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1800 1810 1820 1830 1840 1850 1860 1870 1880 1890 1900

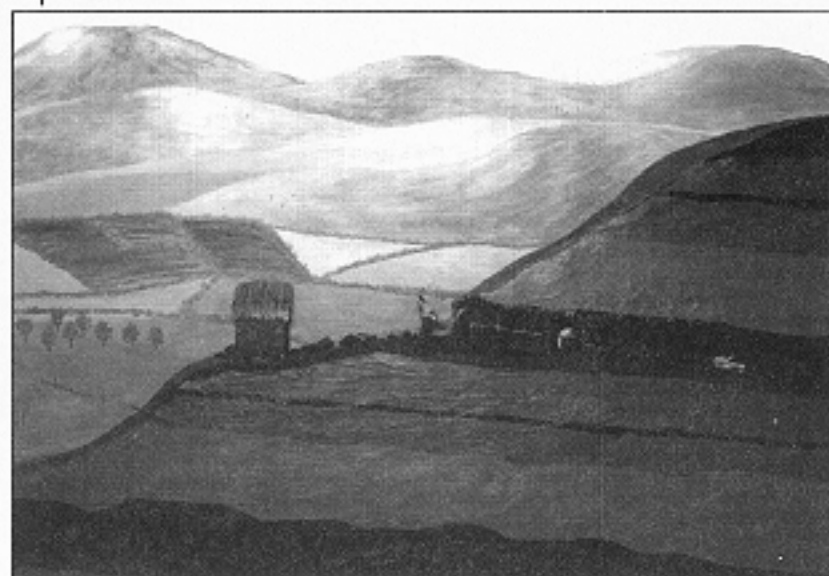


Gastineau painting
(1805)

"... 'untameably wild.' The people were 'thinly scattered, as well as miserably poor'."
BENJAMIN HEATH MALKIN, A TRAVELLER PASSING THROUGH RHONDDA, 1803

"I had now entered into this wild and mountainous region, where nature seemed to reign in stern and unbroken silence. Not a human being besides myself appeared to be treading these solitudes, nor was there habitation to be seen."

THOMAS ROSCOE, 1836

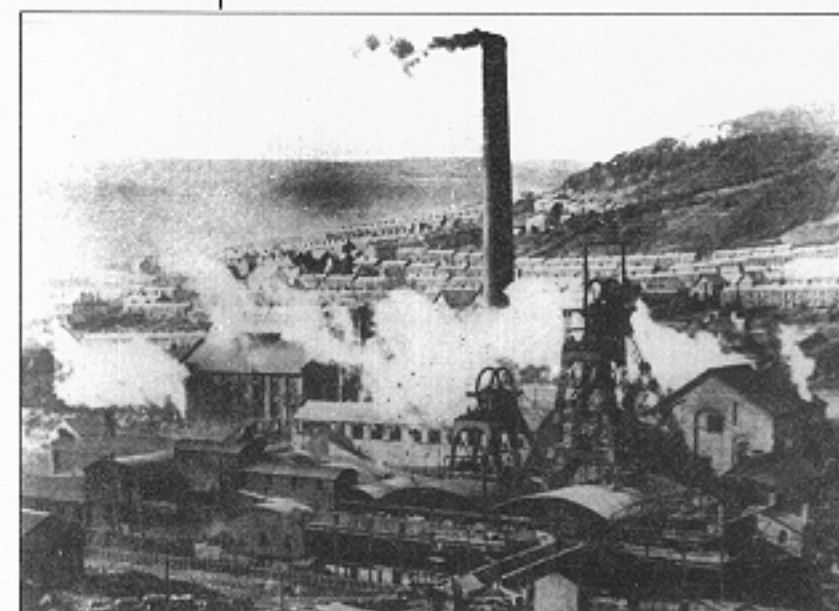


A level

One of the first ways of working coal was to dig straight into the coal seams where they outcropped on the sides of a hill. These levels depended on natural ventilation and, when difficulties of working became too great, they were quickly abandoned and new levels opened.

"Can't speak English; don't go to day-school or Sunday-school. Father works in the pit. Earns about 4s. 6d. a week; has been four or five years in the pit - can't say how long, but a long time."

WILLIAM EVANS, AGED 10 (AIR-BOY). IRW (EIRW) COLLIERY



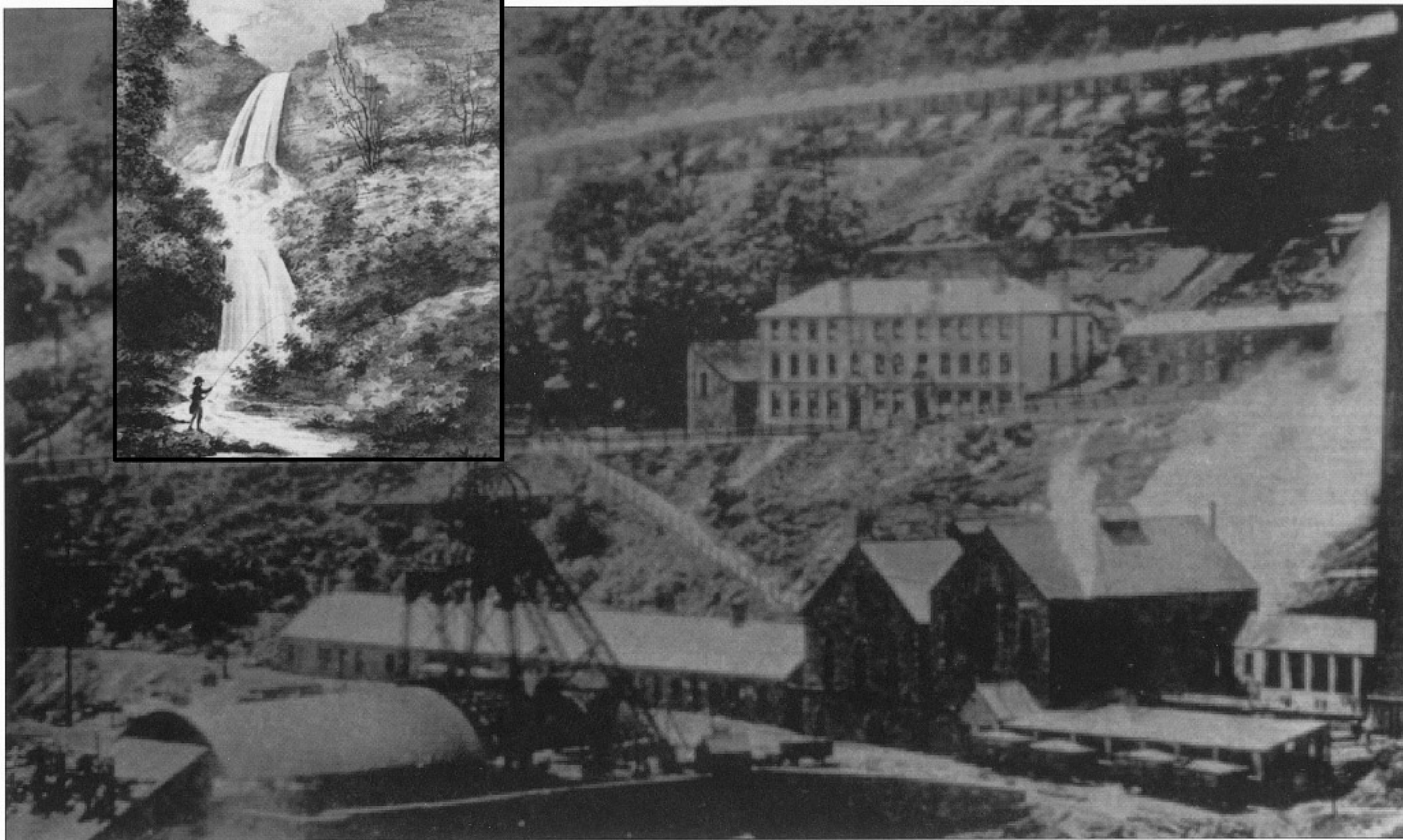
Glamorgan Colliery,
Llwynypia

"In one lifetime the Rhondda was transformed from a sleepy rural area, with a population of 1,998 people in 1851, into one of the fastest-growing centres of population in the world which by 1911 had a population of 152,781 people."

D. EGAN, COAL SOCIETY, 1987



Rhondda before the coal mines.



Tylorstown in the 1890s.

1900 1910 1920 1930 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 1994



Overall valley scene; Ferndale

"The river Rhondda is a dark, turgid and contaminated gutter, into which is poured the refuse of the host of collieries which skirt the thirteen miles of its course. The hills have been stripped of all their woodland beauty, and there they stand, rugged and bare, with immense rubbish heaps covering their surface ... The whole length of the valley has become transformed ... the din of steam engines, the whirr of machinery, the grating sound of coal screens, and the hammering of the smithies proceed increasingly night and day, year in and year out. An unheard of wealth of industry and a great population have simultaneously sprung up together during the past sixty years ... The industrial townships of this valley appear to be inseparably connected in one continuous series of streets of workmen's cottages to Pontypridd."

(A. MORRIS, GLAMORGAN, 1908)



Queues at the Labour Exchange



The unemployed had little to do.



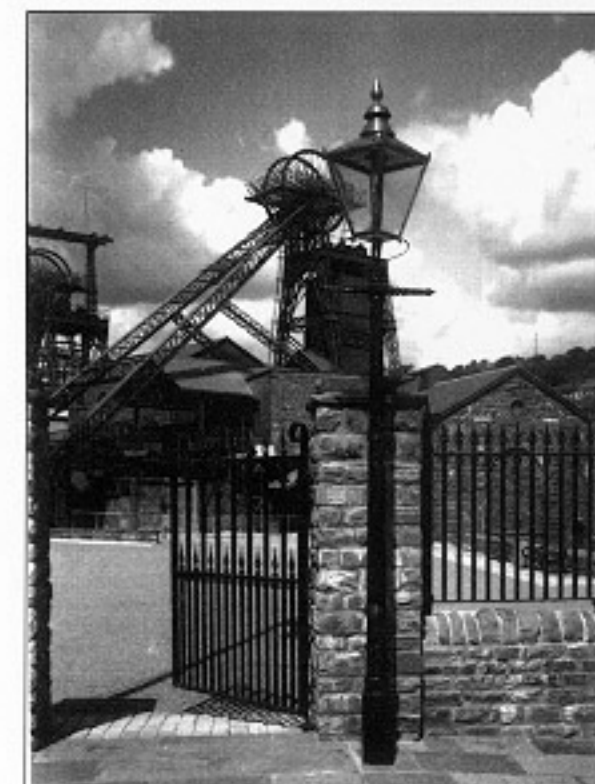
Home in time for supper

"In the years after 1926, many firms went bankrupt and employees lost their jobs. In Britain, unemployment was highest among the miners. By August 1932, four out of every ten in Britain were unemployed. In the Rhondda, it was six out of every ten."

The Lewis Merthyr colliery was opened in the early 1870s. By the 1900s, almost a million tons of coal were produced every year. In 1983, the Lewis Merthyr colliery closed. In 1989, it re-opened as a museum telling the story of the industrial history of the Rhondda Valleys.



Last dram of coal raised in the Rhondda on 30th June 1986

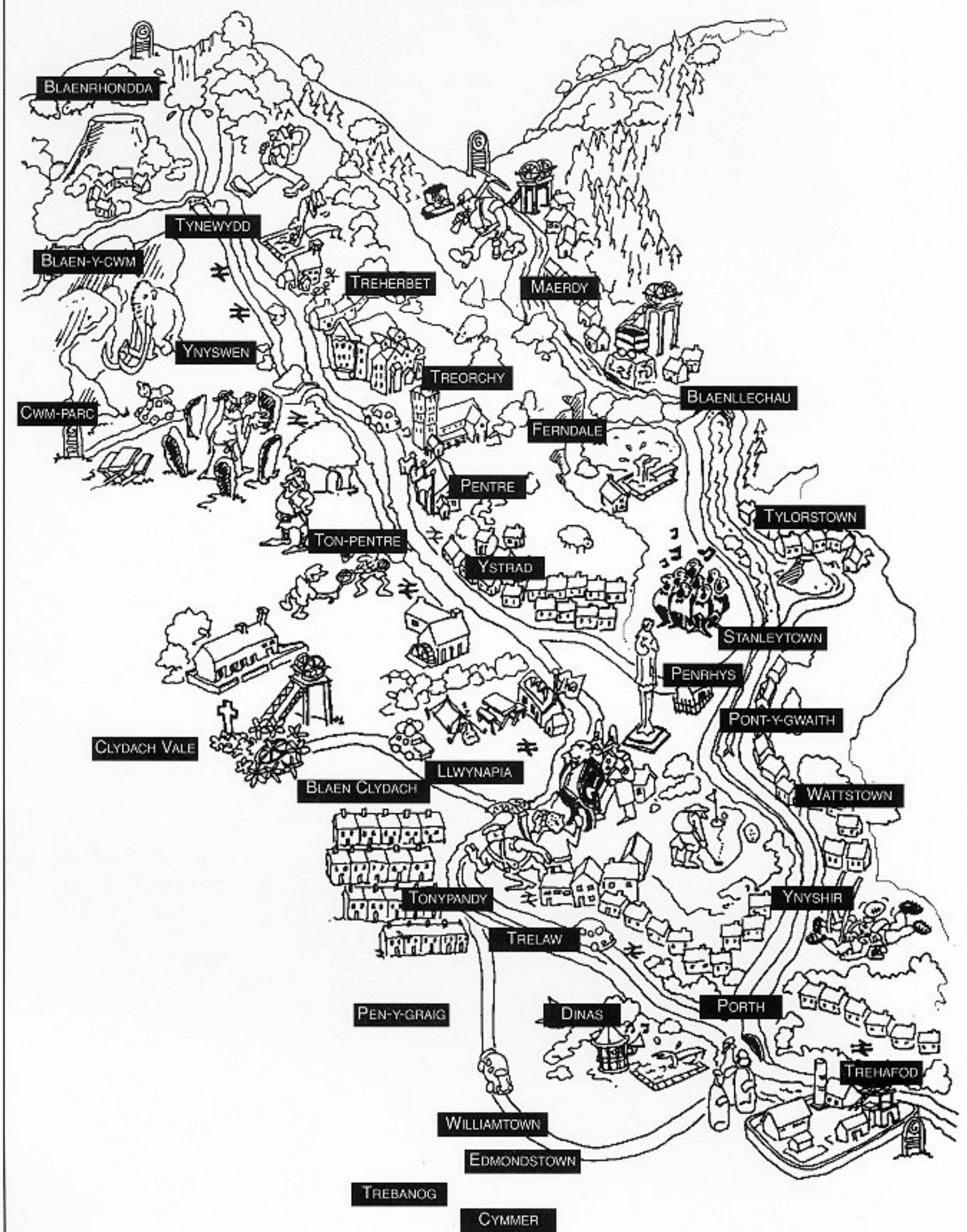


Rhondda Heritage Park (opened 1989)

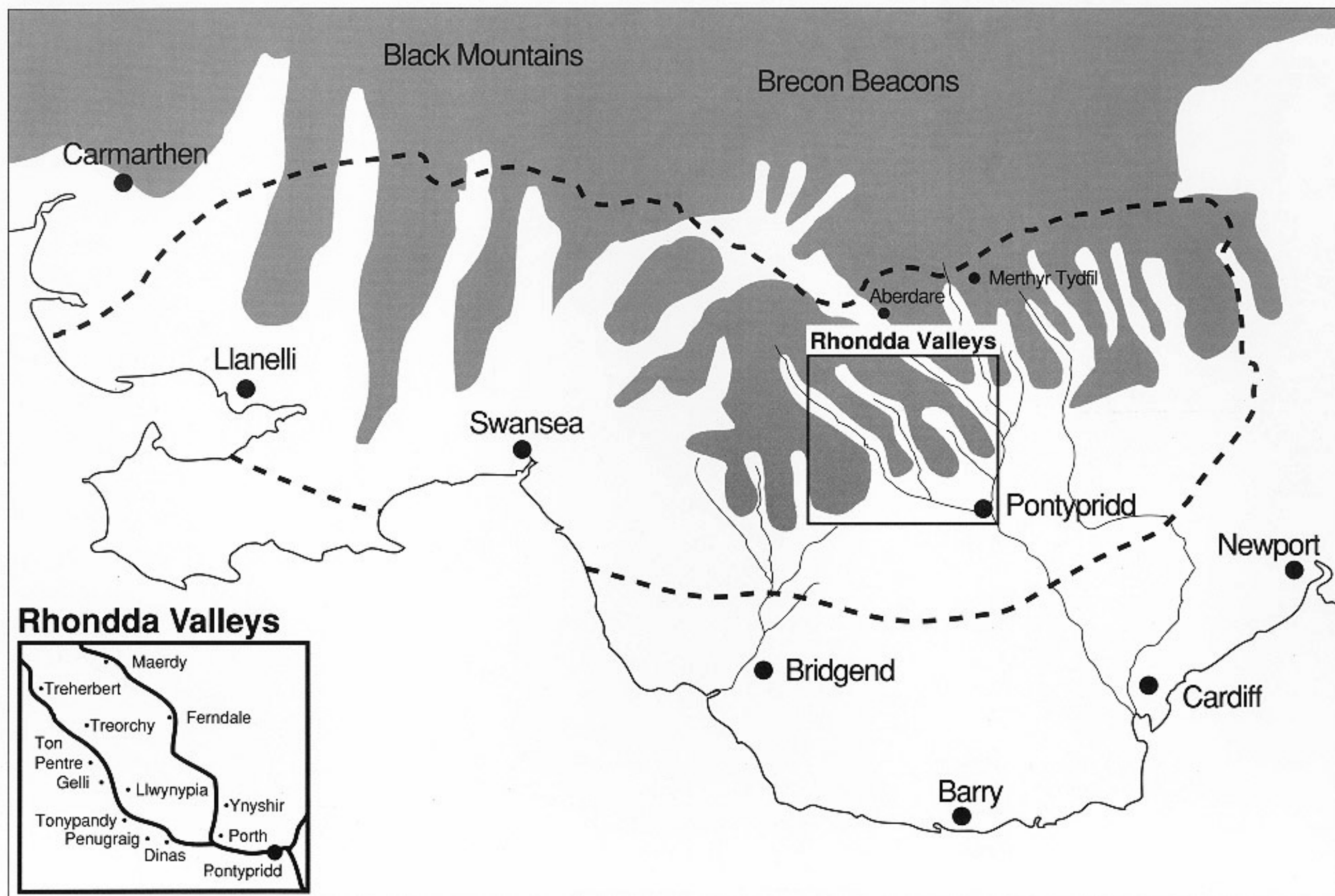
"Picture for a moment an unemployed man in, say, the Rhondda Valley or in Durham. He has been without work for months, perhaps a year or more. His small son is packing off to school with only a thin jersey between his back and the bleak winter air. Shirt and vest he has none. His little sister's shoes and stockings don't bear thinking about, and her dress is a cloak of her mother's, who doesn't herself go out of doors until her daughter comes home, for the simple reason that this dress is joint property. And day after day the father tramps the one narrow winding street of the valley town - the same little post-office, the same half-empty shops, the same chapel, and the ever-grim overhanging hills. Now this sort of thing, in different forms, is going on in mining villages throughout the country. A cruel torture to suffer."

CHRISTMAS DAY BROADCAST 1928 BY THE PRINCE OF WALES

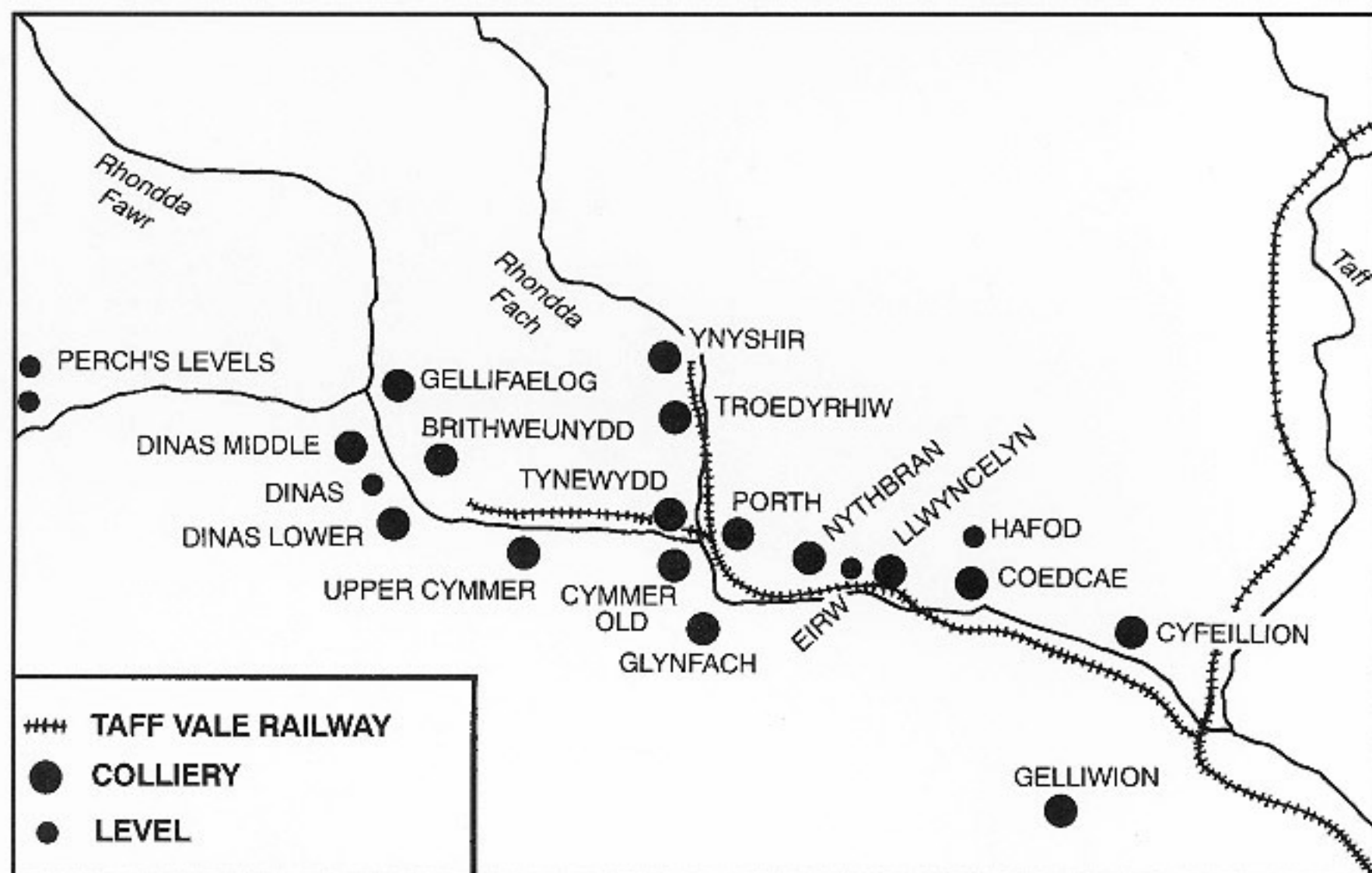




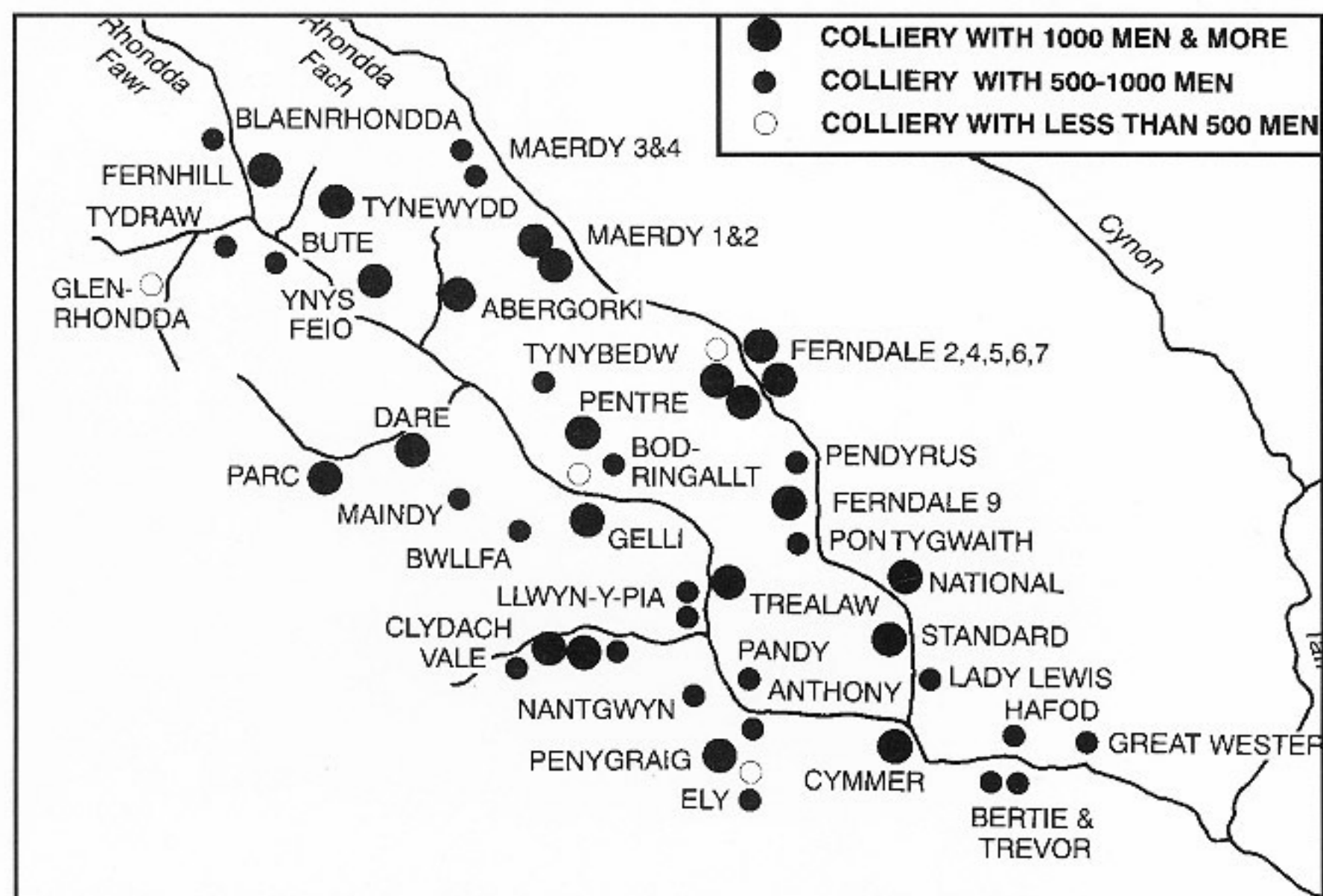








Collieries and levels before 1853



Coal Mines in 1913

The opening of Levels and Pits in the Lower Rhondda up to 1855

Date	Original Owner	Name of Colliery	Location
1809	Walter Coffin	Dinas Levels	Dinas
1809	Jeremiah Homfray	Hafod Level	Hafod
1812	Walter Coffin	Dinas Lower Colliery	Dinas
1832	Walter Coffin	Dinas Middle Colliery	Dinas
1835	William Crawshaw	Gwaun-yr-eirw Level	Nr. Hafod
1838	John Edmunds	Gelliwion Level	Nr. Pontypridd
1839	Walter Coffin	Brithweunydd Level	Trealaw
1841	Richard Lewis	South Cymmer Level	Porth
1844	Lewis Edwards/George Gethin	Nythbran Level	Porth
1844	George Insole	Cymmer Level	Porth
1845	Walter Coffin	Gellifaelog Colliery	Tonypandy
1845	John Calvert	Newbridge Colliery	Gelliwion
			Nr. Pontypridd
1845	D. W. James	Porth Colliery	Porth
1845	Leonard Hadley	Troedryllw Colliery	Nr. Porth
1845	Shepherd & Evans	Ynys-hir Colliery	Ynys-hir
1847	William Perch	Perch Levels	Blaenclydach
1847	George Insole	Cymmer (Old) Colliery	Porth
1850	Edward Mills	Coedcae Colliery	Hafod
1850	D. & J. Thomas	Hafod Colliery	Hafod
1851	D. W. James	Llwynycelyn Colliery	Nr. Porth
1851	J. H. Insole	Upper Cymmer Colliery	Nr. Porth
1851	Isaac Williams	Glynfach Colliery	Porth
1851	John Calvert	Gyfeillion Colliery	Hopkinstown
1852	Cope, Lewis & Thomas	Tynewydd Colliery	Porth
1855	J. H. Insole	New Cymmer Colliery	Porth
1855	Richard Ellis	Ellis Level	Porth

Opening of Collieries in the Rhondda Fawr, 1850-1914

Date	Steam Coal Seams	Bituminous Seams	Original Owner	Location
1855	Tylacoch Colliery		J. Carr, Marson & Co.	Treorchy
1856		Dunraven Levels	Phillp Taylor	Blaen-y-cwm
1856		Gelligaled Colliery	V. L. Lewis	Ystrad
1856		Tyntyla Level	Robert Parsons	Ystrad
1856		Bodringallt Level	D. Jones & D. James	Ystrad
1857		Pentre Level & Church Level	Edward Curtis	Pentre
1857		Penygraig Drift	Thomas Ellis	Pen-y-graig
1858		Dunraven Level	Thomas Joseph	Blaen-y-cwm
1858		Graig Level	Thomas Jones	Blaen-y-cwm
1858		Pen-y-graig Level	M. Rowlands	Pen-y-graig
1859	Ynysfeio		Troedrythw Colliery Coal Co.	Treherbert
1859		Llwynypia Level	Isaac Smith	Llwynypia
1859		Abergorchy Level	Huxham, Hopkin & Morgan	Treorchy
1860		Glynoli Level	C. James	Treorchy
1862		Bwlfa Level	Richardson & Carr	Ton Pentre
1862		Brithweunydd Level	Daniel Thomas	Trealaw
1863		Llwynypia Colliery	Glamorgan Coal Co.	Llwynypia
1863		Blaenclydach Coll.	Bush & Co.	Blaenclydach
1864	Pentre Colliery		Curteis, Greenhill & Ware	Pentre
1864	Bodringallt Colliery		Warner, Simpson & Co.	Ystrad
1864	Llwynypia Colliery		Glamorgan Coal Co.	Llwynypia
1864		Cwmclydach Coll.	D. & E. Thomas	Cwm-Clydach
1864		Pen-y-graig Colliery	Penygraig Coal Co.	Pen-y-graig
1865	Tydraw Colliery		Thos. Joseph	Blaen-y-cwm
1865	Tynewydd Colliery		Ebenezer Lewis	Nr. Treherbert
1865	Abergorchy Colliery		G. Insole & Son	Treorchy
1865	Parc Colliery		D. Davies & Partners	Cwm-parc
1865	Maendy Colliery		D. Davies & Partners	Ton Pentre
1866		Adare Colliery	Daniel Thomas	Pen-y-graig
1869		Ynyswen Level	Morgan Jones	Treorchy
1869		Dinas Colliery	Daniel Thomas	Dinas
1869	Blaenrhondda Colliery		Cardiff & Merthyr Steam Coal Co.	Blaenrhondda
1870		Gelli Colliery	E. Thomas & G. Griffiths	Gelli
1870	Dare Colliery		D. Davies & Co. Ltd.	Cwm-parc
1872		Trealaw Colliery		Trealaw
1872		Glynmoch Coll.		Treorchy
1872	Fernhill Colliery		Ebenezer Lewis	Blaenrhondda
1872	Clydach Vale Colliery No. 1		S. Thomas & J. Riches & Co.	Clydach Vale
1872	Llwynypia Nos. 4 & 5		Glamorgan Coal Co.	Llwynypia
1874	Clydach Vale Colliery No. 2		Thomas, Riches & Co.	Clydach Vale
1876	Tynybedw Colliery		E. Thomas & G. Griffiths	Pentre
1877	Eastern Colliery		D. Davies & Co. Ltd. Ton	Pentre
1877	Gelli Colliery		E. Thomas & G. Griffiths	Gelli
1877	Lady Margaret		Marquis of Bute	Treherbert
1877	Cymmer Colliery		G. Insole & Son	Porth
1879	Pandy Colliery		Naval Coll. Co.	Tonypandy
1880	Ely Colliery		New Naval Coll. Co.	Pen-y-graig
1881	Dinas Colliery		Dinas Steam Coal Co.	Dinas
1881	Bertie, Trefor, Hafod Colls.		William Thomas Lewis	Hafod
1891	Clydach Vale Colliery No. 3		Cambrian Coll. Co.	Clydach Vale
1892	Nantgwyn Colliery		Naval Coll. Co.	Pen-y-graig
1910	Anthony Colliery		Naval Coll. Co.	Tonypandy

2.1

PARISH RECORDS

We can find information about some of the people who lived a few hundred years ago by looking at Parish Records and more recently from Census Returns. Parish registers provide us with details about baptisms, marriages and deaths. They were begun in 1538 by Thomas Cromwell, during the reign of Henry VIII. In 1753, nearly every parish bought the new printed volumes. Parish registers, especially the lists of burials, can give information about parishioners who came to worship in the church, e.g. their trades, occupations and life expectancy.

Baptisms solemnized in the Parish of Ystradyfodwg in the County of Glamorgan in the Year 1844.

When Baptized	Child's Christian Name	Parent's Name		Abode	Quality, Trade, Profession	By whom the ceremony was performed
		Christian	Surname			
April 2 nd No. 12	Hopkin Son of	William Jane	Pickerel	Gellydawl	Shoemaker	Wm Williams Curate.
April 9 th No. 13	Jane Daughter of	William Catherine	Davies	Cwmsaebren	Farmer	Wm Williams Curate.

A Parish Register 1814

Baptisms solemnized in the Parish of Ystradyfodwg in the County of Glamorgan.

When Baptized	Child's Christian Name	Parent's Name		Abode	Quality, Trade, Profession	By whom the ceremony was performed
		Christian	Surname			
April 2nd No. 12	Hopkin Son of	William Jane	Pickerel	Gellydawl	Shoemaker	Wm. Williams Curate
April 9th No. 13	Jane Daughter of	William Catherine	Davies	Cwmsaebren	Farmer	Wm. Williams Curate

Transcript of the Parish Register 1814

Burials in the Parish of Ystradyfodwg in the County of Glamorgan in the Year 1844.

Name	Abode	When Buried	Age	By whom the ceremony was performed
Ann Griffith No. 10	Pentwyn	April 9 th	84	Wm Williams Curate.
Hopkin Pickerel No. 11	Gellydawl	May 1 st	1	Wm Williams Curate.

Burial Register 1814
Parish of Ystradyfodwg
County of Glamorgan.

Burials in the parish of Ystradyfodwg in the County of Glamorgan in the year 1884.

Name	Abode	When Buried	Age	By whom the ceremony was performed
Ann Griffith No. 10	Pentwyn	April 9th	84	Wm. Williams Curate
Hopkin Pickerel No. 11	Gellydawl	May 1st	1	Wm. Williams Curate

Transcript of the Burial Register 1814

2.1

PARISH RECORDS

A page from a Baptism Register

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <i>Ystradyfodwg</i> in the County of <i>Glamorgan</i> in the Year 1821						
When Baptized	Child's Christian Name	Parents' Name		Abode	Quality, Trade, or Profession	By whom the Ceremony was performed
		Christian	Surname			
1822 June 24th No. 89	David Son of	William + Catherine	Davies	Cwmsaybren	Gentleman Farmer	Evan Prichard Perptl. Curate
July 8th No. 90	Margaret Daughter of	Evan + Mary	Jenkin	Ton	Farmer	Evan Prichard Perptl. Curate
November 18th No. 91	Charles Son of	William + Ann	Thomas	Ynysfaus	Farmer	Evan Prichard Perptl. Curate
November 18th No. 92	John Son of	Edward + Alice	Jenkin	Labourer	Cilynis	Evan Prichard Perptl. Curate
November 18th No. 93	David Son of	Evan + Jane	Lewis (?)	Farmer	Ystradyfodwg	Evan Prichard Perptl. Curate

I Evan Prichard Perpetual Curate of the Parish of Ystradyfodwg in the County of Glamorgan do hereby solemnly declare, that the several writings hereto annexed, purporting to be copies of the several Entries contained in the Several Register Books of Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, of the aforesaid from the 31st day of December 1820 to the first day of January 1822, are true Copies of all the several Entries in the said Register Books respectively from the said 31st day of December 1820 to the said 1st day of January 1822, and that no other Entries during such period is contained in any of such Books respectively, are truly made according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Evan Prichard

Transcript of The Baptism Register

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of Ystradyfodwg in the County of Glamorgan in the Year 1821						
When Baptized	Child's Christian Name	Parent's Name		Abode	Quality, Trade, Profession	By whom the Ceremony was performed
		Christian	Surname			
1822 June 24th No. 89	David Son of	William + Catherine	Davies	Cwmsaybren	Gentleman Farmer	Evan Prichard Perptl. Curate
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November 18th No. 92	John Son of	Edward + Alice	Jenkin	Labourer	Cilynis	Evan Prichard Perptl. Curate
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Evan Prichard

2.2

TITHE MAPS

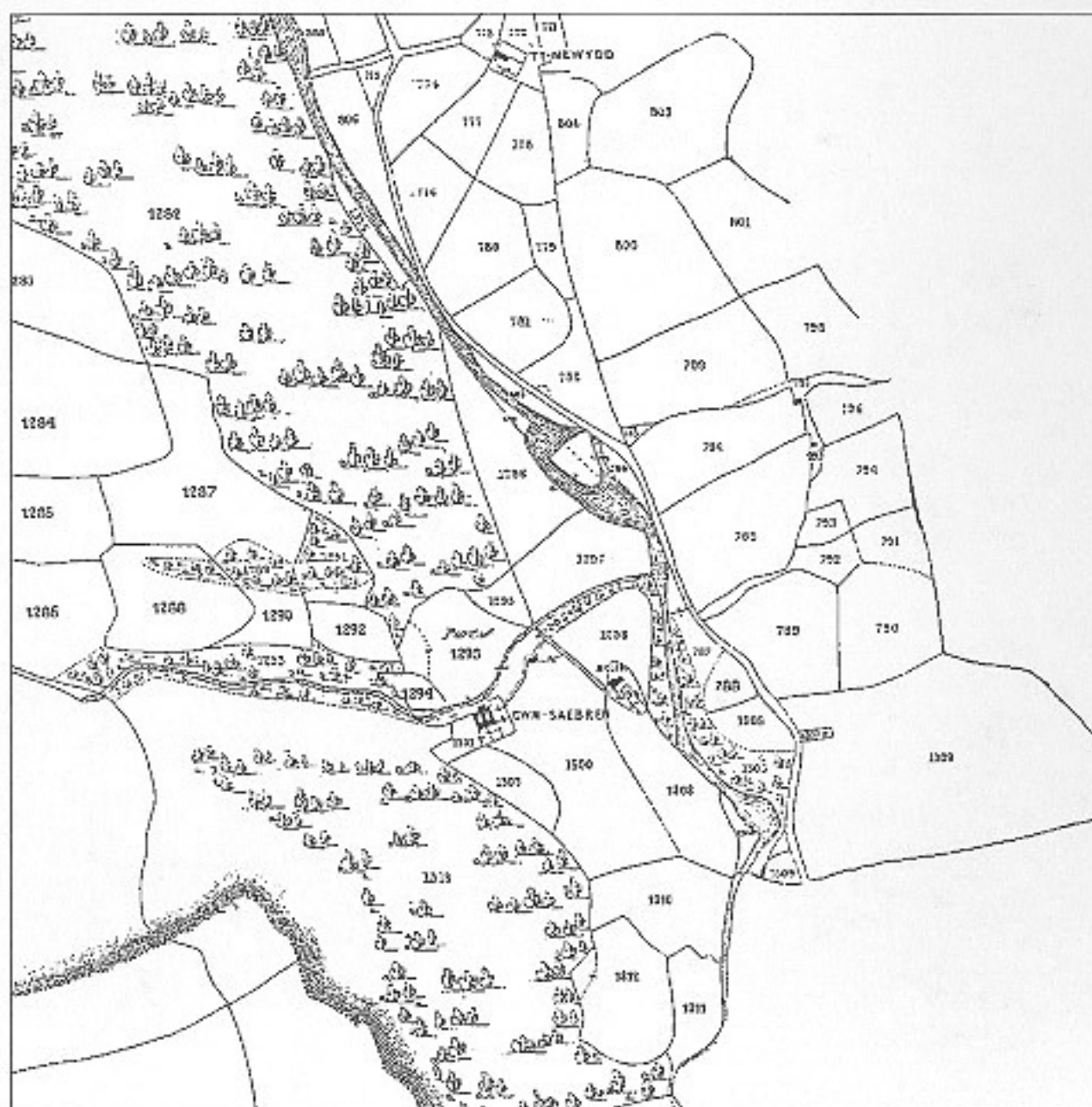
TITHE MAPS

A "tithe" was a payment which people had to make to the church of one-tenth of the produce of their land (in the paid form of food or livestock) towards the maintenance of the Church.

The tithe was not popular. In 1836 the tithe was changed. Instead of paying the tithe in produce, people now paid in money as a rent charge on the land. A Tithe Commission was set up to administer the payment.

The tithe map shows the land boundaries and gives every parcel of land a number.

The tithe schedule lists the landowners and occupiers of each parcel of land, its acreage, name and land use, as well as the rent charge.



A tithe map 1847: YSTRADYFODWG PARISH

Numbers referring to the Plan.	NAME AND DESCRIPTION LANDS AND PREMISES.	STATE OF CULTIVATION.	QUANTITIES IN STATUTE MEASURE.		
			A.	R.	P.
	Gwm saybren				
1282	Graig ddolwr	Wood	92	2	4
1283	Cwd cas ddolwr	Pasture	8	2	33
1284	Y waun ddolwr	do	13	2	15
1285	Cofn y da	do	3	2	3
1286	Afan wairidd	do	6	1	12
1287	Cae main ychaf	do	7	3	59
1288	Yr Hengal	do	3	3	20
1289	Y Haul Tylwr	Wood	1		17
1290	Cae Lwin	Meadow	1	2	
1291	Cae main lloaf	Pasture	2		
1292	Cae tan	Meadow	1	2	38
1293	Y Cwm y Gwan	Wood	13	1	2
1294	Sedge	Pasture		2	3
1295	Gwdun y pwnol	do		2	34
1296	Cae rhyd ap Tudor	Meadow	3		10
1297	Cae Danc	Pasture	4	1	2
1298	Ynys y felin	do	2	3	12
1299	Moll House garden &c.			2	3
1300	Yr Hendre	Arable & Meadow	8	3	4

The Tithe schedule

The Landowner	Occupier	No's Referring to the Plan	Name of Land	State of Cultivation	Quantities in Statute Measure			Payable to the Vicar	Payable to
Bute, Marquis of (cont'd)	Davies, William	1282	Graig ddelw	wood	92	2	29		
		1283	Coed cae ddlew	pasture	8	2	33		
		1284	Y waun ddelw	pasture	13	2	15		
		1285	Cefn y de	pasture	3	2	3		
		1286	Ylan wenidd	pasture	6	1	12		
		1287	Caer main ychaf	pasture	7	3	59		
		1288	Yr Hengal	pasture	3	3	26		
		1289	Y Waun Tyr Lan	wood	1		17		
		1290	Caer Cym	meadow	1	2			
		1291	Caer main issaf	pasture	2				
		1292	Caer lan	meadow	1	2	38		
		1293	Y Cwm y Greon	wood	13	1	2		
		1294	Sedge	pasture		2	3		
		1295	Gwaun y pound	pasture		2	34		
		1296	Cae' rhyd ap Tewdor	meadow	3		10		
		1297	Caer Barra	pasture	4	1	2		
		1298	Ynis y felin	pasture	2	3	12		
		1299	Mill House garden+c			2	3		
		1300	Yr Hendre	Ara+Mead	8	3	4		

2.3

CENSUS RETURNS 1841

TRANSCRIPT

PLACE	Uninhabited or building	Inhabited	of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night.	SEX		EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS.	Whether Born in same County	Whether Born in Scotland, Ireland or Foreign Part
				Males	Females			
Cwmsaybren		1	William Davies	65		Farmer	Y	
			Catherine do		65		Y	
			Jane do		25		Y	
			Catherine do		25		Y	
			Margaret do		20		Y	
			David Lewis	20		M.S.	Y	
			William Evans	15		Druggist App.	Y	
			Daniel Nelson	30		Book Binder	N	



Farming in the Rhondda

Place	Houses		Names of each person who abode therein the preceding night.	Age & Sex		Profession, trade, employment or of independent means	where born	
	Uninhabited or building	Inhabited		Males	Females		Whether born in same county	Whether born in Scotland, Ireland or foreign part
Cwmsaybren		1	William Davies	65		Farmer	Y	
			Catherine do		65		Y	
			Jane do		25		Y	
			Catherine do		25		Y	
			Margaret do		20		Y	
			David Lewis	20		M.S.	Y	
			William Evans	15		Druggist App.	Y	
			Daniel Nelson	30		Book Binder	N	
Middle Home		1	William Lewis	50		Ag. Lab.	Y	
			Janet do		45		Y	
			Evan Thomas	75		Ag. Lab.	Y	
			John David	50		Ag. Lab.	Y	
			Catherine do		50		Y	
			Mary do		20		Y	
			Lewellyn Lewellyn	45		Ag. Lab.	Y	
Tyloforest		1	Ann Richard		70	Pauper	Y	
			Margret Williams		70	Ind.	Y	
			John do	5			Y	
Tydraw		1	Howel Lewellyn	55		Farmer	Y	
			Mary do		55		Y	
			Morgan do		30		Y	
			William do	25			Y	
			Mary do		20		Y	
			Gwenllien		20		Y	
			Lewellyn	15			Y	
Total in page...		5		13	12			

2.4

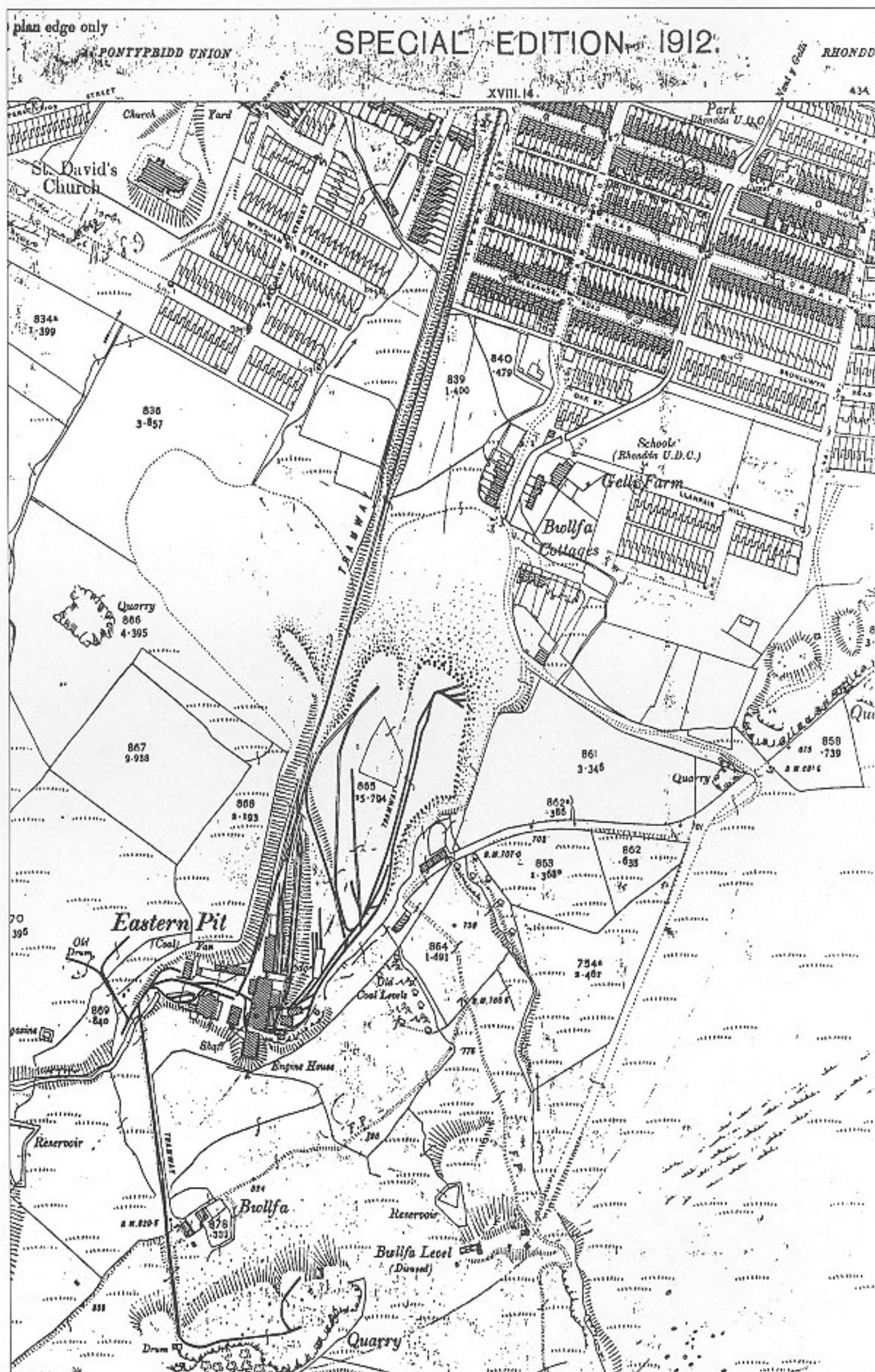
CENSUS RETURNS 1881 : LONG ROW BLAENLLECHAU

Address		Name	Relation To Head	Condition	Age	Age	Occupation	Where Born
216 Long Row	1	Samuel Talbot	boarder	unmarried	14		Coalminer	Glamorgan, Cardiff
		Benjamin Lewis	head	married	62		Coalminer	Carmarthen, Llando
		Elizabeth Lewis	wife	married		56		Carmarthen, Llanboidu
		Lewis Lewis	son	married	22		Coalminer	Carmarthen, Llanboidu
		Margaret Lewis	wife	married		22		Glamorgan, Dowlais
		Ann Elias	daughter	married		26		Glamorgan, Hirwaun
		George Philip Elias	son		6		Scholar	Glamorgan, Aberdare
		Elisabeth Ann	daughter			3		Glamorgan, Aberdare
217 Long Row	1	John Williams	head	married	58		Labourer	Monmouthshire, Varly
		Ann Williams	wife	married		55		Glamorgan, Merthyr
		William Williams	son	unmarried	26		Coalminer	Monmouthshire, Thorton
		Jonny Williams	son		17		Labourer	Glamorgan, Dowlais
		Elizabeth Williams	daughter			13	Scholar	Glamorgan, Dowlais
		John Lloyd	boarder	widower	45		Labourer	Glamorgan, Merthyr
		William Dyer	boarder	widower	74		Lamp station	Carmarthen, Llandilo
218 Long Row	1	Benjamin Mathew	head	married	36		Coalminer	Haverfordwest
		Sarah Mathew	wife	married		32		Narbeth
		James Mathew	son		10			Glamorgan, Merthyr
		Joseph Mathew	son		6			Glamorgan, Ferndale
		Sarah Ann	daughter			4		Glamorgan, Ferndale
		Elizabeth Mathew	daughter			1		Glamorgan, Ferndale
219 Long Row	1	William James	head	married	41		Coalminer	Pembroke, St. Davids
		Mariah James	wife	married		41		Pembroke, Red Cross
		Margaret James	daughter			15		Pembroke, Red Cross
		Mary Jane	daughter			7		Glamorgan, Aberdare



ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPS 1912

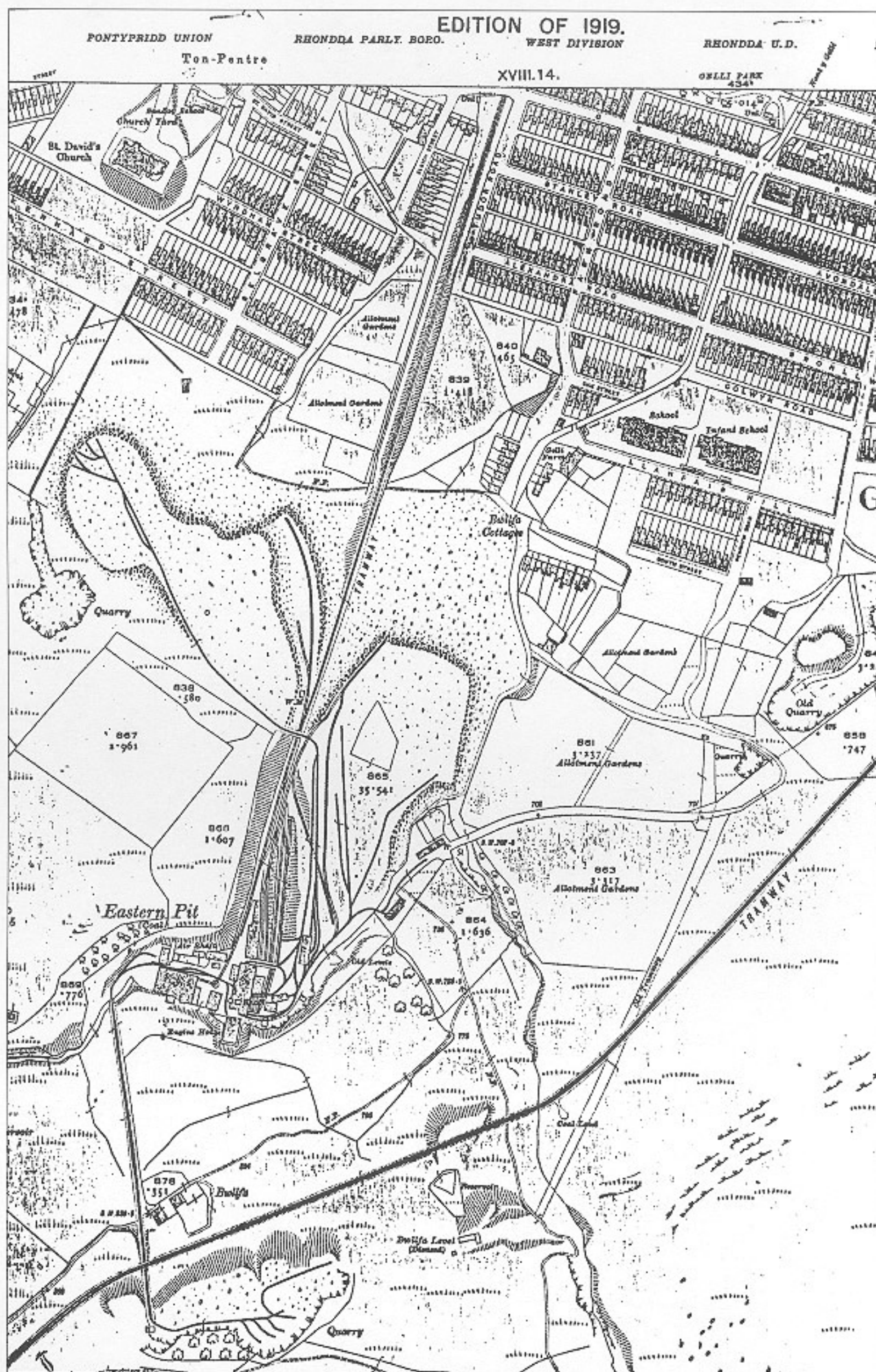
2.5



This map of 1912 shows the Eastern Pit at Gelli and the surrounding area. Maps can be used to show us how things have changed in a particular area over long or short periods of time.

ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPS 1919

2.5



This later map of the Eastern Pit at Gelli made in 1919 shows the same area as the previous edition of 1912. However, even in just seven years many things have changed.



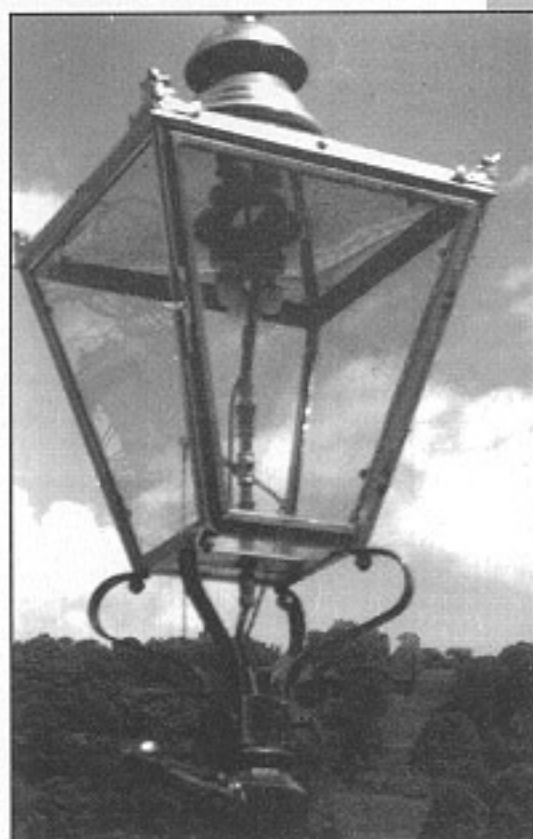
General view of Gelli and Eastern colliery.

3.1

WHY COAL WAS NEEDED



Homes: Fuel for the fire
Coal day, Blaenllechau

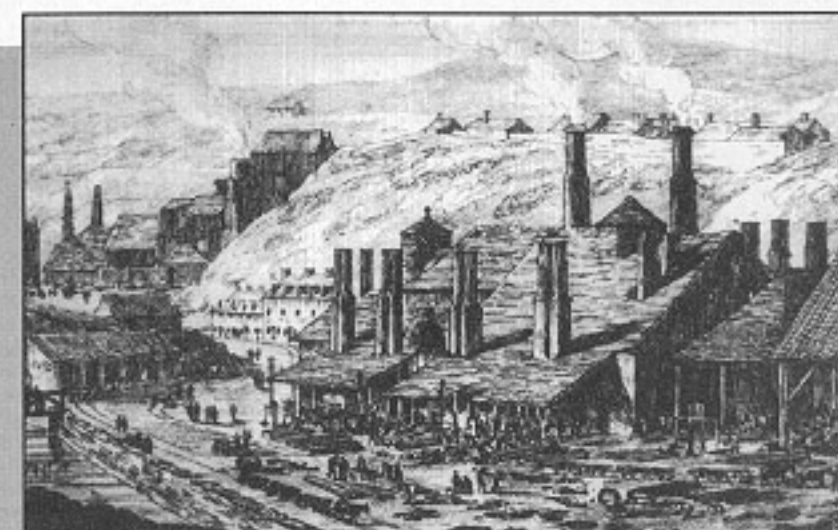


Lighting: Gas lighting in
the home & street was
produced from coal.

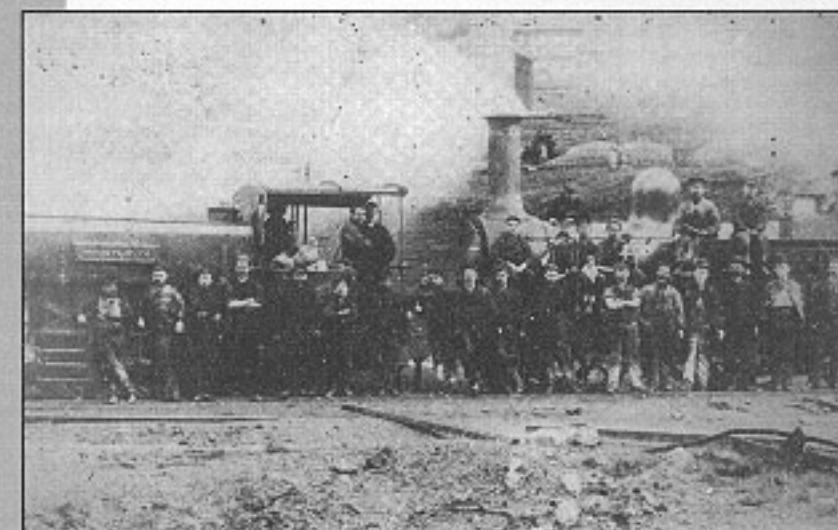


Roads: A Steam traction engine

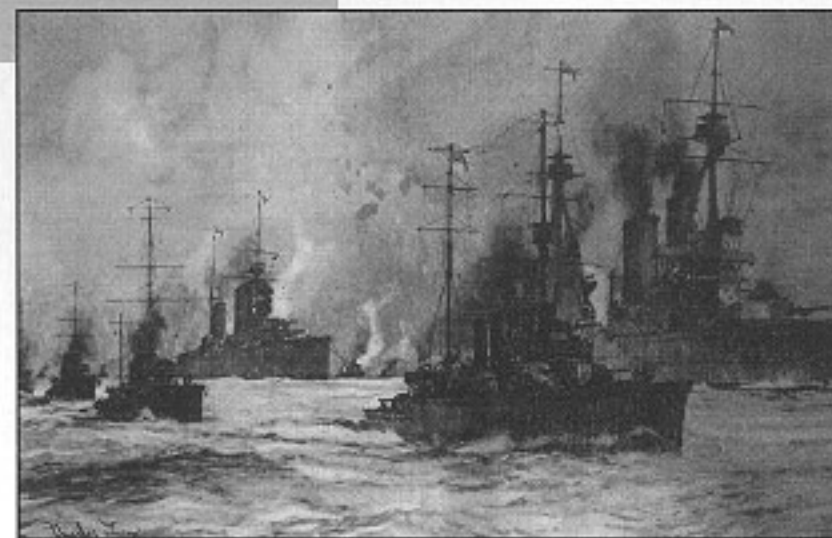
WHY COAL
WAS
NEEDED



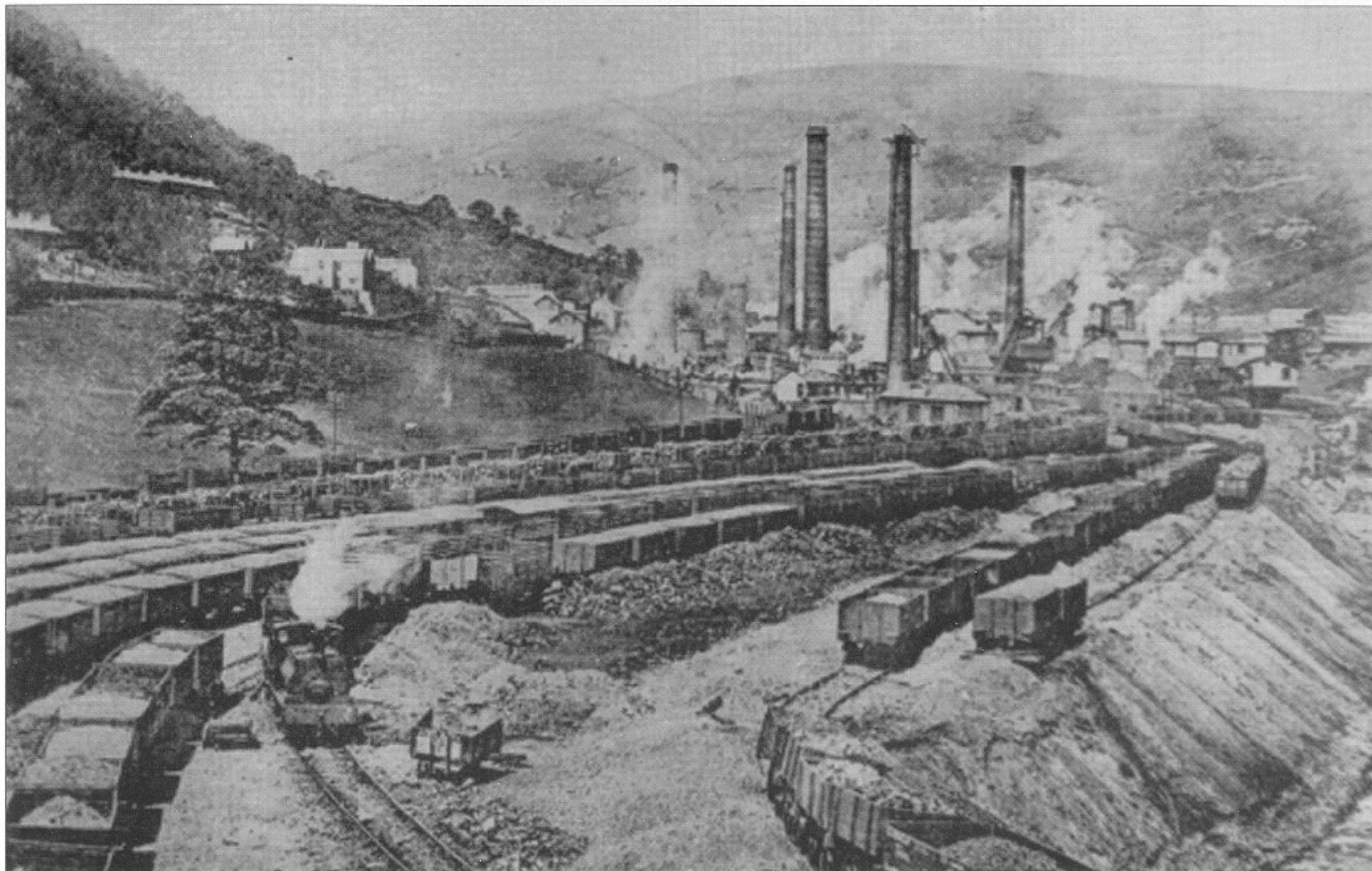
Industry: Dowlais Iron Works 1840 (Merthyr Tydfil)

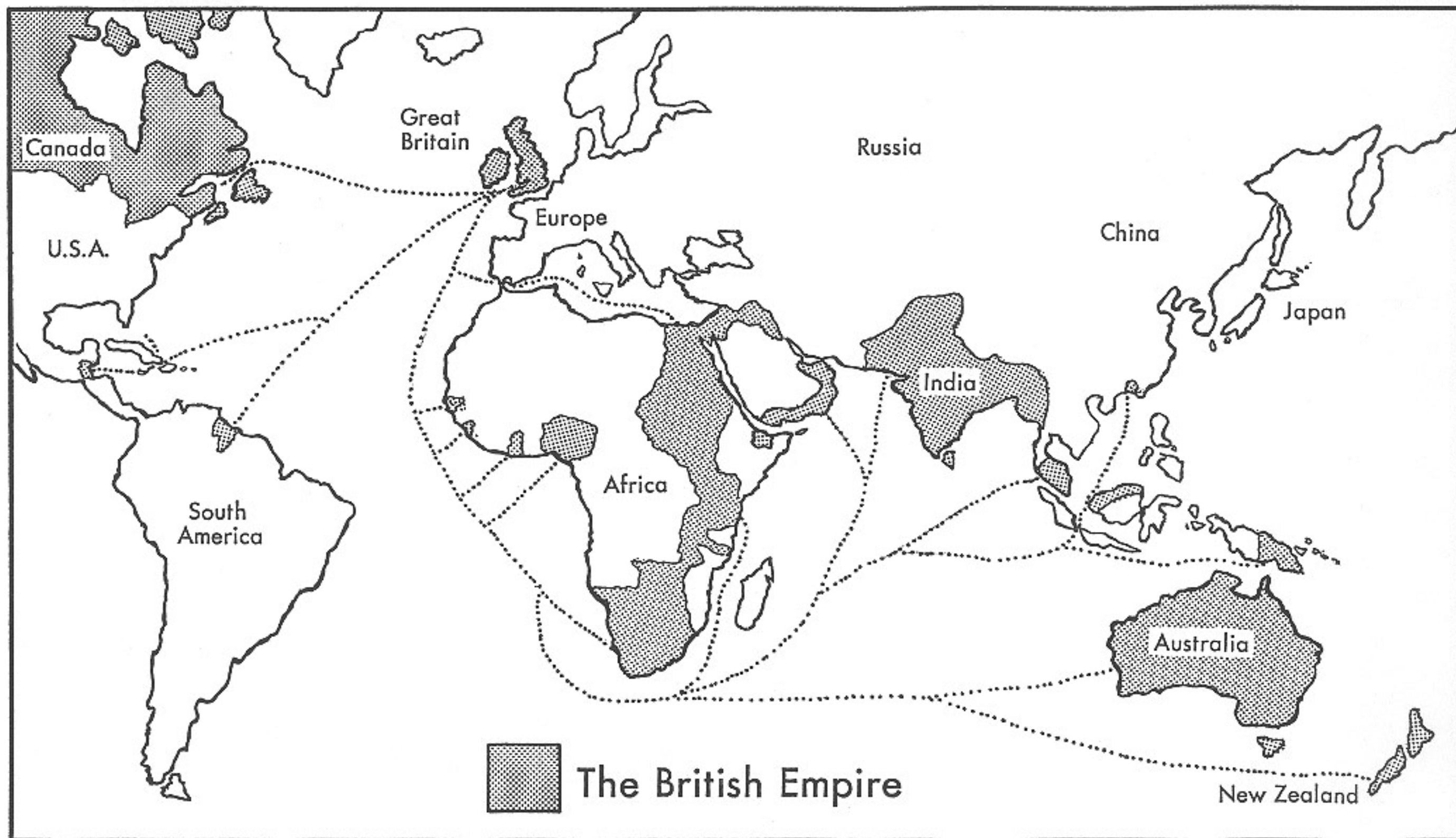


Railway: Steam Locomotives at Abergorki Colliery



Shipping: Naval Steam Ships



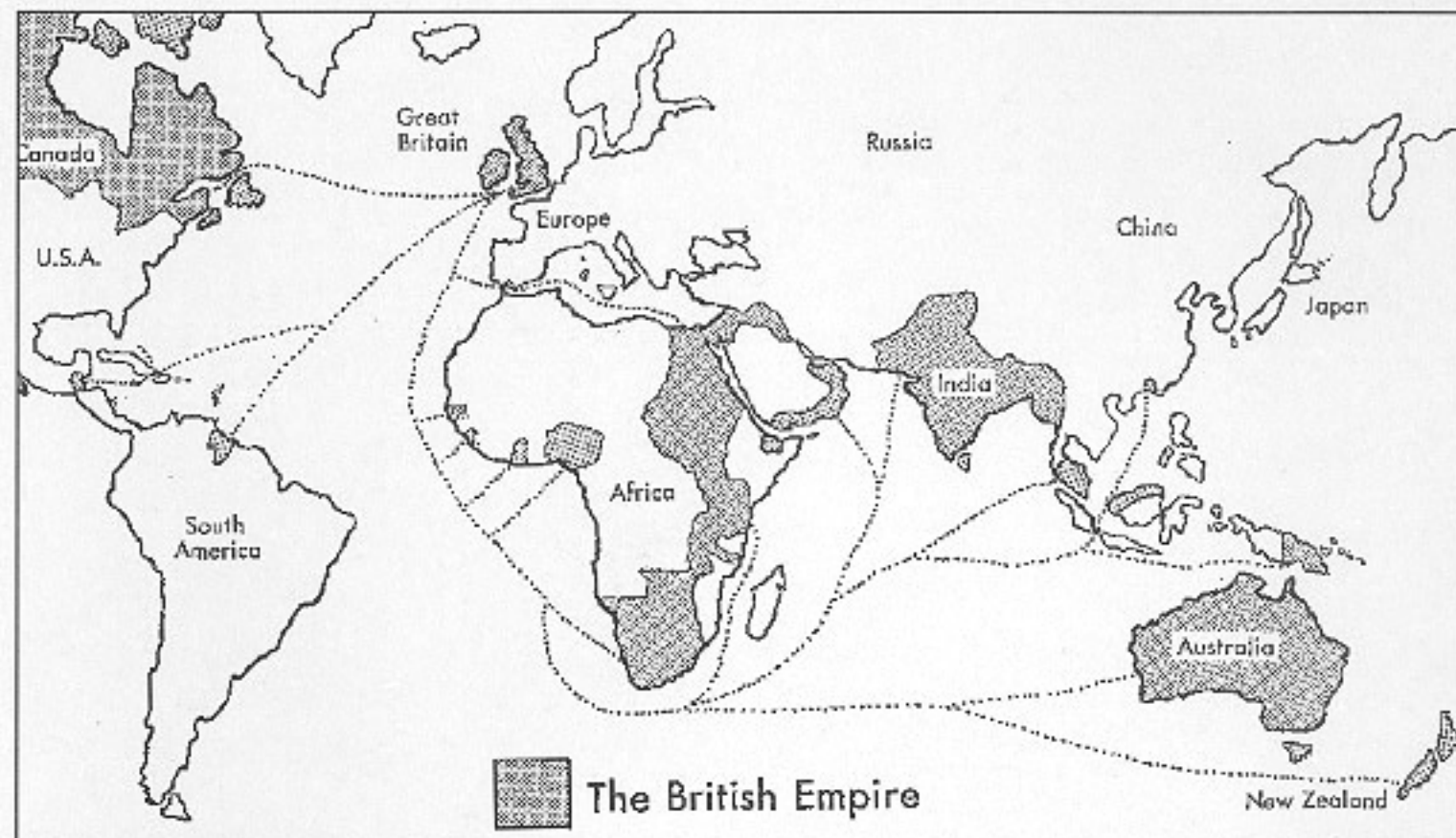


3.2

RHONDDA COAL ACROSS THE WORLD



Welsh steam coal awaiting shipment at Cardiff Docks



A map of the British Empire in 1900

CORY BROTHERS & Co., Ltd., supply all the principal Lines of Steamers, and are Contractors to the Governments of Great Britain, Germany, France, Italy, Greece, Austria, Brazil, &c.

DEPOTS OF COAL—

Alex	Cornwall	Naples	Singapore
Alexandria	Orizaba	Odessa	Smyrna
Algiers	Panama	Oran	Spain
Amsterdam	Paris (Strasbourg)	Perth (Australia)	Suez
Antwerp	Perth (Australia)	Piraeus	Sulina
Bahia	Port Said	Puerto Rico	Syria
Bahia Blanca	Rio de Janeiro	Rangoon	Teneriffe
Barbados, W.I.	Rio Grande	Rangoon	Tientsin
Batavia	Rosario	Rangoon	Tunis
Bombay	Rotterdam	Rangoon	Venice
Bordeaux	Saigon	Rangoon	Vigo
Buenos Ayres	St. Lucia, W.I.	Rangoon	Zanzibar
Cadiz	St. Michael's Azores	Rangoon	Boston
Calcutta	St. Thomas, W.I.	Rangoon	New York
Cape Town	St. Vincent, Cape Verde	Rangoon	Philadelphia
Cebu	San Francisco (U.S.)	Rangoon	Baltimore
Cirita Veechia	Santos	Rangoon	New Orleans, &c.
Colombo	Savona	Rangoon	
Constantinople	Seychelles, Masc Island	Rangoon	
Corruption		Rangoon	

APPLY FOR PRICES AND ALL PARTICULARS TO—

CORY BROTHERS & Co., LTD.
Coalery Proprietors.
CARDIFF.

A Cory Brothers advertisement of the time

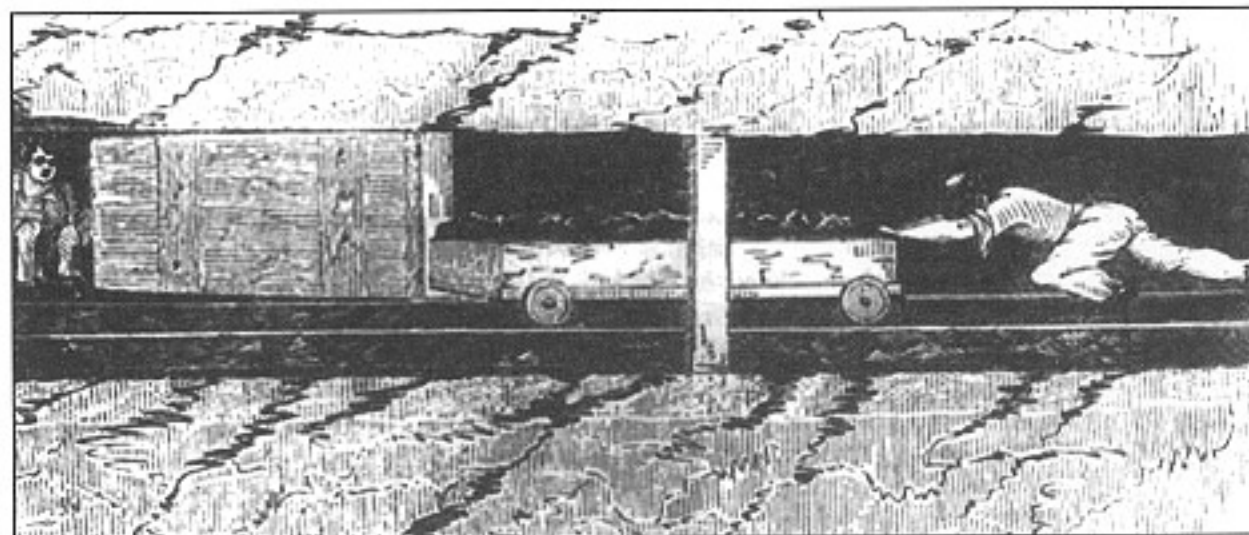


Coal being loaded at Barry Dock

3.3

CHILDREN IN THE MINES 1840s

The Government set up a Commission in 1842 to inquire into the working conditions of women and children underground to show the country the dangers and hardships experienced by those who worked in coal mines in such tasks as looking after air doors and handling coal baskets and trams. Later that year they introduced the 1842 Mines Act, which banned work underground for all females and boys under the age of ten.



Typical work for children in the mine

"Been 4 years at work; works 12 hours from 7 morning to 7 night; never been to school; gets plenty to eat; does not like to work so long; would like to be up to move about; goes to the Methodist chapel to learn to be good - good means going to heaven; heaven is up above the sky; often heard of the evil one; has heard the preacher say we shall all go to heaven if we do not curse and swear; they never taught me any commandments, and Moses I never heard of; some boys have books at Sunday School which they say are Bibles. Can earn 7s. to 9s. weekly."

EVIDENCE OF WITNESS 95 AT DINAS COLLIERY, DAVID

"I have been driving horses below ground three years, and was 12 months before at a trap door; when at the traps used frequently to fall asleep; works 12 hours; would go to school if the work were not so long; cannot go now as I have to work on the night as well as the day shifts; the night work is done by group who work about (alternate weeks); never was at school."

EVIDENCE OF WITNESS 97 AT DINAS COLLIERY, PHILIP DAVIES, AGED 10 (HAULIER).

(The commissioners add: "This witness cannot read, is much neglected and in appearance is sickly.")

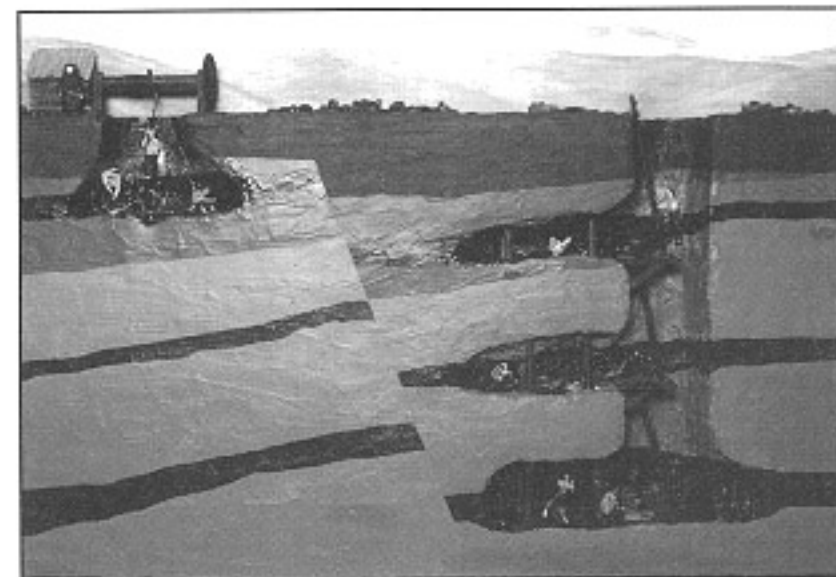


A winding basket

"Has to keep the air-doors in the coal-mine; goes down the shaft at four to five in the morning and returns at five or six at night; works frequently at night; been four years below ground; was burned by fire-damp 20 months since, and laid ill 18 months; only returned to the pit two months since; the accident took place from a collier incautiously entering an old working with his candle near the roof; several were burnt and the horse which brought up the train of carts was killed."

EVIDENCE OF WITNESS 103 AT DINAS COLLIERY, WILLIAM ISAAC, AGED 11 (AIR-DOOR KEEPER).

(The commissioners write: "This witness was neglected; the whole skin of the face was burned and he has a very disagreeable appearance; the eyes are much inflamed").



Early types of mine

"Began to work at 7 years old; works 12 hours daily, sometimes longer; was burned by fire-damp three years ago, when at the air-door and laid aside 6 months ... the pain was very great; several others were burned at the same time, one almost to death; feels very sore at times from the new skin being very tender. Speaks a little Welsh; does not understand a word of English; no scriptural knowledge."

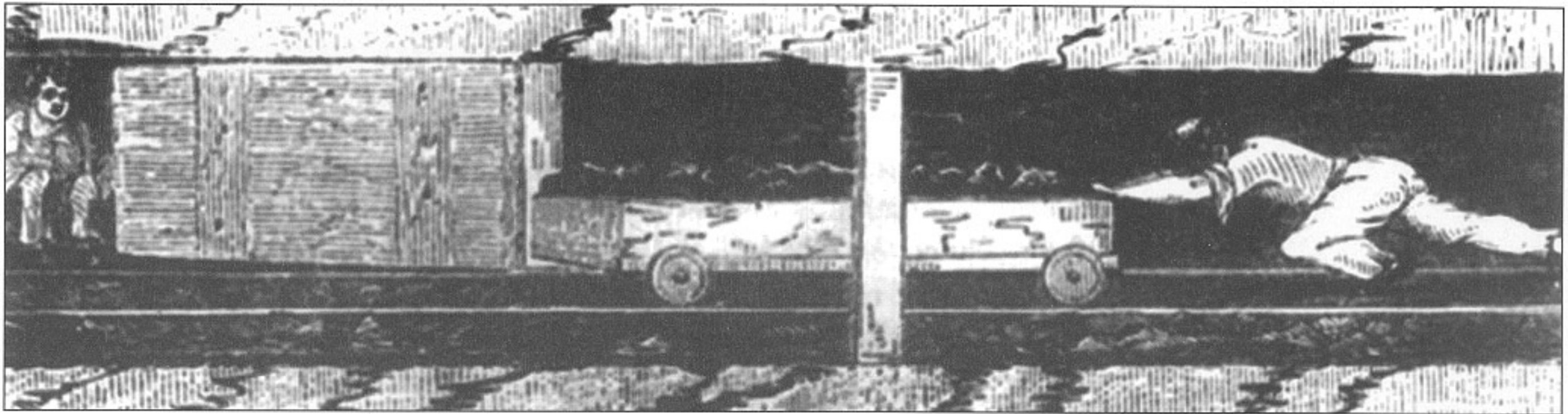
EVIDENCE OF WITNESS 105 AT DINAS COLLIERY, MATTHEW LEWIS, AGED 11 (COLLIER).



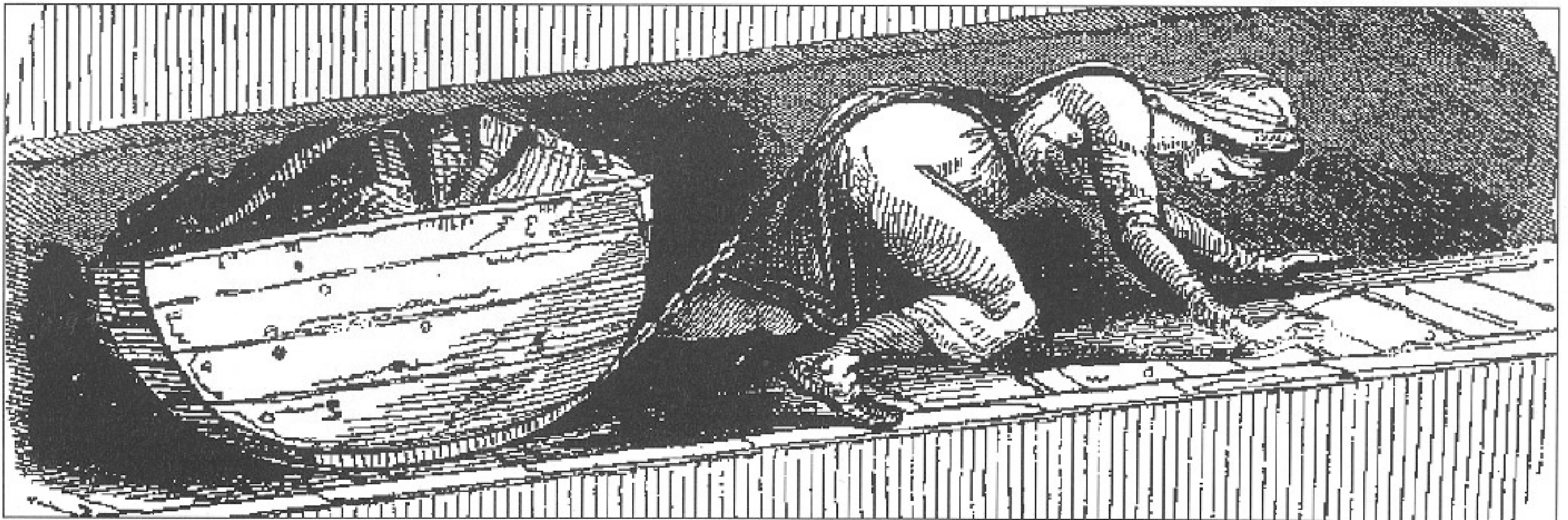
Child pulling a coal tram

3.3

CHILDREN IN THE MINES



Child pushing a dram



Woman pulling a dram

3.4

THE FIRST MINES

EARLY COAL PIONEERS

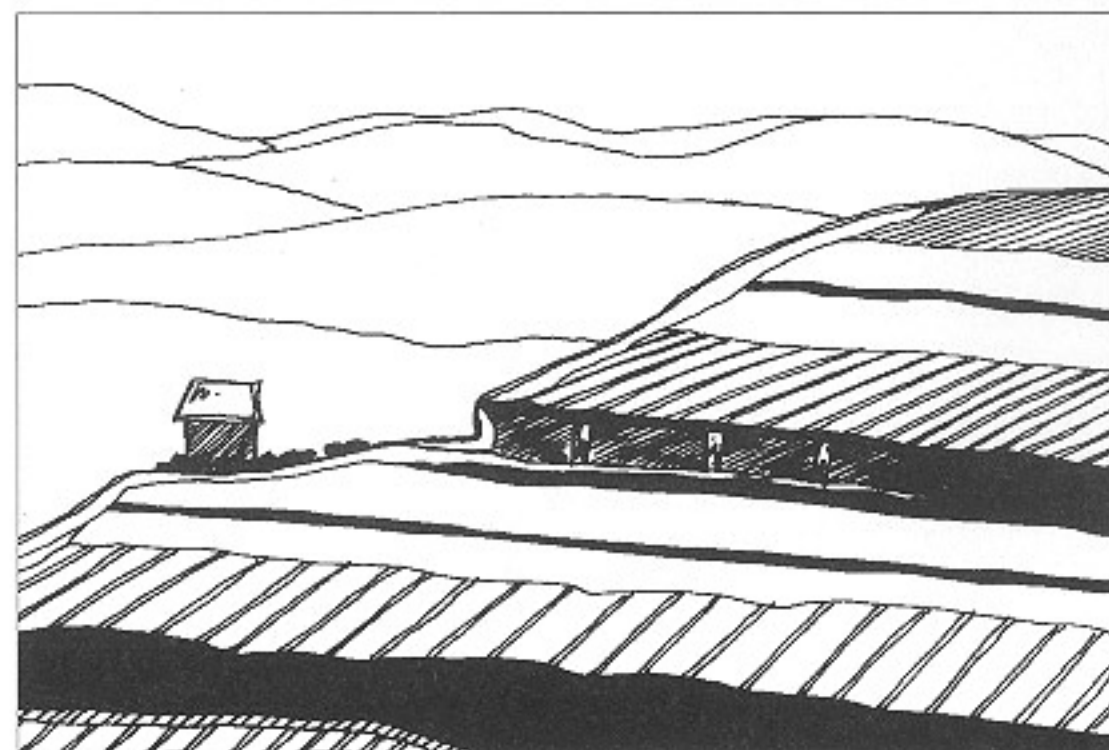
In 1812, Walter Coffin advertised for "30 good colliers" to work at his pit. This was the first pit to be sunk in the Rhondda and was known as Dinas Lower Colliery. By 1853, many more pits and levels had been opened in the Lower Rhondda by coal pioneers such as William Crawshay, Richard Lewis, George Insole, Lewis Edwards and George Gethin.



Walter Coffin (1785-1867). By 1841 he employed 301 men and 113 boys at his collieries at Dinas.



George Insole (died 1850). A former coal dealer and shipper. He began extensive mining operations at the Ty'n y Cymmer Estate, Porth, in 1847.

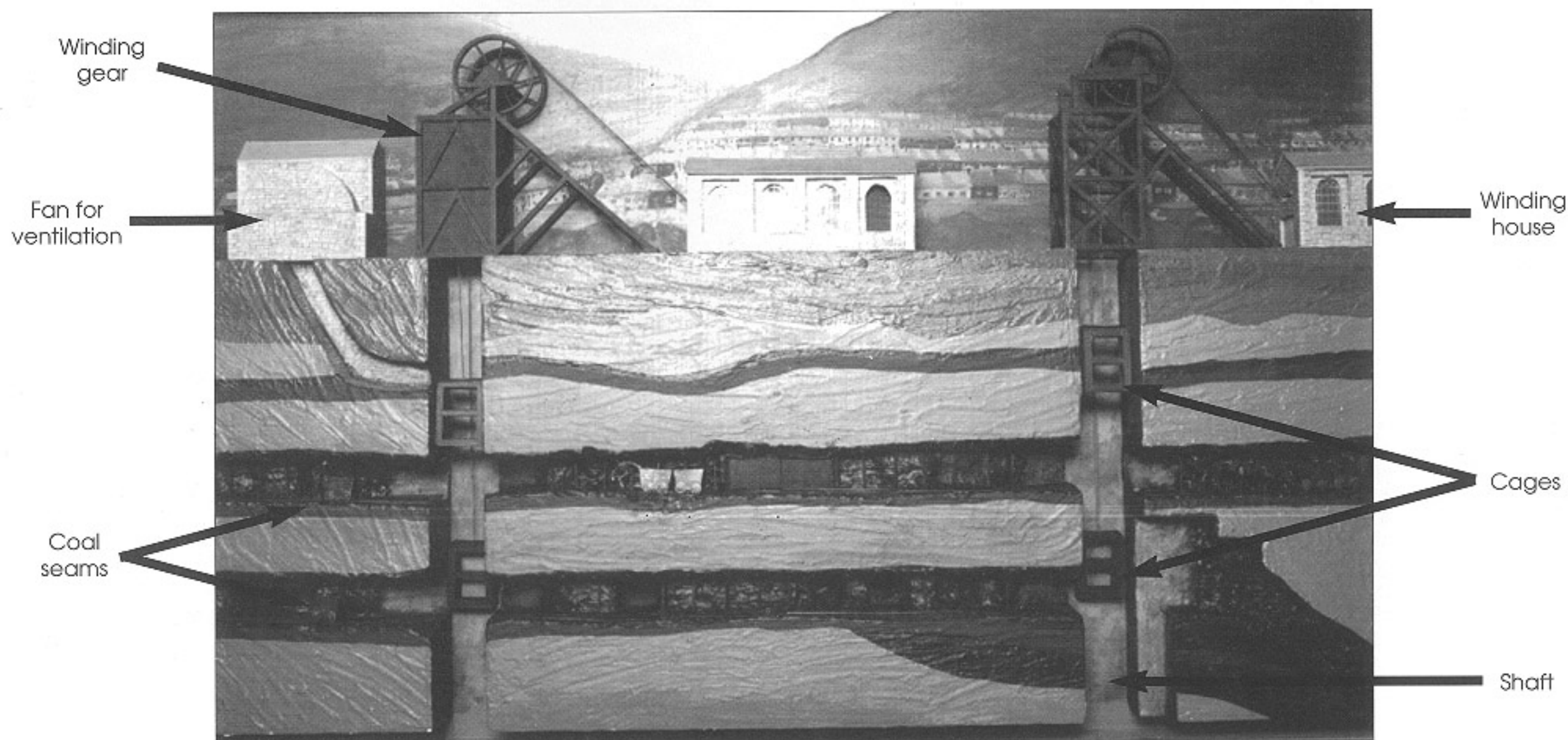


A level

3.5

DEEP MINES

Deep pits were difficult to sink because they needed special kinds of machinery to pump air and water. In deep pits, the foul air had to be sucked out and clean air blown in, or miners could be killed. Huge fans were needed to provide this ventilation. Water was also a problem and had to be pumped out regularly to prevent flooding. After 1850, this machinery became more common and the number of deep mines in the Rhondda increased as a result.



A Cross-section of a Mine

PHOTO: BY KIND PERMISSION OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WALES

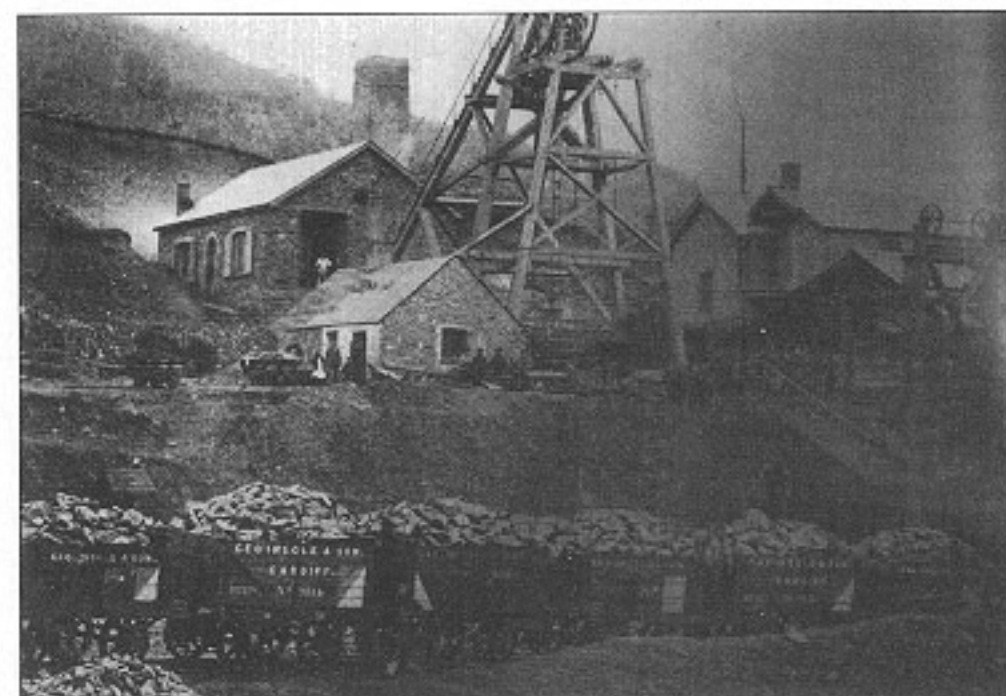


Lewis Merthyr Collieries 1910

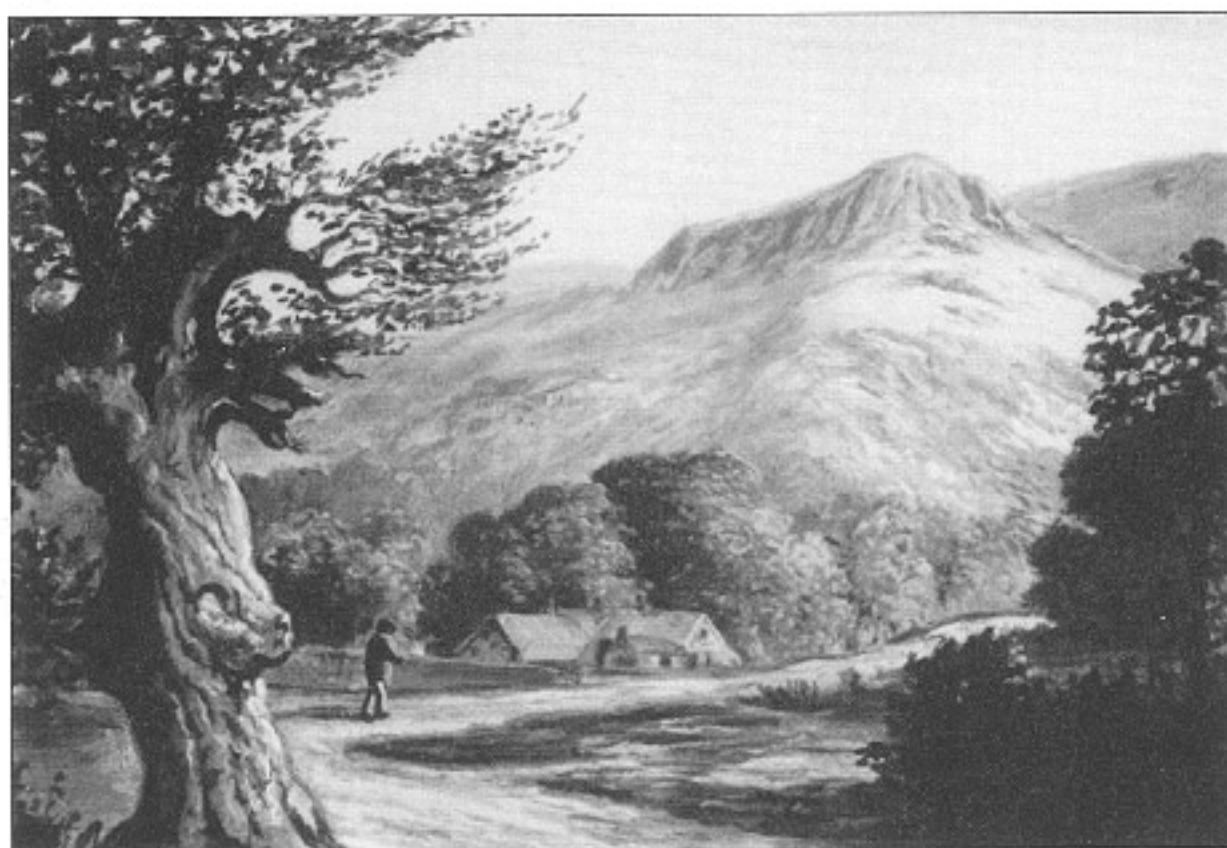
3.6

DEEP MINES: THE COLLIERIES

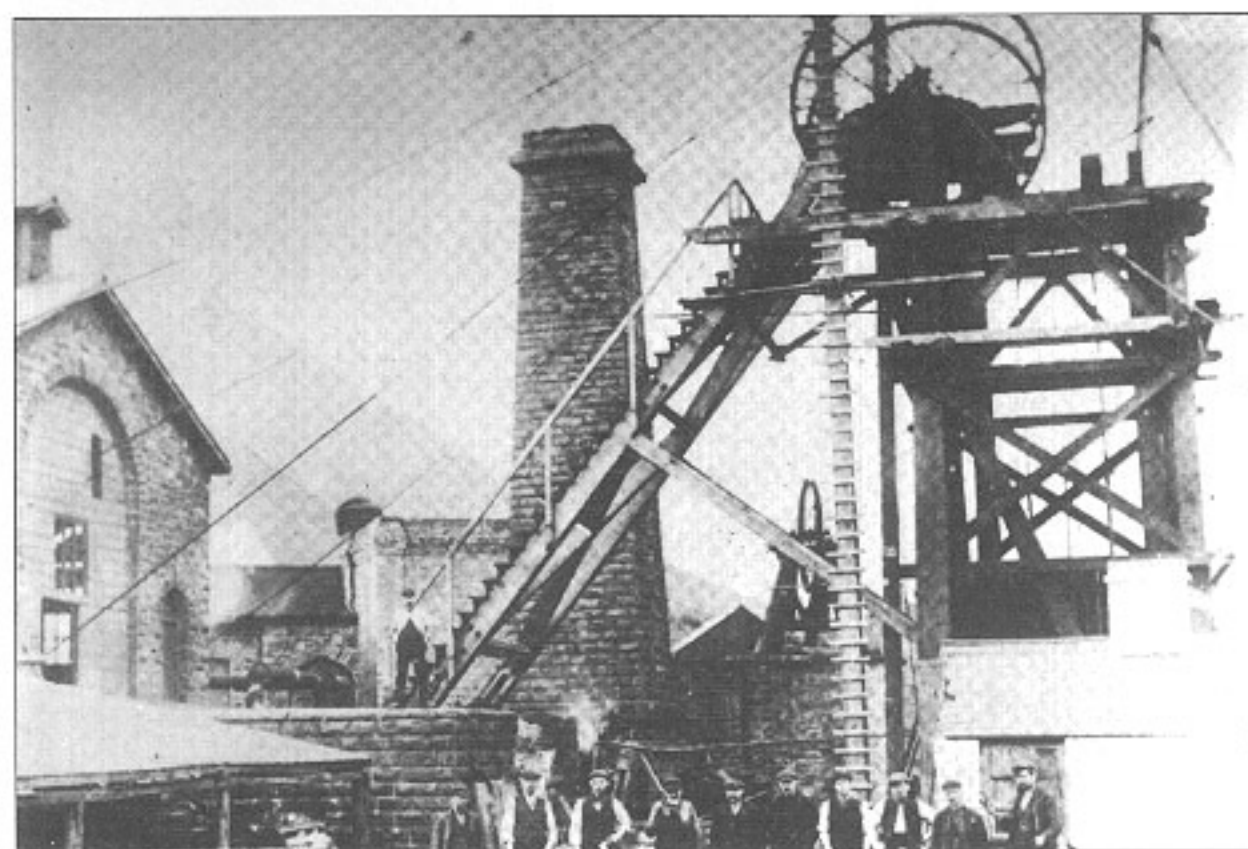
Coal mining was only carried on in the lower Rhondda Valley before 1850. In 1855, the first colliery in the Upper Rhondda went into production at Cwmsaerbren. This was the Bute Colliery and it was the first to produce steam coal in the Rhondda. The success of this colliery attracted many coal owners to invest money in sinking pits in the Upper Rhondda and, by 1913, there were 53 pits mining steam coal.



Insole's pit, Cymmer



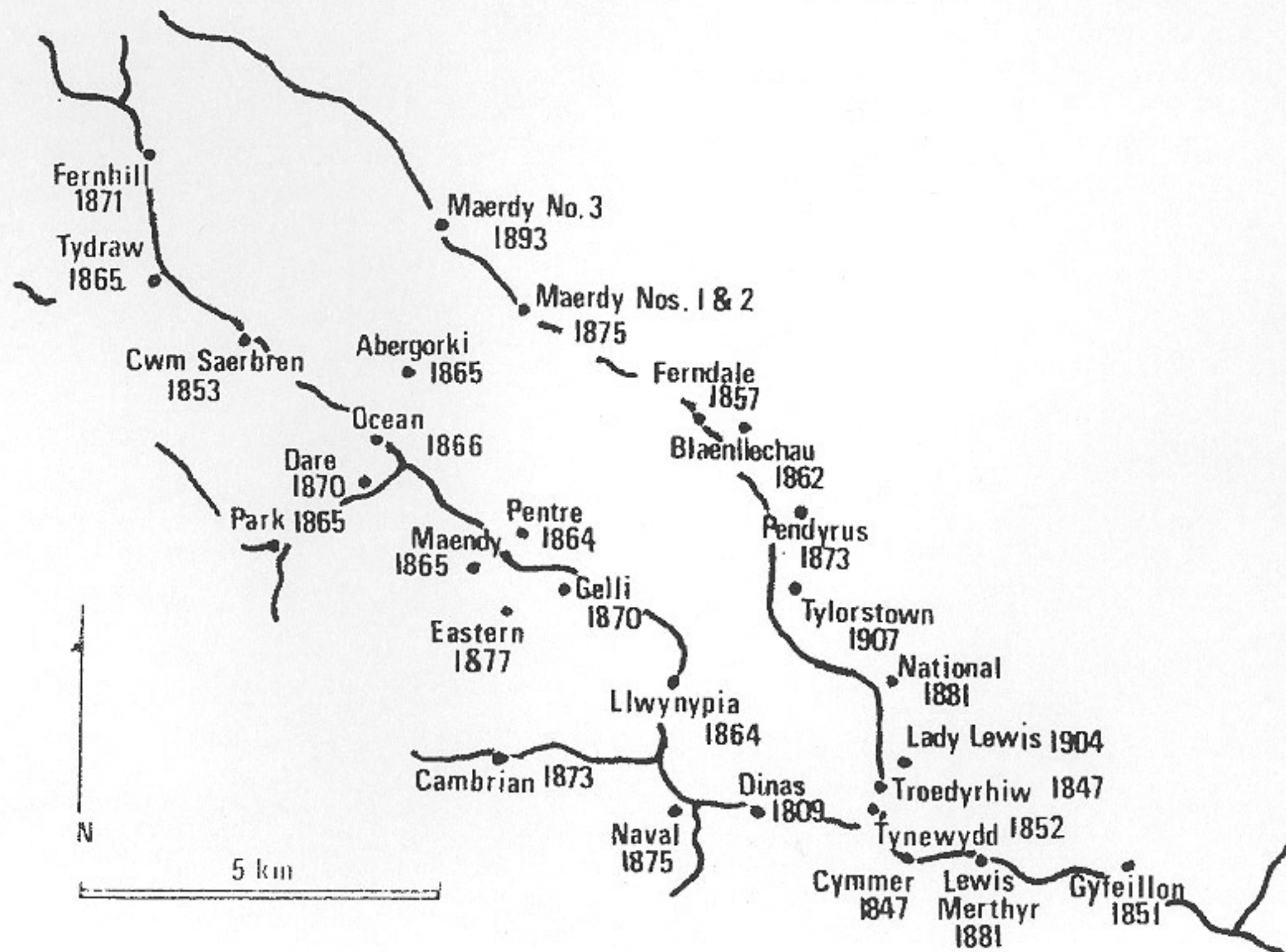
Painting of Cwmsaerbren before the sinking of the first steam coal colliery.



Bute Colliery, Cwmsaerbren, Treherbert, the first steam coal colliery sunk in the Rhondda. The population of the Parish of Ystradyfodwg at this time was about 950.

3.6

COLLIERIES OF THE RHONDDA VALLEYS.



3.7

"DAVIES YR OCEAN": A COALOWNER

THE COALOWNERS

The South Wales coalfield grew after the 1840s. There were many reasons for this:

1. There was a great supply of coal under the ground in the South Wales Valleys
2. Many industries and ships needed the Steam Coal.
3. Better methods of mining meant the coal could be obtained a long way underground.
4. Railways were built which enabled the coal to be sent quickly to the coal ports of Cardiff, Barry, Newport and Swansea.
5. Rich men were prepared to invest their money into the sinking of the pits, in the hope of making big profits - these men were called COALOWNERS



David Davies



Maindy Colliery



Coal ready for shipment at Barry Docks

In 1864, David Davies decided to become involved in the development of coal mining in the Rhondda. By the summer of 1866, Davies still had not struck coal. His men had dug down over 200 yards and Davies had spent £38,000. It was said that Davies was down to his last half a crown (half a crown was 2s. 6d. - 12½p today). His workers volunteered to work for one more week for that half a crown. During that week, coal was finally discovered. This was the beginning of Maendy Colliery, the first of David Davies' seven pits. The coal was ideal for steam engines. David Davies decided to call it "Ocean Coal" and to name it after the famous town of Merthyr Tydfil rather than the Rhondda, an area of which few people had then heard.

OCEAN (MERTHYR) STEAM COAL.

PROPRIETORS:-

THE OCEAN COAL CO., LTD.,

11, Bute Crescent, CARDIFF.

OUTPUT:

9,500 TONS PER DAY

This Coal is unrivalled for Steam Navigation and Railway purposes.
It is well known in all the Markets of the world for

ECONOMY IN CONSUMPTION, ITS PURITY & DURABILITY.

It is largely and in many cases exclusively used by the

PRINCIPAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANIES

at Home and Abroad.

SOME OF THE MOST RAPID ATLANTIC PASSAGES

on Record have been made on a consumption of

OCEAN (MERTHYR) STEAM COAL.

THE OCEAN COMPANY supply the requirements of the
ENGLISH ADMIRALTY for trial trips, for the use of
the **ROYAL YACHTS**, and other special purposes.

The Ocean Coal Company, Limited, have the largest unworked area of the
celebrated Free Port Steam of Coal in South Wales.

1871.] COUNTY ADVERTISEMENTS. 19

DAVID DAVIES & CO.,
Proprietors of the well-known
OCEAN (MERTHYR) STEAM COAL,
At present working upwards of 400,000 Tons per Annum.

USED BY THE PRINCIPAL AND NATIONAL AND THE PRINCIPAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANIES.

The Ocean Coal makes little or no smoke, burns readily, possesses an expansive power unapproached by any Coal yet discovered, makes little ash or clinker, requires no stoking, and is not destructive to the fire bars; while it likewise possesses the immense advantage that the small waste in process of transit, will burn more readily than the waste of the other or more unworkable descriptions.

REPORTS FROM CONSUMERS AND ALL INFORMATION SUPPLIED ON APPLICATION.

DEVELOPMENT OF OCEAN COLLIERIES, 1870 - 90					
Colliery = in Rhondda	Date when coal was first worked	1870	1880	1890	
		No. of men employed			
Maendy	May 1866	528	810	1220	
Parc	Aug. 1866	678	832	748	
Dare	April 1870	310	354	388	
Western	Jan. 1876	-	723	745	
Eastern	July 1877	-	460	1018	
Garw	July 1885	-	-	573	
Lady					
Windsor	Dec. 1886	-	-	891	
Total no. of men employed		1516	3179	5583	
Total output tons		341,271	1,152,951	1,726,480	

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celebrated Four Foot Seam of Coal in South Wales.

3.8

LOOKING AT EVIDENCE : CENSUS RETURNS, 1851

As new pits were opened in the Rhondda, many new miners were needed to work in them. Men came from all over Britain to work in the Rhondda. Miners wages were high and many men were attracted to the Valleys. As the villages grew in size so other kinds of workers were needed. Some men brought their wives and families with them, but many of the miners were young, unmarried men.

This page from the census of 1851 shows where some people living in the Rhondda were born and the jobs they did. You can find out about the people who lived in your village just over 100 years ago by looking at the census returns for 1891 which can be found in your local libraries or records office.

Parish of Ystradyfodwg		Ecclesiastical District of Llandaff		City or Borough of		Town of		Village of	
No.	Name of street, Place or Road and Name or No. of House	Name and surname of each Person who abode in the house on the night of 30th March 1851	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of Male Fem.		Rank, Profession or Occupation	Where born	Whether Blind or Deaf and Dumb
23	Tynewydd Cottage	John Bates Margret Do Fanny Maria	Head Wife Daur	Mar Mar	22	31 1	Coal Labourer	British subject Monmouth, Llanvethon Do Do	
13	Ynysfaio	William Thomas Anne Do John Do Robert Evans Thomas Llewellyn Daniel Thomas Mary Davies Margaret Williams Thomas Heppell Anne Heppell David Hopkin	Head Wife Grandson Grandson Lodger Lodger Serv. Lodger Lodger Lodger	Mar Mar U U Wid'r Wid'r U Wi Mar Mar Wid'r	63 17 15 71 31	63 17 61 52 52	Farmer Farm Labourer Do Do Cabinet Maker Farm Labourer House Servant Grocer Shop Sinker Sinker's Wife Sinker	Glamorgan, Ystradyfodwg Do Do Do Do Do Do Do Do Carmarthen, Llan Glamorgan, Ystradyfodwg Do Do Northumberland, Newcastle Do Do Glamorgan, Aberdare	
57	Ffrwdamos	David Thomas Miriam Do Ann Do	Head Wife Daur	Mar Mar	35	25 3	Coal Miner	Carmarthen Glamorgan, Lantrisant Do Do	
6	Llwynypia	Thomas David Eliza Do	Head Wife	Mar Mar	34	23	Coal Miner	Cardiganshire Glam. Landyfodwg	
9	Tavernucha	Ann Morgan John Do Charles Do Thomas Ed. Yeates Hendry Slathia Thomas Edward	Head Son Son Visitor Visitor Visitor	Wi U U U Wid'r Mar	18 8 25 49 45	45	Housekeeper Engineer Scholar Coal Miner Do Do	Monmouth, Tredvon Hereford, Grosemont Do Do Monmouth, Glanavon Glam. Eglwysheilan Monmouth, Mynyddislum	

From 1851 onwards census returns contained far more information. (the original spellings have not been changed).

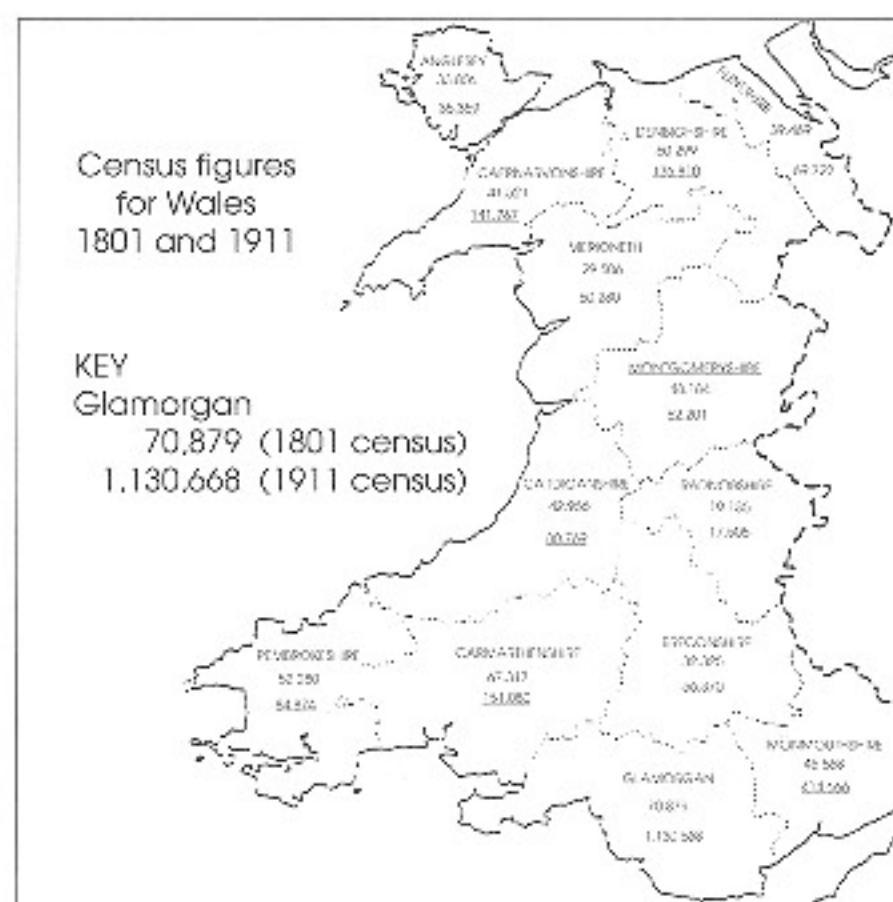
Census returns from 1851 enable us to look at the size of families, the relationships within the family, the exact age of individuals, their occupation and where individuals were born.

* Sinkers - These were the men who dug new pits and built the shafts. Many new pits were sunk after 1850 in the Rhondda to find steam coal.



3.9

MOVING TO THE VALLEYS



BIRTHPLACES OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE RHONDDA VALLEYS - 1891 and 1911

(Source: "THE RHONDDA VALLEYS" - E.D. LEWIS, M.A.)

(Main areas only)

BIRTHPLACE		1891	1911
ENGLAND	CORNWALL	485	749
	DEVON	841	1141
	GLOUCESTER	2236	2875
	LONDON	316	1681
	SOMERSET	3291	4057
	YORKSHIRE	159	225
WALES	ANGLESEY	231	678
	BRECON	2437	2921
	CARDIGAN	5829	5505
	CARMARTHEN	4024	4601
	CAERNARVON	905	1937
	DENBIGH	281	481
	FLINT	140	177
	GLAMORGAN	48998	88810
	MERIONETH	780	1172
	MONMOUTH	4985	4720
	MONTGOMERY	2481	3030
	PEMBROKE	3186	3656
FOREIGN COUNTRIES		358	638

"They were coming to Rhondda from all over, weren't they? From Bristol and Somerset to work in the mines. It was the local Klondike sort of thing wasn't it? But not much of a Klondike about it now. Well, you had the Cambrian up here - well there was three thousand men working there, isn't it? There's none there now. The Llwynypia colliery which was known as the Scotch colliery - about three thousand working there. That's shut. The Naval colliery in Pen-y-graig - about two thousand - that's shut. You know, only in this locality I've been talking about, you're talking about fifteen to twenty thousand men. Only in a small locality like this! And of course, all the way up the valley the same.

TONYPANDY MAN

SOURCE: COAL'S DOMAIN

POPULATION CENSUS RETURNS FOR YSTRADYFODWIG PARISH FROM 1801 - 1868	
YEAR	POPULATION
1801	542
1821	647
1841	748
1861	3035

POPULATION OF RHONDDA : 1871 - 1911	
YEAR	POPULATION
1871	23950
1881	55632
1891	88351
1901	113735
1911	152781

Census figures for
Wales 1801 - 1911

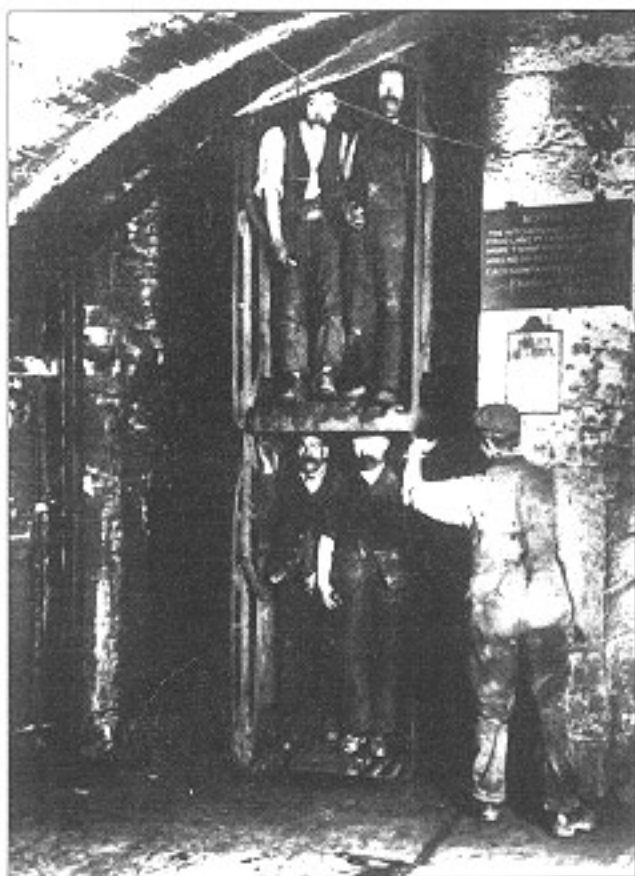


3.10

A TYPICAL DAY

A MINERS DAY

If a miner was working the morning shift he would usually start work at 6 am. This meant that he had to be up by 4 am to make sure he got to the colliery on time. Many miners had to walk a long way to work, while others lived close by the pit. The first thing a miner had to do when he arrived at the pit, was to collect his lamp from the lamp room. Then he had to make sure he did not have any matches on him, as matches could cause explosions underground. The miner would then wait with other miners at the pit head for a cage to take him down. The cage would drop quickly to the bottom, frightening new miners. From the pit bottom the miner had to walk to his work place or stall, this was often two or three miles from the pit bottom and meant walking bent forward or doubled up along narrow roadways. Nearer to his stall he may even have had to crawl. If a miner worked in a level, then there was no cage because the mine sloped down from the surface. In both kinds of mines the work at the coal face was just the same.



CAGE AT PIT BOTTOM

We can find out about mining by talking to men who worked underground many years ago. Reading accounts written by miners also gives us important evidence about life underground.



TOP OF PIT



MINERS COLLECTING THEIR LAMPS

BERT COOMBES, A MINER, DESCRIBED HIS FIRST DAY AT WORK IN A LEVEL. HE CAME FROM HEREFORD, WHERE HE HAD WORKED ON A FARM, BECAUSE HE COULD GET HIGHER WAGES AS A MINER

"We went from the sunshine into the wet darkness. It had the same kind of notched timber protecting the mouth as had the other level, and similar stale-smelling and oil-covered water flowing out between the rails; but as soon as we got under the mountain, things were strange to me. The seam worked and the type of roof were very different. In this working we could see that distant circle of daylight almost until we reached our working-place; and very enticing that circle seemed when we looked back. This coal-seam was not a true seam: it was what is known as a rider to the proper seam, and we were not more than sixty yards below the summit of the mountain. This was no advantage to safety, for the roof was not so solid as if we were working the lower seams. We were able to tell when it was raining outside because the water ran down to us through the cracks in the top and the roof started to melt. My eyes had not become accustomed to the change from daylight to darkness before we reached the working-place. Tommy had warned me that the ventilation was very poor in this colliery, but said they hoped it would improve before long.

As soon as we got to our working-place I found it hard to breathe. I was gasping for air, and my lungs felt tight. Almost all the miners used candles. These were stuck in a hole in a sharp spike and the spike was forced into a post. If we moved the candle the least bit it lost its light. It would go out without flickering at all; it would lose its flame slowly until the end of the wick was but a sort of red fuse; then even that would fade. It was useless to try to light a match to restart it burning, for the match would not flame; the top of it would smoulder, then turn black. Our place was going continually downhill. Every three yards forward took us downward another yard. It was heavy climbing to go back, and every shovelful of coal or stone had to be thrown uphill. Water was running down the roadway to us and an electric pump was gurgling away on our right side. We were always working in about six inches of water, and if the pump stopped or choked for ten minutes the coal was covered with water. There is nothing pleasant about water underground. It looks so black and sinister. It makes every move uncomfortable and every stroke with the mandril splashes the water about your body. It takes some time to be able to tell coal from the stone that is in layers above and below it. Everything is black, only the coal is a more shining black and the stone is greyer. It is difficult to tell one from the other, especially when water is about, but the penalty for putting stone - miners call it "muck" - into a coal tram is severe."

SOURCE: THESE POOR HANDS: BERT COOMBES

3.10

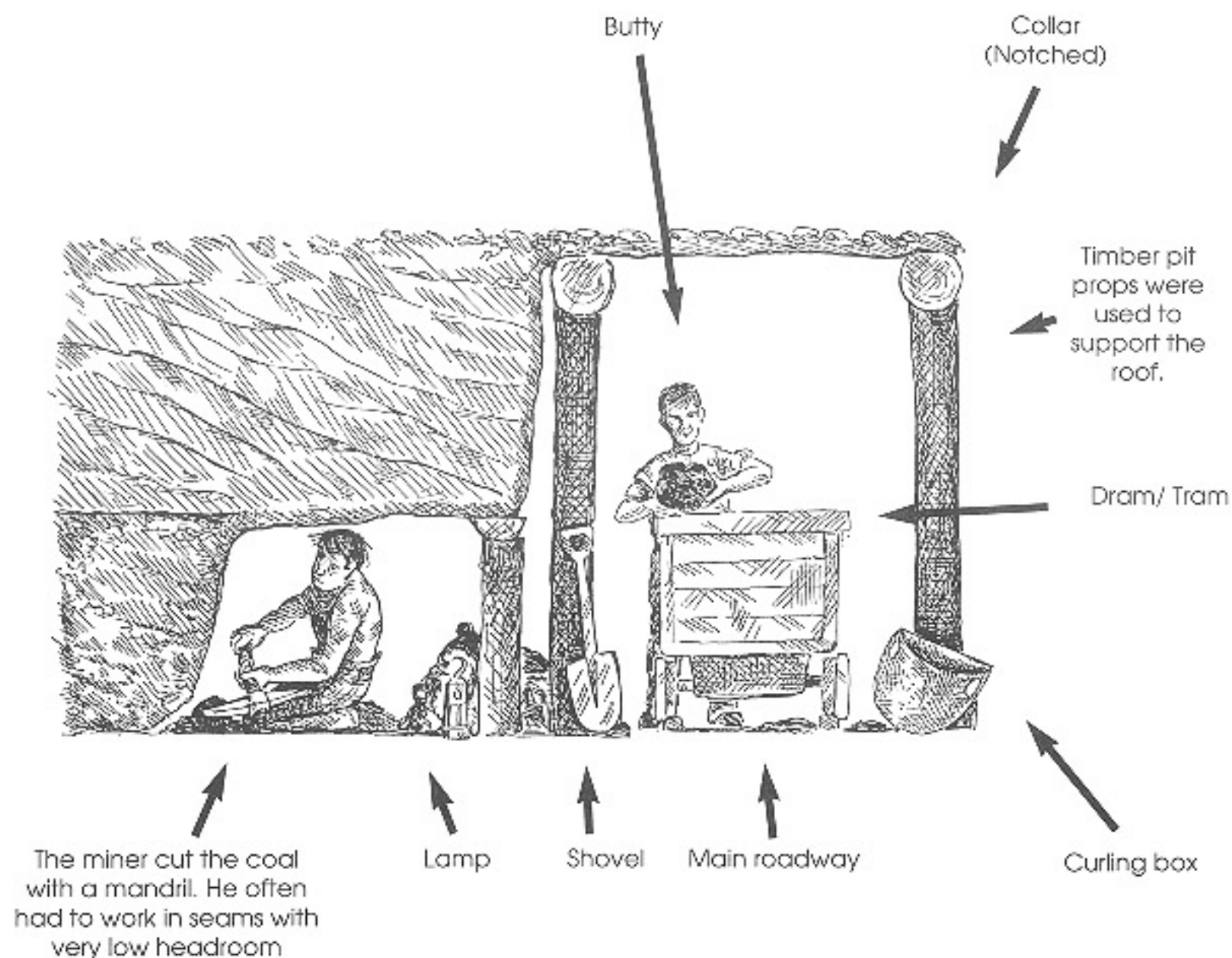
A TYPICAL DAY



Miners Walking to Work

3.11

MINING THE COAL



Working a coal seam

Miners often had to work in dark, cramped conditions with very little headroom. The work could be very hot. The seams would be lit by the miner's lamp. The coal the miner cut with his mandril would be loaded into the dram by the miner's butty.



Working Underground

"My father aimed many blows at the coal-seam with his mandril, each blow cutting away a small quantity of coal. When there was sufficient coal at his knees he scooped it behind him, using the short-handled shovel. As the mound of coal grew larger he was almost hidden from sight and I was in total darkness, for the coal hid the light from his lamp. Eventually he placed the mandril on the floor and crawled around the mound of loose coal, taking the steel box, proceeded to slide it under the coal, then filled it by using both his hands as scoops. He then dragged the steel box from the coal face to the road head and lifted the box to the tram, shook the box empty and returned to the mound of coal. After watching my father fill and drag many boxes of coal to the tram I took a turn myself. I found the whole thing difficult and frustrating. I, like all new starters, moved on my knees which was a slow and painful process, for the hard floor made the knees tender and sore. The vertical posts, supporting the roof, had to be dodged as one dragged the box to the road-head."

SOURCE: MY LAMP STILL BURNS, ROBERT MORGAN

3.11

MINING THE COAL



Miners working underground

3.12

THE MINER'S DAY - UNDERGROUND



THE HAND DRILL

Used to loosen the coal. In later years, to make holes in which explosives were placed to help collapse the coal at the face.



WEDGES

These were hammered in above the coal seam to force it to drop. They were hammered in with a sledge hammer. (heavy, long handled hammer)



THE MANDRIL OR PICK

This was used to undercut coal at the face, so that it would collapse ready to be loaded into the drams.



THE AXE

This was used to cut and shape the wooden pit props and wooden wedges which were used to support the roof of the pit.

THE SHOVEL

This was used to load the coal which had been cut from the "face" into the empty drams.



CURLING BOX

A sort of two - handled scoop which was used in confined spaces to load the cut coal into the waiting dram. Young boys often had to do this loading job.



"JACK"

A container for holding the miner's drink. This was often cold tea or just plain water.



"TOMMY BOX"

A Food container to hold the miner's food which he would eat underground in his break.



The miner's tools

Breaks and Food

The miners took very short breaks. The food they ate was often bread and cheese which was kept in a "tommy box".

When working they hung their food bag from the timbers to prevent rats and mice from getting at it. The food was usually washed down with cold tea, kept in a tin "jack".

There were no toilets underground.

The temperature at the working face was sometimes very hot and colliers were often stripped to the waist.



Eating underground

"We had a quarter of an hour for food. For the first time that I could remember I had no appetite, and the rats that ran about outside the circle of our lights had my food and squealed a lot while eating it"

SOURCE "THESE POOR HANDS" - BERT COOMBS



Miners using tools

"Then we had to lock our tools for the day. Holes are bored in the handles of the tools and they are pushed on a thin steel bar with a locking - clip fitted in the end.

John had a pile of tools, and they were all needed. Shovels, mandrils of different sizes, prising - bars, hatchet, powder - tin and coal - boxes, boring-machine and drills and several other things. He valued them at eight pounds worth, and he was forced to buy them himself. He knew they might be buried by a fall any day and was not hopeful of getting any compensation for them. Nearly every week he had to buy a new handle of some sort and fit it into the tool at his home, so that his wages were not all clear benefit, and his work not always finished when he left the colliery."

SOURCE "THESE POOR HANDS" - BERT COOMBS

3.12

THE MINER'S DAY - UNDERGROUND

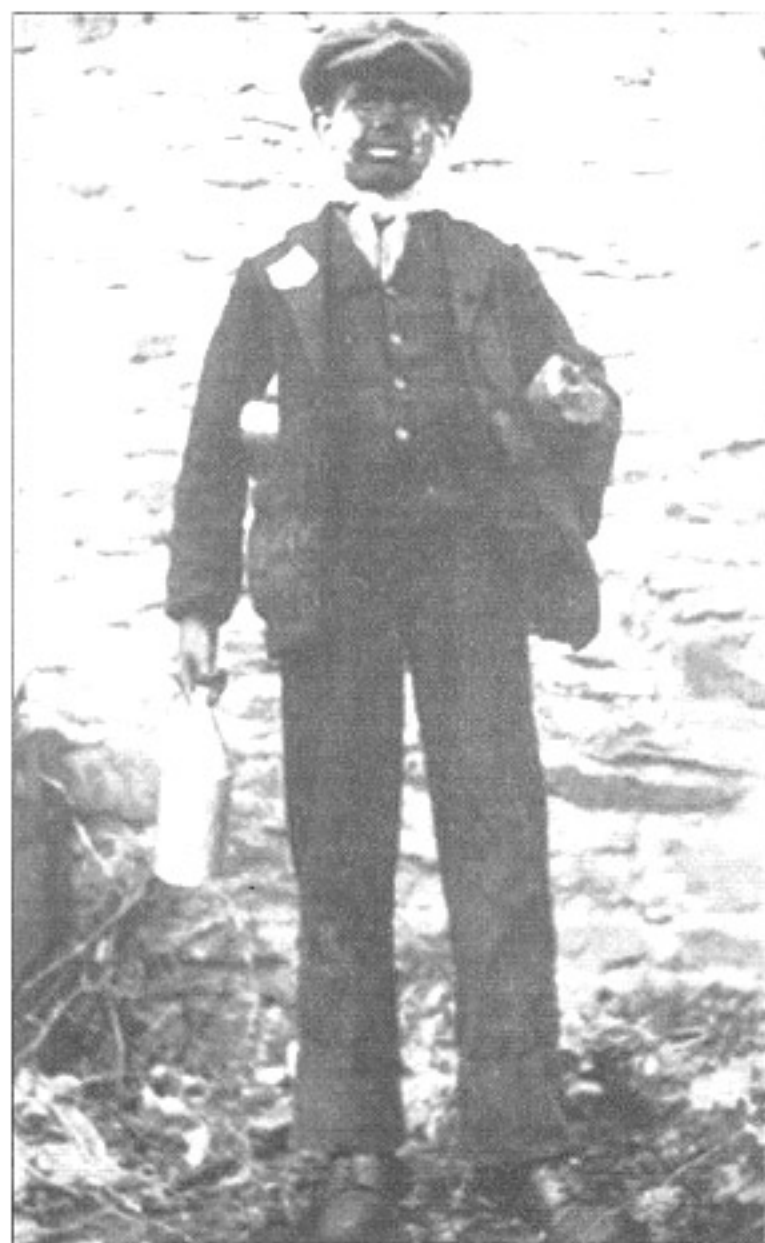


Colliers eating underground

3.13

THE BUTTY

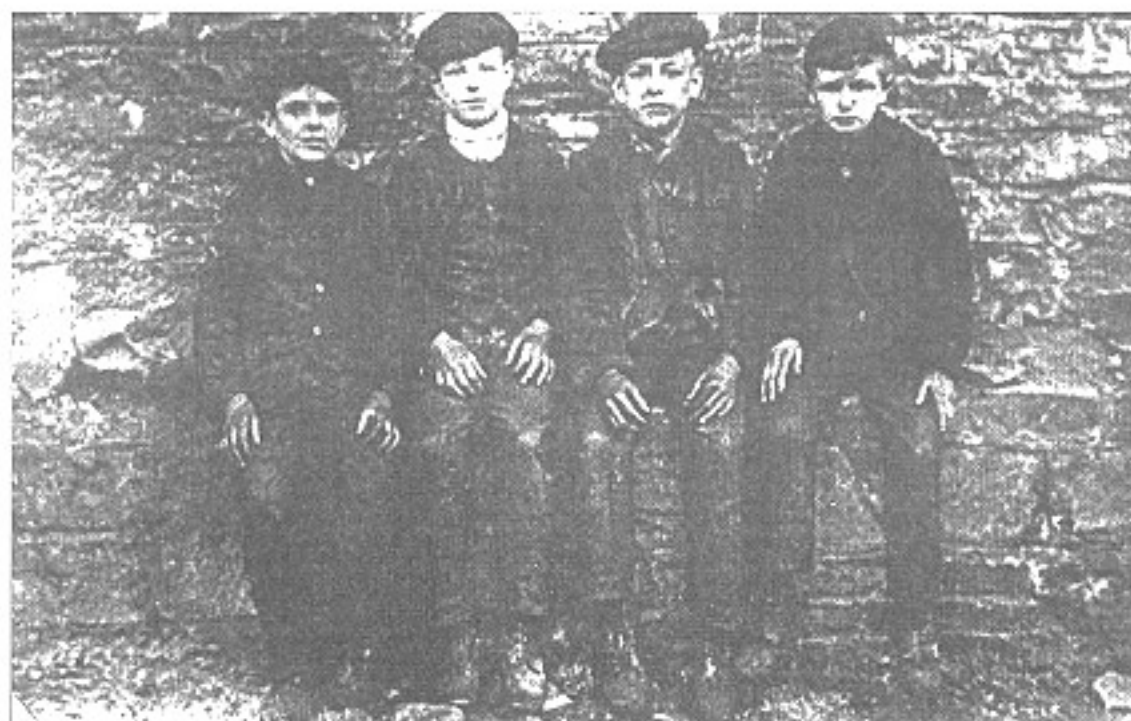
Most boys started work when they were thirteen years of age and went to work alongside their fathers and brothers or with an uncle. The boy was often called a "butty" and it was his job to fill the trams with the coal that had been cut.



David Dan Evans lived on a farm in Llandysul, Cardiganshire until he was twelve years of age. His whole family moved to Tylorstown looking for work in the mines. David (Dai) started work as a butty at the age of thirteen.

About nine-thirty that night I started to dress for my first night underground. There are no rules as to what you shall wear, only an unwritten one that you must not bring good clothes unless you do not mind being teased about what you are going to do for Sunday or "how's it looking for the old 'uns?" Clothes must be tough and not too tight; dirtiness is no bar, because they will soon be much dirtier than they have ever been before. The usual wear is a cloth cap, old scarf, worn jacket and waistcoat, old stockings, flannel shirt, singlet, and pants. Thick moleskin trousers must be worn to bear the strain of kneeling and dragging along the ground, and strong boots are needed because of the sharp stones in the roadways and the other stones that fall. Food must be protected by a tin box, for the rats are hungry and daring; also plenty of tea or water is necessary to replace the sweat that is lost.

SOURCE: THESE POOR HANDS: BERT COOMBES



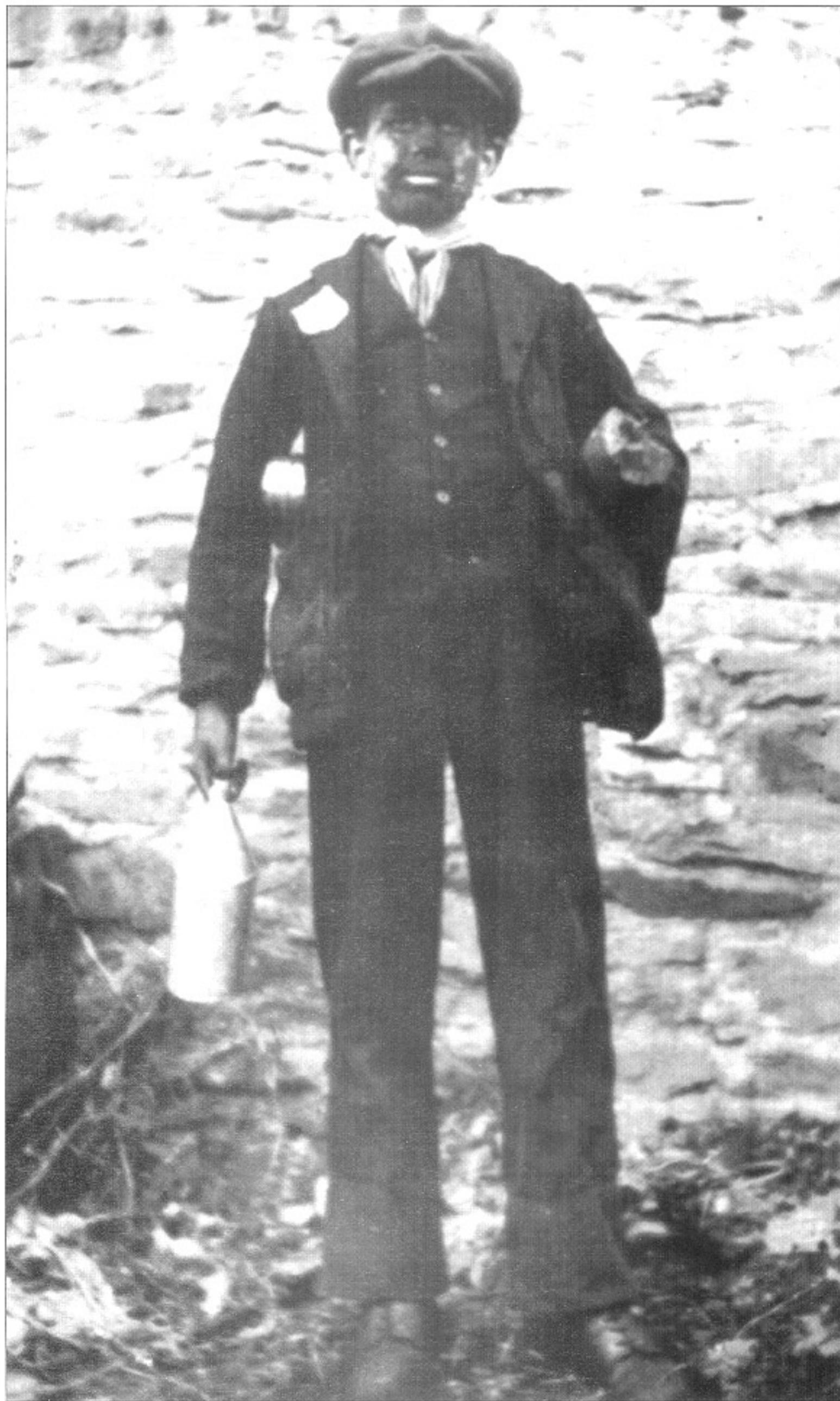
Boy Miners

"My mother did her best to bring me up properly. When I reached twelve years of age she looked for the right type of collier with whom I could be placed. She wanted a man who would look after my safety, discipline me and shelter me from bad company. After four weeks with a drunken Cornishman, I was transferred to a proper gentleman collier. He was a good workman and a good man in other ways. He treated me kindly, but kept me very close to him throughout the day, and he never allowed me to run about the pit when there was no work to be done; thus was I kept out of mischief and out of danger. On reaching the pit top at night, I liked to get away with other boys, and usually succeeded."

SOURCE: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF EDMUND STONELAKE

3.13

THE BUTTY



Butty Boy: David Don Evans

3.14

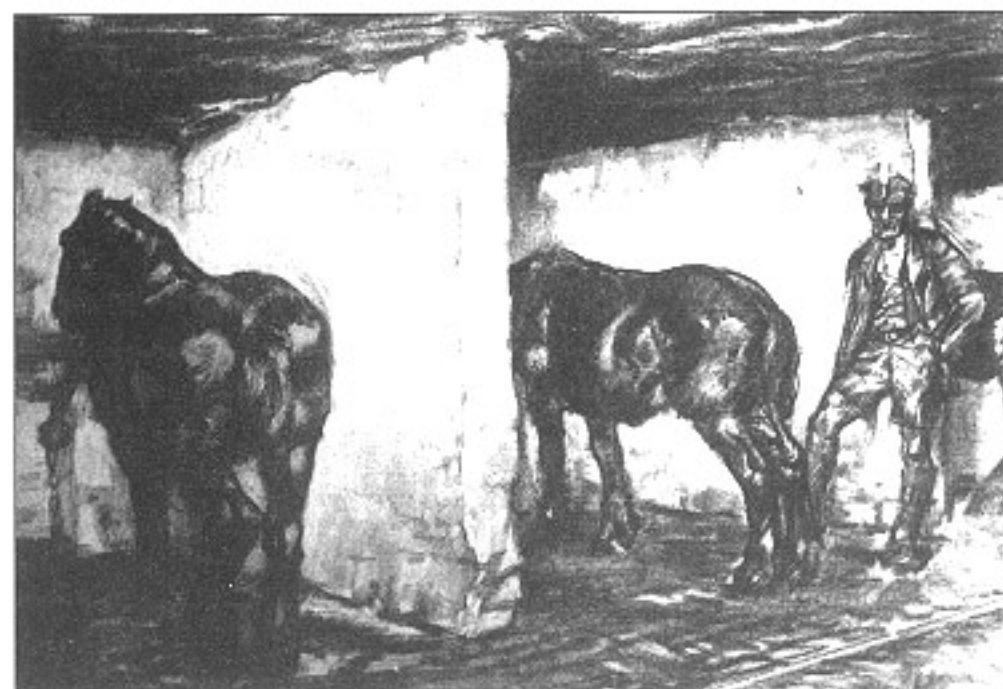
HAULIERS AND PIT PONIES

Hauliers and Pit Ponies

Horses and ponies were used underground to pull trams of coal from the coalface to the cage, or out of drift mines.

The hauliers job was to drive the horses and ponies. He was also expected to look after the horses and feed them. There were often stables underground for these horses. There was also a special kind of blacksmith called a farrier whose job was to make and fit horseshoes.

Hauliers were usually young men. Many of the farm workers who came to find jobs in the pits, started doing this job because they knew how to handle horses. Most hauliers hoped to become colliers because it was a much better paid job.



An underground stable



"Little Tick", the pit pony. The names of pit ponies and horses were traditional.



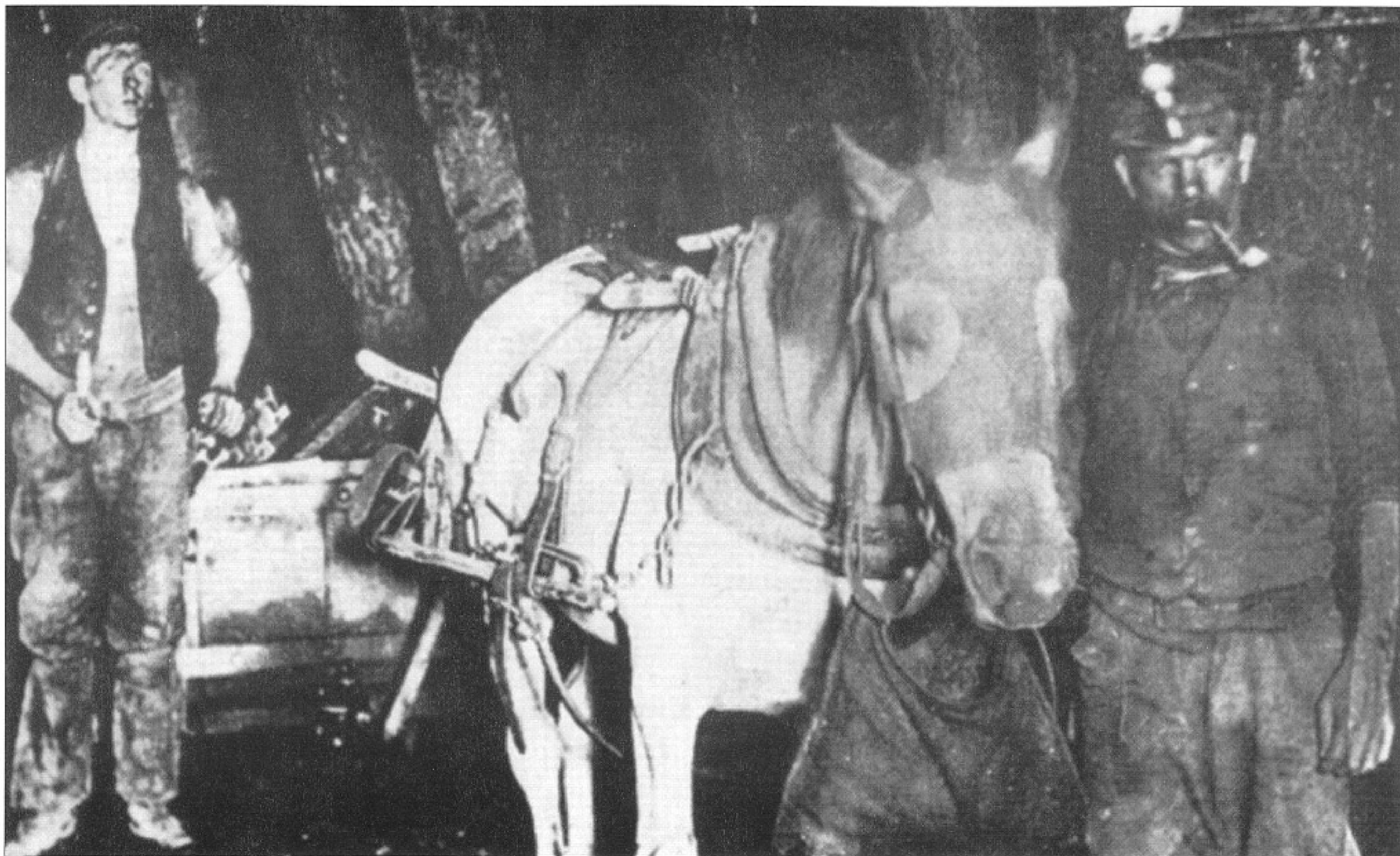
A haulier driving the horse and dram from the coalface

A horse was in as much danger underground as a man. And a horse could sense danger before a man could. Say a horse was standing here at a heading, and he heard something above him, it would squeal like a baby. It would give a sign, telling you 'Look, move me out of here quick! Something is going to come down here now!' The creature had that sense.

THOUGHTS OF A MINER.
SOURCE : COAL'S DOMAIN

3.14

HAULIERS AND PIT PONIES



Hauliers and pit pony underground.

3.15

THE END OF THE DAY

Drams of coal reach the surface after having been wound up the shaft by the winding engine. They were then weighed. Each collier would mark his dram with his number. Then his pay would be worked out for the amount of coal he had cut that shift.



At the end of their shift, miners would have to walk home in their wet, dirty clothes. There were no pithead baths built until the 1930s. Miners would bath at home in front of the fire. There was often more than one miner in each house, so it was a long and difficult job for the miner's families to provide enough hot water. Some miners would not go straight home. Instead they would call in a pub for a drink to "damp down the dust".

"On reaching the pit top at night, naturally I wanted to get away with the other boys, and generally succeeded. If however, we were just a little late and my pals were gone, then I had to keep in close touch with my master. We had two miles to walk from the pit to home. There was a solitary pub on the way and Thomas - nobody dared to call him Tom - when alone, entered to get one well deserved pint; when I accompanied him to this pub, he had two pints, I got the first drink from each pint; then home."

(EDMUND STONELAKE, AGE 12, 1885)



Miners in the pub after their shift



When the coal reached the surface, it was taken to the screens where it was sorted out into lumps of different sizes. Any stone or other rubbish was removed.



When the miner got home he would have a bath in front of the open coal-fire. (There were no bathrooms in homes in those days). The big kettle was always on the boil, awaiting the miner's return home from the pit. Eventually, showers were provided at the collieries, but this wasn't until about the 1940s or so.

3.15

THE END OF THE DAY



Miner using a tin bath to wash.

3.16

THE DANGERS

Mining was a very dangerous job. Deaths were common especially in the deep mines. Accidents which could leave a man crippled and unable to work for the rest of his life were very common. There were about one hundred serious accidents for every one death. Conditions in the mines did improve as better ventilation and safer lamps were introduced. Accidents could be caused by stones falling from the roof, trams running over miners, flooding, breathing in bad air or dust, cages falling or blasting powder.

Gas was a deadly killer, there were different kinds of gas found in mines, some exploded, others suffocated miners. Explosions also caused fires and flooding. This was why safety lamps were invented, and miners were not allowed to carry matches. Examples of the worst disaster in the Rhondda are shown in the next few cards.

MINERS LAMPS

Four early types of lamp. The naked flame could cause gas to explode, so they were very dangerous.



1. Candle in wet clay. The naked flame often caused gas to ignite and explode.



2. Spiked candleholder. It could be driven into a wooden post or pit prop.



3. Simple, re-fillable lamp.



4. Re-fillable lamp with wick. It gave light for longer than a candle.

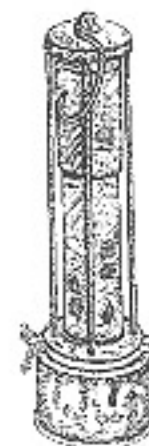
UNDERGROUND LIGHTING

The invention of the Davy 'safety' lamp in 1815 improved safety in mines by replacing the naked light.

The Davy lamp surrounded the lamp flame with a wire gauze. The heat of the flame spread into the gauze which never became hot enough to cause any gas outside to explode. The light given off by the lamp was poor in its early days. It was used mainly to test if 'fire damp' was present. If not the miner would work by the light of candles or open flames. Working with poor light often caused nystagmus which damages the eyesight, and caused giddiness and blackouts.

By 1839 the Davy lamp had been redesigned a number of times and the flame was then surrounded by a cylinder of glass.

Between 1887 and 1908 a series of Coal Mines Regulations were made to ensure that all lamps were in good working order. A man was appointed to inspect every lamp daily before it was put into use. Lamp stations were situated both on the surface and underground. Before going underground a miner would hand his lamp check to the Lampman and receive his lamp. These checks were used as a record of who was underground. Underground lamp stations were used to re-light lamps which were blown out.



A. An early safety lamp. This lamp reduced the risk of explosions in the pits.

B. A later type of safety lamp. Lamps like this are still used today to test for gas. This lamp gave more light as the wick was shielded by a glass tube. These were used in many of Rhondda's mines in the times before modern battery powered lamps came into use.



3.16

THE DANGERS



Miners underground 1910

3.17

EXPLOSIONS

THE TOLL OF THE MINES

LIST OF COLLIERY EXPLOSIONS IN
THE RHONDDA VALLEYS, TO 1914¹

Date	Colliery	Fatal Casualties	Source of Information
1817	Abergorech Level	1	N.L.W. MSS: 4387D
6 Oct. 1836	Dinas Lower	4	<i>Mining Journal</i> No. 5, p. 50
1839	Dinas Lower	3	<i>Children's Employment Commis- sion</i> , App. II, p. 521
1842	Newbridge	1	Galloway, <i>Annals</i> , p. 111
1 Jan. 1844	Dinas Middle	12	<i>Cambrian</i> , 6 January 1844
3 Dec. 1844	Fforest Level	6	<i>Mining Journal</i> XIV, p. 447
April 1850	Dinas Middle	2	Galloway, <i>Annals</i> , p. 121
15 July 1856	Cymmer Old	114	H. Mackworth, <i>Annual Report</i> , Dec. 1856
18 March 1857	Ynyskir	4	H. Mackworth, <i>Annual Report</i> , Dec. 1857
10 May 1857	Cymmer Old	2	H. Mackworth, <i>Annual Report</i> , Dec. 1857
23 May 1862	Ynyscio	2	Report of H.M. Inspector of Mines
17 Feb. 1865	Dale Merthyr	4	" " " " " " "
21 July 1866	Tylacoch	2	" " " " " " "
9 Nov. 1867	Ferndale	178	" " " " " " "
23 Jan. 1868	Tylacoch	2	" " " " " " "
10 June 1869	Ferndale	33	" " " " " " "
24 Feb. 1871	Pentre	37	" " " " " " "
1875	Pen-y-graig	2	" " " " " " "
15 Aug. 1878	Dunraven	2	" " " " " " "
13 Jan. 1879	Dinas	63	" " " " " " "
10 Dec. 1880	Naval	34	" " " " " " "
21 Feb. 1882	Pare	4	" " " " " " "
11 Sept. 1882	Coedcne	6	" " " " " " "
1 Feb. 1883	Coedcne	5	" " " " " " "
11 May 1883	Crown Level	3	" " " " " " "
21 Aug. 1883	Gelli	4	" " " " " " "
25 Jan. 1884	Pen-y-graig	1	" " " " " " "
24 Dec. 1885	Maerdy	31	" " " " " " "
18 Feb. 1887	National	27	" " " " " " "
12 Aug. 1892	Great Western	58	Report of H.M. Inspector of Mines
28 Jan. 1896	Tylorstown	57	" " " " " " "
4 Aug. 1901	Dinas Level	4	" " " " " " "
23 Mar. 1903	Ferndale No. 5	1	" " " " " " "
9 Nov. 1904	Llwynypia No. 3	1	" " " " " " "
10 March 1905	Cambrian No. 1	33	" " " " " " "
11 July 1905	National No. 2	119	" " " " " " "
30 Oct. 1905	Ferndale No. 9	2	" " " " " " "
18 Aug. 1906	Pen-y-graig	2	" " " " " " "



A 'firedamp' explosion

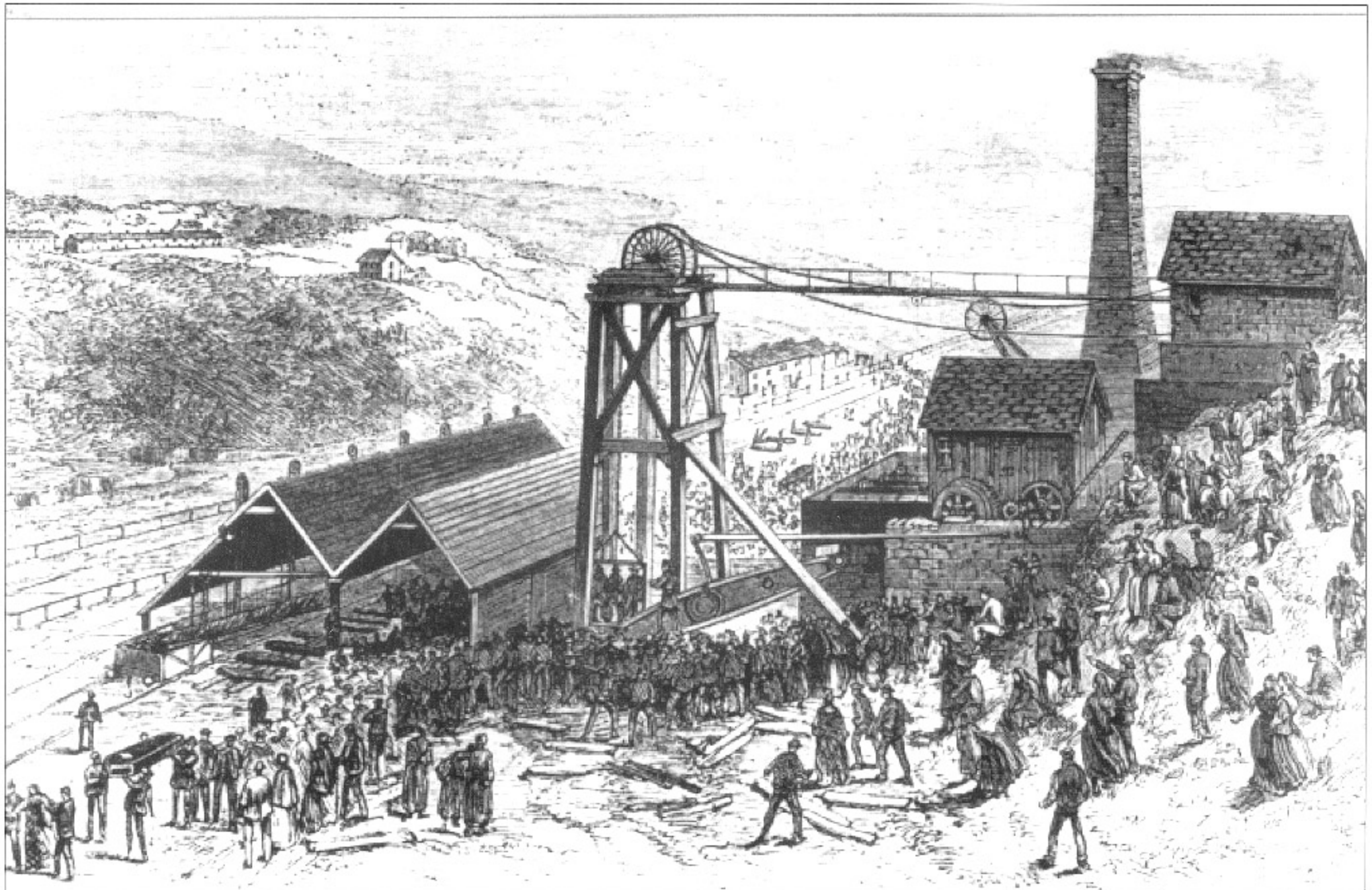
In Sad Remembrance of
63 MEN AND BOYS
 WHO WERE
KILLED IN THE MIDDLE PIT,
DINAS COLLIERY, RHONDDA VALLEY,
 BY AN EXPLOSION.
On Monday Night, January 13th, 1879.

Of this number there were 46 married and 11 single men, 3 boys under 18, and 3 widowers. The dependent relations are:—46 widows, 130 Children, 2 parents, and 3 sisters.

"DEATH COMES IN ALL SHAPES."

GAS

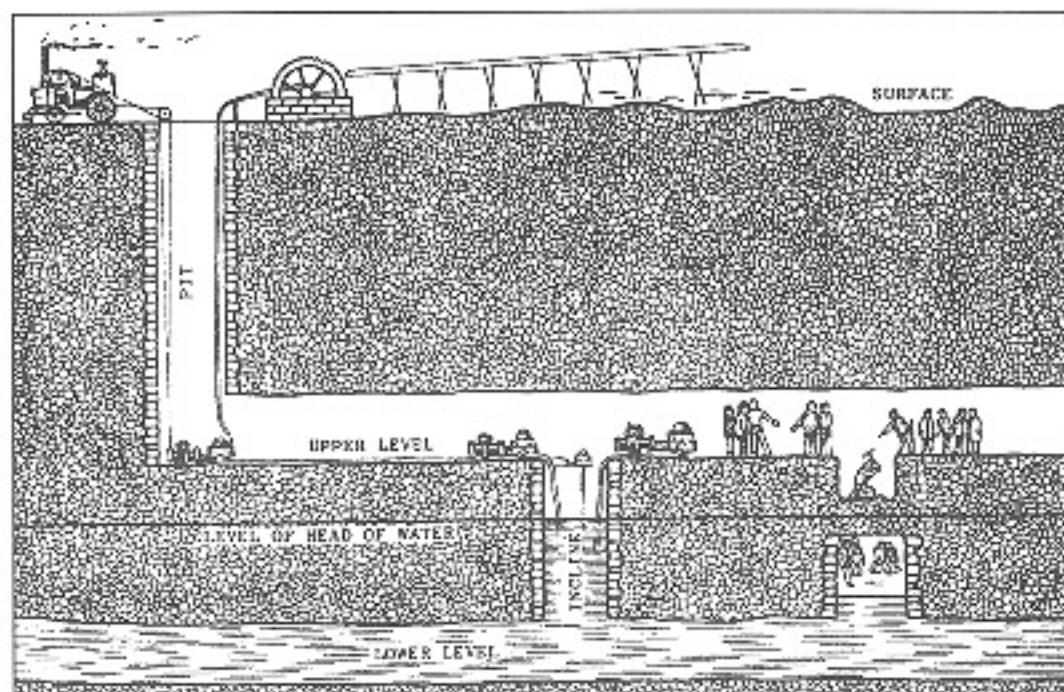
Coal seams produce several different types of dangerous gas, called "damp". "Firedamp" or methane which causes explosions. "Blackdamp" or "chokedamp", a mixture of carbon dioxide and nitrogen, is a very heavy gas which can cause suffocation. "Afterdamp" also causes suffocation because it contains carbon monoxide and is particularly dangerous because you can neither smell it nor see it. "Stinkdamp" is the miners' name for hydrogen sulphide which smells like rotten eggs.



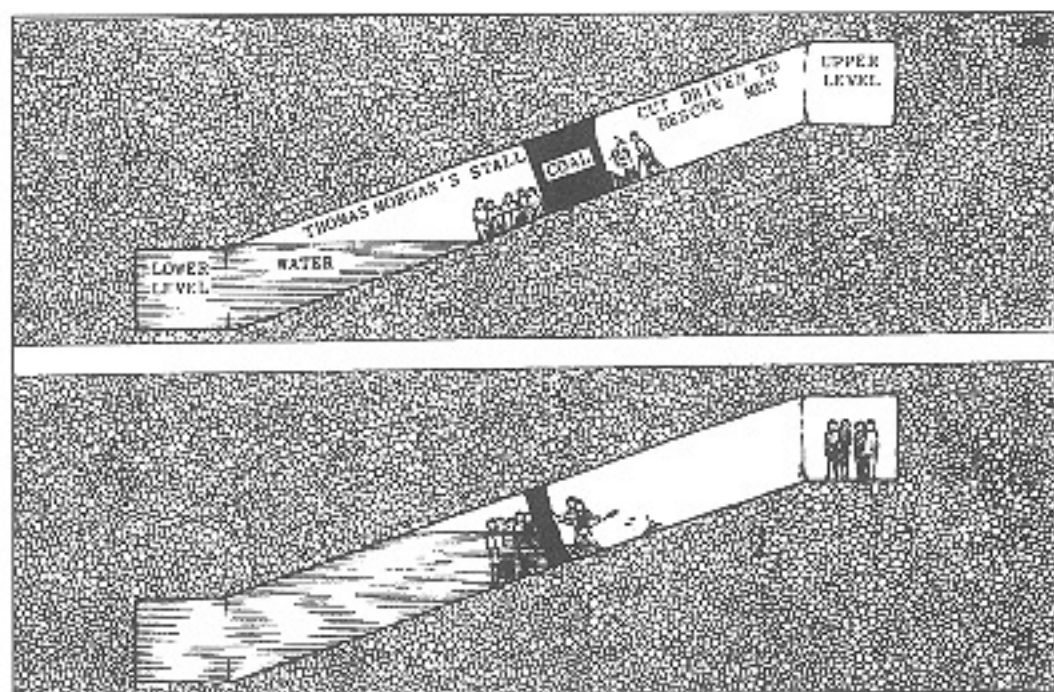
Explosion at Ferndale Colliery- bringing up the bodies.

3.18

FLOODING : THE TYNEWYDD DISASTER (1)



Lateral Section of the Mine and Workings.



Cross Sections of the Stalls and Cutting showing the Imprisoned Men and their Rescuers at Work.

It is well known that many explosions occurred in Rhondda pits in the past. More people died in fires or as a result of suffocation from gases following explosions than in the actual explosions themselves. What is not often realised is that, over the years, miners died from other causes, e.g. from drowning following a flood of water into a pit, from suffocation or starvation following entombment (burial), when all escape avenues from a colliery had been blocked. This could occur after a roof fall, a fire, a flood or an explosion.

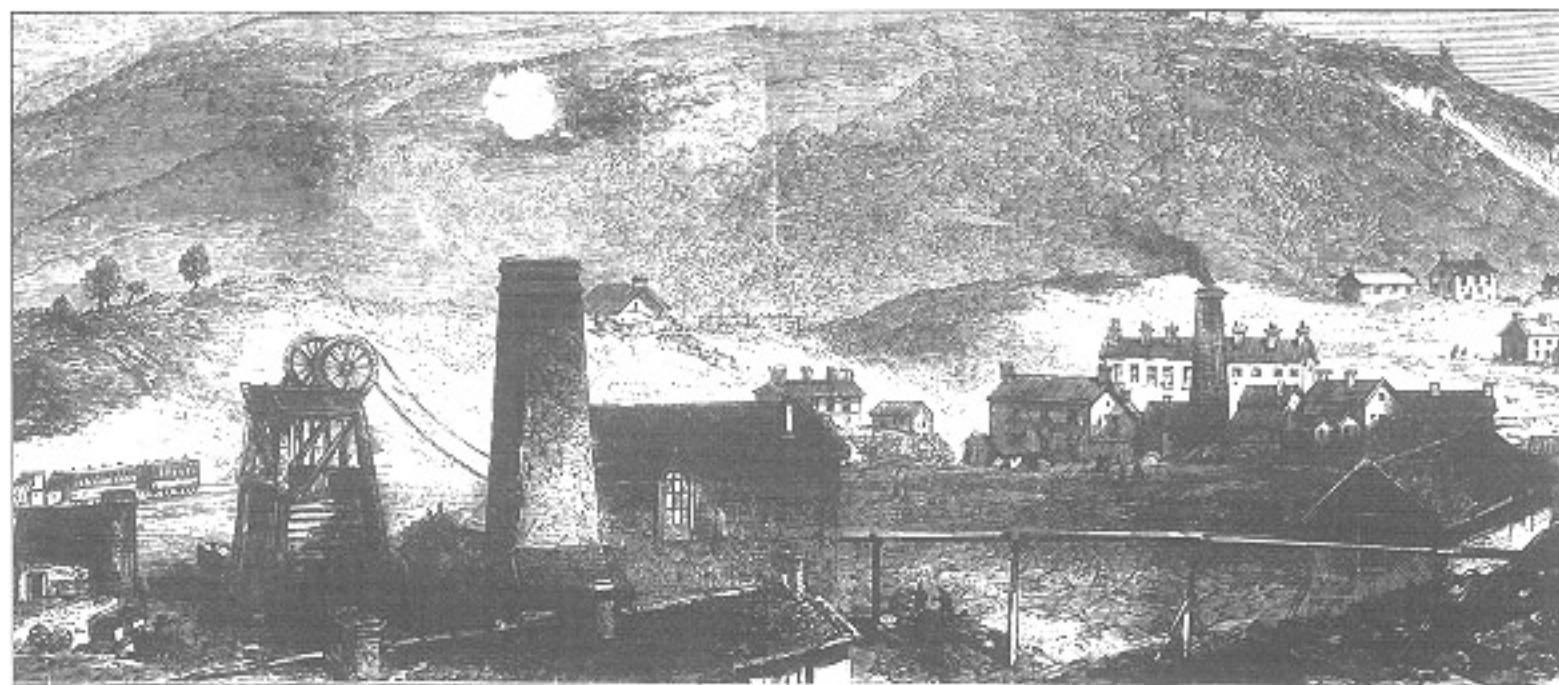
One local disaster happened at the Tynewydd Colliery, Porth, on April 11th 1877. Water from abandoned workings at the Old Cymmer Colliery, across the other side of the river, broke into the mine. Fortunately, the flooding happened at the end of a shift when only fourteen men were still left down the pit. These fourteen men were trapped down the mine by the water, which had rushed into the place where they had been working. A rescue attempt was soon under way.

Four men were rescued fairly quickly, but a fifth died during the rescue attempt. Later, four others were found dead. The remaining five were trapped in an air pocket underground. To reach the trapped men, it was necessary to cut through several metres of solid coal. This was a long and difficult task even for the rescue party, who were desperate to reach their trapped friends or "buddies".

Day after day passed and hopes of getting at the trapped men were fading. Three men volunteered to be in the final rescue team. They were Gwilym Thomas, Abraham Dodd and Isaac Pride. The Inspector of Mines was also at hand to help.

Nine days after the flooding, the dramatic rescue attempt succeeded in reaching the trapped men. The rescuers had heard tapping from the trapped men and this spurred the team on until they managed to cut through to the five and complete what had seemed to be an impossible rescue.

The bravery of the rescue team had been extraordinary and, for his outstanding effort, Isaac Pride was awarded The Albert Medal (First Class). The medal itself can now be seen at The National Museum of Wales in Cardiff.



Tynewydd Colliery, Porth and district. The heroic pit rescue.

3.18

FLOODING : THE TYNEWYDD DISASTER (1)



Illustration from The Graphic depicting the rescue team at work.

3.19

FLOODING : THE TYNEWYDD DISASTER (2)

"The Rescued"



On 11th April 1877 the Colliery, Porth, was flooded with water from the old workings of the nearby Upper Cymmer Colliery. Fourteen men were trapped. Four of these were drowned and one was killed by the rush of compressed air during a rescue attempt. Of the nine survivors, four were released after 18 hours and the remaining five after nine days. They are featured in this photograph (left to right) John Thomas, George Jenkins, David Hughes (aged 15), Moses Powell and David Jenkins.

"The Rescuers"



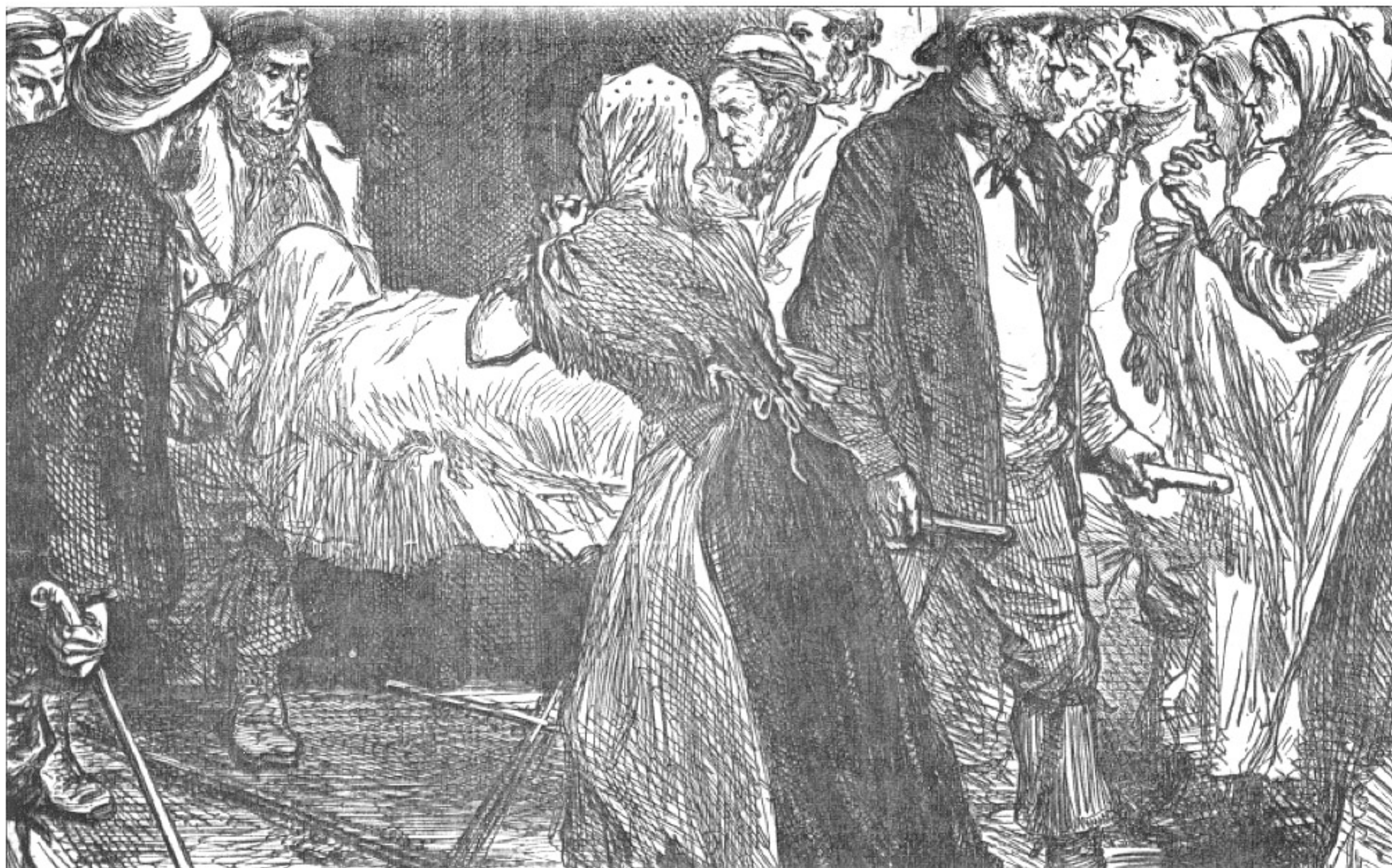
Tynewydd flood final rescue team. After tunnelling through 38 yards of coal in nine days, working in teams of four, the miners came within rescuing distance of their entombed workmates. This last stage was the most dangerous as they had no means of knowing whether the water level had fallen sufficiently by pumping - if not they would certainly have been drowned. The final onslaught and eventual rescue was made by three friends, Gwilym Thomas, Abraham Dodd and Isaac Pride, on Friday afternoon, 20th April 1877.



ISAAC PRIDE'S MEDAL

3.19

FLOODING : THE TYNEWYDD DISASTER (2)



Scene at the top of the pit.

LINES ON THE COLLIERY EXPLOSION AT PENNYGRAIG, RHONDDA VALLEY.

Where 14 or 15 Colliers were Burnt to Death; including Mr. Daniel Thomas, who wore the Albert Medal for his bravery in rescuing the entombed Miners at Tynwyd. (Tynwyd)

Air—Little Joe.

At Pennygraig Colliery a few days ago,
Many poor miners in death were laid low,
Among the brave men whose spirits have flown,
There was one gallant hero whose name is well-

known;
We mean Daniel Thomas, who the Queen's
Medal wore,
His life he had risked many times before,
He always was ready when danger was near,
In going down the coal mine he never showed fear

Chorus—

He died as he lived true-hearted and brave,
Poor Daniel Thomas has gone to his grave;
The Queen's Gold Medal on his breast used to
shine,
As one of the rescuers at Tynwyd Coal Mine.

The Pennygraig Colliery in the Valley known,
Where hundreds of miners to labour have gone,
By this sad explosion, poor men have died;
Distress through the Valley is spread far and
wide,
They were kill'd in a moment without chance
of life,

No time to say good bye to children or wife,
Poor little children fatherless to roam,
At the cottage door waiting for him to come home

Daniel Thomas with others went down the mine,
The destruction around gave terrible signs,
That death with its horrors had struck down the
men,
And burnt and disfigured they were lying then,

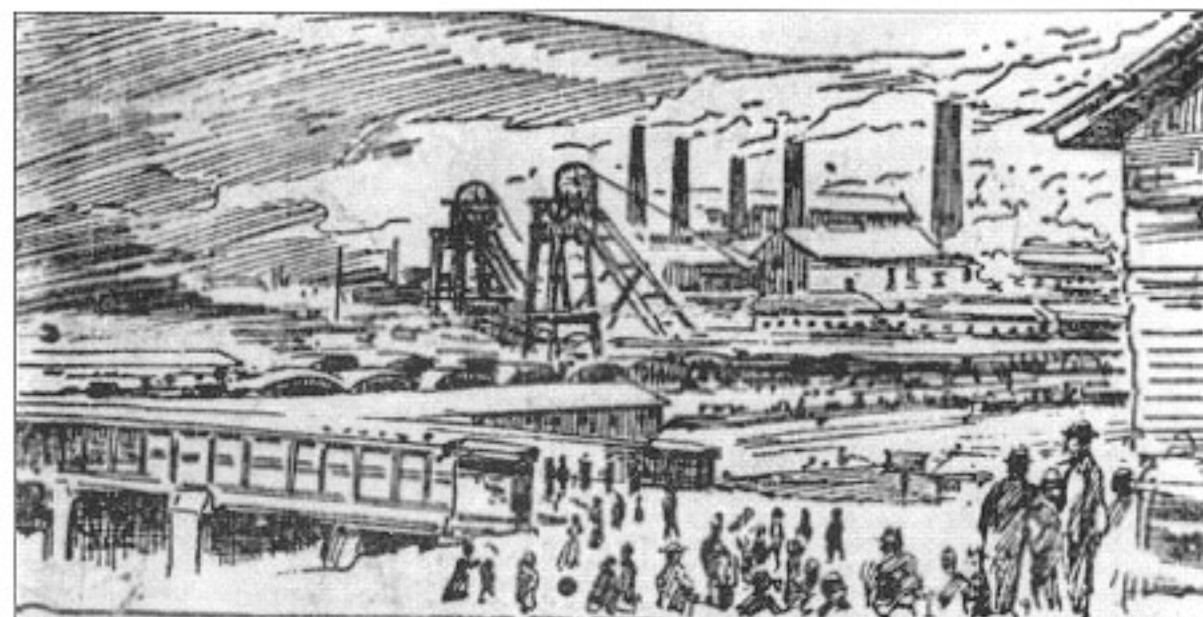
But that never daunted, the explorers that day
To search for the bodies they all took their way,
But death was in waiting for those men so brave
Trying to save life they have gone to the grave.

You know Daniel Thomas a few years ago,
For the entombed miners his courage did show,
Along with two others he work'd night and day,
Till the men from their prison were all got away;
Rewarded with Medals by our gracious Queen,
Beloved by his countrymen Daniel Thomas had
been;

They had raised a grand present to give to the
brave,
But alas he is dead and now in his grave.

Those poor men were married and had families
as well,
Their feelings this moment we cannot tell,
They all left their homes, never dreaming of
death,
In one fatal moment to draw their last breath,
The mine's in disorder, and no one can work,
The fiery gas in each corner still lurks,
It is hard that poor Colliers now must repine,
Midst starvation above, or with death in the mine

Daniel Thomas we hear was but thirty-five,
To benefit his workmen he always did strive,
A colliery owner he had no occasion to go,
To risk his own life in the coal mine below;
But he well knew the danger and felt for the men
And he could not forsake the poor sufferers then
Let this be the last words on the stone o'er his
grave,
Here lies Daniel Thomas the Welshman so brave



In Loving Memory OF THE Thirty-four Men

WHOSE LIVES WERE SACRIFICED IN THE

Terrible Explosion at the Cambrian Pit, Glydach Vale,

RHONDDA VALLEY,

On FRIDAY, MARCH 10th, 1905.

In both these examples, the effect on the miners' families was tragic. Often, the owners paid little or no compensation to the widows.

FRIGHTFUL EXPLOSION AT THE FERNDALE COLLIERY.

FIFTY TWO LIVES LOST!

THE LIST OF THE KILLED

Who had been brought to the surface are given under death as accurately as it was possible to gather them under the circumstances:—

BLAENLLECHA ROAD.

Thomas Jones, married, 28 years; leaves a wife and one child.

LONG ROW.

William Matthews and Abraham Matthews, No. 32, both sons of William Matthews.

John Edwards, No. 38, married, leaves a wife and four children.

John James, widower, No. 5, leaves one daughter.

John Jones and John Matthews, single men, No. 8.

Daniel James, single, and James Harris, who leaves a wife and one child, No. 24.

James Nash, who leaves a wife and child, and Evan Richards, married (body not yet recovered), No. 27.

Morgan Jones, a boy of 13 years, and David Jones, single man.

Thomas Elliott, No. 30, leaves a wife and two children.

William Matthews, No. 32.

Dendigo Wicks, single, 25.

UPPER ROW.

Thomas Thomas, single, aged 30.

Evan Phillips, No. 7, single.

Jacob Matthews, No. 5, leaving a wife and four children, and Thomas Thomas, a lodger.

CHAPEL ROW.

William Llewellyn, No. 12, single, 18 years.

MARTINET SQUARE.

William Roderick, No. 6, single, 23 years, and George Allen, single, 33 years.

George Benjamin, married man with two children, 40 years, and James Griffiths, lodger, 23 years.

CROSS-STREET.

William Jones, married.

James Morgan, married.

Thomas Evans, married.

David Samuels and his two sons.

FOUNTAIN-STREET.

John Davies, lodger.

Abel Dore, single, about 17 years of age.

Thomas Price, married, about 35 years.

MAXWELL-STREET.

George Chamberlain, single, 18 years.

Charles Taylor, married, leaving 7 children.

Thomas Thomas, single.

PONTFRIDG ROAD.

Samuel Gray, married, leaving a wife and four little girls.

DAVIES STREET.

David Williams, single, 22.

Richard Llewellyn Morris, single, 22; Samuel Davies, single, 26.

PIT ROW.

Thomas James, a boy of 13 years.

DOUBLE ROW.

John Thomas, married, leaving a wife and one child; and James Wilkins, lodger, 13 years.

Edward Waddleton, married, about 30 years, leaving a wife and one child.

It will be seen that 15 corpses were taken to one row alone—Long-row—and in five houses there were two bodies. William Matthews, the father of the two lads lying at No. 32, was working at another part of the pit at the time of the explosion, and is said to have had the sad duty of recovering the body of his eldest son. The father of Morgan Jones, lying in the admo. row, was brought up also from another part of the working.

4.1

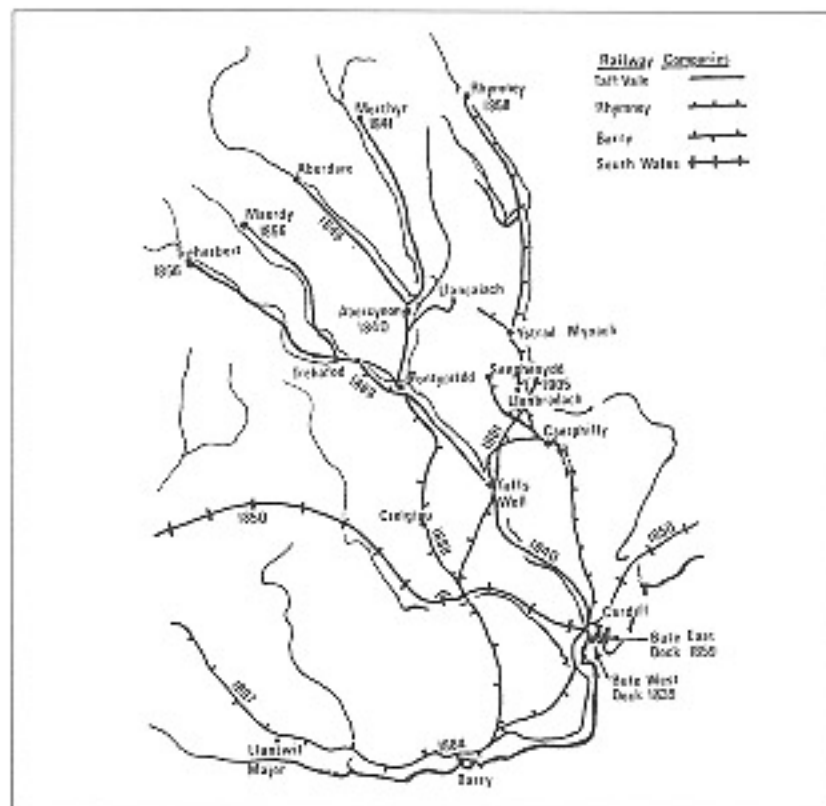
GETTING THE COAL TO THE PORTS

TRAMROADS

South Wales has many mountains and deep valleys, this meant that it was very difficult to dig canals. Canals have to be built on fairly level ground. There were some canals built in South Wales, one of these was the Glamorgan canal. This was built between Cardiff and Merthyr.

Coalowners in the Rhondda decided to build tram roads from their pits to the canal at Treforest. A tram road was like a railway line, but the wagons of coal were pulled by horses.

Walter Coffin built a tram road in 1810 from his pit in Dinas to the canal at Treforest. On the return journey to the pit, the wagons carried passengers. Many of the passengers were women who had been shopping in the new market town of Pontypridd.



The Building of the Railways

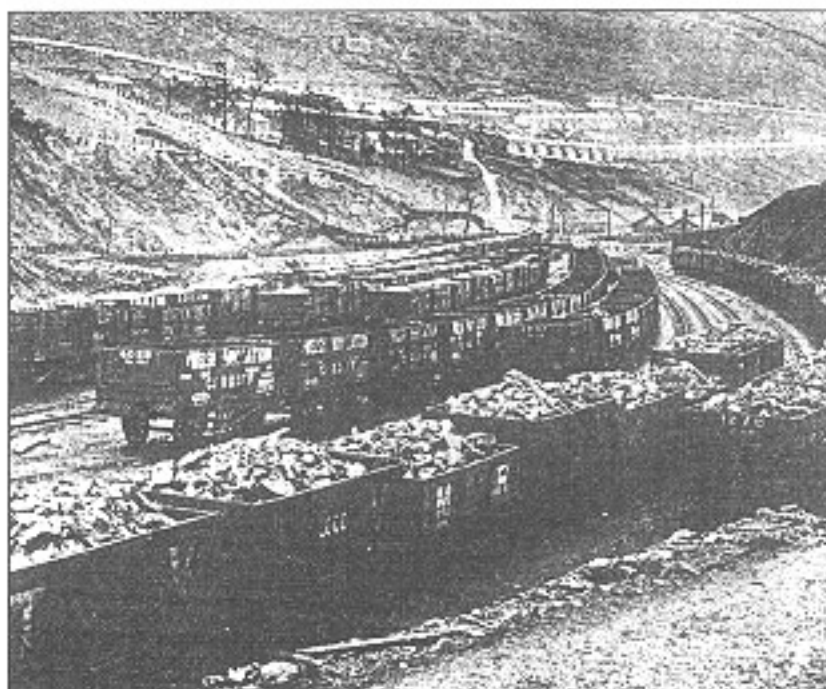
RAILWAYS

It was the coming of railways that really opened up the Rhondda Valleys and made the great coal and export boom possible.

The Taff Vale Railway (T.V.R.) was the first public railway to penetrate the Rhondda Valleys. By June 1841 a four mile branch line was built from Pontypridd to Dinas. By 1856 the T.V.R. was completed throughout the whole length of the Rhondda Fawr Valley and by 1877 the railway extended as far as Maerdy in the Rhondda Fach. The completion of the T.V.R. throughout the Rhondda Valleys led to the development of mining in the northern half of the Valleys. In 1849 the T.V.R. felt there were greater coal deposits in the upper reaches of the Rhondda and offered a prize of £500 to anyone who could find the deep coal seams. In 1853 the first steam-coal pit was sunk at Cwmsaerbren, Treorchy. This pit marked the discovery of the deep seams of steam-coal used as fuel to drive ships and locomotives.



Horse drawn wagons on an old tramroad.



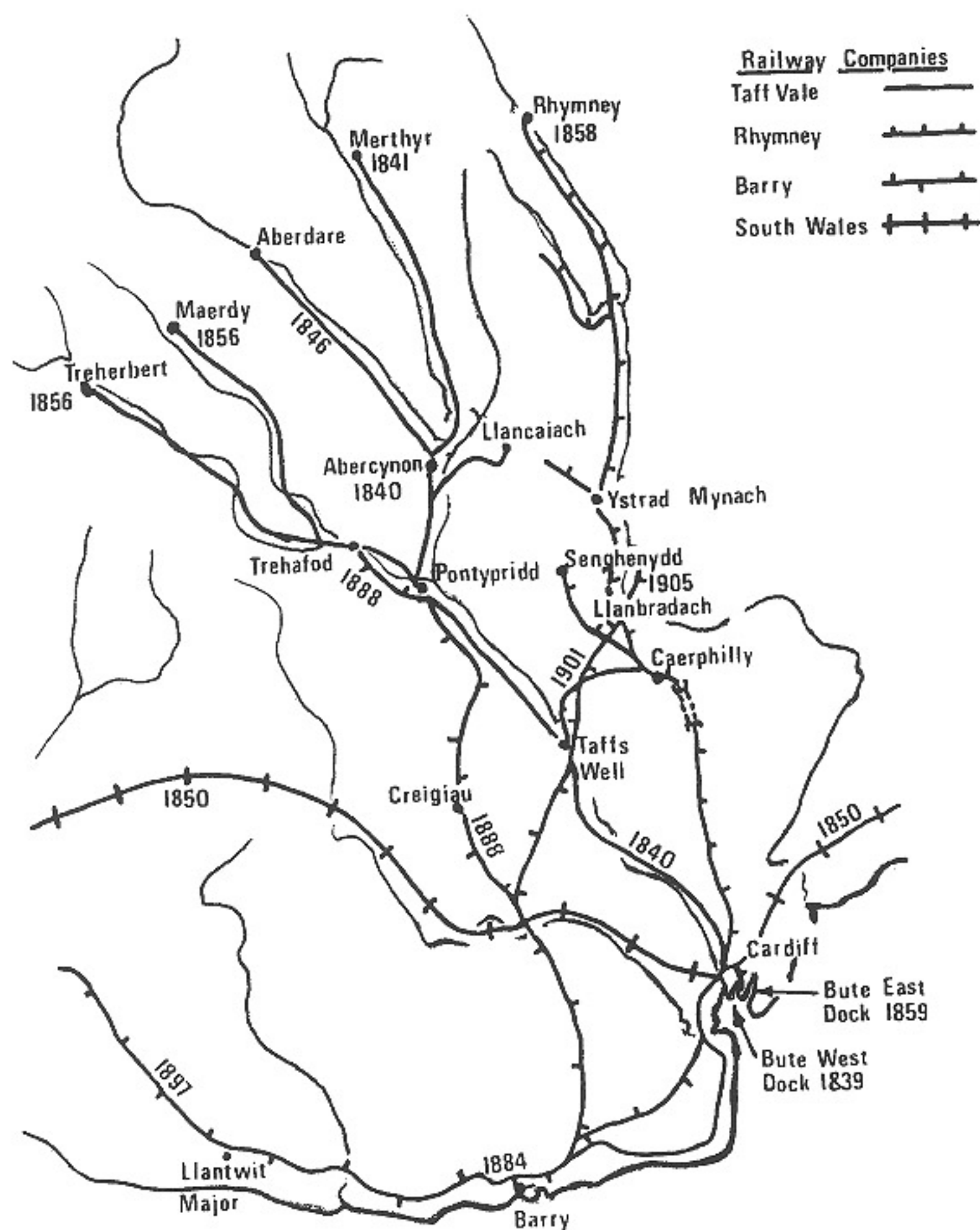
Coal wagons at the railway sidings near Ferndale colliery.

The Railways of the Rhondda Coalfield (1841 - 1914)

Date Authorized	Date Opened	Railway	District Served	Port
1840	1841	Taff Vale Railway	Pontypridd - Eirw	Cardiff
1846	1849	"	Eirw - Dinas - Ynys-hir	"
	1856	"	Dinas - Treherbert	"
	1859	"	Ynys-hir - Ferndale	"
1857	1864	Ely Valley Railway	Llantrisant - Pen-y-graig	Cardiff & Penarth
	1877	"	Pen-y-graig - Blaenclydach	"
	1877	Privately owned (Meredecai Jones)	Ferndale - Maerdy	Cardiff
1878	1887	Pontypridd and Caerphilly Railway	Rhondda - Pontypridd	Newport
1884	1889	Barry Railway	Hafod - Barry	Barry
1882	1894	Rhondda & Swansea Bay Railway	Treherbert - Briton Ferry	Port Talbot
1898	1910	Cardiff Railway	Treforest - Cardiff (Passenger only)	Swansea

THE BUILDING OF THE RAILWAYS

4.1



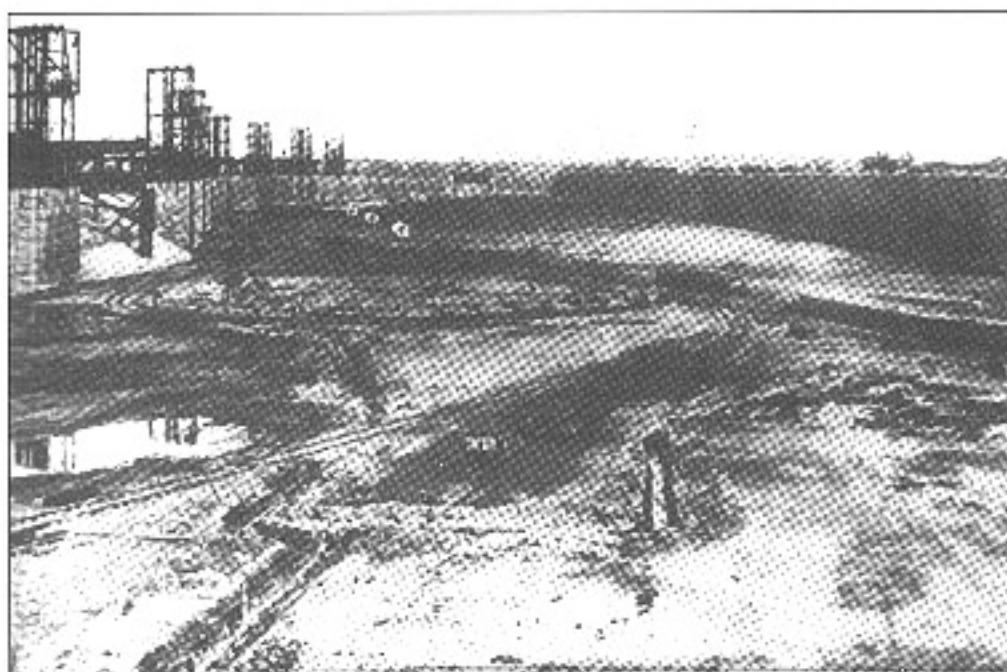
4.2

THE NEED FOR A PORT

BARRY DOCKS

In the 1870s, the Taff Vale Railway (T.V.R.) was still the only means of sending the Rhondda coal to its port at Cardiff. At this time demand for Rhondda coal increased at an astonishing rate. Railway and dock authorities were caught unprepared. As early as 1873, the owner of the Ocean Collieries, David Davies, warned the Taff Vale Railway Company, "Look here, if you are going to carry our coal, you had better move sharp and in the right direction too."

As time went on, the situation became worse. Not only were the T.V.R. and Cardiff Docks slow in exporting the coal, but also slow in bringing goods into the rapidly growing Rhondda Valleys. Rhondda Coalowners also felt that the charges made by Cardiff Docks were too high. Rhondda Coalowners, led by David Davies "the Ocean", decided that the time had come to build a dock elsewhere. They chose Barry. Of course, a dock would be of no use without a railway to bring the coal to it. So, in 1884, they formed the "Barry Dock and Railway Company." When the Barry Dock and Railway Bill appeared before the House of Commons, the T.V.R.'s spokesman asked David Davies where he thought he could ever get the money to build a dock at Barry. He doubted if a man who had been a sawyer at the beginning of his career could find sufficient money to build a dock. David Davies replied that he was not a sawyer but a Top-Sawyer, the man who stood at the top of the saw-pit, and that he would be very pleased to send the money up in coal trucks in gold sovereigns to Parliament if they wanted to see it. The dock was eventually built and, on the 18th July 1889, was opened. By the end of the same year, over a million tonnes of coal had been exported from Barry Docks.



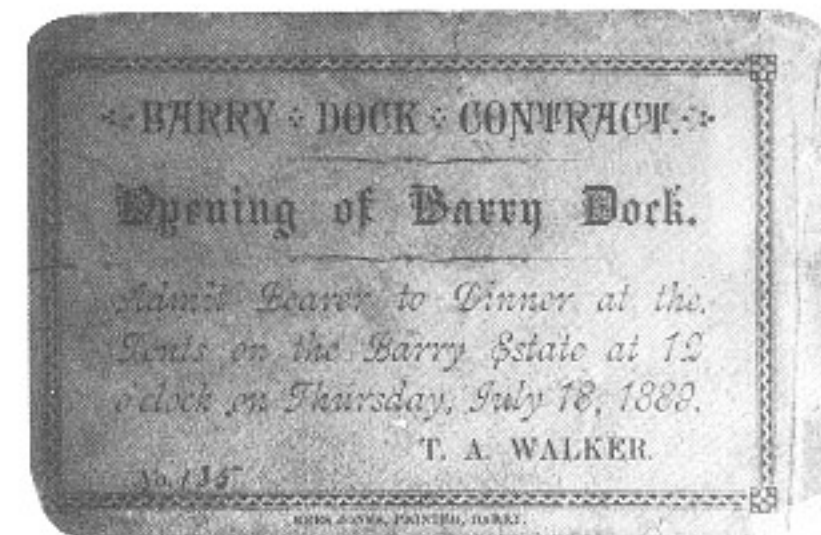
Construction of No. 1 Docks.

"We have five million tons of coal and we can fill a thundering good dock the first day we open it."

DAVID DAVIES, HOUSE OF COMMONS, 1882.



Sail and Steam ships, Barry Docks



An invitation card to the Opening of Barry Docks

Export of Coal and Coke from Cardiff and Barry Docks
1885 - 1914

Year	Cardiff	Barry
1885	6,678,133	-
1895	7,542,220	5,051,822
1905	7,294,020	8,651,511
1914	10,278,963	10,875,510



Coal awaiting shipment, Barry Docks.

The railways gave ordinary people the chance to travel. Trains enabled them to travel longer distances - and to get there more quickly! Summer excursions to places as far away as London gave working people a chance to see a completely different way of life. Sunday Schools used the train for outings to seaside places such as Barry Island and Porthcawl.

Special trains were also run to West Wales at holiday times such as Christmas to give the many mine workers and their families who came from that area, a chance to go home to visit their relatives. Excursion trains sometimes brought people into the Rhondda to allow them to visit special events which were being held in the valley.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

GLAMORGANSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SHOW

At Treorky, July 31st, & Aug. 1st.

On WEDNESDAY, JULY 31st, & THURSDAY, AUG. 1st, 1889

CHEAP TICKETS

WILL BE ISSUED AS SOON AS

TREORKY

(VIA LLANTRISANT).

FROM	TIME	FARES TO AND FROM THIRD CLASS
	A.M.	s. d.
Swansea	9 40	6 2
Llanelli	10 0	5 10
Llanamlet	10 5	5 8
Dynevor	10 15	5 5
Neath	10 25	5 1
Briton Ferry	10 30	4 9
Port Talbot	10 40	3 11
Pyle	10 55	3 12
Bridgend	11 10	2 8
Pencard	11 20	

The Return Train will leave Treorky at 5.20 p.m. the same day.

No Luggage Allowed.

Children under Three years of age, Free; above Three and under Twelve, Half-price.

The Tickets are not transferable, and are only available on the day of issue, to and from the Stations named upon them, and by the Trains Specified in this bill; if used otherwise, the full Ordinary Fare will be charged.

PENYDOL, 20th, 1889

WY. LAMBERT, General Manager.

PRINTED BY J. R. DAVIES, 2, WELSHY STREET, SWANSEA.

TAFF VALE RAILWAY.

DAY EXCURSION TO BRISTOL.

On MONDAY, JULY 13th, 1908.

AN EXCURSION TRAIN will be run to

BRISTOL

(Via Taff Vale & Great Western Railway)

STATIONS.	Time of Departure.	Third Class Return Fares.	
	a.m.	s.	d.
Treherbert	8 20		
Treherby	8 25	3	6
Yarnall	8 35		
Penryn	8 44		
Penryn and Treherby	8 48	3	3
Glenn	8 41		
Marble	8 45	3	6
Penryn	8 49		
Tylerstown	8 50		
Yayshir	8 59		
Port	9 01		
Treherby	9 04		
Yayshir	9 10	3	3
Penryn	9 20		
Treherby	9 26		
Treherby	9 28		
Port	9 40		
Glenn	9 45		

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

ON

Friday, December 24th, 1909

EXCURSION TRAINS will be run to
NEWCASTLE EMLYN,
PEMBROKE DOCK, MILFORD HAVEN,
CARDIGAN, FISHGUARD, Etc.

Via Treherbert, R. and S. B. Rly, as under:

STATIONS FROM	Times of Departure		FARES TO AND FRO, THIRD CLASS		
	Friday Morning	Friday Night	To Llanelli, Brynamman, Brynna, and Lampeter	To Newland, Milford Haven, Pembroke Dock, & via various ports Tenby, Fishguard and Cardigan	To Aberystwyth
	A a.m.	B p.m.	s d	s d	s d
Pontypridd	8 50	11 30	13 0	13 0	13 6
Trehafod	8 55	11 35			
*Maerdy	8 20	10 35			
*Femdale	8 28	10 40			
*Tylorstown	8 30	10 45			
*Ynyshir	8 35	10 55			
Porth	9 5	11 40			
Dinas	9 10	11 45			
Tonypandy & Treolaw ...	9 15	11 50			
Llwynypia	9 20	11 55			
Ystrad	9 25	12 0			
Treorchy	9 30	12 5			

* Passengers from these stations change at Porth.

A Through train (via Court Sart Jet.) for Llanelli, Carmarthen and all stations beyond. Through coaches to Aberystwyth.

B Passengers change at Treherbert into R. & S. B. Railway train leaving at 12.30a.m. (Christmas Morning), also at Briton Ferry from R. & S. B. Railway train to G.W.R. train which leaves at 1.50a.m. for Llanelli, Carmarthen and all stations beyond, except Sarnau and Clabeston Road.

On Christmas Morning the G.W.R. Co. will run Special Trains on the following branches in connection with this train:-

5-20 a.m. Llanelli to Llandovery

6-55 a.m. Llanelli to Brynamman

5-30 a.m. Carmarthen to Newcastle Emllyn and Aberystwyth, with Road Cars to Newquay & Aberyston in connection.

5-30 a.m. Whitland to Cardigan

5-55 a.m. Whitland to Pembroke Dock

8-30 a.m. Clynderwen to Fishguard (via Rosebush)

6-35 a.m. Johnston to Milford Haven

A Special Road Motor Car will be run from Carmarthen to Llanstephan at 5-30 a.m.

The Tickets will be available to return by any Ordinary Train having a through connection on any Week-day up to and including Friday, January 7th.

Children under Twelve Years of Age Half-price.

60lbs. of Luggage allowed Free under the Passenger's own care, for which the Company will not be responsible.

4.4

PASSENGER TRAINS

In the Afternoon.

A TEA PARTY

Will be given to

The Sunday School Children

By the inhabitants, while the

Day School Children

Will be similarly entertained by Mrs.
Thomas of Bryntawel.

DR. GRIFFITHS, Chairman.
MR. G. THOMAS, Treasurer.
D. EVANS (Eos Dar), Secretary.

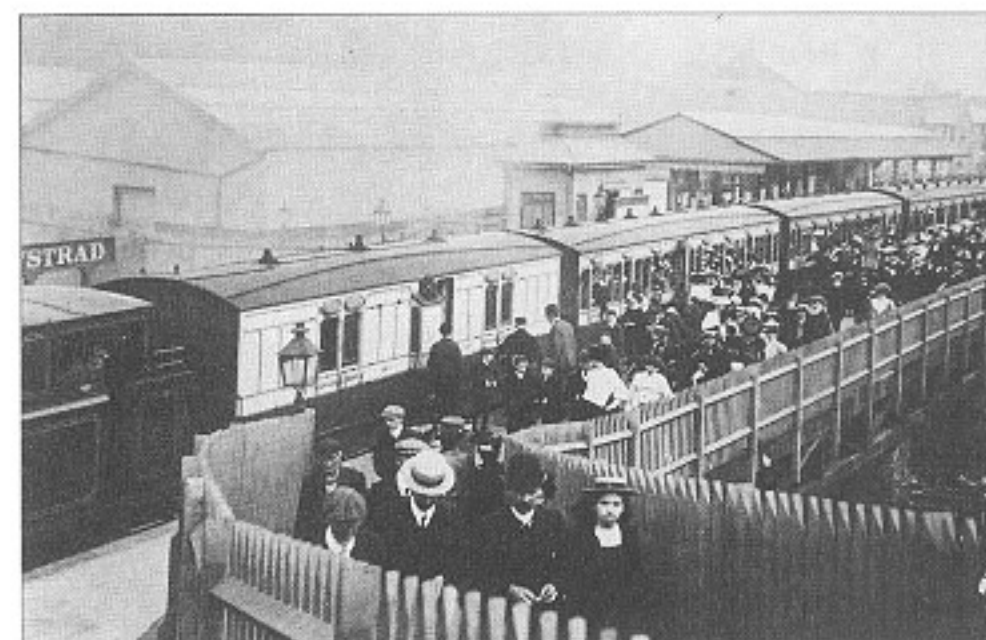
E. Jenkins, Newsagent, Mardy.

PASSENGERS ON THE RAILWAYS

When the T.V.R. was first built, it was used to carry coal. There were no passenger trains in the Rhondda Valley.

From 1888 to 1898, the first Monday in each month was a miners' holiday. It was called Mabon's Day, after the miners' leader who organised it. On this day, the railways ran a passenger service. The miners and their families could go on outings to Pontypridd or Cardiff for shopping or to Barry and Penarth to visit the seaside.

After 1891, a great effort was made by the railway companies to increase the number of passengers carried. Platforms were built at stations and, whenever a station was opened for passenger use, there were big celebrations. It was an important event and the whole village turned out to take part in it.



Ystrad Station (Taff Vale Railway).

There were very strict rules drawn up by the T.V.R. for their workmen. They called their workmen "servants of the company". There were 800 rules altogether. Very few people today would accept such rules in their work.

Here are a few examples:-

12. Every person is to come on duty daily, clean in his person and clothes, shaved, and his shoes blacked.
26. It is urgently requested every person . . . on Sundays and Holy Days, when he is not required on duty, that he will attend a place of worship; as it will be a means of promotion when vacancies occur.
40. Not any instance of intoxication, singing, whistling or levity, while on duty will be overlooked . . .
94. All the Servants of the Company, are to place sand or gravel upon the rails, when they perceive, or hear that an Engine is slipping.
277. All persons, especially those in uniform, are to keep their hair cut. . .
311. Persons having passes are to ride in the fourth wagon from the last in the train, and at all times in a sitting position upon the bottom of the wagon.
428. No person can become a Station Master . . . unless he is married.

"CYMRU FU, CYMRU FYDD"

OPENING
OF THE
Mardy Railway & Station
FOR
PASSENGER TRAFFIC
18th June, 1889.

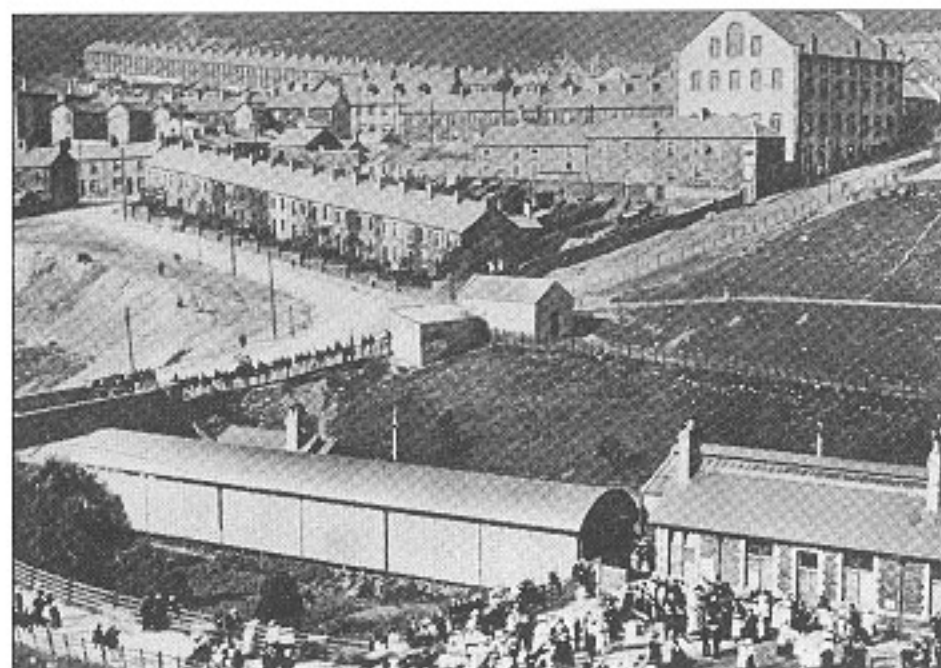
"Welcome, prince of speed and power,
"Welcome, day of song and flower,
"Welcome, long expected hour,
"On the Mardy Hills."

PROGRAMME OF THE DAY

A Procession will be formed at Mardy at 10.30 a.m., led by the Mardy Brass Band, and will proceed from thence to Ferndale Station to meet the Owners of Mardy Colliery, the Directors of the Taff Vale Railway, and other distinguished visitors arriving by the 11.45 a.m. train and there join the line for Mardy. On arrival of the train at Mardy all will proceed to the Recreation Ground, where a Public Meeting will be held under the presidency of D. Griffiths Esq., M.B.

De'wch eiddo chwila allan.
Yn llysoedd - Hawn o ddi - Cwrsen

Maerdy Railway Station.



Opening of Maerdy Railway and Station.

CYCLING

Cycling was an extremely popular activity with the people of the Rhondda at the end of the 19th century and the start of the 20th. People rode bicycles to get to work and for leisure.

Bicycle racing was strongly supported and a special track was built at Tonypany for racers from all over the country to compete on.

There were a large number of Rhondda shops building, selling and repairing bicycles and there was even a "riding school" for learner cyclists which was run by the Timothy family at Ton Pentre.

Local newspapers contained many advertisements for new and second-hand bicycles which were for sale in the area and elsewhere in the country.

Some newspapers had special articles for cyclists which gave them useful information and advice. Cyclists did not always keep to the law and court cases against these "Scorching Cyclists" were often reported in the local newspaper.



Cyclists standing outside Timothy's riding school.

"Everybody rides a bicycle now, or wants to. To those who are just setting out to learn I should like to call attention to Timothy's riding school at Ton. It is unquestionably one of the largest and most finely appointed riding schools in South Wales. The teachers are experts in teaching riding, and they have every appliance from a home-trainer to a track to assist them in their work. Those who wish to learn to ride quickly, gracefully and safely cannot do better than take a few lessons at this popular school."

Advertisement for Timothy's Riding School

Court cases from the Rhondda Leader

A Scorching Cyclist.

Evan T. Jones, engine-driver, Pen-y-graig, was summoned for furiously riding a bicycle. P.C. Dolby said he saw three cyclists riding along Cemetery Road, Tre-slaw, and when the front rider saw him he cried out "Look out chaps, there's a copper in front." They dashed past at a pace of 15 miles an hour. One of them gave a false name and address, while Jones neglected to appear in Court, so a warrant was issued for his arrest. Later on in the day Jones appeared, and said he was "innocent of the crime." He was not going at more than six miles an hour. The constable, he stated, had proved his (Jones') case in saying that the front rider had pulled up when going at 15 miles an hour. That was impossible, so they must have been going slower.

P.C. Adams also gave evidence, and said he saw the three cyclists riding over Tre-slaw bridge at the rate of 15 or 16 miles an hour. That night defendant came to the Trecynon police station and asked Adams to overlook the offence which would not occur again. Defendant was fined £2.

Scorching Cyclists.

William Dennis, Gomer Dennis, and Thomas Mordecai, cyclist, Pen-y-graig, were summoned for furiously riding down the main road leading to the railway station. It was stated that they were riding at the rate of 15 miles an hour. They were fined £1 each.

A Scorching Cyclist.

Furiously riding a bicycle was the charge heard against Hugh Jenkins, collier, Pen-tre, who was seen by P.C. David Davies, to be riding down the Woodfield Hill, Pen-tre, on the 20th ult at a pace of 14 or 15 miles an hour. Jenkins denied the offence. At best he could not ride faster than 10 miles an hour. Defendant was fined 5s.

4.6

ROADS AND BRIDGES

Before the colliery companies came to Rhondda, the roads were mostly muddy tracks in winter and dusty ones in summer. It was the companies that built roads but these were not really able to deal with the increasing amount of traffic as the population grew. Between 1890 and 1914 local councils made efforts to improve the roads. There was still only one narrow main road running the length of each of the two valleys and meeting at Tynnewydd in Porth, but they were described as,

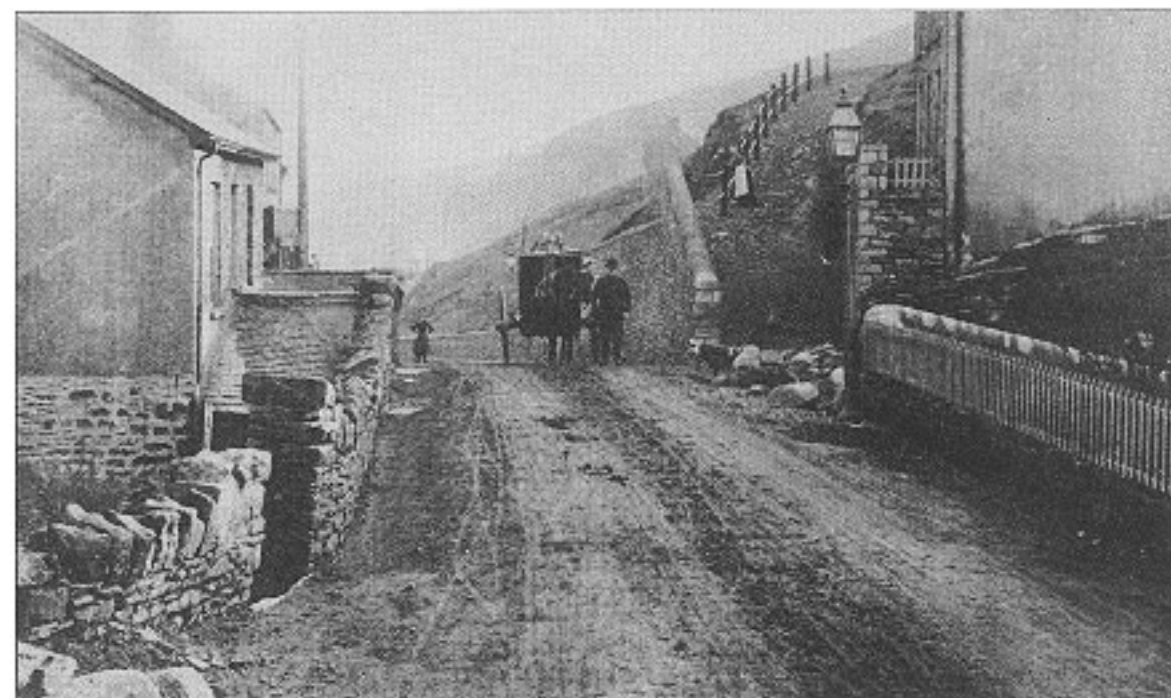
"inconveniently congested and totally inadequate for the requirements of modern traffic".

Report of Sanitary Inspector for Pentre to M.O.H. 1909.

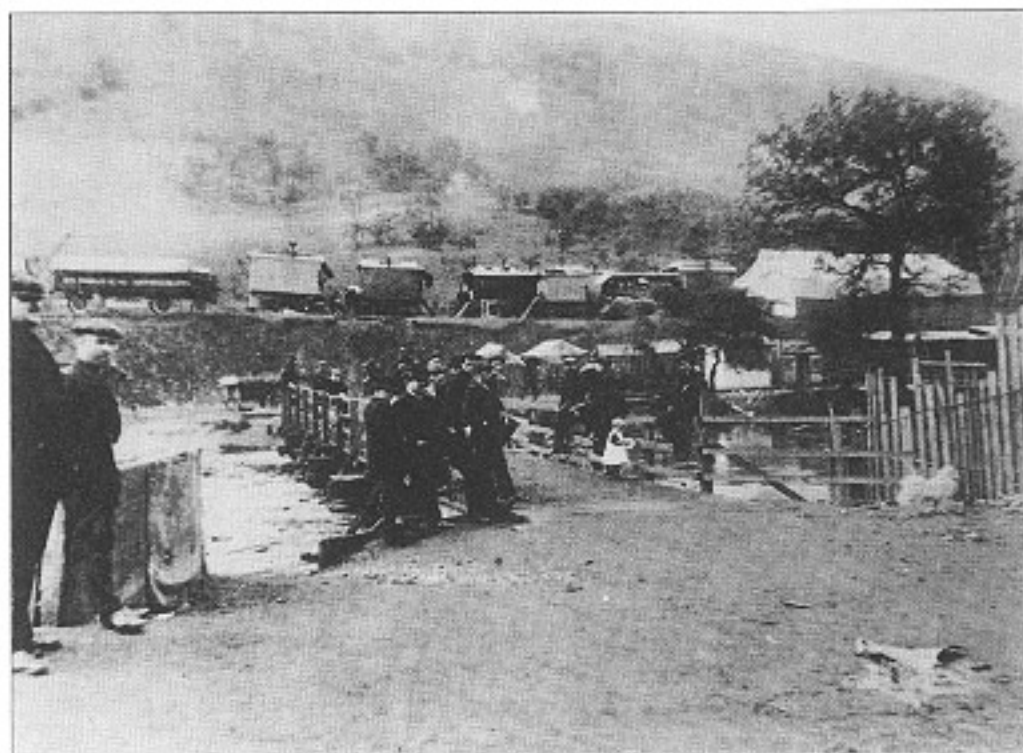
After 1906, the problem of the roads was made worse by the laying of the electric tramway rails all over the valley. Where the rivers had to be crossed, bridges were needed. There was only one stone bridge, "Y Bont Fawr", at Cymmer, Porth. All the other bridges were made of wood and these were often washed away by floods.

From 1906, the laying of the electric tramway made the situation even worse: "... in certain places, there is barely room for vehicles to pass the tramcar, and in certain places for a person to stand on the roadway even. In some places, the road does not reach the level of the track by two or three inches, thus making it impossible for drivers of carts, cabs, etc., to observe the rule of the road."

REPORT OF M.O.H. TO R.U.D.C.
(1910).



Tynycymmer Hill, Dinas.



River Bridge, Pentre.

THE SWAMP

"I remember well," he said, "the first time I came to preach at Noddfa. It was in January, 1869, and I alighted from the train at Ystrad Station. Proceeding in the direction of Treorchy, I came to the spot known as the "Swamp" - it was a real swamp then, and was covered with water - and I had to wade through it with water reaching to my knees. I preached that Sunday morning in my wet clothes."

DR. W. MORRIS :
"REMINISCENCES OF THE RHONDDA"
RHONDDA LEADER 19TH JULY 1919.



Porth Square with 'Y Bont Fawr'



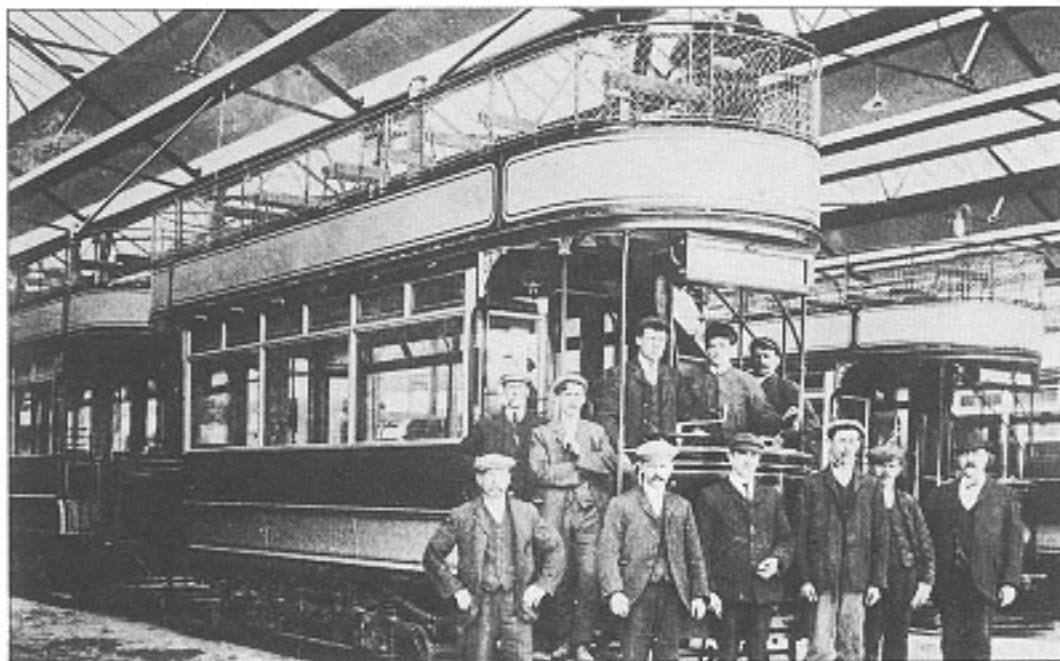
Apple tree, Dinas 1904. One of the earliest parts of the Rhondda to be developed

The introduction of a tramcar service in the Rhondda Valleys was very popular with local people, but the railway companies were not happy to see the new services start.

The running of tramcars in the Rhondda meant that the people living in the two valleys found it far easier to travel between the villages for shopping and to work. Although the idea of running trams in the Rhondda has been discussed in the 1890s, not all were in favour. It was not until 11th July 1908 that the first trams actually carried fare-paying passengers in the valleys. Difficulties with the supply of electricity meant only ten tramcars could be used at this time. Before this, a number of trips had been made to test out the tramcars and the tracks, and the people of the Rhondda formed crowds to watch this new form of transport.

The first services ran from Trehafod to Partridge Square, Llwynypia in the Rhondda Fawr and as far as Pontygwaith in the Rhondda Fach. By 2nd September, the tramcar services had been extended to Pentre in the Fawr and Ferndale in the Fach.

By April of 1912, the number of tramcars in use had been increased to fifty. About three hundred people were employed in the depot at Porth. Tramcars were now running as far up the Fawr as Tynewydd and as far as Maerdy at the top of the Fach, also passing through Tonypany, Penygraig and on to Williamstown. However, some areas of the Rhondda were never able to welcome the tram service even though it was planned that they should. The line throughout the valley was usually single-track but had passing loops at various places along its length.



Workers and tramcars inside the Porth depot.

A Day of Days A Tramcar Trip in the Rhondda. Annie Jones' Memorable Ride.

"There were at least a dozen happy men in the Rhondda on Monday afternoon, who, at the kind invitation of Mr. H. J. Nisbett, the general manager of the Rhondda Tramway Company, were privileged to board one of the first cars that was ever seen wending its tortuous way through the Rhondda Valleys.

We were whisked out into the main road, the objects of an admiring and envious crowd. We started on our career up the Rhondda Fach, and were given a hearty send-off by the assembled populace. Our tour was nothing short of a triumphal progress. It was like a State pageant, and men, women and children in every degree of attire rushed out to the doors and on to the pavements to catch a glimpse of the 'new age.'

"The Chairman, after recounting the opposition experienced at the hands of the Taff Vale Railway, said that the total passengers carried from 11th July to 26th November was 2,552,537, the average number per week being 127,000. The average number per week for six weeks ending 26th November was 157,205, and the number for the week ending November 21st was 162,219. The Chairman also stated that the company were in negotiations with the Board of Trade to get their sanction to put top covers on the cars, and if consent was obtained, they hoped to experiment with twenty or thirty cars to see what would happen. He trusted that by the end of a complete year's full working, when they had had cars with top covers in service, they would have carried 10,000,000 passengers."

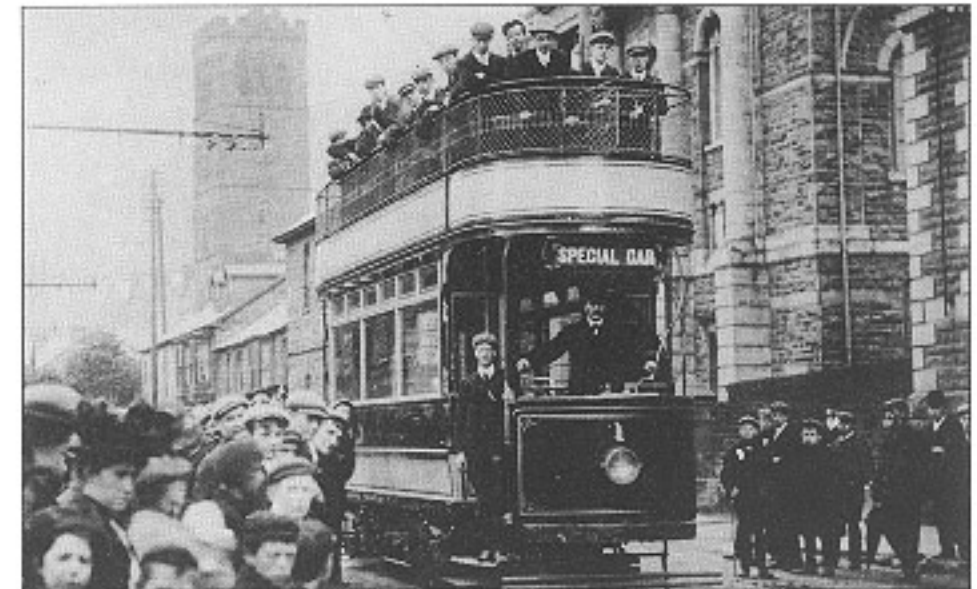
The Rhondda Leader, 1908

Refusing to pay fines

"At the instance of the Rhondda Tramways Company several persons were proceeded against at Porth on Thursday for having refused to pay their legal fares, according to the list displayed in the tramcars.

Traffic Superintendent Roddy prosecuted and explained that the proceedings had been taken in the interest of the travelling public. He had never met such a gang of 'hooligans' in the whole of his experience as they had in some districts of the route."

The Rhondda Leader, 1909



A "Special" passing through Pentre in July 1908.

The problem of an open upper deck during winter:

COVERED TRAMCARS WANTED.

"Councillor Ben Davies said that he had one important matter which he had been instructed to bring before the Council. The workmen's trams in the morning were very well patronised, and many were obliged to ride on the outside. In wet weather, the workmen who were compelled to go on the outside were wet through before they reached the collieries where they worked, and some were obliged to return home on account of the condition of their clothes. He would like to know whether it was not possible to afford some protection on the top of the cars that would prevent these people getting wet.

The clerk said that it had been intended to provide a special covering for workmen's cars, but owing to the many bridges under which the cars ran, it was found impossible to do so. The Surveyor said that the real difficulty was that no covered cars could be placed on a 3ft. 6in. gauge, without rendering them top-heavy."

The Rhondda Trams

"The advent of the trams into the Pentre district this week caused no little excitement. On Wednesday, the cars, which had previously ended their journeys at Partridge Road, Trealaw, commenced running as far as St. Peter's Church, Pentre, and in the evening crowds of people lined the route to witness the brilliantly lit cars, which are at present a novelty. The cars, in the evening, were packed almost to excess, every possible part of the cars being utilised for passenger room. In fact, in many cases so crowded were the cars that the fares had to be collected as passengers left the car."

The Rhondda Leader, Sept. 1908

4.8

HORSE - DRAWN VEHICLES

HORSE DRAWN TRANSPORT

Horse-drawn vehicles were to be seen in large numbers on the streets of the Rhondda until well after the end of World War one.

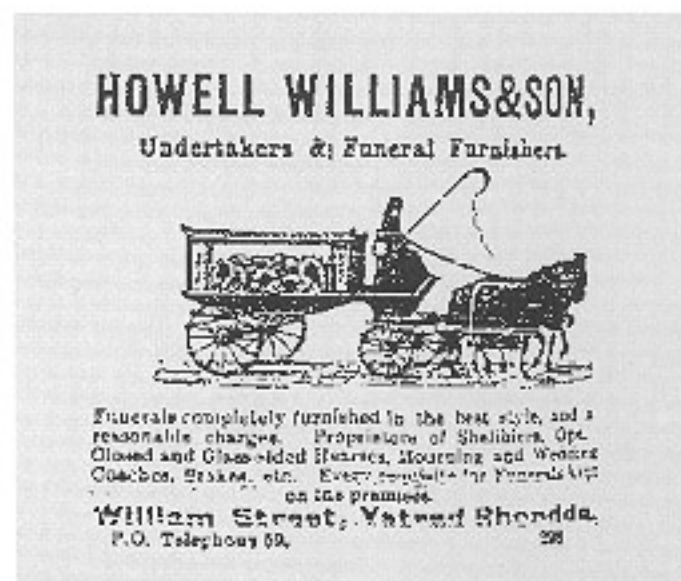
The horse and cart was used mainly by local businessmen and traders to deliver goods from their shops to people's houses. The milkmen, pop men, coalmen, bakers, removal men and undertakers all used horse-drawn transport. The brake was like a modern taxi, they carried passengers to and from the railway stations. The use of so many horse-drawn vehicles on the roads meant a great deal of work for people such as blacksmiths, wheelwrights, saddlers and coach builders.

It may be surprising to know that many of the laws which now apply to motor cars were similar to those that applied to horse-drawn vehicles. Reports of court cases when people broke these laws appeared in the local papers.

Drunk in charge of a Van

THURSDAY Before the Stipendiary (Mr Ignatius Williams) and Dr. Parry.

Rees Rees, haulier, Blaenclydach, was charged with being drunk whilst in charge of a furniture van. He was seen by Sergeant Edwards driving his horses and van in Porth and frequently ran over the pavement. Two previous convictions had been recorded against the defendant, who was now fined £2 and costs.

**No Lights**

Thomas Watkins, Thomas Davies, Blaenclydach, and Charles Window, Trealaw, were each fined 5s. for driving carts without lights.

Careless Drivers

Wm. Thomas, milk-vendor, Treherbert, was summoned for allowing his horse and cart to remain unattended on the 22nd. As this was the third offence he was now fined 15s. Thos. Thomas, haulier, Tonypandy, was fined 5s. for a similar offence.



Tom Pliny had a flourishing transport business by the 1920s with furniture removal vans, charabancs and a retail coal delivery service, the latter run by his son, Tom Junior



William Lewis Edwards and his young son Isaac collecting churns of milk from Maerdy station for the second door to door run of the day in 1912

Carriage Works,
MORGAN STREET,
PONTYPRIDD.



THE PONTYPRIDD COACHBUILDING COMPANY,
(Prize Winners for Carriages suitable for the District),
Take the lead in the Trade for

Carriages, Traps, Floats, Coburgs, Carts,
Varnished Wood Traps, and Business Carts.

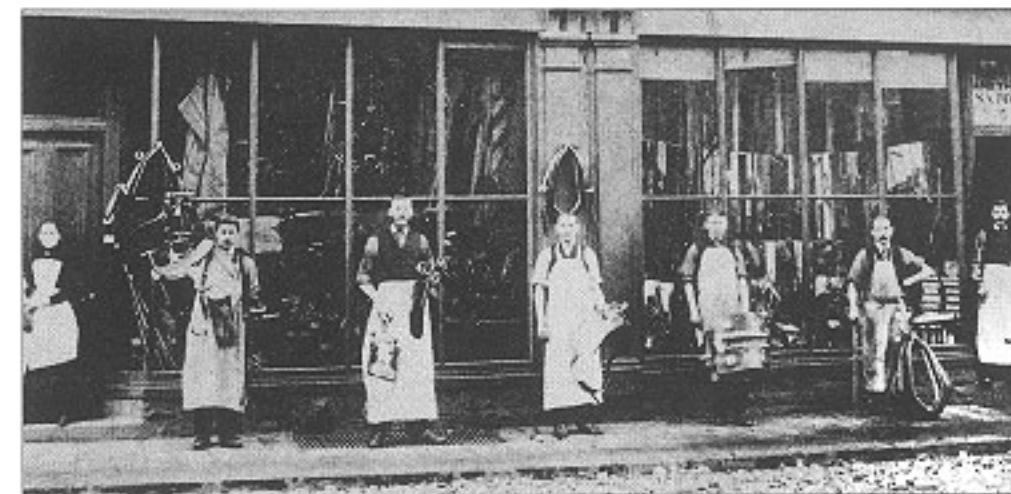
The Largest Stock in the Principality of Lamps and Plated Fittings.
THE TRADE SUPPLIED.

Floor Area, 16,840 square feet. Show-Rooms well stocked,
at Prices that cannot be beaten. Estimates Free.

NOTE ADDRESS: CARRIAGE WORKS, Morgan St., PONTYPRIDD. 43



A privately owned horse-drawn brake, 1908.



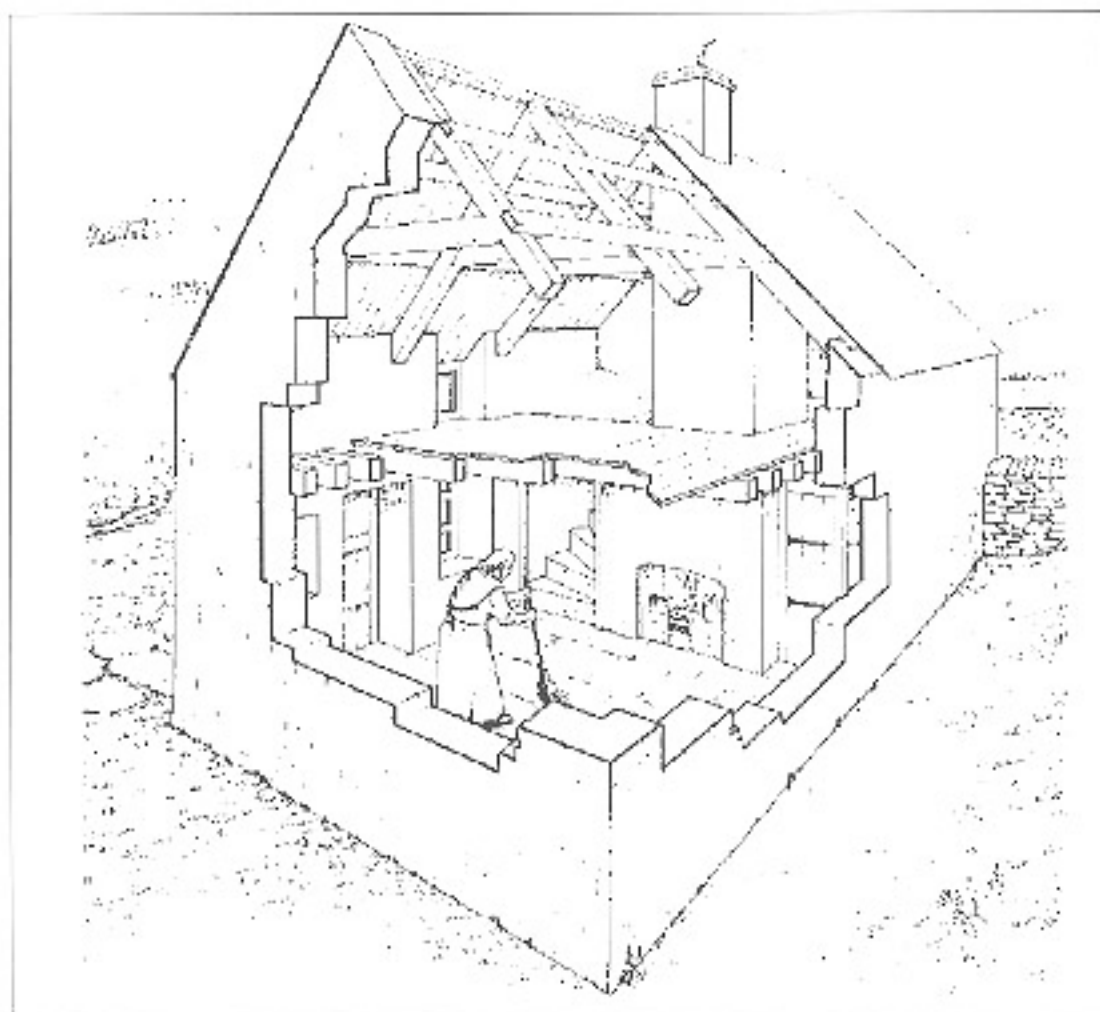
Staff standing outside the Pentre saddlers Iorwerth and Thomas.



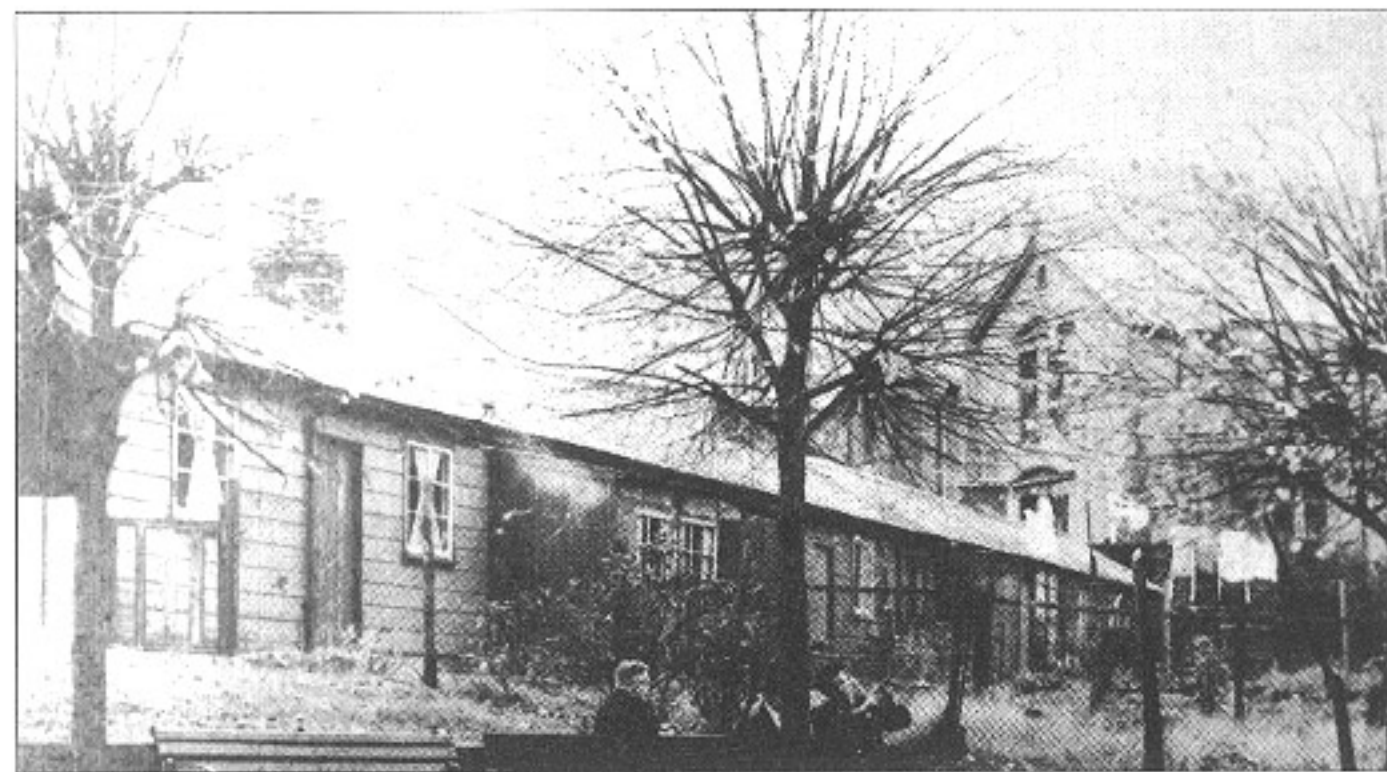
5.1

HOUSING THE MINERS

In the early years of coal mining in Rhondda, it was only the lower Rhondda that was developed. As levels and pits were opened, clusters of small houses and cottages were built around the levels. Often, it was the coalowners who built these houses for their workmen. After 1850, and the development of deep mines in the upper Rhondda, many more houses were needed. The population grew so rapidly that it was impossible to build houses quickly enough to keep up with demand. Most of these new houses were built with local stone from quarries on the hillsides, and roofed with Welsh slate. The local stone was called Pennant sandstone. The shortage of flat building land, and the need to build quickly and cheaply, meant that long terraces of houses were built on both sides of the valley.



A drawing of an early miner's cottage. Houses like these were built at Dinas, Cymmer and Graig-ddu.



The Huts, Tonypany, built by Archibald Hood a coalowner, as temporary housing for the sinkers of the Glamorgan Colliery. Houses like these were built near the pits. Later they were used by the miners as there was a shortage of houses.



'The Scotch' Terraces, typical miners' houses built after 1850. They were built at Llwynypia by Archibald Hood a Scotsman who owned the local colliery.



Wern Street 1900.

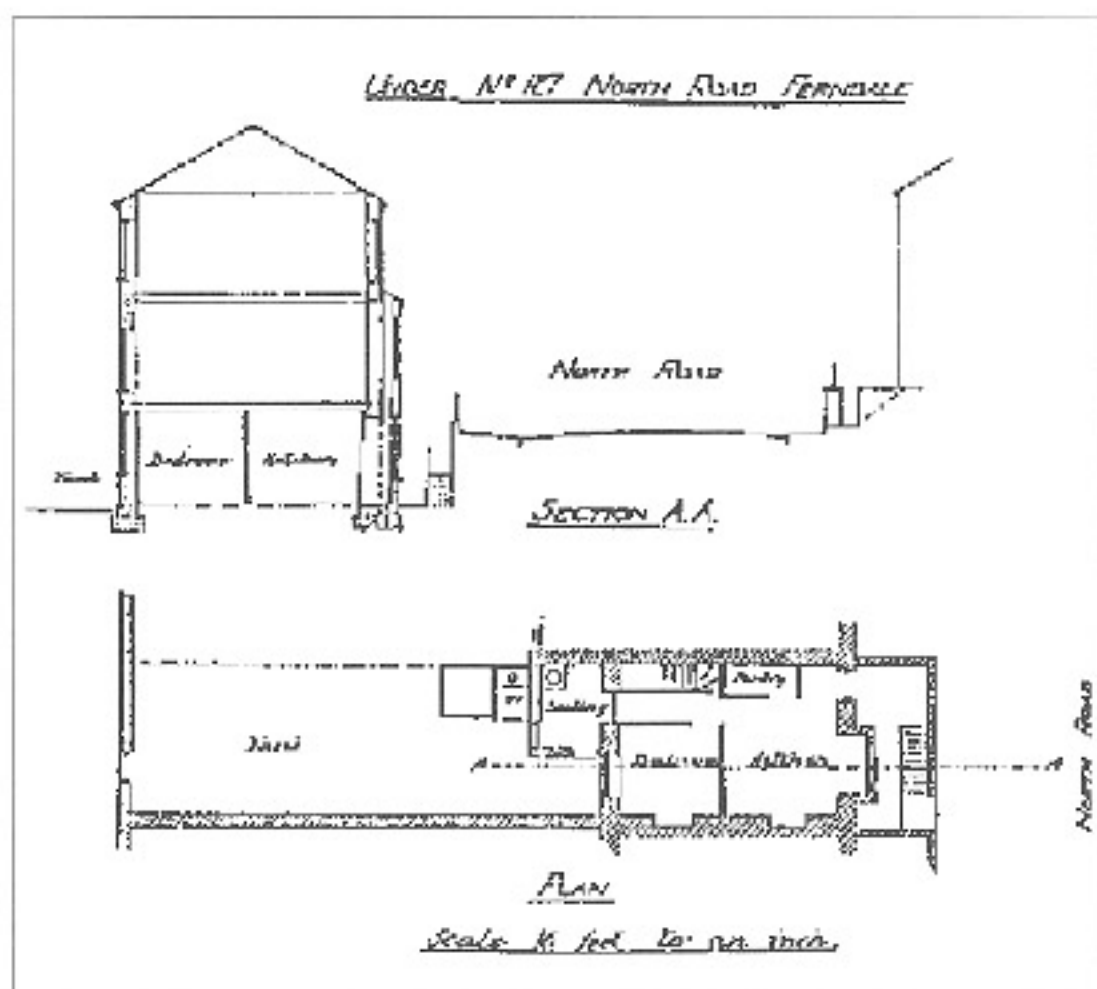
5.2

MINERS AND COALOWNERS

Most of the houses in Rhondda were built quickly and cheaply. They were often badly designed. Damp was a common problem, and not much light got into the houses. There were usually two rooms up and two down. Some houses had five small rooms and a back yard. The inside walls would be roughly plastered or whitewashed stone.

As many of the houses were built on a slope, they had cellars under them. These cellars were built against the earth of the slope and were very damp. Downstairs floors were usually flagstones, while bedrooms had bare wooden floors. Very few houses had running water. There was usually a tap in the street outside, and inside toilets were very rare.

Most houses were rented. They could be rented from the colliery companies or private landlords. In some areas, people did own their own houses. They often joined a building club and saved up until they could afford a house.

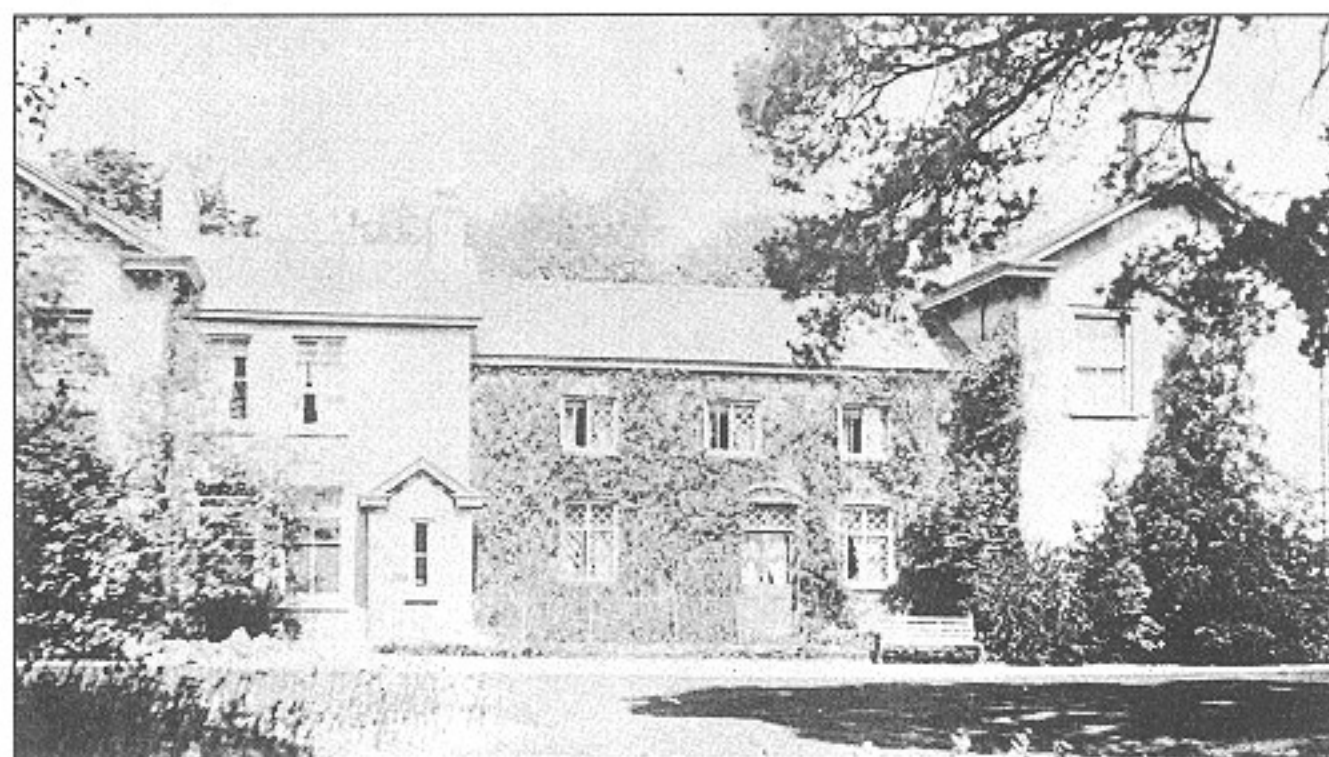


A plan of a typical cellar house. There was a bedroom, a kitchen, a small scullery and a pantry. Cellars were often rented out to another family.

Not all Rhondda houses were small. Wealthy businessmen, managers and coal owners could afford large houses.



Llwyn-on, Clydach Vale



Ystradfechan House, Cwmparc. In this old Rhondda Farm lived the General Manager of the Ocean Coal Co. Ltd.

5.3

INSIDE A TERRACED HOUSE (I) COOKING

THE KITCHEN

The kitchen was the most important room in the house for miners' families. It was where water was boiled for washing and bathing, where the food was prepared and cooked, where miners bathed and where people gathered to eat and chat.

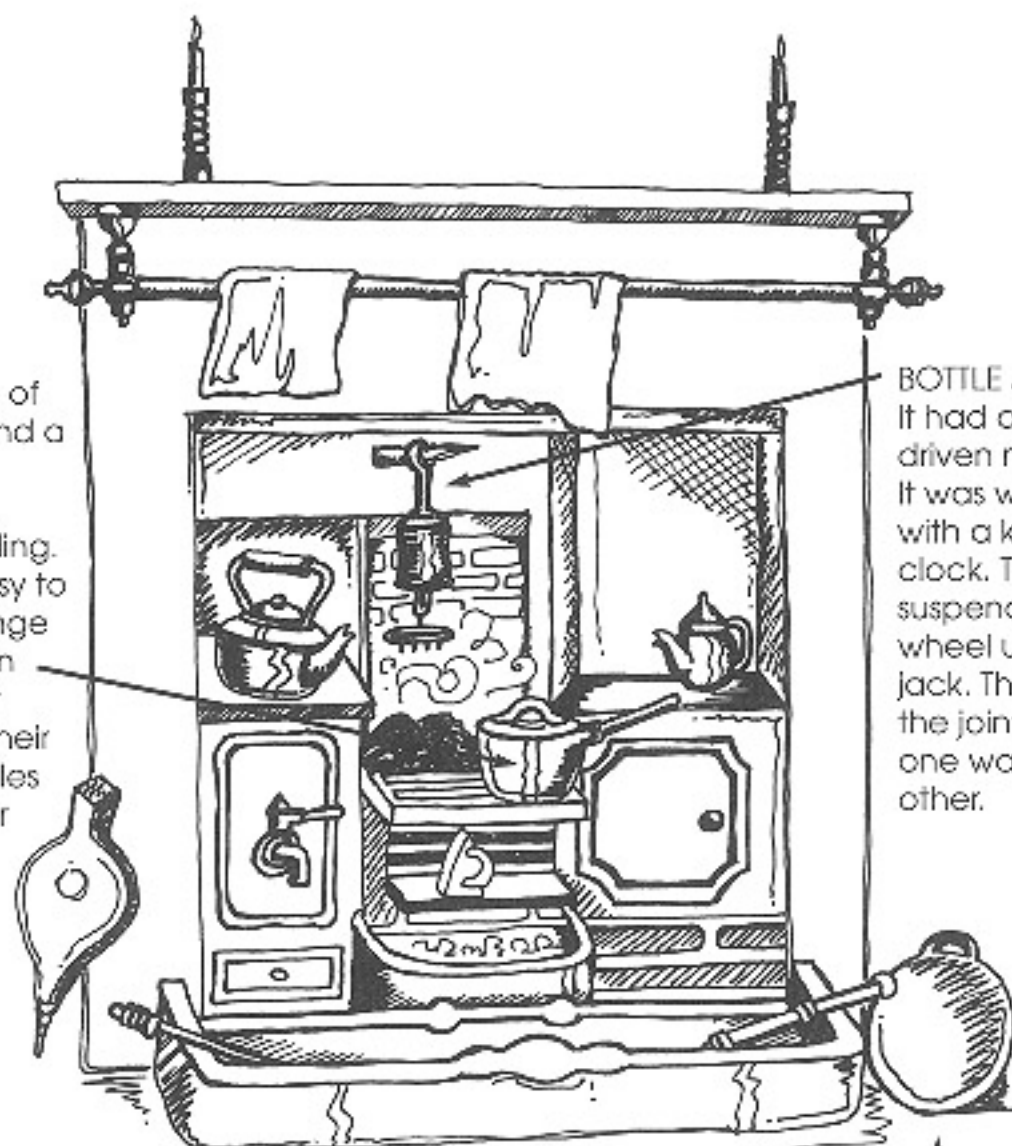
It was also the most dangerous room in the house for women and children. Most of the accidents and deaths in the home happened here. There were open fires, boiling water, heavy tubs and boilers, sharp knives, and hot irons. It is no wonder that accidents happened.

In the early years, there was little furniture in the kitchen, a plain wooden table that could be scrubbed, a few chairs and possibly a dresser to store plates and dishes. The most important item in the kitchen was the kitchen range, or kitchener.

THE RANGE

The kitchen range or kitchener was the centre of the home. It was made of cast iron. Coal, wood and household rubbish were burnt on the fire. Every week, the range would have been cleaned with a special polish called "blacklead." Mam had to rub it hard with blacklead to keep it black otherwise it went rusty. She made up the blacklead from turps and linseed oil, then rubbed it over the whole thing, then polished it until it shone. Mam took a great pride in keeping her kitchener shining.

Cawl or stews of vegetables and a little meat or bacon were cheap and filling. They were easy to cook on a range in a big pot on the fire. Many miners grew their own vegetables in a garden or allotment.



BOTTLE JACK
It had a spring driven mechanism. It was wound up with a key, like a clock. The roast was suspended from the wheel under the jack. This caused the joint to turn first one way then the other.

THE RANGE

The range provided a source of heating and cooking. It heated the water for bathing and laundering.

THE BAKESTONE

The bakestone or griddle was used for baking things like drop scones, Welsh cakes and flat breads. It was placed over the open fire and a wooden spade or slice would have been used to turn and remove baking.



The scullery was a small room off the kitchen. There might be a sink there but no tap water - water was brought from outside and stored in buckets.

5.4

INSIDE A TERRACED HOUSE (2) BATHING

BATHING

Miners returned from work covered in coal dust, mud and water; they needed to bath every day. The miners' houses had no bathrooms or running water. Instead, they used a metal bath which was placed in front of the kitchen fire and was filled with water boiled on the fire. The miners who have written about their daily lives all talk about the lack of privacy, and the terribly hard work their wives had to do to see there was hot water available.

Some of their accounts are printed here.



Miner bathing.

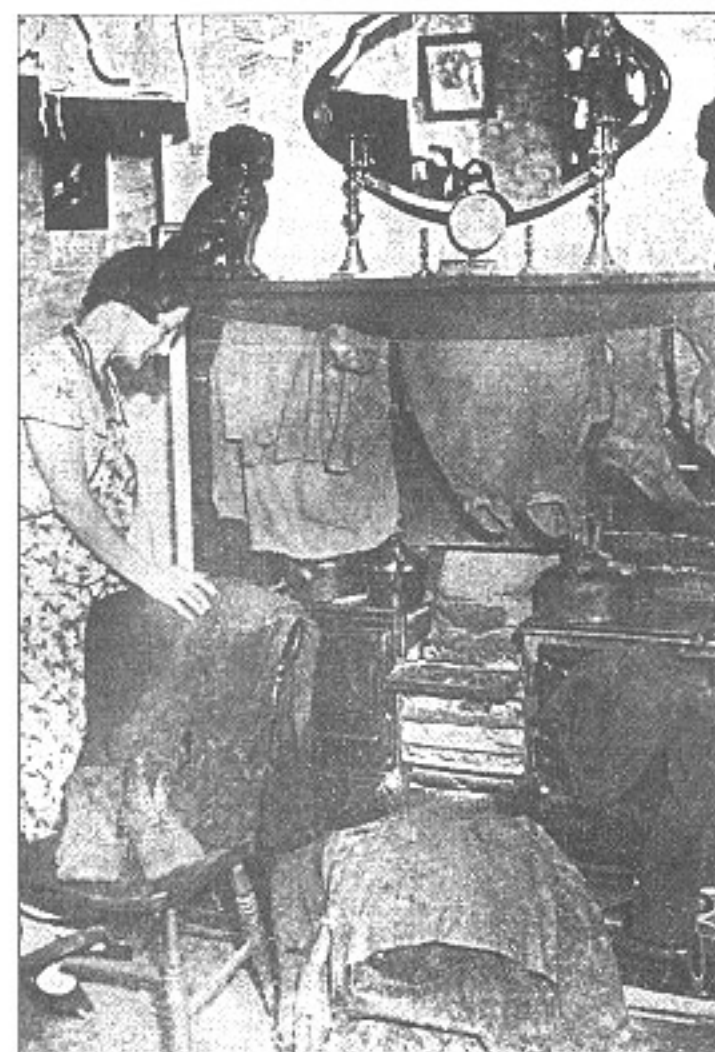
Doctors in the Rhondda also wrote about the effects this work had upon women, especially when they were expecting babies. Pit head baths were not introduced until many years later.

I was in lodgings ... there were six or seven other miners lodging there. It was only a house with three bedrooms, so you can imagine that we were sleeping on a rota basis ... I'd gallop home to be the first to have a bath. There were no bathrooms; all you had was an old zinc tub and the landlady would have a couple of buckets of water on the fire. If there were five or six of you together, first of all five of you would bath the top half of the body ... and then you stepped back into the bath and washed the bottom part of your body ... you'd get the women from next door ... they'd come in here and they'd sit down in the kitchen and they wouldn't move - when even you were washing the bottom part of your body.

This account shows how pit life affected the miner's life. It also shows the lack of privacy.

'Twm's and Dai's coats and waistcoats would come off to be hung in the "cwtych" under the stairs. Their singlets, wet with sweat, would be placed on the brass rod under the mantelpiece. Then Twm, if it was his turn, would wash his head and body from the waist up; and while he was drying himself with a nice clean towel, Dai would do the same. There was no variation in the bathing rhythm; because while Twm was re-dressing his upper half, Dai would pull off his moleskin trousers and his cotton "drofas" (drawers) and sit down in the tub. This proceeding would be reversed the following evening.'

WIL JON EDWARDS - 'FROM THE VALLEY I CAME'.



Drying the clothes

Mrs Jenkins, an old lady in the Rhondda, recalls how there were eight men in her family. Her seven brothers and her father were on different shifts, so that baths would have to be prepared, along with meals, at the end of the morning, afternoon and night shifts. Assuming the shifts were the same throughout the coalfield, this would entail providing meals and baths for two to three people at seven in the morning (after the night shift from eleven until seven), three in the afternoon (after the day shift from seven until three) and eleven at night (after the afternoon shift from three until eleven). Each worker would also require some kind of meal before starting out for the colliery as well as a prepared food box and jack - all this in addition to the usual family cooking, cleaning and washing.

5.6

INSIDE A TERRACED HOUSE (4) LIGHTING

DRYING AND IRONING

The miners' working clothes were not washed every day but they had to be dried as they were wet through sweating or from water in the pits.

The clothes could be hung on the brass rail in front of the fire to dry or put in the "cwtych". This was like a cupboard built against next door's chimney wall, so it was warm and dry.

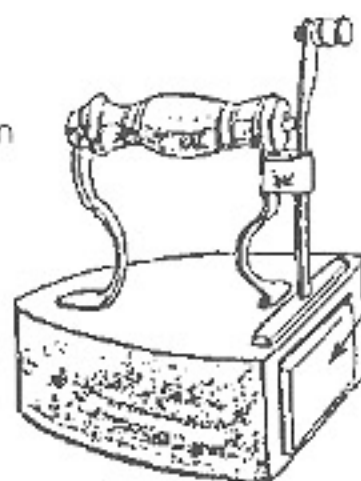
Not every family had a clothes line on which to dry clothes. Coal dust in the air meant that washing could not be dried out of doors if the wind was in the wrong direction.

A Flat iron



After the washing had dried, the ironing had to be done. Flat irons would have been placed on the fire to heat up. More than one would have been needed as they cooled down very quickly. While one was being used, another would have been heating up ready.

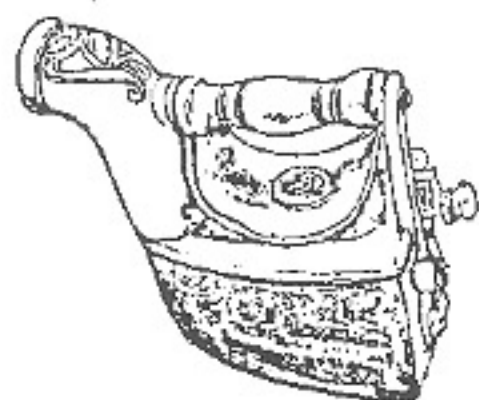
A Box iron



Gate

Box irons would also have been used. There were different types: One type held a heated wedge or slug which was inserted inside the iron. The wedges were provided in pairs, one was being heated while the other was being used. They were made of cast iron. A hinged gate was swung open or lifted up at the back of the iron so the wedge could be placed inside by means of a pair of tongs.

Chimney



A Charcoal box iron

Another type held burning coals. The coals were inserted by a small pair of tongs that were provided with the iron. There were a row of small holes on the sides or a chimney at the front. These were meant to provide air so the charcoal would burn well and allow smoke to escape.

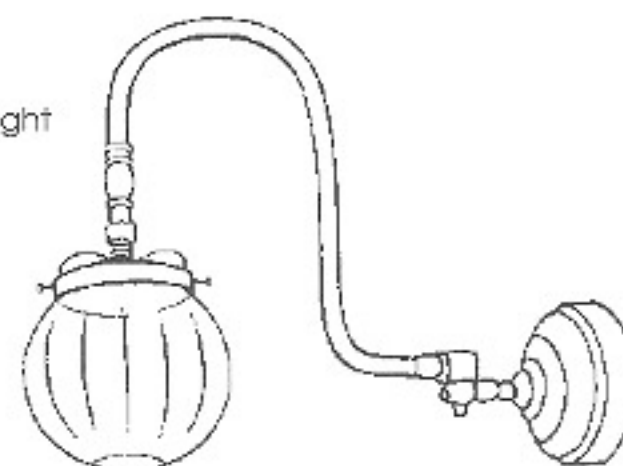
LIGHTING

In many homes, the family used to light oil lamps or candles when they went upstairs. Oil lamps involved quite a lot of work as they had to be filled with oil and constantly cleaned.

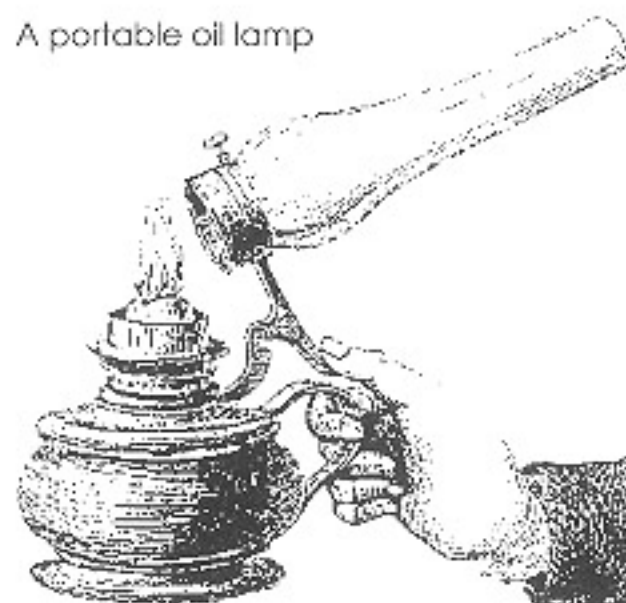
In 1868, the Ystrad Gas and Water Co. was established to supply gas lighting to houses in the Rhondda Fawr, whilst at the same time the Ferndale Gas Co. was set up to provide a similar service in the Rhondda Fach.

Gas was usually used only in the main rooms - The rest of the house was still lit by candles or oil lamps. The fragile gas mantle gave a steadier light, but some people complained that it was noisy and smelly. Also, it stained ceilings.

A Gas light



A portable oil lamp



A Candle and snuffer

5.7

OVERCROWDING

Overcrowding was a serious problem at this time in the Rhondda. There were just not enough houses being built to cope with the increasing numbers of families moving into the Rhondda looking for work.

Most households took in lodgers. These were usually single men who rented a room. In 1880, lodgings would cost half a crown (12p), this included having all their washing done. It would cost extra for food. This was not the only reason for overcrowding, for the Rhondda had one of the highest birth rates in Britain. There were lodging houses for single men, but many of these were terrible, dirty buildings. If the lodging house was not registered with the council, there was nothing the council could do to improve the conditions. Things were so bad that lodgers often shared a bed, the day shift man would sleep in it by night and the night shift man by day. It was not uncommon for five or six children to share one bed, sleeping 'top to tail'.

Wards No.	Number of Houses	Number of Houses Letting Lodgings	Number of Occupants			Persons per
			Occupiers	Lodgers	Total	
1	10	6	66	7	73	7.3
2	10	4	56	6	62	6.2
3	14	8	82	14	96	6.3
4	28	19	147	57	204	7.2
5	31	18	175	49	224	7.2
6	58	33	315	74	389	6.7
7	17	9	93	18	111	6.5
8	12	9	64	23	87	7.2
9	10	7	52	11	63	6.3
10	6	5	36	16	52	8.6
RHONDDA	196	118	1086	275	1361	6.9

You can see from this report made by the Medical Officer of Health in 1904 that the average number of persons per house was 7.9, and that nearly every house had lodgers.

Comparative Birth-rate Table for 1903

				Birth-rate per 1,000
England and Wales	...	...	...	28.4
Rural England and Wales	...	...	...	27.3
76 Great Towns	...	...	...	29.7
103 smaller Towns	...	...	...	27.4
RHONDDA	...	...	...	40.9

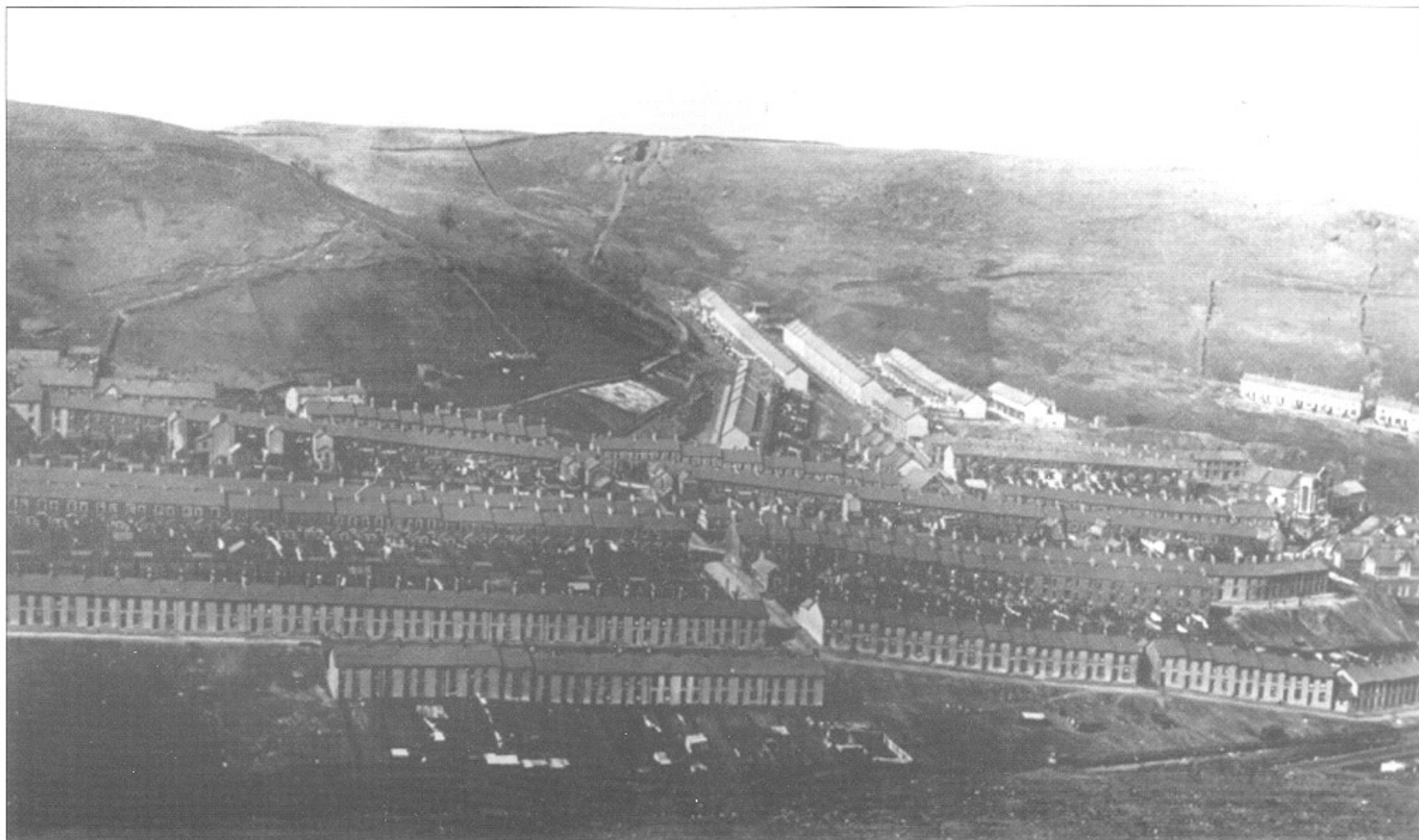
This table shows how high the Rhondda's birth-rate was compared to the rest of Britain.

"On Monday night, 30th October last, accompanied by police Inspector Menhennick of Pentre, I visited 14 of these unregistered houses in Ystrad. Nine of them were situated in Club row, Ystrad, and five in the main road close to club row. In seven houses, one room was occupied by lodgers, in five houses two rooms, and two houses four rooms were occupied. In these 25 rooms, we found 51 beds occupied by 55 men, nine women and one child. In 15 rooms there was no fireplace, and in one room the chimney was completely stopped up by a bag. In every room we went into, the air was distinctly offensive. The average cubic space per person was 150 feet. In one room of one house, there were two beds, one occupied by a married couple, the other by a woman and child. In another house, there were two beds in one room, one occupied by a married couple, and the other by the keeper of the house - a woman. There can be no question but that the condition of the common lodging-house in the district is anything but which it ought to be."

Common Lodging Houses.

"The front room, our living room, was about ten feet square, and the bed-room about the same. Our words had to be low spoken, else they could be heard in the kitchen. The scrape of a chair, or even the creak of a bed, could be heard by the other family. Certainly they had only one child, and we had none at that time, so we were not so crowded or noisy as those other houses - and they were many - where a considerable family was living in the front and back of each house."

This is what a person living in apartments in the Rhondda remembers.



Clydach Vale, Rhondda.

6.1

GROWTH

The rapid growth of the Rhondda's population led to a huge demand for local shops. Each village had its own shopping centre. It usually stretched along both sides of the main street. Most people did their shopping at their local shop, but they might go to Cardiff or to Pontypridd for very special shopping. The shops were the one place where young girls could work locally, otherwise they were forced to find work in big houses as maids or cleaners. This was called 'going into service'. Work in shops was very hard. Shops were open long hours, the wages paid were low and the work was heavy. Unlike modern shops, goods were not prepacked, everything had to be weighed and wrapped. Butter, cheese and lard came in large pieces which had to be cut. Tea, flour, rice, dried fruit and sugar came in sacks or boxes. Boys who were too young for the mines could work part-time weighing up these goods, or delivering them to houses. At weekends, the shopping centres would be crowded with people.

1903	total
Boot Maker	112
Bakers	156
Blacksmiths	18
Barbers	90
Basket Maker	1
Carpenters	52
Fried Fish Shops	56
Coachmakers	9
Confectioners	1
Cycle Repairers	9
Dressmakers	198
Dressmakers & Milliners (comb)	6
Glaziers	4
Jewellers	27
Milliners	73
Knitters	1
Picture Framers	8
Painters	3
Plumbers	7
Saddlers	10
Monumental	
Masons	7
Sewing Machine	
Fitters	1
Sweat Makers	1
Tailors	76
Tinmen	4
Quarries	15
Totals	945

1903	total
Boot Maker	154
Bakers	164
Blacksmiths	22
Barbers	90
Carpenters	82
Fried Fish Shops	113
Coachmakers	11
Confectioners	1
Cycle Repairers	8
Dressmakers	182
Dressmakers & Milliners (comb)	18
Glaziers	16
Jewellers	35
Milliners	77
Picture Framers	12
Painters	6
Plumbers	22
Saddlers	9
Monumental	
Masons	10
Sweat Makers	4
Tailors	65
Tinmen	8
Quarries	57
Totals	1203

Charts to show the number of businesses in the Rhondda in 1903 and 1914.

R. T. Jones, Ironmonger, 138 Dumfries Street, Treherbert. Yesterday's equivalent of today's D. I. Y. stores, but with possibly more variety. He sold household items such as pot menders, washboards to blackpat traps and chamais leathers, and mining items ranging from patent mandrills to curling boxes.



Richard Thomas, Picture Framer and Glazier, with family, Bute Street, Treorchy, 1910.



Summary of Police Court Proceedings during 1914-				
No.	Court	Offence	Result	
125	Porth	Failing to exhibit notice re shop assistants' weekly half-holiday	Fined 20/- and costs	
126	Ystrad	Employing a shop assistant on weekly half holiday	Fined 5/-	
127	Ystrad	Selling goods after closing time	Fined 10/-	
128	Ystrad	Employing a child for street trading after 9pm	Fined 10/-	
129	Ystrad	Employing a child for street trading after 9pm	Fined 10/-	
130	Porth	Employing a child for street trading on Sunday	withdrawn, defendant having enlisted for military service	
131	Porth	Employing a child for street trading on Sunday	Fined 5/-	
132	Ystrad	Shop open after closing time	Fined 10/-	
133	Ystrad	Failing to exhibit notice re shop assistants' weekly half-holiday	Fined 20/-	
134	Porth	Selling goods on weekly half-holiday	Discharged with payment of costs	
135	Porth	Willfully obstructing shops' Inspector		



The hustle and bustle of Hannah Street, c. 1900.

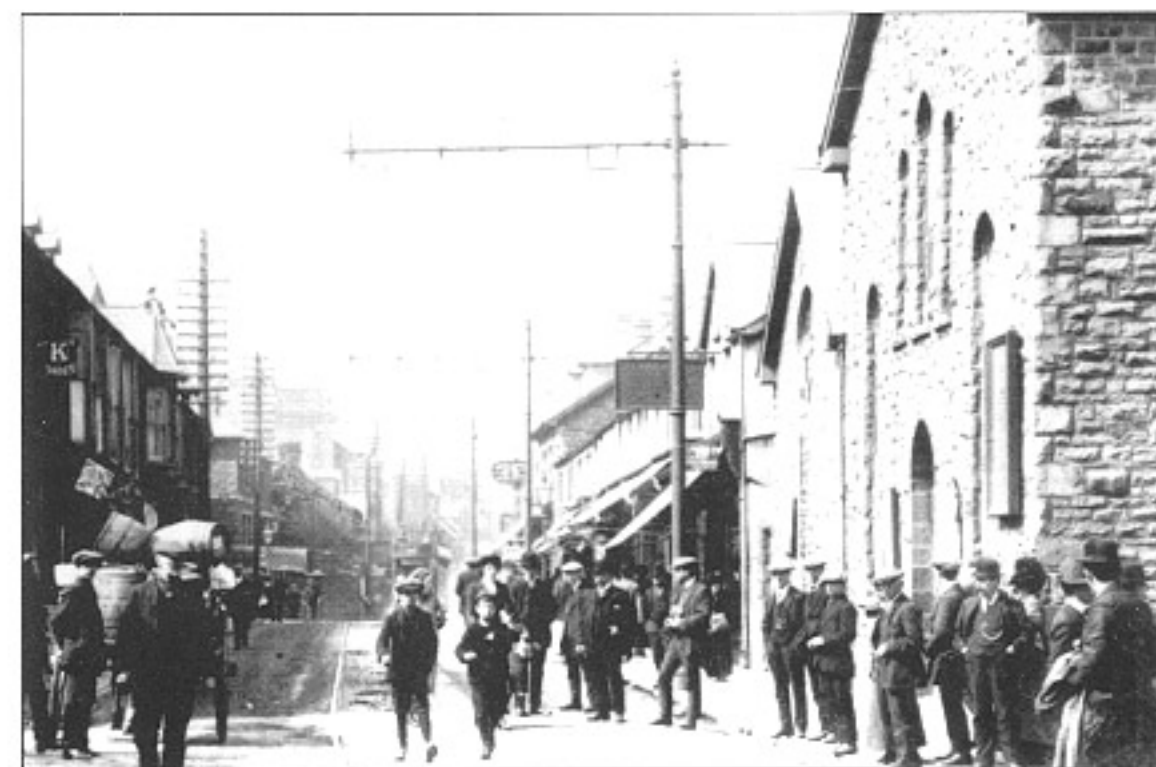
With the rapid growth in the population, there was also a great increase in the number of shops, cafes and public houses. These were often strung along the main roads and were packed with crowds especially at weekends. Shopping trips to Pontypridd and Cardiff were rare.



Bute Street, Treorchy, 1904, with Barmouth Temperance Bar on the right.



The Strand, Ferndale, c. 1905.



Saturday morning, Upper Dunraven Street, Tonypany, c. 1910. Children were expected to run errands, for example they would take the weekly shopping list to the local grocery shop for delivery later.



Dunraven Street, Tonypandy 1914.

6.3

TYPES OF SHOPS (I)

Co-operative shops had opened in many towns and villages by 1900. To shop at the Co-op people had to join the Co-operative Society. They were given a number and a book to record all their purchases. The people chose a committee to manage the shops. Some of the profits were given back to the customers based on how much they had spent at the Co-op, e.g. 2/6 for every £1 spent.



The Ferndale Industrial Co-operative Society above paid dividend every 3 months. Most of the small villages of Rhondda had a Co-op grocery shop, but the larger towns had department stores, with ironmongery, clothing and footwear departments.

Each village had one or more bakehouse which would bake the housewives' bread or loaf-cakes for a penny a tin. They would also undertake to cook the family goose on Christmas morning for those families who could afford such luxury fare.



The large number of shops provided many people with jobs. For girls this meant that they could stay at home rather than live away in service as a housemaid. For the women who worked in them, it was a way of adding to the men's wages. For young boys, shop work gave a years employment before they were old enough to work in the pit. Many school boys had part-time jobs as errand boys on Saturdays and during evenings to add to the family income.



Many school leavers wanted shop work although it was hard - standing, lifting and carrying for up to twelve hours a day, six days a week. "Thomas and Evans" of Porth opened at 8am and closed at 10pm in the week and at 11pm on Saturdays. Wages were also low.



6.4

TYPES OF SHOPS (2)



J. H. Powell, Miller and Draper, Garfield House, Treherbert, c. 1900.

Many shops were family businesses and in times of hardship offered "tick" (long term credit) to their regular customers.

Alongside the family business, the first chain stores such as Hodges were developed. Hodges & Sons, Ferndale branch, c. 1914. By 1901, when William Hodges died, he had established eight shops in Wales. There were three in the Rhondda, at Pentre, Porth, and Ferndale.



Most towns had a pawn shop where belongings could be exchanged for cash. During strikes many families were forced to pawn some of their possessions.

"The shop smelled of wholesome things. Golden sawdust, thrown fresh every morning on the swept floor between the two long parallel counters, retained its breath of sawn trees. There was one chair for stout old women panting on arrival from up or down hilly Clydach in our wonderfully bad weather. There were lettered canisters of black on gold, an odourous coffee-grinding machine, mounds of yellow Canadian and pallid Caerphilly cheeses, rosey cuts of ham and bacon, wide slabs of butter cut by wire for the scales, and bladders of lard. Behind the counter over which my mother presided stretched wall fixtures stacked with crimson packets of tea, blue satchels of sugar, vari-coloured bags of rice, dried fruit and peas, weighed and packaged by hand out of chests and canvas sacks on quiet Mondays. Soaps gave their own clean smell, especially the flavoured kind which arrived in long bars and cut into segments which was used for both scrubbing houses and washing pit dirt from colliers' backs and fronts. Slabs of rich cake lay in a glass case on an intersecting counter stacked with biscuit tins. Packets of Ringers Tobacco, black chewing shag, spices, almonds and herbs occupied a row of drawers under the counter."

Inside a Grocer's Shop.

SOURCE : PRINT OF A HARE'S FOOT. RHYS DAVIES.



Briggs & Company, Pentre, c. 1910. The price of footwear ranged from 3/6d to 12/6d.



Internal Drawing, Gwalla Stores.

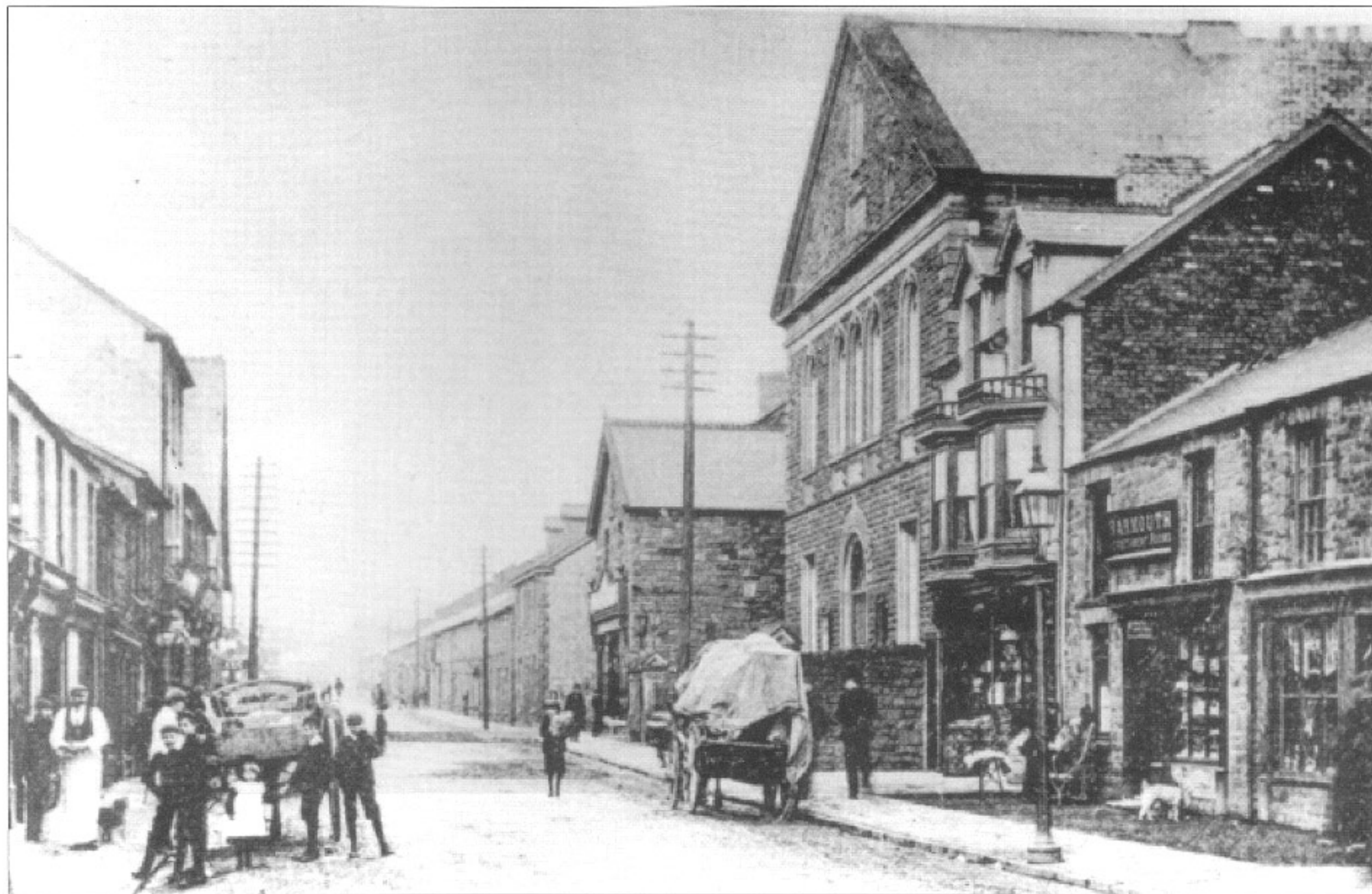
THE RHONDDA LEADER

Money Lent to Any Amount

ON ALL ARTICLES OF CLOTHING, JEWELLERY, PLATE AND WATCHES.

also large stock of Wedding and Keeper Rings, and all kinds of Jewellery, New and Second-Hand.

Jeweller, Clothier and Pawnbroker, 40, Hannah Street, PORTH, and 34, Taff St., PONTYPRIDD

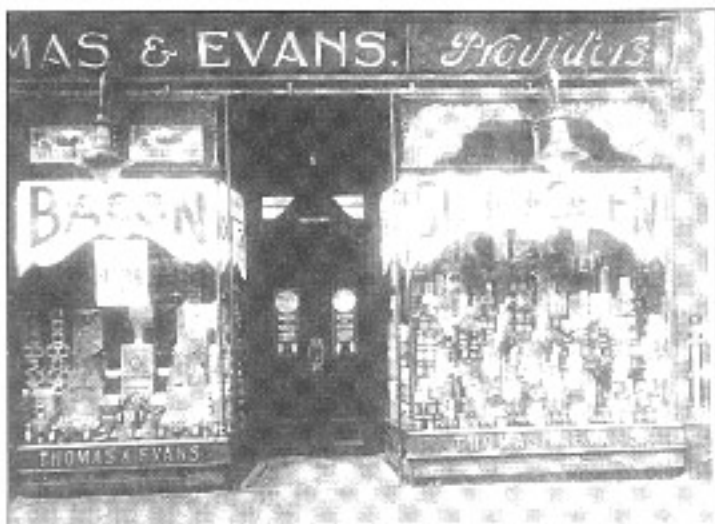


Noddfa Baptist Chapel and Bute Street, Treorchy.

6.5

THOMAS AND EVANS STORES

Early grocery stores.



William Evans was born in west Wales in 1864. When he was twelve, he became an apprentice to a grocer in Haverfordwest. At nineteen years of age, he joined Pegler's Stores as a manager of their Porth branch. Two years later, in 1885, he formed a partnership with an old employer (William Thomas) to set up a grocery and provision shop in Hannah Street, Porth. William Thomas trebled his money in three years and then the partnership ended. Evans kept the name Thomas and Evans and his business continued to grow. His employees took orders and delivered goods to the door, which was an important service in the days before the motor car. He opened his own bakery in 1890 and, by 1895, he had four grocers' shops.



William Evans was not only concerned with profit but he also showed care and consideration for his customers. He regularly gave credit when times were hard. He had great wealth but also great generosity.



William Evans' house at Porth - "Bronwydd" - had a house keeper and two maids living within, and a woman came to do the washing. It must have seemed like a palace to ordinary people.

Staff and wagons in Porth Factory yard at the turn of the century.



Steam traction engine, one of three used by Thomas and Evans from the turn of the century. The boy, with arms akimbo, walked ahead of it with the red flag required by law.

William Evans became aware that there could be a demand for soft drinks. His experiments led to the development of a factory in Porth where he produced soft drinks under the name of "Welsh Hills Mineral Waters". Crates containing four large bottles for 1/- (5p) were delivered to the doorstep.

A report on the Porth factory in the "Rhondda Leader" of 10th December 1908 ended by stating:- "After sampling the 'Welsh Hills' drinks, we can heartily say that they are pure, wholesome and delicious and are the last word in temperance (i.e. non-alcoholic) drinks' manufacture."

Later, the name was changed to the famous "Corona". It became the greatest soft drinks industry in the world, and the only industry of any importance other than coal mining in the Rhondda Valleys.

6.6

THE 'BRACCHIS'

During the end of the nineteenth Century, there was much suffering in the Italian countryside because the people were very poor. There seemed little hope for improvement and, for many, the only escape was to leave and live in another country.

News of the boom time in Wales, reached Bardi, in Italy, and soon there was a steady flow of Italians setting out for Wales, to enter the café trade and a better life.

The Italian café sold sweets, cigarettes, hot drinks (mainly tea and oxo - the coffee machines had not yet arrived), non-alcoholic cold drinks and some simple snacks and ice-cream. They were a warm place where people could sit and talk.

It was at No.5 De Winton Street that Angelo Bracchi, from Bardi, established the first Italian café in the Rhondda in the early 1890's. Mr T. S. Jenkins can still remember the café as it was from 1912 onwards.

"it affected our lives then, and still does. The café, just below the Square at Tonypany, was quite an important place...from being a sweet and ice-cream shop, it was converted into a café as well, by the owners from Italy, Mr and Mrs Bracchi, who brought the working staff with them. They were of the superior Italian class - very smart and good looking. They soon saw the possibilities in a café where people could meet, have refreshments and chat after shopping. Then they bought the adjoining premises and fitted it out as a restaurant. They also had a good sized ice-cream plant in the rear (which supplied the valley cafés as well). They engaged attractive young local girls to serve and run the café and the hours of business were extended to the evenings. That brought in the young who were delighted to have such a meeting place especially during the darker seasons of the year. 'See you at Bracchi's' was a popular cry."

AN ACCOUNT BY MR. T S JENKINS OF A CAFE IN 1912



The interior of Julio Bracchi's café, Tonypany. He was the first immigrant to set up business in the Rhondda in the 1890's from Bardi, Northern Italy. He soon became the owner of three Bracchi shops, and henceforth all the Italians in the Rhondda were called 'Bracchi's'.



A Canale, ice - cream vendor. Many Italians started as ice-cream sellers, and then later opened cafés.

There were glass shelves behind the counter and arranged upon the shelves were glasses and bottles of various colours and lines of china cups. Below the shelves were boxes containing multi-coloured sweets and, alongside them, other boxes placed upright to display the packets of cigarettes inside them. Towards the middle of the counter was a glass case containing cakes, some iced and some filled with cream... At the far end of the counter, as far away from the over-heated stove as it was possible to get, was an ice-cream container, a highly-coloured cabinet with a lid like a French sailor's cap in the middle of it.

Born among us, like her brother Aldo, her parents had come childless from North Italy to Clydach Vale in its early genesis days. Young colliers congregated in their pop, ice-cream and sweet shops. Aldo with whom I was friendly, sometimes gave me a free ice-cream cornet from the painted handcart he piled in the streets on Saturdays. He piled ice-cream extravagantly high in the halfpenny cornets, perhaps to spite his mean father.

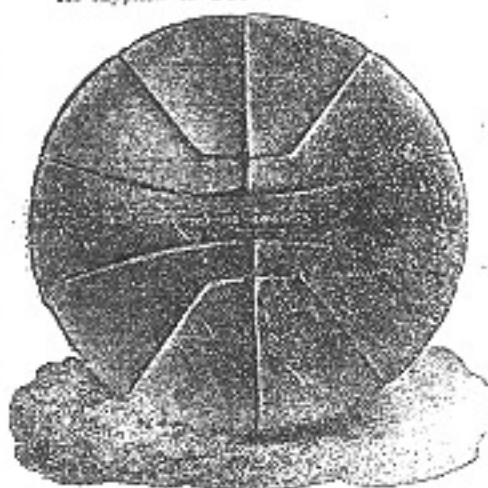
The prices of the goods in these adverts look very cheap but you should remember that the miner's wage at this time was about £2 a week. Other kinds of workmen in the pit earned less.

The prices are in old money.

There were 12 pennies (d) in one shilling (1s) and 20 shillings in a pound (£).
2 shillings = 10 new pence

English and American Dentistry. Painless Extraction. Telephone—P.O. 19.
Dental Rooms: **J. DAVIES-EVANS, 3, High Street, Treorchy**

BEST BALL MADE.
As supplied to TON-PENTRE A.F.C.



Price 13/6 Post Free.

The leading Clubs of the Valley including Ton-Pentre A.F.C. Cwmpare A.F.C., Treorchy R.F.C. and a host of Junior Clubs buy at their Togs, Boots, Balls, etc., at

SAM WILTSHIRE'S
Sports Depot,
TREORCHY

(No other Address).
CHEAPEST HOUSE IN SOUTH WALES.

You follow in their lead,
you cannot do better.

Samples and Quotations Free to Clubs.

SPECIAL LINE—Boys' & Young Men's Soccer Jerseys, etc. Striped, Plain Front, any colour, 1/3. Postage 2d. extra.

EMPIRE RESTAURANT,

Family and Commercial Hotel,
Dunraven Street, **TONYPANDY,**
NOW OPEN
DINNERS DAILY 12.30 to 2.30 p.m.



TEA AND SUPPERS ALWAYS READY
Well Aired Beds.
CHARGES STRICTLY MODERATE.
H. A. BOLTON, Proprietor 36

Artificial Teeth.

PAINLESS EXTRACTIONS



ALL WORK
CONCERNING
THE TEETH

Attendance
Daily.

Hours—9.30 to 3;
Thursdays—1-3

Mr. H. HUFELAND

130, Dunraven Street,
(Over Milton's Fruiterer), **TONYPANDY.**

Next to White Hart Hotel.

A. JENKINS,
THISTLE CYCLE WORKS, TONYPANDY,
for Plating, Enamelling and Repairs.

Phonographs, Gramophones, Horns, Records, etc., in great variety.

Repairs done on the premises. Depot for Athletic Goods.

Thistle Cycle Works, 2, Llwynypïr-ard., Tonymandy.

For ARTIFICIAL TEETH

Attendance Daily—Hours 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Welsh and English Spoken.

NEW MARKET PRICE LIST.

Sugars Reduced. Flour Reduced.

BEST BUTTER, 1/1 per lb.
MARGARINE (Overweight), 10d. and 1/1 per lb.
GOOD CHEESE, 6½d. per lb.
CHOICEST CHEESE, 7½d. per lb.
BACON (Streaky), 10d. and 11d. per lb.
EGGS, 1/1 per dozen.
2 lb. JARS STRAWBERRY JAM, 8½d.
RELIABLE POTATOES, 28 lbs. for 1/3
3 lb. PACKET CANDLES, 8½d.
BAR SOAP, 4½d., 6½d. and 7½d.
NEW MARKET TEAS, 1/4, 1/6 and 1/8 per lb.

NEW MARKET Co., Grocers, TONYPANDY.



Studleys Fruit Shop, Tonypany Square, Founded 1890.

Saturday, December 13, 1902

For WINTER ILLS
and WINTER CHILLS.

Homocea

is a
Medicine Chest
In Itself.

Keep it always in the House because

It Touches the SPOT.

and CURES

CHILBLAINS (broken or otherwise), BRONCHITIS,
SORE THROATS, CHAFES, CHAPPED HANDS,
CUT LIPS, BRUISES, BURNS, PILES, etc.

HOMOCEA allays irritation and soothes inflammation.
Of Chemists and Medicine Vendors everywhere.
HOMOCEA, Ltd., 22, King William Street, London, E.C.4.

THE GREAT WELSH REMEDY.

DAVIES'S COUGH MIXTURE RELIEF FROM
DAVIES'S COUGH MIXTURE COUGH
DAVIES'S COUGH MIXTURE IN 5 MINUTES
DAVIES'S COUGH MIXTURE for Coughs
DAVIES'S COUGH MIXTURE for Colds
DAVIES'S COUGH MIXTURE for Asthma
DAVIES'S COUGH MIXTURE for Bronchitis
DAVIES'S COUGH MIXTURE for Hoarseness
DAVIES'S COUGH MIXTURE for Influenza
DAVIES'S COUGH MIXTURE for Croup
DAVIES'S COUGH MIXTURE for Sore Throat
DAVIES'S COUGH MIXTURE Most Soothing
DAVIES'S COUGH MIXTURE Warms the Chest
DAVIES'S COUGH MIXTURE dissolves the Phlegm
DAVIES'S COUGH MIXTURE for Singers
DAVIES'S COUGH MIXTURE for Public Speakers
DAVIES'S COUGH MIXTURE In Chemists everywhere
DAVIES'S COUGH MIXTURE 13d. & 2s. Postage 3d.
DAVIES'S COUGH MIXTURE Proprietors—
DAVIES'S COUGH MIXTURE HUGH DAVIES,
DAVIES'S COUGH MIXTURE Chemist, Machynlleth.

Mrs. Beecher's Destroy all Worms in Child or
WORM Adult. They act quickly, they act
POWDERS! safely. Children like them. For
13d. Boxes. superior to the old nasty lozenges.
Post, 1d. extra. By Chemists everywhere. Sole
Agent for Great Britain—Hugh
Davies, Chemist, Machynlleth.

**FOOTBALLERS
AND ALL ATHLETES
SHOULD USE**

**MARVELLO
Ointment**

FOR
**Stiffness, Sores, Bruises,
&c.**
GIVE IT A TRIAL.
USED BY SEVERAL WELSH CLUBS.

**It has wonderful Soothing and
Healing Properties.**

Price 1s. 1½d. Post free for same price from the
Proprietors:—
The MARVELLO Co., Abertillery.

Mrs. B. L. L. N. in "Baby," February, 1880:—
"Hayman's Balsam has an excellent reputation,
and can be used safely for young children."

SAFE AND SPEEDY REMEDY
For Influenza, Bronchitis, Hoarseness, &c.

**HAYMAN'S
FOR COUGH, COLD, &c.
BALSAM**

CASH PRICES, 1/-, 2/6.

STOPS COLD IF TAKEN PROMPTLY.

"My brother who had Whooping Cough,
and could not rest, found it the greatest relief."
R. M. D., The Elms, Faringdon, June, 1890.

**INVALID WINES
OF ALL KINDS**

MAY BE HAD AT

**John Davies, The Cash
Chemist,
TONYPANDY.**

Tarragona Port - 1/4 per quart bottle
Liebig's Meat & Malt Wine, 1/9 & 3/- per ,,
Wincarnis - 1/-, 2/3 & 3/6 ,,
Hall's Wine - 1/9 & 3/- ,,
Keystone Burgundy - 2/2 ,,

D. J. DAVIES,
Builder, Decorator and UNDERTAKER, and
COMPLETE FUNERAL FURNISHER.



Shellhears, Hearses, Mourning and Wedding
Coaches supplied on the shortest notice.
Everything for Funerals supplied.

We can find out about the shops and businesses in past times by looking at trade directories. These were books something like our telephone directories today. They list all the shops and businesses in every town and village. They also give information about churches, chapels, and postal services, the police and railways. The examples below were written in 1880 while the Rhondda was still growing.

SLATER'S DIRECTORY, TREHERBERT, SOUTH WALES

TREHERBERT AND YSTRAD-RHONDDA

With the parish and hamlets of Ystradfodwg, Blaen-y-Rhondda, Cwmdare, Cwmpark, Llwynypia, Pen-y-graig, Penyreglyn, Pentre, Ton-Pentre-Ystrad, Ton-y-Pandy, Treorchy, Tynewydd and Tynybedw.

From Pontypridd, its post town, union and county district, and 3 miles from and in the same parish as Treherbert, the rapid increase of this neighbourhood is chiefly owing to the opening of some very extensive and prolific coal mines, which gave employment to the majority of the inhabitants: it is also a station on the Rhondda Valley line of the Taff Vale Railway Co. There are also chapels for Baptists, Independants, and Calvinistic and Wesleyan Methodists, the services of which are generally conducted in the Welsh language.

Pentre is also a thriving and populous village, 9 miles from Pontypridd, its post town, union and county court district, and 2 miles from and in the same parish as Treherbert. It contains one long and handsome street running the whole length of the village.

SCHOOLS

British schools:

Treherbert - Moses Jones, master; Martha Jones, mistress.
Blaen-y-cwm - Thomas Davies, master; Mrs Williams, mistress.
Cwmpark - Thos. Morgans, master; Mary J. Morgans, mistress.
Dinas Colliery - Uwelllyn Jones, master; Mary Jenkins, mistress.
Pentre - John R. Hobsons, master; Margret Evans, mistress.
Ton-y-pandy - John Williams Jones, master.
Treorchy - David Evans, master; Mrs Oak, mistress; Mary Richards, infants mistress.

National Schools:

Lwynypia (Lwynypia Colliery) - Thos. John, master.
Pen-y-graig - John J. Griffiths, master; Rachel Griffiths, mistress.

ACCOUNTANT & AUCTIONEER

Davies E. H. (agent for life and fire insurance offices, assessor and collector of income tax, estate agent, private inquiry agent & valuations for probate), Baglan House, Pentre.

BAKERS & CONFECTIONERS

Bowen David, Pentre.
Collier John, Treorchy.
Davies Henry, Pen-y-graig.
Davies Jenkins, Ton-Pentre-Ystrad.
Hughes John, Treorchy.
Hughes John, Bute st.
Jenkins Thomas P., Ton-y-pandy.
Jones James, Pentre.
Jones William, Ystrad Rhondda.
Lewis Thomas M., Ton-y-Pandy.
Lewis William, Ton-y-Pandy.
Lewis William & Co., Llwynypia.

Treherbert is a thriving and populous village, 11 miles from Pontypridd, its post town, union and county court district, in the parish of Ystradfodwg situated at the head of the Rhondda valley, which is watered by the river Rhondda, from which the valley derives its name: It is also a station on the Rhondda valley line of the Taff Vale Railway Co. and in the midst of scenery of a beautiful and mountainous character, and in a rich mineral district. The chief part of the inhabitants derive their support from the extensive collieries in the immediate neighbourhood. There are chapels for the Baptists, Independants, and Calvinistic and primitive Methodists, in which services are generally conducted in the Welsh language. There are also National and British schools. Population returned to the parish.

Ystrad or Ystrad-Rhondda (the latter name adopted to distinguish it from other Ystrads in this part of the country) is also a thriving and populous village 8 miles.

Price Thomas, Bute st.
Rees John, Treorchy.
Treharne David, Ton-y-Pentre-Ystrad.
Whitmarsh George, Treorchy.
Williams Charles, Tynewydd.
Williams J., Bute st.

BANKERS

London & Provincial Bank, Treherbert and Pentre - draws on Glyn & Co. - Charles Bassett, manager.
National Bank of Wales, Limited, Treherbert, Treorchy & Pentre - draws on London joint stock Bank - William Merchant, manager.
BLACKSMITHS
Lewis Henry, Tynewydd.
William Thomas, Penyreglyn.

BOOKSELLERS & STATIONERS

Davies Daniel, Treorchy.
Davies James D., Ystrad Rhondda.
Davies Richard, Ystrad Rhondda.
Davies Thomas, Ystrad Rhondda.
Davies Thomas, Pentre.
Evans John J., Pen-y-graig.
Jones Henry, Ton-Pentre-Ystrad.
Jones Jones, Bute st.
Jones Thomas, Treorchy.
Lewis Daniel P., Treherbert.
Lloyd David, Blaen-y-Rhondda.
Price Robert, Pen-y-graig.
Thomas John, Treorchy.

The shops are numerous and do a good retail trade, the village being situated in the midst of the colliery district, the population of which is rapidly increasing. There is a national school here, and also chapels for Baptists, Independants, and Calvinistic and Wesleyan Methodists. Treorchy is a populous village situated mid-way between Treherbert and Pentre, and is a station on the Taff Vale Railway and, like most of the villages in the Rhondda valley, consists of one long main street. The shops are numerous and well stocked, and there are several stone quarries in the vicinity. A reading room for the working classes, supported by the leading tradesmen of the place, is established in the village. There are chapels of ease and places of worship for baptists, Independants and Methodists, and also a British school.

Thomas Thomas, Bute st.
Watkins Thomas, Pentre.
Watkins Thomas, Tynewydd.
Williams William, Ton-y-pandy.

CABINET MAKERS & UPHOLSTERS

Griffiths John & Son, Ton-y-pandy.
Thomas William, Pentre.

CARPENTERS, JOINERS & BUILDERS

marked thus * are also Undertakers.
*Dudley John, Pentre.
Evans John, Dunraven row.
Jenkins Charles & Son (&contractors), Station st.
*Jenkins John, Treorchy.
Jones David (builder and undertaker), Station st.
Lewis Henry, Treherbert.
Manuell David, Cwmdare.
*Richard William & Co., Ton-y-pandy.
Thomas & Williams, Ystrad Rhondda.
Timothy Thomas & Son, Ystrad.
Watkins William, Miskin, near Pandy.
Wilcock William (& contractor), Tynewydd.

6.10

TRADE DIRECTORIES (2)

CHEMISTS AND DRUGGISTS

Cooke Richard, Ton-y-pandy.
 Evans Fredrick W., Bute St. George E. A.
 (proprietor of Georges Cough Balsam, and the
 Europa infants' powders). Pentre, Pontypridd,
 Glamorganshire.
 Jones Rees T. (Pharmaceutical), Bute St.
 Lloyd Rees (& veterinary surgeon), Pen-y-graig.
 Morgan William, Treorchy.
 Williams William R., Pentre.

EATING HOUSE KEEPERS

Bassit Robert, Treorchy.
 Davies Thomas, Pen-y-graig.
 Walsey Henry, Pentre.

FANCY REPOSITORIES

Campion Thomas, Station St.
 Fairbairn Thomas, Pentre.
 Lori Michael, Pen-y-graig.

FARMERS - in the Parish of Ystradfordwg

Davies David, Gelle Fainag.
 Davies Evans, Primrose hill.
 Davies George H., Church Farm.
 Davies Thomas, Gwynery.
 Evans Richard, Pont Rhondda.
 Evans Thomas, Troedyrthlw.
 Evans Thomas, Loderddu.
 Hughes Hugh W., Wilborcoed.
 Jones Evan, Tynybedw.
 Jones Llewellyn, Penrhys Isaf.
 Jones Thomas, Tynywern.
 Lax William, Lwynypia.
 Llewellyn David, Park Isaf.
 Llewellyn Rowland, Glyn Gwyn.
 Morgan William, Tynewydd.
 Phillips Jenkins, Maesgwen.
 Phillips Margret, Glyn Coli.
 Thomas Edmund, Maindy.
 Thomas Evan, Carny Celyn.
 Thomas James, Mount Pleasant.
 Thomas John, Hendre Cavan.
 Thomas John, Ynysfais.
 Treherne David, Pentre.
 Watkins Watkin, Gelli.
 Williams Mrs - Tyn Ty Tia.
 Williams Evans, Fforch.
 Williams Mary, Fynonwym.
 Williams William, Fforch Nest.
 Williams William, Penrhys Uchaf.

FIRE, &c. OFFICE AGENTS

General - A. Davies, Ton-Pentre-Ystrad, and J. O.
 Griffiths, Ton-Pentre-Ystrad.
 Manchester (fire B. P. Lewis Bute st).
 Pearl - David Rees, Miskin.
 Prudential - Benjamin Lawrence, Pentre.
 Scottish Accident - D.P. Lewis Bute st.

FRUITERS & GREENGROCERS

Evans Ann, Bute st.
 Evans Charles, Pen-y-graig.
 Evans William, Pentre.
 George David, Treorchy.
 Harris Edward, Treorchy.
 Howells Morgan, Treorchy.
 Hughes Lewis, Pentre.
 Job Henry, Bute st.
 Kinsey John, Tynewydd.
 Lavis William, Pentre.
 Lloyd Thomas W., Ton-y-pandy.
 Ludwig David, Pen-y-graig.
 Mantle Edward, Pentre.
 Morgan Mary, Ton-y-pandy.
 Morris Thomas, Pen-y-graig.
 Phillips John, Bute st.
 Rees Thomas, Ton-y-pandy.
 Richards David, Treorchy.
 Richards Evan, Treorchy.
 Richards Mary C., Pentre.
 Salvage Charles, Ystad Rhondda.
 Saunders Benjamin T., Tynewydd.
 Smith George, Dunraven row.
 Tilbury John, Ton-y-pandy.
 Whitcombe Walter, Pentre.

FURNITURE BROKERS

Crockett John & Co., Pentre.
 Cale Evan, Bute st.
 Raymond B., Pen-y-graig.
 Woodward Cornelius, Pentre.

GLASS & CHINA DEALERS

Davies William, Dunraven row.
 Evans Charles, Pen-y-graig.
 Gibbon David, Dunraven row.
 Horsey Harriet, Ton-y-pandy.
 Hughes Lewis, Pentre.
 James Elias, Pentre.
 Jones Henry, Treorchy.
 Price Rodger, Tynewydd.
 Richards Evan, Bute st.
 Williams Howell, Ystrad Rhondda.

GROCERS & PROVISION DEALERS
 - Marked thus † are also Drapers

Beynon Arther, Pentre.
 Bowen Rees, Treorchy.
 Cole William, Tynewydd.
 † Co-operative Industrial Society, Ystrad
 Rhondda.
 Co-operative Stores, Treorchy.
 † Cale Aneurin, Pentre & Pen-y-graig.
 † Cale Evan, Bute st., and Blaen-y-Rhondda.
 Curtis John, Treorchy.
 David John, Blaen-y-Rhondda.
 David Thomas, Pen-y-graig.
 Davies & Co., Pentre.
 Davies James, Lwynypia.
 Davies Margret, Treorchy.
 Edwards John, Pen-y-renglyn & Tyne wydd.
 Eans Benjamin A., Ystrad Rhondda.
 Evans David, Pen-y-graig.
 Evans John, Pen-y-graig.
 Excell Edward J., Bute.
 George Richard J., Ton-y-pandy.
 Griffiths Thomas, Ton-pentre-Ystrad.
 † Harris Thomas, Ystad Rhondda.
 † Harris William, Bute st.
 † Hart Henry, Treorchy.
 Hiley George, Bute st. and Balen-y-Rhondda.
 Holmes David, Ton-pentre-Ystrad.
 James Evan, Treorchy.
 James James, Station st.
 James M. A., Pentre.
 † Jefferys William, Bute st.
 Jenkins & Son, Ton-y-pandy.
 Jenkins Edward, Lwynypia.
 Jenkins Edward, Treorchy. John John, Pen-y-
 reuglyn.
 Jones Brothers, Coedpenmawr, and at Cwmpark,
 Pentre, & Treorchy.
 Jones James, Pentre.
 Jones John, Pentre.
 Jones John C., Pen-y-graig.
 Jones John H., Lwynypia.
 Jones John J., Pen-y-graig.
 † Jones Richard, Ton-pentre-Ystrad.
 Kinsey John, Tynewydd.
 Knill George, Ton-y-pandy.
 † Lewis Evan, Ton-y-pandy.
 Leyshon John, Ystrad Rhondda.
 Lloyd Richard, Ton-pentre-ystrad.
 Lloyd William, Ystrad Rhondda.
 Lodge F. J., Ton-y-pandy & Ystrad Rhondda.
 Meredith Edward, Ton-y-pandy.
 Morgan David, Treorchy.
 Morgan David, Pentre.
 Morgan David, Ton-pentre-ystrad.
 Morgan John, Treorchy.

Owens David J., Pentre & Ystrad Rhondda.
 Pegler William & Son, Treorchy.
 Phillips Ann, Ystrad Rhondda.
 Phillips William, Treorchy.
 Phillips William, Cwmpark.
 Price Robert, Pen-y-graig.
 Rees Herbert Y., Pentre.
 Rees William, Ton-y-pandy.
 Richards Catherine, Ton-y-pandy.
 Richards David, Treorchy.
 Richards & Sons, Lwynypia.
 Rossiter John, Dunraven row.
 Rowlands Moses, Pen-y-graig.
 Savage Mary, Pen-y-graig.
 Short William C., Treorchy.
 Skyrme Edward, Pentre.
 † Smith Leonard, Pentre.
 South Wales Tea Company, Treorchy.
 Thomas Daniel, Ton-y-pandy.
 Thomas Daniel, Coed-pen-mawr.
 Thomas David, Tynewydd & Penrenglyn.
 Thomas David, Pentre.
 Thomas Owen, Pentre.
 † Thomas Thomas, Ystrad Rhondda.
 † Thomas Thomas, Pen-y-graig.
 Thomas Thomas & Co., Ton-y-pandy.
 Thomas Thomas, Tynewydd.
 Walters John, Blaen-y-cwm & Treherbert.
 Williams Daniel, Pen-y-graig.
 Williams Jones, Ystrad Rhondda.
 Williams John E., Pen-y-graig.
 Williams Josiah, Cwmpark, Pentre Ystad &
 Treorchy.
 Williams Thomas Ton-y-pandy.
 Williams William, Cwmpark & Treorchy.

HAIRDRESSERS

Cocle Thomas, Pentre.
 Cox William, Ton-y-pandy.
 Edward James, Treorchy.
 Fox William, Ton-y-pandy.
 James Joshua, Bute st.
 O'Brien Larry, Ton-y-pandy.
 Park Robert H., Treorchy.
 Phillips Joseph, Pen-y-graig.
 Pritchard Charles, Pentre.
 Taylor John, Tynewydd.

HAY, STRAW & CORN DEALERS

Morgan Edmund, Ystrad Rhondda.
 Thomas Daniel, Station st.

6.11

TRADE DIRECTORIES (3)

INN & PUBLIC HOUSES

Adara Inn, Thomas Owen, Ton-y-pandy.
 Baglan Arms, Llewellyn Llewellyn, Penynglyn.
 Baileys Arms, John James, Ystrad Rhondda.
 Blaen-y-Rhondda Inn, Thomas Williams, Blaen-y-Rhondda.
 Boars Head, Jane Roche, Treorchy.
 Boe Dringallt, Daniel Williams, Ystrad Rhondda (graig).
 Butchers Arms, Morgan Rees, Pen-y-graig.
 Bute Hotel (commercial, posting & billiards).
 George Evans, proprietor, Treherbert.
 Cardiff Arms, Evan Evans, Treorchy.
 Castle, Robert D. Williams, Treherbert.
 Commercial, John Lewis, Ystrad Rhondda (Pandy).
 Cross Keys, Francis Martin, Treorchy.
 Crown, Jenkin Morgan, Treorchy.
 De Winton Hotel (commercial), James B Phillips, Ton-y-Pandy.
 Dunraven, Evan Thomas, Treherbert.
 Dunraven Arms, Thomas Davies, Ton-y-pandy.
 Gelli Inn, John Harris, Ton-pentre-Ystrad.
 Gelligaled, John Davies, Ystrad Rhondda.
 Greenfield Inn, John Morgan, Ystrad Rhondda.
 Ivor Hael Inn, Griffith Richards, Llwynypia.
 Kings Head, Ann Jones, Ystrad Rhondda.
 Lamb, William Pearce, Ystrad Rhondda.
 Lion, Margaret Price, Treorchy.
 Market, Job Llewellyn, Pentre.
 Miskin, Robert Williams, Miskin, Pandy.
 New Inn, Jennet Morgan, Penynglyn.
 Pandy Inn, Daniel Jenkins, Ton-y-pandy.
 Partridge, Ann Llewellyn, Coedpenmawr.
 Pentre Inn, David John, Ystrad Rhondda.
 Prince of Wales, Wm. L. John, Treorchy.
 Queen's Hotel John Jones, Pentre.
 Railway, Thomas Thomas, Treorchy.
 Railway Bar, John L. Morgan, Station st.
 Railway Inn, Thomas Evans, Ystrad Rhondda.
 Red Cow, Thomas N. Harris, Treorchy.
 Royal Exchange, Thomas Davies, Penynglyn.
 Royal Oak, Eli Dyer, Penynglyn.
 Sandy Bank, Edmund Edwards, Ystrad Rhondda.
 Smiths' Inn, James Jones, Penynglyn.
 Stag, Thomas Evans, Treorchy.
 Star, David Jenkins, Ystrad Rhondda.
 Stewart, Evan Williams, Treherbert.
 Swan, Evan Thomas, Pen-y-graig.
 Treolaw Inn, Elias Thomas, Pandy.
 Treorchy Hotel (commercial), Thomas Jenkins, Treorchy.
 White Heart, Thomas Williams, Ton-y-pandy.
 Wite Rock, William John, Pen-y-graig.
 Woodfield Inn, Alfred Parfitt, Pentre.
 Wyndham Arms, William William, Tynewydd.
 Ynyseylow Inn, Mathew W. Dav, Treolaw.

RETAILERS OF BEEF

Davies David, Cwmpark.
 Davies Thomas, Ton-pentre-ystad.
 Hughes John E., Pen-y-graig.
 James Richard, Pentre.
 Jones William, Blaen-y-cwm.
 Lewis William, Pen-y-graig.
 Llewellyn Howell, Ton-y-pandy.
 Llewellyn Philip, Ton-pentre-ystad.
 Manuel Arthurs, Penynglyn.
 Matthews John, Cwmdare.
 Miles Emily, Pentre.
 Phillips Richard I, Pentre.
 Scott William, Pentre.
 Thomas David, Pentre.
 Williams John H., Penynglyn.

IRON FOUNDERS & ENGINEERS

Lewis Henry W., Treherbert Engineering Works, Station st.
 Lewis Richard, Ystrad Foundry, Ystrad Rhondda.
 Llewellyn & Cubitt, Rhondda Engineering Works, Pentre - B Lewis, manager.
 Thomas Thomas, Ton-pentre-Ystrad.

IRONMONGERS

Crockett John & Co., Pentre.
 Cule Evan, Treherbert.
 Davies William, Ton-y-pandy.
 Evans Edward, Ton-y-pandy.
 Glass William, Bute st.
 Reed Charles, Bute st.
 Rees James, Pentre.
 Thomas Daniel Treorchy.

LINEN & WOOLLEN DRAPERS

Cule Evan, Bute st.
 Davies David W., Ton-y-pandy.
 Davies Jonathan, Tynewydd.
 Davies Richard, Ton-y-pandy.
 Edwards James, Treorchy.
 Evans Benjamin R., Treorchy.
 Evans Thomas, Treorchy.
 Havard Thomas, Ton-y-pandy.
 Herbert Edward, Post Office, Bute st.
 James Henry, Dunraven row.
 Jenkins David, Pentre.
 Jenkins Thomas, Treolaw.
 Jones Julian, Pentre.
 Jones Walter, Treorchy.
 Lewis William, Penynglyn.
 Lloyd Evan, Ton-y-pandy.

Loyn Henry, Pen-y-graig.
 Morgan William, Pentre.
 Owens William, Treorchy.
 Price Thomas, Pentre.
 Rees Evans, Treorchy.
 Richards David, Pen-y-graig.
 Richard Thomas, Llwynypia.
 Scott James A., Ton-y-pandy.
 Scott William L. & Co., Ton-y-pandy and Treorchy.
 Thomas John, Pentre.
 Thomas William, Tynewydd.
 Watkins Jane, Ton-y-pandy.

MILLINERS & DRESSMAKERS

Davies David W., Ton-y-pandy.
 Evans Elizabeth, Treorchy.
 Evans Mary A., (& straw bonnets), Treorchy.
 Harris Harriet, Dunraven row.
 James Mrs - Ton-pentre-ystad.
 James Henry, Dunraven row.
 Jones Hannah, Pentre.
 Morgan Margaret, Tynewydd.
 Samuel Ann, Treorchy.
 Thomas Elizabeth c., (& straw bonnets), Dunraven row.

PAINTERS, GLAZIERS & PAPER HANGERS

Cording John, Ton-y-pandy.
 Evans Henry, Ystrad-Rhondda.
 Jones John, Pentre-Ystrad.
 Jones Robert, (a dealer in oils, paints, varnishes, painters, tools, &c.), Bute st.

PAWNBROKERS

Burke Edward, Treorchy.
 Lori Morris, Pentre.
 Staff Abraham J., Treherbert.

PAINTERS -LETTERPRESS

Davies Daniel, Treorchy.
 Davies Thomas J., Ystrad Rhondda.
 Jones J., Bute st.
 Thomas Alfred, Dunraven row.

SADDLERS & HARNESS MAKERS

Jones John, Bute st.
 Thomas Thomas, Pentre.
 Williams Gomer, Treorchy.

SHOPKEEPERS & DEALERS IN SUNDRIES

Allen Alfred, Ystrad-Rhondda.
 Andrews Joseph, Treorchy.
 Churches John, Treherbert.
 David Thomas, Pen-y-graig.
 David Edmund, Station st.
 Davies Evan, Pentre.
 Davies John, Pentre.
 Davies John, Ystrad Rhondda.
 Davies Mary, Blaen-y-Rhondda.
 Eales John, Pen-y-graig.
 Edmunds Daniel, Ystrad Rhondda.
 Edwards John, Pentre.
 England Robert, Ystrad Rhondda.
 Evans David, Pentre.
 Evans David, Llwynypia.
 Evans Edwards, Dunraven row.
 Evans Enoch, Treorchy.
 Evans Lewis, Pen-y-graig.
 Evans Margaret, Pentre.
 Evans Matthew, Pen-y-graig.
 Evans William, Treorchy.
 Eynon Thomas, Treorchy.
 Foster Daniel, Ton-pentre-Ystrad.
 Griffiths David, Tynewydd.
 Hill Thomas, Dunraven row.
 Howells John, Penynglyn.
 Hughes Alfred, Ton-pentre-ystad.
 Hughes William, Pen-y-graig.
 James Griffith, Ystrad Rhondda.
 James Isaac, Tynewydd.
 Jenkins Eleanor, Treorchy.
 John Williams, Treolaw.
 Jones Daniel, Treorchy.
 Jones Daniel, Pen-y-graig.
 Jones Griffith, Coed-pen-mawr.
 Jones John, Ton-y-pandy.
 Jones Mary, Treorchy.
 Jones Mary, Coed-pen-mawr.
 Jones Richard, Coed-pen-mawr.
 Jones William, Treolaw.
 Jones William, Ystrad Rhondda.
 Jones William, Treherbert.
 Lewis James, Treorchy.
 Lewis Thomas, Cwmdare.
 Lewis William, Tynewydd.
 Lloyd Thomas, Ton-y-pandy.
 Maddocks Joseph, Ystrad Rhondda.
 Miles Morgan, Ton-y-pandy.
 Morgan William, Blaen-y-rhondda.
 Morris Hamish, Ton-pentre-ystad.
 Morris Richard, Coed-pen-mawr.
 Peregrine Henry, Pentre.

SLATERS

Perkins David, Tynewydd.
Phillips Ann, Dunroven row.
Pritchard John, Treorchy.
Prothero David, Penynglyn.
Rees John, Penynglyn.
Rees Thomas, Pen-y-graig.
Roberts Abraham, Dunroven row.
Roderick Moses, Ystrad Rhondda.
Roger Thomas, Treorchy.
Summers Robert, Ystrad Rhondda.
Thomas David, Bute st.
Webber William, Ton-y-Pandy.
Weymouth Henry, Pentre.
Williams Samuel, Station st.
Williams Susannah, Treorchy.

SOLICITORS

Hallier & Williams (on Mondays), Pentre, Bailey's
Estate Office, Pentre-ystad, and at Pontypridd.
Morgan Walter H. (& clerk to Ystradfadwg Sanitary
Authority, Solicitor and Secretary to the Blaenferig
Valley Railway Company, Secretary to the
Ogmore Gas and Water Company, Limited),
Pentre, Treherbert, and Mill st., Pontypridd.
Rosser David (Mondays and Fridays), and clerk to
the Ystradfadwg school Board), Pentre, and High
st., Pontypridd.

STONE QUARRY OWNERS

Bute stone Quarry, Treherbert, Thomas Cumew,
manager.
Davies David & Co., Ystrad - William Jenkins,
manager.
Evans Evan, Treorchy.
Glamorgan Coal Co., Llwynpia - Joseph Davies,
manager.
Morgan David, Treorchy.

SURGEONS

Cuthbertson William, Pentre.
Davies Idris, M.D., L.M.S., L.S.-G.S., Ystrad Rhondda.
Price Rees G., Treorchy.
Rhys Watkin, Treherbert.
Warburton E. S., Tynewydd.

SURVEYORS

Evan Jenkins J. (& Civil Engineer and Architect),
Maesydrwd, Treorchy.
Jenkins William (& Mining Engineer), Ystrad Fechan.
Lewis Edward (land), Ystrad Rhondda.

TAILORS AND WOOLLEN DRAPERS

Charles James, Bute st.
Cox Thomas, Bute st.
Davies David, Ystrad Rhondda.
Davies David L., Pen-y-graig.
Davies James, Ton-y-pandy.
Davies Jenkins, Ton-pentre-ystad.
Davies John, Treorchy.
Evans Herbert, Tynewydd.
Francis Benjamin, Ton-y-pandy.
Hooper George, Bute st.
Jenkins Gethin, Ystrad Rhondda.
Jones David, M., Dunroven row.
Jones Thomas, Pentre.
Lewis Steven F., Treorchy.
Lewis Thomas, Treorchy.

Lloyd John, Pentre.
Rees Thomas, Treorchy.
Rutter Samuel, Pentre.
Smith Richard, Ton-y-pandy.
Thomas Brothers, Pentre.
Thomas Daniel, Ystrad.
Thomas Henry, Bute st.
Thomas W. D., Treherbert.
Williams William, Dunroven row.

TIMBER MERCHANTS & CONTRACTORS

Jenkins Charles & Son (& deal and slate merchants
and building materials).
Treherbert, and steam saw mills, Parth.
Morgan David (timber merchant, Contractor on
Builder's, Treorchy.
Timothy Thomas & Son (& building materials), Ystrad
Rhondda.

TOBACCONISTS

Campion Thomas, Station st.
Fairbairn Thomas, Pentre.

WATCHMAKERS & JEWELLERS

Crockett John & Co., Pentre.
Doffer Charles, Pentre.
Ford John, Bute st.
Kingsley Rose, Ton-y-pandy.
Mertz Franz X., Bute st.
Rodgers David, Treorchy.
Ruf Marcus, Ton-y-pandy.
Stroub Constantine, Treorchy.

MISCELLANEOUS

Davies William, Flannel weaver, Pandy Factory,
Ton-y-pandy.
Franks Henry, Leather seller, Pentre.
Hallesley E. & Co., marine store dealers, Ton-pentre-
ystad.
James P. S., billposter and town crier, Treorchy.
Perry John, brick maker, Treorchy.
Thomas James, Flannel dealer, Penynglyn.
Williams Idris, assistant overseer for the parish of
Ystradfadwg, Pentre.
Williams Margaret, Straw bonnet maker, Station st.
Williams William, Photographer, Treorchy.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS, OFFICES, &c.

Places of worship and their ministers
Churches of the Establishment.
St. Dyfodwg's, Ystrad Rhondda - Rev. William Lewis,
vicar.
St. Andrew's (Chapel of Ease), Llwynpia - Rev.
William Lewis.
District Church, Treherbert - Rev. John Rees, curate.
Chapel of Ease -
Pentre - Rev. William Lewis, vicar.
Penynglyn - Rev. Evan Davies, curate.
Treorchy - Rev. Wm. Davies, curate.
Ystrad Rhondda - Rev. William Lewis, vicar.

DISSENTING CHAPELS

Baptist (England):-
Trealaw - Minister various.
Treherbert - Rev. J. Rosser.
Treorchy - Rev. Daniel Davies.
Ystrad Rhondda - Rev. T. H. Jones.
Baptist (Welsh):-
Cwmpark - Rev. David Davies.

Pen-y-graig - Rev. Hugh Hughes.
Ton-y-pandy - Rev. J. R. Jones.
Trealaw - Rev. Evans.
Treherbert - Rev. J. Lewis Jones.
Treorchy - William Morris.
Ystrad Rhondda - Vacant.
Independent (English):-
Ton-pentre-ystad and Ton-y-pandy - Ministers
various.

Independent (Welsh):-

Cwmdare - Rev. J. R. Richards.
Llwynpia - Rev. J. G. Jenkins.
Pentre - Rev. David Evans.
Pen-y-graig - Rev. Davies.
Penynglyn - Rev. John Rees.
Ton-pentre-ystad - Rev. J. H. Jones.
Ton-y-pandy - Rev. David Thomas.
Treherbert - Rev. Jones.
Treorchy - Rev. Benjamin Davies.
Tynybedw - Rev. J. S. Edwards.
Ystrad Rhondda - Vacant.
Methodist (calvinistic):-
Ton-pentre-ystad - Rev. W. Jones.
Cwmpark and Pen-y-graig - Minister various.

Methodist (Primitive):-

Llwynpia, Pentre and Ystrad Rhondda - Ministers
various.
Treherbert - Rev. William Jones.
Methodist (Wesleyan) Chapels:-
Ton-y-pandy, Treherbert, & Ystrad Rhondda -
Minister various.
Treorchy - Rev. William Bairstow.
Methodist (English):-
Pentre - Rev. George Frayn.
Methodist (Welsh):-
Blaen-y-Rhondda - Rev. D. M. Jones.
Pentre - Rev. H. Currie.
Trealaw - Minister various.
Treherbert - Rev. Rees.
Treorchy - Rev. Thomas Davies.
Treorchy - Rev. Evan Davies.
Ystrad Rhondda - Rev. Roberts.

REGISTRARS OF BIRTHS, DEATHS & MARRIAGES

Registrar of Births and Deaths for the district of
Ystradfadwg -
George H. Davies, Danyralt.
Registrar of Marriages for the District of
Ystradfadwg -
Idris Williams, Pentre.
Bute Reading Rooms, Marion Jones, Keeper.
Police station, Treherbert - Thomas King, Inspector.
Police Station, Pentre - James Nool, Sergeant.
Police Station, Ton-y-pandy - William Price,
Sergeant.
Public Hall, Station st. - Walter H. Morgan, Secretary.
Public Hall, Pentre - Elias H. Davies, Secretary.
Public Reading Rooms, Treorchy - Roderick
Hughes, Keeper.
Ystrad Gas and Water Company, Ystrad Rhondda -
Frank James, Secretary.
Edmund S. Pike, Manager.

CONVEYANCE BY RAILWAY

on the Rhondda Valley line of the Taff Vale Railway
Co.

Station, Treherbert - Wm. Thomas, Station master
and goods manager.
Station, Treorchy - Idris Lewis, station master and
goods manager.
Station, Pandy - William Richards, station master.
Station, Llwynpia - David Howells, station master
and goods manager.
Station, Ystrad Rhondda - David T. Jenkins, station
master and goods manager.

Post Office, Treherbert - Edwin Herbert, Post Master.
Letters arrive from all parts (via Pontypridd) at ten
minutes before eight and half-past nine morning,
and are dispatched thereto at ten minutes past
three afternoon and ten minutes past six evening.

Money Order and Telegraph Office and Savings
Bank

Post Office, Pentre - Edward Skyrme, Post Master.
Letters arrive from all parts (via Pontypridd) at
thirteen minutes past seven and twenty-five
minutes past nine morning, and are dispatched
thereto at fifteen minutes past three afternoon and
six evening.

Money Order and Telegraph Office and Savings
Bank

Post Office, Pen-y-graig - Robert Price, Post Master.
Letter arrives from all parts (via Pontypridd) at five
minutes before seven and five minutes past nine
morning, and are dispatched thereto at six minutes
before four afternoon and six minutes before six
evening.

Money Order and Telegraph Office and Savings
Bank

Post Office, Ton-y-pandy - George Knill, Post
Master. Letters arrive from all parts (via Pontypridd)
at seven and half past nine morning, and are
dispatched thereto at fifteen minutes past three
afternoon and ten minutes past six evening.

Money Order and Telegraph Office and Savings
Bank

Post Office, Treorchy - William H. Morgan, Post
Master. Letters arrive from all parts (via Pontypridd)
at ten minutes to eight and half-past nine morning,
and are dispatched thereto at twenty minutes past
three afternoon and twenty minutes past six
evening.

Money Order and Telegraph Office and Savings
Bank

Post Office, Ystrad Rhondda - Ann Phillips, Post
Master. Letters arrive from all parts
(via Pontypridd) at twenty minutes past seven and
twenty-five minutes before ten morning, and are
dispatched thereto at three afternoon and ten
minutes past six evening.

Money Order and Telegraph Office and Savings
Bank

Receiving Boxes at Llwynpia, Blaen-y-Rhondda,
Penynglyn, Ton-Pentre-Ystrad and Tynewydd.
Letters for the above-named places should be
addressed "near Pontypridd".

7.1

WORKING CLOTHES



Working men's dress. Notice the caps, mufflers and waistcoats.



Businessmen and shopkeepers dressed in much the same way. Notice the collar and ties and the watch chains.

Men wore flannel shirts without collars. Collars were separate and were fixed to the shirt with a collar stud. Cuffs were often separate also. Men wore woollen or cotton "combinations" as underwear. Vests or "singlets" became more common. They were worn with long drawers or underpants. Waistcoats were usually worn and men would have pocket watches on a chain, worn on their waistcoat. Hats were also very common. If a man did not wear a collar he would put a scarf or muffler round his neck instead.



Women wore a lot of underwear, mostly made of cotton or linen. They did not use elastic, so everything had to be tied or buttoned.



Women workers at the Compton House, Tonypandy.

7.2

FASHIONABLE CLOTHES

Miners worked six days a week during this time. They wore working clothes and these would be old and patched many times. Sunday was the only day miners put on their best clothes and that is why they were often called their "Sunday best."

The miner's wife would also wear working clothes during the week and dress up on Sunday. Most people wore their best clothes to Chapel or Church. Often young people would walk around the village after the evening service "showing off" their clothes and some called this the "monkey parade".

Most clothes would be made at home. Men's clothes were usually cut down to fit their sons. The sewing machine was a new invention which helped to make it easier for women to make their own clothes. Not all women could afford to buy such a machine.



This photograph shows four men. The two seated at either end are working men. Their clothes are not as good as the medical Officer of Health (Centre) or the hospital manager (standing at rear). These both have stiff collars and ties. The working men have collarless shirts and scarves tied around their neck. The working men's hats are soft, flat hats often called "Dai caps" while the M.O.H. has a top hat.



A Cwmparc sewing class 1898.

These young women are dressed in the fashion of the time. The sleeves were very long and because of their shape they were called "leg of mutton" sleeves.

For every day wear, white long-sleeved blouses with high necks and long skirts were usually worn.

These can be seen below.



The opening of Gelli Park in 1914. Notice the hats worn by men, women and children. Everybody was wearing their "Sunday best."

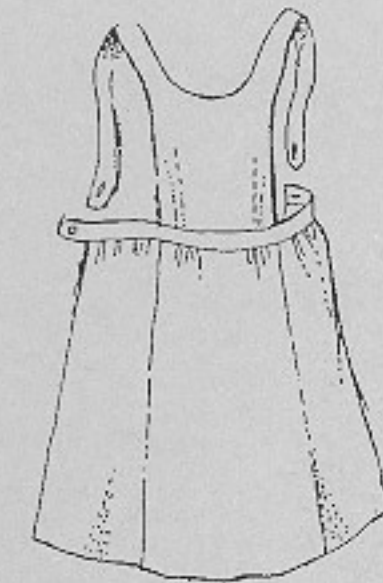
7.3

CHILDREN'S CLOTHES

Working class children wore clothes similar to their parents. Often they were their parents old clothes cut down to size. Clothes were also passed down through the family from the eldest to the youngest. In the early years of the Victorian age, little boys and girls both wore dresses, until the boys were "breeched" (put in trousers) at about 3 to 4 years of age. Both boys and girls wore pinafores over their dresses. This protected the dress and the pinafore was easy to wash. Sailor suits were very popular for young boys for "best" as were large collars.



Apron



Pinafore



Two Rhondda children, around 1880.

Clothes became simpler and more comfortable in the 20th Century. This class photograph, taken in 1914 at Duffryn School, Ferndale, shows both boys and girls in everyday clothes. Notice many of the girls are wearing pinafores and the boys, large collars.



In the 19th Century there were two religious groups raising money to build schools. The ones for church-people were called National Schools; the others for chapel people, the British Schools. Children had to pay a small amount to go to these schools. In Rhondda the coalowners were asked to give money to start schools. Miner's also gave a small amount, which was taken out of their pay. One of the first schools built was started by Walter Coffin at Dinas in 1830. In 1880 Elementary Education was made compulsory and so more schools had to be built. The new schools were set up by elected local people called 'Board Schools.'



Staff of Treorchy Board school 1886.

SCHOOLS IN THE PARISH OF YSTRADYFODWG TO 1872

School	Date Established
British, Treherbert	1860
British, Bodringalt	1861
National, Treherbert	1862
National, Pentre	1864
Llwynypia Colliery	1865
Treorchy United Colliery	1866
Dunraven Collieries	1867
British, Ton (Ystrad)	1869
British, Penygraig	1869
British, Ferndale	1869
National, Tonypany	1870
British, Cwmparc	1871
British, Clydach Vale	1872

A School For Cwmsaebren:
The population increased. As new collieries opened and old ones were extended. The only school available was a Dame school. A meeting of the leaders of the main chapels and the colliery manager arranged to set up a British School. There were problems as money was still owed for the newly built chapels.

OCEAN STEAM COAL COLLIERIES, DARE PIT.											
No. of Men and Boys	Sex	NAME	Days	Week advanced	Total	Days	Week	Days	Week	Days	Week
12		Upper Steam	40	5/7/2	6/4	12/14	2/6/2	10/6	2/6/10	10/15/2	
		Evans - Rees - Brown	5		15/11/4			2	7/9	4/17/4	
		David Jones - St. James	4		8/4			1	2	2/10/1	
		John Jones	9		14			2	2	3/19/1	
		John Thomas	9		15/05/4			2	2	2/11/4	
		John Richards & Co	4		15/10/4			2	2	3/9/9	
		John Brown	4		15/10/4			2	2	3/9/9	
		John Thomas & Co	2/10		5/4			1	1/2	2/3/1	
		James Thomas & Co	1/10					1	1	2/1/1	
		Morgan Edwards	1					1	1	2/5/1	
		John Jones	1		5/4			1	1	1/10/8	
		William Davies	1/10					1	1	2/1/1	
		David Jones & Co	1		6			1	1	5/1/1	
		John Thomas & Co	2		10			4	1	1/1/8	
		Robert Jones	1/5					4	1	2/3/10	
		Thomas Lewis	2/10					6	1/6	4/1/1	
		Thomas Morgan & Co	2/10		10			5	1/2	1/17/6	
		William Thomas	1/10					4	1	2/9/10	
		Thomas Evans	1/10		1			4	1	1/10/10	
		Edward Jones	2		10			2	1/2	1/17/9	
		David Davies & Co	2/10		10			5	1/3	1/10/1	
		William Jones	2/10					4	1	2/7/10	
		Thomas Evans & Co	2		10			5	1/3	2/3/8	

The wages' book of the Ocean Collieries Dare Pit, showing how much each man paid every week towards the school building. The money from this pit went to the United Collieries' School at Treorchy.

A great deal of time in schools was spent teaching the Three 'Rs'. This was reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic.

The younger children would use slates and chalk to practise writing letters, while older children used paper. Pencils and pen and ink were used for writing. The pens had metal nibs which had to be dipped in the inkwell. The whole class would have to learn a great deal by memory. The older children also learned Geography and History as well as Scripture. In the afternoon girls would learn knitting and sewing. The boys were taught woodwork. Singing and drawing were also taught. There was also a lesson

A child should always say what's true, And speak
when he is spoken to, And behave mannerly at table.
A child should always say what's true, And speak
when he is spoken to, And behave mannerly at table.

Children would spend much of the day copying writing from the blackboard or from books. Here are two examples of the kind of sentences and style of writing they had to copy.

A kindred hand is worth two in the bush
True words butter no parsnips
Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof

A page from a reading book children in the Rhondda would have used.

18 *New Reading Easy;*

Easy Lessons.—VI.

COME to school clean and neat; play
not by the way, nor let your voice be
heard in the street.

When you are at school take your place;
make no noise, but strive to learn.

When you come to say your task, speak
out plain, and mind to sound all your
words right.

Be sure to mind your stops; read from
stop to stop, as you see them in the book;
and do not make a stop where there is
none.

Spell such words as you can not read,
and then you will know them the next
time you see them.

Arithmetic test cards which pupils would have tried at the end of elementary school when they were about 12 years of age.

GIBSON'S QUALIFYING SCHOLARSHIP TEST CARDS B
ARITHMETIC. Time, 1 Hour. CARD 2

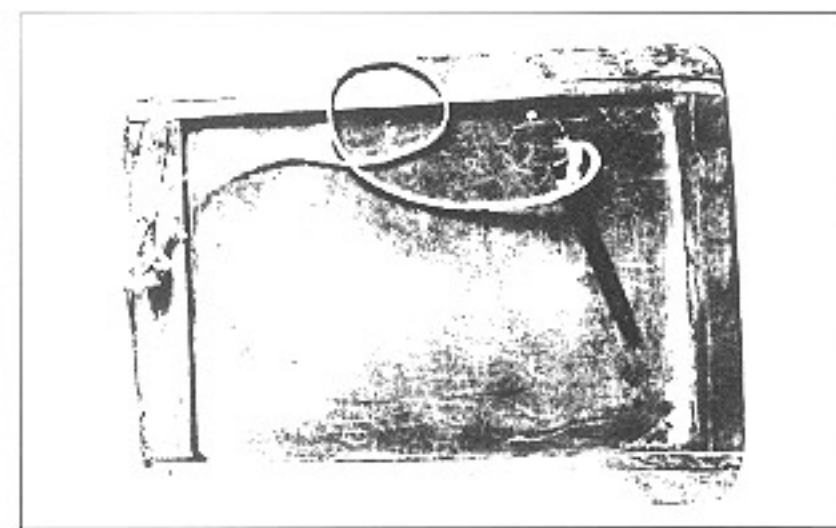
All the essential steps of the working must be shown.

1. Make out and receipt this bill:
15 half-pound boxes of chocolate at $4/6$ per lb.
8 lbs. mixed sweets at $9d.$ per quarter lb.
32 tins of biscuits at $3/6$ per doz. tins.
17½ lbs. of sugar at $£2\ 10/-$ per cwt.
2. One thousand tons of coal are loaded into 125 railway waggons, all of which carry an equal amount. What is the load in each waggon? (Answer in tons, cwt, qrs, etc.)
3. Write down in words the number which is 375 of three hundred thousand.
4. Simplify $\frac{1}{2}(3\frac{1}{2} - 9\frac{1}{2} + 2\frac{1}{2} + 6\frac{1}{2})$.
5. I buy 35 gallons of oil for $£1\ 5/9$. I lose 75 gal. by leakage. What is my profit if I sell the oil at $4d.$ per quart?
6. A road, 1 furlong, 6 chains, 4 yards long, is marked off into equal distances by 16 posts, of which the first is at the point where the road begins. What is the distance between the first and third posts?

Pens and ink bottle.



Pupil's slate with slate pen.





A Dancing Class.

8.3

ATTENDANCE

All schools were visited once a year by Her Majesty's Inspectors. (H.M.I.s). They tested the pupils' reading, writing, arithmetic, and all other subjects. They also checked attendance. Teachers would be very worried when these men came to the school because they inspected teachers as well. Some teachers made pupils learn their reading books by heart, if they were not good readers. The inspectors also reported on the state of the buildings and the size of classes. Many Rhondda schools were overcrowded.

Here are some of the Inspectors' comments:

Year	Date	H.M.I. Comments
1884	May 18th	The mental arithmetic was good throughout, but the tables were not learned in the first standard. Prefer slates without lines. It is quite impossible for standard 1 to be taught efficiently in the present over-crowded room. W. Edwards esq. H.M.I.
1918	December 14th	In a Welsh lesson in another class of 56 girls, much good work was done (some of it by thoroughly English children).

Each headteacher kept a logbook. This was like a diary. Many of the entries in these books were about attendance. There seem to have been many reasons why children played truant. You can see some below. Teachers tried to encourage pupils to attend regularly. Certificates were awarded for good attendance.

School Log Book Entries on Attendance.		
1879	September 5th	Average attendance for week 123. Better attendance this week except on Friday - very wet day, present only 48.
1905	March 6	Mabon's Monday or colliers' monthly holiday seriously affects our attendance.
	May 15th	A cymanfa with the Methodists on Monday and a bazaar with the Baptists reduced very materially the attendance on Monday.
	July 14th	The attendance of the week is lower than it has been for some months owing to the Sunday School outings, the accident at Wattstown and the prevalence of whooping cough and chicken pox.
1914	May 12th	Llanwono races held on Thursday afternoon, attendance considerably reduced.
	June 29th	Attendance was low on Monday. The English and Welsh Wesleyans held their annual teaparty, many of the children were at it.



Treorchy Girls' school 1913

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION ACT, 1876.

Education Department.

Form No. 144.

CERTIFICATE OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.*Reworth*

*School

I hereby certify that the following particulars with respect to the Attendances made by the Child named below, at this School after attaining the age of 5 years, are correctly taken from the Registers of the School.

Name in full, and Residence of Child	Number of Attendances made within the 12 months ending the 31st December.	
<i>John J Woodward</i>	1873	323
	1874	428
	1875	417
	1876	386
	1877	329

Signed this 28 day of July 1898.



Classes were very large in Elementary schools, (we call them Primary schools today) so the teachers had to be strict to keep order. Children were punished by caning, or by having their 'ears boxed.' There were also pupil teachers. These were older children who helped to teach the younger pupils.

'Punishment by the headmaster consisted of 'cross my knee' or a caning on the hands, the quota being two to six strokes. Corporal punishment was not reserved to the head; and the class teachers dealt with us as and when they thought fit. Boys' ears were very convenient to haul the owner from his seat with the minimum of effort. This was varied with a box on the ear which caused that side of one's head to hum for some time after the blow; or a substantial ruler to rap the knuckles or test the skull of a delinquent. I am far from suggesting that such treatment was usual. Mostly the teachers were very decent, but the power was there.'

Caning was common. Here are some entries from a school's punishment book

Punishment book - Dunraven Boys' School (1900-1904)			
Name	Offence	Date of Offence	Punishment Awarded
Mathew Davies	Inattention to studies	July 5th 1900	3 strokes on hand
Samuel Thomas	Playing truant	July 10th 1900	6 strokes
Herbert John Davies	Playing truant: warned several times	January 16th 1902	6 strokes on hand and 4 on legs
Daniel Dunaman	Talking in class	March 14th 1902	2 strokes
Gomer Williams	Disobedience	January 6th 1904	4 strokes on hand
Charles Evans	Carelessness on arithmetic exercise book	March 5th 1904	3 strokes on hand
Evan James	Rowdiness in marching school	April 24th 1904	3 strokes on hand
Dennis Donovan	Using a catapult in school	November 21st 1904	1 stroke on each hand



Blaenclydach Schools Manual Class.

8.5

ADULT EDUCATION

Children left school when they were 12yrs old. They had to pass a labour examination and gain a labour certificate before they could start work. Very few pupils went on to secondary school because parents had to pay to attend these schools. It wasn't until 1889 that the Government allowed Welsh Counties to set up Secondary schools. There were only 487 pupils in the Rhonddas' two secondary schools in 1891. After 1902 secondary education became free.

Extract from Heads log a book 1898-99

"Half standard 5 have recieved labour certificates and left school."

Below is a photograph of a 12 year old boy. John Davies on his first day at work in Ferndale colliery in 1911. He had to pass the Labour examination before he was allowed to leave school.



John Davies



Parc & Dare, Treorchy before 1913.

Miners realised how important it was to have an education in order to get a good safe job. Each pit collected money from the workmen to build a miners institute. These were large buildings with games rooms, billiards, cinemas refreshment rooms. Some even had swimming pools. The institutes also had reading rooms and libraries and it was here that many miners educated themselves. Classes were held in the institute to teach all manner of subjects.



Ferndale and Blaenllechau Workmen's Hall & Institute 1909.

This was one of the biggest Institutes in South Wales and its size and facilities can be seen from this description of the new building given in the souvenir programme of the opening.

"In the centre of the front is the Refreshment Room ... a screen divides it from the supper room... the institute Lounge and the main Institute rooms. On the first floor is the Billiards Room with five full-sized tables... and Refreshment Bar. On the next floor are the Reading and the Reference Rooms... The third floor contains a large Games Room... The Hall provides seating accommodation for fifteen hundred people... The lesser Hall is capable of seating nearly 350 persons... Descending the Swimming Bath is reached... Along one side run the Dressing Boxes and behind those the Rifle range..."

Source: Souvenir of the Opening of Ferndale and Blaenllechau Workmens Hall and Institute, 1909.

9.1

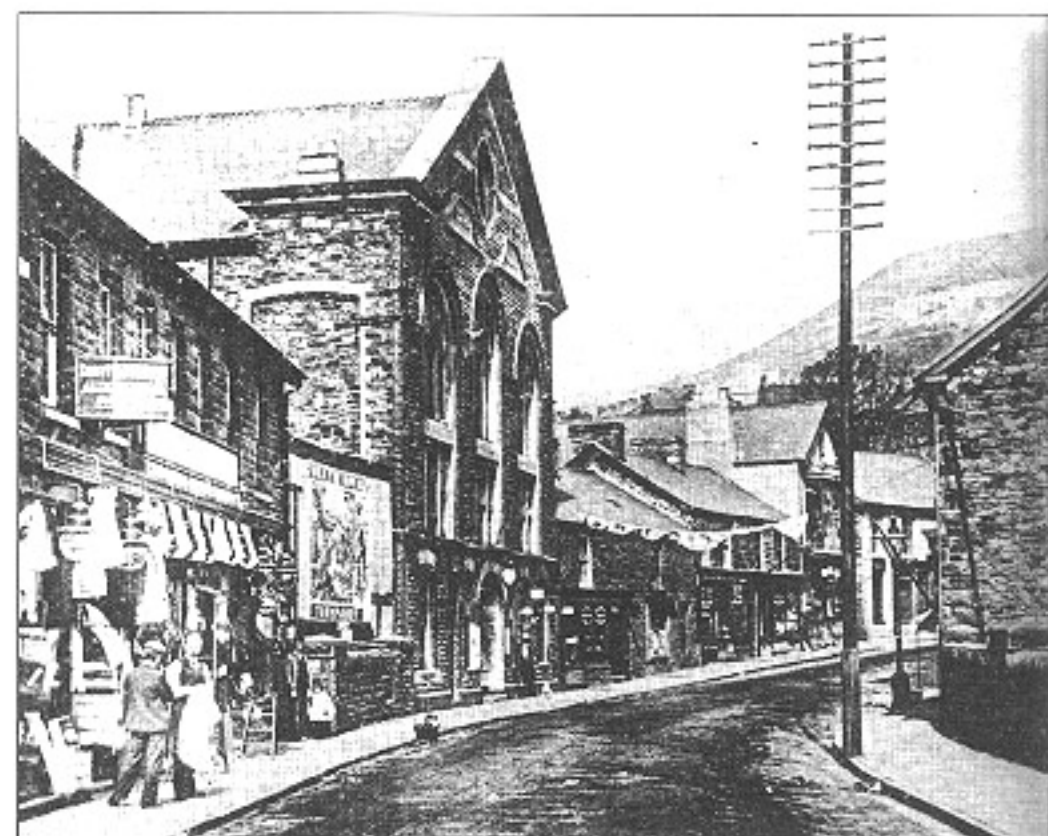
THEATRES AND CINEMAS

In the 1870s, people in the valleys were attracted to organised entertainment. Portable wooden buildings were used for travelling theatre companies to put on plays and musical concerts.

In the 1890s, a number of theatres and halls were built - and they regularly held variety shows and plays.

By the time of the First World War in 1914, the cinema had arrived. At this time, the films were silent, an organist or piano player provided the musical background.

On Saturday mornings, a special matinee for children was held in most cinemas. These were known as the 'Penny Rush'.



The Royal Theatre, Tonypandy

TONYPANDY EMPIRE

Monday, Nov. 14th.

And During the Week,

THE EMPIROSCOPE

Will Show a Grand Series of

ANIMATED PICTURES

"World in Motion."

COMEDY, DRAMA, AND INSTRUCTIVE

One Continuous Performance

6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Come and go when you like.

THE EMPIRE ORCHESTRA.

Will Play Selections during the Evening
Musical Director—Mr. A. E. BREAKWELL.

REFRESHMENTS OF THE VERY BEST

To be had from the Bars and Attendants.

Entire change of Pictures
Every Thursday.

Gallery, 2d.; Pit, 3d.; Stalls, 4d.;
Circle, 6d.

EMPIRE

Theatre of Varieties, TONYPANDY.

Proprietors: THE TONYPANDY THEATRE OF VARIETIES LTD.
Resident Manager: Mr. E. M. D. MOORE.

GRAND OPENING
Monday, November 16th, 1909.

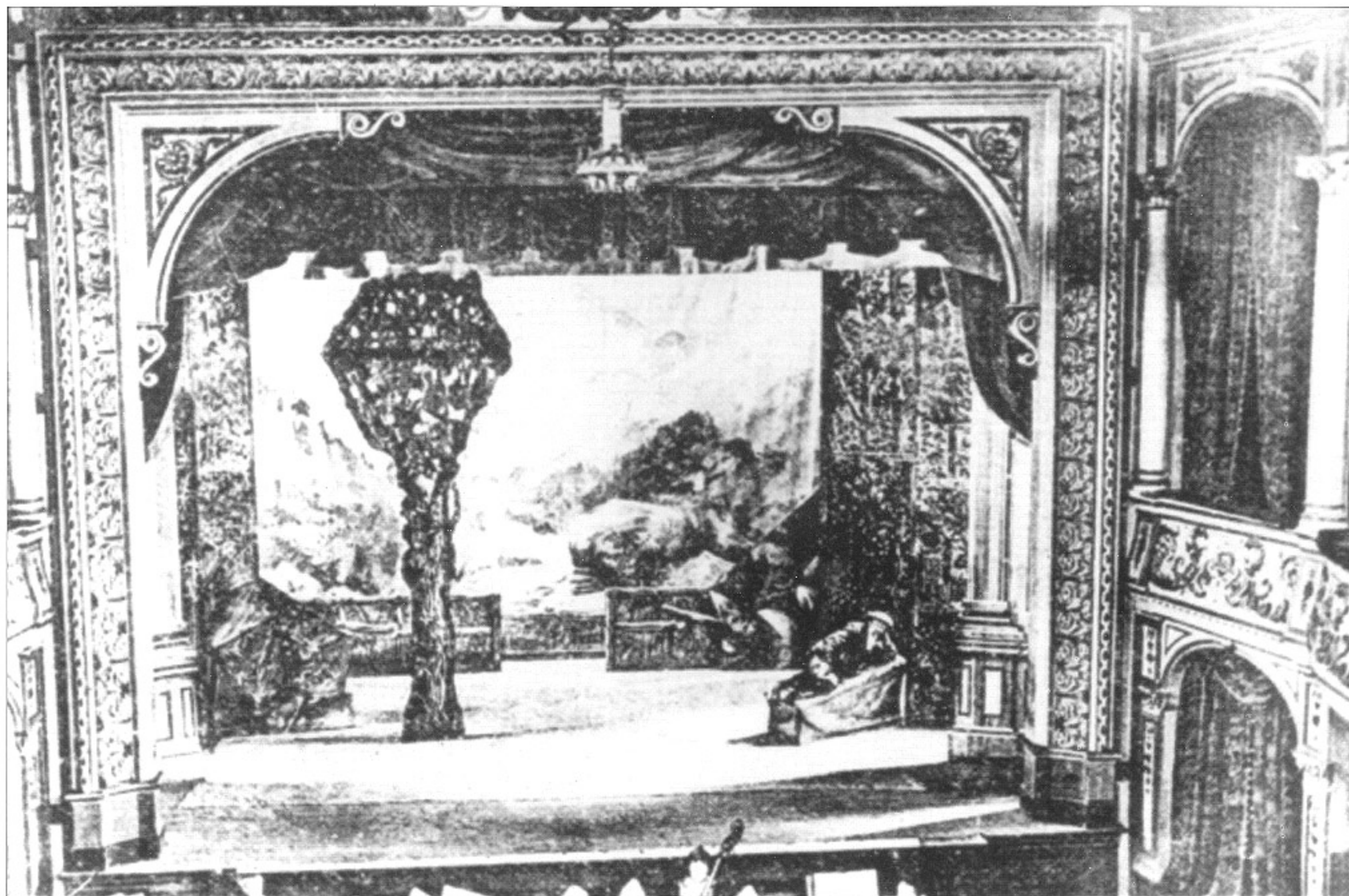
PROGRAMME.

1. SELECTION By the Orchestra
2. MARGARET MONKS Dainty Song in Opera Dress
3. HARRY FRISKEY & THE BIRNIE "THE BIRNIE INTERLUDE"
The Original American Comedy Troupe.
4. ROSS WILSON The Dancing Cossack
5. BEATRICE ENGLISH World's Finest Vocalist
6. WOOD WELKINS & CO. Vocal & Instrumentalists
7. B. A. ROLFE'S production of "THE COLONIAL EXPTETTE"
Presenting "AN OLIVE TONK HALLUCINATION"
By CHARLES EDWARDS, Author of "The Great Variety"
Scene 1 Tea Prologue
Scene 2 The Gate in the garden wall
Scene 3 Drawing Room of a Material Mansion
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Programme for the opening night of
the Theatre of Varieties, Tonypandy.



The photograph above explains why matinees were called "Penny Rush". Gaiety Cinema, Treherbert, October 17th, 1914.

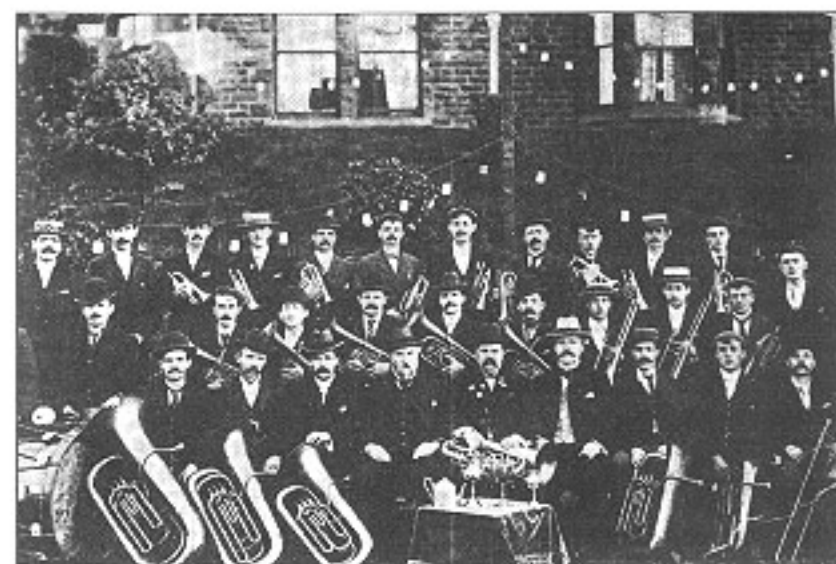


Inside the Theatre Royal, Tonypany built in 1892

Concerts at Pentre

"The Cory Workmen's Prize Band held their annual concerts on Thursday and Saturday evenings of last week. The above band has made rapid strides during the last few years, notably under the conductorship of Mr J. Bailey, late bandmaster of Ferndale Brass Band, having won in all 11 first prizes and standing the fifth band in Great Britain in the matter of first prizes. The chairman billed for both evenings were Mr G. H. Smith, Maindy Hall, and Mr D. L. Richards, M.E., but, owing to the unavoidable absence of both gentlemen - the latter being very ill - Mr Hall, M.E., was deputed chairman for both evenings, in which capacity he presided in his usual jovial and effective manner. Mr Isaac Bowen presided at the piano. The programme was as follows:- Selection 'Le Domino Noir,' the band; tenor solo, 'Sound an alarm,' Mr Todd Jones; bass solo, 'Big Ben,' Mr Barry Lindon. Being encored, he sang 'Off to Philadelphia in the morning,' soprano solo, 'The valley by the sea,' Miss Janet Garnett; cornet solo, Mr A. Howells; duet, 'Love and war,' Messrs Jones and Lindon; selection, 'Gems of Welsh Melody,' the band; soprano solo, 'The auld plaid shawl,' Miss Garnett. For encore she sang 'Aderyn pur a'i aden las,' tenor solo, 'The sailor's grave,' Mr Todd Jones (encored); bass solo, 'Rocked in the cradle of the deep,' Mr Barry Lindon. The applause which greeted this exquisite rendering was quite terrific, the demands for encore being general from all parts of the huge assembly. Mr Lindon responded with 'Chorus, gentlemen, just once more,' trombone solo, 'Men of Harlech,' Mr W. Jones; duet, 'The solfa lesson,' Miss Garnett and Mr Lindon (encored)."

REPORT IN RHONDDA LEADER, 1903.



The Cory Band.



Music of all kinds provided entertainment in the Rhondda, and thousands of people took part in choirs and bands; the chapels helped to encourage this. Many of the choirs and bands became very famous. The Rhondda Glee Society performed before Queen Victoria at Windsor Castle in February, 1888.

The Cory Band started in 1884, it was then called the Ton Pentre Temperance Band. All the men were against drinking alcohol. When a local coalowner, Sir Clifford Cory, offered to help pay for instruments and a director of music, they changed their name to the Cory Band.

ONLY 10/6 A MONTH

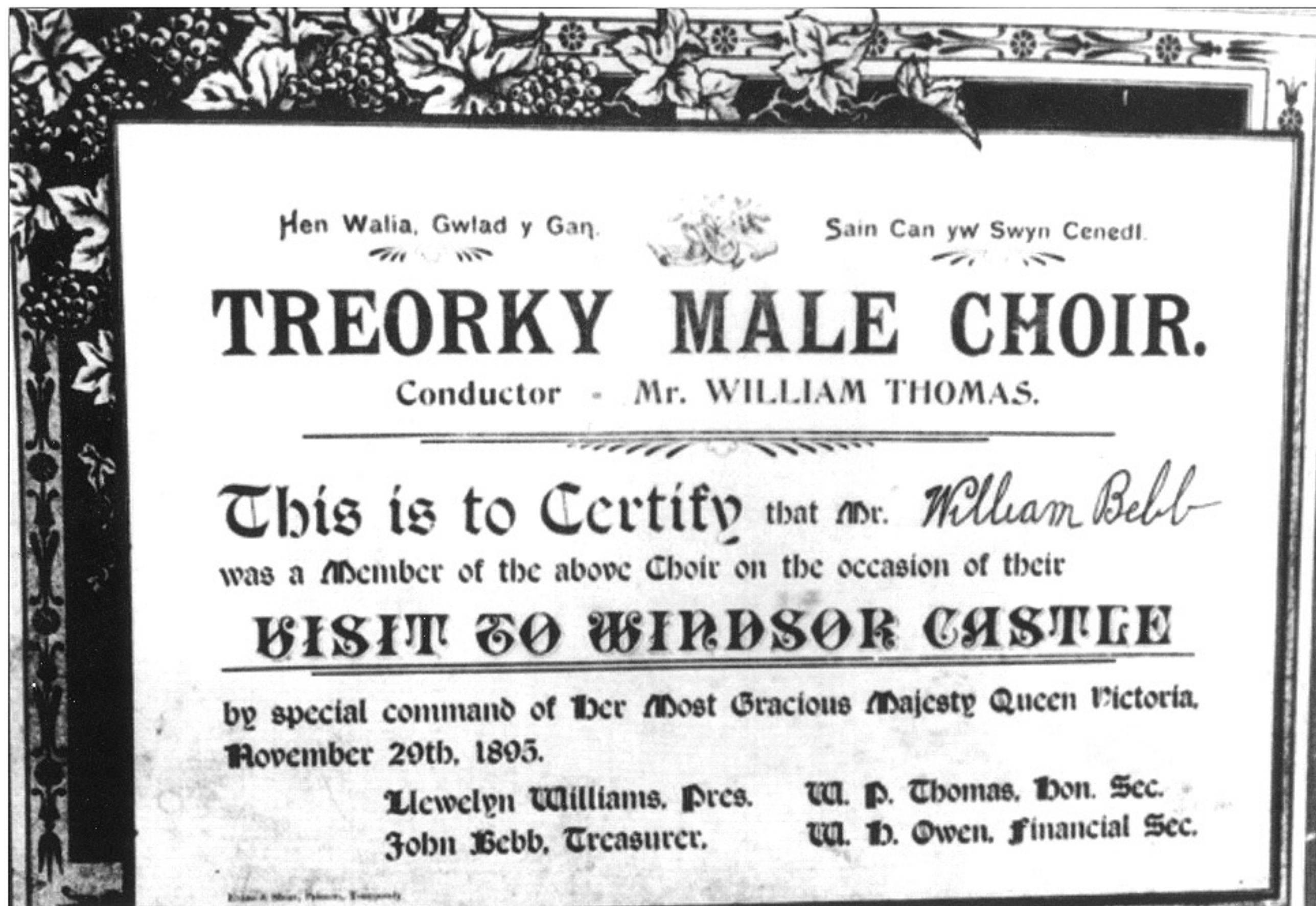
No matter who you are or where you live, we will give you credit and deliver to your door one of our magnificent gold-trimmed "Marsch" full-trichord pianos, 40,000 of which already grace England's happiest homes.

Experience, combined with easiness, is - and has been for over 25 years - our cardinal trading principle. That is why we sell the world's best pianos and organs at prices below other people's prices.

We take our old instruments in trade on terms and treat the approval given a 25 years' warranty, and when we receive the piano from WESTBURY, BRISTOL, 27, A&O and HAVE just a few more at exceptionally low prices. Write for our illustrated Art Catalogue. QUOTE AGENTS WANTED.

Crane & Sons Ltd.

Many families entertained themselves at home singing around the piano. You could pay monthly for a piano.



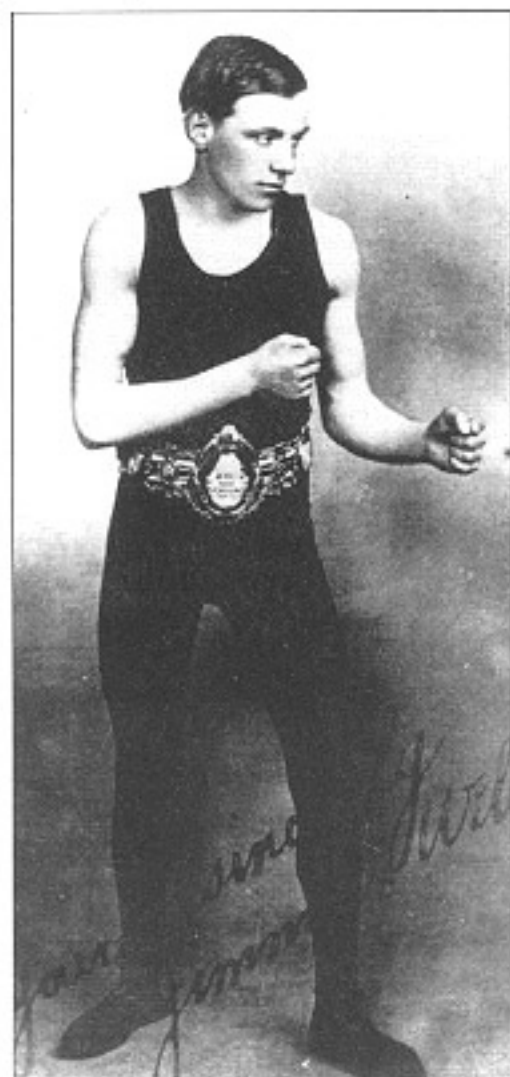
Workmen in the South Wales valleys loved organised sport. Games such as rounders, quoits and handball were popular.

BOXING had a great following. This might vary from bare fist fighting on local hillsides to organised and controlled contests.

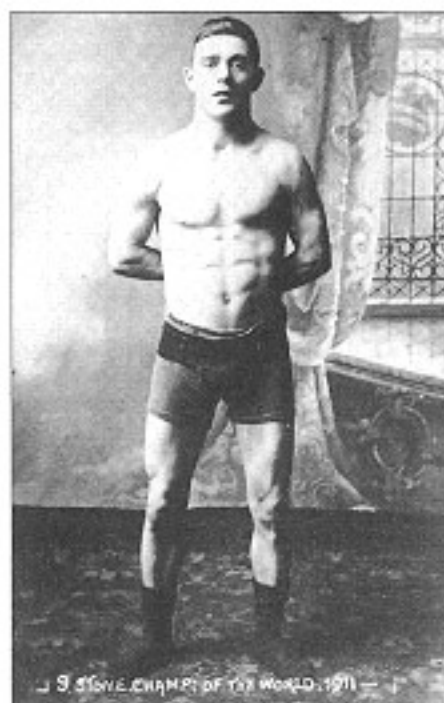
"Twon won two sovereigns for standing up for two rounds against a professional boxer in a boxing booth and offered two more rounds at the same price."

From the valley I came: Will John Edwards

Freddie Welsh of Pontypridd became world lightweight champion in 1914.



Jimmy Wilde was a famous Rhondda boxer who became world flyweight champion in 1916, a title he held until 1923. He was 7st. 10lb in weight.



Tom Jenkins was also a world champion. He was the featherweight wrestling champion of the world in 1911.

RUGBY was very popular. Many clubs were formed in the 1880s. In 1881, the Welsh Rugby Union was formed. It was in this year that Wales first played England - England were easy victors. During these early years, Rhondda clubs provided a number of internationals.

Willie Llewellyn from Tonypany played for the Welsh team which defeated the New Zealand All Blacks in Cardiff in 1905.



Welsh team, 1905.

SOCCER: Some men preferred soccer to rugby particularly those from North Wales and parts of England. The game became very popular in Rhondda.

Football.
Association
WELSH CUP.
LLANELLY 9, MARDY 0.
 Pretty interpassing between Lockett and Hopgood put the visitors on the attack, but as Norris ran in to save he was fouled. Llanelly then assumed the aggressive. Both sides appeared to be slow in settling down, but at length Payne broke through beautifully and shot hard. Middleton, however, saved well. Lockett dashed along the touch-line and sent in a beautiful shot, and after Gosling had negotiated it one of the Mardy forwards rose the ball high. Llanelly were slow in their passing. There was a momentary stoppage owing to an injury to Curtis, who was, however, able to resume. Mardy took advantage of Llanelly's apparent indifferent display, and forced play up the field. Freeman dashed up and kicked the ball well out. A minute later Bird and Freeman were conspicuous in attack. A miskick by James nearly let the visitors in, Gosling being compelled to run out to save. Llanelly now seemed to have awakened, and were doing all the attacking.
 Mardy attacked directly after the interval, and the home defence was sorely tested. Slowly Llanelly worked their way up the field, and after a centre by Bird Martin sent in a fine shot, which went only inches wide. The Scarlets kept up the attack, and Bird was given plenty to do, once skimming the bar with a splendid shot. Just before the end Mardy rushed to the Llanelly goal, and Gosling brought off a remarkably fine save.

From Rhondda Leader 1914.

Mid-Rhondda A.F.C.

The following is the list of fixtures for the coming season:-

1914.	
Sept. 5	Caerphilly (S.L.) .....home
" 12	Stalybridge Celtic (S.L.) .....away
" 12	Port Talbot (W.L.) .....home
" 14	Brentford (S.L.) .....home
" 19	Mardy (S.L.) .....home
" 19	Rhymney (W.L.) .....away
" 24	Mardy (W.L.) .....away
" 26	Cardiff Corinthians (E.C.) .....away
" 28	Barry (W.L.) .....home
Oct. 3	Ebbw Vale (S.L.) .....home
" 3	Bargoed (W.L.) .....away
" 5	Swansea (W.L.) .....home
" 10	English Cup
" 15	Pontypridd (W.L.) .....away
" 17	Newport County (S.L.) .....home
" 17	Troedyrhiw (W.L.) .....away
" 24	English Cup
" 26	Llanelly (W.L.) .....home
" 31	Abertillery (S.L.) .....home
Nov. 7	Pontypridd (S.L.) .....home
" 11	Barry (W.L.) .....away
" 14	Swansea (S.L.) .....away
" 28	Stoke (S.L.) .....away
Dec. 5	Coventry (S.L.) .....home
" 12	Barry (S.L.) .....away
" 19	Leyton (S.L.) .....home
" 25	Ton-Pentre (S.L.) .....away
" 26	Ton-Pentre (W.L.) .....home
1915.	
Jan. 2	Caerphilly (S.L.) .....away
" 9	Lysaghts (W.L.) .....away
" 16	Ebbw Vale (W.L.) .....away
" 23	Mardy (S.L.) .....away
" 30	Merthyr (S.L.) .....home
" 30	Merthyr (W.L.) .....away
Feb. 6	Ebbw Vale (S.L.) .....away
" 13	Llanelly (S.L.) .....home
" 20	Newport County (S.L.) .....away
" 20	Lysaghts (W.L.) .....home
" 23	Llanelly (S.L.) .....away
" 25	Swansea (W.L.) .....away
" 27	Merthyr (S.L.) .....away
" 27	Merthyr (W.L.) .....home
Mar. 6	Abertillery (S.L.) .....away
" 6	Troedyrhiw (W.L.) .....home
" 12	Pontypridd (S.L.) .....away
" 13	Bargoed (W.L.) .....home
" 16	Llanelly (W.L.) .....away
" 20	Swansea (S.L.) .....home
" 20	Port Talbot (W.L.) .....away
" 25	Pontypridd (W.L.) .....home
" 27	Brentford (S.L.) .....away
" 27	Rhymney (W.L.) .....home
April 2	Stalybridge Celtic (S.L.) .....home
" 3	Stoke (S.L.) .....home
E.M. 5	Ton-Pentre (W.L.) .....away
" 6	Ton-Pentre (S.L.) .....home
" 7	Mardy (W.L.) .....home
" 10	Coventry (S.L.) .....away
" 17	Barry (S.L.) .....home
" 19	Ebbw Vale (W.L.) .....home
" 24	Leyton (S.L.) .....away

S.L. denotes Southern League; W.L.,

Welsh League; E.C., English Cup Ties. In addition to the above list, Cup Rounds will have to be played in Welsh, English and South Wales Cups.

Mid Rhondda A.F.C. Fixture list, 1914 - 1915.

10.1

WATER

The villages of the Rhondda were built so quickly that water supply and sewers were not provided until years later. Much of the refuse from toilets was placed in big holes, called cess pits. These were cleared by council workmen once a week. Lots of refuse was just thrown into the river. The Government passed laws in the 1870s and 1880s to encourage local councils to improve supplies of drinking water and sewers, but it was not until 1914 that any real improvements took place. As late as 1880, only 44% of all Rhondda houses had piped water, the rest used mountain springs and taps in the street. The quality of the water was very poor. It took until 1914 before the majority of Rhondda houses were connected to the sewers.

The overcrowding of large families into liny houses, poor sanitary conditions and poverty meant that the Rhondda had one of the highest death rates of young children (infant mortality) in England and Wales. There was a great deal of infectious disease amongst the young.

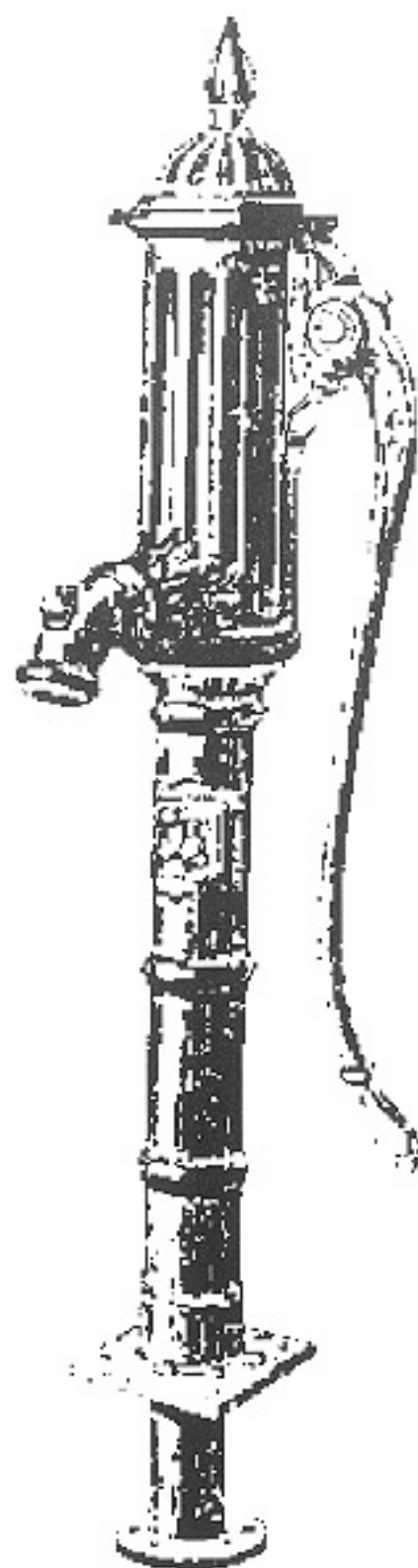
Each year throughout the 1890s, pneumonia, diarrhoea, measles, whooping cough, diphtheria, scarlet fever, convulsions and other causes were killing one out of every 12 children under 5. 50% of all deaths were children under 5.

Deaths Among Children Under One Year of Age

Year	Rate per 1,000 Births	Average of five years
1892	193	210
1893	224	
1894	204	
1895	234	
1896	197	
1897	204	

Average for England and Wales 150

The death rate of infants in the Rhondda was one of the highest in Britain - only two towns in the country had higher death rates.



A Water pump

Two reports which show how bad things were in the Rhondda:

A report in 1870 -

"There is extreme neglect of all sanitary precautions. There is no due provision for excrement and refuse disposal. Water supply is totally insufficient and liable to pollution."

1883 -

"The river contains a large proportion of human excrement, stable and pigsty manure, congealed blood, offal and entrails from the slaughterhouses, the rotten carcasses of animals, cats and dogs ... Old cast-off articles of clothing and bedding, and boots, bottles, ashes, street refuse and a host of other articles ... In dry weather the stench becomes unbearable."

The Police tried to stop people dumping refuse in the river. You can see that they had some success.

Summary of Police Court Proceedings during 1913

No	Court	Offence	Result
34	Ystrad	Depositing manure in River Rhondda	Fined 15/-
42	Ystrad	Depositing refuse in River Rhondda	Fined 2/6
43	Ystrad	Depositing refuse in River Rhondda	Payment of costs, 5/6
44	Ystrad	Depositing refuse in River Rhondda	Payment of costs, 5/6
45	Ystrad	Depositing refuse in River Rhondda	Payment of costs, 5/6
46	Porth	Depositing refuse in River Rhondda	Fined 5/-
47	Porth	Depositing refuse in River Rhondda	Fined 5/-
48	Ystrad	Tipping debris in River Rhondda	Ordered to execute works for protection of river and to pay costs
49	Ystrad	Tipping debris in River Rhondda	Dismissed
50	Ystrad	Tipping debris in River Rhondda	Ordered to execute works for protection of river and to pay costs
51	Ystrad	Tipping debris in River Rhondda	Dismissed

The report below shows that there were still a small number of cess pits and privies (lavatories) with buckets in 1914, but most houses in the Rhondda had water closets. These were lavatories connected to a sewer, and flushed with water.

The table shows what the sanitary inspectors found.

No of Privies with fixed receptacles (middens, cess pits)	88
No of Privies with moveable receptacles (pails)	46
No of Water Closets (fresh water cistern flushed)	23,624
No of Water Closets (waste water)	0
No of Water Closets (hand flushed)	3,934

In Loving Memory of
WILLIAM SAMUEL WOODS,
Who departed this life June 30th, 1897,
Aged 9 Months.

INTERRED AT CARDIFF NEW CEMETERY.

S. Andrews & Son, Undertakers, Working-st., Cardiff, & Glebe-st., Penarth.



Many diseases were spread by contact, these were called contagious diseases. In the early years of Victoria's reign, there were many diseases which killed patients. Today, these diseases can be controlled by vaccination. Other diseases were spread in the air or in water. This was why clean drinking water and proper sewers were needed before people could become healthy. Overcrowding helped to spread disease. In each district, the Medical Officers of Health tried to make sure disease was not spread. They could close schools, or make parents keep a sick child indoors to stop contact with other children. Isolation hospitals were set up to keep people who were sick away from the villages. Rhondda had no hospital until 1887 to deal with contagious and infectious diseases and, when Tyntyla was opened, it only had four beds for over 100,000 people who then lived in the Rhondda.



There was no hospital in the Rhondda in 1877 so victims of a pit accident had to use a room in the Tynewydd Hotel to recover.

Rhondda Urban District Council,--Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT UPON A CASE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

District No..... Date received.....

Name and age..... Address.....

Disease—Scarlet, Typhoid, Diphtheria, Puerperal, Erysipelas.

Date of onset (of Rash, if any).....

For disinfection..... Date of Doctor's first visit.....

Day School, or place of work..... Sunday School.....

Ditto of other inmates..... „ ..

Date when last at school or work

No. of rooms in house.....

No. of inmates in house.....

Where is the patient ?

			LODGEES.		
P.	M.	C.	P.	M.	C.

Kitchen. Parlour. Bedroom.

The patient is not isolated. Not willing to go into Hospital.

Milk supply.....

Water supply—Ystrad. Pontypridd. Cwmparc. Cambrian. Glamorgan. Well. Spring.

Traps—Lip. Earthenware gully.....

Closet accommodation— W.C. hand-flushed. Pail. Cesspit.

Source of infection—

Has patient been visiting elsewhere ?

Give address.....

Have visitors been to house ? Give address.....

New clothes ? New furniture ? New books ?

Erysipelas—Part affected..... Not after accident.

Owner of house.....

Date forwarded by Medical Officer of Health.....

Date received by Medical Officer of Health.....

The form used by the medical officer to try and trace all contacts and to find out where an infection came from.

The Isolation Hospital

In the year 1887, this hospital was erected upon a hill slope above Ystrad, in the most central part of the district, and accessible from both valleys. The site was 8,133 yards in extent but, in 1897, five acres of land adjoining were purchased by the District Council for the purpose of extending the existing hospital accommodation. The building consists of two small wards divided by the entrance hall in front, and kitchen, parlour, two bedrooms and two box-rooms behind. A stone mortuary and a corrugated iron ambulance shed are also provided. Each ward contains 3,083 cubic feet of air space, barely enough for two patients, although there are as a fact eight beds in the two wards. The nursing is done by a time-expired soldier, who for some years acted as an orderly in a military hospital, his wife assisting.

The average stay of each patient in the hospital was five weeks and six days. By 1914, the hospital had been extended to deal with 80 patients.

Newspaper Report.



Ystradyfodwg Cottage Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Tyntla, 1887, With Mr Aylesbury near the ambulance and his wife on the front door step.

	Ordinary Beds	Observation Beds
Diphtheria	20	2
Typhoid Fever	20	2
Scarlet Fever	34	2
	74	6

There were very few doctors in the Rhondda before 1900. As treatment had to be paid for, many people tried home-made remedies for their illness, or bought a patent medicine. These were advertised in all the local papers and claimed to be able to cure all manner of illness.

The number of doctors increased when colliery companies employed them to take care of the health of their workmen. The miners had to pay weekly for medical treatment out of their wages. Many miners collected money to pay doctors themselves. A large number of miners' medical schemes were started by 1914.

TO SUFFERERS FROM
Skin & Blood Diseases

For cleansing the blood of all impurities, from whatever cause arising, there is no other medicine just as good as Clarke's Blood Mixture—that's why in so many cases of Eczema, Scrofula, Scurvy, Bad Legs, Abscesses, Ulcers, Tumours, Boils, Pimples, Blotches, Sores and Eruptions, Piles, Glandular Swellings, Blood Poison, Rheumatism, Gout, &c., it has effected truly remarkable cures where all other treatments have failed. Clarke's Blood Mixture has over 45 years' reputation, and the proprietors solicit all sufferers to give it a trial to test its value.

The Editor of the "FAMILY DOCTOR" writes:
 "We have seen hosts of letters bearing testimony to the truly wonderful cures effected by Clarke's Blood Mixture. It is the finest Blood Purifier that Science and Medical Skill have brought to light, and we can with the utmost confidence recommend it to our subscribers and the public generally."

**Clarke's
Blood
Mixture**

**HAS CURED THOUSANDS.
WILL CURE YOU.**

Sold by all Chemists and Stores, 2/9 per bottle.

Below is an account of some of the remedies people believed would cure their illnesses:

'It was about eight o'clock when my brother, Twm, came home. And so Twm entered the house alone and, when he came into the kitchen, I had a chance to examine his face, or what was left of it. It was battered. It was criss-crossed with scratches, from which blood had run down his fair skin and dried in streaks on his neck. His eyes were quite frightening. They were like pouches hanging outward and downward. The bladders under Twm's eyes were full of blood, which had darkened and assumed the guise of black puddings.

Embracing him and chastising him in turns, my mother began wiping his face and bathing his eyes. Then she cut slices from the Sunday joint and placed these gently on the sagging flesh of what was left of Twm's face.

When my mother saw that the raw meat was not having much effect on the swelling under Twm's eyes, she gave me some money and ordered me to "run off to Jones the chemist, knock at the side door, and bring home six leeches." As I hurried along the passage, she cried, "Don't come home without them, mind!"

The leeches placed on Twm's pouches succeeded where the raw meat had failed; and, when they had sucked away the blood, Twm's skin below his eyes hung down like empty bags, which indeed they were. Leeches were still used to suck blood at this time.

'FROM THE VALLEY I CAME' - WILL JOHN EDWARDS

Cow dung was used as a poultice for boils and carbuncles, and the water in which the blacksmith had cooled his red-hot irons was drunk as an iron tonic to strengthen the blood. Warm urine was believed to be a cure for a fresh wound and the juice of the house leek for earache. Whole pages of local newspapers were filled with standing advertisements of balms and balsams, pills and powders.

SOURCE: T. JONES, RHYMNEY MEMORIES, 1938.

Get Cured
 BEFORE

TIME

PRONOUNCES
**YOUR
 DISEASE
 INCURABLE!**

Remember
DELAY ENDS IN DEATH.

THE GREAT
**Cureopathic
 Treatments**

ARE THE WONDER OF THE AGE!
 They have recently cured Mr. D. Stephens, Nixon Villas, Merthyr Vale, who had suffered 23 years, spent £50 on unsuccessful remedies, and lost £250 in wages.

They Cure after all others fail!

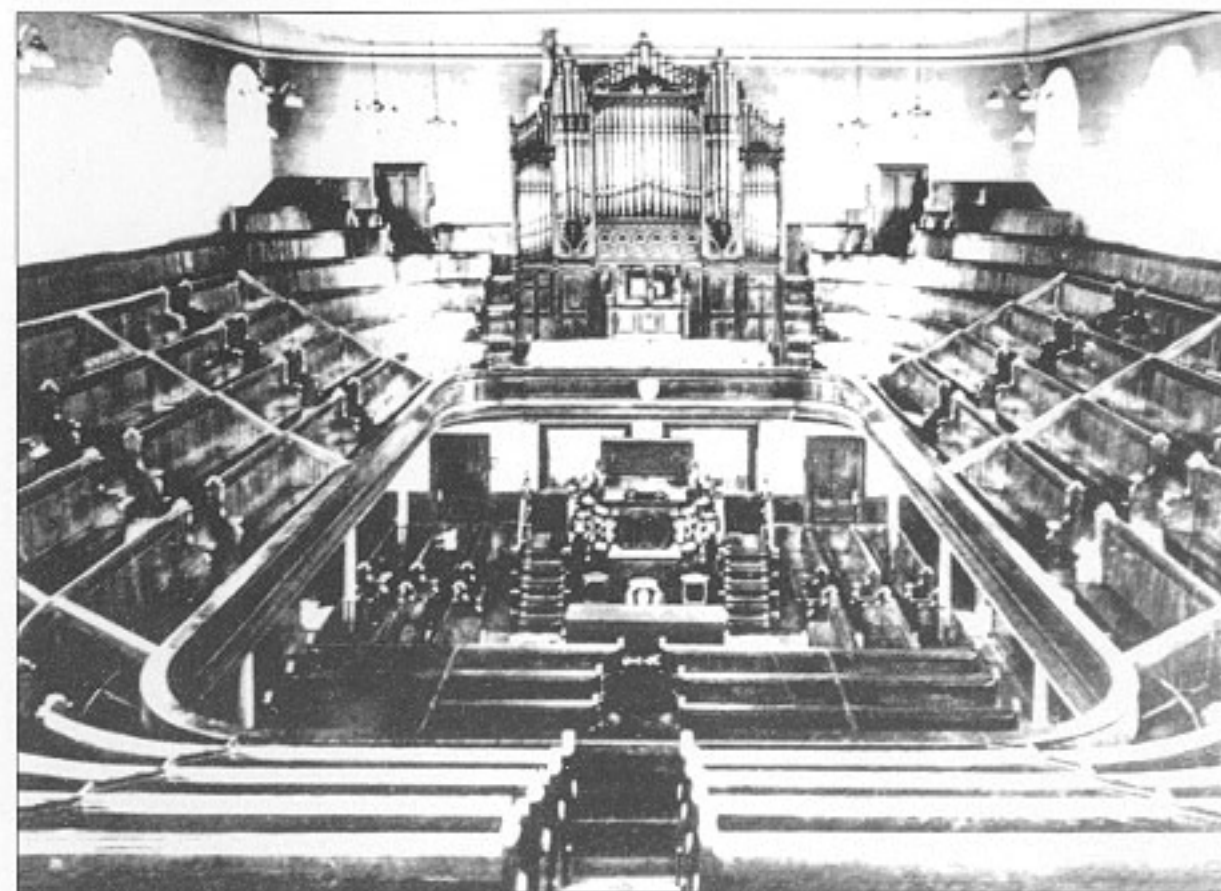
Free Advice to all on Mondays and Saturdays
 AT THE
 South Wales Cureopathic Institute,
 51 and 51a, Ystrad Road,
 PENTRE, RHONDDA (opposite T.V. Station)
 1116

11.1

CHAPELS (I)

The chapel was very important in peoples' lives. It was a great comfort to families particularly when death from mining accidents or disease was always near. People who moved from the country areas set up their own small chapels wherever they could find a room. Later they built large stone chapels with names such as Tabernacle, Hebron and Bethania.

The chapels were more than religious buildings, they were the centres for village life for the majority of the people. They helped to keep the Welsh language alive because many of them conducted their services in Welsh. They organised singing festivals called *Gymanfa Ganu*; they had choirs, drama groups, bands, sports clubs and Sunday Schools. The Sunday Schools were very important as they taught children to read and write in Welsh. There were far more chapels in the Rhondda than churches. By 1905, there were 151 chapels in the Rhondda, they could seat nearly 75% of the entire population of the whole valley.



Many chapels were huge buildings. This was Noddfa the Baptist chapel in Treorchy. It had 600 members and a Sunday School of 650 children in 1879. It was extended in 1909 by adding a special Sunday School unit with several classrooms.



Sunday School class, Llwynypia Primitive Methodist Church, c.1910. The Sunday School teacher was Mr Samuel Studley, fruiterer, of Tonypandy Square.

Sunday School

'Near the fire ... is seated a large class of children of both sexes, engaged in learning the Welsh A.B.Ch. In another class are older little ones, learning to read Welsh ... Those in the pews are struggling to learn the Welsh Bible ... In the great pew ... are the advanced students and their teacher ... Another class is composed of the advanced scholars of the women ... The Clerk ... jots down the record of the number of verses each one has related from memory ... Then the classes ... recite before the entire school the Ten Commandments ...'

SOURCE: O. MORGAN, HISTORY OF PONTYPRIDD AND THE RHONDDA VALLEYS, 1903.



Opening Ebenezer Chapel, Maerdy, 1912

11.2

CHAPELS (2)



Tabernacle Wesleyan Sunday School, Dumfries Street, Treorchy, about to start their church walk through Treorchy, c1914.

'Once a year, all the churches and chapels paraded through the streets, each with their own banner. After the parade, there was a tea party and money and sweets were handed out.

The chapels played a big part, in peoples lives. There were few counter-attractions and there was really nowhere else to go in one's life. Sunday was a very full day when I was a boy, starting around half past nine o'clock with a young men's prayer meeting, a service at 10.30, Sunday School at 2.30, Band of Hope at 5 o'clock, service at 6.0, and then a singing school (as it was called) at 8.0. Then home by 9.0. Singing in the evening services was a great joy. One never grew tired of joining the eight hundred or so others in the hymns. How the faces of those blue-scarred miners and of their overworked wives shone as they repeated the last lines of the hymns, again, and yet again!

THE MAN WHO WROTE THIS LIVED AS A BOY IN PENYGRAIG. HE GREW UP TO BECOME A SCHOOL INSPECTOR. HE REMEMBERS HIS CHILDHOOD.



Many chapel people were against drinking alcohol. They formed Temperance groups and made the Government close Welsh pubs on Sundays. Rallies like the one above held in Tonypandy tried to get people to 'sign the pledge' which was a promise to stop drinking alcohol.



The band of the Primitive Methodist Chapel in Llwynypia 1909. Even small chapels had bands, choirs and drama groups.



CONVERSIONS NUMBER OVER
SEVENTY THOUSAND.

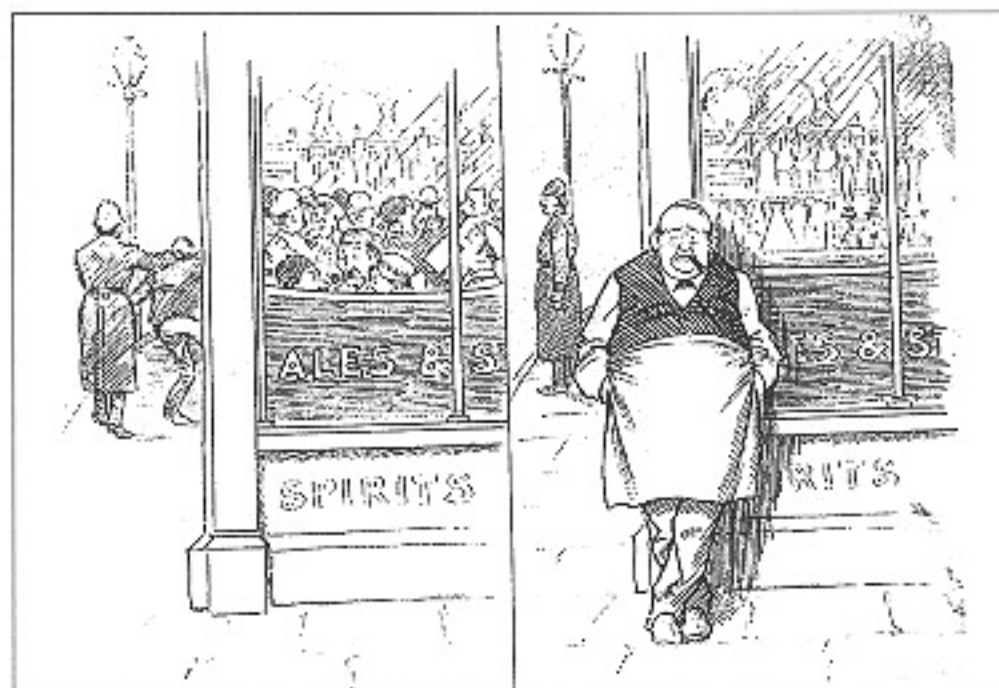
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Western Mail, 28th January 1905.

A crowded chapel during the revival



Ministers going underground



A cartoon showing the effects of the revival on drinking at public houses

MR. EVAN ROBERTS'
MEETINGS.
—
REVIVAL.

WONDERFUL RESULTS OF THE MOVEMENT.

CONVERSIONS NUMBER OVER
SEVENTY THOUSAND.

[illegible]

THE TONYPANDY RIOTS

In 1910, there was a strike of miners in the Rhondda which made the headlines all around the world. During this strike, there was a riot in Tonypandy and soldiers were ordered into the Rhondda by Winston Churchill. The strike lasted for 10 months and is one of the most famous in British history.

The strike started in the Ely Pit over an argument about how much miners should be paid for cutting coal. The owners said the men were going slow, while the men said that the coal was very difficult to dig. The two sides could not agree, so the owners shut the colliery and would not let the men work. The Ely Pit was one of a number of pits in a group called the Cambrian Combine which had been put together by D. A. Thomas (later Lord Rhondda). All the miners in the Cambrian Combine went on strike; their union, the South Wales Miners' Federation, tried to get the mine owners to agree to higher wages. The men were not happy with the way their leader William Abraham (Mabon) acted. They thought he was afraid to stand up to the mine owners. The owners of all the coal mines in South Wales and Monmouthshire were determined to win the strike. They decided to pay the Rhondda mine owners any money they lost because their pits were not working. The owners wanted to reduce the wages of all miners because other countries were selling coal cheaper. The miners were angry at this because they felt that their wages were too low already.



William Abrahams, The miners' leader.
His Bardic name was 'Mabon'



Miners at the Glamorgan colliery stop work at the beginning of the strike

WORKING IN ABNORMAL PLACES

Miners were paid for how much coal they dug out. Sometimes they had to dig through rock to find the coal seam, or the coal seam would be very narrow. There was often water in the mines. When miners worked in these conditions they often did not earn any money, even though the work was very hard and dangerous. Miners thought they should be paid for working in these abnormal places.

12.2

RIOTING AND LOOTING

1



Families picketing at the Cambrian Colliery

The miners decided that they would picket all the pits; this meant stopping anyone working the pumping and ventilation machinery. This would mean that the pits would be flooded.

3



Wreckage after the fighting at the Glamorgan Colliery

On the 7th of November 1910, thousands of miners marched on the Glamorgan colliery; stones were thrown at the police, and fighting broke out when the police charged the miners. The next day, there was more fighting, with many miners injured and one killed.

5



London Policemen being 'sworn-in'

To try and control the miners, a large group of policemen were sent from London but, before they arrived, a riot broke out in Tonypandy on the 8th of November. Shop windows were smashed in the town and goods stolen from the shops.

2



Police guard the Glamorgan Colliery

To stop the picketing, the owners called the police in to protect their collieries. Most of these policemen were placed at the Glamorgan Colliery, Llwynypia, which had a very big pumping engine. The miners managed to stop all the other pits working.

4



Tonypandy - Looted shops

Many people felt that the shopkeepers sided with the mine owners. The only unprotected shop windows not smashed belonged to Willie Llewellyn, the Welsh rugby international, who played in the team that beat the New Zealand All Blacks in 1905.

The arrival of the Metropolitan Police stopped the riots.

6



Soldiers entering the town

The mine owners were demanding that soldiers should be sent to force the miners to stop picketing. Winston Churchill, who was to become a famous Prime Minister, was Home Secretary at this time and it was his job to decide when troops were needed. Many people still blame Churchill for sending the troops to the Rhondda. Historians are still arguing over who was to blame. The first soldiers arrived on the 9th of November and were sent to the Glamorgan Colliery.

12.3

LIFE DURING THE STRIKE

7



The pit ponies underground

In the second week of the strike, all the newspapers in the country had stories of pit ponies being left in the mines which were filling up with water. This made the miners very unpopular, even though they had asked for the horses to be brought up to the surface in the week before the strike.

8



A soup kitchen

The strike lasted for 10 months and there was a great deal of poverty in the Rhondda. Collections were made all over Britain to help the miners' families, children were fed in soup kitchens set up in schools and church halls. Many miners grew their own vegetables in allotments and gardens.

9



Miners' march to the trial at Pontypridd

In December 1910, a number of miners were taken to court for threatening officials and two were jailed. There were huge demonstrations outside the court in Pontypridd but there was no violence.

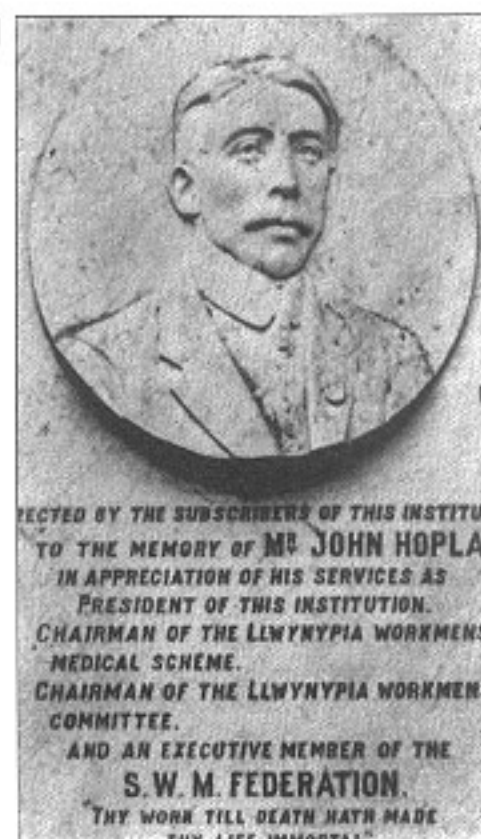
10



Policemen guard the town of Pontypridd during the trial.

In July 1911, two of the miners' leaders were arrested for taking part in a picket outside the Ely Pit where stones were thrown at the police. They were both jailed for 12 months. In August 1911, the miners' union decided that the strike should end, even though the Rhondda men were prepared to keep the strike going. Work began again in September but the question of what miners should be paid for working in difficult conditions (the miners called these abnormal places) was not settled until 1912 when all the mines in Britain went on strike and won an agreement that there should be a minimum wage.

11



John Hopla: one of the leaders

12



Miners return to work September 1911