

Miner Elected Mayor Of Town Where He Was Unemployed For 10 Years

"Daily Express" Correspondent.

COWBRIDGE, Sunday.

COWBRIDGE, the tiniest borough in the kingdom and the most aristocratic town in South Wales, has elected a Socialist mayor for the first time in its history.

He is Mr. Johnson Miles, who was unemployed in the town for ten years, and who was seven times defeated at the polls before he was elected to the council.

Cowbridge is an agricultural centre, it has no labour exchange, and there are fewer than a dozen people on the dole. It is prosperous that the commissioner for special areas refused it a preferential grant.

Mr. Miles, who is a collier, was unable to obtain any employment for ten years until last year, when he obtained part-time work.

REPEATED DEFEATS

Although he had to face repeated defeats Mr. Miles gradually won popularity, and finally secured election to the town council and then to the county council.

He was chosen mayor-elect last week on the condition that he retained his seat at the municipal elections—which he did last Friday with a majority which is a record for the borough.

"My salary as mayor," Mr. Miles told me today, "will be £30, but practically all of it will be spent on subscriptions towards social work."

"The population of Cowbridge is only 1,100, and the area of the borough is only eighty-five acres, but we have no debts, and our rates are 15s. in the £."

"I shall try to keep up the traditions on the old borough," he said. "for my family have resided here for nearly 200 years. We take great pride in our agricultural show, the most famous in Glamorgan, and we

HOUSING QUESTION

The new mayor is greatly concerned about the housing question. Cowbridge is a town of one street—nearly a mile in length. Its charter dates back to Norman times, but it has no land.

"We have submitted a scheme for new houses," Mr. Miles said, "but we are held up owing to the high prices asked for land, and I am afraid we will have to apply for a compulsory order to get land at a fair market value."

"We also require a sewerage scheme," he added, "but the cost is beyond the financial capacity of the borough without a Government grant of at least 75 per cent., and the Ministry of Health has refused sanction."

"We want to make the town attractive to visitors," he added. "It is already an important agricultural centre and its Edward VI. school is famous all over Wales."

COAT OF ARMS

The borough coat of arms is a cow standing on a bridge. Tradition has it that when the first stone bridge was built over the river, a cow, chased by dogs, ran under the low arch. Its horns stuck in a crevice and could not be released, so it had to be slaughtered.

The first name of the town was "Y Dreif Hir yn y Waun" ("The long town on the moor").

Borough of Cowbridge.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION, 1935.

POLLING 8 A.M. TO 8 P.M.

VOTE FOR

MRS. GWENLLIAN TILLEY

(The only Woman Candidate)

BY PLACING A CROSS OPPOSITE HER NAME

ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1st.

DAVID	162.	162
GRIFFITHS	203	203
JONES	202	202
MILES	303	303
PHILLIPS	221	221
TILLEY, Gwenllian	206	X 187

A WOMAN TO REPRESENT THE WOMEN.

the most famous in
Glamorgan, and we
maintain our own
market, town hall and
fire station.