Population Origins

		EMPLOYMENT IN COWBRIDGE, 1901							
Sector	Typo	Numb	or						
PRIMARY	Type Farm-linked	Numb	21						_
SECONDARY	Clothes manuf		34						_
			18	21					_
	Woodworking								_
	Building		15					-	_
	leather manu		12					-	_
	brewing &c		12						_
	Wheels/carriage making		9						_
	bakery		8					-	_
	others		10	118	3				_
TERTIARY	Domestic		84						_
services	shopkeeping &c		65						_
	Transport inc railway		59						
	Professional		53						
	Labourer		34						
	innkeeping &c		32						
	Post Office		18						
	other office work		11						
	house painter		8						
	Own Means		21						
	Others		18		3				
			542						
	Suffolk	2							
	Derby	2							
	Bucks	2							
	Yorks	1							
	Sussex	1							
	Leics	1							
	Beds	1							
	Deas	1		173					

Of those aged 14+, 576

had been born in Wales (including 211 in Cowbridge itself and 297 from the rest of Glamorgan). 176 had been born in England, including 45 from Somerset, 17 from Devon and 16 from London. There were 21 from Ireland, 2 from Scotland, 1 each from France, Germany, USA and Jersey.

The Cowbridge-born 211 out of a total adult population of 785 is nearly 27%; quite a high percentage. Marriage opportunities in such a small town must have been limited, and many would look at least as far as Llanblethian! It is interesting to see that Somerset dominates the list of 'other counties'.

Employment

The table shows that Cowbridge had fewer than 4% in primary occupations, specifically farming. The importance of farming is explicable in Cowbridge because it is a very small town readily accessible to the countryside. 22% of the working population was engaged in manufacture, essentially craft industries. There was no large-scale manufacture, but its industries were typical of a small town. Dressmaking, tailoring and clothes manufacture dominated, and this was the only manufacturing category where there was much employment for women. Nearly three-quarters of the population was engaged in services: shops, offices, inns and the railway, though the biggest single category, predominantly female, was in domestic work. The railway workers were concentrated in the east half of the town: 15 in Eastgate, 9 in Cardiff Road, 6 in Aubrey Terrace, 3 in Taff (Croft) St and 2 in the Limes; but did not dominate Croft St and Tce -traditionally considered as railway workers' houses

Language Spoken

Of the 785 over-14s enumerated (this excluded scholars)
4 spoke Welsh only (including Thomas Robinson from Staffs, a labourer)?
238 spoke both English and Welsh
541 spoke English only. (For three there was no information).

Thus 30.8% were Welsh speaking

There were 211 adults who had been born in Cowbridge; of these 55 were Welsh-speaking, ie only 26%.

Thus the incomers had a positive influence on the Welsh language - because there were far more incomers from the rest of Wales, including Glamorgan in particular, than from elsewhere. The west of England immigrants may appear significant - but not as much as the other Welsh.

This effect of incomers on the language is even more visible today, as there are probably very few adults born in Cowbridge who are Welsh speakers; certainly the majority of Welsh-speakers have come into the town.