

MINERS RALLY.

Nearly 15,000 miners converged on Clifton Park, Rotherham, for the Annual Demonstration and Gala. Counting families and non-marchers it was estimated that 20,000 people poured into the town. They represented 107 Yorkshire pits.

The marching at this stage would have done credit to a military tattoo.

In good times and bad, Yorkshire miners form a community on their own, proud of their craft and conscious that they make an invaluable contribution to the economy of the nation.

Among the speakers in Clifton Park were Will Paynter, National Secretary of the N.U.M. and Shadow Chancellor Harold Wilson. He called for increased use of coal, especially at power stations, where he said, too much oil is being burned. This was the first demonstration in Yorkshire to be addressed by Will Paynter. On the lighter side of the programme there was a fancy dress competition for children. And who knows, somewhere in the Yorkshire coalfield there may arise a challenger worthy of Floyd Patterson.

Finally, something for the girls; the election of the Coal Queen. In this part of the country they have a deep rooted conviction that in the beauty stakes, Yorkshire's miles ahead of anywhere else.

Voted winner was pretty Agnes Fuller. She represents Beighton Colliery.