

“Merthyr Express” 4 January 1902

Fochriw Mining Class: Social A pleasant evening was spent by the members of the Fochriw Mining Class at the Board School on Monday week, each member bringing two friends. Invitations were also given to the Ambulance Club. Mr. J. Prichard was the secretary, and made all of the arrangements. The class wishes to thank Mrs. J. H. Jones, Miss Williams and others, for the kind way they assisted at tables, also Mr. Payne for looking after the fires. Great credit is due to Mr. John Powell, the teacher, for the way in which he has persevered with the class. He has already been paid the compliment of having the most successful mining class in the district.

Singing Festival The third annual United Singing Festival was held at Carmel Chapel on Christmas Day. The precentor of Noddfa Chapel, Mr. Thomas Evans, was the conductor, whilst Mrs. Davies, Mrs. Jones and Miss Williams accompanied. Rev. James Jones (Independent) presided in the morning. At the afternoon meeting, the Rev. L. P. Davies (Baptist) presided. Miss Martha Davies opened the service, and Mr. J. O. Evans followed with prayer. During the interval, Mr. E. Evans gave a short address. The president at the evening meeting was Mr. John Davies (Calvinistic Methodist), and Dr. Davies, the Rev. L. P. Davies, and Mrs Griffith Pugh spoke. The meeting was opened by Miss C. Lewis. Pencerdd Morganwg conducted "Paradwys," a tune of his own composition. Mention was made of the departure from the district of Mrs. Davies, one of the accompanists.

“Merthyr Express” 11 January 1902

Pit Accident at Fochriw On Thursday last, the cage fell to the bottom of No. 1 Pit, a distance of 400-500 feet. Fortunately there were no casualties. The colliers left by the No. 2 shaft. There was no work at No. 1 Pit for a few days.

“Merthyr Express” 25 January 1902

Rugby: Bargoed v Fochriw Fochriw were winners by 3 goals (1 dropped) and 2 tries to nil.

Sale of Houses: Nos. 1, 2, and 3 Hill-terrace, Pentwyn At the Mount Pleasant Inn on January 30th, Nos. 1, 2, & 3 Hill-terrace, Pentwyn, now in the possession of Mrs. Margaret Lewis and others at the yearly rental of £27-6s. The above are held under a lease of 99 years from the 1st May, 1858, at an annual ground rent of £2.

Gelligaer and Rhigos District Council: Fochriw Sewerage At the meeting of the above Council on the 16th January, the tender of Messrs Felix Davies & Co., Bargoed, of £861-6s, for the Fochriw sewerage, was accepted.

“Merthyr Express” 1 February 1902

Colliery Doctor A meeting was held at Fochriw Colliery concerning new arrangements for engaging and paying a Doctor.

Companies Amalgamate At the meeting in Birmingham last Monday, Messrs. Guest, Keen & Co. amalgamated with Messrs. Nettlefolds Ltd.

“Merthyr Express” 8 February 1902

Schoolboy Killed On a Wednesday afternoon, at 5p.m., Thomas Walter Wood, aged 10 years, was returning from Fochriw Board School to Nantyffin Cottages, Cwmbargoed, when he was killed by a Rhymney Railway train of empty wagons.

“Merthyr Express” 22 February 1902

Rugby: Fochriw Stars v Bargoed Stars Fochriw lost their unbeaten record by 1 goal to 1 try.

“Merthyr Express” 15 March 1902

Soldiers Return: (Recorded under Dowlais) Local members of the 3rd Militia Battalion of the Welch Regiment have returned home.

“Merthyr Express” 29 March 1902

Rugby: Rhymney v Fochriw The match ended in a draw each team scoring one try.

Rugby: Fochriw v Pengam The visitors were victorious by one try to nil.

Soldiers Return from the South African War: (Recorded under Rhymney)

“Merthyr Express” 5 April 1902

Rugby: Fochriw v Cefn The scores were 1 try versus 1 penalty goal.

“Merthyr Express” 12 April 1902

Scarcity of Water at Pentwyn The inhabitants of Pentwyn met at the White Horse Inn to discuss the scarcity of water in the place. Mr. W. Wright was appointed chairman, and Messrs. E. M. Davies and E. Cumpstone, secretaries. A request was made to the Council to attend to the matter urgently.

“Merthyr Express” 3 May 1902

Annual Dinner The Fochriw Football Club held their annual dinner at the Rising Sun Inn on Thursday last.

Colliery Death Mr. Wm. Kinhane of Penydarren was killed at the No. 2 Pit, Fochriw, on the 17th April.

“Merthyr Express” 10 May 1902

Rising Sun Inn: Mrs Ann Morgan Leaves After 43 Years On Wednesday, Mrs. Ann Morgan handed the licence of the Rising Sun Inn to her son Mr. Thomas Morgan, having a record of 43 years in the same house. Mrs. Morgan, with her and late husband, took possession of the house on May 1st, 1859. The Morgans are a well respected family. As well as the new licensee, the following were born at the house:

Messrs. W. A. Morgan and Morgan Morgan of the General Picton, Pontlloftyn, Mrs. A. G. Cook of the Blast Furnace, Pontlloftyn, and Mrs. W. Phillips, who will go Pontlloftyn with her mother. Mrs. Phillips' husband is the respected son of Mr. Isaac Phillips, grocer.

“Merthyr Express” 24 May 1902

Eisteddfod Success On Whit Monday, at the Rhymney Eisteddfod, Mr. Theophilus Shankland of Fochriw was the winner of the baritone solo.

“Merthyr Express” 7 June 1902

Explosion at No. 2 Pit: Eight Dowlais Men Die In the early hours of Wednesday last, there was an explosion at No. 2 Pit, Fochriw. The pit was sunk in 1860 to a depth of 420 yards. The accident happened in the east side of the west district in the Rhaslas. Eight Dowlais men were killed. They were: Robert Thomas Hughes, aged 18, single; Owen H. Williams, aged 48, married and with one child; Evan J. Cheek, aged 24, married with one child; William Jones, aged 30 married with one child; William Eustace, aged 19, single; William Strange, aged 17, single; David Evans, aged 17, single; Edward Williams, aged 38, married. The first two named are North Walians.

End of Boer War Peace was declared at 11.15p.m. Peace was declared in Pretoria at 10.15 on 31st May. The news became known on Sunday afternoon.

Wales and the Boer War Of 300,000 British Soldiers, there were five battalions of Welsh regiments of the line, namely: the Royal Welch Fusiliers; the 1st Welsh Regiment; the 2nd South Wales Borderers; the 3rd Welsh (Militia); the 3rd South Wales Borderers (Militia). In addition there were several Volunteer Service Companies and Yeomen Detachments.

“Merthyr Express” 14 June 1902

The Fochriw Explosion An inquest has been the held on the bodies of the men killed in the recent explosion. The funerals have also taken place.

“Merthyr Express” 28 June 1902

Cricket: Fochriw v Rhymney The Fochriw team was as follows: D. L. Jones, D. Jones, T. J. Thomas, D. Lewis, E. Jones, D. Evans, W. Taswell, J. Williams, F. Wootten, C. Perry, J. M. Jones. Bowler Thomas took four wickets, and E. Jones three wickets. Fochriw won by two runs.

King's Illness: Postponement of the Coronation The coronation of the new king, Edward VII, has been postponed owing to the king's illness, and will now take place on August 9th, 1902.

“Merthyr Express” 5 July 1902

Mining Examination Results Mr. William Thomas and Mr. J. Richards were both successful in the recent Mining examinations being placed in the second class. Their teacher is Mr. John Powell.

Coronation Festivities at Fochriw Despite the postponement of the Coronation, coronation festivities went ahead in the village. On Thursday, a procession was formed at 1:30p.m., and was headed by the Fochriw Brass Band. Fochriw and Penybank scholars took part, and it was followed by tea at the Fochriw schools. The costumes of numerous countries were worn by the children. Every child received a commemorative mug. On Thursday night, a coronation bonfire was lit on Pentwyn mountain by Mrs. J. H. Jones. During Thursday and Friday, Coronation Sports were held. Events: Two miles bicycle race - 1. W. Payne, 2. D. Lawrence; Half mile bicycle race - 1. T. G. Davies, 2. W. Edwards; 440 yards foot race - 1. W. E. Jones, 2. J. Edwards; 100 yards foot race - 1. R. Pugh, 2. W. E. Jones. Mr. J H Jones was manager of the committee, Dr. Eleazer Davies was treasurer, and Mr. Evan Evans was secretary.

“Merthyr Express” 19 July 1902

Fochriw Sunday School Treats The children of Carmel and Noddfa chapels paraded the streets of the village, before tea was taken at the respective chapels. After tea, sports were held. The children of Nazareth Chapel went to Abergavenny Castle.

Presentation to Mrs. Morgan, Rising Sun Inn A presentation has been made to Mrs. Morgan, in recognition of her 27 years service as treasurer to the Fochriw Lodge of the Philanthropics. Mr. J. Lawrence acted as chairman. Mrs. Morgan was presented with an illuminated address.

“Merthyr Express” 2 August 1902

Technical Classes: Results Music: The teacher of music class is Mr. D Davies (Pencerdd Morgannwg). Honours stage – 1st Class - D. J. Thomas; 2nd class - R. Jones; Advanced stage – 1st Class - Rod Jones; 2nd Class - J. Jones, W J. Angell, T. Walters; Elementary stage – 1st Class - C. Thomas; 2nd Class - M. L. Morgan, S. Thomas, L. M. Thomas, A. Price.

Ambulance A squad from Fochriw has won the chief price of £5 out of seven teams competing at Pontypridd. The squad was as follows: W. J. Ballard (team captain), T. Jones, D. L. Jones, D. W. Edwards, Thomas Davies. Their teacher was Dr. Eleazer Davies.

“Merthyr Express” 16 August 1902

Coronation Edward VII was crowned on Saturday last.

Gelligaer and Rhigos District Council The poor state of the road leading to Penybank Fever Hospital was discussed.

“Merthyr Express” 23 August 1902

Sequel to Fochriw Explosion The two firemen - Griffith Davies and William White - were fined 20 shillings each and costs.

“Merthyr Express” 30 August 1902

South Wales Miners' Federation Demonstration The Fochriw Brass Band and the Dowlais Volunteer Band, followed by Keir Hardie M.P., led the procession at the above demonstration at Dowlais. The fight over the sliding scale and the eight hour day were the main subjects of the speeches that followed the procession.

Boating Disaster at Dolygaer Four people drowned out of a party of fifteen from Rhymney. An eye witness account of the disaster was given by D. Harris of Fochriw.

“Merthyr Express” 6 September 1902

Colliery Explosion at Abertysswg 14 men were killed, and 23 injured on Wednesday last, at No. 1 McLaren Pit, Abertysswg, owned by the Tredegar Iron and Steel Company.

“Merthyr Express” 27 September 1902

Gelligaer School Board On Tuesday last, a letter was read from the head teacher of Fochriw school, Mr. W. O. Morgan, complaining about parties using the school during evenings and who abused the property.

“Merthyr Express” 8 October 1902

Smallpox at Dowlais One case was reported on the 11th October, four cases on the 13th, and a further four cases on the 14th.

“Merthyr Express” 25 October 1902

Departure of the Rev. D. W. Davies, curate-in-charge of the Fochriw Mission Church Rev. Davies is leaving Fochriw in three weeks time for Maindee. He has spent five and half years at Fochriw. He was for years one of the managers of the Fochriw schools until it was disbanded. He is still a member of the local Technical Instruction Committee.

Wedding Miss Maggie Bevan, daughter of Mr. William Bevan, surveyor, has married.

“Merthyr Express” 1 November 1902

Rugby: Fochriw v Dowlais The match ended in a draw, both sides failing to score.

Fochriw Eisteddfod An eisteddfod was held on Saturday evening at the Board School under the presidency of Mr. J. H. Jones, M.E., and conducted by Councillor R. Thomas. Adjudicators: music – Mr. D. Jones, Bargoed; literature - Rev. D. W.

Davies. Accompanist: Mr. R. Jones (bandmaster) with Miss L. Williams assisting. Solo for boys: Master J. Davies; recitation for children: Miss M. Davies; essay: Mr T. Lewis; trombone solo: 1. Mr W. Foley, Deri, 2. G. Jones, Fochriw; soprano solo: J. M. Pride, Pentwyn; tenor solo: Mr. T. James, Dowlais; baritone solo: Mr. J. Davies, Fochriw; bass solo: Mr. C. Shankland, Fochriw; adult recitation: Mr. D. Evans, Fochriw; solo over 65: Mr. J. M. Davies, Pentwyn; party: 1. Fochriw Minstrels led by Mr. J. Evans.

Roman Villa A Roman villa has been excavated at Penydarren.

“Merthyr Express” 8 November 1902

Rugby Fochriw - 1 goal and 1 try; Tirphil Grasshoppers - 1 dropped goal and 1 try.

“Merthyr Express” 15 November 1902

Fochriw Collier Killed Thomas John Thomas, 1, Brook-row, Fochriw, aged 21 years, was killed on Friday last by a fall of roof at his workplace. He was the son of Mr. John Thomas, who rendered such conspicuous service at the explosion a short time ago. Young Thomas John played at centre three-quarter for the Fochriw Rugby team. He was also last season's cricket captain.

Jubilee Celebrations Jubilee celebrations were held at Bethlehem, Pantywaun, on Sunday and Monday last.

“Merthyr Express” 22 November 1902

Funeral The funeral of Thomas John Thomas took place at Pant Cemetery. Rev. J. Jones officiated, supported by the Rev. R. D Jenkins. Also present were members of the local Rechabite Lodge and the Carmel Choir.

Gelligaer School Board Tenders are to be invited for new latrines at Fochriw School.

“Merthyr Express” 6 December 1902

Rugby Fochriw nil, Bargoed, 2 tries.

“Merthyr Express” 20 December 1902

Presentation to the Rev. D. W. Davies On Friday evening last, at Pentwyn Church Schoolroom, under the chairmanship of Mr. Charles Payne, Rev. D. W. Davies was presented with a gold watch by Mrs. Lewis, on behalf of church members, in recognition of his services. Mrs Jones read some verses in Welsh composed for the occasion by Llew Brycheiniog.

“Merthyr Express” 3 January 1903

Lost in the Snow near Pontlottyn: A Woman's Narrow Escape On Tuesday morning, as some of the Penybank residents were on their way to Pontlottyn, they saw a dark

object near of the Plantation lying in the sleet and snow. Upon nearing the object, they found to their dismay, a woman lying quite be-numbered and in a semi-frozen condition. Assistance was soon at hand, and the Fochriw stretcher being available, she was conveyed to the Pontlottyn Police Station, where P. S. Gammon and his men succeeded in restoring her to consciousness. It then transpired that her name was Elizabeth Noles, a pedlar. She stated that she was on her way to Pontlottyn. On Monday, she was at Bedlinog, and was seen at Fochriw on Monday night. It is thought that she missed her way on the Pontlottyn mountain, and turned to the left, which took her to the Plantation. At the time of writing, she is at the lodging-house in Board-street.

“Merthyr Express” 10 January 1903

Rugby: Bargoed v Fochriw The game was almost entirely in favour of the home team, who were winners by three tries to one.

Fochriw Alex The Fochriw Seconds will in future respond to the cry of "Good old Alex," and will be recognised in print as "The Fochriw Alex." About 200 spectators witnessed an exciting struggle between them and Deri on Saturday. It was a fortunate thing for both teams that the Alex decided to play on the mountain slopes, which turned out fairly dry and spongy, considering the weather. The Primrose field was ankle deep in water, owing to the foolish filling in of a ditch which formerly used to drain the field. The home team had a splendid match, and crossed the visitors line three times during the first half, but were called back for some infringement or other. S. Lewis played a splendid game at full back, only allowing them to pass him once, and then they scored the only point of a hard fought match.

“Merthyr Express” 17 January 1903

Fatality to Collier Boy On Wednesday afternoon, a lad named Daniel William Williams, aged 15, whose parents live near the Horse and Groom Inn, Gellifaelog, was killed by a fall of stone at Fochriw No. 2 Pit, where he was employed. The inquest was held on Thursday by the Coroner, Mr. R. J. Rhys.

“Merthyr Express” 31 January 1903

Rugby: Fochriw Alex The club would like to arrange new fixtures with fairly good junior teams. Apply Tom Davies, Swinton House, Fochriw, secretary.

Fochriw Alex v Pengam An exciting match was witnessed at Fochriw on Saturday. The last match between the old rivals resulted in a win for Pengam by a goal and a try to nil. This was reversed on Saturday, the homesters winning by a try to nil. Some little disturbance was caused on the field by one of the Pengam players picking up the ball (offside), in the last minute of the game and crossing the line. The referee

awarded them a try, contending he had not seen a man off side, and yet he saw all the Fochriw players stopping in their play because of it. There are two more fixtures between these teams, so there will be plenty of opportunity for judging the merits and demerits of both.

“Merthyr Express” 14 February 1903

Rugby: Fochriw Alex v Bargoed Seconds There was almost an absolute lack of brilliance on both sides, owing, no doubt, to the high wind and the sloppy condition of the field. Nonetheless, five tries were scored, three by Fochriw and two by Bargoed.

“Merthyr Express” 14 March 1903

Accident to a Collier Whilst following his employment at No. 1 Pit, Fochriw, on Thursday afternoon, a man named John Lewis, living in Gellifaelog-terrace, was struck by a fall of stone from the roof. He sustained serious injuries to his head, and his leg was fractured. The unfortunate man, who is married and has a large family, was removed home, where he lies in a precarious condition.

Successes We were pleased to see the following names figuring on the recent King's scholarship list: J. A. Jenkins, L. Williams, and B. Williams (Fochriw Mixed), E. G. Williams (Fochriw Infants), E. Morgan (Penybank).

Brass Band Mr. W. Powell has been appointed conductor of the Fochriw Brass Band, and we are glad to see the "Old Firm" already showing glimpses of a return to its form of a few years ago. The band is now practising hard for the Abergavenny and Senghenydd contests.

Minstrels A minstrel troupe, composed entirely of local talent, and conducted by Mr. J. Angell, gave two interesting concerts at the schools last week. A fine programme of coon songs and choruses was given each evening to crowded audiences. Misses L. and G. Williams were the accompanists. The proceeds were devoted to that flourishing institution - the Fochriw Reading Room. The services of everyone were given free, and Dr. Davies, on behalf of the Reading Room Committee, expressed his appreciation of the troupe's magnanimous action.

“Merthyr Express” 28 March 1903

Cricket The first meeting of the Fochriw Cricket Club took place on Thursday evening. The old members turned up in force, whilst a goodly number of "freshers" also put in an appearance. The following officers were elected for the ensuing season: chairman, Mr. C. Payne; committee, Messrs. H. Williams, T. Davies, T. Llewelyn, W. Jones, W. Taswell, D. Jenkins, G. Bellamy, E. Jones; treasurer, Mr. J. Williams; secretary, Mr. D. Jones; captain, Mr. D. L. Jones; vice-captain, Mr. D. Jones. It was

decided to apply for entrance to the Merthyr and District League. The prospects for the coming season are very rosy, and it is to be hoped that the club will succeed in getting the Primrose Field to play on. A subscription list has been drawn out, and by the aid of the leading local townsmen, the club has been placed on a sound financial footing.

“Merthyr Express” 25 April 1903

Wm. Hillier & Co., Billposters and Town Criers, Railway-terrace, Blaina, rent all the principal stations in town. All work promptly attended to.

Ambulance An ambulance squad consisting of the following members of Dr. Davies' Class – Messrs. W. J. Ballard (captain), Thomas Jones, Thomas Davies, D. L. Jones, D. W. Edwards - succeeded in getting the first prize at the Mountain Ash Eisteddfod.

Brass Band Two prizes were secured by the Fochriw Brass Band at Abergavenny on Easter Monday. Out of the nine bands in the first section, the local band secured third prize, and in the second section, from amongst twelve competitors, fourth prize. In the first section, the band was opposed by all the leading bands of South Wales and Monmouthshire, and consequently, the achievement is even more creditable. The Whitsuntide contests will now be awaited with confidence, and we extend to the bandsmen, and their conductor, Mr. W. Powell, our heartiest wishes for a repetition of the Easter performances.

Football Supper The Fochriw Alex Football Club brought their season to a close in fine style on Thursday evening by having a splendid supper in their club room at the Rising Sun Inn. There was a good attendance, and everyone enjoyed the sumptuous spread, for which great praise is due to Mr. Morgans and family, and for the excellent way in which the tables were laid out. The team has concluded a very successful season, and thanks are due, in particular, to Mr. Tom Davies, secretary, for the services he has rendered the club, and also, to the committee.

“Merthyr Express” 9 May 1903

Technical Instruction The following members of Dr. Davies' class were successful in the recent examination in ambulance: 3rd year - D. L. Jones and W. Cole; 2nd year - D. Jenkins, H. Thomas, J. Llewelyn, S. Llewellyn; 1st year - S. Cole, D. Cole, J. Morgan, W. Jones, R. Jenkins, C. Ballard, R. Jones, J. Jones, T. A. Jones, T. Jenkins, Tom Evans, J. Edwards; junior - Kinsey Llewellyn.

Dinner The annual dinner of the Stars R.F.C. came off on Thursday se'nnight at the Rising Sun Inn. The room had been very tastefully decorated for the occasion, and a feature was a very cleverly executed design, portraying the crest of the club. Host

Morgan had prepared a capital spread, to which the members and Committee did ample justice. Messrs. H. Evans and J. Matthews, in the capacity of stewards, performed their duties in their usual dextrous manner, and were ably supported by Misses Morgan and Whale. The tables having been cleared, a programme of music was submitted, and Messrs. C. Payne (chairman), J. Edwards, T. G. Davies and W. Payne contributed lively songs. During the proceedings, the secretary, Mr. T. Llewellyn, presented the balance sheet for 1902-1903, and this showed that the club was in a flourishing condition, with a good balance on the right side. A record of the games played was also read. The following officers were elected for the coming season: president – Mr. C. Payne; treasurer – Mr. J. Williams; secretary – Mr. T. Llewellyn; Captain – Mr. J. Edwards; vice-captain – Mr. Wm. Payne.

“Merthyr Express” 23 May 1903

Sale Fochriw, near Dowlais To Brewers, Licensed Victuallers, and other Capitalists, Sale of the Leasehold Double Licensed Inn and Other Premises.

Mr. Isaac Edwards is favoured with instructions to sell by Public Auction at the Mount Pleasant Inn, Fochriw, on Thursday, May 28th, 1903, at 7.30 p.m.

Lot 1 - All of that valuable inn and premises, now we in the occupation of Mr. David Jones, known as Mount Pleasant Inn, Fochriw. These premises are held for a term of 99 years from the first day of May, 1858, and will be sold subject to the apportioned yearly ground rent of £2-3s-1d.

The premises are also sub-let for a term of 21 years from the 1st day of January, 1890, at a net annual rental of £50, but determinable, nevertheless, at the option of the sub-lessee, at the end of the first seven or fourteen years of the said term of 21 years. The premises comprise:

Ground Floor - Parlour & Tap Room in front, Small Tap Room and Bar in the rear, large Kitchen.

First Floor: Spacious Long Room, with three large Bedrooms.

Outbuildings: two pigscots, a two-stall stable with a large hay-loft and usual offices.

The Inn is situated at Pentwyn, close to the junction of the four main roads connecting Dowlais, Fochriw, Bargoed, and Bedlinog.

Lot 2 - All those five messages, dwelling houses and premises, known as Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, Mount Pleasant Row, Fochriw. These premises are held for a term of 99 years from the first day of May, 1858, and will be sold subject to an apportioned yearly ground rent of £2.

Lot 3 - All those five messages, dwelling houses and premises, known as Nos. 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 Mount Pleasant Row, Fochriw. These premises are he held for a term of

99 years from the first day of May, 1858, and will be sold subject to an apportioned yearly ground rent of £2.

Lot 4 - All that message, dwelling house and premises, together with the stable at the rear thereof, known as No. 3, Hill-terrace, Fochriw, now in the occupation of Mr. William Gwynne. These premises are held for a term of 99 years from the 1st day of May, 1858, at an annual aground rent of £1.

It is anticipated that sinking operations will shortly be started in the immediate vicinity of this property. The opportunity thus afforded of shortly securing a Free Double Licence Premises and Good Cottage Property, in the district with such a future before it, is seldom met with. Plans, particulars and conditions of sale are being prepared. In of the meantime, all information may be obtained upon application to the Auctioneer, Cambria Chambers, North-street, Dowlais, also from Mr. John Thomas Jones, solicitor, Union Street, Dowlais.

“Merthyr Express” 30 May 1903

Gelligaer School Board The Board requires caretakers for the Fochriw and Troedrhiwfuwch Board Schools. Wages: Fochriw - £26-18s per annum; Troedrhiwfuwch - £24-4s per annum. The person appointed to supply all cleaning materials and utensils. Applications, accompanied by testimonials, must reach me by 19th June, 1903. By Order, Frank T. James, Clerk to the Board.

“Merthyr Express” 6 June 1903

Property Sale At the Mount Pleasant Inn, Vochriw, on Thursday se'nnight, Mr. Isaac Edwards, auctioneer, offered for sale, several lots of leasehold property, including a double-licensed inn. The Inn and premises - the Mount Pleasant Inn - were withdrawn at £1,950.

Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, Mount Pleasant-row, were purchased at £190 by Mr. D. Jones, Mount Pleasant Inn, Vochriw. Nos. 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11, Mount Pleasant-row, realised £225, the purchaser being Mr. Thomas Kinsey, Nantylfin Farm, Vochriw. No. 3 Hill-terrace, with adjoining stable, was withdrawn at £125. Mr. John Thomas Jones, solicitor, acted on behalf of the vendors.

“Merthyr Express” 20 June 1903

Fochriw Curate and Constitutional Club: Institutions Denounced from the Pulpit The Rev. John A. Rees, curate-in-charge of Fochriw, in the course of his sermon at Fochriw Church on Sunday evening, dealt with the question of the establishment of clubs in the mining districts. A large congregation had assembled in anticipation, it having become known that the reverend gentleman, who has initiated a crusade against the Fochriw Constitutional Club, intended to speak on the subject in the

course of his address. Basing his remarks on Mark chap.10, v. 29, the reverend gentleman pointed out the duties of the truly God-fearing man and follower of Christ. Continuing, he said attempts were being made to introduce clubs into every hamlet throughout the parish of Pontlottyn, and the constituency generally. Institutions of this kind were never meant for small colliery districts, and those who thought they helped forward the Conservative cause by their establishment, were making a very serious mistake. Sensible men would either abstain from working for, or would vote against any candidate who, through his satellite, established and supported such institutions. A glance at the list of members showed that the best men, and the most respectable men of the district, were conspicuous by their absence. Respectable men looked askance at such clubs, the demoralising character of them being always apparent. Members of clubs had been seen pummelling one another in the streets and creating a commotion. The Fochriw Club only contained a drinking bar, and no books and periodicals, and only a couple of papers were provided, and scarcely any attempt had been made since its establishment to provide members with any mental or elevating recreation. It is true that care was taken for man's sporting proclivities, for a few childish games of the same character as the ring game and cards were provided. Surprise visits by the police might also prove instructive. He was told that the existence of these clubs depended almost entirely upon the quantity of drink consumed. If the success of Conservatism in the mining districts had to depend upon institutions of this kind, it was high time that the party was swept out of existence into Chamberlain's fiscal whirlpool. He appealed to the Conservative party in East Glamorgan to stay their hand, and at once undo the injury it had already caused. Failing that, they had no alternative but to appeal to the District Council to condemn the house as uninhabitable, for its sanitary arrangements were far from being satisfactory. Pontlottyn proper, it was to be hoped, would never see the establishment in their midst of such an institution. They might pray that the good lady of Maesyryddid, the owner of the estate, would give the political agents no quarter, and would see that no house on her property was utilised by any political party for club purposes. He appealed to those who were communicants and Church-goers to abstain from entering such places.

“Merthyr Express” 27 June 1903

Dowlais Collier Killed at Fochriw: Promising Career Cut Short We regret to announce the death through an accident underground at Rhas Las Pit of Mr. David Jenkins, son of Mr. Evan Jenkins, Guest Cottages, Penywern, and brother of Mr. William Jenkins, conductor of the Dowlais Temperance Choir. Although only 19

years of age, David Jenkins had reached a good position as a musician, having passed the examination of the Tonic Sol-fa College with honours. Great regret is felt on account of his untimely death, as he was a particularly lovable young man, and his loss will be keenly felt, not only among the family circle, but by his friends in general. The inquest was held at the Police Station, Dowlais, on Saturday morning last, by Mr. R. J. Rhys, district coroner, and there were present, Mr. Dyer Lewis, H.M. Inspectors of Mines, Mr. Stuart Martin, deputy manager, colliery department, Messrs. G.K.N. Ltd., and Mr. John Davies, miners' agent. After the jury had been sworn, Evan Jenkins, father, gave evidence of identification. He said that his son had always worked as a collier, having a place of his own about three or four months, and had his brother, Benjamin, working with him.

Benjamin Jenkins, aged 16, collier, then gave evidence. He said that he worked with his brother David, and that he was in the place where he was killed on Thursday morning. They had not started to work, and it was about eight o'clock. He had not noticed the fireman's mark, but he usually put one on the top or on the cogs. He saw the fireman of the district as they were going to their place, but the firemen did not give any instruction as to setting posts etc.. His brother tried the place, and also the stone that fell on him, and his brother asked him to get a post to put under it. He got a post, but it was too long, and his brother told him that he would cut the job. Just then the stone fell on him. The first to come to help was William Evans. The stone was close up to the coal. His brother had had a place of his own for over two months. William Evans, collier, who worked in the next place to David Jenkins, said that he went to his own place through Jenkins's, and did not notice anything wrong. He heard the fall, and when he got to him, Jenkins was quite dead. The stone was three or four cwt. in weight, and it fell from the top near the coal. It would be about 3 ft. long, 18 inches wide, and 12 inches thick. Jenkins had worked a fortnight by him, and he was a very tidy man in his work, and a good collier.

Thomas Evans, repairer, acting temporarily as firemen, said that David Jenkins' place was in the district he had to look over. He had examined the place, and had marked it close to the stone, but he did not take any particular notice of the stone, and did not try it. He told Jenkins the place was all right. He re-visited the place after the accident. His description of the stone tallied with that of the previous witness. Mr. Stuart Martin produced a plan of the place, and described the same.

After a few remarks from the coroner, the verdict of "Accidental Death through the fall of a stone," was returned. The funeral took place on Tuesday at Pant Cemetery, and there was an exceptionally large attendance.

“Merthyr Express” 22 August 1903

Alleged Wounding at Vochriw William Williams was charged with unlawfully wounding Thomas Thomas, and his wife, Miriam Thomas, at Fochriw. Miriam Thomas, whose head was bandaged, said she lived at 6, Martin's-row, Fochriw. The prisoner had lodged with her, and on Saturday night last he came home at 11:30p.m. the worse for drink, and began finding fault. He said he would kill her and her husband, and he struck her across the head with a poker. The prisoner struck her husband three times on the head, and several times on the shoulder with the same poker. Thomas Thomas, whose head was also bandaged, said he heard a noise downstairs. On going down, he saw the prisoner swearing at his wife. He told him to stop it, eat his supper, and go to bed. Prisoners struck him on the nose, which was marked, and in the chest, and he fell. He was then struck on the shoulder by Williams with the poker, and he said he would kill all of them. He then struck Mrs. Thomas on the forehead give the poker, turned around and dealt him another bowl on the head for the poker. The police then came on the scene. P.C. Williams said he heard the noise proceeding in a house, and he saw the prosecutor, and his wife, bleeding from the head. The prisoner was sitting down by the fireside. The woman's head had a wound which was exposed to the bone, and he sent for the doctor, and in the meantime stopped the bleeding. The prisoners said he struck the blows in self-defence. He said the man and wife struck him to the floor, and when he got up, he caught up the poker to defend himself. He also said they had quarrelled during the day. He asked for some powder to kill insects which he found in his bed, and it was not obtained. Dr. Davies said he was sent for, and examined and attended to the wounds. These could have been caused by the poker produced, and the wound on the nose by a blow from the fist. The prisoner was committed for trial. He said he struck the women by accident, and he struck the man in self-defence.

“Merthyr Express” 29 August 1903

Drunk on Top of Vochriw Pit David Davies, night labourer, was summoned for being in a state of intoxication at No. 2 Pit, Fochriw, on 31st July. Lewis Williams, banksman at No. 2 Pit, said the defendant came to the top of the pit "in beer" and wanted to be let down. Witness refused to let him pass, and the defendant interfered with him and wanted to fight, and he was obliged to stop the winding. P.C. Henry Williams said he was called to the top of the pit, and saw the defendant drunk, and cursing and swearing at the banksman. Defendant said he had only drunk 10 pints that day, and he could not be drunk on that (laughter). He had to escort defendant a mile away from the pit. Defendant was fined 20 shillings and costs.

Fatal Pit Accident At the Rising Sun Inn, Fochriw, on Friday last, Mr. R. J. Rhys, the district coroner, held an inquest touching of the death of David William Edwards, 19 years of age, who was killed at the No. 1 Pit, the previous day, by a fall of roof causing a fractured skull. Mr. F. J. Trump, deputy inspector of mines, was present; also Mr. W. Jones, the manager of the pit. W. J. Ballard, with whom deceased worked, said deceased was turning a stall, and he was in the heading nearby, when a stone fell from the side of the rippings on to Edwards' head. The place was well-timbered. A verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned.

“Merthyr Express” 19 September 1903

Sale of Freehold and Leasehold Cottage and Other Properties at Daowlais, Fochriw and Pantywaun. Messrs. Edwards Bros. have been instructed to sell by Public Auction, at the Clarence Hotel, Dowlais, on Tuesday, 29th September, 1903, at 7:30pm, the following lots:

Lot 6 - All those leasehold cottages and premises, being Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, Pentwyn, Fochriw, now in the occupation of Mr. Richard Davies and others, on monthly tenancies, and producing £32-10s. per annum. These premises are held for a term of 99 years from 1st November, 1859, at an annual ground rent of £2-2s-10d.

Lot 7 - All those leasehold cottages and premises, being Nos. 16, 17, 18, and 19, Pentwyn, Fochriw, now in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Rees and others, on monthly tenancies, and producing £36-8s. per annum.

Lot 8 - All those leasehold cottages and premises, being Nos. 20, 21, 22, and 23, Pentwyn, Fochriw, now in the occupation of Mr. David Jones and others, on monthly tenancies, and producing for £31-4s. per annum.

Lots 7 & 8 are held for a term of 99 years from the 1st November, 1859, at the annual ground rent of £7-4s-1d, which will be apportioned as follows: Lot 7 - £3-12-1; Lot 8 - £3-12-0.

For further particulars applied at the Auctioneers' Office, Cambria Chambers, North-street, Dowlais.

“Merthyr Express” 3 October 1903

Brass Band The Brass Band has brought to an end their season's competitions, and have been remarkably successful all along. Prizes have been taken this season at Cardiff, Abergavenny (2), Senghenydd, Rhymney, Pentre, Mountain Ash, New Tredegar (2), Merthyr Vale, Pontlottyn, and Caerphilly. The band has lowered the colours of the best bands in South Wales. Although classified as "C," the band has taken prizes in Classes A, B, and C. The band has been fortunate in securing the services of Mr. William Powell as conductor, and during the season, the services of

the following renowned trainers were obtained at intervals: Mr. W. Halliwell of Wigan; Mr. R. Fletcher, Bolton; Mr. J. E. Fiddler, Northampton. Medals were won this season by Messrs. Powell, Edwin Davies, and W. Mantle (2).

Presentation At the schools on Thursday evening last, the services rendered by Sergeant W. J. M'Murray of Dowlais, were recognised in a practical form by the teacher and members of the Fochriw Ambulance Class. The teams from this class have done splendid work during the past season in the numerous competitions they have attended, and this success is due to some extent, to the very valuable instruction in military drill given by Sergeant M'Murray. In a recent competition for the shield, when pitted against the best teams of South Wales, the Fochriw team came in a very close second to Ystalyfera, the holders of the shield. At the presentation meeting, Dr. Davies, the teacher of the class, presided, and after a few remarks, Sergeant M'Murray was made the recipient of a handsome photo of himself, bearing the following inscription: "Presented to Serjeant W. J. M'Murray for services rendered, by the Fochriw Ambulance Class, 24th September, 1903." A splendid walking stick was also presented to the Serjeant by Dr. Eleazer Davies. Speeches and songs were given by Messrs. D. Cole, T. Davies, J. Evans, W. Cole, E. Lewis, and S. Cole.

New Baptist Chapel for Fochriw: Foundation Stone-Laying The foundation stones of a new Baptist Chapel at Moore's-row, Fochriw, were laid on Tuesday morning. The new edifice will be on the site of the old chapel, and will accommodate nearly 450 persons. The exterior will be attractive, and the interior well-arranged. A gallery around the building is provided for, and Sunday School accommodation in the basement. The premises will be lit by acetylene gas. The contractor is Mr. W. Watts, Dowlais, and the architects are Messrs. James and Morgan, Cardiff. At the ceremony, the Rev. L. P. Davies, pastor, presided. Stones were laid by Mr. M. Roberts-Jones, Cardiff, the solicitor to the Rhymney Valley Miners' Association; Rev. J. R. Jones, Tabernacle, Pontypridd, on behalf of Mrs. Hopkin Morgan; Miss Bevan, Dowlais; and Miss Watts, Dowlais. Amongst others who took part in the proceedings were the Revs. Llew Morris, Pengam; L. John, Troedriwfuwch, Jas. Jones, Fochriw; R. Jones, G. R. Jones, Pontlottyn; D. B. David, Tredegar; H. Thomas, Deri; Messrs. T. Bevan, Dowlais, former manager of the Fochriw Colliery, and T. Evans, the secretary of the church. The collections for day amounted to over £100. A handsome silver trowel was presented by the architects and contractor to each person laying a stone. The visitors were entertained by Dr. Eleazer Davies, and Mr. J. H. Jones, the resident manager of the Fochriw Pits.

Telegraph Facilities for Fochriw Mr. J. Jones proposed that the Council become guarantors to the General Post Office for any deficiency which may occur by the establishment of a telegraph office at Fochriw. In doing so, he set out the inconvenience of having no telegraph office nearer than Pontlottyn, and pointed out that from a communication he had received from the post office officials, this facility would be granted provided the usual guarantee were given. The letter from the Postmaster-General further showed that it was content for the District Council to become the guarantors. Mr. Jones, therefore, strongly maintained that as the legislature had provided for municipal authorities becoming the guarantors, it was their duty, in the interest of the public, to take advantage of this provision. Mr. Joseph Morgan seconded, and also argued that it was the duty of the representatives of the public to take advantage of their powers, in order to obtain this boon for Fochriw. The clerk, at Mr. Jones's request, explained that the Council had full power to become guarantors, and read the letter of the Postmaster-General, which showed that at most it would not mean more than ten guineas, and that the more telegrams sent, the less would be the deficit. The Rev. T. Rees objected to the Council becoming guarantors. When Pontlottyn applied for a telegraph office, the people of Pontlottyn became guarantors. Why should not the folk of Fochriw do the same? Mr. Jones urged that the legislature would surely not have made a provision such as the circular disclosed, unless they meant their public bodies to serve the public in this way. The resolution was carried, the Rev. T. Rees being the only dissident.

“Merthyr Express” 10 October 1903

Cricket Club On Friday evening, at the Rising Sun Inn, a smoking concert was held to wind up the very successful season gone through by the Fochriw Cricket Club. The club's president, Mr. Charles Payne, occupied the chair, and remarked upon the able manner in which the team had been captained by Mr. D. L. Jones, who headed the batting averages, with the vice-captain coming second. The bowling had been entrusted throughout the season to Messrs. D. Jones, E. Jones, and D. Evans, and each one had a splendid average. Mr. Job Thomas complimented the team on its good work, and wished them another equally successful season in 1904. A splendid programme was then given. The officers for 1904 were also chosen: president – Mr. C. Payne; treasurer – Mr. J. Williams; secretary – Mr. D. Jones; captain – Mr. D. L. Jones; vice-captain – Mr. W. Taswell; committee – Messrs. W. Jones, Job Thomas, W. S. Williams, T. Davies, along with the above officials.

“Merthyr Express” 14 November 1903

Pit Idle The Rhas Las Pit, Fochriw, was idle on Wednesday whilst repairs were being effected.

Conservative Club A smoking concert was held at the Conservative Club on Saturday evening, when Mr. Waddington of Cardiff, delivered an effective address on "Fiscal Reform."

"Merthyr Express" 28 November 1903

Pit Idle In consequence of an accident to the pump at the No. 1 Pit, Vochriw, belonging to Messrs. Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds (Limited), the colliery was in a state of enforced idleness on Monday.

"Merthyr Express" 5 December 1903

Permitting Drunkenness Thomas Llewellyn, grocer, Fochriw, the landlord of the Penybank Inn, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on his premises on Saturday, 21st November, and Richard Evans was summoned for being the drunk person referred to. Evans denied being drunk, but said his foot struck a stone and he fell. He was fined 10 shillings and costs. Mr. W. W. Meredith, defending the landlord, contended that his client had done all he could to keep the house properly. Half-an-hour before the police entered the house, the landlady told Evans to go home, as she thought he had had sufficient to drink. Evans left the bar, and wished Mrs. Llewellyn good night, but instead of going out, he went to the tap room, and watched three men playing a game. He was there when the police entered the house. Mrs. Llewellyn testifies to this being correct. Cards, rings, and dominoes had been stopped since she entered the house a few weeks ago, and this had been done at the suggestion of the police officer. John Morgan said he saw the defendant leave the bar when Mrs. Llewellyn told him to do so. Daniel Evans, John Price, and Richard Evans also gave evidence. The Bench considered the case proved, and fined the defendant £10 and costs. The Stipendiary said he would never have knowingly granted a licence to a man who was not always upon the premises.

"Merthyr Express" 26 December 1903

Obituary: Mr Rees Jones, Guest-street, aged 18 A gloom was cast over the village on Monday se'nnight, when it became known that Rees Jones, oldest son of Mr. Thomas Jones, Guest-street, had suddenly died whilst returning to his work after dinner. Deceased, who was only 18 years of age, was a very promising young man, and had been very successful with his studies in music. He was an active member of Carmel Congregational Church, and was one of the conductors at the rehearsals for the annual singing festival. The funeral took place at Pentwyn Churchyard on Saturday, the Rev. J. Jones officiating.

Wedding: Mr. J. Lawrence and Miss E. J. Payne On Saturday last, at St Tyfaelog's Church, Pontlottyn, a wedding was solemnised, the contracting parties being Mr. John Lawrence, Aelybryn, and Miss E. J. Payne, eldest daughter of Mr. Charles Payne, Railway-terrace. The ceremony was performed by Rev. J. A. Rees, curate of Pentwyn Church. The bride was given away by her father, and she was attended by Miss Kitty Lawrence. Mr. Joseph Payne acted as best man. The happy couple left by the 11.40 train (B. and M. Ry) for Newport. Both parties are highly respected in the village, as is well testified by the large collection of valuable presents.

Fochriw Mason Drops Dead: Inquest A sad case of sudden death was the subject of inquiry at the Rising Sun Inn on Thursday, when the coroner, Mr. R. J. Rhys, held an inquest on the body of Rees Jones, aged 18, mason, who resided at 11, Guest-street, Fochriw. The young man was found dead on the road on Monday. His mother said he came home to dinner as usual, and after a light meal returned to work. A few minutes later, he returned hurriedly for sixpence, and rushed away again. He was subsequently found about 120 yards from his home by a girl named Ann Mary Thomas and P.C. Williams. He was dead. Deceased was lying face downwards, in a small puddle. A verdict of "Death from Natural Causes" was returned. The body was conveyed from Fochriw to Dowlais on Saturday, accompanied by a large cortege of mourners and sympathisers, and the last rites were performed at Pant Cemetery.

“Merthyr Express” 9 January 1904

Christmas Tree On New Year's Eve, a treat in the form of a Christmas Tree was given at Fochriw Church to the scholars attending the Sunday school. During the evening, Mr. D. Phillips, who has been an active church-worker and Sunday school teacher for nearly 50 years, was presented by the scholars with a Bible and silver-mounted pipe. A Bible was also presented to Mr. William Lewis, who has acted as Sunday School Superintendent for nine years. The presentations were made by Mrs. Rees, wife of the Rev. J. A. Rees, the popular curate. On Christmas Day, and on the following Sunday, the Church Choir rendered a service of song entitled "Christmas Chimes," the baton being wielded by Mr. John Hood, choirmaster.

“Merthyr Express” 23 January 1904

Temperance Meeting at Fochriw: Drink and Welsh Customs The temperance propaganda was further pushed forward at Fochriw on Thursday se'nnight, when a large and representative meeting was held at the Board Schools. The meeting and was one of a series which has been organised as the outcome of the strenuous opposition made to the opening of a club. The Rev. James Jones having offered

prayer, Dr. Davies, in his introductory address, regretted the absence of the Rector of Gelligaer. He had, however, sent an able substitute in the person of the Rev. J. Williams, Rhymney (hear, hear). Cochfarf was also present at the invitation of his own (the speaker's) church, which promoted these temperance meetings. The Rev. Rees had made a strong protest against the establishment of these drinking clubs, and by doing so, he voiced the opinion of all men anxious not to have their political training linked with alcoholic drink (hear, hear). He had witnessed the painful exhibition at the last quarter sessions, and endorsed the views expressed by his Honour Judge Gwilym Williams. He referred to the alarming statistics at Paddington, where from a parish of 142,000, it was proved that on the last Sunday in the old year, only 31,321 of these people attended the places of worship, and 102,000 the public houses.

The Rev. J. William, curate, Rhymney, in the course of a rousing address, said that drink had, unfortunately, tainted the books of our great writers, such as Dickens. Men had become infatuated with the drink. A proud parent on the birth and a child asked his friends to drink to the health of the child, as though it would not live without being toasted in alcohol (hear hear). A marriage was not considered complete without the wines. In Cardiganshire, they had what was known as the "neithior" at a wedding, by which the newly married couple received as a marriage dowry, all of the money paid for drink. Therefore, the more beastly drunk a man got, greater was regarded his admiration for the young couple. Then again at burials, it was unfortunate, but in the present day, there were so many people who considered that their friends were not properly buried, until they themselves had swallowed a number of pints of beer. There were many masonic signs connected with the drink. He deplored that the provincial coffee houses were not so well kept as they were in London, or so tempting as the hotels. The Temperance houses should be made truly a home from home. There were not sufficient places of healthy amusement or instructive centres for the young men. He was sorry to find in Wales, that clubs or friendly societies were generally established in public houses, and in some cases even School Board meetings were held in these places.

Ald. E. Thomas, ex-Mayor of Cardiff, who spoke in Welsh, referred with pride to how he went through his mayoral year without having any wine on his tables. Sitting as a magistrate, he had learnt with regret of the many evils of drink. On a visit to London the previous week, he visited Poplar Workhouse, and Mr. Will Crooks, M. P. told him that if the Poplar people were sober for one week, there would be no need for that workhouse which now had 1,500 inmates. There were now 2,000 inmates in

the Bridgend asylum, and on the evidence of Dr. Pringle, over one half of these were there in consequence of drink. Addresses were also given by Rev. J. A. Rees and the Rev. J. Jones, and the usual votes of thanks brought to a close a most successful meeting.

“Merthyr Express” 30 January 1904

Colliery Fatality at Fochriw On Friday, an inquest was held at Clarence Hotel, Dowlais, on the body of David Davies, collier, who died early on Thursday morning, as a result of the fall that came upon him the previous afternoon. Davies, as was testified, was a most capable and careful collier, and was aged 53. He worked in Rhas Las. He was very badly hurt about the head and body. Albert Garratt, aged 16, said he worked with David Davies, and commenced last Monday. He had worked about 12 months altogether underground. He was with Davies when he was hurt at about 4.25 on Wednesday afternoon. Davies was stooping down making the last wedge for a cog, when a little stone fell by the witness, and he jumped out of the way when the main fall came down on the deceased. Two men from the next stall came to help. They were just 1½ yards from the face. The fall was a lot of stone. The deceased had tried the top that afternoon, and it was quite safe then - half an hour before the accident. He had commenced working about ten minutes before the fall. Evidence was given by John Hughes, collier, James Evans, overman, and Mr. J. H. Jones, manager. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death." Mr. Stuart Martin, deputy colliery manager, was present.

“Merthyr Express” 6 February 1904

Unhappy Home at Fochriw Daniel Sullivan, collier, was summoned for deserting his wife, Elizabeth, after eight years of married life. The complainant said that the defendant left her at Christmas. He had abused her very much. Inspector Rogers, N.S.P.C.C., said he had been to her house on Boxing Day. He said that she had no food, let alone drink. Since 28th December, her husband had lived in his mother's house; he had given her a little money every week, but not enough. Defendant said he earned 35 shillings a week, but his wife said that he earned £3 odd. Defendant was ordered to pay his wife 10 shillings a week and costs. The Bench advised the parties to make up their quarrels.

“Merthyr Express” 27 February 1904

Temperance Question at Fochriw Continuing with the programme of temperance meetings at Fochriw, originally organised in opposition to the establishment of a Constitutional Club in the district, a further well-attended meeting was held in the Board Schools on Thursday, the principal speakers being the Rev. Tertius Phillips,

Penarth, and the Rev. A. A. Mathews, Blaenavon. District Councillor J. Jones presided, and urged the people of Fochriw not to join these club. They did not want any of their children to learn the way to drink, rather to teach them to live an upright and sober life (cheers). Rev. A. A. Matthews said that in the course of his duties as a minister, he saw, on his visits from house to house, the terrible havoc which the drink brought to some homes, and because of this, he had decided to become a total abstainer. It was a great pity to see men work hard, and then waste their earnings on the drink. Railway Inspector Edwards moved a resolution condemnatory of the several measures proposed to be carried out in favour of extensive powers under the licensing laws. In doing so, he commented upon the action of the magistrates in South Wales as not having the courage of their convictions. Mr. Rees seconded the motion, and hoped that Parliament would take such measures as to prevent such a retrograde step as is now contemplated by the Government. The Rev. Phillips prefaced his address in support of the motion by stating that the Rev. J. A. Rees had been threatened with proceedings as a result of his outspoken remarks in opposition to existing clubs. He had already received offers of support to contest this case to the backbone, and in order to carry the thing through, he would act as secretary for the defence fund.

Performances: "Peter the Great" Two grand performances of "Peter the Great" (Dicks' standard plays) were given on Friday and Saturday by the Fochriw Amateur Dramatic Society in aid of the Reading Room, when the following took part: Mr. William Payne, Mr. Caradog Ballard, Mr. Ernest Price, Mr. David James Thomas, Mr. Walter Williams, Miss Gertrude Williams, Miss Jessie Maud Price, Miss Sarah Ann Evans. The stage manager was Mr. William J. Ballard, and the music was arranged by Miss Lillian Williams, who also acted as accompanist. The schoolroom was crowded each night. Everyone did their duty well, and great credit is due to all the party for the able manner in which the piece was staged. Thanks are due to Mr. Haggard of New Tredegar, who supplied the scenery free of charge. The party will perform at Dowlais in a few weeks, when an opportunity of seeing this beautiful drama should not be missed.

"Merthyr Express" 26 March 1904

Temperance On Thursday evening, the last of the series of United Temperance Meetings was held at the Council School, when the meeting was addressed by the Rev. D. Fisher, the vicar of Rhymney, who gave an earnest address, which will be remembered for many a day. He gave his experience extending over a period of fifteen years, and urged the importance of educating the young on the destructive

action of alcohol by adopting the use of scientific reading books in our elementary schools. He expressed a fervent wish that Rhymney may someday show the blessings of the Sunday Closing Act. Mr. Charles Payne, Fochriw, presided in his happiest manner, recalling incidents in his early career which were interesting and instructive. The Rev. James Jones, Carmel, followed in one of his usual pointed speeches. He thanked the vicar for his address, and paid a tribute of gratitude to the Reverend John Alfred Rees, curate of Fochriw, for the great treat he had been the means of procuring for the inhabitants of Fochriw by organising these educative series of temperance meetings. A few appropriate remarks from Mr. Rhys D. Jenkins, and the usual vote of thanks to the chairman, brought to a close a memorable series of meetings.

Presentation Through the departure of Mr. David Jones for Rhymney, the Fochriw Brass Band has lost a most capable secretary. About two years ago, the Band was on the point of being disbanded. Then Mr. Jones was prevailed upon to undertake the duties of secretary, and so ably did he discharge his work that band was again, in a very short time, on a sound basis. Indeed, more contests were attended during the season, than in many other similar periods of the band's existence, and the numerous prizes captured have placed the band once more in an honourable position. A few weeks ago, a presentation committee was formed with Mr. Charles Payne as chairman, Mr. Daniel Jenkins as treasurer, and Mr. J. Pugh as secretary. On Friday evening last, a smoker was held, at which Mr. Jones was made the recipient of a handsome marble clock supplied by Messrs. Mappin and Webb. It bore the following inscription: "Presented to Mr. David Jones by the committee and members of the Fochriw Brass Band for services rendered as secretary, March 18th, 1904." The chair was taken by Mr. J. H. Jones, M.E., the genial president of the band. After a rousing song by Mr. Charles Payne, Councillor Thomas, in the course of an able speech, attributed the success of the past season largely to the interest taken in his work by the secretary. Two capital songs having been rendered by Messrs. W. S. Williams and T. Davies, the chairman, in a witty speech, made the presentation. Mr Jones suitably responded. Mr. W. J. Powell, the popular conductor, then spoke in eulogistic terms of Mr. Jones' services, and he was followed by Councillor Jones. A splendid programme of songs was now contributed to by Messrs. T. Shankland, J. Payne, J. Edwards, D. Jones, and W. S. Williams, whilst stirring speeches were delivered by Messrs. H. Evans, Brook House, and T. Roberts. Among the former officials of the band present were Messrs. James Evans, Howell Thomas and Jacob Jones. After the usual votes of thanks, a very enjoyable evening was brought to a close by the singing of "He's a jolly good fellow. "

“Merthyr Express” 2 April 1904

Drama The Fochriw Amateur Dramatic Society produced the historical drama "Peter the Great" before a crowded house at the Oddfellows Hall, Dowlais, last Saturday evening. The proceeds are again to be devoted to that deserving institution, the Fochriw Reading Room.

“Merthyr Express” 14 May 1904

Supper The Fochriw Alex football club brought their season to a close on Friday night, by holding a supper and smoking concert at the Rising Sun Inn. An excellent spread was provided by Mr. Thomas Morgan and family, and great praise is due to them for the artistic manner in which the tables were decorated, and for the tasty victuals prepared and served by them. After the supper was over, a splendid musical programme was gone through, the chief feature of which was the rendering of selections by a magnificent gramophone manipulated by Mr. Seth James. Vocal solos were given by Messrs. Tom Davies, Crad Shankland, Johnny Williams, and Ernest Price, and Mr. David James Thomas gave a couple good comic songs. Mr. Harry Evans then spoke of the prospects for the coming season. Votes of thanks were given to all who had helped towards the success of the club in the past, and it was decided to elect the officials for the coming year at a future meeting.

Advert Constipation and Headache: Bile Beans Banish Both.

“Merthyr Express” 25 June 1904

Cricket: Fochriw v Cefn This was the return match. The first encounter had resulted in an easy victory for Cefn, but on this occasion, the home side was victorious. Scores: Cefn - 18 runs; Fochriw - 54 runs. E. Jones took five wickets for Fochriw, and D. Evans three.

“Merthyr Express” 16 July 1904

Cricket: Fochriw v Llanbradach Scores: Fochriw 46 runs (D. L. Jones 17); Llanbradach 28 (Evans six wickets, Jones three).

“Merthyr Express” 23 July 1904

J. S. Davies & Co., Drapers, Dowlais, have a Special Ladies' Holland Coat for the Holiday Season; full sac with crepe and trimmed lace, 3s. 11½d.

Personal At the I.O.G.T. meeting on Thursday evening, numerous references were made to the election of the Rev. James Jones to be chairman of the Gelligaer School Managers. Mr. Charles Payne, chairman, Dr. Davies, Councillor J. Jones, and others, spoke very high of the invaluable services rendered by Rev. Jones in the cause of education. As one of the most prominent members of the late Gelligaer School Board, Rev. Jones rendered services which stamped him as a most zealous advocate

of education. On June 13th, the honour of opening the school at Pontlottyn was conferred on the Reverend Jones, and this function he discharged in his usual able manner. Another distinction lately enjoyed by the reverend gentleman was that of chairman of the quarterly meetings of the North Glamorgan Congregationalists, and here again he acquitted himself with great ability.

“Merthyr Express” 6 August 1904

A Fochriw Curate's Warfare Against Clubs: Action for Slander by a Conservative Association: Verdict for Plaintiffs At the Glamorgan Assizes on Tuesday (before Justice Willis and a special jury), an important slander action was heard, in which the plaintiffs were the Cardiff Conservative Club Company (Limited), and the defendant the Reverend John Alfred Rees, curate of Fochriw. Damages were claimed for slander contained in a speech delivered by the defendant at a temperance meeting at Blackwood on January 5th last. Mr B. Francis-Williams, K.C., and Mr. Arthur Lewis appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. S. T. Evans, M.P., and Mr. Llewellyn Williams for the defendant.

Mr B. Francis-Williams began by giving a brief history of the Cardiff Conservative Club, and the character of its membership. The Lord-lieutenant of the county, Lord Windsor, was its president. There were other gentlemen who belonged to the club of the position of Lord Bute and Lord Tredegar. There were two or three men of his own profession, a number of medical men, about 26 solicitors, 56 accountants and commission agents. This was perhaps the largest club in Wales, and was carried on like a country club, or like those in London. It was in no way a bogus club, such as they knew some clubs could be. The Conservative Club of Cardiff was not conducted for the purpose of evading the Licensing Act, and was not one of those clubs which was merely conducted for the sale of drink. It was a place that was used as a party club. The words used by the defendant, and the words which were complained of were: "We have heard a great deal lately of the devil being in the Potteries. Well, if he is there, I am perfectly certain that he is in the so-called Liberal, Constitutional, and other clubs of Glamorganshire, for the conduct of their members as disclosed from time to time in our police courts, is not one whit better than the Pottery men. Why, only the other day, one of the prominent Conservative Club men in Cardiff unblushingly characterised his party's club to me as being very shady, and the resort of the betting fraternity. Indeed, to such proportions had their presence grown, and so great was the nuisance they caused during luncheon time, that he now invariably deserts his club for the more congenial and quiet surroundings of a popular St. Mary Street restaurant. The conduct of the majority of these institutions, if the truth were

known, is often contrary to law, and I have not the slightest hesitation in asserting that if our police raided all the Glamorganshire clubs, nine and of every ten would cease to exist." That was the portion of the speech complained of, counsel continued, and after the meeting, the defendant handed his manuscript to the representatives of the "Western Mail." The libel was the publication of the written matter given to the representative of that journal. Counsel next proceeded to show that the only political club which supplied luncheons in Cardiff was the Cardiff Conservative Club. If the allegations were now withdrawn he would be satisfied as they were not asking for the payment of costs. As there was no withdrawal, witnesses were then called.

In his evidence, Rev. Rees said that he had lately compiled statistics showing that 53 clubs in Glamorgan had been prosecuted between 1896 and 1904. There were 35 convictions, and the fines amounted to £1,598 5s. Rev. Rees was made to admit by counsel that he had 'stretched his imagination sometimes' when interpreting what he had been told by his friend relating to Cardiff clubs. Various witnesses were also called relating to bookmaking and the Cardiff Club.

In summing up, the Judge said that that the questions for the jury were - Whether the allegations applied to the club? Whether the alleged libel was of such a character as to affect materially the pecuniary interests of the concern? Was it of a character to interfere materially with the carrying of the club in the commercial sense? Dealing with the alleged libel, the Judge said it was one of those unfortunate instances of intemperance about temperance, which he was sorry to say did extreme harm to a very good cause. He always regretted it was so, and that gentleman were so carried away by zeal for what they considered to be a righteous cause, that they forgot what was due to other people and what was due to themselves. And the reverend gentleman could hardly be acquitted of having done what he himself regretted he had done. The jury retired at 1.12, and returned at 1.20 with a verdict for the plaintiff company answering the questions as follows: 1. Did the the alleged libel affect materially the peculiarly interests of the plaintiffs? - No. 2. Did it interfere materially with the carrying on of the business of the club? - Yes. 3. Was it justified? - No. The jury further informed the judge that they assessed the damages at 40 shillings.

Enthusiastic Reception for the Rev. J. A. Rees The Rev. J. A. Rees met with an enthusiastic reception on his arrival at Fochriw from Swansea on Wednesday evening. Mr Rees reached Fochriw about seven o'clock, and was met at the railway station by the majority of the residents, headed by the Fochriw Brass Band. A procession was formed, and having paraded the principal streets, wended its way over the mountain to Pontlottyn, where the reverend gentleman was again received

enthusiastically. A public meeting was held in The Square, in the centre of the town. Addresses were delivered by the Rev. Rees and Mr. Tertius Phillips, Cardiff.

“Merthyr Express” 13 August 1904

Grand Bazaar at Fochriw A Grand Bazaar in connection with the Carmel Welsh Congregational Chapel was held in the Council Schools on 1st & 2nd August. The bazaar was opened on the first day by Mrs. David Evans of Cardiff, while Mrs. Isaac Phillips, Pontlottyn, did likewise on the second day. As mementoes, both ladies were presented with a pair of beautiful, silver-mounted vases with inscriptions suitable to the occasion. The interior of the halls were beautifully decorated, and bore testimony to the arduous tasks of the secretary, Miss M. A. Lewis, and the treasurer, Miss M. A. Ballard, who were supported by a band of lady workers. The stalls were splendidly and tastefully decorated, and brisk sales were conducted throughout by the following ladies and gentlemen. The stalls, which were six in number, were as follows: Drapery Stall – Mrs. Davies and Mrs. Lewis; Drapery Stall – Mrs. Cole and Mrs. J. Thomas; Fancy Stall - Miss E. Evans and Miss A. G. Williams; Confectionery Stall – Mrs. A. Jones and Miss A. Phillips; Toy Stall - Miss G. Wright and Miss S. A. Evans; Drink Stall - Miss E. Morgan and Mr. J. Llewellyn. A band of ready and enthusiastic workers assisted at the Bran Tubs, etc. During the sales, pretty performances depicting National Welsh, Japanese, and Chinese costumes were given by the children, conducted by Miss E. Jones, schoolmistress, Deri. These were very good and much appreciated by the crowded audiences. Singing competitions and other interesting and laughable competitions were indulged in throughout both days. The able accompanist was as Mr. D. J. Thomas. The whole proceeds go towards augmenting the building funds of the new chapel. On both days previous to commencing, the principal streets were paraded by a procession headed by the Town Band. All who contributed, particularly the secretary and treasurer, deserve to be heartily congratulated upon the splendid financial success of the venture.

“Merthyr Express” 27 August 1904

Rev. J. A. Rees and Clubs Meetings in connection with the annual demonstration of the Abersychan Total Abstiners were held on Monday, the speakers being the Rev. J. A. Rees, Fochriw; Mr. Ernest Evans, Newport; Alderman T. W. Evans, Newbridge; the Rev. J. Scrivens, Abersychan; and the Rev. W. Morris, Talywain. The Rev. J. A. Rees said that Glamorgan had entered into a compact with the drink traffic. The registration of clubs was a mere farce, and it proved totally inadequate. They simply robbed the nation of public-house licences, and were public-houses without supervision.

Agents Wanted in Every District to sell the celebrated Karn Organs and Pianos. Apply to Sole Agent, W. Burr, Pontmorlais, Merthyr.

“Merthyr Express” 10 September 1904

Fatal Accident to a Colliery Boy About three o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, an unfortunate accident occurred at No. 1 Pit, Fochriw, causing the death of a youth of 13 years, named Evan John Rowlands, who worked with his father, Daniel Rowlands, No. 4, Pit-row, Fochriw. At the time of the accident, he was sitting at the top of the road of the deceased's father's level, in company with another lad, Thomas Lawrence, when a stone fell from the roof on to Rowland's head and neck, death being instantaneous. His companion had a miraculous escape, and the father, and James Lawrence, also witnessed the fatality.

“Merthyr Express” 17 September 1904

Disclaimer Thomas Edwards, 7, Aelybryn, Fochriw, overman at Fochriw Pits, wishes to state that he is not the Thomas Edwards who appeared at the Merthyr Bankruptcy Court recently, as that person is a repairer, and lives at Penywern.

Temperance Demonstration On Saturday the 3rd, the Temperance Societies - the Rechabites and the International Order of Good Templars, joined forces in a public demonstration. Headed by the Fochriw Brass Band (who gave their services free), they marched through Pentwyn and Fochriw, a gallant army over 300 strong. The local forces were reinforced for the day by a number of Temperance friends from the surrounding districts. After the procession, tea was taken in the Council School, where six tables, served by the lady friends of Temperance, were kept busy for hours. At eight o'clock, a musical entertainment was given, presided over by the Rev. James Jones, and supported by Dr. Davies, the Rev. J. Alfred Rees, Alderman Lewis, Mr. Richards, and others. The I.O.G.T. Juvenile Choir, under the able conductorship of Mr. David James Thomas, rendered a service of songs entitled "The Good Templar Jubilee." The anthems and choruses were interspersed with readings, giving the history of the I.O.G.T.. Mr. Roderick Jones accompanied the music. A vote of thanks to the chairman, and the host of willing hands that had served during the day, was proposed by Mr. Ernest Price, and seconded by Mr. Joseph Payne, and a very entertaining and instructive evening was brought to a close.

“Merthyr Express” 1 October 1904

Accident Whilst working at No. 2 Pit, Fochriw, on Tuesday afternoon, a young lad named Gilbert Owen, living with his parents at Gellifaelog, was struck on the back with a 'clod' which fell from the roof. He was badly hurt, and had a narrow escape from more serious injury. He was taken home.

“Merthyr Express” 5 November 1904

Accident Whilst engaged at No. 1 Pit, Fochriw, on Monday, an underground contractor named Mathias met with an accident whereby he sustained serious injuries.

“Merthyr Express” 26 November 1904

Sudden Death at Fochriw At the Police Station, Rhymney on Thursday week, Mr. J. R. Walford, the district coroner, held an inquiry into the death of Michael Donovan, aged 50, of Rhymney, who died very suddenly at the Fochriw Pit on Monday week. Thomas Powell, who worked with the deceased, said that Donovan had been doing his usual duty at the boilers on the morning in question. He was speaking to him a quarter of an hour before receiving the signal from a man named Hay. Deceased was lying on a heap of rubbish. He shouted to him but received no reply. He was then carried with assistance on to the stand, but by then he was dead. Donovan had had no heavy work to do. William Hay, who saw the deceased fall, said Donovan was driving wooden wedges into the joint of a water pipe to prevent a leak. This was five minutes before his death. He was not using a heavy piece of iron. He saw him fall away quietly from the act of striking. There was no sigh or groan from the deceased. There was no foul air about, and he did not appear to injure himself in falling. Dr. Davies also gave evidence. The jury returned a verdict of death due to natural causes by the failure of an imperfect heart.

“Merthyr Express” 17 December 1904

Induction Meeting at Nazareth: Rev. J. Roderick Special preaching services were held at Nazareth C. M. Chapel on Sunday and Monday, the 4th and 5th inst. The officiating ministers were the Revs. T. J. Edwards, Merthyr, and T. Teifi Davies, Trevecca. Powerful sermons were delivered to large and appreciative congregations. On Monday afternoon, Rev. J. Roderick, the late pastor of Salem, Tredegar, was installed as minister of the Church at Nazareth. Representatives of the monthly meetings of Monmouthshire and East Glamorgan attended. Rev. T. G. Edwards presided. Rev. James Jones (Cong) introduced the meeting with prayer. The history of the "call" was given by Mr. G. Pugh and Councillor J. Jones, and then the new pastor briefly gave the particulars of his acceptance. Mr. T. L. Davies, Tredegar, on behalf of the Monmouthshire Monthly Meeting, spoke very highly of Mr. Roderick's capabilities and the esteem in which he was held by his brethren across the border. The local ministers, Revs. J. Jones and L. P. Davies, also spoke, and extended Mr. Roderick a cordial welcome to Fochriw. The following englynion, composed by “Twynog,” were read at the meeting:

Oes hir iawn yn Nazareth – I Roderick
I reiadrn pregeth;
Na cheir gwell gwr llachar, gwiw,
O Fochriw i Llanfachreth.

A Roderick io'n gwneud gwrhydri – moesol
Miwsig nef fo'n gloewi
Fochriw'n bur, a'i hasur hi
O hyd fel yn dwyfoli.

Rev. Roderick is a popular preacher and an enthusiastic temperance worker. As a poet, he has already won fame at Eisteddfodau, being an expert "englynwr" and lyric poet.

“Merthyr Express” 31 December 1904

Collier's Cardiff Holidays John Edwards, aged 24, a Fochriw collier, was charged at Cardiff on Thursday with being disorderly in St. Mary Street, and with assaulting P.C. Thomas Simmonds and P.C. Victor Chapple while in the execution of their duty. According to their evidence, the prisoner was turned out of the Royal Oak Hotel, and in his resentment issued the usual challenge to fight the world. Edwards, whose memory was a complete blank as regards the incident, was fined five shillings and costs, with the alternative of seven days imprisonment on each charge.

“Merthyr Express” 4 February 1905

A Curious Find When travelling the mountain near Fochriw on Wednesday, a drayman made a curious find which now awaits a claimant at the Dowlais Police Station. The find is a brass coffin plate engraved as follows: "Evan Evans, died Jan 28th 1905, aged 70 Years."

“Merthyr Express” 11 February 1905

Tariff Reform On Monday evening, a public meeting under the auspices of the Tariff Reform League was held in the schoolroom, when Mr. Longstaff from Newport, gave an address on "Tariff Reform." The room was filled with an orderly audience over which Mr. S. Jacobs, Cardiff, presided. Questions were invited at the close, but none were put. The Pontlloftyn Silver Band was in attendance, and played in the streets prior to the meeting.

The Curate of Fochriw's Campaign Against Clubs: Failure Attributed To Slander Action The Rev. J. A. Rees, curate of Fochriw, who has made such persistent attacks on clubs, filed his petition in bankruptcy at Merthyr on Friday. A receiving order was made, and a statement of affairs was issued on Tuesday. The debtor attributes his failure entirely to the assize action for slander recently brought against him by the Cardiff Conservative Club Company (Limited), when the plaintiffs obtained a verdict for £2 and costs. The bankrupt's stipend is only £120 per annum. It is understood that the club's costs amount to between £300 and £350. The statement of affairs show liabilities amounting to £627-8s-2d., with assets at nil; £326-12s is returned as due to the Cardiff Conservative Club (Limited) in respect of the judgment obtained against him at Swansea Assizes in August last, and £250 as due to Mr. J. A. Hughes, Cardiff and Barry, in respect of costs for defending him in the action; £51-5s is returned as a fully secured debt to Mr. David Prothero, furniture dealer, Bargoed, to whom the debtor has given a bill of sale on the whole of his household effects, including his library, in respect of money borrowed and interest.

“Merthyr Express” 25 February 1905

Fochriw Curate's Failure: Meeting of Creditors at Merthyr A meeting of the creditors of John Alfred Rees, Talybryn, Pontlottyn, clerk in holy orders, was held on Monday at the offices of the official receiver at Merthyr. The statement of affairs showed that £576-3s-2d was due to two unsecured creditors, and £51-5s to one creditor fully secured. The assets were put down as nil. The Conservative Club Company caused an execution to be levied on the 30th January, but the debtor filed the petition on the 3rd inst., and the sheriff's officers withdrew on the following day. In his deficiency account, the debtor states that his expenses other than law costs in connection with the slander action amounted to only £23-15s. The public examination is fixed to take place at Merthyr Court on 22nd March.

“Merthyr Express” 11 March 1905

Fatal Accident at Vochriw Pit On Friday afternoon, one of those regrettable accidents that happen in our collieries and workplaces took place, when a boy of 16 years, the only support of his widowed mother, was suddenly crushed by a huge stone of about a ton in weight, that fell upon him at the Fochriw No. 2 Pit. It appears that David John Evans was working in the 9 foot seam with John Stevens, aged 18, and both under the supervision of the latter's father, William Stevens. They had just been talking joyously about the splendid "top" they had to work under, went down comes the big stone upon the smallest boy, killing him on the spot. It was some time before they could get the body free, such was the weight of the stone. After its recovery, the

body was taken to 10, Gas-row, Dowlais, by a large number of those working in the pit. The inquest was held on Monday afternoon at the Dowlais Police Station. A verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned.

“Merthyr Express” 25 March 1905

Temperance The last of the series of temperance meetings was held at the Fochriw County School on Thursday, when the speakers of the evening, Mr. Percy Thomas (Cardiff) and Mr. T. C. Thomas (Bedlinog) delivered addresses. The Rev. Isaac Roderick (Fochriw) presided. The speakers were in good form, and were heartily received by the audience. They dealt with the Licensing Act and gave their experience of what they had seen and heard during the course of the revival bearing on the drink question. The various speakers who have addressed Fochriw audiences during past three months are as follows: the Rev. Isaac Williams, Rhymney; Rev. Morris Morgan, Swansea; Principal Edwards, Cardiff; Rev. James Jones, Fochriw; Rev. J. Tertius Phillips, U. K. A; Mr. T. C. Thomas, Bedlinog; Mr. Percy Thomas, Cardiff .

The Curate of Fochriw's Bankruptcy The public examination of the Reverend John Alfred Rees, curate of Fochriw, who alleged his failure to be due to a judgment given against in an action for slander brought against him by the Conservative Club Company (Limited), Cardiff, at the Swansea Assizes in August 1904, was held at the Merthyr Bankruptcy Court, before Mr. Deputy Registrar Jones, on Wednesday afternoon. Mr. J. A. Hughes (Barry) appeared for the debtor, and Mr. W. L. Yorath for the club. Mr. J. Tertius Phillips, South Wales agent of of the United Kingdom Alliance, was present. In answer to Mr. Ernest Daniel, deputy-official receiver, Rev. Rees stated that his assets were nil and his unsecured liabilities were £576-3s-2d, of which £326-3s-2d were owed to the Club and £250 to his defence solicitor. He also stated that he had lived at Talybryn, Pontlottyn, for the past two years, and before that at Fernleigh, Blackwood, and before that at the Parsonage, Alltwen, Pontardawe. His stipend for the past three years had been £120 per annum, and he had no other income. Mr. Yorath asked Rev. Rees about the money raised by Mr. Tertius Phillips of the United Kingdom Alliance to finance his defence, and whether it was correct that Mr. Phillips had given a guarantee to the solicitor for £150 costs. Rev. Rees stated that no money had been passed to him, but that he believed that £80 had been paid to the solicitor by Mr. Phillips. He also believed that Mr. Phillips had given a guarantee to the solicitor for the amount stated, but he did not have certain knowledge of this. After brief questioning by Mr. Hughes, in reply to whom he said that he felt it was his duty not to apologise, the examination was closed.

“Merthyr Express” 15 April 1905

Constitutional Club On Thursday, about 40 members of the Pontlottyn Club paid a visit to take part in a games tournament, and the result was "evens." The games over, the party adjourned to the assembly room where the steward and stewardess had prepared supper. The remainder of the evening was spent in songs etc. given by Messrs. D. Powell, Rees, Powell and Ward, C. Parry and W. Evans.

“Merthyr Express” 22 April 1905

Social On Thursday evening, the 13th April, at the Council School, Fochriw, the teachers of the Fochriw School and their friends, met for a social evening prior to the departure for Bournemouth of Mr. Benjamin Williams, assistant teacher. The chief event of the night was a presentation to Mr. Williams by his fellow teachers. The pleasant duty was delegated to Miss Cole (Fochriw), who first recounted Mr. Williams' many good qualities which had won the esteem of his co-workers, and then made the presentation of a handsome dressing case which she hoped would keep alive memories of agreeable co-operation in school duties. Mr. Williams suitably acknowledged the presentation amidst hearty cheers. The company sat down to light refreshments, presided over by Mrs. W. O. Morgan, School House, and Mrs. James Williams, Brynawel. The pleasant evening was brought to a close by the reading of some verses composed for the occasion by Mr. Davies, Craig-y-tyle, Pontlottyn.

“Merthyr Express” 20 May

Cricket: Fochriw v Bargoed Seconds Fochriw were winners by 11 runs after batting first and scoring 53. David Evans was top scorer with 12 runs, and was also top wicket taker with 6 for 19. The final Bargoed wicket fell with just three minutes left to play.

“Merthyr Express” 3 June 1905

Cricket: Rhymney v Fochriw Scores: Rhymney 73; Fochriw 34.

“Merthyr Express” 10 June 1905

Paternity Summons Daniel Davies of Fochriw was summoned by Lucy Jenkins, single woman, living at Gelligaer. Complainant said she had kept company with the defendant for nine years. At first she was a servant at a farm, and afterwards at Pantyfynon near Trelewis. She then went into service at Fochriw Farm, and later at the Penybank Hotel. Her sister, Sarah Thomas, was in service at Bryntirion House, Fochriw. After hearing the evidence, the Bench considered the case proved and ordered the defendant to pay 3s 6d per week and costs.

“Merthyr Express” 17 June 1905

Medical Officers Report 55 cases of diphtheria were reported by the Medical Officer. Of these 45 were at Pontlottyn, 5 at Fochriw, and the remainder at Trelewis, Gilfach and Bargoed. He stated that only one case had been reported at Fochriw in the last month, so that it may be considered that the village is now free.

“Merthyr Express” 24 June 1905

Lime: To Builders, Farmers and Others The Abercriban Quarries Co., Ponsticill, have opened their new lime-kiln. Available in lots from 4 tons up. Send for prices.

Confirmation On Monday, 19 persons from Fochriw were confirmed at Rhymney Church by the Bishop of Llandaff. Most of these were grown-up persons, and are the fruits of the revival which has been strongly felt by all denominations in the village.

Ambulance On Tuesday evening, at the Council Schools, a public distribution of certificates and medallions to the pupils of the Fochriw Ambulance Class took place. Mr. John Henry Jones, manager of the Fochriw Collieries, presided, and Mrs. Jones made the presentations. The certificates were handed to the following, with a kind remark to each: Edwin Davies, Austin Price, James Davies and Arthur Ballard; and the medallions to Rhys D. Jenkins, John Morgan, Tom Evans, Tom Jenkins, Simon Cole, John Edwards, James Jones and Caradog Ballard. Also, Mrs. Jones handed to William John Ballard, a member of the class since its formation six years ago, a silver medal and a walking stick of ivory and ebony, silver-mounted, with a suitable inscription. Mr. Ballard has acted as right-hand man to the surgeon-instructor, Dr. Eleazer Davies, the latter coming in for a travelling bag and dressing-case. During the evening, the following contributed some music and recitations: Misses Elizabeth Jones and Ceridwen Thomas, Messrs. David James Thomas, Wm. Payne, Watkin Williams and John Morgan. A vote of thanks to the chairman and Mrs. Jones was proposed by Mr. James Williams, seconded by Mr. James Evans, and carried with ringing cheers. The singing of "Hen Wlad fy Nhadau" brought the evening to a close.

Gelligaer Parish Council: Fochriw Recreation Ground Mr. Rees Jenkins moved that the Council proceed to lay out a new recreation ground at Fochriw. He thought that a plot could be acquired at very little expense. A sub-committee was selected to choose between the two possible sites.

To Fill a Vacancy: Non-Attendance of Vochriw Member The question of the appointment of a new councillor to fill the vacancy caused by the non-attendance of Mr. Walters, Fochriw, caused much discussion. It was decided that a meeting should be held in the ward. The names of persons selected by that meeting would be submitted to the next meeting. The Clerk pointed out that the parish council could

take no part in the meeting, neither to convene nor to defray expenses. This must be done by the people themselves.

“Merthyr Express” 8 July 1905

Water Supply On Tuesday night, a public meeting was held on the mountain-side (which has lately been christened "Spion Kop") to consider the question of the impure water which the inhabitants of this village have to drink during the summer months. Another meeting will be held at the same place on Tuesday evening next at 7.30p.m.

Treat On Monday, the annual children's tea party of the three denominations was held. A large procession was formed, the pits being idle for the day, and members of the churches turned out in strong force. Between 600 and 700 paraded the streets singing hymns, etc., after which the children partook of tea in the different chapels. The following ladies were tray holders at the Congregational Chapel: Miss M. A. Ballard, Mrs. William Thomas, Miss Edith Cole, and Miss E. Jones, assisted by Miss B. Ballard, Miss C. Jones, Miss E. A. Evans, Miss L. A. Angell, Miss E. J. Evans, Miss E. Evans, Miss Esther Evans, Miss M. J. Davies, Miss M. A. Lewis, and Miss M. Thomas. Cake Cutting: Mr. Wm. Wright and J. H. Jones. Mr. L. Jones and Dr. Davies distributed sweets to the children. Assistance was given by Mrs. John Evans, Mrs. Joseph Shankland, Mrs. Thomas, Mr. John Phillips, Mr. James Williams, Mr. George Phillips, Mrs. Davies (Guest-street), Mr. R. Jenkins and Mr. W. Jones. The following were tray holders at the Baptist Chapel: Miss Lilian Williams, Mrs. Thomas Davies, Mrs. P.S. Williams, and Mrs. H. Davies, assisted by Miss Gertie Williams, Mrs. D. J. Davies, Miss Tydfil Evans, Miss R. Edwards, Miss M. Evans, Miss M. S. Edwards, Miss Mary Davies, Miss M. Edwards, Miss A. Edwards, Miss A. A. Davies, Miss E. J. Davies, Mrs. M. Williams and Miss Beatrice Jones. The helpers were: Mr. T. J. Hopkins, Mrs. James Williams, Mrs. Ed. Davies, Mr. John Jones, Mr. T. J. Harris, Mr. John Edwards, Mr. James Davies, Mrs. H. Davies, Mrs. Evans, Penybank, Mr. Henry Williams and Mr. James Williams. The following ladies attended the tables at the Methodist Chapel: Mrs. John Jones, Mrs. Captain Jones, assisted by Mrs. M. Davies, Miss R. Cheeke, Miss M. Jones, and Miss E. M. Jones. The helpers were: Messrs. John Jones, T. Roberts, Peter Jones, Councillor John Jones, Mrs. Davies (Guest-street), Mr. Wm. Jones and Mr. Evan Jones. After tea was over, sports and games were enjoyed by young and old.

“Merthyr Express” 22 July 1905

Filling a Vacancy Mr. R. Jenkins reported on the meeting held at Fochriw. He stated that there were 200 persons present, and of these 84 were voters. A vote was taken on the nominations for the position, and 30 voted for Mr. T. Llewellyn, and 54 for Mr.

T. Kinsey. He proposed that Mr. Kinsey fill the position. Mr. J. Cooper pointed out that Mr. Kinsey had left the district, and so Mr. Llewellyn should fill the vacancy. Mr. J. Roberts stated that Mr. George Uzzell of Deri was next highest on the list at the last election, and therefore, he ought to fill the vacancy. On a vote, four recorded for Mr. Llewellyn and five for Mr. Kinsey, who was, therefore, elected.

“Merthyr Express” 5 August 1905

Cricket: Fochriw v Pontlloftyn On Saturday, the return match was played at Fochriw, and as before, Pontlloftyn were victors. E. Jones and W. Taswell bowled throughout the Pontlloftyn innings, the former taking 3 for 18, and the latter 6 for 24. Pontlloftyn totalled 44 runs. Fochriw were dismissed for just 18 runs.

Musical Our talented young soprano vocalist, Miss E. Jones, acquitted himself admirably on Monday at a benefit concert at Pontlloftyn, when she sang "For all eternity" and "The Japanese Love Song" to an appreciative audience. Miss Lilian Williams accompanied most artistically.

Baptist Chapel On Sunday, the Rev. D. P. David, of Johnstown, America, occupied the pulpit at the Baptist Chapel, and delivered two powerful sermons. The reverend gentleman has only just come back on a visit to his native country, and on Saturday, came to spend the Sunday with his old college friend, the Rev. L. P. Davies, the respected pastor of the Baptist Church. This was not the first time for Mr. David to occupy the pulpit at Fochriw, he having preached here just before he left for America.

Pit Idle On Monday morning, a terrible crash occurred at the pumping engine of the Fochriw pits, which caused No. 2 Pit to be idle for the first part of the week, and will probably keep the Pit idle for the whole week. Considerable damage was done to the engine, the piston rod being bent and the cylinder damaged very badly.

Mission The Church Army have commenced a week's mission in the place since Sunday morning, when Mr. Stacey occupied the pulpit. Meetings have since been held on the mountain side, where large numbers of people have gathered. Meetings have been arranged for the week at Fochriw, Pentwyn, and Penybank.

Sunday School Treat The Fochriw Church held their annual tea party on Thursday. A procession was formed at 3 o'clock at the Church, headed by the Rev. J. A. Rees, curate, the Rev. T. Rees, vicar, and the Rev. Mr. Stanley (Church Army missionary). The procession, about 220 strong, was headed by the Deri Brass Band, and wended its way through the streets. The band, under the leadership of Mr. William Powell, Fochriw, played select marches. Tea was taken in the Church, the tray holders being Mrs. J. H. Jones, Mrs. J. Richards, Miss Annie Rees and Miss Minnie Morgan, assisted by Miss A. Summers, Miss S. E. Williams, Miss J. Prosser, Mrs. William

Wilton, Mrs. R. Thomas, Miss Emily Morgan, and Miss M. M. Jones. The band played several selections outside the Church before they adjourned to the mountain, where they played dance music, etc. The helpers at the tea were: Mrs. Jas. Davies, Mrs. Wm. White, Mr. Jas White, Mr. & Mrs. Chas. Payne, Mr. D. Jones and Mr. J. Mantle. The catering was in the capable hands of Mr. J. Wellings, grocer, Pentwyn. A splendid programme of sport had been made up, but the chief attraction was the 120 yards open handicap, and the half-mile bicycle handicap. The winner of the former was 1. Wyndham Edwards, Fochriw; 2. R. Pugh, Fochriw; and of the latter 1. J. Lawrence; 2. A. Jenkins, both of Fochriw. The sports officials were: Judge: Mr. J. H. Jones, M.E.; starter, Mr. W. Gwynne; handicapper, Mr. Wm. Payne. Other officials were: Mr. Jos. Payne, Mr. T. Baldwin, Mr. H. Edgar and Mr. J. Woods.

“Merthyr Express” 19 August 1905

Temperance The Star of Fochriw Lodge of the International Order of Good Templars went to Pontsarn for an outing on Wednesday. Some 200 people were booked from Fochriw Station by special train, which reached Pontsarn about 11:30a.m. Between that time and one o'clock, various games were played, and all were ready with a sharpened appetite when the call came to lunch, which was prepared by the lady members of the lodge. Lunch was served at the pavilion, and the afternoon was devoted to various recreations. Before tea was taken, the officials of the lodge were photographed. After tea an entertainment was held. The chair was taken by Brother Charles Payne, Chief Templar, and the following took part: Brothers William Griffiths, E.S., and J. Davies, Sister May Angell, Brothers Fred Williams, D. C. Jones, and D. J. Thomas. Several choruses from Torrey-Alexander were sang by the choir, under the able conductorship of Brother D. J. Thomas. Great credit is due to this young musician for his untiring efforts with the children of this Lodge. The accompaniment was played by Sister Lizzie Gwynne. The catering was admirably carried out by Mr. Thomas Llewellyn, grocer, Fochriw. All the arrangements were well carried out by Brothers Thomas Lewis, S.J.T., and William Griffiths, E.S..

“Merthyr Express” 26 August 1905

Obituary: Mr James Cole, 19, Martin Street, aged 64 With deep regret, we recorded the death of one of Fochriw's oldest inhabitants in the person of Mr. James Cole. Deceased was 64 years of age, and had lived at Fochriw close on 40 years, and was highly respected by all. He had been an official under the Dowlais Iron Company for upwards of 35 years, first as firemen, and afterwards as overman at No. 2 Pit. He had also been a deacon of the Independent Chapel for over 32 years, where he will be

greatly missed, both as a worker, and as one who was always ready to give financially towards the cause. The deceased passed peacefully away on Tuesday night, the 15th, having been ill for nearly five years. The funeral took place on Saturday at Pentwyn Church cemetery, when a large number of people gathered together to pay the last tribute of respect. A short service was held at the Independent Chapel, the officiating ministers being the Rev. J. Jones, and the Rev. R Jenkins, the former being the pastor of the Congregational Chapel. The chief mourners were: Mrs. Cole (widow); Mr. John Cole (brother); Mr. and Mrs. John Cole, Treorky (son and daughter-in-law); Miss Edith Cole; Mr. James Jones (grandson); Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Jones (son-in-law and daughter); Mr. and Mrs. Simon E. Cole, Mr. and Mrs. David Cole, Mr. and Mrs. William Cole (sons and daughters-in-law); Mr. And Mrs. Wm. Cole, Treorky (nephew and niece); Mr. Wm. Gwynne, Treorky (nephew); Mr. And Mrs. John Cole Jones, Pembrokeshire (nephew); Mr. John Thomas, Aberdare (brother-in-law); Mr. Simon and Mary Thomas, Aberdare (nephew and niece); Mr. Sam Williams, Aberdare (nephew). Among the wreaths sent was one from the teachers of the Fochriw Council School, where Miss E. Cole has been an assistant mistress for several years.

“Merthyr Express” 2 September 1905

Gelligaer Parish Council: Vochriw Recreation Ground Mr. Rees Jenkins reported the decision of the sub-committee with regard to this ground, and gave details of the small area recommended for enclosure.

“Merthyr Express” 16 September 1905

Star of Fochriw, International Order of Good Templars The annual demonstration and tea was held by the above society on Saturday, 2nd September. The weather was favourable, and many visitors were present. About 100 children and about 80 adults attended the parade, which shows that the Good Templars are increasing in number. The tea was also a success. The tables were laid out remarkably well. Food was supplied by Mr. Aneurin Jones.

A temperance meeting was held in the evening at the Noddfa Vestry, which was kindly lent by the Baptist denomination. Dr. Eleazer Davies was chairman, supported by the Rev. James Jones and Mr. Charles Payne. Excellent addresses were delivered by the Rev. James Jones, the Rev. James Salmon, Pontlottyn, Mr. Charles Payne, and Mr. L. Cole, Pontlottyn. The addresses seemed to have a great effect on the audience. Solos were rendered between the addresses, and a few recitations were also given by members. A vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. E. Price and seconded by Mr. ThomasThomas, brought a pleasant evening to an end.

“Merthyr Express” 21 October 1905

A Row at Vochriw Mary Thomas, Gwenllian Thomas, and Mary E. Thomas, mother and two daughters, were summoned for assaulting Sophia Whitby of Guest-street, Fochriw. Mr. F. P. Charles for the complainant, said that on Tuesday the defendant's little boy called Mrs. Whitby names. She asked Mrs. Thomas if she could prove what he had said, and when replied by giving her “one” under the chin, and the mother and two daughters then beat her. Daniel Evans came up, but the defendants came on after that, pulled her hair and knocked her about. She fainted away, and did not remember any more of the row. Mrs. Thomas (holding up a little boy): This is the beginning of the row sir. (laughter) She said that the complainant beat her boy, and when her daughters interfered she “struck ‘em awful,” and said she would beat the child again. Daniel Evans, aged 14, of Guest-street, said he heard the row. The boy was there, but the complainant did not strike him. Mrs. Thomas's boy called Mrs. Whitby some awful names, and he saw the blow given under the chin. Then the daughters set upon her, and he went to the complainant's help. They again attacked the complainant, jumping at her when he was trying to defend her. Mrs. Whitby fainted. She did not do anything to the defendants. The eldest daughter said the complainant “dragged her hair to pieces.” Annie Thomas said she heard the little boy using bad language, and then she heard his mother using similar expressions to Mrs. Whitby. She saw the attack on the complainant as had been described. Edith Lewis corroborated. Mrs. Thomas: I did not see her. Stipendiary: No, you were too busily engaged, you know (laughter). For the defence, Edward Thomas, a youth, said that the daughters prevented Mrs. Whitby from striking Mrs. Thomas. Jame May deposed that the complainant first struck the daughter, when the other two tried to stop her. There was then a lot of hair pulling. Mrs Thomas was fined 20 shillings and costs, and each of her daughters 10 shillings and costs.

“Merthyr Express” 11 November 1905

Constitutional Club At the Club on Saturday last, a successful smoker was held, the speaker being Mr. T. Thornton, Conservative agent, Cardiff. The following gentleman added to the harmony in fine style: Messrs. Alfred Lewis, D. Jones, W. Evans, W. Jones, and T. Shankland. Mr. Threlfall was the pianist. Mr. E. Johnson, Pontlottyn, presided.

“Merthyr Express” 25 November 1905

Temperance Meeting A temperance meeting was held at Fochriw on Friday evening, when a splendid address was given to a good audience by the Reverend Morris Morgan, organising secretary of the South Wales and Monmouthshire

Temperance Association. Dr. Davies, Ivor House, presided over the meeting. The Rev. J. A. Rees, curate of Fochriw, in proposing a vote of thanks to the speaker, drew the attention of the working men present to the fact that the drink traffic blocked the way to all social reform. The working men of our country, he felt sure, required better conditions of life and employment, and more commodious and comfortable houses to live in. The intemperate lives of a very large section of our working-class population, however, and the betting and gambling so many of them indulge in, only served to perpetuate these undesirable conditions, and render the lot of our toilsome classes anything but a happy one. The majority of our Labour leaders, knowing the part the drink traffic plays in checking their work of ameliorating the conditions of their fellow men, and in hindering the realisation of their highest and truest social ideals, were total abstainers and temperance reformers. Too many of the societies and friendly gatherings of working men were being held in public houses, and attended, unfortunately, by Christian people, and it was high time temperance advocates should protest against it.

“Merthyr Express” 30 December 1905

Gelligaer Parish Council: Lamp Posts Mr. Rees Jenkins drew attention to the need for a lamp post at Pleasant View, Fochriw. This was an old district. He noticed that the Council had recently fixed a lamp at Brynhyfryd, whereas Pleasant View was neglected. Also, he sought to draw attention to the removal of the lamp at Brook-row.