

MINING AND MINERALS

Miners In Soviet North Strike For Better Wages,
Protest Against Management

An unusual situation has arisen at the Severnaya mine belonging to the Vorkutaugol' Association. This mine is one of the best, not only in the polar region, but in the country as a whole. On 2 March, the first shift in section No. 9 announced that they were not coming out of the mine until the miners' demands were satisfied. Most of their demands were about wages. The second shift went underground, and also decided not to come back up again. Then the third shift went down to join them, then the fourth... By the morning of 3 March there were 107 people down the mine.

The miners did not resort to this extreme measure straight away. First of all, they took their questions to the mine's works council. This was in early February. The works council met and considered their demands, but the final result, on 20 February was a negative decision.

The miners also went to the association's deputy general financial director, A.A. Tsurupa and to the Party city committee, but got no satisfaction.

The Minister of the USSR Coal Industry M.I. Shhadov flew immediately to Vorkuta, as did his deputies A.P. Fisun, A.K. Belikov, V.V. Vil'chitskii and G.I. Nuzhdikhin, the chairman of the Central Committee of the Mineworkers' Union M.A. Srebnyi, and the secretary of the trade union's Central Committee, A.F. Chebotaev.