

MORE COAL, SO MORE PROPS

With the miners promising more coal, the call goes out for more pit-props and Forestry Commission forests throughout the country are answering. Douglas firs and Japanese larches are the main suppliers. Some mines need one ton of pit-wood for every 40 tons of coal extracted. Here in Dovedy Forest, Wales, portable aluminium chutes are being tested to speed work.

We used to import all our props but now the Forestry Commission provides the bulk. Add four million railway sleepers on top of that, and you'll see they're going a really big job.