Stocks of coal still climb

Express Industrial Correspondent

THE National Coal Board has stocks of unsold small coal on its hands which it values at £50 million. About 16,000,000 tons of it are lying in quarries, fields, and any other spare corner of the coalfields.

Each ton is shown in accounts issued yesterday as being worth £3 10s. on the asset side of the board's provisional estimates. But the coal may never be sold.

The whole financial structure of the industry is being thrown sideways as a result.

SALEABLE?

A board spokesman, asked yesterday if the unsold coal should be treated as saleable, when the supply line was blocked with the same material, said "Yes."

If it were reduced in value it would increase the board's present shortage of investment capital and force increased borrowing powers, he said.

Figures for the second quarter of 1958 show an estimated loss of £164,570, compared with a loss of £7,620,599 for the same period last year.

The miner's average pay packet was £17 4s. 3d. for the first quarter of 1958. Average for the next three months was £15 13s. 2d.

Ending of Saturday working and pit overtime caused the drop.

Last night it was revealed that stocks of undistributed coal had risen to 17,650,000 tons by November 1.

Absent-minded wanderer

Mr. William Barlow, aged 88, of Westwood Park, Forest Hill, who left home to collect his pension, was found wandering on London Bridge last night—30 hours later. Said his 84-year-old wife: "He has forgotten his address before. I gave him a note with his name and address on it. But he is so absent-minded."

Reg Harris goes to the Palace

Reg Harris, O.B.E., the former world sprint cycling champion, was among 184 people at a Buckingham Palace investiture yesterday.

Four killed as scaffolding crashes 50 ft.

Express Staff Reporter

FOUR men were killed and another was seriously injured yesterday when scaffolding on which they were working collapsed.

The men crashed 50 feet on to a concrete floor inside the turbine house of the giant power station being built at Northfleet, Kent.

They had been lining the roof with asbestos sheeting.

Twenty men working below scattered when the scaffolding crashed.

"Then we went back, to see what we could do," said Mr. Fred Bullion, a trade union official of Camelia House, Deptford.

"Some of us dragged out the injured man. Scaffolding and planks were still falling."

Mr. Bullion said he would call a meeting of the 500 workmen on the site today, recommending them to stop work for the day as a token of sympathy to the men's relatives.

Foreman

The dead were: Mr. John Gibbons, of Foxberry-road, Deptford; Mr. William Merritt, 48-year-old foreman, of St. Nicholas House, Deptford Green; Mr. Arthur Whitcomb, of Guinness Trust, Stamford Hill; and Mr. F. Salter, of Glanville House, Weir-road, Balham.

The injured man, 28-year-old Mr. William Webb, of Uredale-crescent, New Addington, Surrey, was taken to Gravesend Hospital. He has a broken leg and arm, and suspected internal injuries. Late last night he was still critically ill.

EX-BEAUTY QUEEN ACCUSED



A 22-YEAR-OLD former beauty queen was accused at Bristol yesterday of trying to murder her husband.

She is Mrs. Rachel Bracey (above), the mother of year-old twin boys.

Detective Inspector George Cox said that Mrs. Bracey ran to a police station at 3.15 a.m. to confess that she had struck her husband with a hammer.

The inspector said that Mr. Clifford Bracey, owner of a radio shop in Two Mile Hill, Kingswood, Bristol, was dangerously ill.

Mrs. Bracey was remanded in custody.

Fireman dies in fall

Fireman Arthur Cousins, of Coldershaw-road, West Ealing, was killed when he fell from a tower at Ealing fire station yesterday.

Spanish air chiefs try the Comet

Spain's Iberia Airline chiefs flew in a Comet IV for two hours yesterday—going up from the de Havilland factory at Hatfield, Hertfordshire, with Mr. John Cunningham as captain of the aircraft.

The delegation is visiting other de Havilland factories to inspect Firestreak air-to-air missiles.

The ex-bugle boy takes salute

Thirty-one years ago, Major H. E. Harrison, now 45, joined the Royal Engineers as a bugle boy. Yesterday he took the salute at a regimental passing-out parade at Merebrook Camp, Malvern, Worcs—in honour of his long service.

Naafi jobs in Cyprus 'just their cup of tea'

Express Staff Reporter

OH, what a day it was yesterday at the London headquarters of the Navy, Army, and Air Force Institutes!

The phones rang nearly non-stop—as thousands of girls (and



SANDRA PAINTER
"I'm bored."

men) volunteered to work in Naafi canteens in Cyprus.

Hundreds more called at the offices following an appeal for 500 girls to replace the Greek Cypriots sacked under the new security measures on the island.

Why did they volunteer?

Said 18-year-old Sandra Painter: "I have been a bank



ANN PINDER
"I'm adventurous."

clerk for two years, and I'm bored."

Ann Finder, aged 21, said: "It's the chance of a lifetime to do something adventurous and really different."

For Carol Davis the reason was a simple one. "I'm out of work," she said.

Telephone calls reached Naafi at the rate of 600 an hour. One operator handled 25 in 15



CAROL DAVIS
"I'm out of work."

minutes. Extra staff dealt with interviews and documentation.

Today the selections and medical examinations will begin. The first plane-load is expected to leave at the week-end.

Road deaths up

There were 502 deaths on Britain's roads in September—12 more than in the same month last year. The seriously injured numbered 6,042—341 up—and the slightly injured 20,089—1,656 up.

This is all about the mostest

By JOHN WEAVER

IT'S a record! Donald Campbell boosts his own water-speed record another nine miles an hour to 248.62 miles an hour.

His previous record is crossed off and another "fastest" is added to the chronicles that mark man's fight to do better, build bigger, jump highest, do mostest.

Think of all the fun there is in records. Out today is a book listing the world's limits with everything from the sublime to the downright dotty—"The Guinness Book of Records" (Guinness Superlatives, 10s. 6d.)

So if you want to flatten the club bore, win a pint in that pub argument, or show off in front of your wife, then this is for you:—

Top dog is Russia's "Little Lemon," fired as a passenger in Sputnik II to a height of 1,050 miles on November 3, 1957.

Best talker

Most talkative bird. "Sandy Pauls," a budgerigar owned by a woman in Staines, Middlesex, knows 12 nursery rhymes and has a vocabulary of over 300 words.

Bathiest place is New Zealand with 91.5 per cent of the householders splashing merrily in their own baths. (United Kingdom figure is 62 per cent.)

Here's one we would like to lose:—

Most taxed country in the world is Britain.

And something to make honeymooner Jimmy Edwards blush with envy:—

Longest moustache record goes to Bombay Brahmin Masudiya Din, whose upper-lip growth spans 76 inches. Annual upkeep costs him £13. Whacko.

Longest place name is the 83-letter village in New Zealand. In Maori it means: "The place where Tamatea, the man with the big knee who slid, climbed, and swallowed mountains, known as Land-eater played with his flute to his loved one."

I'd hate to lose my way home from there one night and have to ask the way. Anglesey's famous Llanfair P.G. has only 58 letters.

Best seller

Best-selling book is still the Bible. Second is "The Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care," which is way over the 9,000,000 mark.

Longest talker is an Irishman Kevin Sheehan. He kept it up for 133 hours in 1955. Begorrah.

Most divorced is a Los Angeles barmaid Nina Avery who chalks up 16 divorces, 14 husbands. She says she cannot remember the names of some of them, but five of them had broken her nose. Guinness does not say why.

And so it goes, 277 pages of oddities, from the oldest cat in the world to the man who swallowed the longest sword: from who holds the world record for eating potato crisps to the tallest tree in Scotland.

The whole book is full of weird, crazy mostests, heaviest, oldest, and all the other -ests, compiled by Guinness, no doubt, to produce two words from readers: "My Goodness."

LAST NIGHT'S FIRST NIGHT

ALAS, THIS ROMP WENT CRAZY TOO LATE

SHOW: Friends and Neighbours. THEATRE: Victoria Palace.

By JOHN THOMPSON

ONLY in the last few minutes does this "new farcical romp"—as the programme calls it—really rollick. Then, too briefly, it is almost crazy enough for the Gang who acted so often at this theatre.

The "romp"—written by Austin Steele, a 33-year-old repertory actor from the Lake District—concerns the Grimshaws, an all too ordinary Lancashire family that plays host to a visiting Russian trade delegation—Valentine Dyall and Kay Woodman.

Among the complications that follow are (how did you guess?): endless jokes about the Russians' difficulties with English expressions; a scene where the Russians out-vodka the home team: a chase round the sofa; and one of the characters, the dominating Mom, shouting, "Empty your mind. It won't take long!"

Slapstick

The decor is almost as depressing as the dialogue.

Then suddenly—almost as if the cast is glad the show is nearly over—comes some slapstick of real music-hall calibre.

Only a flicker, alas. But enough to show how champion the comic team of Glenn Melvyn and Danny Ross could be with richer material.

OUTSIZE FALSTAFF WINS OUTSIZE LAUGHS

OPERA: Falstaff. THEATRE: Sadler's Wells.

By NOEL GOODWIN

WELSH baritone Howell Glynne, padded out to twice his usual outsize, raised plenty of delighted laughs at Sadler's Wells last night.

He sang Falstaff, the retired but rascally knight whose energetic love affairs with two of the merry wives of Windsor land him in continual trouble.

But it was not a performance played for gags alone.

Except when the producer put Falstaff too far up-stage for the full effect of his glorious tirade on "honour," Mr. Glynne sang with point and style. And style is what counts for most in this trickiest of Verdi operas.

There was promise of it from ex-chorus singer Brenda Scaife, in her first major role as Dame Quickly, though she shied off the required trills.

Effective

Two others new to their parts were Joan Stuart (Mrs. Ford) and Heather Harper (Nanetta)—both effective if a shade colourless in voice.

Conductor Alexander Gibson secured a fluent performance.

GENTLE GIANT, AFTER ALL

ORCHESTRA: London Philharmonic. PLACE: Royal Festival Hall

By CLIVE BARNES

SWARTHY Mindru Katz, top Rumanian pianist, was the unknown quality in this concert of twentieth-century music last night.

At 32, it was his first public appearance in Britain, but he was no reluctant debutante. He crashed his way through Prokofiev's rumbustious first piano concerto with confident accuracy. After this demonstration of strength he gave a Debussy prelude as an encore, and produced gentle playing full of poetry.

The orchestra, under Sir Adrian Boult, opened with Debussy's dance-poem "Jeux," evocative and sensuous. It shone as a shamefully neglected modern masterpiece.

M.P. aims to curb TV commercials

DON'T interrupt says Mr. Mayhew

Express TV Reporter

MR. CHRISTOPHER MAYHEW today presents in Parliament his Bill to amend the Television Act by prohibiting the interruption of TV programmes by commercial advertisements.

Mr. Mayhew, TV commentator and Socialist M.P. for Woolwich East, said last night that he was introducing his Bill because of "the growing aggravation" of commercials breaking into plays, films, and discussions on ITV.

"The phrase 'End of part one' has become a national joke," he said.

Mr. Mayhew's campaign is against what commercial TV calls "natural breaks."

"In many programmes there simply cannot be any natural breaks," he said. "There are far too many completely ruthless interruptions, and I consider that they contravene the Television Act.

'DISGRACE'

"It is a disgrace the way important public people are interrupted, sometimes in the middle of a sentence, by commercials.

"These so-called natural breaks merely add to the immense monopoly profits of the programme companies. The way they are handled constitutes a mixture of vandalism and profiteering."

Mr. Mayhew will also ask for provision to make sure that commercial TV companies do not shorten their programmes so that more advertisements can be brought in.

He is campaigning too against the way the Independent Television Authority allows the commercial companies to screen eight minutes of advertisements in an hour during peak programmes, instead of insisting that advertising should stay on an overall basis of six minutes an hour.

A soldier defied the breakers

Acting Lance-Corporal Peter Corrigan, from Cobham, Surrey, out on a rescue mission, remained at the controls of his amphibious DUKW even when the vehicle was pooped by heavy breakers off Christmas Island, Britain's H-bomb test station in the Pacific.

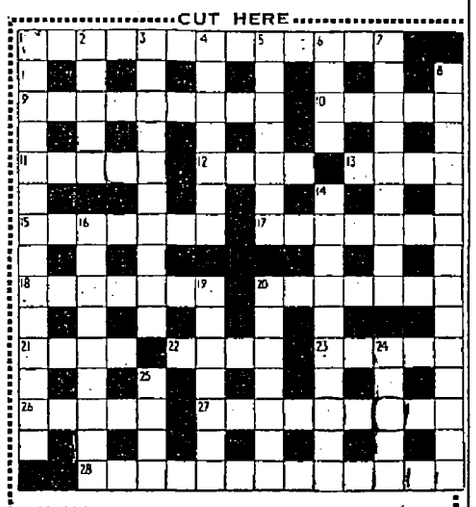
Last night it was announced that Corrigan, who was washed ashore, gets a British Empire Medal.

The Large Crossword

SOLVE today's Large Crossword correctly and then provide your own cryptic clue to the solution of 27 Across (look for the blob).

Fill in the coupon with your name, address, and your cryptic clue and send it with the completed crossword to Prize Crossword No. 509, Daily Express 4, Racquet-court, Fleet-street, London, E.C.4 (Comp.).

No member of the staff of Beaverbrook Newspapers Ltd., or any relative of a member, may compete.



Across

1. Arresting instrument of copper! (6, 7)
9. A climbing plant? Perhaps as Wilde sees it. (9)
10. Rovers on Scottish football grounds. (5)
11. Complaint of an ex-minister, mother. (5)
12. Stop prop! (4)
13. Mad little railway engine. (4)
15. Has a meal and makes all comfortable in retirement. (5, 2)
17. Just super, except for the golfer. (7)
18. Rather unusual attendants. (7)
20. Sinister curve allowed in heraldry? (7)
21. Trifles. (4)
22. My third opening is just a legend. (4)
23. She is back among some eggs. (5)
26. Said to be an exhilarating atmosphere. (5)
27. A dollar I'm getting for this animal. (9)
28. What sprinter after record seeks to do—early in the day. (9, 4)

Down

1. Inevitable fate before journey's end. (14)
2. Faithful servant in Belgium. (5)
3. Carey plows in wild chervil. (3-7)
4. Holiday period when we all hope the last part will be in evidence. (7)
5. Period of urgency? (7)
6. Worthy of repetition if good. (4)
7. A leader of the press. (9)
8. How we pay taxes, and snort! (7, 3, 4)
14. What bank managers almost beg one to do nowadays? (4, 6)
16. The way to cook honey in a groom's hands? (5-4)
19. Seaside bird? (7)
20. Where social conventions are set aside half's in serpentine surroundings. (7)
24. In a stew, mall's gone astray. (5)
25. Name, in part, of Diogenes. (4)

CUT HERE

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

.....

Cryptic clue .....

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..... 509

CUT HERE

DID YOU WIN THE 497TH PRIZE?

WINNER of the £2 2s. prize in the 497th Daily Express Crossword Contest was Mrs. E. M. Brown of Hillcrest, Cleeve Hill, Cheltenham, Glos. She sent in a correct solution and her cryptic clue to "Pernickety" was adjudged the best entered: "Cockney's pound mixed up with an awkward type!"

SOLUTION.—ACROSS: 1 Astonishment. 8, Opal. 9, P-er-nick-ety. 10, State. 11, Orbs. 12, A-stonied. 14 Graft. 15, Ac-clama-tion. 20, Kleptomania. 21, Bends. 23, Pause. 27, Area. 28, Terrier-ERR. 26, Italicises. 29, Arms. 30, Star-spangled. DOWN: 1, Approval. 2, Turn back. 3, Nail. 4, Sikes. 5, Methodist. 6, Totter. 7, Ai-as-tiff. 13, Yanks. 14, Gnome. 16, Ale-taster. 17, Entresol. 18, Harassed. 19, Network. 22, Duress. 24, Salop. 27, Icon(coin).



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