

Wrexham Advertiser 1892

“Rejoicing at Overton – Mr Peel’s Majority”

“On Tuesday Mr Hugh Richard Ethelston Peel whose marriage in February was the cause of so much rejoicing, attained his majority. The popularity of the house of Bryn y Pys needs no record here. The esteem in which Mr Edmund Peel is held is high and universal and it is not to be wondered at that the respect for the kind and genial squire should be extended to his son for he has, to judge by the opinion expressed by those who know him, largely inherited those qualities which have made his father so highly regarded.



Those who had the good fortune to be at Overton on Tuesday had an opportunity of expressing a spontaneous outburst of affection which took a form not often seen and only read about on occasion. Young Mr Peel has been the cause of much festivity in his short day. When very young the hospitality of Bryn y Pys flowed to all corners. Then it is remembered how the doors of the mansion were again flung back when he was married to his fair young lady. Closely following came the event on Tuesday which marked his assumption of all the responsibility which comes at 21.

The tenants of the estate considered that it was only right that the majority day should be celebrated in a good old fashioned style. A committee was formed and the meetings were held in the Bryn y Pys Arms. Then follows names of Committee members. The village was much decorated. At intervals arches spanned the road. At the gate leading to the Cricket Field was a beautiful arch which bore the mottoes “*Though rich he ne’er Forgets the Poor*”, “*A Father’s honour is a man’s best inheritance*”, “*May every blessing rest upon the Bryn y Pys Family*”, “*Let health & honour be forever his*”. In the centre were the words “*All Joy & Peace to Mr. & Mrs Hugh Peel*”. A string of flags stretched from the Post Office to the other side of the road, and Mr Fitzjohn, in addition to the Union Jack which floated from a window of the chemists, had the motto “*Health to the Heir*”.

Opposite the church - from the tower of which was a Union Jack, the sound of bells came in a merry peal, was an arch on which were the words “*Nov 15th 1892 Overton joyfully hails the day*”. From Mr Bradley’s shops there was a row of flags across the road and at the fine Cocoa Rooms were the words “*Long Life to the Squire*” and “*Long Live Mr Peel, the founder of the Cocoa Rooms*”. Flags were also displayed by Mr Jenkins, Mr Sharp, Bryn y Pys Arms Hotel, Mr Gabriel in fact in all the houses in the village were emblems of rejoicing. The streets were full of people and those who drove in found no small difficulty in finding stable room, so fierce was the demand and so numerous were the visitors.

By the time everyone had hurried through the streets, 10.30 had arrived, and this was the fixed time for the procession which was to march to Bryn y Pys, where the presentation of an address to Mr Hugh Peel was to initiate the day's proceedings. The procession assembled at the National School and moved off in good time. First came the excellent band of the 3rd Battalion R.W.F under Mr. F. Carrison. Then came the members of the Committee who wore blue badges of office. They were followed by a number of the tenants, and as the column moved along this part of it was augmented until it grew to large proportions. A great number of people did not march in the procession but walked alongside. The police and the watchmen took part in the march and then came a novel feature which reminded the spectators of the old fashioned style in which such events were celebrated. There were two great wagons in each of which was a bullock ready dressed for cutting up and distribution under the charge of butchers armed with cleavers and axes. Then followed another wagon in which were a dozen sheep prepared for distribution, also under the charge of butchers and at the tail of the conveyance came another wagon heavily laden with loaves of particularly nice-looking bread.

Following these wagons of dead stock came a large number containing some very lively livestock. The occupants were the children from the schools of Bangor, Eyton, Penley and Erbistock. The little company cheered continuously and looked very happy. In the leading wagon Mr Peate stood, holding the illuminated address which was to be presented to Mr Hugh Peel and the procession which was a very long one was shared by the scholars who marched, headed by their banner.

The march to the mansion was safely made and wended its way past the Hall, where the presentations were made. The proceedings at the Hall then concluded and the great host of visitors left for the cricket field. About 2,300 people were entertained to tea by the Committee and the wants of the children which of course were many, were attended to. During the day the band of the R.W.F. played and there was an extensive programme of horse-racing, and sports. Dancing took place in the evening and the enclosure was illuminated by Chinese lanterns supplied by Mr Scotcher of Wrexham who at times discharged some huge crackers. During the day Mr & Mrs Hugh Peel, Mr Edmond Peel and the house party visited the ground and were cordially received. In the evening a huge bonfire was lighted in a neighbouring field.

The County Ball

In the evening a Ball was given by Mr Edmund Peel, for which the most ample provision was given. A pavilion was erected in front of the house by Mr Wellstad estate clerk of the works. The decorations which were entrusted to Mr George Howe of 41 Wigmore St, London and were of the most tasteful kind. The fabrics which lined the walls were specially woven for the occasion. The prevailing colour was golden copper. A large number of palm trees came from Forest Hill, London and Mr Bagshaw the gardener was able to produce from the Bryn y Pys conservatories a magnificent selection of plants. The saloon was transformed into a ballroom and in the gallery above Lieut Dan Godfrey's string band discoursed music. The splendid rooms were illuminated by the electric light. There were numerous glow lamps which threw soft light on the scene, tinged with the golden copper hue which pervaded everywhere. A dynamo was sent down specially and the engine of Mr Newnes of Marchwiel drove it very satisfactory. The drive walk was lighted by several powerful ARC lights. It is needless to say that the Ball proved a brilliant one. "

Transcribed by Mary Hilton Jones