

“Merthyr Express” 9 January 1897

Baptist Chapel Recently, the Baptist Church of Vochriw was presented with a beautiful silver communion service by Mrs. George Phillips, The Shop. The church felt that such an action should not be allowed to pass unacknowledged, and the generous donor was, therefore, entertained at a supper held at the Board School on New Year’s Eve. The room was prettily decorated for the occasion. During the evening, a capital vocal and instrumental programme was gone through, to which the following contributed: Mr. Willie Barry, Miss Elizabeth Jones, Miss Philpott (Mount Pleasant), Miss Maud Angell, Mr. Thomas Evans, Mr. David J. Angell, Miss Sarah Ann Davies, Miss Lilian Williams, Miss Addie Phillips, Mr. John Evans and Mr. W. J. Angell. The Rev. D. Evans, of Nile, America, formally thanked Mrs. Phillips for her gift on behalf of the church, which she appropriately acknowledged. Mr. Rhys Thomas read an excellent paper on “The holiness of the vessels dedicated to divine service.” Mr. H. W. Williams superintended the proceedings generally, while Miss M. A. Thomas and Miss Philpott efficiently acted as accompanists. The following ladies presided at the tables, and assisted materially in various ways: Mrs. James Davies and Miss Davies (Pentwyn), Mrs. C. M. Jones, Mrs. Mordecai Williams, Miss Bevan, Miss Thomas, Miss Jones and others. A most enjoyable evening was spent.

“Merthyr Express” 30 January 1897

Unitarian Reading-Free Stopford Brooke’s “Eternal Punishment” and “Reasons for Secession from the Church of England,” also literature dealing with the Bible, Jesus etc. sent free upon application to Mrs. Lewis, 8, Merthyr-street, Pontypridd.

First Annual Prize Meeting at Fochriw Board School The first annual prize evening in connection with the Fochriw Board Schools took place on Friday afternoon last. Our genial doctor, Dr. Davies occupied the chair, whilst among those present were Alderman Aaron Davies, Councillor Bevan, Revs. Jas. Jones (I), and E. Morgan (C.M.), and Messrs. Harry Evans, John Jones, James Williams and John Lewis. Alderman Davies, in an interesting speech, put before the children the benefits arising from the prize scheme lately introduced by the Gelligaer School Board, and urged them to attend regularly during the present year, that the present high reputation of the school be not endangered. A capital rendering of “Flee as a bird” having been given by Miss Blodwen Angell, the distribution of prizes took place. Four medals were to be awarded. Two were taken by pupils of the mixed department, namely, Emily C. Morgan and Maggie Walters, the other two finding their way to the infant department, namely, Evan Evans and Mabel Evans. The above scholars had attended throughout the year, without missing a single half-day. A splendid collection of books was then distributed to scholars who had won second, third and fourth prizes. Upwards of a hundred prizes were given out, a fact that reflects great credit on the teachers. A song by the school children followed, and then Councillor Bevan addressed the meeting in the vernacular. Miss Blodwen Angell and Master Rees Jones gave an effective rendering of the humorous duet “Jack and Jill.” Revs. E. Morgan and James Jones, and Mr. John Jones gave brief addresses, after which Master Stephen Lewis gave a splendid rendering of “Mercy,” and Master Arthur Ballard the “Charge of the Light Brigade.” Cordial votes of thanks were given to the chairman and Alderman Davies.

“There Is Nothing New Under The Sun” is a saying credited to a great variety of illustrious authors from the time of Solomon to the present day. It is a fact that many inventions looked upon as modern are of ancient origin. The telephone, which recently caused such a furore of excitement, was in ancient days a means by which the high priests worked upon the credulity of their disciples. The Pyramids of Egypt and other wonders prove that this generation has a great deal to learn. Holloway’s Pills

and Ointments, however, were not anticipated by our forefathers, and today they stand alone as the best cure the world possesses for all the ills humanity is heir to.

“Merthyr Express” 20 February 1897

Eisteddfod An eisteddfod in connection with the Calvinistic Methodist Chapel took place at the Board School on Saturday evening last. The post of conductor was admirably filled by Mr. William Adams, A.C. The musical adjudicator was Mr. Davy Jones (Dewi Carno), whilst Mr. James Davies, Fochriw, adjudged the recitations. Miss Margaretta Philpott accompanied to the satisfaction of all. Fochriw winners were: solo, “Y plentyn afradlon,” divided between W. J. Angell, Fochriw, and J. Elias, Pantywain; solo girls under 10, “Enw’r Arglwydd Iesu,” Blodwen Angell; alto solo, “Ple mae y naw,” Blodwen Angell; hymn tune over 50, “Nebo,” John M. Davies, Pentwyn; recitation under 14, “Hen Gymro fy ngwlad,” Catherine Lewis. The feature of the eisteddfod was then arrived at, namely, the competition for female choirs, the test piece being “Bugeillio’r gwenith gwyn.” Three choirs sang: Brook Minstrels (Miss Thomas), Pentwyn (Miss Pugh), and the Morlais Glee Party, Dowlais (Mrs Attwood). The declaration was given in favour of the Dowlais party. Other competitions: duet, “Mair Magdalen,” Blodwen Angell & Laurie A. Angell; recitation, “Y dymhestl olaf,” R. Thomas & D. Evans; baritone solo, “Y bachgen ffarweliodd a’i wlad,” Crad. Shankland. The choral competition came next, the test piece being “Y gwanwyn.” Three choirs competed, namely, Pentwyn (S. Cole), Music Lovers (Dan Jenkins), and Dowlais Music Lovers (D. Lewis). This last competition brought a highly successful meeting to a close. A share of the credit must go to the energetic secretary, Mr. Tom Roberts, and the treasurer, Mr. John Davies.

“Merthyr Express” 20 March 1897

Carmel Great pleasure was manifest at Carmel on Sunday last at the re-appearance of Mr. James Jones, the pastor. Mr. Jones had been called away a month ago to his home at Llangeler, Carmarthenshire, on account of his mother’s illness. She died a few days ago. The pulpit has been occupied by Mr. Lewis, a native of Llanelly, and a student at Brecon Memorial College. We accord our deepest sympathy to Mr. Jones in his affliction.

“Merthyr Express” 27 March 1897

Parish Council A meeting was held at the Board School on Thursday evening to appoint a person to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Councillor E. Evans. Mr. D. J. Morgan, Rising Sun, was appointed as confrere to Councillor Beavan in the Fochriw ward. No poll will therefore be necessary.

Accident An accident which might have ended fatally happened at No.1 Pit on Monday afternoon. A tube forming part of an engine in command of Mr. William Jones, Guest-street, suddenly burst, and in consequence a few of the persons who had gathered ready to ascend were scalded, more or less severely. Mr Dan Evans, Sun-row, was scalded rather badly, whilst three others received minor injuries. We are glad to know that all are now progressing favourably.

Eisteddfod The second eisteddfod of the season took place at the Board School on Saturday evening. Adjudicators: music, Mr. W. Jones (Morgrugyn), A.C., Dowlais; recitations, Rev. W. Williams, Dowlais. Miss M. A. Thomas, Fochriw, accompanied in her usual artistic manner. The competitions came off in the following order: solo under 10, “Mae d’eisieu Di bob awr,” Miss Blodwen Angell, Fochriw; recitation, Hymn 104, Mr. T. M. Evans, Pentwyn; solo, “Enw’r Arglwydd Iesu,” Miss Lucy Davies; solo, “Mae heddyw ffynon hyfryd lawn,” Master Rees Jones; essay on “Lletygarwch” - Mr E. M. Davies, Fochriw; alto solo, “Yr hogyn drwg,” Miss Maud Angell, Fochriw; recitation, “Goleudy,” Mr. T. Jones, Deri; bass solo, “Y morwr a’i

fachgen," Mr. E. Jones, Dowlais; soprano solo, "Angels ever bright and fair," Miss Elizabeth Jones, Fochriw; love letter - Miss Edith Cole, Fochriw; tenor solo, "Let me like a soldier fall," Mr. W. Griffith, Fochriw; bass solo, "The pilot," Mr. W. J. Angell, Fochriw; trio, "Gwyn fyd preawylwyr dy dy," Miss E. Jones and Messrs John Evans and C. Shankland, Fochriw; male voice competition, "Myfanwy," two choirs competed - Dowlais and Fochriw, with Dowlais declared the winners. Then came the chief choral on the test piece "Mai." Three choirs competed: Dowlais (Mr. A. Jones), Pentwyn (Mr. S. Cole), Fochriw (Mr. D. Jenkins). The Pentwyn party was victorious, and Mr. Cole was duly invested amidst great applause. Mr. W. Walters, A.C., and D. Davies, Fochriw, acted as preliminary adjudicators on the musical portion of the programme. The post of secretary and treasurer were filled by Messrs. R. Thomas and John Jones respectively.

"Merthyr Express" 15 May 1897

Outing The Dosbarth Grammadeg Cymraeg held their annual outing on Saturday, the rendezvous being Weston. The party was made up exclusively of members of the class and their teacher, Rev. James Jones. The morning was fine, and the start was made from Pontlloftyn Station at 7.30 a.m. At Cardiff, the party transferred to the Waverley. Lunch was taken at Weston, followed by the usual visit to the beach. Afterwards, the party drove to Worle and Kewstone. The outing was in every way pleasant one.

"Merthyr Express" 10 July 1897

Cricket: Fochriw v Bedlinog The match was played on Saturday, June 26 at Bedlinog. The scores were: Fochriw 39; Bedlinog 33.

Fochriw v Dowlais The match was played at Dowlais on Saturday. Scores: Dowlais 33; Fochriw 34 for 5 wickets.

"Merthyr Express" 17 July 1897

Cricket: Fochriw v Merthyr Played at Fochriw on Saturday. Scores: Fochriw 36; Merthyr 15.

"Merthyr Express" 28 August 1897

Cricket: Fochriw v Bedlinog The match was played at the Gwyrd Ground on Saturday in miserable weather. Fochriw batted first and were dismissed for the small score of 46 runs. Bedlinog, however, were dismissed for eight runs less. The Fochriw bowling was very deadly, and was admirably backed up by the wicket-keeper, D. L. Jones, who stumped one, and had another run-out in clever fashion. The Fochriw team has next Saturday vacant, and would like to arrange a home match with a neighbouring team. Apply to D. Jones, 33, Guest-street.

"Merthyr Express" 2 October 1897

Gelligaer School Board The Board require a Certificated Assistant Master for the Fochriw Board School, duties to commence as soon as possible. Salary £70 per annum. Knowledge of Welsh desirable.

"Merthyr Express" 30 October 1897

Concert On Thursday week, a grand concert was given at the Board Schools under the auspices of the Fochriw Brass Band, when the following took part: soprano, Miss Gertrude Wedlake, Cardiff; contralto, Miss Mary Richards, Rhymney; tenor, Mr. Alf Evans, Aberdare; bass, Mr. J. H. Howells (Ap Hywel Cynon), Aberaman; accompanist, Mr. E. T. Davies, Dowlais. With such an array of talent engaged, it was no surprise to get a crowded house, and the audience was very enthusiastic. All the artistes appeared to be in best form, and the general opinion was given freely, that it was the finest concert held here for some time.

"Merthyr Express" 18 December 1897

Gelligaer School Board: Fochriw School Tenders are invited for Improvements to the Culvert at the back of the above School, and the re-building of the Back Boundary Wall.

“Merthyr Express” 12 February 1898

Gellygaer School Board: Triennial Election of Officers The triennial election of members for the School Board is fixed to it take place on Monday the 21st. The following nominations have been received:

- BEDDOE, Wm. Coslett, Cefn Llwynau Hall, Gelligaer, coal proprietor**
 DAVIES, Daniel, Bedlinog Stores, Bedlinog, grocer and butcher*
 DAVIES, Hannah, 6, Heol Evan Wynne, Pontlottyn, married women;
 DAVIES, Lewis Philip, 15, Dynevor-street, Fochriw, Baptist minister;
 GREENHOW, Joseph March, Hanbury Villa, Bargoed, mining engineer;
 HUGHES Thomas, 24, Reform Street, Pontlottyn, Congregational minister
 JONES, John, Manchester House, Bargoed, draper*
 JONES, Robert Orton, Station-terrace, Bedlinog, Congregational minister*
 JONES , Thomas Grugwyn, 1, Station-street, Pontlottyn, assurance superintendent;
 JONES, Thomas Jesse, The Rectory, Gellygaer, rector of Gelligaer*
 LEWIS, David, 3, Powell’s Terrace, Bargoed, colliery under-manager;
 LLEWELYN, John, 1, Hanbury Road, Bargoed, railway inspector;
 MORGAN, John, New Tredegar, grocer*
 MORGAN, William Albert, Picton Hotel, Pontlottyn, licence victualler*
 POWELL, William, 25, Merchant-street, Pontlottyn*
 REES, Jonathan Marsden, Commercial-street, Bedlinog, grocer;
 REES, Thomas, The Vicarage, Pontlottyn, clerk in holy orders*
 THOMAS, Evan, 3, Southend-terrace, Pontlottyn, miners agent* [* old member]

From the foregoing list it will be seen that eight out of the 11 members have been nominated for re-election. The other three members are the Rev. Aaron Davies, who after a connection with the Board since its commencement, has signified his intention of retiring; Mr. Edmund Lewis, and Mr. H. P. Davies-Phillips. For the eleven seats, Pontlottyn has put forward seven candidates, and if the lady member, who is the wife of Mr. W. Davies, architect (son of the Rev. Aaron Davies), is returned, she will be the first lady member ever elected to the Board. There are some burning questions to be settled by the new Board, and the contest is causing considerable excitement in the parish. At the last election the following were the successful candidates:

Rev. T. J. Jones, rector	1,949	Rev. R. O. Jones	
1,741			
Rev. Aaron Davies	1,564	Mr. H. P. Phillips-Davies	
1,501			
Mr. John Morgan	1,421	Mr. W. A. Morgan	1,320
Rev. Thos. Rees	1,257	Rev. J. P. Williams	
1,241			
Mr. Daniel Davies	1,079	Mr. W.C. Beddoe	1,070
Mr. Evan Thomas	1,041		

Meeting at Fochriw: A crowded meeting was held at the Board School, Fochriw, on Tuesday evening, under the presidency of Mr. G. Phillips, grocer, in support of the candidature of the Rev. R. O. Jones, Bedlinog, and Rev. Thomas Hughes,

Pontlottyn. Both gentlemen were accorded an enthusiastic reception, and at the close of their addresses a resolution pledging the voters present to support them at the poll was unanimously agreed to.

Presentation On Saturday night, the 29th January, a very interesting ceremony was gone through in the vestry of Carmel Chapel, when Miss Margaretta Phillpott, the accompanist to the Pentwyn Choir, was presented with a gold brooch, suitably inscribed, in recognition of her valuable services. Miss Philpott has accompanied the choir at at least a dozen eisteddfodau. The presentation was made by Mr. Simon Evan Cole, the leader of the choir. Miss Philpott suitably replied. During the meeting, songs were given by the following members of the choir: James Jones, T. Davies, Joseph Shankland, Simon E. Cole, David Cole, J. M. Jones, Rees Jones, and recitations by James Davies, (chairman), David Evans, and Elizabeth J. Evans. In an impromptu reading competition the prizes were divided between Caradoc Shankland, David Evans, and James Pugh, while T. Davies and Caradoc Shankland took the prizes in an impromptu music reading. With the rendering of the quartette, a most enjoyable and successful meeting was brought to a close.

“Merthyr Express” 5 March 1898

School Board The Rev. L. P. Davies is the first member of the Gelligaer School Board from Fochriw since the early 1875.

Board School On Saturday, February 24th, an operetta for schools "A Pair of Little Runaways," was performed to an overcrowded-house by the Juvenile choir of Noddfa Baptist Church. The choir was under the leadership of the Mr. Henry Jones, who was well known at Capel Sion, Merthyr, where he has led the singing of years before his removal to Fochriw. The chief characters were well represented by Mr. Thomas Evans, Miss M. Williams, Mr. Tom Evans, Miss A. Evans, Messrs D. James Thomas and L. James Thomas, Miss M. J. Davies, James Davies and Moodi Williams. The accompanist were Miss M. A. Thomas, and Miss Lilian Williams. The singers and players did their work in such a manner that everybody seemed quite pleased.

“Merthyr Express” 12 March 1898

The Recent Public Inquiry On Saturday, at the meeting of the Gelligaer and Rhigos Rural District Council held at Merthyr, Mr. F. T. James, clerk, reported on the inquiry which Mr. Bicknell, Government Inspector, had held at Vochriw upon of the question of obtaining a provisional order in respect of the adoption of the Land Clauses Act for the purchase and taking of land necessary for the Vochriw sewerage scheme.

Gelligaer School Board: Appointment of Chairman and Vice-chairman The first meeting of the newly-elected school Board was held on Tuesday at the Boardroom, Pontlottyn. The following were present: Revs. R. O. Jones, T. Rees, T. J. Jones, Lewis Davies and T. Hughes, Messrs E. Thomas, W. C. Beddoe, John Morgan, David Lewis, J. M. Rees, and F. T. James (clerk).

Rev. R. O. Jones was unanimously elected chairman. Rev. R. O. Jones, in returning thanks, said that they had a great responsibility in the education of the future generation. In the parish of Gelligaer there were between three and four thousand children under their charge. If they looked at the history of the Gelligaer School Board from the beginning, they would see that it would bear favourable comparison with any other. It would be his chief aim to be fair to everyone, and do his duty conscientiously. As it was customary for the vice-chairman to be of the same political opinion as the chairman, Mr. Evan Thomas was duly elected.

Mr. Thomas stated his appointment was a compliment to the working classes, which he represented.

The Teaching of Welsh Mr. W. C. Beddoe brought forward his motion that Welsh should be taught in all their schools to the infants and standard one. The chairman asked if this was not done. Mr. Beddoe said that it was not. On the suggestion of the Clerk, it was decided to write to all headteachers asking them to describe the present provision.

Time and Place of Meeting Rev. T. J. Jones proposed that two monthly meetings should be held at Pontlottyn, and that every third meeting be held at some of the other centres. They would then have the opportunity of examining the schools. This was carried by six votes to four.

“Merthyr Express” 26 March 1898

Reading Room and Library The Committee of the above provided an eminently satisfactory entertainment on Thursday, having engaged the renowned orator, elocutionist, and musician, Mr. Powell Thomas, London, who proved a most resourceful entertainer (in both languages) for two hours. He has an electricity all his own, and his oratorical and musical gifts are nothing short of astonishing. His rendering of Welsh and English recitals, songs, instrumental selections, and literary sketches were of great expressive charm. The proceeds were for the library.

Gelligaer and Rhigos Rural District Council In the Fochriw Ward election for the above Council, Rev. T. Jesse Jones, and Mr. Edmund Lewis, Deri, have withdrawn, thus obviating the necessity of a contest in the ward. Lively contests are anticipated in all the other wards.

“Merthyr Express” 16 April 1898

Gelligaer and Rhigos Rural District Council The Council require a Competent Man to attend to the Sewage Tank and Works at Fochriw, also to look after their Water Supply, and Light the Public Lamps at Pentwyn and Fochriw. The oil, lamps, and materials will be supplied by the Council. Salary, 24s. per week. The person appointed to devote the whole of his time to the duties of the Council. Applications, accompanied with not more than three testimonials, to be sent to the clerk by 27th April, 1898. By Order, Frank T. James, Clerk to the Council, High St., Merthyr.

“Merthyr Express” 21 May 1898

Gelligaer School Board: Vochriw School The Board require tenders for the Providing and Fixing a Sliding-glass Partition. Drawing and Specification from the Master Vochriw School. Tenders to me by 23rd May, 1898. By Order, Frank T. James, Clerk, 134, High St., Merthyr.

“Merthyr Express” 11 June 1898

Cricket: Fochriw v Dowlais Played on Saturday at Fochriw. Fochriw 27 runs; Dowlais 38.

“Merthyr Express” 2 July 1898

Cricket: Fochriw v Fochriw Brass Band This match was played at Fochriw Cricket Ground on June 25th. The Bandsmen were asked to bat first, and wickets fell rapidly to the bowling of E. Jones and T. J. Thomas. They were dismissed for 17 runs. Fochriw scored 57 in their innings.

“Merthyr Express” 23 July 1898

Bardic Success Mr. David Davies, Dynevor-street, has been successful at an examination in connection with the National Eisteddfod, by which he will be known as Pencerdd. When the result became known, a meeting was held at the

store-yard to congratulate him on his success. Mr. Davies is a composer of no mean merit, and his compositions have been selected as test pieces in the different eisteddfodau which have been held at Fochriw. Mr. Davies will henceforth be known as Pencerdd Morganwg.

“Merthyr Express” 6 August 1898

Gelligaer School Board A meeting of the Board was held at the Pontlottyn Schools on Tuesday.

Miscellaneous A letter was read from Miss Edith Cole saying she wished to continue as assistant in Fochriw school instead of going for examination, due to ill-health. The Board received the intimation with regret, Miss Cole being a very good scholar, having come out highest in the recent examination.

Transfers Miss A. E. Tozer was transferred from Vochriw to Bedlinog Infants' School as assistant mistress. Miss Catherine Lewis, assistant at Vochriw, was transferred to Gelligaer Parish School.

The Teaching of Welsh in Day Schools The committee appointed to draw up a scheme for presentation to the Board, submitted a draft, but consideration of the same was deferred. The committee stated that before any scheme for the systematic teaching of Welsh be adopted, due consideration should be given to the following facts: (1) The strong English element which has of recent years been imported into the district, which in some cases place Welsh in the position of a foreign language to a large section of school children. (2) Up to the present, the Board has not made it a condition of appointment that teachers possess a knowledge of Welsh. For this reason, the staff available for teaching the subject is very limited in most of the schools. Upon these grounds, the committee, while assuring the Board that the head teachers will cordially endeavour to carry out the Board's wishes, consider that the subject should not be made compulsory in all the schools of the parish. Instead, the head teachers should be allowed to decide the best course to follow. The committee further consider, that whenever the subject is taken up, that it only be taken up in the lowest standards in the mixed schools, adding one standard each year, and in the infants' schools that a modest start be made with the first class infants.

“Merthyr Express” 17 September 1898

Technical Instruction Splendid results have been gained by the members of the Welsh Class in the examination held last April. Ten candidates presented themselves for the Welsh Paper, and all were successful, eight passing in the first division. We desire to congratulate the pupils, together with their able tutor, Rev. James Jones. The following is the list: First Class - E. Cole, M. A. Lewis, Thomas Lewis, Elizabeth Jones, Gwen Jones, Evan Jones, Elizabeth Evans, Evan L. Thomas, Evan Williams; Second Class - Margaret A. Ballard, Thomas Ballard.

“Merthyr Express” 8 October 1898

Bicycle Race A large crowd assembled on Pentwyn, Fochriw-road, to witness the long-looked-for three-quarter mile bicycle race, which took place on Monday between Mr. William Payne, Fochriw, and Mr. Jenkin Roberts, Pontlottyn. The former defeated his opponent by 20 yards. E. Tovey, Pontlottyn, acted as referee, and D. Harris, T. Davies, J. Nairn Jones, D. J. Morgan, Rising Sun Inn, Fochriw, kept the road clear.

“Merthyr Express” 5 November 1898

Dowlais Collieries The two Fochriw pits, and the Long Work Pit, Cwmbargoed, were idle on Friday last owing to 'stop-trucks.' A number of the workmen employed at the Big Pit, Fochriw, ceased to work on Monday noon, the necessary

months notice having expired, in consequence of a dispute over terms for cutting coal.

“Merthyr Express” 12 November 1898

Glligaer and Rhigos District Council The monthly meeting of the Council was held at the Merthyr Workhouse on Saturday. Present: Messrs. David Hopkins,, J.P., (chairman), Jenkin Edwards, C. Phillips, J. Aurelius, Thomas Bevan, Lewis Evans, F. T. James (clerk), and T. Powell (assistant clerk).

Fochriw Water Supply The Chairman reported that Messrs. Lewis Evans, Bevan, and himself, met the previous Saturday, and considered the above matter. They found that the village was well supplied with water during the major portion of the year, but that during the drought there was a scarcity of water. The springs at Penybank were dry in summer, and the committee recommended the Council to ask the Merthyr District Council to supply Fochriw. At the same time, he knew that there was under seal an agreement between the Gelligaer Council and the Rhymney and Aber Valleys Water Company, giving water rights to that company, and before the Council moved in the matter, he would like to have the opinion of the clerk as to their legal position. The Clerk said the Council's position had been entirely altered by an Act of Parliament passed last session. Within the whole area of Gelligaer, the Rhymney and Aber Water Company could prevent any competing company or Council coming in. He read three clauses bearing on the matter. The company had seven years to build the Rhymney reservoir, but that did not prevent them making some provision. From a legal position, under the agreement the company could buy up all the Council's waterworks, and upon the company rested the onus of supplying water to Fochriw. Mr. Bevan proposed that the clerk write to the company and ask what they could do. Mr. L. Evans seconded, and it was agreed to.

“Merthyr Express” 26 November 1898

Dispute at Fochriw Collieries The wage difficulty at the Big Pit, Fochriw, has been amicably settled, and the men have returned to work.

“Merthyr Express” 31 December 1898

Drama A performance of the popular drama " Owain Glyndwr," was given by the Fochriw Dramatic Society at the Board School on December 22nd. The famous scenes which took place in the 14th century in connection with Prince Owain were reproduced in true Cymric style. Mr. Thomas Jones played the leading part, and he was admirably supported by Messrs. J. Cole, William Walters, James Davies, D. J. Thomas, and D. Evans. The other numerous roles were also well filled. The musical portion was superintended by Messrs. D. Davies (Pencerdd Morganwg) and W. J. Angel, and the recitations by Messrs. J. Davies and W. Walters, A.C. The party intends appearing at Dowlais on January 7th, and we predict a treat for the audience there.

Eisteddfod An eisteddfod was held at the Board School on Boxing Day. Mr. William Walters, A.C., and Mr. Thomas Davies were the presidents, whilst the adjudicator were: music - Mr E. Evans; recitations - Mr J. Davies; essays - Mr Thomas Lewis. The following competitors were successful: solo for children under eight - M. A. Evans; recitation - C. Lewis and B. Ballard: solo for boys under 12 - W. J. Angel and T. Thomas; soprano solo - B. Angell; duet - divided between R. Jones and J. A. Jenkins, M. Angell and M. J. Davies; quartet - D. Jenkins and party; contralto solo - M. Angell; recitation - D. Evans; essay - T. Ballard; tenor solo - B. Angell and S. Cole; baritone solo - T. Davies; duet (tenor and bass) - C. Shankland and W. Griffiths; bass solo - D. Jenkins; essay on

"Godliness" - 1. E. M. Davies, 2. T. Davies & W. J. Ballard; soprano solo - R. Jones and J. M. Price; recitation - D. Evans and W. Griffiths; trio - E. Jones and party; speech - W. J. Ballard ; party, test piece "Duw sydd noddfa" (composed by Pencerdd Morganwg) - one party competed under the conductorship of Mr. J. Evans, and, after a good rendering, were awarded the prize. Miss M. A. Thomas, Brook Cottage, was the accompanist. The duties of secretary were admirably filled by Mr. T. H. Llewelyn.

"Merthyr Express" 21 January 1899

Fochriw Chair Eisteddfod March 27th, 1899

1. CHIEF CHORAL, "Daw'r Gareg oddi Draw" (and silver medal to successful conductor) £5-0-0
2. MALE VOICE PARTY "Hiraeth" (and silver medal to successful conductor) £1-10-0
3. "MARWNAD" to the late Mrs. Lewis, Deri (and a Chair) £2-0-0

For details see Programmes, by Post 1½d Thomas Davies, Secretary, 3, Hill-row, Fochriw

"Merthyr Express" 25 March 1899

Supper On Friday night, a supper, promoted by the fitters of the Dowlais Fochriw Collieries, was held at the at the Mount Pleasant Inn, Pentwyn, when that tables were decorated most tastefully, the occasion being St. Patrick's night. The arrangements had been carried out by a committee, which had Mr. W. Bellamy as chairman. A word of praise is also due to the numerous singers which took part, namely: William Griffiths, John Lebourne, George Jones, Willie J. Barry, James Davies, Alfred Evans, William Willams, John Davies. The pianist was Miss Lizzie Gwynn.

Fochriw Chair Eisteddfod Postponed until Saturday, May, 13, 1899.

"Merthyr Express" 6 May 1899

Fochriw Board School Tenders are invited for constructing Kerb, Channel, and Gravel Walk opposite the School Wall at the Fochriw - distance 85 yards. Also to raise the adjoining wall 94 ft long by 18 inches. Plans and specifications to be seen by applying to the Secretary, Rev. James Jones. Tenders to be in hand by the 22nd of May.

"Merthyr Express" 20 May 1899

Chair Eisteddfod at Fochriw During the past few years, several small eisteddfodau have been promoted by the music-loving people of this colliery village, and the progress made by them in such gatherings has been of so praiseworthy a character that they ventured on a more ambitious event by holding a chair Eisteddfod. This aroused a considerable amount of interest, especially in bardic circles, and the promoters have ample reason for satisfaction at the measure of success, both musical and financial, which rewarded their efforts. The proceeds were in aid of increasing the funds of the Welsh Baptist Chapel. The Dowlais people were well represented, and although they failed to secure the chief prizes, they must be congratulated upon their magnificent performances in the separate items of the competitions. The eisteddfod was held under the patronage of Mr. Alfred Thomas, M. P., Dr. Eleazer Davies (Fochriw), Mr. Edmund Lewis (Deri), Mr. E. P. Martin, J.P. (Dowlais), Mr. H. W. Martin (Dowlais), and Mr. D. Hopkins, J.P. (Pontlottyn). The officials at the Eisteddfod were as follows: presidents - Councillors L. Evans and T. Bevan, Fochriw; conductor, Rev. L. P. Davies, Fochriw; secretary, Mr. T. Davies, Pentwyn;

adjudicator of music, Mr. R. R. Price, Cardiff; literature, the Rev. T. Davies, Cardiff; free hand and sewing, Mrs. Price, schoolmistress, and Mrs. Bevan, Fochriw; accompanists, Miss M. A. Thomas and Miss Lilian Williams, Fochriw; treasurer, Mr. John Bevan, Fochriw. Competitions: solo for boys under 12, Master David Ashton, Bedlinog; solo for girls under 12, divided between Miss Lucy Davies and Miss Mary Thomas, Fochriw; recitation, boys and girls under 15, Miss C. A. Morgan, Fochriw; pianoforte solo, children under 16, Master D. Nicholas Williams, Merthyr; love letter - "True Blue" & "Olwen Morganwg" - prize divided; free hand drawing, children under 16, divided between Masters Samuel Lewis, Rhymeny and T. Jones, Fochriw; essay, "History of Gelligaer" - no entry; prize bags, 1. "Snowdrop"; 2. Miss Phillips, Treharris; hymn tune, "Crugybar," for men over 50, Mr. John Davies, Fochriw; sewing a button-hole, divided between Miss E. Morgan and Miss Annie Rees, Pentwyn; soprano solo, Miss Sarah Davies, Bedlinog; contralto solo, Miss Polly James, Blackwood; baritone solo, divided between Mr. T. E. Thomas, Bedlinog and Mr. Caradoc Shankland, Fochriw; recitation (silver medal given by Mr. T. Fine, Pontlottyn), won by Miss Rebecca Thomas, Dowlais; trio, Messrs. B. Angell and friends, Fochriw; quartet, Messrs. T. E. Thomas and friends, Bedlinog; male voice competition, 1. Fochriw; 2. Dowlais, the Fochriw conductor, Mr. W. Walters, receiving a magnificent reception on being invested by Miss Price, schoolmistress, Fochriw; elegy to the late Mrs. E. Lewis (Gwyn Villa), Rev. J. Symlog Morgan, Treorky. Owing to an insufficient number of bards being present, the crowning ceremony did not take place. The bard was, however, invested by the Mrs. G. Phillips of Fochriw. In the chief choral competition, only one choir sang, namely, the Fochriw United Choir, conductor Mr. B. Angell. They were deemed worthy of the prize. A vote of thanks to the presidents, and all who had given a helping hand in making the first chair eisteddfod a success, brought the day to a close. Tea was provided at the library for visitors, and the ladies worked most energetically in satisfying their wants. Several correspondents were present, and they were under a great disadvantage in not having accommodation to enable them to get the details of the Eisteddfod.

“Merthyr Express” 27 May 1899

Mining Success At the annual examination held recently at Cardiff, Mr. Tom Roberts, Martin-street, was successful in obtaining a second class certificate, qualifying him as an under-manager of a mine. Mr. Roberts is the son of Mr. Thomas Roberts, the under-manager of the No. 2 Colliery Fochriw, under whom he is at present employed as a fireman.

“Merthyr Express” 1 July 1899

Gelligaer School Board: Filling the Vacant Chair The Rev. T. J. Jones moved that the seat rendered vacant by the death of Rev. R. O. Jones, the late chairman, be filled that day. He proposed that notice be taken of the letter from the managers of Bedlinog School supporting the appointment of Mr. Daniel Davies. He said that he did not know whether Mr. Davies was of the same religious creed as the late chairman, but he knew Mr. Davies was a non-conformist. He moved that he be appointed. Mr. J. M. Rees seconded. Rev. T. Rees proposed as an amendment that the Rev. James Jones, Independent minister, Fochriw, be appointed, which was seconded by Mr. W. A. Morgan. In the voting, Mr. Daniel Davies was elected by six votes to three.

Labour Certificates The Board granted labour certificates to George Williams, Brithdir; William H. Jones, Gas-street, Fochriw, and Rees Jones, Tirphil.

“Merthyr Express” 22 July 1899

Cricket: Bedlinog v Fochriw The match ended in a victory for Fochriw by 16 runs. Bedlinog scored only 28 runs against the bowling of Evan Jones and T. J. Thomas. Jones took 5 wickets for 15 runs. Fochriw replied with a total of 44.

Tea Party On Thursday, a tea party was held at Nazareth Chapel, when a large number of friends, as well as a number from several other places, partook of tea. The following superintended the tables: Mrs. Esther Pugh, Mrs. Cassie Pugh, Mrs. Jones (grocer), Miss M. A. Jones, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Lawrence, Mrs. E. A. Jones, Mrs. Davies, Mrs. Matthews, Mrs. Peter Jones, Mrs. Angell and Miss E. Morgan. The following also gave a helping hand: Mr. Edward Parry, Mr. Evan Jones, Mrs. Llewelyn and Mrs. M. A. Evans. The proceeds are to be devoted to the building fund, which has lately been commenced, for the purpose of making alterations on the building.

“Merthyr Express” 12 August 1899

Gelligaer School Board Tenders are invited for the erection of a New Cookery Class at the Fochriw School. Plans and specifications maybe seen at the offices of the architects, Messrs. James and Morgan, Charles-street Chambers, Cardiff. The Board do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender. By Order, F. T. James, Clerk, High-street, Merthyr.

“Merthyr Express” 2 September 1899

Eisteddfod Successes At the Machen Eisteddfod on Saturday last, the Fochriw Brass Band won the third prize for the selection, and the first prize in the marching contest. Mr. R. Dawson was the conductor, and we heartily congratulate both conductor and bandsmen on their success. The Male Voice Party, under the conductorship of Mr. William Walters, performed in the competition for the glee. They sang "Comrades in Arms." They came in a good second to Tylorstown, led by the old veteran Gwynalaw.

“Merthyr Express” 23 September 1899

Technical Classes The results of the examination in Welsh held at the end of last winter season are as follows: Second Year, First Class - Edith Cole, Thomas Lewis, Mary A. Lewis, Elizabeth Evans; Second Class, Evan L. Thomas, M. A. Ballard, Maggie M. Rees. First Year: First Class - Judith A. Jenkins, Annie G. Williams, Lilian Williams, Sarah Jones, Sophia Davies, David J. Rees. The teacher of the class was the Rev. James Jones, Congregational minister, to whom much credit is due. The above class, with others in French, mathematics, physiography, ambulance, and music, will continue during the coming winter season, and the committee invite both young and old of the neighbourhood to join.

“Merthyr Express” 4 November 1899

Gelligaer School Board: Staff List for Next Year The Rector of Gelligaer moved that Benjamin Williams, second year pupil teacher, and George W. Jones, be appointed to Pontlottyn from Fochriw. Mr D. Lewis said it would be squandering the rate-payers money, because a second year pupil teacher was not required. It would be better to wait until there was a vacancy somewhere. Rev. H. Hughes said that only a monitor was required, and consequently the Rector withdrew his motion. Mr. W. Beddoe said that there was a possibility that the Board would establish central classes for pupil teachers. Therefore, they should be very careful in selecting their staff for next year, because of the extra teachers that would be required to take the places of those who attended the classes. Among the twenty four staff changes involving pupil teachers that were agreed, were the following:

appointed to Vochriw School: Montague Williams, Priscilla Denty, Benjamin E. Williams; to Penybank School: Bessie Jones and Gertie Lloyd. Esther Jones, Penybank, wrote asking to be removed, and it was agreed that a reply be sent stating that her application would be considered in due course.

“Merthyr Express” 6 January 1900

Carmel Chapel A united singing festival was held at Carmel on Christmas Day. The singing at each of the three meetings was of a very high standard. The conductor was Mr John Jones, A.C., Fochriw, with Mrs. S. A. Jones, Miss M. A. Thomas and Miss Lilian Williams the accompanists. The president in the morning was Mr. G. Pugh, and in the afternoon Rev. L. P. Davies, when the solo "Ruth and Naomi," (Pencerdd Morganwg), was splendidly rendered by Miss E. Jones. The anthems, "Buddugoliaeth Calfari" and "Da was da" were also sung. Mr. T. Jenkins presided at the evening meeting. Misses Lewis and Davies opened the afternoon and evening respectively by reciting portions of scripture. It is gratifying to know that the first cymanfa has been so very successful.

“Merthyr Express” 27 January 1900

Gelligaer School Board Resignations were received and accepted from M. J. Prangley, assistant mistress at Fochriw, and also from R. Perkins, assistant mistress at Deri. It was agreed to advertise for successors.

“Merthyr Express” 3 February 1900

Sale! Sale! Sale! - Look out for W Morgan Davies' Great Sale of winter clothing, commencing next Saturday. Tremendous bargains in suits for boys, youths, and men. Overcoats and Macks at giving away prices. Come and see us at 115, High-street, Dowlais.

Presentation The Male Voice Party held a meeting on Thursday evening to make a presentation to its conductor, Mr. W. Walters, A.C., who is now retiring. The chair was occupied by Mr. David Cole. After a short speech by the chairman, songs were rendered by Messrs. S. Cole and D. Cole, whilst Mr. D. Evans recited "Ond." On behalf of the party, Mr. J. M. Jones, in a few well-chosen remarks, handed Mr. Walters a splendid silver albert with medal attached, and also a fine meerschaum pipe. Mr. Walters suitably responded. Messrs. Daniel Jenkins and A. Shankland also spoke. Mr. D. Evans, on behalf of the party, handed Mr. Davies, the secretary, a silver mounted fountain pen, for which Mr. Davis briefly returned thanks. Songs were rendered by Messrs. W. Cole, Joseph Shankland, J. Davies, T. Shankland, T. Jones, T. Llewelyn, Edward Jones, and John Evans. Mr. S. Cole played the accompaniments, and an enjoyable evening was brought to a close by the rendering of the "Sailors' Chorus."

“Merthyr Express” 12 May 1900

Ambulance We congratulate Dr. Eleazer Davies on the marked success which has attended his efforts in connection with the Ambulance class. Twenty eight students passed successfully through the examination at the end of the term. We hope to see a continuation of this class next winter.

Scripture Examination The result of the examination in connection with the Calvinistic Methodists of East Glamorgan has just come to hand, and in the senior division we find that Mr. Alfred Angell has obtained a first class, and Messrs. T. Roberts and John Pugh, a second. These were the only candidates in this division, and we hope next week to be able to give the list of the successes in the other divisions. The teacher was the Rev. D. Davies, Nazareth.

Presentation On Thursday evening, the members of the Calvinistic Methodist Chapel met at the Board School to acknowledge the services of their late secretary, Mr John Jones. The meeting having been opened by a solo from Miss Blodwen Angell, the chairman, the Rev. D. Davies, in the course of an able speech, referred to the invaluable service rendered by Mr. Jones, not only as secretary, but also as precentor. Mrs. D. Jones, the oldest member, was then called forward to present Mr. Jones with a beautiful illuminated address. Mr. Jones suitably responded, and mentioned a few amusing incidents that had occurred during his term of office. Speeches were then delivered by Messrs. T. Roberts, J. M. Jones, James Lawrence, J. Davies, and G. Pugh, all of whom paid a high tribute to the late secretary, and expressed a hope that his services as conductor would, for along time to come, be placed at their disposal.

“Merthyr Express” 9 June 1900

Coal Trade: The Dispute at Fochriw Owing to the prolongation of the dispute, and the absence of any visible signs of a settlement, the men employed at the No. 1 Pit, Fochriw, handed in notices on Friday, to cease work at the end of the present month.

“Merthyr Express” 21 July 1900

The Strike At Fochriw The prospect of any immediate settlement of the dispute between the No. 1 Pit, Fochriw, and the Dowlais Iron Company, appears to be very far removed, and negotiations are for the present at a deadlock. The men affected, who are all unionists, numbering about 150, have now been idle a fortnight, and received their first strike pay on Saturday at the Corner House Inn, Ivor-street, when of Messrs. Alfred Onions, Tredegar, and Thomas Richards, Beaufort, (the general treasurer and secretary respectively of the South Wales Miners' Federation), and Mr. John Davies, (the local miners' agent), attended to make the payment of the money. Some of the strikers have obtained employment in neighbouring collieries not affiliated to the South Wales and Monmouthshire Coalowners' Association

“Merthyr Express” 28 July 1900

Meeting of Dowlais District of Miners The monthly meeting of the Dowlais District of the South Wales Miners' Federation was held at the Clarence Hotel, Dowlais on Saturday. Mr. Rees Thomas, Fochriw, president, occupied the chair, and every Lodge was represented with the exception of the Pontlottyn section. The dispute at the No. 1 Pit Fochriw, was considered, and it was resolved to extend the fullest support of the district to the men on strike, a motion being carried that the whole of the people employed in the Dowlais Collieries be levied on their behalf. The change of badges was arranged for tomorrow (Saturday), and the inspection of membership cards to take place next week. A deputation presented a request that a lodge should be formed for pit surfacemen alone, but the meeting could not see its way clear to accede to the wishes of those concerned. It was decided, however, inasmuch as the proceedings of the various lodges are conducted in the vernacular, that an English-speaking lodge be established in the interest of those to whom Welsh is an alien tongue. In view of the relatively small membership that the Pontlottyn Lodge, and the difficulty of obtaining an acting secretary, a proposal that the existing members should be transferred to the Fochriw Lodge was agreed to. Mr. John Davies, C.C., (local miners' agent) reported upon district matters, and Mr. David Thomas, the secretary, stated that £30 have been received in payment of compensation for

accidents, and that the parents of Benjamin Paul, Dowlais Top, who was killed at Fochriw, had been paid £50 in settlement of their claim.

Federation Day at Dowlais: Demonstration of Colliery Workmen Monday was "Federation Day" in the Dowlais coalfield, and the huge demonstrations organised for the occasion was conspicuously successful. It had been ordained by the Executive Committee of the South Wales Miners' Federation, to which the district is affiliated, that Dowlais should join forces with the West Monmouthshire Valleys in the mass meeting at Brynmawr on Tuesday. The local leaders, however, preferred to ignore the decree of the higher authority, and decided to arrange, as last year, a demonstration "on their own." The town was gaily decorated in honour of the event, and almost every street was freely embellished with mottoes, flags, banners, and bunting of varied hues. The leading thoroughfares, High-street, Union-street, and North-street, to particularise, were one gorgeous blaze of colour. East-street, however, made the supreme coup d'etat with an imposing triumphal arch of evergreens and Union Jacks erected by Mr. D. H. Huggins, Clarence Hotel, treasurer of the Dowlais District of Miners. It was flanked on each side by a portrait of the late veteran miners' champion, Alderman David Morgan, Aberdare, and two hands clasped in friendship, signifying "Unity is strength." The whole was surmounted by the motto "Success to the South Wales Miners' Federation," which spanned the roadway. On the reverse side, was the same inscription in Welsh, and pictures in colour of a pithead and a miner working in his stall. The whole was admirably executed by Mr. Matt de Lacy, painter and decorator, North Street. Shortly after 10 o'clock, the Federationists, about 2,500 in number, all wearing the membership badge, assembled at their several lodge-rooms, and the Prince Llewelyn and Ifor Lodges, having proceeded to Caeharris, were joined by the contingents from Fochriw, Bedlinog, Pontlottyn, Pantywaun, Deri, and Caeharris. Forming into a procession, headed by the Dowlais Volunteer Band and the Deri Brass Band, a march around the town was entered upon, a waggonette containing Messrs. John Williams (miners' agent, Skewen, Neath), Wm. Hopkins (engineers' agent, Aberdare), John Davies (miners' agent, Dowlais), Rees Thomas (Vochriw, chairman of the Dowlais district), and David Thomas (secretary) leading the way. Parading High-street,, where the Britannia and Clarence Lodges, and the local branch of the Enginemen's, Stokers' and Surface Craftsmen's Association fell into line, and thence to the end of the New-road. Having met the Penydarren and Twynrhodyn sections, a return was made via Gellifaelog, Union-street, North-street, Francis-street, Victoria-street, and Station-road, the long detour finally concluding at the Central School-yard, where a mass meeting was held. Altogether, it is estimated that 2,500 miners participated in the procession, but only a comparatively small proportion remained to hear the addresses of the several speakers.

Mr. Rees Thomas, Fochriw, chairman of the Dowlais district of miners, presided, and opened the meeting by congratulating the miners upon the splendid show they had made at the second annual demonstration. The Federation was undoubtedly doing a grand work, and was ever increasing its sphere of influence and power. Much, however, remained to be accomplished, and it was only by securing full and perfect cohesion amongst the members could they hope to achieve great results (cheers). Speeches followed from Mr. John Williams, Neath, Mr. Wm. Johns, Hirwain, (in Welsh), and Mr. William Hopkins, Aberdare. The following resolution was then moved by Mr. Evan Evans, checkweigher, Fochriw, seconded by Mr. William Walters, Fochriw, and carried unanimously:

‘That this annual demonstration of the Dowlais district miners, learn with pleasure that the Federation is still increasing in membership and funds, and resolves to continue to promulgate the principles of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, by making every effort possible to secure the adoption of a Board of Conciliation with a minimum rate of wages for all colliery workmen. We desire to thank all the Members of Parliament who voted (and in other ways supported) the Miners' Eight Hours Bill from bank to bank, the Coal Mines' Regulation Amendment Bill, and again urge upon the government the necessity for these bills being passed into law. We also call upon the Government to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, by abolishing the contracting out clause, the inclusion of a minimum for disablement pay, the amendment of the words "in his employment," and provide compensation for first two weeks etc. We are also of the opinion that the Government should effectively deal with providing old age pensions. Further, we protest against any special rules for mines becoming operated without first consulting with the workmen thereon.’

Mr John Davies, Dowlais, speaking in Welsh, dealt with the strike at No. 1 Pit, Fochriw, and appealed for the moral and financial support of the district on behalf of their fellow workmen affected by the dispute. A fierce struggle with the employers was threatened, and it was incumbent upon them to render every possible aid to the men in order to gain a victory. It was agreed unanimously that the levy of 2 shillings per month per adult member be paid and one shilling per boy. A further decision was arrived at with reference to certain grievances existing at the Long Work Seam, No. 1 Pit, Fochriw, that the same measure of support would be extended if the occasion demands.

The question of the continuance of the Dowlais' Colliers Sick and Disablement Fund was considered, and it was resolved to continue on the present basis. A proposition regarding an Old Age Pension Scheme was ruled to be embodied in the resolution, and was not dealt with.

“Merthyr Express” 4 August 1900

Fatal Accident Near Fochriw Pits On Friday afternoon, an underground hostler, named Joseph Allen, 6, Broad-street, Dowlais, was blocked by some tracks just as he came up from No. 1 Pit, Fochriw, and died while on the way to Dowlais. An inquest was held at the Police Station, Dowlais, on Monday last by the coroner, Mr. R. J. Rhys, and Mr. White, one of the inspectors of mines, was also present. The deceased's son, William George Allen, said that his father was 46 years of age, and worked as a hostler at No. 1 Pit, Fochriw; he was quite active, and could see and hear well. John Jones, horse inspector under the Dowlais Iron Company, said that deceased was coming towards him, when he was blocked; this happened at between three and four o'clock on Friday afternoon. Deceased was talking to the witness with some trucks between them, and when they came to a gap between the tracks, Allen came into the gap and was blocked; there was a space of about one yard between the trucks where deceased was blocked. The witness got hold of Allen, and as the trucks slackened, he moved him to the side, and laid him on the ground until help came. The engine was about the length of eight trucks, where it was shunting, and was whistling now and again as it was doing its work. David Jones said that he was driving the "Kingfisher" that day, and was shunting some six wagons, and they were to be put into three roads; his engine was a distance of about 36 yards from where Allen was blocked; he had touched the whistle; the wagons were not pushed, they went of themselves after a touch was given them. He did not see anyone about, and he always touched the whistle

before moving. Mr. Howell Jones, deputy coal manager, swore to a plan of the spot that was produced, and explained how the accident happened, and his evidence was in accordance with the that of the previous witnesses. A verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned.

“Merthyr Express” 18 August 1900

Vochriw Dispute A meeting of the South Wales and Monmouthshire Joint Sliding-scale Committee was held in Cardiff, on Tuesday, Mr. Archibald Hood in the chair, and Mr. William Abraham (Mabon) M.P., in the vice-chair. It was reported that the committee had considered the subject of the continued strike of the men employed at the Dowlais Company's No. 1 Pit, Fochriw, the men having been on strike since July 1st. The arrangement arrived at the last meeting of the joint committee was that the men should resume work, on condition that the dispute would be investigated by Messrs. Foster Brown and William Abraham. It was, however, reported that, although the two representatives had been willing to make the inquiry into the dispute, the men had not resumed operations. The workmen's representatives intimated that they had, at their meeting on Monday, appointed two of their number to see the Fochriw men, and endeavour to bring about a resumption of work, and if they did so, the dispute would be investigated.

“Merthyr Express” 15 September 1900

Gelligaer and Rhigos Rural District Council: Finger-Post It was resolved that a finger-post be fixed at the crossroads at Pentwyn, Fochriw.

Commoners and their Rights The Clerk drew attention to a matter which came before the last Council meeting with regard to common lands at Fochriw, and the charges proposed to be made by the commoners for the laying of pipes by the the Council. The commoners wanted to be paid 30 shillings per chain. He had made inquiries, and found that in Mr. Lewis Evans's case they paid 30s. per chain. He advised the Council to accept these terms. The Surveyor said the ground required measured 56½ chains. The Clerk then said that with regard to the four acres of common land at Fochriw which the council required, the commoners asked for £30 an acre, the same price as they had charged the Rhymney Railway Company. The Clerk said that his answer was that the Council should refer the commoners to the Rhymney and Aber Valley Gas and Water Company. All the Council had to do was to sell that Company their interest in the tank. The Clerk's suggestion was accepted.

“Merthyr Express” 6 October 1900

Colliery Accident at Fochriw Pit An inquest was held at the Police Station, Dowlais, on Friday last, on the body of Thomas Bateman, Market-street, who was killed at No. 1 Pit, Fochriw, on the previous Wednesday morning. The identifying witness, Joseph Evans, brother-in-law, said that the deceased was 34 years of age, and that he was a foreman haulier. William Jones Angell, 26, Guest-street, Fochriw, collier, said that the accident took place about 8 o'clock in the morning, and that he was the first to get to the deceased. Witness was working at the top of the steep, when he heard a noise as if the trams were turning over, and the fall came immediately after. He went on at once and did what he could to get out the men. The man that was injured (Henry Thomas) was lying in the tram, which was not upset. Some timber was over him, and a big stone on top of that. The timber had saved him. The dead man, Thomas Bateman, was completely covered by the fall. They did not to get to his body for half an hour, nor to the injured man for an hour. John Davies said that the trams were derailed and the timber dislodged. Thomas John Wright of Pentwyn, haulier, said that he was not on the journey

with Bateman, but in the last going down the road previous to the accident. He was taking a horse down the road, which was all right then. He did not hear the fall, but heard a boy shout, and so went back, and fetched the colliers. Mr. Howell R. Jones, colliery manager, produced a plan of the workings, and said that he saw the fall within the hour, as did H.M. Inspector, who happened to be in pit on another matter at the time. The accident was in the west branch drift. Two trams were there at the time, and it was the first journey that morning. Henry Thomas and Thomas Bateman were in the last trams going up, and the trams were derailed in opposite directions. Henry Thomas was found in the last tram, and Bateman in the road. Spars of timbers and collar were down. In his opinion, the first tram knocked out the first timber, and the roof dislodged the other three. The timbers were good, and are good, though knocked out, and good enough to go back. He could not account for the trams going off the rails. Henry Thomas has no explanation to give of the accident, and he is much too injured to come to give evidence himself. It is quite usual for the two men to be in the last tram. The road is in the same condition today as when the accident happened, and coal is being carried over it all right every day since. A verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned.

The funeral, which took place on Saturday afternoon at Pant Cemetery, was an exceptionally large one. Besides a vast concourse of colliery workmen and the general public, the Dowlais Philharmonic Male Voice Society, of which deceased was a faithful member, attended in its full strength, and as a token of respect, each choralist wore an armlet of white ribbon.

“Merthyr Express” 20 October 1900

The Dispute at Vochriw Colliery An early settlement of the long-standing dispute of nearly three months duration at the Long Work Vein, Vochriw, is hoped for. Mr. Ben Davies, Pontypridd, visited the town on Saturday evening, and, as a result of the consultation with the men on strike, it is believed that they will shortly return to work, and allow the question to be dealt with by the joint arbitrators, Messrs. T. Foster Brown and W. Abraham, supported by the Sliding-scale Committee. It is on the distinct understanding that the miners first resume of their employment that the arbitrators will sit on the the matter.

Public Meeting: the Sanitary Condition of Fochriw and Pentwyn At a public meeting held in Fochriw Board School on of the 18th October, to consider the sanitary condition of the district, the following resolution was put to the meeting: "That the Gelligaer and Rhigos District Council be respectfully asked to bring about a thorough sanitary inspection of Fochriw and Pentwyn, which could be done by appointing an additional sanitary inspector, or otherwise. They respectfully remind the Council that since your inspector was appointed, the population of the parish has increased considerably, and the work falling upon the inspector may be so great that he cannot devote the necessary time for the proper inspection of each part of the parish. The meeting wishes to emphasise that they desire your Council at this time, to make a special effort to improve the sanitary condition of the district. Many families in the neighbourhood have already suffered severely from the Fever, and the feeling is very strong that the District Council should in earnest come to the inhabitants aid. They wish specially to call at the Council's attention to the dilapidated condition of the water closets at the back of Hill-row, Pentwyn.

“Merthyr Express” 17 November 1900

Vochriw Colliery Dispute At the meeting of the Joint Sliding-scale Committee held on Tuesday at Cardiff, it was reported that in compliance with a recommendation passed at a recent meeting of the Joint Committee, the four-foot workmen at the No. 1 Colliery Fochriw, who had previously been on strike, had resumed work, and agreed to refer the matters in dispute to the Joint Committee. That being so, Messrs. T. Foster Brown and William Abraham were disposed to inquire into the dispute.

Gelligaer and Rhigos District Council The above Council invite tenders for Providing and Fixing 50 Lineal Yards of 4-inch Kerb and Channel, 50 Lineal Yards of Pest and Tube Fencing, and about 80 Cubic Yards of Dry Stone Walling at Penybank, near Fochriw.

Also, tenders are invited for the Erection and Construction of a Mortuary and Coal-house at Penybank Fever Hospital. Plans and Specifications may be seen at the Council Offices, Hengoed.

“Merthyr Express” 1 December 1900

Railway Changes We are informed that Mr. Harris, the genial station-master at this place, has been transferred to Maesycwmmmer Station, and that Mr. W. W. Morgan, Pontlottyn, is appointed to Fochriw. Mr. Harris is an old resident of this place, and his familiar face at the station will be missed. We wish Mr. Harris every success in his appointment. We understand there is a movement afoot to recognise Mr. Harris's many faithful services.

Supper On Saturday evening, a supper in connection with the money club was held at the Rising Sun Inn, when Mr. Howell Thomas presided over a good attendance. Mrs. S. Morgan, the genial hostess, catered excellently, and all enjoyed themselves. After the cloth had been removed, a short programme was gone through, when songs etc. were rendered by Messrs. D. Williams, John Evans, W. Griffiths, John Davies, and D. Prosser, while Messrs. Howell Thomas and Thomas Evans delivered short addresses. The officers for next year are: President – Mr. Howell Thomas; secretary – Mr. John Evans; treasurer – Mr. D. J. Morgan. The next meeting will be held on December 22nd at the same place.

“Merthyr Express” 15 December 1900

Paris House, Dowlais Special Show this Week of Stylish Millinery, Furs, and Fancy Goods. Grand Selection of Cushions, Cosies, Curtains, etc., etc. Special Show of Children's Millinery and Costumes. Best Variety in Town of Children's Pinafores, suitable for Christmas Presents. All Goods Marked At Exceptionally Low Figures.

Soiree On December 6th at the Board School, a soiree was held, with the object of defraying expenses, in connection with obtaining an acetylene gas apparatus to supply the Fochriw Reading Room with light. The place of worship in the village is already supplied with such a light, which proves to be a brilliant light. The Reading Room Committee, and those who avail themselves of the reading room privileges, are much indebted to the following ladies for presiding at tables: Mrs. Jones, Station-terrace; Mrs. Phillips (nee S. A. Morgan); Mrs. Jones, 24 Guest-street; Misses Bevan, M. A. Thomas, Ballard, Payne, Elenor Davies, A. Evans, M. Jones, Williams, Mrs. Ballard, and Mrs. Thomas, Dynevor-street. The services of Mr. George Phillips, Mr. Harry Evans, Mr. James Williams, and Mr. M. Williams, were invaluable as usual, and last, but not least, the energetic chairman of the Reading Room Committee, Mr. Henry Williams, assisted by the other members of the Committee, worked in such a way as to make the affair a grand success.

“Merthyr Express” 29 December 1900

Presentation A presentation meeting took place at Noddfa Baptist chapel on Monday, 24th December, at 6:30p.m., in order to present Councillor T. Bevan and family with a handsome marble clock, on the occasion of their leaving the town. The chairman was the Rev. L. P. Davies, pastor, who pointed out the good qualities which had elicited this mark of affection between Councillor Bevan's family and the Church. The presentation was made by Mr. T. Evans, senior deacon, on behalf of the Church.

“Merthyr Express” 5 January 1901

Singing Cymanfa The second annual singing cymanfa was held at Carmel Chapel on Christmas Day. The conductor was Mr. Burkley Angell, the precentor of the chapel. At the morning meeting, Rev. L. P. Davies, Baptist minister, presided, and after several tunes were sung, an address was delivered by Mr. R. D. Jenkins, Brecon College. The afternoon meeting was commenced by singing Gwalia (I). This was followed by Miss M. Davies reciting a Psalm, and a prayer offered by Mr. G. Pugh. The president was Mr. John Jones. A solo, "Y Bugail Da," was given by Miss E. Jones, and the anthem "Duw sydd Noddfa" (Pencerdd Morganwg) was rendered. The speakers for the occasion, Messrs William Walters, A.C., and Thomas Jenkins, discoursed briefly on "The Progress of Tonic-Sol-fa Notation." Rev. Jas. Jones, Independent minister, presided at the evening meeting. The hymn "O fryniau Caersalem" having been sung to the tune "Crugybar," Miss C. Lewis recited a chapter from the Scriptures, and was followed by a prayer from Mr. R. D. Jenkins. A solo was effectively given by Miss E. Jones, whilst Messrs. Evans, Cole and Pugh also spoke. The accompanists were Mrs. S. A. Jones, Miss M. A. Thomas, and Miss Lilian Williams, who acquitted themselves well. The singing throughout was of a high standard, and the three denominations heartily joined in thanking Mr. Angell for his valuable services during the year.

Soiree A soiree was held on Monday evening, December 31st, 1900, under the auspices of the Noddfa Baptist chapel. The tables were presided over by Mrs. Captain Edwards, Mrs. Catherine M. Jones, Mrs. Daniel Evans, Miss Anne Thomas, Mrs. H. Williams, Miss Bevan, and Miss M. Williams. There were also numerous other friends in attendance. Mrs. W. G. Davies effectively sang "Yr Hogyn Drwg," and Miss Lizzie Jones "The Bonny Bonny Banks o' Loch Lomond," with Miss Lilian Williams accompanying. The soiree was a success in every respect, and after all had partaken of supper, the advent of the new century was awaited.

“Merthyr Express” 19 January 1901

Shocking Accidents At Fochriw Pits During the past week, very painful accidents have taken place at pits belonging to Guest, Keen and Company, three men being killed and two injured. At the White Horse Inn, Merthyr, on Friday morning, an inquest was held touching the death of Elias Evans, aged 20, of Twynyrodyn, assistant engine-driver, who was killed at No. 1 Pit Vochriw, the previous day, by being drawn into the coils of a rope around a drum. Mr. Adams, assistant inspector of mines, Mr. Hopkins, on behalf of the Enginemen's Association, Mr. Howell Jones, manager of the pit, and Mr. Loveband, engineer, were all present. The deceased's father identified the body.

John Lumley, haulier at the pit, said he found Evans on the drum tangled up in the wire rope. His left hand was on the drum, under the ropes, and his stomach was against the drum, and his head at the side of it. A spanner was on the ground near him. The crab engine had only been working about 24 minutes, and then he heard the deceased groaning. There were about 15 to 20, coils on the drum when the engine was stopped. Samuel Hill, the engine driver, said he used a spanner, and so did the deceased, to guide the first two or three coils of the rope on the drum in proper order, and then the rope went round all right. The spanner was about 18 inches long. He had not noticed the rope was jagged, so that deceased's clothes would become entangled. The drum was quite low, so that the deceased did not have to reach over the drum to guide the rope. Mr. Loveband, mechanical engineer, said the spanner was as good as anything to guide the rope; he could not think of anything better. He produced a plan of the site of the accident. Mr Howell Jones said the ropes travelled at the rate of about three miles an hour. Samuel Hill, recalled, said he always touched the slack rope with his hands; he was bound to do so. Mr. Loveband said he could not explain this; it was very unwise to use the hand when the drum was in motion. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death," and added a rider that a better means should be adopted for guiding the rope on the drum.

Another sad and serious accident took place about noon on Saturday at No. 2, or Rhas Las Pit, belonging to Messrs. Guest, Keen and Co. Limited, whereby two men lost their lives, and two of their fellows were badly injured. Reports of the mishap reached Dowlais in the course of an hour or so, and the news was quickly noised abroad. The nature and full extent of the accident were, however, not known at the outset, and the necessarily scanty details to hand were grossly exaggerated, so that the wildest rumours gained currency, and the affair became magnified into a bigger colliery disaster. At Fochriw itself, the affrighted inhabitants, fearful of the worst, flocked to the pithead, which lies within a stone's throw of the village, whilst in Dowlais, a perfect ferment of excitement prevailed, and large numbers of people made their way to Caeharris station, where the colliery workmen detrain, to ascertain the truth. More assuring information was, however, received, and served to allay the distracted feelings of the many.

Briefly the facts are these. Owing to the fatality earlier in the week to the winding engine-man, Elias Evans, his comrades, in order to attend the funeral on Saturday afternoon, worked only a short day, ceasing employment at 12 instead of 2 o'clock. Just about noon, the journey of 12 loaded trams of coal - the last of the day - was being drawn up the 9-ft incline. Suddenly, after proceeding a distance of about 100 yards, the last nine trams became disconnected, and made a wild run back for some 30 or 40 yards, finally crashing into several workmen who were making their way up the drift towards the shaft. A harrowing scene of indescribable disorder prevailed. Help was speedily forthcoming, and after the elapse of considerable time, and with extreme difficulty, the workmen were at last extricated from the avalanche of coal and debris. One unfortunate fellow, James Hugh Jones, collier, Pantscallog, Dowlais, was found to have been killed outright. He was 32 years of age, married, but had no children. Thomas Lewis, a haulier, a youth of 17, living with his parents at 15, Ivor-street, was shockingly crushed about the lower part of the body, and he died shortly after being conveyed home, Dr. Stuart Cresswell being in attendance at the time. Two other workmen, Thomas Bassington, collier, Deri, and Thomas Morris, roadman, aged 29, Penydarren, also suffered serious injuries and shock, the latter sustaining an

ugly lacerated wound on the cheek, and one of his ears was almost torn off. They are, however, making favourable progress under the care of Dr. Davies (Fochriw), and Dr. Murison (Penydarren). Meanwhile, Mr. Henry W. Martin, the general manager of collieries, Mr. Howell Jones, deputy manager, and other officials, reached the spot by special train from Dowlais, and gave every possible assistance. Shortly afterwards, the dead and injured were conveyed to their respective homes, the arrival of the train at Caeharris station being awaited by an immense gathering of people.

The inquest upon the bodies of two men, James Hugh Jones, and Thomas Lewis, was held on Tuesday morning at the Police Station, Dowlais. Mr. Thomas Jones, grocer, Church-street, was the foreman of the jury. Mr. T. Adams, assistant inspector of mines was present, also, Mr. Howell Jones, deputy colliery manager, Mr. J. Vaughan, chief mechanical engineer, and Mr. John Davies, miners' agent.

After evidence of identification, Thomas Morgan, rider in the No. 4 Drift of Fochriw No. 2 Pit, deposed that he was not on the journey that broke, and neither did he see the parting. He arranged with Elias Davies yesterday to take charge of the journey of trams which broke loose. He did not see the journey starting, but he saw the nine trucks which parted after they had come down. He helped to pick up Jones, who was dead, and he saw Lewis, and the other injured men. There were three horses killed. The drift was the ordinary travelling road for the men to go along, and it was well supplied with manholes. Twelve trams constituted the regular load. The shackles and pins coupling the third and fourth trams were produced, and the witness stated that they were found on the tram that broke away. In answer to questions from Mr. Adams, witness said he had been a rider for eight years. A crab brought the trams up to the No. 3 level, and the big engine up to the No. 4. He had never had any trouble with the engine giving the rope a sudden pull.

Edwin Davies, assistant haulier and shackler at the bottom of the number of No. 4 Drift, said he shackled five trams of the journey. There were two coal trams in front, a tub, and then two more coal trams behind the tub. One of the two hauliers, William Evans and David Williams, must have shackled the tub to the tram behind it, but he could not say which. John Morgan went with the trams for about 300 yards, and then Elias Davies would take charge of them. William Evans brought out two trams to one of which the tub was shackled, and David Williams brought out the other two in front. It was the practice for the haulier who drove out from the face-level, and it was his trams which were behind the tub.

Mr. Howell Jones explained the plans of the workings of the pit, and said that the gradient of the drift was about three inches in the yard. The average width of the road was about 6 ft, and there were manholes at regular distances, as required by the Act of Parliament. The journey proceeded about 90 yards, and ran back a distance of 40 yards.

Elias Davies, assistant foreman haulier, said he was looking after the three horses which drew coal to the parting. He hitched the journey from the No. 4 Drift to the journey that came from the No. 3. He fetched seven trams on to the five for the big rope. He rode on the journey, between the second tram and the tub, at the request of Morgan, it being his practice to ride the drift when the rider was absent. He noticed all the shackles of the journey before starting with his safety lamp. He put his lamp between each tram so as to have light to see the hitching. He was able to say that the shackles of the first five trams were all right. He heard

the pin on the other side of the tub click, and then he knew something was wrong. When the journey separated he went flying with the other three trams. In reply to Mr. John Davies, witness said he did not notice how far the man found dead was from a manhole. Mr. Adams also questioned the witness on the point, and Mr. Howell Jones said that the deceased was found exactly opposite a manhole.

Edwin Davies, recalled, said that as the five trams went by him, he examined them with his lamp, and saw nothing the matter. He took the shackles produced off the tram that ran back. He could not say which was attached to the tub, and which to the tram.

Thomas Hughes said he worked in the fair level. On Saturday, he was on his way out, and saw Elias Davies on the crossing, waiting for the horses to clear. He stood there for some time, because he did not want to go in front of the journey. Elias Davies hitched the rope to the full journey, and told witness to keep far enough back as he did not care much for the tub. When the trams ran back, witness was by the crab. Some men and three horses got in front of him. He did not tell any of these men about the journey having gone on.

Elias Davies, recalled, said the reason why he told Hughes he did not care much about the tub was because the bottom plate was not so strong as the bottom plate of the trams.

David Davies, haulier, who was so deaf he had to be shouted at, causing the Coroner to suggest that he should not be employed underground, said his horse was the last of the three killed. He followed behind his horse, but he did not know how many men were in front of him, but he knew there were several behind. When the trams came back he got into a manhole.

Mr. Vaughan said the shackles produced were home-made, of best selected scrap iron, all forged solid, of the very best material that can be put in them. The style of coupling was certainly the safest that could be adopted, and the one which was most generally used. There was no difference between the height of the hitching plate of the tub and the hitching plate of the trams. If the pin, which was now bent, was passed down through the upper eye of the shackle and through the eye in the hitching plate, and then only partly into the lower eye, then with any extra strain it would gradually come up with a pull, and the effect would be to twist the top part of it upwards. If it were attached to the tub, it would not have so far to go as if attached to a tram, because the tub had a thinner hitching plate. The bend must have been caused by the trams parting.

The Coroner then proceeded to review the evidence, and pointed out that, if the men were to be believed, and they had no reason to doubt their evidence, the shackling had been twice examined, and if that were so, neither of them had noticed anything wrong. Mr. Vaughan had declared the material used in the shackles to be of the best, and the particular design to be the best he knew of, and the most generally adopted. The mischief, according to Mr. Vaughan's theory, was that the pin had not been sent right home into the eye of the jaw of the shackle. The jury, after a short consultation in private, returned a verdict of "Accidental Death," finding that there was no blame to be attached to anybody.

Funeral The interment of the deceased men, James Hugh Jones and Thomas Lewis, took place on Thursday afternoon at Pant Cemetery. There was an exceptionally large attendance, the men employed at the Vochriw pits, which were idle for the day, being present almost en masse. Before proceeding to the cemetery, both corteges joined to form one huge procession, which was of an imposing and impressive character.

“Merthyr Express” 9 February 1901

Fatal Colliery Accident At Fochriw The inquest on the body of John Swancott of Dowlais, killed at No. 2 Pit Fochriw, on Wednesday night of last week, was held at the Police Station, Dowlais, on Friday afternoon last, by Mr. Coroner Rhys. Mr. Howell Jones, deputy colliery manager, and Mr. John Davies, miners' agent, were also present. Benjamin Swancott, brother to the deceased, said that his brother was 31 years old, and worked as a repairer at No. 2 Pit. He had worked underground for about 12 years. He was married and had two children.

Richard Jones, aged 17, labourer and waller, said he worked as a shackler sometimes. He was shackling all-day Wednesday at the double parting. At quarter to five in the afternoon, he had shackled the last journey of 10 trams of coal, and left the journey at the parting called the "Bottom parting." He was confident that he had shackled each tram properly, and put his hand on each pin to see that it was through. Evan Jones, aged 18, night driver, said that he saw the journey of trams going up the parting during the night, when he was bringing up another lot of trams; Swancott was riding a journey. The journey came back about five yards, and his light went out. He was going to get a light when he found he could not go as the trams were upset on the road, and he then went and told the night firemen, William White; the trams parted between the first and second tram.

David Coles, mason, was working at this pit on the drift, but there was no room and for him to do his work and tail of this journey was clear. He was the first who saw Swancott; who was lying in the middle of the road quite dead, and the tram was on top of him.

Watkin Williams, the driver of the hauling engine that works the bottom drifts, said he had the signal to haul the first journey about 11 o'clock. He found that there was something wrong with the journey after hauling it about 400 yards, and then he stopped immediately. Only one tram came up on a rope and nine ran back.

Mr. Howell Jones, deputy colliery manager, produced a plan. In reply to Mr. John Davies, he said that there was a distance of 11 inches between the bottom of the shackle and the road. The shackler had been shackling for two years, and had shackled at the pit top before that. The shackle was identical to the one produced at the last inquest on the men killed at the same pit, and was as perfect a shackle as could be used. The Coroner remarked that this kind of shackle is the one in general use in the South Wales Collieries. Mr. John Davies asked Mr. Jones if he did not think it possible for the bottom of the pin to touch the rollers on which the rope worked, and Mr. Jones said it could not, as there was plenty of space between. In reply to the coroner, Mr. Jones said that the trams had travelled 350 yards before they parted, and he could not account for their having parted in any way. The road rises all the way and the gradient is 3 to 3½ inches to the yard.

The Coroner in summing up, said that this accident seemed to him almost identically the same as the previous one that had happened about two or three weeks ago, and it was most difficult to find out what caused it. The shackle seemed all right, but it would be a good thing if a shackle could be devised that would be safer, but, nonetheless, it was the kind that was used all about this neighbourhood. The jury, after deliberating in private, returned a verdict of "Accidental Death," and that no blame could be attached to anyone.

The funeral of the deceased took place on Monday at Pant Cemetery, and there was a large attendance of fellow workmen and friends.

“Merthyr Express” 23 February 1901

PARIS HOUSE, DOWLAIS - Winter Sale now on! Great Reductions! Scores of Bargains! Children's Costumes, Ladies' Felt Hats, etc. To be cleared regardless of cost.

J. S. DAVIES & CO. - Great half-yearly sale of Remnants and Oddments now on - 118, 172, 173 High-street, Dowlais.

Presentation On Saturday evening at the Board Schools, a testimonial was presented to Mr. John Harris, late stationmaster at Fochriw, who has been transferred to a similar position at Maesycwmmmer. The large and representative gathering bore ample testimony to the popularity, respect and esteem which the recipient enjoyed during his 34 years of residence at Fochriw. Dr. Eleazer Davies, Ivor House, presided, and said that Mr. Harris had lived at Fochriw for over a third of a century, and had seen the village in every aspect of joy and sorrow which life brings. At all times he was a genial, courteous neighbour and friend. He was a capable musician, and had acted as a precentor of Congregational singing, and conductor of choral singing, and as the local correspondent of the school managers had rendered valuable public service. Mr. H. Williams, on behalf of the subscribers, then presented Mr. Harris with a pair of gold-rimmed spectacles in a handsome solid silver case suitably inscribed. Mr. Thomas Mantle presented an ivory handled, gold-mounted, ebony walking stick, also inscribed. Mr. Charles Payne next presented a purse of gold. Each gentleman accompanied the gift with a few appropriate remarks. Mr. Harris thanked them all from the depth of his heart for these handsome proofs of their kindness. Mr. T. Evans, the Rev. J. Jones, and the Rev. D. W. Davies also spoke. With a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman, the proceedings were brought to a close. The Rev. D. W. Davies acted as chairman, Mr. J. Powell as secretary, and Mr. H. Williams as treasurer of the movement.

“Merthyr Express” 30 March 1901

Gelligaer and Rhigos District Council The polling took place on Monday, and the votes were counted at the Merthyr Workhouse on Tuesday. Result: Fochriw Ward: Elected: J. Jones, grocer, 251; George Uzzell, miner, 153. Not elected: W. Williams, stationer, 122.

“Merthyr Express” 13 April 1901

VOCHRIW: SALE OF LEASEHOLD DWELLING HOUSES AND PREMISES
Mr. G. Alec Lewis has been instructed to offer for sale by Public Auction at The White Horse Inn, Fochriw, on Wednesday, 24th April, 1901, at 7:30pm, the following Properties:

Lot 1 - All those two leasehold dwelling houses and premises, being Nos. 1 & 2, Davies-row, Vochriw, let to monthly tenants at rentals amounting yearly to £15-12s.

Lot 2 - All those two leasehold dwelling houses and premises, being Nos. 3 & 4, Davies-row, Vochriw, let to monthly tenants at rentals amounting yearly to £16-5s.

Lot 3 - All those two leasehold dwelling houses and premises, being Nos. 7 & 8, Davies-row, Vochriw, let to monthly tenants at rentals amounting yearly to £13.

The whole of the above properties are held under a lease for a term of 99 years from the 1st day of May, 1868, at an apportioned yearly ground rent of £1-14-10, which will be apportioned at the sale. The ground plan of the above property has may be seen at the White Horse Inn 14 days before the day of the sale. For further particulars apply to the auctioneer, Market-square Chambers, Merthyr.

Presentation A very interesting presentation took place at other Fochriw Board School on Thursday evening last, when Mr. John Powell was presented, and on the occasion of his marriage, with a silver-plated tea service by the Fochriw Mining Class. The present was given in recognition of services rendered to the class during the past few months. Mr. John Powell has supplied a long-felt want in Fochriw, as it has been known for years that only a teacher was wanting to make a good class, many intending students walking as far as Bedlinog and Pontlottyn on week nights, after finishing their days work, to attend classes in mining. One very interesting feature of the presentation was the taking of a flash-light photograph of the class by one of the members, who is an amateur photographer.

“Merthyr Express” 4 May 1901

Cantata A successful performance of the cantata "The Musical Village," was given on Saturday, 27th March, by the Noddfa Baptist choir, conducted in an able manner by Mr. Samuel Evans, Martin's-street. The work of Mr. Evans was greatly facilitated by the efficient manner in which the stage-manager conducted the movements. The performance was highly successful, and mention should be made of the fine rendering of two solos sung by Miss Lizzie Jones. The accompanist was Miss Lilian Williams.

“Merthyr Express” 1 June 1901

Census 1901: Fochriw Inhabited houses: 522 Tenements of less than five rooms: 353 Males: 1,399 Females: 1,249 Total: 2,648

“Merthyr Express” 22 June 1901

Death: Mr. D. J. Morgan, Rising Sun Inn, aged 32 On Tuesday the death took place of Mr. D. J. Morgan, son of the Mrs. Morgan, Rising Sun Inn, at the age of 32 years. Although the deceased had been in very indifferent health for a long time, his death came as a surprise. He was well-known and respected by all. The funeral took place on Friday afternoon at the Graig Cemetery. It was attended by a large number of people. The Rev. T. Rees, the vicar, officiated, while the burial service of the Royal and Ancient Order of Buffaloes was read by Brother Jones, Tirphil. A coffin of polished oak, with brass fittings, was covered with floral tributes. In addition to flowers sent by relatives, was a wreath in the form of an anchor, sent by his old friend Captain Swidenbank, formerly of Pontlottyn. We tender our sincere sympathy with the sorrowing mother, Messrs. W. A. Morgan and M. Morgan, Picton Hotel, and T. Morgan, Newport, (brothers); Mrs. A. G. Cook, Black Furnace Hotel, and Mrs. W. D. Phillips, (sisters).

Alleged Outrage on a Girl at Fochriw Richard Hill, Troedyrhiw, was committed for trial at the Assizes on a charge of outraging Annie Powell, aged 16, living at 15, Guest-street, Fochriw on Sunday afternoon.

“Merthyr Express” 29 June 1901

To Builders: 44 New Houses at Fochriw Tenders are invited for building 44 houses at Fochriw, for the Fochriw Building Club. Plans and specifications can be seen with the Rev. L. P. Davies, Fochriw, to whom sealed and endorsed tenders are to be sent not later than July 8th, 1901. The lowest or any tender not necessarily excepted. T. Roderick, Architect, Aberdare and Merthyr.

“Merthyr Express” 20 July 1901

Cricket: Pontlottyn v Fochriw Played on the Gwrhyd on Saturday. Scores: Pontlottyn 33, Fochriw 49.

“Merthyr Express” 27 July 1901

Three Colliers Burnt At Fochriw Just about noon on Saturday, three colliers employed at the No. 1 Pit, Fochriw, were badly burned in consequence of a "blower" of gas firing whilst they were at work. A married man by the name of Edward Moore, living at Deri, was the greatest sufferer, and he was removed to the Merthyr and Dowlais General Hospital for treatment. Another man, Thomas Griffiths, married, residing at the back of the Clarence Hotel, Dowlais, was taken home; as also was the third, a youth living at Deri. A rumour was current that Moore had succumbed to his injuries, but it is reported that he and his fellow sufferers are now out of danger, and making satisfactory progress towards recovery. Naked lights are used in the colliery.

"Merthyr Express" 3 August 1901

Fochriw Pit Explosion On Saturday, at the Merthyr General Hospital, Mr. R. J. Rhys held an inquest on the body of Edward Moore, collier, who died on Thursday from burns sustained on the previous Saturday at the Fochriw Pit. Mr. Dyer Lewis, assistant inspector of mines, was present, as were Mr. Stuart Martin, and Mr. Jones, the manager of the pit, who both represented the Company. Mr. John Davies, miners' agent, was also in attendance. The evidence showed that the deceased and a lad, named Mansbridge, were working together, and that when a haulier, named Griffiths, came into their stall to take away a tram, an explosion occurred, by which all three were burned, the deceased being the most severely injured. Naked lights were being used with permission. The presence of a very slight quantity of gas had been noticed in the roof of the deceased's working place previously, but not on the morning of the explosion, and the presumption was that the gas there lurking became ignited owing to some unaccountable disturbance in a current of air. The jury came to the conclusion that the explosion was purely accidental, and that there was no blame to be attached to anybody, and they returned a verdict accordingly.

"Merthyr Express" 10 August 1901

Tea Party On Thursday, a successful tea party in connection with the Fochriw Mission Church Sunday School was held. Before the tea, a short service took place in the Church, conducted by the Rev. D. W. Davies, curate-in-charge. The Fochriw Brass Band attended. The tables were presided over by Mrs. J. H. Jones, Mrs. W. D. Phillips, Mrs. Wellings, Misses Williams, Jones, and Payne. The following rendered assistance: Misses M. M. Jones, Payne, S. A. Davies, Williams, J. Payne, Messrs. W. Payne, T. Baldwin, W. Lewis and H. Edgar. The Rev. Davies was ably assisted by a strong committee, over which Mr. J. H. Jones (manager) presided.

"Merthyr Express" 24 August 1901

Accident to a Polish Jew at Fochriw Pit A Polish Jew who works at the pit bank of Fochriw No. 1 Pit, was shifting a tram on the pit top on Tuesday last, when he was knocked down and the tram went over him. Fortunately, he was only badly bruised, and was taken to the Merthyr Hospital on the GWR Ambulance car.

"Merthyr Express" 12 October 1901

Vochriw Farm, Vochriw Situate within a few minutes walk of the Fochriw Station, on the Brecon and Merthyr Railway, and about one mile from Pontlottyn Station on the Rhymney Railway, and Cwmbargoed Station, on the Great Western Railway.

HIGHLY THE IMPORTANT SALE OF 280 Sheep, 12 Cattle, 6 Horses, Crops, Implements, etc.

SHEEP: 160 Breeding Ewes, 46 Fat Wethers, 70 Ewe and Wether Lambs, 4 Rams.

CATTLE: 6 Two-year old Heifers in Calf, 1 Calf, 1 Yearling Heifer, 1 Pure-bred Yearling Shorthorn Bull, 2 Yearling Hereford Bulls, 1 Cow in Calf, to calve in April.

HORSES: 2 Two-year old Cob Fillies, 3 Two-year old Ponies in Foal, 1 Yearling Cob Colt.

IMPLEMENTS: 1 Tedding Machine, Pleasure Trap, 2 Sheep Racks, equal to new.

CROPS: About 25 tons Prime Meadow Hay, well harvested, to be sold in two lots.

Purchasrs can have for one month's keep from the day of sale at their own risk.

Messrs. Henry Lewis & Son, have received instructions from Mr. Thomas Llewellyn to sell by PUBLIC AUCTION, at the above named place, on Monday, 14th October, 1901. Terms Cash. Luncheon on the table at 11:00am. Sale to commence at 12.30 prompt. Auctioneer's Office, Gellihir, Nelson, Glamorgan.

“Merthyr Express” 7 December 1901

Operetta The operetta "The Flowers of the Forest," was performed at the schools in full character on Friday and Saturday evenings by the Fochriw Juvenile Choir, under the conductorship of Mr. W. J. Angell. The event had been eagerly anticipated, and the performances exceeded the most sanguine expectations. A fine orchestra was engaged, and was composed of the following: pianist, Miss Lilian Williams; organist, Mr. R. Jones; violinists, Miss Evans, Messrs. W. J. Barry, L Evans (Dowlais), and D. R. Williams; piccoloist, Mr. E. Evans, Dowlais. Mr. H. Williams was stage manager. A feature of the proceedings was the magnificent rendering of the various choruses by the children, who gave ample proof of careful training by the conductor, as well as assiduous attention on their own part. The main artistes were: Mr. Tom Llewelyn, Master James Jones, Miss Blodwen Angell, Miss Laurie Angell, Miss May Angell, Miss E. M. Sibley, Master Freddie Williams, Master Willie Angell, Master Rees Jones, Mr. Theo Shankland, Master William Evans, Master Rod Jones, Master Tom Walters, Master W. J. Angell, Master Aneurin Jenkins, Miss S. A. Evans, Miss J. A. Jenkins, Miss Mary Thomas, Miss A. M. Thomas, Miss Lucy Davies, Master D. J. Thomas. The building was crowded each evening, and an extra production was given on Monday evening, when an equally successful performance was done. We heartily congratulate the conductor on the great success which has crowned his efforts, and trust that the treat we have enjoyed will be extended to the neighbouring villages. The proceeds were devoted to the local library.