

“Merthyr Express” 6 January 1906

United Singing Festival: Competition and Adjudication At the United Singing Festival at Fochriw held on Christmas Day, there was a competition for the best tune composed to the words "Ar for tymhestlog teithio'r wyf" etc. There were 13 entries, and Mr. T. Gabriel (Bargoed) was the adjudicator. Some of the compositions were of high merit, and the prize was awarded to one who sent in under the nom de guerre of 'Stainer."

“Merthyr Express” 3 February 1906

Dramatic The Council School was crowded with a highly appreciative audience on Friday and Saturday evening last, to witness what was, no doubt, the finest performance that has appeared before the people of Fochriw, when Mr. W. J. Payne, and his splendid company of amateur performers, appeared in the great drama, "A Message from the Sea." Great credit is due to all the company for the able manner in which they performed the different parts in so difficult a piece. The principal characters were in the most capable hands of Messrs W. J. Payne, D. J. Thomas, S. Lewis, W. Williams, W. Mathews, W. Gwynne, R. Jones, L. Thomas, L. Pritchard, and Misses S. A. Evans, M. M. Jones, R. Rees, Master James Sheady, & Miss C. Davies. The accompanist was Mr. Roderick Jones. The scenery was skillfully handled by Mr. Thomas Jones, assisted by Mr. Dai Harris. Great thanks is due to Mr. Haggart, Castle Theatre, Bargoed, who so kindly lent the scenery again this year. Mr. J. H. Jones ably acted as chairman, and the committee, with Mr. R. Slimmon and Mr. Charles Payne as ticket sellers, all helped to good purpose.

Welshmen in an Explosion in Australia: One formerly of Fochriw The Rev. E. Mona Jones writing from Newcastle, New South Wales, says that an explosion occurred some time ago in Karri Karri, when three Welshman were killed and four injured. One of the directors of the company was also killed, and the manager (Mr. Henry M. Williams) seriously injured. Mr. Williams was formerly at Fochriw.

“Merthyr Express” 10 February 1906

Breach of Mines Act John Henry Davies was summoned under special rule 171 for not keeping his working place safe by properly timbering and spragging at the Fochriw pit, the property of Messrs G.K.N. Ltd. Mr. F. P. Charles appeared to prosecute. Mr. D. W. Jones defended for the Miners' Federation. Mr. Stewart Martin, assistant agent for the Dowlais Colliery, said that on Wednesday, 24th January, he visited J. H. Davies's working place, on the four foot seam. It was in a dangerous condition, owing to the want of proper spragging. Timber was there but it had not been set. The Stipendiary said that on this occasion proceedings were only taken as a warning, and fined the defendant five shillings including costs. He pointed out, however, that in future a larger penalty would be inflicted.

Australian Mine Disaster: Fochriw Men Victims Further information has been received at Fochriw where some of the victims in the recent mine disaster in New South Wales once lived. The mine was worked by steep slants, in a similar way to the Park Slip Colliery, Tondu. David Jones, the Fochriw man referred to, was killed in the presence of his wife and children. It appears that flames were coming up the drift with considerable force, and in order to smother the fire, he went with the others to wall up the mouth of the drift, and was in the act of carrying out this work, when the fatal explosion took place. A few years ago, his brother and his brother's son, were killed by a fall of roof at a Rhondda colliery. The widowed mother of deceased, who is now 80 years of age, and lives at Fochriw, is naturally prostrated with grief at the sad news from of the colony. Henry Morgan Williams, the manager of the works, who was injured in the accident, was originally a collier at the Fochriw pits. In company with about half a dozen others, including Evan Evans, he emigrated to New South Wales. Of studious habits, he devoted himself to the science of coal mining, and won a prize offered by the Government for the highest marks attained at a mining examination. He was then engaged at a colliery in the vicinity, and subsequently became under-manager. Two years ago, the then resident manager returned home to the Rhondda for six months, and Williams took charge of the colliery. Later on, the Karai Karai was opened, and he secured the appointment. Williams was the founder of the Fochriw Band, and was a successful conductor at eisteddfodau. Many South Walians from the Aberdare, Rhondda and Rhydney valleys live in the Karai Karai district.

“Merthyr Express” 17 February 1906

Temperance: Merthyr Licensing Sessions: Fochriw Curate's Objections The curate of Fochriw rides his temperance principles firmly and enthusiastically. At the Merthyr Licensing Sessions, a number of licensed houses in the district were objected to by the Police and other people, these houses being selected as "not required." Mr. Rees, as a thorough-going temperance reformer, would adopt that principle as being applicable to every licensed house, for he instructed a solicitor from Barry to oppose the license renewal of every public house in and around Fochriw. When the solicitor in question enumerated the houses he intended to object to, the Stipendiary quietly asked - "Have you left one house in the district?" The solicitor replied that they had not, but would leave it to the Bench to say which one, if any, should be allowed to remain!

“Merthyr Express” 24 February 1906

Gelligaer Parish Council: Motor Car Service On the motion of Mr. Tom Kinsey, it was decided to appeal to the local railway companies in the parish of Gelligaer, to adopt the motor car service between Hengoed Junction, Darran and Fochriw, as such a service would be of great benefit to the whole of the parishioners.

“Merthyr Express” 24 March 1906

Presentation at Noddfa Chapel On Tuesday se'nnight, a presentation meeting was held at the above Chapel, the Rev. L. P. Davies, minister, in the chair. The object of the meeting was to acknowledge the services of Miss Lilian Williams, who has been organist at the chapel for many years, and has served the church most faithfully. Mr. Thomas Evans, the precentor, made the presentation. Sergeant Williams spoke on behalf of the Church; Mr. Samuel Evans for the choir; and Mr. D. J. Thomas for the Sunday school. The present given Miss Williams was a chaste gold chain and pendant. Miss Williams acknowledged the gift with some well-chosen words. The following contributed to the entertainment: Miss Phyllis May Williams, Mr. Sydney Phillips and friend, Mrs. Thomas, Miss Edith A. Williams and Miss Mary Davies, Messrs. R. Thomas, Williams and Hill, D. J. Thomas, Miss M. A. Davies and Miss Massie Davies, Master Roberts, Mr. John Evans and party. Votes of thanks were passed to the chairman and others on the proposition of Councillor Rees Thomas.

Sad Fatality at No. 2 Colliery, Fochriw: Narrow Escape for Two Others: A Critical Question of Signalling A pumpman, named John Williams, aged 56, married, living at High-street, Caeharris, met with a terrible death at No. 2 Colliery early on Sunday morning. Deceased was engaged, with six companions, in repairing the pump in the up-shaft of the pit, and whilst in the act of changing the plunger and staffing box, for which purpose he was standing on some planks at the bottom, the cage was lowered, and the unfortunate man was crushed beneath it, death ensuing in the course of half an hour. The body was afterwards removed to his home. Deceased was a native of Caernarvonshire, and came to Dowlais in 1871, being employed as a sinker in South Tunnel Pit, and then as a pitman and at pumps for 31 years. An inquest was held at the Clarence Hotel, Dowlais, on Tuesday, Mr. Stuart Martin, colliery manager, and Mr. John Vaughan, colliery engineer, appearing for the Company, and Mr. Aneurin Jones and Mr. W. Hopkins for the family.

William Evans, leading pitman at No. 2 Pit, gave evidence. He said that he worked with John Williams on the day of the accident repairing the pump at the bottom of the pit. There were men on top of the cage - guiding the pump rod, and they were about 30 feet above them. The men at the bottom were putting the rod in the barrel; the leading hand was John Powell; the cage had been up and down all the time, but had been standing where it was before it came on Williams for 25 minutes. The men on the top of the cage signaled to the engineer at the top of the pit with the signal wire. When the cage was to be moved, they would shout to those at the bottom - working at the pump - to look out. If the men at the top shouted on this occasion, those at the bottom did not hear it, and they did not answer; they were hammering a pin into the joint, and made a good bit of noise, so that they might not be able to hear. The witness could not say how many times the cage had been up and down during the time the job was on, but they heard a shout each time until this time. The hammering was louder on this occasion than previously; the cage had to be shifted so as to adjust the rod into the barrel. The cage came down very quickly, so that they could hardly see it. John Williams happened to be

under it at that time, and he was bound to stand where he was standing at this time to do his work, and could not do it from any other position. He had been a pitman for 25 years. The signals were worked by their own gang, and no one else would touch the wire signal. The signaling between those on top of the cage and those at the bottom was done by word of mouth, and it was not possible to put the wrong signal. John Roberts, repairer, and one of the team at the pit bottom, confirmed the evidence given by William Evans.

John Davies, pit repairer, said that he was on the cage with two other men, Hy. Wilcocks and Wm. Arthur Evans. He was in charge of signaling. He remembered signaling, and he remembered shouting to those below, but he could not say who had answered back, but he was sure that he was answered. Hy. Wilcocks, pitman, said that he remembered distinctly hearing a reply of "All right." Wm. Arthur Evans, pitman, said that he could not say that he heard any shouting from the top of the cage to those below, or that he heard any answer from those below on this occasion. He only heard those signals occasionally, as he was not paying attention. The court was then cleared, and after some deliberation, the jury returned the following verdict: "We find that John Williams was accidentally killed in No. 2 Pit, and we are of the opinion that the cage was lowered without a signal from below that all was right." The Coroner said he agreed with the verdict, and mentioned that it was on the borderline of manslaughter, but just outside it.

"Merthyr Express" 7 April 1906

Pit Hauliers' Wages After protracted negotiations, the Hauliers' Wage Joint Committee of the South Wales Conciliation Board, arrived at an agreement on Saturday. Under this agreement, the standard wage will be 3s.4d. per day, plus percentages and plus bonuses, together with the allowance paid for "dooring."

Notice to Dowlais Colliers Having failed in the first instance to agree upon a price-list in the New "Eled" (or 2ft. 9in.) Seam at the No. 1 Pit, Fochriw, Messrs. G.K.N. Ltd. gave the men a month's notice from March 3rd, and declared it was not their intention to further develop the seam. Now, as a result of a meeting between Mr. H. Stuart Martin, manager, and Councillor John Davies, miners' agent, this notice has been withdrawn. (The notice period would have ended on Saturday). The colliers, who are all day-wage-men, will continue employment without interruption, the question of the price list being left over for further consideration. Of the 132 men engaged in the Top Coal Seam at the South Tunnel Pit between Cwmbargoed and Fochriw, all of whom received notice a month ago, Mr. Martin has found places for the big majority in other collieries in the district owned by the company.

"Merthyr Express" 14 April 1906

Colliery Fatality On Friday afternoon at No. 1 Pit, Fochriw, a lad of 16 named Garfield Lewis, living with his parents at Penydaren, was buried beneath a fall of coal weighing several tons, death being instantaneous. A verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned at the inquest.

Unjust and Unstamped Weights and Measures at Fochriw Aneuryn Jones, Royal Stores, Fochriw, was summoned for having in his possession a weight which was unjust, and which was also unstamped. Inspector Wilson, Glamorgan County Council, said he visited the defendant's grocer's shop, and found there an unstamped seven pound weight, which was eight and a quarter ounces deficient. Defendant said he only used the weight to keep open a door. The Stipendiary said "That is what they always say." Inspector Wilson said the weight was near the scale. Defendant was fined £3 and costs, and 10 shillings and costs, respectively. John Angel, grocer, Guest-street, Fochriw, was summoned for having an unstamped weight. The weight was however accurate. Mrs. Angel said that her husband had only recently bought the weights, and had not examined them. A fine of 10 shillings and costs was imposed.

Whilst Inspector Wilson was in the Fochriw district, a horse and cart belonging to Thomas Jarman, High-street, Dowlais, came along, and the officer did not allow it to pass. He found two weights which were unjust and which were also unstamped. One weight was five drams and the other four drams deficient. Defendant was fined 10 shillings and costs, and 30 shillings and costs, respectively.

"Merthyr Express" 21 April 1906

Gelliger District Council: Fochriw Water Supply Mr. J. Jones asked if there was any prospect of their having a proper water supply for Fochriw, which had been promised year after year. They had been told that once the service was completed at Rhymney, a connection would be made at Fochriw, but up to the present nothing appeared to have been done. He had been told by Mr. Cawley that the pipes would be laid on. The Clerk said that according to the company's arrangements, he understood they would run the branch main over the mountain from Pontlottyn. The contour of the service would enable this to be done, and give an efficient supply to all the houses in Fochriw, but not those at Penybank. They had got their reservoir at Rhymney Bridge completed and their mains laid through the valley, and he could not see why the branch pipes were not laid. On motion of Mr. J. Jones, seconded by the Chairman, it was decided to ask the Company to lay on the service forthwith.

Medical Officer's Report During a general inspection of the district, the Medical Officer found that the back lanes were in a very filthy condition. He also condemned the premises used for a constitutional club at Fochriw as being utterly unfit for that purpose.

“Merthyr Express” 28 April 1906

Quoit Club On Monday, Penydarren paid a visit to Fochriw for a friendly match with the local boys on the opening of their grounds. Penydarren won by a 112 to 100 points. Next week, Penybank enter upon the work of the season, and there is now every prospect of a successful period. Collier Bach (Mr. George Uzzell) is president of the club, and the other officers are: captain – Mr. D. Walters; vice-captain – Mr. D. Jones; secretary – Mr. T. J. Morgan; treasurer – Mr. D. Evans.

Advert Guaranteed Cure for Piles: Itching, Blind, Bleeding or Protruding. All chemists are authorised to refund money if Pazo Ointment fails to cure Piles. One application gives ease and rest. Pazo ointment is a new discovery, and the only pile remedy sold on a positive guarantee. Price 2s.3d. at all chemists, or Paris Medicine Co., Temple Chambers, London, E.C.

“Merthyr Express” 5 May 1906

Health Report for 1905 Pontlottyn 39.1 (Birth Rate); 23.2 (Death Rate); Tirphil 17.7 and 17.7; Fochriw 38.0 and 24.6; Bedlinog 37.0 and 14.4; Bargoed 39.2 and 15.6; Rhigos 20.2 and 16.0.

The death rate in the Pontlottyn and Fochriw wards was higher on account of the fatal prevalence of diphtheria and measles in these wards. Diphtheria accounted for 11 deaths at Pontlottyn and 16 deaths at Fochriw. Measles caused 15 deaths at Pontlottyn and the same number at Fochriw.

“Merthyr Express” 12 May 1906

Population Estimates The population at Rhigos is now estimated at 937. The population of the other five wards - Pontlottyn, Tirphil, Fochriw, Bedlinog, Bargoed and Gelligaer - is calculated at 24,213.

Education Bill At Pentwyn Church on Tuesday night, the Rev. J. A. Rees presided over a large attendance of church people, when the Rector of Gelligaer, Rev. Jesse Jones, delivered an address on the Education Bill. He referred to the establishment of schools by Churchmen, and their maintenance. Subsequently, on the motion of Mr. Thomas, seconded by Edgar, it was decided to form a Church Defence Association for the district.

The Curate of Fochriw Attacks the Education Bill: A Remarkable Address: Will the Devil be Satisfied With It? At the close of the Sunday evening service at the Fochriw Mission Church, a meeting of laymen was held, and the Rev. J. A. Rees spoke on the Education Bill. He said: "As a priest holding Social Union principles, I cannot but vehemently protest against the outrageous educational proposals of the present Government. The confiscation and alienation of Church property, together with the endowment of undenominationalism, and the denial of the right of parents to have their children educated in accordance with their religious belief, which the Bill involves, is so diametrically opposed to Liberal principles, that it passes my comprehension to know how any Liberal Cabinet could for a moment sanction such a flagrant breach of the fundamental principles in its political faith as we find in this Bill. The Bill makes no pretence at equality of treatment. On the contrary, it establishes and endows a form of religion that wounds the consciences of Churchmen and Roman Catholics - a religion

termed Birrell-religion - satisfactory only to Dissenters. This Bill is not an Education Bill at all. It is a Bill for the establishment and endowment of any religion, so long as it is not Christianity. The Bill affords no security for Christianity: it only speaks of religion, and, without any alteration, its clauses might equally apply to the faith of the Chinese, of Hindoos, and Brahmins. The Bill bristles with intrigue, inconsistency, injustice, and intolerance, and intensifies religious strife. Simple Bible teaching is to be given by teachers who may be Atheists or anything else, for no teacher is to be questioned about his faith. We are on dangerous ground here, to say nothing of the profanity of placing God's word in hand of unbelieving teachers. The Bill justifies the devil. He will, I have no doubt, be very satisfied with it, and will back it up, for it certainly betrays the bitterest envy, hatred, and malice of the National Church, to which England and Wales owe all their Christian knowledge. The measure makes Christianity ridiculous, and places it in a position of less importance than any other matter in the world.

According to this Bill, the children may play about the streets during the time allotted to religious instruction. Indeed, what more would Satan like? I picture him chuckling over it, for he sees, if the Bill becomes law, secularism runs riot in our country, and the morals of our next generation, as a result, reduced to the sad condition of affairs existing in France.

“Merthyr Express” 2 June 1906

Obituary: Beatrice Cheap The funeral of Beatrice Cheap took place on Tuesday, when the Reverend T. Rees, vicar, officiated both at the house and graveside in Fochriw Churchyard. Much sympathy is felt for Mr. and Mrs. Cheap in their affliction.

“Merthyr Express” 16 June 1906

District Council: Vochriw Curate Again - Inaction on Closure of Insanitary Club The Local Government Board wrote enclosing complaint from the Reverend J. A. Rees, curate of Fochriw, in which the writer made a long statement, which in effect pointed out that there were many insanitary clubs in Wales, and although the medical officer of the Gelligaer Council had declared the Fochriw club to be insanitary, the Council had refused to close the premises. The Board now asked for the Council's reply. The Clerk said he could only repeat what he had before stated - that they had no power to close the premises. If the Local Government Board wanted to get the power to close clubs in the hands of the Council, they should pass an Act. The Clerk was requested to reply that the Council had no power to close the club.

“Merthyr Express” 11 August 1906

Temperance A public meeting, in connection with the International Order of Good Templars, was held behind the Council Schools on Tuesday evening, the speaker being the Rev. Tertius Phillips, United Kingdom Alliance, of Cardiff. Bro. Charles Payne, the Past Chief Templar of the lodge, occupied the chair. The meeting opened by singing "Guide me, O! Thou Great Redeemer," after which the reverend brother engaged in prayer. The Chairman stated that the object of the meeting was to teach the principles of temperance to those who it was impossible to reach inside, after which he introduced the speaker, who is well-known in the district, having addressed innumerable meetings in the place. Mr. Phillips referred to the powerful opposition which labour gave to sweating industries, while at the same time they supported the brewers in sweating those whom they employed, the brewers only paying a sum equivalent to 1s.5d. in the £ to labour, or lower than any known industry. At this juncture, the rain began to fall, and it was found necessary to retire to the Baptist Vestry, where an enjoyable evening was spent, the following taking part in the programme: song - Sister Ceridwen Thomas; recitation - Brother Thomas, Tirphil; song - Sister Jones, Tirphil; song - Brother T. Shankland. A vote of thanks was proposed by Brother T. Thomas, Chief Templar, seconded in Welsh by Brother W. Jones. The Chairman and artistes were also thanked for their services.

“Merthyr Express” 25 August 1906

Merthyr Volunteer Killed at Vochriw Pit On Monday afternoon, a sad fatality occurred at No. 2 Pit, Fochriw, the victim being a married man named William Price Millward who lived at Pontmorlais. Deceased was well known and respected in the town and district; he was formally a side drummer in the Merthyr Volunteer Band, and was up to his death a side

drummer in the Cefn Volunteer Band. There will be a military funeral on Saturday. At the inquest, John Henry Jones, manager of the pit, said the deceased rode on the west drift in the 9 foot seam. Witness was in a manhole waiting for a full journey of 16 trams to pass him. The journey went by all right, but he did not see the rider, who would have been between the third and fourth tram on the shackle. He went down the road, and heard deceased groaning, and found him in the middle of the road between the rails. He died about 20 minutes later. The journey started from Clarke's level, about 120 yards down the heading. The gradient was three inches on the average, but it was four and a half inches at the spot where deceased was found. The lamp was on the ground, about two yards away from the injured man. The trams travelled at about a good walking pace. The place had side walls and the rails about a foot apart. Nothing had fallen that could have knocked the poor fellow. The headroom was 6 foot 10 inches where the deceased was found, but just below it was less. There was a "bridge" six yards below where he was found which was five feet from the roof down; deceased's cap was on his head. There was no jerking of the rope. This was the deceased's tenth full journey of the day. Work would not have ceased until 5 o'clock. There had been a considerable squeeze on in the drift of late. There might be heights of 4 feet 10 inches lower down the road, but it would not be lower than that. He had not allowed riding since the accident. Deceased only commenced work there last Saturday, and David Cole showed him his job. Deceased had worked there two years ago. Evidence was also given by David Williams, master haulier in the same district, and Joseph Payne, driver of the hauling engine, who said that he had a mark to show him when the journey was at Clarke's level, and that the haul had been quite smooth. The Coroner stated that either the rider had lost his hold, or he had struck some part of the roof - perhaps the "bridge" mentioned. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death."

"Merthyr Express" 8 September 1906

Fatal Accident at No. 1 Pit, Fochriw A haulier named Thomas Jones of Penydarren, aged 42, married, received serious injuries at No. 1 Pit on Monday, which resulted in his death. He was taking a tram from his stall, when the horse bolted and he was knocked down. He sustained serious injuries to his spine. He was taken to Dowlais, and then carried home on the police ambulance, where he died.

"Merthyr Express" 15 September 1906

Concert On Saturday evening, a concert was held at the Fochriw Council School, in aid of the Fochriw Ambulance Brigade (instructor in brigade drill, Sergeant Wm. John Ballard). Dr. Eleazer Davies presided, and the following programme of music was gone through: overture "Zamps" - Miss Lilian Williams; duett "Awake" - Misses E. Jones and J. Jenkins; song "Y Fellten" - Mr. T. Shankland; violin solo "Romance & Bolero" - Mr. W. Barry, Dowlais; song "Babylon" - Miss E. Jones; song "Margharita" - Mr. T. P. Jones, Dowlais; song "Gwlad y Delyn" - Miss J. Jenkins; duet "Flow, gentle Deva" - Messrs. T. P. Jones & T. Shankland; song "The Storm Fiend" - Mr. T. Shankland; duett "Wicked Cupid" - Misses Jones & Jenkins; violin solo "Blue Bells of Scotland" - Mr. Barry; song "Peidiwch a dweyd wrth fy nghariad" - Miss Jones; song "O na byddai'n haf o hyd" - Mr. Jones; duet "A, B, C" - Miss Jones & Mr. Shankland; quartette "Good Night Beloved" - the four soloists; finale "Hen Wlad fy Nhadau." All the artistes were in excellent form, and the concert was a thorough success. Mr. Edward Lewis and Mr. William Payne, members of the Ambulance Brigade, proposed and seconded a vote of thanks to the artistes and to the chairman, which was carried.

The Needs of the Age: Curate of Fochriw's Advice to Workers The 1906 Session of the English Grand Lodges of Wales, Order of Good Templars, opened in Wrexham on Monday. A large congregation assembled at Wrexham Parish Church to hear the sessional sermon on Sunday. The preacher, the Rev. J. A. Rees, Fochriw, said one of the greatest needs of the age was social legislation. The workers need improved conditions and better houses, but these reforms would never be theirs until they had learned to eschew over-indulgence in strong drink. The drinking habit prevented the workmen from closing their ranks. Only 1,866,755 working men were Trade Unionists. The larger numbers of the working men were therefore traitors to themselves and their compatriots and the sacred cause of labour. As a Christian Socialist, he was thankful for what had already been accomplished by the Labour movement

towards ameliorating the condition of the workers. The millions spent in drink by the working classes must be diverted to other channels before they could ever hope to attain their highest and truest social ideals. Non-Unionists were a cause of trouble and a source of weakness to the Labour movement. If only one fiftieth of the money spent in drink by the working classes found its way into the coffers of Trade Unionism, working-men representatives in the House of Commons would be increased at least fourfold, and the working class population would soon emerge from its present almost servile condition into a higher and better life. To bring about a better condition of things, he advocated local veto, the abolition of grocers' licences, universal Sunday closing, earlier weekend closing, and the reformation of clubs.

Epidemic of Typhoid at Pontypool An epidemic of typhoid has broken out at Pontypool, and it is believed that the source of the disease is impure water.

“Merthyr Express” 22 September 1906

Closing an Historic Inn On a Wednesday night week, the historic Cross Keys Inn, Pantywaun, was closed. It was a very old hostelry, situated high up on the mountain between Fochriw and Dowlais Top, and was well known to farmers and dealers who frequented the Waun Fair. For the last 23 years, the house has been kept by Mr. and Mrs. William Thomas, who succeeded her parents. The latter, who is about 50 years of age, was born there, and only left it for a brief period after her marriage. The Cross Keys was ordered to be closed under the new Licensing Act at the last sessions, the Rhymney Brewery Company being paid £800 compensation for the surrender. The place was the headquarters of the Pantywaun Quoit Club. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas were some of the strongest supporters of religious movements in the district. The last sale of intoxicants took place on Wednesday night, and what remained of the stock, for the house had only a beer licence, was given away free on Thursday.

False Pretences: Photographic Subscriptions Frederick George Hardy, 35, School-street, Tirphil, was charged with obtaining one shilling by false pretences from Elizabeth Jones, wife of the landlord of the Mount Pleasant Inn, Fochriw, and two shillings and sixpence by false pretences from Mary Ann Kinsey, a servant at the Inn. Mr. F. P. Charles prosecuted, and he outlined the facts of the case in considerable detail.

Elizabeth Jones said she arranged with Messrs. Taylor for a photograph of herself to be taken from a group, and she was handed the book produced. The collector called fortnightly for subscriptions, and when she paid he placed on the book the receipts appearing there. In the early part of July, the prisoner came to the house and said he represented Messrs Taylor, and she gave him her book with a shilling, for which he gave a receipt on the book in pencil. He called again on the 23rd, when she paid him another shilling, for which he gave the pencilled receipt.

Mary Ann Kinsey said she saw the prisoner at the Inn on a 23rd July, and he said he represented Messrs. Taylor and she arranged with him to have an enlargement of a photograph of her mother, the price to be 12s. 6d. She paid him 2s. 6d. and he gave her a receipt. He called on the 28th July and she paid him another 2s. 6d., for which he gave a receipt. She then asked him for one of Messrs. Taylor's cards and he said they were not giving a card for such a small amount of money. On the 4th August she paid a similar amount again, and when she asked about the picture he said the agents had been on holiday and it hadn't been done, but she would have it the following Saturday. The following Thursday, one of the accredited representatives of Messrs. Taylor called, and from what he told her she sent for Police Sergeant Williams when the prisoner came next. Andrew Lawrence, manager of Messrs. Taylor's Cardiff branch, said that three years ago the prisoner was in their employ for about a month as canvassing agent in the Rhondda valley. He applied for another agency about the beginning of the year, but the appointment was bluntly refused. He had no authority to act on their behalf during July or August last, and he had not accounted to the firm for any money received from Mrs. Jones or Miss Kinsey.

P.S. Williams said that on the 18th August he was sent for, and came to the Mount Pleasant Inn, and in his presence, Mrs. Jones and Miss Kinsey said that they had paid money on the representation that he was a collector for Messrs. Taylor. He asked the collector if this was so, and after a little hesitation Hardy replied "I was once, but I am not now." In reply to

further questions, he said he left Messrs. Taylor's services about six weeks before, and was then travelling for Mr. John Harris of Aberdare, to whom he had given the photograph received from Miss Kinsey, as he new that Mr. Harris could do it just as well. This he is in the course of doing now, and it would have been done but for the holidays. The prisoner told witness that he was willing to refund the two shillings to Mrs. Jones. After communicating with Messrs. Taylor, he arrested the prisoner on a warrant. On searching him at the police station, he found upon him other papers, the receipts showing that on the 23rd July he received money on behalf of the Modern Art Company, Tredegar, and a book showing that he was then representing Mr. William E. Smith of Cardiff. The prisoner pleaded guilty to both charges and he was committed for two months with hard labour.

“Merthyr Express” 6 October 1906

Rhymney Valley Rugby League Notes by "The Old Wag." Although all the clubs in this league were engaged last Saturday, only one match was fought. This took place at Machen, where Fochriw were the visitors. Both of these clubs have been before the public for several years. Fochriw have always moved in junior circles, and have performed very creditably indeed for some seasons past. Now they wish to soar higher and tackle more renowned opponents. With Ianto Jones as captain, Mr. Llewellyn as secretary, and the seasoned advice of David Lewis Jones and a strong committee, the club should not be the lowest in the league this season. If that flying three-quarter, Dai Jones, could be induced to turn out once more, the team would feel confident enough to face any of their more experienced opponents.

“Merthyr Express” 13 October 1906

Dowlais Miners' District Meeting The monthly meeting of the Dowlais Federated District of Miners was held on Saturday evening at the Clarence Hotel. Mr. William Morgan, Pantywaun, president, occupied the chair, and all the constituent lodges were represented. The contributions for the month were £142 10s; levies - £12 10s; and membership 3,420. Non-unionists in the district were now just 34. Reporting on behalf of a deputation to Mr. H. S. Martin, deputy general colliery manager, Mr. C. Mason stated that Mr. Martin had declared that he was prepared to adhere to the prevailing custom of a whole colliery being stopped in the case of a fatal accident at the pits, so that the comrades of the deceased might bear the body home. He did not see that it was absolutely necessary in every instance, but he was ready to comply with the wishes of the men. With regard to first aid facilities at the collieries, Mr. Martin stated that the Company intended supplying three new ambulance cars at Cwm Bargoed, Fochriw, and Bedlinog, respectively. Having failed to arrive at a settlement, the dispute relating to cutting prices at the Elfed Seam, Fochriw, No. 1 Pit, was referred to the Joint Conciliation Board, and that of the Big Seam, Fochriw No. 2 Pit, was left over for the present. The question of aged workmen in receipt of compensation being compelled to travel to Penarth to the offices of the Assurance Company was raised. Mr. John Davies, miners' agent, would seek to deal with this matter. It was agreed to test the opinion of the lodges on the desirability of sending delegates to the forthcoming conference in London to consider the report of the Executive Committee of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain on the question of non-unionists, the minimum wage and the new L. R. C. scheme.

“Merthyr Express” 17 November 1906

Rugby Matches October 13: Fochriw 6, Dowlais 0; Oct. 27: Bedwas 1goal, 3 tries, Fochriw 0; Nov. 3: Rhymney 8, Fochriw 0; Nov. 10: Tirphil 26, Fochriw 0.

League Table: 1. Bedwas- Played 4 7Points; Machen P3 5Pts; Masesycymmer P3 5Pts; Rhymney P2 3Pts; Aberbargoed P3 1Pt; Tirphil P2 1Pt; Blackwood P1 0Pt; Fochriw P4 0Pt.

“Merthyr Express” 1 December 1906

Merthyr's Proposals to Annex Fochriw and Bedlinog: Gelligaer to Oppose At a meeting of the Gelligaer District Council at Hengoed, on Wednesday, Mr. John Jones in the chair, Mr. F. T. James, clerk, who is also in member of the Merthyr Council, reported to the meeting that at the last meeting of the Merthyr Corporation, a scheme was submitted to plan for the annexation of the whole of the Bedlinog and Fochriw wards in the Gellygaer area, and the Nelson ward in the Caerphilly area, to the Merthyr Corporation district. He stated that he had opposed this plan at the recent meeting, protesting against the policy of "grab," which was

based on the mineral wealth of these wards. The Council voted unanimously to oppose the scheme.

“Merthyr Express” 29 December 1906

Cantata Two excellent performances of the cantata "Santa Claus is Coming" were given to crowded houses by the children of Penybank School in the Fochriw Council Schools on Friday and Saturday evenings. The children had been carefully prepared by the headmistress, Miss Jenkins, and her faithful band of assistants. The soloists were well chosen. The organist was Miss Emily Morgan, School House. The children were assisted by the well-known trio, Messrs. Juliff, Watkin Williams, and Wm. Payne, whose characterisation of "Schoolmaster," "Jack Frost," and "Santa Claus" was extremely good. The chairman on Friday evening was Mr. J. H. Jones, manager of the Fochriw Pits, and on Saturday, by Dr. Eleazer Davies. It was the unanimous verdict of all present that the entertainment ranked among the best of its kind ever given in Fochriw. Mr. Charles Payne was an excellent stage manager, and Mr. E. Griffiths, secretary, and Mr. Joseph Payne, deserve special mention for the hard work they put in to secure the financial success of the entertainment. The proceeds went towards the new Church and Institute shortly to be erected at Fochriw.

“Merthyr Express” 5 January 1907

Cymanfa Ganu The seventh annual united singing festival was held at Carmel Chapel on Christmas Day. Mr John Jones, A.C., Fochriw, conducted. At the morning meeting, the Rev. Isaac Roderick presided, and the following programme was gone from: "Milwyr Dirwest," "Y Nefol Gor," "Ymdaith y Cristion," "Calon Lan," "Hedwn pe cawn," "Fugail Da," "Swyn yr Ieuaino Glywir," "Old Winchester," and "Clodforwn Enw'r Iesu." The Rev. L. P. Davies presided over the afternoon session, which was opened by the Rev. R. D. Jenkins reading a portion of Scripture and offering prayer. The following tunes were then sung: "Hereford," "Berlin," "Henryd," "Penygraig," "Llanllyfni," "Bethesda," "Noddfa," "St. Bees," and "Dies Irae." The anthems "Gorphwysfa'r Saint" (D. Jenkins) and "Efe a Ddaw" (T. Price) were also rendered. The evening meeting was presided over by Rev. James Jones. The meeting was introduced by Miss M. Davies who recited a Psalm, and followed in prayer by the Rev. L. P. Davies. The following tunes were then proceeded with: "Tabor," "Rockingham," "Alexander," "Gwynfe," "Pisgah," "Stainer," (prize tune of last year's festival composed by Mr. Thomas Walters) "Arabia," "Gorphwysfa," "Beverley," and "Llandinam." The singing throughout the day reached a very high standard and praise is due to the conductor and choristers for the very effective rendering of the anthems. Addresses were delivered by the presidents, and also Messrs. T. Evans, E. Evans, and D. Davies (Llanbradach), who eulogised the manner in which the three denominations had operated during last few years to elevate the standard of congregational singing, and urged the churches to endeavour during the coming years to maintain the splendid results attained at this year's festival. The accompanists were Miss L. Williams and Messrs. Rod Jones and T. Walters. The prize for the best tune on the words "Dwy aden colomen pe cawn," was awarded to Mr. Thomas Walters, the organist of Carmel.

Lecture on Miners Saftey Lamps: Mr. H. Stuart Martin at Fochriw At the Council Schools on Tuesday night, Mr. H. Stuart Martin, general manager of Messrs. G. K. N. Collieries, delivered the first of a series of lectures which he proposes giving to the working men in the district. The meetings are being convened under the auspices of the Dowlais District of the Miners' Federation. The next of this series will be at Bedlinog on the 8th February. Mr. Evan Evans presided, and amongst others present were Mr. J. H. Jones and Mr. John Bevan, colliery managers, and Mr. John Davies, miners' agent for the district. Mr. Martin, who was accorded rounds of applause, said that colliers generally knew something of the lamp, but there was probably further knowledge which would be beneficial to all. The miners today had their agents and associations throughout the country. There was also a Royal Commission to make rules and amendments to the Miners' Regulations Act, but whatever rules they might make, they would still have accidents in mines, and not until each man and boy in each colliery felt fully his personal responsibility for the safety of the miners and mines, would there be a substantial reduction in accidents. Dealing with the lamp, he referred to one colliery in his charge where but a short time ago, a serious accident was narrowly averted.

Two doors had been left open and the current of air was changed. He made inquiry of the men, and was astonished at the reply he received from one collier. When the doors were left open, the flame went up in the lamp. Asked what he did, he replied, "Well, I got a bit excited, and threw my lamp about in order to extinguish it." This was the most dangerous thing to do, and increased the liability to ignite the gas. After stating the primitive means of lighting and ventilation in the early days, he said that the comparative absence of explosions in those days was probably due to the admixture of gas and air not being in proper quantities to produce an explosion of any great force. He then talked about the question of sparks. He said most of them would be familiar with the sparks given off in using the mandrill, but these did not become really dangerous until they attained a very high degree of heat. In 1786 they had the Humbolt safety lamp, and this was followed by an improved lamp, but it was not until 1815 that Sir Humphrey Davy produced the lamp for which all colliers owe him a debt of gratitude. Davy discovered the gauze, and they had gone one step further in this respect up to the present day. The great point was for the miners to keep the gauze cool. With a high velocity of air there was a possibility of flame being driven through the gauze. Today they had innumerable patents in lamps. Some men today, when their light got a bit low, took off the cap of the gauze, in order to improve it, but he did not think that any man had a right to tamper with what he did not understand. These capped gauzes would very shortly be into the Fochriw pits, and if he found any man tampering with it, he must take strong measures against the offender. He advised men not to hold their lamps on one side, as this practice culminated often times in the glass being cracked, and consequent danger. The men should not swing their lamps when going underground, and to drop a lamp suddenly was highly dangerous. It was also safer, when examining for gas, to have a large flame, and not a small one. If they found a three inch cap on the flame, they should not go scurrying about, but the lamp should be removed quietly to a place where there was no gas. He advised the men not to try to lower the height of the wick burner. Mr. John Davies, miners' agent, expressed appreciation of Mr. Martin's service in delivering these addresses to colliers, and on the motion of Councillor Rees Thomas, seconded by Mr. Thomas Thomas, a vote of thanks to Mr. Martin was heartily accorded.

“Merthyr Express” 12 January 1907

Rugby Each week Fochriw come up smiling. In the face of adversity their nil desperandum attitude is to be commended. Without a solitary victory to their account, they journeyed to Blackwood to play a league match, and although defeated once again, they showed great improvement upon their previous disciplines. They lost by two tries and a dropped goal to nil.

“Merthyr Express” 26 January 1907

Fochriw v New Tredegar Grasshoppers In the return match, the ground was heavy but a rattling game was witnessed. True, the homesters were again beaten, but they played with great spirit. Fochriw are gradually improving and may create a surprise before the season ends.

“Merthyr Express” 2 February 1907

Temperance Mission A successful four days' temperance mission was held here last week in connection with the local Lodge of Good Templars, conducted by Mr. S. Stanton, agent of the Grand Lodge of Wales. The meetings were held in the various places of worship, kindly lent for the purpose, and presided over by the four following gentleman: Thursday – Mr. Charles Payne; Friday - Rev. J. Roderick; Saturday – Mr. Rees Jenkins; Sunday - Dr. Davies. The attendances were good, and the addresses - which were of an educational character - produced a good impression on those present.

Quotes "Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm." (Emerson) "Women and music should never be dated." (Goldsmith) "No man is worth the risk of being out in the park." (Mrs. Naish)

“Merthyr Express” 9 March 1907

Doctors Disagree Samuel Brown, living at Dowlais, who had been unable to work for four years in consequence of injuries received in No. 2 Pit, Fochriw, by a fall of stone from the roof, applied to His Honour to say that he was unable to work underground as a lamp locker in consequence of the distance he would have to go, and the dangerous state of the roads over

which he would have to travel underground. The statement of the medical referee, Dr. Martin Jones was read by Mr. Hill Kelly, who appeared for the applicant, on instruction from the Miners' Federation, and it read as follows: "The man is suffering from the effects of the accident, and his condition is such that he is only fit for some light work not involving much walking." Mr. Ivor Bowen, who appeared for the respondents, the Insurance Company, said that the work of lamp locker involved nothing more than sitting down. The man had to go by train to the pit, and then walk to the lamp station, a distance of 250 yards. Mr. Kelly contended it was 300 to 400 yards. Mr. John Davies, miners' agent, described how applicant, who now walked with the aid of sticks, would have to climb up to the colliers' train, and told the judge of the rails, ropes and journeys which Brown would have to "clear" before he got to the working place. He was sure it would be too dangerous. Dr Hugh L. Hughes said that he attended the man in May 1903, and had done so since. He was quite unable to walk the distance described owing to his having to meet with so many obstacles. There was a distinct gap in the course of the muscle, which indicated that the muscle was ruptured. Dr. Webster and Dr. Rees Griffiths, senior surgeon at Cardiff Hospital, agreed with this opinion. Dr. Bird of Cardiff, for the Insurance Company, said that he had not seen Brown use a crutch until that day. He was fit to do light work, and he could go to the lamp station if there was no danger from the trams. The case was adjourned until the next court when other medical evidence will be called.

"Merthyr Express" 16 March 1907

Merthyr Licensing Sessions: White Horse Inn, Fochriw The police objected to the renewal of the license of the White Horse Inn, Mr. James Sankey being for the owners. Superintendent Gill said the house contained stables and conveniences, and two clubs met at the house. The population of Pentwyn numbered 270 persons, and the Mount Pleasant Inn was only 150 yards away. Mr. Sankey said that this House served Fochriw as well, and this had a population of 1,216 persons, and there was only one public house there. The Superintendent said he did not know whether any new sinkings were going on there, though he knew that Fochriw had increased in population. William Price, the tenant, said that the trade was two barrels a week and three gallons of spirits. The Fochriw people came to his house, and the clubs were The Bee Hive Benefit Society, and the Bristol and West of England Society. The stipendiary pointed out that it was not on account of the police reports that the house was objected to, but that the house was not required. The Bench decided in favour of retaining the White Horse.

Fochriw Minister's Marriage On Tuesday, the marriage of the Reverend James Jones, Congregational minister, Fochriw, and chairman of Gelligaer Education Committee, to Miss Edith Cole, daughter of the late Mr. James Cole, Fochriw, took place at Zoar Chapel, Merthyr Tydfil, Dr. Eleazer Davies acting as best man, and Miss E. Evans, Fochriw, as bridesmaid. The following ministers took part: Rev. Penrith Thomas, Ferndale; Rev. Grawys Jones, Aberdare; Rev. John Thomas, Merthyr Tydfil. The other members of the wedding party were Mr. John Cole, Brynteg, Fochriw; Mr. Rhys Jenkins, Fochriw; Mr. Gilest Jones, the bridegroom's brother. The wedding attracted a large number of the Fochriw fair sex. A good selection of music was played by the Zoar organist. The wedding breakfast was held at Bentley's Hotel, when the usual speeches were delivered and replied to. The newly-married couple left for Bournemouth to spend their honeymoon.

"Merthyr Express" 30 March 1907

Fire in the Fochriw Plantation: Smart Action by Police A fire which might have been attended with most serious consequences was discovered in the northern section of the Fochriw plantation on Sunday afternoon. About 4 p.m., Acting-Sergeant Williams was on duty at Pentwyn, when he observed smoke arising from the plantation, which is on at the opposite side of the valley. He got the assistance of Mr. W. Evans and Mr. Robert Slimmons, and accompanied by a large number of other men, they rushed across the valley, and in about half an hour the fire was put out. About 50 young spruce trees, all in full growth, were destroyed. The plantation covers an area of about 350 acres, upon which 800,000 trees were planted about 18 years ago by Lord Bute. But for the prompt action, many thousands pounds'

worth of timber would have been destroyed. A similar outbreak occurred in the plantation about nine years ago.

Merthyr Board of Guardians Election: Fochriw Ward Elected – Mr. John Edwards, Bailey-street, Deri - 236 votes; Mr. John Jones, Station-terrace, Fochriw - 218; Not elected – Mr. Thomas Kinsey, Colly Isha Farm - 176.

Gelligaer Parish Council Elected – Mr. H. Llewellyn, Deri - 195; Mr. Rhys Jenkins, Fochriw - 153; Mr. A. F. Evans, Fochriw - 129; not elected – Mr. Rees Thomas, Dynevor-street - 121; Mr. Evan M. Davies, Hill-row - 114; Mr. George Uzzell, Penybank Hotel - 72.

“Merthyr Express” 6 April 1907

Death of Reverend James Jones, Fochriw It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of the Reverend James Jones, Congregational minister, Fochriw, which took place on Thursday morning, after a brief illness, at his residence, Bryngolen, Fochriw. He was a native of Llangeler, Carmarthenshire, where he was born in the year 1865. His early years were spent at his home village and he was invited by the Congregational Church to enter the ministry. This he decided to do, being then only 15 years of age. He was educated at Llandysul Grammar School, and the Presbyterian College, Carmarthen. At the completion of his college career, he accepted the unanimous invitation of the members of Carmel Congregational Church, Fochriw, to become their pastor, and he was ordained to the full work of the ministry at Fochriw in November 1885.

He was a very edifying preacher, a successful minister, and a popular pastor. His death will be deeply felt by the members of the Church and the neighbourhood generally. In the year 1903, he was appointed chairman of the North Glamorgan Congregational Union, which office he filled to the satisfaction of all. Upon vacating the chair, he delivered an impressive and instructive address on "The Christian and his Work," for which he was heartily thanked.

His Church work always received his first attention, and his leisure time he devoted in the interest of education. By all he was recognised as a keen educationist, and an able and well read thinker, who always proved himself equal to any task set him. He was a member of the late Gelligaer School Board, and for the last three years he was chairman of the Gelligaer Group of Managers.

One sad feature of his death is the fact that only three weeks ago, he was married to Miss Edith Cole, Fochriw (a certificated teacher), and had only returned the day previous to his death from Bournemouth, where the honeymoon had been spent.

The sad news of his death has cast a gloom over the whole neighbourhood, for he was generally well known and universally beloved by all with whom he came into contact, for his Christian spirit and devout life. He had not been in the best of health for about three months. Great sympathy is felt for Mrs. Jones in her sad affliction, and also for his aged father and three brothers who are left to mourn their loss.

“Merthyr Express” 13 April 1907

Good Templars and the Late Rev. James Jones At a meeting of the Star of Fochriw the Lodge of the Independent Order of Good Templars, on Thursday se'n-night, a vote of condolence was passed with the widow and relatives of the late Reverend James Jones, minister of Carmel Chapel. The resolution was proposed by Bro. Charles Payne and seconded by Bro. William Jones, and conveyed by letter. Deceased was one of the founders of the lodge, and held the post of Chaplain for a long period. His loss will be keenly felt by all his temperance friends, and especially by the brothers and sisters of the Star of Fochriw Lodge.

Rider's Mistake at Fochriw Colliery: Forgot the Points How a colliery manager and overman nearly lost their lives was related at the Rising Sun Hotel, Fochriw, on Tuesday, when the Coroner, Mr. R. J. Rhys, and a jury, inquired into the circumstances attending the death of David Jones, aged 51, a repairer, of 26, Aelybryn-terrace, Fochriw. Amongst those present were Mr. Trump, Government Inspector of Mines; Mr. Jones, solicitor, who represented the wife of the deceased; and Mr. Davies, miners' agent. From the evidence, it appears that Jones was in the branch slip east side of No. 2 Colliery, together with Mr. J. H. Jones, manager, and Mr. James Evans, overman, when an empty journey suddenly dashed upon them. The two officials were able to jump clear, but Jones was caught, and died the following day, despite prompt action from Dr. Davies.

Thomas Thomas, a repairer at the colliery, stated that he forgot to put the points back, with the result that a journey of fifteen trams came from the main level into the branch slip. He went up and down the slip thirteen or fourteen times each day, and it was his duty to put the points back each time. The manager said that the space between the sides and the journey was very narrow.

In summing up, the Coroner said that although it was true Thomas was responsible for Jones's death, the evidence was not strong enough for manslaughter, as there was no systematic carelessness. At the same time, Thomas would always have it on his mind that he was responsible for the death. He hoped that would be a warning to him and others to perform their duties properly. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death," and censured Thomas Thomas for his neglect, but there was not enough negligence to commit him for manslaughter.

Thomas gave his evidence in Welsh, and the Coroner had great difficulty in getting particulars of the accident from him. The Coroner remarked that such a person as Thomas, who could not speak English at his age, ought to be ashamed of himself.

"Merthyr Express" 20 April 1907

The Late Rev. James Jones: Memorial Service On Monday evening, a memorial service was held at Carmel Chapel. The taking of the body by an early train on Tuesday morning via Merthyr to Llangeler, rendered it impossible for a large circle of friends to be present at the funeral. A memorial service was therefore arranged for Monday night. The chapel was filled to overflowing at an early hour. The Rev. J. R. Salmon, Pontlottyn, presided, and amongst the congregation were numerous minister friends of the deceased, as well as head teachers from the Gelligaer group of schools, and also, the widow and all members of the family.

There was a short service in the house, before the funeral left by special train for Merthyr at 8.30a.m., and afterwards to Llandysul at 9.55a.m.. The burial was at Saron, Llangeler. Hundreds of people from Fochriw went with the funeral train to Merthyr. About 40 Fochriw people went to Llangeler, among them Mr. John Evans and Mr. Evan Evans, deacons of Carmel, and Dr. Eleazer Davies and Mr. Rhys Jenkins.

"Merthyr Express" 4 May 1907

Gelligaer Fox-Hounds The season just terminated was a poor one for the sport. Scent was bad to start with, but better in February and March. Mr. David Jones, J. P., Dowlais, the master, had the misfortune to fracture his leg on October 22nd, and was laid up for the remainder of the season. The best run of the season extended over four hours from the find at Bedwellty to the kill at Fochriw. There were also three capital runs from Crickhowell.

Ambulance Brigade Work The Dowlais ambulance centre, which comprises the brigades of Dowlais, Fochriw, and Bedlinog, held their first parade of the season on Saturday at the Dowlais Central Schools yard. The men, who numbered about 40, gave a display of stretcher drill and other work in excellent style. The Bedlinog contingent, who alone were dressed in uniform, looked particularly smart, and it is hoped that in the very near future, the other sections will be similarly equipped.

"Merthyr Express" 11 May 1907

Ambulance Brigade Work Arrangements are being made for a big display of ambulance brigade work on Wednesday evening at the Central Schools, Dowlais, commencing at 6.30p.m.. A parade and inspection by the Chief Commissioner, Inspector General B. Nimms (London), and Deputy Commissioner for the District, Lieut-Col. E. Cureton, will take place. Divisions from Abertillery, Blaina, Tredegar, Brynmawr, Merthyr, Bedlinog, Fochriw, and Dowlais will be present. Special return train arrangements are being made for the brigade men and visitors from Bedlinog and Fochriw. A hearty invitation is extended to all interested in ambulance work in the public generally, to be present.

Mine in Danger: Ostler Summoned for Possession of Live Matches in Pit William Barrett, ostler, was summoned for having live matches in his possession in No. 1 Pit, Fochriw, on Monday, 22nd April. Lodwick Davies, night overman, produced a case containing ten matches and a nail, which he found in the defendants pocket. Mr. Charles, who appeared for the Company, said that the presence of the nail made it even more dangerous. Defendant, who said he forgot to leave the matches on top of the pit, was fined 40 shillings and costs.

“Merthyr Express” 18 May 1907

Workmen's Trains: Are The Company Liable for Accidents? Is a Company liable under the Act if a man meets with an accident whilst travelling on a workmen's train? Thomas Lewis, a collier at No. 2 Pit, Fochriw, who resides at Caeharris, Dowlais, claimed compensation from Messrs. Guest, Keen, and Nettlefolds, Ltd, in respect of an accident. Mr. Hill Kelly was for the applicant; Mr. Ivor Bowen for the respondents. Mr Kelly said that on the 1st January, Lewis was carried to Fochriw in the collier's train. There was no platform on which to alight; Lewis slipped on the step of the train, and injured his leg, and was away from work for seven weeks. He understood found that the defence raised was that the accident did not arise "out of and in the course of his employment." Mr. Ivor Bowen said Lewis did not pay for the use of the train; he lived at Caeharris, which was four miles away from the pit, and he was not under contract with his employers to travel by that train.

Thomas Lewis, the applicant told His Honour that the workmen's train took the men to the pits in the morning and brought them back at night; the respondents supplied the coaches and the Rhymney Railway Company supplied the engine. The colliers train had run to his knowledge ever since he was a boy, and years before that. Only workmen were allowed to travel on those trains, and so far as he knew they paid nothing.

Mr. Ivor Bowen to Thomas Lewis: Is there any kind of agreement at all between you and the Company that they should provide this train for you except for the purpose of convenience? Witness: I don't know of any agreement myself, unless our fathers had it. He added that a similar train runs from Pantywaun, and also from Cwm Bargoed. Mr. Kelly said that the men were under an agreement which was common throughout the coalfield. Mr. Bowen re-asserted that Lewis had said that there was no agreement between himself and the Company to carry him; in other words, he was not bound to go by train, and the Company was not bound to carry him. It would, no doubt, lead to trouble in the pit if the men were not taken to the colliery, but there was no legal obligation or duty to carry them.

His Honour thought there was an implied agreement on the part of the company. The question was, was it understood by both parties that the train was to be supplied? I am of the opinion that there is an obligation where the thing has been done for all those years - that there is an implied obligation.

After further argument, His Honour said he would look through the cases quoted by counsel, and give judgement on Friday.

“Merthyr Express” 18 May 1907

Shocking Death of Dowlais Miner: Body Reduced To Pulp Shortly before 2 o'clock on Saturday afternoon, as the men employed at No. 2 Pit were about to terminate their labours for the week, a shocking accident occurred, resulting in the instantaneous death of James Williams, aged 34, married with five children, living at 16, Pantscallog, Dowlais. The deceased, a labourer, had finished his turn, and had got to Clarke's Parting in company with David Coles. Williams then proceeded up the West Main Drift, and had gone about 200 yards, when he was overtaken and knocked down by the journey of 15 full trams of coal. It was later found that the whole journey had passed over him, the body, which could hardly be recognised, having been reduced to pulp. The remains were brought up to the pit surface, and taken to Dowlais by train, and subsequently conveyed home by his fellow workmen. At the inquest, evidence was given by David Coles, platelayer, Ernest John Launchbury, rider, William Payne, the driver of the hauling engine, and Mr. Martin for the Company. In summing up, the Coroner said that from the testimony before him, it seemed evident that Williams had two chances of escape from the fate that befell him. If he had stayed with Coles or had turned into a manhole, he would have got clear. It was very likely he was overtaken and killed by the journey, which never left the road. There was ample provision of means of safety by manholes in accordance with the requirements of the Act. A verdict was returned to the effect that the deceased was overtaken by the journey of trams and killed.

“Merthyr Express” 25 May 1907

Workmen's Trains: Are Employers Laible for Accidents? Judgement for Applicant On Friday, His Honour gave judgement in the case of Thomas Lewis versus Messrs. Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds Ltd. His honour said it seemed that there was nothing like a sufficient number

of houses at Fochriw for all the workmen, and consequently the company had, for a number of years, run workmen's trains to the Fochriw Pits. The accident occurred at the colliery end of the journey. The defence was that the accident did not arise out of and in the course of the applicants employment, and the respondents relied strongly upon the case of Davies and the Rhymney Iron Company. In that case, the collier was going home in the workmen's train, and it was when alighting at the home end of the journey, three-quarters of a mile away from the pit, that the accident happened. His Honour also cited the other cases referred to - Holmes and the Great Northern Railway Company, Sharp versus Johnson & Co. Ltd., and said that in his view, this case depended entirely upon where the employment commenced - when they got into the train, or when they got to the pits mouth. He came to the conclusion that there was an implied term of contract that the workmen's trains were to be provided to take the men to Fochriw, and therefore, that the accident arose out of and in the course of the man's employment. He gave judgement for the applicant, with costs of Scale B.

New Church and Institute at Fochriw: Foundation Stone Laid by Lord Tredegar Church work in Fochriw has in late years progressed so rapidly under the care of the Rev. J. A. Rees, curate-in-charge, that a new and capacious building has been commenced, the foundation stone of which was laid on Wednesday afternoon by Viscount Tredegar. The proceedings created a stir along the valley, and the Darran and Fochriw Stations were prettily decorated. His Lordship was greatly impressed by the heartiness of the greeting. As the train by which Viscount Tredegar travelled approached Darran station, a number of detonators exploded. Throughout the quiet village there was a liberal supply of bunting. At Fochriw itself, the excitement was intense.

The building, which has done service for the neighbourhood for many years, is situated right away on the mountain top at Pentwyn - a cold, bleak, unsheltered spot, and a march there on a winter's day is not easily forgotten. The building had fallen into a dilapidated state, and a new edifice was very desirable. Through the persistence of the Rev. Rees, upwards of £1,000 was collected as the nucleus of the fund for the erection of a new Church and Institute. He, too, obtained a site, free of charge, from Lord Bute, on the side of the main road leading to Pentwyn, and within easy access from Fochriw.

Lord Tredegar's Arrival His Lordship was met at the railway station by the clergy of the district: Rev. T. Jesse Jones, Rector of Gelligaer, who represented the Bishop; Rev. T. Theophilus, R.D., Tredegar; Rev. T. Rees, vicar of Pontlottyn; Rev. J. Llewellyn, vicar of Beaufort; Rev. D. Mathias, vicar of Caldicot; Rev. J. J. L. Thomas, vicar of Aberpergwm; Rev. G. E. T. Theophilus, Tredegar; Rev. J. A. Rees, curate of Fochriw; Rev. B. Glover, curate of Pontlottyn; Rev. Isaac Williams, curate of Rhymney; Rev. R. Morgan, curate of Brithdir. Outside the station, the "K" Company of the South Wales Borderers Volunteers lined up, under the command of Capt. W. R. Jackson, assisted by Lieut. Edwards and Sergt. Lott. His Lordship inspected the company, and expressed to the captain his pleasure at seeing such a fine and smart lot of men.

A procession was then formed, headed by the Fochriw Band, under the conductorship of Mr. W. Powell. They were followed by a posse of police, in command of Inspector Canton, Dowlais, and Sergt. Gammon, Pontlottyn. The Church Lads' Brigade from Pontlottyn, under Capt. Vernall, came next, and then the Fochriw Ambulance Corps, headed by Dr. Eleazer Davies and Capt. W. J. Ballard, the Church Choir in surpluses, and of the Volunteers, who acted as a guard of honour. His Lordship, who was accompanied by Mrs. Forrestier Walker, Mrs. Col. Lindsay, and other ladies, then made their way to the site through a large crowd. Amongst the members of the general public present were: Col. M. Lindsay, Ystrad Mynach; Rev. J. Roderick, Fochriw; County Councillor D. W. Evans; Councillors J. Edwards, J. Llewellyn, L. Evans; Dr. E. Davies; Dr. J. Jones, Pontlottyn; Messrs. H. S. Martin, Dowlais; M. H. Sims, Deri; E. Evans, Fochriw; J. H. Jones, manager; J. E. Jones, Tirphil; and W. D. Phillips, Pontlottyn.

Description of the Building The Church, which has been dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin, will have seating accommodation in the main building for 300 persons. There will be a baptistry, choir chancel, transept, sacresty, and an organ chamber. The entrance is from the main road leading from Fochriw to Pentwyn. In the basement, there will be a Vestry or

Institute, capable of seating 300, with an entrance on the north side. There will also be a cloakroom etc. The building will be heated throughout by hot air chambers. The walls will be lined with terra cotta. The total cost will be about £1,610. The contractors are Messrs. Williams & Sons, New Tredegar, and the plans were prepared by Mr. R. E. Douglas, Hoyland, London.

The Stone-Laying On reaching the site of the church, the Rev. J. A. Rees, gave out the hymns and offered prayer, and the Rector of Gelligaer, as the representative of the Bishop, and the Rev. T. Teophilus took part. Prior to the actual laying of the stone, his Lordship, Col. Lindsay, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Lindsay, and others, signed a deed of dedication. His Lordship then laid the foundation stone and said that it was very gratifying to him to be present to take part in a service in that locality. There was no valley in which a place of worship was more needed. They lived in a place in which there were few amusements, and they were isolated as it were, from a district in which they could find amusements. He hoped that the Church would be a temple for God. (Cheers)

The Rev T. Rees said his Lordship had done a great deal for the advancement of the Christian faith, and he hoped that this would not be the least amongst the good things he had done. It was seldom that they saw his Lordship on the Glamorganshire side of the Rhymney River.

The Rector of Gelligaer also welcomed Lord Tredegar, and the Rev. Theophilus referred to the time when he first visited Fochriw, 37 years of ago, when he walked across the hill from New Tredegar. Then, the service at the Pentwyn Church was all in Welsh, and the Church provided the only elementary school in the district. He congratulated the Church people upon having a site which was more accessible to all the greater population. He was also glad to see that they were providing an institute. He also referred to the starting of a Church at Pontlottyn in a room adjoining a public house, and also at Troedrhiwfuwch.

The Luncheon Subsequently, the party marched back to the Council Schools, where an excellent luncheon was provided by Mr. Morgan of the Rising Sun, under the supervision of Mrs. W. D. Phillips, Mrs. Thomas (junr), and others. Reverend T. Rees, vicar of Pontlottyn, presided over the subsequent meeting. At the outset, the secretary, Mr. E. Griffiths, station master, read a financial statement showing that they had received by appeals £11, and by collections that day £34 2s. 5d. The building was to cost £1,610, so there was a deficiency of £567. The chairman proposed the toast of "The King," which was heartily drunk. Dr. Eleazer Davies proposed the toast of "The spiritual and temporal forces," and observed that the site witnessed at Fochriw that day would be remembered for a long time. Rev. Theophilus responded on behalf of the spiritual forces, and spoke of the energy and perseverance of will of the Rev. J. A. Rees in the district, which was a credit to him, and an honour to the vicar. (hear, hear) Rev. J. Roderick, in replying on behalf of the non-conformists, said that although they were of a different sect, they were aiming at the same goal, and they all looked to God as the finisher of their faith. The different sections worked in unison at Fochriw, but still there was room for improvement (hear, hear). Capt. Jackson responded briefly on behalf of the temporal forces.

Lord Tredegar and Poorly Paid Clergy Rev. J. A. Rees next proposed the health of Viscount Tredegar. He said his Lordship had, at tremendous sacrifices, graciously condescended to leave the beautiful surroundings of Tredegar Park to visit the mountainous heights of Fochriw. Their guest was regarded as Wales' champion bazaar opener. His Lordship's experience that day was by no means a new one, and he would now be regarded as the champion ecclesiastical foundation stonelayer. His presence had a most beneficial effect at gatherings of that nature. Any movement for the advancement of the Church or the alleviation of suffering always had the support of his Lordship. His kindness and love brought sunshine and happiness to many a home. He was truly one of Wales's noblest sons (applause).

In responding, Lord Tredegar said he had the greatest sympathy with all denominations. The clergy and ministers were hard-working men, and were poorly paid. He hoped that the church at Fochriw when completed would be filled, and that the real and true gospel would be preached there.

“Merthyr Express” 22 June 1907

Coal Mining Success Mr. D. O. James, Mount Pleasant-street, has secured his second class certificate of competence under the Mines Regulation Act, 1887. It is much to the credit of Mr. James, who is a working collier at South Tunnel Pit, Fochriw, that he has succeeded in his examination after only six months tuition under Mr. D. Oliver Evans of St. David's Schools, Merthyr, who also deserves a measure of praise.

“Merthyr Express” 10 August 1907

Outing The Sewing Guild in connection with Nazareth Chapel, had their outing last Thursday to Pontsarn. The weather was delightful, and the outing was thoroughly enjoyed. The party visited the historical ruins of the Morlais Castle, situated on the high cliff above Pontsarn. In the afternoon, they took tea at Aberglais. Speeches were delivered by the Reverend Isaac Roderick, minister, Councillor John Jones, and Captain Jones, Fochriw, all congratulating the Sewing Guild upon its great success during its first season of work. Thanks were also given to Mrs. M. J. Roderick, president; Mrs. S. A. Jones, secretary, and Mrs. H. Roberts, treasurer of the guild. The latter part of the day was spent very enjoyably at Aberglais Pleasure Ground.

“Merthyr Express” 7 September 1907

Presentation to Dr. and Mrs. Davies At a meeting held at Pantywaun on Friday evening, Dr. and Mrs. Davies were made the recipients of valuable wedding presents subscribed by the inhabitants of the village and district. Prior to the meeting, Dr. and Mrs. Davies were entertained to tea by a number of the ladies of the village. Afterwards, they were welcomed enthusiastically at the Schoolroom, and were officially welcomed by the president, the Rev. W. Williams, who spoke in the highest terms of Dr. Davies's labours amongst them. Mrs. Davies was presented with a bouquet of flowers by Miss Emily Jones, and then the Pantywaun Juvenile Choir sang "I sing because I love to sing," and this was followed by recitations and solos. On behalf of the schoolchildren, Bella M'Arthur presented Mrs. Davies with a beautiful work basket, and then the Chairman presented both with a silver afternoon tea-tray, suitably inscribed, and a silver cruet. Dr. Davies thanked everyone for their welcome and for the valuable presents. The Pantywaun Little Sailors then treated the audience to an action song, and the evening closed with the singing of "Hen Wlad fy Nhadau."

“Merthyr Express” 14 September 1907

Gelligaer District Council Mr. J. Jones drew attention to the state of the roads near the tips at Fochriw, and stated that it was not safe for anyone to pass that way. Large boulders and stones rolled frequently on to the highway. The tip was on fire, and there were frequent falls. One very large fall took place recently. The Chairman agreed that something should be done, and remarked that the Fochriw people were in fear of being burned in ashes before long. The Clerk said that the Council must protect their highways, and districts, or they would run the risk of that portion of the village being swallowed up. Mr. Jones stated that when the fall took place, the company's officials rendered every possible assistance, but what was needed was some protection for the district. A committee of the council arranged to meet on the site.

Gelligaer School Managers On Tuesday afternoon, a special meeting of the School Managers was held at the District Council Offices, Hengoed. Among the tenders accepted for the supply of coal and coke for the ensuing year was one from Mr. John Morgan, Pontlottyn, for supplies to Fochriw Schools. Only one tender was received to supply oil, but this was in too large a bulk to be accepted. The Managers recommended that oil be purchased as hitherto, the teachers to obtain prices from the local dealers.

“Merthyr Express” 21 September 1907

An Unfounded Report of an Explosion at Fochriw Collieries Quite a consternation was created on Wednesday afternoon by the circulation of a report that a terrible explosion, resulting in fearful loss of life, had occurred at the Fochriw Collieries. In the streets were to be seen groups of distressed women, having husbands, sons and relatives employed at the pit, as well as large numbers of night men who had been aroused from their slumbers with news of the explosion. It was a great relief to the community to find, on inquiry, that the report had no foundation in fact. Considerable indignation was expressed that such a wicked rumour should have been started and spread.

“Merthyr Express” 28 September 1907

Success Mrs. S. Thomas, Martin-street, has-been awarded one of the Free Studentships in Midwifery at the University College, Cardiff, offered by the Glamorganshire County Council.

Boys who Damaged Bridge Parapets Named The names of some young boys at Fochriw who damaged the parapets of the bridge on the road leading to Pontlottyn, were given by the surveyor as follows: Ivor Prosser, 25, Aelybryn; Joseph Evans, 2, Martins-row; John Lewis, 4, Aelybryn. It was decided that the clerk communicate with their parents.

“Merthyr Express” 19 October 1907

Ambulance The Fochriw Ambulance Brigade held their first Church parade on Sunday 6th October. After parading the principal streets, they proceeded to St. Mary's Church where the Rev. T. Theophilus, vicar of Tredegar, preached an appropriate sermon.

“Merthyr Express” 26 October 1907

Gelligaer and Rhigos District Council Tenders are invited for the laying down of about 230 yards of Kerb and Channel, Drainage Work, Excavations, etc., on the main road leading from Fochriw to Pentwyn. Specifications can be seen and Bills of Quantities obtained upon application to the Council's Surveyor. Tenders, endorsed "Fochriw Improvements," to be sent to me on or before Saturday, 26th October, 1907. The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted. By Order, Frank T James, Clerk, 134, High-street, Merthyr Tydfil.

“Merthyr Express” 9 November 1907

Robbery on Vochriw Mountain On Wednesday evening, shortly after 6 o'clock, Annie Jane Davies, aged 15 years, a domestic servant at the Rising Sun, Fochriw, was robbed when on her way to Pontlottyn. She had been a servant at the Rising Sun, and had terminated her service on Wednesday, intending to go to assist a relation who was ill at Fleur-de-lis. She had placed her purse, containing 15 shillings, in her stockings, and retained half -a-crown in order to pay her train fare from Pontlottyn to Pengam. When near the spot where the Cwmbargoed and Fochriw roads meet, she was accosted by a man, who stopped her and asked, "Have you any ---- money?" She made no reply, and he searched her pockets, and took the half crown. He then ran across the mountains towards Rhymney. She went to Pontlottyn and informed her relatives, Mr. and Mrs. David Davies, Dyffryn-street. Mr. Davies went to the mountain immediately in order to find some trace of the assailant. Unfortunately, the girl can give no description of the thief. The matter was reported to Police Sergeant Gammon but, in the circumstances, the thief's identity will be a difficult task to solve. The young girl has now proceeded to Pengam after spending the night at Duffryn-street.

“Merthyr Express” 7 December 1907

Summons: Haulier in Trouble David Parry was fined five shillings and costs for leaving a horse and cart unattended at Fochriw.

“Merthyr Express” 28 December 1907

Water Supply for Fochriw and Pentwyn Mr. Branson, manager of the Rhymney and Aber Gas and Water Company, waited on the Council in connection with the water supply for Fochriw and Pentwyn. The Company proposed to put up a new water tank at Fochriw which would supply that district in a sufficient manner. He thought however, that for the present, they could offer little hope for an improved service, but the completion of the tank would increase the pressure, and therefore improve the supply. This was regarded as satisfactory for the time being.

Fochriw Chair Eisteddfod: Easter Tuesday, April 21st, 1908 Chief Choral Competition (not under 70 in number) "Magnify, Glorify" (G. F. Root), £20, and Enlarged, Black and White photograph to Successful Conductor, value £1-7-6. Children's Choir (not under 30) "Cyssegriad" (T. Price), £3-3-0, and Silver Medal to Successful Conductor. Solos, £1-1-0 each. Awdl, "Carn-y-bugail a'i Golygfeydd," £2 and Oak Chair. Essay on "The History of Gelligaer Parish," £1-10-0. Programmes to be had from the Secretary - J. Williams, Brynawel, Fochriw.