

# WALES DAY BY DAY

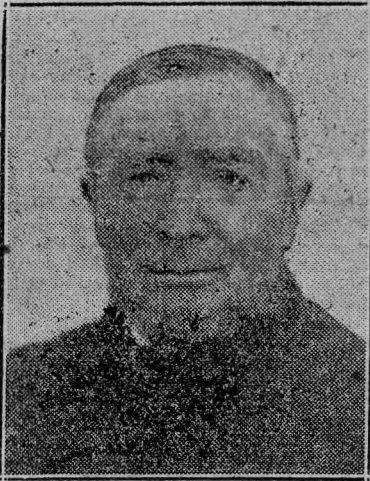
## LAUREATE OF THE VALE

### NINETY-SECOND BIRTHDAY OF IOAN TRITHYD.

To-morrow (October 12) Ioan Trithyd, the laureate of the Vale of Glamorgan, will celebrate his ninety-second birthday, and those who have knowledge of his worth as a poet and who admire his genius will do well to send him their congratulations, for the veteran is hale and bright, notwithstanding his weight of years. A few days ago he wrote to the *Western Mail* from his home at Penrhewl, St. Mary's Church, Bonvilstone, and his calligraphy was clear and as even as that of a schoolboy.

Ioan Trithyd had over forty grandchildren, four of whom lost their lives in the Great War, and he has twenty-one great-grandchildren still alive.

His success as an eisteddfod conductor was remarkable, and many readers will recall his aptitude in that capacity at the Bonvilstone, Cowbridge, Penlline, Llan-carfau, Croesygarth, and other eisteddfodau



IOAN TRITHYD.

of long ago. He is proud of his work in that direction, and recalls that a writer in a Bridgend paper referred to him "as the best conductor in Wales next to Mynyddog." He can certainly claim that the retention of the Welsh language in the Vale is largely due to his leadership in Nationalist movements locally. Ioan used to be a regular summer visitor to Llanwrtyd, and his services were always during those visits called for as chairman of the concerts or conductor of the nightly eisteddfodau, which are still a feature of holiday life in that popular resort.

One of his closest friends was the late Mr. Thomas John, of Llantrithyd, father of Sir W. Goscombe John, R.A. They were schoolmates at the Bonvilstone Elementary School for years, and were inseparable in their daily journeys to and from the school.

In these days, when so much is heard of medicinal springs and their wonderful curative properties, it is also interesting to recall that Ioan Trithyd was a frequent visitor to the Garthmaelwg Well, and that he won a prize for verses on the efficacy of its waters: The first verse was as follows:—