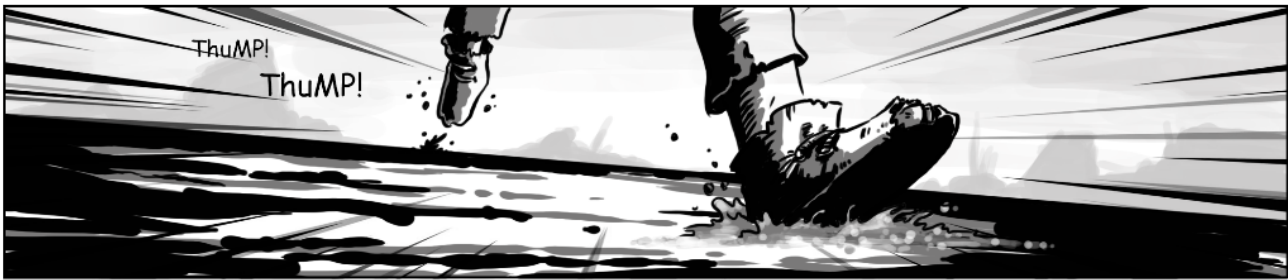


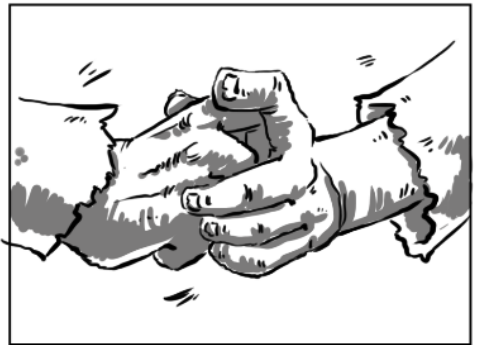
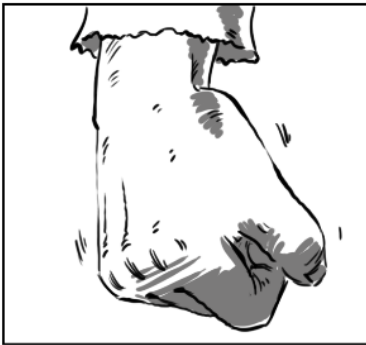
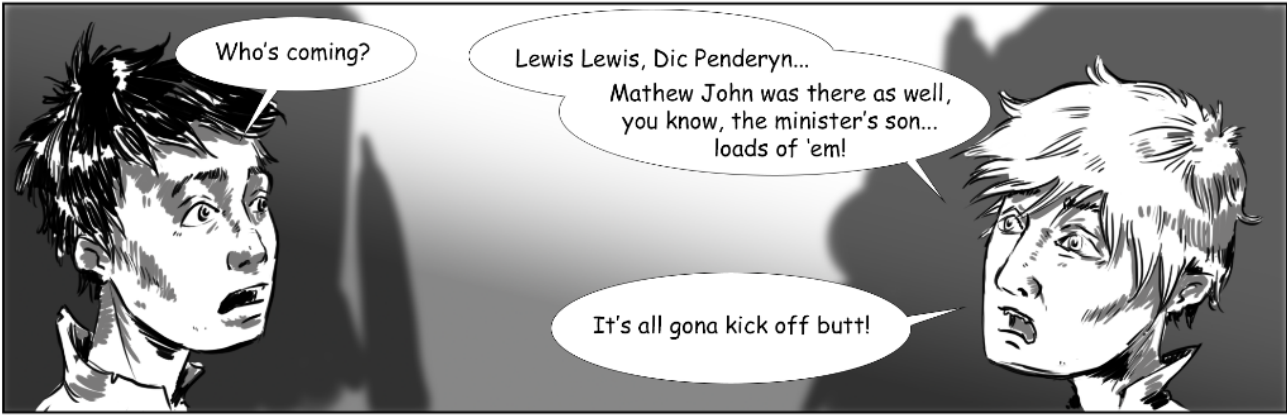
MERTHYR RISING



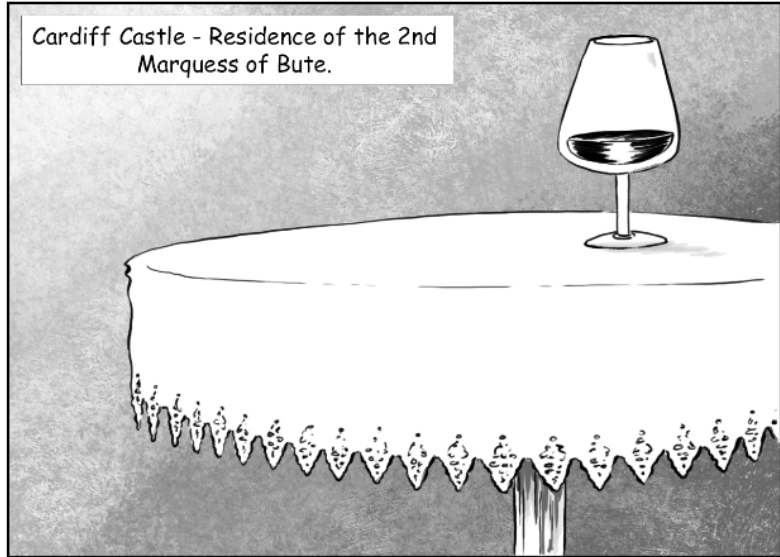
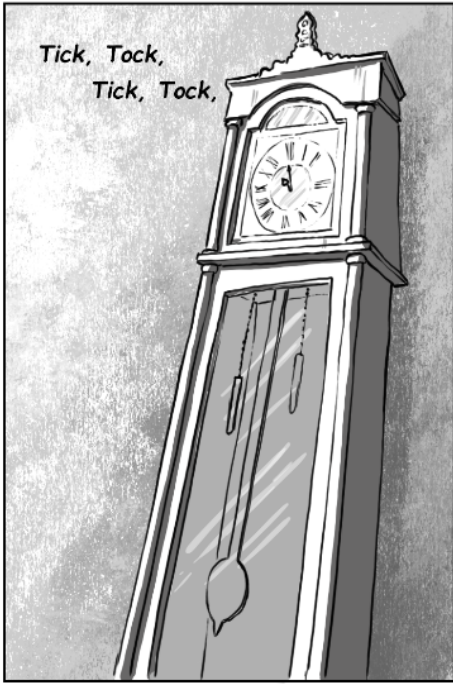
Art Director: Nick Price
Inker: Nick Price
Produced by: Turnip Starfish Limited

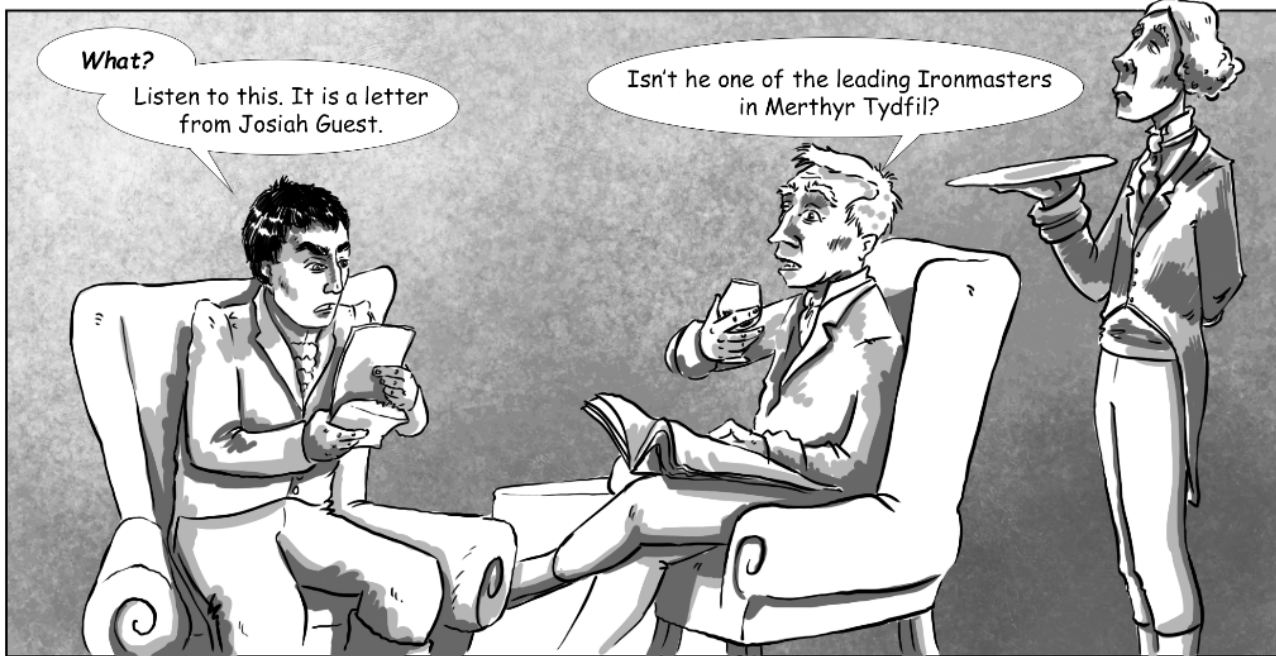
Merthyr Rising

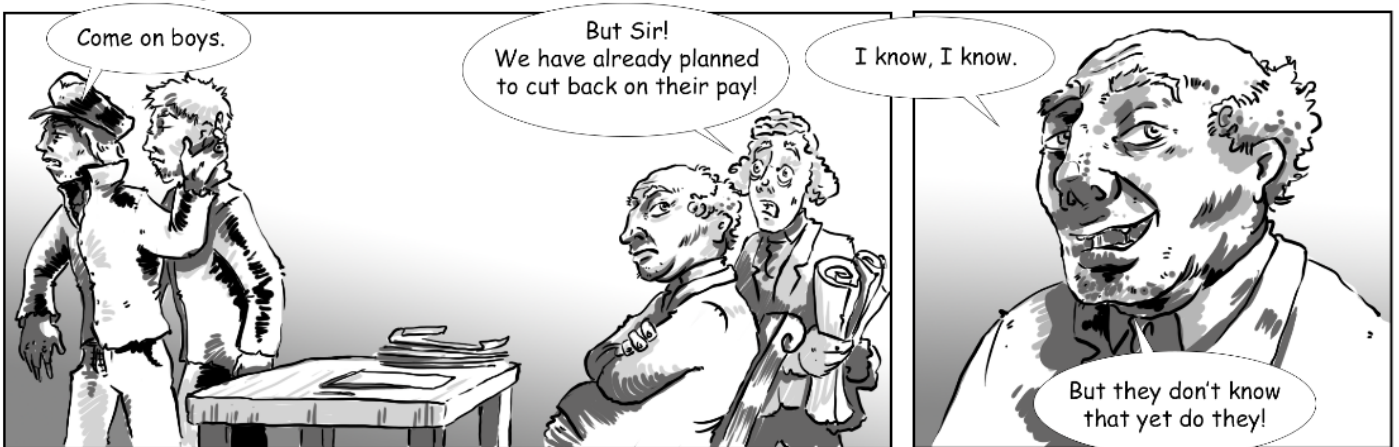
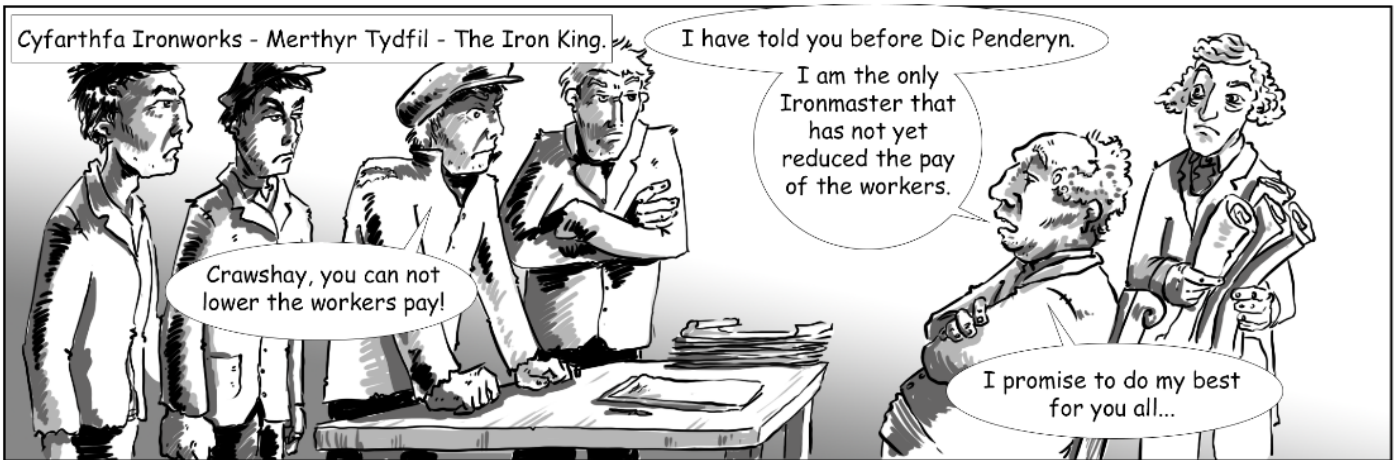
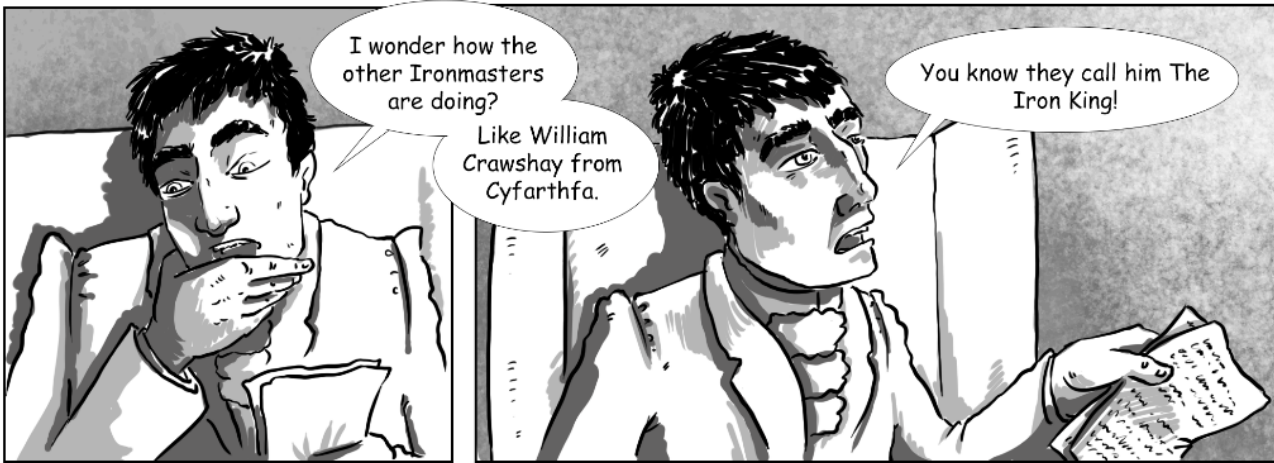


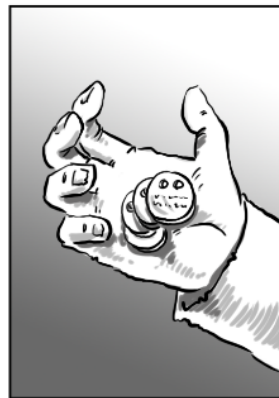
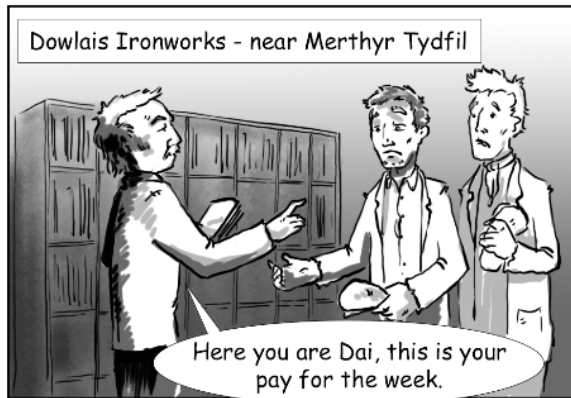
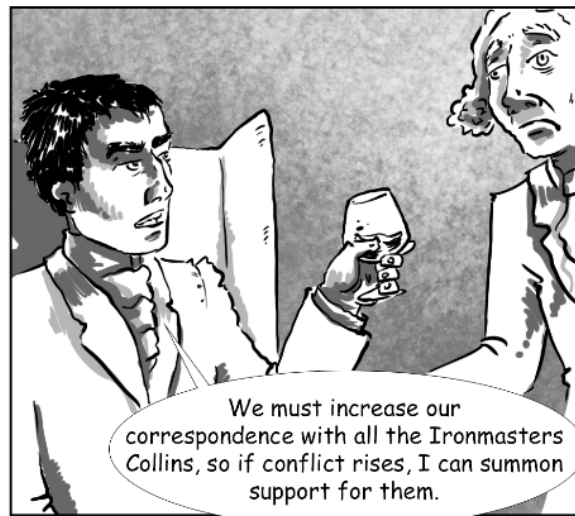


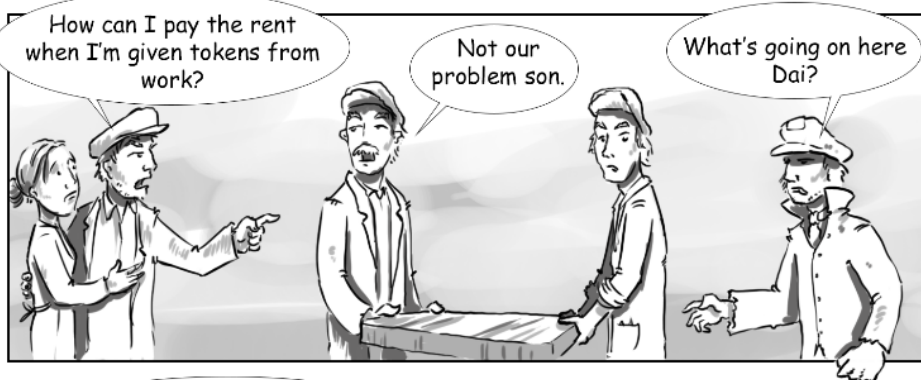
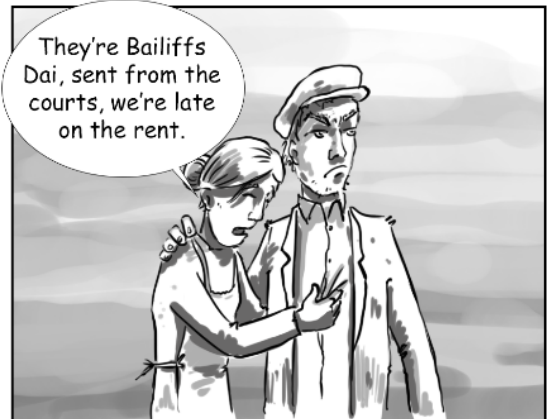
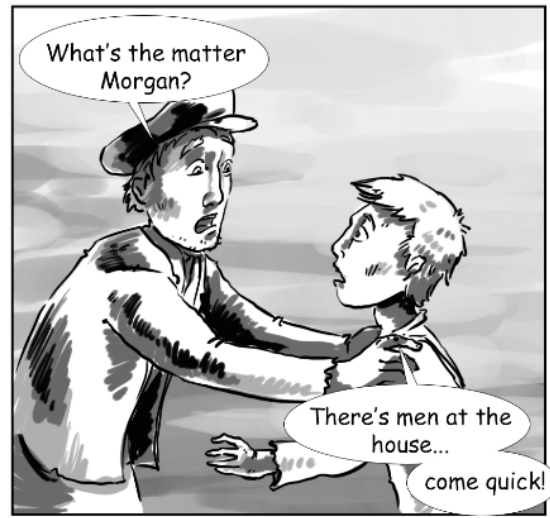














Men, the demand for our iron is no fault of the Ironmasters, but our reduced pay is their responsibility.

They pay us in tokens instead of money, and force us to spend those tokens in shops that refuse to reduce their prices!

Families are starving and the masters and shop keepers don't care. We must challenge their conduct. We may strike without fear of imprisonment.

I have been forced to pawn the beds my family sleep in! We now sleep on the floor just so we can buy food, whilst the Ironmasters sleep in their four poster beds!

We must unite! March with us into Merthyr. Show them that we will be mistreated no longer!



Lewis Lewis, are you going with the boys to Dowlais Ironworks?

Yes I will. Dic Penderyn you said you would gather the boys at Cyfartha Ironworks.

We will gather the others and repeat our demands at the other Ironworks over the next few days.

On the 30th of May 1831, workers marched to the Dowlais Ironworks to declare their demands. They refused to return to work until their needs were met.

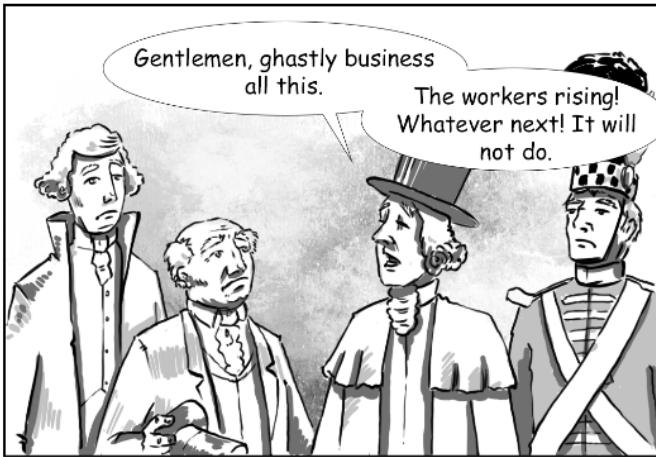


Ironmaster Josiah Guest, my name is Lewis Lewis.

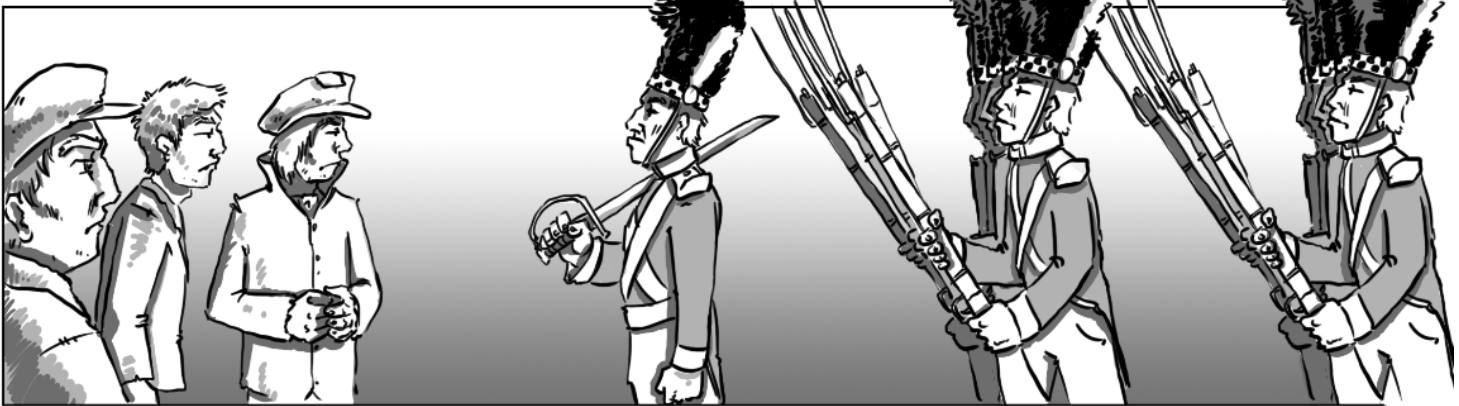
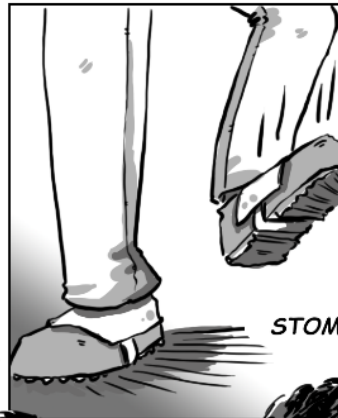
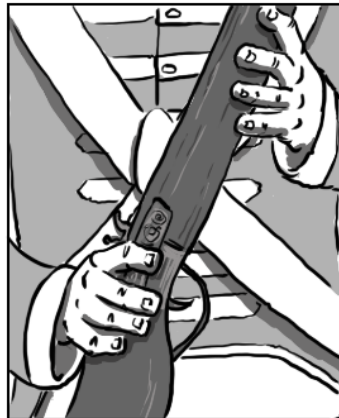
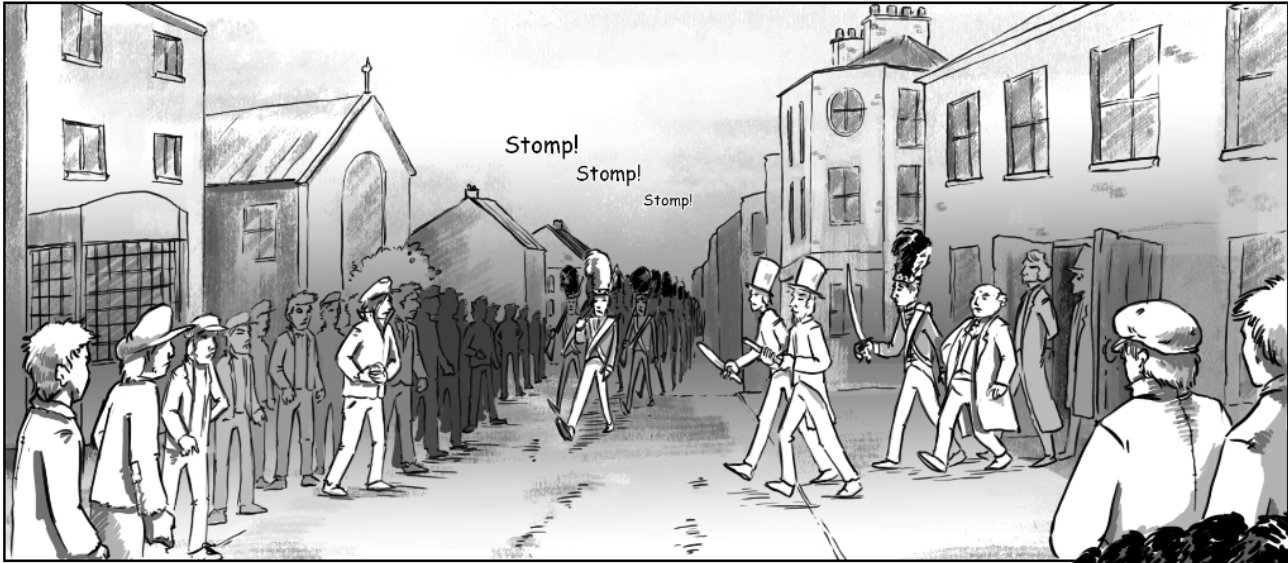
I speak on behalf of all workers! We will not return to work until we start to earn a fair wage, and we start to be paid in cash and not tokens. We want an end to bailiffs entering our home to seize basic household items.

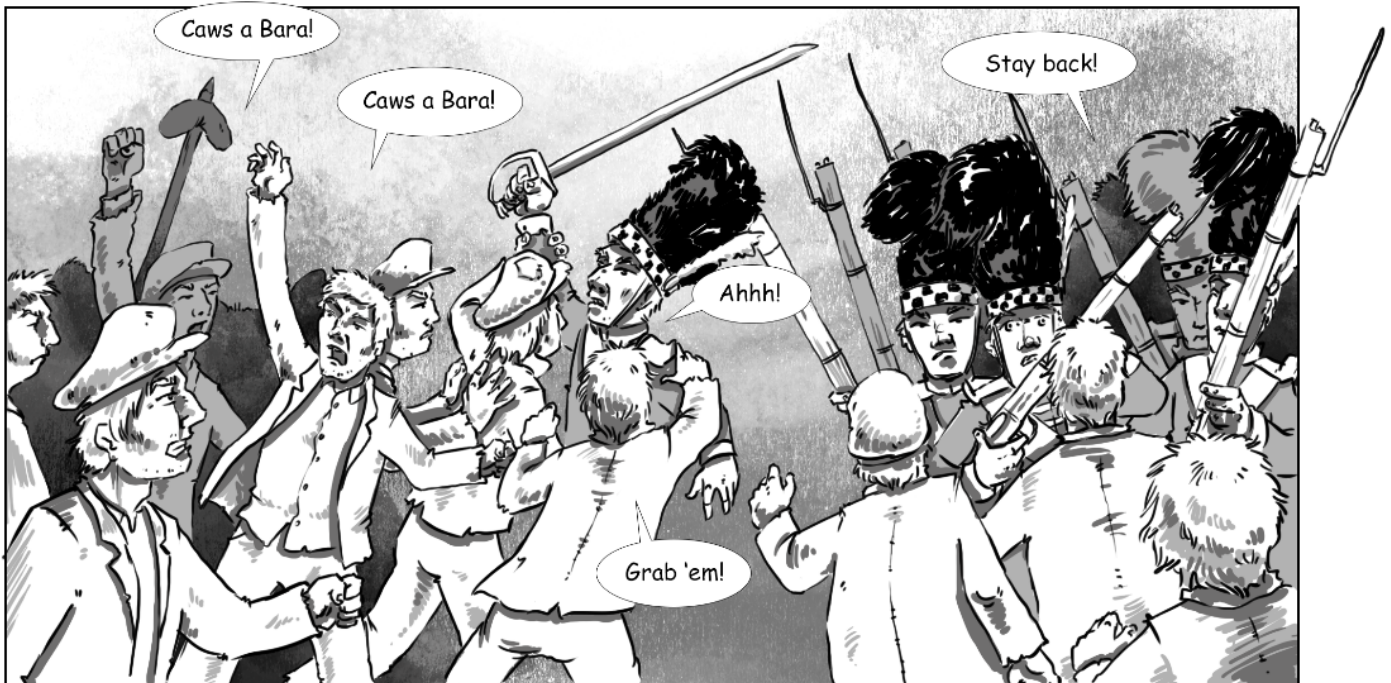
We want a halt on imprisonment for debt. We want shops to offer fair prices for their goods. We expect Ironmasters to stop offering lower wages to new colliers and miners. New employees should be offered an equal wage.

Who does this man think he is?

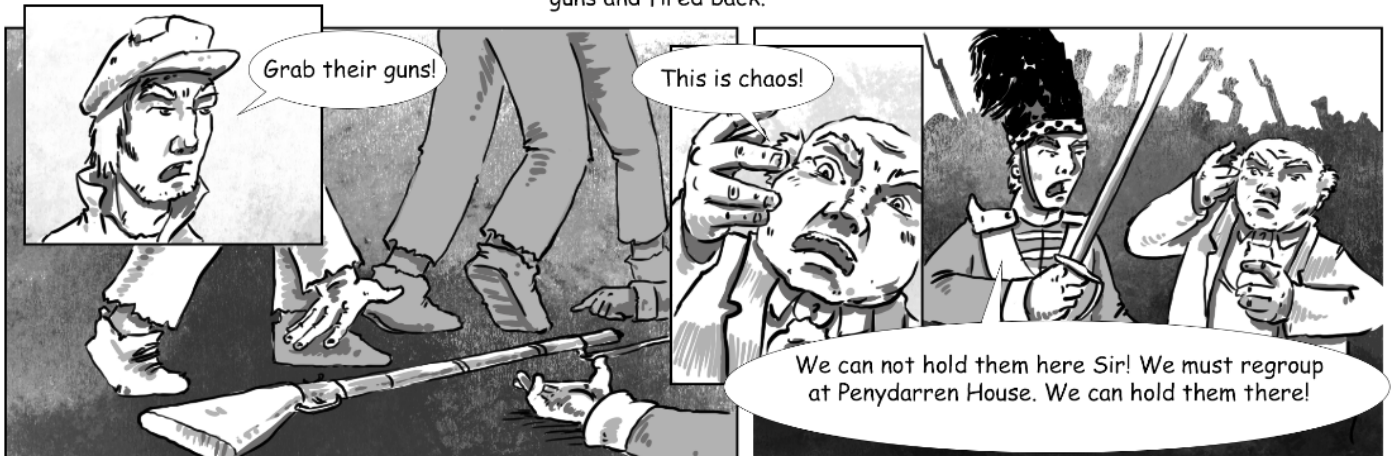








The crowd surged forward and shots were fired, however the soldiers were outnumbered. The workers seized their guns and fired back.





The solders are running away!

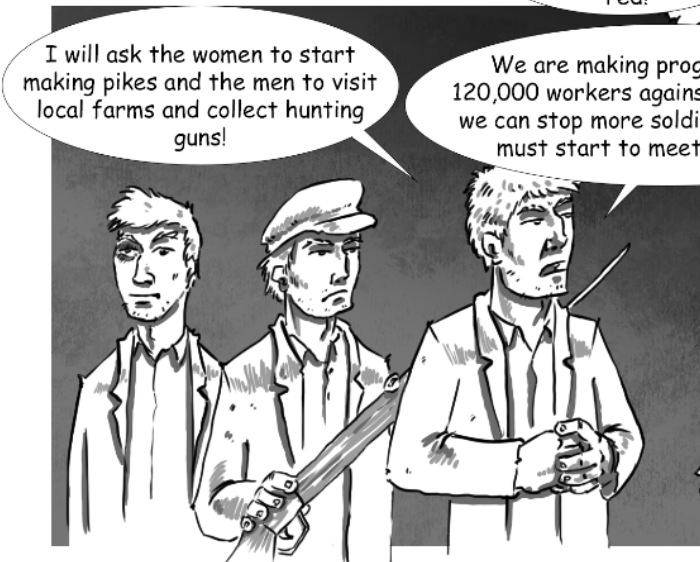
We'll need to make a flag to help raise the workers.

Caws a Bara!

Use the blood of a calf to make the flag red!



We want Caws a Bara!



I will ask the women to start making pikes and the men to visit local farms and collect hunting guns!

We are making progress. We have 120,000 workers against 300 soldiers. If we can stop more soldiers arriving, they must start to meet our demands!

Lewis I will organise groups of men to block the main roads coming into Merthyr. They are bound to request more soldiers, and we must stop them arriving!



Penydarren House

All quiet Sir.

Thank you Sergeant.



Crawshay, you know they have blocked the town of Merthyr Tydfil.

We are beginning to run out of food. I am going to send out members of my staff dressed as workers. They can hide amongst the crowds and send messages to Lord Bute.

Josiah, that is a great idea. The workers must be running out of food too. They may be becoming unsettled, your spies can keep us informed.

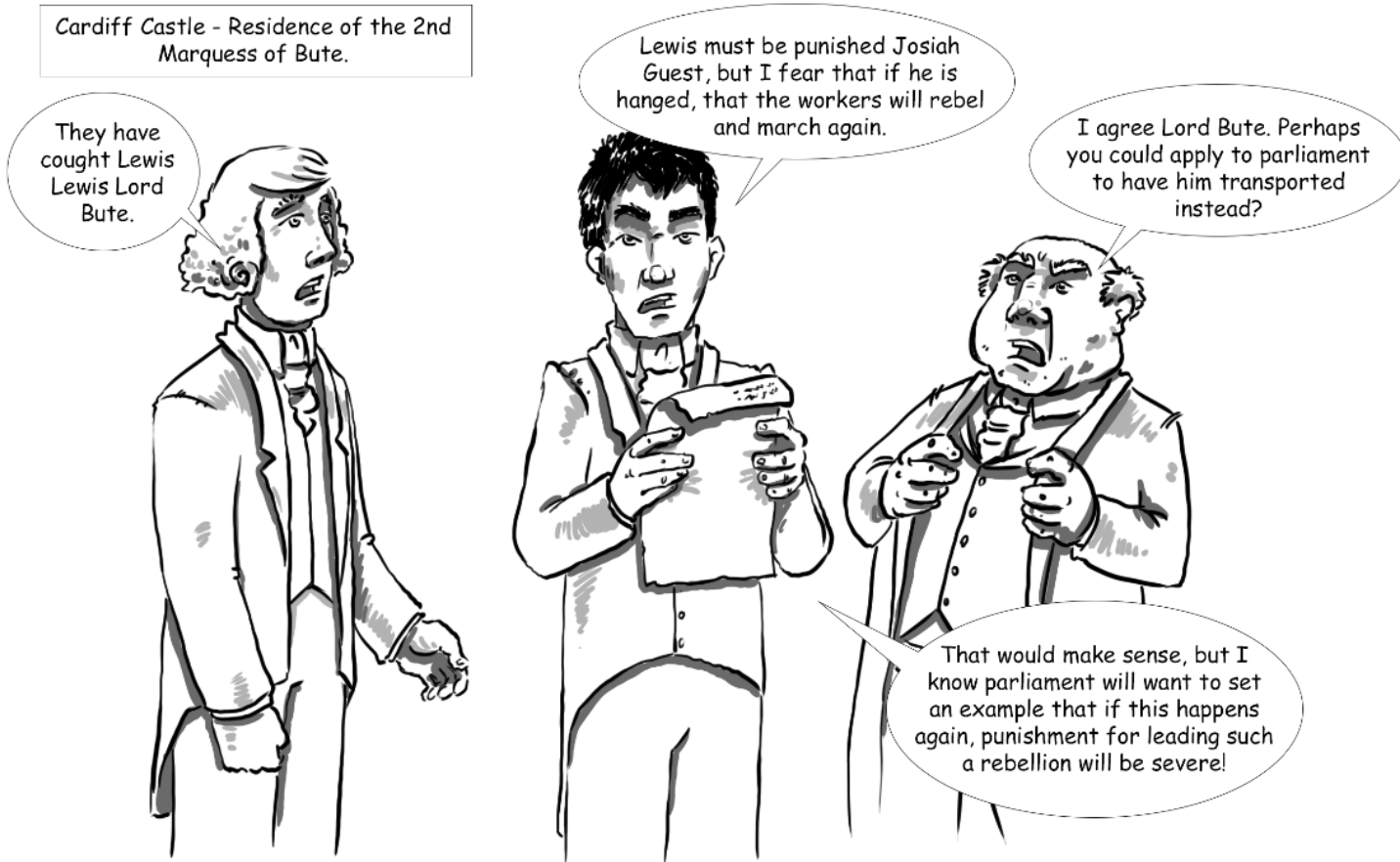
The workers were indeed running out of food. Many were beginning to worry about being charged with high treason, and with the help of spies, more soldiers were able to reach Merthyr Tydfil.

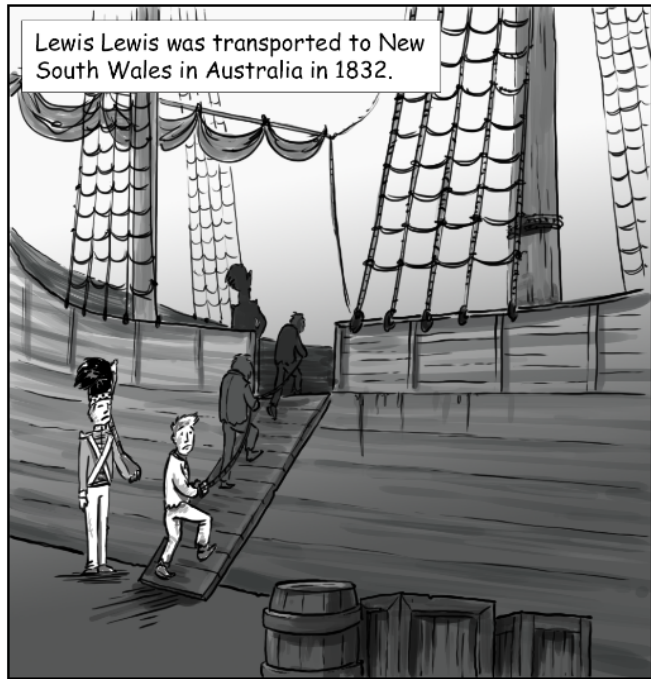


By the 6th of June 1831, most workers had dispersed. For those that remained they quickly became outnumbered, and the following day, soldiers successfully arrested them, including the ringleader, Lewis Lewis.



Cardiff Castle - Residence of the 2nd Marquess of Bute.





Dic Pendryn was falsely charged with attempted murder of Private Donald Black in the riots. He was hanged in Cardiff Market on the 13th August 1831.



The workers of Merthyr did not unite in battle, but they did unite in joining the union. Within two years of Pendryn's death, the union members had grown to 500,000 men. The workers had found their voice. Never again would they remain silent.

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