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**A Miscellany of Local  
Newspaper Reports for  
Llanelly and the  
surrounding areas.**

**Spanning the period  
1880 – 1889**

**Compiled by Peter Kent**

**An Intriguing and fascinating  
insight into the lives of our  
ancestors.**

**1880 – 1889**

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**1880**

**THE OLD LODGE IROWORKS  
LLANELLY.**

These extensive works have been sold to Messrs David Morris and Co., Briton Ferry and Llangennech. Repairs have already been commenced, and a start is expected in a few weeks.

(South Wales Daily News 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1880)

**RESTARTING OF THE  
LLANELLY IRONWORKS.**

The doors of the Old Lodge Ironworks were thrown open on Monday morning, after being closed for nearly three years, in the presence of a number of people, and wishes for its success were freely spoken. The grass had grown over the rails which runs into the works. The smoke out of one of the chimneys brought out the remark that Llanelly would soon again be prosperous, and the opening has brought joy to many an old workman at the Old Lodge Works. The necessary repairs and cleaning are being rapidly proceeded with under Mr David Clement's management, and the works will soon be in full swing. Messrs David Morris and Co., of Briton Ferry, Penclawdd, and Llangennech (the proprietors),

intend using the works in connection with their tinworks in making bars, &c., for their own consumption.

(South Wales Daily News 6<sup>th</sup> January 1880)

however, will soon be removed, as the branch railway to the gasworks is now in course of extension to the South Wales Pottery, and will soon be completed.

(The Cardiff Times 31<sup>st</sup> January 1880)

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**MR JENKINS AND MR TREGONNING'S MEN.**

A meeting of Mr Tregonning's men was held on Saturday afternoon at the Cambrian

Reading Room, New Dock, Llanelly, to hear and decide whether they would support Mr J. Jones Jenkins' candidature. Mr S. Bevan was chairman. Mr Jenkins stated his political views. He was sorry for the disturbance which had occurred on the previous Saturday, and denied the accusation made against him by Mr Williams, that he had sent a band of his supporters to interfere with the meetings. He was at Carmarthen, and had nothing whatever to do with it.—Mr Trubshawe, a director of the Western Tinplate Company, said that much had been said about Mr Jenkins and their works. It was Mr Jeknins who had induced them to open at Llanelly instead of in the North.—Mr Randell said he could speak for Mr Jenkins and the committee that they never gave any instructions to attend the Saturday's meeting, and he was sorry that any disturbance had taken place.—It was resolved that the meeting would use all proper means to secure the return of Mr Jenkins.

(South Wales Daily News 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1880)

**LLANELLY.**

**OUTING.**— The workmen and friends had their annual excursion

to Tenby, on Saturday, from Messrs E. Morewood and Company's South Wales Works.—The priniers, &c., at the Llanelly Guardian Office had their annual outing on the same day, and proceeded in brakes to Llandilo.

**POTATO DISEASE.**— During the past week the disease has appeared in several districts of the parish of Llanelly. The potatoes mostly affected are the early ones but it is feared that the prevalent rains will affect the second growth of the late potatoes, which will materially lessen their value.

**LOCAL BOARD.**— The monthly meeting of this board as held on Saturday. There were present Messrs J. S. Tregonning (in the chair), H. J. Howell, John Randell, William Rosser, Daniel Davies, William Howell, David Evans (merchant).— Resolved, that a supply of water be granted to Mr John for his brewery at Felinfoel, Llanelly, upon payment of certain charges. — Plans were passed to lay out Pembrey-road, and to build four houses there; also four houses at Robinson-street. — The surveyor was directed to see to the temporary roads at Old-road and Pembrey-road made by the contractors at

**STATE OF TRADE  
SPECIAL REPORTS FROM OUR TRADE  
CORRESPONDENT and EXCLUSIVE  
SOURCES**

**RESTARTING OF THE OLD LODGE WORKS, LLANELLY,**  
This (Monday) morning the furnaces at the Old Lodge Ironworks, Llanelly, and all the other departments will be in full swing. All the works at Llanelly will, therefore, this week be going full time. There are signs of improvement in the building trade.

(South Wales Daily News 19<sup>th</sup> January 1880)

**THE SOUTH WALES POTTERY LLANELLY.**

This pottery, after being closed about two years was opened some 12 months ago by Mssrs Guest and Dewaberry, and is carried on with energy. The heavy expense of haulage of material and ware from and to the docks and railway have been until now a great drawback to the success of the undertaking. That hindrance,

Mynydd-mawr Railway, and to call attention to the want of danger signals, &c. This was all the business.

(South Wales Daily News 9<sup>th</sup> August 1880)

### PEMBREY.

ACCIDENT — On Tuesday afternoon a serious accident occurred to a schoolboy named Benjamin Bevan. During dinner time the lad was playing on a branch of a tree projecting above the Gwen-draeth Railway. And fell a distance of about 25ft. He was attended to Dr. Williams, when it was found he had sustained a compound fracture of the arm and other injuries.

(Weekly Mail 4<sup>th</sup> September 1880)

### BURRY PORT.

#### TREAT TO CHILDREN.—

On Tuesday the children of Pwll Board School were regaled with an excellent treat of tea and cake, by Mrs Manuel Rees, at the grounds before Cilymaenllwyd Mansion.

(South Wales Daily News September 10<sup>th</sup>, 1880)

### LLANELLY. SUPPOSED SUICIDE.

On Sunday the body of Mr Stone, a farmer, near Five-roads, was found in a brook near his own farm.

(South Wales Daily News 12<sup>th</sup> October 1880)

### THE PIG QUESTION.

On Saturday afternoon, a mass meeting was held in the People's Park, to consider the decision of the Local Board of Health, at their meeting on the previous Saturday, not to alter their bye-laws so as to allow the keeping of pigs during the winter months. Some 500 or 600 ratepayers assembled, and Mr David Thomas, copper smelter, was voted to the chair. Speeches condemning the action of the board were delivered by Messrs William Badger, Caroline-street; William Thomas, Gilbert-place; Wm. Griffiths, Old Castle-road; Rowland Morgan, Burry-street, and William Smith, Charles-street. On the motion of Mr Thomas Jones, Marble Hall-road, seconded by Mr James Nicholas, Raby-street, it was resolved that the board should be petitioned to

reconsider their decision as regards the keeping of pigs, and to alter their bye-laws so that they may be kept during the winter months. The motion was passed unanimously.

(South Wales Daily News 13<sup>th</sup> December 1880)

# 1881

NO GOOD WIFE turns aside from the path of duty to select cheap articles of food, to the utter sacrifice of wholesomeness ; it will happen that some articles of consumption deceive the eye ; Tea for instance being prepared abroad, is subject to adulteration by facing the leaf with Prussian Blue and Plumbago, but *best value* is always secured by purchasing the packet tea sold by Horniman's Agents ; for 40 years this tea has been supplied direct from London, is of one standard of excellence ; "*always good alike*," its amazing strength and rich flavour has created a demand without parallel in the annals of the tea trade. — Six million packets are now sold yearly.

### PWLL (PEMBREY).

ON Sunday last, and Monday evening, half-yearly services were held at Bethlehem Baptist Chapel, when the Rev. David Roberts, of Tallog, near Carmarthen, preached. Collections were made in reduction of the debt of the building.

(South Wales Daily News 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1881)

### LLANELLY.

HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS.— The ordinary monthly meeting of the board was held at the Town-hall on Saturday, Mr. C. W. Gausson presiding. The balances of the treasurer's accounts were as follow Debit of harbour account, £29 1s. 9d., and to credit of collector's account, £106 2s. 11d. A committee, consisting of the Chairman, Messrs. J. B. Phillips, W. Rosser, B. Jones, and J. S. Tregoning, was appointed to report upon the best means to be adopted for improving the shipping of coal at Llanelly. An application was made by the Llanelly and Liverpool Steam Navigation Company, asking that Henry Davies, one of their employes, may be examined as to his qualification to act as pilot for their steamer, which plies between this port and Bristol. The

board, however, decided not to acquiesce. Proper precautions were directed to be taken with regard to the working of the Mynydd Mawr line down to the Commissioners' line. Mr. J. S. Tregoning gave notice that he would move at the next meeting, "That a demand, in writing, under the seal of the board, be made to the board of health for payment to the order of the commissioners, of a sum of £71 18s. 10d., being the amount of interest paid to mortgagees during the year 1880, in excess of the harbour mortgages."

**FIELD NATURALISTS SOCIETY** - John Innes, New-road, read an excellent paper on "Iron," in connection with the above society, at Mr. Linn's Schoolroom, the lecturer illustrating his remarks by various experiments. Mr. J. H. Rogers, Highfield, presided.

(The Western Mail 14<sup>th</sup> February 1881)

### **BURRY PORT, LECTURE.**

At the Baptist Chapel, Pwll, on Tuesday evening, the Rev. J. G. Phillips, of Five Roads, delivered an interesting lecture on the subject of his journey to Palestine, which was attentively listened to by an appreciative audience. A novel feature in

connection with the proceedings was the Arab dress in which the lecturer was attired. Mr G. Thomas presided.

(South Wales Daily News 27<sup>th</sup> May 1881)

### **LLANELLY FATAL ACCIDENT.**

A child, three years old, was killed on Monday evening, on the railway at Dafen, Llanelly.

(The Cardiff Times 18<sup>th</sup> June 1881)

### **THE LLANELLY TRAMWAY COMPANY.**

A meeting of this company was held at the Stepney Arms Hotel, Llanelly, on Monday. Mr Wimby, the promoter, and Mr Howell, the solicitor, were amongst those present. A limited company was formed, and which will be registered in a few days. A third of the capital required was subscribed in the room.

(South Wales Daily News July 14, 1881)

### **SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE CASUALTIES**

Cambala, British barque, from Llanelly, for Valparaiso, at Falkland Islands, leaky, discharging her cargo for survey; jettisoned a portion of her cargo.

(Western Mail 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1881)

### **LLANELLY.**

**FIRE** —On Tuesday night a fire occurred in the stable and outhouses of Mr, William Hugh, Llewellyn-street, doing damage to the amount of £40.

(Western Mail 5<sup>th</sup> August 1881)

### **PEMBREY.**

**FUNERAL** - The remains of the late Mr. J. Kenneth Hand, whose lamented death was noticed in our issue of Wednesday last, were consigned to their last resting place at the parish church of Pembrey on Saturday. The mournful *cortège* left Glenivor about one o'clock, and consisted of a hearse, mourning coach, and nearly a dozen private carriages, and was preceded by a large number of gentlemen, some of whom had come a considerable distance to pay the last tribute of respect to one whose many beneficial actions will long be remembered and deservedly cherished. The chief mourner was Mr. Roderick Kenneth Hand, a nephew of the deceased, the bearers being tenants on the estate, and amongst those present we observed Mr. Stephens (of Bertwn), Mr Roderick, Mr. Mr. Buckley (Penyfai), Messrs J.

*Advertisement:*

### **NEW LODGE COLLIERY**

To be LET by PRIVATE CONTRACT, all that Valuable Property known as NEW LODGE COLLIERY and BRICKWORKS, with or without New Lodge Mansion House and Land, situate at Burry Port, Carmarthenshire, and in immediate connection with the Great Western and London and North-Western Railways.

The Colliery comprises extensive takings upon those valuable minerals known as the Clay, Coal, and Fire-clay, the Gwsewm, the Little Rhynog, the Great Rhynog, the Kinross, and other veins of coal below.

The Colliery is worked by means of a level cross measure drift or adit, intersecting the minerals. The present workings are confined to the Gwsewm Vein, which is a highly esteemed coal for the manufacture of tin-plates; and to the Clay Coal.

The Fireclay is manufactured into bricks of excellent quality, on the premises.

The workings are effectively drained by pumping machinery erected underground, and the whole of the surface and underground plant, machinery, and workings, are in excellent order and repair.

Plans and further particulars can be seen by application to Mr Arthur Lawrence, M.E., 10, Charles-street, Cardiff, or Mr Edward David, Llandaff.

(The South Wales Daily News 10<sup>th</sup> October 1881)

Thomas (Llandeilo); Dd. Rees (Fairwater), J. Elkington, H. Elkington, General Malcolm, C.B.; Mr. Lefeaux, Mr. Mansel Rees, Mr. Chard (Liverpool), Mr. D. Brown (London), Messrs Swire, Cole, J.N. Buckley (Carmarthen ) Captain Benbough, the Revs. H. Evans, W. Watkins, M. L Jones, J. Rogers, W. Davies, &c. The Rev. H. Evans, vicar, read the burial service, and on Sunday morning the Rev. M. L. Jones, curate, preached a most eloquent sermon appropriate to the occasion, in the presence of a goodly number of the deceased gentleman's friends, the rev. gentleman taking as his text the words, "What thou knowest not now, thou shalt know hereafter." Along the line of route, as well as at Burry Port and the harbour, there were many tokens of the esteem in which Mr. Hand was held. Mr. Hand in his younger days was brought into contact with men of high rank, and since the Marquess of Salisbury has risen to fame in the political world the deceased was often wont to recount some incidents of a voyage from Sydney to England when his lordship, while yet the youthful Lord Robert Cecil, proved himself one of the most

agreeable of the passengers in one of Green's ship.

(The Western Mail August 31, 1881)

### PEMBREY.

#### NEW INDUSTRY FOR PEMBREY

At the petty-sessional division held on Wednesday, Mr W. Spon, on behalf of the Stowmarket Explosives Company, Limited, of 121, Bishopsgate Within, London, asked for a day to be fixed upon which he could apply for a license to manufacture dynamite on the Burrows, at Pembrey. Mr R. L. Wood, of the firm of Rees, Edwards, and Wood, solicitors, Llanelly, stated that the site for erecting the intended works was situated about two and a half miles from Pembrey, and that the dynamite, when manufactured, would go by boat from Pembrey Old Harbour. We understand that the Old Harbour and other holdings adjacent thereto, held until Michaelmas last by Messrs Mason and Elkington, have been given up, and taken to by the above company. The projected works will be connected with the Pembrey Old Harbour - many years ago the scene of an active

shipping trade—by a line of railway which is now being marked out.

(The Cardiff Times October 8, 1881)

### PEMBREY.

NEW INDUSTRY FOR PEMBREY. — The village of Pembrey, since the stopping of numerous works, has suffered much in business, very little being done. Matters began to look up a few months ago, and now about 300 hands will find employment at the new Explosive Works. At the Llanelly bench on Wednesday, Mr Mansel Rees applied on behalf of the Stowmarket Explosive Company (Limited), London, for permission to erect a factory for explosives at Pembrey, near the Old Harbour, two miles away. When an explosive company's patent ran out some time ago, they applied for a renewal of licence, and it was then proved that no accident had occurred in their works for forty years, and the same could be said of the company for whom he applied. It was necessary for the company that they should first obtain the permission of the bench before they could ask the Secretary of State for permission. He produced

plans showing the exact position of the intended buildings, and produced a petition, numerously signed by the inhabitants of Pembrey and Burry Port. The Bench: Are the names of landowners on the petition? Mr Rees: The Earl of Ashburnham has guaranteed the lease of land. Mr Elkington is a magistrate, and did not, therefore, sign it, but the vicar of Pembrey has done so. The bench granted the license.

(South Wales Daily News November 11, 1881)

I, the undersigned, do hereby APOLOGISE to Mrs. ANN RICHARDS, 30, Miers-street, St. Thomas, for what I said to her on Saturday last.

HANNAH MORGANS,  
Swansea Market  
Witness, Ann x Bowen  
Mark

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FULL PARTICULARS of this most advantageous money speculation, guaranteed by Government, will be sent Free on application, enclosing a stamped directed envelope, to JOHN FOREST, Esq., 8, Craig's Court, Charong Cross, London, S.W.

(The Cambrian 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1881)

# 1882

## NOTICE OF LOCAL LIQUIDATION

Mr Walter Williams, Brigstocke-terrace, Ferryside, Kidwelly, Carmarthenshire, confectioner and general dealer.

(The Cardiff Times 4<sup>th</sup> February 1882)

## BANKRUPTS, LIQUIDATIONS, &c.

(From Friday Night's London Gazette.)

### LIQUIDATIONS.

Thomas Evans, 5, Glanmor Cottages, High-street, Llanelly, Carmarthenshire, commercial traveller; lately of the Union Inn, Church-street, Llanelly, licensed victualler.

(The Western Mail 15<sup>th</sup> April 1882)

### FERRYSIDE.

**FISHING SEASON.**—Owing to the coldness of the season the fish nets were drawn on Tuesday, but only a few sewin (brailers) were caught. On Wednesday the first monarch of the river was captured, the salmon being a splendid fellow of 15lbs, and in prime condition, the lucky net being the property of Mr Alfred Davies of this place.

(The Cardiff Times May 13<sup>th</sup> 1882)

### NARROW ESCAPE

The child of a labourer, named Lewis, living at St. Ishmaels, near Ferryside, had a most narrow escape from being killed on the railway on Wednesday evening. The child, barely three years old, had got on the line between the rails on the down side, when a goods train came along and passed completely over it. When picked up by the guard the child was found to be uninjured. This incident occurred close by the battery, between Ferryside and Kidwelly.

(Evening Express 10<sup>th</sup> June 1892)

### LLANELLY.

**PETTY SISSIONS.**—At the Town-hall, yesterday, Morgan Saunders, an old man (for whom Mr Howell appeared), was fined 1s 6d and costs, for driving through Furnace toll-gate without paying toll. Mr Randell for the prosecution.—John Phillips, Duke of Wellington Inn, for selling beer during illegal hours, on the 2nd inst., was fined £1 and costs, and the license to be endorsed.—Mary Ann Morris (15), New Dock, was charged with stealing coal, belonging to the Great Western Railway Company. Mr W Griffiths, Swansea, prosecuted,

and Mr Howell defended. Fined 20s, and her father severely cautioned.—Margaret Davies, Potter-street, was bound over to keep the peace for six months towards Ann Thomas, and ordered to pay costs—12s 6d.

(The Cardiff Times 15<sup>th</sup> July 1882)

### LLANELLY.

#### MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE.

The body of the man Dan Davies, who disappeared from his home on Saturday was found floating in an upright position in the Copper Works Dock on Wednesday morning. An inquest will be held to-day.

**FATAL BATHING ACCIDENT.**—On Tuesday after-noon a lad named John H. Edmunds, brother of Mr D. R. Edmunds, Tunnel-road, Llanelly, was drowned under particularly distressing circumstances. He left the Heolfach School in company with four boys, and in spite of the inclemency of the weather they proceeded to the sands to bathe. The wind was high, and the tide at the point where they entered the exceedingly swift and strong. Edmunds and another of the lads, in high spirit of daring, swam out

a little distance to a bank, the deceased remaining and refusing to swim back to shore when his companions called upon him to do so. The tide was flowing in so rapidly that he did not become aware of the danger until it was too late. Meanwhile another of the lads, Tom Jones by name, made a gallant attempt to rescue him. He had nearly reached the unfortunate boy when he found himself being carried away, and he only regained his foothold by a miracle. Shortly afterwards Edmunds was swept off and disappeared. It is stated that two sailors, who were in a boat hard by, were appealed to for assistance by the boys, but that they did not understand that help was needed. The deceased was a bright, intelligent lad, and much sympathy is felt for his bereaved mother.

(Western Mail 17<sup>th</sup> August 1882)

# 1883

### FERRYSIDE.

**THE WATER SUPPLY QUESTION.**—On Monday evening an adjourned meeting to

consider the question of the water supply of the village was held at the National Schools; Mr. W. E. Phillips, the guardian for the parish, presiding. At the previous meeting a committee was appointed to visit the different sources of supply, and to recommend what action, if any, ought to be taken. It was now stated that they believed there was sufficient water from the existing supplies to meet the necessities of the place, and, if it was found to be pure, connections might be established with those districts at present at an inconvenient distance from a well or spring. Samples had been taken and forwarded to Mr. Morgan, analyst, of Swansea, who, however, applied for a larger quantity. When the analyst's report is received the question will again come on for consideration.

(Weekly Mail March 3, 1883)

## **BANKRUPTS, LIQUIDATIONS, &c.**

(From Tuesday night's London  
Gazette.)

## **LIQUIDATIONS.**

Francis Randell, Kidwelly,  
Carmarthenshire, carpenter,  
joiner, sawyer, and builder.

Mary Jenkins, Masons Arms,  
Thomas-street, Llanelly,  
Carmarthenshire, widow and  
publican.

(County Observer and Monmouthshire Central  
Advertiser 10<sup>th</sup> March 1883)

## **FERRYSIDE.**

**SHOAL of PORPOISES.**—On Thursday morning, between ten and eleven a.m., quite an unusual sight was witnessed in the river Towy. A large shoal of huge porpoises were seen coming in past the white and black barrel posts under Llanstephan Castle, frequently coming to the surface to "blow," and then gracefully curving round in the water. On their first appearance they resembled so many cattle in the water. On the tide ebbing, they returned with great speed to the bay. Old inhabitants state that such a large number and size have not been seen here for many years.

(The Cardiff Times 14<sup>th</sup> April 1883)

## **LLANELLY,**

Lawn Tennis. — Llanelly v. Bridgend.—A match was played on the Llanelly courts on Thursday last, the home team

winning by 7 sets to 2, and 51 games to 24 in the doubles; and 7 sets to love, and 42 games to 22 in the singles.

(Western Mail 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1883)

## **SHOCKING RAIL WAY FATALITY AT LLANELLY.**

### **A MAN DECAPITATED.**

On Friday evening an old man named Benjamin Thomas, living at Dolau, Llanelly, met with his death in a shocking manner. He was crossing the Great Western Railway on his way homewards about nine o'clock during some shunting operation when a truck struck him. He fell prostrate on the metals, and was instantly decapitated. There is a raised bridge over the crossing, but the deceased took advantage of the crossing gates being ajar, and made a fatal effort to cross without mounting the steps of the bridge.

(Western mail 27th August 1883)

## **HEARTLESS CASE OF SEDUCTION AT LLANELLY.**

### **HYPOCRISY BY AN OCCASIONAL PREACHER AND BLUE RIBBONIST.**

At the Llanelly Petty Sessions on Wednesday (before Messrs. R. Goring Thomas, chairman, and R. Nevill, and Sir A. K. C. Stepney) Mary Hugh, Achddu, Pembrey, applied for an order in bastardy against James Devereux, Rose Cottage, Pembrey. Mr. T. B. Snead appeared for complainant, and Mr. D. Randell defended.—Mr. Snead, in addressing the bench, stated that complainant at thirteen years of age entered defendant's service. In May, 1882, defendant's wife died, and complainant remained with him till March of the present year, when, in consequence of her being *enceinte*, she went to London at defendant's solicitation. During her absence he wrote several letters in which he admitted the paternity, and on complainant's return he endeavoured to obtain the letters, urging that complainant would not require them, as he intended to marry her. Defendant, who was a coachman in the employ of a gentleman at Pembrey, was in receipt of 27s. per week wages, £8 a year for clothes, and was in free occupation of a house and garden worth £12 a year. Defendant was a professed Blue Ribbonist, assumed a very sanctimonious demeanour, and preached

occasionally. — In cross-examination, complainant said the reason why she had continued in defendant's service after her seduction was because defendant had promised to marry her. She knew defendant earned 27s. a week, as she had seen his book.— The Bench, after a somewhat lengthy hearing, ordered defendant to contribute 3s. per week towards the maintenance of the child, and also to pay all costs and expenses. Their Worships at the same time expressed their exceeding abhorrence of the hypocrisy and general conduct of defendant in the matter.

(Weekly Mail 6 October 1883)

**THE SWANSEA HAY &  
CORN STORES.**

**CHAS. A. DAVIES  
PROPRIETOR**

**DELIVERY IN TOWN AND  
NEIGHBOURHOOD**

Irish, Welsh, and English Corn,  
Gloucester, Hereford, and  
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**TRADE SUPPLIED.**

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Agents for Spratts' Dog  
Biscuits.

(The Cambrian 9<sup>th</sup> November 1883)

# 1884

**LLANELLY. SAVAGE  
ASSAULT NEAR LLANELLY.**

— At the Llanelly Petty Sessions (before Messrs. R. Nevill, chairman, R. Maclaran, and C. W. Gausson), Elias Johns, Pentwyn, Llanon, was charged by John Thomas, Talyclyn-Uchaf, Llanedy, with assaulting and beating one David Thomas, at Llanon, on the 24th ult. Mr. W. Powell appeared for the complainant. D. Thomas stated that on the evening of the day named he was at the Greyhound Inn, and while there he was called out by defendant. Immediately on getting outside he was badly beaten by defendant and his uncle. They knocked him down and knelt on his chest. He became unconscious, and could remember no more. Defendant was fined £5 and costs, or in default one month. The money was paid.

**SUNDAY OPENING.** - Robert Jones, Collier's Arms, Furnace, was charged by Police-Constable Evan Davies with selling beer on the 13th inst. The officer stated that he saw a man knock at the door, enter the house, and receive a pint of beer, for which he paid

3d. Defendant was fined 20s. and costs 9s.—David Roberts, the man referred to was fined 5s., and costs 7s., for being on the premises

(Weekly Mail 26<sup>th</sup> April 1884)

**PEMBREY.**

**HEROISM OF A BOY.**—We understand that Mr. James Rowlands, the district coroner, has now brought to the notice of the Humane Society the extraordinary bravery displayed by the lad Thos. Morgan Bevan, aged ten years, who on Saturday, June 21, saved two girls from drowning in the tide, on which occasion a nurse and baby were drowned.

(Weekly Mail 5<sup>th</sup> July 1884)

**LLANELLY**

Harbour Commissioners — The monthly meeting of the members was held at the Town-hall on Saturday. The tenders for the diversion or the Pwll and Stradey streams and the construction of a reservoir in connection therewith were further considered and adjourned, the lowest tenders being over £500 in excess of the amount proposed to be expended.

The question of the sanction of the Great Western Railway Company to the scheme was also considered, but, in consequence of the somewhat excessive demand made by the company, a final decision in the matter was deferred.

(Western Mail 14<sup>th</sup> July 1884)

**SAD BOATING ACCIDENT  
AT LLANELLY.**

**GALLANT CONDUCT OF A  
SAILOR.**

On Saturday afternoon a very sad boating accident occurred in Carmarthen bay opposite the works of the Explosives Company at Pembrey. By the early tide on Friday morning Mr. John S. Jones, a fine young fellow of 18 years of age, and only son of Mrs. Jones, New-road, Llanelly, left Llanelly Harbour in his yacht the Flirt for a two days' trip to Tenby. He was accompanied by a sailor named Lewis Lane, about 30 years of age. They started homewards from Tenby just before noon on Saturday morning, and got along without any mishap until near Cornelmawr, opposite Pembrey. Just at that spot they

were suddenly overtaken by a squall, and the mast was carried away. The breakers then rolled over the boat, which was capsized, and the two occupants were thrown out. Lane, who is an expert swimmer, at once took off his clothes in the water, and also undressed his companion, who could not swim. He then put him on his back, and carried him a long distance towards shore, but, in consequence of the violence of the waves, he was unable to get to shore. He, therefore, swam back and put young Jones on the boat, but the latter was soon afterwards washed off no less than six times. Lane then swam away, with the intention of getting assistance, but before he got ashore he became unconscious, and when he recovered he found himself on the sands. He then run for assistance, but no trace of his companion could be found. After some hours' search the body was found on Cefn-shedan sands. Lane was completely exhausted after his exertions, from which he has not yet recovered. Mrs. Jones and two of her daughters were at the time away in London, and were telegraphed for. Great sympathy is expressed on all hands for the family of the deceased, who was

held in high esteem by all his numerous friends.

(Western Mail 4<sup>th</sup> August 1884)

### FERRYSIDE.

The day was fine, despite a somewhat threatening appearance during the early part of the morning. During the forenoon the normal quietness of the place was broken by the large influx of holiday folk on pleasure bent, arriving by the ordinary and special trams, also with traps, gigs, and Gainsboroughs, from the surrounding district, continuing up to 3 p.m., chiefly from Llanely and Carmarthen. A great attraction was provided by the Baptist demonstration - holding their annual eisteddfod on Monday on a much larger scale than usual. A monster marquee had been erected in a field near the railway station, capable of holding some thousands. Most of the: visitors arrived for the purpose of attending the eisteaddfod. The committee had made such judicious arrangements that success beyond their expectations was the result. There were numerous competitions and large prizes taken, among which were the following;—Choral

competition, "Rhyl", open to choirs not under 30 in number, prize taken by "Pwll," Pembrey Choir; "Master the tempest is raging," divided between Gwendraeth Choir and Glanrafon Choir; "Blodeuyn, olaf," four choirs competed, prize awarded to the Kidwelly United Choir. The principal competition, "We never will bow down," prize divided between Burry Port and Kidwelly United Choirs. In the evening a grand concert was held, which was well attended, the eisteddfod was conducted by the Rev. J. Lewis, Belle Vue, Swansea, and the adjudicator was Eos Dâr. Financially it was a success. Fortunately, everything passed off satisfactorily, nothing occurring to mar the enjoyment of anyone. It was late before all returned.

(The Cardiff Times 9<sup>th</sup> August 1884)

### PEMBREY.

FATAL ACCIDENT AT TRIMSARAN COLLIERY.—At Penrhiw, Pembrey, on Monday, an inquest was held by Mr. Rowland Browne, deputy-coroner for the district, on the body of John Grilfiiths, 24 years of age,

who was crushed to death by stones whilst in the execution of his duty at the above colliery on Friday night last. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

(Weekly Mail 6<sup>th</sup> September 1884)

### Army Service.

YOUNG MEN wishing to JOIN HER MAJESTY'S ARMY will, on application at any Post Office in the United Kingdom, be supplied, without charge, with a Pamphlet containing detailed information as to the Conditions of Service and advantages of the Army, as to Pay, Deferred Pay, and Pensions.

Great Prospects of Promotion are offered to eligible Young Men.

Applicants can be made, either personally or by letter, to the Officer commanding the Regimental District at Cardiff, or to the nearest Volunteer Serjeant Instructor or other Recruiter.

Recruits, if eligible, can be enlisted for any arm of the Regular Service they may select.

(The Cambrian 19<sup>th</sup> September 1884)

**LLANELLY.**

**HOSPITAL BAZAAR.**—The rustic village bazaar and May-day feast in aid of the funds of Llanelly Hospital, now in course of erection, was opened on Monday afternoon at the Athenaeum by Sir John Jones Jankins, M.P. The following are the presiding ladies, who have a number of willing assistants:—Church stall Mrs Maclaran, Mrs Trubshaw, Mrs Bythway, Mrs H. C. Buckley. Baptist: Mrs W. Thomas, Mrs Jennings, Mrs J. R. Morgan, Mrs R. Evans, Mrs H. Thomas, Mrs Read, &c. Congregational: Mrs B. R. Rees, Mrs Bertram, Mrs H. J. Howell, Mrs John Bevan, Mrs Hopkin Bevan, Mrs J. Evans, Mrs Ingram. Presbyterian Mrs T. Jones, Mrs J. A. Jones, Mrs D. Williams, Mrs Gough, Mrs Randell, Wesleyan Mrs S. B. Bowen, Mrs Hansard, Mrs Gower Bevan, Mrs James Tregoning, Mrs Andrew Bevan. There is also a refreshment stall under the superintendence of Mrs Margrave; a Good Templar's stall and dairy, flower and furnishing stalls, as well as various

exhibitions which attracted much interest.

**INQUEST.**—An inquest was held on Saturday, at the Great Western Refreshment-rooms, before Mr James Rowlands, district coroner, on the body of Phebe Scourfield, aged 60, widow, who died suddenly on Thursday evening at the residence of her sister, 9, St. David's-street, Seaside. The jury returned a verdict of "Died by the visitation of God."

**MARRIAGE.**—On Thursday morning Mr Edward Letcher, son of the late Mr Letcher, of Llanelly Copperworks, was married to Miss Tregoning, daughter of the late Mr James Tregoning, manager of the Morfa Tinsplate Works. The ceremony was performed at Hall-street Wesleyan Chapel by the Revs —Cocks and Gibson, and the service was choral. The sacred edifice was decorated for the occasion, and there was a large attendance. The happy couple proceeded to Derbyshire to spend the honeymoon.

(The Cardiff Times 9<sup>th</sup> May 1885)

**ALLEGED CRIMINAL ASSAULT AT LLANELLY.**

David John, Wenlle, Llanelly, a youth, was brought up in the custody of Police-Sergeant Howell Evans on Friday, and charged before Mr. Rowland McLaren with committing a criminal assault on Ellen Morgan, a young woman, about twenty years of age. — The complainant, who is a domestic servant in the employ of a Mr. Lewis, said she was fetching some tobacco for her master, when she saw the defendant standing near the corner of the Stepney Arms Hotel. It was then between ten and eleven o'clock. Defendant drew some money out of his pocket, and asked her to come with him. She then went in the direction of tier aunt's house, New-road. Whilst in Hall-street the defendant pulled her behind the Town-hall and threw her down, and committed the offence. Six or seven other young men were in the street watching, but none of them came to where she was. She was not a consenting party, and screamed "Murder." Eventually a woman heard her cries, and, coming to the spot, picked her up, defendant running away before her arrival. Complainant then went to Police-Constable Hopkins, and told him

she was afraid to go and he accompanied her. — Police-Sergeant Howell Evans stated that he was following the last witness as she went accompanied by Police-Constable Hopkins. He saw seven or eight young men standing near the Park-street Board School. Three of them ran away, defendant, he believed, being one. At 11 45 the same night he apprehended the prisoner who denied being out of the house after coming home from work about six o'clock. Afterwards, however, he said he had been to Richard May's house, near the Mill, and that for a short time he stood near the Stepney Arms in company with John Phillips. He denied that he had seen the girl Morgan that night. — The defendant was remanded until Wednesday on the recognisances of his father.

(Western Mail 8 August 1885)

**THE STRANDED BARQUE AT LLANELLY.**

After persistent, but unsuccessful, endeavours to get off the Norwegian barque Otto (the stranding of which near the entrance of Llanelly harbour

during Sunday's gale has been reported in the Western Mail) the owners have now formally transferred her to the insurers. Captains Tozier and Page, representatives of Lloyd's and the Salvage Commissioners, are in attendance, and have entered into arrangements with a local shipping firm to make further efforts to save her from becoming a total wreck. She now lies embedded in a high sandbank, a quantity of her cargo, which had been removed, strewing the beach.

(Western Mail 15th August 1885)

### **FIRE AT LLANELLY.**

Early on Friday morning a fire broke out in a store-room at the shop of Mr D. C. Parry, grocer, Stepney-street, Llanelly, in which was kept a quantity of matches and paper bags. The total damage is said to be near £300. The exact cause of the fire is unknown.

(South Wales Echo 7<sup>th</sup> November 1885)

### **A WOMAN BURNT TO DEATH AT LLANELLY.**

Ann Christopher, a spinster, aged 78, Penyfon-street, Llanelly, was burnt to death on Tuesday morning. She was preparing

breakfast, and, it is supposed, must have fallen on the fire, as soon after she was found dead on the floor, with her clothes on fire, and portions of her face, body, and limbs dreadfully burnt.

(South Wales Echo 18<sup>th</sup> November 1885)

### **THE ELECTION RIOT AT LLANELLY. DEFENDANTS COMMITTED FOR TRIAL.**

This case, in which certain persons were summoned for complicity in the attack made in the premises of the Llanelly Conservative Club on the 30th ult., was heard on Wednesday (before Messrs. Hugh Nevill, chairman, and Rowland Maclaren) at the Town-hall, Llanelly. A very general and intense interest was taken in the proceedings, and the building was crowded. Superintendent Cunliffe prosecuted, the defendants, nine in number, being charged with "riotously and tumultuously assembling together to the disturbance of the public peace." Of those summoned, David Thomas, railway porter, alone did not put in an appearance, it being stated that he had decamped. A warrant was directed to be issued

for his apprehension. The other defendants took their places in the following order, viz.:—William Nurse, Machynis; W. Rees, Prospect-place; Rees Bowen, Sandy-road; David Morris, Capel Newydd; Philip Griffiths, Dillwyn-street; T. Phillips, William-street; and John Hopkins, Stepney-terrace.

Mr. David Randell defended three of the defendants; Mr. W. Howell appeared for the rest.

After a hearing which lasted nearly the whole day, the Bench committed the defendants for trial at the next sessions, each being released on his own recognisance of £5 to come up for trial in January.

(Weekly Mail 19<sup>th</sup> December 1885)

**WHEN YOU ASK FOR  
RECKITT'S BLUE  
SEE THAT YOU GET IT.  
RECKITT'S BLUE.**

Used in the Prince of Wales's Laundry

**RECKITT'S BLUE**

Beware of Bad Imitations.  
See RECKITT'S NAME  
On Every Wrapper

(The Cambrian 1<sup>st</sup> January 1886)

# 1886

## **LLANELLY.**

**THE CUSTOMS.**—After forty-two years' honourable service in the Customs' department, twenty-six of which have been spent at Llanelly, Mr. R. V. Innes has given up charge of the Llanelly Custom House to his successor, Mr. Frederick Cook, of Teignmouth. Mr. Innes is a gentleman whose uniform courtesy and strict attention to the business of his late office have made him no less respected than esteemed.

**SCHOOL BOARD.**—The monthly meeting of this board was held on Tuesday, Mr. J. S. Tregoning in the chair. Mr. J. B. Phillips again brought forward the matter of the Old-road School, contending that the Local Board of Health had not done their duty in the matter, and urging upon the School Board, in the interests of the children attending the Old-road School, not to allow the matter to be dropped. After some discussion, in which the members showed themselves unanimous as to the need of improving the road, a resolution was adopted calling the attention of the owners of the road to its

condition, and appealing to them to have it repaired.

**DEBATING SOCIETY.**—At a meeting of this society, held at the Nevill Memorial on Monday evening, Mr. John Innes read a most able and interesting paper on "Lucidity."

(Weekly Mail 13<sup>th</sup> February 1886)

### **LLANELLY. FATAL ACCIDENT.**

An accident occurred at Morfa Tinworks on Monday evening whereby one man lost his life, and another had a narrow escape. It appears that in the yard of the works a triangle, composed of large baulks of timber, had been erected, but apparently it was not complete as to the fixtures. At the accident a young man named William James, of New-row, Dafen, was at the top of the triangle (35 feet high) making some adjustments, and another employe was in the act of climbing up by means of a rope, when without warning the whole structure tilted over and fell with a crash, the baulks being broken by the impetus. James' skull was fractured, and he was removed to the hospital, where he lingered unconscious till an early hour on

Tuesday morning. The other workman escaped with few injuries. Others who were standing round the triangle had very narrow escapes.

(The Cardiff Times 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1886)

### **LLANELLY.**

**THE FATALITY AT MORFA.**—Mr J. D. Rowlands held an inquiry at the Llanelly Hospital on Wednesday, touching the decease of William James, who was killed at Morfa Tinworks under circumstances already detailed in our columns. Verdict, "Accidental death."

(The Cardiff Times 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1886)

### **LLANELLY.**

**ALLEGED POACHING.**—At the petty sessions, on Wednesday, eight men from Furnace and neighbourhood were charged with poaching on the farm of Soho. The case was dismissed. Mr Oliver John Williams (Home and Williams), for the plaintiff; Mr Mansel Lewis, Stradey, and Mr David Randell for defendants.

(The Cardiff Times 26<sup>th</sup> June 1886)

### **STEEL WORKS FOR LLANELLY.**

We are given to understand that the Old Castle Tinsplate Company and the Western Tinsplate Company, in conjunction with the Briton Ferry Steel Company, have decided to erect a large steel works at Llanelly for the manufacture of tinsplate bars.

(South Wales Echo 24<sup>th</sup> July 1896)

### **FATAL ACCIDENT AT LLANELLY.**

A man named William Griffiths, residing at Pwll, Llanelly, was accidentally killed by falling down the shaft of the Old Castle Colliery on Friday morning.

(Western Mail Saturday September 25, 1886)

### **THE PEMBREY LIFEBOAT. Official Inquiry.**

An inquiry has been held by the local committee, the chief inspector, and district inspector of lifeboats representing the parent institution into the circumstances connected with the failure to launch the Pembrey boat on the night of the 15th of October last. The result has been a report to the general committee, which is fully approved by them, showing

the failure to have been caused by a sand drift, eight feet high, which had accumulated in front of the boathouse, and prevented the boat being taken out; and that no blame whatever for this can be attributed to any of the authorities of the branch, it having in all probability been the work of a few hours.

A similar drift was cleared away only a few days previously. Only a week before this occurrence the removal of the boathouse to another site had been decided upon by the parent committee. To this has been now added their decision to give the station a more powerful boat, comprising all the modern improvements, and similar to the new one at Ferryside.

(South Wales Echo 8<sup>th</sup> November 1886)

# 1887

### **LLANELLY.**

**LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH.**—The fortnightly meeting of this board was held on Tuesday, under the presidency of Mr. Ernest Trubshaw. It was decided that a properly constituted fire brigade should be formed at Llanelly.

(Weekly Mail 8<sup>th</sup> January 1887)

## **YACHT ACCIDENT AT FERRYSIDE.**

Great excitement was caused here on Monday evening in consequence of the non-arrival of the yacht Berwick, containing five persons, who left Ferryside in the morning in order to cruise in the bay. About 10 p.m. the lifeboat was ordered to be launched in search of them. Success soon rewarded their exertions. The yacht was found to have been washed ashore on Laugharne Sands, and its five occupants were safely brought back in the lifeboat about three a.m.

(South Wales Echo 26<sup>th</sup> January 1887)

## **JUBILEE SKETCHES,**

### **ARTICLE XII.**

## **THE COMMERCIAL GROWTH OF LLANELLY.**

**By Our Special Commissioner.**

Less than a century ago Captain John Wedge - possibly to check the too exuberant fancy of some local patriot—made a bet, and, what is more, won it, that 500 people did not live within the parish boundaries of Llanelly. Since that interesting event the population has increased fortyfold; the old town has passed away, save a few vestiges, which

serve as landmarks to remind us of the old-time Llanelly. The configuration of the coast line has even changed, the receding farther from the shore, and the pursuits which erstwhile maintained the community have, in the silent lapse of years, been pushed backward more and more into insignificance. Concurrently with the abandonment of these expansion came from another direction. Industries gradually acquiring magnitude transformed the little wayside village that "stood upon a creek" into a busy centre of manufactures, where ponderous engines never cease to throb and wide-mouthed furnaces eternally thrust forth fiery tongues.

Thus there has been progression, not, perhaps, so gigantic in its strides as in one or two other places of the Principality; but, nevertheless, sufficiently steady and continuous. The hardy race who reaped their harvests in the waters fringing the coast, and who diversified the monotony of their legitimate calling with occasional spells of wrecking and smuggling, have had to go; the pioneers of the coalfields, who with ill-directed efforts scraped the face of the earth for the mineral have been succeeded by a generation familiar with well-

arranged systems, who delve many scores of fathoms deep for the black diamonds, assisted by powerful machinery.

Manifold other changes have there been. Architecturally, the old order of things has passed away. The residences that were wont to stand out in bold relief, "all very large and fine," amid straw-thatched cots, look humble now surrounded by jaunty modern rivals. "The best houses of fifty years ago are the worse in town," was the recent observation of a respected gentleman whose memory goes back to the second decade of the century.

"Llanelly" is a compound word, "Llan" being Celtic for Church or sacred enclosure, "elly" the corruptive form of the name "Ellyw," said to have been that of the saintly daughter of Brychain Brecheinog, a famous Welsh chieftain, who lived in the fifth century. While the existence of the town as a place of commerce is of comparatively recent origin, there is well authenticated evidence to support its pretensions otherwise to considerable antiquity. For ages it appears to have held a position of some importance in the estimation of the early Catholic

Church. A splendid monastery was built by St. Piero, 513 A.D. at Machynis, now forming part of the main land but which formerly was an island, as the name suggests—" Monach Ynis," or Monk's Island. At one time the town, it is said, possessed a charter and there is extant a plausible romance concerning its mysterious disappearance. The Parliamentary Boundary Commissioner in 1832 described the town as a "borough by prescription," and said that there was a document in the Tower of the reign of Edward II., in which Llanelly is often spoken as "the borough town." It is specifically alluded to as a town in a grant of Charles I to Earl Cawdor.

The Parish Church is old, and, anterior to alterations made early in this century, was remarkable in that it had two steeples—one terminating in a spire, the other in an embattled tower. An important British fortification in pre-historic times, Llanelly was the scene of a conflict between the Royalists and the Roundheads during the great rebellion, and until quite recently a lineal descendant of the Royalist leader, General Laugharne, occupied Vuuxhall House, the name of

which is richly reminiscent of that stormy period.

At the outset of its commercial career the fortunes of the community were inseparably linked with those of two great families - the Stepney\* and the Mansels—and not to this day has the connection been severed so far as the former is concerned. *En passant*, we may observe that the third Sir John Stepney married Justina, daughter of Vandyck, the famous painter, whose portrait of himself - that of the "Inverted Hand" - remains an heirloom in the family. The mother of Justina was Mary, daughter of Patrick Ruthven, son of the first Earl of Gowrie, the originator or victim of the historical conspiracy.

Like unto that of most towns of Wales, the prosperity of Llanelly is, in the main, attributable to its mineral wealth, and in a lesser degree to its position on the estuary of the Burry River and consequent close proximity to the sea. Mr. Thos. Mainwaring - whose scholarly researches have placed all local historians under deep obligation- has supplied facts which place beyond cavil the fact that coal was worked in the district early in the fourteenth century. Leland, in his "Itinerary,"

published 300 years ago, speaks of "Llanelthi, a village of Kidwelli lordship," the inhabitants of which "dig coles els scant in Kidwelli land." Mining seems to have been pursued in a primitive way until early in the eighteenth century, from which period the operations grew more systematic and extensive. Kymer, in 1752, made a canal—the first in Wales—to convey coal from Pwlllyllygod to Kidwelli. Towards the close of the century quite a legion of enterprising men devoted themselves and their capital to the production of coal—among them Sir Thomas Stepney, who exported much to Spain, taking wine, &c., in exchange, but it would seem were not rewarded with the measure of success they deserved, for the Committee of the House of Commons, in 1809, were assured there was not even a single shipping Colliery In South Wales or Monmouthshire which had reaped the cost of its establishment, with the legal interest of five per cent. Judged by the amount of duty paid to the Government on coal exported, Llanelly in the first years of the present century took the lead of the Welsh ports. In 1818 it paid £406 3s. 11d., as against £236 1s. 10d. by the rival port of Swansea.

Two names stand out prominently among those connected with the progress of Llanelly - those of Mr. Alexander Raby and Mr. Richard Janion Nevill. The former gave the first great impetus to the development of the resources of the district; the latter continued and guided its subsequent progression. When Mr. Raby, who is described by Smiles, in his "Iron and Iron Workers," as the greatest authority on iron in the last century came to Llanelly in 1795 - the year of the celebrated bet - he immediately proceeded, with characteristic energy, to make his presence felt. He had much wealth, much skill, and much enterprise. Taking over Messrs. Givers and Ingman's furnace at Cwmdeche, he commenced operation' on a scale never hitherto attempted. Within a comparatively short period six steam engines had been placed in position, three or four pits sunk, and to meet the requirements consequent upon this industrial revolution, scores of cottages were erected to accommodate the workmen. During the Napoleonic wars he cast many cannon and shot for the British Government. But the pace killed. Trade depression and the keen competition of Merthyr and

Dowlais rivals caused the financial downfall of this remarkable man, who was compelled to discontinue operations after spending more than £100,000.

Still the town grew. Early in 1805 the copper works were opened by Messrs. Daniell, Guest, Saville, and Nevill, the last named the ancestor of the estimable Nevill family, who from that day to this have been closely identified with the commercial interests of the town. The output of copper for many years was comparatively small and eight years after the start it did not exceed hundred tons a week. The management was entrusted to Mr. R. Janion Nevill in 1810, and retained it until his death, fifty years later, guiding the expansion of the undertaking to immense proportions, and witnessing the growth of the town from infancy to a robust manhood. For many years the copper works and its various offshoots formed the chief support of the town—a fact vaguely expressed in the homely phrase which has long obtained currency, "The copper works' stack is the mother of all the little ones." This stack (320ft. high), we may add, is the finest in the kingdom, and, together with

another less imposing, cost nearly £ 5,000. The Wern Foundry commenced working in 1816, and continues to this day, having long since passed into the hands of another scion of the Nevill family, Mr. Richard Nevill, of Felinfoel House. The effect produced by these industries is reflected the rapid growth of the population. The fewer than 500 in 1795 had by 1801 become 2,972 ; by 1811, 3,691. For the next twenty years the increase was less rapid. When admitted to a share of the Parliamentary representation under the Reform Bill the borough had a population of 4,173 and, under the £10 franchise 132 Voters, many of them however, were faggot-voters.

(Weekly Mail 7th May 1887)

### LLANELLY.

**ACCIDENT.**—On Monday night a young lad had both his legs cut off by a locomotive near Glanmor Foundry.

(South Wales Daily News 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1887)

### SUDDEN DEATH AT LLANELLY.

Early on Sunday morning the lifeless body of David Griffiths (53), a coal-trimmer, residing at

New-street, New Dock, Llanelly, was discovered by his wife in front of the fire-place of the kitchen. Deceased had complained on Friday of pains in the lower part of his body, but there appeared to be no cause for alarm.

(South Wales Daily News 27<sup>th</sup> June 1887)

### LLANELLY TRAP ACCIDENT

A very serious trap accident took place near the Furnace, Llanelly, on Friday afternoon. It appears that Mr. Carl, Sandy, was with others coming from Five Roads in a trap at a quick pace, and when near the Furnace the trap came in contact with the wall. Mr. Carl was thrown out, and sustained severe injuries, and was conveyed to the hospital in a cab, where he now lies in a precarious state.

(The Western Mail 20<sup>th</sup> August 1887)

### LLANELLY.

**GOLDSMITHS' HALL, LLANELLY.**— Re-opened today by Davies and Sons, Carmarthen and Neath, with fine New Stock of Clocks, Watches, Jewellery, Silver and Electro-plated Goods, Barometers, Special attention given to repairs.

(Western Mail 14<sup>th</sup> September 1887)

### SAD GUN ACCIDENT AT LLANELLY.

A young woman in charge of a rifle shooting saloon at Llanelly accidentally shot herself on Wednesday. She was at once removed to the Llanelly Hospital, but her injuries were found to be of so serious a character that her recovery is regarded as doubtful.

(South Wales Daily News 29<sup>th</sup> September 1887)

### PEMBREY.

**WORTH KNOWING.**—The London and Ceylon Tea Company are now giving double checks or double presents to all purchasers of their renowned teas for 21 days only. Branches Stepney-street, Llanelly, Hong Kong, Neath, &c.

(South Wales Daily News September 29, 1887)

### LLANELLY.

**Concert.**—A very successful concert in connection with the Felinfoel Cricket Club was held on Tuesday evening at the National Schools. Mr. James Buckley presided.

(Western Mail 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1887)

### THE FATAL FIRE AT LLANELLY.

With regard to the statement that a large sum of money had been stolen during the recent fire at Llwynhendy, we are given to understand that the whole of such sum has since been satisfactorily accounted for. The remains of the three deceased were interred at Zoar burying-ground, on Saturday by the Rev John Thomas, in the presence of thousands of spectators. The injured persons (Harry in particular) still remain in a serious condition.

(South Wales Daily News 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1888)

### LLANELLY.

**SAD DROWNING CASE.**—At the village of Velinfoel, on Thursday evening last, a little boy, about two years and three months old, son of Mr William Richards, Factory-row, Velinfoel, was drowned in the river Lliedi, which runs behind the house. Deceased was sent, in company with a little girl of seven. to buy some sweets. They left the house together, but in a few minutes the girl returned

informing the mother that the little boy had not been with her at all. Upon hearing this, the mother at once proceeded to go in search of the child, and shortly afterwards saw some men coming from the river carrying the body home. A coroner's enquiry was held on Friday morning before Mr J. D. Rowlands, deputy coroner, when a verdict of "Accidental drowning" was returned.

(South Wales Daily News 28<sup>th</sup> July 1888)

**CHAS. WATKINS & SON'S**  
 FAMOUS GOLD MEDAL  
**ALES AND STOUTS**  
 IN 4½, 9, 18, & 36 GALLON  
 CASKS

---

SOLE AGENTS FOR SWANSEA &  
 DISTRICT  
**GORDON BRYDONE & Co.,**  
 CASTLE BUILDINGS,  
 47 & 48, WIND-STREET.

---

N.B. - DELIVERED FREE WITHIN A  
 RADIUS OF 10 MILES.

**1889**

**LLANELLY LOCAL BOARD.**

An extraordinary meeting of the Llanelly Local Board was held on Tuesday, Mr John Bourne in the

chair. The question of the widening of Station-road, opposite the Old Lodge Works was considered. A committee of the board had consulted with the recent purchasers of the works who offered to dispose of the necessary space, and do the work, for £750. After some consideration, it was decided that the offer of the Old Lodge Company be declined with thanks. The tender of Captain Rees for making certain streets was accepted.

(The Cardiff Times 12<sup>th</sup> January 1889)

**LLANELLY.**

**TRAP COLLISION.—**

Just after dark on Thursday night two traps collided in Pottery-street, Llanelly. The shaft of one of the vehicles penetrated with such violence to the horse's body that he immediately fell to the ground and bled to death. The casualty is supposed to have occurred owing to one of the drivers keeping to the wrong side of the street, it being so dark that he could not see the other conveyance until he was a few yards away. The pony that was killed was the property of Mr W. Phillips, grocer, but was lent for

the day to Mr D. C. Parry (one of the successful candidates for the county council) for electioneering purposes. Several occupants jumped out of the trap just in time to save injuries, but two men sustained severe bruises on the head.

(South Wales Daily News January 26, 1889)

**LLANELLY.**

**AMBULANCE** — A large ambulance class has just been, formed in connection with the Llanelly Mechanics' Institute.

**A SAD ACCIDENT** happened here on Sunday to a little girl, 11 years of age, the daughter of Mr George Caul, Pembrey-road. She climbed on the stand before the fire to reach something from the mantelpiece, her clothes caught fire, and she now lies in a very critical state.

(South Wales Daily News 28<sup>th</sup> January 1889)

**SUICIDE OF A LLANELLY  
 CONSTABLE.**

Police-constable Daniel Davies, of Llanelly, who cut his throat last week, as already reported, died yesterday at the hospital.

(South Wales Daily News 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1889)

**A NEW TIN-PLATE WORKS  
 FOR LLANELLY.**

**The Company Registered.**

No better proof of the buoyancy of the tin-plate trade need be sought than that supplied by the new works which are springing up in the district. The most recent addition to the list of manufacturers is a Llanelly company, which has acquired the premises formerly owned by the Old Lodge Iron Company. The new, company was registered on the 1st instant under the style of the "Old Lodge Tin-plate Company Limited." The capital is £50,000, in £50 shares, and the objects are to manufacture iron, steel, tin, terne, and black plates.

The subscribers are:— Henry Rees, Llanelly, tin-plate manufacturer; Aaron Stone, Llanelly, shipowner; T. Herbert, Llanelly; J. Williams, Llanelly, timber merchant; J. Powell, Llanelly, ironfounder; J. Williams, Llanelly, accountant; J. A. Jones, M.D., Llanelly and Samuel Williams, Llanelly, timber merchant, who take one share each. The number of directors is not to be less than three nor more than seven qualification, £500 in the capital; the subscribers are to appoint the first directors; the

company in general meeting will determine remuneration.

(South Wales Echo 7<sup>th</sup> February 1889)

### **LLANELLY.**

**OLD LODGE TINPLATE COMPANY.**—The capital of this company is £20,000, and not £50,000, as stated in our yesterday's issue.

(South Wales Daily News 8<sup>th</sup> February 1889)

### **DEATH OF MR MANSEL REES, LLANELLY.**

We regret to announce the death, at the untimely age of 43 years, of Mr Mansel Rees, of Kilymaenllwyd, Llanelly, which took place on Thursday, when he was stricken down with apoplexy. Mr Rees was senior partner in the well-known firm of Roes and Edwards, solicitors, Llanelly. For many years he had been clerk to the Llanelly Board of Guardians and Highway Board. He was also superintendent registrar of the district, and had filled the office of deputy-recorder of Kidwelly, and that of harbour commissioner for Llanelly.

The deceased gentleman was held in the highest esteem by all

sections of the community. A man of sincere piety, he took an active part in local evangelistic work, and neither his sympathy nor his purse was ever withheld from a deserving cause. His death, at the comparatively early age of 48, will be universally deplored.

Mr Rees claimed descent from the princes of South Wales, but brighter than his distinguished lineage was his high character, his worth as a citizen and public officer, and his philanthropy and unostentatious sympathy with the poor and needy of the neighbourhood. He leaves a widow, daughter of Mr Benjamin Jones, J.P., Llanelly, but no issue. Mr Rees was a son of the late Mr John Hughes Rees, J.P. and D.L., of Kilymaenllwyd (who died 1871), by Isabella, only child of Mr Thomas Rutson, of Cotham, Middlesex. The deceased gentleman was a Conservative, but he did not take a prominent part in politics.

(South Wales Daily News 14<sup>th</sup> February 1889)

### **LLANELLY.**

**THE WIDENING OF STATION-ROAD.** — An extraordinary meeting of the Llanelly Local Board was held on Saturday to

further consider this question, the town's meeting of Tuesday having approved the step and also the purchase of the land from the Old Lodge Company at £750. It was decided to accept the offer of the Old Lodge Company and take the requisite steps.

(South Wales Daily News 25<sup>th</sup> February 1889)

### **A TIN-PLATE WORKS FOR BURRY PORT.**

To the erection of tin-plate works in South Wales there is, apparently, no end. Yet another manufactory is now to be added to the large number already in existence. This will have its locale in Carmarthenshire, the site selected being at Burry Port, a small and conveniently-situated industrial centre four miles from Llanelly. The company was registered on the 1st inst. under the style of "The Ashburnham Tin-plate Company" (Limited), with a capital of £20,000, in £50 shares. It has been formed for "the manufacture of iron, steel, tin, terne, and black plates." It is understood that the Earl of Ashburnham, who is largely interested in landed property at Burry Port, will have a considerable stake in the new company. The first subscribers

include Mr W. J. Buckley, J.P., Llanelly; Mr D. Griffiths, Burry Port, and Mr R. C. Jenkins, Llanelly. Mr D. Williams Roes, Llanelly, is solicitor to the company.

(South Wales Daily News 7<sup>th</sup> March 1889)

### **TRIMSARAN WORKS.**

#### **TO THE EDITOR.**

SIR, - Our attention has been called to a short notice in your paper of June 28th, and as it is somewhat misleading we beg to state that here are two distinct companies, viz., the Trimsaran Co., working the collieries, brick, and patent fuel works, and the Anthracite Iron and Steel Company, now only working their foundry, but erecting two blast furnaces and one open hearth steel furnace of the Siemens-Martin style. Mr J. C. Kendale, of Barrow-in-Furness, and Mr William Bevan, of Llanelly, have the contracts for erection, the former of all iron work, and the latter of the steel furnace.—I am, &c. (for the Anthracite Iron and Steel Company, Limited),

C. J. SANDAHL (Works Manager).

(South Wales Daily News 8<sup>th</sup> July 1889)

**BEATH OF MR JOHN  
POWELL, OF LLANELLY.**

Mr John Powell died this morning after a short illness. He was the proprietor of the Glanmor Foundry, vice-chairman of the Llanelly Board of Guardians, and a member of the local board. The deceased was 56 years of age at the time of his death.

(South Wales Echo 13<sup>th</sup> July 1889)

**LLANELLY.**

We regret to record the death of Mr John Powell, of Brynodin, Llanelly, in the 66th year of his age. He had been in failing health for some time, but was not confined to his bed until a week ago, when he was attacked with inflammation of the bowels, and died on Saturday morning. Mr Powell was one of the best known men in Llanelly, and carried on for a number of years with eminent success the Glanmor Foundry. He was a native of Llanelly, where his genial face and portly figure will for a long time be missed. He was vice-chairman of the Llanelly Board of Guardians, a post to which he succeeded on the death of his old friend, Mr Daniel Davies. On that board Mr Powell did a lot of

good, and the poor of the town generally will miss his timely and generous liberality for a long time to come. His benefactions were numerous and spontaneous. He was also a member of the Llanelly Local Board of Health and the Llanelly Harbour Commission, a director of the Ashburnham Tin-plate Company, the Old Lodge Tin-plate Company, the Fairwood Tin-plate Company, and the Teilo Tin-plate Company, besides being largely interested in the Oldcastle Tin-plate Works. In politics Mr Powell was a Unionist, and always conscientiously supported the Unionist candidate in the Parliamentary contests of the borough. Mr Powell had keen business aptitude, and conducted his works with efficiency, and threw into all the affairs with which he was connected a rare amount of activity and enthusiasm. His knowledge of Llanelly and its industries was comprehensive, as he was a native of the town, being born at Penygarn. Mr Powell leaves a widow and an only brother to mourn his death. The funeral took place on Wednesday.

(The Carmarthen Journal and South Wales  
Weekly Advertiser 19<sup>th</sup> July 1889)

**LLANELLY.**

The annual licensing meeting took place at Llanelly Town-hall on Wednesday. Present on the bench—Rev Canon Williams, Messrs R. Nevill and R. Maclaran. All the licenses were renewed except the following, which were adjourned on account of convictions having been recorded against them:—Tymelyn, Trafalgar Castle, Llanelly; Bird in Hand, Royal Oak, Pontardulais. The transfer of the license of the Beaufort Arms, Llanelly, was granted to larger premises next door. Mr Randell, M.P., for applicant, Miriam applied for a new license for a house formerly known as the Pemberton Arms. Mr W. Howell appeared for applicant, and Mr Oliver J. Williams, LL.B., objected on behalf of the ratepayers, Capt. Supt. Scott also objecting on behalf of the police. Evidence having been called, and a smart skirmish taken place between the solicitors, the application was refused, the bench advising applicant to apply for an off-license at the adjourned session.

Full license granted to the Greenfield Inn, Mynyddygarreg. Mr Jackson (at Mr Buckley

Roderick's) for applicant, Mr Oliver Williams opposing. Several transfers were also granted.

(South Wales Daily News 29<sup>th</sup> August  
1889)

**LLANELLY.**

**SUNDAY-SCHOOL**

**DEVELOPMENTS.**—Llanelly is shortly to have two new Sunday schools. One just built by the Church friends will be opened in a few days, near Furnace. The English Wesleyans are following suit with a schoolroom, which will be contiguous to their fine chapel in Hall-street.

**TEMPERANCE TEACHING IN DAY SCHOOLS.** - A meeting of ratepayers favourable to this movement was held at the Nevill Memorial, Llanelly, on Tuesday evening. The Rev Thomas Davies, D. D. (Siloah), occupied the chair. Mr W. David explained that the meeting had been called for the purpose of strengthening the bands of the school board in coming to a favourable decision with regard to the application of the United Kingdom Band of Hope Union for permission to send a qualified lecturer to visit

each school under the board to give temperance lessons to the children. Several speakers expressed themselves confident that the board would assist the object in view, and suitable resolutions were carried. It was further arranged that the voice of the meeting should be conveyed to the next sitting of the board by a deputation consisting of the following gentlemen:—Revs Canon Williams, B.D., Dr Davies, Thomas Johns, and J. Kirkby, and Messrs W. H. Ludford, J. H. Rogers, Oliver J. Williams, Richard Thomas, Wm. Jones, W. David, and Dr J. A. Jones.

(South Wales Daily News 5<sup>th</sup> September 1889)

### LLANELLY.

MR ALLEN, revising barrister, held his court at Llanelly on Monday. Mr Roderick and Mr Cox appeared for the Conservatives, and Mr Jeremiah Williams and Mr Jeremy for the Liberals.

FOOTBALL. - Comparing this season's fixtures with last season, we find there are ten matches less. The season commences a week later than last season, and ceases three weeks earlier. There are no matches with Cardiff nor

Carmarthen, still the fixtures are good.

**OXFORD LOCAL EXAMINATION** Amongst the few candidates hailing from Wales who have passed the above examination this year, the Misses G. M. and M. Evans, daughters of Mr David Evans, Wellfield, Llanelly, have passed in the first division of senior candidates, both obtaining honours and the title of Associate of Arts.

**MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.**—At the meeting of the governing body of the Llanelly Mechanics' Institute on Friday night Mr W. H. Ludford in the chair, Mr Arthur Mee, who had volunteered to examine the library, handed in his report, and also the draft of the new catalogue which he had prepared. The report and catalogue were referred to a sub-committee.

**SUDDEN DEATH.**—An inquest was held at the Cornish Arms on Tuesday, before Mr J. D. Rowlands (deputy coroner), touching the death of one Thomas Williams, a lodger in the above inn, who died very suddenly on Monday morning. Dr Evans could give no opinion as to the cause of death, and the enquiry was

adjourned for a few hours to enable him to make a post-mortem examination. A verdict that deceased died from *pericarditis* was returned.

**HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS.** Llanelly Harbour Commissioners met on Tuesday, Mr Tregoning in the chair.—It was reported that the main training bank had not required slag for a month.—The question of thoroughly investigating the buoyage of the channel was introduced by Mr Wilson, and after some discussion it was decided that a committee of the whole board report upon the matter.—It was announced that the Burry Port and Gwendraeth Valley Company had appointed Mr Russell their representative on the board.

**SCHOOL BOARD.** - The monthly meeting of this board was held on Monday, Mr John S. Tregoning in the chair. This being the first meeting for the chairman to be present since his re-election he thanked the board for the honour conferred upon him. He had not sought office, as he believed the chairman of the school board should be conversant with the Welsh language.—The question of temperance lectures in the board schools, adjourned from last meeting, was considered, together

with the opinion of the teachers and managers thereon. A deputation of four leading teetotalers (headed by Rev Dr Davies, Siloah) was also present to urge the board to adopt the lecture scheme. After some discussion, it was decided to allow of one lecture per annum in each boys' and girls' school, permission being given to objecting parents to withdraw their children during the lectures. - Mr Tom Hughes' tender at £172 was accepted for additions to Lakefield School.—Mr Gwilym Evans gave notice of motion that drill be taught to all the boys under the board, and that a drill instructor be advertised for.

**A NEW MISSION CHURCH.**—On Saturday there was a Mission Church opened at the Furnace, Llanelly. The Furnace is the oldest part of Llanelly, and in the year 1801 Mr Raby, the founder of Llanelly, had the largest furnaces in South Wales in that village. Since that time the buildings have been erected nearer the sea, until within the last few years, when there has been much building going on in the Furnace. The Church friends have for some time past held mission services and school in a small building, but some friends,

headed by the Rev. Canon Williams, B.D., vicar of the parish, arranged to build a Mission Church. Mr Wm. Griffiths designed the building, and Mr Wm. Bassett was entrusted with the contract. On Saturday a procession was formed, headed by Canon Willam and a large number of clergy, who marched from the old school to the new erection. Mr Lewis, of Stradey, declared the building opened in the name of God. A short history of the Furnace Mission was then given by Canon Williams, who stated that the commencement of the mission was due to the Williams, of New Road, a most Christian lady in all respects. - Mr J. H. Rogers spoke on behalf of the committee, and stated that a few gentlemen had held themselves responsible for the debt. - Other addresses were delivered, and the school children had tea at Glyncoed, the residence of Mr J. H. Rogers. The Church has within the last few years extended to all parts of Llanelly - a new Church at the Dock, another at Seaside, and now the Furnace Church.

(The Carmarthen Journal and Sout Wales Weekly Advertiser 13<sup>th</sup> September 1889)

## LLANELLY.

**MINISTERIAL.** - The Rev. J. Y. Jones, the much respected minister of Bethlehem Baptist Church, Pwll, has just declined a call by the English Baptists of Dudley.

**THE FIRE BRIGADE.** - Captain Superintendent Scott and several members of the Llanelly Fire Brigade start for London to-day (Friday), to take part in the Lord Mayor's show. They will be entertained in the metropolis till Monday night, their expenses being partially defrayed by some local gantlemen.

**THE GLANMOR FOUNDRY.** - We understand that the late Mr John Powell's ironworks at Glanmor have been purchased by a company for £6,000.

**THE ELECTRIC LIGHT.** - Much interest is felt in the coming attempt to illuminate the streets and shops by electricity. At Tuesday's board of health meeting some severe comments were made on the Llanelly gas, and unless this improves, the new light will be hailed with exceeding great joy.

**BOARD OF GUARDIANS.** - The above board was held on Thursday at the Board-room, Mr R. Nevill in the chair.—A letter

was read from the authorities of Carmarthen Asylum stating that one Wm. Thomas, of Cwtta Farm, Llaunoo, had been taken in custody at Carmarthen as a lunatic and placed in the asylum, and asking the board to contribute towards his maintenance. It was decided to comply with the request. A letter was read from Mr Alfred Thomas, M.P., stating that it was his intention to briug in a bill during the next session of Parliament to amend the Poor Law Act, and asking the board some 33 questions as to the working of the present act in the union. After some discussion, it was decided that every guardian should get a printed copy of the questions, and that the matter be considered at the next meeting.

(South Wales Daily News 8<sup>th</sup> November 1889)

## **TERRIBLE AFFAIR AT LLANELLY. FIGHT BETWEEN POACHERS AND KEEPERS. A NOTORIOUS LLANELLYITE KILLED. SERIOUS INJURIES INFLICTED ON A GAME- KEEPER.**

## **PARTICULARS OF THE AFFRAY.**

### **MAGISTERIAL PROCEEDINGS.**

[FROM OUR OWN REPORTERS.]

### **LLANELLY, TUESDAY,**

Exactly two years after the terrible murder of the postboy near Llanelly, the annals of crime in Carmarthenshire have been stained by another terrible occurrence in the same place, from the result of which one man has very hurriedly gone to his last account, whilst another lies in a precarious stale.

### **ARRIVAL OF THE NEWS AT LLANELLY.**

The news reached Llanelly early on Tuesdsay morning that a very determined poaching affray had taken place in Stradey Woods, and that one of the poachers had died by his own hand, after inflicting a terrible blow upon the head of a gamekeeper with the stock of his gun. The arrest of one of the two witnesses of the occurrence and the serious condition of the other naturally militate against a thorough investigateion of the details at the present moment, but, fortunately, the injured gamekeeper had told a fragmentary history to the police

before a serious relapse took place in his condition

#### SCENE OF THE AFFAIR.

Sufficient has, therefore, been gathered to enable me to place before your readers what I hope will be all interesting narrative. About two miles inland from Llanelly the uncongenial surroundings of the manufacturing town give place to a beautiful end picturesque range of woods, which belong to the estate of Mr. C. W. Mansel Lewis, of Stradey Park. These woods seem to completely cover the Pembrey Mountain, which is so conspicuous an object on the landscape looking from the upper part of suburban Llanelly. The well-known football field of the Llanelly Club almost borders upon the Llanelly fringe of these woods, which extend for miles and are noted covers for game. The fact that they afford a plentiful supply of game has naturally not been lost sight of by the "Illicit sportsmen" of Llanelly, of whom a batch come up pretty regularly before the county bench.

#### A NOTORIOUS POACHER.

One of the most notorious poachers and violent characters in Llanelly was a man who went by the name of Arthur Nurse. He

was a gigantic fellow, over six feet high, and broad and muscular in proportion. He has figured before the Llanelly bench on many occasions after his foraging expeditions in the neighbouring covers, and his "trespasses" have not always been the greatest of his offence. He has had many scuffles with gamekeepers in the depths of the woods, and has not always come off second best. This fact, coupled with the knowledge that on the last occasion he was brought up he swore a terrible oath that on the next occasion he was caught he would not be taken alive, has naturally made him the terror of the gamekeepers of the neighbourhood.

#### THE FATAL MONDAY NIGHT,

On Monday night, the moon—that delight of poachers and terror of gamekeepers—was up, but her light was somewhat obscured by passing clouds. Nurse appears to have fixed upon the night as a suitable one for an expedition, and to have got together three "friends," of nearly as un-savoury reputation as himself, to (like Earl Percy, that noble poacher) "take their pleasure in the woods." One of these was David Walters, a shoemaker, hailing from Ystalyfera, of about the middle height, with shaven chin and a

moustache, and of disreputable appearance, and David John, a well known and by no means respected Llanellyite, who is short and thick-built, and whose brief and not over-euphonious sobriquet of "Dwt" will at once re-call him to the memory of the average resident of Llanelly. These and another person not yet known made up the party. They appear to have had only one gun between them - a muzzle-loading fowling piece with two barrels - and Nurse, as leader of the gang, took to himself the privilege of handling this weapon. With the exception of the fact that the party appear to have had some sport, little is known of their adventures from the time they got into the shady covers till about a quarter-past two o'clock. The night was mild for November. The moon shining through the leafless trees enabled the party to spot the pheasants very clearly, and John had pocketed two pheasants "to his own check," whilst, probably, the fourth man (whom the police appear to know perfectly well, although they at present have no clear evidence against him) had also a certain quantity of game bagged.

#### THE KEEPERS ALARMED.

At the hour stated (shortly after two) Thomas Toplis, a young fellow of 20 or 22 years of age, employed as keeper at Stradey Park under his father, who is also named Thomas Taplis, heard a shot fired in the preserved covers on the estate. These covers are detached from the range of woods on the estate. The shot appeared to have come from the direction of the Cwmbach Dingle in the warren. He called his father, and they went together towards the place at which the disturbers (whoever they might be) had had the temerity to discharge their gun against Mr. Mansel Lewis's birds in the stillness of the night. On entering Cwmbach Dingle they saw the four men.

#### THE MEN YIELD,

How the story would have ended if the whole of the party had been as much disposed as Nurse to imbrue their hands in blood it is not difficult to foresee, but, fortunately for the two men who had to cope with such odds, three out of the four marauders seemed to be very peaceably disposed. They do not even appear to have offered very strenuous opposition to arrest, and certainly did not act like the cut-throat Thugs their character and appearance would have led one to expect them to

be. Means of escape seemed to be the chief thing considered by them. John was captured by young Toplis as quickly as possible, and he submitted without resistance, but directly afterwards broke away, and Toplis had to follow and seize him again. But how fared the father—he who not being still in the vigour of youth. Was left to cope with the three other poachers?

#### THE FATAL AFFRAY.

He, it appeared, rushed at David Walters (the third man having made good his escape, and Walters, probably, being the least dangerous of the remaining two) and seized him. Nurse, with an oath, told the keeper to "let him go." Toplis refusing, Nurse advanced upon him with his gun. Taking firm hold of the barrel, he swung the weapon up round his head with all his force, and brought it down with a sickening crash upon a stout walking stick which Toplis had raised above his head with both hands to protect himself from the blow he saw was coming. The stick was of holly, and nearly as thick as a man's wrist, but it was but a feeble protection against such a violent onslaught. It parted in the middle, and the gun descended on the

head of the unlucky keeper, inflicting a very serious wound on the skull. At the same moment a loud report was heard, and Nurse fell to the ground, having apparently received the contents of one or both barrels in his body. This, the chief incident in the tragedy, has not yet been fully described; but from the statements made, both by Walters and the gamekeeper, the death of Nurse was either brought about by his own hand or was caused by the concussion which the instrument received.

#### THE GUN WAS SMASHED.

The woodwork of the gun - which I have since seen - was smashed to pieces, the locks laid bare, and the trigger-band torn up from its fastenings. The instrument, in fact, was in three or four pieces, the ironwork everywhere separated from the stock. The son, who had taken hold of John about 200 yards away, heard the report, and was hastening up with his man when he met his father, who had charge of Walters. Strange to say, after the tremendous blow he received Toplis had been able to keep his senses about him. Walters, apparently, was peaceably disposed. Terrified at the scene of which he had been a witness, or

else desirous of clearing himself as quickly as possible, he appears to have given himself up quietly to Toplis, for it is very improbable that the latter could have exerted much force upon him.

#### AN IMPORTANT STATEMENT.

When the son brought, his prisoner face to face with the other couple, Walters voluntarily burst out with the important and striking information that "Nurse had killed himself." The son asked his father if that were so, and he replied in the affirmative. This evidence Toplis gave before the magistrates at the brief police-court hearing today, and it was (in the absence of his father's own testimony) the only account of the occurrence which has yet been given to the public.

#### TAKING THE PRISONERS TO THE LODGE

Father and son then took their prisoners, Walters and John, up to the lodge, where they put them safe for the time being. The father had had his head cut clean open by the blow from the gun, and, the excitement being over, quickly found it impossible for him to pursue the matter further. Toplis the younger, however, in company with another under-

keeper, went off to Cwmbach Dingle, and, without much trouble, they found the body of Nurse. Death appeared to have been almost instantaneous, for the body was already cold, and it is not stated that he uttered a single word after his gun was discharged. He was lying on his side against a "tump," and had evidently received a terrible wound in the breast, the blood from which lay thick on the grass and undergrowth around him. The spot where the body was found is called Cwmcefn, and it is to the right of Cwmbach Dingle.

#### REMOVING THE DEAD BODY.

The dead body of Nurse was carried up from the dingle to the lodge, where it was put into a cart and brought to the residence of the deceased, in Crooker's-row, Llanelly.

#### TAKING THE PRISONERS INTO CUSTODY

As soon as possible after the prisoners John and Walters had been secured Thomas Thomas, a keeper at Stradey, set off in a trap for Llanelly to obtain the assistance of the police. He arrived at the police-station at four o'clock, where Sergeant Evans directed them to Stepney-street. Police-constables J. Jones

and Rees Jones were despatched with Thomas to Stradey, and took the two prisoners into custody, and brought them over to Llanelly, where they were lodged in the cells. They also took possession of the broken gun and walking-stick and a shot flask which had fallen out of John's pocket when he was arrested in the wood. When charged at the police-station Walters said, "I have nothing to say against it; I was there," and John said, "I did not know I was there; I was so drunk," thus throwing but little light on the question. The coolness of John's reply has produced much comment, but there is little reason to doubt that drink had been at the bottom of the mischief, at any rate indirectly. These are all the facts which are at present known in regard to the occurrence, and the conclusion to which they point is that the deceased man, Nurse, was prevented by an extraordinary interposition of Providence from murdering Toplis, and that he paid the penalty for his act with his life.

#### LATER.

Further researches are slowly filling up the gaps in the terrible occurrence. A much-disputed point is whether Walters, when

brought by the elder Toplis to the spot where the younger keeper had secured his man, said, "Nurse has shot himself," or "Nurse is shot." It would not be a far-fetched conjecture to state that when the defence is fully elaborated the latter statement will be insisted upon as the correct one. It now seems clear that the elder Toplis was in possession of a gun. Walters bears marks of shots. Dr. Roderick, after an examination of this prisoner, has found a dozen or more shots just beneath the skin, and recognises the necessity of at once removing them. From this it would seem that Walters was shot when he and Nurse were running away from the injured keeper, seeing that they could not out-distance Toplis, Nurse and Walters stood, and the former, with an oath, dared Toplis to lay a finger on them. A former statement, that Toplis was completing the arrest of Walters when Nurse returned, is not correct. In a conversation with Dr. Roderick, the latter said that the cut, not a clean one, on the head of Toplis is about an inch and a quarter in extent. There is, however, no fracture of the skull, but the danger he lies in is the condition of the brain. The doctor

is far from inclined to predict the recovery of Toplis.

#### PRISONERS BEFORE THE MAGISTRATES.

The prisoners David John and David Walters were brought before Mr. Rowland M'Laran, when the following evidence was taken:-

Thomas Toplis, An underkeeper at Stradey, sworn, said: I was on duty last night at the warren, the property of Mr. Mansel Lewis. It is in the preserved covers. About quarter-past two this morning I heard two shots fired from Cwmbach Dingle. My father was with me. We immediately made for that direction, and we saw four men. They were walking up against us. We tried to arrest them, and they ran away. I got up to David John.

The prisoner: I stopped for him.

Mr. M'Laran: Silence.

Witness: I took hold of him, but we had no scuffle.

Prisoner: I went quiet.

Mr. M'Laran (sternly): Silence.

Witness: My father went in pursuit of the other three. John made away, but I went in pursuit of him and caught him. The remaining three went away and my father pursued them. He came

back to me with David Walters after the lapse of about a quarter of an hour. I did not see my father overtake the three men. He and I then took prisoners to Stradey Lodge, the residence of Mr. Robertson, and then I left them with father and several other keepers who had come up. I then went to see after Nurse, the dead man, accompanied by another keeper. While my father was away in pursuit of the three men I heard one shot fired, and I heard my father call me by name to come to him. He said, "Tom, come here," but I didn't go. When he came back Walters said, "Nurse has shot himself." I asked my father if it was true and he said it was; that was all he said about it. I and Keeper Aimes then went to look for Nurse to Cwmcefn, to the right of Cwmbach Dingle, where I found Arthur Nurse in lying position up against the bank. We just touched him and found that he was quite cold. We then waited until the doctor came. Dr. Roderick came in five minutes' time and pronounced Nurse dead. We then took the body down to the dingle and put it in a cart, in which it was taken home. A shot flask fell out of John's pocket when I

arrested him. He had no gun or stick.

Upon being asked if he had any question to ask, Walters said he had been shot in the leg.

Police-constable W. Jones, sworn, said: I took prisoners into custody this morning about quarter to five. Toplis the elder told me he had caught prisoners poaching, and he gave them into my custody. I brought them to the lock-up. I searched them, and on David John found two pheasants (produced) inside his waistcoat. I found nothing upon Walters. I charged them with poaching at Stradey Park. Walters said, "I have nothing to say against it. I was there," John said "I did not know I was there I was so drunk." Prisoners were remanded until tomorrow (Thursday) morning.

#### FACTS RELATING TO NURSE AND JOHN.

The murderous affray in the Stradey Woods on Tuesday brings to the very forefront of public prominence certain characters who are exceptionally familiar to the good folks of Llanelly. Arthur Nurse, the man who met death in the struggle, possessed a giant's strength, and invariably used it like giant. It would not be too much to say that he was the

terror of the game-keepers in the Llanelly district. Of more than average intelligence, his life had been rendered notorious by many deeds of savage courage. It was he who led the rioters in the attack made upon the Llanelly Conservative Club in 1885. "Down with the Game Law," was then his cry, and the strident voice made itself heard above all the tumult and the noise. He had devoted his manhood to fighting the same laws - not in the manner provided by the Constitution, but by furtive attacks upon the preserves of the local gentry, and by periodical struggles with the keepers. Dogs were his inseparable companions, and the sharp crack of his rifle often awoke the echoes of the Stradey Woods in the small hours of the morning. David John, one of his companions, belongs to quite another type of poacher. "Dwt," as he is known to Llanellyites, is a careless, happy-go-lucky fellow, who, in spite of his manifold offences against his country's laws, is almost esteemed by his fellow-townsmen. His merry, joyous disposition redeemed faults which had naught repulsive but them "Dwt" could and would fight with or without provocation, but he was not brutal or ferocious, even when

most thoroughly saturated with intoxicants. His frequent appearances before the local bench invariably provided food for public amusement. He it was who, on one occasion, when fined for drunkenness and told that no time would be allowed for paying the money, good humouredly turned to the presiding magistrate, addressed him in endearing terms as "Brother," and asked for a loan to cover the damage. David John was an inveterate poacher, no doubt, and a habitual soaker, but he had few enemies nevertheless. The public, to whom the squat, rolling figure is familiar, with pity rather condemn his association with Nurse on this occasion. To those who know the tin-plate town the painful reflection will suggest itself that there is something eerie in this frequent shedding of human blood in a district which is remarkable chiefly for its crimeless record in other respects.

(The Western Mail 13<sup>th</sup> November 1889)

#### THE INQUEST,

The inquest on the body of Arthur Nurse was held on Wednesday afternoon at the Bull Inn, Wern, Llanelly, before Dr

James Rowlands, district coroner. The prisoner Walters, who was present when the fatality occurred, attended in custody. Mr Oliver Williams appeared for the game-keepers. Before the jury was sworn, the Coroner took advantage of an opportunity to reply to some innuendoes which had been made as to inconvenience arising from his residence at Carmarthen, and a statement that by having a coroner at Llanelly expense be saved. He said during the whole 20 years he had held the office he had never failed to hold an inquest at Llanelly on the following morning unless the police sergeant had expressed a wish for more time to get up the evidence. He did not care one fraction about the charges, because he said without fear of contradiction that the duties had been performed with due diligence, with care and attention, and satisfactorily. As to the question of expense, he pointed out that he always paid his travelling expenses from his own pocket.

The jury were then sworn, Mr Nevill being foreman. The body was viewed in the home of the deceased in Crooked-row. It lay in a downstairs room, very poorly

furnished. The chest, which was magnificently developed, and indicated very remarkable physique, was bare to a point near the heart, over which a small blue mark indicated the place where the fatal shot had entered.

Mr Oliver J. Williams, was present at the inquiry on behalf of the gamekeepers, and Capt. Scott represented the police authorities.

The Coroner, in opening the proceedings, said the investigation into the circumstances of the case required great care and attention, and he feared they would not be able to close it that day because an important witness was unable to appear. The first witness called was an elderly woman named Catherine Davies, a widow, who lived in the same house as deceased, and gave formal evidence of identification.

#### EVIDENCE OF A GAMEKEEPER.

Thomas Toplis, a, gamekeeper in the employ of Mr Lewis, of Straday, said :—I and my father were out in the woods last Monday night. We heard shots fired and went to see where they came from, and noticed four men coming towards us. That was between 2 and 2.30 on the

following morning. It was sufficiently moonlight to see about. We went up to address them, but they ran away and we followed in pursuit. I caught hold of one (John) and had a scuffle with him, but overpowered him, and waited with him in my charge till my father, who had gone after the other three men, came back. While waiting, I heard a shot fired about 200 yards from me. A few minutes afterwards my father came up to me, David Walters being with him. I shouted out to them. Who comes here?" and Walters replied, "David Walters." Walters then told me, Nurse is shot," and my father, who carried the barrel of a gun in his hand, repeated the information. We took the two men we had arrested down to Stradey Lodge. I then went to Mr Thomas, a farmer, and borrowed a trap in which to convey the man who was shot, and while we sent the trap for a doctor and a policeman, I and another keeper named Hames went to look for the body. Hames found Nurse's body. He was lying against the side of a fence - not flat down - and quite dead. The hat had fallen off, and there was no blood about. We did not disturb him at all till the policeman came. Close by we saw

the stock of a gun and two locks, which had been splintered off from the stock. On the arrival of the policeman, I helped to lift the body into the cart, and then went home. I knew the deceased before. He had never, so far I know, given me trouble by watching. David John had no gun with him when I arrested him. I did not search him. I can't say whether Walters had a gun.

The Coroner: When you ran after the men did you or your father fire?

Mr Oliver Williams: Mr Coroner, will you kindly caution him first that he is not bound to say anything that is likely to incriminate himself?

The Coroner: It was an oversight on my part.

Dr Rowlands then gave the caution, and repeated the question.

The witness made no reply to the question. On the examination being continued, he said this was the first time he had been troubled with poachers.

By the Foreman: The gun was a muzzle-loader. I cannot say whether the report I heard was of two barrels going off at once.

By Mr Cox: My father and I carried guns that night, and my father had his when he returned with Walters. My father fired a gun as an alarm before we started to run after the poachers. The object may have been to draw other poachers up. I cannot say whether the other barrel of my father's gun had been discharged. I did not see it. On one of the barrels my father brought back was a cap. I cannot say whether the other had been discharged, as I did not examine it.

By the Coroner: I heard no indication of a struggle between my father and the other men; but I heard my father calling me both before and after the shot.

By a juror: I don't know whether Nurse had a gun with him. I saw pieces of one which was not my father's lying by Nurse's side. My father's gun was all right when he returned home. I lost mine, having left it where I arrested John.

By Captain Scott: The men were about 15 yards away when we first saw them, and I saw the shade of one gun. In addition to a gun my father had a stick, and I had a small gun barrel in my hand.

The Coroner: What did you want with the extra barrels?

Witness: To defend myself in case of poachers. I did not often carry the barrels. The men used some threats to us when they first saw us, but I can't say what the words were.

By Capt. Scott: When my father fired the alarm I can't say which way the gun pointed.

Did you fire a shot? - Yes.

What for? - As an alarm while arresting the man.

How did you point it? - In the air first.

What about the second? - I fired that in the air also - after the man was arrested.

How many shots did your father fire? - One.

Did you fire at a man? - No; in the air.

#### THE STORY OF NURSE'S COMPANION.

David Walters, of Walter-street, Llanelly, a shoemaker, said: I knew Arthur Nurse. On Monday night, at 12.45, I met Nurse, David John, and a strange man I don't know. We went out to look for game. We went to Stradey Woods, Nurse carry a double-barrelled gun. We walked about

the woods till Nurse saw the keepers. He warned us of his discovery, and we ran away out of the woods, and up the hill a bit towards a brook. They came after us, and a shot was fired by one of the Toplises. I was shot in the legs and back. I fell down. On one of them shoufing out, "I'll cripple you," I got up again, and Nurse stood for me to pass. Nurse told the keeper to stand back, and then a shot went off and Nurse fell down in the ditch. Nurse had his back towards me then. Immediately afterwards the keeper came up to me, struck me several time, and I fell down. While we were both on the ground Toplis continued beating me with bis stick, and exclaiming, "I've got you now, you big b——, Nurse." He was in the position in which he was found dead when these blows were given. I had six or seven blows, and Nurse seven or eight. I don't know what the blows were struck with, whether with the barrel of a gun or with a stick, but I think it was with a barrel.

By a juror: When Nurse turned round he raised his guu, presented it at the keeper, and told him to stand back. A gun went off. I can't say whose. Nurse's back was towards me. I can't say whether

the muzzle or the stock was pointed towards Toplis. I saw Nurse point the gun. He did not hold it as though he would shoot. He held the gun up.

Was it as though he was going to strike?—No. I can't say. I heard a shot go off, and saw Nurse struck down. I did not see Toplis fall.

By Mr Powell: There are marks on my head of the blow I had from the gamekeeper. Nurse shot twice that evening, but be re-loaded. I did not see how the stock of Nurse's gun was knocked off. When Nurse threatened the keeper they were within a couple of yards of each other. I know the keeper was injured, but I don't know how it was done.

By Captain Scott: What the keeper had in his hand before Nurse fell he struck us with. No one struck the keeper. Two shots were fired by the keeper that night.

By Mr Oliver Williams: I know the keeper was very badly wounded, but don't know how it was caused. Nurse did not move after the shot was fired, and so he could not have wounded him after the shot. I don't know how the wounds were obtained, but it was between the two.

Do you mean to say that Nurse did not raise his gun in this way - by the barrel - and strike the keeper with the stock, and in doing so bis gun went off?—I can't say. So far as I know it may have been so. I can't say whose gun went off; It was not light enough.

#### DISCOVERY OF THE BODY.

Wm Hames, gamekeeper, gave evidence as to the finding of the body after the affray. In his opinion, when the fatal shot was fired the muzzle must have been quite close to Nurse, because the hole was very small, and there were no scattered shots. He smelt burnt powder on deceased's clothes. Nurse's gun looked as though it had been broken through coming in contact with a hard substance.

#### THE INQUIRY ADJOURNED.

It was at this stage decided to adjourn till Tuesday at 11, Dr Roderick saying that Toplis, senior, might be able to attend on that day. The Coroner directed a post-mortem examination to be made of Nurse's body.

(The Cardiff Times 16<sup>th</sup> November 1889)

*Advertisement:*

**I SAY, MY FRIEND.**

If you're waking rather early in  
the morning feeling queer,  
With every one of your digestive  
organs out of gear;

If from neuralgia or from  
headache your nerves are giving  
way,

Take **QUININE BITTERS**, I say,  
my friend; take **QUININE  
BITTERS**, I say.

There's many a strong black  
draught, they say, but nothing like  
**QUININE**

There's mercury, there's morphia -  
but chief of all's **QUININE**;

And none so good as that of  
**EVANS'** in all the land, they say,  
Take **QUININE BITTERS**, I say,  
my friend; take **QUININE  
BITTERS**, I pray.

Perhaps you don't sleep sound at  
night, and lie in bed awake,

With nerves so broken up that at  
the slightest sound you quake

A nervousness which nothing that  
you've tried will take away,

Take **QUININE BITTERS**, I say,  
my friend; take **QUININE  
BITTERS**, I say.

Or, say your appetite has gone—  
at dinner, breakfast, tea,

You eat but little, though your  
food's as tasty as may be;  
And you suffer the sharp pains of  
indigestion every day;

Take **QUININE BITTERS**, I say,  
my friend; take **QUININE  
BITTERS**, I say.

Friends say you'll soon become a  
ghost, you look so thin and white;

And you're racked with every  
kind of pain throughout the day  
and night;

Doctors may order other drugs,  
but no attention pay.

Take **QUININE BITTERS**, I say,  
my friend; take **QUININE  
BITTERS**, I pray.

If you will follow this advice,  
much better soon you'll be,

For with each dose of **BITTERS**  
an improvement you will see;

**GWILYM EVANS'** **QUININE  
BITTERS** all these ailments clear  
away;

Take **QUININE BITTERS**, I say,  
my friend; take **QUININE  
BITTERS**, I say.

**THE BEST REMEDY OF THE  
AGE.**

At this season of the year no one  
should be without Gwilym Evans'  
Quinine Bitters. A course taken  
now will be invaluable in giving  
tone to the system, new life to the  
blood, and in bracing the nerves.  
Avoid imitations. Remember that  
none are genuine except **GWILYM  
EVANS' QUININE BITTERS.**"  
See the name on the stamp, label,  
and bottle. Should any difficulty  
be experienced in procuring it,  
write to the proprietors, who will  
forward it per return parcel post,  
carriage paid, to any address. In  
bottles at 2s 9d and 4s 6d each.  
Sold by all Chemists.

Proprietors—**QUININE  
BITTERS MANUFACTURING  
COMPANY, LIMITED,  
LLANELLY, SOUTH WALES.**

(The Carmarthen Journal 22<sup>nd</sup> November  
1889)

**Carmarthen Assizes.**

**TO-DAY.**

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE ECHO.]

The Llandilo Intimidation Case,  
At the Carmarthen Assizes, to-  
day, a verdict of Not guilty was  
returned in the Llandilo  
intimidation case.

The Poaching Affray.

The case against Toplis, jun.,  
commenced this afternoon. Mr A.  
Lewis prosecuted and Mr Benson  
defended.—David Walters was  
the first witness, and gave  
evidence of being in Cwmbach  
Dingle and being fired at by the  
keepers while his companions and  
himself were running away. Nurse  
and the other three men ran away  
for some forty yards, and Toplis,  
senr., ran after them. Witness and  
Nurse fell. He had been told that  
Nurse had a struggle with the  
keeper and that his gun went off  
and killed him. He did not see  
that.

Mr Jennings (magistrates' clerk)  
went into the box to prove  
Toplis's deposition before the  
magistrates.

(South Wales Echo 11<sup>th</sup> December 1889)

**LLANELLY AFFRAY  
FURTHER PARTICULARS.**

The interest displayed in the  
circumstances attending the  
Llanelly poaching affray, and the  
death of one of the poachers, has  
by no means abated. It was  
stimulated on Wednesday by the  
capture of the fourth member of  
the gang of poachers, a man  
named John Williams, and also by  
the holding of the coroner's  
inquest. Williams was arrested at

his home in Water-Street on a charge of being concerned in the poaching expedition. He did not deny the fact, but, on the contrary, drew attention to the six shot wounds on his body which he received during the Affray. Popular interest centred largely in the inquest, which was opened on Wednesday afternoon, as it was understood that the only independent witness available would be permitted to give evidence. This was the poacher Walters, who is now in custody, and who bears on his back and legs unmistakable signs of having been shot at by some one or other. A large crowd assembled outside the scene of the inquest, and the visit of the jury to the home of the deceased man Nurse was closely watched. The house is near the end of a row of cottages so eccentrically built as to warrant the peculiar name given to it by the authorities, viz.. Crooked-row, In the front room on the ground floor, in which there only the smallest apology for furniture, lay on an extemporized bedstead the body of the deceased. With breast bared to show the fatal wound, the body presented a striking appearance. The chest was very massive, and the proportions of

the man must have been those of a Hercules. The elder Toplis, whose life was despaired of on the previous day, is coming to so rapidly that his medical attendant thinks he will be able to attend the adjourned inquest on Tuesday next. But his appearance yesterday was, of course, out of the question. In his absence, the jury had to be content with the story of Toplis, jun., who gave his evidence very clearly, but, not being an eye-witness of the fatality, could not do more than throw light on the surrounding circumstances. He admitted that he and his father fired at least three shots between them, but maintained that all their shots were fired with the same object—to give an alarm. In face of this, the fact that Walters and Williams have sustained several shot-wounds is not capable of an easy explanation. With regard to the inquest, the culminating point of interest was reached when Walters, was sworn. First of all, his evidence appeared to be in direct contradiction to what Toplis had stated, but when the cross-examination commenced a change occurred, and corroboration took the place of contradiction. Now, it would appear that after Walters was

wounded, Nurse chivalrously undertook to aid his escape, and with this object stopped and faced the pursuing keeper. Walters's back was turned at the time of the shot, but he saw Nurse's gun pointed at the keeper; and he was not prepared to say that Nurse did not hold it by the barrel as Toplis says. He did not see Nurse strike Toplis, but he admits that Nurse alone could have done so, and this before the fatal shot was fired. So there is little difference between the accounts of both sides, save that Walters goes on to say that he and Nurse were severely beaten after they were on the ground. It is, however, as well to suspend judgment till after the adjourned inquest, when the result of the post-mortem examination will be known and the account of Toplis, sen., heard.

(The Cardiff Times 16<sup>th</sup> November 1889)

### **THE LLANELLY POACHING AFFRAY.**

It should be made clear that the gamekeepers, Toplis, father and son, were charged on Thursday with committing a felony, viz., shooting at the poachers with intent to do bodily harm. The

elder Toplis was discharged, as it was considered there was no evidence against him, and the younger Toplis was committed to take his trial at the assizes upon the minor charge of misdemeanour, viz., of having wounded the men. Upon the latter charge, if the case is not dismissed, he can be fined or bound over to keep the peace.

(South Wales Daily news 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1889)

### **LLANELLY AFFRAY**

*FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13 1889.*

#### **A REAL DEED OF SHAME!**

THE Llanelly poaching affray is one of the saddest and most tragical incidents in connection with our infamous game laws that we can recall. As we must write freely about it, we will say at the outset that we make no allegation whatever against the learned judge before whom the case was tried. Mr Justice HAWKINS was, in our opinion, exceedingly considerate and impartial. Any remarks we make of an adverse kind must, therefore, be understood to be aimed at a law which would disgrace a savage country or a horde of barbarians. The facts, published in yesterday's

issue, are few and, in most particulars, quite commonplace. Four men named DAVID JOHN, DAVID WALTERS, JOHN WILLIAMS, and NURSE went early in the morning of the eleventh of November last to some land in the possession of Mr CHARLES WILLIAM MANSEL LEWIS, and committed a trespass with the intention of taking game. This, at any rate, was the charge brought against them. While thus engaged, two gamekeepers, called TOPLIS, father and son, came upon them, and the intruders took to flight. While they were running away the gamekeepers fired after them, but, as the elder of the two stated, only to frighten them. This frightening of the fugitives, however, resulted in one of the poachers, DAVID WALTERS, being shot in the back and the neck. The younger of the gamekeepers is blamed for this. The only man among the fugitives who had a gun was NURSE, and it so happened that, in an encounter with the younger TOPLIS, the gun went off, and, at the same time, TOPLIS struck him some heavy blows. NURSE fell down dead, whether in consequence of a shot wound or blows from the thick end of a stick does not appear, but, at all

events, at the hands of the younger TOPLIS. What we wish to point out chiefly is the fact that the poachers do not appear to have offered any resistance until they were pursued and overtaken. They were fired at in full flight. One was seriously injured another was killed. Now, there are several points in this case which demand attention. In point of law we question whether the firing of a gun after fugitives is permissible. To shoot a burglar in flight would entail a penalty, but possibly a burglar is, in the eye of the law, an innocent man as compared with a poacher. Then, again, the younger TOPLIS maintained that the man Nurse must have been dead before he struck him twice on the head with the thick end of his stick. Yet the dead man was standing erect all the time. This, at any rate, is what we are asked to believe. In other words, we have it stated in court that there was an encounter of some sort between the younger Toplas and the man NURSE, in which the latter was killed, and that while the dead man was standing his antagonist bravely struck him twice on the head, whereupon the man, first killed, then assailed, fell down. This narrative, we must own, is not

satisfactory. We should like to know what caused NURSE'S death, and whether it was possible for him to stand after he was dead until he had received two such blows as would probably have felled to the earth a living man, to say nothing about one already dead. But now let us examine the sentences. Of the three poachers who survived not one had a gun, and all took to flight, offering no resistance. Yet one of them was sentenced to three months' imprisonment with hard labour, while the other two, including the one who was shot in the back, were sentenced to two months with hard labour, as they had already been in prison for a month. We have no hesitation whatever in denouncing this penalty as an outrage, and an act of unpardonable cruelty. Judge HAWKINS, no doubt, had the law on his side, but the English law in the matter of poaching is only worthy of murderers and assassins. They are a disgrace to civilisation. To put game, which is really no person's property, on a level with all that men hold most sacred is to turn one's back upon humanity. But the case as reported involves something still more monstrous than the penal servitude of three fugitive

poachers. The younger TOPLIS suffers no imprisonment. The man who fires after fugitive trespassers, and is mixed up in a fray in which one poacher drops down dead, is dealt with leniently. The judge decided not to submit the younger ToPLIS to the "indignity of imprisonment" if he paid the fine. This is English law. This is law in a country which has a society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, but none for the misguided poacher. We cannot blame the judge, but we should like to see some of our judges throwing up their appointments rather than be agents in the hands of a cruel legislature which visits the most remorseless penalties on persons guilty of almost nominal offences.

(South Wales Daily News 13<sup>th</sup> December 1889)

### THE WESTERN MAIL COMMENT

It is perfectly right that our judges should be subject to criticism. They are entrusted with immense powers, and oftentimes the lives and liberties of the Queen's subjects depend upon the wise and just exercise of those powers. The newspapers—"watchdogs of civilisation"—carry

out one of their legitimate functions when they criticise judgments which appear to err on the side either of undue harshness or excessive leniency. Our judges are not infallible; even the gods occasionally nod. But journalistic criticism, to be of any value whatever, must be based on something approaching accurate knowledge of the circumstances. The judge who laboriously wades through every tittle of available evidence has surely a right to be protected from comments which disclose nothing so lucidly as the writer's innocence of precise information. The South Wales Daily News on Friday published a leading article under the caption, "A Real Deed of Shame," which caption, under the circumstances, was singularly appropriate, but not in the sense imagined by our contemporary. It dealt with the Llanelly poaching case tried by Mr. Justice Hawkins and a jury on Wednesday last. We extract from it the following statements, regarding which we shall have more to say anon:—

"The only man among the fugitives who had a gun was Nurse, and it so happened that in an encounter *with the younger Toplis the gun went off, and at the same time Toplis struck him*

*some heavy blows. Nurse fell down dead, whether in consequence of a shot wound or blows from the thick end of a stick does not appear, but at all events, at the hands of the young Toplis. Then, again, the younger Toplis maintained that the man Nurse must have been dead before he struck him twice on the head with the thick end of his stick. Yet the dead man was standing erect all this time! This, at any rate, is what we are asked to believe. In other words, we have it stated in court that there was an encounter of some sort between the younger Toplis and the man Nurse, in which the latter was killed, and that while the dead man was standing his antagonist bravely struck him twice on the head, whereupon the man, first killed, then assailed, fell down. This narrative, we must own, is not satisfactory. We would like to know what caused Nurse's death, and whether it was possible for him to stand after he was dead until he had received two such blows as would probably have felled to the earth a living man, to say nothing about one already dead," & &c*

Now, a little research - not unreasonable to expect having regard to the gravity of the circumstances - would have preserved our contemporary from a series of blunders which operate greatly to the prejudice of a man who, whatever his faults, at all events deserves fairplay. The younger TOPLIS - the person tried by Judge Hawkins - was not, at a matter of fact, within 400 yards of Nurse when the latter met with his death, and, consequently, could not have "struck him some heavy blows." Our contemporary has confounded the younger Toplis, who was on trial, with his father, who was not before the court as a defendant. The mistake is plainly one of carelessness; but it derives importance from the fact that throughout the article all the actions of the father are attributed to the son, and the heinousness of the elder's offences is set against the mildness of the punishment inflicted upon the younger. Thus the sins of the father are visited upon the children in a very literal and thorough way. But this is not all. An even more serious element is that introduced by the bold suggestions respecting the manner in which Nurse came by his death.

These suggestions, our Llanelly correspondent writes, have caused great indignation in Llanelly. Let our readers refer to the closing sentences of the excerpt given above. There they will see that the narrative is not satisfactory to our contemporary, which is not so surprising having regard to the manner in which the salient facts have been ignorantly garbled.

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"We should like to know," observes the writer, "what caused Nuuse's death, and whether it was possible for him to stand after he was dead until he had received two such blows as would probably have felled to the earth a living man, to say nothing about one already dead." Now, this would have been intensely amusing but for the grave and saddening nature of the subject. The knowledge which our contemporary gropes blindly for has been in the possession of the public for many weeks. Fancy one asking what caused the death of a man who, according to the medical evidence, had the right and left ventricles of the heart shattered by shot, and whose chest was discovered upon

postmortem examination to be the depository, of not only of scores of loose shots, but of pieces of paper and a button! Dr. Roderick stated explicitly that the man could, after receiving the contents of the gun, have stood two seconds. The suggestion thrown out in this mysteriously worded sentence is that the blows on the head influenced the death. But we have had it already placed on record that the wound found on the head "was of no importance." We readily believe that the article has produced a sensation in the tin-plate town, where the public had seen an exhaustive inquiry gradually clearing away all the more repulsive features of the grim tragedy in the Stradey Woods. We were the first to condemn the indiscriminate firing of the keepers and, indeed, received money contributed to secure the defence of the poachers. The sentence passed upon the younger TOPLIS may not have been adequate, but the offence, it should be remembered, was not one with which the death of NURSE was connected. That which the defendant did was to fire at the retreating poachers and so pepper them with shot. He did wrongly, no doubt, and has had to

suffer the consequences. Opinions may differ regarding the measure of the punishment, and in that matter the opinion of the judge in possession of all the facts will assuredly have some weight with reasonable people.

(The Western Mail 14<sup>th</sup> December 1889)

### **BURRY PORT. WATER SUPPLY.—**

A scheme for the better supply of water to the populous districts known as Cwm Capel and Achddu was submitted to a ratepayers' meeting held at the Copper Works School on Wednesday evening, when it was resolved that it be approved of and heartily recommended to the Llanelly Rural Sanitary Board for adoption.

(South Wales Daily News 14<sup>th</sup> December 1889)

### **PWLL (BURRY PORT). FAREWELL MEETING.**

A meeting was held at Bethlehem Baptist Chapel to bid farewell to the Rev J. Young Jones on his leaving to take charge of the English Baptist Church at Dudley, Worcestershire. Mr Wm, Howell, solicitor, presided. The Revs B.

Humphreys, Felinfoel; Wm. H. Davies, Monmouthshire; Wm. Hughes, J. R. Morgans, D.D.; John Rowlands, D.D., Llanelly; W. E. Watkins: and David Evans, Burry Port, took part in the proceeding, as well as a number of representative laymen. Mr Jones, who has laboured assiduously in this church for upwards of six years, leaves with the very best wishes of a very large circle of friends, as a token of which he was presented with a purse of gold, the spontaneous offerings of the church and public he leaves behind. The universal respect in which Mr Jones is held in the neighbourhood, as well as by the associations of South Wales, augurs well for bit success in his new sphere.

(South Wales Daily News 26<sup>th</sup> December 1889)

**THE SEASON  
HALL LAMPS,  
BRACKETS & COLOURED  
GLOBES  
LEGG,  
NELSON STREET,  
SWANSEA**

(The Cambrian 20<sup>th</sup> December 1889)

### **SWANSEA ASSETS RECOVERY Co. (Limited), 16, GOAT-STREET, SWANSEA.**

THE COMPANY purchases debts from Tradesmen and others.

The Company recognises the fact that many Tradesmen have not the time to look after the collection of their troublesome debts, and as the Company have arranged to keep a special staff of collectors, they are prepared to give a fair price for debts – good, bad, and doubtful.

The Company also purchase bankrupt and other stocks-in-trade.

The Company also collect debts, and charge a commission only on monies actually recovered.

The commission charged will be in accordance with the amount of the debt and the position of the debtor.

In cases where payment cannot be obtained without suing, and when there is no defence to any action, the solicitor to the Company will write to the debtor demanding payment, enter and conduct the cost in the County Court, without charging any costs to the creditor.

(The Cambrian 20<sup>th</sup> December 1889)

