

# N QUARRY-MEN ON STRIKE

## Ribblesdale Dispute over New System

### 160 HANDS INVOLVED

The refusal of nine quarrymen, employed by the Settle Limes Company, to accept a new system of working has led to 160 quarryworkers withdrawing their labour from the Horton and Ribblesdale quarries at Horton-in-Ribblesdale this week.

The two quarries are owned by the Settle Limes Company—formerly known as John Delaney Ltd.—and the greater part of North Ribblesdale is affected by the dispute, the men residing at Settle, Langcliffe, Horton-in-Ribblesdale, Austwick, Stainforth and Helwith Bridge.

The strike began on Saturday morning, but was introduced a day or two previously when the nine men refused to accept a changed method of working, which was submitted along with a fresh rate of pay. The nine men, previously, it is understood, were paid on a tonnage rate, based on the lime drawn from the kilns. The quarry owners asked that the changed rate of pay should be according, not to the quantity of burnt lime but of the raw stone. The quarried stone, it was stated, would be weighed and the rate of pay would be fixed according to the weight.

The men contended that the new method of payment was not satisfactory and argued that they would not receive rates as high as formerly under the new system. As a compromise, they asked that the new rate should be tried over an experimental period on day work, but the owners, it is understood, were not able to accept the suggestion. A period was given the men to consider the new method and when the period expired, on Wednesday last week, the nine men were asked to accept the changed form of employment. They refused and were dismissed.

### NOT A PROLONGED STRIKE.

The rest of the men employed at the two quarries came out on strike on Saturday morning in sympathy with the nine men. The quarryworkers submit that the nine men, the direct cause of the dispute, should be taken back into employment and their wages based on the former system. The owners say that there will be no negotiation until the 160 men are back at work. A number of men are still at work, and the strikers have agreed to some men continuing in employment as a safety measure. They are to supervise the pumps and the other quarry machinery.

There was an open-air meeting of the strikers on Sunday at Settle, and another on Wednesday but it is understood, there has been no direct negotiation between the men and the owners. The men's case is, however, being handled by officials of the National Union of General Workers, and it is not thought the strike will be of long duration.

The leader of the strikers told a "Craven Herald" reporter that, so far as the general body of quarryworkers were concerned, they were satisfied at the rate of wages paid at the quarries.

Only the nine men were directly involved and they asked that they should receive

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AFFAIRS Woman and  
The man of the Settle Limes Company declined to make any statement on the position. He told our reporter, however, that he did not think the dispute would be a prolonged one.