

Prime Minister's Speech on AddressCanadian Coal Situation

(Subject raised by hon. member for Lake Centre on Orders of the Day on Friday, Jan. 29. Material supplied by Coal Administrator and Labour Dept.)

West - Head of Lakes to the Pacific Coast

Shortages have occurred in many areas due to:

- (a) Loss of man power from the mines.
- (b) Greatly increased demand due to war industries, requirements for the Armed Forces, lack of wood fuel and the extremely severe winter.
- (c) Transportation difficulties due to increased traffic demands, heavy snow conditions and low temperature.
- (d) Strikes and slow down methods employed by the miners thereby seriously interfering with production; also greatly increased absenteeism.

Measures Taken to Meet the Situation

- (1) Granting of leave to miners in the Armed Forces to return to the mines. 285 already returned, others being actively canvassed.
- (2) Combing of industry by the National Selective Service to induce miners to return to their original employment. From Nov. 1st to Jan. 14th about 2,300 men placed in mines by Selective Service.
- (3) Adjustment of wage scales by the National War Labour Board.
- (4) Encouragement and financial assistance to operators to maintain and expand present production.