

## **The Truck Act Case at Rhymney – to the workmen generally**

The Rhymney Truck case was tried at Tredegar on Tuesday June 15<sup>th</sup> 1886 when the Company was convicted for an infringement of the Truck Act and fined £20 & costs. The Company also made the following agreement with Mr Danckwertz, the Counsel for the Treasury, The Company undertake to make advances (if at all made) in cash without any system of shop tickets and the like and to modify their system of paying at the shop office as not to be an infringement of the Act.

Mr Lawrence the Counsel for the Company, also stated that “the Company desired nothing else than that the dealings at the shop should be perfectly voluntary on the part of the workmen. They did not want in the slightest degree to impose compulsion in any shape or form.”

Mr Danckwertz replied that what the Treasury was “that the Truck system should not prevail anywhere and an undertaking having been given that it would not in future be carried on at Rhymney, he would withdraw the other information.”

The Bench having stated through their Clerk that they were no parties to this arrangement, but that “If hereafter any information should be brought before the Magistrates, they would have to act upon it.”

Mr Lawrence said “Of course if the modification I make is not one that meets the case, the Treasury will be at liberty to prosecute again and that the reason that they had for making the statement was to make it public.

Mr Danckwertz said, representing as I do, the Public Prosecutor, my only object is that there would be no Truck at Rhymney. The arrangement between Mr Lawrence and myself is this: He undertakes that there shall be no Truck at Rhymney. And I reply, “very well, then, there’s an end to it.”

The workmen will therefore see that according to this arrangement, they are now to have their draws when paid, either at the Works Office or at the Shop Pay Office, in **hard cash**, and when so paid they are to be at full liberty to do what they like with it, and that The Company wishes them to spend it, where they please, when they please, and how they please, and that there is in future to be no compulsion of any kind to spend it at the shop.

If any workman has occasion to know that this agreement is not faithfully and fully carried out, he is recommended to send a statement of his case to the Home Secretary, Whitehall, London.

*Taken from report held at Glamorgan Record Office, Cardiff – Doc Number DRH3-18*