

Y Drych 10 March 1898

PIGION O PITTSBURG[H], PA.

PICKINGS/SELECTIONS FROM PITTSBURG[H], PA.

CELEBRATION OF ST. DAVID'S DAY-SUCCESSFUL TEA PARTY-WELSH DETAILS

Pittsburg[h].. Pa., March 3.—The memory of St. David was kept green by the Welsh of Pittsburg[h] this year by holding a banquet on an ample scale at the Hotel Henry, one of the best hotels in the city. While the celebration was not exactly under the patronage of the St. David's Society / Cymdeithas Dewi Sant, still the old members and officers of that society were at the helm, and the success of the celebration this year can be attributed to their being affiliated and to their experience in the past.

Years ago several great events were sponsored by the above society which flourished successfully for years until it was weakened by the cold breezes of hard times. Several industrious members were thrown out of work, and others moved away from the city because of indifference and shortness of money which forced the operative committee to give up the rooms and the library. From that time the society has been enormously feeble, and the only thing that has saved it from total failure is the fact that it possesses many good and valuable books that, along with Eisteddfod products, have paid for generous prizes. It is necessary for a society to keep the Welsh spirit alive and the present committee was stimulated to hold the celebration this year confidently believing it could be a medium by which to re-awaken those warm, old Welsh feelings.

The arrangements committee was: John Jarrett, Chairman; W. J. Jones, secretary and treasurer; Thomas E. Jones; Joseph D. Jones; William Hughes, Dr. L. E. Davis; David J. Evans and William R. Hughes. Early in the evening the guests gathered to chat for an hour in the reception parlors. At nine o'clock they were called to order by the secretary of the committee; they formed a procession and went up the stairs to the banquet hall where they were welcomed with an overture by the hotel orchestra. After the Rev. R. C. Morgan said a blessing the delicacies of the feast were enjoyed. Then the following program took place:

W. J. Jones gave a welcoming address in which he gave the purpose of the gathering, to pay homage to the memory of the old Saint as well as to emphasize the desire for a revival of the Welsh spirit in our midst as a nation, and the intention of reviving the St. David's Society or to form a new society. A. J. Edwards, Esq. was introduced as Toast master He is the Assistant County Attorney. He gave a brief and appropriate salutation full of Welsh-Americanism. The first toast was "The Benefits of Organization to Welsh-Americans" [in English] which was answered by John Jarrett who gave the chief a excellent chance to penetrate to the roots of the purpose of the meeting, to show the good and the benefit that would come from forming a society with aim promoting the Welsh on the American continent. The enchanting soprano Miss Bessie Morgan sang a song that thrilled the audience. Because of illness in the family the Hon. C. L. Magee, was not present to answer the toast "The Welsh-American as a Citizen" [in English] His place was taken by the Hon. Clarence Burleigh, city attorney, who is an elegant and witty

speaker. Mayor H. P. Ford gave an excellent address though it was lacking in tradition. John R. Roberts, the baritone, sang excellently. "The Welshman as Humorist" [in English] was the subject of the Hon. Miles S. Humphreys but he was unable to be present so his place was taken by W. H. Johns, the representative from the 14th Ward, who spoke primarily on the social and political benefits of a Welsh organization. Miss Minnie Hughes, a winner at the Youngstown Eisteddfod, gave a recitation that was greatly enjoyed. The Revs. John Hammond, W. O. Jones, R. C. Morgan spoke wisely, briefly and appropriately. The Rev. T. R. Jones of South Side was not able to be present because of illness. Thomas Hughes of South Side sang a baritone solo very well although he had the disadvantage of having a heavy cold.

This brought the evening to a close, and the audience departed. The banquet tables had been decorated beautifully with fragrant flowers, and there were about 130 present with over fifty percent of them, women. It was decided to call a meeting of the Welsh of the city together next week or the following to consider the possibility of forming Cymdeithas Gymreig Americanaidd / Welsh American Society, and according to the present signs it is likely to take a political and social form.

OTHER WELSH NEWS

--The tea party and musicale of the Endeavor Society at the Welsh Presbyterian Church was a success beyond any expectations. The chapel was full and it was difficult to traverse the room where the supper was served because of the crowd. There was a display of fancy work by the Pansy Band.

--The Welsh Congregational Church intends to hold a tea party on two evenings at the end of this month.

--The Soho church plans to hold a feast that will extend for three evenings in April. There will be a variety to please every taste at the supper, the bazaar and the literary meeting.

--Friends say they have heard that the Rev. T. C. Davies is now improved and getting stronger after a fortnight of a threatening attack of congestion of the lungs.

--Children of the well-known tinworker, John Davies of the South Side, are in poor health. May they recover soon.

Translation by Martha Davies, Lincoln, NE November 2007