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| 1884 | *Italian Heavy Artillery Ammunition.*
<pre><code>  | Memo: by General Staff, Telegram No. 352 from General Delme Radcliffe to C.I.G.S. August 28th, 1917. Telegram from C.I.G.S. to General Delme Radcliffe 40254 cipher. | 18/4/39  |            |
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<p>| 1885 | <em>Russian Operations.</em> Telegram from General Barter to C.I.G.S. No. 102 M. | 18/E/74  | 27.8.17    |
| 1886 | <em>Russian Operations.</em> Telegram from General Barter to C.I.G.S.         | 18/E/74  | 25.8.17    |
| 1887 | <em>Food Production Schemes.</em> Ireland. Memorandum prepared in compliance with Chief Secretary's Minute of March 17th 1917. | 3/2/1    | 29.8.17    |
| 1888 | <em>Horse and Mules with the British and French Armies in France in the middle of June 1917.</em> Circulated with reference to War Cabinet 125 Minute 12 (F) of 24th April, 1917. | 30/A/2    |            |
| 1889 | <em>Italian Operations.</em> Telegram from General Delme Radcliffe No. 353.    | 18/H/39  | 28.8.17    |
| 1890 | <em>Supply of Winter Clothing to the Russian Army.</em> Note by the Secretary of State for War. | 18/W/66  | 28.8.17    |
| 1891 | <em>Report from the Ministry of Labour on the labour situation for the week ended August 29th, 1917.</em> | 3/04/1    |            |
| 1892 | <em>State of Ireland.</em> Memorandum by the Chief Secretary for Ireland.     | 22/E/8    | 30.8.17    |
| 1893 | <em>Italian Operations.</em> Telegram from General Delme Radcliffe No. 356.    | 18/H/39  | 29.8.17    |
| 1894 | <em>Telegram from Viceroy Foreign Department. No. 916 25th August, 1917.</em>  | 18/P/15   |            |
| 1895 | <em>The Proposed Inter-Ally Transport Conference.</em> Note by the Secretary.  | 18/B/23   | 31.8.17    |
| 1896 | <em>Russian Operations.</em> Telegram from General Barter to C.I.G.S. No. 104 M. | 18/E/74.  | 29.8.17    |
| 1897 | <em>Food Production.</em> Report relating to the War Work of the Board of Agriculture for Scotland for the Week ending 29th August, 1917.* | 3/Q/3    |            |
| 1898 | <em>Board of Agriculture and Fisheries.</em> Report for week ending 29th August.* | 3/Q/5    |            |</p>
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Dear Sir Maurice Hankey,

Adverting to previous correspondence with regard to the co-ordination of Fire Brigades in the Metropolitan Police area for the purpose of securing increased protection in the case of air raids, Sir Edward Troup desires me to send you the accompanying copy of a draft Defence of the Realm Regulation which we are proposing to put up for consideration at the next Meeting of the Defence of the Realm Committee.

Yours faithfully,

(ad) A.L. Dixon.

Enclosure.

DRAFT REGULATION.

(1) Where a Secretary of State is satisfied as respects any area that it is expedient for the better protection of that area from fire that, in case of an air raid or apprehended air raid, the fire brigades and fire appliances in that area or any of them should be employed under single control, he may by order:

(a) constitute the area a special fire brigade area and define the limits thereof;

(b) provide that, in case of an air raid or apprehended air raid, the fire brigades in the special area or any of them shall co-operate in accordance with a scheme approved by him, and shall, for the purpose of carrying...
out such scheme, act under the directions of a single authority, being the Chief Officer of one of the Fire Brigades in the special area or such other person or authority as may be specified in the Order;

(c) make such additional and supplemental provisions as appear to him to be necessary for the purpose of giving full effect to the Order;

and a Secretary of State may also from time to time give such directions as appear to him expedient for the purpose of giving full effect to the Order.

(2) All Officers and members of fire brigades in the area to which the order applies shall comply with the directions of the Secretary of State, and with the directions of the authority specified in the Order.

(3) The powers conferred by this regulation on the Secretary of State shall as respects any area situated in Scotland be exercised by the Secretary for Scotland.
THE AMERICAN ATTITUDE TO THE WAR.

Although four months have elapsed since the United States came in there are still signs that the American people is not yet fully awake to the gravity of the situation. In the Eastern cities, where the people naturally possess a greater knowledge of their responsibilities undertaken by their country in entering the War, the position is regarded with a confidence which may be as dangerous as indifference. In the States more distant from the capital cities of Washington and New York ignorance of the causes of the War, and the reasons actuating their Government in joining forces with the Allies is more general and is naturally accompanied by lack of interest which may conceivably develop into antagonism to the sacrifices demanded.

This attitude is by no means confined to the general public but it is in evidence in many sections of political, religious and journalistic life which lead the thought and inspire the action of the nation. Amongst the evidences of this is the difficulty experienced in securing, without endless delay, the assent of Congress to the various motions brought forward giving to the Executive the powers necessary for the proper prosecution of the War.

Our Publicity Department in conjunction with the corresponding Department set up in America is doing everything possible to energise journalistic circles in the United States and to provide them with the material necessary. But journalism even in full work - and it is very far from being in full war-work yet in the United States - is only one of the agencies controlling public opinion, and it is important to see what steps can be taken to bring other opinion-controlling sections into closer touch with the ideals for which England and France are fighting and with the gigantic efforts which the Allied nations on this side of the Atlantic are making, thus giving them a clearer view of the duties and responsibilities to which the United States has committed itself if it is to do its part in the War.

The first to be attacked on these lines is Congress itself, whose members are not only able, through their platforms and political organisations spread throughout the country, to influence and arouse public opinion, but have through their actions and speeches in Congress the power to assist or hamper, to hasten or delay the work of the President and of every Government Department.

For these reasons it is suggested that immediate steps should be taken to invite Congress to send as many representatives as may be willing to come, to visit this country, France and Belgium, so as to be brought personally into touch with the work in progress behind the lines, on the fighting front, in holding up the Navies of our enemies and in maintaining the sea routes. These representatives would at the same time obtain a more intimate knowledge of and a closer sympathy with the methods and aims of their Allies and would have an opportunity to compare them with the brutalities of Germany the effects of which would be driven home with a force impossible except by a personal visit to Belgium and Northern France. It would be astonishing if the majority if not all who come over did not return to the United States imbued with a War Spirit that would influence Congress and the American people to more determination and energy.
As there is in the United States a Party which always looks with suspicion if not with antagonism on any British move, it is important that if an invitation be sent, France and possibly Italy should join in it.

It is therefore suggested:—

1. That Mr. Page, the American Ambassador should be consulted as to the wisdom of issuing a joint invitation from Great Britain, France and Italy on the lines suggested above.

2. That in the event of Mr. Page concurring, the French and Italian Governments be immediately asked to join us in sending an invitation to the members of Congress to come over as the guests of the Allied Governments to visit this country and the French, Belgian and Italian Fronts.

(Sgd) John Buchan.

Dept. of Information,
Foreign Office.

August 8th, 1917.
Dear Mr. Balfour,

At last I am able to send you the formula you asked me for. If His Majesty's Government will send me a message on the lines of this formula, if they and you approve of it, I will hand it on to Zionist Federation and also announce it at a meeting called for that purpose. I am sorry to say our opponents have commenced their campaign by a most reprehensible manoeuvre, namely to excite a disturbance by the cry of British Jews versus Foreign Jews, they commenced this last Sunday when at the Board of Deputies they challenged the new elected officers as to whether they were all of English birth (myself among them).

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) ROTHSCHILD.

Enclosure to (1).

Draft Declaration.

1. His Majesty's Government accepts the principle that Palestine should be reconstituted as the National Home of the Jewish people.

2. His Majesty's Government will use its best endeavours to secure the achievement of this object and will discuss the necessary methods and means with the Zionist Organisation.

III.

Draft reply to Lord Rothschild from Mr. Balfour.

Foreign Office,
August 1917.

Dear Lord Rothschild,

In reply to your letter of July 18th, I am glad to be in a position to inform you that His Majesty's Government accept the principle that Palestine should be reconstituted as the national home of the Jewish people.

His Majesty's Government will use their best endeavours to secure the achievement of this object and will be ready to consider any suggestions on the subject which the Zionist Organisation may desire to lay before them.

(Initialled) A.J.B.
SECRET.

WAR CABINET.

G. T. 1803 A.

THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT.

Alternative, by Lord Milner, to Draft Declaration.
See II of Paper G.T. 1803.

Draft Declaration.

"His Majesty's Government accepts the principle that every opportunity should be afforded for the establishment of a home for the Jewish people in Palestine, and will use its best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, and will be ready to consider any suggestions on the subject which the Zionist organizations may desire to lay before them."

-:-:-:-:-:-:-:-:-:-
Until sufficient evidence to the contrary is forthcoming, it may be doubted whether the German Government will seriously endeavour to make much capital out of the announcement of the British Government's refusal of passes for Stockholm. The German Radical and Socialist Press is being allowed to denounce the Western Allies' decision, but the supporters of the present system in Germany opposed the original visit of Scheidemann and his colleagues and are probably inclined to rate their own Government for not adopting the attitude of the Western Powers towards the Stockholm Conferences. Mr. Gerard's latest revelations as to the real German terms of peace, the authenticity of which seems beyond doubt, will show the German Majority Socialists how they have been tricked and used as decoy ducks in order to entice the Western Democracies into a snare with those terms at the end of it. At present it is naturally the cue of the German Majority Socialists to denounce the Western Allies' decision and to throw the entire odium of it on the British Government. There is a violent article in the Socialist Vorwärts of August 14 in this strain. It is worth noting that the Vorwärts in this article brackets America with England and talks of "England and America and their satellites" as refusing passes and "brutally interrupting the work of reconciliation begun at Stockholm". The separate denunciation of France and Italy seasoned to suit French and Italian Socialist palates will doubtless follow in due course. The Vorwärts at the same time denounces Kerenski's present action as "in no way differing from that of the Cadet Miljukoff last May, which cost him his office". This is merely bad temper, since the German Conservative Press
has already been holding up the Russian extremists as a warning to the German people against giving their own Socialists any influence upon the conduct of the war or upon foreign policy. The Conservative press likewise points out that no hopes of a reasonable (i.e. a German) peace can be built upon the views of the Western Socialists or of the English Labour Party. "The French Socialists do not renounce Alsace-Lorraine, and the English Labour Party demands the restoration of and compensation to Belgium, the restoration of Poland, etc." (Kreuzzeitung, August 14).

The organ of the great Rhénish and Westphalian ironmasters, dealing with the conditions of peace adopted by the English Labour Party after its decision to send representatives to Stockholm, says:

"Some German papers look upon these ridiculous conditions, which could only be realised by the complete overthrow of Germany, as the beginning of an international understanding. Some people are only too pleased if the enemy stops short of annexing half Germany". (Rheinisch-Westfälisch Leitung).

But the future attitude of Labour in England and elsewhere will doubtless be carefully watched.

2. Comments on the Pope's peace initiative are still undecided - perhaps purposely so, I have found, so far as Germany is concerned, some confirmation of this assertion in a Berlin paper of August 14, that, according to a well-informed politician, "the Pope is too good and too sharp-witted to be a diplomatist to have undertaken such a step without previously assuring himself as to how such a step would be received". The Kreuzzeitung of August 5 said:

"If the Pope is going to make detailed proposals as to the aims which Germany must attain in the understanding about peace and as to the means by which that understanding must be brought about, then our confidence in his neutrality will be seriously shaken".

It looks as if this extreme Protestant paper had received an early hint that a peace initiative by the Pope was about to be published. Both protestant and free-thinking Germany would, as
in the past, take alarm if the Pope were to interfere in internation-

el politics. In this connection the suggestion is already being

made in the German Press that after the war the question of a guar-

antee of the neutrality of Papal territory will once more come up

and may take practical shape. All this shows on what dangerous

ground the German Government would be treading if it were to en-
courage Papal initiative.

The Pope's reference to Alsace-Lorraine in his note

is very vague, but his hint about "taking into account as far as

is just and possible the aspirations of the peoples" is not re-
garded as a suggestion of a plébiscite. The Holy See's memories

of the plébiscite of 1870 in Rome cannot be agreeable. After

Rome had been entered on September 20 of that year by Victor

Emanuel's troops under General Cadorna, a vote of the inhabitants

was taken, when 133,681 votes were given for union with the

Kingdom of Italy and only 1,507 against.

3. There is no reason to believe that Michaelis' adhesion
to the Reichstag non-annexationist resolution of July 19 is any

more sincere than were the assurances which Bethmann-Hollweg was

understood to have given to the Majority Socialists, and which

were confirmed in private letters (Harnack's revelations), on the

subject of annexations and indemnities. Indeed, all the private

reports which have been received, such as those from Copenhagen

and from Lausanne, indicate that Germany certainly contemplates

annexations on her Eastern frontier in some cases with the ex-
pected aid of the Independence movements in the Ukraine and in

Finland. According to one of these reports "Germany is willing
to guarantee the position of the Ukraine as an independent state

on condition that Germany should have the neighbouring part of
South Russia and that Ukrainian troops should hold the Eastern
front for them". In this connection the journeys of Mgs.
Szeptycki, Metropolitan of the Uniate Greek-Ruthenian Church at
Lemberg, are exciting attention, especially in the French and
Swiss press. Szeptycki, who was an active agent of the Ruthenian policy of Austria in Galicia before the war, was deported to Siberia on the Russian occupation of Lemberg and was very harshly treated. The Revolution has set him at liberty, but his sympathies remain entirely Ukrainian. He has recently been at Lausanne, whence he has been endeavouring - it is said unsuccessfully - to communicate with the Pope - and has now proceeded to Lucerne to meet Erbsberger. His influence in the Ukraine is very great, and it is regarded as very remarkable that as a member of the Polish aristocracy he should have devoted himself to the cause of Ruthenian or Ukrainian nationality.

The annexationist German press endeavours to make out that Michaelis' revelations regarding the secret Franco-Russian treaty on the future of the left bank of the Rhine entirely altered the basis upon which the Reichstag voted its resolution against all annexations. Michaelis himself, in his interpretation of the Reichstag resolution, spoke of "guarantees" for the existence of the German Empire upon the Continent and overseas. He believed that this, among other aims, could be obtained within the limits of the Reichstag resolution. He doubtless interprets "guarantees" in the same sense as Bethmann-Hollweg, i.e. "rectifications of frontier" and German economic and military control over Belgium.

4. At the beginning of the fourth year of the war, German public opinion is being hardened by the circulation in the whole press of figures showing the amount of enemy territory occupied by the German armies, the Entente losses in killed, wounded and prisoners, the Entente tonnage sunk, and the war expenditure of the Entente Powers as compared with that of the Central Powers. The 548,700 sq. km. (more than the superficies of the whole German Empire), which Germany claims to have occupied, is doubtless regarded as a pledge in her hands for the peace negotiations.
5. Comforting assurances are being given with regard to the state of the German exchange. It is pointed out that the discount on the French Exchange is now 23½ and on the Italian 40½. At the time when the German Exchange had not sunk below the first-mentioned discount, there were plenty of comments in the French press upon its desperate condition. But now even the pound sterling is at a discount of 16½ in Switzerland. The view is expressed that after the war the foreign exchange will be improved for Germany by the immediate export of German goods of all kinds, although a further temporary fall may have to be faced in order to import raw materials which are absolutely necessary. In this connection the Chamber of Commerce of Königsberg has addressed a petition to the Imperial Chancellor deprecating the proposals for the official tutelage and regulation of exports and imports after the war. The view is expressed that the less official regulation and coercion, the better the chances of recovery for German industry and commerce.

6. Preparations for the new German loan are going on and great importance is attached to getting farmers to subscribe; it has been suggested that the payment of the instalments should be arranged to fall due so that the farmers would have the proceeds of their crops in hand at the time when payments would have to be made. The bonds, it is urged, should also be delivered directly to the applicant against payment, in order to simplify matters for agricultural subscribers.

7. To correct last Report: It appears that the Prussian Minister of Public Works, von Breitenbach, is to remain vice-President of the Prussian Ministry, while Helfferich joins that Ministry without a portfolio. Helfferich is to be vice-Chancellor in the Empire, and it looks as though his main work is intended to be in the direction of peace proposals and negotiations.

G.S.
21. 8. 17.
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G.S.
21. 8. 17.
Dear Sir Maurice Hankey,

With reference to your letter dated 2nd July, the particulars to date as regards oil fuel stocks are as follows:

(a) Stock of oil fuel in the United Kingdom this morning 638,000 Tons.
(b) On the way from loading Ports. 247,000
(c) Quantities for which it is anticipated shipping will be available during the ensuing four weeks. 450,000

The estimated increase under item (c) is mainly due to increased shipments of oil in the double bottoms of cargo steamers.

Yours very truly,

(sgd) H.H.D. TOTHILL.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONVOY</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>No. of ships convoyed</th>
<th>Losses in Convoy</th>
<th>Per-centage of loss</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>From</td>
<td>To</td>
<td>This week</td>
<td>Previous figures</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Atlantic</td>
<td>24:5:17</td>
<td>16:8:17</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gibraltar</td>
<td>10:5:17</td>
<td>16:8:17</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scandinavian</td>
<td>20:4:17</td>
<td>16:8:17</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>2792</td>
<td>2993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lerwick</td>
<td>3:17</td>
<td>16:8:17</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>6062</td>
<td>6460</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humber</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTALS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>710</td>
<td>11151</td>
<td>11861</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Note) One outward convoy of nine Brazilian ships was escorted clear of danger zone and was reported safe.

Naval War Staff, Admiralty.
## WAR CABINET

### PROGRESS ON DEFENSIVE ARMING

OF MERCHANT SHIPS.

Return for week ending 18th August, 1917.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Gun</th>
<th>Guns available for defensive arming on 18th Aug., 1917.</th>
<th>Additional number of ships armed during week ending 12-8-17. (Included in Col. [E].)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Actually mounted in ships</td>
<td>Now in hand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(A) 6-in</td>
<td>(B) 116</td>
<td>(C) 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.7-in</td>
<td>519</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-in</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-pdr.</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-pdr.</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-pdr.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-pdr.</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-in</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-pdr. 18-cwt</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-pdr. 12-cwt</td>
<td>963</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-pdr. 8-cwt</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-pdr.</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-millimetre</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-pdr. Vickers</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-pdr.</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-pdr. Single Tube</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-pdr. Hotchkiss</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[\text{Total} = 2792 + 61 = 2853\]

\[\text{Excluding 637 losses due to war and marine casualties.}\]

\[\text{Or in case of 6-in guns - awaiting arrival of suitable vessel.}\]
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE MAJOR POWER COMMITTEE (vide War Cabinet 201, Minute 1) held at 2, Whitehall Gardens at 3.30 p.m. on August 21st, 1917.

Present:
Lord Milner (in the Chair)
Lt.-General J. C. Smuts.
Mr. G. N. Borne, M.P.

The following also attended:
Sir Auckland C. Geddes, K.C.B.
Mr. Geo. H. Roberts, M.P.
Mr. G. M. Hodgson.
Mr. Sandford Fawcett.
Captain The Hon. W. Ormsby Gore, M.P.
(Secretary)

The Committee considered the Memorandum (G.T. 1736) by the Director General of National Service, dated 16th August, 1917 entitled "Payment of Substitution Volunteers", and a copy of a letter No. 23517/17 dated July 18th, 1917 addressed by the Secretary to the Treasury to the Secretary of the National Service Department.

The Committee decided that National Service Substitution Volunteers should be indemnified against loss of rates of pay on transfer in the same manner, and should be treated in the matter of pay and allowances, as War Munitions Volunteers, and instructed the Secretary to draft a letter to the Treasury (copy attached) informing that Department of the Committee's decision.

2, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.
22nd. August, 1917.
Sir,

I am directed to inform you that the Cabinet Committee, consisting of Lord Milner, Mr. Barnes and General Smuts, which was appointed by Minute 1 of War Cabinet 201 to examine and decide on behalf of the Cabinet all questions of recruiting and man-power, have had under their examination the question of the rates of pay to be given to National Service Substitution Volunteers, which formed the subject of your letter No.23517/17 of 18th July, 1917. After giving careful consideration to that letter and the communication enclosed with it from the Ministry of Labour, the Committee have come to the conclusion that it is impossible, having regard to the pledges given in this matter by the Government and to the urgent need of expediting the Substitution Scheme, to treat the National Service Substitution Volunteers differently from the War Munitions Volunteers, and that the provisions as to rates of pay and separation allowance which prevail with regard to the latter class of Volunteers should be extended to the former.

A copy of this letter has been sent to the Director-General of National Service.

I am

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd). W. Ormsby Gore.

Assistant Secretary.

Sir T. L. Heath, K.C.B.,
E.C.V.O., F.R.S.

TREASURY, S.W.
From Sir P. Cox, Baghdad, 20th August 1917.

(Addressed to Foreign, repeated to Secretary of State.)

(Received at India Office, 21st August, 11.30 a.m.)

3321. Reference to Secretary of State's telegram dated 14th August re Mesopotamia Administration.

I sent Army Commander a copy. In reply Chief of General Staff writes as follows:—

(1) Army Commander has not yet received any communication on the subject from Government, but takes it for granted that one will follow.

(2) Meanwhile Army Commander considers that there need be no delay in carrying out wishes of His Majesty's Government, and suggests that a force routine order be published notifying my assumption of title of Civil Commissioner.

(3) As regards submission of reports Army Commander suggests that they should be addressed to His Majesty's Government direct, provided that I send him a copy of all such reports before despatch in order that he may talk over with me any points raised therein prior to their being sent off.

(4) As regards attachment of a General Staff Officer to me Army Commander suggests that I am in such close touch with General Staff, and that relations of Intelligence Branch with my Office are so intimate that nothing would be gained by such an appointment.

My comment is as follows:—

1. Nil.
2. I concur if His Majesty's Government approve.
3. I accept procedure proposed provided that it is understood that it involves no specific obligation on my part to modify reports after discussion with Army Commander unless I see good reason to do so.
4. I concur.
The Meeting of the Chamber.

Further information to hand, especially from the Greek press, elucidates certain facts as to what took place at the meeting of the Chamber. At the first meeting at which there was a quorum (on August 1) the Venizelist candidate for the presidency of the Chamber, Mr Sophoulis, was, as has already been stated, elected by 180 votes to 12. It now appears that only 13 non-Venizelist members were present, including the Independent Mr Pop, Messrs Basias and Karapanos (the latter of whom was Minister of Foreign Affairs in Mr Kaloyeropoulos' Government last year), and two Socialists, Kouriel and Sidheris. Kouriel, on behalf of the tiny Socialist Party, proposed the election of his colleague Sidheris, accompanying the proposal with a protest against the continuance of a "bastard régime of monarchical democracy" and demanding that the future constitution of Greece should depend on the people's will. He only secured two votes for his proposal.

English press reports of the Speech from the Throne curiously enough omit one of the most important sentences. At the end of the second paragraph, as reported in the English press, come the words: "We have repealed the decree which, by a violation of the Constitution, dissolved the Chamber, and have convoked this Chamber for its regular second session". These words are followed in the original by the important addition: "in order that there should succeed it before long
the convocation of the Revisionist Assembly. It is to this last promise that the Greek press pays particular attention, and Nea Ellas, one of the most extreme and influential of the Venizelist papers, makes two points with regard to the King's Speech.

(1) That the decision whether or no the Monarchy is to be continued is not to be left to the Assembly, the duties of which are declared to be "to revise the Constitution founded on the people's sovereignty and to consolidate it and with it the Throne". Nea Ellas adds that if the Monarchy is to be kept, while of course its powers will be strongly and specifically limited in future, greater attention must be paid to the removal of all the bad influences which under Constantine's régime brought the country to ruin. It mournfully admits that no legal restrictions can prevent the growth of autocracy, but hopes that the Greek democracy is now educated and watchful enough to guard against a repetition of Constantine's conspiracy against democracy.

(2) The second and more important point is the fact that the new Assembly is to be not a Constituent (Sindaktiki) but a Revisionist (Anatheeritiki) one. That is to say that the Constitution is not to be thrown into the melting-pot, but is merely to be revised with the object of limiting the powers of the Monarch on points on which he was only restrained vaguely and by convention. It may be added that this character which is to be given to the Assembly is very typical of Venizelos' policy as a whole. It will be remembered that in 1910 when he was invited to Greece to save the country from the chaos into which it had fallen, Venizelos, in spite of an overwhelming popular demand for a Constituent Assembly,
firmly announced and persisted in his intention of merely
summoning a Revisionist one.

The New White Book.

On August 18 a White Book was laid before the Chamber
containing 77 documents dealing with the ambiguous and
treachery attitude of King Constantine and the successive
anti-Venizelist Governments. As the book itself has not yet
come to hand and we are dependent merely on telegraphic
resumés of the more important documents, a detailed consideration
of it must be postponed. Supposing that the accounts wired
are accurate, the White Book gives even stronger proof of the
pro-German attitude of the ex-King than hitherto existed.
For instance, anti-Venizelists in their attempts to conciliate
the Entente Powers were always eager to point out that King
Constantine himself had at once rejected the German Emperor's
invitation to co-operate with him and had thereby proved his
perfect neutrality and friendliness towards the Entente. The
new documents published show that even from August 1914 King
Constantine was working in the German interests.

As to the proofs of the Skouloudhis Government's complicity
in the occupation of Port Rupel there is little fresh information,
for most of the documents had already appeared nearly a year
ago in the Patris.

The Greco-Serbian treaty of alliance is also published in
the White Book.

Greco-Italian Relations.

Attention may be called to a leading article in Nea Ellas
headed "The significance of the Greco-Italian Rapprochement".
The article deals with the question of Greco-Italian relations and especially with the future of Northern Epirus. While it insists on the Greek character of Northern Epirus and the Dodecanese and Greece's racial claims to them, it pleads very strongly for a friendly understanding with Italy. It expresses its satisfaction with the decision of the Paris Conference that Epirus (except for the triangle of land in Poghomiani) is to be evacuated by the Italian troops. The writer does not know whether to put this down to the good offices of the British and French Governments or to a more conciliatory attitude on the part of Italy or, in part, of both. It hopes that the future of Northern Epirus will be definitely decided by the Peace Conference and that Greece's claims will not then be overlooked. The article is typical of the best Venizelist writing on the subject of Greco-Italian relations and well follows up the two interviews in the Italian press by Mr Venizelos himself and Mr Kikhalakopoulos, which have been referred to in Weekly Report No. 8.

Unfortunately the proposed evacuation of Epirus by the Italian troops does not appear to have yet taken place.

22.8.17.

AFAL.
Circulated by the Secretary of State for India.

SECRET.

From Viceroy, Foreign Department, 21st August 1917.
(Received at 10 p.m.)

Secret. Weekly report. North-West Frontier quiet except for fight between Turis and Jajis near Lakatiga, with three Jajis and one Turi killed. Nawab of Dir has subjugated rebel Khans and conquered whole of Jandol.

No change in the military situation in India or Afghanistan.
The principal event that has occurred in Spain since the report of July 25 has been the attempt at a general strike, which was also, on the part of its leaders, an attempt at a revolution. The Censorship which was removed for a few days was revived on August 7th, and this prevents our knowing in any detail what has happened; but the broad fact is certain that, even as a strike, and still more as an attempt to upset the Monarchy the movement has definitely failed. Some of the Socialist leaders of the revolution with at least one Deputy have been arrested; the leader of the Reformist party, Senor Melquiades Alvares, who with his party lately united with the Republicans, is stated to be in hiding; the large majority of the strikers made no attempt at violence and seem to have been rather lukewarm about the whole business; the Catalan Senators and Deputies refused their support; the Government showed firmness and decision and was strongly supported by practically the whole Press as well as by leading statesmen such as, among others, the former Prime Minister, Count Romanones; the Army gave no support to the Revolutionaries, but on the contrary obeyed its orders, both in suppressing disturbances and in keeping the railway service going. The result must be a great disappointment to the Extremists and their sympathisers abroad who, like the Paris Humanité, proclaimed that this time they were going to finish once for all with the existing system. The measure of their failure is seen in the announcement today (21st) that the Government has felt strong enough to release the soldiers who had been called to the colours.
Yet, as has often been pointed out, the maintenance of order, if the most essential and elementary duty of Governments, is not the whole duty nor perhaps the most important. The ancien régime in France maintained order pretty well, and so did Napoleon III. But to do that is only to deal with the symptoms of the disease, not to touch its causes. That is good so far as it goes because the symptoms of the revolutionary fever are very contagious if they appear in the open. But if the disease itself is not dealt with, it is sure sooner or later to break out into an open epidemic.

The present epidemic has been got under. But how long will it be before it breaks out again? That is the really important question. A country in which not in one town only but in many, the gravest disorders have occurred; in which all but passenger traffic on the railways has been largely at a standstill; in which trains have been wrecked, and collisions between troops and strikers have occurred, not apparently on a large scale indeed, but in many places and generally with some loss of life; in which a more or less openly Anarchist and revolutionary movement is attempted in many towns, and has to be met by martial law; above all, in a country in which discontent with the existing state of things is so acute and universal that it finds expression in the most moderate circles, cannot be said to be in a condition in which any observer can safely prophesy smooth things about it.

Why did this attempt fail? On July 24th the "Times" correspondent at Madrid, writing of the Barcelona meeting of Senators and Deputies, seemed to regard it as a victory over the Government, and added: "We appear now to be reaching a critical stage in this struggle. The Government is losing rather than gaining ground...The leaders of the movement believe that Senor Dato will resign, but if their conviction proves to be erroneous and the Prime Minister sticks to his post, then revolution will have the last word. It will start by the proclamation of a..."
general strike". Well, a month has passed, Senor Deto has not resigned; the general strike has been declared; but the revolution has not so far by any means had the last word. On the contrary in the "Times" of August 20th, the same correspondent writes a long article on its failure, and gives the unexpected "capacity and determination of the Government" as one of the reasons why it failed. The British Ambassador, who held that the Government was 'morally victorious' at Barcelona, and never believed in the success of a Revolution, has proved a truer prophet.

The truth again seems to be that journalists who live in a capital among other journalists, whose very life is political excitement and agitation, almost always exaggerate the possibilities of revolution. They tend in particular to forget that loud talkers do not always show up well when it comes to action and that - particularly in a country like Spain, very backward and uneducated - they are very far from representing the masses of the people.

In Spain the immense majority are totally ignorant of politics and totally indifferent to them; so much so that they either refuse to vote at all (Spaniards say that in many elections no votes, or almost none, are actually cast: the figures given being merely inserted by the Mayor!), or vote as the local cacique or "boss" tells them, without any knowledge of parties or politics. A writer in one of the Conservative papers has even said in a recent article demanding 'drastic and radical' reforms, making universal suffrage a reality instead of an 'empty phrase', that in the present state of things, the Government would always find itself returned by a large majority at a General election, even if it completely abstained from interfering in the elections as it does at present. So great, he thinks, is the ignorance and apathy of the electorate.
This apathy has probably been one of the causes of the failure of the present movement. But the most important causes are the loyalty of the army and the unwillingness of the politicians to go to extremes at present. The army got what it wanted in its recent battle with the Government, and what it wanted was not Revolution. The officers were ready to play with revolutionary programmes and vote for another King, or even a Republic, if they did not get their way in their professional objects. But they did get it. And having done so they returned to the anti-revolutionary position natural to their profession, class and education. The Jesuits do not educate revolutionaries. And what is equally important, the men who are mainly illiterate peasants, have shown no disposition to disobey their officers.

Probably the attitude of the Barcelona politicians was an even greater disappointment to the revolutionaries. But they knew better than anybody the incapacity of most of the revolutionary leaders, and they knew better than foreign correspondents the probable strength and firmness of the Government. Moreover, about half of those who met at Barcelona were Conservatives, whose objects were Regionalist, but the very opposite of revolutionary. And the Regionalist policy has not been by any means absolutely repudiated by the existing powers. In fact the Conservatives, as Senor Dato has lately reminded the Spanish public, have always shown themselves favourable to the reasonable demands of the Catalans. The Regionalist party then, and the politicians generally, were not ready to despair of constitutional methods. And the defeat of the revolutionary strike may be taken as disposing for the time being of the "maximalist" or revolutionary policy which will now go into the background and will not come out again until the Minimalist policy, that is a peaceful and constitutional, but radical and serious reform of the present system, has openly failed or been finally rejected by the King.
That is where the situation is at present. It was reported, by the British Consul at Barcelona and other authorities that the Senators and Deputies who met at Barcelona intended to have another meeting on August 12th or 19th, probably at Valladolid, to formulate their demands for the revision of the Constitution and present them to the King himself, ignoring the Cabinet, and, in case of refusal, to follow their action up by stronger measures. But nothing has so far been heard of such a meeting. It is very doubtful whether the Catalans really care about any Regionalism except their own and whether they do not demand something like separation for themselves, which the other provinces of Spain would never concede. Provincial feeling and differences have a life and reality in Spain which it is difficult for a Frenchman or even for an Englishman to understand. If the world after the war, as some good judges think, is to find its best hope in the undoing of the centralisation of the last 200 years, and especially of the nineteenth century, it will find its task easier in Spain than elsewhere. But Regionalism is one thing and Separatism another, and Regionalism is far easier in the sphere of culture than of politics. Still it ought not to be impossible to take some steps in the direction of self-government without arousing dangerous rivalries or impossible hopes. But neither Regionalism nor any other reform will come to much unless the existing make-believe political system can be made a reality. The events of the last few days have given Senor Dato a respite for a few weeks or perhaps months. He does not appear to have any intention of dissolving immediately, and without a dissolution he would be dependent on the support of Count Romanones and his followers, which, Spaniards say, would be a position no Prime Minister could accept without a fatal loss of dignity. But the dissolution cannot be postponed beyond a few months. Will he attempt any real reform? Apparently not. For though he declares that his
policy is one of frankly democratic progress and that in this he has the active support of the King, yet he defends the existing party system and is said to be "preparing" elections in the usual way by a wholesale appointment of new Mayors. Can the leopard change his spots? Can a Spanish politician who has long been in and out of office on the present rotativist system really make up his mind to do away with so convenient and profitable an arrangement? And if he cannot, what will happen?

It is hard for a foreigner to guess. But the dissatisfaction, even of those who are or have been themselves in the machine, seems so strong and universal that it is difficult to believe the system can maintain itself very much longer. The British Ambassador thinks the best opinion of Spain desires to postpone constitutional questions till after the war. On the other hand some Spaniards, who are strongly pro-Ally, urge that the present moment is the moment for action, and we know that Senor Azoarrete, the veteran Reformist leader, told the King some weeks ago that if the need for action was not urgent, it was only because it was already too late. The suggestion is made that British institutions have so much prestige in Spain generally and with the King in particular that the British Ambassador might well take the lead in urging His Majesty to adopt a real English Parliamentary system based on honest elections such as those held in England, where, to the utter amazement of Spaniards, the Government which dissolves is frequently defeated. No such thing has ever happened in Spain. If such a reform were carried out it is said that it would be greatly to the advantage of the Allies. For at present, however friendly Senor Dato, and still more Marquis Léná, his Foreign Minister, may be, they have to work through a hierarchy of officials, civil and military, who are mainly pro-German; and in the absence of the popular support which a free political system would produce, they are often unable to enforce
their policy if it is unpalatable to their subordinates. At this moment, for instance, it is said that the submarine decree is very imperfectly carried out. Will the King, with or without British advice, try something of this kind? If he goes on with the existing system, it is said that the fall of Senor Dato would probably mean that Senor Basada, a pro-German of the pro-Germans, would become Prime Minister. That would be a disaster for Spain and an inconvenience, if nothing worse, for the Allies. The wiser policy would seem to be, even at this eleventh hour, to attempt to form a National Cabinet and with that object to approach the Reformists, who, more than any other party, represent the intellectual life of Spain, and ask them whether, in spite of Senor Ascarate's words, they will not even now rally at once to the Monarchy and help to reform instead of breaking up the existing institutions of their country. It is hard to believe that they would refuse; and hard to believe that such a move on the part of the King and its acceptance by them would not give the Monarchy the assurance of a new lease of stability. The country would not think of Revolution till the new experiment had had a fair trial.

This seems to outside observers the wisest course for the King and perhaps the last chance for the Monarchy. But it would not be fair to him to pretend that it is precisely an easy course to adopt. For it would certainly be very unpopular with the aristocratic, clerical and pro-German circles who are in close touch with the Court: it would be opposed by the majority of the official politicians; and all kinds of education in the country, especially political, are so undeveloped that free institutions would certainly not be easy to work. It is always true that the Government of a country almost necessarily reflects the social and moral condition of the people; and it is not a truth which can for many years be of encouraging augury in Spain. But there are difficulties in all courses, as there
generally are in the treatment of disease: and it looks as if things had got so far that if the King does not before very long apply his own surgical knife to the patient, other and more ruthless hands will apply theirs.

The only points to mention during this period in the direct relations between Great Britain and Spain are the appointment of Spanish officers to serve on British Hospital Ships and the cordial reception given in the Spanish Press to Lord Robert Cecil's declaration that Great Britain will never try to involve Spain in the war or urge her to deviate from the course she thinks most advantageous to her own interests. The attitude of the French and English Press during the recent disturbances has also given great satisfaction, and is said to have prevented a fall in the present high prices of Spanish securities.

J.C.B.
Special Memorandum

on

THE GERMAN MINORITY OR INDEPENDENT SOCIALISTS

August 22nd 1917.

Attached is a memorandum concerning the position of the German Minority (or, as they are now called - the Independent) Socialists. Their position is of importance (1) in any attempt to sum up the political feeling in Germany, (2) in regard to the Stockholm Conference.

We are fortunate in having very reliable first-hand information with regard to the views of their leaders, for they talked freely while they were at Stockholm. It is unnecessary to point out that what they said in private conversation there should not be used publicly, for to do so might have very serious consequences for them.

It is quite clear that on all the essential points at issue between us and the German Government, they are on our side.

1. They have always insisted that the whole question of the origin and responsibility of the war is quite essential. It is on this point especially that they have joined issue with the Majority Socialists. The German Government are now rumoured to have declared that they will not allow any Germans to attend the Stockholm Conference at which the origins of the war are to be discussed. The evidence for this is still defective, but it is obvious that such a step on the part of the German Government is one which, in certain circumstances, might have been used very greatly for our advantage. Academically speaking, we could have no situation more favourable than that the Allies were prepared to allow their representatives to attend the Conference, but that the whole thing broke down because the German Government would
not consent to a discussion on the responsibility for the war. This discussion indeed should be made a sine qua non condition in any Conference in which German Socialists of both parties are represented.

On this point we could depend upon the Independent Socialists. They know the whole question better than anyone else, and we could hope for nothing better than to see them argue it in public with the Majority Socialists.

(2) Peace Terms: On the crucial points at issue between us and Germany, they are quite sound. While the Majority Socialists are prepared to support the conception of peace without annexations in the sense given to it by the German Government, the Minority Socialists say that a mere return to the status quo would leave things in the future no better than they were in the past. They strongly repudiate the whole treatment of Belgium by Germany and would support not merely the complete restoration of Belgium, but also indemnities to Belgium by Germany. In this connection there may be quoted what was said by a German when he was discussing this very matter: "Do not deprive us of the only method we have for doing something to repair the wrongs we have committed." This of course is only one individual, but it is a point of view which should be encouraged, and will be encouraged by the Minority Socialists.

With regard to Alsace Lorraine, they are quite definitely in favour of settling the matter by an appeal to the population. They have not said much about Austria, and of course the Socialists as a rule are opposed in Austria to the appeal to Nationalism, for this distracts attention from the "Class War" that they want always to keep in the foreground.

What is most important is that they really desire the victory of the Allies, for they see that it is the only way of breaking down the forces of militarism and reaction at home. This has been avowed
in so many words in private conversation; but of course we cannot publicly use this knowledge, but it is important to keep it in mind.

As to their position in Germany, we cannot of course speak with certainty, but all indications are to the effect that if there were the opportunity for a real trial of strength, such as would be given by a general election, they would gain greatly in strength; the Majority Socialists would more and more be driven towards the Right, and to association with the Government, and would completely lose the influence which they have had as an Independent Party. Put into so many words, Schœidemann and his friends have no future; they would become absorbed in the Liberals and thereby would lose their influence over the working man.

It is of course most desirable to avoid any open reference to them. We know how foolish the German Government becomes when it turns for support to English Pacifists. On the other hand there is a real difference between the English Pacifists and the German Minority Socialists. First of all there can be no doubt that in Germany this party has a very much larger following than the Pacifists in England. Secondly, their leaders are much more at home in the discussion of international affairs than are the leaders of the English Independent Labour Party. It has been part of their work for years past; they understand the nature of the German Government, for they have always been fighting it, and it is not mere prejudice if we say that they know what they are talking about.

J.W.H.
The German Minority or Independent Socialists.

(1) Their Leaders.

The Minority Socialists in Germany are an organised political group. They stand at present on the extreme left, and their views on the war are largely identical with those of the Allies (this is literally true, and we have first-hand evidence for it).

Their leading men are Haase (the Party chief), Bernstein, Kautsky, Cohn, and Ledebour. The Majority Socialists have pointed out, as a taunt, that while almost all the Majority delegates to the preliminary conferences at Stockholm were "proletarians", the Minority delegates were almost all "intellectuals". This is a more or less true, and probably significant, analysis of the lines on which the original Social Democratic Party has divided since the War. But though the Minority leaders are preeminently intellectuals, they are by no means out of touch with the people.

(2) Their Views.

The main outlines of the Minority case are clear. They are expressed in speeches (especially the exhaustive speech by Haase a year ago) and confirmed by conversations at Stockholm in June, 1917. Their published Stockholm programme (see Appendix) is by no means complete (if it had been, their activities in Germany would have been cut short altogether by the Government) - but even so it is a startling document, and the German Censorship is charged with having forbidden its publication.

There are individuals in still more extreme opposition: Liebknecht, Rosa Luxemburg, and Franz Mehring (who wrote to the Russian socialist Tochidze, when the Stockholm conference was first suggested, warning him not to meet Scheidemann). But the first two of these are in prison, and none of them have any organised following. Moreover, the leftward trend is so steady that Haase probably stands now where Liebknecht stood a year ago.

Bernstein and Cohn are also Jews.

This was stated in a question asked in the Reichstag on July 20th. In answer the Chancellor's representative disclaimed knowledge and stated that inquiries were already being made. We have no evidence as to whether the prohibition has since been withdrawn.
On the Responsibility for the War.

This is the foundation of their case, as it is of our own. On August 4th, 1914, they voted the war credits with the rest of the Social Democratic Party, because they were taken by surprise and had not convinced themselves of the German Government's guilt. By the Autumn of 1914 they had reached this conviction, and they then denounced the party truce and went into active opposition. This is how their breach with the Majority arose.

The Majority charge them with a breach of party discipline, but they charge the Majority with the betrayal of Social Democratic principles. The Majority, they say, "have emmeshed themselves in the ideology of the Bourgeois parties", and that is why German Social Democracy has lost its influence over the course of events.

In the controversy concerning the origins of the War the Minority are strong. They have found all the joints in the German Government's armour:- "That unheard-of ultimatum to Serbia"; the omission to publish the correspondence between the German and Austro-Hungarian Governments; the omission of a certain telegram from the Tsar to the Kaiser in the first German White Book; the premature announcement of German mobilisation in the Lokal Anzeiger, in "that ominous special edition". Haase roundly asserts that this was a manoeuvre by Moltke, Tirpitz and Falkenhayn behind the backs of the Kaiser and Bothmann-Hollwog.

(b) On the "Defensive" War.

Haase exposes the various justifications for supporting the War: e.g., that "England is to blame"; "a war against Tsarism", and so on. The German Staff's answer to the menace of Russian mobilisation was - the invasion of Belgium! The Battle of Tannenberg showed that the Russians were not fully mobilised for weeks after the German ultimatum was sent. The documents seized in

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Belgium do not prove what the Government represents. "Holding out till victory" implies, not defence, but the overthrow of the enemy. The sentimental appeal to "support our sons at the front" is no proper argument against political action.

On the broader plane, he quotes pre-war speeches of Scheidemann to prove that in the race of armaments Germany set the pace both to England and France. "There is no possible doubt about the character of this war. As early as July 25th, 1914, our Party Executive described it precisely: the great power policy of Austria and the imperialist interests of profiteers. We must add Germany's endeavour to secure a through connexion from Heligoland to Bagdad by way of Austria-Hungary and the Balkans."

(o) **On the Peace Settlement.**

The Minority Socialists have always exposed the insincerity of German "Peace Talk", and they charge the Government, as well as the Pan-Germans, with never having renounced Annexation. Germany's official conduct towards Belgium is the chief field of their attacks.

In contrast to the Majority leaders, who are always proclaiming themselves "German (i.e. patriotic) Social Democrats", the Minority call the annexation of Alsace-Lorraine in 1871 "robbery", and propose terms to the Central Empires' disadvantage in their Stockholm programme (see Appendix) which go far beyond the Statu quo. There is evidence that their views have become more uncompromising during the past year (especially on the question of a plebiscite for Alsace-Lorraine). At Stockholm in July last they identified themselves unreservedly with the formula of the Petrograd Soviet: "No annexations or indemnities, and self-determination of populations." Naturally they differ among themselves as to the application of this principle (for instance, as regards the Break-up of Austria-Hungary). But the most important fact that came out during their stay at Stockholm is that they definitely desire Germany to suffer a military defeat. There are three first-rate pieces of evidence for
this; but they cannot of course state it publicly, and it could not
be used by us without ruining them politically, to the detriment of
ourselves.

(3) Their Strength.

Up to July 31st 1917, they claim to have captured 62 out of
350 Social-Democratic electoral district organisations in Germany,
and to have set up rival organisations successfully in constituencies
where the original organisation still remained in the Majority's
hands. They have also been very near capturing at least one first-
class trades union, and they have been the power behind the peace-
strikes. The Government does everything it can to repress them,
and a year ago Haase was accusing the Majority Socialists of assisting
the Government in this in underhand ways. In spite of this,
Bornstein stated his belief, at Stockholm last July, that the
Minority had really won over a majority of German organised labour,
and a general election would certainly increase their representation
in the Reichstag at the Majority's expense.

(4) Their Prospects.

Will the Minority continue to gain ground at the Majority's
expense? And will this go on till the German working people find
themselves converted, as a class, to the Minority point of view?
If this happened, the Minority Party would become a political factor
of first class importance (which they are clearly not as yet), but
there are three main factors working against them:

(a) The Military Success of Germany. The continued occupa-
tion of vast conquered territories makes the idea of giving up even
more than the Status Quo seem preposterous to German public opinion.
Confidence in the submarine campaign is also a powerful antidote
to Minority Propaganda amongst people (and these are naturally
the great majority) who do not look at the war from a moral point of
view, but who would all the same be ready to consider a Minority
settlement for the sake of immediate peace, if they were once
convinced that victory was impossible.

(b) The Majority Peace-Movement. The strong point about the Majority peace-programme is that it is patriotic. It becomes still stronger if they can show that it has any political effect in the direction of ending the war; and from this point of view the peace-resolution of the Reichstag, for which the Majority Socialists claim credit, has almost certainly increased their prestige. Coinciding, roughly, with the Russian military breakdown, this must for the moment have checked the Minority's progress to a considerable degree.

(c) But the most serious handicap to the Minority is the official persecution, which makes it impossible for them to fight the Majority in Germany on equal terms. Their case is unanswerable, and they are extremely able advocates of it, but they have never yet had a fair field. For this reason they are more eager than any one else for the general conference at Stockholm. The French Socialist Party has insisted that the question of responsibility for the war shall be placed on the agenda. We have confidential information that Branting and the German Minority "are determined to make the debate on this point a debate for the German Majority". And now Michaelis is reported to have stated that, if the question of responsibility is to be raised, no German delegates will be allowed to take part.

Under Branting's guidance, the Stockholm project has therefore taken a turn that is extremely awkward for Germany. If the conference takes place, the German Government must either issue passports or refuse them. If it refuses, it will have confessed that it cannot face an open discussion of the responsibility for the war. If it issues them, it will merely be sending its Majority Socialists to destruction. For the German case in their hands will be demolished, not by the Socialists of the Entente, but by the
delegates of the German Minority. It may therefore be presumed that both the German Government and the German Majority Socialists are now secretly anxious to avoid the Conference, if only they can do so without taking the onus of the step upon themselves.

A.J.T.

22/6/17.

(a) There are grounds for stating that Brintin, will not admit German Majority delegates unless the Minority are given passports too.
APPENDIX

Programme of the German Minority Delegates, published at Stockholm on July 8th, 1917

(a) Immediate peace.

(b) Disarmament; freedom of trade and navigation; compulsory arbitration; international social legislation.

(c) Enfranchisement of women.

(d) Equal rights to all inhabitants of a country irrespective of race, language, religion.

(e) "National and social liberation cannot be achieved by the governments at war; it can only be done by democracy".

(f) Democratic control of foreign policy.

(g) Geographical status quo not sacred, but war must not be prolonged to alter it. "Regulation of frontiers must be conditional upon the assent of the populations concerned and not an act of force. From the beginning of the war we have consistently demanded peace without annexations or indemnities, based upon national self-government".

(h) Serbian independence must be restored. Union of all Serbs in national state and Republican Balkan Federation also desirable.

(i) Prussian and Austrian Poland have the same right as Russian Poland to national independence.

(j) Prolongation of war cannot settle Alsace-Lorraine. In 1871 it was annexed to Germany against the will of the population. A plebiscite is the only solution. Whichever way the vote turned, it would bring Germany a balance of gain – economic, political and moral.

(k) Political and economic independence of Belgium, according to Bethmann Hollweg’s promise, is essential. Reparation for damage done is entirely distinct from a war indemnity.


(m) The International must be made strong, and national sections must be prepared to fight their governments on behalf of the International Socialist Peace Programme.
SECRET.
G.T. - 1814
WAR CABINET.
No. O.A.D. 602/1.

General Headquarters,
British Armies in the Field,
21st August, 1917.

The Chief of the
Imperial General Staff.

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I beg to forward herewith, for the information
of the War Cabinet, a report on the operations in
Flanders from the 4th to the 20th August, 1917, with a
statement of my views on the present situation.

(Signed) D. HAIG.

Field-Marshal,
Commanding-in-Chief,
British Armies in France.
Report on the operations in Flanders from 4th August to 20th August, 1917.

For several days after the date of my last report to the War Cabinet (No. O.A.D. 589 of the 4th August, 1917) the weather continued so unfavourable that a renewal of the advance in Flanders was impossible. The troops suffered very great hardship and their maintenance in the positions won entailed most exhausting labour. They rose superior to every trial, however, and, as the weather slowly improved preparations for a further advance were pushed on, entailing some local fighting to secure passages across the STEENBEEK and to gain sufficient room beyond it for the deployment of the infantry before the next assault.

The unavoidable delay in preparing for this assault enabled the enemy to bring up considerable reinforcements, and it was evident that our next advance would be strongly contested and that heavy counter-attacks, delivered by the divisions he had brought up into reserve, were to be reckoned on. In addition to this the weather conditions rendered counter-battery work and flying so difficult that our artillery superiority was to a great extent neutralised. In view of these various considerations and of the state of the ground it was determined to limit our next advance to much less than we could have hoped to effect under more favourable conditions.

The advance was eventually fixed for the 16th August, the earliest date on which the ground was likely to be passable. It would have been preferable to have waited longer to enable the enemy's guns to be more definitely overcome, as well as to give the ground more time to dry; but weather prospects were still doubtful, the Army Commander had already been obliged to relieve the whole of the infantry once owing to the exhausting conditions they had to contend with, and for the same reasons the troops who had carried out this relief would not be in a fit state to attack if the assault was longer delayed. Another relief would have become necessary and this would have entailed several days' delay. Moreover, the troops already relieved required a longer rest before again being thrown into the fight, and the number of divisions available for carrying on the battle is, of course, limited.

On the 15th August an attack by two Canadian divisions, for which preparations had been in hand for some time, was launched in the neighbourhood of LENS.
As already reported, it was completely successful, and no less than four German divisions suffered so severely in trying to hold the position, and in the numerous counter-attacks launched in the hope of regaining it, that they may be regarded as unfit for further serious efforts for several weeks at least. This successful operation will also serve to prevent the enemy from weakening his line on the First Army front in order to reinforce his defence in Flanders.

Next day (16th August) a general advance was made by the Fifth Army, in which the French First Army co-operated on the left flank. A few days of fairly fine weather had dried the ground a good deal, but a heavy rain storm on the previous evening had again rendered it very difficult and the advance was made under more unfavourable conditions than had been hoped for. In many places the men could only get forward by assisting each other out of the breast-high mud and water in the shell holes.

Despite all difficulties and disadvantages, however, the whole of our objectives, including the village of LANGEMARCK, were gained and maintained from a point over 2,000 yards east of that village to the French left.

Further south the advance also went well at the outset, but in various places, exhausted by their efforts and with their rifles often so clogged by mud as to be temporarily useless, the troops in some cases were held up by strong points and in others were unable to maintain the foremost positions gained. The gain of ground was therefore comparatively small, but the more important object of forcing the enemy to expose himself, and causing him heavy loss, was fully attained, and at a moderate cost to our troops.

The strongest opposition of all was experienced on the main ridge by the fight corps of the Fifth Army. Appreciating the tactical value of this ground, the enemy has concentrated his efforts on retaining it, and every foot of our advance there is bitterly contested and will doubtless continue to be so until the enemy's power of resistance is beaten down.

Reviewing the results of the operations up to and including this battle of the 16th August I am well satisfied with them, although the gain of ground would certainly have been much more considerable but for the adverse weather conditions. Even as matters are, however, we have gained 2,000 yards along the crest of the main ridge and rather more than that on the northern slopes immediately overlooked from it.

Further north the area gained grows deeper until round LANGEMARCK it reaches about 6,000 yards from our starting line of
of the 31st July. Our line is then gradually drawn in, forming a strong defensive flank along the STIRLING CASTLE to the French left which rests securely on the inundations about DANTZICH.

A further advance of 3,500 yards by the right corps of the Fifth Army will give us possession of the summit of all the most important part of the main ridge, from STIRLING CASTLE to BROODSEINEN, and when that has been gained, events should move much faster (given reasonable weather) as we shall not only have gained valuable advantages of position but, in gaining it, we shall certainly have gone a long way to breaking down the enemy's power of resistance. He has no option but to resist our advance on this high ground to the full extent of his power, and it is tactically very strong and favourable to the defence. If he fails to hold it he cannot hope to stay our further advance or even to delay it to anything like an equal degree.

Apart from this question of gain of ground the results already accomplished are very considerable. On the FLANDERS and LENS fronts the enemy has already been compelled to withdraw no less than 24 divisions, and those now in line must be suffering severe daily casualties under our heavy shelling, which, in the fine weather we are now having, can be given its fullest effect.

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The enemy's casualties in FLANDERS and at LENS since the 31st July inclusive are estimated at, approximately, 100,000 men; and no doubt he has suffered further heavy casualties, and has had more divisions put out of action, in the successful French attack at VERDUN yesterday.

Conclusive evidence is now available that all, or practically all, his 1918 class are in the ranks and have already suffered severe casualties. It has also been fully established that the fighting value of these boys is low.

The 1919 class has already begun to make its appearance in the front line and its fighting value may confidently be expected to prove even lower than that of the 1918 class.

The 1920 class cannot be available for many months yet, and therefore we are justified in expecting that not only will there be a further marked, and increasing, deterioration in the enemy's fighting qualities, but the time is fast approaching when he will be unable to maintain his armies at their present numerical strength.

Some of his units are still fighting almost as well as ever, especially in defence; but the signs of deterioration in others are well marked, and it is noteworthy that even on our present limited front of attack he has failed to provide troops on a considerable part of his line. In front of the XIV Corps a large portion of the defending troops are reported, both by our own men and by prisoners, to have run away. Such weak portions of a position must result eventually in compromising the whole of it; and even though, for a time, the rents made may be filled up by throwing in other troops, this entails a very heavy drain, as well as discontent and loss of moral amongst the troops so thrown in owing to the untrustworthiness of their comrades.
For all these reasons, although the struggle is likely to continue severe for some weeks yet, there is good reason to hope that very considerable results will then follow, and with more rapidity than may seem likely at present.

If we are favoured by a fine autumn, therefore, I regard the prospects of clearing the coast before winter sets in as still very hopeful, notwithstanding the loss of time caused by the bad weather during the first half of August. At the least, I see no reason to doubt that we shall be able to gain positions from which subsequent operations to clear the coast will present a far easier problem than we had to cope with at the outset of this offensive, and in which the losses and hardships suffered round Ypres in previous winters will be much reduced.

In these circumstances, the right course to pursue, in my opinion, is undoubtedly to continue to press the enemy in Flanders without interruption and to the full extent of our power; and, if complete success is not gained before winter sets in, to renew the attack at the earliest possible moment next year.

Success in clearing the coast may confidently be expected to have such strategical and political effects that they are likely to prove decisive. It will simplify immensely our naval problem. It will go a very long way towards rendering air raids against England impossible. It will render the enemy's positions in Northern France so precarious and so dangerous that it is almost a certainty he will retire from them. And it will prove to Germany and to Germany's allies that the German armies are no longer able to save them from complete disaster.

(signed) D. HAIG.

Field-Marshal.

21st August, 1917.
FOOD PRODUCTION SCHEMES, IRELAND.

Memorandum prepared in compliance with Chief Secretary's Minute of 17th March, 1917.

Week ended 22nd August, 1917.

The following is a brief statement on the work of the Department during the past week in furtherance of increased Food Production in Ireland in 1917, and in connection with the organisation of supplies of requisites for tillage and harvest operations in 1918:

Loans for Agricultural Implements.

The number of applications for loans for agricultural implements received by the Department during the past week was 75. The total value of machinery ordered to date under the Scheme is £92,569.

Spraying of Potatoes.

The position in regard to the potato crop continues to be satisfactory. Reports indicate that even where the potato disease has appeared it shows no tendency to spread.

Harvesting Operations.

Though the heavy rains of the last fortnight have "lodged" grain crops to a considerable extent, entailing more work in harvesting operations, it is believed that if fair weather prevails during the next few weeks the crops will be harvested in a satisfactory condition. Arrangements have been made to test the qualifications of a number of persons to be employed in giving instruction to farmers in stacking and thatching corn in districts where such instruction is needed.
Flax Seed (Ireland) Order, 1917.

Special meetings continue to be held throughout the flax growing districts, and by these and other means a considerable degree of success has been attained in making the Order acceptable to growers. Reports have been received to date in respect of 47 persons who have not complied with the requirements of the Order. Steps are being taken to institute legal proceedings against such defaulters.

Transit of Farming Requisites.

Inquiries by the transit inspection staff in some of the more important distributing centres in the midlands went to show that the bulk of the new machinery required in those districts in connection with the harvesting operations was delivered in good time.

Maintenance of Livestock.

During the period from 14th to 20th August inclusive 451 applications for licences to slaughter or export under the Order relating to breeding sows were received and 380 licences were issued. During the same period 105 applications for licences to export horses under the Horses (Prohibition of Exportation from Ireland) Order, were received and 37 licences were issued.
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From: General Delme Radcliffe, Comando Supremo, Italy.

To: C.I.G.B., War Office.

Situation Julian front this evening 7.0 p.m.

2nd Army: passage of Isonzo by the 27th and 24th Corps has been successful in every way.

More bridges have been made and both Corps have improved their positions and brought across more troops.

27th Corps with its right flank on the Aveshek stream has taken the 3 lines forming the enemy's first system of defences. Its line of occupation now includes the village of Mesnjak, the Lom plateau and the Veliki Vrh (points 703 and 574). Slight resistance continues in Aveshek Valley which should soon be clear of the enemy.

24th Corps with its right flank on the line Rodes-Jelenik has extended its occupation of Fratta and Semmer up to the village of Vrh while 5th Bersaglieri brigade distinguished itself under General Boriani by taking height 716 and Ossoincia.

Rest of line of 2nd Army is not much changed since yesterday. Preparations are being made for the attack on the Jelenik-Kobilek ridge. Tonight General Capello told me that he hopes to have soon secured room for another 200,000 men on the plateau. Prisoners taken by the 2nd Army now amount to 3,000.

Situation of 2nd Army seems promising this evening. Enemy has only one intact division, the 24th, to reinforce on this portion of the front and has already absorbed a proportion of the March troops in reserve.
The enveloping movement of 27th Corps towards the S.E. may reach Chiapovano gorge in which is the road by which all supplies are brought to Bainsizza plateau as far south as Monte Santo. Hungarian troops on this part of the line are fine material if rather young but the Bohemian troops have no desire to fight and the 8th Bohemian Regiment has been withdrawn as unreliable.

3rd Army: 11th Corps again took Hill 464 with the Lombardia Brigade but at 5 p.m. there was great concentration of 12 inch guns and other very heavy fire on it and it may have been lost again. This Corps also took points 378 and 363 and the enemy’s first line trenches which it still holds. No progress has been made by 25th Corps. 23rd Corps has made slight advance to a line running from Castagnevizza straight to the eastern edge of the Stari Lokva. In the lager Coriti alone 3,000 prisoners were taken. From the Stari Lokva the line of occupation runs along the ridge on the north side of the Jamiano-Brestobizza Valley to front 50 where the left flank of the 13th Corps is situated. Line then includes points 146, 145 and 110 and then goes straight to San Giovanni, all the Flandar line having been now retaken.

Total unwounded prisoners reported up to 9.30 p.m. to-day by the 3rd Army 9776. Situation on the 3rd Army front is decidedly improved especially by the capture of line defence from Castagnevizza to Selo known as Line K. Among prisoners taken is an officer who was recently attached to Austrian Embassy in London. I have not yet received his name. He has stated that the Italian bombardment of the eastern side of Monte Hermada has greatly disturbed the Austrians and that the Austrian troops are suffering much from want of food and water. As regards conditions of Austrian troops, it is known that 44th 17th and 48th Divisions have about half
their strength left, 12th division has been practically
destroyed, 35th division has suffered heavily; 73rd division
left Ljubljana August 15th and reached Plesovizza, S.E. of
Comen August 19th. 9th division has been sent in support
of the 35th to Mauchinie 26th division has been sent to Coast
Brigade area about Duino, 41st division has been sent to the
Iron Gates near Reifemberg and is believed to be going to
Bainsizza plateau.

All the 29th March battalions of the Austrian Army were
absorbed before beginning of Italian offensive and there are
now only about 40 of the 30th and 31st March battalions left
at Stein Radmannsdorf in reserve.

There seems to be less reason for anxiety concerning morale
of the Italian army. It has been fighting all day with great
determination. There are plenty of reserves still in hand
and confidence is general that persistent hammering and the
development of the movement on the Bainsizza plateau will
break down Austrian resistance, as the end of their resources
in men is near. It is often remarked that the defeat of
Austrians would be the best answer to the Pope's note.

British artillery has worked well all day and has been
complimented for its services. So far it has lost only 5
killed and 10 wounded as the Austrians have fired at the
British batteries very little.

A symptom of the enemy's condition is the fact that his
artillery was much less active to-day, which indicates the
commencement of the withdrawal of guns.
SECRET.

OPERATIONS.

From: General Delme Radcliffe, Comando Supremo, Italy. 21st August 1917.
To: C.I.G.S., War Office. 7.0 p.m.

Situation today is as follows:-

2nd Army. 14th Corps is being put in between the 27th and 24th Corps. Positions held by the Italian troops on the Bainsizza Plateau are being amplified and improved, until artillery, water and supplies can be brought up. 24th Corps has taken Monte Kuk (point 711) and early to-morrow will attack Monte Jelenik. Roads from the river to the heights are being improved and new ones have been begun. The advance is to be pressed as soon as possible. Austrian 24th division has been brought to support of the 21st division and 3 regiments have been already identified in line. The troops of the Austrian 21st and 24th divisions are now completely mixed and there is much confusion among other divisions also. It is reported that two battalions of the 50th division are coming south as a reinforcement, otherwise there are no reserves left to the Austrian except March battalions referred to in my telegram 330. 2nd Army has now taken 4,800 prisoners, 14 heavy guns and many light guns, trench mortars, etc. Several ammunition depots have been seen to explode and the aqueduct to the plateau has been cut by the Italian artillery at Hunyarie. 27th Corps is to make a vigorous push eastward so as to command Chiapovano Valley and cut Austrian main lines of communication with the Bainsizza Plateau. Austrians recently reduced the horses of the artillery etc. by 50%, so that, if they retire, it may be difficult for them to save the materials and stores accumulated on the plateau. Several heavy guns have been
blown up to prevent their falling into hands of Italians.

A new Italian Army Corps, probably to be numbered 27th, is being assembled at Cividale.

3rd Army. In my telegram 330 I gave about 1,000 prisoners too many, owing to one batch being reported twice. 3rd Army has taken about this number to-day, so that the total prisoners taken by both armies must be about 15,000 this evening. In spite of repeated efforts 11th Corps has made practically no progress and has failed to hold point 464. The 25th and 23rd Corps have confirmed their occupations of yesterday, while 13th Corps has gained ground and now has its patrols in Medezza. Preparations to turn the Hermada position from the north and the south simultaneously are being made, and the advance will probably begin early to-morrow.

Austrian's 10th division, which has one brigade intact, has left for Laibach and it is supposed it is going by train to reinforce right wing. 28th and the 9th divisions are fully engaged, while prisoners state that the Austrian command is holding back its two best divisions, the 41st and 73rd, in hopes of the Italian offensive dying away in two or three days, when they rely on recovering the ground lost in the offensive by means of vigorous counter-attacks with these divisions. Austrian prisoners taken to-day appear a good deal exhausted and it is clear that the power of resistance of the Austrian troops is being rapidly exhausted. Except at Isonzo and points such as Dosso-Feiti and Castagnevizza Italian losses have been unexpectedly slight, thanks to the extensive system of deep communication trenches and tunnels made by the Italians for themselves and also those captured from the enemy. For example, 23 Corps, which has taken alone about 6,000 prisoners, has had only 2,700 casualties in 3 days fighting. Italian armies still dispose of ample reserves and will continue to press the enemy for some days with the present degree of intensity; until the artillery ammunition runs short. Yesterday
morning monitors were in action but I have not yet heard results. Morale of the Italian troops is good and improving. The extent and unanimity and force of condemnation of the Pope's peace note by all officers and by a large proportion of the rank and file of the Italian army is a circumstance worth noting. Anxiety to its diminishing the fighting power of the troops has fortunately not been justified.
WAR CABINET.
THE STEEL SITUATION IN AMERICA.

Copy of letter from the President of the Lackawanna Steel Company to Lieut. Colonel Herman Clarke, Inland Water Transport Department, War Office.

LACKAWANNA STEEL COMPANY,
Office of the President,
2 Rector Street
NEW YORK.
23rd July, 1917.

Dear Herman,

Your letter of July 11th in regard to the operation of car ferries across the English Channel arrived this morning, and I have sent a letter to my friend, Albert V. Goodrich, of Chicago, who is President of the Goodrich Transportation Co., and have asked him to look up the question of the men that you want and to take it up direct with Major Owen of Montreal; and have also written to Major Owen, and feel sure that the problem will be worked out. I will advise you the outcome as soon as I have anything definite.

I have not heard from you for a long time and realise that it is a good while since I have written you.

Things move along here in a way that is very unsatisfactory. You have probably seen something in the papers of the row between Gen. Goethals and Mr. Denman, Chairman of the Shipping Board. About two months ago when the Senate passed a Bill providing the necessary money, Goethals was prepared to start a shipbuilding campaign at once, and intended, so far as I know, to pay fair prices for the necessary steel. He expected to pay about $4 4/5 a lb. for ship plate when the current market for that class of material ranged from 80 to 100 per lb. and the Japanese and other foreign buyers were freely offering 10 1/2 and in some cases more. Goethals was willing to pay 4 4/5 against a price of 2-9/10 which had been arranged for about 600,000 tons for the Navy, because he realised that it would be necessary to have the full capacity of the country available, and because he further realised that he would get the best co-operation and the promptest delivery from everybody, if he set a price that would allow even the high cost people to get out even, or perhaps to have a slight profit.

Denman, for political reasons opposed Goethals and the matter has been dragging ever since. The result has been that it is impossible to arrive at any definite prices for steel with any Government official. The President has apparently issued an order that no prices shall be made until the completion of an investigation now under way by the Federal Trade Commission, of the cost of producing various forms of steel. In the meantime, however, the necessity for placing certain orders apparently became so urgent that our Steel Committee was summoned to Washington on July 11th for a conference, at which the Government was represented by Secretaries of the War and the Navy, the Chairman of the Shipping Board and B.M. Baruch, who is Chairman of the Committee on metals of the Advisory Commission of the Council of National Defense. We spent all of one day and part of the next finding out that the only basis that we could do business on was to agree to accept Government orders and wait for the prices to be determined later on. It was proposed to pay us something on account pending the fixing of final prices, and 2 1/2 lb. was suggested; but as this figure is much below the cost of many of the manufacturers, and would undoubtedly have some influence on the price to be finally set, we thought it best to agree to accept the orders and let the matter of price wait.
It is the desire of the Administration that the Allies should be supplied at the same prices as our own Government but the steel makers refused to accept the Allies' orders until the price is definitely set, fearing from the expressions of opinion given by Secretary Daniels, that the price would be so low as to be very unsatisfactory, considering the proportion of the manufacturers' output that will be necessary to supply the Allies as well as our own Government. Of course, if the price is set at a reasonable figure, the manufacturers will be glad to include the Allies' orders at that price.

Notwithstanding the urgency for placing orders, ten days have gone by since we arrived at this understanding and no orders have been placed as yet, beyond one or two trifling tonnages which were already in negotiation. In the meanwhile, Gen. Goethals, feeling that the steel situation has been settled, announced that he would promptly place his contracts for vessels, but Denman, availing himself of his right by law to approve all contracts made by Goethals, insisted on a lot of additional information being given him by Goethals, and the shipbuilding program is again held up. There is now some indication that pressure has been put upon Denman, as his attitude is rather more conciliatory; but nevertheless the shipbuilding program is standing still. This, in my judgment, is pretty nearly a crime, and the President ought to have settled the matter long ago.

Goethals, in my judgment, is perfectly right in his attitude and is unquestionably the man for the job. Denman is a political appointee, a former Admiralty lawyer from the Pacific Coast and his actions, so far are just about those of a strong pro-German sympathiser. I don't know anything definitely about his past history, as to whether he ever has been or was pro-German but at least his present action lays him open to that suspicion.

The situation, as regards steel prices, is complicated by the fact that many of the manufacturers of shipbuilding material do not control their raw materials and their costs are consequently very high. Take for instance your old friend, David Reeves, of the Phoenix Iron Company, who no longer operates any blast furnace, but starts with purchased pig iron and scrap. He tells me that his costs for ship angles, channels, and beams is about 3-3/4$ per lb., and if he had to go out and buy his pig iron and scrap at the present market, it would run well over 4$ and possibly might reach 5$ per lb.

Some of the Government people expect to solve this difficulty by paying different prices to different manufacturers for the same material, but this does not seem economically sound to me, and I don't quite see how it will work out in practice. There should be no objection to paying prices which will enable manufacturers to secure a fair profit because under the proposed war tax bill, excess profits, which are to be figured substantially on the British basis, are taxed up to 50% and can of course be taxed higher, if necessary.

The delay is working to the disadvantage of the Allies/
Allies! France, for instance, through Morgan & Company, wanted us to postpone deliveries of our shell steel contracts for the last half of this year, as they already have no less than half a million tons at the seacoast awaiting vessels, and Morgan wanted us to substitute 60,000 tons of rails for the British to be used in France. We arrived at a satisfactory price which was based on giving us approximately the same profit as we would have had from the shell steel, but the question had to be referred to Northcliffe and he apparently has been afraid to accept our offer, the price of which is probably between $10. and $20. per ton higher than the price at which the Government will probably pay, owing to his fear of antagonising his banker, which is the United States Government at Washington. In the meantime we continue to manufacture shell steel which is not needed and the British will wait for their rails.

The facts are that notwithstanding all the talk of the wonderful things they are accomplishing at Washington, the situation there is almost chaotic, and it is next to impossible to accomplish anything. Nobody seems to have any authority to do business and politics dominate everything that is done.

The business men of this country have from the start been as anxious as it is possible for any one to be to serve the Government loyally and patriotically and supply it with any and every material needed. But up to date there has not been very much really accomplished. It is quite comprehensible that Congress should take a little time to decide some of the very important questions of legislation that are put before them, particularly in view of the enormous powers which it is proposed shall be conferred upon the President, but when Congress has once acted, it is pretty tough to sit still and see nothing done while some politicians air their differences in the newspapers.

I have no doubt but that the British and the French would have made strong protests long ago were it not that they were depending upon our people for the money to continue prosecuting the War.

The copper people had a price agreed on and orders had been placed by the War Department, and then the very man who placed the orders had to write a letter stating that by instructions from his superiors, he was forced to notify them that the orders already placed were cancelled.

The coal men, in a meeting presided over by the Secretary of the Interior, agreed to certain maximum prices for coal, and the whole country rejoiced at the very patriotic act. Immediately the Secretary of War came out with a letter stating that the Secretary of the Interior had no authority to make any such arrangement, and that the same was null and void.

To business people, accustomed to doing things up promptly, the delay and confusion is incomprehensible and deplorable to the last degree.

Affectionately yours,

(Sgd) E.A.S. CLARKE.
Reported regrettable incidents in the Italian Army.

During a visit to the front from which I have just returned I made it my business to verify the truth or otherwise of the reported cases of surrender to the enemy mentioned in my report No. 587, of the 9th July, 1917.

I obtained some interesting information of which the following is a summary:

During the May offensive at the time of the Austrian counter-attacks to the West of M. HERCULA one Italian battalion abandoned their arms and surrendered bodily to the enemy. This weakened the Italian line and contributed to the subsequent retirement in that neighbourhood which caused the Italians to lose much of the ground gained during the previous day's fighting.

Somewhere about the same time a serious incident occurred at PALMAHERA. Two Italian regiments, stated to have been the 11th and 12th, but I cannot vouch for these numbers being correct as I have also heard the 13th regiment mentioned, had been brought back from the front to rest. They were ordered back again earlier than anticipated with the result that there was a disturbance during which some of the officers were killed by their men. Order was subsequently re-established and a number of men tried and shot. The two regiments were then conveyed back to the firing line in lorries each lorry being followed by another containing a machine-gun trained on the one in front of it. It is likely that these two affairs gave rise to the reports current in Rome.

While in GRADISCA I was informed that a disturbance had recently taken place at SARUSAINA close by. My informant had heard much shouting and shots were fired. The troops in the lower ISIOZA were stated to be much discouraged by the failure of the May offensive and it was generally considered of great importance in the interest of Italy's further participation in the war that the next offensive, shortly to be commenced, should prove successful.

(Signed) Charles A. Lamb.

Colonel.

Military Attaché.
OPERATIONS.

From:- C.I.G.S.
To: General Van Deventer, G.H.Q., East Africa.

15th August, 1917.
7.30 p.m.

39616 cipher.

The idea has occurred to me that the mishap to 30th Punjabis may have been owing to lack of experience in bush fighting. I am well acquainted with Indian troops and they are quite unused to such warfare and cannot quickly adapt themselves to new conditions. In all theatres we have found that time spent in training troops for the special conditions of each particular theatre is well repaid by results. I do not know what has been done in this respect in East Africa or whether any special arrangements have been made for the purpose by your Staff. Please give me your observations.

I send this with special reference to new Indian units shortly to be expected from that country.

C.I.G.S. (1)
D.C.I.G.S.
D.M.O.
M.O.I.
M.O.2.
M.O.2.b.
M.O.3.

D.M.I.
Col.Office.
I.O.
D.S.D.
OPERATIONS.

From: General Vandeventer,
To: C.I.G.S.

21st August, 1917.
8.35 a.m.

G.361. Your 39616 Last December the 30th Punjabis arrived from India went straight to the front and took part in Mekta Rufiti advance under General Sheppard in January and were the first unit to cross the Rufiti in face of strong opposition. The regiment did well. They were in training camp at Morogoro during rains. Later on they took part in the pursuit of Wintgens. The Regiment was considered an experienced unit when it went to Lindi. The mishap occurred primarily through the regiment penetrating too far behind the enemy's lines and thus becoming isolated. I believe regiment would have rendered a good account of itself had practically all its British Officers not been killed or wounded in the first counter-attack. Shortage of British Officers in Indian regiments is serious drawback. Regiment went into action on this occasion with only 8 British Officers of whom more than half were Indian Army Reserve Officers.

As many units as possible were withdrawn during rains to Morogoro where regular training took place. Machine gun and trench mortar school was also established there. But now that active operations are in progress special training by units is difficult in this country. It is essential to land new units at fighting destinations owing to shipping difficulties, and to keep a Regiment training in Lindi or Kilwa areas; even a month would result in the loss of considerable portion of its strength before it had fired
a shot. Moreover all fit men who are urgently required at front. The most practical method has been found to be, to give a new unit a few days preliminary training and then to send it to the front to be used in reserve until it learns its work. Both officers and men are thus able to see bush trained regiments actually at work and can discuss important points at first hand. Every opportunity is used of utilizing halts in same way. In the case of the new Indian units now arriving I propose to adopt this method.

D.C.I.G.S. D.M.O. India Office.
M.O.1. M.O.2. D.S.D.
M.O.2.b. M.O.3.
INTRODUCTION OF THE 9d. LOAF.

WHOLESALE PRICE OF FLOUR TO BAKERS.

In connection with the introduction of the 9d. loaf, it is necessary to settle the wholesale price at which the State will sell flour through the Mills to bakers and other retailers. The question immediately arises whether cheap flour is to be provided for all purposes, including the making of cake etc., or only for the manufacture of bread. This question does not arise in a practical form in respect of cakes made at home for it is clearly impracticable to prevent the householder from using flour at home as he thinks fit.

In respect of flour supplied to bakers and other traders two alternative courses are open:

1. to issue cheap flour for all save a few clearly defined purposes, susceptible of easy control, such as the manufacture of biscuits and sizing materials;

2. to sell flour to bakers and other traders at two different prices

(a) At (say) 43/9d. a sack (of 280 lbs.) to be used solely for bread making or for retail sale as flour for domestic consumption.

(b) At (say) 63/- if required for any other purpose such as making cake or confectionery.

If the first course is adopted a subsidy of about £1,500,000 a year will be granted to bakers in respect of cakes and confectionery, and exception might be taken to this in Parliament and possibly by the Allies. Moreover, it is found impracticable to fix maximum prices for cake, so that if the baker gets cheap flour for cake making, the benefit of the subsidy may not reach the consumer. The two price system is not regarded by the bakers themselves as unworkable though they would dislike it.
On the other hand, there are grave practical objections to the two price system:

(1) it is difficult to prevent the dishonest baker using cheap flour for cakes. Hence elaborate Government control and interference will be necessary, involving a change of working practice on the part of the trade and causing annoyance. It is the great number of small men in the trade, who would find it difficult to work under the system.

(2) There may be some confusion at the start through the local Food Control Committee not being ready to grapple with the heavy tasks the system would place on them (Registration of Retailers etc.,) Postponement of the introduction of the ninepenny loaf to give the local Committees more time to get ready cannot be contemplated, as stocks in bakers hands are already running low.

(3) Assuming as seems probable, that the bakers demand and obtain lower wholesale prices for bread flour as a set-off to the high price for cake flour, the two price system may ultimately cost the Government more than it saves since the lower price would also apply to flour for domestic consumption.

On balance I favour the first alternative, that is to say a single price for all flour, and with the consent of the War Cabinet I propose to adopt this course and to introduce the nine-penny loaf not later than September 17th.

RHONDDA.

23rd August 1917.
I have just seen the Memorandum dated 16th August by Sir Auckland Geddes on "National Service Department and Recruiting."

So far as the remarks in that Memorandum are intended to apply to Tribunals and Medical Boards I feel it right to say that I entirely disagree with them.

I speak from absolute knowledge when I say that no avoidable difficulties have in the past resulted from the supervision of the Tribunals being in the hands of the Local Government Board, neither has there been any lack of co-ordination due to that Department.

Assuming that Tribunals constituted under the Military Service Act are to be continued, they must remain under an impartial Department if the applicants are to be ensured a fair hearing. Public opinion would not tolerate the transfer of this work to a Department which must be mainly concerned with the utilisation of civil power for military purposes. Personally, I believe that we could never have carried compulsory service if it had not been for the sense of security afforded by the setting up of the Tribunals under a Department directly connected with Local Government.

For similar reasons, as I pointed out in my memorandum of 14th August, I am convinced from experience that the proper step would be to place the Medical Boards also under the Local Government Board.

So far from injuring the prospects of the National Service Department, my feeling is that the change I suggest would appeal to public confidence and would place the new Department on a much sounder foundation than the old Recruiting branch ever was.

I understand however that some arrangement has been come to between the National Service Department and the Local Government Board under which (1) Tribunals are to remain under the latter Department; and (2) an appeal to an Appeal Tribunal is to be allowed against the decision of the Medical Boards. The second point is undoubtedly an improvement on present conditions.

In spite of this agreement, I think it my duty to record my strong feeling on the general question.

W.H.L.

Colonial Office,
23rd August, 1917.
A number of serious strikes involving large numbers of men are in progress.

The most important of these is that of the Iron Ore Miners in Cumberland, the beginning of which was referred to in last week's report. The dispute is in regard to a question of wages and involves 9,000 men. The number of men involved, large as it is, is not however a measure of its seriousness, as these mines are the most important iron ore mines in the country, and at the present time their production is essential to the output of Munitions.

Every effort has been made to bring about a settlement - Mr. Tolkien of the Ministry of Munitions has twice visited Cumberland and a representative of the Ministry of Labour has also been on the spot, but without result. The men show signs of desiring to go back to work, but their executive have taken up a very determined position, from which they can hardly withdraw without loss of prestige.

The strike of Boilermakers on the Mersey which was last week reported as threatening, has materialised. The men profess to have been expecting an award in regard to a contention which they raised, that an advance in wages received shortly before the national award to Boilermakers of April last should not have been merged in the latter award. This plea was fully presented to the Committee on Production before the national award was issued and the Society was informed by the Ministry of Labour that the award could not be reheard until a reasonable time had elapsed. The strike is illegal under the Munitions Act and any payments in support of it from the Union's funds prohibited, though the men are attempting to argue that they gave due notice of the dispute and that there was no reference to arbitration within 21 days. The men are however of a truculent disposition and are actively attempting to make the question a national one. It will be remembered that they displayed a similar obstinacy in July last when they refused for some time to return to work until the arbiters on the question of standard ships had been appointed. On that occasion, however, they eventually gave way, and it is possible in the present instance that the absence of strike pay will soon produce a more reasonable frame of mind. In the meantime some eight thousand men are involved, and they have succeeded in bringing out most of the soldiers, who have been sent back to work on shipbuilding, and some of the foremen, sections who on the previous occasion remained at work.

Quite a number of other minor strikes of Boilermakers or rivetters have taken place, notably on the Clyde, at Dundee, in the North Eastern area, and at Worthy.

There have been no important stoppages in the Coal mining Industry, though a lock-out has taken place in North Wales over a matter arising out of one of the recent strikes. Certain employees at the Cynon Colliery are to be prosecuted for their conduct during this strike, and the others accordingly held a pit-head meeting to discuss the matter. This made them late for work and they were locked out by the management. It is feared that this action may lead to sympathetic strikes in some of the adjoining collieries.

The small strike of transport workers at Hull, referred to in last week's report as being due to discontent at a recent award,
abandons, grew in importance until some 1,500 men were involved. Before the matter had reached really serious proportions, however, the men were persuaded to return to work pending negotiations. This result was chiefly due to the action of the Union officials.

The men at the Crown Tube Works, Wednesbury have now returned to work, having secured their point, in the resignation of the official whose treatment of a discharged soldier seeking reinstatement had caused so much anxiety. This settlement was very timely as there was a possibility of sympathetic strikes taking place at neighbouring works.

A strike of "tippers" which began on the 20th at the Barry Docks involves a somewhat important point. The men are paid on a basis of tonnage, and they are discontented owing to the diversion to other ports of coal, which is usually shipped from Barry. This involves a considerable decrease in wages, and the tippers accordingly demand a fixed wage, based on the tonnage of the year 1913, plus a 15/- War Bonus, but the men have refused to accept this.

A strike involving some thousands of workers employed in boot factories, at Northampton, began on the 13th and lasted some days. The point involved was one of some importance, namely, payment of wages for Bank Holiday week, which was observed as a full week's holiday. The matter has been referred to arbitration.

II. DISPUTES.

The attention of the country has been drawn to a threatened strike of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen the possibility of which was referred to in this report of a fortnight ago. As the various negotiations which have taken place in connection with the men's demands have been fully reported in the daily press, there is no need for repetition here. The trouble was at bottom an attempt on the part of the Locomotive Engineers to steal a march on the H.U.R., and was principally engineered by Mr. Bromley. A strike would have been caused on Tuesday night, had not a way out been found for the Union.

Apart from this the most serious trouble is still to be expected from the coal miners, who are very restless in most parts of the country. No alteration has taken place among the West Yorkshire Colliery surface workers who are claiming an eight hour day and other concessions. Notices which will affect 20,000 men are to be handed in.

In Durham the men are impatient for a reply to their recent application for a 25% advance in wages which is being considered by the Coal Owners' Association. A meeting of delegates representing men working in 96 collieries has decided to ballot on the question of a strike should a favourable reply not be received.

In the Nottingham-Derby Coalfield several disputes threaten to result in stoppages of work and notices which will involve several thousand men are to be handed in.

The Scottish Colliery Engine and Boilermen met in Glasgow on Saturday and were informed that their application for a War Bonus of a shilling a shift had been refused. It was therefore resolved to tender 14 days notice.

This decision affects the whole of the Collieries and Shale works in Scotland, and if carried out 100,000 workers will be involved.

The War Office Contractors' Department has only one new case of dispute to report. This affects all the War Office Contractors in Ireland, and notices have been tendered contrary to/
to the advice of the Trade Union officials.

The position in the Jute Industry is unchangeable, and there is also a possibility of trouble in the Cutlery Trade, where a movement is on foot to force the employers to engage only Union Labour.

The Shipyard Labour Department has to report an increase in the number of disputes which have been in progress during the week. These amount to 67, of which the majority are of slight importance. Eight only of these involved stoppages of work and as many as twenty-seven have been settled. The Clyde and the Tyne are still the most disturbed areas, though the Mersey, South Wales and Barrow are also said to be very restless.

An important demarcation dispute is in progress at Liverpool, between Shipwrights and Joiners. Owing to the action of the Officials of the Shipyard Labour Department a Court of Inquiry has been set up, and has given its decision which was to have been referred to mass meetings of the men on Sunday last. Further details have not yet been received.

The Ministry of Munitions reports twelve cases of dispute, three of which have been settled. The most important of the latter was an alleged case of victimisation at Messrs. Vickers, Weybridge. An Australian worker who had taken a prominent part in a recent dispute was to be transferred to unfamiliar work in a different establishment. The intervention of the Ministry succeeded in establishing the fact that there was no victimisation, and in persuading the firm to pay attention to the men's wishes in regard to his work.

The most important of the other cases is due to dissatisfaction among the engineers in the Leighley district. They contend that certain local firms are not applying recent awards of the Committee on Production honestly, and threaten to strike unless these firms are compelled to comply with the award. Negotiations with a view to arbitration are in progress.

Cases in which women have threatened to strike in order to enforce a demand for bonus as opposed to piece work, and men to strike, in order to prevent attempts at their replacement by women, are also reported.

The Committee on Production heard fifteen arbitration cases during the past week, all of them in London, with the possible exception of a dispute as to the number of hours constituting a "full ordinary week", none of these was noteworthy.
The position on the Clyde is unsettled but there is no indication of immediate trouble. Interest has during the past week centred chiefly on the Stockholm question, and at home on the subject of the reinstatement of the Clyde deportees. This latter came to a head in the early part of the week, when several of the shops at last agreed to down tools, unless Kirkwood and the others were reinstated within ten days. In the meantime Kirkwood was granted an interview with Mr. Churchill and was guaranteed work in a National Projectile Factory, failing the reinstatement which Mr. Churchill was prepared to suggest to his late employer. Kirkwood returned to Scotland in a defiant frame of mind, but during the week-end the situation underwent a complete change. A meeting was held at which the deportees were urged to accept the work offered by the Ministry of Munitions. Kirkwood and the others seem to have agreed to this, and on the succeeding day went to work. The reasons for this volte face are not yet apparent, but a situation which has always had in it the elements of serious trouble is thus definitely relieved.

The Glasgow Trades Council which is an extremist body, has passed resolutions supporting representation at Stockholm, and calling upon the Labour Party to leave the coalition. There has also been some agitation about the disproportionate representation of Labour on the local Food Control Committee.

A special conference of Scottish Miners was held on the 17th which agreed to support Mr. Henderson's policy. Mr. Smillie made an important statement, in the course of which he said that if the German representatives at Stockholm were to refuse the British terms, Labour would unite more strongly than ever in the prosecution of the war.

There is still some restlessness on the Tyne, due chiefly to the recent engineering award, which is at present the most active cause of discontent in the engineering world, and to questions in regard to standard ships.

The main body of opinion is strongly against Stockholm and the Durham Miners Association reversed the action of its Executive in voting in favour of representation. The Northumbrian miners are demanding the resignation of their president and secretary, and branches of other Unions have passed resolutions condemning the action of their delegates in supporting Mr. Henderson. The A.J.B., Elswick Branch, passed a resolution that they will not tolerate any peace meeting that does not include in its proposals Germany's full submission to the Allies' terms. These terms should include annexations and indemnities.

With the exception of the strike of Iron Ore miners referred to in Section I conditions are normal.

The Barrow Shop Stewards have received an invitation to take part in a conference, which it is proposed to hold shortly at Leeds for the purpose of arranging a general strike on the question of the Engineering Award. It is improbable that the men will be prepared for immediate measures of so drastic a description, as the holidays have exhausted their funds.

An important meeting of engineers, which was held on the 19th, was addressed by Mr. J. C. Anderson, M.P., and was almost unanimously in favour of sending delegates to Stockholm.
With the exception of the Mersey district conditions in this area are normal. Discontent with the Engineering award continues but there is no probability of immediate trouble. Agitation about the income tax is growing and has now crystallised into a proposal, put forward by the Liverpool Electrical Trades Union, that the basis should be raised from £10 to £160.

The important Shop Stewards conference which was held at Manchester during the week-end is referred to in Section V.

The strike of Boilermakers on the Mersey is referred to in Section I. The men are making every effort to bring out other Unions in sympathy, and a resolution to this effect was put before the Manchester Conference of Shop Stewards, but was negatived.

In this district, and the remark is true of the whole country in varying degrees, there is considerable resentment about the Government's treatment of Mr. Henderson, both among his supporters and opponents. It is by many regarded as a slight to the Labour movement.

The general position in Yorkshire is more normal. Unrest continues among the textile workers, but no disposition to make immediate trouble is apparent, and interest centres in the newly established Board of Control.

The agitation among the miners about Military Service has subsided, owing to the temporary withdrawal of the recruiting scheme, and the men are now all back at work.

Interest has largely centred in the threatened strike of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (referred to in Section II) as the Union has its headquarters in Leeds. There is considerable bitterness between the members of this Union and the National Union of Railwaymen, and the trouble is locally regarded as largely due to a personal quarrel between Mr. Bromley, Secretary of the Engineers, and Mr. Thomas.

The position is on the whole quiet, though discontent among the Engineers continues, and the majority of the Locomotive Engineers and Firemen in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire were favourable to the proposed strike.

Most of the Local Trades Councils have passed resolutions in favour of Mr. Henderson's Stockholm policy, but nevertheless the majority of workers, particularly among the miners, are strongly opposed to it. There is however a disposition among the latter to resent the Government's refusal of passports.

The position is normal.

Various important meetings and Conferences have taken place in regard to the Stockholm question but these have been fully reported in the daily press, as have also the delegate conferences of the Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, one of which was attended by Mr. Barnes and Sir Albert Stanley.

A meeting of the Leyton Branch of the I.L.P., was held on the 15th at which W. F. Watson, who was very prominently identified with the recent Engineers' strike, outlined his future course of action. He said that he had given up his attempt to bring about the amalgamation of the Engineering, Metal and Shipbuilding Trades and intended to start a new Industrial Union of his own. During his speech he expressed himself in favour of international action on the lines of the Industrial Workers of the World, but it is not yet known that he has joined that dangerous organisation.
The position in South Wales is decidedly quieter. The chief centres of unrest are at the moment the Barry Docks (referred to in Section I) and the collieries.

An important meeting of seamen was held during the week at which a resolution was passed unanimously refusing to accept the vote given at the Labour Conference in regard to representation at Stockholm and demanding a referendum of the rank and file of Trade Unionists.

The miners are however strongly in favour of Mr. Henderson's policy and a resolution illustrative of their outlook was passed at a meeting of the Aberdare miners to the following effect:

"In the opinion of this meeting an international meeting for consultation purposes such as was recommended by Mr. Arthur Henderson cannot possibly be of any harm, but rather that (1) the representatives of this country may place our position clearly before the Russian Delegates and (2) that our representatives may tell the German delegates and say that plainly Germany is responsible for the war and that Germany alone is the stumbling block in the way of its settlement and that such a conference for such purposes should lead to very much good, and we therefore disapprove of the decision of the Government to refuse passports to the delegates and we desire that the Prime Minister should bring the matter forward again for consideration."
Labour Party at the Stockholm Conference has again formed the
topic of voluminous articles in the daily and weekly
Press. The effect of Mr. Henderson's resignation from the
War Cabinet, on the relations between the Government and
Labour generally, is the special subject of discussion in
a number of journals. The "New Age" writes:—"The
resignation under mysterious circumstances of Mr. Henderson
from the Cabinet cannot be said to leave the Government
unweakened in its hold upon Labour. The circumstances,
it is true, need further explanation than is offered.....
but on the face of them they appear highly suspicious:
and they are likely to be deeply resented by the Labour
movement".

The "Bradford Pioneer" sees in the incident a proof
that the Labour Party was wrong in agreeing to be a party
to the coalition Government and describes the situation
of the Labour member of the War Cabinet as follows.—
".....Mr. Lloyd George regarded Labour Ministers as
"hostages for the good behaviour of the working class.
"The treatment of Henderson by the Prime Minister and his
"colleague in the War Cabinet, bears out the assumption
"referred to, for, as soon as one of the hostages ventured
"to differ with the Prime Minister, the offending hostage
"was treated, not as an equal, but as a lackey".

Similarly the "South Wales Pioneer" writes:— "In
"other words, Labour members are in the Government as
"hostages for the good behaviour of the rank and file of
"the Labour movement. Nobody can have any doubt on this
"point after what has happened during the last fortnight".

The "Soolwich Pioneer" refers to the treatment of
Mr. Henderson as not only an insult to himself but also as
an affront to Labour as a whole:— "An affront to the
"accredited representative of Labour is an affront to the
"whole movement. It is not a quarrel between two men: it
"is not a quarrel between the Premier and a colleague. It
"is a throwing over by the Premier of the representative
"of Labour".

In the course of a moderate and suggestive article in
its issue of 22nd August the "Manchester Guardian" any
action which might result in a clearance between the
Government and Labour is deprecated. "The greatest
"calamity which the Stockholm episode could inflict upon
"us would be a serious rift between the Government and a
"large body of labour opinion. Yet we are now within
"sight of conditions in which such a rift might begin to
"form itself, and there are not wanting influences which
"will work their worst to create, and, when created, to
"widow it".

It was to be expected that a demand would arise from
the I.L.P. Section for the withdrawal of Labour support
from the Government. This demand is voiced in the "Call"
among other papers. "Mr. Lloyd George's direct challenge
"to Labour, permits of but one answer......The challenge
"must be answered by the immediate withdrawal of every
"Labour representative in the Government.....

The "Labour Leader" writes in a similar strain
The "Newcastle Daily Chronicle" states that the Executive Committee of the British Socialist Party has addressed a manifesto to the Labour Conference, recommending that the Labour Party immediately withdraw its representatives from the Government and repudiate any who refuse to come out.

The "Herald" has a long article entitled "The Choice for Labour", presenting what purports to be a history of the "Stockholm Crisis" and concluding with an appeal to Labour to support Mr. Henderson. "It is up to Labour to support him; to insist on going to Stockholm; to refuse to wait on the "Premier's doormat".

"Common Sense" suggests that the opposition to the Government on the Stockholm question is only a symptom of general discontent in the Labour world. "According to some accounts many of our industrial districts are seething with discontent, and Mr. Churchill's sudden capitulation to Trade Union demands on the Munitions of War Bill, coupled with the warning speeches of Mr. J.H. Thomas and other Labour leaders indicates that the situation is far more serious than a perusal of the London newspapers would suggest.

The "Clarian", "Justice" and the "British Citizen and Empire Worker" continue their opposition to participation in the Stockholm Conference in articles of no great force.

Interest in these bodies has been diverted by the Stockholm incident, and references to them are comparatively few. The "Newcastle Daily Chronicle" reports that the Miners Lodge of Wallsend G. Pit unanimously passed a resolution condemning the Executive, and demanding their resignation on the ground that they had sent representatives to a meeting of the Council. The "Herald" described the impromptu meeting held at Glasgow, where the regular meeting had been prohibited, and emphasised the fact that no rioting or disorder had ensued. The "Call" published a similar article.

The "Yorkshire Factory Times" in a paragraph headed "Soldiers and Sailors' Conference" attacks the Government in reference to the Southgate riot on the ground that they "have to some extent given their blessing to mob rule and mob violence against any section of society that are not of their way of thinking, or not of Lord Northcliffe's way of thinking".

Reference to the reports of the Whitley Sub-Committee and of the Industrial Unrest Commissions have been frequent in the Press during the week. As a rule the tone employed is one of approval, but the "Socialist Standard" describes the proposals of the former as a "co-partnership"snare", while the "Herald" in a reference to a resolution passed by the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation approving the National Alliance of Employers and Employed ventures "to hope that recent developments in the political alliance between capital and labour will cause the Iron and Steel workers of the country to suspect that there is such a thing as being sold—or rather given away." Similar suspicions were voiced in a meeting of the Blackburn and District Trades and Labour Council, which met in order to consider the proposals of the Whitley Sub-Committee (Blackburn Weekly Telegraph).

The Reconstruction Ministry is welcomed in an article in the New Age, but unhesitatingly condemned by the Call
The Education Bill is the subject of comment and criticism in many papers. The more moderate Labour journals of which the "Labour Leader", the "Bradford Pioneer" and the "Woolwich Pioneer" may be taken as typical, welcome the Bill as a substantial though inadequate measure of reform. The "Labour Leader" says "If this Bill be carried, it will not give us a complete and perfect system of education, but it will be the greatest advance towards that ideal which has been made by any one step in educational reform".

"Justice" in an article entitled "Educational Skill for the Workers", the "Clairion" and the "Call" are frankly hostile. The "Call" considers that Mr. Fisher's convictions are excellent but that "he has been dominated "and kept in check by consideration for "industry and the "interests of the employing class". The "Clairion" jeers at the meagre provision of hours for continuation education, and suggests the inadequacy to be due to a fear that anything more adequate would open the eyes of the working class, with dangerous results to the Capitalist. It demands that the number of hours per week should be 20, as proposed by the Workers' Educational Association.

There are signs of opposition to the abolition of half-time in Lancashire from both employers and operatives. The latter are inclined to take the view that they must be compensated by better wages for the lost earnings of the children.

The agitation on the question of prices has largely died down, but the "Leicester Pioneer" criticises the Corn Production Bill as a lineal descendant of the Corn Laws, while several papers animadvert on the continued rise in the price of meat. The "Labour Leader" and the "Call" complain of delay in reduction of the price of bread. In several quarters opposition to the Food Control Committees is expressed, notably in the "Herald", whose recommendations for appointments in Greenwich and Glasgow are severely criticised.

The withdrawal of the Dilution clause in the Munitions of War Amendment Bill has been welcomed by the whole Labour Press. The opposition of the Miners to further recruitment from their ranks is hailed with delight by the pacifist section. The "Bradford Pioneer" in a paragraph headed "Makes us Sad" comments adversely on a resolution of the Yorkshire Miners Association Council recommending that all the men who had gone into the pits since August 1914 should be "combed out".
There are a number of signs tending to show that the Shop Stewards movement is in difficulties, particularly in regard to funds. The Clyde Shop Stewards had not sufficient money in hand to pay the expenses of one of their delegates to the Manchester Conference and a levy was to be made. The fund for the maintenance of the deportees also became exhausted with little prospect of replenishment, and this probably had a considerable influence on their decision to accept the offer of employment made to them by the Minister of Munitions. (See Part III.) The "Kerale" is still appealing, apparently without success, for subscriptions to pay off the legal expenses incurred by the men arrested during the Engineers' strike, while the Strike committee elected at that time has been dissolved, leaving a debt of £17.

Moreover, the movement in favour of amalgamation in which W. F. Watson was the principal figure, has broken down, and the Amalgamation Committee has been dissolved. Watson, himself, is believed to be at the point of joining the Industrial Workers of the World, a much more dangerous body, whose history and methods were noticed in the Report for the week ending August 1st. The conference held in Manchester on the 19th and 20th August appears to have been largely a fiasco. A division made itself apparent on the aims of the movement, one party being in favour of maintaining the Craft Union spirit and supporting Trade Union methods, while the other aimed at complete industrial unionism and revolution. A motion in favour of a general strike of Engineers in the event of the last award of 5/- not being increased was defeated, as was a further resolution to strike in sympathy of the Boilermakers of Liverpool. There was a sharp division of opinion also on the subject of the Stockholm Conference and at one time the proceedings became so stormy that a free fight seemed imminent.

The above indications seem to suggest that the more advanced section of the movement is losing its hold and that the time has now come when it can be more easily diverted into constitutional channels. This is no doubt due largely to the fact that the general causes of unrest have to some extent been diminished, thereby weakening the following of the extreme element. On the other hand, there are some signs that the Executive of the A.S.I.B. are more inclined to consider the more reasonable proposals of the Shop Stewards than they have been hitherto, and the Secretary, Mr. R. Young, has written a rather notable article in their monthly journal for August, in which he somewhat cautiously pronounces in favour of the principle of amalgamation with other bodies in the trade. The formation of a representative Advisory Committee to the Ministry of Munitions by Mr. Churchill may considerably help to improve the relations between the different Unions in the Engineering trade, and his proposal that one of their first duties should be to work out a scheme for Shop Committees may be the first step towards bringing the sound element in the Shop Stewards' movement into the constitutional camp.
I am anxious to draw the attention of my colleagues to the attached copy of a cable which I have received from Dr. Parkin. Dr. Parkin is Secretary to the Rhodes Trust, and has been travelling in all parts of the United States for some months past in connection with his work in this capacity. He has frequently been on similar missions before and is very familiar with the United States and Canada. In my opinion his evidence is of very special value, and it serves to confirm the reports which have reached us from Lord Northcliffe and others.

Copy of Cablegram received from Dr. Parkin, 22nd Aug. 1917.

My observation in much recent travelling through the U.S.A. convinces me more than ever that great harm is being done to British cause by insufficient reports of our English efforts and losses. The result here is that the public is convinced that the German statement that Canadians, Australians and French do nearly all the fighting is true. The people here are greatly surprised when I tell them of our losses. The names of British regiments are rarely given here and the constant publication of the names of French flying men gives the impression that all flying is being done by France. This situation is being made much of by our hostile critics. A change of policy in this connection would improve the situation and strengthen the hands of the President in regard to British affairs.

I am sending this message for the information of the Cabinet after consultation with English and Canadian friends. The result of the present method is harmful and the position in my opinion is serious.
SECRET

WAR CABINET.

G.T.1823A.

THE BRITISH MILITARY EFFORTS IN THE WAR. NECESSITY FOR INCREASED PUBLICITY IN AMERICA.

(Note by Mr. W. Long)

I should like to support Lord Milner's suggestion in G.T. 1823.

From information I receive I am confident that Dr. Parkin is right and that much remains yet to be done to convince the people of the United States of America of the part that Great Britain has played, and the immense losses she has suffered. The distribution of these losses amongst all classes might well be emphasised.

(initialled) W.H.L.

24th August 1917.
From Secretary of State to Viceroy, Foreign Department,
22nd August 1917.
(Repeated to Sir P. Cox.)

Foreign Secret. My predecessor's telegram of 10th May. Mesopotamia administration. His Majesty's Government think it impracticable in present military situation to send proposed Commission to Mesopotamia during coming cold weather. They propose to postpone project until military situation is clearer. Do you agree?
I understand that a proposal has been put forward for the transfer of the administration of the Employment Exchanges to the National Service Department.

I consider this proposal to be open to a number of grave objections which may be summarised as follows:

1. If the recruiting of civilian labour is placed in the hands of the Department which controls the administration of compulsory military service, a suspicion that this is merely a veiled form of industrial conscription will be aroused in the minds of organised labour, which cannot but be gravely detrimental to the national interests. Whatever efforts may be made to keep the two parts of the Department distinct, the central authority which has the determining voice on the civilian side must also appear as the authority for enforcing compulsion on the military side; the staffs and local offices on the two sides, though distinct, will be well known to be but two branches of the same concern, and no amount of argument will persuade the public that the element of compulsion, which is necessarily present on the military side, has not infected the civilian side also. If the proposal were carried out—and I sincerely trust that it will not—there would very soon be such a volume of opposition that it would have to be reversed; and in the meantime a serious loss, which the country cannot afford, would have been suffered in the work which is now being done, even under the present unsatisfactory conditions, in the supply of labour for essential needs.

2. The administration of the Employment Exchanges closely concerns the interests of labour at every point, and it forms, in volume, and in some respects in importance also, much the greater part of the work of the Ministry of Labour, which was established as recently as January last. Its transfer to another Department would reduce the Ministry of Labour to a mutilated fragment, with no very obvious reason for further existence, and it would further be necessarily regarded as a definite indication that the problems of demobilisation, for dealing with which the Exchanges are an essential piece of machinery and in which labour is vitally interested, are not after all to be any concern of the Ministry of Labour. I can fairly claim to be influenced by no feeling of personal ambition when I say that it would be a matter which I should deeply deplore if my advent to office were marked by such a surrender of the legitimate rights of labour.

I should view with serious alarm the effect which so large a diminution of the powers and functions of the Ministry of Labour would be likely to have on the Labour Movement at the present juncture. It would be regarded as evidence that the Ministry of Labour, which was established so recently and after a demand for its establishment had been urged for very many years, is not intended to be a reality, but is a mere piece of make-believe. In this connection I may call attention to the resolution, printed below, which is to be moved by the Parliamentary Committee, the executive authority of the whole Trade Union movement, at the forthcoming Trades Union Congress. If, in the face of this resolution, the proposed transfer takes place, it will inevitably be regarded as a slight on the Trade Union Movement, and will considerably strengthen the hands of the element in the Labour Party who are now working for a break with the Government.

3. The separate functions of the National Service Department as regards the supply of labour has, in the past, been defended, and their transfer to the Ministry of Labour has been resisted, mainly on the ground of the alleged unpopularity of the Exchanges with organised labour. Now, I do not think I am doing an injustice to anyone when I assert that the Ministry of Labour commands the general confidence
of organised labour to at least as great a degree as any other Department, and if
the Exchanges are unpopular now they could not be less unpopular were their
administration transferred elsewhere. I am, therefore, at a loss to understand why
the National Service Department are desirous of having the Exchanges transferred
to their charge.

I should add that I do not admit that these charges of unpopularity are in
general well founded or that the re-organisations initiated by Mr. Hodge, and in
particular the establishment of Local Advisory Committees, will not remove any
outstanding grounds of suspicion. On this point I need only refer to Mr. Hodge's
memorandum of 13th August, with which I fully concur, and I may justly claim,
also, that the present desire of the National Service Department to take over the
Exchanges is an indication that the charges are not entirely sincere.

4. There is a single system of Employment Exchanges, under unified control,
for the whole of the United Kingdom. On the other hand, there has been, in the
past, a separate and independent Director-General of National Service for Ireland,
and presumably this arrangement is to continue, particularly as compulsory military
service applies only to Great Britain. If this is so, the transfer of the Exchanges to
the National Service Department would involve the division of the Exchange system
into two parts. This may possibly require legislation as regards the Labour
Exchanges Act of 1909, and would certainly require legislation as regards the
administration of unemployment insurance under the National Insurance Acts which,
as will be explained in the next paragraph, cannot be divorced from the Exchanges.
The practical effects of a separate administration for Ireland, serious enough in the
case of unemployment insurance, would be gravely injurious as regards the supply of
labour. The use of Irish labour in Great Britain is far from being free from difficul­
ties, but it is nevertheless, and will continue to be, essential. The loss of man-power
that would probably result from placing the supply of labour for Ireland under
separate control is so serious that it is, in itself, sufficient in my opinion to condemn
the present proposal.

5. In addition to the supply of adult labour the Exchanges carry out a number
of other functions to which there is no counterpart in the National Service Depart­
ment, but which cannot be divorced from the Exchanges. If the Exchanges are
transferred, their functions must be transferred also, and I very much doubt whether,
when the proposal was put forward, the full consequences were realised.

It will be sufficient to mention two of the principal functions of this nature.

In the first place, the Exchanges make special provision for dealing with
“juveniles,” i.e., boys and girls under the age of 17. This provision includes, among
other things, the closest co-operation with the Local Education Authorities in a large
number of centres. This work would have to go over with the Exchanges, and as
the National Service Department has not hitherto dealt with persons under 18, a
great extension of its previous scope would be entailed, and that in a sphere which,
involving peculiarly delicate and difficult problems, has not hitherto been regarded
as part of national service work.

In the second place, the Exchanges administer an extensive system of insurance
against unemployment, covering 3½ million workpeople. As it is an essential part
of any system of unemployment insurance that the office paying benefit must be in a
position to offer employment, unemployment insurance must go along with the
Exchanges. This, again, would be a very large addition to the functions of the
National Service Department. (The difficulties in this respect arising from the need
for legislation, if Ireland is to be separately administered, have been pointed out in
the previous paragraph.)

6. The last objection which I wish to mention arises out of the arrangements
which have recently been made for the transfer from the National Service Department
to the Employment Exchanges of the work of obtaining women for the Women’s
Army Auxiliary Corps. I will not enter into the reasons for this transfer, but will
merely say that the transfer has been publicly announced, and has attracted con­
siderable attention; the Women’s Department of the National Service Department
has, I believe, ceased its work, and in the next few days women will be asked to enrol
at the Employment Exchanges instead of at the National Service Department. I
venture to suggest that it would be too great a trial to the mystified and exasperated
public if these proceedings are now reversed by the transfer of the Exchanges to the
National Service Department.
I submit that these objections are conclusive against the present proposal. It seems to me that the task of obtaining recruits for the Army is one which ought to be undertaken without other preoccupation, and which is sufficiently arduous and difficult to engage the undivided attention of the National Service Department. The course that should be taken in order to put an end to the present deplorable overlapping and confusion between the National Service Department and the Ministry of Labour is, in my opinion, that suggested in Mr. Hodge's Memorandum of 13th August, which I entirely endorse, viz., to transfer to the Employment Exchanges the present functions of the National Service Department as regards the supply of labour.

I should add that Mr. Hodge concurs in the views expressed in the present memorandum.

G. H. R.

20th August 1917.

RESOLUTION TO BE MOVED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE AT THE FORTHCOMING TRADES UNION CONGRESS.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR.

This Congress expresses its hearty approval of the creation of a Ministry of Labour.

It welcomes the appointment of Advisory Committees to assist in the work of Employment Exchanges, provided they are collectively nominated by the bodies to be represented; and the duties assigned to these Committees should be extended so as to give them a real opportunity for rendering service to the Department.

It also approves the proposed extension of the Trade Boards Acts to several other trades, on lines of the resolution passed at the Birmingham Congress.

The Ministry of Labour will not fill its proper place in the Government of the State until its powers and duties are considerably enlarged, including the transfer to the Ministry of the duties relating to the inspection of factories, workshops, and transport (including railways and waterways).

Owing to the confusion arising through each Government Department having control of their staff and employees and the overlapping of jurisdiction on general Labour questions exercised by the War Council, Admiralty, Ministry of Munitions, and the Home Office, the Labour Ministry should be reformed by the unification of all Labour negotiations on behalf of the Government under the Labour Ministry.

And we instruct the Parliamentary Committee to bring before the notice of the Prime Minister the views of this Congress on this question, which is of first importance to the well-being of those engaged in the industrial occupations of the country.
SECRET.

From: General Delme Radcliffe.
To: C.I.G.S.

No. 335.

Situation up to 10 p.m. to-night.

2nd Army. 27th Corps is strongly opposed on its left but took Na Gradu and Levpa on right, 14th Corps is advancing up Amschek Valley, 24th Corps has occupied point 856, Oscadril and Jelomk. 5th Bersaglieri Brigade reached Staris Duha. The Kobilck taken by the 2nd Army Corps counter-attack (?)Words omitted) enemy had withdrawn 1½ divisions from Vodici-Monte Santo sector to reinforce 1st, 21st and 34th divisions which are being pressed back towards the centre of the plateau. The 36th Schutzen regiment, the 3 battalions of which were recently in the Trentino in the Sugana and D'Arsa Valleys and on the Cauriol, has been identified by contact on the Oscadril. Many more prisoners have been taken by 2nd Army but numbers could not be stated.

3rd Army. 11th Corps no change, though another attempt to capture point 464 failed. 25th Corps made some progress towards Cribci south of Castagnevizza. 23rd Corps also made progress about Stark Lok and consolidated the positions gained yesterday. 13th Corps made some progress south of Medeazza, taking 870 prisoners. Its line now passes through points 175 and 145 to San Giovanni. Total prisoners taken by the 3rd Army to-day about 1,000.

There was considerable aerial activity on the Italian side and bombs were repeatedly dropped by squadrons of Caproni, especially in the Chiapovano Valley, on Temmizza and in rear of Hermada. Austrian artillery showed less activity and was exclusively employed to check infantry advances. Austrian 28th and
9th divisions from reserve are now completely engaged. This leaves only the 73rd and 41st divisions as intact units in reserve. Of the Austrian divisions engaged at the front the 17th and 44th each have one regiment still not in front line and the 9th two regiments. All other troops have been engaged and suffered considerable losses. Depression and exhaustion of Austrian troops is increasing. Two battalions of 28th regiment brought up from near Gorizia have now been identified on Carso. There is a report that the 10th division is now to go to neighbourhood of Trieste. Report, dated evening of August 16th from Marburg, states that 4 trains with German artillery and personnel consisting of two 420 m.m. howitzers, two 300 m.m. howitzers and several 156, 180 and 120 m.m. guns were going from Dresden to Brisciki, while 23rd Field Artillery regt was going from Roumania to Opcina. Generally speaking, the situation is developing well. As the immediate prospects of decisive results appear more promising on Bainsizza Plateau, Cadorna is transferring the whole reserve under Commando Supremo to the 2nd Army area, while the 8th Corps again passes from 3rd to 2nd Army. Until the action of 3rd Army is further developed battle on the Carso front will probably be stationary for a day or two.
SECRET.
G.T. 1827.

DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WAR CABINET
MAN POWER COMMITTEE HELD AT 2, WHITEHALL
GARDENS, at 3.30 p.m. AUGUST 23rd, 1917.

Present:
Lord Milner (in the Chair)
Mr. G.N. Barnes, M.P.

The following also attended:

Sir Auckland Geddes (Ministry of
Mr. Sandford Pownall) National Service.
Mr. G. H. Roberts, M.P.)
Sir D. Shackleton) Ministry of Labour.
Mr. T. Phillips)
Mr. G. M. Hodgson) Private Secretaries.
Major Thornton)

Captain Ormsby Gore, M.P.
Secretary.

The Committee considered the question of the possible
transfer of the Labour Exchanges from the Ministry of Labour to
the National Service Department.

MR. G. ROBERTS (Minister of Labour) expressed the view that it
was most undesirable that the functions connected with the trans­
fer of ordinary civil labour should be associated with the
Department that undertook recruiting for the Army, and that any
such association would arouse not merely suspicion but resent­
ment in the labour world. He pointed out that one of the
conditions upon which labour entered the present Government was
the prompt establishment of a Ministry of Labour as a permanent
Department. This permanent Department required the machinery
of the Labour Exchanges for the administration of unemployment
benefit and similar functions. He had always understood that
the National Service Department was a special department tempo­
orarily established for war purposes, and not a permanent Ministry.

SIR AUCKLAND GEDDES pointed out that the War Cabinet (War Cab­
inet 30, Minute 1, para.(g) IV) had on January 19th, 1917
laid down that "the Employment Exchanges should remain under the
control of the Minister of Labour, who undertook to place them
at the disposal of the Director General for the organisation of
National Service". He stated that there had been no real loan
of the Labour Exchanges, and that as a result there was a
duplication of machinery which was proving fatal to the satis­
factory working of any man-power policy. An attempt had been
made to work the policy laid down by the Cabinet by means of a
joint committee but this had broken down and the alternative
of differentiating between the functions of the Labour
Exchanges and the National Service scheme had also broken down.
The late Minister of Labour (Mr. Hodge) had agreed with him that matters were not satisfactory. Now that the National Service Substitution Volunteers had been placed upon exactly the same footing as War Munition Volunteers one of the great obstacles to co-ordination had been removed. The other National Service volunteers had practically ceased to exist and he hoped that it might be possible to arrange that all classes of transferable labour should be treated in the same way and thus differences of conditions of employment might be eliminated. War Munition Volunteers were only available for work under the Ministry of Munitions, while National Service volunteers were available for Admiralty and Army contracts work as well.

SIR DAVID SHACKLETON agreed that the placing of the National Service Substitution volunteers on the same terms as regards pay and allowances as obtained for War Munition volunteers made a great difference for the better in the direction of cooperation and co-ordination. He urged the impracticability of the transfer of the Labour Exchange Organisation to an Army recruiting department and the impossibility of the organisation serving two masters. It was for Sir Auckland Geddes to lay down the policy and the labour exchanges to carry it out. He did not desire that the Ministry of Labour should become responsible for deciding the questions of priority or the quantities of labour to be transferred to particular trades or Government departments. This was a matter entirely for Sir Auckland Geddes, but the question of the conditions of employment and machinery of transfer were essentially ones for the Ministry of Labour to decide.

SIR AUCKLAND GEDDES agreed with the general principles laid down in the latter part of Sir David Shapland's statement and thought that some arrangement might be come to similar to that which pertained between Mr. Asby and the Labour Supply Department of the Ministry of Munitions. The actual transfer of the whole machinery was not necessary provided, there was a real loan of the machinery, and provided there was one individual authority to carry out (subject to the War Cabinet decisions) the man-power policy. Above all duplicate machinery would be fatal.

The Committee decided

(1) That the Minister of Labour and Minister of National Service should see Mr. F. C. Asby and report whether a scheme on the lines suggested and analogous to that pertaining between the Ministry of Munitions and the Labour Exchange Department could be established in regard to all classes of transferable labour.
(2) That the Minister of Labour should prepare a statement for the Committee as to how far it would be possible to bring all classes of transferable labour into line with the War Munition Volunteers and National Service Volunteers in order to get rid of the difficulties arising from difference of conditions of service and enrolment.

2 Whitehall Gardens, S.W.
24th August, 1917.

NOTE

It is requested that any corrections to the above Minutes may be sent as early as possible to Captain, The Hon. W. Ormsby Gore, M.P. 2 WHITEHALL GARDENS, S.W.
From:- General Barter, Russia.
To:- C.I.O.S., War Office.

20th August 1917.
7.44 p.m.

No. 1199.

This morning C.-in-C. sent for me nominally to confer on me the Order of Saint Vladimir, but really I believe to tell me how matters stand between Provisional Government and himself. He informed me without reserve that Government is too weak to support his programme and dare not act. He himself is determined to maintain his conditions and it was quite clear to me both from his attitude and from some veiled allusions which he made that he is out of patriotism considering expediency of adopting, if necessary, a vigorous political initiative which, should foreign diplomatic action fail, is, in his opinion, the only way to save the army and country. One sentence especially led me to this supposition. He said Cossacks were ready to a man to act by force in support of his military policy.

Kornilof has definitely decided to attend Congress at Moscow and has asked me to accompany him. I shall take with me a secret code book and a staff officer. I shall of course be most discreet and careful in my behaviour and shall be there as a privately interested visitor.

He also gave strongest possible hint that he thinks the only peaceable way to save situation both military and political in Russia is the intervention of the Western Powers by means of diplomatic pressure. It was perfectly evident that he ardently desired this diplomatic intervention but wished to be able to declare if necessary that he had not solicited it.
I think it better not to give (one group undecipherable) cipher my private opinion of what he is prepared to do?should this diplomatic alternative fail and to what result (one group undecipherable) personal his action would lead.

I venture emphatically to urge that if the allied Governments have the intention of exerting diplomatic pressure it should be applied without a day's delay. I consider it of utmost importance that this effort should be made before the Congress at Moscow assembled on August 12th (sic). I also consider it highly desirable that each of allied Governments should confer a high decoration on Kornilof telegraphicly to Russian Government through the Ambassadors at Petrograd. This would constitute courteous yet clear evidence that they approved of military policy adopted by Kornilof.

Please furnish me with some indication of the policy of the British Government regarding these points for communication with Kornilof.

In the immediate future I will refer to Commander-in-Chief as "GRAIN", this being the equivalent of corn the beginning of his name. Please acknowledge.
OPERATIONS.

From : General Barter, Russia. 21st August 1917,
To : C.I.G.S., War Office.

No. 1201.

The Committee of Cossacks has published a declaration to which greatest importance is attached. Following is summary:—

"Council of Union of Cossacks has decided to make known to Provisional Government and to publish in the newspapers:—

1. That Council Union is entirely opposed to the latest opinions expressed by organs of Committee of Soldiers and Workmen which condemns the measure for the restoration of discipline proposed by Korniloff.

2. Korniloff cannot be replaced by anyone else because he is the real popular leader who in the opinion of the majority of the population is the only General capable of restoration of efficiency of army and of delivering country from present disastrous condition.

3. The Council as representing whole Cossacks of Russia declares that superseding of Korniloff would necessarily lead Cossacks to fatal belief as those in (one group undecipherable) do not wish adoption of efficacious measures to save the country, liberty of the people and the honour of the army it would no longer be incumbent on Cossacks to make further sacrifices for the country.

4. Council consider it their conscientious duty to announce to Government and to people that in the event of Korniloff being relieved of Chief Command it will decline further responsibility with regard to attitude of Cossacks troops at front and in the (2 groups undecipherable).

5. Council expresses with loud and determined voice its full and devoted subordination to its hero Chief, General Korniloff".

I am informed that Council of the Knights of Saint George issued similar proclamation at Petrograd. Although pronouncement of latter Council is not of same importance as that of Council of Cossacks it is as representing opinion of large section of best elements in the army still very valuable.

I shall see Korniloff to-morrow and shall send you his latest views.
Food Production.

(a) Agricultural Work.

During the week the weather has generally been warm and there have been many heavy thunder showers. Harvest work, which has now begun in the earliest districts, has been interrupted to some extent and further lodging of the grain crops has been caused. Harvesting operations will accordingly be more laborious and protracted in some cases, but it does not appear that the damage done has been either very serious or very extensive.

Potatoes, roots and pasture have all made good progress and are looking well.

1. District Agricultural Committees.

A representative of the Board met the Executive Committee for the Highland District of Perthshire and discussed various points relating to the scheme of cultivation for next year.

A circular (copy attached) has been issued to all Executive Committees dealing with the arrangements to be made where a farmer, during the last year of his lease, desires or is required to plough more land than the terms of that contract permit.

2. Compulsory Orders under the Defence of the Realm Regulation 2 M.

Under Section (1) (f) of this Regulation the Board have, in consequence of representations from the local Executive Committee and from the Proprietor of the farm, authorised the latter to terminate the tenancy of the present occupier of the Farm of Smallholmburn in the Parishes of Dalton and Lockerbie in the County of Dumfries.

(b) Allotments.

The Board have issued a circular (copies attached) to Town Councils and Parish Councils throughout the country requesting a return showing (1) the number of allotments at present under cultivation by residents in burghs or parishes whether formed by municipal authorities under the Cultivation of Lands Orders or by independent Allotment Associations, and (2) the total acreage of such allotments.

II. Collection of Statistics and Returns relating to Agriculture.

1. Annual Agricultural Returns.

The tabulation of these returns has now been completed. Appended is a table showing the principal items, as compared with the figures for 1916.


The tabulation of the returns for 4th August has now been completed. Appended is a table giving a comparison of the estimated figures for that date with the figures for 4th June.
1. Recruiting in Agriculture.


In continuation of their circular of 26th June last (Vide Report of 27th June) dealing with the agreement arrived at with the Army Council regarding the recruiting of agricultural workers, the Board have issued the attached memorandum for the instruction of District Agricultural Committees in the procedure now to be followed, detailed as follows:

(a) Procedure as regards a man whose case has been finally disposed of by the Tribunals.

(b) Procedure as regards calling up of men for medical examination or re-examination.

(c) Cases in which the calling up notice may be enforced.

(d) Procedure in the case of men who hold temporary certificates of exemption or who have not yet made application to the Tribunals.

(e) General instructions.

The work of vouching agricultural workers under this scheme is proceeding and the number of certificates issued to date is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recruiting Area</th>
<th>No. of Certificates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aberdeen</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort George</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inverness</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayr</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perth</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glencorse</td>
<td>492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>576</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The number of cases brought before the Board up to date is 856; certificates of exemption have been granted so far in 462 cases, and refused in 58 cases.

Forestry.

Employment of Women under the National Service scheme.

The Board have issued the attached circular to owners of afforested areas in Scotland regarding the training and employment of women in forestry work.
**TABLE I.**

**CROPS.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1917.</th>
<th>1916.</th>
<th>Increase (+) or Decrease (-).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Acres.</td>
<td>Acres.</td>
<td>Acres. %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Acreage under Crops and Grass</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4,776,200</td>
<td>4,775,506</td>
<td>+ 694 + 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arable Land</strong></td>
<td>3,360,342</td>
<td>3,303,741</td>
<td>+ 56,601 + 1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Permanent Grass...</strong></td>
<td>162,644</td>
<td>159,223</td>
<td>+ 3,421 + 2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arable Land...</strong></td>
<td>1,253,214</td>
<td>1,312,542</td>
<td>- 59,328 - 4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total...</strong></td>
<td>1,415,856</td>
<td>1,471,765</td>
<td>- 55,907 - 3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wheat...</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>61,072</td>
<td>63,083</td>
<td>- 2,011 - 3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Barley...</strong></td>
<td>159,414</td>
<td>169,739</td>
<td>- 10,325 - 6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Oats...</strong></td>
<td>1,040,371</td>
<td>990,569</td>
<td>+ 49,782 + 5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Potatoes...</strong></td>
<td>147,695</td>
<td>135,119</td>
<td>+ 17,576 + 13.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Turnips and Swedes...</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>418,054</td>
<td>- 466 - 0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mangolds...</strong></td>
<td>2,652</td>
<td>2,547</td>
<td>+ 305 + 13.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vetches, Tares, Mashlum, &amp;o. for fodder...</strong></td>
<td>11,393</td>
<td>10,495</td>
<td>+ 998 + 8.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rye grass and Clover.</strong></td>
<td>421,087</td>
<td>420,099</td>
<td>+ 988 + 0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grasses and Clover.</strong></td>
<td>1,065,564</td>
<td>1,060,230</td>
<td>+ 5,334 + 0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total...</strong></td>
<td>1,486,651</td>
<td>1,480,329</td>
<td>+ 6,322 + 0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Small Fruit Orchards...</strong></td>
<td>6,813</td>
<td>7,127</td>
<td>- 314 - 4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIVE STOCK.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Horses...</strong></td>
<td>209,730</td>
<td>207,290</td>
<td>+ 2,440 + 1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cattle...</strong></td>
<td>1,207,652</td>
<td>1,226,374</td>
<td>- 18,722 - 1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sheep...</strong></td>
<td>6,856,242</td>
<td>7,055,664</td>
<td>- 199,622 - 2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pigs...</strong></td>
<td>132,645</td>
<td>146,390</td>
<td>- 13,845 - 9.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# STATEMENT showing the Estimated Number of Cattle, Sheep and Pigs in Scotland at 4th August 1917, compared with the numbers at 4th June 1917.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Estimate at 4th August, 1917</th>
<th>Total at 4th June, 1917</th>
<th>Increase or Decrease</th>
<th>Actual.</th>
<th>Per Cent.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cows in Milk</td>
<td>351,000</td>
<td>346,000</td>
<td>+ 5,000</td>
<td>+ 1.45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cows in Calf but not in Milk</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>- 10,000</td>
<td>- 22.22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heifers in Calf (i.e. with first calf)</td>
<td>65,000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>+ 15,000</td>
<td>+ 30.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Cattle:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 years old and above</td>
<td>203,000</td>
<td>230,000</td>
<td>- 27,000</td>
<td>- 11.74</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 year old &amp; under 2 yrs. old</td>
<td>278,000</td>
<td>292,000</td>
<td>- 16,000</td>
<td>- 5.48</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 1 year old (including calves)</td>
<td>259,000</td>
<td>244,000</td>
<td>+ 15,000</td>
<td>+ 6.15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total CATTLE</td>
<td>1,189,000</td>
<td>1,207,000</td>
<td>- 18,000</td>
<td>- 1.49</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep kept for breeding</td>
<td>3109,000</td>
<td>3,022,000</td>
<td>+ 87,000</td>
<td>+ 2.88</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Sheep:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 year old and above</td>
<td>1027,000</td>
<td>1,215,000</td>
<td>-188,000</td>
<td>- 15.47</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 1 year old (including lambs)</td>
<td>2600,000</td>
<td>2,619,000</td>
<td>- 19,000</td>
<td>- 0.73</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total SHEEP</td>
<td>6736,000</td>
<td>6,856,000</td>
<td>-120,000</td>
<td>- 1.75</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pigs kept for breeding</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>- 1,000</td>
<td>- 6.67</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Pigs of all ages</td>
<td>120,000</td>
<td>118,000</td>
<td>+ 2,000</td>
<td>+ 1.69</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total PIGS</td>
<td>134,000</td>
<td>133,000</td>
<td>+ 1,000</td>
<td>+ 0.75</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The question has arisen in some districts as to the position that should be taken up when, in the judgment of a Committee, more land should be ploughed by a farmer in the last year of his lease than he is entitled to do by the terms of that lease. The Board do not consider that the terms of the lease should preclude the possibility of the Committee’s views being met, but the question arises whether it would be fair to all parties that the outgoing tenant should be allowed to plough more widely than his lease contemplates without some consideration being given to the rights of the landlord or the incoming tenant. Where possible, Committees should encourage outgoing tenants to make amicable and equitable arrangements with their proprietors, and it appears to the Board that the interests of all parties might be conserved either by:-

1) An agreement between the parties that the outgoing tenant should be paid for the seed and labour expended in laying down the crop and receive an allowance for the loss of pasture from the date of ploughing to the end of the tenancy, and the incoming tenant should get the crop on making these payments; or

2) The parties should arrange between themselves that a certain sum should be paid by the outgoing tenant to his proprietor for the privilege of having an additional way-going crop on the acreage which the Committee desires ploughed.

Sir,

INCREASED FOOD PRODUCTION.

In 1/

Secretary,
District Agricultural Executive Committee,
In determining what would be a reasonable payment regard would be had to the fact that the outgoing tenant was, so far as the land in question was concerned, reaping the crop of an additional year beyond what was contemplated in his lease.

The foregoing suggestions are made on the assumption that an arrangement mutually satisfactory to all parties can be arrived at. In certain cases it may be necessary for the Board to consider whether on the recommendation of the Executive Committee they should issue a compulsory order requiring the outgoing tenant to plough a larger area than was authorised by his lease. Generally speaking, the Board would have some difficulty in issuing such an order unless they were assured that the rights of all parties were duly conserved.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

H. M. CONAHLER

Secretary.
Any further communications should be directed, not to any individual by name, but to:

THE SECRETARY,
BOARD OF AGRICULTURE FOR SCOTLAND,
29 ST. ANDREW SQUARE,
EDINBURGH.

The Secretary is requested:

To quote the Number, Date, and Heading of each letter to which they reply; and
To let communications on different subjects form separate letters.

Informal Address: "ROAS, EDINBURGH."

Enclosures.

Sir,

CULTIVATION OF LANDS (SCOTLAND)

I am directed by the Board of Agriculture for Scotland to refer to their Circular of 23rd January and 6th March, and to request that you will be so good as to furnish them at your earliest convenience with a statement showing (1) the number of allotments at present under cultivation by residents in the burgh (2) the total acreage of such allotments. It is possible that there may be independent Allotments Associations operating within or near the burgh, which have no official relations with the Town Council under the Cultivation of Lands Order. In such cases it will be obliging if you can obtain the necessary information and supply it separately along with the official statistics relative to allotments formed under the Order by the Town Council or under their auspices.

The Board are aware that in certain burghs the cultivation of public parks or other lands in the hands of the burgh authorities has been arranged for through the agency of neighbouring farmers, and the Board would be glad to have separate particulars of area in such cases also.

The Board will be obliged if the foregoing particulars can be furnished on the enclosed form which should be returned to them in the accompanying envelope.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

H.M. CONACHER,
Secretary.

The Town Clerk.
RETURN of Number and Area of allotments etc. formed during season 1917,

Burgh of ________________________________

| (1) Allotments formed by or under the auspices of the Town Council | Number of separate allotments. | Acres. Roods. Poles. |
| (2) Allotments formed independently by private Allotments Associations |  |  |
| (3) Areas cultivated by farmers at the instance of the Town Council |  |  |

TOTALS
Any further communications should be addressed, not to any individual by name, to—

THE SECRETARY,
BOARD OF AGRICULTURE FOR SCOTLAND,
29 ST. ANDREW SQUARE,
EDINBURGH.

Respondents are requested to—
To quote the Number, Date, and Heading of each letter to which they reply; and
To let communications on different subjects form separate letters.

Enclosures

Sir,

I am directed by the Board of Agriculture for Scotland to refer to their circular of 14th February last and to request that you will be so good as to furnish them at your earliest convenience with a statement shewing (1) the number of allotments at present under cultivation by residents in the parish (2) the total acreage of such allotments. It is possible that there may be independent Allotments Associations operating within the area of the parish which have no official relation with your Parish Council. In such cases it will be a favour if you can obtain the necessary information and supply it separately along with the statistics relative to allotments formed officially by the Parish Council.

The Board are aware that certain parishes the cultivation of public parks or other lands in the hands of parish councils has been arranged for through the agency of neighbouring farmers and the Board would be glad to have separate particulars of area in such cases also.

It will be obliging if the foregoing particulars can be furnished on the enclosed form which should be returned to the Board in the accompanying envelope.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

H.M. CONACHER,
CLERK OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
OF
SECRETARY.
DEFENCE OF THE REALM REGULATION 21.

Return of Number and Area of Allotments etc. formed during season 1917.

PARISH OF ____________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of separate Allotments</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
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(1) Allotments formed by the Parish Council.

(2) Allotments formed independently by private Allotments Associations.

(3) Areas cultivated by farmers at the instance of the Parish Council.

TOTAL
MEMORANDUM

TO

DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

IN SCOTLAND.

1. It has been agreed that no men who were on the 1st of June 1917, and are still employed whole-time on a farm on farm work of national importance, shall be posted for service with the Colours, or called up for medical examination or re-examination, except with the consent of the Board of Agriculture for Scotland, even though a substitute may have been provided or offered. This arrangement is referred to in this Memorandum as the "Agreement." The description "employed whole-time on a farm on farm work" covers men employed in agriculture as Thatchers, Drivers of Engines or Motor Tractors (including Tractor Ploughmen), and Market Gardeners whole-time employed in producing food of a character and amount to constitute national importance. The description does not include work on a poultry farm or a market garden for the production of flowers or of fruit.

PROCEDURE AS REGARDS A MAN WHOSE CASE HAS BEEN FINALLY DISPOSED OF BY THE TRIBUNALS.

2. If the Recruiting Officer knows that the man falls within the Agreement, and that the Board would not consent to his being called up, no action will be taken by the Recruiting Officer, and the man will be allowed to remain in his civil occupation.

3. If the Recruiting Officer is in doubt, he will send the man a calling-up Notice, attached to which will be Army Form W. 3618, on which the man can claim that he comes within the Agreement, and which he will complete and return to the Recruiting Officer. If the Recruiting Officer from his own knowledge is satisfied of the accuracy of the claim on the particulars furnished, he will cancel the calling-up Notice. If he is not satisfied, he will refer the case to the Board, sending Army Form W. 3618 for the claim to be verified. The Board propose to remit these claims to the District Agricultural Committees for report, and will, if clearly satisfied that the man is engaged whole-time on a farm on farm work, and that his work is of national importance, and that he was already engaged on such work on the 1st of June 1917, complete and send to the Recruiting Officer the Voucher A. on Army Form W. 3618 to that effect. On receipt of this Voucher confirming the claim, the Recruiting Officer will cancel the calling-up Notice. If, however, the Board are not satisfied that the claim is warranted (see paragraph 10 of this Memorandum) they will complete and send to the Recruiting Officer the Voucher B. on Army Form W. 3618. In either case they will strike out the Voucher A. or B. which is inappropriate.

PROCEDURE AS REGARDS CALLING UP OF MEN FOR MEDICAL EXAMINATION OR RE-EXAMINATION.

4. Procedure similar to that outlined in the foregoing paragraph will be followed in the case of a man who, being engaged whole-time on a farm on farm work of national importance, is called up for medical examination or re-examination.

CASES IN WHICH THE CALLING-UP NOTICE MAY BE ENFORCED.

5. It is essential that the Executive Committee should deal with cases with the least possible delay. If the Recruiting Officer has not received a voucher confirming the man's claim within three weeks from the date on
which the Army Form W. 3618 is sent to the Board by the Recruiting Officer, or if the Board do not confirm the man’s claim, his Calling-up Notice will be enforced. In the case, however, of men employed in Orkney, Shetland, or the Hebrides, the period will be four weeks instead of three weeks.

PROCEDURE IN THE CASE OF MEN WHO HOLD TEMPORARY CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION, OR WHO HAVE NOT YET MADE APPLICATION TO THE TRIBUNALS.

6. Although men covered by the Agreement will not be liable to be posted for service with the Colours, even if they do not apply for certificates of exemption, or for renewal of existing certificates, yet it is very desirable in their own interests that such men should make full use of their statutory and other rights by applying to the Tribunals for formal certificates of exemption or for renewals thereof. In this connection, it is necessary to emphasise the fact that there is no provision enabling a Tribunal to hear an application made out of date for the renewal of a certificate of exemption. Application may be made by or on behalf of a man who has attained the age of 18 on any day before the appointed date under the Military Service Acts, i.e. before the 30th day after he attains that age. Application for the renewal of a certificate may be made before or within two weeks after the date on which the certificate ceases to be in force if the man is unattested, and before the date on which the certificate ceases to be in force, or not later than seven days after individual notice has been sent to the man calling him up for Service, if he is attested. A copy of a Memorandum (B. 144 (Sc.)) issued by the Scottish Office to Tribunals is enclosed.

GENERAL.

7. If the Recruiting Officer objects in any individual case to the decision of the Board, he will send particulars to the War Office, who will take the matter up with the Board.

8. If a man engaged whole-time on a particular farm on farm work, changes his place of employment, the previous Voucher issued by the Board will cease to be of effect, but they may issue a Voucher for his new employment if this is warranted.

9. As a general rule it will not be necessary for the Board to ask for inquiry into the case of an individual man with a view to the issue of a Voucher except—

(a) Where the Recruiting Officer refers the case to the Board (see paragraph 1 of this Memorandum).

(b) Where the case is referred to the Board as a result of an application to a Tribunal for a certificate of exemption or the renewal of a certificate of exemption.

10. The effect of the Agreement is that no man whole-time employed on a farm on farm work can be removed from his civil occupation without the consent of the Board. It will, however, be the duty of the Board to notify the Military Authorities that a particular man is not entitled to the benefit of the Agreement in the following circumstances:

(1) If the Board are satisfied that the man’s work is not of national importance; 

(2) Where the man is employed on a farm on which there is an excess of labour.

Secretary.

Board of Agriculture for Scotland, 
Edinburgh, 9th August 1917.
EMPLEYMENT OF WOMEN IN FORESTRY.

I am directed by the Board of Agriculture for Scotland to enclose herewith a copy of Form N.S.V.W.S.I. relating to the training and employment of women in agriculture, and to inform you that the scheme, the details of which are set forth in the form, is now being extended so as to include a limited number of women to be engaged in forestry work. The terms as to training, wages, equipment, unemployment, etc., will be the same for forestry as for agriculture.

For the purpose of enabling women to receive a rather more varied and extensive training in forestry work, it is suggested that it might be convenient to restrict the maintenance grant in respect of any one branch of seasonal work on which they are immediately thereafter to be employed to, say, one week, and subsequently to give a further week's maintenance when they begin to be employed in each of other two branches of forestry work appropriate to other seasons. In no case, however, can the allowance made to a woman during training be for a greater total period than three weeks.

As one or two training centres have already been instituted, it will be possible to supply a limited number of trained women for immediate employment by forest owners who are not in a position to undertake the training of women for the period or periods stated above. On the other hand, training centres may be established in forest areas the owners of which do not desire to employ the women when trained, but are willing that courses of training should be given on their estates. Where necessary in such cases, efforts will be made to arrange for gang leaders or forewomen accompanying the trainees.

The scheme is a war emergency measure, and the Board trust that all owners will consider the extent to which the scheme can be made use of in connection with work in their forests with a view to maintaining the progress of this work of national importance by the employment of such National Service women volunteers as may be passed by a selection committee as fit for the work in so far as it is due to lack of labour.

Forest owners or others who desire to employ women for forestry work under this scheme, or who are willing that training centres should be established on their estates, should communicate either with this Board or with the Agricultural Organiser (Women's Section), Ministry of Labour, 44 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh, who will gladly give further particulars and any assistance possible in connection with the scheme.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

Secretary.
INDIAN BULLETIN No. 13.

EXPLANATORY NOTES.

1. **New Formations.**—The 13 battalions raised to replace those sent to Mesopotamia are now complete. Of the further 24 Indian battalions which are to be raised, two have proceeded to Mesopotamia, the nuclei of two others are being formed, and the remaining 20 are within 6,100 of completion. And in addition to these 24 Indian battalions being raised sanction has been given for the ultimate raising of a further 21 battalions of Indian Infantry.

**General.**—The military control of the Fortress of Aden and of operations in the Aden sphere has been handed over to the War Office. The monsoon rainfall is ample and rain has now fallen in Sind.

**Telegram from Viceroy to Secretary of State, for half-month ending 15th August 1917.**

12170. In continuation of our telegram of the 1st instant, 11492, following submitted :-

1. **New Formations.**—Officers. Following being sent home for service under War Office:
   - Royal Horse Artillery: Three Captains, one Subaltern.
   - Royal Field Artillery: One Lieutenant-Colonel, seven Majors, seven Captains.
   - Royal Garrison Artillery: One Lieutenant-Colonel, nine Majors, four Captains.
   - Infantry Battalions: Thirteen old battalions now complete; no further report regarding them will be made. Of 24 new battalions, two proceeded overseas to Force “D”, one within 50, one within 150, one within 200, five within 250, three within 300, three within 350, three within 400, five within 500 of completion. Nucleus for 2/107th Pioneers arrived; that for 3/124th Baluchis en route. Figures will be given next report.

2. **Munitions.**—Munitions Board.
   - Railway materials for Egypt against current order for 205 miles 75-pound rails with fish plates, 410,000 sleepers, 200 sets points and crossings and 1,200,000 dog spikes; 114 miles rails with fish plates, 146,000 sleepers, 50 sets points and crossings, and 600,000 dog spikes shipped to 12th August. Railway materials for Mesopotamia. With balance shipped in “Hinsang” demand for 50 miles 50-pound track for Basra-Qurnah railway completed. 10 miles 70-pound rails with fastenings shipped (missing group). Total 181 miles to date against 50 miles for Baghdad-Musaiyib railway. In July, six locomotives, 426 vehicles shipped.

3. **Supplies.**—Tanned Hides. No shipments made from Madras or Bombay owing to absence of freight. Arrangements made Bombay for supply of tanned hides required by Cooper Allen under Government control. In view of orders prohibiting use of adulterants in tanning hides Henderson has been able to re-classify selections of hides at Madras, reducing main

OJ 305 5/17
classes to four. Raw Hides.—129,049 hides purchased. 160,799 and 76,673 shipped respectively from Calcutta and Karachi. Arrangements requisitioning balance of Calcutta stocks, about 350,000 hides, in progress. Mesopotamia Hides and Skins.—Report on first consignment shows that hides not in good condition, but some may be useful for army work. Goat skins have thick long hair suitable for trench coats, and if not wanted for that purpose would probably fetch good price London auctions. Proposed to re-salt and consign them to London. Sheep skins in poor condition, but wool in all cases valuable. Textiles.—Orders being dealt with for Army clothing, Ordnance supply and transports, practically all goods being Indian manufacture.

4. Marine.—Following are details of Marine transport work for fortnights ended 31st July and 13th August, respectively:—Transports sailed, 76 and 68; tons of stores shipped, 185,278 and 162,009. Troops all classes embarked, 18,819 and 22,412. Animals, 1,921 and 753. River craft despatched, 17 and 5.

5. Political.—Joint conference of Congress Committee and Moslem League Council been held at Bombay, where acute division of opinion exhibited itself between extremists and some of more moderate. Extremists were in the majority, and some of the leading moderates left the meeting. Representation on political situation was sent you, and Provincial Committees were invited to report within six weeks as to advisability of adopting policy of passive resistance. In various parts of the country there are indications that the people get tired of agitation, and Mohamedans are awakening to danger to their interests under home rule. Strike in Bombay amongst railway employees not yet ceased, and recruiting has not yet been resumed. No disturbances.

India Office,
23rd August 1917.
From Secretary of State to Viceroy, Army Department,
22nd August 1917.

1833. Your telegram dated 11th August, 11834. Extension of Nushki-Dalbandin railway to Persian frontier. Your proposals are approved provided this extension will not interfere with any present or future foreseeable demands which may be made on you for railway material, rolling stock, or personnel for active theatres of war. As regards personnel, please see Commander-in-Chief in India's telegram No. 55998, of 17th instant.

Military Secret.

702
I trust my colleagues will give careful consideration to the points raised in the memorandum circulated by the Secretary of State for War on the subject of Conscientious Objectors (Paper G.T.1799).

It will be within their recollection that I raised this question myself on a previous occasion, and that it was then decided that no case for inquiry had been established (see Paper G.T.677 and War Cabinet Ho.148, Minute 14). I now note that it is the opinion of the military authorities that "many hundreds of men" have been forced into the Army through the ineptitude of the tribunals who should have clearly given exemption by the tribunals when acting in their statutory authority. This merely confirms the view, to which I gave expression previously, that the plain intention of Parliament and of the Government of the day as expressed in the Military Service Acts has been frustrated by the action of the tribunals.

Since I last raised this question a case has been brought to my notice which emphasises the necessity of dealing with it. I refer to the case of Mr. Malcom Sparkes. Mr. Sparkes has been a life-long member of the Society of Friends. On July 13th, 1916, the Slough Tribunal decided that he should be exempted from military service on condition that he undertook some work of national importance, which was to be recommended by the Pelham Committee. With this decision he complied. The work recommended by the Pelham Committee was the undertaking of work in connection with the establishment of industrial Parliaments in all our staple industries. On this recommendation being reported to the Tribunal they stated that the work in question was not of national importance altered their previous decision, and placed him in the Non-Combatant Corps of the Army, without giving him any possibility of appeal. On November 3rd, 1916, the military representative appealed to have his exemption from Combatant Service withdrawn. The local tribunal upheld their decision, whereupon the military representative appealed to the Appeal Tribunal, which upheld his appeal (Nov. 10th, 1916). Mr. Sparkes was thereupon called to the colours, and, on refusing to obey the summons, was sentenced on February 7th, 1917, by Court Martial to 1 year 11 months imprisonment with hard labour. At the time of his arrest I understand that he was engaged in an important piece of work, which he had undertaken at the request of the Chairman of the Reconstruction Committee on the relations between Employers and Employed.

It is apparently now admitted on all sides that the action of the tribunals in this and similar cases is quite indefensible on any principle of equity, and that it has, in fact, resulted in reversing the whole policy designed by the Government to meet cases of this kind. That being so, I submit there is a strong case for inquiry as to what action should be taken to clear up a situation which it is quite impossible to defend. I note that the Secretary of State for War is of the opinion that no action can be taken without legislation. I find it difficult to believe that no way can be found to deal with the question administratively. In any case I hope the Cabinet will ask that the whole position may be further examined before endorsing this conclusion.

2, Whitehall Gardens, S.W. 24th August, 1917.
OPERATIONS.

From: G.O.C., Mesopotamia.

To: Caucasus Military Agent,

Repeated C.I.G.S. and C.-in-C., India.

22nd August, 1917.
12-30 a.m.

X.3321.

Your T.B.46.

General Prjvalski may like to have my further views if you will hand following to him. Begins:--

In continuation of my X.3275 I would suggest for Your Excellency's consideration that the most pressing need is for General Baratov to re-establish his troops on line of Dialha as enemy may so reinforce his troops in Jebel-Hamrin and make his position there so strong as to prevent General Baratov from regaining that line, unless this is done without delay. My troops drove enemy from Shahraban two days ago where he was preparing earthworks and we are now securely established at that place whence we may be able to assist General Baratov's movement forward to line of Dialha. If following closely on that movement Your Excellency's troops could occupy Rowanduz and Suleiman Iyeh from direction of Lake Urmia and Bane respectively it should then be possible for Russian troops on Dialha, which I understand would then be under my orders, to press forward to assist Russian movements from (one group undecipherable) Suleiman Iyeh and occupy Tuz-Kermatli and Kifri. In carrying out this operation part of my troops could also assist Russian troops as regards further movements forward from line which allied troops would then be holding, namely, Rowanduz, Suleiman Iyeh, Kifri, Samarra, Saklawiyah. No doubt Your Excellency will remember that, instead of action of my troops being confined to Tigris as formerly, their responsibilities since reaching Baghdad extend to Euphrates line and also towards Kizil-Robat since withdrawal of Russian troops.
from Dialha whilst we have only evidence that enemy is concentrating large forces at Mosul and on Euphrates for employment against British in order to try and recapture Baghdad. So long then as my flanks are exposed from direction of Jebel-Hamrin and Euphrates respectively Your Excellency will see that it is not possible for me to advance my leading troops beyond Samarra but once allied troops are firmly established at Tuz-Kermatli and Kifri it would be possible for me to attack Turkish troops in and around Tikrit always provided that no strong movement was developing down Euphrates. In short I would suggest for consideration that sequence of operations should be; firstly, establishment of Russian troops on line of Dialha, assisted by British: secondly, advance of Russian troops to line Rowanduz Suleiman Iyeh; thirdly, advance of Russian troops to Kifri and Tuz-Kermatli assisted by British; fourthly, advance of British to Tikrit. By thus taking offensive conjointly we should deny initiative to enemy, break up his concentration which is already behind-hand and sturdy fighting and vigorous leadership should bring complete success to our valiant Russian comrades and ourselves. Further allied movements could be considered and co-ordinated immediately these preliminary operations are completed. General Maude. Ends.
The area under hops this year is returned as 16,946 acres, against 31,552 acres in 1916, and is less than half the 1914 acreage.

Picking has already commenced and will be general in about a week's time.

In order to facilitate the working of the hop pool scheme, all growers have been requested to furnish a return of their acreage in 1914, their acreage this year, and of their acreage which, in accordance with the Hop Order of 16th May, will not be cropped. Some growers have not complied with that order and the covering letter calling for the return points out that, as all dealings in hops will have to be conducted through the pool, growers who have not complied with the Hop Order will run the risk of having their hops refused by the Pool. In this way it is hoped to bring recalcitrant growers into line. Inquiries are also being conducted in the hop counties by officers specially detailed for the purpose, with a view to instituting legal proceedings in bad cases of non-compliance with the Order. Such prosecutions will have a healthy effect on those growers who appear to think that the Order can be flouted with impunity and will give satisfaction to the large majority of growers who have loyally complied with the Order.

STATISTICAL BRANCH.

Returns of live stock from sample parishes on 4th August indicate that the number of cows in milk was fully maintained during July, but beef cattle and sheep declined in numbers.

The slaughterhouse returns for July show that the number of calves slaughtered was, as in June, about double the number in the corresponding month last year. Sheep slaughtered were also rather more, but other classes of stock were less.

SMALL HOLDING COLONIES.

The building of cottages at the Crown Colony, Patrington, is proceeding. Minor repairs and alterations to existing buildings are being carried out and work on the new road is also in progress. 106 men are employed. Seven of the new cottages are now occupied. It is proposed to appoint an architect to make an independent inquiry into the building of cottages on this estate by the Housing Organisation Society and its cost, with a view to ascertaining whether the work is being done efficiently and as economically as possible, having regard to present abnormal conditions.

At Holbeach, Captain Boddy has taken up his duties as Director, and is engaged in making the necessary arrangements for taking possession at October 11th next. The building of cottages is proceeding satisfactorily.
PURCHASE OF CATTLE FOR THE ARMY.

The Committee is making satisfactory progress with its arrangements for beginning the actual work of buying cattle on the 1st September. It will be remembered that about 250,000 cattle in all will be purchased for slaughter throughout the United Kingdom during the months September to December next. All the arrangements are well in hand.

Prices of Meat for civilian consumption.

The Board are still in communication with the Ministry of Food on this subject. The prices have not yet been definitely settled.

FISHERIES DIVISION.

A number of applications for relaxation of restrictions on methods or appliances used in fishing are under consideration, but an Order has not yet been issued in any case.

Officers of the Division have been in communication with the Coal Mines Department regarding prices and supplies of coal for fishing boats.

Complaints of the position with regard to the local fishery administration in the Great Ouse and of the destruction of fish in that river by drainage from tarred roads are being attended to.

Work connected with such matters as the pollution of oyster grounds in the Thames Estuary and the purification of polluted mussels in Cardigan Bay is also in hand.

Permits Section.

Permits to fish have been granted to 32 commercial fishing vessels and to 12 vessels for amateur fishing.

Arrangements have been made, in conjunction with the Admiralty, for the important autumn herring fishing off the Norfolk coast to be carried on this year by vessels from all ports instead of by Yarmouth and Lowestoft vessels only, as was the case last year.

The issue of permits for amateur fishing has involved heavy correspondence.

Fish Food Section.

Applications for petrol and for permits to use imported soft wood for fish boxes have been dealt with. The Section has also taken up the matter of the return of empties with the Railway Executive.

An officer of the Committee is at Brightlingsea to make advance arrangements for dealing with gluts of sprats, and in particular to obtain for that purpose any necessary additional railway facilities.

Complaints have been received from fish curers of the difficulty of obtaining suitable wood turnings for smoking fish. The various Railway Companies have been approached in the matter.
Motor Loan Section.

During the past week three trials have been run out with satisfactory results.

Some of the applicants have been provided with suitable engines at once from orders already placed with manufacturers.

The installation in the Brixham vessels which are to be armed are proceeding satisfactorily under the supervision of the Committee's engineers. The engines have been placed on board two of the vessels, and it is expected that the trials will take place within the next two or three weeks.

Fishermen's Registration and Recruiting Section.

Fishermen and Naval Service.

The Naval Authorities are arranging to prevent the loss to the fishing and the Navy of men who malinger at their medical examination at the Depot, some of these men in the past having suffered cancellation of enrolment and become liable to military service in consequence.

Fishermen, Fish Trade and Military Service.

This work is conducted on previous lines and a system is being arrived at for meeting the reasonable labour requirements of the fish trade by means of Fish Trade Advisory Committees appointed for the purpose of properly informing Tribunals of the needs of the respective localities in regard to the distribution of fish.

In addition the Assistant Secretary has been constantly in consultation with the Ministry of Food and the Restriction of Enemy Supplies Department in connection with obtaining supplies of fish from Canada and other countries.

Potato Disease.

A very large number of outbreaks of Wart Disease has occurred during the past week, and new cases continue to come in every day. Several cases have occurred in new districts, chiefly in different parts of Surrey, which County may now be considered infected to a moderate extent throughout. On the whole, however, there is as yet no reason to fear that the English potato crop will be largely diminished.

Arrangements are now being made whereby a more effective prevention of the disease will be possible next year. The issue of several new Orders under the Destructive Insects and Pests Acts will be necessary, and the proposed procedure will be reported later, when the arrangements are more advanced.

The additional Inspectors authorised by the Treasury will, it is hoped, be appointed next week.

[Signature]

24th August, 1917.
Sir,

I beg to submit the following report on the work of the Food Production Department for the week ended the 21st August, 1917:-

LOCAL ORGANISATION.

Work of Agricultural Executive Committees.

The following are instances of action taken during the week: -

In Lancashire the Executive Committee have inspected an area of 1,800 acres of good land at Hutton and Howick on the South side of the Ribble Estuary owned by a landlord who resides in Berkshire; most of the land is being farmed by the owner and is in a neglected condition, and the Committee are issuing orders for its cultivation. In the West Riding of Yorkshire the Executive Committee have obtained the help of the agricultural staff of the Leeds University in examining land at Cranidge which has been damaged by the fumes of coke ovens; the application of lime and other remedies have been suggested to the owner and tenant. In Cambridgeshire the Executive Committee have arranged for the breaking up of 20 acres of park land at Newton Hall. In Denbighshire, the Committee have been authorised to take possession of 92 acres of land left derelict by a bankrupt tenant, in order to secure the cultivation of this land pending the bankruptcy proceedings. In Flintshire, a part of Hawarden Park is about to be ploughed up, with the consent of the owner who is providing material for the necessary fencing.
Drainage of Lands.

Action under these Orders is reported from Cumberland, Durham, Middlesex, Flintshire, Warwickshire and Leicestershire in addition to schemes previously mentioned in these reports.

Rabbits Order.

Action under this Order is reported from Kesteven and Somerset.

County Boroughs.

Certain of the County Boroughs (of which there are more than 70) include within their limits considerable areas of agricultural land. These areas are outside the jurisdiction of the County Agricultural Executive Committees; and Regulation 2L, the powers under which have been delegated to County Boroughs for allotment purposes, is not appropriate for the control of farm lands. But it is clearly unnecessary to appoint an Executive Committee for each County Borough, and in most of them it would be impossible to constitute a committee of practical agriculturists. Accordingly, a letter has been sent to all County Borough Councils drawing attention to the above considerations and suggesting that the jurisdiction of the County Committees should be extended to include any agricultural land in the area of County Boroughs within their county, subject to the proviso that a special Sub-Committee should be set up for the County Borough to make enquiries and recommendations to the Executive Committee. If this procedure is followed, the duty of taking any action necessary under Regulation 2M with regard to such land, will fall upon the County Committee.

Cultivation of Lands Order, 1917 (No.2).

Particulars received from 1,054 Borough or Urban District Councils show that 194,116 applications for plots have been made under the Cultivation of Lands Order, and that 175,700 plots, containing a total area of 13,007 acres, have been provided.
A report from the City of Oxford, where the Order has been administered with enthusiasm, makes special mention of the Merton Meadow allotments. At the outset failure was foretold - the soil was said to be water-logged, made up of builders' rubbish and full of wireworm. In February last the land was gas-limed, and it is now covered with what is stated to be a record crop of potatoes, beans, peas, cabbage, marrow, spinach, turnips, beetroot, carrots, &c. Stress is laid on the friendly co-operation of the cultivators, most of whom are women, "married ladies and single women of all ages from elderly spinsters to schoolgirls", but working amicably side by side with them are representatives of the Church, the Army, the Civil Service, Philosophy and Learning, and Commerce.

HORTICULTURAL SECTION.

From the volume and diversity of the communications received from Horticultural Representatives, it is evident that the experiment of appointing Representatives in the Rural and Urban Districts is meeting with a considerable measure of success. The Representatives have in many cases succeeded in establishing Food Production Societies and in securing allotments in places which previously lacked them. The good work done in directing cultivation both by the Horticultural Representatives and the Royal Horticultural Society Panel Gardeners is manifest in the excellence of the crops grown by allotment holders new to the work of cultivation.

Fruit and Vegetable Bottling - 143 demonstrations have been given in different parts of the country, making a total of 1,541 demonstrations provided by this Department.

The number of glass jars despatched by the manufacturers during the week is 153,324, making a total of 1,055,396. The balance remaining to be despatched is 539,222.

Potato Spraying - Reports are being received of the beneficial effect due to spraying, and in districts with both sprayed and unsprayed crops, disbelievers in spraying have been converted by the evidence of yields from sprayed and unsprayed crops of similar varieties.
During the week, late blight has appeared in Norfolk, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Shropshire, and Montgomeryshire, that is, counties further north than those mentioned in previous reports as suffering from disease. In parts of the home counties late blight has increased considerably in intensity, for example, severe outbreaks have occurred in Surrey.

Spraying has been continued with the assistance of the Military in certain parts of North Devon. The requests for advice and assistance in respect to this are very numerous, and indicate a growing interest in the subject. A lecture on the Spraying of Potatoes illustrated by photographs and diagrams and intended for general use during the winter is being prepared.

**Preserving Fruit and Vegetables.** Pulping commenced on August 14th at the station established at Maidstone. The amount of fruit handled each day is about £50 tons, work being carried on both day and night. Owing to the inability of the railways to accept more than a small portion of the fruit offered at the stations, a very heavy strain is being placed on this factory.

Pulping commenced at Pershore and Cheltenham on the 13th, and each of these factories is handling about 15 tons of fruit per day. In the Arrow Preserve Works, Broom, which is now controlled by the Department, it has been possible as a result of further organisation to double the output of pulp.

Delivery of canners and cans for purposes of canning fruit and vegetables began on August 7th. The number of canners sold during the week is 40, and the number of tins sold for containing preserved fruit is 128 gross.
Marketing. Although the large questions concerned with the marketing of produce fall under the Ministry of Food, many pressing matters relating to marketing are constantly being brought to the notice of this Department. Inasmuch as assistance in marketing means also assistance in food production, and inasmuch as the lack of sufficient facilities means considerable loss to producers, the Horticultural Division finds itself very frequently engaged in attempts to increase market facilities and to encourage co-operative efforts in marketing.

The following instances may be cited:

(1) During the past week, the Department received an enormous number of complaints, particularly from Kent, with respect to refusal of the railway to carry more than very limited quantities of plums. A consultation with the railway authorities shews that the limitation was due not to lack of railway facilities but to the congestion of the London Markets.

At the instance of the Department a conference was held at the Ministry of Food, and a representative from the Food Production Department urged the importance of relieving the market of the very considerable quantity of plums destined for the Army jam-makers which was passing through the jam-makers via the market. The proposal was put forward that these quantities amounting to 150 tons a day should be consigned direct to the jam-makers. Agreement was reached on this point, the Railway Company arranged to open their Depot at Stewart's Lane for the reception of the fruit hitherto consigned to Covent Garden, and for the cartage direct to the jam factories. Similar arrangements were made for the direct delivery of the fruit which hitherto has passed to the jam-makers via Spitalfields and Borough Markets.

(2) Owing to seasonal conditions, the arrival of French greengages on the market co-incided with the arrival of English plums. Large quantities of both fruits failed to find purchasers and were destroyed. The French growers and owners of this fruit received nothing for their labour, the trouble of consignment and the cost of carriage, several hundreds of tons of fruit being consigned to the refuse destructors.

The representatives of this Department communicated with the Commercial Attache of the French Embassy, and represented the situation to him. He in turn communicated with the French Board of Agriculture who stopped the supplies of fruit during the glut.

From information already received it is evident that the present glut of plums due primarily to the heavy Kentish
crop is also in part due to insufficient market facilities. The loss and disappointment due to growers failing to find markets are serious bars to the success of any efforts to encourage increased production of fruit, nor is it unlikely that a somewhat similar condition will arise when the large crops of vegetables are ready for the market.

The Department are therefore considering whether, in spite of the fact that the Ministry of Food is the Government Department principally concerned, it is not necessary for the Food Production Department to concern itself officially with the technical aspects of marketing. In particular so far as Horticulture is concerned the establishment of co-operative societies would assist and in some measure overcome the difficulties of marketing, some of which have been referred to above. It is possible that some arrangement may be come to whereby the Agricultural Organisation Society could lend its assistance to the Department in the organisation of Co-operative Societies. If this were done a considerable benefit to Production would be likely to result.

TECHNICAL DIVISION.

Inspection of Land. A farm of 800 acres in Essex, reported to the Executive Committee as inadequately cultivated, has been inspected by one of the Technical Advisers. Most of the farm is at present in grass, and hitherto attention has been chiefly devoted to stock farming. Corn growing has been regarded as of secondary importance, and the arable land has been underfarmed. The land is held at a low rental, and fair profits have therefore been obtainable by relatively easy and unenterprising methods. In view of the national necessity, however, the Committee have decided to convert this successful stock farmer into an equally successful corn producer. It is anticipated that a satisfactory settlement will be reached in the negotiations which are now in progress.
Breaking up of Grass Land. A field of old grass, ploughed a short time ago, and inspected during the past week, affords a good illustration of the necessity for suitable cultivation. The field had been ploughed in two different ways. Where the furrow had been turned over completely in a wide and broken slice, a suitable seed bed could be prepared this autumn by merely harrowing. Where the furrows had been turned up on edge (as is done by some of the short-breasted American types of plough) they had grown together again, and the field is rapidly reverting to its original condition. Even where the land had been afterwards disc harrowed, the grass had grown through, and the soil was sodden and unsuitable for a seed bed.

Use of Sulphate of Ammonia for Wheat in Autumn. This subject has been discussed by the Technical Committee, who agreed that as sufficient supplies of Sulphate of Ammonia are likely to be available, the top dressing of wheat this autumn should be strongly recommended. A revised edition of the leaflet already issued on the subject is being prepared, and will be published as soon as the results of last year's experiments are available.

Comparative Money Value of Feeding Stuffs. With a view to inducing a more economical purchase of feeding stuffs, a statement has been prepared, and will shortly be published in leaflet form, showing the money values of the chief feeding stuffs as compared with oats at varying prices.

Instruction to Farmers in Cow Feeding. A resolution submitted by Major Astor's Committee on the Production and Distribution of Milk, indicating the importance of organising an educational campaign among dairy farmers and suggesting certain lines of action, was considered by the Technical Committee. Steps are being taken to give effect to the suggestions made by Major Astor's Committee.
It is proposed to keep the Press supplied with paragraphs giving information as to supplies of feeding stuffs, economical rations etc., and to provide "briefs" for County Lecturers in Dairying, so that adequate instruction may be given to dairy farmers.

**Plant Diseases.** Upwards of 70 enquiries relating to 41 distinct insect or fungus pests, have been dealt with during the week. Thirty reports have been received from honorary correspondents, giving information as to local outbreaks of disease. In cases where outbreaks assume serious proportions, steps are taken to combat the pests.

**LABOUR.**

**Soldier Labour.** The returns so far received from the District Commissioners show that of the 50,000 men to be made available for the purposes of the 1918 programme, 2,742 skilled, and 2,686 unskilled, have arrived at the Depots. Some returns are, however, still outstanding. Of the skilled men 1,679 have been sent out to farmers or placed in charge of teams of horses under the Department's scheme for increased cultivation. The number of unskilled men sent out during the last two weeks, including men already at the Depots available for harvest work, is 3,238. With the improved weather conditions the demand for men is steadily increasing, and is likely to be very large during the current week.

**Horses.** Orders for the issue of 729 horses to Agricultural Executive Committees have been sent to Remount Depots up to date. Arrangements have been made with the War Office that Army horses already on loan to farmers on "meat for keep" terms shall remain out until September 15th, instead of being withdrawn on the 31st instant, as was originally intended.

**Prisoners of War.** Two new schemes for the employment of
prisoners of war have been sent to the War Office during the week.

**WOMEN’S BRANCH.**

The work of the Women's Section of the National Service Department in so far as it concerns recruiting for the Women's Land Army has been transferred to the Food Production Department during the week.

The returns for this week shew that there are still over 500 National Service women out of employment. At the same time, there are a few vacancies for experienced milkers, gardeners, etc. which cannot be filled. The detailed returns are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In Instruction Centres</td>
<td>1,144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On Farm work</td>
<td>4,617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waiting for references to be placed in Training Centres</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waiting for employment in Depots</td>
<td>271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waiting in their own homes</td>
<td>294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6,487</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Group Leaders appointed to organise part-time work are proving exceedingly useful in making village labour more easily available for farmers. Specially good accounts of such work have been received from Cambridge and Gloucester.

**MACHINERY AND IMPLEMENTS.**

During the week a further 122 Motor Tractors have been consigned to Agricultural Executive Committees in England and Wales, bringing the total number of tractors placed at the disposal of Committees up to 921. In addition, 87 tractors have been offered to Counties for delivery as soon as they have been assembled.

The difficulty of obtaining spare parts for American made tractors, which has resulted in a number of these tractors
remaining idle for long periods, is being gradually overcome by arranging for the manufacture of spare parts by English firms. Two very successful demonstrations with tractors made by Saunderson and Mills were held in Derbyshire during the week which were well attended by local agriculturists.

SUPPLIES.

Supplies Sub-Committees. Supplies Sub-Committees in many counties appear to be taking up their duties with much earnestness and there is an increased appreciation of the importance of the functions they have to fulfil. Approved Agents have now been recognised by the Department in eleven counties, and a substantial number of other counties have applications under consideration.

A conference has been held with the representatives of the Agricultural Organisation Society and Managers of the larger affiliated Co-operative Societies with a view to inducing them to undertake the storage of Fertilisers. The cordial co-operation of these Societies is assured.

Sulphate of Ammonia. The satisfactory way that Sulphate of Ammonia is being bought for agricultural use is shown by the fact that although the export during July 1917 was 13,372 tons less than during July 1916, the stocks at makers' works are also smaller by 10,658 tons. The quantity delivered and ordered for the present season amounts already to 83,345 tons, i.e. more than one-third of the total estimated output.

Potash. The Order controlling the sale of Blast Furnace flue dust has been issued, and the Ministry of Munitions is now collecting statistics as to the amount of dust produced at each Blast Furnace, together with the particulars of the potash content. As soon as these statistics are available, the Department will be in a position to arrange for distribution.
Feeding Stuffs. A scheme has been prepared for securing an adequate supply of oil-cake and milling offals for the use of cows in milk during the coming winter. This scheme is now being considered by the Ministry of Food. The main feature of the scheme is the issue of a priority certificate to dairy farmers which will enable them to purchase sufficient supplies of oil-cake and offals to maintain their cows in milk in preference to the demands of other keepers of live-stock. To give effect to the scheme it would be essential that the Board should have sole control of the distribution of feeding stuffs from the moment the materials leave the makers' works, without interference from the Ministry of Food, and that maximum prices should be fixed. Representations to this effect have been made to the Ministry of Food, especially with a view to securing a reduction of price.

Wire fencing. In order to meet farmers requirements, makers have been asked to manufacture certain quantities of wire for fencing and sheep netting on a guarantee from the Department to take over any unsold balance.

Seed Wheat. The demand for seed of the 1916 crop is still small but an additional 50 quarters have been sold during the past week. The results of the germination tests carried out by Professor Biffen at Cambridge are very satisfactory and show that almost all the parcels secured are suitable for sowing.

The work of the Committee engaged in selecting seed of certain varieties of wheat of the 1917 crop is almost completed. Reports continue to indicate that the crop has suffered considerably from unfavourable weather and consequently the supply will be less than was expected.
Seed Potatoes. The Department have now been informed that the Board of Agriculture for Scotland have agreed to the issue of the proposed Order relating to the control of certain immune varieties of potatoes of which the supply is extremely limited.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Director-General.

The Rt. Hon. Rowland E. Prothero, M.P.
President of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries.
## Stocks in the United Kingdom

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Stocks as on August 20th, 1917. (adjusted)</th>
<th>Estimated probable stocks four weeks later.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tons</td>
<td>Tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>1,871,000</td>
<td>1,858,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maize</td>
<td>114,000</td>
<td>95,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>99,000</td>
<td>129,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barley</td>
<td>270,000</td>
<td>234,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oats</td>
<td>206,000</td>
<td>111,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar</td>
<td>159,371</td>
<td>+ 205,195</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

X The cereal stocks are based on the returns of actual stocks collected on the 1st of each month from the Port Granaries and Millers, and estimates of the stocks in Farmers' and Bakers' hands.

§ Excluding the new home crop.

† 5 weeks later.

MINISTRY OF FOOD.

24th AUGUST 1917.
### Statistics of Sugar in Possession of the Sugar Commission

**18th August, 1917**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stocks in the U.K.</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>Cuba</th>
<th>Dutch, U.S.A. &amp; Canada</th>
<th>British West India &amp; Guiana</th>
<th>Other Less Distant Countries</th>
<th>Java</th>
<th>Mauritius</th>
<th>Other More Distant Countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Afloat &amp; due to arrive - Week ending 25th August</strong></td>
<td>108,371</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31st</td>
<td>38,246</td>
<td>19,421</td>
<td>10,566</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7,096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th September</td>
<td>35,266</td>
<td>14,565</td>
<td>933</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6,362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th</td>
<td>22,582</td>
<td>17,500</td>
<td>500</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9,063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22nd</td>
<td>45,290</td>
<td>19,200</td>
<td>1,280</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11,638</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30th</td>
<td>37,465</td>
<td>17,400</td>
<td>97</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st October</td>
<td>7,750</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>18,883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>12,588</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Awaiting shipment</strong></td>
<td>428,701</td>
<td>152,315</td>
<td>3,940</td>
<td>21,549</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>54,224</td>
<td>164,500</td>
<td>27,603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total tonnage provided for arrival in - August</strong></td>
<td>761,475</td>
<td>250,173</td>
<td>21,916</td>
<td>34,272</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>135,314</td>
<td>164,500</td>
<td>44,429</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Arrivals**
- 49,112
- 39,792
- 1,500
- 2,614
- 5,200

**Shipments**
- 37,698
- 25,200
- 5,880
- | |
- 6,618

**Lost**
- 3,500
- 3,500
- |

**Issued**
- 22,984
- |

**Purchased**
- 12,850
- 8,350
- 1,500
- |
- 3,000

**Total tonnage provided for arrival in - September**
- 194,707
- 117,172
- 8,360
- 19,964
- 2,500
- 13,436
- 19,968

**October**
- 119,757
- 64,200
- 6,000
- 26,271
- 4,500
- 21,300

**November**
- 75,388
- |

**December**
- 6,800
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purchases for U.K. France &amp; Italy not shipped on 18th August</th>
<th>Probable share to be shipped to U.K.</th>
<th>Shipments (Tons of 2,240 lbs) to U.K.</th>
<th>Arrivals in U.K. week ending 18th August</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heat &amp; Flour.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.A. &amp; Canada</td>
<td>555,350 (a)</td>
<td>310,000</td>
<td>107,469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentine</td>
<td>140,833</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>319,451</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>19,132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>2,648,000</td>
<td>1,185,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>2,815</td>
<td>2,815</td>
<td>1,035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>3,666,399</td>
<td>1,557,815</td>
<td>126,601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mais.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.A. &amp; Canada</td>
<td>20,210</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>4,593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentine</td>
<td>44,550</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>4,007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.Africa</td>
<td>238,708</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>1,051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>303,462</td>
<td>240,000</td>
<td>8,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burma</td>
<td>60,158</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>819</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siam</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>2,305</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N.America</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>62,463</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>6,259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barley.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.A. &amp; Canada</td>
<td>141,870</td>
<td>1,488</td>
<td>1,199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Countries</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>144,870</td>
<td>1,488</td>
<td>1,199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rolled Oats, Maize meal etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.A. &amp; Canada</td>
<td>100,334</td>
<td>10,358</td>
<td>8,708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.Africa</td>
<td>56,240</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>156,574</td>
<td>10,358</td>
<td>9,908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulses.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>71,000</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>6,278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oats.</td>
<td>227,000</td>
<td>141,000</td>
<td>21,682</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTES**

(a) In addition Wheat options were held on 97,099 tons divided as follows: - September
**The probable share of the U.K. in these options is 52,000 tons.**
October
(b) The shipping situation makes it improbable that any large proportion of the Australia
NO ALLOWANCE HAS BEEN MADE FOR WAR LOSSES.
ROYAL COMMISSION ON WHEAT SUPPLIES. 22nd August 1917.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Ending</th>
<th>On Passage to U.K.</th>
<th>Expected Weekly Arrivals during next three weeks</th>
<th>Tonnage provided for arrival in U.K.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,839</td>
<td>250,399</td>
<td>92,439</td>
<td>434,056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,151</td>
<td>36,797</td>
<td>3,008</td>
<td>7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,034</td>
<td>42,521</td>
<td>8,211</td>
<td>49,490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,034</td>
<td>346,717</td>
<td>103,558</td>
<td>491,065</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,555</td>
<td>36,730</td>
<td>11,637</td>
<td>95,483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,147</td>
<td>104,856</td>
<td>10,435</td>
<td>64,223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9,519</td>
<td>25,198</td>
<td>25,198</td>
<td>4,728</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>49,317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,198</td>
<td>92,439</td>
<td>10,681</td>
<td>12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>21,825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,708</td>
<td>1,667</td>
<td>2,097</td>
<td>3,481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>70,686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,279</td>
<td>69,213</td>
<td>18,327</td>
<td>102,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>102,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chicago: September 84,609
Winnipeg: October 12,589

Of the Australian Wheat will be shipped during the War.
WAR CABINET.

SUPPLY OF COAL TO RUSSIA.

Copy of letter dated 24th August, 1917 from the Secretary, Committee on Russian Supplies, to the Secretary, War Cabinet.

C.R.S. O. 5.

Sir,

I am directed by Lord Milner's Committee on Russian Supplies to enclose for the information of the War Cabinet copy of Telegram 2. 435 from Colonel Byrne, Petrograd, concerning the supply of coal to the Russian Government.

The Committee are of the opinion, which is confirmed by General Poole, Head of the Committee's Mission in Petrograd, who is temporarily in this country, that the difference between the figure named by Colonel Byrne, viz: 1,259,000 tons and the 975,000 tons approved by the War Cabinet for shipment to Russia during the present Season is not sufficiently large to have the effect foreshadowed in this telegram; and in all the circumstances and particularly in view of the present tonnage position, they do not propose to recommend any increase in the 975,000 tons already sanctioned. Moreover, the Ministry of Shipping have ascertained by telegram from the P.M.T.O. Archangel that the port is not capable of receiving before the end of the Summer Season more than the quantity needed to complete the total of 975,000 tons.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) E.N.R. TRENTHAM.

for Secretary,
Committee on Russian Supplies.
COPY OF TELEGRAM FROM COLONEL FYRNE, PETROGRAD.

ADRESSED TO THE COMMITTEE ON RUSSIAN SUPPLIES.

P. 435. August 11th. Received 10 a.m. 16/8/17.

Reference your T. 276.

Coal. The Russian Government agree to accept 25% North country coal of total tonnage remaining to be shipped this year. But as supplies of Welsh coal received to date are insufficient for needs of the fleet, present order of priority is given as follows:

1. Coke.
2. Smith Coal.
3. Welsh Coal.

Yesterday, MICHELSON at a meeting of the Committee on Foreign Supplies again appealed for full supply of their reduced requirements viz., 1,250,000 tons. Personally I am of opinion that every effort should be made to send as much coal to Russia as possible. Failure of railway transport is preventing supplies reaching Petrograd from the V. and if our reduced programme is adhered to there will be a serious shortage during the winter. The effect of this on civil population apart from military considerations might well prove disastrous.

Spare Tonnage. Information given is not sufficient to enable me to express opinion as the impression here was that more cargo than tonnage was available in U.K. General MICHELSON has prepared priority statement for August which has been cabled to General HERLONIUS. I agree generally with order of priority given apart from (1 group undecipherable) and (1 group undecipherable).

If tonnage is available after complying as far as practicable with this statement, preference should be given to (?) ENGINE material which is urgently required. Statements are too long to cable and copies are being brought by LYNN.
Award of medals for the present war
Memorandum by the Secretary of State for War.

The question of the award of medals for the present war has not only engaged the attention of the Army Council but was the subject of discussion at the Imperial Conference. The general opinion would seem to be that two medals should be issued, one being an International medal for all troops engaged in theatres of war and the other a British medal for all troops serving at home and in garrisons. Troops serving in theatres of war would also be entitled to the British medal.

With regard to clasps, the Army Council were first of opinion that these should not record actions or localities but only the calendar years of the duration of the war. This view, however, was challenged by the New Zealand representatives at the Imperial Conference and there is also a considerable body of feeling against it in the Army itself. In these circumstances the Army Council recommend that the question of the description and allotment of clasps should be referred to a Committee of representatives from all theatres of war to be held at the close of hostilities.

The navy propose to adopt the same procedure as the Army.

Without touching on questions of detail, I must point out that something like twelve to fifteen million medals will have to be prepared and that on the cessation of hostilities there will be a very strong and general desire on the part of the public for an early distribution of medals. It would appear that 25 machines can engrave the names on about 3,500,000 medals in a year, and it might be possible to get the medals out in about a year after the cessation of hostilities.

The Army Council have considered questions of manufacture and issue and are of opinion after consultation with the Mint that if the issue of the medals is not to be unduly delayed a decision on the following questions should be arrived at:

(a) Whether the medals shall be of silver or if not of what metal. The Imperial Conference favoured silver medals. The approximate weight of a medal is 1 oz. and the cost of 1,000,000 oz. of silver at present market price would be about £172,000.

(b) Whether, if it is decided that the medals are to be of silver, the Royal Mint shall be approached with a view to purchase being commenced at once. The purchase should spread over a considerable period in order to avoid undue inflation of the price of silver and the consequent dislocation of the world's silver coinage. The silver when purchased would be cut at the Royal Mint into "blanks", that is circular pieces of silver prepared for striking into medals. The blanks would be stored at the Royal Mint for issue to Contractors.
(c) Whether the War Office shall prepare the draft schedule for issue to selected contractors. The contractors would tender for striking medals, bars and clasps, and it would be specified in the contracts that the blanks and tools shall be supplied by the Royal Mint. This would involve purchase of steel.

(d) Whether the necessary steps should be taken at once with a view to obtaining specimen designs of the medals and clasps.

When once a decision on these points has been arrived at, the matter can be put in hand and steps taken to expedite in every way possible the manufacture and issue as soon as hostilities have ceased.

I would therefore ask the War Cabinet to approve that

(1) The war medal or medals to be issued, eventually should be made of silver.

(2) Steps should be taken at once to obtain specimen designs.

(3) The Royal Mint should be authorised to commence at once the necessary purchase of silver.

(4) Schedule should be prepared on which to base invitations to selected contractors to tender for the supply of medals, bars and clasps.

(5) The decision of the Army Council as to clasps should be endorsed.

24th August, 1917.
CORRIGENDUM TO MEMORANDUM BY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR ON THE SUBJECT OF "AWARD OF MEDALS FOR THE PRESENT WAR".
(Paper No. G.T.-1839.)

Delete third paragraph "The Navy propose to adopt the same procedure as the Army" and insert:

"While the Navy desire to adopt the same general procedure as the Army, they wish to retain the principle of awarding clasps for all actions of conspicuous merit, and for certain special services considered deserving of special recognition; also, as the major portion of naval contact with enemy craft is in home waters, whereas the contact with the military forces are overseas, the International war medal would have to be issued accordingly."
NAVAL WEEKLY APPRECIATION, 13.

Week ending August 18-20.

SUBMARINE ATTACK ON TRADE.

The week 14th to 20th August has been one of considerable general activity. On the 19th August about thirty-two enemy submarines are believed to have been operating: their distribution being as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Route</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Sea</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Channel</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approach routes to English Channel</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mediterranean</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Sea</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of these ten or eleven large submarines have been operating to the northward and westward of the British Islands. Remarkably few reports of submarine activity have come in from the approach route to the south-west of Ireland—a favourite hunting ground: but this may be accounted for by the fact that little traffic has been using this route. Two or three boats have been working in the English Channel approaches, and activity here and off Ushant has been marked.

In the North Sea the Lerwick-Scandinavia convoy has been attacked on two or three occasions, and it looks as if one or possibly two boats have been detailed for work against this convoy.

A boat—probably a new-comer—is again reported as working north of the Azores.

Appendix I shows the numbers and tonnage of sailings and losses by submarine and mine of British merchant steamships working to and from the United Kingdom for the week ending 18th August. For this period the total number of tons sunk is 58,515: the percentage sunk of the total tonnage that sailed is 2.08. This week's figures show an increase on last week in the numbers and tonnage of British ships sunk: but a considerable decrease in Allied and neutrals.

The following table shows, by routes, percentage of tonnage sunk by submarine and mine for the last four weeks.

### PERCENTAGE of Tonnage Sunk by Submarine and Mine.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Route</th>
<th>July 27</th>
<th>August 4</th>
<th>August 11</th>
<th>August 18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All routes, exclusive of Osprey Channel</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>1.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selected routes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York and North thereof</td>
<td>2.94</td>
<td>1.32</td>
<td>1.99</td>
<td>1.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South of New York and West Indies, &amp;c.</td>
<td>7.93</td>
<td>5.11</td>
<td>2.72</td>
<td>2.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dakar, St. Vincent, and West Africa</td>
<td>9.64</td>
<td>2.98</td>
<td>11.47</td>
<td>20.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gibraltar</td>
<td>6.31</td>
<td>5.50</td>
<td>17.89</td>
<td>31.26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This week's figures suggest that the submarines are again concentrating their attention on the outward rather than the inward sailings—a reversal of last week's procedure. The percentage of ships sunk in convoy remains small and constant, but it is not to be expected that the present comparative success of the convoy will be maintained as the system becomes more fully understood by the enemy.

The total and casualty figures for convoyed ships are as shown in the following return:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Convoy</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Number of Ships Convoyed.</th>
<th>Losses in Convoy.</th>
<th>Total.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>From—</td>
<td>To—</td>
<td>This Week.</td>
<td>Previous Figures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>This Week.</td>
<td>Previous Figures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Atlantic*</td>
<td>24.5.17</td>
<td>18.8.17</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>20 convoys arrived.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gibraltar</td>
<td>10.5.17</td>
<td>18.8.17</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scandianavian-Lerwick</td>
<td>20.4.17</td>
<td>18.8.17</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>8,062</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French coal trade</td>
<td>3.17</td>
<td>18.8.17</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8,460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>720</td>
<td>11,151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note.—One outward convoy of nine Brazilian ships was escorted clear of danger zone and was reported safe.

Enemy submarines are reported to have been engaged by His Majesty's ships on fifteen occasions this week—two by destroyers, three by special service ships, six by auxiliary patrol craft, two by submarines, and two by seaplanes.

On one of these occasions it is known that the submarine was destroyed; on two occasions destruction is probable. It is now known that the destroyer "Oracle's" claim to have sunk a submarine last week by ramming was justified by the fact.

An estimate of the British tonnage sunk per month per enemy submarine available, on the best information obtainable, is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average for—</th>
<th>Tons.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1916</td>
<td>675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917—January</td>
<td>808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>2,968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>2,981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>3,406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>1,998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>2,068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>2,488</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This increase is partly due to the increased effectiveness of the destructive power of the submarines out and partly to an increase in the effective operating time of the submarines in commission by 33 per cent. on last year's average.

During the week ended the 11th August 33 additional vessels were equipped for defensive armament and 5 fitted for carrying a larger gun than they could before. The total number of vessels fitted at the end of this week was 3,744. The net increase in the number of guns available for merchant vessels was 43—the largest nett increase since the week ending the 23rd June. The losses and withdrawals during the week were only 13 as compared with 31 for the previous week. The detailed figures for defensive armament on the 11th August were as follows:
Ships Fitted to Carry Types of Gun; Guns Available. Defensive Armament.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of Gun</th>
<th>Ships Fitted to Carry</th>
<th>Guns Available</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6-inch</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.7-inch</td>
<td>1,662</td>
<td>508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-inch</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.5-inch howitzer</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light</td>
<td>1,810</td>
<td>1,886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,744</td>
<td>2,678</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statement of Mines Destroyed and Losses by Mines.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week ending</th>
<th>Number of Enemy Mines Destroyed</th>
<th>Number of British Mine-sweepers Sunk by Mines</th>
<th>Number of British Merchant Steamships Sunk by Mines in Home Waters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 19</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1 paddle minesweeper</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 29</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>1 paddle minesweeper</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Minelaying activity has been experienced in the following areas:

- Kirkwall.
- Harwich area.
- Thames Estuary.
- Tiree.

The absence of mines in Dover area (excluding north coast of France) and south coast of England generally has been very marked of late. This may be due to our new barrage—quite recently laid—off Ostend. The west coast of Scotland from Lewis to Dubhartach is not yet clear of mines, but traffic routes are free. Small groups of three to four mines each were laid in six different localities separated by a distance of 80 miles, but with the single exception of Ardamurchan Point the present traffic route was left free, although the old route was heavily mined.

Naval Construction.

The following statement shows the number of warships and auxiliary vessels completed during the week ending the 18th August:

- T.R.Da. .. 2
- Sloop .. 1
- Trawlers .. 1
- Patrol boat .. 1
- T.S.M.S. .. 1

The total number of vessels now under construction amounts to 924.

Merchant Shipbuilding.

During the week ending the 17th August three vessels have been reported as completed, having a gross tonnage of 15,730. This brings the total completions for the month of August up to five vessels of 29,898 gross tons. As half the month is now past, the completions have considerable leeway to make up before the forecast of 125,000 gross tons for the month is realised.

Two vessels are reported launched during the week; but it is understood that considerable improvement in the number of launches may be looked for during the remainder of the current month.
The vessels reported laid down have increased by thirteen, but certain vessels laid down in July, not previously reported, are included. Every effort is made to secure prompt returns, and considerable improvement is experienced in this respect.

The following table gives the position of Merchant Shipbuilding on the 17th instant as compared with the previous week:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week ending</th>
<th>Week ending</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 10.</td>
<td>August 17.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Launched but not completed</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>370</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One vessel, the “War Dog,” 4,500 tons dead-weight, built in Canada, has been delivered.

**Standard Vessels.**

It is expected that the first Standard Ship will run trials on Monday. The vessel (“A” type) is named the “War Admiral,” and has been built by Messrs. Harland and Wolff. The second standard vessel has been launched during the week.

That the twenty-four Standard “D” type vessels to be built as “Q’s” will not now be required as directions have been given for the construction of twenty-four sloops in their place.

**Shipbuilding in the U.S.A.**

Information has been received as to the shipbuilding completed in the U.S.A. during the two years ending the 30th June, 1916 and the 30th June, 1917. The gross tonnage built has increased from 350,000 tons to 818,000 tons, the bulk of the increase being in steel vessels.

**MINOR OPERATIONS.**

Two new minefields have been laid in the North Sea. In each case the minelaying operations were accompanied by light cruisers and destroyers. On the day after each operation the light cruisers and destroyers carried out sweeps to search for minesweepers or outpost boats. During one of these, the Harwich force engaged and chased a destroyer and some minesweepers, but owing to the low visibility and the close proximity of minefields, the chase had to be abandoned, but not before severe damage had been inflicted on several of the enemy vessels.

A detached force captured the Dutch steamship “Leonora” carrying coal for Germany.

R.N.A.S. squadrons from Dunkirk have carried out many bombing raids, in which Varsonaere, Thourout, Snellinghem, and Ghistelles aerodromes, Bruges docks, and Ostend, Ghent and Thourout railway centres have been attacked.

R.N.A.S. patrols from Dunkirk have brought down an enemy seaplane and have driven down two 2-seater enemy machines.

Bombing raids have been carried out by the R.N.A.S. in the Eastern Mediterranean on Drama and Gereviz aerodromes (Bulgaria), Hala Bourun railway works (near Smyrna), and Messrs. Rice’s works at Smyrna.

**SITUATION IN MEDITERRANEAN.**

The whole naval situation in the Mediterranean has been reviewed, and with the object of centralising the control of all routes in that area, Vice-Admiral Sir Somerset Gough-Calthorpe has been appointed as Commander-in-Chief of all British naval forces.
in the Mediterranean, where he will also be in charge of all Allied patrols and escorts. His flag will be flown at Malta.

A memorandum on this subject has been circulated to the War Cabinet and is printed as an Appendix II.

MOVEMENTS OF GERMAN MERCHANT-SHIPS.
(Week ending August 19, 1917.)

To and from Norwegian ports:—
Arrived, 11; left, 12.

No German vessels arrived at or left Rotterdam during the week.
German ships appear to be moving more freely again in Scandinavian territorial waters.

MOVEMENTS OF GERMAN RAIDERS AND SUBMARINES.
(Week ending August 19, 3 p.m.)

Raiders.
Number believed to be out, two:—

Steamship "Wolff":—
Last definite report, February 27, 1917, 7° N., 63° E.
Last report which may refer to her, May 9, 1917, S.W. of New Zealand.

Motor sailing vessel "Seeadler":—
Last definite report, March 22, 1917, 20° 10' S., 25° 50' W.
Last reports which may refer to her, June 13, 1917, 32° 30' S., 48° W.;
June 13, 1917, 24° 39' S., 38° 28' W.

Admiralty,
August 24, 1917.
### APPENDIX I.

**Statement of Numbers and Tonnage of Sailings and Losses by Submarine and Mine of British Merchant Steamships working to and from the United Kingdom of Over 300 Tons Gross Register for Week ended August 18, 1917.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Routes—United Kingdom (To and From).</th>
<th>Other Routes</th>
<th>Grand Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SAILINGS.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In—Numbers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tons</td>
<td>180</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>230,065</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out—Numbers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tons</td>
<td>265</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>218,819</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td>435</td>
<td>393,884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In—Numbers</td>
<td>180</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tons</td>
<td>230,065</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out—Numbers</td>
<td>265</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tons</td>
<td>218,819</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td>435</td>
<td>393,884</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **LOSSES.**                          |              |             |
| In—Numbers                           |              |             |
| Tons                                 | 1            |             |
|                      | 8,668        |             |
| Out—Numbers                         |              |             |
| Tons                                 | 1            |             |
|                      | 3            |             |
| **Totals**                           | 2            | 8,668       |
| In—Numbers                           | 1            |             |
| Tons                                 | 8,668        |             |
| Out—Numbers                         | 1            |             |
| Tons                                 | 3            |             |
| **Totals**                           | 2            | 8,668       |

| **Percentage of Numbers Lost.**      |              |             |
| In...                                | 3.33         |             |
| Out...                               | 3.33         |             |
| **Total**                            | 3.33         |             |

| **Percentage of Tonnage Lost.**      |              |             |
| In...                                | 4.75         |             |
| Out...                               | 4.75         |             |
| **Total**                            | 4.71         |             |

| **Other Routes**                     |              |             |

| **Grand Total**                      | 2,208,948    |             |
APPENDIX II.

SITUATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

Vice-Admiral Sir Somerset Gough-Calthorpe is now proceeding to take up his appointment as Commander-in-Chief of all British naval forces in the Mediterranean, his flag being flown ashore at Malta. He will be in charge of all Allied patrols and escorts in the Mediterranean, with French and Italian flag officers working with Rear-Admiral Ferguson on his staff, and will issue orders as to the routes and control of mercantile traffic. He will also direct the anti-submarine operations within the Mediterranean command of the British and French naval forces. At present he will not direct the anti-submarine operations of the Italian naval forces.

The working of these patrols and escorts will be subject to the general authority of the French Commander-in-Chief in case it becomes necessary to withdraw small craft from these duties to work with the fleet for offensive operations, or for the protection of the fleet.

Rear-Admiral Freemantle will be in command of the British Squadron in the Aegean.

Rear-Admiral Jackson is Senior Naval Officer Egypt and Red Sea, under the orders of the British Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean.

The limits of the Mediterranean station have again been extended so as to include the whole of the Red Sea and also Gibraltar, and as far west as the meridian of Cape St. Vincent.

The number of Japanese destroyers in the Mediterranean has just been increased from 8 to 12, and the 6 Australian destroyers are now stationed in the Mediterranean. This brings the total number of British destroyers in the Mediterranean up to 45, including 2 now based on Gibraltar. As soon as they can be spared, 2 more destroyers will be sent out from England, making a total of 17 British destroyers, and 12 Japanese destroyers. Of these 12 are required to maintain the patrol off the Dardanelles. The remainder will all be employed on convoy and escort work, and in offensive action against submarines.

Beyond the escort, convoy, and anti-submarine work, the principal duties of the British Fleet in the Mediterranean are at present:

Adriatic—Co-operation with the Italian army towards Trieste.

Protection of the Otranto Barrage in conjunction with the Italian Fleet.

Aegean—Blockade of Bulgaria, Turkey, and Asia Minor coasts.
Prevention of raids by enemy destroyers or other vessels from the Sea of Marmora.
Co-operation of the army on the Struma front.
Protection of the minefields off the Dardanelles.
Keeping down fire of enemy guns on the Gallipoli Peninsula firing on Imbros and Mavro, and enemy guns on Asia Minor coast firing on Mavro and Tenedos.
Keeping down fire of enemy guns in Asia Minor between Gulf of Aドラmytj and Cape Alupò (opposite Rhodes).

Offensive operations by aircraft.

Syria—Offensive operations by aircraft.

Operations against the Syrian coast and railways are in contemplation, in conjunction with the army under General Allenby in Southern Palestine.

The new system of sending troops overland to Taranto, and thence in small troop carriers through the danger zone is now coming into operation.

Good results are expected from placing the general control of all Allied patrols and escorts under a British Admiral, who will at Malta be centrally situated for controlling all the Mediterranean routes.

Present Distribution of Allied Fleets in Mediterranean.

British Fleet.—Principally stationed in the Aegean, with Mudros as the main base, their functions being to engage the Turkish Fleet should it come out of the Dardanelles. A light cruiser squadron and three submarines are based on Brindisi, acting under the orders of the Italian Commander-in-Chief, also a large number of drifters for the Otranto Barrage. Two monitors with 12-inch guns based on Venice for work in conjunction with Italian navy, in support of the army.

A British aerial force is based on Otranto under the immediate orders of a British Commodore. This force at present consists of 15 seaplanes and 6 aeroplanes. They
carry out work in connection with the Otranto Barrage in conjunction with the Italians, and, when sufficient machines are available, attacks on enemy bases are contemplated, also in conjunction with the Italians. This force has also a base at Taranto, where facilities are greater for erecting machines, practice flights, &c.

Three small monitors based on Port Said for the defence of Egypt and for operations against the coast of Syria. Destroyers, sloops, and other small craft are also based on Alexandria, Suda, Malta, and Gibraltar, and are employed on escort duties and patrol work and submarine hunting.

**Japanese Flotilla of 12 Destroyers**, under Rear-Admiral Sato, based on Malta and employed on escort duties. This squadron is not formally placed under the orders of Commander-in-Chief, but is directed to carry out operations in consultation with British Senior Naval Officers, or at their request.

**French Fleet.** Corfu is the principal base of the fleet, but ships are stationed at Salamis, Mudros, and Salonica, and a small squadron (Syrian division) is based on Port Said. Certain destroyers and submarines are based on Brindisi for work with the Italian Fleet. Destroyers for escort and patrolling work are also based on Milo, Toulon, Bonn, and Argostoli.

**Italian Fleet.** Taranto is the main base of the Italian battle fleet, but cruisers, light cruisers, and torpedo-craft are based on Brindisi. There is also a battle squadron and a considerable number of torpedo-craft at Venice, and a base for torpedo-craft at Valona. There are also anti-submarine flotillas at various places on west coast of Italy, such as Genoa, Spezzia, Leghorn, Naples, &c.

**Arrangements for Co-operation between Allied Fleets in Mediterranean.**

The principal enemy naval force in the Mediterranean is the Austrian fleet. Should the Austrian fleet put to sea, the Italian Commander-in-Chief is responsible for engaging it in the Adriatic, with the assistance of a French squadron from Corfu, who will be under his orders. In the event of the French Commander-in-Chief and the greater part of the French fleet being required to assist the Italian fleet inside the Adriatic against the Austrian fleet, the command of the Allied fleets is vested in the French Commander-in-Chief. Outside the Adriatic, if the Austrian fleet breaks out or for any other major operations, the French Commander-in-Chief is in command of all the Allied fleets.

The British squadron in the Ægean is responsible for the operations off the Dardanelles. Should the Turkish fleet come out, the British squadron, with the assistance of the French squadron in the Ægean, would engage them. For practical purposes, outside the Dardanelles the Turkish fleet may be considered as consisting only of "Goeben" and "Breslau" and a small number of torpedo-craft. There is always the chance that these ships may attempt a raiding attack on Imbros, Lemnos, Staravos, or Salonica. The British Rear-Admiral carried out minor operations in the Ægean at his discretion, keeping the French Commander-in-Chief informed of what he does.

In the improbable event of the Austrian fleet getting past the French and Italian fleets and making for the Dardanelles it is the duty of the British Ægean squadron, supported by the French Ægean squadron, to hold them before they can reach their objective until the main Allied fleet under the French Commander-in-Chief can come up and deal with them.

A British officer is in command of the Otranto Barrage under the orders of the Italian Commander-in-Chief.

Minor operations on the Syrian coast in support of the British army are carried out by the British squadron based on Egypt, the French Syrian division co-operating.

**August 15, 1917.**
Internal Politics.

Internal politics in Poland are more hopeless than ever.

A wave of excitement has swept over the country as a result of the Russian Revolution; men dreamt dreams and saw visions; and desperation worked where hope was lacking; popular indignation was rising at the German robberies; there was the pinch of food-shortage and the threat of yet worse starvation. Living popular forces were behind the politicians and a tide was rising which, if taken at the flood, might have led on to fortune. But the moment was missed and now for the time being all this is a matter of the past. The hopes which have been built on the Russian Revolution have given place to depression, the food crisis has passed, the peasants are busy at the harvest, for the future agreements are likely to be concluded with the occupying Powers concerning food matters; the military organisations of the Radicals and Socialists have been broken up by the German arrests. But the politicians have remained and continue to plough the sands.

For almost ten months they have talked, formed parties (some 20 of them) seceded from parties, quarrelled about things real and unreal, till at last no one knows where he stands - except the Germans.

Polish politics are like the buzzing of an over-tired brain in sleep; or again they remind one vividly of a suburban mock parliament - the same gravity of manner, the same amount of make-belief, and very nearly an equal degree of futility. Yet parts of the administration are now at last being handed over to the Poles; beginning with
September 1 all the law courts will be in Polish hands and soon also the schools. But the Council of State continues to crumble away. Some more members are reported to have handed in their resignations, though now the time has certainly passed for doing so on grounds of principle. After all, it is settled that the present Council is soon to give place to a new government and a new Council and some one must remain in charge of business during the period of transition. Whatever blunders the present Council may have committed since May 1, the day when Bilsudski unsuccessfully proposed that they should resign in a body, some of the people who now stick to the work during the period of transition probably deserve more respect than those who desert them, in the idea that this might improve their chance of reappearing in the next Council, or else that they may go in for the delightful pastime of kicking a dying beast, because they imagine that this will further their party interests. Mean time the period of transition which again threatens to be of long duration. The Germans have no reason to be in a hurry about forming a Polish government as long as Polish politicians remain well employed in intrigues, quarrels and mutual recriminations. Poland is not likely to be any longer a factor of any weight in the war, except as an object of diplomatic content. A field seems to open before some of her politicians in the line of peace intrigues.

Peace Intrigues.

Count Adam Tarnowski of Sofia fame is active at Stockholm, Count Goluchowski, the late Austro-hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, in Switzerland. It is by no means an accident that Polish diplomats should be sent by Austria to conduct her peace intrigues in the two most important neutral centres of Europe. Of the races which rule Austria-hungary - the Germans, Magyars and Poles - only the last have got access to Western Europe, and Austria will know how to make the most of it. This was only to be expected;
we wrote in our weekly report of May 3, 1917: "During the coming
months Poles will be found strenuously working for peace, and their
endeavours in this direction are the more dangerous as their
legitimate aspirations have sympathisers in every European
Chanceller" (except perhaps in Berlin)."

Switzerland is once more humming with Polish intrigues.
Emigré politicians have gone there from the Western capitals.
At the same time Prince Bustacé Sapieha, a candidate for a big
post in the new government, M. de Stecki, the National Democrat
leader from Lublin who ever since November 5, 1916, seems to have
worked with the Austrians yet without ever definitely committing
himself, and now also expects to fill one of the first places in the
new Polish government at Warsaw, and a few minor politicians are
reported to have come from Poland. "As usual they are "trying to
get food for her starving population" - it certainly proves remark­
able foresight to do that just when the new harvest is coming in;
but rumour alleges that they are also to take part in political con­
ferences arranged under the auspices of the notorious Austrian
diplomatic agent, kais. und kön. Legationsrat Herr von Skrzynski.
There is a proverb in Poland that a clever calf sucks two mothers. -
Meantime among the strivers in the camp of the original pro-Austrians
in Poland signs of fear can be perceived lest their past merits and
the sins of their opponents should be forgotten. The men who can
serve as a channel to Western Europe are more valuable at present
to Austria than the enthusiasts of the new practically defunct
Legions.

A softening of hearts with regard to Austria is noticeable
in the National Democrat press. Their Petrograd daily, the
Dziennik Polski, admitted in its issue of July 13, 1917, that the
Inter-Party Union in Warsaw has "agreed to a milder tone with
regard to Austria provided she emancipates herself from the
Prussian influence", a proviso which can hardly be meant seriously.
Meantime the Kurjer Poznanski, the chief paper of the National Democrats in Poznania, cynically admits in its issue of July 24 the truth about the relations of the Poles to the Austrian government: "If at the present moment our representatives have passed into opposition, the chief reason for it is that the government of Galicia has been entrusted to alien hands. . . . . . . It is however said that a restitution to the previous condition is imminent. When that comes, willy-nilly the Polish Club will have to revert to its previous attitude with regard to the Austrian government; it will have to pay for power at home by supplying the government with the necessary number of votes in Parliament." The old scheme therefore of paying for dominion over the Little Russians (Ukrainians) in Galicia by subservience in Vienna is now receiving a public "placet" from the National Democrats.

Polish Imperialism and the Pope's Note.

The example of Galicia may serve as a warning; it shows the unavoidable consequences of giving rope to Polish Imperialism. Polish rule over non-Polish districts - over Lithuanians, White Russians or Little Russians - would not make Poland strong, but weak and hopelessly dependent on the Germanic Powers. Neither Russia nor the Ukrainians can ever accept any other frontier than that of ethnographic Poland; also the Lithuanians feel a passionate hatred of the Poles. With the three nations, Lithuanians, White Russians and Little Russians, it is the hatred felt by a land-hungry peasantry for its alien landlords. (The Polish nobility owns 39.3 per cent of the total area of Lithuania and the Ukraine.) Who could guarantee their dominion over Lithuania, White Russia or over provinces torn out of the body of Little Russia, who could safeguard the Poles against the claims and the hostility of these nationalities and of despoiled Russia except the Germanic Powers? The allusion to "the territories forming part of the ancient Kingdom of Poland" in the Pope's Note may therefore be described as one
of its most dangerous proposals. It clearly points to the Polish claims as to Lithuania, Chelm, Volhynia and Eastern Galicia.

Poland's claims against Prussia for Posnania, Upper Silesia, parts of West Prussia and an access to the sea, rest on the infinitely sounder ground of nationality and require no appeal to history. Even more: the Polish claim to the invaluable coal region of Upper Silesia could hardly be upheld on grounds of history although the percentage of Poles in that district is higher than in almost any other part of Prussia; Silesia has never since 1340 formed part of "the ancient Kingdom of Poland". But then neither Silesia nor West Prussia nor even Posnania are "available" in case of immediate peace negotiations, whilst the provinces which Polish imperialists propose to tear from Russia are at present in enemy occupation. Moreover these Polish claims coincide also with the wishes and interests of certain influential clerical circles. On July 17, 1916, I reported in a letter to Lord Robert Cecil on an interview between a Pole in Switzerland and Count Ledochowski, General of the Jesuits. "Count Ledochowski," I wrote in that letter, "talked to him openly about Russia and the Polish Question and admitted that in his view the most desirable thing for the Roman Catholic Church would be the detachment from Russia of all territories inhabited by Roman Catholics, and hinted also that this was more or less the view held at the Vatican. They have definitely dropped the idea of the possibility of a union with the Russian Church and seem to be taking up a decided stand against Russia." Thus the idea of getting for the Poles some of "the territories of the ancient Kingdom" (other than those to which they have a right on grounds of nationality) is by no means new in Vatican circles. (One might further compare Count Ledochowski's statement with the claim raised in H. Dmowski's book on "Problems of Central and Eastern Europe" that Poland should include among others "those provinces...........

....where the majority of the inhabitants are Catholics" - and
He proposes to take from Russia the governments of Kovno, Grodno and Vilna, and parts of Volhynia, and the government of Minsk. This frontier is apparently based on the present German "war map".

Ukrainian Intrigues.

Reports have been received from Switzerland alleging that the Greek-Catholic Metropolitan Archbishop of Lemberg, Count Szeptycki, who had been interned by the late Russian government but has been released by the revolutionary government, has come to Switzerland with an authorisation from the Ukraine Rada to conclude a separate peace for them in case the German armies advance deeper into the Ukraine. Whether this is true or not, there can hardly be any doubt that Count Szeptycki's own sympathies must lie that way. If the Ukraine gets separated from Russia and comes under a protectorate of Mittel-Europa, all the powers in the Ukraine State would be likely to work for a separation of the Ukraine Church from that of Russia and for union with Rome, if for no other reason, then at least in order to deepen the gulf between the Little Russians (Ukrainians) and the Great Russians.

Count A. Szeptycki personally may be a sincere Ukrainian, although there is in him also the Polish aristocrat, and he has far less in common with Russia than the average Ukrainian (his brother is a Roman Catholic Pole and now Governor of the Austrian sphere of occupation in Poland). But certainly religion comes with Archbishop Szeptycki before nationality, and when reverting to the Church of his ancestors, it was from love of the Uniate Church that he became a Ukrainian, and not for the sake of the Ukraine that he became a Greek-Catholic. It is alleged that various Polish politicians who have gone to Switzerland propose to meet him also - a combination from which no good can be expected for Russia.

L.B.N.

24/8/17.
SUMMARY OF BLOCKADE INFORMATION


GERMANY. A metallurgical expert of neutral nationality, who has recently returned from Germany, reports that the monthly deliveries of steel are short of the quantities required by 100,000 to 150,000 tons. There is still copper available for the essential war industries, and in many districts of the Empire this metal has not yet been requisitioned. But the shortage of nickel constitutes the gravest problem which the metal industries have to face. The collieries are short of labour, although they employ Russian, Polish and Serbian prisoners on a great scale; the production of coal in Westphalia is 80% of the normal, but elsewhere seldom rises above 60%. This informant does not anticipate that German war industries will be seriously short of materials before the spring of 1918.

DENMARK. The Danish Government propose to supply Germany with increased supplies of bacon in exchange for petroleum, and have declined a counter-proposal from H.M. Government to guarantee fixed prices for a definite percentage of the exports of Danish bacon. The effect of the bargain with Germany is that she may receive as much as 50% of the exports of Danish bacon over a definite period. In view of the scarcity of imported fodder-stuffs the small Danish farmers have been ordered by the Victualling Commission to kill three-quarters of their sows and not to breed from the rest. Consequently there will be, in the immediate future, an increased export of inferior bacon; but eventually the bacon exports will be much reduced.
Deliveries of German coal are likely to be exceptionally small in the autumn and winter. The Danes are anxious to obtain from us an additional 100,000 tons of coal a month. They hope that the German Government will undertake not to molest Danish colliers when sailing in ballast to the United Kingdom.

It is reported that large quantities of dried vegetables, fresh vegetables and fruit are being licensed for export from Denmark to Germany. The export of live cattle to Germany continues, at the rate of about 5,000 head a week.

Sir M. Findlay thinks that, if the United States persist in demanding the total cessation of export of fish from Norway to Germany, the Norwegian Government will give way on this point. But he also thinks that we should, in that case, propitiate the Norwegian fishermen, whose good will is valuable to our naval forces, by purchasing a considerable part, say one half, of the herring catch at a fair price.

Germany is refusing to permit the export to Norway of iron and other materials for ship building, on the ground that any new Norwegian ships would, directly or indirectly, be of service to Great Britain. There is no reason to be surprised at this policy; some time ago Germany came to a similar decision regarding the Danish ship building industry.

As the Norwegian canners decline to reduce their prices, our War Office will not purchase any canned goods in Norway. It is possible that the United States may prohibit the export of tin-plates to the European neutrals; in which case the canners can easily be brought to terms.
**NETHERLANDS.** The German Government will not guarantee to supply the Netherlands with more than 100,000 tons of coal a month unless Dutch miners are sent to the German mines. The Dutch have been asked to provide a credit of 40 gulden on every ton of German coal exported to Holland in excess of 100,000 tons a month. This credit would be used for German purchases in the Netherlands. The Dutch are apparently unwilling to accept such onerous terms; but, like the Swiss, they will probably be obliged to do so, unless we can supply them with considerable quantities of British coal.

**SPAIN.** Most of the mines in the Bilbao district have resumed work, and on Aug. 19 it was reported that the Santander miners were returning to the pits. The strikes are reputed to have been partly due to German influence, but the evidence on this subject lacks precision.

Negotiations have been opened in London for a new agreement with Spain (in substitution for the Cortina Agreement). We are ready to supply Spain with coal, of Spanish ships are sent to fetch it. In return we shall expect the Spanish Government to allow us to export iron-ore freely from Spain; we shall also expect them to requisition and place at our disposal a certain proportion of Spanish tonnage.

**SWITZERLAND.** Sir E. Bumbold has warned certain of the friendly Swiss banks that they may be exposing themselves to reprisals if they assist in floating the German loan which is contemplated under the new German-Swiss Agreement. But the Swiss Minister for Foreign Affairs represents that, if the loan is not raised, Germany will charge 200 francs a ton, instead of 90 francs, for the coal which she supplies. Sir E. Bumbold
suggests that we should waive our objections to the German loan on condition that the Swiss banks agree to place a similar credit at our disposal.

GREECE. The recent fire at Salonica has destroyed about two-thirds of the walled part of the town, and most of the available supplies. There will therefore be urgent need of further supplies from abroad. We are assuring the Greek Government that we shall do everything in our power for the relief of the sufferers.

UNITED STATES. Mr. Wilson is considering the advisability of prohibiting all exports to neutral European countries. But he has expressed his reluctance to starve any neutral country. Mr. Hoover, the American Food Controller, holds that Norway and Holland are in no urgent need of American cereals and that Denmark can feed her population for the next twelve months. He therefore feels entitled to reserve practically all the available stocks for the use of the Allies. He is anxious that the Allies should make all their purchases of all American food-stuffs through a common purchasing agency (preferably through the Wheat Commission) in order to defeat the manoeuvres of speculators, who are forcing up the prices of wheat, sugar and packers' products. If prices continue to rise it may well happen that public opinion in the United States will demand drastic restrictions on the export of food even to the Allies.

GERMAN SUBMARINE CAMPAIGN. The following is a summary of the losses of merchant tonnage, due to enemy activity, which were officially reported in the period Aug. 17 - 23, inclusive. Smacks and trawlers are omitted:
Steamships (500 tons gross & over):

British ........ 94,480 tons gross.
Allied & Neutral 38,023 " ",

Sailing Vessels (100 tons gross & over):

British ........ - " "
Allied & Neutral 748 " "
Grand Total ... 133,251 " "
Total British .. 94,480 " "

H. W. C. D.

War Trade Intelligence Department.

Operations.

From: - General Delme Radcliffe, Italy.
To: - C.I.G.S., War Office.

24.8.17.
3.15 a.m.

338. August 23rd.

10 o'clock this evening situation:

2nd Army. On the Bainsizza plateau there is little change in the front line of the Italians, all units being engaged in consolidating positions held while preparations are in progress for further advance. On account of steepness of ground and absence of roads by which to get troops, stores and heavy material on to the plateau it is exceedingly difficult but some batteries of field artillery have been already got to the top. Meanwhile an immense amount of work is being put into road making. Absence of water and the heat are additional difficulties and many men and animals have died of thirst. Water is being taken up in barrels etc. and fortunately some strong springs have to-day been found from which water will be laid down on to the front. Enemy's artillery has shown little activity and enemy is evidently making efforts to withdraw what he can. Austrian 21st, 106th and (?) 24th Divisions are considered practically destroyed while 50th and 1st Divisions have had losses. It is now known that 10th Division is coming into line of the Bainsizza plateau and contact has been obtained.

3rd Army. There has been practically no change during day on the Carso except that some units have slightly improved and all are consolidating their positions while all the brigades in 1st line are being relieved by fresh brigades. Italian positions on right flank of the 13th Corps between Medeazza and the Sea
have been especially improved though Austrians still hold point 28 west of San Giovanni. Austrians still keep the 73rd and 41st Divisions intact in reserve but all the other divisions are known to have suffered very heavy losses. I shall forward tomorrow statements shewing changes and wastage of units on the Austrian front. There were only a few prisoners taken on the 3rd Army front today but the grand total counted so far exceeds 21,000.

Much artillery material has been captured. While Italian aircraft were very busy all today and have again dropped a large number of bombs etc. in the enemy's lines, enemy's aircraft is conspicuous by its absence.

Morale of the Italian troops is excellent and prospects are very good; Cadorna told me this morning that the ammunition supply is his only source of anxiety as he is not sure whether he has enough heavy ammunition to make the success of this offensive as complete as it would be were his ammunition supply more satisfactory.
From :- General Barter,
Russia.

To :- C.I.G.S.
War Office.

22.8.17.
6.51 p.m.

This morning I saw Korniloff and communicated your telegram No. 39852 to him. He was very pleased and begged me to transmit his sincere appreciation.

He showed me a number of resolutions which he has received in the last two days from various councils representing organisations of officers, veterans etc., assuring him of their emphatic support.

He also informed me that he has been called by Government to Petrograd to discuss his programme, before attending Moscow Congress and he added with significant expression of face that he did not know if he could find time to go.

I laughed and said that as he could not take a train full of his Turcomans with him, I should, if I were he, find that work was too pressing to allow him to leave G.H.Q. before going to Moscow.

Turcomans referred to are a wild cavalry regiment which he recently called to G.H.Q., and which is wholly devoted to him as his mother was one of the tribe. He is safe from coup de main, as battalion of St. George, which has also declared its fidelity to Korniloff, is permanently quartered here.

He was very anxious to know what the policy of the Allied Powers is as regards diplomatic pressure. He is a genuine patriot and would rather attain his object by peaceable means. In any case it is very doubtful if the time is yet ripe.
ripe for playing a very high stake at a different game. I expressed regret that I had no information. (One group undecipherable) I am informed on good authority that Government's latest intention is to suppress post of Commander-in-Chief and to appoint a War Council, which would sit in Petrograd and be directly under Kerenski. This measure, if it is really contemplated, as I believe, may bring matters to an early and violent crisis.

I leave August 10th for Petrograd and shall return by August 16th.
SECRET
G.T.-1845

WAR CABINET.

RETURN OF NO. 46 SQUADRON ROYAL FLYING CORPS TO FRANCE.

(Copy of letter from Chief of the Imperial General Staff to Secretary, War Cabinet, forwarding a despatch of Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig).

I.

Chief of the Imperial General Staff to Secretary, War Cabinet.

121/France/1015.

War Office,
London, S.W.

Secretary, War Cabinet.

Please bring the attached communication from Sir Douglas Haig before the War Cabinet on Monday next as it refers to an urgent matter. It is necessary that Lord French should attend and also the D.S.M.A. The only question requiring Cabinet decision is the return of No. 46 Squadron to France. The other questions raised are being dealt with by the War Office and Admiralty.

(Signed) W.R. ROBERTSON,
General

24th August, 1917.

Chief of the Imperial General Staff.

II.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig to Chief of the Imperial General Staff.

No. C.B./1837.

General Headquarters,
British Armies in France.

23rd August, 1917.

Chief of the Imperial General Staff.

In view of the communication from the First Sea Lord on the subject of maintenance of the Royal Naval Air Service Squadrons, a copy of which was forwarded under cover of your Memorandum No. 121/France/1015 of the 21st instant, I strongly urge that No. 46 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps, which was sent to England in July, should be returned to France at once.
The increased air activity of the enemy on the battle front, combined with the decreased strength of the R.N.A.S. Squadrons renders it essential that the air forces of the British Armies in France should be strengthened at the earliest possible opportunity, and I strongly recommend the following measures being carried out as early as possible:

(a) The immediate replacement of No. 10 R.N.A.S. Squadron by No. 46 Squadron from England, the pilots and machines of No. 10 R.N.A.S. Squadron being transferred to the other R.N.A.S. Squadrons to increase their strength. I shall be glad to hear by telegram whether this can be arranged.

(b) A second R.N.A.S. Squadron to be replaced by No. 84 Squadron, R.F.C., which is due to arrive about the end of September. It would be of the greatest assistance if the despatch of this squadron could be hastened.

(c) A third R.N.A.S. Squadron to be replaced by No. 65, 64, or 28 Squadron, R.F.C., as soon as they can be sent to France.

(d) The two remaining R.N.A.S. Squadrons to be maintained in France till the middle of November.

I fully realise that the measures proposed above will render the air forces in France considerably weaker than I had anticipated, but in the circumstances I had no option but to recommend the gradual withdrawal (or rather amalgamation) of the R.N.A.S. Squadrons in spite of the invaluable assistance they have already given.

(Signed) D. HAIG.
Field-Marshal
Commanding-in-Chief
British Armies in France.
SECRET.

S.T.1646.

WAR CABINET.

FACILITIES FOR TRANSPORT FROM ARCHANGEL TO
THE UNITED KINGDOM OF ENGLAND WHO ARE
NATIVES OF ITALIAN SPEAKING PROVINCES OF
AUSTRO-HUNGARY.

(Copy of a Note from Foreign Office forwarding a
letter from Italian Ambassador in London)

(163939/W.22) Foreign Office to Secretary, War Cabinet.

Immediate.

The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
presents his compliments to the Secretary to the War Cabinet
and begs leave to transmit to him, herewith, a copy of a note
from the Italian Ambassador requesting facilities for the
transport from Archangel to the United Kingdom of certain liberated prisoners who are natives of the Italian speaking pro-
vinces of Austria-Hungary.

Lord Hardinge of Penshurst is directed by Mr. Secretary
Balfour to request that the matter may be brought to the urgent
attention of the War Cabinet and that Mr. Balfour may then be
informed what reply should be returned to the Marquis Imperiali.

Copies of this letter and of the enclosure herein
are being sent to the Admiralty and Ministry of Shipping.

Foreign Office,
August 25th, 1917.

II.

Italian Ambassador to Mr. Balfour.

Translation.

No.3624.

Urgent

(163939)

ITALIAN EMBASSY,
August 14th, 1917.

Sir,

As is doubtless known to Your Excellency the British
Admiralty last year kindly undertook to endeavour to find the
necessary means to transport from Archangel to the United Kingdom
soldiers from the unoccupied provinces made prisoners by the
Russians and subsequently set at liberty owing to their Italian
nationality.

As far back as last June the Italian Government
instructed this Embassy to ask again for one or more steamers
to bring about 3,000 more of these men from Archangel and the
necessary steps were taken at the Admiralty, as before, by the
Italian Naval Attaché. Count di Valleray has however now informed me that the Admiralty have stated that they are not in a position to give a reply to this request as the allocation of shipping has recently been handed over to the War Cabinet. In addition to the Italians there is also a considerable number of Serbians to be conveyed to England.

On the most urgent instructions from my Government I have the honour to request Your Excellency to be so good as to draw the serious attention of the War Cabinet to the necessity of reaching an early and favourable decision as regards the transport of these Italians, who, so I am informed, have already been collected and will be ready to leave in a few days' time. The Italian Government have already made arrangements for their transit across France.

In the firm confidence that Your Excellency's good offices will lead to compliance with the desire of my Government, and thanking you in advance.

I have, etc.

(signed) Imperioli.

The Right Honourable,
A. J. Balfour,
&c., &c., &c.,
Very Urgent.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Director of Military Intelligence and is directed by Mr. Secretary Balfour to transmit to him, herewith, a copy of a telegram from His Majesty's Minister at Jassy, relative to the question of compensation for the plant and stocks which it may be necessary to destroy in Roumania.

Mr. Balfour realises that in equity the Roumanian Government should themselves compensate private owners for the destruction rendered necessary by the Military situation, but it is clear that if this destruction is really a vital military necessity and one which cannot be effected without the co-operation of the Roumanian Government, it may be necessary to secure this co-operation by some form of joint financial guarantee.

Mr. Balfour feels, indeed, that in that event the cost should be equally divided between France, Italy, Russia, and Great Britain, but in any case he is of opinion that the matter should be submitted for the decision of the War Cabinet before any reply is returned to Sir G. Barclay's telegram.

Lord Hardinge of Penshurst is to suggest, therefore, that the Chief of the Imperial General Staff should raise this question with the War Cabinet at the next convenient opportunity.

Foreign Office,
August 23rd, 1917.
TELEGRAM FROM SIR G. BARCLAY TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Urgent

14th August 1917.

So far Roumanian (Government) seem disposed to evacuate towards the rear (gradually) and to arrange for eventual destruction of factories, machinery and rolling stock that would otherwise fall into enemy hands in all of which they are accepting indications of our offers. But how far actual destruction will materialize later on, I am not sure. It might depend a good deal on whether Roumanian Government were let to expect compensation.

Should it at any moment appear necessary am I authorized to make any (declaration) to Roumanian Government as regards compensation for such destruction? If so in what form should I make it? It seems to me that there should be distinction between (1) Such destruction if carried out independently of our officers of which of course they would have no knowledge, and (2) destruction carried out by their or under their advice or with their co-operation and again between destruction of privately owned property and that owned by Government, such as railway stocks and workshops.

I would add that if our very small British force is to succeed efficiently in destructive work there will be no time to take more than the most meagre notes even of destruction carried out with their co-operation.

Please reply to this telegram not only to me, but also Military Attaché as may be compelled to leave earlier than he.
SECRET.
G.T.1948.

WAR CABINET.

SALONIKA - DISPOSITIONS OF ALLIED FORCES.
(Copies of Telegrams between C.I.G.S. & G.O.C. Salonika regarding the relief of British Troops by French on certain sectors of the front.)

1.
C.I.G.S. to G.O.C. Salonika.

23rd August, 1917.

Operations.

40031 cipher. Following has been received from General Foch

BEGINS I am charged by the Minister of War to inform you that General Sarrail has informed him that for the moment owing to special difficulties he can place only two cavalry regiments at General Milne's disposal. General Sarrail is ordering an infantry regiment to Salonika, and also placing a Chasseur battalion in reserve; but for the present these troops cannot take over a sector especially as they lack artillery support.

Reference your G.C. 531 of August 11th let me have the exact length of front you hold exclusive of stretches of lake not held or held very lightly. Also if you know it lengths of front held by each of the Allied contingents. I intend to put the case to the War Cabinet with a view to Government action when I have this information.

II.
G.O.C. Salonika to C.I.G.S.

Operations. 24th August, 1917.

No. G.C.920.

Your 40031 cipher August 23rd. British front from the sea to Lake Tahtinos 8 kilometres. Along Tahtinos 19 kilometres lightly held. 53 kilometres from Tahtinos to Lake Butkovo. Along Lake Butkovo 3 kilometres light held. From Butkovo to Doiran 34 kilometres; along Doiran 5 kilometres lightly held; 22 kilometres from Doiran to River Vardar. Total British front 144 kilometres of which 27 kilometres are lightly held.

Servian front 55 kilometres.
French fronts 60 kilometres.
Italian front 15 kilometres.
Russian front 36 kilometres, mountainous country west of Lake Prespa.

Greek Army interpolated with French.

The map dispositions of the Allied and enemy forces forwarded July 31st is practically correct, except as regards Servian.
This is an attempt to describe the present position of the movement which I call "Labour in Revolt," and which its promoters call "the working-class movement" or "the class-war." The bare facts are known to the public and the Government; the growing strength of the movement, and the passionate, revolutionary, fervour with which it is supported, are not appreciated. Thus the position is very similar to that of the Pan-German movement before the outbreak of the present war, or the Sinn Fein movement before the Dublin rebellion.

My information comes from the periodicals which circulate in the interests of the movement, and from individuals who are promoting it. As none of those ask for secrecy or confidence, I conclude that I am not bound to any secrecy, especially as it is in the best interests of the parties concerned that their state of mind should be thoroughly understood.

This movement is quite distinct from the "Pacifist" movement, which is middle-class, and from the "Revolutionary" movement proper, which is confined to the lower class of the large towns, and is most vigorous in East London. The movement I describe is that of well-paid artisans. But all three movements are apt to combine in public demonstrations, and so are confused in the public eye.

The strongholds of "Labour in Revolt" are the South Wales mine-field, the dockers everywhere, the Clyde shipyards, and the Manchester and Sheffield districts. The movement has only gained a solid position in the last two districts within the last six months, but it is just this extension which gives ground for alarm.

"Labour in Revolt" is led by young men from 20 to 40 years of age. The older Trades Union Leaders hold entirely aloof from it and cannot understand it. Nor can they resist it. Of all people they are the least competent advisers with regard to it. A decided majority of the workmen are everywhere opposed to it, but nevertheless they are swept away by it. It has repeatedly brought them increases of wages and reductions of hours, for which they are grateful. But chiefly they recognise that the movement is strong and that the Government is weak, and, like the majority everywhere, they incline to the stronger party.

The young men and young women of the movement, after making all allowances, must be counted by many thousands. All of them think and act in precisely the same way: their knowledge and their ignorance is the same: their eloquence is remarkable: and they always act first and reason afterwards. They have no leaders and need none. They care nothing for disappointments or defeats, but rise each time with fresh zeal for the next effort.
They greatly underrate the forces which will ultimately be opposed to them, and are absolutely confident of victory for their ideas in the very near future. Societies like the W.E.A. belong to the movement to a man; and it must be remembered that the W.E.A. itself is under the ban of the more advanced section of the movement, as being a body which exposes itself to a corrupting contact with capitalist or middle-class universities.

The ideas of "Labour in Revolt" are crude enough, but the believers accept them with absolute sincerity. They are identical with the theories of the Russian revolution. Karl Marx is the Bible of the faith. The world is divided into Capitalists and the proletarian or Labour. By a natural law Labour always produces more than enough for its needs: the surplus is stolen from it by Capitalism, and used to enslave Labour. "British exports" mean that the British capitalist, after first compelling his wage-slaves to work for their own needs, next compels them to work to make exports to foreign capitalists, and further still to make profits for himself. If the proletariat restricts output successfully, at the worst they will always have enough for themselves, and the capitalist alone will suffer. All wars are caused by the rival ambitions of the capitalists of different nations, and are carried on at the sole cost of Labour. The proletariat of all nations must rise against the capitalists of all nations, and destroy their power.

"Labour in Revolt" absolutely denies all patriotic ties. The result of the present war is entirely indifferent to its members: England is not their country, and the war is not their war. The idea that Germany might invade England is a bogey raised by the Capitalist to make the workman obey him.

To conscription, munitions Acts, and to any sort of discipline in the workshops, "Labour in Revolt" is absolutely opposed.

It has no programme for a reconstructed Society. All schemes, such as those of Trade Councils or national Guilds, are middle class devices to thwart the movement, but the movement has a clear policy: that is to strike first one blow and then another, until society collapses. Compromises or reconciliation it entirely rejects.

It has no designs against King George, and no ill-will against individual capitalists. These considerations are outside its purview. The Russian Revolution is the realisation of its ideals: every criticism of it in this country is due to the malevolence of the capitalists. Perhaps the words "angelic anarchy" may summarise the objective best.

Such is the doctrine preached week by week from end to end of the country to the other. The listeners are no doubt only half convinced, but each utterance makes the theories more familiar.

It will be said that these are the doctrines of a few enthusiasts, and that they will never win over the adherence of the mass of shrewd British workingmen. In support of this view it is possible to point to the crowd of Sunday newspaper
which form the chief reading of the average working-
man, and all of which are full of patriotic sentiments
and of more or less effective criticism of these very
doctrines. It is however possible to underrate the
effect of an ardent propaganda such as has been
described.

There have lately been issued a series of reports
on "Industrial Unrest". I believe only one, that on
Wales, treats this propaganda as a serious danger.
The facts are however otherwise.

During the last six months recruiting has been
brought almost to a standstill, and the munitions
Acts have been made a dead letter by a series of
strikes or strike-threats in all parts of the
Kingdom. Before these threats Government authority
has completely, or at any rate generally, collapsed.
It has arrested conspirators, and then set them
free again. It has rewarded the strikers by in-
creased wages, although these lead to increased con-
sumption just when economy is most necessary. The
proposals for "dilution in private work" declared
by one Minister of Munitions to be essential for the
conduct of the war, have been abandoned in obedience
to the result of a ballot, of which no newspaper has
been permitted to publish a report.

For this movement which has thus humbled
Government there are many subsidiary causes, but the
driving force has been "Labour in Revolt". The men
who have preached, canvassed and organised against the
Government have been men with the ideals just
described: and they have used the grievances and dis-
contents of the men as weapons against their patriotism.
The number of loyal and patriotic workers, once very
large, is now rapidly dwindling.

Having successfully established their power and
trampled on their opponents, "Labour in Revolt" has
next turned its hand to the peace scheme which matured
at the Labour Conference on August 10th, 1917. All
the newspapers comments and criticism on the
Stockholm Meeting quite miss the central point, namely
that this is a scheme by which the International
Proletariat will establish peace over the heads of all
Governments! This aim is not avowed in so many words
by all its adherents; but Mr. R Smillie, President
of the Miners' Federation, let it out when he said
that the workmen would "compel" the Governments to
make peace. And the Miners' Federation, it may be
remembered, is reputed to be one of the sanest of
the large TradesUnions.

All last week the newspapers prophesied the
rejection of the Stockholm proposal, or its
acceptance by a small majority. Even now the
Government attributes the result to negligence on
the part of Mr. Henderson to state the view of the
Russian Government.

According to my information, all this is quite
incorrect, and comes from information derived from
the old TradesUnion leaders, who are now quite out
of the running. The real leaders knew a full week
earlier that the proposal would be carried by an
overwhelming majority: they care nothing for the
view of the Russian "Government"; and whilst, as
a matter of form, they accept the word "consultative",
their real intention is to force the British
Government to accept the results at which they may
arrive. They welcome Mr. Henderson's resignation
as a stunning blow to the Government.
Mr. Lloyd George, with clearer insight has recognised this. He sets up “The nation (i.e. Parliament) must make peace”, as against “Labour will make peace”. But “Labour” is stronger than Parliament at present.

The dangers of this movement are as follows—

1. By continually forcing up wages they are raising the cost of the war to such figures as threaten the financial stability of the country, and by decrying thrift, they are helping to waste its resources in commodities.

2. By keeping the Government continually “on the jump” through fear of strikes they are undermining confidence in lawful authority.

3. By an actual strike on a large scale, such as must occur one day, however often it is bought off by paying blackmail, it will paralyse for any period from one week to three months the economy of the country and the administration of the war. The fear of a strike in South Wales being most likely in the mind of the Government, the theorists of South Wales have the game in their own hands.

4. Active violence is not contemplated; it may nevertheless occur.

None of the counter-demonstrations made by patriotic leagues, by Sailors’ Unions, or by excited mobs, are of the least avail against the above machinery, which is as perfectly organised as the German war-machine before the war. Appeals to the “patriotism” of the men have always broken down, and will break down again. Such appeals are looked upon as the first and clearest signs of coming surrender.

It is not the intention of this paper to propose remedies. The crushing of such a movement is one of the ordinary tasks of Government, and almost any method, within reason, will crush it if carried out with decision and courage. But I do not myself believe that it can now be done without a serious conflict.

If I were to name one particular measure more likely to be effective than another, it would be an individual ballot of the members of the big unions on the broad question whether they would or would not “make the sacrifices necessary to uphold the British position in the war”. The leaders of the “Revolt” believe such a ballot would go against themselves.

But even this could be only an incident in a policy to be carried out by a man, who (in the opinion of the workmen) is prepared to go through with it to the end, at the risk of his position or his life. So long as the “Revolt” can depose a Minister of Munitions at its will, it can (and even a much weaker movement could) defy all authority. Of the ultimate danger which would result from a British defeat by land or sea, these men have no thought, nor is it possible to bring such things within their intellectual range. They need a ruler who at the same time understands them, and who takes a sane, and not a merely emotional view of the whole world-position.

In saying this I am not assenting personally to the official statements as to British war-aims, which I fear are doing much harm both at home and abroad. But this is another issue.

August 1917.
Extract from a letter by the same writer, dated 16th Aug, 1917.

As to the Labour Party's peace terms, I see an interesting speech by J.E. Thomas in today's papers, which I expect to find represents the position very fairly.

But I think the "Labour Party" should be very carefully distinguished from the "Labour Revolt." Whilst the former goes on talking with considerable show of reason, the latter continues its resistance to all Government measures. The area of strikes is increasing and the resistance to recruiting is complete.

There was an interesting article on the whole question by Lord Sydenham in last Sunday's "Weekly Dispatch". As to the danger of revolution he is rather more alarmist than I am. But on one point he agrees with me completely, that, during the last twelve months there has been a regular landslide in the attitude of the great mass of unionist workingmen. Then they were working for victory over the Germans, now it is for victory over "society". As he well puts it, "They are not the majority, but they are organised; and the unorganised majority is powerless against them".

Perhaps you may have noticed that the peace-terms proposed by pacifists are the sternest of all. It is a very easy thing to demand high terms if you take no responsibility for enforcing them.
1. The military history of the Aden Protectorate since the outbreak of war with Turkey may be very briefly related. News reached the Aden authorities on the 12th June 1915 that Turkish forces were being concentrated at Nasia, which lies just beyond the border of our protectorate, with a view to advancing, via Ad-dareja, upon Lahej, the headquarters of the principal British protected chief of the Hinterland (the Abdali Sultan), and situated only about 20 miles from Aden as the crow flies. On the 3rd July news was received that Lahej was actually threatened by the Turks, who had routed the Sultan's levies, and the military authorities at Aden decided to send up the local movable column for the protection of the town. The force reached Lahej but was unable to maintain its position there in the face of superior enemy strength, and was compelled to retire upon Aden and to leave Lahej to its fate. Two 10-pounder guns, several machine guns, and a considerable amount of ammunition and equipment, were abandoned during the retreat. The Turks followed up their success, and the British troops found it necessary to retire behind the defences of Aden itself, leaving Sheikh Othman—whence Aden obtains its water supply—in the enemy's hands. General Younghusband was promptly despatched to Aden with reinforcements, and had little difficulty in driving the Turks out of Sheikh Othman and regaining control over the water supply; but he made no attempt—nor has any attempt since been made—to advance upon Lahej or to clear our protectorate of the enemy.

2. The situation in which we have had to acquiesce during the past two years is anything but a satisfactory one. Indeed one of the main reasons which prompted the India Office in suggesting the transference of military control was the hope that it might lead to more effective measures. It is true that our position at Aden itself has never been seriously threatened; but we have had the humiliation of looking idly on, month after month, at the occupation of our territory by the enemy, and of presenting to the world a spectacle of inability to help either ourselves or our friends. There may have been excellent reasons for this inactivity. But, locally, its political results have been deplorable; and there is little hope that the political situation will improve until we are in a position to take effective military action. So far we have confined ourselves to attempting to induce the local Arabs (Saiyid Idrisi, &c.) to do for us what we have not found it convenient to do for ourselves—a policy which, naturally, has not been very fruitful in results. The Arabs have little love for the Turk, but so long as they are doubtful how far we really mean business they will hesitate to commit themselves irretrievably. They are moreover torn by internal rivalries and dissensions. Little effective help can be expected from them until we take the field ourselves. It seems indeed hardly reasonable to expect them to declare themselves effectively against the Turks and on our side while we to all appearances are too weak to do anything substantial ourselves.

3. There is one point on which it is desired to lay great emphasis. It is all-important, from the point of view of our future relations with the Arabs, that we should, before the war ends, ourselves expel the Turks by force of arms from Lahej and the remainder of our protectorate. Victory elsewhere, followed by a diplomatic withdrawal on the part of the Turks, will not suffice for local purposes, and will not serve to re-establish our prestige or the belief in our ability to protect our own interests and those of our friends. The Arab, as has frequently been remarked, is impressed only by what passes before his eyes.

4. It should be added that, according to the Indian military authorities, there are only about three, or at most four, months in the year (November to February) suitable, for climatic reasons, for military operations in the Aden area.

Political Department, India Office,
25th August 1917.
Special Work of the Local Government Board for the Week ended August 24th, 1917.

1. An Order has been issued under the Defence of the Realm Acts imposing on Local Authorities and their Officers the powers and duties necessary to provide for the due discharge of functions assigned to them by the Food Control Committees (Constitution) Order made by the Food Controller and empowering them to lend to the Committees their premises and the services of their Officers and to defray any expenses incurred in the execution of the Order.

2. A Circular has been issued to Local Pensions Committees and Sub-Committees bringing to their notice the new Government Scheme of Additional Old Age Pension Allowances, and explaining their functions under the Scheme.

3. Regulations have been made in pursuance of the Military Service (Conventions with Allied States) Act, providing for the constitution of a Special tribunal in London and for the appointment by the Board of special additional members to certain tribunals in the provinces, to deal with applications for exemption from military service from Russian subjects in this country rendered liable for service in accordance with the Convention recently concluded with the Russian Government. Circulars have also been issued to the tribunals explaining the position as to applications for exemption from Russian subjects having the right to apply for exemption under the Act and advising them as to the course to be taken in dealing with such applications.
From Sir P. Cox, Bagdad, 24th August 1917.
(Addressed to Foreign Department, repeated to Secretary of State.)
(Received 25th, 10.30 a.m.)

Reference to Secretary of State's telegram dated 22nd. Army Commander and I agree as to advisability of postponing despatch of Commission.
SECRET.  WAR CABINET.

CONSTRUCTION OF MAMMOTH SHIPS.

(Minute by the Controller of the Navy).

SIR MAURICE KENNY.

The First Lord asks me to send you, for the consideration of the War Cabinet, the following minute sent to him by the Controller about the construction of Mammoth Ships:

"On 2nd May (War Cabinet No.130 - Minute 18) the War Cabinet accepted the report of Lord Curzon in favour of constructing one mammoth ship for Messrs. Harland & Wolff, of Belfast. This decision was prior to the appointment of Sir Eric Geddes as Controller, and to the transfer of the building of merchant ships to the Admiralty.

"From enquiries recently made it appears that the "construction of the large White Star Liner referred to "was stopped early in April, and has not been continued "since that date. As the steel position did not permit "of the necessary allotment being made to all shipbuilding, "the steel was distributed, pending consideration of the "question, to those vessels which would give the quickest "return in available tonnage. The present position is "that 2,000 tons of steel have been worked into the "double-bottom, 1,000 tons is delivered to the yard and "altogether 14,700 tons will be required to construct the "vessel.

"The view of the Admiralty and Shipping Controller on "the question is contained in Admiralty Memorandum of 11th "August, and is adverse to the construction of mammoth ships. "Under these circumstances, the Admiralty ask that the "decision of the War Cabinet (No.130, Minute 18) may be "reversed."

A.G.A.

21.8.17.

(Signed) J.B. MACHTETON SMITH.

24th August, 1917.
Sir Maurice Hankey.

With reference to Conclusion 2 of the Minutes of War Cabinet Meeting No. 216 of the 15th of August, the First Lord would like the War Cabinet to appreciate that on the morning of the same day, he had already discussed with the Secretary of State for War the possibility of transferring more naval heavy guns and mountings, with ammunition, to the Army.

As a result of this discussion, the following heavy naval guns have been offered to the Army — in the majority of cases with mountings:

- 10 B.L. 13.5-inch Mks. I-IV.
- 3 B.L. 12-inch Mks. XI-XII.
- 4 B.L. 12-inch Mk.IX.
- 12 B.L. 12-inch Mk.VIII.
- 5 3.L. 10-inch Mk.VI.

Total 34.

In this connection, the First Lord thinks that the War Cabinet would be interested to see the enclosed Tables showing the large number of naval guns and mountings (with ammunition) that have been transferred or offered to the Army, or employed on shore service, since the beginning of the war, the total number being:

- 57 guns of 9.2-inch and above.
- 417 guns below 9.2-inch.

464 Total.

A further Table is attached showing the amount of important ammunition supplied to the Army by the Navy during the war.

(signed) J.E. Masterton Smith.

24th August, 1917.
### NAVAL GUNS AND MOUNTINGS TRANSFERRED TO ARMY OR EMPLOYED
### ON SHORE SERVICE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>GUNS</th>
<th>MOUNTINGS</th>
<th>REMARKS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3, L. 15-inch Howitzers</td>
<td>12 12</td>
<td></td>
<td>In France, on Naval Mountings (Special)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; 12-inch Mark X</td>
<td>7 3</td>
<td></td>
<td>On Naval Mountings in France.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; 12-inch &quot; IX</td>
<td>9 4</td>
<td></td>
<td>4 complete equipment 5 Gun Bodies Naval Mountings on Railway trucks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; 12-inch &quot; VIII</td>
<td>4 4</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ex &quot;Illustrous&quot; - Tyne defences on Naval Mountings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; 9.2&quot; &quot; X</td>
<td>6 3</td>
<td></td>
<td>In France on Naval Mountings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; &quot; VIII</td>
<td>5 5</td>
<td></td>
<td>3 Cromarty (On Naval 2 in France(Mountings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; &quot; III-VI</td>
<td>6 6</td>
<td></td>
<td>4 Naval Mountings on truck mountings. 2 on Naval Mountings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; 7.5&quot; &quot; III</td>
<td>12 10</td>
<td></td>
<td>10 in France - 8 on Naval Mountings. 2 Yarmouth &amp; Lowestoft on Naval Mountings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; 6-inch &quot; VII</td>
<td>76 56</td>
<td></td>
<td>4 Broadstairs on Naval Mountings. 4 Salonica on Naval Field Mountings. 68 on Field Carriages etc., Naval Cradles etc. supplied.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; 6-inch &quot; XI</td>
<td>6 4</td>
<td></td>
<td>Gallipoli, Mudros and Salonica on Naval Mountings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; 5-inch &quot; VI</td>
<td>3 3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Scapa Flow on Special Naval Mountings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; 4-inch &quot; VII</td>
<td>8 8</td>
<td></td>
<td>4 East Africa - 4 Serbia. (understood to be in Egypt) on Naval Mtgs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q.F. 6-inch &quot; I &amp; II</td>
<td>66 65</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 Mudros. 63 converted to 8&quot; howitzers Naval mountings supplied. 2 Dover, on Naval H.A. truck mountings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; 6-inch &quot; IV</td>
<td>8 8</td>
<td></td>
<td>Scapa Flow, on special Naval mountings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESCRIPTION</td>
<td>GUNS</td>
<td>MOUNTINGS</td>
<td>REMARKS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.7-inch I to IV</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>On Naval Mountings. 1 Gorleston 2 Leith &amp; Granton. 2 Avonmouth 3 East Coast. 1 Blyth 1 Sunderland. 2 Scapa 2 Servia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-inch VIII</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Scapa Flow, on special Naval Mountings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-inch III</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>On Naval Mountings. 6 ex-Pegasus, East Africa 40/6 Heavy Artillery South Africa. 8 Scapa Flow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-inch 20 cwt I</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>45 Anti-Aircraft defences on Naval Mountings. 6 Dunkirk 4 Naval Mtgs. Anti-Aircraft defence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-inch 19½ cwt I</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>18 Firth of Forth &amp; Scapa Flow. 4 East Africa-Egypt. 16 Naval Mtgs supplied.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-pdr 18 cwt.</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Scapa Flow, Swarbach, &amp; Loch Ewe on Naval Mtgs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-pdr 12 cwt.</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>On Naval Field Mountings. 9 Lerwick, Cromarty and Scapa Flow. 4 Persian Gulf. 2 East Africa. 2 Port Said.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-pdr 6 cwt.</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1 Cromarty on Naval Mtg. 2 East Africa on Naval Mtg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-pdr 4-cwt</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tank Supply Department; will be returned shortly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-pdr, Hotchkiss and single tube</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
II.

**Naval Guns and Mountings Accepted by Army but Transfer Not Yet Completed.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Guns</th>
<th>Mountings</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B.L. 13.5 inch Mk. I-IV</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.L. 12-inch Mk. IX</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>For Coast Defence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; Mk. VIII</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**LIST OF IMPORTANT AMMUNITION SUPPLIED BY THE NAVY TO THE ARMY DURING THE WAR.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature of gun</th>
<th>Ammunition supplied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15-inch Howitzer</td>
<td>1,900 shells with full charges.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-inch</td>
<td>3,000 shells with full charges. 360 full charges in addition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.2-inch</td>
<td>500 full charges.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.5-inch</td>
<td>2,500 shells with full charges.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-inch</td>
<td>15,260 full charges. 74,400 filled shells.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.7-inch Q.F.</td>
<td>6,900 full charges, 21,000 shells.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-inch B.L.</td>
<td>12,000 full charges. 13,900 shells.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-inch</td>
<td>2,600 rounds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-pr. &amp; 14-pr.</td>
<td>24,700 full charges. 25,600 shells.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-pr.</td>
<td>10,500 rounds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-pr.</td>
<td>24,000 rounds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.A. ammunition</td>
<td>3,000,000 rounds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuzes base Hotchkiss</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tubes V. S.</td>
<td>60,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bomb complete with firing accessories:
- 112-lb: 1,000
- 100-lb: 1,000
- 20-lb: 4,276

In addition, the whole of the 2-pr pompom ammunition for the R.M.A.A.A. Brigade with the Expeditionary Force in France, has been supplied out of naval stocks.
SECRET.
G.T.1855.

TRANSPORT OF ROUMANIAN REFUGEES ACROSS THE NORTH SEA.

(Letter from the Foreign Office to the Secretary, War Cabinet.)


Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Balfour to refer to the telegram No.436 (attached) dated the 7th. instant from His Majesty's Minister at Jassy, containing a message from Mr. Take Jonescu to the Prime Minister respecting the provision of transport for Roumanian refugees across the North Sea in the event of the evacuation of the whole of Roumania becoming necessary.

Mr. Jonescu has expressed to Sir G. Barclay the hope that his appeal may receive early and favourable consideration, and Mr. Balfour would accordingly be glad to learn whether the War Cabinet have yet taken any decision in the matter.

I am etc.

(Signed) R. Graham.

The Secretary, to the War Cabinet.

Telegram from Sir G. Barclay to Foreign Office.
No.436 (D) 7th August, 1917.

Following from Mr. Take Jonescu for Mr. Lloyd (G, omitted)

I venture again to appeal to your generous sentiments. Circumstances compel us to evacuate last portion of our territory. In view of limited means of transport in Russia we must begin to evacuate before danger becomes more imminent. Otherwise nothing could be saved. Families going to Russia are exposed to all the uncertainty of political situation in that country and to enormous cost of living there. Many Roumanians are asking to be enabled to go themselves and especially to send their wives and children to the West. I understand restrictions on sea crossing so long as it was a
question of what might appear to be merely a capricious desire to travel but now that it has become a necessity I beg you to take initiative and to accord means of crossing North Sea to Roumanian fugitives of course at their own risk and peril. Their case is worse than that of the Belgians and as only (those) who have considerable means would be able to cross the sea I do not think number of persons involved would exceed from 1,500 to 2,000 but it would be a great consolation to us to be able to tell those who are really anxious about fate of their families that they can go to Western Europe. We do not wish to leave to the Germans the elite of our nation nor to plunge others into acute anxiety as to the fate of their families.

I address myself personally to you as a man of large views and of generous ideas.

Repeated to Petrograd.
MINISTRY OF FOOD.

Report for Week ending Wednesday, August 22, 1917.

PART I.—ACTION TAKEN.

ORDERS UNDER THE DEFENCE OF THE REALM REGULATIONS.

The following Orders have been issued during the week:

(1) The Jam (Prices) Order, 1917, dated August 15, 1917, fixes maximum wholesale and retail prices for various kinds of jam or jelly, the wholesale prices taking effect at once, the retail on September 1. The retail price of the 7-lb. jar will range from 6s. 5d. for apricot, cherry, black currant, pineapple, and strawberry jams down to 4s. 6d. for plum and apple jams. The wholesale price will be for goods delivered to the buyer's railway station, and will include charges for jars or other containers, but not for the outside package, the charge for which may be recovered by the buyer on its return. The retail price covers all charges for jars and for packing and packages, and the buyer may recover 6d. on every 7-lb. jar returned. More than 10 per cent. of any jam may be added fruit juice; where more than one fruit is used, the amount of each such fruit must be not less than 25 per cent. of the total; the weight of the ingredients when dried must be not less than 65 per cent. of the whole. Existing contracts providing for a price above those fixed are avoided except as regards goods already delivered. The schedules to the Order set out in detail the prices of the various kinds of jam.

(2) The Tea (Returns) Order, 1917, dated August 20, 1917, requires all persons engaged in the purchase, sale, or distribution of tea to make, on or before September 10, a return of tea in their possession or under their control on September 3, whether in bond or not. Tea under contract of sale is to be returned by the buyer, and not by the seller. The Order does not apply to persons who on September 10 own or have power to dispose of less than 500 lbs. or to those who merely hold tea for others. The schedule to the Order indicates that all descriptions of tea must be stated in the return, including in the case of traders all stocks at branches, whether they are wholesale distributing branches or retail shops.

(3) The Apricot Pulp and Bitter Oranges Order, 1917, dated August 21, 1917, prohibits, after August 28, dealings in apricot pulp, bitter or sour oranges, or pulp made from such oranges outside the United Kingdom. An exception is made in respect of pulp or oranges in transit to this country at the date of the Order. Dealers are required to make returns showing the quantities of oranges or pulp purchased but not shipped at the date of the Order and specifying the amounts sold or unsold.

CONTROL OF SUPPLIES AND PRICES.

On August 21, the Food Controller received a deputation of members of the Commercial Committee of the House of Commons, who were desirous of discussing with him his general policy in respect of supplies, prices, and distribution. The deputation was introduced by Sir Francis Lowe. Lord Rhondda expressed his desire to do everything in his power not only to maintain the food supplies of the country but to keep the prices as low as possible. He further declared his intention of utilising, so far as practicable, existing business machinery.

Allied Purchases in America.—Cablegrams have been received from Lord Northcliffe and Mr. Hoover, pressing for the early formation of a consolidated buying agency for meats and fats in the United States.
Negotiations have been undertaken with Monsieur Clémentel, and other French delegates, for the establishment, on the lines of the Wheat Executive, of an Inter-Allied Meat and Fats Executive to purchase meat, bacon, hams, lard, butter, cheese, and other articles as may be specified, on behalf of the United Kingdom, France, and Italy, not only in America but elsewhere. An agreement has practically been reached and it is hoped to set up the Executive at an early date.

At the same time arrangements have been discussed for setting up, as between France and the United Kingdom, an Oil Seed Executive to control the supplies and purchase of the oleaginous nuts and kernels and vegetable oils and fats both in British and French territories (from which the greater part are produced) and from other countries. This arrangement also is approaching completion.

**Resumption of Malting.**—The following scheme has been adopted for limiting and controlling the use of barley for this purpose:

1. If the authorised output of beer is allowed to continue until the autumn of 1918 it will be necessary to permit the steeping of about 2,700,000 quarters of barley. All the malt required for use before November 30, 1918, must be made during the coming season, and all the barley must be steeped by May 31.

2. As the quantity of barley to be steeped represents about 45 per cent. of the total quantity steeped during the season 1915-1916, maltsters will be licensed to make a corresponding percentage of the malt manufactured by them during that season. Monthly returns will be required showing the quantity of barley steeped and the stocks of malt in hand.

3. Licences will in the first instance only be issued to manufacture one-third of the total quantity of malt in contemplation for the year ending September 30, 1918, and maltsters must apply for the renewal of their licences in November, 1917, and again in February, 1918.

4. Licences to brewers for the purchase and use of malt will provide that the total quantity each brewer is permitted to buy or use during a given period shall be reduced by deducting the total amount of sugar, maize, and other malt substitutes used by him during such period.

**Rationing of Horses.**—In view of the request of the Director of Remounts to be provided with a reserve of riding horses in condition, the horses of hunt staffs have been granted a modified ration until the beginning of the hunting season, when, with all other hunters approved of as horses available for Army purposes, they will receive a ration of 10 lbs. per head. Horses allowed hunting rations will be in reality a part of the Army Remount Establishment, kept and fed at the expense of their present owners, but liable to be called up at any time. No hunters other than these will receive rations, and the masters of hounds are under obligation to keep a list of such horses for the inspection of the District Remount Officers and these horses will include those pertaining to the hunt staff. The Army requires a reserve of 6,000 horses, and it is estimated that this scheme should furnish about 5,000 of this number. In accordance with the Cabinet decision to allow a resumption of racing, licences have been issued to about 110 trainers who have made application. About 1,200 horses are named, but some 300 of these are either geldings or five-year-olds or above. As the season advances some of these will automatically fall out of training.

**Sugar.**—There have been no further losses of sugar from war risks during the period under review.

The Commission, at the request of Mr. Hoover, has undertaken to discontinue, until further notice, all purchasing in the Cuban market—the American refiners having similarly undertaken to stand out of the market.

The state of the markets has not enabled the Commission to make any large purchases recently; but 12,850 tons in various lots has been procured during the last week for delivery in September and October.

**Meat.**—A draft of the Meat (Control) Order has been submitted to the Legal Adviser to the Department for revision and final form.

**Potatoes.**—The Department is engaged in working out the details for the fulfilment of the guarantee of 6/- per ton to growers of 1917 main crop potatoes which comes into operation on September 15.

**Milk.**—The draft of an Order to govern the winter prices of milk on the promised basis of a maximum price to farmers of 1s. 8d. per gallon for contracts has been submitted to the Board of Agriculture.
Butter.—Conferences have been held with a small number of leading men in the trade to arrange a scheme for controlling imported butter and for fixing butter prices generally. The list of butter prices agreed to by the trade has ceased to be effective, and action by the Food Controller has become necessary.

Bacon.—There have been meetings with the trade on the subject of sending a mission to Denmark to secure supplies of Danish bacon, and the terms upon which the mission might negotiate, and arrangements have been made with the Treasury and Foreign Office on the subject. The question of wholesale and retail prices and improved methods of distribution have also been considered.

Dried Fruits.—Two meetings have been held of the Advisory Committee to settle final details of the scheme for purchasing dried fruits. A meeting of persons interested in the date trade has been held and arrangements have been made with the Army Contracts Department that all purchases of dried fruits, whether for civilian or Army purposes, shall be made through this Ministry. The Foreign Office has been consulted and has made final arrangements with the Greek Government under the Commercial Agreement of 1890, whereby a considerable reduction in the price of currants to the English consumer will be made. The India Office is endeavouring to arrange with Sir Percy Cox for the purchase of dates.

Feeding Stuffs.—The Egyptian Government has agreed to our proposal to purchase all the Egyptian cotton seed crop at the price about 25-30 per cent, below the market prices that were ruling before dealings on private account were prohibited. As a result of this purchase it is hoped to effect a considerable reduction to the price of cotton seed cake to the farmer. The Department is working at a new Oils and Fats Order.

Organisation.

It was announced in the London Gazette of August 17 that the King had been pleased to appoint Captain Charles Bathurst, M.P., to be chairman of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply, in the room of Viscount Devonport, resigned.

Additional Food Commissioners have been appointed as follows:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Commissioner and Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nottingham</td>
<td>J. B. Maraden Smidley, Esq., Lea Green, near Matlock.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birmingham</td>
<td>R. J. Curtis, Esq., Union Offices, Edmund Street, Birmingham.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambridge</td>
<td>Lt.-Col. C. D. Seymour, Caius College, Cambridge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bristol</td>
<td>F. D. Wardle, Esq., Guildhall, Bath.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiff</td>
<td>R. J. Rhys, Esq., Phasnewyd, Llwycoed, Aberdare.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inverness</td>
<td>Wm. Roberts, Esq., M.Inst.C.E., Inverness.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Ministry have received notification of the appointment of 845 Food Control Committees.

Enforcement of Orders.

Potatoes.—The Southampton Police prosecuted a potato vendor on six charges for selling at illegal prices, and a fine of 100l. was inflicted.

The Huddersfield Police prosecuted, at the request of this Ministry, two of the chief wholesale potato dealers of that place for wholesale contraventions of the Potatoes 1916 Main Crop (Prices) Order (No. 2) 1917. The defendants pleaded guilty; in one case the penalty was 32l and 7l 10s. costs, and in the other case 26l and 7l 6s. costs. The defence was that the potatoes had been bought at illegal prices, and that, therefore, no great profits had been made, and the Justices appeared to be satisfied on this point. It is hoped, that as a result of this case it will be possible, ultimately, to institute proceedings against the farmers who sold to these firms. Meanwhile it may be noted that in the case where the total penalty was 33l 5s. the admitted illegal profit was 313l. The result of this and the previously reported decision at Carlisle can only be described as an incentive to profiteering.

Meat (Sales) Order.—The Chief Constable of Newport, Mon., was requested by this Ministry to prosecute several offenders against this Order. Twenty-six persons were convicted on the 15th August and fined 21s. each.
Price of Milk.—A Middlesbrough farmer was fined 50l., and his manager 5l. for selling milk at a price in excess of that authorised.

Public Meals.—The Westminster City Council has prosecuted several more restaurants for contravening the Orders. Pinoli’s Restaurant was fined 9l. 3s.

Sugar (Domestic Preserving) Order.—The Epping Justices have agreed to state a case in respect of their conviction under Clause 5 of this Order of a person whose false representation was made before the date of the Order. The opinion was indicated that the subsequent acceptance of the sugar made the precedent representation a continuing act.

Food Hoarding Order, 1917.—A Kilmarnock farmer was fined 5l. with an alternative of 14 days’ imprisonment, for acquiring 2 cwt. of sugar in contravention of this Order.

PART II.—SUMMARY OF THE FOOD POSITION.

There is little to record during the current week. It will be seen that the total import of principal foodstuffs is higher than that reached in the preceding week, but this increase is more than accounted for by the comparatively large supplies of sugar and cereals other than wheat. But for these this total would be lower than that of the previous week. The falling off in wheat and wheat flour was anticipated. It should be noticed that the importation of oil-seeds and oilcake is low as compared with the corresponding periods of 1916. Unfortunately the total imports of these taken together during the first seven months of the present year are markedly less in weight than those of the same months of the previous year, oilcakes being a little higher while oilseeds have fallen off by 24 per cent.

The wholesale prices of meat exhibit a slight decrease.

Imports.

The aggregate importation of the principal foods (Table A) last week was 273,000 tons, 20 per cent. more than the previous week, but below the high levels reached and maintained throughout July. The total for the first 33 weeks of this year has now passed, and is 1 per cent. above, the total for the corresponding period in 1916.

The quantities of wheat and flour (112,000 tons), were 19,000 tons below last week and much lower than in recent weeks; in fact lower than in any week since April 22-28th. On the other hand, the amount of other cereals (barley, oats, and maize) has increased 32,000 tons over last week, and is greater than at any time in recent months; the total for the year, however, is still 10 per cent. below that for the first 33 weeks of 1916.

Beef was better than last week, but still 11 per cent. below the average for the year so far. Only 917 tons of mutton were received.

More bacon was imported than in the previous week; in all 1½ per cent. less bacon and hams have been imported this year than last.

The imports of margarine, which have varied between 1,448 and 3,122 tons in the last two months, only amounted to 916 tons last week.

Nearly 58,000 tons of sugar or glucose arrived, the greatest amount for very many weeks.

Consumption of Meat.

The supplies of meat to the markets of London, Manchester, Glasgow and Liverpool, continue to fluctuate week by week (Table B); the indications are that the July level will be maintained in August.

The numbers of fat cattle at 51 principal markets (Table C) in Great Britain have now for seven weeks exceeded the corresponding numbers in 1916. The number last week (15,933) is 2½ per cent. above that in the previous week and higher than in any week of July or June.

The supply of fat sheep during the last seven weeks has been equal to that of the corresponding weeks last year; last week it was 3½ per cent. above the previous week, 4 per cent. below the week ended August 1st, and above every week in June or July.

The supply of fat pigs last week was 20 per cent. more than in the previous week, but 17 per cent. below that in the week August 9th–15th last year.


**Wholesale Prices (Table D).**

After rising 10s. 6d. per quarter in a fortnight, barley has fallen 7s. 2d., and stands at 68s. 4d. per quarter, which is the same as at the beginning of May. Argentine mutton has hardly changed in price and Canadian has fallen 1½ per cent. since June 27th, when the price was 179s., before that date it had risen for 9 weeks from a minimum of 111s. on April 25th.

English mutton has also fallen 6s. to 131s. per cwt. The fall has been nearly continuous, since the highest price, 179s., on May 30th. The price is now about 5 per cent. lower than the maximum four weeks ago.

**Table A.—Imports of Principal Food and Feeding Stuffs.**

|---------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|

* Imports less re-exports of Foreign and Colonial Produce and less exports of British Produce of the same kind.

* These figures relate to net imports during the seven months January to July, except in the case of certain articles such as potatoes, tea, &c., for which there is no net import or re-export data available.

1 Including certain imports of certain kinds of rice, which are not separately stated in the returns.
### TABLE B.—STATISTICS ILLUSTRATING CONSUMPTION OF MEAT.

Average weekly supplies during June and July 1913:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Market</th>
<th>Tons.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Market, London</td>
<td>8,245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manchester Market</td>
<td>855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glasgow Market</td>
<td>798</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liverpool Market</td>
<td>221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,110</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Supplies of Meat entering Central Market, London</th>
<th>Supplies of Meat entering Manchester Market*</th>
<th>Supplies of Meat entering Glasgow Market*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>7,550 Tons. 6,527 Tons. Per Cent.</td>
<td>6,927 Tons. 5,709 Tons. Per Cent.</td>
<td>818 Tons. 709 Tons. Per Cent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>7,152 Tons. 5,793 Tons. Per Cent.</td>
<td>5,793 Tons. 4,577 Tons. Per Cent.</td>
<td>5,881 Tons. 4,657 Tons. Per Cent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>6,391 Tons. 5,855 Tons. Per Cent.</td>
<td>8,151 Tons. 7,515 Tons. Per Cent.</td>
<td>6,322 Tons. 5,782 Tons. Per Cent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>6,022 Tons. 5,622 Tons. Per Cent.</td>
<td>7,535 Tons. 6,815 Tons. Per Cent.</td>
<td>7,560 Tons. 6,840 Tons. Per Cent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>5,509 Tons. 4,977 Tons. Per Cent.</td>
<td>6,233 Tons. 5,593 Tons. Per Cent.</td>
<td>5,857 Tons. 5,287 Tons. Per Cent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>5,920 Tons. 4,801 Tons. Per Cent.</td>
<td>6,272 Tons. 5,841 Tons. Per Cent.</td>
<td>5,419 Tons. 4,965 Tons. Per Cent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>5,676 Tons. 4,807 Tons. Per Cent.</td>
<td>6,373 Tons. 6,003 Tons. Per Cent.</td>
<td>5,285 Tons. 4,600 Tons. Per Cent.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Week ended:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Supplies of Meat entering Liverpool Market.</th>
<th>Total.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>401 Tons. 366 Tons. Per Cent.</td>
<td>9,480 Tons. 8,680 Tons. Per Cent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>371 Tons. 348 Tons. Per Cent.</td>
<td>9,096 Tons. 7,996 Tons. Per Cent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>338 Tons. 304 Tons. Per Cent.</td>
<td>8,216 Tons. 7,316 Tons. Per Cent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>321 Tons. 315 Tons. Per Cent.</td>
<td>7,784 Tons. 6,864 Tons. Per Cent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>299 Tons. 211 Tons. Per Cent.</td>
<td>6,786 Tons. 6,186 Tons. Per Cent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>295 Tons. 202 Tons. Per Cent.</td>
<td>7,381 Tons. 6,581 Tons. Per Cent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>208 Tons. 199 Tons. Per Cent.</td>
<td>7,146 Tons. 6,186 Tons. Per Cent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week ended</td>
<td>322 Tons. 318 Tons. Per Cent.</td>
<td>5,283 Tons. 5,664 Tons. Per Cent.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Calculated from returns as to numbers of carcases, &c. and assumed average weights.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Fat Cattle</th>
<th>Fat Sheep</th>
<th>Fat Pigs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>17,285</td>
<td>15,927</td>
<td>66,604</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>17,515</td>
<td>16,919</td>
<td>64,578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>18,655</td>
<td>17,220</td>
<td>65,909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>16,788</td>
<td>17,300</td>
<td>70,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>16,575</td>
<td>18,009</td>
<td>71,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>15,722</td>
<td>14,491</td>
<td>76,119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>13,631</td>
<td>15,519</td>
<td>70,775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week ended</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th August</td>
<td>14,431</td>
<td>15,533</td>
<td>82,965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th August</td>
<td>11,326</td>
<td>15,933</td>
<td>76,932</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Table D. — Wholesale Prices of Certain Food and Feeding Stuff.**

The prices given in the first column of figures are the latest available in each case, and necessarily relate to somewhat different dates in regard to different articles. Those for imported cereals (other than rice) and for flour and for oilseeds and cake relate actually to Monday, August 20th; those for beef, mutton, bacon, butter, and cheese to the week ended Wednesday, August 15th, and those for home-grown cereals to the week ended Saturday, August 11th.

The prices given for imported wheat and maize are Wheat Commission prices; the prices for meat, butter, and cheese are taken from the Board of Agriculture’s Returns of Market Prices; for tea, sugar, and rice from the “Grocer”; and for oilseeds and oilseed cake from Broomhall and the “London Grain, Seed, and Oil Reporter.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Latest Price</th>
<th>Week before</th>
<th>Month before</th>
<th>Year before</th>
<th>July 1914</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wheat</strong>&lt;br&gt;British (Gazette average), per qr. (480 lbs.)&lt;br&gt;British (Gazette average), per No. 3 Northern Manitoba (Liverpool), per qr. (480 lbs.)</td>
<td>78.7  78.4  78.3  58.1  34.1</td>
<td>80.0  80.0  80.0  —  326.7</td>
<td>61.6  61.6  61.6  34.6  27.0</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Flour</strong>&lt;br&gt;New war flour (London), per sack (290 lbs.)&lt;br&gt;Country straight run (London), per sack (280 lbs.)</td>
<td>60.0  60.0  61.3  —  174.0</td>
<td>68.1  71.1  72.1  48.0  21.10</td>
<td>55.6  55.0  55.2  30.0  19.10</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>23.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Barley</strong>&lt;br&gt;British (Gazette average), per qr. (400 lbs.)&lt;br&gt;Canadian (London), per qr. (420 lbs.)&lt;br&gt;Country Whites.</td>
<td>68.1  71.1  72.1  48.0  21.10</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>55.6  55.0  55.2  30.0  19.10</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>23.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Oats</strong>&lt;br&gt;British (Gazette average), per qr. (312 lbs.)&lt;br&gt;Country Whites.</td>
<td>75.0  75.0  75.0  54.0  26.10</td>
<td>75.0  75.0  75.0  54.0  26.10</td>
<td>55.6  55.0  55.2  30.0  19.10</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>23.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rice</strong>&lt;br&gt;Rangoon and Bassein, per cwt.</td>
<td>28.3  28.6  27.9  18.3  11.6</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beef</strong>&lt;br&gt;English, per cwt.</td>
<td>120.0  121.6  129.0  93.0  59.0</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mutton</strong>&lt;br&gt;English, per cwt.</td>
<td>131.6  137.6  138.0  105.0  70.0</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bacon</strong>&lt;br&gt;English, per cwt.</td>
<td>156.0  158.0  140.0  110.0  65.0</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Butter</strong>&lt;br&gt;Irish creamery and factory, per cwt.</td>
<td>205.0  202.0  190.0  160.0  107.0</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cheese</strong>&lt;br&gt;English, per cwt.</td>
<td>140.0  139.0  138.0  106.0  70.6</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sugar</strong>&lt;br&gt;English, refined, Tate’s Cubes, No. 1, per cwt.</td>
<td>130.6  130.6  130.6  94.6  65.6</td>
<td>53.9  53.9  53.9  47.1  18.9</td>
<td>59.0  59.0  59.0  44.6  22.6</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tea</strong>&lt;br&gt;(in bond, duty 1s. per lb.)&lt;br&gt;Indian, Pekoe, per cwt. per lb.</td>
<td>11d.-12d.  11d.-12d.  11d.-12d.  8d.-1d.  1d.</td>
<td>11d.-12d.  11d.-12d.  11d.-12d.  8d.-1d.  1d.</td>
<td>11d.-12d.  11d.-12d.  11d.-12d.  8d.-1d.  1d.</td>
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<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Oilseeds</strong>&lt;br&gt;Linseed, Calcutta, at London, per ton.</td>
<td>595.0  595.0  595.0  414.6  152.0</td>
<td>380.0  380.0  380.0  255.0  105.0</td>
<td>530.0  530.0  530.0  365.0  150.0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Palm kernel, at Liverpool, per ton.</strong></td>
<td>595.0  595.0  595.0  414.6  152.0</td>
<td>380.0  380.0  380.0  255.0  105.0</td>
<td>530.0  530.0  530.0  365.0  150.0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Palm kernel, at Liverpool, per ton.</strong></td>
<td>595.0  595.0  595.0  414.6  152.0</td>
<td>380.0  380.0  380.0  255.0  105.0</td>
<td>530.0  530.0  530.0  365.0  150.0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>August 1st, 1917</td>
<td>July 1st, 1917</td>
<td>August 1st, 1916</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wheat (including flour)</strong></td>
<td>1,761,000</td>
<td>1,360,000</td>
<td>1,483,000</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Barley</strong></td>
<td>136,000</td>
<td>196,000</td>
<td>194,000</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Oats</strong></td>
<td>299,000</td>
<td>264,000</td>
<td>184,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Beans</strong></td>
<td>48,000</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>28,000</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Peas</strong></td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maize</strong></td>
<td>107,000</td>
<td>124,000</td>
<td>108,000</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rice (including ground rice and rice flour)</strong></td>
<td>105,000</td>
<td>90,000</td>
<td>90,000</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Butter</strong></td>
<td>18,600</td>
<td>20,500</td>
<td>11,400</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Margarine</strong></td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>4,100</td>
<td>4,900</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cheese</strong></td>
<td>18,700</td>
<td>11,600</td>
<td>11,700</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Meat—Beef (chilled and frozen)</strong></td>
<td>19,800</td>
<td>15,800</td>
<td>19,200</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mutton (chilled and frozen)</strong></td>
<td>22,600</td>
<td>21,500</td>
<td>18,800</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bacon</strong></td>
<td>33,800</td>
<td>41,900</td>
<td>30,600</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hams</strong></td>
<td>12,300</td>
<td>18,200</td>
<td>14,100</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tea</strong></td>
<td>32,000</td>
<td>34,400</td>
<td>37,900</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coffee</strong></td>
<td>60,600</td>
<td>65,700</td>
<td>65,400</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cocoa</strong></td>
<td>62,000</td>
<td>62,600</td>
<td>47,900</td>
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</table>

* The figures for wheat and flour include stocks in port granaries and warehouses, inland warehouses, mills, and bakers' slops, as well as estimated stocks on the farms: those for barley, oats, beans, and peas include stocks in port granaries and warehouses and in mills, and estimated farm stocks. In regard to all other articles, home produce is, with very small exceptions, excluded.

† Excluding stocks held by maltsters. Stocks in maltsters' hands on 1st August 1917 were 173,000 tons, and on 1st July 1917, 170,000 tons.

‡ Estimate based on Trade Circular.
TABLE F.—PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN RETAIL FOOD PRICES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, AT EACH OF THE UNDERMENTIONED DATES, AS COMPARED WITH "NORMAL PRICES IN JULY 1914."

[Compiled from information supplied by the Department of Labour Statistics.]

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<td>British—Ribs</td>
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<td>35-3</td>
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<td>64-2</td>
<td>86-9</td>
<td>96-1</td>
<td>97-1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thin flank</td>
<td>11-2</td>
<td>45-9</td>
<td>45-2</td>
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<td>83-5</td>
<td>121-0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chilled or frozen—</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ribs</td>
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<td>46-7</td>
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<td>85-4</td>
<td>112-0</td>
<td>119-6</td>
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<td>146-2</td>
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<td>British—Legs</td>
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<td>29-0</td>
<td>27-9</td>
<td>55-4</td>
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<td>41-3</td>
<td>79-8</td>
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<td>130-0</td>
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<td>Bacon, streaky*</td>
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<td>17-5</td>
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<td>56-3</td>
<td>79-5</td>
<td>76-4</td>
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<td>131-1</td>
<td>134-2</td>
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<td>159-1</td>
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<td>49-0</td>
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<td>88-5</td>
<td>109-2</td>
<td>109-3</td>
<td>109-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutton, breast</td>
<td>15-8</td>
<td>40-6</td>
<td>41-7</td>
<td>44-3</td>
<td>73-3</td>
<td>99-7</td>
<td>100-2</td>
<td>100-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tea</td>
<td>13-6</td>
<td>27-8</td>
<td>42-2</td>
<td>50-2</td>
<td>59-0</td>
<td>73-1</td>
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<td>9-7</td>
<td>28-9</td>
<td>33-1</td>
<td>56-6</td>
<td>59-9</td>
<td>59-7</td>
<td>60-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Potatoes</strong></td>
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<td>121-7</td>
<td>143-8</td>
<td>144-3</td>
<td>151-9</td>
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<td>25-0</td>
<td>68-1</td>
<td>73-6</td>
<td>66-8</td>
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<td>72-9</td>
<td>67-0</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butter, fresh</td>
<td>12-1</td>
<td>16-1</td>
<td>31-5</td>
<td>32-3</td>
<td>70-6</td>
<td>66-5</td>
<td>65-6</td>
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<td>Cheese, Canadian or U.S.*</td>
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<td>31-7</td>
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<td>71-8</td>
<td>129-8</td>
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<td><strong>Eggs</strong></td>
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<td>Eggs, fresh</td>
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<td>28-6</td>
<td>104-9</td>
<td>145-3</td>
<td>175-0</td>
<td>85-4</td>
<td>95-3</td>
<td>126-9</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| All above articles       | 18-3          | 32-5          | 44-9          | 60-8          | 86-8          | 101-9         | 104-3         | 101-7           |

* If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality the Returns quote prices for another kind locally representative.

† Decrease.

TABLE G.—RETAIL PRICES OF SUBSIDIARY FOODS IN APRIL, 1917, AND SUBSEQUENT MONTHS COMPARED WITH THE PRICES IN JULY, 1914, IN LONDON AND OTHER LARGE TOWNS.

[Compiled from information supplied by the Department of Labour Statistics.]

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<th>Article</th>
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<th>May 1st, 1917</th>
<th>June 1st, 1917</th>
<th>July 1st, 1917</th>
<th>August 1st, 1917</th>
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<td>Butter beans</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>110</td>
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<tr>
<td>Haricot beans (white)</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>170</td>
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<td>Peas, split (yellow)</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>96</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lentils, split (red)</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oatmeal, Scotch</td>
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<td>170</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>150†</td>
<td>150†</td>
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<td>Rice, Rangoon</td>
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<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>90</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>American</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>120</td>
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</table>

* If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality the Returns quote prices for another kind locally representative.

† 125 in Scotland.
OPERATIONS.  SECRET.
From:- General Delme Radcliffe.
To:- C.I.G.S.
29.8.17.
3rd Army.
25.8.17.

This evening's situation 10 p.m.
2nd Army 27th Corps: General Badoglio has relieved General Vanzo of his command. The Corps is reported to have occupied Kal and Veli Vrh overlooking the northern end of the Chiapovano valley. With a view to cutting the railway and isolating Tolmino and turning the defences of St. Lucia, St. Maria, etc, it is moving to the north-east. From this move good strategical results are hoped for which will cut off the Austrian 10th Army from direct communication with the Isonzo Army and may result in the fall of Tolmino and the capture of its garrison with important stores, etc. 4th Army Corps will cooperate by attacking Cima Mrzli and the defences north of Tolmino. 14th Corps is moving up the valley of the Awaček. 24th Corps has pushed across the plateau towards the south east and has reached Bodlisco and Breg. 2nd Army Corps under General Montiori occupied Slemo and Gargaro and Britof and has now joined up with 5th Army Corps; this Army Corps has moved through the saddle between Monte Santo and Monte San Gabriele passed Dol. Monte Santo was evacuated by the Austrians at 2 a.m. and they endeavoured to occupy the hastily entrenched line Zageligje-Foba so that they might cover head of Chiapovano valley but were brushed aside and the northern edge of the valley is now occupied by the Italians.
The movement of the 2nd Army is progressing well and the water supply has been much improved for the troops on the plateau. 73rd Divn has been reserve by the Austrians transferring it from the Carseo to the Bainsizza plateau.
The Italian troops have had less loss than expected in this manoeuvre; the heaviest losses were suffered by the 27th Corps 60th Divn of the 14th Corps and 3rd Division of the 2nd Army Corps.

There is now being formed the 28th Corps under General Albricce with Headquarters at Cividale.

Preparations have been made to attack heavily San Marco and the adjoining positions. San Marco will be bombarded by the 5 British batteries about Pec and the attack will take place probably to-morrow morning when the movement of 2nd Army north of St. Gabriele and St. Daniele has become more pronounced.

3rd Army.
3rd Army. There is no change in front except that for practical reasons General Diaz withdrew front of the 23rd Corps to the western edge of the Stari Lokva. Relief of brigades is continuing with the utmost despatch and is to be complete by the evening of 26th August when there is a probability that the army will attack again. The Austrians have left on this part of the front only the 41st division in reserve and this evening it is reported that this division is also now in line. Of the 99 battalions left on this front, 34 are intact, 44 have lost heavily and 21 have been destroyed.

This evening the total of prisoners was 25,000 and more are coming in. Many guns have been captured and the Austrians have destroyed much material before retiring.

About 45,000 rounds have been fired by the British batteries since the beginning of the offensive. Only one gun has been out of action owing to burst in the bore. Casualties so far are slight.

South of Hermada a landing operation has been planned and may be carried out in conjunction with next attack of the 3rd Army.

Italian aircraft were active again today and many bombs were dropped on the enemy's positions, reconnoitring, etc. Hardly any enemy aeroplanes have been seen.

The enemy's artillery is being withdrawn from many points and there are signs of considerable demoralization.

Italian 2nd Cavalry Division is being held in readiness to move up the Vipacco valley and it is supported by several battalions of Bersaglieri cyclists, field artillery and armoured cars. One Cavalry brigade is to cross at Plava and it will move on to the Bainsizza Plateau.
BATTLE CRUISER STRENGTH.

Memorandum for the War Cabinet,
by the First Lord of the Admiralty.

The Board of Admiralty desire to draw the attention of the War Cabinet to the serious situation which will arise by the end of this year in regard to the comparative strength of the British and German Battle Cruiser Forces. Owing to their superiority in armour protection and speed, raids can be carried out with comparative impunity by German Battle Cruisers on our Coasts and East Coast shipping and successful scouting work for the Battle Fleet by the Battle Cruiser Force becomes a matter of considerable difficulty, and places the Battle Fleet at a disadvantage on joining action with the High Sea Fleet. The Board suggest that the only way of meeting this danger is by using Japanese Battle Cruisers. The Japanese are unlikely to consent to such craft joining the Grand Fleet, and in any case, it is doubtful whether, manned by Japanese, they would be a match for the German Battle Cruisers. The Board suggests for the consideration of the War Cabinet that the Foreign Office should be asked to instruct the Ambassador at Tokyo to sound the Japanese Government as to whether they would sell two Battle Cruisers.

The First Sea Lord has prepared a comparative statement of the fighting strength of British and German Battle Cruisers of approximately the same date, which shows that the German craft are much superior in protection and that their guns have considerable greater range than the British. In speed the slowest German Battle Cruiser exceeds by two knots our slowest, so that they can draw our fast ships
ships ahead of the slower ones.

The First Sea Lord groups the Battle

Cruisers thus:—

MANTEUFFEL       PRINCESS ROYAL
HINDENBURG       LION
DERFLENGER       TIGER

and

SEYDLITZ      AUSTRALIA
MOLTEK        REPULSE
VON DER TANN    RENOWN

INFLEXIBLE

and has little doubt that in either group the
advantage would lie with the enemy.

(As one of our Force would certainly be
refitting at the German selected moment, our
weakest Battle Cruiser—INDOMITABLE—is omitted)

(MANTEUFFEL is expected to commission in a few
months: MACKENSEN, the next Battle Cruiser,
about November 1918: our next, HOOD, December
1918. ANSON, HOWE and RODNEY are stand-by jobs)

On a detailed comparison, taking vessels of
approximately

the same age, the First Sea Lord remarks
that RENOWN and REPULSE are absolutely outclassed by
and not fit even to engage the MANTEUFFEL and
HINDENBURG: that TIGER and DERFLENGER, PRINCESS ROYAL,
LION and SEYDLITZ are fairly matched except for very
inadequate torpedo protection in our ships: that
NEW ZEALAND and AUSTRALIA are badly outclassed by
MOLTEK: and that INFLEXIBLE and INDOMITABLE are
considerably inferior to VON DER TANN in protection
and speed, though somewhat superior in armament.

The all-round superiority of the VON DER TANN is
shown by her 2,000 tons greater displacement.

20th August, 1917.
## WAR CABINET

### 1917

**IMPORTS OF COAL, COKE AND PATENT FUEL INTO FRANCE & ITALY.**

**FRANCE.**

(Weekly requirements)

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<th>Jan. to June</th>
<th>TONS</th>
<th>DEFICIT</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TONS</td>
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<tr>
<td>8,947,668</td>
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**ITALY.**

(Weekly requirements)

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<th>from 1st Jan.</th>
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**IMPORTS DEFICIT IMPORTS DEFICIT**

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<td>52</td>
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<tr>
<td>2,410,348</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>172,500</td>
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**NOTE:**

From 1st July to 11th August

FRANCE received 77% of her requirements

ITALY " 50% " " "

17th August, 1917.
RESTRICTION OF SHIPPING - PROPOSAL THAT FREIGHT SHOULD BE SENT DIRECT TO DESTINATION FROM PLACE OF ORIGIN.

(Letter from Shipping Controller to Secretary, War Cabinet, and letter from Sir John Ellerman to the Prime Minister).

Ministry of Shipping,

Minister of Shipping,
st. James's Park, S.W.1.

Dear Sir Maurice,

With reference to Sir John Ellerman's letter dated August 1st (copy attached), which was sent by the Prime Minister to the First Lord and by him to me, I have to say that the suggestions made have been very carefully considered. We think that the most hopeful is the proposal that, as far as possible, supplies for the fighting forces shall be carried direct from the country of origin to the base of the forces, instead of as seems to be the case now, coming, to a large extent, via England.

This, however, is a proposal which touches the Supply & Purchasing Departments of the War Office and Ministry of Munitions more directly than the Shipping Controller, and before effective action can be taken here it is considered that the War Cabinet should lay down the principle as one which is to be followed.

I suggest, therefore, that an instruction be issued by the War Cabinet that the principle of direct shipment from source of origin to ultimate destination is to be followed as far as practicable and that to bring this into effect the Departments making demands for shipping should at once prepare statements as to:

(1) The places of origin of the commodities in which they are interested, and

(2) the ultimate destination of these,

and send them to the Shipping Controller, who will arrange the shipments in consultation with the Departments concerned.

I am afraid that unless this is done, it will be impossible to get effective action within a reasonable time.

The other points in Sir John's letter are being dealt with.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) J. P. MACLAY.

2, Whitehall Gardens,
S.W.1.

25th August, 1917.
Dear Mr. Lloyd George,

Since attending the War Cabinet Meetings, I have had some discussions with Sir Joseph Maclay on suggestions I put forward, and others I should have put forward at the War Cabinet Meeting had there been time, some of which I feel confident he is giving effect to.

As you may remember, I drew attention at the War Cabinet Meeting to the quantity of food having once come into this country which again leaves for the troops in Salonica, Malta, Egypt, India, and also to a small extent for civilians at these and other centres, and pointed out that, in view of the extreme food shortage likely to arise prior to the termination of the War, this should be obviated by the adoption of other methods, so that practically no food was exported. The submarine menace is still constantly with us, and the proposition put forward by Sir Norman Hill, Lord Inchcape, and myself, that it was essential to do everything possible to minimise the tonnage coming to this country, within the limits of bringing the necessary food and essential cargoes, until reasonably adequate protection could be afforded to the steamers by the Navy, made me urge upon the Shipping Controller a suggestion by which certain tonnage coming to this country might be minimised, and also kept out of the danger zone until reasonably adequate protection is afforded by the Navy to all steamers, and thus form a certain reserve, and also leave convoys for more of the remaining steamers.

I would respectfully urge for your careful consideration the fact that it is not only the destruction of the steamer by enemy submarine, but it is the consequential loss of voyages over a period this steamer was able to make, so that although a steamer may only carry 10,000 tons, if she made 5/6 voyages in the year, 50/60,000 tons of yearly carrying capacity is in reality destroyed.

It was obvious to me in the suggestions I have made to Sir Joseph Maclay that as a War Department comes into effect, as well as other Departments, great difficulty would arise by the charge of methods of these Departments, and the obstacles they put forward may be sufficient to preclude the suggestions being given effect to, and I therefore consider the matter of such importance to the country that I trespass upon your very valuable time with the suggestions so that they may be thoroughly considered,

As stated by me at the War Cabinet Meeting, and confirmed by Sir Joseph Maclay, many of the steamers now loading in the North Atlantic will be unable to face winter voyages, but many of the steamers could go to the North Atlantic prior to the extreme winter, and then load from there in the manner hereinafter suggested, as the voyage they would then be called upon to undertake would be more of a fair weather voyage.

Briefly, my suggestion is to the fullest extent practicable, all the food, munitions, stores, &c, required in Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Salonica, should be sent from India, Canada, or Australia via the Cape, to Port Said for Egypt and Mesopotamia, and in the case of Salonica by a ferry service from Port Said. That these steamers should carry a portion of their cargo to South Africa,
and that the holds so discharged should be filled up with coal for Port Said, thus materially reducing the quantity of coal now leaving this country for Port Said. In order to find homeward employment for the steamers, that the Cotton and other Egyptian products, which at present come through the Mediterranean, should be sent from Port Said via the Cape to this country (or to America), and by the time of arrival in this country fair weather conditions will be commencing to accrue in the North Atlantic again, or homeward cargoes from East and South African ports. Personally, I should even carry this a stage further, and have the Hospital arrangements at suitable points in South Africa and not let the Hospital ships go through the danger zone, and similarly (but of course this is not a shipping matter) it appears to me that wherever possible the replenishing of drafts should go by the same route from Canada or Australia.

I would point out that if this method was adopted the steamers would only be going through the danger zone once, i.e. from Dakar home, whilst under the present operation a steamer is in the danger zone from America to this country (where the cargo is discharged, it is remedied — entailing considerable handling, congestion of ports, and extra coal), and it is in the danger zone between England and Gibraltar, also between Gibraltar and Alexandria or Salonica, and the boat on the return is again in the danger zone in the Mediterranean to Gibraltar, and again between Gibraltar and the United Kingdom, or five times in the danger zone as against once under the other method.

The steamers going into the Mediterranean to be limited to the lowest possible number, consistent with the carrying of coal to Italy and ports that cannot be served except by returning direct, and even the Stores for Gibraltar and Malta I should send direct from America or Canada, loading ore from Spain home.

The difficulties in the way, it seems to me, are, the question of proper checking, fixing time fuses, and supervision in making up the packages etc. in Egypt or in America, Canada, or Australia where the various munitions, stores etc. could be made up for use in the trenches or canteens. If it is possible to put in the fuses and check the gauges here on arrival from Canada or America surely by organisation of the War Department the same methods could be pursued abroad so that the steamers could avoid the danger zone, and the same be done at Port Said etc., and similar, if not quite exactly the same, food and stores packed and used, as unless something radical is done the Germans will sink so many steamers as to make the position irretrievable.

I trust you will pardon my writing you, but I feel I should not be doing my duty, since I was asked to attend certain of your Meetings, if I did not put my suggestions forward for your personal consideration, especially as at the first Meeting I attended you stated you were always willing to receive suggestions.

I return to town on Tuesday next.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd) J.R. ELLERMAN.

The Right Hon. D. Lloyd George,
10, Downing Street,
S.W.
Pensions.

The number of pensions granted during the week to officers and men, and to widows, children and dependants (Table I) was 11,282 against 10,030 last week and 8,768 the week before. Since the beginning of the war 785,244 pensions, including children's allowances, have been awarded.

Table II shows that last week 40 grants of supplementary pensions and special allowances were made by the Statutory Committee against 36 in the previous week. The total number to date is 4354.

2. The number of fresh claims to pension of disabled soldiers dealt with by the Awards to Soldiers Branch during the week ending 22nd August was 4,800 as compared with 4,000 during the previous week, and 3,800 during the week before.

Of the 4,800 cases 3,091 were disposed of by the award of pension, permanent or temporary, and 1,693 by the grant of gratuities, and in 10 cases the claims were rejected. Claims which had previously been rejected under former Warrants were admitted in 127 cases, 97 of the men being granted gratuities and 30 pensions. The total number of claims previously rejected which have been dealt with up to date is 6,713 of which 1,011 have been met by the award of pension and 5,702 by gratuities.

3. The work of awarding and authorising payment of Widows and Dependants pensions in current cases is completely up to date.

3,026 re-assessments of dependants pensions were made during the week against 2,892 last week and 2,580 the week before. There remain 24,901 cases to be dealt with.

(Appendix I).
(Appendix I). The 3,026 cases this week include 1,966 dependants pensioned under the old Warrant who have benefitted by the re-assessment to the average extent of 3/6d a week, and 182 dependent parents whose cases had been settled by a gratuity under the Old Warrant but have now been placed on pension at an average rate of 7/3d a week. The rest of the 3,026 receive no benefit, their pensions already being equal to pre-war dependence.

As a result of the week's re-examinations as to entitlement under the New Warrant 41 widows not previously helped have been admitted to full pension, and 36 to temporary pension, while in 32 cases it has not been found possible to give help. No dependant has been admitted to pension or gratuity and 2 have been finally refused. 137 (widows and dependants) remain to be dealt with out of the original total of 4723*. (Appendix II).

4. 27,000 authorities for payment of the £5 grants in cases of death on or after 1st July, 1916, notified before 4th April, 1917, have been sent to the issue office. About 12,000 have still to be sent.

The issue of the 52 balances due in cases notified since 4th April has now been completed. Payment of the £5 in the earlier cases is proceeding expeditiously.

Treatment

5. An interesting report from the Joint Institutional Committee of the Ministry and British Red Cross Society covering the past six months' operations is given in Appendix III. It will be seen that substantial progress has been made towards meeting the deficiencies of institutional accommodation for those special cases of injury and mental or nervous affections, namely, neurasthenia, epilepsy, paraplegia.

* The number given previously as approximately 4,523 was understated by about 200.
paraplegia, and advanced tuberculosis, which have come into special prominence during the war and for which existing provision was found inadequate. Private generosity has met the efforts of the Joint Committee in a most satisfactory manner.

6. Some discussion has arisen in the Lancashire public press in regard to the treatment of men discharged from service on account of insanity. The arrangements made by the Ministry with the Board of Control provide for the treatment of such cases after admission to an asylum, as private patients under the title of 'Service Patients' with special privileges, the cost of which is charged to the Ministry. Under the existing law, however, a man discharged from service on account of insanity is made chargeable to the poor law and is in the first instance admitted to an asylum as a pauper lunatic, and, further, he remains in this position until declared (on notification by the Asylum to the Ministry) to be entitled to be classed as a service patient. This procedure is much resented in many quarters and questions have been addressed to the Minister in the House of Commons on the point. The Ministry have made representations to the War Office and Admiralty with a view to arranging that a man shall in all cases be sent under Military Escort to an asylum and application has been made to the Treasury to enable the Ministry to defray the cost of the man's maintenance during the interval of a week or fortnight from the date of admission until the question of his title to be classed as a service patient has been determined.

7. The Army Council have issued an Instruction (No. 1289 Medical Boards on Neurasthenic Officers) dealing with the invaliding from the Army of Officers who are no longer likely to be fit for military service by reason of shell shock, neurasthenia, functional nervous disorders or epilepsy.
epilepsy. The re-examination of officers invalided for one of the above disabilities, with a view to the renewal of their retired pay, will be arranged at the request of the Ministry of Pensions by the President of the Special Medical Board dealing with the case. A copy of the Instruction is given as Appendix IV.

6. A suggestion has been made in the press (Times 22nd August) for the treatment of neurasthenic cases by means of boarding out in homes. The proposal is being carefully considered by the Ministry in consultation with Sir J. Collie. The suggested mode of treatment would apply for obvious reasons only to the less severe forms of neurasthenia when little more than convalescent treatment was required with careful selection of the homes and of the cases sent to them there seems no reason why an experiment in this direction should not be successful.

9. From the weekly return received from the Special Medical Board it appears that the number of neurasthenic cases receiving treatment in the Home at Golders Green and under arrangements made in farm camps were on the 22nd instant as follows:

In the Home, Golders Green    76
At Witheram Farm Camp:        15

10. Under the special arrangements made by the Ministry with the Manager of the Metropolitan Asylums Board for the treatment of advanced cases of tuberculosis among discharged soldiers, 22 men are under treatment in the hospital allocated by the Managers for this purpose during the week ended 22nd August.

11. With a view to assisting Local Committees to avail themselves for the purpose of the treatment of discharged men of all existing institutional accommodation
in the county, lists of the available military and auxiliary hospitals have been sent to each Local Committee with a circular letter advising them to cooperate in the matter through the agency of the newly established Joint (Disablement) Committees. A copy of this circular is given in Appendix V. At the same time the Ministry's Representatives in the several Joint Committee areas have been advised of this step and instructed to take the initiative in approaching the chief local officers of the Army Medical Service, the Auxiliary hospital system, and the Medical Officers of Health with a view to making the arrangements with the various institutions as complete as possible.

12. Appendix VI. shows the arrangements for treatment for which general sanction was asked by Local Committees during the week ended 22nd August. Owing no doubt to the holiday season the proposals are few in number. 13. Appendix VII. shows that 114 cases were admitted to treatment during the week ended 22nd instant of which 101 were treated in hospitals and other institutions. The total number of cases reported as under treatment at the end of the week was 355. There is however good reason for thinking that the returns are not yet complete.

14. Appendix VIII. shows that in 74 individual cases outside general schemes of treatment sanction was given to special treatment.

Training.

15. Agricultural Training – Useful conferences have been held this week between the Ministry of Pensions and representatives of the Boards of Agriculture of England and Scotland.
Scotland which give promise of substantial progress towards the training of disabled men in agricultural work. Reports of these conferences are given in Appendix IX. The general conclusion arrived at is that as regards general farm work there is at the present time and is likely to be after the war considerable opening for men on farms but that the work of a general farm labourer is necessarily heavy and as it renders a man liable to continual exposure is not suitable except to a relatively small proportion of disabled men. Moreover it is not anticipated, even with the minimum wages offered under recent arrangements made by the Government, that there will be any greater inclination than before on the part of townsmen to adopt this form of employment. At the same time there are subsidiary forms of farm work such as dairying and cow-keeping for which disabled men can be trained and in which, with training, a man may rely on getting a good wage, and in agricultural districts it may well be found that training in these occupations can advantageously be provided.

Prospects of training and employment in such branches of market gardening as fruit farming and growing of fruit and vegetables under glass were, it was agreed, far more favourable. Training should be given to the disabled men by private employers, but, while the man would only in the immediate future look forward to be a wage earner, experience had shown that it was far from difficult for a man to acquire and run a small market garden holding on his own account.

There is no doubt much feeling at the present time in the direction of encouraging the resettlement on the land of discharged men as small holders but, except under favourable
favourable conditions, it was agreed that the experiment was not likely to succeed. For success three conditions are essential:

(1) Applicants must be selected by an agricultural expert;

(2) They must be given definite instruction according to the particular form of cultivation for which the locality and the man are most suitable; and

(3) There must be a reasonable prospect of the man being able to make a permanent livelihood out of the land and for this purpose a man must either have or see the prospect of a small capital or have some other standby in the shape of a remunerative occupation in addition to his holding.

The provision of small holdings in particular has been discussed with the Board of Agriculture for Scotland who are inclined to view with favour a scheme put forward by the West of Scotland Agricultural College for the development, by way of small holdings, of land adjoining villages in certain agricultural districts of Scotland. In view of the success of small holdings in many districts of Scotland the scheme is probably one that the Ministry of Pensions can support but subject to the above conditions.

As a result of Conferences with the Board of Agriculture particularly with respect to the scheme proposed by the County Borough of Norwich for the training of men in certain forms of agricultural work, that Board are applying to the Treasury for sanction to apply their Farm Institute regulations to urban areas where the conditions as in Norwich, are suitable for co-operation between a County Borough and the Council of an agricultural county.
Industrial training - The training of disabled men for industrial employment in Ireland has for a variety of reasons, local and political, not progressed as favourably as in other parts of the Kingdom. As a first step towards interesting employers and labour in training, a Committee has been formed consisting of one representative of each of the federations of employers in Dublin and of each of the unions of workpeople affiliated to the Trades Council. This Committee, acting by small representative panels, will consider all applications from men for training with a view to determining their suitability for the trade selected and the openings for employment in it.

Meetings of two Central Trade Advisory Committees have been held in the week ended 22nd instant, namely those of the Cinematograph trade and of the Leather Goods Manufacture.

Appendix X shows general schemes of training submitted or dealt with during the week. The output is relatively small owing mainly, as was pointed out in last week's report, to the holiday season. The slacker time, is, however, being used to put the newly established Joint Committees in possession of all the information available to the Ministry, not only as to the schemes of training already instituted in their areas but, also as to the technical institutions existing in the areas which have not hitherto been utilised and as to the occupations special to their areas. The attention of Joint Committees is also being called to those Local Committees which have not as yet shown that they are fully alive to the importance of providing training.

Appendix XI shows that 47 men were admitted to training by Local Committees or otherwise during the week ended
ended 22nd instant, and also indicates the occupations in which the training is being given.

19. Appendix XII shows that in 34 individual cases not covered by general schemes sanction was given to the training of disabled men during the week.

Organisation.

20. A statement of the proceedings of the Statutory Committee for the week ending 22nd August, 1917, is annexed (Appendix XIII). The Inspectors of Account report that the Lancashire Sub-Committees are framing well but lack experience, that Carlisle Local Committee is making efficiency subservient to economy, that the work at Blackpool, where disabled men are numerous, is satisfactory. Barry Local Committee, not well reported on last May, appears to have got out of hand, whilst the Secretaries of the Essex District Committees show a disinclination to carry out the duties for which they were appointed. The Birmingham Local Committee shows great interest in the work and is prepared to take over further duties; Swansea devotes more energy to payments than to training; there is an enthusiastic report on the work of the Local Committees of the East and West Ridings of Yorkshire, whilst the report on the East and South East Midland counties is on the whole satisfactory.

21. In the Report for the period from 23rd to 29th June last reference was made to a Bill to provide for the transfer of the powers, duties and functions of the Statutory Committee to the Minister of Pensions and the Patriotic Fund Corporation, and a full explanation of its genesis and contents was given. In the course of its progress through Parliament various amendments were made chief of which was the substitution of a small committee for the Patriotic Fund Corporation.
Corporation. The Bill became law on the 21st August as the Naval and Military (Transfer of Powers) Act, 1917.

By Section 1 it is enacted that as from a date to be fixed by His Majesty by Order in Council the Statutory Committee shall be dissolved and on the 22nd instant an Order in Council (Appendix XIV) was issued fixing September 1st as the date from which the Statutory Committee should be dissolved and as from which the other provisions of the Act should take effect.

In these circumstances the Statutory Committee have issued to Local Committees a circular (No. 60) drawing attention to the changes effected by the Act. The Committee take the opportunity of expressing their warm appreciation of the services rendered by Local Committees and their officers and make special reference to Voluntary Workers. The circular forms Appendix XV.

22. The Joint Committees for treatment and training formed under the authority of section 2 (8) of the Naval and Military War Pensions Act, 1915, to assist the Local Committees now cover the whole area of the United Kingdom. For England and Wales there are 13 Joint Committees, for Scotland 4 and for Ireland 3. A list of these Committees containing the various Local Committees which have combined to form them and the names and addresses of the local Representatives of the Ministry is given in Appendix XVI.

23. On the resignation of Mr. Arthur Henderson from the War Cabinet Mr. George Barnes took his place there as the Representative of Labour and on the 17th instant Mr. J. Hodge was appointed Minister of Pensions. In quitting the Pensions Office Mr. Barnes wrote expressing his sincere thanks to the Staff for their great help and assistance and asked for his successor the same "invaluable aid and counsel."
"We may, I think", he continues "congratulate ourselves upon the achievements of the last few months. We have laid a few stones of the foundation of a great department which has already done and will yet do more to bind up the wounds of those who have done so much for us at the Front, and also for their dependants".

**Staff etc.**

24. Table III shows an addition of 91 to the staff of the Ministry during the week, 6 having been added to the Administration, 85 to the Awards to Soldiers Branch and 27 to the Awards to widows Branch, whilst in the Pension Issue Office where there are now 110 holiday workers to replace girls on their annual leave there is a decrease of 27. The staff on the books of the Ministry now comprises 181 men and 3809 women, or 3990 in all. The Statutory Committee employ 109 men and 184 women or 293 in all, bringing up the grand total to 4283.

The daily percentage of absences during the week was 3·8 among the male and 5 among the female staff.

U.K.

25th August, 1917.
**REPORT AS TO RE-ASSESSMENT OF DEPENDANTS' PENSIONS FOR WEEK ENDED August 22nd 1917.**

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<th>Parents Dependent on more than one son</th>
<th>Grandparents and Foster Parents</th>
<th>Parents drawing S.A. as wife or pension as widow</th>
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<th>Illeg. children 5/- a week</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1708</td>
<td>6/10</td>
<td>3/-</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>9/3</td>
<td>3/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>236</td>
<td>6/1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>7/-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL.</td>
<td>2112</td>
<td>519</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total No. (approx.) to be re-assessed 75,000
Re-assessed as per previous reports. 47,073
Pension granted. 3,026
Balance. 24,901

Pension Incr. Av. 3/-
Prev. awarded grat. 7/3.
APPENDIX II.

TATE GALLERY. REPORT FOR WEEK ENDED AUGUST 22nd 1917, ON NEW ENTITLEMENT TO WIDOWS AND DEPENDANTS PENSIONS.

The following shows the approximate number (revised) of cases to be reconsidered at date 4th April, 1917.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Widows</th>
<th>Dependants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;Aggravation&quot; gratuity admitted</td>
<td>No claim under Old Warrant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widows</td>
<td>503</td>
<td>2697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependants</td>
<td></td>
<td>1522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>2697</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total re-examined to date.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WIDOWS</th>
<th>DEPENDANTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aggrav. cases</td>
<td>Other cases admitted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full pension granted</td>
<td>Full pension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>503</td>
<td>569</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>503</td>
<td>610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total for period ending 15.3.17</td>
<td>1167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total for period ending 22.3.17</td>
<td>1167</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number still to be disposed of 137
APPENDIX III

COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONAL TREATMENT.


The Committee was formally constituted in February 1917, the bodies represented on it being the Ministry of Pensions and the War Pensions Statutory Committee, the War Office and the Joint War Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England, these bodies being respectively represented by Lieutenant Colonel Sir Arthur Griffith-Boscawen, M.P., (Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Pensions who is Chairman of the Committee), Mr. Cyril Jackson (Chairman of the War Pensions Statutory Committee), Colonel Sir Walter Lawrence, Bart. G.C.V.O., K.C.I.E., C.I.E., and the Hon. Arthur Stanley, C.B., K.V.O., M.P., Lieutenant Colonel Sir Alfred Pearce Gould, K.C.V.O., was appointed a member of the Committee in August, 1917.

The functions of the Committee are to arrange for the provision of suitable Institutional Treatment for certain men totally disabled while serving in His Majesty's Forces, e.g. Paraplegics, Neurasthenics, Epileptics and advanced cases of Tuberculosis. The Joint War Committee of the British Red Cross and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England provides or helps to provide as far as its funds permit the initial outlay involved in establishing and equipping Institutions but makes no contributions to the cost of maintenance which is borne by the State.
The First Meeting of the Committee was held on Monday 12th February, 1917, the Right Hon. G.N. Barnes, M.P., Minister of Pensions being present.

A sum of £20,000 was placed at the disposal of the Committee by the Joint Committee of the Red Cross and Order of St. John and subsequently a further sum of £10,000 was similarly placed for capital expenditure in connection with Institutions. The following were appointed as advisers of the Committee on Special branches of the work:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Branch</th>
<th>Adviser</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neurasthenia</td>
<td>Colonel Sir John Collie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epilepsy</td>
<td>Dr. C. Hubert Bond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
<td>Major H. S. Hartley, C.V.O.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Advanced cases)</td>
<td>Dr. R. Fox-Jaymon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>Sir H. Haward</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Committee confines itself to initiatory, coordinating, advisory and supervisory functions. The actual management and administration of Institutions being done by local Committees or supervised by local authorities.

A number of houses and Institutions have been offered to the Committee for the Establishment of Homes of Recovery and treatment and in each case have been inspected and reported on as to their suitability by the Special Medical Advisers in their respective Departments. In setting up Institutions in various parts of the country the Committee not only aims at providing the necessary medical care and treatment but also wherever possible at providing healthy outdoor work and suitable training for those of the Patients who are able to undertake light work during the course of their treatment. Assistance with regard to after treatment is regarded by the Committee as being of the utmost importance.

Neurasthenics: A Home of Recovery for the treatment of Neurasthenia and other functional diseases of the Nervous system in the case of discharged soldiers and sailors has been opened.
opened at Highfield Golders Green. At the present time there are 82 patients in the Institution and 182 awaiting admission. Steps are already being taken to provide accommodation for a further fifty cases.

A camp has been established at Witham, Essex, where the Patients live in tents and are allotted light outdoor work. At the present time there are ten tents there and each accommodates three patients.

Arrangements have been completed for the establishment of a Home at Leicester Frith, Leicester, with accommodation for 100 beds. The cost of establishing and equipping this Institution is being borne out of a fund raised by the Mayor of Leicester in addition to which the building is given free of rent.

Arrangements have also been completed for a home at Allerton Hall, Leeds, to accommodate at least 100 beds.

Mr. John Leigh has placed his house and land at Altrincham at the disposal of the Ministry and is fitting and equipping it at his own expense. He is also arranging for the establishment of a garden for Intensive Trench Culture in connection with the Institution. Accommodation will be provided for up to 100 Patients.

The establishment of other Institutions is at present under consideration. A plant for Intensive Culture is installed at the Home of Recovery, Golders Green, and it is proposed to make this Institution the model for all Neurasthenic Institutions in the Country. A House of Recovery has also been opened at Craig Avon, Belfast, but the arrangements in this case were made not by the Institutional Committee but by the Ministry and the Ulster Volunteer Committee.
Acting on the advice of Sir John Collie, the Adviser on Neurasthenics, the Committee has decided that it is absolutely necessary for the success of this class of Institution that it should have a resident Medical Officer in charge and that no Institution should be officially recognised which does not provide accommodation for at least 50 beds.

Epileptics: Accommodation to the extent of 306 beds has been provided or is in course of provision especially for discharged sailors and soldiers who are in need of Institutional Treatment for epilepsy as follows:

Three cottage homes each to accommodate twenty-five men at Chalfont Colony, Guards Cross, Bucks. Two cottage homes each with accommodation for 40 men at Lingfield Colony, Surrey; there are also workshops at this Colony. A Villa for 45 men at Monyhull Colony, Birmingham. 82 beds at Rockhill Colony, near Liverpool and 24 beds at the David Lewis Colony, Alderley, Cheshire. Negotiations are in progress for meeting similar need in Scotland and the Scottish Institutional Committee has this in hand. Consideration is also being given as to the extent to which it may be necessary to provide corresponding accommodation in Ireland and in those districts of England and Wales which are inconveniently remote from the above mentioned colonies, it being recognised that reasonable proximity of such centres for treatment and training to the homes and friends of the men is highly desirable.

Tuberculosis: The Management of the Metropolitan Asylums Board have provided 150 beds for advanced cases of Tuberculosis placing at the disposal of the Committee a pavilion should it be required in each of seven of their...
Hospitals. At the present time two pavilions providing accommodation for 32 beds are open for the reception of patients and twenty seven beds are occupied.

Arrangements have been made for accommodation for 50 patients at Brierley Hall, Bradford, and for a lien on 30 beds for advanced and Colony cases at the Cambridgeshire Tuberculosis Colony at Papworth Hall. Provision is being made for the erection of pavilions in various parts of the County which are regarded as suitable localities for advanced cases.

Major H. S. Hartley, C.V.O., the Committee's adviser on Tuberculosis advocated the building of small Pavilions in connection with County Fever Hospitals or Sanatoria. A Plan for a Standard Pavilion has been approved which has the advantage of fitting in with existing organisations and gives an opportunity of placing patients near their own homes. The liability of the Ministry is fixed at 35/- per occupied bed per week the Local authority being responsible for upkeep and maintenance.

Paraplegics: Prior to the constitution of this Committee provision had been made at the Star and Garter Home, Richmond, for accommodation for 64 patients of this class. Lonsdale House has been established with accommodation for 25 patients and is really used as a clearing house for London.

Up to the 30th June last 912 Paraplegic cases had been dealt with and placed in various Institutions which had put beds at the Committee's disposal, and in some cases where considered advisable patients were transferred to their own homes.

The Committee has given consideration to the question of Pensions and deductions in the cases of men
in Military Hospitals and Institutions and as to the distinction between permanent and temporary cases of treatment and the question of pocket money to the men. The following recommendations were made to the Ministry:

(a) That in the case of Paraplegics it was not practicable to determine before any treatment had been given whether the case was curable or likely to need permanent treatment.

(b) That all cases should be given treatment with full allowances to the men for six months but that at the end of that time the allowances should be reduced and the case treated as a permanent one unless the Minister was satisfied by a Medical Certificate that the case was likely to derive benefit by a further temporary stay in the Institution.

(c) That in all Paraplegic cases a deduction of 7/- a week from the man’s allowance should be made and applied towards the cost of his maintenance. The deduction in the case of the Star and Garter should be made by the Ministry and paid to the Institution.

(d) Pocket Money. The question of what amount was to be allowed to men in Institutions was discussed at length, and it was recognised as very desirable in all Paraplegic cases that the amount should be the same.

It was considered that in paraplegic cases the superintendents would certainly advise that 10/- a week be paid to the man, and the Committee agreed to this. The balance would be credited to him unless he decided to make an allotment to his wife, but in any case he should be definitely informed that the balance was credited to him if not so allotted. It was considered advisable that the Instruction should be brought to the men’s notice and sent to those applying to be transferred.
This arrangement has had to be slightly modified since to meet the wishes of the Treasury.

The work of Technical Instruction of British Soldiers interned in Switzerland which has just begun is being done under the auspices of the Committee.
ARMY COUNCIL INSTRUCTION.
No. 1289 of 1917.

War Office,
19th August, 1917.

1289. Medical Boards on Neurasthenic Officers.

1. It has been decided that all officers recommended for invaliding from the Army on account of shell shock, neurasthenia, functional nervous disorders and epilepsy, shall, before their relinquishment is finally decided upon, be examined by the Special Medical Board of Officers of the R.A.M.C., whose headquarters are at 78, Lancaster Gate, London, W. 2.

2. When, therefore, a medical board is of the opinion that an officer who is suffering from one of the above-mentioned disorders is not likely to be fit for any further military service, the president will at once forward all medical documents of the officer as follows:

(a) in the London District, to the President of the Special Medical Board, 78, Lancaster Gate, W. 2.

(b) in other Commands, to the D.D.M.S. of the Command, who will arrange for the documents to be available for the Special Medical Board when examining the officer.

He will at the same time forward a nominal roll of all such cases which are not considered fit for further military service, giving the diagnosis of the disability, and the address of the officer, to the President of the Special Medical Board.

3. The President of the Special Medical Board will arrange, in the case of officers in the London District with the officer in charge of the hospital concerned, and in the case of other commands with the D.D.M.S. of the command, for the officer’s attendance. The Board will examine the officer and, if they approve of his invaliding from the service, add their report and assess the officer’s physical disablement in 10ths, i.e., 100 per cent. or total; 80 per cent., 60 per
cent., &c., and forward all medical documents to the Secretary, War Office. If the Special Medical Board is of the opinion that the officer should not be invalided out of the Service they will record their recommendations on A.F. A. 45, and return the medical documents to the D.D.M.S. of the Command in which the officer is situated, who will immediately arrange to carry out the recommendations of the Special Medical Board. The President of the Special Medical Board, will send one copy of the report to the Secretary, War Office.

The Special Medical Board will also record their opinion as to whether the disability is the result of service in the present war and whether the officer is permanently and wholly disabled or unfit for military service or not, so that the names of officers so exempted from the provisions of the Military Service (Review, Exceptions) Act, 1917, may be duly noted.

The President of the Special Medical Board will forward, at the end of each month to the Secretary, War Office (D.R. 1), a list of the names and addresses of those officers recommended for invaliding.

4. Unless the Special Medical Board otherwise advise, the officer will remain in hospital, command depot, or unit, pending instructions from the War Office as to his disposal.

5. The following arrangements will be made for the examination of these cases by the Special Medical Board:

(a) All cases from hospitals or units in the London District will attend by arrangement at 78, Lancaster Gate, W., unless unfit to travel.

(b) A visiting unit of the Special Medical Board will be detailed for service in each Command except the London District.

The President of the Special Medical Board may arrange with the D.D.M.S. of the Command for cases awaiting examination to be collected at a convenient centre ready for the visit of the Board, the date of which will be notified by the President.

6. In the case of the special hospitals for neurasthenic officers at Craiglockhart, Palace Green, 4th London General Hospital, and Maghull, the President of the Special Medical Board will arrange direct with the officer in charge for the examination of officers recommended for invaliding.

7. Re-examination of officers invalided for one of the above disabilities, with a view to the renewal of their retired pay, will be arranged at the request of the Ministry of Pensions by the President of the Special Medical Board, who will communicate.
if necessary, with the Deputy Director of Medical Services of the Command. These examinations should be carried out and reports forwarded with the least possible delay through the President of the Special Medical Board to the Ministry of Pensions.

24/Gen. No./5863 (A.M.D. 3).

By Command of the Army Council.

[SignATURE]

[Copies for F.M.C.-in-C. Home Forces; G.Os.C.-in-C. and G.Os.C. at Home (and for distribution to Os.C. Regular and T.F. Units, President of Special Medical Board and all Presidents of Traveling Medical Boards, Medical Boards at Central Hospitals and Special Invaliding Boards, Officers i/c Hospitals, Medical Officers i/c Units, Os.C. Command Depôts and Medical Officers i/c Command Depôts); Officers i/c Regular Records (and for distribution to Reserve Units other than Infantry); Officers i/c T.F. Records (and for T.F. Depôts).]
Sir,

I am directed by the Minister of Pensions to advert to Instruction 8 of the Instructions for the treatment and training of disabled men and to forward a list of the hospitals (Military and Auxiliary) known to the Ministry in the area of the administrative County in order to assist your Committee in drawing up the comprehensive statement of the arrangements for institutional treatment in their area. For this purpose I am to suggest (in accordance with the remarks on page 28 of the Instructions & Notes) that your Committee should work in co-operation with other Local Committees in the area of the Joint (Disablement) Committee and through that Joint Committee, so that a comprehensive statement covering the whole joint area may be submitted to the Minister. The Joint Disablement Committee, to which has been delegated by your Committee the duty of concerting arrangements for treatment, and the Minister's representative in the joint area will be in a position to render valuable assistance, with the help of the representatives of the Medical profession on the Joint Committee.

The statement should be so framed as to show the several hospitals grouped according to their respective capacities for the treatment of cases as indicated in the several columns on the enclosed statement and the terms on which patients can be treated in them.

The terms on which arrangements for institutional treatment should be arranged should not exceed those stated in Schedule I to the Instructions unless for any special class
of ease higher terms are quite clearly justified.

The statement should be supplemented by the addition of

(a) the civil hospitals, general and special

including cottage hospitals for each of which the same inform-

ation is required as in the case of the military and

auxiliary hospitals and

(b) those special institutions outside the Joint

Area which will occasionally be required for use, e.g., for

orthopaedic treatment, the treatment for the affections of

the eye or ear, special limbless cases, neurasthenics,

convalescents, &c.

With the assistance of the completed list when

the arrangements proposed have been approved by the Minister,

the necessary treatment of cases can be readily given by

your Committee (directly or through sub-committees so far as

the Committee may see fit to delegate powers) without the

delay involved in obtaining Special Sanction or in searching

for the institution appropriate to the case. For this

purpose the statement should be as exhaustive as it can be

made.

I am to add that similar statements are being

forwarded to the other Local Committees in the Joint

Committee's area, to the Joint Committee itself, and to the

Minister's Representative, and I am to express the hope that

no time will be lost in completing and submitting the full

statement so far as regards Institutional treatment for

approval.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

O. F. A. HORE

Assistant Secretary.
1. The general schemes for institutional treatment submitted by the Joint Committee for Leinster and Connaught has now been sanctioned but the Committee have been asked to find further accommodation for convalescent cases.

2. A deputation of the Willesden Local Committee was received and the question of institutional treatment under the scheme proposed by them was discussed. It was ascertained that one of the Auxiliary Hospitals in their area had demurred to the arrangements as to fees set out in Schedule I of the Instruction, on the ground that the services of the doctors and staff being voluntary were not covered by the fees fixed. It was explained that the fees had been generally agreed on by the majority of such hospitals. If, however, any hospital found it impossible to accept these fees they were entirely at liberty to do so, and that if a special case could be put up for a higher scale of fees this would be considered. They promised to lay the matter before the Hospital Committee again. A letter containing certain additional proposals for the treatment of discharged men was handed in by the Secretary of the Local Committee and provisional sanction has been accorded to the majority of the proposals formulated by the Committee as a temporary measure to avoid delay pending the completion of a comprehensive scheme for the whole area of the Joint Committee.

3. The Kent Local Committee submitted a series of questions on certain types of difficult cases of frequent occurrence which it was thought were not entirely met by the Instructions. A memorandum as to the cases put and the views of the Ministry as to the proper mode of dealing with them has been circulated to all the Divisional Representatives of the Ministry.
Ministry inquiring whether in their opinion the answers meet the difficulties and asking whether they have had experience of other problems of sufficiently frequent occurrence to justify the issue of general instructions. When their replies are received full instructions will be addressed to all Local Committees.
### Nature of Disability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature of Disability</th>
<th>Central Cases</th>
<th>Local Cases</th>
<th>Central Cases</th>
<th>Local Cases</th>
<th>Central Cases</th>
<th>Local Cases</th>
<th>Central Cases</th>
<th>Local Cases</th>
<th>Central Cases</th>
<th>Local Cases</th>
<th>Central Cases</th>
<th>Local Cases</th>
<th>Other Diseases</th>
<th>In Institutions</th>
<th>Otherwise classified as &quot;Service&quot; Patients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wounds &amp; Injuries</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurasthenia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraplegia</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epilepsy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Diseases</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Treated Patients

- No. reported as under Treatment 15.8.17: 28
- No. reported during week as admitted for treatment: 1
- No. reported as discharged from treatment: 6
- Total under Treatment on 22.8.17: 23
- Total who have been or are under treatment under arrangements made or sanctioned by Ministry up to 22.8.17: 1113

Number of cases during the week ending 22.8.17: 25
Number of cases during the week ending 22.8.17: 116
Number of cases during the week ending 22.8.17: 43
Number of cases during the week ending 22.8.17: 85
Number of cases during the week ending 22.8.17: 3
Number of cases during the week ending 22.8.17: 15
Number of cases during the week ending 22.8.17: 63
Number of cases during the week ending 22.8.17: 146
Number of cases during the week ending 22.8.17: 151
Number of cases during the week ending 22.8.17: 7
Number of cases during the week ending 22.8.17: 52
Number of cases during the week ending 22.8.17: 161
**APPENDIX. VIII.**

**TREATMENT.** Cases outside general schemes sanctioned for week ending August, 22nd.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature of Disability</th>
<th>No. of cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bronchitis</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deafness</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epilepsy</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart Disease</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nervous Diseases</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatism</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuberculous</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wounds</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastritis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various Diseases</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL:** 74
APPENDIX IX.

Memorandum of a Conference held on 20th August 1917 with Representatives of the Board of Agriculture on the subject of Training men in Agricultural pursuits generally including:

- General Farm Work
- Poultry Keeping
- Doe Keeping
- Dairy Work
- Market Gardening
- Fruit Growing
- Forestry

1. The whole question of training for the above named occupations was carefully considered in conjunction with representatives of the Board of Agriculture. The opinion was that the prospects of employment after the War would be good in every branch, but in most branches the pay would be small, the work heavy, and probably unsuited for disabled men. These remarks applied particularly to the work of a general farm labourer. Even in regard to motor tractor work, which has been suggested as a very promising opening, great doubt was expressed as to the number of openings and the suitability of the work for disabled men. The tractors at present in use are possibly of an unsuitable type, and it may be that in the future a better type of machine and one more suited to the heavy plough-land which is common in England will be evolved, but at present, unless the existing organisation of County Agricultural Committees is kept on foot, and they or some similar body supply the tractors, it appears unlikely that many farmers will utilise them.

It was pointed out that the training in Agricultural Colleges was not suitable for men who intend to
to ordinary agriculture work, and that care should be
exercised in selecting the men whom the Local Committees
send there as such training is only suited for men who
are going to be land agents or to manage their own
farms of considerable size.

2. Poultry Farming and Bee Keeping.

It appears to be clear that it is useless to
train men for these occupations unless they can be
combined with other forms of work, or unless the men
when trained will have capital of their own to enable
them to start in business.

3. Dairy Work.

It was stated that this is particularly men's
work, and it would be well worth while to train men
specially for it. The training should include cow
keeping, general dairy work, calf rearing, etc— and
three months' training should suffice. The wages would
vary according to the district. Before the War they
averaged 25/- a week in Scotland, and 15/- a week in
Norfolk, in each case with a house rent free. It would
be undesirable to employ tuberculous men in this work.


(a) Fruit Growing.

There is an increasing demand for men in this
occupation. Disabled men could not do the heavy digging,
but the large fruit growers employ a considerable staff
of men as pruners, sprayers, pickers, packers, etc.
All these are light jobs, and could be done by disabled
men. There was a great demand for labour before the War,
and this is likely to increase. It will be best to
concentrate the training in the orchards of the fruit
growers at the main centres of the industry, which are
Wisbech, Laidstone, Botley, Swarvick and Evesham. The
Board of Agriculture is establishing a farm colony in
Glamorgon
Glamorgan where men may also be trained. The training should last for one year, but the growers would be willing to pay wages during the greater part of this time.

(b) Glass-house Work.

There are many jobs which a disabled man could do in the employ of the large growers of vegetables such as Tomatoes and Cucumbers. The main centres are in the Lea Valley, and in the Worthing area. A man should be generally in good health as he has to go in and out of hot-houses; but hardly any physical defect would be a serious handicap to him.

(c) Small Market Gardening.

There is a considerable demand for land for small market-gardens near many large towns, e.g. near Bournemouth. If this were available (the Board of Agriculture has powers to assist in obtaining it) many men could be trained and could make a good living, if they had a small amount of capital. It would, however, be desirable that in every case men should commence work as wage earners, and only take small holdings after they have had some experience under a master. It is possible that the farm colonies which are now being established by the Board of Agriculture would be available for this work, but the men would have to be selected by the Board, and at present the openings would be very few, as these colonies are entirely experimental and the success of the experiment might be jeopardized by the inclusion of an undue proportion of inexperienced men.

5. Forestry.

There is likely to be a great increase of work after the War, and although they could not do such
such heavy work as tree cutting many openings will be
available for disabled men, specially tuberculous men.
It is possible that the Commissioners of Woods and
Forests might arrange a training course at the College
of Forestry in the Forest of Dean or elsewhere.

3. Horticulture.

It was considered that a limited number of
men might usefully be trained as gardeners in counties
which are merely residential, e.g. Surrey, Berkshire
and Hertfordshire. They should have a year's training,
and this would best be given by private firms.

Generally, the conclusions arrived at may be summarized
as follows:

1. Training should be concentrated on preparing
men for employment with market gardeners, fruit growers,
and growers of vegetables under glass.

2. Training should be given on the land and by
private firms and not in Institutions of any kind.

3. The men should be trained with the idea of
commencing as employees and not as proprietors.

Mr. Berry undertook to forward a list of the
large organisations of fruit growers with whom it is
proposed to communicate.

1. Sanction has been given to a scheme submitted by the Joint Advisory Committee for Leinster and Connaught for Training disabled men as Waiters, Pantry-men and Carvers at the Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin. A course of 12 lessons is to be given by the Head Waiter who is to receive a fee of 1/- per man per lesson for a class not exceeding 6 in number, together with an additional 1/- for each man on the completion of the course. The Committee propose that this course should be followed by a further period of training in various Hotels in Dublin. They have been requested to make definite arrangements with the proprietors of the Hotels in which this course is to be provided, as to the amount of wages to be paid to the men during training, and pending the receipt of further information on this point sanction has been withheld from this part of the scheme.

2. The Bradford Local Committee have submitted a scheme for training disabled men in various processes at the Technical School and School of Art. As the scheme does not provide for the utilisation of many of the facilities for training which the Joint Advisory Committee for Yorkshire have stated to be available in Bradford the Local Committee have been recommended to revise their proposals with a view to securing both the fullest possible use of these facilities for
for the whole of the Joint areas and also concentration on those subjects in which they can offer specially efficient training.

3. Sanction has now been given to the scheme of the Kent Local Committee for training men in Brushmaking at Messrs. Couchman's works. The scheme, as amended, provides that Messrs. Couchman "undertake to pay the men at the end of the period of training, a sum not less than the rate of wages agreed upon between the National Society of Brushmakers and the British Brush Manufacturers' Association or the current rates of wages in the district". The firm have also agreed to pay the men a War Bonus of 15% in addition to the piece work rates.
### APPENDIX XI.

**Training. Cases in receipt of allowances during training in Technical Institutions & Factories & Workshops in week ended 22.8.17.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In technical Institutions</th>
<th>In Factories or Workshops</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>under training on 15.8.17</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reported during week as admitted for training</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reported during week as discharged from Training</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number under training on 22.8.17</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number reported who have been or are in receipt of training under arrangements made or sanctioned by Ministry.</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Schedule of Occupations for men reported during week ended 22.8.17 as having begun Training**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Branch of Trade</th>
<th>No. of Men.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Crafts</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cinematograph Work</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Work</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture Trade</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leather Manufacture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Work</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tailoring</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textile Industries</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toy Making</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>47</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note** - Engineering includes allied trades such as Motor repairing, acetylene welding, electrical work, &c.
Appendix XII.

Training.

Cases outside General Schemes sanctioned in week ending August 22nd 1917.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature of Training</th>
<th>Number of cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bootmaking &amp; repairing</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cinema work</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial work</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draughtsmanship</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf-club making</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horticulture</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leather goods Manufacture</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Mechanism &amp; driving</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnets work</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twisting (weaving)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>34</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 36 cases further information has been asked for or modification of the original proposals suggested.
APPENDIX XIII.

WAR PENSIONS &c., STATUTORY COMMITTEE.

REPORT TO THE PENSIONS MINISTER

For week ended 22nd August, 1917.

ORGANIZATION BRANCH.

Extracts from Reports of Inspectors of Accounts.

LANCASTHIRE LOCAL COMMITTEE.

Fleetwood Sub-Committee.

The Inspector examined all case-papers and states that though some of the early ones do not contain full particulars, the grants made appear to be in order. The work generally is done satisfactorily.

Kirkham Sub-Committee.

Four Sub-Committees have been appointed for each district and their recommendations are submitted to the Central Committee. Supervision is good but the officials are not yet fully acquainted with the working of the Regulations.

Shaw and Crompton Sub-Committee.

The Secretary is not fully conversant with the Regulations. Of cases examined the great majority are in order but two or three were found to be contrary to the Regulations and will cease.

CARLISLE LOCAL COMMITTEE.

The accounts of this Local Committee are not entirely satisfactory. Effort has apparently been made to do the work very economically but efficiency has been sacrificed in the endeavour.

The Secretary of the Committee is not impressed with the worthiness of such of his townsmen as have presented themselves before him for assistance, and in his opinion none of them are deserving of help beyond what they have already received. This generalization is not very helpful to the carrying out of the provisions of the Regulations.

BLACKPOOL LOCAL COMMITTEE.

Disabled men are numerous, especially many of these without fixed homes, who often come to Blackpool on discharge. Good attention is being given to these cases and some men have already been sent for training under the Scheme of the Lancashire Joint Committee.

The officials are careful to follow the Regulations and are well backed up by their Sub-Committees.
The Inspector again visited this Committee on August 8th in order to test the inner working of the organization. No case records have yet been set up in connection with disabled men but arrears in this respect will now be made good.

The Inspector reports one case where the Committee, in spite of the Secretary's ruling, decided the continuation of a payment. On reference to the Statutory Committee this was decided against them but in spite of this, the Committee decided on continuing the grant. The matter is being taken up by the Statutory Committee. There is a possibility of this Committee getting out of hand and they have to be checked firmly.

ESSEX LOCAL COMMITTEE.

The Secretaries of the Districts made it quite clear that they had neither the time nor inclination for routine work and complaints were constantly received regarding the Regulations and the continuous changes connected with them. There have been a considerable number of cases of infringement of the Regulations throughout this County, generally made through a lack of knowledge of the Regulations.

Disabled sailors and soldiers do not appear to receive the attention they should.

BIRMINGHAM LOCAL COMMITTEE.

The Ministry are already acquainted with the decision of this Committee on the subject of Inquiry Officers. The Inspector thinks that in practice it will be found that the objections are unfounded. There are apparently two rival Societies of disabled discharged soldiers, each claiming to be the original. They are causing the Local Committee no trouble and doubtless will be of assistance when they have adjusted their differences.

The Committee expressed a hope that no considerable revision of the Statutory Committee Regulations Part II would be made by the new Special Grants Committee, as it would have a most upsetting effect on the workers. It is stated that the Regulations were now working satisfactorily but that some small revision might be advisable.

Regarding the Military Service (Civil Liabilities) Committee, the Local Committee, in common with a good many other Local Committees is thoroughly dissatisfied with the work of the Civil Liabilities Committee. No definite set of principles defining the manner in which grants are made appears to exist, and there is almost entire lack of co-ordination for which the Civil Liabilities Committee are responsible. The Local Committee urged that the work should be transferred to it and state that there is no real investigation of statements made by applicants and that grants appear to be made or withheld capriciously. The Inspector adds that from considerable experience of the work of Civil Liabilities Committee, he concurs.

The Local Committee are emphatic that the functions of Medical Referees should not be executive, but purely advisory and that the responsibility for treatment should remain solely with the Local Committee.
Swansea Local Committee.

There is no doubt that money is being spent in Swansea with a lavish hand. The fact that there is no military hospital at Swansea is an excuse for granting assistance to men under Regulation II (c) Part II of the Regulations, and if a man is in receipt of a small pension and cannot get light employment, the amount is made up. Only three or four men are being trained, the Committee are waiting for the combination scheme. There is certainly evidence of sympathy with the disablement movement but this is revealed more in the manner in which they are spending money than by following the man up and showing control as well as sympathy. There are signs of weakness in this Committee in connection with Disabled Soldiers' Association.

Extracts from General Reports of Inspectors on their Area.

East and West Ridings of Yorkshire.

The Inspector states he has now completed six months work in the above area and can truthfully say that the Local committees are whole-heartedly carrying out their work in the face of serious difficulties caused by the depletion of the Staffs.

The West Riding Local Committee have established 480 Sub-Committees, each Urban and Rural Council and seven Boroughs being represented. About 60 of these Sub-Committees are making no payments and 40 are paying out less than £1 a week. In some of the smaller Local Committees and especially the Sub-Committees of the West Riding, difficulty has been found in getting members to appreciate the importance of observing the Regulations. In a few instances, Regulations have been deliberately ignored.

The extension of Regulation 7 (1) (d) to dependants other than wives has given universal satisfaction among the Local Committees.

Reporting on disabled men, the Inspector says that he can generally state that these cases get every attention. There is difficulty in persuading men to consider training, most particularly in the Colliery districts, but the class of men now being discharged is superior to the previous class and much more willing to consider both training and treatment. The new Allowances to a wife while her husband is away undergoing training or treatment are being greatly appreciated.

The Local Committees have been performing invaluable work and are getting every day to be more appreciated in their areas. Over 50% of a Committee's work consists in giving advice and corresponding with Paymasters and helping generally, quite apart from dealing with applications for grants or other allowances. All Committees are, however, agreed on one point, they will not refuse an application for help made by a widow or dependant of a deceased soldier where Separation Allowance has ceased and pension is being drawn.
Reporting on the Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Essex, Leicestershire, Isle of Ely and Rutland district the Inspector states the difficulties of the train service in covering this large area has made visits to Local Committees exceedingly difficult. He has found in practically every case and especially where good branches of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association and the Soldiers' and Sailors' Help Society had been at work in the earlier days that the Regulations were being well carried out. In two or three Local Committees there was rather a disorganised condition at first but with growing experience the officials have improved both themselves and their work very considerably, and generally speaking the work in this area is now reported to be on a fairly high level and is being carried out with enthusiasm.

There has never been any complaint of neglect against any Committee or Sub-Committee, nor has the Inspector seen any adverse reference made to any of them in the local press. On several occasions Labour Representatives have told him that they are most pleased with the way in which the cases are considered by the respective Local Committees they happen to come before.

PENSIONS BRANCH.

Of the individual cases considered during the week there is none which calls for special comment.

FINANCE.

| Amount advanced to Local Committees. | £8,285 0 0 |
| Other Expenditure, Salaries & Wages. | £69,199 6 9 |
| Grants - Special medical | £25 0 0 |
| Educational | £33 6 4 |
| | £528 6 1 |
| | £8,813 6 1 |

OFFICERS' SUB-COMMITTEE.

Nothing special to report.

EDUCATION BRANCH.

Nothing special to report.

TOTAL NUMBER OF STAFF.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>109</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

23rd August, 1917.
APPENDIX XIV.

AT THE COURT AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE,

The 22nd day of August, 1917.

PRESENT,

THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY IN COUNCIL.

WHEREAS, by virtue of the provisions of the Naval and Military War Pensions, &c. (Transfer of Powers) Act, 1917, the Statutory Committee in the said Act mentioned is to be dissolved, and certain other provisions in the said Act contained are to take effect, as from such date as may be fixed by His Majesty by Order in Council:

NOW, THEREFORE, His Majesty is pleased, by and with the advice of His Privy Council, by virtue of the power in that behalf vested in Him by the said Act, to fix the first day of September, nineteen hundred and seventeen, as the date as from which the said Statutory Committee shall be dissolved and as from which the said other provisions in the said Act contained shall take effect, and to order that the said Act shall have effect accordingly.

ALMERIC FITZROY.

Printed under the Authority of His Majesty's Stationery Office
By Darling & Son, Ltd., Bacon Street, E.2.

1917.
Dissolution of Statutory Committee.

WAR PENSIONS, &C., STATUTORY COMMITTEE,
22, ABINGDON STREET,
WESTMINSTER, S.W. 1,
24th August, 1917.

SIR,

I am directed by the War Pensions, &c., Statutory Committee to advert to the Naval and Military War Pensions, &c. (Transfer of Powers) Act, 1917, which received the Royal Assent on the 21st instant.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS OF STATUTORY COMMITTEE.

Section 1 of the Act directs that as from a date to be fixed by His Majesty by Order in Council (referred to as the appointed day) the Statutory Committee shall be dissolved, and all their powers, duties and functions shall be transferred to the Minister of Pensions, except such as are by the Act transferred to the committee to be constituted under it, or as are conferred on the Statutory Committee by the provisions which it repeals. These provisions are mentioned in the Schedule to the Act, and for present purposes it is sufficient to specify paragraph (i) of sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Naval and Military War Pensions, &c., Act, 1915, and sub-sections (3), (4), (5), and (7) of that section.

The enactments relating to the powers, duties and functions of the Statutory Committee will apply accordingly. This is subject to certain modifications, and hence (1) references to separation allowances payable out of public funds are to be construed as references to separation allowances payable out of money voted by Parliament for navy and army services, and (2) references to funds at the disposal of the Statutory Committee are to be construed as references to moneys provided by Parliament for the purposes of the Ministry of Pensions.

The functions of the Statutory Committee transferred to the committee to be constituted under the new Act are those specified in paragraphs (a), (b), (g), and (h) of section 3 (1) of the Act of 1915. Moreover, any questions which may arise with respect to the amount of any grant or allowance to be made under paragraph (c), (d), (e) or (k) of section 3 (1) are to be determined by the committee.

The property belonging to the Statutory Committee, except so far as it is derived from or represents money provided by Parliament, will be transferred to the Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation, to be applied by them for the purposes for which it was applicable by the Committee.

APPOINTED DAY.

The day appointed as the date as from which the Statutory Committee will be dissolved and as from which the provisions of the Act will take effect has been fixed for Saturday, the 1st of September next.

CONTINUANCE OF EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS.

The Act provides that nothing shall affect any schemes, regulations, orders or grants made by the Statutory Committee. Such schemes, regulations and orders will, until altered or revoked by the Minister of Pensions or by the Special Grants Committee with the approval of the Minister, as the case may require, will continue in force. References in them to the Statutory Committee are to be construed as references to the Minister or to the Special Grants Committee accordingly, Section 5 (3).

The system of monthly advances to Local Committees for the purpose of enabling them to make payments under Part II. of the Regulations of the Statutory Committee will remain as at present, but all applications for such advances must on and after the 1st September be made to the Minister of Pensions and the Quarterly Statements must be rendered to him. Under arrangements which have been effected with the approval of the Treasury, it will not be necessary for Local Committees to make up statements of receipts and expenditure to the appointed day, but all moneys advanced by the Statutory Committee must be accounted for.
to the Minister of Pensions. In fact, the existing arrangements will continue, except that on and after the 1st of September the Minister will be substituted for the Statutory Committee. All communications which would have been sent to the Statutory Committee should on and after that day be addressed to the Secretary, Ministry of Pensions, Westminster House, Millbank, S.W. 1

CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS.

The Statutory Committee in thus intimating the approaching termination of their labours are desirous of expressing their warm appreciation of the services which Local Committees and their Officers have rendered, and their cordial thanks to them. Especially they desire to thank those who have given assistance in connection with the work, whether as Voluntary Helpers or as Honorary Auditors, and they would ask the Local Committee to be good enough to convey to all such persons in their district this expression of their thanks.

They have no doubt that the Minister of Pensions will receive from the Local Committees and from all concerned the same loyal help which has been so freely given to the Statutory Committee.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

E. A. STANTON, Lieut.-Colonel,

Secretary.

The Secretary or Clerk to the
War Pensions, &c., Local Committee.
List No. 1.

MINISTRY OF PENSIONS.

1ST OF JOINT COMMITTEES FORMED UNDER SECTION 2 (8)
OF THE NAVAL AND MILITARY WAR PENSIONS ACT, 1915.

Area and Local Committees comprised in the Area.

**Northern Area—**

Cumberland, Carlisle, Whitehaven, Workington.

Durham, Darlington, Gateshead, South Shields, Stockton-on-Tees, Sunderland, W. Hartlepool.

Northumberland, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Tynemouth, Wallsend.

Representative of the Ministry:

Brig.-Gen. T. Ternan, Union Club, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

**Yorkshire—**


North Riding, Middlesbrough.


Representative of the Ministry:

Sir Robert Fox, Pearl Chambers, East Parade, Leeds.

**N.W. Area—**


Westmorland.

Representative of the Ministry:

The Hon. E. Cozens-Hardy, The Hollies, Woolton, Liverpool.

**Cheshire—**

Cheshire, Birkenhead, Chester, Crewe, Dukinfield, Hyde, Macclesfield, Stalybridge, Stockport, Wallasey.

Representative of the Ministry:

The Hon. E. Cozens-Hardy, The Hollies, Woolton, Liverpool.

**East Midlands—**

Derbyshire, Derby, Glossop.

Leicestershire, Leicester.

Lincolnshire (Parts of Holland, Parts of Kesteven, Parts of Lindsey), Grimsby, Lincoln.

Northamptonshire, Northampton.

Ske of Peterborough.

Nottinghamshire, Nottingham.

Rutland.

Area and Local Committees comprised in the Area.

V. West Midlands—

Herefordshire.
Shropshire.
Staffordshire, Burton-on-Trent, Smethwick, Stoke-on-Trent, Walsall, Wednesbury, West Bromwich, Wolverhampton.
Warwickshire, Birmingham, Coventry, Nuneaton.
Worcestershire, Dudley, Worcester.

VI. South Midlands—

Bedfordshire, Bedford, Luton.
Hertfordshire, Watford.
Huntingdonshire.

VII. East Anglia—

Cambridgeshire, Cambridge, Isle of Ely.
Norfolk, Great Yarmouth, King's Lynn, Norwich.
Suffolk (East and West), Ipswich, Lowestoft.

VIII. Home Counties (North)—

Essex, Barking, Colchester, East Ham, Ilford, Leyton, Southend-on-Sea, Walthamstow, West Ham.

IX. Home Counties (South)—

Kent, Canterbury, Gillingham.
Surrey, Croydon, Wimbledon.
Sussex (East and West), Brighton, Eastbourne, Hastings.

X. Southern Area (Central)—

Berkshire, Reading.
Buckinghamshire.
Hampshire, Bournemouth, Portsmouth, Southampton.
Isle of Wight.
Oxfordshire, Oxford.

XI. S.W. Area—

Cornwall.
Devon, Exeter, Plymouth.
Dorset.
Gloucestershire, Bristol, Cheltenham, Gloucester.
Somerset, Bath.
Wiltshire, Swindon.

Representative of the Ministry.

V. West Midlands—

B. Plummer, 17, New Street, Leicester.

VI. South Midlands—

E. A. Barnard, 9, Petty Jury Chambers, Cambridge.

VII. East Anglia—

E. A. Barnard, 9, Petty Jury Chambers, Cambridge.

VIII. Home Counties (North)—


IX. Home Counties (South)—

Capt. H. H. C. Baird, 12, Arundel Road, Kemp Town, Brighton.

X. Southern Area (Central)—

Capt. Knight, Tudor House, Farnborough Park, Hants.

XI. S.W. Area—

J. Radcliffe, 8, The Close, Exeter.
### WALES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Representative of the Ministry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>XII. North Wales—</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anglesey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carnarvon</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Denbigh</td>
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<td>Flint</td>
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<td>Merioneth</td>
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<td>Montgomery</td>
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<tr>
<td>XII. South Wales—</td>
<td>R. E Westaway,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brecknock</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cardigan</td>
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<td>Carmarthen</td>
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<td>Glamorgan,</td>
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<td>Aberdeen, Barry,</td>
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<td>Caerphilly</td>
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<td>Cardiff, Gelligaer,</td>
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<td>Merthyr Tydfil,</td>
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<td>Mountain Ash,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ogmore and Garw,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pontypridd,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rhondda, Swansea.</td>
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<td>Monmouthshire,</td>
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<td>Pembroke</td>
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<td>Radnor</td>
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### SCOTLAND

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>XIV. North Scotland—</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Aberdeenshire,</td>
<td>C. Michie,</td>
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<td>Elgin</td>
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<td>Inverness-shire,</td>
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<td>Inverness</td>
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<td>Kincardine</td>
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<td>Nairn</td>
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<td>Orkney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ross and Cromarty.</td>
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<td>Shetland</td>
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<td>Sutherland</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>XV. Central Scotland—</td>
<td>Lady Baxter,</td>
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<td>Fifeishire</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forfarshire,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dundee,</td>
<td>Invergylethy,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perthshire,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perth,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Representative of the Ministry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>XVI. South-East Scotland—</td>
<td>Sir John Cowan, D.L.,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berwick</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haddington</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinross</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linlithgow</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midlothian,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edinburgh,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leith</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peebles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roxburgh,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawick</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selkirk</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirkcaldy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The allocation of some of the Scottish Committees is not finally determined.
Area and Local Committees comprised in the Area.

XVII. South-West Scotland—

Argyll.
Ayr.
Bute.
Clackmannan.
Dumbarton.
Dumfries.
Kirkcudbright.
Lanark, Glasgow.
Renfrewshire, Greenock, Paisley.
Stirling.
Wigtown.

IRELAND.

XVIII. North Ireland—

Co. Antrim, Belfast.
Co. Armagh, Lurgan, Portadown.
Co. Cavan.
Co. Down.
Co. Fermanagh.
Co. Londonderry, Londonderry.
Co. Monaghan.
Co. Tyrone.

XIX. Ireland—Midland—

Co. Carlow.
Co. Dublin, Dublin.
Co. Galway.
Co. Kildare.
Co. Kilkenny.
King's County.
Co. Leitrim.
Co. Louth.
Co. Meath.
Queen's County.
Co. Roscommon.
Co. Sligo.
Co. Westmeath.
Co. Wexford.
Co. Wicklow.

XX. Ireland—Southern—

Co. Clare.
Co. Cork, Cork.
Co. Kerry.
Co. Limerick, Limerick.
Co. Tipperary, (North Riding).
Co. Waterford, Waterford.

Representative of the Ministry.

A. G. Robin,
c/o Local War Pensions Committee,
City Chambers, Glasgow.

H. G. Stevenson,
29, Wellington Place, Belfast.

C. A. Pim,
42, York Street, Dublin.

Capt. R. W. Cooper,
City Hall, Cork.
JOINT COMMITTEES.
Appointment of Representatives of the Ministry.

Sir,

I am directed by the Minister of Pensions to forward, for your information, the accompanying List of the Joint Committees which have been formed under Section 2 (8) of the Naval and Military War Pensions, &c., Act, 1915, together with the names and addresses of the persons who have been appointed to represent the Ministry in the respective areas.

Although these representatives have been appointed in the first instance in connection with the Joint Committees, Mr. Hodge takes the view that it is of the highest importance that they should be in close relations also with each Local Committee in their respective areas. It is hoped, therefore, that each Local Committee will extend to the Representative of the Ministry for its area an invitation to attend the meetings of the Local Committee and of the Disablement Sub-Committee, and that facilities will also be given for his attendance, when possible, at District and Sub-Committee Meetings. It will be understood that the Representative will not be able to attend all such meetings, but Committees will no doubt bring to his special notice any at which important points are likely to be discussed.

[P.T.O.]
The Representative of the Ministry will, as stated in this Office Circular No. 2 of the 19th May, 1917, be an Inspector in matters of Treatment and Training for the area of the Joint Committee to which he is appointed. Apart from this he will carry out the duties of advice and assistance which have hitherto fallen to the General Inspectors of the Statutory Committee who have ceased to exist under that title. The duties of the Inspector of Accounts will remain as heretofore but will be exercised over areas corresponding to those of Joint Committees, and in some instances will be carried out by the Representative of the Ministry.

It is not intended that Local Committees or Joint Committees should be restricted in any way as to direct correspondence with the Ministry, but it will be found in practice that there are many matters which can be more expeditiously settled by reference to the local Representative who has first-hand knowledge of local conditions and is at the same time in constant touch with the Ministry.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

 Secretary.

The Secretary,

Local War Pensions Committee,
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Officers</th>
<th>Men and Nurses</th>
<th>Widows</th>
<th>Children</th>
<th>Dependants</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Officers</th>
<th>Men and Nurses</th>
<th>Widows</th>
<th>Children</th>
<th>Dependants</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total from 15/2/17 to 27/6/17</td>
<td>45,772</td>
<td>23,444</td>
<td>91,014</td>
<td>27,249</td>
<td>187,479</td>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>187,479</td>
<td>23,444</td>
<td>91,014</td>
<td>27,249</td>
<td>187,479</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From beginning of war up to</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>From</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/7/17</td>
<td>3,303</td>
<td>23,444</td>
<td>91,014</td>
<td>27,249</td>
<td>187,479</td>
<td></td>
<td>4/7/17</td>
<td>87,504</td>
<td>377,622</td>
<td>50,449</td>
<td>711,270</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/7/17</td>
<td>3,507</td>
<td>23,444</td>
<td>91,014</td>
<td>27,249</td>
<td>187,479</td>
<td></td>
<td>11/7/17</td>
<td>88,485</td>
<td>383,065</td>
<td>60,016</td>
<td>533,566</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18/7/17</td>
<td>3,617</td>
<td>23,444</td>
<td>91,014</td>
<td>27,249</td>
<td>187,479</td>
<td></td>
<td>18/7/17</td>
<td>89,306</td>
<td>386,946</td>
<td>63,512</td>
<td>539,764</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25/7/17</td>
<td>3,671</td>
<td>23,444</td>
<td>91,014</td>
<td>27,249</td>
<td>187,479</td>
<td></td>
<td>25/7/17</td>
<td>89,306</td>
<td>386,946</td>
<td>63,512</td>
<td>539,764</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/8/17</td>
<td>3,015</td>
<td>23,444</td>
<td>91,014</td>
<td>27,249</td>
<td>187,479</td>
<td></td>
<td>1/8/17</td>
<td>90,500</td>
<td>395,880</td>
<td>68,269</td>
<td>554,649</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/8/17</td>
<td>2,701</td>
<td>23,444</td>
<td>91,014</td>
<td>27,249</td>
<td>187,479</td>
<td></td>
<td>8/8/17</td>
<td>91,055</td>
<td>399,342</td>
<td>70,339</td>
<td>560,733</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15/8/17</td>
<td>3,197</td>
<td>23,444</td>
<td>91,014</td>
<td>27,249</td>
<td>187,479</td>
<td></td>
<td>15/8/17</td>
<td>91,505</td>
<td>403,268</td>
<td>72,796</td>
<td>773,262</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22/8/17</td>
<td>3,365</td>
<td>23,444</td>
<td>91,014</td>
<td>27,249</td>
<td>187,479</td>
<td></td>
<td>22/8/17</td>
<td>92,323</td>
<td>407,616</td>
<td>75,347</td>
<td>785,244</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TABLE II.
SUMMARY OF AWARDS
OF
SUPPLEMENTARY PENSIONS & SPECIAL ALLOWANCES
BY THE
WAR PENSIONS ETC. STATUTORY COMMITTEE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Persons to, and on account of whom Pensions and Allowances granted</th>
<th>Week ending 22nd August</th>
<th>Total to 22nd August</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disabled officers</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officers' Widows</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; Dependants</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Education grants in respect of officers</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabled Soldiers &amp; Sailors</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soldiers &amp; Sailors Widows</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; &quot; Dependants</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>4354</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### TABLE III.

**STAFF OF MINISTRY OF PENSIONS.**

22nd. August, 1917.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Branch</th>
<th>Men.</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensions to Officers</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensions to Seamen</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensions to Soldiers</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>1522</td>
<td>1597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensions to Widows</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of Dependants</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>668</td>
<td>696</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Pensions Issue   | 24   | 1480  | 1504   |

| Total            | 181  | 3809  | 3990   |

The Staff of Treatment and Training Sections (5 men and 18 women) who are still borne on the Establishment of the War Pensions Statutory Committee are not included in above figures.

* Includes 110 Holiday Workers.

+ Includes 10 on Military Service not included since their transfer to Ministry.
Operations.

From:- Brig. General Delme Radcliffe.
To:- C.I.G.S.

26th August, 1917.
Handed in 5 a.m.


To-night situation at 10 p.m. is as follows:-

2nd Army. 27th Army Corps has 2 divisions on Lom Plateau. On the ridge between Kal and Veil Vrh enemy is still holding a slight line of defence which will be attacked when sufficient artillery has been brought up. Front of 14th Corps now extends from Korenj, north of Point 981, to north of Volnik (Point 855). On wooded ridge west of Chiapovano Valley down to Lokvec enemy has still some detachments. Front 24th Corps extends from Volnik to Podlaka (Point 873). At Volnik this afternoon some enemy detachments with machine-guns were making some resistance. 2nd and 6th Army Corps are now on the line Points 873 - 756 - 864 - 857 - Ravnice and it is expected that to-night Monte San Gabriele will be completely surrounded. Italian troops in some places have been able to march across the plateau in columns and deployed. By tomorrow General Capello expects to hold left side of whole Chiapovano Valley as well as to have some troops moving south-east towards Ternova. 19th division of the 27th Corps is facing St. Lucia and 64th division facing St. Maria. Tolmino bridgehead will be attacked when sufficient artillery and troops are in position on the Lom Plateau. At Grapa, south-east of Tolmino, on the railway, a large ammunition depot was exploded yesterday by Italian aeroplanes, and photographs, which I have seen to-day, show that apparently 400 yards of railway, many huts, and the ammunition depot have disappeared completely. Thus all communication by rail with Tolmino is for the present out. Two or three thousand more prisoners were taken to-day on the Bainsizza and 2nd Army Corps alone took about 50 guns, including two 12 inch howitzers and their tractors. Total captures not yet known. Attack on St. Marco not yet taken place, but Capello says he will turn 500 guns on the San Marco as soon as he has dealt with St. Gabriele and San (one group undecipherable). There is no information of further reinforcements for the Austrian forces but there was some indication of order being re-established in their retirement and of an intention to take up a defensive position on the eastern edge of the Chiapovano Valley and to cover Ternova. As regards losses 50th division has had probably medium losses and 1st division light, 21st division is practically destroyed, 106th division practically destroyed, 24th division probably lost half its strength, 73rd division has had some losses in two days fighting and is worn out by this and its rapid march in the great heat from the south of the Carso, 43rd division has lost heavily, while 57th, 58th and 40th divisions can so far have had only slight loss. Demoralization of Austrian troops is, however, pretty complete and it is shown by telephone messages intercepted that the troops occupying the
the defences about Tolmino are in a very nervous state. A Cavalry Brigade is now on the Bainsizza Plateau and a division has been sent to Farra, north-east of Gradisca. Italian synthetic phosgene gas shells have had deadly effect and a great many corpses of men and animals killed by this means have been found.

3rd Army. On this front nothing to report, except that the relief of the brigade is proceeding with alacrity. About 200 prisoners were brought in to-day and there is reason to believe Austrian command is under impression that the Italian attack on Carso was nothing but a large demonstration and will not be repeated. It has in consequence put in all its reserves. As far as men are concerned, therefore, the Italian 3rd Army should meet much less resistance when it next attacks. It was claimed by French artillery that Opecina railway station and junction had been completely destroyed by the long range fire of their 340 millimetre guns near Monfalcone. This would have been important as interrupting the railway at a critical moment, but to-day I was shown by the General Staff of the 3rd Army some splendid photographs by the French aviators and can find no traces of the line being damaged.

Total casualties British artillery since the beginning of offensive: 7 killed, 5 wounded; since the batteries came to Italy: 17 killed, 53 wounded in all. All is going well with the British batteries and the ammunition is arriving well.
SECRET.

OPERATIONS.

From: - Caucasus Military Agent. 25.8.17.
To: - G.O.C., Mesopotamia. 12.50 p.m.

T.B. 4G.

Translation of your telegram No. 3321, August 23rd was formally handed to General Prjevalski, who read it and thoroughly agreed with your views, but directed me to send you the following reply to your telegram No. 3275 of August 19th, which he had already prepared.

Begins:-

(1) I am exceedingly glad that I and my troops have been ordered, in co-operation with your troops, to assume the offensive in the direction of Mosul.

(2) General Prince Vadbolski will command the main force detailed for this offensive, which will be able to commence the offensive not earlier than the end of October (about October 31st). The commencement of the offensive depends on the preparation of the rear which cannot be completed at an earlier date. Winter conditions in the mountains have been well considered.

(3) I consider that the advance to the Dialha of the force detailed for transfer to your command would be premature at present, since, before operations began, the force would melt away, owing to the trying climatic conditions of summer in the Dialha area. The advance of this force cannot commence earlier than the middle of October (about October 15th).

General Prjevalski. Ends.

Addressed: G.O.C., Mesopotamia, repeated D.M.I. and C-in-C., India.
1. The report to the Cabinet of the 12th May stated that the Admiralty had expressed their unwillingness to accept the arrangements proposed by the Ministry of Munitions by which that Ministry should be the source of the supply of aerial bombs to the two Services, the Admiralty being of opinion that all explosives for conveying in H.M. ships should be supplied by them.

There are obvious disadvantages in a system by which bombs intended for the same purpose, and in many cases of the same pattern, are supplied through separate Departments which may act competitively on the market. A fresh proposal has now been made by the Air Board for the constitution of a committee representing the Director of Naval Ordnance, the Director General of Munitions Design, the French Warfare Department of the Ministry of Munitions and the Air Board, to settle all questions relative to the design, inspection and supply of these bombs and it is hoped that this may prove acceptable to the various departments concerned.

2. The question of the type of aeroplane to be used for artillery reconnaissance in 1918 has been the subject of repeated consideration by the Board. The machine known as the R.E.8 which was adopted last year, to replace the well known and much abused B.E. type, has not proved altogether satisfactory. Though faster than the B.E. and better able to defend itself, it is not an easy machine to fly and has levied a considerable toll of life, particularly among pilots in course of training. It had been hoped at one time that no change in this machine would be necessary until after the summer of next year, as the conversion of the very large number of artillery machines in service to a fresh type is a formidable undertaking. Moreover, the substitution of the Bristol Fighter for the R.E.8, which is the substitution proposed, involves the appropriation to this service of some 1400 Hispano Suiza engines of 200 h.p. in place of an equivalent number of R.A.E. engines of 140 h.p. Other employment perhaps, in connection with training, would have to be found for the latter.

After full consideration, the Board have decided that the retention of the R.E.8, when a more satisfactory machine can be provided in its place, would not be justified and the substitution of the Bristol Fighter will begin next February and will be carried out from then onwards.

3. Deliveries of engines and aircraft have been as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total for the week ending August 18th</th>
<th>Engines</th>
<th>Aero-planes</th>
<th>Sea-planes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>242</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; next month to date</td>
<td>637</td>
<td>561</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; July 1917</td>
<td>1201</td>
<td>1128</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; July 1916</td>
<td>431</td>
<td>527</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Including 49 from France.

NOTE. The output for the month of August has been seriously affected by the August holidays.

(Signed) H.P. HARVEY
Secretary to The Air Board
All interest in Russia is now centred on the Moscow Conference. Fortunately the Russian armies are having a breathing space, thanks very largely to Italian successes against Austria and the ever-increasing pressure on the Western front. This is a godsend to Russia at the present moment, as any further military failure would tend to cloud the real issues at stake and produce an atmosphere of such excitement that an open conflict at Moscow would be difficult to avoid.

The present Moscow Conference is a very different thing to that proposed by Kerenski last month when he was forming his new Government. The original conference was to have been called to unite the nation and give moral support to the Government by calling together all classes. During the last few months, however, the position of the various parties has undergone a change. Last July the prospects of an understanding seemed brighter, and the inclusion of four Cadets in the Ministry was welcomed as a good omen. Unfortunately the Central Committee of the Cadet party has not acted in the spirit of the Coalition and has been steadily widening the breach between the bourgeoisie and the Socialists. In the last Report mention was made of the efforts of the Extreme Left of the bourgeoisie to support Kerenski in building a bridge between the various classes by getting together a moderate central block that could keep in touch both with the Cadets and the Socialists. Kerenski was recognised as the only man who was likely to succeed
in so difficult a task, and he has done everything possible to give 
offence to neither side. This is the real explanation of his 
attitude towards the Stockholm Conference. In expressing his 
opinions he has spoken as the Prime Minister of a Coalition Govern-
ment and not as a private individual, but there is little doubt that 
at heart he still remains a Socialist, and if any clash should come 
between the Cadets and Socialists he will in all probability throw 
in his lot with the latter. Indeed, the controversy about the 
Stockholm Conference has already made this clear. While Cadets 
and Socialists were disputing in their press about the rights and 
wrongs of the Conference, Kerenski rather ostentatiously visited 
the C.W.S.D., where he made a conciliatory speech. It was 
significant that his reception was less cordial than it had been 
hitherto and that Kamenev (a Maximalist) was able to secure a 
hearing for a violent attack on the Government. Kerenski's 
presence was a sign that the Government was not willing to break 
with the C.W.S.D., while Kamenev's speech was a sign that the 
C.W.S.D. were not willing to break with the Maximalists.

The attitude of the C.W.S.D. was evidently due to the action 
of those parties to the Right of the Government who have been 
holding meetings both in public and in private, and have been 
speaking with no uncertain voice as to what they intended to do. 
The best organised party to the Right of the Government is that 
of the Cadets, for the Cadets as a party have not joined Kerenski. 
The Cadets are an extremely well-organised party and contain the 
best known figures in Russian political life. The party is 
chiefly composed of, or at any rate led by, professional men - 
lawyers, professors, doctors, etc. - while in Moscow it has a large 
following amongst the leading business men. Members of the party 
outside the Duma have also done excellent work both in the Zemstvos
and the Town Councils. It was hoped that this party would combine with the Radicals and Moderate Socialists in forming a central block, opposing the extreme elements both to the Right and to the Left. Unfortunately such hopes have not been realised. In justification of the Cadets it must be admitted that they were violently, and often unfairly, attacked by the Socialists in the early stages of the Revolution. This was in large part due to the hostility of the Socialists towards Milyukov and his insistence about Constantinople; but his enormous influence with his party meant that no distinction could be made between his personal opinions and the policy of his party. The original conflict between Milyukov and the Socialists was on questions of foreign policy, but it has now been embittered by internal questions.

The two most burning questions are the land question and the industrial question. Chernov's land programme is considered by nearly all parties to be disastrous. It will undoubtedly secure support amongst large numbers of the peasants, as it means the abolition of private property and the division of the land amongst the peasants. The village commune is to be the nucleus and each peasant is to receive from the commune as much land as he can work himself. The objections to this programme come not only from the landowners and all the parties supporting them, but also from different provinces of Russia where agrarian conditions are different from what they are in central Russia. The latter object to it on the ground that no agrarian project which applies to Russia as a whole can be a success. The country will have to be divided into districts and each district will require a separate project of its own. For example, it is probably correct to say that the hostility of the Cossacks and of the Ukraine to the
Provisional Government is to a large extent due to Chernov's land programme.

Thus the Cadets, who stand to the Right of the Government, can rely on the support both of the landowners and of the industrialists. This means that the Cadets in opposing the Government will be drawn more and more towards the Right and will tend to lose their character as a party with advanced liberal ideas. They have given no outward sign of wishing to restore the Monarchy, though there are several indications that a Monarchist movement has been growing. The Socialist press has written of a paper called Groza (Threat), which has been secretly circulated in the country districts. It is sold at the low price of 2 kopeks and is meant to prepare the peasantry for the return of a Tsar. Another indication is the removal of the late Tsar to Tobolsk, and it is rumoured that there was a definite plot to rescue him from Tsarskoye Selo. It is, of course, impossible to say what support there is for such underground movements, as no responsible political party has declared against the Republic. A recent meeting, however, of the Duma that was presided over by Rodzianko showed that the irritation of the bourgeois parties was rising and that they were gaining in confidence. Haslennikov, formerly a Progressive, and Purishkevich, the well-known member of the Extreme Right, both made violent speeches against all the Councils of Workmen both in the capital and in the provinces. According to the Socialist press Rodzianko and Milyukov, who also spoke, tried to pour oil on the troubled waters, but the Socialist press took alarm, and the growing confidence of the Duma has accentuated the opposition of the Socialists.

Such is the atmosphere in which the Moscow Conference now meets. The main questions are political, and their acuteness is due to
class rivalry. The military question, in which General Kornilov is concerned, is secondary, though, if the bourgeois parties fail to get what they want, they may appeal to the discontented army leaders to attempt a coup d'état. It is impossible to prophesy what will happen during the next few days. Kerenski, in his opening speech, has made the attitude of the Government unmistakeable. His speech means that, if the bourgeois parties attempt a coup d'état, the Government, backed by the Socialists, will fight for it. His references to Finland show that the Government are not neglectful of the vital interests of Russia. It is to be hoped that the differences between Kerenski and Kornilov will not be aggravated by the former's political rivals. Kerenski undoubtedly desires to see the restoration of the fighting powers of the army just as much as Kornilov does, and in the main the two are in agreement. Kerenski's slowness is due to political reasons and his desire to prevent any drastic measures which might provoke bloodshed within the country on a large scale. Kerenski has now shown his hand; the next week will show what sort of reply his political opponents and the army leaders intend to make.

27.8.17.

RAL.
Section 4. The battle of Ocna. The Germans, in order to tie the Roumanians down, developed a simultaneous attack with 5 divisions from the Citus Pass towards Ocna. This was met by the 6th and 7th divisions of the Roumanian Second army. The Roumanians fell back at first and the fighting has been of a give and (one group omitted) character. Casualties have been severe on both sides.

5. Following German divisions engaged.

218th Division defeated by Averescu. At Maracesti the Germans attacked with 217th, 12th Bavarian, 89th, 76th reserve division, 216th and also 62nd Austrian. They then brought up 109th, 115th and the Alpine Corps. Of these the 89th, 76th and 216th have been practically wiped out. All others have had heavy losses. At Ocna they attacked with 7th and 8th Austrian Cavalry divisions, 15th Bavarian Reserve Brigade, 37th Austrian division, 70th Honved and units of 117th and 225th German divisions.

6. Allied casualties.

In Averescu attack 1,200 killed, 2,000 wounded.

In battle Maracesti the 5th and 9th Roumanian divisions lost 6,000. 8th Russian Corps has been reduced from 15,000 to 6,000. 7th Russian Corps now contains only 4,000 bayonets and has been withdrawn from the line.

7. Present situation.

Since August 14th fighting has slackened. The enemy continues to make strong demonstration by Barrages and by surprise infantry attacks by night. There has been no vital change in the (one group omitted) although these efforts have caused
caused considerable casualties. Prezan is now confident that the situation is secure unless the Russians again give way in the north or the Germans bring up several new divisions.

I look upon these operations, especially the battle of Maracesti, as signal and remarkable victory for the Allies. Germans have practically used up 14 divisions without any appreciable gain, and without drawing Russian reserves from the north. This shows that the Roumanians have been well trained by the French, and have put up a fine fight, and have contributed well to the allied cause. Credit must be given also to 7th and 8th Russian Army Corps. I hope this victory will be recognised in England. It must be remembered that the Roumanians were fighting under discouraging conditions: German propagandists have been suggesting a separate peace: the news from Russia was alarming: the civil population was in a state of panic. The Roumanians are peculiarly sensitive: they value the opinion of the British higher than that of other allies, and they look for appreciation from the British nation. I have already suggested messages of encouragement and the award of decorations. I further suggest that the British Press might be given some of the above facts to work up into appreciative articles. I respectively suggest a reference in Parliament. A detailed account of the operations mentioned above will follow by next bag.
SECRET.
Italy of the 17th August 1917
No. 1240.

I forward herewith 3 copies of a map with the positions occupied by the Italian and Austrian Corps and Divisions roughly indicated on it.

The strength of the Italian forces may be summarised as follows:
50 Divisions of infantry, 2,100 guns and howitzers of 4-inch calibre and upwards, 1,600 field guns, 1,700 trench mortars (of which 800 are of 240 mm. type and of these again 300 are of the latest long model with a range of 400 yards).

Amongst the Italian artillery are included 34 French guns and howitzers, manned by French personnel, and 65 British howitzers all of 6-inch calibre, except one experimental weapon of 9.2-inch calibre.

The French artillery is distributed roughly as follows:
24 howitzers of 155 mm. are with the IIInd Army. The remainder, chiefly much heavier guns, is with the IIIrd Army. I understand that the French artillery has been lent for the offensive only and will return to France when it is over.

The British 6-inch howitzers are distributed in three groups of 8, 3 and 5 batteries respectively and are all with the IIIrd Army. The 9.2-inch howitzer, which only arrived today from England, is to go into an already prepared position in the Vallone.

The Italian forces are distributed with the intention of making two principal thrusts, one on the Carso and the other towards the Beineizza plateau.
Between the two lies the Gorizia depression in which the Italian front is held by one Army-Corps only, the VIIIth., with its four divisions. The VIIIth Corps for the purposes of the action, is temporarily transferred from the IIInd to the IIIrd Army.

The Italian heavy artillery is distributed along the whole front in positions corresponding to the tactical intentions and with a view to securing the largest degree of enfilade fire on the enemy's positions.

The Commanders of the two Armies are the same as at the time of the May offensive. The Duke of Aosta and General Cappello have each a force of about 25 divisions at their disposal.

The Austrian forces may be summarised as follows:-

- 256 battalions of infantry, 900 strong on the average, formed into 21 divisions of varying strength.
- The total number of guns of all calibres is about 2,385 and 916 trench-mortars from Tolmino to the sea.
- The Austrian artillery strength has not been materially increased on the Carso, whereas it has been so on the Bainsizza plateau as compared with its strength last May.

But the weakness of the Austrian army is in the matter of its reserves. The total of the March battalions Nos. 29, 30 and 31 was 220 on the whole Italian front and 152 on the Isonzo front at the beginning of August, with an average strength of 500 to 600 men. The whole of the 29th Battalions probably have already been absorbed and some of the 30th Battalions also. There cannot now be more than about 70,000 men of the 30th and 31st Battalions in reserve.

The Austrian losses during the last offensive were not less than 80,000. Consequently if the present offensive inflicts the
same losses on the Austrians, the reserves will have been
exhausted for the time being. Further Italian pressure
would then lead to a capital loss and, in view of the long
front of attack, probably to substantial results.

The Austrians are calling up the men of 17 and 18 years
of age in September. They, of course, would come too late
for service this year. The combing out of ammunition factories
is not likely to increase the field forces in time to be of
any use and there are real grounds for anticipating a
diminution in the ammunition supply.

Compared with the Austrian reserves, the Italian army
has plenty to meet any present calls, but it is stated that
in the future only a few more reserves can be called up. It
appears that the civil Government is resisting strongly
General Cadorna's call for more men.

The Austrian forces have the advantage of position
everywhere as they have complete observation on all the ground
over which the Italian troops must attack. The Italian
objectives on the Carso are, as before, to secure possession
of Monte Hermada which dominates all the Southern part of
the Carso and the Tristlj - Stol ridge, which dominates all
the Northern part and the Gorizia depression. If one or the
other of these points be secured, the positions now held by
the Austrians on the Carso will be to a great extent turned
and the enemy would be forced to retire to lines from which
it will become increasingly difficult to cover Trieste and
the railways which lead to that place and thence, Southwards
to Pola.

The possession of the Bainsizza plateau would similarly
enable the Italians to turn the Austrian positions above and
East of Gorizia and eventually also those on the Carso. General
Cadorna thus hopes, by extending his front of attack so much,
to succeed in forcing the enemy back at one or more of the
important points and then outflank and force his lines at
other parts of the front.
It seems unlikely that the enemy can bring up reserves enough in time to make an effective resistance along the whole front of attack, although it is known that he is already moving troops with feverish haste from the Trentino to the Julian front.

The advance of the Italian IIIrd Army involves frontal attacks on very strongly prepared positions, bristling with machine-guns and covered by a numerous artillery of which the fire can be very easily and quickly directed on to attacking troops, thanks to the complete command of view which the Austrians have all across the Carso.

On the Bainsizza plateau the prospects for the attackers appear more favourable, as there are many places in the tangled mass of hills where there is dead ground and where there is some possibility of manoeuvre. The Italian forces will cross the Isonzo river at a number of points simultaneously. The XXIVth Corps and the XXVIIth Corps have been directed to make good their footing on the plateau and then, pivoting on the right of the XXIVth Corps, to swing South-Eastwards. By threatening the enemy's vital lines of communication up the Chiapovano valley, the advance of the IIInd Corps and eventually of the VIth Corps will be facilitated. Meanwhile the IVth Corps is to hold the enemy engaged North of Tolmine and, when the opportunity offers, to attack Monte Mrzli and the other positions North of Tolmino.

The plan of operations allows of the possibility of the action of several columns from different directions against the various strong points in the defences of the Bainsizza plateau in turn. These defences, moreover, have not been prepared with that lavish construction of trenches and caverns as on the Carso, as the enemy does not appear, up to the present, to have anticipated so strong an offensive from this quarter. His defences, however, are very strong all the same and telephone interceptions show that the officers feel confident of the strength of their positions. These are
well supplied with machine-guns, are provided with a
great deal of cover in the shape of tunnels and caverns
for the troops and are well supported by the now rapidly
increasing artillery on the plateau itself.

Taking all the points into consideration, it
appears probable that more ground will be gained, especially
at first, on the Bainsizza plateau than on the Carso.

An interesting point is that an ingenious system
of dams has been designed and constructed by a young civil
engineer, for the purpose of diverting a large part of the
Isonzo river into the bed of the Natisone river, so that, in
case the Isonzo should be in flood at the moment of the
offensive, the bridges to be made by the troops would not
be endangered. These dams are constructed near Caporetto.
The secret has been well kept and until today it was
supposed by everybody that some sort of railway or road
was being constructed there. The truth seems to have been
unsuspected until hinted at in General Cappello's orders
of tonight in which it is stated that "at the time when
the crossing will be made, it will probably be found that
the water in the Isonzo river will have sensibly diminished",
The calculations aimed at keeping the average depth of water
in the Isonzo at about 80 cm. Although the troops can
wade in some places, it is necessary, all the same, to
construct many bridges and 18 have been prepared to be
thrown across the river between Salcano (near Gorizia) and
Selo, South of Santa Lucia.

The Italian General Staff has taken the greatest
possible care in working out all the preparations for the
action. General Cadorna himself has repeatedly lectured to
the 10 Corps Commanders, who will direct the offensive, with
a view to avoiding some of the mistakes which led to such
heavy losses last May. These were mainly ascribed to the
lack of liaison between the artillery and the infantry, the
insufficiency of cover in the communication trenches by
which the supports and reserves were brought up and the lack
of training of several of the young and inevitably inexperienced officers. An enormous amount of work has been done in the construction of communication trenches 7 feet deep and actual tunnels in the solid rock on the Carso.

The Italian aviation service has been expanded and, for the purposes of the offensive, 30 aeroplanes have been allotted to each Army, while 70 are kept in hand as a reserve under the Comando Supremo.

The flotilla of British and Italian monitors now carries six 12-inch, four 15-inch and twelve guns of about 8-inch calibre. These will co-operate at a selected moment during the attack by bombarding from the sea.

The heavy artillery ammunition at the disposal of General Cadorna is more than was expected, as, by the middle of August the accumulation amounted to $3\frac{1}{2}$ million rounds. Of these, General Cadorna means to put $1\frac{1}{2}$ millions into reserve and use the remaining 2 millions for the offensive. This is about 2$\frac{1}{2}$ times as much as was available during the offensive in May. As the total strength of the Italian troops is also about double what it was then, it would appear that the blow which General Cadorna is now about to deliver should be at least twice as heavy as that of last May.

It is true that the front of attack is $30\%$ longer, but this, in view of the numerical superiority of the Italian forces will be to their advantage, as the enemy will find it difficult to defend so long a line.

As regards the morale of the Italian forces, I cannot help thinking that the spirit of the troops is not quite so high as formerly, nor is the confidence as great as it should be in view of the obvious superiority of strength and the completeness of the preparations. There can be little doubt that the pacifists and pro-Germans in the country have been very busily at work to depress morale and to increase the impatience and war-weariness in the country. This may be reflected in the morale of the Army. It is a slight thing yet, but I think it does exist, although the officers state that as soon
as the troops are got away from the resting positions in rear and go up to the trenches, it disappears.

There have been instances in one or two units of indiscipline and of refusal to obey orders amounting almost to mutiny. At Ferra, on the evening of August 14th., some of the infantry of the Xth Corps shewed their discontent at being ordered up to the trenches again, sooner than they expected, by firing off their rifles and creating a disturbance. General Pettiti, Commanding the Corps, had the ring-leaders shot at once and order was restored. The incident is significant and is not entirely isolated, though it would be a great exaggeration to draw general conclusions as to the discipline of the troops from it. Needless to say that such unsatisfactory behaviour is quite unusual in the great body of the Italian army which, I feel confident, will fight steadily enough.

The publication of the Pope's note to the belligerent powers, on the eve of the great offensive, might have had a very unfortunate effect as it was no doubt intended to do. With the more ignorant men, the representations of the underminers of discipline - that what the Pope says must be true - might carry some weight, especially when it coincides with their own desires. The Duke of Aosta told me tonight that he had endeavoured to prevent the text of the Note and all references to it from reaching the troops by suppressing the newspapers in the zone of the IIrd Army just before the action. It appeared, however, that this step was regarded as ultra vires and had to be cancelled. The Duke was evidently concerned by the effect that might be produced by the Note and has increased his visits and addresses to the troops as much as possible in the last day or two in order to counteract the mischief.

In the IIInd Army it seemed to me, in an undefinable manner, that the spirit is higher and the confidence of the troops is greater. This may be due to the fact that the men
of the IIInd Army feel that they have more chance of manoeuvring and fighting the enemy on equal terms. The desperate frontal slogging attacks on the Carso have been so bloody hitherto that the troops of the IIInd Army may view the prospect with a little less cheerfulness.

There is no doubt, too, that the country (though I believe really quite steady and determined, as a whole, to see the war out) is, at the moment, rather more war-weary than usual, thanks to the tireless efforts of the pro-Germans and pacifists, the absence of a great military success so far and the prospects of insufficient coal for their needs. Consequently the Government is most anxious to obtain a success on a scale large enough to satisfy the people and to keep them quiet during the trying time of the winter, when the operations will all be on a small scale until the spring permits of the resumption of hostilities on a great one.

It is also very desirable that the Italian army should have better and less precarious lines to rest upon during the winter.

For all these reasons the success of the impending operations is of considerable importance, in addition to the predominant necessity for defeating the enemy and getting on with the war.

Looking at the situation as a whole, there appears to be good reason for feeling confident that a very substantial success will be gained. Apart from its numerical inferiority - compensated for though it is by the strength of its defensive positions - the inferior morale of part of the Austrian forces is a source of weakness. There is no room for doubting that most of the troops are very anxious to stop fighting.
The misery in the interior of the country is great and depresses the troops. The Bohemians and some other nationalities are more and more disaffected and may decline outright to fight, while Austrian officers in increasing numbers are showing a disposition to enter into relations with the Italians.

Consequently, in a week's time from now, the situation may show a considerable change.

(Signed) C. DELME RADCLIFFE.

Brigadier-General.

Comando Supremo

Italy.
The Anti-Semitism of the Present Government.

I have chosen the above title for this memorandum, not in any hostile sense, not by any means as quarrelling with an anti-Semitic view which may be held by my colleagues, not with a desire to deny that anti-Semitism can be held by rational men, not even with a view to suggesting that the Government is deliberately anti-Semitic; but I wish to place on record my view that the policy of His Majesty's Government is anti-Semitic in result and will prove a rallying ground for Anti-Semites in every country in the world.

This view is prompted by the receipt yesterday of a correspondence between Lord Rothschild and Mr. Balfour.

Lord Rothschild's letter is dated the 18th July and Mr. Balfour's answer is to be dated August 1917. I fear that my protest comes too late, and it may well be that the Government were practically committed when Lord Rothschild wrote and before I became a member of the Government, for there has obviously been some correspondence or conversation before this letter. But I do feel that as the one Jewish Minister in the Government I may be allowed by my colleagues an opportunity of expressing views which may be peculiar to myself, but which I hold very strongly and which I must ask permission to express when opportunity affords.

I believe most firmly that this war has been a death-blow to Internationalism, and that it has proved an opportunity for a renewal of the slackening sense of Nationality; for it has not only been tacitly agreed by most statesmen in most countries that the redistribution of territory resulting from the war should be more or less on national grounds, but we have learned to realise that our country stands for principles, for aims, for civilisation which no other country stands for in the same degree, and that in the future, whatever may have been the case in the past, we must live and fight in peace and in war for those aims and aspirations, and so equip and regulate our lives and industries as to be ready whenever and if ever we are challenged. To take one instance, the science of Political Economy, which in its purity knows no Nationalism, will hereafter be tempered and viewed in the light of this national need of defence and security.

The war has indeed justified patriotism as the prime motive of political thought.

It is in this atmosphere that the Government proposes to endorse the formation of a new nation with a new home in Palestine. This nation will presumably be formed of Jewish Russians, Jewish Englishmen, Jewish Roumanians, Jewish Bulgarians, and Jewish citizens of all nations—survivors or relations of those who have fought or laid down their lives for the different countries which I have mentioned, at a time when the three years that they have lived through have united their outlook and thought more closely than ever with the countries of which they are citizens.

Zionism has always seemed to me to be a mischievous political creed, untenable by any patriotic citizen of the United Kingdom. If a Jewish Englishman sets his eyes on the Mount of Olives and longs for the day when he will shake British soil from his shoes and go back to agricultural pursuits in Palestine, he has always seemed to me to have acknowledged aims inconsistent with British citizenship and to have admitted that he is unfit for a share in public life in Great Britain, or to be treated as an Englishman. I have always understood that those who indulged in this creed were largely animated by the restrictions upon and refusal of liberty to Jews in Russia. But at the very time when these Jews have been acknowledged as Jewish Russians and given all liberties, it seems to be inconceivable that Zionism should be officially recognised by the British Government, and that Mr. Balfour should be authorised to say that Palestine was to be reconstituted as the "national home of the Jewish people." I do
not know what this involves, but I assume that it means that Mahommedans and Christians are to make way for the Jews, and that the Jews should be put in all positions of preference and should be peculiarly associated with Palestine in the same way that England is with the English or France with the French, that Turks and other Mahommedans in Palestine will be regarded as foreigners, just in the same way as Jews will hereafter be treated as foreigners in every country but Palestine. Perhaps also citizenship must be granted only as a result of a religious test.

I lay down with emphasis four principles:

1. I assert that there is not a Jewish nation. The members of my family, for instance, who have been in this country for generations, have no sort or kind of community of view or of desire with any Jewish family in any other country beyond the fact that they profess to a greater or less degree the same religion. It is no more true to say that a Jewish Englishman and a Jewish Moor are of the same nation than it is to say that a Christian Englishman and a Christian Frenchman are of the same nation: of the same race, perhaps, traced back through the centuries—through centuries of the history of a peculiarly adaptable race. The Prime Minister and M. Briand are, I suppose, related through the ages, one as a Welshman and the other as a Breton, but they certainly do not belong to the same nation.

2. When the Jews are told that Palestine is their national home, every country will immediately desire to get rid of its Jewish citizens, and you will find a population in Palestine driving out its present inhabitants, taking all the best in the country, drawn from all quarters of the globe, speaking every language on the face of the earth, and incapable of communicating with one another except by means of an interpreter. I have always understood that this was the consequence of the building of the Tower of Babel, if ever it was built, and I certainly do not dissent from the view, commonly held, as I have always understood, by the Jews before Zionism was invented, that to bring the Jews back to form a nation in the country from which they were dispersed would require Divine leadership. I have never heard it suggested, even by their most fervent admirers, that either Mr. Balfour or Lord Rothschild would prove to be the Messiah.

I claim that the lives that British Jews have led, that the aims that they have had before them, that the part that they have played in our public life and our public institutions, have entitled them to be regarded, not as British Jews, but as Jewish Britons. I would willingly disfranchise every Zionist. I would be almost tempted to proscribe the Zionist organisation as illegal and against the national interest. But I would ask of a British Government sufficient tolerance to refuse to endorse a conclusion which makes aliens and foreigners by implication, if not at once by law, of all their Jewish fellow-citizens.

3. I deny that Palestine is to-day associated with the Jews or properly to be regarded as a fit place for them to live in. The Ten Commandments were delivered to the Jews on Sinai. It is quite true that Palestine plays a large part in Jewish history, but so it does in modern Mahommedan history, and, after the time of the Jews, surely it plays a larger part than any other country in Christian history. The Temple may have been in Palestine, but so was the Sermon on the Mount and the Crucifixion. I would not deny to Jews in Palestine equal rights to colonisation with those who profess other religions, but a religious test of citizenship seems to me to be only admitted by those who take a bigoted and narrow view of one particular epoch of the history of Palestine, and claim for the Jews a position to which they are not entitled.

If my memory serves me right, there are three times as many Jews in the world as could possibly get into Palestine if you drove out all the population that remains there now. So that only one-third will get back at the most, and what will happen to the remainder?

4. I can easily understand the editors of the Morning Post and of the New Witness being Zionists, and I am not in the least surprised that the non-Jews of England may welcome this policy. I have always recognised
the unpopularity, much greater than some people think, of my community. We have obtained a far greater share of this country's goods and opportunities than we are numerically entitled to. We reach on the whole maturity earlier, and therefore with people of our own age we compete unfairly. Many of us have been exclusive in our friendships and intolerant in our attitude, and I can easily understand that many a non-Jew in England wants to get rid of us. But just as there is no community of thought and mode of life among Christian Englishmen, so there is not among Jewish Englishmen. More and more we are educated in public schools and at the Universities, and take our part in the politics, in the Army, in the Civil Service, of our country. And I am glad to think that the prejudices against inter-marriage are breaking down. But when the Jew has a national home, surely it follows that the impetus to deprive us of the rights of British citizenship must be enormously increased. Palestine will become the world's Ghetto. Why should the Russian give the Jew equal rights? His national home is Palestine. Why does Lord Rothschild attach so much importance to the difference between British and foreign Jews? All Jews will be foreign Jews, inhabitants of the great country of Palestine.

I do not know how the fortunate third will be chosen, but the Jew will have the choice, whatever country he belongs to, whatever country he loves, whatever country he regards himself as an integral part of, between going to live with people who are foreigners to him, but to whom his Christian fellow-countrymen have told him he shall belong, and of remaining as an unwelcome guest in the country that he thought he belonged to.

I am not surprised that the Government should take this step after the formation of a Jewish Regiment, and I am waiting to learn that my brother, who has been wounded in the Naval Division, or my nephew, who is in the Grenadier Guards, will be forced by public opinion or by Army regulations to become an officer in a regiment which will mainly be composed of people who will not understand the only language which he speaks—English. I can well understand that when it was decided, and quite rightly, to force foreign Jews in this country to serve in the Army, it was difficult to put them in British regiments because of the language difficulty, but that was because they were foreigners, and not because they were Jews, and a Foreign Legion would seem to me to have been the right thing to establish. A Jewish Legion makes the position of Jews in other regiments more difficult and forces a nationality upon people who have nothing in common.

I feel that the Government are asked to be the instrument for carrying out the wishes of a Zionist organisation largely run, as my information goes, at any rate in the past, by men of enemy descent or birth, and by this means have dealt a severe blow to the liberties, position and opportunities of service of their Jewish fellow-countrymen.

I would say to Lord Rothschild that the Government will be prepared to do everything in their power to obtain for Jews in Palestine complete liberty of settlement and life on an equality with the inhabitants of that country who profess other religious beliefs. I would ask that the Government should go no further.

E. S. M.

23rd August 1917.
From: General Deane Radcliffe, Italy

To: C.I.G.S.

War Office, 27th, 1917

Handed in 6, 30 P.M.

350, 26th. Situation to-night 10 P.M.

End Army, 27th Corps is meeting with strong opposition from troops which have been brought from Tolmino against completion of its occupation of the heights north and east of Kal. It had occupied in force Lom di Tolmino and Lom di Canale, and will attack heights as soon as sufficient heavy artillery can be brought up, probably tomorrow. Monte Volnik was taken today and 24th Corps is advancing towards Chiappovano and the edge of the valley south of it. North-west of San Gabriele, Veliki Kriv (point 526) has been captured and Italian troops are close round on the north-east side. Italian cavalry have occupied Ravina. Enemy still offering considerable resistance, chiefly with machine-guns on San Gabriele, but extensive fires have been seen all last night and to-day, which are believed to be due to Austrians burning the wood used in their trenches and huts. At several points on plateau towards Tarnova extensive fires were also observed. Heavy artillery is being pushed up to Bainsizza plateau by all available roads with the utmost despatch. Roads are being added to and improved as much as possible, and in addition to resources of army units 5,000 labourers and 10 companies of Engineers have been set to work to increase and improve roads. Orders have been given to carry a branch of the Gerovske Gorizia railway along the right bank of the Isonzo from Luciniop to the south-east end of Sabotino, connecting there with the old railway which is to be put immediately in working order up to near Tolmino as possible.

It has been stated by a captured officer of 22nd Schutzen Regiment that orders for the Austrian troops were to retire to a line from Sverozns Ternova Homen Laza and Kobilik. This line has only very slight defences marked out at present, but is continued further south on a prepared line through San Michele Cassalino Ortav Vagarsko Ravacina to the Tr (one group undecipherable) Stol line. It was stated by the same officer that no reserves are available, that the moral of the troops was bad, and that if strong pressure is applied line indicated cannot be held. Meanwhile there have been left along the western edge of the Chiapovano valley a number of rearguard detachments formed almost entirely by the 43rd Division to delay Italian advance as much as possible. It has been reported by aeroplanes that there is no indication of fresh arrivals of troops by road or train. In both directions between Chiapovano Lokwe and Ternova there is considerable local movement on the roads. There is still uncertainty as to exact position of 10th Division with which contact reported in my telegram 338 August 30th, but it is believed that it is on the east side of Chiapovano valley. A further 35 officers and 1,400 men, all of known units, have been captured. It is stated by prisoners taken on the Vertolbiza that orders were given on August 24th that the heavy artillery was to be withdrawn and the field artillery still left in line.
Pending completion of operations San Gabriele and San Daniele attack on San Marco is delayed. 1st Division cavalry has now also been moved up to join 2nd Division at Farra. Cavalry brigade was engaged during advance across Bainsizza plateau and suffered some loss. As usual Italian aeroplanes have been very active; bombing road centres in Chiapovano valley and railways etc. Only two have been lost since the beginning of the offensive; one was burnt on Monte Sabotino and one brought down in flames in Chiapovano valley. There is no truth in Austrian statement as to Italian aeroplane losses.

3rd Army. Situation unchanged. Relief of brigades in first line completed. Various moves forward of heavy artillery ordered, and immediately after or simultaneously with attack on San Marco the offensive on the Carso will probably recommence. Considerable depression amongst Austrian troops is reported. 30th March battalions are now being absorbed but there is no hint of arrival of further reinforcements. Weather is cooler but still fine. This morning there was heavy rain which was a godsend to the troops on the Bainsizza plateau.
W.A.R. C A B I N E T.

TONNAGE FOR CONVEYANCE OF HORSES TO EGYPT.

(Note by General Smuts with reference to War Cabinet 213, Minute 7, copy of which is reproduced for convenience of reference.)

Savoy Hotel, London, W.C. 2
28th August, 1917.

The question of providing transport for horses for the Egyptian Forces, which was referred to my decision, has been settled between the War Office and Ministry of Shipping. The demands of the Army Authorities will be met to their satisfaction by the Shipping Controller.

(Signed) J. C. SMUTS.

EXTRACT FROM WAR CABINET 213.

7. In reference to War Cabinet 201, Minute 2, Conveyance of and War Cabinet 187, Minute 17, the Secretary of Horses: State for War drew attention to the fact that the small Committee appointed to consider the question of Tonnage for the Conveyance of Horses, had authority to deal with the subject in connection with Mesopotamia only. The question of transporting horses to Egypt had recently become serious, and if the Reference to General Smuts' Committee were extended to include Egypt it would enable this matter to be dealt with.

The War Cabinet decided that -

The question of Tonnage for the Conveyance of Horses to Egypt should be referred to, and settled by, the Conference presided over by General Smuts; its decision to be reported to the War Cabinet.
Employment Exchanges.

The Government is, I think, landed in a real difficulty by the existence of a Minister of National Service, independent of and side by side with a Minister of Labour.

I do not myself believe that a Ministry of Labour will be found to be a permanent part of our organisation and that many of those who wanted it most are already realising that a "class" office of this kind is unsatisfactory. It is a mistake, they would say, to separate the affairs of labour from those of other partners in industry. Why not a Ministry of Employers or of Capital? The Board of Trade separated from labour questions might become more and more representative of purely capitalist views; that it cannot divorce itself entirely from labour interests is shown by its paramount share in the late railway trouble. Finally, a Ministry of Labour depends really for its existence on the assumption that a representative Trades Unionist will be willing to become a member of all future Governments. The real Ministry of the future is, I submit, a Ministry of Industry or Production dealing with employers and employed.

But this does not mean of course that the functions of the present Ministry of Labour should be curtailed. On the contrary, the Ministry I foreshadow will have added functions, and certainly the present Ministry should be developed consistently with this view if its power to deal with all labour questions is to be increased. I find myself in emphatic substantial agreement with the resolution quoted by the new Minister of Labour.

It is, I think, a blot on the organisation of government that when a Ministry of Labour is set up, and even after it has had eight months to find itself, the Admiralty, Ministry of Munitions, and War Office still have their labour departments working independently, and often at cross purposes, just as if a Ministry of Labour did not exist.

As for the Ministry of National Service, I would remind the Cabinet that this Ministry was devised in its present form, that is, for civil as well as military purposes, by General Macready, Sir A. Geddes, Mr. Long, Mr. Henderson, Mr. Chamberlain and myself when no Ministry of Labour existed. The Ministry in its complete form has now come into existence much as we suggested last December, but the territory is now occupied by the Ministry of Labour, and the two departments naturally come into contact about Employment Exchanges, which, originally under the Board of Trade, for a long time more or less part of the Ministry of Munitions, have found a temporary home in the Labour Ministry.

Mr. Roberts' arguments are very strong, and I would supplement them with one other. It is obvious that the Ministry of Labour must be the right office to have a predominant part at least in demobilisation. They cannot make their preparations if they are shorn of the Employment Exchanges. I would also add that the limitation of functions of the Ministry of Labour has already caused hostile critics to suggest that the Government was not in earnest in creating it. Its friends are demanding increased powers for it; the Government will indeed irritate them, and cause jubilation among the critics if it curtails and limits when it is asked to expand.

The right thing to do, I would submit with emphasis, is to put National Service in its proper place as a branch of the Ministry of Labour; then it will have the use of the Employment Exchanges without tearing them from their proper function of common service in order to make them the instrument of a temporary office.

It will then, I hope, be found at the end of the war, if and when a Ministry of Industry or Production is wanted, that the Ministry of Labour has been supplying industry and the army with its man power during the war.

26th August 1917.

E. S. M.
Memorandum on Dr. Wekerle

(The following memorandum on the new Hungarian Premier has been received from a very well-informed source).

Alexander Wekerle, the most elusive of Hungarian statesmen, the "old fox" as he is called in Hungary, has only one counterpart in European politics - the Italian Giolitti. He is unscrupulous and callous, without any prejudice or principle. If called upon he would do the same hard work to assist democracy to victory as he would exert himself to establish autocracy if expected to do so. Long ago he said to the writer of these lines: "Politics is my business. I have to deliver the goods that are ordered from me. I am not dealing in principles but I have to keep the country in order." The only business he takes seriously is economics. An export of European reputation, he will wax enthusiastic about his budget and all matters connected with it. And it is interesting to note that during his repeated tenures of office he always resigned for economical reasons. Yet, it is his very contempt of party politics that makes Wekerle a strong leader of a heterogenous coalition. This he proved during his administration from 1906 to 1909 when he succeeded in combining the 1867 parties with the Independence party. His authority as a financial genius, his imperturbable calmness, his great gift in dilatory and compromising diplomacy are his invaluable assets.

Can Wekerle be expected to master the present situation?

The new Prime Minister has undoubtedly great influence with Count Tisza's Labour Party which, under various other names, he had
led for many years. Still greater is his influence with Count Andrassy's Constitutional Party and the combination of the two would give him a very respectable majority. His plan will doubtless be to combine these parties and to secure himself the assistance of the Clerical People's Party (not very easily). In order to succeed he will have to find the juste milieu between the Eszterházy project of franchise and that of Count Tisza. In this case the Károlyi party and the democratic members of the other parties will form the opposition. In other words a compromise which will considerably dilute the democratic contents of King Charles' new programme but at the same time lessen the weight of the Independent influence. From the dynasty's point of view a more favourable prospect; from the European angle of vision a fact to be deplored, because the power of the Independence party of Count Károlyi, though not strong enough to threaten dynastic interests or to change the policy of the Monarchy, could, if exerted on the Government side, act as a leaven within and be used as a strong deterrent against Germany if the presumptions of that friend became too unbearable.

Wekerle's attitude towards Germany is quite clear. Ever since its establishment he has been the Hungarian President of the "Mittel-europäischer Wirtschaftsverbund". In articles which he published during the war he always pleaded for a commercial treaty with Germany upon the principle of "long duration" (20 years; here he will find both Count Apponyi and Károlyi strong opponents). But he has, in public discussions, declared that scientific and political considerations compelled him to disfavour the economical scheme of "Central Europe". Politically, he has always been a strong partisan of the Alliance with Germany, not so much because of his Wurttemberg origin (his father came from there to Hungary) but because of the Russo-phobia common to most Hungarian politicians of the old school. He
has, however, never taken an intense interest in international politics with the only exception of Serbia during the annexation crisis of 1903-1909 when he was the only Hungarian statesman who repeatedly told me at the time he would never allow Aehrenthal to go to war. In fact, Wekerle it was who delayed the mobilisation being actually carried through and only allowed a notice announcing the possibility of a mobilisation to be published at the moment when Sir Fairfax Cartwright had already agreed with (then) Baron Aehrenthal as to the Belgrade dénouement.

Dr Wekerle will always make a point of being informed of all important documents that reach, or leave, the Vienna Foreign Office but he will rarely pay them much attention. Formerly it was his habit to look at the Ballplatz mail only when stimulated by some important publication in the Press. And he used to excuse this lack of interest by saying: "The literary compositions of our diplomats may be of great artistic value but I am not an art-critic; the less I read of those reports the more I know." He is one of the very few Hungarian statesmen who never quote English political examples; England and France are terrae incognitae to him. For him the interest in any foreign country is limited by its capacity of absorbing Hungarian loans.

Even a very cursory sketch of Dr. Wekerle’s political personality would be incomplete without mentioning his well-established objection to truthfulness, in so far as his own person is concerned. This constitutional habit of Dr. Wekerle was the only subject Francis Joseph I. was ever known to have joked about. One day the Emperor listened to Wekerle’s report with a rather sceptical attention. Suddenly Francis Joseph interrupted his Prime Minister asking: "What’s the date to-day?" "The 17th of April, Sire!" The Emperor looked at the almanach on his desk and said smiling: "Why, Wekerle, it really is
It is characteristic of Vekerle that he is very fond of relating this story always adding in his delightfully cynical way: "I never make a point of saying what is just true. I have no objection to truth as long as it does not hurt my work. But if it does, why, I command my utterings and not my utterings me." Which is another explanation of his success in Hungarian political life.

To conclude: Vekerle is a strong personality and he knows the ropes. His personal charm has kept his popularity alive. The Majority know him to be a good leader with an open hand. Principles do not burden him. He is the only man capable of bringing order in the chaos of Hungarian finances. He has a good sporting chance, if not more, of success.
1. In Paragraph 5 of my Memorandum, G. T. 1791, I expressed the view that the control of Medical Boards in Scotland should be transferred to the Secretary for Scotland (whose functions in this matter correspond to those of the Local Government Board in England and Wales).

2. I have since discussed the question with Sir Auckland Geddes and understand that as an alternative to control by the Local Government Board and the Secretary for Scotland a scheme has been proposed briefly as follows:

   The primary medical examination to be conducted by a local Medical Board under the National Service Department with a right to the man to apply to the Appeal Tribunal for authority to obtain re-examination by a body of doctors appointed by the Local Government Board (or the Secretary for Scotland in Scotland) and occupying the position of an appeal Medical Board (whether or not it is so designated).

I assume (though this is not expressed in the scheme) that for the primary Medical Boards there would be a panel of doctors (nominated by the Medical War Committees representing the profession) from which the members of the Boards would be selected according to a definite rota or some other automatic system and that the National Service Department would have no influence over the selection; also that the instructions to the primary Medical Boards would be issued in consultation with the Local Government Board and the Secretary for Scotland (whose present association with the Local and Appeal Tribunals would necessarily continue) and that the appeal Medical Boards would be absolutely independent and their decisions final.

3. I
3. I regret that I do not feel able to concur in the foregoing proposal (even if it includes the conditions specified in paragraph 2) because I believe that if it received effect it would not be endorsed by public opinion as satisfactorily meeting the situation dealt with by the Shortt Committee. The Committee resolved on 19th July that "the whole organisation of Recruiting Medical Boards and of medical examinations and re-examinations should be transferred to the Local Government Board" (the Secretary for Scotland in Scotland). The main reason inspiring this resolution was, I think, the desire of the Committee that the control of the Medical Boards should not rest with the recruiting authority; and they accordingly recommended that the whole organisation should be removed from the War Office and placed under civilian control.

The removal of the recruiting department to civilian control does not seem to me to fulfil the spirit of the resolution so long as that department retains any control over or association with medical examinations; and speaking for Scottish opinion I am apprehensive that it would be far from satisfied by the present proposal and consider that the matter calls for further discussion.

(Signed) ROBERT MUNRO.

Scottish Office.

27th August 1917.
WAR CABINET.

MEDICAL BOARDS.

(Note by Mr. Long on the Memorandum by Secretary for Scotland, G.T.-1873).

I desire to say that I cordially support the view expressed in above. There is a good deal of local irritation and I believe the proposed transfer would cause great alarm.

(Initialled) W.H.L.

31st August, 1917.
The Committee, as a result of their enquiries, were able to report to the Government in July that the information then available did not lead them to anticipate any serious national shortage of milk next winter provided certain essential points received immediate attention. They stated, however, at the same time, that local shortages were likely to occur.

So far the Committee have discussed the "shortage" of milk in terms of scarcity amounting almost to a famine. They do not desire to convey the impression that enough milk is being taken or that the total consumption does not need to be considerably increased. During the war it may not be possible to add considerably to the cow population but the Committee believe that steps could be taken to reduce existing waste and actual total loss of milk and so, not only increase the quantity of the milk available for direct human consumption, but also perhaps help to steady the price. Allowance now has to be made by dealers in order to make good this loss.

The attention of the Committee has repeatedly been drawn to the large amount of milk actually lost and wasted and to the preventable deterioration in the quality of much of the milk coming to large towns. Before the war, this wastage and deterioration in quality was unsatisfactory. It is now a matter of urgent importance that it should be prevented. The Committee are of opinion that this can be done.

At the end of the first Interim Report, the Committee stated that, during the warmer months of the year, there was always a considerable loss of milk through souring; that this was aggravated by the crowded railway services of the present summer; that less well-timed tram services, with longer exposure of full churns at stations, delay at transit and at the destination was certain to augment this loss.

Accumulated evidence proved to the Committee that, not only did this national loss and waste exist but that, owing to the war, it was of a more serious character than they had anticipated.

The Committee have also been astonished to find how much milk coming to London was pasteurised although sold to the public as fresh milk. On investigation it was found that, in the majority of cases, the milk was pasteurised to prevent its souring and so add a few hours to its life. It was repeatedly stated that, unless the milk were pasteurised as soon as it reached London in hot weather, it would sour before delivery to consumers.

Milk which has so far altered as to be near the point at which it can never, however treated, be of the same quality and value as a food as milk in which bacterial growth has been checked by chilling soon after milking or where pasteurisation has been carried out at an early stage in connection with this chilling.
If pasteurisation is not required in the interests of the consumer, it should not be adopted as it must add to the price of milk. Not only the actual process costs money but it is estimated that something like 3 pints per churn of 17 gallons (i.e. 2.46%) are lost through evaporation.

Pasteurisation has in the past and is now generally carried out, not in the interest of the consumer but in that of the vendor. If circumstances render this practice necessary then it should be carried out at centres near the source of production as a better and cheaper article would be produced.

Practical experience of individuals and of co-operative societies which was laid before the Committee confirms the known fact that, if milk produced under conditions of ordinary cleanliness is chilled soon after it is drawn from the cow pasteurisation is unnecessary. Clean milk which has been properly chilled soon after being taken from the cow, has been and is being sent from county depots in Scotland to London arriving actually in a better condition than some of the milk drawn from English counties not far from London which has never been brought to a lower temperature than the water on the farm, i.e. seldom below 65° in summer and is frequently higher.

The Committee feel confident in stating that the present loss of milk through souring and the condition of the milk which, though not actually sour, has yet lost its freshness is unnecessary and preventable and that milk of a better quality could be provided were it cleaned and chilled soon after milking and before being put on rail. They believe that the cost of so chilling milk at depots in the country is cheaper than the present system of pasteurising it in towns.

Other advantages would arise if a proper system whereby suitable centres for the collection, treatment and distribution of milk were established in the country with cheese-making plant attached,

Friction between producer and retailer as well as between consumer and trader (whether producer or retailer) would be sensibly diminished if a better article, less liable to souring were sold.

The quantity of liquid milk sent to towns could be regulated to meet the daily needs of consumers. This would avoid the extravagance of sending by rail milk which is not wanted and which deteriorates as raw material for cheese-making. Cases in London have been quoted to the Committee of surplus milk which had gone sour being poured down the drains. Such a waste could hardly occur if the supplies coming to London were better regulated. A further waste occurs when milk is converted into cheese in towns, the whey being generally unused whereas, in country districts, it can be fed to pigs.

Better hours could be obtained for milkers. The public have long been aware of the objection felt by milkers to the early hours at which their operations start. This is usually necessary in order to get the milk despatched to large towns for consumption the same day, experience having shown that milk deteriorates very rapidly in quality under existing conditions. If the milk were collected and chilled within a reasonable time, the need for this early delivery to the consumers would no longer exist.
The Committee feel justified in recommending, on the points named, that suitable centres should be established (1) where milk could be collected, chilled and despatched in such quantities as may be required to meet the needs of consumers and (2) where surplus milk can be made into cheese, etc. The Committee are convinced that private effort alone will not enable anything even approaching the minimum number of depots required to be established in time to relieve the situation next winter or even next summer. They do not advocate the establishment and maintenance of these centres by a Department, nor do they think it would be wise or in the best interests of the farming community to give money to individuals or bodies of individuals. The Committee think that, at this stage, the best results would be obtained if grants were made to the Agricultural Organisation Societies of England, Scotland and Ireland to enable them to undertake a campaign for the formation, in suitable areas, of dairy farmers' co-operative societies and, if the State were, by means of short-term loans, repayable say in five years, to enable such societies to establish centres or depots of the kind referred to in this report. The Committee recommend that this course should be followed.

The Committee realise that, during the war, depots could only be established where existing buildings could be adapted readily and without much cost. They do not recommend or believe it possible, this year or even next year, to get anything like the requisite number of depots established but they feel convinced that, in certain districts, there is an urgent need for the creation of such centres to deal with the milk locally produced; that the amount of money required would not be large; that money so spent would be well spent and would begin to repay the outlay immediately by preventing existing losses and wastage of milk and cheese.

Briefly, the depots should only be started in districts which are served by an adequate system of roads. They should be situated near a railway; a brine cooling plant should be provided and, although the Committee do not consider that a pasteurising plant should be necessary, they do not object to it. The capital cost of a depot which deals with 1,000 to 2,000 gallons of milk per day should range from £1 to £3 per gallon, according to the amount of construction necessary.

(Signed) Waldorf Astor.

Chairman.

24th August 1917.
Lord Northcliffe requests following be transmitted to War Cabinet and Walter Long. Copy to C.J. Phillips.

205. I have accepted an invitation to visit Canada. Since then Sir Robert Borden has suggested that he should publish the following announcement:

It is announced that Lord Northcliffe accompanied by several leading members of his staff will shortly visit Canada for the purpose of conferring with several Departments of the Canadian Government and also with the Canadian Board of Grain Supervisors, the Food Controller, and the Fuel Controller with respect to important matters in which cooperation between corresponding services in Great Britain, in the U.S.A. and in Canada is essential. Questions with regard to provision of food supplies, particularly grain, flour, meats and fats will be taken up and dealt with. It is anticipated that the supply of tonnage and its increase through full use of all Canada's ship-building facilities will receive attention. Other questions of importance will doubtless arise and the general purpose of the visit is to ensure the utmost unity of purpose and of effort in all activities rendered necessary by the War. Ends.

My intention was to pay a visit of courtesy to Ottawa and I had no knowledge that the Canadian Government desired to discuss the matters mentioned in the proposed paragraph. I am aware from what I have learned in Washington that there are now several pressing matters requiring negotiation. The terms of reference of my mission make no mention of such a conference as is proposed. I do not know whether such a matter is really within the province of the Ambassador. I should be glad of instructions as I must reply to Sir Robert Borden at once. If it is your wish that I should go into these matters I propose taking with me Sir S. Yardman Lever, Sir Charles Gordon, a Member of the Wheat Export Co, Inc; Heyden or Sparks and anyone else you may suggest.
The situation with regard to the claims of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers & Firemen has again become awkward, and I should like to bring the present position to the notice of the War Cabinet.

During the recent negotiations which led to the immediate demand for the institution of an 8 hours' day being dropped, I stated to the Society that I would use my good offices with the Railway Executive Committee to secure that they would receive the men's representatives and discuss other outstanding matters. The Railway Executive Committee met representatives of the Associated Society on Friday last, and it was then arranged that the Society should formulate an application. They have now forwarded for the consideration of the Committee the following:

"That 3.6d. per day be added to the 2s.6d. per day war wages now paid to the locomotive drivers, firemen, cleaners, and electric motormen. Half that amount to engine cleaners under 18 years of age"

They also request that the following matters be discussed when a meeting takes place between them and the Railway Executive Committee:

1. That the lodging allowances paid to locomotivemen be increased.

2. That provision be made for a supply of food to locomotivemen booked off unexpectedly away from home during the time the shops are closed, or the alternative that lodging away from home be abolished altogether.

3. The recognition that all Railways extend to locomotive-men the full benefit to be derived from the application of Clause 72 of the Royal Commissions Report"

There is nothing of importance in these last three points, but the claim for an addition of 3s.6d. a day to be added to the 2s.6d. per day war wages would mean an over-all increase over the pre-war wage of about 42s. or 43s. per week. The nominal
nominal increase is 36/-, and this increase affects the payments for overtime and Sunday duty, so that the total increase would not be less than the amounts mentioned above.

The real difficulty in the position is that it is impossible to concede the Associated Society more than the National Union of Railwaymen have already agreed to accept, viz: that the present War Bonus of 15/- per week should be converted into War Wages, and thus come into account when calculating the amount due for overtime and Sunday duty, making, in effect, an increase over pre-war wages of about 18/- per week. Anything more given to the Society would produce an instant conflict with the National Union, who have behaved very well up to the present, whilst the Society has not.

The Railway Executive Committee are meeting representatives of the Associated Society on Friday next and it is not proposed to offer the Society more than has been accepted by the National Union. The difference between what will be offered and what has been asked for is so great that there is a possibility of renewed threats of a strike, and I shall be glad to know that the War Cabinet approve of the course which it is proposed to adopt.

A.H.S.

Board of Trade,
23th August, 1917.
SECRET.

WAR CABINET.

G.T.1877.

USE OF EXPLOSIVE AMMUNITION AGAINST AEROPLANES.

(Copy of a letter from Secretary, Air Board to Secretary, War Cabinet.)

Sir,

I am directed by the President of the Air Board to refer to the memorandum of July 7th 1916, (Paper No. G.T.157) on the use of explosive bullets against Zeppelins, addressed by Lord Curzon as President of the Air Board to the War Committee.

I am to state that the attention of the Board has been drawn to the fact that, owing to the large dimensions of the Gotha aeroplanes employed in Air Raids on this country and their relatively small vulnerable area, much ordinary ammunition is expended upon them without results. It has been suggested that by adopting the use of explosive ammunition, Brock or Pomeroy, against these aeroplanes, the chances of bringing them down would be greatly increased.

The Board have had the matter under consideration and I am desired to submit to the War Cabinet their recommendation that the use of explosive bullets, which has hitherto been restricted by the decision of the War Committee to action against Zeppelins within this country, be extended to action against Aeroplanes or sea-planes engaged in raids upon this country. The prohibition of export of such ammunition outside this country would be maintained.

I am to observe that the arguments adduced in the memorandum above quoted in support of the use of explosive ammunition against Zeppelins appear in a large measure to apply equally to their use against heavier than air machines, engaged in bombing open towns and non-combatants, while it is equally probable that the enemy would remain in ignorance of our use of bullets of this type.

I am to request that the matter may be submitted to the War Cabinet, and that the Air Board may be informed of the decision arrived at.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) H. P. HARVEY.

28th August, 1917.
WAR CABINET.

SUPPLY & DESPATCH OF NAVAL GUNS TO RUSSIA.

(Copy of letter from Ministry of Shipping to Secretary, War Cabinet).

Ministry of Shipping,
St. James's Park,
London, S.W. 1.

28th August, 1917.

Sir,

I am directed by the Shipping Controller to inform you that the decision of the War Cabinet is urgently required on the question of despatching Naval guns to Russia.

In July last the Russian Government Committee requested the Ministry of Shipping to despatch to Russia six 14" Naval guns constructed by Vickers. The matter was referred to the Board of Admiralty in view of the unsettled state of Russia, and the decision given was that the guns should not be shipped.

Since that time the matter has been deferred on one pretext or another, but on the 25th August the Russian Government Committee made a formal request that the guns be shipped forthwith.

The Shipping Controller also understands that Messrs. Vickers' workmen, have sent a deputation to the Managers of that firm pointing out that a great deal of overtime was worked throughout the whole of last Winter to enable them to be ready for shipment on the opening of the Summer season, and after spending so much labour and time in completing them they now see the guns lying about Vickers' works unused. Messrs. Vickers have repeatedly requested the Ministry of Shipping to deal with the matter by removing the guns from their works even if they cannot be shipped.

The matter has therefore again been referred to the Admiralty, and the Shipping Controller is informed that the First Sea Lord wishes the matter brought before the War Cabinet for decision.

A copy of this letter has been sent to Lord Milner's Committee.

I am
Sir,
Your obedient Servant

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON.

Lt. Col. Sir Maurice Hankey, K.C.B.
Secretary to the
War Cabinet,
Whitehall, S.W.
From: General Delme Radcliffe, Italy.
To: C.I.G.S. War Office.

Aug. 28th 1917.
Handed in 5 a.m.

351. 27th. In my telegram 350 of yesterday please read Kobilca for Kobilek and Prvacina for Ravacina.

Situation 10 p.m. this evening. Operations to-day were partly suspended owing to cloudy and wet weather.

2nd Army. On the Kal plateau to-day advanced troops of the 27th Corps were counter-attacked with some vigour by the 7th Mountain Brigade and 2 battalions of 3rd Mountain Brigade moved from St. Lucia and St. Maria with artillery and machine guns. Batteries withdrawn to the east of Chiapovano valley are supporting the rearguards on west side of valley. In the positions about Tolmino March battalions complete are being used by Austrians to replace Mountain troops sent to Kal plateau. Between the Kal plateau and Kalenec the following Austrian troops from north to south have been identified: 6 battalions of 64th and 37th Regts, 9th Regiment of 24th Division and the 73rd Division; remainder of 24th Division is believed to be in this sector with 10th Division in reserve. From Kalenec towards San Daniele is the 43rd Division which has only its 23rd and 24th Regts. at approximately full strength. Here are also one or two battalions of 71st Regt. from 14th Division to reinforce 43rd Division. In the gap between San Gabriele and San Daniele is the 5th Brigade which fell back from Monte Santo pivoting with its left on San Gabriele.

The troops occupying Tolmino bridgehead are the 7th Mountain Brigade consisting of 4 battalions of 6 companies each, 3rd Mountain Brigade consisting of 7 battalions and 4 battalions of 22nd Brigade, making 15 battalions in all of exceptionally good troops.

To-night weather is fine, and if satisfactory to-morrow the attack will probably be driven home on San Gabriele, San Daniele and San Marco. Artillery is not yet all in position for attack on Tolmino defences, and possibly the attack here may be postponed for a little.
To-day about 500 prisoners were taken.

3rd Army. No change. Infantry is in readiness for fresh offensive, but an extensive move forward of the heavy artillery is in progress. During next day or two a renewal of 3rd Army attacks is unlikely, especially as so much of the artillery is required to support the San Gabriele, San Danielo and San Marco operations. About 400 prisoners were taken to-day.

Information has been received that 11th Austrian Division is on the way from Russian front. It consists of 58th, 89th, 90th and 95th Regiments, probably 14 battalions in all. Last contact on Russian front was with 58th and 89th on August 13th.

The Austrians have armed some of the labour gang employed by them and are using many Russian prisoners to carry ammunition etc. for their batteries in action.

Information received from Berne states that Austria is making urgent appeals to Germany for help against Italy. An ammunition depot at Udins was exploded to-day. A considerable amount of heavy shell, trench mortar and aeroplane bombs, hand grenades, rockets etc. were lost. No information as to quantities is yet available. There was some loss of life, and many houses were damaged and some destroyed. The explosions continued for 6 hours.
The Austrian Cabinet Crisis.

The failure of Dr. von Seidler to form a Parliamentary Cabinet is significant. It is openly admitted in Austria that the Czechs are determined to settle their national problem at the Peace Congress and not in the Austrian Parliament, and therefore refuse all share in an Austrian Parliament, because that would imply acquiescence in the existence of an Austrian State. Unquestionably when making the endorsement of their programme of a Czecho-Slovak State the conditio sine qua non of their joining the government, they clearly knew that they were asking that was not in the power of the Austrian government to concede. So did the Jugo-Slavs when, after some hesitation, they insisted on similar demands for their own nation.

Yet even without the Slav bloc - the Czechs, Jugo-Slavs and Ruthenes - a compact government majority could be obtained in Parliament if all the German parties and the Poles agreed jointly to take office. Even this however proved impossible. The German bourgeois parties and the Austrian State differ too widely from the German-speaking Social Democrats in social theories and practice for regular co-operation between them to be possible.

Although the aspirations of the Poles transcend the borders of Austria as much as do those of the Czechs and Jugo-Slavs, yet these can be brought into consonance with Habsburg interests. The Poles may oppose Austrian Cabinets or policies but they do not desire the break-up of the Habsburg Monarchy. "So you go into opposition?" said on one occasion the late Austrian Emperor to the
then leader of the Polish Club, M. de Bilinski. "To your Ministers, Sire," was the answer, "never to the Throne" - a distinction which is rare in Austria and has to be emphasised where it exists. If the Poles now refused to join in forming a Parliamentary government, that was because Seidler has failed to satisfy even the minimum of their demands (proper payment of war damages and for requisitions in Galicia, more considerate treatment of that province in food matters, the handing back by the military of the government of Galicia to the Polish civilian authorities). They must also have felt the indecency of joining a government in which up to the time when they had to decide on their course, none but the German Nationalists had accepted office. Lastly, if there is to be a weak government which does not include all the big parties, it is by far more profitable to remain outside than to have one or two representatives in it and for that reason be passed over in the doling out of loaves and fishes.

For that is what is coming again, and the *Neue Freie Presse* blurts it out with its usual cynical effrontery: "It will be possible to find a majority in the House because events have proved that the political parties themselves stand in urgent need of the State and must therefore beware of paralysing it. In the course of the last few weeks 1½ milliard crowns have been procured for the population by means of Parliamentary votes. The House cannot abandon its work for the public welfare." The miracle of a Parliament procuring money from a government for the population is a peculiar achievement of that "institute for political corruption", the Austrian Parliament. "The government composed of officials appointed by the Emperor," writes Mr. H. Wickham Steed in his book on "The Habsburg Monarchy", "purchases majorities by concessions to the interests which parties represent or which individual party leaders wish to further. Railways, canals, bridges, tobacco licenses for constituents, government appointments for protégés
and a hundred other objects of local or individual solicitude form
the object of the 'Kuchandel' constantly carried on between an
Austrian Cabinet and the members not only of its majority, but also
of the opposition."

Although it was certain on August 7 that in view of the
refusal of the Poles to join the government the idea of a
Parliamentary Cabinet would have to be abandoned, and although
it was given out in the Press that the present government con-
sisting of civil servants would be reconstructed and made permanent,
no news has so far reached us of this having been done. And this
seems the more surprising as Parliament is to meet again about the
middle of September.

The Hungarian Cabinet Crisis.

At the special request of the Emperor Dr. Wekerle takes over
the Cabinet of Count Esterhazy as recently re-constructed without
any further changes in it. The Neue Freie Presse, which is always
worth watching as the hired mouthpiece of Berlin, shows grief at
Count Andrassy's not having been appointed Premier.

A lingering crisis had gone on within the Hungarian Cabinet;
the Right favouring compromise over the electoral reform with
Tisza's party, the extreme Left opposing it and pressing for a
general election. But obviously this was not the cause of
Esterhazy's resignation, seeing the Cabinet remains in existence.
Perhaps Esterhazy is really ill, or perhaps he felt that the task
exceeded his strength and therefore made room for one of the old
statesmen (Wekerle is almost seventy years old and besides serving
in different Cabinets has previously been Prime Minister three
times).

Still, even though the Cabinet remains unchanged, Wekerle's
appointment may be taken as a move towards Tisza. Wekerle has
taken no part in the wild attacks which were delivered against
him by the opposition during the last year of his Premiershi
and both on domestic problems and in foreign affairs, there is hardly any difference between these two men; they differ merely in temperament. Lastly, the appointment of Wekerle has obviated the appointment of Andrassy or Apponyi which would have been a personal challenge to Tisza.

Tisza and Wekerle represent Magyar policy in its most perfect and most brazen form. Andrassy on the other hand has personal hobbies and idiosyncrasies (e.g. his interest in the Polish Question exceeds the limits set to it by Magyar interests and for concessions in that direction he seems prepared to pay Germany heavily in matters concerning Central Europe).

Comment on the Speeches of Lord Robert Cecil and the Prime Minister at the Luncheon given to M. Pasić.

The Neue Freie Presse seems embarrassed, tries to say as little about these speeches as possible, explains them as due to disappointment in England at the fact that Austria-Hungary does not want to desert Germany, and goes in for surprisingly little of its usual bombastic vituperation. The Fremdenblatt, the organ of the Austrian Foreign Office, publishes on August 10 an article of three columns which reads as if that paper had borrowed a leader-writer from the Neue Freie Presse. It is full of clumsy irony, strained humour and silly distortions. The following sentence is typical: "King Edward shrank from acknowledging Peter Karageorgevich as ruler of Serbia, but now M. Pasić is guest of honour of the British government and the murder at Sarajevo is glorified by Mr. Lloyd George as the deed whereby 'civilisation accepted the challenge of Prussian terrorism.'"

The heading which the Reichspost gives to its abuse is "New Bawling in London against Peace", that of the Pester Lloyd "The Humiliation of England". It is significant that the two papers most intimately connected with the clique of the new Emperor, the Fremdenblatt and the Reichspost, should have been so abusive
whilst the Neue Freie Presse, whose relations with Berlin no one doubts, persists in sweet and grieved pacifism.

The Pope's Peace Note.

The Pope's Peace Note naturally caused a new effusion of eloquence on the part of the Jews of the Neue Freie Presse. The concluding paragraph of its leader of August 21 may be quoted as a sample: "The few neutral States which remain in Europe were much more shy and shrank from approaching the ministers of the Entente with unwelcome proposals of peace. The Pope has no such qualms, and he has compelled the Entente, which is already raging against him without any sufficient reason, to face the question of peace. Again the cry goes through the land: 'Ecce Homo!' The Entente will crucify him. Or is that merely pretence? Perhaps."

Another article in the same issue of the Neue Freie Presse explains in more matter-of-fact terms the view which the Central European Powers take of the Note:

"In the first place one may note that the Pope's Note meets with a most sympathetic reception amongst us as well as in Germany. It is permeated by a spirit of the purest philanthropy and unselfish neutrality...........

"The concrete proposals of the Peace Note deal with gradual disarmament, the creation of an international court of arbitration, the freedom of the seas, and that which goes with it, the freedom of commerce, and lastly with a mutual restitution of occupied districts.

"These proposals are undoubtedly suitable as the basis for approaching peace. It is true their realisation implies the destruction of the English dominion of the seas and the doing away with England's naval bases in all the seas, Gibraltar, Malta, the Suez Canal, etc.

"Should it be impossible to reach an understanding on the basis of these proposals other ways will have to be sought to
safeguard the future of Austria-Hungary." The article goes on to point out that although the Pope speaks about settling the territorial differences between Austria and Italy, and Germany and France, he does not say "that these territorial aspirations should be satisfied".

L.B.N.

29th August, 1917.
SECRET.

Intelligence Bureau,
Department of Information.
AGW/017.

WEEKLY REPORT ON GERMANY. XVII.
(28 August, 1917).

(It is regretted that this Report extends to so many pages, but in view of the importance of the Constitutional movement now taking place in Germany, it has been considered necessary to deal with the political aspects of that movement in some detail).

(1) All other news from Germany during the past week is of subordinate importance compared with the fragmentary accounts of the proceedings in the Main Committee of the Reichstag which have been allowed to reach the public. The deliberations of the Reichstag Committees are semi-private. What is given to the newspapers is an outline of what took place drawn up by the Reporter (Berichterstatter), a member of the Committee selected for that purpose. The reports are compiled in a fashion which is intended to meet the views of all the parties represented on the Committee or at any rate the views of the majority. Nothing is supposed to be revealed even in peace-time which could injure the interests of the country, particularly its military interests. The good faith of the members of these Committees, including the Social Democrats, has always been remarkable; and during the discussion of Army and Navy Bills, for example, nothing was allowed to reach the public or the press which could interfere with Germany's great schemes, although there were always one or two members who were bitterly opposed to them. No amount of "lobbying" could in those cases extract the information which was so eagerly hunted for. On the other hand, where a great majority of a Committee takes strong views
or a subject - especially where a conflict with the Chancellor or the representatives of the Government is concerned - the report handed to the press is worded in such a way that the initiated can read between the lines. The majority seem on the present occasion to have considered that it was due to the country to give some very broad hints of what took place, and even the gaps in the report are eloquent of the crisis.

(2) The first reports of the proceedings of Monday August 21 which were available through Copenhagen were very meagre. They gave very little of what the Chancellor, Herr Michaelis, said about the general question of peace terms and they gave a mere outline of his statement on the Pope's Peace Note. Germany, he said, could not make a fresh peace offer, as the answer to her outstretched hand had been "a smashing blow with the fist". (Here he was quoting the Vorwarts, the organ of the Majority Socialists). It was in these circumstances that the Pope's Note had been sent out. He could not take up any position with regard to the Note until Germany's Allies had been consulted. But the terms of the Note, he said,

"correspond to the attitude we have often made known and to our policy since December 12 last" (the date of Germany's peace initiative). "We are sympathetically inclined towards every attempt to inspire thoughts of peace among the nations amid the misery of the war, and we especially welcome the action of the Pope, which in my opinion is based on a sincere desire for impartiality and justice".

The German desire was "an honourable peace for the Fatherland". Herr Michaelis repeatedly repudiated the suggestion that the Pope's proposal was inspired by the Central Powers.

(3) The Chancellor's speech, which had begun with a reference to his continued consultation with Germany's Allies, went on to refer to the declarations of war which had been received from Siam, Liberia and China. All that he had to say about them was: "We have
made it clear to those countries that we shall bring them to account for damage done in contravention of international law to Germany's interests" - an announcement which sounds strange in the mouth of a German statesman, especially in view of Mr Gerard's account of his conversation with the Emperor on the submarine question, in which he reports the Emperor as saying: "Anyhow there is no longer any international law".

The new Imperial Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Herr von Kuhlmann, who spoke on the following day (Wednesday, August 22) evidently found it necessary to supplement or correct Herr Michaelis' reference to the most recent declarations of war against Germany.

"We desire", he alleged, "to preserve scrupulously the rights and vital necessities of the neutrals - so far, of course, as the craft of our enemies, who have trodden under foot the greater part of international law, and our own military requirements permit. Any subsequent weakening" (whether he meant a "weakening" of international law or of the German attitude does not appear) "must be prevented, but this task cannot be accomplished except on the principle that, although force counts in policy, justice also counts, and we cannot establish relations except on these two bases of right and justice".

This reads like a kind of deathbed repentance, but a very guarded one.

(4) Herr Michaelis, according to the authorised report of his speech, followed up his references to German relations with Allies and Neutrals by reading a report from Hindenburg, who asserts that the intensified attacks of the British and French are due to the success of the submarine campaign which forces their hand and makes them try to decide the war on land before complete calamity overtakes them by the agency of the submarines. Herr Michaelis himself supplemented Hindenburg's report and made the singular claim with regard to the Eastern front that "the Army has again and again proved what will-power
and determination are able to accomplish even against a numerically superior enemy!"

(5) The Chancellor professed to make further "revelations" regarding the Allies' "annexation" aims, in particular those of Russia under the autocracy. He said that

"on March 4, 1915, Russia made the following peace demands of which England approved by a Note of the same date - namely, Russia to receive Constantinople with the European share of the Straits, the Southern part of Thrace as far as the Enos-Midia line, the islands in the Sea of Marmora, and the islands of Imbros and Tenedos, and on the Asia Minor side the Peninsula between the Black Sea, the Bosphorus and the Gulf of Ismid as far as the river Sakaria in the East. As a result of further negotiations, combined in the course of 1915-16, Russia obtained a promise of the Armenian villayets Trebizond and Kurdistan. Per contra France claimed Syria with Adana and Mersina and the hinterland, extending northwards as far as Sivas and Kharput. England's share was to be Mesopotamia. The rest of Turkey in Asia was to be divided into English and French spheres of interest. Palestine was to be in some way internationalised, and the other districts inhabited by the Turks and Arabs, including Arabia proper and the Holy places of Islam, were to be formed into a special federation of States under British suzerainty."

When Italy entered the war her claims had also to be considered, and Herr Michaelis held out the prospect of further revelations regarding the negotiations with Italy.

These "disclosures" were doubtless intended to show how far the views of Germany's enemies were removed from the spirit of the Pope's Note as well as from the terms of the Reichstag resolution of July 19 rejecting "annexations". There was also a renewed reference to France's Secret Treaty with Russia regarding German territory besides Alsace-Lorraine on the left bank of the Rhine, and to Sir Edward Carson's utterance about throwing the German Armies back across the Rhine.

x This, of course, can only mean peace terms as between the Allies. No demands were presented to Germany.
These "disclosures" and references must further, as the sequel shows, have been designed by the Chancellor to divert attention from his own attitude towards the Reichstag Resolution of July 19. If so, the manœuvre most signally failed. The reports of the Committee's session show that the Chancellor's statement, though doubtless prepared in anticipation of a challenge, had to be put forward as a reply to a fresh assault by the Catholic Centre Deputy, Herr Erzberger. Herr Erzberger, and with him the Radicals (Progressists) and the Social Democrats of both Sections, besides his own followers in the Centre, must have considered that a fresh statement by the Chancellor was imperative in view of the interpretations which the Pan-Germans of different political shades had put upon his former statement of July 19. For Herr Michaelis himself had, in accepting the Reichstag Resolution of July 19, made the reservation "as I interpret it". He had also spoken of "guaranteeing by means of an understanding and a policy of give and take the conditions of existence of the German Empire upon the Continent and beyond the seas". He had likewise mentioned "safeguards" against "economic blockades" and against the development of the league of aims of Germany's opponents into "an economic alliance against us". These aims he thought might be attained "within the limits of your Resolution as I interpret it". Meanwhile Mr Gerard's account of the "guarantees", regarded as imperative by Herr Michaelis' predecessor, Bethmann Hollweg, as late as January 17, 1917, has been published. These include (1) the virtual absorption of Belgium (forts of Liege and Namur and other forts; possession of the railway lines; possession of the ports and other means of communication; no Belgian Army to be maintained; a German Army to be maintained in Belgium; German commercial control of the country); (2) "rectification" of the French frontier, i.e. annexations; (3) substantial rectification of Germany's Eastern
frontier; (4) a small Serbia to survive if Austria allows it;
(5) indemnities to Germany from all the enemy countries and so
forth. Now Herr von Bethmann Hollweg's fall is believed in
Berlin to have been due in part to the intervention of the military
party headed by the Crown Prince, Hindenburg and Ludendorff,
and Herr Michaelis, whose other qualifications are not very
apparent, is supposed to be more acceptable than his predecessor
to that party. Consequently the suspicion has arisen in the
Reichstag and elsewhere that his ideas of peace terms may be as
ambitious or even more ambitious than those of Bethmann Hollweg.
(b) The Pan-Germans, leading Conservative politicians and their
press have claimed Herr Michaelis as an "annexationist" and an
advocate of indemnities for Germany.

Herr Erzberger and the great majority of the Committee were
therefore determined to get to the bottom of this situation.
They wanted a clear and unambiguous declaration of peace policy and
at first they failed to get anything like one. All that the
Chancellor was at first prepared to say was:

"One member has made the criticism that during a
speech in the Reichstag on July 19, referring to the
Majority's peace resolution, I used the words: 'That
is as I understand it'. I admit that, during the
previous discussions with leaders of the parties,
this addition had not been expressly mentioned by me.
On the other hand, however, I must state that the
expression used by me is not contrary to my attitude
during the discussions, and such as results from the
peace aims explained in my Reichstag speech. There
are various shades of opinions regarding the aims
which may be obtained during peace negotiations within
the scope of the resolution. An interpretation is
possible such as I also observed during the previous
discussions with the Majority parties".

This statement must have caused sensation, for the Chancellor's
right-hand official, Herr von Graevenitz, the new chief of the
Imperial Chancellery, got up and tried to explain it away as "a slip
of the tongue" (sic). This explanation did not satisfy the
majority of the Committee. There must have been great excitement and apparently a deadlock; for the Committee adjourned until the matter could be cleared up. The aged Herr Meissner Payer, leader of the South German Radicals, was sent to the Chancellor “with an ultimatum demanding that he should make a new and unambiguous declaration adopting the standpoint of the Reichstag peace resolution or lose the confidence of the Majority parties. When the Committee re-assembled the Chancellor made a second declaration in reply to this demand”.

His second declaration was:

“I did not desire to deviate from my speech of July 19 in the declaration made this morning. My speech of July 19 is completely maintained by me. This is proved by the fact that I have already - this morning - issued invitations for deliberations which will create closer contact between me and the Reichstag, in the first place for discussions regarding the answer to the Vatican. This answer will, of course, aim at a peace of agreement and understanding such as is expressed in the Reichstag’s resolution of July 19”.

(7) It is evident that even the second statement of the Chancellor after the Committee resumed did not reassure the Majority, nor has it reassured large sections of the German press. Herr Theodor Wolff says in the Berliner Tageblatt (Radical, Jewish, bourgeois), of which he is the Editor, that after the Chancellor had made his second statement, the Socialist Deputy Herr Ebert read out a resolution which the Committee had adopted repudiating as incorrect Michaelis’ first statement, i.e. his own interpretation of the Reichstag’s resolution of July 19. Herr Wolff goes on to describe Michaelis as

“devoid of all authority, partly because, while he is supposed to conduct Germany’s foreign policy, he is completely ignorant of foreign affairs” (this is perfectly true, although he may be learning) “and partly because he was appointed without consultation with the Reichstag”.
Theodor Wolff adds:

"It is no longer possible that a people of seventy millions, who after all have to pay for every fault with blood and gold, should be given a Government without their representatives being consulted. It is the duty of the Reichstag to make an end of this absolutist, bureaucratic system".

Some papers demand the dismissal of the Chancellor, others attribute the crisis to the action of the Pan-Germans who would not leave the Chancellor's declaration of July 19 as it stood, but insisted on interpreting his language as leaving the door open for a policy of annexations. As the governmental Lokal-Anzeiger was allowed to publish a special edition with scare head-lines such as "Break between the Chancellor and the Reichstag Majority", this was probably intended to damage the Majority in the eyes of the public or to try how far it could be branded as unpatriotic. The Socialist Munich Post rightly points out that the Chancellor used a very lame argument in adducing the territorial demands of the defunct Russian autocracy and that this was a singular reply to make to the Pope's Note. The Vorwärts - and this is important - hints that Michaelis' behaviour last Tuesday was anything but 'heroic'. If his first statement was a rejection of the peace policy of the Reichstag Majority, his second "was a complete surrender at the first alarm-shot and a miserable denial of what he had just said". The Conservative and Pan-German press certainly does not try to allay the conflict. The Kreuzzeitung appears to have said: "Herr Michaelis freed his hands from the fetters of the Majority declaration". The Vorwårts takes note of this challenge and concludes:

"Wednesday's sittings of the Main Committee again proved clearly that a Chancellor who loses the confidence of the majority is impossible. The Pan-German Press, of course, will try to make us believe that we possess a Chancellor who opposes the Reichstag majority, but who is able to maintain his opposition only for a moment, while for the rest of the time he cleverly disguises it".
German papers do not write like this about a Chancellor in whom they have a vestige of confidence. It is clear that the Majority, or at any rate a section of it, is bitterly dissatisfied not merely with the Chancellor's attitude on peace terms but with his general ideas of political reconstruction at home. They feel that both in the Empire and in Prussia they have got new Governments of bureaucrats on the old system only "more so". The new bureaucratic appointments are worse than the old, because the men selected, beginning with Michaelis himself, are mostly unknown to the public, which has no evidence of their special competence or of their sympathy with constitutional and parliamentary aspirations. On the contrary, in the case of Michaelis himself a quotation has been unearthed from an essay written by him as late as December 1914:

"After the miserable fiasco of parliamentarism in England and of the Republican Constitution in France, what democrat can raise the demand for parliamentary rule in Germany? Who will venture to touch the Kaiser's Supreme Command and to drive a wedge between soldiers and officers in the Army? Who will want to throw the noose of constitutional responsibility around the neck of the Chancellor?"

But this is precisely what the Majority are determined to do - to make the Chancellor responsible to Parliament. The present writer attended all the greater debates in the German Reichstag for twenty years (1888-1908) and he gains from the accounts of the latest crisis as well as from the utterances of Michaelis in Parliament and in press interviews a very strong impression that the new Chancellor is not the man to "ride the whirlwind and direct the storm" or even to manage political parties by muddling through. He is evidently a hard-working official, very able doubtless in his own sphere, but as narrow-minded as most Prussian officials are and without any spark of genius or sympathy which would help him over a difficult situation. Prince Hohenlohe's
personal prestige and his distinguished past atoned for a time for the feebleness of old age and his inability to make even the semblance of a debating speech in the Reichstag (1894-1900).

Bulow was a clever fellow with many journalistic and parliamentary tricks, and he was a good actor. Bethmann could state and argue a case in the ponderous German fashion, although at the end his nerve seemed to fail him. Michaelis has neither parliamentary cleverness, nor personal weight, nor, it would seem from Tuesday's proceedings, parliamentary nerve. Indications are multiplying that if it be intended to retain him in office for the present, it can only be a stopgap for some more adroit successor - Kuhlmann or Rantzau, or possibly even Lichnowsky or some dark horse in the Imperial stables in whom there may be the making of a passable statesman according to German standards. They really need a Bismarck, but they may whistle for one in these times.

(9) It may be asked: What is the importance of political crises in the Reichstag, when, as a Conservative Deputy once remarked, an army lieutenant with a dozen men could clear the whole place at a moment's notice. It is quite true that this could be done and that there would be no immediate resistance any more than there was when Frederick William IV closed the Prussian Constituent Assembly in December 1848. But it is also true that Germany at the present moment could not stand a coup d'etat of that kind which would involve all the German States and produce a revolutionary ferment everywhere. The South German States which have liberal constitutions would be bound to protest against any such action and would probably be backed by Austria, who wants an early peace. The German people would lose all heart for the war and would ask themselves if it was for the establishment of
autocracy that they were fighting. Revolutionary Russia would be correspondingly heartened for the struggle. In some way or other the Emperor and the Military clique must contrive to keep on terms with the Reichstag. But the present crisis must tend to undermine their influence, and, if it were not solved before the Reichstag meets next month in full session, there would be sure to be grave trouble. Meanwhile every blow struck at Germany on the Western front will strengthen the constitutional party and weaken the central power of Prussia and the bureaucratic element in the Government.

(10) Are all these dramatic scenes in the Reichstag mere "eyewash" for the German people, for the Austrian peace-party, for the public and especially the pacifists in the Allied countries, and for the Pope and his backers? As the German song says of the swain's protestations of love "there is doubtless some falseness in it" ("a biesele Falschheit ist auch wohl dabei"). But it is too dangerous a game to play for long. A section of the German press on both sides has broken loose. This sometimes happens even in war-time, and it may easily become too dangerous to suppress newspapers. There are moments when the safety-valves of public opinion have to be left open. There is evidently great excitement. The mass of the German people - we have plenty of evidence of that - are very weary of the war. By way of consolation they are constantly told that the same feeling prevails in enemy countries, more especially in England and France. Once and again they had been assured that peace was probably near. They are asking why their own Government does not take advantage of this situation and get peace - a peace which, in accordance with German accounts of the military situation, would not be an altogether unfavourable
one for Germany. (When Hindenburg was in Berlin at the time of the Chancellor crisis crowds surrounded his motor-car in the Wilhelmstrasse and there were shouts of: "Bring us a good peace, Excellency!" "Bring peace, soon!"). The masses are probably beginning to suspect their rulers of delaying the peace they long for by extravagant territorial ambitions or by some new military gamble. The news from the Yser and from Verdun, when it begins to leak out, will assuredly deepen this suspicion. But the people can do nothing, except indulge in feeble, unarmed demonstrations in the streets. The official warnings against strikes last week and the reports circulated to the effect that written or printed incitements to strike ("of enemy origin") had been distributed in the munition factories were probably of a purely prophylactic nature, i.e. intended to prevent any strike or other demonstrations which might have resulted from the news of what took place in the Reichstag Committee. Those Deputies who represent large industrial districts, like the left wing of the Catholic Centre, must take account of this state of popular feeling, else they could not show themselves in their constituencies. The Catholic Centre Deputies are particularly well-informed through the priests as to the state of feeling in the Catholic districts, and the Vatican has doubtless the same sources of information, although its political relationships make it biased in favour of what are really Austro-German peace-terms. With the parliamentary "eyewash" there is therefore, according to all appearances, a great deal of genuine anxiety among the Deputies, and it continues to find expression in the Main Committee and in the press.

(Comments on Michaelis' latest solution for the crisis, i.e. the establishment of a "Free Committee" of seven party leaders)
from the Reichstag and seven members of the Federal Council must be reserved for another Report, as must the new panacea for Alsace-Lorraine which the Chancellor has brought back from his interview with the Kaiser at Military Headquarters.)

28.8.17. GS.
WEEKLY REPORT ON SPAIN. X
August 28th, 1917.

The week that has elapsed since the last report was written has confirmed the view then taken that the General Strike and accompanying attempts at a Revolution have both completely failed. But they were not repressed without serious loss of life. Even at Barcelona where, according to the British Ambassador, the rioters showed little inclination to face the forces at the disposal of the Government, the official statement admits the death of 37 persons; and many deaths occurred in other towns. It was found necessary to make a large number of arrests, and some executions, notably those of the miscreants who tried to wreck a train at Bilbao, have already taken place. But the Government seems now disposed to temper its victory by clemency and a great number of those arrested have already been released. It may be hoped that the whole episode will soon be a mere event in the past.

An attempt has been made in some quarters, now that the movement has failed, to assert that it was merely a strike and had no political goal in view. This is absurd. It is certain that all its leaders were anti-Monarchical and that if they had got the upper hand of the Government, no concessions short of revolutionary change would have satisfied them. It is true that the main body of Parliamentary Republicans and the Catalan Deputies gave no support to the strike and now declare, with how much truth it is impossible to say, that they knew nothing of its organisation. Probably the more prudent and patriotic of them disapproved of such violent methods of political reform: and the rest were waiting to see if the storm would bring the fruit down, in which case they would have been quite ready to put it in their pockets. It is almost certain that at least
least some of them were behind it: one Deputy has been arrested; and it is rumoured that Senor Lerroux, the Republican leader, has fled to France. Of its definitely Republican character the language of its friends outside Spain leaves no doubt. Unfortunately the conduct of certain French newspapers and individuals has provided some justification for the assertions of pro-German Spaniards that the Allies were fomenting Revolution in Spain. Both the anti-Stockholm and fervently patriotic M. Hervé of the Victoire and the pro-Stockholm and partially pacifist Socialists of the Humanité wrote a series of articles during the crisis acclaiming the Revolution, predicting its success and wishing it well as a blow struck in the cause of the Entente. And, still more unfortunately, one Bréal, the chief of the French Propaganda in Spain, has acted with such indiscretion, to say the least, that he has exposed himself to arrest at Bilbao, while a French resident of Corunna has been expelled from the country.

These are regrettable incidents which will not improve the relations between France and Spain. It is to be hoped that the evidence, in which Sir Arthur Hardinge believes, of German instigation of the trouble at Bilbao may be conclusive and may obliterate unfortunate in the minds of the Spanish Government the follies of M. Bréal. Certainly it is obvious enough, except to international theorists, that Germany has much more to gain than the Allies from Spanish revolutionary disturbance. In Spain, as elsewhere, the interest of the Allies is in ordered liberty and political progress. If Senor Dato takes the advice of Count Romanones, the most openly pro-Ally of official Spanish statesmen, whose paper protests against any tendency to use the revolutionary disorder as an excuse for a step backwards, this will be the policy he will follow. Meanwhile his
3.

firmness and success have certainly greatly increased his prestige and the strength of his position. He seems to have fully justified the confidence which Sir Arthur Hardinge expressed in his "calmness and vigour" at the time of the Barcelona affair in July; and to have shown that he is not only more friendly to the Allies but also more capable of governing Spain than his predecessor the Marquis of Alhucemas.

Meanwhile he has at any rate a respite. Nothing more has been heard of the frontier meeting of Regionalist Senators and Deputies which was to have taken place on August 16th, at Oviedo or elsewhere, and according to the Catalan leader, Senor Cambo, was to have had a larger attendance than the Barcelona meeting and to have insisted on a meeting of the Cortes and no Dissolution. Senor Dato told Sir Arthur Hardinge in July that if another meeting were attempted it would simply be dispersed by the police, without arrests, or anything that would give the Deputies the chance of posing as heroes or martyrs. But he will have to decide the question of a Dissolution soon; and if it is one of the old sham order it seems certain that it will not allay the unbounded dissatisfaction of the country. A country of which a writer who knows many of its political leaders can say, as one has lately said, that all of them vehemently declared to him that the greatest evil it suffered from was politics, is a country which provides plenty of anxiety for its Prime Minister.

Meanwhile in other fields than politics Spain is very prosperous. She is embarrassed by the gold the war has brought her; when it started the Bank of Spain held £22,000,000 of gold; it now holds £66,000,000. Her exports of such things as boots and cotton and woollen goods have multiplied threefold and fourfold. But there is another side to the picture. The profits of all this have gone into the hands of the traders. The people have benefited scarcely at all
and they have suffered from the higher prices of food and from the failure of some parts of the export trade, such as that of fruit. Perhaps it is to another field that we must look for more permanent grounds of optimism about the future in Spain. Such prosperity as the war brings will end with it. Nor will material prosperity provide the regeneration of which Spain stands most in need. There is good reason for thinking that the most permanently hopeful movement now at work in Spain is that of a Committee of Educational Reformers who are endeavouring to put into practice the idea of their founder, Don Francisco Giner de los Rios. They received the recognition of a Royal Decree in January 1907 which constituted them officially as a Board of Education and Scientific Research. Already they have set in motion a wave of new life which is passing through the whole of the Spanish educational world from the elementary school to the University. All recognise that the quickest for Spain is University to get modern ideas of education/for her young/men to spend part of their time in fetching them from abroad. And this was being increasingly done before the war with financial assistance from the Government. It is to be hoped that the British University authorities will give all the assistance they can to a movement which is most flattering to us: for it is said that its promoters after studying other European systems of education have made the English their chief model. The whole movement is well described in an article in the Contemporary Review for August where it is shown that those who are leading it comprise representatives of all opinions religious and political. Let us hope that it will prove to be what one of its founders has called it, the thing of all things that Spain most needs, La Revolucion Pecifica.

26.8.17. J.C.B.
The General Situation.

The splendid resistance offered by the Rumanian armies on the Seret, especially in the region of Năruleşti, has for the time being held up the German advance into Moldavia; consequently the removal of the Rumanian Government to Russia is for the present postponed. Provisional arrangements for evacuation, however, are being made, the only point in doubt being as to whether the seat of Government should be transferred to Kherson or, as the Rumanians appear to prefer, to Poltava. Negotiations on the point are proceeding.

The Internal Situation.

As the Rumanian Parliament has been adjourned till next November there is little opportunity for the development of internal political discussions. Since the solution of the Cabinet crisis the country has settled down again to an enforced party truce, and the party press almost confines itself to a reproduction in full of the speeches delivered by the various party leaders in the debates on the reforms last June. Some feeling was aroused by the unfortunate allusion of Mr Brătianu to the Conservative Party as having "ceased to exist" because the official leader, Mr Marghiloman, had remained behind in Bucharest. The Conservative press took up the challenge and, while denouncing Marghiloman and all his works, insisted strongly that the Conservative Party was still in being and, when the international situation permitted, would resume its freedom of action. The natural and persistent
attacks on Marghiloman and the other pro-Germans called forth a reply in the press from one of Marghiloman's supporters, the ex-Deputy Lascar Antoniu, but, apart from this, Marghiloman appears to be finally discredited.

Conditions in Wallachia.

In addition to Marghiloman himself, various other Germanophil politicians remained behind in Bucarest. Dr Carp has recently given an interview to the Stockholm pro-German paper Aftonbladet, in which he reiterates his old views as to the necessity of a Rumanian alliance with the Central Powers. The interview is naturally reproduced con amore by the German press.

The German military authorities have set up a Provisional Rumanian Administration in Bucarest with four Ministers of Departments: the well-known Germanophils D. Nenițescu, Grigore Antipa, Lupu Costăhe and Virgil Arion. The Rumanian press promises to deal summarily with these traitors after the war.

The Germans have set up a "Rumanian Economic Association", the aims of which are allegedly to help the Rumanian population with machinery and other aids to economic production and to increase the productive power of the occupied province to the greatest possible extent. The German press claims that 90 to 95 per cent. of the arable soil of Rumania is now being cultivated and announces that an excellent harvest is to be expected. The maize harvest, which in May, owing to the drought, was feared for, now offers good prospects in consequence of the abundant rains, especially in the Danube districts. Vines, peas and beans are also expected to give good results; the fruit harvest is less promising. This is, of course, the unsupported assertion of the German press, and there is no means of checking it.
Rumania's Irredenta.

The appointment of Count Apponyi to the post of Minister of Public Instruction in the Eszterházy Government was, as Count Apponyi's antecedents would have led anyone to expect, followed at once by the inauguration of a new policy of repression. The Rumanian Orthodox schools in Sibiu (Hermannstadt), Arad and Karánsebes, and the Rumanian Uniate schools in various places have been informed that they are to close.

The new campaign against the Rumanian Church, schools and language in Hungary is foreshadowed in the chauvinist articles now daily appearing in the Hungarian press.

Rumania's International Relations.

The Rumanian press has at last begun to exhibit a consciousness that the Rumanian Government and people as a whole has done little to expound its ideals and aims to the civilised world. Closer touch with the Western European Powers and America is demanded. The message sent by His Majesty the King to the King of Rumania on August 22, followed up as it was by Mr Lloyd George's telegram to Mr Brătianu on August 27, and the appeal in the British press of that date issued by the Anglo-Rumanian Society, will be an earnest to the Rumanian people that their wish for closer relations with this country is reciprocated here.

29.8.17.

AHAI.
ITALIAN HEAVY ARTILLERY AMMUNITION.

(1). Delme Radcliffe's (1240 of 17th August) stated:-

Total accumulation 15.8.17........3,500,000 rounds.
Reserve..........................1,500,000 "
Available for offensive.........2,000,000 "

(of only about 800,000 was available for last offensive).

(2). Delme Radcliffe's telegram 352 of 28th August:-

Total expenditure
from 15th - 27th August
inclusive.....................1,032,000 rounds.

(of above expended preliminary,
to attack i.e. 15th - 16th
inclusive)..................... 285,000 "

Expended from 19th - 27th
inclusive i.e. 9 days of
offensive...................... 747,000 "

or at rate per diem of........ 83,000 "

(3). There remained in hand on the night of 27th
August (in addition to the reserve of
1,500,000 which will not be touched) and
after allowing for losses in explosion at
Udine:-

With 2nd & 3rd Armies............ 987,000 "

In general reserve at
Cadorna's disposal............... 233,000 "

Total 1,220,000 "

i.e. roughly sufficient for
14 days more at the same rate
as hitherto, see (2).

General Staff,
War Office.

29th August, 1917.
From: General Delme Redcliffe
To: G.I.O.S.

August 28th, 1917.

Handed in 7.50 p.m.

Your 40264. The following figures have been given me by Cadorna:

1. Up to yesterday evening 2nd Army has fired 669,000 rounds and 3rd Army 363,000.
2. 2nd Army on same date still had in hand 700,000 rounds and 3rd Army 287,000, making allowance for the loss due to explosion of magazine yesterday at Udine.
3. He has a reserve, in his own hands for the present, of 233,000 rounds which is the result of accumulation of between 21,000 and 22,000 rounds daily since August 17th.
4. He intends to keep a reserve in hand after the battle of 1½ million rounds, which has already been set aside for the purpose and will not be touched.
5. It is difficult as yet to state separately how many rounds were expended in the opening bombardment and how many in subsequent operations, as the offensive had been a succession of actions involving bombardment and in support of troops. On August 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th 2nd Army used 185,000 rounds and 3rd Army 100,000. August 18th was the only day of real bombardment.

Figures given above refer to medium and heavy artillery ammunition only. For field artillery there are available in the country 7,000 rounds per gun for every gun in the Army. To field batteries of the 3rd and 2nd Armies 3,000 rounds per gun have been allotted, and of this only a small proportion has been expended. I will send later a detailed state of field artillery ammunition.
SECRET.

Operations.

Clear the line.

From:-- C.I.G.S. War Office.
To:-- General Delme Radcliffe, Comando Supremo, Italy.

27th August 1917.
3.20 p.m.

40254. cipher.

For Prime Minister's information, reply clear the line how Italian ammunition is holding out. State what expenditure has been differentiating between opening bombardment and subsequent operations. What reserve of ammunition is available for the battle and what is income. After the battle is over, what reserve does Cadorna wish to have in hand.
From: General Barter, Russia.

To: C.I.G.S. War Office.

27th August, 1917, 1 p.m.

No. 102 M.

To-day I had cordial reception from Kerenski.

I communicated to him the assurance of our continued energetic action on western front with a view to relieving pressure on Russian front. I assured him also of your best wishes for the success of vigorous measures for restoration of discipline. He asked me in reply to convey his cordial appreciation and to assure you that his Government would never consent to separate peace or to terms dishonouring to Russia or Allies. He complained that the Military party is urging the adoption of measures which, if applied precipitately, would only lead to mutiny and to disorder and general acts of violence. He produced telegrams to show that already some commanders at the front are abusing their new powers by cruel use of lash. He considered that the (one group undecipherable) of soldiers committees and commissaries at the present moment would lead inevitably to disastrous result.

I agreed with this latter opinion. I asked him if he thought that the troops would remain in the trenches when winter arrived. He replied that he is confident that they would do so. I hinted that time is short, and that if the authority of the officers was not re-established by then the men would probably refuse to remain in the trenches. He replied that he is confident that in the coming 3 months discipline would be restored sufficiently to avert this calamity. He anticipate (sic) any German danger through Finland before next spring, by which time our authority and influence would be restored. As regards his general policy...
he remarked somewhat slyly that the dissatisfaction of both the right and the (one group undecipherable) was the best proof that the middle course which he is following is a sound one. My general impression was that Kerenski was honest in his views, but that he is too absorbed with the maintenance of the revolution, and that he puts this consideration before the safety of Russia. I find that many of Kerenski's bitterest opponents also consider him honest in intention, but all agree that he is expecting too much merely from words, from his own personal influence amongst troops, and that both the anarchy in the interior and the demoralization at the front demand the immediate and stern application of force. They are undoubtedly right in this view. I also had long interview with Alexieff, whose views are always moderate and sound, and of whose unselfish patriotism there can be no doubt: he is emphatic regarding the vital necessity for immediate and drastic measures. He also does not think question to be disquieting at present. I shall send his remarks regarding Finland by letter. Alexieff is very apprehensive of German advance on Odessa and Nikolaieff, the possession of which would paralyse Black Sea fleet. He thinks the fall of Riga very probable but regrettable rather for its moral than strategical reasons. He does not think Germans would advance in any case beyond Riga before next spring. I shall see Korniloff to-morrow. Conference did not assemble to-day. I understand Kerenski is endeavouring to muzzle all opponents, but the members of the Duma are fighting hard for the right of speech, as vice President informed me to-day with much bitterness. Am keeping on friendly terms with all parties alike.
To-day I attended the opening of the Moscow conference. Kerenski made a speech of hysterical and snarling character. He threatened Bolshiviki directly and military chief by allusion. The French and other diplomatic representatives were there in diplomatic boxes but no British official except myself.

Kerenski admitted reluctantly necessity of death penalty but maintained soldiers' committee mixed courts martial and commissariat (sic) with the army.

Most important announcement was that Finns were hostile and that Government were taking measures to prevent them from turning against the Russians.

His speech was devoted to defence of Government and to safety of revolution; no reference was made to measures for defence or safety of Russia.

Speech made unfavourable impression on the whole because it contained no definite pronouncement of policy and dealt too much with merely party and personal questions when there is anarchy in the interior and demoralization at front.

I think it will seriously damage Government which has missed its chance to prolong its existence by a frank endorsement of Korniloff programme.

My private opinion is that a climax is rapidly (? approach) ing and that the present Government will soon be replaced by a Bolshevist ministry which in its turn will be immediately knocked out by a military counter revolution.

Military party is fast gaining in power and is now being supported by the best elements of the nation.

Savinkoff, Minister of War, has resigned in order to support Korniloff.
On 23rd inst. an important meeting of this party was held here with Rodzianka as president at which Alexeieff and Brusilov and other military chiefs were present as well as the most influential members of the moderate party in the Duma.

The meeting was as I heard in conversation with Alexeieff today most successful as regards unanimity of opinion and firm determination.

Korniloff sagaciously postponed his arrival until tomorrow. Tomorrow I shall pay formal visit to Kerenski.
FOOD PRODUCTION SCHEMES, IRELAND.

Memorandum prepared in compliance with Chief Secretary's Minute of 17th March, 1917.

Week ended 28th August, 1917.

The following is a brief statement on the work of the Department during the past week: in furtherance of increased Food Production in Ireland in 1917, and in connection with the organisation of supplies of requisites for tillage and harvest operations in 1918:

Land Inspections.

The work of carrying out inspections of holdings and dealing with the Inspectors reports is proceeding steadily.

Advisory Committee on Food Production.

A meeting of the Department's Advisory Committee on Food Production was held on Tuesday, 28th instant. Among the matters under consideration were the Corn Production Act, and future procedure in dealing with occupiers of land who neglected to comply with the Defence of the Realm Regulations in regard to the tillage of their holdings in 1917.

Loans for Agricultural Implements.

The number of applications for loans for agricultural implements received by the Department during the past week was 59. The total value of machinery ordered to date under the Scheme is £94,344. The adverse weather conditions prevailing for some time past are probably the cause of the decrease in the number of applications received.

Flax Seed (Ireland) Order, 1917.

During the week reports were received in regard to the 52 cases of defaulters under this Order.

A Scheme for the purchase and handling of the 1917 crop of flax is under consideration. This Scheme provides for the taking over, pricing and distribution of the flax and includes a graduated scale of prices for the purchase of flax according to quality.

Manure Supplies for 1918 crops.

Irish manure manufacturers and importers are still being pressed by the Government to make early and adequate provision to meet next season's requirements.

Storage
As it appeared from information received in connection with the inquiries which the Department have made as to storage accommodation for grain that a number of kilns for drying were not sufficiently supplied with coal owing to transit difficulties, the shipping authorities have been requested to have the necessary tonnage provided.

Harvesting Operations.

Rain, which has been very heavy during the past week, has delayed harvesting operations and has done appreciable injury to the grain crops. It is reported from some districts that ripened grain has commenced to sprout in the ear. Owing to the crops being badly 'lodged' it has been found impossible in very many districts to use the binders which had been provided and recourse has been had to scythes and reaping hooks, entailing much more labour in the harvesting of the crops.

Transit of Farming Requisites

During the past week a quantity of harvest machinery and consignments of ploughs and plough parts, together with a consignment of phosphates, arrived at the port of Dublin. Representations were received by the Department regarding the question of expeditious delivery of consignments of agricultural machinery (reapers, binders, winnowers, &c.) from London, Aberdeen, Wellington, Shrewsbury, Stony Stratford, and Wexford. The necessary action was taken in each case.

Maintenance of Live Stock.

During the period from 1st to 26th August inclusive 516 applications for licences to slaughter or export under the Order relating to breeding sows were received and 325 licences were issued. During the same period 75 applications for licences to export horses under the Horses (Prohibition of Exportation from Ireland) Order, were received, and 50 licences were issued. One licence was issued under the Order relating to in-calf cattle.
SECRET
WARR CABINET
G.T. 1888
Circulated with reference to War Cabinet Minute 12 (f) of 24th April, 1917.

Statement of the approximate number of horses and mules with the British Armies in France.

A.
The approximate numbers in certain units including are:

A) Army Corps (3 Divisions and Corps troops but less Heavy Artillery Groups)...... 13,737 (59,097)
B) Cavalry Division .............................. 7,995 (7,918)
C) Division ......................................... 4,339 (18,825)
D) Infantry Battalion .............................. 55 (1,000)
E) 18 pr. Battery, R.F.A. (6 gun) ............ 176 (200)
F) Divisional Ammunition Column ............. 1,010 (825)
The total number of horses and mules in the French Army in France on April 1st, 1917, was 950,000, distributed as follows:

- **Front line** ................. 708,000
- **L. of C.** .................... 95,000
- **In the Interior** ............. 147,000

\[ \text{Total} = 950,000 \]

The number in certain units are:

- **A) Army Corps (2 Infantry Divisions and Corps Troops)** 13,322 (37,000)
- **B) Cavalry Division (3 Brigades, 1 dismounted regiment artillery and transport)** 5,523 (6,328)
- **C) Infantry Division (3 Regiments, Divisional Cavalry, Division Artillery, engineers and Transport)** 4,900 (12,000)
- **D) Infantry Battalion (Staff, 3 companies and 1 machine gun company)** 66 (753)
- **E) Battery of Artillery Field** 173 (160)
  - **Heavy** 177 (198)
  - **Trench** 87 (141)
- **F) Ammunition Column**
  - **Infantry Section for Division of 4 regiments.** 266 (188)
  - **Infantry Section for Division of 3 regiments.** 205 (141)
  - **Artillery Section Field** 174 (131)
  - **" " Heavy** 101 (90)

Army Corps artillery parks have usually motor transport.

Army artillery parks have always motor transport.

**NOTE.** The figures in brackets give the establishment in officers and men of units, including attached.
Operations, SECRET.

From: General Delme Radcliffe, Italy.

To: C.I.G.S., War Office.

29.8.17.

Handed in 7 a.m.

853. August 28th, 10 p.m. Situation 2nd Army. 27th Army Corps is meeting with strong resistance on the Kal plateau, and has been strongly counter-attacked. Its losses have been rather heavy, and General de Marchi, commanding one brigade, has been killed. Nothing special to report on front of 14th and 24th Corps. On front of 2nd and 6th Corps further progress has been made towards isolating San Gabriele, which was still resisting strongly. On front of 8th Corps an attack was delivered on San Marco this morning after a four hours bombardment. Some progress was made in the Panowitz Wald, point 193 being reached. There is however still very strong resistance.

Generally speaking, enemy's artillery was not very active, but on the other hand he is making great use of machine-guns and Italian advance is being delayed until enough artillery can be brought up to deal with this obstacle. It is known that on San Gabriele there are 7 battalions, some of which have already lost heavily, and an officer prisoner taken to-day states that the only means of communication was by a road passing behind San Daniele to Ternova and Nemoi, but that no food or ammunition had been able to be brought up for 5 days. 435 prisoners were captured by 8th Corps near San Marco, and about 300 partly on the Kal plateau and partly on San Gabriele. Owing to difficulty of other communications Italians are using carrier pigeons from Bainsizza plateau to 2nd Army headquarters.

3rd Army. Situation is stationary. 300 prisoners have been taken. It is now ascertained that Austrian 10th Division is definitely on the front of 3rd Army, and has relieved the 35th Division. Of the Austrian 11th Division it is reported that 95th Regiment is approaching the Isonzo front after resting.

Though
Though they are still offering a good resistance, the morale of the Austrian troops seems to show little improvement, and most prisoners are tired and complain of lack of food. They also affirm that if Italians continue their pressure the Austrians will fall back on the line Koilca-Lokva-Ternova-Schon Pass. What may be called the second phase of the offensive will begin along the whole front as soon as the changes in artillery positions are completed. About one million rounds of heavy ammunition have been expended in the first stage of the offensive, and there will be about 1,200,000 available for the next stage. The prospects may consequently be considered good, as the enemy has lost heavily, is demoralised, has less well prepared defences, and his artillery cannot from its new positions be as effective as before. Cadorna is determined to maintain pressure as long as he possibly can, and the troops are very keen.
CONFIDENTIAL

WAR CABINET.

Supply of Winter Clothing to the Russian Army.

Note by the Secretary of State for War.

With reference to War Cabinet 204, minute 5, the attached statement shows the stocks of winter clothing held by the War Department on 11th August 1916 and 31st July 1917. The figures at first sight would appear to give cause for alarm, but this is not so in reality inasmuch as the stocks held on 11th August 1916 contained to a considerable extent the necessary supplies for the winter of 1916 - 1917 while the stocks held on 31st July 1917 contain less of the supplies for the coming winter, because contracts are now on a weekly delivery basis and supplies are coming in in steady instalments all the time instead of there being a large delivery and then a stoppage as was the case last year.

Our own wool consumption has been reduced to the utmost in order to save freight and to help to meet the labour difficulties arising out of the restriction of wool for civilian purposes. In the circumstances I am afraid that the stocks do not admit of any article being diverted to the assistance of the Russians.

In addition enquiries have been made privately from Sir Alexander Mcllvery, who owns the Camspore, Bharival and Bangalore Mills, as to whether India could assist to a greater extent if Australian wool was diverted there. He states that his mills are now practically controlled establishments in India, and are now producing three times the normal output. He also says that he could still cope with increased demands if the Ministry of Munitions would help to get them additional hosiery machines, a large quantity of which have been ordered.

They are already taking £70,000 worth of Australian wool, and the existing plants are not capable of working up any further considerable quantity from Australia. He does not hold out any hope, till he gets more machinery, of increasing the output in India; and it is understood that the mills in Australia and New Zealand are already working to their full capacity in equipping their own Contingents.

DERBY.

28th August, 1917.
## COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF STOCKS OF WINTER CLOTHING ON  

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<td>Coats, S.D.</td>
<td>1,567,695</td>
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<td>Coats, S.D.</td>
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<td>80,069</td>
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<tr>
<td>Socks</td>
<td>138,207</td>
<td>45,787</td>
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Section 1 - Strikes.

The immediate position as regards strikes has improved during the week, and there are at present no strikes of any great importance in progress. Most of the actual stoppages still continuing and affecting considerable numbers of men are reported from the South Wales Coalfield. At the Blaenavon Colliery, Newport 1500 men are involved owing to a demand for the reinstatement of a haulier whose lamp had been "stopped". Strikes due to disputes over the minimum wage are taking place at the Gwaen Cae Gurwen Colliery, and at the Maritime and Penrhyn Collieries at Pontypridd; in the latter some 700 men are involved.

The Boilermakers Strike at Liverpool referred to in last week's report, has come to an end and most of the men are back at work. During the earlier part of the week the position increased in seriousness owing to the fact that resolutions in favour of assisting the Boilermakers were passed by the Liverpool Branch of the Federation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades, and also by the local branch of the Electrical Trades Union. This very materially assisted in keeping up the enthusiasm of the Boilermakers which had begun to cool under rebuffs from the Lanchester Conference of Shop Stewards and other bodies. The attitude of both Unions was probably largely due to the action of W. H. Citrinewho is prominently identified with both bodies. He is a man of extreme views, and some influence. The Executive Council who were evidently anxious to find a way out of an impossible position, asked the Ministry of Labour whether assuming that the award could not be reopened they could raise a new issue on their agreement with employers as to their basis wage. It was agreed that this was a new dispute and arbitration was accordingly arranged, though no court is likely to accept the men's contention.

On Sunday a mass meeting attended by about 2500 men was held, at which the officers of the local society Messrs. J. Bell and Goddell, who have both been very prominent in supporting the strike, gave an account of their negotiations with the Ministry of Labour. It was stated that arbitration had been offered on condition that the strikers returned to work. This was claimed as a success, due to the support promised by the Electrical Trades Union, and the men were advised to return to work. On a vote being taken 1309 favoured resumption and 856 opposed it. This comparatively small majority indicates that the extremists have a great deal of influence and that the situation may continue to cause anxiety.

The serious strike of Iron-ore miners in Cumberland, which was also referred to in last week's report came to an end during the week and the men have returned to work. An agreement has been signed between the Ministry of Munitions and the local Trades Association by which the members of the latter are guaranteed certain pecuniary advantages. They on their part accept the offer as a full settlement of all outstanding demands and undertake to do all in their power to increase the output. Any difficulties arising under this agreement, which is to run until the end of 1918 or the end of the war, which every period is shorter, are to be
referred to the Ministry of Labour for arbitration.

Several important strikes of colliery workers have been settled during the week. One of these, which took place at Skyston, Burnley, and involved about 1000 men, arose out of a dispute regarding the recruiting of miners. Another was that at Treharris (the Ocean Colliery Company,) which involved 2000 men and was due to allegations as to an insufficient supply of timber, defective lamps, and the refusal of the management to meet the wishes of the miners in regard to a medical scheme.
Section II. Disputes.

The settlement with the Locomotive Enginemen and Firemen has on the whole been favourably received, but the men apparently regard Sir Albert Stanley’s promise to give consideration after the war to their demand for an eight-hour day as tantamount to a promise to accede to the demand. Signs are not wanting that the agitation in favour of an eight-hour day is likely to spread to other industries.

Little alteration has been reported in the position as regards the various disputes in the coal mining industry referred to in last week’s report. In addition to these there is a possibility of new trouble in various parts of the country. The Colliery Examiners in South Wales held a meeting on the 25th and resolutions in regard to an advance in wages and recognition of their Trade Union was passed. An "overwhelming majority" were in favour of tendering notices in order to enforce their demands. The South Staffordshire and Worcestershire Miners have handed in notices which expire on Saturday next. Their demand for a 25% increase is being considered by the Coal Controller, who is dealing this week with that application for a national advance of 25% which has been put forward by the Miners’ Federation and it is possible that the notices may be withdrawn.

The War Office Contracts Department reports that five old cases of dispute are still in progress and that four new cases have occurred. The most significant of these arises out of the action of the National Warehouse and General Workers’ Union in making application for various increases in wages to Messrs. Parke, Davis and Company of Hounslow, Chemical Manufacturers. As a result of this ten members of the employees’ committee were dismissed, the firm refused to have any dealings with the Union and have posted up a notice in their shops that their employees cannot be allowed to continue in the Union. This is an excellent commentary on the reports of the Industrial Commissioners.

Much more important was the trouble which arose among the wool sorters in the Bradford and Ilkley Districts over the exclusion of workers who are engaged on "pack work" (piece work) from an advance of 10% in wages which has recently been granted to all the other members of the Wool Sorters’ Union. The employers held a meeting on the 23rd and decided to include the pack men in the grant.

Most workers in the leather trade are putting forward application for very considerable increases in wages, but it does not appear likely that the employers will be prepared to agree to their demands.

The agitation over the recent Engineering Award appears likely to come to a head at an early date. A Special Meeting of the Executive of Shipbuilding and Engineering Federated Trades was held on the 24th to discuss the matter, and four societies, viz., the L.S.E., the Toolmakers, the Electrical Trades, and the Ironmoulders have passed resolutions that if the award is not amended, they intend to "down tools" on September 1st.

The Shipyard Labour Department reports 117 cases of dispute, mostly of a very minor character, as having been in progress during the week. Forty of these have been successfully settled, chiefly by the exertions of the Department’s officers, and only eight resulted in stoppages of work.

The Ministry of Munitions report ten cases of dispute, two of which have been successfully settled. Both the latter arose out of allegations of victimisation. Cases of this kind are becoming increasingly common, in most of them the allegations appear on investigation to be unfounded.
At Messrs. Richard Thomas and Company Limited, (Llanelly) an important dispute arose owing to the action of members of the A.S.E. in refusing to work overtime as a protest against the 3/- award. The men's demands (not so far endorsed by their Union) are for a further advance of 3/1½d., which would in fact put their wages on a level with those paid to engineers in the tinplate and steel trades. The employers intimated their willingness to consider this proposal, but owing to the importance of the points involved, the question is engaging the attention of the Ministers of Munitions and Labour.

A serious dispute has arisen out of the proposal of the Ministry of Munitions to give additional payment for August Bank Holiday to blast furnacemen and coke-oven men. The Cleveland blast furnacemen are now demanding a similar remuneration for the Stockton Race Week. A two days' strike was with difficulty averted, and the whole question of the position of blast furnacemen as regards holidays was referred to a conference to be held on the 28th inst.

One other dispute reported by the Ministry of Munitions calls for notice. This arose at Messrs. Dobson and Barlow, Limited, Bolton, owing to the fact that men released from the army have been placed upon machines for working plates at 14/- per week less than the standard rate for the district.

The London Bakers are pressing strongly for the abolition of night-work and a ballot has been taken on the question of a stoppage of work. The result is not yet known, but it is estimated that 90% of the men are in favour of drastic action. The masters do not consider that there is "the slightest possibility of a strike". The matter is being dealt with by Mr. J. R. Clynes, M.P. of the Ministry of Food.

The Committee on Production have heard during the past week 16 arbitration cases in London, 2 on the North East Coast and 4 in Scotland.

The cases heard on the North East Coast were in regard to the piece rates to be paid for rivetting work on standard ships.
SECTION III. District Reports.

With the exception of some slight trouble at Parkhead over the non-payment of certain sums of money, which have usually been received after the holidays (locally termed "subs") conditions in this area are normal.

The question of the reinstatement of the deportees does not appear to be quite as near a permanent settlement as it did last week. Some of them are complaining that the situations offered by the Ministry of Munitions are in places outside the Glasgow boundary. They fear that this is a trap, set with the intention of diminishing their influence.

Generally speaking, however, the recent actions of the deportees do not seem to have met with much public approval. This was well shown in their acceptance of the Ministry of Munitions' offer of employment, which was largely due to rank and file pressure. The leading spirits are joining the Industrial Workers of Great Britain, which appears to be the only extremist organisation, the membership of which is at the present time increasing.

The situation appears to be more satisfactory. Evidence continues to accumulate that the opinion in this area is strongly hostile to participation in the Stockholm conference. Strong resolutions have been passed by several local branches of drillers and engineers protesting against the vote of the Labour Conference.

The Chopwell miners have passed a resolution demanding that war workers shall be taken for the Army before regular miners.

An important conference of miners' delegates has been held at which it was resolved to instruct the executive to make an application for a 50% increase in the minimum wage rates. In the event of a refusal on the part of the employers a ballot is to be taken on the question of downing tools.

Conditions at Barrow are normal. The position as regards the Shop Stewards is rather peculiar. They appear to be vaguely determined to take drastic action as soon as a suitable opportunity presents itself, in view of the fact that they have decided against definite agitation on the subject of the general Engineering award, it is obvious that they distrust their power to bring about concerted action.

Apart from the Boilermakers' Strike on the Mersey (referred to in Section I) the situation in this area during the last week has been normal.

The proceedings of the Cotton Control Board are being watched with interest and anxiety, but on the whole the attitude of Labour towards the Board is rather sympathetic than hostile.

The Lancashire and Cheshire miners, 70,000 in number, have passed a resolution demanding that men who have entered the pits since the outbreak of the war should be taken for the Army before the bona fide miners.

In Yorkshire, with the exception of continuing unrest in the woollen industry, the position is normal. Generally speaking the trouble among the various woollen workers has not become really acute, but they are awaiting the results of the Government's action in appointing a Control Board. The most urgent problem is that which has arisen among the

/ wool
wool sorters and which is described in greater detail in Section II.

The proposed district conference of Workers' and Soldiers' Delegates which was to have been held on September 1st, has been prohibited by the Home Office and it does not appear that any attempt will be made to hold it. Arrangements are in fact being made to elect the district representatives to the provisional committee by letter ballot.

The situation is fairly satisfactory. In Nottingham there is a certain amount of discontent among the Engineers who have various grievances, the most important of which is the recent award by the Committee on Production. Workers in the Building Trades are also restless owing to the delays which have taken place in connection with an application which was made for higher wages.

In Birmingham, which is on the whole opposed to participation in the Stockholm conference, much sympathy is expressed with Mr. Henderson.

The National Federation of Discharged and Demobilised Soldiers and Sailors which is very active in the Midlands has associated itself strongly with the Government's position in regard to Stockholm. The Federation is reported to have decided to run two candidates for Birmingham constituencies at the next General Election.

The Warwickshire Miners sent delegates to London during the week to proclaim their strong protest against the Stockholm conference directly to the Prime Minister.

With the exception of isolated strikes at various works the situation is quiet.

Mr. J.C. Anderson, M.P., who recently visited Woolwich, and made rather an extreme speech, met with a favourable reception at Woolwich. The opinion at Woolwich is decidedly favourable to participation in the Stockholm conference which, it is thought, cannot do any harm and may conceivably do much good.

Various Trade Councils in the London district such as those of Poplar and Letchworth have passed resolutions to the same effect.

Mr. Churchill's work at the Ministry of Munitions is being watched closely and suspiciously, but so far the tone of comment is distinctly favourable.

The Allied Socialist Conference which is sitting in London this week seems to have aroused but little interest.

In South Wales there does not at the moment appear to be any acute industrial unrest, though the position in the local Mining area is such that strikes may and do occur at any time.

Opinion in favour of participation in the Stockholm conference has consolidated itself more especially among the miners. Mr. Henderson's attitude has been the subject of warm commendation, and various rather strongly worded resolutions have been passed, condemning the treatment which he has received. He is thought to have improved his political position very decidedly.

A movement is reported among the miners to follow the example recently set in Lanarkshire and declare a one day strike throughout the area, as a means of protesting against profiteering.

A disproportionate number of strikes have recently taken place in Ireland, where the general position is reported to be unsatisfactory. There is a good deal of unemployment in all branches of work except agriculture, discontent among Urban District Councils' employees at the low state of their wages, and unrest among the Engineers both at Belfast and Dublin owing to the alleged arbitrary Awards of Munition Tribunals.
The small majority by which the Labour Party Conference of 21st August passed the resolution in favour of representation of Stockholm, and the subsequent resolution excluding the I.L.P., the B.S.P., and the Fabian Society from participation, have afforded matter for fertile discussion in the Press during the week.

While the Pacifist Press insisted on the essential value of a majority however small, and demands that the deputation be permitted to proceed, the commonplace daily journal is inclined to view the Resolution as negligible, on account of the diminution in the majority which adopted it.

On the second point the views of the excluded bodies are best stated in the Northy Pioneer and the Labour Leader. The former paper has a long article by J.R. Jowett M.P. explaining the relations of the I.L.P. to the Labour party, and alleging that the resolution to exclude the smaller socialist bodies from the deputation is the result of a deliberate campaign of systematic misrepresentation. He writes: "The treatment of Mr. Henderson by the Government was obscured by the desire on the part of a comparatively small proportion of the Trades' Union delegates who, influenced by the carefully fostered and expensively conducted anti-I.L.P. agitation, wanted, above all things else, to jockey the I.L.P. out of the International and out of the Labour Party. Although the number of Trades' Union delegates who are supporting the plot against the I.L.P. is comparatively small, they were sufficient to turn the scale in their respective sectional meetings with the result that the majority of 1,896,000 for Stockholm on August 10th sank to one of 3000 on August 22nd. The effect of the Conference decision will be that even if the Government should decide to allow passports it will deny I.L.P. delegates, and will endeavour to shield itself from the consequences of its refusal by throwing the responsibility on to the Labour Party."

Mr. P. Snowden writing in the Labour Leader says: "The Tuesday Conference also refused to allow minority representation at the International Conference. This is a decision which the I.L.P. will not accept for a moment. The I.L.P. is not at this time of the war going to abandon its principles, nor will it allow the majority of the Labour Party to absorb it. The Labour Party Conference has passed an impossible resolution, and one they will never carry into effect."

Mr. Robert Williams has an article — "The Stockholm Fires Burning" in the Herald. He says: "...If I were in a position to advise, I would suggest that these organisations (i.e. the I.L.P., B.S.P., and Fabian Society) should refrain from applying for passports in the existing circumstances. Personally, one could have hoped that the I.L.P. and B.S.P. would have made a statement to the effect that if the Labour Party, as a party, would adhere to their previous decision to send delegates to Stockholm, that they (the Socialist bodies) would not seek separate representation."
It seems however improbable that the offended parties will refrain from fighting against the decision of the Conference.

In another part of the same issue the Herald expresses hope that, "even if it is still held that the Socialist bodies shall not be represented, certain means will be found to select some members of the minority when the Labour Party elected its eight delegates. In any case it is better to have a conference with only the British majority represented, than no conference at all".

Several journals comment on the possibility of a serious split in the Labour movement as a result of the divergence of opinions as to Stockholm. Their view was also expressed in an interview with Mr. Williams, secretary of the Transport Workers Federation, reported in the Birmingham Daily Post of August 23rd and it is urged strongly in the British Citizen and Empire, "on this question it is obvious that organised labour is split from top to bottom. Mr. Henderson's leadership has led the movement into the pathways of disaster".

A large number of resolutions hostile to the Conference and passed by local branches of Trade Unions, and by Workers' meetings are reported. This feeling appears to be specially strong in the Northern Counties of England.

The Birmingham Daily Post of 24th August published copies of Telegrams despatched by the National Federation of discharged and demobilized sailors and soldiers to His Majesty the King and to the Prime Minister, protesting against a British delegation to Stockholm.

It is pointed out in various quarters that, though the French Government has refused passports for Stockholm, the Socialists of that country continue to make their arrangements and that the Confédération Générale du Travail has joined them to this end. The Herald anticipates that "this decision should bring in the American Federation of Labour, as Gompers gave as one reason for refusing the fact that the French Trade Unionists had not decided to attend."

Justice considers it worthy of note that nearly all the old Social-Democrats in the belligerent countries are hostile to Stockholm, citing especially the cases of Plekhanoff, who has urged the French Socialists against participation, and of Jules Guesde, the Frenchman.

The question of the aims, objects and possibilities of Stockholm, and the advantages or disadvantages of participation are still discussed at considerable length, notably in the Herald "(the Main Issue)", the New Witness "(Notes of the week)" which considers that Stockholm is stale, Justice, (The Hopelessness of Stockholm), and the New Age. The last-named has a very well balanced essay in favour of participation, analyzing the arguments for and against this policy at considerable length. In the course of the article the aims of the mass of the British delegates are stated to be - "first, to lay upon Germany, and to the degree of their power, upon the German majority socialists, the responsibility for this war, and, second, to dispose the German delegates to the democratization of their government, as the sole conditions of a durable peace. In this sense, we regard the delegation "as a moral and democratic mission, whose object is the correction of the errors of the German Socialists, and their amendment in the future".
The article points out with considerable force that the Conference provides an opportunity of carrying on Allied Propaganda under the most formidable circumstances, both in neutral and in enemy countries. Incidentally it constitutes with severity Messrs. MacDonald and Snowden as two of the most important objections to the Conference.

In connection with the Press agitation against these bodies, the Herald reports that the Glasgow Trades Council has passed a resolution that the Typographical Association be requested to direct its members to refuse to set up in Type articles or letters attacking the working-class movement in a slanderous way. The Herald points out the dangers incidental to this course of action. Another resolution proposed to set up an unofficial Press Censorship. (Doubtless, on the model of that now exercised by the Russian compositors). This proposal is also condemned by the Herald.

There is an agitation, especially on the part of the Socialist papers, for the entire withdrawal of Labour support of the Coalition Government. The Labour Leader writes:- "All the Labour Ministers are supporting a policy opposed to that which the Labour party had endorsed. The present position cannot continue. The Labour Ministers can remain in the Government, but they cannot remain as representatives of Labour, if they act in opposition to the policy of the party."

The Yorkshire Factory Times asks: "What is the position of the party now, when the leader, Mr. Henderson, has left the Government and left it under such circumstances as make every self respecting Labour M.P. regret that the Labour Party ever consented to ally itself with the Government as it has done during the past three years?"

The Transfer of recruiting to civilian agency is criticized by the British Citizen in an article headed "Twaddleum and Tweedledoo", in the course of which it is pointed out that the change is more apparent than real. "The change does not inspire us to any great hope - Recruiting has been a "Civilian's job all the time, up to 75 per cent. Practically all the recruiting officers were civilians in uniform... Now these people will doff their Khaki and disguise themselves as "Civilians - in homespun. In other words "Tweedledum will become Tweedledoo." Other papers also are hostile to this measure.

Common-sense attacks the proposal for the development of a trained and efficient secretariat in connection with the Ministry of Munitions Council.

The Council is welcomed by the British Citizen and by the Federation as an effective method of replacing "bureaucracy by business brains."

The Herald animadverts on the omission from the Bill, as passed, of the clause rendering Ministry of Munitions Circular L 6. (Notes for the guidance of Controlled Establishments) legally enforceable on employers in controlled establishments and says:- "If we do not suggest that the employers are responsible for the omission, it is because we want to give Mr. Churchill a fair Trial. The Labour Leader" criticizes the failure to abolish leaving certificates.

The suggestion that the National Service Department should take over control of the Employment Exchanges has met with criticism in many quarters. That of the more definitely Labour Press is not sympathetic. A typical criticism is that of the "Herald", which, referring to the statement, says:- "If this is true, it can only be regarded as most sinister "move from the Trade Union point of view, for the National Service."

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"Service Department is now freely regarded as a mere annexe of the War Office and the transfer of the Exchanges, therefore, looks like another step in the direction of "industrial conscription". The "New Statesman" has two very bitter paragraphs on the subject. It writes: "Whether this is being done in order that the National Service scheme shall get the credit of the job-finding done by the "Labour Exchanges, or whether the Labour Minister of Labour has positioned to be relieved of work that he feels to be "beyond his purview, I do not know. But I do know that at any ordinary time there would have been a shindy."

The other paragraph contains the following: "What will there "be left for Mr. Roberts to administer? If the announcement "proves to be accurate, the Labour members will perhaps "understand why Mr. Hodge was shifted to the Pensions "Ministry, and why the promoted subordinate, who was not in a "position to complain, was assigned to the attenuated Labour "Ministry. The proposed combination of compulsory recruiting for the Army, under a Brigadier General who will just have "left off Staff Union, with the filling of industrial "situations, which is still supposed to be voluntary, must "necessarily alarm the Trade Union world, with its intense "fear of, and resentment at, Industrial Conscription. . . . . . . . . . . .We "sincerely hope that this ill-omened project will not be "perpetuated in."

The agitation against profiteering has somewhat abated, but continues in a less virulent degree. The New Witness has an article on "Forestalling and Rebating". It fails to "detect about Lord Rhondda any of that swiftness of decision "...which war were led to expect when he was appointed some "months ago. So far he has promised much, he has done little. "Prices are still rising, the profiteer still waxes fat."

The article goes on to suggest that action under certain ancient statutes should be initiated against those guilty of profiteering but considers it "quite futile to suppose that "the present Law Officers of the Crown will move in this "matter, or indeed, in any matter, that imposes any "sacrifice upon the rich." The paper then proceeds to call for volunteers who will co-operate in instituting prosecutions under the ancient statutes.

The Carnarvon Herald reports at length the proceedings of a meeting of the North Wales Labour Council at which Mr. Hugh Hughes of Wrexham alleged that profiteering is rampant and that organized labour must aim at full representation on food control Committees. The Labour Leader also insists on the necessity for adequate representation of Labour on these bodies.
general

Though the temporary settlement of the trouble among the
Boilermakers has eliminated the most serious industrial
dispute, the labour position and outlook cannot be deemed
satisfactory. In a recent report attention was drawn to the
tendency to protest by means of a strike against decisions
or awards of the Committee on Production, or of arbitrators.
This tendency is still obvious. A still more disquieting
feature is the ever-growing and apparently illimitable demand
for large increases in wages, - in many cases emphasized by
stoppages of work or accompanied by notices of strike, should
the demand not prove successful.

During the past week demands of this nature have been made
frequently, and in many quarters. The most important are
those urged upon its executive by the local branches of the
National Union of Railwaymen, and those made by the Miners' Federation, whose importance lying in the essential nature of the industries affected, and the large number of workmen concerned.

In the former case it is reported that a general demand has been made by the branches, for an additional all-round increase of £1 per week for all employees, coupled with a
reduction of the hours of labour. In the latter the
Federation is in treaty with the Coal Controller for an
increase of 25% on all wages. It is estimated that con-
cession of their demand would amount to an increase of
2500,000 per week in the mining wage bill. It is instructive
to notice that the Miners of the Black Country in making their
claim base it on the cost of living and the high wages paid
to munition workers.

The epidemic has however by no means confined itself to
these two industries. The South Wales Steel Workers demand
an additional 20% on wages already extraordinarily high.
First hands are now paid from £12 to £16 per week, second
hands from £12 to £13, and helpers £11.

The Transport Workers' Federation demands an additional
20/- per week on pre-war rates for 150,000 vehicle workers.
The Flax roughers and mill workers claim an increase of 10/-
for men, 5/- for women and young people, and that the
previous war bonus be classed as enhanced wage.

The Clyde District Committee of the Shipbuilding and
Engineering Trades' Federation put in a claim for an increase
equivalent to the increase in the cost of living, i.e. 100% on
pre-war rates, less 27½% advance already-granted.

Of disputes causing a stoppage of work the great majority are due to demand for an increase of wages supported by immediate "down tools" action. Of 55 cases of stoppage contained in the Labour Statistics Report for the week, no
less than 50 are of this kind.

The reasons for this most unsatisfactory state of affairs
are not far to seek. The rise in the cost of living affords
its excuse, the practical impossibility of resisting the
demand its explanation. Doubtless the reason given by the
Black Country miners has had some effect. The evil is a
growing one and past success encourages to greater future
effort. Under existing circumstances no heroic remedy is
possible, but the recognition of the evil is an argument in
favour of a firm policy on the part of the Government, in
order to dispel any idea that threat of a strike is a sufficient
argument in support of claims otherwise unanswerable.

D.J.S.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR.
30.1.1917.
The lull in the activities of the Sinn Fein party which I mentioned last week has continued and is sufficiently definite to be regarded as giving corroboration to reports which have reached me from various quarters that the Sinn Fein leaders are now resolved not to do anything which would be likely to bring about a new insurrectionary rising under present conditions. This belief is very commonly held, and I am inclined to think it is well founded. At the same time the more violent of the adherents of these leaders continue to preach rebellion and do all they can to make it possible. A good many of the extremists of whose incendiary speeches information has been given by the police to the Military Authorities have been arrested; some for incitement to rebellion; some for taking part in the attempted re-organisation of the rebel Volunteer Force, and others for other offences against Defence of the Realm Regulations, and some of the arrested men have been tried and sentenced to terms of imprisonment. These include several of the most dangerous rebels who were released in the general amnesty before the opening of the Convention.

On the whole, good results appear to me to have followed the enforcement of the new Defence of the Realm Regulations adopted to meet Irish conditions. In the counties of Kerry and Galway, however, disturbed conditions prevail. There have been two or three instances, in remote districts, of midnight raids by disguised men searching for arms. The police also report a sullen and defiant attitude on the part of the peasantry in some districts. But the state of these counties shows a tendency to improve. Apart from operations likely to
lead to insurrectionary trouble the Sinn Fein leaders are organizing a systematic effort to secure all the representative positions in the country, urban and rural, political and municipal. I hear that they already have at their disposal a large fund for electioneering purposes and that it is steadily growing. It may be assumed therefore that they will succeed to a great extent in ousting the old Nationalist members from local as well as from Parliamentary positions, and will seek in all directions to render Government under the authority of the Imperial Parliament difficult if not impossible. I think it will be practicable at the right time to defeat these efforts without necessarily resorting to very extreme methods.

The Convention seems at length to be accepted generally as a serious factor in the political life of the country. Among its members and its critics the expectation that good will come of its labours is certainly on the increase. The arrangements made by the Chairman and Sir Francis Hopwood for the circulation to the members of information concerning the elemental facts relating to the Government of Ireland and the relations between Ireland and Great Britain have put a great many influential men in possession of valuable information which will affect their conduct and is likely to be widely spread in the country. The debates and private discussions which have now proceeded for several days upon the general topic of Irish needs and demands are also said among well informed people to be producing excellent practical results in the Convention itself and to some extent outside it. Next week when the Convention is to sit at Belfast, the wholesome process of clearing up misconceptions between North and South will be further helped by the hospitable reception offered to the members by the Lord Mayor.
and other leading citizens. Influential members of the Convention appear generally to entertain a hope that the tolerant spirit shown during the preliminary debates to a good deal of plain speech will prove strong enough to carry the assembly with good temper and a continued desire for agreement, through the coming difficult time when it will have to deal with definite proposals.

There is, I am sorry to say, grave reason to fear that the bumper corn harvest which was in view a fortnight since will be to a very serious extent destroyed and damaged by the continuous storms which have since occurred. The agricultural situation is alarming, but not hopeless.

(Initialled) H.E.D.

30th August, 1917.
Operations.

From: General Delme Radcliffe, Italy.

To: C.I.G.S., War Office.

356. August 29th.

Situation this evening 10 o'clock.

2nd Army. Offensive suspended today while work of bringing up artillery and supplies etc., continued actively. There was local fighting on the front of 27th Corps which captured 8 officers and 459 men and made a little progress on the Lom plateau. On the Bainsizza plateau 17 prisoners taken and on Veliki Krib the north-western spur St. Gabriele there was fighting at intervals all day 12 officers and 357 men being made prisoners by the Italians.

Italians have pushed their lines a little closer towards St. Gabriele on the north and have consolidated their positions in Panowitz Wald north of Gorizia where 52 prisoners taken. Total prisoners captured by 2nd Army alone 391 officers 14,078 men since August 19th.

No information concerning arrival of fresh reinforcements on 2nd Army offensive. It has been ascertained that 2 battalions of the 73rd Division are on the Veliki Krib shoulder of St. Gabriele while remainder of division which it is thought is not being employed as a division is engaged on the ridge heights west of Chiapovano valley and north of Lokovec. In the Tolmino sections 6th battalion Bosnian Herzegovina regiment 1,200 strong has appeared. It was at Plezzo 10 days ago.

3rd Army. No fighting except artillery. Nothing to report specially today. Only half a dozen deserters came in. Information obtained to the effect that whole of 10th Division now in line. Nothing further heard of 32nd Division but approaching arrival of the 11th Division reported again. It appears that owing to comparative rest which his troops have had during last few days the enemy's morale has risen a little.
From Viceroy, Foreign Department, 26th August 1917.
(Received at India Office 7 p.m.)
916 S. Secret. Your telegram of the 22nd August. Mesopotamia Commission. We concur in opinion expressed in telegram from Cox, 3585, 24th August.
THE PROPOSED INTER-ALLY TRANSPORT CONFERENCE.

( Note by the Secretary )

At the meeting of the War Cabinet held on August 30th, 1918, a certain misapprehension appeared to exist as to the precise motives of the proposal made at the recent Conference of the Allies at Paris for the assembly of an Inter- Ally Transport Conference in Paris. It will perhaps be useful to the War Cabinet to have a summary of the origin and progress of this proposal.

2. The suggestion was made at a meeting of the naval and military representatives of the Allies on July 25th, 26th, which had before it a review of the maritime situation by Mr. Graeme Thomson. From this review the Conference drew the following conclusions:

"It appears from the above that the situation will only begin to improve from November 1918, and that until then the total available tonnage of the Allies may be insufficient to cover all their requirements.

It is therefore indispensable to establish a general list of the available tonnage for each of the Allies and to put against it the figure of their requirements. Only then will it be possible to take a decision as to the amount and the nature of the restrictions which will have to be made in the various kinds of traffic.

Further, the transport of the American Army to France has created fresh needs which we have to face. On this particular account, it is indispensable to draw up a statement of the total Inter-AIly tonnage, and it is only when this is done that it will be possible to get an idea of the amount of transport, if any, which can be put at the disposal of the American Army in France; it seems, on a first examination, that these means will be limited solely to the resources of the American mercantile marine as supplemented by their shipbuilding programme.

The members of the Meeting consider that it is a most important point which must be cleared up without delay, and ask that the Allied Governments should take at once the necessary measures to that effect; with this end in view, a meeting of the representatives of the Transport Services of the Allies should be held in London at the earliest opportunity.

3. It is understood that the main consideration which influenced the Conference was a statement by General Pershing to the effect that the Government of the United States of America were inclined to transport all the requirements of their Army from America, irrespective of what could be more easily obtained in France or the United Kingdom. For example
I was informed in Paris that a great quantity of wooden piles required for the construction of a harbour, as well as material for a great system of railway construction, much of which could be obtained in Europe, was to be imported from the United States. I understand the Conference felt that the best means of bringing the necessary pressure on the United States Government to curtail their transport requirements was to hold a Transport Conference.

4. The proposal was accepted by the main Conference without much discussion, except that on the initiative of the Italian Admiral di Revel the question of the construction of unsinkable ships was referred to the Conference, and on the initiative of the Prime Minister, the date of the Conference was fixed for August 10th. (I.C.- 24 (b)).

5. On July 30th, the question came before the War Cabinet, who were informed that the proposal had been made by the British representatives with a view to finding out how many United States troops could be transported and maintained on the Western front, as the present proposals of the United States Military Authorities were regarded as extremely high. The War Cabinet felt that we should guard, as far as possible, against any attempt on the part of the Conference to create a shipping pool, it being highly undesirable and dangerous that the control of shipping should be taken out of our hands and placed in those of the Allies as a whole.

It was decided: -

(a) that the First Lord of the Admiralty should be asked to act as Chairman of the Conference and should draw up the Terms of Reference, and communicate them to the United States of America;

(b) that the Shipping Controller, in consultation with the Departments concerned, should prepare a statement of the British requirements up to August, 1918.

(War Cabinet 198, Minute 11).

6. On August 3rd, the First Sea Lord informed the War Cabinet that the representatives of the United States could not reach England by August 10th, and that the Conference would have to be postponed. No action was taken, however, to postpone the Conference, and on August 6th, the Italian representatives had arrived in London. The failure to notify the Allies concerned appears to have been due to a misunderstanding.
The War Cabinet were under the impression that the First Lord would take the Chair. Sir Eric Geddes had told the Secretary that he was too busy to do so, but no formal communication had been received, and the Secretary had gathered from telephonic enquiries that the Admiralty had the matter in hand. Not much harm was done, however, by this misunderstanding, as the Italian delegates had arrived early in order to discuss the question of an unsinkable ship and were diverted on to this topic.

7. These facts were discussed at the War Cabinet on August 9, when the Shipping Controller urged the undesirability of holding the Transport Conference. The discussion was very brief, and the Minutes do not record the Shipping Controller's reasons, which so far as I can recollect were not developed at any length. Presumably however his objections were founded on the desire to avoid the extension of Allied control over British ships, a danger alluded to when the question was first discussed by the War Cabinet. At any rate the Shipping Controller's view was supported by the War Cabinet, and Sir Joseph Maclay was asked to deal with the matter, and, if possible, to prevent the representatives of the other Allies from coming to London (War Cabinet 206, Minute 3).

8. In the Minutes of August 17th, it is specifically laid down that the forthcoming Naval Conference "must be distinguished from the Transport Conference, which would probably not take place" (War Cabinet 217, Minute 15).

9. The question was again discussed briefly on August 20th, when it was mentioned that the Allies are making enquiries as to when the Conference will take place, but no decision was reached (War Cabinet 226, Minute 6).

10. It is suggested that if the matter is left where it is, the British Representatives will be placed in an awkward predicament in the event of the question being raised at the Inter-Ally Conference due to take place in September. This arises from the following considerations:

(i) The Conference was originally suggested by the British naval and military representatives.

(ii) The date was fixed on the initiative of the British Prime Minister for August 10th.

(iii) The British Government failed to notify their Allies until the last moment of the postponement of the Conference, from August 10th, with the result that the Italian delegates actually came to London.

(iv) The British Government have, apparently without any explanation dropped the whole thing.

11. The pros and cons of the two courses open appear to be as follows:

The argument against holding the Conference is the risk that the Allies may insist on the pooling of British Shipping among all the Allies, with a consequent loss of British control.
The arguments for holding the Conference are, that as the military plans of the Allies for 1918 depend upon the amount of shipping available, it is essential, before these plans can be decided to draw up a sketch transport programme; that this will provide a means of bringing home to the United States of America the necessity for economising tonnage in every possible direction.

(Initialled) M.P.A.H.

Secretary.

2 Whitehall Gardens, S.W.,
31st August 1917.
Early this morning Conference closed. Impressive speech by Alexieff marked the last session. That the speeches of Alexieff and Korniloff have undoubtedly had excellent effect is shown by the expressed determination of the speakers of all political parties yesterday to carry on the war to a successful and honourable conclusion with an unfailing energy. In a fine speech Kerenski opened the road to conciliation and united effort. His presidency of this Conference has been impartial and distinguished, and on a level with the best parliamentary traditions. He did not once allow any speaker, whether a friend or opponent, to attribute to another party unworthy motives. He said that although the representatives of the different parties present might differ in their views they were all honest in their desire to do what was best for Russia. By this impartial and moderate attitude and by his last speech the unfavourable impression created by his first speech has undoubtedly been corrected, and his position been strengthened. Much good, he said, had resulted from Conference; the Government had learnt the exact views of all factions and the different parties had gained the opportunity of forming a less unfavourable opinion of each other; he thought there was a much better chance now of unity for the common good. The idealistic tendencies of which he had been accused would now be put away. I think if the Government immediately
immediately start reorganising thoroughly regardless of opposition of the extreme left it will occupy very strong position. My own opinion of Kerenski as a statesman has risen considerably. He certainly is a leader of great personal magnetism and quick resource. From the point of view of allies the main result of this Conference is the now clear and unanimous expression of intention of leaders of all parties to continue war with determination and energy. Whilst some disposition to compromise with the Government in order to get reorganization started was shown by the moderate party headed by Kudzieanko an attempt at counter-revolution will, I believe, shortly be made by military party and the Government are preparing for it. I had an interview with Alexieff after his speech. He said that time was not yet ripe for action by force. I believe he himself is against any commotion at present moment if the Government will only act, but I believe Korniloff on the other hand considers that in any case such action is indispensable. I have been informed on sound authority that Alexieff has refused offer of fresh appointment of Commander-in-Chief.

Today I am returning to G.H.Q.
REPORT relating to the War Work of the Board of Agriculture for Scotland for the week ending 29th August, 1917.

FOOD PRODUCTION.

Agricultural Work.

During the week the weather has been generally unfavourable for harvest operations in the country. In practically every county grain is ready to be cut but the heavy rains and strong winds that have been prevalent during the past week have not only prevented operations but have also laid great areas of grain crops.

1. District Agricultural Committees.

During the week a representative of the Board met the Committees of Dumfries, Lockerbie, Annan and Thornhill, and he also had conferences with the Executive Officers of Wigtownshire.

2. Compulsory Orders under the Defence of the Realm Regulation 2 M.

The Board have issued two Orders under 2 M. intimating their intention to enter on parts of the Deer Forests of (a) fileanreach, Glenelg, Inverness-shire, and (b) Attadale, Lochcarron, Ross-shire, and thereafter to let the land for grazing purposes in the interests of increased food production.


Considerable numbers of soldiers are at present giving assistance in harvesting operations in Scotland. In addition to 1250 men who were released in Spring for farm work and subsequently allowed to remain on the land, about 600 skilled men have been granted agricultural furlough; 3000 men have been obtained specially for harvest work; 956 have already been released from the Home Forces to cope with the increased cultivation for the 1918 crop, and almost all the Agricultural Battalions (about 750, in all) are now working on the land. It would thus appear that approximately 6550 soldiers are at present available for farm work and, from reports received, a further 1500 will be required to cover all applications from farmers.

The Board regret to report that the majority of the soldiers who have recently been made available for agricultural work are entirely inexperienced and unskilled. In view of assurances given regarding labour, farmers expected more qualified men for harvest work and are consequently disappointed with the labour supplied.
Report for week ended 29th August, 1917.

Statistical Branch.

The Preliminary Statement of the annual agricultural returns was issued on the 25th August. Wheat is about the same acreage as last year, barley is 128,000 acres more, oats 173,000 acres more, and potatoes (excluding those grown on allotments) 80 acres more. The total arable area is greater by 195,000 acres. The increase in corn and potatoes is chiefly at the expense of permanent grass which declined by 187,000 acres, of the clover area, which fell by 91,000, and bare fallow, which fell by 67,000 acres. The total hay area is down by nearly 108,000 acres. Cattle slightly increased, and are the highest on record; milch cows (including those in calf) are also higher than last year. Sheep fell by 761,000 owing chiefly to a bad lambing season, and pigs are also down by a quarter of a million.

The work of copying the main items on the schedules of farms of over 20 acres, for the use of the War Executive Committees, has also been completed, a large staff of members of the Stock Exchange doing this work under the supervision of this Branch.

A circular was sent to all hop growers to ascertain, for the purpose of carrying out the Hop Orders, whether all growers had reduced their acreage to half the 1914 area.

Fisheries Division.

There has been a heavy correspondence connected with applications for relaxations of fishing restrictions round the coasts.

A draft of an Order to allow motor fishing boats to fish in Cardigan Bay has been sent to the Lancashire and Western Committee for an expression of their views. A similar Order for the North East Coast is in draft.

The Board have felt compelled to refuse to allow a byelaw extending the fishing season for salmon nets in the sea in the Tyne Fishery District. The national food situation does not warrant a drastic interference with protective salmon regulations, and the fish are admittedly not in good condition.

Byelaw matters in other districts have been dealt with. Questions affecting the means adopted for the quarantine of mussels taken in polluted waters have been considered in connection with the Conway and Cardigan Bay Mussel Orders.

Correspondence connected with ordinary administrative duties has been unusually heavy. The work is accumulating and application will be made for sanction to the appointment of a temporary inspector to deal with salmon and freshwater fishery matters.

Permits Section.

Permits have been granted to 35 fishing vessels, mostly for herring fishing off the North East Coast.
Arrangements have been made for an extension to the North-West Coast of the system of permits for amateur fishing.

Motor Loan Section.

Several vessels have run their trials during the past week and further installations are nearing completion.

The owner of the first Kessingland motor beach boat, in which a 5 H.P. Petter engine has been installed by the Committee, distinguished himself last week by saving the lives of four soldiers who had lost control of their boat and been driven out to sea. Without the motor in it the Kessingland boat would have been unable to put out to sea or to rescue the men; for the soldiers' boat was rapidly nearing a patch of very dangerous breaking water.

This is the second loan boat which has rescued men from boats at sea.

Fish Food Section.

Arrangements are being made to deal with any gluts that may occur in the herring fishery on the East Coast, and officers have gone to Lowestoft for the purpose.

The question of wood for fish boxes is being investigated further, and it is hoped that a supply of "short ends" now in the hands of the Government buyer may be procured for the purpose.

Enquiries are also being made to supply the shortage of hard wood turnings for the fish curers, and some further sources of supply have been found.

Fishermen's Registration and Recruiting Section.

Fishermen and Naval Service.

The examination of Naval records in the case of men whose enrolment was doubtful has been completed, but has left a considerable number of men unaccounted for. Efforts will be made to trace these and secure them for service.

The selection of drafts for naval service is proceeding according to plan, but, owing to the diminishing reserves of men, this becomes more difficult and complicated as time goes on, involving considerable correspondence and enquiry.

Fishermen, Fish Trade and Military Service.

Correspondence in this Department is also increasing, and more appeal forms are being received. The temporary release of certain men from Army Units to assist in the fisheries at special seasons has been secured. The proposal for a general scheme based upon the requirements of various districts is being developed in co-operation with the National Fish Trades Association.
Potato Disease.

Wart Disease of Potatoes continues to be reported from many parts of England, some of which have never been reported as infected before. Disease is reported from Bushey Heath near Watford, from Taunton, and from Plymouth. Suspicious cases have also been reported from Ipswich, Rugby and Leighton Buzzard.

Progress is being made with the arrangements for the supply of seed of immune varieties for next season, so that crops of potatoes may be obtained from land known to be infected with Wart Disease.

Hop.

Preliminary meetings of the Hop Control Committee have been held, mainly for the purpose of taking stock of the position and for considering methods of procedure. A Secretary will shortly be appointed.

The Returns of hop growers of their acreages in 1914 and in 1917 have now been received, and the operation of the Hop Order of 19th May, which required growers to reduce their acreage this year to one-half of what it was in 1914 is thus being checked. Enquiries with the same object are also being made in the hop districts. Growers who do not comply with the Order will be liable to have their hops refused by the Control Committee or to be prosecuted for their non-compliance.

Corn Production Act.

Arrangements are being made for the staff and accommodation of the Agricultural Wages Board. A letter has also been addressed to the Lands and Buildings Branch of the War Office and Ministry of Munitions claiming that the building in Whitehall Place known as Armament Buildings, which was designed for the accommodation of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries and is now occupied by the Ministry of Munitions, should be handed over to this Board at the earliest possible date after the end of the war. Very great inconvenience, waste of time, and hindrance to the work of the Board is caused by the inadequate and scattered premises in which the staff is at present housed.

31st August, 1917.
I beg to submit the following Report of the Food Production Department for the week ended 29th August:

Weather and the Harvest.

The heavy rains and tempestuous weather which have been almost everywhere experienced during the past week have had a disastrous effect on the harvest. Owing to the laid condition of the corn, due to the storms of a fortnight ago, the gathering of the harvest would, in any case, have been difficult and slow, but this fresh visitation of stormy weather has created a situation the seriousness of which can scarcely be exaggerated. The Department's Commissioners report that great anxiety prevails among farmers in almost every district.

In spite of the long drought of May and June last, the crops a few weeks ago were, speaking generally, in a very promising condition, but at present the outlook is exceedingly discouraging. In districts in the South of England where corn ripens early a large proportion of the grain has already sprouted, and further heavy losses have resulted from damage done by the recent storms.

A great reduction in the yield of this year's harvest, is, therefore, inevitable and is most disappointing in view of the very large increase in the area under corn which resulted from the Department's efforts in the early months of the year. It will be remembered that, in April the District Commissioners estimated that there would be an increase of 300,000 acres over
the 1916 area devoted to corn crops and potatoes. An early official estimate, based on the average of 40 per cent. of the agricultural returns, showed that there was a prospect of this increase being not less that 347,000 acres. On Saturday last the official Agricultural Returns were issued, and show that both the above figures were well below the result actually achieved. The area cropped with wheat, barley, oats and potatoes in England and Wales this year is no less than 388,000 acres over and above the corresponding area in 1916, whilst an additional 35,000 acres has been devoted to roots. This is independent of the very large, but incalculable, increase from gardens, small holdings and allotments.

In view of the exceptional difficulties, in the way of weather and shortage of labour, with which agriculturists had to contend, these results must be considered as highly satisfactory and reflect the greatest credit on everyone concerned in the task of food production.

**LOCAL ORGANISATION.**

**Work of Agricultural Executive Committees.**

Several of the Executive Committees are taking possession of land where the tenant, being under notice to quit at Michaelmas or Ladyday, will not cultivate for the 1918 crop. The Committees are taking possession temporarily of only those parts of the farm which require such cultivation, and will withdraw from possession in favour of the new tenant. Instances of such action are reported from Cambridgeshire, Somerset and West Suffolk.

In Cheshire the Committee are taking possession of an 84 acre farm the tenant of which is serving with the forces and has been unable to obtain leave to attend to the farm. The Bedfordshire Agricultural Executive Committee have held a conference with the Duke of Bedford's representatives, at which it has been arranged that Woburn Park shall be used for six months
from 1st May in each year for the grazing of 200 head of cattle and 500 sheep. In Durham the Committee have requested Lord Barnard to plough up 105 acres of grass land at Raby Castle and to treat the park with basic slag.

Rabbits Order.

Action under the Rabbits Order is reported from Bedfordshire, Durham and Leicestershire. Action is also reported in one case in Durham under the Rookeries Order.

Drainage of Lands Order.

In Bedfordshire, the Committee have given notice to all the mill owners in the county to open their sluices when the water reaches the height to which the mills are legally entitled. The Committee are also arranging for the cleansing of various brooks in the parish of Aspley Guise. In Cheshire the Committee have given notices under the first Drainage of Lands Order for the cleansing of the River Weaver and other water courses not mentioned in previous reports, and they are having an inspection made of the Arley Brook and its tributaries. A number of inspections have been made by the Board’s Drainage Inspector in Lancashire, and the Committee are convening meetings of the owners interested in several of the areas inspected (the River Keer, the Sankey and Glaze Brooks near Warrington, and the Hest Bank near Morecambe Bay). The Committee are also issuing orders with regard to the Spen Dyke which drains into Blackpool, and on this subject they are working in consort with the Blackpool Corporation. They have invited the co-operation of the Furness Railway Company and the Westmorland Agricultural Executive Committee with regard to the Silverdale Moss on the borders of the last named county.

Cultivation of Lands Order, 1917 (No. 2.)

In the past week, reports have been received from three districts which have provided 555 applicants with plots, containing in the aggregate an area of 41 acres.
Revised statements, however, received from Brighton and Croydon show that in the earlier reports a large number of plots provided by private enterprise in these Boroughs were included. The corrected figures, showing the provision of allotments under the Defence of the Realm Regulations in the 1,057 districts which have reported, are as follows:-

Number of applications ........... 192,169.
Number of plots provided ........... 173,725.
Total area provided ............... 12,871 acres.

HORTICULTURAL SECTION.

Fruit and Vegetable Bottling. 164 demonstrations have been given in different parts of the country, making a total of 1,705.

The number of glass jars despatched by manufacturers during the week is 332,564, making a total of 1,387,960; the balance remaining to be despatched is now only 206,658.

Preserving Fruit and Vegetables. The pulping stations now in operation are as follows:-

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Station</th>
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<th>Dealing with</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maidstone</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60 per day.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sittingbourne</td>
<td>20 - 30</td>
<td>20 - 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Warden</td>
<td>7 - 10</td>
<td>7 - 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pershore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cheltenham</td>
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<td>Totnes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bourneville (Messrs. Cadbury Bros).</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Broom Junction (Under Board of Agriculture)</td>
<td>15</td>
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The above stations are, therefore, pulping approximately 1,000 tons of fruit per week.

Premises thought to be suitable for drying stations have been inspected and reported on at Canterbury, Gravesend and Dartford. Enquiry is being made with the object of utilising malt driers for the purpose of drying vegetables.

The depot at the South Eastern College, Wye, which is to be used as a training centre for supervisors, is now almost equipped. Reports received indicate that the scheme for Vegetable drying is being welcomed by growers, many of whom are actively cooperating in the work.
Arrangements for establishing drying stations at Dartford, Canterbury, Paddock Wood, Wateringbury have been made. At Dartford 100 tons of cabbage, which otherwise would have been wasted, have been dried and pressed, and packed in hop pockets. Negotiations for the establishment of other depots are being made. Messrs. Meux' brewery at Nine Elms has been inspected with the object of using it as a drying station and training centre. The Directors have offered very favourable terms.

Mr. Riley, of the War Office Contracts Department, has applied to the Food Production Department for a supply of dried vegetables. Contracts placed in Canada will be completed at the end of the year. The Department has informed Mr. Riley that it anticipates that it will be in a position to deliver 100 tons of dried vegetables per week after Christmas, and 200 tons per week by the end of March. It is hoped that it may be possible to exceed this amount. The Army requirements are 1,000 tons a month.

Canners. The number of "Home Canners" sold during the week is 46, making a total of 86. The number of cans sold during the week is 18,000, making a total of 39,600.

Public demonstrations in canning have been given in Peterborough and Maidstone. Great difficulty is being experienced through the delay of transit of both cans and canners.

Potatoes for Bread-Making. A test on a large scale on the baking qualities of flour containing whole potatoes has been made, and a report comprising the considered opinions of people who have sampled the loaves is being prepared. The report will contain notes on the different methods by which potatoes may be used in bread-making, and it is hoped that a leaflet giving information on this subject may be issued shortly.

TECHNICAL DIVISION.

Costs of Production of Milk. A detailed report of an enquiry into the cost of producing milk during the winter of 1916-17 has been
submitted by the Sub-Committee appointed to consider this subject.
The enquiry which was set on foot in May, 1917, aimed at collecting
information from all types of dairy farms in a large number of
different areas. Data were collected almost entirely by
correspondence, and information has been obtained on all items of
costs, whereas most other enquiries of this character have been
confined to costs of food. In all, 43 useable returns relating
to the winter period were received, and several others dealing
with a longer period or compiled on a somewhat different basis.
The figures have been separated into costs of production, and
costs of transport and distribution. Information has been
obtained as regards the use and destination of milk, the relation
of costs to prices, and economical methods of production.

Inspection of Land. A farm in Hampshire in the occupation of a
Belgian has been inspected by one of the Advisory Officers at the
instance of the Executive Committee. The farm was found to be in
very bad condition, but in view of the fact that the present
tenant only obtained possession in April, and is apparently anxious
to improve the land, the Committee have been advised to defer action
until it is seen what progress is made with the autumn cultivation.

Badly-harvested Grain. Enquiries are being made as to the
practicability of using malt kilns for drying badly harvested grain,
so as to render it better adapted for seed purposes and for storage.

"Seeds" Mixtures. The enquiry into this subject has been continued,
Lincolnshire and Derbyshire having been visited during the week.
In Lincolnshire useful data have been obtained, especially as to the
formation of leys on very poor sand. Several leys of known history
on the Carboniferous Limestone and derived soils in the Bakewell
district of Derbyshire, have been investigated, and observations
made as to the general characteristics of the grassland in this
district.
Plant Diseases. Specimens have been examined and advice given in 36 cases of attacks by fungi, and 25 by insects, the crop mostly concerned being potatoes. Assistance has been given with respect to insects attacking crops grown by the British Army in France. A preliminary enquiry has been made as to the possibility of using barium chloride for insecticidal purposes as a substitute for arsenate of lead.

LABOUR.

Soldier Labour. Reports received from the Department's Commissioners show that during the past week some 3,990 skilled and 3,478 unskilled men have been sent to the Distribution Centres. The numbers sent out to farmers during the week are 5,696 skilled and 3,126 unskilled. The numbers remaining at the depots total 2,471 skilled and 3,852 unskilled. There is still a general shortage of skilled ploughmen at most Distribution Centres. So far as can be ascertained the number of soldiers, both skilled and unskilled, who have been supplied to date by the War Office for the purposes of the 1918 Programme is 22,746. This includes about 14,000 originally furnished for harvest work.

Horses. The number of teams of horses sent out with skilled ploughmen now amounts to 850, an increase of 121 over last week's total. So far 26 counties have applied for teams, and it is evident that there will be a considerable demand directly farmers have finished harvest and are thus able to start ploughing, provided they can be assured that skilled ploughmen will be sent with the teams.

Prisoners. Considerable delay still occurs in getting prisoners of war employed, owing to the difficulty experienced by the War Office in getting the camps erected.

Women's Branch.

Returns received this week show that 6,610 women have been accepted under the National Service Scheme and 10,248 rejected. Of the number accepted 6,526 are accounted for as follows:-
In Instruction Centres .......... 1,121
On Farm Work .................... 4,748
Waiting for references to be placed in Training Centres.. 151
Waiting for employment in Depots.. 219
Waiting in their own homes ...... 287

The 500 to 600 National Service Volunteers now in depots are being gradually absorbed into work, for the most part closely connected with Food Production. A certain number are engaged on fruit picking, and there are already demands for workers for the potato harvest. Others have been taken by the Forage Department for hay baling and peat drying and stacking, and a considerable number are working at timber cutting.

The predominantly Welsh counties in Wales have no National Service Volunteers unemployed and are not only able to place trained women at once but to absorb all those from the other Welsh speaking counties. There is still a constant demand for experienced milkers and for women who can plough. Several employers are now asking for women Motor Tractor drivers.

The reports of the Group Leaders continue to be satisfactory, and several fresh gangs are being employed. A Group Leader in Monmouthshire has arranged for her gang to be taught threshing. The value of seasonal work is demonstrated by the following example. A gang of educated seasonal workers in Brecon has given so much satisfaction that the employer has asked three of them to stay permanently; they will probably become National Service Volunteers.

In Denbighshire striking results have been obtained, thanks to the energy of the Organising Secretary who determined to convince the colliers in a certain village of the need for an increased supply of home grown food. On her first visit to this village she found it in the midst of a dreary waste of black earth
and was assured that nothing could be done. She spoke to a meeting of only half a dozen people. However, they asked her to come again, which she did, and as a result of her three visits an Allotment Society was formed among the colliers and their wives. Everyone in the village has joined to make the scheme a success. The village now stands in the midst of an abundant vegetable plot, and the colliers are determined never to give up their allotments. As evidence of the extent of these allotments it may be mentioned that 12 tons of seed potatoes alone have been ordered.

**MACHINERY AND IMPLEMENTS.**

**Motor Tractors.** Eighty-one additional tractors have been consigned to Executive Committees during the week bringing the total number of tractors so consigned up to 1,002. In addition 63 tractors are on offer to counties for delivery as soon as they are assembled, and 60 Titan tractors have similarly been offered to Scotland.

**Harness.** The position with regard to the supply of harness for the 30,000 horses which are to be purchased in connection with the Department's 1918 Programme is giving considerable anxiety. The following statement shows the orders placed for different items:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Back bands.</th>
<th>Chain Collars</th>
<th>Plough Nose Thill straps.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ordered or on order from Contractors &amp;c.</td>
<td>2,155</td>
<td>21,885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issued or orders given for issue.</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>1,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance to be supplied</td>
<td>1,055</td>
<td>20,785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely to be ready for issue by end of present week.</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*14 sets are without collars.*
There will be no difficulty in obtaining backbands, bridles, traces or ploughlines, and contracts for large supplies of these articles have been or are being placed, but considerable difficulty is being experienced in securing adequate supplies of collars, and to a less degree hames. In the case of collars, the War Office (Contracts Branch) have approached all known manufacturers of collars and numerous harness contractors in the United Kingdom, as well as 800 brewers, the principal cartage contractors, (through their associations and individually) the Railway Companies, large dealers in secondhand harness and the various Master Saddlers Associations throughout the country. The results, however, have been disappointing so far, though several hundred collars will probably be obtained from the Railway Companies.

The Treasury Solicitor has raised a technical objection to the issue by the Army Council of an order for requisitioning suitable collars, but an assurance having been given by me that the supply is necessary to ensure the carrying out of the Government’s programme, it is expected that the order will now come into effect. This should secure that any available supplies which have not yet been drawn upon will become available for the Department.

An order for 10,000 collars, hames and hame straps for delivery f.a.s. an Atlantic port not later than the 15th prox. has been sent to the United States. Information as to the arrangements made should shortly be received.

SUPPLIES.

Supplies Sub-Committees. Meetings were held last week at Birmingham and Shrewsbury, when the merchants of Shropshire, Staffordshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire were addressed on the scheme of Approved Agents. At Shrewsbury fifteen merchants were enlisted, and will be storing about 300 tons of Sulphate of Ammonia. The other counties are also organising on the same lines through their Merchant’s Association.

Sulphate of Ammonia. The majority of the claims by makers on the
Sulphate of Ammonia Fund for the period from February to May have now been received and settled. The total quantity involved is 20,196 tons, which represents about one-third of the deliveries for agricultural purposes, the remainder of the deliveries being made at the expense of the consumer. The average cost of delivery has been 14/4 per ton, of which 10/- falls on the consumer, so that the net balance payable to makers is a little over £7,000. The charges falling on the Fund up to the present are less than was anticipated. The methods employed by the Department in pressing the sale of Sulphate are proving so successful, that it will be necessary to restrict export to colonies and allied countries within narrower limits than had been contemplated.

Land Drains. The attention of makers of drain pipes has been drawn to the possibility of an increased demand, and enquiries have been made as to their stocks, prices and average weekly output. The stocks in hand are usually quite small, being in the majority of cases less than a week's output. Many firms, however, seem to be in a position to turn out supplies if required, and it is only the absence of demand which prevents larger supplies being available. The extent to which draining will be carried out is very uncertain, and until evidence on this point is available, action in the direction of stimulating production will be deferred.

Superphosphate. An Order of the Ministry of Munitions fixing the maximum price of Superphosphate has now been issued, and the draft of the circular explaining the Order to farmers is being considered by the Phosphates and Potash Distribution Committee.

Seed Wheat. The stock of seed wheat of the 1916 crop still left is 3,897 quarters, and, in view of the unfavourable weather prevailing at present, it seems likely that the demand will considerably exceed this figure. Enquiries are, therefore, being made as to the possibility of securing additional supplies, should they be needed.
The Selection Committee has now completed its inspection of the 1917 crop, and a number of requests have been received from growers for permission to thresh the wheat provisionally selected for purchase. The Department are stipulating that where the grower obtains permission to thresh his wheat in the field, he shall accept the responsibility for its being delivered in such condition that it will keep satisfactorily for at least a month after it is placed in store. The weather during the past week has further reduced the prospects of the supply of seed of the selected varieties of the 1917 crop.

Seeds (other than Cereals). The unfavourable weather has affected the prospects of certain supplies of seeds, e.g. the English pea harvest has been seriously interfered with, and it is estimated that the yield will be small. Reports regarding home-grown onion seed are not re-assuring. Under these circumstances, it is of primary importance to secure the rapid transport of supplies from abroad and further steps are being taken to ensure this.

The Department still receive a number of applications regarding the retention of skilled labour necessary for seed growing, seed cleaning and seed distribution. The military representatives are now making every endeavour to rope in all Category A men for the Army, and it will be a serious thing if the few remaining experts in the seed trade are to be further reduced in number. The effect of removing skilled labour will not be felt only in regard to supplies of seed required in the immediate future, but, unless a sufficient number of skilled men remain, it is very difficult to see how the seed houses are to maintain the purity and quality of their stocks.

The enquiries which have been made confirm the view that in the interests of increased production it is essential that the seed trade should be permitted to retain a necessary minimum of skilled labour, and the Department have been careful to support
only such cases as they believe to fall under this Category. It is most desirable that no action should be taken to prevent the retention of this essential minimum.

Seed Potatoes. It is hoped that supplies of immune varieties of seed potatoes necessary for distribution in scheduled areas may be obtained (a) from Scotland, (b) from the Northern half of England and (c) from Ireland. It is proposed to appoint a Committee of Inspection to view the crops and to make provisional arrangements for purchase. The estimated total required by the Department for distribution is 10,000 tons.

I am, 

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

[Signature]

Director-General.

The Rt. Hon. Rowland E. Prothero, M.P.
President of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries.
My Prime Minister communicates following message:

My telegram 23rd July requesting further information and your reply of 26th July. Your fortnightly cable letter does not contain required information. Although interesting it is too general. While under present constitution it is of course a matter entirely for His Majesty’s Government to decide whether Dominion Governments should be kept informed of actual war position on land and sea I think it would assist Commonwealth Government materially to be informed of actual facts confidentially. Your fortnightly cable letters do not do this. For example, what is position as regards submarines? What number has enemy? At what rate is she building? What number has been certainly destroyed since beginning of indiscriminate submerging? Is there any truth in statement that Germany is building 5,000 ton submarines, and if so how many per week or month? Is she building fast cruisers, if so how many? Does she propose with help of fleet to try and get these or/ and submarines through? If so, when do you anticipate that the attempt will be made: Again, while weekly losses of British ships are given nothing is said as to condition of those attacked but not sunk. What effect, expressed in terms of weeks - tons, has this on vessels so incapacitated? At what rate are new merchant ships; submarine destroyers; being built in United Kingdom? Is present rate of losses of British mercantile and enemy submarines taken in conjunction with rate of construction of new British tonnage and new enemy submarines considered satisfactory by Admiralty? That is, are we holding our own or not. Then as to land campaign: What are prospects on western front? Is evacuation of Salonica decided on? Is British Army in Mesopotamia in danger? Is General Maude going to hold Baghdad or not? What is actual food position of Britain? What is her margin of safety particularly so far as concerns bread and meat?

Answers to above would furnish kind of information which would serve to guide and help Commonwealth very much indeed. If you deem it inadvisable to supply information of this kind Commonwealth Government will not complain but ventures to suggest that it might be permitted to know what is actual position as its fate is as much involved as that of Britain and as it has done and will continue to do its utmost to ensure victory.

FERGUSON.