

Pithe Minister ②

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To note the NACODS leadership
is still proving troublesome. It is not
clear how much support they have as
NACODS men have been turning up for
work in a number of res areas. BT 15/1

Daily Coal Report - Tuesday 15 January 1985

Number

(i) Working normally	47
(ii) Turning some coal	24
(iii) Some men present	74
(iv) On strike/picketed out	29

North Gawber (Barnsley) and Celynen North (South Wales) moved into the "some men present" category this morning. By this afternoon's shift 574 new faces had appeared today. This is an improvement upon 460 last Tuesday. Yesterday's final total was 1,369, making the weekly total 1,943 and a total in 1985 of 5,020. Today's new faces included 173 in Scotland, 147 in the North East, 145 in Yorkshire and 62 in North Derbyshire. The three collieries in Kent were closed today because of snow.

Change on
yesterday

Scotland	(24 hr attendance)	3,257	+ 255
North East	(24 hr attendance)	4,326	+ 164
Yorkshire	(24 hr attendance)	4,041	+ 225
North Derbyshire	(24 hr attendance)	5,958	+ 687
Western	(24 hr attendance)	10,989	+ 113*
South Wales	(morning shift)	214	+ 20

Coal Movements

152,000 tonnes were moved yesterday, a similar level to last Monday.

27 coal trains ran yesterday.

The revised figure for total coal movements last week is 918,000 tonnes.

Law and Order

No serious disturbances have been reported.

Meetings between the NCB and the mining unions

This afternoon Mr MacGregor chaired a meeting of the Coal Industry National Consultative Council (CINCC). NACODS and BACM attended, but the NUM were not represented. Mr Sampey and Mr McNestry of NACODS made impassioned pleas for the NCB to take the initiative in resuming negotiations with the NUM.

Mr MacGregor replied to the effect that while the Board were willing to enter into meaningful negotiations to settle the dispute at any time, he awaited an approach from the NUM indicating that some change might be possible in their position on uneconomic pit closures. Mr Sampey indicated that this response was extremely disappointing, and the entire NACODS delegation then walked out of the meeting after only 20 minutes. BACM remained at the meeting, and said afterwards that while it was not appropriate at present for negotiations to restart, it might well be after the next meeting of the NUM's national executive.

Tomorrow there will be a meeting of the Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation. This is another body containing representatives of the NCB and the mining unions. It has not met since last May, when the NUM failed to attend. Around lunchtime today Mr Scargill announced that he, Mr McGahey and Mr Heathfield would all attend tomorrow's meeting. The NCB will be represented by Mr Spanton, the board member responsible for social welfare issues.

South Derbyshire NUM

The South Derbyshire NUM executive has decided to recommend a change in its rules to give the area greater independence from the national union. These rule changes will be similar to those made by the Nottinghamshire area, which faces expulsion from the national union.

Line to Take

Today's return to work continues an encouraging trend, with over 4,000 now working in Yorkshire and 5,000 having returned in total so far this year.

The National Coal Board are willing to resume talks at any time when they receive an indication from the NUM that they are prepared to enter into meaningful negotiations to settle the dispute. There is no point in starting negotiations, thereby raising expectations, if the NUM refuse to make any change in their negotiating position on uneconomic pit closures.

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