

"OLD KING COAL" - Universal Talking News takes you nearly half a mile below ground to see the wresting of 'Black diamonds' from Mother Earth - - at the Powell Duffryn Collieries.

-S.Wales-

Picture:- Here are some of the activities which result in your being able to--

--toast your toes at the fire on lazy winter evenings. These miners are going--

--down to ensure your supply of kitchen brights, or--

--Welsh nuts, and for coal to feed the world's furnaces of industry. The pace of the travelling cage is as much as 50 miles per hour and the--

--coal face is often no less than two thousand feet below the surface.

A few thousands of years have been necessary to turn the decaying matter of a lost age into--

--rich fuel seams. Hand cutters are fast being displaced by mechanical ones, worked by compressed air. Down in the bowels of the earth--

--machinery is replacing man power. Even smokeless coal is produced by its--

--aid. Loaded by hand on to a mechanical shaker-conveyor, the coal is pitched into--

--small trams. The famous pit ponies once used to--

--pull these to the main roadway, but here again mechanical haulage is slowly replacing live horse power.

From here the black diamonds are conveyed in full trains to the pit bottom and--

--shortly after that the light of day falls on them for the first time in untold ages.

Following that, the men themselves return to the cage for their--

--journey to the surface after a day's work--

--half a mile below the world where their women and children work and play. These men are indeed 'key' men, for coal production keeps open the door to industrial prosperity