

SECRET AND PERSONAL

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Daily Coal Report - Wednesday 6 March 1985

Return to Work

This morning there were still 15,000 men on strike. However the continued return in Yorkshire this afternoon has now brought this figure down to under 10,000. Around 95 per cent of the NUM - some 176,000 men - are therefore not now on strike.

The decision by Scottish NUM leaders to call off the strike there was little more than acceptance of the inevitable.

The decision by Cortonwood miners to return to work this morning is of obvious symbolic significance. Of less comfort, however, is the continuing dispute between NACODS and the local management at Kellingley pit.

A detailed round-up is attached.

Coal Movements

There are signs of positive progress on this front also.

428,000 tonnes were moved on the first two days of this week.

50 coal trains ran on Monday, and 103 yesterday (almost back to normal).

Law and Order

Skirmishing and demonstrations in various areas - see detailed round-up.

SECRET AND PERSONAL

Line to Take

Some 95 per cent of men are now at work in the industry. This is an encouraging sign. It also underlines the growing awareness among miners that little has been achieved in the past twelve months except damage to the industry and to jobs. It is in everyone's interests that safe, normal, working is resumed as quickly as possible, so that the damage can be limited and the industry put on a sound footing for the future.

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SCOTLAND

1,671 new faces reported this morning bringing those not on strike to over 70%.

Most of the remaining strikers are in the Longannet complex.

NACODS have not been working at Comrie and Castlehill and have given only partial cover at Solsgirth.

The reconvened area Delegate Conference voted today by 10 votes to 5 to return to work tomorrow.

YORKSHIRE

This morning there were around 8,000 remaining on strike in the four Yorkshire areas. This is now down to around 2,000.

Picketing was light, although there were Kent pickets at Barnburgh, Cortonwood, Manvers, Wath and the Manvers workshops.

Only two pits are now on strike, Barnburgh (which is expected to go back tomorrow) and Markham. There is to be a lodge meeting at Markham tomorrow but it is thought unlikely there will be a return to work. The dispute at Manton over the dismissal of a man is now over.

There have been a number of reports of fights in pit yards, etc. but nothing serious. At Fryston the NUM has said no action will be taken against men that have been at work other than sending them to Coventry.

A strike by 180 deputies and overmen at Kellingley colliery near Selby, North Yorkshire, continued today. The men, members of NACODS, say pit management allowed four NUM miners to do work underground normally done by deputies.



Coal movement by rail to Yorkshire power stations has resumed.

KENT

There were only 10 new faces this morning giving an attendance of 282. This leaves about 1,700 still on strike.

NACODS have been in at Snowdown but picketed out elsewhere.

SOUTH WALES

This morning Merthyr Vale colliery was on official strike following men's refusal to work with a man who had worked last week. The strike has now been called off with no concessions being made by the Board. The area have issued a press notice today saying that men refusing to work with strike breakers or to handle equipment supplied by blacklisted firms would be sent home without pay.

140 men from the Tondu workshops were sent home for refusing to connect equipment supplied by a firm on the NUM blacklist. These men are not considered to be on strike, and the area now say that no men are left on strike.

NORTH EAST

The orderly return has continued and the area now consider the strike to be over.

There was an incident at Ashington colliery this morning when John Smith, the lodge president and member of the Northumberland NUM executive was dismissed. It is understood an assault on a member of NACODS was involved but no details are being given in case Mr Smith wishes to appeal against dismissal.