

CHILDREN'S EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION 1842.

**REPORT by ROBERT HUGH FRANKS,
Esq., on the Employment of Children and
Young Persons in the Collieries and the Iron-
Works of South Wales, the district of
Merthyr Tydvil, the collieries of
Monmouthshire, Glamorganshire and
Pembrokeshire and on the State, Condition
and Treatment of such Children and Young
Persons.**

**Edited by
Ian Winstanley**

PICKS PUBLISHING

Published by:-

**PICKS PUBLISHING
83. Greenfields Crescent,
Ashton-in-Makerfield,
Wigan WN4 8QY
Lancashire.
Tel:- (01942) 723675**

Coal **M**ining **H**istory **R**esource **C**entre
With Compliments

The Coal Mining History Resource Centre, Picks Publishing and Ian Winstanley reserve the copyright but give permission for parts to be reproduced or published in any way provided The Coal Mining History Resource Centre, Picks Publishing and Ian Winstanley are given full recognition.

PERMISSION WILL NOT BE GIVEN FOR COMPLETE ELECTRONIC COPYING

Ian Winstanley.
83, Greenfields Crescent,
Ashton-in-Makerfield,
Wigan. WN4 8QY.
Lancashire. England

Tel & Fax:- (01942) 723675.
Mobile:- (0798) 9624461
E-mail:- ian.winstanley@blueyomder.co.uk
Web site:- <http://www.cmhrc.pwp.blueyomder.co.uk>

COMMISSION

(UNDER THE GREAT SEAL)

FOR INQUIRING INTO THE EMPLOYMENT AND CONDITION OF CHILDREN IN MINES AND MANUFACTORIES.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith. To Our trusty and well beloved Thomas Tooke, Esquire, Thomas Southwood Smith, Esquire, Doctor in Medicine, together with Leonard Horner and Robert John Saunders, Esquires, To of Our Inspectors of Factories, Greeting:- WHEREAS, an humble Address was presented unto to Us by Knights, Citizens and Burgesses and Commissioners of Shires and Burghs in Parliament assembled, humbly beseeching Us that We should be graciously pleased to direct an Inquiry to be made into the Employment of the Children of the Poorer Classes in Mines and Collieries and the various branches of Trade and Manufactures in which numbers of Children work together, not being included in the provisions of the Acts for regulating Employment of Children and Young Persons in Mills and Factories and to collect information as to the time allowed each day for meals and as to the actual state, condition and treatment of such Children and as to the effects of such Employment, both with regard to their morals and their bodily health; NOW KNOW YE, THAT WE, reposing great trust and confidence in your ability and discretion, have nominated, constituted and appointed and do by these presents nominate, constitute and appoint you the said, Thomas Tooke, Thomas Southwood Smith, together with, Leonard Horner and Robert John Saunders, to be Our Commissioners for the purposes aforesaid; And We do hereby enjoin you to obey all directions touching the premises which shall from time to time be given you, and any two or more of you, by one of our principle Secretaries of State: And for the better discovery of the truth in the premises, we do, by these presentiments, give and grant to you, or any two or more of you, full power and authority to call before you, such persons as you will judge necessary, by whom you may be the better informed of the truth in the premises, and to inquire of the premises and every part thereof, by all other lawful way and means whatsoever; And We do hereby also give and grant unto you, or any two or more of you, full power and authority when the same shall appear to be requisite, to administer an oath or oaths to any person or persons whatsoever, to be examined before you, or two or more of you, touching or concerning the premises; And Our further will and pleasure is, that you Our said Commissioners, or any three of you, do, with as little delay as may be consistent with a due discharge of the duties hereby imposed upon you, Certify to Us. under your hands and seals, or under the hands and seals of any three of you, your several proceedings in the premises; And We further will and command, and by these presents ordained, that this Our Commission shall continue in full force and virtue, and that you, Our said Commissioners, or any two or more of you, shall and may from time to time proceed in the execution thereof, and of every matter and thing therein contained, although the same be not continued, from time to time by adjournment: AND WE HEREBY COMMAND all and singular Our Justices of the Peace, Sheriffs, Mayors, Bailiffs, Constables, Officers, Ministers, and all other Our loving Subjects whatsoever, as will within Liberties as without. that they may be assistant to you and each of you in the execution of these presents: And for your assistance in the due execution of this Commission, We have made choice of Our trusty and well beloved Joseph Fletcher, Esquire, to be the Secretary of this Our Commission, whose services we require you to use from time to time, as occasion may require. In witness thereof, We have caused these Letters to be made Patent. Witness Ourselves at Westminster, the Twentieth day of October, in the Fourth Year of Our Reign

By Writ of Privy Seal,

EDMUNDS.

**LETTER OF INSTRUCTIONS EXTENDING THE TERMS OF THE COMMISSION TO
“YOUNG PERSONS”**

Whitehall, February 11th, 1841.

GENTLEMEN,

THE QUEEN having been pleased to comply with the prayer of an humble Address presented to Her Majesty, in pursuance of a Resolution of the House of Commons, dated 4th of February, 1841, ‘That Her Majesty will be graciously pleased to direct that the Commission appointees in answer to an Address of this House, on August 4, 1840, for the investigation of certain branches of Infant Labour, do include within its inquiry the Labour also of Young Persons designated as such by the provisions of the Factory Act’ I am delighted by the Marquis of Normanby to desire that you will include within your inquiry the Labour of Young Persons designated as such by the provisions of the Factory Act accordingly.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) F. MAULE.

*The Commissioners for inquiring into the Condition
of Children employed in Mines, &c.*

CONTENTS.

REPORT by ROBERT HUGH FRANKS, ESQ., on the Employment of Children and Young Persons in the Collieries, Iron-Works, &c, South Wales	1
Collieries in Glamorganshire personally visited by	1
Glamorgan Copper, Iron and Tin Works personally visited by	2
Collieries in Monmouthshire, personally visted by R.H. Franks, Esq.	3
Collieries in Pembrokeshire, personally visited by R.H. Franks, Esq.	3
I - AGES AND NUMBERS	4
II - PLACES OF WORK.	5
III - NATURE OF EMPLOYMENT.	7
Colliers.	7
Hauliers.	7
Air-door boys.	8
Carters.	8
Pembrokeshire.	8
Windlass-women.	8
Pitching veins.	8
Iron works.	11
Limestone-breakers.	11
Puddlers.	11
Pullers-up.	11
Catcher.	11
Hooker-on.	11
Pilers.	11
Straighteners, roughers, iron-fillers, water carriers.	12
Tip-girls.	12
Tin works.	12
Pickle and scale boys.	12
Cold-rollers.	12
Grease-boy.	13
Listers.	13
Rubbers.	13
Gate-boy.	13
Copper works.	13
Adults employed.	13
IV - HOURS OF WORK.	13
Collieries.	13
Iron works.	14
Tin works.	14
Copper works.	14
V- MEALS.	14
VI - TREATMENT AND CARE.	14
VII - HIRING AND WAGES.	16
The Average Rate of Wages in the Iron Works during the last Five Years	17
The following table will show the Prices of Puddling during the Years specified, showing a General Average Wage during the same period.	17
Table of the Average Rate of Collier's Day Wages in the months March April and May in the years specified.	17
VII - PHYSICAL CONDITION.	18
Colliers.	18
Iron ore miners.	18
Iron workers.	18
Copper men.	18
Tin works.	19
Health of children.	19
IX - ACCIDENTS.	20
X - MORAL CONDITION.	21
Means of education.	21
Ignorance of the rising generation.	21
Sunday Schools inefficient.	22
New schools.	22
English language.	23
Religion.	23
Benefit societies.	23

Savings Banks.	23
Public houses.	24
Cases before the magistrates.	24
Ventilation.	24
Situation, and drainage of a collier's house.	24
APPENDIX A	27
Returns of the District Coroners for Inquests held in their respective Jurisdictions during the Years 1839, 1840, 1841.	27
No.1 - A Return of Inquests before JOHN STOKES, Esq., one of the Coroners of Pembrokeshire, during the last three years.	27
No.2. - A Return of the Inquests Held by WILLIAM DAVIES ESQ., Coroner of the District of Merthyr, South Wales.	28
No.3. - A list of deaths of working people within my district which have come under my jurisdiction as Coroner for the Western Division of the County of Glamorgan during the last three years.	33
No.4 - LIST OF ACCIDENTS IN COLLIERIES &c.	33
APPENDIX B.	35
Summary of cases disposed of and committals by the Magistrates of Merthyr, the Hundred of Neath and Swansea in the County of Glamorgan in the years 1839, 1840 and 1841.	35
No.1 - MERTHY TYDVIL - Summary of cases by Magistrates.	35
No.2 - Hundred of Neath, Glamorganshire. Summary of cases disposed of by the Magistrates.	35
No.3 - Swansea - Summary of cases disposed of by Magistrates.	36
APPENDIX C.	36
List of schools, religious and secular, open to the working classes in certain parts of Glamorganshire and Pembrokeshire in South Wales and Monmouthshire in England.	36
APPENDIX D.	38
Extracts of evidence and replies to queries circulated by the Central Board as to the age at which it is desirable to limit the Employment of Children in the Mines &c, &c.	38
MONMOUTHSHIRE.	39
PEMBROKESHIRE.	40
EVIDENCE COLLECTED BY ROBERT HUGH FRANKS, ESQ.	41
COLLIERIES AND IRON-WORKS IN SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE.	41
MERTHYR-TYDVIL UPPER DISTRICT.	41
THE CYFATHA and ENNIS VACH IRON WORKS and COLLIERIES	41
No.1. William Williams, overman of the iron works of Cyfartha.	41
No.2. Mr. P. Kirkhouse, overman to the Cyfartha collieries and ironstone mines.	41
No.3. Mr. John Jones, overman of the Cyfartha blast furnaces.	41
No.4. Mary Evans, 18 or 19 years old, blast furnace filler.	42
No.5. John Davies, 12 years old, blast furnace filler.	42
No.6. David Evans, 10 years, iron filler or labourer.	42
No.7. John Thomas, 17 years, straightener.	42
No.8. David Thomas, 15 years old, iron filler or labourer.	42
No.9. Susannah Davies, 17 years old, piler.	42
No.10. William Hughes, 12 years, blacksmith.	43
No.11. John Lewis, 10 years old, labourer in smithy.	43
No.12. Sarah Davis, 14 years old, plier.	43
No.13. Catherine Hughes, 14 years old, water carrier.	43
No.14. Susan Davies, 17 years old, plier.	43
No.15. Mary Powell, 13 years old, helper to fill.	43
No.16. Mary Williams, 15 years old, limestone breaker.	43
No.17. Evan Gray, 16 years old, miner.	43
No.18. Henrietta Frankland, 11 years old, drammer.	44
No.19. The Rev. Mr. William, curate of Merthyr Tydvil.	44
No.20. The Rev. James Carroll, Catholic pastor, Merthyr.	44
No.21. The Rev. Owen Evans, minister of the Independent Chapel, Coed-y-Cymmer, near Merthyr.	45
No.22. Mr. William Morris, village of Coed-y-Cymmer, near Merthyr.	45
No.23. John Lyndon, innkeeper, Coed-y-Cymmer.	46
No.24. Mrs. Elizabeth Todd, general dealer, Merthyr.	46
No.25. William Thompson Esq., manager of the West of England Bank, Merthyr Tydvil.	46

No.26. Edward Davies, Esq., surgeon to the Cyfartha iron works, in a communication dated Sept. 20th, 1841.	47
---	----

MERTHYR TYDVIL, LOWER DISTRICT.47

THE PLYMOUTH IRON WORKS - Messrs. R. and A. Hill, Proprietors.	47
No.27. Anthony Hill Esq., of Plymouth, near Merthyr.	47
No.28. Mr. J.C. Woolrige, cashier to the Plymouth Works.	47
No.29. Mr. David Joseph, manager of the Plymouth Iron Works.	48
No.30. Mr. Thomas Josephs, mineral agent.	49
No.31. James Probert, Esq., surgeon to the Plymouth Iron Works, Merthyr Tydvil.	49
No.32. Morgan Lewis, 9 years old, puller-up.	50
No.33. Sophia Lewis, 12 years old, labourer in the iron yard.	50
No.34. Edward Davis, about 10 years old, hooker-on.	50
No.35. David Lewis, 18 years old, puddler.	50
No.36. John Jones, about 19 years old, rougher.	50
No.37. Sarah Griffith, 14 years old, wheels iron.	50
No.38. Ann Davies, 15 years old, wheels iron.	51
No.39. Hannah Pritchard, 16 years old, piler.	51
No.40. Mary Haddock, 18 years old, piler.	51
No.41. Catherine Pritchard, 13 years old, carrier.	51
No.42. Jane Richards, 13 years old, road-cleaner.	51
No.43. Phillip Phillips, 9 years old, air-door keeper.	51
No.44. Mary Reed, 12 years old, air-door keeper.	52
No.45. Daniel Lewis, 17 years old, haulier.	52
No.46. Mary Davis, near 7 years old, air-door keeper.	52
No.47. John Reece, 8 years old, coal filler.	52
No.48. Susan Reece, 6 years old, air-door keeper.	52

GRAIG COLLIERY, parish of Merthyr, Glamorganshire. - Messrs. W. and R. Thomas, Occupiers.	52
No.49. Thomas Howell, overseer to Graig Colliery.	52
No.50. Mary Price, 17 years old, unloader.	53
No.51. Jane Davies, 12 years old, wheels drams.	53
No.52. Ann Davis, 14 or 15 years old, wheels drams.	53
No.53. Charlotte Chiles, 19 years old, lander and weigher of coals.	53
No.54. John Evans David, 42 years old, collier.	53

TREFOREST IRON AND TIN WORKS, parish of Eglwysilan, Glamorganshire, Francis Crawshay, Esq., proprietor.	54
No.55. Mr. Thomas Morgan, agent to the Treforest Works.	54
No.56. Margaret Harris aged 19, scourer.	54
No.57. Eliza Morgan, aged 17, rubber.	54
No.58. Ann Jones, 18 years old, plate-opener.	54
No.59. Jane Harris, 13 years old, duster.	54
No.60. Owen Jones, about 15 years old, cold-roller.	55
No.61. Moses Gower, 10 years old, gate-boy.	55
No.62. William Roper, aged 9, grease-boy.	55
No.63. John Nurse, 12 years old, grease-boy.	55

THE TAFF VALE IRON COMPANY, parish of Eglwysilan, Glamorganshire.	55
Thompson Fothergill and Co., proprietors.	55
No.64. Mr. Jonathan Blacklock.	55
No.65. Llewellyn Jones, 17 years old, hooker-on.	56
No.66. Christopher Jenkins, 10 years old, coacher.	56
No.67. Morgan Jenkins, 6 years old, pull-up boy.	56
No.68. William M'Farlane, 16 years old, heaving-up.	56
No.69. James Norse, aged 12 years, coacher.	56
No.70. William Norse, aged 10, sand-thrower.	56
No.71. The Rev. David Williams.	57

MAESMAWR COLLIERY, parishes of Llantwitfardre and Eglwysilan, Glamorganshire. Mr. George Insole, proprietor.	57
No.72. Mr. Jabez Thomas, foreman.	57
No.73. John Fuge, aged 11, pump-boy.	57
No.74. Daniel Williams, aged 12, pumper.	58
No.75. John Morgan, aged 14, pumper.	58
No.76. William Hopkins, aged 14, pumper.	58
No.77. Thomas Griffiths, aged 14, pumper.	58
No.78. William Thomas, aged 10, pumper.	58
No.79. William John, engineman.	58

PENTYRY IRON WORKS, Messrs. Blakemore and Co., proprietors. Parish of Pentyrk, Glamorganshire.	58
No.80. Mr. John Evans, agent.	59
No.81. John George, aged 15, behinder.	59
No.82. Thomas Lavender, aged 17, heaver-up.	59
No.83. William Davis, aged 17, shearer.	59
No.84. Thomas Evans, aged 17, assistant in filling coke.	59
No.85. Mr. Thomas Phillips, schoolmaster, Whitchurch.	59
COED Y BEDDW AND LLAN COLLIERIES, parish of Llantrissant.	60
Messrs. Blackmore and Co.	60
No.86. John Griffiths aged 13, haulier.	60
No.87. William Williams, aged 15 haulier.	60
No.88. John Thomas, aged 15, haulier.	60
No.89. Evan John aged 13 1/2, haulier.	60
No.90. William Thomas aged 13, haulier.	60
No.91. Robert Williams, aged 14, haulier.	60
No.92. Richard Williams, aged 9 3/4, air-boy.	60
No.93. Jane John, aged 45.	60
DINAS COLLIERY, parish of Yshadgvodog, Glamorganshire, Walter Coffin, Esq., proprietor.	61
No.94. Walter Coffin, Esq., proprietor.	61
No.95. David Morgan, 13 years old, collier.	61
No.96. Thomas Slaththethral, 11 years old, collier.	61
No.97. Philip Davis aged 10. haulier.	61
No.98. Philip Jones, aged 13, coal-cutter.	62
No.99. John Rowland aged 12, coal-cutter.	62
No.100. James Rogers, aged 13, coal-cutter.	62
No.101. William Thomas, aged 14, coal-cutter.	62
No.102. William Morgan, aged 10, door-keeper.]	62
No.103. William Isaac, 11 years old, air-door keeper.	62
No.104. Llewellyn Powell, 14 years old, collier.	62
No.105. Matthew Lewis, 11 years old, collier.	62
No.106. David Watkins, 15 years old, collier.	63
No.107. Thomas Hays, collier.	63
MELLIGRIFFITH TIN WORKS. Parish of Llandaff, Glamorganshire.	63
No.108. Mr. Thomas Thomas, agent.	63
No.109. Samuel Humphrey, aged 18, annealer.	63
No.110. Thomas Smith, aged 12, grease-boy.	63
No.112. Francis Roberts, aged 10, plate-opener.	63
No.113. Hannah Rowland, aged 18, scourer.	64
No.114. Ann Maddick, aged 15, rubber.	64
No.115. Thomas Davis, aged 12, cold-roller.	64
No.116. Anthony Rowland, aged 9, pickle and scale boy.	64
IRONSTONE MINE, Garth-Vach, parish of Llantrissant, Glamorganshire.	64
Messrs. Blakemore and Co., proprietors.	64
No.117. Mr. Richard Jenkins, agent to the Garth-Vach Mines.	64
No.118. Hopkin Morgan, aged 13, tender.	64
No.119. John Thomas, aged 13, assistant filler.	64
CRAIGYRALT COLLIERY, parish of Eglwysilan, Glamorganshire.	65
Mr. Morgan Thomas, proprietor.	65
No.120. Mr. Morgan Thomas, proprietor.	65
No.121. Thomas Morgan, aged 17, hill and coal filler.	65
No.122. William James, aged 16, collier.	65
No.123. Edward Lewis, aged 11, collier.	65
No.124. William Phillips, aged 17 or 18, collier.	65
No.125. David John Beynon, schoolmaster, Nantgarw.	65
CWNRHONDDA COLLIERY, parish of Llantrissant, Glamorganshire, Messrs. D.W. Davis and Co., occupiers.	66
No.126. Messrs. D. and D. Davis, proprietors.	66
No.127. William David, foreman.	66
No.128. David Davis, aged 13, haulier.	66
No.129. William Maggs, aged 11 years, haulier.	66
No.130. Edwin John, aged 12 years, collier.	67
No.131. William Richards, aged 12 years, coal-cutter.	67
No.132. John Richards, collier.	67

IRW COLLIERY, parish of Llanwert, Glamorganshire. William Crawshay, Esq., proprietor.....	67
No.133. Arnold Butler, smith.	67
No.134. William Evans, aged 10, air-boy.	67
FOREST VACH COLLIERY, parish of Lantwitfardre, Glamorganshire.	
Mr. John Edmunds, proprietor, Newbridge.	67
No.137. Mr. William Jenkins, clerk and under-agent to Gelligaer Colliery.	67
No.138. William Rees, aged 15, coal-cutter.	68
No.139. Rees Stephens, aged 15, haulier.	68
No.140. James Tudor, aged 9 years, air-door boy.	68
No.141. Thomas Jones, schoolmaster, Gelligaer.	68
No.142. Mrs. Hannah Jenkins.	69
No.143. The Rev. Thomas Stacey, rector, parish of Gelligaer.	69
TOP HILL COLLIERY, parish of Gelligaer, Glamorganshire.	
Robert Beaumont, Esq., of Llandaff, occupier.	69
No.144. Mr. Jonathan Isaacs.	69
No.145. Richard Richards, aged 7, collier.	69
No.146. Thomas Johns, aged 14, haulier.	70
No.147. John Thomas, aged 9, collier.	70
No.148. Charles Johns, aged 12, haulier.	70
No.149. John Morgan, aged 16, haulier.	70
No.150. William Humphrey, aged 12, collier.	70
No.151. Thomas Morgan, aged 12, haulier.	70
LLANCYACH COLLIERY, parish of Gelligaer, Glamorganshire,	
Messrs. Duncan and Co., occupiers.	70
No.152. Mr. Richard Andrews, overseer.	70
No.153. Thomas Davis, aged 18, collier.	71
No.154. Alban Jenkins, aged 17, coal-cutter.	71
No.155. David Davies, aged 15, haulier.	71
No.157. Mr. William Strange, medical assistant, Llanvabon.	71
No.158. Mrs. Elizabeth Tresise, innkeeper.	72
No.159. Thomas Harris, aged 14, haulier.	72
CHAIN CABLE WORKS, Ynisynharad, parish of Eglwysilan, Glamorganshire,	
Messrs. Brown, Lennox and Co.	72
No.160. Mr. Paul, manager of the works.	72
No.161. William Isaac, about 16 years old, labourer in the anchor smithy.	72
No.162. John Richards, 14 or 15 years old, labourer in the anchor smithy.	72
No.163. Evan Hopkins, 11 years old, hammer-man.	73
No.164. David Morgan, 16 years old, smith.	73
No.165. Morgan Williams, aged 18, chain maker.	73
No.166. John Thomas, aged 14, striker.	73
No.167. John Jones, aged 13 years, striker.	73
No.168. John Jenkins, aged 14, wheels coals.	73
No.169. William Lewis, aged 19, striker.	73
PLACE LEVEL COLLIERY and HENGOED COLLIERY, parishes of Gelligaer and Bedwellty, counties of Glamorgan and Monmouth, Mr. Aaron Brain, occupier of Hengoed and contractor of Place Level Colliery, the property of Thomas Protheroe, Esq.	73
No.170. Mr. John Williams, agent of Mr. Aaron Brain.	74
No.171. John Pickford, aged 50, collier.	74
No.172. William Powell, aged 12, haulier.	74
No.173. George Brimball, aged 18, collier.	74
No.174. Gething Jenkins, aged 14, collier.	74
No.175. Thomas Lewis aged 9, air-door boy.	74
No.176. William Williams, aged 13, collier.	74
No.177. John Reece, aged 14, haulier.	74
GILVACH VARGOED COLLIERY, parish of Gelligaer, county of Glamorgan.	
Joshua Fletcher Hanson, Esq., proprietor, Mr. David Davies, contractor.	75
No.178. Mr. David Davies, contractor.	75
No.179. Jabez Williams, aged 15.	75
No.180. Ellis Loydd, aged 7, collier.	75
No.181. Morgan Kenneth, aged 8, collier.	75
No.182. Edward William, aged 11, collier.	75
No.183. William Davis, aged 12, collier.	75
No.184. Joseph Neath and John Neath, brothers, twin, aged 11 years.	75
No.185. Eleazar Phillips, aged 17, collier.	76
No.186. Michael Macarthy, aged 16, haulier.	76
No.187. Daniel Edwards, aged 16, haulier.	76

No.188. William Richards, aged 9, collier.	76
No.189. Edward Rowland, aged 16, collier.	76
No.190. Edmund Williams, Esq., magistrate of Maes-y-Ryddo in the parish of Bedwellty, county of Monmouth.	76
No.191. Evan Edwards, Esq., M.D., Caerphilly.	76
COLLIERIES IN MONMOUTHSHIRE.	77
THE BUTTERY HATCH, the BRYN and GELLOGROES COLLIERIES, parish of Mynyoddusllwyn, county of Monmouth. Thomas Powell, Esq., proprietor.	77
No.192. Mr. John Jeremiah, steward of the Buttery Hatch Colliery.	77
No.193. William Richards, aged 71/2, air-door boy.	77
No.194. The Rev. Edward C. Jenkins, Independent Minister, parish of Bedwellty, Monmouthshire.	77
No.195. Jeremiah Jeremiah, aged 10, collier.	78
No.196. William Davis, aged 14, collier.	78
No.197. William Freeman, aged 11, collier.	78
No.198. William Skidmore, aged 8, collier.	78
No.199. Joseph Richards, aged 7, collier.	78
No.200. Josiah Jenkins, aged 7, door-boy.	78
No.210. William Smith, aged 10, collier.	78
CARNGETHIN COLLIERY, parish of Gelligaer, county of Glamorgan. Messrs. Rosser Thomas and Co., occupier.	79
No.203. Mr. William Lewis, clerk.	79
No.204. David Williams, agent.	79
No.205. Richard James, aged 14, collier.	79
No.206. Howell Lyshon, collier.	79
WATERLOO COLLIERY, parish of Mynyoddusllwyn, Monmouthshire. Messrs. Cartwrights, occupiers.	79
No.207. Mr. Samuel Jones, cashier and clerk.	80
No.208. Phillip Lloyd, 58 years old, collier.	80
No.209. David Jones, aged 17, haulier.	80
No.210. David Williams, aged 10, collier.	80
No.211. Lewis Williams, aged 18, collier.	80
No.212. Edward Thomas aged 10, collier.	81
No.213. William Matthews, aged 11, collier.	81
No.214. William Davis, aged 12, haulier.	81
GWRHAY and PEN-Y-VAN, parish of Mynyoddusllwyn, county of Monmouth. Aaron Crossfield, Esq., part proprietor.	81
No.215 Aaron Crossfield, Esq.	81
No.216. Mr. James Harper, book-keeper to Mr. Roger Lewis, general storekeeper and contractor for working the Gwrhay Colliery.	81
No.217. Mrs. Mary Lewis.	81
No.218. Shadrach Williams, aged 11, collier.	82
No.219. Moses Williams aged 7, air-door boy.	82
No.220. Rosser Jenkins, aged 8, collier.	82
No.221. Richard Hutton, aged 7, collier.	82
No.222. John Evans, aged 8, collier.	82
No.223. Daniel Jones, aged 16, collier.	82
No.224. Charles Pascal, aged 14, collier.	82
No.225. John Rosser, aged 14. haulier.	82
No.226. Joseph Head, age, 14 haulier.	82
COURT-Y-BELLA and MAMMOO COLLIERIES, parish of Mynyoddusllwyn, Monmouthshire. Sir Thomas Phillips and Co., occupiers.	82
No.227. Mr. Hananiel Morgan, agent to Sir Thomas Phillips and Co.	83
No.228. Henry George, 7 years old, collier.	83
No.229. Thomas Jenkins, 10 years old, collier.	83
No.230. Joseph Roberts, 13 years, collier.	83
No.231. George Roberts, 11 years old, collier.	83
No.232. Thomas Jones, 16 years old, haulier.	83
No.233. John Jones, 18 years old, collier.	83
No.234. James Harper, 20 years old, collier.	84
No.235. John Hughes, 17 years old, collier.	84
No.236. The Rev. William Morgan, curate of Bedwellty parish.	84
No.237. The Rev. John Evans, parish of Mynyoddusllwyn.	84
No.238. Rev. Augustus Morgan, rector of the parish.	84
No.239. Sir Thomas Phillips, Knight, Newport, Monmouthshire.	84
No.240. Thomas Felton, Esq., surgeon, Blackwood.	85

THE ROCK COLLIERY, parish of Bedwellty in the county of Monmouth.....	86
The Rock Colliery Company, proprietors.....	86
No.241. Mr. John Jones, agent.	86
No.242. David Davies, aged 10, collier.	86
No.243. Samuel Tyley, aged 15, collier.	86
No.244. Sampson Hancock, aged 12, collier.	86
No.245. Solomon Hancock, aged 10 years, collier.	86
No.246. Edward Llewellyn, aged 13, oiling boy.	87
No.247. George Tyler, aged 11, collier.	87
No.248. David Tyler, aged 11, collier.	87
No.249. David Edwards, schoolmaster.	87
No.250. Mr. Evan Jones, Vestry Clerk of Bedwellty Parish.....	87
PANLLWYN and GELLYDAGE COLLIERIES, parish of Mynyodduslwyn, county of	
Monmouth, Joseph Beaumont, of Llanarth, Esq., proprietor.	88
No.251 Mr. Morgan Thomas, manager.	88
No.252. Mr. Edward Rees, underground oversman.	88
No.253. William Crew, aged 10, air-door boy.	88
No.254. Job Tobay, aged 8, air-door boy.	88
No.255. Charles Copley, aged 11, collier.....	89
No.256. Jonathan Elmsley, aged about 13, collier.	89
No.257. John Treasure, aged 18, collier.	89
No.258. Mrs. Sarah Tobay, village of Pontllynfright.	89
No.259. Joseph Thomas, blacksmith in the same village.	89
WOODFIELD COLLIERY, parish of Mynyodduslwyn, county of Monmouth,	
Thomas Prothero, Esq., of Malpas Court, proprietor.	89
No.260. Mr. Williams James, agent.	89
CWMDOUS COLLIERY, parish of Mynyodduslwyn, county of Monmouth,	
Messrs. Morrison and Powel, proprietors.	90
No.261. Mr. Evan Jenkins, agent.	90
No.262. Morgan Morgan, aged 6, collier.	90
No.263. Joseph Absalom, aged 6, collier.	90
No.264. Thomas Lewis, aged 7, collier.	90
No.265. Jacob Jones, aged 9, collier.	90
No.266. Samuel Rees, aged 11, air-door boy.	90
No.267. John Morgan, aged 15, haulier.	90
No.268. Lewis Rees, aged 17, haulier.	90
TYNYGELLY, TRAENANT, PENYCOEDCAE and KENDON COLLIERIES,	
parishes of Mynyodduslwyn and Llaniddel, Martin Morrison, Esq., occupier.	90
No.269. Mr. William Evans, surveyor, clerk and storekeeper to Martin Morrison, Esq.	90
No.270. John Evans, schoolmaster.	91
No.271. John Jones, aged 8, collier.	91
No.272. Thomas Adliff, about 9, collier.	91
No.273. Thomas Mure, aged 8, air-door boy.	91
No.274. William Harris aged 15, haulier.	91
No.275. William Hughes, aged 18, haulier.	91
No.276. Thomas Morgan, aged 16, collier.	91
No.277. Joseph Morgan, aged 7, air-door boy.	91
No.278. Edward Lewis, blacksmith to the Traenent Colliery, village of	
Cwn-y-Traenent.	91
THE ARGOED and CWMCTACH COLLIERIES, parish of Bedwellty,	
county of Monmouth. Tredegar Colliery Company, proprietors.	92
No.278. Edward Lewis, blacksmith to the Traenent Colliery, village of	
Cwn-y-Traenent.	92
No.280. Thomas Pierce, aged 8. air-door boy.	92
No.218. Frederick Chilcot, aged 8 or 9, collier.	92
No.282. Daniel Waters, air-door boy.	92
No.283. Robert Lyshon, aged 15, haulier.	92
No.284. Llewellyn Pierce, aged 14, haulier.	93
No.285. John Morgan, collier.	93
GLANDDU LEVEL, TIR-ADAM LEVEL, UNION LEVEL, PENCOED LEVEL,	
and that ROSE PIT COLLIERIES, parishes of Gelligaer, county of Glamorgan and	
Bedwellty, county of Monmouth. Messrs. Lewis and Rosser Thomas, proprietors.	93
No.286. Lewis Thomas Esq., proprietor.	93
No.287. Griffith George, aged 14, haulier.	93
RISCA COLLIERY, parish of Machin, county of Monmouth.....	94
No.288. George Randall Hookey, Esq., part proprietor.	94
No.289. Mr. Samuel Hill, agent.	94

No.290. Mr. Samuel Hill, agent.	94
No.291. Henry Beecham, aged 16, carter.	94
No.292. Moses Moon, aged 11, carter.	95
No.293. William Bentley, aged 13, carter.	95
No.294. Thomas Dark, aged 8, air door boy.	95
No.295. Thomas Jones, aged 7, air door boy.	95
No.296. George Johnson, aged 15, carter.	95
No.297. Edward Robatham, Esq., surgeon, Risca.	95
OLD ROCK COLLIERY, parish of Bedwellty in the county of Monmouth.	96
No.298. Mr. William Davis, contractor.	96
No.299. Mr. Henry George, innkeeper of Blackwood, parish of Bedwellty.	96
No.300. Mr. Daniel Lewis, shopkeeper, Blackwood.	96
BRYN COLLIERY, parish of Bedwellty, Monmouthshire.	96
No.301. Mr. Rees Price, agent.	97
No.302. Daniel Griffith, aged eight years, air door boy.	97
No.303. John Innes, aged seven years, air-door boy.	97
No.304. William Hains, aged nine years, collier.	97
No.305. William Lewis, aged 14 years, haulier.	97
No.306. Enoch Williams, aged 13, haulier.	97
No.307. John Price, aged 11, haulier.	97
HIRWAIN COLLIERY and IRON WORKS, county of Brecon.	97
No.308. Rev. William Williams, minister of the Independent Church, Hirwain.	97
No.309. Mr. John Dixon, schoolmaster.	98
No.310. Evan James, aged 16.	98
No.311. Morgan Thomas, aged 15, haulier.	98
No.312. Giles Giles, aged 15, engine boy.	99
No.313. Elizabeth Williams, aged 9.	99
No.314. Eliza Lewis, aged 16, tipper.	99
No.315. Mary Rees, aged 15, tipper.	99
No.316. Margaret Lewis, aged 15, tram oiler.	99
No.317. Mary Jacobs, aged 14, trammer.	99
No.318. John Thomas aged 7, air door boy.	99
No.319. Elizabeth Richards, aged 13, trammer.	99
No.320. Morgan Davies, aged 9, haulier.	99
No.321. Mary Ann Jones, aged 18, pumper.	99
No.322. Charles Forrest, Esq., surgeon, Hirwain Iron Works.	100
BAGLAN or BRITONFERRY COLLIERY, parish of Baglan, county of Glamorgan.	100
Joseph Price and Co., proprietor.	100
No.323. Richard Morgan, collier.	100
YSKYN COLLIERY, parish of Britonferry, county of Glamorgan.	101
No.324. Mr. Benjamin Daniel, agent.	101
No.325. David Davies, aged 9, collier.	101
No.326. Joseph Dear, aged 8, trammer.	101
No.327. Edward Edwards, aged 9, coal carter.	101
No.328. Philip Jenkins, aged 13, coal carter.	101
GNOLL and EAGLESBUSH COLLIERIES, parishes of Llantwit juxta Neath and Neath, county of Glamorgan. Messrs. Penrose and Evans, proprietors.	102
No.329. George Penrose, Esq., proprietor.	102
No.330. Jeffrey Jeffries, pitman or mining overman.	102
No.331. Jeffrey Thomas, aged 16, trammer.	102
No.332. Edward Edwards, aged 15, trammer.	102
No.333. David Davies, aged 12, collier.	103
No.334. R.P. Leyshon, surgeon, Neath.	103
CWMBUCHAN COPPER, SMELTING, TIN PLATE and IRON WORKS, parish of Michaelston, county of Glamorgan. Messrs. Gilbertson and Co., proprietors.	103
No.335. Mr. John Hoare, cashier.	103
No.336. David Phillips, aged 14, lusterer.	104
No.337. Owen Jones, aged 12, grease boy.	104
No.338. David Russell, aged 15, cold roller.	104
No.339. Morgan Thomas, aged 15, grease boy.	104
No.340. Margaret Nicholas, aged 13, duster.	104
No.341. Ellen Stock, aged 16, rubber.	104
No.342. Thirsa Balsh, aged 18, plate opener.	104
No.343. Mary Llewellyn, aged 18, rubber.	104
No.344. Owen Evans, aged 15, slag stone thrower.	104
No.345. Henry Abraham, aged 14, slag stone thrower.	105
No.346. David Evans, aged 12, slag filler.	105

No.347. David Jones, aged 12, ash wheeler.	105
MARGAM COPPER WORKS, TAIBACH, parish of Margam, county of Glamorgan.	
Messrs. Vivian and Sons, proprietors.	105
No.348. Robert Lindsay, Esq., manager.	105
THE CWM BROM BILL COLLIERY, parish of Margam, county of Glamorgan.	
Messrs. Vivian and Sons, proprietors.	105
No.349. The Rev. David Rees, Aberavon.	106
No.350. H.L. Pritchard, Esq., surgeon, Margam Taibach.	106
No.351. Mr. John Thomas, cashier.	106
No.352. James Phillips, aged 14, sheet dryer.	107
No.353. Evan Rees, aged 15, washer.	107
No.354. Thomas Thomas, aged 14, works the shears.	107
No.355. Thomas Davis, aged 15, returner.	107
No.356. George Williams, aged 12, ash pit cleaner.	107
No.357. Cecilia Rees, aged 15 years, coal wheeler.	107
No.358. Rees Rees, aged 13, ash pit boy.	108
No.359. David Hopkins, aged 10, cobber.	108
No.360. John Williams, aged 8, cobber.	108
No.362. Thomas Alcock, aged 10, trammer.	108
LANSAMLET COLLIERY, parish of Lansamlet, county of Glamorgan,	108
No.362. Mr. David Hill, cashier and clerk.	108
No.386. David Davies, aged 16, wheeler.	109
No.364. Benjamin Dunn, air door boy.	109
No.365. David Howard, aged 17, driver.	109
No.366. William Rosser, aged 16, driver.	109
No.367. David Watkins, aged 6, air door boy.	109
WHITEROCK COPPER SMELTING WORKS, parish of Swansea, county of Glamorgan.	
Messrs. Freeman and Co., proprietors.	109
No.368. Mr. Edward Brown, clerk and cashier.	109
No.369. William Morrison, aged 14, calciner boy.	110
No.370. William Williams, aged 13, labourer.	110
No.371. John Jenkins, aged 11, deal boy.	110
No.372. William Rees, aged about 16, calciner.	110
No.373. Thomas Thomas, aged 11, mason's boy.	111
No.374. John Barnett, aged 11, mason's boy.	111
THE PATENT METAL COMPANY, parish of Swansea, county of Glamorgan.	
Messrs. Muntz and Co., proprietors.	111
No.375.	111
SKEWAN COLLIERY, parish of Cadoxton, county of Glamorgan.	111
No.376. Daniel Andrews, manager.	111
No.377. Samuel Boddicombe, aged 14, picker.	112
No.378. Jenkin Williams, aged 13.	112
No.380. Evan Maddocks, aged 17, trammer.	112
CROWN COPPER COMPANY COPPER SMELTING and ZINC WORKS,	
parish of Cadoxton juxta Neath, county of Glamorgan.	112
No.381. Mr. W. Tregoning, accountant.	112
NEATH ABBEY IRON COMPANY, parish of Cadoxton, county of Glamorgan.	
Messrs. Foxes, Price and Co., proprietors.	112
No.382. Mr. Charles Waring, agent.	113
No.383. Phillip Jones, aged 14, fetter tender.	113
No.384. William Rees, aged 12, moulder's attendant.	113
No.385. John Jenkins, aged 13, general attendant.	113
No.386 Thomas Morgan, aged 13, attendant at the furnace.	113
No.387. John Howell, aged 15.	113
No.388. Thomas Davis, aged 12, attendant at the furnaces.	113
No.389. William Davis, aged 11.	113
MINES ROYAL COPPER SMELTING WORKS, Mines Royal Company.	114
No.390. Mr. James Leyshon, accountant.	114
THE NEATH ABBEY COAL COMPANY.	114
THE PWLLFARRON COLLIERY, in the parish of Cadoxton, in the county of	
Glamorgan. Messrs. Price and Co., proprietors.	114
No.392. Mr Charles Waring, agent.	114
Brynddwey Colliery	115
No.393. David Davies, aged 9 years, air door boy.	115
No.394. Rees Hughes, aged 14, haulier.	115
No.395. Lewis Morgan, aged 14, haulier.	115
No.396. Edward Davis aged 14, haulier.	115

No.397. Mr. William Close, master of the Neath Abbey School.	115
No.398. The Rev. John Lloyd, curate for the parish of Neath.	115
No.399. The Rev. Henry Hey Knight, B.D., rector of the parish of Neath.	115
No.400. Mr. Edward Cooke, master of the Merra School, Neath.	116
ABERDULAS IRON and TIN PLATE WORKS and COLLIERY, parish of Cadoxton juxta Neath, county of Glamorgan.	116
No.401. Mr. William Hullan, agent.	116
No.402. Richard Morgan, 9 years old, plate opener.	117
No.402. Richard Davis, 10 years old, plate layer.	117
No.404. Evan Richards, 14 years old, scaling boy.	117
No.405. William Jones, 15 years, pickle and scale boy.	117
No.407. Hannah Williams, 14 years old, rubber.	117
No.408. Lucy Lewis aged 16 years, rubber.	117
No.409. John Parry, 9 years old, bronzing plates.	117
No.410. David Williams, 8 years old, plate carrier.	117
MAESYMAICHOG COLLIERY, parish of Cadoxton juxta Neath, county of Glamorgan. Messrs, Penrose and Starbuck, proprietors.	118
No.411. Mr. Richard Penrose, proprietor.	118
ABERPERGWM COLLIERY parish of Cadoxton juxta Neath, county of Glamorgan. William Williams, Esq., proprietor.	118
No.412.	118
No.413. Nathaniel Jones, Esq., surgeon, Neath.	118
YNISPENLLWYCH WORKS, parish of Llanyavelwch, county of Glamorgan. William Llewellyn and Sons, proprietors.	119
No.414. Llewellyn Llewellyn, jun., Esq., proprietor.	119
No.415. Rev. D. Hanmer Griffith, Cadoxton juxta Neath.	119
No.416. Rev. Dr. Rees, Llanelly.	119
MELINCRYTHEN CHEMICAL WORKS, parish of Neath, county of Glamorgan. Messrs. Tunstall and Co., proprietors.	120
No.417. Mr. Alfred Tunstall, resident managing partner.	120
CARMARTHEN TIN and IRON WORKS, parish of St. Peter's borough of Carmarthen. Henry R. Downman, Esq., proprietor.	120
No.418. Henry R. Downman, Esq.	120

COLLIERIES IN PEMBROKESHIRE. 121

NOLTEN COLLIERY, parish of Roch, county of Pembroke.	121
No.419. Mr. W. Whittow, agent.	121
BROAD-MOOR COLLIERY, parish of Begelly, county of Pembroke.	121
No.420. Lewis Wilson, Esq., proprietor.	121
No.421. Mr. David Morgan, manager of the Board-Moor Colliery.	122
No.422. Hannah Bowen, 16 years old, windlass woman.	122
No.423. Benjamin Thomas, about eight years old, haulier of skips.	122
No.424. Thomas Howard, aged 16, skip haulier.	122
No.425. Zacharias Harris, 13 years old, skip haulier.	123
No.426. William Thomas, 11 years old, skip haulier.	123
No.427. Elizabeth Lawrence, 15 years old, wheeler.	123
No.428. James Bowen, Esq., surgeon, Narbeth, county of Pembroke.	123
No.429. Rev. Richard Buckley, rector of Begelly parish, county of Pembroke.	123
LANDSHIPPING COLLIERIES. parish of Mettlehog, county of Pembroke.	124
No.430. Hugh Owen, Esq., trustee to Sir John Owen's estate.	124
BEGELLY COLLIERY, parish of Begelly, county of Pembroke.	124
No.431. Mr. Robert Brough, manager of the Begelly Colliery.	124
KILGETTY COLLIERY, parishes of St. Issells and Amroth, county of Pembroke, Kilgetty Coal Company, proprietors.	125
No.432. Mr Samuel Singleton, underground steward.	125
No.433. Mr. Richard Hare, agent to the Kilgetty Colliery.	125
No.434. Ann Thomas, aged 17, pouncer.	126
No.435. William Absolam, 13 years old, skip haulier.	126
No.436. Ann David, aged 13, haulier of skips.	126
No.437. Sarah Jones, aged 16, hauler of skips.	126
No.438. William Lochlas, 12 years old, hauler of skips.	126
No.439. William Morgan, 14 years old, hauler of skips.	127
No.440. Ann Thomas, 16 years old, windlass woman.	127
No.441. Thomas George Noote, Esq., surgeon, Bezelly, Pembrokeshire.	127
No.442. Lionel Brough, Esq., engineer and viewer, Neath.	127

THOMAS CHAPEL COLLIERY. St. Issell's parish, county of Pembroke.	128
No.433. Mr. Thomas Stokes, Esq., proprietor.	128
No.444. James Davies, 8 years old, trammer.	129
No.445. David Thomas, 7 years old, trammer.	129
No.446. William Prout. 12 years old, skip haulier.	129
No.447. Stephen Gwyther, 11 years old, windlass hitcher.	129
No.448. George Lewis 16 years old, tram filler and trammer.	129
No.449. Thomas Phillips, 15 years old, skip haulier.	129
No.450. Isaac Day, 16 years old, tram hitcher.	129
No.451. Eliza Prout, 15 years old, trammer.	130
No.452. Hester Callan, 18 years old, windlass woman.	130
No.453. Mary Day, 11 years old, trammer.	130
No.454. Sarah Davies, 15 years old, trammer.	130

CHILDREN'S EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION.

REPORT by ROBERT HUGH FRANKS, ESQ., on the Employment of Children and Young Persons in the Collieries, Iron-Works, &c, South Wales and on the State, Condition and Treatment of such Children and Young Persons.

TO HER MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONERS.

GENTLEMEN,

In obedience to your request, I beg to submit the following observations as the result of my inquire into o the condition and employment of children and young persons engaged in mines and manufactures in those parts of the counties of Monmouth in England and of Glamorgan and Pembroke in South Wales, to which I was specially directed and in order that I may resent to you is as concise a form as possible the information I have collected on these subjects which principally received my careful investigation, I have judged it more convenient to follow the order adopted in your instructions.

The following tables set forth the number of male and female adults, children and young persons employed in mines and manufacture which I have personally visited in South Wales and in the county of Monmouth in England:-

Collieries in Glamorganshire personally visited by R.H. Franks, Esq.

Parish	Colliery	Occupier	Persons Employed					
			Adults	Males Under 18 yrs.	Under 13yrs.	Adults	Females Under 18 yrs.	Under 13yrs.
Merthyr	Plymouth	Messrs. Hills	350	130	90	40	40	25
Merthyr	Cyfartha Coal and ironstone mines	Wm. Crawshay Esq.						
Merthyr	Wain Wylt	Mrs. Thomas and Son	28	13		4	3	2
Llanwitfadre	Maes Mawr	Geo. Insole, Esq.	130	15	12			
Llantrissant	Coed-y-Beddw	Messrs. Blakemore	150	35	15			
Ysadvdog	Dinas and Loen Colly.	Walter Coffin Esq.	301	32	81			
Eglwaiin	Craig-y-Rault	Mr. Morgan Thomas	35	10	1			
Llanwert	Cwmrhonhha	D.W Davis and Co.	35	7	5			
Llanwert	Irw	Wm. Crawsay Esq	25	5				
Llanwitfadre	Forest Vach	Mr. John Edwards	22	4				
Gellygaer	Gellygaer	Messrs. Powell and Co.	127	13	10			
Gellygaer	Top Hdill	Robert Beaumont Esq.	50	11	6			
Gellygaer	Glandu Level	Messrs. L. & R Thomas						
Bedwellty	Rose Pit Colliery	Messrs. L. & R Thomas						
Gellygaer	Llancyach	Messrs. Duncan and Co	40	10	6			
Gellygaer	Hengoed	Mr. Aaron Bain Esq.	30	15	7			
Gellygaer	Gelvach	J..F. Hanson Esq.	50	7	12			
Gellygaer	Gellygraes	Thomas Powell Esq.	50	16	12			
Gellygaer	Carnghthin	Messrs. R. Thomas and Co.	114	13	12			
Baglan	Baglan	Messrs. Price and Co	18					
Britonferry	Yskym	Messrs. Motley and Co.	23	11	5			
Llanwit	Eaglesbush	Messrs. Penrose and Co.	34	9	5			
Llanwit	Knoll	Messrs. Penrose and Co.	16	9	6			
Michaelton	Cwnbuchan	Messrs. Gilbertson and Co.						
Margam	Tai-bach	Messrs. Vivian and Co.	60	22	11			
Llansambet	Llansambet	C.H. Smith Esq.	290	89	42			
Cadoxton	Ekewan	J Parson Esq.						
Cadaxton	Dylais	William Llewellyn Esq.	18	2				

Collieries in Glamorgan cont.

Parish	Colliery	Occupier	Persons Employed					
			Adults	Males		Adults	Females	
				Under 18 yrs.	Under 13yrs.		Under 18 yrs.	Under 13yrs.
Cadoxton	Maesmaichog	Penrose and Starbach	70	14	1			
Cadoxton	Aberpergwm	William Williams Esq.	70	14	1			
Cadoxton	Pwlfarron	Messrs. Price and Co.	46	12	3	1		
Cadoxton	Clydach	Lyon Esq of London						
Blaengwrch	Venalt Collier	Jevons, Arthur and Co.						
Cadoxton	Aberwod	Penrose and Starbach						
Cadoxton	Ynisarwad	Penrose and Starbach						
Lanhirt	Foroh Twm	Strange and Parsons						
Cadoxton	Ybisputlog	Penrose and Evans						
Cadowton	Main-Bryncoch							
	Bryndwy	Neath Abbey Co.	96	27	15			
			2278	545	358	45	43	27

Glamorgan Copper, Iron and Tin Works personally visited by R.H. Franks, Esq.

Parish	Colliery	Occupier	Persons Employed					
			Adults	Males		Adults	Females	
				Under 18 yrs.	Under 13yrs.		Under 18 yrs.	Under 13yrs.
Merthyr	Cyfarthfa & Ennis							
	Vach Iron Works	Wm. Crawshay Esq.						
Merthyr	Plymouth Iron Works	R and A Hill Esq.	1000	200	100	100	100	50
Eglwsilan	Taff Vale Iron Works	Messrs Thompson and Co	56	2	6	2	2	
Eglwsilan	Ybysaharad Chain							
	Cable Works	Messrs. Brown Lennox	140	40	20			
Eglwsilan	Treforest Tin Works	Wm. Crawshay Esq.	150	30	25		20	5
Llandaff	Melengriffiths							
	Tin Works	Messrs. Blakemore and Co.	65	24	18	20	12	2
Pentyrch	Pentyrch Iron Works	Messrs. Blakemore and Co.						
Aberdare	Hirwain Iron Works	Wm. Crawshay Esq.						
Blaengwrach	Venalt Iron Works	Jevons, Arhur and Co						
Cadoxton	Aberdulais Tin Works	Wm. Llewellyn Esq	75	30	16	2	14	1
Llangavelwch	Ynispenllwch Tin Works	Llewellyn and Sons	92	24	12	12	10	2
Neath	Melincrythen							
	Chemical Works	Messrs. Tunstall and Co.	40	8	1			
Cadoxton	Neath Abbey							
	Iron Works	Messrs. Price and Co.	175	47	11			
Cadoxton	Crown Copper Works	Messrs. Williams and Co.	129	14				
Cadoxton	Mines Royal							
	Copper Works	Joint Stock Co.	90	3				
Swansea	White Rock							
	Copper Works	Messrs. Freeman and Co.	341	35	21			
Swansea	Patent Metal Co.	Messrs. Huntz and Co.	80	15	10			
St. Peter's								
Carmarthen	Carmarthen Tin Works	H.R. Downman Esq.	64	9	15	12		
			2497	481	225	148	158	60

Collieries in Monmouthshire, personally visted by R.H. Franks, Esq.

Parish	Colliery	Occupier	Adults	Persons Employed			Adults	Under 18 yrs.	Under 13yrs.
				Males	Females				
				Under 18 yrs.	Under 13yrs.				
Machen	Risca Colliery	Messrs. Russell and Co	250	50	15				
Bedwellty	Place Level	Aaron Baines	30	15	8				
Mynyodduslwyn	Buttry Hatch	Thomas Powell Esq.	80	56	22				
Mynyodduslwyn	Bryn and Gellygraes	Thomas Powell Esq.	30	58	7				
Mynyodduslwyn	Waterloo	Messrs. Cartwright	57	26	7				
Mynyodduslwyn	Gwrhay	A. Crossfield eesq.	59	14	13				
Mynyodduslwyn	Pen-y-Van	A. Crossfield Esq.							
Mynyodduslwyn	Court-y-Bella	Sir Thomas Phillips	90	30	10				
Mynyodduslwyn	MamHole	Sir Thomas Phillips							
Bedwellty	Rock Colliery	Rock Colliery Co.	88	35	9				
Mynyodduslwyn	Panllwyn	Joseph Beaumont Esq.	79	19	16				
Mynyodduslwyn	Gellydage	Joseph Beaumont Esq.							
Mynyodduslwyn	Woodfield	Thomas Protheroe Esq.	59	4	1				
Mynyodduslwyn	Cromdous	Messrs. Morrison and Co.	60	12	15				
Llaniddel	Tynegetly	Mr. Morrisn Esq.	150	40	22				
Llaniddel	Traenant	Mr. Morrison Esq.							
Mynyodduslwyn	Penycoedcae	Martin Morrison Esq.							
Mynyodduslwyn	Kendon	Martin Morrison Esq.							
Bedwellty	Argoed and Cwmcrach	Tredeggar Colliery Co.	80	41	20				
Bedwellty Mouns	Tir Adam & Union & Pencoed	Messrs. L and R Thomas	198	50	39				
Bedwellty Mouns	Old Rock	Mr. Henry Oakley	12						
			1322	400	204				

Collieries in Pembrokeshire, personally visited by R.H. Franks, Esq.

Parish	Colliery	Occupier	Adults	Persons Employed			Adults	Under 18 yrs.	Under 13yrs.
				Males	Females				
				Under 18 yrs.	Under 13yrs.				
Amroth	Kilgety	Messrs. Heponstall and Co.	46	27	13	36	6	4	
Begelly	Begelly	Messrs. Pockock and Child	50	21	12	10	7		
Begelly	Broad Moor	Messrs. Wilson and Co.	38	11	6	44	3		
Begelly	Hen Castle	Messrs. Stokes and Co.	58	18	13	20	9	1	
Amroth	Thomas Chapel and Co.	Messrs. Morgan, Hughes							
Nettlebog	Lanshipping	Colonel Owen	95	23	13	18	12	1	
Amroth	Hook	Messrs. Harcourt and Co.							
Roch	Nolton and Co,	Messrs. Bowen, Whittow	24	14	3	4			
			311	114	61	132	37	6	

I - AGES AND NUMBERS.

By the preceding tables it will be seen that the number of the adults in the collieries and works I have visited exceeded 6480 under 18 years of age and above 13 read of age upwards of 1540 and the numbers of children under 13 is far beyond 875. An exact total of persons and children employed could not be obtained as several have not made their return and other have objected to do so.

Children under 13.

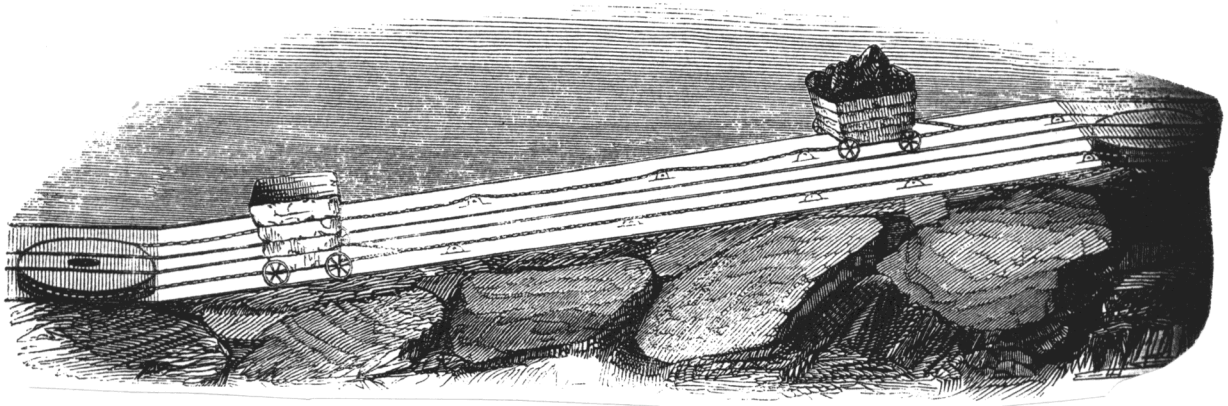
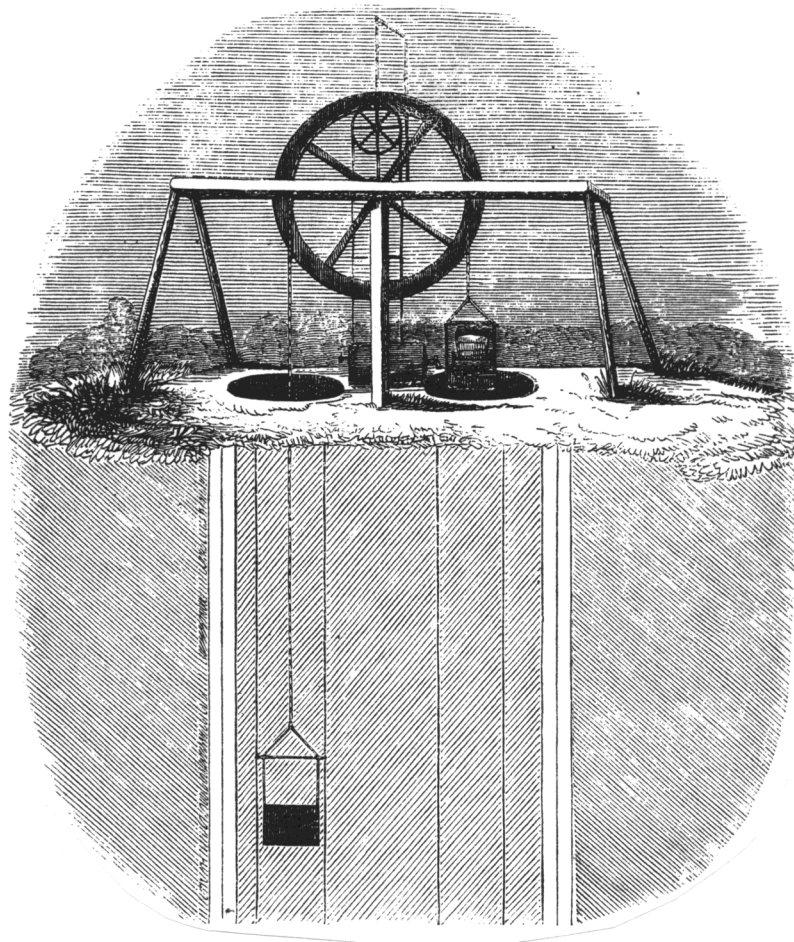
In the divisions in which the ages of these employed in the collieries and manufactures are relatively classed there is no provision for the entry of the particular ages of young children under the age of 13 years. I, however, considered it my duty to make special inquiries into this branch of the subject and although I am not enabled to prepare any table which will meet the question minutely, you will find in the evidence a sufficient number of instances to enable you to appreciate the very early age at which it is the practice to take children down to work in the mines and that it can scarcely be said to be an uncommon occurrence for a child to work at the early age of five years and a half. This is the youngest age at which I myself have found any employed but Mr. Thomas Josephs, mineral agent for the Plymouth Works, Merthyr Tydvil, in his evidence, (No.30) states, "children are employed as air-door keepers at 5 years of age, as horse-drivers at 14, as colliers at 12 years of age."

Mr. Hananiel Morgan, agent to Sir Thomas Phillips (No.276) says on the subject, "young boys are taken down as soon as they can stand on their legs." and Mr. William Strange, medical assistant, Llanvabon (No.157), also states, "they [the people] certainly had a bad practice here of taking children down as soon as they can creep about, many as early as five or six years of age."

Mr. Samuel Jones, cashier of the Waterloo Colliery (No.157), says, "fathers carry their children below at four or five years of age." Mrs. Mary Lewis (No.217) says, "My youngest boy, Lewis, was taken down at five years and three months old and has been down ever since." In the returns of the Pentyrch Collieries I find one child, John Thomas, aged five years and seven months, for which he received 2s. a week and one Edward Millward, aged six years, who has been an assistant to his father, a collier, for two months. but in the returns of the iron works of the same company the youngest child employed appears to be seven years and a half old.

Mr. William Jenkins, under-agent to the Gelligaer Collieries, further states, "children are taken down as soon as they can crawl." Perhaps it is unnecessary to adduce further testimony in proof of a custom so general and so pernicious and I shall add only the evidence of Mr. John Hoare, the cashier of the extensive works at Cwmavon, "colliers take their children down to early and laborious employment and here infants open and shut the air-doors there is very little hope of amendment in the passing generation." Alfred Tunstall, Esq., resident and managing partner of the Melincrythen Chemical Works, remarks, "it is my decided opinion that the Legislature would confer a great blessing on the community at large by providing against such a system as I have witnessed of *exhorting labour* from children."

II - PLACES OF WORK.



I so fully described in my Report on the Collieries in the East of Scotland, the places of work in which the young person and children are employed in mines. that it is unnecessary to occupy your attention by any repetition of that subject. I may state, however, that the mines in South Wales are, for the most part, entered by level or adit, as it is called. The hilly character of the country and the mineral lying in many instances so near the surface, presenting facilities for this mode of working. In others, at the same time, the mines are entered by shafts and the coal is transported from the pit bottom either by common windlass, by steam or by balance wheel.

The latter, being dependent on a supply of water, is worked generally where an entrance to a vein is effected by level, so that an effectual drainage can be carried on. As the balance wheel is somewhat peculiar to this country a brief description here may be acceptable. The corves, or cages of coal, are worked up and down the shaft, water being laid on from the surface by main pipe depositing in the reservoir in the centre of the annexed sketch. This reservoir has two cocks, one on either side of the supply of either cage. Each cage has an iron box and false bottom for the water, in weight more than equal to the weight of the tram of coal. The descending cage, charged with water, by its weight brings to the surface the coal in the opposite cage and when it reaches the bottom of the pit is discharged of its water which drains down the level. Nothing can be more simple or more economical when the localities of the country are considered.

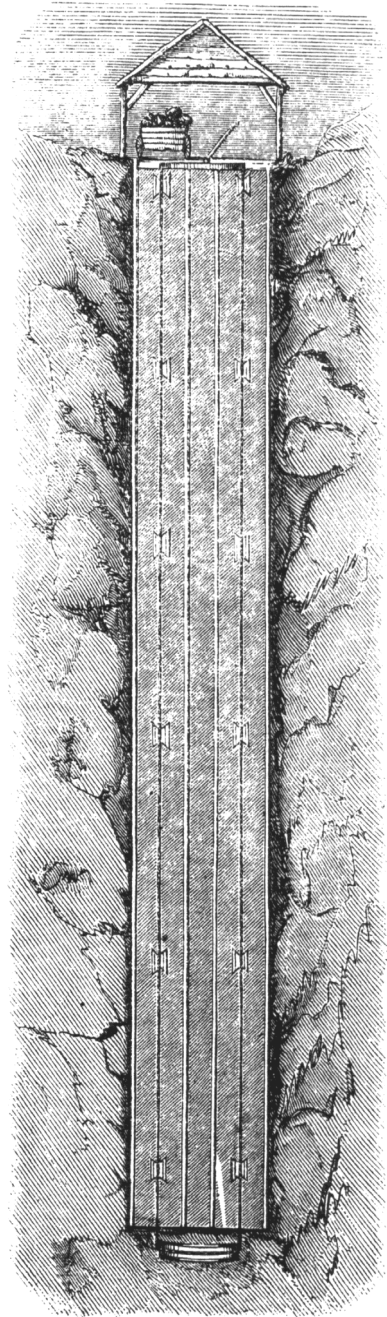
The coal thus brought to the surface is transported to the level road by inclines, which, acting upon a similar principle of balance by an endless chain, bringing up the empty trams for those loaded with coal, the power being gained by the weight of the descending train. Some of these inclines are of great length. Occasionally it is found more convenient to adopt two or three successive inclines. These are adopted as well below as ground and the annexed rough sketches will enable you to form a clearer notion of the great utility of this mode of transport in mining districts.

As the state of the pits differs in proportion to the care and attention which is bestowed upon the operations carries on, and the natural advantages, or disadvantages of the locality itself, so is the labour of the collier, haulier and air-boy more or less irksome. Where a want of attention is found combined with natural disadvantages the situation of all employed is distressing. In some few pits lads were, at the time of my visit, employed as pumpers, which, while the labour lasts, is indeed cold, fatiguing, painful and productive of rheumatic affects.

The iron works are generally open and roofed, merely for the purposes of protecting the working people from rain. The floor of the works is paved, presenting an even and constantly dry surface from the great heat thrown out from the furnaces and the hot metal in the process of manufacture. The heat thus thrown out by the metal is excessive and constructed as the works are to catch every breeze, the transitions of temperature are very great and sudden, occasioning sudden check to profuse perspiration, which manifests itself in chronic diseases of the respiratory organs and in febrile and inflammatory disease. Children and young persons are, of course, equally with adults subject to the same temperature and in winter this is particularly felt. It is good to be observed that the clothing of those employed in the iron works receives a good deal of attention and the men are very careful.

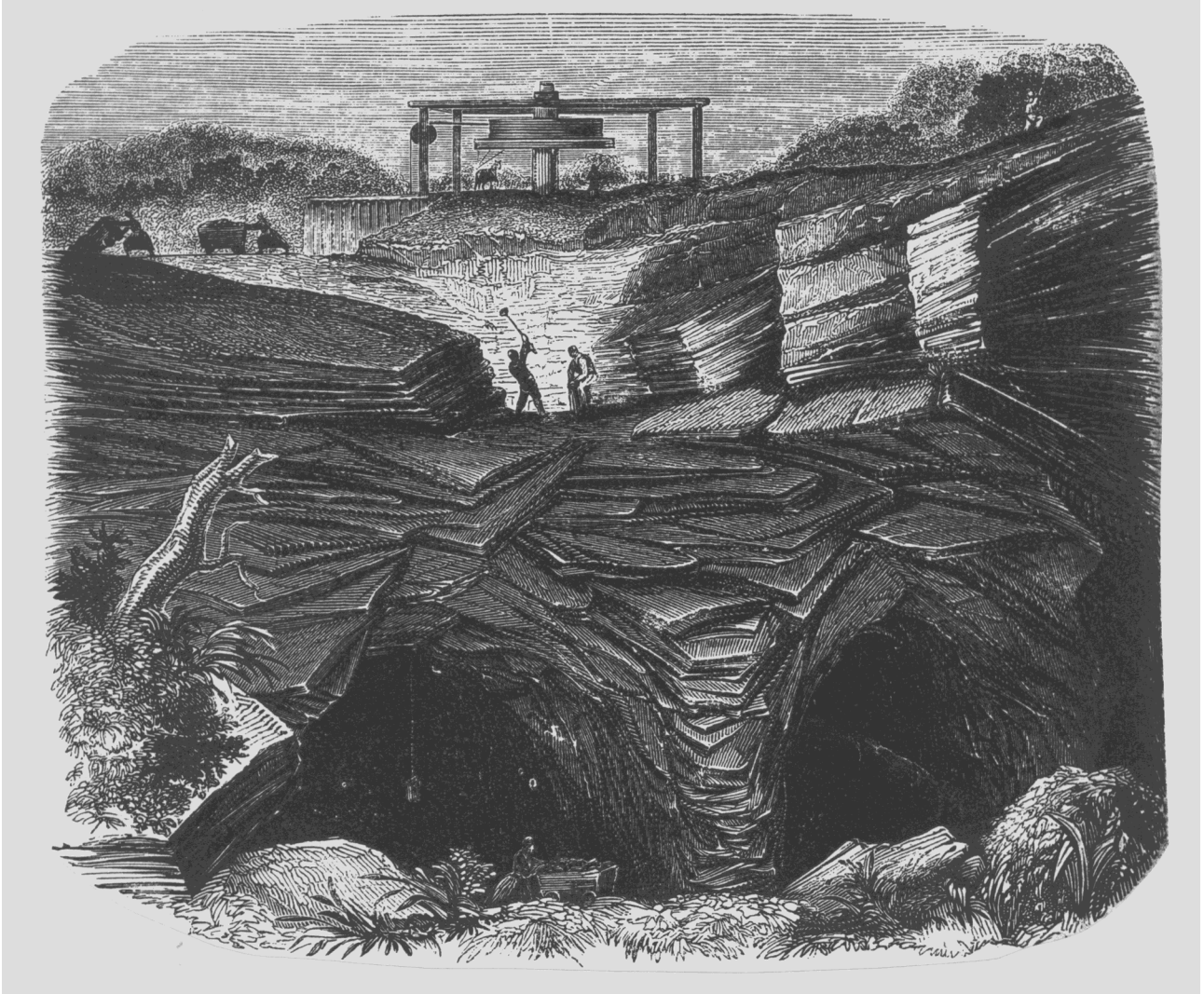
The buildings in which the manufacture of tin is carried in are usually extremely well ventilated. Though no so completely exposed as are the buildings used for the manufacture of iron, they are nevertheless well sheltered from the rain, and the temperature is much more even than in the iron works.

In the copper works the several chambers are confined and the temperature is high. The air is infected with the fluoric vapours of the boiling metal and, during the pouring off of a charge of manufactured copper, the heat to which the workmen are exposed is very oppressive. The works are dry and well ventilated.



In the manufacture of zinc the workmen are exposed to the intense heat in placing the pots in the furnace but as the men are only employed in this department of the manufacture, it is not necessary further to refer to this process.

In working the mines of iron ore in patches, that is to say, where the pre is found within a few feet from the surface, and the opening is made from the surface, girls are very frequently employed in wheeling and otherwise assisting the workmen, They are called patch-girls, or girls who work in the patches. They lead a sort of half savage life. Hardy and exposed to all kinds of weather, they work as hard as the men from whom they differ but little in dress and quite equal in grossness.



III - NATURE OF EMPLOYMENT.

Colliers.

The particular labour in which children and young persons are employed in the collieries is of three kinds, colliers, horse-drivers, or hauliers, as they are called, air-boys and, in some colliers, carters and skip-hauliers.

Hauliers.

The duty of the haulier is to drive the horse and tram, or carriage, from the wall-face, where the colliers are picking the coal, to the mouth of the level. He has to look after his horse, feed him in the day and take him home at night. His occupation requires great agility in the narrow and low roofed roads. Sometimes he is required to stop the tram suddenly, In an instant he is between the rail and the side of the level and in almost total darkness, slips a sprig between the spokes of his tram wheel and is back in his place with amazing dexterity, though it must be confessed, with all his activity, he frequently gets crushed. The haulier is generally from 14 to 17 years of age and his size is a matter of some importance according to the present height and width of the main roads.

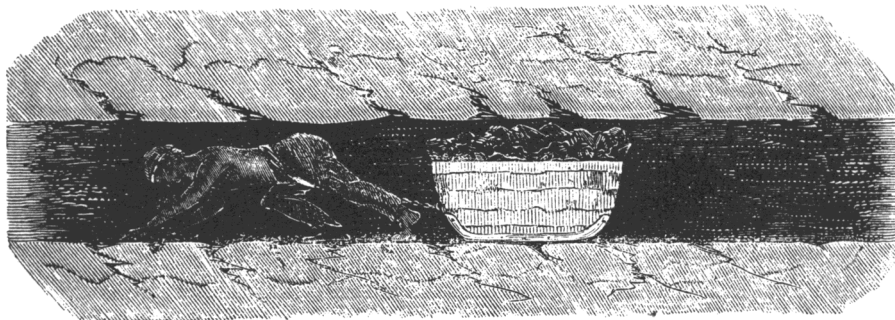
As a class these youths have an appearance of greater health than the rest of the collier population (probably from their being more in the fresh air than the others), with fair animal spirits and on horseback, going to or returning from work, galloping and scrambling over the field or road, bear the aspect of the most healthy and thoughtless of the collier boys.

Air-door boys.

The air-door boy is generally from five to eleven years of age. His post in the mine is at the side of the air-door and his business is to open it for the haulier, with his horse and tram to pass and then to close the door after them. In some pits the situation of these poor things is distressing. With his solitary candle, cramped with cold and wet and not half fed, the pit child, deprived of light and air, passes his silent day. His or her wages are 6d. to 8d. per day. Surely one would suppose nothing but hard poverty could induce a parent so to sacrifice the physical and moral existence of his child! Yet I have found such to be the case, arising as greatly from the cupidity as from the poverty of parents.

Carters.

Carters are employed in narrow veins of coal in parts of Monmouthshire. Their occupation is to drag the carts or skips of coal from the workings to the main roads. In this mode of labour the leather girdle passes round his body and the chain is between his legs, attached to the cart and the lad drags on all fours, as in the accompanying sketch. (See Evidence, No.290, &c.)



Pembrokeshire.

In the county of Pembrokeshire the field or bed of coal is what is called anthracite or stone-coal and in many parts the angle is so highly inclined as to demand a particular form of labour. Supposing a vein of coal to lie at an angle of 45 degrees, windlasses are fixed at convenient distances on the incline on the vein by which means (if the mine is worked by adit or level and *above* the adit) the coal, after being brought from the stalls to the stage of the windlass in carts or skips, is dropped by the chain of the windlass down the incline to the level road and the empty carts are worked up the stage on which the windlass is fixed by the opposite chain of the windlass. If, on the contrary, the coal is worked to the dip, the coal is in a similar manner worked *up* to a convenient stage by windlass and then taken by shaft to the surface.

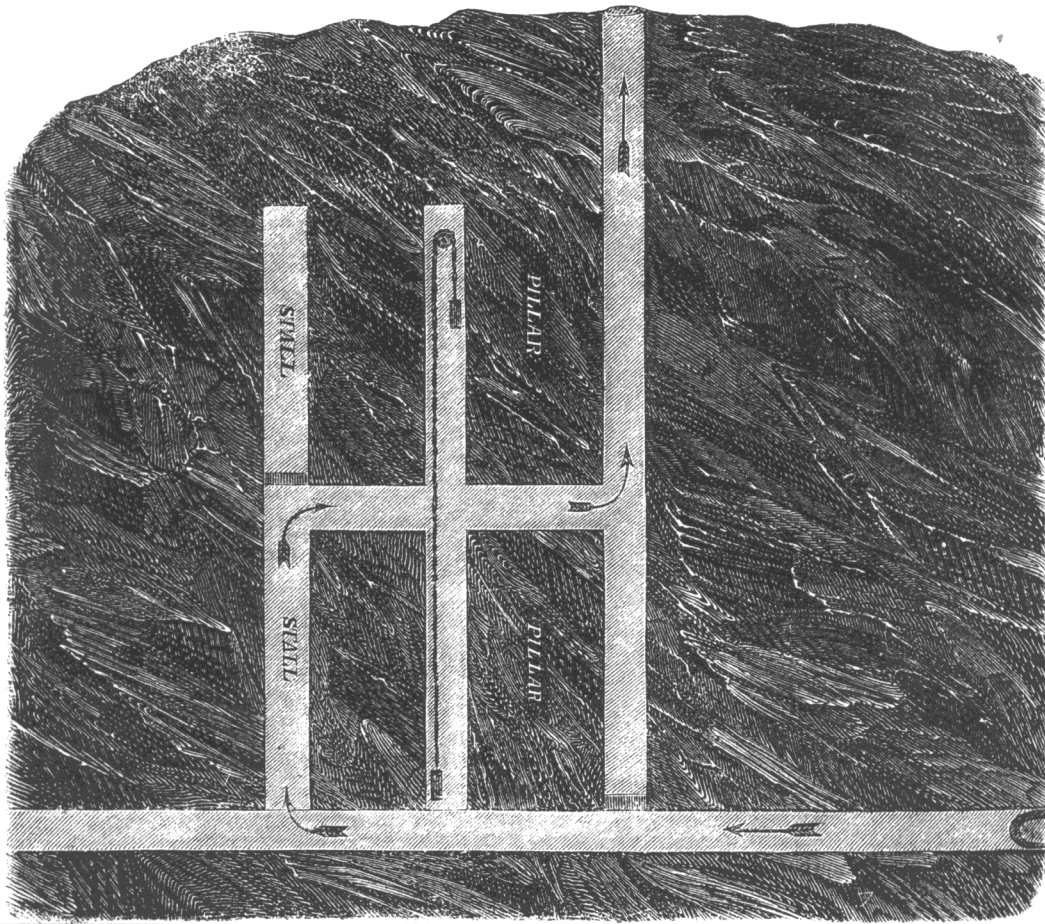
Windlass-women.

These windlasses are worked by women and their labour is certainly severe, though only of eight or ten hour's duration.

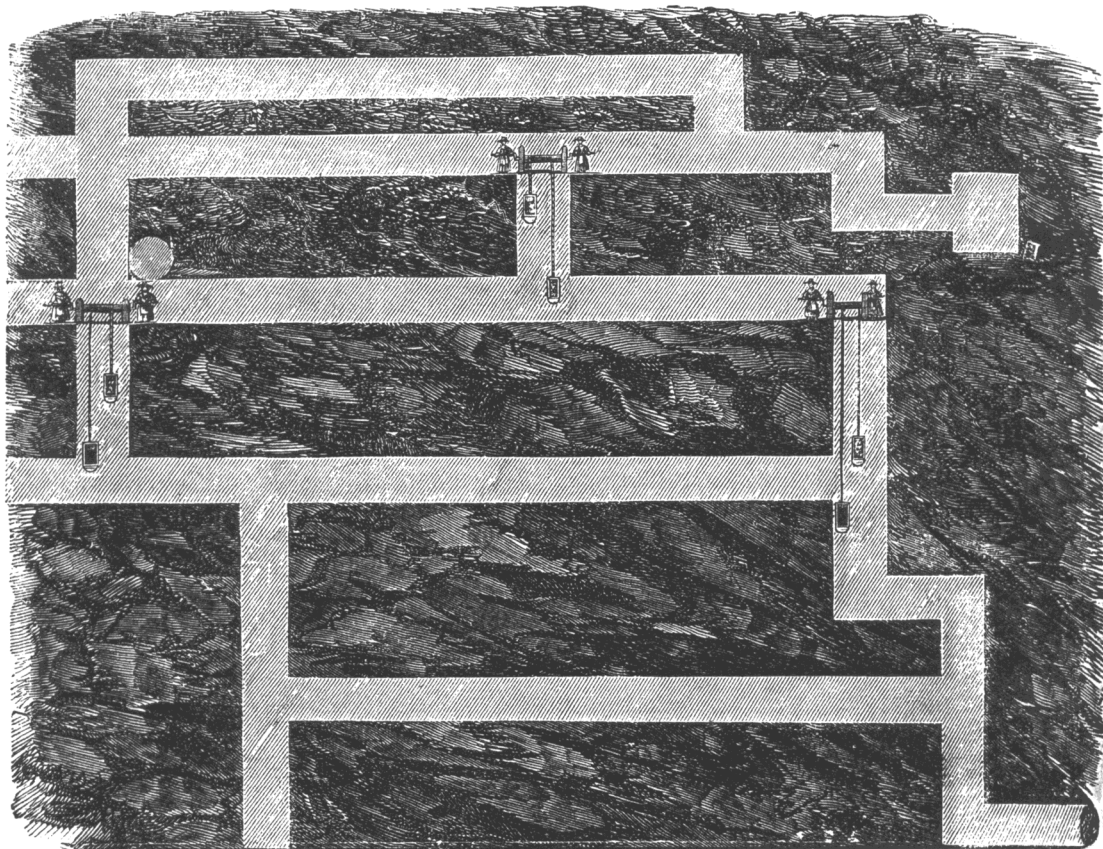
Pitching veins.

The mode of working vertical seams or pitching veins as they are called in Wales, is so decided an improvement of the odious system, adopted in Scotland in veins of similar inclination (on which I reported to you some short time since, where in I described the frightful labour undergone by females in the occupations of coal-bearers), that I can in nowise account for its not being adopted in that country. I am disposed to believe nothing but strong prejudice can long rests its adoption. (See annexed cuts.)

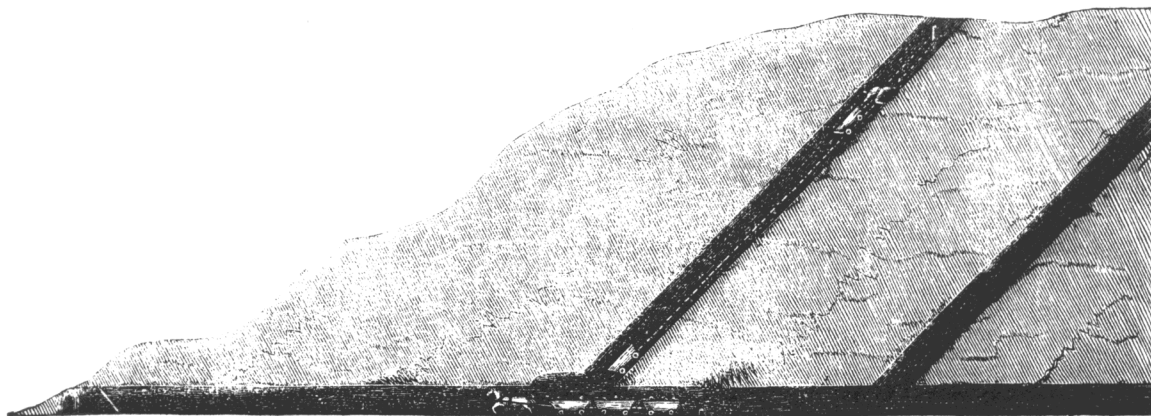
Lest it should be objected that vertical seams in Scotland are found at much higher angle than 45 degrees, I may state I have myself visited one anthracite working in the county of Pembroke, the vein of which was at an angle of upwards of 55 degrees where the system was adopted. Indeed no other mode of working pitching veins is practised in South Wales.



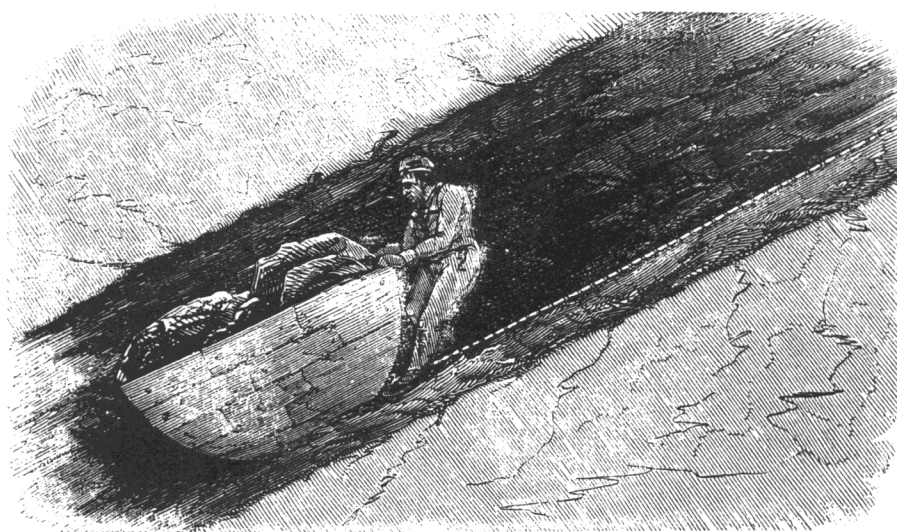
Diag 1. - Diagram showing the working of a pitching vein in Pembrokeshire.



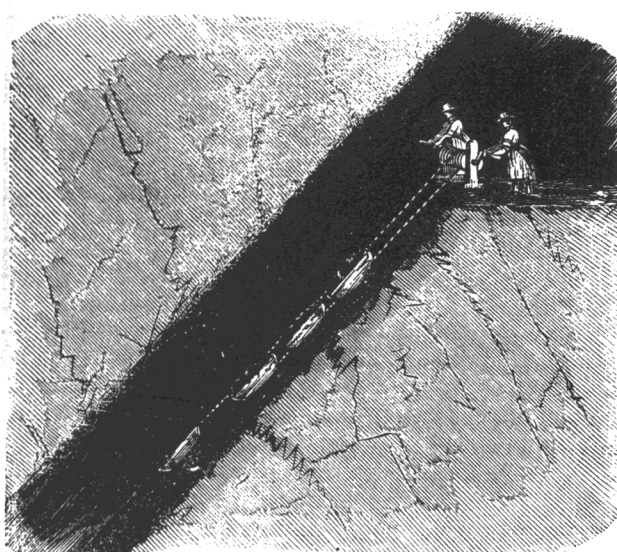
Diag 2. - Diagram showing the working of a pitching vein in Glamorganshire.



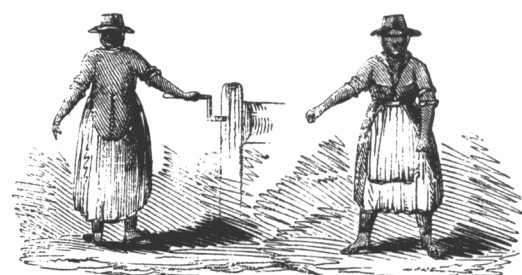
Sectional view of a pitching vein of coal the working of which is shown in Diag. 1.



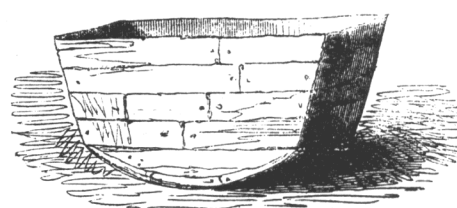
Boy guiding skip down an incline of 45° . See Diag 2.



Sectional view of Diag. 1 with girls winding coal from the workings in the dip.



Windlass girls and coal wheelers in Pembrokeshire.



Iron works.

The process in the *manufacture of iron* is continuous and therefore all employed work alternately day and nights shifts and the labour in which young persons are employed is of various kinds and some very fatiguing. Perhaps a brief description of the process of the manufacture of bar iron will best explain the nature of their several occupations.

The furnaces in South Wales, supported by very strong masonry, are generally backed by some eminence, so that a level may be found to run from the surface of the eminence to what is called the tunnel head at the back of the furnace.

Limestone-breakers.

Limestone which is used a flux for the ironstone of South Wales, is brought to the tunnel-head to be broken into small pieces so that it may with greater facility mix with the coal and mine of the furnace and this breaking of limestone is a very severe labour in which young women are generally employed, commonly called, "limestone-breakers." These young persons work seven days a week, their hours 12 and their wages 7s. a week.

When the ore has undergone the requisite process it is run off at the bottom of the furnace into moulds and is known in that shape under the name of pig-iron. The operation of refining, which is performed in small furnaces called refineries, from which it is again run into other moulds.

Puddlers.

We now arrive at the puddling-furnace. The puddler, who has care of the furnace is assisted by an inferior workman called an under-hand puddler and a boy, whose business it is to open the furnace door which is raised by a lever and chain when necessary for the puddler to put in his charge of metal.

Pullers-up.

Boys and girls so employed are called pull-up boys or pullers-up, averaging from seven to ten years of age with wages of 2s. or 3s. per week. The labour is by no means severe but it is monotonous and the atmosphere breathed is of a very high temperature.

When the metal begins to melt it is the business of the puddler to watch it from time to time until it is ready for what is technically called *balling*, i.e. dividing the metals into separate balls or quantities for the puddle-rolls, which having been done, they are handed over to the shingler who has the direction of a large, heavy hammer worked by water or steam power and the rough, hot metal is, by repeated blows, brought to a more compact form for the rolling-mill.

The roller now takes the iron, or the *bloom* as it is called and passes it through the largest hole in the roll and then through the others successively beginning with the largest and ending with the smallest. The compressed bar, as it passes through each groove, is received by a youth on the other side, sometimes with a lever and sometimes with tongs and handed over the rolls to the roller, who then proceeds to deliver it through every groove in succession. When the iron has passed through the last groove it is in the state called *rough bar*.

Catcher.

Now the youth who catches the compressed bar in its successive passages through the grooves and returns it to the roller, is called a *catcher*, and is one of the objects of the present inquiry.

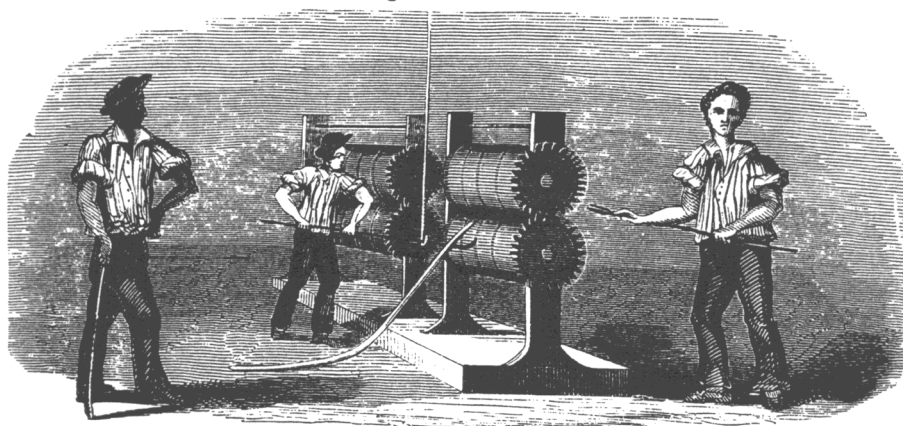
Hooker-on.

There is another younger lad also employed as a *hooker-on*, whose station is before the rolls with a suspended lever to support the bar of iron before it enters the groove.

The rough bar is then cut into lengths by a pair of shears worked by steam or water power.

Pilers.

The business of the pilers (who are of both sexes but principally girls) is to pile up these lengths of iron of six or eight when they are handed over to the baller who carefully receives them and places them in their separate lots in his furnace from which, after a sufficient operation, they are handed over to the rollers. A similar process is gone through as in the puddle-rolls just described. The iron is made to pass through each successive groove as in the previous process. Lads perform the office of catcher and hooker-on. The iron, having gone through the given grooves in the rolls, the manufacture of bar-iron is complete. This it will be seen that the young hands employed in the manufacture of bar-iron are respectively *pull-on boys*, *catchers*, *hookers-on* and *pillers*. in which latter occupation girls are chiefly employed.



Straighteners, roughers, iron-fillers, water carriers.

There are several other children employed about the works who are classified under the general name of attendants but who may be distinguished as *straighteners*, boys who, with tongs, drag the thin bars as they come from the rolls into a separate heap and while they are still hot, knock them straight with a hammer, *roughers* who pass the light bars through the rollers, *iron-fillers* who bring in barrows, the broken metal to the puddling furnace, *water carriers*, &c. But as these occupations all require considerable strength, children are rarely found so employed under 12 years of age.

Tip-girls.

There is a coarse occupation, in which girls are employed in the iron works, in the removal of the cinders from the furnaces which accumulate in large quantities. These cinders are generally transported to some neighbouring acclivity and their continual deposit forms a remarkable feature in the neighbourhood of large iron works. The black, sterile and vitrified masses, the stretch into the valley in many instances several hundred yards. They are called, familiarly, cinder tips and the girls who are employed as before stated are called tip-girls. Their dress is peculiar, their labour hard and their appearance indicates personal strength.

Tin works.

The formation of tin plate is the business carried on at the tin works, and the alloy of iron with tin is a complicated process requiring in it several stages, considerable care.

Pickle and scale boys.

Prepared plates of sheet-iron in a heated state are placed in a vessel containing muriatic acid, (brine) and water for a few minutes and afterwards drained on the floor, They are again heated by which process they are scaled, as it is called, that is to say, the surface is cleared.

Cold-rollers.

The plates are passed through chilled or cold rolls, cast iron cylinders of peculiar hardness. Boys of 10 or 12 years of age perform this office of passing plates and are called *cold-rollers*. The process which is known as *pickling* is the next to which the plate is submitted and requires considerable experience and skill.

The plates are placed for a certain number of hours in a receiver of fermented bran-water from which they are transferred to a leaden trough filled with sulphuric acid and water. This trough is divided into separate chambers, each capable of holding about 225 plates. In this they are suffered to remain perhaps an hour, until they are perfectly cleansed and bright, under the charge of the pickler (generally girls from 16 to 10 years of age.) They are then taken out and thoroughly cleaned with hemp and sand.

The plates are now submitted to the operation of *tinning* in which they undergo five different operations by immersion into different vessels. They are first dipped separately into a pot of melted tallow and left for some time and with the tallow still adhering, are plunged into a pot containing melted *block and grain tin* covered with tallow until thoroughly heated. They are next taken out and laid upon an iron grating to drain off the superfluous metal. The plates are then shifted into what is called the *wash-pot*, which is a vessel filled with melted grain-tin, from which they are lifted with tongs and brushed on each side by the workman.

Grease-boy.

They are removed into the grease-pot, from which a boy, called a *grease-boy*, transfers each plate into a *cold pan*, grated at the bottom.

Listers.

There is yet another operation for, in consequence of the vertical position of the plates during the above processes, a deposit of tin is left on the under edge of each plate. A boy, called a *list-boy*, attends to this and taking each plate, when it cools enough, puts the lower edge into a pot called a *list-pot*, containing melted tin. When the under edge of metal on the plate is melted he withdraws the plate and striking it suddenly, detaches the superfluous tin.

Rubbers.

The plates are then rubbed with bran or lime and packed for the market. The girls who rub the plates are called *rubbers*.

Gate-boy.

It is necessary to state that the iron plates are cut to the requisite size in many works by a wheel by water power and a boy, called a *gate-boy*, is employed to watch the gate through which the water flows. This requires great care as the least inattention might stop the work.

Plate-openers.

Plate-openers are also required in almost every stage of the manufacture as each plate is submitted separately to each particular part of the process. Both girls and boys are employed in this labour which is separating the plates for the different workmen. Their fingers get frequently cut and few children are employed who have not their hands tied up in rags from old sores.

The children and young persons employed in the tin works are pickle and scale boys, cold-rollers, grease-boys, listers, gate-boys and plate-openers.

Copper works.

In the copper smelting works, boys are principally engaged as *ash-pit cleaners* and *slag-breakers*, or *cobbing* as it is familiarly called. The young females are used as *cranners*, that is, hoisting the metal up to a stage by means of a crane and the elder females are employed as ore-fillers and in wheeling the ore from one part of the work to another. The wages of females vary from 5s. to 10s. a week and the wages of the young boys from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per week. There are other boys about the work known as deal-boys, boys who wash the deals or moulds into which the copper is poured from the furnace, *sheet-dryers*, &c., classed as labourers, whose titles sufficiently indicate their respective occupations.

Adults employed.

The men employed are named after their different employments, *ore-calciners*, *ore-furnacemen*, *metal-calciners*, *metal-furnacemen* and *refiners*. To these may be added the masons, whose business it is to attend to an look after the masonry and brickwork of the different furnaces.

In those copper works to which flatting-mills are also attached a process of pickling, not unlike the process in the tin works just described, is adopted and demands the labour of picklers, washers and rubbers in which young boys and girls are engaged.

Exhalation from copper works.

The exhalations from the copper smelting works says, Dr. Ure are very detrimental to both vegetable and animal life. They consist of sulphurous acid, sulphuric acid, arsenic and arsenous acids, various gases and fluoric vapours with solid particles mechanically swept into the air besides the coal smoke.

This is particularly to be remarked in the neighbourhood of Swansea where for miles round vegetation is destroyed. The windows of the houses are covered with a thick deposit and the air infected.

IV - HOURS OF WORK.

Collieries.

In the collieries of South Wales the hours of work are generally from six in the morning until six at night including the time given to meals and as in collieries and iron works, the labour of children

and young persons accompanies the labour of the adult workmen, their hours of labour are of the same duration as the labour of men.

Iron works.

In the iron works, the process of the manufacture of iron being continuous, and the blast furnaces being kept at work night and day, the attendants on those furnaces work night shifts. The men and women (limestone breakers, &c.) take alternate shifts of night and day work of 12 hours.

Tin works.

In the tin works the usual hours of employment are 12 hours a day but the process is continuous, half work by day and half work by night, shifting to night work by alternate weeks.

Copper works.

In the copper smelting works, as in the manufacture of iron and in the tin works, the process is continuous and the work constant by night and by day but in these the workmen are accustomed to work and rest alternately the whole 24 hours. Boys under 13 assist older boys at the calcining process in copper smelting and work together 24 hours and rest 24 hours but other boys employed in different occupations about the works work only 12 consecutive hours. Some, indeed, are allowed to work longer than this and are paid extra for it. Thus James Phillips, sheet-dryer, aged 14, No.352, states, 'I work usually 13 hours, and three times a week, 24 hours,' Evan Rees, washer, aged 15, No.353, "I work three turns of 12 hours out of 48 hours. I work the long turn as often as I am required and am paid extra for it." Thomas Thomas, aged 14, No.354, "Works the short turn, 12 hours a day, four days a week and the long turn, 36 hours, once." Thomas Davis, aged 15, No.355, "I work the usual day work of 12 hours and make two long turns of 24 hours in the course of the week. None of us lie down during the night." (Also see Evidence, numbered 372, 269, 268, 251.) To what extent the health of those employed in copper works is affected by this unequal division of labour and the other causes connected with the employment itself, will form more properly the subject of observation in a subsequent part of this Report.

V- MEALS.

The children and young persons employed in collieries generally take to their work bread and cheese for their meal in the day time for which, however, no fixed time is set aside. The haulier eats his food as he drives his horse along. The little air door boy may take his meal when he pleases and as the colliers are.

In the iron works two rests are allowed for two meals in the course of the day but longer time is allowed in the tin works and in the copper works the men generally have their food ready cooked brought to the works as they can not leave the furnaces, There is, however, most of these works the means of cooking, such as an oven, &c., if wanted but it is more usual for the food to be brought cooked. The copper men, I consider take more animal food than any of the workmen already noticed but no particular time is set aside.

VI - TREATMENT AND CARE.

The industry and the cleanliness of the female population of South Wales, particularly in the county of Glamorgan are apparent in their persons and homes and I am led to believe that their children, in infancy, are the objects of tender maternal solicitude and if the Welsh mother knew of the dangers which awaited the physical constitution of her child by its exposure to the foul air of the colliery at the immature age of five years, no legislative enactment would be required to limit the age at which the boy should commence work. In general, the Welsh women are remarkable for attention to warm clothing, which they secure for themselves in woollens and flannels &c. Nor are they less anxious for their husbands and children. The man and children are always well defended against the general inclemency of the mountain country. On the return from work it is usual for the workmen and children to be washed. In fact, in lodging houses it is art of the bargain that the lodger shall be washed every night previous to retiring to rest. A point which, by the way, is strenuously insisted by the housekeeper. At five years of age, however, arise the call for labour. To add an extra half-crown per week to the wages of the father, the child is sent into the mine. From this period the mother seems to consider herself relieved of the responsibility for the treatment and care of her child. That child follows a new teacher, a new instructor. The father or employer becomes the object

of his imitation. He drinks. He smokes, and swears, The child follows his example and the children of seven years of age and even less, will be found to enter in their expenses at the shop their supply of tobacco and the evidence will show that swearing, drinking and obscene language are all too frequent amongst the young. Education is a subject to which the working people seem to attach little value. Ignorant themselves, and never having suffered severe distress, they note no distinction in the wages of the boy or the man who can read or write and those who do not and they cannot appreciate the value of that education of which they themselves never know the want. The consequence is that the children if they so to Sunday School are sent rather as a mark of respect to those who recommend education, than from any esteem of the benefits to be derived from instruction. Parents are careless of the attendance of their children at school and it has been observed to me that in a free school opened for the instruction of the children of working people, copy books, &c., were expected to be found for the children and because they were not found the children were withdrawn from school.

It is difficult to get children to attend the Sunday School for the same cause, the carelessness of parents and it is to be lamented that numerous as are the chapels of many denominations of Christians and large as they are the congregations which at the appointed hours of public worship throng these chapels both in the week and in the Sunday, the spiritual education of the young seems to be grossly neglected.

It is much to be lamented that few or no efforts are made to facilitate a change in their habits of the manufacturing and mining populations of South Wales. A little time and though given to the welfare of the people would not only tend to wean them from the gross habits in which they indulge but would produce an abundance if kindly felling between the employer and the employed. It has been suggested that the establishment in mining or manufacturing districts of reading rooms of the better sort, of decently conducted coffee rooms with books, periodicals, &c. for the working man, together with familiar lectures on matters connected with the labour of each district and this not conducted with too strict a hand or under the imposing titles of Athenaeum, Mechanic's Institute or Temperance Hall but rather in an inviting and conciliatory spirit that in the exclusive tone which too often mars the effect of such well intended attempts and in the villages a little more of wholesome incitement to excellence in the distribution of small prizes for the best cottage, the best garden &c., would be productive of immense good, nor can these things be done with half efficacy by others as by those who are resident amongst the people themselves. A personal interest in the people and the distribution of but a small fund in each district to the humble purposes alluded to, would invite the labourer from the vulgar line he now treads in. As matters stand at the moment, in the largest manufacturing town (Methyr Tydvil), the working man after labour has no resort but the beer shop. His boy accompanies him, his daughter often passed the evening there. It is unnecessary to pursue this further. It is not intended to be inferring that the collier or mining or manufacturing population is to be changed by one sudden movement but it surely a source of great regret that a small proportion of the enormous wealth of the land and some of the influence of larger proprietors, should not be applied to the improvement of the moral and educational condition of its inhabitants, the productive sources of that wealth.

Of the girls it may be said, although perhaps the age at which they commence labour, excepting as air-girls, is not so early as that of boys, still their usefulness in the house to assist the mother in cleaning, scouring, nursing, and fetching water, which latter is a heavy and fatiguing part of the girl's duty, is a plausible reason for their being kept away from school. At eight or nine years she will be found either a tip girl or piler in the iron works or some corresponding employment elsewhere and as she advances in years she finds some new labour open to her. The freedom from restraint after labour in the large works induces young girls to labour in the iron and other works in preference to entering domestic service. The complaint of the difficulty of obtaining domestic servants in the manufacturing districts is very frequent and the answer of the witnesses themselves in many instances acknowledge the cause.

Interference seems rarely to be the vice of the women of South Wales and however frequent and early the connection of the sexes may be, the cases of bastardy are comparatively trifling. It being usual, as I am informed, for a youth to marry a girl when discovered to be pregnant by him.

Many instances of improvidence occur as many be expected from such early marriage, A mere child of 14 becomes a wife and her first important act is to open an account at the shop for goods. clothing and food. This facility of procuring goods to the credit of her husband's labour induces extravagance in clothing, food and other modes of increased expenditure.

VII - HIRING AND WAGES.

The usual mode of hiring in the collieries, iron works, tin works and copper works of South Wales, is by the month.

In many instances, in the works under inquiry, where certain proportions of work are taken by the job, the younger hands are employed by the men and not by the master and the terms on which they are hired are of course determined by the adult whom they assist and in the collieries the collier boy is, to all intents and purposes, the property of his father (as to wages) until he attains the age of 17 years or marries, His father receives his wages, whether he be an air-boy of five years of age or a haulier of 15.

A very absurd custom exists amongst the colliers in South Wales, a custom which, however, is by no means confined to this particular country of claiming and being allowed privilege of work for a male child taken into the mine, in some instances indeed the same privilege is claimed for girls. At the collieries at Hirwain and some others, as I am informed, no matter the infant's age, strength or capacity, into the mine he must be taken to enable the father to claim an extra tram of coals, that is to say, supposing a given number of men working a colliery, and the quantity of coal desired to be raised being limited, the full day labour of a collier not being required, it is obvious that each workman must be reduced below his usual work. To remedy this, in the case of a man with a family, the system of privileges seems to have been devised and by this means the married man works for himself perhaps a full day's work. By this circuitous mode of giving the man with a family a chance of extra work, the unfortunate child, who of course is of little use to his father, is taken into an unwholesome atmosphere from his mother's side and deprived of the slender means of education afforded. It being at the same time obvious to the end proposed (viz. Allowing the married collier extra work) might be secured by handing in a certificate to the oversman, or any other convenient proof, of the existence of such a child, &c., and the child at the same time might be kept out of the mine.

In many parts of Glamorganshire and Monmouthshire the wages of the working collier population are very rarely paid in money, but a shop in the neighbourhood, not professedly in the hands of the proprietors of the works, advances goods to the workmen employed in the mine on account of the proprietors. The books of the shop and the books of the colliery are checked on the pay day at the same office and the balance, if any, is handed over to the men. It very often happens, however, that the men unfortunately have nothing to receive for months together. It is said by many that the necessities of life are dearer in these shops by 25 per cent. than in others perhaps five miles off but whether this is the case or not I cannot decide but I am convinced that the system adopted has a very pernicious effect on the independent means of subsistence of the labouring population, since there rarely is any balance in the hands of the workmen to apply for the purposes of education. By a reference to the evidence of John Evans, schoolmaster, No.270, you will see the effect of this. The witness says:-

"Nothing can exceed the mischief of the shops. men will go to the shop and get a pound of sugar, or what not, and take it to the public house for drink. I frequently myself take goods from the colliers instead of money. The collier save no money. I can't do anything else. I can't express myself sufficiently strongly on this subject. There is very seldom any balance for the working man to receive. They are screwed down to the lowest possible pitch."

David Edwards, school master, Blackwood:-

"I receive fees sometimes in goods."

The system as at present carried on is much felt by the working people themselves and is the subject of frequent complaint by them. (See Evidence of Mr. John Williams, agent to Aaron Brain, occupier of Hengoed and contractor for the Place Level Colliery, No.170 and of John Pickford, collier No.171 in the evidence. See also the evidence of Howell Lyshon, collier, No.206.) and I cannot but consider it highly disadvantageous to the children as well as the men. These shops supply food, clothing, in some places articles of luxury, jewellery, &c. and furniture of all sorts, in short, in these districts, everything is supplied but education.

The Average Rate of Wages in the Iron Works during the last Five Years, may be stated as follows:-

Years	Colliers	Miners	Refiners	Puddlers	Heaters	Carpenters	Smiths
	£. s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1837	1 2 6	0 19 7	1 13 0	1 10 0	1 16 0	0 17 6	0 18 6
1838	1 4 0	1 1 3	1 13 0	1 12 0	1 18 6	0 18 9	1 0 0
1839	1 7 0	1 1 3	1 15 0	1 15 0	1 18 6	1 1 0	1 0 0
1840	1 4 0	0 19 3	1 11 0	11 11 6	1 14 9	0 19 0	0 18 6
1841	1 2 0	0 17 3	1 8 0	1 8 6	1 11 6	0 17 0	0 18 6

Note. - In the Monmouthshire Collieries provisions are from 10 to 15 per cent. *dearer than in Merthyr*.
Colliers find gunpowder, candles, and tools which may cost 3s. weekly, to be deducted out of wages.

J.C. WOOLRIDGE, cashier to the Plymouth Works.

The following table will show the Prices of Puddling during the Years specified, showing a General Average Wage during the same period.

	Prices paid per ton.	Less one fourteenth short weight	Add on account of sand bottoms	Add for dollying	Reduce on account of less weight of iron operated on	The last column reduced to a per centage, the first being at 100
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
1815	10 6	9 9	10 3	10 9	9 3	100
1825	8 0	7 4	7 10	8 4	7 7	79
1831	6 1½	5 8½	6 0	6 3	6 3	68
1833	5 0	4 8	4 11	5 2	5 2	56
1834	5 4	4 11½	5 3	5 3	5 3	57
1835	5 4	4 11½	5 3	5 3	5 3	57
1836	5 11	5 7	5 7	5 7	5 7	61
1837	6 3	6 3	6 3	6 3	6 3	68
1838	6 7	6 7	6 7	6 7	6 7	71
1839	7 3	7 3	7 3	7 3	7 3	79
1840	7 1½	7 1½	7 1½	7 1½	7 1½	77
1841	6 4	6 4	6 4	6 4	6 4	69

The workmen of late years have been accustomed to make longer weeks than formerly, which renders their weekly earnings larger than appears on the tables. The difference is slightly in favour of the workmen, say 10 per cent. since 1815

DAVID JOSEPH, Agent to the Plymouth Works.

Table of the Average Rate of Collier's Day Wages in the months March April and May in the years specified.

March, April, May	1832	s.	d.
	1833	2	10¾
	1834	2	11¾
	1835	3	0
	1836	3	1½
	1837	2	8¼
	1838	3	10¾
	1839	3	2¼
	1840	3	8
	1841	3	8¼
			7½

The average of the whole 10 years is 3. 3¾d. which of course is to be understood as not including in calculation stoppages produced by accidental circumstances or want of demand in the market. The coal trade decreases about January, February and March.

LEWIS THOMAS, Esq., Glamorganshire and Monmouthshire.

VII - PHYSICAL CONDITION.

For an estimate of the physical condition of the working population, both infant and adult in the districts through which I passed, I beg to refer to the evidence of the medical gentlemen which you will find severally numbered 26, 31, 191, 240, 297, 322, 350, 413, 428, 441 in the general body of evidence, from which it will be seen:-

Colliers.

That amongst colliers the diseases most prevalent are chronic diseases of the respiratory organs, especially asthma and bronchitis arising probably from inhalation of atmosphere charged with carbon &c.

Iron ore miners.

Those who labour on iron mines are affected with chronic diseases of the chest arising, as it is believed, from the inhalation of carbonic acid gas and that they are more frequently the subject of consumption than colliers.

Iron workers.

The man employed in the manufacture of iron are the subjects of acute inflammation, particularly of the lungs arising from the sudden transitions of temperature.

I have not been able to ascertain for want of sufficient data the average duration of a collier's life in the counties of either Glamorgan or Monmouth but it is admitted that such average duration is less than that of a common labourer. In the county of Pembroke, however, James Bowen, Esq., surgeon, Narbeth, in that county informs me :-

"The average life of a collier is about 40. They rarely attain 45 years of age and in the entire population of Bedgelly and East Williamson, being 1163, forming, strictly speaking a mining population, there are not six colliers of 60 years of age."

The Rev. Richard Buckby, rector of Bedgelly in answer to one of the Queries in the Educational Paper of the Central Board, writes:-

"The foul air of the mines seriously affects the lungs of children and young persons employed therein and shortens the term of life. In a population of 100 there are not six colliers 60 years of age."

Copper men.

With regards to individuals employed in the copper works, pneumonia, pleurisy and bronchitis are noted as the prevailing diseases and H.L. Pritchard, Esq., surgeon of the Cwmavan Works states:-

"That many unable to live in other copper works from constant attacks of bronchitis are able to live and work in perfect health at the last named works where a particular mode of adopted to conveying the smoke to the summit of a lofty hill.

R.R. Leyson, Esq., of Neath, surgeon states:-

"Where there is a predisposition to asthma or other pulmonary affections, young persons are compelled to quit their employment in copper works."

Nathaniel Jones Esq., surgeon of the same place in his evidence, confirms that statement by saying that:-

"Men predisposed to pulmonary affections are unable to engage in the copper works."

Mr. John Thomas cashier of the Taibach Works, states in his evidence:-

"Hernia is common among workpeople, supposed to arise from lifting heavy weights."

I have not, however, been able to gain any average duration of life of men employed in copper works.

Tin works.

Of those engaged in tin works, Mr. Pritchard further says:-

“I observe among those who work in door, their stature frequently stunted, and cholerosis common amongst the girls, They are all, however, well fed and clothed and nor subject to hernia, distortion or any other maladies.”

Health of children.

On the subject of employment of children in mines at a very early age, James Probert, Esq., surgeon of the Plymouth works, Merthy Tydvil, thus express himself:-

“The employment of children in the mines at a very early age tends to produce disease by exposing a constitution not matured to foul air but other causes contribute to this effect. Such children are very much exposed to wet and cold, especially during winter and the rainy season. They are moreover deprived of solar light which is as necessary to the proper development of animals as vegetables.”

And on the same subject, Charles Frost, Esq., surgeon to the Hirwain iron works, thus writes:-

“Most undoubtedly the employment of the very young persons under ground will have a tendency, per se, to engender disease by deteriorating the powers of the system and so shorten the duration of life.”

James Bowen, Esq., surgeon, Narbeth (whose evidence I have had occasions to refer to before), states:-

“The practice of taking children down into the mines at the present early age had a manifest tendency to shorten the average duration of human life and it is highly desirable, in my opinion, that children should not be taken down before 12 years of age.”

Thomas Felton, Esq., surgeon, Blackwood, in the Parish of Bedwellty, in the county of Monmouth says:-

“The practice of employing children in the mines at an early age and exposing their constitution to the foul air and absence of light had a tendency to produce diseases of the lungs and eventually to shorten life.”

Nor is the effect of early employment in the mines on the youthful constitution unobserved by unprofessional men.

Mr. Jonathan Isaacs, agent to the Top Hill Colliery:-

“I have noticed that the children of miners, who are sent to work, do not grow as they ought to do. They get pale in their looks, are weak in their limbs and any one can distinguish a collier’s child from the children of other working people.”

Mr. Richard Andrews, overseer to the Lancyach Colliery:-

“It is not unfrequent for colliers here to take them (the children) down even in petticoats to claim a tram. Taking children down so young has had a bad influence on their health. In the first place they are half starved below, as they never get their meals like other people and they never grow like other children and as to the instruction, it is quite out of the question.”

Mr. William Jones, agent to the Woodfield Colliery (No.260), says, in reference to the condition of children and places of work:-

“Children are taken down so early, and the poor things kept for nine or ten hours scarcely able to keep their blood in circulation &c.”

Mr. P Kirkhouse, oversman to the Cyfartha collieries and ironstone mines, on the point observes:-

“The infantine ages at which children are employed cranks [stunts] their growth and injures their constitution as well as keeping them in ignorance of a deplorable kind.”

Mr. John Jones, overseer of the blast furnaces in the same extensive works, states:-

“When children are brought early as they frequently are, the sulphurous vapour arising from the calcinators injures them and keeps them down in size and strength.”

The testimony of medical gentlemen and of managers and overseers in various works, in which large numbers of children as well as adults are employed, proves that the physical health and strength of children and young persons is deteriorated by their employment at the early ages and in the works before enumerated and as a consequence of that early employment, that their opportunities of intellectual, moral and religious culture are diminished.

IX - ACCIDENTS.

I was desirous of ascertaining the whole number of accidents that have happened in the different mines and works which I have personally visited but it is much to be regretted than an apparent unwillingness to the communicate exists amongst those who alone are capable of affording the requisite information. At present, it would seem, no record whatever is kept of accidents, either by the medical gentlemen, which is invariably attached to each work, or in any of the books of the particular firm.

In order, however, that I might be enabled to lay before you such materials as should be sufficient to show the importance of this branch of the inquiry and the very unsatisfactory and inefficient means of afforded of estimating its extent, I have collected, and refer to you to Appendix for, the returns of the district coroners of Glamorganshire and Pembrokeshire and have subjoined a list of accidents, with which I have been acquainted by other means, which have occurred in the various works under my investigation to which I beg to refer you as Article (A) in the Appendix hereto.

In perusing the general body of evidence your attention will have been drawn to the evidence numbers 299 and 260 to the effect that there is a general laxity in the administration of justice particularly with reference to inquests held in cases of fatal accidents, and the mode of proceeding is thus described:-

“When a man dies the viewer looks at the body and sends to the coroner and unless a case of suspicion is made to the coroner, he does not come, but sends an order to the constable to bury and frequently the coroner does not attend until there are five or six cases to clear off.”

Or thus, by other witness:-

“When a death (i.e. accidental, or out of the ordinary course of nature) occurs a communication is made with the coroner, he issues his warrant and, through the constable appoints a jury and the coroner seldom visits us until there are five or six cases to be disposed of.”*

It had been represented to me that in cases of fatal accidents, which, however, have not been of sufficient magnitude to rouse public attention, many difficulties lie in the way of obtaining an impartial, for the jury in many instances, selected from the fellow workmen of the deceased and who are willing to hear, even if they think it unnecessary to call, evidence which may possibly involved either their employer or any one employed in the same work as themselves and it is not improbable that, from the difficulty of carrying out the useful objects of the office of coroner, the benefits to be derived from a proper administration of the important office amongst a population so exposed to frightful accidents as those engaged in the iron works are not duly appreciated.

There exists, besides, a feeling amongst the people themselves, especially those of the country, averse to keeping a dead body above ground more than a clear day, nor in some places will they work while the body is above ground and in a conversation wit Mr. Rees, of Cardiff, that gentleman stated he had no doubt that if the coroner did not attend on such occasions, or an order were not sent to the constable. The relatives would bury without an order whatever. This, however, proves but the existence of a strong prejudice and custom, which I think it would met be difficult to repress by punishing all engaged in such informal burial as for misdemeanour.

The gentleman last and further stated that, in mining districts, the workmen formed juries and, as

*During my stay at the borders of Monmouthshire, one James Jenkins, died in consequence of an accident at Tredegar, the seat of a very large iron works in Glamorgan. Upon my inquiry I ascertained that the deceased was buried the day following the accident and no inquest was held on the body.

a matter of course, none could be found to return verdicts or levy deonands, by which their employers would be injured. In a late accident at the Dinas Colliery, a screen supported by a bit of wood and not being strong enough to support the heavy weights frequently thrown on it, fell with its contents and crushed to atoms the men who was employed underneath it filling coal. His, deceased's, fellow workmen, all very ignorant and dependent, were the jury. The mode of conducting inquests, concluded that gentleman as at present, is more injurious than useful. Proprietors and culprits escape. Mr. Rees informed me also that many time he had been obliged to take a jury from Cardiff into the country as the people were so ignorant and so prejudiced that it was almost impossible to persuade them to return proper verdicts.

X - MORAL CONDITION.

The moral condition of the rising generation of a particular people can be estimated only by the number and excellence of their institutions for secular and religious instruction and the extent to which those institutions are made available for the education of the young, ascertained by an examination of the children themselves. The schools, both religious and secular, open to the working classes in these parts of Glamorganshire and Pembrokeshire which I have visited, will be found enumerated in the list marked C in the Appendix.

Means of education.

From a perusal of that list it will be seen that the means of education in the different parishes therein enumerated are adequate only to the education of a very small proportion of the rising generations and that it is those districts where a greater number of schools presents greater opportunities to the population, the want of a proper appreciation of the benefits of education prevents them from availing themselves of the advantages presented. In the parish of Gelligan, for instance, with a population of 1500, there are four schools with an average attendance on the whole of 40 to 80, being little more than one-sixteenth of the population and in the very large and populous parish of Bedwellty, in Monmouthshire, with a population of 22,170, nearly doubled since 1831 and the parish of Mynodduslwyn with half that number, there are only three churches, several dissenting chapels and a few dame school and Sunday Schools and "even those schools," says Sir Thomas Phillips, "are not resorted to by the majority of the population."

In the parish of Cadoxton-juxta-Neath, where the schools are more numerous, and where a laudable desire is evinced by many proprietors and others to extend more generally the benefits of education, it is given in evidence that, "the schools are but indifferently attended by collier children." The Rev. Dr. Rees also speaks to the same effect with reference to the population of Aberavon, where the population is entirely employed in mines and the manufacture of iron:-

"There are many means of education [says that gentleman] in this neighbourhood, *is the children and their parents were but anxious to make use of them.*"

Mr. John Jones, agent of the Rock Colliery in the parish of Bedwellty, in Monmouthshire says:-

"There is not one small school in the populous village of Blackwood (population 1500) with an average attendance of 10 to 20. I do not think it would be of much use even establishing a free school here for the people, I fear, would scarcely think it worth while to send their children there.

Ignorance of the rising generation.

Thus, in some districts, the slender means of education placed within reach of the working classes and in others the neglect to avail themselves of the means placed before them, has produced a state of ignorance greatly to be lamented, a state of ignorance which I will not attempt to describe but will content myself by directing your attention to the following opinions expressed by witnessing possessing intimate knowledge of the people.

Mr. P Kirkhouse, overman to the Cyfarthin collieries and ironstone mines, states:-

"Few of the young people have received the most ordinary education, one-fourth probably of the 400 may read or know their letters, certainly not more and that they have acquired at Sunday Schools."

Mr. Thomas Howell, overseer to Graig Colliery:-

“The children are shamefully ignorant in the neighbourhood of Merthyr.”

Mr. Richard Andrews, overseer of the Lancyach Colliery, in the parish of Gelligaer:-

“At this work, half the men can read Welsh but very few can read English which keeps them all dark but the wives and daughters are excessively ignorant.”

Mr. Paul, manager of the Chain Cable Works in the parish of Eglwysilan:-

“The minds of the young people are totally unimproved, which makes them difficult to be treated with and the females are equally ignorant.”

Mr. John Jeremiah, steward of the Battery Hatch Colliery, parish of Mynyodduslwyn, in the county of Monmouth:-

“Colliers in this part take children down earlier than formerly and the consequence is that few read either Welsh or English.”

Mr. Samuel Jones, cashier of the Waterloo Colliery in the same parish:-

“The want of regular employment causes total neglect of education to the children and I should be certainly within bounds by stating that not one grown male or female in 50 can read and the farm servants in this part are as ignorant as the miners. Masons and carpenters who get regular employment send their children to school, by the younger classes are in a lamentable state of ignorance.”

Mr. Morgan Thomas, manager of the Panllwyn and Gelly-dage Collieries:-

“The unequal demand for labour had a pernicious influence on the education of the rising generation and the parents themselves are very ill-informed. I should say that not one third can read.”

Mr. Wm. James, agent to the Woodfield Colliery:-

“I consider the rising more ignorant than the present generation.”

Mr. David Hill, cashier of the Lansamlet Colliery:-

“I should not say one third of the adults can read.”

In addition to the above, it is scarcely necessary to adduce further proof of the deficiency of education amongst the working people, than is contained in the collected evidence of the children and younger persons examined.

It is proper to remark in this place that in most instances education ceases when labour commences. The attendance at night schools, where there are such, being very limited indeed.

Sunday Schools inefficient.

I believe the teachers are sufficiently qualified from the different branches of education they undertake to teach but I cannot refrain from observing that great neglect appears to prevail in the different Sunday Schools in the various districts which, although very numerous, seem to me to be most inefficient, as I am to judge of their worth by the scriptural knowledge possessed by those children who were in the habit of attending some one or other of them regularly. The present condition of religious and secular knowledge in the rising generation in South Wales demands very careful refection.

New schools.

Nor is this deficiency unperceived by those resident gentlemen who take that interest in the education of the people which the subject deserves and the expressed intention of Anthony Hill, Esq., of the Plymouth Works, Merthyr Tydvil, to erect a school in connection with his extensive collieries and iron works, the recent erection of a very commodious school in the immediate vicinity of the works of L. Lewellyn Esq., at Aberdulais in the Vale of Neath, the school commenced by Sir Thomas Phillips, Knt., in the parish of Bedwellty in the county of Monmouthshire for 400 boys, girls and infants and the school proposed to be shortly undertaken by the proprietors of the Chain

Cable Works in the parish of Eglewysilan, in the Vale of Taff in the county of Glamorgan, will, it is hoped, induce other large proprietors to join in the great task of education the people and these by assist the government in any contemplated change in the employment of youthful labour.

English language.

Before quitting this branch of the subject I cannot forbear remarking that I regard the want of culture of the English language as one great obstacle to the improvement of the people and in the collected evidence you will meet that opinion expressed by many of the witnesses. (See Evidence of William Thompson, Esq., Anthony Hill, Esq., Mr. Kirkhouse, Mr. J.C. Wolrige and others.)

However we may admire that patriotism which associates the bright periods of history and literature with the language of a people, still, when it is conceded that in South Wales the language of the laws under which the nation is governed and in which the business of the country is universally transacted, is English, the study of the English language becomes the imperative duty of the people, for their own protection in law and commerce.

Religion.

The numerous chapels already built and which at those present time building in the populace towns and villages and the general attendance of the population at some place of worship on the Sabbath, manifest a strong religious tendency in the people and their subdued and orderly appearance on the Sunday, and in their funeral processions, indicates a becoming respect for the observance of religion. The professors are said to exercise great control over the habits as well as the religious tenets of each particular congregation and in the village of Coed-y-Cymmer, a short distance from Merthyr Tydvil, none are admitted members of the Welsh Calvinistic Methodist unless teetotallers and I am further informed that they exercised a salutary counsel on the occasions of the late outbreaks.

Benefit societies.

Benefit societies, under the name of friendly societies are very numerous amongst all classes of the working population. Colliers, furnacemen, cordwainers, carpenters, masons and other artificers, besides the Druids, Odd-Fellows and Ivorites, nor are these clubs monopolised by the men, the females in many places forming small societies, regulated on similar principles, under the name of "The Lady Ivor Society," "The Society of Women," &c. These are very common in the hill country of Gelligaer and in Pembrokeshire. The object of these societies is to provide a certain relief fund of members when sick or out of work, as also for the burial of deceased members. It is said that a very strong prejudice, conceived against the New Poor-Law Bill, has given an impulse to the establishment of these societies, which by their rules and orders have, in the opinion of many, produced the great improvement in the habits and morals of the colliers and manufacturers as well as the female part of the population and I was informed by Mr. Evan Jones, the vestry clerk of the parish of Bewellty, where these societies are abundant, that the saving effected to that parish by their means was very considerable (See Evidence of Mr. Evan Jones), The poor dependant on the parish of Bedwellty at the time of my visit being as follows:-

In-door			Out-door		
Adults	Males	3	Adults	Males	51
	Females	6		Females	79
	Children	14		Children	4
		23			134

The population being, as before stated, no less than 22,170.

Savings Banks.

Savings banks are in their institution so well adapted to the fluctuating profits of a large manufacturing district, by affording an encouragement of the deposit of funds as a provision against the depression of the trade that it is much to be regretted when any accidental circumstances deprives so valuable an institution of its utility. This, however, I fear had been the case in the large manufacturing town of Merthyr Tydvil, by defalcation of nearly £2000, which, although it will in all probability be refunded, has, in the opinion of many resident practical gentlemen, almost set aside the hope of re-establishing a similar institution, a loss much to be regretted.

Public houses.

The number of licensed houses in the manufacturing district is much complained of and apparently not without reason. I myself have seen not less than six in a row, next door to each other and although I have not got any returns on this subject to lay before you, my own conviction is that they do a great deal of harm. In the village of Coed-y-Cymmer, one mile and a half from Merthyr, in a population calculated at 1500, there are 13 or 14 licensed houses and in the village of Tongwinlas, in the Vale of Taff, containing a small collier population of about 200 men women and children, there are no less than seven licensed houses, half being licensed to sell spirits. Surely it cannot be said that these are necessary to the population. In the town of Neath, population 4662, there are 40 licensed houses.

Mr. William Brown, cashier of the Whiterock Copper Works, Swansea, adverting to this subject:-

“The great increase of beer-shops and public-houses has tended more to demoralise the children and workmen than can possibly be conceived.”

Mr. Jabez Thomas, foreman of the Maesmawr Collier, Eglwsilan, says:-

“There are always more people at the public-houses than at chapel. Public-houses are not sufficiently looked after. There are too many of them.

Cases before the magistrates.

In order to enable you to judge more particularly the moral condition of the people, I have appended to this Report a summary of cases disposed of, together with the number of committals by the several magistrates of Merthyr Tydvil, the hundred of Neath and Swansea, in the county of Glamorgan during the years 1839, 1840 and 1841 ending with the month of August in each year and you will observe that in the returns for the district of Merthyr wages have become the increasing subject of dispute between the employer and the employed so that no less than 172 cases have been brought before the magistrates on that subject in the year ending August 1841 and this I attribute to a great degree to the very pernicious system before alluded to.

Ventilation.

In the course of my inquiry a few remaining points attracted my observation of which I am endeavouring to lay before you as briefly as possible. The most prominent of theses of the subject of ventilation in the workings of a particular vein of coal, being a red-ash coal, extending from Penwhyn Frank in the parish of Trebethan in the county of Monmouth to Llanavabon Church in the county of Glamorgan and from Mammoel in the parish of Bedwellty in the county of Monmouth to Church Farm in the parish of Mynyodduslwyn in the same county and to this subject my attention was more particularly drawn by the fact, elicited in the course of examination in that district of the frequent stoppages of the works on consequence of chokedamp and as the subject is of peculiar interest in the economy of the mines and the health of the miners, I subjoin the following communication on the subject receives from Edward Scott Barber, Esq., mineral surveyor of Newport:-

“The principle seam at present in work for the supply of the export trade of Newport is a red-ash coal in which firedamp is not found. The absence of firedamp in this vein (the Mynyodduslwyn) has operated very prejudicially throughout the district by creating a confidence in the minds of the parties engaged, that whatever the state of the ventilation may be no explosion of firedamp can possibly occur. Consequently the ventilation of the collieries is much neglected. It is a common occurrence for colliers to be obliged to leave their work from not being able to keep in their lights and in some cases, when the wind is at an opposite point to the level, the ventilation is do bad as to stop the work. The colliers work as long as they can keep a light in but the small quantity of air necessary barely to maintain combustion must be a very unhealthy atmosphere for respiration.”

Situation, and drainage of a collier's house.

As affecting the health and comfort of a working population, few subjects are more important than the situation, structure and drainage of their houses. The situation of houses inhabited by colliers in the county of Glamorgan is generally on the side of a hilly character of the country and as the drainage is almost universally neglected, they are much affected by the heavy rains to which South Wales is particularly exposed and which pours in torrents down the mountain sides.

Thomas Felton, Esq., of Blackwood says:-

“The houses occupied by the collier population in this neighbourhood are generally built on sloping grounds where on habitation is above another and very rarely drained. Although it must be obvious from the side-land situation, that drains are much required.

There are places occupied by the poorer part of the population that require to be drained and as there is no public means of carrying off filth, &c. from these places it must influence fever during different periods of the year. The interior of the cottages is small, comprising generally two rooms on the floor, one of them used as a bedroom. The rooms above are used as bedrooms and there is usually a pantry or scullery in the cottage. This district is particularly hilly and the houses are for the most part scattered. Some are built on elevated spots while others are near the river where fog and damp exists to a much greater degree in which places low and continued fevers, which frequently end in typhus, exist in a much greater degree than in more airy situations.”

R.P. Leyson, Esq., of Neath on the same subject says:-

“Rheumatic affections with inflammatory attacks of various kinds, where the drainage is imperfect, are of frequent occurrence.”

Indeed it would be very difficult to find many collier communities where the drainage can be said to be good. Whole villages labour under similar disadvantages and the absence of privies, &c., amongst the labouring population manifests a want of appreciation of comfort in domestic arrangements. In the village of Blackwood, containing a population of 1500, there are 10 privies and it is the more remarkable where houses are built by the proprietors themselves for the people employed in the collieries and mines that such arrangements are not made but in a small cluster of houses, called the Land Level Houses, perhaps 25 altogether which in themselves are well constructed and clean, inhabited by the colliers and other workmen of the Pentyrch Works, there was but *one* privy for the whole community. But perhaps the most miserable hovels inhabited by the working people are to be found in the neighbourhood of the Hirwain Works and they derive a more comfortless appearance of the barren surface of the plain in which they are situated. Many of these are nothing more than mud cabins, in many instances a deserted cow-shed converted to a human habitation. A ridge thatch forms the roof and apparently, to avoid the storms that sweep along that plain, they are built in every low hollow that can be found where, of course, they receive the drainage of the surrounding elevations. Hirwain itself, literally the long meadow, is bordered by a range of lofty hills and it is in many parts, boggy and full of water. A more cheerless place could scarcely be found in South Wales. Even the school which I visited here, more resembles a stable than a place of education and is almost surrounded with a ditch of dirty water. But it is not alone in such localities that in the structure and drainage of houses an indifference is manifested to certain points which are now considered indispensable but even in the large and populous manufacturing town of Merthyr Tydvil no general system of drainage is adopted. No water is supplied to the population, although there is a large reservoir at the top of Dowlais Hill*. Gas is laid on to particular houses but no general system of lighting the town is in operation and but for the light from the blast furnaces, the people might find their way in the dark and this with a population of 30,000 people!

From the general body of evidence and from the observations which I have thought it necessary to submit to you, you will have seen that the want of education, although manifestly the cause of many troubles and the root of many evils in the social condition of the working population of South Wales, is not a want of which the people themselves complain. On the contrary, at the present moment, the most sluggish apathy seems to prevail amongst them on the subject and it is only by occasional efforts here and there that we are made acquainted with the movement of education in South Wales. Unhappily, in too many instances, the opinion entertained by many is but disheartening with reference to the rising generation. So completely had the onward step ceased in many places that it is not uncommon to hear some doubt expressed whether or not a retrograde movement had taken place already and these amongst the well-wishers of the fellow countrymen.

From a careful examination of the collected evidence and from attentive inquiry into the several subjects distinguished in this Report, I submit to you the following points as to the result of my investigations:-

*Dowlais Hill is a continuation of Merthyr.

1. - That labour, in the collieries of Glamorgan and Pembroke in South Wales and of Monmouth in England is unwholesome and productive of diseases which have a tendency either to shorten life or reduce the number of years of useful labour in the mechanic.

2. - That the physical health and strength of children and young persons are deteriorated by their employment at the early ages and in the works before enumerated.

3. - That the education, both secular and religious, of the children of the working population is lamentably defective the means of instruction small and the slender opportunities afforded of intellectual, moral and religious culture, diminished by the early age at which children commence working.

4.- That a restriction of the age at which children should be allowed to labour in the mines and works should be fixed, and young girls altogether excluded from such labour and together with such measures that an educational qualification to labour should be established throughout the mining and manufacturing district of South Wales and Monmouthshire.

I have the honour or be, Gentleman,

With the greatest respect,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT H. FRANKS.

London, December 12th.. 1841.

APPENDIX A

Returns of the District Coroners for Inquests held in their respective Jurisdictions during the Years
1839, 1840, 1841.

No.1 - A Return of Inquests before JOHN STOKES, Esq., one of the Coroners of Pembrokeshire, during the last three years.

Names	Occupations	Causes of death or verdicts.	Names	Occupations.	Causes of death or verdicts.
John Jones	Servant	Accidental Death	Jeremiah O'Brien	Hawker	Found dead
Elizabeth Rees	Servant	Burnt	Mary Pyne	Child	Burnt
Septimus Truscott	Watchmaker	Sudden death	William Scornfield	Blacksmith	Excessive drinking
Man unknown	Mariner	Drowned	William Jones	A lad	Drowned
Man unknown	Mariner	Drowned	John Jones	Collier	Killed in a pit
James Lewis	Labourer	Sudden death	William Morris	Collier	Killed in a pit
James Sellick	Mariner	Fits	Male child		Born dead
Man unknown	Mariner	Drowned	Jane Williams	Collier	Smother in a pit
William Morris	Servant	Accidental death	Sarah Mathias	Old woman	Found dead
Mary Richards	Child	Burnt	Man unknown	Mariner	Drowned
John Lewis	Labourer	Accidental	Sarah Harries	Servant	Fall from stairs
Frances James	Servant	Accidental	Sarah Phillips	Child	Burnt
Elizabeth Harbard	Infant	Burnt	David Davies	Collier	Found dead
James Blackmore	Mariner	Drowned	Henry Penn	Mariner	Found dead in cabin
William Buller	Labourer	Fall	Joseph Protheroe	Collier	Apoplexy
William Brown	Labourer	Fall	John Hill	Labourer	Found dead
Thomas Jenkins	Labourer	Accidental	Lewis James	Boatman	Drowned
Thomas Jones	Child	Burnt	William Thomas	Servant	Found dead
Evan Charles	Servant	Accidental	Frances White	Child	Burnt
Elizabeth John	Servant	Accidental	Charles Absolam	Collier	Drowned
Thomas Mathias	Servant	Accidental	John Crawley	Boatman	Fell in a boat
William Evans	Servant	Accidental	George Harries	Child	Burnt
John Edwards	Servant	Accidental	Thomas Gwilliam	Labourer	Found dead
Margaret Jermyn	Servant	Accidental	Eliza Absolam	Child	Burnt
Humphrey Williams	Collier	Accidental	John Davies	Collier	Killed in a pit
Ann Thomas	Servant	Accidental	Joseph Davies	Collier	Killed in a pit
Man unknown	Mariner	Drowned	Thomas Williams	Collier	Found dead
Man unknown	Mariner	Drowned	Neven Garnson	Seaman	Drowned
Lettice Cozens	Child	Burnt	Thomas Griffiths	Labourer	Found dead
Woman Unknown	Child	Burnt	James Griffiths	Child	Burnt
John Hughes	Labourer	Accidental	Oliver Edmonds	Druggist	Died in goal
Thomas Jenkins	Servant	Hydrophobia	Francis White	Widow	Found dead
Ezekiel Mathias	Collier	Accidental	Thomas Williams	Collier	Killed in pit
Emily Rees	Farmer	Fits	Susannah Lewis	Widow	Found dead
Michael Thomas	Collier	Accidental	William Shadrack	Seaman	By a fall
William Phillips	Collier	Accidental	David Morris	Small farmer	Lunacy by hanging
Elizabeth Griffiths	Servant	Accidental	George Howells	Labourer	Found dead
James Williams	Labourer	Accidental	Martha Vaughan	Servant	Sudden death
John Davies	Collier	Accidental	Richard Williams	Labourer	Sudden death
James Davies	Servant	Accidental	Mary Lawrence	Widow	Found drowned
John Thomas	Servant	Accidental	John John	Child	Found drowned
William Owen	Servant	Accidental	William Morgan	Collier	Killed in pit
Sarah Thomas	Servant	Accidental	George Beynon	Child	Burnt
John Howells	Collier	Accidental	Female child		Found dead
Martha Lewis	Servant	Accidental	Henry Richards	Mariner	Drowned
James Crump	Mariner	Sudden death	John Rees	Mariner	Drowned
Martha Davis	Child	Burnt	Richard Davies	Labourer	Found dead
Mary Richards	Servant	Accidental	Female bastard child		Found dead
George Gwno	Servant	Accidental	John Davies	Yeoman	Found dead
John Richards	Labourer	Sudden death	Thomas Davies	Seaman	Drowned
Benjamin Harlow	Collier	Burnt	Richard Morris	Labourer	Sudden death
Martha Jenkins	Child	Drowned	Male bastard child		Sudden death
George Smith	Farmer	Drowned	Benjamin Lewis	Servant	Killed by cart
Ruth Edwards	Widow	Suffocated	Sarah Rowlands	Widow	Lunacy by hanging
Theophilis Thomas	Servant	Found dead	Thomas Richards	Servant	Killed by cart
Letita James	Servant	Suffocated	John Woolcock	Collier	Killed in coal pit

Return of inquests cont.

Names	Occupations	Causes of death or verdicts.	Names	Occupations.	Causes of death or verdicts.
William Thomas	Collier	Accidental	John Thomas	Seaman	Drowned
Ann Williams	Servant	Found dead	John Burnet	Collier	Drowned in coal pit
Ann Francis	Child	Burnt	Thomas Davies	Seaman	Drowned
Martha Owens	Widow	Found dead	Margaret Philips	Widow	By a fall
Stephen Williams	Labourer	Found dead	Sarah Simmons	Married woman	Sudden death
James Howells	Child	Burnt	Child unknown		Found drowned

N.B. The Coroner is unable to supply the ages of the different parties.

27th. October, 1841.

J.J. STOKES, Coroner.

No.2. - A Return of the Inquests Held by WILLIAM DAVIES ESQ., Coroner of the District of Merthyr, South Wales.

From October 14 to December 14th., 1837.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>OCCUPATION</u>	<u>CAUSE OF DEATH</u>
Evan Miles	Labourer	Burnt to death.
Ann Williams	Single woman	Crushed by fall of earth.
Elizabeth Michael	Wife of E.M.	Visitation of God.
Ann Jenkins	Single woman	Visitation of God.
Evan Howell	Miner	Hanged himself.
Edwin Perry	Labourer	Accidental death.
Morgan Davies	Labourer	Accidental death.
William Thomas	Labourer	Visitation of God.
John Evans	Labourer	Visitation of God.

From December 126th., 1837 to June 148h., 1838.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>OCCUPATION</u>	<u>CAUSE OF DEATH</u>
Richard Owen	Collier	Burnt.
George Kendall	Inn servant	Fell down stairs.
Catherine Davies	Single woman	Burnt.
John Llewellyn	Miner	Murdered by poisoning.
Fortunatus Davies	Miner	Crushed by falling earth.
Henry Phillips	Miner	Crushed by falling earth.
John Evans	Collier	Burnt.
Ann Davies	Labouere	Visitation of God.
Margaret Thomas	Single woman	Visitation of God.
Daniel Davies	Labourer	Visitation of God.
Thomas Waller	Labourer	Died for inclemency of the weather.
Evan Thomas	Labourer	Foud dead.
Daniel Morgan	Labourer	Accidental death.
John Jenkins	Labourer	Found dead.
David Lewis	Collier	Crushed by fall.
Robert Gwynne	Labourer	Suffocated.
John Morgan	Collier	Crushed to death.
Morgan Howelll	Collier	Burnt.
William Jones	Collier	Crushed.
William Vining	Labourer	Found dead.
A child unknown		Found dead.

From June 18th. to September 18th., 1838.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>OCCUPATION</u>	<u>CAUSE OF DEATH</u>
Walter Roberts	Collier	Crushed by fall.
David Davies	Miner	Crushed by fall.
William Jones	Collier	Crushed.
Samuel Thomas	Labourer	Crushed
Infant male child	No Name	Found dead.
Isaac Thomas	Labourer	Accidental death.
John Williams	Collier	Burnt in firedamp.
David James	Collier	Burnt in firedamp.
Isaac Jones	Collier	Burnt.
Jannet Wozzley	Single woman	Crushed.
Benjamin Davies	Labourer	Crushed.
Thomas Meyrick	Labourer	Visitation of God.

From October 10th., to December 17th, 1838.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>OCCUPATION</u>	<u>CAUSE OF DEATH</u>
Edmund Thomas	Labourer	Crushed to death.
Jonathan Davies	Collier	Burnt in firedamp.
Alexander Rees	Labourer	Scalded to death.
David Edwards	Collier	Burnt in firedamp.
Thomas Williams	Collier	Crushed.
Evan Owen	Labourer	Found dead.
Mary Jones	Single woman	Burnt.
Jonathan Evans	Miner	Crushed by fall of earth.
Morgan Williams	Collier	Crushed by fall.
Ann Davies	Single woman	Burnt.
William Parry	Collier	Crushed by fall.
Levi Evans	Collier	Accidental death.
Mary Watkins	Single woman	Burnt.

From December 20th., 1838 to March 2nd., 1839.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>OCCUPATION</u>	<u>CAUSE OF DEATH</u>
Child of Margaret Evans		Found dead.
Margaret Lewis	Single woman	Visitation of God.
Thomas Williams	Labourer	Visitation of God.
Howell Powell	Miner	Crushed by fall.
John Jones	Collier	Burnt in firedamp.
Matilda Evans	Single woman	Crushed by fall
Thomas Griffiths	Collier	Fell into pit.
Samuel Thomas	Collier	Fell into pit.
William Griffiths	Collier	Fell into pit.
Enock Williams	Miner	Crushed in level.
David Williams	Collier	Burnt.
John William	Collier	Crushed to death.
John Lewis	Labourer	Burnt to death.
William Jeffrys	Agent	Visitation of God.
John Owen	Labpurer	Crushed by fall.
Thomas Savage	Labourer	Crushed.
Thomas Thomas	Collier	Crushed in coal works.
Hopkin Llewellyn	Tailor	Found dead on mountain.
William Davies	Chaise driver	Fiund drowned.
Thoma sThomas	Labourer	Visitation of God.
Joan Jenkins	Single woman	Burnt.
David Jenkins	Collier	Crushed.
Richard Davies	Collier	Crushed.
Rachel Jones	Single woman	Visitation of God.

From April 1st., to September 2nd. 1839.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>OCCUPATION</u>	<u>CAUSE OF DEATH</u>
Thomas Lewis	Collier	Murdered by wife.
Thomas Williams	Collier	Crushed.
William Bevan	Labourer	Found drowned.
Ann Evans	Single woman	Visitation of God.
William Davies	Collier	Burnt in firedamp.
Richard Moss	Child	Scalded to death.
James Thomas	Mason	Fell from scaffold.
Mary Griffiths	Married	Visitation of God.
James Davies	Labourer	Fell into pit.

From April 1st., to September 2nd., 1839.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>OCCUPATION</u>	<u>CAUSE OF DEATH</u>
Sarah Lewis	Single woman	Visitation of God.
David Jenkins	Collier	Burnt in firedamp.
William Lewis	Miner	Crushed.
Jacob Davies	Miner	Crushed.
Ann Jenkins	Single woman	Fell into coal pit.
John Walters	Engineer	Shot himself, insane.
Joseph Thehame	Labourer	Burnt.
Evan Lloyd	Collier	Crushed in coal works.
Thomas Lewis	Labourer	Visitation of God.
Child of Elizabeth Williams		Died of exposure to weather.
Samuel Thomas	Labourer	Found dead in works.
John Jones	Miner	Crushed in level.
Elizabeth Harris	Child	Burnt in house.
William Thorn	Navigator	Drowned in pit.
Ann Beddoe	Wife	Visitation of God.

From December 18th., 1839. to March 18th., 1840.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>OCCUPATION</u>	<u>CAUSE OF DEATH</u>
William Jenkins	Labourer	Starvation.
Ellen Murphy	Single woman	Murder by person unknown.
John Astons	Shoemaker	Found drowned.
John Woolcott	Labourer	Burnt.
John Stokes	Labourer	Found drowned.
David Jenkins	Labourer	Crushed.
Mary Lloyd	Child	Scalded.
Edward Williams	Collier	Fractured thigh. Accidental death.
Jospeh Smith	Collier	Found drowned.
Rachael Williams	Single woman	Burnt in cinder tip.
William Hughes	Collier	Crushed in level.
George Thomas	Collier	Fell into pit and drowned.
Hugh Jones	Collier	Killed by stones in explosion.
Rees Williams	Engine tender	Killed by bricks from stack thrown down by electric fluid
John Evans	Labourer	Found drowned.
George Griffiths	Collier	Killed by fall of stone in pit.
Sarah Bevan	Single woman	Killed by fall of coal.
William Hooper	Collier	Fell down pit
Benjamin Phillips	Labourer	Visitation of God.
David Williams	Labourer	Burnt in works.
Mary Ann Hughes	Child	Burnt in house.
John Palmer	Labourer	Burnt in works.
Thomas Davies	Collier	Fall fo coal.
Thomas Jones	Miner	Accidental death by falling into main patch.
John Davies	Miner	Killed by fall of stnes.
David Griffiths	Labourer	Found drowned.

From March 23rd., to October 5th., 1840.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>OCCUPATION</u>	<u>CAUSE OF DEATH</u>
Joseph Jones	Rougher	Killed in works.
James Seaford	Labourer	Cut his throat. Deranged.
David Powell	Collier	Crushed.
John Bevan	Collier	Crushed.
David Harris	Labourer	Accidental death.
Ann Jones	Single woman	Visitation of God.
David Davies	Collier	Burnt in firedamp.
Mary Hunter	Wife	Visitation of God.
Jonathan Richards	Miner	Fall of earth in works.
John Williams	Labourer	Accidental death.
David Hill	Labourer	Fell upon mandrill.
David Jones	Farmer	Visitation of God.
Philip James	Haulier	Fell under trams.
William Pipler	Brewer	Scalded.
John Jones	Collier	Burnt by firedamp.
Evan Powell	Collier	Burnt by firedamp.
Thomas Richards	Collier	Visitation of God.
David Brown	Collier	Burnt in firedamp.
Simon Rees	Collier	Visitation of God.
William Davies	Collier	Burnt in firedamp.
John Jones	Collier	Accidental death.
Thomas Thomas	Labourer	Accidental death.
William Jones	Collier	Accidental death.
William Hughes	Collier	Burnt.
Thomas James	Labourer	Burnt in lime-kiln.
John White	Labourer	Excessive drinking.
William Harris	Labourer	Visitation of God.
David Jones	Labourer	Crushed.
Edward Williams	Haulier	Killed by tram.
William Davis	Labourer	Killed in inclined plane.
David Price	Child	Kicked by horse.

From 5th. October., 1840 to March 22nd., 1841.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>OCCUPATION</u>	<u>CAUSE OF DEATH</u>
David Joseph	Collier	Burnt.
David Jones	Labourer	Crushed.
Oliver Davis	Labourer	Crushed.
Richard Evans	Labourer	Killed in limestone quarry.
David Rees	Labourer	Fall of earth.
Thomas Moses	Collier	Burnt in firedamp.
Joseph Told	Child	Scalded.
Thomas Shipton	Ostler	Fell from coach.
Evan Davies	Child	Fell from horseback.
John Edwards	Collier	Fell into pit.
Philip Lloyd	Labourer	Accidental death.
Sophia Kempster	Single woman	Fell off horseback.
John Davies	Labourer	Found dead.
David Williams	Collier	Fall of coal.
John Smith	Engineer	Scalded.
Morgan Jones	Engineer	Scalded.
Henry Thomas Price	Child	Found dead.
John Richards	Labourer	Fall of earth.
Child of Thomas Thomas.	No Name	Found dead.
Thomas Evans	Miner	Fall of earth in level.
David Bradley	Lad	Fell off horseback.
David Williams	Collier	Fall of coal.
Thomas Thomas	Collier	Fall of coal.
Morgan Meredith	Labourer	Crushed to death.
Isaac Chine	Labourer	Visitation of God.
William Price	Labourer	Burnt to death.
Evan Lewis	Collier	Fall of coal and earth.

From 5th. October., 1840 to March 22nd., 1841. Cont.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>OCCUPATION</u>	<u>CAUSE OF DEATH</u>
James Horan	Labourer	Found dead.
Child	Name unknown	Found dead.
Henry Peregrine	Collier	Burnt in firedamp.
William Davies	Labourer	Crushed to death.
Gabriel Davies	Engine tender	Scalded.
John Jones	Labourer	Visitation of God.
William Hym	Labourer	Fall of earth and stones.
William Harris	Labourer	Fiund dead.
Enoch Williams	Labourer	Accidental death.

From April 5th., to October 1st., 1841.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>OCCUPATION</u>	<u>CAUSE OF DEATH</u>
Evan Edwards	Labourer	Fall of earth.
Thomas Hopkins	Mason	Part of blast furnace fell on him.
David Thomas	Mason	Part of blast furnace fell on him.
David Richard	Mason	Part of blast furnace fell on him.
William Watkins	Mason	Part of blast furnace fell on him.
Thomas Davies	Mason	Part of blast furnace fell on him.
Ann Else	Wife	Found dead.
John Lewis	Labourer	Drowned in pit.
David Murphy	Labourer	Accidental death.
Daniel Jones	Labourer	Crushed.
James Sullivan	Labourer	Fell into patch.
Evan Lewis	Miner	Fall of earth.
John Newcombe	Collier	Found drowned.
Edward Edwards	Lad	Fell off horseback.
Thomas Powell	Miner	Manslaughter.
John Morris	Labourer	Found dead on mountain.
John Rees	Labourer	Manslaughter.
David Jones	Labourer	Suffocation in fould air.
William Morgan	Labourer	Found drowned.
David Thomas	Labourer	Crushed.
John Davies	Collier	Burnt in firedamp.
David Thomas	Collier	Crushed.
John Williams	Puddler	Homicide by misadventure.
William Powell	Haulier	Crushed.
George Thomas	Bundler	Homicide by misadventure.
John Jones	Labourer	Homicide by misadventure.
Evan Williams	Labourer	Homicide by misadventure.
Harriet Williams	Single woman	Homicide by misadventure.
Jeffry Conell	Labourer	Homicide by misadventure.
Alfred Oldham	Shingler	Homicide by misadventure.

From October 5th., to October 14th., 1841.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>OCCUPATION</u>	<u>CAUSE OF DEATH</u>
William Meryck	Collier	Fall of earth and stones.
John Sinon	Puddler	Manslaughter.
Mary Micholas	Child	Found dead.
Thomas Davies	Labourer	Found drowned in river.
Maria Davies	Single woman	Found drowned in canal.

(Signed) Wm. DAVIES.

No.3. - A list of deaths of working people within my district which have come under my jurisdiction as Coroner for the Western Division of the County of Glamprgan during the last three years.

Date	Name	Residence	Cause of death
1838			
Dec. 15	John Lovecote	Bryn Coch	Accidental death in colliery.
1839			
April 8	Nicholas Pentreath	Parish of Margam	Accidental death, drowned.
April 8	Joseph Howell	Parish of Margam	Accidental death.
April 8	Mary Richards	Velin Vach	Suicide, temporary insanity.
April 26	William Williams	Try-y-Cwm	By the visitation of God.
July 30	Thomas Morgan	Neath	By visitation of God.
Oct. 25	Morgan Thomas	Duffryn Clydach	Accidental death in colliery.
Oct. 26	Llewellyn Llewellyn	Killebeill	Accidental death. Killed by tram waggon.
1840			
Feb. 15	Isaac William	Neath Ultra	Accidental death.
Feb. 20	John Johnson	Britton Ferry	Accidental death, drowned.
May 11	Thomas Johnson	Neath	Accidental death.
May 15	Ann Davies	Cwm Avon	Temporary insanity, suicide.
1841			
Mar. 15	James Johnson	Neath	Visitation of God.
April 20	Thomas Morgan	Neath	Manslaughter.
April 20	Edward Ypung	Neath	Accidental death.
May 24	David Morgan	Briton Ferry	Accidental death, drowned.

SWANSEA, Oct. 2, 1841

(Signed) THOMAS THOMAS.

No.4 - LIST OF ACCIDENTS IN COLLIERIES &c.

CYFARTHA.	Two fatal within the last two years. Evan Gray aged 16, two toes torn off ascending the Balance Pit. Laid idle for three months. Henrietta Franklin, aged 11, crushed by horse and tram. Not killed.
PLYMOUTH.	Philip Phillips, burnt by firedamp. Laid idle for five months. Face sadly disfigured.
GRAIG.	Mary Price, air-door girl, fell asleep and fell on the rail. Tram ran over her and broke her leg. Ann Jenkins aged 12 fell down pit. Killed. Short time since.
TREFOREST	Morgan, Killed in the erection of new work.
TIN WORKS.	Moses Gower aged 10, gate boy. Crushed foot by key of roller dropping on it. Disabled from working in iron works.
MAESMAWR.	Thomas Hopkins aged 15, killed. Banksman lowering the trams down the shaft too hastily.
COED Y BEDDW.	Three burnt in the Land Level Mine about twelve months since. David David maimed, unable to work. John Morgan, off work 12 weeks. John Thomas off work 3 weeks (See Evidence of Jane John, No.93.)
DINAS COLLIERY.	One man killed within the last two years. Sinking new pit, fell off stage. Three men killed, two years since by explosion. William Isaac aged 11 burnt by firedamp some months since. Matthew Lewis burnt three years ago. Laid idle six months.
MELINGRIFFITH TIN WORKS.	Thomas Smith lost tips of fingers by passing the tin plates too hastily through the shears.
GELLIGAER.	Richard Richards Killed by falling coal.
LANCYHACH.	Thomas Harris slipped and broke his leg. Eight months off work.

BUTTERY HATCH.	Jeremiah Jeremiah aged 10, sadly burnt by firedamp. Off work six months. W. Davis, father killed by fall of coal at Woodfield Colliery. W. Skidmore head crushed D by falling coal. Idle some time.
WATERLOO.	Philip Lloyd, collier, broke thigh, three ribs and one arm by roof falling.
GWRHAY COLLIERY.	Lad aged 15 killed by top falling.
COURT Y BELLA.	One fatal accident within the last two years. Five or six broken limbs. (See Evidence of Mr. H. Morgan.)
PANLLWYN. CWMDONS.	One seriously injured during last two years. (See Evidence of Morgan Thomas.) A boy has been crushed to death by roof, last two years.
GLANDUU and others, L&R Thomas proprietors.	One man unable to work, fractured leg. One not likely to recover from accident. Ten other accidents within the last twelve months but none fatal. Many laid up for two or three months. In the list returned there are marked six maimed and two labouring under disease working below.. There have been more accidents than accounted for. (See Evidence of Roper Thomas, Esq.,.)
RISCA.	Leg of one amputated in consequence of injuries received in sinking new pit. H. Beecher age 16 off work many weeks with bad foot injured by fall of coal. J. Moon off work five months, broke leg. W. Bentley, father, lost an eye blasting coal. G. Johnson broke his leg, off work six weeks.
HIRWAIN IRON WORKS.	Gills Gills aged 15 lost his right arm by falling under the locomotive engine twelve months since. Morgan Thomas aged 15 lost his left arm four months since. The tram overpowered him whilst taking a sprig out of wheel which passed over his arm.
YSKYN.	Benjamin Daniel killed by fall of roof.
GNOLL and EAGLEBUSH.	Boy killed by fall of roof. (See Evidence of Geo. Penrose, Esq.) John Thomas fell out of tub (descending shaft) and was killed. David Parker head slit open by piece of rock and killed. William Edwards, killed by coal falling. L. Thomas broke breast-bone by coal falling. William Parker broke his leg by rock falling. William Harris, killed eighteen months since by rock falling. Griffith Griffiths skin burnt off by firedamp. (See Evidence of J. Jeffries.)
LASANLET.	On fatal accident within the last two years.
SKEWAN.	Thomas David killed by chain breaking. David Randall killed by fall of roof. Two men burnt by firedamp last August.

APPENDIX B.

Summary of cases disposed of and committals by the Magistrates of Merthyr, the Hundred of Neath and Swansea in the Couty of Glamorgan in the years 1839, 1840 and 1841.

No.1 - MERTHY TYDVIL - Summary of cases by Magistrates.

Nature of offence	Cases disposed of year Ending Aug. 1839	Committals 1839	Cases disposed of year ending Aug. 1840	Committals 1840	Cases disposed of year ending Aug. 1841	Committals 1841
Felony		53		62		64
Concealment of birth		1				
Assault	257	10	209	10	197	7
Wages						
Misdemeanour by servants	106		127		172	
Petty trespass	80	7	62	6	51	3
Ale and beer-house offences	31		24		19	
Highways	22		17		34	
Drunkenness	26		9		7	
Obtaining goods by false pretences	1	1	2	2	3	2
Game Act	6		4		4	
Tenants fraudulently removing goods			4		4	
Riot			1			
Sureties of the peace	8	1	16		10	1
Tenements Act, recovering possession of under	5		4		4	
Non-payment of poor-rates	2		56		15	
Unlawful charges for distress			1		2	
Dog stealing		1			2	
Vagrants	13	5	9	7	26	10
Friendly societies	8		5		5	
Cruelty to animals	1		3		1	
Bastardy			1		3	
Excise	3		1		1	
Stealing in gardens and from fields			13		1	1
Extortion	1	1			1	1
Fraudulently stacking ironstone					2	2
Non-payment of church rates	4					
Railway offence					20	
Mutiny Act			3	1		

This list was supplied by Mr. Lewis, Clerk to the Magistrates, Merthyr Tydvil, Sept. 21, 1841.

No.2 - Hundred of Neath, Glamorganshire. Summary of cases disposed of by the Magistrates.

Nature of offence	Cases disposed of year Ending Aug. 1839	Committals 1839	Cases disposed of year ending Aug. 1840	Committals 1840	Cases disposed of year ending Aug. 1841	Committals 1841
Felony	3	3	2	2	7	7
Assault	35	3	27	1	22	4
Offences under the Game Act	1	0	1	0	7	3
Assault with intent to commit rape	0	0	1	1	0	0
Stabbing	0	0	1	1	0	0
Wilful damage	2	0	0	0	0	0
Offences under beer-house Acts	1	0	0	0	0	0

Hundred of Neath, Glamorganshire, cont.

Nature of offence	Cases disposed of year Ending Aug. 1839	Committals 1839	Cases disposed of year ending Aug. 1840	Committals 1840	Cases disposed of year ending Aug. 1841	Committals 1841
Offences by liscensed victuallars	1	0	3	0	3	0
Destroying underwood	3	0	3	0	3	1
Offences against 2 & 3 William IV.c.120.s.43	0	0	1	0	0	0
Vagrancy	4	4	3	3	5	5
Offences against the Turnpike Acts	0	0	1	0	3	0
Fishing on private property	0	0	1	0	1	0
Constable neglecting duty	0	0	0	0	1	0
Combination by workmen against masters	0	0	0	0	1	1

Supplied by Thomas Coke, Esq., Clerk to the Magistrates, Neath.

No.3 - Swansea - Summary of cases disposed of by Magistrates.

Nature of offence	Cases disposed of year Ending Aug. 1839	Committals 1839	Cases disposed of year ending Aug. 1840	Committals 1840	Cases disposed of year ending Aug. 1841	Committals 1841
Felony	115	33	169	49	128	39
Assault	83	7	*59	6	*72	19
Vagrancy	15	15	20	20	15	14
Wilful trespass	5		6		6	2
Game Laws	5		6		6	2
Stealing wood &c.			5		4	1
Apprentices			4	4		
Profane swearing					1	

*There were convictions in a great majoroty of these cases but the cases of Committment to Prison for non-payment of the penalties inlicted are as stated.

APPENDIX C.

List of schools, religious and secular, open to the working classes in certain parts of Glamorganshire and Pembrokeshire in South Wales and Monmouthshire in England.

Merthyr - working population, 30,000.

In 1839 the number of Sunday Schools in Merthyr Tydvil was 27, the number of teachers 750 and the number of scholars 3795. The Sunday School, in connection with the Established Church, at present averages an attendance of 250 scholars and the national school 100 of each sex. There is one day (Catholic) school at Merthyr and another at Tredegar, averaging 60 between them.

Cefn Coed-y-Cymmer - population 1500.

There are three days schools in this village and in the two adjoining hamlets, Cacefenisy and Cefenacha, population 2000 altogether. One school averages an attendance of 40 and the other 60. There are Sunday Schools in connection with the Established Church, the Calvinistic Methodists and the Wesleyans, Independents and Baptists.

Eglwysilan.

Sunday Schools belonging to the Established Church, the Independents, Calvinistic Methodists and Wesleyans. One day school at Newbridge average attendance 60 to 70. The children are removed at a very early age which of course, operates injuriously as one third of the population cannot read at all.

The Rev. D. Williams, Curate.

Nantgarw.

One Sunday School with average attendance 110 to 120, one day school, average attendance 40 to 50, average fee 6s. a quarter. "Not one in forty knows the Creed. A good many do not know the Lord's Prayer."

David John Benyon, Schoolmaster

[The next neighbourhood schools are Caerphilly and Newbridge.]

Newbridge.

One day school average attendance 60 to 70. "If the workpeople can get employment for their children at any age, if it were only 2s. a week they will immediately take them from school and put them to work."

Wm. Macfarlane, Schoolmaster.

Gelligaer - population 1500.

There is one Sunday School belonging to the Established Church and one Baptist's and one endowed school for the education of the poor in the village. Open from 9 in the morning till 5 in the afternoon and another by a person on his own account. The first is attended on the average by about 15, the second about the same number. The third is about 18 and the last named school by about 40 to 50

Rev. T. Stacey, Rector.

"There had not been a day school in the village of Gelligaer for some time until the last four months, average rate of fees 5d. a week."

Mr. T. Jones, Schoolmaster.

MYNYDDUSLWYN - population 11,000, said to contain 17,984 acres.

One day school principally supported by colliers, average attendance 40, average fees 4d. per week. Nine Sunday Schools, two belonging to the Established Church, two to the Baptists and two to the Independents, two to the Welsh Methodists and one to the Wesleyans. There is also an evening school held in the vestry room on Friday evenings for reading and psalm singing. There is neither a national or free school in the parish. "This parish is 10 miles by 8 and full of collieries and yet there is but one church and one school room."

Rev. J. Evans, Rector.

"The school is attended principally by quarrymen and farm labourers, average fees 4d. to 6d. per week. I built the school room and have been there for 12 months."

Thomas Lewis, Master.

BEDWELLY - population 22,170.

"There are several Sunday Schools in this parish in connection with the different sects, two or three day schools but not attended by the collier children and I am not aware of any school open to female children. The inhabitants of those districts are chiefly colliers but their children are but seldom sent to school."

I do not consider the few day schools in this district capable of exercising any, the least, moral or religious influence upon the inhabitants and condition of the children attending them."

Rev. Wm. Morgan, Curate.

NEWPORT.

Two Sunday Schools in this parish, one of the Established Church and one of the Wesleyans, two day schools, one being an infant school into which none are admitted under seven years of age, the other being conducted on the national system.

Rev. Augustus Morgan, Rector.

HIRWAIN - Population about 2000.

Five meeting houses in most of which schools are held on the Sabbath day - no church within three miles. "A short time since there were two day schools, one for the miners, kept by myself and the other from those employed in the iron works, the latter is not now open. The present attendance at my school is 35 male and 15 females."

Mr. John Dixon, Schoolmaster.

ABERAVON.

Sunday Schools in connection with the Established Church, the Wesleyans, Baptists and Calvinistic Methodists. There is a national school and an evening school open for 6 to 8 but the schools are not well attended. "There are many means of education in this neighbourhood, if the children and their parents were but anxious to make use of them."

Rev. D Rees.

BAGLAN - population 4548.**BRITONFERRY - population 612.****LLANWIT juxta NEATH - population 1531.****MARGAM - population 2500.**

The means of education open to the working population of this neighbourhood, Are the school connected with the works and Sunday Schools connected with the Dissenters. The day schools are conducted on Bell's system.

Lindsay, Esq.

CADOXTON.

Sunday Schools of the Established Church, Wesleyans, Calvinistic Methodists and Independents. Day and evening schools at the Old Storehouse, Pentre, Clwydan, Aberdulais and the Abbey, which are not confined to boys but where girls, in addition to the usual elements of education are taught needlework, &c. The schools are but indifferently attended by colliers' children.

Rev. D.H. Griffith.

LLANELLY - population 11,500.

A national school and an infant school, two churches and 13 dissenting chapels, to each a Sunday School.

Rev. Dr Rees.

BEGELLY, County of Pembroke _ population 1000.

One Sunday School belonging to the Established Church, one day school open from 9 till 4 connected with the church. No female school. Average attendance at Sunday School. 60.

Rev. Richard Buckby, Rector.

APPENDIX D.

Extracts of evidence and replies to queries circulated by the Central Board as to the age at which it is desirable to limit the Employment of Children in the Mines &c, &c.

COUNTY OF GLAMORGAN.

Mr. WILLIAM WILLIAMS, overseer, Cyfartha Iron Works, Merthyr.

"If children were prohibited from working until 12 or 14 years of age, some essential goods might be the result, provided the parents were compelled to educate them."

Mr. P. KIRKHOUSE, overseer, Cyfartha Collieries and Ironstone Mines.

"Children are certainly sent to labour at too early an age."

Mr. DAVID JOSEPHS, manger at Plymouth Iron Works.

"I consider 13 years of age quite early enough for children to commence working in mines ought not to exceed 12 years of age."

Mr. JABEZ THOMAS, agent, Maes Mawr Colliery.

"Children should not go into the mines until 10 years of age."

WALTER COFFIN, Esq., proprietor, Dinas Colliery.

"Children ought not to be employed at an earlier age than eight years."

Messrs. D. and D. DAVIS, proprietors, Cwm Rhondda Colliery.

"We think no child ought to be taken to such hard work until 12 years of age."

MORGAN THOMAS, Esq., proprietor, Craig-y-Rallt Colliery.

"Children ought not to work at coal until 12 years old."

Mr. WILLIAM JENKINS, under-agent, Gellygau Colliery.

"Children are no real service until 12 years old."

Mr. RICHARD ANDREWS, overseer, Llaneyarch Colliery.

"No lad can be thoroughly useful till he is 13 or 14 years."

Mr. DAVID DAVIS, contractor, Gelacch Vargood Colliery.

"Children are no real use until they are of 12 years of age."

Mr. WILLIAM HALLOW, agent, Aberdulais Iron and Tin Works.

"I think a limitation of age would be of advantage to the rising generation."

ALFRED TUNSTALL, Esq., Melyncrythen Works.

"It has always been my practice to discourage the labour of children under 12 years of age."

GEORGE PENROSE, Esq., Knoll Colliery.

"I object to children being taken at an earlier age than 10 years."

Mr. JOHN THOMAS, cashier, Cwm Brow Bill Colliery.

“There exists no necessity for the employment of boys at so early an age as at present.”

Mr. DAVID HILL, Cashier, Llansawlet Colliery.

“From an early age at which it is the practice to take children into the mines, their education is greatly injured.”

Mr. EDWARD BROWN, cashier, Llansawlet Colliery.

“Boys under 13 are seldom employed.”

Mr. CHARLES WARING, agent, Neath Abbey Iron Company.

“Unless under particular circumstances, children are never employed at these works under 14 years so age.”

Rev. THOMAS STACEY, Gellygaer.

“Children go into the world without sufficient ballast of religious and moral convictions. I think they ought to remain at school until 14 or 15 years of age, depending on the ability of each child respectively.”

Rev. DAVID WILLIAMS, Curate of Eylwsilan, Newbridge.

“The removal of children at so early an age from school as they are in these parts operates to their injury, as may be seen from the fact that one third of the population cannot read at all in such districts as this. Many of the children, for want of instruction, are almost in a state of barbarism.”

Rev. JAMES CARROLL, Catholic Pastor., Merthyr.

“Children ought not to be removed from school to labour until 12 years of age.”

Rev. DAVID REES, Minister Abercoon.

“I think all children ought to be kept at school until 12 years of age.”

Rev. OWEN EVANS, Caewd-y-Cymmer, Merthyr.

“Children ought not to be removed from school until 13 or 14 years of age.”

Rev. WILLIAM MORRIS, Caewd-y-Cymmer.

“Children ought not to be allowed to go to work until 12 or 14 years of age.”

Rev. WILLIAM WILLIAMS, Independent Minister, Hirwain.

“Children ought to remain at school till 12 or 14 years of age.”

Rev. JOHN LLOYD, Neath.

“Children ought not remove from school till 12 or 14 years of age.”

Rev. HENRY HEY KNIGHT, Rector of Neath.

“Education commences at four years of age and closes at eight, a period insufficient for any useful instruction.”

Mr. WILLIAM CLOSE, master of Neath Abbey School.

“Children ought to remain at school up to 14 years of age.”

Mr. EDWARD COOKE, master of Merra School, Neath.

“I think children ought to remain at school until 14 years of age.”

Rev. D. HAMMER GRIFFITH, Rector of Cadoxton.

“Children should not be removed from school until 12 years of age.”

Rev. WILLIAM BUCKBY, Rector of Begelley.

“The removal of children from school at such an early age as 10 years operates very injuriously.”

JAMES BOWEN, Esq., surgeon Narbeth.

“It is desirable that children should not be taken into the mines until 12 years of age.”

THOMAS G. NOOTE, Esq., surgeon, Begelley.

“Were it possible, I would not allow a child to be taken into the pit before the age of 15.”

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

AARON CROSSFIELD, Esq., Gwrhay and Penyvau Collieries.

“It is my opinion children ought not to be employed under nine years of age.”

Mr. WILLIAM EVANS, agent and surveyor to the collieries of Martin Morrison, Esq., of Crymlyn.

“I cannot say anything more than, for the prolonging of life, a limitation of age at which children should commence working in mines is desirable as it is, it brings on debility and old age sooner than open air employment.”

Rev. AUGUSTUS MORGAN, Rector, Machin Rectory.

“I consider children ought to remain at school until they are 14 years of age, though the question of education in manufacturing and mining districts is one of extreme difficulty because the hours of labour differ so much.”

LEWIS THOMAS, Esq., Glanddw Level and other collieries.

“No child can cut the quantity of coal allowed to workmen until 10 years of age.”

GEORGE RANDALL HOOKEY, Esq., Risca Colliery.

“Young children are of no service to us as their strength is insufficient.”

PEMBROKESHIRE.

Mr. M. WHETTOW, agent, Nolton Colliery.

“Children are not required in our mines under 12 years of age. A limitation of age is desirable.”

Mr. RICHARD HARE, agent, Kelgetty Colliery.

“Children under 10 years of age are no real use below ground and a limitation to that age would be an advantage.”

LIONEL BROUGH, Esq., viewer and mining engineer, Neath.

“Trapper (as they are called) should be of an age to be thoroughly aware of the immense importance to life and property attending, or rather depending on, careful attention to their duty.”

Hencastle Colliery

EVIDENCE COLLECTED BY ROBERT HUGH FRANKS, ESQ.

COLLIERIES AND IRON-WORKS IN SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE.

MERTHYR-TYDVIL UPPER DISTRICT.

THE CYFATHA and ENNIS VACH IRON WORKS and COLLIERIES William Crawshay, Esq., proprietor.

Numbers employed:-

[There was no return for the numbers under 13 and 18 employed in these works.]

No.1. William Williams, overman of the iron works of Cyfartha.

In this department [the forges] there are, as near as I am unable to say, upwards of 2000 people employed, one third are probably under 18 years of age, varying from 8 to 18 years. As men work in gangs on job-work by the piece they employ whom they choose, consequently no real account of numbers can be given. Many girls assist at wheeling and piling iron and are brought by parents and others at very early ages which prevents them getting any kind of school instruction. Indeed, the education of children is in a most lamentable state. The public houses are more the resort of the young persons than Sunday Schools or Chapels. Girls ought not to be allowed to labour at such work as it unfits them for domestic service. It is far too fatiguing and heavy and causes too frequent intercourse with men, as the young women work on the night as well as the day. No school has ever been established by the proprietor of these works although he subscribes to the national school and Sunday School, few receive any advantage from the same. If children were prohibited from labouring until 12 or 14 years of age, some essential good might be the result provided the parents were compelled to educate them.

No.2. Mr. P. Kirkhouse, overman to the Cyfartha collieries and ironstone mines.

As far as my memory will permit, I should say the number of children and young persons working below ground in the Cyfartha mines amount to 400. Out of the number 50 may be females. The youngest employed at the air-doors and are taken below at very infantine ages which cranks [stunts] their growth and injures their constitution as well as keeping them in a state of ignorance of a very deplorable kind. The employment females are put to is filling and drawing the drams [carts] of coal or ironstone. It requires a great deal of strength. The main roads are made as easy as the work will allow, by iron rails being run to the ends of the workings but this does not alter the nature of the employment which is certainly unfit for women and totally deprives them of the liberty it gives of getting after-employment at labour of domestic kind. Few of the young people have received the most ordinary education. One fourth probably of the 400 may read or know their letters, certainly not more and that they have acquired by long attendance at Sunday Schools. Very few accidents occur here as the mines are well ventilated. We have firedamp below and occasional burning but none of the fatal kind. There were only two instances last year.

I should say that children ought not to be allowed to labour about the mines until 13 or 15 years of age, i.e. according to strength and although I am a Welshman, I cannot forebear saying that the perpetuation of the Welsh language, by teaching in schools and preaching in the same language in Chapels, stultifies the children and prevents their progress in education.

No.3. Mr. John Jones, overman of the Cyfartha blast furnaces.

The numbers of adults are not to be estimated here as in the forges. They work on jobs in numbers and are paid by the ton. The labour is excessive and many of the young people drop off from 18 to 22 years of age, of a species of consumption. The young boys are at first employed in bringing water to the men and rise by degrees to work at the furnaces. About 60 young persons,

chiefly females are helpers to fill the furnaces and breakers of limestone. Their work is constant, hard and requires close application for the whole seven days or seven nights, whatever shifts they labour upon. When the children are brought early. As they too frequently are, the sulphurous vapour rising from the calcinators injures them and keeps them down in size and strength, females are unfitted by the labour for domestic service although clean in their habits and industrious, yet their tastes undergo so great a change and their ignorance of religious knowledge proves a great obstruction to their children's progress when married and marriages are much too early about this quarter from the intercourse of the sexes and nature of employment.

No.4. Mary Evans, 18 or 19 years old, blast furnace filler.

I help fill the blast furnace with iron and limestone. The work is very hard and the rests short. I work seven days or seven nights and there is no cessation of labour on the blasts. I have been here for two and half years and before that helped my mother at home at house cleaning and washing. I was at the Welsh school in Carmarthen before Cyfartha and was taught reading [cannot read English or Welsh]. She has heard the preacher speak of Jesus Christ but can't say who he is. I earn 3s. 6d. a week. I cannot say how many pence there are in that amount. There are five fingers on one of my hands and 10 on 2, I don't know how many twice 4 can make.

[This girl could not multiply four, but as the scores are kept in fives on the slates in chalk she could go as high as 20 multiplying fives.]

No.5. John Davies, 12 years old, blast furnace filler.

He helps to fill the furnace every day or night. He never works less than 12 hours and gets two rests for breakfast and dinner of about half an hour each. He goes to Sunday School but has never heard of the Testament. He thinks the Testament is the Bible but he cannot say what is in the Bible. He has heard that it says we are to do each other no harm. He has been only a month at Sunday School and can't say his letters, knows there are 12 pennies in a shilling but can't say what 4 time 6 makes.

No.6. David Evans, 10 years, iron filler or labourer.

He began work two years gone and has never been to school since except the Sunday one. He works 12 hours daily and 12 when on night shifts and earns 3s. a week. He knows there are 12 pence in 1s., 140 on 3s. He was once taught in the Commandments in Welsh and believes there are 10. The fourth says I must not thief, which I do not. Thieving means taking away something from the men. Jesus was the wisest man and I never heard of Solomon. I do not like night work and have often been burned as most of the boys are when they first work. The work is very hard for boys as well as men and we are all kept at it. No one ever falls asleep.

No.7. John Thomas, 17 years, straightener.

I have been nine years at work and works 12 hours daily and earns 12s. a week. He could read and write before he was set to work but all is nearly lost [cannot read English but reads Welsh imperfectly.] He was reading the Bible at a Sunday School and attends the Independents' every Sunday. Jesus Christ is God and made the world, David was the wisest man. God brought the Jews out of Egypt and he believes there are ten commandments but forgets them. Five hundred pounds in a hundredweight, 20 cwt. on a ton. Can't say what 5 times 7 will make.

No.8. David Thomas, 15 years old, iron filler or labourer.

Began to work five years ago and taught it. He has not much time to spare as he works 12 and 13 hours daily and week about works all night. Since at the work he has been often burned but has not been laid off for more than a 3 week at a time. Boys who work in day play after leaving and wash before going to bed as mothers don't allow them to go to rest filthy. Was at day school and learned the spelling there. There are ten Commandments, one to say you must not steal and the Christ is God. He thinks Jesus Christ was born in Wales and went to England. He now goes to the Sunday School of the Independents. Sixty pence is half-a-crown. I earn 6s. 8d. a week. Can't say how many sixpences there are in that amount unless had time.

No.9 Susannah Davies, 17 years old, piler.

Father brought me to work three years ago, he works at the forges. She has two younger brother at work. We all went to the Welsh school but none can read Welsh as we were only in the spelling and was never taught The Scripture nor any Commandments. Does not know how Jesus Christ was nor who made him. Goes sometimes to the English Sunday School and at others the Welsh. She

goes there because others go. [Cannot read at all.] Sews a little but does not knit. Works hard when at home.

No.10. William Hughes, 12 years, blacksmith.

He has been two years at work and is employed to carry coals to the smithy and heats a bit of iron. He works 12 hours a day. I don't dislike the work but it tires. I was at free school [cannot read words of three letters]. He now goes to Sunday School of the Independents. He earns 3s. weekly. Can't say how many pence in 3s., there are 12 in 1s., 3 times 4 = 12, twice 8 = 16, twice 9 = 18. He has three brothers and one sister and all read as much as I do. Never heard of the Catechism or much about the Bible. God made me. Jesus is God. Does not know who the teacher is in the Sunday School as sometimes a lady asks questions and at others gentlemen. He has often been there when no questions were asked.

No.11. John Lewis, 10 years old, labourer in smithy.

I fill the barrows with iron and run them to the forges or to where they are wanted. I work every day and have done so for six months. I have burned my face and feet but never off work for many days. I was at the free Welsh School and did learn the a b and the ab.

[Does not know a letter.]

No.12. Sarah Davis, 14 years old, plier.

Works 12 hours daily piling iron bars for the puddlers [refiners]. Been only two months at work. Was at the free school and got a bit of spelling [cannot spell any]. God made man, never heard of heaven or hell. Twelve pennies in 1s., twice 2 are 4, does not know what 4 and 4 make.

No.13. Catherine Hughes, 14 years old, water carrier.

I carry water on the hill to the men who char the coal for the blast furnaces. I work seven days and seven nights with less work on Sundays, 12 to 13 hours on other periods. He works for his step father as his own is dead. Cannot read yet but goes to Sunday School to hear the preacher and see about. [Does not know how to read.] No questions in the Catechism are taught at school. God made me, Jesus is God, Adam was the first man, Job was the wisest man. Twelve pennies in a shilling, five fingers on each hand, six days in a week. Cannot say how many months in a year. A month contains more days than a week.

No.14. Susan Davies, 17 years old, plier.

I have been at work for 12 months. Kept house before for mother and nursed the children. Never was at any day school [can't read Welsh or English.] Got the English from neighbours. Works with father who is a puddler and earns 24s. a month. Never heard of the Bible but knows there is a Testament. Has never been taught any Commandments but knows there may be some but not any to my knowledge. Mother taught me to knit and to sew my clothes which I do when I get home.

No.15. Mary Powell, 13 years old, helper to fill.

Been 12 months helping to fill at the blast furnaces and earns 3s. 6d. a week. Works all day and every day, Sunday as well as week day, on the nights which the gangs take turns about. Never was at school in the day. When time will allow goes to hear the preacher. Does not know what he says or what he means exactly. Never was taught English. Has got a little from lodgers and hawkers.

[Very ignorant, does not know a letter in the English or Welsh primers.]

No.16. Mary Williams, 15 years old, limestone breaker.

Breaks limestone for the blast and has done so for three years. Works every day for 12 hours. The work is very hard and have not much rest. Has to assist in house cleaning when at home. My wages are 5s. a week in seven days or nights of 12 hours each. Sometimes we do not work the whole 12 hours on Sunday as it depends on the limestone which is broken. I never was at day school. Now I go to the Independent Sunday School and am learning to spell. They say God made me and that he is Jesus Christ. Can't say whether there are any Commandments. There may be two but I know nothing about them.

[Cannot read, speaks Welsh only.]

No.17. Evan Gray, 16 years old, miner.

Been worked in the mines since seven years old. Works at the coal. He assists in cutting under. Father picks and blasts. He had two toes torn off his foot as ascending the Balance Pit at Cyfartha and has been laid by three months. Cannot put my foot on the ground yet. When at work have to go

below at four and six in the morning and return at three and four in the afternoon. Never been to school. I know nothing about any Commandments or who made me. When will I go the Independent Chapel to hear the preacher.

No.18. Henrietta Frankland, 11 years old, drammer.

When well, I draw the drams [carts], which contain 4 to 5 cwt. of coal from the heads to the main road. I make 48 to 50 journeys. My sister, who is two years older, also works at dramming. The work is very hard and the long hours before the pay day much fatiguing. The mine is wet where we work as the water passes through the roof and the workings are only 30 to 33 inches high. I have been laid idle two months as a horse fell upon me and the cart passed over me and crushed my inside. No ribs were broken but the pain was very great and continues still. Sister Maria [13 years old] as well as myself have not been to school since work. I do not know whether God made me or anything about Jesus. There are no Commandments. None of us read any book. My sister is learning in the spelling book. She has been 12 months at Sunday School and not yet in a book.

[The sister was present, having just returned from the mine. She did not know the letters.]

No.19. The Rev. Mr. William, curate of Merthyr Tydvil.

We have Sunday Schools of many sects in time. The Sunday School of the Established Church is held in the national school. We have an attendance of 250 on an average. In the national school an average of 100 each sex. Education is, indeed, at a very low ebb. The morals of the people are very bad. Illicit intercourse of the sexes is common in three cases out of four amongst the working people taken generally. You will find in some quarters of the town, in the lodging houses, that young men and women sleep in the same chamber, married people as well. I have witnessed such in visiting the sick. Such places are Caedraw and Celery, in Pontstonehouse, in this town. They are of course the resort of the lowest classes.

The working people here living grossly yet they are careful to keep up a good dress which they manage to do by benefit societies. Their frequent processions foster this and their constant appearance in public, at festivals of their societies is an additional motive for their respectability of appearance. Clubs and benefit societies are very prevalent and they do a great deal of good. They are increasing and have increased of late in a fivefold proportion. Perhaps the dislike of the New Poor Law encourages this. There is a dislike of the New Poor Law here. We have no Union house. It is feared that the prejudice is so strong that the people, were it built, would pull it down. Of course outdoor relief is large. The poor have no other but they are very happy in their guardians. From 3s. to 5s. is the average weekly allowance of the aged.

The employment of girls in the works tends greatly to their demoralisation. They get habits of intemperance and indeed all sorts of vice.

The agricultural labourers are in general a much more moral class than the operatives in the town. In town, when the work is done, and the water fetched home for their horses, the girls, I am told, are generally at the public houses.

Many of the working people here have frugal habits but the defalcation of a treasurer was their savings bank here has in a great measure put a check to confidence. The amount was nearly £2000, £1000 of which was, however, realised by sale of the defaulter's property and the other £1000 is in a fair way of being paid by the trustees and directors by subscription.

No.20. The Rev. James Carroll, Catholic pastor, Merthyr.

The character of the people here is rude and uncultivated, their habits industrious but savage. The classes here present few points of distinction. The small amount of education received by the more fortunate and the indiscriminate occupations to which all are applied, render the conduct and condition of the labouring poor very nearly equal, I have resided amongst them six years. The attendance at places of worship is pretty regular but the people are given to swearing, obscenity and quarrelling beyond what I have observed elsewhere. Yet they are generally very attentive to their domestic duties and their daily employment, thought totally impervious to reason or religion where the visions of their class are concerned, as, for example, in the case of the Chartists. Education makes but little advances. I keep up two day schools assisted in the expenses by two charitable friends and 60 children of both sexes attend the schools. One is at Tredegar and the other at Merthyr. The hours are from nine to twelve and two till five. I do not know of any school for the education of female children in sewing &c. The children of both sexes are employed so early picking or piling minerals or coals. They are removed about seven years of age which early removal generally deprives them of all taste for instruction.

Schools of design and schools in which the elements of mechanics and the other branches of natural philosophy should be taught, would tend greatly to elevate the social condition and character

of the working classes. Perhaps more here than in most other places on account of the high wages attainable here by proficient but when taught, they would not work for low wages. There is self-conceit as well as national pride amongst the natives which enhances the slightest advantage.

For the morals of the population whilst children of both sexes are allowed by their parents to drink, smoke and talk obscene language before 12 years of age, they cannot be expected to come up to the morality even of Canadian savages. Employers should set a different example.

No.21. The Rev. Owen Evans, minister of the Independent Chapel, Coed-y-Cymmer, near Merthyr.

I was educated at the Presbyterian College at Carmarthen and am minister of the Independent Chapel her. I keep a day school at which the average number of scholars is about 40, at an average of 7s. 6d. per quarter. Amongst them are some children of miners and workmen of the iron works. I have a few at 10s. a quarter. They are removed very young, between eight and nine which depends entirely on the parents. They ought not be removed from school till 13 or 14 at the least, for after they are engaged at the works they rarely attend to further instruction. I have had only three young men under my care who made great progress considering the limited time they had to attend, the mornings of every other week.

I observe a marked difference in the children of agriculturists and those engaged in the iron works. The former are modest and decent in their behaviour but the latter are the reverse and are addicted to cursing and swearing. I have great difficulty in getting a good common domestic female servant here from amongst those who work in the iron works. They never make good servants and find the restraint too much. I consider the farmer's men much more comfortable than the operatives hereabouts, though they do not get the wages.

I do not think women ought to be employed in the works. When they have finished work they wash and dress themselves, meet their sweethearts and spend the evening in some public house.

I do not think the number of public houses encourages drunkenness, since, if there was only one there would be a greater assemblage and consequently greater dissipation. Such was the case at Dowlais, in my recollection, where there was only one. It is much better now. There is less excess. Perhaps it would be a good plan here not to allow any liquor to be drunk on the premises and that would keep the people at home and check the debauchery of general meetings.

Those engaged in the mine and iron works here are very much given to drinking, gambling and indeed, every species of vice. I think that of the higher classes of society set them better examples it would have a good effect on their morals. If reading rooms were established they would be very useful. A good night school would be very beneficial. I speak from experience and am sorry my health does not allow me to keep one open for any considerable time. It was very well attended while it was open.

Most of the people hereabouts belong to some benefit society or other. Such societies have become much more popular of late since the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act and some recent occurrences in Brecon. We have no Union house here.

The men in the works get good wages and should be the most comfortable in the district. Quarrymen only get 12s. top 13s. per week.

The savings banks are not in good repute her. A defalcation of nearly £2000 occurred within the last twelve months. I question whether this will not render them so unpopular as to prevent their being revived, though I understand all the money is likely to be repaid by the trustees.

No.22. Mr. William Morris, village of Coed-y-Cymmer, near Merthyr.

I am from Carmarthenshire and have resided here since 1819. I superintend the Calvinistic Methodists' Sunday School and keep a day school of my own. There are three day schools in this village and the two adjoining hamlets of Caecefenisy and Cefenucha. The population is 2000 altogether out of which we reckon 1500. Reading, writing and arithmetic are generally taught at our schools and the fees payable vary from 4s. 6d. to 8s. per quarter. My scholars are about 60, sometimes 80. The children of this village are principally employed at the iron works. They go to work as early as seven and seldom stay at school so late as nine years of age. When labour begins education generally stops. We have no night school except occasionally in winter and those who attend are very few indeed. The Sunday Schools in the village are of the Established Church, the Calvinistic Methodists, the Wesleyans, Independents and Baptists. We have no school for female children unfortunately.

The Calvinistic Methodists of this village consist entirely of teetotallers. No others are allowed to join the congregation. Amongst them we number a great many miners and colliers.

The morals of the population are at a very low ebb. The domestic knowledge of the girls employed at the works is very deficient but not so deficient as their moral condition of the discharge

of their duties as wives and mothers. Cleanliness is, however, very general with them. They take great pride in their homes. They are very loose in morality. There is a girl not far off who is now with child for the fourth time. They very frequently have children before marriage.

We have not less than 13 or 14 licensed public houses for the sale of spirits and beer. I have known people kept drinking all Saturday night at some of these and on the Sunday morning I have often heard of fighting and brawling in the streets of drunken men. They do pretty nearly as they like, no one interferes. The people are very honest.

It would be very desirable if those who move in the higher sphere of life about this quarter would show a good example to those who are placed by Providence under them.

I do not know how the condition of the labouring population here can be improved, except by education. Children should not, in my opinion, be allowed to go into the works before 12 or 14 but the prices of provisions should be reduced to enable parents to spare their children's labour.

In 1839 the number of Sunday Schools in Merthyr parish was 27. The number of teachers, 750 and of scholars 3795 but Sunday Schools are of little use for the purposes of education. They teach only the great truths of religion.

The people are indeed very ignorant.

No.23. John Lyndon, innkeeper, Coed-y-Cymmer.

The people here have very little money to spend. Their wages are very uncertain. It is a poor poverty-stricken place. The children of the poor go into the works or gather sand from the hill side close by. They get from 5d. to 6d. each burthen. The sand-bearers can carry three burthens in two days and that is a girl from, 13 or 14. The females are not particularly moral hereabouts. I think, on the average, the people who work in the iron works are better off than the agricultural labourers. Rent is cheaper here than at Merthyr.

No.24. Mrs. Elizabeth Todd, general dealer, Merthyr.

There is a total neglect of children's education in this quarter. So far as relates to the mining and manufacturing population. So far as relates to the mining and manufacturing population, the early age at which masters allow children to be taken into the works is much to be reprobated, as few ever get any schooling after. Indeed, the working people over the hills in this parish are strongly against, not only the English language being taught but against the English also. I feel certain that the establishment of good English day schools and the not allowing children to work so very young, would be of great advantage to the working people and their children. The want of good sound knowledge drives men into the beer shops instead of staying at home and fosters string prejudices. A short time since many of the workmen refused to buy fresh meat unless it could be purchased for 4½d. this determination absolutely stopped the sales in the market for some days and for sometimes after caused the introduction of inferior meat as the butchers were desirous to meet the wishes of the working classes. With such determinations the people stood out, that salted meat and bacon for many days were sold at 12d. to 14d. a pound. Many refuse now to buy except at the price which they determined meat should be sold. It occurred only last week that the wife of a workman who was on a sick bed had been sent for a pound of fresh meat and 7d. was given to her for its purchase but as she could not get it for 4½d. she took some herring and expended the rest in gin. Were it not for the Sunday Schools the people would have no instruction whatever. My daughter has been some time a teacher at the Baptist Sunday meeting and a large number of children attend. The greater part of the miners profess to be Dissenters.

No.25. William Thompson Esq., manager of the West of England Bank, Merthyr Tydvil.

As manager of a banking establishment in this town, I beg to make a few remarks in reference to my intercourse with the tradespeople in the way of business. I do not find them possessed of that education or those business qualifications so peculiar to the English and Scotch. On the contrary, I have met with several doing a considerable trade who could not write, consequently are unable to keep books and can know but imperfectly how their affairs stand. I think this arises from any of them having been engaged about the works when young and after making a little money, embark in trade. Generally speaking they are industrious and very penurious, but from the great fluctuation of the iron trade, upon which all others depend in this neighbourhood, few of them accumulate large fortunes. I have found a great disregard to truth in their transactions arising more, I think, from want of a high sense of moral responsibility than from intention.

No.26. Edward Davies, Esq., surgeon to the Cyfartha iron works, in a communication dated Sept. 20th, 1841.

That from the circumstances of his numerous engagements he regrets that he could only give very general information to the Assistant Commissioner on the health of those engaged in the iron works.

The miners and colliers says Mr. Davies, in a much larger proportion than the other workmen, become, as age advances, the subjects of a chronic bronchial affection, probably caused by the inhalation of an atmosphere charged with carbon, the smoke of gunpowder &c. They are not peculiarity subject to any other disease.

Those engaged in other departments of the iron works are not particularly disposed to any morbid affection.

The average duration of a collier's life is considerably less than that of other workmen, from the frequency of fatal accidents.

I have not observed that there is any peculiar tendency to disease in the boys who work underground.

There is no register kept of fatal and other accidents which occur at the works.

MERTHYR TYDVIL, LOWER DISTRICT.

THE PLYMOUTH IRON WORKS - Messrs. R. and A. Hill, Proprietors.

Persons employed:-

Iron works.		
	Males	Females
Adults	1000	100
Under 18	200	100
Under 13	100	50

Ironstone Mines and Collieries.		
	Males	Females
Adults	350	40
Under 18	130	40
Under 13	19	25

Power:- Steam, 150 and 30, Water 350, Balance-wheels to Pits, 8.

No.27. Anthony Hill Esq., of Plymouth, near Merthyr.

The character of the working people here is sober, honest and industrious. They are civil and obliging among themselves and respectful to their superiors.

They receive very little education before they are sent to the works, which they are certainly at too early an age. The efforts which are being made to promote the greater spread of the native Welsh language is a great bar to the improvement of the people, although many well-disposed persons think to the contrary. With the language of a country, its prejudices and bad customs are generally interwoven. I think the sooner they break through this the better but it must necessarily be a work of time. I considered education has of late years been advancing and is now advancing steadily but if you attempt to force it you will produce a result contrary to what you are striving. The Welsh people will not be driven and they are strongly attached to their language. I think there is a strong desire on the part of the working people themselves to educate their children. I have myself, for a long time, projected the establishment of a school attached to my works and I shall endeavour to get the building consecrated as a chapel for the performance of divine service on the principles of the Established Church.

The Dissenters have great influence among the working people. They are selected principally from their own class and they preach and teach in the native Welsh. They consequently collect large congregations. The Wesleyans, I believe, preach in both Welsh and English.

I do not think you will meet any oppression in the labour of the working people. I look upon the social conditions and intellectual improvement of the people as steadily, though slowly advancing and I think the government might wisely leave education alone for a time.

No.28. Mr. J.C. Woolrige, cashier to the Plymouth Works.

The collieries in this district vary in many respects from those in the North of England. The whole of the carriage of the coal is done by horses. Few children are employed except by father or assistants to load their trams, as air-door boys and for oiling trams at the level mouth. The children are not overworked.

I consider the underground work as highly injurious to children of tender age as they are deprived of light and air, the want of which evidently checks their growth and disposes to disease.

The ventilation on this district is unusually very good, considerable attention being paid to it and the openings to the mines being mostly by level, our pits are consequently of no great depth. Few accidents occur from explosive gasses which is the best proof of attention to ventilation.

Females are employed in the works but not underground. It would, however, be very desirable if some more suitable employment could be found for them as the vulgar habits acquires in the works destroy, to a great extent, their self-respect and prevent them from gaining knowledge of domestic economy.

I should say the majority of put population is decidedly religious but a small proportion only belongs to the Church of England, the remainder is the government of Dissenters, the Independents, who are the most important sect in the district. Their chapel is supported by the contribution of its members and a large and well attended Sunday School is connected with it. The Baptists, who command a large congregation, together with a Sunday School. The Welsh Calvinistic Methodists, with their Sunday School. I believe this sect will not admit any one as a member who belongs to any secret society. To this sect is to be attributed the growth of teetotalism in this place, 500 being about the number on the books of this society. The Wesleyans also are numerous, but highly respectable and these command the religious community here. They exclude political subjects entirely from their meetings and in the "break-outs" they are said to have exercised a somewhat beneficial influence over their respective congregations.

The Sunday Schools are capable of being much improved. The foundation of all improvement would be the introduction of the English Language with the Welsh, which would at once place within reach of the people the means of obtaining a much higher degree of education than they can possibly obtain at present. Very few book except the Bible and Religious Tracts are being printed in the Welsh language.

The benefits clubs are very numerous here, the principle one being the Odd Fellows and Druids, with the true Ivorites, who have a regulation to uphold the Welsh language, no English being allowed to be spoken in the lodge. The number of friendly societies is very large, scattered through the different classes of workmen, and may be said to have increased in consequence of them a strong prejudice conceived against the New Poor Law Bill.

The amount expended in parochial relief in the parish of Merthyr, during the last five years, is as follows:-

	£	s.	d.
1837	3216	15	0
1838	3374	7	0
1839	3179	3	0
1840			
1841			

During the great strike of 1832, nearly four fifths of the working population was unemployed. For four months we had more than 4000 men idle but the came back ultimately at reduced wages.

No.29. Mr. David Joseph, manager of the Plymouth Iron Works.

Our works need no ventilation as they are all open and roofed, to protect the people from the effects of rain and no lights at night are needed, there being sufficient from the heated metal and flame escaping from the furnaces.

The dwellings of out people, for the most part, are near the works. Their food is either carried to them or they go homes to their meals. The workmen are cleanly in their habits. The colliers invariably cleanse themselves all over daily and the fireman and ironstone miners once a week.

Very young children are not necessary in the iron works but it is convenient to employ boys for suitable work as it requires near 10 years from the time they commence to become forehands at puddling, rolling &c. the iron.

A limitation of age at which children should be employed is very desirable. I consider 13 years quite early enough. The parents might consider it hard to confine them till that age, but the advantage physically and morally would be great.

The usual number of hours for day labour is 12, the same for the night and the same kind of persons are employed in the two shifts. One set works night work for a certain time, and then change for day work.

At some works girls are employed during the night as well as by day, in piling the iron. This I consider a very pernicious custom.

A prohibition of night work for boys would be injurious, the works being carried on by night as well as by day, require the same establishments. No working operations are continued during Sundays, except the blast furnaces as elsewhere.

Grown up persons are generally chosen to attend at the blast furnaces, the operation requiring considerable strength.

Our best instructed boys get the quickest promotion. A system of education carried out by means of parliamentary interference would be very desirable and contribute much to the social and moral comfort of the people.

No.30. Mr. Thomas Josepchs, mineral agent.

The Plymouth collieries are ventilated by flues and we have upwards of 50 miles of currents is caused. Our mines are entered chiefly by levels. Our lowest roads are 5 feet 6 inches high and at present work five veins of coal, two 3 feet thick and one of 4, 7 and 8 feet thickness, a total of 25 feet. We are also working seams of ironstone, equal together to a plane 48 inches thick.

In the thin veins we cut away the top and the bottom to get headway and in the thick seams we leave the coal above the required height unworked in the mainways until the pillars are taken away.

Every stratum on our locality dips to the south 1 in 9. We work chiefly by level but we have three pits, 12, 25 and 40 fathoms deep.

Carburetted hydrogen does exist in some places and carbonic acid gas in others but it is all easily dissipated by the currents produced by the flues. We have had several slight explosions, perhaps within the last two years but no lives have been lost thereby although five or six were severely burned.

No one accident from carbonic acid gas has occurred since the works opened, near 50 years since.

One man lost his life six months ago by a fall of the roof and perhaps nine or ten others have been slightly injured but none severely. We impose a fine upon persons attempting to ascend the shafts.

Our coals are brought from the workings (near 100 yards) to the main roads by adults, then by horses to the shaft or mouth levels. The weight of each corve is 13 to 11 cwt.

Females about 10 years of age are employed in wheeling carriages in the ironstone mines, and as trappers or door-keepers, till 12 years of age.

Children are employed as door-keepers at five years of age and as horse-drivers at 14 years, as colliers at 12 years.

I think a limitation of age extremely desirable in order that they should be educated. I think the limit ought not to exceed 12 or 13 years of age so that they might spend a years or two in the mines before they begin to work hard.

No.31. James Probert, Esq., surgeon to the Plymouth Iron Works, Merthyr Tydvil.

The diseases incident to and prevalent amongst the colliers as a class, are chronic diseases of the respiratory organs, especially asthma and bronchitis and general ill heath, the consequence of a depraved and cachectic state of the system. Chronic pain in the back is a very common complaint amongst colliers arising from overstraining the tendinous muscles and it is the source of much discomfort to the colliers.

The diseases prevalent amongst individuals employed in the iron works are acute febrile, and inflammatory, the result of sudden check to profuse perspiration. Fireman are particularly subject to this disease.

I have no tables or mortality to show the average duration of life amongst particular classes but from the observation I have made, I am convinced that colliers do not, as a class, attain so great an age as men engaged in other labour.

The employment of children in mines at a very early age tends to produce disease by exposing a constitution not mature to foul air but other causes contribute to this effect. Such children are very much exposed to wet and cold especially during winter and rainy seasons. They are also deprived of solar light which is as necessary to the proper development of animals as vegetables.

The accidents to which the working population of this district are subject are principally burns arising from explosion of 'firedamp,' wounds and contusions of the scalp, fractures of the skull, injuries of the spine, fractures of the extremities and injuries to their joints (very frequent) and severe contusions to the trunk of the body, arising from the falling of earth and rubbish in the mines.

The proportion of accidents in the Plymouth is, I believe, less than in the neighbouring works, owing, I am inclined to believe, to the less dangerous character of the machinery, water power.

No.32. Morgan Lewis, 9 years old, puller-up.

I pull up the door of the puddling furnaces for the men and have done so for two weeks. I was two years at the squeezing machine, straightening bars of iron. Straightening is harder than pulling up. I work 12 hours when on day work and 12 on night. We change from day and night work alternate weeks. I now and then get burned but not so much so as to be idle. The work fatigues me but my dinner gives me strength as my father always has meat, and I get a bit with him. We rest half an hour at each meal and have two meals a day in the works. I have never been to any day school but am sent to Mr. Jones's Sunday School to learn the Welsh letters. Can't say that I know them yet. I do not know what you mean by catechism or religion. I was never told about God. The sky is up above and no one ever told me about Jesus Christ. I cannot say what he is. When I leave work I play about the road and mother takes me to wash myself before she lets me get into bed. Sometimes I get the stripes for playing about. He earns 14s. a month.

No.33 Sophia Lewis, 12 years old, labourer in the iron yard.

I have been wheeling and carrying iron more than two years. Father is dead. Mother sent three of us to work here. I work day and night as others do, 12 hours each, alternate weeks. I do not dislike the work nor have I ever got hurt. I have tea for breakfast, and bacon and potatoes, or mutton for dinner, not every day, always meat on Sundays. We have no holidays. Sometimes we stop away after the pay which is once a month but we are always allowed to draw money weekly. I earn 12s. monthly, my sister, who is two years older, 14s. and my brother who is 19 years of age, takes 40s. every month. We give the money to mother who keeps house. We have never been to any day school but sister and I go to the Welsh Sunday School to learn letters [can scarcely tell one letter from the others in the Welsh primer]. Mr. Jones tells us that Jesus is our Lord but she does not know what he means by Lord not who is God. There may be Commandments but I never heard of any. When I go home mother sends me for water so have no time to play. Mother keeps lodgers and they taught me the little English I speak.

No.34. Edward Davis, about 10 years old, hooker-on.

I began work in the forges 14 months since and am employed to hook on the metal at the squeezing machine. It is good hot work and very hard to. I work 12 hours daily and other weeks the same at night. I get two rests while at work of half an hour each. I do not get meat every day, many do so three times a week. I have not much time after work as I always wash. I have never spoke any English. Father and mother speak Welsh and so does Mr. Jones, the preacher whose Sunday School I go to. I can say the Welsh letters for I have been two years at school. [Not able to manage the letters, said D was G and C the letter A.] I do not know anything about God. They tell me I shall go to the fire if I curse and swear after I am dead. Can't say how many pennies in sixpence, thinks four pennies make a shilling or 18 pence. If my two thumbs were cut off I should have eight fingers.

No.35. David Lewis, 18 years old, puddler.

They call me a shearer or assistant puddler. My employment is to assist in taking the metal out of the refining furnace and run it into bars through the squeezing machine. I work 12 hours either night or day. I go to Mr. Jones's Sunday School to learn Welsh but am not yet beyond spelling. I never could learn English. I think there are 2 cwt. in a ton but know there are five score in 1 cwt. Can't say what 8 times 7 can make. He has heard the Ten Commandments but doesn't know anything about them. Believes they are in a book. After work I go to Mr. Jones's singing classes or play about.

No.36. John Jones, about 19 years old, rougher.

I began work at the trade union time [10 years old] and is employed as a rougher, i.e. placing small bars in the rolling press. He earns 40s. monthly and works every day or night as we shift. I have three brothers at this work and one sister working in the Balance Pit. None of us were ever at school. My knowledge of reading as acquires at the Sunday School and I am able to read the Welsh Testament. I do not recollect the name of the first book in the Testament. Jesus Christ was the father of us all. Can't say who gave us the Ten Commandments nor what they are. I know that something is said about the Commandments in the Prayer Book and about Father, Son and Holy Ghost. I do not know whether the Testament says anything about them. I do not understand what is meant by prayer. There are 12 months in the years but do not know how many days. There are eight half-crowns in one pound, 4 times 9 is 40, cannot say what 9 times 4 will count.

No.37. Sarah Griffith, 14 years old, wheels iron.

I wheel bar iron to the men and have done so for 12 months and work 12 hours. I was at home before and made the bread and knitted stockings. I never was at school but the Sunday Welsh School where I learned to read the Welsh language. [Reads Welsh very well.] St. Paul wrote the Epistles. There are three persons in the Godhead, Father, Son and Holy Ghost. [Repeats the Commandments.] Never was at writing. Cannot play after work as I have to assist in the house cleaning. Father is very ill, consumptive. One little brother at work. I earn 20s. a month, brother 14s. Brother does not yet read.

No.38. Ann Davies, 15 years old, wheels iron.

He has been one week at wheeling iron. Father sent me to the work. He is a carpenter to the forges. I have two sisters younger than myself. None have been to school except me and that for one quarter at the day and afterwards at the Sunday School. Father can read, mother does not know the letters. I learned English the quarter I went to school where only English is taught. [Reads well in the Testament.] Cannot say who Moses was. Jesus Christ is God. She is not aware if mother knows who God is and never talks about such things at home. She can sew and knit and was taught by lodgers. Five time six is 30 and three times 20 is 60, 12 months in a year, 30 pence in half-a-crown.

[Very intelligent girl. Speaks English very well.]

No.39. Hannah Pritchard, 16 years old, piler.

She has been three years at iron piling and works 12 hours daily and earns 28s. a month. The work is calculated by the ton. Can't say how many hundred-weight in the ton but the men know. She never was at any day school but has been for some years to Mr. Jones's Welsh Baptist School on Sundays. [Cannot read.] She has heard that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Cannot recollect who were the first woman and man. God made the world. She has heard that wicked people go to hell. Wickedness is stealing, cursing and swearing. Twelve pence in one shilling, 100 shillings in a pound. Thinks 100 is more than 20.

No.40. Mary Haddock, 18 years old, piler.

She works as the other girls and earns 28s. a month and works day and night shifts. She is learning to read at Sunday School and trying to get Scripture knowledge. She thinks Scripture knowledge makes people better. There are Ten Commandments but doesn't know the first. Jesus is God's son and Moses' name had been often mentioned in chapel but can't say who he was or is. She has never heard of London, has of Bristol. England is in Bristol. Cannot say exactly whether she is English or not. I was born here and must be English. Twenty four pence in two shillings. I earn 28s. in four weeks which is 7s. a week. Can't say how many sixpences in 7s. [Reads Welsh very badly.] She has been four years at Plymouth Works and has not been in any day school for eight years.

No.41. Catherine Pritchard, 13 years old, carrier.

I carry iron trams to the new mill, I am obliged to carry great weights, which is very fatiguing. I have been working here for three years. I get 3s. a month but expect to be raised after this month to 28s. Father is a roller of iron and two brothers work with him. None of us yet read. We are in the A B book at the Sunday School. I do not know my brothers' age. I work from six in the morning till seven at night and assist in getting water and clean the house after so have no time for play. I think Christ is God. I have never heard of Commandments. I have heard of London as my uncle lives there. I think it is in Bristol. I am a Welsh girl but do not know whether I live in England or Wales.

No.42. Jane Richards, 13 years old, road-cleaner.

I have been 18 months cleaning the tram roads on the coal hill. I was under ground before for six years keeping and air-door. I never got hurt very much but I often fell asleep as all the little one do when their lamps go out. I never was at a day school as work prevented it but I have been to Sunday School to hear Mr. Jones with my sister who is 18 years old. I cannot read and my sister knows no more than myself. I have five brothers, two at home, three at the mine. One brother who is 14 years old is learning to read. She knows that Mr. Jones said God made her and thinks he made other people. She cannot knit or do anything else but clean the road.

No.43. Phillip Phillips, 9 years old, air-door keeper.

He began work at seven years old and has often fallen asleep when tired. He runs home and gets bread and cheese. He was burned by the firedamp nine months since and laid by five months, expected to die. When the accident took place some men were in the mine and one had gone into the old works. The men were first burned. I was carried home by a man. The fire hurt me very badly, it

took the skin from my face. I have returned to work three months. My father is a carpenter, mother has eight children, three out of work. I was never at school and none of the children go to school.

[Face quite disfigured.]

No.44. Mary Reed, 12 years old, air-door keeper.

I have been fine years in the Plymouth mine and I never leave until the last dram [cart] is drawn past by the horse. I work from six till four and five at night. She has run home hungry. She runs along the level or hangs on a cart as it passes. Does not like the work in the dark but would not mind the daylight work. She has never been to day school but goes sometimes to the Sunday Chapel School to learn letters. [Scarcely able to find one letter from the other.] The man in the sky made me but I do not know who he is. I have never heard of Jesus Christ, mother never told me such things. I run about the roads after work and wash before I go to bed.

No.45. Daniel Lewis, 17 years old, haulier.

I have been a haulier [horse driver] in the Plymouth Mine for five years. I was at the ironstone work before for six months. Before at work I used to run about. I never was at a day school more than 12 or 18 months. I did read a little but forget it now. Sometimes I go to the Zion Chapel and at others walk about. I never heard of any Commandments. I am thinking of learning reading and writing. I do not know what county I live in, it may be England. I have heard of London but can't say where it is. I have heard men talk about English people. Two fives are 10 and four fives a score. Can't say what five times three will produce.

No.46. Mary Davis, near 7 years old, air-door keeper.

A very pretty little girl who was fast asleep under a piece of rock near the air-door below ground. Her lamp had gone put for want of oil and upon waking her, she said the rats or someone had run away with her bread and cheese so she went to sleep. The oversman, who was with me, thought she was not old enough, though he felt sure she had been below near 18 months.

No.47. John Reece, 8 years old, coal filler.

I assist my father and have done so for 12 months. My employment is to bring him his tools and to fill the drams [carts] with his coal after he has blasted and cut it down. I work as long as he works but can't say the exact number of hours. Thinks 10 or 12. He was at school and learned his a b c and ba.

[Knows a few letters.]

No.48. Susan Reece, 6 years old, air-door keeper.

She has been below six or eight months and does not like the work much. She watches the doors from six in the morning to six at night but not so long at times. She has never been hurt. She sometimes runs home with the lamp is out and am very hungry. She always brings bread and cheese.

[The Plymouth Mine, in which many children work, is entered by a level near to the iron works and the facility of getting put (so the overseer stated) caused them frequently to run him and leave the doors. It is not uncommon for the air-door keepers to fall asleep and roll off the rise or little bank on which they sit into the tram road and are picked up by the horse-drivers as they pass by. Several have been crushed by waggons. One girl had her leg broken a very short time before through falling asleep and dropping onto the road.]

GRAIG COLLIERY, parish of Merthyr, Glamorganshire. - Messrs. W. and R. Thomas, Occupiers.

Persons employed:-

	Males	Females
Adults	28	4
Under 18	13	3
Under 13		520

No.49. Thomas Howell, overseer to Graig Colliery.

The coal in the Graig is worked for the London markets which we ship from Cardiff. We employ about 50 persons out of which 10 are under 18 years of age, one third females. I have been acquainted with this district many years and have had many colliers under my charge at this and other works. The collier sin this part take both sexes down at a very early age. Sometimes they assist

in undercutting, trapping or getting extra drams [carts] for work. The latter are claimed for children although worked by the parent. Females are employed on the bank at drawing coals. Many come to work from service as it less restraining and more money gained but it acts much to their injury as amongst mining meant they acquire the habits of swearing and drinking and soon loose that character of sobriety which this part was characterised for centuries. Men who drive the heads in mines are subject to short breath and spit much. This disease reaches them at 40 or 45 years of age. Friendly societies have much increased and through the men are certainly more reckless, especially those who work in mines and iron works. Accidents are rare in this part. We have had only one fatal within two years. Ann Jenkins, a girl of 12 years of age, fell down the pit and died on the spot. The shaft is 60 yards deep. It is supposed she incautiously leaned against the dram as it descended. The children are shamefully ignorant in the neighbourhood of Merthyr. The early age proprietors allow them admission entirely places them out of the pale of instruction.

No.59. Mary Price, 17 years old, unloader.

She unloads the coal from the mouth of the pit and wheel it to the canal. The weight of coal in the drams is 8 cwt., sometimes less. There are three drams to the ton. She cannot say how many hundredweight in a ton or pounds in a hundredweight. When the coal come up the shaft, I unlock the cage and wheel the dram to the canal boat and cast the coals over. The work is very hard but I am used to none other as I was taken below the ground when seven years old to keep trap-doors. I once fell asleep when minding the trap-door and rolled on the tram and a cart passed over me and broke my leg which caused me to stay away from work some time. I go to a Welsh Sunday School. I am trying to make my letter but cannot read any yet. They never have told me anything of Jesus Christ nor do it know who he is. I cannot knit but my mother has taught me to men stockings.

No.51. Jane Davies, 12 years old, wheels drams.

I began to wheel drams of coal two years ago. I never did any kind of work before except fetch water for mother to wash clothes with. My father is a boat man and earns 18s. to 20s. a week. There are three children at home younger than myself. I do not know their ages. I have never been to day school but on Sundays I go to Mr. Evan's chapel to learn letters [she knows four letters in the Welsh alphabet]. I hear the preaching sometimes but do not know what the preacher means. I go because I am told it is good to go and that it will prevent me from telling lies and swearing. I do not tell lies or swear, indeed I do not know who Jesus Christ is. My father never told me who made me. Mother seldom goes to chapel. I play after work is over and wash myself always before I go to bed. I earn 14s. a month. Sometimes father slashes [beats] me.

No.52. Ann Davis, 14 or 15 years old, wheels drams.

I have been unloading coal at Graig Colliery for five weeks and earn 18s. a month. I was a road cleaning in the Plymouth Mine for near two years. I was never at school. Sometimes I go to chapel where Mr. Jones is preacher. He tells me to be a good girl and not to swear as the good go to heaven and the bad to hell. I have heard something about Jesus Christ but can't say who he is. Indeed, I do not know who God is and no nothing about him. I have never heard what prayer mean. I have seen people on their knees and I think they ask to go to a good place but do not know who they ask. My father is a collier and mother a collier's daughter. When I get home they send me to buy things for eating. Sometimes I buy things by the pound. I think there are two halves in the pound but I cannot say how many ounces or quarters. Sometimes I buy linen and flannel with mother but I do not know how many feet there are in a yard. The pit shaft is 60 yards deep, so they tell me. I can't say how many feet.

No.53. Charlotte Chiles, 19 years old, lander and weigher of coals.

I draw, land and weigh coals and I have done so for two years. I was a kitchen maid at Lord Kensington's, near Carmarthen. I prefer this work as it is not so confining and I get more money. My wages are 40s. a month and as servant I only earned 60s. to 70s. for the year's service. I cannot save money now but I get more dress and more liberty. I work twelve hours a day. I was six years at the Free School at Pembroke and was taught to read and write and cipher [All of which she does well and is well acquainted with Scripture.]. My brothers are ironstone miners and work near me. The work, though very hard, I care nothing for as I have good health and strength.

No.45. John Evans David, 42 years old, collier.

I have been upwards of 35 years in mines about this quarter of Wales, I have suffered much from asthma which I consider has been caused by the air in the mines and smoke which gathers after blasting. He spits black fluid and has done so for five years and does so if off work for a month or

so. The fluid thrown up is like black paint and many miners are afflicted with the complaint. He should think that one in ten are touched after they arrive at 40 years. He scarcely ever drinks spirits nor do the colliers about here do so. The new beer is preferred. I always clothe in flannel close to my skin and takes meat generally for dinner. He works 10 to 12 hours. The gunpowder consumed in blasting in my work cost about 1s. to 1s. 6d. weekly. I have brought my boy to work, he is eight years of age. The Sunday School teachers are instructing him in his letters.

TREFOREST IRON AND TIN WORKS, parish of Eglwysilan, Glamorganshire, Francis Crawshay, Esq., proprietor.

Persons employed:-

Adults, male	150
Males under 18	40
Females under 18	25

No.55. Mr. Thomas Morgan, agent to the Treforest Works.

He stated that the occupations of young children and young persons in the works were these common to manufacture and that it would not be convenient to allow the place of employment to be inspected, as it was contrary to their regulation.

Upon application to Mr. Francis Crawshay for permission to see the young people at their work, that gentleman refused any inspection of the places of work in the manufactory which was accordingly waived since the process of the manufacture is sufficiently familiar and it appeared desirable to abstain from any inquiry which might seem to have for its object a knowledge of any recent improvements or experiments in operation not necessarily connected with the objects of the commission.

No.56. Margaret Harris aged 19, scourer.

She has been at the work for four years and was employed two years as a rubber. She earns now 10s. 6d. per week. She is not native of this part but was born near Pontypool, She can read and write in English and is a teacher at the Baptist chapel. Rubbing did not agree with my health. I have after and two sisters [dusters] and two brothers [cold rollers] in the work. All live together. She understands knitting and domestic work of the house and was in service but earns more now and has more liberty.

[Very decent, well behaved girl.]

No.57. Eliza Morgan, aged 17, rubber.

She has been to school for a quarter of a year and can read a little English and Welsh pretty well. She can knit but cannot sew. She attends the Baptist Sunday School. Mother has three in the family besides herself. [This girl's father was killed on the works at the erection of new building and the family was taken in out of charity.] Father was too poor to send her to school when alive.

No.58. Ann Jones, 18 years old, plate-opener.

She is employed to separate the plates after they have been placed in the furnace from those who dip them in the acid. She has been seven years and a half at the Treforest Works. She works constantly and receives 8s. 6d. per week. She was never at any school and now goes to the Methodist Chapel to hear the preacher of Sunday. She can sew a little but could not cut out and make a dress. Never did make any bread. She used to fetch water for mother when she was alive. She lodges with a widow in Treforest and pays 1s. a week for a sleeping room. She has no scriptural knowledge whatever.

[Knows the Welsh alphabet and spells a little.]

No.69. Jane Harris, 13 years old, duster.

I rub the lime off the plates after they have been polished and have done so for six months. The lime gets in the eyes and makes them sore. I work from six in the morning till six, sometimes eight at night. I do not dislike the work as it is profitable. My earnings are 6s. 8d. a week and I could not get so much at any other labour. I was at school for some years and can read Welsh and known the English alphabet. English was taught on Sundays at the Baptist chapel but there is no minister there now.

[Knowledge of a little scripture and scarcely any English.]

No.60. Owen Jones, about 15 years old, cold-roller.

I have been at Treforest Works and work at cold-rolling i.e. passing iron plates through iron presses. The work is not very hard as the plates used for tinning are not heavy. He earns 8s. a week and gets the pay monthly. He once met with an accident, since at work and had the cheek cut open by a piece of iron. He never was at any day school and now goes to the Wesleyan Sunday School to learn to spell. Indeed I do not know what you mean by the Ten Commandments. I have seen the book called the Testament but they never told me about it.

[Very ignorant.]

No.61. Moses Gower, 10 years old, gate-boy.

My employment is to lift the gate that lets water to the wheel. It requires me to be very careful or the water would overflow the work and stop the men. They pay me 6s. a week and keep me 12 hours. I was at the squeezing machine some time. The key for the roller dropped on my foot and crushed it which laid me idle for several weeks. I never was at any day school and I am learning the Welsh alphabet on Sundays. Always I go to hear Mr. Blacklock preach who says Jesus Christ is God and that of we curse and swear we shall go to hell. Cannot count at all.

No.62. William Roper, aged 9, grease-boy.

He has been to a free school but can't read Welsh but can read English. He earns 6s. and 7s. a week and lives with his father and attends the Baptist Sunday School. He knows Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He has been at work for about four months and has not been to school since he has been at work. He leaves off at six in the evening, sometimes he begins at four in the morning.

[The agent stated that the hours were somewhat irregular.]

No.63. John Nurse, 12 years old, grease-boy.

He has worked three months in the Treforest Tin Works where he draws plates through the grease for tinning. The works make him poorly at times but it pays well. I get 8s. a week. [Has a very sickly appearance but very intelligent.] He was some years at a day school in the village. He goes to work at half past four in the morning and leaves at seven at night. These are the regular working hours. The work, from the long hours, fatigues me, very much, "in truth, it is very hard, for I never have less than 14 to 16 hours of it." On Sunday I go to the Wesleyan chapel [Very good scriptural knowledge and the multiplication tables.] He thinks there are only eight grease-boys and all are working as long as himself but they do not attend so regularly. Father is a sorter of tin plates for packing.

**THE TAFF VALE IRON COMPANY, parish of Egwysilan, Glamorganshire.
Thompson Fothergill and Co., proprietors.**

Males employed:-

Adults	17
Under 18 years of age	19
Under 13 years of age	18

No.64. Mr. Jonathan Blacklock.

I have personally conducted this business upwards of eight years. We manufacture railway bars. From the situation I occupy and my acquaintance with the neighbourhood, I should say that the general character of the population of this place is of the most ordinary kind and the habits of the majority demeaning and degrading. The school education of this place I consider quite inadequate to the wants of the people. The schools are of the lowest order, conducted neither on a good state, nor by proper persons. Religious and moral training is out of the question. Sunday Schools are indeed, established in connection with every church and chapel in the neighbourhood but little good results from them for the want of proper teachers. The amount of secular instruction is very limited. In morality I should say that, taken altogether, this is one of the most wickedest and vicious places I have ever met with. The agriculturists have a decided advantage in morals, though lower in intellect than the operatives. In comforts the agriculturists are better off but the operatives might be better off if they were not so dissipated.

The increase in manufactories during the last eight years has attracted a great influence of population into the district of a class at once low, ignorant and profligate. Wages are high, and profligacy abounds on every hand. Drinking, Sabbath-breaking, swearing and the example set before the rising generation by the manufacturing population, seem to render ineffectual the endeavours made by the religious and more enlightened part of the community and unless some effectual means can be adopted, the rising generation must grow up corrupted and corrupting and crime and wickedness will be perpetuated. In my opinion the first step in education must be made by a kind of public free school on a large scale, sufficient to take in the entire unemployed population, conducted by intelligent and properly qualified persons.

Although the population of the district had been trebled since the establishment of the manufactories, the means of education in day schools had remained unchangeably the same. A system of education suitable to the wants and condition of the poor established here would be a great blessing to the people.

No.65. Llewellyn Jones, 17 years old, hooker-on.

He has been eleven years at work and nine years in farm service and two years at the Taff Iron Works. He came to the iron trade as more money could be earned. He now gets 40s. in a month and when on the farm he had only £4 per years with board and lodging. The work requires good strength and men must feed well who labour at the fires, as well as drink. The beer we drink is not very strong but is very new. Few men drink spirits. He was never at any days school since he went into the works but has attended the Sunday School at the Bethel chapel and am getting the knowledge of letters. [Not able to distinguish the whole of the alphabet.] I have heard of the Word of God but cannot say I know anything about it. The number of Commandments I do not know. God created the world. Jesus is God and man. He has heard the preacher say so. I was born in Glamorganshire which is Welsh. London is not Welsh but English. There are four fives in a score but I am not able to say how many fives there are in 35.

No.66. Christopher Jenkins, 10 years old, coacher.

I bring the iron rods from the road to the men in a coach [an iron truck]. I work 12 hours daily. It is not very hard work. I have been two years at the forge. He was taught to read at M'Farlane's school.

[Reads pretty well. No scriptural whatever.]

No.67. Morgan Jenkins, 6 years old, pull-up boy.

I began work four months since at the Taff Vale forge and work 12 hours. He has to stand all the time except for eating rests. He gets tea and bread for breakfast and meat for dinner two or three times a week. He earns 12s. per month and does not mind the work but feels glad when the men go home. He was at M'Farlane's school before at the works and got into the spelling book. [Knows pretty well and spells words of three letters.] He never was burned at work nor stopped away.

No.68. William M'Farlane, 16 years old, heaving-up.

I have been at work six years. I was instructed in reading, writing and accounts by his father, who keeps a school in the town of Newbridge. The people were very negligent of the children's schooling. The facility of getting them employed at very early ages in the tin and iron works acted very much against them and few ever returned to day school after. No night or evening school. Father did open his school last winter which was attended by 20 or 30 boys, but discontinued on account of the fatigue being too great, he being man 70 years of age.

No.69. James Norse, aged 12 years, coacher.

I have been to a day school for three months. I go regularly to Sunday School and earn 1s. a day sometimes 2s. at a different branches of the works. My father takes my wages.

[Reads very little. Can't write, knows the Lord's Prayer but not the Creed. Knows him multiplication table but indifferently.]

No.70. William Norse, aged 10, sand-thrower.

He has a mother and a father and three brothers and two sisters. James Norse is his brother. He does not know his age. He has been to school for six months but can't read either Welsh or English. He can say the Lord's Prayer but doesn't know the Creed. He throws sand and earns 4s. per week which he gives to his father.

No.71. The Rev. David Williams.

I am curate of the parish of Eglwysilan and have held this cure for about 15 months. There is one Church Sunday School, one Independent, one Calvinistic Methodist and one Wesleyan in the parish. In the Sunday School children are taught to read and spell, to repeat portions of the Scripture and in the Church School the Catechism is taught. There is but one day school in the village. The children are removed at a very early age which, of course, operates injuriously, as may be judged by the fact that one third of the population cannot read at all.

Children ought not to be removed from school till 11 or 12 years of age. It is such to be regretted that some means are not to be adopted for bestowing a descent education gratuitously on the children of the poor in such districts as this, from any for the want of instruction are almost in a state of barbarism. Large proprietors and masters do not appear to take sufficient interest in the education of the people, even where there is a desire of education visible is frequently is suffered to waste itself for want of proper direction. A great want is felt of trained teachers. A grant has, I understand, been recently directed by the Lord Chancellor out of some funds to be applied to the purposes of education. I am sure few places stand more in need of assistance than this benighted parish. I have lately received a communication on this subject from the chancellor of the diocese. I have heard with pleasure that the proprietor of the Chain Cable Works proposed to erect a school in connection with his works. It would be productive of great good. Of the working people in this parish those employed in those works number amongst them a great many moral, industrious and frugal men.

**MAESMAWR COLLIERY, parishes of Llantwitfardre and Eglwysilan,
Glamorganshire, Mr. George Insole, proprietor.**

Males Employed:-

Adults	130
Under 18 years of age	15
Under 13 years of age	12

No.72. Mr. Jabez Thomas, foreman.

We have two engines, one for winding and one for pumping. We employ no women. We never allow more than six men, or one man and one horse to descend together, Our main ways are five feet six inches in height and the thickness of the seam is three feet eight inches, about 30 fathoms from the surface. The weight of our loaded cage is 25 cwt. I do not think children should be allowed to go into the pit before 10 years of age. They usually work from 8 to 10 hours a day. We stop 3d. in the pound at the pay table for a medical fund. The average rate of wages is from 18s. to 20s. a week but this does not cover the stoppages. We have not felt the effect of the strike here. Education is at a very low ebb. There is a Sunday School in the village but no day school. It would be very desirable to establish some general system of education. The children can scarcely be brought to Sunday School. There is a Calvinistic Methodist Chapel but there are more people always at the public houses than at chapel. Public houses are not sufficiently looked after. There are too many of them. In the village of Tongwinlais, for instance, with a population of from 150 to 200 men, women and children there are no less than seven public houses, half licensed to sell spirits.

No.73. John Fuge, aged 11, pump-boy.

He began working four years since in Cornwall where he cut slates. He has been two years in Wales at pumping. He works eight hours on shift. There are 12 boys employed at the pumps and as the work is very fatiguing, they require 16 hours rest. The shaft we descend is 53 yards deep and when down we have a journey of three fourths of a mile to the dip where we work, where four of us raise the water to the level of the pumping engine. There is a great deal of water in the pit. I am so very tired sometimes that I hardly care about eating. We can stand upright in the place of work as the heads are cut away. The boys are stationed at distances of 50 yards. They never get hurt. I get my feet wet at every turn. He takes bread and cheese down with him, sometimes he drinks the water under ground and sometimes he takes tea down in a bottle with him for home and his brother. He always gets bacon meat on Sundays and sometimes fresh meat. He earns 6s. a week and so does his brother. His father is a labourer and when able to work gets 16s. a week. His mother has six children. Neither I nor any of us have ever been to a day school. Mother teaches two of my sisters in the house out of a little book. I can't go to Sunday School as I have to take my turns on Sundays with the other boys. Father is in very bad health.

[Intelligent boy.]

No.74. Daniel Williams, aged 12, pumper.

He has been in the mines for four years. Father is a collier and mother has seven children alive. Five of us including father work in the pit. Father and eldest brother earn from 16s. to 18s. a week each, second brother, who is 17 years of age, earns 10s., one 14 years old age earns 8s. and I earn 6s. a week. Not one of us has ever been to school. Father and mother cannot read nor any of us indeed. Mother has got grandmother's Bible in which all our ages are written by a neighbour. He recollects mother going to Chapel but father never goes. We never go. He has heard people talk about Jesus Christ but doesn't know anything about him. Sometimes people talk of a bad place but he can't say anything about it. People who swear go there.

No.75. John Morgan, aged 14, pumper.

He has been at the pumps two years and assisted his grandfather, who is labouring on a farm as long as he was able to walk. He likes farm work best but father wished me to come to the pit. He recollects his grandfather sent him to school for one quarter some years ago. He knows some of his letters. I have been to Chapel but I don't know what I go for. He supposes it is good to go. He lives with his father and mother. There are five of us. They don't know more than I do. He earns 6s. a week. Father is a collier.

No.76. William Hopkins, aged 14, pumper.

He has been at work for three years and was several years at a day school. He was reading in the Testament. [Reads very well and has a fair scriptural knowledge.] The work is very hard and we have not time to rest when below as the water rises very fast which makes me dislike the work very much as there is no cessation. It is very wet although I stand on a stair. Mother has five of us. Father works in the mine. None of us go to school now and there is only one besides myself who knows the letters.

No.77. Thomas Griffiths, aged 14, pumper.

He began to work six years ago and was three years at Crawshay's Tin Works working with father. He has been pumping for three years, he never falls asleep over the work as he has no chance a sit keeps him pretty well awake. He recollects he was once at Llantwit Welsh School where he began to learn his letters. He thinks he was there about a month. [Scarcely knows his letters. Has no religious knowledge whatever.] Father is a labourer and earns from 15s. to 16s. a week. He has one brother, 15 years of age who earns 9s., a week. He earns 6s. The work is pretty constant.

No.78. William Thomas, aged 10, pumper.

He has been 18 months at this work. His brother John is 12 years old and works with him. He has been below for four years. I once learned the big letters at a Welsh school. [Knows a few of the letters.] My brother does not know them at all. He never goes to Chapel but works on Sundays the same as the other boys.

No.79. William John, engineman.

We ventilate our mine by shaft and air-furnace. We have no fire but we suffer a little from bad air through none have been obliged to leave, though the lights have occasionally burnt dull. I do not recollect any one, although I have been at the work many years, who have been affected by asthma till very late in life. But from there being a good deal of water in the pit, the men suffer much from rheumatism so as to throw them off work for weeks at a time. Having little or no fire in the pit, we have no air-door boys at present. This being Saturday many of the lads are away but I am convinced they have more intelligence than those you have examined. The people are very ignorant hereabouts. We had one done accident within the last two years. Thomas Hopkins, a youth of 15 years of age, was killed through the carelessness of the banksman in lowering the drams too hastily.

PENTYRY IRON WORKS, Messrs. Blakemore and Co., proprietors. Parish of Pentyrk, Glamorganshire.

Adult males employed	300
Under 18 years of age	150
Under 13 years of age	150

No.80. Mr. John Evans, agent.

We have has some few accidents. There was a boy killed about 12 months since, John Sammer, who fell on the rollers and was crushed to atoms. We do not employ any women to break the limestone for the blast furnaces. We do not print any rules or regulations. The man work their 12 hours with day and night shifts and. There is a Sunday School in the neighbourhood where the attendants learn to spell and read. There is no school belonging to the works. We have had no strikes and any disputes which arise amongst the workmen are generally settled by reference to the master. We give many free houses to the men our employ, some of the colliers however pay. Our forge-men earn from 25s. to 390s. a week, our furnace men about the same and the colliers from 18s. to 20s.

No.81. John George, aged 15, behinder.

I have been for eight or nine years at work as a plate opener. I work 12 hours at day or night shift. I never had any serious accident but was once burnt with the hot metal but was laid by only two weeks. He earns about 2s. a week. I was for twelve months at the Welsh School. Jesus Christ made me. He thinks Jesus Christ made God. There are Ten Commandments. Five time 5 are 25. Can't say how much 6 times 6 makes.

No.82. Thomas Lavender, aged 17, heaven-up.

He lives at Whitchurch and began work when he was six years old. He broke a bone a short time since in the arm. When he overworks he feels sore. He was off work three months. Mr. Evans of Whitchurch attended. He repeats prayers in Welsh. 20 cwt. in a ton. 5 times 20 make 100, 5 times 9, 30.

No.83. William Davis, aged 17, shearer.

He began work at seven years old. He has never been to a day school but attends Sunday School. He has been taught to read.

[Reads and writes and can multiply very fairly.]

No.84. Thomas Evans, aged 17, assistant in filling coke.

They usually have holidays at Whitsuntide, Easter and Christmas. He never has had any accident. He can read but is not yet writing. He earns 5s. or 6s. in the week. Can't say how many days there are in a month not how many days there are in a year. Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He reads in the New Testament. Does not know who Moses was.

No.85. Mr. Thomas Phillips, schoolmaster, Whitchurch.

There are in this neighbourhood (Melin Griffith) many Sunday Schools in connection with the Establishment, Welsh Methodists or Whitefieldites, Independents, Baptists and Wesleyan Methodists at which reading only is taught, Many only obtain this kind of instruction.

In the winter evenings some schools are open for instruction ands are attended by the young people who labour at the Pentyrck and Melin Griffith Tin Works. This mode of instruction is of use to those who labour hard through the day and from fatigue or inaptitude, may remain till doomsday and make much progress.

There are day school for the working population from which they are removed early and when they are removed to continuous employment very few think of attending any kind of school afterwards. I know of no school whatever in this neighbourhood that is attended by children and young persons actually employed in labour.

The branches of instruction commonly taught are reading, writing and arithmetic. The teachers have had no other than common day school instruction. Certainly they have had no education, qualification or training.

Those children who have attended this school have rarely been removed before 11 to labour. Even the removal at that age is too early and I certainly should recommend their being kept at school till 13 years of age at least, though I am not aware that the removal to work at the tin or iron works has ever operated to the injury of any of the children, for these at continuous employment appear to me as healthy and even more spirited than others who do not go to work.

The girls employed in the tin works are generally instructed in needle work, knitting and reading prior to commencing low labour at some of the small schools by females for that purpose.

**COED Y BEDDW AND LLAN COLLIERIES, parish of Llantrissant. Messrs.
Blackmore and Co.**

No.86. John Griffiths aged 13, haulier.

He was never at day school but goes to the Independent Sunday School. He can neither read nor write. He doesn't know how many Commandments there are and can't say the Lord's Prayer. He has been at the work for four years. He lives with his father and mother. He earns about 9s. 6s. a week. He comes at six in the morning and leaves about four or sometimes seven o'clock. All the hauliers do the same.

No.87. William Williams, aged 15 haulier.

He has never been to a day school. He goes to the Baptist Sunday School. Can't read either Welsh or English and does not know the Lord's Prayer. Can't tell how many Commandments but has heard of Jesus Christ. He has been at work about one years and a half. He earns 7s. week.

No.88. John Thomas, aged 15, haulier.

I have been at work about five years. I have been to a day school for about six months and go every Sunday to the Baptist Sunday School. 3 times 5 are 15. Can't tell how many 5 times 7 is. I live in Pentyrk which is in Wales. I earn about 10s. a week, all day work. If I loose a day, I lose a day's wages.

[This lad did not possess the slightest scriptural knowledge, either how many Commandments there were or any portion of the contents of the New Testament.]

No.89. Evan John aged 13¹/₂, haulier.

I have been at work about four years. I was four years at a day school. It was a Welsh school. I cannot read. 7 times 5 make 30, 2s. 6d. is half-a-crown, there are 46 pence in 2s. 6d. God was the first man. He knows nothing about the Commandments. I can't say what country Swansea is in. I have heard of the name but don't know whether it is far off or near.

No.90. William Thomas aged 13, haulier.

He has been a haulier for three years. I can sign my name. Jesus was the Son of God. I learned that at school. He goes to the Chapel every Sunday to hear what the preacher says. The preacher tells me not to break the Sabbath which is playing. I have never been seriously hurt but was squeezed once in the level by the dram and was off work about a fortnight. I have one brother, 16 years old, who reads a little Welsh.

No.91. Robert Williams, aged 14, haulier.

He has been at work seven years. I drive the horses. Before I used to assist father and fetch and carry his tools. I never was at school. I have been to the Sunday School I can read in spelling. [Can't write his own name.] I Don't know who was the first man or woman. Jesus was the Son of God and God made me. He can repeat the Lord's Prayer and knows there are Ten Commandments. He can't tell how many 6 times 6 is, 3 times 5 is 30, twice 9 is 18. There are 4 feet in a yard.

No.92. Richard Williams, aged 9³/₄, air-boy.

I have been at work two years. I come at six in the morning and leave at six or seven at night. I have never been to a day school. I attend the Independent Sunday School. I have never heard of Jesus Christ and I don't know the Lord's Prayer. I live with my father and earn about 4s. a week. There is no day school about here now.

No.93. Jane John, aged 45.

My husband is a haulier and earns about 15s. a week. We have five children, four sons of 18, 16, 13 and 8 years of age and one daughter of 11 years of age. My eldest son has left his father and works at Newbridge. He was addicted to drinking. My husband is a very sober man. Charles, 8 years old, has been four months in the level at the air-door and earns 3s. a week out of which it costs 7d. for candles. The one 16 year old works in the level to. The other works in the mine. My daughter can read well and assists me in the house as I have but indifferent health. The boys take bread and cheese with them for dinner and don't dislike their work. There is no short breath about here. We pay 1s. 6d. a week rent. My children do not go to school. It is not for the want of means which prevents me sending them to school but children sent there make no progress. My eldest son was at school for four years and learned nothing. I can read Welsh myself well. I cannot understand or

speaking English. We have not had many accidents here. Three were burnt in the Land Level Mine about 12 months since. One, David David was so much maimed that he will never be able to work again. John Morgan was off work 12 weeks and John Thomas three weeks. Mr. Edward Evans is the doctor here. He is paid by the company, not by the men.

[This woman lives in a square cluster of collier houses called the "Land Level Houses," near to the mine. The rooms were decently provided with articles of necessary furniture, a Welsh Testament was on the table, a clock hanging against the wall and a good side of bacon and some bags of herbs, added a general appearance of cleanliness and comfort. Both inside and out this seemed to be the character of the other houses too. There appeared to be an absence of drainage. There was one privy for the little community but certainly no appearance of filthy water.]

DINAS COLLIERY, parish of Yshadgvodog, Glamorganshire, Walter Coffin, Esq., proprietor.

Males employed:-

Adults	301
Under 18 years	32
Under 13 years	81

Water and steam power.

No.94. Walter Coffin, Esq., proprietor.

The workings here are well ventilated in the mode common to the collieries in the north of England. They are entered by shafts. No loss of life has ever occurred in our mines by the machinery. No ropes are used except in sinking new pits. Chains, which are safer, are generally used. The mainways are about five feet high and the thickness of the seam of coal we are now working is about three feet, about 42 fathoms from the surface of the earth.

We have some inflammable gas in our pits, but no accidents have arisen from firedamp or choke damp. One man was killed within the last two years. It was in sinking a new pit and he fell off a stage in the middle to the bottom of the pit.

We have no females employed in our workings nor do we use the girdle and chain.

The youngest age at which children are employed with us is about eight years of age and their occupation is generally attending the air-doors. They appear healthy but they certainly should not be employed at an earlier age.

There is a school attached to the colliery. A payment of 2d. in the pound is stopped at the payable for the support of that school and 1d. in the pound is stopped for the medical gentleman who attends the workpeople.

No.95. David Morgan, 13 years old, collier.

I have been at work for four years. I work 12 hours, 7 in the morning till 7 at night. I have never been to school but gets plenty to eat. He does not like to work so long and would like to move about. He goes to the Methodist's Chapel to hear to be good. Good means going to heaven. Heaven is up above in the sky. He has often heard of the evil one. He has heard the preachers say we shall all go to heaven if we do not curse and swear. They never taught me any Commandments and Moses I never heard of. Some boys have books at the Sunday School which they say are Bibles. I can earn 7s. to 9s. weekly.

No.96. Thomas Slaththethral, 11 years old, collier.

He began work at eight years of age. His father took me to claim his dram [an extra cart of coal allowed to colliers who take their own boys down]. He picks coal and fetches tools and candles for father and he can earn 6s. to 7s. weekly. He never has been hurt. He has not been to school. He has heard of God and the Devil at Chapel. He cannot say who preaches at the Chapel.

[Speaks Welsh. Cannot read. Scarcely knows a letter.]

No.97. Philip Davis aged 10. haulier.

I have been driving horses below ground for three years and was 12 months before at a trap-door. When at the traps I used frequently to fall asleep. I work 12 hours, I would go to school if the work were not so long but I cannot go now as I have to work all night as well as the day shifts. The night work is done by gangs who work week about [alternate weeks]. I never was at school.

[Cannot read. Much neglected. In appearance, sickly.]

No.98. Philip Jones, aged 13, coal-cutter.

He works from seven in the morning till seven at night and works with his father, He earns about 9s. a week, He can't read English but can read Welsh. He was taught at the Methodists'. Generally there are about 140 boys and girls attend. Can't say how many Commandments there are. Can't say, indeed, how many hundredweight in a ton. Doesn't know the Lord's Prayer either in English or Welsh.

No.99. John Rowland aged 12, coal-cutter.

He attends the Methodist Sunday School. There are Ten Commandments and he can say the Lord's Prayer in Welsh. He knows nothing of English. He can write. [This lad, like a great many others refused to write his name.] He has been at work for about five years and has not been at a school since he was at work,

[This is generally the case.]

No.100. James Rogers, aged 13, coal-cutter.

He has been eight years at the work and has been to night school since he has been at work. He can't read much English nor Welsh. He goes to the Methodist Sunday School. He doesn't know who Jesus Christ was nor how many Commandments there are. He knows the Lord's Prayer in English and spells. He has heard of the New Testament but does not know what it is about. He came from Monmouth and works with his father and earns about 13s. a week with hours from seven to seven.

No.101. William Thomas, aged 14, coal-cutter.

He has been to school and has worked since he was 10 years old. He learns Welsh at school but no English. He goes to the Sunday School. He knows Jesus Christ was the Son of God. He reads in the New Testament. There are Ten Commandments. There are 20 cwt. in a ton. He earns 10s. a week with hours generally from seven to seven, sometimes six in the morning to five at night. He occasionally works night shifts.

No.102, William Morgan, aged 10, door-keeper.]

He shuts the doors after the horse has gone through. He goes to school and can spell in Welsh but knows nothing of English. He earns 4s. 6d. per week. with hours from seven till seven. He takes down what he can get for dinner into the pit.

No.103. William Isaac, 11 years old, air-door keeper.

He has to keep the air-doors in the coal mine. He goes down the shaft at four and five in the morning and returns at five or six at night. He frequently works night. He has been four years below ground and was burned by firedamp 20 months since and laid idle for 18 months. He only returned to the pit two months since. The accident took place from a collier incautiously entering an old working with his candle near the roof. Several were burned and the horse which brought up the train of carts was killed. He takes bread and cheese down. He was at day school before he worked in the mine and had learned the reading but has forgotten it all now or nearly so. [Cannot read.] He has lately been at a Sunday School where the teachers instruct the children in the Welsh language and a few are beyond the spelling.

[Neglected. The whole skin of the face burned and had a very disagreeable appearance. Their eyes were much inflamed.]

No.104. Llewellyn Powell, 14 years old, collier.

He assists his father and has done so for six years. When idle he is sent to school to Mr. Jenkins's. He can read Welsh and can write a few words. He goes to the Methodist Chapel on Sundays. He never was taught English. His father and mother speak only Welsh. He earns 6s. and sometimes 8s. in the week.

[Very little scriptural knowledge.]

No.105. Matthew Lewis, 11 years old, collier.

He began to work at seven years old. He works 12 hours daily, sometimes longer. He is wrought near to the 30 inch vein. He was burned by firedamp three years ago when at the air-door and laid aside for six months. He was attended by Mr. Evan Davis, the medical attendant and he was, he believes, paid by Mr. Coffin. The pain was very great. Several others were burnt, one almost to death. He feels very sore at times from the new skin being very tender. Spells a little in Welsh but does not understand a word of English. No scriptural knowledge.

No.106. David Watkins, 15 years old, collier.

He has been eight years in the Dinas Coal Mine. He was a trap-door boy for two years till his father required him at the coal face. He earns 9s. a week and has to pay for the candles and sharpening of the picks and tools. He has frequently been at a day school when off work.

[Reads well. Knows the multiplication table and is very well informed in Scriptural history. He has a good knowledge of the part of the country in which he lives.]

No.107. Thomas Hays, collier.

He considers that the year through, the average wage of a collier is not more than 16s. a week. There are very few accidents here. The mines are well ventilated. There was a very serious explosion about two years since when three men were killed. The work of the men is never limited.

**MELLIGRIFFITH TIN WORKS. Parish of Llandaff, Glamorganshire.
Messrs. Blakemore and Co.,**

Persons employed:-

Males		Females	
Adults	65	Adults	20
Under 18 years	10	Under 18 years	5
Under 13 years	30	Under 13 years	10

No.108. Mr. Thomas Thomas, agent.

The machinery at these works is worked by water power only and where the wheels and open workings are, very few young persons are required. The parts of the works dangerous of approach are railed off so that no accidents can happen. The works are continuous, half work nights and the other by day, shifting to night work by alternate weeks. The men at these works have been very steady, few are given to change and we have many families of three generations. A good school, to which many of the children are sent, is open at Whitchurch. When the census papers were made up some three or four were found who could not read, that were at full age. In the village belonging to the works 65 or 70 families are residing. Some of the married women work away from homes. I only remember two cases of bastardy within five years. A regulation exists, to the effect of exclusion from the place if men do not marry the females who prove with child. There are very few disputes. I do not recollect any for the last ten years. The people about this district are more saving than in the upper part of the country where education is totally neglected and ignorance prevails to a most alarming extent.

No.109. Samuel Humphrey, aged 18, annealer.

He has been eight years at the work. He attends the furnace to anneal the sheet metal and works hours daily. He has three rests in two hours, that is, 18 rests in a day, as after each charge is in the furnace, he has to wait till it gets to a proper heat.

[Reads and writes. Attends the Wesleyan's very regularly and has a good scriptural knowledge. He earns from 12s. to 14s. per week.]

No.110. Thomas Smith, aged 12, grease-boy.

He has been three years at the work. He was a lusterer [dipper of plates in metal]. He lost the tips of his fingers of his right and which occurred by his passing the plates too quickly through the shears. He was five years at Mr. Phillip's day school.

[Reads and writes well. Knows Scripture well.]

No.112. Francis Roberts, aged 10, plate-opener.

She stated she had been at work only two weeks and was never at any other labour before and that her mother had always kept her close to home to nurse the children and the only school she had ever been was the Methodist Sunday School.

[She had just gained a knowledge of the letters and was very ignorant and evidently much neglected by her parents. Very indifferent scriptural knowledge.]

No.113. Hannah Rowland, aged 18, scourer.

I was four years engaged as a rubber which disagreed with me. Scouring the metal is not so unpleasant. I get 7s. 8d. a week and work about nine hours a day. I think I have been between six and seven years at work. I was at Mr. Thomas's day school before where I was taught to read and write. I can shape and make dresses and I was two years at the dress making but the occupation was too confining. I never was instructed in the Catechism but has fair knowledge of the Scripture.

[Reads very well but can scarcely make a letter.]

No.114. Ann Maddick, aged 15, rubber.

She has been at the work for five years and works between 9 and 10 hours a day, sometimes longer and gets on average, 7s. 8d. per week. She rests after every share of rubbing [a share is 75 sheets.] The work is not the most wholesome but it is never particularly disagreed with me. We get meat almost every day and plenty of it. I have not been to any day school for six years.

[Can scarcely read, very dull at Scripture but counts very well.]

No.115. Thomas Davis, aged 12, cold-roller.

He has been six months at cold rolling and was never at any work before. He reads, writes and ciphers very well. He was six years at Whitchurch school.

[Has a good knowledge of geography and is extremely well informed in Scripture history.]

No.116. Anthony Rowland, aged 9, pickle and scale boy.

He was nine months on the tin plates and now assists in dipping the plates into acid which we call pickling. He works about 12 hours a day and earns 4s. a week. He gets meat every day. He could not read at all. He goes to the Sunday School to learn letters.

[He was eating his dinner of good roast meat and potatoes during this examination.]

**IRONSTONE MINE, Garth-Vach, parish of Llantrissant, Glamorganshire.
Messrs. Blakemore and Co., proprietors.**

No.117. Mr. Richard Jenkins, agent to the Garth-Vach Mines.

We employ about 50 altogether. We have seven boys, the youngest is 10 years of age. The mines being opened from the surface and the re being obtained by blasting, skilful persons alone are of use, few being fir for the occupation until they arrive at manhood. The miners here hare paid by the ton of workable ore and they frequently obtain large wages when their blasting brings them on good metal.

I have frequently known men get £3 to £3 10s. per week and continue for some weeks, and at other not more than 10s, but the want of education and steady wages makes then extremely wasteful and they seldom save money out of their gains.

Few men in this neighbourhood send their children to school, indeed, if they had the desire, there is no school for them and as to Scripture, very few are acquainted with even the common elements of Christian knowledge.

The boys employed here assist in filling the coaches or carts with the fragments of mine and rock which are drawn up to the surface of the earth by the "whimsey." [This is the machinery commonly designated a horse-gin.] I have lived in the principality all my life and I have observed that as the demand for labour has increased and occupation has been given to the working people, the desire of education has decreased and the means of education also.

No.118. Hopkin Morgan, aged 13, tender.

I carry the tools to the blasters, fill the coaches and fasten on to the whimsey. I never was at any school but Sunday School. I can spell Welsh which I learnt at the Baptist Chapel where I go to hear them sing and preach. I know they go to pray but I don't know what they pray for.

No.119. John Thomas, aged 13, assistant filler.

He has been at the filling for six months at the open mine No.1. He gets into a hole when the men blast. He was at the forge for four years. The work is very hard as the rock is very heavy and the men keeps us pretty well at it. He gets 7s. a week. He could earn 4s. 6d. when at the forge. He has further to go to his work but he likes it better because it is less confining. The work is not constant, as in winter the mine is frequently filled with water. He expects the work to be more constant as the master talks of erecting a pumping engine. He has never been at a day school but can spell a little Welsh. He has heard of the Testament but doesn't know the name of the first book.

**CRAIGYRALT COLLIERY, parish of Eglwysilan, Glamorganshire. Mr.
Morgan Thomas, proprietor.**

Male persons employed:-

Adults	35
Above 13 and under 18	10
Under 13	1

No.120. Mr. Morgan Thomas, proprietor.

I employ between 40 and 50. We ventilate by a windway from the level to the top of the mountain we enter by level. The thickness of the seam is three feet, the coal we are working is about 60 fathoms in depth, on a dip and rise of 17 inches in a yard. We have no fire and use candles. There are no Davy lamps. We have carbonic acid gas in the working. I nearly lost my life once in it. I lost a great deal by bad air preventing the work the summer before last. It does not affect the men much. They live to 70 or 80 years of age. The longest tram is about one and a half mile. The weight of the average carriages is about six to six and half cwt. The work is done by horses from the mine head. We have no rails at all but boys from 10 to 12 bring the coal down the inclines. The lads drive. They enter about 12. They are of no use until they are sufficiently strong.

I do not think children should be allowed in the coal working until before 12 years of age and then not before they have received some education.

The work is generally from six to five and the children work the same number of hours as the adults. I have no night work here.

All I can recommend for the benefit of the working people hereabouts is good sound education.

No.121. Thomas Morgan, aged 17, hill and coal filler.

He was at farm work for three years and has been at this work for nearly two years. He can read Welsh very well and sometimes goes to Chapel. There are Ten Commandments. I can repeat the Lord's Prayer but never was taught writing. I am Welsh not English. London is Bristol, Merthyr is in Glamorganshire.

No.122. William James, aged 16, collier.

He has been five years at work and was at day school at Nantgarw for nine years off and on. He understands writing, reading and ciphering.

[Reads and writes well.]

No.123. Edward Lewis, aged 11, collier.

I push the drams and carry tools and run about. [Speaks Welsh only.] I never have been to any day school. Jesus Christ is God and man. There are 12 pence in 1s. 4 times 3 = 12.

No.124. William Phillips, aged 17 or 18, collier.

He has been working for upwards of nine years and has never been to a day school. He never reads or writes. He goes to Chapel on Sunday. He goes to hear the Lord's language. The Lord is I don't know who. I never heard of Moses nor Solomon. He has heard of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

No.125. David John Beynon, schoolmaster, Nantgarw.

I keep school here at Nantgarw. I am the only one. I teach English, no Welsh. My charges are from 4s. to 8s. per quarter. The average price paid is 6s. for which reading, writing and arithmetic are taught.

Education is indeed at the lowest ebb. It cannot be worse, there is no desire for education. I have from about 40 to 50 scholars. The Sunday School here is attended by from 110 to 120 of both sexes. They teach both in English and Welsh. Not 1 in 40 knows the Creed. A good many don't know the Lord's Prayer. The next neighbouring schools are at Caerphilly and Newbridge.

I cannot say much for the morality of the people. There is a good deal of pretty thriving about and a little worse. A working man close by here, lost a few weeks no less than 13 sovereigns and a few shillings, the whole of his savings.

**CWNRHONDDA COLLIERY, parish of Llantrissant, Glamorganshire, Messrs.
D.W. Davis and Co., occupiers.**

Male persons employed:-

Adults	35
Under 18	7
Under 13	5

No.126. Messrs. D. and D. Davis, proprietors, in their returns state:-

That the children employed in the works are of good health and their physical powers do not appear to be in the least injured but morally it is otherwise. Being so young when taken to labour they have a few opportunities of receiving moral culture, their parents, from ignorance, being incompetent to instruct them, having laboured under the same disadvantages when young. This is the reason the miners are worse informed than other workmen.

The usual number of hours our miners work rarely exceeds eight and children are generally employed assisting their fathers in cutting the coal and filling the trams. Some of the children are taken to the mines by their parents very young.

We think no child under 12 years of age ought to be placed to such hard work, as the work does not necessarily require the employment of very young children. The height of our mainways is about five feet and the thickness of the vein of coal we are now working varies from 3 feet to 3 feet 6 inches. We cut away the top and use every precaution to secure the same by timber. Our mines are entered by level which runs into a high mountain and the depth of the ground above the coal gradually increases so that at the most elevated part of the mountain the coal is about 100 fathoms below the surface. Our coal is drawn from every stall or working by horses driven by lads from 10 to 16 years of age.

We ventilate by an air way running parallel with the main level, through which a strong current of air is drawn (after having passed through the stalls and workings) by means of a constant fire kept up and a very powerful draught occasioned by a very high chimney at the mouth of the said airway which carries off the small quantity of sulphuretted hydrogen gas which escapes from these workings.

No.127. William David, foreman.

We employ in all about 35 colliers, 12 of whom are under 18 years of age, about half that number under 13. We have no pit, the coals are drawn from the level. We have occasionally bad air but no fire. I have known men afflicted with shortness of breath when advanced in years but it is not common to be afflicted early in life. Many fathers take their children to work very early, to their great injury. I was taken as early as six years myself and for want of time, have never been able to learn English. Few working people about this neighbourhood understand English as there is no school within two miles of the place. Colliers about here are enabled to learn from 2s. 6d. to 3s. per day and many farm servants take to this labour in consequence of its being more profitable. Colliers are ready to take to any employment which may, for the time, be most profitable, as labourers on farms &c.

[Mrs. Davis, the wife of the proprietor of this colliery, who was present, further observed, that the practice of the colliers in that part, of taking down their children so early as five or six years of age, on an idle excuse of looking after their tools and assisting them, was much to be deplored, as perpetuating ignorance and corruption of morals.]

No.128. David Davis, aged 13, haulier.

He cannot read either Welsh or English and has never been to any school He can speak but very little English. He earns about 10s. a week out of which he pays his light. I come at seven in the morning and leaving work about six in the evening.

No.129. William Maggs, aged 11 years, haulier.

He has been at work about two years, He has one sister and two brother, The family was deserted by the father and mother who were natives of England. They came from Malmesbury. He works with a collier who took pity on him when he ran away from the workhouse. He was sent to the

workhouse when left by his parents. One of his brothers works on the Glamorganshire canal. He thinks his sister must be about 20 years of age. He heard she was in the workhouse at Cardiff. He earns about 5s. a week. He has never been to school.

[Intelligent boy and speaks English tolerably well, though he did not know, he said, "where he learnt it."]

No.130. Edwin John, aged 12 years, collier.

He has been at work about two years. Formerly he went to the free school at Llantrissant. The schoolmaster's name was Mr. Richardson. He goes to the Methodist Sunday School and can read the New Testament. He can reckon a little and knows there are 21 cwt. in a ton. He has not been to school since he has been at work. He earns 5s. per week.

No.131. William Richards, aged 12 years, coal-cutter.

He works with his father. He has been at work ever since he was four years old. He went to school in Tredegar where the masters name was Thomas Griffith. He was taken to work by his father because times were poor and he was worth an extra dram.

No.132. John Richards, collier.

I am the father of the boy William Richards. I can earn about 18s. a week. There are a great many stoppages. We shall have a stoppage in a short time, perhaps for more than a fortnight on account of the canal. We are much put to it when there is a stoppage. We have our coal allowed. Colliers pay their own rent.

IRW COLLIERY, parish of Llanwert, Glamorganshire. William Crawshay, Esq., proprietor.

Males Employed:-

Adults	25
Under 18 years of age	5

No.133. Arnold Butler, smith.

The foreman is Henry Thomas who is now in Treforest. There is little or no fire in the work. We work by level. The coal is worked only for the supply of Mr. Crawshay's tin works at Treforest. The coal is coked at Treforest. The work is ventilated by shaft, there are no machines. We turn out about 1000 tons a month. The men are paid 2s. a ton and can cut one and half tons a day, I don't know of any accident during the last 12 months.

No.134. William Evans, aged 10, air-boy.

Can't speak English. I don't go to day school. father works in the pit. I earn about 4s. 6d. per week. I have been four or five years in the pit. Can't say how long but a long time.

FOREST VACH COLLIERY, parish of Llantwitfardre, Glamorganshire. Mr. John Edmunds, proprietor, Newbridge.

Males employed:-

Adults	22
Between 13 and 18 years of age	

Winding engine of 12 horse power for pumping water. Coal brought from workings to level of horses, 16 in number. Boys employed as drivers and air-door keepers and filling coal, Main roads six feet high. At present working seam five feet thick.

No.137. Mr. William Jenkins, clerk and under-agent to Gelligaer Colliery.

I have been some years at these works and am well acquainted with the working population of the district. Coal working has attracted a large number of colliers to this spot from neighbouring counties, most of whom, so far as regards moral or religious knowledge are in a deplorably low state. I should think that out of the adults we employ, not one in ten can read and certainly not more than six of the whole number can read well and as the children are taken down as soon as they can

crawl, even in petticoats, ignorance if perpetuated. The people though ignorant are of very peaceable habits as a mass. In this part there are more colliers than can get full employ but they will act in union as to keeping up wages. In consequence of the low price of coal last year we were obliged to reduce the price of the working of coal from 2s. to 1s. 10d. and all struck from 1st. June to the 12th. August, 1840 when they returned to their work on entering into an agreement with the masters to work coal on a graduated scale and that scale to be regulated by the price of coal sold in Cardiff. Soon after, a fall of 3d. per ton took place in consequence of reduced prices, to which the men readily assented and now, as the price had increased 2d. per ton had been added an the working prices are now, in this place. 1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d. per ton and the men usually cut down 15 to 16 tons weekly, working on an average, 10 hours a day. The colliers about this part are stationary and the only discontents that arise are from the high prices of provisions operating on their present reduced wages. The wages of the other men in this quarter are not equally reduced. Masons, good workmen, get 4s. 6d. a day of 12 hours but the average of colliers is under 3s. at the present. It is expected that all labourer's wages will be reduced about this quarter. We have given notice of a reduction to all our carpenters, smiths and day labourers. The farm labourers and others are quite as uneducated as our colliers and I think far less intelligent.

Children are taken down by miners lose their strength and hale appearance. It is a pity to see little things carried in so early. The youngest that we have is John Howell. He is about seven years old and as near as I can recollect, been below seven or eight months. Schooling is out of the question, there not having been a schoolmaster in the village for some time till the last four months. There has been only one accident within two years when Richard Richards was killed by coal falling from the roof. Men belonging to Odd Fellows societies and Ivorites who support each other in sickness.

No.138. William Rees, aged 15, coal-cutter.

I am on my own hands. I live with my father and have got no mother. I went into the pit at seven years old with father. I have not been at any day school. I can't read Welsh or English and can spell a little. I learned it at Sunday School. I can't tell how many Commandments there are. They don't teach Catechism at Sunday School. Children are generally sent down at seven years old to claim an extra dram. I earn about 10s. a week when working pretty good. I have a brother, 12 years old, who earns 5s. a week and father earns about 18s. We shall be off now for a fortnight. Father pays 11s. a month rent, pays for coal as the coal is not allowed. These houses do not belong to the proprietor of the colliery. They belong to a weaver. They have been five weeks stoppages within the last six months.

No.139. Rees Stephens, aged 15, haulier.

I am not at work. I am to have a quarter's school and I have never been to school before. My brother goes to work in the pit. Father is a collier but has now got a little working of his own. Mother is alive. I have five brothers and two sisters. I earn when I am at work, 15s. a week and my brother earns 13s. a week. We all live at home. I am not yet able to read. I can write just a little.

No.140. James Tudor, aged 9 years, air-door boy.

It is very wet underground. I go down at six o'clock in the morning and return at six in the evening. I take bread and cheese with me to eat. I earn 5s. a week. I have not been to day school but I have to a Sunday School. I don't know how long I have been at work but I think more than a year but can't tell.

No.141. Thomas Jones, schoolmaster, Gelligaer.

Education in this part is in a very wretched state, more so here than in any quarter I know of, which I attribute, in great measure, to their being sent so early to work. I also keep an evening school. The average attendance of boys and girls at a day school of about 50 and the average rate of fees 5d. a week. The children are principally collier children but I have very few children of farmers. I have three which come to the evening school to supply the want of early instruction and they are making great progress. I have opened the school only four months.

[The school is held at the Methodist Chapel, a neat edifice and at the time of my visit about 20 children of both sexes are at their books &c. Their general appearance was clean and respectable but upon examining the children I found only one, a girl of 14, who could tell me how many Commandments there were and the religious instruction of the whole was miserably deficient.]

No.142. Mrs. Hannah Jenkins.

I have a son in the pit. He is an air-door boy and is about nine years old next Christmas. He went in when he was about seven and a half years old and he earns 5s. a week when he is at work. I have five in the family, three girls and two boys and my husband is a clerk at the works. David is the name of the boy at the pit. He cannot read but can spell a little. One little girl goes to school, of the others, one is not well enough and the little one is too young. I pay for the schooling whether they go or not, 4d. a week. That is our own affair. It is not stopped at the colliery. 3s. in the pound is stopped at the pay table for the doctor. We pay 10s. a month for rent. Our coal is allowed but it is not allowed to the colliers, most of them pay but I don't know how much. The colliers here take their children down as early as five years old when work is going on.

No.143. The Rev. Thomas Stacey, rector, parish of Gelligaer.

There is in this parish one Sunday School belonging to the Church of England and one with the Baptist denomination. There is one endowed school for the education of the poor in the village open from nine in the morning to five in the afternoon and the usual intervals. There is another by a person on his own account. They are each tolerably well attended. The first to the number of 15 or more, the second to about the same number, the endowed school to about 18 and the last to about 40, by children of poor farmers and those employed in collieries. Children are generally removed from school about 12 or 13. I can make no comparison of the actual progress made in the schools by children partly engaged in labour and those wholly unemployed as my information is obtained from one of my curates who has the supervision of my Sunday School as I am unfortunately non-resident on account of infirm health.

My former experience would induce me to class the religious and moral condition of the children and young persons engaged in labour in this district as by no means high, and their intellectual but little higher but it is not in cultivation.

TOP HILL COLLIERY, parish of Gelligaer, Glamorganshire. Robert Beaumont, Esq., of Llandaff, occupier.

Males employed:-

Adults	50
Under 18 years of age	11
Under 13 years of age	6

Coal brought by horses from the workings on railed roads, the longest road three-fourths of a mile, dip and rise 3 inches in 24, no air-doors, not firedamp but much chokedamp.

No.144. Mr. Jonathan Isaacs.

There are about 70 persons employed at this colliery. I am the appointed agent but in the absence of Mr. Beaumont I pay the men and make all the accounts. I have kept a smithy here for some years and am well acquainted with the habits and condition of the collieries in this locality. We have no sinking as we draw the coals from the level. Air-doors are not necessary in this work as there is no firedamp. There is some chokedamp in this and other pits in the neighbourhood and many men suffer from asthma which it creates at the age from 35 to 40. The colliers in this neighbourhood, upon the whole, are pretty healthy but I think the rising generation not likely to be so from the early age at which they are taken into the mines.

I have noticed that the children of miners who are sent to work do not grow as they ought to do. They get pale in their looks and are thin and weak in their limbs. Anyone can distinguish a collier's child from the children of other working people. There is a total absence of education in this neighbourhood and the people do not seem to care much about it. The wives are very clean in their dwellings and the girls, who generally stay at home to nurse the children or to fetch water, are like the males of the neighbourhood, very ignorant. I should think not one in ten can read and not five in our colliery can read English.

No.145. Richard Richards, aged 7, collier.

He helps fill his father's coal and sometimes works in the stall with his father at cutting the coal. His father gets a dram for me now and then. [A dram is the privilege of a cart of coal as additional work.] I never get beaten but sometimes feel hungry and I work 10 hours a day and have been below ground about one year. I never was at school and speaks Welsh only.

No.146. Thomas Johns, aged 14, haulier.

He began work before seven years of age and has always been a horse drive. He can earn 2s. 2d. a day and works about 12 hours. He was never at school and goes to the Baptist Sunday School but doesn't know his letters.

No.147. John Thomas, aged 9, collier.

I have been three years below and don't dislike the work now but would like daylight work better as I should get my dinner regularly which I sometimes miss now. He has got a brother who is a haulier and is 11 years of age who has been five years at mining work. He has never been to school and therefore can't read.

No.148. Charles Johns, aged 12, haulier.

I have been at work four years at horse driving and my brother Daniel, who is 8 years of age, has been down 11 years and have never been hurt and scarcely ever off work. We have never been to school and have no knowledge of the alphabet They sometimes go to school.

[Has no religious knowledge whatever.]

No.149. John Morgan, aged 16, haulier.

He has been eight years inn this place and as I work all day long I have never been to school. I sometimes go to Sunday School.

[Doesn't know a letter either in the Welsh or English alphabet. Speaks only Welsh.]

No.150. William Humphrey, aged 12, collier.

I have been five years at work, it is certain that it is five years, father says do. I rest sometimes in the mine to eat my bread and cheese which is the only thing I take with me. We often lose our bread and cheese as the rats take it away. We are obliged to keep our candles in tin boxes or they would have them to. The boys who drives the horses get their meals more regular as they go out with the drams.

[An intelligent boy, but scarcely able to distinguish one letter from another in the Welsh alphabet.]

No.151. Thomas Morgan, aged 12, haulier.

He was seven years old when taken into the mine and was at the school for a short time before he went. He believes it was for a quarter of a year. He has always working in this place. At first he worked with his father till he was strong enough to drive a horse. He walks about on Sundays and sometimes goes to the Chapel.

[Scarcely knows a letter.]

**LLANCYACH COLLIERY, parish of Gelligaer, Glamorganshire, Messrs.
Duncan and Co., occupiers.**

Males employed:-

Adults	40
Under 18 years of age	10
Under 13 years of age	6

Steam power 24 horses, winding engine raises coal 60 yards to a level 24 yards below the surface, coal brought from the workings to the pit bottom by horses.

No.152. Mr. Richard Andrews, overseer.

Colliers take their children to work below ground at very early ages. There is one little fellow, by the name John Davis, helping his father, who us certainly not more than five years old. It is not frequent for colliers here to take them down, even in petticoats, to claim a dram. The effect of taking children down so young has a very bad influence on their health. In the first place they are half starves below, as they never can get their meat like other people and they never grow like other children. As to education, it is quite out of the question.

No lad can be thoroughly useful till he is 13 or 14 years of age and it is poverty or dissipation which causes men thus to deprive their children of light and air. At this work nearly half the men

can read Welsh but very few of them can read English which keeps them all dark and the wives and daughters are excessively ignorant.

The girls are sent to work in farm houses at 10 and 12 years of age. They get their food for their labour for two and three years and afterwards from 40s. to 60s. a year. I see no difference between the agriculturists and the colliers of this quarter, There may indeed, be a shade of difference in the intelligence of the two classes in favour of the colliers. There are very few cases of bastardy or desertion as it is customary amongst the men to marry when the subject to asthmatic complaints and to rheumatism arising from the quantity of water in the pits most of them have large families.

No.153. Thomas Davis, aged 18, collier.

He thinks it must be 10 or 11 years since he first began to work in the pits. He can earn about 2s. 6d. a day and works about 10 hours. He has never been to school and sometimes goes to the Baptist Chapel. He has never got injured in the work.

[Can neither read nor write.]

No.154. Alban Jenkins, aged 17, coal-cutter.

He commenced working with his father when he was nine years of age. He can read in both English and Welsh but cannot write. He never attended a day school here but at Pontypool. He is a native of that town. He earns about 15s. a week and is paid 17d. a ton for working the coal. He gets as much as he can. As much coal as there is a demand for and when the work is short we all have a share in it. He pays 8s. a month for lodging, garden stuff and washing. The garden stuff includes potatoes, carrots, &c. and he funds himself in food. His father works in the pit but he does not live with his father but keeps himself entirely to himself.

No.155. David Davies, aged 15, haulier.

He has been upwards of seven years at work and been to school for one quarter before work. He would like to stay up best as the pit is very cold sometimes and he doesn't like working in the dark. He never was in a pit till he was taken down by his father to work. He earns 10d. a day and goes to Sunday School.

[Knows a few of the letters in the Welsh alphabet.]

No.157. Mr. William Strange, medical assistant, Llanvabon.

The population of the village is about 407 with about one quarter colliers. There are few accidents here about as the mines are fairly well managed and some little attention is paid to the ventilation. There is but little sickness in this neighbourhood as the situation is remarkably healthy. I attend most of the colliers in these parts and I know of no disease more common amongst them than amongst other working people. They certainly have a very bad practice of taking children down as soon as they can creep about many as early as five or six years of age which has an injurious effect, although from the fact that the coal workings have been extended chiefly during the last 30 years, the evil effects of the practice alluded to cannot be said to have a constitutionally affected the population. The evils will be manifest in the next generation. The rising population of colliers are certainly not so robust, or of so healthy an appearance as those engaged in other occupations which may be attributed to that practice, which may shortly be detailed thus :-

A collier can take down a male child as early as for or five years of age and when the work is limited, which is very frequent in this part, he claims an extra cart almost every other day. These children, of course do little more than pick up a few coals in loading the carts and handing and looking after father's tools and the eldest son, when he arrives at the age of 17, the full age for a collier, has the same privilege as his father and can take a younger brother down and so claim similar extras.

Many of the colliers about this spot are very well informed. Several of them write both English and Welsh which is not common. They have string prejudices, the men at one colliery being jealous of a steward, who by his industry has raised himself from a working collier, struck work last week, determining in their own minds to get him removed. They declared that he had been guilty of partiality to his own family in the distribution of work but as they could not establish their charge satisfactorily, the man retains his position and the men have agreed to return to their work. The total population of this parish is about 1500. There are two small schools about 60 to 80 may be the average attendance at both. They are ill conducted and the teachers not trained and in short, are altogether unfit.

No.158. Mrs. Elizabeth Tresise, innkeeper.

The want of a good school is much felt about here. We had one some time ago but the schoolmaster, Thomas Jones, was much addicted to drinking and so the school dropped off. I am sure there is not one child in all this lane who goes to school I have not been able to send my own little ones as the next school is more than a mile distant and I can't get my neighbours to send theirs so far. The people are very ignorant about this part. They have no knowledge of religion at all and many drink very hard. Many of the people about here have joined the Baptists and some of the adults are baptised in the brook hard by nearly every month but it doesn't seem to effect much good for I think they go more for the form's sake than for any love of God. There was baptising last month which was nearly attended by fatal consequences, as a number of the curious who went to witness the ceremony, fell into the water and several were seriously injured and some nearly drowned.

No.159. Thomas Harris, aged 14, haulier.

He has been off work since Christmas when he slipped and broke his leg. He was upwards of three years at work before the accident and was several years at school before going to work but has forgotten the reading now. He repeats the Commandments in Welsh and knows that Jesus Christ mad him. He has never heard of the Lord's Prayer. He frequently goes to the Ebenezer Chapel.

[Methodists, Cannot read Welsh or English.]

**CHAIN CABLE WORKS, Ynisynharad, parish of Eglwysilan, Glamorganshire,
Messrs. Brown, Lennox and Co.**

Male persons employed:-

Adults	140
Under 18 years	40
Under 13 years	30

Power, water, 20 horses, steam, 10 horses.

No.160. Mr. Paul, manager of the works.

The people of the district employed in the tin, iron works and mining were very improvident and neglectful of their children's instruction. In the chain works and foundry men brought their boys to work at ages seldom exceeding nine years and although the work was by no means unwholesome, yet it had the effect of stopping the growth and rendering hopeless any improvement by schooling. The men much prejudiced to old customs and any attempt to improve them could only be effected by very slow degrees. The wages earned by the men placed the means fully in their power to educate and clothe their children and in most instances their clothing and food were abundant but the minds of the young people were totally uninformed which made them difficult to be treated with and the females, as far as he knew, were equally ignorant. It was not uncommon for a man and his mate to earn up wards of £5 in the fortnight and not have a penny on the Wednesday. Boys earned from 6s. to 10s. a weekend young men 12s, to 20s. None worked beyond 12 hours. It had been contemplated to erect a school house and a bath for those labouring in the works but on the proposition of these matters to some of the men, it appeared difficult to induce them to contribute by small fees towards their maintenance and the same have now been abandoned.

No.161. William Isaac, about 16 years old, labourer in the anchor smithy.

I began work at seven or eight years old, I never have got injured since at work by the fire. He doesn't know his exact age as mother scarcely knows herself. He has never been to any day school but goes occasionally to the Baptist Sunday School and knows that W is the first letter of his Christian name and I is for Isaac. He can't sat who Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were nor who Jesus was or is. He walks home when work is over and takes a jug and pipe with the men.

No.162. John Richards, 14 or 15 years old, labourer in the anchor smithy.

He is sure he has been eight or nine years at work and works 12 hours daily. "Good hard work, especially when I strike the hot metal. It makes me very thirsty and fatigued." He was never at any

day school but sometimes goes to the preacher's Chapel to hear the letters on Sundays. He goes there of his own accord because a good number of boys are trying their letters.

[Cannot read at all. very emaciated little fellow, not in appearance nor than 12 year old. The overseer stated that the cramped manner in which some of the boys worked stopped their growth very much.]

No.163. Evan Hopkins, 11 years old, hammer-man.

He began to work two years ago at hammering small chain in the cable works. He works every day from six in the morning to six at night. "The work is very hard and makes me sweat sadly." He thinks he was once at a day school but does not remember how long since or what length of time he attended. He goes sometimes to the Sunday School and has heard of the Lord's Prayer but not of any Commandments. He has five brothers older than himself and only the eldest one reads. He earns 8s. a week.

[Very ignorant. Cannot read at all in Welsh or English.]

No.164. David Morgan, 16 years old, smith.

He has been three months at the work and was five years at farming. When at farming he was only found in victuals. He now earns 12s. a week. "Striking iron is much harder than farm work but you see I get more money and liberty." He was once at a Welsh school and got into the reading and reads pretty well but has no religious knowledge whatever. Counts pretty well.

No.165. Morgan Williams, aged 18, chain maker.

He earns 18s. a week and was about 10 years old when he commenced work. He works from six to six. He can read a little English but can't read Welsh and can't write at all. He has never been at school since he has been at work, he lives with his father who works here.

No.166. John Thomas, aged 14, striker.

He has a father in the works and earns, sometimes 6s., sometimes 9s. a week. He can't read either in Welsh or English. He goes to Sunday School but can't say how many Commandments there are. He isn't taught the Catechism at Sunday School and has just made a beginning in the spelling book. He thinks he has been at school altogether twelve months. His father has five children in the family and none of them read.

No.167. John Jones, aged 13 years, striker.

I have a sister but father and mother are dead. I live with my grandmother and I have been at work these five years. I went to the school at Treforest and I can read Welsh and English. I go to the Methodist Sunday School every Sunday. They don't teach me any set Catechism. I do not go to any evening school now but have been. I can earn 10s. I take it home to grandmother.

No.168. John Jenkins, aged 14, wheels coals.

He has been at work about six months and lives at home with his father. His father earns 18s. a week and he earns 8s. and his brother 5s. I have never been to a day school and can't read either in Welsh or English. He reads only the spelling book.

No.169. William Lewis, aged 19, striker.

I can earn 15s. a week. I live with my father. I have been 10 years at the work. I never went to school I can't read English nor Welsh either. I attend Chapel every Sunday.

**PLACE LEVEL COLLIERY and HENGOED COLLIERY, parishes of
Gelligaer and Bedwellty, counties of Glamorgan and Monmouth, Mr. Aaron
Brain, occupier of Hengoed and contractor of Place Level Colliery, the property
of Thomas Protheroe, Esq.**

Number of persons employed at Place Level Colliery.

Adults	30
Under 18 years of age	15
Under 13 years of age	8

No return was made for Hengoed.

No.170. Mr. John Williams, agent of Mr. Aaron Brain.

We have no machinery employed. The works are entered by levels and trams are laid up to the workings from whence coal is brought up to the road. Our present number here is about 53, but I do not know the number of men and boys that Mr. Brain employs at Hengoed. Mr Brain keeps a provision shop at Hengoed and the men get their clothes and provisions at the shop and the men get their balance if any, at the shop. The men have been dissatisfied with this mode of payment and struck for a week and only returned yesterday upon the promise that they should get their money every week and deal where they pleased.

The books of the shop and the books of the colliery are kept at the same office. The objections the men made were:- That they thought that the prices high and the weights light. The wages, though higher than formerly, are not so certain, from the frequent limit of the work, depending, as we all do, on the demand at Newport. We had one strike last year for 13 weeks, which has very much impoverished the colliers. As to schooling, it is quite out of the question. They never think of sending their children, whether colliers or not as they have seldom any balance to receive after goods are deducted at the pay table.

No.171. John Pickford, aged 50, collier.

We have been standing out for the last week, in order to get paid in cash because we think if we get money we can save 3s. of 4s. in the pound. It makes a great deal of difference to us where our work is short. "Bless you, Sir, several of us don't know what money is." It goes hard with those who have large families. Mr. Aaron Brain the contractor here, there has been a stir about it and the men stood out and wouldn't go to the shop until a settlement took place and now we are at work on a promise. "We can't stand it, Sir, for is a man get a pound in debt, he can't get his discharge and it is useless to attempt to get work without the discharge."

No.172. William Powell, aged 12, haulier.

He has been five years and earns 2s. a day. He was an air-door boy and goes to Sunday School where he learns a, b, c. He has three sisters and two brother. None of them can read.

No.173. George Brimball, aged 18, collier.

He has been 10 years below and first began work in Somersetshire. Work here is light compared with the work of that county from which I came for there I drew with the girdle and chain. I could read a little when I went to work as there was a school at the colliery. I can't read much now and haven't been to school since I have been at work.

[No scriptural knowledge.]

No.174. Gething Jenkins, aged 14, collier.

He was seven years old when first taken down and was sent to the little school before he went to work. He never goes to church. He thinks his father has a Bible but none of us can read. I have six brothers.

[Great ignorance.]

No.175. Thomas Lewis aged 9, air-door boy.

I have been four years amongst the minerals. I think I went to school before I went down but I never go to any now. I play about on Sunday and smoke my pipe. I consume half a quartern of tobacco a week.

No.176. William Williams, aged 13, collier.

He works with his father and has done so for seven years. He seldom works more than 12 hours. He has never been to school in his life. The work is very hard. When I first went down I used to fall asleep but I can't fall asleep now. I am kept too close at it. I have three sisters older than myself and none of us read. We never were at any school.

No.177. John Reece, aged 14, haulier.

I have been a full weight years at work. The first four years was at the coal. I now drive the horses. The distance of my haulage is about a mile, I got my legs severely crushed some time since which threw me off some weeks. I never was at school.

[Does not know a letter.]

**GILVACH VARGOED COLLIERY, parish of Gelligaer, county of Glamorgan.
Joshua Fletcher Hanson, Esq., proprietor, Mr. David Davies, contractor.**

Number of persons employed:-

Adults	50
Under 18 years of age	7
Under 13 years of age	12

No.178. Mr. David Davies, contractor.

The youngest age of children employed in the works is from six to seven. When they are first carried down they do no work but are taken down for the purpose of establishing a claim for an extra dram. [This is the value of the working of a ton of coal.] Children at 10 years of age frequently work very hard but they are of no real use until they are 12 years of age. The oldest man in our work at present are about 60 and I am of the opinion that miners are sooner disabled and off work than other mechanics, for they suffer from shortness of breath long before they leave work. Shortness of breath may be said to commence about from 40 to 50 years of age. Colliers about this quarter marry very early, 17 to 18 years of age is the average and it is not uncommon for lads to get married at 14 and 15 years of age. As soon as the lads are taken to the mines they begin to smoke pipes and they will smoke three or four ounces of tobacco in the course of a week. I am inclined to think that the female portion of our population here is reckless, to that may be attributed the early marriages. Men earn when at full work, from 20s. to 24s. a week but there are nearly four months when the works may be said to be at a stand and now the price of provisions is high and that notwithstanding the wages paid for working coal is high. The 2s. per ton paid for working coal does not put the man in possession of so many comforts as the 17d. of 1836. They get into debt and I think, all things considered, they are worse off then ever.

No.179. Jabez Williams, aged 15.

He hitches waggons on the incline. [This is hooking the carriage on the endless chain of the inclined plane.] He has done the work for four years and earns between 8s. and 9s. a week. He was at Mr. Lloyd's school at Blackwood. He reads pretty well. London is in England but can't say where Dublin is, he has no knowledge of figures.

[Good scriptural knowledge.]

No.180. Ellis Loydd, aged 7, collier.

He has been at work for 12 months below. His father lets him sleep when I am tired. I am 12 or 13 hours in the pit. His father takes his wages. I don't know what I earn.

[Doesn't know his letters, either English or Welsh.]

No.181. Morgan Kenneth, aged 8, collier.

I have been down two years and I work with my father. I never was at school.

No.182. Edward William, aged 11, collier.

I have been four years in the mine and it is very hard work. I earn 1s. a day when at work. I was never at school.

No.183. William Davis, aged 12, collier.

I have been below for four years. I am employed to bore holes and shoot coal. I never was hurt much. The work is very hard and I am very fatigued by it. I never was at school. There are 12 months in a year and 6 days in a week. I can't say how many days there are in a year. I have heard of the Testament and the Bible but I don't know what they contain.

No.184. Joseph Neath and John Neath, brothers, twin, aged 11 years.

They have been down three years assisting their father at the coal work. They were at school before working and work for 12 hours and sometimes 14. They work very hard indeed. When we rest we fall asleep. Neither of us have been to school or Chapel.

No.185. Eleazar Phillips, aged 17, collier.

He has been three years at the coalworks, He was at school before working but they did not teach me much. I can read English but I have no knowledge of figures. He earns 12s. a week when in full work but the average is not more than 6s. or 8s.

No.186. Michael Macarthy, aged 16, haulier.

He was born in Ireland and both his mother and father are dead, He began work at five or six years of age and has been at day school for a short time and can read a little English. He earns 14s. a week. The usual pay is 2s. 4d. a day. He lives in Cwmgelly and pays 6s. a month for lodging. He goes to the Wesleyan Chapel on Sunday. He generally brings bread and cheese to work and has bacon at night. He finds for himself and seldom has fresh meat, once a fortnight perhaps.

No.187. Daniel Edwards, aged 16, haulier.

He earns 2s. 4d. a day and lives with his mother. He has never been to school and can't read either Welsh or English. He goes to the Sunday School, the Wesleyans. Can't tell how many Commandments there are. He doesn't know what he goes to Sunday School for, doesn't learn to read. Learned his a b ab. Don't know anything about religion. Never learns any Catechism.

[Total absence of all religious knowledge.]

No.188. William Richards, aged 9, collier.

I work with my father. I don't know when I went down. I have never been to any day school but I have been to a Sunday School. Father and mother have seven of us but I don't know how old my brothers and sisters are. He takes no notice of anything but his work.

No.189. Edward Rowland, aged 16, collier.

I have been down five months and I work for James Hoskins. I have no mother or father. I don't know what I earn as James takes the money. I live with him. I never was at school but was in farm service before working the coal. I get salt and meat twice a week and bread and cheese.

No.190. Edmund Williams, Esq., magistrate of Maes-y-Ryddo in the parish of Bedwellty, county of Monmouth.

The education of the people is very much neglected, in fact the workpeople have not the means of sending their children to school, There is a great depression in the trade and their system of shopkeeping operates very prejudicially. I think if the man were paid money, and were allowed to purchase where they like, it would be a difference of from 4s. to 5s in the pound them but they are very improvident in their habits. They rarely put anything by and when a stagnation in trade occurs and they are thrown out of employ, they are a tax on the small farmer. The demand for coal is so irregular at different periods that I question whether the men could not do without a shop in case of sudden alteration. They save no money and get into debt by a free system of credit which is an encumbrance they cannot shake off. Several complaints have been made in the subject hereabouts but after some stir the men to go back to their employers and their employer's shops. The wives of the working people like the system better than their husbands do and the very large credit given enables them to get finer clothes than they could otherwise obtain. This certainly leads to an extravagance.

Whatever means of education is may be the object of the government to establish in this part of the country, no system will have the desired effect of improving their social condition unless based on sound moral and religious principles.

No.191. Evan Edwards, Esq., M.D., Caerphilly.

The domestic condition of the collier population in the district I attend is, I consider, superior to most coal districts. There are three collieries where there are about 600 men and boys employed, colliers, holliers, engineers, &c., &c. The situation is elevated in an open country, the houses are mostly new and well apart and in general no condensed mass of people sleeping in small apartments. In consequence of a line of railway now making through this district there has been a considerable influx of workmen to the neighbourhood which circumstance has interfered with the usual arrangements of the different families. I am not certain whether that has not had something to do with the unusual number of cases of typhus fever we have had among the colliers and their families.

Scarlet fever has prevailed very much in the said district but I am not aware that it was either promoted or prevented by the defects (inseparable) of their social condition.

The most prevalent disease among the colliers I find is rheumatism.

The collieries I attend are so well ventilated that I do not conceive the early age at which children go to work proves in the last prejudicial to their health.

I cannot enumerate with certainty the number of accidents within the last two years.

I believe there were three fatal accidents and four or five fractures besides minor accidents such as wounds, contusions &c.

COLLIERIES IN MONMOUTHSHIRE.

THE BUTTERY HATCH, the BRYN and GELLOGROES COLLIERIES, parish of Mynyodduslwyn, county of Monmouth. Thomas Powell, Esq., proprietor.

Number of persons employed:-

Adults	80
Under 18 years of age	56
Under 13 years of age	22

The mines are worked by three engines, in shafts of an average depth of 60 yards. Winding and new balance engines, two of 15 horse power each and one of 20. Ventilation by an old pit to which is affixed a water wheel.

No.192. Mr. John Jeremiah, steward of the Buttery Hatch Colliery.

Colliers in this part take their children down earlier than formerly and the consequence is that few read either Welsh or English. When trade is good, some three or four years ago, many of our colliers saved enough money to build some small houses. Very few now get more than their victuals.

It is a practice in this quarter to have what may be called "Company's Shops." The men are not well satisfied with them but I do not think they act injuriously as the prices are fair but they certainly prevent the men from having any reserve funds. The colliers hereabouts are pretty sober, in fact they have no money to spend and many last summer were absolutely without food. When money is free the habits of the young are very loose and even now it is very common to see children of seven years of age and upwards with pipes in their mouths. Indeed, it is usual for the youngest even to take their pipes into the work with them. The men are very subject to rheumatism. We have had but one accident for the last two years, a broken leg. I think the average wage of a collier at this present time does not exceed 2s. a day after deducting the cost of gunpowder, candles and soap and now the price of food is so very high children are carried down almost from the cradle.

No.193. William Richards, aged 7½ air-door boy.

I have been down about three years. I don't know my own age. When I first went down I couldn't keep my eyes open. I don't fall asleep now, I smoke my pipe. I earn 8d. a day. It is not very day. I don't know who made me and I have never been to school. I can't say what tobacco is made of but I know it comes from the shop. I smoke half a quartern a week. I think my mother pays 8d. for half a quartern.

[This little fellow was intelligent and good humoured. His cap was furnished with the usual collier candlestick and his pipe was stuck firmly in his button-hole.]

No.194. The Rev. Edward C. Jenkins, Independent Minister, parish of Bedwellty, Monmouthshire.

This small community of which the colliery of the Buttery Hatch is about the centre, is distributed partly in the parish of Mynyodduslwyn and partly in the parish of Bedwellty and contains about 600 people. I keep school here which is chiefly supported by the colliers. The Carngethin and the Union Collieries subscribe 4d. a month per man towards my school I generally receive from the two 32s. a month. This money is stopped at the pay table. The average rate of wages of the colliers for the past two years hereabouts has been computed for a particular purpose and does not exceed 14s. a week out of which the collier pays for powder and candles. The attendance at the school does not average more than 40. The low wages and the high price of provisions is the cause of children being taken down so early into the pit. I have a boy of my own down as an air-door boy, seven years of age. He earns 8d. a day and has been down 18 months. I have another aged 14 which is cutting coal. He reads, writes and ciphers well. He earns 9s. a week.

No.195. Jeremiah Jeremiah, aged 10, collier.

He has been five years at work. He was burnt with firedamp. [Very much disfigured.] He was off work for six months, It happened soon after he commence working. His father is dead. He works with his brother who is 16. The work is on mother's account. We can both read the a, b, c. The place of work is wet. We never work less than 10 or 12 hours when work is on.

No.196. William Davis, aged 14, collier.

I have been at the coal work one years and I was at the blast furnace five years. My father was killed by a fall of coal at Woodfield. I don't know how much I earn as William Jones takes money and gives me 3d. or 4d. on Saturday which I spend of cakes. I have four sisters, all farm servants. Not one of them can read. I could read and knew my letters before I went to work but have almost forgotten them now.

No.197. William Freeman, aged 11, collier.

I have been working for six years and it is very hard. I have often got hurt and have had my arm cut open twice with a mandril [the pick.] The rock roof fell on me and my father, I got much crushed and father has his ankle put out. We were off work along time. He thinks he earns about 6s. a week.

[Cannot read.]

No.198. William Skidmore, aged 8, collier.

I don't know how old I am but father thinks I am eight. I don't know when I first went to work it is so long since. [The steward here stated he was certain the boy had been down four years.] The place where I work is wet. I got my head crushed a short time ago by a piece of roof falling and it kept me idle for a short time. I go to the Sunday School. I get washed every night. I have seven brothers and sisters. I know a, b, c.

No.199. Joseph Richards, aged 7, collier.

He has been down three years and half.

[The Steward said he was sure the boy had been down at least three years.]

No.200. Josiah Jenkins, aged 7, door-boy.

He has been down 18 months and had never got hurt. He gets 8d. a day. It is very wet under ground. He goes down the shaft with men and works 12 or 13 hours a day. He did read a little before he came to work but has worn it out. His father taught him to read. father is an Independent preacher and he attends his father's Sunday School. He has a brother working below who is older and he can read and write.

No.210. William Smith, aged 10, collier.

He has worked below for four and half years and he works with his father and brother. His brother is seven years old and has assisted father for three years. We cannot read. Sometimes we go to Chapel on Sunday.

[No religious knowledge whatever.]

No.290. Henry Smith, aged 17, collier.

He has been working at Buttery Hatch seven years, He was at Bryn three years. He has never been to a day school but began to got Sunday School a twelve month ago. He likes Sunday School. He has heard of the Book of Psalms but knows nothing about it. He thinks his brother, Daniel knows more about it because he has been longer at the Sunday School.

[Very ignorant.]

**CARNGETHIN COLLIERY, parish of Gelligaer, county of Glamorgan. Messrs.
Rosser Thomas and Co., occupier.**

Number of persons employed:-

Adults	114
Under 18 years of age	30
Under 13 years of age	12

No.203. Mr. William Lewis, clerk.

Our coal is worked by level and is ventilated from two air pits. We have two seams of coal, one about three feet and the other about two and a half feet. There is no engine belonging to the valley and horses alone are used. The air is very good. There has been only one fatal accident during the last two years but accidents not fatal we have had five or six during the last 12 months. 3d. in the pound is stopped at the pay table for medical attendance and 4d. a month for Mr. Jenkin's school for all those who attend here, as well as at the Union Colliery, wages are very uncertain and the workmen are very fond of change. Some of them, indeed, change every month. There is a shop in connection with their work. Mr. William manages it. The books of the shop and the books of the colliery are kept at the office.

No.204. David Williams, agent.

I keep the shop at Ponthrepingham near the Carngethin Colliery. I am the agent of Mr. Rosser Thomas. I was nine years at Nantiglo and Sirhowy. The accounts are made up once a month and sent to the office and the deductions are made from the workmen's wages accounts. Whatever advances are made in cash are set off. Cash advances are made every fortnight. The purchases are made on Mr. Thomas's account and the books are made up and sent to the office for the purpose of being checked before any balance which may be due, is paid to the men.

There is more indulgence shown here in any shop I was in before. They are much better off here than in other iron shops.

There is no school in Ponthrepingham. The nearest school is at Gelligaer.

No.205. Richard James, aged 14, collier.

I was seven years when I first went down. He has been at school and can read both English and Welsh. He earns 6s. a week and sometimes goes to Sunday School. He has one brother eight or nine years of age. He works from six to six when there is a full day's work but comes away earlier when there is not much. Mother and father are both alive. He gets his candles at the shop. They are put down in the book. Candles cost his father 2s. a week.

No.206. Howell Lyshon, collier.

This boy is 11 years old this month and has been under ground there three years. He did work at Dowlais. He was a little bit at Mr. Jenkin's School. I have another boy, said the father at Carngethin who is now 15 years of age. He has been at work since he was five years of age and has never been to school above two or three days. No man can pay his way because of these shops. Everything is overcharged, besides the weight is bad and there is no one to look at this and the men are afraid to speak up for fear of being turned off. He turned off every Welshman because it was a Welshman come over to Davies's shop and found the goods were selling so much cheaper and at Mr. Hanson's Colliery, where Mr. Davies is the contractor and keeps shop, there was a dispute the other day and it came on before the magistrates at Merthyr. I don't know how it was settled but Daniel Morgan, John Edward's and Evan Lloyd got turned off and had their discharge.

**WATERLOO COLLIERY, parish of Mynyoddusllwyn, Monmouthshire.
Messrs. Cartwrights, occupiers.**

Males employed:-

Adults	57
Under 18 years of age	26
Under 13 years of age	7

Coal brought through the levels from the workings on iron tram road by horses. Length of main road one mile and three quarters. Mine ventilated by air shafts with furnace placed under.

No.207. Mr. Samuel Jones, cashier and clerk.

The work in this neighbourhood is very uncertain which uncertainty often proves injurious to the man. In winter they suffer much as few vessels arrive for coal at Newport. The want of regular employment causes total neglect of education to the children and I should certainly be within bounds by saying, that no one grown male or female in 50 can read and the farm servants in this part are as ignorant as the miners. Masons and carpenters who get regular employment, send their children to day school but the younger classes are in a lamentable state of ignorance. The miners suffer sometimes from a shortness of breath and they are certainly not so strong or as hale as other workmen but they generally cloth well with flannel and are very cleanly, always washing themselves all over their bodies after work and even when off work the habit is continued of washing every day. The work is fatiguing for young boys but the masters have no control over the colliers as to whom they shall take to assist them and when work is dull the fathers carry the boys below when four or five years old. Coal was last years reduced 2d. per ton in the working. We now pay 2s. the ton, taking 21 cwt. to the ton. The men stood out 11 weeks and reduced themselves to a state of beggary. Many merely had potatoes and the children were literally starved. I took the census of this [the northern] district of the parish comprehending about 60 houses and we numbered 379 females, 372 males. Out whole parish is said to contain 17,984 acres.

No.208. Phillip Lloyd, 58 years old, collier.

I was not working in the mines until I was 16 years old as my father was at the copper woks in Swansea. I have been 32 years in this district, sometimes at the Waterloo and other times at the Rock Colliery. I am now able to work below, though the clod [soft roof] in the mine fell upon me three years back and broke by thigh in two places, three of my ribs and my arm. I was off work some months which much distressed me as things are very queer about this place. Work is very uncertain and wages paid upon the truck system and as storekeepers are either contractors or have some interest in the works, we pay through the noose for everything and when we run a little debt in the winter season we have no work, we are screwed out of every penny when work sets in again and the storekeeper keeps every shilling of our wages till he is satisfied and I have not seen, nor have many of the men, money for months. In fact, I am going over to Mr. Jones tonight to threaten him, to settle in some way with me or go before the magistrate. I know that I did owe a few shillings at the company's shop but he has no right to stop all my money when he gets the wages in his hands to pay with. I have seven children, Three boys are working below and one girl [my daughter] works in the mine for William Morgan who has lost his leg and cannot do much. I have not been able to give my children a schooling nor can many do so from paying so high for the necessities of life and especially the mode of payment we are compelled to submit to. An outbreak took place last week in a neighbouring colliery, in order to compel the contractor to pay weekly and in money so that the people might go to market where they pleased. The men kept out one week and have returned on a promise to have it remedied in some way or other.

No.209. David Jones, aged 17, haulier.

I am the oldest of the hauliers and I can't say when I began work, it was so long ago. I never went to school and can't read either Welsh or English. I go to Sunday School. He reads a little in the spell book at Sunday School. His father has gone away and lives in America. I live with my mother, I earn 13s. a week. I have a brother 16 months younger than myself. He has been better off during the last few months that I have. We both live with mother who makes dresses. He is a mantua-maker.

No.210. David Williams, aged 10, collier.

He has been two years but can't tell when he first went down. He works with his father. We are six in the family. I earn 2s. 6d. a week. I have been to a day school but I have nor been since I was at work. I have been to Sunday School and learns English.

[This little fellow was so unnerved by being asked these few questions that he burst into tears and I was obliged to dismiss him.]

No.211. Lewis Williams, aged 18, collier.

He earns 14s. a week and has never been to day school., He can't read Welsh or English but has been to Sunday School. He knows nothing about the Commandments. He doesn't go every Sunday. His father and mother are dead and he lives with his uncle. He has been at the colliery since his

father's death, seven years since. Before that I used to work on the farms and was a farmer's boy. I like cutting better than farming because he can do what he likes after work.

No.212. Edward Thomas aged 10, collier.

He does not work with his father but another man because his father takes his brother down. He has been a little to school and reads some English but no Welsh. He earns 6s. a week. Can't tell what country he is in.

[No religious knowledge whatever.]

No.213. William Matthews, aged 11, collier.

He has been at work these two years and has been to day school. He has a father and two brothers older than himself. He lives with his father and earns 5s. a week. He can't read or write English or Welsh and goes to Sunday School but can't tell who Jesus Christ was. He can't say the Lord's Prayer either in Welsh or English. There are 24 pence in 2s.

No.214. William Davis, aged 12, haulier.

He has been at work for two years. He always washes when he gets home in warm water. He has no holidays except when there is no work to be done. Sometimes he goes to a pie. He is going to a pie tonight at Mr. Lewis's public house. He shall go about nine or ten o'clock. Work is very uncertain and I like daylight best.

**GWRHAY and PEN-Y-VAN, parish of Mynyodduslwyn, county of Monmouth.
Aaron Crossfield, Esq., part proprietor.**

Numbers of persons employed:-

Adults	59
Under 18 years of age	14
Under 13 years of age	13

No.215 Aaron Crossfield, Esq.

Our mines are worked by levels and we employ no machinery whatever. The coals are brought from the workings by horses along tram roads. Our main road is six and a half feet high and the mine is well ventilated by air ways and air pits. We have had but one serious accident within the last 12 months. A lad of 15 was killed in consequence of the top falling while he was holeing the coal for blasting. I think the youngest boy in the work is about eight years old and it is my opinion they ought not to be employed under nine years of age. Children assist their fathers in cutting coal at a very early age as also driving the drams. The usual hours of labour are from 10 to 11 per day. There is a sick fund, a Sunday School and day school for young children also a night school Religious service twice on the Sunday and twice in the Dissenter's service.

[When visiting the colliery I was unable to discover either a day school or a night school in operation.]

No.216. Mr. James Harper, book-keeper to Mr. Roger Lewis, general storekeeper and contractor for working the Gwrhay Colliery.

Mr. Lewis engages the colliers by the month. The men draw their money as much as they require, weekly and there is a final settlement once every month. 2s. 1d. and 2s. 4d. is the price here for hewing coal but it is not constant work for the men and the real average wage is seldom exceeds 12s.

No.217. Mrs. Mary Lewis.

My husband has worked in these mines many years. I have had 12 children, six of whom are working in the mines. Children can't get any schooling in this place as the parents are obliged to employ them so early. My youngest boy, Lewis, was taken down at five years and three months of age. He will be 15 next Christmas and been below ever since. He has sometimes been at the Sunday School trying to learn to read his letters but I don't think he knows them yet. None of the children read. As the work is so uncertain, they wouldn't be able to send them even if there was a school I

don't think one in a hundred can read in this place. I can't read myself. Parents are so driven in this quarter from irregular work that many of the children are half starved.

No.218. Shadrach Williams, aged 11, collier.

He has been only two years working in the mine. He was at a colliery school at Crymlyn 12 months and learned to read a little English. He goes to work at four o'clock in the morning and does not come up till seven or eight at night when work is on. He has three brothers at the work and one sister a servant.

[The father stated that when work was well on they were glad to get as much as they could and consequently they worked very long hours. This boy had a very sickly and dejected appearance and was much stunted in his growth.]

No.219. Moses Williams aged 7, air-door boy.

My father carried me down 18 months since. I keep an air-door. He brings me in the morning and I return with him at night.

No.220. Rosser Jenkins, aged 8, collier.

I work with my father as often as he works, sometimes a long time. He sometimes takes bread and cheese with him and drinks the water below.

No.221. Richard Hutton, aged 7, collier.

He has been 12 months at work. He thinks the place is "middling" and is very glad when he gets home. The noise of the shooting used to frighten him but it doesn't now.

No.222. John Evans, aged 8, collier.

He has been two years below. His father took him down to claim a dram. He has often fallen asleep. Father pulls me up when he wants me.

No.223. Daniel Jones, aged 16, collier.

He has been down for a very long time. He thinks it must be nine or ten years. He has never got hurt. When first at work he did little but he now works hard. He sometimes is in full work and the hours are very long. He has never been to any school.

[He has not the slightest scriptural knowledge and is generally ignorant.]

No.224. Charles Pascal, aged 14, collier.

He thinks he was between six and seven years of age when his father took him down. He never was at any day school.

[Has had not instruction whatever.]

No.225. John Rosser, aged 14, haulier.

He has been below three years and his father is in America and his mother dead, He works for his uncle. He has three cousins at home. None of them go to the works yet. I can't say what I earn as uncle takes my wages. I was never at school.

No.226. Joseph Head, age, 14 haulier.

He has been down for more than eight years. His father took him down to work the coal. After I had been down two years my brother taught me to drive the horses. I have been crushed several times with the drams when first at work. I know the letters in the alphabet. I stands for Joseph and H is the first letter of my name. Father gets 12s. a week for my labour. I sometimes get 6d. or a 1s. for myself which I spend in beer and tobacco. I go to Sunday School to learn the spelling.

COURT-Y-BELLA and MAMMOO COLLIERIES, parish of Mynyoddusllwyn, Monmouthshire. Sir Thomas Phillips and Co., occupiers.

Males employed:-

Adults	90
Under 18 years of age	30
Under 13 years of age	10

Coals brought through the level by horses and conveyed by inclined plane to tram road the descending and ascending carts worked by balance wheels.

No.227. Mr. Hananiel Morgan, agent to Sir Thomas Phillips and Co.

Males only are employed in this part of the country in the mines and many young boys are taken as soon as they can stand on their legs. This practice has increased much, as the work is very uncertain about here, and has been so for three or four years. The younger branches of all classes of workmen here are very ignorant and although they are very honest, yet the want of good education creates bad habits and I have noticed that the younger branches are often drunk, more so than their elders and boys of seven years old drink and smoke. The firm of Phillips and Sons are now building a large school house. One apartment will hold 160 persons and other rooms are fitting up for infant schools so that some may be expected to result. The school will be open in a few months. There is no society belonging to any works about here but men mostly belong to the Bedwellty Union or Odd Fellows Societies. Accidents are very rare but men suffer from shortness of breath in after life from working in the mines. Only one fatal accident there has been within the last two years and but five or six broken legs or arms within the last three years. Medical assistance is secured to the people by stoppage of 3d. in the pound on monthly pay. Men receive their wages in money at the colliery as Sir Thomas will not allow any shop on his works.

No.228. Henry George, 7 years old, collier.

I have been 12 months below and assist Davy Jones to pick as father works in the level. I work very hard sometimes and at others I go to sleep. I take bread and cheese down. Father and mother do not speak Welsh but since I worked with Davy I have forgotten all my English.

[Has no knowledge of a letter.]

No.229. Thomas Jenkins, 10 years old, collier.

Father took me down to claim a dram when I was six years old and I have worked ever since. I work with John Jones now who pays father 2s. 6d a week for my labour. When I fall asleep they shake me up. I work as long as John Jones works, from six in the morning to six in the evening or three in the morning until five in the evening. I never was at any school and never go to Church. I play about as all the boys do on the Sunday.

No.230. Joseph Roberts, 13 years, collier.

He was six years old when first he went into the mine. He goes to work at three or four in the morning and returns at four, five or six and feels very tired as the work is hard as some of the coal is hard to get down from the roof.

[Does not know a letter.]

No.231. George Roberts, 11 years old, collier.

He has been five years in a coal mine and works with his brother. He has never been seriously hurt but has been squeezed now and then. He bores the holes for blasting and picks under the coal. The pit is very smoky from blasting but we take a pipe of tobacco which clears away the powdery smell. I have eight brothers, one is 22 years of age and has no learning at all. One who is married can read in the Welsh Bible. I never heard of Moses or any Commandments nor did I ever go to school.

No.232. Thomas Jones, 16 years old, haulier.

He began working when seven or eight years old and was at school when he was very young and used to go to Chapel. He earns 13s. a week. He has never been much injured but off at time for a few days with crushes. He has never heard of Jesus Christ but heard of some Commandments. He thinks there is God, one God. Doing evil is getting too drunk and swearing. the boys swear a good deal in the mine. 3 times 7 = 21 and two twenties are four tons. There are 12 months in a year but has never heard how many days there are in a year.

No.233. John Jones, 18 years old, collier.

He has been in the mines 12 years and was never at a day school as he had no opportunity and now attends Sunday School [Spells a little Welsh but cannot read. [He has heard of God's word since attending Sunday School. The preacher says Jesus is God. I never have heard of David nor Solomon nor any of the Catechism. When at full work he earns 15s. a week but they have obliged to

walk about for weeks together and many like myself are not able to get anything. I can add a few numbers up but not multiply at all.

[Very destitute of common information.]

No.234. James Harper, 20 years old, collier.

He began to work when nine years old and could read before working but he has forgotten all. He earns, when in full work, 18s. to 20s.

[Does not know a letter.]

No.235. John Hughes, 17 years old, collier.

He has been working 11 years. He reads a little Welsh and speaks English. He has five brothers at work, two of them can read a little but none write. He was never taught to multiply. 3 nines are 38, 5 times 5, can't say.

No.236. The Rev. William Morgan, curate of Bedwellty parish.

There are several Sunday School in this parish in connection with different sects. Two or three day schools but not attended by collier's children and I am not aware of any school open for teaching female children. The inhabitants of this district are chiefly colliers and their children are but seldom sent to school.

I do not consider a few day school there are in this district capable of exercising any, the least, moral or religious influence upon the habits and condition of the children attending them. The moral, intellectual and religious condition of the lower classes here is exceedingly bad. I have been here only 15 months. The truck system is in operation here and operates very injuriously on the working man. I don't know any system more pernicious in its effects on the comforts of a people.

No.237. The Rev. John Evans, parish of Mynyoddusllwyn.

There are none Sunday Schools in my parish, two belonging to the Established Church, two to the Baptists, two the Independents and two the Welsh Methodists and one to the Wesleyans. There is also an evening school held at the vestry room on Friday evenings for reading and psalm singing. We have neither a national nor a free school in the parish. Children are not overworked in our collieries but they are often idle at home when they ought to be at school and the general excuse of parents of that they cannot afford to send them.

We want more schools on the Welsh hills. In fact, we have neither schools nor churches to answer the population. This parish is 10 miles by 8 and full of collieries and yet there is but one church and not one school room.

No.238. Rev. Augustus Morgan, rector of the parish.

There are in my parish two Sunday Schools. The one belongs to the Establishment and the other to the denomination called Wesleyans. There are two day schools, the one infant school into which none are admitted above seven years of age, the other is connected with, and conducted on, the national system. The hours are from 9 to 12 and from 2 to 5. The girls are taught needlework and other branches of domestic employment. Children are generally removed from school at from 10 to 12 years of age. The question of education in manufacturing and mining districts is an extremely difficult one to reduce into any regular system, because the hours of the labour differ much. They are alternately employed day and night. I should be inclined to recommend the adoption of evening schools for young persons.

No.239. Sir Thomas Phillips, Knight, Newport, Monmouthshire.

In the western part of Monmouthshire, with which I have been intimately acquainted for the last 20 years are the following means of education the children of the poor. First, the Caerleon Charity, supported by an endowment of £1000 a year arising from landed estate in which 30 boys and as many girls are educated and clothed and on leaving the school the boys are apprenticed and the girls placed in domestic service. Second, British and National Schools at Newport and Pont-y-Pool, supported by voluntary contributions and thirdly, Dame schools.

Having acted for many preceding and up to the close of the year 1839 at Newport as an attorney in a large practice, having also acted as a magistrate in that town, and having filled other public situations, the duties where of brought me into frequent communication with the labouring poor and for the last 20 years having carried on mining concerns as a colliery proprietor, I have had much opportunity to compare the condition and conduct of the several classes of the labouring poor in this district.

The boys of the Caerleon school have not contrasted favourably with the uneducated portion of the population amongst whom they are found (which I attribute to accidental causes), and the children taught at the schools supported by subscriptions and at the ordinary dame schools, are, in my opinion, more attentive to their domestic duties, more regular in their daily employment, more valuable as workmen for their general intelligence and skill, more reasonable in periods of public excitement or embarrassment, or in disputes with their masters and more capable of comprehending the real cause of any difficulty or misunderstanding but, nevertheless, the instruction which has been afforded has been very defective.

The employments of this district do not generally demand much skill and are not much affected by the fluctuations of fashion but occasions of depression occur and I have not observed in such seasons that the workman who has been taught school learning has evinced greater resources than he who has not.

In the western district of Monmouthshire the means of conveying, both to young and old, secular and religious instruction is lamentably deficient. In the parishes of Mymyodduslwyn and Bedwellty, which comprise nearly all the Monmouthshire collieries and various extensive iron works, Bedwellty with a population of 22,000 and Mymyodduslwyn with half that number, there are three churches several dissenting chapels and a few dame and Sunday Schools and even those schools are not resorted to by the majority of the population.

Although my experience of the results of teaching as has been given during the last 30 years to the children of the poor is not very encouraging, yet I have felt it to be my duty, as a colliery proprietor, to provide for the workmen I employ a means of religious instruction, and for their children a means of moral and religious training and, aided by the Privy Council Board, I am now erecting schools wherein 400 children may receive instruction and wherein the services of the church shall be performed.

I know of no other mode whereby the rising generation can be taught their duties to God and to each other than by the establishment of good elementary schools, wherein they shall be made thoroughly to comprehend whatever they are taught and where, in place of mechanical teaching which has too often pervaded our poor-schools, a constant and unremitting attention shall be paid to the habits and dispositions if the children, who should always be treated as beings to be influenced by their affections.

That a knowledge of the elements of mechanics and some branches of natural philosophy, would confer on the workman increased skill and as a machine for the production of labour, increased value, seems certain but whether such knowledge would improve his moral character and elevate his social condition is, with me, a question of doubt and anxiety.

If increased secular knowledge can be combined with sufficient restraining influences of a moral and religious nature, the whole circle of physical philosophy might be taught safely (whether profitable or not) to the labouring poor but inasmuch as intellectual development is not, in itself, favourable to humility of character, very often engenders arrogance, commonly exhibits an overweening sense of the power and an exaggerated estimate of the value of mental acquirements and as true humility of character can be superinduced only by much and anxious toil and watchfulness, aided by favourable influences, I do not yet see my way to the establishment, either profitably or securely, of a much higher standard if eleemosynary instruction than is at present administered to the children of the poor.

No.240. Thomas Felton, Esq., surgeon, Blackwood.

The houses occupied by the collier population in this neighbourhood are generally built on sloping ground where one habitation is above another and very rarely drained although it must be obvious, from the side-land situation, that drains are much required. There is a general good supply of water near the cottages which enables them to keep their houses tolerably clean. The residents of the district are principally Welsh and the women are particularly one of washing the walls with lime and water and are never known to keep a pig with them in the house. There are places occupied by the poorer part of the population that requires to be drained and as there are no public means of carrying off filth, &c., from these places, it must influence fever during different periods of the year. The interior of the cottages are small, comprising generally two rooms on the floor, one of them occupied as bedroom, the rooms above used as bedrooms and there is generally a pantry or scullery in the cottage. A collier, when in full employment, earns from 20s. to 30s. a week but unfortunately for them, the demand for coal does not last a sufficient time to enable them to provide for the winter. It is too often the case, when a collier earns £5 or £6 per month, they manage to live up to it. It is a common practice for the coal masters or their agents to supply the men with provisions and I am given to understand that it is a frequent practice to advance the men several pounds worth of provisions during the winter months to enable them to support their families. The

food consumed is of a very good quality. The flour, beef and mutton is equal to any sold in out market towns, the clothing also is made of good, strong cloth, frequently flannel. The agricultural labourers are so few in number in this neighbourhood, that we have no opportunity of becoming acquainted with their mode of life. When a collier saves a little money, he usually builds for himself a cottage and some of the more industrious are able to build four, five or six which they let to others and for which they receive £5 or £6 per years. Two thirds of the collier population enter benefit societies so that in case of accident of disease they are not at the mercy of the parish.

This district is particularly hilly and the houses are for the most part scattered. Some are built on elevated spots while others are near the river where the fog and damp exist to a much greater degree and in which low and continual fevers, which frequently terminates in typhus, exist in a much greater degree than in more airy situations.

The average life of a collier is 60 and it does not appear that underground work is so injurious to health in this district as most other places. The greater number of collieries are worked by level and consequently they have a much greater portion of fresh air to breathe than those working in deep pits.

The practice of employing children in collieries at an early age and exposing their constitutions to foul air and absence of light has a tendency to produce diseases of the lungs and eventually to shorten life.

THE ROCK COLLIERY, parish of Bedwellty in the county of Monmouth. The Rock Colliery Company, proprietors.

Number of persons employed:-

Adults	88
Under 18 years of age	35
Under 13 years of age	9

No.241. Mr. John Jones, agent.

I do not encourage labour at an early age although the children might as well be in the mines for the parents entirely neglect their instruction. There is but one small school in the populous village of Blackwood. I do not think the average attendance is more than from 12 to 20 and the teacher has been here little more than nine months.

I do not think it would be of much use even establishing a free school here for the people I fear would scarcely think it worth while to send their children there.

Many months in the year, men, with one or two small boys, can earn from £9 to £10, at other time not £4 and what they lose in bad months is never made up by good work.

No.242. David Davies, aged 10, collier.

He has been employed at the Rock Colliery cutting coal and earns about 4s. a week. The work is very hard and I earn about 4s. a week. I get bread and cheese to eat. I have lately been to Sunday School

[Reads very badly. Has no religious knowledge whatever.]

No.243. Samuel Tyley, aged 15, collier.

I have been below six years and was at a day school for three years before he went to work. He earns 12s a week.

[Reads a little. Ignorant.]

No.244. Sampson Hancock, aged 12, collier.

I have been below for five years and am employed to bore and shoot coal [blast]. I go to Sunday School where I have learned to read. He reads the Testament but doesn't know much about the Bible. He has heard of Sampson and thinks he was a strong man and pulled a church down. He has heard of the Commandments but doesn't know what they are.

No.245. Solomon Hancock, aged 10 years, collier.

He has been down two years and thinks the work is pretty hard. He used to fall asleep and learned to read at a Sunday School.

[Reads pretty well.]

No.246. Edward Llewellyn, aged 13, oiling boy.

I have worked for four years and was first at cutting coal and did so until father died. My employment is to oil the wheels of the trams in the level. I was sitting underground when a stone fell and broke my leg four months ago. I have only just returned to work. I have never been to school.

[Very ignorant. The leg appeared to be well set but the parts appeared inflamed.]

No.247. George Tyler, aged 11, collier.

I have been down three years and reads in the Testament but he knows nothing of the Commandments. Finds the work very hard.

No.248. David Tyler, aged 11, collier.

He has been five years below. Father can't afford to send me to school. Has been to a Sunday School and knows a, b, c.

No.249. David Edwards, schoolmaster.

It is not in any connection with any religious congregation although the school is held in the Chapel of the Wesleyans. Education is very low in this neighbourhood. Morals are very low. The truck system is very prevalent here, I receive my fees sometimes in goods. I have an average attendance of different classes of 25 to 30. Mine is a private speculation entirely. I come from Newport and have been about nine months here.

No.250. Mr. Evan Jones, Vestry Clerk of Bedwellty Parish.

The parish of Bedwellty contains a population of 22,170 according to the last census of 1841. Almost entirely dependent on the large iron and coal works as will be seen by the following information, the population having nearly doubled since the census of 1831.

	Houses	Males	Females	Total population
Tredegar Iron Works	1397	3982	3342	7324
Victoria Iron Works	328	1140	839	1979
Ebbw Vale Iron Works	407	1292	1008	2300
Sirhowy and part of Beaufort Iron Works	413	1220	1001	2221
Rumney Iron Works and Farm Houses in Ilwchlau'rwd	1050	3155	2427	5582
Islaw'rwd Collieries	491	1330	1154	2484
Mammool Collier Village and Farm Houses	52	163	117	280
	4158	12282	9888	22170

In the adjoining village of Blackwood we have a Calvinistic Methodists Sunday School having an average attendance of 150 scholars and 22 teachers. The teachers are not very well instructed. All do read and probably half may write a little. The practise is to let each teacher under his or her charge six or eight others and instruct them in the Bible or Testament reading for of hour previous to their commencing their teaching. The teachers assemble one hour before the usual school time and go through a Scriptural examination and repeat the Ten Commandments which they in their turn teach the younger scholars afterwards. Children are admitted at four years old and upwards and no charge whatever of made for instruction. I, with several others, often subscribe for the purchase of little books and Bibles. The people are very ill provided with Bibles or instruction books of any kind.

I this part we have a mixed population and during the 18 years I have resided here, I have witnessed a very considerable change in the agricultural and above-ground labouring population and moreover the rising generation of colliers and haulier boys are not progressing but are most certainly going back in in formation and education. Few attend either Chapels or Sunday Schools. They drink, smoke and are ignorant and reckless, indeed, behind all other classes. Beer shops do a good deal of harm, with us and many are not regularly licensed and houses licensed to sell beer spirits. There are seven houses licensed to sell beer and two licensed to sell spirits. They are great curse to the working population. There are 124 houses on Blackwood and a resident population of 622. The drainage of the houses is very bad and the number of privies 1 to every 10 or 12 houses.

The miners' houses are generally very clean as the women are sober and industrious. Great privations are sometimes felt from a degree of improvidence among the women when work is plentiful. The full money is expended, not so much in drinking as in rich food, curranty cakes (as they are called) and sweets of all kinds supersede, from time to time, the necessary consumption of animal food, a custom which by its frequent, has, in the opinion of many, a very marked effect on

the consumption of our women. This and the drinking of the men leave the collier nothing to lay by for dull seasons.

The prejudice which exists in the minds of the people against the New Poor Law has induced many to subscribe to benefit societies such as the Odd Fellows and others and I think some good has been effected, for many now get relieved when sick out of their own savings who were formerly on the parish.

I am secretary of the Bedwellty Union Benefit Society holding its meetings in Blackwood. We have 154 subscribing members from this district. The society has been established 12 years and at every anniversary our numbers are increasing. We have funds in the Pontypool Savings Bank £98 10s. 3d., in the Society's box, £4 7s. 2d., and £385 out an interest at 5 per cent in the hands of private individuals, making a total of £529 17s. 6d., after paying £56 16s. 9d. in relief to 22 sick members, £9 for the funeral of a free member, £3 2s. 6d. to bury one member who was not free and also £13 9s. for beer money at club meetings. Out total receipts last year were £175 12s. 3d. and out expenditure £95 17s. 3d.

Upon the whole of these societies are producing a beneficial change. Were the mining population well instructed they would soon have the men in their hands of greater comfort, for when work is full and wages are high a man and one boy will earn £9 to £10 per month. A single man can certainly make a wage which would average 17s. a week.

PANLLWYN and GELLYDAGE COLLIERIES, parish of Mynyodduslwyn, county of Monmouth, Joseph Beaumont, of Llanarth, Esq., proprietor.

Number of persons employed in the two collieries:-

Adults	79
Under 18 years of age	19
Under 13 years of age	16

No.251 Mr. Morgan Thomas, manager.

The work in this part of the country of very irregular. There is plenty of employment at times but at others it is very slack indeed. The unequal demand for labour has a pernicious influence on the education of the rising generation and the parents themselves are very ill-informed. I should say that not one third can read. We have had no fatal accidents in our workings, although one is entered by a pit 28 yards deep. I recollect only one man seriously injured during the last two years.

No.252. Mr. Edward Rees, underground oversman.

The greatest distance of the month of our mine to the working is 1000 yards and the children who work at the coal face frequently live a mile distant besides and they work as many hours as their fathers, except when very young, when they are allowed to sleep about the stalls to entitle the father to the privilege of a dram. I think the practice very injurious as it undoubtedly stops their growth and gives them a sickly appearance. The only excuse of the parents is the irregularity of the work. Indeed I do believe the colliers of this district have not, during the last year, averaged more than 10s. a week. Colliers, I think, live as long as other men but they are not so robust in constitution and they get short of breath at from 40 to 45 years of age. Rheumatism also is very common there being a good deal of water in the workings.

The men here receive money weekly and have a "clearing" every fortnight. We keep no shop, the men object to them and they have great reason to complain.

No.253. William Crew, aged 10, air-door boy.

He works 12 hours and has been down three and a half years. He has been to Sunday School 12 months. When in full work he gets 4s. a week. He likes daylight work best.

[Does not know a letter.]

No.254. Job Tobay, aged 8, air-door boy.

He has been 12 months below and he minds the door with brother Jonathan which is 11 years old and had been down three years. He was taught to read at the Sunday School. He frequently falls asleep at work.

[Reads pretty well.]

No.255. Charles Coble, aged 11, collier.

He began work when he was seven years old and was first taken below at the Argoed Colliery. He never was hurt. He and his father cannot read. He gets bread and cheese but very seldom gets meat as the work is nor regular. He has potatoes and salt nearly every day.

No.256. Jonathan Elmsley, aged about 13, collier.

He has been below so long he forgets when he first went down.

[Very ignorant.]

No.257. John Treasure, aged 18, collier.

He has been 12 years below and has always worked at Panllyn. The work is very hard, particularly for young boys who do not work. I had my legs crushed three years ago and was off work five weeks. We don't often get meat when work is on. Boys sometimes labour 15 or 16 hours.

No.258. Mrs. Sarah Tobay, village of Pontllynfright.

I have eight children, four at work. My husband's wages, taking all things together, have not been 10s. a week all the years through. My husband gets paid in cash as he is favoured but where he receives cash, thirty are compelled to deal at the "shop". We have frequently been obliged to do so and I am sure I can save 3s. in the pound by buying my own goods where I like but those who are discontented are marked.

No.259. Joseph Thomas, blacksmith in the same village.

The truck system of dealing is so common in the collieries of this district that our markets are closed. In the village of Blackwood the whole supply is monopolised by the company's shop. The market house is closed. There is a terrorism existing over our men and they dare not speak out.

**WOODFIELD COLLIERY, parish of Mynyoddduslyn, county of Monmouth,
Thomas Prothero, Esq., of Malpas Court, proprietor.**

Numbers of persons employed:-

Adults	59
Under 18 years of age	4
Under 13 years of age	1

Pumping engine of 18 horse power. winding engine 20 to 30 horse power and water 12 horse power and two men and two boys at pumping.

No.260. Mr. Williams James, agent.

As the workings at this colliery are new the main roads are of no great length but the winding pit ventilates the mine and there are airways and air-doors. The workings here require so much actual strength that we do not find the employment of the young people useful and consequently we do not allow the parents to take down the children so early as you will find is customary in this part of the country where you may see children taken down at five and six years of age. We have had no fatal accidents at this colliery. When a death occurs a communication is made with the coroner, he issues his warrant and, through the constable, appoints a jury and the coroner seldom visits us until there are five or six cases to be disposed of in the district.

In reference to education, I consider the rising generation more ignorant than the present and it is not to be wondered at when children are taken down so early and the poor things are kept for 9 or 10 hours scarcely able to keep their blood in circulation and for the sake of an extra tram of coal.

A little encouragement by the proprietors would, I have no doubt, do a great deal of good here. Mr. Moggeridge, who owns a large share of the land of Blackwood. formerly established a prize of the best garden and cottage. a useful prize, which has, however, been discontinued since that gentleman has resided abroad.

**CWMDOUS COLLIERY, parish of Mynyodduslwyn, county of Monmouth.
Messrs. Morrison and Powel, proprietors.**

Number of persons employed:-

Adults	60
Under 18 years of age	12
Under 13 years of age	15

Two mines, one entered by level, the other worked by shaft 113 yards deep. High pressure 50 horse power.

No.261. Mr. Evan Jenkins, agent.

We have no limitation of age in our working. Many of the children for whom we allow an extra dram are taken down very young. The education of children is sadly neglected from their being taken down so young not that they do much work. Accidents are not frequent in our works. We have had only one fatal accident during the last two years when a boy was crushed by a falling of the roof.

We have no shop in connection with the work. I think I have more control over my men by paying cash. Our regular pay is on the second Saturday of the month but the men are allowed to draw weekly.

Of the lads employed in this colliery the state of intelligence may be gathered from the following evidence:-

No.262. Morgan Morgan, aged 6, collier

Six months down. [Does not know a letter.]

No.263. Joseph Absalom, aged 6, collier.

Four months down. [Does not know a letter.]

No.264. Thomas Lewis, aged 7, collier.

Two months down. [ignorant.]

No.265. Jacob Jones, aged 9, collier.

Twelve months down. [Ignorant.]

No.266. Samuel Rees, aged 11, air-door boy.

Four years down. [Knows the Welsh alphabet.]

No.267. John Morgan, aged 15, haulier.

Seven or eight years down. [Does not know a letter.]

No.268. Lewis Rees, aged 17, haulier.

Ten years down. [Ignorant.]

**TYNYGELLY, TRAENANT, PENYCOEDCAE and KENDON COLLIERIES,
parishes of Mymyodduslwyn and Llaniddel, Martin Morrison, Esq., occupier.**

Number of person employed:-

Adults	150
Under 18 years of age	40
Under 13 years of age	22

No.269. Mr. William Evans, surveyor, clerk and storekeeper to Martin Morrison, Esq.

I think we employ about 212 persons in the four collieries and they are all paid at this house. The condition of the collier population in this district is very bad. The people have not yet recovered from the strike last year when they stood out for 11 weeks. The masters partly gained the ascendancy by consenting to terms by which however the men will never be gainers. When the strike took place one third of the colliers had expended their little savings, one third subsisted on

credit and the remaining one third went begging about the iron works. Such was the condition of our population but singular to remark there was no attempt at plunder. Many of our colliers are given to run in debt and we are obliged to pinch them hard to keep them up to their earnings. We have regulation at this work not to allow a parent to claim an extra dram for a boy until he is seven years old and have, therefore, no children in the work under seven years of age. We have no school connected with the collieries. An attempt was made a short time ago to raise a small subscription of establishing a school hereabouts and Mr. Evans, the schoolmaster, had a considerable increase of scholars of the faith of their education being paid for. The project was however, abandoned, though it would have been productive of great advantage to the children, because of the immediate vicinity of the mines.

Some few of our elder colliers can read and amuse themselves by reading and they who are uneducated and ignorant, drink hard, especially on Sundays.

I think the average rate of wages of our best colliers of from 17s. or 18s. a week out of which they have to pay for gunpowder, tools, soap and candles and 3d. in the pound is stopped at the pay table for medical assistance. We employ no machinery, excepting a one horse pump under ground, which we shall set on one side and employ boys.

No.270. John Evans, schoolmaster.

I belong to Pembrokeshire and I haven't been here 12 months. I have a school in May last of from 40 to 50 boys whom I educated on the faith of a subscription which was talked of amongst the proprietors but I never received the proposed subscription and in July I had notice from Mr. Roger Lewis of the Gwrhay Colliery, to discontinue and thus my school contains perhaps only 20 or 30 girls and boys. I carried education on on that faith of about 10 weeks. The little ones pay me 4d. a week, others 6d. or 8d. I keep an evening school. Last winter I had 10 to 20 scholars, I have one or two or three occasionally now.

Nothing can exceed the mischief of the shops. Men will go to the shop and get a pound of sugar, or what not, and take it to the public house for drink. I frequently myself take goods from the collier instead of money. The colliers have no money. I can't do anything else. I can't express myself sufficiently strong on this subject. There is very seldom any balance for the working men to receive. They are screwed down to the lowest possible pitch.

I examined the following boys:-

No.271. John Jones, aged 8, collier.

Two years below.

No.272. Thomas Adliff, about 9, collier.

Two years below.

No.273. Thomas Mure, aged 8, air-door boy.

Twelve months below.

No.274. William Harris aged 15, haulier.

Eight years below.

No.275. William Hughes, aged 18, haulier.

Eleven years below.

No.276. Thomas Morgan, aged 16, collier.

Nine years below.

No.277. Joseph Morgan, aged 7, air-door boy.

Four months down.

Only one of these could read and two had slight knowledge of the letters of the Welsh alphabet. None has suffered any hurt at work. Two boys John and Llewellyn Morgan had been killed during the past two years.

NOTE. - It is a custom here to bury after one clear day as the men will not work while there is a dead body above ground.

No.278. Edward Lewis, blacksmith to the Traenent Colliery, village of Cwn-y-Traenent.

I have been five years at these mines and my wages are 21s. a week and my eldest boy who is 18 years old, assists me and earns about 9s a week. I have seven children at home and one at service. None of them read as the wages will not permit my paying schooling and I am already in debt at the shop. We are not compelled to deal at our master's store and my wife says the sheep's head cost 1s. We consumed four and a half bushels of flour monthly, and the last was charged 13s. 8d.

[On requesting to see the books on which the accounts were kept. I found that the entries were for cash received not for goods and upon inquiry as to how the business was transacted, the man replied, "We get no money here, we are all in debt. I have a potato-tent, 40s. to pay next week and I shan't be able to do without selling some chickens. We never seen any money." This man was living in a free house belonging to the work and there was very little appearance of comfort in his dwelling. The children had a sickly aspect.]

THE ARGOED and CWMCTACH COLLIERIES, parish of Bedwellty, county of Monmouth. Tredegar Colliery Company, proprietors.

Number of persons employed in both collieries:-

Adult	72 to 80
Under 18 years of age	41
Under 13 years of age	20

No.278. Edward Lewis, blacksmith to the Traenent Colliery, village of Cwn-y-Traenent.

We work on the level only and ventilate by air pits. We do not suffer so much by full air as the ironstone mines where the people are subject to a large quantity of bad air. No females are employed. Children are taken down at an very early age, six years or even younger. We have no shop in connection with the Argoed Works. I pay the men in the office, never in a public house. Many contractors do pay in public houses. I cannot speak of the shops, shops belonging to proprietors but it is stated by many that much discontent is expressed by the men on that subject.

The work in this quarter of very irregular and I am of the opinion that this irregularity of employment causes much dissipation among the colliers on this quarter. As a class colliers are very ill informed and very improvident habits. We had a strike some time since, in which the men held out for 14 weeks, the strike of 1840. In this strike the company shops held out against the men. It is almost impossible to say how the men supported themselves. Many depended on support on begging at the iron works. The labouring classes depend of and help one another in these extreme cases.

Farm servants, thought not receiving so good wages as those employed in the mines always seem to me to possess the means of greater comforts. They, however, are not, in my opinion, of higher moral character. We have no school in connection with our work nor is there one of any character very near to us. Sunday School are held at all the Chapels in this neighbourhood but the education afforded is of a very meagre character.

No.280. Thomas Pierce, aged 8. air-door boy.

He earns 6d. a day and his wages are stopped if there is no work. He has been at work 12 months. Boys are taken in at any age to the Argoed, from four to five years of age and the father takes one fourth of the man's share of work for the boy. He has a father who is a collier and works with his father. He doesn't know his a, b, c, either in Welsh or English. He goes to the Baptist Sunday School and cannot spell.

No.218. Frederick Chilcot, aged 8 or 9, collier.

He has been at work two years and he works with his father. He doesn't know his alphabet. He will go to a big fire if he is a bad boy.

[Very ignorant. Knows absolutely nothing.]

No.282. Daniel Waters, air-door boy.

He does not know how old he is. He went to Rock school but doesn't know his letters either Welsh or English. He goes to Sunday School and has heard of Jesus Christ but he doesn't know who he was. Doesn't know how many Commandments there are. John Thomas is the teacher sometimes.

[Very ignorant.]

No.283. Robert Lyshon, aged 15, haulier.

He has been to the Argoed Sunday School but not to day school. He hasn't been the last four months. He earns 2s. a day when work is on. He lives with his brother who takes his wages and supports him. Three are three of us altogether at work. Can't say how much he can earn altogether.

[Very ignorant.]

No.284. Llewellyn Pierce, aged 14, haulier.

Father was preacher of the Wesleyan connection and is no a skinner. I worked at Merthyr with William Jones and at the Cyfartha Works. I could earn there 5s. 6d. a week. Sometimes I earned 3s. and 4s.

No.285. John Morgan, collier.

The wages of a haulier are 2s. a day and a collier is paid by the ton, 2s. 7d. and 2s. 6d, running up an average wage of about 3s. 9d. a day when work is going on. I don't know of any accidents within the last three years.

GLANDDU LEVEL, TIR-ADAM LEVEL, UNION LEVEL, PENCOED LEVEL, and that ROSE PIT COLLIERIES, parishes of Gelligaer, county of Glamorgan and Bedwellty, county of Monmouth. Messrs. Lewis and Rosser Thomas, proprietors.

Number of males employed:-

Adults	198
Under 18 years of age	50
Under 13 years of age	39

Winding engine 16 horse power at the Rose Pit.

No.286. Lewis Thomas Esq., proprietor.

Of the 89 children and young persons under 18 years of age returned from our works, 8 only can write their names, 50 cannot read at all and many of those who may be said to read, read imperfectly. You will observe in my returns that the answers of children attending Sunday School are numerous. They are taught to read and spell in the Welsh language at different meeting houses in the neighbourhood. I consider the morals of the farm population superior to the colliers and those engaged in manufacture. As to accidents, we have one man unable to work, having a fractured leg. One man very ill, not likely to recover. There have been more accidents than we account for but they are slight and few. Within the last 12 months you will see, by our returns, that 10 accidents only have occurred among children and young persons but none fatal. Many were, however, away from two or three months. In our list are six maimed and two labouring under disease who work below. No child can cut the quality of coal allowed to workmen under ten years of age but it is a practice for fathers to carry children to the mines on their backs at a very early age. Children are sometimes employed in pushing the waggons from the workings to the heading or main road. The weight of a dram is from 18 to 25 cwt. and the distance driven along the main road varies from 400 yards to one mile. The usual number of hours is about 10, not including their meals or the time they smoke their pipes and nearly all the boys and lads smoke.

[For Evidence, see Report of Carngethin Collier.]

No.287. Griffith George, aged 14, haulier.

I have no father. He died 12 years ago. He was a banksman and fell down the pit and was killed. Father's name was William George. I don't recollect him. I live with my mother and have one sister who lives with grandfather. I have been six years at work. I used to go to school before I went to work but not have since. In answer to a question where he bought his candles and how much per pound he gave for them. He said, "I get candles at the shop. I don't know how much I get, not do I know how much I get for a pound. I has 'em put down in a book. I earn about 9s. 6d. a week and work at the Gwrhay Colliery but sometimes there is no work at all. Sometimes I earn 4s. a week. I go to the pie sometimes. I am going tonight, to Mr. Lewis's. I pay 9d. for my share. They lend me the money from the shop. We have the harp at the pie. We call it a patsy and when he have had our supper we sing and dance and have a good bit of fun. I take bread and cheese to the work with me but I get bacon every night at home."

In answer as to whether boys went down at six years of age, he said, "Oh, yes, Sir, earlier than that. We have one, David Rosser who is only five years old. Father takes him down sometimes."

[This lad came in about an hour afterwards. He had washed himself and was cleanly and comfortably dressed.]

**RISCA COLLIERY, parish of Machin, county of Monmouth.
Messrs. John Russell and Company, proprietors.**

Number of males employed:-

Adults	250
Under 18 years of age	50
Under 13 years of age	15

Steam power, four engines, two 40 horse and one 20 and one 16. Winding engines to pits, which vary from 30 to 65 fathoms in depth.

No.288. George Randall Hookey, Esq., part proprietor.

Our mines are well ventilated by airways and air doors and an engineer is kept on the works to superintend the chain and other gear used in the machinery. We have no noxious gases in our workings nor have any been complained of. The thickness of the seam varies from 30 inches to 10 feet. In working the narrow seams we are compelled to use the labour of children as men are too large for the work and from the necessity of the cases, lads from 11 to 15 years of age are employed to draw with the girdle and chain for distances not exceeding 300 yards, the weight drawn from 50 to 1 cwt. Very young children are of no service to us as their strength is insufficient. They rarely commence until 10 years of age. There is a sick fund for all the workmen.

No.289. Mr. Samuel Hill, agent.

We have had not fatal accidents since I superintended the Risca Colliery. Many have got hurt and one has had his leg amputated from an injury received in sinking a new pit. There is one society called the Work Club to which the men subscribe small sums and the men, when off, receive from it 4s. a week but so many are receiving relief from the club that they are in debt, I believe, as much as £10. The larger proportion of our colliers are Kingswood men and are in the lowest depth of ignorance and from my experience and observation I consider the rising worse than the present generation.

The men marry very early and their state of health is good as they are tolerably clean in their habits. The average rate of weekly wages is about 20s. and we have but few stoppages. Welsh colliers will not draw with the girdle and chain. We have no firedamp in our workings but we are sinking a new pit where we expect to meet with a good deal from the nature of the coal.

No.290. Mr. Samuel Hill, agent.

I have been down six years. My employment is to cart the coal and draw with the girdle and chain. [In this mode of labour the chain passes round the body and the chain is between the legs attached to the cart and the lad drags on all fours.] The width of the vein I work varies from 20 inches to 3 feet and the distance I cart is about 60 yards. It is very hard work, indeed, it is too hard for such lads as we for we work like little horses. I cart for two colliers and I load five drams, each weighing 18 cwt. I earn about 9s. a week, about half what a man earns and I work 12 hours a day. My father is the shoemaker and I was at shoemaking before I was taken to work in the pit. I got to the Wesleyan Sunday School and I can read pretty well. I could write but have forgotten it now. I do not smoke a pipe but most of the lads do. I was taught to read by my mother and I do a little now and then at shoemaking.

[Reads very well and is a very nice, intelligent lad. The boys here had a more sickly appearance than usual in the Welsh collieries.]

No.291. Henry Beecham, aged 16, carter.

I have been down six years and I cart for two men. The work is very hard and I work for 10 and 12 hours. I was off work till last week with a bad foot injured by a fall of coal in the pit. I do about as much work as Elias Jones and earn about the same money. I work for my father who is a collier. I have two brothers older than myself. Nine of us read.

No.292. Moses Moon, aged 11, carter.

I have been two years below and worked 12 years daily. He draws with the girdle and chain. It is sad, sloppy, hard work. I have never met with an accident. I learned to read the Testament at Sunday School. He knows that Matthew, Mark and Luke are the names of the books of the Testament but can't say he has ever heard of Jesus Christ nor any of the Commandments.

[John Moon, the father of the boy had lately met with an accident and was off for five months with a broken leg. He receives 4s. a week from the club. He stated that he used to suffer much from the sulphur in the mine.]

No.293. William Bentley, aged 13, carter.

He has been four years below and works as the other boys. He was off work for several months from a crushed foot, caught in a dram. He knows his letters but cannot read.

[The father of this lad, James Bentley stated that the boy's work in this colliery was extremely hard, and very exhausting and that they worked the same number of hours as the men. That he himself had met with an accident some time ago and lost an eye while blasting coal. That they had a work club and a sick fund amongst the men but men were so often on the books that the club was always in debt to the master.]

No.294. Thomas Dark, aged 8, air door boy.

I have been below 12 months. I attend Sunday School and am learning the letters.

No.295. Thomas Jones, aged 7, air door boy.

I have been below six months. I learned to read a little in the Testament before going down. He now goes to Sunday School.

No.296. George Johnson, aged 15, carter.

I have been down about six years and I drawn with the girdle and chain. He has lately been off work above ground in the engine room As he can do only light work, having broken his leg some time since and was off work six weeks. His father was a collier but he now works at the brick house and has very bad breath. He earns 9s. 6d. a week.

[Reads very well and can write a little. He is a very intelligent lad.]

[NOTE. - I found a number of boys, probably 30 to 40 at the brick works, employed in bearing-off and plate-carrying. Many were very young, not more than six or seven years of age. The work did not appear unwholesome but the overseer stated that the labour was exceedingly hard and that each of the little fellows would frequently bear off 1500 bricks and place them on the stove floor in the course of a day and he considered their work harder than the work of the younger persons under ground. Their wages were from 3s. to 4s. a week.]

No.297. Edward Robatham, Esq., surgeon, Risca.

In giving you every information in my power. I am sorry I cannot go further back than twelve months and as I have no data to guide me, you will perhaps be pleased with a general answer dictated from memory.

As a body, the colliers in this neighbourhood are generally healthy and do not suffer from any particular disease. I have noticed, when they are indisposed, it appears to proceed from, common cold which affects them as they are predisposed to rheumatism, inflammation of the lungs and bowels, neither of which can be said to depend n their employment. Indeed, as a class, they are less subject to bodily ailments than those who are daily occupied on the surface. My observations are particularly applicable to the colliers of Mr. Russell's employ in Risca. Both master and agents are very careful that the works be well ventilated and that their stalls be kept dry which must be a source of health. As they have a doctor to apply to in every instance of necessity, they are also in the constant habit of taking apperient medicines, whether they require it or not, imagining that they must have something for the money the monthly pay to the doctor. I am in the habit of supplying them freely, feeling assured it has a tendency to ward off disease. Accidents are very rare and when they do occur I am enabled to trace them to the neglect of the sufferer. The services of the coroner have not been required in Risca for some years. His services are more often required by the number of fatal accidents produced by the locomotive engines between the Hill and Newport. These accidents have frequently occurred in Risca and the neighbourhood so that they cannot be said to belong to the Risca Works. There are great may colliers daily occupied in these works between 50 and 70 years of age. Great care had been taken by the former and the present proprietors of these works to attend to the moral and intellectual training of the workmen and families so that the majority of them are

more comfortable than they are to be met with in other works. The beneficial effect was very apparent during the Chartist disturbances. Not one of the colliers joined in that unfortunate affair.

**OLD ROCK COLLIERY, parish of Bedwelty in the county of Monmouth.
Mr. Henry Oakley, proprietor.**

Number of persons employed:-

Adults	12
Under 18 years of age	
Under 13 years of age	

No.298. Mr. William Davis, contractor.

We employ no children at present in our mines and only 12 men. Our workings here are nearly exhausted, Our men are paid as many men about here are paid every fortnight, partly in cash and partly in goods. We used to employ more men here formerly and then they were paid every week. When Mr. Powell held the work we used to pay at a public house. We do so sometimes now when we want change. When the pay takes place at a public house, the debt, the drinking score of the men, is stopped. There is not necessity for men to keep a separate score at beer shops as they are frequently kept by parties connected with the mines and relations of the mine contractors. No doubt the men would in many cases rather receive the money. Men are much oppressed by the truck system and we all suffer in every respect from it. We have no middle class of trades people her. I am responsible to Mr. Oakley for the goods, &c. supplied to the men. Supposing one of them to leave the work, or die in debt on the books, I am bound for all to Mr. Oakley.

No.299. Mr. Henry George, innkeeper of Blackwood, parish of Bedwelty.

The effect of the truck system is remarkably developed in this village. We have no market, the market house of closed. About 11 years ago a petition was sent round for signature by Mr. Christopher James of Swansea, which made some stir at the time. In instances where the money is advanced at one end of the shop it is laid out in goods as the other. The price of provisions in this part of the country is:- Flour, 13s. 6d., bacon, 11d. lb., Irish bacon, 9d, or 10d., butter 13d., candles, 7d. and cheese 7½d. the pound. There is a great laxity in the administration of justice, particularly with reference to the inquests held in cases of fatal accidents. When a man dies the viewer looks at the body, and sends to the coroner and unless a case of suspicion is made out to the coroner, he does not come but sends an order to the constable to bury and frequently does not attend until there are five or six cases to clear off. The licensing system, too, is carried very loosely. Rents are about £4 4s. for a house of four rooms. The drainage of our houses is bad generally and privies are not always to be found. For instance, William Davies has eight houses without a single one among them all, In reference to the truck system, I can safely say, that it injures me to the extent of my not being able to let my houses, there being no market here, so that much of my property is absolutely not worth paying taxes for.

No.300. Mr. Daniel Lewis, shopkeeper, Blackwood.

My shop here is totally unconnected with any work or mine. The truck system has so injurious an effect on trade that our property and markets are destroyed and the rent of the houses in Blackwood are not half of them paid. The system makes the poor classes unhappy by inducing which is in itself a dead drag on the ages of labour. You may depend on it. It will create a disturbance.

**BRYN COLLIERY, parish of Bedwelty, Monmouthshire.
Thomas Powell, Esq., proprietor.**

Number of persons employed:-

Adult males	30
Under 18	8
Under 13	7

No.301. Mr. Rees Price, agent.

I do the under ground business in the Bryn Colliery on Mr. Powell's account. We have about 50 persons employed as collier's hauliers. Within the last three years we have had very few accidents but the colliers have suffered much from the fluctuation of the coal trade. I am unable to judge of the state of instruction on the young people an colliers about this part as my occupation does not require me to read nor have I, to my knowledge, been to any school. One clerk makes up the accounts of the men, and those who owe any small debts in the provision shop connected with the work have the, deducted at the pay, which is once a month.

No.302. Daniel Griffith, aged eight years, air door boy.

Been seven months below. Never got heard.

[Very ignorant.]

No.303. John Innes, aged seven years, air-door boy.

He began to work before last harvest, 12 months ago. He has not been injured. He likes daylight best.

[Ignorant.]

No.304. William Hains, aged nine years, collier.

He has been working with his father 18 months. He thinks it very hard. He has never got injured.

[Ignorant.]

No.305. William Lewis, aged 14 years, haulier.

He has driven horses below ground for three years. He gets 2s. and 2s. 2d. daily when work is good, sometimes not half that amount. He gives his wages to his father. He has never been to any day school and it trying to get his letters at Sunday School.

[Very ignorant.]

No.306. Enoch Williams, aged 13, haulier.

He thinks his father took him to work when he was five years old and he has been three years at hauling. He was never hurt much and was never at day school.

[Very ignorant.]

No.307. John Price, aged 11, haulier.

I have worked below ground five years and more. I work 12 and 13 hours as all boys do when there is full work for them. There is generally full work in the summer. I never got hurt much and have not been to any school.

[Ignorant.]

**HIRWAIN COLLIERY and IRON WORKS, county of Brecon.
Messrs. Crawshay, proprietors.**

Number of persons employed:-

No return

[Upon application to Mr. William Jones, cashier of these works, for the necessary information required under the Commission, he stated that, not having received any orders to that effect from the proprietors of the works, he regretted he was not in a position to offer any assistance. I found it necessary therefore to pursue my inquiries in a different direction and the result will be seen from the following evidence.]

Population of the village of Hirwain about 2000. The majority dependent for employment on the coal and iron works.

No.308. Rev. William Williams, minister of the Independent Church, Hirwain.

I have been four years minister of this place. My congregation of a large number of Welsh and some few English, chiefly employed in the iron and coal works. I occasionally address the English in their own language but most usually preach in Welsh. There are at present many girls working in the mines which is pernicious to their morals and totally disqualifies them from domestic duties, it corrupts their minds and makes them callous to religious impressions. In fact, until the establishment of Sunday School the people were very dark [ignorant] in these parts. The majority of the females

here are unacquainted with the English language and from the continual contact with men of course habits, become as degraded as the most vulgar of the male population.

Children go very young into the mines which certainly does injure their health and they always have a less healthy appearance than those who work above ground. I cannot speak of the actual state of health of the people but I know there is a good deal of consumption here and many are afflicted with rheumatism. Many of the cottages are built on very low ground and no attention whatever is paid to the drainage.

There are five Sunday Schools in operation here, two with the Independents, one with the Baptists, one with the Wesleyans and one with the Calvinistic Methodists. The average attendance at my school is about 200, teachers and scholars. There is one day school for boys but I do not think there is any female school. The attendance at the day school is about 50. Children generally leave at eight years of age and to go to continuous employment. I think they ought to be allowed to remain at school until 12 or 14 years of age at least. Their present early removal has a tendency to weaken the whole system of the body and the powers of the mind. A good national education under the control of the Government but not in connection with any religious party, would be a blessing to the community.

No.309. Mr. John Dixon, schoolmaster.

The school I superintend has been established about 17 or 18 years. It is in connection with the Hirwain Works. A halfpenny in the pound towards the school are deducted from the wages of all. The children are brought to school at about four and five years of age and remain some until seven and others ten years of age as the circumstances of the parents differ. Very few of the children of the colliers or firemen get beyond multiplication but the shopkeeper's children and others who work above ground have greater advantages and continue longer at school.

It is much regretted that girls are taken so young to work, especially into mines for after the work is over they exhibit no desire of instruction, are ignorant, idle and questionable in morality, commonly being with child before marriage and two thirds don't know how either to sew a dress or darn their own stockings. Many are of very coarse behaviour and swearing is common.

We have five meeting houses in the place in most of which schools are held on the Sabbath day. We have no church within three miles. The meeting houses are well attended. Of late years friendly societies have much increased. There are three lodges of Odd Fellows, one Druids and one Ivorites, together with three female societies. These societies are of great advantage to the people in cases of sickness and accident which are very numerous. The frequent reductions which have been made in the last three years in the wages of the working people has greatly diminished their comforts.

We had a short time since two schools, one for the miners, kept by himself and the other for those employed in the iron works. This latter school is not now open. The average attendance at my school is about 50, 35 males and 15 females at present attend. Many of the children are irregular in their attendance and it is a pity that so many of the parents do not appreciate the benefits of education.

[The room in which this school is held is small and inconvenient. There is no ceiling, bad walls and altogether more like a stable than a school The whole was almost surrounded with a dirty ditch of water.]

No.310. Evan James, aged 16.

I have been employed for seven years. My employment is throwing from the engine. I have never been seriously injured. I was at the Freeman's school for 12 months. It has ceased now. I never could read. I got to Sunday School. He has three sisters and one brother at work, none of them can read. There are 12 months in the year. He cannot say how many days. Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

[Very ignorant. No knowledge of figures whatever.]

No.311. Morgan Thomas, aged 15, haulier.

He has been at work eight years and would have been at work now but for the loss of his left arm which occurred four months since when it was amputated. Mr. Forest attended me. The accident occurred from the weight of the trams overpowering me whilst I was in the act of talking a sprig out of the wheel and the wheels passed over me. I was idle for two months since which I have been to school and have learned to write. [Writes very well.] I did earn 9s. a week. I can do nothing now. During my illness and up to this time, I have received 7s. a week from a club of which I am a member, held at Mrs. Moore's at the Cardiff Arms but I shall soon be reduced one half by our regulations.

[A very intelligent lad.]

No.312. Giles Giles, aged 15, engine boy.

I was nine years old when I was first taken to work. I could read a little before as I went to school I am not able to do any work at present as I lost my right arm by falling under the locomotive engine which works between the works and the level. It occurred as I was going to pump water. It is a little more than 12 months ago since which time the schoolmaster has taught me to write with my left hand.

[A very intelligent lad and great credit is due to the master for having taught him to write with his left hand better than any working lad of the same age with whom I have yet met in my present inquiry.]

No.313. Elizabeth Williams, aged 9.

I have been below ground for six months. I assist to fill father's trams and I do not remain underground more than six or eight hours. She does not like the work at all. She was first taken by her father because he could get an extra tram. A good many girls besides me work in the mines at pushing the trams and tipping.

[Rather intelligent and reads a little English.]

No.314. Eliza Lewis, aged 16, tipper.

I have been at work for three years and the labour is very hard as when the trams are out we have to work all weathers. She has never been at any other work but thinks she would prefer it as the work would not be so fatiguing. She was at a school before she went into the work and learned to read and write.

[Reads English and Welsh and writes a little with a tolerable scriptural knowledge.]

No.315. Mary Rees, aged 15, tipper.

She does the same kind of work as Eliza Lewis. She cannot say how many years she has been at the work at Aberdare but she knows it is pretty well all her life. She never was at school but she sometimes goes to Sunday School now.

[Very ignorant.]

No.316. Margaret Lewis, aged 15, tram oiler.

I have been oiling trams for 12 months and was tipping before that. I work at the mouth of the level but not underground. I have never met with any accident though accidents frequently occur here. Many girls are taken into the mines by their fathers before they can do much work. I earn 4s. 6d. per week. I was not able to go to school before I came to work but am now learning to read at the Wesleyan School. I can sew a little, but not much.

No.317. Mary Jacobs, aged 14, trammer.

I work with my sister who is 16 years of age in the mine pushing trams. We both have done so there three years. The work is very hard and not very regular. Sometimes we work 12 or 14 and sometimes only eight hours. We expect the man will draw us out as the work is getting short and then we shall have to hang about. We work on father's account. Neither I nor my sister have ever been to school and we cannot read.

No.318. John Thomas aged 7, air door boy.

He has been below 12 months and he doesn't dislike the work now. He earns 6s. a day. He never was at school.

No.319. Elizabeth Richards, aged 13, trammer.

She has wheeled coals two or three years in the mine. She cannot say she knows her exact age and has never been to school. She has never been seriously injured though often hurt so as to lay by for a day or two. Cannot read.

[Very ignorant.]

No.320. Morgan Davies, aged 9, haulier.

He has been at work for two years and earns 8s. a week. He has occasionally got hurt but never laid by more than a week. He never went to any day school and is learning a b, ab.

No.321. Mary Ann Jones, aged 18, pumper.

I pump water below to the level. I have been pumping for two years. I was working in the levels and tips for some years. The work is very hard and I work sometimes eight, sometimes 12 hours a day. I earn 1s. a day.

[Very ignorant.]

No.322. Charles Forrest, Esq., surgeon, Hirwain Iron Works.

The men employed in the coal mines are not prone to any specific or chronic organic disease which can be attributed to their avocation. Those, however, who labour in the iron mines are frequently affected with chronic diseases of the chest, attributable, I believe, to the inhalation of chokedamp (carbonic acid gas) and they are more frequently the subjects of consumption than the colliers. The men employed in the manufacture of iron are also exempt from any specific class of chronic disease but they are very frequently the subjects of acute inflammation, particularly of the lungs arising from the sudden and great transitions of temperature. It is very difficult to give anything like a fair approximation to the average duration of the miner's lives in the absence of the correct statistical data. I would say, however, that a collier's life is 10 per cent superior to that of an iron miner because of the greater purity of the atmosphere they breathe whilst engaged at their work. The average duration of life of those employed in the fire works is decidedly inferior to that of colliers and miners, say 10 per cent, below their standard.

Most undoubtedly the employment of very young persons under ground will have a tendency per se to engender disease by deteriorating the powers of the system and so shorten the duration of life. My opinion has not led to the opinion that the rising generations are the subjects of marked disease consequent upon their several employments or modes of life. I would rather incline to the reverse opinion, from the extremely infrequent occurrence of scrofula amongst them, a disease invariably developed by any long continued train of causes which tend to undermine physical powers. I am not in a condition to speak of the system pursued in this particular work, in comparison with any other, as regards the employment of young females in the mines, because I have not had the opportunity of witnessing the plans adopted in any other work. The salubrity of this immediate locality I consider to be of a high order, the general health of the people being extremely good. Fever and all epidemic maladies are very mild in their attacks. This was remarkably exemplified at the time the Asiatic cholera visited us, the cases here being under 1 per cent of the entire population whilst in many parts of the principality it went as high as 5 and 6 per cent.

The state of the morals and the system adopted in respect of education cannot be applauded. Great improvements are called for but which cannot be effected without a much more rigid code of discipline that is at present pursued.

I must regret it is not in my power to comply with your last inquiry, touching the number of accidents and the proportion of the able bodied men as compared with the disabled. I have never kept a record of all the accidents occurring in the works, merely making notes of remarkable cases professionally. Surgical cases of every grade, however, occur very frequently and the loss of life and limb is fearfully and painfully felt in too many instances. The bulk of the population not having legal settlements here are of course removed to their own parishes whenever they become incapable by loss of limb or otherwise from following their work. The amount, therefore, of disabled men actually living here is very trifling indeed.

I have resided here the last 17 years as surgeon to these works. The six years immediately preceding I passed in the heart of the cotton district in Lancashire as house surgeon to a public institution and wish to state my opinion of the decided superiority of the working masses here, as compared with those in the North of England as regards their physical condition and greater exemption from diseases of all kinds.

BAGLAN or BRITONFERRY COLLIERY, parish of Baglan, county of Glamorgan. Joseph Price and Co., proprietor.

Number of persons employed:-

Adults about	18
Under 18 years of age	
Under 12 years of age	

No.323. Richard Morgan, collier.

No children or young persons under 18 years are employed in the work nor were many young persons used at this work on coal or similar stratification and pitching veins (vertical or edge seams) require both a strong and skilful workman.

[The mode of working vertical seams in this part of the country may be more clearly understood by a reference to plate No.477 in the Report by which it will be seen that the labour of young persons is by no means taxed and judgement more than strength is required and it is worthy of remark that in various

collieries in the East of Scotland, where edge seams are common, that young female children and boys are put to the most dangerous and painful employment in transporting the coal from the wall face to the pit mouth by trap and turnpike stairways which might be wholly obviated by the simple mode of working adopted here.]

**YSKYN COLLIERY, parish of Britonferry, county of Glamorgan.
Messrs. Motley Fussel and Co., proprietors.**

Number of persons employed:-

Adults	23
Under 18 years of age	11
Under 13 years of age	5

No.324. Mr. Benjamin Daniel, agent.

The mine is worked by level and is ventilated by an air pit and furnace. The height of the mainays is six feet by five and a half feet high and the thickness of the seam we are working is four and a half feet. Our working lies 60 yards beneath the surface. We have a good deal of both fire and chokedamp. There are no accidents from either for we are obliged to use great precautions. There has been no loss of life within these three years, except one who died by a fall of roof. Our mode of working is for boys to cart the coal from the workings down the main level, horses then drag it from there to the bottom of the bully, the engine then winds it up and the horses convey it to the incline. We do not use what is commonly called the girdle and chain. Eight years old is the age of the youngest child we have and their hours of labour are from 8 to 10 daily.

No.325. David Davies, aged 9, collier.

I have been nine months below and I work with my father, I was never at school. I got to the Chapel on a Sunday to learn the letters but only knows a few of them. He lives at Smardey at the foot of the inclined plane from the level.

[The cottage in which his parents of this child lived was dirty and ill managed. The mother said that her husband was obliged to take the child down but that work was very irregular. She said she would send her children to school but that there was none near.]

No.326. Joseph Dear, aged 8, trammer.

I have been five months attending trams on the engine road. He has never been hurt and gets 6d. a day generally. He never was at any day school but sometimes goes to Sunday School where he is learning spelling.

No.327. Edward Edwards, aged 9, coal carter.

I have been three months below and my employment is to cart from the head of the main road. The distance is about 60 yards. There are no wheels to the carts. I push them before me, sometimes I drag them. It is not so well to drag them and the cart sometimes is pulled on us and we get crushed often. I have never been seriously hurt but have often had my fingers hurt as to keep me off a couple of days.

No.328. Philip Jenkins, aged 13, coal carter.

He has been carting coal here for about 12 months. He used to draw with a girdle and chain when at other works. He like pushing behind much better than drawing as it is much easier. He is learning to read at the Sunday School but was never at any day school.

[Ignorant.]

GNOLL and EAGLEBUSH COLLIERIES, parishes of Llantwit juxta Neath and Neath, county of Glamorgan. Messrs. Penrose and Evans, proprietors.

Number of persons employed:-

No returns.

Power, winding engine, 30 horse power, wheel for pumping 40 horse power, pit 48 fathoms below the surface.

No.329. George Penrose, Esq., proprietor.

The usual ventilation of our pits is by air pits and furnace where required. The Gnoll Colliery is entered by a shaft and the Eaglebush Colliery by ladder way and the coal is brought to the surface by shaft, separate from the ladder shaft, 400 yards. The height of our main roads in both collieries of nearly the same, about five feet six but the two seams we are working are respectively 22 inches at the Gnoll and four feet six at the Eaglebush Colliery. Our workings in both collieries are at a depth of 42 fathoms. In the Eaglebush Colliery there is a good deal of fire but no chokedamp. Some explosion have taken place there but no lives have been lost. The coal is brought from the workings to the main road in barrows and slides driven by boys and men. The weight of a barrow or slide is two to two and a half cwt. We never have any work at night. There has been only one accident (a boy killed by a fall of roof) which has happened in the last two years.

In the Gnoll Colliery we have no fire. The coals are brought from the stalls to the mainway in slypes, drawn by boys with a chain and the usual age at which boys are used at this work is 10 to 13. The distance they drag the slype is about 55 yards. The weight of each is about 2 cwt. Children in my employ begin work in each description of employment from 8 to 10 years of age. I object to children being taken in at an earlier age than 10 in order that they may have some chance of acquiring the elements of education. There is a Sunday School in the neighbourhood but no school in immediate connection with the work.

The work at both collieries is task work and the people choose their own time for meals, Out work is pretty regular and the men earn from 18s. to £1 a week. They loose a day or two at pay day. Education is very low but in point of morals I do not think that is any difference between the colliers and the small number of agriculturists about here.

No.330. Jeffrey Jeffries, pitman or mining overman.

We have no level to the Eaglebush Mine but the workmen have the option of entering by a ladder pit. When they descend in the bucket down the shaft they go down four or five at a time. We have had some accidents here within the last three or four years. John Thomas fell out of the tub three or four years ago and was killed. David Parker, pitman, had his head split open by a piece of rock some two years ago. William Purkis broke his leg about seven months ago by a rock falling. William Harris was killed 18 months since by a piece of rock. Griffith Griffiths was burned by firedamp about a week ago, His skin was quite burned off. He was going to fetch his fire-lamp as the accident happened. We have air doors in the pit which are opened and closed during the day by boys, not of course during the night. Most of the men subscribe to a benefit society held at the Bull at Neath and when an accident occurs they allow about 7s. a week. I subscribe to the society myself. There are about 140 members. Many of our colliers live four or five miles away and lodge with people in the neighbourhood and at the end of the week or on par days, return home.

No.331. Jeffrey Thomas, aged 16, trammer.

I have been four years below and draw the coal from the wall head to the main road. When first I was sat work I thought it hard but now I don't care about it. He was once at school but has forgotten all now.

[Cannot read. Ignorant.]

No.332. Edward Edwards, aged 15, trammer.

He has been in this employment six years [to cart or tram]. He works 12 hours a day as do all the other boys but more frequently 10 hours. He has never been seriously injured. The roads are not very steep. The carts hold about 4 cwts. of coal. He never was at school and goes to Chapel sometimes. He doesn't know what for.

No.333. David Davies, aged 12, collier.

He can't say how he likes work for he hasn't been many weeks at it. He never did work before. He used to play about. He never went to school and never wished to go. He like play best. He works with his father.

No.334. R.P. Leyshon, surgeon, Neath.

There are not many disease peculiarly incidental to, or prevalent amongst, the collier population of this district, arising from the nature of their employment. Bronchitic disorders of greater or less severity, where the works are ill ventilated and rheumatic affections with inflammatory attacks of various kinds where the drainage is imperfect are, however, of frequent occurrence. The children employed in the collieries are not particularly subject to many of the surgical diseases enumerated in your letter and they are as healthy as in unemployed children of the poorer classes in this neighbourhood.

The time occupied in labour by men and boys is short in comparison with that of other workmen averaging about eight hours a day.

The workmen and boys in the iron works, copper works and tin works in this neighbourhood are generally healthy. Where there is a predisposition to asthma other pulmonary affections, young persons are compelled to quit their employment in copper works but this circumstance is rare.

The average duration of a collier's life is, I believe, from general observation, rather less than that of an agricultural or other common labourer but this arises in a great degree from the occurrence of severe accidents to which the miner is liable.

I think that the average duration of life of men employed in the iron, copper and tin works here is equal to that of other workmen. Their energies are not overtaxed and their improved wages afford them greater comforts of every kind. A certain degree of regularity in their habits is established by their having in many departments to take regular watches to "turns" of fixed duration, relieving each other. The more disorderly and licentious characters who neglect their work are thus driven to other employments involving less responsibility.

The children, the numbers of which are comparatively insignificant, employed in the mines and iron works, do not appear to suffer in their health and from the nature of their employment.

**CWMBUCHAN COPPER, SMELTING, TIN PLATE and IRON WORKS,
parish of Michaelston, county of Glamorgan. Messrs. Gilbertson and Co.,
proprietors.**

Number of persons employed:-

No return.

[The population of the village of Cwmbuchau is about 2000 almost entirely dependent for employment on these works. Adjacent to the village are also extensive collieries belonging to the same proprietor.]

No.335. Mr. John Hoare, cashier.

I cannot immediately furnish you with the exact number of person employed in our works but a return has been made to the Central Board of the Commission some time since showing also the state of education of the children and young persons in our employ which, considering the short time that has elapsed since the establishment of a school in connection with the works, I think will be considered very satisfactory. The proprietors have fixed the school fees at a very low sum in order to induce the workmen to send the whole of their children. The payment is imperative but in no instance greater than 3d. per month which entitles the parent to send all his family, male and female, notwithstanding this, many are negligent. English exclusively is taught. The men subscribe to a medical fund to support which 8d. a month is subscribed by the workpeople. Bachelors pay to the medical fund and also to the school. Boys and girls are taught together.

Children are rarely employed here until 10 years of age, especially in the copper works which I think a great deal too young for if they have been to school before that age, they soon forget their little learning. This is much to be regretted as the best instructed are invariably the most useful men in the works.

Our collier people are very far behind our other workmen in information. They are more prejudiced and superstitious and seem to have no desire to give their children more advantages in

point of education that they themselves possessed in early youth. They take their children down to early and laborious employment and mere infants open and shut the air doors and there is a very little hope of amendment in the passing generation.

No.336. David Phillips, aged 14, lusterer.

He has been three years at the work and gets 30s. a month. He was at school before he came to work. He has frequently got hurt by burns but never seriously injured. He has 10 minutes allowed for breakfast and a quarter of an hour for dinner. He works 12 or 14 hours a day and it is very fatiguing.

[Reads and writes quite well.]

No.337. Owen Jones, aged 12, grease boy.

He works 12 or 14 hours a day. The more work I do the more I get. He gets 10 minutes for breakfast and a quarter of an hour for dinner. Generally I get meat and 'tators. I have never been seriously hurt.

[Delicate in appearance and very well informed.]

No.338. David Russell, aged 15, cold roller.

He has been at work three years and works 12 hours, He has never been off since at work. He earns 30s. a month. He is allowed half an hour for breakfast and an hour for dinner. He gets meat every day for dinner. He was at school until he came to work.

[Reads and writes.]

No.339. Morgan Thomas, aged 15, grease boy.

He has been at work between two and two and a half years. It is very hard work but better paid than other boys. I have little time for meals as we work with the men who work by the job. I go to work at half past five in the morning and leave at six or seven at night.

[Reads very well both English and Welsh. Writes badly but has a fair knowledge of Scripture.]

No.340. Margaret Nicholas, aged 13, duster.

She has been at the tin works at Cwmbran for two years. She works about 10 hours daily and is allowed a quarter of an hour for breakfast and 20 minutes for dinner. She can dust off 15 to 20 boxes daily and earns from 17s. to 20s. per month. She likes the work well and has never been affected by the dust. She was at school for a time but never got further than reading the Testament in Welsh.

[She had a fair knowledge of the Testament.]

No.341. Ellen Stock, aged 16, rubber.

She has been three years at work but part of that in service. She came to the tin works at her uncle's request. She prefers service. her father and mother are dead. She can knit and sew but cannot cut her own dress. She was for a short time at school.

[Reads Welsh and a rather intelligent girl.]

No.342. Thirsa Balsh, aged 18, plate opener.

She has been only 12 months in this employment and has not been to school for nine years as her mother required her to stay at home to mind the children. There are four of us altogether and none of us read. The employment is to open plates for packing in boxes, I can open plates enough for 20 to 30 boxes and I receive 7d. per dozen boxes. It is good hard work while one is at it. I frequently get a rest between each set. I earn from 80s. to 20s. a month.

No.343. Mary Llewellyn, aged 18, rubber.

She has been at the work for four years and has never been injured by the dust. She was at a Welsh school and can read the Welsh Testament.

[Has some knowledge of knitting but generally ill informed.]

No.344. Owen Evans, aged 15, slag stone thrower.

He has been at work for two years and is employed to break the slag stones which have passed the furnace and in which the copper is found. The men select the slag for second smelting. We are paid by the measure. I work 12 hours a day and it is very hard work. I broke my finger a short time since and was two months off work. I was at school for a short time before I came to work and was

reading in the Welsh Testament when I left but have forgotten it. Father charges the furnaces with ore and I sometimes assist him.

[Very ignorant and apparently much neglected.]

No.345. Henry Abraham, aged 14, slag stone thrower.

I have been at work for four years and employed as a last lad and can earn 20s. a month. The work is very hard but I never have had any illness. I work 12 hours a day.

[Ignorant but robust and healthy.]

No.346. David Evans, aged 12, slag filler.

I load slags and push them to the furnace and have done so for 18 months here. I was six months at farm service. I was sent to school but I used to merch [play truant] so I have been to learn my letters.

[Excessively ignorant.]

No.347. David Jones, aged 12, ash wheeler.

I have been working five years at wheeling ashes to the furnace and I work 12 hours a day. My father takes my wages and I don't know what I earn but I believe about 12s. a month. He works 12 hours every day. He gets meat two or three times a week for dinner. I never was at any day school and goes to a Welsh Sunday School.

[Has some slight knowledge of the Welsh alphabet.]

MARGAM COPPER WORKS, TAIBACH, parish of Margam, county of Glamorgan. Messrs. Vivian and Sons, proprietors.

Number of persons employed:-

	Males	Females
Adults	122	2
Between 13 and 18	30	10
Under 13	20	4

No.348. Robert Lindsay, Esq., manager.

We employ in these works 42 horse power steam engine and 10 horse water power. Our works are ventilated in the usual way by apertures in the walls through which fresh air is admitted. We employ some children about the fircases in wheeling coal and ashes and several are employed as picklers, sorters and shearers. They are usually taken into the works at nine years of age and not earlier unless at the express wish of the parents. Our work does not necessarily require the employment of very young children, nor with us do I consider there exists any necessity for alimentionation of the age at which children should be first taken to work. The working of our furnaces is suspended on the Sunday with the exception of the roasters and calciners nor could we suspend these without considerable inconvenience. We have not made any experiments on the subject of suspending the furnaces.

As to meals, furnace men take their own time and day men have half an hour for breakfast and one hour for dinner. For misconduct we either suspend or discharge the offender as the case may be but we exact no fines.

We have two schools belonging to the works one for boys and one for girls, partly supported by contributions from the workmen. We have a colliery connection with the copper works known by the name of :-

THE CWM BROM BILL COLLIERY, parish of Margam, county of Glamorgan. Messrs. Vivian and Sons, proprietors.

Number of persons employed:-

Adults	60
Between 13 and 18	22
Under 13	11

The working is ventilated by airways running parallel with the levels by which it is entered and we use no machinery. The thickness of the seam of coal we are working is four feet. The stalls are 12 feet wide and five and a half feet high and the main heading is five and a half feet by eight feet. We have no firedamp but carbonic acid gas is met with occasionally, though no accident has resulted from it. We have had but one accident in our mine for the last two years when Rees Hancock was killed by the fall of stone.

The coal is brought from the workings to the gateways by boys between the ages of 9 to 15 years in carriages containing 5 cwt. each with five boys to each carriage. Children begin work with us at nine years of age, never under.

We employ no females in the mine but a few are employed on the banks in picking slate from the coal. Our work is carried on about 8 or 10 hours a day and the young people work the same hours as the adults. They commence at six o'clock in the morning. The schools belonging to the copper works are supported in like manner by contributions of the colliers. There is also a sick fund.

The population of this parish is 2500. They are industrious but addicted to drink. I have resided amongst them three years as a manager and three months as a magistrate and have usually had the superintendence of about 300 people and with regard to education although it certainly shows itself in many, yet there are many well conducted who are totally uneducated. The educated are, with exceptions of course, generally the most attentive to their religious and moral duties but the most attentive to their domestic duties are these who have had the best examples from their parents and the latter are the most regular in their daily employments. The means of education open to the working population of this neighbourhood are the schools connected with these works and Sunday Schools connected with the Dissenters. The day school are conducted on Bell's system.

No.349. The Rev. David Rees, Aberavon.

We have Sunday Schools in Aberavon in connection with the Church, the Wesleyans, the Baptists and the Calvinistic Methodists. We also have a National School and an evening school open from six to eight but the schools generally are not well attended which may in a great measure, be attributed to the carelessness of parents. Children in this district are taken very early to work, Eight years is about the usual age. It is too early and I think they ought to be kept at school until they are 12 years of age. Young persons employed in iron works and tin works in this neighbourhood are so wearied by their daily toil that they become indifferent about attending the schools. There are many means of education in this neighbourhood, if children and their parents were but anxious to make use of them

No.350. H.L. Pritchard, Esq., surgeon, Margam Taibach.

The collier population in this district is healthy and subject to no particular disease. The countenance of a collier is pale from the number of hours that he is excluded from the light. Longevity is as frequently found in the collier population as amongst the agricultural labourers. As to the man employed in the iron works, they are more frequently subject to inflammatory attacks than colliers yet they are by no means unhealthy. I cannot give an opinion as to the average length of life of those employed in the iron works but from my own observations I find they are not so healthy or live to so good an average age as colliers. I have never witnessed in children who work in the collieries any diseases attributed to their employment nor have I had any surgical cases amongst them. Amongst those who work in the tin works indoors I observe their stature frequently stunted and chlorosis common amongst the girls. They are all, however, well fed and clothed and not subject to hernia, distortions or any other maladies.

Accidents are more frequent in the collieries than in any other department of the works. In some of the levels where the roofs are of loose soil, they frequently fall in and occasion fatal accidents. Extensive burns from explosions frequently occur but are seldom fatal.

In the copper works pneumonia, pleurisy and bronchitis are the prevailing diseases but at the Cumavan Works, for which I am the surgeon where the smoke is taken to the summit of a high hill, the above diseases are not prevalent and many who are unable to live in other copper works from constant attacks of bronchitis, I find able to live and work in perfect health. Many instances of this have come under my knowledge.

No.351. Mr. John Thomas, cashier.

The working population of this village is in a great measure dependent on these works for employment. The children are very early employed, particularly in the colliery, as the seams of coal are of that character that men cannot very well work in them. The boys in the mines are engaged in cutting coal and wheeling and tramming and in the copper house as ash pit cleaners and slag

breakers, They call it cobbing. The young females are used as craners [that is, hoisting the metal up to a stage by means of a crane.] The elder females are employed as ore fillers and in wheeling the ore to the foot of an inclined plane. The wages of the females vary from 5s. to 10s. a week and the wages of the young boys from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. a week. There exists no necessity for the employment of boys at so early an age as at present but we suffer it only to accommodate needy parents.

We have had no accidents for the last three years here nor are the men subject to sickness from the nature of their employment. The children are often burned by the slag when on night work and hernia is common among them supposed to arise from lifting heavy weights.

The company have built a good school house and made it imperative on the workmen to subscribe 1¹/₂d. per week, if married men and bachelors 1d. per week. The boys' school is kept distinct from the girls'. I think the present attendance at the boys' school exceeds 40 and at the female school 20. Colliers are very negligent of the education of their children but I think there may have been perceived a gradual improvement since the erection of the school. The usual hours are much longer, i.e. in the copper works the usual system is 24 hours labour and 24 hours rest alternately for each man and in the flattening mills the work is done by the job or contract and the men employ their own labourers.

No.352. James Phillips, aged 14, sheet dryer.

I have been four years at these works before which I was in a coal pit in Pembrokeshire. I prefer this to tramping in a coal pit but I don't like the long hours although I am better paid. I work usually 13 hours and three times a week, 24 hours. The work is very wet and hot. My employment is to pick up the sheets from the pickler and place them in the furnace. I have half an hour for breakfast an half an hour for dinner. The work has never made me ill but I frequently fell very fatigued. I was taught to read a little in English before I came to work which I have quite forgotten now.

[Very short, delicate, intelligent little boy.]

No.353. Evan Rees, aged 15, washer.

I have been five years at work but only six weeks at copper washing. I wash the pickle off the hot plates of copper after they come from the furnace. I work three turns of 12 hours each out of 48 hours, I work the long turn as often as I am required and am paid extra for it. I get 7s. a week when I work one long turn and 9s. when I work two long turns. I work one long turn tonight. I take very little rest at meals but get meat almost every day. I am very much fatigued with the work. men will only engage boys who will work long turns. I was at school some time before coming to work.

[Has a slight Scriptural knowledge. Can reckon very well long scores, the common mode of counting by the men but has no knowledge of any other form of arithmetic.]

No.354. Thomas Thomas, aged 14, works the shears.

He has been at work for six years, four in the copper works and two at the mill. He works the short turn, 12 hours a day, four days a week and the long turn, 36 hours, once. He has half an hour for each meal and gets meat every day.

[Reads and writes pretty well. thin and, like several of the other lads, seemed to suffer from the long hours of labour.
Very intelligent lad.]

No.355. Thomas Davis, aged 15, returner.

I have been at work for five years. My employment is to return the sheets of copper over the rollers. The work is very fatiguing as the hours occasionally are very long. I work the usual day work of 12 hours and make two long turns of 24 hours in the course of the week. We have half an hour for breakfast, the same for dinner and three-quarters of an hour for supper when at night work. None of us lie down during the night.

[Reads and writes and has a good knowledge of Scripture.]

No.356. George Williams, aged 12, ash pit cleaner.

He has been at work four years and he likes the work better than school. His father wished him to go to school but I ran away because I like cleansing the ash pit better than learning letters.

No.357. Cecilia Rees, aged 15 years, coal wheeler.

She assists to shift ashes from the furnaces and has been at work only half a years. She was a short time at school but she did not like it. She has several brothers and sisters who don't know how to read.

[Much neglected and belonging, as I was informed, to one of the most ignorant families in the works.]

No.358. Rees Rees, aged 13, ash pit boy.

I have been at work for two years and work 12 hours daily. I earn 6s. 2d. per week and am never on night work.

[Very well informed. Reads and writes well.]

No.359. David Hopkins, aged 10, cobber.

He has been two years at work and has never been to school. Seldom goes to Chapel.

[Neglected and very ignorant.]

No.360. John Williams, aged 8, cobber.

He has been breaking stone for six months. His father died of inflammation of the brain and he works for his mother. He works eight hours daily. He did go to day school but now only goes to Sunday School.

[Reads a little.]

No.362. Thomas Alcock, aged 10, trammer.

He has been nine months in the mine and assists his brother to wheel the carts of coal. The carts contain 5 cwt. It is very hard work, His brother was injured some time since and was off work six weeks. He was at the school but has forgotten it since he has been at work.

[Scarcely knows a letter.]

**LANSAMLET COLLIERY, parish of Lansamlet, county of Glamorgan,
Charles Henry Smith, Esq., proprietor.**

Number of persons employed:-

Adults	290
Under 18 years of age	89
Under 13 years of age	42

No.362. Mr. David Hill, cashier and clerk.

Our mines are entered by shafts, the depth of each being respectively 90 to 100 fathoms. They are ventilated by furnaces at the pit bottom and air pits. Men and boys are not allowed to enter the workings until they have been first inspected by the oversmen of whom there are 16 whose business it is to make minute examinations in order to prevent the accumulation of gas. We have both firedamp and chokedamp in considerable quantities but from the attention paid to ventilation but one fatal accident has occurred within the last two years. The young persons are employed in wheeling the coals from the workings to the steam engine below which drops the coal down an incline to the bottom of the shaft. The average weight of coal in the barrows is from 2 to 4 cwt. We are at present working three seams, 5 feet, 3 feet and 16 inches and the youngest boys, except the air door boys, who are employed as early as six years old, work in the small seams. In order to give the height we cut away the bottom and the smallest height of our main road is five feet six inches. We have a medical fund for sickness and accidents to which all the workpeople contribute 13d. per quarter. No organic diseases can well be said to exist amongst the men but they are troubled a good deal with rheumatism.

We have no school supported by the works but there are several schools in the adjoining village. As our machinery works the whole 24 hours, that is to say, constantly at work. We employ two sets of men and boys, the latter work short turns, rarely averaging more than nine hours. Each class, as colliers, trammers and others working underground, are paid separately and are very regular in their work. They work six days a week and at the conclusion of their monthly work they seldom waste more than half a day after the pay.

We had one strike last years when the men stood out for 13 weeks and returned to the work with no further advantage to themselves. The colliers about this part are quite equal on morals to other workpeople in this neighbourhood but from the early age at which is the practice to take children into the mines their education is generally inferior and I should say not one third of the adults can read. The health of the collier is greatly attributed to the cleanly habits of the females and their care in providing warm clothing both for their children and husbands, a point on which the women of these parts are remarkably particular.

No.386. David Davies, aged 16, wheeler.

He has been eight years at work and works in the three foot vein and wheel coals in a barrow from the workings to the main road, a distance of 80 yards. Each barrow contains about 2 cwt. of coal. We have to wheel down hill and throw the coal over into a tram which is dropped down the incline by the steam engine. I work 12 hours daily and it is the practice of the men to change every six months, when those who have been at day work take the night shifts and so change about. I have never been hurt since I was employed here and have never been off work more than two days from any hurts received. I have three brothers working below, one is seven years old and is an air door keeper. None of us have been to day school but all of us are learning to read at the Sunday School. We learn in Welsh.

[Reads Welsh very well but cannot write. I examined the brother, Isiah Davies, who seemed to have a great dislike of the darkness of the pit, indeed, it seems to have made the child stupid.]

No.364. Benjamin Dunn, air door boy.

I began work only two months ago and wouldn't have liked to work below but I have two brothers below besides, I go to work at six in the morning and return at five or six at night. I take bread and cheese along with me and I always have a candle. I earn 6d. a day and have never got hurt. My brothers and I go to the Welsh Chapel to learn letters on the Sunday. Be are just beginning to spell in Welsh.

No.365. David Howard, aged 17, driver.

I was eight years old when I was first taken to work. I always have been driving horses below. I used to get rubbed a little at first with the carts but never got a serious hurt. I drive from the workings to the engine in the five foot seam. The roads I drive on are all trammed. I work 12 hours a day and earn about 20s. 7d. a month. We descend by shaft although we have a ladder pit if we like to use it. The dip of the mine is which I work is six inches in a yard.

[Scarcely knows the Welsh letters and otherwise ignorant.]

No.366. William Rosser, aged 16, driver.

I have been below for seven years. I was two years at the air door before driving. I have occasionally got hurt but never off more than two or three days. The length of the road I drive is about 400 yards. I make 20 to 25 journeys a day. The roads are all trammed and we work pretty constantly. My wages last month were 28s. 7d., about what I usually earn. I think I went to school once but I am just beginning to learn Welsh at the Sunday School.

[Just knows the Welsh letters. A very fair religious knowledge.]

No.367. David Watkins, aged 6, air door boy.

Been down three months.

WHITEROCK COPPER SMELTING WORKS, parish of Swansea, county of Glamorgan. Messrs. Freeman and Co., proprietors.

Number of persons employed:-

Adults	344
Under 18 years of age	35
Under 13 years of age	21

No.368. Mr. Edward Brown, clerk and cashier.

There is nothing in our works which can be said to be dangerous either to the health or the persons of individuals engaged in the different departments. The temperature does not differ much from the common atmosphere except near the furnaces during the time of charging or roasting the air when the heat is intense for a very short time only. Young persons sometimes assist in working out the furnaces which are all reverbatory. They are usually employed at the calcining or roasting the ore and the heat is comparatively low to which they are exposed at intervals and for a short time only. None of our processes necessarily require the employment of the very young persons and boys under 13 years of age are seldom employed but this is left, in great measure, to the discretion of the parents and they rarely being their children before 10 years of age. Our works are carried on day and

night as the fire require to be kept up, persons are obliged to be in attendance on the Sundays. Boys under 13 years of age assist older boys at the calcining process. They then work together for 24 hours and the rest 24 hours but other boys employed in different occupations about the works. Work only 12 consecutive hours. A prohibition of night work for children and young persons more particularly would occasion difficulty, their labour being required at some of the processes and men not being always to be had to fill those places.

Many of the persons employed take their meals at home but most of the smelters have their meals brought into the works, they not being able to leave the furnace. The labour, however, not being continuous, they have frequent intervals for rest.

We find generally that men who have commenced working at an early age are best acquainted with the processes though there are exceptions as we have many instances of persons, late in life, taking to copper smelting and become good workmen.

The proprietors of these works have established an infant school and a school for boys, jointly with the proprietors of another work in the neighbourhood, where the children of the workmen receive instruction in reading, writing an arithmetic at the charge of 1d. per week. There is also a sick fund to which each member pays 3d. per week and receives, when sick or laid up, 5s. per week and 1d. per week is stopped for each for surgical attendance.

The general character of our men does not much differ from that of others in the surrounding district, either as to morals or education but the great increase of beer shops and public houses have tended more to demoralise the children and workmen than can possibly be conceived.

No.369. William Morrison, aged 14, calciner boy.

He has been at work for five years and works 24 hours and rests 243. He works with another boy and earn together 12s. 6d. a week. We take breakfast and dinner with us and take our meals as the time suits. I have never been to school but I am learning the letters at Sunday School and I sometimes attend Chapel. I have never heard of the Commandments. He has frequently got a little burn but has never been off work from any accident during the five years he has been at work.

[Very ignorant.]

No.370. William Williams, aged 13, labourer.

[The inferior occupations in which boys are employed are not distinguished but the lads indiscriminately called "labourers."]

He has been at work four years and attends the refinery furnace and works 12 hours a day. He has half an hour for breakfast and one for dinner. It is not hard work while you are at it. I have sometimes got burned but never to lie idle more than a day. I can read and write and was taught at Fox Hall School belonging to the works.

[Very intelligent but very delicate in appearance.]

No.371. John Jenkins, aged 11, deal boy.

I have been four years attending at the furnaces and am employed to wash the deals or moulds in which the copper is poured from the furnace. It is very hard work as I have to bear a great deal of fire. I get 6d. a day and have my meals sent which I eat when I can have time. I don't feel very strong but haven't often said away. I work 12 or 13 hours but no night work. I am beginning to learn the Welsh letters at [the Rev.] Mr. Morgan's Sunday School. I can't say who made me, I haven't been long enough at school to know.

[Very ignorant. Sickly in appearance.]

No.372. William Rees, aged about 16, calciner.

I began work when I was nine years old. I wheel the copper ore and throw it into the furnace. The work is hard as we have to stand it for 24 hours altogether. We generally finish on Sunday morning at six o'clock and return on the Tuesday morning following at the same hour, that is, 72 hours in the week. I have met with but one serious accident which occurred within the last years which threw me three weeks off work. The crane, while at work lifting ore, cut through the muscles of my arm. He earns, with another 12s. 6d. a week. He never was at any school.

[Quite destitute of religious knowledge.]

No.373. Thomas Thomas, aged 11, mason's boy.

Been at work six months but cannot read.

No.374. John Barnett, aged 11, mason's boy.

Been at work three months.

[Scarcely knows his letters.]

[The mason's boys assist the masons whose business it is to repair any flaw in the furnaces. They have the advantage of freer air and have not the squalid aspect of the other boys engaged in the works. Their wages are 2s. 6d. a week.]

**THE PATENT METAL COMPANY, parish of Swansea, county of Glamorgan.
Messrs. Muntz and Co., proprietors.**

Number of persons employed:-

Adults	80
Under 18 years of age	15
Under 13 years of age	10

No.375.

I visited the works on the 25th. September and was informed by Mr. Thomas Brown, the manager, that he was not aware of the existence of such a Commission but that he would readily afford any information required. I accordingly left the necessary papers with that gentleman, who was too much occupied to attend to any replies at the moment, being engaged with the workpeople at the pay table. The works having stopped for the day I had not an opportunity of seeing the young people at their respective employments. Mr. Brown stated that the various occupations were those common with metal works, rolling and flattening mills, that there was nothing dangerous in the nature of the employment, that accidents were a rare occurrence and that only one fatal had taken place during the last two years, that of a young lad, who, by carelessly approaching the sheers and had his arm severed from his body. Very young lads were of little use in these works and that the youngest boy employed in them was not under 12 years of age.

I took the evidence of several boys who were engaged as sheet weighers, metal pickers, furnace attendants, &c., of the ages of 12 to 15 most of whom had been in the employ from three to six years, earning from 4s. to 6s. 6d. a week but as there was nothing important in their particular statements I have thought it unnecessary to give their evidence at length. The boys appeared strong and healthy working 12 hours daily but like most children engaged in the great works in this part of the country, sadly deficient in education.

**SKEWAN COLLIERY, parish of Cadoxton, county of Glamorgan.
J. Parsons, Esq., proprietor.**

Number of persons employed:-

No return.

No.376. Daniel Andrews, manager.

This colliery is entered by shaft. [There was a division between the two tubs, the ascending and descending tub.] The men descending in a carriage expressly constructed for that purpose. Coals are never allowed to be in transit while the men are descending, which they do only two at a time. During the last two years, David Thomas was killed. The chain broke and in its rolling over the wheel, caught the banksman. This was three years last August. David Randall, a boy was killed about twelve months since by a fall of roof. August 25th. two men were burnt by a little firedamp. Every man has his Davy in the counting house and it was by neglecting this rule that the accident happened, for every man is bound to see whether the workings is safe.

We have one engine of 16 horse power for pumping. We employ no boys as pumpers in the pit. We have four air door boys. Fathers take their children as early as they please. Colliers are very fond of benefit societies. We have scarcely a man who does not belong to one, some to two. We employ boys to bring the coal from the stalls to the heading, They pull the carriage by a rope fastened to it but no girdle. It is not necessary in a six foot seam.

No.377. Samuel Boddicombe, aged 14, picker.

He picks slate from coal at the pit mouth. He has been to a day school. He reads a little bit of Welsh and reads a little English to. He left school four years since when he commenced working. He goes to Sunday School at Cadoxton. He knows there are Ten Commandments. He has a father who works as a smith in the works. He earns 3s. 6d. a day. He [the witness], earns 8d. a day sometimes 10d. He has six brothers, none of them at home. He has never been hurt.

No.378. Jenkin Williams, aged 13.

I have been down about nine months. He has been to school, at the Abbey School but has been only 10 times. He earns 6d. a day.

No.380. Evan Maddocks, aged 17, trammer.

He has been nine years in coal works where he wheels from the stall to the heading, the longest distance is 18 yards where it is taken by horse to the pit bottom. He has been to school at Lansamlet, a day school. He has been left school these nine years and can read in both English and Welsh. He can write a bit. He earns 12s. a week. He lives with his father who is an agricultural labourer and also earns 12s. a week. He has three brothers older than himself who are colliers but are all married.

**CROWN COPPER COMPANY COPPER SMELTING and ZINC WORKS,
parish of Cadoxton juxta Neath, county of Glamorgan.
Messrs Williams, Foster and Co., proprietors.**

Numbers employed:-

Adults	129
Under 18 years of age	14
Under 13 years of age	0

No.381. Mr. W. Tregoning, accountant.

The process of our copper and zinc is continuous and the labour is carried on by relays of men every 24 hours, each set working 24 hours and then resting 24 hours, excepting of course the masons and carpenters. our works are ventilated in the usual way which is the usual mode adopted in the iron works and I believe the men employed in the copper works are as long lived as those engaged in other employments. We have not any accidents worth notice in these works, certainly none fatal.

The process of zinc making is somewhat different from the smelting of copper. It does not pass through so many stages. The process may be shortly explained. The ore is put into the furnace to be calcined and in due time is pulled out with an iron rable into a receiver. It is then wheeled up to the spelter furnace, mixed with carbonaceous matter, alternate layers of blende and coke and put into large pots of Stourbridge clay, carefully covered up, which are then carefully placed in the furnace. It is subject to a gradual heat at first, which is raised to the requisite intensity and the metal falls through a condenser to the bottom. It is then put into a boiler and poured out into the moulds for the market.

The men take their meals as they please. What they bring wither for breakfast or dinner is generally prepared before it is brought, though there is a small oven in the works which they make use of sometimes.

With reference to education I may safely say that the best educated man is generally the best workman. Sometimes, indeed, they know too much or too little and lead the others astray. There was a stand out in 1839 by a few men in out work but they came to in a short time. They receive very good wages.

**NEATH ABBEY IRON COMPANY, parish of Cadoxton, county of Glamorgan.
Messrs. Foxes, Price and Co., proprietors.**

Number of persons employed:-

Adults	175
Under 18 years of age	47
Under 13 years of age	11

No.382. Mr. Charles Waring, agent.

The Neath Abbey Iron Company is an engine manufactory and contains a department for iron ship building, &c. Our works have no special provisions for ventilation but they are sufficiently airy and the usual temperature of some 50 to 70 degrees nor is any great degree of heat required in those circumstances where the children are employed. Indeed, unless under particular circumstance, such as the an ability of parents to support their children through sickness or any other cause, children are never employed at these works under 14 years of age nor is it indispensable that children should be employed at all.

There are three schools connected with the works. One for infants, one for boys of from 5 to 14 years of age one for girls, conducted on the Lancastrian plan. To these schools each of the workmen contributes 1d. per week and they generally avail themselves of them by sending those of their children who are not old enough for work. The workmen have a reading society among themselves and the fines taken from some for bad behaviour are applied as a sick fund for the use of others.

Of those children who are in work you will not find more than six who cannot read and write. Indeed in this particular quarter instruction is much more generally diffused and more interest is taken in the education of the working people and their children, than in many other parts of South Wales where there is a manufacturing population. We have about 170 adults at work now but when we are full of work we employ from 260 to 300. Our two blast furnaces are not at work.

No.383. Phillip Jones, aged 14, fether tender.

He goes to Sunday School but not to day school. He has just left school to come to work. He can both read and write and attends the Welsh Wesleyan Sunday School. He has neither father nor mother and lives with his grandmother. He earns 3s. a week.

No.384. William Rees, aged 12, moulder's attendant.

He does not go to day school now but has been. He goes to the Methodist Sunday School and is taught Welsh. He lives with his grandmother and has two sisters younger than himself, one lives with his mother and the other with grandmother. He works from six in the morning to six at night and earned 3s. 6d. a week. He can spell in Welsh. They don't teach the Commandments at Sunday School until the boys get unto the Testament. He doesn't know how many Commandments there are.

No.385. John Jenkins, aged 13, general attendant.

He left day school three years age to come to work. He can read and write and knows how many Commandments there are. He has been in the Testament at Sunday School and goes to the Independent Welsh School.

[One of the foremen said that the Independents had a Catechism and made the children learn it when they could read the Testament and that their Sunday School had an average attendance at one Sunday School of 200 of both sexes and at another of 150 to 200 including adults as well as children and young persons.]

No.386 Thomas Morgan, aged 13, attendant at the furnace.

I went to a day school three years since and now goes to Sunday School I can read and write. I work ten and half hours, exclusive of the hour and half for meals, He earns 3s. a week. His father is a carpenter and he earns 15s. a week and a brother earns 3s. 6d. like himself.

No.387. John Howell, aged 15.

He attends the men in the boiler making and iron ship building department. He goes to Sunday School but he left day school four years. He can read pretty well. He is paid like the others, 9d. per day and works 12 hours a day. He lives with his mother who works on a farm.

[Men and boys are all paid by the day in these works.]

No.388. Thomas Davis, aged 12, attendant at the furnaces.

He goes to Sunday School. He left day school about a year ago. He reads, wrote and ciphers. He learns the Welsh Bile at the Sunday School of the Independents. He knows there are Ten Commandments.

No.389. William Davis, aged 11.

[This boy like the two preceding was an attendant on the men but he was so confused that I could make nothing of him.]

MINES ROYAL COPPER SMELTING WORKS, Mines Royal Company.

Number of adults employed:-

Adults about	90
Under 18 years of age	3
Under 13 years of age	0

No.390. Mr. James Leyshon, accountant.

No machinery is used in these works of any special character. The process is continuous and the men work 24 hours alternately with 24 hours rest. I do not call to mind any accidents during the last three years except of a man subject to fits who fell on the hot metal and was seriously hurt.

The men enjoy excellent health. I don't think they are less healthy than other workmen. Their wages are good. Thus the average weekly wages for this year have been:-

	£	s.	d.
Ore calciners	0	16	4
Ore furnace men	1	2	6
Metal calciners	0	18	6
Metal furnace men	1	1	0
Refiners	1	10	0
Masons	1	10	0
Labourers	0	12	0

I think they live well and are not so dissipated as some. No money is stopped at the pay table for any purpose whatever. We have no school attached to the works. The only three boys employed in these works are under 18 years of age in the employ of masons whose business it is to look after the brickwork, &c., of the furnaces but they work only 12 hours a day.

[There were not on the works at the time of my visit,]

THE NEATH ABBEY COAL COMPANY.

THE PWLLFARRON COLLIERY, in the parish of Cadoxton, in the county of Glamorgan. Messrs. Price and Co., proprietors.

Number of persons employed:-

Adults	46
Under 18 years of age	12
Under 13 years of age	3

No.392. Mr Charles Waring, agent.

These collieries are all carefully ventilated by dowthrow and upthrow pits and airways and at the bottom of the upthrow pits, fires are kept. One of the workings is entrance by shaft, one by level and none by shaft and horse and man way. All the coal is brought up by shaft. The height of our mainways is in no part less than four feet six inches and we are both at 90 fathoms and at 16 fathoms below the surface.

There is carburetted hydrogen in small quantities but the airing prevents their accumulation and we have never lost any lives from that cause. We have had one man killed by coal falling on him and crushing him and one boy killed on the incline. He got on the wrong side to be put of the way of the carriage and was run over and killed on the spot. He was about 10 years old. The employment of young persons is driving horses, keeping doors and sweeping roads. We have four steam engines equal to 76 horse power by which the coal is brought to the surface.

I do not think a limitation of the age at which children are employed in our mines desirable as they have no hard work but if they have to push carriages &c. I should fix the limit at 14 years of age.

I examined the **Brynddwey Colliery** the following boys:-

No.393. David Davies, aged 9 years, air door boy.

I have been down half a year. I have been to the Abbey School and to Sunday School. He could read a little. He earns 6d. a day.

No.394. Rees Hughes, aged 14, haulier.

He has been at work five years and has never been to school. He can't read. He came from Carmarthenshire. He earns 1s. a day.

No.395. Lewis Morgan, aged 14, haulier.

He belongs to the Abbey. He can't read.

No.396. Edward Davis aged 14, haulier.

He had been at the Abbey School occasionally. He can't read. He left school half a year since.

[Mr. C. Waring observed that although many of the lads employed could read when they first commences working yet it was wonderful how soon their little education seems to be effaced.]

No.397. Mr. William Close, master of the Neath Abbey School.

There are four Sunday Schools in this district, the Established Church, the Wesleyan Methodists, the Calvinistic Methodists and the Independents. There are three day schools at Neath Abbey, boys, girls and infants and an evening school during winter. In the girls school the youngest are taught needle or other domestic work. The average attendance is, boys, 60, girls, 40 and infants, 60. Children are moved at different ages from 10 to 14 years and in some cases an earlier age but such early removal, in my opinion, greatly injures them in after life and they scarcely ever attain to that usefulness in society as they would do if they had had proper education. They are in many cases depraved. I think children ought to remain at school up to 14 years of age at least. Reading, writing and arithmetic are taught in our day schools but in our Sunday School, the Bible only.

No.398. The Rev. John Lloyd, curate for the parish of Neath.

The Sunday School connected with the Established Church in this town has been suspended for some time for want of a suitable building but will be shortly revived. There is only one day school for the education of the children of the working population situated in the town and is supported by subscription and a small charity bequeathed by an individual for its maintenance. The children also pay 1d. per week. The attendance at the male school is about 90 and at the female school about 60. The children are generally removed from each of the schools at the ages of 12 and 13. I believe it would be advantageous to many children of the working population to remain at school till the age of 14 if the parents could afford it. I think the Sunday School cannot make up for the loss of instruction by early removal from the daily institution because no branch of secular instruction can be taught on the Sabbath in a Christian land.

No.399. The Rev. Henry Hey Knight, B.D., rector of the parish of Neath.

I have resided upwards of 16 years in the parish of Neath amidst a densely congregated population of from 4000 to 5000 but in the last 4 years, in consequence of ill health, I have not been able to take an active part in the business of education in this part and therefore, on that branch of your inquiry, I cannot afford you the information of those who are practically acquainted with it but I observe the effect of the infant schools to be an alteration in the ages at which education commences and closes. Some few years since the period of education commenced at the age of seven years and generally continued at the age of 14. Now you will find that it may be said generally to commence at four years of age and close at eight, a period insufficient for any useful instruction and abruptly closed when the mind is not sufficiently strong to retain what may have been acquired. It consequently easily fades away and children who could read at the time of leaving school, are totally unable to do so at the end of two or three years. As to the present system, of school education pursued I have found that exercising the reasoning powers on the evidences and plain doctrines of Scripture and grafting on this knowledge the rudiments of history, geography and chronology, has tended most to expand the mind without inflating it. As to the establishment of separate school for design, &c., I think it would be better and far more feasible to have one class privileged to pursue these studies as a reward to peculiar aptitude than to teach them in separate schools and one mathematician master might attend once a week or twice at a number of schools as that expense might be lessened.

The men engaged in the large works in this district are not remarkable for frugality but a dread of the New Poor Law has acted as an incitement to a certain degree of thrift amongst them by inducing them to form themselves into provident societies which are very numerous amongst the, the Druids for instance. But there is no economy in their funds. They spend the larger proportion on their money on their robes, velvet caps and long flowing white beards, resembling more a troop of ancient mummers than in any way approaching the true Druidical costume and in this ridiculous dress parade the streets and attend Divine service.

With the assistance of a small fund of which I with other gentlemen are trustees and which we are endeavouring to increase by subscription to a sufficient amount, to justify the requesting the aid of the National Schools Society, I trust we shall shortly be enabled to supply some further means of useful education in this parish.

No.400. Mr. Edward Cooke, master of the Merra School, Neath.

He replied to the printed queries of the Commission:-

“Children are removed from school from 9 to 12 years of age. That such early removal operates to their injury in after life because they cannot retain in their memory what they have been taught, unless they apply themselves to evening schools for further means of instruction and that children ought to remain at a school until the age of 14.

Colliers neglect the opportunity of educating their children to a far greater degree than any other class of working people in this neighbourhood. The few that are sent to school are taken away from 9 to 10 years old but the principle part of them are totally uneducated.”

[The “Merra” which lends its title to the above school is the name of a small plot of land adjoining Knoll Colliery on the eastern side of the town of Neath. The community, who inhabit a long line of cottages built on this plot of ground are decedents of a small colony of Staffordshire colliers who were brought over by Sir H. Mackworth about ninety years since to work the collieries of the district. They have formed quite a separate cast and are known as the “Merra People.” Their women are distinguished from the surrounding population by superior beauty, both of face and form and yet it is only within a few years they have intermarried with the men of the Abbey Iron Works and Foundry where many Shropshire men are employed. The “Merra women” receive great praise, on all hands, for their marked industry and patient endurance. Their principle occupation is to carry pottery, in heavy weights, on their heads, thirty miles and more in the day to Cardiff and Merthyr. They wear neither shoes, stockings nor stays. Their dresses are of woollen fabric of gaudy yet well contrasted colours set loosely on their well formed limbs. They are known as the least educated class in the neighbourhood and what is more to their credit, their virtue and honesty have become as proverbial as their beauty.]

**ABERDULAS IRON and TIN PLATE WORKS and COLLIERY, parish of
Cadoxton juxta Neath, county of Glamorgan.
William Llewellyn and Sons, proprietors.**

Numbers employed:-

	Males	Females
Adults		
Works	75	2
Colliery	18	
Persons between 18 and 13.		
Works	30	14
Colliery	2	
Under 13		
Works	16	1

No.401. Mr. William Hullan, agent.

Our mills are open and the roof fixed on pillars. The tin house has large openings at the ends and a lantern in the roof, whereby a perfect ventilation is procured. All the dangerous parts of the machinery are fenced off. There is accommodation provided for the men for washing and also for warming their food. We have no children employed in our works under nine years of age nor do I think it desirable to employ them sooner. A limitation of age at which they should commence working would certainly not be injurious but probably to advantage to the rising generation. A reduction of the working hours of children would not affect us as we have but little for children to do and have plenty of hands to spare. Children do not work by night with us. A greater expense

would be incurred by employing men to do light work instead of boys but would not be attended by any other disadvantage. There is a day school provided by the firm for the children of all the workmen and a night school for 7 until 10 o'clock for the improvement of young persons engaged in the works during the day and there is also a reading room and some books. It is to be desired that children should never be put to work before 9 or 10 years of age in order that they may have the time to be instructed in reading, writing and arithmetic, the elements of education.

No.402. Richard Morgan, 9 years old, plate opener.

I began work 12 months ago and I can open 10 boxes in a day. A box contains 225 sheets and I get 7d. for a dozen boxes. The work is very hard and I come to work at half past five in the morning and remain there until six or seven at night. I never get hurt much. The sheets sometimes tear my fingers and mother ties them up with rags and I work on again.

[Learning the letters at Sunday School.]

No.402. Richard Davis, 10 years old, plate layer.

I have been at work two years and I do not dislike it though it is hard enough. I open 10 boxes and works as Richard Morgan. He has often torn his fingers and is never idle.

[Very ignorant. Never been at school.]

No.404. Evan Richards, 14 years old, scaling boy.

I beat the sheets after they have passed the furnace from pickling and run off the scales. I have done so for two months. I beat 20 to 25 boxes daily and I can earn 8s. to 10s. a week. I have been all my life at some kind of work or other. Beating sheets is good hard work but more is earned than at farm service or mason's work. There are no stated rests for meals. Some few who live near go home but the boys go to work directly they have eaten what they bring with them. Twelve full hours is the usual time. All the work is by the piece.

[Reads very little and repeated the Lord's Prayer and the Commandments.]

No.405. William Jones, 15 years, pickle and scale boy.

He began work four years ago, first at plate opening and after as a grease boy. I come at half past four in the morning and go home at six or seven at night. I frequently have bacon and meat with 'tatoes, sometimes herrings for dinner but always meat on Sundays. I was never at a day school. He is trying to get a knowledge of letters at Sunday School.

[Very ignorant.]

No.407. Hannah Williams, 14 years old, rubber.

I have been two years at work. I work from, six in the morning till seen at night and earn 20s., a month. I never work at night, none do in the evenings. I do not object to the work it is somewhat dusty and it gets up your nostrils. I was never laid off because of the lime dust.

[Reads pretty well and is very intelligent.]

No.408. Lucy Lewis aged 16 years, rubber.

I have been six months at rubbing and was four years at other labour in the works. Leaves home at half past five to get to work by six and returns at six or seven at night. She live two miles away at Knoll. She reads a little and could do very well when first at Mr. Cook's school at the Merra. Earns 1s. a day.

[Sharp, intelligent girl.]

No.409. John Parry, 9 years old, bronzing plates.

He was seven years old when brought to work and lives just by. He comes to work at six in the morning and returns the same hour at night. They never work at night. He runs home when the bell rings for dinner and stops as long as it takes to eat it. He has sometimes meat in the broth and gets tea for breakfast. Has never been hurt and has never been to school.

No.410. David Williams, 8 years old, plate carrier.

I have been carrying plates to the men for half a year and do so every day from six in the morning until six at night. I feel very tired when work is over. Mother washes my face after work

and sometimes I wash my feet. I run home for meals and stay about a quarter of an hour to each. I have never got burned but I have cut my toes sometimes. I have never been to any school.

MAESYMAICHOG COLLIERY, parish of Cadoxton juxta Neath, county of Glamorgan. Messrs, Penrose and Starbuck, proprietors.

Number of persons employed:-

Adults	17
Under 18 years of age	14
Under 13 years of age	1

No.411. Mr. Richard Penrose, proprietor.

Our vein of coal, which is about nine feet thick we are now working about 30 fathoms beneath the surface. Our working is entered by level. The smallest height of the mainway of five feet six inches and ventilated by an air pit and furnace. We have some firedamp but we have had no accidents from either that cause nor any fatal accidents from any other cause during the last two years. The child under 13 is an air door boy and the rest are employed as hauliers. Horses do our work and a girdle and chain is not required.

ABERPERGWM COLLIERY parish of Cadoxton juxta Neath, county of Glamorgan. William Williams, Esq., proprietor.

Number of persons employed:-

Adults	70
Young persons under 18	13
Under 13	1

No.412.

This return was furnished by Mr. Richard Penrose, the proprietor of the Maesymaichog Colliery who stated that the Aberpergwm Colliery was entered by a level and ventilated by an air pit and furnace. The mainways were about five feet six in height and that the vein of coal, being the same was of the same thickness as the vein worked in the Maesymaichog Colliery. That the workings were about 30 fathoms below the surface. A little fire but no fatal accidents from that cause. An accident had occurred about two years since when a man broke his leg by the coal falling. All the transport of the coal to the level mouth is done by horses and the girdle and chain are never used. The hauliers or drivers go at eight o'clock in the morning and leave at five or six at night. They take their own time for meals. One shilling is stopped for the men and 6d. from each of the boys for medical attendance.

No.413. Nathaniel Jones, Esq., surgeon, Neath.

Colliers, as a class, are not subject to any particular disease nor are those engaged in copper and iron works. Colliers, by the nature of their work are very liable to surgical accidents, tending to shorten life, otherwise they, as well as the coppermen enjoy the same duration of life that any other class of labourers do. In the copper works the employment is so laborious that few, if any, children are employed. Boys are taken into the collieries at an early age but owing to the lightness of their work and the thorough ventilation of the mines they enjoy an equal degree of health with children of the same age not engaged in any occupation.

Cottager's houses in the neighbourhood are generally well drained and ventilated. The habits of the people are cleanly and not remarkably intemperate. They at present, in common with the rest of the kingdom, suffer from stagnation of trade.

**YNISPENLLWYCH WORKS, parish of Llanyavelwch, county of Glamorgan.
William Llewellyn and Sons, proprietors.**

Number of persons employed:-

	Males	Females
Adults	92	12
Under 18 years of age	254	10
Under 13 years of age	12	2

No.414. Llewellyn Llewellyn, jun., Esq., proprietor.

These works are for the manufacture of iron and tin and are carried on on the same principles as the Aberdulais works. Water power only is employed. The children under 13 and those between 13 and 18 years are employed 12 hours a day. I do not think it desirable to limit the age at which children are to be first employed. I am of opinion that this point, as far as it relates to manufactories such as ours, had best be left to the parents or friends of the children. There is a school a mile distant from the works kept by a dissenting minister, at which a large number of children of the people employed in the works are taught reading, writing and ciphering. I consider the habits and conduct of the working people in the district around me, as regards the religious and moral condition as highly creditable to them.

No.415. Rev. D. Hanmer Griffith, Cadoxton juxta Neath.

In this parish there are many Sunday Schools of the Established Church, the Wesleyans, Calvinistic Methodists and Independents. There are day and evening schools at the Old Stonehouse, Pentre, Clwydan, Aberdulais and the Abbey, which are not confined to boys alone, but where girls, in addition to the usual elements of education are taught needlework, &c. The schools are but indifferently attended by collier children. Female children mostly attended and very young boys, usually under the age of eight years. The children of colliers are very unpunctual in their attendance.

With the exception of the master of Aberdulais school (who was trained under the national system) all the other teachers in this district are, I consider, very inefficient. The children are generally removed from school from eight or nine years of age, which certainly operates to their injury, as what little they acquire under the age of eight years is seldom retained and a prejudice exists against the discipline of a school which is with difficulty removed is after years. Children should not be removed under 12 years of age. It is my opinion that if women were forbidden to labour in collieries &c., the moral character of this neighbourhood would be greatly improved and I likewise grieve to add that for want of opportunities of instruction the religious, moral and intellectual condition of the young persons in this district is very indifferent.

No.416. Rev. Dr. Rees, Llanelly.

The population of the borough and parish of Llanelly is 11,550. I have resided in this town upwards of 12 years as an Independent minister. The people are industrious and far from being ignorant in Scriptural knowledge. Charitable institutions were until lately on a very limited scale in this place now we have a national school and a sort of infant school I have invariably observed a marked difference between educated and uneducated children and young men and the one excelled the other in proportion to the education received. Those who have received instruction in inferior schools and Sunday Schools are attentive to their moral and religious duties but those who are wholly uneducated are sottish and worthless for the most part.

We have had no public excitement not embarrassment here until this years and the excitement arises this year not from any disputes between masters and workmen but from hunger, and this results from stagnation of trade. I am very fearful that this winter will not pass without some excitement. I have paid considerable attention to the subject of school education at present afforded to the working classes and some time ago corresponded with the Board of Education respecting a grant towards building and maintaining a house for a branch of the British and Foreign School. The Dissenters have no public school.

In this parish there are two churches and 13 large dissenting Chapels well attended and to each is attached a Sunday School. These have a very beneficial influence. Teetotalism has effected much good here and many have turned to the schools and availed themselves of the advantages afforded.

The working classes were never in a more deplorable condition. Hundreds are out of employment in this place and have now here to run. Some measures to revive trade ought to be adopted speedily, otherwise I am apprehensive of convulsions.

MELINCRYTHEN CHEMICAL WORKS, parish of Neath, county of Glamorgan., Messrs. Tunstall and Co., proprietors.

Number of persons employed

Adults	40
Under 18 years of age	8
Under 13 years of age	1

No.417. Mr. Alfred Tunstall, resident managing partner.

At these works we manufacture naphtha, sugar of lead, sulphuric acid, &c., and do not make use of machinery of any description. We have no close premises nor processes to which persons are closely confined so as to render any special provision for ventilation necessary. We have ample accommodation in our works for the workpeople to change their clothes and for washing and in the construction of some of our fire places we have provided ovens for those who desire to cook or warm their food but most of our workpeople living within reach of their homes they rarely use them.

Children and young persons are employed as general labourers, partly indoors and partly out but not in any process of our manufacture. The earliest age at which they are employed is 12 or 13. It has always been the practice to discourage the labour of children under 12 years of age and to encourage the parents to continue their education up to that periods but I doubt whether such a limitation as to outdoor employment would be desirable.

Most of our process are carried on by fired which are generally kept up day and night without intermission. For this purpose we employ each night generally five men and one boy, or two boys between 13 and 18 years of age which work from six in the evening to six in the morning. There are several sets who take the night work in alternate weeks. We have sometimes had three or four young persons employed together in the night time 12 hours, but their attendance not being required incessantly, but at intervals of an hour or two according to circumstances, they have some interrupted sleep. A prohibition of night work for persons from 13 to 18 years of age would inconvenience as because they are as competent to the work as grown up man which we should be obliged to substitute at higher wages.

The several processes of distillation of the acids are necessarily continuous as also the distillation of wood but the work is but the work is almost entirely in keeping up fires for which three or four men are employed. There is little scope for skill as connected with any branch or our manufacture but a certain degree of experience is necessary which can only be acquired by practice.

We have no school, reading room or sick fund connected immediately with our works, the number of children and young persons being so small. Accidents in out work are very rare occurrence and we have a small collection of Irish publications, perhaps 40 or 50 volumes on miscellaneous subjects which are lent among the workpeople.

The present inquiry appearing to have reference to the employment of young persons in close occupations and where they are pent up in considerable numbers as in factories I do not consider that it applies to such employment as ours but it is my decided opinion that the legislature would confer a great blessing on the community at large by providing against such a system as I have witnessed of exhorting labour from children.

CARMARTHEN TIN and IRON WORKS, parish of St. Peter's borough of Carmarthen. Henry R. Downman, Esq., proprietor.

Persons employed:-

	Males		Females
Adults	60	Adults	12
Under 18	9	Under 18	00
Under 13	15	Under 13	00

Water power only.

No.418. Henry R. Downman, Esq.

I employ about 100 persons in the works and 20 at a distance in charcoal burning. The kind of labour is that usual to such businesses. No ventilation is required as all the works are open. I have had no accidents occur of any consequence to life or limb. Each set of people work 12 hours and

during the night, very few boys work and those who do generally work with parents and labour in proportion to their strength. Our men, as most of the population here, are well disposed and religious, chiefly dissenters. The men subscribe to a medical fund and the majority belong to benefit societies. I have it in contemplation to build a day school for the workmen's children and to have an adult evening class. A limitation of age here is not desirable as boys work in departments in proportion to their age and size.

COLLIERIES IN PEMBROKESHIRE.

NOLTEN COLLIERY, parish of Roch, county of Pembroke. Messrs. Bowen, Whittow and Co.,

Number of persons employed:-

	Males		Females
Adults	24	Adults	4
Under 18	14	Under 18	0
Under 13	3	Under 13	0

Steam power, 30 horses.

No.419. Mr. W. Whittow, agent.

Our mine is entered by shaft, 36 fathoms from the surface depth and we ventilate by air pits. Little or no bad air, or foul gas exists and no accident whatever has occurred from such accumulations since the operations commenced. Our machinery is daily inspected by the foreman and not more than four are allowed to ascend or descend together. Only one serious accident within the last two years, viz. a man was killed while coming up the shaft by incautiously holding the rope by hands only which caused him to drop when half way up.

Our coal is brought from the workings by young people from 13 to 18 years of age. Seventeen males and one female. None draw by the girdle and chain. The distance they draw is 120 fathoms and two boys drive to mouth of the shaft about 30 fathoms. The weight of coal in the corve is 6 cwt. Children are not required in our mines under 12 years of age as the vein is four feet thick, and the least height on the ways is three feet. A limitation of age is certainly desirable at which children should enter mines, I think 11 or 12 years might be fixed upon. The usual number of hours which our people labour rarely exceeds 8 or 10.

BROAD-MOOR COLLIERY, parish of Begelly, county of Pembroke. Messrs. Wilsons and Smith, proprietors.

Numbers employed:-

	Males		Females
Adults	39	Adults	44
Under 18 years	10	Under 18 years	3
Under 13 years	6	Under 13 years	none.

Steam power 75 horses, water and winding engines, mines entered by shaft, 34 fathoms.

No.420. Lewis Wilson, Esq., proprietor.

Children and young persons are employed in our mines at hauling and winding up coal. It does not necessarily require young children but they seek employment and are put in couples to do what usually one older would be required to do. They work eight hours and haul in proportion to their ages and wages. The youngest occasionally work at night when the coal is required and then only on short shifts. The ages children begin to work are from seven years old but there is no fixed age. I think a limitation of age would be a barrier to their being brought up to working habits as I am not

acquainted with any machinery that would render the employment of youth unnecessary. Females are employed here only at the windlass below ground and in screening and wheeling above. The weight of the coal in each tram drawn up by the windlass in the mainway is 4 cwt. and the skip drawn by children holds about one and half cwt. We have had only one fatal accidents in the last two years. Firedamp exists which we get rid of by careful ventilation and by fan blowing occasionally. The veins we are working are five to seven feet in thickness and the smallest height of our mainways is five feet. Every precaution is used to keep the gear and machinery in order and the people are repeatedly cautioned about descending too many at a time. Our mainways varying distance from the workings, from 8 to 20 fathoms. The colliers in this part work short hours and are paid by the principals in cash and the workmen and children are not subject to contractors in any way. The depth of our workings daily alter as the dip is very sharp, almost upright, at an angle beyond 45°. None carry coal on their backs, all are drawn up by windlass.

No.421. Mr. David Morgan, manager of the Board-Moor Colliery.

He stated that:-

“Boys commence working as early as seven years of age and females about 12. The latter are first employed above for a few years in separating coal from culm and when arrived at full strength they generally went to the windlass. The women here wind from the deep, and some of the veins are nearly upright, nearly 50°. Strong women will haul up by windlass 400 loads in a day’s work and their week’s wages rarely exceed 3s. 6d. to 4s. It is true they do not work the long hours which the women do in Carmarthenshire but they are more patient and enduring. Many married women work below and they do not object to the labour. There is much fire in the mines of Broad Moor. One died a short time since from explosion. We have no medical man attached, nor do the men subscribe to any medical fund. Many of them belong to a society held in the neighbouring village. Collier here are disabled from 50 to 55 years of age. They are satisfied with little earnings as they work short hours. Nearly one third of the keep cows and do a little gardening. None speak Welsh. The women and girls about here will not haul the skips, neither will the boys or men work at the windlasses. The lads earn 3s. 6d. to 4s. a week. girls who pick culm, 2s. a week, windlass women, 3s. weekly and them men are satisfied if they earn 18d. to 20d. per day. If business be brisk we work night as well as day on eight hour shifts.”

No.422. Hannah Bowen, 16 years old, windlass woman.

I have been down about two years and earn 3s. a week. It is good, hard work and I work from seven in the morning till three and four in the afternoon at hauling the windlass. I can draw up 400 loads of 1½ to 4 cwt. each. I have never been off work. I always have my breakfast before coming to work and get eat nearly every day. Father was a collier but he is now off with bad breath. He has been disabled for two years and is not very old. He does not know his age. He grazes the cow on the road side and that keeps us, with my work. We pay 40s. a year for the cottage. I can knit and sew but I do not read and have never been to any school but a Sunday School I did not make my dress. The tailor charged me 2s. 6d. for the work ad I paid 4s. for the cloth. Whenever we work longer hours we take bread and butter with us.

[Clean intelligent girl.]

No.423. Benjamin Thomas, about eight years old, haulier of skips.

I began working twelve months ago and help my brother to haul skips in the seven feet vein. I have never got hurt. I work seven and eight hours. I get bacon meat on Sundays but not much meat during week days. I sometimes get oatmeal broth before going to work. The work is very hard and it is all day long running. I run with my brother, 22 score. father is dead and mother winds below with my sister. They earn 3s. a week each. I have three brothers who work below and they earn 1s. 6d., 3s. 6d., and 4s. weekly, all at skip hauling. “I cannot read but mother and brother George who is 14 years old, do. I wash my feet and face when my work is done and play about. The boys do not wear shoes in our pit.”

[Very pitiful looking little fellow.]

No.242. Thomas Howard, aged 16, skip haulier.

I have been four years working below and so do every day for nine hours. The work is very fatiguing indeed. It is only once I got hurt since employed. A skip crushed my knee and kept me idle for some short time. We have much fire in the mine. I have never been burned myself but a great many of the boys and people have been. Three months ago many got burned by the explosion which took place from the breaking into an old working, not fatal to any. The only holidays we have about

here are Christmas, New Year's Day and many take half a day when Narbeth fair is on. The boys and women sometimes work at night.

[Reads and writes pretty well and possessed a good knowledge of Scripture.]

No.425. Zacharias Harris, 13 years old, skip haulier.

I have been two years at work and earn 4s. a week and am employed 8, 9, and 10 hours daily. I take bread and cheese down. I live a quarter of a mile from the works. I have never heard of any Commandments but attend Sunday School. The minister told me God made me. Mother and father work below.

[Cannot read. Very ignorant.]

No.426. William Thomas, 11 years old, skip haulier.

I began work 12 months ago and earn 4d. a day. I cannot say how many fourpences there are in a shilling. I have two brothers and one sister and none of us read yet.

No.427. Elizabeth Lawrence, 15 years old, wheeler.

I have been 12 months wheeling coals and I work seven and eight years daily. I earn 6d. a day. It is good hard work as the barrow holds a good weight of culm. I do not know how many loads I wheel. Father is a labourer and I think he earns 7s. a week. Mother is at home keeping house. He have no cow. I seldom go to Church and have done so twice or thrice this year. I have never heard of Jesus Christ nor of the Lord's Prayer.

[Very ignorant. The mother. who was present, appeared equally as stupid as he daughter, for she could not assist in any reply to my questions.]

No.428. James Bowen, Esq., surgeon, Narbeth, county of Pembroke.

The population of Begelly and East Williamson is about 1163, forming strictly speaking, a mining population, the health and habits of whom I am well acquainted with. The diseases prevalent amongst colliers, as a class, are those of the lungs and air pipes and bronchitis I consider inseparable from anthracite coal working of which coal Pembrokeshire forms the principle bed. The average life of a collier is about 40 and they rarely attain the age of 45 years of age and in the entire population there are not six colliers of 60 years of age. The practice of taking children down the mines at the present early age had a manifest tendency to shorten the average duration of human life and it is, in my opinion, highly desirable that children should not be taken into the mines under the age of 12. The collier population of this district, more particularly the males, are dirty and drunken in their habits. The cottages they inhabit are low and ill ventilated. The drainage is bad and their practice of living and sleeping in large numbers in the same apartment, tends much to the spread of disease.

No.429. Rev. Richard Buckley, rector of Begelly parish, county of Pembroke.

In my district there is not one Sunday School belonging to the Established Church, the attendance at which is very unequal and uncertain. There is one day school which is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. No school exists here in which children employed in labour are taught needle or other domestic work. If such schools did exist it would be difficult to persuade the colliers to send their children to them. The branches of education taught in the days s school are reading, writing and arithmetic. In the Sunday School the instruction is exclusively scriptural. The same teacher superintends both schools and is fully qualified to instruct in the branches of education previously stated. He has not been trained to teach. The removal of the children and young persons from school at such early ages as 10 years, which is common hereabouts, to the mines, operates very injourously as the foul air seriously affects their lungs and shortens the term of life. In a population of upwards of 1000 there are not six colliers 60 years of age. Children, when once they go to work, leave school altogether. Out of 60 boys in the parish school there are certainly not more than 10 that may have reached their twelfth years. We have none partly engaged in labour who go to the day school A few of the day scholars who have gone to work attend the Sunday School and generally maintain their places in the head class.

**LANDSHIPPING COLLIERIES. parish of Mettlehog, county of Pembroke.
Sir John Owen, Bart., M.P., &c., proprietor.**

Number of persons employed:-

	Males		Females
Adults	95	Adults	18
Under 18 years	25	Under 18 years	12
Under 13 years	16	Under 13 years	1

Steam power, there engine, 60, 16 and 4 horse power. Mines descended by shaft, 30 and 40 fathoms deep.

No.430. Hugh Owen, Esq., trustee to Sir John Owen's estate.

The number of males and females at present employed in the Landshipping Mines exceed 160 and their occupations are alike to others employed in the mines of Pembrokeshire. Children commence working about eight years of age and are chiefly employed to keep air doors or some light occupation below. Young children do the work easier than large ones and where wages are low they are preferred. Females riddle the coals and wheel above and wind below. Adults only can perform this operation as it requires great strength. Children push the waggons and each child, if a strong one, say of 14 years of age, pushed the waggon upwards of 50 yards or two younger children do the work of one. The waggons contain less than a quarter of a ton of coal. I am of the opinion that a limitation of the age at which children should work in mines is not necessary as they are not tasked above 10 hours either day or night. They work the same number of hours as the men. I know of no machinery which would render the non-employment of very young children unnecessary, nor do I think it practicable. We have no special provision for ventilation, although we have both fire and chokedamp, but we succeed in obtaining a free circulation by the use of a blowing machine and by lighting a fire at the mouth of the pit. We have had no accidents within the e last two years. If workmen or children get hurt in the work it is usual for r the manager to allow them to draw their wages as when at work during absence. We have not any regulations as to any given number descending the shaft together. Two men, generally, with perhaps two small children, sometimes five small children. The foreman of the works attends well to the ropes and gear and reports their condition.

**BEGELLY COLLIERY, parish of Begelly, county of Pembroke.
Messrs. Pocock and Child, proprietors.**

Number of persons employed:-

	Males		Females
Adults	100	Adults	40
Under 18 years	21	Under 18 years	17
Under 13 years	132	Under 13 years	3

Steam power 60 horses, winding and water.

No.431. Mr. Robert Brough, manager of the Begelly Colliery.

He stated:-

“That the children and young persons are employed in the mines at tramming and hauling of skips, the weight of coal in each skip $1\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. and each tram $5\frac{1}{4}$ cwt. and the distance varying from which they draw from 5 to 100 fathoms. Few children are employed under 10 years of age, the work requiring strength, as the roads and roofs are very soft, often closing the works from the superincumbent pressure. No fatal accident have taken place lately although much carburetted hydrogen and carbonic acid gases exist in the mines. Every precaution is used to ventilate and to keep the roads and workings in order, so much so that the thickness of coal varied from 7 feet to 15 inches an the usual number of hours men could be induced to work in the Begelly Colliery never exceed weight hours and the children are not longer employed than men. The people employed in

Pembrokeshire collieries do not labour so hard as English miners. They are satisfied with small earnings and make their wages by gardening and agriculture and few are lining about here that have not a cow. The women work hard both above and below ground. The nature of their employment is severe. They have great strength and patience and the like men would not work longer than seven to eight hours. They work at the windlasses below ground, wheeling and screening coals above. Another kind of work women do in common with men is the pouncing, a description of employment peculiar to this county.” (See evidence of Mr. J. Llewellyn.)

Captain Child, one of the proprietors then present stated that women worked in the mines, and on the banks, harder than slaves in the West Indies but there was an absence of better employment in the district.

KILGETTY COLLIERY, parishes of St. Issells and Amroth, county of Pembroke, Kilgetty Coal Company, proprietors.

Persons employed:-

	Males		Females
Adults	46	Adults	26
Under 18	27	Under 18	6
Under 13	13	Under 13	10

Mines descended by shaft, 45 fathoms. Three engines, power together, 56 horses. Water power, 75 horses.

No.432. Mr Samuel Singleton, underground steward.

I have been six years steward at the Kilgetty Colliery. The employment of the young people is of a very laborious kind but the hours which they work are generally short, probably not exceeding six to eight hours. The anthracite coal is hard to work. It is never blasted. Four men contract for working the coal of the pit and they sub-let to the colliers who cut at the rate of 6½d. the square yard. A good collier will cut three yards and is generally satisfied when he has accomplished that quality of work which is completed in the before time named. The young people are engaged and paid by the contractors and are only day workers. They earn 8d. to 1s. 4d. daily. The youngest boy working below is about nine years old and the age of the youngest girl 13. They work hard and regular and few holidays are taken. Girls and boys do the dramming [dragging coal carts], and women are worked at windlasses below and on the bank at wheeling and sorting coal from the culm. Accidents are not frequent but there have been three fatal within the last two years. Two boys were killed by machinery of the engine and one killed in the pit. We have no firedamp but much choke and the men, as they advance in life suffer greatly, more here than in other in Pembrokeshire. We ventilate well by air courses, furnace and air pits. The population of this part amounts to 1550, half are colliers. There is a free school at Whitla, two miles away, where most of our colliers reside, but they do not take advantage of it. I do not think the colliers about here are shorter lived than other men but they certainly are sooner disabled and frequently leave underground work at 40 to 45. Indeed, as soon as they can get other.

No.433. Mr. Richard Hare, agent to the Kilgetty Colliery.

We employ males and females below ground to draw small waggons. The vein of our coal is not exceeding two feet in height and only 12 inches in many arts. None of the children cut the coal. The work is the good hard sort but young people alone can do it as our mainways do not exceed three feet to three feet six inches in height. The mine is well ventilated. We have 10 pits with a circulation of air one to another.

In March, 1840, two boys were killed by the machinery going adrift. This was purely accidental as we pay great attention to our gear and rarely let more than two persons descend at the same time. Children under 10 years of age are of no real use below ground and a limitation to that age would be of advantage. The weight drawn by the girls and boys in the skip [cart] never exceeds 1½ cwt. and the distance they drag varies from 2 fathoms to 30. There is a small sick fund to which most of the men subscribe but we have no school nor is any money stopped for a surgeon in these works. The usual number of hours men labour is 8 to 10. Many are down longer times at times as much time is lost in cutting away the heads and ends to make room.

No.434. Ann Thomas, aged 17, pouncer.

I have been only six months at these works and usually wind up the coal below ground. pouncing is much harder work than the windlass. It hurts my back. We only pounce when sinking a new shaft and rest frequently, indeed we could not continue long at such hard work. I have not long been away from home. I can read, knit and sew.

[Very healthy, intelligent girl.]

[Pouncing is another name for boring, taking the means for an end. it is, however, difficult to describe the nature of this labour. It was performed by three women and two men placed opposite to each other and pressing the ends of two long acting logs acting as levers which operated a circular bore. It certainly was not proper work for females although it appeared to me less irksome than the other kinds of labour which women submit to in these parts.]

No.435. William Absolam, 13 years old, skip haulier.

I have been hauling skips four years and work from six in the morning till eight and nine at night, never earlier than seven. I work for Ben Howard, the contractor. He pays me every other Wednesday, always in money. When goods [coals] are regular and ready my wages are 4s. a week. The girls work as long as the boys. We take bread and butter below and sometimes cheese. The water is good so we drink it when thirsty. I have never been hurt. I recollect Thomas Philips breaking his arm in two places twelve months ago. John Jones got his arm broke and William Jones cut his arm open as was a long time off work. John Philip sadly crushed his arm below. There are no married women in the mine. I live about a mile and a half from the works and feel weary when done as the work is very hard. I generally draw three score and ten drams daily. Our skips hold 1½ cwt of goods. Where I haul, the vein is only 18 to 20 inches high and the crawling through is very difficult. Men find it very hard to work the coal here. It is as hard as a brick and they shoot away the roof and work on their bellies and sides. The workings are dry as the masters have sunk a pit below and pump up all the water, We are frequently obliged to stop below and the men blow [blast] the roofs all day and that keeps us down frequently longer. Men go away when they please as they work by the job but we must work whether we like it or not or else we get the girdle [strap] and they give us plenty of it sometimes. Father was a collier and works at Kingsmoon, just by, as the shortness of his breath prevents him from labouring in the mine. he is much better now that he gets fresh air. He earns 8s. a week but works longer than he did when on the coal. I have not been to school for five years.

[Reads very well. Very intelligent but appeared dejected in spirits.]

No.436. Ann David, aged 13, haulier of skips.

I was 10 years old when first taken to work below ground. My sister and I haul the skips for the men to where the women wind. It is a good bit away. Boys and girls work together where we work. We work from six in the morning till seven or eight at night. The time is long and the work very hard indeed, the sad, tiring sort and I feel very glad when over. I work for John Nash, a contractor. I earn 7s. in the fortnight. Sister and I pull six score of skips daily, three score each. The more we draw the more we get. Some draw three score and ten. I cannot say how many three score are but I know would not pay me unless the work is done. I have never been hurt below ground though we pull down hill. I would like to work above ground. I was taught to read before working but now have forgotten it altogether. I can knit and sew a little. The tailor made my coat. He makes for all the women as none can do that sort of work.

[Little religious knowledge. Could not read. Very pale. Her sister, Mary, 16 years old, was very intelligent but had worked only three months below as the father, a collier, was laid aside with shortness of breath and the mother had been dead six months.]

No.437. Sarah Jones, aged 16, hauler of skips.

I have been working two and a half years. I work the same hours and in the same kind of work as the Davids. I have never been hurt. I can get no other work in this part or would prefer it.

[Reads very badly.]

No.438. William Lochlas, 12 years old, hauler of skips.

I began to haul three years ago. I find the work very hard as the crawling is very fatiguing. We work 12 and 14 hours daily and the same number of hours on Saturday. I get paid by the contractor every other Wednesday but make no stoppage away as the work is done by the score. There is no time for play below, if we play we get the girdle. There are no holidays only when there are no

goods [coals] come out. I draw three score and ten skips and earn 4s. I give my wages to my father who is off work with short breath. He has no other employment above.

[Reads very well. Speaks and reads English only as do all in this part of Pembrokeshire.]

No.439. William Morgan, 14 years old, hauler of skips.

I have worked for four years in the Kilgetty mines and I find the work very hard with long hours. We are kept waiting below sometimes for hours as the roofs have to be shot away. Men go when they have finished their tasks but we have to wait and do the hauling. I have not been to school except the Sunday Chapel since at work.

[Very intelligent and a good religious knowledge.]

No.440. Ann Thomas, 16 years old, windlass woman.

I have been in these mines 11 months but I did haul at the windlass before. I find the work very hard but cannot get any other. I earn 7s. and 8s. in the fortnight. Men do not like the winding, it is too hard for them. The hours depend on the goods coming away. We wind up 400 loads. Two women always work the windlass below ground.

[Reads a little. Very strong and although working below, from the character of the coal, was not very dirty.]

No.441. Thomas George Noote, Esq., surgeon, Bezelly, Pembrokeshire.

The disease most prevalent among the colliers are a superficial affection of the knee from constant kneeling with a similar disease on the sole of the foot from the effects of wet and spasmodic asthma (not bronchitis). Not one case of humid asthma has fallen under my care. The average duration of life, from inquiries made amongst the oldest of the workmen, may be taken at about 40 years. The practice of taking children into the mines does materially tend to injure the health in consequence of the inhalation of impure air producing a constriction of the muscular fibres of the bronchi thereby causing asthma. Were it possible to be done, I would not allow a child to be taken into the pits before the age of 15 but in consequence of the depth of ore they are more frequently taken in at an earlier age. Principally speaking, the dwelling of the working class is such that there is not a free circulation of air, the windows being generally fastened. A numerous family sleep in the same bed and there is no convenience for cleanliness and from those causes when typhus prevails it continues from 12 to 20 weeks which materially adds to the misery of the poor. As there is no other coal in this neighbourhood except anthracite, I refer you to the diseases mentioned in the first.

No.442. Lionel Brough, Esq., engineer and viewer, Neath.

The state or condition of the colliers and miners of this county I incline to the opinion that they are better off than in many other mining districts in Great Britain for, although at the present period of distress their wages have been reduced, still the average wage of any 10 years of the present century would show that if the happiness of the working class depends on a high rate of remuneration for labour, the inhabitants of the Welsh coal field have been rather favoured than otherwise as their scale of wages would be found by such an examination to be higher than in Staffordshire, the North of England or Scotland. The men generally have the advantage of good cottages, supplied them at a moderate rent and often good (though small) gardens attached. In addition to this the country is well situated as regards the supply of provisions, and clothing and being open to the Bristol and West of England, the Liverpool and Irish markets, independently of home produce which is very considerable. It thus appears that the mining population of this country has the double advantage of good wages and cheap supplies, therefore during what are termed the good times, I know of no other possessing superior means of comfort.

It certainly is of great importance that inquiry be made into the employment of children under 13 or 14 years of age. Boys, from the moment of their first employment up to the time they cease to perform the labour usually allotted to children are almost always well treated in South Wales, I therefore consider their being sent to work at an early age as rather a benefit than otherwise as they thus acquire the rudiments of their calling at a time of life that enables them at an early period to support themselves and the families often being large, it is obviously an advantage to the parents to have the lads cease to be a burden at an earlier age than is found to be the case in many other pursuits. That the children employed underground is the principality are not over worked to a tender age is evidenced by the general appearance of the adults, for, I believe a more healthy or athletic population is not to be found in any other coal county. As regards information, many of them can read and write, nevertheless I should strongly recommend that still further opportunities be afforded for acquiring education than those they now possess.

Ventilation often renders necessary the aid of underground doors and these, as in the North of England, are tended by children. No doubt methods might be contrived for opening and shutting air doors by machinery but I should never recommend their adoption. On the contrary, I advise the invariable employment of boys, but not very young ones. Trappers (as they are called) should be of an age to be thoroughly aware of the immense importance to life and property attending, or rather depending, on careful attention to their duty. In the North of England this will apply with greater force than in Wales as the quantity of carburetted hydrogen gas which exudes from the coal strata is greater in Durham and Northumberland than in the county now under notice.

In many parts of Wales the coal masters would be injured by with drawing young persons from under ground employment. I many instance one of the Pembrokeshire veins of anthracite, where the top and bottom are so excessively bad that all the timber that they can send down the pit is insufficient to keep the ways good enough for horse roads. They are, consequently, generally so low and narrow that boys only can tram the coal for the hewers to the bottom of the pit. To say that horse height could not be kept good in this vein would perhaps be a misrepresentation but it could only be effected at a cost that would deprive the owners of the mine of all profit whatever. Again, in Glamorganshire, there are many veins of coal on the southern side of the basin lying at an angle so highly inclined as entirely to prevent any access to the level trams to the stalls, therefore boys are employed, who bring the coal down in skips, or little carts, to the bottom or mouth of the stall where a place is made to deposit it after which it is filled into the main trams which are standing on a level road and is then removed by horse power to the mouth of the level or the bottom of the pit. In some of the thin veins which lie at the angle alluded to, I can safely say, that but for the aid of boys to perform the carting, these seams would not be worked at all. The employment is by no means more dangerous than other duties which fall to the lot of children underground.

The mode of ventilation adopted in South Wales is similar to the method used in the North of England. Acting on the principle of pillar and stall, they generally have a first and second seam working or, as it is termed in the North, the "whole coal and the broken." It has long been an established fact that there is no other preventative to loss of life by explosion than by a thorough ventilation. That is to say, to endeavour always to force the maximum quantity of atmospheric air through the workings, so as to sweep out all the dangerous gases, mostly carburetted hydrogen which kills by explosion and combustion and carbonic acid gas which destroys animal life almost as soon as it finds access to the lungs. It would occupy more of my time than I can just now well spare, to furnish a detailed explanation of how ventilation is, or rather, ought to be, carried on. Suffice to say, that by means of windways, always sufficiently capacious, well attended air doors, strongly built air stoppings, a good furnace at or near the bottom of the upcast, the employment of sober, steady officers, capable of consulting the state of the atmosphere as indicated in the barometer, &c., the use of carefully made Davy lamps and of men who well know how to handle them, and lastly, the most unwaring attention to every department of the one. If all these means are used there will be but little loss of life in Wales either by 'fire' or by blackdamp, although we have plenty of both but still nothing like the quantity found in the collieries of Northumberland and Durham where all the lengths above described to secure good ventilation and many more that I have not touched upon, are all insufficient to prevent occasional accidents of the most frightful description.

**THOMAS CHAPEL COLLIERY. St. Issell's parish, county of Pembroke.
Messrs. Thomas Stokes and Co., proprietors.**

Persons employed:-

	Males		Females
Adults	58	Adults	20
Under 18		Under 18	9
Under 13		Under 13	1

Steam power, 46 horse, employing for winding an raising water.

No.433. Mr. Thomas Stokes, Esq., proprietor.

He replied to the printed queries and states:-

"That the air in the Thomas Chapel Mines is conveyed through roads driven through the coal for the purpose and thence to the upcast shaft, The mine is entered only by shaft. The winding chains and the gear are examined at stated periods and only four persons are allowed to descend at a time. The coal is of the anthracite kind and varies from 18 to 20 inches in thickness, The main roads are

never less three feet in height. The top stone is cut away to give the workers room to dig the coal. The workings below ground vary in extent but the depth does not exceed 38 fathoms. There are no noxious gasses in the Thomas Chapel mines. There has been only one fatal accident within the last two years which caused the deaths of three persons which was occasioned by the chains of the winding engine breaking while three persons were descending which caused them to be precipitated and killed on the spot. New chains of greater strength have now been provided. No protection was found necessary over the corves while descending or ascending the shaft. The coals are always drawn by children from the workings but none use the girdle and chain or chain but draw the skips along the level roads by means of a goff, the handle of which is made of wood. There are 14 boys from 10 to 18 years of age thus employed and no girls. There are also 23 boys from 7 to 18 years of age and 8 girls from 11 to 15 years of age employed in pushing waggons along the main roads on rails. The distance of the skips and waggons are hauled is about 1005 fathoms. In many parts of the works there are two children employed to each skip or waggon and the distance varies according to the circumstances. The skip holds 1½ cwt of coal and the waggons 7 cwt. All the coals are drawn to the surface by machinery. The trammers commence work at 14 years of age and skip hauliers at 7 years old but the work does not require very young children. I know of no machinery that could be substituted in the room for the children. I think the age at which children should be employed ought to be limited to 10 years of age for at present the parents get their children employed as early as possible for the sake of the earnings and the consequence is that they become stunted in their growth. The number of working hours is eight and there is no relay of hands required. The children generally work two or three hours longer than the adults. It is of rare occurrence to work at night. There is no time allowed for meals but as the men work on piece, they stop when they think proper. Corporal punishment is not allowed and we forbid punishment in any way. There is no school attached to this colliery, nor society nor medical fund. Many of the men subscribe to benefit clubs.”

No.444. James Davies, 8 years old, trammer.

I have been below one year and work eight hours daily and earn 2s. a week which father takes. I work with him. I have never got hurt and assist to push trams with my brother who is 11 and has been down two years. The tram holds 7 cwt. We work longer than father. I never was at a day school but have been to Sunday School and can read in a little book.

No.445. David Thomas, 7 years old, trammer.

I have been here four months and work the same as James Davies and at the same sort of work. I do more and earn 2s. 6d. a week. I have never been hurt nor at a school and I do not go to Chapel. I do not know a letter.

No.446. William Prout. 12 years old, skip haulier.

I began work at eight years old at skip hauling. I work eight hours and longer daily. I was born in Amroth parish. I never have been to Church or Chapel and cannot read at all. I earn 3s. 6d. and work with my father but paid by the masters. I give the money to father. I have never got hurt.

No.447. Stephen Gwyther, 11 years old, windlass hitcher.

I have been two years and a half at hitching on the carts to the windlass chain for the women to draw up the incline. I work ten or twelve hours a day and can earn 3s. 6d. a week. I work on my own account but give the money to my parents. I was at day school before work and can read a little but was never at writing. I do not attend Church or Chapel.

No.448. George Lewis 16 years old, tram filler and trammer.

Wrought near here two years and was at coal work before. I work on my father's account and earn 6s. a week. Some men can earn 10s. others 8s. a week. I was at a day school once and was taught to read. I attend Chapel regularly and can read an easy book.

No.449. Thomas Phillips, 15 years old, skip haulier.

I began work three years since. I haul skips and earn 5s. a week. I have never been injured. I was at school and taught reading and writing. I attend Church regularly but I do not go to Sabbath or night school now.

No.450. Isaac Day, 16 years old, tram hitcher.

I have been below ground for five years. I work as Stephen Gwyther but can do more. I earn 8s. and work for father. I read a little which was taught at Sunday School.

No.451. Eliza Prout, 15 years old, trammer.

I began work when I was 11 years old. I work as the others and the usual hours. The more we draw the more we earn. I get 4s. a week. I go regularly to Chapel but cannot read nor write. My sister is 18 years old and she winds the windlass below. She can earn 4s. also. We take the money home. Sister reads a little.

No.452. Hester Callan, 18 years old, windlass woman.

I have been employed three years below at winding the windlass. The work requires good strength. I work eight and ten hours daily and earn 4s. I receive money always from the master. Father works below also. I have never got injured and have learned to read at Sunday School but not to wrote. I always go to Church.

No.453. Mary Day, 11 years old, trammer.

I have been nearly two years at tramming and work eight hours and ten hours. I was born in this parish. I have never got hurt. The coal trams weigh 7 cwt. I can earn 3s. a week for my parents. I always attend Sunday School and lave learned a little reading there.

No.454. Sarah Davies, 15 years old, trammer.

I began work when I was 11 years old and was taken down by father who works at the heads now. I work with other girls and earn 3s. a week. I have never been hurt. I attend Chapel and Sunday School and have taught to read in the Testament.
