

# **CHILDREN'S EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION 1842.**

## **South Wales 2**

**REPORT by RHYS WILLIAM JONES,  
Esq., on the Employment of Children and  
Young Persons in Monmouth and the  
Pontypool and Merthyr Districts,  
Blaenavon and Clydach Iron Works near  
Abergavenny,  
Nantyglo and Beaufort, Sirhowy and Ebbw  
Vale, Tredegar and Rhymney and Bute Iron  
Works in the County of Monmouth,  
Dowlais, Penydarran and the Aberdare Iron  
works near Merthyr Tydvil,  
Cwmavon Iron, Tin and Copper works and  
the Collieries and the Oakwood Collieries,  
near Port Talbot.  
The Iron Works in Bridgend, Neath and  
Swansea,  
The Copper Works at Swansea and Llanelly,  
and the Collieries in the Western part of  
Glamorgan and Carmarthenshire, and on  
the State, Condition and Treatment of such  
Children and Young Persons.**

**Edited by  
Ian Winstanley.**

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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](mailto: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.

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**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, Two 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 well 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.*

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# Children's Employment Commission.

**REPORTS by RHYS WILLIAM JONES, ESQ., on the Employment of Children and Young Persons in the Collieries, Iron Works, &c., of Monmouthshire and South Wales and on the state, Condition and Treatment of such Children and Young Persons.**

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## **PONTYPOOL DISTRICT.**

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**TO HER MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONERS.**

GENTLEMEN,

May 15, 1841.

In the parish of Trevethin, in which the town of Pontypool is situated, there are several large and important iron works and collieries, in which, and the mines connected with them, there are great numbers of children and young persons.

### **I - AGGREGATE NUMBER.**

It is very difficult to obtain any correct information for the aggregate number employed as the returns from all the works have not been received but it may be estimated including the tin works and collieries in the adjoining parishes between Pontypool and Caerleon, at from 1500 to 2000.

The total population of the parish of Trevethin is estimated at present at 15,000 and I estimate that one third part of the gross population, or 5000 persons are employed in the different works and one fifth part of the persons so employed, or 1000, are under 18 years of age. Some gentlemen in the neighbourhood consider there are a greater number of children and young persons in the works but from the returns which I have received and the information I have been able to collect, I cannot estimate that there are much more than 1000 under the age of 18 years employed in the various mines and manufactories in the parish of Trevethin. Some very interesting and valuable statistical information respecting the Pontypool and the parish of Trevethin was with considerable industry collected about twelve months ago by G.S. Kenrick, Esq., manager of the "Varteg Works," (a gentleman most highly respected and valued in the neighbourhood), and published by him a pamphlet, after having made it the subject of a lecture delivered at the Pontypool Mechanics' Institution. Mr. Kenrick states the general population of the parish of Trevethin to have been in March, 1840, 17, 196, the number of houses 2908, giving six persons to a house. The number of sleeping rooms 5496, giving three and one eighth persons to a sleeping room. The number of children under three years of age, 1884, children from 3 to 12 years of age (before the age of education), 3547, or one fifth of the population. Number going to day schools, 1022, average attendance at the Sunday Schools, 2210, proportion of houses having Bibles, 80 per cent, persons who say they do not go to any place of worship, 2161. These statistical details were collected a few months after the Chartist riots, since which the extensive iron works at "The Varteg," have been suspended (to the great loss of the neighbourhood), and the population is estimated to have decreased at least 2000 and there are in different parts of the parish upwards of 2000 houses untenanted.

The youngest age at which children in the neighbourhood are employed in the works is between six and seven years. The fathers (of colliers or miners in particular) frequently take their sons and sometimes their daughters, at this age, to carry their tools to be sharpened and repaired, to open and shut the doors that direct the air courses in the collieries and mines or do some other light description of work that may assist them in their labour and increase their weekly earnings. The number, however, taken to work at this infantile age is not great, probably not more than one or two such children may be found on the establishment of each of the works but between the ages of eight and nine the children become capable of more useful labour, particularly in the mine works, where, in addition to carrying the tools and keeping doors, they assist their parents in casting back and

filling the broken rubbish and in pushing the small trams in and out that convey it away. In the collieries, in the coke yards and in the forges, there are several descriptions of work to which the labour of children can be applied and at this age in the vicinity of the iron works, they are withdrawn from schools and taken to labour to increase by their exertions the (probably already large) earnings of their parents, and not unfrequently to add to their means of dissipation at the beer houses.

Speaking of the age at which the children quit the schools and enter the works, Mr. Kenrick observes:-

As soon as the child attains the age of nine, his father can get a shilling or two a week by him and takes him into the level. When Mr. Tremeneere visited our schools there was not one boy there above nine years old. The boy who had last quitted the school had been taken by his father at eight and half years of age to work in the coal level with him.

The number of children, between the ages of 9 and 13 found in the works is not however as large as that of young person between 13 and 18 years old but the greatest number at work range between the ages of 10 and 15 years. Fully two thirds of the children and young persons employed in the iron works and collieries are found within these ages.

## **II - HOURS OF WORK.**

The children and young persons generally work the same hours as the adults, seldom less but frequently more, particularly in the collieries and mine works where they are almost invariably employed in bringing it the coal and mine worked and broken by the men.

They mostly commence at six o'clock in the morning and leave off at six or seven in the evening. They very frequently work two or three hours overtime, which they are induced to do from some accidental circumstances interfering during the day with the dispatch of their labours or when on some occasions a greater quantity of work than usual is required to be done. On these occasions they generally remain at work until the allotted task is done and at many establishments, when in full work, and when only the day set of hands are employed, the labours of the pits and level are commenced at six o'clock in the morning and are not suspended, three days out of six, until seven or eight o'clock in the evening.

Night work is not generally practised in the collieries and mine works but at the iron furnaces and forges the work is continued both day and night, the hands changing at six o'clock in the morning and six o'clock in the evening. and the children work at night as well as by day.

The labours of the children and young persons in the works of this neighbourhood are not continuous when severe. Very few complain of the severity of their work but to a casual observer, many descriptions of labour in which they are employed would seem to be extremely severe, particularly in the iron works where their active exertions in handling the heated masses and bars of iron as they pass through the different processes of the forge and rolling mills, often throws them into profuse perspiration but there are periods of cessation as well as periods of exertion and after working for half an hour or an hour, in an atmosphere heated to a high and almost scorching temperature by the bright masses of iron passing in quick succession thorough the rollers at which they work, "the heat" being over and the rude mass of metal reduced to a regular shaped bar or rail, the period of cessation arrives and they are at rest and frequently to play for 15 to 20 minutes, while the furnace again performs its office, heating other "piles" or masses of metal to undergo the same process. These periods of cessation occur in the forges and mills at least seven or eight times in the 12 hours.

## **III - MEALS.**

At the iron works, both at the furnaces and forges, the hour between one and two o'clock is pretty regularly allowed for meals, excepting in some few departments of the fire work, where the arrangements of the furnaces will not allow of it but in all departments of the work there are intervals free from active exertion within which sufficient time is obtained for the taking of meals and I have heard no complaint on this head from any party.

In the collieries and mine works, however, there are no allotted times for meals, excepting for the people working on the surface. the people working in the interior of the mines can scarcely be said to take any meals during the period they are at work, varying from 18 to 14 hours. They get their breakfast before they enter the works and take with them a small bag of bread and cheese

(their almost invariable fare), which they eat at irregular intervals during the day as the circumstances of their work will allow and as their appetites invite them and on their return to work they get their suppers, or what can be correctly called, their dinners. In this respect the children and young persons fare precisely the same as adults, excepting that the latter very frequently get homes to their evening meal some hour or two before the former.

#### **IV. - NATURE OF EMPLOYMENT.**

The description of the different kinds of work in which children and young persons are employed will be found in the examinations which I have taken at the several works and is, together with the numbers and ages of the persons so employed, partly given in the preceding parts of this Report.

I have not observed, nor have I been able to learn, that any branch of employment at the different works in this district is unfavourable to the health of the children of young persons engaged in it, no cases having been brought under my notice of sickness arising either from the nature or duration of the employment of the parties.

On the contrary, all the medical men attached to the works which I have visited and with whom I have been enabled to confer on this subject, agree in stating that the children and young persons employed in the works enjoy a greater share of health and are freer from the epidemics of the neighbourhood, than children of similar ages not so employed.

#### **V - STATE OF THE PLACE OF WORK.**

The collieries and mines are mostly well ventilated. When any parts of them are otherwise, it is the result only of casual circumstances and free ventilation is speedily restored and maintained.

It is seldom that the juvenile part of the workpeople are set to work where any impurity of air exists and, as intimated under the preceding head of this Report. I do not find that "their exclusion from daylight and open air, when employed in the mines, and their exposure to subterranean damp." has any prejudicial effect upon their general health.

#### **VI - ACCIDENTS.**

From the information I have been able to obtain on this head, I found fatal accidents and even those of any serious importance, comparatively few in this neighbourhood.

I have no precise data to estimate the proportion they bear to the number of persons employed but I think I should fully calculate their amount if I stated the fatal accidents in the works of this district to be 1 in 1000 per annum and the serious accidents, permanently maiming or crippling the individuals, 1 in 500 per annum. Slight accidents, such as burns, cuts and bruises are numerous but as they scarcely come under the notice of the surgeon, no accurate estimate of their proportionate number can be formed.

The fatal accidents mostly occur from explosion of firedamp (often arising from carelessness) and sudden falls of stone in the mines and collieries and from the falling or slipping of some heavy parts of the machinery or materials from the surface, or upon the numerous railways and "inclined planes" and it is from the same causes that the men get maimed or crippled but they are seldom injured from the crowded state of the machinery or from its being inadequately boxed off.

I have not observed that children are ever employed at the iron works while it is in motion. The large steam engine employed at the iron works are always under the care of adults whose duty it is to keep them clean and who often clean the bright parts of the machinery and gearing while it is in motion but I have not heard of any accidents occurring by their so doing.

#### **VII - HOLIDAYS.**

There are but few holidays observed in this neighbourhood and none that I am aware of for the purpose of allowing the children recreation and play.

Every department of the works excepting the blast furnaces of the iron works are stopped on Sundays and on Christmas Day and some on Good Friday and on Easter Monday.

The blast furnaces and some iron works are also stopped from 8 to 12 hours on Sundays but at none excepting the furnaces of C.H. Leigh, Esq., in this neighbourhood. This very laudable practice of stopping the blast furnaces for 8 to 12 hours on the Sabbath, I am of opinion might (as a rule) be adopted generally at all works when the furnaces are "in order." with little or no detriment save the loss of a few tons in the weekly "make of iron." When a furnace happens to be working "out of order," it might be attended with serious loss to cut the blast off even for a few hours but this could be not an occasional circumstance and the real necessity of incessantly blowing a furnace on a Sunday could scarcely happen as a well regulated works a dozen times a year. On this subject I must refer to the statement of Mr. William Wood, the intelligent and talented manager of the British Iron Company's Works at Abersychan and to the statements of the different furnace managers whose evidence I have taken.

## VIII - HIRING AND WAGES.

The children and young persons are generally employed and paid by the adults whom they assist who are not unfrequently their fathers and the terms on which they are hired are determined by such persons and not by the masters of the works. This is, to a great degree, the system throughout the collieries and mine works and at the iron furnaces, forges and rolling mills. When the children and young persons are not employed with their parents, they make their own contracts and receive their own wages. I haven't been informed of any instance of parents borrowing money of the masters to be repaid by the labours of the children.

There are some of the children who are, however, almost invariably employed and paid by the masters of the works, such as the door boys and some of the drivers of horses in the collieries and mines and the drivers at the coke yards of the furnaces and some others whose employment is separate from that of the men but when the children and young persons are employed to assist men, they are then in most cases hired and paid by them.

The wages earned by the children and young persons in this neighbourhood, as well as by adults, are rather high and were higher about 12 to 18 months ago, but wages are now again expected to fall at least 10 per cent. Boys from 7 to 10 years of age get 3s. to 4s. 6d. per week, from 10 to 15 years of age from 5s. to 12s. and from 15 to 18 years of age, from 12s. to 18s. per week, According to the work performed and the quantity done.

The majority of the people being employed by piece, or contract work and paid according to the quantity performed, they pay their assistants by the same rule.

The wages earned by the girls are not so high as by the boys and they do not go to the works at such an early age (except in a few instances), nor is there in this neighbourhood so large a proportion of them employed as in the districts a little farther west. Here the proportion of girls to boys (under 18 years old) employed in the works may be stated at 1 to 10. The girls are employed and paid in the same manner as the boys. When employed under the age of 10 years, their earnings seldom exceed 3s. per week, from the age 10 to 13 they get about 4s. or 5s. per week and from 13 to 18 they can get 6s. to 12s. per week according to the work they are engaged at.

The highest wages I found girls earning in this neighbourhood was at the rolling mills of the Abersychan Works where, at the ages of 16 or 17 years, they earn from 12s. to 15s. per week for the comparatively light work of "pulling iron" in the mills preparatory to its being heated and rolled for railway bars.

The wages earned in this district for the last few years is thus stated by Mr. George Kenrick:-

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
	1	0	0				
The furnaceman, founder, puddler, and roller	1	15	0				
been earning per week	2	0	0	to	3	10	0
	3	0	0				
The collier and miner, taking the average, after							
paying candles and powder	1	2	6				
The navigator	0	18	0				
The agricultural labourer	0	12	0	to	0	15	0
Boys	0	4	0	to	0	12	0
Women	0	7	0	to	0	8	0

On this subject Mr. Kenrick makes the following comment:-



“Compare this period with the years 1822 when the colliers at the Varteg did not earn upon an average 12s. 6d. per week and then tell me what is become of the savings of the working men. Have they gone to the savings bank? No! You may find that the agricultural labourers with their 12s. per week, girls in service with their £4 per annum, apprentices with their trifling income, have saved money but you will not find more than twenty persons from the iron works out of a population of 12,000 who have deposits in the savings banks. It is clear then that the savings have not gone to the bank. What is become of them? Are they invested in houses or lands? There are some houses built by the working men and houses are good investments for the money of a workman but I was surprised to find how small the number of houses on “The Garn” belonging to workmen, only 91 and when you consider that these have been building during a space of 15 years, it is indeed a lamentable account. But may the people have not put their moneys to some other good purpose? In some instances they may, but I fear not in many. For a short time ago when four men had been committed to the House of Correction by the magistrates, their wives were obliged to apply to the parish the very next day because they had no food for their children and their husbands had not left a single shilling to buy bread for them although earning 40s. a week each. Thus, when the time of high wages is past there will be no fragments of the wreck of prosperity to be gathered, all has been swallowed up in the abyss of drunkenness.”

## **IX - TREATMENT AND CARE.**

I cannot find that there are any means used in the works of this neighbourhood to encourage the exertions of the children and young persons at their work, excepting by the advancing of their wages or by promotion to better positions or superior employment.

There is generally a great spirit of emolument among the boys, particularly the younger ones, first to be admitted and then to be advanced in tier works and the feeling stimulates them both to exertion and to good behaviour. Their labours are seldom enforced by punishments and when it does become necessary, corporal punishments are but seldom resorted to. The general punishments inflicted in workpeople in this district, both children and adults, are fines deducted from their wages. There is no regular scale of fines that have come to my knowledge, but I find them practised almost universally at the different works. The usual fine for small faults or misdemeanours such as drunkenness, fighting and neglect of work is 2s. 6d. for each offence but if the crime is of greater magnitude, and has occasioned any loss or detriment to the master, the fine is enhanced sometimes to 5s. or 10s. in the discretion of the agent.

At some of the large works these fines from the men and boys amount to a considerable sum per annum, perhaps £50 to £100 and they have been found to be the most effectual expedient to preserve diligence and order among the workpeople. Fines being almost universally practised at the different works, it has been suggested that it would be desirable they should be equalised and legalised and that their amount should be carried to some fund appropriated to some useful purpose. At the Abersychan Works the fines have until recently been carried to a fund called “the sick fund,” supported also by weekly contributions by the workpeople, and from which they obtained in cases of sickness a weekly allowance but this fund, becoming abused has become abandoned and it is supposed by Mr. Wood, the manager, that the balance of the fines, amounting to about £200, now standing on the books to the credit of this fund, should be appropriated to the building of a school house and he further suggested that the fines in future inflicted upon the people should go, aided by the contributions of the company, to support the school. (See Evidence of Mr. William Wood.)

With reference to the care taken of the children when they have finished their daily labour, I fear it amounts to much less than is taken of them while they are at work. During their hours of labour there are, in addition perhaps to being under control of their parents, under the surveillance of the agents and overmen of the works and misconduct is to a great degree checked and suppressed but on quitting the works this latter restraint is removed and the care taken of them and the examples set at their homes, is but too often of the most lax and pernicious description.

Speaking of the manner in which the children of this neighbourhood are brought up by their parents, Mr. George Kenrick observes:-

“There is a portion too considerable of the children who are brought up by drunken, swearing, reprobate parents who neither send their them to school nor take them to a place of worship, whose education consists in listening to the conversation of their parents, interlarded with oaths, obscene expressions and praises of successful roguery, who play with boys as wicked and thoughtless as themselves. What can be expected but that as the wind is sown the whirlwind shall be reaped?”

And in these observations I am compelled to entirely agree.

## **X - PHYSICAL CONDITION.**

I have not observed that the physical condition of the children and young persons employed in the works of this district is in any way deteriorated by either the nature or amount of their employment. There may be some cases in which the health of the children may be affected by their employment but these cases are w and not one has yet been brought under my notice worthy of comment and on this head I must beg to refer you to the Report of Mr. Edward E. Tucker, the experienced resident surgeon at the British Iron Company's Works.(No.11).

## **XI - MORAL CONDITION.**

The provision made for the religious instruction and moral training of the children and young persons in this district is decidedly deficient. The majority of them receive no instruction excepting at the Sunday Schools. These Schools are numerously attended and undoubtedly of the most important advantage to the juvenile working classes who in their absence (in the present dearth of other schools) would receive no education whatever. Last years Mr. Kenrick ascertained with great pains that the number of children attending Sunday Schools of all denominations was 2210. In order to show concisely the statistics of the places of worship and schools in this parish, I submit the following statements which have been compiled by Rev. Mr. Thomas Thomas, Baptist minister of Pontypool and Charles Conway, Esq.

### **The Number of Places of Worship in the parish of Trevethin.**

#### **The Church**

3 curates, 1 non-parochial, 2 to be added.

2 churches, 1 Episcopal Chapel and 2 or 3 rooms all capable of holding about 180 persons

1 Day School with average attendance of 160 to 190.

2 English Sunday School to 250 attendance, 1 Welsh now forming.

1 Welsh service in each of the 2 churches and Sundays lately commenced.

#### **Dissent.**

Say 15 to 20 ministers

22 chapels, some of them having several hundred members and 3 or 2 rooms.

11 Welsh Sunday Schools and 11 English from 1500 to 2000 educated.

14 Welsh Chapels with services in Welsh in each of which 2 or 3 sermons are regularly preached almost every week.

### **Table Showing the Admeasurements of all Places of Worship in Trevethin, including the Chapel of Ease which is being built under the auspices of the Pastoral Aid Society.**

		Feet
Established Church	4 places containing	9250
Baptists	5 places containing	9316
Independents	6 places containing	9392
Wesleyans	7 places containing	9288
Primitive Methodists	2 places containing	1098
Calvinistic	2 places containing	2243
Unitarians	1 places containing	312
Catholics	1 places containing	1192
Total feet		4181.

The above table does not include the chancel, belfries, and vestries but gives the absolute room devoted to worship on the Sabbath.

In addition to the schools mentioned there are now two other public day schools in the parish on the Infant School System. One of these schools is near the town of Pontypool and establish and maintained by Mr. C.H. Leigh, Esq. The other is at Varteg and established principally maintained by Mr. Kenrick. They are each, I believe, attended by from 80 to 100 children.

Independent of the public schools there are several private day schools and also night schools at Pontypool. The expense of attendance at which, for the children of the working people is from 4d. to 6d. per week but they are by no means well attended by the children of the class, among whom

there is a great degree of apathy observable with regard to the education of their children. This apathy results in many cases from the selfishness and dissipated habits of their parents and in others from ignorance of the benefits of education having never received any themselves, they cannot appreciate its advantages to their children and estimate even 1d. per week as more than its worth.

Under these circumstances, so little encouragement being given to he, it cannot be expected that the teachers at these schools, either in station or knowledge, or in previous training of their office, can be qualified to the extent that could be desired.

For further or more particular information as to the system of teaching at the Sunday and public schools, I must refer to the statements made by the Rev. T. Thomas and other gentlemen from this neighbourhood which I have added as an Appendix to this Report.

With reference to the employment of females in the works during childhood, I have no doubt but that it has a tendency to prevent them forming the domestic habits usually acquired by women in their station and to render them less fit for performing the duties of wives and mothers than those whose early years have not been spent in such labour, or than those who have been employed as domestic servants.

The employments of the works give them a distaste for domestic duties or, as they term it, "house work." Having been taken to it at 10 or 12 years of age by their parents, at 16 or 18 they pursue it for themselves and they prefer it, because they have more liberty than house servants and because they get more money but it deprives them almost entirely of education and leads than almost invariably to early marriages, encouraged also by the high wages earned by young persons of the other sex which enables them so easily to provide for a family. On this subject Mr. Kendrick states:-

"In many parts of the country a large family is considered a heavy burden here it is often the means of bringing a considerable income to the parents. The combined effects of these causes is to lead people to marry before they understand the duties and responsibilities which they take upon themselves and young girls leave the Sunday School at 15 and 16 to get married."

By these early marriages the girls escape the imputation of unchastity while spinsters but the low state of education among them and the coarseness of feeling contracted by them when labouring in the works. added to the general practice of those who have cottages to take single men as lodgers, operates rather prejudicially on their characters when married and the infidelity of the wife and the jealousy and brutality of the husband too often occasion scenes of the most demoralising description to be enacted before the children.

In the districts where the wages are the highest and in those here they are the lowest, the greatest inducements appear to exist for employing females in the laborious departments of the mines and manufactories. Where wages are high, workmen are generally scarce and women and girls are enlisted to supply the deficiency of males. Where wages are low, the people are consequently poor and female labourers are called out in aid of the support of their families but in other parts of the country where wages generally range between these extremes, females are seldom or never employed in works of the kind and it was possible to preclude them from such "out door" employments altogether, particularly under the age of 18 years, I am of the opinion that such an interdiction would operate more as a boon than as a hardship, both to themselves and to the country.

The proportionate number of females employed in the works in the parish of Trevethin is not so great as in the parishes to the west between it and Merthyr, nor are they so much employed in the subterraneous parts of the mines.

When the Varteg Iron Works were in full activity, employing about 1400 men and boys, the number of females was 74. At the British Iron Works at present, the number of men and boys employed is 1224 and the women and girls 76 of whom 26 only (or about one third) are under the age of 18 years.

At the iron works of C.H. Leigh, Esq., near the town of Pontypool, there are but few, if any, females under the age of 18 employed, but within the buildings of the tin works, which afford much more suitable employment for them, there are about 20 at work.

The proportion of females employed in and about the mines and manufactories of this parish, may, I think, be stated at about one twentieth of the whole number of people employed. In the vicinity of Merthyr I think the proportion will be greater but in the districts to the west of that place there are comparatively but few females found labouring in the mines, excepting at the small collieries on the northern verge of the mineral basin in Carmarthenshire and in Pembrokeshire, where women (generally adults) are employed at the tops of the shafts in gangs of six or eight together winding the coal by windlass up the pits and discharging it from baskets on the banks for which they get in these districts from 6d. to 10d. per day.

## XII - COMPARTATIVE CONDITION.

Perhaps as much can be said under this head has been included in the previous parts of this Report, I may, however, be allowed to add a few observations.

The comparative state of the children and young persons working in the mines and manufactories is not I think inferior but perhaps superior to those of the same classes in the neighbourhood employed at home or remaining unemployed.

Those at work, from earning good wages, are generally better clothed and better fed than those unemployed and as their labour, from its nature or duration, is seldom found to operate prejudicially on their physical condition the comparison may be safely said to be in their favour.

Persons brought up from childhood in the mines and manufactories of this district seldom have recourse to their employments in after life but generally continue in the same description of employment which practice the continually increasing magnitude of the works has tended to encourage and favour. The circumstances of the works of this district being free from legislative restriction and the possession, both by parents and masters, of unlimited power to employ children at any age and for any number of hours in them, cannot, in my opinion, have any effect on those branches of "manufacturing industry which are now subject to legislative restriction," for independently of being carried on in separate and distinct districts, their products are of so dissimilar a nature and description that they can in no way come into competition with each other.

Before concluding this imperfect Report. I may be allowed to add to it a few remarks upon the "besetting sins" not only in their neighbourhood of Pontypool but the whole of the mining district of South Wales, "drunkenness and petty thieving," vices which are undoubtedly greatly augmented by the pernicious influence of the numerous "beer shops" which have within the last few years sprung up around every works.

Speaking of this unhappy influence in the parish of Trevethin, Mr. George Kenrick makes the following observations:-

"The number of public houses in the parish is now 38 and there are 132 beer shops, making a total of 170 places for the sale of intoxicating drinks, besides a number of places where it is sold without licence under the characteristic name of "Bid-alls." In the years 1831 the number of public houses was only 37. It is therefore, no wonder that drunkenness and disorder have so much increased. I shall hail the times with joy when our places of worship in Trevethin are doubled but we have something which requires attention before that wish is consummated. The first thing required is that a cure be found for that prevalent vice, drunkenness, which is said to be the distinguishing mark of an inhabitant of the British Isle, and distinguishes the iron district of South Wales above every other part of this besotted country. I grieve to tell you that the number of drunkards in our parish is not less than 1962! And this account, mind, is received from the mouths of the individuals themselves or of their families. This is a self-inflicted judgement, that there are the the parish of Trevethin 1962 drunkards out of a population of 17,196 persons.

Perhaps some will be surprised that I could obtain an account of the number of the drunkards and anticipate a great reluctance to give information, but I did not find it the case. A certain colliers being asked the number of drunkards in his house said, "Will you count them as I call their names". There's my son, John, Jim and William, Dick, Thomas, Ned and Joe, that makes seven and there's myself," and pointing to his wife, "There's the old woman, you may put her down for she gets drunk as well as the rest of us!" That was making a rather bad use of the maxim, "Train up a child in the way is should go."

I am sorry to add that the taste for ardent spirits is becoming more general. When I came into the parish, scarcely any one drank spirits, now boys of 10 or 12 years of age will go into the bar of a public house and call for a noggin of rum and farmers' wives and daughters will take a glass of spirits on a market day without a blush.

Do I over rate the evils of drunkenness in the parish? and am I wrong in saying that the proper nursery for all kinds of sedition and disturbance, of which we have had enough, is the beer shop? It is not the place where robberies are planned, where quarrels and assaults are promoted, from which discontent and rebellion spring, where the hard earned wages of the artisan are squandered in riot and confusion, to the injury of his health and of his understanding and the ruin of the family? When ages are high, what becomes of the surplus earnings of a workman? They go to the drunkard's savings bank, the beer shop and I calculate that the workmen at the Varteg Iron Works alone, deposited in that kind of security £12,000 during the last 12 months. The misfortune is that if sickness or bad times arrive, the deposits are all fast and no man can recall his money but on the

other hand he has acquired that habit of body which makes intoxication appear to him a necessary of life.”

For further remarks on the deplorable effect of beer shops I must beg to refer to the answers given to the printed queries by Mr. Charles Conway and Mr. William Wood (See Appendix), who unite in condemning their influence and in urging their suppression.

The vice of petty stealing, which is so prevalent in this district, is clearly the result of the want of a second religious education and of proper moral training. Mr. Kenrick, whose searching inquiries have penetrated into every characteristic of the social and moral state of this neighbourhood, gives the following instances of this vice:-

“Even among the respectable part of the people, there is rather a loose kind of morality, which springs from an imperfect education, want of thought, early habit and prejudice. A man who would scorn to receive pay for work he had not done and who would return me a sovereign paid him instead of a shilling, will yet think it is no sin to break up my hedges and use them for firewood, to cut down my brushwood to heat his oven or steal my coal. These are things happening continually. A local preacher was sent from a neighbouring work to the House of Correction for the latter offence and I found a woman innocently enough chopping cordwood to light her oven a few days ago. I said to her, “I shall want to bake myself perhaps tomorrow, suppose I come then and break your door for firewood,” She saw at once the impropriety of her conduct. Previously she seemed to think she was doing nothing wrong.

Notwithstanding the numerous Chapel of the Dissenters, their frequent preaching and Sunday Schools, there is yet something else wanted to remove the ignorance and to raise the tone of morality among the working classes of this district.

The same gentleman whom I have so largely quoted, would point out sound and early education as the principle remedy. He emphatically puts the question to himself:-

“What is the cause of the credulity which makes the people a prey to the artful demagogue and gives rise to the vices which afflict society?”

And supplies the answer:-

“It is want of education at schools, insufficient education and bad education at homes, therefore the remedy is a sound, intellectual and religious education and moral training from a tender age.”

I have the honour to be, Gentleman.

Your most obedient servant,

R.W. JONES,

Sub-Commissioner.

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## APPENDIX.

### **Statement of the Rev. Thomas Thomas, Baptist minister, of Penygarn, Pontypool.**

In the parish of Trevethin there are, I believe, 21 Sunday Schools attended by about 1900 children 4 of which are connected with the Church of England attended by 350, and 17 with Dissenters attended by 1550. There are also four day schools (and two ladies' schools, at Trosnant. An infant school established by C.H. Leigh, Esq., at Twmpath and a boys' and a girls' school at Abersychan. At the town school, for boys and girls, the latter are taught needlework and most of the schools are attended by some of the children of miners and colliers. There is a very strong disposition to put children to work as early as they are able, hence the importance of the infant schools in this district and at all iron and coal works, to initiate them as nearly as possible in the first principles of education. The branches of instruction taught in the present schools are merely reading, writing and ciphering. The teachers are very plain, with a few exceptions, and there is no reliance upon the continuance in school of the children of parents connected with the works after they are from 8 to 10 years of age. The early removal of children from school destroys their taste for reading and after going to work they early enter into benefit or friendly societies, which, however good in themselves, give them the habit of entering into the public houses and a taste for drinking and sensual pursuits. Our town school is capable of accommodating double the number of children that can be induced to continue in it. The Sunday Schools are very important helps, and if they were carried out to the full extent of their principles, would be of much higher value in communicating Scriptural knowledge, hundreds of children in this district have no other instruction than what they obtain at these gratuitous schools but writing or ciphering is never taught in them. Efficient infant schools, conducted by pious characters with Sunday Schools conducted in a similar manner, would be a great blessing to the neighbourhood.

### **Statement of William Hood, Esq., manager of Abersychan Iron Works.**

[In this statement Mr. Hood has given a good description of the employment of children and young persons which is available to the whole of the iron works near Pontypool and it contains some very intelligent observations on the subject.]

Our mines are ventilated as follows:- The air descends the working pit of shaft, passes along the main heading or roadway to the forepart of the work. It then passes through the stalls where the men cut through "thirlings" in the pillars and, after circulating through the whole works, is discharged at a higher level into the open air. Furnaces are sometimes employed to assist the ventilation. This keeps the workings well aired and is the principle employed at all the pits. The mine are entered, with three exceptions, by shafts. These exceptions are three levels driven into the side of the hill. Each pit is under the charge of a foreman whose duty it is to supervise the chains and machinery. It is also the duty of the mineral agents to attend to the chains and machinery. There is no regulation as to ascending and descending. I have seen five or six men come up together and have frequently formed one of such number myself. They stand on a carriage suspended from the chains and there is not the least danger in as many going up or down as can stand on it, the chains, being strong enough to carry above two tons exclusive of carriage. The main horse roads are not less than four and a half feet high, generally from five to six feet and occasionally more. The veins of ironstone vary from one to six inches in thickness and the coal from two feet and a half to eight feet. In the mine works the main headings are generally higher than the ground in which the ironstone is found, consequently the roof is cut to make "horse room." In the collieries, with very few exceptions, the coals are sufficiently thick for headroom without cutting the roof but where it is required, it is done. The depth below the surface varies from 20 to 70 fathoms. The gases found in these mines are carburetted hydrogen and carbonic gas. There have been several slight explosions in the collieries during the last two years occasioned entirely by the foolhardiness of the men in trusting to the indication given by the candle in preference to using the Davy lamp. One case proved fatal.

The following is a list of the accidents:-

Hurt but recovered		Killed	
Firedamp	7	Firedamp	1
Falls of coal &c.	18	Falls of coal &c.	4
Fell into pit	2	Drowned	2
Hurt by coal tram	1	Got entangled in chain	1
Hand cut off by chaff engine	1	Chain breaking	2
Total	29	Total	10

The majority of those who were hurt and recovered were but slightly injured and none of them permanently maimed excepting the man who had his hand cut off. They are now all pursuing their usual employment. All precautions are taken to recent accidents that are practicable. Ventilation is particularly attended to and a large supply of Davy lamps are provided and a sufficient quantity of timber for props and good machinery. In 99 cases out of every 100, accidents are the result of carelessness on the part of the men themselves, who to save a little trouble, will risk their lives. They are from their infancy inured to the dangers of a miner's life and nothing will ever make time more cautious. There is no protection over their heads of the people in ascending and descending the pits. I have never known an accident occur in such cases. The whole of the ironstone and the coal is conveyed along headways and landed on the pit bank by means of horses and machinery. The use of the belt and chain is unknown in this work. The ore is brought to the surface wholly by horses and machinery. There are but few children employed about the furnaces under 13 years of age. We have but two filling mine and three assisting to fill cokes. In the forge and mills there are two children, one pulling up furnace doors and one dragging out bars and there are six employed at hooking or heaving up the iron rolls. There are however, 147 young persons between the ages of 13 and 18 years. With few exceptions there are no females at the mines employed at any description of underground work. A man may sometimes take a daughter or a wife to assist him but very rarely. The work at which the children are generally employed is in assisting their parents or others in filling coal or ironstone into the trams, attending air doors and in driving horses. There is no particular age at which the children are first put to work. A great deal depends upon the parents and the facilities they have of getting for them. A man with a large family is anxious to render the boys productive at as early age as he can and if employed himself at such work as will admit of his taking his child or children to assist him, he will frequently do so from 8 to 10 years of age. This applies more particularly to the colliers and miners. It must, however, not be inferred from this that the children are hardly treated, for they are merely taken into the mine to perform such light work as their tender years will admit of.

At all iron manufactories there is a good deal of light work for which children are much better adapted than grown up persons being much more active and they perform the work with less inconvenience to themselves than would be the case with adults. Although they are employed under 12 years of age, I am of the opinion they would be equally suitable at this age. I am not aware of any machinery which could be applied to supersede the use of children.

With reference to limitation of the age at which children are employed in the mines, physically I should say there would be no advantage from raising it for, from my own experience of the manner children are used throughout the whole of the Monmouthshire and South Wales District, I am of the opinion they would not be benefited by it, as the children are at present hearty and robust and grow up strong, muscular men. To many families such a measure would be a source of hardship, inasmuch as they would for a time be deprived of the ages of the children which in some cases forms a considerable item in their incomes. In a moral sense I am of opinion there could be some advantage in it. At present the cupidity or wants of the parents induce them to set their children at work at an early age as possible without reference to their education or religious instruction but if they were interdicted from allowing them to work until after a certain age, their convenience, if no better motive influenced them, would induce them to send them to a public school if there was one within their reach. I am of the opinion that 10 would be quite late enough to commence work for unless children are doomed to earn their bread by their labour begin about that age, they do not take to it so well as at a later period.

In the collieries and mines the men work from six o'clock in the morning to six at night. They work by the ton and take their own time for meals. At the fire work they work night and day and change every twelve hours at six night and morning. The children work the same hours as the adults but there are frequent short intervals during which they rest and take meals. In the coal and mine works they never work by night but at the fire work they take their turn the same as the adults. The furnaces are not suspended at this work on Sundays.

At a very few works the working of the furnaces is suspended on Sundays for about eight hours. When in good order they do not suffer much injury from such stoppage but if out of order, serious inconvenience is often the result. In all places where Sunday labour is suspended the furnaces out of order are kept in blast. Accident to the blowing machinery has frequently compelled me to suspend working for a much longer period than eight hours but in proportion to the duration of the suspension, so is the amount of derangement at furnace. Days, or even weeks, according to circumstances may elapse before it is restored to its proper state.

From my experience of workmen I am of the opinion that so far from their deriving any comfort or moral improvement from the suspension of Sunday labour, the contrary in majority of cases, will be the result. Instead of attending a place of worship, a beer shop, *the greatest curse of this country*, would be their resort. The Government would be conferring a much greater boon on the lower classes and improving their morals to a much greater degree were they to close the “kidleywinks” (beer shops) than to suspend the furnaces. I have never made any experiment to ascertain the length of time a furnace might be suspended. My anxiety has always been to keep them going.

Working pump engines on mines, attending the furnaces underground, repairing the mill machinery and the puddling and heating furnaces, comprise the whole of the Sunday work independent of that connected with the furnaces. In this establishment out a score of hands are employed on Sundays from six to twelve hours, according to circumstances. Carpenters, smiths, masons, day labourers &c., have stated hours for meals. Say, breakfast from half past eight to nine o’clock and for dinner from one until two o’clock. The colliers, miners and fireman, who all work by the ton, consult their own convenience in taking their meals.

There are neither rewards nor punishments practised at these works. Having never been informed of any corporal punishment having been inflicted and never having seen it, I have had no occasions to take measures to prevent it or been called upon to issue any instructions respecting it.

There is an adult school recently established at these work, at the request of some of the men who have joined a “teetotal” society. They attend very regularly three nights a week and learn reading, writing an arithmetic. It is not exclusively attended by “teetotallers” but they form the majority. A library is also to be formed, from which books will be lent to the workmen.

There was formerly a sick fund here but becoming greatly abused by some of the men, it occasioned so much discontent of the part of the others that it became necessary to give it up. Nearly all the men are members of a benefit club and many of them two. From each of these clubs they receive when ill about 7s. per week which together with the relief from the sick fund, 5s. per week, amounted to 12s., a sum in many instances, equal to the wages earned when at work which induced many idle fellows to feign sickness and remain permanently on the funds of the club.

**Statement of Charles Conway, Esq., managing partner of the Pontrhydyrin Tin Works, in the parish of Panteague.**

I have resided in the parish with very little exception, for upwards of 40 years and I have given considerable attention to the character and conduct of the population. I have in my lifetime been engaged, more or less, in the tin plate manufactory and I have had the sole management of these works for more than 20 years. I have no doubt whatever, generally speaking, that the best informed persons are the best conducted. There are, of course exceptions. If one man is elevated by better opportunities of acquiring knowledge, or by a closer attention to self education, there is a chance, when the masses are so ill provided with education that he should have an undue influence. His knowledge is not sufficiently extensive to enable him to correct his own vanity and the elevation to which he is raised by his compeers is apt to make him a demagogue. I think much of this arises from the want of more mixing of the classes in society, the employers and the employed. The line of demarcation at present kept up is so rigid that their interests are supposed to be incompatible. Elevate the general mass, however, by a better system of instruction and the demagogue is reduced to a proper level.

Workmen almost invariably stick together right or wrong. They are always suspicious of any interference of the employers. I am not aware of a single person connected with these works being joined to any Chartist societies during the late movements. Yet I cannot conceal from myself that they very considerably sympathised with the Chartists.

With reference to the present system, of school education, the desideratum is the want of proper instructed teachers. Even with this, perhaps, there would be many difficulties to encounter and many prejudices to be overcome. The adults of the present generation from their own neglected education, can hardly appreciate the advantages of a better education to their children.

In my immediate neighbourhood places of worship are very numerous. In the parish of Lanvrechva Lower I am inclined to think that there is sufficient space provided for every man,



woman and child to attend public worship at the same time. In the dissenting places of worship there are generally two services on the Sunday, one in Welsh and the other in English and mostly two services of evenings in the week.

The secular instruction obtainable in the neighbourhood is almost absolutely nothing. A better secular education, I am inclined to think, would elevate the standard of morals and that, of course, would augment the desire for religious instruction. The working population amongst the Welsh manufactories, I am inclined to think, possess a very high degree of religious theoretical knowledge. Most of the Welsh publications are of a religious kind but unfortunately, their practice is not equal to their knowledge.

I believe that education, whenever it may come, is destined to work incalculable improvements in the condition of the working men of this country. It would not only affect the men, *but I think a spread of sound education is destined to the workmen's wives is of equal importance.* As long as a workman's home is ill-managed the public house is his resort. I have known instances where a man has brought up a large family respectably, (a working man), has put his children to business and put by from £1000 to £2000 and I have known another (only himself and his wife) getting more money and always remaining in debt. I attribute the difference almost entirely to the wife.

I believe, however, that whatever improvements may take place in the instruction of the people, as long as the present system of beer houses obtains, the morals of the people must necessarily be deteriorated.

I know not a Church or a Chapel in the district that has not a Sunday School attached to it. Connected with these works there is a Sunday School at Pontrhydyrin Chapel. There are no schools upon any regular or systematic plan. There is a day school close at hand carried on by a working man. There is another in the vestry room of the Church and occasionally there have been three or four in the neighbourhood, some, of course, superior to the others but generally speaking of a very inferior grade, the teachers being persons of no education or qualification.

The children are removed from school at all possible ages but as a general principle, I should say that none of them are taken away to continuous employment in the manufactories until they read with considerably facility. Most of them can write a little and some of them have a little insight in the common rules of arithmetic but in the majority of instances the writing is soon lost and in many the reading is forgotten.

There are seldom children employed in the manufactories who are taught in the day schools more than they are taught in Sunday School. I have known instances, however, where no other than Sunday School instruction has ever been had. The extent of that was a fluent reading of the Scriptures. I have known old men, who had never been taught their letters, learning this much at Sunday Schools.

The only advantage of the day schools, such as they are at present in the neighbourhood, over Sunday Schools is a little instruction in arithmetic. I have no means of comparing what would be the result of a properly conducted school carried on by a teacher trained to the business, but the difference, I imagine, would be very vast indeed. There are no children who need be unable to read the Scriptures fluently if their parents choose and the Sunday School connected with the Chapel at Pontrhydyrin distributes annually, a series of prizes amongst the scholars, about the worth of £7 to £9 of moral and religious books. I think, however, that all such exertions are rendered almost nugatory as long as beer houses are allowed to pollute our land. The children may be moral but the men can hardly escape being drunkards as long as the poisoned chalice is presented to them at almost every house they pass. No education or training can ever cope with the moral pestilence.

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**Statement of the aggregate Number of Adults, Children and Young Persons employed in the Mines and Manufactories from the Returns which I have obtained.**

Name of the person of firm carrying on the works.	Adults, 18 years old and upwards		Young persons between 13 & 18		Children under 13 years of age	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
<b>Breconshire</b>						
Messrs. Powell and Co.'s Iron Works	945	46	181	46	110	23
Yuiscedwyn Iron Co.'s Works	55		60	5	28	1
British Iron Co.'s Collieries	41		11		7	
<b>Monmouthshire</b>						
C.H. Leigh's Iron & Tin Works	920	30	160	18	70	2
British Iron Co.'s Works	1,007	50	125	22	92	4
Pentwyn & Golynos Iron Co.'s Works	1,079	46	133	15	80	3
Blaenavon Iron Co.'s Works	1,490	26	216	54	148	37
Messrs. Bailey, Bros. Iron Works	3,170	250	203	135	131	11
Messrs. Harford and Co.'s Iron Works	1,930	110	213	72	177	22
Tredegar Co.'s Works	2,100	150	230	86	179	12
Rhymney Iron Co.'s Works.	1,900	110	213	72	177	22
Messrs. Conway's Tin Works.	36	13	3	6	9	4
Messrs. Edward Jenkins & Co.'s Tin Works	32	8	9		1	1
Messrs. Fothergill & Co.'s Tin Works.	74	11	18	2	7	
John Maund, Esq., Colliery.	75	1	13	4	18	1
Monmouthshire Iron & Coal Co.'s Works.	155	11	48	10	30	5
<b>Glamorganshire</b>						
Messrs. Fussell & Co.'s Maesteg Iron Works.	452	30	44	16	18	1
Messrs. Fussell & Co.'s Margam Tin Works.	200		115	69	12	
English Co.'s Cwmafon & Oakwood Iron Works & Collieries	687	17	102	17	63	3
Messrs. Ievon & Co.'s Iron Works.	211	19	22	6	14	1
Dowlais Iron Co.'s Works.	4,082	200	372	158	327	53
Pendarren Iron Co.'s Works.	1,605	94	166	49	140	17
Aberdare Iron Co.'s Works.	780	80	174	31	89	6
Cambrian Iron & Spelter Co.'s Works.	400	20	33	1	1	
Tondu Iron & Coal Co.'s Works.	51		6	3	47	
Landore Colliery Co.'s Works.	247	3	57	3	47	
Swansea Coal Co.'s Works.	351	20	48		29	
Ystalavera Iron Co.'s Works.	325		23	10	4	2
Graig Ola Coal Co.'s Works.	45	1	10		9	
Messrs. James & Aubery's Coal Works.	107		11		6	
John Parson Esq., Collieries.	83	5	20	2	9	1
Messrs. Williams, Foster & Co.'s Works.	484	5	65	6	9	1
Messrs. Vivian & Sons Works.	345	45	92	38	41	
Messrs. Greenfell & Co.'s Works.	240		27		13	
Messrs Freeman Co.'s Works.	196	4	34	1	20	1
Lewis Ll. Dillwyn Potteries.	95	73	36	12	10	11
William Cameron, Loughor Colliery.	40		8		4	
<b>Carmarthenshire.</b>						
Messrs. Sims, Willyams, Nevill & Co.'s Collieries.	332	260	4	49	6	
Messrs. Sims, Willyams, Nevill & Co.'s Copper Works.	230	3	30	1	21	
George Bruin Collieries.	107	2	38		4	
English Copper Co.'s Works.	110		13		8	
Pool Colliery Co.'s Works.	150	10	20		17	
Llangennech Coal Co.'s Works.	314		62		45	
<b>Pembrokeshire. (Estimated)</b>						
Begelly Coal Co.'s Works.	40	20	21	7	12	
Kilgetty Coal Co.'s Works	46	26	24	3	16	
Sir John Owen's Colliery	75	18	25	12	16	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,875</b>	<b>1,565</b>	<b>3,582</b>	<b>1,062</b>	<b>2,311</b>	<b>261</b>

## SUMMARY.

	Males	Females
Adults	27,875	1,565
Young persons between 13 and 18 years old	3,582	1,1062
Children under 13 years	2,311	261
	33,768	2,888
Total	36,656 persons.	

## EVIDENCE COLLECTED BY RHYS WILLIAM JONES, ESQ.

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### PONTYPOOL DISTRICT.

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#### **No.1. John Roberts, aged 41, superintendent of police at Pontypool.**

I have been inspector of police for the parish of Trevethin (in which the principle part of the town of Pontypool is situated) since October, 1830. I am appointed by the rate payers under the provisions of the "Watching and Lighting Act." I have three paid policemen and 23 parish constables under my direction. The population of the parish of Trevethin I estimate at 15,000. There were more than 17,000 inhabitants before the Chartist outbreak in November, 1839. Since that they have decreased and the Varteg Works have stopped. The county magistrates act within the town they hold petty sessions or magistrates meetings every Monday and Saturday and oftener if required. There are two resident magistrates, C.H. Leigh, Esq., the Lord Lieutenant of the county and Edward Harris Phillips, Esq., who has recently been appointed.

There are three large iron works in the parish of Trevethin, the British Iron Company's and the Pentwyn and Golynos Company's at and near Abersychan and the Varteg Works about two miles above but the Varteg Works were stopped about two months since. They employed at least 1500 men. The other two works (which are now working) employ about 3000 or perhaps 4000 men our of which about 700 may be under 18 years of age.

There is also a part of the works of C.H. Leigh, Esq., in the parish and a great number of his men, and likewise the men of other neighbouring works reside here. I am ultimately acquainted with the working classes in the vicinity. They are generally peaceable and orderly and considering the population, there are comparatively but few complaints before the magistrates. I most commonly attend the magistrates meeting and keep a diary of the cases and their results. The most frequent cases are larcenies. There may be about 40 cases sent for trial every years and about 10 cases of more serious felonies. There have been about 100 persons transported for different periods within the last 11 months (including the Chartists) but not one capital punishment in this division since I have known it. I do not consider that the population are naturally depraved but the greatest part are in a state of extreme ignorance for want of education. Very few of the adult working classes, either male or female, can read and write. Drunkenness is very prevalent about the works and in the town and the majority of common complaints before the magistrates arise from it.

There are very few complaints arising from the manner in which the younger classes are employed in the works, either as regarding the hours of labour or their treatment. I do not recollect half a dozen cases of the kind for the last 10 years and I never hear any complaints either from the young persons or children or their parents as to the manner in which they are employed or treated. In general the children are taken to the different works by their parents and employed in assisting them in their labour. They mostly work by the piece or job.

There are not many day schools in this parish attended by the children of the working classes, considering their number and the schools which do exist are not in my opinion well frequented. There are Sunday Schools attached to the Church and at most of the Dissenting Chapels in the parish, which are well attended. There are now four places of worship attached to the Established

Church, the parish Church and three Chapels of ease and about 20 Dissenting Chapels in most of which there are well attended Sunday Schools. There is a school in the town called the National School, supported by public subscription and the children attending it pay 1d. a week each but I do not think it is fully attended. I think a great proportion of the children of 10 to 12 years of age in or about the town, can read the common books used at Sunday Schools but I do not think that as much can be said of the children out about the works, although I believe they are much improved in that respect within the last few years. I am of the opinion that the low state of education in the country was the cause of the Chartist leaders being enabled to lead such a vast number of the people in the outbreak in November, 1839. I attribute it solely to the ignorance and credulity of the people from the want of education.

I think that of any case a child or young person was ill-used or ill-treated on any of the works by the masters or overmen the men would come out until the matter was arranged. The feelings among the workmen is very strong to protect the children from both ill-treatment and cruelty.

## **PONTYPOOL IRON WORKS, belonging to C.H. Leigh, Esq., making 250 tons of iron per week from three blast furnaces. - April 24th.**

Total Number of Young Persons and Children Employed.

At the blast furnaces and forges:-

35 male young persons and 6 male children.

At the tin works:-

22 male and 17 female young persons and 14 male and 2 female children.

At the colliery and mine works:-

103 male and 1 female young persons and 121 male and 19 female children.

The youngest children are 1 boy of 8 years, 1 boy of 9 years and 1 girl of 10 years old at the tin works and 3 boys of 8 years and 3 boys 9 years old at the colliery and mine works.

### **SUMMARY**

	Males	Females
Adults	920	30
Young persons and children	230	20
	1150	50
Total	1200	

### **No.2. Thomas Price, aged 59, furnace agent at the iron works of Mr. Leigh.**

**How many persons have you employed at the furnaces under your charge?** - From 15 to 20.

**What is the age of the youngest?** - There are some from 9 to 12 years old.

**How are they employed?** - With their fathers, the most of them, who are the "fillers" and limestone breakers at the top of the furnaces and there are two in the cast house working for the master moulders making cores and there are some with their fathers filling coke into the barrows on the "coke earth."

**How are the older boys employed?** - Nearly in the same way, filling the furnace and limestone breaking. They are not with their fathers but generally work for themselves or for other men.

**How are the boys paid?** - They are paid by their fathers and the other men that employ them, who do the work by the ton.

**How much do the boys get per week?** - The youngest get from 3s. to 4s. 6d. The oldest get from 4s. 6d. to 5s. per week and are mostly paid by the week.

**How long do they work in the day?** - Generally 12 hours, sometimes less but never more. The men do a certain quantity of work each day as a task and when it is done they are free.

**When do they come to work in the morning?** - The general time is about six o'clock and leave about six in the evening.

**Do they work at night?** - Some of the, the coke fillers and the furnace fillers, every other week.

**Do they work on a Sunday?** - No, not now. They did some time ago. The furnaces have stopped working of a Sunday for the last 12 months. The engine stops blowing at six or seven o'clock on Sunday morning and begins again at six in the evening.

**Is the stopping of the furnaces on a Sunday attended with any inconvenience to the works?** - It is. When making the foundry iron with cold blast, hot blast does better. The quantity made per week is less but when making forge iron it is not so great an inconvenience.

**How do you estimate the amount of the inconvenience?** - We would make about 100 tons per week in each of our three furnaces if we did not stop on Sundays now we make but from 80 to 90 tons (we can't average 90 tons), more than 10 per cent less.

**Is it attended with any, except in the lesser quantity made?** - No, I do not see that it is in other ways.

**Do the boys work in any great heat?** - No, they do not in any part of the works they have no need to go very near the fires.

**What meal times are allowed?** - They take half an hour for breakfast, an hour for dinner. As they work with their fathers and other men, they all have the same time for meals and those who live near the works go home to their meals.

**Are they ever punished or beaten at the works?** - No. Never that I know of.

**Do you consider that the boys are overworked in any part of your works?** - No, they are not generally overworked. The coke filling is the worst and hardest work. We have three boys at day and three at night work and they work their own boys to assist them and get their wages.

**Are these boys worked too hard for their ages?** - I think we have a case of one man who does work his children too hard. He has two of them working with him, one about 13 years old and the other about nine. I think their work has injured their growth, they do not appear to have grown in the last two or three years.

**What description of work are they employed at?** - They assist in filling the barrows in the coke yard and in pushing them to the tunnel (or furnace) head.

**Are they afflicted with any illness?** - No, I do not know that they are. They are regularly at their work.

**Do the boys lose much time from sickness?** - No, very little that I know of.

#### **Examination of the boys whom the last witness thought stunted in growth by overwork.**

##### **No.3. Abram William, aged 13.**

His father is a filler at the furnace top. He has worked with his father for the last four or five years. He has a brother two years and a half younger than him who has been also working with his father for two years. His father has two other children alive. He does not work with his father now, but with another man during the same work, filling the furnace. He works from six o'clock in the morning to six in the evening and gets 4s. 6d per week. He works at night every other week. His work is sometimes very hard. He assists the master in the work as well as he can. They bring 36 barrows and sometimes 39 to the tunnel head in 12 hours. They bring them from the coke yards, sometimes much more than 100 yards. The night turn is the easiest as several of the barrows are filled by the day hands ready but he like to work in the day sometimes. He gets plenty of sleep when working either day or night. His work does not tire him very much although it is hard. He often goes to play after he has done work. He has met with no accidents at his work. The scar on his forehead he got by falling off the engine wall about a month or more ago. He ran over the wall in going home from work and fell down. The doctor said he broke a bone. He was home ill a month to a day. His is quite well now. He goes home to his meals. He was in school for two or three years before he went to work and now attends the Sunday School.

##### **No.4. John Roger, aged 12.**

He fills coke the same as Abram William. He works for his brother who is a filler and he has another brother working with them. He gets 4s. a week. They bring 27 barrows from the coke yard to the furnace. The work is easier when there are three at it than when there are only two. He loses a day now and then from colds. He lost a day about three weeks ago. He goes home to breakfast and dinner. They live near the works. He goes to the Sunday School and can read. He does not work too hard.

##### **No.5. John Haines, aged 14.**

He is employed by Thomas Waters to assist him in breaking limestone at the top of the furnace. They work at the Bridge House and has been about six months at it. He gets 4s. 6d. per week. He is going to other work next week, to fill coke. It will be easier work than breaking limestone. He has worked at it before and he shall get 5s. per week for filling coke. His father is a mason and he has tended masons before he came to the iron works. That was hard sometimes but not so hard as his present work. He works 12 hours, from six to six. He has half an hour for breakfast and an hour for

dinner unless the limestone come in very fast then he has not so much time for meals. He has one brother about 12 years old working at the works assisting to fill the furnaces. His father has six children and was along time out of work last winter. His father's wages are 3s. 6d. per day but in wet weather he gets nothing and sometimes he does not get paid.

A little time ago when his father was out of work he had not enough to eat and he was obliged to come to work without anything. He has come without anything about a dozen times and has been obliged to go home gain because he could not work without victuals. He seldom gets anything but a piece of bread to come to work and gets potatoes when he gets home but very seldom bacon or meat. His brother fares the same as him. He gets 3s. 6d. per week. The have no clothes to go to the Sunday School. He has none but what he has on sss son. The man he works with never beats him or scolds him, only tells him to be a good boy and stick to his work. He takes cold often and lost a day this week from being ill. He has lost a day before ever so long ago and he has not lost more than two days since he has been at the work. He gives his ages to his mother.

## **PONTYPOOL FORGES, belonging to C.H. Leigh, Esq. - April 23rd.**

**No.6. Thomas Griffiths, aged 64 agent.**

**Do you employ persons under 18 years of age in your forges?** - Yes, I have under my charge from 20 to 30 of that age.

**What age is the youngest?** - About 12 years.

**How are they employed?** - Some are employed by the master, but the most are men.

**At what work are they employed?** - They are employed about the hammers and rolls and about the puddling furnace. They do what the men tell them and assist in carrying the heated iron from the furnaces to the rolls and hammers. They stand behind the rolls and assist with a hook to heave up the iron to the top of the rolls to be returned to the "roller." They wheel in coals and push it into the fires for the puddlers.

**Do they work in any great heat?** - Their work is not near so hot as the men's. When they roll large bars it is hot for them and they sweat at it. All the boys work in nearly the same heat but they get a little rest between the "heats" and then it is not hot.

**How long do they work?** - Twelve hours, from six to six every day.

**Do they work at night?** - Yes, every other week. The "night turn" of one week ends on Saturday morning and they begin on Monday morning and work day by day the next week. The boys and men do the same.

**What do the older boys do?** - The boys from 14 to 16 years old are called "under hands puddlers," and they work at the furnace under the master puddlers.

**Do they work in any great heat?** - Yes, their work is as hot as the men's and they are wringing wet with sweat.

**Do you think their work is injurious to their health?** - That is more than I can tell. It is hard and laborious work but I worked at fire work, quite a shot, when I was from 16 to 17 years old as a s long as I continued at it I had my health better than when I left off.

**At what age did you leave off?** - When I was about 50 years old.

**What illness had you afterwards?** - I got very stout and had a fit of apoplexy.

**Was your illness in your opinion the result of you having worked at the fires?** - I cannot say it was from the heat of the fires but I am given to think that, having been accustomed to sweat so much at work when I left off the sweat being confined in the body might have caused me getting stout. I became so fat that I could scarcely tie my own shoes and from being stout I think I was attacked by apoplexy.

**How were you employed when you left the forge work?** - I was a "stock taker" and shortly after became an agent or superintendent at the forges.

**Do you know of any other persons who have suffered in their health for having worked at the forges?** - I can't say that I do but it is such heavy and hard work that most men get stiff from their if they work at it until they are 50 years old the same as they would do with any hard work. It is time for them to give up at 50.

\*The men at the forges work about 10 or 12 "heats" in the day and between each there is an intermission of from 15 to 20 minutes during which the man are at leisure.

**Are any meal times allowed at the forges?** - No particular times. They get their meals brought to the regularly but they must eat them as they can, when the "heats" allow. The work does not stop. They get about 15 or 20 minutes at a time for eating. They must then attend the heated iron and in about 15 or 20 minutes they return to their meal.\*

**Do the boys get more time for eating than the men?** - All the same. The puddlers get the longest time but they must wait for it and their meals are sometimes by the side of the fires for about half an hour before they can come to them.

**Are there many accidents in the forges?** - No, very few that disabled men from work. The common accidents are slight burns.

**Is the machinery at the forges secure and fenced off to guard against accidents?** - Yes, as well as can be done. No accident has occurred from the machinery for many years.

**Are there any holidays at the forge?** - Yes, they do not work on Christmas Day, Good Friday and Whitsun Monday.

**How are the boys paid?** - By the ton of iron made when employed by the men and by the week when employed by the master. The men are most all paid by the ton.

**What wages do the boys get per week?** - Some of the eldest (from 16 to 17 years old) employed by the men get from 12s. to 14s. a week. The younger boys get about 6s. The men pay their boys but their accounts are kept at the office.

**Are there any rewards or punishments given or practised at the forge among the boys?** - No.

**Are they ever beaten?** - No, never to the beat of my knowledge. When they do mischief they get turned off.

**Are the boys generally well clothed and well fed?** - They are all clothed decently fit to go to Sunday School and when at work, their clothes are good enough for their employment and they are all well fed as far as I can tell. They have their meals brought to the works to hem. They mostly get broth and potatoes and bacon for dinner and generally tea and bread and butter in the morning.

**Do the boys lose much time from sickness and have they any complaints arising from their work?** - I do not believe they lose more time from sickness than country boys working on the farms and I know of no complaints that the have more than other boys.

**Do the boys attend any schools?** - Yes, most of them attend the Sunday Schools and I do not think there are many of them but what can read. I attend and teach in the Wesleyan Sunday School myself and most of them go to the Chapel after school every Sunday. We have about 12 boys from the works attending out school.

**Are females employed at the forges?** - No any.

### **Examination of three boys employed at Mr. Leigh's Forges.**

**No.7. George Haddock aged 14 years 4 months, Morgan Williams aged 14 years 3 months and Charles Rosser aged 16 years and 3 months.**

**How long have you been in these works?** - We have all been in the works about four years.

**Did you work anywhere before you came here?** - George Haddock - I worked at the scale house down at the tin mills. Charles Rosser - I worked at the smith's forge. My father is a smith.

**How are you employed now?** - George Haddock - I am a catcher behind the rolls. Morgan Williams - I am an "underhand baller." Charles Rosser. - I am a "heaver up behind the rolls."

**Which is the hardest work?** - "Balling" is the hardest work and the hottest. "Catching" is the next and "heaving up" the lightest.

**Do the "baller" sweat much?** - Yes, and so do all but balling in the hottest.

**How long do you work?** - Sometimes 14 or 15 hours but 12 hours is the regular time. We leave the house about half past five o'clock in the morning and often do not return until eight in the evening.

**Do you have any time allowed for meals?** - No, there is no time allowed but we get our breakfasts and dinners sent to the work to us and we eat them when we can, between the "heats."

**Does your work tire you very much before you leave off of an evening?** - No, not very much, but it is hard enough sometimes and we are glad to get home.

**Do you get beaten in the works when you misbehave?** - Yes, sometimes but not much to hurt. George Haddock. - I have been beaten many times by the men but they did not hurt me very bad.

**Have you met with any accidents in the forge?** - No, nothing to speak of.

**Are you often unwell so as to loose your work?** - No, very seldom. We are quite healthy.

**How much wages did you get this week?** - We get two 10s. a week and Charles Rosser, "the heaver up" gets 5s. a week.

**Would you rather work in the forge than the tin mill?** - Yes, (George Haddock). The vitriol for pickling the plates is very nasty in the mills and burns your hands. The work is harder in the forge but we get more money.

**Have you ever been to school?** - We go to the Sunday Schools and can read a little but Charles Rosser was in school before he came to work and can read and write well. George Haddock. - I can only spell. None of us can write.

## **PONTYPOOL COLLIERIES, belonging to C.H. Leigh, Esq. April 26th.**

### **No.8 Samuel Burgess, aged 37, colliery agent for the last 6 years.**

I have about 50 young persons employed in the collieries under my charge. We work the coal by pits and by levels and work three or four different veins but chiefly in two. The lowest we work is two and half feet thick. We don't work that regularly. The two veins we work most are six feet thick. The youngest boys employed are about seven years old. I do not like to see them go under ground under nine years old but they do go about seven to mind the air doors. There are about four air door boys about that age. As soon as they get a little older they want to get to something else. They go to work about six in the morning and leave about five o'clock in the evening. That is nearly the time but they are sometimes until seven o'clock when some little accidents or hindrances occur in the work. There are no meal times allowed in the colliery but the door boys, who have to open and shut the doors when the horse passes through, have plenty of time to eat their bread and cheese and in general they take down with them and they drink the water in the works which is very good. The door boys generally have a light when the work is busy. They burn two a candle a day but they are sometimes in the dark. They get 3s. 9d. per week and are paid by the master. The air is generally good where the boys are put. I have seen it good on one side of the door and bad on the other but the boys do not stop on the bad side. It is very rare that the impure air effects the boy's health. I have known it to be the case and have seen the boys become ill and languid but that occurs very seldom. They are not kept in impure air but for a short period, only just while a better air way is preparing. I have not known the door boys health injured for a continuance but I have seen cases of bigger boys following it up until it hurt their health.

The bigger boys of the age from 11 or 12 years go to drive the horses. They are in at that work the same hours, from six to five o'clock. The time varies a little but they are sometimes in later. They go back and forwards along the roads and I do not recollect any instance of their being affected by the bad air. We have about 30 drivers. The boys from 16 to 18 years of age sometimes continues as drivers but the most go to assist the cutters and fill the coals into the trams. The trams and horses go to the heads. It is those boys inside and the cutters also that I have seen injured by impure air. There is no firedamp in our works to injure but a good deal of "black" or "chokedamp," which is the damp that affects the men. I recollect several of them ill last summer. They became ill and weak and scarcely able to walk and their illness has continued for days and weeks but they afterwards recovered as well as ever. I have been so myself from working in air coursing, trying to get the required work through. We are sometimes obliged to stretch every nerve to get hew courses through bad places. We have not had any of this work since last summer. The summer is a trying time for two or three months in the warm weather. Our air now is as pure under ground as it can be. We do not use Davy lamps. Our longest way is more than a quarter of a mile long. We have got it now all through the mountain and out the other side.

The cutters generally come out of the works a little before the boys but the boys do not go down quite as soon as the man. Some who have no boys working with them remain in to the last. I think the man and boys in the works work about the same number of hours. I have several of the boys under the master but I sometimes let out a piece of work to a company of men by the job and then they employ the boys and pay them. The drivers are generally under the men and get from 10s. to 14s. 6d. per week. The boys assisting the cutters are paid by the cutters and get from 10s. to 15s. a week according to size. These boys generally work the hardest, they are in general the men's own boys, either their sons or brothers. There are about 30 boys assisting cutters. They sometimes begin to cut coal themselves at about 17 or 18 years old.

They seldom lose much time from illness. Only sometimes a day or two from common colds. I do not think there have been ten days lost in the last two months by all the boys I have about everywhere. I could see by my club book. The most of our boys attend the Sunday Schools and night schools and most of them can read and many can write.

We do not allow any one to beat the boys. When they do mischief or neglect their work they are at first fined 2s. 6d. and the next time turned off. They do not often swear or use bad language in



the works. They dare not do so in my hearing. I check it as much as possible. They were formerly worse than they are now. I consider that they are greatly improved in the works and also the men but there is plenty of room for improvement. Their conduct in the works depends on the person looking over them and the examples set them.

I do not consider any of the boys are overworked or that the time they remain in the works is too long but I certainly think they are sometimes sent down by their parents too early. There was a man with me today wanting to get his son about seven years old into the works and I begged him to let him remain at school a little longer. He goes to the Sunday School which I attend. The man has a large family and wished to get as much as he could to support them. We do not want boys in the works under 10 or 12 years of age but their parents are anxious to get something by their labour before they come to that age and I think a boy of nine years old quite able to keep an air door.

We have no girls employed in out collieries but they are employed to push the drams under ground in some levels in the neighbourhood where horses are not used.

We have a sick club at our works. Every man and boy who earns 6s. per week pays 6d. per month into this club and if he is ill for three days or more he has 8d. per day allowed him out of the club for three months and then 4d. per day for the next three months. After six months it ceases. I keep the club books. The man pay towards a surgeon who attends them and their families in accidents or sickness, 2d. in the pound on their wages which is stopped in the office. The boys and men pay the same.

## **PONTYPOOL TIN WORKS, belonging to C.H. Leigh, Esq. - April 24th.**

**No.9. Evan Francis, aged 56, agent.**

**In what parts or processes of your works do you employ young persons?** - We have eight boys in the rolling mill, from 14 to 18 years old.

**At what description of work are they employed?** - They are employed behind the rolls to catch the plates and return them to the "roller."

**What time each day are they employed?** - Twelve hours, from six to six.

**Are meal times allowed?** - No, they take their meals as the work will allow.

**Do they work in any great heat?** - No, not in any great heat. They do not sweat much excepting in warm weather.

**What wages do the catchers get?** - They work by the piece or box of tin. Sometimes they get more than at others. When at full work they get 14s. per week. When water is a short about 9s. per week.

**Do they work at night?** - Yes, in the rolling mills every other week. Not in the tin house.

**Do they work on Sundays?** - No, they leave off from Saturday night to Monday morning.

**In what processes do you employ boys?** - In the tin house to draw tin plates out of the grease and "listing," which is dipping the edge of tinned plates into a pot of hot metal to take off the drops or "list."

**How many are employed at this work and what are their ages?** - Six "grease boys," from 16 to 18 years old and six list boys, from 12 to 15 years old.

**How long are they employed each day?** - Twelve hours.

**Are they allowed meal times?** - No stated time. They take their meals as well as they can. They sometimes have 15 minutes or more to spare at a time.

**What wages do they get?** - The grease boys get 18d. per score of boxes and the list boys 14d. per score which come to the grease boys about 10s. and the list boys 8s. per week when in full work.

**In what other process do you employ boys?** - In drying plates after the picklers. They take the plates out of water and put them in a grate to dry and take them out again ready for the "cold roller." We have five boys from 13 to 14 years old at this work and there is one boy of 13 and a girl of 13 catching behind the "cold rollers" and there are six boys from 11 to 13 years old and two girls about 12 years old separating the plates after the shears.

**Have you any persons under 18 employed on any processes of the works?** - Yes, there are five girls about 17 years old rubbing the tin plates in bran to polish them.

**How are they paid for their different work?** - They are all paid by the piece or box of tin made and they get about 9s. per week when in full work and the girls get about the same.

**Which do you consider the hardest work of these several processes?** - I think the catching behind the rollers is the hardest work. All out work is very busy work and twelve hours is along time to stand at it but they have some spare time for 10 or 15 minutes, four or five times a day to rest a little.

**Do you consider the work in your mills or tin house is in any way injurious to health?** - No, I do not see that it injures their health at all. We have no sickness about put works, perhaps not one in twelve months.

**Are the boys or young persons ever beaten for neglect of duty in your work?** - No, never. Beating is not allowed. If a child do not what it ought to do it is discharged. No one is allowed to beat it.

**Do you consider that nay of the young persons in your works are in any way over worked for their age?** - No, I do not think any one of them are put to do more than they can well bear.

**Do the young persons in your work attend any schools?** - Yes, the most part of them attend the Sunday Schools and also attend some place of worship every Sunday and the most of them can read and some can wrote.

**Is there very much swearing or bad language used among the young persons in your works?** - No, they are very good for that and such language is not allowed in the works.

**What is the youngest age required in your works?** - Not under 12 years.

**BRITISH IRON COMPANY'S WORKS, at Abersychan, near Pontypool,  
employing about 130 people and making about 400 tons of iron per week, from  
four furnaces. April 29th.**

Total Number of Young Persons and Children Employed.

At the blast furnaces:-

9 male young persons and 6 male children.

At the forges and mills:-

22 male young persons and 8 male children.

At the colliery and mine works:-

94 male and 22 female young persons and 78 male and 4 female children.

The youngest children are 1 boy of 5 years, 2 boys of 7 years, 8 boys of 8 years and 11 boys 9 years old at the colliery and mine works.

**SUMMARY**

	Males	Females
Adults	1007	50
Young persons and children	217	26
	1224	76
Total	1300	

**No.10. William Wood Esq., aged 48.**

I have been the manager of these works for the last five years and half. I was previously manager of iron works in North Wales under the same company for nine years and before that I was several years under Sir John Guest, managing the iron works at Dowlais.

I have answered in writing the printed queries sent to this works from the Central Office of the Children's Employment Commission. I am of the opinion that one half of the male children of the working people of this neighbourhood, under the age of 13, are employed in the different works, particularly among the colliers and miners. The furnacemen and the forgemen have not so many employed. They cannot get employment for as many of their children as they wish.

The children are worked in the same way at Dowlais as here but at North Wales, in the collieries and mines, the children are worked much harder than in this neighbourhood.

We work our blast furnaces on Sundays but I do not think it would be any great detriment to the iron trade generally of all works were to stoop their furnaces for eight hours an a Sunday. The quantity of fuel would make no difference in the stoppage. It might be done with all descriptions of fuel which I have used. The coal here is very bituminous and loses between 30 and 40 per cent in coking. We have stopped the blast furnaces here when accidents have occurred for 12 to 18 hours. We had afterwards some trouble to open them but they came round in about 12 hours. The trouble to bring a furnace round into regular work after a stoppage of 8 hours would not be worth speaking of but if the furnace was out of order when it stopped it would be attended with great inconvenience

to get it right again. In a well regulated works a furnace may be out of order for one or two days in a month. It would but seldom happen that more than one furnace out of four would be out of order on the same day.

At our works there is no system of rewards or punishments but the men are occasionally fined for neglect of duty and for drunkenness. The fine is 2s. 6d for each offence. The fines are carried to a fund called the "sick fund." There is now about £200 balance of this fund unappropriated. It was formerly applied, in small weekly payments to cases of sickness but that application of this money is abandoned. The fines at these works amounts to about seventy pounds per annum among 1300 men.

We do not profess to keep any holidays excepting Christmas Day but all our works except the blast furnaces are stopped in consequence of the men being drunk mostly two or three days at Christmas and also Easter Monday which is generally a day for club feasts.

[In a conversation I had with Mr. Wood on the subject of the fines levied upon the workmen, he informed me that he had proposed to apply the money then standing on the books to the credit of the sick fund, to the purpose of building a school house and he expressed his opinion that of a system, of fines was legalised at all works (such a system, being already very generally practised) a fund might thus be provided which would, with very little additional aid from the masters or other sources, efficiently maintain a school at each establishment.]

#### **No.11. Edward E. Tucker, Esq., surgeon to the British Iron Works.**

The following remarks respecting the condition of young persons and children employed on the British Iron Company's Works, Abersychan, I mean to apply generally:-

*Physical Condition.* - Improves. Their strength is not overtaxed and their food is generally of a superior description to that usually enjoyed in their class.

*External Appearance.* - They are generally healthy, well informed and in a fair proportion, robust.

*Stature.* - I do not consider that their growth is diminished by labour. Many whom I have known as lads have become fine young men. The girls employed have equally progressed. As adults their physical condition is improved by their employment during childhood and adolescence.

*Food.* - Generally a sufficiency of good quality and a reasonable time allowed for taking it.

*Clothing.* - Respectable.

*Cleanliness.* - It is a general custom to wash the body from head to foot after leaving off work.

*Sickness.* - Does not exceed the usual average observed among the unemployed or those employed at home. I have not observed a single case of hernia, distortion of the spine &c., during the last three years which could be attributed to their labour. In fact, such maladies are exceedingly rare.

Consumption, scrofula, &c., are not unusually prevalent. The same average occurs elsewhere. Epidemic diseases have occasionally prevailed. These have been smallpox which occurred about a year and half since and at present measles and scarlet fever.

(Signed) EDWARD E. TUCKER.

#### **No.12. Thomas Howell, aged 51.**

I have been furnace manager at Abersychan for the last four years. I was master refiner and master puddler at Dowlais for 35 years. I have the charge of the men and boys about the furnaces. There are about 16 boys and 10 girls under 18 years old about the furnaces and the coking yard. I have four or five boys from 9 to 10 years old oiling or "coal tarring" the barrows and screening dust out of the mine. They get 4s. 6d. for oiling and 6s. for screening per week. The boys from 12 to 15 years old drive the horses in the coke barrow from the coke yard to the furnace top and break limestone. They get from 2s. to 2s. 2d. per day. They are all paid by the company and get regular meal times except the stone breakers and they get time enough for eating, sometimes two hours at a stretch. They are employed and paid by the man who break the stones by the ton. The boys get about 8s. per week.

There is a man called a filler to each furnace. There are four furnaces and every filler has a boy about 9 or 10 years old to help him, called the "helper" to whom he pays 1s. per day. They work at the top of the furnace and have no regular meal times but have a spare hour two or three times in the day. These boys work from 10 to 12 hours and the most of them work at night every other week. None of them work in any great heat. The helpers have the hottest work but they have no need to go near the fire to hurt themselves. I do not think any of them work too hard for their age. Their work is not harder than "tending masons." If the boys were overworked they would complain to me but I have heard no complaints and do not believe that any of them are overworked.

They seldom lose a day from sickness. Only know of one boy who has lost a fortnight's work from sickness in two years and he had "kings evil." I do not know of any others in that

employment. I also have charge of the forges and mills. I have in them about 30 boys under 14 years old and about 10 between that and 18 years old. They get from 9s. to 18s. per week according to the work they do.

There are eight girls "piling iron" in the mills. About four of them are under 18. It is light work. They get good money, sometimes 15s. or 16s. per work.

All the boys in the forge and mill have to do with the hot iron and are sometimes in great heat, and in the summer time sweat very much but they are not in the heat for along time and get intervals between the heats of from half an hour about eight times a day and do not work at active work more than one half their time and between the heats the boys will always run about and play. The boys that stop the forge hammers called, "gaggers" work in the most heat. They are about 14 or 15 years old and get 2s. 4d. a day. They all work at night every other week. The boys seldom lose any time from sickness but often from beer, particularly the oldest. I do not think that the boys are worked too young. I worked myself quite as young and much harder than any boy does here. The boys are worked at Dowlais in the same way and of the same ages as at this works.

We work out blast furnaces at this works all day on Sundays. They might be stopped when in good order for six or eight hours without doing much damage, that is, with luck. Sometimes it might be attended with a good deal of damage. It could not be done without some inconvenience but if it was a general thing and every works stopped on Sundays, I would do my best to do so here. It was done at Dowlais about 8 or 10 years ago for four or five years while I was there. I do not know what damage was the consequence but I often saw them in difficulties from stopping. I do not think that the difference in the quality of the fuel would affect the stopping of the furnaces. It would be easier to stop them when making forge iron than when making foundry or grey iron. I do not think that stopping the furnaces on a Sunday would be of any benefit to the men until the beer houses are put down as they would most likely spend their time in them as they mostly do on every holiday.

### **No.13. George Gaskill aged 37, mine agent at the Abersychan Works for the last 14 years.**

I have a great number of persons under 18 years of age under my charge at the mine works. I dare say more than 150 of that age. The youngest are 8 or 9 years old. The boy's work is backing the rubbish with shovels from the men in the levels and headings and carrying their tools to be sharpened. They sometimes cart with a belt and chain from the stalls to the main roads. The cart of about 1½ cwt. or 2 cwt. They draw from 20 to 30 yards or more in some places. The places in which they work are of different heights from 2 to 4 feet but where they run high the horse tram goes in. They also fill the drams in the headings and stalls and drive the horses in the trams and in the gins over the pits and clean the roads and mind the air doors.

They go into the works by levels and pits, mostly through the pits in the carriage that we put in the trams. They are let down by chain and most of the men go down in the same way. They go to work about six o'clock in the morning, or some time sooner. The men and boys come put about five of six and sometimes they remain down until seven or eight o'clock in the evening. Sometimes the places want timber and they remain down to make them safe for the next day and the boys stay with them to assist. The boys do not work more than 10 or 11 hours but they are down about 12 hours. The pits stop for dinner from one to two o'clock but the men and boys do not always dine at that time, they take their bread and cheese as their work admits, sometimes before and sometimes after the dinner hour. The older boys, from 10 to 18 years of age assist to dig the mine and bore holes for blasting, fill the trams and pick the mine out, which is nearly the same as the men's work. The younger boys get 8d. per day for minding doors and are paid by the company. The "carters" work for them and get from 1s. to 1s. 4d. per day. I have not many carters as they are only worked at carting when they are driving air ways. Sometimes I have 8 or 10, sometimes only one or two carting. The bigger boys get from 10s. to 15s. per week. They work for the men and are paid by the man. There are numerous applications made by the fathers to get their boys into the work. There are a great number of boys of from eight to ten years old, out of employ this time. I do not find that there are any boys unhealthy from working in the mine works. They seldom lose any time from sickness. They are in general tolerably well clothed. They principally wear flannel jackets and trousers. They do not make any difference in their clothes in summer and winter.

I do not think the boys are worked too hard here or too young. They are worked six times as much in Lancashire and Staffordshire. I have worked in both counties. I began to seven years old to mind a door and began to draw or cart at nine. I have often drawn with a belt and chain in small places 18 to 20 inches high until my sides and back were quite raw and I have the marks of it now. The girls used to work the same as the boys. The boys do not know anything about work here. I was very small until I was 18. I then grew up all at once. I have four girls here working under ground in

the same works. They work with their fathers throwing rubbish back, picking mine and carrying tools. They are from 8 to 12 years old. We do not work at nights in the mine works.

[This was s a fine, straight man about 6 feet in height and well grown.]

**No.14. Thomas Ramsden aged 34, colliery agent at Abersychan.**

I have been here for six years. I was previously a colliery agent for seven years at Bolton in Lancashire. I have about 100 persons under 18 years of age under my charge working in the collieries but I have no girls. The youngest boys are two door boys about eight years old, generally their own sons and if they can't get a door to mind the help their fathers to throw rubbish back or something of that kind. They do not do much work at first but the men who have a boy get when working with a company of men, a share of the earning on account of the boy, sometimes 3s. or 5s. a week.

They go down the pit at seven o'clock in the morning and come up from four to six in the evening. The pit stops an hour for dinner but the men take their dinners in the work a little sooner, generally bread, cheese and bacon.

We work large seams and there is room for the men to walk in them and we have horse roads through all the works, both coal and mine and the places are generally dry.

The boys are not overworked in this place. I have known boys in Lancashire and Yorkshire do more in a day than they do here in a week. I have experienced it myself. I opened a door for two years in Yorkshire. I went when I was about eight years old and I did not find that it injured my health. I wore a belt and chain for two or three years. It was hard work it pulled my ribs together many a time. They do not know that work here.

The boys here do not loose much time from illness. I do not hear of a case of the sort scarcely once in six months.

They all pay towards the surgeon 2d. or 2½d. in the £1 on their wages.

We do not have much chokedamp but a good bit of firedamp in most of the pits. We had about six months ago an explosion and a man and a boy were burned to death. We have had several other explosions in the last two years and one man burned to death and another seriously burned but the last is now at work.

I think "drawing" or "carting" the hardest work in the collieries and the boys are put to, it was the most laborious work that I ever did.

**No.15. Thomas Orndel, aged 12.**

I am a helper at the top of the furnace. I have been two years at the work and I get 5s. 6d. per week. My work is not hard when the furnace is going slow. I work 12 hours and work at night every other week. I get plenty to eat dinner, sometimes more than an hour but not regularly. The day and night work is the same, I don't care which. I go to school on Sunday sometimes but cannot read.

**No.16. John Bowse, aged 11.**

I fill stone at the top of the furnace. I have worked a long time. I don't know how long. I don't know what I get. I help the man who does the work. I don't work very hard.

**No.17 Mary Morgan aged 17 and Margaret Mark aged 18.**

We pile or stack the mine and we work for a man who has the work. He pays us 6s. per week. We have been working two or three years. We go home for dinner as we live in a row of houses close by. We works 12 hours sometimes. We like the work well in fine weather. It is hard enough and we do as much as we can. There are no more girls like us working at this place with us. We build the ironstone up in a heap like a wall as you see it.

**No.18. Patrick Phlin.**

I think I am near 11 years old And my father is an Irishman. We have been here a long time. I worked in another work before I came here, that was more than a year ago. I help the refiner now at this fire. I have not been at this fire quite a month and I don't know what he will give men. The work is hot sometimes but it is not hard. I like it very well. I have tended masons, it is no harder than that. I go to Sunday School some days but I can't read.

**No.19. Denis Colin.**

I am 12 years old soon. If I am little I am sure I am so old as that. My father is an Irishman but he does not work here. I help the man to break limestone. I like the work very well. I get 8s. per week. I have no dinner hour but get plenty of time to eat. The men don't beat me, nobody beats the

boys here and they won't let them fight but they tongue one another sometimes. I don't make myself tired by working but work as hard as is wanted. I come here to the furnace top to the fire when I like and when the work spares time.

**No.20. Sarah Jones.**

I shall be 16 years old in June. I came here to work when I was 11 years old. My work is piling iron bars together for them to put into the heating furnace. I only handle one at a time and it is not very heavy work. When they get put together in a heap, as you can see them, they are heavy but it is the man that takes them to the furnace. My work is hard enough but it is not very heavy work. I work for the young woman who takes the work by the ton. She has been here 12 years and she is a good deal older than me. There is one here younger than me and she is fast asleep down there. She does not work at night this week. She sleeps because she is not busy this time. We get 9s. a week but we have been getting 12s. or more. We don't live far off and we sometimes go home for dinner. I like the work very well. It is better than working in the house which I don't like. The men about don't molest me. We all have worked here along time, for many years. That shows we like the work. The girls stay at the work until they go away and get married. They don't marry very soon, not sooner than others. That young woman you see has been here 12 years and she is a good bit more than 20 years old. Why do you ask me my age? The agent asked me before a day or two ago and all of the boys. I have heard that you want the boys to go for soldiers and the girls to go and take care of their clothes and wash for them, that you want to take us all away. I believe it is true by your coming to ask them such things and I have heard it from any. I was never in school before I came here and I can't read. I can't go to school and come to work. I sometimes go to the Sunday School. We work at night every other week. I like it well enough and if I did not I should have to do it as the others do. The boys don't come to hurt us. We always go home two girls together. I am very seldom home ill and I don't loose much work.

[This witness was a fine, grown girl and entered in conversation in the English language without hesitation but from being totally uneducated, exhibited a picture of ignorance and credulity which is but to generally met with among her class in this district.]

**ABERSYCHAN COAL and MINE WORKS, belonging to the British Iron Company. - April 30th.**

[I today am accompanied by Mr. George Gaskill, the mine agent, down the coal and mine pits and through some parts of the underground workings in both the mine and works in which the boys are employed. We traversed the workings for a distance of about two miles at a depth of about 100 yards beneath the surface and although we had, in passing from the mine works to the coal works, to grope and crawl through some low and rugged places, the excavations generally were high enough for the boys to walk in and in most places dry, excepting the main horse roads where it is wet and muddy under foot. I conversed with several of the boys whom I found working in these mines and took notes of the following answers which they gave to my queries.]

**No.21. David Davis, aged 14.**

I am a haulier. I drive the horses in mine trams from the miners to the pit. I have been here 15 months. I like the work very well. It is nasty work enough driving down the road and "spragging." I work 12 hours. I come down and go up the pit in the carriage. We go up as many as the a carriage will hold at the same time. It is strong enough. I have met with no accident. I go to Sunday School and can read a little.

**No.22. William Brockwier.**

I shall be seven years old on the 1st. of August. I keep this door. I have been here 10 months. I can do it very well. I open it every time the haulier comes, I don't know how many times in a day but one horse has been through 25 times. There are two horses at work. I come down the pit by myself in the carriage they put me to. I lie down in it. I like to come to work better than stay at home. I have no mother but I have a father and two sisters who are younger than me. I don't know what I get. I go to the pay sometimes but my father gets my money. No one ever beats me here, my father beats me sometimes at home. I always have a candle and I have four candles a day. I go to Sunday School but I can't read.

**No.23. Robert Dowling and Henry Harvey, aged each about 17.**

We assist the miners and train out the mine and stuff from his stall. Robert Dowling has only been here a week but Henry Harvey has been here six months. They assist the miner in boring holes for blasting down the mine and in throwing it back, picking out the rubbish and tramping it down to the stall to the main road. The horse takes it from the end of the stall to the pit. The stall is not quite high enough for them to stand in. The hardest work is pushing the empty "dram" back up the stall and getting it back on the rails when it goes off. They work 12 hours and get plenty of time to eat their bread and cheese.

**No.24. David Rees, aged 16.**

I am a "haulier" in the coal works and I have been driving for two years. The horses are very quiet. I have met with no agents. The roads are wet and dirty and I ride in and out and don't mind the dirt. It is not wet over head and the place is high enough to walk everywhere. I go in more than half a mile and bring out about 30 or more journeys. I am down 12 hours and get 12s. per week. I am paid by the man who takes all the work of the pit, he that is with you. Driving is not very hard work but when the drams get off the rails it is a nasty job to get them back. I do not stop for dinner but I can eat as I go along. They stop half an hour about the pit and the men inside do not stop and I go to get more trams. I stop sometimes for half an hour at a time. I go to the Sunday School and can read Welsh. The men do not beat the boys in the works. The boys sometimes quarrel and beat one another and they are sometimes fined by the master for it. They do not swear much and they are not fined for swearing that I know of.

[The witness was an active, intelligent lad and I rode into the workings in the ram he drove. I went with him nearly half a mile when the agent and myself turned into another part of the workings and the driver and horse went on along the main road. Shortly after turning off the main road we passed a place where, twelve months ago two persons had been burned to death by an explosion of carburetted hydrogen gas and the soot from the explosion was till visible upon the roof of the mine. That part of the works have since been ventilated and was now passed through without a apprehension. I then proceeded into some of the stalls where the men and boys were at work cutting down the coals and filling it into trams. The most of the people at this work were adults and the vein being about 7 feet thick, the boys employed in it were mostly from 15 to 18 years old and neither the mode of working, nor the character of the place, presented the appearance of any difficulty or hardship more than is observable in all mines of this kind.]

**PENTWYN and GOLYNOS IRON WORKS, in the parish of Trevethin in the county of Monmouth, belonging to the Pentwyn and Golynos Iron Company.**

**Total Number of Young Persons and Children Employed.**

At the blast furnaces:-

8 male and 8 female young persons and 11 male and 2 female children.

At the forges and mills:-

29 male and 5 female young persons and 17 male children.

At the colliery and mine works:-

96 male and 2 female young persons and 52 male and 1 female children.

The youngest children are 1 boy of 8 years, old at the forges and mills and 1 boy of 7 years and 5 boys 8 years old at the colliery and mine works.

**SUMMARY**

	Males	Females
Adults	1079	46
Young persons and children	213	18
	1292	64
Total	1356	

[The circumstances under which children and young persons are employed at the Pentwyn and Golynos Works are so analogous to those already described at the British Iron Company's work at Abersychan that I did not take any separate examinations at them. I had, however, the pleasure to see Mr. John Morgan, the managing partner at the works and to obtain from him a statement from which the above information is compiled and from which the following is a short abstract.]

We have had no explosion or accidents from either fire of chokedamp within the last two years. As far as we can ascertain, one accident only had occurred within that period. The sufferer was working in a coal stall and having neglected to prop up the roof sufficiently and it fell and killed him. The coal in the mine is brought from the workings to the foot of the shafts by horses. Boys and men are employed in some instances to bring the coal or ore from the length of the branch headings to the principle heading or level but not to the foot of the shaft or to the surface. Boys are employed from eight years upwards to draw by a belt for a distance of from 20 to 409 yards. The coal and mine is brought to the surface by steam engines and horses. No children are employed in breaking or preparing the ore but there are 13 employed about the furnaces, assisting the filling mine, limestone and coke, carrying mortar and watering coke. There are 7 children employed in sweeping floors and pulling up doors at the puddling furnaces and there are 12 employed at the rolling mills in sweeping floors, cropping ends of bars at the shears, straightening small sized bars and hooking at the rolls. There are 33 young persons in the forge and mill, 95 in the mines and about 16 about the furnaces. In general the work of young persons is much harder than that of children. Females are employed to fill the mine into trams and to stack it at the surface. The employments of children and young persons are minding air doors in the levels, filling trams and fastening horses to trams. Some of the elder ones are about 17 years old and cut coal and get mine. They are also employed in cleaning roads, attending fires assisting miners and colliers, generally in getting mine and cutting coal. At the latter employment but few commence under 15 years of age. In other descriptions of work they may commence about eight. our works do not require very young children but there is light work to be a considerable extent, such as driving, &c., which is unsuited to men.

I do not think a limitation of the age at which children are employed in mines desirable. The work in the mines is carried on about 11 hours a day. As the miners work by the ton, they begin or end when they choose but they usually work 11 hours a day and children work the same as adults. Children and young persons are not employed at night but the work of the blast furnaces if not suspended on Sundays. We do not find that we are able to suspend them. We have stopped when accidents have compelled us to do so and the working of the furnaces is much injured thereby. Most probably a considerable proportion of the people derive moral advantage for the suspension of their labours for a certain number of hours n Sundays. A great number, however spend those hours in the public houses. We have frequently stopped the working of the furnaces for six or eight hours when accidents have happened to the blowing apparatus but it is always deranges the working of the furnace, injures the quality of the iron and consumes more materials to restore it to its proper condition. If continued much longer than six or eight hours, the consequence would be more disastrous. The coke yards are also obliged to be looked to on Sundays but no other portion of our works.

We have no system of rewards or punishments. Corporal punishments are not inflicted that we are aware of. There is a sick fund formed to which a small percentage on his gains is paid by each workman, entitling him to medical assistance gratuitously. There is no school, reading room or lending library established or supported by the works

**The TIN PLATE MANUFACTORY belonging to Messrs. Richard and Thomas Fothergill and Co. in the parish of Caerleon. The TIN PLATE MANUFACTORY belonging to Messrs. Edward Jenkins and Co. at Pontnewydd in the parish of Lanorechea and the TIN PLATE MANUFACTORY belonging to Messrs. Conway and Co. at Pontrhydyrin, in the parish of Lanteague, Monmouthshire.**

Total Number of Young Persons and Children Employed.

Caerleon Tin Works:-

74 male and 11 female adults 18 male and 2 female young persons and 7 male children.

Pontnewydd Tin Works:-

32 male and 8 female adults 9 male young persons and 1 male and 1 female children.

At the Pontrhydyrin:-

36 male and 13 female adults, 3 male and 6 female young persons and 9 male and 4 female children.



The youngest children are 1 boy of 9 years, old at the Caerleon Tin Works and 1 boy of 8 years and 1 girl 8 years old at the Pontrhydyrin tin works.

### SUMMARY

	Males	Females
Adults	142	32
Young persons and children	47	13
	189	45
Total		234

[The mode of employing children and young persons in the tin works above named is so similar that I only took examinations at Pontrhydyrin, where I found the youngest hands at work. I however obtained statements from the managers or agents of each work, describing the general circumstances under which the children are employed by them from which statements the following are a few extracts.]

**Mr. W. Conway James, managing partner of the Pontnewydd Works, states:-**

We employ 32 males and 8 females adults, 9 boys between 13 and 18 years and 1 boy and 1 girls under 13 years of age.

None of the machinery is fenced off, indeed we do not think it necessary as since the works were established no accident has occurred with the exception of a child of four years old (under the care of his sister) being allowed too near the wheels by which he as a little injured.

The temperature in the different parts of our works is variable, but neither very hot nor very cold. The exact temperature is not known. The greatest heat is in the scale house but only sufficiently to heat the plates "warm red." This is, however, a close place as it is necessary to exclude air, otherwise the plates would be injured in this process.

Children are not necessarily required in any of the processes and they are only employed in the lightest work, as men would not work for the wages. Never having employed very young children we can hardly answer as to a limitation of age for employment. They generally begin light work about 12 years of age and we do not find them suffering from it. In general those who begin young are the best workmen. In some parts (in the mill and scale house for instance) the men work more than the hours on the Saturday night, In the tin house, upon cases of emergency, the men have worked 14 hours a day but very seldom. We should say the excess beyond the regular hours are unavoidable because so seldom necessary as not to make it worth while employing an extra "watch" or set of hands, by which the wages of the regular workmen would be so curtailed as to render it hardly likely they would stay with us. As the men work by the box or the piece they are always willing to work over hours on the two days named, if required, for the sake of the extra wages.

All children (if ours may so be called) we employ, with regular sets and of course work the same number of hours. The greatest number of hours that the same set of children or young persons worked during one day in the last year is in the scale house, about 13 hours but this occurs very seldom, only when we are much pressed. Perhaps the next week they will have idle time.

We have not tried relays of hands but parents sometimes, if they have many children, change them to which we have no objection. It has been a system here with parents to work one child while another is in school and so on, changing them continually. The effect of reducing the children's work would be to reduce the hours of all the men who work in our manufactory, the wages would by this means be materially reduced.

In the mill and scale house we work day and night. The watches are changed at six o'clock in the morning and at night. We have employed only two children in night work and not more than 12 hours 4excepting excepting there may have been occasion for it and then not more than 14 hours. The prohibition of night work for children and young persons would prevent our employing children and as men could not be procured to work for the wages it would perhaps in the deed destroy our trade. No processes in our work indispensibly require them if men would work for the wages. No part of our works at continued in operation during Sunday.

Wit regard to meal times, the men always regulate this. They work by the box and they take their meals when they please. Corporal punishments are never inflicted. The best workmen are always found amongst those who have been taken into the works when young, indeed we consider it necessary in order to secure good workmen to put children to work as soon as we consider them able.

**Mr. William Jones, agent of the Caerleon Works.**

We employ 74 males and 11 female adults, 18 male and 2 female young persons between 13 and 18 years and 7 boys under 13 years of age. All the dangerous parts of the machinery are fenced off. The residences of the workmen are so near the works that no conveniences for changing clothes or cooking are required. The average temperature of the work is 50 degrees but occasionally the heat from the furnaces and rolled iron is excessive but only at intervals for a quarter of an hour in every hour.

No children are employed under 9 to 10 years of age. With reference to a limitation of age, we think children are not useful in works of this kind under 9 or 10 years of age. Every part of the rolling mills and forge work is carried on day and night during the whole of the week with the exception of Sunday but other parts of the works during the day only. Children and young persons are both employed the same length of time which is 12 hours. No system of relays in the employment of children have been tried. The day and night sets of hands are changed weekly.

We have only two children and only three young persons that have been employed at night work at any one time in the last twelve months. A prohibition of night work for them would affect us very seriously. The work at present done by the young persons and children would be wholly stopped. The hollow fires for making blooms and the tin rolling department require the assistance of young persons during the whole of the 24 hours. The young persons employed in such processes are from 9 to 10 years and not exceeding 18 years of age. No part of the works is continued in operation on Sundays and we have no system of rewards of or punishments and corporal punishment is forbidden.

There is decidedly a difference in the skill of the hands. Those employed from infancy make the best workmen.

There is no school or sick fund in connection with our works. Drunkenness is a general and enormous evil in these works and chiefly attributable to the existence of beer houses in the immediate neighbourhood of the works.

**Examinations at PONTRHYHYRIN TIN WORKS in the parish of Panteague,  
Monmouthshire, belonging to Messrs. Conway, brothers. Employing about 50 people. April  
17th.**

**No.27. Samuel Conway, aged 45, "shearer."**

I have eight children four of them working at the tin works, one boy and three girls. The youngest is the little one now with me and she is about eight years old. The boy is 13 and he is employed in raising the tin plates out of the "tin pot." The oldest girl is 17 years old and she is employed in rubbing the tin plates in saw dust and lime. The other girl is 15 and she works with me opening the plates after I shear them and this little one helps her. They both work by my side. Then little one has been at work for four months and I do not mean to keep her at work. I have two working and I mean to send them to school every other week. I have done this with all my children. When they first come to work I do not keep them long at it at a time but change them every other week and they get good schooling in this way. They go to day school and I pay 4d. per week for them for reading, and 6d., per week for writing, all ages the same. The master is a tolerably good one but another school is very much wanted in this neighbourhood and I have been speaking to Mr. Conway about it. The children get, for opening the plates, from 3s. 4d. to 5s. 10d. per week. I get for shearing about 25s. per week and I receive the children's money. They all work from six to six but go home to their meals as they live near the works and as they work by the box, they can go home when they like but they cannot do so in the mill as they must attend the fires, and the metal and other things. I worked when I was eight years old in the copper works roiling mill quite as hard as any of the children do here. It did not hurt me and I do not think that it hurts any child to put them to light work about eight years old. The dipping the plates in lime is not a healthy work, The lime dust gets into their throats and gives them a short cough. They have not done that work here more than two years. It is done by girls 15 or 16 years old. It agrees with some of them well but others complain at first but get used to it.

**No.28. Phoebe Conway, aged 8 years 6 months.**

I work with my father and sister. I open plates for the shears and my father shears them. I help my sister. I have not been long at the works, not many months. My work is not hard. I would rather work than go to school. I have been to school a little and go to Sunday School and Chapel. I can't read but I am in spelling. I am going to school next week.

**No.29. Thomas Evans aged 12.**

I am dusting plates with saw dust and I work 11 hours with one for dinner. About a month ago I worked in the mill, behind the rolls, "catching." It was harder work than "dusting" and it was very hot sometimes behind the rolls. I was at school for three years and I attend Sunday School. I can read. I would rather go to school than work. I don't know how much I get, my father receives the money.

**No.30. John Absolem, aged 11 years.**

I am a "lister." I have been working for four years but I have only been "listing" for four months. I work in the tin house and we all work 12 hours. I go home for dinner but am not allowed an hour, sometimes not ten minutes. They must keep on at the work while the tin and grease is hot and in temper. I do not always work 12 hours. I do not get very tired and I am never ill. I do not recollect that I have lost a day by being sick. Before I wet to "list", I was putting down the plates into the pickle and that was not hard work but sometimes the pickle burned my fingers. I used "hand leathers," which saved my hands. I did not hurt them much. I was in school three years and I go to the Sunday School now and can read. I would rather go to school than to work. I do not know how much money I get as father has it. He works in the same works and is a "scaler" at the furnace.

**REPORTS by RHYS WILLIAM JONES, ESQ., on the Employment of Children and Young Persons in the Blaenavon and Clydach Iron Works, near Abergavenny and on the state, Condition and Treatment of such Children and Young Persons.**

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**TO HER MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONERS.**

GENTLEMEN,

September 1, 1841.

These works are situated at the north eastern angle of the South Wales mineral basin, within six miles of the town of Abergavenny. They have been personally inspected by me and the printed returns have been filled up. The extensive taking of the "Blaenavon Iron and Coal Company" extend themselves into the parishes of Llanover, Llanfoist, Llanwernarth and Trevethin in the county of Monmouthshire and constitute a district, the population of which has been called into existence and is entirely supported by the works.

In March, 1840, the following statistics as to Blaenavon were collected by Mr. George Kenrick, and I believe that very little alteration has since occurred in them.

In the Blaenavon District comprising the blast furnaces and forges at Garnddyris, there were, in March, 1840, 811 houses and a population of 5155, being a little more than 6 to a house and the number of sleeping rooms average 3 to a house. 499 children under 3 years of age and 982 children between 3 and 12 years of old (the age of education) being full one fifth of the population. 1670 married people, and 1464 lodgers, or nearly 2, on an average to a house. The English proportion of the population was 38 per cent, the Welsh proportion 61 per cent, the Irish 1 per cent and 21 persons could not speak English. 306 children went to school and the average attendance at the Sunday Schools were 545. The average attendance at the places of worship was 1135 and 490 did not go to any place of worship. 701 houses or seven eighths of the whole, had Bibles and there were 400 drunkards. There appears to be very little difference between the parishes of Trevethin (the Pontypool district) and Blaenavon, in the character and distribution of the inhabitants. The houses are rather more crowded and the proportion of lodgers is rather large. The Welshmen predominate more decidedly, being 61 per cent instead of 51 per cent of the whole number. Rather a larger number had Bibles, viz., seven eighths instead of four fifths. The places of workshop are better attended in Trevethin where the attendance is one third of the population whereas in Blaenavon it is little more than one fifth and as might be expected, there is an equal difference in respect of

the Sunday School in favour of Trevethin. There is at Blaenavon on Church (built and endowed by the company) capable of containing 550 persons and five Chapels capable of containing 1350 persons, total 1900. The average attendance at Church is 150 at the Chapels 985, total 1135. The Sunday School at Church average 115 at the Chapels 430, total 545.

There is a large free school at Blaenavon for about 250 children (boys and girls), which was established and is still supported by a lady named Hopkins at which there is also a Sunday School, where the attendance on the first Sunday in May last was about 60 boys and 60 girls.

The managers and agents state that the number of persons employed in the Blaenavon Iron Works and Coal Works amounts to 1490 male and 26 female adults, 257 male and 58 female children under 13 years of age amounting in all to 2002, and they state, in answer to the printed queries that:-

“The mine and coal works are ventilated by open communications from one horizontal level to another and also from those levels to perpendicular pits and by means of stoves or furnaces under ground. The works are entered in part by shafts, but principally by levels. The headgear and chains are of the best quality. The workmen need not descend into the workings at all by the chains as there are footways to go to the bottom of the shafts from the surface. It is not the wish of the employers that any should descend or come up the pits at all by the chains (as there are footways to the workings), only during the time the new pits are being sunk.

The horse roads are 5 feet 6 inches to 6 feet high. The roads where horse are not employed, 5 feet, 4 feet and 3½ feet high. The thickness of the seams are various some 4½ inches, 3 inches and 1½ inches thick. The thickness of the coal seams vary from 2½ to 3½ feet. Some of the horseways require but little cutting away at the top others require two feet of the top to be cut away and some part of both top and bottom, to make room for the horses. The workings are various depths below the surface from 15 fathoms to 80 fathoms. The miners are supplied with Davy lamps, when found necessary. Carbonic acid gas exists but is dissipated by free ventilation. The workings open to each other from the deep to the rise. Atmospheric air is circulated along the face of the workings throughout their whole extent and escapes at the crop of mines. Not one explosion had occurred within the last two years in the mine works but there was one which proved fatal in the collieries. No accidents have taken place within the last two years from carbonic acid gas but two miners met their deaths occasioned by the working ground falling in upon them and in the collieries there have been six fatal accidents, one by blasting in the rock (the touch paper having overhung fire), two others by riding up the slope. Their clothes caught and drew them under the trams, another by a fall of ground coming on him and two others by falling under trams on a plain road.

The coal are brought from the workings to the main horseways by horses, adults and children and young persons from 12 to 18 years of age. In the mine work there are at this employment, males 50, females 30 in number and in the collieries 70 males from 12 years to 18 years old. Children and young persons very seldom draw by belt and girdle in the mine works. If by chance they are employed in the air courses or other small places, males are employed from 14 to 16 years of age but in the collieries young persons from 12 to 18 years of age draw with belt and a carriage of a weight of about 5 cwt. for a distance of from 10 to 40 yards. In some instances in the mine works they draw 500, 600 and even 700 yards, a carriage running upon tram plates, containing 12 cwt, 18 cwt, and sometimes one ton.

The mine is brought out of the pits by machinery and from some of the surface levels by horses, from others by men, women and children aged from 12 to 18 years of whom there are 50 males and 40 females so employed. The coal is brought out in some instances by machinery and in other by horses through levels driven by men and boys from 12 to 18 years old. In some instances children and young persons, two and sometimes three together push the trams to the gateways.

The principle part of the females are so employed and females are also employed to assist in getting the mine and loading it into trams. There are also a great number of boys under 13 years of age assisting their parents in getting coal. The other employments for children and young persons are driving horses and tending doors for turning the current of air for ventilation and sweeping roads. They begin to work as early as nine or ten years of age, The works do not require them so young but the parents themselves are desirous that their children should be employed very young to tend doors or any other light work. They are not acquainted without any machinery that can in any way be made a substitute for the light jobs very young children are put to do in the mines.

With regard to the limitation of age at which children should be employed, Mr. Samuel Deakin, the mine agent states:-

I myself do not wish to see children under ground before their age amounts to 11 or 12 years of age, At that age the males, if they are to be brought up to mining it is time for them to begin.

And Mr. John Samuel, the colliery agent states:-

As for myself, I should say they should not begin to work before they are 10 years of age and no later.

The hours of work are from 10 to 12 hours. The mine is got by weight and every miner is "his own undertaker" and may employ his own family of he wishes, great or small. He goes to and leaves his work when he pleases. The colliers raise the coal by the ton and they are not confined to any time. There is seldom any difference in the length of time children or adults are employed. The children are generally employed with their parents or friends and go in and out with them. They are very seldom employed by night except a few for the company to the men repairing the roads. There is not much night work done here.

The meal times are half an hour at breakfast and an hour at dinner to labouring men. A miner's time is his own. We have no system or rewards or punishments. Corporal punishments are not allowed. We always check swearing and every other vice by reasoning and persuasion.

There is a Blaenavon a very excellent free school, erected and endowed by Mrs. Hopkins and excellent Sunday Schools established by the Wesleyans, Baptists and Independents, Welsh Methodists, &c.

The Clydach Iron Works are situated near the village of Llanelly about three miles to the north of Blaenavon and occupy that part of the parish of Llanelly in the county of Brecon into which the north eastern corner of the mineral basin extends itself and the boundary between these works and those of "Blaenavon" and "Nanty Glo" is also the boundary between the two counties.

I have been unable to collect much statistical information respecting the parish of Llanelly but the following statement which Mr. Launcelot Powell, the resident managing partner has been kind enough to give, in answer to the printed Queries and the subjoined summary of the children and young persons employed, which I have collected from the tabular returns, will furnish extensive particulars regarding the juvenile portion of the population engaged in the mines and iron works and will, I regret to observe, show that the great grievance of the iron works, want of education, extends itself to the farthest verge of the district.

Mr. Launcelot Powell states as follows:-

At the Clydach Iron Works in the parish of Llanelly, Breconshire, there are employed at the furnaces and forges, 327 male and 14 female adults, 73 males and 1 female young persons between the ages of 13 and 18 years and 82 male and 22 female children under 13 years of age, in all 1352 persons.

The whole of the minerals are worked by level and one level communicates with the others which ventilate the workings. The smallest height of the gateways, horseways or mainways in our mines are about five feet. The thickness of our beds or veins of ore are about three to four inches in each vein and the thickness of our coal seams are from three feet to seven feet. Where there is not sufficient headway in the seam the top or the bottom are cut away which is sometimes the case of the thin veins. The ore we are working is from 60 or 70 fathoms below the surface.

The Davy lamps are used when required. The chokedamp sometimes exists in our mines which is cleared of by air courses. No explosion have taken place in our mines for many past. No accidents from chokedamp have taken place in our mines within the last two years. No accidents have occurred in the coal workings but two lives have been lost in the iron works and three men have had their thighs broken by falls from the roof of mines. The levels and workings are secured by pit timber and masonry.

The ore from the workings is brought to the foot of the shafts and levels by horses and one steam engine of 14 horse power which works under ground. No children or young persons drawn by belt or "girdle and chain." The ore is brought to the surface by horses and water balance.

Only one boy is employed in breaking limestone, not one in preparing the ore. Several are employed in breaking shale off the mine or ironstone. Two boys are employed in helping fillers at the furnaces and four boys fill mine into the furnace barrows and four children work on the coke yard clearing dust, &c.

Three children assist the moulders and three boys raise the puddlers' furnace doors and two boys raise piles of iron ready for the ballers. Fifty six boys are employed assisting at rolls, shearing the iron, straightening bars and labouring and sweeping at the mills.

The labour of young persons from 13 to 18 years old is generally greater than those under 13 and they obtain better wages for harder work.

Several females are employed in assisting the miners and in cleaning mine on the yards and there are six girls employed in cutting coal. Several children and young persons are also employed in driving horses and in keeping air doors and carrying tools to the blacksmith shops.

The boys begin to drive horses at ten years and in keeping doors at seven or eight years old. They are not required under 12 years. We should recommend that they commence working at twelve years of age.

The usual number of hours during work in which our mines is carried on is from eight to twelve hours each day without any relay of hands. The children never exceed ten to twelve hours from which time about an hour and a half is to be deducted for meals. The children generally work the same number of hours as the adults but more rest intervals are given to them. None are employed at night in the mines. The working of the blast furnaces is not suspended on Sundays. We find that our workpeople derive comfort and moral advantage from the suspension of their labours for a certain number of hours on the Sunday. No other works besides the furnaces are in operation of the Sunday. We have stopped several hours of repair furnaces and we found they did not recover their usual rate of driving for two or three days as the tuyres after filled up after stopping.

The meal times allowed are half an hour for breakfast and an hour for dinner. We have no system of rewards or punishments. No corporal punishments are inflicted on nay children or young persons employed in our mines. We seldom find they ill use the children and have not had occasion to give instructions on the subject to the overmen and the men who are well behaved check bad language in their fellow workmen and children.

There are Sunday Schools in the different Dissenting Chapels, conducted by workmen. There is also a sick fund established by them.

With references to working the blast furnaces on Sundays, Mr. H. Scrivener, the manager of the Blaenavon Works states in answer to the printed Queries that their blast furnaces are nor suspended but that "with preparation of a furnace may be stopped for some hours." That they had made no experiments to suspend the furnaces of any certain number of hours but with reference to the workpeople deriving comfort or moral advantage from the suspension of their labours for a certain number of hours of Sundays he states, "I have been here but a short time but generally speaking, should consider there was no doubt of it," and adds that no other works besides the furnaces are in operation on the Sunday.

Mr. F. Price, the furnace manager at the Clydach Works stated on this subject, that in his opinion the blast furnaces might be stopped on Sundays but not without some detriment to the company in waste of coke and decrease in the make of iron. But he thought it would be a desirable thing if all the trade made a rule to stop on Sundays. He had d not tried to stop since he had been at Clydach (which was not quite twelve months) and had not any experience in the stopping of the furnaces on Sundays, but had no doubt it might be done if it became the general rule.

Mr. Robert Ellis, the forge and mill agent at Clydach stated that in his opinion it would be a great advantage to the country of Sunday work was stopped and is females were restricted from working under ground in mines.

I subjoin a summary of tabular statement of the children and young persons employed at the Blaenavon and Clydach Works showing their ages and ten number who can read and write. Also a statement in answer to the Educational Queries by Mr. John Thomas, bookkeeper at the Clydach Works and Registrar of Births and Deaths in the parish of Llanelly. Likewise a report upon the physical condition of the children and young persons by. Mr. Thomas Pierce, the medical gentlemen attached to the works and notes of the examinations of children and others taken by myself.

I have the honour to be,  
Gentlemen,  
Your most obedient servant,  
R.W. JONES.

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## APPENDIX.

### Summary of Children and Young Persons employed at the Clydach Iron Works.

At the blast furnaces:-

12 male under the age of 13 years, 22 males between 13 and 18 years.

At the rolling mills:-

16 male and 1 female under the age of 13 years, 53 males and 1 female between 13 and 18 years.

At the colliery and mine works:-

82 male and 22 females under the age of 13 years, 106 males and 45 female between 13 and 18 years.

The youngest children are 2 boys of 9 years, and 1 girl of 12 years old at the blast furnaces.

1 boy and one girl of 8 years and three boys of 10 years at the rolling mills.

1 boy of 6 years and 2 boys of 7 years, 13 boys and 2 girls of 8 years, 1 girl of 9 years and 4 girls of 10 years old at the colliery and mine works.

### Summary of Children and Young Persons employed at the Blaenavon Iron Works.

At the blast furnaces:-

15 male and 6 females under the age of 13 years, 8 males and 8 females between 13 and 18 years.

At the forge and mills:-

20 male under the age of 13 years, 49 males between 13 and 18 years.

At the mine works:-

67 male and 31 females under the age of 13 years, 108 males and 46 female between 13 and 18 years.

At the coal works:-

46 male under the age of 13 years, 51 males between 13 and 18 years.

The youngest children are 1 boy of 7 years, and 3 girls of 10 years old at the blast furnaces.

2 boys and 7 and 8 years and 2 boys of 12 years at the mills and forges.

1 boy of 6 years and 1 boy of 7 years, 10 boys and 2 girls of 8 years old at the mine works.

6 boys 8 years old at the coal works.

### Statement in Answer to the Educational Queries.

There are in neighbourhood of Clydach, six Sunday Schools, viz., Established Church, one, Independents, one, Calvinistic Methodists, two and Baptists, two.

There is also one day school for girls and boys in union with the National Society about one mile for Clydach Iron Works open from 9 to 12 in the morning and one to five in the afternoon.

The attendance at the schools is as follows:-

Day School	70 to 80
Church Sunday School	50
Independents Sunday School	150
Calvinistic Methodists Sunday School	230
Baptists Sunday School	200

The above is as near as possible the whole attendance. The majority of those attending Sunday School are employed in the iron works. In the day school, reading, writing and arithmetic are taught. In the Sunday Schools reading only. The master in the day school is fully competent and has been trained as a teacher. The Sunday School at Church is under his care also. The teachers at the Dissenting Sunday School are persons of moderate education. The majority of the children leave school from 9 to 12 years of age. The early removal from school operates to their injury as they become familiar with vice before they are fully able to understand the evil of it. I think that they ought to be allowed to remain in school to 13 or 14 years of age. I do not consider Sunday School sufficient to make up loss of instruction by early removal from day schools.

There being no evening school in the neighbourhood, observation will apply totally to the Sunday Schools in which those who attend the day school necessarily make greater progress. In the day school and the Sunday School at Church, instruction is given in the English language only. In the Dissenting Sunday Schools both English and Welsh are taught but principally Welsh.

(Signed) JOHN THOMAS.

Bookkeeper to the Clydach Iron Company and  
Registrar of Births and Deaths  
for the parish of Llanelly.  
September 1st., 1841.

### **Clydach Iron Works, Llanelly, Breconshire.**

The physical condition of the children in this neighbourhood is as good, if not better than in most other manufacturing districts, as they are, generally speaking, not over worked. The external appearance of the children generally is healthy. In stature the children belonging to the works are equal to most others not connected with those establishments but as they arrive at adult age those that are not exposed to the strong fires at the works acquire the appearance of premature old age. With regard to food, the generality are better off than in most of the agricultural districts. They are generally well clad and are kept in the greater number of instances clean. The principle surgical diseases connected with the works arise from accidents and not from any strained or unfavourable postures. There are no medical diseases which appear to be confined to this district. Fevers are generally prevalent.

(Signed) THOMAS PIERCE, Surgeon.  
May 11th., 1841.

## **EVIDENCE COLLECTED BY RHYS WILLIAM JONES, ESQ.**

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### **BLAENAVON IRON WORKS, belonging to the Blaenavon Iron and Coal Company, employing about 2000 people and making about 400 tons per week in five furnaces. May. 3rd.**

#### **No.31. Thomas Deakin, aged 65, mine agent and John Samuel, aged 31, coal agent, examined together.**

There are about 230 young persons under 18 years of age employed in mine works and about 136 in the coal works. Their parents take their children into the works very young, when not more than six or seven years old but we do not employ them under the company before than eight or nine and then but a very few to keep the doors or something like than. We sometimes have girls to keep doors but not many. There is only one door at the present on the mine works but there a great many at the pit top and on the mine banks. There is only one girl at present employed about the coal works. She is about 14 years of age and tips or empties the rubbish trams on the banks. There are in the colliery 10 or 12 boys at air doors. The youngest of from seven to eight years old. The boys, when they get from 9 to 15 years of age, go to drive the horses.

The door boys and most of the drivers are paid by the company. The door boys get 10s. or 12s. a month. They do not burn a light but are in the dark excepting when the trams come out when they see the driver's candle. They work 12 hours from six o'clock in the morning to six in the evening. They sometimes come up at five o'clock and do not always go down as soon as six. We do not work the night turn in either mine or coal works.

The driver of "haulier" get about 10s. or 12s. per week. Some are employed and paid by the men when they work by contract. After the age of 15 or 16 years the boys go to assist the miners and colliers in getting the mine and coal and bringing it out. We have no boys working with the "belt and chain." He had himself worked with the belt and chain in Shropshire at nine years of age. The



children do not work here one fourth part as hard as they do in Shropshire. I would not allow my children to work as I did fifty years ago. I would sooner send them to the West Indies as slaves. We have no children in our works in any way over worked and they are in general well clothed and well fed.

The pits are stopped for an hour at dinner time but the miners and colliers take their dinners at different times, when they like, as they by the ton and the boys working with them do the same.

The air in the works is generally pure and free from damp. There have been explosions. One happened within the last two years when one man was burned to death but no others were hurt at the same time. There have been other small explosions but no boys have been hurt. The boys are seldom ill and they lose very little time from sickness, not so much on the whole as the men. Many of the men are ruptured but we do not think they get so before they are grown up. The only particular complaint that we think the colliers and miners are affected with more than other men is a complaint of the chest and lungs, like asthma, when they get about 50 years old. There are levels inn the horse roads into every part of our works but the men and boys prefer going down the pits and we have had no accidents by their so doing.

### **No.32. William Lloyd, aged 36.**

I have been furnace manager at Blaenavon for two years. I was three years in the same situation at Abersychan, the British Works and five years before that at Bilso Brook Ironworks in Staffordshire. I have about 37 children working about the furnaces under my charge and the youngest are about seven years of age. I think I have only one so young as seven years. He cleans the tram road and is paid by the company 5s. per week. I have some boys from 1 top 12 years helping the “fillers” at the furnace top. They fill limestone barrow and assist the filler in pushing it from the yard to the furnace. They do not go into any heat or any danger. There are 14 girls from 10 to 16 years of age on the coal and coke yard. They are paid by the cokers from 6s. to 9s. per week.

There are six boys in the cast house and refinery from 10 to 14 years old. The refinery boys work in some heat in the summer time and sometimes get burned but not very bad. There are a few girls at the mine kilns and unloading the mine from the trams into the kilns. They all work for 12 hours and the furnaces and refineries work at night. There are only four boys and two girls working at night. They change every other week. They all take an hour for dinner and half an hour for breakfast. I do not think that the children are put on to do more than they are able. I have not seen an instance of it here.

I went to work when I was about eight years old to help fillers at an iron works in Staffordshire. I worked a good deal harder at it than the boys do here. I had all the mine and limestone to fill into boxes. The boys fill only the limestone here, not one third of the work, so that I must have worked harder. I worked at it two or three years. It did not hurt me in health. I am stout enough. The boys are very seldom ill and lose very little time. We work the blast furnaces on a Sunday. I have seen the furnaces in Staffordshire stopped for 12 hours on a Sunday and also at the Abersychan Works for a few months. It threw the furnaces back a good deal at Abersychan but not in Staffordshire. The materials are better there and more suitable for stopping. I do not think we could stop the furnaces here for two or three hours without suffering great inconvenience. If we did stop for 12 hours on a Sunday, the men in the next night’s turn would have double the work and we should very likely at times have to employ double hands. Our materials are not so good enough for stopping as others that burn hotter. The coals differ in quality at almost every works. We do not use the hot blast.

### **No.33. Timothy Macarthy, aged 35.**

I am a “filler.” I fill the mine, coke and limestone into the furnace. I work 12 hours and work at night every other week. I come from the county of Cork but have been working at the iron works for some time. I have a large family, six here and one in Ireland. I have two boys working with me here, Thomas 10 years old and Timothy, 14 years old. They help in pushing the barrows called “dandies” back and forward to the top of the furnace. Tom is rather young to come to work but I don’t put him to do much and I have a large family and am obliged to put them to do something as soon as they are ale. He has not been to work long, not a year. If I had not him, I should be obliged to employ a boy, which I could not afford.

They both work at night every other week and they work hard enough but not more than they are able. They are very seldom sick but the little one, Tom, is ruptured. I don’t know when he got it at the works or by playing about. I got a truss for him from the surgeon, Mr. Steel, but it did not answer so I made one myself which is better and the little chap does very well now.

**No.34. Timothy Macarthy, aged 14 and Thomas Macarthy, aged 10, sons of the last witness.**

We help father and the fillers at the furnace. It is not very hard work. We work at night some weeks and we work as long as the men. We have plenty of time to eat our dinners. We fill limestone into the barrows and help to push them to the furnace. We don't go too near the fire. We are not tired when we go home from work and we are sick very seldom. We go to Sunday School but can't read much.

[Thomas stated that he did not do much work and had not been long coming to work. He did not know how long, but would rather come to work than stay at home. He did not know how he got hurt (ruptured) nor how long it happened. He did not feel it much.]

**No.35. Mary Daniel, aged 14, and Margaret Thomas, aged 15, examined in the Welsh language.**

We fill the mine off the bank in the trams. We have been working here a long time. It is not very hard work. We work 12 hours but go to breakfast and dinner out of that. We live near and go home to meals. Mary Daniel has not been employed at any other work but Margaret Thomas has been working in the levels under ground pushing the trams in and put. Working in the levels was harder work than working on the mine bank. The levels were mostly wet, sometimes wet sometimes she went through mud and water in them "half leg deep." She worked barefoot. There were many girls as young as her in the levels. They did not often take cold and were not in the habit of losing much time for sickness. They went to the Sunday Schools but could not read. They worked for the man that took the mine to fill by the ton. They sometimes had 10s. per week and sometimes less. They would rather come to work that stay at home or go out to service.

**No.36. Mary Deakin, aged 16, and Mary Tanner, aged 15.**

The receive the trams as they come out of the mine pit. There are four or five girls working together. They have a house or lodge and a fire in it at the pit mouth to go into when waiting for the trams to come up. They always have a fire in cold weather. They take the trams from the carriages when they come up the pit and put the empty trams back on the carriages to go back down the pit. They are about 10 minutes coming up and they are about the same time taking them off the carriages. They then wait in the lodge for the next to come up. They are brought up by a water wheel. They do not work hard but are there from six o'clock in the morning until six in the evening. They have an hour for dinner and the most of them go home to meals. They do not work at night.

**No.37. Lucretia Jones, aged 8.**

Her work is to call out, "haul up" to the man at the water wheel when the signal is given in the pit that the trams are ready. She has not been there long. She waits in the lodge while the trams are coming up and runs about. She is by the pit all day but goes home to her dinner.

**CLYDACH IRON WORKS. August 29th.**

**No.38. Robert Williams, aged 17.**

I work with my father, he is mason. I have been at work with him for three years. Before that I worked in the brickyard for five years. We work from six o'clock in the morning to six in the evening and allowed times for meals. We sometimes repair the furnaces and put in tuyeres when the furnace is going. The places are sometimes very hot and the work dangerous. No accident of any consequence has happened to me. I have been in school and read the Testament but cannot write. I got 13s. 6d. per week before the fall in wages. I shall get 1s. or 1s. 6d. less. We do not work at night.

**No.39. Edward Carpenter, aged 10.**

I help the moulders in the cast house making and drying cores and other work. I often go into the drying stove but I am not long in hot places. I have been working for almost two years. I work from six to six and am allowed meal time. I do not work at night but sometimes work "a quarter," or from eight to nine o'clock. I do this once or twice a week. I do not work on Sundays. I work with my father which is a moulder and get 3s. or 4s. per week. There is another boy working in the cast house but he is older than me. I have been in school and read and write my name. I have had no accident but lost three weeks from a cold not long ago. The other boys (Evan Powell) burnt his foot and lost a week sometime ago. He can read but can't write.

**No.40. Rees Jones, aged 15.**

I am a haulier. I drive a horse on the tram carrying out cinders from the furnaces. I work from six to six and at night every other week. I take my meals as the work will allow. I worked as a helper to the furnace fillers before I was a haulier. I filled limestone and cinder into boxes and helped to wheel in coke. That was harder work than driving the horse. I worked then the same time as I do now. There are no girls helping the fillers but there are four or five breaking limestone with the men. My work is harder when I work at day than at night because at day I have to drive out the iron for the moulders as well as the cinders. We work 24 hours when we change the turn. We work Sunday and Sunday night every other week. I work under company and get 9s. 4d. per week. I have lost no time from sickness since I have been working, except five days in the measles a short time ago. I was not much in a day school and cannot read. I go to the Sunday School at the Church.

**No.41. Evan James, aged 9.**

I work in the forges raising the ball furnace door. I am called a "pull up" boy. I work from six to six and at night every other week. I get time to eat my dinner when we are working "large orders," but when he are working "small orders." the work is very busy and we have scarcely any time to eat until the end of the turn. I work under the men and get 4s. per week. I have my health very well. I have not lost any time for six months past. I have been in the National School and go to the Sunday School I can read a little.

**No.42. Henry Andrew, aged 18.**

I am working at the forges and have been here for four years. I have been through all the different works and am now "roughing" down at the small rolls. I work from six to six and at night every other week. We all get enough time to eat meals. If it is necessary one boy works for the other for a few minutes. We get spells for rest and air about six times every hour. The spells are from two to five minutes at a time and nor and then ten minutes. When we are on "small orders" we have but few spells because the piles are smaller and heat sooner, but then we stop the rolls for about a quarter of an hour for diner. The day turn is hotter than night turn but not otherwise harder. I work under the company by the ton and get about 20s. per week. I did get 25s. per week before the fall of wages last month. I have my health well, but was ill for six weeks of a fever about three months back. A good any of the boys have lost time lately from fevers. No accidents have happened to me. I can't read. I was never in a day school but go to Sunday School.

## **CLYDACH COLLIERIES AND MINES.**

**No.43. Richard Painter, aged 18.**

I work in the mines with my uncles. I have been here three years and a half before cutting and getting coal in the mines and driving "hard headings" through stone. Before I came here I worked in a small colliery in Shropshire for nine years. I went to work there when I was six years old. I was drawing with the "girdle and chain" all the time I was there. The coal vein was only half a yard high and a foot was taken down over it. The work was very hard, and the blackdamp was very dangerous there but I never met with any accident and the work did not hurt me. I have now very good health.

Since I have been here I have been helping my uncles in the mines. We work eight hours a day, that is the regular time but we are mostly by the yard. We work at night, at hard headings, every other week. The work is harder when the place is wet and the stone is hard, which is often the case. I have not met with any accidents but one of my uncles, about two years and a half back, broke his thigh and was bruised by a fall of roof and he is still very lame. I get about 18s. per week. I did get 20s. before the fall of wages. The young boys do not suffer so much, nor near, hers are they do in Shropshire. There is no "drawing" at these works. They go to work here s young as there but they only keep doors. They go to draw in Shropshire at six years old and are obliged to work hard and mind their time more so than they do here. There are a great many girls working underground here, keeping doors and helping the miners and collieries. There were no girls in the works I was at in Shropshire. I have not seen girls or boys much abused here and they are very well for that. The boys and girls often swear and use bad language under ground. I think the little girls are worse for that than the boys. The old, staid men check them and put the whip on them for it sometimes but they do not mind the younger men. I can't read, I have been very little to school and do not go to Sunday School.

**No.44. William John, aged 16.**

I work with my father in the mine works. I have worked with him ever since. I was eight years old. We go to work about six in the morning and sometimes sooner or later and return about the same time in the evening. We generally work 12 hours. We stop about 12 or 1 o'clock for about half an hour our eat our dinners. We sometimes work overtime in the last week of the month to make up for lost time in the first of the month and we sometimes work at night when my father wants to be away the next day. I have good health now but I used to be sick for a week or a fortnight every summer. I have met with no accidents but the levels are dangerous to work in. About a year ago a man was killed in the level where I work by a fall of roof. I get 8s. or 9s. per week. My father has 10 children. One of my brothers about nine years old is working with us. There are several girls working in the levels with their fathers and keeping doors. I can't read and was never much in school. I go sometimes to Sunday School.

**No.45. Rees Jones, aged 13.**

I am a haulier and drive a horse and tram a in the mine levels. I have been at work five years. I at first kept a door. My father in the level where I drive. I go out with the horse about six or seven o'clock in the morning and work almost 12 hours every day. There are no regular times to stop. I often eat my bread and cheese on the tram in going in and out. The horse has a "nose bag." I work the same time as the miners in the level and at night when they work at night but that is not often. They work harder and longer the last week in the month which is the week before the pay. My father has five children. He has two girls besides me working. One is 16, the other 12 years old. One is with my father, the other keeps and air door. I get 11s. per week for driving. I am under the company. I have not met with many accidents. I hurt my leg by the tram about a month back but it is well now. I can read a little in the Testament and go regularly to the Sunday School. I would rather go to school than to the works.

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**REPORTS by RHYS WILLIAM JONES, ESQ., on the Employment of Children and Young Persons in the Nantyglo and Beaufort, Sirhowy and Ebbw Vale, Tredegar and Rhymney and Bute Iron Works in the County of Monmouth and on the state, Condition and Treatment of such Children and Young Persons.**

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**TO HER MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONERS.**

GENTLEMEN,

Loughor, September 13, 1841.

Herewith I take leave to send you the papers which I have collected relating to the above mentioned iron works situated in the district between Blaenavon and Clydach on the east and Dowlais and Merthyr on the west, together with the examinations taken on my inspecting these establishments.

The statistical papers I have compiled from the returns made, aided by information obtained from the agents, I believe that as far as concerns the children and young persons employed, they are substantially correct and the number of adults employed and the total population dependent upon them, when not taken from actual returns or a census, is computed from the best data that I could obtain, founded on the nature and locality of the works.

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As to Sirhowy and Ebbw Vale, Mr. Lury, one of the partners, was kind enough to show me a private census taken for the company in February last and the population of the town of Tredegar,

which immediately adjoins the works, was furnished me by Mr. Illingworth, the agent for the public census taken in June last.

The education of the children of this part of the district appears to be extremely deficient which seems to be the natural consequence of the very scanty means afforded them of obtaining it. In connection with the works there was until very recently but one school, situated at Nantyglo. There is now, however, another on the same principle just established at Tredegar but the extensive and populous neighbourhoods of Ebbw Vale and Rhymney yet remain destitute of almost every educational resource, excepting that of inferior Sunday Schools at the sectarian chapels.

As descriptive of the schools attached to the works and the state of education in their neighbourhoods, I beg to quote the statements of the Rev. Daniel Rees, the minister of Blaina, Mr. T.B. Polden, schoolmaster at Nantyglo and George Illingworth, Esq., agent at Tredegar.

#### **Rev. Daniel Rees, of Blaina.**

There are two Sunday Schools in my parish in connection with the Church. There are also Sunday Schools connected with the different places of worship belonging to the various denominations of the Dissenters of which places there are seven in all, three belonging to the Anabaptists, two to the Wesleyan Methodists and two to the Calvinistic Methodists. There are in the parish two National Schools, one of boys and one for girls, situated at the Nantyglo Iron Works, open from 9 to 10 a.m. and from 2 to 5 p.m. The female children and young persons attending the National Schools are taught needle work and knitting. The Sunday Schools are more or less attended by the children and young persons working in the mines and collieries and various branches of the iron works of this parish. It may however be stated in general that the schools, Sunday and National are neglected, if not entirely forsaken by most of them as soon as the commence working.

In the Sunday Schools belonging to the Dissenters the children are seldom taught more than reading. In the National School they are taught in the week, writing, arithmetic, geography and Scripture history besides Church and other catechisms bearing on the various doctrines and duties of Christianity.

The master and mistress of the National Schools have been trained as teachers and are considered to possess competent knowledge for instructing the children in the branches of education before mentioned. They are removed generally between the ages of 12 and 16 and sometimes sooner if the parents can find them employment. This answer is to be considered as applying to the National School exclusively for the children will sometimes continue to attend the Sunday School after they leave the National.

If the children are removed as an early age, or if they are permitted as is too often the case, to continue but a short time at school (I speak of the National Schools) it must, of course, operate to their injury in after life as they have no other opportunity of acquiring knowledge. Generally speaking they ought to be allowed to remain until they are 16.

The Sunday Schools (and there are no other means of instruction at present accessible to them) are not sufficient (as must appear from what has been said before) to make up for the loss of instruction by early removal for the day school.

Children and young persons partly or mostly engaged in labour never attended the National Schools and therefore no comparison can be drawn between them and those who are wholly unemployed. The children and young persons employed in labour in this district are generally badly educated and many of them receive no education at all. Their intellectual condition must of course be very low and I regret to say that their religious and moral condition in too many instances anything but what it ought to be.

#### **Mr. Thomas B. Polden, schoolmaster at Nantyglo.**

The schools are supported by J. and C. Bailey, Esqrs., iron masters. The salary of the master is £70 and that of the mistress £54 per annum. The daily attendance of boys is 120, and of girls 100. There are two children maimed in the works who attend the school. The one has lost a leg and the other a hand.

#### **Mr. George Illingworth.**

There are Sunday Schools in the district of Tredegar in connection with the Established Church and most of the leading sects. There is a day school on the national system, at this moment being established, which was opened a few weeks ago and one or two under the superintendence of societies of Dissenters with a great number and variety of dame schools.

The national school established here is supported principally by a stoppage of a penny in the pound upon the earnings of the people employed under the Tredegar Company. The working people of the town of Tredegar have also the privilege of sending their children to this school on payment of a penny for each child per week. But the Tredegar Company are responsible for any deficiency of funds arising from these sources and for the support of the school. The master has a salary of £80 per annum besides a house and coal. He has been trained for teaching under the National School system. The other schools alluded to are conducted by persons of inferior qualifications.

Children are taken from the schools to go to continuous employment at from about 12 or 13 years of age and in some instances still younger. I am of the opinion that such practice must operate to their injury in after life unless their labour be very light and suitable to their age, which is not always the case. The age at

which they should be allowed to remain at school would depend much on the qualification of the above answer and the physical constitution of the subjects of it.

I scarcely think Sunday Schools or other means of instruction accessible to them can make up for the loss of proper instruction by their early removal from day schools.

It is my opinion that the National School now opened here will furnish adequate means of moral and religious instruction although in its progress great difficulties will arise from the prejudices consequent upon an ignorant and ill regulated labouring population unlikely to be soon reformed. Where the example of middle and more enlightened classes is but in very small proportion. Moral and religious institutions supported by an enlightened and vigorous system of police seem to be the best calculated to produce the desired reformation in the habits of the parents which are now opposed by the object of this commission.

There are in this district three other iron works, called the Blaina and Cwmcelyn, the Coalbrook Vale and the Victoria Works which I have not had the opportunity of visiting nor have I receives any returns from them. They employ (with their mines and collieries) collectively about 2000\* out of which I should estimate that there were 1500 male and 100 female adults, 120 male and 30 female children under 13 years of age and 1590 male and 100 female young persons between 13 and 18 years of age and that there is dependent upon those three works a total population of about 5000. Those works are, however, of a character so analogous to that of the others which I have examined, that I do not consider any investigation at them necessary for the purposes of the present inquiry.

The collieries situated between the before mentioned works and the ports of Cardiff and Newport will be visited by Mr. Franks and trusting that the paper and examinations now sent will convey a full description of the nature and extent of the employment of children and young persons in the iron works of this portion of the South Wales District.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

You most obedient servant,

R.W. JONES

To Her Majesty's Commissioners.

\* At the Victoria Iron Works belonging to the Monmouthshire Iron and Coal Company. are employed 155 male and 11 female adults, 48 male and 10 female young persons and 30 male and 5 female children, in all 259 persons. per dated return dated September 30th.

### **NATYGLO and BEAUFORT IRON WORKS, COLLIERIES and MINE WORKS, on the parish of Aberystwith, Monmouthshire, belonging to Messrs. J. and C. Bailey.**

Estimated statement of the number of persons employed	3900
Estimated total population dependent upon the works	8000

#### **Total Number of Young Persons and Children Employed in the Nantyglo Iron Works.**

At the blast furnaces:-

1 male, 7 female under 13 years of age 16 males and 7 females between 13 and 18 years of age.

At the forges and rolling mills:-

43 males, under 13 years of age 64 males and 10 females between 13 and 18 years of age.

At the coal and mine works:-

77 males, 4 female under 13 years of age 123 males and 18 females between 13 and 18 years of age.

Estimated number of girls above ground at the mine banks, 100 females between 13 and 18 years of age.

The youngest children are 1 boy and two girls of 8 years, 1 boy of 9 years at the blast furnaces.

3 boys of 9 years at the forges and rolling mills.

2 boys, 6 years and 7 boys and 1 girl 9 years old at the coal and mine works.

## SUMMARY

	Males	Females
Adults	3170	250
Young persons and children	334	146
	3504	396
Total	3900	

### **No.47. Mr. Abraham Rowlands, surgeon to the Nantyglo and Beaufort Works. August 6th.**

I have been at Nantyglo for 25 years. We have no more sickness than the average of other places. I do not think the employment of the iron works injures the health of the children. It is not like the factories and other works where tasks are imposed. The people here work by the piece and do as much as they like themselves and if they do little they get little and the children very frequently work for their parents.

I do not think any particular complaints prevail in this district. We have epidemics as in other places and we have now measles very bad. Accidents are by no means numerous considering the population. The children occasionally get hurt but often not seriously.

The children go the works very young, about seven or eight years old, girls and boys the same. They are taken away from school at that age by their parents which is very disheartening to the schoolmaster, for as soon as they begin to learn, they are taken away. There is a school at Nantyglo on the national school principle. There are about 200 boys and girls in the school and they are all very young. The school was erected by Messrs. Bailey and they support it but I believe the parents of the children pay one penny per week for each child. In the school there are but two maimed, one lost his arm and the other a leg. They are getting on very well with their education and will be, no doubt, put by Messrs. Bailey in some situations. The master and mistress are competent persons.

The physical condition of the children of this place is generally very good. As to their condition being better or worse than those of the same neighbourhood, it is impossible to say, as nearly all the children, at different ages, are employed more or less in the ironworks. As to the external appearance they are for the most part healthy and well formed. The stature of the children working under ground is generally small, especially those who begin to work very young although in some cases it does not affect their growth at all. Their health is generally very good, better than those employed in other parts of the work near the fire. As to food, it entirely depends upon the industry and earning of the parents, some being much better fed than others. As to clothing, the nature of the work will not allow good clothes but when not employed they are generally neat and very clean, the whole of the body being washed every night or morning after leaving their work. The amount of sickness, I should say, is greater than in an agricultural country, among the young children especially from two years old and under. The surgical cases among the children are not at all prevalent with the exception of accidents but fevers are very prevalent from the smallness of the houses and the number of persons residing in them.

(Signed) ABRAHAM ROWLANDS, Surgeon.

### **No.48. Mr. James Essex, surgeon of Pontypool.**

The physical condition of children and young persons employed in the different branches of the coal and iron works is certainly not inferior to that of their equals engaged in agriculture or mechanical trades. In external appearance they are quite as robust in physical strength I believe them to be superior and capable of enduring more fatigue.

In stature and development of the different parts and organs of the body, there is no deterioration as contrasted with other classes. Spinal diseases and distorted or weak joints are remarkably rare. Hernias is likewise of rare occurrence among the young. I have particularly noticed that there are fewer cases of fever occurring in individuals between the ages of 1 and 14 than in the younger and older and here there is a great facility for observation as typhus is usually very prevalent during two or three of the early months of the years. Scrofula, consumption and other diseases incidental to all are not more frequent among the people connected with the works than among other classes.

From the foregoing statements it will appear that the youths about the iron works, &c., in Wales, are in a better physical condition than that of the poorer classes generally and I attribute this to the following causes:-

1. Labour fairly proportioned to strength.
2. Free ventilation of the mines.
3. Daily ablution.
4. Wholesome and nutritive diet.
5. Proper clothing.

The absence of diseases produced by over exertion proves the first to be correct. It may also be fairly inferred from their amusements after the day's work is over.

On summer evenings the young of all ages may be seen in great numbers eagerly engaged in amusements and games requiring considerable exertion and activity, quite incompatible with previous exhaustion.

2. At the Pontypool Works and Nantyglo (the works with which I have been professionally connected) I know this to be the case from the evidence of ten mines and the infrequency of explosions.

3. The men and boys wash themselves all over every evening.

4. The diet is plain, nutritive and plentiful generally. One man of animal food daily and a liberal quantity of home brewed beer. The good wages the children earn enable their parents to provide a more generous diet than the other labouring classes can afford.

5. That the clothing is of a sufficient quantity and proper quality, I know from personal observation.

(Signed) JAMES ESSEX, Surgeon.

### **Evidence taken at NANTYGLO.**

#### **No.49. John Brown, aged 10.**

I am working in the coke yard, filling coke with my uncle and helping him to push the barrows down to the furnaces. I have not been at the work quite a year. I work from six to six o'clock but have time for breakfast and dinner. We work at night in our turn. It is one week day and one week night. My uncle pays me. I get 20s. a month. The work agrees with me very well. I come from Somersetshire. I have been to school but cannot read.

#### **No.50. Margaret Williams, aged 8.**

I am helping my father on the coke yard. I sweep the roads. I have not been working every day very long and have not begun to work at night. The work do not make me ill. I am quite well. I work all day with my father. My father's name is David Williams. He has another girl working here. Her name is Ann Williams and she is older than me, two or three years. I get 3s. a week and she gets 4s. 6d. per week. My father has six children. He has two in school, not in the free school. He pays 3d. per week for each. I was never at school but I go to the Sunday School and am beginning to spell.

#### **No.51. John Lewis, aged 12.**

I am helping my father to fill the kilns. I have been working for three years. I work 12 hours every day but not at night. We have meal times. The work do not hurt my health but it is dusty and hot sometimes. I have been ill often. I had the smallpox and a fever about a year ago and I sprained my foot and lost three weeks some time back. I was never in school every day but go to the Sunday Schools and can read a little Welsh.

#### **No.52. David Thomas, aged 11 and William Thomas, aged 14.**

I am a haulier. I drive the horses and trams in the colliery. I am in the same pit where my father works and my brother David drives in the same place as I do. We both have been at work since we were six years old. We got out of the house at six o'clock in the morning and go down the pit about seven all together. We work about 12 hours and get home about six or seven o'clock in the evening. We have no meal times allowed but we take them when we can and manage to get time enough to eat. Our work is hard and dangerous between the horses and trams and we are used to it and save ourselves from hurt. A strange boy could not drive in the colliery. We seldom lose any time from sickness. William lost one day last month, he supposes from a cold. The colliery is wet and dirty along the roads and their feet are always wet but they are used to that and all the boys and men the same. Our father has nine children, he gets 18s. per week. William gets 8s. and David gets 4s. 6d. per week and another boy, Samuel gets 2s. 6d. per week for keeping a door. We have never been at day school and none of us can read but we go to the Sunday Schools.

#### **No.53. Samuel Thomas, aged 8.**

I am the brother of William and David Thomas and I am keeping a door in the pit where they and my father work. I have been working seven months. I go down the pit at six o'clock with my father and brothers and come home the same time as they do. I like the work well sometimes but I cannot work now. I have a sore throat and have been in the house for five days. I do not often have



colds. The place is dry by the door but the roads are wet to go in and I do not stay in the same place all day. I always get my feet wet. I was never in school every day but I go to Sunday School. I cannot read.

**No.55. Mary Jones, aged 13 and Elizabeth Hall, aged 14.**

We are working at the forges labouring about the place, cleaning, sweeping, wheeling iron and other work and sometimes piling iron for the heaters. We work under the company from six to six but are allowed meal times and sometimes go home for dinner. We get 5s. per week and we do not work at night. None of the girls but some pilers work at night. There are about 30 girls big and little about the forges but we are about the youngest. There are not more than a dozen under 18 years old. We work very hard but do not very often work in hot places. The work agrees with our health very well. We sometimes lose days but not often from sickness.

We have not been in day schools but sometimes go to Sunday School. Mary Jones cannot read and Elizabeth Hall can read a little. We do not think that many of the girls about the forges can read. Some of them are dreadfully rude and swear and fight worse than the boys.

[During my inspection of the works I regret to say that I had ample opportunities of bearing testimony to the latter remarks of these witnesses.]

**No.56. Thomas Morgan, aged 9.**

I am working about and sweeping the forges. I do not work regularly but some days when a boy is wanted. It is called "standing turns" but I shall work regularly the first time there is a place for me. I think next week. I can raise doors, hook and drag out bars and sweep the forges. I have been to the free school and can read a little.

**No.57. David Jones, aged 12.**

I work at the forge raising doors. My work is called "pulling up." It is not hard but it is sometimes hot. I stand by the furnace and raise up the door by the chain which is to the end of the handle for the men to put the iron in and put. I have been at work for four years. I work 12 hours and at night every other week. I get 3s. per week. There is no dinner hour in the forges but I have got time enough to eat. I have been in the free school and can read a little English.

**No.58. Lewis Williams, aged 12 and Thomas Lewis, aged 13.**

We are at the forge and mills dragging out hot bars from the rolls. Thomas Lewis has been working for four years and Lewis Williams for two years. We get about 5s. per week. Dragging out and working behind the rolls is very hard work and very hot. We sometimes quite lose our breath at it. We work with the hot bars all round us and we have not many spells to get air. There is sometimes a "spare hand" who works while one of the others gets air or eats. We all at the forge and mills work at night in our turn, every other week. We change every 12 hours. The dragger out often burns themselves and lose some days or a week but they have not much sickness. Thomas Lewis cannot read. Lewis Williams can read the Testament both in Welsh and English. We both go to Sunday Schools.

**No.59. William Price, aged 15.**

I assist the miners in the levels, I have been working five or six years. The air is good in the levels. There are a great many girls in the mines but not so near as many as boys. They do the same kind of work. I work from six o'clock in the morning to six or seven in the evening. I take my meals when I can. There is time enough but no regular meal times. We all work, the same hours summer and winter. We do not work at night. I work by the tram or ton, the same as the miner. He pays me 6s. per week or thereabouts. I pay for candles out of that about 6d. or 10d. per week. I am quite well. The mark on my eye is from the smallpox. I got no hurt in the works. Accidents do happen sometimes but I have met with none. I go to Sunday School and can read a little in Welsh.

# **SIRHOWY and EBBW VALE IRON WORKS, in the parishes of Bedwelty and Aberystwith in the county of Monmouth, belonging to Messrs. Harford, Davies and Company.**

Statement of the Population and Number of Persons employed:-

Total population dependent of the works		Sirhowy 1847	Ebbw Vale 3931
Total number of houses		353	700
Persons employed:-			
		Sirhowy	Ebbw Vale
Adults	Males	728	1202
Between 13 and 18 years old	Males	72	129
Under 13 years of age	Males	31	129
Adults	Females	40	76
Between 13 and 18 years old	Females	92	49
under 13 years old	Females	12	19
		975	1604
Total			2579

## Summary of Young Persons Employed.

### **SIRHOWY.**

At the blast furnaces:-

4 males and 5 females under 13 years old, young persons between 13 and 18 years, 9 males and 9 females. Of these 19 can read, 3 can write and 25 attend Sunday School.

At the colliery and mine works:-

27 males and 7 females under 13 years old, young persons between 13 and 18 years, 63 males and 83 females. Of these 71 can read, 5 can write, 2 have been to a day school and 115 attend Sunday School.

### **EBBW VALE.**

At the blast furnaces:-

13 males and 6 females under 13 years old, young persons between 13 and 18 years, 24 males and 16 females. Of these 25 can read, 3 can write and 17 have been to day school and 32 attend Sunday School.

At the rolling mill:-

36 males and 4 females under 13 years old, young persons between 13 and 18 years, 42 males and 25 females. Of these 100 can read, 20 can write and 70 have been to day school and 115 attend Sunday School.

At the colliery and mine works:-

50 males and 9 females under 13 years old, young persons between 13 and 18 years, 42 males and 25 females. Of these 76 can read, 13 can write and 16 have been to day school and 124 attend Sunday School.

At the engines and machinery, &c:-

3 males between 13 and 18 years. Of these 3 can read, 2 can write and 2 have been to day school and 1 attends Sunday School.

## **Report of the Surgeon to the EBBW VALE IRON WORKS.**

### **No.61. Frank Jowin, Esq.**

I am given 24 hours to answer questions which would take years to resolve accurately but as far as observations of five years can be of any utility I feel happy in hastily complying with the wishes of the commissioners.

The children of this district are generally in some part of the works, both those of the male and female sex. They commence working at the early age of eight or nine years, some above ground and some under but in no part of the work which can be said to positively lay the foundation of any peculiar disease which in after life may prematurely cause death. They are not overworked relative to their physical strength. They are generally well formed, healthy and robust and during the raging of fevers or epidemic diseases the morality amongst them is small, owing principally to the strength of their constitutions, the purity of the atmosphere of this district and the ventilation which is kept

up in their habitations by the constant uses of fires and here I may say that I know of no class of labourers better houses than those attached to these and some of the neighbouring works. In external appearance I repeat, they are robust and I can scarcely bring to my recollection any instance if disease occasioned by excessive or unhealthy work. There is no appreciable difference as to the stature at any age between the sexes or between children employed in the work or those not so employed.

Both the quantity and quality of their food of course material, if not altogether, depend on the management and economy of the parents as well as on goodness and badness of the times but assuming an average, I am of the opinion that they are well fed and well clothed. I know of no encouragements to habits of cleanliness given to them beyond the engorgement given by the teachers of the Sunday and other schools but the chief inducement to neatness and cleanliness here is that feeling of emulation which animates them to appear neater and cleaner than their fellows. I am of the opinion that they are neater and cleaner than the children employed amongst silk and cotton mills.

The diseases of children engaged in this work do not in any degree depend upon the nature of their employment but are casual and as such are incidental to their period of life. Neither does their employment produce any of those diseases named in the paper forwarded to me as hernia &c.

The only period to which work appears prejudicial is that period amongst females at which menstruation begins. Here it appears that the hardness of their toil so heavily draws upon the strength of the constitution as to incapacitate it from performing that necessary secretion the non-performance of which is productive of so many diseases. Menstruation scarce ever begins until a later period than usual. As a proof and a striking one, of the work proportioned out to females not tending to produce distortion of spine or deformity of the pelvis. I can mention that during near 1400 or 1500 labours I have never been called upon to deliver a woman with instruments whose labour was retarded by a deformed pelvis. I should be happy to have been more explicit and more statistical in my accounts had time been allowed me.

(Signed) FRANK JOWIN, Surgeon.

Ebbw Vale, 7th. September.

### **Examinations taken at EBBW VALE and SIRHOWY.**

#### **No.62. Mary Ann Williams, aged 13.**

I keep a door in the colliery underground and get 4s. per week. The place is very well and I like the work very well but would rather be at home. My father was killed in the colliery. Mother has three children. None of them work but me and I have not been at work many months. I work the same as the colliers, about 12 hours every day. I go to work at six in the morning. There are no other girls in the same level with me. I burn a lamp and I always have good health. I was in school a little while and now go every Sunday but cannot read.

#### **No.63. David Davies, aged 10.**

I work at the forges and mills, sweeping put. I clean the ways and plates they drag the iron over clean. My work is not hard and I have not been at it long. I do not remember how long. I get about 3s. per week under the company. I work 12 hours and at night with the others. I have been on no school except the Sunday School. I can't read.

#### **No.64. Evan Evans, aged about 8 years.**

I work in the forge, pulling the door of the balling furnace. I work the same time as the men. I do not know what I get. I work for the baller, My father works in the forge. I do not know my age. I cannot say whether I am eight years old or not. I only go to the Sunday School and I can say the spelling of two letters.

#### **No.65. John Williams, aged 15.**

I keep the gate at the forge yard. I went to work at the forge when I was six years old and about three years ago I lost my right arm in the rolls. It was taken off near the socket. I was the hooking up behind the rolls and fell down and my arm was drawn in. I was a long time ill but am well now. I go to Chapel and the Sunday School sometimes when I have time. I cannot go always for the locomotive engine travels through the gate on Sundays with cinders from the forges to the furnaces. I can read a little.

**No.66. Ann Morris, aged 12.**

I work on the mine bank picking mine for Richard Evan. I work for him. He has the work by the dozen. He gives me my meat and clothes and a little money, perhaps a shilling in a month. My father does not live at home. He is a labourer and has five children. There are four at home now. I have worked for Richard Evan for a year. He wanted a little girl for a servant and to work for him and I went to him. I work from half past six in the morning to six in the evening. I go to dinner about 12 o'clock and have an hour for dinner. I do not work at night nor in the level. I like my work very well and have good health. I do not lose any days. I was never in a day school but I for to the Sunday School. I try to learn but I cannot read yet.

**No.67. Hannah Hughes, aged 22.**

I have been working ever since I was 15 years old. I have been helping miners in the levels and working out on the mine banks. My father's name is Jenkin and he is a collier and lives near Swansea. I have a sister married and living here for many years. I first came up to see her and remained here to work. Girls cannot work about Swansea as they can here. I have lodged and boarded ever since until lately, with my sister. I used to pay her 5s. a week. I was married about two months back and my husband is a collier. We live in one of the company's houses at Ebbw Vale. We pay 3s. per week for our house and coal. My husband gets from £4 to £5 per month. I still work on the mine banks. I get now 7s. 6d. per week. I did get 8s. 6d. before the fall of wages. There is another young woman a little older than me who has been married for six months, working at the same place as I do and getting the same. We pick the mine clean and stack it up ready for measuring and also unload it from the trams that bring it from the levels. I never worked at night as they do not often work at night in the mines. When I works in the levels, helping the miner, I used to bore holes for blasting down the mine and the pick it out of the rubbish stuff and shovel it and fill into the tram and help push the tram off to the mainway and do all the light work the same as the men did excepting the powder. I liked working the level very well after I got used to it but I like working outside the best. I was never at school and cannot read. I go to the Chapel and to the Sunday School almost every Sunday. There are not many girls working about the mines that can read.

**No.68. Jacob Morgan, aged 10.**

I drive cinders from the furnaces of Sirhowy. I have been at this work for only a couple of months, I was before, for about two years, working with my father in the colliery. My father is a collier. I did not like working underground, I would rather work above. I believe that they will give me 3s. per week. The horse I drive come out at six in the morning, then it rests half an hour at nine o'clock and gain three hours at dinner time, then goes four journeys in the evening until six o'clock. I was never in school and cannot read. My father has seven children, two others are working. None of them can read.

**TREDEGAR IRON WORKS, in the parish of Bedwelty in the county of Monmouth, belonging to the Tredegar Iron Company.**

**Total Number of Persons Employed.**

	Males	Females
Adults	2100	150
Young persons	230	86
Children	179	12
	2509	249
Total	2757	

**Summary of Children and Young Persons.**

At the blast furnaces:-

39 males, 1 female under 13 years of age 47 males and 10 females between 13 and 18 years of age.

At the forges and rolling mills:-

23 males, under 13 years of age 39 males and 29 females between 13 and 18 years of age.

There are 7 boys 10 years old.

At the colliery and mine works:-

117 males, 11 female under 13 years of age 144 males and 47 females between 13 and 18 years of age. There are 3 boys 8 years old, 4 boys, 6 years old and 1 girl 11 years old.

Estimated number of girls above ground at the mine banks, 100 females between 13 and 18 years of age.

Total population of the town of Tredegar (June, 1841).

Males	3982
Females	3342
	7324.

**No.70. Mr. William Walter Homan, superintendent of police at Tredegar. May 18th.**

My age is nearly 43 years and I have been four and half years in my present situation and was two and half years previously in a similar one. My district is the town of Tredegar and its immediate neighbourhood. I am appointed by S. Homfray, Esq., and paid by the company's rates. I have under my directions two men (and occasionally a few special) stationed in Tredegar. The population of Tredegar alone is 7265 and the whole parish of Bedwelty, 21,917 as taken in February, 1841.

I cannot definitely answer as to the number of children employed in the works as the works is generally let out to the master men who engage and pay the children. They are taken to work about eight to ten years of age and work generally 12 hours at the option of the parents with whom they are employed. The children work at night as well as day at the forges and mills, digging and dragging out hot bars from the rolling mills, hooking and catching at the roll, driving horses, &c. The girls do not perform the same description of work but work generally at the same places, as they boys and men. There are not very generally under ground in the mines excepting with their parents. The air where they work is generally pure, with the exception of the sulphur arising from the mine. They are employed for the most part in open buildings. The workmen houses are generally good but rather confined but there are exceptions. Some places are very bad, I may say filthy. There are about 12 houses inhabited by 10 or 12 families each, principally the Irish, with four or five beds in a room of a poor description and two or three must sleep in a bed. With the exception of the Irish I do not know of any very crowded houses. In some few cases there are small gardens attached to the houses which are generally cultivated and they have also pig sties and privies in some few cases but they are badly off in this respect.

On holidays such as Christmas Day and Good Friday, their pastimes are very various but the men spend their time generally in drunkenness.

There is a National School about to be established at Tredegar. There is now a day school adjoining the Baptist Chapel and a good many children attend it at a very cheap rate, about 4d. or 6d. per week. There is another superior school for boys at which the charge is 18s. per quarter.

I should suppose the practice of employing young girls and young women in the mines and works must render them the less fit for domestic duties. In many cases it renders their morality very low and lax. I know several instances of the very immoral and ignorant state they are in.

The children are very seldom ill treated in the works. They generally work with or in the seam places as their parents and I know of no case that has become before the magistrates arising out of ill treatment or cruelty towards them.

**No.71. Thomas Jackson, Esq. August 13th.**

The physical condition of the children and young persons of this district is generally good and not in any degree affected by their employment. As to their general appearance, the children are well informed, although of slender make, but active and hardy. With regard to the growth of the children in these works, they are but of moderate stature influenced by climate and the manner of living which is not generally of the best kind. We observe, however, no difference between them and any other children in the neighbourhood.

As to food, the children are well fed and are accustomed to eat at all times of the day. There is no difference between the man of work and his neighbour. There are also generally well clothed but no difference is made in their clothing in summer and winter. There are tolerably clean and had an example before them by their parents daily washing themselves after work. There is not particular kind of sickness to which they are subject. Their complaints are generally epidemic or inflammatory. The cases of scrofula are rare.

(Signed) THOMAS JACKSON, Surgeon.

## **Examination taken at the TREDEGAR IRON WORKS.**

### **No.72. William Thomas, aged 39, agent at the forge and mills.**

I have been here five years. I was at the Dowlais works in different situations for 21 years. I have a great number of boys and about 30 girls working under my charge. The boys begin to work about eight years old. There are now a great deal of applications from parents for to employ these young children. Some are offered at seven years old. We do not want such young children in our works and would sooner be without them. I would not take a boy under 12 years of age if I could avoid it. We only take them under that age at the request of their parents. The girls mostly begin to work at about 10 years old. I would not employ girls at all if I could help it and it is only from motives of consideration toward their parents that they are employed. They are often more harm than good in the works, by attracting the attention of the men and boys and frequently hindering the work, particularly in the night time. There are about four in our forges that have had illegitimate children but generally our girls are not of a bad character. I think that the work of the forges is injurious to the constitutions of both the boys and the girls that begin work at early ages and the work at night in winter particularly. I certainly stints their growth and decreases their strength but at the work they are accustomed to do in the forges they are capable of undergoing great fatigue. I do not know that they have any particular complaints from their employment but they frequently have inflammatory complaints of "pleurisy" and I do not think that many of them live to be old men.

### **No.73. John Jones, aged 51, agent at the collieries and mines.**

I have been here about 18 months. I was at Sirhowy iron works in the same situation three years and a half. I have a great number of boys and many girls under my charge. Their parents or relations bring the children to the work at the ages of six or seven years but they do not bring the girls quite so young as the boys. The youngest girls I have seen brought to the works is one of keeping a door in the colliery of about eight years old. There may be about 20 other girls working underground, but not more than four or five are under 18 years old. There are two married women working with their husbands in the mine works and there are two or three widows who work for their own and their children's support. One of them is one the mine banks. There are 40 to 50 other girls and women working on mine banks. Excepting for keeping air doors we do not receive very young boys or girls. This is the only necessary purpose they are employed for, other children of the younger ages are employed by their parents or relations to assist them in their different work and are not upon the office books. Our men are generally employed by piece work and they employ them their own assistants. I do not employ any girls underground and am averse to doing so. All the girls in our works are employed by the man. We do not require very young boys, nine under 14 years or 15 years old and we would seldom employ them so young. The youngest we would put to keep the doors and they are not many. The next stage of employment is driving horses, for which they should be at least 14 or 15 years old. The most half the boys, like the girls are employed by the men. I have not observed that the employment of the mines affects the health or constitution of either the boys or the girls. The girls in general marry very early in this district and on the whole their characters are not bad. I have known no instances of the children being ill treated.

### **No.74. Gower Llewellyn aged 13, John Hopkin, aged 12 and Thomas Jones aged 10.**

We are working in the saw mill, dragging put and straightening bars and catching and heaving up behind the rolls. We have each been working two years or more. We work from six to six and at night in our week. We like night work as well as the day work. We never work Saturday nights at the forges. We have no meal times, we eat when we get time and we find time to eat and do very well for that. We have spells in the work sometimes for about quarter of an hour. We get 5s. per week each but we did get 5s. 6d. We have met with no accidents and do not lose time. Gower Llewellyn lost time from a fever and burnt his foot but it is a long time ago. We have only been to Sunday Schools and neither of us can read.

### **No.75. Henry Thomas aged 13 and James Thomas, aged 9.**

We work in the forge dragging out the puddling bars. Our time is from six to six and at night every other week. We get spells and enough of time to eat. Henry has been at work for about two years and James about six months. Our work is not very hard but we get tired at the end of the turn. [The agent describes the work done by these boys is the hardest in the forge.] We seldom lose any time. We like the night turn better than the day. We work under the company and get 6s. 6d. per week each. Our father is a puddler and he has a large family and we have a brother working with him. He is older than us and our father and brother get 48s. per week. We have good clothes at

home. No accidents have happened to us excepting to burn ourselves a little now and then. We have never been in a day school and cannot read.

**No.76. Samuel Kinsey, aged 12 and Charles Kinsey, aged 8.**

We are working in the rail shed, dragging crop ends from the saw. Samuel has been at work for two months but Charles has not been so long. We get 5s. per week each and work from six o'clock in the morning to six in the evening and have an hour for dinner and half an hour for breakfast. We do not work at night but sometimes they work "a quarter," from six to nine o'clock and get paid for it. We have had no accidents and the works does not hurt our health. Our father is dead and our mother is a dressmaker at Tredegar, and has four children. We have never been in any school but the Sunday School and cannot read.

**No.77. Ann Prosser, aged 16 and Mary Jones, aged 15.**

We work in the mills filling the crop ends and other iron into trams. We work from six o'clock in the morning to six in the evening and are allowed meal times. We get 5s. per week each. Our work is not very hard. We have spells sometimes waiting for the tram to return 10 or 15 minutes. We have both been working for about three years. Two of Mary Jones's sisters are also in the works piling iron in the mills and they get 8s. per week each. Neither of them can read. Their father is dead. He was a miner. Ann Prosser has been in school and can read both Welsh and English and could write before she came to work but cannot now. We are quite well and very seldom lose long time from the works.

**No.78. Henry Phillips, aged 10.**

I work with my father in the mine works. I help him to pick and fill mine and bore holes for blasting. I have been working three months and get 2s. per week. We eat about 12 o'clock and take about half an hour. I like to go to work better than going to school but I never was in school but on Sundays. I cannot since I have been at work. I lost a fortnight from a stone falling and cutting my head. My father has five children and they are all working now but one.

**No.79. John Prosser, aged 14.**

My master's name is William Evans. I work with him in the mine works and get 6s. per week. I have been working eight years. I began at Merthyr with the smiths. I have been here about a year and a half. I like the work very well. We work from six o'clock to six or seven o'clock. My master does not beat me, I do as much as I can. Without that we agree very well. The men very seldom beat the boys but scold them sometimes. About six months ago I was home ill for a fortnight. I had a cold from working in the wet and I was home for a week. About three months back my eyes were sore from working where the air was bad but no accidents have happened to me. I have been in a school a little time and I go now on Sundays and can read the Testament.

**No.80. Thomas Bennett, aged 14.**

I am the collier with my father. I have been in school and can read and wrote. We work 12 hours almost every day but we do not work at night. We take time to eat our bread and cheese but sometimes I have no appetite to eat in the works and keep it until I come up. I have been working for two hours and a half and now get 8s. per week. I have not met with any accident but was ill with a fever about a fortnight ago and lost three weeks from my work. My father has no other children. We came from Cornwall.

**No.81. Elizabeth Morgans, aged 12, Elizabeth Hopkins, aged 15, Catherine Lewis, aged 13, Margaret Harris, aged 13 and Ann Jones, aged 13.**

We carry coke from the refiners. The most of us have been working about two hours except Elizabeth Morgans and she is only just began work. Coke carrying is not very hard but it is dirty enough. We work 12 hours and change at 12 o'clock. We work at every night every other week. The night turn is harder than the day. We get time to eat our meals. We earn 4s. per week each. We get out health very well and lose very little time from sickness. We have not been much in school and none of us can read except Elizabeth Morgans, she can read a little but we go to the Sunday Schools when we can.

**No.82. John Davies, aged 12.**

I work in the rail shed dragging out crop ends from the saw. I have been working for four years. I have been in school a little while and I go to Sunday School. I cannot read but am beginning to

spell. There are three boys working with me one of them can read. We do not work at night. We have meal times. I am seldom ill and lose no time from my work.

**No.83. Denis Maddy, aged 9.**

I am a helper at the furnaces and I help the filler to fill the limestone. I have been working half a year and have been playing about the furnaces for two years. I never was at school. My father is an Irishman. I get 3s. per week. I am never sick and am always here from six o'clock in the morning to the time they change again at six. I work at night with the filler and every Sunday or Sunday night.

**No.84. Daniel Ryan, aged 13 and Peter Brown aged 11.**

We drive coke at the furnaces. Our horses come out from seven to eight o'clock in the morning and work until six and sometimes eight o'clock in the evening. They often work after six. We have to drive enough coke for the furnaces to last all night. It is very hard work. Daniel Ryan has been working for two years and Peter Brown has been working since he was seven years old. He was never in school but Daniel Ryan was in school for two or three years in Cork and can read a nd write a little. We cannot got to the Sunday Schools as we work every Sunday. We drive the seven days every week and get 10d. per day. Daniel Ryan has two brothers working here in the yard and Peter Brown's father is a filler at one of the furnaces. Peter Brown lost three months some time ago from a hurt to his foot by one of the barrows. They do not often lose time and are very seldom sick.

**No.85. John James, aged 14.**

I am a coke driver. I drive the house with the barrow to the coke furnace. I work by night every other week because there is not enough of barrows to drive enough of coke in the day to last the night. I change the turn by working Sunday and Saturday night. I get 10d. a turn. My father is an ostler and takes care of the horses. He gets 14s per week. He has four children. I have been to school at Tredegar for about five years but I cannot read now. I have not time and no clothes to go to the Sunday School the Sunday I am at home for I work that week all Saturday night.

**RHYMNEY IRON WORKS with COAL and IRON MINES, in the counties of Brecon, Monmouth and Glamorgan, belonging to the Rhymney Iron Company.**

Estimated statement of the number of persons employed.

	Males	Females
Adults	1900	110
Children and young persons	390	94
	2290	204
Total	2494	

**Summary of Children and Young Persons.**

Engineers, blacksmiths, fitters up, masons, bricklayers &c:-

24 males under 13 years of age, 42 males and 7 females between 13 and 18 years of age.

At the blast furnaces:-

6 males, 1 female under 13 years of age 13 males and 3 females between 13 and 18 years of age.

At the colliery:-

47 males, under 4 years of age 18 males and 6 females between 13 and 18 years of age.

At the mine works:-

Under ground:-

58 males, 11 female under 61 years of age 17 males and 47 females between 13 and 18 years of age.

Above ground:-

19 males, 2 female under 61 years of age 8 males and 31 females between 13 and 18 years of age.

At the forges:-

23 males, 4 female under 61 years of age 71 males and 8 females between 13 and 18 years of age.

Estimated total population dependent on the works, 5000.

**No.87. Lewis Redwood, esq.**



I consider the physical condition of the children employed in these works to be generally good and unimpaired by their occupation or domestic circumstances. Those not so employed who have come under my notice are too few to enable me to compare the respective state of the two classes. They are for the most part rather robust, the girls more especially in consequence (no doubt) of their spending so much of their time in the open air. The young men brought up in the place and who have been employed from childhood in the works are in most instances a rather fine and athletic race but there certainly is to be observed some physical deterioration consequent on under ground labour.

I believe that the children and adults can, with few exceptions, command good nutritious food. Their clothing is almost always sufficient and suitable. They are usually clean. I am not aware of the children employed being more subject to sickness than those who are unemployed. The surgical diseases enumerated by you seldom occur. There is nothing in the children's manner of life to induce them. Fever is a prevalent disease here but chiefly among adults. Chronic ailments such as those you allude to are not present themselves with peculiar frequency nor especially under circumstances leading to the supposition of their being directly or indirectly occasioned by the children's occupation in the works.

(Signed) LEWIS REDWOOD, surgeon.

Rhymney Lawn, Sept. 2nd. 1841.

### **Examination taken at RHYMNEY.**

#### **No.88. George Evans, aged 41, collier overman.**

I have been here about 26 years. I have the charge at present of a coal level and of the mine cleaners and fillers on the mine banks. I have about 80 people under me in the colliery level and about 40 on mine banks, 30 of whom are women and girls and 27 are between 13 and 18 years of age. Their average wages are 6s. per week. All the girls work out on the banks. I have no girls under ground in the colliery but I have about 25 boys. There are in my level eight under 13 years old, keeping doors with the cutters who are mostly their fathers at 5s. per week, two between 13 and 18, hauliers or driving horses at 14s. per week, nine between 13 and 18 years old, cutting coal and helping the cutters from 10s. to 15s. per week. None of them work at night. They begin to work at five o'clock in the morning and leave off about for o'clock in the evening and in general take one hour and a half for their meals out of that time. I have known boys taken down the collieries by their fathers at four years old in order to have a tram (or waggon) more allowed them on account to bring put their coal, a man and a boy having an extra tram allowed him. There may be seven or eight cases of this sort in my level. These little boys do not stay in the works many hours and are only taken down as an excuse for the men to get the dram more. Most cutters can get more coal in their turn that the trams allowed for bringing it out can take away and as they work by the ton, an extra dram enables them to get more wages in the day. Of the 52 persons under 18 years of age under my charge, seven can read English and 14 can read Welsh and two only an write. I have never heard any complaints of the children being beaten or ill used by the men and believe that very seldom takes place. Their fathers often beat them slightly because they are very wicked and fight and swear.

#### **No.89. John Evans, aged 15, Thomas Price, aged 13, William Morris, aged 8 and John Morris, aged 14.**

We are working in the colliery helping the colliers. John Evans works with his brothers and has seven trams a week allowed him. He gets 10s. per week. Thomas Price's master is no relation of his. He is allowed the same number of trams as John Evans. William Morris carries his tools to him and helps his father and is allowed four trams per week. John Morris (his brother) also works with his father. In out level we all go down from four to five o'clock in the morning and mostly come up from twelve to one o'clock in the day but sometimes we are in until six or seven o'clock. We take bread and cheese with us and eat it when we have time, generally about eleven o'clock. We do not work the night turn but we often go down at twelve of one o'clock in the morning. There has been no night work in these mines for the last years. Our work is sometimes very hard, We have to fill the trams at the heads and when they go out brisk we have it hard but that seldom lasts long. We are paid by the day. Accidents very often happen from falls and from driving the horses. Thomas Price was hurt by a fall two years back and lost two months off work. His father was killed by a fall three years ago. John Evans broke his leg three years and two months back at Tredegar by driving the horses. He was a haulier then. Driving is worse work than helping the colliers. We are all quite well

now. We go the Methodist's Dissenters' Sunday Schools. John Morris can read English, Thomas Price and John Evans can read a little Welsh. William Morris is beginning to spell.

**No.90. David Evans, aged 12 and David Powell, aged 7.**

We work in the forges raising the door and the balling furnaces. David Evans has been working three years. David Powell had only been working a fortnight. His father has three children and has another boy working in the forge. We work from six to six and take our meals between the heats. We have enough time to eat. We work at nights every other week. David Evans gets 4s. 3d. per week and David Powell 3s. We like to be at work very well and are very seldom sick. We have not lost many days from work since we began. We have both been a little in school and go to one on Sundays but cannot read.

**No.91. Joseph Richard, aged 14 and John William, aged 12.**

We drag out hot bars at the forges. Joseph Richard has been working six years and John William four years, all the time at the forge and refinery. We work 12 hours and change turn at six o'clock morning and evening and work at night every other week. We take our dinners between spells and by getting some one to work a few minutes in our places. We generally manage to get time to eat but are often obliged to eat our dinner bit by bit. We work until nine o'clock on Saturday nights and our work is very hard when the works are busy and they drive on fast. We work for the men and get 7s. per week each. If anything breaks and the works stops for three hours, they "crop" or stop a quarter of a day from us. This does not happen very often. We have not had many bad accidents but we burn ourselves very often. Joseph Richard burned his foot some time ago and lost three weeks from work. Neither of us can read. We go now and then to the Sunday Schools.

**No.92. Elizabeth Evans, aged 11.**

I keep a door in the collieries at Evan Jones's pit. I have been working for a year. My father is a collier and he come from Llanidloes. He has four children. I was in school at Llanidloes and could read Welsh but I cannot read much now. I have a brother working. He drives out cinders. I get 6d. per day, Evan Jones pays me. He is the master of the pit. I do not know exactly how long I work in the day. I go at six in the morning or sooner and come home before six in the evening. I have met with no serious accidents but my father was hurt in the pit where I am. The trams broke his arm by the horse going rash. He was driving it. I was with him at the time. It was four months ago and he is not quite well yet. The door I keep is nearly a mile from the pit but I come down to the pit with the trams and hauliers four of five times a day. I would rather go to school than to the works if I could. There are no good schools here. I was in one for four months and that is all the school I had for four years except the Sunday Schools. I go to them every Sunday. There are more girls in the pit with me.

**No.93. Thomas Williamson, aged 12.**

I was working the week before last in the coal level, filing trans. I worked with my brother-in-law but he does not want me now. I have another older than me working with him. My father and mother are dead. I have two brothers and one sister. She is married to a collier here. We came from Hay. I was in the National School there. I was afterwards in service at a shop there. I have been three months here. I expect to go to work again next week. When I went to work I left the house at four o'clock or from that to six and came back about four in the evening. I took some bread and cheese with me and eat it when I liked. My sister will not let me go to Sunday School here. I have got no clothes that are good enough. I can read a little English but not much.

**No.94. Mary Jones, aged 14.**

I work in the mine level with my father. I have been working two or three years. I fill the mine and rubbish into the trams but I do not push the trams out but sometimes help to do so. There is only one girl besides myself working in the level with me. There are girls in the other levels who push the trams in and out. I go to work at six o'clock in the morning and remain in the level until six or seven at night. I may perhaps come out once or twice in the day with the trams. I take bread and cheese with me and eat it when I like. There is no dinner hour in the level. I do not work at night. I work for my father. I suppose I get about 5s. per week. I am very seldom ill and do not lose much time from sickness. The work agrees with me very well. I was never in a day school and cannot read but I go sometimes to the Sunday School.

**No.95. Daniel Elias, aged 13, Joshua Jones, aged 11 and David Thomas aged 13.**

Daniel Elias and David Thomas. - We work in the mine levels with our fathers and have for three or four years. We help to bore holes for blasting and to fill rubbish and mine into the trams. The air is good enough.

Joshua Jones. - I keep a door in the colliery and have been at it for six months.

We work in the level constantly but find time to eat our bread and cheese. We work from six o'clock in the morning to six or sometimes seven in the evening. We work the same hours summer and winter and we work two or three hours longer very often when the trams come out slowly and we cannot get the coal and mine out in time. This is very often the case. We have no night work. Our work is always hard but we get used to it and we do not get very tired. We sometimes play for an hour after work in the summer but we are often too tired for that. The boys that drive the horses say that they work harder than us. Keeping a door is not hard. He has a lamp to burn and the door boy is paid by the company 3s. 6d. per week. Daniel Elias works for his father and gets about 6s. per week for him. They work together. David Thomas works for the man who pays him between 5s. and 6s. per week. The man (who is his master) never beats him. He does very well for that and he does not scold him much either but complains a little sometimes. The powder and candles they use are paid for out of the ages. They do not know how much, it may be from 6d. to 1s. per week. Daniel Elias's father had a large family, seven children. We are not ill often. Our work does not hurt our health but we work as hard as we can. Joshua Jones got lame from a tram hurting his legs but it did not break them. He filled trams before he went the door.

[Daniel Elias can read Welsh a little but the other not at all. They do not go to school but sometimes attend Sunday School.]

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**REPORTS by RHYS WILLIAM JONES, ESQ., on the Employment of Children and Young Persons in the Dowlais, Penydarran and Aberdare Iron Works, near Merthyr, Tydvil, in the county of Glamorgan and on the state, Condition and Treatment of such Children and Young Persons.**

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**TO HER MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONERS.**

GENTLEMEN,

I take leave to send you herewith some papers and examinations collected and taken by me at the above named iron works in the Merthyr district.

I have put the statistical information collected from the returns obtained from the works into tabular forms to which I have added the population of the immediate vicinity, as far as I could obtain the same and I have also copied the return for the whole population of the Merthyr district as taken by the last census.

I beg to direct your attention to the statements of Mr. Thomas Evans, the intelligent and experienced agent for the Dowlais iron works (which is perhaps the largest establishment of the kind in England), upon the suspension of blast furnaces on Sundays. The suspension of the furnaces has been so long practised at Dowlais that his testimony as to its effect, grounded on the experience of its result is valuable. I had several conversations with him on this subject to which he stated that he had given the most serious attention and consideration and had arrived at the most decided opinion that iron furnaces throughout the country should be suspended on Sundays for at least 12 hours. That such suspension would be of the greatest benefit to both the masters and the men and there could be no good reason or argument adduced against its being adopted and indeed enforced,

if necessary, by the legislature. That it would be of the most essential benefit to the men and children, independently of giving them the opportunity of attending public worship by giving them weekly a day of cessation from labour, which in every sense they require.

The period for which they are suspended the blast furnaces at Dowlais will be described in the following papers. It is at present too short to carry with it all the desired advantages of such a practice but it is sufficient to prove the practicability of the stoppage as regards the furnaces and to point out the desirability of so salutary a regulation.

The most striking abuses in this district may I think be said to be the working of the blast furnaces and repairing the engines, boiler, &c., on Sundays and the employment of the young females in the mines. These practices are to a certain extent the bane, both morally and physically, of both sexes. The first, by commending parties employed to unintermitted labour, and compelling them to pass unheeded one of the principle "land marks" of the Decalogue, renders them callous to both the feelings and duties that should mark their conduct in civilised society and by the din of their labours, the roaring blast and whistling of the engines, destroys, in the most populous parts of the district, the sanctity and solemnity with which others, not employed, would wish to regard that day and the latter by inducing, in too many instances, the ignorant and infatuated parents, instead of protecting them from the contamination, to expose their daughters at an age when impressions and habits are most readily and firmly implanted, to the baneful influence of a degrading employment and the pernicious examples of their elders in mischief and vice. Those employments and habits break down their taste for all domestic duties and all educational instruction and by familiarising them with the coarse manners and language of the youth of the ruder sex, obliterate almost every characteristic of their own. Thus the parents, for the few shillings a week exorted from their labour of the girl, selfishly barter all the best attributes of the woman, who, on her part, by adding for the few years of her girlhood, a trifle to the weekly income of her parents, contracts habits of ignorance and improvidence, by which she squanders in thriftless waste twice the amount through the remaining years of her life from the earnings of her husband and to the detriment of her own family. The effect of this system is to perpetuate poverty where all the means of competence abound and to retain a large portion of the population in a semi-barbarous state in the centre of the highest civilisation.

The works at Plymouth, belonging to Messrs. Hill and Cafartha, belonging to Mr. Crawshay, have been visited by Mr. Franks. The works at Hirwain, also belonging to Mr. Crawshay (employing together about 1300 persons), I consider of a character analogous to those at Aberdare and Abernant, being in the same district and I have not therefore taken any examinations of the children at them but on my visit to Hirwain I had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Forrest, the intelligent and talented surgeon to that works and Mr. Dixon the schoolmaster, and I have annexed copies of the statements of both these gentlemen to the accompanying papers in the Appendix of this Report.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,  
Your most obedient servant,  
R.W. JONES.

Loughor, Sept. 20th, 1841

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## APPENDIX.

### Report of C. Forrest, Esq., Surgeon to the Hirwain Iron Works. 19th. May, 1841.

Twenty three years experience an observation in the active practice of my profession (seventeen of which have been passed as surgeon to iron works and six as house surgeon to a public institution in the heart of the cotton trade) have brought me to the conviction that the employment to which young persons are subjected in the mines and collieries of this district of not in any way detrimental to their physical condition. On the contrary, in a great majority of instances, the proper development of their physical powers appears to be facilitated thereby, more especially as regards young females who are entirely occupied in our door work. Their robust frames, and the rude health they enjoy, fully justifies this opinion as contrasted with domestics and others in the rural districts, their superiority is very apparent.

The remarkable exemption from chronic diseases, more particularly scrofula, in both classes (male as well as female), is a striking proof that (as their general appearance indicates) they are both better fed and better clothed than others in the same rank of life not similarly employed with themselves. The condition of the boys who are wholly employed in the mines is in every way good. The great care and attention which is bestowed upon ventilation enable them to inhale an atmosphere quite capable to sustain all the functions of vitality in a state of due vigour and integrity. The low rate of mortality from epidemic diseases leads to this conclusion. Having from circumstances been enabled to draw a comparison between the condition of young persons employed in the manufacture of iron and that of those employed in the manufactures of the North of England, I feel it difficult to find language sufficiently forcible to express the decided superiority of those located in this district.

(Signed) C. FORREST, Surgeon,  
Hirwain Iron Works, Merthyr Tydvil.

### **Statement of Mr. John Dixon, schoolmaster at Hirwain.**

There are four Chapels at Hirwain belonging to the Wesleyans, Baptists, Welsh Calvinistic Methodists and Independents at which places Sunday Schools are held chiefly in the Welsh language, in which reading is only taught. The diffusion of general knowledge is never resorted to.

There are two day schools, one supported by the miners and colliers and others dependent thereon, which school is supported by a "poundage" of one halfpenny per pound in the miners' and colliers' monthly earnings. The other belongs to those who are called firemen but paid in the same manner as above, a halfpenny per pound. As I have no connection with the firemen's school, I can only notice it. The schools are situated at Hirwain and open from eight a.m. to five p.m. Females are not taught needlework unless a mantua maker may take a few private pupils. The greater part of the females are working put of doors, filling mine, cleaning and unloading the same, unloading coal at the works, and setting the coal for coking, tipping mine and rubbish, pumping in levels, &c.

In the miners and colliers' school boys are taught reading, writing and arithmetic and there are some who have been educated in the above school who fill respectable situations and are excellent scholars. The girls are taught reading, writing and arithmetic also.

The teacher belonging to the miners' and colliers' school has had a good education and is fully competent to teach and certainly qualified for a higher department than where he is now situated and gives every satisfaction to those by whom he is employed.

Children are brought to school at very early periods, say from five to six and remain therein according to the circumstances of the parents. Generally they leave school about 8 or 10 years of age. The Sunday Schools are undoubtedly beneficial to keep those children removed from day schools in memory of what they had learnt before as far as reading is concerned but as the Welsh language is what they are mostly instructed in, English readers are frequently on the decline. The Wesleyans are the only sect who adopt the English language here. In general the children are taken from school from the ages of 8 to 12 but a great deal depends upon the parent's situation in life.

I do not consider that the Sunday Schools are well conducted, at this place, in such a mode as to make up the loss of instruction by early removal from the day schools, partly from the reason given above and also from the incompetency of the Sunday School teachers, the majority of whom require instruction themselves in a great degree. The great disadvantage experienced here is the want of books adapted to expand youthful ideas, as the workmen here support the school exclusively at their own expense, they cannot afford to provide the elementary books requisite to the improvement of the mind and there is another inconvenience in not having a school room of their own, being obliged to pay a heavy rent for the one now in use.

The miners and colliers, as well as those belonging to the other department of the works here (Hirwain), deserve the greatest commendation for the readiness and willingness they manifested in the formation of these schools at their own expense. I believe it is the first established upon the "poundage" system in Wales.

It would be a very great kindness if they could be some means avail themselves of the assistance of the fund granted by Parliament for the erection of school houses as they would readily subscribe as much as lies in their power to further the object in view. At present they have no school house of their own for want of funds.

(Signed) JOHN DIXON.  
Hirwain Works, near, Merthyr Tydvil. 20th. May, 1841.

# POPULATION of the MERTHYR DISTRICT.

The following is the official statement of the population of this district :—  
POPULATION in 1841.

Parishes.	Houses.			Persons enumerated who abode therein.			Computed No. of Persons who, from various causes, have not been enumerated.			Population in 1831.
	In- habited.	Unin- habited.	Build- ing.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	
Merthyr Tydvil . . . .	6,413	91	121	19,038	15,905	34,943	29	6	35	22,083
Vaynor . . . . .	480	6	..	1,156	1,130	2,286	..	..	..	1,933
Gelligaer . . . . .	585	75	1	1,752	1,443	3,195	9	11	20	1,825
Llanvabon . . . . .	284	15	5	772	670	1,442	7	..	7	853
Llanwonno . . . . .	325	32	2	839	767	1,606	5	3	8	1,094
Aberdare . . . . .	1,171	46	19	3,523	2,938	6,461	9	1	10	3,961
Penderyn . . . . .	280	2	4	775	713	1,488	..	..	..	1,385
Ystradyfodwg . . . .	144	9	..	385	362	747	1	..	1	542
Rhigos . . . . .	120	..	..	328	287	615	..	..	..	505
Total . . . . .	9,802	276	152	28,568	24,215	52,783	60	21	81	34,181

ESTIMATED STATEMENT of the NUMBER of PERSONS EMPLOYED in the Iron-works and Collieries in the parish of Merthyr Tydvil, 1841.

At Dowlais Works . . . . .	5,192
At Penydarran . . . . .	1,909
At Cyfartha, &c. . . . .	3,000
At Plymouth, &c. . . . .	2,400
At sundry small Collieries . . . . .	299
	<hr/>
	12,800

ACCOUNT of IRON sent down the GLAMORGANSHIRE CANAL, for the Years 1829 to 1839, inclusive. (In Tons.)

	1829.	1830.	1831.	1832.	1833.	1834.	1835.	1836.	1837.	1838.	1839.	Total.
Guest and Co. . . . .	23,352	27,647	22,075	29,395	35,072	33,477	39,145	39,286	38,914	39,361	40,495	368,219
Wm. Crawshay and Co. . .	24,768	19,892	15,465	24,668	37,380	34,952	35,090	34,654	33,580	36,986	37,009	334,444
Plymouth Iron Co. . . .	13,534	12,177	10,498	9,200	12,093	12,073	12,631	13,573	15,353	16,143	15,762	143,137
Penydarran Iron Co. . .	10,085	11,744	11,819	10,582	12,150	12,752	12,834	12,537	12,834	12,707	15,540	135,584
Aberdare Iron Co. . . .	8,644	6,765	6,903	5,997	6,964	8,497	9,261	9,981	9,830	12,247	11,307	96,396
Blakemore and Co. . . .	2,001	2,702	2,947	3,042	3,519	3,194	4,020	3,957	3,594	3,474	3,304	35,754
Brown, Lennox, and Co. .	767	621	626	757	890	1,163	1,854	2,437	2,756	3,394	4,037	19,312
Gadlys Iron Co. . . . .	559	..	..	..	214	731	1,828	1,816	1,756	1,127	1,081	9,122
Bute Iron-Works . . . .	166	..	..	36	572	434	127	124	22	..	..	1,481
Taff Vale Iron-Works . .	..	..	..	..	3,461	3,739	3,068	4,723	6,171	5,198	4,246	30,606
Total . . . . .	83,876	81,548	70,333	83,677	112,315	111,012	119,858	123,088	124,810	130,637	132,781	1,174,055

Iron carried on the Glamorganshire Canal, from 1st Jan. to 31st Dec., 1840.		Coal carried on the Glamorganshire Canal, from 1st Jan. to 31st Dec., 1840.		Coal carried on the Glamorganshire Canal from 1829 to 1839, inclusive.	
	Tons.		Tons.		Tons.
Dowlais Iron Company . . . . .	45,218	Thomas Powell and Co. . . . .	62,130	1829 . . . . .	83,78
William Crawshaw . . . . .	35,507	Walter Coffin . . . . .	50,913	1830 . . . . .	106,17
Penydarren Iron Company . . . . .	16,130	George Insole . . . . .	26,059	1831 . . . . .	117,12
R. and A. Hill . . . . .	12,922	Lucy Thomas . . . . .	25,993	1832 . . . . .	165,32
Aberdare Iron Company . . . . .	10,327	Duncan and Co. . . . .	22,285	1833 . . . . .	184,22
Taff Vale Iron Company . . . . .	4,902	Aberdare Coal Company . . . . .	16,140	1834 . . . . .	183,92
R. Blakemore and Co. . . . .	3,175	Morgan Thomas . . . . .	15,692	1835 . . . . .	176,37
Brown, Lennox, and Co. . . . .	2,476	John Edmonds . . . . .	15,521	1836 . . . . .	192,22
Gadlys Iron Company . . . . .	1,345	David Davies and Co. . . . .	11,377	1837 . . . . .	226,61
		Evan Evans . . . . .	2,374	1838 . . . . .	189,04
Total . . . . .	132,002	Total . . . . .	248,484	1839 . . . . .	211,21

ACCOUNT of IRON sent down the MONMOUTHSHIRE CANAL, for the Years 1829 to 1838, inclusive. (In Tons.)

	1829.	1830.	1831.	1832.	1833.	1834.	1835.	1836.	1837.	1838.	Total
Nantyglo Iron Co. . . . .	17,436½	17,536	17,955½	21,333½	21,023½	22,663½	24,997½	25,407½	23,972½	25,241½	217,78
Ebbw Vale Iron Co. . . . .	17,082½	18,258½	19,077½	18,347½	19,905½	20,240½	24,991½	22,957½	20,035½	23,303½	204,78
Tredegarr Iron Co. . . . .	13,379½	12,335½	13,339½	13,372½	12,340½	12,920½	13,917½	12,133½	12,661½	15,538½	131,11
Varteg Iron Co. . . . .	9,405½	9,436	11,645½	11,170½	11,028½	14,953½	14,819½	11,208½	10,420½	9,856½	113,11
Blaenavon Iron Co. . . . .	9,135½	9,401½	9,714½	9,066	8,709	8,391½	9,036	7,596	7,152½	8,085	86,78
Clydach Iron Co. . . . .	7,430½	7,573½	7,030½	6,542	7,384½	6,262½	7,652	7,738½	7,087½	9,282½	73,78
Beaufort Iron Co. . . . .	7,102½	6,005	5,153	6,882	7,522	9,808½	12,979½	14,567½	11,162½	10,917½	92,78
British Iron Co. . . . .	7,917½	7,763½	8,065½	7,994	7,323½	8,505½	9,724	12,278½	10,259½	11,857½	91,78
Bute Iron Co. . . . .	9,991	6,226½	7,548½	7,179½	5,733½	3,664	4,197½	6,375½	6,944½	13,702½	70,78
Hunt Brothers Co. . . . .	4,762½	5,453½	4,988	4,109½	4,443	4,081	65,27½	8,207½	6,898	1,847½	51,78
Blaina Iron Works . . . . .	5,137½	4,292½	2,894½	8,058	5,062½	6,074½	8,581½	9,020½	6,380	7,438½	62,78
Pontypool Iron Works . . . . .	3,695½	2,823½	2,982	3,052	4,597½	4,192½	7,897	4,912	5,607½	9,078	48,78
Garndyris Iron Co. . . . .	2,242½	3,677½	4,133½	1,833	3,590½	2,215½	4,286½	4,238½	5,605	5,639	37,78
Coalbrook Vale Co. . . . .	2,498½	2,621	2,953	2,318½	2,329½	2,982½	3,081½	3,769½	3,338	4,000½	29,78
Pontymister Iron Co. . . . .	1,409	1,358½	1,007½	1,351	1,047	1,123	1,039½	1,048½	1,122	2,257½	12,78
Victoria Iron Co. . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	263½	1,78
Rhudry Iron Co. . . . .	346½	223	54½	..	..	188½	..	..	..	..	1,78
Golynos Iron Co. . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,027½	2,507	3,78
Union Foundry Co. . . . .	84½	142½	149½	159½	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,78
John Brown, Jun. . . . .	23½	56½	30½	23½	182½	39½	39½	97½	142½	31½	1,78
Wm. Russell and Co. . . . .	..	570½	847	713½	915½	888½	724	574½	374½	193½	5,78
Pentwyn and Golynos Co. . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,981½	2,78
Phillip Woodruffe . . . . .	..	..	..	224½	1,068	..	548½	..	..	..	1,78
Richard Walker . . . . .	..	..	..	63½	653½	453½	548½	531½	107	138½	2,78
Pentwyn Iron and Coal Co. . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,614½	2,78
Sirhowy Iron Co. . . . .	..	..	..	911	275	255	398½	165	2,439½	225	4,78
John Yem . . . . .	..	..	..	..	298½	..	..	..	..	..	1,78
John Kennedy . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	136½	146½	108½	476	383½	1,78
Total . . . . .	119,082½	115,755	119,569½	124,705½	125,433½	130,042½	155,588½	151,957½	143,213½	167,478½	1,352,78

Iron sent to Newport in the year 1839.

	Tons.
J. and C. Bailey . . . . .	35,438
Harfords and Co. . . . .	25,393
Tredegarr Iron Company . . . . .	15,090
Rumney Iron Company . . . . .	14,909
Blaenavon Iron Company . . . . .	12,427
British Iron Company . . . . .	12,482
Varteg Iron Company . . . . .	12,820
Clydach Iron Company . . . . .	9,606
C. H. Leigh . . . . .	8,047
Blaina and Cwmcellyn Company . . . . .	6,413
Coalbrook Vale Company . . . . .	5,205
Pentwyn and Golynos Company . . . . .	12,535
Pontymister Iron Company . . . . .	2,448
Kennedy and Hill . . . . .	178
Monmouthshire Iron Company . . . . .	1,990
Richard Walker . . . . .	172
John Brown, jun. . . . .	58
Total . . . . .	175,211

Iron sent to Newport in the year 1840.

	Tons.
J. and C. Bailey . . . . .	36,711
Harfords and Co. . . . .	24,199
Rumney Iron Company . . . . .	18,581
Pentwyn and Golynos Iron Company . . . . .	17,782
Tredegarr Iron Company . . . . .	15,288
Blaenavon and Garndyris Company . . . . .	14,101
Varteg Iron Company . . . . .	12,670
British Iron Company . . . . .	12,290
Clydach Iron Company . . . . .	10,038
Capel Hanbury Leigh . . . . .	9,584
Cwmcellyn and Blaina Company . . . . .	8,937
Coalbrook Vale Iron Company . . . . .	7,823
Monmouthshire Iron Company . . . . .	6,436
R. Lewis . . . . .	10
John Brown, jun. . . . .	9
Total . . . . .	194,459

## EVIDENCE COLLECTED BY RHYS WILLIAM JONES, ESQ.

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### **No.96. Mr. John Millward, examined 24th. May, 1841.**

I am 39 years of age and I have acted as constable in this place for the last 11 years. My district is the parish of Merthyr Tydvil, including Dowlais. I am appointed by the steward of the Lee Court and paid by the fees of my office. There are 50 constables sworn in for the parish, of whom 20 are from Dowlais but three with myself (making four) are the principle acting constables or peace officers. I estimate the whole population of the parish at 35,000 and I estimate the children and young persons under 18 years of age at 10,000. I estimate that there are 4500 children and young persons employed in the works and that out of this number 500 are females.

Boys are taken to work sometimes at six years old. I have seen fathers carry their sons on their backs at this age, particularly to the collieries but they do not generally go to work before 10 years old.

They generally work from six in the morning till six in the evening. Colliers go to work as early as four and leave about the same hour in the afternoon. They are most commonly allowed half an hour for breakfast and one hour for dinner. Both young persons and work at night in the iron works more especially in the forges and at the furnaces. They are employed as straighteners at the rolls in the smith shop, &c. and at a great variety of employments in the forges and mills. Girls do the same as boys in the mine and coal levels and patches but not generally underground, although a great many are employed in filling trams in the levels.

The neighbourhoods in which the workpeople reside are generally clean and free from dampness and their habitations are suitable and commodious but there are some striking exceptions such as several houses at Pontystorehouse, Pendarranfach and near the Iron Bridge and Caedraw. These are the principle places of resort for "tramps and stragglers." In the cottages at these places there may be three or four families in a house and 15 to 20 to a sleeping room. There may be 50 houses of this crowded description. The families are mostly Irish.

There are more cottages without gardens than with them but such that have gardens are tolerably cultivated. A great number of cottages have pig sties and some have privies generally common to two or three cottages but the greatest number are without them.

On Sundays and on holidays such as Christmas Day and Good Friday, the majority of the people resort to places of worship. There children and young persons are employed generally by the men whom they assist but those in the mills and forges mostly by the master of the works.

There is a school attached to the Dowlais works and two National free schools in George Town, Merthyr, one for boys and one for girls, supported by public subscriptions.

The practice of employing girls and young women in the mines and works undoubtedly prevents them from forming good domestic habits and renders them the less fit for performing the duties of wives and mothers.

No any complaints have been made before the magistrates of this district arising out of the hours of labour or the treatment of the children and young persons employed in the mines and works nor have I any cases of ill treatment or cruelty towards them come to my knowledge during the time I have been in office.

### **No.97. Statement of the Rev. Thomas Williams, curate of Merthyr, 13th. April, 1841.**

There are in the Merthyr district, Sunday Schools in connection with the Church of England, and with the following Dissenting bodies, Wesleyans, Calvinistic Methodists, Independents, and Baptists but I am not acquainted with the Dissenting schools.

There are National day schools for the education of the children of the working classes, They are situated in George Town, and they are open from 9 to 12 o'clock in the morning and from 2 to half past 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

The female children of persons employed in the iron works are taught needlework at the girls' National School situated in George Town and the hours for that instruction, together with religious education, &c., are as stated above. There are not, to my knowledge, any night schools worthy of note where female children and young persons employed in labour receive instruction.

In the Sunday Schools the instruction is strictly religious. Children are taught to read the Word of God, instructed in the faith and duty of a Christian and required to learn useful catechisms. The teachers in the Sunday Schools are respectable females and young men who take an interest in the religious education of the poor. The teacher of the boys' National School was trained in the Central



School. The mistress of the girls' school was not trained in the Central School but is considered qualified. The teachers are to instruct in spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic and geography.

The children are removed from school from eight to nine years of age and such early removal operates to their injury in after life in a religious, moral and physical manner. I think that they ought to be allowed to remain in school to the ages of from 10 to 12 years. Sunday School I consider beneficial but not sufficient to make up for the loss of instruction by early removal from the day schools, far from it.

The children of the National School that attend Sunday School, as might be expected, distinguish themselves far beyond those who are employed during the week. In the Sunday School the instruction is purely religious. In the day schools, religious, moral and commercial. I believe there are a great number of the children of workmen here whose condition in the religious, moral and intellectual point of view is deplorable.

**No.98. Statement of Mr. Samuel Hughes, master of the National School at Merthyr, 25th. August, 1841.**

There are in the Merthyr district several Sunday Schools, one Church of England, three Baptist, two Calvinistic Methodist, two Wesleyan, five Independent (exclusive of Dowlais district). There are several schools established in the district where many of the children of the poor attend but there are none exclusively for the children of the working classes, except the National Schools. None, except the National School in George Town.

In the National Schools the average attendance of 100 males and 80 females. The attendance at the Church Sunday School upon average is 80 males and 80 females. The branches of instruction taught at these last mentioned schools are reading, writing and arithmetic, together with religious instruction in accordance with the doctrines of the Church of England.

In consequence of the low state of the funds of the National School much difficulty is experienced in obtaining the services of duly qualified teachers. The children are removed from school from 7 to 10 years of age. Their removal from school at these early ages operates to their injury in after life most severely, by throwing them into the society of those whose evil character and conduct exert pernicious influence on their young minds before they have been sufficiently imbued with sound religious knowledge. I do not consider the Sunday Schools make up for the loss of instruction by early removal from the day school although they evidently exert a powerful influence over the morals of those who attend them. The progress made in the Sunday Schools by children and young persons engaged in labour falls far short of those who attend day schools, inasmuch as they receive less instruction and the business of the week tends to erase that instruction from their memories.

By the prevailing ignorance of the parents and the early removal of children from school for employment, a most powerful barrier is raised against the exertions which are made on their behalf and consequently their religious, moral and intellectual condition is proportionally low.

The National Schools at Merthyr are supported by public or voluntary subscriptions whose subscriptions for the boys' school, amount to about £50 per annum and for the girls' school to about £40 per annum and in addition each boy and girl who attends pays 1d. per week, which for the boys amounts to 8s. per week and from the girls 7s. per week. The master gets a salary of £50 per annum and half the amount of the weekly pence. The mistress gets £30 per annum and half the weekly pence.

The master was in London about two years ago to learn the National system which is pursued as nearly as circumstances will allow at the schools here, but the funds are too low to carry it out effectively. Nearly the whole of the boys go to the works when they leave the school and on average about one fourth of them can read and write before they leave. The others are removed too soon.

Not many of the girls from the school go to work in the mines and iron works but most of them go to domestic service and other occupations. Some of the girls remain in school to the age of 14 or 15 but the most part leave nearly at as an early age as the boys. Nine of the girls who have become teachers in the school are clothed annually from the fund and this induces them to remain longer than they otherwise would.

Every subscriber of one guinea is, by the rules, entitled to send two children to the school. The number to be taken to the school is not limited. The clergyman generally gives the admissions.

## No.99. DOWLAIS IRON WORKS, in the parish of Merthyr Tydvil, in the county of Glamorgan belonging to the Dowlais Iron Company.

### Statement of Young Persons and Children Employed.

At the blast furnaces:-

7 males under 13 years of age 13 males and 6 females between 13 and 18 years of age.

At the forges and mills:-

91 males, 13 females under 13 years of age 119 males and 15 females between 13 and 18 years of age.

Out of the 156 boys and 21 girls in the forges, mills and furnaces, 86 can read and 33 can write.

At the collieries:-

134 males, 20 females under 13 years of age, 102 males between 13 and 18 years of age.

At the mines and patches:-

95 males, 20 female under 13 years of age 138 males and 137 females between 13 and 18 years of age.

Out of the 177 boys and 23 girls at he collieries, mines and patches 83 can read and 18 can write.

### SUMMARY OF PERSONS EMPLOYED.

Nature of Employment	Adults		Children and Young Persons		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
At the blast furnaces	938	40	20	6	958	46
At the forges and mills	1097	30	210	28	1307	58
At the collieries	924	50	236	20	1160	70
At the mines and patches	1012	80	233	157	1245	237
At the farms	111			111		
	4082	200	699	211	4781	411
Total					5129	

Total population of Dowlais, 12,000, number of houses, 2,000.

## No.100. Mr. Thomas Evans, aged 42 years, general agent at the Dowlais Iron Works.

I have been here 28 years and during the whole of that time my attention has been particularly directed to the blast furnaces. Our furnaces have been suspended from 8 to 12 hours on Sundays since the year 1826. I was sent here by the late Mr. Thomas Guest in that year to the Iron Bridge iron works in Shropshire to inspect these works where the furnaces were stopped on Sundays and to report whether the same practice could not be adopted here. My report was favourable to such stoppage and it has been carried into effect at these works ever since.

We then had 12 furnaces and our average make of pig iron was 70 tons per furnace per week. We did not find, after the first two or three weeks that our make was much decreased by the suspension nor the quality of the iron affected.

Since 1826 we have considerably increased our works at intervals and now have 18 blast furnaces, four of which (the last built) are some of the largest in the district and our make now, from all the furnaces averages 89 tons of pig iron per furnace per week. We blow six of the largest furnaces with hot blast. I attribute our great increase of make to the general improvements which have of late years taken place in the manufacture of iron. From our experience of suspending the blast furnaces as above mentioned, I am decidedly of the opinion that, if it was a general rule in the trade, it would be beneficial as well to the proprietors as the men. It would be beneficial to the proprietors at the present moment by withdrawing a portion of the surplus make from the markets when the trade is suffering extremely depression mainly from over production. From this cause the price of bar iron is now only £5 15s. per ton, when so recently as 1836, sales of the same article were made for £11 per ton and the general price was £10. Previously to 1836 the prices of iron, from the causes alluded to, were very low and they rose in that year to the above named price but not before the make was decreased nearly one sixth part by slacking the blast during the week. The same remedy, to a greater extent, is again being applied and 40 furnaces out of the 116 have already been blown out in Staffordshire and a corresponding reduction in the wages of the man had been the consequence all through the iron manufactories. By the weekly suspension of the furnaces for

12 hours a facility for regularly inspecting and repairing them as well as the engines, is given and the consequent regularity of the working of the machinery during the week compensates for the stoppages on Sundays. When thus regularly inspected the amount of reparation required is comparatively so small that it would be rarely occupy the men employed on it more than from two to three hours so that, if the blast was stopped at six o'clock in the morning, the whole of the men would be at liberty to go off by 9 or 10 o'clock at the farthest and then have the whole day for rest and for the duties that appertain to it.

The benefit to the men is pointed out by the last observation and so much do they appreciate both the moral and physical advantages of one day of rest out of the seven that some time ago, when the trade was brisk, and it was attempted to keep on out furnaces during Sundays, according to the general practice of the district, they refused to acceded to it.

**No.101. Thomas Jenkins, aged 41, schoolmaster at the Dowlais free school.**

I have been master of this school 14 years. The school is supported by the Dowlais works. The men employed pay 2d. in the pound on their wages which forms a fund, called the Sick Fund, for paying the surgeon who attends the men, for supporting the sick workmen and for paying the schoolmaster. The fines levied on the men for neglect of work, drunkenness and misdemeanour are also thrown into this fund. My salary is £100 per annum, paid out of this fund.

The school room and firing are provided by the company and 24 boys and 24 girls, who are monitors in the school, are clothed (one suit per annum) by the company. My school is attended by 200 boys and the average attendance is about 160 daily. I keep a daily return of attendance. I do not take boys under 6 years of age. If we had another school room and were to take boys as young as three or four years old, I should have double the number. The oldest boys in my school are from 12 to 14 years old but we have not many of that age, the greatest number are from 1 to 10 years old. There may be about 50 boys above 10 years old and about 80 under 10 years old. The average time they remain in school of four or five years. In this time they attain a tolerable proficiency in reading and writing and the common rules of arithmetic. I have about a dozen boys who are gone as far as the "rule of three."

There are in school about 12 boys maimed or crippled. Three have lost an arm each and one has lost a leg, the others have been hurt in different ways so as to render them incapable of labour. They have all, except one, met with accidents while employed in the works. The boys maimed are from 7 to 16 years of age and the greatest number are under 12 years of age. Accidents are very frequent in the works. There is scarcely a week that some do not occur.

When a boy leaves the school he goes to work for a time and afterwards returns to the school. He is by means so tractable and apt in learning as he was before he began work.

The girls' school is supported on the same principle as the boys' school. The mistress (Miss Speares) is paid a salary of 50 guineas per annum. The number in the girls' school is about 120. The average daily attendance is about 100. The girls attending the school are about the same ages, or rather younger, than the boys. My wife was mistress of the girls' school for three years. The present mistress has been here for only one year. The girls are taught reading, writing and arithmetic and plain needlework. The girls remain in school about four or five years and about one third of them are taught before they leave to read and write and sew tolerably well. The others leave too soon. About one fifth of the girls in the school go to work in the iron works.

There are in Dowlais Sunday School in connection with the Church of England, the Wesleyan Methodists, the Welsh Calvinistic Methodists, the Independents and the Baptists and the Dowlais free school for boys, situated at the Upper Gwernllwyn, Mr. Evan's day school, Chapel Street, Mr. Price's school, Chapel Street and Mr. Butler's school at the Methodist Chapel, Castle Street. Also the Dowlais free school for girls, situated at the Upper Gwernllwyn, and Mrs. Cleaver's school, Chapel Street. All the above schools are attended by children whose education is intended to fit them for working in the various departments of these extensive works.

The branches of instruction taught at the Dowlais free school are reading, writing and arithmetic with the elements of English grammar, geography, drawing, &c. At the Evan's school, reading and writing, with English grammar. At Price's and Butler's the same. Messrs Evans and Price are not trained teachers but to the best of my knowledge they are both well qualified to teach the routine of an English commercial school. Butler is an inferior teacher. With regard to my own abilities, I shall say nothing.

Some of the children are taken to the works when very young but generally speaking from 10 to 12 years old. The removal of the children from school at an early age is attended with many serious evils. This is obvious whether we consider the intellectual attainments or the formation of character. In the one, the mind of the individual has not sufficient knowledge of men and things to come in contact with the world's wide stage and in the other case, the moral training is inadequate to the

future moral deportment of ten man in after life. I think they should remain in school decidedly until they are 14 years old.

The pecuniary circumstances of the working classes however, will not admit of any fixed regulation. If education is made compulsory (as regards age), 12 years of age would be more suitable to the bulk of the inhabitants of this district.

I by no means consider that the Sunday School make up for the early removal from the day schools. To the praise of the Sunday Schools, however, it may be stated, that much good is effected through them as a means but these are in many instances, defective inasmuch as nothing more is aimed at than a knowledge of reading and spelling and the moral and religious welfare of young persons is entirely lost sight of and with regard to secular instruction, very few make any sensible improvement after leaving day school. The secular or intellectual instruction of children is entirely superseded by labour, therefore, whatever actual progress is made after leaving school, it is either a progression in moral and religious knowledge (not intellectual or scientific), or, vice versa, a retrograde. Perhaps the moral deportment of the individual is at all time the best criterion.

The establishment of infant schools in this district is a desideratum long felt. Since the greater proportion of the rising generation are employed in labour before they have received their proper share of education, it is but just reasonable that our infant population should be taught. I am happy to state that the extension of education to young children is under consideration.

**No.102. The Surgeon's Report. 20th. August, 1841.**

From the peculiar position of Dowlais I feel unable to adduce anything bearing upon the comparative physical condition of the children, there being no immediate surrounding population otherwise employed by which a comparison of the children's condition of Dowlais to be equal in every respect to those similarly employed elsewhere.

The general external appearance of the children is generally healthy and they seem well formed, although they can scarcely be called robust. In stature I believe a difference to exist in the male youth from 12 to 16 employed in the mines and collieries. compared with those engaged in other work, the former being somewhat stunted and this difference (under some form or other) seems still perceptible in the adult miners and colliers.

With respect to food, &c., the children are decidedly well off. I should think them to be better off than those unemployed. The children are generally well clothed. I believe the children are taught to be cleanly, washing from head to toe is most usual with them after working, previous to retiring to rest. I am not aware that the amount of sickness is greater in children otherwise engaged.

(Signed) JOHN RUSSELL,  
Surgeon to the Dowlais Iron Works.

**No.103. Thomas George 17½ years.**

I have been in Dowlais for 10 months and can read and wrote. I was in school at Aberdare before I went to work for six months. I went to work when I was eight years old as a straightener at Pendarran forge and got 2s. per week. When I was about 10 years old I worked behind the rolls (heaving up) and got 3s. 6d. per week and was again a straightener at the big rolls and got 4s. 6d. per week. I was afterwards dragging out behind the rolls and got 6s. per week. my father was also at Pendarran, a "puddler."

About five years ago I came to Dowlais forge, catching behind the rolls and got 7s. I worked for four years at Dowlais. The last work I did was rolling and I got 10s. 6d. per week. About a year ago I lost my left arm above the elbow. I slipped my foot and fell down and my arm got caught in the rolls. It was cut off in about two hours after they took me home. I was sill for three months and then I came to school. While I was at the Dowlais forge there were two men killed by the rolls and wheels and two boys lost their left legs in the rolls and by the locomotive engine.

My father is still a puddler at Dowlais and I now live at home with him. I do not now get anything from the fund of the works. My father has five children, all boys. Three boys are working at Dowlais forges and mills, one aged 17, getting 8s. 6d., one aged 14 getting 8s., the other aged 11, getting 3s. 6d. per week. My eldest brother was killed at Aberdare, 23 years ago by the rolls and my youngest brother, aged 8 years, lost his left leg above the knee from white swelling. My mother died about four months ago. My brothers, that are working, can read Welsh and English and one can write. He learned it at a night school. My father can read and write and my mother could read a little Welsh. I have learned writing from about nine months [copy seen]. I have learned the four rules in ciphering and am now in division. [Ciphering copy book seen.]

## **Examinations taken at DOWLAIS FURNACES and FORGES.**

### **No.104. Mr. Daniel James, aged 45. master founder.**

I have been at these work 25 years last Christmas. We have 14 blast furnaces at Dowlais and 4 at the Ivor Works lately erected. We made last week about 1665 tons of iron at both works. I have here at Dowlais a great number of children and young persons employed about the furnaces. There are about 100 girls at work at the tops of the furnaces and on the coal and coke yards from about 12 to 18 or 20 years of age. There may be about 10 of them over 18 years old. I have about 10 boys also assisting the moulders who are about 13 or 14 years old. The girls get from 5s. to 9s. per week and the boys get 6s. per week. They come to work at six o'clock in the morning and leave at six in the evening. They take their meals as the work allows, sometimes they have an hour for dinner and sometimes less. They have sufficient time for their meals and often get three or four hours rest in a turn. All the people and children about the blast furnaces work at night every other week. The turns change at six o'clock in the morning and evening, and in shifting the tune, the hands leaving on Saturday at six o'clock in the evening come back at four o'clock on Sunday evening. The other turn leaves at seven on Sunday morning and returns to work at six on Monday morning. The furnaces are stopped from seven o'clock to four on Sundays excepting only when a furnace may be out of order. It does not happen more than perhaps once a year that we have a furnace blowing on Sunday but we have at present one out of order and we have been obliged to blow it for the last five Sundays but shall stop it next Sunday. We stop the furnaces after the morning tapping at seven o'clock and cease to blow until four o'clock in the afternoon. when the engine is again set to work and the men come on. Sometimes the men have a little more work for about two hours in the clearing the hearth, tap holes and tuyeres when the furnaces are not in good order but when the furnaces are in good order there is no extra work or trouble. We have been in the practice of stopping the blast furnaces on Sundays for the last ten years without any deviation and make from the furnaces more iron in the year than we did before we commenced to stop. I cannot well account for this circumstance but such is the fact.

The youngest age at which I have seen children brought to the works is about seven years of age. I have seen moulders bring their boys at work at that age and I have seen their fathers bring girls of about ten years of age to carry coke to the fineries or to do some other light work about the yard. Boys begin regularly to work about 12 years old and girls about 13 years old and the girls about 13 years old. I have never seen the children beaten or abused at this work. If any one is detected beating a child, or striking another, he is fined one guinea.

### **No.105. Rees Lewis, aged 41, under furnace manager at the new iron furnaces.**

I have been in my present situation for three years. At the four furnaces under my charge I have only a few young persons at work under 18 years old. There are two boys aged 10 and 12 years, gathering old iron and scraps about the yard and one boy aged 16 years driving a horse. There is one girl, 14 years old, cleaning the engine house, one girl aged 18 years screening and raking coke on the coke yard and one girl aged 17 years filling and wheeling coke to the refineries.

The boys gathering iron are paid according to the quantity collected at the rate of 2s. 6d. per ton and get about 5s. per week. The boy driving the horse gets 10s. per week. The girl cleaning the engine house gets 7s. per week and the girl in the coke yard gets 6s. per week. They are all paid by the masters but the girl filling and wheeling the coke to the refineries works under the man who contracts for the work. He pays her 8s. per week. All these wages were from 6d. to 1s. per week higher before the fall which took place about a month ago. I do not think that any of them can write (excepting perhaps their names) and but very few of them can read.

I have two sons employed in the Dowlais works. Lewis Lewis aged 19 years who is apprenticed to the "fitters up" and gets 8s. per week during his apprenticeship and David Lewis aged 14 years who works with the carpenters and gets 9s. per week. They both have been at the Dowlais school for four or five years and can read and write.

We stop the furnaces every Sunday the same they do at the old Dowlais works. The engine stops about half past seven o'clock in the morning when the men go off and the next turn come on at two o'clock and works until six o'clock on Monday morning when the men who went off about eight o'clock in Sunday morning come on again and then they change regularly every 12 hours during the week.

Sometimes when the tuyers or dams are out of order some of the men remain on a Sunday morning to repair them and about once a fortnight or sometimes once a month, they pack the blowing cylinder which is two hours work for about four men. They are ordered by the company to stop every Sunday at eight o'clock in the morning and to blow again at two o'clock as the engineer shall generally something to do to her. The stoppage therefore is for about eight hours.

There are from 24 to 30 persons working about the four Ivor furnaces in a turn and by stopping on the Sunday both turns have either the morning or evening of that day to themselves. I do not find that the iron is much affected by stopping the furnaces of eight hours once a week. The first tapping after it may be a little cold and hard but the second tapping is generally as usual. The furnaces here are blown with hot blast. They lose a certain portion of their making by the stopping but I do not know that the decrease is much at the week's end.

**No.106. Mary Bevan, aged 18 years and Rachael Davis aged 17 years.**

We work at the Ivor furnaces and have done so for the last two years. Mary Bevan screen and rakes coke on the coke yard. Rachael Davis fills and wheels coke in a barrow to the refineries which is harder work than screening. We work in the open air and have no occasions to go very far from the fires. We come at six in the morning and leave at six o'clock in the evening and are allowed half an hour for breakfast and an hour for dinner. We do not work at night. The company pays Mary Bevan 6s. per week. A man wheels the coke by contract and Rachael Davis helps him. He pays her 8s. per week. They must wheel enough coke for the refineries. It is hard work but they generally do it by six o'clock in the evening and seldom work over time. The work does not injure our health and no accidents have happened to us. We have been in school and go now sometimes to the Sunday Schools.

[Mary Bevan can read and write a little. Rachael Davis can read but cannot write.]

**No.107. Hannah Jenkins, aged 21 years and Elizabeth Davis aged 16 years.**

They break limestones at the Dowlais Old Furnaces. Hannah Jenkins takes the work and Elizabeth Davis is employed by her as a "helper." Hannah Jenkins works by the ton and gets 7s. or 8s. for herself and 5s. for the helper. They work about 12 hours a day. They begin from six to eight o'clock in the morning and leave off about six to eight o'clock in the evening. They break up three trams of stones (four tons each) in a day. They must supply one furnace with stones. They do not work at night. They take their own time for meals. Elizabeth Davis's father was killed by the firedamp in the colliery and her mother has three children of which she is the eldest. She goes to Sunday School but cannot read. She does not lose time often from sickness.

**No.108. Margaret Davis, aged 18 years.**

I help John Morgan to break limestones for one of the furnaces and he pays me 8s. per week. We work 12 hours a day. We are sometimes at work until eight o'clock in the evening and in the winter sometimes later. The furnaces take more stones in the winter than in the summer. John Morgan and myself break up three or four trams of stones of four tons each. She has been working for five years. She has been breaking stones for eight months. She was two years filling mine at the mine kilns and was before that helping the furnace fillers. All these works were equally hard. She cannot read but goes regularly to the Sunday School. She enjoys good health.

**No.109. James Row, aged 12 years and Robert Row, aged 11 years.**

We help our father who is a "furnace filler." We work at day and at night as he works. We have been at work three years here and one year at the Varteg Works before we came here. We have been at a school a little at the Varteg, but can't read. We do not go to the Sunday Schools as we have no time. We do not go to Chapel, nor does father. He has no time. We sleep on a Sunday most part of the day.

**No.110. Jno. Row, father of the above named boys.**

I have a wife and three children. I have no time to go to Chapel or Church on a Sunday. When I work at day I go to work at two o'clock on Sunday afternoon and when I work at night I do not leave until eight o'clock or later on Sunday morning. I require my two boys to help me. One could not do, they are too young for that. I can't afford to spare one of them or to put them into school. I get with the boys about 28s. per week. Our wages are lately fallen.

**No.111. Evan David, aged 14 years, Thomas Rees aged 13 years and Robert Eldridge aged 13 years.**

We help furnace fillers. Thomas Rees helps his father. We help to fill and wheel the mine and coal and limestones to the furnaces. They work from six o'clock to six o'clock and at night every other week and some part of every Sunday. They have no regular times for meals but have sufficient time to eat. Thomas Rees has been working since he was eight years old. Neither Evan David nor he can read or goes to the Sunday School. Their wages are 1s. per day, paid by the "filler."

Robert Eldridge came from Sydneham in Kent. His father was an ostler. His mother is dead. His father brought him down to this country and left him on the mountain. He ran away and he has not been seen since. He got into the engine house and got scalded very bad. He was taken in by a widow woman of the name of Margaret Williams who got a doctor for him and took care of him. She has a son who is a "filler" but he does not work for him, he works for another man. She kept him for eight or nine months while he was ill and paid the doctor for him. He has not been at work very long and never worked before he came here. He was at school in Sydenham and could read in the Testament but he can't do so now. He has been a few Sundays to the Sunday School but his clothes are not good enough to go in. The filler for whom he works uses him well and he now gets good health.

**No.112. David Davis, aged 16 years.**

I drive a horse in the trams in the levels and with coal to the furnaces. I come out at six or seven o'clock and drive until six or sometimes later. I drive about three journeys of three miles each. I am employed by the man who has the driving by the job. He pays me about 12s. per week. I have not very hard work. I was in school a short time and can read a little Welsh.

**No.113. John Treharne, aged 35 years.**

I am an inspector of railway bars at the rail sheds. I have about 20 boys working with the straighteners of rails from 8 to 12 years of age. They assist the men by holding a piece of flat iron on the rails to prevent the blows of the hammers from marking them and in greasing the blocks on which the rails are straightened. They work from six o'clock in the morning to six o'clock in the evening and are allowed meal times. They seldom or ever work overtime. Their earnings are 6d. per day each. Their work is busy but not very hard. Accidents seldom occur and very rarely any serious hurts. I do not think that any of them can read much. They sometimes go to Sunday Schools but never to the day schools after they begin work.

**No.114. William Lewis, aged 12 years.**

I assist the straighteners. I hold the "set hammer" under the sledge. I have been at work about six months. I work constantly during the day but am allowed meal times. I go home to dinner. We work from six o'clock to six o'clock in the summer and from "light to light" in winter. We do not work at night. I am employed by the man. They work by the job or the ton. Accidents do happen some times when the boy gets the blow if the man with the sledge hammer does not strike straight. I have not met with any hurt. I was in school two months before I came to work and now sometimes go to the Baptist's Sunday School but I can't read.

**No.115. Benjamin Jones, aged 8 years.**

I work for my father straightening bars. I hold the "set hammer." I work the same time as he does. In summer "six to six" in winter from "light to light." We have meal times. We work longer sometimes than six o'clock in the evening, sometimes to eight or nine o'clock but not often. My wages are 3s. per week. My father holds the bars and another man straightens them with the sledge. That man pays a part of my wages. My father has the money. I am sometime unwell but I do not loses my work. I have been in school and can spell a little in the spelling book but can't read.

**NOTE.** - This boy was rather deformed and appeared to be labouring under a kind of spinal complaint. His father, who worked at the place stated that he was advised by a surgeon to take the boy to work as his health was better when at work than when inactive at home or at school. He said that the boys has met with no accident but called his complaint "the rickets." He seldom lost a day's work although he appeared so ill and that of he had not been advised by the surgeon to do so he should have not brought him to work but have endeavoured to have kept him in school. He had not brought him to work long, not many months but found him better in health since he had done so.

They did not work at night and very seldom overtime, never except when orders were pressing which had not been the case lately.

**No.116. Thomas George, aged 50 years, mill agent and John Davis, aged 31 years, master puddler.**

We have 32 boys in all working at the Dowlais Old Forge. Half of them work by the day and half by night, changing alternate weeks. Their ages are from 11 to 18 years of age. They work behind the rolls and at the shears, catching and dragging out the bars from the rolls and shearing or cutting up the bars in short lengths for piling. They work at the bars while they are hot. They work 12 hours and change at six o'clock in the morning and evening. They take their meals between the heats, the intervals are about five minutes at a time and they occur 10 time in the 12 hours. At meal

time one boy works for another for a short time while he eats his meals but the work does not stop. The boys at this forge work as hard as in any part of the work and in as great a heat. They often work in summer with no clothes but their shoes and linen trousers on but they ought always to wear a flannel shirt at fire work. No boys in the country work harder than the boys here. They get their health very well and very seldom meet with accidents. The shearers work under the company and get 9s. per week. The roller men pay the boys who assist them. They pay the catchers 7s. per week and the hookers 4s. per week. The boys rising the puddling furnace doors and called "pull ups" are paid by the company 4s. per week. The most of them go to the Sunday Schools and some have been in day schools.

[Two can read and write. From four to six can write their names. from, 16 to 18 can read the Welsh Testament and about four the English Testament. The others cannot read.]

**No.117. John Jenkins, aged 16 years.**

I work at the shears. It is hot and hard work but the place is airy. I have been at work for four years. I work from six o'clock for 12 hours. I am allowed two "heats" or about 10 minutes to take my dinner and my breakfast. Another boy works for me during the time if necessary. We work the same hours summer and winter but do not overtime. We work at night every alternate week. We change the turn by working until 10 or 11 o'clock on Saturday night and then come again at eight o'clock on Sunday night. The work is always the same but more oppressive in summer than winter. I work under the company the week. My wages are now 9s. per week. They were 11s. before the "fall," a short time back. I have good health and have met with but few accidents. I only hurt my hand once and lost only half a turn from it. I was in the Dowlais Free School for five years and I now go to the Wesleyan's Sunday School. I can read in Welsh and English and I could cipher a little but I have forgot that.

**No.118. Moses Evans and George Barlow, aged 16 years, Richard Hughes and Rees Price, aged 14 years.**

We drag put hot bars from the rolls and fill pieces of iron from the shears into barrows. We work the same time and in the same way as John Jenkin. We have been slightly burned by the hot bars. One of us lost a month and another two days from accidents. Richard Hughes can read a little, the others cannot. We have not been much to school, but go on Sundays in the Chapels.

**No.119. Hopkin Jones, aged 49 years.**

I am master puddler at the Dowlais Middle Forge. At this fore there are 16 boys employed in both turns. Two raising doors aged about 11 years, two lifting up bars at the rolls and two throwing down bars aged about 12 years. Two dragging bars out from the rolls aged about 14 years and two "gaggers" at the hammer about 16 years old. They work very hard and a very hot place, the same place as the boys at the Old Forge and get the same wages as here.

I believe that only five of the boys at this forge can write their names. Three others can read the Welsh Testament but the other, I think, cannot. They most of them go to the Sunday Schools.

I think when a boy goes to work he gets accustomed to the heat and his health does not suffer but their growth may be stunted but if they do not begin until they are 19 or 20 years old, they are less able to bear the fire work.

The country men who come here to work at the fires seldom can stand them for any length of time but they do for the colliery and mine works. I began to work myself at the age of seven years at the Cyfartha Works. I began by stamping bars. At 12 years old they suffer in their eyesight and they frequently meet with accidents to their eyes. I have had an accident to one of my eyes by some hot cinders from the rolls flying into it while standing by them.

I also inspect the New Forge. There are 28 boys employed there in both turns at the same kind of work and earning the same rate of wages as at the other forges and mills, I believe that about four of them can write their names. About 1 can read a little and the remaining 12 cannot read.

There are eight or nine young women and three or four girls employed at these forges and mills. Their principle work is piling iron for the mills. Only three of them are under 18 years of age.

**NOTE.** - Several of the boys at the New Forge were examined but their answers were so similar to those given by the boys at the Old Forge that no notes were taken of them.

**No.120. Ann Watkins, aged 15 years, Margaret Jones, aged 16 years and Elizabeth Jones, aged 13 years.**

We work at the Dowlais New Forge where we pile iron for the mills. We work from six o'clock to six o'clock and at night every other week but there are not so many working at night as by day.



We are four by day and two by night. We are allowed meal time but do not go home for our meals. We have them in the works and we do not work overtime. We are paid by the company 5s. 6d. per week, except Elizabeth Jones. She fills pieces of iron into the barrows and gets 4s. per week. Our work is not hard and it does not injure our health. We lose no time from sickness and meet with no accidents. Ann Watkins and Margaret Jones can read a little, Elizabeth Jones can't read. We all regularly go to the Sunday Schools.

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## DOWLAIS COLLIERIES.

### **No.121. Mr. Frederick Evans, aged 28.**

I have been employed at these works for six years and my present occupation is clerk and accountant for the Dowlais Collieries. What is stated by me will have reference to the colliery generally and not to any particular portion of it.

There are employed in the collieries about 84 boys and 15 girls under 13 years of age and about 100 boys from 13 to 18 years of age. Out of the number under 13 there are about 12 girls and 48 boys keeping air doors and earning about 2s. 6d. per week. The rest are working principally with their fathers. The 100 boys above 13 and under 18 years of age are employed in hauling coal and assisting colliers in cutting coal and their wages will average from 10s. to 14s. according to their ages.

They generally begin to work in the collieries at six o'clock a.m. and leave off about seven p.m. and although there is generally no stated time allowed for meals the nature of their occupation is such as to allow intervals of cessation from labour.

There are no persons working in the collieries at night. I have known instances of a father carrying his four year old child on his back to the work and keeping him with him in the stall all day for the purpose of obtaining an additional tram allowed him. Children are generally brought to work about six years old and the first work at which they are employed is to stand by an air door, opening and shutting it after each horse that passes that way. Girls are not brought to work at quite so early ages as the boys. Girls generally begin to work about seven years old and they are few in number in comparison to the boys, probably one sixth. In most cases it is the extreme poverty of the parents that compels them to send their young females to work.

The youngest children do not work with their fathers as they can earn 2s. 6d. per week for keeping a door before they are of an age to be of any service to their father. The greater part of them attend Welsh Sunday Schools of which I have given the number of the whole place on Sunday last. About one third of them can read Welsh and about one out of every 12 can write.

I do not know of any particular instances of children being injured by their labour but long confinement and an unwholesome atmosphere must be productive of injurious consequences. Asthma is a prevalent disease among colliers. The greatest injury which the children sustain is the moral one of being subjected as so early an age to the contaminating influence of the more vicious habits of the older ones and the total deprivation of any education or instruction.

### **The number of children who attended the Dowlais Sunday Schools on Sunday, August 29th. 1841.**

#### **Three quarters being under the age of 20 years.**

	Teachers	Scholars
Calvinistic Methodists	85	050
Wesleyan Methodist (Welsh and English)	20	144
Independents (2 Chapels)	130	688
Baptists	70	400
Church of England	10	40
	315	1777
		315
Total		2092

The population of the whole place is about 12,000.

## **Examinations taken at the DOWLAIS COLLIERIES and MINE WORKS.**

**No.122. William Rees, aged 17, Morgan Rees, aged 11, Jenkin William aged 16, Thomas Rowlands aged 16 and Thomas Price aged 13 years.**

We are hauliers and drive the horses in the trams in the coal levels. We go down from six to seven o'clock and remain down until seven in the evening. We mostly work 12 hours a day. We have no regular times for meals but find time to eat our bread and cheese. We can eat as we go along with the trams. We do not work at night in this part of the works.

Some of us have been working since we were eight years old. William Rees has been working five years as a haulier and before that three years at door keeping. Morgan Rees has been working five years door keeping and driving. He went to keep a door when he was six or seven years old. Driving is hard work and dangerous but we have not met with any accidents of consequence. We get 8s. to 10s. per week. We all work under the company except Jenkin William and he drives for another man who finds the horse and drives by the job and he gets 15s. per week. We have not been much in day schools but go to the Sunday Schools. Morgan Rees can read a little in Welsh but the others can't read. The levels are high enough for the horses and the places are well enough to work in but the roads in some places are very wet and dirty and we always wet our feet but do not often get colds or sickness.

**No.123. David Morgan, aged 14 years.**

I drive a horse in the mine levels and get 8s. per week. My work is very nearly the same as the work of the coal hauliers and we work at the same time. I often get hurt about the hands and feet but not very bad and seldom lose any time from sickness. I was never in a school every day but I go to the Sunday School but cannot read.

**No.124. Zelophilad Llewelyn, aged 9½ years.**

I keep an air door in the Penyard Pit. I have been there more than a year. I come to work at six o'clock and go home at six o'clock and sometimes later. I get 2s. 6d. per week but I find my light which costs me 6d. My father is a miner, and has five children. There are two older than me. One boy 13 years old works with my father. I like my work very well. The place is dry and not very far from the pit. I eat bread and cheese in the works. I do not often lose my bag by the rats but there are some in the works and they sometimes steal the bags of bread and cheese. I have been in school. I was nearly two years in the Dowlais free school and I go now to the Sunday School in the Chapel. My father and mother go to Chapel with me. I can read English a little but not much.

**No.125. Ann Bowcot, aged 19 years.**

I have been working in the iron works and mines ever since I was five years old. My father used to carry me to the works to keep a door. I was keeping the door for six years. I afterwards worked in the mine banks stacking the mine. I am now oiling the trams and get 6s. per week. I come to work at six o'clock and work as long as the trams are out, nearly 12 hours every day. Oiling trams is hard work for I have to turn them up off the road to get to the places to be oiled and some of them are heavy. I have been working ever since I first began until now excepting the time I have lost from illness. I do not lose much time but lost six weeks time 12 months from a cold. I have no club and get nothing from the sick fund, I suppose because I did not apply for it. I was never in school and cannot read. The girls do not do much work now in the collieries except keeping doors.

**No.126. Margaret Morgan, aged 20 years.**

I have been working ever since I was eight years old. I was keeping a door in the collieries for some years and have been doing the same kind of work as Ann Bowcot and am working in the same as her now. I was never at school and cannot read. I lose a little time now and then from sickness but very seldom. We have good health.

**No.127. Thomas Rees, aged 10 years, John Davies aged 9 years and William Enock aged 9 years.**

We cannot read much but we go to the Sunday Schools. We help our father who cuts coals in the colliery. We all have been working for three years and were door boys for two years. We go to work at six o'clock in the morning and leave off about five o'clock in the evening but it is sometimes as late as eight o'clock on us. We get 2s. 6d. per week and pay out for our light 6d. per week. We have not got hurt.

**No.128. Elizabeth Williams aged 10 years, Mary Enock aged 11 years and Rachael Enock aged 12 years.**

Elizabeth Williams aged 10 years has been at work for one year, Mary Enock aged 11 years has been at work for two years and Rachael Enock aged 12 years has been at work for four years. We are door keepers in the Upper Four Feet Level. We leave the house before six o'clock and are down in the level from six o'clock in the morning until seven o'clock and sometimes later the nine in the evening. We ought to come up at six but are kept later when the horses are hindered in getting the coal out. We get 5½d. per day and our lights cost us 6d. per week. We go to Sunday Schools. Rachael was in a day school and can read a little. The others cannot read. Rachael Enock met with a bad accident some time ago. The tram went over her and bruised her very much and she was along time ill at home but she got over it. We have not seen any firedamp in the level.

**No.129. Catherine Enock, aged 15 years.**

I have been working for four years. I work at the level's mouth, oiling the trams and it is hard work. I have to upset the tram off the road to get to the axles and it is heavy. I can do it myself but I get help sometimes. I work under the company and get 5s. 6d. per week. I have met with no accident and lose not time from sickness. I cannot read much but I go to the Sunday Schools.

**No.130. Jane James, aged 16 years.**

I went to keep an air door when I was nine years old and have been "polling" or cleaning the mine on the mine banks for five years. I come to work at six to seven o'clock in the morning and leave at six and sometimes sooner in the evening. I work with another girls and she employs men and pays me 6s. per week. She has the "polling" at this bank by the job. We have meal times and are not very particular as to the time. Mr father is dead. My mother has four children. I lose very little time from sickness. I have lost a fortnight in the last 12 months. I have been at day school but can read very little.

**No.131. Jane Dudlick, aged 9 years.**

I have been working three months. I work with Jane Evans and she is my aunt. The mine is like large stones and we fill it with our hands. Some of the pieces are too heavy for me to handle. I live with my grandmother and aunt. My mother is dead and my father works at Blaina. He has a son 10 years old working with him. I was never in school and neither my brother nor I can read.

**No.132. Jane Evans, aged 19 years.**

I am Jane Dudlick's aunt and she works with me filling mine near Tyle Dowlais Pit. I have been working several years. I think since I was as young as she is. I have been most of my time filling mine at the banks. I was never at a day school but I often go to the Sunday School but I cannot read much. I live with my father and mother and Jane Dudlick lives with us. She and I together get about 8s. 6d. per week. I have very little to do with any of the work in the house. I am out every day from six in the morning to six in the evening. I can sew but I cannot make my own clothes because I cannot cut them out. If they were cut out I could sew them very well. I have met with no accident and have very good health.

**No.133. David William aged 11 years.**

I have been working two years driving a horse in the trams at the mine bank. I have been here one year and was at Pendarran six months, I work from six in the morning to six or seven in the evening. When I was at Pendarran I hurt my leg by a stone falling on it. I was home ill nearly a year and am lame now. I work under the man who drives for the mines pit. I get 5s. per week. I have been in the free school and I go to the Sunday Schools. I can read a little Welsh. I have good health now excepting that I am a little lame.

**No.134. Morgan Davies, aged 7 years.**

I have been working for a years. I have been in school and go to the Methodist's Sunday School but I cannot read. I have not been long enough. I keep a door in Tommo's Level [the Upper Four Feet Level]. I go down at six o'clock, the same as the men and come up again with them. I take bread and cheese and bread and butter with me and eat it sometimes in the morning soon and then have none all day. The rats run away with my bag sometimes but they have done so only once or twice. My father is a collier and he has four children, and one boy who works. I live three quarters of a mile from the level. I come out of the house half an hour before I go down the level and I go to play in the fine weather for an hour after I come up before I go home. I do not know what I get. I wash myself clean every night before I go to bed. I have been away for some days ill. I have been

sick and had a belly ache and I have often hurt my hands and feet in the level by running about and by stones falling on them.

**No.135. David Griffiths aged 11 years and Ann Griffiths aged 9 years.**

David helps his father to cut coal and has been working for six years and he is allowed six trams a week and gets 5s. His sister, who has been working for six months helps a collier who works near his father and she gets 3s. per week and pays 6d. for light. She works near her father and brother in the Deep Level. She turns the coal back, and helps fill it into trans. She was one month in the free school and goes with her brother to the Methodist Sunday School. He cannot read and she is now in spelling of two letters. Her father has four children alive and has buried three. She has lost no time from sickness, neither has her brother, David. She takes bread and cheese down the level with her and eats it all before she comes up. They work the same time as the other people.

**No.136. John Fisher, aged about 7 years.**

He has been working for two years and keeps a door in the Deep Level. My father work near me. I lost a week last month in the measles. My father has three children and has buried one girl. There are none working but me. Some time ago the stone arch of the level fell down upon me but it did not hurt me much. I have been in school a short time and I now go to the Sunday School, but I have not been long enough to read. I do not know how old I am. I think I have been keeping the door for two years.

**NOTE.** - The three children last examined live at Ivor Town nearly three miles from the place at which they work but in returning in the evening they frequently play about the furnaces and yards until seven or eight o'clock. I met them at the furnaces about seven o'clock playing about in the heat of the fires after they had been upwards of an hour out of the level.

They look extremely small for their ages but in good health and full of activity, particularly the little girl who said she would rather go to school than work is she should but the boys said they like the works better.

The following examinations were taken during my inspection of some of the Dowlais Collieries into which I descended in company with the surveyor of the mines at the "slope way," near the Blind Balance Pit, where we got on the carriage that brings up the coal and were let down the inclined way by an engine.

These collieries are some of the finest in South Wales and with the exception of the wet and dirt on the road, arising from the magnitude of the workings and the traffic of trams and horses upon them, everything appeared to be in the best working order. From the whole of the Dowlais collieries I was informed that they raise about 1500 tons of coal per day. The whole of which is consumed in their own gigantic works.

**No.137. David Morgan, nearly 11 years old.**

He has been working for two years. I have been at a school and I go to the Sunday School but I cannot read. I keep the door at this place. I come down at six o'clock in the morning and remain here until six and sometimes eight o'clock at night. I am down mostly 13 hours. I get now 2s. 6d. It used to be 3s. per week. My father has 11 children. neither the men nor the overmen beat me. I live at Dowlais. I have not been hurt but I have lost time. I was ill some time ago and lost two months.

**No.138. David Harris, aged 16 years.**

I am a haulier and I have been driving a horse and working with my father for five years and before that half a year as a door boy. My father is a miner and he has seven children. I did get 14s. 6d. per week. I do not know what I shall get after the fall. I come down at six in the morning and leave at six or seven and sometimes nine in the evening. Accidents happen to the drivers very often. I have broken by leg three times by the trams. The last time was four months ago. I have been in Dowlais free school and I go to the Sunday Schools. I can read the Bible in Welsh and can write my name.

**No.139. William Rosser, aged 16 years.**

I am a haulier and I have driven a horse since I was 10 years old and have worked for nine years, I come down and go back the same time as the other drivers. I sprained my leg half a year ago and I feel it yet. I get 13s. 6d. per week. My father is a collier and he has 10 children, I have been in a Welsh school and can read Welsh a little. In do not understand English.

**No.140. James Parker, nearly nine years if age.**

I am a door boy and I have been keeping this door for about two months, I was working before for about two years at the Ynislas but was at home afterwards for a years or more. I was in school at Dowlais that time and was in the fourth class. I can read a little and I can write my name. I get 5½d. per day and pay for light out of that. My father is a collier and he has five children, two are girls and my mother is dead lately. I am the youngest and my two brothers are working. I get up at five and go down at six o'clock and go up when the others go home. It is sometimes nine o'clock. I have not been ill since I come to work.

**No.141. John Thomas aged 16 years.**

I have been working 10 years and I am a haulier and drive the trams in this work. I have been here along time. I began work a door and was at it for three years. We all come down in the morning about the same time being six o'clock and work for about 12 hours and often more. It is sometimes very late when we get up if anything happens to hinder the trams going out. I get 14s. per week. I burn a pint of oil which cost me 6d. A great many accidents happen to the drivers by their falling under the trams and horses. There are so many and the road is so crowded. I have broken my arm three times and my leg once. The last time was last years. I lost two full months work from each accident and I am a little lame now. My father is a collier and he has eight children. Three are working, two boys and a girl. One is 10 years old and fills the mine on the bank. She can read and write and one of my brothers can read. I have been to school and we all go to Sunday School. I can read the Welsh Testament.

**No.142. NAMES of MEN killed at the DOWLAIS IRON WORKS whose widows are now residing at the place:-**

Name.	Occupation.	How Killed.	Date when Killed.
William Morgans . . .	Quarryman . . .	By a fall in the quarry . . .	Aug., 1807.
William Pendry . . .	Collier . . .	By a damp in the colliery . . .	,, 1809.
Thomas Vaughan . . .	Ditto . . .	By a fall in the roof . . .	Nov., 1818.
David Williams . . .	Miner . . .	Ditto . . .	,, 1820.
George Bradley . . .	Ditto . . .	Ditto . . .	Jan., 1823.
William Hughes . . .	Ditto . . .	Ditto . . .	Nov., 1823.
William Parry . . .	Ashes-filler . . .	By the boiler . . .	Sept., 1824.
Rees Jones . . .	Collier . . .	By a fall in the roof . . .	March, 1825.
Richard Lloyd . . .	Miner . . .	Ditto . . .	,, 1826.
Evan Rowland . . .	Collier . . .	Ditto . . .	Dec., 1827.
David Humphrey . . .	Miner . . .	Ditto . . .	Nov., 1828.
David Price . . .	Collier . . .	By a damp in the colliery . . .	March, 1832.
William Matthews . . .	Door-keeper . . .	By a blow in the work . . .	Feb., 1834.
David Evans . . .	Flueman . . .	By a fall . . .	Nov., 1836.
William Phillips . . .	Grinding clay . . .	By the rolls . . .	,, 1836.
Thomas Thomas Jones . . .	Collier . . .	By a fall in the roof . . .	Feb., 1837.
John Davies . . .	Ditto . . .	By a damp in the colliery . . .	Nov., 1837.
John Davies . . .	Ditto . . .	By a fall in the roof . . .	Jan., 1838.
William Daniel . . .	Ditto . . .	Ditto . . .	April, 1838.
David James . . .	Ditto . . .	By a damp in the colliery . . .	Aug., 1838.
John Williams . . .	Miner . . .	By a fall in the roof . . .	,, 1838.
Josiah Price . . .	Hitcher . . .	Ditto . . .	,, 1838.
William Watkins . . .	Miner . . .	Ditto . . .	June 14, 1839.
Rees Williams . . .	Filler . . .	Ditto . . .	Nov., 1839.
Thomas Lewis . . .	Weigher . . .	Ditto . . .	,, 1839.
Evan Powell . . .	Collier . . .	By a damp in the colliery . . .	May, 1840.
William Davies . . .	Ditto . . .	Ditto . . .	July, 1840.
William Pipler . . .	Engineer . . .	By the boiler . . .	,, 1840.
David Jones . . .	Miner . . .	By a fall in the roof . . .	Aug., 1840.
John Jones . . .	Collier . . .	By the damp in the colliery . . .	,, 1840.
John Rees . . .	Baller . . .	By the rolls . . .	,, 1840.
Thomas James . . .	Tipper . . .	At the kilns . . .	,, 1840.
William Harries . . .	Door-keeper . . .	Found dead in the lodge . . .	Feb., 1841.
Thomas Hopkins . . .	Mason . . .	By the falling of No. 12 furnace . . .	April 7, 1841.
David Thomas . . .	Ditto . . .	Ditto . . .	,,
William Watkins . . .	Ditto . . .	Ditto . . .	,,

### **No.143. COPY of the PRINTED RULES of the DOWLAIS FUND.**

Established 1827 for the relief of the casual sick, from accidents and for distribution donation to the widows and families of workmen who have been mortally wounded in the works &c.

#### **RULES AND REGULATIONS.**

**1st.** - That all matters relative to the said fund &c., be settled by a committee and if, on a decision, the number of any matters be equal, the president to have the casting vote, if the minority dissent from the opinion of the majority. Notwithstanding the committee may have given their determination on the subject in dispute, upon four persons signing a requisition, the case to be referred to the manager of the works, whose decision in all cases must be absolute.

**2nd.** - The committee to be chosen by the members, to consist of ten persons and one president, to represent them in their respective departments, annually, and at the expiration of each years to be replaced by ballot. The president to be chosen by the manager of the works.

(Names of the President and Committee.)

**3rd.** - That every persons employed in the Dowlais Works shall contribute 1d. in the pound for his or their month's earnings towards such fund and to which the Dowlais Iron Company have condescended to contribute all moneys stopped as fines from the workmen of the several departments before enumerated.

**4th.** - That no persons shall be relieved until visited by two of the committee and a certificate produced from the surgeon of the work stating that their complaint and incapacity to attend their duty on business and then no permanent or actual sum be allowed but at the discretion of the committee.

**5th.** - If the fund in three months after its commencement, so as to reduce the stock below the sum commenced with, the committee to have it in their power to increase the contributions by one halfpenny in the pound on each person's earnings until it amounts to the original sum.

**6th.** - That the committee shall meet every Thursday after Dowlais pay day to settle the preceding months accounts and at each meeting to be allowed not more the 5s. from the fund to be drank for the benefit of the house where the society is held.

**7th.** - That the Dowlais Iron Company's cashier for the time being be the treasurer of this funds who shall pay any moneys except by a printed order to be signed by the president and clerk of the said fund.

(Signed) THOMAS EVANS, President.

### **No.144. COPY of the PRINTED RULES as to FINES.**

Whereas several workmen have recently very much neglected their work. Notice is hereby given, that after the present week the following rules will be adopted:-

From every workman who absents himself from his work (unless in case if illness or by permission) a deduction will be made from his wages as follows:-

**Finers.** - For every turn lost 1d. per ton upon the iron made by them during the month, for two turns 2d. per ton upon the months iron and so on 1d. per additional for each turn lost.

**Puddlers.** - For one turn 3d. per ton on the months iron, two turns 6d. per ton and so on 3d. additional for each turn lost.

**Heaters.** - For one turn 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per ton and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. additional for each additional turn lost.

From every description of workman, for the loss of one turn, 1s. in the pound upon the months earnings and an additional 1s. in the pound for each additional turn.

From every man who leaves his work during his turn without permission, 10s. 6d. will be stopped or 2s. 6d. in the pound upon the months earnings at the option of the employer.

And to prevent frivolous excuses, notice is hereby given, that no plea of illness will be allowed unless notice of such illness shall have been given to the foreman at least six hours before the commencement of the turn to a certificate from the surgeon that he was unable to attend to his work.

(Signed) For Dowlais Iron Company and Self,  
J.J. GUEST

Dowlais Iron Works, 4th., July, 1828.

**No.145. PENYDARRAN IRON WORKS in the parish of Merthyr Tydvil, in the county of Glamorgan belonging to the Penydarran Iron Company.**

**STATEMENT of the CHILDREN and YOUNG PERSONS EMPLOYED.**

At the blast furnaces, forges and mills:-

52 males and 11 females under 13 years old and 50 males and 33 females between 13 and 18. The youngest are 1 boy of 6 years, 1 boy of 11 and 1 boy of 8.

At the colliery and mine works:-

98 males and 6 females under 13 years and 116 males and 16 females between 13 and 18 years.

**Summary of Persons Employed.**

	M	F	Total
Adults			
At the furnaces &c	488	38	
Colliery and mine works	1117	56	
Total			
Young persons between 13 and 18	166	48	
Children under 13	140	17	
Totals	1911	160	
Total			2071.

**No. 146. Report upon the physical condition of the children of the Merthyr district.**

As to the physical condition, generally speaking, I believe it is not inferior to that of children in the same neighbourhood that are not employed in the works. Their appearance s far as I can understand, is healthy and they are well formed. With regard to stature, I have not taken particular notice as respects them at different ages. Nourishment I believe the have sufficient and proper time allowed them for taking it. The short time I have had the opportunity of witnessing, they are clothed comfortably and a decent and heat. In my opinion the amount of sickness is not greater in these district in proportion to the number employed that is such that are hitherto at home unemployed.

(Signed JOHN MARTIN,  
Surgeon to the Penydarran Works.  
Merthyr, August 5th., 1841.

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**Examinations taken at the PENYDARRAN IRON WORKS.**

**No.147. Mr. Benjamin Martin, aged 46, mineral agent.**

I have been in the works since 1808. I have the principle management of the mines, my brother assists me in the collieries. We work the mines by levels driven in the sides of the hills and we ventilate them by means of air pits sunk upon them. Our workings run under the hills to the depth below the surface of about 140 yards. We work several seams of coal and several veins or pins of iron mine. The coal seams are from two and a half to seven and half feet thick, the mine pins from half an inch to five inches thick. Our mainways in the mine works and generally the top of the collieries, where necessary, to get this height, and to make all our openings not less that four feet high.

The people enter the mines by the levels, through which they walk. We have shafts for raising the coals which is done by the "water balance" and a steam engine but the people are not allowed to descend by the pits.

The miners have Davy lamps to go into the workings in the morning to see that the air is pure but they never work by them. They are never allowed to work in places where the air requires them to use a Davy lamp. The principle noxious gases in our mines is carburetted hydrogen, which is generated in the workings to a small extent. It is dissipated by the current of air which is

maintained through the works by means of the air pits the draught of which is sometimes assisted by fires placed and kept burning at the bottom. There have been several trifling explosion in our mines within the last two years and 8 or 10 men and one boy have been burned by them but not seriously so. There have been no lives lost by firedamp for the last four years and we have had little or no chokedamp and no accidents have arisen from it. We have had eight to nine people and one little boy killed within the last two years. These fatal accidents have happened on the railways and "inclines" in the quarries and by falls of roof in the mines and collieries. We take every precaution in our power by timbering and supporting the excavations to prevent accidents.

The coal and mine is brought out along the mainways by horses, driven by boys and brought from the face of the workings down the stalls (from 30 to 60 yards) to the mainways by young persons in trams carrying from 15 to 20 cwt., which they push down over the railways full and back empty. The full tram goes down the slope of the seams. In doing this work the children or young persons generally assist the men who are paid by contract, or by the ton, for getting and bringing the coal and mine to the main roads. It is then brought out through the levels by horses, or raised to the surface by pits and "water balance" machines.

The iron mine is picked and cleaned on the banks by girls who also fill it into trams which convey it so the kilns and furnaces. There are about 12 girls under 13 years old and about 30 from that to 18 years old at this work. There are girls and boys employed about the furnaces. There are about 10 helping the furnace fillers who are, I think, under 15 years old and about 6 girls breaking limestone. All our limestone is broken by girls from 15 to 25 years old. About 24 girls on the coke yards and emptying coals, about one half of whom are above 18 years old and one girl cleaning the roads, one mixing clay and two cleaning the trams at the mine kilns.

There are about 10 boys from 8 to 18 old in the cast house assisting the moulders and driving out cinders. There are a great number of boys employed at the puddling furnaces and at the forges and rolling mills and some girls at the mills in all about 120. The boys assist the men at the work generally. The girls pile iron, empty coals and sweep the floors. The labour of the young persons and children is the same or nearly so, except that the older hands take the heaviest work. There are about 10 girls and women at the brick yard tempering the clay and making bricks.

The children are brought to work to the collieries and mines at the age of from seven to eight years and to the iron works and rolling mills from nine to ten years of age, girls and boys the same. The purposes of the works do not require children younger than 10 or 12 years but they are brought to the works two or three years earlier than necessary by their parents to assist them at contract work, and sometimes, when trams are scarce, the men bring their own children with them to the mines very young, to do nothing else but to have an extra tram allotted to them, to bring out the mine or coal they work themselves, and thus increase the quantity they send out, and also the amount of their weekly wages.

I think it would be of advantage to the children if they were not brought to the works until they were 10 years old, provided a good system of education was adopted for them in the interim.

The only apprentices that we have are in the carpenters and pattern makers, the roll turners and smiths who are generally the children of the old workmen of the establishment. They are bound for five or seven years terminating at the age of 21.

The colliers and miners work about 12 hours every day but do not work at night. They generally work by the job and we do not look after their time. They work any number of hours that they like themselves we pay only for the quantity they send out. The furnace men, rollers, and forgers work 12 hours and these parts of the works go on at night as well as day. The men change at six o'clock morning and evening except the puddlers, which change every eight hours. The children and men all work the same hours. Every department of the works is suspended on Sundays except the blast furnaces. We have not tried to suspend them but when we stop them from some hours from accidents we have some trouble in starting again.

The men prefer changing the turn by working 24 hours to working only six hours. Sunday is the day of the double shift at the blast furnaces. The long turn begins at six o'clock on Sunday morning and ends at six o'clock on Monday morning. There are no particular meal times in ten mines, or at the furnaces, forges or mills but the labourers are allowed half an hour for breakfast and an hour for dinner. We have no rules for either rewards or punishments in our works, but the men and children and young persons are generally fined for misbehaviour and neglect of work. Corporal punishments are not allowed. We have no printed instructions on the subject but it is generally forbidden. The persons detected using bad language are fined, and it is checked as much as possible.

There is not at present any school attached to the works but the building of one is in contemplation by the company which now subscribe to the National School at Merthyr and can admit about 12 children into it free but these free admissions are not always supplied for by the parents of the children and some are often vacant.



There is a sick fund at these works to which the men pay 6d. per month and to which the fines (when not inflicted for some crime incurring a loss to the company) are carried and in the case of sickness them men get from this fund an allowance of 5s. per week. There is also a doctors find to which the people pay 1½d. in the pound on their ages to pay the surgeon who attends them and their families in cases of illness and accidents. There are Sunday Schools at the Church and at most of the Chapels which are numerously attended by the children

**No.148. Mr. Hugh Morgan, aged 35, furnace master.**

I have been in my present situation for the last three years. I have under my charge employed about the furnaces about 14 boys from 6 to 18 years old and about 45 young women and girls from about 10 to 25 years old, about 24 of whom are under 18 and about 14 of whom are under 13 years old.

The youngest boys employed in helping the furnace fillers and in throw in small coals into the hot blast stoves. Their ages are from 6 to 13 years and the others are driving the horses in the cinder trams and at the top of the incline.

The youngest girls are employed in helping the furnace fillers (their fathers), raising small coal in flasks and cleaning the limestone from the furnaces. The other are filling or emptying the coal trams and breaking limestone for the furnaces. The ages earned by the boys under 13 years of age are about 3s. 6d. per week, the others, from 13 to 18 years old who are driving the horses get about 10s. per week. The girls under 13 years old get about the same as the boys of that age (3s. 6d. per week), and these between 13 and 18 years old get from 4s. to 5s. 6d., per week. The young women from 18 to 25 years of age get from 8s. to 15s. per week.

The girls breaking limestone work the hardest and the longest. They break in the day enough stones for the furnaces both day and night and continue at it sometimes more than 12 hours. The others all work from six o'clock in the morning until six in the evening. There are no regular meal times but they have sufficient time to take them. They most generally work by the piece or ton and therefore take their own time for meals. Many who live near the works go home for dinner. The coal fillers and the helpers at the furnace work at night on alternate weeks, both boys and girls. The "turns" change at six o'clock on Monday morning for the children as well as the men.

I have never tried to stop the furnaces on Sundays. If we stopped we should lose iron because our blast is weak. When we stop to repair the engines, from three to eight hours, we find the iron alter. It gets white and hard. We have two furnaces blow with "hot blast." It would not be so difficult to stop them. Their "pillar of blast" at the Dowlais at the Dowlais works is stronger than ours and they are in consequence better able to stop their furnaces on Sundays,. The limestone girls do not work on Sundays or those emptying coal. The persons have employed on Sundays are six furnaces keepers, six filler, six cinder fillers, six girls filling coal, three or four helpers, four boys at the hot blast stoves and three at the engines.

The youngest age I have known a child employed at these furnaces is six years old or from that to seven. They are at that age brought by their own fathers. Other persons would not employ them under eight or nine years old which is the general age at which they begin to work. The girls are not employed quite so early as the boys.

**No.149. Mary Richard, aged 25, limestone breaker at the furnaces.**

My father took me to work when I was nine years old. He was then a furnace man at the Plymouth works. I was afterwards at the Cyfartha Works for a few weeks. I have now been at these works for 12 or 14 years. After helping fillers I went to fill coals for a years and I then went to break limestone for three or four years then I went to fill mine on the banks near the level for one years and a half, and I them came back to break limestone again and have now been at it for three years, I work at the top of the furnaces. There is no cover over my head and when it rains I get wet.

I break stones for one furnace about 14 trams full every day. They hold more than a ton each. I am paid by the ton of iron made. I have my own time of meals provided I keep the furnaces supplied. I live about one fourth of a mile off and mostly go home to dinner. I come to work about seven o'clock in the morning and go home about seven in the evening and I work about 11 hours every day. At the furnaces two girls are employed to break limestone, on take the work and employs the other to help her. I break enough for one furnace my self. I seldom work over time except in winter when the stone trams do not come regularly. We them with for them by the day and work late in the evening but I never go to work at night. I work very hard but I am used to it. When the furnaces go fast I am obliged to work harder but I get more money. I work for the company, they pay me and I agree of my own wages. I get from £2 15s. to £3 per month. Limestone breaking is the hardest work I have done from the beginning. Filling coal was also hard

work but filling mine was not hard. I could get 5s. at filling mine easier than 3s. at breaking limestone.

I have never found my work injure my health. I have often worked too hard and felt more tired in the morning than at night but it was my own fault. I might have got a person to help me. I have seldom lose any time from illness. I do not recollect losing a day for along time, except one day last month.

Very few incidents happen here to girls. I know of only one who got an accident she lost an eye by a stone sketting in it. I do not think that the girls who come very young to the works are rider or more impudent than those who come at an older age, their managers and their conduct depends on the way their parents bring them up. There is a girl now come here to work at 16 years of age for the first time and she uses worse language than any who are here.

I never was at a day school but have attended the Sunday Schools for a long time and so still. I can read Welsh and a little English.

**No.150. Mr. John Hill, aged 44, forge manager.**

I have been in my present situation for 10 months. I was before in a similar situation at the Blaena and Cwmcelyn Works and previous to that at the Varteg under Mr. Kenrick. The children are employed in the same manner at both the Varteg and Cwmcelyn as at these works. I have working under my charge at the forge and mills about 53 boys under the age of 18 years and about 14 girls. There are about six other girls unloading coal but they are over 18 years old. The boys work in the forge and mills at all the different descriptions of work but principally behind the rolls. The girls pile the iron for the heating furnaces, sweep the floors and unload the coals from the trams. They all work 12 hours and take their meals between the "heats." There are no regular times but they get time for their dinners very nearly at the same time as the other people. They all work at night every other week. The youngest ages at which the children are brought to work in the forges and mills are from eight to nine years old but the girls do not begin quite as soon, perhaps seldom under 12 years old. The children do not always work for their fathers in the forge and mills but for different persons as they are wanted, I have not known any instance of the children being overworked or injured by their labour as these works.

**No.151. John Pritchard, aged 35, master labourer.**

I have under my charge several children and young persons at different employments. There are five girls from 13 to 14 years old, pounding sand, cleaning the road in the "finery" oiling the incline rollers and sweeping the forge. They work 12 hours. They are allowed meal times and get about 5s. 6d. per week each. The pounding sand is hard work. There two employed at it.

I have five boys from 13 to 14 years old, driving horses in the trams about the yard. They come out in the morning at seven o'clock and go in a half past five in the evening. They are allowed meals times and get 9s. per week. Driving horses on the trams roads is hard and dangerous work. The boys are allowed out all weathers and subject to frequent accidents. A boy lost his arm on the tram road near the "Quakers Yard" last month and another was killed in this yard by the coal drams about five years ago. They very often hurt their thumbs and lands by "spragging" or locking the dram wheels on the steep roads and frequently lose time in consequence of such accidents. There may be 30 or 40 men now about the works, altogether, who have been maimed or lamed and having wooden legs or one arm. The drivers or hauliers sometimes work at night when anything particular is wanted, but not often. The youngest driver I have known as about eight years old. They generally began to drive about 10 years old. The drivers under my charge are all paid by the company.

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**Examination of three boys at the ROLLING MILLS at PENYDARRAN.**

**No.152. Thomas Morgan, aged 16 years, William Davis aged 15 years and William Gay aged 11 years.**

Thomas Morgan works at the rough rolls. His work is called "roughing up." He has been in the works for nearly ten years. William Davis's employment is straightening bars after being rolled and William Gay drags them out from the rollers to be straightened. They all work in the mill. The place is sometimes very hot during the "heat." The heat lasts about twenty minutes during which they work as fast as they can on passing the hot bar through the different rolls then they have a spell of about ten minutes for rest and air and sometimes to play. But William Davis and William Gay do

not get such long spells, excepting when they work at heavy orders. When working light orders they do not get many spells excepting when they work at heavy orders and the heats are quicker. They all take their meals between the heats and generally get sufficient time, but they can't always eat them in one spell. Sometimes they are two or three spells before they finish their dinners. They come to work at six o'clock in the evening and leave at six in the evening, both summer and winter. They work at night every other week and they sometimes work overtime of a Saturday evening when no night turn follows. They go on ten to nine or ten o'clock and get an extra turn for such over work. They do not always work at the mills of a Monday for want of iron, but no working late on Saturday night we take up our six turns. Our work is harder in summer as in winter because the lace is hotter. We work under the company and Thomas Morgan gets 11s., William Davis 6s. 6d., and William Gay, 3s. 6d. per week. Thomas Morgan thinks the work at the rough rolls injures his health, the sulphur from them affects his breast. He lost five weeks work about three months back from fever. The boys that work at the same rolls are also often ill. The other two seldom are ill and their work is neither so hot nor so hard as Thomas Morgan's. They often get burned by the hot bars and many of them have scars about their legs and arms. Thomas Morgan and William Davis have been badly burned about the legs. William Davis has been in school for four or five years and can read, Thomas Morgan has also been in school and can read a little but William Gay can't read.

**No.153. John Davis, aged 13.**

I am employing in driving horses. I have been in the work for a year and half. before I came to this work I tended my father who is a mason. I would rather drive the horses than tend masons. I come put with the horse at seven o'clock and take him back to the stable at half past five o'clock not often sooner but sometimes later. I am not allowed meal times, during which the horse is fed in the shed. I take the horse in sooner in the winter than in the summer by half an hour. I do not work at night excepting very seldom. I have worked at night twice since I have been here, driving coal and cinders in the yard. My work is hardest when the works are busy. They are sometimes more busy than at others, and the more busy they are the more I walk after the horse. I am paid by the company, 9s. per week. I have not met with any accident since I have been driving. I have been but very little in school and can't read.

**No.154. Henry Beddow, aged 50, master brickmaker.**

I have been at the works since I was 15 years old. I have under my charge four girls between 13 and 18 years old regularly employed and one young woman about 30 years old. I also employ six extra girls once a week when we draw the kiln. They are from 14 to 15 years old. I employ no boys. The girls regularly employed bear off the bricks from the moulder and put them on the floor to dry and carry them in and out of the kiln. They get from 3s. to 6s. per week according to their ages. They generally work 12 hours out of which they are allowed the usual meal times, half an hour for breakfast and an hour for dinner. They are not by the piece but are expected to do certain quantity in the day and after that they are at liberty to leave. They sometimes work over time and make a "double turn," working for 24 hours. They may do this four or five times in the summer when water is short. They begin at six o'clock in the morning and leave at six in the evening, seldom after, except in the winter when the weather is cold which hinders the work. They generally come to work about the age of 13 years. The youngest I have known was 11 years old. They do not work for their fathers in brickmaking, The work does no injure the girl's health but the woman who moulds had her legs swell from standing all day on the warm floor and has been home ill for some months.

**No.155. Margaret Thomas aged 15.**

I am employed in bearing bricks from the moulder to the floor in the stove house of the brick yard. I have been at work for four years. I work for about 12 hours every day but have time for meals. We are by the job. We are expected to fill the floor of the stove house then we may leave. I do not work later than six in the evening. My work is not hard. I am employed by the brickmaker, Henry Beddow. He pays me 4s. per week. The work does not hurt my health. I only lost two days from being ill then I got an accident by a brick falling on my hand. I was never at school and can't read.

**Examinations taken at the PENYDARRAN COLLIERIES.**

**No.156. Catherine David, aged 16 years.**

I have been at work six an half years. I cannot read. I go to the Sunday Schools very often. I work for my mother. She has the filling and carrying of the coke from the yard to the refineries by the job. She works herself, and has a little horse drawing the barrows and my brother who is 14 years old and myself, work with her. She gets for the whole £7 for the month. We work from seven in the morning to seven or eight in the evening. She has also another daughter 22 years of age, emptying coals at the furnaces, She cant read but my brother can read, he learnt in Sunday School. We work the same summer and winter and never lose any time from sickness. We do not work at night. We all work for our mother.

**No.157. Jennett Bevan, aged 16 years.**

I have been at work for a year and I clean the tram road at the foot of the incline. It is not very hard work an the company pays me 5s. per week. I work six o'clock to six o'clock every day but not at night. I sometimes go home for dinner. I have no particular time for meals so I do my work then I have enough time for meals. I never was in day school but I go regularly to Sunday School and can read a little in the Testament. My father is a collier and he has five children and one boy of 13 years is working as well as me. He cannot read and I am the oldest.

**No.158. Ann Thomas, aged 15 years.**

I have been at work for a year and three months and I oil the trams at the foot of the incline. I work from six to six every day but not at night. I sometimes go home at five o'clock and sometimes it is past six. I get 4s. 6d. per week. I thought it hard work at first but I do not mind it now. I have lost a day since I have been here. I have been in school and can read in the Testament. I go to the Sunday School twice every Sunday. I went to the day school when my father was alive. He died eight years ago and I have not been since. My mother has eight children and there are five at home and three married. Three of the five at home are boys aged 25, 26 and 18 years. They all can read and the other is a girl eight years old. I have met with no accident here but I once broke my arm when I was 12 years old before I came to work. A tram went over it and it is still weak sometimes.

**No.159. Thomas Howell, aged 11 years.**

I drive the mine trams out of the patch at Waun Court. I work from half past six to half past five o'clock. I get 14s. per week. I work the men in the patch. My work is to drive a horse. I was in school a month and I go to Sunday School. I learn verses out of the Testament but cannot read. William Evans who works here, is always at the Sunday School that I go to.

**NOTE.** - William Evans aged about 50 years, stated that he was a teacher at the Baptist Sunday School at Merthyr and that the average attendance was about 400 children and that nearly three fourths of them could read the Testament.

**No.160. Elizabeth Howell, aged 14 years.**

I have been working for four months and I am Thomas Howell's sister. I work the patch under William Evans. I pick mine out of the heaps of rubbish. I get 2s. 6d. per week. I work from six to six like the others. We have meal times and I go home to dinner. I have not lost a day yet. I have not been at a day school but I go to the Sunday School and can spell a bit but I cannot read. My father works in the patch and he gets 13s. per week. He has three children. I like coming to work very well. I am healthier since I came to work than I was before.

**No.161. Ann Bevan aged nearly 18.**

I have been working since I was about 13 years old. I am now emptying and stacking mine on the mine bank. I get 6s. 3d. per week. I am paid by the men. My work agrees with me very well. I lose no time and meet with no accidents. I have been in school and go to the Sunday School but I cannot read. I am learning to spell at the Sunday School. My father is a collier and he has nine children. I have one brother married and all the others are at home.

**No.162. Margaret Morgan, widow aged 80 years.**

I am now working on the mine bank polling or cleaning. I get about 1s. per day and I work by the tin. I have a girl working with me. I have sometimes two but one is home today. She has hurt her arm. We work from eight o'clock in the morning to six o'clock in the evening. I have been working out of doors for 18 years and have been out every day excepting it is a great chance. I never had any illness of any consequence and the girls working with me are seldom ill. We take meal times and often go home to dinner. I have been married twice and have had 11 children. 7 are living. They are all married and I have 21 grandchildren.

**No.163. John Davies, aged 12 years, Francis Davies, aged 11 years and James Owen aged 10½ years.**

We are hauliers and we drive the horses and trams from the mine patches. We like our work very well. We go from the stables from six to seven o'clock in the morning and are out until half past five of six in the evening. We have meal times and sometimes go home for dinner while the horse is feeding, about one o'clock. We work in winter from light to light. We do not often work over time in the patches and never work at night. We are all under the men and get 8d. per day each. We have met with no accidents but James Owen lost three days some time ago from illness. He can read the Testament and has learned the catechism. Francis Davies can read a little but John Davies cannot read.

**No.164. Mary Miles, aged 12 years.**

I have been at work for five months. I am picking mine from the patches and I work for the men and get 6d. per day. I was at school before I came to work and can read the Testament. It was I that wanted to go to work. My father wanted me to stay in school but I was not well in school. It was too much confinement for me. I have had better health since I have been put to work but I should like now to go back to school. My father works in the patch and he has two children. I am the only one at home now. My sister is married. My work is not hard but I would rather be at home. I have meal times and go home to dinner. I have not lost any time since I have been working.

### **No.165. ABDERDARE and ABERNANT IRON WORKS, in the parish of Aberdare in the county of Glamorgan belonging to the Aberdare Iron Company.**

#### **STATEMENT of CHILDREN and YOUNG PERSONS EMPLOYED.**

At the blast furnaces:-

7 males and 3 females under 13 years, 6 males and 14 females between 13 and 18 years. 2 boys 9 years and 1 girl 8 years old.

At the forges and mills:-

21 males under 13 years, 55 males between 13 and 18 years. 3 boys 10 years old.

At the collieries:-

14 males under 13 years, 9 males between 13 and 18 years. 2 boys 8 years old.

At the mine works:-

47 males and 3 females under 13 years, 104 males and 17 females between 13 and 18 years. 2 boys 7 years old.

#### **SUMMARY of PERSONS EMPLOYED.**

	Young persons		Adults	
	M	F	M	F
At the blast furnaces	13	17		
At the forges and mills	76			
At the collieries	23			
At the mine works	151	20	780	80
	263	37	780	80
Males	1043			
Females	117			
Total	1160			

	Males	Females	Total
Total population of the whole of the parish of Aberdare	3523	2938	6461

Total number of houses, 1171.

## **Examinations taken at ABERDARE COLLIERIES and MINE WORKS.**

### **No.166. John Smith, colliery agent, aged 35 years.**

I have been seven years agent. I have a great many boys in the collieries but no girls underground. The boys work at eight years old and very few of them have had any school before they begin.. I seen no objection to their going to work in any way except that they lose the opportunity of going to school. I think the only reason why they are not sent to school is because their parents cannot afford to pay for them. They mostly work for their fathers. They appear to have good health and seldom lose time off work. I believe most of them go to the Sunday Schools. Accidents rarely happen to them. The men in the colliery and mine works are allowed a certain number of trams to bring out their coal or mine and they often can cut and dig than those trams can bring out. When they have a boy they are allowed an extra tram and they frequently take their boys to work only to get an extra tram.

### **No.167. Mary Clement, aged 13.**

I have been at work for three years. I carry tolls of the colliers from the top of the balance pit to the forge and back. It is a quarter of a mile. I go once in the morning and three times in the evening. I come out about six or seven o'clock in the morning an go back home about nine and come again about four and stay until six or seven in the evening. I get 9d. per month from each collier and there are about 30. I get about 5s. 6d. per week. I have never been to any school but the Sunday Schools. I go to them and an learning to spell.

### **No.168. John Lewis, aged 14½ years.**

I have been working for five years and am a haulier in the colliery and about the yard. I am now driving a horse in the trams bringing red ore from the canal to the furnaces. I go about six o'clock in the morning an get in with the horse about five in the evening. I never work at night. I get 7s. per week. About three months back I met with an accident while I was driving a horse in a "whym" at the colliery. I got my head squeezed and was home for a month ill. I am not quite well yet. I can read a little. I have learned it at the Sunday School.

### **No.169. Edward Morgan, aged 8 years and Henry Morgan, aged 13 years.**

We work for our father and brother in the colliery. We fill small coals into the trams and hand tools to out father and brother. We all of us last month got £7 9s. 10d. We get 1s. per day between us. We are in the works 11 hours every day but we do not work at night. We are five children in all but two do not work. We have been in Sunday School and can spell a little in English and Welsh and we now go every Sunday. Our father cannot afford to put us in a day school.

### **No.170. David Thomas, aged 11 years, Thomas Clement, aged 9 years and Robert William aged 8 years.**

David Thomas has been working for three years, Thomas Clement and Robert William for one year. We are door boy at the colliery. David Thomas opens five doors. the other two boys open five between them. We run from one to another before the horses and open and shut them. We work hard sometimes. We get 2s. 6d. per week each. We all have good health and no accident has happened to us. We go to the Sunday Schools and are learning to read Welsh but we cannot yet read much. David Thomas's father has seven children and Thomas Clement's four. Our fathers work in the colliery with us.

### **No.171. Thomas Phillip, aged 12 years.**

I am working with my brother in the mine level. I fill the mine he digs into the trams. We work 9 or 10 hours a day. I get enough to eat in the level. I do not know what I get, my father gets the money. No one ever beats the boys in the works but they sometimes fight and beat themselves and then their fathers or brothers come upon them. I have never been beaten in the works. If I always get so good a place I shall not care. My father wants me to go to school but I rather go to work. it is my own fault that I do not go to school. I cannot read.

### **No.172. Mary Jones aged 11 years.**

I have been at work for a year and a half. I carry tools to the men at ten one level. I go back and forward with them to the smith. I have a mile to go. I go four or five times in a day. I have enough time to go home for my meals. I get 3s. 6d. per week. I cannot read and I go to the Sunday School and am beginning to learn to spell. I am quite well and lose not time from illness.

**No.173. Eliza Evans aged 19 years.**

I have been working for one years and I work in the mine level, filling trams and helping the miner. I do nearly the same kind of work as he does. He takes the hardest work and uses the powder for blasting but I can bore the holes and I help to push the trams out. We work in the level about 10 hours. We sometimes come out once or twice and sometimes not once during the turn. The miner pays me 6s. per week and finds the light. There are no particular meal times kept in the level. We go in about six or seven o'clock in the morning and take some bread and cheese, or butter with us and eat it when we like and come out again and go home to our suppers about four or five o'clock in the evening. The work agrees very well with my health and I believe the same with all the girls. I have lost no time since I began to work. I was never in school and cannot read. My father and mother are dead. I now lodge in the neighbourhood of the works.

**No.174. Richard Lewis, aged 12 years and David Lewis aged 16 years.**

We help the miners in the levels. David has been working for seven years and he now gets 10s. per week and finds his own light. Richard gets 4s. 6d. and the miner finds the light. The light costs about 6d. per week. Our father was killed in the colliery 11 years ago. David has met with several accidents when he broke both legs about two years ago under the trams in the level and he broke his leg once by falling from a hedge. He has been in school and can read a little English. Richard cannot read but they both go to the Sunday School and so do most of the boys and girls.

**No.175. William Edmund, aged 12 years and Isaac Richard, aged 11 years.**

We work in the mine works picking and piling mine. We work from six in the morning to six in the evening. We sometimes have meal times but not always. We have bread and cheese and bacon for dinner and we drink cold tea. We work sometimes in the levels helping the miners pushing trams. William Edmund gets 7s., and finds his light when in the level. Isaac Richard gets 3s. 6d. and has his light found for him. We have very good health and no person abuses us. We cannot read but we go to the Sunday School.

**No.176. John Wilcox, aged 13 years,**

I have been working for three years and I am a haulier. I drive a horse above ground and carry tools. I work 10 or 12 hours and have meal times. I was in school for three years before I came work and can read the Testament but cannot write. I get 4s. 6d. per week. I have not met with any accidents.

**No.177. John Lewis aged 12 years.**

I have been at work for three years and I work with my brother-in-law who is a miner and I live with him. I go regularly to the Sunday School and I can read in the Testament. My father is dead and my mother is away. My brother-in-law takes care of me.

**NOTE.-** The mine agent related to me a melancholy history of the family of this poor boy. His father, who was an industrious man, became asthmatic and was for some time confined to his house at Aberdare when one night, about three years ago, he was cruelly set upon and murdered by his own wife. She was apprehended but made out to be insane and is now in confinement for the crime.

**No.178. John William, aged 15 years.**

I have been working for six years and work in the mine level with my father. I assist him in getting the mine. I get about 8s. per week. We work the same time as the other miners, about 10 hours per day. I have net with no accidents. I have been at School a little but cannot read. I go sometimes to the Sunday School.

**No.179. Mary Benjamin, aged 16 years.**

She has been working for five years. I am now driving coal on the tram road. I drive a team of three horses in the waggons. I am out all day from six to six but have meal times. Driving horses is very hard work as the road is steep in some places. I have not been at this work very long. I worked before at the Gadley's Mine Patch. Girls do not often drive horses but they do here sometimes. I do not like the work. I do not know what I shall get. I think about 5s, per week. I cannot read.

**No.180. John Rees, aged 13 years.**

I am working with my father in the Gadley's Mine Patch. I assist my father and I do not know what wages I get. I have been with him for three or four years. He is a miner and works by the job. I

lose a day now and then when I take cold but not often. My work is not very heard. We have meals times in the patch. I have been to school and can read a little.

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**REPORT by RHYS WILLIAM JONES, ESQ., on the Employment of Children and Young Persons in the Cwmavon Iron Works, Collieries, Tin Works and Copper Works, and in the Oakwood Collieries, near Port Talbot, Glamorganshire and on the State, Condition and Treatment of such Children and Young Persons.**

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**TO HER MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONERS.**

GENTLEMEN,

August, 24th. 1841.

THESE works are situated neat port Talbot in Glamorganshire and are now carried on by "The Governor and Company of English Miners," and embracing as they do, so many departments, they are, collectively, the largest manufacturing concern in this part of the country.

I have had several opportunities of inspecting these works and the printed returns from them have been fully filled up.

The agents of the iron works and mines state that they employ in that department 438 persons, out of which 50 are between the ages of 13 and 18 years, and 20 between the ages of 9 and 13 years, all males and that there is not one female employed in the iron works or mines.

The youngest boys are employed to attend to the air doors. Those about 15 years old drive the horses and fill the trams and those above that age generally assist the miners in digging and getting coal and ironstone.

They work eight hours in the day and very seldom have night work. The majority of the children and young persons are employed by the company, or master, as day or weekly wages, varying from 4s. to 18s. per week, according to the age of the boys and the nature of the work performed.

They are nearly all reported regularly to attend public worship and out of the 70 employed 49 are said to be able to read and 19 have signed their names to the return. Four only are reported to have lost time from sickness, three from accidents in the works and one from cold.

The two iron furnaces at these works are not suspended on the Sunday. The agent states that, "when repairing the machinery they find their furnaces cool, scour and make bad iron, if stopped for many hours."

Every other part of the works is suspended on Sundays.

The agents for the forges and tin plate manufactory state that they employ in these departments 200 persons, (166 males and 34 females), out of which 29 males and 14 females are between the ages of 13 and 18 years and 21 males and 3 females between the ages of 8 and 13 years. The youngest boys are employed about the tin works in dipping the plates into grease at the annealing house and in bundling the shearings of the black tin plate together for the forge. The others are employed in the various works of the tin works and forge and some few of the eldest work at night every alternate week.

Their wages, varying from 2s. to 10s. per week, are mostly paid by the master and average but 6s. per week each but their principle work is by the piece and their period of labour is about 10 hours per day.

The youngest girls are about 12 years old. Only three of them are under 13 years old and they are all employed in the tin works in scouring, rubbing and opening the plates. They work 8 to 10 hours per day but never at night.

They are paid by the masters from 3s. to 6s. per week each, according to the nature of the work they perform which is mostly by the piece.



The boys and girls are nearly all reported to regularly attend public worship, and of the boys, 49 are said to be able to read and 16 have signed their names to the return and of the girls 19 are said to be able to read and four have signed their names to the return.

Their health is said to be very good and very few of either the boys or girls have been known to lose time for sickness.

Most of the young females gave the same account of their good health but the surgeon of the works expressed an opinion, grounded on his experience that their constant daily employment in the rather heated temperature of the tin works produced in them a constitutional derangement, which, if it did not absolutely prevent them following their occupation, kept them very frequently under his care.

The usual temperature of the tin works is stated to be 60 degrees and the highest temperature on which children or young persons are employed from 70 to 80 degrees.

The agent of this department states, in answer to the printed queries, that at limitation of the age at which children are employed to 10 or 11 years would be desirable, because close application to work at an earlier age injures their health and stunts their growth.

Night work is only necessary in one part of the works, that part is the mill which is kept in operation day and night, so as to keep other parts of the manufactory properly at work during the day which otherwise could not be done and the consequence would be a serious loss to both master and men. The mill men change their day and night turns every alternate week, each turn lasting 12 hours.

No night set of children are employed but young persons are employed at night in the mills and any prohibition in respect to them would most seriously affect them in the mill departments, where night labour is indispensably necessary.

The time allowed for meals is half an hour for breakfast and one hour for dinner, in summer, and half an hour in winter and at night one hour and a half is allowed for rest and meals at different times.

They have no system of rewards but the punishment for neglect and inattention to their duty is by way of paying a small fine, which is appropriated to their education. No corporal punishments are allowed to be inflicted.

There is a very marked difference of the skill and general character of the hands who have been employed in the works from infancy and those who have been taken into such employments at late periods.

There is a school, which is supported by the monthly contributions of 3d. from each of the workmen and also fines inflicted for dereliction of duty and impropriety of conduct.

This school is exclusively for the workmen's children. There is likewise a sick fund, supported also by monthly contributions of 10d. per man and 4d. per boy, whose weekly earnings are under 10s., the funds of which are appropriated to the relief of such men and boys as are unable to follow their daily occupation through illness or accident.

The amount of relief given on these occasions is 5s. per week to each man and 2s. 6d. to each boy during the continuance of their sickness or inability to work. This relief is paid on the production of a certificate signed by the surgeon of the works and the agent by whom they were employed. There is also an annuity allowed to the widows of such men had been employed at the works for period of six years, the amount of which annuity is regulated according to their necessities.

At the copper works they employ 140 men and boys and 3 girls who are about 14 years of age and who wheel out the ashes. They work from six to nine o'clock in the morning and from four to six o'clock in the evening and get 1s. per day. 13 of the boys are between 13 and 18 years old and 12 between 9 and 13 years old.

The youngest boys are employed in wheeling out Ashes and earn about 2s. 6d. to 4s. per week. The oldest boys wheel out slag and attend the masons and earn from, 5s. to 10s. per week.

They are reported to regularly attend Sunday School and public worship. About half of them are said to be able to read and six of them have signed their names to the return, and they are all reported to enjoy good health.

The copper furnaces are continued working day and night in order to keep the other parts of the works properly employed during the day, and the workmen change their turns every alternate week.

No children or young persons are employed at night.

Five roasting furnaces and one refining furnace are required to be worked on Sundays in order to carry on the works on the following days.

The men are allowed meal times and work regard to rewards and punishments and general management, they are subject to the same regulations as the men in the other departments of the establishment.

At the Oakwood Collieries, which now belong to the same company, they employ 20 children and young persons, 10 of whom are between the ages of 13 and 18 years and 10 between the ages of 10 and 13 years.

The youngest, and indeed the most, of the boys are employed to cart or draw the coals from the stalls to the mainways, in the levels and to attend the air doors but some of the eldest are employed in driving the horses and working with the blacksmiths. They work about nine hours a day and have no night work.

Their wages are from 8d. to 2s. per day according to the work they perform and they are all but three employed by the men, who do the work by the piece.

Thirteen of them are reported to attend Sunday School, all regularly attend public worship, five can read and one has signed his name to the return.

There so not appear to be any young females employed at these collieries.

With regard to the schools at Cwmavon, Mr. Benjamin Rosser, the school master states:-

I am teacher in Cwmavon Sunday School. The hours for which it is open are from nine until half past ten o'clock and the children are conducted thence to the parish church.

I have a day school which is open from nine o'clock in the morning until twelve at noon, and from two to five o'clock in the afternoon and from seven to nine o'clock in the evening for the working population.

In the school above mentioned there is also a female teacher. The children are taught to read and wrote and cipher an likewise needlework. The hours at which it open are from nine o'clock in the morning until twelve at noon, and from two to five o'clock in the afternoon. I have 80 boys attending the day school and the mistress has from 60 to 70 girls. We have about the same number of attending the Sunday School. The evening school is not so regularly attending and in summer from 16 to 20 on an average. All are children of miners, colliers or persons engaged in the iron, tin and copper trade.

The children are taught to read, write and cipher in the English language.

Children are removed for the school from 9 or 10 years old. Very few are left in school until 12 and 13 years of age.

To a certain extent I think the removal so early from school does not operate to the injury of the children in after life, for they come into contact with persons of depraved habits at a period when their minds are most susceptible of may impression, good impressions being neglected, their minds oft become the recipients of those which are bad.

I think they ought to be allowed to remain in school, certainly from 13 to 14 years of age.

I think Sunday Schools are calculated to teach children their moral and religious duties but certainly are not sufficient to make u for the loss of instruction and early removal from the day schools. Nor are they calculated to bring them on in mathematical instructions, so as to qualify them, for situations in after life requiring that knowledge.

I think, certainly, the progress of those unemployed is far superior to those partly engaged in labour. Because when they are put to school at an early period, and their minds well cultivated up to 14 years of age, whatever education they may receive then will be well grounded. On the whole, I should say, the education of children is grossly neglected and ought to be looked into.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R.W. Jones.

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## EVIDENCE COLLECTED BY RHYS WILLIAM JONES, ESQ.

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### CWMAVON COPPER WORKS. May 26th.

#### No.181. William Davies, aged 51, agent.

I have 10 or 12 boys under my charge at the copper works one in the refinery, keeping the place clean, running in errands, luting the door of the furnaces and washing and cleaning the ladles, aged about 14 years, who have been here 12 months. He gets 1s. per day. One sweeping the copper

works, aged about 16, at 1s. per day. Four boys wheeling ashes from the furnaces, aged from 12 to 15 years. They get from 10d. to 1s. per day. Four boys attending masons, aged from 10 to 13 years each. They get 10d. per day each. They all work from six in the morning to six in the evening and are allowed time for meals. They do not work at night. Sometimes the masons in the copper works work over time, perhaps to 8 and 10 o'clock at night and the boys with them. Wheeling ashes is pretty hot work, while they are in the ash pit. They are very healthily and no accidents have happened to them. I do not allow them to be beaten and I know of no instance of any boy being abused or ill treated in the works. I have three girls working in the copper works from 16 to 18 years of age, wheeling ashes, They come at six in the morning and work to nine. They come at four and work to six in the evening and get 1s. per day. The work does not injure their health. Our works is on a new plan and lately built. The smoke is conveyed through along tunnel up the side of the hill called the "Voel Mountain," three quarters of a mile long, to a stack on its top, upwards of 1000 feet above the works. it entirely free the work from smoke and all noxious vapours and the works is also constructed on a plan that makes it cooler than any works in the neighbourhood of the kind.

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## **CWMAVON COLLIERIES and MINES. May 26th.**

### **No.182. Daniel Morgan and Joseph Morgan.**

Daniel Morgan - I am 15 years old and I am a haulier and drive a horse with the trams in the levels.

Joseph Morgan - I am 12 years old. I pick the large coals and fill the trams in the levels. I am Daniel Morgan's brother. We formerly lived in Llanelly and went to work when we were about seven years old at the collieries there. We were carting (or drawing) at the "Brace Colliery." The work was harder there than it is here, because the veins were smaller.

We being to work about six or seven o'clock in the morning and finish at six in the evening. We have no particular meal times and we eat as we can, sometimes but we have but little time. If we take much time to eat we are longer at work afterwards. The hauliers bring out of the levels as much as the men cut or dig and work about the same time all the year round. We work at night every other week. We began to do so last month. The hauliers are paid by the men who take the work by the job.

Daniel Morgan gets 7½d. per journey for driving and takes four journeys per day, making 15s. per week Joseph Morgan gets 7s. per week for filling.

We frequently bruise our feet and hands by seldom meet with serious accidents. Joseph Morgan sprained his leg by carrying about 12 months back. We can't read or write.

### **No.183. Thomas Davies, aged 13.**

I working the mine levels with my father. I assist him in working mine and filling it into the trams. I go to work at six o'clock in the morning and go home about six o'clock in the evening. I have meal times the same as my father. We have time enough to eat. The air is good where we work. I work as much as I can but not too much. My father does not often beat me. I like to work as well as staying at home. I don't know what I get. I ought to get 5s. or 6s. per week. My father has the money. I can't read.

### **No.184. Daniel Phillip, aged 16, John Jenkin, aged 15, William Hill, aged, 15, Rees Joseph, aged 14. David Joseph, aged 12, William Manery aged 14 and Edward Watkins, aged 14.**

We are hauliers and drive the horses in the levels of the pit, excepting David Joseph who drive a horse "on the surface" or above ground. We begin to work at seven o'clock in the morning. The horses come out of the stales at that time and are taken back at six o'clock in the evening. They are fed with "nose bags" during the day, where ever they stop. We have no particular meal times and we eat when we can. I few lose time in eating we have to make it up in the evenings by being out later. We drive as much as the men cut or make ready for us, which is nearly always the same. We do not often work over time but sometimes they call for an extra journey from the colliery when vessels are loading. An extra journey takes about two hours.

The haulier's work is generally the same, but the men lose time in the first week of the month, which is the pay week, and want to make up the loss in the last week of the month when they work harder and make us do the same. We do our best with the men.

The men take the work of cutting and digging the coal and mine by the job and they pay the hauliers. We get the following wages per week, Daniel Phillip 12s. 6d., William Hill, 13s., Rees Joseph, 12s., David Joseph, 6s., William Manery, 12s. 6d., Edward Watkins, 10s. 6d. Our fathers generally agree for our wages and we give them to our mothers. We always get wet feet in the levels and works and frequently blister them and make them sore and by driving through the air ways we often get colds and become hoarse and lose many days from illness. We are never beaten in the works. Daniel Phillip goes to Sunday School and can read a little. William Manery, William Hill and Edward Watkins can read and write but the others can't.

### **CWMAVON BRICKYARD.**

**No.185. James Teague, aged 17, William Teague, aged 13. Philip Jeremy, aged 16, David William, aged 16, William Davies, aged 12 and John Owen, aged 11.**

We all work in the brickyard and clay mill. We work from six in the morning to six in the evening and allowed meal times, half an hour for breakfast and an hour for dinner. The oldest boys mix clay and carry bricks to the kilns. The younger ones "bear off," or remove the bricks and the moulders and place them on the floors to dry. We work the same time, summer and winter.

On boy works at night alternate weeks and works the "double turn" on Monday and Monday night every week. He then works from six to six. His work is to attend the clay mill. They have all hard and busy work but they get used to it and it does not tire them very much.

They work for the master brick maker who makes the bricks by the thousand and he pays them their wages. The oldest gets 9s. per week and the youngest 4s. per week. The work does not injure their health and no accidents of any consequence have happened to them for the last two years. William Teague and Philip Jeremy can read and write. The others cannot but go to Sunday Schools.

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### **REPORT by RHYS WILLIAM JONES, ESQ., on the Employment of Children and Young Persons in the Iron Works, in the vicinity of Bridgend, Neath and Swansea, and on the State, Condition and Treatment of such Children and Young Persons.**

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#### **TO HER MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONERS.**

GENTLEMEN,

Loughor, October 9th. 1841.

The accompanying papers relate principally to the iron works in the vicinities of Bridgend, Neath and Swansea, in the County of Glamorgan and at Yniscedwyn, near the upper terminus of the Swansea Canal, in the county of Brecon.

There works are more recently established and on a much smaller scale than the iron works at Merthyr and the other localities before examined and, existing as they do in districts where the mode of employing children and young persons, particularly females, may be said to differ from that practised in the larger works before alluded to, they may demand a few remarks to elucidate the evidence and to mark this difference, which I consider an important feature in the habits of the people.

Commencing at the Maesteg and Cambrian Iron Works, in the parish of Llangogoyd (about eight miles above Bridgend), I find the practice of employing young females in and about the mines considerably ameliorated, when compared with the more northern districts of the country and proceeding to the works at the "Vale of Neath," and to Ystalavera and Yniscedwyn in the "Swansea Valley," their condition, with regard to the masculine and degrading labour referred to, becomes yet more mitigated.

As descriptive of the employment of children and young persons in these works, I beg leave to quite the following extracts from the statements of the gentlemen connected with the establishments:-

**Mr. Charles J. Hampton,, agent at Maesteg:-**

We employ 452 male and 30 female adults, 44 boys and 16 girls between 13 and 18 and 18 boys and 1 girl under 13 years of age.

The thickness of the veins are - coal one and half to 12 feet, miner from courses of half an inch to balls six inches thick.

We have both carburetted hydrogen an carbonic acid gas. Where either is found to exist the usual system of ventilation is put in operation to dissipate it.

We have had explosions but no lives lost by them nor by any other accident.

The coal and mine is brought to the surface from the headings by horses.

We have no children or young persons drawing by the belt. At the furnaces we have sometimes a boy to help to weigh the ore &c., and a boy filling ashes to the blowing engine and one making cores for the moulders in the cast house.

There are none about the refining furnaces and we have no puddling forge at this place.

The number of children and young persons employed at different works is as follows:-

Getting and filling mine and coal	21
Haulier	18
Attending doors and flues	2
Stacking mine	5
Picking, cleaning and filling mine	9
Filling Ashes	1
Filling limestone	1
Moulding	2
Striking for smiths	6
Total	61

The labour of the children and young persons is of the same kind.. Young persons generally drive the carriages out of the level.

We do not employ females underground but several are employed in discharging the trams, filling trams, stacking mine, filling mine, &c., on the surface.

The ages at which the children begin work are, door boys 8 to 9, haulier 13 to 14, all others from 10 to 12. No part of our works necessarily requires very young children.

I think children ought not to be employed under 10 years of age. When employed under that age I think their growth is stunted and their general health is injured.

The works are usually carried on from eight to ten and a half hours each day and children and young persons work the same number of hours as the adults.

They are employed very rarely at night, excepting a boy sometimes assisting the filler of the blast furnace and sometimes a boy attending a man driving a heading at night.

Our blast furnaces are not suspended on Sundays. The result of suspending them is, that the furnaces do not work well for the following two or three turns. I have made experiments with the object (the suspending on Sundays) in view but whenever it has been found necessary to suspended the working of the furnaces for about 8 or 10 hours, the result has been as stated above. No other work besides the furnaces is in operation on Sundays.

A school is on the point of being established. We have a doctor's fund for the supply of medicine and attendance and a sick fund paying 4s. per week to a member during illness.

**Mr. H. Cooper, clerk to the Cambrian Iron and Spelter Company.**

Our mines are entered at present by levels. The smallest height of the mainways in ourmines is five feet six inches.

The thickness of our veins of coal is from 18 inches to 6 feet.

Our iron mine is worked by patching, where only the top is removed.

There are noxious gases existing in our mines occasionally but they are ventilated by fires when it exists. No explosion has taken place of any consequence within the last two years. One accident attended with loss of life has occurred within the last two years which was occasioned by the man's imprudence on not securing the roof as ordered.

Our mine and coals are brought from the workings to the surface by horses in trams. There are no children or young persons who drawn by chain or girdle. Not any part of our work necessarily requires the employment of the very young children but a person to be a good collier should begin early. Children and young persons work much about the same hours as the adults. They very rarely work at night, only in case of accidents.

We have no puddling and rolling mill yet in operation.

The work of our furnaces is not at present suspended on Sundays and we have tried no experiments for suspending them for any number of hours. Our workmen are not employed on Sundays except a few absolutely required to keep the works in operation. Sundays are the days of the double shift for parties who work day and night alternate weeks.

We have no other works besides the furnaces in operation on Sundays. The workmen are not bound to time, the work being performed by contract.

A sick fund is about to be established and other suitable means taken for improving the mental and moral condition of the working class.

The works alluded to are in their infancy and not one third completed.

### **Mr. M. Moses, agent of the Tondy Collieries.**

We employ 51 male adults, six male and one female young persons between 13 and 18 years and one boy 13 years of age.

The collieries are entered by means of levels or roads having a slight descent towards the mouth. We have no pits or shaft in the mines.

The main roads and branch headings are from 5 feet to 6 feet 6 inches high. The seams of beds of coal are of various thickness from 2 feet 9 inches to 7 feet.

No explosion or accidents have hitherto occurred.

The coals are brought out by the colliers in tram waggons from the stalls to the branch headings and when the declivity of the branch headings is too great to employ horses with safety, the colliers bring the trams to the main roads. No children or young persons are employed to draw with the girdle and chain. We do not employ children to land or draw the coals except in driving the horses that draw the coal out.

Several horses generally come out of the levels at the same time, one of them driven by a grown up man and the others by boys of 10 years of age and upwards. There are no females at work except one employed with her father, cutting and filling coal about 12 years of age.

There are boys opening and closing the air doors to admit the men and horses through and shut them after they have passed thereby to confine the air within the regular courses.

Children commence working at 10 years of age in cutting and loading coal. No part of our works require very young children. I think children should not begin to work under the age of nine years when of strong and healthy constitutions and delicate children at a later age, according to their strength and dexterity.

Our works are carried on from seven to ten hours and no relays. The children work the same hours as the adults. They are not employed at night.

The men work by the ton and take their meals whenever they think proper, generally about noon. There is no school nor a reading room. The colliers are fined for neglecting their work and other misconduct by means of which a fund is created, the proceeds of which redistributed to them in cases of sickness at the discretion of the company.

**Messrs. Motley and Fussell, the proprietors of the Maesteg Iron Works** have also a large tin works at Margam at which they roll their iron for the manufacture of tin plate of which I believe, they are some of the most extensive makers.

The employment of the juvenile hands in this work is very similar to that in the neighbourhood establishment at Cwmavon and at most of the tin works which I have visited and is thus described by the managing partner :-

We employ 200 male adults, 115 male and 69 female young persons between 13 and 18 and 12 boys under 13 years of age. The persons employed are of all ages from 9 to 70.

The machinery is not fenced off because it must be approached very close to execute the work. The wheels are, however, protected.

We inculcate cleanliness and on Sundays and holidays our people are very exemplary.

Very few boys are employed as young as eight or nine years but there are many volunteers younger who come to help their brothers or parents, liking the work better than play. There are a few more children employed now than formerly. We rather incline to the opinion, after much experience, that the children who begin early and pass through all the stages of the work make the best men as well as the best workmen. There is a marked difference in skill in favour of those taken in infancy. I must be so in all works of manipulation.

Each set works from nine to ten hours but most of the work is done by the job. The longest period for which the work has been carried on in one day is 24 hours. When some emergency has occurred (vessels sailing, stoppage beforehand or other unavoidable pressure) we have sometimes difficulty in checking the men working as the work is mostly by the job.

Children are employed the same length of time as adults. We think a reduction in the working hours of children would have a very bad effect on our trade.

We work all night on every night of the year except Saturdays and Sundays and children and young persons are employed as the adults for 10 or 12 hours. They change the turn weekly. The greatest number of children and young persons employed at night work at one time is 10 to 12 hours and they work none

or ten hours. A prohibition of night work would affect the income of the family. We employ them because they are necessarily to the manufacture for, although children and young persons are not indispensable, adults must be employed if they are not.

No part of our works is continued in operation on Sundays. The meal time allowed are for breakfast, dinner, tea and supper, say hours at least in the 24 but this is regulated by the men themselves as to suite their convenience. As they work by the job, they work as hard by night as by day and study their own convenience and that of their children.

We have a system of fines for bad work and rewards for good work. Corporal punishment is not inflicted a sit would not be endured. We take means to check bad language.

We have school for boys and girls, a library and a sick fund and a surgeon attends the works regularly. The children, being under the parents, generally speaking, are taken care of and no more work is required than they are able to do. They are born and die near the works and are as perfectly healthy and formed as any people. The workmen are remarkably well treated and all are well clothed and well fed.

**The new iron works of Messrs. Jevons and Company in the Vale of Neath** is the first or most eastern establishment of this kind met with in the Stone Coal or Anthracite District and has as to present but one furnace in blast.

A tabular statement of the number of children and young persons at these works is given in the accompanying evidence and their employment and the circumstances of the works are described by W. Jevons, Esq., one of the partners:-

The coal mine is ventilated by means of fired which produce a current of air which is conducted by means of doors through all the passages of the mine. Our works are entered by levels. The mainways are high enough for a horse. The beds of coal vary from 3 to 18 feet in thickness. The veins of iron ore are only a few inches thick but several veins are worked in one level.

Davy lamps are used in the coal mine but in the iron mines they are not required. Firedamp and carburetted hydrogen gas exists in the colliery and chokedamp or carbonic acid gas in the iron mines but the accumulation of these gasses is prevented by good ventilation. In the colliery the precaution is taken of sending a man with a Davy lamp through all passages of the mine to see that they are safe before the men begin their work.

One or two explosions have happened with some injury to the men but no loss of life. One man has lost his life within the period of two years by being run over by the trams or waggons on the railroad and another has lost a leg from a similar cause.

The coal and iron mine are drawn out in frames or wagons by horses along the main levels but boys between 13 and 18 years of age are employed to draw (single) such trams from the stalls to the main levels. The number so employed is about 10.

The boys employed as above draw by the band or with an iron hook. None draw by a belt and girdle. The distance they draw is about 50 yards. The weight of the waggon is about 4 cwt. The number of children and young persons is 35. drawing are as stated before. A few boys are employed to drive the horses in the trams or waggons in the mine.

There are no females employed in the mines except on rare occasions. Boys of seven are employed to shut doors which regulate the draft. Boys of 13 upwards are employed to drive. All that can be said as to their being necessarily required is, that boys of the above age can perform the work assigned to time as well as men could do it and of course at a much cheaper rate. The age of seven is certainly too early for children to begin to work. it is desirable that they should remain in school till they have acquired at least the rudiments of a good education, that is till 10 or 12.

The usual working hours are 10 hours of the same set. Children work the same hours as adults. They do not work at night in the mines. Our blast furnace is not suspended on the Sunday. The working of the furnace cannot be suspended even for a few hours without detriment. Such experiments of stopping the furnaces are too expensive to be tried. Only the furnace is at work on Sunday.

The colliers have no fixed time for their meals,, except before and after their working hours. The other men have the usual interval for meals.

We have a school in connection work out works and it is supported by a general monthly contribution from the wages of the men to which they all give with their consent. The contribution of 6d. per month from all men, married and unmarried. Those who send their children to the school pay 6d. more for each child sent.

The Yniscledwyn Works have however been established for many years but (although surrounded by the anthracite formation) dependent on a supply of bituminous coal at a distance of some miles down the canal, until (in the year 1837) its enterprising proprietor, George Crane, Esq., solved the problem which had for half a century engaged the attention of all parties interested in the stone coal district and by the application of "hot blast" rendered that mineral at once a fuel equal to any hitherto used for the manufacture of iron and the Ystalavera, and the Vale of Neath, together

with another work just put into operation in the Vale of Gwendraith, have already been established in the district in which the fuel is found and consume it chiefly in their furnace.\*

\*At Yniscedwyn there are two furnaces worked with stone coal alone and one worked with a mixture of stone coal and the coke of bituminous coal in equal part. The furnace in the Vale of Neath is also worked with stone coal and coke. The two furnaces at Ystalavera and the one in the Vale of Gwendraith are worked with stone coal alone. The average "make" of these furnaces is about 40 to 45 tons of pig iron per week each which is aid to be of a superior quality.

**The circumstances under which children and young persons are employed at Yniscedwyn are thus described by Mr. Crane:-**

The Yniscedwyn Works and part of the collieries are in the parish of Ystradgunlais, Breconshire. Other mine works are in the parish of Llanguick and some collieries at Killybeyll in the parish of Cadoxton, Glamorganshire.

We employ about 600 people about 150 of whom are employed about the iron works and about 450 in the colliery and mine works. All except about 60 colliers are employed in Breconshire. We have about 50 male and 5 female young persons between 13 and 18 years old and about 40 boys under 13.

The mines are ventilated in the usual mode by air shafts and furnaces and are all either open cast or entered by levels. The lowest mainways in the mines are about 5 feet 6 inches high. The thickness of our seams vary from 2 inches to 7 inches ironstone, coal 22 inches to 20 feet but they are not any worked under 3 feet.

The miners are supplied with Davy lamps as noxious gases exist in some of the mines locally called firedamp. We endeavour to dissipate them by a good system of ventilation, but we have had one life lost within the last two years. Thomas Jones about 14 or 15 who died from injuries received by an explosion caused by the imprudence of his brother in going into an old heading in the works. No other serious accident has occurred within that time and all possible precautions in every way are taken to prevent such accidents.

The coal and mine is brought from the headings and out of the levels in most cases by horses and in some by men but in no instances by children.

We have five or six boys under 13 polling or dressing the shale off the ironstone on the surface, ten children filling the furnaces and hauling the materials thereto, four moulding and two with the refiners. We have about 45 boys between 13 and 18 employed in various ways with the miners, colliers, and furnace fillers, &c. We have one girl employed with her father (Moses Thomas) filling mine, about 18 or 20 years old and perhaps one or two others employed with their fathers at the collieries. There are also some children employed in picking coal and coke dropped by the trams and sundry other light jobs.

Children begin to work in the mine works about 12 or 13 and as moulders from 11 to 13 when children are put by their parents to some light occupations and such as making cores for the moulders.

With reference to the limitation of age at which children should be employed, where men get wages, say from 18s. per week and upwards, it would be desirable to get them to send their children to school until they are 12 or 13. Needy workmen with large families are often obliged to employ them earlier.

Miners, colliers and moulders work only from eight to nine hours per day, smiths, carpenters, fillers, founders, finers, discharging labourers, &c., from six to six in the summer and in winter from light to light. They are not employed in the mines at night.

Our blast furnaces are not stopped on Sundays. We have made an attempt this year, but the furnaces were disordered by this attempt. We tried for six to eight Sundays, determined to suspend the workings for 12 hours, but we were obliged to give up the attempt. On the last occasion the furnaces (from the effect of talking the blast off) cooled so much that they were nearly gobbled up. Sometimes in a favourable state of a furnace might not suffer seriously by taking the blast off at other times, it might be very seriously injured. I have only one instances when, from accidental breaking of a part of the engine, that the operation of the blast furnaces has been suspended only for six hours and that the effect has not been recovered for six to eight days.

When we did stop, we are very apprehensive that few of the men did avail themselves of the opportunity of going to a place of worship. Sunday is the day of the double shift. No part of the works except the furnaces is in operation on Sunday.

Wen men &c., are by the piece, they make their own time for meals. When by the day, they have half an hour for breakfast and one hour for dinner and in winter half an hour.

No corporal punishments are made use of to my knowledge. I have established a small library at my own expense in connection with the Sunday School which I have personally superintended for about 18 years. I have been engaged in a plan for some months for the erection of a school house for a daily school but have difficulty at present with regard to the tenure of the site. There are now eight or nine Sunday School in this parish.



With reference to the educational resources of this neighbourhood, P. Moir Crane, Esq., states:-

There are in this district the following Sunday Schools:-

At Ystradgunlais Village, connected with the Church	1
At Ynisedwyn furnaces for all denominations	1
At Cwmtwrch, Ystradgunlais (Baptists)	1
At College House (Baptist)	1
At Panteg, Llanguick (Independents)	1
At Panteg Houses, Llanguick (Independents)	3
At Ystradgunlais (Calvinistic Methodists)	1
At Ystradgunlais, (Wesleyan)	1
At Cadoxton, Llanguick	5
At Ystradgunlais (Independents)	1
Total	16

Also the following day school:-

At College, near the church, Ystradgunlais (day school)	1
At Ystrad, for the little (a dame school)	1
At Killybebyll, on the road to Neath	1
At Cwmllynfell at the top of Cwm Twrch	1
At Panteg, in the parish of Llanguick, on the road to Swansea	1
Total	5

I do not think there is any school for teaching needlework and other domestic work. Females are particularly ignorant of these things. A school room is proposed to be built by the Ynisedwyn Iron Company in which the domestic work of females will be attended to.

Children and young persons employed in the works attend Sunday Schools but not any other schools. There is no evening school at present but one is proposed when the above school is established at Ystradgunlais. The instruction given at the Sunday Schools is in reading and explaining the Scriptures and at the day schools in spelling, reading, writing and arithmetic. The teacher of the College School is qualified to teach reading, writing and arithmetic. The school at Ystrad is kept by a woman who can teach spelling and perhaps a little needlework. The teacher at Killybebyll School is well qualified to teach reading, writing, grammar and arithmetic and the school is well attended and flourishing. The teacher at Panteg is not well qualified. The teacher at Cwmllynfell is qualified to teach reading, writing and arithmetic.

My opinion is, that children are employed from the time they are from 8 to 10 years old, and are then removed from the day schools and I should say that such an early removal is certainly injurious to them. Many of them cannot read their Bibles and are therefore placed out of the reach of that means of becoming religious members of society and this of course falls in a certain degree on their families if they have any. A want of education and reasoning powers renders them less alive to their true interests and liable to be imposed upon by designing men or false systems. I thin they should remain in school until about 12 years of age.

I consider the Sunday School are a very great blessing in proportion as they are made the means of explaining the great truths of the Christian religion and the good effects as regards religion are seen but as regards the making up for the want of secular education, they do very little. Many children and young people learn to read solely from being at Sunday Schools but these who are unemployed until a later age generally know a little of arithmetic as well as writing and reading.

It is a great want that there is not a system of education provided for young people, such as that of that parochial schools in Scotland which appears to me to be the greatest blessing to that country.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

R.W. JONES.

## **EVIDENCE.**

**No.186. MAESTEG IRON WORKS and MARGAM TIN WORKS, belonging to Messrs Fussell and Co., the CAMBRIAN IRON WORKS, belonging to the Cambrian Iron Company in the parishes of Llamgomoyd and Margam and the TONDU WORKS, belonging to the Glamorganshire Coal and Iron Company, in the parish of Bettws, Glamorganshire.**

### **Statement of Persons Employed.**

#### **MAESTEG IRON WORKS**

At the iron works, collier and mine works:-

Adults, 452 males and 30 females, children under 13 years, 18 males and 1 female, young persons between 13 and 18 years, 44 males and 16 females. Of the children and young persons, 21 read Welsh.

#### **MARGAM TIN PLATE MANUFACTORY.**

At the tin plate works:-

Adults, 200 males, children under 13 years, 12, young persons between 13 and 18 years, 115 males and 69 females.

#### **CAMBRIAN IRON WORKS.**

At the iron works, colliery and mine works:-

Adults, 400 males and 20 females, under 13 years, 11 males and 1 female, young persons under 18 years, 33 males, all figures estimated. On the children and young persons 42 attend Sunday Schools.

#### **TONDU COLLIERIES &c.**

At the colliery and mine works:-

Adults 51 males, children under 13, 1 male, young persons between 13 and 18 years, 6 females and 1 female.

Total number of people employed 1481.

**MARGAM TIN PLATE MANUFACTORY, in the parish of Margam in the county of Glamorgan belonging to Messrs. Motley, Fussell and Co.**

### **No.187 Mary David, aged 14.**

I work at the Margam Tin Works. I rub the tin plates in bran to get the oil off them. I rub as hard as I can but I do not over work myself. I like my work very well. I work by the box, not by the day, I might do more if I liked to work harder. I am "paid out" every calendar month but get some "advance" oftener. Last month was a five week month and I got 19s. but I was fully employed because there was an order for "blocks" in hand. If I had been in full work I might have got 30s. What I get depends upon the work that is to be done, and whether I work hard or not. I generally work from six to six but sometimes until ten o'clock and some order is to be completed in a hurry. I take meal times. I do not work at night or on Sundays. The girls at these works are well behaved (there are not many of them rude) and they are very well treated. There are several very young children in the works, some as young as seven year old. They throw bran over the tin plates before they come to us in the rubbing room. They do not work very hard. There are two Sunday Schools attached to the works but I have not been to them. I go to the Independent Sunday School at Aberavon. It is a large school and there are nearly 200 children attending it. I was at infant school in Loughor and learnt to read English and to sew there. I also attend the Church Sunday School. I now learn Welsh and I can't read it very well and I have forgotten some of my English as I do not practice it here. My work does not disagree with my health. I do not lose any time from sickness but

I sometimes stay at home to help mother to wash and sew (I can do sometimes as in work by the job) I can make all my own clothes except my gowns.

[This was a well behaved and intelligent girl who had been trained in an infant school at Loughor before she went to work at Aberavon, the good effects of which were evidently perceptible in her manner and conversation. She spoke Welsh more fluently than English.]

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**No.188. IRON WORKS, MINES and COLLIERY in the Vale of Neath in the parishes of Llantwit and Glancorrrwg in the county of Glamorgan belonging to Messrs Jevons, Arthurs, Wood and Company.**

**Statement of the Children and Young Persons Employed.**

Trammers:-

9 males and 1 female between 13 and 18 years, 2 males under 13 years.

Colliers:-

3 males between 13 and 18 years, 1 male under 13 years.

Door keepers:-

5 males under 13 years. The youngest is a boy of 9.

Hauliers:-

4 males between 13 and 18 years, 4 males and 1 female under 13 years.

Cokers, fillers, iron burner and coal picker:-

1 male and 3 females between 13 and 18 years, 2 males under 13 years. There is one boy of 9.

Cutting chaff for horses and working on the farm:-

2 females between 13 and 18 years.

Attending masons and carpenters:-

2 males 13 and 18 years.

**SUMMARY**

	Males	Females
Adults	211	19
Children and young persons	36	7
	247	26
Total		273.

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**No.189. The YSTALYFERA IRON WORKS, belonging to the Ystalyfera Iron Company in the parish of Llanguick, Glamorganshire and YNISCEDWYN IRON WORKS belonging to the Yniscedwyn, Breconshire.**

**Total Number of Persons Employed.**

**Ystalyfera Iron Works:-**

Adults, 325 males, 23 male and 10 female young persons.

**Ynisceddwyn Iron Works:-**

Adults 550 males (estimated).

At the blast furnaces:-

7 young persons and 2 children. The youngest is 10 years old.

At the moulders and smiths:-

13 male young persons and 4 male children. 1 boy of 10 years.

At the colliery:-

15 male young persons and 1 female child. 1 boy of 9 years.

At the mine works:-

25 male and 5 female young persons and 10 male children with 1 boy of 8 years.

Total number of persons in all the works

946.

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### **Examinations at the YSTALYFERA IRON WORKS.**

#### **No.190. Thomas Petherick, aged 45, manager.**

I am the manager of the Ystalyfera Iron Works and collieries. These works have been in operation since February, 1840. We have two blast furnaces in which we use entirely stone coal or anthracite and hot blast. We employ about 400 people of which about 70 only are in the iron works and the remainder at the collieries and mine works. We have only 9 or 10 under 18 years of age at the iron works, the youngest of whom is about 12 years old. Some females are employed at the mine works but none under ground. They work on the mine banks and may be about 12 in all and only three or four are under 18 years old.

Our mines are ventilated in the usual way by airways and level from fire draughts. We have only one shaft all the others are entered by levels. The smallest height of our mainways may perhaps be five feet. the thickness of the iron ore veins are from 2 feet to 6 inches. The coal veins are from 2 feet to 6 feet and are worked at various depths from the surface.

We do not stop the blast furnaces of Sundays. I should be very glad to have them stopped for part of Sunday if it could be done without detriment to the work but we find that when we stop them from accidents even for an hour or two, that is of considerable detriment, particularly in the quality of iron and in the make. The iron cooled in the hearth and there is great difficulty in "tapping" afterwards. We have never made any particular experiments expressly with this object in view but I am of the opinion that it would be very difficult to stop the furnaces worked with stone coal. Our furnaces are small being only 11 feet at the boshes and 40 feet high from the bottom of the hearth to the charging plate. We have 14 people at work on Sunday at the furnaces of which only 2 are under 18 years old. We have not in connection with our work any school or sick fund which I very much regret.

#### **No.191. Mr. Sebastian B. Hosgood, aged about 40 years.**

I have been furnace manager at the Ystalyfera for about 12 months and I was previously at the Neath Abbey Iron Works.

There are two large furnaces at Neath Abbey and they were stopped every Sunday for a period of nearly 12 hours. They used coke there at that time and the stoppage occasioned some loss and affected the quality of the iron. They were making "foundry iron" and the stoppage occasioned it to become "white" and not so well suited for their purpose. This would not be so material if they were making "forge" iron for which they are not so particular as to quality as for foundry purposes. When the trade got bad they found their loss occasioned by stopping so great they abandoned such stoppage and blew all day Sunday. The alteration in the quality of the iron from stopping is still greater in the furnaces using stone coal when making "foundry" or the best iron.

I do not think they could make "No.1 foundry pig" at these furnaces (Ystalyfera), and stop even for a few hours on Sundays as the furnace would not recover or "come round" perhaps for the whole week afterwards but in making "forge iron" it would not make so much difference.

In making the best foundry iron the furnaces must be worked very steadily and regularly and the least stoppage cools and deteriorates the iron and thus the loss arises from their producing bad iron instead of good.

The children and young persons employed in this place are not over worked or ill used. They are, I think, better off in that respect than in almost any works I know of but this neighbourhood is very badly off for schools and the few teachers that are here are very incompetent. Several of the children can, however, read an easy book in Welsh which they have mostly learned in Sunday Schools.

**No.192. Lewis Jones, aged about 50.**

I am agent at the collieries and mine works. I have been here about six months. I have 21 boys in the colliery between 18 and 7 years. I have three door boys about 7 or 8 years old, the others are almost all carting. Some few work with the girdle and chain, the others with a "crook."

The thickness of the vein is 2 feet 6 inches. I the mine works there are 15 boys from 18 to 8 years old and about half of them are about 8 or 9 years old. They are all tramming and "shoot" or pushing out the trams. They work about 10 hours a day from six to seven in the morning to six to seven in the evening. The youngest boy gets from 1s. to 1s. 6d. per day, the door boys get 9d. per day which is the lowest wages. They have no night work now as the night work was stopped a fortnight ago. The youngest boys are seven years old and are keeping doors. We have no girls working under ground. We had one, about 23 years old, who was tramming but she left about three weeks ago. We have had about 10 on the mine banks. About four are under 18 years old and one of them is as young as 12 years old. The boys are not with their fathers. Only two of them work with their fathers.

The most of the can read a little Welsh and they have learnt it at Sunday Schools. Very few can write their name or speak English. The children are never over worked. I never knew but one man beat a boy here and he was immediately turned away. This place is very badly off for school and the teachers at the school here are not very competent. The Sunday Schools are well attended.

**No.193. Thomas Morgan, aged 45.**

I have been here in this neighbourhood for 23 years. The most of that time I have been overman at the Stone Coal Collieries. I am now overman at Ystalyfera at the Cavin Pits and Level.

I have 15 boys working under my charge who are under 18 years of age. One door boy about 9, and 12 carters aged from 9 to 18. The "carters" work with the crook. They work from 8 hours to 10 hours a day and go down at seven in the morning and come up about four or five in the evening. They work at night every other week, the same hours as by day.

The youngest boys are nine year old and they are the door boys and get 8d. per day. The carters get from 1s. to 1s. 3d. but they are by the ton. I have no girls working under my charge and I believe there are none under ground in any part of this work. The boys do not always work with their fathers. They can mostly read Welsh. They learn it chiefly in Sunday Schools. I have not known any instances of boys being over worked or ill treated in this work, or in this neighbourhood and they are very seldom beaten excepting by their fathers.

**No.194. David Davis, aged 15, David Thomas, aged 14, Thomas Williams, aged 15 and Evan Jenkin, aged 10.**

We are tramming in the mine level. We work from six to six and take time for meals as we can. We get enough time to eat. We have breakfast at home in the morning, mostly tea and bread and butter. We take bread and cheese with us to work and eat it when we have time. We drink water sometimes cold tea. We have our supper when we go home, sometimes broth and potatoes and bacon or meat and sometimes tea. We sometimes have barley bread but mostly wheaten bread. Our work is not very hard and we have had no hurt at it. We have very good health. We get 1s. 6d. per day for tramming. The tram goes on the tramroad and we push it along, sometimes one, and sometimes two of us together.

David Thomas, Thomas William and David Davis have been working for three years, and Evan Jenkin for two years. The boys do not go to work here before they are 8 or 9 years old and many not before they are 12 because their fathers cannot get work for them that they can do.

We cannot read and have not been in day school much. We go to Sunday School almost every Sunday. We are scarcely ever beaten in the works. We can't complain of being ill used. We sometime quarrel and beat one another more than the men beat us.

**No.195. William Thomas, aged 16.**

I am driving at a "whim", the horse round in it to pull up the waggon. It is outside the level. I work from six or seven o'clock in the morning and am out 12 hours. I have time for meals. I do not work at night. I have been working since I was 12 years old. I have been in school five quarters (at Cwmllynfell) and paid 3s. per quarter. I can read Welsh and English.

**No.196. Daniel Thomas, aged 15.**

I am working under the moulders, cleaning the castings. My brother works with me. He is 20 years old and gets 16s. per week. I get 10s. per week. I work from six to in the morning to six in the evening and am allowed time for meals. I have been working at the same kind of work at Ynisedwyn. I began when I was seven or eight years old. I sometimes work overtime when they

are busy and I sometimes lose time when there is no work. My work is not hard. I never work at night. There are two little boys and two little girls here that went to work as young as I did. Their father was killed by the trams about a year ago. I have been a little in school and go to the Sunday School. I can read Welsh. I have not met with any hurt in the works of any consequence and have good health.

**No.197. Francis Williams, aged 16.**

I am carting coal in the colliery. The vein is a yard high. There is "damp" in the works sometimes and it makes me lose a day now and then. It makes my head ache. There are three boys carting at the same place with me. We work from six in the morning to six in the evening and at night every other week. I get 1s. 8d. per day. I was never much in school and can't read. I have been Working for three and a half years.

**No.198. Lewis Morgan, aged 10.**

I have been working for only four months. I keep a door and mind a fire in the mine level. The fire helps the draught. My mother comes to me and assists me about the fire night and morning. I work from six to six but not at night. I eat bread and cheese and tea. I get 1s. per day. I was never at school.

**No.199. Margaret Evans, aged 15, Gwenllian Evans, aged 16 and Mary Williams, aged 15.**

We have been working put here for two years. We never worked out in any other works but there are some girls working in the same way at the Yniscedwyn Works. We are employed to fill the iron mine into waggons on the mine bank outside the levels mouth. We work from six o'clock in the morning to six o'clock in the evening but we have meal times and sometimes go home for dinner. We do not live far off. We work out in all weathers but very seldom have colds or lose any time from sickness. When it rains very bad we go into the levels mouth to shelter. We never work in the level. We get 14d. per day except Mary Williams, she gets 13d. per day. We do not work at night. We like our work very well and it is not very hard.

We all go to Sunday Schools but have not been long in any school Margaret can read both Welsh and English a little, Gwenllian can also read a little but Mary cannot read. There is a school near this work at a place called "Graig-y-merched," at which they pay the master 3d. per week each. It is better attended by about 20 boys and about 10 girls and there is another larger and better school about four miles up from here at "Cwmllynfell."

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**Examinations at the YNISCEDWYN IRON WORKS. September 8th.**

**No.200. Statement of William Price, Esq., surgeon.**

The physical condition of the children and young persons employed at the Yniscedwyn Works and in the neighbourhood is equal to that of other children in the same neighbourhood not so employed. In external appearance, Those I inspected are healthy, robust and well formed. In stature there is no appreciable difference at any age, nor in either sex, between children early and constantly employed in the description of labour in question and children of the same age and station, in the same neighbourhood not to put to any such labour.

As to food, the number of meals, the quantity and quality of food at each meal and the time allowed for taking it are adequate to maintain the health and strength of children employed in constant labour. The children employed in labour are as well off in regard to the quantity and quality of their food as children of their station and neighbourhood who do not work.

As to clothing, the children are well clothed and a proper difference is made between the summer and winter clothing. As to cleanliness, the children are encouraged to be neat in their persons and clothing.

The amount of sickness to which the children within the terms of this commission are subject is not greater than that among the children of the poorer classes employed at home or remaining unemployed.

On the whole, I am of the opinion that the work the juvenile part of the working classes of this district are subjected to is not detrimental to their well doing and it is from a professional experience of 16 years that I have come to this conclusion.

(Signed) WILLIAM PRICE, Surgeon.

**No.201. Rees Davies, aged 38.**

I am the furnace manager at Ynisedwyn and I have been here four years last January. We have two blast furnace at work here now and another just going to blow in. One of our furnaces is worked with stone coal alone and the other with stone coal and coke. We use hot blast to both. About 12 months ago was s topped out furnaces on Sundays for a period of 8 or 10 weeks. We stopped from eight o'clock to three and did not tap before the stopped. We tapped on Saturday nights and stopped when the hearth was full. We blew at three and tapped about six or seven o'clock in Sunday evening and then we did not tap again until ten instead of six o'clock in Monday morning. The iron from the "cast" on Sunday evening was a s good as usual when the furnace was in order. It w was not all whiter, or worse, nor from the next cast on Monday morning.

We gave u the practice of stopping in consequence of our furnaces getting out of order. The "tuyers" got strong and we were obliged to blow it on Sunday and not liking to work engine for one furnace alone, we blew two furnaces and the next Sunday it happened that we put another furnace into blast and we were consequently obliged to blow it and from that time we have continued to blow on every Sunday.

We have stopped by accident for 12 to 14 hours and we have afterwards blown on without much hindrance or hurt. We stopped about five a week ago for 11 hours to pack the piston of the engine and found nit the least inconvenience in blowing on again. We always stop for eight or none hours when we "pack" as there is always some repairs wanted the same time. We pack the steam cylinder every five or six weeks, the bast cylinder of not packed more than one in two or three years.

I do not think that there would be any difficulty in stopping a furnace with stone coal for 8 or 9 hours or perhaps for 10 or 12 hours on Sundays but we have not had much experience in this practice yet. Not one of the furnace which we stopped on Sunday was worked at the time entirely with stone coal but we have stopped the furnace worked entirely with stone coal when we packed the steam cylinder as long as the others were stopped on Sundays, that is for 10 or 11 hours without hurt. We make good grey iron in our furnaces principally "Nos.2 and 3," and sometimes "No.1." The quality of the iron is not altered by stopping. I do not think that the stopping of the furnaces at Merthyr hurts the furnaces. Perhaps when they are making forge iron and the furnaces are working hot, the stopping of them for a few hours would be a benefit to them. A furnace might be prepared for stopping the bast for some hours by attending to the charges for a short time before but it would, perhaps, be attended with some loss in the make, particularly when working in foundry iron.

**No.202. Daniel Smith, aged 34.**

I have been here seven years as mineral agent. I superintend the mine and coal works. I was at Aberdare, near Merthyr before I came here. My father and brother are the agents there now.

I have no boys working at these works under about 11 years of age. The youngest are door boys. We have none carting and only a few working in the levels who are mostly with their fathers. There are some driving horses in the levels and outside. They have no regular times for meals in the levels. They all work by the ton and take their own time. They go to work about six in the morning and leave about six at night. They seldom work for more than 10 or 12 hours. The children do the same hours as the men. They do not work at night in the colliery or mine works.

The door boys get about 8d per day, the drivers get from 6s. to 10s. per week and the boys who work in the levels get about the same. The colliers get now about 20s and their fire coal, out of which the pay for powder and candles which comes to about 2s. per week and their house rent comes to about 1s. 6d. pr 2s. per week.

We have very few girls in the works and those that are here are not employed by the company but are taken by their fathers to assist them when working on job work. They very seldom work in the levels here. It is not the custom of this country. I do not know more than one girl (about 15) now working in our level and I do not recollect any other so employed before.

Not many of the boys in the coal and mine works can read. If you take an average of them, not 1 in 10 can read either Welsh or English. I have never known any boys being over worked or ill treated here nor have I heard of any being ill used in the neighbourhood.

The general character of the people here is I think better that at Merthyr. A good many of the workmen have built a house themselves and some have a cow.

**No.203 William Evans, aged 10.**

I work at the Ynisedwyn works, I help my father, he is a filler at the furnace. I help him to fill the barrow and to push them to the furnace, I have worked from six to six and at night every other week. I have been working for a years, I have been home with a bad foot about four weeks ago. I has home for four days or a week. I have not met with any other bad accidents, and I am not sick. I have not been sick for along time, I have mealtimes. The boys who help the fillers get 8d. per day

that is the wages but I help my father and get no wages, My father had four children none of them are working but me. I cannot read and I have been little in school and I go to the Sunday School when I am not at work. I work here with my father every other Sunday.

[This witness's father who was near when I spoke to him afterwards stated that he got 2s. 4d. a day which went all to maintain his family and pay his house rent which was £3 per annum and that he could not afford to put the boy into school. He said that his house did not belong to the company and that the rent paid by the workmen who lived in a company house was 12s. per month including their coal.]

**No.204 William Jankin, aged 15.**

I have been at work since I was 8 or 9. I went first to help my brother in the mine works at Tredegar. I have been here for about 5 months. I now drive the horse that draws the barrows a with coal to the furnaces. I work from six to six and at night in my turn. I do not care which. The day work is perhaps the hardest. I work every other Sunday but I go to Sunday School the week I am not at work on that day. I was not much in day school and cannot read. I have good health and have net with no accidents in my work.

**No.205 Joseph Levi aged 13.**

I work with the moulders and tend the fired in the melting cupola. I work from six an to six and get meal times. I do not work at night. I have been working since I was eight years old. I worked in the mine works before I came here. I had a fever some time back and was home a long time nearly a year in all. I have been in school and go to the Sunday School I can read Welsh and English and am beginning to write. There is another boy (Thomas Davis) the same age as myself working with me and doing the same kind of work in the same way. He has been in school and can read and write.

**No.206. Morris James aged about 9.**

I don't know how old I am. I was in school for about a month and I go to the Sunday School but I cannot read. I have been working six months I am working with the man that cleans the castings. I help him to clean the sand off them I scrape it off with a scraper. I work from six in the morning. I have time to eat my meals, breakfast and dinner. I go home about 6 o'clock in the evening. The man pays me 5d. per day. He is no relation of mine. My father has 12 children. I have a brother 12 years old working with me. He has been here a years and a half. He cannot read but he goes with me to the Sunday School.

**No.207 Thomas Williams aged 10.**

I drive the horse that draws the boat along the canal. I drive with my brother he is 16 or 17. We work from six in the morning and sometimes before until six in the evening and often later but we do not work at night. I have good health but I am out in all weathers along the canal. I lose no time from my work. I have met with no accidents. My work is not very hard. I go to Sunday School every Sunday.

**No.208 Oswald Willy aged 14.**

I can read English I was in school in Swansea. I have been here a year and a half working in the smith's shop blowing and striking. I was not at work before I came here. I don't work very hard. Our time of is from six to six and we have meal times. I get 4s per week. I have only been once home sick since I came to work that was for a week some time ago. My father and mother are dead. I have a brother about 20 years old in these works. I live with him. I go to Sunday School here in the works. I do not learn writing and cannot write.

[The agent informed me that this boy's father had been captain in the army but left his family totally unprovided for. The brother is employed at attend the weighing machine in the works and gets 10s. per week.]

**No.209. John Daniel, aged 12.**

I am working in the Cwmdie Level. I help my father to work coal. I have been working two or three years, I can't say how long. I was never at school and can't read. I go sometimes to the Sunday School. We works nearly 12 hours a day. My father and another brother works with me. I help them to fill the coal into the trams. We get between us from £7 to £8 per month. I can't say what my wages may be. I have good health and have met with no accident. I can't talk English.



**No.210. John Harris, aged 12.**

I have been working one years. I drive a horse from the mouth of the Cwmdie Level to the canal. It is about half a mile. I come out at six o'clock in the morning or sometimes a little later and am out until six in the evening. I do not work at night. I get 7s. 6d. per week. I did get 8s. My father is a collier and he has five children. I have met with no accident and seldom lose a day from my work. I have been in school a short time but I can't read. I can't speak English.

**No.211. Margaret Thomas, aged 11.**

I work with my father in the coal level and he is a collier. My sister and myself tram the coal out of the stall down to the horse road. My sister is more than 12 years old and she was working before me. We have been six months here and we have three months before that at Covin Level at Ystalyfera. We lived before we came here in the Hills at Tredegar. I went to work at Tredegar to help them to clean the mine on the mine banks but I did not work long there, not a month in all. I was at school a little at Tredegar but I can't read. I go sometimes to the Sunday Schools here.

I go to work with my father and sister every morning before six o'clock. We go from the house at five o'clock and we come out of the level about four in the evening. I carry the tools out and sometimes come out before my father and sister. I don't know how many hours I work but I am almost 12 hours from the house. I don't know what wages my father gets. I have wet feet to day but I don't wet them every day. I don't work barefoot I always have shoes. I very seldom have colds and I have not met with one since I was working here and I have not had an accident.

My father lives near the level and he has five children. I sometimes stay at home to help my mother about her work in the house. I don't know which I like best, whether working in the house with my mother or in the level with my father. I am more used to work in the level.

**No.212. William Williams, aged 12 and David Williams, aged 8.**

We are tramping in the coal level. We help one another to push out the trams to the horse way and out of the level. The distances about 200 yards. We have not been working many months. We go to the level about seven o'clock in the morning (sometimes sooner), and come out about five in the evening. We have no regular meal times in the level but have enough time to eat. We take time to eat when we get hungry. We get about 1s. per day between us. We should get 1s. 6d. if we get out 22 trams but we have only got out 20 today and yesterday. The tram is 7 cwt. We work from one man who digs the coal. We tram out some stones and dirt as well as coal. We have good health. William can read, David cannot. We go sometimes to the Sunday Schools.

**No.213. William Davis, aged 11.**

I have been working for two years. I am now driving a horse that hauls the trams from the level to the canal and I go into the level for trams four time a day. I work from six in the morning to five or six in the evening and have meal times. I sometimes have colds and lose time. About five months ago a tram went over my leg and bruised it and I lost three weeks and it is quite well now. I have been working since I was about nine years old. I was a door boy at the Covin Level before I came her. I then worked at night every other week. I don't work at night now. I go to the Sunday School and I was in a day school for a little. I am now learning to speak English. I can't read.

**No.214. Lewis Thomas, aged 10, Philip Jones, aged 11, Enoch Jones, aged 12 and Thomas Jones, aged 11.**

We are working in the Cwmdie Level, keeping air door. We work from six in the morning to six in the evening. We are mostly in the level for 12 hours every day. We get 8d. per day. Some of us burn a light sometimes and a light would cost us 5d. or 6d. per week. Lewis has been at work for one year, the others have been working for two years. Philip and Enoch mind a spare horse that works in the level as well as keep doors. They mine the horse by turns. We are seldom home ill and have met with but few accidents and not any to hurt us much. Thomas once fell down under the trams and they went over his legs and hurt them very much but they are all well now. We have not been in school much but we sometimes go to the Sunday School. We can't read. We all wash ourselves before we go to bed.

**No.215. Philip Williams, aged 15.**

I have been working since I was seven years old. I was a long time tramping in the mine level and I am now filling in the Cwmdie Level. I work with my two brothers and I get about 9s. per week. We work 12 hours every day and go into the level about 6 o'clock in the morning. I have not been to school and can't read. I sometimes go to Sunday School and I am learning to spell. I can't

talk English. I have met with no accidents and have very seldom any sickness. My brothers sometimes beat me when I do mischief.

[This boy would not at first answer my questions put to him but on asking his name and age, ran back into the level, crying, saying his brother would beat him if he gave his name. I afterward saw him with his brothers and they said they had heard I wanted the boy's names for the purpose of taking them a soldiers and they had warned him not to answer any questions but after an explanation with them they allowed him to answer me. The brothers were 21 and 23 years of age both colliers who had been at work since they were 7 years old. They had not been at school but now attended Sunday School and were learning to read Welsh. They could not converse in English.]

**No.216. Morgan Griffith, aged 13.**

I have been working for five years. I began when I was 8 years old but I have not been working regularly all the time. I have been in school for a few quarters at different times and paid 3s. per quarter. I can read a little Welsh and English and I can write my name but I cannot write much more. I attend Sunday School. I am now working in the mine level. I have two brothers who are older than me working. I get 1s. per day. I now and then lose a day from taking colds but have met with no accidents in my work. I go from the house every morning before 6 o'clock and begin work between 6 and 7 and leave about 5 or 6 in the evening. I have no night work. There is no regular time for meals in the mine levels. We take bread and cheese with us and eat it as we can and we get some super when we go home. I wash myself every night as the colliers do. I wash sometimes before and sometime after I have had my supper.

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**REPORT by RHYS WILLIAM JONES, ESQ., on the Employment of Children and Young Persons in the Copper Works at Swansea and Llanelly, in the counties of Glamorgan and Carmarthen and on the State, Condition and Treatment of such Children and Young Persons.**

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**TO HER MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONERS.**

GENTLEMEN,

Loughor, 20th. November, 1841.

The most important and prominent among the works and manufactories of the western portion of this district and the extensive copper works at Swansea and Llanelly, relative to which I take leave to forward to you the accompanying evidence and pares.

These works do not derive their importance so much some from the number of hands they employ as from ten aggregate value of the metal they produce in which some of the copper works.

In point of comparison, it may be remarked that the value of the iron manufactured per day in the most extensive iron works can scarcely be stated at £1000, where as the value of the copper produced by some of the establishments near Swansea must approach if not exceeded double that sum.

One peculiar feature attendant upon copper works is the devastating influence of smoke they emit upon the vegetation of the country around them, over which it appears to throw a species of poisonous deposit at once destructive to the herbage and the animals which graze upon it and so great is its influence felt in the immediate neighbourhood of the works than the verdure of the land is completely destroyed and the most fertile meadows converted into sterile wastes on which scarcely a trace of vegetation appears.

The most deleterious smoke is emitted from the furnace used in the process of calcining the ores during which arsenic and sulphur are expelled in a gaseous state and, becoming condensed by the moisture of the atmosphere or by contract with the earth, deposits its noxious charge along its track, blighting the neighbouring crops and impregnation the more distant pastures with the subtle poison, which operating like a murrain is rapidly destructive of animal life.

Many plans have been tried for purifying the smoke of the copper works, and several of such plans have become the subjects of patents but none hitherto put into general practice can be said to have accomplished their object.

Principally for this purpose the high “stacks”, or chimneys, which present so striking an appearance in this neighbourhood have been erected and large quantities of precipitated arsenic and sulphur are collected in their flues but yet the smoke retains a portion of its noxious matter and when, in humid weather, it falls to the ground, even from the highest altitudes, the crops and pastures within its range still suffer from its effects.

The most remarkable of these stacks are at Llanelly in Carmarthenshire where there is one upwards of 200 feet high and at Cwmavon, in Glamorganshire, where a large flue or tunnel, 11 or 12 feet in diameter is conveyed up the side of the mountain to a height of upwards of 100 feet above the works through which the whole of the smoke of the furnaces is conducted and admitted in one immense volume at the top giving to the mountain the appearance of a miniature volcano.

Notwithstanding the deleterious effects of the copper smoke upon vegetable and animal life as above described, the inhalation of it does not appear to operate prejudicially upon human health as will be observed by the testimony of the workpeople and agents who reside around the works and of the medical gentlemen of the neighbourhood.

Mr. Edward Budd, the intelligent agent of the Hafod Copper Works (one of the largest establishments), speaking of the health of the men observes:-

“They are generally very healthy, seldom or never attacked by epidemics or agues. Many live to a great age, some over 90 and the deaths among the workmen in this establishment in the last four years did not exceed  $1\frac{1}{4}$  per cent per annum. Not one died during the raging cholera in 1832, although many were attached. Those dwelling close to the works are generally the most healthy and the doctor attends out people at one third less per month than the colliers [pay].”

This statement is borne out by the evidence of Mr. W.P. Evans, the surgeon of the works and of G.G. Bird, Esq., M.D., of Swansea who has extensively practised in the immediate neighbourhood of the copper works for the last 15 years.

The number of children and young persons employed in the copper works is comparatively speaking, not large, as will be seen on reference to the tabular statement of the persons employed in the works near Swansea. The greatest number in any one establishment is found in the Hafod Works, where, out of a total of 479 males and 83 females employed, 133 males and 39 females are under 18 years of age. These works are also singularly in the number of females employed at them when compared with the males they amount to 17 per cent while at the other works they amount only to 2 or 3 per cent.

This extensive employment of females (particularly under 18) in such laborious and degrading out door work as wheeling coal and ashes in a copper works, is by no means general in this part of the district and were practised, cannot fail, in my opinion, to be highly detrimental to their education and morals and destructive to those domestic habits in which the women of the labouring classes should be sedulously trained. This opinion is strengthened by the evidence of Thomas and George Hughes, two of the foremen at the Hafod Works. They state on the subject:-

“We do not consider the children here over worked but we do not think it a fit place for girls to work at as it unfits them for all other work. We should not like to bring our daughters in the works.”

And John Thomas, a steady and intelligent man, further stated, in a conversation which I had with him on the subject, that he had often remonstrated and spoken in terms of condemnation to those parents who brought their daughters to the works, as it was at the instigation, or rather supplication, of the parents or friends that they were employed.

There is a peculiarity in the hours of work as practised by the men and boys who attend the smelting and calcining furnaces in copper works which is seldom found in other works. These persons continue on duty for 24 hours, working (as described by some of the boys whom I examined at the Hafod) from six o'clock in the morning to six o'clock the next morning and sleeping in the works near the furnaces at night or three or four “spells” of an hour each, being awakened at stated periods to attend the furnaces by a watchman employed for that purpose and once a fortnight, in order to change the “turn” or days of working, some of these persons work what they call the “long watch”, or from Saturday morning to Monday morning being forty eight hours, which periods they have on the alternate fortnight for rest and recreation.

This system would seem extremely laborious and fatiguing but the nature of the work being such as to allow them to have three and four hours sleep during the night and to have every other day to themselves, the men generally prefer it to any other regulation of the hours of working. Some,

however, are often inclined to mitigate the fatigue of the “long watch” particularly the boys, on which occasions there is always a “spare hand” ready to relieve them on the “night watch” on receiving the pay for the time he is so engaged.

The above mentioned mode of working makes it necessary for the furnace men (the calciner men in particular) to be at work all day on the Sunday once a fortnight and come of every Sunday but at many works all the furnaces, including the calciners are on Sundays, suspended from *active operations* and simply kept on “deadfire”, as it is termed attended only by watchmen and of whom generally serves two or more such fired, until the hands resume their regular work on the Sunday night or Monday morning.

In describing this system of working, the managers of the Middle Bank and the “White Rock” copper works state that:-

“The smelters and calciner men work the 24 hours round i.e. from six o’clock in the morning to six o’clock the following morning (24 hours). In some instances boys under 13 years of age assist boys of an elder class at the calcining process. They then work together for 24 hours.

The general process used in the smelting of copper ore require that they should be kept up without intermission. It therefore becomes necessary that the young persons and boys assisting them should remain in their places and 24 hours is found to be the most convenient for changing but the labour is not continuous as frequent intervals occur for rest. The general smelting is discontinued on Sundays but some of the minor processes are carried on preparatory for the work of the ensuing week.”

The agent at the Hafod Works states that at their works:-

“The calciners in the copper works are always at work night and day and consequently the young people attend to them for 24 hours and then go home for 24 hours but they are or occupied in labour much more than half that time.

The calciners and roasters (furnaces) are continues in operation on Sundays because the expense of putting them out and relighting would be enormous. The people, however are employed only every other Sunday to the calciners and to the roasters every third Sunday.”

But at the works of Messrs. Williams, Foster and Co. (probably collectively the largest establishment in the trade), the agent said that:-

“On Sundays we do no more work than is absolutely necessary for keeping the works in action. In our smelting works our adult workmen merely keep our furnaces on what we term dead fire. We do not charge the calciners on Sundays, except in cases of emergency.”

And similar statements are made by the agents of the works at Llanelly.

In my own opinion very little is actually required to be done on Sunday in order to keep the copper works in action and none, of necessity, on the parts of *children, young persons or females*. I regret, however that it will be observed from the evidence I have collected, that Sunday labour is practised at some works to a considerable extent and that sever young persons of both sexes are allowed to work every Sunday “the same as other days until three or four o’clock in the afternoon,” by which they are precluded from attending the Sunday Schools, and are “very often tired” on the Sunday afternoon to attend public worship at either Church or Chapel.

The wages earned by the men employed at the copper works are steady and comparatively good. In some works they have been the same or nearly so for the last twenty years.

The general rate is as follows:-

	s.	d.		s.	d.	
The furnace men earn on an average				25	0	per week
The calciner men	15	0	to	17	6	per week
The labourers				12	0	per week
Boys from 13 t 18	3	6	to	10	0	per week
Girls from 13 to 18	3	0	to	7	6	per week
Children (boys and girls)	3	0	to	5	0	per week
Women (where employed)	7	6	to	10	0	per week

The labour performed by the furnace men of the copper works, like that of the puddlers and rolling men of the iron works, is so exhausting, from the extensive heat they endure, that their sustenance must be plentiful and good to support them under its effects and consequently their wages are of necessity higher than those of the colliers and miners and the generality of workmen in other works.

I have seen the copper men skimming his furnace (a process of 15 or 20 minutes duration) standing within 56 feet of it open door, exposed to the reflected heat of the large body of molten metal within, and the scoria or slag which was abstracting flowing in a stream of liquid fire at his feet, a position of elevated temperature which could not be approached within many yards by unpractised persons. In this position I have seen him go through his laborious operation, stretching his heavy iron rabble or skimmer into the furnace until the perspiration ran off his person like drops of rain and the few clothes he wore became dripping wet and it is not, the men say, until this profuse perspiration appears, or as they term it, they become "wringing wet with sweat," that they can easily bear the smarting influence of the fire.

During these severe operations the men unusually carry a towel on their shoulders to wipe the perspiration from their faces and as soon as the labour is over they not unfrequently run to a jug of cold eater and drink off a pint or two with impunity, a practice which to them does not seem to be attended with any ill effects.

It should be remarked, however, that children and young persons are not employed in the process above alluded to. Indeed, it requires a long standing in the works, a hard apprenticeship, to become injured to the severe and exhausting labours of the "fire or furnace men."

The extensive smelting works could only exist in the neighbourhood of large collieries capable of supplying a suitable fuel for the numerous furnaces and I believe they give employment to an equal number of hands in the collieries as in the smelting works.

The copper works on the Swansea river, including Messrs. William's Crown Works at Neath (if the above estimate is correct), must in both smelting works and coal works, afford employment for at least 3400 persons.

I have no accurate statistical returns of the ores and coal consumed and the copper produced by these works but I have formed an approximate estimate, which it may be interesting to give. I compute that they annually smelt from 130,000 to 150,000 tons of copper ore, which produces from 15,000 to 16,000 tons of fine copper, which they valued (at least) at about £1,500,000 and that in the process they consume from about 160,000 to 200,000 tons of coal.

These large smelting works and collieries carried on in the immediate neighbourhood of Swansea, together with a very considerable export trade in coal and culm, principally brought down the canal (about 520,000 tons per annum), give to that town and port a commercial interest and importance which seems to be increasing at a rapid rate or prosperous progression.

The collieries, however, of this district must form the subject of another communication.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,  
You most obedient Servant,  
R.W. JONES.

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## EVIDENCE COLLECTED BY RHYS WILLIAM JONES, ESQ.

**No.217. MIDDLE BANK COPPER WORKS, belonging to Messrs. Pascoe Greenfell, and Sons. WHITE ROCK COPPER WORKS, belonging to Messrs. J. Freeman and Copper Company in the parish of Llansamlet. HAFOD COPPER WORKS, belonging to Messrs. Vivian and Sons, in the parish of St. John (township of Swansea) and MORFA a other copper works, belonging to Messrs. Williams, Forster and Co., in the parishes of St John. Llangyfelach, and Cadoxton, Glamorganshire.**

### Statement of Persons Employed.

Name of Works	Adults		Young persons		Children		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Middle Bank copper works	240		27		13		280	
White Rock copper works	196	4	34	1	20	1	250	6
Hafod copper works	345	45	92	38	41		178	83
Morfa copper works	484	5	74	6	13	1	571	12
Totals	1256	54	227	45	87	2	1579	101
Total								1680

Of the young persons a the Middle Bank works 19 can read, 5 can write and 26 attend Sunday Schools.

Of the young persons a the Middle Bank works 19 can read, 5 can write and 26 attend Sunday Schools.

Of the young persons a the White Rock works 28 can read, 2 can write and 48 attend Sunday Schools.

Of the young persons a the Hafod works 102 can read, 39 can write and 193 attend Sunday Schools.

Of the young persons a the Morfa works 60 can read and 36 can write.

### **No.218. Statement of Mr. W.P. Evans, surgeon to the Hafod Copper Works.**

The physical condition of the children employed in the Hafod Works is such as might be expected to result from their being employed in light work and receiving good wages and is consequently superior to that of these in the same neighbourhood who do not enjoy the like advantages.

In external appearance the children are healthy, robust and well formed. The muscular and bony systems of those children brought up in the works are well and fully developed. We have no case of deformity, congenital or acquired. In stature the children are. I believe, rather above the average height of those employed at home or remain unemployed. Those adults who have been brought up from their childhood in the work are the healthiest and best men.

The children have four meals in the day. The quality of their food is almost always of the very best and the times allowed for eating are adequate to maintain the health and strength of children employed in constant labour. The children employed in labour are much better off in regard to the quality and quantity of their food than children of their station who do not work. The children are well clothed. In winter they wear cloth or flannel in summer calico and canvas usually from their outer clothing.

The Welsh are very cleanly people and the Hafod children are far less than among the children are far from being exceptions to this general rule. The amount of sickness to which the children are subject is less than among the children of the poorer classes employed at times or remaining unemployed.

On the whole they enjoy good health and the complaints which mostly affect them are of a mild and inflammatory nature arising from their being exposed to sudden changes of temperature. During the five years of my surgency to the works I have not met with a case of hernia, distortion of the spine, swelling of the ankles, distortion of the joints from relaxation of the ligaments owing to long standings, malformation of the pelvis or any other maladies which are usually the result of early and excessive work or of an unfavourable posture of the body during a large portion of the day. Consumption is not peculiarly prevalent and I have met with no case of scrofula or atrophy.

(Signed) W.P. EVANS, Surgeon.

### **Examinations taken at the HAFOD COPPER WORKS.**

**No.219. John Thomas, aged 59, and George Hughes, aged 46, foremen.**

We look after the boys and girls that are labouring about the works. We put them to work and keep their time. John Thomas had been working in the works for 26 years and George Hughes has been here for about five years, We have in all about 130 boys and girls under 18. There are about 60 boys and 70 girls, about one half on them under 13.

The hardest work to which the boys are put is working "the calciners," [furnaces in which the copper ore is first calcined]. They are mostly worked by boys from 13 to 16 years old. Their turn continues for 24 hours and they are obliged to tend the furnaces every two hours. They can sleep for an hour, perhaps two or three times in the night. They work six turns or "watches" one week and eight the other and get 2s. 6d. for each double watch of 24 hours.

Next to the calciners the hardest work is wheeling coal and ashes to and from the smelting furnaces. This is mostly done by girls from 13 to 18 years old. They begin their work at six in the morning and if they can finish wheeling enough for their furnace they leave from three to four in the afternoon but some stay as late as six or after. They get about 5s. per week. The time they work each day is determined by the quantity of work they do. When what is required is done, they leave. No girls work at night, nor boys but those at the calciners. They [the boys at the calciners] also work every other Sunday and some girls that are wheeling ore to them do the same.

The youngest boys and girls are employed to wheel the coal and ashes for the furnaces which are worked by their fathers and the most of the children employed are the children of the workmen or those who have worked here. We don not consider the children are over worked here but we don't think it is a fit place for girls to work at as it unfits them for all other work. We should not like to bring our daughters up in the works. There is but one girl that appears to be in bad health and she is subject to "fits." All the others, both boys and girls, seem to have good health and very seldom loses a day from illness. The men also in general have good health. There are about 300 men now in the works about 60 years of age. There are nearly 500 men in all employed.

There is a surgeon regularly paid by the works. The men pay him 1d. per week each and the girls and boys 1/2d. per week each.

The characters of the men and their wives are generally improvident. The men are rather fond of drink and the women are bad managers. The colliers appear to save more money than the copper men although they do not get so much. The copper men must, however, from the nature of their work at the fires, live better, and they wear out more clothes, particularly shoes. They mostly wear flannel shirts and wear out four in the years when two will serve the colliers.

**No.220. David Thomas, aged 14.**

I work in the "nail house" assisting to make copper nails, I am paid by the man who makes the nails by the job. I come at six and do eight charges and then leave. There is no particular for leaving work but we mostly leave from five to six in the evening. There is no regular time for meals. The work is not very hard. I have only been here six weeks. I get about 5s. per week. I worked before I came here as a plasterer and I worked with him for about four years. I have good health and have met with no accidents. I was never was in school and can't read but I go to the Sunday Schools.

**No.221. Charles Evans, aged 14.**

I have been in school in Swansea. My mother paid 4d. and afterwards 6d. per week from me. I can read and write a little. I am labouring this week. I am kept as a spare hand. I was working a calciner ;last week, that is the hardest work. I have no night work when I am labouring. I sometimes take colds and lose time. I have never met with any accident. My father is dead and my mother has six children, I am the youngest. I have two brothers working here. I get 5s. per week.

**No.222. Evan Jones, aged 12.**

I have been working more than a year. I am now wheeling coal and ashes at a "metal furnace." I come at six o'clock in the morning and can wheel enough for the furnace by four o'clock and I leave about five in the evening. I do not work at night now, but I have been working a calciner as a "spare hand" when I worked at night. I then came at six o'clock one morning and worked until six the next morning. My mother is dead and my father works here. I have been in school in Morriston and paid 6d. per week. I can read English and Welsh. I now get 3s. 5 1/2d. per week.

**No. 223. John Richard aged 215 and David Davis, aged 14.**

We work the calcining furnace and work from six o'clock one morning to six o'clock the next morning. We sleep during the night three or four spells of an hour each. There is a watchman to call us up. We have what we call the "long watch" once a fortnight when we work from Saturday morning to Monday morning (48 hours) and the next fortnight we have that time free. There is a "spare hand" or two at work the night turn for the boys on the "long watch," but when that is done we close the pay for one watch. We get 1s. 1d. for each 12 hours we work which is called the single "watch."

John Richard has been at work for five years. We get 7s. 7d. per week each. We both go to Sunday Schools once a fortnight and can read a little. John Richard was in a day school. David Davis was not and he can read only a little Welsh.

**No.224. William Evans, aged 13, and Henry Jones, aged 15.**

We work a calciner in the same manner and for the same time as the other boys. There are me boys in the works that work harder than we do. here are the boys that wheel the pre along the stages t the calciners. William Evans came to work when he was seven years old and he began by wheeling coal and ashes from the furnace which his father worked and has worked here ever since. He has not been much to school and can read only a little Welsh.

Henry Jones went to work in a coal pit when he was s11 years old and had been here one years. He has been in school and can read both Welsh and English and can also wrote. We both go to Sunday Schools when we cam. We get 7s. 7d. per week, the same as the other calciner boys.

**No.225. Isaac Davies, aged 15.**

I have been working since I was 12 years of age. I am now labouring and filling the roasting furnaces, I work for six to six and have time for meals. I have been in a school and can read and write. I still go to Sunday School I have good heath now but I have been working a calciner and was not well then, the smoke and sulphur from the furnace affected my breast and made me ill. I get 7s. 7d. per week.

**No.226. Richard Thomas, aged 13 and Thomas Richard aged 14.**

We have been working for six to nine months. We wheel coal and ashes to and from the ore furnaces. We begin at six in the morning and work to about four in the afternoon. We get 5s. or 5s. 5½d. per week. Thomas Richard sometimes does "labouring work," and then gets only 4s. per week. We have slight colds sometimes but seldom ant time from sickness and have met with no accidents. We do not work at night. We can both read and write our names.

**No.227. Thomas Lott, aged 13.**

I have been working since I was 12 years old. I am now wheeling and labouring about the works and I tend the masons when they are repairing the furnaces. It is sometimes hot work but do not go much into the heat. I get 4s. per week. I have good health and have met with no accidents. I can read a little Welsh.

**No.229. George Thomas, aged 15.**

I have been in school and can tread English and can write a little. I was 12 months in school and paid 4d. per week. I have been working a long time. My father was a mason and I worked with him. He is now dead. I am now labouring here an sometimes tending a calciner. That work agrees with me very well but it very hard. I get 7s. 7d. per week. I have never had any accident in the works.

**No.230. Thomas Jenkins, aged 16.**

I have been working for seven years. I have been driving or wheeling coal and ashes and sometimes work at a calciner. I have been in school and can read and write. I have had n particular sickness not accidents in the work. I get 10d. per day for labouring and 7s. 6d. per week for working on a calciner. My wages are according to the work I do. My father and two brothers are working here as well as me.

**No.231. Thomas Jenkins, aged 13 and John Jenkins, aged 12.**

We are labouring, going in errands and cleaning bricks. Our work is not very hard. We come at six in the morning and leave at six in the evening and have meal times. Thomas Jenkins was in school and can read and write. He has been working about seven months. His father is the master of a vessel. John Jenkins has not much been in school but can read a little Welsh. He has been working



for about a years. We have met with no accident and have no particular sickness since we have been at work. We get 4s. per week.

**No.232. James Hughes, aged 10 and Phillip Einon, aged 13.**

We are tending the masons and labouring. James has been to work for a year and Phillip for three years. We work for six to six every day and have meal times. We never work at night. We work hard sometimes. We have no particular sickness or accidents. Phillip can read, James cannot. We go to the Sunday Schools.

**No.233. John William, aged 13 and William Davis, aged 12.**

We have been working for three years. John can't read and William can read a little Welsh. We are both wheeling coals and coke. We begin at six or seven in the morning and can sometimes wheel enough for the furnaces by dinner time but sometimes we are at work until six o'clock. The work is very hard if we stick to it so as to finish by dinner time, but is not very hard when we take time to it. We get 4s. per week. We have no sickness and we sometimes go to Sunday School.

**No.234. Thomas Hopkins, aged 16.**

I have been working for seven or eight years. I first wheeled for a furnace ash hole and got 1s. 6d. per week. I now wheel ore on the stage, The ore is raised from the ore yard by an engine to the stage and I wheel it along the stage to the tops of the calcining furnaces. I begin to work at seven o'clock in the month and leave of about four to five o'clock in the afternoon. I have no meal time and the work is hard while it lasts. I have good health and have met with no accidents but n he fell off the stage about four months ago and broke his leg. His is now well at work again.

I was in work before I went to work and could read a little but I have forgotten it now. I do no go to the Sunday Schools because I work on Sundays the same at the other days and cannot finish in time to go to the school.

I get 10s. 4d. per week. My father is a labourer in the works And my brother works a furnace. He is 21 years old and is married. He gets 21s. per week. My father gets only 9s. per week and he has two children at home not working.

**No.235. Sarah John, aged 16.**

I have been working here for four years. I am wheeling coal and ashes, I wheel for one furnace. I begin about six o'clock in the morning and leave off about two o'clock in the day. I get 5s. 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. per week. My father is a labourer here in the works. I get my health very well. I d not often lose a day. I have a sister also working here. She is wheeling ore and gets 7s. 6d. per week. I have been in school and still go to Sunday School I can read Welsh and English and can write my name.

**No.236. Mary John, aged 15.**

I have been working for two and half years. I am sweeping the passages outside the works. I have been wheeling coal and ashes which was harder work than I do now. About 12 months ago I had a fever and was ill for 10 weeks. I have not bee so strong since. My father does 14 years ago. My mother has there children one boy and another girl who is at work here wheeling ore. She gets 7s. 6d. per week. She is 18 years old and can read. I can also read Welsh and English. I have not lost any time since I came to work after my illness. My sister and myself come to work about seven o'clock in the morning and leave off about four or five. She works on Sunday. We do not work at night. We have time for meals.

**No.237. Elizabeth Williams, aged 20.**

I have been working for 11 years in these works. I began wheeling coal and ashes and two years ago I went to fill slag into the waggons. The slag is wheeled out of the works into a yard where it is broken and filled into waggons which are pulled up by an engine to the top of the slag bank. I work with other girls on the yard, filling the slag into the waggons. I come at seven and work until about four or thereabouts and have meal times, about half an hour for breakfast and about an hour for dinner. Filling slag is much harder work than wheeling coal and ashes. I get 9s. per week. I have very good health and seldom lose a day. I can't read but I go to the Sunday Schools. My father works here when he is not employed in stamping the clay and bricks. He is blind and he lost his sight from a cold which he took by getting wet in the river. I have also two sister in the works. They are wheeling coal and ashes.

**No.238. Elizabeth Mathews, aged 24.**

I have been working since I was 10 years old and have been all the time here. I began to wheel coal and ashes and have been labouring and sweeping the floors and passages. I am now wheeling or filling the calciners. I work in the ore yard. I fill the barrow and wheel it to the carriage which takes it up by the engine to the stage leading to the tops of the calcining furnaces. I wheel about 20 yards and about 150 barrows in a day of 3 cwt. each. I get 9s. to 10s. 6d. per week. I work on Sundays the same as on other days until three or four o'clock in the afternoon. I finish sometimes by dinner time. I cannot read much. I can spell a little. I can't go to the Sunday Schools often because I work on Sundays. I go to the Chapel sometimes of a Sunday evening but am often too tired to do so. I can sew and make all my own clothes except gowns. I can sew them but cannot cut them out. I very seldom loses any time from my work. I have good health and have met with no accidents.

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**The MORFA COPPER WORKS for the Smelting and Manufacturing of Copper.**

**No.239. Mr. Benjamin Pollard, agent.**

The works are so constructed as not to require any special provision for ventilation. All the dangerous parts of the machinery are fenced off. The workpeople have accommodations for changing their clothes and for cooking their provisions. We have small ovens for that purpose. constructed in part of the furnaces. Children and young persons do not work at the furnaces. At our rolling mills we employ boys from 10 to 18 years old and at the smelting works wheeling coal and ashes. I cannot give any opinion on the subject of a limitation of the age at which children should be employed. The usual number of working hours at our smelting works is 12 hours per day and at the rolling mills nine hours. There is also a night turn at the rolling mills. Children are employed the same hours as the men but not above 12 hours a day per turn. Our night work commences at six o'clock and continues until three o'clock in the morning, less the meal times the same as at day work.

No under 15 year of age are employed at night and they change every other week. Very few children or young persons work at night. The night run is from five to six hours and not above nine hours. Our works do not indispensably require the labour of children to be continued for 24 hours. They do not work above 12 hours. They are usually employed at some processes in the works at all ages from 10 to 18.

On Sundays we do no more work than is absolutely necessary for keeping the works in action in our smelting work. Our adult workmen merely keep on our furnaces on what we term dead fire. We do not charge the calciners of Sundays except in case of emergency. The meal times are half an hour for breakfast and one hour for dinner. Some go home to their meals and some do not. They are left to their own option and at night the same as by day.

We have no system of regards our punishments excepting small fines for misconduct. Corporal punishments were never inflicted. We have no regulations in print but we do not allow any punishment. We take means to check bad language, &c., from which we levy a small fine. We generally find that those taken to the works at a later period.

We have no school in connection with the works but we are contributors annually to one or more schools. We have no sick fund belonging to our establishment but our workmen are invariably members of friendly societies. We are also annual subscribers to the Swansea Infirmary.

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**Examinations taken at the MORFA COPPER WORKS.**

**No.240. James Stephen, aged between 11 and 12.**

I work in the rolling mills. I have been working about 10 weeks. I help them to weigh and sort the copper sheets. I only put them in their places after they have been weighed. The sheets are not heavy, only from 5 to 10 lbs. each. There is a place among the side of the weighing room for sorting the plates or sheets to their weights. After the man weighs them they are put down regularly under

the places marked, all the same weight upon one another and put the sheet in its place. I can read the figures that are painted up for the weights. After the sheets are weighed and sorted they are packed.

, I work from six in the morning to six at night and sometimes to seven or eight and now and then until 10 or 12 and I sometimes go home at four or five in the evening as the sheets come in from the mills. I never work at night. I have lost no time for sickness since I have been here and have had no accident. I always work inside the building. I worked under the foreman I came here, I was in the mines of Cornwall. I went to work first when I was six years old. my father is dead. I have three brothers working here. They get more than me. One gets 7s. and another 11s. per week. I can read a little Welsh and English.

**No.241. James Jones, aged 12.**

I work in the rolling mills. I put the copper sheets into the furnace to dry and when the man takes them out and cools them in water, I put them up in a pile. There is another boy working at the same furnace. The work is not very hot. The furnace door is down when the sheets are drying. I take them out of pickle and put them on the front of the furnace then the man put them in with the tongs and the door is shut. When they dry the man takes them out again with the tongs and throws them into the water to cool them and then puts them down on the floor. The other boy flattens them by treading on them barefooted and they are put in a pile by the side of the furnace. The sheets will weight from 4 to 10 lbs. The work is not hard and the boys do it very well but they are sometimes obliged to be busy. I have been working three years. I work from six to six every day and at night every other week. I have meal times. I have lost very little time from sickness and have met with no accident. I work inside the mills, I get 5s. 6d. per week under the foreman. my father kept school at Morriston and had about 50 boys in it. He is dead. I can read Welsh and English.

**No.242. David Davis, aged 15.**

I have been working for our years. I am now drying copper plates in the rolling mills, I have been working at the Rose Works belonging to this Company. I work from six to six and at night by my turn, the same as the other heaters. I get 7s. per week and am paid by the foreman. I get very good health. I can read but I can't write.

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**No.243. George G. Bird, Esq., M.D.**

Any observations I can make on the subject of the physical condition of the juvenile working classes of this district may be compromised in a few words. I have resided in this place about 16 years and during the earlier part of that time was so engaged much amongst the labouring population. I also have been attached to the Infirmary for about 14 or 15 years, first as one of the surgeons and latterly as a physician. During that period I do not remember ever to have seen a case in which a child suffered in form or health from task to tasks or over work that is from doing more than was proper for a healthy child to perform either in intensity or its duration through a given number of hours.

The food and clothing I should say of children in this district is good and sufficient both in quality and quantity better than in most districts. Coal is abundant and accessible which is a great advantage to the poor. I think cleanliness fairly attended to and most of them cannot get education. generally they do obtain it to a certain amount.

Sickness and the casualties attendant are not I think heavy in amount. I should say the population enjoyed the full average health which may be expected for the generally prosperous condition in which they are placed. I think the Welsh people are kind and fondly attached to their children in a marked degree.

(Signed) GEORGE G. BIRD.  
Swansea, 3rd., October, 1841.

**No.244. J.G. Hall Esq., House surgeon, Swansea Infirmary. October 8th.**

In reply to your letter I beg to make the following remarks:-  
I consider the physical condition of the juvenile working classes to be equally good with that of other children in the neighbourhood and it does not appear that the early age at which labour is enforced makes any apparent difference between children so employed and others on the same neighbourhood not so employed. In external appearance the children are healthy and well formed. I

cannot perceive any difference in stature between the children constantly employed in labour and those who do not work.

The quality an quantity of food I consider adequate to maintain the health and strength of the children employed in constant labour and I consider them better off in regard to that than children of the neighbourhood who do not work.

They are generally well clothed and I do not know that there is any particular difference made in that respect in summer and winter. They are generally speaking cleanley in their persons.

The greatest number of cases of disease which come under my notice of persons employed in the collieries &c., of this neighbourhood are of a chronic character such as rheumatism and scrofula.

I believe I have given all the information I can ascertain from my practice. I send you the medical reports for the last two years and I may add that the benefits of this Infirmary are extensively enjoyed by the ingredient sick of distant places and in the districts of the iron works in and about Merthyr Tydvil are largely benefited by it. Great numbers of afflicted people from those parts become out doors patients and receive medical advice and attendance an have the benefit of the warm sea water baths.

(Signed) J.G. HALL.

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**The LLANELLY COPPER WORKS, belonging to Messrs. Sims, Willyams, Nevill and Co. and the CAMBRIAN COPPER WORKS, belonging to the English Copper Company, in the parish of Llanelly, Carmarthenshire.**

Statement of Persons Employed.

Name of the works	Adults		Young persons		Children		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Llanelly Copper Works	230	3	30	1	21		281	4
Cambrian Copper Works	110		13		8		131	
Totals	340	3	43	1	29		412	4
Total							416	

**No.245. George Brodie, aged 59, superintendent at the rolling mills at Llanelly Copper Works.**

They employ in these mills 12 or 13 boys under 18 years of age, the youngest are about 8 years old. There are 6 boys from 8 to 10 years of age an 7 boys from 14 to 18 years of age.

The youngest boys are employed to “pickle” the copper sheets after the have been rolled. The sheets weight from 4 to 12lbs. each. The boys take the sheets in their hands and dip them into a copper pan filled with the “pickle” or liquor. They then put them at the front of a furnace and a man puts them into the furnace and takes them out again when hot with tongs and them dips them into water and lays them on the ground at the side of the water pit. The boys then take them and put them up to the front of the furnaces to dry. Two boys are employed at each pickling furnace. There are two pickling furnaces. Each furnace pickles about two tons of copper sheets which are thus handled by the two boys in a day when in fill work. The pickling furnaces are near together and in the same building as the mill just behind the roll. The oldest boys are employed behind the rolls. Their employment is to receive the metal in tongs as it comes through the rolls and return it over the rolls back to the roller men who bring it in the first instance for the furnace men to the rolls. When the plates are heavy four boys are employed together but when the sheets are light one boy does it.

The boys come to work with the men at six o’clock in the morning and remain until about eight o’clock in the evening, when the mill stops. The men and boys work by the piece (or by the tin) and they do not account it “over time” until nine o’clock. They sometimes work until past nine o’clock when the mill is busy and occasionally to eleven and twelve o’clock but not often. The average time of working is from six in the morning to eight in the evening. The mill does not work at night.

The men and boys at the rolling mill are allowed half an hour for breakfast at nine o’clock and an hour for dinner at one o’clock but no time afterwards for tea but they generally get their tea brought to them and take it at intervals when the work will allow.

The rolling mill is well ventilated and there is no heat or vapour to make the place unhealthy in any respect. No accidents have occurred in the rolling mill requiring a surgeon, who attends them and their families when necessary and the proprietors pays 2d. per man per month.

The youngest boys wages generally amount to 6s. to 8s. per week and the oldest boys get from 10s. to 14s. per week. The mill rolls from 15 to 24 tons per week. The boys all receive their own wages every week.

There are not rewards or punishments for the children in the mill. Should they neglect their work or misbehave they are sent home and others employed in their places. There is no difficulty in getting fresh hands. The boys are never allowed to be beaten in the mill.

There is no particular sickness among the boys, and I never observed any particular complaint arising from their employment. They very seldom lose their work from sickness. There is only one boy that I know of none in the mill suffering from illness and he is consumptive. and was so before he came there. The boys all look as healthy as any boys in the neighbourhood and are equally well grown for their ages. They are generally well clothed and clean and tolerably well fed.

All the boys attend Sunday Schools, particularly the younger ones and they can almost without an exception read an easy book either in the Welsh or English languages and the most of them have some knowledge of writing as to write their names and figures.

There are no females working in the rolling mill. I do not consider that the boys employed at the rolling mill are over worked or that their employment is in any way injurious to either their health or morals.

**Cambrian Copper Works, Llanelly, Carmarthenshire, belonging to Messrs.  
Glascotts and Co., of London, and the English Copper Company, under the  
management of William Webb, Esq.**

**No.246. David Rees, aged 36, agent.**

They are now smelting copper ores and rolling copper on commission for the Company of English Miners. They employ on the works about 110 men and 21 boys but no women or girls, The boys are between 13 and 18 years old. The machines they employ is a small steam engine for pumping water to the works and winding up the ore to the furnaces or calciners and a larger steam engine of about 30 horse power at the rolling mill driving the rollers and other machinery for rolling copper into sheets and bolts.

About 12 or 13 of the boys are employed at the rolling mill and about eight boys about the works in tending the masons, cleaning old bricks and similar work. The boys commence working at these works at the age of from 12 to 13 years. No part of the work requires younger hands. The youngest boys are employed at the mill in dipping the copper sheets into the pickling liquor, drying them at the front of the furnace and carrying them to "the shears" where they are cut into shape and size.

The oldest boys are employed at rolls receiving the metal as it passes through and returning it back over the upper roller to the roller men. The boys do this in tongs, the metal being hot and then the cakes or sheets are heavy, two or three work at it together but when the sheets are light one boy can handle them. Both men and boys at the mill are employed by the time and job according to the number of tons of copper sheets made ready in the week. Some of the men get £2 per week but the most of them get about £1 per week and the boys get 5s. per week each.

In the smelting works they work day and night the hands changing every 12 hours but the rolling mill does not work at night but stops every evening at seven or eight o'clock. The men and boys come to work at six o'clock in the morning. The boys work the same hours as the men but do not work at night nor on Sundays. There is not stated times for meals in the smelting works but at the mill, meal times are allowed, half an hour for breakfast at nine o'clock and one hour for dinner at one o'clock.

The boys are seldom beaten at the works when they wilfully neglect their work or fight or use bad language. They are occasionally beaten with a rod by the steward but by no other person.

The fathers of the boys generally work either at the rolling mill or smelting works and they and the steward check bad language and misbehaviour in the boys as much as possible and if it is continued they are discharged but the boys on the whole are tolerably orderly.

The men and boys pay towards a surgeon who is appointed to attend themselves and families in all cases of accidents and sickness (except midwifery cases). They pay 4d. per month each, and the proprietors pay 2d. per month for each workman making together 6d. per month per man.

The works are well ventilated. All the smoke and vapour from the furnaces is collected into one great chimney or stack which is nearly 200 feet high and there is no oppressive heat where the boys

work. There is not much sickness among either the men or boys and I know of no particular complaint arising from their employment. very few accidents have occurred within the last two years and none of a serious nature.

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**REPORT by RHYS WILLIAM JONES, ESQ., on the Employment of Children and Young Persons in the Collieries of the western parts of the county of Glamorgan, and of Carmarthen and on the State, Condition and Treatment of such Children and Young Persons.**

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TO HER MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONERS.

GENTLEMEN,

Loughor, 30th. November, 1841.

The papers which I now take leave to send to you relating to the collieries of the western parts of the county of Glamorgan and is Carmarthenshire, comprise the last of the evidence in this inquiry which I have been able to collect.

Many of these collieries are worked to a considerable depth by pits or shafts and in some of the thinner seams of coal are more extensively wrought than in the collieries in the eastern part of the district.

In the works upon thin seams of coal, from the small size of the excavations, children and young persons are found more numerous employed than in these upon the larger veins but the coal mines of this part of the district are marked by the same feature as was noticed in my Report of the Iron Works of the same neighbourhood, as to the employment of females. women or girls being seldom engaged in or about them and scarcely every admitted into their subteraneous departments, the employment of which are considered as unsuitable for the sex.

This does not arise from any greater comparative prosperity enjoyed by the collieries in this locality, for on the contrary, I believe that their wages and resources are always rather inferior to those of the colliers and miners of the great iron works in the Merthyr and Monmouthshire districts. In this neighbourhood, however, it has not been the custom to subject females to such degrading labours as those imposed upon them in the mines of the more eastern districts and those who are found so employed here are generally parties who have migrated from places where this laudable respect and consideration of the female sex was not observed.

The fact of its not being customary to employ females in the mines of a large portion of the district, (where the earnings of the workmen are moderate), but rather that such a practice is repugnant to the tastes and feelings so of the people, strongly indicates that the necessity of subjecting them to such unsuitable and degrading labours in other neighbours, (where wages are comparatively high,) can only exist in the selfishness and ignorance of the people themselves and the inconsiderateness or avarice of their employers.

The circumstances under which children and young person are employed in the collieries of the western parts of Glamorganshire are described by the managers and agents as follows:-

**G. Byng Morris, Esq., the manager of the extensive collieries near Swansea, belonging to the Landore Company, states:-**

“In these works there are no children who, generally speaking, draw by the girdle an chain, although they may sometimes do so. The carriages or corves are driven to the foot of the shafts in some places by children and young persons, at others by horses. The children and young persons drive or hurry generally two at a time. No females are employed under ground in the colliery. The men work in the colliery about 10 hours a day and the same at night. Children and young persons works the same number of hours as the adults, day and night. There are no particular meal times as they work by the piece or the ton.”

**Mr. W. Gregor, manager and Mr. Edward Daniel, surveyor to the Swansea Coal Company's Works, state:-**

"In the works under their charge, when the distance is great, they employ horses to bring the coal to the mainways. In other places they employ boys from 15 to 18 years of age. No children draw with the girdle and chain, none of this class being required in the works but strong boys frequently convey or push the coals in the waggons 200 or 300 yards and work two together when required. The weight of the loaded carriages is about 15 cwt. each. The coals are brought to the surface by steam power applied to the pits and by horses applied to the trams in the levels. A few female adults are employed in taking out the slate at the surface and on the far, department. The children are generally taken to work from 8 to 12 years old. The youngest children are taken in to open and shut air doors, &c. The parent looks after work for the child every day. We think 12 years would be a very proper age for boys to begin to work in this district. We observe that they are very healthy but of a small size. They generally work about eight hours. In some of the works they work two sets, when they relieve each other about four o'clock and work till midnight. Children work fully as long as the adults. A very limited number are employed at night."

**Mr. John Parsons, proprietor of the Graig Ola Colliery, states that at his works:-**

"The coals are brought from the workings to the mainways in three mines by horses and in two mines by boys. There are not any children or young persons who draw by the girdle and chain. The carriages are driven or hurried by boys for about 80 yards. The weight of a loaded carriage is 5 cwt. of 112lbs. the coals are brought to the surface in the levels by horses and at the two shafts by fire engines. No coal is carried to the surface by children or young persons but young boys drive or push the carriages along the roads to shafts. Children or young persons drive or hurry, sometimes singly and sometimes two together. Two females are employed in the surface in selecting large coals and picking slates. The ages at which the children begin to work are from 9 to 10 in keeping air doors and from 13 or 15 in tramming coals. No part of the works requires children under nine years old. With reference to a limitation of the age at which children should be employed in the mines, I think children of nine years of age may begin to keep air doors their sole business is to be attentive in opening and closing them. The work is carried on each day from eight to nine hours. Neither children nor young persons are employed at night in these mines."

**Mr. Christopher James, proprietor of the Cwmllynfell "Stone Coal" Collieries, states:-**

"In our colliery the coal dips about seven inches in the yard. The stalls are driven or worked up about 70 or 80 yards from the horse way and the coal is brought by each collier and his helper in the stall down to the horseway by means of a small sledge or corve. It is then filled into the tubs or baskets and hauled by horses to the bottom of the pit to be raised to the surface by an engine. No children are employed for this purpose the works being all done by adults unless a child may occasionally be assisting and working with his father or other relations. There are not any children employed to draw with the girdle and chain. Our corves weigh about one third of the basket and the basket averages 11 cwt. which is brought up through the pit. We have persons following or driving the horses to the foot of the shafts but not hauling the carriage themselves.

*No females are employed in any department of our works.*

The children begin to work at any age the parents think proper to bring them as we do not for the reason stated below, interfere as to their age. Not any part necessarily requires the employment of children. The miners and colliers have a regulation among themselves to work not more than a certain number of baskets each turn, or working day, with an allowance of one, two or three extra for the assistance of a lad, according to his age and encouragement the parents to bring them is as young as we can get them to do so knowing that it is a mere excuse for sending more coal up and the become afterwards of use and the next workmen.

Our mines are carried on by two turns and the men are down from 8 to 10 hours, the night men leaving about six in the morning and the day men entering the work about eight and there is about an equal space of time between the change of turns in the evening. Children and young persons work the same number of hours as the adults. They change every alternate week and work one week in the day and the other week in the night. They change every alternate week and work one week in the day and the other week in the night. Being all job work, they seldom take any fixed time for meals in the pits.

We have no other rewards for attention than that the manager gives the steadiest young hands the first vacant stall to cut coal as soon as they become capable of taking it on themselves. They can earn the same, or nearly so as the best workmen.

I wish to observe that all the men in put employment are Welshmen from the neighbourhood, most of whom do not know the English language so as to hold a conversation in it. They are principally members of dissenting congregations in the neighbourhood and sober and steady and would wish could they afford it to better "advantages" to their children. A good schoolmaster would be a very great acquisition to the neighbourhood but the parents cannot afford to pay but a small amount, therefore they are obliged to put up with a very indifferent one."

In addition to the foregoing statement of Mr. Charles James, descriptive of the mode of employing children and young persons in the stone coal works of the neighbourhoods locally called "Cwmlllyfell" and "Cwm Twrch" (which is analogous to that practised in the collieries of the Yniseddwyn and Ystalavera Iron Works), I have also a statement from **Mr. Charles Green, agent at the Waun Clawdd Colliery, belonging to the British Iron Company**, in the parish of Ystradgunlais, Breconshire, one of the most northern works upon the Swansea Canal. Mr Green states:-

"At their works were 41 man and 11 boys above and 7 under 13 years of age, are employed, the coal is brought from the workings (in the Nine Feet Vein) to the horseways principally in waggons by horses driven by the boys from 10 to 17 years old, and no children or young persons are employed to draw work the girdle and chain. The coal is so conveyed through the mine by horses nearly two miles where it is hurried by boys. They work singly or together.

*No females are employed in any capacity.*

As the physical energies of a child must, of course, be more fully developed in a pure than in an impure atmosphere, a limitation of the age at which children are employed in mines must be considered desirable, and the longer a child keeps from this work the better. The usual period of work per day is from eight hours and children work the same number of hours as adults. They are sometimes employed at night (the same number of hours) when an extra quantity of coal is required. No particular time is allowed for meals. Each person eats when he can find time. No such institution as a school or sick fund is directly connected with our works."

The state of education on the vicinity of the stone coal works of this part of the district is shown by the Mr. P. Moir Crane (quoted in my former Report) and for a description of the schools among the collieries and copper works in the parishes of the Rev. Henry William in the Appendix hereto.

In the collieries in which the smaller veins or seams are worked, boys, as before observed, are found more numerous employed, and their work may be said to be more severe than in the larger mines when the excavations are less confines. In some of the thin coal seams, the space in which the men work is under two feet in height, compelling them to perform their labours in a recumbent posture and the children who draw or cart away the coals to crawl for the greatest part of the day on their hands and knees, dragging the cart after them by means of a "trace" or girdle and chain.

Labour thus performed must undoubtedly be severe to both men and children, particularly when the mines are steep and wet but it is remarkable, when accustomed to it, with what facility they perform their work and I have known boys, after having become habituated to their employment in small veins, prefer continuing in them to being employed to apparently less fatiguing and more desirable situations.

The labours and circumstances of a collier in Carmarthenshire, in which some small vein from two to three feet in thickness were worked in pits or shafts about 80 fathoms deep, and in which about 70 children and young persons were employed, are described by one of the agents which as been upwards of 25 years engaged in conducting it, as follows:-

[This description of the employment of children, &c., refers to the collieries near Llanelly, Carmarthenshire, but the mode of working is so similar that it may be considered to apply to all the works on the smaller veins in this part of the district.]

The youngest boys employed were from five to six years old. They kept doors that directed the air ways of the workings. They opened them and when they heard the trams or corves coming out or going in and to shut them again immediately the trams have passed to prevent the current of air being turned off from its right course. The doors were most commonly in the mainways along which the coals were brought out from the stalls to the pit. The door boys were mostly the sons or near relatives of the colliers. They were not very numerous, there were about 10 of them in the whole works, the oldest of whom were about 10 years of age but they all came to the works from six to seven years old. The man brought then to the works at six o'clock in the morning and they remain down at the doors until six in the evening and very often until seven o'clock being about 12 or 13 hours.

The works are entered by ladders placed perpendicularly down the side of the pit and divided by stages or platforms every 20 or 30 yards. The people entered the works in the morning by ladders and the youngest boys were carried down tired on the backs of their fathers or friends but they generally came out of the works in the baskets which brought up the coals, raised by the steam engine. There was no extra protection made use of when the men and boys came up excepting that a signal was made to the engine boy who then worked the machine more cautiously. The boys generally came up together from five to seven at a time.

This colliery was worked night and day when in full work and the "turns" change every 12 hours, at six o'clock morning and evening. The door boys remained at the door without light and have been known to



remain at work (when only one turn worked) until eight o'clock (or 16 hours) but when two turns were at work they changed pretty regularly every 12 hours.

The trams in most places were brought out by horses driven by a boy about 10 years old and mostly passed through the doors every quarter of an hour. The "cutters" and "trammers" are paid according to the number of baskets or corves they work and bring to the pit bottom in their "turn." The cutters cut the coals generally faster than the boys can get it out. They mostly do their days work in 8 or 10 hours and leave the boys to bring out the coals which task often occupies them fully 12 hours, and the door boys are kept down the last.

There is no stated time for meals in the under ground part of the works, either for men or boys. They all take down a bag of bread and cheese, or butter with them which they eat occasionally as their work will allow. The bread is sometimes "barley bread" and not very plentiful. I have often known boys go to work with a short allowance of bread and cheese or with a piece of bread and in some instances without any in which cases they depend on a share of the supplies of their fellow workmen, the shortness of their own being occasioned by the poverty or improvidence of their parents or friends. I have seldom seen either men or boys take anything with them into the works but bread and cheese, or butter. They drink water, which, when not found in the mine, they get from wells on the surface.

The boys, particularly the youngest, are sometimes badly clothed and bring no change with them to the works, but whether wet or dry, they return to their homes (perhaps a mile off) in the same clothes in which they work. I know of no class that are worse clothed than the little collier boys of this neighbourhood. I consider this to be occasioned by the improvidence or poverty of their parents as the youngest boys in the works generally belong to very large families or are the children of widows whose husbands may have lost their lives by accidents in or about the works.

The wages of the door boys are 6d. per "turn" either by day or by night and this 6d. per turn is a great inducement to the poorer class of families to send their boys to the works at the earliest age at which they can get the agents to employ them and frequently before they go down the pits without being carried. Door boys very seldom work a "double turn."

The next employment to which the boys are put to is to "cart" the coals cut by the cutters in the headings, down to the mainways or roads, where it is filled into the trams or corves and generally conveyed by horses to the pit bottom. The boys so employed are called "carters" and are the most numerous class of boys in the works. The youngest carters are about eight or nine and the oldest about 15 years old. These boys are generally the sons of the cutters and work with their fathers. They are paid separately, according to the quantity of coal brought out but either their parents or friends generally attend the pay tale for their wages. The cart in which the draw the coals from the heads to the mainways will hold about two and half bushels of coal but the largest cart will hold about five bushels and will weight about 5 cwt. The small sized cart is drawn by one boy generally down the inclination of the mine when full and up empty. The boys draw the carts by means of leather straps passing over their shoulders and round their waists to which a chain and hook is attached to be hooked to the cart which in the small veins they most commonly draw after them working in a crawling or creeping posture. The carters also fill the coals into their carts behind the cutters and draw them on an average from 70 to 80 yards and sometimes upwards of 100 yards every 70 yards being called "a stage" and the price or wages given is 1s. 6d. for 40 carts drawn 70 yards and 1d. advance (per 40 carts) for every extra 20 yards. At this rate the boys will usually get from 10d. to 1s. a day by working 12 hours.

When the inclination of the mine exceeds above one foot perpendicular to four feet horizontal, two boys are put to cart together, their carts being those of the largest size and attached to a chain (at one end) and the chain is passed through a block or sheave at the top of the inclined carting way and one cart goes up empty while the others come down full, the gravity easing the draught (on the principle of the "Self acting incline plane,") the boys going up and down with the carts, guiding and assisting to draw or push them along as well as to fill and empty them at the respective ends of the journey. Some of these chains are 100 yards long and the oldest boys are generally put to this mode of carting.

I consider the employment of carting the most laborious to which the collier boys are put it being hard and continuous work, frequently 12 or 14 hours duration without any stated time for meals or rest and often without a stoppage or interval of a quarter of an hours duration at the same time during the "turns."

Boys of the same ages as the carters (from 9 to 15) drive the horses in tramming out the coals from the side of the mainways where the carters leave it to the pit bottom which is considered lighter work than carting as the boy rides on the tram in and out. The most steady and best tempered boys are selected for driving the horses. The divers are also generally paid by the number of trams brought out, their wages per day amounts to about the same as the carters.

The next stage of employment to which the boys are put to is to tram out of the coals from the carters to the pits, in those works, or parts of the works where from the size or nature of the veins horses are not used. This employment is termed "tramming" and the boys so employed are called "trammers." These boys are generally from 15 to 18 years of age but many are over that age as all the young hands continue trammer while waiting for the better kinds of employment given to the men. The trammers go into the works at the same time and in the same way as the other boys and men by the ladders and in the baskets and remain down until the whole of the coals cut by the cutters are brought out fully 12 hours.

The cutters generally go down the first and the trammers, carters and door boys remain down the last. The trammers are paid by the quantity brought out, and commonly earn about 2s. to 2s. 6d. per day or turn.

Most of the men and boys are paid according to the quantity worked or by the “weigh,” or “wey,” which wey in the men’s account at the Llanelly Collieries, contains from six to eight tons, but the wey sold to the shipping is accounted five tons, although frequently overweight. The prices per wey paid the different workmen are on an average for the small veins as follows:-

To the man for cutting	5s.	per way, they get per day about 3s.
To the boys for carting	1s. 6d.	per wey they get per day about 11d.
The boys for driving	1s. 6d.	per wey they get per day about 1s.
The boys for tramping	1s. 6d.	per wey for the first 60 yards they get per day about 2s. 4d.

For any distance above 60 yards the trammers have an advance of 2d. for every additional 20 yards until the price becomes 2s. 6d. per wey then the advance is only 1d. for every extra 20 yards.

In these collieries the place on which the boys work are well ventilated. particularly of late years but I recollect some years ago when there was a scarcity of air and a good deal of firedamp in some of the works. No fire however of much importance has taken place in them for several years past. About 15 years ago I was myself with 12 others burnt very much by an explosion of firedamp in a works near Llanelly. Within the last 25 years, I recollect 24 fatal accidents at one works from other causes. The first I remember was about 25 years ago when a man fell down the ladders at the pit and so injuring himself that he died in two days. A little time afterwards a man lost his way in the dark in the under ground workings and dies before he was discovered and about 12 years ago two men were killed in a pit by a basket falling upon them. Shortly afterwards two men were killed by the falling of some stones from the roof and three men lost their lives in a new pit that was being sunk by the basket falling on them. Two men and three boys (from 10 to 16 years old) also lost their lives by descending in the basket, the winding engine being accidentally turned the wrong way and the basket being run up to the cap of the framing when the chain broke and precipitated them to the bottom of the pit (82 fathoms deep) killing them on the spot. Another man shortly afterward lost his life in the same pit by chain falling upon him while he was coming up in the basket.

Four men and three boys (carters) were also killed in the works at different times by stones falling from the roof on the mine and by falling accidentally down the pits but none of these accidents have taken place within the last three years.

The boys in the works are under the care and direction of the underground overman (whose duty was also to look after the tramping roads and the airways). In a great measure also the cutters (who were often their fathers or relations) were expected to take care of the “carters.”

All parties were charged by the agent not to beat the boys, but in case of any mischief being done, or any quarrels arising among them, to bring the complaint to the agent and the boys were on such occasions called up, and sometimes fined out of their wages and sometimes sent home but ever subjected to corporal punishment and whenever they were ill treated by any one of the boys always came to complain to the agent who invariably checked it. I only recollect the agent once beating the boys himself when two of them were detected stealing apples on a Sunday for which he beat them with a basket rod. These boys were apprentices by the parish to the works and were consequently more particularly under the charge of the agent.

There were not regular system of reward or punishments excepting that both the men and boys ere fined of bad conduct or acting contrary to orders and rewarded in money for attention and industry in doing their work during busy times.

Their fathers or relations who might be in the works, however frequently beat their boys some of whom were extremely mischievous but if beaten by other parties these parents or relations would notice it and the complaint was sure to be taken to the agent.

The continual presence of their parent or friends or of the underground overman was a check upon the boys and kept them in a great degree from using bad language and from fighting. occasionally, however, broils and disturbances would take place and I have often seen both men and boys discharged in consequence.

When the by left their work at the end of the days labour, the overman and gents had no further control overtime until they returned the next day but still if any complaint was taken to them of any mischief done by these boys, and particularly on a Sunday, they always checked them for it and I consider that there was more care taken when they were at work than was afterwards taken of them by their own parents when at home.

Very few girls or women are employed at these works and none under ground. The only employment given to girls is to pick the slates and stones from the coal on the banks at the pit top. At one works there were about half a dozen girls from 6 years to 15 years old thus employed. They were paid according to the quantity of slates and stones which they picked at the rate of 4d. per basket of nine bushels. Old women, and sometimes the widows of workmen were also employed at this work and there was generally one or two such persons at work both the girls and frequently one or two on the youngest boys (as spare hands) who might not have worked at the time under ground. These girls came to work at six o’clock in the morning and left at six in the evening excepting in winter, when they left or nightfall. They earned from 4d. to 1s. per day.

I consider the boys who work in the collieries are equally healthy and well grown with other boys in the neighbourhood. I recollect but very few cases of deformity arising from accidents occurring in their employment and those cases which I do recollect have mostly happened above ground. One boy about 15 years old, some years ago, lost his leg from an accident at a water wheel and he was afterwards apprenticed by the parish to a tailor. Another boy about 6 years old, a door boy, was playing, about three years ago, with a capstan and got jammed between the end of one of the arms and a wall close to which it turned and was injured in the back from which he has not yet recovered and will be deformed for life.

There is no school attached to any of the collieries that I know of but the proprietors subscribe to the schools which may be established in their neighbourhoods to which many of the collier's children attend but very few boys above five or six years old can be induced to attend them. There are also now several Sunday Schools in the neighbourhood of the works which numbers of children, both boys and girls attend and many of the boys at the works can read an easy book in the Welsh language and some few of them can write. With in the last five years several night schools have been opened in the neighbourhood of the collieries which were much attended by many of the boys and at which they are taught a little English. By the means of the different school and the habit of attending Sunday Schools which has increased very much in the works four or five years, I believe that there are now but few boys in the works above five or six years old but what can read Welsh and but a small proportion of them above 10 or 12 years old that cannot read an easy book in English. The Sunday Schools are also the means of inducing a large proportion of boys to attend public worship in either Church or Chapel once at least every Sunday.

I know several men, now married and residing in the neighbourhood of Llanelli, who were, when boys, working under me and who commenced from 15 to 20 years ago as door boys. They are all able bodied workmen and the most of them have families. One man, named Thomas Harries, now aged about 32 years, who was a door boy is now become a local preacher in the Baptist persuasion but still follows his employment in the collieries. I do not know of any persons who worked in the collieries, when boys, have turned out particularly bad characters or more giving to drink than other workmen such as masons and carpenters.

I also know four whom now residing in the town of Llanelli who were, when girls, working in the colliery yard for two or three years. They are married and have families of fine healthy children and none of them that I know of have turned out bad characters.

I believe that most of the boys who are brought up in the colliery employments continue when men to work in the mines. I know of only two that were working in the collieries as boys who are not now colliers and those two went to sea,

The thickness of the coal seams worked at the collieries I most particularly allude to were three and half feet, two feet and 22 inches and together with the stone or rubbish which was taken out, the openings or excavations of the works were about three and a half to two and half feet high where the men and boys worked but in the mainways the top was ripped down to the height of five and half feet for horses to pass. The breadth of the mainways were about 6 feet and of the workings ways four or five yards and sometimes more. The most confined places were in the lower vein, which was 22 inches thick and the height of the space in which the cutters worked was very little more but the ways through which the boys principally carted the coals were cut to the height of 3 feet and upwards. The working of these small veins of coal was very tiresome to the new hands but both man and boys soon got used to it and went through their work easily."

The system of working the larger coal seams in Carmarthenshire is very similar to that pursued in the collieries near Swansea before described and the employment of children and young persons in one of the most considerable of them, the Llangennech Coal Company's Works, which produces that peculiar "smokeless coal" so extensively used for steam packets by the Government and the East India Company\* is thus described by Mr. Moses Seymour, the agent:-

"We employ 314 men, 62 boys between 13 and 18 and 45 boys under 13 years of age. No females are employed here in any description of work.

Our mines are entered by shafts, We have three or four pits at work. The pit to the Five and Half Foot Seam is 110 fathoms deep and that to the Four Feet Seam, 45 fathoms and the one to the Two and a Quarter Feet Seam, 20 fathoms deep. There was an explosion of carburetted hydrogen gas at this colliery

\*This coal is principally worked for about two miles from the town of Llanelli at the St David's Pit, 110 fathoms deep, the largest and deepest in the neighbourhood, and is exported largely in vessels of great burthen from Llanelli Dock to London and the ports of the Mediterranean, the East Indies and other packet stations at home and abroad. The exports in coal from the port of Llanelli are annually about 142,000 tons coast wise and about 26,000 foreign, total about 168,000 tons.

last summer by which two men and three boys lost their lives. The men were killed by "afterdamp" having stopped in the workings after the explosion took place.

The coals are conveyed from the workings to the horse roads by adults and young persons in trams. There are boys employed drawing by the girdle and chain in some places (generally called here "carting") from 12 to 17 years of age and in some cases children 10 years of age are so employed. It depends greatly on the situation. The weight of the cart they draw is 2 cwt. The distance adults and young persons convey the tram from the workings to the horse roads are from 150 to 200 yards upon average. Children are not employed at all at this work. The weight of the corve and tram is 10 cwt. when full of coal and is drawn or hurried by two young persons on rails. The coals are brought to the bank by machinery. Young persons drive the horses and carried to the bottom of the pit.

The employments of the youngest boys are door keeping, breaking or locking the small incline wheels and various other work on the bank and cleaning coal from slates &c. From 9 to 12 years of age they are door keepers and from 12 to 17 carters and helpers up. From 17 to 21 they are trammers and after that cutters. I think a limitation of the age at which children commence to work would be desirable if the time of the at limitation were used in educating them.

The work they have to perform is easy but the air in the pit is not so healthy for children as being on the surface. The regulated time for the pits to work are from six to six which is 12 hours. There is no relay of hands, except part of the men, who work, "day" or "bye work" and who only work eight hours.

There are six young persons employed at night in these mines to fill the empty baskets ready for the pit to commence drawing or raising coals in the morning at six o'clock. Under ground there are no regular meal times. They eat when they feel inclined to do so. There are no particular punishments or rewards for children. but young persons are fined half a crown for every offence, either by neglecting their work or for any improper conduct. There is no corporal punishment inflicted on young persons but if it is preferable to correct children which is done by the overman very slightly if he finds them neglecting their duty.

There is no school, reading room or library connected with this mine. There are a variety of sick funds and other clubs among the men themselves the most of them being in two of such clubs. In cases of sickness they receive 9s. per week by paying in 1s. 6d. a month and after being in the club for five years, they receive £9 in case of the person or his wife dying and the men pay 6d. per month to a surgeon who is attached to the works and who attends them and their families in n cases of accidents or illness."

In addition to the paper upon the education of children among the works near Swansea, by the Rev. Henry Williams. I also subjoin in the Appendix, a description of the schools at Llanelly by Mr. David Rees, minister of the independent congregations at that place. A paper by Mr. David Boulter, descriptive of the infant school at Loughor (attended by about 100 children) and a report of the physical condition of the labouring children at llanelly by Mr. D.A. Davies, and Mr. L. T. Howell, two gentlemen of extensive practice and professionally attached to several of the works.

I likewise attach to the Appendix a statement of the weekly earnings and expenditure of some of the workmen in the mines and manufactories of Glamorganshire and Carmarthenshire as well a s of some of the agricultural labourers in the rural localities of the latter county which I have collected for the purpose of comparison an contrast.

Having nor forwarded to you the whole of the papers and evidence which I have collected on this inquiry and which are, I fear, already become rather prolix considering the scanty information they contain. I shall, in conclusion, submit a few brief observations under the most prominent heads pointed out in your general instructions.

## **AGE AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN.**

Under this head I must refer to the tabular statement of the numbers employed in the works which I have visited and received returns from, comprehending about two thirds of this district, inserted in the Appendix to my first report and to the tabular statements interspersed in the preceding passage for the youngest ages at which children are employed and which will be found all through the district as described in the four paragraphs of that report.\*

On the following heads, viz. - HOURS OF WORK, MEALS, NATURES OF EMPLOYMENT, and STATE OF THE PLACE OF WORK, I must also refer to the observations in my first report which may be considered as applicable to the whole district.

\* It has been estimates (I believe by Sir John Guest) that the iron trade of the district of Glamorgan and Monmouth employs at least 50,000 and gives sustenance to 100,000 in addition to that number of operatives.

## ACCIDENTS.

Under the head I regret to add that, shortly after I left the neighbourhood of the iron works in September last, two very serious and distressing accidents occurred, one at the Tredegar Collieries from firedamp which proved fatal to two if not three of the colliers and the second at Pendarran Iron Works occasioned by the bursting of a large steam boiler in the old mill by which four men and a boy and one young woman aged 17, were killed, several other seriously burnt and a large proportion of machinery and buildings of the mill destroyed. The damage done to the works has, however been repaired and that part of the mills (after an interval of two months) is again in operation.

Accidents of this description are, fortunately not of frequent occurrence on this district and I believe that every practical precaution is taken to prevent them but when they do occur they are of so calamitous a nature that it is difficult to describe the appalling consternation they strike upon the neighbourhood or the overrate the imminent perils of the workmen are occasionally exposed to.

## HOLIDAYS.

For some observations which may be classed under this head, I beg to refer to my Report on the Iron Works of Merthyr and with reference to the stoppage of the iron forges of Sundays from 8 to 12 hours after considering the whole of the evidence on the subject, I entirely agree with Mr. Thomas Evans, in the decided opinion which he gives that "if it was a general rule in the trade it would be beneficial as well to the proprietors as the men," and that there can be no good reason or argument adduced against its being adopted. With the exception of the water pumping engines the labourers of the collieries and mines are, as a general rule, entirely suspended on Sundays and the same rule as mostly observed in the copper works.

## HIRING AND WAGES.

I have given in the preceding reports and evidence statements of the wages<sup>†</sup> earned by the workmen and children at the different works as I found them, at the time but I regret to say that subsequently such has been the depression in trade generally through the district and not only a further reduction of full 20 per cent. in wages has taken place but great numbers have been discharged from many of the collieries and ironworks and a greater reduction in the operation of the works is still threatened to meet the diminished demand for both iron and coal.

Numerous reasons have been set forth for the great and unusual depression at present experienced in almost all branches of commerce but I believe the true cause will be found in the almost insane "overtrading" of the great manufacturers and capitalists of the last few years.

It is impossible to look at the annually increasing "make" of the iron works, the enlargement of the old establishments, and the erection of new works, the new railways, harbours and docks constructed and the extensive mines opened in districts hitherto unworked, without coming to the conclusion that a period must arrive when the markets, however distant they may be extended, must be glutted and the demand fail to keep place in the forced race with supply.

The impetus given to the iron trade by the formation of the great railways seems to have subsided with their completion and the additional furnaces and new works which they appear to have been instrumental in calling into action must, for the present at least, be blown out and abandoned and the proprietors of the first must fall back upon the diminished "make" and the projectors of the latter, and their "victims" upon remembrance of their golden dreams and mourn for a time over their flattering but miscalculated and delusive prospectuses.

<sup>†</sup> It was stated by Sir John Guest in August last, that the wages of the Merthyr district ranged from 12s. per week for labourers to 18s. and 25s. for colliers and miners and for persons employed on the processes of iron making from 20s. to 30s. per week. Boys and women proportionally less. The wages of the neighbourhood had them within the preceding three months been reduced 20 per cent.

The fate of the workman is, however more severe. His only resource, when deprived of his comparative employment at the commencement of winter is his parish, which, however distant, suffers a share of the calamity occasioned by the overstrained speculations of the mining and manufacturing districts.

These speculations and their attendant high wages entice the agricultural labourer from his comparatively ill paid employment at home and collect great numbers of men into to the new localities where they soon exchange their frugal habits for extravagance and improvidence which their increased gains enable them to indulge in. The unleavened barley cake (still the food of a great proportion of the farmers of the western counties of this district) so exchanged for the best wheaten bread, the Welsh white cheese, at 2½d. per lb. for the best Cheshire or Gloucester at 8d. or 9d. The skim milk, butter milk or porridge, which formerly sufficed for the morning and evening meal is exchanged for tea not infrequently improved by a modicum of rum. The bacon which hitherto formed a treat once or twice a week and the thrice warned broth, is thrown aside for the daily appearance of superior butchers meat and beer and spirits. formerly only seen at fairs and markets, became their daily and almost only beverage. The wife gets credit at a shop and the husband at the pot house and this, whatever may be the amount of wages earned, they are not spent but forestalled and when the time of high wages is past there are no fragments of the wreck of prosperity to be gathered up. but the whole family return to the parish and most probably become chargeable to the poor's rate principally paid by a class of labouring agriculturists which prosperity and abundance such as these families have revelled in and squandered have never approached.

### **TREATMENT AND CARE - PHYSICAL CONDITION, - MORAL CONDITION, COMPARATIVE CONDITION.**

The substantial objects of the Commission appear to be the improvement of the physical and moral condition of the subjects of its inquiry. If confined to the physical alone, the search for the abuse or grievance connected with this mode of employment would be almost fruitless in South Wales. In its mineral districts it is not found that labour imposed during infancy or adolescence in an unwholesome atmosphere is continued until the laid face and emaciated form proclaims its ravages upon the constitution but, on the contrary, the youth of both sexes employed in and about the mines present a state of robust health which may vie with that of any equal number of persons of their class in any district of the kingdom. Perhaps so much can scarcely be said when the question of their moral constitution is taken into consideration but it bears a favourable comparison with reference to the amount of crime in other districts. When, however, the inquiry is extended to their educational condition, another aspect is presented and if by education anything more than mere imperfect reading is to be understood, then, as a mass, the working classes of South Wales may be safely said to be wholly uneducated.

The means of education in this district are exceedingly deficient in every point of view and with only the present opportunities of attaining it existing, no legislative interference with the age at which children are admitted into the works could I fear be attended with beneficial results.

A limitation of the age for commencing to the hours of continuing labour, is a physical point of view, as has been shown is, in this district, wholly uncalled for. It could therefore only be useful in allowing longer and more suitable time for education and moral training.

If, however, no better means of obtaining such education and training are provided and places within the reach of the working classes than at present exist, a prohibition from labour for any period after suitable employment could be obtained for the children would only be consigning it to an interval of idleness at home, infinitely more injurious to its future welfare than the severest labour to which it would, under the present system, be subjected in the mines or manufactories of South Wales.

To the want of education, particularly on the part of women of this country, I chiefly attribute that ignorant improvidence to which I have before alluded, and which is so baneful to the working classes. This seems to have been equally felt in the district of the cotton factories in 1833 as I find the following remarks in the evidence taken before the Central Board of the Factory Commission in that year:-

One of the greatest evils to the working man is the ignorance of the women of his own class, who are generally incapable of becoming either good wives or good mothers and who are sometimes little disposed to become either the one or the other from the vicious habits they have acquired previously to their being married. The practice of working men in general is to intrust the laying out of their money to their wives

and hence a knowledge of household duties, combining the habits of industry, cleanliness and economy, is of the first rate importance amongst the females of this class of society to the working men.

Mr. Charles Conway, in speaking of the Monmouthshire district, also point out the importance of a sound education to those destined to be workmen's wives and adds, "as long as the workman's home is ill managed, the public house is his resort."

Mr. Conway also unites with all parties who give the interests of the working classes their consideration in condemning the pernicious influence of the "beer shops." He observes:-

I think that all exertions are rendered almost nugatory as long as beer houses are allowed to pollute our land. The children may be moral but the men can hardly escape being drunkards as long as the poisoned chalice is presented to them at almost every house they pass. No education can ever cope with the moral pestilence.

The great increase in the consumption of intoxicating liquors generally in the kingdom and the rapid rise in the consumption of malt under the act to permit the sale of beer, is forcibly pointed out in a letter of William Farr, Esq., published in the second Annual Report of the Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages.\* And I believe that on no part of the has that increase been more extensive or more subversive of the morals and welfare of the working classes than in the mining and morals districts of South Wales.

The want of extended means of education the children of the working classes in the Merthyr district was forcibly pointed out by George Grenfell, Esq., (then manager of the Penydarran Works), in an ineffectual address to the public on the subject of the establishment of Infant Schools, in March, 1840. Mr. Grenfell observes:-

There is no employment in the iron works for children until they attain the age of eight to ten years and then if their fathers are miners or colliers they are generally taken by them under ground to the exclusion of all education, except in some few instances on a Sunday. It follows that unless they can be laid hold of in an infancy, when they can get no employment the great bulk of the population must continue to grow up wholly uneducated and is notoriously the case at present. Very few of the miners or colliers or men engaged in the iron works are able to read or write. It is to be wondered at that Chartism, or any other evil, should prevail where there is so much ignorance, where human nature is so left to its own depravity and when, in consequence of the wages of the workmen being high the opportunities are so great for indulgence in drunkenness and other vicious courses? Can the proprietors of the iron works expect the minds of the population to be well disposed without cultivation? A well might they look for the land to produce wheat if suffered to lie waste. As certainly will the human mind without education produce evil as the land will produce weeds, thorns and briers, if left to itself."

With reference to the comparative state of the children and young persons of the poorer classes in the same neighbourhoods, employed in the works, at home, or remaining unemployed, I must again beg leave to refer to my first Report upon the iron works and collieries of Monmouthshire, their marks in which may be applied to the whole district as far as inquiries have gone.

\*The consumption of intoxicating liquors has increased faster than the population in the past 20 years and the sale of spirits at a much more rapid rate than that of ale or wine, which can only be injurious when taken to excess. The average annual number of bushels of malt in which duty was paid in England was 25,834,345 in the five years 1820-4, 35,048,368 in 1834-8. In 1820-4 the quantity of wine returned annually for home consumption was 4,751,104 imperial gallons, in 1833-7 it was 6,461,886, gallons. In 1820-4 consumption duties were annually paid in England on 7,572,702 imperial gallons of proof spirits which in 1834-8 had risen to 12,021,484 gallons and the opium entered for home consumption rose in the same periods from 19,276 lbs. annually to 33,482lbs. The decennial rate of increase were for malt 24, wine 27, spirits 39, opium 53 per cent. Formerly, the annual rate of increase was only 1.2 per cent from 1810-14, to 1826-30 but the consumption rose rapidly under the Act to permit the sale of beer and the annual rate of increase from 1827 to 1836 was 3.3 per cent. The consumption of wines rose from 4,681,357 gallons (1820-3) to 6,617,363 annually in 1824-8 when the duty was reduced from nine shilling nine and a quarter pence to four shilling nine and three quarter pence per gallon. It then remained nearly stationary. Spirit drinking almost always ends in impairing health. It takes away the appetite, wastes the limited means of the artisan, deprives the family of food, clothing and clean, ventilated lodgings, leads to dissoluteness of every kind and must therefore be considered one of the indirect but certain causes of epidemics of fevers and of other diseases.

In conclusion I beg to state that although I have found a considerable degree of apathy exhibited towards the objects of this Commission generally and a reluctance in many instances felt to undergo the trouble of answering and filling up the printed papers issued from the Central Board I have uniformly met with the greatest readiness on the parts of the proprietors and managers of the works to allow of every inquiry being made amongst their workpeople and to give me any information I required from themselves.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

R.W. JONES, Sub-Commissioner.

Loughor, 30th. November,, 1841.

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## APPENDIX.

### **Statement of the Rev. Henry Williams. minister of St. John's Church, Swansea, and curate of Llangavelach.**

In the parish of St. John's, Swansea, here is a Sunday School connected with the Church of England, conducted in the parish church (there being no room large enough within the parish to hold 100 children, the usual number attending it) and there is another small one connected with the Dissenting Independents. There is a day but no evening school nor industrial school in this parish. The day school is situated at Hafod copper works and is a female charity school supported by J.H. Vivian Esq., M.P. As this parish is small and very near Swansea, the children of the workmen (able to do so) attend schools in the town and pay for them. At the Hafod school the children are taught reading, writing and needlework. The school is open at nine o'clock in the morning and at two o'clock in the afternoon. The children attending this school are principally females and do not work themselves in the mines and collieries nor in any other branch of trade or manufacture but are mostly the children of persons employed into the Hafod copper works and for that reason their schooling is paid for by J.H. Vivian, Esq., the proprietor of the works.

In the parish of Llangyfelach there are Sunday School connected with the Established Church with the Dissenting Chapels. There are also day school but no evening or industrial schools. The day schools are situated at Morriston, at Glandwr, at Llangyfelach and at Clydach (female) each of which is open for the attendance of young persons and children, at about ten o'clock in the morning but after they have done schooling some of them go to the works.

There is another school of the same kind at Clydach village. The children of the working classes who do not get a little education attend those common cheap schools (kept by very different masters) for three or four years but not regularly during that time being wanted at home by their poor parents to nurse of the youngest children or carry meat to their parents who are working.

The teachers connected with the schools with which I am acquainted are persons of very slender education. The only branches of instruction for which they are qualified are reading and writing (and that but indifferently) and the common rules of arithmetic. None of them have been trained as teachers.

The children of the workmen in these parishes go to work very young at nine or ten years of age, but some of them get a little schooling and can read and wrote a little before they go after which they continue employment. The removal of children from school at the age specified undoubtedly operates to their injury in after life, particularly as from being taught while in school by such indifferent masters, the progress they make in education is very little, scarcely sufficient to enable them to read and write in the most indifferent manner.

Could they be sent to a good infant school at two or three years of age and remain there four or five years they would attain during that time, under proper masters, sufficient education to qualify them for most common trades.

I do not consider the Sunday Schools sufficient to compensate for the loss of instruction in day schools as like the present day schools they are mostly conducted by incompetent persons. The progress of children in education does not depend so much on the number of years they are at school as on the system of teaching and on the abilities and religious principles of the master, for unless the mind is early imbued with orthodox religious principles no great good is attained.

I am sorry to observe that the education of the children the working classes is so imperfectly conducted and no sufficient pains taken to instil proper and wholesome religious principles into their minds that their morals are far from being when they should be in a Christian land, although possibly much better here than they are in some other neighbourhoods.



Most masters and mistresses in this part of Wales (and which is the case, generally, I believe) are very ignorant, and form not being properly qualified to teaching, having not been trained for this purpose and in my opinion almost everything connected with good education depends of the firmness of the masters. I am of the opinion (which is grounded on sixty years experience) that the better the rising generation is educated and grounded in the principles of the Church (to fear God and honour the King) the safer the throne and more glory to God.

(Signed) HENRY WILLIAM, Clerk.

**Mr. George Boulter, master of the infant school at Loughor.**

In answer to the question proposed to me, whether I thought provision for the education if the children at Llougher was sufficient to meet their wants? I answer I think so, but perhaps it would be well to state what we endeavour to teach them. Our first aim is to store their minds with religious truths and to form their moral character by these truths thinking that in order to their being good servants, neighbours or loyal subjects, they must be influenced by the knowledge and the fear of God. We also instruct them in reading, writing and arithmetic and I think if parents in this place would avail themselves of the opportunity of sending their children to school at the age w take them (that is from two or three years old) they would be fit by the time they were nine or ten years old for most situations in life.

You further asked if I thought any of them were taken away from school before sufficient instruction. I answer, that many since I have been in this place have been taken away at an early age, with scarce the knowledge of letters, writing or figures, whether this has arisen from, the inability of the parents to pay for their instruction and to keep them in school, or from mere carelessness with regard to the education of their children, I know not.

Again you ask me of any of them returned to school at any time after having been at work, I found any difference in their moral character. Having for some time kept a night school for the accommodation of those employed by day, and having been a constant teacher in the English Sunday School, I can say from many instances that have come under my notice, that there has nee a decided change for the worst. The children being more viscous an not so tractable.

But how, morally speaking, could we expect otherwise seeing that they are taken from school at such an early age and mixing with these whose ignorance is equal to their own, and whose moral character is on many points deficient.

When on the other hand, with the blessing of God, if their moral culture had been earlier commenced and continued till they had arrived at a proper age to be taken to work, we might have reasonably expected different results.

(Signed) GEORGE BOULTER.

**Statement of David Rees, minister of the Independent Chapels, Llanelly, Carmarthenshire.**

There are in Llanelly several Sunday School, three of which are connected with the three Independent Chapels in the town of Llanelly and one about two miles out of the town attended by 800 children, teachers and adults. There is also a branch of the National School and five or six other day schools in which the male children of the working classes are taught to read and write and a little arithmetic and several other schools for the education of respectable tradesmen's children

There are also three schools in which girls are taught to read and write and needlework. Four of the schools above mentioned are attended by colliers and copper workers children as well as other artisans children.

The branches of instruction taught in these schools are reading (principally) a little writing and Arithmetic. Very few connected with the inferior school have any pretensions to any degree of classic knowledge beyond a smattering of the English grammar.

The children leave the days schools at different ages, some at 10, most before they are 12 and most if the collier children are employed continuously at 12.

The removal of children so early operates to their injury very materially because leaving the schools so young, they have not discretion to value the little they have acquired and by the time they attain that discretion, they lose the taste for learning and so on many instances forget what they have learned. They should, I think, be allowed to remain to 15 years of age. Nothing is taught in Sunday Schools but reading and a little theological knowledge. I have known many instances in which the earnestness of the teacher in his or her appeals to the conscience of those under their care in Sunday Schools has resulted in the conversion to God. still I think that the bast conducted Sunday Schools lave a great deficiency in the education of children in order to become useful members of society.

In my opinion it would be highly desirable to have a branch of the "British and Foreign School" established here. It would very materially tend to promote general education in such a populous district as this is. I believe Sabbath Schools provide very extensively for the moral culture of the children of the working classes.

(Signed) DAVID REES.

## Report upon the physical condition of the children of the district of Llanelly, Carmarthenshire.

In this neighbourhood it is customary for children under 10 years of age to be employed in the coal mines and their physical condition appears to us to be somewhat deteriorated to their being put to work at so early an age as well as by the frightful accidents to what they inexperience necessarily exposes them and they are not infrequently, from the nature and extent of their injuries received at this age, maimed for life. Their form and health we believe to be influenced by the nature of their occupation and mode of life. As regards the former, an evident smallness of stature being the consequence, the frame being frequently ill formed and cramped. The health is generally delicate and a sickly appearance marks the inhabitants of the mine.

The custom of subsisting on dry food (bread and cheese) for eight to ten hours during the time of work, together with the inhalation of an impure atmosphere cannot otherwise, in our opinion, than operate in producing the results above described.

The clothing of the children we consider sufficient and as regards to their cleanliness, the nature of the work renders it necessary that they should wash the whole of their persons daily, the wholesomeness of which practice need not be remarked upon.

Further than the effect produced on their health by the nature of their employment as above mentioned, we do not consider the children particularly exposed to any peculiar disease or sickness.

Signed) D.A. DAVIES, surgeon,  
T.L. HOWELL, surgeon.

Llanelly, August 9th., 1841.

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## Statement of the Earnings and Expenditure of Workmen in the Iron Works and Collieries and of Agricultural Labourers of Glamorganshire and Carmarthenshire, September, 1841.

Edward Beddow, aged 30, a miner working at Rhymney who has a wife and one child one year old and earns £1 6s. per week.

Expenditure per Week			
	£	s.	d.
House rent and coal	0	3	6
Flour, 20lbs. at 2½d.	0	4	2
Cheese, 6lds. at 7d.	0	3	6
Butter, 1½d. lb. at 1s.	0	1	6
Bacon 2lbs. at 9d	0	1	4
Butchers meat	0	2	0
Sugar, 2lbs. at 9d.	0	1	6
Tea 3ozs., at 6d.	0	1	6
Salt, 1ld. ½d., pepper, 1d.	0	0	1½
Potatoes, 12 lbs. at ½d.	0	0	6
Soap 1½ lbs. at 8d	0	1	0
Candles, 2lds. at 8d.	0	1	4
Tobacco, 2ozs.	0	0	7½
Surplus for clothes, &c.,		3s.	5d.

A family of 10 persons consisting of the parents, seven children and one servant girl. Husband's earnings. £1 2s. 6d., one son, 7s. 6d., one ditto, 4s. 6d., £1 14s. 6d.:-

### Expenditure per week.

	£	s.	d.
50 lbs. flour	0	9	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
2 lbs. of butter	0	1	10
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. cheese	0	1	0 $\frac{3}{4}$
Animal food	0	4	0
3 ozs. tea	0	1	11
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of sugar, at 8d.	0	1	0
Soap and sundry small articles	0	1	10
House rent &c.	0	3	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Expenses, including clubs, ale &c	0	6	0
Drapery	0	6	0
	1	12	0 $\frac{1}{4}$

A family consisting of the parents and two children. Husband earning £1 5s. per week:-

### Expenditure per week.

	£	s.	d.
16 lbs. of flour	0	3	0
1 lbs. of butter	0	0	11
1 lb. of cheese	0	0	9
Animal food	0	2	3
2 ozs. tea at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	0	0	9
2 ozs. coffee at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	0	0	3
1 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. lb. of sugar at 8d.	0	0	10
Soap and sundry articles	0	1	9
Drapery, averaging	0	4	0
House rent &c.	0	2	6
Expenses, clubs, ale &c.	0	1	9
	0	18	9

In a family consisting of the parents, one son and two daughters. Husband's earnings £1 5s. 6d., son's ditto, 7s., in all £1 12s. 6d:-

### Expenditure per week

	£	s.	d.
24 lbs. of flour	0	4	6
2 lbs. of sugar	0	1	8
6 ozs. of tea at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	0	0	6
4 ozs. of coffee at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	0	0	6
2 lbs. of butter	0	2	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
2 lbs. of cheese	0	1	5
Animal food	0	3	0
Soap and sundry articles	0	1	9
House rent &c.	0	3	0
Expenses, clubs, &c.	0	2	0
Drapery	0	5	0
	1	7	4 $\frac{1}{2}$

Thomas Rees aged 28 years, miner at the Cyfartha Iron Works, Merthyr, earns 15s. per week and has a wife and one child two years old:

**Expenditure per week.**

	£	s.	d.
House rent and coal	0	3	0
14 lbs. of flour at 2½d. per lb.	0	2	11
1 lb. of butter at 10½d.	0	1	3½
2 lbs. of cheese at 7d.	0	1	2
Fresh meat and bacon	0	1	6
Tea, 3 ozs. at 4½d.	0	1	1½
Sugar	0	1	0
Tobacco	0	0	7½
Soap	0	0	3
	0	12	10½

William Hodge, aged 37 years, labourer at Cyfartha Works Merthyr, has a wife but no children and earns 12s. 6d. per week:-

**Expenditure per week.**

	£	s.	d.
House coal and rent	0	2	3
14 lbs. of flour	0	3	1½
1½d. lbs. of butter	0	1	3½d.
Butchers meat	0	1	6
Bacon	0	0	9
1 lb. cheese	0	0	7
2 ozs. of tea	0	0	9
Sugar	0	0	8
Tobacco	0	0	10½
Soap	0	0	3
Pepper and salt	0	0	1½
	0	12	2

David Thomas, collier of Llangennech, Carmarthenshire and has a wife and four children (two boys, eleven and four, two girls, seven and one years old). He earns 14s., one boy 4s., in all 18s. per week:-

**Weekly Expenditure.**

	£	s.	d.
20 lbs. of flour at 2½d.	0	3	9
20 lbs. of barley flour at 1½d.	0	2	6
7½ lbs. of cheese at 4d	0	2	6
1½ lbs. of butter at 11d.	0	1	4½
1 lb. bacon	0	0	10
1½ lb. of sugar at 8d.	0	1	0
1½ oz. of tea at 6d	0	0	9
1 lb. of salt	0	0	0½
Carried forward	0	12	0

Brought forward	0	12	0
1 lb. oatmeal	0	0	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of soap at 7d.	0	0	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. candles at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	0	1	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 oz. of blue	0	0	1
2 oz. of starch	0	0	2
Rent	0	1	2
Tobacco	0	0	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
	0	17	5

Surplus for clothes, 7d.

This man who is a steady character, feeds a pig, 14 or 15 score weight worth about £4 10s. every year and kills it in November when this and his potatoes assist him to get a little clothes and to pay his rent, which is left rather in arrears until that time.

John Doyle and Mary his wife, aged 34 years each with five children aged 12, 7, 5, 2 years and 6 months each. An Irish family residing in Llangennech. Man's wages from 14s. to 16s. per week. He is a collier and working by the piece:-

#### Expenditure per week.

	£	s.	d.
25 lbs. of flour at 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	4	8 $\frac{1}{4}$
5 lbs. of cheese at 4d.	0	1	8
1 lb. of butter at 11d.	0	1	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
2 lbs. of bacon at 10d.	0	1	8
1 lb. of sugar at 8d.	0	1	0
1 oz. of tea at 6d.	0	0	9
1 lb. salt	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
84 lbs. of potatoes at $\frac{1}{2}$ 4	0	1	9
$\frac{3}{4}$ lb. of soap at 7d.	0	0	5 $\frac{1}{4}$
1 lb. of candles at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	0	0	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Starch and blue	0	0	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 oz. of tobacco	0	0	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
Milk	0	0	3
Rent	0	1	0
	0	15	8 $\frac{1}{4}$

Griffith Daniel collier, single man living in lodgings near Llangennech, earning 20s. per week:-

#### Weekly Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
12 lbs. of flour at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	0	2	6
1 lbs of cheese at 4d.	0	0	6
1 lb. of butter	0	0	11
1 lb. of bacon	0	0	10
1 lb. of sugar	0	0	8
1 oz. of tea	0	0	6
$\frac{1}{4}$ lb. salt	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{4}$
12 lbs. of potatoes	0	0	3
$\frac{1}{2}$ oz. pepper	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of soap	0	0	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. lb. of candles	0	0	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
4 ozs. of tobacco	0	1	3
	0	10	2

Surplus, 9s. 6d. Is supposed to spend it in beer, very little attention paid to his dress.

David Jones aged 28 years, labourer at the collieries, wage 28 years and one child four years old, earning 12s. per week and feeds a pig:-

### Expenditure per week.

	£	s.	d.
35 lbs. barley flour at $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.	0	4	$4\frac{1}{2}$
6 lbs. of cheese at 4d	0	2	0
1 lb. of butter at 11d.	0	1	$4\frac{1}{2}$
$1\frac{1}{2}$ d. lb. of sugar at 8d.	0	1	8
$1\frac{1}{2}$ d. oz. of tea at 6d	0	0	9
$1\frac{1}{2}$ d. lb. of salt	0	0	$0\frac{1}{2}$
$\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of soap $1\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of candles $3\frac{3}{4}$	0	0	$5\frac{1}{2}$
$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of oatmeal, 1, oz. of blue	0	0	$1\frac{3}{4}$
1 oz. of starch, 1d, tobacco $3\frac{1}{2}$ d.	0	0	$4\frac{3}{4}$
Rent	0	1	0
	0	11	$6\frac{1}{2}$

$5\frac{1}{2}$ d. for clothing and sundries  
Grow their own potatoes.

William Jones aged 36, copper men at Llanelly, Carmarthenshire, has a wife, aged 47, with four children aged 16, 10, 4 and 1 years. Earnings 15s. wife 2s. Total earnings 17s.

### Weekly Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
24 lbs. of flour at $2\frac{1}{2}$ d.	0	4	6
15 lbs. of barley at $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.	0	1	$10\frac{1}{2}$
Cheese 7 lbs. at 4d.	0	2	4
Butter 2 lbs. at 11d.	0	1	10
2 lbs. sugar at 8d.	0	1	4
1 oz. tea at 6d.	0	0	6
1 oz. of coffee	0	0	2
1 lb. of salt	0	0	$0\frac{1}{2}$
Oatmeal	0	0	2
$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. candles at $7\frac{1}{2}$ d.	0	0	$3\frac{3}{4}$
Blue and starch	0	0	1
2 ozs. of tobacco	0	0	$7\frac{1}{2}$
Rent per week	0	1	6
	0	15	$10\frac{3}{4}$

Feeds pig worth £4 and grows his own potatoes, has his coal from the works in addition to wages.

Edward Hugh, collier aged 40, has a wife aged 36 years and six children aged respectively 16, 14, 9, 7, 4 and 2 years old. Earns 10s. per week and his sons 8s., in all 18s. per week:-

### Weekly Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
26 lbs. of flour at $2\frac{1}{2}$ d.	0	4	$10\frac{1}{2}$
19 lbs. of barley flour at $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.	0	2	$4\frac{1}{2}$
5 lbs. of cheese at 5d.	0	2	1
2 lbs. of butter at 1s.	0	2	0
$1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of sugar at 8d.	0	1	0
1 oz. of tea	0	0	6
2 lbs. of salt, 1d. $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. of soap, $4\frac{1}{2}$ d.	0	0	$5\frac{1}{2}$
Starch and blue, 1d., tobacco, $3\frac{1}{2}$ d.	0	0	$4\frac{1}{2}$
Rent including garden	0	1	9
	0	15	5

Feeds pig and grows his own potatoes and gets coal from the works in addition to his wages.

William Evan, collier aged 40 and his wife aged 37 and seven children aged respectively 12, 11, 9, 6, 4 and 2 years and one 8 months. Earns 12s. per week (have been earning 13s. per week:-

### Weekly Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
12 lbs. of flour at $2\frac{1}{2}$ d.	0	2	6
19 lbs. of barley flour	0	2	0
6 lbs. of cheese at 3	0	1	9
$1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of butter at 1s.	0	1	6
1 lb. of sugar, 8d., 1 oz. of tea $4\frac{1}{2}$ d.	0	1	$0\frac{1}{2}$
11 lb. of salt, $\frac{1}{2}$ d., $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of soap $3\frac{1}{2}$ d.	0	0	$3\frac{3}{4}$
Starch and blue, $\frac{3}{4}$ , $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of tobacco $5\frac{1}{4}$ d.	0	0	6
Rent 1s. 2d. per week ad potatoe garden 9s. per year, or 2d. per week	0	1	4
2 lbs. butchers meat at 5d.	0	0	10
	0	11	9

Gets coal from the works in addition to his wages.

John Williams, 23, Mary his wife, 28 years with one child one and a half years residing near Llannon village, Carmarthenshire. An agricultural labour and earns about 10s. per week:-

### Weekly Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
6 lbs. of flour at $2\frac{1}{2}$ d.	0	1	3
18 lbs. of barley flour at $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.	0	2	3
3 lbs. of cheese at 4d.	0	1	0
$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of butter at 11d.	0	0	$5\frac{1}{2}$
$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of sugar at 8d.	0	0	4
1 oz. of tea	0	0	6
1 lb. of salt	0	0	$0\frac{1}{2}$
$\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of soap	0	0	2
Starch and blue	0	0	1
Coal	0	0	4
Rent	0	1	0
1 oz. of tobacco	0	0	$3\frac{1}{2}$
	0	7	$9\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Feeds pig every year and grown his own potatoes.

Evan Evans aged 28 has a wife aged 23. Agricultural labourer residing at Llannon with two children age 6 and 2 years. Earning 11s. per week. The wife earns about 1s. per week at harvest and other work:-

#### Weekly Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
6 lbs. of flour at $2\frac{1}{2}$	0	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$
26 lbs. barley flour At 1	0	3	3
7 lbs. of cheese at 4d. $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. butter at 11d.	0	2	9
1 lb. of sugar at 8d., 1 oz. of tea at 11d.	0	2	9
$\frac{1}{2}$ oz. coffee	0	0	1
1 lb. salt	0	0	$0\frac{1}{2}$
Oatmeal, 1d., $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of soap at 7d.	0	0	$4\frac{1}{2}$
Candles, 1d., blue and starch, 1d.	0	0	2
3 ozs. of tobacco at $3\frac{3}{4}$	0	0	$11\frac{1}{4}$
Coal	0	0	6
Rent	0	0	7
	0	11	1

Grows his own potatoes and feeds a pig work £3 every years.

Thomas Jones aged 41. Agricultural labourer at Llangennech with wife and six children age 14, 12, 10, 7, 4 and 2 years, earning 12s., wife 2s., and boy 6s. in all 20s. per week:-

#### Weekly expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
50 lbs. barley flour at $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.	0	6	3
10 lbs. cheese at 4d.	0	3	4
1lb. butter	0	0	11
2 lbs. sugar at 8d.	0	1	4
$1\frac{1}{2}$ d. oz. tea	0	0	9
1 lb. salt	0	0	$0\frac{1}{2}$
1 lb. oatmeal	0	0	$2\frac{1}{2}$
$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. soap	0	0	$3\frac{1}{2}$
$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. candles	0	0	$3\frac{3}{4}$
1 oz. blue	0	0	1
1 oz. starch	0	0	1
Rent	0	1	0
1 oz. tobacco	0	0	$3\frac{3}{4}$
	0	4	11

Surplus for clothes, 5s. 11d.

A steady man and his family all tolerably well clothed.



## EVIDENCE COLLECTED BY RHYS WILLIAM JONES, ESQ.

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**No.247 LANDORE COLLIERY** belonging to the Landore Colliery Company. The collieries near Swansea, belonging to the Swansea Coal Company, both in the parish of Llangafelach. The **GRAIGOLA COLLIERY**, belonging to the Graigola Coal Company. A Colliery at Graigola, belonging to Mr. John Parson both in the parish of Cadoxton and the **CWNLLYNFELL COLLIERY** belonging to Messrs. James and Aubery in the parish of Llanguike, Glamorganshire.

### Statement of the Number of Persons Employed

Works	Adults		Children		Young persons		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Landore colliery	247	3	47		57	3	6	
Swansea colliery	351	20	29		48		428	20
Graigola colliery	45	1	9		10		64	1
Parson's colliery	83	5	9		20	2	112	
Cwmllynfell collieries	107		6		11		1254	
Total	833	29	100		146	5	1079	

Total number employed 1113

At the Landore colliery the youngest children are 3 boys of 8 years old and 5 boys 9 years old. 23 can read.

At the Swansea colliery the youngest children are 5 boys of 9 years old. Of the young persons 41 can read and 6 can write and 73 attend Sunday Schools.

At the Graigola colliery the youngest child is a boy of 9 years. Of the young persons 41 can read, 6 can write and 14 attend Sunday Schools.

At the Parson's colliery the youngest children are 3 boys of 9 years old. Of the young persons Of the young persons 14 can read, 8 can write and 31 attend Sunday Schools.

At the Cwmllynfell collieries the youngest child is one boy of 9 years. Of the young persons 11 can read an 4 can write.

### Examinations taken at the LANDORE COLLIERIES, near Swansea.

#### **No.248. William Williams aged nearly 13 years and John Williams aged nearly 12 years.**

William has been working for about two years and John for nine months. We pork at the Weeg Pit belonging to Sir John Morris and we are "carting" and "scooting". William carts and John scoots. "Scooting" is helping the trammer or carter by pulling before him with a hook made fast to the tram or cart. There are about 28 boys like us working in the pit. The vein is thin, not quite a yard thick. We go own about six o'clock in the morning and remain down 12 hours. We do this every day except Sunday. There is a night turn but we work at night every other week. The night turn begins at six o'clock on Sunday night.

There are no regular time for meals in the pit but we get enough time to eat. We eat bread and cheese, or butter and have tea, sometimes cold and sometimes we warm it. We never have bacon or meat in the pit. Out work is hard because the place is small and we are down long but we have our health well and have not had any accidents.

We live nearly two miles for the works. We can both read a little English which we learnt at the Penllergare School. We go to Sunday School sometimes but we cannot always go for we work at night. We sleep on Sunday to begin work at six on Sunday night.

#### **No.249. David Evan, aged 16.**

I am a trammer in the Weeg Pit. I push the trams along the road to the pit and have a little boys about seven or eight years hold helping me. He is called a "scooter." I have been about a year in the Weeg but I have been working since I was seven or eight years old. I began as a carter in a colliery near this place. I was burned there about a year or more ago and was home ill for three months. I was burned by the firedamp but not very bad, only my hands and face, I have got quite well since

that. We works at the Weeg Pit from six to six and at night every other week. We begin at six o'clock on Sunday night when it is our week to be on night turn. We were down last Sunday night. The pit was not working. I have not known of any accidents at the Weeg Pit since I have been there. I get about 1s. 6d. per day and the little boy who is with me get 7d. per day. I pay him out, but the masters pay us both. The little boy's name is David. I don't know the other name but his mother is called "Mary Levi" and his father is dead. I have never been in school and cannot read and write and I have not been ion Sunday School and can read neither Welsh nor English.

**No.250. John Morgan, aged 13.**

I have been working for four years. I am now tending the fire engine underground. I work form six to six and sometimes to eight in the evening and I work at night every other week. I get 10d. per day. I do not lose much time and am very seldom sick. I go to the Sunday Schools but I can't read.

**No.251. William Phillip, aged 12.**

I have been working two years. I am now "scooting" in the yard vein. I go down at five in the morning and remain down sometimes to eight in the evening, if anything happens to detain the work. I work at night every other week. The turns ought to change at six o'clock. I help to push a cart or tram from the headings to the mainway. It goes on wheels or rails. It carries 4 cwt. The vein is two feet ten inches high. I do not lose much time and have met with no accidents. I get 10d. per day.

**No.252. Samuel John, aged 12.**

I have been working for three years. I drive the horses at the foot of the "inclined plane" above ground and I take care of the latches on the road. I work from six to six, sometimes later and sometimes sooner as the works call. I get 8d. per day. We get the money every week. or something on account and are paid out every month. I never work at night. I have met with no accident. I so to the Sunday Schools and can read a little Welsh.

**No.253. William Jones, aged 15.**

I have been in the works for four years. I am now a driver at the foot of the "incline." I do the same kind of work as Samuel John. I can read a little Welsh but no English. II can't speak English. I learnt to read at Sunday Schools. I go every Sunday. I was never working under ground.

**No.254. John Phillip, aged 10.**

I have been working at these works for two years. I work under ground in the yard vein. I lay down plates or rails on the roads. My work is called "planking." I was carting or trammig before I went to my present work. I work at night every other week. I am down in the works twelve hours a day. I broke my leg about five months age and was at home three months. I was coming down with my tram to the horse road and there was a waggon and horse coming along at the time, I slipped down the waggon went over my leg and broke it above the knee. It is well now but I have not been trammig since. I do not know what wages I get but I think 8d. per day. My mother has the wages. I was in school for four years but I never learnt to read.

**No.255. Thomas Jenkins, aged 10.**

I have been in the works two years. I am a "scooter" in the little vein. I work with another boy and his name is John Hugh who is 16 and he is a "trammer." We push the tram along the rails. I get 8d. per day. We go to work every morning before six o'clock, about half past five, and come up at six in the evening. We work at night every other week. My work is not very hard and I always work with a trammer. We have no dinner time under ground and I eat when I can. I go in with the empty trams I sometimes get into it and eat there and the trammer pushes and he does the same when I push. We have not many spells of spare time in the works. I have never met with an accident. My father is dead and my mother has seven children. There are two working besides me. One is a door boy he is seven years old and the other is driving a horse in the little vein. The "waggoners" sometimes beat the boys with the whip when they do not mind to get the coal out of them and keep them waiting.

**No.256. William David, aged 12.**

I have been working six months, keeping a door in the Six Feet Vein. The door I keep is tow miles from the horseway where the works are entered. I sometimes walk in and sometimes ride in the waggon. I go down at six o'clock and remain in fully 12 hours. I work at night every other week. I have light and some of the door boys have a light where the air is not good but there is not

much damp where I am. I get 6d. per day. I have not met with much hurt in the works but one of the horses trod on my foot two months ago and I was home a week lame but it did not hurt me much. There are four boys keeping doors in each turn in the same works where I am. I can't read but I go to the Sunday Schools.

**No.257. John Mordecai, aged 10.**

I go down with David Jenkins to mind a fire in an old part of the works under the a pit at Cradley. I do not work much. We have nothing to do but mind the fire. There are no men working within two miles of us. We have to walk about two miles their the workings under ground to go and come from the Cradley air pit. I go more for company for the old man than to work. The company pays us both. I get 6d. per day. We are own with them nearly all day. I have been in school a long time. I paid 2d. per week. The boys that were ciphering paid 5d. and 6d. per week. I can read a little.

**No.258. David Davis, aged 11 and Morgan Gray, aged 13.**

We have both been working for five years and we are now working for David Davis's father, trammng water from a hollow in the Three Feet Vein. We push the tram or waggon with water about 80 yards. We go down at six o'clock and come up about three or four o'clock in the day. We do not work at night. We walk down the horse way. David Davis works with his father. Morgan Gray gets 1s. per day. Neither of us can read. Morgan has been in school in a short time and we go to the Sunday Schools. David was never in a day school, Morgan was only in one for about two months.

**No.259. John Charles, aged 13.**

I have been working for two years. I drive a horse in the Six Feet Vein. My horse is a spare horse helping the others horses to draw up from the dip or lower part of the works. I work from six to six and at night every other week. I have been a door boy and have been hitching waggons at the engines under ground, and I have been carting or trammng in the Yard Vein. The trammng was the hardest work. I now get 1s. per day. I have been in school for nearly two years before I came to work. My father is dead nearly 10 years ago. My mother paid 2d. per week for my school. She has four children. I can read a little but not much. I have met with no accidents.

**No.260. John Hughes, aged 15.**

I have been working five years. I am now trammng in the Yard Vein. I have a scooter to help me. We tram from the heads to the horse road, a distance of 100 yards. Our work is away from the horse way or entrance of the works more than mile. It takes half an hour to walk through the works to the place where we tram. We go down at six o'clock and come up sometimes at five and sometimes at six or later. We work at night in our turn. I was never in a day school but I go to Sunday School. I cannot read and I cannot speak English.

**No.261. Philip Philip, aged 11.**

I have been working for two years, I was one years carting at another colliery before I came here and was keeping a door for a short time before that. I have been here nearly a years and I am now carting or trammng in the yard vein. My father was killed at this colliery. He fell down a pit it is along time ago. I do not recollect the time. My mother has seven children two of whom are working here besides me. One is a haulier he drive a horse in the colliery, the other is working an engine. I get 8d. per day. I do not lose time from sickness but very seldom and I have met with no accidents. I have been in school for a short time, but can't read.

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**Loughor Colliery, Glamorganshire, worked by William Cameron, Esq.,  
employing about 50 people. April 10th.**

**No.262. John Richards, aged 59.**

I have been overman at this work for the last nine years. There is one pit only sunk to the vein of the depth of about 42 fathoms. This pit divided by a partition into two parts, one for the pumps for raising the water and one for winding up the coals which is done by a steam engine. The vein is

about 5 feet high. All the mainways of the works are of that height but some of the carting ways are only four and half feet high.

There are no employed in the works no more than 12 boys under 8 years of age but there were more about four or five years back. The works have since deceased. The boys are all under my charge. I have two door boys, 10 and 11 years old, One has been in the works for two years, the other for a year. They come to work at six o'clock in the morning and leave in the evening from four o'clock, mostly about six, not often later. The little boys stands by the air doors to open and shut them when the trams pass in and out. They sometimes have lamps but not often. When they have light it at their own expense. Their wages are 6d. per day. The door boys and all the other people go into the works by the pit. They are lowered in the baskets by the engine. Three men and one boy go down but the engine is more carefully and slower handled when there are people on the rope. They come up in the same way. I have five carters from 12 to 15 years old. They cart the coals from the cutters who work in the headings down to the horseways. Their distance to cart is 10 yards and they draw the full cart down the slope of the vein and take it up empty. The dip of the vein of about 1 foot in 6. The weight of the cart of about one and a half cwt. Its size is about 3 feet long and one and half feet wide and one foot high, in the clear. The boys draw it by means of a hook. They do not use the trace (or girdle). The carts have no wheels but are drawn on narrow iron shoes along the bottom stone of the vein. The carters fill and empty their carts and draw about 100 of them during their turn or days work. The carters go into the works about six o'clock in the morning and come up about six in the evening.

The carters are paid by the men who contract for doing the "dead work" or for keeping the roads and airways in repair and setting up timber to support the roof where necessary. These men are paid by the "wey" or according to the quantity worked but they pay the carters by the day at the rate of from 8d. to 1s. per day.

I have also five boys driving the horses that convey the coals from the carters to the pit bottom. Their ages are from 14 to 17 years old. There are two other drivers employed but they are about 19 years old. The drivers are employed in the works for 12 hours a day, the same as the carters. Their work is to drive the horses and fill the coals into the baskets from the places where the carter leaves it. The baskets are put upon a dram, or truck which runs along the tram road or rails to the pit drawn by horses.

The drivers are paid by the master of the works according to the quantity of coals drawn out and their wages come to about 1s. 8d. per day. They do not feed or take care of the horses after work. There is an ostler employed for that purpose. I have also two boys above ground picking slates and stones from the coals on the coal bank. They work 12 hours a day and are paid 3s. for every ton of slates they pick out of the coals which comes to about 6d. per day. There are no girls or women employed at these works. The works are stopped during the night except the water or pumping engine. The only work the "day turn."

The boys are not beaten in the works. When they do mischief complaint is made to their fathers who are often also employed with them and who generally check them but I do not recollect any of them being beaten much and if the mischief is repeated the boys is sent home or discharged from the works. There are no stated meal times in the works, The men and boys take down each a bag of bread and cheese or butter and sometimes a piece of bacon which they dress in the works (at the fire at the bottom of the pit) and eat it at intervals as the work will allow. The most commonly have a good allowance of bread and cheese but I have known many instances of boys coming to work with short allowance and I have often supplied them from my own bag. Their bread is mostly wheaten bread and I have not seem much barley bread with the men and boys for the last five or six years. When the boys return home from their work they get their suppers before they go to bed which generally consists of broth or tea and bread and butter but seldom butchers meat. They have the same also for breakfast before they come to the works in the morning.

There have been but few accidents and non fatal since I have had charge of the works for the last nine years and I only recollect one serious accident to a boy which happened about five years ago to one of the drivers which broke a small bone of his leg by sitting upon the dram and getting jammed between it and the horse. The works are well ventilated and there is no damp or bad air when the men and boys work. Explosions of firedamp have taken place there but none within the last two years. I do not recollect that nay of the boys have been injured by fire and none of the men have lost their lives since I have been charge of the works.

There is a surgeon appointed to attend both of the men and their families in cases of accidents of sickness. The men, their wives and children under 10 years of age are included in the contract with the surgeon (excepting midwifery cases). The man pay the surgeon 6d. per month each and the boys the same all but the door boys who pay 3d. per moth each. I collect the money every month from

the men and boys and pat it over to the surgeon. The whole number of hands now employed is about 50. The "doctor's money" come to about 25s. per month.

I think that most of the boys can read the Bible in the Welsh language and one of the door boys, 11 years of age, can read an easy book in both Welsh and English. I do not know for more than one of the boys (who is a driver) that can write. They boys have learnt to read principally in the Sunday Schools which have been established in the neighbourhood for the last five years but the door boy and the driver, who are the best scholars were at day schools for to or three years before they came to the works. The most of the boys now attend the Sunday Schools and also attend public worship in either the Church or the Chapels once very every? Sunday but I cannot say that they are better behaved or less given to swear about the works now than they were when I first knew the works. But swearing and fighting and bad language among them is checked as far as possible as the works and as long as they are under my control.

[This witness could not write his name nor speak English except imperfectly. he was examined in the Welsh language and his statement carefully translated and explained to him.]

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### **Broad oak Colliery, Loughor, Glamorganshire, belonging to William Cameron, Esq., April 10th.**

#### **No.263. John Owen, aged 12.**

He works at the Broad oak Colliery opening and shutting doors back and forward to keep the air. He has been in the work about three years. He goes down the pit in the baskets. He goes down with the men, sometimes with his father (who works in the same works). He has gone down with the men, sometimes, but not often. He is not afraid. Three men and one boy go down together in the basket and they come up again in the same way but the boys come up together without the big people. Some of the boys that drive the horses are big boys, 18 years old and they are down the pit as long as the little boys. The boys are down most times after the big people. He goes from the house at six in the morning mostly with his father but he is at work first as he runs before him and sometimes goes down before him. There is no dependence of their going down together and he would as soon go with the men as with his father. They all take care of the boys so they do not fall out of the basket. When the little boys come up without big people, six get into the basket together but only four of the big boys. He goes to the air door as soon as he gets down. They are particular about the door as it keeps the air in the right way. I must be opened when the dram comes. The dram and the horse comes down the slope and cannot stop and would knock the door to pieces it is was not opened ad it must be shut when the dram is gone. The drams come down about every quarter of an hour. He keeps the door until the "turn" is down and all the coals are drammed out, every basket. He sometimes goes out with the dram to the pit and comes back with it. He does not stay quiet all day at the door but runs about to get heat or keep himself warm but he must mind the door.

He leaves work about five o'clock in the evening except when there is something to hinder but sometimes it is six not often later except something great has been the matter, such as a fall on the road which must be cleared away before the drams can pass. This has not happened for some time. His work is not very hard but he must be with it while his "turn" lasts. He does not feel very tired when he gets home and he does not get paid much for tiring himself as they only pay him 6d. per day and he does that worth in a day. The other boys get more tired than the door boys. The drivers get the most tired. They tire themselves by keeping the dram, or basket, in going up and down the slopes from running against the horses. They sit on top of the basket in front and put their feet against the horses tail and keep the dram back with their legs which is very tiring. He has not tried the work but he could do it if his legs were long enough.

He does not think "carting" very hard work. The carters do not cart more than 20 baskets and when the road goes much more than 10 yards they put two boys to do that. He has not yet tried to cart but would like to do so to get more money. He thinks he is old enough. The carters get 8d. per day and the big boys get 10d. per day. The carters are from 11 to 14 years. They boys that have been longest in the works are put first to cart. The youngest of the carters have been in the works since they were seven or eight years old.

There is no dinner time or breakfast time in the works. He gets his breakfast at six o'clock before he goes from the house, bread and milk or tea and coffee, or broth, whatever is going, "there is not

much choice with poor people.” He takes bread and cheese with him to the works in a bag. He sometimes has bread and butter and sometimes bacon but cheese is the common thing. There is no rule as to eating it. He eats a little in his hand several times in the day, a little at a time, not all at once. They generally get enough but some eat theirs before the others and if they want more “the boys will share with one another.” They seldom ask the men for many and they get water in the works.

He recollects several accidents since he started work. One driver broke his leg between the basket and the horse. Two men were burnt with the firedamp and one of the boys had his face burnt, but not much. Two men got hurt by the coal falling in on them and his father was one. He was hurt himself on the foot by a mandrel [a coal pick] in going down in a basket with some men and with mandrels in the same basket which was upset just as it got to the bottom and the men tumbled over on him and the point of the mandrels went into his foot which kept him from work for a fortnight. This was about six months ago.

The steward, John Richards, has the charge of the boys under ground. They call him “Uncle John.” The boys like him very well. He sometimes gives them a clap on the back with a yard measure which he carries but does not hurt them much. He does this when they do something that don’t please him. He gives them a clap once or twice. The boys do not swear much nor fight. They do neither when “Uncle John” is near. The boys are not so much afraid of the men as they are of “Uncle John.” The men do not beat the boys. He would as soon work under ground as above but sometimes on a fine morning he would like to remain out of the pit but when it rains he would prefer going down. Perhaps he is more danger in the pit. “If he is to die there, he supposes it will be so.”

He went to school when he was about six years old and learnt to read the Testament. About four years age he went to the infant school which was then set up. He learnt reading. He was three quarters of a year there and then he went into the works. The master who kept the infant school had also a night school the winter before last and he went to the night school for three months and there he began to learn to wrote. He also went to the Sunday School in the Church and he still goes there almost every Sunday. He learns to read both Welsh and English and he can now read in the Bible in both languages. He has been longer learning English than Welsh. He has not learned Welsh regularly excepting for the last two months at the Sunday School. The parson is the head teacher. The children at the Sunday School particularly from the Welsh school, go to Church every Sunday morning, The children in the English school do not all go. The service is in Welsh every Sunday morning and in English in the evening. He can write enough to sign his name.

(Signed) JOHN OWEN.

[This witness was a healthy looking sharp boy but rather small in stature for his age. He could read an easy book in English with facility but reads carelessly. He spoke both English and Welsh but the latter most familiarly.]

**No.264. Edmund Thomas, aged 46. April 16th.**

He is employed at the Broadoak Colliery and has been there about 15 years excepting about 18 months which he was from there about three years ago. His principle employment has been cutting coal but for the last three years he has contracted together with two others for repairing the roads, setting up timber and keeping the airways clean and to get coals carted from the cutters to the main roads. He has nine children. Three of his sons work in the same works as himself. One of them is 20 years old, one is 15 years old and the other is 12 years old. The oldest went to work in the colliery when he was about eight years old, the other two did not go to work in the colliery when he was about eight years old, the other two did not go to work in the colliery until they were about 11 years old.

He has other sons, one of them (about 19 years old) is in service at a farm. He has been working in tee colliery. He went to work when he was six years and nine months old, to keep an air door. He remained in the works for five years at the same work nearly the whole time. He left the work with witness about three years ago and they were both turned away and that boy did not return again.

He considers that the boys work harder in the collieries than the boys of the same age are worked on the farms or in any other occupation that is his acquainted with, he does not think that colliery work under ground is so healthy for boys as other occupations above ground. He believes that the air in the pits is not so pure as the air above and not so healthy for either men not boys in work. He always feel better and stinger when he works a spell out of the colliery than he does hen he works under ground but he does not think that colliers are subject to any particular complaints more that the boys suffer any more illness for working in the pits. The boys are not ill treated at the Broadoak Works but he has known the m beaten at other and works in other works. Some ill tempered cutters have often beaten their carters in some works when he has a been employed. He should not like to

send a boy of his to any colliery in which he did not work with him. The cutters generally complete their days turn in eight or nine hours, then they go up and leave the boys to finish getting the coal out of the pit which they cannot do often in under 12 or 14 hours. This is the case at the Broadoak Works and the boys have remained in the pit much longer after the cutters in many other collieries in which he has worked.

[This witness can either read Welsh nor English and cannot talk English. Most of his children above 10 years old can now read a little. They are taught at the Sunday Schools and he endeavours to send them to school every Sabbath both morning and evening and goes with them an also to Church.]

**No.265. David Thomas aged 15, son of the last witness. April 16th.**

He works at the Broadoak colliery and has worked there for the last three years and a half. His work at first was carrying water in a little pail or bucket from a part of the works which was below the level of the pit. It was not hard work. There is no one doing that work now and he was not long at carrying water. He then went to cart about three years ago. The distance he dragged the cart was about 10 yards and not often more. The cart was not very heavy to drag. He does not know the weight but four carts went into a basket and twenty four baskets were sent out in a day. They called 40 baskets a wey and he thinks the wey was 10 tons. He could stand in the places where he carted. The place was dry and the floor over which he drew the cart was sometimes rough but not very steep. He always drew the cart down with the slope when it was full. He drew the cart with a hook. Carting was not very hard work. He was not long at carting as constant work not many months. The men who had to work by the wey paid him 8d. per day. He was paid every fortnight. He got his own wages but always gave them to his father who worked in the same works. He now works by the day under the men who have taken the work by the wey. His father is one of these men. They repair the roads under ground and put down rails, keeps the airways and put up the timber and employ the boys who cart. They do this by the wey. He has been employed under them for the last two years in doing different kinds of work as they order him. He cleans the roads and throws the dirt on one side into the old workings with a shovel. He calls this "shifting." He takes up the rails or plates and cleans them, puts them down again and sometimes carts for a day. He now gets 1s. 6d. a day. Two boys about a year younger than himself work with him doing the same work. He has often been driving horses that take the coal out when any of the drivers have been away. He has been driving or a week together when one of the drivers was unwell. Driving is harder work than he usually does. It is harder for him for he is younger than the drivers. They are a year or two older than him. There are five boys carting and they are younger than him. Two of them are not more than 12 years old. There are six boys driving the horses and filling the baskets. They bring the coal down the slopes and the drivers have hard work to prevent the dram or truck and the basket on it from running on the horses heels. They do this by sitting on the basket and taking hold of it with their hands and putting their feet out against the horse. The horse are very quiet and they are worked very hard. There are four horses down in the works. The men and boys go down into the works by a basket which is let down by the engine. They go down about six o'clock in the morning and come up about six o'clock in the evening. He goes down and come up at these times. There are no time for meals allowed in the works. He eats when he is hungry and he has a better chance of eating his bread and cheese than the drivers. He gets water to drink in the works. He sometimes works later than six o'clock but this is not the custom. He is not beaten in the works. The steward never beat him but once and the he only gave him one clap with the measuring stick which he carries. The drivers sometimes beat him with their whips in going by if he has a offended them but the steward will not allow the boys to beat one another if he knows it. The boys are very seldom the worse for beating. He has two brothers employed at the works with him. One is a cutter and he is twenty years old and one keeping an air door who is 12 years old. He would soon work in the as a out of it. He is not often sick and has never lost time off work since he has been in the colliery. He was not at school before he went to work but for the last year he has gone to the Sunday School and before that he went for one quarter to the night school. He was taught reading and writing and began to write at et night school. It was an English school. At the Sunday Schools he learnt both Welsh and English but lately all Welsh.

## CARMARTHENSHIRE COLLIERIES.

**Collieries belonging to Messrs. Sims, Wilyams, Nevill, Drice and Co., in the parish of Llanelly. The St. DAVID'S COLLIERIES belonging to the Llangennech Coal Company in the parishes of Llanelly and Llangennech. The BRACE and St. GEORGE'S COLLIERIES, belonging to George Bruin, Esq., in the parish of Llanelly and the POOL COLLIERY, belonging to the Pool Colliery Company, in the parish of Penbry, Carmarthenshire.**

### Total Number of Persons Employed.

Works	Adults		Young Persons		Children		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
<b>Messrs. Sims and Co. collieries.</b>								
Box and Pencilogy	156	1	38	1	19			
Old Castle	108	1	23	5	19	4		
Llandaven	36		4		3			
Llanlliedi	32		3		1			
Total							442	12
<b>Llangennech collieries</b>								
St. David's colliery	314		62		45	421		
<b>George Bruin Esq. collieries</b>								
Bresfawr	56	2	20		2			
Talsarney	22		9		1			
St. George	29		8		1		148	2
<b>The Pools Colliery Co.</b>								
	150	10	20		17			
Total number of persons 1222								

**Pits belonging to Messrs. Sims, Wilyams, Nevill and Co., Llanelly, employing about 450 people. April 17th.**

### **No.266. John Gibson, aged 52, underground agent and superintendent.**

He has assisted Mr. Jas. J. Letcher, the principle clerk and cashier in filling up the returns and answering the printed queries from these works and the same are correct.

They employ about 109 young persons under 18 years of age at their collieries. The greatest proportion of the boys are employed in carting and tramping the coals from the face of the workings to the horseways where horses are used and where no horses are used, to the shafts. The men and boys go to work at six o'clock in the morning. They all go down the pit on baskets, let down by engines. There are ladder pits at some of the collieries but the people prefer to go down in the baskets as it is less laborious. There is a "slant way" from the surface into the vein at the Lanavan Colliery, through which the horses are taken up and down but the workmen seldom or ever go down that way.

He thinks more dangerous to go down than going down by rope. The cutters generally work 8 or 10 hours and the carters and trammers from 10 to 12 hours. They work nearly the same hours all the years round and seldom exceed these hours excepting when accidents take place to the roads by the plates or rails getting out of place or the roof falling on them. In these cases the workmen and boys remain down an hour or two longer.

They work at night as well as day at one of their principle collieries called the Old Castle Colliery. The men change at six o'clock morning and evening. It takes from an hour to an hour and a half to change the turn or to bring one set of men up and put the other down, during which time no coals are brought up. The boys work at night as well as the men. They work at night



alternate weeks and they begin work at one o'clock every Monday morning and work a half turn. They do not work on Saturday night. There are only five and half turns in a week.

The cutters are paid by the way for a certain number of baskets and they pay the carters. The youngest carters get from 4s. to 5s. per week, the oldest from 8s. to 10s. per week. The cutters get from 15s. to 21s. per week. The places in which the boys work are dry and they seldom or ever work in wet clothes in the lowest places in which the boys cart of 4 feet high and the draming roads are from 4 feet to 6 feet high. The boys generally work with their fathers or relatives and are very seldom beaten in the works. He has seldom or ever heard any complaints of the boys having been beaten or abused. The wages for the little boys mostly goes to their parents. The trammers are paid by the way and they receive their own wages. They get from 14s. to 18s. per week.

There is very little sickness among the boys. They seldom lose their work from sickness and he does not know of any particular complaint to which the men and boys working in the collieries are subject to and he believes them to be quite healthy as other workmen employed in other kinds of works. The boys working in the colliery appear to be as well grown as any boys in the neighbourhood and are generally well fed and clothed.

They have not many door boys in the works not about four of five in the whole. They have only one girl employed underground. She is about 14 years old and she works with her father which hitches the baskets at the bottom of the pit. She has not much work to do but is in the works 10 to 12 hours every day. The other girls that are employed pick slates and stones out of the coals on the bank and wharfs. They are paid by the quantity of slates they pick and get from 4s. to 5s. per week.

No part of the works are carried on during Sundays. The only people employed on Sundays are men who work and attend the water pumping engines.

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**April 19.** - I this afternoon went down the Box Colliery Pit (belonging to Messrs. Sims, Williams, Nevill and Co.) in the basket with the agent. We went down without any preparation in the same manner as the people usually enter the works. At this pit, which is 62 fathoms deep, the baskets are guided in their descent and ascent by chains and iron rods which run perpendicularly from the top to the bottom. The baskets are suspended to flat ropes and raised and lowered by a winding engine of about 20 horse power. The descent occupied about three or four minutes and to persons accustomed to mines seemed perfectly easy and safe. In the colliery I met several of the men and boys and entered into conversation with them in their own language. Among others I noted down the names of Thomas Daniel, aged 16 years, John Clement, aged 15 years, William King, aged 13 years and Edward King, his brother aged 8 years who were carters. William Richards aged 12 years who was a scooter or helper up and another boy named William Richards aged 9 years, who was employed with his father in hitching (or rather unhitching) at the bottom of the pit. My conversation with the boys being carried on in Welsh and consisting of numerous technical terms used in the works it is difficult to translate it intelligibly and I must content myself by saying that I understood from them that they start to work at six o'clock every morning and left about six in the evening. They were later that evening than usual (we did not leave the pit until half past six) in consequence of one of the ways having been out of order. They all stated that they worked hard but not too hard and that they felt no fear in the works, but would prefer working in the colliery to working above ground. The young boy, Edward King, who was assisting his brother in carting and that he liked to come to the pit very well. He did not do much work but helped his brother as much as he could in drawing or pushing the cart and did not feel tired. William Richards, aged nine years assisted his father at the pit bottom in disengaging the trams or baskets (which were brought there by the horses in trains) from one another. It did not seem laborious work for the boys, who was a stout little lad for his age but the road at the place where he worked was dirty and wet and was running about barefooted over his ankles with mud and water. I questioned his father on the priority of bringing so young a boy to work for so many hours in so wet a place. His reply was "that it did seem hard work of the boy but that he was a hardy lad and none the worse for it and it saved him from employing another boy and that he only wetted his feet to which he was accustomed and did not mind it and that he sent him to the Sunday Schools and he was beginning to read." He had only been at work for six months. William Richards aged 12 years was employed to scooter to assist the trammers, at parts of the road where there was an ascent. He worked with a trace and chain. The trammer pushed the tram and basket from behind and the scooter hooked his chain and drew before as far as the ascent continued and then unhooked his chain and drew as before as far as the ascent continued and then unhooked and returned to help another. I questioned this boy as to his work and he said that he did not pull very hard and only for 10 to 20 minutes at a time. "It would be very hard to scooter if he pulled as much as a drammer wished him but he took care to do no more than his share." He sometimes hurt his feet by scooting but when that happened he left off and went to lighter work or stayed home for a day or two. He hurt his feet by running along the road and rails.

All the boys said that they brought bread and cheese with them to the works which they eat when they had time and felt inclined and that they got breakfast and supper, morning and evening, at home, and that they all washed themselves every night when they got back from work and that they sometimes played by the way if they were out of the pit soon, but when they were late they got to bed as fast as they could. They were seldom obliged to stoop in the work and scarcely ever creep from the roof being so low. The clothes they wore in the works were canvas frocks and trousers and flannel shirts, woollen stockings and thick shoes which many of them took off on entering the pit and worked barefooted. They also put their hats aside and worked in canvas or leather caps. None of them seemed to have wetted their clothes and they came up from the pit quite active and merry.

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### **St David's and other Pits, belonging to the Llangennech Coal Company, employing 420 people. April 19th.**

#### **No.267. Moses Seymour, aged 23, agent.**

He has carefully filled up the tabular returns and answered the printed queries sent to these works in doing which he has been assisted by the overman who with himself had examined all the young persons employed and noted down their ages and the several particulars respecting them as correctly as the same could be ascertained and that the whole is correct to the best of his knowledge and belief. He has been at these works for the last six or seven years and is in the habit of going down through the under ground work twice or three times every week.

#### **No.268. George Ord, aged 31, overmen at the St. David's Colliery for the last four years.**

He has assisted Mr. Moses Seymour in filling up the printed returns from these works and the same are correct. The boys come to work at these collieries as door boys from 8 to 14 years of age. After that age of 14 or 15 years and to tram at from 16 to 18 years of age after that age they generally go to cut the coal or to do other work as men. Most of the boys are paid by the master at these works. There are only four carters working under and paid by the cutters. When working under the cutters they generally work harder and they get better wages. A lad of 16 or 18 working for the cutters will get from 1s. 8d. to 2s. per day. Working under the master he would get a little less, from 1s. 2d. to 1s. 3d. per day. He does not think the boys are overworked. They prefer working by the piece than working by the day as they get a little more money. They generally receive their own wages but sometimes their parents get them.

The boys are not put to work in any places of known danger and as seldom as possible in wet places. The parts of the works where they are employed are dry and the seldom wet their clothes. They wear at their work canvass clothes and flannel shirts nearly the same summer and winter. Their food in the works is principally barley bread and cheese. They seem contented and do not appear to be quite well and he knows of no injury to their health by working in coal mines but thinks colliers as healthy as any men. The boys remain at the work as long as they can. They very seldom leave unless they are turned off. They usually live at some distance from, it, perhaps three or four miles and walk back and forward every night and morning. The boys are never ill treated in the works and never beaten by the man, it is not allowed. They are only slightly corrected by himself when they are caught at mischief and that not often. If they were beaten or abused the complaint would soon come to him but he hears of but few complaints. A few of the boys are given to swearing and bad language which he thinks is more than anything owing to their parents example. He checks it as much as possible. Lately the most of the boys attend the Sunday Schools but he cannot say that they are better in behaviour. As the workmen and their families reside so distant and so far apart. He does not think that a school attached to the works would be of much benefit to them.

I had several opportunities of seeing and conversing with the men and boys employed at the **St. David's Colliery** and on this day I went round the works and conversed with the following persons:-

**No.269. Francis Pickford, aged 36, overman at a new pit called Carnarvon Pit, 20 fathoms deep to a vein of coal 2 feet 3 inches thick.**

Heh has not been six months at work but they were now working the coal and he had six boys carting. He did not consider them overworked. They were employed by the cutters and worked in the same way as the St. David's Pit. He did not think that either the men or boys were so well fed here as at the collieries of the North of England.

**No.270. Daniel Davis, aged about 40, banker at a pit called the D Pit.**

He received and unhitched the baskets at the top of the pit and put the empty baskets. He also received and put down the men and boys on their going and coming from the works. He saw all the boys working at this pit twice a day. They did not complain of their work but were all healthy and active and some of them he knew would much remain at home. They were not working briskly at the time and both the men and boys could do more work if they were required. They went down that pit about six o'clock in the morning and came up before six in the evening and some before five.

**No.271. Edward David, cutter at the D Pit, aged about 50.**

He has two sons working at the St. David's Pit, one a door boy aged about nine years and the other older working above ground. Boys of nine years of age are young to go into collieries but it does them no harm and they come the sooner to understand their work by beginning early. Both his boys go to the Sunday School and are beginning to read. He felt no objection to his sons keeping a door at the St. David's Deep Pit (110 fathoms) while he works at another pit. The boys were not ill treated or overworked at St. David's Colliery.

[The last three persons named merely conversed with in going round the works and the two last spoke Welsh. I also conversed with some of the boys that were out of the pit at the time but as nothing was elicited from them contradictory or different from the statements of the overmen, I took no notes of such conversations.]

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**The Brace and other Collieries at Llanelly belonging to George Bruin, Esq., Mr. William Webb, Jun., Manager. Employing about 150 people. April 20.**

**No.272. William Thomas aged 34, under ground overman at the Brace Pit.**

I have about 23 boys under 18 years of age under my charge. I have no door boys at present, the doors are not on the main roads. I have about 10 boys carting from 12 to 16 years old and about five boys driving the horses from 15 to 17 years old and the tranners are all I think about 18 years of age. I have also four boys from 12 to 14 years old on the surface, tending the engine fires and one working the winding engine and also four boys from 12 and 17 years old working in the smiths shops. The youngest boys have been in the works for about years. Their fathers bring them to work when they are about eight years old, if they can get a place for them. Their first work is commonly to keep the doors. They are not required in the works before they are 10 years old.

The Brace Pit is about 80 fathoms deep, it is divided into two by a wooden partition and entered by ladders fixed perpendicularly down the engine pit at the side of the pumps. The men and boys go down these ladders and sometime come up them and sometimes they come up in the baskets raised by the engine. They prefer coming up in the baskets to the ladders but they all go up and down the ladders easily and no accident has happened upon them for some years.

The boys go down at six o'clock in the morning and sometimes half an hour earlier. They come up at six to seven o'clock in the evening and sooner sometimes, as they can get the coal out. The cutters come up from two o'clock to four o'clock they leave off as soon as they have cut as much coal as can be brought out in the turn by the boys and horses. They do not work at night. All is stopped at seven o'clock excepting the pumping engine or some men repairing the roads or airways.

The carters work with the belt an chain and two straps over their shoulders. The places where four of them work (in one of the veins) is no more than 2 feet high. They draw in a creeping posture. The distance they draw varies from a few yards when they begin they draw them down the slope of the evening which is very steep, two boys together. Their carts are fastened on each end of the chain which is as long as the top hole or stall they draw in, the chain passing through a block at the top and one cart up empty while the other comes down full and the boys go up and down to

draw and guide them along. Each boy brings out from 15 to 20 carts a day. They fill and empty a swell a s draw the carts. The places are tolerably dry but the boys sometimes wet their backs as work barefoot.

The places where the other carts work in another vein, is four feet high and dry. They can walk upright in this vein. Both veins slope or dip about two feet on a fathom. The hauliers or drivers go with the horses, back and forward along the main roads, which are cut to the height of five or six feet. They ride on the baskets. There is very little wet above them but the roads are wet in some places and they all work barefoot.

I do not recollect any accident happening here to the boys for the last two years that occasioned any one of them to lose their work. The hauliers are paid by the day, they get 1s. 6d.. The carters are paid by the way with the cutters who receive their money at the office but they pay the boy's shares over to them immediately, excepting they may be their own sons, which is frequently the case. The carters get about 1s. per day. They pay for candles they burn which comes to about 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. per week.

I do not allow the boys to be beaten in the works and do not believe that they are in any way abused or I should soon hear of it. When they are punished for any misbehaviour it is by fines deducted out of their wages. I have known some of the m fined as much as 5s. in a month but they generally get the fines back on better conduct. There is no regular scale of fines.

The most of the boys attend the Sunday Schools and many of them can read the Bible in the Welsh language. I know of one that can read English. I do not consider that the boys are over worked so as to injure them They very seldom lose their work from sickness. I know of no particular complaints to which either men or boys working in the collieries are subject to. Their appetite of their meat in the colliery is not so good as above ground but when they come up it returns.

The man and boys pay towards surgeon who attends them and their families when required, The men pay 6d. and the boys 3d. to 4d. per moth. There is no school attached to these works.

#### **No.273. William Powell, aged 41, pitman and overman at the St. George's Pit.**

I have at eat present the charge of the workings and the boys. I have five boys under 18 years old in the pit. One door boy about 11 years old and four carters from 14 to 17 years old. They boys have not been working at this pit more than three weeks as the pit is a new one. They go down at six o'clock in the morning and come up from four to five in the evening. They do not work at night. There are no particular times for meals and they eat when it suits themselves, the same as in all other collieries that I know of. The bring quite enough bread and cheese to the works. The thickness of the vein of about three feet nine inches and that is the height of the place in which they work. It is tolerably dry and they do not wet their clothes. There is plenty of good air. No accident has happened to the boys ion this pit since they began work. The boys go down the pit by the rope, in a basket, which is guided and steadied by fixed chains. The pit is 72 fathoms deep and the baskets are let down by an engine. There are ladders down one part of the pit, called the engine pit, but they scarcely ever go down them in going or coming from work.

The people are paid by the way. The men employ the boys and pay them. The men receive the boy's money and pay it over to them. The boys in general take their wages to their mothers. Two of the boys are carting for their fathers.

I do not allow the boys to be beaten in the works. I never see any attempts to do so and I do not allow them to quarrel among themselves if I know it. I believe they All attend the Sunday Schools and can tread the New Testament in Welsh. The door boy can read English and write a little;le. I have a son about 16 years old working in the smith's shop and he can read and write English.

The boys are not overworked an d they are paid by the way and could give it up if they liked when the have had enough or feel unable to go on. This is seldom the case because too much work is not set on them. If they were my own children I should not thank them doing more than they were able. I have been an overman for some time in the collieries in this neighbourhood and I do not recollect a case of the boys being abused or over worked to injure them in any works where I have been.

## Examination of the Boys at the Brace Colliery (in the Welsh language.)

### No.274. John William, aged 16.

I cart coal in the Golden Vein. The place is low and I creep on my hands and knees and often on my belly, I draw with a trace and chain. Another boy (Henry Green) carts with me in the same place. The vein pitches and the place is steep and we have a chain through a block at the top and one goes up when the other goes down. We fill and empty carts as well as draw them. It is hard work and sometimes we have little time to eat our bread and cheese. We eat mostly barley bread. We cart about 40 carts which make 20 baskets in a day and get 24s. per month each. Sometimes when we do more work than common we get 14d. per day. We work so long as we are down without stopping. There are no stop for dinner or breakfast in the pit.

I work carting work caring in the Golden Vein where I am than in the other vein, called the Fiery Vein because it is lower. The boys do not work on their knees in the Fiery Vein. I take my shoes off when I go to work and work barefoot. I sometimes get wet as the top of the place is wet and I wet my back by rubbing on it. We go down at six o'clock in the morning, over the ladders. It was difficult to go over the ladders at first but they are not long in coming to it. We all come up in the baskets every night. We come up about six o'clock in the evening unless something happens on the roads to prevent the coal coming out. We have sometimes been down until eight o'clock. I have been driving the horses. It is easier work than carting where I now am. I would rather drive than cart. I have been in the works for some years perhaps four or more. Now I am used to work in the collieries I would rather it than working above ground. They put me to cart in the little vein because I am not so big as some of the other boys although they are younger than me. I go to the Sunday School and can read a little. I am seldom sick. About a year ago I hurt my foot with the cart and was home from work for three weeks.

### No.275. William Morgan, aged 16.

I am a haulier. I drive the horses that bring out the trams and baskets to the bottom of the pit. Driving is not very hard work unless the trams and baskets get off the rails then it is very hard work to get the, back on. There are six horses down in the pit and they are tolerably quiet and not many accidents happen. I was once hurt by a cart knocking me in the face but it is well long ago. We all go down about the same time, six o'clock in the morning, and come up he all the coal is brought upon which is about six o'clock in the evening. I have been in the works about four years. I was a carter before I became a haulier. The carting was the hardest work. I go to Sunday School and can read Welsh.

### No.277. Phillip Phillip, aged 10.

I am a carter. I help my brother to cart in the Fiery Vein. I do not do much work. and have not been at it for long. I can go down by the ladders by myself but I go with the others and some of them go before me. I am not afraid to go down the pit.

[The four boys above named were examined in the presence of another. I waited for them to come out of the pit which they did about six o'clock in the evening and took them to the office together and one corroborated when the other said. They were healthy looking, active boys and did not appear to be fatigued by their 12 hours work in the deep mines from which they had just emerged covered with the black dust of the coal. I had myself been over the ladders by which the Brace Pit is descended. They are placed perpendicularly in stages of the length of 20 to 30 yards each in the same compartment of the pit as the pumps by which the works are drained and extending, As they do, for a length or rather depth of upwards of 160 yards. The means of descending over them was to me, not unattended with difficulty nor free from the appearance of danger from the appearance of danger. Which was by no means diminished by the play and noise of the heavy pump rods, worked from a powerful engine and moving within a few feet of the ladders but from daily practice the collier boys felt neither difficulty nor alarm in passing over them even without the assistance of their glimmering lamp, and the only objection which they expressed to the ladders was on the score of the little extra fatigue when the descending or ascending by them occasioned and which led them whenever practicable, to prefer going up and down in the baskets usually resorted to in the evening by both men and boys on leaving their work.

## **SWANSEA POTTERY, belonging to Messrs. Dillwyn and Company. July 5th.**

### **EXAMINATIONS.**

#### **No.278. John Davis, aged 15 years, William Davis, aged 13 and William Evans, aged 13.**

We work with the packers who pack up the ware. We bring the ware to them and tend them. John Davis has been at work for five years, the other two for four years. They have been at the Lancastrian Free School at Swansea and now go to the Sunday Schools. William Evans can read a little and can write his name, the others are still in spelling. We work from six in the morning to six at night and sometimes we work until eight which is called "quarter" for which we are paid. We work under the master and get 6d. per day each. We are allowed half an hour for breakfast and an hour for dinner. We work the same both winter and summer. We do not work at night.

We very seldom lose any time from sickness and very few accidents happen in the works.

#### **No 279. Thomas James, aged 14.**

I can read and write. I was six years in the free school; I have been working four years. I make "figures" in moulds for putting on the sides of the ware. My work in doors and I work 12 hours a day and sometimes I work quarters. I am paid 3s. 6d. per week by the master. I very seldom lose any time from sickness. I have meal times and go home to dinner sometimes.

#### **No.280. Daniel Rees, aged 10 and George Jones, aged 16.**

We are employed to make "saddles" or small pieces of clay to put between the ware in the baking kiln. George has been working for four years but Daniel has been only four months. We have been in school but cannot read much. We work 12 hours and have meal times. We make saddles by the dozen or gross, and get 3s. to 4s. per week. We are paid by the company. We are very seldom unwell.

#### **No.281. David Williams, aged 11.**

I am working with a dish maker. My work is harder than making saddles or packing. I wet and temper the clay and carry the mould and am running about and tending the dishmaker all day. I work from six to eight every day except Saturdays and Mondays. I have meal times but am not paid for quarters (over time). I work under the dish maker and he pays me 3s. per week. I have been working for three years. I was in school but I can't read. I do not often lose time.

#### **No.282. James Turtel, aged 9.**

I have been working one year and my work is called "wedging." I mix and temper the clay for a dish maker. I work for him, he pays me 2s. 6d. per week. Come at six every morning and leave at six or seven in the evening. I have the same meal times as the others. I was only a couple of days in a day school but I go to the Sunday Schools. I can't read.

#### **No.283. Mary Rees, aged 12.**

I have been working here only three months. I work as a "glaze dipper." I brush the ware before it is dipped in the glaze. The man dips the ware into the glaze. I do not handle the glaze but I sometimes take the things off the tub after they have been dipped. The man pays me 2s. 6d. per week. I work from six in the morning to six in the evening and have meal times. I do not work at night. My work has not disagreed with my health. The glaze sometimes hurts the men. I have not been in school very much but I go to the Sunday Schools. I can't read.

#### **No.284. David Rosser, aged 12.**

I have been working three years. I work in the dipping house. I take the ware off the dipping tub. I am called a "taker off." The glaze that the ware is dipped in hurts the men's health sometimes but it has not hurt me yet. The glaze fire man pays him 6d. per day. I have been to school a little time but I can't read.

[After examining the last two witnesses I examined the men employed in the dipping house with reference to the injurious effect of the glaze upon their health. They informed me that the liquid in which the ware was dipped, called the "glaze" contained white lead and was very prejudicial to the health of those who constantly worked over it but that the counteracted its effects by regularly taking medicine (principally

castor oil). The glaze was not, however so deleterious now as formerly as it did contain so much white lead more borax being used instead of it.

To illustrate the effects of the glaze upon individuals who had worked over it, they called before me a person of the name of John Thomas aged 32, who had been employed in the dipping room as a taker off for about 20 years. He appeared to be very much stunted in growth, to have enlarged joints and to be quite an imbecile. He could not tell me his own age nor rightly answer the questions put to him. He was still employed with the glaze dippers doing the work of a boy at 6d. per day.

I could ascertain whether his imbecility was entirely attributable to his employment for, on inquiry, some of the men who recollected his coming to the works described him as not them being so "sharp" as the other lads. They, however, considered that his health and intellect had both suffered from the noxious effects of the glaze.]

**No.285. Rebecca Walker, aged 15 and Mary Davis, aged 14.**

We are employed in making saddles. We work by the gross and get half a penny per gross. We could get 1s. some days by being busy but they do not want so many and we sometimes help to take the ware from the kilns. Rebecca gets only from 3s. to 3s. 6d. per week and Mary from 2s. to 3s. per week. We began to work at 13 years old. We like the work very well and do not find that it disagrees with our health. We mostly work 12 a day but have meal times and go home for dinner. We go to the Sunday Schools but can't read.

**No.286. Phillip Davis, aged 11.**

I work as platelayer. I do exactly the same kind of work as the boys who are with the dish maker and work the same time. I have not been working long. I get 1s. 6d. per week. I can't read.

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**No.287. John Burton, aged 44, sergeant in the 36th. Regiment of Infantry.**

I have been recruiting in the county of Glamorgan for the last 14 months and have been stationed principally at Swansea but I sometimes go to Neath. In that time about 50 persons have offered themselves to enlist and have been examined by the surgeon (Mr. William Rowland), who passed about 36. Out of that number, however, 10 were afterwards rejected by the medical officers at Bristol.

The most of the people who have enlisted were English and Irish labourers. I have had and examined 20 Welshmen but most of them have afterwards paid their "smart." One man who is a copper men, has enlisted three times within as many weeks and his mother has each time come and paid his "smart" for him (the smart is 21s. and any pay or expenses that may have been expended).

The Welshmen are mostly from the neighbourhood of Swansea and were from 17 to 10 years of age. We can't take them above 25. I recollect examining a collier, aged 24, from near this time (Swansea). He was a fine formed man, five feet six and half inches high and was passed by the surgeon but afterwards deserted. I recollect two young men who had been working at the copper works both aged 17 to 18 and well made and about five feet seven and the other five feet eight inches high.

I have rejected about 12 young Welshmen from 17 to 10 years of age in consequence of their being too short (under five feet six inches). One of the usual causes of rejection by the surgeon is their being flat footed and this very frequently applies to the agricultural labourers and navigators as well as to colliers and copper men. We also find varicose veins in the legs appear which is a cause of rejection.

I have been recruiting in Somersetshire for 10 months and before that in Ireland for about 12 months. I find no particular causes of rejection existing among the men of this country, more than I found at other places and I think that the men of this district are in all respects as well made and a fine people as any I have seen, excepting that, generally speaking, they are rather shorter on stature.

Our lieutenant, who visits the place monthly, thinks this as good a district as any for recruits which is the reason for me being here so long.

I would soon enlist a young collier or copper man as any other description of person and in preference to the young men who have been working about the towns in the handicraft trades, as they make steadier men and better soldiers.

In my younger days I worked in the cotton factories myself. I think I went to work when I was about seven or eight years old. The work for children then was not so hard as it may have been since. I have left the factories upwards of 30 years and the work I did in them in no way injured me.