

Coracle Stories

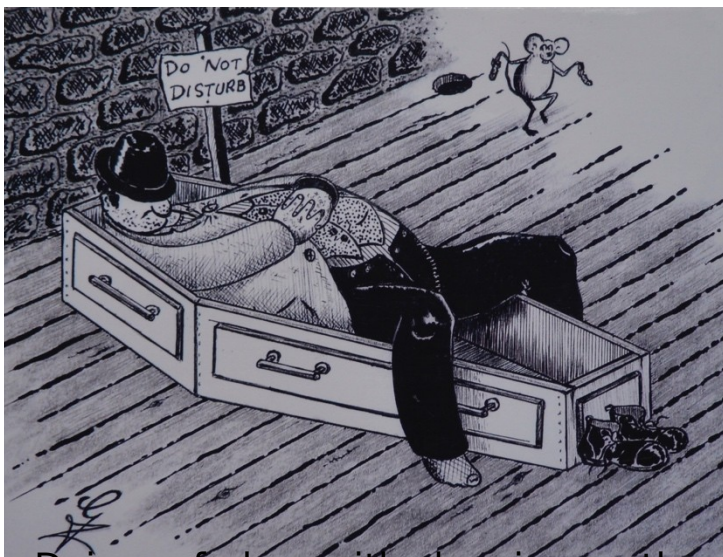
Hanging on a Rope in Liverpool

Once winter came and fishing was slow, the coraclers of Carmarthen would look for other work. Many got work in local collieries. However, Dai 'Lawdel' Richards couldn't get work in the coal mines because he was too big at 23 stone. He would be unable to fit into a tunnel only about three feet high, so he had to search in other places for work.

He had heard there was plenty of work in Liverpool but when he arrived, he found that there was no



A poster said, '**Workers Wanted - Welshmen need not apply**'. Dai had arrived in Liverpool with just a couple of shillings in his pocket.



Dai was fed up with sleeping on the rope, and luckily, he got some work with a funeral director digging graves for a pound a week, and on top of that he got a warm, dry place to sleep. His bed was a coffin, which had been prepared for the next customer.

He believed he would get work right away, but now he had no money for accommodation. Dai walked the streets of Liverpool and found somewhere to sleep for a penny a night. He would pay for sleeping on a rope, but it would be out of the rain. The rope was in a large warehouse. It was impossible to lie there because the roof leaked like a sieve and the rain that came through turned the earth floor into a large muddy puddle. At least he would be off the streets.