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**New English Baptist Chapel at Bargoed**

OPENING CEREMONY ON THURSDAY

Thursday was a great day with the English Baptists at Bargoed, it being the day on which the new English Baptist Chapel in Hanbury-road was opened. The cause has kept pace with the rapid development of the district, and the Rev. Harri Edwards and the members are to be complimented upon their fervour and zeal. For several months past the services have been conducted in a temporary building near the Hanbury Hotel. The cause was first established in the district in 1896, and may be regarded as the off-shoot of the Welsh cause at Caersalem, Aberbargoed. One of the founders was the late Inspector John Llewellyn, who took a deep interest in the movement. The chapel then erected was on the main thoroughfare, and the deacons and architects, with most commendable foresight, had in view the development of the town and the consequent extension of the premises.

The new and magnificent structure, which was opened on Thursday, has been built on the walls of the old chapel, and the building has been raised to the main road, giving a very commanding appearance. The pastor has worked most assiduously with the cause. He is a strong advocate of Temperance, and has done much good. During the last few years two Societies have been formed in the suburbs of Bargoed as off-shoots from the Hanbury-road Chapel—one at Aberbargoed, and one at Gilfach, and each one is flourishing. There are several branch societies connected with the chapel, and by this means the young people are kept well together.

The foundation stones were laid in April last, but very few persons then anticipated what an imposing place would be erected. There is seating accommodation for about 1,500 persons. The woodwork of the interior is principally of pitch pine and laid out under the most modern system. There is a gallery around the main portion of the interior. In the staircase leading to the gallery there are two small turrets projecting on the frontage of the building which add very materially to the imposing facing, and will be a new feature in church building in the Rhymney Valley. The facework is of Forest stone intermixed with red bricks. The cost of the extensions will be about £3,500, and the work has been carried out under the supervision of Mr. R. T. Burns from plans prepared by Messrs. James and Morgan, FRIBA, Cardiff.

THE OPENING

The opening ceremony was performed by Sir Alfred Thomas, who was previously presented with a key, suitably inscribed by Mr. James, of the firm of Messrs. James and Morgan, the architects. Subsequently the friends entered the chapel, and the Rev. Harri Edwards presided over the service. Amongst those present in the big seat were the Revs. R. Evans, Hengoed; Llew Morris, Pengam; John Williams, Cilfach; B. Thomas, Deri; Mr. Evans Thomas, C.C.; Mr. Ambrose Lewis, Maesycwmmer; Mr. T. C. Jones, Gilfach; and Mr. James, Cardiff.

The Rev. Harrie Edwards then reviewed the history of the church. He eulogised the work of the architect and the builder, Mr. Burns, and expressed his pleasure at seeing Mr. Cory and Sir Alfred Thomas at that meeting.

Mr. R. Cory, J.P., expressed the pleasure it gave him to be present. He had been upon missions of that kind before, but he thought that the invitation was given not so much for his speech but for something more. He hoped that the church, which was a most beautiful one, would be used for the glory of God (hear, hear). He was an old friend of the late Mr. John Llewellyn, and although he had not been there personally he had assisted the cause in other ways. After referring to the distinction between the Wesleyan, Methodist belief, of which he was a member, Mr. Cory said that he hoped that they would at Bargoed maintain their position in the work of the Lord. He thought that the wars, and the rumours of wars, with the earthquakes and other indications, showed that the second coming of Christ was at hand. In conclusion, he expressed a hope that the church which they opened that day would be the birth place of many a soul for Heaven. He was a strong supporter of any denomination of Nonconformists, but he drew the line at the Church of England and Roman Catholics, and it would take a very good man to get a donation from him for either of those churches.

Sir Alfred Thomas congratulated them on the splendid building, which was a further acquisition to the Kingdom of God. He did not agree with Mr. Cory when he said that he was not in favour of ornaments at the chapel buildings. A place of worship could not be too good for Almighty God. They did not often realise how much good a place of worship did in their midst, and a place of worship was not confined to services on Sunday and week days. It was in the House of God they were assembled in times of great calamities. Sir Alfred hoped the members would do all they could to reserve the Sabbath, which was now unfortunately disregarded. It was his privilege sometimes to move amongst high society, and he did not hesitate to emphasise the fact that Sabbath breaking was low and mean. He did not agree that it was resting when one ran after a ball, and tried to place it in certain holes.

Rev. Harri Edwards also spoke, after which Mr. James, one of the principals of the well-known firm of architects, addressed the meeting. The latter referred to the splendid work of Mr. Barns, the contractor, and the able way in which he had accomplished this from designs prepared by his firm. He also thanked the deacons and the committee for having entrusted the work to their charge (cheers).

Mr.Burns next addressed the meeting, and thanked those who spoke so favourably of him. There was he thought, a great debt on the chapel at the present time, but there should be no difficulty in clearing this off, as all money which one had belonged to the Lord.

Mr. Evan Thomas, C.C., moved a vote of thanks to the visitors, which was seconded by Mr. T. C. Thomas, and carried with acclammation. In the evening preaching services were held.