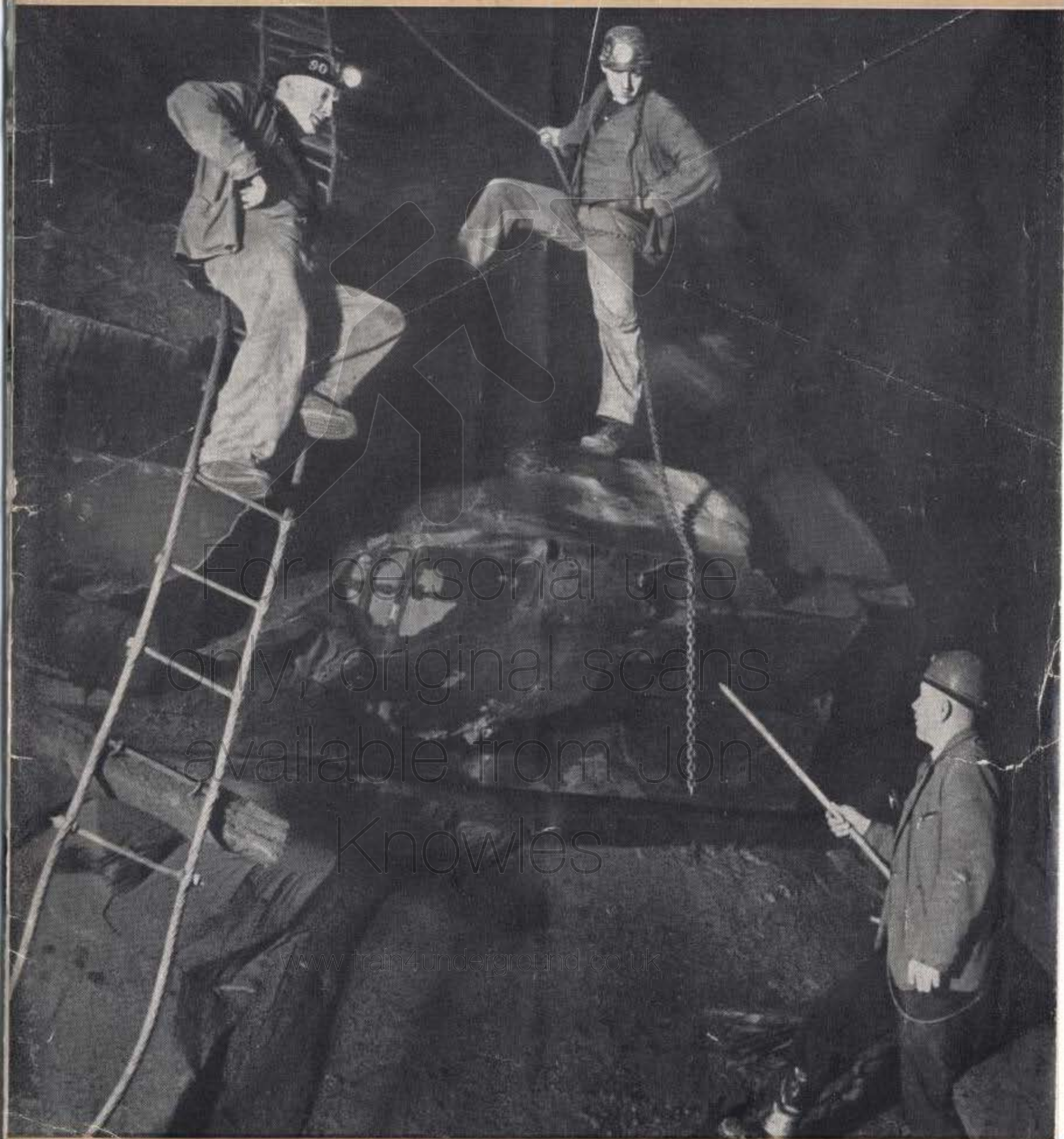


CABAN

OCTOBER 1952



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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: Consultation with Rockmen. ● Below: Caban on "Q," nearly 1,000ft. down (see p.20)





Under-managers' Conference

OUT ON THE BEAT— Day with the under-managers

MORNING conference at Oakeley. The homely picture of three of our undermanagers—W. H. Jones (left), William Thomas and Morris Jones—serves admirably to introduce this article on the day-to-day running of the world's biggest slate mine. The doorstep conference, with its discussion of current managerial problems, exchange of vital information, and decision as to the inspection "beats" which each will take, is in fact the first act of the working day. It precedes all else; the switch-on of power, the smoke of the fires,—even the

arrival of the quarrymen themselves.

The duties of the undermanager are manifold. But, first things first. The initial job of work after the conference is in the role of time-keeper. The block-house, otherwise the office and headquarters of the undermanagers, is conveniently situated at the normal point of arrival of all employees with working places in the mine and on the vast open floor.

Daily Problems

It is a firm rule that every man on duty each day shall be account-



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Line of the channelled cut.

ed for, both formally on the record and actually in person. The counting of heads is not just a matter of book-keeping, important though that may be. The conditions and requirements implicit in the task of slate winning are liable to constant change. The vagaries of the weather as well as geological structure present their own problems.

The undermanagers—there are four at Oakeley; the fourth, Alfred Humphreys, was unfortunately absent ill on this day—being in possession of the full picture, are alone able to judge whether, because of absenteeism or other reason, there shall be change or adjustment in the usual order of events for the current day's working.

The preliminary observations completed, the undermanagers agree on their respective "beats"—

Systematic inspection.

one to the top workings of the mine, another to the middle levels, and the third to the bottom chambers, eight or ten floors down, or approximately 1,000 feet below the quarry office, supreme headquarters, where presides Mr. Gwilym Humphreys, the Oakeley Quarry Manager, from whom all working instructions flow, and to whom all major problems are referred.

Consultations

Unless there is an immediate or an emergency question of adjustment or safety requiring attention, in which case the undermanager will follow the rockmen to his chamber for consultation and decision on the spot, the inspections proceed on a routine basis.

The routine is, nevertheless, one of systematic inspection, for, embodied in the task of keeping up production, there are over-riding questions of safety to be considered with forty-five specific regulations





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. . . *A lonely fastness.*

prescribed by Act of Parliament to be observed.

In the old-established well-ordered conditions which prevail, the regulations—all based on the experience of 100 years of slate winning—serve to supplement the practical and intuitive awareness of danger which is common to undermanagers, rockmen and miners alike.

Mutual Respect

The undermanagers graduated in the industry. Each has a full experience of the actual physical work of quarrying and mining. The fact that the work which is to be inspected is carried out by a skilled company of specialists is marked by a degree of mutual respect leading to a pooling of all knowledge when problems arise. It is for this reason that undermanagers are described as engaging in consultation with the craftsmen when a chamber is entered for specific inspection.

The exchange of information and ideas, and the arrival at a decision acceptable from all points of view, are the characteristics of managerial control which count most in the maintenance of the well ordered condition of the day-to-day working.

Safety

Fundamental in most of the on-the-spot consultations is the question of safety. It may be, as we have illustrated on page 1, that a pillaring hole has been blasted, severing and separating a large block of slate in the chamber. In the picture, balancing easily on the rope ladder and linked in with the

safety chain, are to be seen the rockmen in Q.8 chamber—Griffith Jones and Caradoc Owen—discussing with undermanager William Thomas at the foot the safest way of bringing the block down to the floor of the chamber.

The consultation in Q.8 was routine. The “technical hitch” in this instance required only agreement on the best method, compatible with complete safety, of winning the maximum amount of workable slate from the big block under review.

Griffith Jones, on the ladder, and Caradoc Owen, standing over the pillared hole, both offered practical suggestions. William Thomas, who is a safety expert, weighed them and confirmed them. The work went on, and exactly as prescribed the rock was safely and fully recovered.

Under the Eye

Another example of the consultation is shown in our picture of a scene in Q.10, where Dafydd Emlyn Lewis is seen adjusting a channelling machine under the eye of undermanager Morris Jones. The line of the channelled cut at the bottom of the sloping vein of slate is clearly to be seen. Its purpose is to provide a pre-fabricated free bottom, giving the rockman the advantage of a flying start when his turn comes to attack the live rock. The discussion in this chamber had been on the subject of the air cut to the wall. Dafydd Lewis is seen making the appropriate adjustment to his power-driven boring machine.



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Geological disturbance.

Geological Problems

Vagaries of the weather have been mentioned; icing-up on the surface causing a temporary slowing-down of the haulage schedule and requiring the clearing of traffic bottle-necks below, is one of them, but vagaries of a geological import present the more pressing difficulties.

On page 8 W. H. Jones, Morris Jones and miners Clifford Jones and Joe Freeman are shown in close conference discussing the tricky matter of circumventing a geological disturbance which had held up the miners' work of driving along the New Vein to open chamber 14 on Q floor. The occasion was a special visit of inspection, and the problem to be jointly decided was the best method of passing the protruding "pefel," or break in the strata, to which W. H. Jones is seen pointing.

Mining Problems

In this particular problem safety as well as facility had to be carefully considered. All the unworked rock in the labyrinth of tunnels and chambers—the walls, the floors, and the sides and roofs of the levels—combine to form a carefully designed structure which holds up the mountain under which, and in which, our slate mining is done. The treatment to be accorded to the "pefel" encountered by the miners far down in the nether workings had thus to be carefully and most accurately prescribed.

It is this point that calls for the under-manager's ability to envisage the whole scene, including that hidden to the eye—the source and

direction of the disturbance; its relation to the particular level in which the miners were at work; its general direction beyond the point at which work had stopped; the relation and possible effect of continued working on the security of the floor and chambers below and above the mining operation. These factors, ever-present in the mind of men of experience had to be weighed alongside the imperative need for getting on with the job and opening out the fourteenth chamber.

We left the experts talking in the language of geologists of "up-throws to the chert," of linear measurement, and compass bearings.

The language used throughout the technical discussion was, of course, the language of the quarry—Welsh. The layman, overhearing it and hoping in vain for a lapse of one word in English as a clue to the conversation, could not but marvel at the scope and virility of the vernacular.

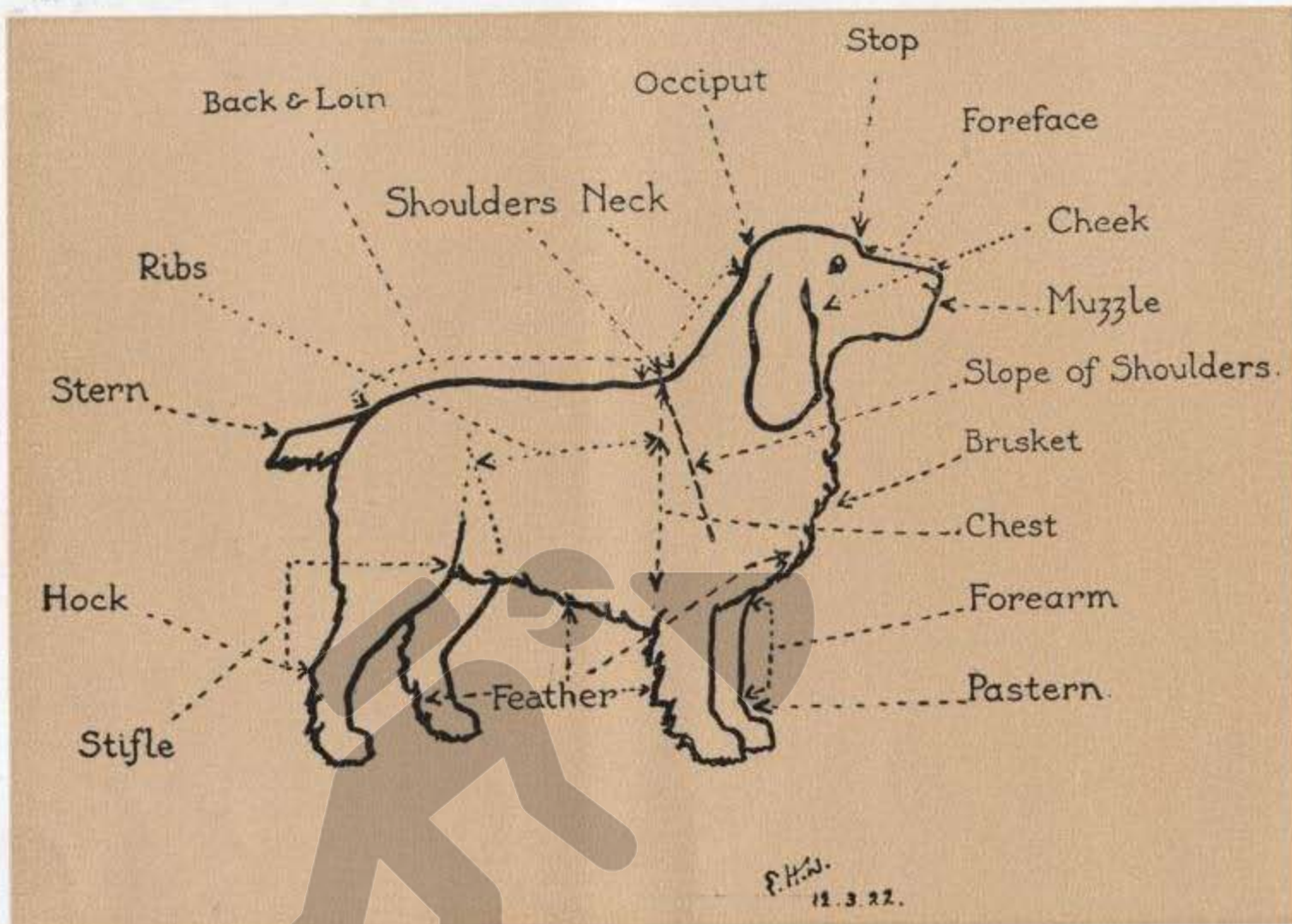
We left in search again of William Thomas on his comparatively lonely length of inspection with the assurance of the conference that, however disturbed the strata might appear, there was no disturbance in the minds of those delegated to overcome it.

Systematic Inspection

We have stated that inspection is systematic. In addition to seeing the rockmen in their chambers, and all other underground employees actually at their posts, every yard of the long and tortuous beat is brought within the orbit of the

Continued on page 12

Show Dog Secrets



Oakeley Expert's Pointers to Success

JUDY and Vic, the two alert and perky little dogs which were illustrated with their master, T. O. Hughes, the Votty foxhunter, in our last issue, may not measure up to the strict standards now demanded of show dogs, though there is no questioning their courage, skill and intelligence as gun dogs and natural hunters of the fox. In this article, based on the advice of Idris Jones, Bonc Coedan slate inspector, and successful breeder of Cocker Spaniels, we set out to show that even if we cannot have the thrill of hunting with a dog like the fabulous Vicky, the merest novice among us may be enabled to raise a pet dog trained to the ways of his master which will also look good on the show bench.

Doggie Perfection

Selection of the puppy is the all-important factor in success. Idris Jones chose the Cocker Spaniel as the example to be discussed in our pursuit of doggie perfection, because it is the breed about which he knows most. The main points, particularly the fundamental points, apply equally to all breeds. The golden rule, says Idris Jones, is to observe first things first. The prospective dog owner must decide before selection whether he is to concentrate on raising a show dog or a gun dog. That decision made, the next step is to select a suitable sire for mating with a suitable dam, bearing in mind the obvious characteristics and "background" required either for showing or hunting. The object of this pre-selection is to ensure that the expected litter will con-

tain the puppy required in exactly the proportions demanded.

The ideal points and other features of the showdog are illustrated above. The new owner breeding for showing should envisage a self coloured variety, either pure black, golden or liver, without a single white hair; a blue roan, orange-roan, or tri-colour; a black and white, or a liver and white. These are the fashionable colours for the Cocker and considerable account should be taken of them when selecting the parents for mating. The same rule of careful pre-selection should be observed when estimating the physical features of the show dog, although the basic principle is that the sire should match and balance where the dam fails. The physical points demanded are that height to the shoulder should be about 17 inches, with similar distance from shoulder to the root of the tail. The best weight is around 25-28 lbs. Selecting parents with an average above that weight may result in the novice's first mistake.

Buying into the future

The Cocker must be kept to handy size so that he might more readily negotiate hedgerows and undergrowth.

Other features to look for in the parents to-be, says Idris Jones, are strong limbs for driving power and bounding for working on a heavy day of shooting. The feet should not be splayed, but should present a compact appearance, rather like a cat's paws. The ideal head should be well developed and domed with broad forehead to denote intelligence. There may be some difference of opinion about the length of ears explained our expert. Some judges favour long ears, but the standard regulations call for low set ears which, when brought down, touch when covering the nose. A hunting dog is liable to tread on ears that are too long.

The neck should have a long reach, set to fine sloping shoulders to facilitate the natural tendency of the Cocker to keep his nose to the scent on the ground, coupled with strength in order to retrieve.

The dog lover buying into the future should ensure he is to get a puppy strong

in the muzzle and jaw, which should be square and clean cut. Ideal shoulders are those which are fine and tapering on both sides, like those of a racehorse. The legs must be short and straight and capable, when the time comes for showing, of being able to bear, without splaying or bending, the pressure put upon them by the judges.

Having selected the ideal "parents," a task which in these days of intensive breeding is by no means as difficult as it sounds, the time to visit the litter to choose the ideal puppy is after eight weeks, or when the puppies are weaned. The breeder will have "docked" the puppies' tails to regulation length of approximately one-third on their fourth day.

Grooming for Showing

Choosing the right puppy from the litter is every bit as important as that which has gone before, Idris Jones stressed. It might be that the buyer would be "spoiled for choice," he said. In that event it would be of lasting value to the novice if he were to take with him an expert to help in the choice. He would note, said Idris Jones, that the expert having marked the puppies which come up to the required standards proceeds to choose from them the liveliest and most playful. It is much easier to pick a bad dog than a good one, and often enough what may be thought to be a good dog will develop different characteristics at three months. A little expert advice and guidance at the right time, therefore, will not come amiss.

The training of the puppy for ultimate showing begins at once. It is important from the start that his friendliness should be encouraged, particularly towards strangers. This will help in the development of the show temperament which should be equable at all times. Combing and brushing which must be done daily should be carried out on the bench—again in readiness for the showbench.

At the third and fourth month the dog should be started on hard road exercise, and given at least one really good meal a day, consisting of the best possible foods, particularly raw meat, which could be of sheep's tripe or other approved offal, as

well as bone forming foods containing calcium and cod liver oil. These are necessary to prevent rickets. The dieting, feeding and exercise aims at the production at six months of the perfect and healthy puppy, with strong barrel shaped body, bespeaking strength of wind and limb.

Having registered the dog with the Kennel Club—the fee is five shillings—the puppy may be entered in the special puppy class under 9 months of the nearest show, but not, of course, before he is properly groomed for the occasion.

The novice puppy must be as correctly turned out as the debutante going to her first ball.

Training to the Gun

The cocker puppy required for training to the gun may be any colour, but the strain in him should conform to the physical features already described, though the background obviously would be that of the hunt rather than the show.

Training the gun dog begins equally early. The first task is to conquer gun-

shyness. Usually this is quickly accomplished by keeping the puppy to heel on a lead while the gun is fired in the air. Perseverance will cure the shyest dog, says Idris Jones. Retrieving is first taught with the aid of a stuffed rabbit, thrown first a few yards and patiently thrown and thrown again until the puppy understands and begins to enjoy the game his master is playing. Having instilled the rules of the game in the lively little animal's mind—not forgetting a titbit reward now and again—the next test is the hunt itself. The quarry should be a rabbit. The hunter, if he has been patient and painstaking in his training, will then gain his reward, and with surprising satisfaction. From this point, by easy stages via the shot crow to game on the wing, and finally to wildfowl in the marshes, is but a series of easy stages.

When we started our interview with Idris Jones there was no thought that so much was required to be known about so little a dog. We hope it will serve to set someone thinking about a new hobby.

OUT ON THE BEAT

(Continued from page 9.)

undermanager's spotlight. Moving forward he takes account of the traffic, the permanent way, the roof and the walls and the rolling stock. The free running of laden trucks and the provision of adequate and ready reserves of "empties" is one of the special features of inspection. A hold-up or hitch in the haulage schedule calls for immediate attention by the nearest undermanager. No stone or loose material shall be allowed to remain on any tram-road, pathway or ledge from which it might fall into any chamber of the mine, says one of the forty-five general safety regulations.

William Thomas, pictured on page 6 on his routine vigil, is seen inspecting a footpath between floors M. and N. At this time a dark, lonely fastness in the central depths of the mine, the footpath, dropping through a disused chamber, twice a day rings with the tramp of rockmen entering and leaving. The security of the roped guard rail, as well as the pathway itself, comes automatically un-

der the inspection of undermanagers.

From the pathway the route is along the levels to the chambers. Having viewed the work in hand and the rate of production to be expected from any particular thickness removed from the working face of the rock, the undermanager mounts a rope ladder, or hauls himself by chain to inspect the sides of the chamber walls to determine whether they are secure. The slightest sign of danger and the rockmen are withdrawn until the team of securers working with the undermanagers have effectively restored the situation. The safety of bridges and the use of explosive charges are also controlled by the undermanagers. There are, in fact, twenty-three regulations to be observed on the use of explosives. The empty places as well as those in the production come equally within the purview of inspection, and at regular intervals there are further close-up inspections of all working chambers and roofs, the results of which are reported in full in compliance with the regulations.



The Carpenters' Shop

Security for Securers

THE EMPHASIS in this issue being on the working administration, ensuring security as well as the free flow of production, this workaday study at the Oakeley carpenters' shop is included to present two of the "back-room" boys, carpenters Evan G. Jones and Austin Lewis (the third, D. R. Roberts, unfortunately was away ill) part of whose job is to make things secure for the securers.

They are seen at work checking over and repairing one of the 80-ft. extending ladders which, as previously illustrated, are essential equipment with which to reach and inspect the roofs of underground chambers.

It does not follow, of course, that the preservation of safety underground is such a precarious undertaking that carpenters are kept at work constantly

repairing the lofty and heavy ladders. The ladders, in fact, are among the stoutest and most reliable pieces of equipment in use in the quarries. They are brought up to the carpenters' shop for periodic overhaul and repair.

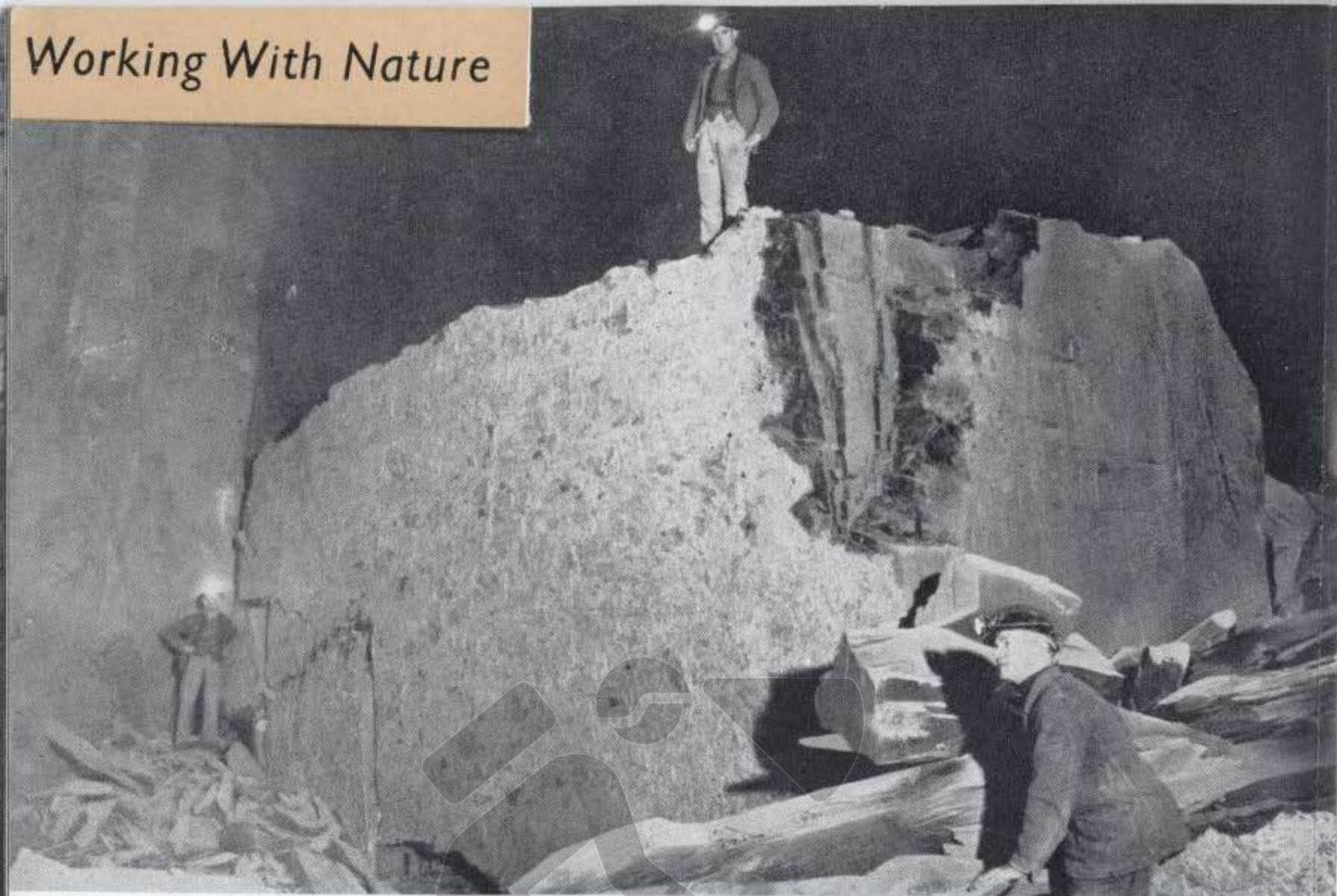
Hammer Handles to Bridges!

The run of jobs in the carpenters' shop includes the construction and maintenance of trolleys, etc., and tripods carrying the block and tackle seen in every chamber. They make hammer handles for rockmen, shovel-handles, and are responsible for the refacing or renewing of the wooden bridges which abound underground carrying levels over the open chambers or the main inclines.

Continued on Page 17



Votty's Biggest Fall
(See page 16)



A fall from the "pefel" in L.3.

VOTTY'S BIGGEST FALL—

3,000 tons of Old Vein came down overnight

IN OUR LAST issue we referred to the taming of a giant—a matter of coping with a 200-ton block of slate brought down by means of a controlled "fall," on to the D.E. floor at Oakeley.

Our Votty mine has since yielded a vastly greater volume of work—a matter of 3,000 tons of slate rock (an anticipated, but more spectacular and less-controlled fall through two underground chambers), part of which consists of one massive block itself, weighing 1,500 tons and calculated to produce 400,500 tons of roofing slates.

Our pictures, on pages 14-15, and on the back page of this issue, graphically portray the scene and the problem as presented to the management at their inspection on the morning after the overnight fall.

In the large general view Mr. Harry Cutts, our General Manager, who is seen (left) appraising the situation and,

no doubt, estimating the possibilities contained in the spectacle of so much first-quality Old Vein "quarried" overnight, is standing inside the entrance to what is the worked-out L.3 chamber at the far end of which the fall commenced. The dark gulf before him, and on the brink of which is seen the Votty manager, Edward Jones, is the open top of the chamber M3, sixty feet above the floor below from which rockmen have worked through, and into which most of the fall had tumbled like scree on a mountainside.

1,500 Tons Block

In the background of the picture, where a rockman is pictured standing on a pinnacle, is clearly seen the 1,500 tons block of slate, which fell cleanly from above the "pefel" in the great pillar of mother rock flanking the side of the disused chamber, and which precipitated

the rush of lesser blocks and pieces on to the M.3 floor.

The picture on the back page, showing rockmen Owen Rowlands and John S. Owen, and slatemaker Richard D. Jones picking their way down through the broken slate, affords only a partial impression of the great bulk of material which has to be painstakingly removed for processing in the mills.

Our third picture, on opposite page, is a close-up photograph of the "parent" block lying on its side where it fell on the floor of L.3. The figure with his back to the pillar (or wall) in the corner helps to give an accurate impression of the huge bulk of the block.

L.3, no less than M.3 below, is again a busy chamber, and there will be work in plenty on the two floors for many months to come.

Falls have their Virtues

Falls have their virtues as well as their perils. The virtues in the Votty fall are, of course, self-evident. The creation of new fields and possibilities of production is an ever-present consideration in the minds of the management. The perils, such as they are, also receive the closest expert attention. The Votty fall fitted exactly into the scheme of things for, strange as it may seem, the apparently hidden dangers, and the so-called unpredictable characteristics, usually ascribed to the "faulting" from which is developed the ominous-looking "pefel,"

such as that in L.3, are measured to a nicety.

Working with Nature

In the years of working through from M.3 below account was always taken of the massive overhang which lay ahead. When the rockmen broke through into the disused chamber above them and began working forward along the thickness of the vein towards the corner where hung the apparently unsupported protrusion from the wall, the experience of all—management, securers, and rockmen—whose job it is to combine the maximum of production with the minimum of danger, was pooled and applied every foot of the way forward.

Inevitably, the time came when it had to be resolved that work could proceed so far and no further; that by judicious and carefully prescribed weakening of the ground beneath there was a certainty of the fall being precipitated. The layman may deem it stranger still that it is either arranged or ordained that the spectacular climax to events of this description invariably take place during the night when all quarrymen have left the mine. It was so in L.3. The rockmen and management had gauged matters to a nicety. The tell-tale working of the "pefel" gave full warning of what would transpire. The rockmen went home confident of success, and returned in the morning to find their working place filled by 3,000 tons of ready-made blocks of Old Vein slate.

Security for Securers

(Continued from page 13)

This work is carried out after the quarrymen have left and traffic has stopped. Another job taking the carpenters out of their shop is to traverse some of the water courses and chutes which trap and collect the surface water on the mountain side.

Mountain Leats

Following the contour of the hillsides above Oakeley there are hundreds of

yards of troughs or leats built by generations of quarry workers and maintained by the carpenters. They form an intricate network of watercourses which have the effect of diverting from the mine workings vast volumes of water which otherwise would enter the mine and have to be pumped clear. Surface dewatering consequently ranks high among the problems. The inspections are seasonal and after the winter storms it is not unusual for the carpenters to spend days on end on the steeply sloping heights repairing breaches or renewing channel lengths.

Quarry Queens at the Carnival

* * *



Morris Dancers lead parade



Queen June pays homage to Queen Gladys, the winner.



Queen Oakeley - Votty with her suite ambulance



June Club candidate, and escort of cadets.



"Royalty" arrives at the carnival ground.



An Oakeley and Votty group all competitors having actual or family associations with our quarries.

This "Taffy" is truly Welsh!



Electric loco at charging station

AMONG the several well-established but still exclusive mechanical features of the working at our Votty mine are the electric locos, which operate the level haulage underground. Our picture shows driver Edward Thomas with one of them—"Taffy," so-called, presumably, because it is thoroughly Welsh, having been converted from a petrol-fed internal com-

bustion loco to battery-operated electric loco by the Votty engineer, Tom Evans.

The loco has already given long service, and is here seen at the close of a shift at the charging station point where the driver is checking over the cables preparatory to leaving "Taffy" on charge in readiness for another day of heavy haulage.

Caban on "Q"

ON page 2 the caban on "Q" floor, at Oakeley. The rough-hewn "lunch-room" cut from the solid rock is located approximately 1,000 feet deep in the mine workings. Looking down the length of caban we find the following.

William R. Jones, Joseph Freeman, Cyril Jones, John Edwin Hughes, Geoffrey Payne,

Jeffrey J. Osborne, John R. Edwards, Thomas O. Davies, John O. Davies, Robert (Gelli) Jones, Robert Lewis, Thomas J. Roberts, Gorwest Jones, Dewi Lewis, John O. Williams, David Lewis, Harry Hughes, Griffith D. Jones, Thomas J. Jones, William G. Evans, David E. Lewis, Maelgwyn Owen, Richard Edwards, Alonzo Colbert, David R. Roberts, William C. Jones, Robert Jones, Cyril M. Roberts, Robert Jones.

Oakeley Quarry Bus Station



OUR OAKELEY Quarry boasts its own bus station and above is the scene, typical of the close of the daily shift, as rockmen and mill workers leave the quarry top to take their seats in the service of Crosville buses to take employees to and from their work.

Oakeley is located on the heights overlooking Blaenau Ffestiniog. The

approaches are steep, and the service of buses has proved a boon.

The good hard road surface in the bus bay was specially constructed by the quarry company as part of an approach road from the Crimea Pass so that buses might freely enter the quarry estate to load or discharge passengers at points nearest to the men's places of employment.

CARNIVAL-QUEEN PERSONALITIES

WE ARE sure everyone will agree that the tableau presented by the Oakeley and Votty Club "Quarry Queen" candidate and her suite under the canopy of slate, and pictured on pages 18-19, is a tribute both to the beauty and attractiveness of the little ones composing the picture, and to the team of organisers who designed and dressed it.

When we say "better luck next time," we know it will be deserved.

In the picture, posed for "Caban" in the Club grounds before joining the carnival procession, are: June Williams

(Queen-candidate), her ladies-in-waiting, Dorothy Hughes, Gwenda Jones, Margaret Jones and Beti Roberts; the attendants, Eirwen Williams, Elizabeth Williams, and John Gwyn Jones; flower-girls, Mena Jones and Delyth Jones; bugler Kenneth Roberts and the crown-bearer, Geraint Roberts.

The Ladies' Committee responsible for the floral decorations and other arrangements were Mrs. David Hughes, Mrs. W. Jones (Club caretaker), Mrs. D. J. Davies, Mrs. Megan Jones, Mrs. G. Humphreys, Mrs. Tom Owen, Mrs. Bob Hughes, Mrs. Dennis Roberts and Mrs. Idris Williams.

HOLIDAY SNAPS CONTEST

THE holiday atmosphere is not lacking in the five photographs selected and reproduced as representing the best of those submitted in our annual "Holiday Snaps" contest.

The chosen pictures are judged as of equal merit, and the successful entrants will share the prize money accordingly.

The first picture in the contrasting holiday scenes is the Conway estuary, with the familiar Conway Castle and bridge shown against a backcloth of woodland and mountain. The photographer is David Young Jones, son of R. D. Jones, a Votty slatemaker.

(2) Holiday happiness is personified in this picture submitted by John Thomas Jones, another Votty slatemaker, who has snapped his son Dennis with a little girl friend on the beach at Colwyn Bay.

(3) The bracing, windswept sand hills at Morfa Bychan make the setting for this snap by J. G. Hughes, Oakeley, of his wife, daughter and son.

(4) Peter T. Owen, Oakeley, obviously went East for this "Oriental" study. Though it was only to Scarborough, where we see a band playing from a raft on the lake at Peasholme Park, Scarborough, the novelty was well worth recording.

(5) John Wheldon Hughes, Votty, is at the helm enjoying, with his daughters, Nerys and Delyth, an outing on the Llandudno Pier.



Wythnos Wyliau

gan D. HUGHES

NOSON OER ym mis Mawrth, tanllwyth o dân braf, y gwynt a'r glaw yn hyrddio yn erbyn ffenestr y gegin, a minnau yn eistedd o flaen y tân, fy meddwl yn crwydro dipyn i bob man. Rhywfodd daeth gwyliau'r hâf i'm meddwl, a dechreuais feddwl ple buaswn yn leicio mynd am yr wythnos wyliau eleni.

Yn eu tro daeth yr eisteddfod yn Aberystwyth, Llandudno, Prestatyn a Rhyl dan sylw, ond wedi mesur a phwyso'r cyfan y Rhyl aeth a hi, a dyna benderfynnu sgwenu rhag blaen i sicrhau llety. Gwyddwn am Gymry oedd yn arfer lletya ymwelwyr, a chyn mynd i'r gwely y noson honno roedd fy llythyr yn y post. Daeth atebiad gyda throad y post gyda'r telerau a'r gwybodaeth fod lle i mi pe dymunwn felly. Wedi gwneud fy "syms" ac yna ymgynghori â cherdyn Fund Bach y Chwael, a gweld fod y sefyllfa yn foddhaol, penderfynais wneud yn sicr o fy llety yn Rhyl. Fel yr ai'r wythnosau edrychwn ymlaen am fy ngwyliau. Gwnes fy meddwl i gadw dyddlyfr o fy wythnos y tro hwn, a dyma fel y croniclais y digwyddiadau o Awst 2 hyd y 9.

Dydd Sadwrn.—Codi'n weddol forau a phacio i gychwyn gyda'r tren 2.10 o'r Blaenau. Wedi blino dipyn ar ol cyraedd y stesion yn cario dau fag mawr trwm. Codi ticed ac i mewn i'r tren, a fwrdd a ni. Siwrne gyfforddus, ddi-dramgwydd i'r Junction. Llawer, fel finnau, yn cychwyn heddiw. Yn y Junction gorfod mynd dros y bont—y bagiau yn drwm a llawer eraill fel finnau a'u bryd ar fynd dros y bont mor fuan ag oedd bosibl. Cael fy mhwnio gan hwn a'r llall nes bron colli fy nhymor. Y tren yn dod i mewn a minnau'n lwcus o gael lle ynddi ac yn diolch nad oedd rhaid newid wedyn. Cyn hir cyraedd Rhyl—cydio yn y ddau fag unwaith eto ac allan

o'r stesion. "Taxi," meddai rhywun, ond bu'n rhaid i mi droi'n glust fyddar i'w gri, gan nad oedd y Fund Bach wedi gofalu am hynny chwaith. Teimlo'n gartrefol ar fy union yn y lodgings. Wedi cael paned o dê a chael y rheolau ynglyn â phrydiau bwyd, mynd am dro ac wrth gwrs cael hyd i'r bowling green, a tharo ar gyfaill o'r Blaenau. Cawsom game ddifyr dros ben. Daeth amser swper heb i mi feddwl, a fwrdd a mi yn ôl i'r llety. Deuthum i adnabod eraill oedd yn aros yn yr un ty â mi, a chyflym iawn y daeth yn amser gwely wrth wrando ar hwn a llall a'i sgwrs a'i stori.

Dydd Sul.—Y tywydd yn braf odiaeth. Wedi brecwast mynd i orwedd yn yr haul ar lan y mor—campus iawn. Adre'n ôl i ginio rhagorol—teimlo'n foddlon a hapus, ac i fwrdd a mi at y bandstand, y tro hwn i gael tipyn o fiwsig. Gwrando â'm clust ar Fand y Rhyl, ond fy nychymyg gyda Band y Blaenau yn practisio at y gystadleuaeth yn Aberystwyth yfory. Dyma hi'n amser têt eto ac yn ôl a mi i'r têt. Treulio gyda'r nos yn gwrando ar yr enwog Luton Girls' Choir yn y Queen's Theatre. Cyngerdd bendigedig.

Dydd Llun.—Mynd ar fy union i'r Bowling Green am game,—methu yn glir a bod yn foddlon; fy meddwl yn Aberystwyth efo'r band—yn difaru weithiau na fuaswn wedi mynd yno. Y tywydd yn dal yn boeth a heulog. Mynd i dreulio'r prynhawn yn Marine Lake. Dim llawer o gysur i gael yno; pobl ymhobman fel morgrug—teimlwn fod poblogaeth yr holl wlad wedi dod i Rhyl y diwrnod hwnnw. Gweld llawer o'r Blaenau ar yr un perwyl a minnau—yn ceisio mwynhau eu hunain. Penderfynu mynd i'r Bowling Green eto ar ôl têt, ac yno y bum tan amser swper wedi mwynhau Bank Holiday difyr dros ben a chysgu'n braf drwy'r nos.

(I'w barbau)



News Exchange

Hen Ffowndri, Tanygrisiau

WE ARE indebted again to John W. Jones, Oakeley Square, Blaenau Ffestiniog for another interesting glimpse of the past—this time, Ty'n y Pistyll and the Old Foundry, flourishing features of Tanygrisiau sixty years ago. There is no doubt, as John Jones says in his letter to Caban, that the old picture will recall a fund of memories of long ago for many of our readers.

Quarry to Pulpit

OUR best wishes go out to Emyr Owen, formerly of the Oakeley Quarry, who has recently become minister of a Presbyterian Church near Lampeter. Our reverend friend worked with us at Oakeley for some years before

Let John Jones describe the scene in his own words :—

“Gwelwch y creigiau yn gefndir i'r Hen Ffowndri a'r Hen Raeadr Ty'n y Pistyll gerllaw. Gweler y cerbydau ar y lein, ar eu taith i Borthmadog. Bu y Ffowndri mewn bri mawr tua 60 mlynedd yn ôl, a chrefftwyr gwych yn gweithio ynddi. Cawsant leoedd da ar hyd a lled y byd.”

Window With a View

THIS IS HOW weighman William Morgan Williams sees things from the weighbridge at Oakeley. Our picture shows the new balance recorder, and the weighman is seen entering a contribution from P.B.I.—a block weighing 2 tons 1 cwt. Outside are the haulage crew waiting to move on to the scales the next load, a waggon of rubbish.

deciding to become a candidate for the ministry. He was accepted, and after several years of hard work and study has realised his wish. At Oakeley he was a much-liked and respected young man and one, we are sure, who will go far in his calling.

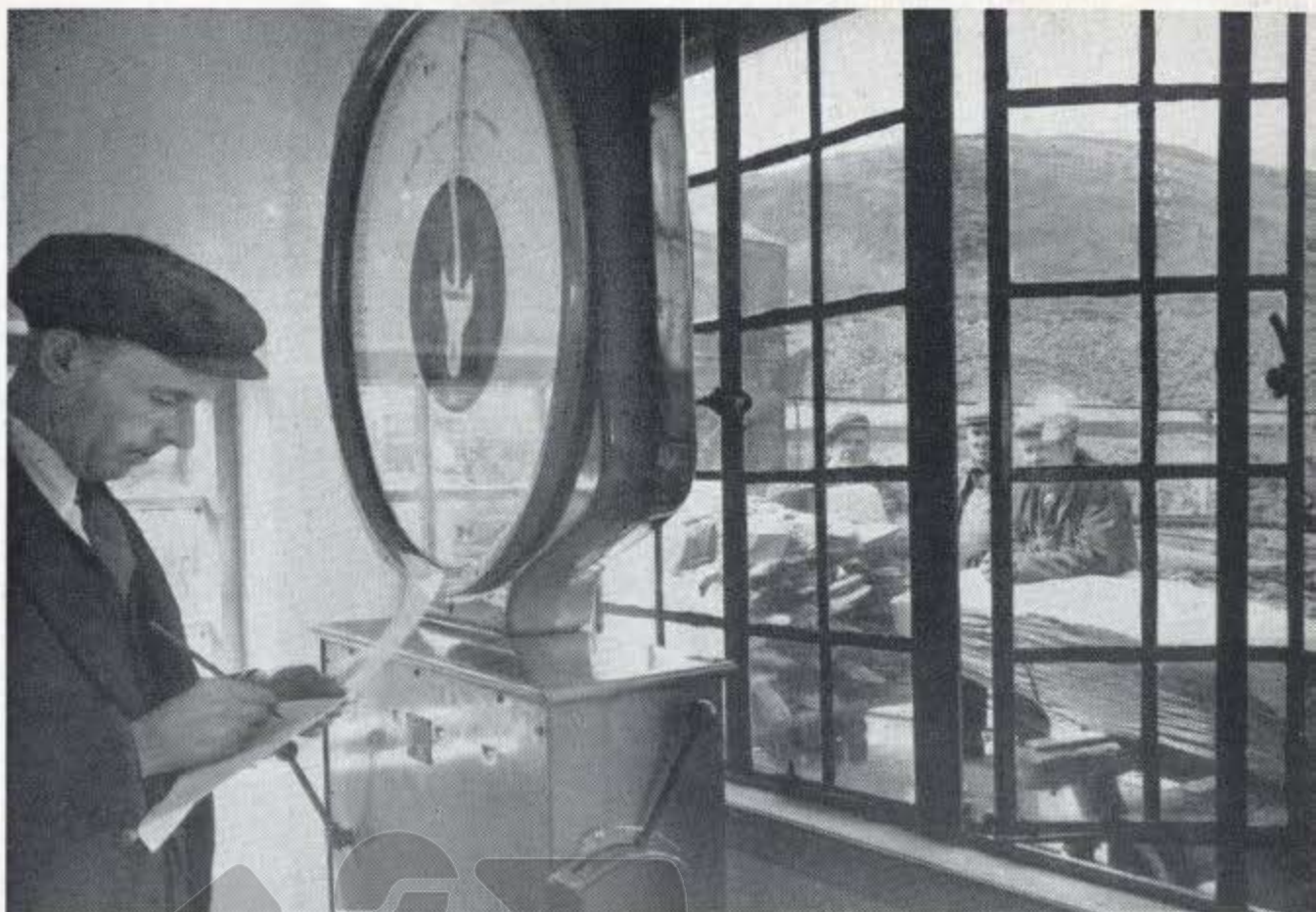
For every ton of good slate which comes on to the scales many tons of waste have also to be disposed of. All material is weighed on these scales.

The movement and disposal of waste must be paid for in the same way as the production of slate, and figures kept by the weighman are important factors in the monthly reckoning of rockmen and tippers.

Oakeley
Weighbridge



**Alone
in his
field !**



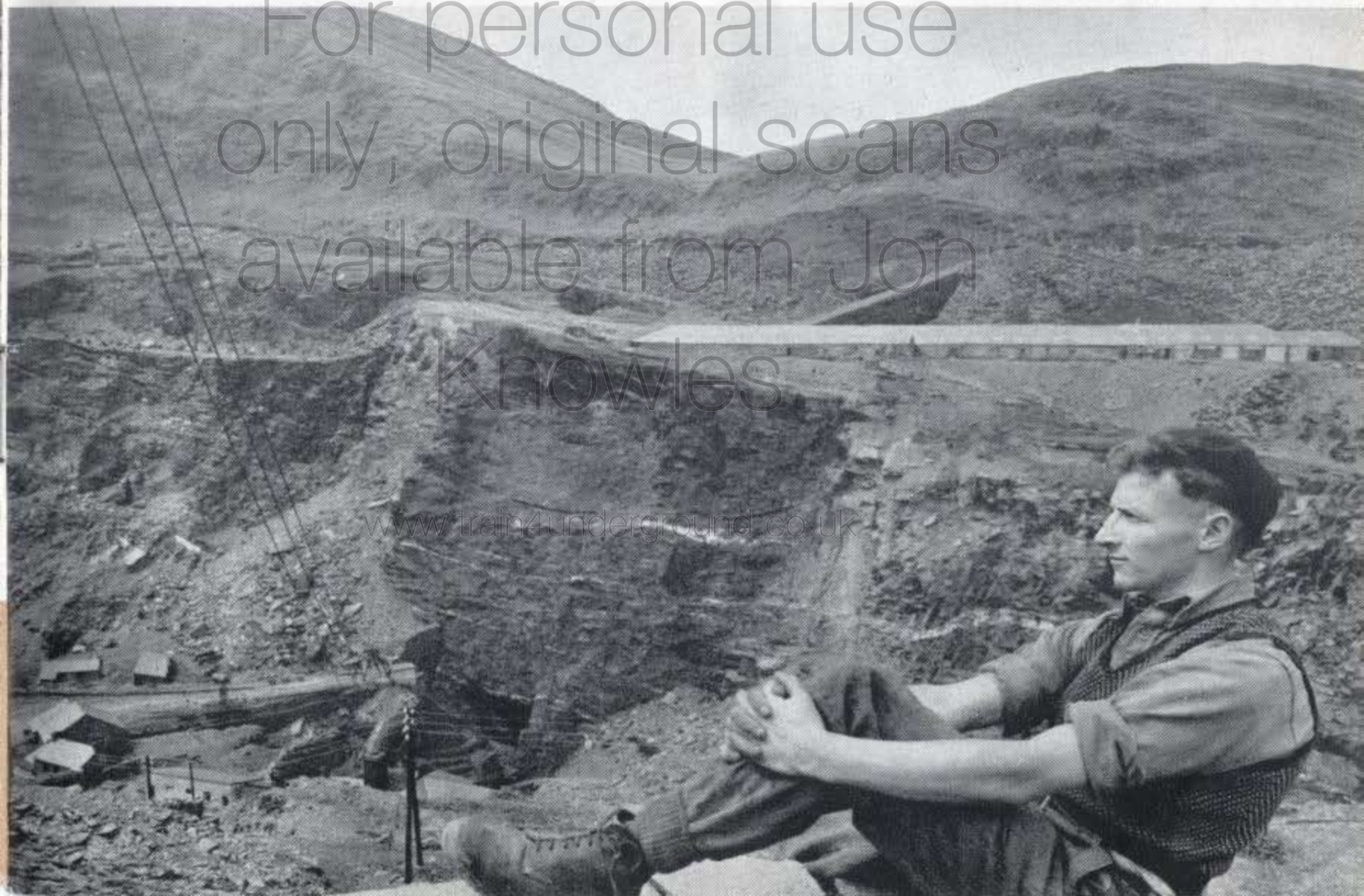
CABAN PHOTOGRAPHER has combined in this study of Gwyn Morgan, relaxing during the mealbreak, a fine view of the mountain terrain at Oakeley ; the long, sleek, Bonc Shafft mill and, in the foreground below, the K Balance entrance at the foot of the cliff leading to the maze of underground

floors in the mine. Gwyn Morgan, who is a slatemaker at Bonc Shafft, is by way of being an Oakeley notability. He started the football season as the only Blaenau boy in the Blaenau Ffestiniog Welsh League team. Aged twenty, and in his fourth season in the game, he is playing his first season with the senior eleven as centre-half for his town.

Gwyn Morgan relaxes

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Cyfnod i'w Gofio (3)—gan Richard Jones

GAN i mi roddi ychydig o hanes chwarelwyr y Chwarel Uchaf a'u henwau, rhoddaf y tro yma fy marn am danynt fel chwarelwyr. Nid wyf yn meddwl fod gwell chwarelwyr mewn unrhyw chwarel na'r chwarelwyr y cefais i y fraint i fwrw fy mhrentisiaeth fel chwarelwr danynt yn y Chwarel Uchaf (Holland), ac yn ddiweddarach yn Bonc Shafft, y chwarel isaf.

Nid oedd yn y chwarel uchaf ond ychydig iawn o'r hen lygad yn cael ei weithio, gan fod y llygaid wedi dod i lawr cyn i mi ddechreu yno. Yr oedd dwy agor hollt ddrwg yn Floor 9, Robert Morris, Croesffordd Glanypwll, a John Roberts (Spondar) o Penrhyn, oedd yn un fargen, a Ellis Glynne yn chwarelwr arall. Yn yr agor arall 'roedd Robert Jones, Capel Garmon, a William Roberts, Dolwyddelan, a William Jones, Trefriw, wedi ei roddi i drïo gwneud llechi ohonynt, gan ei fod yn chwarelwr pwylllog, a'i fedr mae'n debyg yn un o'r goreuon mewn hollt ddrwg. Yr oedd yno gerrig da iawn, ond methiant fu ceisio gwneud dim ohonynt, ac mae pilars da wedi eu tipio tu ôl i'r Slab Mill sydd yn Gloddfa Ganol, pa rai fuasai yn gwneud slabs rhagorol heddiw; dim slab yn cael ei gwneud y pryd hynny. Yr oedd Ellis Glynne yn gallu gwneud cerrig yn yr agor nesaf allan. Yr oedd Ellis yn un o'r rhai a gyfrifid fel chwarelwr da mewn hollt ddrwg.

Y Gwnithfaen

Llygad Cefn, neu Llygad Coch fel y gelwir ef, oedd yn y Chwarel Uchaf yn cael ei gweithio y pryd hyn, a dyma y llygad anhawddaf i'w weithio, gan ei fod yn fwy gweithinog na'r hen lygad ac yn bur donnog. Yr oedd yn rhaid adnabod pob hyd, a phob gweithian, o'r weithien fawr gyntaf i'r cerrig duon, pa rai sydd ar y gwnithfaen isaf. Mae y llygad yma rhwng dau wnithfaen a elwir Gwnithfaen Coch Uchaf a Gwnithfaen Coch Isaf, ond nid oedd y llygad yn cael ei weithio o wnithfaen i wnithfaen. Yr oedd tew y llygad tua can llath o wnithfaen i wnithfaen, ond yr oedd yr hanner uchaf megis curlig (a elwir gan y chwarelwyr

yr "hen frid"). Yr oedd yn rhy weithinog, felly agorid y llygad o dan grachen neu weithien rydd, ac o'r tew weithien fawr gyntaf y gweithid y llygad, pa un oedd yn rhyw hanner cant o latheni cyn dod i'r cerrig duon. Nid oedd y llygad mor hawdd i'w drin a'r hen lygad; fel y dywedais fod yn ofynol adnabod pob hyd, a phob gweithien oedd yn perthyn i'r llygad.

Pan fyddai gennym pilars go hirion byddai'n rhaid eu tori, a rhai gwael iawn am dori oedd llygad cefn. Y ffordd y byddem yn gwneud hynny oedd un o bob tu yn tori bwlch gyda'r cun a'r morthwyl, yna, wedi ei gael yn ddigon o fwch, rhedeg cowjan ar hyd y bwlch fel na byddai ond rhyw fodfedd neu lai rhyngddo a bod trwodd, yna ei daro a'r rhys. Golygai waith caled iawn, a bum mewn lle felly am dair blynedd fel jermon i Meusah Williams, Fron, Dolwyddelan. Pilars bob dydd, ac os deuai carreg ddau hollt yr oedd hynny yn golygu rhoi twll hefo'r jumper i'r jermon, a byddai dau docyn yn ei aros yw naddu wedi iddo orffen y twll. Wedi i'r jermon weithio'n galed ar hyd y mis, cawsai ei wobrwyo Sadwrn y tâl a swllt fund a swllt doctor, a byddem yn falch ohonno, gan fod hynny yn cydnabod ein llafur, er nad oedd ond dau swllt.

Y Hen Grefftwy

Ond i fyned at yr hyn garwn ei ddweud am y chwarelwyr hyn. Yr oeddynt yn fedrus iawn yn eu gwaith, ac yn adnabod y llygad yn drwyadl, ac i roddi mawr glod i ddynion y twll am eu gallu i drin y cerrig, gallasant drin llwyth o glytiau am yr un chwarelwr, a byddai yn werth edrych ar run o'r cerrig yn dod allan, gyda graen crefftwy arnynt. Biti garw i'r hen grefftwy hyn gael ei stopio'r pryd hynny. Pe buasai dynion ifanc wedi eu rhoddi i weithio gyda hwy byddai gwell trinwyr heddiw a llawer o arbed ar glytiau. Pam yr oedd y chwarelwyr hyn gymaint o feistri ar eu gwaith? Dyma fy marn i, sef eu bod a'u calon yn eu gwaith; eu gwaith yn bleser ganddynt. Ni bydd fawr o raen ar waith yr un crefftwr oni bydd a'i galon yn ei