

LEESWOOD VALLEY COAL AND CANNEL MINES.

PRESENTATIONS TO MASTERS AND MEN.

Messrs S. Chandler and Sons, of Palace Chambers, Westminster, and proprietors of this colliery, entertained, on Tuesday evening, their employes and a number of invited guests to an excellent repast, to celebrate the success of the driving into and exposure of the cannel seams. The dinner was served in the clubroom of the Pontblyddyn Inn, which had been most tastefully decorated for the occasion. A large motto in white letters on a red ground was affixed over the chairman's head, bearing the words, "Croesaw a Llwyddiant" (Welcome and Prosperity.) The chair was taken by Mr S. Chandler, jun., the representative of the firm residing at Pontybodkin, and the vice-chair by Mr Joseph Chandler, London. Amongst the invited guests were:—Mr Roe Brown, solicitor, Rhyl; Mr William Lea, colliery engineer, Pontblyddyn; Mr G. R. Sharp, colliery proprietor; Mr George Lea, colliery manager; Mr H. J. Bathgate, Plasynmhowys; Dr J. Jones, Pontybodkin; Mr Owen Price, manager; Mr Ephraim Hopwood, Pontybodkin; Mr J. Defries, Mr J. Hopwood, Mr A. Ellis, Mr E. Deighton, Mr E. Probert, &c. The dinner reflected great credit upon the excellent catering of Mr and Mrs Marsh. Grace was said by the Chairman, who, at the conclusion of the repast, proposed the loyal toast, which was received with enthusiasm, and the National Anthem was sung. After a song by Mr SHARP, Mr WILLIAM LEA, in proposing the toast of the evening, "Success to the Leeswood Valley Colliery," congratulated Messrs Chandler on the success that had attended them in the colliery. They had now obtained the object of their search, and had hit the bull's eye on the first shot. It showed good general-

ship to find it the first time, and especially so was this the case in cannel. The proprietors deserved great credit for their speculation, and he hoped they would meet with every success. The seam they had driven into was undoubtedly the best cannel that was raised in the kingdom, with the exception of the Bog-head seam. The coal trade at present was not in a flourishing condition, but cannel was always in great demand. Gas was required in London and large provincial towns for lighting purposes, and this must be of a superior quality, inasmuch as it had a great rival in the electric light. Cannel of the curly variety was the best coal for this purpose, and he was pleased to find that Messrs Chandler had now a large area of this coal. He estimated that in the Leeswood and Coed Talon district there were about 1,800,000 tons of cannel, and of this he had proved fully three-quarters. Giving an output of 50,000 tons annually, this would give an excellent trade for upwards of thirty years. It was a pleasure to have such energetic gentlemen residing amongst them. He begged to couple with the toast the name of Mr J. Chandler. (Cheers.)—A recitation having been given by Mr ROE BROWN, Mr JOSIAH CHANDLER, in responding to the toast, said it was a very pleasing duty for him to respond to the toast so ably proposed by Mr Lea. He thanked him for his kind remarks. He was pleased

to be present that evening amongst the men who had driven into the cannel seams. He had been down the pit, and had examined the face of the seam, and to him it was a magnificent sight. Referring to the labor question, he stated that in the work in which they were employed there was an important combination which it would be well for master and workman to bear in mind, as they were indispensable to each other. The combination was that of money, manager, master, mineral and miner, and they were all linked together. He and his brother had both come to Wales under wrong impressions. They had been told to beware of them, but he was proud to state that the more he rubbed shoulders with them the better he liked them. It was their intention to open up now a big colliery, and he sincerely trusted it would prove a good thing for the neighbourhood. They did not intend to relegate it to the future, but would start it at once, and thus prove a benefit to one and all. A Welsh song was next given by Mr James Hopwood.—The CHAIRMAN proposed the toast of "Contractor and Engineer." All things require development and propelling powers, and without the two gentlemen named no satisfactory work could be done. They must first think out what they intended doing, and after mature deliberation, then action. This had already been done, or they would not have been in the happy state they were that evening. The masters had a duty to perform to the men. Their contractor and engineer had brought matters to a very successful issue, and had done

their duty to their employers. It was his intention to show his practical appreciation of the services rendered. Both Mr Hopwood and Mr Price had done their work well, and he had pleasure in presenting Mr Hopwood with a gold watch, the intrinsic value of which did not represent their appreciation of his services. To Mr Price he presented a gold chain, and said the firm, of which he was now the mouthpiece, had pleasure in presenting it to a man who had so thoroughly done his duty. (Applause)—Both Mr Hopwood and Mr Price suitably replied.—After a song by Mr Peter Lewis, Mr J. DEFRIES had great pleasure in proposing the "Health of Mr S. Chandler, sen.," the head of the firm. He was a thorough gentleman, and he was pleased with his acquaintance. He hoped that in a short time they would all have the pleasure of that acquaintance. He was a gentleman who had the true interest of his workpeople at heart, and was in every respect a most worthy man, as was evident to all by his two worthy sons who were amongst them that evening. He had, he thought, a pleasant surprise for the chairman and vice-chairman, as he had also a presentation for each of them, as well as one for Mr S. Chandler, sen., in the form of a piece of cannel procured from the colliery, polished and mounted. He begged their acceptance of them, as it was an evidence of the goodwill borne to them by their employes.—The presentations were mounted on polished oak, and bore the following inscriptions on silver shields:—"Presented to S. Chandler, sen., in commemoration of the cannel struck at Leeswood Valley Mines on 11th March, 1893."—Mr J. C. CHANDLER responded on behalf of his grandfather. He was sure he would appreciate their presentation, and thank them for their kind expression when he came down into Wales, which he intended doing in a few weeks.—Mr J. CHANDLER also replied.—The CHAIRMAN then proposed the toast of "The Workmen." He hoped that the best of feelings would always exist between them and the workmen. He appreciated working men, and the success of their firm had sprung from working men. Among the men employed in the colliery he had specially noted Wm. Hopwood, who had been with them ever since they started about two years ago. He had pleasure in presenting him with a silver watch and chain, and a £5 note, in appreciation of the work he had done. If workmen only did their duty, they would never find firmer friends than Messrs Chandler.—The VICE-CHAIRMAN also had pleasure in informing them that they might have the following day as a holiday, and they would receive their pay for it.—Mr Wm. Hopwood having responded, the CHAIRMAN proposed "Our Guests."

coupling with the toast the name of Mr Roe Brown, who responded.—Mr GEORGE LEA proposed, in a humorous speech, "The Ladies." A song was given by Mr William Prydderch.—The CHAIRMAN proposed "Success and long life to the colliery proprietors and managers present among them that evening," coupling with the toast the names of Mr Sharp, Mr W. Lea, and Mr Geo. Lea. The other toasts which followed were "The Medical Officers," responded to by Dr. Jones;" "The Press," responded to by Mr W. T. Phillins, representative of the *Wrexham Advertiser*; "The Host and Hostess," responded to by Mr Marsh;" "The Chairman," "Vice-Chairman," after which the company separated, having spent a most enjoyable and pleasant evening.
