

Caernarvonshire: An industry that has been carried on ~~in~~ <sup>in</sup> the County since the 13th Century becomes the centre of Royal interest, as the Duke of Edinburgh drives a steam locomotive into the <sup>Quarries</sup> Dinorwic Slate Quarries. During a tour <sup>lasting</sup> of 2½ hours, the Duke first visited the ~~Quarries~~ Slate Dressing Shed. Here, time has stood still. The mechanical age passed by this ancient seat of craftsmanship as, with machine-like precision, the slates are split and shaped, ready for a market that literally covers the world.

Another ride for the Duke, (this time as a passenger), to make ~~the~~ a tour of the vast quarries. A family concern for over ~~two~~ two hundred years, Dinorwic employs 1350 men.

Just in time to watch blasting operations. Naturally, the explosive charge is small, just enough, in fact, to loosen the slate, so that it can be gathered in large sheets.

Displaying that thirst for knowledge that characterises all his visits, the Duke chatted to many of the workers - before leaving one of the largest slate quarries in the world.