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RUMANIA

FORCED LABOR

Hundreds of young Rumanian boys of 14 to 17 years, recruited in Working Youth Brigades, are employed in heavy and exhausting work unsuitable for their age.

About 450 such youngsters are working in coal mines at RESA COCETIN. The Central Coal Board, anxious to increase the output, directs the boys to these mines after a few days of preliminary training, and the administration makes them compete in work with skilled and experienced miners.

Their living conditions are most unsatisfactory. They are accommodated in groups of 20 to 30 in one room. Catering service is irregular, and often they go to bed hungry and worn out.

A preliminary health survey after two months of work showed about 35 per cent of TB among the boys, including 17 cases of tuberculosis of bones. The medical officer was obliged to report that almost all youngsters suffered from undernourishment and overstrain.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: May - June 1951

EVAL. COMMENT: Source : usually correct
Information: confirmed by other sources.