

Box 11825

The stoppage of work in the South Wales Coalfield which by the end of the past week had become a complete stoppage, came about because of disappointments of the miners due to the delays which have occurred in the settlement of anomalies arising from the Porter Award which granted miners working underground £5. per week, and on the surface £4.10.0d. per week.

Repeated efforts had been made by the Miners Federation representatives to bring about adjustments which would have effectively removed the so-called anomalies. This particular situation cannot be understood unless the treatment which the miners received from the nation between the two wars is taken into account. [It is notorious that the mining areas of South Wales came to be described as "Destitute Areas" and the people were unemployed and impoverished over a period of nearly 20 years.]

It should be remembered that the miners have to live in isolated villages under conditions of the deepest monotony, suffering blackout by day as well as by night. They have to work harder than most people and suffer casualties in the course of their employment daily.

[These men since the commencement of this war have worked almost continuously suffering a very grave sense of injustice because of the treatment they have received when compared to that given to ex-mineworkers now employed in war factories.]

The members of the Executive Council of the South Wales Miners Federation are themselves mineworkers and in consequence understand the feelings of the men they represent. Burdened as they are by the sense of responsibility which mineworkers have to the nation, and realising that the war effort cannot be sustained without the labour of the miners, they have constantly aimed to maintain continuous work in spite of their discontent.

The outbreak of the stoppage in South Wales commenced in one part of the coalfield on Monday of this week when about 8,000 men became involved. Other mineworkers rapidly joined the strike until the whole of the Welsh coalfield became embroiled.

If the strike were to continue not less than half-a-million tons of coal a week would be lost to the nation and this is dangerous indeed having regard to present coal production in this country.

The Executive Council called into consultation the Miners Members of Parliament from South Wales who number 13 and who include men holding responsible Government posts.

The Political and Industrial leadership of the whole of the mining arrears of South Wales decided on the morning of the Conference to unanimously recommend an immediate resumption of work. This recommendation was explained to 250 delegates from the miners lodges who were present. Discussions ensued when representatives from the Lodges, Members of Parliament, Executive Council members, and officials took part. The delegates, not being authorised to bring mandates, but it is hoped that the united unanimous recommendation of the political and industrial leadership of the Welsh miners expressed in the resolution will have the effect and that there will be a general resumption of work on MONDAY the 13th inst.

7673

Cardiff

Stock?

500

More pits idle, but may soon restart

STRENUOUS efforts to end the coal strike, which now involves 120,000 men in four coalfields, will be made during the week-end.

Some of the miners' M.P.s who yesterday met as a group at the House of Commons, are visiting the strike areas.

Mr. Arthur Horner, the South Wales Miners' president, said last night that at the special delegate conference at Cardiff tomorrow he will reiterate the unanimous appeal of his Executive for an immediate return to work.

But the miners' lodges will have the last word. They will vote throughout the coalfield on Sunday on the conference decision.

Only 20 pits working

Mr. Horner gave a warning that the Government's wage offer on the Porter award would not remove anomalies except with regard to piece workers. "I am afraid the miners are in a certain mood and there will be difficulties about it," he said.

Although men at three South Wales pits returned to work yesterday, the strike generally spread over a much wider area and encroached for the first time into the anthracite district at the western end of the coalfield. It is now probable that about 100,000 men are idle and only about 20 of the 200 pits are still in operation.

Although bitter in their comments on the Government's attitude, the miners seem eager to get the strike over, and the general impression is that the men will return next week.

Spreads to Scotland

About 7,000 miners at nine Scottish pits joined in the strike yesterday and last night two more pits in Durham, employing between them over 2,000 men, and a pit at Workington, Cumberland, were idle.

By a majority of nearly two to one Easington (Durham) miners by ballot yesterday decided to lift the restriction of output.

To the question, "Do you favour lifting the restriction?" 1,101 voted for and 552 against.

Output at the pit had fallen so seriously that 374 men have been directed to other collieries.

The Political Correspondent writes: Miners' M.P.s are to ask the Government for a full debate on the coal situation as soon as possible.

The War Cabinet is keeping in hourly touch with the coalfields, and discussions have already taken place on what action should be taken if an early settlement cannot be reached.

DURHAM MINERS' 2-1 VOTE TO END "GO SLOW"

90,000 IDLE IN SOUTH WALES

By a majority of nearly two to one, the miners at Easington, Durham, yesterday decided to lift the restriction on output. The figures were: In favour, 1,101; against, 552.

In South Wales, however, despite the concessions by the Government announced on Wednesday, the strike extended. Ninety thousand men were last night reported to be idle there, and about 100,000 throughout Great Britain.

Delegates from the South Wales coalfield are to meet at Cardiff to-morrow to consider the concessions. These, Mr. Arthur Horner, South Wales miners' president, stated last night, would have been conceded had there been no stoppage.

In the Durham field, where the Easington men voted for the ending of "go slow," dissatisfaction spread to three other pits, where 1,700 went on strike.

The Regional Fuel Controller, Mr. Thomas Hornsby, announced that if the Easington miners abandoned the "go slow" movement, the notices would be suspended directing the 374 men to other pits.

In two other coalfields, Cumberland and Scotland, stoppages occurred as protests against the Porter award. At Clifton, near Workington, 600 struck and in Scotland about 7,000 ceased work.

STRIKE TALKS BY FIRESIDE

ADVICE TO RETURN

From Our Special Correspondent

CARDIFF, Thursday.

The coal strike is nearing totality. Of the 100,000 men in the South Wales coalfields 90 per cent. are idle.

The nation at war is losing 80,000 tons of coal a day, and the miners generally show no inclination to return to work until they have the result of the London negotiations from the Cardiff delegate conference on Saturday.

The men's leaders to whom I have talked to-day predict that the result will be a general resumption of work on Monday.

There are a few bright signs. Men have returned to work at the Powell Duffryn's Britannic and Trane pits at Gilfach Goch, and at the Glynogwr pit of the Glenavon and Garw Company, in the same district.

This little place, Gilfach, is a village nestling amid fortress-like hills which almost wall it in from the outside world. The news of the London talks reached it in time yesterday to persuade the miners there that there was no further point in staying out.

Nowhere else in the coalfield did the information have a like effect.

In every other colliery between Monmouthshire and Swansea the men "downed tools." Included were 14 of the anthracite pits beyond Swansea which kept going until yesterday.

Of the 20 or so main pits still working, the large majority is in the anthracite area. There is more contentment in that area with the £5 a week minimum for underground workers in the Porter award.

At the Cardiff offices of the South Wales Miners' Federation to-day I found the vice-president, Mr. Alf. Davies, and Mr. David Evans, assistant secretary, coping with telephone calls in and out.

The inward ones usually reported the cessation of work in another district; the outward ones were due to the efforts of the officials to organise bus transport for their miners to attend the various coalfield mass meetings on Sunday.

(Continued on P. 6, Col. 6)

Miners on strike play skittles, take a peek at their idle pits



Outside looking in . . . Some of the Mountain Ash miners, who are among the bands of South Wales men now on strike, pause a moment for a glance at their stalled colliery.



"Out." Miners from the record-breaking Abergorki Colliery—one carrying a football—join in a table-skittles game at a Mountain Ash public house. *Daily Express* picture.

DAY AND NIGHT
ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO
DEFINE WHERE THE IMPORTANCE

PLEASE READ IN THE GREAT



WORKING AERIAL OFFENSIVE

3.51 PM. S. WALES MINERS VOTE- OFFICIAL FIGURES.

MR. ARTHUR HORNER PRESIDENT OF THE
S. WALES MINERS FEDERATION ISSUED THIS AFTERNOON THE OFFICIAL
FIGURES THE RESULT OF YESTERDAY'S COALFIELD BALLOT ON THE STRIKE
POSITION.

THESE SHOWED THAT 60963 VOTED FOR RESUMPTION OF WORK,
AND 43,248 AGAINST- A MAJORITY OF 17715 FOR WORK.

IN SPIITE OF THE VOTING IT IS REPORTED FROM SOME DISTRICTS
MEN WHO YESTERDAY VOTED FOR RETURNING HAVE NOT DONE SO, WHILE
OTHERS WHO VOTED AGAINST SEEMINGLY ALTERED THEIR MINDS AND DID
PRESENT THEMSELVES FOR WORK.

Box POPCO

11825

SOUTH WALES COAL STOPPAGE.

INTERVIEW WITH MAJOR GWILYM LLOYD GEORGE, Fuel Minister.
? Interview on Monday, 13th. (Miners may resume work on Monday).

INTERVIEW MR. ARTHUR HORNER, President, South Wales Miner's Federation.
Office address: 2 St. Andrews Crescent, Cardiff. (Cardiff 4869).
Home address: The Gables, Porthamal Gardens, Whitechurch. (Whitechurch 1489)

CARDIFF DELEGATE CONFERENCE, SATURDAY, 11TH MARCH.

Annals, Minutes, general view of building

MASS MEETINGS AT THE COLLIERIES ON SUNDAY, 12TH. Miners to vote on the Saturday Conference decision. *Miners voting.*

Interviews with Miners giving their grievances, i.e.

1. Bevin boys will get £5 a week after only six weeks' training while men with a lifetime experience in the pit will be drawing the same money.
2. Skilled men and those who work in conditions of special discomfort get nothing under the Porter Award.
3. Miners always have had their coal for their homes at about 7/10d. a ton a month. Now their coal is to cost them another 6/- a ton.

Plus another other grievances that you can find on the spot.

? BACK TO WORK SHOTS ON MONDAY.

[INTERVIEW WITH SOLDIER-MINER IF YOU CAN FIND ONE HOME ON LEAVE.

*Also interviews with soldier
"If they strike, they will let down
the Second front."*

[Shots of Abertillery Colliery,
Mountain Ash. (Shots of
Production board, etc.)]

X-190920
TELEGRAM
TO CARDIFF.

Reply Paid.

SENT: 11:30 am. 10/3/44.

ARTHUR HORNER
PRESIDENT
SOUTH WALES MINERS FEDERATION
2 ST. ANDREWS CRESCENT
CARDIFF

CAN YOU PLEASE GIVE US SHORT NEWSREEL
INTERVIEW ON COAL STOPPAGE TOMORROW OR
SUNDAY IN CARDIFF OR WHITCHURCH GRATEFUL
YOUR KIND CO-OPERATION

BRITISH PARAMOUNT NEWS.

c.c. MR. PARTINGTON ✓
FILE JP.

X-100980

Reply
12. WDS.

ARTHUR HORNER
PRESIDENT
SOUTH WALES MINERS FEDERATION
2 ST. ANDREWS CRESCENT
CARDIFF

12:30
PM

CAN YOU PLEASE GIVE US SHORT NEWSREEL
INTERVIEW ON COAL STOPPAGE TOMORROW OR
SUNDAY IN CARDIFF OR WHITCHURCH GRATEFUL
YOUR KIND CO-OPERATION

BRITISH PARAMOUNT NEWS