

# BRITISH PARAMOUNT NEWS

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

BLACKBURN.

LONDON OFFICE

DATE 14/2/47.

## DOUBLE COVER ON FUEL CRISIS IN NORTH.

Conditions have changed somewhat since the original coverage, for instance on Sunday it was quite easy to get shots of silent, snow surrounded pits etc, now these are working. On Monday too the blizzard was still raging which added to the picture value in a number of shots. However this additional coverage is meant to have the following scope:-

Many pits are snowbound and in any case where they are working it is difficult to get coal away from them. (the railway angle was adequately covered in my previous shipment). The canals have frozen stretches rendering passage of barges impossible. Canal side collieries cannot use this means of transport. (barges are strung out in the free sections hence not possible to get shots of large barge concentrations).

The Pennine moorland roads and Passes are still all snowbound, in most cases the drifts are frozen and so it is impossible for men to dig through them.

The cotton towns, already suffering under coal shortage before the severe weather are idle. Most mills have just steam to keep the essential heating going-if that stops they are in a very bad way

P.T.O.

The electricity cut has of course closed all electrically driven mills even though they have coal for their other requirements. In Blackburn about 2/3 of the mills are shut, one will get a little coal and open for a week or so, but then another one closes.

Incidentally there have been no queues at Labour Exchanges, due mainly to two reasons, firstly that some firms are expecting their employees to turn up each morning and are paying them accordingly and secondly there is a scheme for registration at large works. The old time "rush to the Labour" has not happened.