

“Merthyr Express” 26 January 1867

Merthyr Soup Kitchen A notice in our advertising columns will inform our readers that the soup kitchen at St. David’s is open again, and not before it is needed. If any doubter will take the trouble to attend the distribution of soup, he or she will not long be content to keep the purse closed in aid of this most useful charity. The poor, the old, the feeble, the blind and the lame – a very regiment of Lazarenes - the lepers of our social life, crowd to these soup gatherings, and afford glimpses of human nature behind the scenes that cannot fail to rouse our keenest sympathies. Seen here in their own undisguised truthfulness, even the most stubborn heart would be aroused to pity. The donors to this charity are, at present, few; but the few have led off splendidly. We hope the town will come forward earnestly to give its aid in the same commendable spirit.

“Merthyr Express” Saturday 29 June 1867

Revision of the Gellygaer Paupers List On Wednesday, a revision of the paupers list for the Gellygaer parish took place at the Picton Inn, Pontlloftyn, before the Rev G. C. F. Harries, Messrs J. Perott of Gellygaer, J. Rees & J. Matthews of Rhymney, and J. Edwards of Dowlais. All the paupers were examined, after which the Nuisance Committee met and examined the roads and the new streets. The committee found many of the cottages overcrowded and in a very filthy condition.

“Merthyr Express” 26 January 1867

Soup kitchen at St. David’s open again.

"Merthyr Express" 2 February 1878

Pontlloftyn Distress Committee A Distress Relief Committee has been formed to meet the increasing distress caused by the continuing depression of trade.

"Merthyr Express" 16 February 1878

Employment of Colliers On Wednesday evening, a public meeting was held at the Temperance Hall, Merthyr, in response to an invitation from the Rector to colliers to meet him there. The Rector was accompanied onto the platform by Mr. T. J. Dyke, Mr. Simons, Mr. Daniel and Mr. Simpson, a Liverpool gentleman, who has been remarkable for his generosity in aid of the distress now prevailing in South Wales. As the Rector explained, he had sent them tons of meat, peas, flour and rice, and a thousand pairs of clogs. That was for Merthyr alone, but his bounty had been equally large to other parts of the district, and he now came to invite colliers in want of work to go to Lancashire, where he believed at least a thousand could find ample employment. Mr. Simpson spoke and was warmly received. He explained that he was in communication with colliery owners in Lancashire, amongst whose pits 1,000 workmen could easily be distributed. Speeches were delivered by Mr. Simons, Mr. Dyke, Mr. Seddon, Mr. J. W. James, Mr. Rees Lewis, and votes of thanks accorded to the Rector and Mr. Simpson. Persons desirous of falling in with Mr. Simpson's offer can give their names to the Rector.

Dowlais Soup Kitchen The soup kitchen recently opened here supplies from 300 to 400 children daily with a good meal, under the superintendence of several ministers of the place.

Coursing Match A coursing match came off at Twynywain on Monday last, when some splendid coursing was witnessed, but no favourite dogs made their appearance. Terriers mostly turned up the game. About 30 rabbits were let off by Mr. John Griffiths, the Full Moon.

“Merthyr Express” 26 April 1879

Merthyr Union Rural Sanitary Authority On Saturday last at the Committee-room, Workhouse, the annual meeting of this authority was held. Present - Messrs. R. H.

Rhys, D. E. Williams, Rev. A. Davies, Lewis Evans, C. E. Mathews, Thos. Edwards. W. Williams, W. G. Lewis, L. D. Rees, John Jenkins and D. Edmund David. Mr. R. H. Rhys was unanimously re-elected chairman.

Parochial Committees It was resolved that the Guardians of each parish be ex-officio members of the Parochial Committee of their parish. The Parochial Committees for the parishes of Gelligaer, Penderyn and Vaynor were then appointed. The Committee for Gelligaer was: Mr. Edmund Lewis, Yscwyddgwyn, Deri; Rev. J. P. Williams and Mr. Wm. Mathews, Pontlottyn; Mr. Thomas Williams and Mr. Wm. Mathews, Vochriw; Mr. John Llewellyn, Pontlottyn; Mr. Morgan Thomas, Penrhiw; Mr. David Phillips, Gilfach-fargoed; Mr. Lewis Lewis, Bedlwyn Road; Wm. Smith, Bargoed; Mr. Lewis Lewis, Glanafon; Mr. Thomas Jones, Vochriw; Dr. Kent Jones, Vochriw; Mr. David Bevan, Brithdir; Mr. Lewis Edwards, Bedlinog; Mr. Joshua Aurlius, Tirphil; Mr. Stephen Lewis, Tirphil; Mr. Wm. Lewis, Bontnewydd; Mr. Wm. Watkins, Gilfachmain Uchaf.

The Out-Door Relief The out-door relief for the past week was as follows: Aberdare, £68-5-11; Gelligaer, £19-10-0; Merthyr, £64-10-2; Merthyr Lower, £55-18-2. Total £210-4-3.

“Merthyr Express” 10 April 1880

Merthyr Board of Guardians The weekly meeting of this Board was held at the Workhouse on Saturday, the members present being - Messrs. G. T. Clark (chairman), R. H. Rhys, J. Williams, D. P. Davies, D. E. Williams, W. Bell, D. Davies (Merthyr), G. Martin, B. Kirkhouse, Eustace Rees, J. W. Jones, M. Bates, T. Edwards. J. Gabe, J. John, Rees Evans, T. Rees, R. T. Griffiths, T. Lloyd, Morgan Morgan, Lewis Evans, John Morgan.

Relief Items The out-door relief given during the past week was as follows: Aberdare, £71 1s. 1d.; Gelligaer, £211s. 11d.; Merthyr (upper), £65 17s. 9d.; Merthyr (lower), £56 7s. 8d.; non-settled, £1 13s.. The total of the district was £216 11s. 5d.. The Workhouse The master of the Workhouse reported that eight had been admitted and thirteen discharged, none having been born or died. Therefore there remained 241 persons as against 210 last year at the same time. The Board had ordered 26 into the workhouse on the previous Saturday, but only two had come in during the week from that order.

“Merthyr Express” 9 April 1881

Merthyr Board of Guardians: Statistics for the Week Vaccinations: Aberdare 22; Merthyr 34. Out-door relief: Gelligaer £22-18-7 out of a total of £204-12-3. Aberdare Training School: 133 remaining; receiving industrial training: boys 45, girls 44. Merthyr Workhouse: admitted 14, discharged 26; remaining 221. Fresh applications for relief 16; ordered in by the Board 28; entered workhouse from order - 0.

“Merthyr Express” 7 May 1881

Gelligaer: Vestry Meeting A vestry meeting was held on Thursday at the Harp Inn, Gelligaer, when Mr. L. D. Rees took the chair. Mr. John Jones, assistant overseer, reported that £3,880 7s. 6d. had been collected from the last half-year's poor rates, and that there was £68 6s. 7½d. irrecoverable arrears. From the highway rate £750 4s. 5d. was collected. New rates sanctioned were: poor rate, 1s. 3d.; highway, 4d.; sanitary, 2d.

“Merthyr Express” 17 April 1886

The Debating Society and the Distress On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, the Mount Pleasant Coffee Tavern was the scene of great excitement. The Debating Society had contracted with the proprietress for the provision of 400 pints of soup to

be given to the most needy inhabitants of the town, and there was therefore great stir amongst them. Tickets had been distributed by members of the society during the previous week, and some very distressing cases were found. Great credit is due to Mrs. Evans for the manner in which she had carried out the arrangements and the excellent quality of the provender, and also to the society for devoting the proceeds of their annual entertainment to such a praiseworthy object.

30 March 1912 Fochriw Canteen Committee A general meeting of the Fochriw, Pentwyn and Pantywaun Canteen Committee was called on Thursday at Fochriw, Mr. W. Walters in the chair. The Provision of Meals Act was explained by Mr. J. D. Jones, and the advisability of forming a supplementary fund was discussed. It was unanimously decided to make preparations to meet any distress in the district, and a working committee was elected to consist of: Mr. W. Walters (chairman), Dr. Davies (treasurer), Mr. J. D. Jones (secretary), Rev. Rees Jenkins (assistant secretary), Rev. Roderick, Rev. Hughes Jones, Mr. James Williams, Mr. T. Morgan and Mr. C. Payne of Fochriw; Mr. E. Morgan Davies and Mr. J. Williams of Pentwyn; Rev. M. Young and Mr. Evans, Farm, Penybank; Mr. W. Jenkins and Mr. John Davies of Pantywaun. This committee has already been hard at work, and has already made extensive preparations to meet any distress in the district. At Fochriw and Pantywaun, no cases of real distress have yet been found, but at Penybank, about seventy children have been fed since last Friday. County Councillor Rev. Leyston Evans paid a visit to the committee and explained several technical points in the working of the Act. An appeal to the residents of the district was made in all places of worship last Sunday, and the supplementary fund is gradually improving.

6 April 1912 Canteen Committee A general meeting was called last Thursday to hear a report of the Canteen Committee. There was a good attendance. It was reported that no kitchen had yet been opened at Fochriw, as the condition there was, so far, very good. At Penybank and Pentwyn, sixty children were fed each day on average. At Pantywaun, a large number are being fed daily. Pantywaun has a strong supplementary fund.

20 April 1912 Relief It is greatly to the credit of the inhabitants of Fochriw that it has been found unnecessary to open a kitchen here. This proves that the people are economic and thrifty. The committee decided to continue the work of relief at Penybank and Pantywaun. The work at Pantywaun is carried out by the local sub-committee which consists of Messrs. Jones, Davies, Griffith, Richards, Woods and Smith, with Mr. Jones, schoolmaster. The work at Penybank is well looked after by Rev. M. Young, Mr. James Williams and Mr. E. Morgan Davies.

11 May 1912 Fochriw, Penybank and Pantywaun Canteen Committee The work of feeding at Penybank and Pantywaun has ceased since April 26th. No kitchen was opened in Fochriw for the whole of the strike, but the Committee had informed the inhabitants that they were prepared to open a kitchen if there was need. At Penybank, about 2,000 meals were given, and about the same number at Pantywaun. In both places the inhabitants were very involved in the preparation of food and care of the little ones. In winding up the accounts of the Fochriw Supplementary Fund, the treasurer, Dr. Davies, informed the committee that after paying all bills, he had in hand the sum of £8-0-5. It was unanimously decided by the Committee that this sum be placed in the Post Office, in the name of the Treasurer, Secretary and Chairman, for future use, if the need should arise. The lists from Penybank and Pantywaun were carefully considered, and it was decided to recommend the exemption from payment of persons mentioned in the lists.

29 August 1914 Prince of Wales' Fund A public meeting in connection with this fund was held at Nazareth on Monday evening last, presided over by Coun. John Jones, Fochriw. A house to house collection was decided, and a local committee was selected for the purpose of inquiring into and alleviating any distress arising through the war. A resolution was also passed asking the Gellygaer Council to allow some of the lamps in the village to be kept lit all night during the present crisis.

5 June 1920 A Dead Hero - Mr. Tom Harris, Aelybryn: Allowance to Family and Memorial Certificate from the Carnegie Hero Fund Trust As reported in these columns on January 6th, 1919, an accident occurred at the Guest Keen Colliery, Fochriw, which resulted in the death of a pitman, Mr. Tom Harris, Aelybryn. It may be recalled that the knocker broke, and the deceased's fellow pitman, Mr. Wyndham Edwards, was knocked off the top of the cage into the pit, but succeeded in gripping a guide. He shouted to Harris, who was in safety, to let him know where he was suspended, saying he could not hold on much longer. The next thing, Edwards saw Harris's lamp and body passing him. He presumed that Harris lost his grip of the guide rope in trying to effect the rescue of his fellow pitman. This is the sequel. The matter was taken up by Mr. Fred J. Wotten, and reported to the Carnegie Hero Fund Trust. The trustees of this fund have decided to place the name of the deceased on their role of heroes, in recognition of his heroic action. In addition, they unanimously agreed to grant his widow an allowance of 20 shillings weekly for herself, and 3s. 6d. weekly in respect of each of her three children under 14 years of age, together with a memorial certificate.

26 March 1921 Feeding the School Children A meeting was held at the Co-operative Rooms on Monday to discuss the question of the feeding of school children during the depression of trade. Mr. Rees Thomas, chairman, introduced Mr. Isaac, headmaster of Fochriw Infants, and Miss Jones, headmistress of Penybank School. Mr. Isaac addressed the meeting. He said he had been instructed by the education authorities to find out whether there were any needy cases at Fochriw, with the object of putting the Act into force. He admitted it was a very difficult thing to get children to say whether they had come to school without food or not, hence he thought it wise to present the facts to a meeting of workmen. Miss Jones then spoke on the question. She said she knew in her school at Penybank, there was a need for feeding the children, and she had already, with her staff, taken the initiative, and had fed between 80 and 90 children, and would do the same again. A subscription list was started, but those funds were not intact yet. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the deputation on the motion of Mr. W. J. Payne.

30 April 1921 Distress The Feeding of the School Children Act has not yet been put into force owing to no-one applying for the forms necessary to fill up. This speaks well of Fochriw. A strong committee has been formed to meet distress in any form, with the Rev. Esaiiah Williams, chairman, Rev. Samuel Evans, vice-chairman, Mr. George Thomas, secretary, the Rev. D. J. Jones, treasurer. Their duties up to the present have been confined to relieving children under five years, and mothers, when necessity arises. This fund is augmented weekly by the good people of the village, who are fortunate enough to be working. A willing band of ladies make a tour of the district and inquire if there are any necessitous cases in each house, to which relief is then given. At a meeting in the Co-operative Rooms on Monday of the members of the S.W.M.F., to deal with the sum of money from the Central Fund, it was unanimously decided, instead of sharing it amongst the members, that it should be handed to the Local Distress Fund.

7 May 1921 Distress The local distress fund is still very active in carrying out its duties in relieving distress among the young children. Thanks to the committee and officials, the work is proceeding satisfactorily.

14 May 1921 Distress Fund A meeting of the above took place at Noddfa vestry on Tuesday, presided over by the Reverend Esaiiah Williams. It was announced that £40 had been handed to the fund from the South Wales Miners' Federation, for which they were extremely grateful. The Fund in the past was kept to relieve mothers and children under five years of age. It was now decided to relieve children over that age as long as the finance would allow.

14 May 1921 Communal Kitchens A well-attended meeting was held at the Co-operative Rooms on Friday last to further consider the question of opening communal kitchens in the village. The meeting was presided over by Mr. W. J. Payne. The chairman stated that up to the present, the people of Fochriw had refused to open a soup kitchen or put into operation the Act of feeding school children, which spoke well of their generosity in such strenuous times. But he hoped the moment kitchens were required, they would be started, for it was their bounden duty to see that the children should not suffer. With regard to Communal Kitchens, he said that a sum of money had arrived from the South Wales Miners' Federation, and more would follow in due course to relieve distress in their midst. Several persons spoke on the matter, some paying a very high compliment to our local shopkeepers who kept their doors open for the supply of groceries all through the crisis, and while this continued they did not see the need of kitchens. It was a big sacrifice on the part of the grocers, and they were to be admired. A resolution was moved, "that for the present we do not open kitchens," which was carried. It was also resolved that the £40 from the Federation be handed to the Local Distress Fund, with the suggestion that the scope of relief should be extended if possible.

28 May 1921 Exciting Carnival at Fochriw On Thursday last, a very attractive carnival took place under the auspices of the Relief Committee, and was favoured with excellent weather. A large procession was marshalled in the Co-operative Yard. It was composed of representatives, different characters, etc, and paraded the streets headed by the Deri Silver Band, under the conductorship of Mr. W. J. Powell. There was also a comic band under the conductorship of Mr. D. J. Davies, and the the Troedrhwiwfwch Jazz Band. The streets en route were lined with huge crowds of spectators and there was a fine display of bunting. Some of the various make-ups were really laughable. Leading the procession were Police Sergeant Williams, Counsellors Morgan Morgan and D. J. Thomas, and the Reverend Esaiiah Williams. They were followed by: the St. John Ambulance Brigade, under Superintendent W. J. Ballard; the Fire Brigade, under the command of Lieutenant W. J. Payne; members of both Football teams in full playing order, and looking eager for the fray; the Jazz Band bringing up the rear.

After the parade, the crowd marched up to the football field to see the much talked of football match, playing as they were for the "Lock-out Cup." Hard training had been put in the day before. There were present several well-known playing managers eager to sign on some of the players. The referee was that well-known sport, Mr. Watkin Williams, who had been busy plotting the war paint on both teams. The linesmen were Messrs. Richard Davis and William Ballard.

The Wolves, captained by Mr. E. Lewis, were the first to leave the dressing room, in full war paint and flying colours. When they reached the playing arena the cheers were deafening. Following closely behind, and looking as fit as fiddles, with their

Stars and Stripes flying, were the Spurs, under their captain Mr. John Thomas. Mrs. John Bevan kicked off.

The first part of the game was more or less devoted to Soccer, and a feature was the fine combination between Rees Thomas, Tom Thomas and David Lewis, but all their efforts came to nothing. George Jones, late of Aberaeron, was able to deal with all their shots turning the ball over bar in all directions. He successfully stopped two penalties, one from Bill Gittoes (late Arsenal) being a terrific shot. The Wolves then got going. Captain E. Lewis placed the ball nicely, and set Dan Bach and John Rees off at lightning speed. Ultimately a great shot from John Rees was punched out by Gittoes.

On resuming, Mrs. Hill kicked off. The Spurs got going now in style. James Davies and Tom Jenkins gave evidence that they are still possessed football qualities. Davies, with a fast grounder, scored, deceiving the goalie, who appealed for offside, but the referee was adamant. This dispute brought P. C. Benny Thomas on the scene, who threatened to lock up both goalie and referee.

The whistle then blew for lemons, and Nurse Thomas kicked off this time. Job Thomas, George Shankland and Bill Davies followed up in rare style. The Wolves were penalised for hands in the penalty area. Gittoes was entrusted with the kick. The force of the kick drove both goalie and ball through the net. The whistle was again sounded for lemons. Mrs. Rosser then kicked off, and George Shankland, going alone, beating man after man, scored a beautiful goal. David Lewis was knocked out. The Ambulance Squad were marched up and, after examination he was carried off, the referee protesting. The Wolves, although a beaten side, were playing desperately. Captain Lewis tried to rally his men, and Evan Jones, E. Chaffey, David Harris, and Daniel Jenkins made repeated efforts to score without success. W. E. Jones and David Griffiths now came up in style, but Jones was as safe as houses. Job Thomas then scored the last goal, the Spurs winning by four goals to nil, amid scenes of wild enthusiasm. Dr. T. Stenner Evans presented the cup to the winning captain in a neat speech. The captain responded and was afterwards carried shoulder high to the dressing room. The money taken was handed to the Distress Fund.

28 May 1921 Communal Kitchen This has been started in the Ambulance Hall under the supervision of the Local Distress Committee, at which two meals a day are provided to families in distress owing to the coal crisis. A kitchen has also been opened at Penybanc under the same committee to cater for Pentwyn and Penybanc. Large numbers take advantage of these meals. A word of praise is due to the willing band of workers.

28 May 1921 Sports On Friday afternoon, a fine programme of sports was held to on the football field, under the auspices of the Distress Fund. The Fochriw Brass Band, under the conductorship of Mr. W. J. Powell, played a selection of music, and the strong committee carried out the arrangements. The chairman was Mr. Tom Jones; vice-chairman, Mr. Rees Thomas; treasurer, Mr. John Rees; secretary, Mr. James John Lewis. The results were: 1st race - 1. Phyllis Davies, 2. Bethune Gregory, 3. Rita Cole; 2nd race - 1. Vernon Davies, 2. Tom Jenkins, 3. Graham Wootton; 3rd race - 1. Tudor Davies, 2. Myrddin Evans, 3. Rufus Dummett; 4th race - 1. Irvona Thomas, 2. Edith Wilton, 3. Rosie Williams; 5th race - 1. Emrys Davies, 2. Gomer Davies; 6th race - 1. Lena Rees, 2. Olwen Davies; 7th race - 1. Bedford Edwards, 2. Richard Jones; 8th race - 1. Doreen Weeks, 2. May Angell; 9th race - 1. Evan W. Jones, 2. William Thomas; 10th race - 1. Sarah Gwen Price, 2. Muriel Jones and Ethel Baldwin. Skipping - 1. May Davies, 2. May Cook; Three-legged race boys - 1. Bryn Davies & Elfed Lewis; girls - Phoebe Cole & Gwenda Thomas; Blind Man's Buff - 1.

Iorwerth Evans, 2. Richard Jones; Married Ladies - 1. Mrs. Willie Williams, 2. Mrs. Percy Edwards, 3. Mrs. Tom Jones; Tug-of-War men – Mr. William Gittoes' team; ladies – Mrs. Mordecai Williams' team; young men – Mr. Anthony Morris' team. The tit-bit was the race for men over 16 stone in weight, which was won in exciting fashion by Mr. Benny Jones, with Mr. George Jones second, and Mr. Wm. Gittoes third.

4 June 1921 Sports On Friday afternoon at Penybank, under the auspices of their Distress Committee, a fine programme of sports was carried out for children. Some very exciting and laughable events were witnessed.

4 June 1921 Relief Workers The local Relief Committee held its weekly meeting at Noddfa vestry on Monday afternoon, the Reverend Esaiah Williams presiding. The secretary and treasurer reported on the state of the funds that had been received from various sources. This was very satisfactory. Additional subscriptions had been thankfully received. Several new names had been put on the list to receive aid. The communal kitchen at the Ambulance Hall is working very smoothly, several ladies and gentlemen attending to the needs of the children in a business like manner.

4 June 1921 Concert On Saturday evening, a grand concert was given at the Baptist Chapel, Penybank, in aid of the local Distress Fund. The chapel was well filled. The chair was taken by Miss Jones, headmistress of Penybank School. The artistes were really excellent, encores being the order of the evening. Mr. W. Deri Bowen, who is home on a visit, gave his services for the occasion. The following were the artistes: baritone, Mr. Clifford Davies, Deri; soprano, Mrs. H. C. Davies, Fochriw; baritone, Mr. W. Deri Bowen; tenor, Mr. James John Lewis, Fochriw; musical quartet, Messrs. Albert Mantle, Bob Rees, Tom Rees, Ben Shankland. Accompanist, Mr. Bowen, Deri. After the usual votes of thanks, the evening concluded with the singing of "Hen Wlad fy Nhadau," Mrs. H. C. Davies taking the solo.

4 June 1921 Carnival On Thursday last, another very successful Carnival in connection with the Local Distress Fund was held. The procession was formed up at the Co-operative Yard. The costumes were exceedingly good. The Jazz Band from Pontlloftyn evoked a great deal of interest and merriment. The procession was headed by the Fochriw Brass Band, conducted by Mr. Albert Mantle. The band was followed by the St. John Ambulance Brigade, the Fire Brigade, the members of the Deri Gymnastic Team with their instructor, Mr. Henry Hufton, and members of the ladies' football teams. The streets were thickly lined with spectators, and all were thoroughly pleased with the display. After the parade, the crowd made its way to the football field to witness the eagerly anticipated match between Fochriw and Pentwyn Ladies. Both teams were played on to the field by the Band, and were urged on to victory by their hundreds of supporters. Fochriw were captained by Mrs. Chaffey, the team looking very smart in their blue jerseys. Pentwyn were captained by Miss Blodwen Williams, the team looking particularly attractive in their scarlet jerseys. First, P. S. Kinsley Llewellyn and P. S. Tom Jenkins cleared the playing area with their dangerous-looking clubs. Mr. H. Roberts, the referee, in female attire, called the rival captains to toss for choice of ends. Dr. J. Stenner Evans kicked off in the first half, and Councillor Morgan Morgan the second. Despite heroic efforts, and end-to-end football, the game ended in a pointless draw. The Fochriw team were as follows: Mrs. Mordecai Williams, Mrs. James John Lewis, Mrs. Percy Edwards, Mrs. Rees Thomas, Mrs. E. Chaffey, Miss Mattie Jones, Miss Rachel Gregory, Mrs. Fred Wright, Mrs. D. Davies, Mrs. Lucy Jones, and Miss Rachel Price. The Pentwyn team was: Miss B. Williams, Miss Sarah Evans, Miss Alice Mills, Mrs. Tom Rowlands, Mrs. Albert Wright, Mrs. H. A. Williams, Miss E. A. Davies, Miss May Williams,

Mrs. Pullen, Miss Polly Jones, Miss Gladys Mills. Trainers: Fochriw – Messrs. W. Gittoes and George Jones; Pentwyn – Messrs. W. Williams and J. Williams. After the match the Deri Gymnastic Team gave a sparkling exhibition for an hour, which delighted the large crowd, bringing round after round of applause. The proceeds were handed to the Distress Fund.

11 June 1921 Distress Fund The Local Distress Fund met at Noddfa Vestry on Friday last, presided over by the Rev. Samuel Evans. Several important matters were considered, Mr. George Thomas, secretary giving a review of the situation. Rev. D. J. Jones, treasurer gave the financial position, which was very satisfactory. New cases were added to the aid list. It must be said that the officials and committee have done all in their power to carry on this deserving Fund. Subscriptions are thankfully received.

11 June 1921 Drama The Pontlloftyn Dramatic Society gave a wonderful performance of the play "Change" at St. Mary's Hall on Wednesday evening in aid of the Local Distress Fund. The hall was crowded, the chairman for the evening being the Rev. Esaiiah Williams. Votes of thanks were accorded the company for helping the noble cause.

25 June 1921 Concert An open air concert was given on Monday evening last by members of the Fochriw Brass Band, under the conductorship of Mr. Coombes. The station yard had been put at the disposal of the concert party, thanks to the kindness of Mr. Lewis, station master. Councillor M. Morgan kindly lent the piano. There was a large crowd present. The chairman was Mr. Charles Payne. The following was the programme: Brass Band; Three Duds; Mrs. Matthews; Mr. Coombes; Mr. Fred Richards; Mr. H. Thomas; Mr. Haydn Hughes. The proceeds were for the Local Distress Fund. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded and all took part.

25 June 1921 Distress The local Distress Committee met at Noddfa Vestry on Monday afternoon, the Reverend Esaiiah Williams in the chair. The secretary gave his weekly report. The contributions which are so kindly given week after week by the people of Fochriw, and also the generous support from kind friends outside the village, make it possible to give a large amount of relief throughout the village. A word of thanks is due to the lady collectors who go week by week to look for needy cases and also solicit donations to the fund. The communal kitchens at Fochriw and Penybank are also in a very healthy state. One good meal is provided every day for children under 14 years of age. A different menu is served every day. A willing staff of helpers attend to the wants of the children each day. Some of the local committee men go up to Penybank every day, and attend, with other helpers, to the needs there. The whole arrangements are carried out in a very systematic manner.

2 July 1921 Concert A well-attended concert was held at Penybank Baptist Chapel on Thursday evening in aid of the Distress Fund. The chair was very ably filled by Councillor David John Thomas. The entertainment was first class, the artistes bringing forth round after round of applause. The following took part: Madame H. C. Davies, Fochriw; Mr. James John Lewis, Fochriw; Mr. Theophilus Shankland, Fochriw; accompanist, Masters Aneurin Thomas, Fochriw.

2 July 1921 Distress Committee The committee met at Noddfa Vestry on Monday afternoon, Rev. Esaiiah Williams presiding. Both the Children's Fund and also the Canteen Fund were in a very flourishing position. During the past week at Penybank and Fochriw canteens, close on 2,000 good meals have been served. Although it entails an enormous amount of work on some persons, it is done willingly. Children's cases were also considered, and reports from collectors, and other matters in connection with the Fund, were discussed.

2 July 1921 Football Although rather warm for a football match, the Fochriw Ladies entertained Deri on Monday afternoon. The visitors were winners by one goal to nil. The proceeds were for the Distress Fund.

29 October 1921 Welfare A committee meeting in connection with the Welfare Distress Fund was held at Noddfa vestry on Monday evening, the Rev. Esaiiah Williams presiding. The subject was to discuss a small surplus of money left in hand. The fund, which had done noble work during the strike, was the means of relieving a great deal of distress in the village and surrounding district. A statement of accounts was read. It was decided that the surplus money be sent to Merthyr General Hospital.

29 April 1922 Lecture At Carmel Chapel (kindly lent), a lecture entitled "Abraham Lincoln," was given by Mr. Morgan Jones, M.P., in aid of the Russian Famine Relief Fund. The chairman was Mr. John Jones, who gave a very appropriate opening address. Mr. Jones' lecture was brimful of interest. The audience was delighted for two hours, and much appreciated what proved one of the finest addresses given in the village. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the lecturer on the motion of Mr. Walter Jones, seconded by Mr. E.M. Davies.

22 July 1922 Gellygaer School Managers At the previous meeting, attention of the Managers was drawn to the fact that the attendance of certain children whose parents were in receipt of poor law relief was very low. It was decided on the suggestion of Mrs. Beynon Davies, Pontlottyn, to ask the Merthyr Board of Guardians to restore the custom of providing certificates which would show the attendance of children, and cause inquiries to be made in this connection if necessary. The Guardians had replied stating that they would take no action in the matter.

22 July 1922 Boots and Mitching Scholars During the reports of the attendance officer, it transpired that lack of boots was the great complaint put forward by parents for the non-attendance of their children at school. Mrs. Beynon Davies suggested that in many cases it was no use paying too much regard to this story. It was common knowledge that children were about the roads doing mischief, in ponds and rivers and on tips, and in all sorts of dirt, and it would therefore be much better if they were at school without boots.

16 December 1922 Social and Dance On Monday evening at the Church Hall, an excellent social and dance was held under the auspices of the M.U and Y.C.W. in aid of Mr. David Lewis (ex-Serviceman) who has been unable to work for the last few years. The Hall had been nicely decorated and a very large crowd assembled. Refreshments were provided and the tables were attended by the good ladies of the church. Octavius Richards was accompanist, F. Wilton violinist, and the M.Cs. were J. Edwards and O. Morris.

3 March 1923 Concert A concert had been held in aid of Mr. Tom Wilcox, South Tunnel, who has been unable to work for three years through illness.

29 March 1924 Whist Drive and Dance This took place at the Library Hut on Friday, organised in aid of Mr. Percy Edwards who has been ill for a long period, and is at present at the Merthyr General Hospital. A substantial sum was realised. M.C. for whist was Cllr. D. J. Thomas and for dancing Mr. T. Howell Jones. The orchestra was present under Cllr. Thomas.

19 July 1924 Work for Unemployed A meeting was held at the Co-operative Rooms on Monday evening last, under the chairmanship of Mr. Evan M. Davies. It was decided to send a deputation to the Public Works Committee of the Council to appeal for work on the Fochriw to Deri road.

5 December 1925 Gellygaer Council Report: Unemployed Letters were read from the unemployed of Pontlottyn and Fochriw asking the Council to co-operate with

them in providing work on the Council's roads for the unemployed. The matter was referred to the local ward members.

27 February 1926 Benefit Concert On Thursday evening at St. Mary's Hall, the Fochriw Male Voice Party, under their conductor Mr. W. J. Angell, gave a concert in aid of the widow of Mr. J. M. Jones who died recently at a London Hospital. The Hall was well-filled, and the choir and artistes were in excellent form. Mr. Wyndham Lawrence was the pianist, and Rev. S. Evans presided.

10 April 1926 Concert A smoking Concert took place on Saturday at the Rising Sun Inn in aid of Mr. John Griffiths, Aelybryn, who has been ill for a long time. Several well-known artistes took part and a very enjoyable evening was spent.

22 May 1926 The Strike Perfect peace prevails in the village. The Strike Committee are working hard to organise different events to bring in funds to help relieve the distress prevailing in the village.

22 May 1926 Feeding the Children The feeding of the schoolchildren commenced at Fochriw and Penybanc on Tuesday morning. Headmasters, and the various staff, and a willing band of workers, are giving of their services. Three meals a day are provided; and the food supplied is of first class quality. Willing helpers are on duty from early morning until late in the evening. The Vicar has placed St. Mary's Hall at the disposal of the authorities for the feeding of the Fochriw children, and the Baptists have done likewise at Penybanc.

22 May 1926 Whist Drive A very pleasant whist drive was held at the Library Hall on Friday evening, under the auspices of the Strike Committee. The M.C. was Mr. William Evans. A vote of thanks to all who helped was moved by Mr. W. J. Payne, seconded by Mr. W. Jones.

29 May 1926 Carnival and Sports On Monday, the village was en fete, the occasion being a successful carnival and sports organised by the local strike committee. The weather was all that could be desired, and a large number turned out in picturesque costumes, some of the characters causing roars of laughter. Races and football matches were played. The winner of the marathon race was Mr. David Thomas, Aelybryn, and in the football tournament Mr. Thomas Morgan's team was successful. The presentation of the prizes was made by Sergeant Howells.

29 May 1926 Concert A concert in aid of the Distress Fund was held at St. Mary's Hall, and presided over by Mr. W. J. Payne. The artistes were in excellent form and were well received. The following contributed to a musical programme: tenor solos, Mr. Willie Angell Davies; soprano solos, Miss Marjorie Lewis; baritone solos, Mr. Claerwyn Davies; tenor solos, Mr. Willie Jones; recitations, Miss Nesta Jenkins; duet, Messrs. Davies and Jones; tenor solo, Mr. Leyshon Rowlands. Mr. Wyndham Lawrence presided at the organ. Mr. Edward Lewis proposed a vote of thanks, seconded by Councillor D. Jenkins and Mr. George Sibley.

29 May 1926 Whist Drives A very successful whist drive was held at the Old Library on Thursday evening last in the aid of the Distress Fund, and was well attended. Mr. Sylvanus Jenkins was of the M.C. Another well attended whist drive was held at St. Mary's Hall on Monday evening. The duties of M.C. were carried out by Mr. C. Ballard. The refreshments were attended to by the members of the Mothers' Union.

5 June 1926 Strike Amusements The Local Strike Committee continues to do excellent work in providing a variety of entertainments, sports and games for the strikers. A first-class football match between teams from Fochriw and Pontlottyn was played, during which selections of music were provided by the Fochriw Brass Band under the able conductorship of Mr. Albert Mantle.

5 June 1926 Concert A first class concert was held at Noddfa vestry on the Thursday evening last in the aid of the Distress Fund. Ex-sergeant Williams was the chairman. The accompanists were Messrs T. Walters, and David J. Davies. The following contributed to the musical programme: solos, Mrs. H. C. Davies, Messrs. J. J. Lewis, John Evans, Master R. J. Price; instrumental duet, Messrs C. Everett and Millar. A vote of thanks was proposed to by Mr. Walters Jones, seconded by Mr. Howell Thomas.

5 June 1926 Train Service Some very drastic cuts have been made in our train services and in keeping with other stations cheap booking is suspended. The first down train leaves Fochriw at 1:27p.m., consequently all our school children have to cross the mountain to Pontlloyn to get to their schools at Pengam, Hengoed and Bargoed. Teachers at Deri have to walk or provide their own transport, and we feel that G.W.R. should make an effort to restore the first down train in the morning for the sake of school children and season ticket holders.

5 June 1926 Whist Drives A very successful whist drive was held at St. Mary's Hall on Monday evening, and was well attended. The duties of M.C. were ably carried out by Mr. C. Ballard. A very interesting whist drive was held at the Old Library on Friday last in the aid of the local Distress Fund, and was well attended. Mr. William Price was the M.C.

5 June 1926 Sports Successful sports were held at Pentwyn on Saturday last under the auspices of the Outdoor Amusement Committee in aid of the Fochriw and District Distress Fund. The procession started from the Old Reading Room headed by the Fochriw Brass Band, under the able conductorship of the Mr. A. Mantle. There were races for children and adults.

12 June 1926 Whist Drive A very successful whist drive was held at the Old Library on Monday last in the aid of the local Distress Fund, and was well attended. Mr. C. Ballard was the M.C. A most enjoyable evening was spent.

12 June 1926 With the Strikers Although the industrial trouble is still unsettled, the inhabitants of the village are making the best of it under the trying circumstances. The various Strike Committees are doing all in their power to cheer the people. Sports, football matches, concerts, whist drives, etc., are daily organised. Numbers of men are busy scouring the tips in search of coal to keep the home fires burning. One tip in particular that has been lying dormant for over 50 years, is being explored daily by large numbers, and large quantities of coal of excellent quality unearthed.

12 June 1926 Concert A concert was given at Noddfa vestry on Thursday evening last under the auspices of the Distress Committee. Mr. Thomas Evans presided over a large gathering, and long before the programme commenced, the vestry was packed. The following contributed to a musical programme: soprano solos, "How lovely are thy dwellings," and "Good-bye," - Miss Thomas (Bedlinog); contralto solos, "Friend o' mine" and "The Enchantress," - Mrs. Lewis; duet, "Life's dream is O'er" - Miss Addie Lawrence and Mr. W. A. Davies; duet, "Watchman," Messrs. Davies and Jenkins; bass solos, "The Spoilers" and "Arm, arm, ye brave," - Mr. E. J. Jenkins, Pontlloyn. A very laughable sketch was played, entitled "Military Man, by the Jones and Harris company which was much enjoyed. Mr. George Sibley proposed a hearty vote of thanks, seconded by Mr. Jenkin Pugh. A pleasant evening was brought to a close with the singing of "Hen Wlas fy Nhadau," Miss Thomas taking the solo. The accompanist for the programme was Mr. Thomas Walters.

12 June 1926 Adults Canteen The canteen has been opened at Carmel vestry and willing helpers are busy every day preparing an excellent midday meal of which a large number take advantage.

12 June 1926 Feeding the Children No word of praise is too great for the willing band of workers who are giving their services to feeding the school children at St. Mary's Hall. The children are fed three times daily under of supervision of Mr. J. P. Isaac (headmaster) and Miss Davies (headmistress of the Infants). At Penybank, the same course is adopted, where the children are fed under the supervision of Mr. W. Davies (headmaster) and a willing band of workers.

19 June 1926 Whist Drive A successful whist drive for was held at the Old Library under the auspices of the local Distress Fund. Mr. David J. Davies was at the M.C.

26 June 1926 Whist A whist drive was held at the Reading Room in aid of the Distress Fund. Mr. Wm. Thomas was M.C.

26 June 1926 Adult Canteen About 200 people daily take advantage of an excellent midday meal provided at the Carmel Vestry. The food is of the best quality, and plenty of willing helpers are available. The energetic secretary is Mr. J. Walters, the chairman, Mr. E. Lewis, and the treasurer, Mr. D. H. Thomas.

26 June 1926 Tournament and Sports This took place on Wednesday, under the auspices of the Outdoor Amusement Committee, in aid of the Fochriw and District Distress Fund. The first event was the football tournament, the successful team being that of Mr. Thomas John Jones. There were races for the children. The Brass Band was in attendance.

3 July 1926 Whist A whist drive was held in the Old Reading Room on Friday in aid of the Distress Fund. The M.C. was Mr. I. J. Jones.

3 July 1926 Concert A concert was held at Carmel Chapel on Thursday in aid of the Distress Fund, when the Pontlloftyn Glee Club, under their conductor Mr. Victor Lewis, gave an excellent programme. Mr. George Sibley presided.

10 July 1926 Whist A whist drive was held in the Old Reading Room on Monday in aid of the Distress Fund. The M.C. was Mr. Dan James.

17 July 1926 Sports Sports were held on the mountain on Monday for the school children, under the auspices of the Outdoor Amusement Committee. A collection was made in aid of the Fochriw and District Distress Fund.

31 July 1926 Whist Drive A very successful whist drive was held at the Old Reading room on Tuesday evening in aid of the Distress Fund. The duties of M.C. were ably carried out by Mr. William Price.

7 August 1926 Tournament The tip-cat tournament was held under the auspices of the Outdoor Amusement Committee, and a large number of entries were received. Some very exciting play was witnessed. There were four prizes and the winners were 1. Mr. D. H. Thomas, 2. Mr. Tom Davies, 3. Mr. Lewis Richards, 4. Mr. David Way.

14 August 1926 Whist Drive A well-attended whist drive was held at the Old Reading Room on Friday evening in connection with the Distress Fund. The M.C. was Mr. John Walters.

21 August 1926 Whist Drive A well-attended whist drive was held at the Old Reading Room on Tuesday evening in connection with the Distress Fund. The M.C. was Mr. W. Price.

28 August 1926 Communal Kitchens An excellent mid-day meal is being provided at Carmel vestry. The number of the young men being fed daily has increased. The fare served is of excellent quality. The energetic secretary is Mr. John Walters.

28 August 1926 Welfare Scheme A well-attended and representative meeting was held at the Old Reading Room on Tuesday evening to receive the report of the committee appointed to submit schemes to a public meeting. The chairman was the Rev. I. Evans. A general discussion took place, after which it was decided to proceed with the question of the hall and playing grounds. The secretary is Mr. J. Lloyd Jones.

28 August 1926 Concert A well-attended concert was held at Noddfa vestry on Thursday evening. Mr. Thomas Evans presided. All the artistes gave a programme of music which was much appreciated, the following taking part: Madame H. C. Davies, Mr. J. J. Lewis, Miss Phyllis Davies, Mr. Leyshon Rowlands, Mr. J. M. Williams, Mr. Rees Thomas. The accompanist was Mr. Wyndham Lawrence. The proceeds were in aid of the Distress Fund.

28 August 1926 School Feeding The feeding of the school children continues at St. Mary's Hall, where three meals of first-class quality are served up each day. A fine body of workers are on duty each day giving of their best to make the little ones happy. The same applies to Penybank School. Headmasters, Mr. J. P. Isaac, Mr. W. Davies, and Miss Davies, headmistress, and their respective staffs, are untiring in their efforts, and greatly appreciate the splendid help given by the villagers.

28 August 1926 Concert On Tuesday evening, under the auspices of the Children's Choir, conductor Mr. David John Davies, a very fine concert was given in aid of the Distress Fund. The chairman was Mr. W. J. Payne, who gave a very appropriate address, after which the curtain was raised, the children looking very striking in their pretty dresses. They sang the following choruses in fine style, and received a great ovation: "Sweet and Low," "Peace Be Still," and "Through the Valley of the Shadow." They were assisted by a wonderful boy soprano, Master W. Davies, Deri, who pleased the crowd immensely. Other artistes who gave beautiful renderings were Miss Richards, Rhymney, soprano; Mr. D. Rich, Rhymney, bass; and Mr. Emrys Jones, Rhymney, baritone, all being encored. The accompanists were Mr. Wyndham Lawrence, Mr. Joshua Thomas, Mrs. Uzzell and Miss Rich. Nurse Ballard-Davies proposed a vote of thanks, seconded by Mrs. Jones.

4 September 1926 Concert A first class competitive concert was held at Carmel Chapel on Friday evening last in the aid of the distress Fund. The adjudicators were: music, Mr. Tom Gabriel, Bargoed and Mr. David Jones, Bargoed; literature, Rev. I. Evans, Fochriw; accompanists, Mr. T Walters and Mr. Wyndham Lawrence.

18 September 1926 Eisteddfod The local entertainment committee is to be complemented on the high standard of the Eisteddfod held in aid of the local distress fund. The adjudicators were: music, Mr. William Jenkins, Pant; literature, Mr. Lewis Jones, Penydarren; conductor, Councillor Tom Jenkins; chairman, Mr. William Price; secretary, Mr. James Gregory. The accompanists were Mr. Thomas Walters and Mr. Wyndham Lawrence. Awards: solo under 10: 1. Marion Gregory (Fochriw), 2. Eunice Morris (Fochriw); solos under 16: 1. Eirlys Bedw (Bedlinog), 2. Phyllis Davies (Fochriw); recitation, girls under 10: 1. Mattie Jenkins, 2. Eunice Morris (both of the Fochriw); recitation under 16: Nesta Jenkins (Fochriw), Irene Tozzelli (Bedlinog); novice solo: divided between Addie Lawrence and Griff Morris; soprano solo: Miss Margery Lewis (Fochriw); contralto solo: Madame H. Cole Davies (Fochriw); tenor solo: Mr. J. J. Lewis (Fochriw); bass solo: Mr. James Jones (Fochriw); hymn tune: Mr. J. J. Lewis; open recitation: Mr. Stephen Lewis; mixed choirs - 3 competed - Deri, Bedlinog, and Fochriw - winner, Fochriw, conductor Mr. J. J. Lewis; male voice - four choirs entered - the Fochriw Young Music Lovers, the Fochriw Canteen, Bedlinog Male Voice and Deri Youngsters - winners Bedlinog, conductor Mr. T. J. Rees; children's choir: Fochriw Juvenile Choir (Miss Annie Jones).

2 October 1926 Dramatics The St. Mary's Dramatic Society are still doing great work in aid of distress. Their services are in great demand, and they are receiving good receptions in every place they visit. Last week, they gave performances at Hengoed, Rhymney and Tredegar.

9 October 1926 Eisteddfod In aid of the local Canteen Funds, a successful Eisteddfod was held on Saturday at Carmel Chapel. The adjudicators were: music, Mr. John Price, Rhymney; literature, Mr. John Griffiths, Rhymney. The conductor was "Alastor." The chairman was Mr. William Price, the accompanist Mr. Thomas Walters, and the secretary, Mr. James Gregory. Awards: solo under 10 - Olga Chapman; recitation under 10 - Hilda Watkins; solo under 16- Nesta Jenkins; duet under 16 - Auna Lewis and Ceinwen Cole; novice solo - Agnes Cook; soprano solo - Miss Margery Lewis; contralto solo - Miss Ceinwen Ballard; tenor solo - Mr. Griffith Morris; bass solo - Mr. Claerwyn Davies; champion solo - Mr. Claerwyn Davies; recitation - Miss Nesta Evans; juvenile choir - Fochriw (Miss Annie Jones); male voice - Fochriw (Mr. W. J. Angell); mixed choir - Fochriw (Mr. Griffith Jones).

6 November 1926 Eisteddfod a very successful eisteddfod was held at Carmel Chapel on Thursday in aid of the distress fund. The adjudicators were: music, Mr. D.A. Parry, New Tredegar; literature, Mr. Johns, Deri; accompanists, Messrs. T. Walters, A.L.C.M., and Wyndham Lawrence; conductor, Rev. I. Evans; chairman, Mr. Wm. Price; secretary, Mr. J.G. Gregory. The awards were as follows: solo, boy or girl under 10, 1. Mary Lewis, 2. Marion Gregory, consolation, Jessie Jones; solo, boy or girl under 16, 1. Nesta Jenkins, 2. Phyllis Davies; recitation under 10, 1. Mattie Jenkins, 2. Irene Tossell, Bedlinog; duet, under 16, Ceinwen Cole and Auna Lewis; novice solo, Mr. Berkley Davies; tenor solo, divided between Messrs. W. & Griff Morris; bass solo, Mr. G. Davies; open recitation, Miss Ria Haig, Markham; hymn tune, Mr. John Evans; soprano solo, 1. Miss Margery Lewis. 2. Miss Agnes Cook; contralto solo, Madam H.C. Davies; champion solo, Mr. Claerwyn Davies. Fochriw Juvenile Choir (conductress, Miss Annie Jones); Mixed Choir, Fochriw Harmonic (conductor Mr. J.J.Lewis); Fochriw Male Voice Choir (conductor, Mr. W.J. Angell).

27 November 1926 Communal Kitchen At Carmel Vestry, one meal a day is provided. At St. Mary's Hall, the school children still enjoy three meals a day.

22 January 1927 Socialism in Practice: How it Operated at Fochriw During the Strike: Grave and Gay in its Daily Life (Specially Contributed by Pips, Squeaks and Whistles) If ever a section of the population has been stirred by an exposure in your valuable paper, then that section has truly been Fochriw "Hec-Hec." He has even penetrated the depths of Ogilvie Colliery, and many of the village Leninites mutter in their sleep "Hec-Hec." The kiddies are also hec-hec-ing, and one can imagine the inquisitive school medical officer trying to diagnose this hec-hec-itis when next he visits. If the complaint proves contagious, then the whole "red" army will soon by hec-hec-ing its way to Utopia. Ex-Fochriwites may think it strange, but Fochriw has its "spasms" of sensations, these are for the most part short-lived and humorous.

The long strike-period saw the village slag heaps swarmed with villagers, all in search of coal. It was verily a hard task for them, but their tenacity of purpose enabled most of them to procure enough fuel to commence trading. Their only speculation was labour. They were not greedy, and as a rule the price was left to the purchaser. It is recalled that one such purchaser rewarded one seller to the extent of a "glistening bawb" for eight bags of the precious black diamonds. This particular merchant escaped from income tax, and suffered the indignity patiently. Another experience fell the village allotmenters. They discovered the way to kiln their own lime. At once it became the rage, until one family monopolised the furnace, and the patience of the rest of the villagers got worn out in waiting their turn to stoke the kiln. Fresh lime was to be obtained in Fochriw in this period at the nominal fee of four pence a bucketful, and a roaring trade was done. The financial crash of the "Lime Market" came when lime was demanded at three pence less than the price aforesaid. House decorating also

became rampant during the strike, and many of the 60-year-old "company" tenements were made to outshine the beauty of the modern Council houses. Cement, lime, sizes, paint and the gay artificial silk stockings of the village lasses, brought fresh colour at the once drab streets. The assessment committee are not taking advantage of this improvement (?).

The village boasted two canteens, and both enjoyed the shelter of sacred edifices. The educational authorities had strict supervision over the children's dietary; the adult canteen enjoyed a cosmopolitan patronage, and worked under the supervision of a committee, which pleased itself as well as everybody attending it - and the programme instituted by its entertainment committee.

This latter canteen had an awful "bust up" - something over a gibbon. To settle the breach in the harmony required the services of the vice-president of the South Wales Miners' Federation. He first consulted the committee, and found they were properly in the "stew," almost afraid to "stir." They told him the men complained of the menu. A mass meeting was at once proclaimed and the Old School Yard was the scene of the conflict. The complainants were two stout hillmen, and the defendants the whole committee. The Vice-President opened the "Assizes" by declaring that Fochriw was not alone in its canteen squabbles, and he instanced neighbouring places where Cook had had his meet. After outlining how a canteen should be governed, he urged that obedience to the committee was essential - "we must have discipline to carry on the good work." The question of non-unionists being allowed in the canteen altered the phases of the proceedings a little, and the poor non-unionists in the audience quacked in their shoes. The speakers oratory here was magnificently full of time worn acrimonious bitterness, and at last the non-unionists were informed that they were privileged to attend the canteens, but under no consideration whatsoever were they to hold office. "The Communal Kitchens are entirely under the control of the Federation, remember that!" "Although money is being subscribed by the public at large, it is the Federation who are in control, remembah!" (The facial contortions over the word "remembah" will never be forgotten). Patience being a virtue that the two hill-men don't possess was the cause of a good many interjections being made; and the situation became as delicate as a cornflour blancmange. The worthy chairman of the canteen then explained the grievances, and being too week-kneed to withstand epithets hurled at him, the vice President of the Federation again took command of the situation. The controversy was based on a genuine grievance, and we soon learn that the only method to cool the broth was by blowing up the Fochriw populace as being the most generous flock. "We in Merthyr and Dowlais were put to the trouble of purchasing kitchen equipment, but at Fochriw they had no difficulty in borrowing boilers, kettles, etc." Needless to say, the meeting ended in chaos. The only satisfied persons were the two dissentients who were initiated into the clique, and they all lived happily ever after. Few will forget this episode of communal kitchen boilers, and artiste as the vice-president of the Federation is, we feel sure that he wore a Broadway smile when automobiling over the Fochriw mountain that night.

One thing goes to the credit of this communal kitchen canteen. They patronised the local gardeners by purchasing home grown potatoes and vegetables. True, it is, that they bought murphies from Bargoed at so much per ton, and there were no checkweigher's ballots over this stunt. This strike has had its advantages and disadvantages, Mr. Editor, but despite the vigilance of the local Council of Action, no one can say that the good old Merthyr Express didn't turn up.

The strike gave us a carnival or two, umpteen eisteddfods, umpteen whist drives, umpteen competitive concerts, no stop trucks, ridding of packmen, soccer and general

sport, cheaper billiards, a drama or two, free coal and herb tobacco, a slight knowledge of what the Miners' Federation of Great Britain never did, a workable knowledge of the greatest Government of modern times, E. P. A. and what it means to abuse it, police in galore, the art of gratitude to those who suffered for us, the jazz note, a few visits from our dear M. P., the theory of intimidation put out of practice, 8 hours - and to most of us - a pay before Christmas after all. Let what may come after may we say. Yours, etc., Pips, Squeaks and Whistles.

24 November 1928 Distress The local Distress Fund is sparing no effort to relieve the needy cases in the village, of which there are so many. The members of the committee, with their energetic secretary, Mrs. S. J. Jones, are untiring in soliciting gifts of money and clothing. Mr. Richard Bell, J. P., London, has sent on several sacks of clothing in excellent condition, and a good sum of money for relieving sick cases he is closely connected with. He paid a visit to Fochriw this week and had a personal talk with the officials, and promised to go back to London and renew his appeals for more support. Other contributors to the fund are Lord Wimborne, Mr. H. R. Jones, Lord Mayor's Fund, Mr. Morgan Jones, MP, etc. Any donations or gifts of clothing will be thankfully received by the officers of the fund: Mr. W. J. Payne, chairman; Mr. S. Lewis, vice-chairman; Mr. Daniel Jenkins, treasurer; Mrs. S. J. Jones, secretary; and Mr. T. Baldwin, assistant secretary.

1 December 1928 Benefit Concert On Thursday, a concert took place at Noddfa Chapel (kindly lent) in aid of Mr. Emlyn Evans, who met with a serious accident at Ogilvie Colliery, which necessitated the amputation of his foot. The concert was organised by the Fochriw Made Voice Party, of which he was a faithful member, assisted by eminent local artistes. Mr. W. J. Payne proposed the vote of thanks, seconded by Mr. Willie Adams Jones. The accompanists were Mr. James and Mr. William Lawrence.

12 January 1929 Distress Meeting At the Old Reading room on Friday, a meeting was held of the Local Distress Committee. Mr. W. J. Payne presided. Mr. Peter Scott, organiser for the Society of Friends, gave an address, and outlined different ways for relieving districts, and the extent to which the Society was going to assist. He outlined a scheme for employing some of those that were unemployed, if he could get the Gellygaer Council to take the matter up. It was decided to form a boot repairing centre, at which a number of men are prepared to give their services. Fochriw has been adopted by Southgate, which will be a great blessing to the distressed of the village. Since the formation of the committee, a great deal of good work has been accomplished. Hundreds of parcels of clothing, etc., have been distributed, and also sums of money. Praise is due to Mr. R. Bell, London, for its efforts for the people of Fochriw and Pontlottyn, which resulted in large quantities of clothing being sent down, as well as a goodly sum of money. He also worked hard to bring about the adoption scheme, and he has won the appreciation of the inhabitants. Splendid work has been performed by Mrs. S. J. Jones, secretary, Mr. Daniel Jenkins, treasurer, Mr. W. J. Payne, chairman and Mr. Sam Lewis vice-chairman. At the close of the meeting, Mr. Scott was thanked on the motion of Dr. Stenner Evans, and seconded by Mr. W. Davies, head teacher, Penybank School.

26 January 1929 School Childrens' Treat Through the kindness of Mr. Richard Bell, J.P., London, the school children of the various schools will be entertained to a first class tea on Friday next, in their respective schools. Mr. Bell's name will live long in the minds of the people of Fochriw and Pontlottyn because of his untiring efforts for the relief of distress. His present illness is deeply regretted, and it is the

wish of his many admirers that he will soon be restored to health to carry on his good work.

2 February 1929 Children Tea The crowning point of Mr. Richard Bell's magnificent efforts for the relief of distress in the village were reached on Friday last, when close on 500 school children were entertained to a sumptuous tea at their respective schools - Fochriw, Penybank, and Pantywaun. Not only has Mr. Bell been anxious for the adults, but the children have also had his careful consideration. Thanks to the efforts of the secretary of the Distress Committee, Mrs. S. J. Jones, no stone has been left unturned to make this a red letter day in the life of the little ones, and with the hearty co-operation of the head teachers and their staffs, success attended their efforts. The school rooms had been gaily decorated with bunting, and the children were given a holiday. After tea, toys were given to each child. Mrs. Jones, secretary, visited the various schools in the area, and distributed the gifts at Penybank School. Mr. Bell has been cordially thanked for his generosity. Splendid service was rendered by Mr. Sam Lewis, chairman of the managers.

16 February 1929 Distress The Local Distress Fund continues to do excellent work in the village, the committee devoting a great deal of their time investigating and dealing with cases weekly. The boot repairing centre has been established, at which a number of the unemployed give their services, and during the last few weeks they have repaired about 300 pairs of boots, the work of repairing and collecting all being by unemployed men.

23 February 1929 Distress: Help from London Last Sunday, the vicar, the Rev. J. C. Payne, preached at St. John's Church and St. Philip's Church, Kensington, by special request. Large congregations were attracted to hear the South Wales vicar, who was received with much warmth. London people have been very generous in forwarding large quantities of clothing and money to relieve some of the distress prevailing in the village. It is hoped that the visit will result in a continuance of generosity.

16 March 1929 Distress Mr. W. J. Payne presided at the weekly meeting of the distress committee on Tuesday at the Library. Since 25th January, 300 persons have been assisted with clothing, etc., 400 cases have been relieved with vouchers, and hundreds of pairs of boots have been repaired by the unemployed at the centre. To their friends at Southgate, Fochriw people owe a great debt of gratitude for the noble sacrifices and great kindness in sending clothing and money. Praise is due to the energetic secretary, Mrs. S. J. Jones, who has laboured unceasingly from the commencement to bring relief to many a sad home, also the committee and officers for their efforts. The vice-president is Mr. J. Edwards, headmaster of Pantywaun; treasurer, Mr. Sam Lewis (chairman of the school managers); and a representative committee from the village.

27 April 1929 Distress Fund The local committee met at the Old Library and on Tuesday, Mr. W. J. Payne presiding, when a large number of cases were dealt with, and all relief available was granted. The people of Southgate continue to send clothes and money. The people of St Philip's, Kensington, have also done noble work. New clothing has now arrived from the Lord Mayor's Fund and will be distributed. There are still about 80 to 100 unemployed in the village, a very large percentage of whom are not in receipt of unemployment relief. At the last committee meeting, a resolution was passed appealing to the Lord Mayor's committee to co-opt the following as members of the committee: Rev. J. C. Payne, vicar, and Mr. J. P. Isaac, headmaster of Fochriw School.

27 July 1929 Appointment: Coalfields' Distress Camp The many friends of Mr. Willie Adams Jones will be delighted to know that he has been chosen out of the teachers' leaders from the county of Glamorgan to take charge of boys from the various schools in the county at the camp school at Pendine, Carmarthenshire, under the auspices of the Coalfields' Distress Fund. The camp is admirably situated on the finest stretch of sand in the country, and caters for the physical and educational welfare of the boys. Mr. Jones is well fitted to fill this important position, being a musician of outstanding ability, and the conductor of the Fochriw Male Voice Party and other musical organisations.

10 May 1930 Obituary: Mr. Richard Bell Mr. Richard Bell, former Secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, and M.P. for Derby from 1900-1910, passed away last week. His memory will live long, and his great deeds of kindness will never be forgotten. He was one of the originators of getting Fochriw adopted by Southgate, and was instrumental in getting a large supply of clothing and money to the village.

27 December 1930 Distress Committee Mr. W. J. Payne presided at a meeting of the local Distress Committee. He was supported by Mr. John Edwards (vice-chairman), Mr. Sam Lewis (treasurer), and Mrs. S. J. Jones (secretary). The committee, who have given a great deal of time to the distribution of goods, vouchers, etc., deserve great praise for the splendid work they have done. It was decided to distribute the remaining surplus of money and goods amongst the most deserving cases in the district, after which the final audit will take place.

27 August 1932 Unemployed A well attended open air meeting of the unemployed persons living in the Fochriw District was held on Wednesday evening last, Mr. R. Clark presiding. The chairman explained that the meeting had been called with the object of forming an unemployed lodge at Fochriw. County Councillor R. Roberts, Rhymney, gave a very interesting address on the problem of the unemployed, and pointed out how important it was that the unemployed should become more organised in the interests of themselves and their dependants. It was decided to form a Lodge, and the following officers were elected: secretary, Miss R. Clark; treasurer, Mr. S. Phillips.

24 September 1932 Unemployed At the Old Reading Rooms, Councillor W. J. Kedward, Bargoed, addressed a meeting of unemployed on "The Means Test."

8 October 1932 Concert A concert in aid of the fund for providing footwear for school children was held at Noddfa vestry on Thursday last. This was the first of a series of entertainments it is planned to hold during the coming winter, and it is hoped that the public will rally round and support such a worthy cause. The chair was occupied by Mr. Sam Lewis, school manager. An excellent programme had been prepared, and all the artistes gave their services free. The artistes were: soprano, Miss Eirlys Watkins; contralto, Miss Mafanwy Richards, Pontlottyn; baritone, Mr. James Brown, Deri; tenor, Mr. Isaac Jones, Pontlottyn. Solos and duets were also rendered by Megan Brown and Dilys Haines, Deri; Harry Oliver and Phyllis Haines. The Juvenile choir rendered choruses in fine style. Mr. Wyndham Lawrence was the accompanist, and the organising secretary Mr. Willie Adams Jones. A most enjoyable evening was brought to a close by the singing off "Hen Wlad fy Nhadau" by Miss Eirlys Edwards, Deri.

8 April 1933 Meeting of Unemployed A well attended meeting of the unemployed of the village was held at the Old Library on Saturday evening. The chief speakers were two of the ward members, Councillor John Edwards and Councillor W. H. Johns, Deri. Several important subjects were dealt with bearing on the welfare of the unemployed, of whom there are about 150 in the village.

22 July 1933 Footwear Committee At a meeting of the committee, presided over by Mr. Ninhinnick, on Monday at the Fochriw Mixed School, the work of the year was reviewed. Since the formation of the committee in July 1932, the sum of £42 6s. 4d. has been raised, and 150 pairs of boots have been supplied to the children of Fochriw, Deri, Penybank, and Pantywaun. This reflects credit on the active members of the committee, who take this opportunity of thanking the public for their generous support.