

Prime Minister (2)

31A

Daily Coal Report - Thursday 8 November 1984

AT 8/4

	<u>Number</u>	<u>plus on holiday</u>
(i) Working normally	45 -	-
(ii) Turning some coal	10	-
(iii) Some men present	34 -	-
(iv) On strike/picketed out	84	-

Whittle (North Derbyshire), where 44 men are present, is today restarting coal production and has been moved from category (iii) to category (ii). Silverwood (Yorkshire) and Ireland (North Derbyshire) have moved from category (iv) to (iii).

By lunchtime a further 245 men had reported back to work bringing the total for the four days to 1972. 122 of today's total were in North Derbyshire.

In Yorkshire the number reporting at Manton colliery has now risen to 61 bringing the prospect that some coal production may soon be able to re-start. Despite the presence of 750 pickets a single miner has reported back to Cortonwood - a move of considerable symbolic significance.

In Scotland a record 464 miners were at work, including 255 at Bilston Glen.

In Wales 62 men reported at Bersham (see below) and 24 at Cynheidre. Small numbers also went into 4 other Welsh pits.

Coal Movements

187,000 tonnes were moved yesterday.

34 coal trains ran.

Law and Order

There were 7 arrests outside Markham pit (North Derbyshire). In Durham there were 14 arrests outside Merton pit and 1 outside Vane Tempest.

Bersham Miners Ballot

Unfortunately 62 working miners boycotted today's secret ballot - apparently for fear of being forced to go back on strike if the result went the wrong way. The 145 of their colleagues who voted to return to work were narrowly outvoted by 154 who supported continuing strike action. Despite the obvious wish of a substantial majority to work, the NUM claimed the result as a victory. The acid test will be attendance figures over the next few days.

NUM Rally

The second striking miners' rally is due to take place in Sheffield tonight.

Line to Take

Nearly 2,000 miners have returned to work in the first 4 days of this week. Well over 70,000 are at work in the industry. Ordinary miners are voting with their feet.

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