

COLD WEATHER

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It was blizzard conditions over most of the country. After a brief thaw the Arctic weather returned, colder than ever. This time it ~~S~~ full severity struck the Midlands and the North. From ~~Buxton~~ Buxton gasworks ~~people contrived their own deliveries of coke.~~ Highest town in England Buxton gets the cold end of the stick, ~~Even in mild winters. Now it was suffering in general~~ company

people contrived their own deliveries of coke. In general, the fuel position reached a crisis. Paralysis threatened industry. The huge Austin motor works at Birmingham had to close down for lack of coal. Short by a thousand tons a week of the necessary eighteen hundred the company could not continue.

The flow of export production ceased. The chairman, L. P. Lord, declared himself helpless in the face of fuel famine. ~~and Austin was only one.~~ Dunlops, G.E.C., B.S.A., ~~and other big firms~~ in the same city, were ^{also} ~~similarly~~ menaced. Ironically at Sidmouth, Devon, lay three thousand tons, stored there ^{since 1941} ~~years ago~~ lest invasion should isolate the south-west. Grass wont grow on it much longer. London very much welcomed seven thousand tons, brought to Beckton Gasworks after gales had imprisoned colliers in north-east ports almost a week. Then came a grave government warning that industry would have power-supplies cut off for still longer periods, ~~till~~ the present crisis had passed.

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But if the ships were at last getting through, not so the trains. Villages on the north-Derby-Yorkshire border ~~country~~ were hit by the full fury of the blizzard. No one could remember such conditions before.

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(GV) Highest town in England Buxton gets the cold end of the stick even in mild winters. Now it was suffering in general company. And all this when coal supplies were so low they would have been ~~be~~ barely adequate if there had been no hint of frost. Main lines were completely blocked. When trains did get through they took fantastic time on the journey; thirty hours from Manchester to London, to give one example. And no sooner were lines cleared than down came the driving snow again. ~~Tested~~ ^{Tested} ~~as~~ as we have been many times since peace brought its crushing disappointments this is the worst yet. Let us take this comfort, Britain Can Take It.

Partial Resumption ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~Home~~ ~~to~~

COLD WEATHER STORY

ARMY MOVES THE COAL

~~from~~ ~~the~~ ~~east~~
says ~~that~~ ~~the~~ ~~Minister~~

The ships of good hope passing Tilbury, London-bound up the Thames, marked the turn of the tide ~~to~~ ^{to} the capital. Each collier was directed where to go as it passed the control station and from that hour began the slow building up of powerstation reserves. The collier Windsor Queen

Brought brought a cargo of coke, welcome contribution made by the Channel Islands, in the time of our great need, *of*

Coalite, on sale in tiny quantities, ~~was~~ attracted big queues of Londoners who had been shivering before empty fireplaces with the thermometer ^{down 2} at Arctic level.

Pessimists who said a year ago that we should be lucky to buy coal ^{in paper bags} ~~by the bagful~~ ^{soon} were proved right.

of And still there was no release from the gripping frost. On both sides of the Pennines, ~~the~~ icebound scene took on the appearance of a Canadian winter.

(2 out)

(CU par) It was a relief to know that coal was at least on the move, but it was a slow business. Canal-side collieries in Lancashire were short of barges to take the coal away.

What there were found themselves iceblocked for days.

(CU Ice) Ice was Public Enemy Number 1 on the railways too. In this dire plight miners responded by raising output well above target levels.

~~But for the modern curse of absenteeism the coal shortage would never have happened.~~ ^{in less acute}

~~Absenteeism~~ showed a well fall
~~at last~~

~~ARMY MOVES THE COAL~~

At last thousands of army lorries came to the transport rescue. The Tommies who fed London in the meat strike now got the coal moving. German prisoners loaded up.

How well we could have done with a few hundred thousand

~~Displaced Persons~~
of the Displaced Persons eager to be absorbed in Britain.

At other mines our good friends the Poles lent a hand.

Thus was it possible for the Midlands to lead the country back into full production.