

CABAN

AUGUST, 1953

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THE MAGAZINE OF THE OAKELEY AND VOTTY SLATE QUARRIES

CABAN

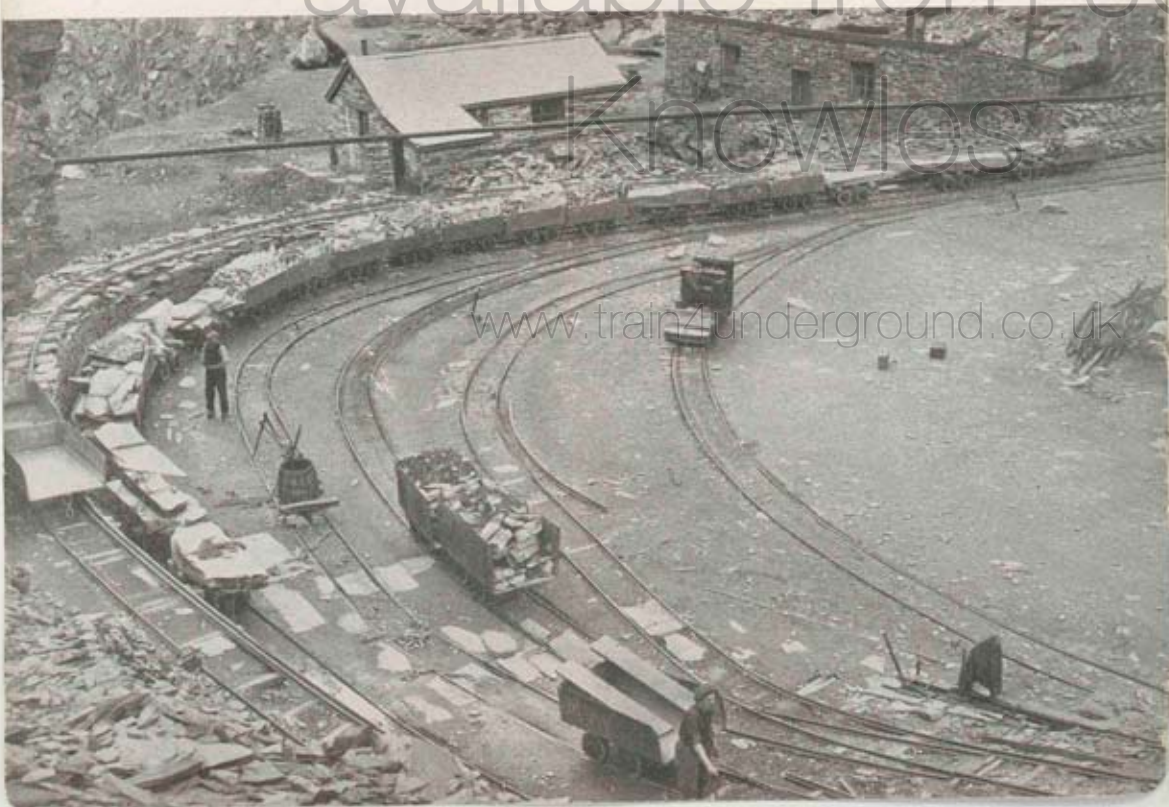
THE OAKELEY SLATE QUARRIES CO. LTD.,
THE VOTTY AND BOWYDD SLATE QUARRIES CO. LTD.,
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"CABAN" is the name of the type of mess-room in which the men of Oakeley and Votty meet for their meal-break... and which is also the centre of social life and passing of information throughout the quarries, hence the title of this magazine.

- Front Cover: . . . high up on the chamber wall.
- Below: Mixed traffic from "K" reaches daylight.



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Winning New Vein in K.B..1.

FROM FLOOR TO FLOOR— Underground at Oakeley and Votty

MOVING DOWN VIA a series of stout staircases which link the various levels at approximately the angle of the slate vein, the actual descent into our Oakeley and Votty Mines may be made on foot.

In our last issue the introduction to the journey from floor to floor concluded at the points of entry to the underground workings. At

Votty, where there are no outside workings, this is at the entrance to the "C" floor main level.

The 7.30 a.m. scene is typical of the start of the working day—a steady stream of rockmen, miners, their labourers, the handlers of traffic, haulage engineers, and pumpsmen, following a well-defined route, first along a level underground, thence down to their working places.

Following in the wake of the quarrymen, the phase of the journey now being described embraces floors "I" and "K" at Oakeley, and "C" at Votty.

In one respect the "K" and "C" floors at our respective mines are key points in the operation of slate winning, for it is at these levels that most of the traffic at both mines is marshalled—the blocks of slate from the chambers for despatch outside to the mills; the slate waste for disposal at the tips; and the trains of empties to be lowered on inclines to the landings at various levels for dispersal as needed along the floors.

Traffic Centres

The scope and character of the underground traffic centres will be appreciated from the panoramic view of the despatch junction at Votty, shown in pages 14-15, where a diesel trainload of blocks,

in charge of John Ivor Thomas and David Evans, is seen on the point of moving out to the mills through the "C" floor main exit.

This every-day scene on the "production line" at Votty is viewed from the mouth of a continuing level on "C" floor where one or two chambers located virtually at the top of the mine are still being worked. Tram lines running off the picture to the left disappear under an archway concealing the foot of the Tuxford incline up which all slate waste from the Votty mine must go for tipping.

The camera is incapable of reproducing the whole scene of activity on the traffic floor, but added realism to the measure of this activity is conveyed in a further view looking past a line of

Ebb and



empties to the shed housing the winding gear perched above the brink of the incline serving the various floors of the mine. The men handling the newly-arrived blocks from below are Howell Daniel and Evan Hughes.

Oakeley Haulage Floor

The scenes we depict on the main haulage floor at Oakeley are equally indicative of the bustling activity which marks the daily round on the "K" floor. But, to reach "K" in the wake of the quarrymen the route has first dropped down a pathway through a roof tunnel which lies above "K."

Running east and west underground, "I" floor was driven many years ago, but it has by no means outlived its usefulness. The

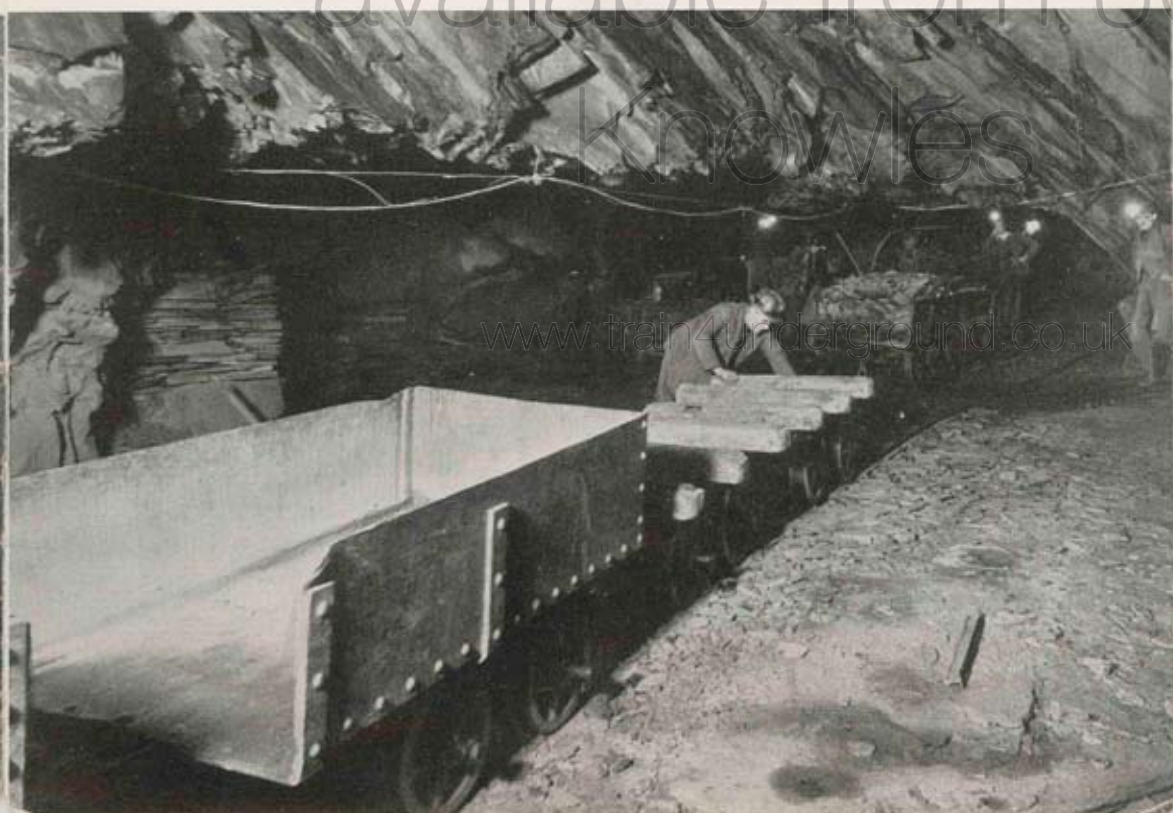
winning of good slate goes on in several chambers.

At "IB 12" rockmen Alfred Hughes and J. Lloyd Hughes, engaged reclaiming in a working place which ranges upwards through two floors, may be said to have a stint which will keep them fully occupied for a long time.

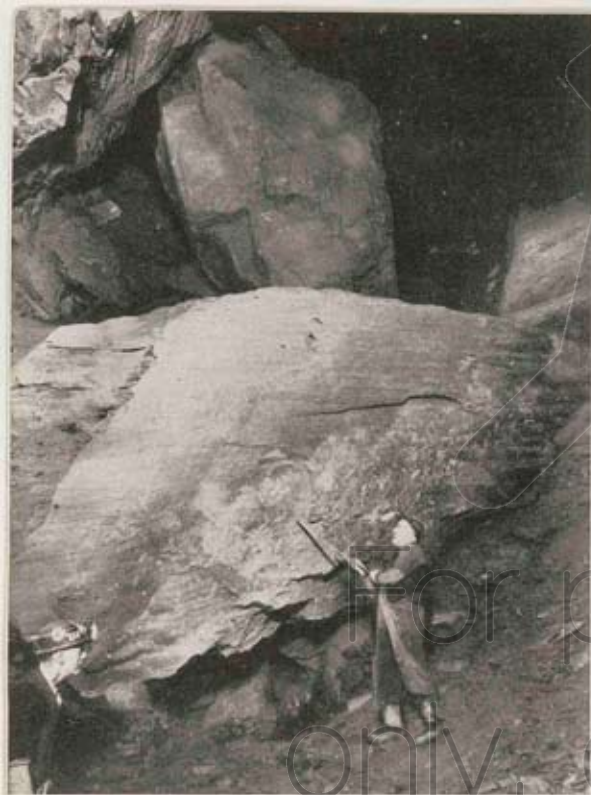
Our front page picture shows the rockmen, against the background of the great wall of the chamber, standing on a ledge high up, probing a crack which, later, would be made to yield a sizable block of slate. To do this successfully they must exploit certain characteristics in the slate, notably cracks and overhanging weight.

One of the rockmen, secured by a safety chain, is in the act of assessing the possibilities while the other probes and levers cautiously. The safety chain is an essential piece of equipment in the chambers. Rockmen use the chain

Flow on "K."



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Inside "K13."

as a hand and leg-hold while shinning up the slope of the vein, or as an anchorage while working above the ground level of the chamber. The chain is itself anchored to a steel peg driven into the live rock. The strength and reliability of the simple and effective device are not taken for granted. All chains, and the pegs from which they are suspended, are subjected to examination.

"Pin Points"

The visit to "IB 12" coincided with such an inspection, and the results were satisfactory.

James Parry's work as a securer, repairing unstable roofs by the process of pinning with steel bolts or pegs, has been described in

Caban. The exceptional strength and reliability of the pin and its wedge were stressed at the same time. "IB 12" furnished the most graphic proof of these exceptional qualities in the form of a pinned anchorage, set high in the chamber roof, for a heavy duty, power-driven block and tackle serving the rockmen, first as a dragline with which to haul out blocks of slate, and as a simple weight-lifter for raising the block on to a trolley.

Usually the tackle is suspended from a wooden tripod. In this case the double purpose of dragging and lifting was felt to be better served by attaching the line to a single pin let in and wedged in the roof. Our back page picture strikingly conveys the feat of strength by showing a block of slate weighing three tons suspended comfortably on a steel wire running through a block attached to the roof by a 12-inch peg with a diameter of $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

The secret of the strength and security of the double-purpose bolt lies in the angle at which the bolt was inserted, the care taken in matching the length of the hole in the roof with that of the steel pin, and the all-important wedge which "marries" the pin to the rock. A carefully and correctly installed bolt will "hold its ground" indefinitely. When occasion requires the removal of a pin it has been found that the surest method is literally to quarry it out with the rock attached!

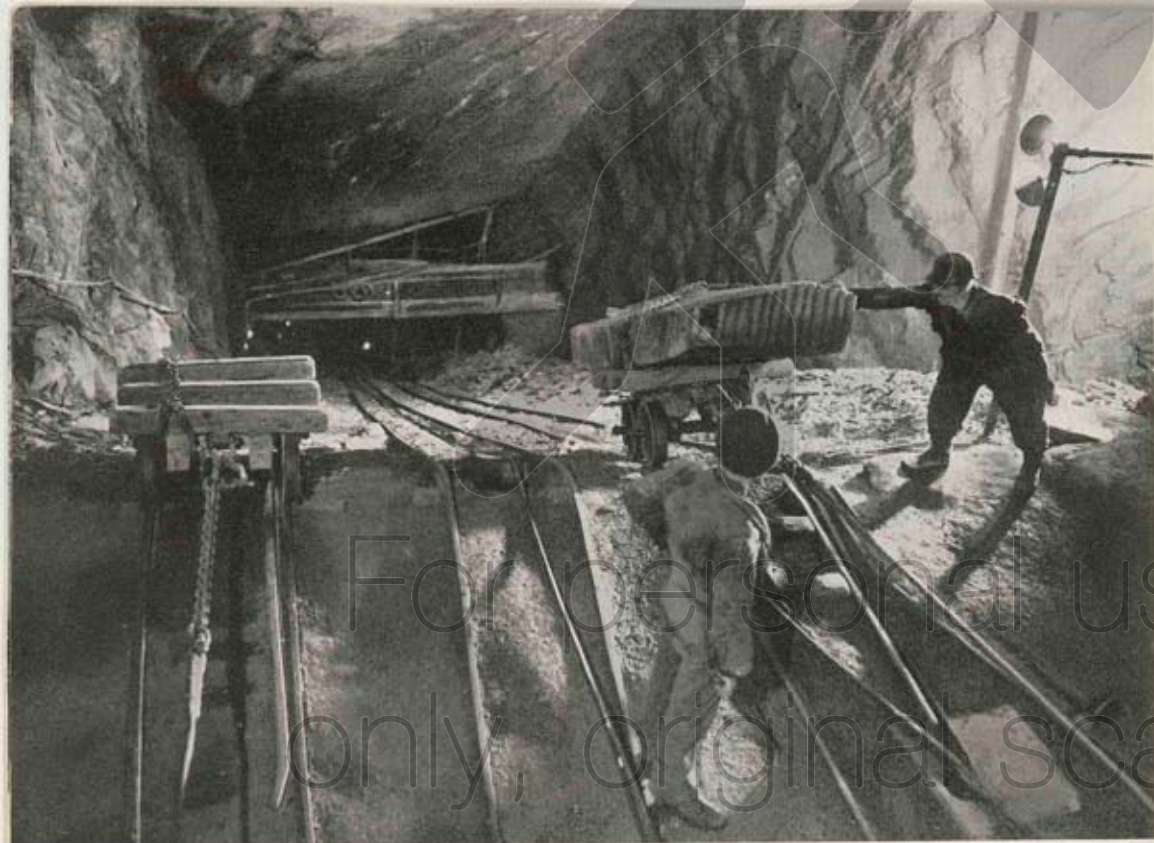
Following the sharp angle of the vein, the way down to "K" involved negotiating another foot-



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Through the wall into "K 13."



"New Incline" at Oakeley

path, this one an elaborate staircase descending through a former chamber, now filled with slate waste. The "K" footpath emerged at an opening in the foot of the walled-up mouth of the chamber. Our picture taken on the "K" level shows the massiveness and solidity of the "dam" against which the rubbish had been tipped and, incidentally, affords an impression of the characteristic quality of the slate-mason's art.

The "K" floor, like the corresponding "C" floor at Votty, embraces both working chambers and the "nerve centre" controlling and handling traffic to and from all floors in the mine. Daylight

is also reached from "K" floor via the main "Balance" outlet and its big haulage lift operated from the "DE" floor.

Located a couple of hundred yards inside "K" is the principal haulage incline known as the "New Incline" (new is a relative term only) which, seemingly, falls from the edge of the "K" floor down into the darkness to serve with its triple ropes the descending scale of floors to "P" level. A separate short incline served "R."

This main artery carrying the great bulk and burden of the work is also illustrated. A subsidiary haulage, referred to by the quarrymen as the "Old Incline," parallels

the main haulage over the shorter distance down to the "L" and "O" floors, and, to the east of "K," there is a third incline capable of serving as required the floors from "K" up to "DE."

Workaday Scene

An impression of the mixed nature of the traffic and its volume is gained in the picture of the workaday scene in the sidings near the top of the "K" balance on "DE" floor.

The long train load of blocks, and the trucks stacked with waste brought up via "K" two waggons at a time, is seen awaiting haulage to the quarry top, where the blocks are dispersed to the mills and waste hauled up to an even higher level for tipping. The haulage gear in both our mines is electrically driven.

While the unhookers and hitchers on "DE" are marshalling their charges for final dispatch to the top their opposite numbers underground on "K" sustain the rhythm of the traffic movement, receiving laden trolleys and trucks on the twin inclines, unhitching the haulage ropes, propelling the waggons to a point where gravity and a gradient can take charge, and where others in the haulage team take over to see the traffic through to the foot of the "K" balance lift.

The phases in this operation are illustrated. A large block from "Q" 10, one of the lower and distant chambers, is seen "tight on the rope" coming up the main haulage incline to "K" and passing the entrance to "L" floor.

In another picture Richard Jones and his colleague, William Chart, who work as unhookers and hitchers on the brink of the incline, are snapped in action at the "landing," swinging round the block speeding its momentum to the point where gravity takes charge.

The camera has caught at a novel angle another large block from "P" 1 which appears virtually to fill the traffic level. This block is being "shepherded" on the brake down to the waiting "K" balance lift.

The stout wooden three-barred platform trolleys for carrying blocks, and the steel-sided trams reserved for waste are hauled up the gravity slope to the "K" incline by means of a ropeway operated by Gwilym Roberts. The arrival of one such train of empties at the underground traffic junction on "K" is also illustrated. At this point the empties are propelled inside via a tunnelled roadway to the right of the picture. Outgoing traffic is marshalled in a corresponding level.

Re-opening "K" 13

Headquarters of the staff and of the volunteer ambulance team are located near the "New Incline." Beyond the "Old Incline," and deeper into the workings, slate-winning goes on in earnest. In this, the older section of the mine, is an interesting example of the re-opening of an old chamber which had been more or less blocked at one time by heavy falls of rock. The approach to this potentially valuable site was made from "K" 12.



I.32 Votty being surveyed late last year.

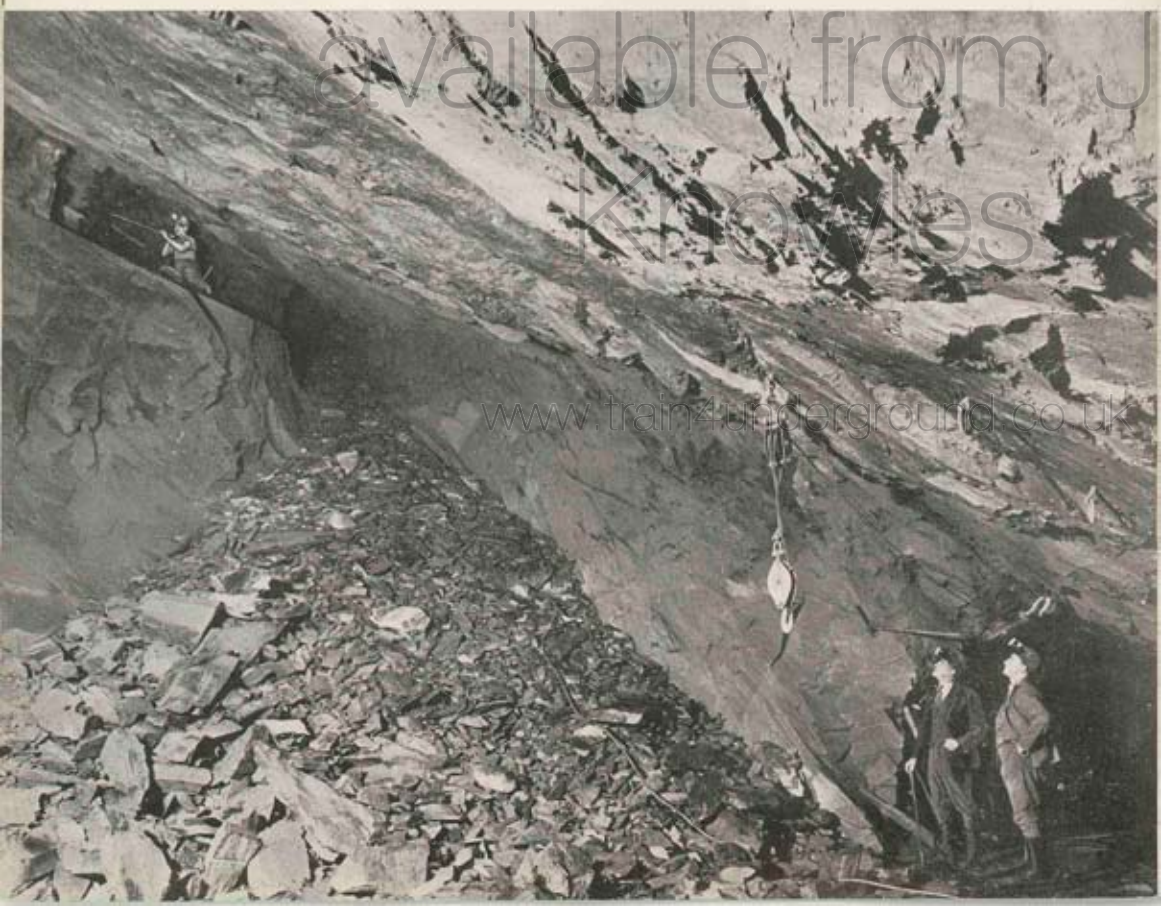
Having driven through the dividing wall Rockmen Robert Jones and Harry Hughes have, as our picture shows, gained entrance to "K" 13 at the very foot of the tumbled accumulation of slate blocks and rubbish which had brought about the earlier closing of the chamber.

I.32 in full development this summer.

For the present the rewards for their endeavours are qualified by the large amount of waste material which also must be cleared. The rockmen are shown dwarfed by a block of slate rock, one of many awaiting removal—work requiring skill and caution.

Deep in the New Vein

Robert Jones is confident that the chamber will be made to give up the whole of its hitherto hidden hoard of blocks. To this end there are preparations in the neighbouring "K" 12, where our picture shows the Oakeley plate-layers Robert H. Roberts and Thomas H. Williams, busily relaying and squaring-up the tram track in readiness for the removal of weighty pieces from "K" 13.



Deep in the New Vein is "KB" 1, where rockmen Daniel Jones and Orthin Roberts are engaged in tackling the rock in a different fashion. In contrast with the operation in "K" 13 and again in "IB" 12, on the floor above, the job in hand at "KB" 1 has been to sink through the floor of the well worked chamber with a view to winning slate from an excessively wide footing or base.

Excavating perhaps twenty feet into the waste on the floor of the chamber the rockmen uncovered their objective and began work in the excavation, winning fine blocks of New Vein in the process.

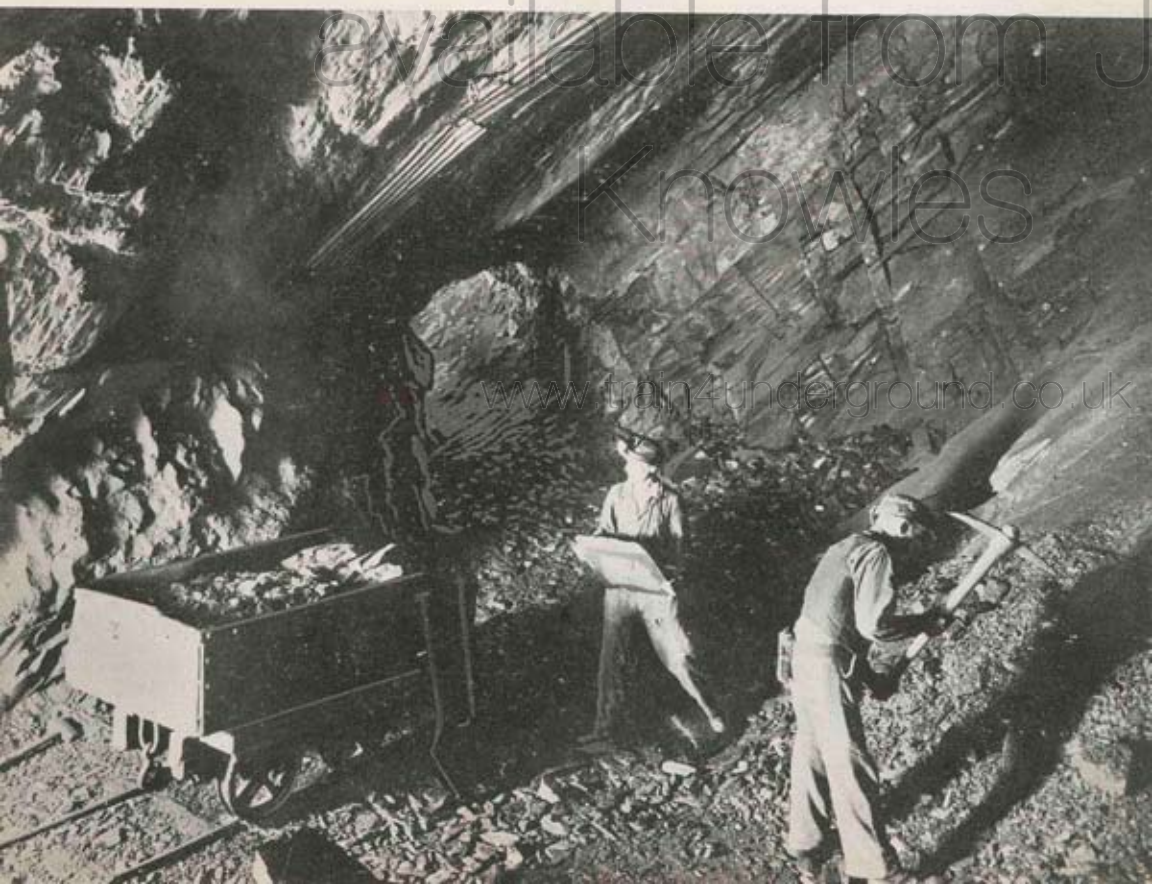
The rockmen are pictured standing on the slope of the exposed



Speeding the momentum!

portion, looped by their safety chains. Orthin Roberts, former English League and Welsh League goalkeeper, said that progress was now steady and straightforward with a promise of "a supply of good stuff for many months to come."

Continuity of development. Looking from I.32 to new chamber I.33.



Development—A Continuous Process

Development—the driving, opening and widening of new chambers giving fresh sources of supply—is a continuous process at both our mines. At this point in our journey underground perhaps the “I” floor at Votty affords the most convenient examples of the successive stages of development. Miners are still at work on the floor, pushing forward through the New Vein, opening out a range of new chambers all numbered in the “thirties.”

The illustrations we give of this work tell the story graphically. The first of these—reproduced, as readers may recall, from a previous study of an underground survey—shows surveyors checking bearings before handing over the newly-opened chamber “I 32” to the rockmen.

The fine, clean thickness of slate stands invitingly while miners push forward and higher through the “roofing” tunnel. That was the scene in the chamber late last year.

Second Phase Development

The bigger contrasting picture is the scene this summer, viewed from the same angle. The first phase of production is almost over. The “virgin” bed of “New Vein” at the foot of the chamber has been won and the product dispatched

for roofing. Miners are again in charge, this time for the purpose of extending the “roofing” prior to starting widening operations to give rockmen access to the greater thickness of the vein.

Seen at work in the picture is William R. Jones, one of the miners.

The full page picture of “I 30,” also a recently developed chamber, shows how the rock face is uncovered and rendered progressively more accessible by the process of development. “I 30” is in full production and will remain thus for a long time furnishing, as the picture shows, a steady flow of blocks on to the trolley, with others awaiting removal to the mills.

Continuity

The continuity of development is further emphasised by a glimpse across the chamber “I 32” to the opening in the wall marking the entrance of a level which, having passed through the chamber wall, serves the newer chamber “I 33” and continues beyond to a point where another chamber—“I 34”—will eventually be opened up.

In the foreground of this picture waste is being loaded into a truck.

And so the development goes on, an unending process in which the way ahead, it might be said, caters for the years ahead.

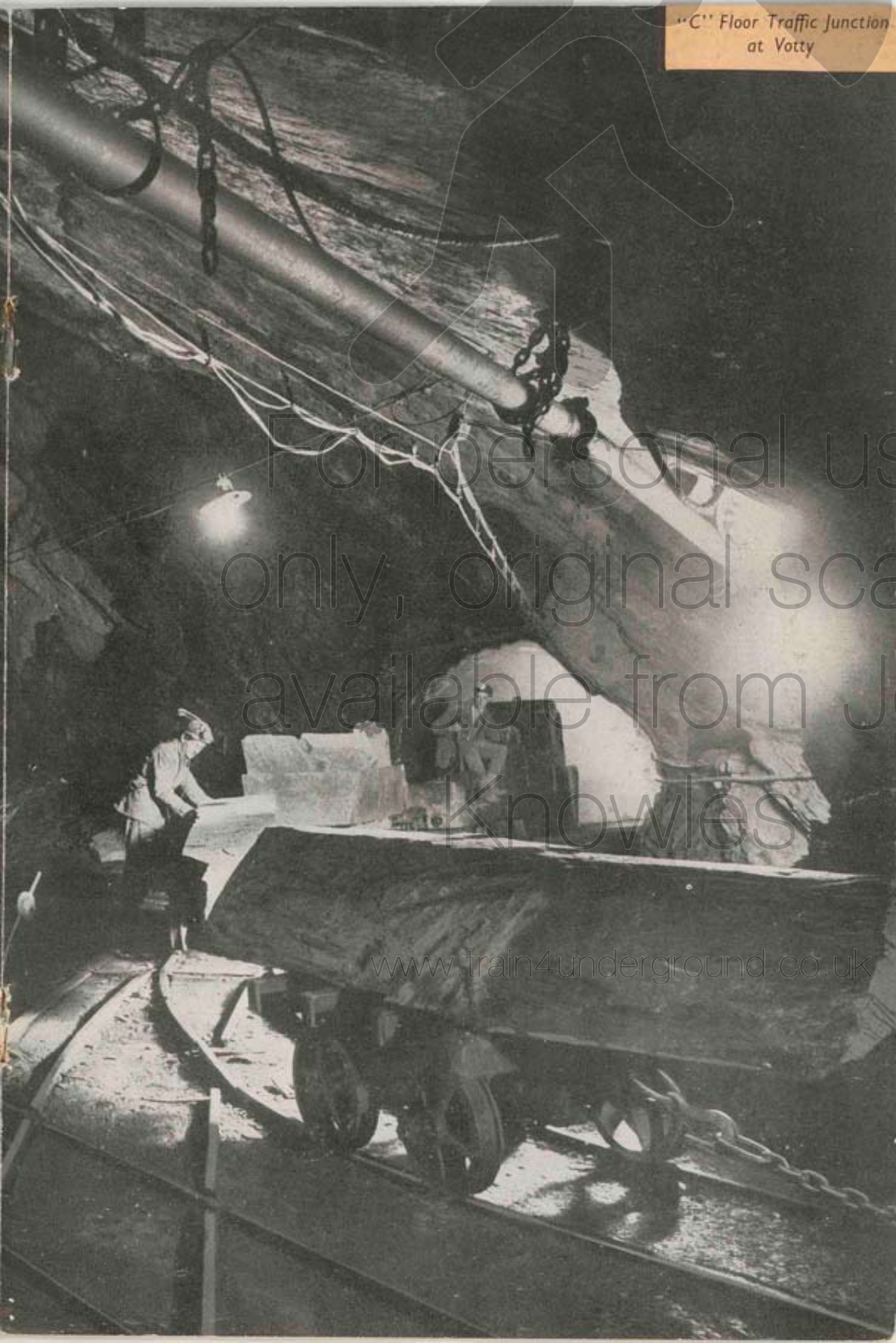


1.30, Votty, showing progressive process of development.



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1. *Portrait of a Family*



The "Young Idea"

Yn ddigon saff

Y PETH nad anghofiaf fi yw gweld y trwnc serth. Pan oeddwn ar ben y trwnc yr oeddwn yn ofnus, ond dywedodd rhyw ddyn wrthyf ei fod yn ddigon saff. Ar ffram yr oeddym yn mynd i lawr. Ar ben y trwnc yr oedd yna gwt bychan ac ynddo yr oedd yna ddyn yn rheoli'r braciau. Uwchben y trwnc yr oedd olwynion ac yn y pen draw ddrwm mawr a'r rhaff gref yn mynd o'i amgylch. Pan oeddwn yn dyfod allan o'r twll i'r awyr agored yr oeddwn yn ei chlywed yn gynnes am ei bod mor oer o dan y ddaear.—*Gareth Jones.*

Hetiau y Gweithwyr

NID oeddwn yn disgwyl gweld goleuadau trydan yn y twll, a ninnau wedi cael lampau i'w cario i lawr i'n helpu i weld y gwahanol bethau oedd yno. Sylwais fod gan y dynion oedd yn gweithio yn y twll hetiau a lampau arnynt er mwyn iddynt gael digon o olau i wneud eu gwaith. Roedd lampau trydan bob ochr i'r twll hefyd, ac yr oeddant yn goleuo yn dda iawn. Roedd gan bob plentyn lamp, ac yr oedd rhai yn cario eu lamp yn eu dwylo, a'r lleill ar eu strapiau.—*Carys Jones.*

Cadw y Dwr i lawr

NID oeddwn erioed wedi meddwl ei bod hi mor wlyb o dan y ddaear. Yr oedd yno ddau lyn mawr, ac yr oeddant yn ddyfn iawn. Dywedodd Mr. Jones wrthym am y peryglon. Os buasai y llynnoedd yn llenwi i'r top fe fuasai y twll yn bodd i gyd. Wrth y llyn yr oedd pont yn mynd drosodd, a gwelsom ddwr yn dod iddo. Sylwais uwch ein pennau fod creigiau mawr a phibellau yn mynd trwy dwnel bach ar y graig. Yr oedd peiriannau pwmpio mewn cwt wrth y llynnoedd i gadw y dwr i lawr. Yn y cwt yr oedd dyn yn edrych ar ôl y peiriannau ac yn rhoi olew iddynt ac yn eu glanhau yn lân. Well yr oeddwn wedi mwynhau gweld y llynnoedd dwfn oedd dan y ddaear.—*Cyril Jones.*

Always interested to learn how to Mr. J. Ellis Williams, headmaster Ffestiniog, for the following impressions of our work and ways their visit to our Oakeley

Y Creigiwr a'r Gadwyn

RHYFEDDAIS yn fawr iawn pan welais y creigiwr yn dringo'r graig serth mor rhwydd, a gosod y gadwyn am ei goes, ac rwy'n siwr y buaswn i a'm traed i fyny a'm pen i lawr yn fuan iawn. Diben hyn oedd i'r dyn gael ei ddwy law yn rhydd i weithio ar y graig. Ac wedi hollti'r graig sylwais ar y craen cryf a allai godi dwy dunnell a hanner os byddai angen hynny. Yna gwelais y bag a oedd yn sugno'r llwch pan oedd y creigiwr yn tyllu.—*Alan Roberts.*

Y Lluch

SYNNAIS weld cymaint o lluch yn y twll, ond yr oedd gan y dynion fag mawr i gadw'r lluch i ffwrdd. Wrth weld y dynion yn tyllu'r graig gyda pheiriant tyllu, synnais yn fawr iawn. Dangosodd y dyn oedd yn tyllu'r graig fel roedd y lluch yn mynd i mewn i'r bag rhag i'r lluch fynd i'w hysgyfaint ac achosi clefyd lluch y garreg. Yr oedd y bag yn llawn o wynt i dynnu'r lluch i mewn iddo. Yr oedd y lluch a oedd yn y bag fel blawd o fan. Bag gweddol fawr ydoedd a'i liw oedd brown. Yr oedd y peiriant tyllu'r graig yn gwneud twrwr mawr, ond nid oedd pobl a oedd uwchben y twll yn clywed dim.—*Olwen Jones.*

Lion's Roar

WHAT impressed me most were the tunnels. If I went there by myself I am sure I would get lost. How, I wonder, that the quarrymen don't get lost in the maze of tunnels. Mr. Jones very kindly took us to different ones. In the tunnels there was plenty of mud. I didn't know that these were so wet. Once or twice I slipped, and my feet went into the water that was on each side of the rails. The tunnels lead to the levels where we saw men at work. I would say that there are thousands of long tunnels.

at Oakeley

others regard us, we are indebted of Glanypwll Primary School, Blaenau entertaining selection of personal written by scholars of his school after Quarries in May last.

These were very dark, so we had to take lamps with us. Most of the tunnels had men pushing wagons along. In one tunnel there was a great noise like lions roaring in their cage; this was the noise made by pumps. I am glad that I am not working there, because I would be afraid that I would never come out again. I think the men are very clever to know the difference between the tunnels.—*Evelyn Wilson Owen.*

Tannio'r Fuse

YR hyn a'm synnodd i oedd gweld y dynion yn rhoi tân ar y "fuse" ac wedyn yn mynd oddi yno a chlywed y glec, a synnais na chwythwyd y garreg yn ddarnau. Cawsom fynd yn ôl yno a chael gweld yr hollt. Yr oedd craen mawr yno i godi y garreg oedd wedi hollti ar y wagen, ac wedyn marciwyd enw o p'run dwnel y daeth y garreg fawr. Yr oedd arnaf ofn i'r graig ddisgyn yn yr agor, gan nad oeddwn erioed wedi bod o dan y ddaear o'r blaen.—*Kenneth Williams.*

Y Grisiau Serth

Y PETH a'm synnodd i fwyaf oedd mynd i lawr yr holl risiau mawr serth, ond pan oeddwn eisiau mynd i fyny yr oedd fy nhraed yn brifo. Yr oedd Mr. Jones yn garedig iawn wrthym ac yn disgrifio popeth wrth fynd ymlaen. Lle iawn i godi cur yn ein pennau oedd, gan fod swm mawr i'w glywed uwch ben.

Cyn i ni fynd i lawr dywedodd rhai gweithwyr fod yno fwganod a llygod mawr, a dechreuodd bawb chwerthin. Nid oedd y lle mor oer ag yr oeddwn yn ei feddwl. Yr oedd y lle reit dywyll, ond nid oeddym yn malio dim, gan fod gennym lampau. Yn y twll yr oedd pawb yn garedig wrthym, ac yr oedd yn rhaid i ni ddilyn Mr. Jones rhag ofn i ni fynd ar goll neu i berygl. Yr oeddym yn falch

o ddyfod allan i'r awyr iach. Yr oedd pawb yn ddiolchgar iawn i Mr. Humphreys a Mr. Jones am roi caniatad i ni weld y chwarel.—*Kitty Thomas.*

"Splitting Fascinated me"

WHAT I enjoyed best was watching the man splitting the slates. It looked so easy, but try and split it and you find it is hard work. You must be very clever to split it, because you must hold the chisel in its right position. A man was kind enough to let us try and split some. There was another man by his side who was waiting for the slates to cut into the right sizes. After the other man had split them he put them on a table while the other man took them and put them under a machine to cut them into sizes. I would like to stay there all day, but there were other places for us to see. But the splitting fascinated me most.—*Mary Jones.*

Circular Saws

I LIKED to see the man sharpening the circular saws in the hut. The noise was going through my head and I had my fingers in my ears. I pity the man who had to stay there in the screeching noise all day. When the man had finished sharpening the circular saws there were steel filings, and I had some to take home to make sparks. The man had to be quick with the circular saws because the other men wanted them to cut the slates.—*Muriel Jones.*

Y Peiriannau

HOFFAIS weld y dynion yn gweithio gyda'r peiriannau. Yr oedd y dynion yn garedig iawn yn dangos sut yr oeddynt yn gweithio gyda hwynt. Ni fuaswn i yn hoffi gweithio yno yng nghanol y fath swm byddarol. Cawsom lampau i fynd i lawr gyda ni i weld yn y tywyllwch. Yr oedd Mr. Jones yn garedig iawn yn mynd a ni o amgylch y lle. Ni buasai rhai mor garedig a mynd a ni ar wythnos mor brysur. Mwynheuais y prynhawn yn fawr.—*Dim enw.*







Edwin Butterworth

NEWS EXCHANGE

A Votty Recruit

IT was unfortunate that, in our last issue, the picture we had arranged to publish of young Edwin Butterworth, apprentice slatemaker at Votty, was inadvertently replaced by that of another. We hasten to make amends in this issue, apologising for the slip-up. Edwin

David Butterworth, as we stated, was born at Liverpool and came with his parents to Blaenau Ffestiniog some seven years ago. He learned Welsh at a local school and, imbued by the local tradition, decided to follow the craft of slatemaker.

Quarry Club Sports

THE "field day" at Dolawel, featured pictorially on other pages, proved a well-organised and well-attended venture. The inclusion of the ceremony of the crowning of the Quarry Queen added considerably to the interest shown. When the time came to run off the sporting events, the carnival spirit remained to reveal itself in the zest and enthusiasm of the partisans.

An additional factor in the success of the day was that, on the whole, the weather remained favourable.

There was a full schedule of events and a good "field" of contestants.

Results

The full list of results is as follows:—

50 yds. for boys and g rls under 8 : 1, Arthur C. Thomas ; 2, Clifford Roberts.

50 yds. egg and spoon race, under 10 : 1, Owen Jones ; 2 (equal), Sylvia W. Williams and Billy Jones.

60 yds. for boys, under 12 : 1, Elwyn Jones ; 2, Kenneth Jones.

60 yds. for girls, under 12 : 1, Gwen Roberts ; 2, Gennys M. Jones.

80 yds. for boys, under 15 : 1, Arwyn Jones ; 2, Gwyn Roberts.

80 yds. for girls, under 15 : 1, Eirwen Roberts ; 2, M. M. Jones.

80 yds. egg and spoon race for boys and girls, under 15 : 1, Ken Jones ; 2, Ann Jones.

100 yds., boys and girls, 15-18 : 1, Ronald Owen ; 2, Emlyn Jones.

Half-mile for boys, under 18 : 1, Glyn Jones ; 2, Peter B. Jones.

Three-legged race, boys and girls, under 12 : 1, Ken Roberts and Cyril Jones ; 2, E. Jones and Ken Humphreys.

Three-legged race, boys and girls, under 15 : 1, M. M. Jones ; 2, Margaret C. Roberts.

Three-legged race, boys, under 18 : 1, Ronald Owen and Gwlfyn Hughes.

Sack race, boys and girls, under 12 : 1, Gwen Roberts ; 2, Ken Roberts.

Sack race, boys and girls, under 15 : 1, M. M. Jones ; 2, Brenda Thomas.

Long jump, boys, 18 and under : David W. Thomas.

Pole jump, boys, 18 and under : David W. Thomas.

100 yds. for men, 30-50 : 1, Enoch Morris ; 2, David Rees.

Marathon : 1, Gwyn Morgan ; 2, Glyn Jones.

Quoits Doubles : E. O. Richards and Morris Jones.

Quoits Singles : Howell Williams and John Evans.

Whist Drive

There was also a good attendance at the whist drive which wound up the day's events. The M.C. was R. D. Williams and the special prize was won by Richard Jones, Oakeley Square.

Other prize-winners were :—

Ladies : 1, Mrs. H. Daniels, Cromwell Street ; 2, Mrs. Williams, Rock Terrace ; 3, Mrs. M. Lloyd Jones, Dinas Road.

Gentlemen : 1, T. O. Jones, Fron Fawr ; 2, David Jones, High Street ; 3, Dewi Lewis, Dinas Road.

Y Frenhines Marian

OUR Quarry Club organisation added carnival to the annual summer sports at Dolawel Field, crowning the event literally with the ceremonial coronation of the club's new Quarry Queen, Marian Thomas, daughter of Howell Thomas, of Oakeley, and Mrs. Thomas.

Queen Marian and her court, making an attractive tableau in the setting of the slated alcove surmounted by the title, Oakeley and Votty Club, were features of both the town carnival and of the club's big day at Dolawel.

Led by the Royal Oakeley Silver Band, and escorted by cadets of the Blaenau Ffestiniog St. John Ambulance Brigade, the Quarry Queen and her much admired ensemble drove from the centre of the town to the sports field, where the young lady, the quarrymen's own choice, was greeted by Mrs. Havard Williams of Caernarvon, daughter of our Managing Director, Mr. Harry Cutts.

Cheered by an enthusiastic crowd of club members, their wives, children and friends, Marian was crowned Queen (and thus formally installed in office for the ensuing year) by Mrs. Havard Williams.

Mrs. Williams congratulated the quarrymen on the excellence of their choice and praised the hard-working group responsible for the dressing of the court and the decor of the tableau. The innovation proved most popular, and *Caban*, in adding its congratulations to the organisers, hopes that a "State" visit by the Quarry Queen will become a standard feature of our club's summer sports.

Queen Marian's court, all of whom are seen to advantage in our special display of pictures on pages 16-17, comprised the following :—Maids of Honour, Gwenda Hughes, Ceinwen Jones, Carys Jones, Helen Owen, Haf Williams and Merys Hughes. Flower Girls : Beryl Jones and Iona Davies. Crown Bearer, Bryn Jones. Page, Maldyn Williams.

The pictures show the Queen and procession moving off from the town to Dolawel and the scene at Dolawel as Queen Marian, passing through her Guard of Honour proceeds to the crowning ceremony performed by Mrs. Havard Williams.





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THREE TONS HELD BY 12-INCH PEG
(See "Floor to Floor")

CABAN is the magazine of the Oakeley Slate Quarries Co., Ltd., of 4 Old Mitre Court, London, E.C.4, and its associated company The Votty and Bowydd Slate Quarries Co., Ltd.

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CABAN

AUGUST, 1953

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THE MAGAZINE OF THE OAKELEY AND VOTTY SLATE QUARRIES

CABAN

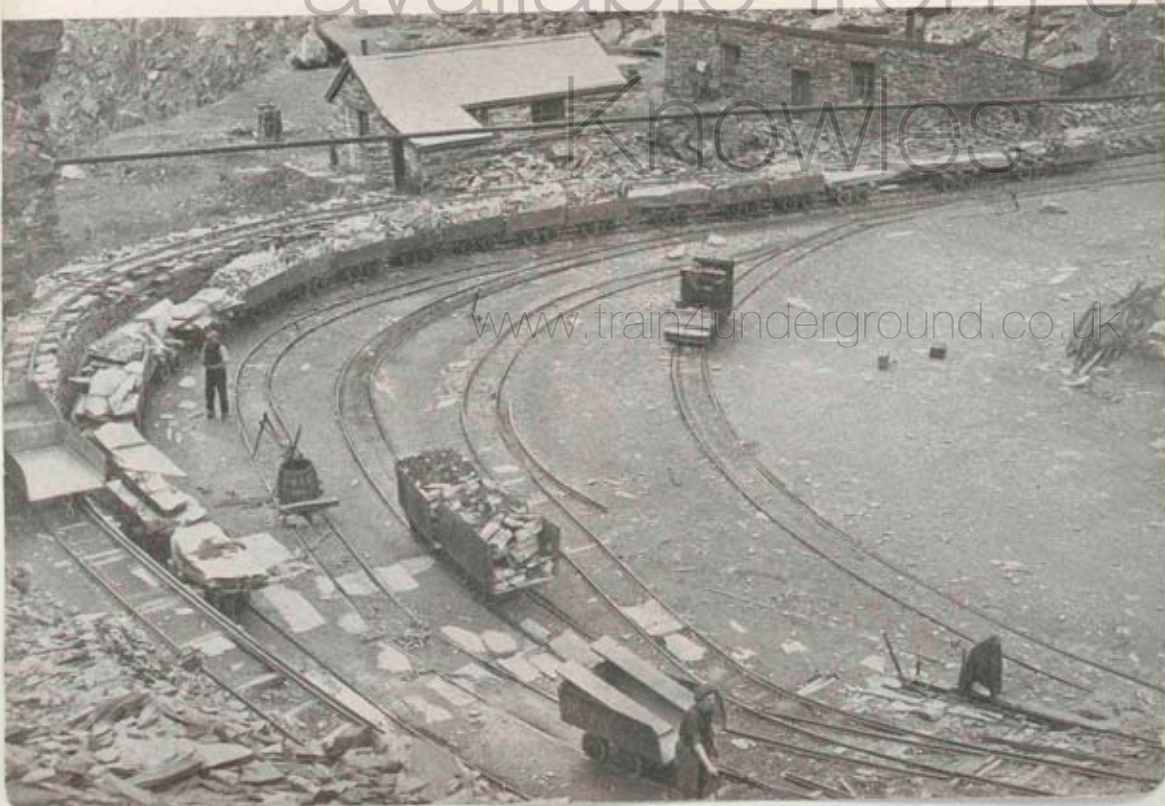
THE OAKELEY SLATE QUARRIES CO. LTD.,
THE VOTTY AND BOWYDD SLATE QUARRIES CO. LTD.,
BLAENAU FFESTINIOG, NORTH WALES,
4 OLD MITRE COURT, FLEET STREET, LONDON, E.C.4.

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"CABAN" is the name of the type of mess-room in which the men of Oakeley and Votty meet for their meal-break... and which is also the centre of social life and passing of information throughout the quarries, hence the title of this magazine.

- Front Cover: . . . high up on the chamber wall.
- Below: Mixed traffic from "K" reaches daylight.





Winning New Vein in K.B..1.

FROM FLOOR TO FLOOR— Underground at Oakeley and Votty

MOVING DOWN VIA a series of stout staircases which link the various levels at approximately the angle of the slate vein, the actual descent into our Oakeley and Votty Mines may be made on foot.

In our last issue the introduction to the journey from floor to floor concluded at the points of entry to the underground workings. At

Votty, where there are no outside workings, this is at the entrance to the “C” floor main level.

The 7.30 a.m. scene is typical of the start of the working day—a steady stream of rockmen, miners, their labourers, the handlers of traffic, haulage engineers, and pumpsmen, following a well-defined route, first along a level underground, thence down to their working places.

Following in the wake of the quarrymen, the phase of the journey now being described embraces floors "I" and "K" at Oakeley, and "C" at Votty.

In one respect the "K" and "C" floors at our respective mines are key points in the operation of slate winning, for it is at these levels that most of the traffic at both mines is marshalled—the blocks of slate from the chambers for despatch outside to the mills; the slate waste for disposal at the tips; and the trains of empties to be lowered on inclines to the landings at various levels for dispersal as needed along the floors.

Traffic Centres

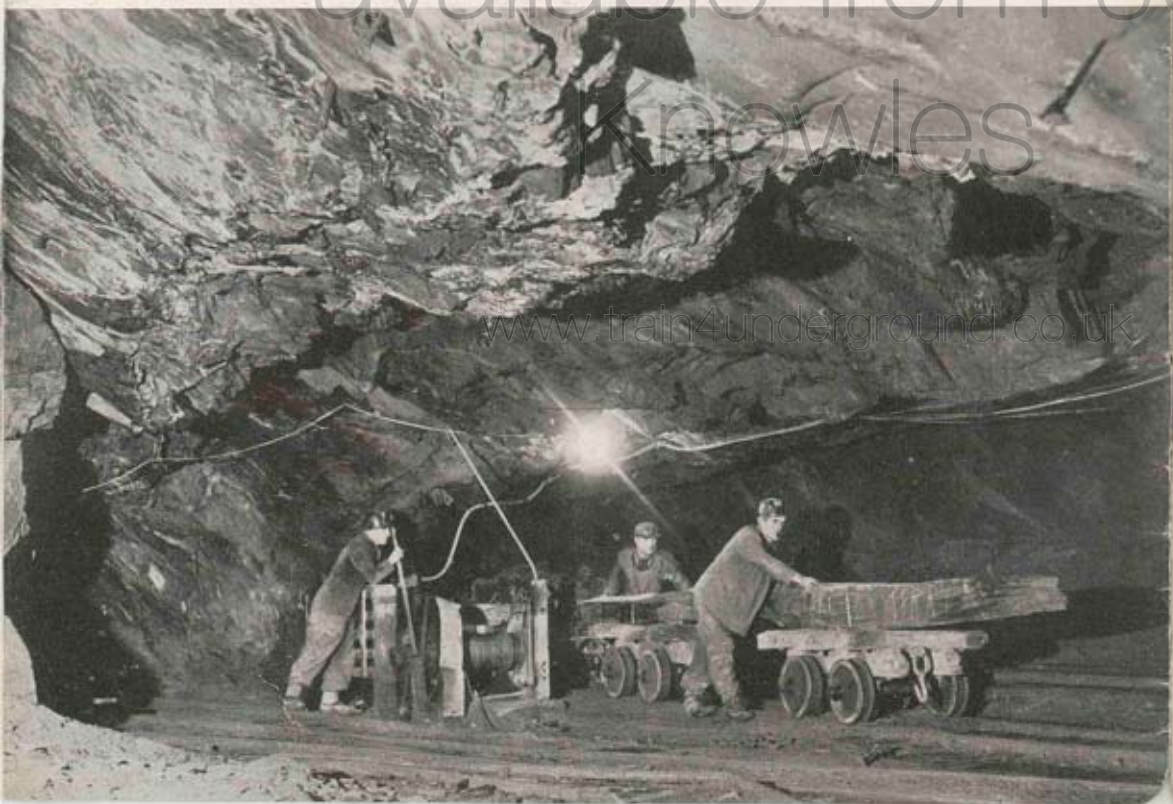
The scope and character of the underground traffic centres will be appreciated from the panoramic view of the despatch junction at Votty, shown in pages 14-15, where a diesel trainload of blocks,

in charge of John Ivor Thomas and David Evans, is seen on the point of moving out to the mills through the "C" floor main exit.

This every-day scene on the "production line" at Votty is viewed from the mouth of a continuing level on "C" floor where one or two chambers located virtually at the top of the mine are still being worked. Tram lines running off the picture to the left disappear under an archway concealing the foot of the Tuxford incline up which all slate waste from the Votty mine must go for tipping.

The camera is incapable of reproducing the whole scene of activity on the traffic floor, but added realism to the measure of this activity is conveyed in a further view looking past a line of

Ebb and



empties to the shed housing the winding gear perched above the brink of the incline serving the various floors of the mine. The men handling the newly-arrived blocks from below are Howell Daniel and Evan Hughes.

Oakeley Haulage Floor

The scenes we depict on the main haulage floor at Oakeley are equally indicative of the bustling activity which marks the daily round on the "K" floor. But, to reach "K" in the wake of the quarrymen the route has first dropped down a pathway through a roof tunnel which lies above "K."

Running east and west underground, "I" floor was driven many years ago, but it has by no means outlived its usefulness. The

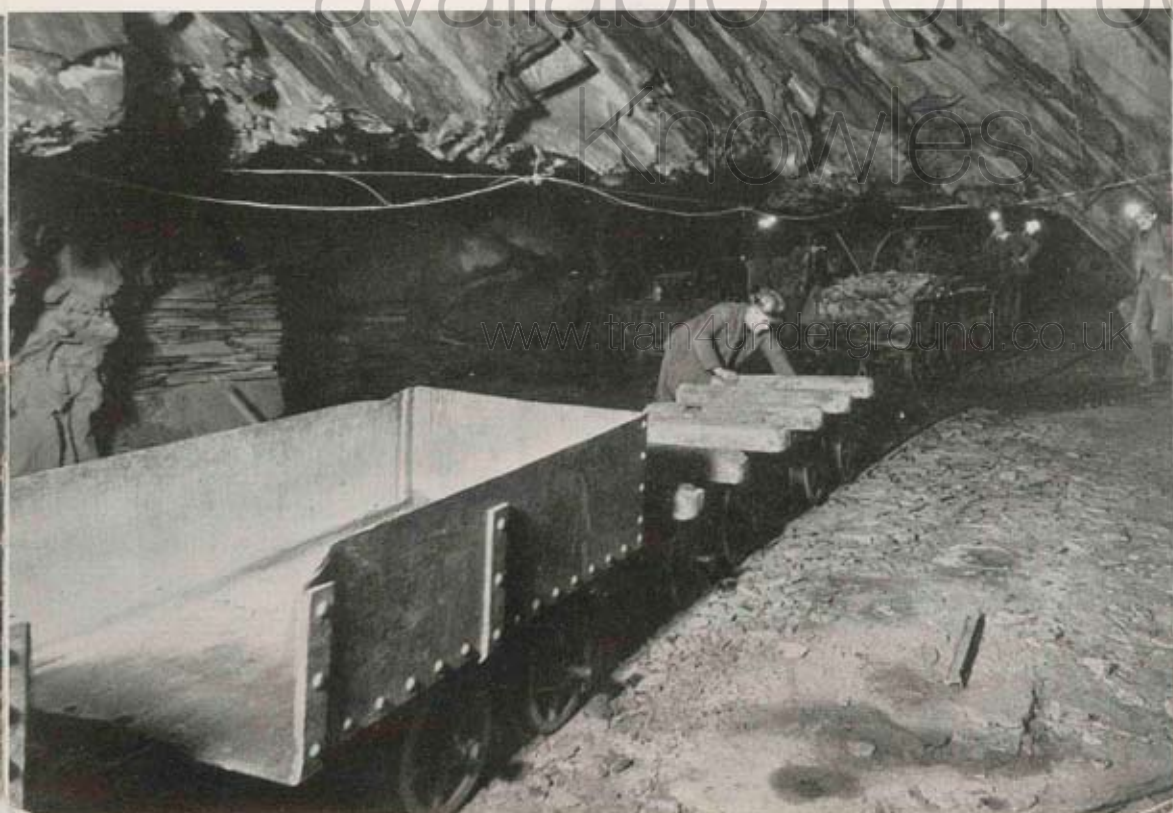
winning of good slate goes on in several chambers.

At "IB 12" rockmen Alfred Hughes and J. Lloyd Hughes, engaged reclaiming in a working place which ranges upwards through two floors, may be said to have a stint which will keep them fully occupied for a long time.

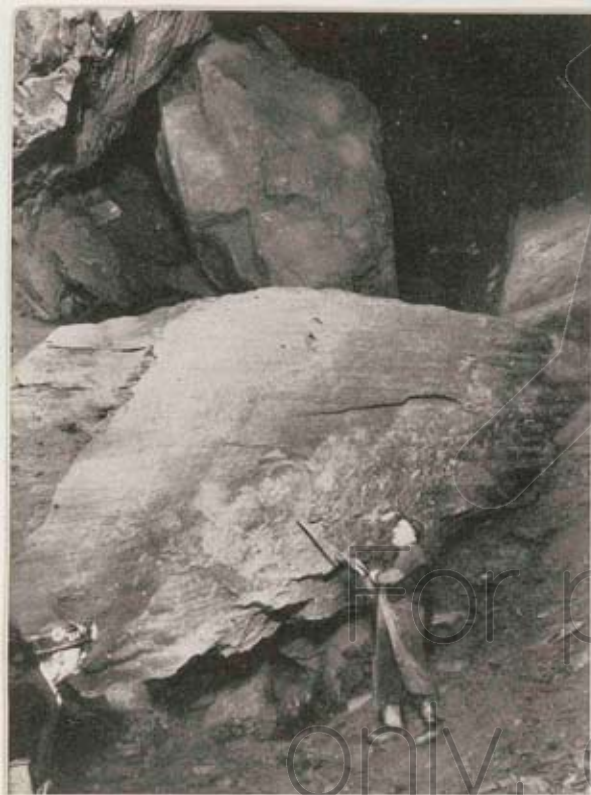
Our front page picture shows the rockmen, against the background of the great wall of the chamber, standing on a ledge high up, probing a crack which, later, would be made to yield a sizable block of slate. To do this successfully they must exploit certain characteristics in the slate, notably cracks and overhanging weight.

One of the rockmen, secured by a safety chain, is in the act of assessing the possibilities while the other probes and levers cautiously. The safety chain is an essential piece of equipment in the chambers. Rockmen use the chain

Flow on "K."



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Inside "K13."

as a hand and leg-hold while shinning up the slope of the vein, or as an anchorage while working above the ground level of the chamber. The chain is itself anchored to a steel peg driven into the live rock. The strength and reliability of the simple and effective device are not taken for granted. All chains, and the pegs from which they are suspended, are subjected to examination.

"Pin Points"

The visit to "IB 12" coincided with such an inspection, and the results were satisfactory.

James Parry's work as a securer, repairing unstable roofs by the process of pinning with steel bolts or pegs, has been described in

Caban. The exceptional strength and reliability of the pin and its wedge were stressed at the same time. "IB 12" furnished the most graphic proof of these exceptional qualities in the form of a pinned anchorage, set high in the chamber roof, for a heavy duty, power-driven block and tackle serving the rockmen, first as a dragline with which to haul out blocks of slate, and as a simple weight-lifter for raising the block on to a trolley.

Usually the tackle is suspended from a wooden tripod. In this case the double purpose of dragging and lifting was felt to be better served by attaching the line to a single pin let in and wedged in the roof. Our back page picture strikingly conveys the feat of strength by showing a block of slate weighing three tons suspended comfortably on a steel wire running through a block attached to the roof by a 12-inch peg with a diameter of $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

The secret of the strength and security of the double-purpose bolt lies in the angle at which the bolt was inserted, the care taken in matching the length of the hole in the roof with that of the steel pin, and the all-important wedge which "marries" the pin to the rock. A carefully and correctly installed bolt will "hold its ground" indefinitely. When occasion requires the removal of a pin it has been found that the surest method is literally to quarry it out with the rock attached!

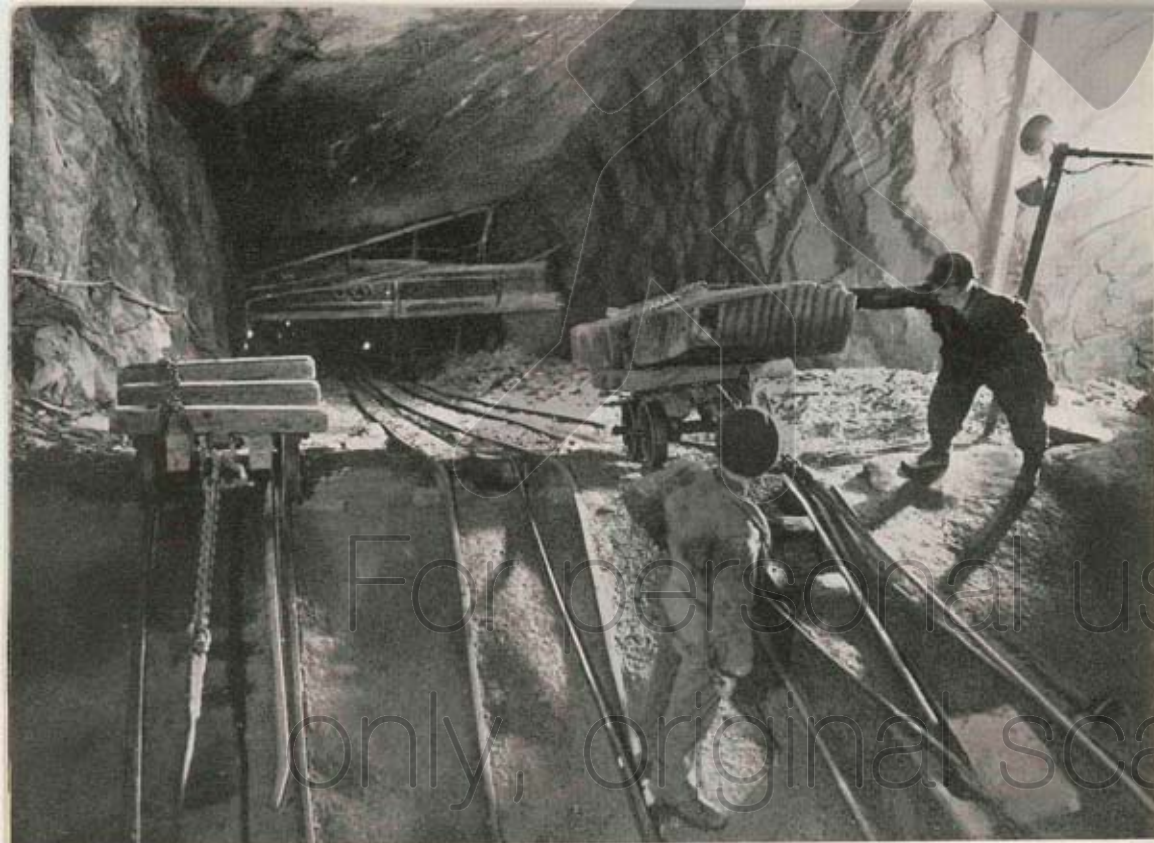
Following the sharp angle of the vein, the way down to "K" involved negotiating another foot-



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Through the wall into "K 13."



"New Incline" at Oakeley

path, this one an elaborate staircase descending through a former chamber, now filled with slate waste. The "K" footpath emerged at an opening in the foot of the walled-up mouth of the chamber. Our picture taken on the "K" level shows the massiveness and solidity of the "dam" against which the rubbish had been tipped and, incidentally, affords an impression of the characteristic quality of the slate-mason's art.

The "K" floor, like the corresponding "C" floor at Votty, embraces both working chambers and the "nerve centre" controlling and handling traffic to and from all floors in the mine. Daylight

is also reached from "K" floor via the main "Balance" outlet and its big haulage lift operated from the "DE" floor.

Located a couple of hundred yards inside "K" is the principal haulage incline known as the "New Incline" (new is a relative term only) which, seemingly, falls from the edge of the "K" floor down into the darkness to serve with its triple ropes the descending scale of floors to "P" level. A separate short incline served "R."

This main artery carrying the great bulk and burden of the work is also illustrated. A subsidiary haulage, referred to by the quarrymen as the "Old Incline," parallels

the main haulage over the shorter distance down to the "L" and "O" floors, and, to the east of "K," there is a third incline capable of serving as required the floors from "K" up to "DE."

Workaday Scene

An impression of the mixed nature of the traffic and its volume is gained in the picture of the workaday scene in the sidings near the top of the "K" balance on "DE" floor.

The long train load of blocks, and the trucks stacked with waste brought up via "K" two waggons at a time, is seen awaiting haulage to the quarry top, where the blocks are dispersed to the mills and waste hauled up to an even higher level for tipping. The haulage gear in both our mines is electrically driven.

While the unhookers and hitchers on "DE" are marshalling their charges for final dispatch to the top their opposite numbers underground on "K" sustain the rhythm of the traffic movement, receiving laden trolleys and trucks on the twin inclines, unhitching the haulage ropes, propelling the waggons to a point where gravity and a gradient can take charge, and where others in the haulage team take over to see the traffic through to the foot of the "K" balance lift.

The phases in this operation are illustrated. A large block from "Q" 10, one of the lower and distant chambers, is seen "tight on the rope" coming up the main haulage incline to "K" and passing the entrance to "L" floor.

In another picture Richard Jones and his colleague, William Chart, who work as unhookers and hitchers on the brink of the incline, are snapped in action at the "landing," swinging round the block speeding its momentum to the point where gravity takes charge.

The camera has caught at a novel angle another large block from "P" 1 which appears virtually to fill the traffic level. This block is being "shepherded" on the brake down to the waiting "K" balance lift.

The stout wooden three-barred platform trolleys for carrying blocks, and the steel-sided trams reserved for waste are hauled up the gravity slope to the "K" incline by means of a ropeway operated by Gwilym Roberts. The arrival of one such train of empties at the underground traffic junction on "K" is also illustrated. At this point the empties are propelled inside via a tunnelled roadway to the right of the picture. Outgoing traffic is marshalled in a corresponding level.

Re-opening "K" 13

Headquarters of the staff and of the volunteer ambulance team are located near the "New Incline." Beyond the "Old Incline," and deeper into the workings, slate-winning goes on in earnest. In this, the older section of the mine, is an interesting example of the re-opening of an old chamber which had been more or less blocked at one time by heavy falls of rock. The approach to this potentially valuable site was made from "K" 12.



I.32 Votty being surveyed late last year.

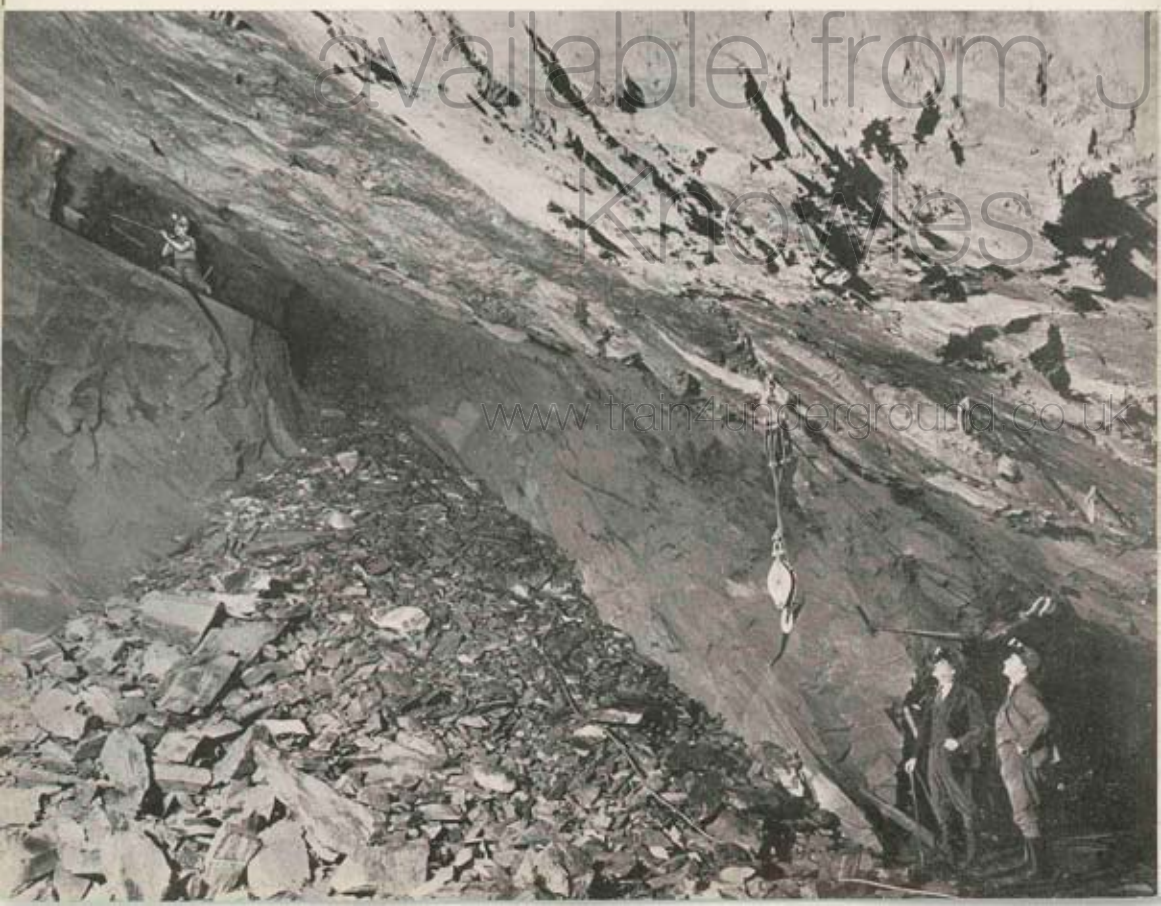
Having driven through the dividing wall Rockmen Robert Jones and Harry Hughes have, as our picture shows, gained entrance to "K" 13 at the very foot of the tumbled accumulation of slate blocks and rubbish which had brought about the earlier closing of the chamber.

I.32 in full development this summer.

For the present the rewards for their endeavours are qualified by the large amount of waste material which also must be cleared. The rockmen are shown dwarfed by a block of slate rock, one of many awaiting removal—work requiring skill and caution.

Deep in the New Vein

Robert Jones is confident that the chamber will be made to give up the whole of its hitherto hidden hoard of blocks. To this end there are preparations in the neighbouring "K" 12, where our picture shows the Oakeley plate-layers Robert H. Roberts and Thomas H. Williams, busily relaying and squaring-up the tram track in readiness for the removal of weighty pieces from "K" 13.



Deep in the New Vein is "KB" 1, where rockmen Daniel Jones and Orthin Roberts are engaged in tackling the rock in a different fashion. In contrast with the operation in "K" 13 and again in "IB" 12, on the floor above, the job in hand at "KB" 1 has been to sink through the floor of the well worked chamber with a view to winning slate from an excessively wide footing or base.

Excavating perhaps twenty feet into the waste on the floor of the chamber the rockmen uncovered their objective and began work in the excavation, winning fine blocks of New Vein in the process.

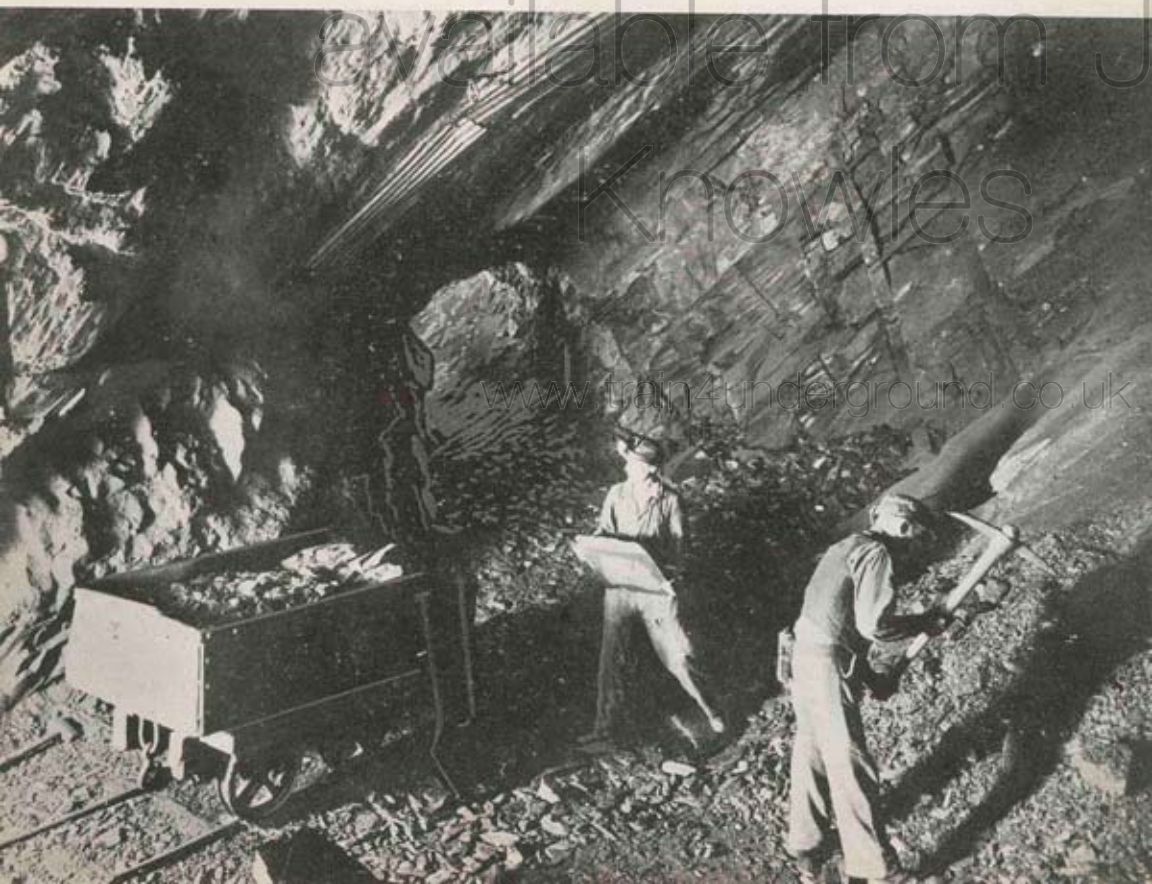
The rockmen are pictured standing on the slope of the exposed



Speeding the momentum!

portion, looped by their safety chains. Orthin Roberts, former English League and Welsh League goalkeeper, said that progress was now steady and straightforward with a promise of "a supply of good stuff for many months to come."

Continuity of development. Looking from I.32 to new chamber I.33.



Development—A Continuous Process

Development—the driving, opening and widening of new chambers giving fresh sources of supply—is a continuous process at both our mines. At this point in our journey underground perhaps the “I” floor at Votty affords the most convenient examples of the successive stages of development. Miners are still at work on the floor, pushing forward through the New Vein, opening out a range of new chambers all numbered in the “thirties.”

The illustrations we give of this work tell the story graphically. The first of these—reproduced, as readers may recall, from a previous study of an underground survey—shows surveyors checking bearings before handing over the newly-opened chamber “I 32” to the rockmen.

The fine, clean thickness of slate stands invitingly while miners push forward and higher through the “roofing” tunnel. That was the scene in the chamber late last year.

Second Phase Development

The bigger contrasting picture is the scene this summer, viewed from the same angle. The first phase of production is almost over. The “virgin” bed of “New Vein” at the foot of the chamber has been won and the product dispatched

for roofing. Miners are again in charge, this time for the purpose of extending the “roofing” prior to starting widening operations to give rockmen access to the greater thickness of the vein.

Seen at work in the picture is William R. Jones, one of the miners.

The full page picture of “I 30,” also a recently developed chamber, shows how the rock face is uncovered and rendered progressively more accessible by the process of development. “I 30” is in full production and will remain thus for a long time furnishing, as the picture shows, a steady flow of blocks on to the trolley, with others awaiting removal to the mills.

Continuity

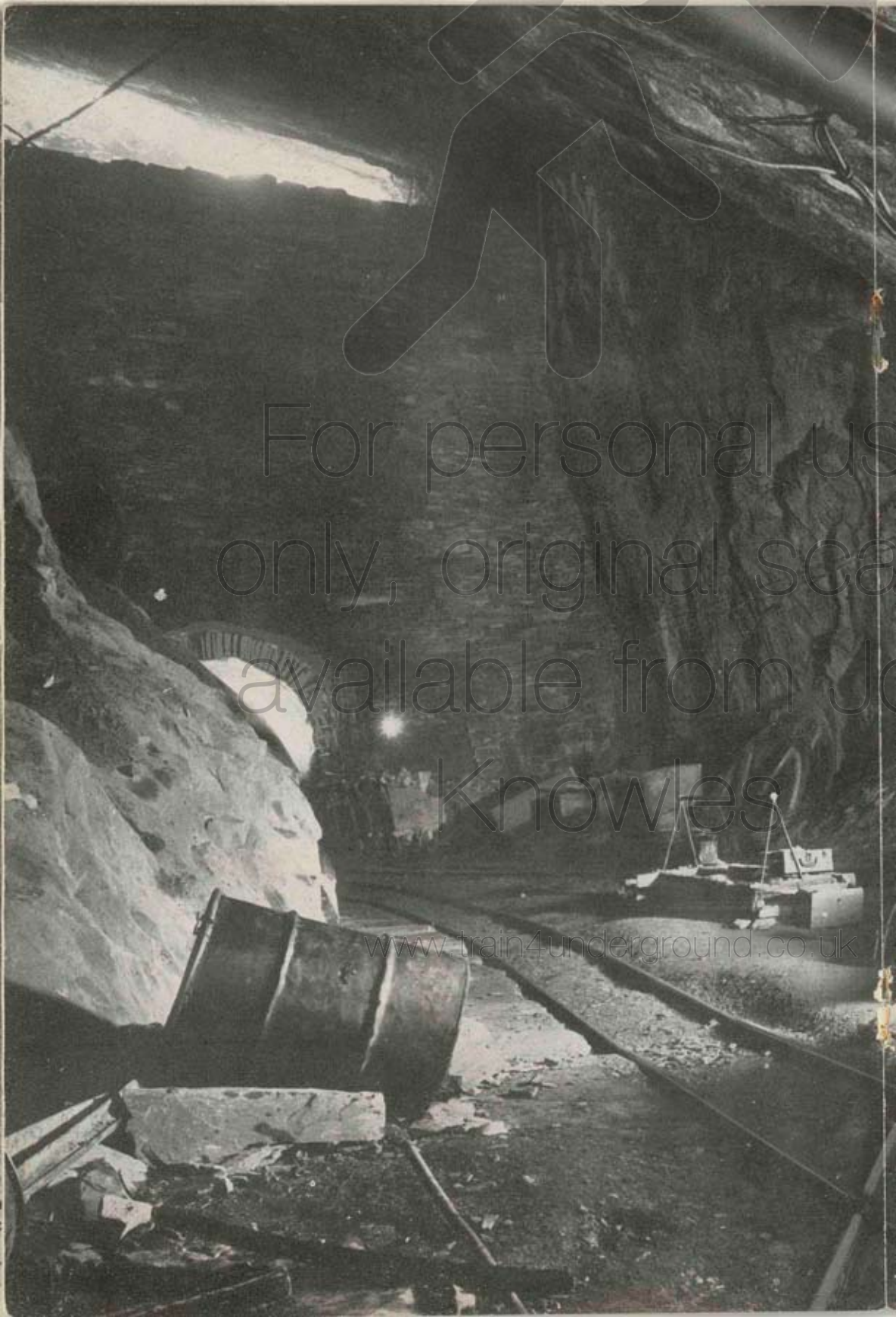
The continuity of development is further emphasised by a glimpse across the chamber “I 32” to the opening in the wall marking the entrance of a level which, having passed through the chamber wall, serves the newer chamber “I 33” and continues beyond to a point where another chamber—“I 34”—will eventually be opened up.

In the foreground of this picture waste is being loaded into a truck.

And so the development goes on, an unending process in which the way ahead, it might be said, caters for the years ahead.



1.30, Votty, showing progressive process of development.



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"C" Floor Traffic Junction
at Votty

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1. *Portrait of a Family*



The "Young Idea"

Yn ddigon saff

Y PETH nad anghofiaf fi yw gweld y trwnc serth. Pan oeddwn ar ben y trwnc yr oeddwn yn ofnus, ond dywedodd rhyw ddyn wrthyf ei fod yn ddigon saff. Ar ffram yr oeddym yn mynd i lawr. Ar ben y trwnc yr oedd yna gwt bychan ac ynddo yr oedd yna ddyn yn rheoli'r braciau. Uwchben y trwnc yr oedd olwynion ac yn y pen draw ddrwm mawr a'r rhaff gref yn mynd o'i amgylch. Pan oeddwn yn dyfod allan o'r twll i'r awyr agored yr oeddwn yn ei chlywed yn gynnes am ei bod mor oer o dan y ddaear.—*Gareth Jones.*

Hetiau y Gweithwyr

NID oeddwn yn disgwyl gweld goleuadau trydan yn y twll, a ninnau wedi cael lampau i'w cario i lawr i'n helpu i weld y gwahanol bethau oedd yno. Sylwais fod gan y dynion oedd yn gweithio yn y twll hetiau a lampau arnynt er mwyn iddynt gael digon o olau i wneud eu gwaith. Roedd lampau trydan bob ochr i'r twll hefyd, ac yr oeddant yn goleuo yn dda iawn. Roedd gan bob plentyn lamp, ac yr oedd rhai yn cario eu lamp yn eu dwylo, a'r lleill ar eu strapiau.—*Carys Jones.*

Cadw y Dwr i lawr

NID oeddwn erioed wedi meddwl ei bod hi mor wlyb o dan y ddaear. Yr oedd yno ddau lyn mawr, ac yr oeddant yn ddyfn iawn. Dywedodd Mr. Jones wrthym am y peryglon. Os buasai y llynnoedd yn llenwi i'r top fe fuasai y twll yn bodd i gyd. Wrth y llyn yr oedd pont yn mynd drosodd, a gwelsom ddwr yn dod iddo. Sylwais uwch ein pennau fod creigiau mawr a phibellau yn mynd trwy dwnel bach ar y graig. Yr oedd peiriannau pwmpio mewn cwt wrth y llynnoedd i gadw y dwr i lawr. Yn y cwt yr oedd dyn yn edrych ar ôl y peiriannau ac yn rhoi olew iddynt ac yn eu glanhau yn lân. Well yr oeddwn wedi mwynhau gweld y llynnoedd dwfn oedd dan y ddaear.—*Cyril Jones.*

Always interested to learn how to Mr. J. Ellis Williams, headmaster Ffestiniog, for the following impressions of our work and ways their visit to our Oakeley

Y Creigiwr a'r Gadwyn

RHYFEDDAIS yn fawr iawn pan welais y creigiwr yn dringo'r graig serth mor rhwydd, a gosod y gadwyn am ei goes, ac rwy'n siwr y buaswn i a'm traed i fyny a'm pen i lawr yn fuan iawn. Diben hyn oedd i'r dyn gael ei ddwy law yn rhydd i weithio ar y graig. Ac wedi hollti'r graig sylwais ar y craen cryf a allai godi dwy dunnell a hanner os byddai angen hynny. Yna gwelais y bag a oedd yn sugno'r llwch pan oedd y creigiwr yn tyllu.—*Alan Roberts.*

Y Lluch

SYNNAIS weld cymaint o lluch yn y twll, ond yr oedd gan y dynion fag mawr i gadw'r lluch i fwrdd. Wrth weld y dynion yn tyllu'r graig gyda pheiriant tyllu, synnais yn fawr iawn. Dangosodd y dyn oedd yn tyllu'r graig fel roedd y lluch yn mynd i mewn i'r bag rhag i'r lluch fynd i'w hysgyfaint ac achosi clefyd lluch y garreg. Yr oedd y bag yn llawn o wynt i dynnu'r lluch i mewn iddo. Yr oedd y lluch a oedd yn y bag fel blawd o fan. Bag gweddol fawr ydoedd a'i liw oedd brown. Yr oedd y peiriant tyllu'r graig yn gwneud twrw mawr, ond nid oedd pobl a oedd uwchben y twll yn clywed dim.—*Olwen Jones.*

Lion's Roar

WHAT impressed me most were the tunnels. If I went there by myself I am sure I would get lost. How, I wonder, that the quarrymen don't get lost in the maze of tunnels. Mr. Jones very kindly took us to different ones. In the tunnels there was plenty of mud. I didn't know that these were so wet. Once or twice I slipped, and my feet went into the water that was on each side of the rails. The tunnels lead to the levels where we saw men at work. I would say that there are thousands of long tunnels.

at Oakeley

others regard us, we are indebted of Glanypwll Primary School, Blaenau entertaining selection of personal written by scholars of his school after Quarries in May last.

These were very dark, so we had to take lamps with us. Most of the tunnels had men pushing wagons along. In one tunnel there was a great noise like lions roaring in their cage; this was the noise made by pumps. I am glad that I am not working there, because I would be afraid that I would never come out again. I think the men are very clever to know the difference between the tunnels.—*Evelyn Wilson Owen.*

Tannio'r Fuse

YR hyn a'm synnodd i oedd gweld y dynion yn rhoi tân ar y "fuse" ac wedyn yn mynd oddi yno a chlywed y glec, a synnais na chwythwyd y garreg yn ddarnau. Cawsom fynd yn ôl yno a chael gweld yr hollt. Yr oedd craen mawr yno i godi y garreg oedd wedi hollti ar y wagen, ac wedyn marciwyd enw o p'run dwnel y daeth y garreg fawr. Yr oedd arnaf ofn i'r graig ddisgyn yn yr agor, gan nad oeddwn erioed wedi bod o dan y ddaear o'r blaen.—*Kenneth Williams.*

Y Grisiau Serth

Y PETH a'm synnodd i fwyaf oedd mynd i lawr yr holl risiau mawr serth, ond pan oeddwn eisiau mynd i fyny yr oedd fy nhraed yn brifo. Yr oedd Mr. Jones yn garedig iawn wrthym ac yn disgrifio popeth wrth fynd ymlaen. Lle iawn i godi cur yn ein pennau oedd, gan fod swm mawr i'w glywed uwch ben.

Cyn i ni fynd i lawr dywedodd rhai gweithwyr fod yno fwganod a llygod mawr, a dechreuodd bawb chwerthin. Nid oedd y lle mor oer ag yr oeddwn yn ei feddwl. Yr oedd y lle reit dywyll, ond nid oeddym yn malio dim, gan fod gennym lampau. Yn y twll yr oedd pawb yn garedig wrthym, ac yr oedd yn rhaid i ni ddilyn Mr. Jones rhag ofn i ni fynd ar goll neu i berygl. Yr oeddym yn falch

o ddyfod allan i'r awyr iach. Yr oedd pawb yn ddiolchgar iawn i Mr. Humphreys a Mr. Jones am roi caniatad i ni weld y chwarel.—*Kitty Thomas.*

"Splitting Fascinated me"

WHAT I enjoyed best was watching the man splitting the slates. It looked so easy, but try and split it and you find it is hard work. You must be very clever to split it, because you must hold the chisel in its right position. A man was kind enough to let us try and split some. There was another man by his side who was waiting for the slates to cut into the right sizes. After the other man had split them he put them on a table while the other man took them and put them under a machine to cut them into sizes. I would like to stay there all day, but there were other places for us to see. But the splitting fascinated me most.—*Mary Jones.*

Circular Saws

I LIKED to see the man sharpening the circular saws in the hut. The noise was going through my head and I had my fingers in my ears. I pity the man who had to stay there in the screeching noise all day. When the man had finished sharpening the circular saws there were steel filings, and I had some to take home to make sparks. The man had to be quick with the circular saws because the other men wanted them to cut the slates.—*Muriel Jones.*

Y Peiriannau

HOFFAIS weld y dynion yn gweithio gyda'r peiriannau. Yr oedd y dynion yn garedig iawn yn dangos sut yr oeddynt yn gweithio gyda hwynt. Ni fuaswn i yn hoffi gweithio yno yng nghanol y fath swm byddarol. Cawsom lampau i fynd i lawr gyda ni i weld yn y tywyllwch. Yr oedd Mr. Jones yn garedig iawn yn mynd a ni o amgylch y lle. Ni buasai rhai mor garedig a mynd a ni ar wythnos mor brysur. Mwynheuais y prynhawn yn fawr.—*Dim enw.*







Edwin Butterworth

NEWS EXCHANGE

A Votty Recruit

IT was unfortunate that, in our last issue, the picture we had arranged to publish of young Edwin Butterworth, apprentice slatemaker at Votty, was inadvertently replaced by that of another. We hasten to make amends in this issue, apologising for the slip-up. Edwin

David Butterworth, as we stated, was born at Liverpool and came with his parents to Blaenau Ffestiniog some seven years ago. He learned Welsh at a local school and, imbued by the local tradition, decided to follow the craft of slatemaker.

Quarry Club Sports

THE "field day" at Dolawel, featured pictorially on other pages, proved a well-organised and well-attended venture. The inclusion of the ceremony of the crowning of the Quarry Queen added considerably to the interest shown. When the time came to run off the sporting events, the carnival spirit remained to reveal itself in the zest and enthusiasm of the partisans.

An additional factor in the success of the day was that, on the whole, the weather remained favourable.

There was a full schedule of events and a good "field" of contestants.

Results

The full list of results is as follows:—

50 yds. for boys and g rls under 8 : 1, Arthur C. Thomas ; 2, Clifford Roberts.

50 yds. egg and spoon race, under 10 : 1, Owen Jones ; 2 (equal), Sylvia W. Williams and Billy Jones.

60 yds. for boys, under 12 : 1, Elwyn Jones ; 2, Kenneth Jones.

60 yds. for girls, under 12 : 1, Gwen Roberts ; 2, Gennys M. Jones.

80 yds. for boys, under 15 : 1, Arwyn Jones ; 2, Gwyn Roberts.

80 yds. for girls, under 15 : 1, Eirwen Roberts ; 2, M. M. Jones.

80 yds. egg and spoon race for boys and girls, under 15 : 1, Ken Jones ; 2, Ann Jones.

100 yds., boys and girls, 15-18 : 1, Ronald Owen ; 2, Emlyn Jones.

Half-mile for boys, under 18 : 1, Glyn Jones ; 2, Peter B. Jones.

Three-legged race, boys and girls, under 12 : 1, Ken Roberts and Cyril Jones ; 2, E. Jones and Ken Humphreys.

Three-legged race, boys and girls, under 15 : 1, M. M. Jones ; 2, Margaret C. Roberts.

Three-legged race, boys, under 18 : 1, Ronald Owen and Gwlfyn Hughes.

Sack race, boys and girls, under 12 : 1, Gwen Roberts ; 2, Ken Roberts.

Sack race, boys and girls, under 15 : 1, M. M. Jones ; 2, Brenda Thomas.

Long jump, boys, 18 and under : David W. Thomas.

Pole jump, boys, 18 and under : David W. Thomas.

100 yds. for men, 30-50 : 1, Enoch Morris ; 2, David Rees.

Marathon : 1, Gwyn Morgan ; 2, Glyn Jones.

Quoits Doubles : E. O. Richards and Morris Jones.

Quoits Singles : Howell Williams and John Evans.

Whist Drive

There was also a good attendance at the whist drive which wound up the day's events. The M.C. was R. D. Williams and the special prize was won by Richard Jones, Oakeley Square.

Other prize-winners were :—

Ladies : 1, Mrs. H. Daniels, Cromwell Street ; 2, Mrs. Williams, Rock Terrace ; 3, Mrs. M. Lloyd Jones, Dinas Road.

Gentlemen : 1, T. O. Jones, Fron Fawr ; 2, David Jones, High Street ; 3, Dewi Lewis, Dinas Road.

Y Frenhines Marian

OUR Quarry Club organisation added carnival to the annual summer sports at Dolawel Field, crowning the event literally with the ceremonial coronation of the club's new Quarry Queen, Marian Thomas, daughter of Howell Thomas, of Oakeley, and Mrs. Thomas.

Queen Marian and her court, making an attractive tableau in the setting of the slated alcove surmounted by the title, Oakeley and Votty Club, were features of both the town carnival and of the club's big day at Dolawel.

Led by the Royal Oakeley Silver Band, and escorted by cadets of the Blaenau Ffestiniog St. John Ambulance Brigade, the Quarry Queen and her much admired ensemble drove from the centre of the town to the sports field, where the young lady, the quarrymen's own choice, was greeted by Mrs. Havard Williams of Caernarvon, daughter of our Managing Director, Mr. Harry Cutts.

Cheered by an enthusiastic crowd of club members, their wives, children and friends, Marian was crowned Queen (and thus formally installed in office for the ensuing year) by Mrs. Havard Williams.

Mrs. Williams congratulated the quarrymen on the excellence of their choice and praised the hard-working group responsible for the dressing of the court and the decor of the tableau. The innovation proved most popular, and *Caban*, in adding its congratulations to the organisers, hopes that a "State" visit by the Quarry Queen will become a standard feature of our club's summer sports.

Queen Marian's court, all of whom are seen to advantage in our special display of pictures on pages 16-17, comprised the following :—Maids of Honour, Gwenda Hughes, Ceinwen Jones, Carys Jones, Helen Owen, Haf Williams and Merys Hughes. Flower Girls : Beryl Jones and Iona Davies. Crown Bearer, Bryn Jones. Page, Maldyn Williams.

The pictures show the Queen and procession moving off from the town to Dolawel and the scene at Dolawel as Queen Marian, passing through her Guard of Honour proceeds to the crowning ceremony performed by Mrs. Havard Williams.







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THREE TONS HELD BY 12-INCH PEG
(See "Floor to Floor")

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