

“Merthyr Express” 13 September 1884

Gelligaer Liberal Association A branch was formed at Vochriw, and a meeting held at Carmel Congregational Chapel on Tuesday evening. There was a good attendance. The Committee appointed the following gentlemen: Dr. Davies, chairman; Mr. Thomas Jones, grocer, secretary; Mr. Thomas Jones, Pit-row, treasurer. In a short time a public meeting will be held, when some eminent public and local speakers will take part in the proceedings.

“Merthyr Express” 25 October 1884

Franchise Meeting at Vochriw Under the auspices of the Gelligaer Liberal Association, a well-attended meeting was held on Tuesday, with the twofold object of expressing confidence in Her Majesty’s Government, and to protest against the action of the House of Lords in rejecting the Franchise Bill. Dr. Davies, Vochriw, presided. The Chairman having stated the objects of the meeting, showed the advantages of supporting a Liberal Government, and briefly ran over the chief points of the political education of the masses in Wales during the past thirty years, and made clear to a demonstration the result of this education. Mr. Thomas Jones, Railway-terrace, moved the resolution of confidence in Her Majesty’s Government, and indicated what had been done by past and present Liberal Governments for the good of the country. Mr. William Matthews seconded the resolution, and Rev. J. P. Williams and Rev. Aaron Davies supported the resolution in their usual vigorous and lucid speeches. Mr. Thomas Bevan, colliery manager, next moved the second resolution of protest against the recent action of the House of Lords. Mr. Isaac Williams seconded in a brief and sensible speech. Mr. Evans, Penybanc, supported the resolution, as did Rev. Edward Davies of Rhymney, and last, by Mr. William Morgan, the Pant, who is a radical of radicals, and no mean political opponent. The usual votes of thanks were offered at the close.

“Merthyr Express” 8 August 1885

Mr Alfred Thomas at Tirphil and Fochriw On Wednesday se’nnight, Mr Alfred Thomas, the selected Liberal Candidate for the Eastern Division of Glamorgan, addressed a meeting of the constituency at Tirphil, the Rev. J. P. Williams presiding. On Thursday evening, Mr. Thomas visited Fochriw, and addressed a good, representative meeting at Noddfa Chapel, the Rev. J. P. Williams again presiding. Resolutions of support for the candidate and Mr. Gladstone’s government were unanimously carried at both meetings. At Vochriw, Mr. W. Edwards, Rev. J. Pathon Davies, Mr. Thomas Evans (collier), Mr. William Matthews, Mr. Councillor Bevan, Mr. B. Lewis, Cardiff, and Mr. Alfred Thomas, himself, addressed the meeting. The resolution in favour of the Liberal candidate was passed with acclamation, no one dissenting. The chairman gave a full account of the formation of the Liberal Association in the Eastern division, and its actions from the commencement to the time when the disruption took place at Caerphilly, and a “faction” of the Liberal Association seceded, and invited a certain gentleman to become a candidate in opposition to the one duly selected by the Association.

“Merthyr Express” 3 March 1888

Welsh Deputation to Ireland On Tuesday evening the 21st., Rev. Aaron Davies (one of the Welsh deputation to Ireland) addressed a meeting at Nazareth C.M. Chapel. The meeting was well attended and there was an enthusiastic audience. The subject was, “A visit to Ireland.” Rev. Davies gave a vivid description of how the Coercion Act is administered in the country, and the great suffering of the people under the tyrannical rule of the chief secretary Balfour and his uncle. The chair was occupied by Dr. Davies, and an enthusiastic vote of thanks was given to the lecturer by Rev. J. Jones, and seconded by Mr. W. Mathias.

“Merthyr Express” 12 April 1890

Disestablishment On Tuesday 1st April, a disestablishment meeting was held at Fochriw, when a resolution was read to the effect - “That this meeting is in favour of the disestablishment and disendowment of the English Church in Wales, and that the endowments should be used for national purposes.” The chair was taken by Dr. Davies, Fochriw, and the following gentlemen took part:- Rev. Aldrman Davies, Rev. James Jones, Rev. D. Morgan and the well-known speaker, Mr. Matthews of Swansea, who supported the resolution with an abundance of strong arguments.

“Merthyr Express” 28 February 1891

The Disestablishment Question: Important Debate in the House of Commons The resolution before the House was “That as the Church of England in Wales has failed to fulfil its professed object as a means of promoting the religious interests of the Welsh people, and ministers only to a small minority of the population, its continuance as an Established Church in the Principality is an anomaly and an injustice which ought no longer to exist.” It was stated that in 1676, the Church of England in Wales boasted 391,297 adherents, and the Nonconformists only 10,960. The Church then claimed 96% of the worshipping people of the Principality. In 1801, they provided sitting-room for 223,730, and of these it might be safely said that 200,000 were never filled. The Nonconformist churches provided sittings for 115,107, but that did not take into account the open-air meetings, where people would assemble in thousands to worship. In 1851, the public worship census showed that while the Church of England in Wales provided accommodation for 263,953 persons, churches outside the pale of the Church of England provided for 599,520. Though Mr. Gladstone pronounced himself in favour of the motion, it was nonetheless defeated by 235 to 203 votes.

“Merthyr Express” 9 July 1892

The Representation of East Glamorgan: Mr Alfred Thomas at Fochriw and Pontlottyn Public meetings in support of the candidature of Mr. Alfred Thomas were held on Tuesday night at Fochriw and Pontlottyn. Mr. Thomas was met about half way to Fochriw by his supporters and they proceeded to the Board School led by the Brass Band. The audience was made up entirely of working men. Mr. Thomas told the gathering that he was in good fighting trim, but the fight was one of principles. Two great issues now faced the electorate: Should Ireland have Home Rule and Should the English Church be Disestablished and Disendowed? After dealing with these issues he sat down to loud applause. Rev. D. Morgans proposed a resolution of confidence in the Newcastle programme, Mr. Gladstone and Mr. A. Thomas, and pledged the meeting to do its best to return him by an overwhelming majority. The Rev. Levi John seconded, and it was carried with ringing cheers. The Rev. Alderman Davies, Mr. John, Pontypridd, and Mr. Richard Davies, Cardiff, also addressed the meeting.

“Merthyr Express” 1 December 1894

Liberal Meeting A large and enthusiastic meeting of the Liberal electors was held at the Board School, Fochriw, on Tuesday evening last, in support of the candidature of the 26 Liberal candidates who have been selected to contest all the seats on the Parish and District Councils for the Gelligaer district at the forthcoming elections. The Rev. James Jones presided, and stirring speeches were delivered by Messrs. Evan Evans, Fochriw, Robert Hughes, Deri, and Alfred Jenkins, Deri (three of the Liberal and Labour candidates), and they were supported by Mr. T. C. Thomas, Bedlinog, who exposed the tactics of the Tory party, headed by the Rector of the parish, who had succeeded in securing the services of Rev. J. P. Williams, Pontlottyn, to endeavour to smash up the party in the parish by raising false and misleading issues. The following resolution was unanimously agreed to: “That this meeting of Fochriw electors do

pledge ourselves to do all we can to return the candidates adopted by the Gelligaer Liberal Party at the forthcoming Parish and District elections.” The question affecting Lewis’s charity is now practically beyond hope of reversal, and the movement of the Rector is looked upon as simply a blind for drawing the elector’s attention to a false issue.

“Merthyr Express” 16 February 1895

County Council Election: Gelligaer Division A large and influential deputation of 60 to 70 people, representing all political creeds and different denominations of the electors of Gelligaer, waited on Mr. H.W. Martin, Dowlais, at his residence on Saturday afternoon (9th inst.), to invite him to represent them once again on the County Council. Among the speakers was Mr. James Davies, Vochriw. The assembled persons passed a hearty vote of thanks for his past services, and promised if a contest should take place, that they would do their utmost to return him again.

“Merthyr Express” 6 April 1895

The Wards Question The County Council had proposed the following five wards: Pontlloftyn polling district, population 4,145; Tirphil, 1,985; Fochriw and Deri, 2,520; Bargoed, Brithdir, Hengoed and Gelligaer, 3,740; Bedlinog and Trelewis, 2, 535. It was agreed that a copy of the scheme be sent to each member for consideration at the next meeting.

“Merthyr Express” 20 July 1895

Mr. Alfred Thomas at Fochriw and Pontlloftyn: Enthusiastic Reception On Monday last, Mr. Thomas, and the Tory candidate Mr. Jackson, both arrived at Pontlloftyn Station at 5.15 p.m.. The Brass Band had come to the station to meet the Tory candidate as pre-arranged. A procession was then formed to the Picton Hotel. We counted a dozen followers in this procession, and half of these were non-voters. At 6.15, the Brass Band went to the home of Alderman Aaron Davies. Here a procession was started and escorted Mr. Thomas to Fochriw. The political feeling of Pontlloftyn was clearly displayed in this procession which included hundreds of electors. When the mountain was reached, the Pontlloftyn Band returned, and then the Fochriw Brass Band led the procession to the village where an open-air meeting was held with Dr. Davies as chairman. In Mr. Thomas's speech, he said that if he was returned he would support Home Rule for Ireland, Disestablishment of the Church in Wales, Local Veto, and a Land Bill for Wales. He had served them for ten years and would happily do so for ten years again. After further speeches, a triumphant party marched to Pontlloftyn for a great Liberal meeting timed for 8 o'clock. Fochriw must have been fairly empty when it left. It had been arranged to hold a meeting at Soar Hall, but seeing such a crowd in the Square, it was wisely decided to hold the meeting in the open-air. When Mr. Alfred Thomas spoke, he added support for an eight-hour-day for miners to the earlier list of measures he supported.

“Merthyr Express” 14 March 1896

Fochriw Eisteddfod Successes The numerous friends of Mr. James Davies will be glad to hear that at Deri on Monday the 2nd, he succeeded in adding still another victory to his already long list of successes. Miss Blodwen Angell, daughter of Mr. A. Angell, Dynevor-street, was also a prizewinner.

Gelligaer Parish Meeting: Elections to the Parish Council There were 23 candidates for 15 seats. The election was by “show of hands.” The votes were as follows: Thos Andrews, checkweigher, Trelewis, 63; Thomas Bevan, colliery manager, Vochriw, 13; Evan Evans, Vochriw, 77; John Brown, timber merchant, Bargoed, 3; G. Clement Davies, surgeon, Pontlloftyn, 31; Thomas Ellis, mining engineer, Bargoed, 23; Thomas Edwards, farmer, Groesfaen, 30; Evan Evans, checkweigher, Guest-street, Fochriw, 77;

Rev. Richard Evans, Hengoed, 76; T. B. Fisher, fireman, Pontlloftyn, 64; Joseph Arch Greenhow, master mechanic, Bargoed, 23; Geo. Griffiths, retired miner, Tirphil, 88; Evan Hughes, retired collier, Bedlinog, 78; Thomas Jenkins, collier, 18, Butetown, Newton, 57; David Jones, collier, Craig Rhymney, Tirphil, 79; John Daniel Jones, tailor and draper, Deri, 61; Thomas Crugwen Jones, superintendent, Pontlloftyn, 54; William Jones, grocer, Brithdir, 85; William Mathews, stationmaster, Bargoed, 81; Wm. A. Morgan, innkeeper, Picton Hotel, Pontlloftyn, 23; John Price, draper, Pontlloftyn, 55; Edmund Richards, insurance agent, Ystrad Mynach, 9; David Williams, collier, 1, Tucks-row, 64; Edmund Williams, collier, High-street, Troedrhiwfuwch, 66 Pontlloftyn. The chairman then explained that if any elector was dissatisfied with the result of the election by show of hands, then he had a perfect right according to the Act, to demand a poll. Mr. James Williams, 17, Martins-row, Vochriw, demanded a poll, and this was agreed. Several persons present tried to speak to prevent a contest, but they were ruled out of order.

“Merthyr Express” 27 March 1897

Parish Council A meeting was held at the Board School on Thursday evening to appoint a person to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Councillor E. Evans. Mr. D. J. Morgan, Rising Sun, was appointed as confrere to Councillor Beavan in the Fochriw ward. No poll will therefore be necessary.

“Merthyr Express” 14 November 1903

Conservative Club A smoking concert was held at the Conservative Club on Saturday evening, when Mr. Waddington of Cardiff, delivered an effective address on "Fiscal Reform."

“Merthyr Express” 11 February 1905

Tariff Reform On Monday evening, a public meeting under the auspices of the Tariff Reform League was held in the schoolroom, when Mr. Longstaff from Newport, gave an address on "Tariff Reform." The room was filled with an orderly audience over which Mr. S. Jacobs, Cardiff, presided. Questions were invited at the close, but none were put. The Pontlloftyn Silver Band was in attendance, and played in the streets prior to the meeting.

“Merthyr Express” 24 June 1905

To Fill a Vacancy: Non-Attendance of Vochriw Member The question of the appointment of a new councillor to fill the vacancy caused by the non-attendance of Mr. Walters, Fochriw, caused much discussion. It was decided that a meeting should be held in the ward. The names of persons selected by that meeting would be submitted to the next meeting. The Clerk pointed out that the parish council could take no part in the meeting, neither to convene nor to defray expenses. This must be done by the people themselves.

“Merthyr Express” 22 July 1905

Filling a Vacancy Mr. R. Jenkins reported on the meeting held at Fochriw. He stated that there were 200 persons present, and of these 84 were voters. A vote was taken on the nominations for the position, and 30 voted for Mr. T. Llewellyn, and 54 for Mr. T. Kinsey. He proposed that Mr. Kinsey fill the position. Mr. J. Cooper pointed out that Mr. Kinsey had left the district, and so Mr. Llewellyn should fill the vacancy. Mr. J. Roberts stated that Mr. George Uzzell of Deri was next highest on the list at the last election, and therefore, he ought to fill the vacancy. On a vote, four recorded for Mr. Llewellyn and five for Mr. Kinsey, who was, therefore, elected.

“Merthyr Express” 1 December 1906

Merthyr's Proposals to Annex Fochriw and Bedlinog: Gelligaer to Oppose At a meeting of the Gelligaer District Council at Hengoed, on Wednesday, Mr. John Jones

in the chair, Mr. F. T. James, clerk, who is also in member of the Merthyr Council, reported to the meeting that at the last meeting of the Merthyr Corporation, a scheme was submitted to plan for the annexation of the whole of the Bedlinog and Fochriw wards in the Gellygaer area, and the Nelson ward in the Caerphilly area, to the Merthyr Corporation district. He stated that he had opposed this plan at the recent meeting, protesting against the policy of "grab," which was based on the mineral wealth of these wards. The Council voted unanimously to oppose the scheme.

"Merthyr Express" 3 October 1908

Gelligaer District Council Election: Fochriw Ward (3 Members) Elected: Mr. J. Edwards 283; Mr. J. Jones 215; Mr. R. Jenkins 175; Unsuccessful: Mr. W. Kinsey 139.

"Merthyr Express" 23 January 1909

Sir Alfred Thomas, M.P. at Fochriw Sir Alfred Thomas, M.P., Liberal member for East Glamorgan, addressed a large number of his constituents at Nazareth Chapel on Tuesday night. The chair was taken by Dr. Eleazer Davies, who stated that Sir Alfred had served them faithfully for the past 25 years, and had always given his support to every good movement in and out of Parliament.

Sir Alfred Thomas delivered a very interesting address, in the course of which he stated that Mr. Asquith favoured Wales, and he looked forward to good things from him in the future. He was a worthy leader. The Liberal Party had amended the Compensation Act, bringing in farm servants and others. There was the Children's Bill and Old Age Pensions. It would be a beautiful sight if they could see the half million persons receiving their old age pensions on New Year's Day. He spoke on the Education Bill and the Licensing Bill. The brewers in New Zealand had decided not to employ barmaids; no children were to be served, and no women were to be served in public houses. The Lords would not approve of such measures in this country. He also spoke of the unemployed, and stated that there were no more unemployed in a country today than there were years ago. He also stated that there were only one half of the murders committed today than there were years ago. Newspapers today brought things to public notice, which was not so years ago. He expected the government to do something, at least, to prevent starvation. He then spoke of religious equality. He was in favour of disestablishment, because the New Testament did not teach connection between church and state. There would be a reference to disestablishment in the King's Speech. He had no fears for the future. They had the best men in the country – Mr. Asquith, Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. Winston Churchill, and Sir Edward Grey. He asked his listeners to do what they could to keep united.

The following resolution was moved by the Rev. Isaac Roderick: "That this meeting desires to record its unabated confidence in the Government, and rejoices in the programme of social reform on which they are engaged; and pledges itself to give Mr. Asquith and his colleagues unflinching and enthusiastic support in their determination to ensure that the wishes of the electors, as expressed by the popularly-elected House of Commons, shall be frustrated no longer by an irresponsible and hereditary House of Lords." The reverend gentleman remarked that many more measures would have been passed but for the House of Lords. They wanted another Cromwell to go up and blow them to the four winds of heaven. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Evan Evans. The resolution was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Councillor John Jones then proposed a vote of thanks to Sir Alfred, assuring him of their continued and increasing confidence in him as their representative in Parliament. This was seconded by Mr. George Thomas, Pleasant View, who said he believed the only solution of religious difficulties in the schools would be the secular solution. Sir

Alfred proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, which was seconded by Mr. Charles Payne.

“Merthyr Express” 17 July 1909

County Council Vacancy A public meeting in support of the candidature of Mr. Edward Lewis, postmaster, Bargoed, for the seat on the Glamorgan County Council, rendered vacant by the death of the late Mr. Evan Thomas, was held at the Council School on Monday evening. On Tuesday evening, a meeting in support of Mr. W. D. Lloyd, Bargoed, was held at the same place. Both meetings were well attended, and were of an enthusiastic character. Both candidates gave interesting addresses.

4 September 1909 Political Meeting On Saturday, a meeting under the auspices of the East Glamorgan Conservative and Unionist Association was held opposite the Constitutional Club, when Mr. Thomas Fielding, of Manchester, addressed a large audience on the Budget, touching upon petrol, tobacco, and spirit taxes, and also the taxation of land values. Several questions were put and answered. M. F. R. Barker, of Fochriw, presided.

“Merthyr Express” 11 September 1909

Political Meeting A public meeting was held at the Baptist Vestry on Monday evening, under the auspices of the Welsh National Liberal Council in support of the Budget. The chief speaker was Mr. J. Hartman Morgan, of the Eight Club, London. A resolution in favour of the Budget was proposed by Councillor Rhys D. Jenkins, and seconded by the Rev. Isaac Roderick, and carried unanimously. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the speaker, on the proposition of Dr. Eleazer Davies, seconded by Mr. Thomas Evans.

16 October 1909 Political Meeting A well-attended open-air meeting, under the auspices of the East Glamorgan Conservative and Unionist Association took place opposite the Club on Wednesday evening. The chair was taken by Mr. F. R. Barker, and the meeting was addressed by Mr. Sam Longville and Mr. T. H. Gaskell (prospective Unionist candidate for East Glamorgan), who dealt very fully with the proposed land taxes and Tariff Reform.

30 October 1909 Poor Law Reform: Public Meeting at Dowlais A public meeting, convened by the Dowlais Free Church Council for the purpose of supporting the programme of the National Committee to promote the break-up of the Poor Law, was held last Thursday night at Bethania Congregational Chapel, Dowlais. Sir John Gorst was to have delivered an address on the Minority Report of the Poor Law Commission, but was unable to attend. Major Warden acted as substitute, and said that the position of the minority members of the Commission was that they should prevent people falling into the morass of destitution by controlling its chief causes. These were: neglected childhood, preventable sickness, the want of proper care for the feeble-minded and mentally defective, the need of due provision for the aged and infirm, and the absence of continuity of employment. The movement for the break-up of the poor law was growing fast: there were now 10,000 members of the national committee, and the number was increasing by 1,000 a week. The people were beginning to realise that the poor law could be tolerated no more. The chairman stated that a Welsh National Committee had been formed to promote the break-up of the Poor Law, and he appealed to those present to join.

27 November 1909 The Budget A public meeting under the auspices of the Welsh National Liberal Council, in support of the Budget and Social Reform was held on Monday evening at Carmel Chapel. The speaker was Mr. Edgar R. Jones, Liberal lecturer, of Wattstown, and the chair was taken by Dr. Eleazer Davies. Mr. Jones, who met with a hearty reception, immediately warmed to his subject, and gave a clear

explanation of the budget in all its points. He stated that it was a different budget to any other because it was a Welshman's budget, and he doubted if any other than a Welshman could have brought out such a budget. It was the money for the pensions that made the present budget necessary, and that was why the Lords wished to throw it out. Mr. Lloyd George had gone fishing for money in entirely new waters, and he expected to land some very fine fish. He hoped they would all be loyal and support the budget.

The following resolution was moved by the Rev. Isaac Roderick, seconded by the Mr. Rhys Jenkins, and carried unanimously: "That this meeting is of the opinion that in view of the action of the House of Lords in challenging the rights of the House of Commons to control the financial business of the country, the Government, in the event of an appeal to the electorate, should give the country the opportunity of recording its judgment upon the desirability of abolishing the hereditary chamber. We also call upon the workers of the United Kingdom to demand that the will of the people shall prevail over the autocratic action of the House of Lords which is always hostile and obstructive to measures of social reform and progress." A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the speaker on the motion of Mr. William Walters, seconded by Mr. Evan Morgan Davies, who supported by Mr. Evan Evans.

4 December 1909 The Budget A well-attended meeting was held at the Council School on Thursday evening week, when the Rev. D. J. Rees, Bridgend, delivered an address on the political crisis, the budget, and the House of Lords, from a working man's point of view. An address was also delivered by Mr. John Davies, miners' agent, on the outlook in the coalfield. Mr. William Walters proposed a vote of thanks to the speakers, seconded by Mr. E. M. Davies. Mr. George Thomas presided.

8 January 1910 Conservative Meeting On Monday evening, a well-attended meeting was held at the Council Schools, and addresses were delivered by Mr. F. Gaskell, the Conservative candidate for East Glamorgan, Mr. Lovell Fraser and Mr. Littlejohns. Mr. Sam Thomas presided.

22 January 1910 Sir Alfred Thomas's Campaign: Stirring Meetings at Fochriw On Thursday night, Sir Alfred Thomas addressed an enthusiastic meeting at Fochriw. Dr. Eleazer Davies presided. Councillor John Jones proposed a resolution in favour of Sir Alfred's candidature. He said that Sir Alfred was an ideal member of the progressive forces, an excellent committee man, and a staunch supporter of the Budget. He pointed out some of the great blessings foreshadowed in the Finance Bill, such as labour exchanges and insurance against sickness. The land clauses, in particular, were for the benefit of the working men. Mr. George Thomas, Fochriw, in seconding the resolution, said that Sir Alfred had been a true supporter of every Liberal measure since he entered Parliament 25 years ago, and that he was more experienced now than ever he was to champion the progressive cause. Councillor Rhys Jenkins, Fochriw, supported the resolution, and urged Liberals to bestir themselves in order to return their candidate with a greatly increased majority.

Sir Alfred Thomas, who was received with loud and prolonged cheers, said that the chief question before the electors was whether the people or the peers were going to dominate the country. Which was it going to be? He was strongly in favour of doing away with the veto of the Lords. Still, he was a second chamber man, but that chamber must be elected and a sensible one. The present House of Lords was greatly one-sided and obsolete, and ought to be done away with. The peers said that the Budget was a revolutionary measure, but they themselves did the most revolutionary and unconstitutional action by rejecting it. The Budget was a bundle of treasures for the working men of the country.

Mr. T. C. Thomas, Bedlinog, followed with a rousing speech. He stated that Tariff Reform was a system to make the rich richer and the poor poorer. He compared the cost of commodities in this country with other countries: England: butter - 1s; bread - 6d; tea - 2s; jam - 10d; Germany: butter - 1s 10d; bread - 9d; Austria: tea - 10s; jam - 3s 9d; For every £1 that the English miner paid in rent, the German miner paid £1 4s 6d. The average wage per day in England was 6s, whilst in Germany it was 4s 6d. The German miner lived to a great extent on black bread and horseflesh. These were the fruits of Tariff Reform. Let them stick to Free Trade. As regards royalties, he said that Lord Bute received £50,000 a year in royalties from the parish of Gellygaer without contributing a penny to the rates. Under the Budget, one half of the royalty tax would be returned to the parish in relief of taxes.

Miss Lizzie Jones, Fochriw, sang a Welsh election song in a spirited manner, which raised the audience into a very high pitch of enthusiasm. Rev. Isaac Roderick, seconded by Rev. Moses Young, proposed a resolution in favour of the Budget, and of thanks to Sir Alfred, and this was supported by Mr. J. D. Jones, schoolmaster.

11 June 1910 Public Meeting: the Labour Party A public meeting was held at Nazareth Chapel on Monday evening last, when addresses were delivered by Mr. T. J. Mardy Jones (Rhondda) and Mr. Albert Thomas (miners' agent, Bargoed), on "The Labour Party, its work and benefits." Mr. Jones dealt with the history of the Labour Party. He said the Independent Labour Party came into existence because the Liberal and Conservative parties had failed in their duty towards the labouring classes. He gave a few examples of what he considered inconsistency, and the unfairness of the present system. In the Rhondda, today, he said, there were about 27,000 men and the boys working at the collieries, and their average weekly earnings worked out at 30 shillings per week, or equal to £78 per annum. Twenty seven dukes, on the other hand, had annual incomes averaging £78,000. One duke received as much as 1000 miners. He stated that 5 million well-to-do people received 95 % of the country's income, the other 40 million just 5%. Mr. Thomas dealt with the advantages of combination. There was a large attendance. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the speakers, and to the members of Nazareth Chapel for the loan of the building, on the proposition of Mr. Evan Morgan Davies, Pentwyn, seconded by Mr. George Thomas. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Ellis Savaker, Bargoed, who was accorded a hearty vote of thanks.

24 September 1910 Fochriw Miners' Meeting The members of the Fochriw Lodge of Miners held their annual meeting on Monday at the Fochriw Council Schools. Mr. Thos. H. Llewellyn, president of the lodge, occupied the chair. There was a large attendance. The chairman referred to the resolution concerning the question of starting the collieries an hour later, which has been relegated by the monthly meeting for the lodges to discuss. He said, he preferred to start an hour earlier, but it was for the members of the lodge to decide the matter. After a short discussion, it was resolved unanimously: "That we adhere to the working hours in vogue at present at the collieries."

The secretary of the lodge, Mr. Thomas Ballard, then moved the following resolution: "That this meeting calls the attention of the Government once again to the imperative necessity of amending the Coal Mines Regulation Act, so as to secure the more efficient inspection of all mines, and taking other precautions necessary to bring about a reduction in the enormous loss of life and serious accidents to the workmen. We also urge upon the Government to initiate and carry through the necessary legislation for relieving trades unions from the disabilities created by the Osborne Judgment; and until this is accomplished, we call upon all members of the Federation to voluntary

contribute the funds necessary to secure direct representatives in the House of Commons and upon local government bodies. Also, we protest against the rack-renting which is prevalent in our neighbourhood, by which the earnings of the workmen are so much taken up. We also protest against the actions of the land owners of Fochriw in not giving the necessary facilities for the community to build houses and other buildings appertaining to the welfare of the inhabitants, believing that the only solution to the problem of the land question is nationalisation. Also, we consider that the Federation will not secure for its members the full protection possible, until the contributions are increased, and an out-of-work fund established." The resolution was seconded by Mr. James Williams, and supported by Mr. E. Black (Cardiff) in a spirited address on Trades Unionism, its origin, its growth, and its beneficial results to the working men of this country. The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. John Davies, miners' agent, followed with timely advice on the present crisis in the Rhondda Valley and the Cambrian Collieries. He said he did not believe in sectional flights, but we had to choose the lesser of the two. His advice was that the Cambrian workmen alone should tender notices, and all of South Wales and Monmouthshire miners should support them by contributing a levy by which they would be able to prolong the fight.

24 September 1910 Conservatism The Conservative Van visited Fochriw last week. Mr. B. Wharmby, Abertridwr, dealt with the ethics and objects of Trade Unionism as applicable to the Conservative working man. The meeting was presided over by Mr. F. R. Barker.

22 October 1910 Political Meeting A public meeting under the auspices of the East Glamorgan Conservative and Unionist Association was held at the Fochriw Council Schools on Tuesday evening, when an address was given by Mr. Frank H. Gaskell. The chair was occupied by a Mr. F. R. Barker, Deri.

"Merthyr Express" 10 December 1910

Mr. Stanton's Supporters at Fochriw A well-attended meeting in support of the candidature of Mr. Stanton was held at the Council School on Tuesday night. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Evan Morgan Davies, Pentwyn, who spoke of the attempt to abolish or to reform the House of Lords in 1894, but up to now no reform had taken place. Mr. John Davies, miners' agent, said that he was there in support of Mr. Stanton and Labour. He stated that England's greatest enemy was the House of Lords. He referred to the Rhondda and Aberaman riots, and the brutal conduct of the police towards the people. He hoped that Mr. Stanton would get into Parliament, if only to help Mr. Keir Hardie to press for an inquiry into the conduct of the police in the Rhondda and Aberdare Valleys. Speaking of the House of Lords, he said there were men there managing other people's business, who were quite incapable of managing their own. He thought highly of Mr. Lloyd George, because he was doing his best to introduce Labour principles into the Liberal Party. He hoped that they would heartily support Mr. Stanton. The chairman stated it was time to throw over the Conservative and Liberal parties, and support Labour only. If there were to be a Second Chamber, let them be elected by the people. Mr. James Williams also spoke strongly in support of Labour and Mr. Stanton. A vote of confidence in Mr. C. B. Stanton was proposed by Mr. George Thomas, who said that if Mr. Lloyd George made one more step, he will be in the ranks of the Labour Party. He said that Mr. Stanton was termed "firebrand," and he stated it was a very good thing to have some firebrands amongst them to warm up some of our cool members. The vote of confidence was seconded by Mr. John Davies, miners' agent, and on being put to the meeting, a good many held up their hands. Mr. Stanton was not present at the meeting.

15 July 1911 Independent Labour Party A meeting was held at Fochriw Council Schools on Wednesday evening last. Several Bedlinog friends were present. The chair was taken by Mr. E. M. Davies, and an address was delivered by Mr. Trainer of Yorkshire.

12 August 1911 Independent Labour Party Meeting A meeting was held last Thursday, the chief speakers being Councillor Bolwell, in English, and Councillor Jones, in Welsh. They spoke on 'The Minimum Wage.' Mr. Bolwell asked, "Why should the collier be refused a minimum wage more than any other class of workmen?" He pointed out a well-known fact: the collier, though he risks his life perhaps more than any other workmen, he is the one refused a living right. Mr. Jones pointed out a few more rights of the workmen to a living wage, and also, the practical side of religion in the Independent Labour Party's programme. The meeting was presided over by Mr. George Thomas, Fochriw.

19 August 1911 Socialism and its Faults A well-attended meeting was held near the Constitutional Club on Monday evening last, under the auspices of the East Glamorgan Conservative Association. An address was delivered by D. Thomas, Barrister-at-law, Cardiff, on 'Socialism and its faults.' Questions were put and admirably answered by the Speaker. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Speaker. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Snowdon of Pontlottyn.

19 August 1911 Discontent A meeting was held on Tuesday evening below the railway station, when Mr. Charles Griffiths and Mr. John Evans, of Dowlais, spoke on Socialism. Mr. Griffiths referred to the universal discontent among the labouring classes, due probably to the unceasing efforts of Socialists. Socialism, he said, provoked discontent. He also pointed out the many Acts of Parliament which had of late been put on the Statute Book, through the influence of the Labour Party, such as the Feeding of School Children Act, the Trades Disputes Act, etc. Mr. John Evans spoke on the injustice, waste, and cruelty of the present system of competition. He urged his hearers to abolish this system and accept co-operation and socialism. Mr. George Thomas presided.

9 September 1911 Independent Labour Party On Thursday evening, a meeting was held in the open air, under the auspices of the Bedlinog branch of the Independent Labour Party. The chair was taken by Mr. James Williams, Pentwyn. Mr. Joseph Sparks, Bedlinog, was the speaker. Mr. Sparks spoke from the tradesman's point of view. Mr. Thomas Evans, Deri, spoke next, commenting on the present unrest in the world of industry. He said that socialism was not out to turn the world upside-down, as some of their opponents wished them to believe: it was that already. They were out to turn it downside up.

16 September 1911 Independent Labour Party On Thursday, the Reverend George Neighbour of Mountain Ash, addressed an open-air meeting at Fochriw, under the auspices of the newly-formed branch of the Independent Labour Party. Mr. Evan M. Davies presided. Mr. Neighbour's subject was "The Independent Labour Party: its past, present and future." The future, said Mr. Neighbour, is ours. While this country never processed so much riches, yet never had we so much poverty. The privileged few possessed the millions, but the millions possessed very little. The present system of competition was most injurious to the best interests of democracy. The few friends of Labour had done yeoman service this summer, their fruit being the establishment of the present branch of the Independent Labour Party.

16 September 1911 Trade Unionism The annual meeting of the Fochriw Lodge of Miners was held on Tuesday evening at the Fochriw Council School. Mr. Evan M. Davies presided. The Rev. T. E. Nicholas, Glais, delivered an address. Referring to a

man's right to live, he pictured the difference between man - God's crowning piece of creation - and the freedom of the birds of the air. While the whole of creation - from the animal kingdom to the vegetable kingdom - was free, with no limitation to their actions as the Creator intended, Man was fettered with shackles and limitations of a type worse than the material shackles of old. The shackles of landlordism and capitalism, by which the workmen of today were bound, made it impossible for democracy to live the full, free, and moral life demanded of man. Having shown what trade unionism had done in the past for the working men of this country - the shortening of hours, raising of wages, the solidarity of workers when united - he strongly urged all workmen to join their trade unions, and fight the present landlordism and the capitalist system. They were absolutely un-Christian and un-scriptural. The Labour movement was Christianity making for a new heaven and a new earth: yea, the making of the Kingdom of God upon earth. Mr. John Davies, miners' agent, then dealt with the coming M.F.G.B. conference, and explained the different items on the agenda.

7 October 1911 Independent Labour Party A public meeting was held on Thursday evening under the auspices of the Independent Labour Party branch, when Mr. Morgan Jones, Bargoed, gave an address. Mr. E. M. Davies presided. On Tuesday, the ordinary I.L.P. branch meeting was held, when the secretary was requested to write to the authorities asking for facilities at Fochriw to register births and deaths similar to those already granted at the neighbouring villages.

21 October 1911 Independent Labour Party On Tuesday, Mr. Tom Andrews, Treharris, gave an address at the Council School on, "Socialism, the product of Civilisation." The I.L.P. last week discussed the question of the Sunday postal delivery, which is a long felt want, and a facility which should have been sought long ago.

28 October 1911 Independent Labour Party On Tuesday, the I.L.P. branch held its weekly meeting at the Station Restaurant. The requirements of Fochriw were again discussed, and it was pointed out that the village was behind the times with regard to light, postal, and other facilities, which the branch is determined to try and remedy in the future.

28 October 1911 Labour Candidate for East Glamorgan A public meeting was held at Nazareth chapel, Fochriw, kindly lent for the occasion, last Thursday evening, when Mr. T. I. Mardy Jones, delivered an address on the Labour politics of East Glamorganshire. Three names were put to the meeting - T. Russell Williams of Bradford, Alfred Onions, and Professor Tom Jones, Rhymney. Professor Jones received the greatest number of votes, and was nominated as Labour candidate to be submitted to the coming conference at Pontypridd.

9 December 1911 Proposed Extension of Merthyr: Gellygaer Will Oppose Extension to Include Bedlinog and Fochriw At the meeting of the Gellygaer District Council on Tuesday, the Clerk said, in reply to a question from Mr. E. Richards concerning the proposed intention of Merthyr to seek powers for extending its boundaries to embrace Bedlinog and Fochriw, that he did not know what steps the Corporation were taking at present, but as a member of the Corporation, he would oppose it as he had always done. [Hear, hear.] A response from Merthyr might take six months, but when this happened, the Parliamentary Committee would be called to decide what action was necessary. Mr. E. Richards then proposed that legal advice be taken, so that they were prepared when the time came for action. He also proposed that Mr. Gus Jones, and the Fochriw and Trelewis members be added to the Parliamentary Committee. This was agreed to, and it was decided to call a meeting of the committee for the 19th.

11 November 1911 Independent Labour Party The weekly meeting was held on Tuesday evening. After the ordinary branch work had been transacted, a musical programme was gone through.

16 March 1912 Gellygaer District Council The nomination for Fochriw was Mr. Edwin Jones (Labour). He was unopposed.

13 April 1912 The Retirement of Mr. Rhys Jenkins, the ex-member for Fochriw Mr. Rhys Jenkins is the son of Mr. Thomas Jenkins, who was an official at the No. 1 Colliery for 27 years. Mr. Jenkins died in August last year, but his wife, Ann, is still living. Mr. Rhys Jenkins was born at Dowlais, but attended Fochriw Board School until he was twelve, at which time he went to work in the Fochriw Collieries. However, he attended technical classes and obtained two certificates in Mining under the Science and Art Department. In 1895, he commenced preaching in Carmel Congregational Chapel, and eventually, went in for a course of theological studies at the Gwynfryn Academy, Ammanford, and the Memorial College, Brecon. Since the completion of his college course, he has been ministering to the various Welsh and English churches of his denomination almost every Sunday. He still holds the post of deacon and corresponding secretary at Carmel, where he is held in high esteem. In June 1910, Carmel Church honoured him by ordaining him to the full work of the ministry. He is also an active member of the Welsh Congregational North Glamorganshire Association, and a member of the executive. As a member of the Forward Movement Committee, he was selected to read a paper at the conference of the Association at Horeb, Penydarren, in October, 1908, on the subject 'Jesus of Nazareth, Social Reformer.' He also preached the missionary sermon at the meeting of the Association held at Elim, Cwmdare, in October, 1910.

Mr. Jenkins has taken an active and painstaking concern in the welfare of the Parish of Gellygaer, and was elected to represent Fochriw on the Council in 1904. On the formation of the Gellygaer Urban District Council in 1908, he was elected as one of the members of the same ward. He has held office until his recent retirement, much to the regret of his colleagues, and the public, who have observed how honestly, sincerely, and faithfully he has discharged his duties as councillor. Besides acting on various Council committees of the Sewerage Board, Mr. Jenkins has been a member of the Gellygaer School Managers for four years, and did his utmost for a new infants' school at Fochriw, and a new school at Pantywaun, which he opened in 1908. Being a good Welsh scholar, he held the position of teacher in Welsh under the Glamorgan Education Committee for several years. An ardent supporter of the good side of the national eisteddfod, Mr. Jenkins has acquired a good reputation as an essayist, and gained many prizes. In politics he is a staunch Liberal, and has been the Liberal Registration Agent for the district of Fochriw for several years. By the retirement of Mr. Rhys Jenkins, the district has lost the services of a faithful representative. Mr. Jenkins has always had the courage of his opinions - he was not a party to be bargained with. If a thing presented itself as wrong or impudent, Mr. Jenkins was dead against it. Fochriw always had one to voice its needs in him, and he deserves well of Fochriw.

5 April 1913 Tariff Reform A very successful meeting was held at the Constitutional Club on Wednesday evening, when Mr. Queen addressed the members on Tariff Reform. Mr. Queen stated that he had been up and down Great Britain, but never had he found a man from the U.S.A. looking for a job in England, hence so many of our people going out to the U.S.A. and getting work, where tariff reform reigned supreme. The address was listened to with attention and was greatly appreciated. There was also a musical programme to which Mr. Queen contributed.

26 July 1913 Labour On Thursday evening, an open air meeting was held when Councillor Morgan Jones, Bargoed, delivered an address on 'The Value of Trade Unionism.' Mr. George Thomas presided.

20 September 1913 Conservatism at Fochriw: A Presentation Mr. W. Evans presided over a crowded meeting at the White Horse, Pentwyn on Monday. Mr. T. Jenkins was the pianist, and the following the singers: Messrs. F. Kinsey and Stephen, Dowlais; T. R. Harris, John Evans, C. Shankland and Jenkin Thomas, Fochriw. Mr. Kinsey opened the concert by singing a rag time song. Mr. H. Edgar was presented by Mr. W. Evans with a gold albert and seal for services to the Conservative party. Mr. G. Sibley and others spoke in high terms of Mr. Edgar, saying that he had come from good stock in Somersetshire.

Mr. Edgar, speaking on Tariff Reform, said, 'What we want is to protect our industries. We hear a great deal about protecting labour, let us first of all protect that which makes labour. This is what we have to do. Put on tariffs on those foreign goods which compete with ours. We are done down by the U.S.A. and other countries in manufactured goods. We want to put tariffs on these so that our great empire will get something out of it. Look at the Commonwealth of Australia and Canada. See how loyal they were to us at the time of the Boer War. These places are anxious to join with the mother country in a friendly policy of preferential tariffs. This above all will bind one whole empire together, so that we may hold our own against all comers.' The usual votes of thanks terminated the meeting.

18 October 1913 Gelligaer Urban District Council: To the Electors of the Fochriw Ward Ladies and Gentlemen, Having been requested by a deputation of the ratepayers of the above ward to stand as a candidate in the forthcoming bye-election caused by the resignation of Mr. E. Jones, I have consented to do so, and now venture to appeal for your support. Though not very long resident amongst you, I think I am fairly well known to you, and I think I can lay claim to having a fair knowledge of the requirements of the ward. If you elect me, I assure you that I shall always make it my first duty to see that the requirements of the ward are dealt with in a proper manner, together, of course, with a due regard to economy of rates, of which I am strongly in favour of a reduction. Any measure brought forward with that object in view, would have my strong support, as high rates are bound to mean high rents, which the average worker can ill afford. I am also in favour of providing public playgrounds for the children of each district. These, with the necessary fittings, could be provided at a small cost, and would, I am sure, be money well spent. Hoping that you will grant me your generous support, and thanking you in anticipation, I am your obedient servant, John Gillibrand, 29 Glyn March Terrace, Deri. October 10th, 1913.

25 October 1913 Labour A public meeting in support of the candidature of the selected Labour candidate, Mr. Ellis Savaker, was held at Carmel Vestry on Tuesday. The vacancy is caused by Mr. Edwin Jones, the junior Labour member of the ward, resigning his seat. A very able address was delivered by the candidate, and also by Mr. Fred Jones of Deri. Mr. George Thomas presided.

1 November 1913 Candidates A meeting was held on Tuesday, October 28th, in support of the candidature of Mr. J. Gillibrand, Deri, who is contesting a seat on the Gelligaer District Council. Mr. H. Edgar presided. The meetings, both at Fochriw and Pantywaun, were very well attended. Mr. Gillibrand and Mr. W. Young, Pontypridd, spoke. On Wednesday, an open air meeting was held at Fochriw, supporting the candidacy of Mr. W. Giles, Deri, with Rev. Rhys Jenkins, Fochriw, presiding. A public meeting was also held on Tuesday evening at the Council School to further promote the candidature of Mr. Ellis Savaker, the Labour candidate. Mr. E. M. Davies presided.

8 November 1913 Congratulations To Mr. J. G. Giles, recently elected for the Fochriw Ward of the Gelligaer Council with a substantial majority.

17 January 1914 Mr. Clem. Edwards, M.P. and the Farmer: Meeting at Fochriw Mr. Clement Edwards, M.P. for East Glamorgan, addressed a meeting at Fochriw on Friday night, and dealt with the land question. Mr. Edwards gave a number of illustrations showing how the spirit of liberty was being killed in the rural districts by the farmers being dependent for their tenancy upon the personal goodwill of the landlord. Many farmers had been turned out of their farms because of their political, religious or social views. The Government's land policy would, however, cover cases of this sort, and in future, bad husbandry and non-payment of rent would constitute the only effective ground for getting rid of tenants. Landlords would be compelled to pay substantial damages for disturbance. Again, the low wages, lack of small cottage accommodation, and the oppression of the tie-cottage system, often made life intolerable to the agricultural labourer. He did not come to work in the collieries of South Wales because of the beauty of the work, but because he had the breath of freedom and better wages than he got on the land. Mr. Edwards also anticipated the restoration to the people of common lands taken by landlords, the adjustment of the anomalous leasehold system, and the realisation of an equitable system of rating in towns.

14 March 1914 Conservatism A well attended meeting was held at the Rising Sun Inn on Thursday, when an excellent address was given by Mr. J. Littlejohns, Pontypridd. A Conservative Association for the district was formed, and the following were elected officers: Vice-chairman - Mr. C. Shankland; treasurer - Mr. Dd. Jenkins; secretary - Mr. Herbert Edgar. There are prospects of having a strong Conservative organisation in Fochriw.

28 March 1914 Political Meeting A political meeting took place on Tuesday evening under the auspices of the East Glamorgan Conservative Association at the Rising Sun clubroom, kindly lent by Mr. and Mrs. Morgan. Mr. H. Edgar took the chair. The chief speaker was Mr. F. D. Courtenay Scudamore, Rhymney, who, on rising, was well received by the good number present. Songs were rendered in fine style by Messrs. C. Shankland, E. Lewis and W. Evans.

28 March 1914 Parliament Mr. John Ward declared in the House of Commons, amid wild Radical and Labour cheering, that the people must be allowed to make the laws of the country without interference from the King or the Army.

9 May 1914 Labour Meeting A Labour meeting was held at Carmel Congregational Church on Monday evening. Mr. John Jenkins, Dowlais, the district chairman of the miners, presided. Rev. W. T. Nicholas, late of Glais, Swansea, delivered an address in Welsh, as also did Mr. Wattenson, one of the deported 'Labour leaders' from South Africa. Other speakers were Mr. John Davies, miners' agent, Dowlais; Mr. Charles Griffiths, sub-agent, Dowlais, and Mr. Roberts, Dowlais. Votes of thanks concluded the meeting.

13 June 1914 Political Meeting A well-attended meeting was held at the St. Mary's Institute on Tuesday evening last, under the auspices of the East Glamorgan Conservative Association. The chair was taken by Mr. H. Edgar, who introduced Col. Morgan Lindsay, C.B., prospective Conservative and Unionist candidate for East Glamorgan, who delivered an interesting and constructive address. He dealt chiefly with County Council work, and the Home Rule question. Mr. John Wood proposed a vote of thanks, seconded by Mr. C. Shankland.

4 July 1914 Political A public meeting was held on Tuesday evening at St. Mary's Hall in support of Mr. Alfred Onions, the prospective Labour candidate for the constituency of East Glamorganshire. A large number of the electors were present, and

gave Mr. Onions a very hearty and enthusiastic hearing whilst he urged the necessity of having Labour men in Parliament to further the cause of those who toiled in mines, railways and factories, where there was so much danger to the health and lives of the workers. A resolution in his support was carried with two or three dissentients. The resolution was moved by Mr. Walter Jones, seconded by Rev. D. Huws Jones, and strongly supported by Mr. T. J. Mardy Jones and Mr. John Davies, miners' agent.

20 March 1915 Gellygaer District Council: To the Electors of the Fochriw Ward
Ladies and gentlemen, - In 19th October, 1913, You adopted and returned me, with a handsome majority, as one of your representatives on the above Council. My term of office is now at an end, and I appear before you again, to seek a continuation of your generous support. Before doing so, however, you would naturally wish me to give an account of my stewardship. (1) I have successfully appealed to the Council for an efficient system of lighting all along the road from Deri to Bargoed, with operations already commenced. (2) Very extensive street improvements at Bailey-street, Deri, are to be proceeded with immediately. (3) Instructions have been given to the surveyor to prepare plans for widening the bridge over the river near the Post Office, Deri. I have also supported and secured better made roads throughout the ward. I have contested successfully, in conjunction with my colleague, a disputed right-of-way for the benefit of Fochriw, Penybank and Deri workmen employed at the Bedlinog Collieries. I have also supported and secured better lighting and sanitary arrangements for the whole of the ward. Briefly, these are the larger benefits secured, and if you are satisfied with these results, obtained within the short period of 18 months, show your approval by returning me again on March 29th as one of your representatives, with such a majority as will give additional force to any argument that I will put on your behalf in future. In return for your further support, I pledge myself again to secure the greatest possible good for the greatest possible number. I am, ladies and gentlemen, your obedient servant, W. J. Giles. 2&3, Central Buildings, Deri.

3 April 1915 Gellygaer Council Election Result Elected: Mr. W. J. Giles, 340 votes; not elected, Mr. E. Savaker, 251.

29 June 1918 Labour Party The Fochriw Lodge of the South Wales Miners' Federation held an open-air meeting, when Mr. T. J. Mardy Jones spoke on the question of the coming Labour Parliament, and what can be done for the people. Mr. E. M. Davies presided. Mr. Jones outlined the far-reaching programme of the Labour Party, and emphasised the necessity of a programme of this kind to meet the requirements of Labour and Democracy after the war.

2 November 1918 Labour Party A public meeting under the auspices of the Caerphilly Divisional Labour Party, was held at the Reading Room on Tuesday evening, and was presided over by Mr. E. M. Davies. Mr. Alfred Onions, the prospective Parliamentary Labour candidate for the Caerphilly Division, addressed the meeting on the subject "Labour and the new Social Order." Other speakers who addressed the meeting were Mr. T. D. Matthews, Bargoed, and Mr. T. I. Mardy Jones, both of whom gave fine addresses. Votes of thanks to the speakers and chairman brought the very instructive meeting to a close.

14 December 1918 The Election A public meeting in support of the candidature of Mr. Alfred Onions, J.P., was held at the Old Council School on Friday evening, and was well attended. A public meeting in support of the candidature of Mr. W. R. Edmonds was held at Noddfa vestry, and was well attended, on Tuesday evening. Able addresses were given by the candidates, who were well received at their respective meetings.

21 December 1918 The Election Very little excitement was caused by the election. The collieries were idle for the occasion. Both sides seemed confident of victory.

21 December 1918 Labour Meeting A well attended public meeting in support of the Labour candidate, Mr. Alfred Onions, J. P., was held at Noddfa Vestry on Friday evening. The meeting was presided over by Mr. E. M. Davies, who outlined the Labour Party's policy in the future. An able address was given by Miss L. Andrews, Ystrad Rhondda.

15 March 1919 Labour Lodge A public meeting was held at Noddfa Vestry on Tuesday evening, and was well attended, the chair being occupied by Mr. A. Jones. Mr. D. B. Jones, the agent of the Enginemen, Stokers, and Craftsmen's Association, delivered a very fine and instructive address on the labour problems of the present day, dealing with his subject in a very masterly way. Mr. James Williams proposed a vote of thanks, seconded by Mr. W. J. Payne.

29 March 1919 Gellygaer Urban District Council Election 1919: To the Electors of the Fochriw Ward Ladies and Gentlemen, Allow me to tender sincerest thanks for my unopposed return as a member for the Fochriw Ward on the above Council. I shall always endeavour to do all in my power to promote the interests and welfare of the Ward, and also the district in general. My services will be entirely at your disposal. Although this is my first entry into public life, I hope, by strict attention to duties, to merit further confidence and support. Thanking you, I remain, Yours faithfully, Morgan Morgan. Rising Sun Inn, Fochriw, 25th March, 1919.

20 December 1919 Labour A public meeting was held in the old Council School on Monday evening last, when Councillor Morgan Jones, Bargoed, gave a very able address on "Truth About Labour," which was well received. The chairman was Mr. Tom Walters.

6 March 1920 Social A very pleasant social evening was spent at the Co-operative Rooms on Thursday evening last under the auspices of the Independent Labour Party. A large number sat down to a fine spread. During the evening a fine programme of music, etc., was given, and greatly enjoyed.

30 October 1920 Independent Labour Party At the Co-operative Rooms on Thursday last, Councillor Morgan Jones of Bargoed, addressed a large gathering of people. His speech was much appreciated by all present. Mr. Tom Jenkins presided.

19 March 1921 District Council Election A well attended meeting was held at the other Co-operative Rooms on Tuesday evening, in support of the candidature of Mr. D. J. Thomas, the Labour candidate (of the Trades and Labour Council), who is contesting a seat for the Fochriw Ward of the Gellygaer Council. The chief speakers were Miss Hettie Jones, Bargoed, and Councillor Sam Jennings, Dowlais, who were well received and gave fine addresses. Mr. Thomas, the candidate, also addressed the meeting and was given a good reception.

2 April 1921 Housing A meeting was held at the Co-operative Rooms on Wednesday evening last, when an excellent address was given by Mr. W. T. Lloyd, Bargoed, on "How to Build Houses on the Labour Policy." Mr. Lloyd dealt very minutely with the subject, and impressed his hearers very much. Mr. D. J. Thomas, the Labour candidate for the forthcoming Council election, also addressed the meeting.

16 April 1921 Gellygaer District Council Great excitement prevailed at Fochriw when it became known that the Labour candidate, Mr. D. J. Thomas, had been victorious at the election. Large crowds of his supporters waited for his return until midnight. When he came, he was given a right royal reception. The car conveying him and a few of his supporters, was stopped and instantly surrounded, and cries for a speech rent the air. After handshaking, and when peace had been restored, the newly

elected councillor addressed the large crowd, and thanked all who had worked so hard to return him to the top of the poll. He hoped he would be able to return the confidence which they had placed in him. The figures of the poll were: Mr. D. J. Thomas, 542; Mr. W. J. Giles, 378; Mr. Evan Hopkins Jones, 97.

20 August 1921 Parliamentary Election Great excitement prevails at Fochriw in anticipation of the coming election. The candidates and their supporters are holding meetings, at which large numbers attend. Each of the parties receives a good hearing, and several questions are asked and answered.

3 September 1921 Mr. Morgan Jones, M.P. at Fochriw On Monday evening last, the Church Hall was crowded, when Mr. Morgan Jones, M.P., paid a visit to thank the people for returning him so magnificently as their Member of Parliament. Accompanying him was his mother, who came in for a fine reception. The chair was occupied by Councillor D. J. Thomas, who gave a very able opening address. He said they were all delighted at such a victory, and he hoped that someday, the M.P. would be reversed to P.M. Mr. Jones was deeply moved at the reception given him, and thanked all those who had worked visibly as well as those who had worked less visibly. Whether people had voted against him, he was still their friend, and he would seek to do all in his power for the best interests of all in the constituency. Coalitionists, as well as Labourites, and all sections of the community - he hoped they would look upon him as their representative, irrespective of party. He gave particular thanks to his mother. Mrs. David Jones, in a neat little speech, presented Mrs. Jones with a handsome bouquet as a mark of esteem. Mrs. Jones feelingly responded in Welsh. The singing of "Hen Wlad fy Nhadau," brought the meeting to a close.

15 October 1921 Women's Meeting A very well attended women's meeting was held at the Co-operative Rooms on Thursday last. A very able address was given by Mrs. Andrews.

22 October 1921 Rate Payers Association A branch of the above has been formed at Fochriw. The meeting was held at the Co-operative Rooms on Tuesday evening, when addresses were given by several of the members of the Association from Pontlottyn.

28 January 1922 Lecture At the Co-op Reading Room, an interesting address, 'Pictures of Parliament,' was given by Mr. Morgan Jones M. P.

18 February 1922 Ratepayers Association A meeting of the Fochriw Ward Association took place at Noddfa Chapel Vestry on Tuesday. Mr. George Sibley presided and gave an account of the work accomplished by the Association of the Gelligaer Area. Meetings are held monthly in the chapel vestry: treasurer, Mr. W. J. Angell; secretary Mr. J. Lloyd Jones.

18 March 1922 Ratepayers' Association A special meeting of the Fochriw Ward Ratepayers' Association was held on Wednesday at Noddfa Chapel Vestry. The chairman, Mr. George Sibley, gave immense satisfaction in announcing the Association's plan to nominate a ratepayers' candidate for the forthcoming Board of Guardians election. Mr. John Bevan, M.E., proposed that "the Association nominate and pledge to support ex-Police Srgt. H. Williams." Dr. Stenner Evans had great pleasure in seconding so suitable a candidate. The proposal was carried unanimously.

25 March 1922 District Council and Guardians We are now assured of an election in the Fochriw Ward. The retiring member of the Council is Councillor Morgan Morgans, whose seat is to be challenged by Mr. Phillips (Deri), the Labour nominee. The retiring Guardian is Councillor John Edwards (Deri), who is to be opposed by Ex-Sergt. Williams (Fochriw). Meetings are already in progress, and an exciting contest is anticipated for both seats.

1 April 1922 Fochriw Council Elections: Mr. Morgan Morgan the Favourite It is generally agreed that Mr. Morgan Morgan has proved to be an excellent representative of the neighbourhood on the Gelligaer Council. Not only has his attendance been exemplary, but he has shown an exceptionally keen interest in all transactions of the Council, and there is special value attached to his services inasmuch as he is a genius for economy, and this is a capacity not given to everybody. There are any amount of people on local authorities who can talk glibly, but they have not the faintest idea of what is meant by practical economy.

24 June 1922 Ratepayers' Association This Association held a meeting on Tuesday evening at Noddfa Vestry., under the chairmanship of Mr. G. Sibley. Rev. S. B. Samuel of Pontlloftyn attended for the purpose of infusing a little more enthusiasm into the members and explained the great work that was being done by the Association in the Gelligaer area.

10 March 1923 Fochriw Houses: Meeting of Gellygaer Council At a previous meeting of the Council, a letter was read from the District Valuer, stating that the Bute Estate was prepared to sell the land required at the rate of £40 per acre plus costs, and suggesting that the Council should negotiate for a reduction in the price of £50 per acre. In a reply to Rev. Gilbert Williams, the Clerk stated that the matter was proceeding satisfactorily, and that he thought the outcome would be favourable.

26 May 1923 Mr. Winston Churchill is on the short list of Liberal candidates for the Caerphilly Constituency.

8 September 1923 M.P.'s Visit On Monday evening, Mr. Morgan Jones, M.P. for the Caerphilly Division, paid a visit to Fochriw and addressed a meeting at the Co-operative Rooms. Mr. Jones, who was accompanied by his wife, was given a very cordial reception. He dealt very fully with the doings of the House of Commons during the last session. His speech was well received. Councillor D. J. Thomas was in the chair.

17 November 1923 Personal Coun. George Street was unable to appear at a special meeting of Gelligaer Council on Wednesday evening when a discussion on officials' salaries took place. He was required, in his capacity of Secretary, to attend an important meeting of the South Wales Quarries' Association at Bristol.

24 November 1923 Meeting A largely attended meeting was held in the Library Hut on Tuesday evening in support of Mr. Morgan Jones, the Labour candidate. The chair was occupied by Mr. E. M. Davies, who gave a short opening address. Mr. Morgan Jones was given a hearty reception, and his speech listened to attentively. Several questions were asked and answered satisfactorily. A hearty vote of confidence was carried in support of Mr. Morgan Jones.

24 November 1923 Election Quite a stir has been caused in the village by the elections. Meetings have already been held by the various candidates. Mr. Gwilym Rowlands, the Conservative candidate, addressed a well-attended meeting at the Church Hall on Thursday evening. The chair was occupied by the Vicar, Rev. S. Evans, who gave an appropriate opening speech. Mr. Rowlands then gave a fine address which was well received. Several questions were asked, and satisfactorily answered. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the speaker at the close of the meeting.

1 December 1923 Election Enthusiastic meetings in support of the Labour candidate were held at the Library Hut on Monday and Wednesday evenings last, when Mrs. Andrews (Rhondda), and Mrs. Hettie Jones (Bargoed), and several others, addressed the meetings. At the Council School on Monday evening, a meeting in support of the Liberal candidate, Mr. S. R. Jenkins, was held, when the meeting was addressed by the candidate and others.

8 December 1923 Women's Meeting At St. Mary's Hall on Monday afternoon, Miss Lindsay of Ystrad Mynach, addressed a meeting of women, dealing with a number of present day subjects. Rev. S. Evans was in the chair. Miss Lindsay was heartily thanked at the close of her address.

8 December 1923 Election Each of the three candidates has addressed enthusiastic meetings in the village during the week. All have been well attended. Quite a number of questions have been put to the candidates and satisfactorily answered. A pleasing feature of all the meetings is the peaceful way they are conducted, every speaker having a perfect hearing.

16 February 1924 Mr. Morgan Jones, M.P. Welcomed in his New Role of Parliamentary Secretary of Education On Sunday afternoon, the Castle Cinema, Caerphilly was the setting for a crowded and enthusiastic meeting held under the auspices of the local branch of the Independent Labour Party, as a public greeting and expression of appreciation to Mr. Morgan Jones, M.P. on his appointment as Parliamentary Secretary of Education. The hall was filled to the utmost. Mr. Jones gave details of what to expect from the Labour Government.

22 March 1924 Victory Tea A first-class victory tea was held at the Library Hut on Saturday to celebrate the election of Mr. Morgan Jones, M.P., to Parliament. A large number sat down to tea, followed by a fine entertainment. Mr. Aneurin Thomas was accompanist. Soloists were: Mrs. H. C. Davies; Misses Margery Lewis and Agnes Cook; Miraim Thomas and Mary Morgan (violin solos); Mr. David Price (gramophone selection); Nest Jenkins and Nesta Evans (recitations).

5 April 1924 Election Meeting A meeting in support of the candidature of Mr. D. J. Thomas, who is seeking re-election to the Gellygaer District Council, was held last Monday at the Library Hut.

27 September 1924 The Crisis Mr. Morgan Jones, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education, addressed a well attended meeting at the Library Hut on Monday. Mr. T. Jenkins occupied the chair. Mr. Jones said he wished he was meeting them under more pleasant circumstances. He regretted very much the closure of the collieries and the unemployment amongst them. He would do all in his power to get some relief work started. He then gave an account of his stewardship.

18 October 1924 Election An election meeting was held in the Library Hut on behalf of Mr. Morgan Jones.

18 October 1924 Trades and Labour Council At a meeting on Monday in the Library Hut, Mr. Morgan Jones was adopted as the Labour candidate. Mr. Walters was elected as a delegate to the Ystrad Mynach conference. Mr. J. McGhie reported on the last conference at Caerphilly. Mr. Dunscombe was adopted as election agent.

25 October 1924 Election The Conservative candidate, Gwilym Rowlands, held an election meeting at the Council School. Rev. S. Evans was in the chair.

1 November 1924 Election Both parties have held further meetings.

8 November 1924 Election Mr. Morgan Jones held a meeting of thanks at the Library Hut on Friday.

7 March 1925 County Council Election On Monday evening at the Library hut, a meeting was held in support of Mr. William H. Hopkins, the Labour Candidate. The chairman was Mr. Sam Lewis who gave a short address before calling on other speakers including the candidate, whose address was well received.

28 March 1925 Election A well-attended meeting in support of the Labour candidate for the forthcoming District Council elections was held at the Library Hut on Tuesday evening. The chair was occupied by Mr. E. M. Davies. Both candidates, Messrs. T. Jenkins and J. Evans addressed the gathering.

27 June 1925 Pensions An open air meeting was held on Saturday evening on the Pensions Bill before Parliament, and was addressed by Mr. H. Shepherd of the National Unionist Association.

12 September 1925 Library Hut Mr. Morgan Jones, M.P., held a meeting at the Hut on Thursday.

26 September 1925 Bedlinog: Communists At the Boys' School on Friday evening last, Mr. E. G. Thomas presided over a good audience who had gathered to hear Mr. Jock Wilson, the organiser of the Communist Party for South Wales who dealt with the tactics and organisation of the party.

14 November 1925 Trades Council The Hut was well filled on Thursday evening, when a meeting was held under the auspices of the Fochriw and Deri Trades and Labour Council. Mr. Samuel Lewis presided, and the speaker was Miss Jessie Stephens, prospective Labour candidate for South Portsmouth. Mr. Evan M. Davies moved a resolution that the meeting protest against the decision of the Director of Public Prosecutions in withdrawing the charge of larceny against the four men members of the National Fascisti, and Mr. Raymond Clark seconded. Miss Stephens proved herself to be a capable orator.

6 February 1926 Public Meeting At the Reading Room on Monday evening, a public meeting was held, and was addressed by Councillor Tom Jenkins and County Councillor W. Hopkins, when both speakers gave very interesting accounts of their stewardship on the various bodies on which they serve. The chairman was Mr. E. Lewis.

13 March 1926 Labour Party Under the auspices of the Labour Party, a meeting was held at the Reading Room on Wednesday evening, the speaker being Miss Jessie Stephens of London. The chairman was Mr. Evan M. Davies.

20 March 1926 Election The forthcoming election is causing great excitement at Fochriw. There are two candidates in the field, Mr. John Edwards, Deri, the retiring member, and Mr. George Sibley, Station Stores, who seeks honours for the first time. Mr. Sibley's educational knowledge, and the fact that he is an independent candidate, should help him considerably against his "red" opponent.

20 March 1926 Election A very interesting contest is promised in the Fochriw Ward for a seat on the Gellygaer Urban District Council. The present member is Coun. John Edwards, Deri, and he will be opposed by Mr. George Sibely, fruiterer, Fochriw. Both are well known in the ward, and a good fight is anticipated.

27 March 1926 Election At the Reading room on Tuesday evening, a very enthusiastic meeting was held in support of Mr. John Edwards, the Labour candidate. The chair was occupied by Councillor Tom Jenkins, and the speakers were County Councillors William Hammond and William Hopkins, and Mr. Sam Jennings, Dowlais. On Friday evening, the speaker was Mr. Bryn Roberts, agent, and the candidate, Mr. John Edwards. The chairman was Mr. E. M. Davies.

3 April 1926 Election Very enthusiastic meetings were held during the week with both candidates for a seat on the Gellygaer Urban District Council. The result was declared late on Monday night as follows: Mr. John Edwards: 659; Mr. George Sibley 316.

29 May 1926 Carmel Chapel On Friday evening last, Mr. Morgan Jones, M.P. for the Caerphilly division, gave an excellent address dealing with the crisis that the country is passing through at the present time. Councillor T. Jenkins presided.

21 August 1926 Mr. Morgan Jones, M.P. A crowded meeting was held at the Reading Room on Friday evening to hear Mr. Morgan Jones M.P. Mr. E. M. Davies

presided. Mr. Jones dealt with the coal crisis up to the present time, his address being attentively listened to and well received. Questions were asked and answered.

13 November 1926 Meeting On Tuesday at Carmel, a well-attended meeting was addressed by Mr. Morgan Jones, M.P., who dealt at length with the coal crisis and other important matters. Coun. Tom Jenkins presided.

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

The long strike-period saw the village slag heaps swarmed with villagers, all in search of coal. It was verily a hard task for them, but their tenacity of purpose enabled most of them to procure enough fuel to commence trading. Their only speculation was labour. They were not greedy, and as a rule the price was left to the purchaser. It is recalled that one such purchaser rewarded one seller to the extent of a "glistening bawb" for eight bags of the precious black diamonds. This particular merchant escaped from income tax, and suffered the indignity patiently. Another experience fell the village allotmenters. They discovered the way to kiln their own lime. At once it became the rage, until one family monopolised the furnace, and the patience of the rest of the villagers got worn out in waiting their turn to stoke the kiln. Fresh lime was to be obtained in Fochriw in this period at the nominal fee of four pence a bucketful, and a roaring trade was done. The financial crash of the "Lime Market" came when lime was demanded at three pence less than the price aforesaid. House decorating also became rampant during the strike, and many of the 60-year-old "company" tenements were made to outshine the beauty of the modern Council houses. Cement, lime, sizes, paint and the gay artificial silk stockings of the village lasses, brought fresh colour at the once drab streets. The assessment committee are not taking advantage of this improvement (?).

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

This latter canteen had an awful "bust up" - something over a gibbon. To settle the breach in the harmony required the services of the vice-president of the South Wales Miners' Federation. He first consulted the committee, and found they were properly in the "stew," almost afraid to "stir." They told him the men complained of the menu. A mass meeting was at once proclaimed and the Old School Yard was the scene of the conflict. The complainants were two stout hillmen, and the defendants the whole committee. The Vice-President opened the "Assizes" by declaring that Fochriw was not alone in its canteen squabbles, and he instanced neighbouring places where Cook had had his meet. After outlining how a canteen should be governed, he urged that obedience to the committee was essential - "we must have discipline to carry on the good work." The question of non-unionists being allowed in the canteen altered the phases of the proceedings a little, and the poor non-unionists in the audience quacked in

their shoes. The speakers oratory here was magnificently full of time worn acrimonious bitterness, and at last the non-unionists were informed that they were privileged to attend the canteens, but under no consideration whatsoever were they to hold office. "The Communal Kitchens are entirely under the control of the Federation, remember that!" "Although money is being subscribed by the public at large, it is the Federation who are in control, remembah!" (The facial contortions over the word "remembah" will never be forgotten). Patience being a virtue that the two hill-men don't possess was the cause of a good many interjections being made; and the situation became as delicate as a cornflour blancmange. The worthy chairman of the canteen then explained the grievances, and being too week-kneed to withstand epithets hurled at him, the vice President of the Federation again took command of the situation. The controversy was based on a genuine grievance, and we soon learn that the only method to cool the broth was by blowing up the Fochriw populace as being the most generous flock. "We in Merthyr and Dowlais were put to the trouble of purchasing kitchen equipment, but at Fochriw they had no difficulty in borrowing boilers, kettles, etc." Needless to say, the meeting ended in chaos. The only satisfied persons were the two dissentients who were initiated into the clique, and they all lived happily ever after. Few will forget this episode of communal kitchen boilers, and artiste as the vice-president of the Federation is, we feel sure that he wore a Broadway smile when automobiling over the Fochriw mountain that night.

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

The strike gave us a carnival or two, umpteen eisteddfods, umpteen whist drives, umpteen competitive concerts, no stop trucks, ridding of packmen, soccer and general sport, cheaper billiards, a drama or two, free coal and herb tobacco, a slight knowledge of what the Miners' Federation of Great Britain never did, a workable knowledge of the greatest Government of modern times, E. P. A. and what it means to abuse it, police in galore, the art of gratitude to those who suffered for us, the jazz note, a few visits from our dear M. P., the theory of intimidation put out of practice, 8 hours - and to most of us - a pay before Christmas after all. Let what may come after may we say. Yours, etc., Pips, Squeaks and Whistles.

2 April 1927 Labour Party A meeting in connection with the Labour Party was held at the Library on Monday. The chair was occupied again Mr. E. M. Davies. The speakers were Councillor W. R. Johns, who had been returned unopposed as a member of the Gellygaer Urban District Council, Mr. T C Morris, national organiser of the Labour Party, Cardiff, and Councillor Jenkins.

3 September 1927 M.P.'s Visit Mr. Morgan Jones, M.P. for the Caerphilly division, addressed a well attended meeting at the Old Reading Room on Tuesday. The chairman was Councillor Tom Jenkins. Mr. Jones spoke for an hour and a half on current topics, and at the close, questions were asked and answered satisfactorily.

14 January 1928 The Visit of Mr. Morgan Jones M. P. A well-attended meeting was held at the Old Library on Tuesday evening, when Mr. Morgan Jones M.P. delivered a very fine address. The speaker was in excellent form and gave his impressions of America, which he had recently visited. He also spoke on the present position in the industrial world. Mr. T. C. Morris, Welsh National organiser of the Labour Party, also spoke.

3 March 1928 Election On Thursday evening at the Church Hall, a very enthusiastic meeting in connection with the Glamorgan County Council election took place in support of Mr. W. H. Hopkins, the present member. The chairman was Councillor Tom Jenkins. Mr. Hopkins addressed the meeting and dealt very minutely with the work accomplished by the Council during his term of office. He appealed for support. The Rev. D. M. Jones, Senghenydd, spoke very highly of the qualities of Mr. Hopkins.

24 March 1928 Election There are contests in the Fochriw Ward both for the Guardians and the Council. The candidates for the Guardians are Mr. John Bevan, M.E., who is fighting the seat held by Mrs. Bevan, his wife, who is not seeking re-election. The other candidate is Mrs. Kneebone, Deri. On the council, the present member is Mr. Thomas Jenkins, who is being opposed by Mr. Minhinnick, M.E., Deri. Both the independent candidates (Mr. Bevan and Mr. Minhinnick), held a very enthusiastic meeting at the Church Hall on Monday evening. The Vicar presided. Both candidates addressed the meeting, and a fine band of workers was enrolled. On Wednesday evening, at the Library, a meeting in support of the Labour candidates was held, when Mr. John, headmaster, Tiryberth Schools, and Mr. Hopkins, addressed the meeting, together with the candidates - Councillor Tom Jenkins and Mrs. Kneebone.

31 March 1928 Election At the Old Library on Tuesday evening, a meeting took place in support of the Labour candidates for seats on the Gellygaer Council and the Guardians. Both candidates, Councillor Tom Jenkins and Mrs. Kneebone, addressed the meeting. Other speakers were C.C. Tom Evans (Pengam), Mr. Sam Jennings (Dowlais), Mr. Albert Thomas (miners' agent, Bargoed), Councillor John Edwards (Deri), and Mr. Sam Lewis (school manager, Fochriw). At the Church Hall on Monday evening, a very enthusiastic meeting was held in support of the Independent candidates - Mr. John Bevan and Mr. Minhinnick. Both candidates addressed the meeting and were well received.

7 April 1928 Election Victories Great enthusiasm was displayed on Monday in connection with the election for a seat on the Gellygaer Council and the Merthyr Board of Guardians. Both sides worked in a very friendly spirit. Mr. Minhinnick succeeded the seat on the Council by 19 votes, and Mr. John Bevan the seat on the Guardians by 10 votes.

28 April 1928 Labour Party A meeting was held at the Old Library on Monday under the auspices of the Labour Party, when the speakers were Councillor Moses Price, Bargoed; Mr. Tom Jenkins, Fochriw; and Mrs. Kneebone, Deri.

5 May 1928 Liberalism At the Church Hall on Tuesday evening, a meeting was held to form a Liberal organisation in the village. The speaker was Mr. Jack Jones, Blaengarw, who gave a fine address, which was well received.

5 May 1928 Lecture A lecture was given at Carmel Chapel on Tuesday evening under the auspices of the Labour Party. The speaker was the Rev. Daniel Hughes, Machen. The title of the lecture was "Ten days in jail." The chair was occupied by Mrs. Kneebone, Deri. The lecturer was accorded a hearty vote of thanks on the motion of Mr. Tom Jenkins, seconded by Mr. Sam Lewis.

9 June 1928 MPs Visit On Thursday, Mr. Morgan Jones, M.P., gave a very interesting address on the budget and other topics, at the Fochriw Reading Room.

16 June 1928 Liberal Meeting A very enthusiastic Liberal meeting was held at Fochriw on Monday evening, when an address was given by the Mr. T. Williams, Cardiff.

25 August 1928 Labour Meeting On Thursday, a well attended meeting was held at the Old Library under the auspices of the Miners' Federation and Labour Party. Mr. Morgan Jones, M. P., addressed the meeting in a very able manner. He dealt with the

rating proposals of the government and other important matters. Addresses were also given by Mr. Bryn Roberts, miners' agent.

25 August 1928 Liberal Meeting At the Old Library on Tuesday evening, a well attended meeting was held under the auspices of the Caerphilly Divisional Liberal Association, when the prospective Liberal candidate, Miss Grace Roberts, and Mr. Tom Williams, Cardiff, addressed the meeting. Miss Roberts was in excellent form, delivering a powerful address. She dealt very minutely with the Liberal programme and the party's past record. At the close, several questions were asked and answered.

1 September 1928 Meeting At a meeting on Monday evening at the Co-operative Rooms, County Councillor W. H. Hopkins, Bargoed, addressed a very enthusiastic meeting. He gave a very minute account of his stewardship in connection with various bodies with which he is connected, and was accorded a very hearty vote of thanks.

15 September 1928 Labour Party At the Co-operative Rooms on Tuesday evening, a meeting was held by the Labour Party, when Mr. Walton Newbould delivered an address.

13 October 1928 Bachelors' Tea At the Co-operative Rooms on Monday evening, the members of the Labour Party held a tea and social evening. After tea, a fine in programme of music and games was enjoying by all.

12 January 1929 M.Ps. Visit Mr. Morgan Jones addressed a well attended meeting at the Old Library on Tuesday. Mr. Sam Lewis presided. Mr. Jones outlined the De-rating Bill and questions relating to unemployment were asked and answered.

2 March 1929 Liberal Association A well attended meeting in connection with the Fochriw Liberal Association was held at the Old Library on Tuesday evening when an excellent address was given by Mr E. M. Bowen, M.Sc., Porthcawl.

9 March 1929 Meeting At the Co-operative Rooms on Monday, a very enthusiastic meeting was addressed by Mr. W. H. Hopkins, Bargoed. The speaker was in fine form and was listened to attentively. The meeting was presided over by Mr. S. Lewis.

16 March 1929 The Labour Party At the Co-operative Rooms on Monday, a meeting was held under the auspices of the Labour Party. Mr. Sam Lewis occupied the chair, and the speaker was Mr. D. Jeremy Morgan, Dowlais.

23 March 1929 Meeting On Tuesday evening, at Church Hall, a well-attended meeting was held when Mr. O. Temple Morris, the Conservative candidate, addressed the meeting. The speaker was in excellent form and was well received. At the close, questions were asked and satisfactorily answered.

11 May 1929 Liberal Meeting At the Old Reading Room on Tuesday evening, a large and very enthusiastic meeting was held, presided over by Mr Moses Williams, who gave an appropriate address before calling upon Miss Grace Roberts, the prospective candidate for the Caerphilly Division, to address the meeting. Miss Roberts gave a very fine address, and was listened to very attentively. Several questions were asked and answered at the close.

25 May 1929 Communism On Wednesday, a meeting was held at the Old Library, when Mr. J. R. Wilson, the Communist candidate, delivered an address.

22 June 1929 Victory Tea At the Co-op Rooms on Saturday evening, a tea and social took place under the auspices of the local Labour Party, to celebrate the victory of Mr. Morgan Jones, M.P. The place had been nicely decorated, and a large number were present, including Mr. Morgan Jones, M.P., and his aged mother, Mr. John, headmaster of Tiryberth. The following were the trayholders: Mrs. Dd. Jones, Mrs. J. Lewis, Mrs. B. Powell, Mrs. T. Jenkins, Mrs. T. Rowlands, Mrs. Gregory, Mrs. W. Way, Mrs. P. Cumpstone, Mrs. Price, Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. H. Jones, Mrs. D. Evans, assisted by several other ladies. Miss Way and Miss I. Edwards took charge of the

entertainment; the guess cake was taken charge of by Mrs. M. Lewis and Mrs. Smith. The organiser and caterer, Mr. B. Powell, is to be complimented on the excellent way he carried out his duties. After the tea, dancing and games were indulged in at the Old Library. The M.C. was Mr. T.H. Jones, and Mrs. O. Richards acted as pianist. The cake was won by Mr. Morgan, Deri.

18 January 1930 M.P.s Visit Mr. Morgan Jones, M.P., visited the village on Monday evening, and addressed a public meeting at the Library, Mr. Sam Lewis presiding. Mr. Jones was in excellent form, and gave a very exhaustive resume of the work of the present government. He was looking forward to the future with confidence. Questions were asked and satisfactorily answered.

1 February 1930 Public Meeting A public meeting was held at the Old Library on Tuesday evening, addressed by a County Councillor W. H. Hopkins. As he has done on previous occasions, he dealt with many important points in connection with the work of the County Council.

27 September 1930 Mr. Morgan Jones, M.P. At the Old Library on Monday evening, a public meeting was held, presided over by a Mr. B. Powell. The speaker was Mr. Morgan Jones, M.P., who gave an address dealing with matters in general.

22 November 1930 County Council On Tuesday, a meeting was held at the Co-operative Rooms, when the chief speakers were County Councillor W. H. Hopkins, and Mr. John, headmaster, Tiryberth. Mr. Clark was chairman. Mr. Hopkins, who is the present member for the ward, and has again been adopted for the next election, has endeared himself to all in the ward by his straightforward, out-spoken manner. He gave a review all of his stewardship on the council since his last visit. He spoke of the new schools for Deri, Bargoed, and improvements at Penybank School, as well as of other advantages that had been obtained for the area. With regard to the forthcoming election, if the electorate had any fault with his past service, he was prepared to submit to any fair criticism. Mr. John then spoke in support of Mr. Hopkins, appealing to the people to support him once again.

6 December 1930 Cinema Van On Saturday evening, under the auspices of the Caerphilly Division of the Conservative and Unionist Association, the cinema van visited Fochriw and a first-class exhibition of pictures, which was enjoyed by the large number attracted. An excellent address was also given by one of the speakers.

24 January 1931 County Council Affairs On Thursday evening, the Library was crowded to hear an address by County Councillor W. H. Hopkins, who gave an account of his stewardship since his last visit to Fochriw, and dealt with the relief scale and other measures. He said he welcomed fair and open criticism and was always prepared to defend his actions. He would leave his record speak for itself. Questions were invited and replied to. A hearty vote of confidence in Coun. Hopkins was carried unanimously.

14 March 1931 District Council In a few weeks, the town will be in the throes of an election for a seat on the Gellygaer Urban District Council. The present member is Councillor A. T. Minnick, M.E., who has been very interested in the welfare of the ward. Several prominent names are mentioned to contest the seat in opposition to the present member, who will be seeking re-election.

14 March 1931 Election On Thursday, at the Old Library, an enthusiastic meeting was held when the victor of the recent County Council election, Councillor W. H. Hopkins, returned thanks for the loyal support given him to obtain such a magnificent victory. The speaker said he would do in the future as he had done in the past - his duty to all. The chair was occupied by Mr. Sam Lewis.

28 March 1931 Election At the Old Library on Monday evening, a well attended meeting was held in support of the Labour candidate, Mr. Raymond Clark, who is

seeking a seat on the Gellygaer Urban District Council. The chairman was Mrs. Kneebone, Deri, who gave an excellent address in support of the candidate. County Councillor W. H. Hopkins also gave an address of support, and the candidate also addressed the meeting.

28 March 1931 Election Meeting A large number attended at the Church Hall on Tuesday to hear an address by Councillor A. H. Minhinnick, M.E., who is seeking re-election to the Gellygaer Urban District Council. The chairman was Mr. John Lloyd Jones who gave an account of the work accomplished by Mr. Minhinnick. The candidate then addressed the meeting and gave a detailed report of his stewardship. Mr. W. J. Giles, J.P., also spoke in support of the candidate. A vote of confidence in Mr. Minhinnick was proposed by Mr. John Bevan, M.E., and seconded by Mr. Charles Mills, and carried unanimously.

6 June 1931 M.Ps. Visit Mr. Morgan Jones, M.P., (Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education), visited the village and gave an address to a large audience on Tuesday evening last at the library.

24 October 1931 Election Meetings Mr. Morgan Jones, M.P., addressed very enthusiastic meetings on Monday and Tuesday at the Old Library.

15 October 1932 MPs Visit Mr. Morgan Jones, M.P., paid a visit to Fochriw on Tuesday and addressed a meeting at the Old Library. The chair was occupied by Mr. R. Clark.

16 September 1933 MPs Visit Mr. Morgan Jones, M.P., visited Fochriw on Tuesday evening and addressed a large audience at the Old Library. He dealt in a very able manner with the question of unemployment, the Indian question, and international affairs. The chairman was Mr. W. J. Payne. Mr. Tom Jones, the organiser, also spoke.

20 January 1934 Employment Wanted A public meeting was held at the New Hall to protest against the method adopted by the Gellygaer Urban District Council in selecting men to work on the Pentwyn road. Councillor Johns (Deri) was present, and Mr. Ted Puddle presided. Councillor Johns stated that the men who were working were selected from lists supplied by the Labour Exchange, and he maintained that the men with the longest period of unemployment had been started. He also stated that the Labour Exchange was prepared to come to a meeting to substantiate the correctness of the list. Mr. R. Clark, in reply, stated that the unemployed of Fochriw were prepared to prove that the list was not correct, in as much as large numbers of men with long periods of unemployment were not on the list. It was agreed that the Secretary (Mr. R. Clark) be instructed to write to the persons concerned, accepting the offer to come to Fochriw and meet the unemployed, and to make arrangements for the meeting. Mr. D. M. Thomas moved a vote of thanks to Councillor Johns and this has seconded by Mr. A. Way. The chairman then stated that the meeting had also been called to select a candidate for the next District Council election. Several speakers stated that it was time that Fochriw had a local candidate. It was moved and seconded that Mr. R. Clark should be the candidate. Mr. Clark thanked the meeting for the confidence they placed in him. He also stated he would be only too pleased to stand down in favour of any other person would be prepared to stand, and he would do all in his power to secure that person's return.

24 March 1934 Election Candidates A contest is anticipated in the Fochriw and Deri Ward on March 26. The retiring member, Mr. A. T. Minhinnick, M.E., who has served the ward for the last six years, will be opposed by Mr. Raymond Clark.

31 March 1934 Election The election for a seat on the Fochriw Ward of the Gellygaer Urban District Council took place on Monday, and resulted in the returning

member, Mr. A. T. Minhinnick, being re-elected by 830 votes to 600 for his opponent Mr. Raymond Clark.

8 September 1934 M.P.'s Visit Mr. Morgan Jones, M.P., visited Fochriw on Tuesday evening and addressed a meeting at the Old Library. The chairman was Mr. Sam Lewis.

24 November 1934 Labour Party At the meeting on Monday at the Old Library, when Mr. Tom Jones, Caerphilly, organiser, was present, the following officers were appointed: chairman, Mr. Sam Lewis; secretary, Mrs. S. J. Jones; treasurer, Mr. T. Shankland.

5 January 1935 Peace Ballot At Nazareth chapel on Monday, Mr. Sam Lewis presided over the Fochriw Committee to supervise the ballot in February. Mrs. S. J. Jones gave an interesting talk on the "Objects of the Peace Ballot." It was decided to convene a public meeting in a fortnight's time.

26 January 1935 Peace Meeting An address was given by Mr. Eddie Jones, Bargoed, on Wednesday, at Noddfa vestry. He dealt with the whole aspect of the League of Nations, and explained in detail the questions asked on the ballot sheets now been distributed throughout the country. The Rev. Richard Evans, Deri, presided, and a vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. T. Ballard, and seconded by Mrs. J. Lawrence. Following the meeting, the Fochriw Declaration Committee listened to a report of the area committee given by Mrs. S. J. Jones. Mr. Sam Lewis, chairman, also made comments. It was decided to complete arrangements for the local ballots at the next meeting of the committee.

2 February 1935 New Unemployment Act Mr. Dan James presided over the meeting at the New Hall of Wednesday, when an address was given by County Councillor W. J. Kedward on the new unemployment act.

2 March 1935 Ward Meeting At a meeting of the ward Labour Party, it was unanimously decided to nominate the present member, Councillor John Edwards. Mr. Sam Lewis presided.

2 March 1935 Peace Ballot The result of the peace ballot at Fochriw was:

Question 1: Yes 688; No 9; Question 2: Yes 688, No 9;

Question 3: Yes 656, No 41; Question 4: Yes 663, No 32;

Question 5a: Yes 661, No 30; Question 5b: Yes 451; No 173.

18 May 1935 Labour Candidate Interest is growing daily in the forthcoming election for the seat rendered vacant by the death of Councillor John Edwards on the Gellygaer District Council. The nominee of the Fochriw Labour Party is Mr. Samuel Lewis. The joint meeting of the Fochriw and Deri Labour Parties was held at Penybank School on Monday evening, presided over by Mr. Tom Jones, the Labour Party organiser for the Caerphilly area. Mr. Iorwerth Hopkins, the Deri Labour Party nominee, was also present. After much discussion, Mr. Sam Lewis was declared the official Labour Party candidate.

1 June 1935 Election The Labour Party launched their campaign by holding a meeting at Penybank on Monday, when the chairman was Mr. John Evans, Deri. The speakers included the candidate, Mr. Sam Lewis, Councillor W. R. John, Deri, Mr. R. Stokes and Mr. Iorwerth Hopkins.

8 June 1935 By-Election Result The by-election in the Fochriw and Deri Ward of the Gellygaer Urban District Council, caused by the death of Mr. John Edwards, resulted as follows: Samuel Lewis (Labour) 905; W. H. Knibbs (Independent) 673; majority, 232. Mr. Lewis is a Fochriw boy and is a member of the Gellygaer Group of School Managers, and is the treasurer of Carmel Congregational Chapel.

28 September 1935 MPs Visit Mr. Morgan Jones, MP, addressed a meeting at the Old Library on Wednesday, Councillor Sam Lewis presiding. Mr. Jones dealt with some important points, including the Abyssinian crisis, and the miners' campaign for an increase in wages.

16 May 1936 Labour Party On Wednesday evening at the Old Library, Councillor Sam Lewis gave a report of the work done in connection with Gellygaer Council, of which he is the ward representative.

24 October 1936 MPs Visit Mr. Morgan Jones, MP, addressed a meeting at the New Hall on Tuesday, when Councillor Sam Lewis presided. Mr. Jones gave an address on the means test, the Spanish question, and dealt in general with international affairs. He was accorded a vote of thanks by Mr. W. J. Payne and Mr. E. M. Davies. Councillor Sam Lewis gave a resume of his work as a member of the District Council.

Mr. R. Clark presided at a means test protest meeting on Monday.

20 February 1937 Unemployed Meeting A meeting of the Fochriw unemployed organisation was held at the Old Library on Monday. Mr. Ted Puddle presided. The meeting was addressed by Councillor D. J. Matthews, Rhymney. A deputation of unemployed members attended from Deri with the object of discussing the nomination of the candidates for the District Council elections.

28 August 1937 MPs Visit Mr. Morgan Jones, MP, addressed a meeting at the New Hall on Tuesday. Councillor Sam Lewis presided, and Mr. Jones explained the immediate programme of the Labour Party.

27 November 1937 Public Meeting On Monday evening at the New Hall, a public meeting was addressed by County Councillor W. J. Kedward, Bargoed, who gave a review of his stewardship as a member of the Glamorgan County Council. Councillor Sam Lewis, who presided, gave a review of his work as a member of the Gellygaer Urban District Council. He dealt with the many improvements in the village, such as of the new time tarmacadam roads, and the further road improvements to take place. Seats had also arrived to be placed on the road-side, also the playthings for the Children's corner at Pentwyn. Improvements would also take place at Pantywaun.

30 July 1938 Black Areas Grants Sir George Gillett, the Commissioner for the Special Areas in England and Wales, had, at the end of June, entered into commitments totalling more than £16,000,000. Up to the end of that month, offers of contributions towards rents, rates and income tax had been made to 59 industrial undertakings to induce them to set up factories in the Special Areas.

8 April 1939 Local Election Result: Fochriw Ward William John Payne (Ind) 621 - elected; John Evans (Lab) 536 - not elected.

24 June 1939 By-Election Meeting Mr. Ness Edwards, the Labour candidate for the parliamentary by-election in the Caerphilly Division, addressed a meeting at the New Hall on Tuesday evening, when he was supported by Mr. Arthur Pearson, M.P., Councillor Charles Davies and others. Mr. Edwards has visited Fochriw on other occasions, in connection with the Welfare Hall, etc.

24 June 1939 Welsh Language Petition A meeting of representatives of all the churches in Fochriw was held at Nazareth chapel on Monday. Councillor Sam Lewis presided, and explained that the object of the meeting was to appoint persons to canvas the district in connection with the Welsh language petition. They will leave a form to be signed, and the petitions will be submitted to the House of Commons, appealing that the necessary steps be taken with all convenient speed to secure the passing of an Act of Parliament placing the Welsh language on a footing of equality with English in all proceedings connected with the administration of justice and of public services in Wales.

1 July 1939 By-Election Meetings A meeting in support of Mr. Ness Edwards, the Labour candidate, was held at the New Hall on Thursday, presided over by Mr. D. J. Davies. The speakers were Mrs. Andrews, Miss Hettie Jones, and Mr. W. J. Kedward. On Monday, Mr. Ronald Bell, the Conservative candidate, held a meeting at Fochriw. Mr. B. Thomas, M.E., presided.

1 August 1942 M.P.'s Visit Mr. Ness Edwards, M.P., visited Fochriw on Friday evening and addressed a meeting in the New Hall. Coun. Sam Lewis, J.P., presided. He complimented Mr. Edwards on his appointment to two committees in the House of Commons, but stated he was disappointed that there were not more present. Mr. Edwards, in his address, dealt with the war and old age pensions. Questions were asked and answered. Coun. Payne said that he hoped Mr. Edwards would not rest until the means test on old age pensions was abolished. Mr. Dan Jenkins congratulated Coun. Sam Lewis on his appointment as a magistrate. Thanks were accorded the speaker.

22 August 1942 Welsh Nationalist Party An open air meeting was held at Fochriw on Tuesday, when the subject was "Must Wales Perish?" The speakers were Messrs. Trefor Morgan, Llandaff, and O.J. Evans, Ystalyfera.

13 February 1943 Welsh Nationalists A public meeting under the auspices of the Welsh Nationalists was held at the New Hall on Thursday. Addresses were given by Mr. Trevor Morgan of Cardiff and others.

24 April 1943 Visit of M.P. Mr. Ness Edwards, M.P., addressed a meeting of the old age pensioners at the Hall on Monday. Among other topics, he gave a fine explanation of the Beveridge Report. The vicar also spoke. Mr. Geo. Sibley presided and the speakers were thanked by Mr. Thomas Ballard and Mr. M. Evans.

21 August 1943 Welsh Nationalist Party An open-air meeting was held at Fochriw on Tuesday, when the subject was "Must Wales Perish?" The speakers were Messrs. Trefor Morgan, Llandaff, and O.J. Evans, Ystalyfera.

5 February 1944 M.P.'s Visit Mr. Ness Edwards, M.P., visited Fochriw on Friday and addressed a public meeting in the Hall. He was accompanied by County Councillor W.J. Kedward, J.P., and both addressed the meeting which was presided over by Coun. Sam Lewis, J.P. Mr. Edwards dealt with a number of interesting items – explaining numerous points and answering several questions. Both speakers were thanked at the close of the meeting.

7 July 1945 The Election Well-attended meetings of both candidates - Mr. Ness Edwards and Capt. John de Courcy - have been held in the New Hall this week.

5 October 1946 Getting Ready A meeting was held at the Hall on Tuesday in support of the Labour candidate for the forthcoming County election to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Iorwerth Hopkins in the Fochriw Ward of the Gellygaer Council. The speakers were Mr. Fred Evans and Mr. M. Walters, Bargoed, with the candidate. Mr. Dan James presided.

8 February 1947 Labour Party A meeting was held at the Old Reading Room on Friday, Coun. S. Lewis, J.P., presiding. A discussion took place on local, county and government activities. The Pantywaun representatives asked questions related to electric light, road and sanitary conditions. Councillors Lewis and Payne gave the position up to date. A report of the Cardiff conference was given by Coun. Payne and Mr. Dan James.

29 March 1947 Labour Meeting Coun. S. Lewis, J.P., presided over a party meeting at the Old Reading Room on Friday. The chairman was congratulated on being returned unopposed as a member of the Gellygaer Council. It was agreed to write to the Council on the dangerous position of some of the shafts in the locality. Reports on Council activities were given by Councillors Lewis and Payne.

10 May 1947 Workless Meeting A meeting of unemployed took place at the New Hall on Wednesday. Mr. Dan James presided, supported by Mr. E. Puddle, secretary. Also present were Councillors S. Lewis, J.P., W.J. Payne and A. Bate, who gave reports on Council activities. Several questions were asked and answered. Coun. Payne thanked the unemployed members, on behalf of the Merthyr General Hospital Executive Board, for agreeing to make a weekly contribution to the Hospital. The three Councillors were thanked for their presence.

5 July 1947 Ward Party Meeting A meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday. Coun. Payne presided. Reports on Council activities were given by Councillors Lewis and Payne; also, reports of the educational development plan. The area report was given by Mr. Bryn Jones, Pantywaun. Coun. A. Bate was unable to be present.

27 September 1947 The Pensioners' Charter A public meeting was held at Noddfa Vestry of Tuesday in support of the O.A.P. Charter. Coun. Sam Lewis, J.P., presided, and was supported by the following speakers: Mr. David Jones, Ystrad Mynach; Mr. T.J. Rees, Porthcawl; Mr. J. Reed, Bargoed. A resolution in support of the early implementation of the Charter was passed.

1 November 1947 Unemployed Meeting At the New Hall on Wednesday, a well attended meeting was presided over by Mr. J.H. Evans, supported by the secretary, Mr. E. Puddle. Reports on Council matters were given by Coun. A. Bate and Coun. W.J. Payne, who both asserted that they had asked frequently for work to be brought up to that end of the area, but up to the present without success. However, they were still hopeful of success. Coun. S. Lewis was unable to attend.

8 November 1947 Ward Meeting A meeting was held at the Old Library on Thursday, Mr. Rees Jenkins, Deri, presiding. A report was given by the executive member, Mr. W. Morgan, Deri, who answered several questions. Representatives from Pantywaun, Deri and Fochriw were present.

22 November 1947 M.P.'s Visit Mr. Ness Edwards, M.P., visited Fochriw on Sunday, and addressed a well-attended meeting in the hall. Coun. Payne was in the chair. He explained a sore point with the unemployed, and another was the lack of factories in the area. He appealed to Mr. Edwards to use his influence to rectify this matter. Mr. Edwards gave a survey of many matters, and afterwards answered many questions.

3 January 1948 Labour Party The annual meeting of the Fochriw Ward Labour Party was presided over by Coun. S. Lewis, J.P. Reports were given by Councillors S. Lewis and W.J. Payne. The secretary, Mr. Dan Jenkins, resigned his office, which was accepted with regret. Mr. Iorwerth Evans was appointed secretary. Mrs. H.L. Farley gave an area report. The following officers were elected: chairman, Coun. S. Lewis, J.P.; vice-chairman, Coun. W.J. Payne; treasurer, Mr. T. Shankland.

6 March 1948 Ward Meeting The annual Labour Party Ward meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday, when representatives from Pantywaun, Deri and Fochriw were present. The following were elected: chairman, Coun. W.J. Payne; secretary, Mrs. H.L. Farley; treasurer, Mr. Rhys Jenkins.

27 March 1948 Unopposed Coun. W.J. Payne has been returned unopposed as a member of the Gellygaer Urban District Council for the Fochriw Ward.

27 March 1948 Labour Party Coun. S. Lewis, J.P., presided over a meeting at the Hall on Friday. Reports were given on Council activities.

14 August 1948 Ward Meeting A meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday week, presided over by Coun. W.J. Payne. Reports of Council activities were given by Councillors S. Lewis and Bate.

2 October 1948 Ward Meeting The meeting of the Labour Party was held at Pantywaun on Wednesday, Coun. Payne presiding. He gave a report on Council work, as did Mrs. Farley, ward secretary. The following names were sent in for co-opted members on the Health Service: Mesdames Farely, Rowlands and Turner.

27 November 1948 Labour Party Meeting Coun. S. Lewis presided over a meeting at the New Hall on Friday. Reports of Council activities were given.

5 March 1949 Ward Meeting The annual meeting of the Ward Labour Party was held at the New Hall on Thursday. Coun. W.J. Payne presided, and was supported by Coun. S. Lewis, J.P., Mr. Rees Jenkins, treasurer, and Mrs. H.L. Farley, secretary. Representatives were present from Deri, Pantywaun and Fochriw. The chairman stated that they were all pleased to learn that Coun. A. Bate had returned from hospital and was in good health. The auditors' report was presented by Messrs. W. Bate and Jones. Council reports were given by Councillors S. Lewis, J.P., and W.J. Payne. Area reports were given by Mrs. Farley. All the officers were re-elected; delegate, Mr. Rees Jenkins.

2 April 1949 Election Meeting In support of C.C. W.J. Kedward for the forthcoming County Council Election, a meeting was held at the New Hall on Wednesday, Councillor W.J. Payne presiding. The speakers were Coun. Fred Evans, Bargoed, O. Henry and Phillip Eynon Jones, Rhymney.

7 May 1949 Councillors' Report A Ward meeting was held by the Labour party at Pantywaun on Friday. Coun. W.J. Payne presided, supported by Coun. A. Bate, Mr. Rees Jenkins, treasurer, and Mrs. Farley, secretary. Reports were given by the councillors and Mr. Jenkins, and several questions were answered.

9 July 1949 Ward Meeting On Thursday at the New Hall a Ward meeting was held, when representatives from Pantywaun, Deri and Fochriw were present. Coun. Payne presided. Reports were given by the Councillors, the Ward Secretary and Ward Treasurer. It was unanimously agreed to ask the Member of Parliament to fit in meetings in the ward at a convenient date as soon as possible. The arrangements were left to the organiser, Mr. J.D. Jones.

19 November 1949 Ward Meeting Coun. W.J. Payne presided at a ward meeting at Pantywaun last week, at which representatives from Deri, Fochriw and Pantywaun were present. Coun. A. Bate reported on Council activities, and Mr. Rees Jenkins gave the executive report.

26 November 1949 M.Ps. Visit The Rt. Hon. Ness Edwards, M.P., visited Fochriw on Sunday evening and addressed a meeting at the New Hall. Questions were answered at the close. The Chairman, Coun. W. J. Payne, thanked Mr. Edwards. The following councillors were also present and addressed the meeting: S. Lewis, J.P.; A. Bate, Deri; G. Richards, Pontlloftyn. On Sunday afternoon, Mr. Edwards visited Pantywaun and addressed a meeting. He was given a fine reception. Coun. Bate also spoke.

3 December 1949 Ward Party Meeting Coun. Payne presided over the Labour Party meeting at the New Hall on Thursday, supported by Mrs. Farley, secretary. Nominations were invited for the forthcoming District Council election, the only name submitted being Coun. S. Lewis, J.P., the present member, who was unanimously adopted. Reports of meetings were given by the delegates, Mr. Rees Jenkins and Mr. Bryn Williams, who were thanked. Councillors A. Bate and W.J. Payne gave the Council reports.

29 April 1950 Labour Party Coun. S. Lewis, J.P., presided at the annual meeting at the New Hall on Friday, when all the officers were re-elected. A report of Council activities was given by Coun. W.J. Payne. Mr. Iorwerth Evans, treasurer, dealt with other matters. It is gratifying to know that Coun. S. Lewis has been elected unopposed on the Gellygaer Urban District Council.

6 May 1950 Ward Meeting A meeting of the Ward Labour Party was held at the New Hall on Thursday, presided over by Coun. S. Lewis, J.P. Supporting him were Coun. W.J. Payne, and Mr. T.G. Uzzell, the newly-appointed ward secretary, and Mr. Rees Jenkins, treasurer. Representatives were present from Pantywaun, Deri and Fochriw. A welcome was extended to the new secretary. Detailed reports were given by Coun. Payne, and Mr. Rees Jenkins.

27 May 1950 Ward Meeting On Thursday, a Labour ward meeting was held at Pantywaun, Coun. S. Lewis presiding. Sympathy was extended to Coun. Bate in his illness. Representatives from Deri and Fochriw were also present. A report was given by Mr. T. G. Uzzell and questions were answered by councilors.

7 April 1951 Ward Meeting A meeting was held at the Pantywaun Institute on Thursday, presided over by Coun. W.J. Payne, with representatives from Fochriw, Deri and Pantywaun. The ward secretary, Coun. Poyntz, dealt with the correspondence. A report on Council activities was given by Coun. S. Lewis, J.P. Sympathy was extended to Coun. Lewis on the death of his sister, and best wishes for a speedy recovery was extended to Mrs. H.L. Farley and Mr. Rees Jenkins, Deri.

19 May 1951 At the Festival Coun. W.J. Payne, vice-chairman of the Gellygear U.D. Council, in the absence of the chairman, was one of the civic heads invited to attend the Festival of Britain dedication service performed by the Archbishop of Canterbury at St. Paul's Cathedral, at which the King and Queen were present. After the dedication, the King declared the Festival open. On Friday, Coun. Payne, accompanied by Mr. Rhys Williams, accountant, in the absence of the Clerk, was among the guests at the South Bank Exhibition.

26 May 1951 New Council Chairman In Rhymney Valley: Gellygaer and Caerphilly Hold Installation Ceremonies Referring to former members of the Council who had achieved high position in other spheres, Mr. W.J. Payne, J.P., of Fochriw, after being made Chairman of Gellygaer Urban Council on Tuesday, said: "To young members especially, let me say that you can build up a reputation from the Chamber. You can learn much here, and let me urge you never to be too old to learn." Mr. H.H. Williams, Brithdir, was elected vice-chairman. Mr. Richard Williams, the retiring chairman, in a letter expressing regret for his inability to attend, thanked fellow members and officials for the help they had given him during his year in office. He hoped Mr. Payne would have a happy and progressive year. Mr. Payne was welcomed by Ald. W.A. Hancock, J.P., "father" of the Council, who was chairman 'pro tem.' After offering prayers, Mr. Payne said his first duty was to thank the retiring chairman, who had carried out his duties conscientiously, as far as his health would allow him. He thanked the meeting for the honour of being made "Chief Citizen" of the Gellygaer area, and felt he was following in the footsteps of worthy men. The Council, he said, was happy to see the new Housing Manager (Mr. D.J. Hopkins) present, but regretted that the Surveyor (Mr. Ben Preston, B.Sc.) would not be with them much longer. The Council had made a very good choice in appointing Mr. W.T. Luke as Mr. Preston's successor.

Mr. Payne went on: "Housing is progressing, and with roads and private streets, and other things, much has been done – but much remains to be done. We would like to make a big sweep in private steel works, but the money is not available, and there you are. No men could have put up a better advocacy for greater sums of money than did members who met the Welsh Board of Health a fortnight ago about this matter. We made a plea, but it is not so easy. However, we came away a little more satisfied than when we went down. May this year," he concluded, "be a year of progress. There is only one way to do that and that is for all members and officials to give their

co-operation.” Mr. Payne also said that Mr. Williams, the new vice-chairman, had the hallmark of sincerity stamped on him. Mr. Payne also welcomed new members.

An employee of the Wales Gas Board, Mr. Payne has been associated with the religious, industrial and social life of the Deri Valley for more than 40 years. A prominent Churchman, he not only enjoys the distinction of having been a Churchwarden for 35 years, but is a member of the Diocesan and Ruri-Decanal conferences, and represents the Fochriw and Deri parish on the Patronage Board of the Church in Wales. His connection with Merthyr General Hospital in the capacity of Governor, Executive Board member, and Chairman of the House Committee, extended for 32 years, and he is now a member, and was last year’s chairman of the House Committee for the Rhymney and Abertysswg Hospitals. He is the present Chairman of the Divisional Health Committee for the Gellygaer and Caerphilly areas, and President of the Fochriw section of the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

A life long Trades Unionist, he represented his colleagues on the Area Executive Committee of the Enginemen and Craftsmen’s Association prior to the closing down of the Fochriw Collieries in 1924. He is a former chairman of the Fochriw Institute and Welfare Association; of the Fochriw Male Voice Party and Fochriw Silver Band; and he was District Officer in the Gellygaer Council’s fire fighting service for 20 years. Mr. Payne is a member of the Rhymney Valley Water Board; Gellygaer and Caerphilly Divisional Executive Committee for Education; the local tribunal under the National Insurance Act; and the Consultative Council of the Wales Gas Board.

Mr. Payne will attend a civic service at Fochriw Church on Sunday afternoon next, when the Assistant Bishop of Wales (the Rt. Rev. R.W. Jones) will preach.

4 August 1951 Ward Meeting Coun. Payne presided over a ward meeting of the Labour Party on Thursday evening at the New Hall. Coun. Poyntz, secretary, dealt with the correspondence. Mr. George Jones and Coun. S. Lewis, J.P., gave reports on party and Council activities.

13 October 1951 Election Preparations A Labour Party Ward meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday, Coun. Payne presiding. The special speakers were Mr. Fred Evans, B.A., Councillors John Davies and R. Yates. They outlined the procedure for the election campaign and answered several questions. The officers appointed for the election campaign for the ward are: chairman, Coun. W.J. Payne; secretary, Mrs. H.L. Farley; transport officer, Mr. Tudor Evans; literature secretary, Mr. Iorwerth Evans.

20 October 1951 Election Campaign An election meeting was held at the New Hall on Monday, when Coun. Payne presided. The speakers were Mr. Ness Edwards (accompanied by his wife), County Councillor W.J. Kedward, J.P., and Councillors D.J. Francis and E. Burgess. Thanks were accorded the speakers by Mr. Iorwerth Evans and Mrs. T. Rowlands.

27 October 1951 New Hall A public meeting was held at the New Hall on Monday in support of Mr. Ness Edwards. The speakers were Councillors W. Jones, Towyn Jones, R. Yates and C. Thomas.

1 December 1951 Ward Meeting Coun. W. J. Payne presided at a ward meeting of the Fochriw and Deri Labour Party at the Social Hall, Pantywaun, on Thursday week. The ward Secretary, Coun. W. Poyntz, was also present. The Chairman reported on Council activities. A discussion took place on the conveyance of school children from Pantywaun, and a further meeting has been arranged. In the forthcoming elections, C.C. W. J. Kedward has been nominated for the County Council, and Coun. W. Poyntz for the District Council. A vote of sympathy was

extended to Coun. Sam Lewis in his illness and best wishes expressed for a speedy recovery.

22 December 1951 Xmas Plans A meeting of the Fochriw Labour Party was held at the New Hall on Monday. Coun. Payne presided, supported by Mr. Iorwerth Evans, secretary, and Mr. Tudor Evans, treasurer. It was unanimously decided to erect the Christmas tree in front of the School House for which permission had been kindly given. It was hoped ladies would assist to decorate the tree, which will be officially opened at 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve by Coun. W.J. Payne, Chairman of the Council. The singing will be conducted by Mr. D. Joshua Thomas. "Santa Claus" will pay a visit.

1 March 1952 Labour Party Meetings Members of the Fochriw branch held their annual meeting on Friday at the New Hall, Coun. W. J. Payne presiding. Reference was made to Coun. Sam Lewis, J.P., who is making splendid progress towards recovery. The secretary dealt with correspondence and the auditor's report was given by Messrs. D. J. Thomas and D. Kelly. Coun. Payne gave a report on Council activities. It was with regret that the resignation of the treasurer, Mr. Tudor Evans, was accepted. Officers appointed were: chairman, Coun. Payne, J.P.; secretary, Mr. Iorwerth Evans; treasurer, Mr. D. J. Thomas.

5 April 1952 Labour Meeting At the Social Centre, Pantywaun, on Thursday evening, a ward Labour Party meeting took place, Coun. W.J. Payne presiding, supported by Coun. Poyntz, secretary. The matter of the conveyance of children from Pantywaun to Pontlloftyn was discussed. Reports were given by both Councillors.

3 May 1952 Ward Meeting A Labour meeting of the Fochriw ward took place at the New Hall on Thursday week. Coun. W. J. Payne presided, supported by the ward secretary, Coun. W. Poyntz, who dealt with the correspondence. The Executive report was given in detail by Mr. Bryn Williams, Deri, and the Council report by Coun. Payne.

13 September 1952 Party Meeting At the New Hall last Thursday, a ward meeting of the Labour Party was held, presided over by Coun. S. Lewis, J.P. Representatives from Pantywaun, Fochriw and Deri attended. Reports were given on Council activities by Councillors W.J. Payne and W. Poyntz, Mr. Bryn Williams and Mr. G. Jones.

15 November 1952 Labour Party A meeting of the Fochriw Ward Labour Party was held at Pantywaun on Thursday, presided over by Coun. S. Lewis, J.P. A vote of condolence was passed with Coun. W. Poyntz of Deri, in the death of his father. Reports were given by Councillors S. Lewis and W.J. Payne.

6 December 1952 Ward Meeting A meeting of the ward Labour Party was held at the New Hall on Thursday evening. Coun. S. Lewis, J.P., presided. Reports were given by the Councillors and Mr. George Jones, Deri. Councillor Lewis, whose term of office as local councillor comes to an end, was re-nominated for the ward.

14 March 1953 Labour Party The annual meeting of the Fochriw Labour Party took place at the New Hall on Wednesday week. Coun. Payne presided. Coun. S. Lewis was absent through illness. Coun. Payne gave a report on Council business and answered several questions. Regret was expressed at the resignation of the secretary, Mr. Iorwerth Evans, and Mrs. H.L. Farley was appointed in his place. The auditors' report was accepted, and was very satisfactory. The auditors are Mr. Frank Jenkins and Mr. V. Coggan. Officers were: chairman, Coun. S. Lewis, J.P.; vice-chairman, Coun. W.J. Payne; secretary, Mrs. H.L. Farley; treasurer, Mr. D.J. Thomas.

16 May 1953 Labour Party Ward Meeting The annual meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday, Coun. S. Lewis, J.P., presiding. There were representatives from Pantywaun, Deri and Fochriw. Officers elected were: chairman, Coun. W. Poyntz; secretary, Mr. Stuart Davies; treasurer, Mr. T. Morgan; delegates, Mr. Bryn Williams and Mr. George Jones; auditors, Messrs. G. Jones and B. Williams.

5 September 1953 Labour Party A ward meeting was held at the New Hall on Wednesday week, presided over by Coun. W. Pontz, supported by Coun. Payne and the secretary, Mr. Stuart Davies. Representatives were present from Pantywaun, Deri & Fochriw.

8 May 1954 Fochriw Area Afforestation The Forestry Commission has told Gellygaer Council that they are negotiating for the whole of the Tyle Du Plantation near Fochriw that covers 185 acres, with the hope of bringing a total of 300 acres under afforestation. It was stated the department named the unit "Coed-y-Brithdir."

19 March 1955 Labour Party A meeting of the local branch was held at the New Hall on Friday, Coun. W. J. Payne presiding. Reports were given by Coun. Payne & Coun. S. Lewis, J.P..

30 April 1955 Labour Meeting Coun. W. J. Payne presided at a meeting of the local Labour Party on Friday at the Reading Room. The chairman drew the attention of the meeting to the District Council Elections and the General Election on May 26. Mrs. H. L. Farley gave a detailed report on the meeting of the Gellygaer Labour Party. Coun. S. Lewis gave a report on Council activities.

28 May 1955 Labour Meeting Coun. W. J. Payne presided at a Labour Party meeting at the New Hall on Tuesday. He welcomed the Rt. Hon. Ness Edwards and Mrs. Edwards. Mr. Edwards dealt with the proposals of the Labour Party, and received a splendid reception. Other speakers were C.C. W. J. Kedward, and Coun. Bryn Roberts. Votes of thanks were moved and seconded by Coun. S. Lewis, and Mr. George Williams.

9 July 1955 Labour Meeting A meeting was held at the New Hall on Friday, Coun. W. Poyntz presiding supported by Coun. S. Lewis, Coun. W. J. Payne and Mr. Frank Jenkins, secretary. Reports on council activities were given by the councillors. Coun. W. J. Payne was elected Ward chairman. Letters of thanks for support during the election were received from the Rt. Hon. Ness Edwards, and Mr. D. G. Evans, organiser.

5 November 1955 Ward Meeting Coun. W.J. Payne presided at a Labour Party ward meeting at the New Hall on Thursday evening. Representatives were present from Pantywaun, Deri and Fochriw, with Coun. S. Lewis, Coun. Wm. Poyntz, and Mr. Frank Jenkins, secretary. The chairman extended a welcome to Mr. Burgess, a new member, son of Coun. Ted Burgess, Bargoed. Coun. Poyntz gave a report on Council activities, after which many matters came up for discussion.. It was with deep regret the meeting heard Coun. S. Lewis state that he would not be standing for election next time. Tribute was paid to Coun. Lewis by the chairman and several members for the excellent services he has given.

4 February 1956 Ward Meeting A meeting of the Labour Party was held at the New Hall on Thursday, Coun. W. J. Payne presiding. Representatives were present from Deri, Fochriw and Pantywaun.

2 June 1956 Labour Party A meeting of the Fochriw Ward Labour Party took place at the New Hall on Monday. Coun. Payne presided. Reports were given by Councillors Poyntz, W. E. Davies, and by secretary, Mr. Frank Jenkins. Discussions followed. The improvement grant was discussed at length. Re-valuation and other matters came up for discussion.

15 September 1956 Labour Party Ward Meeting Coun. Payne presided at a meeting of the party at the New Hall on Monday, supported by Mrs. H.L. Farley, secretary. The chairman extended a welcome to Mrs. E.J. Rowlands on her return to the party. The secretary reported that arrangements had been made for members of the Party to visit the Council Chamber on October 2. Reports on Council activities were given by Coun. Payne and a general discussion followed.

8 December 1956 Labour Party At the Drill Hall on Thursday, Coun. Payne presided, supported by Mr. Frank Jenkins. A report of Council activities was given by Coun. Davies and discussions followed. It was unanimously decided to nominate Coun. W. J. Payne, the present member, as candidate for the next election.

15 December 1956 Labour Party The local party members held their meeting at the New Hall on Monday. Coun. Payne presided. Also present was Mrs. H. Farley, secretary. A vote of condolence was passed with Mr. Evan Jones and family, Pantywaun, in their bereavement. Best wishes for a speedy recovery were extended to Mr. D. J. Thomas. Coun. Payne gave a detailed report of Council activities.

13 April 1957 Ward Meeting A meeting of the Ward Labour Party was held at the New Hall on April 4, Coun. Payne presiding, supported by Mr. Frank Jenkins, ward secretary. Reports of the executive and group meetings were given by Mr. Tom Morgan, Deri. Council reports were given by Councillors W. Poyntz and W. E. Davies.

18 May 1957 Labour Party A meeting was held at the New Hall on Monday. Coun. W. J. Payne occupied the chair. The Secretary, Mrs. H. Farley read the minutes. Wishes for a speedy recovery from illness were expressed with Mr. D. J. Thomas, treasurer, Mr. S. Lewis, J.P., Mrs. Rowlands, and Mr. Evan Jones, Pantywaun. A report on Council activities was given by Coun. Payne who dealt with housing and improvement grants.

18 May 1957 Tree Planting At Fochriw Following a report by the Surveyor, Mr. W. T. Luke, B.Sc., about planting belts of trees on common land near Fochriw housing site to improve the appearance of the site, and afford wind breaks, Gelligaer Urban Council decided at last week's meeting to agree in principle to the proposal, but that further consideration be deferred for a joint report by the Clerk and the Surveyor on the Council's powers to plant trees on common land, and the effect of the proposal for open-cast coal prospecting and mining in the Fochriw area.

13 July 1957 Ward Meeting A Labour Ward meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday last, presided over by Coun. W.J. Payne. Reports on Council activities were given by Councillors W.E. Davies and W. Poyntz. Discussions followed on the reports.

21 December 1957 End Of Three Year Wait: Fochriw's First Labour Club After three years of patient waiting, a committee of eleven men were rewarded on Friday last when Fochriw's first Workingmen's Club was declared open. The club was opened by Mr. C. W. Bridges, J.P., who declared that it was now one of the 3,500 clubs in the Workingmen's Club and Institute Union, embracing some two million members of that union. He wished the club a happy and successful future, and stressed the importance the social aspect of the club's activities, for the growing population of Fochriw, which seemed to have limited facilities for those who gave of their best in the industrial field. Mr. Bridges proceeded to deal with certain criticisms levelled at the Workingmen's Club and its organisation, and said that the best way to counter much if this was to conduct the Institute in a way that made it apparent to all in the town that it was well managed. Also present was Mr. J. Penry Evans, treasurer of the South Wales branch of the Club and Institute Union.

12 April 1958 Labour Party The Ward meeting took place on Thursday. The chair was taken by Coun. W. Poyntz. Coun. W. E. Davies gave a report of council activities. Several questions were asked and answered.

14 June 1958 Ward Meeting A Ward meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday evening, Coun. Payne presiding. A very warm welcome was extended to Mr. Sam Lewis who attended after illness. Correspondence included a letter of thanks and good wishes from Mrs. H.L. Farley for the presentation cheque received from the Party. Coun. Poyntz gave a detailed report of Council activities. Mrs. E.J. Rowlands was appointed treasurer of the local party.

13 September 1958 Party Meeting A Labour Party meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday evening, Coun. Payne presiding. A report of Council activities was given by Coun. Poyntz, and numerous matters came up for discussion.

15 November 1958 Labour Party A ward meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday, Coun. Payne presiding. Nominations for the next urban council elections were taken. The present member, Mr. W. Ewart, Deri, was nominated for re-election.

22 November 1958 Ward Party A meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday, Coun. Payne presiding. Among the matters discussed was the appointment of a representative in place of Mrs. H.L. Farley to serve on the Divisional Health Committee. Mrs. Gwyneth Yeoman was selected.

14 February 1959 Ward Meeting On Thursday evening at the New Hall, a Ward Labour Party meeting was presided over by Coun. W.J. Payne, who made reference to the death of Mr. Evan James of Pantywaun, who had been a faithful stalwart of the movement.

14 February 1959 Secretary Ill Coun. Poyntz gave a report on Council matters when the secretary, Mr. Frank Jenkins, was unable to attend owing to illness. All wished him a speedy recovery, and were pleased to see Mr. Sam Lewis, J.P., present.

28 February 1959 M.Ps. Visit The Rt. Hon. Ness Edwards, M.P., attended a meeting at the New Hall on Sunday afternoon, to discuss the sale of freeholds of the Fochriw Estate. Coun. W.J. Payne was in the chair. Mr. Edwards dealt with the matter at length and answered questions. It was decided to set up a committee to deal with the matter, and to call a further meeting. Mr. Dan Jenkins was appointed secretary, and the committee consists of Coun. W.J. Payne, Messrs. Bryn Davies, C. Abbey, Ray Clarke, Glyn Thomas, J.L.I. Jones, Jack Jones, Arthur Cumpstone and Francis Thomas.

16 May 1959 Ward Meeting Coun. W.J. Payne presided over a Labour Party ward meeting at the New Hall on Thursday evening. Mrs. Gwyneth Yeoman, a member of the Divisional Health Committee, gave a report on its activities. She was thanked. Coun. Ewart Davies reported on Council activities, and a number of persons were accepted into the party.

19 September 1959 Ward Meeting A Labour Party Ward meeting was held at the New Hall, Coun. W.J. Payne presiding. The chairman dealt with the forthcoming General Election, and said that he hoped every member would play his part and not let apathy set in. He also gave a detailed report on Council activities, and answered several questions. Several new members were enrolled. Also present was Mr. Tom Morgan, Deri, treasurer; Mrs. E. Rowlands, local secretary; Mr. Elwyn Morgan, secretary, and ex-Councillor S. Lewis, J.P.

10 October 1959 Labour Meeting A meeting was held at the New Hall on Monday, Coun. Payne presiding. The Rt. Hon. Ness Edwards gave an address and answered questions. He was followed by Coun. Hopkin Lewis, and County

Councillor W. J. Kedward, J.P., O.B.E. Present were Coun. Howard Edwards, assistant organiser, and Mr. Frank Jenkins, Ward secretary.

28 November 1959 Labour Party Coun. W. J. Payne presided at a meeting in the New Hall on Thursday last. The chairman referred to the sudden death of Mrs. Morgan, wife of the Deri secretary, to the accident to their ward secretary, Mr. Frank Jenkins, and welcomed their former secretary, Mrs. H. Farley, who is now on a visit to Fochriw. Coun. Payne was unanimously re-elected as candidate for the next election. The chairman gave the report of council activities.

13 February 1960 Ward Meeting The ward Labour Party held a meeting at the New Hall on Thursday evening last, Coun. Payne presiding, and giving a detailed report on Council activities, and answering questions.

7 May 1960 Returned Unopposed Councillor W. J. Payne has again been returned unopposed as a member of the Gelligaer Urban District Council.

14 May 1960 Labour Party A meeting was held in the New Hall on Thursday evening. Coun. Payne presided. A detailed report of Council activities was given by Coun. Payne.

1 October 1960 Ward Meeting This was held at the Reading Room on Thursday evening. Coun. Payne presided, supported by Councillors Poyntz and Ewart Davies. There were representatives from Fochriw, Deri and Pantywaun, and also, Mr. Frank Jenkins, treasurer. Coun. Payne gave a detailed report on Council activities and answered questions.

26 November 1960 Ward Meeting A meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday. Coun. Poyntz preside and gave a report on Council activities, and replied to questions put by Fochriw and Deri members. He was assisted by Ward secretary and treasurer, Messrs. Frank Jenkins and Tom Morgan, by local secretaries, Mrs. E.J. Rowlands and Mr. Elwyn Morgan, and by Divisional Health representative, Mrs. G. Yeoman.

14 January 1961 Labour Nomination A meeting of the Fochriw Ward Labour Party was held at the New Hall on Thursday. Coun. Payne presided. Coun. Poyntz was nominated for the Urban District Council election in May. Coun. Poyntz gave a report of Council activities during the past month, and with Coun. Payne, replied to questions.

22 April 1961 Ward Meeting A Labour Party ward meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday and was well attended, with representatives from Pantywaun, Deri and Fochriw. Coun. Payne presided. The meeting was called to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Councillor W.E. Davies for the Fochriw Ward. Two names came up for nomination: Mr. Elwyn Davies, Deri, and Mr. Frank Jenkins, Fochriw. Mr. Frank Jenkins obtained a majority vote. The two organisers, Mr. Howard Edwards and Mr. Lyn Williams, addressed the meeting after the voting.

17 June 1961 Ward Meeting Fochriw Labour Party met last Thursday, Coun. Payne in the chair. Reports of Council activities were given by Coun. Poynts and Coun. Payne.

1 July 1961 New Councillor Mr. Frank Jenkins, 16, Brynteg Terrace, was the only nominee when nominations were received for the by-election for the Fochriw ward, caused by the resignation of Mr. Wm. Ewart Davies. Mr. Jenkins has associated himself with many movements for the good of the village. He is a teacher at the Fochriw School, and a former president of the Gellygaer Association of the National Union of Teachers.

16 September 1961 Ward Meeting The Labour party held a meeting at the New Hall on Thursday evening. Mr. B. Brown of Deri presided. Council reports were

given by Coun. Poyntz and Coun. F. Jenkins. Discussions took place on many subjects including open cast mining and council loans.

18 November 1961 Labour Party A ward meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday. Coun. W.J. Payne presided. At the outset, the chairman referred to the death of Mr. Sam Lewis, J.P., who had served the ward for 21 years, and the meeting stood in silence. The chairman also referred to the severe accident to one of their members, Mr. Bryn Williams, Deri. It was decided to send him wishes for a speedy recovery. Correspondence from Mr. Fred Evans, the organiser, was dealt with, and the nominations for the Council elections were discussed. Some of the Deri members expressed the view that a meeting of the Deri section should be held before nominations were considered. The Ward secretary explained that this was the practice, to appoint to the November ward meeting. The only nomination put forward was that of the existing member, Coun. F.J. Jenkins, which was accepted. A report of Council activities was given by Coun. W.J. Payne, who also answered questions. Also present was Coun. W. Poyntz and Coun. F.J. Jenkins.

3 March 1962 Labour Meeting A meeting of the local Labour Party was held at the New Hall on Wednesday and was well attended. New members were welcomed by the chairman, Coun. Payne. Coun. E.E. Burgess, Bargoed, spoke on the Urban District Councils Association. Coun. Frank Jenkins gave a report on Council activities. Also present was the treasurer of the section, Mrs. E.J. Rowlands.

17 March 1962 Ward Meeting The local Labour Party met at the New Hall on Thursday evening, when Mr. E. Uzzell presided. He was supported by the secretary, Mr. Bryn Rogers, and the vice-chairman, Mr. W.M. Davies. Also present were Coun. Poyntz and Jenkins. A detailed report on Council activities was given by Coun. Payne, who answered many questions.

14 April 1962 Fochriw Candidate For May Election Mr. Elwyn Morgan has been chosen by the ward Labour Party as the prospective candidate for the May election. The retiring member, Coun. Frank Jenkins, did not wish to be considered for re-nomination. At the meeting at the New Hall on Monday, Mr. E. Uzzell, Deri, presided. Also present were Mr. Fred Evans, organiser; Mr. Brian Rogers, secretary; Mr. Evan Evans, treasurer; Mr. N.M. Davies, vice-chairman.

9 June 1962 Ward Meeting A meeting of the ward Labour Party was held at the New Hall, when Mr. E. Uzzell, Deri, presided, supported by the secretary, Mr. Brian Rogers, and vice chairman, W.M. Davies. Councillors Payne and Poyntz were also present. Coun. Elwyn Morgan thanked the people of Fochriw for the excellent support they had given him at the election. He had already thanked the people of Pantywaun. A report of Council activities was given by Coun. Payne, and questions were answered by the councillors. Mrs. G. Yeoman and Mr. Frank Jenkins were elected delegates to the local Labour Party meetings.

7 July 1962 Labour Party On Thursday last, the local ward Labour Party members met at the New Hall. Coun. W.J. Payne presided, supported by Mr. Frank Jenkins, secretary, and Mrs. E. Rowlands, treasurer. A number of new members were enrolled. Matters affecting the area were discussed. It was decided to hold the annual section meeting in July.

4 August 1962 Only The Public House Will Be Left In Pantywaun The Royal Arms Hotel, built in the last century to serve the isolated village of Pantywaun, is likely to be a public house without customers when the rest of the village is demolished by Gelligaer Urban Council. The hotel, owned by the Rhymney Brewery Company, is the only building in the village that has not been served with a demolition order. When the 80 residents move from the village, trade at the pub will

collapse and the building will be forced with closure. Already, the hotel is losing custom and stocks of beer have been cut down. The licensee, Mrs. Elsie Evans, who lives at the hotel with her husband, Mr. John Thomas Evans, told an Express reporter: "Our customers have drifted away and business has been on the slack side for weeks. During the past month, we have sold hardly any beer. Two of three men call occasionally for a few bottles, but that is all. On Saturday night, we had two customers, and from now on things will get worse," she commented. Mrs. Evans, who is the mother of six sons, four of them schoolboys, said they had no plans for the future if the pub is closed. "I have been to the Council and they asked me to apply in writing for a house. But I have heard nothing yet," she added. A spokesman for the Brewery said on Thursday: "We would like to keep the pub alive, but there is no future for it. We have made no definite plans as yet, but if the other houses are demolished, there is no way of keeping it alive. It's a pity but the building is in reasonably good condition, but the drainage facilities there are not adequate," he added. The spokesman stated that there was no bulk stock of beer at the hotel because trade had become generally poor. He said the licensee normally called at the brewery with a van when supplies were low. Demolition orders in respect of the 21 houses in the village were made by Gelligaer Urban Council on May 22.

4 August 1962 Labour Party The Fochriw Section of the Ward Party held their annual meeting at the New Hall on Thursday. The chairman was Coun. W.J. Payne supported by the secretary, Mr. Frank Jenkins, and Mrs. E.J. Rowlands, treasurer. All the officers were re-elected. Mr. A.H. Wood and Mrs. Enid Lewis were appointed auditors. A report of Council activities was given by Councillor Payne, who also replied to questions.

4 August 1962 Gelligaer's Slum Clearance Work Ahead Of Schedule The re-development of parts of the Gelligaer Urban District, which has progressed rapidly and is well ahead of schedule, was described by the Clerk of Gelligaer Urban District Council, Mr. D.W.C. Morgan, on Tuesday, as a tremendous achievement. Speaking at the Council's monthly meeting, Mr. Morgan said that since the Council first started its slum clearance programme in 1956, a total of 364 dwellings had been demolished. "In 1956," said Mr. Morgan, "the Council was required to inform the Ministry of Housing and Local Government of the estimated number of slum properties in the area, and the period in which the Council considered they would be able to secure the demolition of the properties. The figures then supplied were 600 houses to be cleared within 20 years, 80 houses included in the clearance area, and 20 houses to be individually demolished within five years. In the six years that have elapsed, the Council has dealt with not merely 100 properties as proposed, but no less than 364. This is undoubtedly a tremendous achievement." Mr. Morgan said that 217 properties had been demolished at Pontlloftyn and 12 at Fochriw. Under individual demolition orders, 135 properties had been dealt with. The Ministry had now asked for details of the residual slum clearance problem in the area.

15 September 1962 Labour Meeting A well attended meeting was held at the New Hall last Thursday evening, presided over by Mr. Ussell, Deri, supported by Mr. Brain Rogers, secretary, Councillors W.J. Payne and Elwyn Morgan. A report on Council activities was given by Coun. Payne. A report on the executive meeting was given by Coun. E. Morgan and on the local Labour Party by Mr. Frank Jenkins.

6 October 1962 Labour Party At a meeting at the New Hall on Thursday, Coun. W.J. Payne presided. The auditors report was given by Mr. A.H. Wood and Mrs. Enid Lewis. Coun. Payne was again nominated as Council candidate for the next election. He was unopposed.

17 November 1962 Ward Meeting A well attended Labour Party Ward meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday evening. Mr. E. Uzzell, Deri, presided, supported by the secretary, Mr. Brian Rogers, Mr. W.M. Davies, vice chairman, and Councillors W.J. Payne, W. Poyntz and Elwyn Morgan. Nominations were invited for the next election. Only one name was submitted, the present sitting member, Coun. W.J. Payne, who had the unanimous support of the meeting. Coun. Payne thanked them for their confidence. The report of Council activities was given by Coun. Elwyn Morgan who dealt with several matters, and answered several questions.

5 October 1963 Labour Party The ladies' section is holding a social evening at the New Hall today, Saturday. Children between 5 and 15 will be entertained.

12 October 1963 M.P.s. Visit The Fochriw Ward Labour Party met at the New Hall on Thursday. The chairman was Mr. W.M. Davies. Also present were Councillors Frank Jenkins and Wm. Poyntz. On Friday, The Fochriw and Deri Wards were addressed by Mr. Ness Edwards, M.P. for Caerphilly.

4 January 1964 Labour Club The committee of the new Labour Club gave a party to members' children on Saturday. About 350 children were given 2s. 6d.

11 April 1964 Lorries a Danger to Our Children, Say Villagers Lorries hauling shale into Fochriw for dumping on nearby hillsides are worrying local people. Residents say they are disturbed by the noise, annoyed by the dirt, inconvenienced by traffic congestion, and frightened for their children. This week, a letter to the Editor, calls for action from the villagers. The letter says that nobody in authority seems to care about the problem. Many villagers are angry about the problem, but feel that there is little that can be done about it. Coun. Frank Jenkins, Brynteg Terrace, said that small coal is being taken to Fochriw from Brithdir and Abertysswg to be washed in washing bays. The firms responsible for shale and small coal at Fochriw have a contract with the N.C.B. and are obeying conditions. The people of Deri have also been complaining said Coun. Jenkins. The noise from the fleet of lorries travelling into Fochriw early in the mornings was disturbing residents, and some small coal and silt was being spilt on the roads during the journey he said. The letter airing the complaint, and signed "Wondering," states: "These tips are raising their ugly heads and darkening the skyline. Apart from these rapidly growing mountains, we have to tolerate the inconvenience of fleets of gigantic lorries tearing away on our already congested roads, making life a misery for pedestrians. At the outset, the recovery of coal from derelict tips was something we came to terms with, but this new menace, in which shale from other areas is brought to Fochriw, is trying people's patience too far." Development of an open cast site is advancing towards Fochriw, and another has been planned for Pontlottyn. These may also affect Fochriw. A reporter also spoke to Miss Elizabeth Fox of Aelybryn Street, the newspaper's Fochriw correspondent. She said the noise disturbed many people in the village, and added that it has been going on since January. She pointed out that the lorries were a possible danger, especially when they changed gear on Station Hill. Mrs. B. Lewis, of Station Stores, Station Terrace, said that the heavy lorries were a danger to children as there was no pavement under the railway bridge near her shop. She said the young children going to school are likely to panic when seeing the lorries. Also, the lorries are tearing up the roads for which we are paying rates, she said. "I realise that every industry has got to go on, but I wonder why more of the lorries do not use the top road, and so reduce the traffic going through the village." One woman from Pontlottyn who would not give her name said that she was not worried about the noise, but was anxious about the danger to children. "There are such a lot of lorries," she said.

18 April 1964 Lorries a Danger to Children Say Angry Parents Huge lorries carrying shale, often as many as 50 in one hour, tearing through the main street of the mountain village of Fochriw are causing angry protests from parents of children attending the village schools. On Monday, parents approached local head teachers and discussed the problem. They are anxious to make sure that their children are safe whilst going to and coming from school at the same time as lorries are travelling through the village, carrying the coal to the washeries at the nearby plant. Miss Olive Payne, head mistress of the Infants' School expressed her grave concern for the safety of the children, and said that she had written to the divisional education officer before Easter, asking for a road crossing patrol to be used. She had not received a reply. Coun. Frank Jenkins is also deeply concerned with the problem, as he is the deputy head of the Junior Department. He said that he had also written to the education officer. A petition asking for a road crossing patrol was drawn up two years ago by Mrs. Enid Lewis of Iscoed Villa. It was refused because there was insufficient traffic passing through the village. It was said that a zebra crossing could not be brought into use, as this was the only road through the village. Parents said that young children are likely to panic when they see lorries approaching them, as the pavement was laid from the railway bridge to the school on one side of the road only, and only from the river bridge to the school on the other side of the road. Children from Aelybryn and the Coal Board estate have either to walk on the road until they reach the river-bridge, or cross the main road at the junction with Aelybryn. Children from Cae Glas area have no pavement to walk on until they pass under the railway-bridge. Coun. Jenkins said that it was proposed to continue the pavement passed the river-bridge to the junction with Aelybryn. Villagers were given an opportunity to air their views at a public meeting held in the New Hall on Monday night. Mr. J. W. Jones, the chairman, suggested that restriction signs be placed at both entrances to the village, as the Council had stated that lorries could not be stopped from using the road through the village. Mr. Jack Davies moved that a letter be sent to Gelligaer Urban Council asking them to visit the village during school time to see the danger facing the children. The National Coal Board should also be approached asking them if the lorries could use the top road during school hours, and so reduce the traffic through the village. Another public meeting is planned, and it is hoped that three councillors will attend.

25 April 1964 Fochriw Lorry Danger: Council Acts After hearing members' complaints about the heavy vehicles hauling material from disused coal tips through Fochriw, Gelligaer Urban Council's Public Works Committee, on Tuesday, decided to recommend that the Coal Board be asked to receive a deputation from the authority. Also, it was decided to ask a firm engaged in washing material from the tips to receive a deputation to discuss the fencing in of ponds that had been formed at Bedlinog and Fochriw. Councillor Hopkin Lewis said that mountain roads, on which the Council had spent large sums of money for improvement, had been ripped to pieces by the vehicles. He suggested that the Coal Board be asked to use some of the profit it was making from the operations on re-instating and strengthening the roads. The Surveyor, Mr. W.T. Luke, reported that the Coal Board proposed carrying by road 1,000 tons of coal every week from Fochriw to the tip at the New Bridge, Pengam. Coun. John Davies moved that the Coal Board be asked to convey the coal by rail, and the committee decided to recommend this move to the Council. Coun. Davies said, "This amount of coal can very properly be moved by rail. We should not put more traffic on an already heavily laden road." Coun. Elwyn Morgan said that parents in Fochriw had threatened to keep their children away from school because of the traffic. Councillors Poyntz and Frank Jenkins also spoke, the latter expressing

concern about the pond near the washery at Fochriw. Mr. Luke reported that more than 120 lorries were engaged in the Fochriw district on the removal of material from tips. He said that a joint inspection of the roads by officials of the Coal Board and his department had been made, and that the matter had now been referred to the Board's Area General Manager, Mr. George Tomkins. It was reported that expenditure of £35,000 on the maintenance of classified roads in the area during the current year had been approved by the Glamorgan County Council. This compared with a figure of £33, 169 for similar work last year.

In Fochriw, a public meeting was held at the Y.M.C.A. on Thursday. The chairman was Mr. Jack Jones, and also present were County Councillor Bryn Williams, and Gellygaer Councillors George Richards, Pontlottyn, William Poyntz and Elwyn Morgan, Deri. The chairman said there was need for immediate action if a serious accident were to be avoided. There were no speed restriction signs anywhere in the village, and there was no sign to warn drivers of the school building on the main road. Mrs. Enid Lewis asked whether a sign could be erected asking drivers to engage a low gear, or, failing this, to either employ a traffic warden or install a zebra crossing. The councillors were asked to visit the village when children were going to and coming from school, so that they could see the hazards caused by the lorries. Councillor George Richards, chairman of the Road Works Committee, said that the Council had no powers to bar the lorries from roads. But as a planning authority, the Council could impose conditions to which the lorries must comply. It was stated that the Council did not know that the lorries were travelling through the village until members saw the letter published in the Merthyr Express. County Councillor Bryn Williams denied this, and said that negotiations had been going on for some time. Coun. Poyntz said that the road was now in a bad condition, and drivers were warned by a sign at the Fochriw cross-roads. An assurance that the road would be repaired as soon as possible was given. Coun. Elwyn Morgan said that the police had checked the speed of lorries as they passed through Deri, and no one had broken the speed limit. The lorries appeared to be travelling quickly because of the load they were carrying. It was agreed that the Police and road safety committee had the power to install a zebra crossing or employ a traffic warden. The villagers were told that everything possible would be done to see that the lorries would use the alternative road when it was repaired.

2 May 1964 Fochriw Lorries – More Complaints At a well-attended meeting of the Deri Labour Party at the Institute strong protests were made about heavy lorries travelling through Deri and Fochriw from old tips to Fochriw for washing. Mrs. D. Thomas stated that lorries were travelling in convoys and at great speed. She had been forced off the road whilst walking from Bargoed Inn to Deri. Councillors were asked to take action so that children would be safeguarded. Councillor Poyntz, Fochriw, felt that Fochriw was becoming a rubbish dump for the rest of the area. The volume of lorries could increase, because material would be washed at Fochriw and then stocked at the New Bridge site, Gilfach.