

GYPSIES PROBLEM

What's to be done about the gypsies encampment on the A.2. near Dartford? They settled there when they were evicted from Darenth Wood, Kent, and though the new site's a long way from being ideal - in fact it could hardly be more unsuitable - they're in no hurry to move. The authorities who got them out of Darenth Wood made no other provision for them, so here's the extraordinary state of affairs - gypsies camped on a busy main road.

They still get most of their living by selling scrap metal, and the dealers collect it, just as they did before the move. Sanitation arrangements being what they are, it's a wonder the gypsies aren't told to go. But they seem happy enough, secure for the present, because there's some doubt as to which particular local body can serve them with notices. It must have been bleak in the cold snap. In fact, one man said his home was so cold and draughty, it's the only place he knows where mice walk under the door without ducking their heads!