

FRENCH RAIL STRIKE

The French railways were idle. Not only visitors but French people themselves were landed in all sorts of difficulties by the paralysis of the transport system. Private lorry owners seized the opportunity to charge Black Market rates to people who would put up with any discomfort to get to Calais or wherever else the drivers could be persuaded to go. British holidaymakers were reduced to this kind of travelling to reach the ports on the way home.

Bakers came out in sympathy for a few days, a symptom of the labour unrest that afflicts the whole of France. To the rescue came the French Army, introducing cook-house methods into civilian bakeries. As we go to Press the bread strike is settled. But for two days, only the Army bakers stood between Paris and ^a ~~the~~ bread famine.

Petrol, too, was unobtainable for three days when workers of the wholesale distributing companies joined the popular movement. But in France it's wonderful what you can get if you're prepared to pay.... Suppose he pays ^{double} ~~twice~~ the price?... ^{Ah} ~~are~~ well, then perhaps it could be managed.

Well I'm -