ceremony of eating the leek. There were no leeks on the menu, and the 156 members and guests ate Canadian celery instead.

Explained one member: "Only the Welsh Guards can eat the leek, and they have to."

He described it as a rather pungent vegetable.

The 58th annual banquet of the St. David's Society was held in the Windsor Hotel to honor the memory of Dewi Sant, patron saint of Wales. President Owen C. Roberts received the guests of honor, who included officials of the St. Andrew's Society, the Caledonian Society, the St. George's Society, the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society and the St. Patrick's Society.

Explaining the lack of a distinctive Welsh dish on the menu, an officer of the society said that while England has its bubble

and squeak, Scotland its Haggis, and Ireland its stew, the Welsh believe that suspicious looking dishes are not a fitting medium to express the soul of the "holy land" of Wales,

"We leave that to our bards, our poets and our singers," he said.

Despite this admitted lack of culinary know-how, there were a number of very ominous sounding items on the menu. Starting off with the Celeri Canada, the guests moved on to the Clewyddyr eidal (stuffed olives) followed by a baleful sounding Twrci rhos, a stwffin. with saws. llug aeron. catw-caws-mon and pys peris-dull paris.

Non-Welsh speakers were slightly disappointed to learn all this exotic sounding fare, when it appeared before them, was common or garden roast turkey, with cranberry sauce, potatoes and green peas.

The peach melba, petit fours and coffee which followed when translated into Welsh appeared

as melys-frrwth myrddin, cacennau bach llanelli and coffi. Some confusion was caused by the last item on the menu Cymru am Byth which turned out to be a song "Wales For Ever."

Over eighty per cent of the guests at the dinner spoke Welsh and while a number came from Wales the majority were Canadian of Welsh extraction. The Montreal Welsh Choir sang traditional airs, Rev. Peredur Jones said grace, and the response to the toast to guest and kindred societies was given by Edgar Doyle, president of the St. Patrick's Society of Montreal.

The banquet room was decorated for the occasion with the Fleurs de Lys, the Union Jack and the two Welsh flags of green and white with a red dragon in the centre. It was explained the national flag had recently been changed, as the dragon on the flag was too ferocious looking. "There is a slight controversy raging at the moment, a guest explained, "so we thought it best to hang both."