# EVIDENCE accompanying Mr. PORTMAN'S REPORT.

### GLAMORGANSHIRE.

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1. MEETING OF THE COWBRIDGE FARMERS' CLUB.

November 2nd, 1869.

November 2nd, 1869.

The Rev. H. Morgan, of St. Athan's, occupied the chair, and there were also present Mr. J. Garsed, Dr. Lewis, Rev. C. R. Knight, Rev. Mr. Wood, Penmark, Mr. Bodington, Mr. T. Wright, St. Nicholas, Mr. Gordon, Tondu, Mr. Culverwell, Mr. John Thomas, Mr. R. Evans, Mr. Price, Mr. Alexander, Monkton, Mr. Howe, Rev. T. Edmondes, Rev. T. Williams, M.A., Mr. L. V. Huntley, Mr. H. Garsed, Mr. T. Thomas, St. Hilary, Mr. L. Thomas, Tydraw, Major Turberville, Mr. D. B. Davies, Eglwysbrewis, &c.

Mr. Gordon, of Tondu, said he had had some experience in regard to the employment of women for cultural purposes. He agreed with Mr. Portman that if married women were employed from January to January in field labours, their homes were not what they should be. But with regard to unmarried females from 14 to 18 years of age he approved of their being employed. When over 18 years they generally got married, and were, in his district, rarely seen afterwards at field work. With regard to the age at which children should be employed, his experience led him to the conclusion that it was not desirable to employ boys under 10 years of age. He thought that up to that age they should be sent to school, and as a father of children he should be sorry to see them go to work before that age. Indeed he did not think that boys should be employed much between 10 and 12 years, for if they had boys on their farms they must put them to hard work, which was perhaps too hard sometimes for boys of that age. With regard to the distances which the agricultural labourers had to travel before reaching their homes, they varied very much in the district. He thought no married woman with a family should be required to commence work before half-past eight in the morning, so that she might be able to attend to her family before leaving home, and also have time to walk the one or two miles which she has generally to go before reaching her work. She should have one hour for dinner, and be allowed to leave work so as to reach home about half-past five, so that she might have time to prepare for her husband's return. Mr. Gordon, of Tondu, said he had had some

might have time to prepare for her husband's return. He had found that by letting the women have a little time in the evening, it had generally resulted in their having happier homes. The hours of unmarried women should be from eight to six o'clock. As to the health, he found few people more healthy than the women employed in the fields, and illness was much less amongst them than was the case with those employed in factories and indoors. Education, he thought, was very deficient, and he should like to see some steps taken which would guard against a continuance of the present state of ignorance. The only way to do this, he thought, was to put the means of education within the reach of the children. Let them put education within their reach at a low rate. But he did not approve altogether of making it compulsory. They could not expect that the result of such a system would be felt so much by the present as the next generation, which would probably send their children to school without being asked. He thought that they could spare their boys between 12 and 14, in the winter months, to go to an evening school two or three times a week. His own impression was that boys between 12 and 14 would be likely to derive more advantage in two hours than during ten hours in the day before they were 10 years old, because by the time they reached 12 or 14 years they would have began to appreciate the advantages of education.

The Rev. Mr. Wood, Penmark, said he was opposed

have began to appreciate the advantages of education.

The Rev. Mr. Wood, Penmark, said he was opposed to women between 14 and 18 years of age working in the fields. He thought that the most critical part of their lifetime, and their employment in fields then exposed them to many dangers which had a prejudicial effect upon their welfare.

Mr. Robert Howe, of St. Marychurch, said that Mr. Gordon's experience related to the neighbourhood of the tip girls; but the Vale of Glamorgan was different. He (the speaker) had never seen girls of from 15 to 17 years of age working in the fields, but he had found married women assisting their husbands during harvest time. It was not a general thing in the neighbourhood for women to be employed in the fields. except in clipping turnips and picking weeds, fields. except in clipping turnips and picking weeds, and occasionally at harvest time. As a general rule, the woman had a house and several children. The boys were sent from home to the farmhouse, where they received 41. or 51., and that money was generally

reckoned upon by the parents to pay the rent, or buy a pig, or something of that sort. Boys and young reckoned upon by the parents to pay the rent, or buy a pig, or something of that sort. Boys and young girls were, however, not as a rule employed in the Vale of Glamorgan. The children were generally taken care of by the rector of the parish. A penny a week generally paid for the school, and the rector took care of them on the Sunday. There was generally, also, a night school, and he (the speaker) took care that his boys had an hour or two at night to go to it. That was in the Vale of Glamorgan. He thought that boys should be sent from home when they were from 8 to 9 years of age, for if they were kept at home till they were 13 or 14 they thought it a hardship to have to go to work. If they kept them till that time he thought they would have to make

a narouship to nave to go to work. It they kept them till that time he thought they would have to make additions to their workhouses and gaols.

Mr. Portman asked Mr. Howe at what age he gave boys 44. or 51. a year?—Mr. Howe replied, when they were about 10 years of age, and that was exclusive of their kean.

Mr. Alexander, of Monkton, said when he was young—or within the last 20 years—the rule was to keep women working in the fields in his parish, and he had seen as many as 30 women on a farm in a day. Now it was very difficult to get any women to work in the fields, and it was the exception for them to do so now. This was principally owing to the increase of wages to the men—about 30 per cent.,—which gave them the opportunity of enjoying the advantages of a

good home. As to young girls, they generally took care of the house when their mothers were out. His parish had not a school, but there was one in the adjoining parish. With regard to the age of the boys, farmers found them of little service under 10 years, except for bird-keeping, and they generally took them into service for the advantage of their fathers. In their district they were generally in such a fix for labourers, owing to mining operations, that they had to entice people to work, but women, girls, and boys were rarely employed by them. They enjoyed better health than any other class of workers, and with regard to education, he found that as people acquired means and cultivated steady habits, they generally took advantage of opportunities for getting education. He had brought up a number of boys, who, after becoming acquainted with reading and writing, had gone into other occupations, such as artizans and porters, and done well. Men who formerly got 8s. or 10s. a week, now became possessed of education, and earned their 15s. or 20s. a week.

Mr. T. Wright, St. Nicholas, said, that as a considerable employer of labour, he could say that women were employed on farms to great advantage. They were generally employed by the piece or job, and not by the day. They worked four or five hours a day, and materially assisted the farmer, and aided in the support of their families without any of the bad effects which the How. Mr. Portman had spoken of. Where labour was so high—in few districts was it so high as theirs—he did not think it desirable to interfere with the employment of women. He did not think it was quite right that women should be kept from their house from 7 in the morning till 6 at night—they did not do so in his district. They employed boys from 8 to 10 years bird-keeping and other similar work, which they required them to do at certain seasons of the year. As to the health, the ruddy faces of the boys were the best indication they could have. Cottage accommodation was the great defect in this par

began at home, and he said let them have good cottages, and they would have respectable men settling down amongst them instead of running away. (Applause.) If that had been attended to before they would not have heard so much about the question of education.

Mr. Portman.—How many hours are the boys engaged in bird-keeping? Is it not a fact they are out from daylight to dark?—Mr. Wright.—Generally from after breakfast until night; sometimes from 7 till 5.

Mr. Culverwell said that comfortable cottages were the great reformation that was required in that part of the country. He might say that there were a hundred cottages in the immediate neighbourhood which were without ceilings. They had inspectors of cattle, and why not have inspectors of cottages? (Cheers.) They were calling upon the poor employers of the land, but why not call upon the landlords to attend to the cottages? (Cheers.) They sent for labourers to all parts of the country, and whether they had cottages or not they had to give them high wages. He said landlords ought to be compelled to provide a proper number of good cottages, and then there would be a great improvement in the condition of the labourers. (Hear.) He approved of boys being sent early to work, as in his experience they turned out more useful labourers, and by going to night school, and they were not equal to the boys brought up on the taken boys from the union and boys from school, and they were not equal to the boys brought up on the

Mr. Portman .- Do the boys live in the farmhouse? Mr. Portman.—Do the boys live in the farmhouse?

—No, I don't keep boys in the house. I don't think we ought to keep them in the house, they ought to live with their parents. It was a great loss if a boy or man had to walk a long distance to his work. Ho found that the more job work that was given them the better it is for the farmers. They got more for their pound than they did by day work.

Mr. J. Garsed.—At what age do boys generally go into your employ?—Mr. Culverwell.—My boys generally commence between 10 and 12. I take them when they are young a few hours to commence with.

with.

Mr. Price thought that 10 years of age and upwards in this country was the age at which boys commenced work, and it would not pay farmers to take them below that age. Girls and women were employed to a small extent; but he did not think there was a woman or child employed to every 500 acres throughout the Vale of Glamorgan. (Cries of "No," and "Yes.") The ordinary distance that men had to walk to get to their work was about half a mile. Women's work was principally piecework, and consisted of work was principally piecework, and consisted of weeding and trimming turnips. Their health was good, and education was above the average of any county in England.

county in England.

Mr. John Thomas, auctioneer, said Mr. Gordon's remarks referred to the western part of the district, near the works about Bridgend. He did not think, if they wanted women in their district, they could get them, and boys were not employed under 10 years. When women went out to work it was generally because they had drunken husbands, or only one or two children. The greatest want of all was an improvement in the labourers' cottages, but that improvement was being commenced. Their labourers' cottages were as bad as in any county they could name. (Crics of "Shameful.")

"Yours very truly,
"Evan W. David."

3. Mr. Stephenson. Union clerk. Cardiff.—Education in the agricultural portions of this district is chiefly obtained through the Church schools. The wages are good, owing to the constant drain of boys and young men to the mines, works, and docks. I see no objection to a prohibition of work on the farms till the children are at which children were employed in that district, he found that, as a rule, in his locality children were taken to work from 7 years upwards. When taken at so young an age it was generally through charitable motives, and in order to assist the father. His own opinion was, that the employment of one man with a gun over a farm to scarce away birds was more profitable than having boys. He personally didage at which boys are supported by the proposed of the constant drain of boys and young men to the mines, works, and docks. I see no objection to a prohibition of work on the farms till the children are 10 years of age. Relief is not withdrawn time farmers would expect the children to earn some
"The occasion referred to was at a sme!"

"The occasion referred to was at a sme!" with a gain over a farm to scare away broad was more profitable than having boys. He personally did not think that it would prove beneficial to fix a definite age at which boys should not be employed; but he was willing to concede the point and say that no child should be employed under 10 year. A good deal

had been said as to night schools, but he found from his experience that unless children were taught at an early age, when they easily received impressions, that ther did not afterwards benefit much at the night schools. With regard to the employment of women and girls for farm work, very little was done in that neighbourhood. Although there was much work to be done, sufficiently good wages were brought home by the man as not to require the employment of the wife in farm work. He had a strong opinion that no unmarried woman should be employed in out-door agricultural labour. There could be no doubt that the agricultural labour. There could be no down a moral tone of the female was lowered by the people moral tone of the female was lowered by the people with at such work. He not think, however, that legislative interference women's work was necessary. The question might very well be left alone, because, owing to the high rate of wages, it was optional with the female whether she would assist the husband or not. The hours of work and distance from home were questions affected by the want of cottages. Some were compelled on this account to walk considerable distances and, as Mr. Cuiverweil remarked, that took a great deal out of the stamina of the individual. His own opinion was, that

no child under 12 years should be compelled to walk more than one mile to the place of work. As to the health of the agricultural labourer it was good, but the medical gentleman present would be better able to inform them on that matter. He would be able to speak of the injury done to the constitution of women by field labour. At the same time he (Mr. Garsed) did not think that they suffered like females in factories. As to education, that was the great question upon which that inquiry would turn. The state of education amongst agricultural labourers in that district was not what it ought to be (applause.) There was a variety of causes to account for this—in some instances a want of schools, though that was rapidly disappeara want of schools, though that was rapidly disappearing; in others, the necessities of the parents demanded that the children should soon earn an honest penny; in others, the neglect of the parents allowed the children to remain in the same state of ignorance in which the parents were in themselves. As to a hard and fast line, he thought too much had been said. Many objected to compulsion. People were compelled to pay taxes and to do many things which were distasteful, but the question resolved itself into this—whether through the greed of employers and the necessities of the parents, the future of those children was not to be ameliorated by the neglect of education? (Cheers.) He was not an advocate for compelling children who were employed in light work to leave that source of revenue alone, but he did think that means should be adopted for enabling a boy to obtain a certain number of hours of instruction in the course of a week, and that if an employer took a child without a certificate that he had had that instruction, he should be penalized. With reference to these schools being supported by Government grants, which he was in favour of, he thought that a rate should be made upon the occupiers of land, for he thought they were all bound to see that the means of education was placed within reach of the agricultural labourer's children: for how could a man with 11 or 12 children see to the education of his children. It was their place to see that a system of elementary education was provided for all their children, but if the labourers wanted anything beyond that, they must pay for it as a luxury. He hoped that the club would come to some conclusion, so that the hone, gentleman who had visited them might return with some idea of their views upon the points submitted to them.

After soundy remarks by preceding speakers, the chairman proposed—"That it is the opinion of this club that no person should be employed in agriculture under the age of 10 years, and that girls and uninversed were nader 18 years of age sh a want of schools, though that was rapidly disappear-ing; in others, the necessities of the parents demanded that the children should soon earn an honest penny;

2. Letter from Evan David, Esq., Chairman of the of the Cardiff Board of Guardians, to Hon. E. dens.

" Fairwater House, Cardiff, 1st November 1869. " My DEAR SIR,

"I MAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th ultimo. Before, however, I proceed to reply to the several inquiries it contain, excuse my remarking, with reference to your observation that you think it 'generally the case that the attendance at school of children under 10 years of age is irregular,' that in my opinion the children of our working classes are not irregular in their attendance at school. I refer more particularly to those of ance at school. I refer more particularly to those of ance at school. I refer more particularly to those of ance at school. I refer more particularly to those of ance at school. I refer more particularly to those of ance at school. I refer more particularly to those of ance at school. I refer more particularly to those of ance at school. I refer more particularly to those of ance at school. I refer more particularly to those of ance at school. I refer more particularly to those of ance at school, whose children are not, as a rule, sufficiently educated.

"With reference to your first question, 'whether it is desirable to fix by law an age below which no child is desirable to fix by law an age below which no child shall be allowed to work in the felds, 'my opinion' is desirable to fix by law an age below which no child shall be allowed to work in the felds,' my opinion' is desirable to fix by law an age below which no child for six unonts only.

"With reference to your first question, 'whether it is desirable to fix by law an age below which no child shall be allowed to work in the felds,' my opinion' is desirable to fix by law an age below which no child for six unonts only.

"With reference to your first question, 'whether it is desirable to fix by law to the direct of the first work in the felds in this part of great of age, it consider my opinion to the direct of the first work of t

• The occasion referred to was at a small meeting at the house of Mr. Brogden, at Porthcawl, where, in addition to Mr. Evan David, there were present Archdeacon Blosse, Mr. Brogden, Dr. Lewis, and Mr. J. Gordon, of Tondu. The question was discussed generally, and with the exception of Mr. Brogden, who, besides being a large employer of labour in the Tondu Iron Works, holds a considerable farm, and who was in favour of computation in the matter of school attendance the.

thing. Little children are occasionally employed for bird-keeping and stone-picking.

This Board pays for the schooling of the children

of those who are receiving out-door relief, sometimes even when relief is not being given to the parents.

# 4. CARDIFF UNION INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

Mr. John Harris, master

There are 116 boys and 152 girls now in the schools, whose ages range from 9 to 14 years. There are also infants from 4 years old and upwards. They are children deserted by their parents, orphans, and those whose parents are in the workhouse. They are taken to the workhouse before being admitted to this school. The establishment is under the Poor

The boys are instructed in tailoring, shoemaking, and gardening; the girls in washing, cooking, knitting, and sewing. All the under-clothing for girls and boys is made by the girls. The boys' clothes also are made

staff consists of a schoolmaster and mistress, and of instructors in tailoring, shoemaking, and gar-dening, in addition to Mr. and Mrs. Harris, the

superintendents. All the housework is done by the

girls.

The cost of maintenance, including food and clothes, is 3s. 8d. to 3s. 10d. per week for each child. Every child on going out to service receives an

The schools have been established for six years, The schools have been established for six years, during which time about 200 children have been sent out, some to farm places, some to the collieries and works. I think there would be a difficulty in utilising the labour of the boys for weeding or other operations on the neighbouring farms on account of the requirement of three hours daily attendance at school. They have never yet heen so employed. have never yet been so employed.

### 5. ST. FAGAN'S AND LLANILTERN.

Population, 656 Acreage, 3,321.

Population, 656 - Acreage, 3,321.

The Castle School.—Mr. Miles, master.

Number on books, 107.

Average attendance for year, 78.

Attendance in week ending October 9, 89.

Number presented to inspector, 67.

The boys remain at school till 12 years of age, and sometimes till 14. There is a great demand for boys of 13 years of age who are quick at writing and sums for the ironworks and for other places in Cardiff.

Agricultural work takes some of the boys; the children are irregular in attendance at the time of potato gathering. There is a fine of ½d. for non-attendance.

attendance.

I think the parents are becoming more alive to the value of education for their children, and regret that they were themselves without it.

There are dames' schools in most of the small

parishes, and the older children come to this school.

There is no night-school.

6. Mr. Akers, Pentrebane, farmer, an Oxfordshire an. I farm 600 acres; am guardian and overseer of the parish.

Women are not employed here for farm work. An

Irish woman from Cardiff will occasionally come for a day's work at 1s. and food, or 1s. 6d. without food. a day's work at 15, and 100d, or 15, on, without 100d.
The weeding of corn and stone-picking is not done by
women or boys but by men by the day. Turniphoeing, hedge-making, and such like are done by the

Boys are not employed till they are 16 or 18 years of age, and do not live in the farmhouse.

Wages for a man are 12s. up to 16s. a week. A boy of 18 years gets 12s. a week, and 1l. at harvest. I paid a man and two boys of 18 and 19 years old

I have eight cottages attached to my farm. Most I have eight cottages attached to my farm. Adost of the cottages in this neighbourhood have large gardens. Potato ground is to be had from the farmers at 1s. a perch, but it is rarely wanted on account of the size of the gardens. The labourers usually keep

above 100 acres, but the average size is 50 or 60 acres. The farmers are for the most part men who have risen from the position of labourers and are very uneducated. The sons of small farmers work as labourers when they are grown up and married. There is no resident squire, and no return of the money drawn from the land.

Some children are employed as young as 6 or 7 years of age. There was no school in the parish when I first came to it. The population is small and sceattered.

There is great irregularity in school attendance on the part of boys above 9 years of age. I think some form of compulsion is wanted in the matter of school attendance

I think the employment of females in agriculture demoralise and units them for domes
I do not think it desirable for them to be employed, but there is no necessity in this parish for

Boys should not be employed in the fields at all under 10 years of age, nor under 12 years unless

off for a pantry, and a general garret or sleeping room for the whole family. I would suggest that cottages should be inspected, and that those found unit for human habitation should be condemned more cially as I feel confident that the moral and social

status is impaired by such a state of things.

There is one cottage to about 150 acres. The dwellings are generally crowded, and have not a sufficient number of bedrooms.

No Irish property can present more wretched consequences of absenteeism than this.

sideration the parish receives from the owners of property is the regular collection of rents. I have tried a night school for two winters, but the

attendance was very small.

9. Peterston School, Miss Hardwick, mistress.—On

books, 18 boys and 21 girls; the attendance does not vary much according to the time of year. The daughters of small farmers work on their father's land. I do not think women are much employed in the fields.

10. John John, between 8 and 9 years old.—I was employed bird-scaring this spring. I had my no money, and was out from 7 a.m. till dark.

11. John Thomas, 8 years old.—I was employed uring the summer by farmers with the horses. I had 6d a day and all meals.

12. John Miles, 10 years old.—I have been employed setting and pulling potatoes for 3d. a day and my food. I got one hot meal of meat and vegetables every day, and breakfast and tea. I was out for three weeks last spring. My clothes wear out quicker when I am at work than when I am regular at school.

13. Ann Rees.—My husband is an agricultural labourer. I work in the fields sometimes, planting potatoes, and get 1s. a day. I have taken sheeppotatoes. and get ls. a dar. I have taken sneep-milking for a farmer; it lasts from May to the end of August. I got one-seventh of the produce; at first one can make an 8 lb. cheese per week, but the weight decreases. The cheese is worth 8d. per lb.

A man's wages, if regularly employed, are 12s. a week; if employed by the day or job 2s. 6d. a day. Farmers have boys in their houses by the year. I have four children, and I cannot afford to lose the small earnings of the children by sending them to school. My boy of 10 years old goes to work in the I know it is a good thing to have the learning, fields.

but still the sixpences are a great help.

The cottage has one room (with mortar floor) and outhouse downstairs, and one large bedroom upstairs : 25 perches of garden. Rent 31. 6s. and rates. I ground, if I want it, from the farmer at 1s. a perch, dressed and turned-up.

### WENVOE.

### Population. 504 - Acreage, 2,955.

15. Rev. C. Jenner.—Very few women or children are employed in agriculture here. My experience is that the employment of females, whether married or single. altogether unfits them for the proper discharge of their domestic duties, present or future. In my parish the demand for female labour is so small that I am not prepared to recommend any legislative restriction.

The wages here are so high that the labour of the women is not required for the families. If it were necessary, I would prohibit all female labour till the age of 20 years at any rate. Boys should not be employed till 12 or 13 years of age.

I would venture to recommend that a system of ternate whole days at school and at work would be the best for enforced attendance at school; but at the same time I strongly object to compulsory education.

School attendance is not here affected by distance, and as wages are high I do not think there need be

any difficulty on the part of the parents in paying for their children's schooling.

I am decidedly of opinion that good cottage a

modation is essential to the morality as well as the health and comfort of the labouring poor.

The cottages generally are not good, and in a There are not enough with two or three bedrooms, and they are too crowded. The drainage and water supply are bad. The rent, with small garden, is about 41. a year; sometimes the cottage is included in the wages. No progress is being made towards increasing the cottage accommodation.

In country places the late hour at which a night

school must begin, and therefore close, is the greatest hindrance to its success.

Wages are from 13s. to 15s. a week for men. Many men live in the farmhouses. Many of the farms are very small, and the tenants not men of capital. They ould oppose an education rate.

16. Mary Howard.—My husband is a labourer. Boys

used to go to the farmhouses at 10 years old, but they are not so much used now on account of the machinery.

My boy of 12 years old gets his food and about 1s. per week. Women are not employed in the fields. My mother used to work regularly, and I went weed-Women are not employed in the fields. ing as a girl with other women. The weeding is now done by men and boys.

Wages for a man employed all the year are 13s. a week, a pound of butter a week, which he gets at ls. a lb., and cheese at 6d. a lb. Cottage with good garden rented at ls. a week, the cottages being attached to the farms. A woman when employe gets 1s. a day.

My cottage has two rooms downstairs and two bed-

rooms, and a small garden. The rent is 4l. a year; it is the property of a small owner, and not of the squire. Sometimes I get potato ground at 1s. a

Sheep-milking pays, but it is very hard and nasty

# WENVOE SCHOOL.

# 17. Mrs. Wathins, mistress.

Number on books - - 60
In attendance - - 47
I have been mistress here for many years. The payment for each child is 1d. a week. The attendance in the strength of the strength year. The oldest boy in the school is 11 years of the sees they do not begin regular work before 11 years. A few boys are employed younger that the sees they begin regular work before 11 years. boys are employed younger for bird-keeping, and get their food and perhaps 1s. a week. The children are absent from school in the potato season Giels work for their parents but were for the

Women are not employed on the farms.

There was a night school here on two nights in the week; it was attended chiefly by mechanics and older men; the farm boys cannot very well attend, on account of doing up the horses, chaff-cutting, &c. in

Uneducated parents are careless about the education

of their children. I do not think that the well-educated lads leave the parish. Boys are not so much employed on the farms as

# LI.ANTRITHYD.

### Population, 201 - Acreage, 1,450. Cultivation mixed.

18. George Tritton, schoolmaster .- The school is not of scholars, 45 in summer, and 50 in winter. Of the children of labourers, 11 in summer, 18 in winter. difficulty, the required payment is modified according to the children of labourers of control of labourers. It is summer, 18 in winter. The sons and daughters of farmers attend the school, and there is greater irregularity in the attendance of that class than of the labourers. The school is fullest from October to March. I think 150 attendances could be obtained from boys of 13 and 14 years of age during the winter time. There are three boys of 14 years of age in the school, and one of 15 years whose father is a large farmer. The oldest girls are

19. Rev. R. T. Tyler, rector. — No children or rage rents are women are regularly employed in this parish: three or four women work occasionally in hay harvest. Children state of repair.

and read I am convinced that the employment of young females in agriculture is most objectionable, and has a demoralizing tendency. Labourers' wages are high here, hence their wives are seldom necessitated to seek for field work. I think labourers' wives and single women of 50 years and upwards might occasionally be employed in field work with benefit to themselves and to the farmers.

Boys should not be employed under 10 years of G

I have little or no complaint to make as to the regularity of school attendance in this parish. All the children above the age of six attend school; the charge is low, and the parents.

it. The girls are taught sewing. is low, and the parents are in a position to pay

There is much room for improvement in the cot-On a farm of 175 acres there are six cottages. farmers board and lodge their workmen.

The cottages vary much in number and size of rooms : some are crowded with large families, but not with lodgers. Most of them have one sitting room, with a pantry or lean-to attached. There is generally a good sized upper bedroom under the thatched roof, which is sometimes divided. A bed is often placed in the sitting room. In old cottages the windows are seldom made to open, but there is no lack of air. The drainage is fair and the water supply good and near at hand. With a small excep-tion, the whole of the parish is the property of the Rev. G. and Mrs. Chetwode, of Chilton House, The rent of cottages is generally 1s. a week; a garden is attached to each.

There is no night school at present; I have had one. The great obstacle to its success is the objection of the farmers, who make their farm servants

small; 300 acres would be considered a large farm, farmers are in many instances very bailty off, and cannot afford to pay for their children's schooling: they are obliged to employ them on the farm; they are dry from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., and had 6d. a day and no worse off than the labourer, as they do not get parish relief or the benefit of medical aid in cases of sick

A good deal of property in this district is held on leases for lives.

Children are not wanted on the farms so much as formerly, on account of the change in the method of driving horses in the plough, &c. The boys go into farm service about 11 years of age; they may somefarm service about 11 years of age; they may some-times be employed for bird-keeping and driving cattle times be employed for bird-keeping and driving cattle as young as 9 years. Girls are not employed at all in the fields, and women only very seidom.

The distance to work would not usually exceed one mile, the parishes being small and situated near each mile, the parishes being small and situated near each mile, the parishes being small and situated near each mile, the parishes being small and situated near each mile, the parishes being small and situated near each mile, the parishes being small and situated near each mile, the parishes being small and situated near each mile, the parishes being small and situated near each mile, the parishes being small and situated near each mile, the parishes being small and situated near each mile, the parishes being small and situated near each mile, the parishes being small and situated near each mile, the parishes being small and situated near each mile, the parishes being small and situated near each mile, the parishes being small and situated near each mile, the parishes being small and situated near each mile, the parishes being small and situated near each mile, the parishes being small and situated near each mile, the parishes being small and situated near each mile, the parishes being small and situated near each mile, the parishes being small and situated near each mile, the parishes being small and situated near each mile, the parishes being small and situated near each mile, the parishes being small and situated near each mile, the parishes being small and situated near each mile, the parishes being small and situated near each mile, the parishes being small and situated near each mile, the parishes being small and situated near each mile, the parishes being small and situated near each mile, the parishes being small and situated near each mile, the parishes being small and situated near each mile, the parishes being small and situated near each mile, the parishes being small and situated near each mile, the parishes being small and situated near each mile, the p

The distance to work would not usually exceed one mile, the parishes being smull and situated near each other. The hours of work for men are from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.; for women, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. I do not think it is necessary to place any restriction on the age at which hows should be permitted to remain which boys should be permitted to work on

There is a school in almost every parish, and the children attend pretty regularly. The schooling of out-door pauper children is paid for by the board, at an allowance of 31d. a week for each child

The condition of the cottages is fair; they usually have two or three bedrooms; there are very few without two bedrooms, and they are not overcrowded. The old cottages were built of stone, with thatched roof; the new ones have slate roofs. The average rent is from 2l. 10s. to 4l. a year; they all have good gardens. Allotments are not often found in district.

The number of illegitimate children has increased

Wages for a man are from 12s, and a house up to 15s. a week; for a woman, 1s. a day; for boys, in bird-keeping, 3d. a week and food; for boys, in service, at 12 years old, 2l. a year, board, and lodging, with an increase of pay annually; at 18 years of age, from 14 to 18l a year. on 14l. to 18l. a year.

The hiring is from May-day to May-day, with a

month's notice. There are no hiring fairs in this district, but they are held at Neath.

Savings banks are now being taken advantage of by some farm labourers, but clubs are more popular.

# PENMARK.

### Population, 529 - Acreage, 2.950. Cultivation mixed, arable, and pasture.

21. Rev. C. F. B. Wood, vicar .- Children are not systematically employed in this parish, but are taken by their parents to assist them, such as stone-picking or hoeing, and a boy is employed when required for scaring crows. In the autumn they are employed in harvesting potatoes. They live on or near the farms on which they are employed. The hours of work are from about 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., with an hour allowed for dinner, if they do not take their meal with them dinner, if they do not take their meal with them.

There is no injury to health arising from such employment, nor do I know of any cases of ill-treatment.

I do not think it advisable that females should be employed in farm labour. When so employed, it is impossible to prevent their associating too freely with persons of the other sex. Their sense of propriety d delicacy thereby becomes blunted, and we aiway find that the woman who spends the most time in field work affords in proportion a less tidy and comfortable

Females are little employed in this parish, and I do not think that the rate of their husbands' wages furnishes a sufficient reason for their being so employed,

take a job of light work, such as stone-picking, with-

I think that no boy should be withdrawn alto-I think that no boy should be withdrawn alto-gether from school under 13 years of age, and that none should be employed under the age of 10.

I think it highly impolitic and unjust that children should be employed at long distances from their homes;

but in this parish there is no need of restrictions on

his head.

It appears to me that half day at school and half lay at work is likely to be best for the boy and for the employer, and if this could be varied so that the attendance at school should be morning and evening in alternate weeks the boy would have a better ch of reaping the benefits of school without any inter-

ference with the discipline or system adopted.

The attendance at school is affected by distance in the case of some of the small children living two miles

wages in general The

There is a fair proportion of cottages conveniently situated. I should say there are hardly enough with two bedrooms, and almost none with three. In the cottages generally there is a sitting room from 12 to cottages generally there is a sitting room from 12 to 16 feet square; in the better sort a small room on the same floor used as a bedroom, overhead is a loft, which is very rarely divided by a partition. They have also generally a lean-to, where tools, coals, &c. are kept.

There is generally a sufficient generally as

There was a night school last winter, but it did not answer; the farmers object to their servant boys coming out in the evening.

There is generally a sufficient garden. Most of the cottages are let with the farms on which they stand, and rented by the labourer of the farmer. The average rents are 3l. per annum. In many cottages the doors, windows, and floors are in a very insufficient

four women work occasionally in nay harvest. Condens pick potatoes for their parents, and very seldom scare birds. They all live in the parish. The hours of ment inspection. There is also a dame school in one work are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., with 1½ hour allowed for dinner.

I cannot speak from experience, but from all I hear I cannot speak from experience, but from all I hear attendance between summer and winter.

_		Register.	Attendance.
Boys:			14
Under 10 -		25	14
Between 10 and 1	3 -	15	8
Girls:			100
Under 10 -	-	26	18
Between 10 and 1	3 -	14	10
	1	80	50

There is a night school just opened by a new masters but it is hardly got into work. An evening school hae been kept in some winters with tolerable success threnights in the week for an hour and a half. The num

I do not see in what other way than by night school young people or adults whose education has been neglected can be provided with the means of repairing the

The difficulties in the way of maintaining a night school are the small remuneration that it affords the teacher, and the want of interest taken by those who should be scholars, inasmuch as they undervalue education in proportion as they more need it : added to this, the expense, which is not adequately met by such payments as can be obtained from the scholars.

### In the School.

23. Thomas James, 9 years old .- I have been weed-

ing this year for a farmer; got 9d. a day.

24. John Jones, 9 years old.—I have been out stone. picking at 9d. a day for a farmer. I worked from a.m. to 6 p.m.; found my own food.

25. James Austin, 8 years old .- I went out birdkeeping two years ago; was out from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and got 6d. a day. I did not go on wet

### 27. Cottages.

(1.) Attached to a farm.

One room down.
One room up.
Inhabited by father and two little girls. Rent reckoned at 1s. a week.

One room up. and pigsty; very small garden. Rent 4l. a

Two rooms upstairs.
Good garden. Inhabited by man and wife, one boy, nd the grandfather.

28. Mr. Jenkins, farmer.—Boys are very little em-

28. Mr. Jenkins, tarmer.—Boys are supplied to bird-keeping. Girls are not at all employed and women very little. The supply of labour is not always sufficient; I have the Irish. Our lads go off to the works or

employ one boy, who lives on the premises. Wages are 11s. and 12s. a week and a house and the privilege of buying wheat at 6s. a bushel, butter at 1s. a lb. (1 lb. per week), and cheese at 6d. a lb.

In harvest time they have meat extra.

A woman gets 1s. a day. Turnip-hoeing is done by the piece. The weeding is done by old men and a

oman or two.

The hours of work for the teams are from 8 a.m.

to 12, and from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

There is an old custom here of giving a dinner every Wednesday to all the workmen, which I keep up; it is not reckoned in the wages.

Cottages attached to the farms are reckoned at a

rent of 1s. a week to 3l. a year, with good garden to each. They are in bad repair.

## ST. HILARY.

29. Llewellyn Thomas, farmer.—I employ one boy of 12 years of age. Irish women are sometimes employed for weeding;

out weeding and turnip-hoeing are usually taken by

the piece at per acre.

Small children are very seldom employed, occasionally perhaps for bird-keeping, there is not so much use for them with the ploughs as formerly.

Wages for a man here are 13s, a week, but they are lower in some parts of this neighbourhood.

I do not think the prohibition of the employment of

children under 10 years of age would be any hardship to the parents.

# LANMAES.

Population, 144 - Acreage, 1,035.

30. Rev. T. Parry Thomas.—This is a small parish.
Boys are not often employed under 12 years of age; a few occasionally for bird-keeping when quite young.
Girls are not employed in the fields, and very few

Wages for a man are 10s. to 12s. a week in winter, and 12s, to 15s, a week in summer. In some cases

School attendance is irregular from various causes; there is a want of education among the heads of the labourers' families. I think compulsion in the matter of school attendance is more needed in towns than in the rural districts; the mothers would, in my opinion,

rebel against such compulsion. The small rural parishes want more State and; at present the burden of supporting the school falls dwelling rooms, and 4½ to every sleeping room. present the burden of supporting the school falls dwelling rooms, and 4½ to every sleeping room. There are occasionally lean-to sheds for coal and results, independently of the question of the teacher tools. Gardens are usually of from 20 to 30 poles in being certificated or not, would I think be most size.

Eleven cottages in this village have only one room

Most of the young men, the best workers, go away to the works in the hills, leaving the old and crippled

I do not think that half days or alternate days at school and work would succeed. Children if thus kept at school would have their thoughts more on the fields, sheep, horses, and open air than on their lessons; neither do I see the necessity of half measures with young children. The plan of attendance for a ceroung children. number of days during the year would be pre-le. In some cases children would be kept in school for a longer period if the parents could dispense with the amount earned by the children.

One and a quarter cottage is considered sufficient

per 100 acres. Some of the cottages are sufficiently large for the present occupants, having good walls, glazed windows to each room, fluors of lias mortar hard as stone. Bedrooms separated by lath and plaster divisions, warm in winter and cool in summer, owing to the roof being thatched. Water is abundant; moderate sized gardens with very good soil and good natural drainage. The inferior cottages contain only one room on floor about 15 ft. by 12 ft., with a small lumber room where a bed is occasionally placed; one room over in the roof. The owners are not the landowners, though they own the ground on which the cottages stand. Rent averages 31. 5s. a year. Though the number of cottages is ample, they are with a few exceptions very far from what they ought to be.

I think this inquiry and the visit of the Commissioner will produce some effect, and probably, if he could repeat and extend his visits to all the villages every two or three years, and not only report to Parliament the result of his inspections but get copies of that report circulated through the county, in less than a dozen years many good cottages would be built and the bad ones would find no tenants. In the absence of something of this kind there should be an enactment to prevent owners of cottages (after a certain date and notice) renting them for occupation by an

improper number.

I do not think any of the landowners would avail themselves of the provisions of the 27 & 28 Vict. c. 114, as they would hardly think of borrowing money

build cottages. An evening school has frequently been tried here but with small success; there is not one now. In summer harvest and other operations prevent the attendance of young men and lads, while in winter some are kept away by attendance on horses. &c. Besides this it is rarely young people employed in agriculture during the day can get over the difficulty applying their minds with any advantage for a few hours at night; their bodies tired, the irksomeness of the school is too much for them, and novelty has worn off the school dwindles entirely away.

# ST. ATHAN.

Population. 357 - Acreage, 1,486. Cultivation about <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> arable and ½ pasture.

31. Rev. Hanmer Morgan.—There are in my parish 38 children, young persons, and women employed in

one between 13 and 15; over 18 years there are 14 married women and seven unmarried.

The employment of boys and girls in spring are crow-keeping, harrowing, ploughing, driving carts, sheep and cows, and incidental work; of women, topping turnips, feeding sheep, and spreading dung.

In summer, machinery has superseded the employment of women; they are not now much employed in hay and corn harvest, but in sheep milking.

In autumn, boys of 8 years go crow-keeping; other boys drive carts and go ploughing and raising notators; women recommender.

women recommence turnip-trimming, raise potatoes, pick stones, and go to the thrashing winnowing.

In winter, boys are ploughing, harrowing, and driving horses; women, thrashing, winnowing, and sheep tending.

The distance to work rarely exceeds half a mile;

boys are expected to work from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.; women from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. No difference in the hours is made on account of distance from h 1 hour is allowed to boys for meals; one hour to

women and girls.

There is decidedly no injury to the health; the children employed in out-door labour are quite as healthy as those at school. I never heard of any ill-

Sheep milking is a very unhealthy employment, as many of my people complain of it as the cause of illness, especially chronic rheumatism. The exposure to all kinds of weather when trimming turnips in autumn and winter is also injurious. These occupations are principally followed by married women.

As to the effect of field employment on females. I

find that from the greater liberty they enjoy there is a great unwillingness on the part of girls and unmarried women to enter domestic service. They lose in a great measure the gentler attributes of their sex, are devoid of modesty in consequence of their intercourse with men, and a large proportion become mothers of illegitimate children. To the married the consequences frequently are neglect of home, uneducated children, dirt and discomfort, which too often leads to intemperance on the part of the husband.

Where there is a young and numerous family my opinion is that with labour wages at 12s. a week a man would have almost insuperable difficulty in maintaining it without assistance from his wife. The demand for young girls of 12 years and upwards is so great for domestic service and so unnecessary in the field, that it is very desirable, taking into consideration the evil effect on their morals, that they should not be employed in such labour. I would prohibit the em-ployment of females under 20 years of age, and I am not prepared to except hay and corn harvest.

Boys should not be employed under 12 years of age, unless permission were given by magistrates in petty sessions to necessitous parents of large families.

With reference to the proposed table of distances, I think that no girls should be taken to work at all, that boys under 12 years should not be employed, and that from 12 to 14 years the distance should not exceed two miles. exceed two miles. Boys under 14 years of age should not be per-

mitted to work after 5 p.m., or at the latest 6 p.m., as they are only employed as a rule in the lowest operations of agriculture, such as crow-keeping potato-picking, and horse driving, and they would thus be enabled to attend night schools. Several of the boys are unemployed in the winter.

they could therefore attend school in those months. I believe the shortening of the hours in the evening would not materially affect the work of the farm, and would give them an opportunity of educational improvement.

The cottage accommodation is of a very wretched description: the rooms are small and without vaccing

There are 36 cottages now occupied by agricultural labourers, giving an average of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to every 100 acres. This number is deemed sufficient.

The cottages are very much crowded; they gene-The cottages are very much crowned; they generally consist of two rooms about 12 or 13 ft. square, the lower floor formed of lime; the upper room walls about 2 ft. high, whence a thatched roof springs, which is usually unceiled. There are frequently no means of ventilation and none of drainage. There are 24 the largainst such computation.

The small rural parishes want more State aid; at persons on an average to every room, including resent the burden of supporting the school fulls dwelling rooms, and 4½ to every sleeping room, ainly on the clergyman. A system of payment for There are occasionally lean-to sheds for coal and

for all purposes.

The cottages are either held by the land has been described by the land ha let on leases for lives; none are owned by tradesmen with whom the tenants are obliged to deal.

Rent averages 3l. a year.

No progress towards improving cottage accommodation is being made, except when a fire fortunately occurs, in which case the cottages are rebuilt on a scale consistent with the requirements of the tenants. The difficulty consists in inducing the owners to make a present sacrifice.

# SCHOOL.

			On Books.	Average Attendance.
Midsummer :		1		
Boys and girls Winter:	•	- ;	44	40
Boys and girls		-!	74	55

There is great difficulty in obtaining regular at-tendance. Knowledge of rudimental learning is therefore not obtained, and where it is so obtained it is frequently lost for want of habitual exercise afte

There is an evening school in the winter open for three hours on four nights in the week during 13 weeks. There are eight scholars, all above 12 years

difficulties in maintaining it are the carelessness of the young as to whether they are educated or not, the late hours at which they are occasionally employed, as well as, to a certain extent, the unwillingness of masters and mistresses to allow them to attend school when it may interfere with their

### LANTWITT MAJOR.

Population, 1,223 - Acreage, 4,915. 47. Mr. John Garsed. occupier .- I employ one under 8 years of age, two between 8 and 10 ve and two between 13 and 18 years, no girls, but married women, who are employed in spring weeding and stone-picking; in summer in "couchi and hay-making; in winter in pulling turnips, and or two of them in barn work. The distance to w is 1 to 1½ miles. Women work from 8.30 arm.

5.30 or 6 p.m. with 1½ hours allowed for dinner. (hour would be required for walking to and from we than the state of the s Turnip cleaning is injurious to delicate children parried women from exposure to inclement wear Young girls up to 20 years should not be allowed work in agriculture, as they become totally unfit for household work and to be mothers of family Their morals are decidedly lowered in tone by su

There is no need of restriction on the hours work for children and young persons, as in con quence of high wages the labourers are mo independent than in most other districts.

tabour.

If there is no school in their parish few, if any, the children of the labouring class go to anott parish. The school attendance is considerably affect by the poverty of the parents, the women from we of household education being as a rule bad manage and thus whatever the amount of wages earned the are always needy. Bad cottages are a curse to district; they render the households badly manage drive the husband to the public house, and lower moral tone of the whole family. The absence privies is a great evil in this district. Two cottages for 100 acres are sufficient; we have

more than that proportion. Some cottages have on small room downstairs, and one upstairs unceile others have two rooms down and two bedroom Ventilation is indifferent, and the drainage is ba Many are owned by tradesmen and persons having r landed property in the neighbourhood. All have good garden attached. Rent varies from 1s. to 2

Landlords might provide cottage accommodation the farms, and charge the tenant a per-centage o the outlay: any tenant would gladly pay it, as the workman would be located where he was wanted, an

32. BRIDGEND AND COWBRIDGE UNION.

MEETING OF BOARD OF GUARDIANS. October 16th, 1869.

J. C. Nicoll, Esq., in the chair. It was stated that boys do not usually go to farm service till 12 years of age, but an instance was given of one at 10 years receiving 4l. a year, board and lodging. Little boys are employed for bird-keeping at 6d. a law and their food at 6d. a day and their food. That girls are not employed in the fields, and that

Inat gris are not employed in the news, and that women are employed for weeding corn, turnip-clipping, &c. at ls. to is. 3d. a day.

There was a difference of opinion as to fixing the age for work at 9 or 10 years, but it was thought that such a limit would meet the wants of the agricultural to the age of long families of

tural classes, and only in cases of long families of small children indict any hardship on the parents rough the loss of the children's earnings.

Men's wages were stated to be 12s. to 14s. a

It was stated that with very few exceptions there were schools within reach of the greater part of the agricultural population. i.e. within a distance of two to three miles. It was thought that education should be made more available to the poor, and that the removal of the restriction of grants in aid to schools having certificated teachers would give very valuable support to many schools now in existence which are capable of bearing inspection as to results, and which are kept up with some difficulty for want

of funds. It was said that savings banks are much used by the labourers, many of whom become small farmers. Many of the clubs divide at intervals two-thirds of

their funds and go on with the remainder.

Complaint was made of the state of the brick-yards; children are employed in them at a very early age,

and it was stated that their health and morality suffer