

“Merthyr Express” 6 February 1875

Gelligaer School Board The ordinary monthly meeting of the Board was held on Thursday afternoon at the Board-room of the Pontlottyn Board Schools, when there were present the Revs. A. Davies (chairman); J. P. Williams, J. E. Griffiths and R. Williams; and Messrs. J. Matthews and D. Morgan; together with Mr. F. James, clerk; J. Davies, deputy clerk; J. Williams, architect; J. D. James, attending-officer.

The Loan of Board Schools for Religious Purposes An application was received by the Board from Shiloh Baptist church and congregation, Brithdir, which was duly signed by the deacons of the church, and also recommended by the Rev. J. Lloyd, Ebenezer, Merthyr; Rev. E. Evans, Caersalem, Dowlais; Rev. T. Owen, Elim, Penydarren; T. G. Davies, Hebron, Dowlais; and J. Jarman, Tabernacle, Deri; requesting the Board to rent them the use of the Vochriw Board School for the term of six months, for the purpose of holding religious services for the Baptist denomination of the localities. The application, which was the first of its nature which had been laid before the Board, was the means of creating considerable discussion on the subject, wherein all the members openly expressed their various opinions, but as no precedent of a similar character had been laid before them, and for the purpose of avoiding all unpleasantness and jealousies among the different denominations of the parish, which may in future arise out of this question, the Board resolved, on the motion of Mr. J. Matthews, seconded by Mr. D. Morgan, “That the Board school be not allowed for the purposes of holding religious services, nor for any religious purpose whatever.” The motion was agreed to unanimously.

School Attendance An application was received from Mrs. Morgan of Farm Road, Pontlottyn, requesting that the Board would allow her daughter who is about ten years of age, an absence of leave from school for a certain time so as to enable her to assist her mother in domestic duties, especially that of nursing twins. There were seven children in the family so that the help of the girl at home would be most serviceable. The request was favourably received by the Board, and they then unanimously agreed to request the mother to send the child to school as a half-timer.

Report of the Attendance Officer The monthly report of the officer was read by the Clerk, from which it appeared that application had been made by him for eight summonses at Caerphilly, in consequence of irregular attendance of children at school in the localities of Vochriw, Deri and Bargoed. It also showed that an increase in school attendances had been made in all the schools of the district; and that the school fees were fairly well paid up. The various items as shown in the report referred solely to the Board Schools of the parish, and to the Pontlottyn National School; no returns having been received or made as regards the other denominational schools of the parish. It was thought that the Board should be informed as to the state of attendances at these schools, with the view of seeing that every child in the parish did attend some school. The Rev. J. P. Williams requested to know why a similar return was not made as regards the other schools of the parish, so that a fair idea could be formed, and they could ascertain the true state of school attendances throughout the parish. The Clerk remarked that it was the duty of the Board to see that every child of a certain age throughout the parish did attend school. J. P. Williams then observed that the Board ought to satisfy themselves that four hours daily of secular instruction was given in these denominational schools, and if a full investigation of the matter was made, it might be found that such was not the case; and that school hours were used for other and less useful purposes than imparting elementary education to the children attending there. After some further conversation on the subject, the attending officer promised to look into the matter.

Finance Cheques were ordered to be drawn for the following amounts: Mr. W. Jones, builder of the Gelligaer Village School, £150; the treasurer of Troedyfuwch school, £35; the treasurer of Vochriw school, £45.

“Merthyr Express” 13 March 1875

Terrorism at Dowlais At the request of the Dowlais Iron Company, we print the following letter:-

Dowlais, March 6, 1875

Sir, - As the Dowlais overmen are so cowardly and so childish as to cut coal, to assist the tyrant masters in the present struggle, it is settled, resolved, swear and signed by a band of upward of 500 men, that Vochriw pump engine and cab engine must go to sleep at once. Therefore take notice, that unless you will timely inform the engineers of the said engines to leave their work on Monday or Tuesday, you, as well as them, shall be a subject to the most cruel action that enemies can enact on. Do not trust yourselves to the police force, for every member of the said band are armed with deadly weapons, viz. hatchets, mandril wires, spears, and 50 pistols, all in good order. No mercy shall be given to any of the said enginemen from Tuesday out. Let all the overmen, firemen, shovelers, fluemen and everyone it concerns to know the contents of this notice, and should the police interfere in the affairs he or they shall not escape alive. War is a war. So let it, and where it may, mind, you shall be hunted out of your life, must pay for the insult. Then it

Will be too late for mice to squail

When pussy got her head and tail.

Remember that one pair of feet is far better than two pairs of hands.

To Mr. Thomas Jenkins, Chief Engineer, Vochriw

From the said band, DRAGON MERCYLESS

“Merthyr Express” 27 March 1875

The Employment of the Locked-Out Workmen Mr. Frank James, Clerk to the Board of Guardians, waited upon the Board and stated that he did so at the request of the guardians, to know whether the Board could assist them in any way in the more profitable application of the labour thrown upon their hands by the lock-out. What the Guardians suggested was that men might be employed in the making of new roads or the improvement of old roads, and be paid for by them, the Board of Health paying for the work at a fair valuation.

The Surveyor said he had, in accordance with the instructions of a committee held on Tuesday, taken the subject into consideration, and the result was that he believed he could set somewhat over 500 men to work on the highways at once, very advantageously. First there was the new road now being made from Rhaslas to Big Winch, in connection with the Gelligaer parish roads; there were about 150 men employed on that road now and about another 150 might be put on at the other end. The Aberfan road in the neighbourhood of the new cemetery for that part of the parish required widening and extending. The portions running through Mr. Rowland Griffiths's property might be gone on with at once, as he was willing to let them have the land for widening it, but further on it was in Lord Dynevor and Miss Richard's property, and their agents would have to be communicated with. But about 100 men would be put on at once. About 40 men could be put upon the Twynywain road to improve the gradient of that road, and another 100 could be put upon the road from Gwaslodygarth to the Pant About 40 men could be put upon the Pontycapel road; and 50 in the improvement of the road from Pant to Pantscallog, and another lot on the Heolgerrig road, altogether 540 men could be so employed. The only question was as to the terms, and the Board generally thought they

ought to be allowed a fair consideration for doing the work at the present moment which they would not perhaps in the ordinary course do for years. The Chairman suggested that they should have a discount of 20 per cent below the fair rate, and this was agreed to. Mr. W. Harris then proposed that the Board should employ 540 men on these conditions: The men be under the supervision of the Board of Guardians and to be paid and found tools by them; the Board of Health to have the work set out and to direct generally how it was to be done; and the work to be then valued by Mr. Harpur upon the scale paid for such work in December last, such price less 20% discount to be the price paid by the Board to the Guardians, and the payments to be made at a rate not exceeding £500 every four months. Mr. Henry Davies seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. Mr. James then asked the Board whether they were doing anything with the road to Gelligaer, for which the commoners of the parish had paid £700 towards the cost. The Surveyor said it was now in hand, and half a mile of it finished. The Surveyor said that if the landlord's consent could be got, 600 or 700 men could be put upon the Cwmfelin and Aberfan to Pantygwaith roads alone.

“Merthyr Express” 10 April 1875

A Letter of Thanks The Rev. Thomas Theophilus, Rev. J. P. Williams and Rev. Thomas Williams, waited on E. D. Williams Esq., a few days ago, to present him with a letter of thanks for his kindness in giving the means of employment to so many of the men who were locked-out. The letter was read by the vicar of Pontlottyn which is as follows: To E. D. Williams, Esq., Maesyryddud. We the undersigned clergy and ministers of the various denominations residing in Pontlottyn, beg to express to you, our sincerest thanks for having so generously given a piece of your land for the purpose of forming a new road between Pontlottyn and Merthyr. The new road will be a great boon to the district at large; we more particularly desire to give this expression of our feeling, inasmuch as the construction of the new road has given employment to a great number of men living in Pontlottyn, and thereby, to a very considerable extent averting the destruction and want which would otherwise have been felt in the place. We have also to express our thanks to you for giving employment to the men who are now engaged at Penwaungoch level, and in doing so relieved the inhabitants in a considerable degree from feeling the severity of the weather through which we have recently passed. We remain, yours respectfully, Thos. Theophilus, vicar of Pontlottyn; J. P. Williams, Baptist minister; Thos. Williams, curate, Newton; A. Davies, Methodist minister; R. Herbert, Methodist minister; J. R. Williams, Independent minister.

“Merthyr Express” 24 April 1875

Surveyor's Report to the Chairman of the Merthyr Local Board of Health
“Gentlemen, - I beg to report that there are now employed by the Board of Guardians in the formation and improvement of roads within your district under my direction 616, who have applied for relief owing to the strike men and lock-out, distributed as follows, On the Gelligaer road - 58; On the Twynywain road - 106; On the Penrhiw Camran road - 110; On the Penybryn road - 99; On the Pontycapel road - 47; On the Heolgerrig road - 60; On the Aberfan road - 106.

Sale of crops at Ynyscadudwg: “I beg to lay before you the auctioneer's report of the sale of crops at Ynyscadudwg on Thursday last, and to report that the crop of Italian Rye Grass on the Upper Common at Navigation was sold for £50, and on Ynysdwr Common for £51. The crops sold at Ynyscadudwg measuring over 63 acres sold for £393, an average of £5-8-0 an acre. The fields were bought for £5-1-5 per acre.

The Gelligaer and Rhas Las Road: Mr. Thomas Jenkins handed the chairman a cheque for £700, the amount received by the commoners of Senghenydd as compensation from the railway companies, as their share of the expense of forming the road from the Big Winch to Rhas Las, on condition that the work be completed and the road made continuous from Gelligaer to the Merthyr road. The Chairman said of course that would be done, the Board having given an undertaking to that effect. A letter was read from Mr. Lundie, engineer of the Bargoed railway, stating that the company would contribute £100 towards the expense of constructing the road to Twynywain, and the Board agreed to accept the offer. The Surveyor said the road was already wholly formed and was now being metalled.

“Merthyr Express” 8 May 1875

Assault by a Pugilist at Vochriw Ivor Lewis, a collier, an individual who under the name of “Ivor Wynne” has attained considerable fame in Rhymney and its neighbourhood as an exponent of the principles of “the manly art of self defence,” was summoned by an engine driver named William Morgan of Pontlottyn, for an assault committed on him on Sunday the 25th. Mr. Plews, who appeared for the complainant, said that if his instructions were correct, and he had no reason whatever to doubt them in this instance, a more gross, wanton assault was never committed than on the occasion to which this summons related. The defendant was a bit of a prize fighter, and had exhibited his pugilistic skill for money upon several occasions in the ring. An unwarrantable attack had been made on this occasion on the complainant, who was a very inoffensive man, and he (the learned gentleman) hoped that such justice would be meted out to the assailant in this instance, as would effectually put an end to doings of the sort in future. Complainant, who was then called, stated that on the day in question, he was returning home from his brother’s house at Vochriw with a man named Thomas. Defendant and a friend overtook them, and witness knowing that their roads lay together, parted with Thomas, who returned towards Vochriw. After proceeding a short distance, defendant’s companion stayed behind for some purpose or another. Defendant thereupon gave witness a push, and upon his remonstrating gave him another, telling him to shut his mouth, or that he (defendant) would shut it for him. Witness asked him his reasons for such conduct, but the words had no sooner escaped him than defendant collared him and beat him in a savage manner about the face and mouth with his fist, blackening both his eyes and loosening all his teeth. Ultimately he let go his hold, and witness fairly exhausted dropped to the ground, where defendant left him and proceeded on his journey with his friend. Witness afterwards went back to Vochriw and showed himself to a police officer. Defendant now endeavoured to show that the attack had been provoked by Morgan, who had collared him and challenged him to a fight. His worship thought the assault was about as savage a one as he had heard of for a long time, and in his opinion the man who committed it was an arrant coward. Fined £5 including costs, and in default of payment committed to Swansea gaol for two calendar months with hard labour.

“Merthyr Express” 22 May 1875

The Strike: Bargoed, Wednesday As a result of the ballot taken at Deri on Saturday last, work has been resumed at all the collieries in the Rhymney-Bargoed Valley, with the exception of the non-associated colliery known as the Deri, which has been closed for the past three weeks. The other collieries in the valley are the Vochriw (steam coal) belonging to the Dowlais Iron Company; the Cwm and Cilhaul, belonging to the Bargoed Coal Company; the Darren, belonging to the Rhymney Iron Company; and the Wingfield, belonging to Messrs. Bevan and Price, all of

which are now being worked by the old hands. The men have agreed to an extra 5% reduction in wages.

“Merthyr Express” 12 June 1875

An Open-Air Baptism at Pontlottyn Last Sunday afternoon, the Rev. A. Tovey, English Baptist Minister, baptised two persons in the River Rhymney.

“Merthyr Express” 26 June 1875

Gelligaer Urban Sanitary Board A meeting of the Board was held on Friday at the Board schoolroom, Pontlottyn. Present: Mr. J. Matthews (chairman); Rev. J. P. Williams, Rev. A. Davies, Rev. R. Williams, Dr. Oke, Dr. Kent Jones, Vochrhiw; Messrs. W. Matthews, J. Harrison, D. Morgan, and L. D. Rees. The inspectors were authorised to serve notices on certain parties at Vochrhiw and Tir Phil to abate nuisances at the backs of their premises. The Clerk was asked to apply for permission to the Dowlais Company to convey the water under their railways to the cistern at Vochrhiw. Mr. John Harris, station master at Vochrhiw, sent a letter to the Board, complaining of the nuisance caused by the erection of an ash-pit in front of his house, and asked for its removal. A long discussion ensued, and two of the members strongly objected to the removal of the ash-pit. Ultimately, the matter was adjourned for a month, so as to give the members an opportunity to visit the site. The inspector was instructed to investigate the sanitary condition of the Rhymney and Cardiff, and the Brecon and Merthyr railway stations within this district, and bring in his report at the next Board meeting. The members paid a visit to certain streets, and found, to their great satisfaction, that the sanitary condition of the place has greatly improved.

“Merthyr Express” 10 July 1875

Vochrhiw: Philanthropics The quarterly meeting of the lodges of this order was held on Saturday evening in the Vochriw Inn. Delegates were present from lodges which comprise an area extending from Bargoed to the Rhymney Inn, and number 905 members. The recent stagnation of trade has had a telling effect on the funds, for, notwithstanding that the number of funerals for the term was comparatively small, the expenses of which were more than covered by a levy of 5½d. per member, a decrease of £47-6-8½ had taken place in the total value of the Order. It is gratifying to learn, however, that the lodges are in a healthy condition. The total value is £2,059-14-11½, which amounts to an average of £2-5-6¾ for each member of the district. In connection with the Order there has been established an auxiliary fund, the object of which is to render pecuniary assistance to those brothers and their families who are permanently disabled, and have been dependent on the sick relief of their lodges. Some pressing cases of this kind were considered, but we understand they would not be fully disposed of until a vote of each lodge was taken on the subject. The duties of chairman were performed by Mr. J. Walters, furniture dealer, Pontlottyn, and those of secretary by Mr. E. Evans, also of Pontlottyn.

“Merthyr Express” 17 July 1875

Demonstration of the Non-Conformist Sunday Schools of Rhymney & Pontlottyn Since eight years ago, when the Rector of Gelligaer misrepresented the state of education in the parish, these schools have united in a general procession. A total of 1,985 scholars were in the procession which was one mile long.

“Merthyr Express” 28 August 1875

Miners' Union? The Amalgamated Association of Miners, held a Conference at Shrewsbury on Tuesday to try to form a Miner's Union. A representative of Vochrhiw was present.

“Merthyr Express” 27 November 1875

Gellygaer Rural Sanitary Authority The Board met at the Board Schoolroom, Pontlottyn on Friday afternoon, when the following members were present: Mr. Jenkin Matthews (chairman); Rev. J. P. Williams; Messrs. W. Matthews, W. H. Harrison (Vochriw), E. Lewis (Ysgwydgwyr), Dr. Dyke (medical officer), James Jones (inspector). The Inspector's report was read and considered. Mr. W. Bevan, builder, Deri, submitted a plan of a house to be erected at Deri for Mr. Philip Matthews, and requested the Board's approval of the same. Dr. Dyke thought that every person who intended to erect new buildings, should give notice to the Rural Sanitary Authority, or their surveyor, of such intention, in writing, with plan drawn to a certain scale, requesting the consent of the Board. Mr. E. Lewis asked what could be done with those buildings which were now in course of erection in the parish. The Chairman said that the plans must be submitted to and approved by the Board, or if not, the workmen, as well as the owners, must run the risk of being fined, and the house altered or pulled down; as the case might require. An application, with a promise to submit a plan, was made by Mr. Wm. Croft, to build a bakehouse in Croft's-road. The application will be considered after the surveyor has visited the shop, and reported to the Board. Notice is to be served on Mr. W. Thomas, grocer, to remove, or re-erect, a dilapidated arch at the back of his premises, entering Picton-street, which is dangerous to passers-by. Notice is also to be served on the Trustees of Zoar Chapel, and on Mr. Isaac Phillips, grocer, for not complying with an order of the Board. The Inspector was ordered to write to the Vochriw stationmaster asking by what authority he has removed the grating at a culvert above his house, and request him to replace it at once.

"Merthyr Express" 8 January 1876

Vochriw - Christmas Tree On Monday, December 27th, the Primitive Methodists held a Christmas tree, tea, and concert in aid of the chapel fund. The Vochriw society and other friends worked hard and contributed to their substance to make the effort a success. When the tree was laden, it presented a pretty and attractive appearance. Friends in the neighbourhood kindly rendered help, and some at a distance were not unmindful in that respect. And although we cannot mention every one's name, we would not forget Mrs. Roden, who subscribed 15s.; Mr. Deacon, 10s.6d.; a friend in Somerset, 5s.; and others 2s.6d. each, and other smaller donations. A public tea was prepared in the afternoon, and over 100 persons partook of the good things provided. The concert was held in the evening, and the chapel was literally crammed, and many said "We never saw it in this fashion before." The Rev. H. Jones presided, and a very lengthy programme was gone through, consisting of songs, solos, choruses, readings and recitations. The audience showed their appreciation and delight of the performance by their frequent bursts of applause. The usual votes of thanks were given, and the meeting terminated about half past nine with the Doxology and Benediction. By the proceedings of the day the chapel will realise £10 for the reduction of the chapel debt, and we hereby tender our thanks to all who assisted.

"Merthyr Express" 5 February 1876

Gellygaer School Board The ordinary monthly meeting of the Board was held on Thursday last, when there were present the Rev. A. Davies (chairman), J. P. Williams, J. E. Griffiths, R. Williams, and Mr. D. Morgan, Mr. J. James (clerk), J. Davies (deputy clerk), J. Williams (architect), and J. Jones (attendance officer).

Assistant Mistress to Vochriw School The Clerk read four applications for this appointment:- Miss Martha Evans, National School, Tredegarville, Cardiff; Miss M. A. Vaughan, Board Schools, Cefncoedcymer; Miss Mary Jane Fowler, Brynmawr;

and Miss Mary Davies, Infants School, Cwmavon. The Chairman, having spoken highly of Miss Vaughan, proposed that she be appointed. Rev. J. P. Williams observed that on the excellent testimonial of Rev. C. J. Thompson of Cardiff, he would propose the appointment of Miss Martha Evans. Rev. R. Williams seconded the amendment of Rev. J. P. Williams, which, on being put to the meeting, was agreed to. The Chairman then drew the attention of the Board to the fact that in case Miss Evans could not come, as had been done on other occasions, another of the candidates should be selected, and he would again propose that Miss Vaughan be appointed. He thought that no one knew better than the masters who were the most suitable persons to occupy such positions, and as they were thought to assist the Board in carrying out the work of education; the Board should show them respect enough to rely upon them when recommending anyone for an engagement under the Board. Rev. J. E. Griffiths proposed the appointment of Miss Davies of Cwmavon. Rev. J. P. Williams observed that the opinion of the masters could not always be relied upon. For instance, the Board would well remember the case of a master who was furnished by another who they knew, with an excellent testimonial, and a retort was given, "Masters will do these things." This led him not to rely too much on their opinions. The proposition was then passed in favour of Miss Davies.

Extra Monitor The Rev J. E. Griffiths reported that the number of children attending the Board school at Vochrhiw was so large that the managers had been under the necessity of engaging the services of another monitor to assist in carrying on the work of the school. He would now request the Board to confirm the action of the managers. It was unanimously resolved that the extra monitor engaged be retained.

Neglecting School Attendance Mrs. French, wife of Thomas French of Vochrhiw, was ordered to appear before the Board in consequence of an order from the attendance officer for not sending her children to school, four of whom were of school age. A long and desultory tale was told by Mrs. French, pleading poverty, and stating that the amount of earnings received into her house did not exceed the sum of £1 between the husband and another boy, and claiming also the right of educating her own children. As the story of Mrs. French was not considered feasible, and was ultimately rejected by the Board, it was ordered "that she be requested to send her children to school, and in case of default that they be proceeded against."

"Merthyr Express" 26 March 1876

Sanitary Work in Merthyr Tydfil Mr. Councillor Loudon last week delivered a lecture at the Liberal Club, Coventry, on "Sanitary Reform, Past and Present." As illustrations of the general principles laid down in his lecture, Mr. Loudon instanced the two towns of Merthyr Tydfil and Coventry in proof of the efficacy and economy of sanitary work performed properly as a proof of the efficacy and economy of sanitary work properly performed. The average mortality of Merthyr Tydfil from 1840 to 1850 was 29 per thousand. From 1850 to 1875 the average was 25 per thousand. In 1850 the Local Board was formed, and in 1851 sanitary work began. These works included the scavenging the streets every day, and bringing of pure water into the town; while in 1866 main sewers were laid. Gradually, as one work after another was completed, the good results were shown in the steady decline of disease and death. This is demonstrated in figures taken from the Registrar General's Report for 1875. In 1850 the population of Merthyr Tydfil was 63,000; in 1861, 83,000; in 1871 it stood at 97,000. The mean average for the last 25 years will be, as near as possible, 81,000. By taking the mean saving of life at 4 per 1000, and multiplying this by the mean population in thousands, and again by the number of years from the commencement of sanitary improvement (25 years), it shows that the

saving of life as compared with the former death rate of 8,100. [Councillor Loudon estimated that this had resulted in a saving of over £756,337 over 25 years for an outlay of £230,000 in sanitary works.]

"Merthyr Express" 1 April 1876

Gellygaer School Board: Timetables of the Schools The Rev. J. P. Williams desired to lay before the Board a few remarks upon the matter. He said that it was now drawing to the close of the school year, and masters and mistresses would have to submit the time tables of their respective schools to H. M. Inspector of Schools for approval. He was of the opinion that previous to their being submitted, they should also be placed before the Board for their inspection, so that the Board might know what was taught in their schools. Holding that view of the matter, he begged leave to propose "That exact copies of the time table which will be of use in the schools of the Board for the ensuing year, be submitted by their respective head teachers to a committee, consisting of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Revs. J. E. Griffiths and J. P. Williams, and Messrs. J. Matthews and D. Morgan for examination and approval, before being presented to H. M. Inspector for his approval on behalf of the Education Department."

The Chairman explained the object of Mr. Williams's motion. It was principally because of the regulations of the Bargoed joint schools; and as he was given to understand, the question would very soon be laid before the Bedwellty School Board, after which it would inevitably crop up again before this Board; he did not know that it would be wise on their part to originate discussion on the subject. Rev. J. P. Williams: I should like to say that in moving the resolution I aim to have some degree of uniformity of teaching in our schools; for it is now well known that in one or two of our schools they had the reading of the Bible, and a short prayer offered at the commencement of the school duties, whilst at other schools they did not do so. I think that if it is good for one it is good for the others. It is my desire that the Board should assist the masters in drawing up the regulations for their schools. The Chairman was also of the opinion that uniformity of teaching should be secured at all their schools.

Mr. Morgan asked if the motion of Mr. Williams would be passed as a precedent. Rev. J. P. Williams believed that the time tables should be submitted for the Board's examination, for when they rightly discharge their duties others got the praise, and when anything was done wrong the Board was to blame for it. And in this case, if a prayer and hymns was allowed in one school it should be ordered in all the schools.

Mr. D. Morgan: It is still the religious question. Rev. R. Williams: Yes, some religious matters were carried on in connection with other school duties. Mr. Morgan desired to impress upon them, not to create an ill-feeling amongst them by the introduction of this question, and by so doing disturb the peace which has pervaded the doings of the Board since its existence. In referring to the Bedwellty Board, he said that that Board was so much taken up with matters upon which the members were divided that no work had been done by them, and he attributed the success of this Board to its moderation, and he still advocated moderation in the proceedings, for he might assure them that when they went to extremes it would surely turn out a failure. Rev. R. Williams concurred in the opinion expressed by Mr. Morgan, and thought that the passing of Rev. J. P. Williams's resolution was premature. It was decided to await the decision of the Bedwellty Board.

"Merthyr Express" 29 April 1876

Gelligaer School Board The ordinary monthly meeting of the Board was held on Thursday, when there were present the Revs. A. Davies (chairman), R. Williams, J. P. Williams, J. E. Griffiths, Mr. D. Morgan, Mr. J. Davies (deputy clerk), Mr. J. D.

Jones (attendance officer). The timetables of the respective schools of the Board were laid before the members who took some time in looking over them. Rev. J. P. Williams observed that prayers were said at the commencement of school duties in the Pontlloyn schools, none in the Newton, Vochrhiw or Deri schools, whilst in Bargoed schools, ten minutes was allowed for prayer, and twenty minutes for religious instruction. The tables produced showed that a variety of forms prevailed among the masters of the schools under the same Board. He was glad that these tables had been called for, so that an uniform system should be carried out in all the schools of the Board, because if prayers and religious instruction were to be given in one school, why not also in all the schools alike? The masters had hitherto adopted their own course without the action or the permission of the Board, and yet they saw that they differed in carrying on the work of the schools. Chairman: The masters have hitherto gone on their own accord, and until now the Board have taken no action in the matter; and it is quite evident that uniformity does not prevail among them.

Rev. J. P. Williams: What I should like is that prayers should be said at the commencement of the school duties, although that is not exactly according to my views; but perceiving that the majority of the schools are commenced by prayers, I fall in with them. But as to religious instruction, I do not know what that means. Religious instruction might mean many things, and, after all, might not include the Bible. Chairman: Yes, it might mean some catechism or other. But as he believed that this matter would turn up again when a letter would be received from the Bedwellty Board, and as two of the lay members of the Board were not now present, who, he thought, were interested to some extent in this matter, and one of whom he expected would be in soon, he would suggest that the question would be postponed for further discussion to a full Board. The Rev. J. P. Williams could not agree with the chairman in paying deference to some of the members of the Board more than others; and he could not see any use of compromising matters in this fashion with the churchmen.

The Clerk's Deputy said that when a return was ordered to be made for the use of the Education Department respecting the religious instruction given in the Board schools, the Rev. Mr. Harries wrote to the Board explaining the nature of the religious instruction given at Bargoed school, which consisted of the reading of the Bible, and a brief geographical description of the mountains and rivers contained in scripture. Rev. R. Williams: Prayers are said and hymns sung in all the schools except the Deri school. Chairman: There must be singing, or we should lose a portion of the Parliamentary grant. Rev. J. E. Griffiths: No; the Vochriw, Newton and Deri schools are conducted without prayers. Rev. J. P. Williams: This is how we stand - three of the schools are carried on without prayers, three others with prayers, and one with prayers and religious instruction. Rev. R. Williams: We must now come to the point. Now that these timetables are produced, are we satisfied with them? What we have to do should be done independently of the Bedwellty Board or any other Board.

Rev. J. P. Williams suggested that the Lord's Prayer should be said at the commencement and conclusion of the school duties. He did not object to this; neither did he believe that the rate-payers of the parish would object to it, as probably the majority of them would be in favour of it. But as to the religious instruction, which was put down in an open manner like this in the Bargoed time table, he would object to it - even taking into consideration what had been said by the clerk's deputy respecting mountains and rivers. In speaking of rivers, they could be plunged into baptism, and, likewise, in speaking of mountains, they could be plunged into very important doctrines. He would, therefore, sympathise with, and concede to, the rate-payers by suggesting that the Lord's Prayer alone should be used in the schools of the

Board. Should they decide upon adopting religious instruction, the Board would be constantly quarrelling with the appointment of school-masters.

Rev. R. Williams: It is my opinion that the Ten Commandments should form the basis of morality of the children attending day schools. Mr. Morgan now entered the room, and the Chairman explained the course of discussion. Mr. Morgan said the anticipated letter had not arrived from the Bedwellty Board, he did not wish to disturb the parishioners on the matter. Eventually, it was decided to adjourn the question to a special meeting of the Board to be held the following week, when also will be taken into consideration a scheme for the sewing in the schools, the proposed prizes for the children, and also the efficiency of the teaching staff of the schools.

Attendance Officer's Report Return of attendance and school payments in the various Board schools for the month ending April 14, 1876.

	Av. No. present for the month	No. present in all	No. on Register	School pence received	School pence in arrears
Pontlottyn boys	68.1	80	86	£3-17-0	
Pontlottyn girls	66.4	80	89	£4-18-4	£9-12-7
Pontlottyn infants	98.3	115	136	£4-4-2	£2-13-11
Troedrhyfwuch	92.8	119	134	£6-12-10	
Bargoed mixed	57.4	68	78	£1-16-2	£4-3-2
Bargoed infants	76.8	83	105	£1-19-8	£10-7-0
Gelligaer village	145.5	187	190	£4-0-6	
Deri	86.7	107	151	No Return	
Vochrhiw	153	181	210	£3-9-7	
Newton	54.6	68	74	£1-10-0	

"Merthyr Express" 27 May 1876

Gelligaer and Bedwellty School Boards In consequence of what has transpired in the recent actions of these Boards respecting the management of the Bargoed Joint School, the result of which was that the majority of the managers of that school sent in their resignations to their respective Boards, which necessitated their direct and immediate intervention, the members appointed by them consisting of the Revs. A. Davies (chairman), J. P. Williams, D. Ll. and Mr. D. Morgan, on the part of the Gelligaer Board; and the Revs. E. Davies, J. Jones (Matthetes), and G. Owens, on the part of the Bedwellty Board, met by arrangement at the board-room of the Pontlottyn Board Schools on Tuesday afternoon, to re-appoint managers, in connection with that school.

Rev. J. Jones remarked that the Gelligear Board had revised the timetables of their schools, and as could be observed, the pen had been drawn through that part of them which maintained religious instruction in their schools; but nevertheless they had maintained the Lord's Prayer, which would be used at the commencement and conclusion of the school duties, whilst on the other hand, the Bedwellty Board had totally excluded even the Lord's Prayer. Rev. J. P. Williams observed that the Gelligaer Board had come to this conclusion unanimously, and it was a decision which they felt had been passed in the interest of the majority of rate-payers. Let them [the Bedwellty Board] first convince the rate-payers of the wisdom of their personal opinions Rev. J. Jones believed that the people were fast coming round to the secular opinion. The Rev. E. Davies proposed the following resolution: "That the Gelligaer School Board, having resolved that the Lord's Prayer should be used at the commencement of the school instruction every day in the schools under the Gelligaer School Board, and the Bedwellty School Board having adopted a purely secular system in the schools under its management - Resolved, that the children from

Bedwellty parish be considered exempt from the said regulation of the Gelligaer Board, and be not required to attend during the time the Lord's Prayer may be used in the Bargoed school." The resolution was seconded by Rev. G. Owens. The resolution was subsequently agreed upon, and it was ordered that the exemption of the Bedwellty children from using the Lord's Prayer be inserted in the time tables.

The subject of the resignation of the managers of the Bargoed School was then discussed, and ultimately agreed to recommend to the respective Boards the following persons as managers of the Bargoed joint school: Messrs. J. Lewis, ex-member Gelligaer School Board; W. Evans, grocer; Jonathan Williams, agent; W. Mathews, station master; John Llewellyn, inspector; J. Price, bookseller; R. Abraham, mineral agent.

"Merthyr Express" 27 May 1876

Urban Sanitary Committee A meeting of the Committee was held on Friday at the Greyhound Inn assembly rooms, Deri, when there were present - Mr. Jenkin Mathews of Rhymney in the chair; Rev. Aaron Davies of Pontlottyn; Mr. L. D. Rees of Cefn Hengoed; Mr. W. Beddoe of Nelson; Mr. L. Evans of Penybank; Mr. L. Lewis of Hengoed-road; Mr. E. Lewis of Cwmysgwydd Gwyn; Mr. Matthews of Vochrhiw. A report was presented by the inspector of nuisances setting forth nuisances connected with certain cottages belonging to the Dowlais Iron Company at Vochrhiw. The committee ordered that notices be issued forthwith to abate the nuisances.

Assault at Vochrhiw James Morgan, collier, was summoned for having assaulted a lad named William Henry French at Vochrhiw on the 30th. Mr. Harris appeared for the complainant. The evidence went to show that a quarrel having taken place between the complainant and his brother and the two sons of the defendant, the latter interfered and gave complainant a shove, slapped his face, kicked him on the thigh, and threw stones after him, one of which knocked him down. An old feud was shown to exist between the parties concerning a hen which the defendant had lent the complainants mother. - The Bench, after commenting strongly on the behaviour of both the defendant and the parents of the lad French, imposed a fine of £3 8s. inclusive of costs, with an alternative of a month's imprisonment with hard labour. - Defendant, upon depositing a moiety, was allowed a fortnight to find the remainder.

"Merthyr Express" 24 June 1876

Gelligaer School Board The ordinary monthly meeting of the Board was held on Tuesday. Present: Rev. A. Davies (chairman); Revs. J. P. Williams, R. Williams, Mr. David Morgan.

The Board School at Vochrhiw: Extra Accommodation The committee appointed to deal with this matter presented their report. The committee stated that they had visited the school and met with some of the managers. They found the school was overcrowded especially in the classroom. There were 218 names on the register and the attendance was 188, being 38 more than the accommodation. There were 75 infants present on the day of the committee's visit, and these were taught in one small classroom. Under the circumstances, the committee recommended the Board to build an infant room for 80 children at the end of the house of Mr. Thomas Jones, at the south end of the girls' playground and offices. The committee believed this could be done easily, the Board having the right to build on the end of Mr. Jones's house. The Board approved the recommendation, and authorised the committee to see the architect and arrange the best and cheapest manner in which the proposed school could be erected.

A long discussion followed with respect to the staff of teachers at Vochriw School, a letter being read by the managers, urging the appointment of an assistant master. The

matter gave rise to a conversation as to the case of W. J. Rees, a pupil teacher at the school, who had not been fulfilling his duties for some time. Rees had repeatedly failed to pass, and though he was in his fourth year, he was of no assistance to the master. It was proposed that Rees's father be asked to withdraw the lad on condition that the Board pay him £6, according to the agreement. Rev. Griffiths then gave notice that he would move the appointment of an assistant master at Vochriw School at the next meeting. The Board instructed the managers to employ monitors in the meantime.

"Merthyr Express" 22 July 1876

Gelligaer School Board The ordinary monthly meeting of the Board was held on Thursday. Present - The Revs. A. Davies (chairman), J. P. Williams, R. Williams, J. E. Griffiths, and Mr. D. Morgan.

Vochriw School Staff Rev. J. E. Griffiths moved that an assistant master be engaged at Vochriw School as the teaching staff was inadequate for the requirements, after the dismissal of William J. Rees as pupil teacher. Rev. J. P. Williams said the present staff comprised a master, mistress and two pupil teachers. Rev. R. Williams: You have four teachers for 160 children, and the average attendance for last year was 150. Chairman: I have seen crowded into that room 180, and this lately is of frequent occurrence. The mistress is engaged principally for the teaching of sewing. Rev. R. Williams: In my view two monitors should be engaged as these will be quite as efficient as an assistant master. Chairman: If the services of William J. Rees had been retained, it would have cost the Board £20. The services of an assistant master would not come to much more, and in consequence of the ill-health of Mr. Rees, the school had suffered greatly in the amount of grant earned which ought to have reached the sum of 18s. per head. The present staff is also inefficient to meet the requirements of the school. On a certain day when I visited the school there were 75 infants. After some further discussion, it was decided to proceed with the appointment with one dissentient. The Chairman then mentioned the name of John Lewis, son of David Lewis, Upper Street, Rhymney, as a person likely to suit the needs of the school. It was decided that John Lewis be engaged on a three months trial at the rate of £45 per annum.

Arrears of School Pence Mr. Merchant, a tailor of Pontlottyn, appeared before the Board requesting that the Board would forbear with him with respect to his paying the amount of £1-7-9 of school pence due for three of his children attending the Pontlottyn Board School. Various excuses were made relating to his inability to pay. There were eight in the family, but the eldest was 22 years of age and in constant employment. It was also said that on Sundays, Merchant was generally seen carrying a quantity of beer into his house from the public house. The members then agreed that if he could pay for beer, he could pay for his children's education.

"Merthyr Express" 29 July 1876

Charge of Murder At Vochrhiw: A Strange Story A most extraordinary murder case came on for hearing on Saturday morning last at the Merthyr Police Court. For some time past travellers over the hill from Merthyr towards Pontlottyn were pointed to a house standing alone by the roadside at Vochrhiw, and bearing the sign of the Rising Sun Inn. The Story in connection with this place was that some 17 years ago there was a house-warming, or something of the kind, going on here, when the whole day was spent in the celebration thereof. Many people got drunk, others fought pitched battles, and altogether, as the story goes in the neighbourhood, there was a general row which lasted all day. On that date, a man called Richard Jones was missed, and about the same time several people left the neighbourhood for America. The fate of

Jones was shrouded in a mystery for up to eleven years, when in July 1870, sinking was resumed on an old shaft, called the Tunnel Pit, near Vochrhiw. When the water had been pumped out, the body of a man was discovered, with a heavy chain attached to a tram wheel, and it was identified as that of Richard Jones. An inquest was held and an open verdict returned, and everyone thought the matter would forever remain unsolved, till the advent of a man, named Rees Morgan into the neighbourhood recently, revived the whole business. What he said, and the steps following the same, will be found detailed below. It is needless to say, that the arrest of two men on suspicion has caused some considerable excitement in the locality, although those who can remember the first excitement about the matter must, many of them, have passed away.

Rees Morgan and Henry Williams, colliers, both residing at Vochrhiw, were charged with wilfully murdering Richard Jones, a collier, residing at Blaen Rhymney, on the 12th June, 1859, at Vochrhiw in the parish of Gelligaer. Mr. Superintendent Thomas, deputy chief constable of Glamorgan, conducted the prosecution, and the prisoners were undefended. The court was crowded during the hearing which lasted one hour.

Mr. Superintendent Thomas, addressing their worships said: On the night of the 12th June 1859, the man, Richard Jones, left his home and went to a public house in Vochrhiw called the Farmers' Arms, where he remained until late at night. He was seen to leave the house, but he never returned to his home at Blaen Rhymney. His friends, missing him, made a search for him over the mountains, and about the different pits in the neighbourhood, but without being able to find any trace of him beyond his cap, which was picked up by some person and handed to his friends. Just previous to that time the Dowlais Company had been sinking a pit, which is known as the Tunnel Pit, but from some means or another - an accumulation of water or something of the kind - the pit was abandoned and the pit mouth was covered with sleepers. Shortly after the disappearance of the man, and while this affair was much talked about, several persons from Vochrhiw and the neighbourhood, left for America. Their departure was connected with certain rumours, but then these came to nothing, and the excitement caused by the man's disappearance died out until somewhere about the 2nd July 1870, when the pit in question was re-opened for the purpose of further sinking operations. It was found to contain a quantity of water, which was got out; after this the remains of a human being were discovered, and also a tram wheel and a chain, which were supposed to be fastened around the body. A blue handkerchief which the deceased wore and also one of his boots were found there, and these articles were identified by his brother as those which he had worn on the night upon which he had disappeared.

Dr. Davies (magistrate): Were the tram wheel and chain attached to each other? Mr. Thomas: They were sir. Dr. Davies: And where they or either of them attached to the body? Mr. Thomas: Of that no judgement could be accurately formed. The body had gone to pieces, but the supposition is that the body had been attached to it, and that the chain had cut through it. An inquest was held upon the remains, but nothing turned out which could implicate anyone. An open verdict was returned. I should say that the prisoners, who were living in the neighbourhood at the time of the man's disappearance, left; it was supposed for America. At any rate, neither of them showed himself until very recently. Williams returned sometime ago, but Morgan did not show himself in this locality. Nobody knew anything about that until the 30th June last, when he (Morgan) presented himself at a public house at Vochrhiw called the Mount Pleasant Inn, kept by a man named Llewellyn Davies, and he there had a conversation with two men named Thomas Davies and David Thomas, whom I intend

calling as witnesses. He asked these men if they remembered the circumstances of the murder of Dick Puddling (this being the name by which the missing man was known). Thomas Davies said "No." Morgan then said "Well I lived at Blaencarno at the time he was missed. I went to the Tunnel Pit shortly after that, and I pointed out the mark of a mandril or bar upon a sleeper as the mark which they had made in raising out of the planks in order to make sufficient room for the body to be put down." Morgan explained as to why the murder had been committed - namely, that the murdered man had caused a cow belonging to somebody or another to break her leg. He had also been advised by a relation of one of the men to keep the thing secret to his grave. The man to whom he made the statement about the planking is now dead. Dr. Davies: If I understand you rightly, Williams is only implicated by Morgan's statements respecting him. He has said nothing himself. Mr. Thomas: We have no evidence with respect to Williams beyond what Morgan has said about him sir. Dr. Davies: And Morgan's statements. You seem to point to other hands as having committed the murder. Mr. Thomas: Just so sir; but then it will be a question for you to determine as to how far you may consider them an accessory after the fact.

David Thomas, who was the first witness called, said: I am a haulier at Vochrhiw. On Monday, 26 June last, I saw Rees Morgan at Llewellyn Davies's house, Mount Pleasant, Vochriw. He asked if anyone had lived there for some time. I said "I've lived here for many years." He said, "Do you remember when Dick Pudding was lost? I can take my oath who killed him, if I could take an oath upon a thing I did not see. I was courting David Morgan's servant in the back of the Rising Sun, Vochrhiw, at the time they were going out. (He did not say who they were.) I have been there calling a pint many times, and whoever would be in, the landlord (David Morgan) would get up to me and say, "Remember to keep that secret to the grave." The prisoner further said, "I have showed to the man where I lodged the mark of a mandril or bar where they had raised a board from the face of the pit." He asked me if I knew the value of Richard Jones's life. I said "No." He said, "Well the value of his life was the breaking of a cow's leg. He set some cows from a hayfield; one of them got through a rough place and broke its leg." He did not say whose cow it was. He also said, "When I was going from the girl on Sunday morning, I picked up a cap, full of blood, which I threw down and left there." Both prisoners are strangers to me. Richard Morgan had been drinking when he made these statements to me. He also said one had come back from America who knew about Dick very well.

Morgan was asked by the clerk whether he wished to cross-examine. He declined to put any questions, and stated that he knew he had been to the public house named by the witness, and that he had been talking to someone there. He could not, however, remember with whom, or what he had been saying. "But I am sure in one thing you (Thomas) have made a mistake. You said that I was with a girl when they went out. That is not so. You said as well that I had found the cap. I said the cap had been found. And another thing - you said that I told you I could swear to the thing; that is right enough, but I don't know about anybody that did kill Richard Jones, no more than a man from Africa."

Thomas Davies was the next witness examined, and said: I am a haulier at Vochrhiw and was with the last witness at the Mount Pleasant Inn on Monday night; I have heard his evidence which is correct. I heard Morgan say that he had shown to a man the marks of a mandril or bar with which they had raised the boards on the top of the pit, and that he told Thomas Jones (Tom Pudding), that he believed that it was there that Richard Jones was. He also said that on the morning the man was missed he had said that if Dick Pudding had been killed he knew who had killed him, and that one of

the men with him had said, "Hush, mind what you say." Morgan also said, "I kept everything quiet, and said no more. One of the men who has just come back from America was one of those who killed Dick Pudding, and he works in these pits." I know that Williams has recently returned from America. Clerk (to Morgan): Do you want to ask this witness any questions. Morgan: No sir, I don't. I had a drop too much, I know that very well. I don't want to ask him anything, because I don't know what I did say.

Dr. Davies: You don't deny then that you said what they say you did? Morgan: No, sir. I had been drinking and I know that. I got talking about the affair of Dick Jones's murder, but what I said I don't remember. Dr. Davies (to Superintendent Thomas): What is there to connect Williams with the charge? Mr. Thomas: Only what I have already mentioned. I expected a witness here to say that Morgan went to the top of the Tunnel Pit and said, "Does Williams work here?" and that when a reply was given to the affirmative, Morgan made the observation to which I have already alluded to. This witness has not been able to leave his work today, and I must therefore ask the Bench for a remand so that he can give his evidence. Clerk: Do you think Mr. Thomas, that a remand would enable you to get further information regarding this matter? Mr. Thomas: If we could get this man here, he will say what I have told you. Dr. Davies: But the publican referred to by the prisoner Morgan, couldn't we get him here? His evidence might be of the greatest importance. Mr. Thomas: The publican is dead sir, and two or three others besides who could, no doubt, have thrown great light upon the matter. Some who also might give a good deal of information are abroad, no one knows where. It having happened so long back it is almost impossible to get any information at all at this moment. Dr. Davies (after consultation with the Bench): Then you do not think Mr. Thomas that you can get anything against Williams beyond what has already transpired? Mr. Thomas: I am afraid not sir. Dr. Davies: Then Williams is discharged. The Bench does not think there is any evidence against him sufficient to justify them detaining him in custody any further. Morgan is remanded to Swansea goal for a week.

Editorial For the past week, a great sensation has been created in the district by the revelation of a man named Rees Morgan, who is now in custody on a charge of being implicated in the murder of one Richard Jones, alias 'Dick Pudding' who disappeared under mysterious circumstances in June 1859. An old proverb has it that when the wine's in the wit's out; and it would really appear that what may in the end turn out to be a clue to a tragic affair has been brought to the ears of the police through the babbling of a man in liquor. It may be remembered by many persons in the neighbourhood of Merthyr, Dowlais and Rhymney, that in June 1859, Richard Jones, a collier, who lived at Blaen Rhymney, disappeared suddenly, and the most vigorous search failed to find his whereabouts, although his cap was found on the summit of Cwmbargoed. At the time an abandoned shaft existed near what was then a tunnel on the Dowlais Iron Company's Vochrhiw Railway. It was securely covered with massive timbers when examined, but bore no apparent traces of disturbance, and it was not thought worthwhile to explore the shaft. Nothing more was heard of the incident until nearly eleven years afterwards, when the Dowlais Company pumped the shaft dry with the view of completing it as a pit for working coal from; and when the sinkers touched the bottom they were horrified to find the skeleton of a human being together with an old necktie, and an old iron chain attached to a heavy tram wheel, the metal weighing very considerably more than a hundredweight.

An inquest was held. The disappearance of Richard Jones was recalled, and strangely enough, the little bit of blue necktie enabled his brother to identify the remains as

Richard Jones. The question arose, how came they at the bottom of the Tunnel Pit? It was shown by evidence that the mouth of the pit was so securely closed that no person could have fallen in by mere accident; and the timbers were so massive that no single individual could have moved them out of position in preparation for suicide. It was self evident therefore that the remains found in the pit were those of some individual who had been thrown into the pit by others; and the assumption was that there had been a game of foul play. The decomposition however was so thorough that it was impossible to obtain absolute proof of the iron having been attached to the body, and the jury wisely returned an open verdict. Now comes the strangest part of this strange story. After the disappearance of Jones, certain parties, upon whom the eye of suspicion had alighted, left the neighbourhood and went to America, from which country, after four or five years absence, some of them returned, and are now working in our locality. A few weeks ago, a workman named Rees Morgan calls at a public house in Vochrhiw, and being in his cups, suddenly commences a conversation about the "murder" of "Dick Pudding," and forthwith makes a series of statements of such a nature as to leave his audience with the impression that a man who knew so much as he chose to reveal, probably knew a great deal more which he chose to hold back. They accordingly, communicate with the police, and in due course, the man who makes the confession, and another man who he implicated by innuendo, are taken into custody on the capital charge. Against the second man, the evidence amounts to nothing at present; but the statements of the man Rees Morgan are perfectly astounding.

"Merthyr Express" 5 August 1876

The Tunnel Pit Mystery The prisoner, Rees Morgan, who is charged with complicity in the murder of Richard Jones (Dick Pudding) at Vochrhiw, 19 years ago, again appeared before the Merthyr Bench on Saturday. The evidence before adduced was founded on his own statements recently made in a public house, but the additional information links his recent utterance with what he did and said at the time Jones was missed. The prisoner, who had lost flesh considerably during his week's incarceration, had a very emaciated appearance in the dock. Mr. D. R. Lewis appeared for the prosecution and Mr. Simons for the defence. The court was crowded for the hearing. Mr Lewis: I intend asking for a further remand of the case. The facts of the case are complicated. The matter requires further very careful investigation before this man, who by his own statements clearly shows that he knows something of this matter, should be allowed to go. You have already heard what the prisoner has told witnesses in this court recently, and I will call the brother of the deceased before you to tell you how he identified the remains in the pit as those of his brother. He will also tell you that when the search was being made for the missing man, that the prisoner met him and said, "Why don't you clear that pit, your brother's there." That will connect the prisoner with the death of the man at the time, and I will ask you on that to remand the prisoner for another week, so that we shall be able to push our inquiries further. There can be no doubt that a lot of people were implicated in the matter, and if the thing is carefully sifted that something may be found out.

Mr Lewis called the brother of the deceased, Thomas Jones, and examined him. When you were making the search for your brother, did you see Rees Morgan? Yes, just about the time we were looking for him. Where did you see him? On the mountain. What did he tell you? He told me to dry the pit. What pit? The Tunnel Pit where my brother was. What was it he said? He said. "Tom, what's the reason you don't dry the pit?" I said, "I cannot dry it. It's too much of a job." He said, "Your brother is sure to be there." I went to Mr. Thomas and asked him if he would dry the

pit. Mr. Thomas was the overman of the Dowlais Company? Yes. He said it would be too much of an expense. He asked me first if I was sure my brother was there. I said I could not be sure. You know the Tunnel Pit, then? Oh yes. I have been to the top of it many a time. How was it covered? As sound as that table. With what? With boards. Do you remember when a lot of bones were found in the Tunnel Pit? Yes, very well. Were you shown a handkerchief that was found with them? Yes, and swore to it. Whose was it? My brother's. Did you see a boot that was found? Yes it was his boot. Was there any peculiarity in your brother's arm? Yes. It was broken near the wrist. Was that found to be the case with the bone of one of the arms? Yes, it was.

Mr. Simons (defence) now cross-examined the witness. The prisoner was searching for your brother, wasn't he, with the other people on the mountain? I cannot say. I saw him. Now did he not tell you that he had been with eight other people to the top of the pit? Not to me. The question was repeated and the witness said that the prisoner might have told him so, but if he did, he did not recall it. Did he tell you that there was upon the boards (covering the entrance to the pit) what he thought was a new mark? No. Did he tell you that the other people said it was an old mark? He did not say anything of the sort to me that I know. Will you swear it? I cannot take my oath. Did he give you that as a reason for searching the pit? He said something of the sort, but I do not remember what it was; it is such a long time ago. Did he not advise you to go to the Dowlais Company and tell them that they should open the pit? Well perhaps he did; I do not know. Now, apart from the prisoner, were not other people saying they were sure your brother had been put into the pit? Nobody told me he was sure to be there, only him. Did not many people say they believed it, and that was the only place he could be? He could be in another place. But they had searched every other place? Yes, and that pit was not searched. Was the top of the pit taken off? Yes, afterwards. Not at the time? No. Did you go and see the top of the pit afterwards? Yes, some time after that. Did you see some marks upon the boards? I did not look so closely as that. Did you know that the prisoner Rees Morgan was with a lot of some hundreds of people searching for the man for some days? I cannot say that Morgan was there more than anybody else - I know that there were hundreds searching. Did you learn anything of a cap that was found belonging to your brother that was lost? I had the cap. Was there blood upon it? There was none at the time I had it. Were there marks of blood upon it? I did not look so closely as that. Where was it found? On the mountains facing Rhymney. Who found it? A man from Rhymney and there was one man with him. Were there not rumours at the time that your brother was killed because of the breaking of the leg of a cow? No. You never heard that at the time? No, I did not hear it till I came to Vochrhiw. How many years is it since your brother was lost? Seventeen years. Do you mean to say that you can recollect all that was said and done at the time? No, not one quarter of it. There may have been talk at the time about the cause of your brother's death which you may have forgotten now? Oh yes, I have forgotten more than half. Don't you remember people saying about that time, that a man's life was worth more than a cow's leg? Nothing until this man came to the Vochrhiw and talked about it. Did you not see the prisoner some eight or nine months after your brother was lost? No. I did not speak to him. Will you swear you did not? I cannot swear. Did he not tell you again, a second time that he thought the friends of your brother ought to have the pit opened? He might have said it. I cannot recollect.

Margaret Davies was the next witness called and said: I live at Vochrhiw and keep the Mount Pleasant public house. I have lived at Vochrhiw for 19 years and recollect the talk about Richard Jones being missed. I did not know Rees Morgan then, and not until June 26th last, when he came to our house. He sent for me to ask if he could

have room to sleep. He then said he was travelling and had been to America for 14 years and was afraid to cross the mountains that night. He asked me if I had heard any talk about Richard Jones, who was called 'Dick Pudding.' I said I did not hear anything at this time. He said he could take his oath who had killed Richard Jones, if he could have his oath on what he had not seen, only on what he had heard. He also said that there was one more who knew as well as him, and added that it was the woman at the new public house who had heard the same as him. He said that there was one living who knew, that four knew it before, and knew it now, and that he was one.

Mr. Simons: The man did not say that he knew it, but knew it from hearing only? Mr. Lewis: I take it in that light. Mr. Simons (cross-examining): The prisoner told you that he had been to America. Did he tell you anything about the people who had gone to America at the time? No he did not tell me. He said that he knew somebody that was there. Did he tell you that he knew those who went out there at the time? No he did not tell me that he knew them; but he said that if some people knew he was in the Fochriw, they would be shaking in their shoes. What state was he in as to beer at the time? He had drunk very little. It was morning.

Mr. Lewis: Upon the evidence adduced I will ask for a remand. Mr. Simons urged the Bench not to trifle with justice, and pointed out that the utmost that had been hitherto proved against the prisoner was his own statement that he was sure he knew who it was who had committed the deed, expressing his own conviction, like anyone might say he knew the murderer of Mr. Bravo. This added to the fact that he, while searching with others on the mountain, pointed to the very pit where the remains were found amounted to evidence of the most perfect innocence. Nothing could be more absurd to suppose that any man who knew anything about it would recommend the opening of the pit of the Dowlais Company, and nothing could be more reasonable for the innocent man to do after examining the pit, seeing the marks upon the planking, and after the finding of the cap. Seventeen years afterwards his conviction came perfectly true, and this was the strongest evidence of his innocence in the world, and if the bench were about to remand him on that evidence, people had better shut their mouths at once for fear of having such charges preferred against them. In this idle way the prisoner mentioned the name of the man Williams, who, having been in custody, was discharged; then why keep Morgan after he had distinctly stated that he knew nothing of his own knowledge. He might mention that the case was only adjourned on the last occasion for the examination of the servant girl, who was not present.

Mr. Lewis: She is in the North of England, and that is a good reason why we should have a remand. Mr. Simons: But have you taken any steps? Mr. Lewis: We have found out where she is. Mr. Probert: It is better for him that it should be cleared up. Mr. Simons: But the man is in custody, and no matter what his station, his liberty is dear to him. Mr. Lewis: At the time when the case was going on Superintendent Wren was here, and there was a different staff of officials; we therefore have to communicate, and do what we can, and if we can, go on further with it we will. We cannot do this so soon, and on these grounds, I will ask you to grant a remand after the evidence that has been brought up. Here, this man, of his own guilty knowledge starts this conversation, although there is no talk about it on the countryside. Then crops up the fact that he knows where the body was, and it is a question which I think you will have to consider very seriously that if this had been done at the time, and the body had been found, he would have been taken into custody.

Dr. Davies said that it implied guilty knowledge. Mr. Simons: Guilty knowledge when he goes to the top of the pit and urges that it should be opened? Mr. Lewis: My friend is giving evidence. Mr. Simons: Guilty knowledge, indeed. Was anything so fatuous? It is monstrous that the man should give information as to where the body was to be found, and urged the police to make a search, should be charged with guilty knowledge. It is idiotic.

Dr. Davies: Is there any probability that there will be further evidence sufficient to authorise our granting a remand? Superintendent Thomas: Yes, I think so. The application was granted and the prisoner remanded for a week.

Monday - Before James Probert and Thomas Williams Esquires.

"Merthyr Express" 2 September 1876

Colliers Wives Evading The Payment Of Their Rail Fare Marian Jones, Mary Ann Evans and Eleanor Evans, married women, residing in Vochrhiw, were summoned for having travelled from Vochrhiw to Dowlais without previously paying their rail fare and with intent to avoid the payment thereof. The case was a somewhat peculiar one. It appeared from the evidence of Inspector Richard Matthews, of the Rhymney Railway, who prosecuted, that the Taff Bargoed Line was opened on the 1st of February last. The joint owners (the Rhymney and the Great Western Companies) entered into an agreement with the Dowlais Company to carry their colliers to and from Bedlinog, Vochrhiw and Dowlais at a special rate. Subsequently, the colliers themselves made application to the joint companies to allow their wives to travel the same route at reduced fares on market days. The concession was granted them, the fare being reduced to about one-half. Not satisfied with this, a great many women - as much as forty or fifty at a time - made it a practice of gathering into the carriages which conveyed the colliers in order to escape altogether. On the 19th, Inspectors Matthews, Mends and Pegg went on special duty at Dowlais Station and caught the three defendants. There were several other women in the train, but they escaped. These facts were fully proved, and there was practically no defence to the case. The defendants were each ordered to pay a fine, which with costs, amounted to 15 shillings.

"Merthyr Express" 13 January 1877

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Board Enteric Fever At Vochrhiw The Inspector reported 15 cases of enteric fever at Vochrhiw. There were also cases at Bedlinog. Dr. Dyke stated that the privies were in an insanitary state. The population of Vochrhiw was estimated to be 1000.

"Merthyr Express" 31 March 1877

Colliery Death Thomas Jones of Mary St. Dowlais was killed last Tuesday at Vochrhiw No. 1 Pit.

"Merthyr Express" 21 April 1877

Twynrodyn to Deri Road A grant of £700 was made by the Gelligaer Board to the Merthyr Board to help with the building of a road Twynrodyn to Deri.

"Merthyr Express" 30 June 1877

Colliery Death Early Wednesday morning, a haulier, Thomas Lewis Jones, aged 43, last living at 37 East-street. Dowlais was killed in the Vochrhiw Colliery when he was crushed by a train.

"Merthyr Express" 11 August 1877

Presentation at Carmel Congregational Chapel The Rev. J. E. Griffiths is leaving for the English Congregational Church at Blaenavon after 7 years of great labour and service. A presentation of an illuminated address and a purse was made by Mr. T. Jones. Many ministers from surrounding districts were present.

"Merthyr Express" 15 December 1877

Colliery Death: Inquest An inquest on the body of Joseph Evans who was killed at Vochriw No. 2 Pit

"Merthyr Express" 2 February 1878

Pontlottyn Distress Committee A Distress Relief Committee has been formed to meet the increasing distress caused by the continuing depression of trade.

Gelligaer School Board Monthly Meeting The ordinary monthly meeting of this Board was held on Thursday se'nnight, at the Board room, Pontlottyn, where there were present - Messrs. G. Martin (chairman), D. Davies, and the Revs. J. P. Williams, A. Davies, R. Williams, and T. Theophilus.

Transfer of Vochriw National School to the Board After the reading of the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Board, the clerk also read the minutes of a special meeting of the Board that had taken place on the 8th of January, which had been called for the purpose of arranging the transfer of the Vochriw National School to the Board. The transfer was made by the Rev. T. Theophilus, Vicar of Pontlottyn, on behalf of himself, and his fellow managers of the school, the following, among other conditions, to be respected: The transfer to be arranged for the term of two years, the Board to effect the necessary repairs and other expenses to the extent of £10 annually, and the present owners to retain the building for their use on Saturday and Sunday. Some few observations having been made on the subject, the minutes of both meetings were unanimously confirmed.

Neglect of Attending School In as much as Mrs. Harriet Jones had been repeatedly warned by the Board of the irregular attendance of her children at school at Vochriw, to which it appears she took no heed, the Board now decided to take definite action in the matter, and it was resolved that a summons against her should be proceeded with. The wives of Thomas Jael, Jacob Thomas of Vochriw, and Edmund Thomas, Penybank, also appeared before the Board to answer the summons of the attendance officer in not sending their children to school. In the first case, a girl named Lizzie had only attended 46 out of 100 times, another child 40 times out of 50, and another 20 out of 40. Various excuses were brought forward, such as slackness of work and the inability to prepare them in time for school. The chairman then said that in the past few weeks the collieries at Vochriw had been working very steadily. All the parties were severely reprimanded and warned, which brought forth a promise of better attendance.

Educational Results The Rev. J. P. Williams wished to call the attention of the Board to statistics he had prepared, bearing on the results of education in the parish, which he had great pleasure in submitting for their consideration.

	Av. Att.	Amt. grant	Amt. per head	% Passes	[B - boys; G - girls;
Newton	51	£42-16-00	16s. 9¼d.	97.1	
M- mixed; I - infants]					
Pontlottyn	229	£208-02-00	13s. 3d.	99.5	[B] 95.4 [G]
Deri	88	£52-00-00	11s. 9¾d.	80.3	
Bargoed	161	£134-17-00	16s. 9 d.	99.1	[M]
100 [I]					
Vochriw	159	£127-03-00	15s. 11¾d.	84.4	
Gelligaer	136	£121-17-00	17s. 11d.	97.1	
Tirphil	140	£84-09-00	12s. 0 ¾d.	89.1	[M] 96.6 [I]
Troedyrhiwfuwch	30	£21-10-00	14s. 4d.	91.6	
Percentage passes in reading, 98.3; writing, 93.3; arithmetic, 88.7; total 93.4					

Percentage of passes in England and Wales: reading 87; writing 79.4; arithmetic 70; total 78.

Amount of grant per head in England & Wales: Board schools, 13s. 0d.; voluntary schools, 13s. 3¼ d.; the district of Gelligaer alone 15s. 1¼d

"Merthyr Express" 16 February 1878

Employment of Colliers On Wednesday evening, a public meeting was held at the Temperance Hall, Merthyr, in response to an invitation from the Rector to colliers to meet him there. The Rector was accompanied onto the platform by Mr. T. J. Dyke, Mr. Simons, Mr. Daniel and Mr. Simpson, a Liverpool gentleman, who has been remarkable for his generosity in aid of the distress now prevailing in South Wales. As the Rector explained, he had sent them tons of meat, peas, flour and rice, and a thousand pairs of clogs. That was for Merthyr alone, but his bounty had been equally large to other parts of the district, and he now came to invite colliers in want of work to go to Lancashire, where he believed at least a thousand could find ample employment. Mr. Simpson spoke and was warmly received. He explained that he was in communication with colliery owners in Lancashire, amongst whose pits 1,000 workmen could easily be distributed. Speeches were delivered by Mr. Simons, Mr. Dyke, Mr. Seddon, Mr. J. W. James, Mr. Rees Lewis, and votes of thanks accorded to the Rector and Mr. Simpson. Persons desirous of falling in with Mr. Simpson's offer can give their names to the Rector.

Dowlais Soup Kitchen The soup kitchen recently opened here supplies from 300 to 400 children daily with a good meal, under the superintendence of several ministers of the place.

Coursing Match A coursing match came off at Twynywain on Monday last, when some splendid coursing was witnessed, but no favourite dogs made their appearance. Terriers mostly turned up the game. About 30 rabbits were let off by Mr. John Griffiths, the Full Moon.

"Merthyr Express" 9 March 1878

Merthyr Police Court: Non-Attendance at School Henry Harris, collier, Vochrhiw, was summoned for not causing his son Jacob to attend the Vochrhiw National School with the regularity prescribed by the bye-laws of the Gelligaer School Board, whose attendance officer (Jones) now prosecuted. Defendant's wife appeared. The Bench considered the case to have been very plainly proved and a fine of 5s. including costs was imposed. A week was allowed defendant to find the money.

"Merthyr Express" 4 May 1878

The Vochrhiw National School The Rev. T. Theophilus made a statement to the Board respecting the proposed transfer of the school to the control of the Board, in which he said that negotiations had been carried on between himself and the trustees - the Rev. Canon Harries of Gelligaer, and Archdeacon Griffiths of Llandaff - both of whom refused, by withholding their signatures to the transfer, to sanction the step proposed by him. He also stated that Canon Harries, whilst withholding his signature to the transfer, would, nonetheless, remain passive in the matter, and further promised to assist Mr. Theophilus to carry on the school until the end of the school year. Consequently, upon this statement, the Rev. A. Davies wished to know whether Mr. Theophilus was prepared to tell the Board if he would be enabled to carry it on further than the end of the school year. He asked this question to satisfy the Board, so they would know how to proceed. Rev. T. Theophilus: I am not prepared at present to reply to the question.

"Merthyr Express" 18 May 1878

Merthyr Police Court: A Boyish Quarrel Llewellyn Evans, collier, was summoned for assaulting George Evans, haulier, at Brithdir Huts on the 3rd inst. The parties, who were mere boys, quarrelled over a game of marbles. In the end, the defendant gave complainant, who had thrown stones at him, a thrashing, which his worship held was serving him right. Summons was dismissed with costs against the complainant.

"Merthyr Express" 1 June 1878

Gelligaer School Board Monthly Meeting The ordinary monthly meeting of this Board was held on Thursday, the 16th instant, at Pontlottyn Board schools, when there were present: The Revs. A. Davies (chairman), J. P. Williams and T. Theophilus; and Messrs. W. Beddoe, and D. Davies.

Vochrhiw National School Rev. T. Theophilus informed the Board that the managers had resolved to close this school at the end of the current year, 31st October next, and upon the motion of the Chairman the Board agreed to request the Education Department to send an inspector to confer with them as to the best means of providing for the educational wants of the village.

School Attendance Rev. T. Theophilus then proceeded with his motion as to attendance of children, and said that the £30 a year now paid out by the Board was well spent, but the Board did not reap the benefit from the office which it might. Mr. Jones, holding as he did, other appointments in the parish, could not devote the time proper for such an engagement. He did not know the conditions of the engagement of Mr. Jones, but he was of opinion that going to the schools once a month, and there ascertaining who were the children who were not attending, did not meet with the requirements of the Board in his view; for he only came in contact with those children who were attending, whilst there were children left about the roads, a large number of whom were to be seen daily at Pontlottyn, and with whom Mr. Jones did not meet. He had nothing to say against the manner in which Mr. Jones had hitherto discharged his duties to the Board, but he was of opinion that the attendance officer should visit the schools once a week, and whilst seeing those children who were attending there, he should also see those who did not attend.

"Merthyr Express" 8 June 1878

Concert at the Vochrhiw National School On Thursday last a grand concert was held at the School when the following programme was performed: pianoforte solo, Mrs. Theophilus; glee, "Sailor's Chorus," glee party; song, "The little mountain lad," Miss Williams; quartet, "Oh, who will oe'r the downs so free," Mrs. K. Jones, Miss Williams and Messrs. Walters and Griffiths; song, "Bradwnaith y don," Mr. Walters, who was loudly encored; glee, "All among the barley," glee party; song, "The warrior bold," Mr. Griffiths, who was loudly encored; duet, "I know a bank," Mrs. K. Jones and Miss Williams; comic song, "The broken hearted shepherd," Mr. Hardwicke; piano duet, Miss Williams and Mrs. Jones; song, "Once Again," Mr. Walters, who was loudly encored; glee, "Now is the month of maying," glee party; trio, "Oh, memory," Mrs. Jones, Miss Williams and Mr. D. Walters; song, "We'll show them we're sons of old England," Mr. Harris, a capital song, which was loudly encored; duet, Mrs. Jones and Mr. Williams; trio, "The wreath," Mrs. Jones, Mr. Griffiths and another; song, "Yr eaeth ddall," Mr. D. Walters; glee, "My day," glee party; comic song, "Little Brown jug," Mr. Hardwicke; finale, "God Save the Queen." Great credit is due to Mrs. Kent Jones for the energy she put forth in getting up the concert, the benefit of which is devoted to the church. We were highly pleased especially with the style in which Miss Williams of Llandovery sang, and also with Mr. D. Walters and Mr. Griffiths. The comic man was not behind in his part.

"Merthyr Express" 15 June 1878

Gelligaer School Board The meeting of this Board was held on Wednesday, the 5th inst., at the Newton schoolroom.... . The following members were present: Revs. A. Davies (in the chair), and J. P. Williams; and Messrs. W. Beddoe and D. Davies.

Vochriw School Accommodation Members were conveyed to Vochriw for the purpose of meeting Mr. W. Edwards, Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools for the district, to confer with him with regard to the school accommodation for the district necessitated by the closure of the Vochriw National School, which event will take place at the end of the school year. Before the conclusion of the interview, the Rev. T. Theophilus joined the discussion. A survey was taken of the place as regards the extreme distance to one portion of the district from the other. The Inspector afterwards informed the members as to the object of their meeting that day, stating that he had received information from the Education Department of the decision arrived at by the managers of the National schoolroom, as to their intention of closing the building for school purposes; and that it would rest upon the Board to provide for the deficiency of accommodation caused thereby. Rev. A. Davies then said that the question was now open to be proceeded with, and whatever result they would arrive at, they as a Board, would be bound by some means or other to provide the necessary accommodation as required by the Education Act. The closing of this school would cause additional expenditure by the Board, as they would be obliged to either build an entirely new schoolroom situated in another part of the district, or extend their present school buildings so as to accommodate an additional 120 children. The question was not submitted to their consideration.

The Rev. J. P. Williams remarked that the National School had been built by aid from the public funds by a building grant, and consequently, the building could not be closed for school purposes without the managers of that schoolroom either refunding the sum of money received towards that object, or by the transferring the schoolroom to the Board. He contended that the public as rate-payers had a moral right to the building, as they had contributed towards its erection, and having to undertake the additional cost of providing the required accommodation, would be a double cost on them The Chairman in this respect wished to deal leniently with the present managers of the school, and thought the matter was a very insignificant one, for the school had been open for a number of years and had been ably conducted, so that, on information being given, their lordships would consider the public had received sufficient value for their money given in grants of whatever kind; and that there would be manifested on their part a perfect willingness to allow the present managers the privilege of retaining the building for other than school purposes. Some further remarks were made by the other members, concurring more especially in the sentiments expressed by the Rev. J. P. Williams, but no motion was made on the point raised and the discussion turned to another direction, namely, that of how the Board would meet the deficiency created by the closing of this school. The Rev. T. Theophilus expressed his opinion that it would be desirable for the Board to erect a new school building in another part of the locality, so as to more conveniently meet the requirements of the children residing at Brithdir, who would have a long distance to walk to the present Board school. The said schoolroom he thought should be built somewhere about the neighbourhood of Pentwyn, which would be about halfway between Brithdir and Vochriw. The other members differed from this opinion, and thought he had become very liberal in the spending of the rate-payers' money by advocating the building of a new school, whilst they thought that by extending the present school building, a considerable expense would be avoided. After some further consideration of the subject, on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr.

Beddoe, it was unanimously resolved - "That the Board having been informed of the intention of the to close the National schoolroom at Vochriw, at a committee of the Board held at that place, where they had an interview with Mr. W. Edwards, Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools for the district, they recommended the enlargement of the present Board school, by the addition of an infant department to accommodate 120 children; and they beg to ask the sanction of the Education Department to immediately proceed with the work." As it was considered that before full powers would be granted to the Board, they would have to temporarily provide for the children, it was, also, decided that the vestry-room, now used as a place of worship by the Baptists, be engaged for school purposes until the necessary accommodation could be supplied. The inspector entirely concurred with the result arrived at, and stated that he would forward his report upon the matter to the Education Department.

"Merthyr Express" 29 June 1878

Fatal Accident On Saturday morning, one of the most dreadful accidents resulting in instantaneous death, befel a young man named Daniel Thomas. The man had only recently come to Rhymney from Vochriw, and was employed as a breaksman with No.2 engine. He had only commenced work in the job the previous Tuesday. Whilst involved in shunting work in the Rhymney yard side near the mouth of the tunnel, which is customarily done by the means of chains, the man was walking backwards in front of some empty iron stone trucks, when his foot accidentally became fastened between the point rails of the switch. He failed to release himself and was knocked down by a truck which passed completely over his poor body, and so mutilated it that one side of his head was smashed to atoms and his brains scattered about the place. On Tuesday, an inquest was held on the body by Mr. W. H. Brewer, coroner, at the Royal Arms, when evidence of the facts above related was given by John Stevens, the driver, and in accordance with which a verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned.

"Merthyr Express" 6 July 1878

Gelligaer School Board Monthly Meeting The monthly meeting of the Board was held at the Board schools, Pontlottyn, on Thursday, the 27th ult., when there were present Mr. G. Martin (chairman), and the Revs. A. Davies, T. Theophilus and J. P. Williams.

The Vochriw Accommodation A deputation, consisting of the Rev. B. J. Evans, curate, and some five other respectable persons from the neighbourhoods of Brithdir, Pentwyn and Vochriw, waited on the Board, to suggest that the Board should reconsider its resolutions of the previous meeting, and that a new schoolroom should be erected somewhere about the neighbourhood of Pentwyn. They presented a memorial from the parents of the children residing in those districts in support of the application. The memorial contained 40 to 50 signatures. A discussion ensued, in which the Rev. A. Davies recapitulated the reasons which induced the Board at its last meeting to decide to build an addition to the present school building; he also pointed out the difficulty of having land at a suitable place to build schools to meet the views of the deputation; but, inasmuch as they were now present, and that the people of those districts had taken up the matter with interest, perhaps a different decision would be arrived at. In reply to the chairman, the Rev. B. J. Evans said that at Brithdir alone there were 39 children from 5 to 7 years of age. Chairman: How far is the present school from that district? A Member of the Deputation: Two miles. Rev. A. Davies said that he and others had made it a special duty to walk the whole of the distance from one place to the other so as to be conversant with the whole of the facts, and they found the distance was walked easily in the space of 25 minutes. Rev. T. Theophilus observed that there were 94 children in those districts from 5 to 13

years of age, and it rested with the Board to provide for the number of 94. Rev. A. Davies stated that some of these children were already attending at the present school at Caeglas, and would be compelled to do so in future, materially affecting the amount of accommodation required. Mr. D. Evans, a member of the deputation, stated that he believed his father would meet the Board liberally on the matter of ground for a new school. The Clerk pointed out that the Board might provide for the infants of those districts. Rev. A. Davies: Of course so; and he would suggest that before the Board would commit itself in the matter, the members of the Board should, in company with the deputation, see the ground which could be utilised for the purpose. The suggestion of the Rev. A. Davies was unanimously agreed to. In consequence of this decision, the plans which had been prepared for the Vochriw schools were deferred for consideration at the next Board meeting.

"Merthyr Express" 6 July 1878

Gelligaer Parochial Committee The above committee met at the Rising Sun Inn, Vochriw, on Tuesday evening. Present - Messrs. L. D. Rees (chairman), Lewis Evans, D. Phillips (Cilfachfargoed), W. Matthew, T. Jones, Thos, Williams (Vochriw), Job Bevan (Brithdir), and the Rev. Aaron Davies, Dr. Dyke, medical officer, and James Jones, inspector.

It was recommended that five street lamps should be erected at Bargoed, and three at Hengoed. Several parties had been served with notices to abate nuisances at Vochriw and Deri and had not complied with the same. It was recommended to take legal action against them. The 3/4 inch iron pipes that had been laid to convey water to Caeglas, Vochriw, had corroded. It was now recommended that the surveyor should prepare an estimate by the next meeting of the cost of 2-inch galvanised iron pipes instead.

"Merthyr Express" 13 July 1878

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority On Saturday last the monthly meeting of this authority was held at the workhouse, when the members present were - Messrs. R. H. Rhys (chairman), Jenkin Matthews, L. D. Rees, C. E. Matthews, John Jenkins, Lewis Evans, and the Rev. Aaron Davies.

The Medical Officer of Health's Report The following was read from Dr. Dyke: "The births registered in the district of the Rural Sanitary Authority of the Merthyr Tydfil Union during the quarter ended 30th June numbered 169, and the deaths 104. The birth rate of the estimated population of 17,000 would be equal to an annual average rate of 39; and the death rate 24 per 1000. The death rates in the several parishes forming the district were in each 24 per 1000. The mortality of young children was 50% of the whole deaths: the causes mainly assigned being in 13 instances whooping cough, in 12 debility, in 12 inflammation of the organs of breathing, and in 4 convulsions. Upon referring to the localities in which the maladies causing the deaths of infants occurred, I find that whooping cough was fatal to 7 children in the village of Bedlinog; 1 child died of diphtheria at Vochrhiw, and one at Station Road, Hirwain. Enteric fever was fatal to one person at Vochrhiw, one at Cefncoed, and one at Cwmtaf fawr.

"Merthyr Express" 24 August 1878

Gelligaer School Board The meeting of the Board was held on the 15th instant, when those present were Messrs. G. Martin (chairman), W. Beddoe, D. Davies, Revs. A. Davies, J. P. Williams, T. Theophilus, Mr. F. James (clerk), Mr. J. Jones (attendance officer).

Additional School Accommodation at Vochrhiw The following report of the committee of the whole Board, respecting the question, was read: "The committee

met a deputation of the ratepayers of Vochriw district with respect to the accommodation required for Pentwyn and Brithdir upon the closing of the present school at Pentwyn, and upon taking into consideration the probability of an increase in the population of the district, owing to the working of deeper veins, it was moved by Rev. A. Davies, and seconded by Rev. T. Theophilus, and carried unanimously, that we recommend the present Board school at Vochriw be extended to accommodate about 70 children from Brithdir and Pentwyn, and that an infant schoolroom be built midway between Pentwyn and Brithdir to accommodate about 60 infants; and that application be made to Mr. Jenkins, the landowner, for his terms for a quarter of an acre of ground, part of a field called "Waunglobwll." - The report was adopted. The Clerk had written to and received a reply from Mr. Jenkins concerning the plot of ground. He refused to sell the ground, but would lease that quantity to the Board for the term of 99 years at an annual rental of 1d. per yard. The Clerk expressed his opinion that according to such a rate, the ground would be completely paid for long before the expiration of the term. - The Clerk also read a letter from Mr. Job Evans, of Pentwyn, who offered to sell half an acre of ground for the purpose of a school site for £100. - It was that this was quite as convenient and serviceable for the purpose as the original site agreed upon. Mr. J. Evans, jun., and a deputation, then informed the Board that they were authorised to let the Baptist chapels at Brithdir and Vochriw for the use of the Board for school purposes for £10 per annum.

The Rev. A. Davies observed that it now devolved on the Board to proceed with the suggestion of the committee with regard to the extension of the present Board school at once, and authorise their architect to draw out plans to forward for approval to the Education Department. As to the probability of an increase in the population of the district, the Chairman remarked that there was no probability of that taking place, as there was no intention of any more sinking at that place, and the company had provided the men working there with carriages for conveyance to and from the work, as they had shown they preferred living at Dowlais than at Vochriw. Subsequently, on the proposal of the Rev. A. Davies, seconded by Mr. Beddoe, the first portion of the report of the committee was unanimously adopted; the question of Mr. Jenkins's proposal was summarily disposed of, and it was resolved that the Board tender its thanks to Mr. Job Evans of Pentwyn, for his offer of a piece of ground, and that when the Board were prepared to proceed with the recommendations of the committee they would negotiate on the matter with Mr. Evans. With respect to the hire of the chapels for temporary school purposes, the Rev. J. P. Williams remarked that in their present condition they were unsuitable for school purposes, as the seats would have to be removed, and if this was done, it was a question of who would have to do the work. The deputation undertook to do all necessary work at Brithdir and Caeglas required by the Board. Mr. Beddoe proposed, and Mr. D. Davies seconded, "That the proposal for the use of these chapels be accepted," and it was agreed to. It was also unanimously resolved that the Revs. T. Theophilus, A. Davies and J. P. Williams, and Mr. D. Davies be appointed a committee to see that the necessary requirements be carried out, and that the temporary accommodation agreed upon be opened by 1st of November.

"Merthyr Express" 16 November 1878

Gelligaer School Board Monthly Meeting The ordinary monthly meeting was held on the 1st instant at the Board-room, Pontlottyn; present - the Rev. A. Davies (chairman), Rev. T. Theophilus, Rev. J. P. Williams, and Messrs. W. Beddoe and J. Mathews.

Temporary School Accommodation The Chairman said that as the school year commenced on Friday, the 1st of November, the Board were under the necessity of opening their new schools on that day, which could not be done; and it was now a question for them to consider what could be done in the matter. After much discussion, the Board decided to continue with Brithdir Chapel [Shiloh] as an infant school with Mrs. Greening as mistress, and to utilise the Vochriw Board School to take in as many children as possible until the new school is ready.

Vochriw Infant School Mrs M. S. Greening, the present mistress of Pentwyn National School, was appointed infant mistress of the temporary school at Brithdir, at a salary of £70 per annum.

"Merthyr Express" 7 December 1878

Fochriw: Entertainment At the National schools, under the presidency of Rev. W. Jones Evans, an entertainment of a very pleasing character was given on Thursday evening last. The following programme was gone through: songs by Mr. Alfred Evans and Mr. C. Hardwicke both of which were well received; reading by Miss Annie G. Jones; song by Mr. Edwin Rees; reading by Miss Ella Harris; song by Mr. C. Hardwicke; quartet by Mr. Harris and party; reading by Miss M. J. Harris; song by Master Barkley, a lad who has a sweet pipe-like voice, which is clear as a bell, and in our opinion, wants but patronage to make a mark; reading by Master Alfred Evans; song by Mr. J. Harris which was well received; song "Little Brown Jug," by Mr. C. Hardwicke. This charming little ditty was splendidly given and rapturously encored. After a vote of thanks to the chairman and the singing of the National Anthem, the audience dispersed.

"Merthyr Express" 14 December 1878

Fochriw - A Miscellaneous Entertainment A miscellaneous entertainment was given at the National schools on Monday evening last. The following programme was gone through: Selection from the best authors - instrumental, Messrs. E. Jenkins and son; recitation - Miss Phillips; song, Mr. Edwin Rees; recitation, Miss A. Price; song, Mr. Evan Evans; violin and melodium, Messrs. E. & J. Jenkins; recitation, "Yr Iesu wrth ei hun," Mr. Evan Evans - this beautiful poem, written by Telynog, was given in a most consummate style, evidently having been made the subject of sedulous study; song, Dewi Buallt; reading, Alfred Evans; duet (Y dau forwr), Messrs. E. Rees & Jacob Hughes; reading, Miss Ela Harris, a distinct and practised little reader; song, Miss Phillips; song, Miss Margery Lewis - the possessor of a voice of great compass, who rendered a selection from Professor Parry's "Blodwen," in magnificent style; song, Miss Havard, a singer of no mean merit; while Mr. David James's party, although unannounced, favoured the audience with a glee, which was very well received; song, Miss Martha Ann Richards; selections - instrumental, Messrs. Jenkins and party. A competition was now entered into for the best extempore speech, and also a singing contest, which was carried away by Master Berkeley Angel's party. The singing of the National Anthem, led by Mr. Jenkins' family, and a vote of thanks to the chairman, brought a most enjoyable entertainment to a close.

"Merthyr Express" 14 December 1878

Gelligaer School Board The ordinary monthly meeting of this Board was held on the 28th ult., at the Board-room of the Pontllytyn Board Schools, when there were present - The Revs. A. Davies (in the chair), J. P. Williams, and Mr. D. Davies.

Public Loan On the motion of the Chairman, it was agreed that the Board apply to the Public Loan Commissioners for the sum of £350 for the extension to Vochriw Board School.

The Vochriw and Brithdir Schools A deputation of four gentlemen representing the district complained to the Board respecting attendance of children at these schools. The gist of the matter lay in a wish that the Board should constitute the temporary infant school at Brithdir, a mixed school. It appeared hard upon a number of families that they were obliged to send the younger children to the Brithdir Infant School, and the older ones to Vochriw. It was their wish that the children of the same family should be allowed to attend the same school. After discussion relating particularly to cost of additional teaching staff, the chairman advised the deputation, and the inhabitants of the district, to allow matters to stand as they were at present. Probably in a short time, the Inspector of Schools would visit the localities, and if these things were pointed out to him, something effectual would perhaps be done in the matter.

Attendance Officers Report

Total average attendance - 1,175.4; number present at all - 1,475; number on registers - 1,597; school fees - £21 6s. 8d; arrears of school fees - £269 14s. 11d.; Corresponding period last year: Total average attendance - 1,086.4; number present in all - 1,319; number on registers - 1,480; school fees - £20 3s; arrears of school fees - £176 11s. 1d.

"Merthyr Express" 21 December 1878

Robbery By A Railway Guard James Phillips, a railway guard in the employ of the Brecon and Merthyr Railway, was brought up charged with stealing four bottles of champagne valued at £1 4s., the property of his employers. It appeared from the evidence that a goods' clerk named Gabe, employed at the Dowlais Top station, in examining the contents of a van on the previous Monday found a broken wine case in which were only three instead of its full complement of champagne bottles. The fact having been communicated to Inspector Cunningham at Pant, the latter telegraphed to Mr. Harris, station master at Vochriw, to stop the prisoner's train and search his van. Upon this being done, four bottles of champagne were found in a box of which the prisoner had the key. Prisoner admitted to having found them lying about in a van which he had entered by mistake and had taken them. He was handed over to P.C. Evans at Vochriw. He now pleaded guilty to the charge and the magistrate passed a sentence of four calendar months' imprisonment with hard labour.

"Merthyr Express" 28 December 1878

Fochriw: Testimonial On Monday evening a meeting was held in Carmel Congregational Chapel to present the minister, the Rev. W. Tibbot, with numerous volumes of books worth between £12 and £13. Mr. Thos. Jones presided. The ministers present were Revs. J. R. Williams, Pontlottyn; R. O. Jones, Nelson; and J. Jones, Deri. Also present were Messrs. J. Lewis, Brynrhe; D. Evans, Aberdare; and J. Evans (Ioan Gwent). After remarks from the chairman, the children's choir sang, under the leadership of Mr. H. M. Williams. The meeting was then addressed by Messrs. Williams, testimonial treasurer; D. Evans; Rev. J. Jones; Mr. J. Lewis; and Mr. W. Harris, testimonial secretary, who also gave statements of accounts. The books were presented by Misses Hannah Evans and Elizabeth Harris. After an address on the contents of the books given by Rev. J. R. Williams, Mr. J. Evans (Ioan Gwent) made a few remarks and read some verses he had composed for the occasion. Thanks were accorded to everyone that gave anything to the testimonial fund, and especially to the ladies that collected the money. The meeting terminated with prayer by the Rev. J. R. Williams.

"Merthyr Express" 11 January 1879

Gelligaer School Board Monthly Meeting The ordinary monthly meeting of this Board was held at Pontlottyn on Thursday the 26th ult., when there were present the

Revs. A. Davies, vice-chairman, presiding, J. P. Williams, T. Theophilus, and Messrs. D. Davies, W. Beddoe, and J. Mathews.

Arrears in School Pence and Remission of School Fees The question of the large amount of arrears in school pence was raised by Rev. T. Theophilus. He proposed that there should be remission of fees for the years 1873 and 1874 - the years of the strike and lock-out. He quoted Mr. D. Davies, a member of the Board, who had said, "How could it be expected that workmen could pay school fees, when they were unable to provide food and clothing for their families."

"Merthyr Express" 1 February 1879

Gellygaer School Board The ordinary monthly meeting of this Board was held at Pontlottyn on Thursday se'nnight, when there were present the Revs. A. Davies, in the chair, J. P. Williams, T. Theophilus, and Messrs. W. Beddoe, and J. Mathews.

A Complaint The Rev. T. Theophilus called the attention of the members to what he thought was a great irregularity practiced by some of them, against which he would strongly protest. Whilst attending the meetings of the Merthyr Board of Guardians, it appeared that they had to a very great extent usurped to themselves without being duly authorised to do so, the functions of the Board as regards those children above the age of infants attending the Vochiw school. He had been informed that Mr. Lewis Evans, a ratepayer in the district of Vochriw, had been authorised by some of the members to order the children of Brithdir and Pentwyn not to attend the Vochriw school, but that of Brithdir alone. No order of such a nature had been given by the Board, and he would again protest against the undue interference of some of the members in the matter. The Chairman thought it was an irregularity to bring such a matter before the Board at this time, and it must also be noticed that Mr. Evans was not present to offer an explanation. Rev. J. R. Williams thought that the blame rested entirely on the shoulders of Rev. T. Theophilus himself, if such a thing had been done, inasmuch as he applied to the Board for permission to keep all the children above 7 years of age at that school. This was the cause of the dissatisfaction which had prevailed regarding this matter, and he must say that the Rev. gentleman was the originator of the evil. Some other remarks having been made, the Rev. T. Theophilus defended all the transactions which he had had with this school, and the subject dropped.

"Merthyr Express" 8 February 1879

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority: The Gelligaer Parochial Committee Present were Mr. L. D. Rees (chairman), Revs. Aaron Davies, J. P. Williams, Messrs. W. D. Lewis, T. Jones, J. Mathews, Lewis Evans, Edmund Lewis and Dr. Kent Jones. With regard to the nuisances which the Inspector reported to have found on the property of the Dowlais Iron Company on the south side of Guest-street, Caeglas, Vochriw, the Committee having heard what Mr. James Harpur, the agent of the Company, proposes on their behalf to carry out at the earliest possible period, recommended that the plans proposed by Mr. Harpur be sanctioned, namely, to lay drainpipes along the gardens and to connect the same with the drainage system previously laid down by the Dowlais Company; to make privies with pans and pipes linked to the said drain; and to flush the said drain with sufficient quantity of water. Recommended also that the Surveyor to do the necessary repairs to the water-pipe which was burst at Vochriw. The scavenging contract of the parish expired on the 25th March, recommended that the Surveyor advertise for tenders be invited which are to come in at the next meeting. Recommended that earthenware pipes be laid from under the water tap in Guest Street, Vochriw, to convey the waste water therefrom to the drain pipes about to be laid by the Dowlais Company.

“Merthyr Express” 1 March 1879

Gelligaer School Board The ordinary monthly meeting was held at Pontlottyn on Thursday, when there were present - Mr. Martin (chairman), Revs. T. Theophilus, J. P. Williams, A. Davies, and Messrs. Mathews and W. Beddoe. Penybanc School Managers The following were appointed managers of the Penybanc school: Mr Lewis Williams, farmer, Penybanc; Mr Job, farmer, Brithdiruchaf; Mr Thomas Davies, collier, Brithdiruchaf, Vochriw; Mr William Rees of the same place and Mr Thomas Williams, contractor.

Attendance Report The attendance officer's report showed the arrears in the school fees to amount to £189 2s. 6d., and out of the number on the books, 1,585, the average attendance was 1,104. The Board was adjourned for a fortnight to consider the arrears of school fees.

“Merthyr Express” 8 March 1879

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority: Gelligaer Parish The Gelligaer Parochial Committee reported that tenders for scavenging the several districts in the parish for one year from 25th March, 1879, were read and considered. Recommended that the following tenders be accepted: Newton, from Thomas Owen, Wainnewydd, Rhymney Bridge, at 4s. per week; Pontlottyn, William Davies, School-street, Pontlottyn at £55 18s. per year; Tirphil, William Lewis, Brithdir Farm, nr. Bargoed, at 5s. per week; Bargoed, Jenkin Jenkins, Heolddu Isaf, Bargoed, at 7s. per week (to include the emptying of the buckets); Deri, R. D. Lewis, Yscwyddgwyn, Deri, at 5s. per week; Vochriw, John Mathews, Vochriw, at 5s. per week; Bedlinog, Thomas Harris, Cwmfelin, at 5s 6d. per week.

“Merthyr Express” 26 April 1879

Gelligaer School Board: Penybanc Temporary School The Clerk read a letter suggesting that a door be made at the side instead of one of the windows. Rev. Aaron Davies said that it would also be necessary to build a flight of steps, and the cost would be about £20. Rev. J. P. Williams said that the owners will not allow alterations. It was resolved that the Clerk inform the Education Department that they do not see their way clear to make any alterations, and moreover, the owners of the building, will not allow any alterations to be made. The letter also stated that the Gelligaer Board could not charge more than 2d. a head for boys and 1d. for girls.

Bible and Lord's Prayer at School Rev. T. Theophilus proposed the following resolution: “That the Bible be read daily for 20 minutes in all the schools under the Board, and that the Lord's Prayer be used at the beginning of the morning, and at the close of afternoon attendance.” It was resolved that the matter be adjourned to next meeting of the Board.

Merthyr Union Rural Sanitary Authority On Saturday last at the Committee-room, Workhouse, the annual meeting of this authority was held. Present - Messrs. R. H. Rhys, D. E. Williams, Rev. A. Davies, Lewis Evans, C. E. Mathews, Thos. Edwards. W. Williams, W. G. Lewis, L. D. Rees, John Jenkins and D. Edmund David. Mr. R. H. Rhys was unanimously re-elected chairman.

Parochial Committees It was resolved that the Guardians of each parish be ex-officio members of the Parochial Committee of their parish. The Parochial Committees for the parishes of Gelligaer, Penderyn and Vaynor were then appointed. The Committee for Gelligaer was: Mr. Edmund Lewis, Yscwyddgwyn, Deri; Rev. J. P. Williams and Mr. Wm. Mathews, Pontlottyn; Mr. Thomas Williams and Mr. Wm. Mathews, Vochriw; Mr. John Llewellyn, Pontlottyn; Mr. Morgan Thomas, Penrhiw; Mr. David Phillips, Gilfach-fargoed; Mr. Lewis Lewis, Bedlwyn Road; Wm. Smith, Bargoed; Mr. Lewis Lewis, Glanafon; Mr. Thomas Jones, Vochriw; Dr. Kent Jones,

Vochriw; Mr. David Bevan, Brithdir; Mr. Lewis Edwards, Bedlinog; Mr. Joshua Aurlius, Tirphil; Mr. Stephen Lewis, Tirphil; Mr. Wm. Lewis, Bontnewydd; Mr. Wm. Watkins, Gilfachmain Uchaf.

Rural Sanitary Authority On the suggestion of the Clerk, the Chairman moved a formal resolution delegating the powers of the Board, as a Rural Sanitary Authority, to a committee of the elected Guardians of the several parishes of the union, and ex-officio members.

The Calls - The following calls were then made on the several parishes: Aberdare £2,490; Gelligaer £938; Merthyr £2,160; Penderyn £130; Rhigos £100; Vaynor £250. Total £5,975.

The Out-Door Relief The out-door relief for the past week was as follows: Aberdare, £68-5-11; Gelligaer, £19-10-0; Merthyr, £64-10-2; Merthyr Lower, £55-18-2. Total £210-4-3.

“Merthyr Express” 10 May 1879

Gelligaer Highway Board The first meeting for the year of this Board was held on Thursday, May 1st, at the Junction Inn, Hengoed, when Mr. Jenkin Mathews, Rhymney was unanimously re-elected chairman, and Mr. W. Rees, J.P., Llanfabon, vice-chairman. There were also present Dr. Leigh and Mr. W. Rees, ex-officio; Messrs. Jenkin Mathews, Lewis Evans, L. D. Rees, Gelligaer - elected Guardians; and Messrs. W. Edwards and D. Evans, Lanfabon Guardians. The Surveyor (Mr. Mitchell) submitted his monthly report. The principal roads in the parish were reported to be in good condition. The labour sheets were examined. It was decided to call on the overseers for the following sums for the ensuing year: Gelligaer parish, £500; Llanfabon parish, £200.

“Merthyr Express” 24 May 1879

Gelligaer School Board A meeting of this Board was held at the Board-room, Pontlloyn, when there were present: Mr. G. Martin (chairman), Messrs. J. Mathews, D. Davies, W. Beddoe, and the Revs. J. P. Williams, T. Theophilus, and A. Davies.

The Bible In Board Schools Rev. T. Theophilus rose to move “That the Bible be read daily for twenty minutes in all the schools under the Board, and that the Lord’s Prayer be used at the beginning of the morning and at the close of afternoon attendance.” He need scarcely say that it would be impossible for this Board to be engaged in the discussion of an issue involving more important consequences than those which are contained in the resolution. The Archbishop of Canterbury, a little while ago, stated that Board schools had the power to have taught in their schools, the Bible, the Lord’s Prayer, and the Apostles Creed. And it was a matter of great satisfaction to think that out of 1,500 school Boards in England and Wales, 1,455 had exercised their lawful authority in that direction of giving to the children under their care the inestimable advantages of reading the Scriptures. Of the 45 who had not admitted the Bible into the schools, he was surprised to find that 27 were in Wales. An English newspaper, commenting the other day upon this fact, sarcastically added, “the land of Dissent.” But he ventured to express the opinion that these boards did not rightly, justly, represent the feelings and practices of the Welsh people - at any rate he was convinced that this Board had not, up to the present, represented the feeling of the majority of the people in the parish. The Welsh people are a Bible-loving people. Take, for instance, the rural districts of Carmarthenshire. A stranger casually entering into the scattered farmhouses on a Sunday afternoon, would come upon the farmers, and the farmer’s wives, and the farmer’s daughters, and their man servants, and their maid servants, reading and studying the bible. In these gatherings the opinions of the Welsh commentators were carefully discussed Then we had the practice peculiar

to Wales, of Sunday schools assembling together to recite chapter or chapters from the Bible, and to be catechised severely thereon. Such practice did not point to the exclusion of the Bible from our schools. He was quite aware that some people said that Sunday schools were quite adequate to the teachings of the Scriptures. In the rural areas this might to a certain extent be true, but what should be said of the busy centres of population with which this Board had to deal. It must be confessed that, notwithstanding the large number of children who attended the various Sunday schools, there was a large number in attendance at the day schools who never went to Sunday schools. It might be urged that the Bible may be taught at home. He admitted that in very many instances this was so; but what was the population with which they had to deal composed of? Almost entirely colliers and miners. Their circumstances were known. A collier left his home in the early morning, he took a hasty leave of his sleeping children, and as he looked upon their sleeping features, it might be for the last time, he offered up a prayer to the Throne of Grace; and in descending the shaft to his perilous labours did not the thought that the children would begin the day with God and his book, and our Lord's Prayer, afford him consolation? But it might be said that the State provided these high privileges. The State did nothing of the kind. Her Majesty's Inspector, in his annual visit, was strictly prohibited from making any inquiries as to the attainment of the children in religious instruction. It was found that the overwhelming majority of the School Boards of the country were in favour of the resolution, which as supported by the voice and by the action of the Parliament of this country, and expressed the feelings of the majority of the people of the parish. Mr. David Davies, as representative of the working classes, and in the belief that he was correctly interpreting their feelings, seconded the resolution.

The Rev. J. P. Williams moved as an amendment that the debate be adjourned. His reasons for so doing were the following: A compromise had already been made and the use of the Lord's Prayer agreed to, and he disapproved of breaking into the compromise; and the triennial election being very near, he wished the matter referred to the ratepayers, who might decide. Rev. Aaron Davies seconded. It would be, he said, very unwise to go and unsettle everything that had been working for nearly eight years, and the present compromise, he thought, five years. By the vote of the last election it was quite clear that the voice of the ratepayers was with the Board. The time-table was now very satisfactorily arranged; so far as he had heard there had been no complaint from any parent. As was well known, he was a Secularist on this point. He had discussed this matter in four places in the parish, and at each the votes were in favour of his views. Religious education was taken very good care of in this parish. He thought it was the duty of the ministers and clergymen to attend to it, and if they asked the state to do so, they confessed their failure.

The Clerk pointed out that the sanction of the Education Department was required before the time-table could be altered. Rev. T. Theophilus said that he would add to his motion that it should come into force on the 1st November. The amendment was then put to the vote, but was lost, the mover and the seconder and Mr. Beddoe only voting for it. The motion was declared carried. The Rev. J. P. Williams then gave notice of a motion to be brought at the next meeting that this resolution should be rescinded.

A National School Closed The Education Department wrote enclosing a letter from the Rev. G.C.F. Harries, rector of Gelligaer, announcing the closing of the Cwmysgwyddgwyn National School. The Department inquired in what manner the Board proposed to provide for the deficiency of school accommodation thus caused. The Rectors letter stated that he had been most reluctantly compelled to withdraw the

mistress who he had appointed in November last, and to close the school. He had found it impossible to maintain the school, owing to the action of the School Board in not insisting on the payment of school pence. The deficiency which had fallen upon him had become a serious matter, so serious that he had been obliged to say that he could not any longer continue the personal liability in maintaining the National Schools. ... After the last inspection, the late mistress undertook to keep the school for the school pence and the Government grant; coal, material, cleaning, etc. being undertaken by him. The mistress informed him at the beginning of March that she could not get the school pence paid, because payment was not insisted upon at the Board Schools; if she sent the children home for the money, they were sent to the Board School. Throughout the parish, the Board had adopted the course of allowing enormous arrears of school pence, which had no doubt amounted to upwards of £300, of which, he was informed, only about £70 was said to be recoverable This was most unfair to the ratepayers of the parish, and also to the National School, which the School Board had from the first endeavoured to prevent continuing to carry on their work, knowing that the personal liability to himself must sooner or later become so great that it would be impossible for him to continue. The Rev. Aaron Davies proposed that a fresh census be taken, and that a committee of the whole Board should consider the subject. The proposal was agreed to.

“Merthyr Express” 7 June 1869

Merthyr Police Court: A School Board Case Henry Harris, collier, Vochriw, was summoned by Mr. J. Jones, attendance officer to the Gellygaer School Board, for not sending his child to school regularly. The regulation fine of five shillings including the costs was imposed.

“Merthyr Express” 14 June 1879

The Report of the Rural Sanitary Board referred to the placement of standing pipes for water at various places in its district including Vochriw.

“Merthyr Express” 21 June 1879

Gelligaer School Board There was much discussion of rescinding of the motion carried at the last meeting authorising the reading of the Bible for twenty minutes each day in all Board Schools, and the recital of the Lord’s Prayer at the beginning and end of the school day. Rev. J. P. Williams, Rev. Aaron Davies and Mr W. Beddoe voted for the motion. The Chairman, Messrs D. Davies and J. Matthews, and Rev. T. Theophilus voted against.

“Merthyr Express” 5 July 1879

Inquest On Saturday, at the Rising Sun Inn, Mr. Overton, the district coroner, held and inquiry into the death of Evan Phillips, son of Sergeant Phillips, Pentwyn, who received serious injuries by an explosion of gas at No. 2 Pit Vochriw on the 15th May. The jury unanimously gave the following verdict: “That the boy died from injuries received from an accidental explosion of gas; but there was no blame whatever attached to the officials of the colliery.”

“Merthyr Express” 19 July 1879

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority The adjourned meeting of this Authority was held on Saturday, the guardians present being the Rev. A. Davies (chairman), Messrs. C. E. Mathews, D. E. Williams, W. Williams, M. Morgans, L. D. Rees, W. D. Lewis, and Lewis Evans.

The Water Supply at Gelligaer The Gelligaer Parochial Committee reported that there were 41 houses at Vochriw within 200 feet of the stand-pipe, and that there were 200 other houses at the same place that obtained their water from the stand-pipe. The Committee, after considering the report of the surveyor that there would not be a

sufficient quantity of water obtainable from the present cistern to supply the stand-pipes placed within reach of the houses at Vochriw, recommended that the question of charging water rents be deferred for the present. The Inspector reported that there were 20 houses at Bedlinog within 200 feet; and 30 more not within the prescribed distance. Recommended that the question of charging water rents be deferred.

The Clerk read the following report from Dr. Dyke, Medical Officer: "I have to state to you the results of the examinations I have made of water used for domestic purposes. Bargoed (1) The water obtained from the supply of the Bargoed Water and Gas Company was pure and wholesome. (2) The samples of waste I had from two springs on certain premises in the respective occupation of Edward Williams and Thomas Edmunds, situated in Charles-street, Bargoed, were impure and unfit for domestic use. (3) Those taken from the taps at the back of the houses in Bristol-terrace were impure and unfit for domestic use. (4) That had from a pump well on the premises of Walters was very dirty, but otherwise no impure. (5) The sample from the taps at the back of the houses known as Mount Pleasant was impure and unfit for domestic use. Fochriw and Bedlinog (6) The water had from stand-pipes was pure and wholesome. Pontpren, Penderyn (7) The water brought to me from the pipes at this village was pure. (8) I would add that there is an abundant perennial spring of pure water to be obtained on Gilfach Fargoad farm. This spring is about 400 yards from the centre of the village, and the water is used by many of the inhabitants for domestic purposes.

"Merthyr Express" 26 July 1879

Gelligaer School Board The Education Department had recommended a slight modification to the plans for the Penybank School. It was therefore ordered that the architect be requested to arrange a division in the Penybank schoolroom according to the suggestion. It was stated that the infants at Vochriw had commenced their schooling in temporary buildings.

"Merthyr Express" 23 August 1879

Killed by Lightning On Saturday night at Vochriw, as a married woman was going along the road in the storm, she was struck by lightning, from the effects of which she died on Sunday night.

"Merthyr Express" 13 September 1879

Inquest An inquest was held at the Rising Sun Inn, under Thomas Williams, deputy coroner, into the death of Benjamin Shankland, who was killed in a 'fall of top' at Fochriw No. 2 Colliery. Evidence was given by John Evans, David Harris and Isaac Williams.

"Merthyr Express" 8 November 1879

Merthyr Police Court: Coal Stealing at Vochriw Samuel Davies, a stoker, a respectably dressed young fellow, was summoned for stealing 112 lbs. of coal from the landing of No. 2 Pit Vochriw on the 25th. P.C. Evans, who is stationed up there, said that he witnessed the theft at about 3 o'clock in the morning. The defendant pleaded guilty to the charge and was sentenced to five days imprisonment with hard labour. Monday - Before J. Bishop, Esq..

"Merthyr Express" 15 November 1879

Gelligaer School Board

Cost of Bibles It was reported that the cost of books, taking the average attendance at 1,500, would be about £70. The Deputy Clerk then applied for a cheque for that amount, whereupon the Board ordered that the application stand over.

The Chairman called upon the Deputy Clerk to read the requisition calling the meeting as follows: -

November 1st, 1879. To Frank James, Esq., clerk to the Gelligaer School Board.
Sir - We the undersigned, beg to request you to convene a meeting of the Board on 7th November, 1879, at 1.30 p.m., to consider the report of the committee appointed to draw up the instructions with respect to religious teaching in the schools of the Board, and the resolution passed at the last Board meeting, to incur considerable outlay in the purchase of Bibles, proper notice not having been given, in accordance with the Education Act, 1873, sched. 3, sec. 9. (Signed) Aaron Davies, W. Beddoe, J. P. Williams. The Deputy Clerk also read the report of the committee in favour of Bible reading, passed at the last meeting.

After discussion, Mr. W. Beddoe proposed, and Rev. J. P. Williams seconded, and it was unanimously agreed, "That the carrying out of the report presented at the last Board meeting by the committee to make arrangements for carrying out the resolution passed by the Board in favour of Bible-reading in May last be deferred for the consideration of the new Board to be elected by the 1st March next; that the time tables for the ensuing year be made as heretofore, making provision for the Lord's Prayer to be used at the commencement of morning and closing of afternoon attendance; and that the clerk forthwith notify the schools of this resolution." This was all the business, and the Board adjourned. The Rev. T. Theophilus (vicar) came in at the end of the meeting, but took no part in the proceedings, and immediately took his exit. After continued wrangling relating to the proposed changes in timetables in relation to religious education, including the possible purchase of Bibles at a cost of £70, it was eventually agreed unanimously to leave the final decision to the new Board to be elected on 1st March 1880. Rev. J. P. Williams stated that though his opposition to the proposed changes was well known, he would accept the verdict of the ratepayers should it run counter to his views. In the meantime, the existing agreed practices would continue.

"Merthyr Express" 15 November 1879

In Memoriam: The Rev Gilbert C.F. Harries, Rector of Gelligaer We have this week the painful duty of chronicling the decease of one of the most prominent figures in the clergy of this part of the diocese of Llandaff, in the person of the Rev. G. C. F. Harries, M.A., Rector of Gelligaer, and Canon of Llandaff. He was 51 years old at the time of his death. He was ordained deacon in 1851, and was appointed Rector of Gelligaer in 1862. The Marquis of Bute is the patron of this living, which is represented to be worth £669 a year by the tithe rent charge, yielding a net income of £485 with house and glebe. Mr. Harries was appointed to Gelligaer when many complaints were heard on all sides of the indifference of the previous holders of the living to the spiritual wants of the parish, although they were careful enough in its emoluments. The parish was undergoing a gradual but sensible transition from one of pure agriculture to a mixed condition of agriculture and mining, leading to an increase of population which settled in clusters around the various seats of mining industry. The ancient parish church was in a ruinous plight, so he commenced with the work of restoring the nave and chancel which were carried to completion a few years ago. Concurrently, churches and school churches - buildings which partook of the double character of being places of worship on Sunday and seats of education in the week, were opened at all the chief centres of population in the parish - Pontllynn, Newton, Pantywaun, Vochriw, Deri, Bargoed, and Cwmfelin. In this great work he obtained valuable assistance from wealthy friends, notably Mr. G. T. Clark, but the labour and the responsibility and anxiety all fell upon him - the fag ends of debts incurred here and there having at the last to be expunged out of his own private resources. Until the advent of the School Boards he conducted the National Schools

without any very serious loss; but when the time came which threw these voluntary schools into competition with schools backed by all the resources of the parish, it was too arduous a task, and after another he relinquished the charges into the hands of the School Board He was at one time a member of the Gelligaer School Board, but for the past four or five years withdrew from participation of the affairs of the parish on this Board - though he continued his connection with the Gelligaer Educational Charity, in the reformation of which, under the recent Act of Parliament, he took a deep interest. He was a fine example of the aggressive, combative, clergyman burning with zeal for the church whose faith he had vowed to disseminate It was impossible to do this and not stir up hostile feelings from some quarters, for in striking out right and left for the church to which he belonged it did sometimes happen that the zeal of the Rector slightly overstepped his direction; but errors of judgement are always overlooked, and certain it is that in the parish of Gelligaer, today, there are more deep and sincere mourners over the loss which the parish has sustained than the dissenters, with whom he has held hot argument so frequently, for they one and all recognised in him a clergyman faithful to his call and zealous for his Master's work, though far from infallible in the ways by which he sought to promote it. Mr. Harries was a widower. He married a daughter of the late David Evans, Esq., of the Brecon Old Bank, Merthyr, by whom he had numerous family, and who died some half dozen years ago.