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A Bolshevik Commission from Petrograd has arrived at Archangel and has apparently assumed control. It is at any rate impossible for the moment to continue our negotiations with the Archangel State as an independent economic community. The Bolsheviks are arranging to send into the interior the valuable Allied stores, which we hoped to recover from the Archangel Government in exchange for food supplies. Two ships carrying 6,000 tons of foodstuffs and other necessities are already on the way to Murmansk for the relief of Northern Russia. We are informing the Russians at Archangel that these cargoes have been despatched; but that they will not be delivered unless the arrangements made by the Bolsheviks for sending away the Allied stores are cancelled.

The military stores in Finland originally destined for Russia are in immediate danger of falling into the hands of the enemy. The Finnish Government may at any moment requisition these goods and send them to Germany in return for German assistance. The Finnish White Guards have already arranged to send to Germany 1,000 tons of copper, recently removed from one of the supply depots of the Russian fleet, in return for the munitions with which the Germans have furnished them. The Finnish Government still desire to negotiate with H.M. Government for foodstuffs and for the delivery of the Finnish transit goods now lying in Sweden. These negotiations are in the hands of an Inter-Allied Committee at Stockholm. This Committee do not propose to supply Finland with foodstuffs owing to the close economic relations now existing between Finland and the Central Powers. They suggest we should offer to exchange the Finnish transit goods detained in Sweden for the Russian transit goods detained in Finland.

Denmark. The Danish Government still refuse to authorise the employment in the danger zone of the 80,000 tons of Danish ships.
ing claimed for this purpose by the United States. They suggest that the United States Government should obtain this shipping by private agreement with the Danish shipowners, and that the General Agreement with the Danish Government should be confined to the rationing of Denmark. We noted last week that the two chief shipping companies in Denmark were prepared to supply the 80,000 tons required.

53. Sweden. The German Government have threatened to sink all Swedish vessels passing through the Oatogat if Sweden concludes an Agreement with the Allies without previously obtaining German consent. The Swedish Conservatives declare that any further cessions of Swedish tonnage to the Allies would be an unneutral act and urge the Swedish Government to negotiate with Germany for supplies from the Ukraine. To counteract this propaganda we are publishing the quantities of cereals which we have promised to put at the disposal of Sweden during April and May. These include 250,000 tons of cereals in the Argentine and 100,000 tons in Australia.

Sweden has already chartered to the Allies 43,000 tons dead weight of shipping out of the 100,000 tons promised under the "modus vivendi". We have in return sanctioned an immediate shipment to Sweden of 10,000 tons of phosphates.

54. Norway. Mr. Ihlen has informed the Storting that the Agreement between Norway and the United States will be signed as soon as it has been satisfactorily drafted. He announced at the same time that the Norwegian Government are negotiating an Agreement with Germany under which Norway will obtain important supplies. It would appear from this that the Allied-Norwegian Agreement has been tacitly accepted by the German Government and that they have considerably modified their recent menacing attitude.
The Dutch Government have failed to make any satisfactory arrangement with the British and United States Governments for the employment of their shipping in the danger zone under the proposed General Agreement. They agreed that their ships should be employed in the blockaded area but stipulated that they should not be used for the transport of troops or war materials. This stipulation would in practice have made it impossible for us to use the ships for military purposes at all. We accordingly intimated that, unless the Dutch accepted our original proposals without qualification or delay, the United States and British Governments would be compelled to requisition the Dutch shipping lying within their respective jurisdictions. No answer was received to this intimation, and on March 20th Sir W. Townley was instructed to inform the Dutch Government that the order for requisitioning the ships had been issued.

The requisitioned ships will be restored to their owners at the end of the war and compensation will be paid for any losses caused by enemy action. If the owners of ships sunk by the enemy desire their ships to be actually replaced, arrangements will be made for laying down the necessary tonnage after the war, within reasonable limits of time. We shall pay to the owners for ships used in the war zone the same rates as are already being paid to the Norwegians and Danes, namely 35/- per ton dead weight per month.

We calculate that the tonnage at present lying in Dutch ports should be more than sufficient to supply Holland with imports from overseas within the rations allowed under the proposed General Agreement, and to maintain the Dutch colonial and other services recognised in the Agreement. We shall expect all Dutch imports from overseas to be carried by the vessels now in Holland. We are putting 100,000 tons of wheat at the disposal of the Dutch immediately, half in the United States and half in South America. Bunkering and all other facilities will be allowed to Dutch vessels.
sailing from Holland to fetch supplies and those vessels will be immune from requisitioning.

The relations of the Dutch Government and the German Government cannot fail to be seriously affected by the fact that a large quantity of Dutch tonnage will henceforth be employed in Allied services and the Dutch will need to make the most of the fact that they are losing control of their ships owing to Allied action. The Germans have decided not to negotiate for a renewal of the German Dutch Agreement which expires on March 31st. It has provisionally been arranged that the old Agreement shall continue. Mr. Kroll has definitely ascertained that the German Government will be unable to spare any cereals for Holland from the Ukraine. Mr. Loudon informed the States General this week that the Germans recently refused an application from the Dutch Government for 100,000 tons of wheat.

UNITED STATES. Congress has passed a Bill conferring on President Wilson power to dispose of enemy property by sale or otherwise according to his discretion. The United States Government have found that in dealing with large international interests such as the American Metal Company, it is essential to have the power if necessary to liquidate the enemy holdings. They will at once put the new act in force against corporations whose shares are partly or wholly held by persons in enemy countries.

ARGENTINE. The Argentine Government, though they are not prepared to denounce their neutrality, have offered to discuss with the Allies proposals for an informal commercial Agreement. Under this Agreement the Allies would secure a prior claim to Argentine produce. They would, in particular, secure the whole of the Argentine meat surplus.

GERMAN SUBMARINE BLOCKADE. The following is a summary of the losses to merchant shipping, due to enemy activity, which were reported
in the period March 15 - 21, inclusive. Smacks and trawlers are omitted:

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<tr>
<td>British</td>
<td>72,425 tons gross</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allied &amp; Neutral</td>
<td>27,061 &quot;</td>
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<tr>
<th>Sailing Vessels (100 tons gross &amp; over)</th>
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<tr>
<td>British</td>
<td>344 &quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allied &amp; Neutral</td>
<td>4,147 &quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>103,966 &quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total British</td>
<td>72,770 &quot;</td>
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H. W. Carless Davis
per John Palmer.

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War Trade Intelligence Department.

22nd March 1918.
The situation in Spain is too obscure to encourage much useful discussion at present. The outstanding fact about it is that it is not yet a month since the General Election took place and during that time the Cabinet has resigned three times. The last resignation occurred only a day or two ago and it seems improbable that the crisis can again be got over by the same Ministers resuming office. At the moment of writing it is not known what the immediate cause of the resignation was. Possibly the unrest among the postal and telegraph workers and the drastic treatment it met with from the Minister of War, Senor La Cierva, who seems to have taken command of the whole business. He gave them 24 hours to sign an undertaking not to belong to any 'Juntas' or Committees, (practically what we should call unions), and on their refusal dismissed them all and tried to do the work of the Post Office by soldiers. The latest report however is that the men have been reinstated and their demands granted.

Whatever the truth about this may be, it is obvious that the marked contrast between the treatment of the officers 'Juntas' which have been allowed practically to depose Cabinets, to appoint their own Minister of War and to dictate the reforms which they desired, and that of the Committees of the civil servants will still further exasperate the feelings of the Liberal and Constitutional elements in Spanish life, especially those of the workmen. And it is fair to say that all the statesmen, and Senor Maura quite as strongly as Count Romanones, have protested against the policy by which Senor La Cierva seems to allow the Army a kind of control over the actions of the Civil Government. The second of the three recent resignations was brought about by Senor La Cierva's defence against a vigorous public attack on the
officers made by an influential Conservative, Senor Sanchez Toca. And when the King consulted Senor Maura among other leaders, as is usual during a crisis, that generally reactionary statesman declared that nothing would induce him to take the responsibility of office unless the officers' Juntas were dissolved, and his advice to the King was to insist that they should either accept being dissolved or form a Ministry themselves, so that the visible responsibility of government might rest on the shoulders of those who insist on having the real power.

The King must now make his choice. La Cierva made it clear from the first, even publicly in a note to the Press, that he was the King's man, appointed by the King and serving the King, in a direct and personal way, not as a mere member of the Cabinet. He has worked and is working in every way to unite the officers in loyalty to the King. The banquet mentioned in the last Report which was utilized for that purpose is to be followed, it seems, by an organised burst of military loyalty if the Queen appears at the head of her regiment at the swearing-in of recruits. All this is, in itself, to the good. It is a great improvement on the situation in the summer when the officers took up an almost open attitude of menacing disloyalty. But if the King and La Cierva, in whose mind a statesman is a sort of super-policeman, mean to use this military loyalty as a weapon against the Constitution and the civil elements of the nation, they will plainly be making a revolution after their own fashion which is only too likely to lead to another of a different sort, less to their liking.

It is certain that good judges regard the situation as grave. A statesman who was in office a few months ago speaks despairingly of Spain as no longer under a reign of legality and describes the prospect as simply a 'deluge'. A foreigner (not an Englishman) who has lately left Spain, where he had the best opportunities of judging, expresses the opinion that Spain is marching straight to revolution.
others equally well-informed are distinctly less alarmist but still describe the situation as a very serious one. The officers are undoubtedly very much excited and in private indulge in wild talk about kidnapping or otherwise maltreating the Statesmen who have been most outspoken in criticizing them. "Society", which probably, as so often, has more influence with the King than is in his interest, is inclined to sympathise with the officers and to regard La Cierva as a strong man who is practical and not like the other statesmen a mere phrase maker playing a game, ostensibly of politics, really of self-interest.

Can the issue between La Cierva with his personal system of Government and the other statesmen be any longer postponed? That is what the result of the present crisis must show. Some well-informed people think it will end in a Maura and La Cierva combination: Maura's face being saved by a nominal dissolution of the officers' Juntas. But it is very difficult to believe that this is possible in view of Maura's declaration during one of the recent crises "To La Cierva I will give neither a vote nor a man nor even advice". So Count Romanones has repeatedly declared that he and his party will not co-operate with La Cierva. Colonel Marquez, the late Chief of the Military Juntas, who is now head of the Civil 'Juntas' and is admittedly still a powerful man, has issued a manifesto obviously aimed at La Cierva, saying that if the Army Committees allow themselves to be used as a pedestal or stepping stone for one man's ambition they will be a curse and not a blessing to the country. Meanwhile Senor Dato stands aside refusing any idea of Coalition with any one and hides his time. His avowed goal is a homogeneous Cabinet with a homogeneous Parliament, which seems to be cut of the range of possibilities except through a return to the old Rotative system and to elections managed from Madrid. Probably he both expects and desires that revival as the only practical way of governing Spain. Whether it is any longer a possible way will only be seen if and when
it is again tried. Meanwhile the King has got to find a way out. And unless he can persuade the present Prime Minister to go on with the farce of acting as a screen to La Cierva, it looks as if he would have either to trust himself openly to La Cierva and unconstitutional reaction or to insist on a combination either of Liberals without La Cierva, or of Dato or Romanones on a friendly pro-Ally basis. The latter is unfortunately the less probable of the two. Either would have to face and settle the Army difficulty and defend the Commercial Treaties lately concluded by Exchange of Notes with the Allies. For however little the pro-Germans like them they are necessary to the life of the country. And German influence can hardly have been increased by the recent revelations as to the German Embassy's dealings with anarchists.

P.S. As these words are written news arrives that Senor Maura has been asked to form a Ministry and has agreed to try to do so. It will be interesting to see whether he does after all combine with La Cierva. If not he must make a coalition of some other sort, for he has only 27 followers of his own in the Cortes. If he is successful at all he will probably get help from Count Romanones, who was willing to serve under him when he was trying to form a Government in December. This would be a safeguard for the Allies against the pro-German tendencies of the Maurists. Will he turn to Cambo, thought by some people to be the strongest man in Spain? In that case he would have to adopt a more or less Regionalist policy. Anyhow he shows great courage in attempting a very difficult task. He is a great orator, a man of high intellectual qualities & finer culture, perhaps, than any of the other politicians; and of a very strong will. He was Prime Minister some years ago at the time of the great Barcelona disturbances, and he & La Cierva, then his Minister of the Interior, became extremely unpopular on account of their methods of repression & in particular of the execution of the alleged Anarchist Ferrol. After that he retired from the leadership of the official Conservative Party, in which he was succeeded by Senor Dato. He is regarded as a reactionary and is still very unpopular with the working-classes.
During the past two months the only subject of importance in Bulgarian eyes has been the varying progress of peace negotiations between Russia and the Central Powers. The beginnings of the discussions at Brest-Litovsk on December 22 were hailed with jubilation by Bulgarian opinion of all parties, and it was universally believed that an arrangement could at once be reached with the Russian delegates and that this was but the first step to a general peace to which the action of Russia would soon compel the Western Powers. On December 29 the Bulgarian press announced the conclusion of a separate peace between Russia and Bulgaria. It showered congratulations and eulogies on the Bolsheviks for their action and indulged in the pleasing reflection that Russia would follow up this peace with Bulgaria by another peace of agreement with the Central Powers, between whom the Russie Bulgaria, as the friend of either party, would in future play an important role.

These hopes were doomed to disappointment. On January 2 Trotsky denounced Germany's "hypocritical peace proposal". Soon after, on January 14, the Bulgarian authorities had to explain through the press that Radoslavov's words about "peace with Russia having been concluded" had been "wrongly interpreted". Bulgarian opinion was promptly brought into line with the orthodox faith promulgated by the Central Powers amongst their subjects, viz. that the Bolsheviks had approached the peace negotiations in bad faith and that the Central Empires were justified in disregarding them and treating with other Russian Governments.
2.

Enthusiasm for the Ukraine was worked up in the Bulgarian press and Bulgarian professors promptly produced in the papers a series of articles showing the historical connection between the Ukraine and Bulgaria and the warm sympathies which had always united these two peoples. This new tendency had been well worked up in view of the imminent separate peace between the Ukraine and the Central Empires which was ultimately signed at Brest-Litovsk on February 9. For the Bolsheviks no one had any longer a good word. Thus Mr Radoslavov in two interviews in the Vossische Zeitung and the Neues Freie Presse, in which he speaks of the peace with the Ukraine as a prelude to a world peace, praises the Ukrainians as "born organisers and therefore worthy of the sympathy of our alliance".

On the other hand, he declares that even before he went to Brest-Litovsk he was "firmly convinced that the Bolsheviks did not wish to sign a treaty of peace". "Bolshevism is not only a danger for Russia, but also for the whole of Europe and the entire world.... We are rendering the world an invaluable service in preserving it from the danger of Bolshevism." And again he goes on hopefully: "The days of the Bolsheviks are numbered. We have no interest in checking the growth of anarchy in Russia. On the contrary, the ancient Russian Colossus becomes ever weaker, and so much the better. .... The Bolsheviks are the enemies of the Bulgarians".

In fact Bulgarian Jingoes (i.e. practically the whole Bulgarian nation) are much relieved at the prospect of having to fit their war aims into the strait-jacket of abstract principle proffered by the Bolsheviks. "No annexations" and "the self-determination of peoples" are awkward formulae for those who wish to seize all the stolen property of their neighbours still in their possession. Radoslavov recently declared: "Whatever soil the feet of Bulgarian soldiers have trodden will remain Bulgarian".
It is true that efforts are being constantly made by Bulgarian propagandists to describe the desired annexation of the Morava Valley, Dobrogea, Old Serbia and Greek Macedonia as the "liberation and disannexation of Bulgarian lands", and to some of their methods for propagating this fable allusion has already and will again be made. But matters are eased for them by the new German method of separate peaces with various elements such as Finland, the Ukraine, Rumania etc., which enables the Central Powers to conclude profitable bargains and keep off the dangerous ground of general principles. The last instance of this is the peace with Rumania, with whom the preliminary treaty (to be ratified by March 22) was signed on March 5 at midnight. Bulgarians will at least enjoy the satisfaction of seeing a peace imposed on their hated neighbour which delivers her over, bound hand and foot, to her enemies. As regards particular Bulgarian aspirations satisfaction will be expressed that Dobrogea is to be lost by Rumania, for there had been grave doubts expressed lest Germany, to cajole Rumania to her side, would refuse to support Bulgarian aspirations to the annexation of this province.

In previous Reports Bulgarian pretensions to Dobrogea have been considered. These pretensions are supported by practically all parties in Bulgaria. In fact the strongest case for the seizure of Dobrogea has been put forward by the Geshov and Malinov parties who are anxious to secure through Dobrogea future territorial contact with Russia and so create the situation they have always desired of a Bulgaria able at will to play Russia against the Germanic Empires and vice versa. A Dobrogean mission recently visited Sofia to announce to the Bulgarian Government and Parliament the result of the decisions of the fantastic Constituent Assembly convoked on December 16 last at Baba Dagh, in which union for Bulgaria was pleaded on ethnological
grounds. The case, however, was a very weak one, as even Bulgarian propagandists do not claim a Bulgarian population of more than 60,000 or less than 20% in the whole of Dobrogea, while they admit that the Rumanian population is 55%. In face of these facts allusions to fancied historical and economic rights seem to have little value.

Exactly the same sort of propaganda is going on with regard to the Morava Valley, on which Bulgarian writers are issuing a series of text-books "proving" that this whole province was purely Bulgarian up till its annexation by Serbia in 1833, and that the population wish for union with Bulgaria. Both in Dobrogea and in the Morava Valley this propaganda is accompanied by a more efficacious method of winning the province, viz. the extirpation and removal of recalcitrant elements and the planting of the districts with a Bulgarian population. It is not, however, quite clear yet that Germany intends to cede Dobrogea to Bulgaria without condition. In the peace treaty with Rumania the cession of Dobrogea was made out not specifically to Bulgaria, but to the Central Alliance as a whole, and hints have appeared in the German press that Bulgaria must earn this reward by accepting an economic agreement with Mittel-Europa advantageous to the latter. The fact that Mr Momchilov, Vice-President of the Sabraniye, on his return from Bucarest announced at once that "Bulgaria will have her Dobrogea without any diminution of her sovereignty over the province and without agreeing to economic stipulations", is, perhaps, not conclusive proof that such is the attitude of Germany on the point. In fact even Mr Marghiloman finds it difficult to swallow the cession of Dobrogea to Bulgaria, if his reported utterance in the Pesti Naplo is true that "if Dobrogea is given to the Bulgarians there will be no peace in the East for 50 years".
According to the Tägliche Rundschau (March 17), a further condition of Bulgaria's acquisition of Dobrogea will be the return to Turkey of the territory on the Maritsa and the Adrianople-Dede Agach railway which Bulgaria acquired in the summer of 1915 just before her intervention in the war. Till more accurate information is forthcoming it would be unwise to build much on these divergences of views between Bulgaria and her Allies, nor could they possibly influence Bulgaria's whole foreign policy, though any encouragement to anti-German feeling in Bulgaria is, on the whole, an advantage to us, for it prevents a whole-hearted co-operation in German designs.

The Economic Position.

There appears to have been little change in the economic position. The Sabraniye on February 21 were asked to vote an extraordinary credit of 1,390,000,000 leva (5 1/2 million £) to the 1918 budget for war expenses, and at the same time voted about 15 million francs to the 1917 budget for the indemnification of country interests for the requisitions of cattle which had been made on them. The Provident Committee sent a Delegation to the Ukraine to buy food-stuffs, and latest reports state that some 5% of the total loot will be assigned to Bulgaria. There continues to be a great lack of meat, the sugar available is far less than usual, and the shortage of leather and cloth continues. On the other hand, the supply of bread is on the whole quite adequate; the ration remains at 400 grams daily, with 600 for soldiers and manual labourers. From March 1 on the price to be paid by the well-to-do is 80 centimes per kilo and by the poor 65. Other articles of food are also regulated as to price. Prosecutions for profiteering and food-hoarding continue, and it is announced
that during 1917 11,085 cases of illegality were considered, 6,930 persons condemned, and fines amounting to 1,238,107 leva imposed.

Elections Postponed.

The four years' mandate of the present Sabraniye expires on March 28, and according to the Constitution it should then be dissolved and new elections take place on May 28 at latest. The Constitution, however, also forbids any elections while the Army is mobilised and as it is obviously impossible to demobilise at present there is no alternative for the Sabraniye but to prolong its own mandate. Such is the case as Dr Momchilov, Vice-President of the Sabraniye, has stated it, and it seems obvious that the Government will adopt this point of view.

22.3.18.
Lord Curzon's statement of the Irish situation on March 12th in the House of Lords explained in the fullest possible way the present difficulties of the Irish problem, the elements of hope and of difficulty which it contains, and the grounds on which coercive action had been withheld in the circumstances which prevailed during the autumn and winter months but had recently been applied vigorously and with the apparent prospect of success. The measures which I had directed to be taken in the third week of February with the sanction of the War Cabinet, were of three kinds, viz:—the establishment of a military control in certain areas where lawlessness of a more or less insurrectionary character was becoming unmanageable under ordinary police methods, the introduction of military reinforcements to support the constabulary in districts where agrarian disorder had been organised on a serious scale, and the withdrawal from the Irish prison system of the practice of the temporary release of prisoners who by means of self-starvation may put themselves in peril of sudden death from collapse.

I had also received authority to proceed toward the removal out of Ireland of certain leaders of the seditious agitation in the country, but administrative difficulties on both sides of the Irish Channel prevented prompt action in this respect, if it had been immediately desirable, as to which there was some ground for doubt.

The county of Clare was the area where in February something like a revolt seemed possible, and that county is now in the fourth week of its experience of as stringent a control as could be applied under the Defence of the Realm Regulations. The restraints imposed where they are at their maximum of severity in certain limited districts in which outrages had been committed or attempted, place the daily life of the people under strict regulation, in such a manner that passage on the highways can only be had by leave of the local commandant, fairs and markets cannot be held, public houses are closely regulated, and people must be indoors except during daylight. The need of some restraint is generally admitted even in Clare; its complete character begins to cause a good many protests. Generally the attitude of the disaffected parts of the population is that of sullen endurance. The "peace" of the county is kept, but I do not anticipate that any pledges of future good behaviour will be forthcoming yet. Two good effects result from the experiment: the officers commanding the troops and the men themselves have gained experience of a kind of duty which may have to be performed in other districts if things go wrong, and in some other areas in the South and West which seems likely to need special means of restraint the object lesson of Clare is being taken to heart. The town of Thurles in Tipperary was a prominent centre of disaffection, so that there was a reasonable and intelligent anticipation that a special military district would be formed there. Its formation was in fact authorised, and troops had been quartered in the town. Some prominent people of the town approached Sir Bryan Hahon, however, and begged that they might have an opportunity of restoring
good order. Sir Bryan made no promise, but encouraged them to exert themselves promptly. The result has been remarkable.

On March 13th the behaviour of a Sinn Fein mob in the town was violent and threatening that the County Inspector called for considerable reinforcements of police and support of troops and expressed great alarm as to the prospect of maintaining order even with this aid. From the time of the interview between the local people and the military authorities things have steadily improved. To-day's report from the County Inspector says:— "For the first time in a long period I feel we have a grip of the lawlessness and mischief that is going on in the town, and I am satisfied that it is now only a question of keeping up the pressure to stamp it out." That operated in the minds of the townsfolk was, I believe that Thurles depends on its markets and fairs for its livelihood.

The counties of Sligo and Roscommon were those in which under incitements from M. L. Ginnell, M.P., and others, the Sinn Fein Clubs had caused widespread and systematic disturbance by cattle driving and unlawful ploughing of pasture, and consequent conflict with the Constabulary. Troops were sent to the aid of the police in dealing with these riotous proceedings upon a well-organised plan with the result that the conspiracy was defeated, large numbers of arrests were made and offenders promptly sentenced to imprisonment and some scores of men are now undergoing sentences for taking part in this Land Campaign. M. L. Ginnell, M.P. has been avoiding arrest for about a fortnight but will be arrested and prosecuted.

Many men involved in the more conspicuous proceedings of the Sinn Fein combinations have been re-arrested for offences under the Defence Regulations, it being now practicable, at any rate for the present, to subject them to effective imprisonment, notwithstanding the threat of hunger strike. A considerable number of arrests for recent offences have also been made. How long will elapse before some new scheme is devised for attracting perverse sympathy to lawbreakers of these classes I cannot foresee. Among law-abiding people, however, there is a tendency toward self-congratulation as though the degree of quiet secured by recent exceptional measures gave the promise of tranquillity in the country. This is probably a too sanguine expectation, but I think it likely that if the occurrence of serious crime in a locality is henceforth followed up promptly by the application of means such as these now in use in Clare any general tendency to lawlessness may for the time be restrained.

Raiding for arms still occurs but to a diminished extent in the wilder parts of the West and some districts of the South. There is no disposition on the part of the "victims" to give any help toward bringing the offenders to justice. In Galway, Kerry and Cork and some parts of Tipperary, as well as in scattered areas elsewhere drilling of the Irish Volunteers goes on in remote places, and even occasionally in the neighbourhood of towns, in circumstances which make prevention by the police practically impossible. There are frequent prosecutions, with results which seem to me very inadequate, and I am convinced that such drilling — popular as it is in itself and as a defiance of the Regulations — will continue until some new means of checking it can be found. I suggested some time since to the War Cabinet that by an amendment of the Military Service Act men who take part in drill in Ireland should be made thereby subject to military service and be deemed to be attested as an Englishman is when he reaches the qualifying age. Sir BryanMahon and the Inspector General of the Constabulary agree in thinking that such
a provision would be capable of enforcement and that in one way or the other it would put an end to the practice of drilling which is the real menace of the Sinn Fein organisation.

The sittings of the Irish Convention are about to come to a close. The Convention has been engaged to-day in the discussion of the last of the proposals to be brought before it. The resumed sittings after Easter will be devoted to consideration of the Report which is to be presented to the Prime Minister and which will probably be completed in Easter week. Great anxiety prevails throughout the country as to the outcome of the Convention and as to the steps which may be taken by the Government in consequence of the forthcoming Report. One result is a marked abatement in the violence which for some time characterised the behaviour of the leaders of Sinn Fein. The movement, however, remains dangerous.

(Signed) H. E. DUKE.

DUBLIN.

March 28nd, 1918.
SUPPLY OF PERSONNEL FOR THE AIR FORCE.

MEMORANDUM BY THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL SERVICE.

In accordance with the War Cabinet decision (No.361, Min.17) a Conference, presided over by Lord Rothermere, was held on the 18th March, at which the Admiralty, the War Office, the Air Ministry and Ministry of National Service were represented.

The first three Departments were unable to agree as to the allocation of recruits; and I was therefore requested to submit the position to the War Cabinet for a final ruling.

The position may be summarised as follows:

As the Air Force was not a separate entity at the time when the proposals of the Admiralty and the War Office were submitted to and considered by the Man Power Committee of the War Cabinet, the demands for personnel for the Air Force were included in the demands of the Navy and Army respectively.

The Cabinet Committee recommended in paragraph 52 of their draft report (G.185) the following levy and allocation of recruits for the year 1918:

(a) For the Navy and R.N.A.S., - 50,000 Grade 1 men over the age of 18 years 8 months.
(b) For the Army (including the R.F.C.), - 100,000 Grade 1 men over the age of 18 years 8 months.

100,000 Lower Grade men.
120,000 A.4 boys.

In paragraph 70 (1.a) the Committee recommended that the fighting personnel requirements of the Royal Navy and of the Air Services should have absolute priority over all other Services.

Up to the end of February, of the 50,000 Grade 1 men over 18 years 8 months allocated to the Navy and R.N.A.S., 4,516 have already been recruited. Of these, 3,525 have been posted to the Navy and 1,491 to the R.N.A.S. During the same period 6,603 lads between 18 and 18.8 and 1,227 lower category men have been recruited for these services. Of the lads 3,522 have been posted to the Navy and 2,686 to the R.N.A.S; end of the lower category men 297 have been posted to the Navy and 930 to the R.N.A.S. In addition 2,467 boys under 18 have been posted to the Navy and 1,346 to the R.N.A.S.

The War Cabinet will remember that, after the draft report had been circulated, General Smuts was requested by the War Cabinet to go into certain further figures submitted by the Army Council. On his instructions detailed tables were prepared by the Ministry of National Service showing estimates of the numbers of men required during the present year for new units and reinforcements on the basis of varying degrees of heavy fighting. These tables included provision for the Royal Flying Corps. The results of
General Smuts' investigation were summarised in Sir Maurice Hankey's Memorandum, M.P.C. 30 dated 17th January. So far as I am aware, this Memorandum has not been considered by the War Cabinet.

In my statement in the House of Commons on the 14th January, I gave 420,000 as the minimum number of men whom it would be necessary to recruit from civil life during 1918. This figure, which was submitted to and approved by the Prime Minister, was based on the above tables, and included a further 50,000 Grade 1 men, over the age of 18 years and 6 months, for the Army and the Air Force, bringing the total number of such recruits for the Army and Air Force up to 150,000.

Although the Cabinet Committee provisionally assessed the allocation for the Navy and the R.N.A.S. at 50,000, the demand of these Services was approximately 105,000, 48,000 being for the R.N.A.S. and 57,000 for the Navy. In these circumstances it is contended by the Admiralty that if a quota of 50,000 only is approved, this quota should be allocated between the Navy and R.N.A.S., as nearly as possible in the proportion of 57 to 48. The Admiralty decline to accept this contention, and state that the necessary number of men for the Navy alone exceeds 50,000, an additional demand of 7,000 being foreseen; and they further state that, unless the full naval demand is met, they will be forced to reduce the number of ships in commission. Provided their total demand, estimated at 64,000 is allowed, the Admiralty would be prepared to reduce their claim for Grade 1 men over 18½ to 28,000 leaving the balance to be made up of lads between 18 and 18½ and boys under 18. In this case they would be able to surrender to the Air Force approximately 24,000 of the 50,000 Grade 1 men allocated to them.

The demand of the Air Force, as against the Army, has been set out in the Memorandum G.T. 3727, dated 22nd February, already circulated by Lord Rothermere. This amounts, as from March 1918 to January 1919, to 57,000 men or, alternatively, to 42,700 men, if the arrangements of the U.S. Government, referred to in the Memorandum are carried out.

If the Air Force obtain 24,000 men from the total of 50,000 for the Navy and R.N.A.S., the Air Ministry are reasonably satisfied that it will not be necessary, as against the Army, to increase the demand set out in Lord Rothermere's Memorandum. If, however, 24,000 men are not allotted to them from the Naval quota, the demand of the Air Force as against the Army will be increased by at least the difference between 24,000 and the number (if any) to be taken from the Naval quota.

It is intended as far as possible to meet the demand of the Air Force for 57,000 (or alternatively for 42,700) men, by men of lower category, and by lads under 18½ and boys under 18. Thus, during April, I have proposed an allocation to the Air Force of 6,000 recruits, only 1,000 of whom are over the age of 18½, and fit for General Service. But the demand of the Air Force is very largely for skilled tradesmen; and it is almost certain that a larger proportion of Grade 1 men will have to be allotted in future months.

It may be possible to raise a certain number of unskilled men in Ireland by voluntary enlistment for the Air Force; and it is proposed to run a recruiting campaign in Ireland for this purpose; but there is little or no prospect of obtaining any skilled men from this source. Apart from that, the demand of the Air Force can only be met at the expense of either the Navy or the Army.
In these circumstances, the decision of the War Cabinet is asked on the following points:

(1) Does the War Cabinet approve the Admiralty demand that they should receive their total requirement of 64,000, 26,000 being taken from Grade 1 men over the age of 18, and the balance from lads under 18, and the Air Force receiving 24,000 of the 50,000 Grade 1 men originally allocated to the Navy and R.N.A.S.? If not,

(2) What proportion, if any, of the 50,000 Grade 1 men for the Navy and R.N.A.S. is to be allocated to the Air Force?

(3) Is the demand for 57,700 men, (or alternatively for 42,700 men) for the Air Force to be given priority over the Army in allocating recruits as between the Army and the Air Force?

(4) If the requirements of the Naval Section of the Air Force are greater than the number which that section is to draw from the Naval quota of 50,000 men, is the difference to be made up out of recruits available for the Army, and if so, is the Air Force to have priority over the Army in this respect?

I feel bound to inform the War Cabinet that the Admiralty have now issued instructions that not more than 10% of the quota of Admiralty "A" Firms are to be released under the Munitions Area Recruiting Scheme unless substitutes are provided. The Admiralty had arranged with the Ministry of Munitions that 12,500 such men should be released within 5 months. The cutting off of this supply will not only directly reduce the number of men available for the Army by 12,500, but will also, if persisted in, lead to great difficulty in releasing men employed in similar occupations in Ministry of Munitions firms.

I am counting on a release from Admiralty, Munitions and War Office Contracts firms of 100,000 Grade 1 men, and any reduction in this number must correspondingly reduce the number of recruits allocated to the Army.

20/3/18. A. C. GEDDES.
WAR CABINET.

SECRET.

ARMY RATIONS.

(Memorandum by the Secretary of State for War)

In passing on to the War Cabinet the subjoined memorandum from
the Army Council, I wish to draw attention to the recent submission to
the War Cabinet of memoranda on the subject of the supplies of food
and scale of rations to the Army from certain authorities who have no
responsibility for the state of the Military Forces and can have no
knowledge of the grave issues involved in changes affecting the morale
of the Army.

(Signed) DERBY.

22nd March, 1918.

The Army Council who are responsible for the discipline and
welfare of the Army would view with the gravest concern any disposition
to remove from the Military Authorities the control of the supply of
food to the Army, and to place it in the hands of another Department,

The Council, therefore, request that they may be informed without
delay that there is no intention of removing the control of the food
supply of the Army from themselves.
LABOUR POSITION IN MUNITION INDUSTRIES.  
(20th March 1918.)

I circulate the following notes which have been prepared in the Intelligence and Statistics Section of the Ministry of Munitions on the labour position in munition industries.

WINSTON S. CHURCHILL.

I.—STRIKES.

In these notes for last week 10 strikes were said to have been reported by chief investigation officers as being in progress on the 14th March. Since then nine new strikes have been reported, and 12 strikes have been settled.

Stability in the labour situation cannot be expected. The sky may be clear one week and the next may see threatening storm-clouds gather. In the past week an anxious situation was suddenly created by the discharge for bad time-keeping of J. T. Murphy, the shop steward leader, by the Vulcan Motor and Engineering Company, Limited, at Southport. A local strike followed, and promises of sympathetic action came from Barrow and Sheffield—places with reputations as centres of industrial unrest. The intervention of the Ministry, however, with conciliatory proposals fortunately averted additional complications. Eventually, Murphy was reinstated and the men at Southport, who had come out on the 7th March, resumed work on the 20th.

In the matter of disputes and strikes, the action of a single firm in a minor industrial centre may suffice to cloud the prospects of industrial peace. Preventive measures cannot always and everywhere be effectual, but the success of prompt remedial action is illustrated by the fact that the only current strikes of over one week's standing are those of (1) the glassworkers at Gateshead, where less than 100 are now involved, as against 441 a few weeks ago, and (2) the Leeds aircraft workers, who insist upon remaining out until an award has been made by the Committee on Production.

II.—HEALTH OF T.N.T. WORKERS.

Very satisfactory results are being obtained in the campaign of the medical officers of the Welfare and Health Section against the toxic effects of work on T.N.T. and other explosives.

In the nine Government factories engaged in the manufacture of T.N.T., the regulations of the Ministry of Munitions (published in February, 1917) do not apply, and cases arising there are referred in the first instance to the medical staff of the Home Office. The officers of the Ministry of Munitions, however, are responsible for dealing with twenty-nine trade factories and ten National filling factories, in which T.N.T. is handled by the employees.

The reduction which has been effected in the incidence and fatal effects of toxic jaundice in all the factories is shown in the following table:-

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<th>July- Dec 1916</th>
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<td>Cases</td>
<td>159</td>
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<td>Deaths</td>
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<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Post-mortem examinations carried out after the Morecambe explosion (1st October, 1917) showed that there was no trace of gradual liver destruction, which it had been suspected might be taking place even in the case of workers who were apparently healthy.
Investigations and experiments are made in advance as to the effects of poisonous new explosives.

Preventive medicine is also playing a beneficent part in connection with the new National factory now being erected at Gainsborough for Admiralty work. In the light of previous experience, arrangements are being made for farming to be carried on by the employees to provide alternation of labour.

The work of medical inspection has been facilitated by the practice of allowing the medical officer in charge of T.N.T. factories at the headquarters of the Ministry to act on occasion as locum tenens during the absence of factory doctors. It is only through taking a share in the work of a factory that its difficulties can be appreciated and remedies suggested. For similar reasons a proposal is being considered to concentrate T.N.T. filling in the larger establishments.

III. WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE MUNITION TRADES.

An investigation is being instituted into the standard rates of wages and other conditions of employment in munition trades in each district and into the variations from these standards in particular establishments. The information will not only be collected now but will be kept up to date.

The objects to be secured are:

1. Detailed information as to the remuneration of the more essential classes of skilled labour with a view to supervising its supply and distribution.
2. Precise data as to the effect of any proposed advances in wages both in the industry immediately concerned and in allied industries which might be affected.
3. A more economical allocation of contracts.

The investigation is to include a more systematic inquiry into the time-keeping of the workers in firms which are on the Priority "A" list. Since leaving certificates were abolished and prosecutions for bad time-keeping were taken over by the Ministry, employers have been less ready to face the risk of losing their workmen and to pursue the formalities necessary for prosecution.

IV. MUNITION WORKERS AND THE FOOD-RATIONING SCHEME.

Factory managers agree that the rationing system has worked with surprising smoothness in munition canteens. Up to the present output has not fallen off. Shopping difficulties have practically disappeared. Manual workers are gratified by the prospect of an increased allowance of rationed foods. The Food Section of the Ministry are turning their attention to organising the distribution of cheese, jam, and cooking oils for canteens in National factories.

For the present it appears that in the area to which the new system has been applied, active discontent on the food question has come to an end.
1. The Circular to local authorities acquainting them with the form and conditions of the financial assistance to be given by the Government to authorities undertaking housing schemes in the emergency period after the war was issued at the beginning of the week, and local authorities of districts in which there is a need for the provision of additional housing for the working classes, not likely to be otherwise supplied, were urged to give instructions at once for the preparation of schemes if they have not already done so, and submit their proposals to the Department with as little delay as possible.

2. Considerable progress has been made with the arrangements and machinery for the preparation of the Register of Parliamentary and Local Government Electors under the Representation of the People Act. A lengthy Circular has been issued to Registration Officers explaining their duties under the Act and giving full instructions and guidance as to their procedure in carrying out these duties. Registration Officers have been supplied with a Model Memorandum of Instructions compiled by the Department for issue to Overseers and others engaged in the canvass to be undertaken in connection with the preparation and publication of the lists of electors, together with the forms prescribed for use in obtaining the requisite information, and directions as to the procedure to be adopted to secure the registration of soldiers, sailors, merchant seamen and others on whom a special qualification is conferred in consequence of their war service. The Scale of Registration Expenses approved by the Treasury under the Act has at the same time been brought to the Registration Officers' notice and the procedure for the repayment by the Treasury of one half of the expense explained, together with the arrangements made with the Stationery Office for the printing of the electors' lists and registers and the forms used in connection with their preparation.

3. The Increase of Rents, etc. (Amendment) Bill has passed through all its stages in the House of Lords.

4. Representatives have been nominated to represent the Department
   (i) on a Committee proposed to be appointed by the Minister of Munitions to advise him on the steps he is taking to increase the available supplies of ammonia in this country.
   (ii) on a Committee to be appointed by the Food Controller to investigate and report on methods of effecting control of the wholesale milk supply with the object of avoiding and remedying inequalities of distribution.

5. A Deputation of the London Labour Party has been received by the President on the subject of Housing and Town Planning in Greater London.

6. Conferences have been held of representatives of local authorities in and near London with a view to the promotion of schemes for the collection and disposal of waste in their districts. Similar conferences of local authorities in other parts of the country are being arranged.
7. A Circular has been issued to Local Authorities drawing attention to an agreement made between the Master Carters' Associations of Great Britain and the National Transport Workers' Federation and included in an award of the Ministry of Labour, granting increases of wages to certain classes of workers, and explaining the powers of local authorities in the matter of varying payments under existing contracts in view of the increased rates of wages.

8. The regulations as to claims by medical practitioners for exemption from Military Service have been revised.
NAVAL WEEKLY APPRECIATION—No. 43.

Week ended 16th March, 1918.

NAVAL OPERATIONS.

On March 12th, two of our large America type seaplanes on anti-submarine patrol in the North Sea, encountered five enemy seaplanes, and, in an engagement lasting 30 minutes, shot down one enemy machine out of control and damaged another. Our only casualty was one wireless telegraphy rating wounded.

Minelaying operations in the North Sea and in the Heligoland Bight have been continued.

R.N.A.S. machines from Dunkirk have carried out a number of patrols and reconnaissances, during which they destroyed 10 enemy aircraft and drove eight down out of control. An enemy kite balloon, which had broken adrift, was also shot down. One of our machines failed to return.

On March 10th, at 6.15 p.m., the hospital ship "Guildford Castle," when 24 miles S.W. of Lundy Island, was attacked by a submarine. A torpedo struck the ship, but failed to explode.

On March 14th a reconnaissance flight over Constantinople was carried out by two of our machines. Observers reported that "Goeben" was still alongside a jetty in Stenia Bay.

ATTACK UPON ENEMY SUBMARINES.

The number of large enemy submarines operating this week has been smaller than during the last few weeks, only 14 to 16 having been located, five of which were of the converted "Deutschland" type. Of the latter, one was to the westward of Ireland, homeward bound, two were 150 to 300 miles west of Gibraltar and the others were probably in the vicinity of the Canary Islands. Only four large submarines were working in Home Waters (other than the North Sea), and the English coast of the Channel and the Irish Sea were again the areas of greatest activity.
The following Table shows the number of actions with enemy submarines in Home Waters during recent weeks, and the nature of the craft which have been engaged, and also the number of submarines destroyed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature of Craft</th>
<th>Week ended February 23rd</th>
<th>Week ended March 2nd</th>
<th>Week ended March 9th</th>
<th>Week ended March 16th</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T.B.D. and T.B.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.P. Vessels</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aircraft</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sloops and Patrol Boats</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gunboat</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merchant Vessels</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destroyed by Mine</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destroyed by Mine Nets</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submarines</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>10</strong></td>
<td><strong>16</strong></td>
<td><strong>13</strong></td>
<td><strong>16</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"Results" indicates submarines definitely or probably sunk according to the reports of the actions received. Submarines possibly sunk are not included.

One of the "Results" above referred to was mainly attributable to a depth charge dropped at random by a destroyer, after a submarine had attacked and sunk s.s. "Amazon" on March 15th. Shortly afterwards the submarine came to the surface three or four miles away with damaged hydroplanes and unable to dive. The submarine surrendered and destroyed herself, and one officer and 10 men were taken prisoners. A preliminary examination of the prisoners showed that the depth charge caused sufficient damage to compel the submarine to rise to the surface.

**MERCANTILE LOSSES BY ENEMY ACTION.**

The following is a Comparative Statement of the Number and Tonnage of all Merchant Vessels sunk in recent weeks by enemy action:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Ended</th>
<th>British Vessels</th>
<th>Allied and Neutral Vessels</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,600 tons gross and over</td>
<td>Under 1,600 tons gross</td>
<td>1,600 tons gross and over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1918</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2nd</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>61,652</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 9th</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>70,392</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 16th</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>38,033</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 23rd</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>50,387</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2nd</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>50,319</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 9th</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>44,103</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 16th</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>34,865</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Adjusted.

So far as regards British tonnage, the week under review is the best since that ended January 19th, notwithstanding that these losses include the "Amazon" of over 10,000 tons, but the aggregate of the tonnage losses of all nationalities remains at about the average for the last few weeks.
The table in Appendix I shows in detail the numbers and tonnage of sailings and losses by enemy action, and the percentage of losses to sailings of British merchant steamships of over 500 tons gross register; and the table in Appendix II shows by trades, as regards such ships, the percentage of tonnage sunk by enemy action to tonnage sailing to and from United Kingdom ports during the last four weeks.

The percentage of losses to sailings as regards British tonnage employed this week in Overseas Trades is 1.06—last week there were no losses in these trades. In Coasting and Cross-Channel traffic, notwithstanding that a larger tonnage was engaged, there is a considerable reduction in tonnage lost, with the result that the percentage of losses to sailings in this traffic is this week only 4.0% as against 1.15 last week. As regards all traffic to and from the United Kingdom, the percentage is this week 0.6% as against 0.71 last week.

The table in Appendix III is a comparative statement of all merchant vessels, Foreign as well as British, sunk, damaged and unsuccessfully attacked in the last two weeks by enemy craft and by mine, classified according to areas.

There is a marked reduction this week in the number of attacks on foreign shipping, but the percentage of successful attacks on such shipping is considerably higher than in the previous week. Enemy submarine activity was slightly increased in the English Channel and reduced in the Irish Sea, while in the Mediterranean the total number of attacks is little more than half the number for the previous week.

The total number of vessels of all nationalities which sailed to and from the United Kingdom in Overseas trades in the month of February was 1821, and of these 1547 sailed in convoy and 274 independently of convoy. Nineteen attacks were made on the 274 non-convoyed vessels, whilst of the 1547 convoyed vessels only 12 were attacked whilst in convoy and 19 before joining or after dispersal.

The total number of enemy attacks made upon shipping of all nationalities during the month of February was 156 as against 164 in January, and the following table shows the method and result of such attacks and classifies the vessels—as to whether in convoy or not—at the time of attack:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunk by:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torpedo</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gunfire</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12 '91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mine</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damaged by:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torpedo</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>17 '18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gunfire</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mine</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Escaped from:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torpedo</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>34 '47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gunfire</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8 '47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S/M encountered</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following table shows the percentage of attacks which were successful (sunk or damaged) upon shipping of all nationalities in the principal areas during January and February:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Areas in which vessels lost.</th>
<th>East Coast</th>
<th>English Channel</th>
<th>West Coast</th>
<th>Mediterranean</th>
<th>Other Areas</th>
<th>Total.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of successful attacks in different areas.</td>
<td>Per cent.</td>
<td>Per cent.</td>
<td>Per cent.</td>
<td>Per cent.</td>
<td>Per cent.</td>
<td>Per cent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>44.4</td>
<td>71.4</td>
<td>63.1</td>
<td>55.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>47.8</td>
<td>50.8</td>
<td>65.7</td>
<td>37.1</td>
<td>72.2</td>
<td>85.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(C 1033)
The total number of vessels of all nationalities sunk in January and February was the same, namely, 91, and the following are the areas in which the losses have taken place:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>January</th>
<th>February</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Coast</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Channel</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Coast</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mediterranean</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Areas</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>91</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The most striking features of these figures are the large increase in February of the losses on the West Coast, owing to greater enemy activity in the Irish Sea, and the considerable reduction on the January figure in the losses in the Mediterranean.

**ENEMY MINES.**

Minelaying. Enemy minelaying activity this week has been confined to the Firth of Forth, where mines were laid in the channel south of May Island.

The mines laid in the approaches to the River Mersey, referred to in last week’s Appreciation, have now all been accounted for, and within 24 hours of the Mersey being reopened 114 vessels, representing an aggregate tonnage of over a quarter of a million, and including two of the largest ships in the world, passed in and out. If one of these large ships were sunk in the Queen’s Channel the port would be closed to heavy draught vessels for a considerable period, and a very large amount of tonnage would thereby be rendered idle.

The following table shows the number of enemy mines destroyed and British vessels sunk by mine in Home Waters in recent weeks:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Ended</th>
<th>Number of Enemy Mines Destroyed</th>
<th>Number of British Minesweepers and Patrols Sunk by Mines</th>
<th>Number of British Merchant Steamships Sunk by Mines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 16th</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23rd</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2nd</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16th</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition one of the boom-gate vessels south of May Island was also sunk by mine.

**DEFENCE AGAINST SUBMARINE AND MINE.**

Casualties. The following table shows the number of enemy mines destroyed and British vessels sunk by mine in Home Waters in recent weeks:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Ended</th>
<th>Number of Enemy Mines Destroyed</th>
<th>Number of British Minesweepers and Patrols Sunk by Mines</th>
<th>Number of British Merchant Steamships Sunk by Mines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 16th</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23rd</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2nd</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16th</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The two vessels lost in the Mediterranean were in the Bizerta-Naples Convoy.

**Convoy.**

The number of Merchant Vessels under organised Convoy and the losses sustained whilst in Convoy during the last two weeks are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Convoys</th>
<th>Week ended 9th March</th>
<th>Week ended 16th March</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. of Ships Convoyed</td>
<td>No. Lost.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic Trades:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeward</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outward</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scandinavia—Lerwick—Hummer</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French Coal Trades</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mediterranean Local</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>931</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The two vessels lost in the Mediterranean were in the Bizerta-Naples Convoy.
During the week 30 vessels were fitted to take Primary Armament, and 27 to take Supplementary Armament.

The number of Howitzers and Bomb Throwers delivered to date is 826.

1,488 Merchant Vessels have now been fitted with Otter Installations, and the number of Warships fitted with Paravane Equipment is 361.

MOVEMENTS OF ENEMY SHIPS.

During the past fortnight there has been a marked increase in the number of enemy merchant ships trading between Germany and Norwegian ports outside the Cattegat, 12 having arrived at and 11 having sailed from such ports during the week under review. No such ships have entered or left Rotterdam, but the enemy coal trade from Delfzyl remains about as usual.

FOREIGN NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

RUSSIA.

On March 12th Admiral Razvasov (the late C-in-C, Baltic Fleet, who resigned in December last owing to alterations in Admiralty Administration) was unanimously chosen as Commander-in-Chief of the Baltic Fleet. He accepted the position on condition that he has absolute power over all “Committees” and full responsibility without orders from Petrograd and that the crews shall render absolute obedience to Commanding Officers. He holds his appointment only so long as may be necessary to meet the present situation caused by the German advance in Finland.

On the same day four Dreadnought Battleships and two Cruisers accompanied by two ice-breakers left Helsingfors for Kronstadt and all ships are to be got ready for immediate destruction, which, however, is not to be effected without direct orders from the C-in-C. A delegation has been sent to Abo to ascertain German intentions regarding Russian warships in Finnish waters, and further action will be taken as soon as the result is known.

The British submarines in the Baltic are ready for destruction, and the necessary arrangements have been made for evacuating the personnel. There are 10 British merchant vessels still in Finnish waters.

There are considerable quantities of metals and other goods which were destined for Russia lying in Finland and the British Naval Attache has been given a free hand to purchase and destroy stores at Helsingfors, which might be of value to the enemy. An offer is being made to a Finnish Syndicate to purchase any Finnish merchant vessels and their cargoes which succeed in reaching a Swedish or Norwegian port.

Further Allied reinforcements have been sent to Murmansk, and a British Cruiser and two armed ice-breakers are now proceeding with foodships to Archangel, for the purpose of bartering food for the stores lying in that port.

On March 13th Odessa was occupied by the Germans, who claim to have captured 15 warships. The greater portion of the Black Sea Fleet remains at Sevastopol, where it has been for many months, but seven old Destroyers (completed in 1905) are based on Sulina for convoy work with Roumanian barges, working between Odessa and the Danube, and these Destroyers may have been at Odessa and possibly also some gunboats from the Danube River Forces. Besides these the 2nd, 5th, 6th, 9th, and 10th Divisions of Transports are based on Odessa and use the floating dock, which has a lifting power of 4,800 tons, for repairs.

FRANCE.

The reorganization of the Algiers and Tunis Patrol Divisions is now complete. Six destroyers have been moved from Salonika to Algiers and the Auxiliary Patrols have been considerably reinforced.

Torpedo Boat No. 333, which was completed in 1906 and employed on harbour defence at Bizerta, was sunk on March 12th in a collision with an English steamer. All the crew were saved.

(C 1033)
Spain.

An order has been promulgated for the establishment of a Submarine School at Cartagena, and the four submarines which Spain possesses will all be appropriated for instructional work. Officers and men now entering the submarine service are to be under 25 years, and the age limit for service, except for officers and men now serving, is fixed at 30 years.

Naval Staff,
21st March, 1918.
APPENDIX I.

STATEMENT OF NUMBERS AND TONNAGE OF SAILINGS AND LOSSES OF BRITISH MERCHANT STEAMSHIPS OF OVER 500 TONS GROSS REGISTER FOR THE WEEK ENDDED 16TH MARCH, 1918.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRADE United Kingdom, to and from</th>
<th>Sailinga.</th>
<th>Losses.</th>
<th>Percentage of Losses to Sailings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In.</td>
<td>Out.</td>
<td>Total.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America Coast</td>
<td>27 199,807 44 328,620 71 508,617</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf and West Indies</td>
<td>16 87,053 18 41,508 25 138,540</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gibraltar</td>
<td>14 45,509 30 131,429 44 176,958</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dakar, St. Vincent, W. Africa and S. America</td>
<td>9 40,285 16 85,066 25 126,191</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bay, Portugal and Spain, West of Gibraltar</td>
<td>22 44,515 9 17,965 31 62,495</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Scandinavia</td>
<td>9 10,777 18 27,476 27 38,353</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holland</td>
<td>6 7,700 4 1,888 10 12,597</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>1 2,980 - 1 2,980</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Overseas Traffic to and from United Kingdom</td>
<td>104 437,344 150 627,370 234 1,065,814</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coasting</td>
<td>141* 667,206* 151* 1,068,885* 278* 1,227,092*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross-Channel</td>
<td>290 479,362 317 402,321 607 971,673 1 674 3 2,542 4 3,218 .35 .14 .96 .52 .66 .33</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total of Coasting and Cross-Channel</td>
<td>1,247 2,125,820 1,067* 2,033,067*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total of traffic to and from United Kingdom</td>
<td>1,481 3,191,624 1,345* 3,280,426*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Losses on other Trades</td>
<td>4 19,485 6* 29,471*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Losses for Week</td>
<td>13 39,290 16* 45,067*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Previous week's figures.
APPENDIX II.

STATEMENT showing by Trades as regards British Merchant Steamships of over 500 tons gross the percentage of tonnage sunk by Enemy Action to tonnage sailing to and from United Kingdom Ports in recent weeks.

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North America Coast</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>In</td>
<td>13.27</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Out</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.51</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4.42</td>
<td>.93</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gulf and West Indies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>In</td>
<td></td>
<td>5.80</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Out</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.59</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8.39</td>
<td>8.39</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gibraltar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>In</td>
<td>9.32</td>
<td>6.59</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Out</td>
<td>3.17</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.44</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>12.49</td>
<td>8.93</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dakar, West Africa and South America</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>In</td>
<td>8.34</td>
<td>13.34</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Out</td>
<td>6.34</td>
<td>8.84</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>14.68</td>
<td>22.18</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bay, Portugal and Spain, West of Gibraltar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>In</td>
<td>7.62</td>
<td>11.79</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out</td>
<td>6.24</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>13.86</td>
<td>14.95</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scandinavia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>In</td>
<td></td>
<td>4.40</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Out</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>7.56</td>
<td>7.56</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holland</td>
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<tr>
<td>In</td>
<td></td>
<td>11.79</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Out</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>18.03</td>
<td>18.03</td>
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<td>Russia</td>
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<tr>
<td>In</td>
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<td>6.67</td>
<td>3.28</td>
<td>1.79</td>
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<td>Out</td>
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<td>1.49</td>
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<td>1.06</td>
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<td>8.16</td>
<td>4.07</td>
<td>2.55</td>
<td>2.85</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total of above Trades</td>
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<tr>
<td>In</td>
<td>6.67</td>
<td>3.28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Out</td>
<td>1.49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8.16</td>
<td>4.07</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coasting</td>
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<td>In</td>
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<td>1.65</td>
<td>.47</td>
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<tr>
<td>Out</td>
<td>.51</td>
<td>2.60</td>
<td>.74</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>.59</td>
<td>5.26</td>
<td>2.39</td>
<td>.79</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total of all United Kingdom Trades</td>
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<tr>
<td>In</td>
<td>1.62</td>
<td>1.47</td>
<td>.71</td>
<td>.62</td>
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<td>Out</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1.62</td>
<td>1.47</td>
<td>.71</td>
<td>.62</td>
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APPENDIX III.

STATEMENT of the number of British and foreign merchant vessels sunk, damaged, or molested during weeks ended 9th and 16th March, 1918, according to areas.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>1,600 tons and over</th>
<th>Under 1,600 tons</th>
<th>Totals</th>
<th>1,600 tons and over</th>
<th>Under 1,600 tons</th>
<th>Totals</th>
<th>1,600 tons and over</th>
<th>Under 1,600 tons</th>
<th>Totals</th>
<th>Attack</th>
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<tr>
<td>Arctic and White Sea</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>Foreign</td>
<td></td>
<td>British</td>
<td>Foreign</td>
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<td>British</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atlantic (Northern)</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>Foreign</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>Foreign</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>Foreign</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atlantic (Southern)</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>Foreign</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>Foreign</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>Foreign</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bay of Biscay</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>Foreign</td>
<td>—</td>
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<td>Foreign</td>
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<td>British</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gibraltar—Azores</td>
<td>British</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>Foreign</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>British</td>
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<td>South of Mogador</td>
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<td>Foreign</td>
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<td>North Sea</td>
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<tr>
<td>English Channel</td>
<td>British</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>Foreign</td>
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<td>British</td>
<td>Foreign</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irish Sea and Bristol Channel</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>Foreign</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>Foreign</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>Foreign</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mediterranean</td>
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<td>British</td>
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<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SECRET

No. O.A.B./147.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith a report received from the G.O.C., R.F.C., on the bombing raid carried out by the OHEY Squadrons on the 17th March.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

(Sd) K. Wigram,
Brig.-Gen.

for Field-Marshal,
Commanding-in-Chief,
British Armies in France,

The Secretary,
War Office,
LONDON,

General Headquarters,
British Armies in France,
21st March 1918.
10 De Havilland 4s left at 10:25 a.m. with the object of bombing target No. 33, The Badisch Soda Works at Mannheim. One machine was forced to return owing to engine trouble. In order to get away this pilot dropped his bombs on an anti-aircraft battery between Finstingen and Saarbrücken.

As the valley of the Rhine was filled with thick white fog, the leader turned North and bombed the railway station, sidings and factories at Kaiserslautern. Both formations bombed the objective at the same moment.

Bombs were dropped as under:

- 20 - 112 lb
- 9 - 25 lb
- 3 - 40 lb (phos)

Total: 2,505 lbs.

Many bursts were seen on and all round objectives, one direct hit was obtained in the Station and one truck was set on fire in the Goods Yard. Several bursts were seen on the Railway and one on the Railway outside the Town. At least two fires were started apart from the truck which was burning well when our machines left. A total of 27 plates were exposed and the photographs are very clear and show many bombs bursting, and the fires reported.

On the way home the formations were attacked by about 16 enemy aircraft in the area Saarbrück - Dicuze. It was noticed that all the enemy aircraft showed a distinct disinclination to engage our machines at close range. A combat ensued in which 700 rounds were fired from our machines, one enemy aircraft being driven down.

Anti-aircraft fire was slight.

All our machines returned safely at 1:50 p.m.

The weather was clear overhead but there was a certain amount of low cloud and thick mist in the deep Valleys.

Bombs were dropped from between 13,000 and 15,000 feet.

In the Field.

13th March 1918.
### SUMMARY - Monday 18th March 1918

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMODITY</th>
<th>Stocks in U.K. 11th March</th>
<th>Arrivals week ended 16th March</th>
<th>Stock in U.K. 18th March</th>
<th>Stocks in weeks consumption</th>
<th>Ship to week 16th</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tons</td>
<td>Tons</td>
<td>Tons</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Granaries and Warehouses, inland warehouses, mills, bakers shops and estimated farm stocks.</td>
<td>Wheat 1,669,000</td>
<td>63,496</td>
<td>1,627,000</td>
<td>13 6 7</td>
<td>7 7 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Barley 363,000</td>
<td>13,724</td>
<td>360,000</td>
<td>6 4 7</td>
<td>7 7 7</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maize 78,000</td>
<td>18,355</td>
<td>69,000</td>
<td>7 7 7</td>
<td>7 7 7</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rice 100,000</td>
<td>15,363</td>
<td>107,000</td>
<td>13 3 7</td>
<td>7 7 7</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oats 1,066,000</td>
<td>15,710</td>
<td>961,000</td>
<td>7 4 7</td>
<td>7 7 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In possession of the Sugar Commission.</td>
<td>Sugar 191,000</td>
<td>15,710</td>
<td>189,000</td>
<td>7 4 7</td>
<td>7 7 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At Ports &amp; Cold Stores &amp; Exporters' Warehouses.</td>
<td>Mutton 31,000</td>
<td>17,509</td>
<td>32,300</td>
<td>2 4 7</td>
<td>7 7 7</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Beef 39,300</td>
<td>9,200</td>
<td>41,700</td>
<td>2 4 7</td>
<td>7 7 7</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bacon &amp; Hams 5,500</td>
<td>12,656</td>
<td>6,400</td>
<td>5 7 4 7</td>
<td>7 7 7</td>
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<td>Lard 1,100</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Butter 1,660</td>
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<td>3 3 7</td>
<td>7 7 7</td>
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<td>Margarine 2,200</td>
<td>3,525</td>
<td>2,400</td>
<td>3 2 7</td>
<td>7 7 7</td>
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<td>Cheese 9,500</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>10,200</td>
<td>3 2 7</td>
<td>7 7 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>On 1st Moh.</td>
<td>Tea 31,400</td>
<td>2,921</td>
<td>10 6 9 6 7</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coffee 50,200</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>157 157</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cocoa 40,000</td>
<td>387</td>
<td>36 35</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonds</td>
<td>Oilseeds etc 220,400</td>
<td>14,217</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warehouses entered to be warehoused.</td>
<td>Oilseed 70,000</td>
<td>70,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ports &amp; the hands of Millers, fushe &amp; cake manufacturers.</td>
<td>Oilseed cake &amp; Meal</td>
<td>70,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MINISTRY OF FOOD, Statistical Branch, 23rd March 1918.**

*This Document is the Property of His Britannic Majesty's Government.*

- Cottonseed oil
- Average week
- Number of weeks
- From North
- Production

---
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of weeks</th>
<th>Shipments to U.K. week ended 16th March.</th>
<th>Lost week ended 16th March.</th>
<th>On passage to U.K.</th>
<th>Expected weekly arrivals for 4 weeks.</th>
<th>Estimated weekly consumption (normal or on basis 1916-17)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13 6 7</td>
<td>116,509</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>332,754</td>
<td>61,000</td>
<td>110,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 4 7</td>
<td>25,095</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>50,505</td>
<td>19,000</td>
<td>53,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>43,361</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>90,612</td>
<td>20,600</td>
<td>12,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 3 7</td>
<td>40,643</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>60,850</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 4 7</td>
<td>14,449</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>164,624</td>
<td>27,446</td>
<td>25,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>U.K. Including overseas Army.</th>
<th>Loss over seas</th>
<th>U.K. consumption (normal or on basis 1916-17)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 2 3 7</td>
<td>9,240</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 4 7</td>
<td>17,314</td>
<td>2,510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 1</td>
<td>5,921</td>
<td>1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 3 7 (</td>
<td>6,925</td>
<td>9200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 2 3 7</td>
<td>1,960</td>
<td>3050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 9 6 7</td>
<td>3,069</td>
<td>2900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 157</td>
<td>27,459</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 25</td>
<td>4,500</td>
<td>320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1110</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overseas Army requirements:

| 29500 | 1,200 |
| 9000  | 2,510 |
| 1500  | 1500  |
| 9200  | 360   |
| 3050  | 1,150 |

* Cottonseed only.
* Customs Imports figures.
/ Average weekly output in February.
\ Number of weeks' consumption in Great Britain.
# From North America only.
\ Production in Great Britain - based on number of animals slaughtered.
MINISTRY OF FOOD.

Report for Week ending Wednesday, March 20, 1918.

PART I.—ACTION TAKEN.

ORDERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

(1) The Flour Mills (Prohibition of Smoking) Order, 1918, dated the 13th March, 1918, forbids smoking in any flour mill or warehouse connected therewith.

(2) The Freshwater Fish (England and Wales) Order, 1918, dated the 14th March, 1918, permits the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries to authorise the use of any methods or appliances for the purpose of taking freshwater fish at times or in places or circumstances which would otherwise be unlawful. Provision is also made for the possession, sale, or purchase of such fish at times otherwise unlawful.

(3) The Fish (Registration of Dealers) Order, 1918, dated the 14th March, 1918, provides for the licensing of all wholesale dealers in fish, and for the registration of retail dealers and hawkers.

(4) The Prevention of Corruption Order, 1918, dated the 15th March, 1918, prohibits persons engaged in the sale, delivery, or distribution of food or drink from accepting any gift or consideration as an inducement for giving priority or preference to one purchaser over another. The prohibition does not apply when the sale is for consumption on the seller's premises.

(5) The Live Stock (Restriction of Slaughter) Order, 1918, dated the 16th March, 1918, prohibits the slaughter of any beast unless bought or sold in a market within 14 days previously. It revokes the Order made on 9th December, 1917, and removes the prohibition against the sale of lamb before the 15th June, 1918. The object of the prohibition was originally to prevent the use of concentrated feeding stuffs for the fattening of lambs, and there is reason to believe that on the whole the Order achieved this aim. Since, however, feeding stuffs are now to be rationed to farmers under the Cattle Feeding Stuffs Rationing Order the amount of feeding stuffs available for ewes and lambs will be strictly limited, and it is felt that there is no further necessity for the prohibition against the sale of fat lamb.

(6) The Fish (Prices) Order, 1918, dated the 14th March, 1918, fixes the maximum prices chargeable by the producer, and the wholesale and retail dealer. Provision is also made to meet the case of inland wholesale dealers in fish who purchase from the coast wholesale dealers and sell to the retailer. The retail prices are for the most part identical with those laid down in the original Order and producers' and wholesale prices have been settled by agreement with a Committee consisting of representatives of the producers as well as of each section of the trade engaged in distribution. Power is given to local Food Control Committees to vary retail prices. The Order permits the sale of fish otherwise than by weight, although the seller must weigh the fish when so required by the purchaser, and is held responsible for seeing that the maximum price is not exceeded.

(7) The Intoxicating Liquor (Output and Delivery) Order, 1918, dated 19th March, 1918, comes into operation on 1st April, 1918. It allows the maximum standard barrelage which a brewer for sale may brew in any quarter to be the same amount as he was permitted to brew in the quarter commencing 1st April 1917, namely, his share of 10,720,442 standard barrels per annum for the whole of the United Kingdom. The average gravity at which a brewer for sale may in any quarter brew such standard barrelage must not exceed 1,045° in Ireland and 1,030° in other parts of the United Kingdom. Certificates may not be transferred from Great Britain to Ireland or vice versa.

(8) The Beer (Prices and Description) Order, 1918, dated the 19th March, 1918, regulates the sale of certain draught beer in a public bar and provides for the maximum prices which may be charged.
Agricultural Advisory Committee.—In pursuance of his intention stated in last week's Report to set up a Committee for the purpose of giving advice on agricultural matters, Lord Rhondda has invited the following Agricultural Bodies to nominate representatives as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agricultural Body</th>
<th>No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The National Farmers' Union</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Scottish Farmers' Union</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Central Chamber of Agriculture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Scottish Chamber of Agriculture</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Board of Agriculture and Fisheries</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Scottish Board of Agriculture</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Irish Board of Agriculture</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Royal Agricultural Society</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Royal Dublin Society</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

with the addition of three nominated members by the Food Controller. Lord Rhondda will act as Chairman and Mr. Anker Simmon, C.B.E., as Deputy-Chairman.

Consumers' Council.—On Wednesday, 21st March, after hearing Col. Weigall, the Council expressed the opinion that an immediate and substantial reduction should be made in the meat ration issued to the 600,000 men in the Home Army engaged in work involving no undue physical strain, and that enquiry should be made into the question of a more general reduction affecting all men not actually in or close behind the front line, or about to go into the line. A resolution was passed in favour of fixing maximum retail prices for carrots and other roots, Mr. Carr stating that the decrease in the consumption of vegetables was mainly due to the decreased consumption of meat without which potatoes or other vegetables were not eaten. A memorandum was read on the position as regards poultry, and the Council approved the issue of a brief statement to counteract the impression that an immediate and extensive reduction of stocks was desirable.

Rationing of Live Stock.—Lord Rhondda is extending to certain other classes of live stock the existing system of priority certificates under the Cattle Feeding Stuffs (Priority Supply) Order, 1918, which are now granted only to dairy cattle in milk. These additional classes, and the maximum quantities of feeding stuffs under the certificates, are:

- Calves under six months old, 1/2 lb. per day.
- Horses maintained and used for agricultural purposes, 10 lbs. per day.
- Breeding sows, 4 lbs. per day.
- Store pigs, 14 lbs. per day.

In granting certificates the amount of feeding stuffs in the possession of the applicant will be considered, and in the case of sows and pigs no guarantee can be given that certificates can be granted for a supply during the summer months.

Seamen's Voluntary Rations.—On March 20 a representative delegation of officers, engineers, seamen, and firemen had a conference with Lord Rhondda, the Shipping Controller, and officials of the Board of Trade. The representatives of the mercantile marine unanimously resolved to accept voluntarily a reduction of their meat rations for the period of the war. A committee, representing the Board of Trade, the shipowners, and the men, was appointed to draw up a detailed scheme.

Self Suppliers.—Lord Somerleyton's Committee has recommended that persons bona fide co-operating to keep animals, whether as individuals or as members of a group or club or association, should be treated as actual producers under the rationing scheme for meat and fats. It is proposed that the self-supplier should be entitled in so far as he consumes his own produce to count it toward his ration at the following rates:

**Cattle and Sheep.**—No extra.

**Pigs.**—Double the normal weight of meat to the coupon for the flesh of the first pig killed in each half-year, and one-half more than the normal weight to the coupon for other pigs; offal and lard to be outside the ration for self-suppliers.

**Venison.**—No extra.

**Wild Rabbits, Hares, Wood Pigeons.**—Ration free.
Tame Rabbits. — Ration free.
Poultry. — No extra.
Game Birds. — One-half more than the normal weight to the coupon.
Butter. — One-half more than the normal weekly ration.

Supplies and Prices.

Allied Requirements. — The Wheat Executive have replied by cable in detail to the important cablegram received from Mr. Hoover through Mr. Sheldon, which was printed in last week's Report. While agreeing that the monthly outgo of wheat and dilutants is 750,000 tons, or, more accurately, 750,000 quarters a week in the United Kingdom, the Wheat Executive point out that this includes damage and wastage as well as human consumption, and that during the last two months the outgo has been subject to exceptional causes. They urge that it is extremely difficult to make a reliable estimate of the actual consumption of breadstuffs in the United Kingdom over any short period, and they express themselves unable to follow Mr. Hoover's comparative statement as to the consumption in this country being 30 percent higher than that of the United States without knowledge of the basis on which his estimate is framed. While realising that the United States must retain sufficient breadstuffs for their own population, the Wheat Executive hope Mr. Hoover will accept the view that the United States will not be compelled to draw supplies from the Argentine, and that any importation which may be needed from America will be drawn so far as possible from Australia. They reiterate the hope that all breadstuff cereals which can be spared in the United States shall be reserved for the Allies.

Lord Rhondda has cabled to Lord Reading, setting forth very fully the conditions in the United Kingdom, which so far have deterred him from putting into force the compulsory rationing of bread, and asking Lord Reading and Mr. Hoover to give him the benefit of their views as to the effect on the international situation of a postponement of more drastic measures with regard to bread.

With reference to Mr. Hoover's offer of 450,000 tons of pork products, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Mr. Austen Chamberlain, on behalf of the American Board, have cabled to Lord Reading, expressing gratitude for the offer, and stating that the Ministry of Food would be glad to accept it without reservation, but that the Ministry of Shipping could not lift the whole quantity between the beginning of March and end of May, although there is reasonable expectation of arranging the necessary shipping by the end of June. They point out that while the supplies offered are urgently needed, many difficulties have to be overcome in the way of rapidly adapting the transportation and docking machinery on both sides of the Atlantic to deal with such very large quantities. With regard to the financial facilities for these purchases, Lord Reading has been asked to arrange the matter in Washington, in conjunction with Mr. McAdoo and Mr. Hoover.

Bacon, Hams, and Lard. — Large supplies are arriving from America and will continue to arrive, since Mr. Hoover's offer has been substantially accepted. An increased distribution is contemplated and the necessary preparations are being made. A Section has been set up to arrange the storing of such bacon as is not immediately distributed.

A meeting of the Bacon Advisory Committee was held on the 20th March, 1918, to consider the revised Distribution Scheme necessitated by the adoption of the tie to the retailer for bacon mentioned in the previous Report. The main principles of the Scheme were approved.

As it has been decided to increase the price of pigs, it will be necessary to revise the prices fixed for home-produced bacon.

Butter. — 688 tons of butter have been purchased in the United States of America at 42 to 47 cents per lb., and 25 tons have been purchased in Canada at 38 to 294 cents per lb.; 7,464 tons of butter have arrived in this country, of which 6,566 tons came from Australia, 247 tons from New Zealand, 624 tons from the Argentine, 17 tons from Canada, and 10 tons from the United States of America; 2,171 tons of butter are now on the water.

A distribution of butter is being made this week amounting to one quarter of the amount asked for by each applicant for the month of March.
Cheese.—The quantity of new season New Zealand cheese which is now arriving in this country is 1,991 tons, 6,726 tons are on the way, and 25,019 tons are awaiting shipment. A further 18 tons of Canadian cheese have been shipped, and 1 ¼ tons of Dutch cheese has arrived, but no further information has been received from Holland as to quantities available in the future.

Cocoa.—Mr. Owen Smith has reported the purchase of a further 358 tons of cocoa powder lying in New York.

Dried Fruits.—The S.S. “Cadagua,” with some 1,400 tons of Malaga raisins has left Spain for a Bristol Channel port.

Plans are being completed to bring into operation as soon as possible the new scheme for the control of dried fruits, which has been necessitated by the decision to repeal the Dried Fruits (Restriction) Order.

Meat.—The supplies of home-killed meat in the large distributing markets have proved disappointing, but in spite of this no complaints were received last week of short supplies from London and the Home Counties, since good supplies of imported meat have been coming forward and in fact a surplus of meat remained on Smithfield Market at the close of the week. Considerable progress is being made in the establishments of reserve stocks of imported meat in all parts of the country and it is hoped to accumulate an adequate supply in all the principal centres before the national rationing scheme comes into operation. In this connection Distribution Committees are being established in each of the live stock areas, and it is hoped that by decentralising in this way all defects in supply may be speedily remedied. Extremely heavy supplies of canned meat are expected within the next six weeks, and these will prove a valuable adjunct at a time when the production of home-grown stock is likely to be at its lowest figure.

There are good grounds for thinking that strict supervision will have to be exercised to prevent the sale of meat without coupons and in excess of prescribed quantities, but not the least satisfactory feature of the scheme is the readiness with which it has met with public acquiescence; in fact, the public has given it a more friendly welcome than the trade.

It is proposed to issue a Pigs (Maximum Prices) Order, 1918, which will have the effect of raising the prices of pigs sold for slaughter by live and dead weight, and it is hoped that this will furnish a valuable stimulus to the production of pigs, and thus provide an additional reserve for the future.

Milk.—At Lord Rhondda’s request, the Joint Committee of the Ministry of Food and the Board of Agriculture on the Production and Distribution of Milk are appointing a sub-committee for the purpose of settling the immediate steps necessary for controlling the collection, utilisation, and distribution of milk sold wholesale. The sub-committee will consist of representatives of the Ministry of Food, the Departments of Agriculture, and Local Government Boards for England and Wales and for Scotland, the Consumers’ Council, and will include the Controller of Aircraft Finance; four Members of Parliament have been asked to join the Committee, viz., Sir Beville Stanier, Mr. Athelston Rendall, Mr. G. Stewart, and Mr. R. Harcourt.

Oil Seeds.—A thousand tons of linseed have been purchased in the Argentine for shipment during April, but it has not yet been possible to secure any large quantities of this supply. The price of oils and fats is rising in the United States of America so high as to interfere with our imports, and it may be necessary to arrange with the United States Government to control these prices.

Potatoes.—The Food Controller has arranged with the Board of Agriculture that the minimum prices for potatoes of the lowest quality of the 1918 crop, shall be assessed by a Joint Committee appointed from the Board of Agriculture and the Ministry of Food. As soon as the data as to the yield and quality in each district are obtainable, the Committee will visit each potato district and assess the prices, after holding a local enquiry at which evidence will be taken from representative farmers as to yield, quality, the cost of production, &c., in the district.

Tea.—Meetings have been held with the Tea Brokers’ Classification Committee to arrange for regularity of supplies in the ballot.

A conference will shortly be held with representative China tea importers to discuss the handling of China tea bought on Government account.
Vegetable Markets.—Lord Rhondda has appointed a Departmental Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. P. O. Lawrence, K.C.:—

"To enquire into and report upon the conditions of the Fruit and Vegetable Markets within the City and Metropolitan Police District of London, and to recommend any measures that, in the opinion of the Committee, would tend to relieve congestion and prevent waste of food in the Markets, and would conduct to more rapid and efficient handling of the Fruit and Vegetable produce marketed in London."

Organised Distribution.

Distribution of Food Queues.—The estimated number of persons attending food queues in the Metropolitan Police area continues to show a satisfactory decline.

The comparative figures are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18th to 23rd February</td>
<td>46,316</td>
<td>143,833</td>
<td>181,809</td>
<td>167,226</td>
<td>517,138</td>
<td>542,953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th February to 2nd March</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>4,330</td>
<td>6,900</td>
<td>67,333</td>
<td>110,565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th March to 9th March</td>
<td>8,800</td>
<td>6,600</td>
<td>4,600</td>
<td>6,740</td>
<td>23,046</td>
<td>23,972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th March to 16th March</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>1,050</td>
<td>3,375</td>
<td>7,700</td>
<td>8,360</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The few queues remaining were chiefly in respect of unrationed articles.

Distribution.—A conference was held at Grosvenor House on the 16th instant, with representatives of the various Food Commissioners to discuss the details of the arrangements for the distribution of margarine.

Many reports of shortage and unequal distribution of margarine have been received from the South-West of England and from South Wales. A report from the West of England makes prominent mention of unrest and possibility of trouble among workers, particularly dockers, owing to—

(1) Shortage of meat, which they attribute to profiteering, and holding up of supplies. The suggested remedy is that a definite public statement of the facts relating to the shortage should be made.

(2) The large amount of money raised in the "Business man's week" which is considered to support the general suspicion of profiteering.

It is reported from the Eastern Counties that the home production is seriously affected by the large earnings of labour (at aerodromes, &c.), which not only attract numbers of men from the farms, but create discontent among those who continue to work as agriculturists. In anticipation of the increased ration for manual workers there has been a general demand for additional supplies of bacon, and also cheese.

Local Food Control Committees.—Twenty-five fresh applications were received during the week for the enlargement of committees to allow for additional labour representation. Fifty-four cases in all are now under consideration and in 32 cases during the week Orders were issued sanctioning additions to committees, to give effect to the policy of the Ministry.

Rationing.—The returns of population rationed for the several foodstuffs undermentioned, up to to-day, are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foodstuff</th>
<th>Population Rationed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Butter and Margarine</td>
<td>30,948,806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tea</td>
<td>18,304,208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meat</td>
<td>15,489,507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheese</td>
<td>1,885,022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lard</td>
<td>1,195,548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other commodities</td>
<td>228,542</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On and after 5th May it is proposed to control the distribution and sale of bacon.

After 7th April—when meat rationing becomes general—the Food Controller expects to command supplies which will make it possible to supplement the normal meat ration by an additional allowance of meat (other than butcher's meat or pork) to persons engaged in heavy bodily labour. About 7,000,000 persons are expected to participate in this supplement. For the present it is intended that the supplement should be the same for all receiving it; but to provide for contingencies which may
arise hereafter, e.g., rationing of cereals, the workers are being divided into three
classes—very heavy workers (e.g., miners, navvies, stokers, blast-furnacemen, &c.,
heavy agricultural workers and heavy industrial workers. The necessary application
forms and ration cards have been distributed to all Food Control Committees.

Transport.—The Road Transport Board have decided to create 13 Divisional
Boards whose areas correspond with the areas of the Divisional Food Commissioners. On these Divisional Boards various departments interested in transport will be represented. These Boards, with the assistance of Local Advisory Committees, will deal with all questions of road transport in their division as well as with the allocation of petrol supplies.

Demands for large additional supplies of petrol for milk collection have been received by this Department. As these demands are mainly the outcome of competition among varying interests, and to grant them would not appreciably add to the available supplies of milk, it has been decided to decline applications for recommendations unless the circumstances are shown to be exceptional. Meanwhile co-ordinated collection by horse-drawn vehicles is being encouraged in view of the shortage of petrol.

ENFORCEMENT OF ORDERS.

The total number of prosecutions reported for the week ending March 9th, 1918, in England, Scotland, and Wales is 828 (396 of which were from London and the Home Counties), and in Ireland 610, making a total of 1,438. Of these 1,318 were successful. There were—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prosecutions in connection with bacon, ham, and lard (of which 133 were in Ireland)</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meat</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butter and margarine</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tea (80 of which were in Ireland)</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potatoes (141 of which were in Ireland)</td>
<td>223</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The average fine for Great Britain was 4l. 15s. 2d. and for Ireland 12s. 9d.

On Wednesday, March 20, Mr. Clynes introduced a Bill for increasing the penalties against food profiteering. The Bill provides for the forfeiture of double the amount received from the sale of goods at prices in excess of those allowed by the Food Controller.

PART II.—SUMMARY OF THE FOOD POSITION.

The most noteworthy features of the following summary and tables are—

1. The improvement in the position of cereal imports. The present as compared with past figures are liable to be misleading unless the change which has taken place in the proportions between wheat grain and wheaten flour is borne in mind. Flour now forms an increasing part of the total; during the current week it was greatly in excess of grain.

2. Foreign meat is more conspicuous in the meat supply than was the case in some part of last year. This is relieving the pressure on home-fed stock, and so diminishing the risk of slaughtering immature beasts.

IMPORTS.

There was an improvement in imports last week due to heavier cereal arrivals. The total weight of the principal foods imported was 167,200 tons as compared with 136,500 tons the week before. The corresponding figure, excluding rice, for the week ending March 17th, 1917 was 149,600 tons (Table A).

The arrival of wheat and flour was 64,100 tons, an increase of 4,000 tons on the previous week. Owing to the large share in this arrival, which consists of flour, the amount is even greater than is shown by the figures. Other cereals all showed substantial increases with the exception of maize (practically unchanged), the import of rice having risen greatly. The aggregate of all cereals, including wheat,
was 129,900 tons, an increase on the previous week of 32,500 tons, and a total which has not been exceeded since September 29th, 1917.

Imports of meat and bacon fell again. The decline of 6,000 tons was almost entirely in beef and in meat unenumerated. Bacon showed a slight increase.

Butter and margarine together totalled 5,000 tons, an increase of 1,500 tons on the week before, and 900 tons on a year ago. Not since the week ending April 14th, 1917, have arrivals been so heavy. The increase is more noteworthy in the case of butter than in that of margarine.

Cheese imports were again down; the average for the four weeks to March 16th, 1918, was 1,200 tons, compared with 2,150 tons for the corresponding period of 1917.

Sugar and tea were below average though higher than in the previous week.

CONSUMPTION.

Meat.—Supplies of home-fed meat at the four principal markets for the week ending March 9th, were 12 per cent. less than in the previous week and only 44 per cent. of the supplies in the corresponding week of 1917 (Table B). An increase, however, in the supplies of imported meat, more than made up the deficiency on the week. Of the total of meat, 5,132 tons, at these markets, 61 per cent. was imported as compared with 46 per cent. a year ago. In the week ending March 16th, the aggregate supply of meat at the Central Markets, was 1,244 tons, of which 80 per cent. was imported. The corresponding figures for the week ending March 9th were 3,391 tons and 75 per cent.

At the 50 markets summarised in Table C, the supply of fat cattle increased 12 per cent. and that of fat sheep increased 29 per cent. in the week ended March 15th as compared with the previous week.

At the larger number of more typical markets from which returns are now received the number of cattle stalled decreased 18 per cent. and the number of sheep increased 25 per cent. in the week ending March 16th over the week ending March 9th.

The following tables show a comparison with the corresponding weeks of 1917.

Number of Cattle Stalled.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week ending</th>
<th>Number of Markets.</th>
<th>1917</th>
<th>1918</th>
<th>Percentage Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 16th</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>20,851</td>
<td>13,950</td>
<td>-33-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; 23rd</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>17,660</td>
<td>12,016</td>
<td>-32-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2nd</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>17,114</td>
<td>12,076</td>
<td>-29-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; 9th</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>12,690</td>
<td>8,700</td>
<td>-29-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; 16th</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>7,997</td>
<td>5,580</td>
<td>-30-2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of Sheep Stalled.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week ending</th>
<th>Number of Markets.</th>
<th>1917</th>
<th>1918</th>
<th>Percentage Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 16th</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>69,998</td>
<td>31,579</td>
<td>-54-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; 23rd</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>51,278</td>
<td>29,479</td>
<td>-42-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2nd</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>49,779</td>
<td>26,885</td>
<td>-49-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; 9th</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>32,139</td>
<td>22,592</td>
<td>-38-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; 16th</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>22,793</td>
<td>16,998</td>
<td>-25-4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A new series of Index Numbers showing the consumption of meat during each month of 1916 and 1917 and during January and February of this year is included in Table E this week. The standard is the average monthly consumption in the year 1916. The figures for February, open indeed to revision, indicate a slight decline in comparison with January.

Flour.—Consumption of flour by the principal biscuit manufacturers for the four weeks from February 2nd to March 2nd showed in the aggregate a slight increase on last month, diminished consumption by civilians and home canteens being outweighed by an increase on Government contracts. Compared with a year ago the changes are in the same direction but of larger amount. Stocks are lower.
### Consumption of Flour by Biscuit Makers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Four Weeks ended</th>
<th>On Government Contracts</th>
<th>On Other Contracts</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sacks.</td>
<td>Sacks.</td>
<td>Sacks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2nd, 1918</td>
<td>76,180</td>
<td>61,245</td>
<td>137,425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2nd, 1918</td>
<td>69,736</td>
<td>64,188</td>
<td>133,924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 3rd, 1917</td>
<td>43,084</td>
<td>66,039</td>
<td>111,123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stock: March 2nd, 1918</td>
<td>22,086</td>
<td>31,939</td>
<td>54,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2nd, 1918</td>
<td>24,537</td>
<td>38,512</td>
<td>63,049</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Wholesale Prices.

Average prices for barley and oats have fallen slightly, the former from 58s. 5d. to 56s. 0d., the latter from 52s. 2d. to 51s. A year ago the respective prices were 64s. 1d. and 49s. 4d.

A further fall in the price of home-killed beef accompanied by a rise in that of imported has brought the two prices to the same level, namely, 114s. 0d. per cwt. A similar movement in the prices of home-killed and imported mutton is observable. With the former at 121s. 6d. per cwt. and the latter at 115s. 6d. per cwt. the difference between the two prices has been halved during the week.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article</th>
<th>Average Weekly Imports</th>
<th>Total Imports</th>
<th>Average Monthly Imports*</th>
<th>Total Imports*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tons</td>
<td>Tons</td>
<td>Tons</td>
<td>Tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Wheat</td>
<td>16,690</td>
<td>23,385</td>
<td>52,995</td>
<td>101,378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Wheat flour</td>
<td>47,390</td>
<td>36,740</td>
<td>6,570</td>
<td>9,712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Beef (fresh, refrigerated and frozen)</td>
<td>4,886</td>
<td>8,446</td>
<td>2,638</td>
<td>8,048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Mutton (fresh, refrigerated and frozen)</td>
<td>1,148</td>
<td>1,363</td>
<td>513</td>
<td>5,132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Meat, unmanufactured (refrigerated and preserved)</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>3,380</td>
<td>3,250</td>
<td>2,126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Bacon</td>
<td>6,524</td>
<td>6,195</td>
<td>4,435</td>
<td>5,972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Hams</td>
<td>665</td>
<td>862</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Lamb</td>
<td>1,233</td>
<td>2,146</td>
<td>2,070</td>
<td>1,629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Mutton</td>
<td>1,803</td>
<td>1,775</td>
<td>3,318</td>
<td>1,460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Cheddar</td>
<td>948</td>
<td>1,723</td>
<td>1,875</td>
<td>2,137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Butter</td>
<td>3,167</td>
<td>2,373</td>
<td>820</td>
<td>2,672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Sugar (refined and unrefined)</td>
<td>14,315</td>
<td>1,147</td>
<td>18,925</td>
<td>37,333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Sugar, glucose</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>99,755</td>
<td>56,066</td>
<td>150,220</td>
<td>1,396,474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Barley</td>
<td>29,025</td>
<td>-9,260</td>
<td>12,945</td>
<td>21,565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Oats</td>
<td>6,725</td>
<td>-100</td>
<td>1,385</td>
<td>17,464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Maize</td>
<td>23,715</td>
<td>23,890</td>
<td>46,450</td>
<td>46,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>50,465</td>
<td>33,960</td>
<td>85,479</td>
<td>27,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All principal foods and feeding stuffs</td>
<td>150,920</td>
<td>148,904</td>
<td>385,370</td>
<td>27,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Rice</td>
<td>15,565</td>
<td>3,310</td>
<td>2,554</td>
<td>7,192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Ten</td>
<td>1,933</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>2,940</td>
<td>4,118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>120,314</td>
<td>89,396</td>
<td>189,714</td>
<td>99,702</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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 for the months of January and February.
### Table B.—Statistics Illustrating Consumption of Meat.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></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>10,119</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Average weekly supplies during June and July 1913:**
- Central Market, London: 8,245 tons
- Manchester Market: 855 tons
- Glasgow Market: 798 tons
- Liverpool Market: 221 tons

**Total:** 10,119 tons

### Table C.—Supplies of Fat Stock at 59 Markets in Great Britain.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Fat Cattle</th>
<th>Fat Sheep</th>
<th>Fat Pigs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan.</td>
<td>18,509</td>
<td>16,374</td>
<td>5,725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb.</td>
<td>18,282</td>
<td>17,228</td>
<td>7,679</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar.</td>
<td>19,232</td>
<td>18,184</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr.</td>
<td>18,347</td>
<td>17,427</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>18,123</td>
<td>19,201</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>18,945</td>
<td>16,414</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>19,487</td>
<td>15,672</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug.</td>
<td>18,864</td>
<td>16,424</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept.</td>
<td>16,222</td>
<td>16,728</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct.</td>
<td>16,591</td>
<td>18,134</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov.</td>
<td>16,118</td>
<td>16,615</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec.</td>
<td>15,854</td>
<td>13,735</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Week ended:**
- 2nd Mar.: 18,509
- 9th Mar.: 18,282

### Table D.—Supplies of Fat Stock at 59 Markets in Great Britain.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Fat Cattle</th>
<th>Fat Sheep</th>
<th>Fat Pigs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan.</td>
<td>18,509</td>
<td>16,374</td>
<td>5,725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb.</td>
<td>18,282</td>
<td>17,228</td>
<td>7,679</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar.</td>
<td>19,232</td>
<td>18,184</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr.</td>
<td>18,347</td>
<td>17,427</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>18,123</td>
<td>19,201</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>18,945</td>
<td>16,414</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>19,487</td>
<td>15,672</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug.</td>
<td>18,864</td>
<td>16,424</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept.</td>
<td>16,222</td>
<td>16,728</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct.</td>
<td>16,591</td>
<td>18,134</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov.</td>
<td>16,118</td>
<td>16,615</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec.</td>
<td>15,854</td>
<td>13,735</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* For reasons mentioned in the report, the figures for January and February are not a very reliable index for comparison between 1916 and 1917.
TABLE D.—ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED IN 9,017 PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SLAUGHTERHOUSES IN GREAT BRITAIN IN FEBRUARY 1917, JANUARY 1918, AND FEBRUARY 1918.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cattle</th>
<th>Calves</th>
<th>Sheep</th>
<th>Pigs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 1917</td>
<td>105,644</td>
<td>12,502</td>
<td>328,428</td>
<td>156,444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1918</td>
<td>73,004</td>
<td>10,570</td>
<td>350,280</td>
<td>152,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 1918</td>
<td>68,680</td>
<td>16,382</td>
<td>170,630</td>
<td>105,658</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage—Increase or Decrease:
- February 1918 compared with February 1917:
  - Sheep: -35.0\%  
  - Calves: +21.3\%  
  - Pigs: -48.1\%  
  - Lambs: -32.5\%  
- February 1918 compared with January 1918:
  - Sheep: +6.9\%  
  - Calves: +55.0\%  
  - Pigs: -51.3\%  
  - Lambs: -18.2\%  

INDEX NUMBERS OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED (MEASURED AS PERCENTAGES OF THE LEVELS OF SEPTEMBER 1917).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cattle</th>
<th>Calves</th>
<th>Sheep and Lambs</th>
<th>Pigs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1916-17.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>134%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>102%</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>154%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>104%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>161%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>104%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>193%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>163%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February*</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>103%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>137%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917-18.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>115%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>104%</td>
<td>112%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>115%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>101%</td>
<td>109%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>116%</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>126%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February*</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>126%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Preliminary figures.
### Table E. Index Numbers of Consumption of Bread, Meat, and Provisions.

#### Retail Consumption of Bread and Flour
(measured as percentages of the level of May 1917)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(4 weeks ended)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 31st</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 28th</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 26th</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 23rd</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 21st</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 18th</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 15th</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 13th</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 10th</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 8th</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 5th</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2nd</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2nd</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The numbers in brackets are adjusted for the probable change in the stock of flour held at home before and after the reduction in price on September 17th.

#### Consumption of Meat
(measured as percentages of the average monthly consumption in 1916)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Home Fed.</th>
<th>Foreign</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>94½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>104½</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>96½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>94½</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>85½</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>86½</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>83¼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>95½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>95½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>105½</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>110½</td>
<td>102½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Provisional figures.

#### Consumption of Provisions, based on returns from multiple shops and co-operative societies
(measured as percentages of the levels of October 1917)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Butter</th>
<th>Margarine</th>
<th>Lard</th>
<th>Bacon</th>
<th>Ham</th>
<th>Cheese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(4 weeks ended)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2nd, 1916</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 30th, 1916</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 28th, 1916</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 25th, 1916</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 23rd, 1916</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 20th, 1917</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>102</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 17th, 1917</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>108</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 4th, 1917</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 1st, 1917</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 29th, 1917</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>107</td>
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<td>October 27th, 1917</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>November 24th, 1917</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>102</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 22nd, 1917</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>82½</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 19th, 1918</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>54</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 16th, 1918</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>49½</td>
<td>43½</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 1. Stocks of the Principal Foods and Feeding Stuffs in the United Kingdom.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article</th>
<th>March 1st, 1918</th>
<th>February 1st, 1918</th>
<th>March 1st, 1917</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stocks in the United Kingdom including estimated Form Stocks.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat (including flour)</td>
<td>1,755,000</td>
<td>1,890,000</td>
<td>1,397,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oats</td>
<td>1,221,000</td>
<td>1,389,000</td>
<td>919,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beans</td>
<td>75,000</td>
<td>81,000</td>
<td>89,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peas</td>
<td>27,000</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stocks in the United Kingdom at Ports, Warehouses, &amp;c.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maize</td>
<td>65,000</td>
<td>59,000</td>
<td>195,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice (including ground rice and rice flour)</td>
<td>107,000</td>
<td>109,000</td>
<td>87,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grain Meals</td>
<td>47,000</td>
<td>51,000</td>
<td>21,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar</td>
<td>106,000</td>
<td>181,000</td>
<td>44,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stocks in the United Kingdom in Cold Stores and in Importers' Warehouses.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butter</td>
<td>1,700</td>
<td>1,900</td>
<td>7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margarine</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>4,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lard</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>2,300</td>
<td>4,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheese</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>15,700</td>
<td>5,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condensed Milk</td>
<td>9,400</td>
<td>10,100</td>
<td>5,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meat—Beef (chilled and frozen)</td>
<td>39,600</td>
<td>38,700</td>
<td>20,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutton (chilled and frozen)</td>
<td>26,800</td>
<td>24,000</td>
<td>27,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bacon</td>
<td>4,700</td>
<td>4,300</td>
<td>20,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hams</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>7,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poultry, Game, and Rabbits</td>
<td>8,300</td>
<td>8,300</td>
<td>3,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Meat</td>
<td>11,580</td>
<td>14,400</td>
<td>10,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish</td>
<td>14,200</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stocks in the United Kingdom, remaining in Bonded Warehouses, or entered to be Warehoused.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tea</td>
<td>31,400</td>
<td>28,300</td>
<td>41,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffee</td>
<td>30,200</td>
<td>51,000</td>
<td>61,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocoa</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>43,000</td>
<td>50,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stocks in the United Kingdom at Ports and in the hands of Millers, Crushers, and Cake Manufacturers.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oilseeds, &amp;c.</td>
<td>220,400</td>
<td>222,000</td>
<td>385,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oilseed Cake and Meal</td>
<td>70,000</td>
<td>78,000</td>
<td>95,800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The figures for wheat and flour include stocks in port granaries and warehouses, inland warehouses, mills, and bakers shops, as well as estimated stocks on the farm; 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, included.

† Excluding stocks held by malsters. Stocks in malsters' hands on 1st March 1918 were 161,000 tons, and on 1st February 1918, 191,000 tons.

‡ Figures not available.

§ In manufacturers' hands. Includes both home and imported produce.

### Number of Live Stock in England and Wales.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>February 4th, 1918 (Estimated)</th>
<th>December 2nd, 1917 (Census)</th>
<th>June 4th, 1917</th>
<th>June 4th, 1916</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dairy Cattle</td>
<td>2,481,000</td>
<td>2,579,000</td>
<td>2,465,000</td>
<td>2,429,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Cattle</td>
<td>5,691,000</td>
<td>5,891,000</td>
<td>6,227,000</td>
<td>6,216,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ewes kept for breeding</td>
<td>6,583,000</td>
<td>6,753,000</td>
<td>6,972,000</td>
<td>7,047,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Sheep</td>
<td>11,255,000</td>
<td>12,004,000</td>
<td>17,170,000</td>
<td>17,521,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sows kept for breeding</td>
<td>222,000</td>
<td>255,000</td>
<td>234,000</td>
<td>238,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Pigs</td>
<td>1,509,000</td>
<td><strong>2,439,000</strong></td>
<td>1,919,000</td>
<td>2,168,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** Includes pigs belonging to cottagers.
Table G.—Percentage Increase in Retail Food Prices in the United Kingdom, at each of the Undermentioned Dates, as compared with "Normal Prices in July 1914."

[Information supplied by the Department of Labour Statistics.]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beef:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British—Ribs</td>
<td>7-0</td>
<td>35-3</td>
<td>60-4</td>
<td>64-2</td>
<td>96-1</td>
<td>97-4</td>
<td>80-5</td>
<td>81-8</td>
<td>83-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thin flank</td>
<td>11-2</td>
<td>45-2</td>
<td>80-6</td>
<td>83-5</td>
<td>122-2</td>
<td>120-9</td>
<td>100-9</td>
<td>101-1</td>
<td>101-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chilled or frozen—</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ribs</td>
<td>16-3</td>
<td>46-7</td>
<td>82-7</td>
<td>85-4</td>
<td>119-6</td>
<td>122-1</td>
<td>116-4</td>
<td>116-0</td>
<td>116-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thin flank</td>
<td>30-7</td>
<td>65-1</td>
<td>102-2</td>
<td>101-2</td>
<td>156-5</td>
<td>157-9</td>
<td>137-3</td>
<td>135-7</td>
<td>136-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mutton:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British—Legs</td>
<td>5-8</td>
<td>27-9</td>
<td>55-4</td>
<td>58-7</td>
<td>100-0</td>
<td>97-7</td>
<td>76-8</td>
<td>78-7</td>
<td>80-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breast</td>
<td>11-7</td>
<td>41-5</td>
<td>79-8</td>
<td>84-2</td>
<td>142-2</td>
<td>138-2</td>
<td>92-5</td>
<td>95-4</td>
<td>96-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frozen—Legs</td>
<td>16-3</td>
<td>41-8</td>
<td>83-7</td>
<td>89-4</td>
<td>134-4</td>
<td>136-0</td>
<td>134-0</td>
<td>135-8</td>
<td>135-7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Breast</td>
<td>24-8</td>
<td>62-7</td>
<td>120-4</td>
<td>120-0</td>
<td>190-8</td>
<td>188-7</td>
<td>161-9</td>
<td>153-1</td>
<td>161-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bacon, streaky*</td>
<td>7-1</td>
<td>30-7</td>
<td>37-5</td>
<td>56-3</td>
<td>76-4</td>
<td>96-0</td>
<td>138-7</td>
<td>141-6</td>
<td>139-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish</td>
<td>40-9</td>
<td>96-7</td>
<td>80-7</td>
<td>131-1</td>
<td>127-1</td>
<td>136-1</td>
<td>195-9</td>
<td>217-7</td>
<td>219-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flour</td>
<td>20-3</td>
<td>49-0</td>
<td>47-6</td>
<td>88-3</td>
<td>102-5</td>
<td>102-2</td>
<td>51-8</td>
<td>51-8</td>
<td>51-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bread</td>
<td>15-8</td>
<td>41-7</td>
<td>44-8</td>
<td>72-3</td>
<td>100-3</td>
<td>99-6</td>
<td>54-4</td>
<td>54-3</td>
<td>54-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tom</td>
<td>13-6</td>
<td>48-2</td>
<td>50-2</td>
<td>50-2</td>
<td>73-7</td>
<td>78-5</td>
<td>92-8</td>
<td>93-4</td>
<td>90-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar, granulated</td>
<td>67-0</td>
<td>98-3</td>
<td>158-0</td>
<td>150-0</td>
<td>187-7</td>
<td>189-0</td>
<td>189-3</td>
<td>189-3</td>
<td>187-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk</td>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>28-8</td>
<td>36-1</td>
<td>56-6</td>
<td>59-7</td>
<td>61-0</td>
<td>99-5</td>
<td>101-9</td>
<td>102-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potatoes</td>
<td>76-1</td>
<td>74-8</td>
<td>108-6</td>
<td>121-7</td>
<td>144-3</td>
<td>38-9</td>
<td>37-1</td>
<td>36-3</td>
<td>36-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margarine</td>
<td>4-4</td>
<td>6-9</td>
<td>17-5</td>
<td>35-0</td>
<td>72-5</td>
<td>66-0</td>
<td>65-9</td>
<td>67-3</td>
<td>68-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butter, fresh</td>
<td>13-8</td>
<td>33-9</td>
<td>31-7</td>
<td>72-9</td>
<td>64-7</td>
<td>90-8</td>
<td>103-4</td>
<td>104-1</td>
<td>104-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butter, salt</td>
<td>12-1</td>
<td>31-5</td>
<td>32-3</td>
<td>70-6</td>
<td>65-3</td>
<td>90-1</td>
<td>105-4</td>
<td>107-7</td>
<td>108-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheese, Canadian or</td>
<td>10-0</td>
<td>31-7</td>
<td>51-4</td>
<td>74-8</td>
<td>108-0</td>
<td>94-7</td>
<td>91-3</td>
<td>91-7</td>
<td>91-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggs, fresh</td>
<td>63-4</td>
<td>104-9</td>
<td>45-3</td>
<td>175-0</td>
<td>95-3</td>
<td>142-4</td>
<td>242-1</td>
<td>245-5</td>
<td>239-9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality the Returns quote prices for another kind locally representative.
† Decrease.

Table H.—Retail Prices of Subsidiary Foods in April, 1917, and Subsequent Months compared with the Prices in July, 1914, in London and other Large Towns.

[Information supplied by the Department of Labour Statistics.]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Butter beans</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hartnutt beans (white)</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peas, split (yellow)</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lentils, split (red)</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oatmeal, Scotch</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>150*</td>
<td>150*</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice, Rangoon</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sago</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tapioca</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condensed milk</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lard, British</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 25% in Scotland.
Sir,

In continuation of my letter of the 18th instant, I am directed by the Shipping Controller to report, for the information of the War Cabinet as follows.

1. CONVOYS

(a) Homeward Bound Convoys. Since the last report 9 convoys consisting of 117 ships (915,200 tons deadweight) have arrived. There were no casualties of any kind.

There are now on passage home 19 Convoys consisting of 309 ships.

(b) Outward Bound Convoys. Since the last report 5 Convoys consisting of 93 ships (568,300 tons deadweight) have been escorted through the danger zone. There were no casualties.

There are now in the danger zone 8 Convoys consisting of 123 ships.

2. FINANCE.

During the week ended the 16th instant, the sum of £3,467,483 was paid in compensation for loss of requisitioned ships, making a total of £55,555,692 paid on this account since the 1st April 1917.

3. NORWEGIAN TONnage Requisitioned.

The s.s. "CRN", and "ECHO" have been requisitioned.

4./

SECRETARY,

WAR CABINET.
4. **STANDARD SHIPS.**

The s.s. "WAR VIPER" built at Belfast, and the s.s. "WAR EXPERT" (Oiler) built at Glasgow, have been delivered.

5. **NEUTRAL TONNAGE LOST.**

The Danish steamship "ALICE" was sunk by collision on the 18th instant.

6. **RUSSIAN VESSELS REQUISITIONED.**

The following Russian Vessels have been requisitioned:

- s.s. TOBOLSK.
- s.s. CONSTANTIA.
- s.s. TAMBOV.
- s.s. CLAUDIUS AULAGNON.
- s.s. CLAUDIA.
- s.s. TAMBOV.
- s.s. CONSTANTIA.
- s.s. CLAUDIUS AULAGNON.
- s.s. CLAUDIA.
- s.s. TAMBOV.
- s.s. CONSTANTIA.
- s.s. CLAUDIUS AULAGNON.
- s.s. CLAUDIA.
- s.s. TAMBOV.
- s.s. CONSTANTIA.
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11. **EXCHANGE OF BRITISH AND GERMAN PRISONERS OF WAR.**

The vessels arrived at Boston on their seventh trip on the 14th instant, and disembarked the following English Prisoners:

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civilians</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental cases</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>117</strong></td>
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</table>

and the body of an English civilian prisoner who died on the passage.

The following German prisoners were embarked at Boston on the 16th instant:

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<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civilians</td>
<td>700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mental cases</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>710</strong></td>
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12. **"TUSCANIA"**

With reference to the sinking of this vessel by submarine attack, it has been ascertained from the American authorities that the actual number of military personnel saved was 1971 and the number missing 211.

13. **ITALIAN PASSENGER STEAMERS FOR NORTH ATLANTIC TROOPING.**

The Italian Government has now definitely agreed to these vessels being brought into the North Atlantic for the transport of American troops.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) John Anderson.
The Education Bill, which I introduced in its revised form on the 14th January, has been read a second time in the House of Commons. Its main provisions have met with general approval and such criticisms as have been made were confined to one or two specific Clauses.

During the past few weeks I have received a number of Deputations representative of some of the principal industries of the Country whose interests are likely to be affected by the proposals of the Education Bill. I have, in many cases, been able to remove their apprehensions and suggest possible solutions of their difficulties.

A number of Circulars have recently been issued by the Department to Local Education Authorities dealing with questions of Food Production and Economy. The Authorities have been requested to co-operate with the Ministry of Food:-

(a) by allowing the services of teachers in Public Elementary Schools to be utilised in connection with the arrangements for the equitable distribution of food;

(b) by handing over some of the most suitable School Cookery Centres for the purpose of National Kitchens; and

(c) by making the fullest possible use of the services of the Cookery Teachers for instruction in economical cookery.

They have also been asked to assist the Food Production Department by granting extended holidays in rural areas so as to enable boys over 12 years of age to assist in agricultural operations.

Other Circulars recently issued by the Department have dealt with such matters as the establishment of a Block Grant for Special Subjects Instruction with the object of reducing the clerical work in the offices both of the Local Education Authorities.
and the Board and at the same time preventing financial loss to
the Authorities; the fixing of such dates for school holidays as
will involve the least pressure on the railways during the usual
holidays seasons; the arrangements for the occupation of school
premises for recruiting and other purposes by the Ministry of
National Service; a modification of the arrangements made between
that Department and the Board of Education with a view to releasing
a further number of school teachers for Military Service; and the
provision of Special Courses for Instructors and Organisers of
Physical Training.

5. Minutes have been laid before Parliament:-
(a) Announcing an additional grant to Public Elementary Schools
not maintained by the Local Education Authority.
(b) Prescribing minimum salaries for full-time teachers in Public
Elementary Schools.

Regulations have also been issued for the payment of
Special Grant to certain Local Education Authorities with a
view to relieving the financial burden in highly rated areas.

6. The Committee which I appointed last year to inquire into the
Principles which should determine the Construction of Scales of
Salary for teachers in Public Elementary Schools has issued its
Report, which I hope will prove of great assistance to Local
Education Authorities in framing new scales of salary for the
teachers in their employ or modifying, where necessary, the scales
now in force.

22nd March, 1918.
§1. The Committee desire to report seriatim on those raw materials which are wholly or mainly produced within the Empire. They are of the opinion that no general scheme of control can be drafted on a priori principles. Each commodity should be separately considered with reference to two questions:

(a) Whether any control is desirable, and if so
(b) What is the most expedient method of control in the particular case.

When the detailed enquiries are concluded, it will be advisable to review as a whole the recommendations which have been made as to each commodity.

§2. The objects of control are:

(a) To secure for the British Empire and the belligerent Allies a sufficiency of essential raw materials, in order to enable them to repair the effects of the war as soon as possible, and to safeguard their industrial requirements.

(b) To exert pressure on enemy powers, so as to induce them to conclude an early peace for fear of economic ruin after the war.

(c) As a result of such pressure to strengthen our hands, and those of our Allies, in conducting the negotiations at the Peace Conference.

§3. To accomplish these objects some measure of Inter-Allied co-operation will no doubt be essential. It is probable that any proposals for direct control of raw materials by any Inter-Allied body would be impracticable; but the machinery of control should be such as to be suitable for negotiation and co-operation with our Allies. This machinery should be created at the earliest possible moment in consultation with the Dominions and India.

§4. Steps should next be taken to consult with our belligerent Allies, and particularly with the United States of America.
(a) as to their requirements of Empire raw materials;
(b) as to the reciprocal assistance which they can give us in respect of commodities over which they exercise the main control;
(c) as to the use which can be made of our and their control over raw materials in exerting pressure on the enemy powers and subsequently in negotiating with them at a Peace Conference.

5. The principle should be maintained that the Empire, in all bargaining as to raw materials should act as a unit.

6. The Committee are aware that other committees are dealing with the question of raw materials under certain aspects. But they believe that the main facts as to many of the raw materials produced within the Empire are already collected; and they propose to deal first with certain raw materials concerning which the information is already accessible in the Colonial Office.

The Committee understand that the domestic problem of distributing the raw materials which H.M. Government may acquire for United Kingdom use is under consideration of the Ministry of Reconstruction. They do not therefore propose at this stage to offer any suggestions on this subject.

The Committee are not aware whether any definite and comprehensive organisation has yet been created for ascertaining the resources and the needs of our Allies in respect of raw materials. They suggest that the Foreign Office should be asked for information on this point. But they consider that the provision for British Empire requirements should not be delayed while the wants of the Allies are being ascertained.
We have prepared, with the help of the Departments concerned, two lists (see Appendix A), showing:

(a) Those raw materials, produced in the Empire, which it is prima facie desirable to control for the benefit of the United Kingdom, of other manufacturing centres in the Empire, and of the Allies.

(b) Those which might be utilised in bargaining, with our present enemies, or with Allies, for economic or political concessions.

The two lists overlap, but they are not identical. It would be easy to add to them; but we are opposed to interfering more than is unavoidable with the normal course of Empire trade. We suggest that the lists should be telegraphed to the Dominions and India, with an explanation that they are provisional lists, and are only submitted as a basis for discussion.

We have also prepared a third list, of the materials for supplies of which we may be obliged to bargain with foreign powers (see Appendix A). This also might be communicated to the Dominions and India for their information.

The Foreign Office are making enquiries as to the exact needs of our Allies in respect of Empire raw materials. The Board of Trade is preparing statistical estimates of the needs of the United Kingdom. This information will be available by the time of the Conference. We attach a schedule (Appendix B) of the heads under which the information is to be collected.

We look to the cooperation of the Board of Trade and the Foreign Office in investigating the uses which may be made of the "bargaining counters" enumerated in the second list.

We suggest that the Imperial War Conference should be asked to approve, in general terms, the principle of reserving specific supplies of certain raw materials for the United Kingdom and the Allies; and also to agree to a list of the raw materials which
it is desirable to control for this purpose.

But we recognise that each Dominion (and India) must be mistress in her own house, and must be left to decide, in respect of each of the raw materials which she produces, whether she will control it, how she will control it, and for whose benefit she will exercise her control.

We therefore deprecate the idea of pressing the Dominions (or India) to adopt a cut and dried system of control, devised in this country without regard to their local interests and circumstances. We hope that H.M. Government after stating the needs of the United Kingdom and the Allies, will merely ask the Dominions (and India) how far each of them can give assistance. We do not anticipate that the Governments of the Empire will be at a loss for methods of control. We are struck by the variety and the efficiency of the methods which some of them have devised during the war. We understand that all of them have some machinery which could be utilised for post-bellum control. There is no good reason for insisting upon mechanical uniformity of administration, as long as the object in view is achieved. That object is to ensure definite quotas of specified raw materials for the United Kingdom and for certain of the Allies and (it may be) for bargains with our present enemies.

After the Conference has approved the principle of control, the objects of control (as defined in our First Report) and the list of materials to be controlled, there will be need for detailed negotiations, in respect of each of the listed materials particularly as to the amounts to be reserved for the United Kingdom and the Allies, and as to the terms of purchase. There will be negotiations on the part of the Dominions and India:

(a) with the United Kingdom

(b) with certain of the Allies.
These negotiations cannot well be conducted in the main Conference. We hope that the Dominions and India will appoint special delegates (who should be of ministerial status) to negotiate on their behalf. Seeing that at least half a dozen Departments in this country will be interested in the negotiations we suggest that a Committee of the Ministerial heads of these Departments should be set up, with the Secretary of State for the Colonies as its chairman, and should be empowered:

(a) to make binding arrangements, on behalf of the United Kingdom, with the representatives of the Dominions and India, in respect of raw materials;

(b) to call for all the expert assistance (from Departments and specialist Committees) which it may require for the adequate performance of its duties.

Such a Committee would no doubt be well qualified to facilitate discussions and arrangements regarding raw materials between our Allies and the Dominions and India.
Appendix A.

LIST (1) Raw Materials of Empire origin required by the United Kingdom & the Allies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Origin</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asbestos</td>
<td>Canada, Rhodesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton</td>
<td>Egypt, India, E. &amp; W. Africa, W. Indies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jute</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool</td>
<td>Australia, New Zealand, S. Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hides &amp; Skins</td>
<td>S. Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, India, Straits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leather</td>
<td>India, Australia, Canada, New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubber</td>
<td>Straits, Malay States, Ceylon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oleaginous Produce</td>
<td>India, Ceylon, W. Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper</td>
<td>S. Africa, Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead and its ores</td>
<td>Australia, India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manganese ores</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nickel, refined &amp; matte</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelter &amp; Zinc Concentrates</td>
<td>Australia, India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tin and its ores</td>
<td>Australia, S. Africa, Nigeria, Straits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tungsten ores</td>
<td>Australia, India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mica</td>
<td>India, Canada</td>
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LIST (2) Raw Materials of Empire origin which might be the subject of special bargains with Allies or enemies.

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<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Origin</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asbestos, Fine</td>
<td>Canada, Rhodesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton</td>
<td>Egypt, India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jute</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool</td>
<td>Australia, New Zealand, S. Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nickel</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tin</td>
<td>Straits, Australia, United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steam-Coal</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubber</td>
<td>Straits, Malay States, Ceylon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zinc Concentrates</td>
<td>Australia, India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mica</td>
<td>India, Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oleaginous Seeds &amp; Nuts</td>
<td>W. Africa, Ceylon, India</td>
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LIST (3) Raw Materials for which the Empire may be obliged to bargain.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Origin</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cotton, American</td>
<td>United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper</td>
<td>United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flax &amp; Hemp</td>
<td>Russia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iron Ores &amp; Pyrites</td>
<td>Spain, France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyes &amp; Chemicals</td>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potash</td>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timber</td>
<td>Russia, Sweden, Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phosphate Rock</td>
<td>United States, France</td>
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Appendix B.

RAW MATERIALS.

Headings for the Arrangements of Information.

I. Domestic Production
   A. Amount
      1. Before the War.
      2. During the War.
      3. Estimate of, after the war, stating practical limit of annual production, potential supply, and possible development.
   B. Present, and estimated future, quality according to World standard.
   C. Control of sources and production — companies, financial etc.

II. Domestic Consumption or Requirements
   A. Before the war
      1. Amount.
      2. Uses.
   B. After the war
      1. Amount, estimate stating any qualifying condition.
      2. Uses.

III. Import (if domestic production insufficient)
   A. Sources of supply before the war.
   B. Amounts
      1. Before the war.
      2. Estimated necessary amount after the war.
   C. Conditions of supply, —— enemy control, financial etc.

IV. Export (if surplus production)
   A. Countries to which exported.
   B. Amounts before the war.
   C. Uses.
   D. Dependence of country on supply.
   E. Conditions of export - duties, control, financial etc.

V. Method & Machinery of Control of Domestic Production during the War.
1. The political position in Poland is more hopeless than it has ever been since the beginning of the war - no light can be seen either from within or without. A barren excitement has got hold of the country, not over Chelm alone, but over everything that has happened or not happened in the course of the last forty-four months. Here and there some men redeem the honour of the nation by desperate acts. Whatever there was left of Pilsudski's Legions, the men who originally had been too conciliatory or too faint-hearted to follow his revolutionary lead last summer mutinied and tried to break through to Russia. In some Polish towns demonstrations have taken place in the streets, there have been encounters with the police and soldiers, and there have been certain numbers of casualties. Politicians organise endless protests which no one reads and few people mind. Yet others wax, crawl and intrigue as of old.

2. The Polish Army in Russia has definitely gone over to the German side, and by a treaty concluded on February 25 between General Dowbor-Musnicki and Colonel von Wulffen, representing the Oberbefehlshaber-Ost, it has been assigned a district west of the Dnieper within which it will perform auxiliary service to the Germans - guard the railways, bridges, stores, etc. In certain contingencies they even place themselves under direct German command on the battlefield.

Yet it would hardly be fair to throw the blame for what has happened on the Polish officers and soldiers - they had
been put in an impossible position. The responsibility rests with the National Democrat politicians and their different "National Committees". They have formed that Army under conditions and on lines which in the long run could lead to one result only. Nature takes its course, politics have their iron laws no less than physics. The Polish National Democrats stand for social Conservatism and Polish imperialism. Since the Russian Revolution Germany has been the stronghold of social Conservatism in Eastern Europe, and conquests at the expense of Russia can obviously never be made otherwise than with German help. The National Democrats when forming the Polish Army in Russia loudly professed anti-German sentiments and views. But sentiments and views in politics are merely momentary equations; interests and temperament are the permanent factors. Even at the time when the National Democrat leaders were pressing on revolutionary Russia the demand that the Polish soldiers who served in the Russian armies should be organised into an independent Polish Army, they spoke in insulting terms about the Revolution and the Russian nation, uttered threats against Russia and developed plans of aggrandisement at Russia's expense. Could the Conservative Poles expect ever to be sufficiently strong to oppose Germany and Russia at the same time, or if not, which way was their Army bound to go? Polish nobles who own the big landed estates in Lithuania, White Russia and the Ukraine were in immediate danger of expropriation at the hands of their peasants. With them Polish imperialism would have lost its last foothold in these districts. Here was the immediate problem which faced the Polish counter-revolutionary, imperialist Army in Russia. Considering the interests for which the Polish Army stood and was meant to stand by its organisers, the compromise which they have concluded with Germany must be described as the logic, and not as an irony, of history.
3. Meantime Polish delegates from Warsaw try by diplomatic negotiations to secure the "conquests" of the Army of General Dowbor-Musnicki. In the first days of March M. Steczkowski, Minister of Finance in the Cabinet of K. Kucharzewski (and since reported to have been appointed Prime Minister), Prince Franciszek Radziwill and Count Adam Ronikier went to Berlin to confer with German politicians. M. Steczkowski is reported to have gone as representative of the Polish government, Prince Radziwill of the Regency Council and Count Ronikier of the Polish Centre, the most fervent advocates of compromise with Germany. They conferred in the first place with Herrn David, Erzberger and Naumann, and proposals are said to have been drawn up for a close Polish-German alliance. Germany is to abandon all idea of "frontier rectifications" at the expense of Poland, the question of Chelm is to be "carefully considered" and, lastly, Poland is to receive a wide extension into White Russia - the districts annexed by General Dowbor-Musnicki; in exchange she is to subordinate herself entirely to Germany in military and economic matters. The two things naturally go together. Poland lies between Germany and Russia and never can be equal in strength to either, still less superior to both together. She can make conquests only in one direction. Any attempt at aggrandisement at the expense of Russia implies therefore dependence on German protection. It was probably to these proposals that Count Hertling referred when he said in his speech of March 19:

"Suggestions for the shaping of our future relationship have recently reached government members of the Reichstag from political circles in Poland. We shall now gladly examine whether and to what extent these proposals are reconcilable with the aims pursued by the two governments which are directed towards permanently living in good and neighbourly relations with the newly-arisen State, while at the same time safeguarding our own interests."

Obviously the proposals are treated seriously. The fact that such negotiations should have been carried on at Berlin without Austria seems further to indicate that the Austrian
solution - the idea of uniting Russian Poland with Galicia under the Habsburg sceptre - has been dropped.

4. According to a Vienna telegram of the Berlin Lokalanzeiger transmitted from Amsterdam to the Times and published by it on March 19, not only the Polish parties of the Left, but even the groups of peasants and the intelligentsia in the conciliatory Polish Centre have rejected the compromise proposals "agreed upon in Berlin between the representatives of the Polish Centre party and representatives of the Main Committee of the Reichstag". There can be no doubt that the masses in Poland are now by no means in a mood favourable to concluding alliances with the Central Powers.

5. In the Austrian Parliament, however, concessions to Polish Imperialism have proved sufficient to make the great majority of the Polish members desert the Czechs and Jugo-Slavs, and, in the division of March 7, save the Austrian government, against which they had inveighed so bitterly but a few days earlier. "Just as half a century ago," the Neue Freie Presse remarks approvingly on March 8, "the Poles refused to make common cause with the Czechs and share in political wickedness (an einer politischen Verderbtheit teilnehmen)". Before the vote on the Budget the Emperor had summoned representatives of the Polish Club. At this conference the Poles are reported to have demanded a promise that Poland would suffer no diminution at the hands of Germany, that against the Ukraine the frontier would be fixed on the river Bug (thus also the Ukrainian half of Chelm is to come under Poland), and that all Galicia is to remain under Polish dominion. They obviously received a sympathetic reply - and in deference to the Hofburg abstained from voting against the Budget. The Polish Socialists alone have persisted in their opposition and left the Polish Club. The National Democrats protested against the decision of the Club, but abstained
with the rest of the Club from voting against the Budget. A party meeting of theirs is to determine their future relations to the Polish Parliamentary Club in Vienna.

It is fairly well established that the Magyars have acted as intermediaries between the Hofburg and the Austrian Government on the one hand, and the Poles on the other. The Magyar interests are contrary to those of the Czechs and of the Ukrainians - Slovaks inhabit north-western, Ukrainians north-eastern Hungary. The Magyars therefore naturally do not want to see the Poles join hands with the Czechs in the Austrian Parliament, and an East-Galicia under Polish dominion is for them the best safeguard against the Ukrainian irredentists. It is interesting to note that Count Leon Pininski, a Polish landowner from East-Galicia whom the Agence Polonaise of Lausanne has circularised as a "pro-Ally", was one of the two Polish delegates at the Budapest conferences.

21.3.18.
Italy and the subject-races of Austria-Hungary.

So many Committees have recently sprung into existence in connection with the Italo-Slav Entente movement that it may be well to enumerate and distinguish them.

There is (1) the General Committee for the Liberation of the suppressed Peoples of Austria with headquarters at Rome composed of the Senators Scialoja, Ruffini and Dell-Torre; the Deputies Bassilai, Andrea Torre and Arca, with Amendola (Rome editor of the Corriere della Sera) and Maraviglia (of the Idea Nazionale).

(2) The international Socialist Committee presided over by M. Albert Thomas and having its headquarters in Paris. An account of this body and its objects was given in Report on Italy XXVIII. p.5.

(3) A Committee recently formed in Italy, having for its special object the preparation of an understanding between Italy and the Jugoslavs. The Committee is not yet complete but the following are among its members – Signora Battisti (widow of the Irredentist victim of Austrian vindictiveness); Gaetano Salvemini (Professor of History at Florence, Editor of L’Unità and opponent of Italian claims to Dalmatia); Guglieemo Ferrero (the historian); Mario Borsa (Editor of Il Secolo); Luigi Einaudi (Professor of Economics); the Deputies Agnelli, De Viti de Marco, Arca, Marchesano, Celli, Ciriani, and the ex-Food Commissioner, Canepa.

Signor Canepa interviewed by L’Epoque, explained that this newly formed Committee was in no sort of opposition or rivalry with other Committees; that it did not adopt as its aim the dismemberment of Austria-Hungary (“a dangerous phrase”) but the liberation from oppression by Germans, Magyars, and the Habsburg Dynasty of the Italian
Slovene, Rumanian, etc., populations; that it did not assume to itself any plenipotentiary character still less did it feel itself authorised to proclaim renunciations on the part of Italy. It merely aimed at co-operating with a corresponding Jugoslav Committee in working out an understanding.

It is obvious nevertheless that this new Committee is of predominantly Radical character and comprises all the most prominent opponents of the claims to Dalmatia; whereas the Rome Committee is of a mixed character and contains a considerable element of the Parliamentary Right. Certain journals have been trying to make the most of this contrast in political complexion between the two Italian Committees. Hence Signor Canepa's disavowal of any opposition between them.

On the Jugoslav Committee with which the Italian Committee is to confer in some Swiss town are the Serbian ex-Ministers Stoianović, Marco Trpeović and Petrović; the Serbian Radical Deputies Pavlović, Janković, Georgević; the young Radicals Prodanović and Žulović; the Progressist Marincović and the Socialists Urosević and Voja Zaceović.

Dr. Andrea Torre (Deputy, President of the Press Association and formerly Foreign Editor of the Corriere della Sera) has recently been in London as representative of the Rome Committee (No.1. in enumeration) charged to confer with the principal representatives of the oppressed nationalities and to establish preliminary agreements with them in view of a Conference which is shortly to be held at Rome. The semi-official communiqué on the subject reported that Dr. Torre had met Dr. Ante Trumbić (President of the London Jugoslav Committee) and that after exhaustive discussion an agreement was reached, based on the principles recognised by both parties. Dr. Trumbić, it is understood, is shortly to visit Rome on the invitation of the Italian Premier, with whom, it will be remembered, he recently had a conversation. The Conference shortly to take place in Rome is to be attended by representatives of the oppressed nationalities of Austria-
Hungary, of the Jugoslav Committee, and of Italian Parliamentary circles; representatives of the Allied Countries, it is understood, will also take part. Considerable importance is attached to this meeting. What bearing the recent crisis in the Serbian Cabinet may have upon the work of the Conference is not yet clear.

The journals which support the anti-Austrian movement give much space to accounts of the persecution to which the Jugoslavs are being subjected by Austria, and are urgent in demanding the enrolment in the Italian Army of the Czech and Slav prisoners in Italy. It appears that the Italian Foreign Office is still persisting in its opposition to this step, requested by the Serbian Prime Minister and supported by both British and French Governments.

Military

The Italian press gives a good deal of prominence to articles recently published by the Military critics of the Echo de Paris and Le Matin discussing the probability of an Austro-German offensive on the Western section of the Italian front and describing the distribution of the Austrian forces on the front.

The Corriere della Sera addresses an urgent request to the Government to take more efficient measures to counteract at the front the insidious and persistent efforts being made by the enemy to undermine by means of skilfully concocted leaflets and news-sheets the moral of the Italian soldier and to create distrust and dislike of the Allies. The Austrian propaganda is said to be no longer the crude kind experienced in the early days of the invasion but exceedingly well and skilfully organised with co-operation of journalists well acquainted with internal conditions in Italy, who make a full use of all 'defeatist' utterances in the Italian and Allied press. How far this propaganda is effecting its object it is hard to ascertain. What reports we have of the moral of the Italian army are reassuring.
A movement is being set on foot for organising propaganda among the Czechs and Slavs of the Austrian army, its aim being to diffuse among them the knowledge of Italy's new policy of solidarity with the subject races of Austria-Hungary.

Silk Export.

The silk-export scandal forms chief subject of discussion in the press. It appears to have wide ramifications and further arrests are reported at frequent intervals. There is a disposition in certain quarters to hold the Government and in particular the Minister of Finance, Signor Meda (Catholic) responsible.

The Vatican.

The Osservatore Romano (March 13th) contradicts the statement made by Le Matin and reproduced in Italian papers that the Vatican is endeavouring to suggest to the United States a way towards peace.

Economic.

Signor Salvatore Orlando has been appointed Commissioner for Mercantile Ship-building and representative of Italy in London on the Inter-Ally Committee for Maritime Transport.
General Headquarters,
British Armies in France.

21st March, 1918.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith a report received from the G.O.C., R.F.C., on the bombing raid carried out by the Ochey Squadrons on the 18th instant.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

(Sd.) E.Wigram.
B.C.,
for Field-Marshal,
Commanding-in-Chief,
British Armies in France.

The Secretary,
War Office,
London, S.W.
DETAILED REPORT ON BOMB RAID CARRIED OUT 18/3/1918.

10 De Havilland 4s. left at 10.35 a.m. to bomb the Badische-Aniline und Soda-Fabrik at Mannheim. One machine was forced to return almost at once with engine trouble. The remainder of the formation crossed the lines East of Luneville and flew across the Vosges near Bitche, N.W. of Landau, over Neustadt and bombed the target from the N.W. at 12.40 p.m.

Bombs were dropped as under from an average height of 13,500 feet.

18 112 lb.
10 25 lb.
2 40 lb. (phos.) TOTAL 2,346 lbs.

As a result bursts were seen as follows:
8 in the Badische-Aniline und Soda-Fabrik, causing a huge cloud of black and white smoke to ascend.
4 on the Docks.
1 on and 1 alongside the Sulzer Factory, and many others round the objective.

Over the objective our formations were attacked by two formations of enemy aircraft, one of 8 machines and one of 6 machines. They were mostly Albatros Scouts, DI & D3 type, some of them being painted red and others with green main planes and blue tails; most were "V" strut type.

A combat ensued in which our pilots fired a total of 1940 rounds. As a result 2 enemy aircraft were sent down completely out of control. As there was a certain amount of mist and our pilots were busily engaged fighting, these machines were not actually seen to crash, but they were followed down for 5,000 feet and were then still completely out of control, and the impression of pilots is that there is not much doubt as to their ultimate fate.

All our machines returned safely, the formations recrossing the lines West of Luneville at 15,500 feet and landing at 2.30 p.m.

A total of 36 plates were exposed with good results.

Anti-aircraft fire over the objective was slight compared with the last visit to Mannheim. This, however, may have been due to the presence of enemy machines. One of our machines was damaged in the tail plane by anti-aircraft fire, and was wrecked on landing; personnel, however, being uninjured.

The weather was clear overhead with a certain amount of light cloud and ground haze.

(Sd.) C.L.W. Newall, Brigadier-General, G.O.C., 8th Brigade, Royal Flying Corps.

In the Field. 19th March 1918.
Number of Pensions. 13,542 pensions and allowances have been granted during the week to Officers and men and to widows, children and dependants. The number since the beginning of the war is 1,215,030.

2. Pensions to Soldiers. During the week out of 5,400 cases (including 100 rejected under previous warrants) dealt with by the Awards to Soldiers Branch 3,631 were awarded pensions, permanent or temporary 1,415 were granted gratuities and 54 were rejected.

3. Pensions to Widows and Dependents. During the week 1,258 widows (including unmarried wives) 1,601 parents and 49 other dependents were awarded pensions and 2,212 children were granted allowances.

4. New Scheme of Pensions to Parents. Under a recent concession the pre-war dependence pensions of 75 parents who were in pecuniary need have during the week, been raised from an average of 5/8 to an average of 12/3 a week whilst 105 unpensioned parents in pecuniary need have been granted an average pension of 9/9 a week. 186 cases have been refused pension.

5. Alternative pensions. Disabled Men. Up to date 21 permanent and 503 conditional alternative pensions have been awarded, and 146 men under treatment and training are receiving alternative pension allowances.

Widows. Out of 2,682 claims by widows for alternative pensions there have been 1417 awards and 528 rejections.

6. Pensions Appeal Tribunal. Since the 13th March 13 cases of appeal for pensions have been decided in favour of and 9 cases against the appellant.
7. Retired Pay to Officers, Nurses &c. Up to date 1,237
Army and Naval Officers (including Warrant Officers) 75 Nurses, 576 widows, 465 parents and 596 children of widows of Officers (including Warrant Officers) have benefited, mainly by increases in rates of pension, from a review of their cases under the Officers' Warrant and Orders in Council of last year.

DISCRETIONARY GRANTS &TC.

8. Motherless children. To ensure the proper care and upbringing of motherless children (pensioners under Article 18 (1) of the Royal Warrant) the Ministry are considering their transfer from poorlaw to private care.

TREATMENT.


10. Survey of Hospital Accommodation. The Committee are continuing their enquiries as to accommodation available in Civil, Military and Red Cross Hospitals.

11. Facial injuries. In-patient accommodation is found to be urgently required for the treatment of facial injuries.

12. Orthopaedic treatment. With reference to the 300 beds set aside in Military Hospitals for the Pensions Ministry and referred to in the Summary for 16th, 22nd February there has been some misunderstanding and a further conference will be held with the War Office.


Orthopaedic. In furtherance of the Scheme for supplementing orthopaedic centres by sub-centres Joint Disablement Committees have been circularized as to the establishment of sub-centres for out-patient orthopaedic treatment.

Psycho-Therapeutic. The inclusion of a psycho-therapeutic consulting room in an orthopaedic sub-centre will be sanctioned in
in suitable cases.

14. **Farm Colony Treatment.** The Kinson Farm Colony, Dorset for tuberculous discharged men is ready to receive patients. Model rules have been framed.

15. **Accommodation at Southampton.** Steps are being taken to secure 20 more beds which are urgently needed.

16. **Treatment Schemes.** Schemes have been submitted by various Local Committees. 250 Institutions in all parts of the United Kingdom and Ireland, have accepted the Ministry's new terms.

17. **Numbers under Treatment.** During the week 1,634 cases were admitted for treatment in or at Institutions and 1,1390 men were under treatment at the end of the week. The total number of men reported as having been or as still being under treatment is 21,665.

**TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT.**

18. **Trade Advisory Committees.** Various Committees met. The question of the training of boy artificers in the Air Service is interesting the Engineers and Shipbuilders.

19. **Allowances to men awaiting training.** Disabled men often cannot afford to wait for training which is not ready to hand and the Treasury has sanctioned payment of allowances to waiting men in certain cases.

20. **National Boot Factory.** The Boot and Shoe making trade after applying to the War Office on this subject have now approached the Ministry of Pensions.

21. **Training Schemes.** 23 out of 26 schemes submitted by local Committees have been sanctioned. 76 individual cases of training outside approved schemes were sanctioned during the week and 211 men were admitted and 50 discharged from training. The total number of men under training at the end of the week was 3,065. Up to date 4,928 men have been or are under training.
SECRET.
IMMEDIATE.

WAR CABINET.

JAPAN AND SIBERIA.

Note by the Secretary.

It is requested that War Cabinet Paper G.T. 4020 which was circulated on March 25th to the War Cabinet for information may be returned immediately to the Secretary of the War Cabinet. Since its circulation a further communication has been received from Professor Pares urgently requesting that, should it be decided to circulate his letter and enclosure, certain names and passages in the enclosure should be omitted. This further communication was received after the letter had been circulated. It was therefore too late to make the omissions requested and the only precaution that can be taken is to recall the copies issued.

(Signed) M.P.A. HANKEY.

Secretary.

8th March, 1918,
WAR CABINET.

JAPAN AND SIBERIA.

Note by the Secretary.

I circulate to the War Cabinet a communication I have had from Professor Bernard Pares.

(Signed) M.P.A. HANKEY.

2, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.

March 24th, 1913.
STOCKHOLM,
March 12th, 1918.

Dear Hankey,

It is very important that you should see General Poole as soon as possible on his return (by this boat). If Japan goes in alone with carte blanche, the effect on our future relations with Russia will be very grave. If she goes in for, or with the Entente, it is essential that from the outset the Russians should know what is in view. There ought certainly to be Russian volunteer units with every expéditionary force that goes in, and the programme of these units, no doubt at present taking the form of their oath will be their policy and ours for the future of Russia. It is also most necessary that the work done by others and myself inside should be in line with the programme of these units. I asked a good representative general of the Provisional Government for a minimum programme of this kind and he met the need by putting down only what can unite all elements and parties,—namely the Constituent Assembly. It is very simple and Poole and others strongly support it. I am sending it to you. I go on myself shortly, I hope; so I am anxious that all efforts should be in line.

Yours sincerely,
(Sgd,) BERNARD PARES.

Suggested formula of the objects and oath of Russian Volunteer Units accompanying Japanese or other Expeditionary Forces in Russia,
suggested by

K.M. OBEROUCHEFF, General Commanding the Kiev Military District under the Provisional Government, 1917,

Bernard PARES

This formula is supported by

Honourable Francis LINDLEY
Brigadier-General POOLE
Colonel THORNEILL
Colonel KEYES.
For the Constituent Assembly.

Elections on the accepted democratic formula: (franchise universal (31 years), equal, direct and secret).

Electoral campaign and elections absolutely free.

All the population to be disarmed (or shot). Arms to be distributed only to the troops and militia (police) formed on the basis of the above programme.

Restoration everywhere of the organs of local government (town and country) according to the law already promulgated by the Provisional Government.

A temporary, and later permanent Administration, constitute from all elements and parties which accept the above programme.

A Federative Russia (Federativnaia Rus: United States of Russia).

All other questions of the permanent order to be settled by the Constituent Assembly.

The strictest discipline: absolute obedience to the commanding officers.

An army ordinance (law) to define the limitations of the powers of officers; courts representing interests both of officers and men to settle all questions as to the legality of orders.

The enclosed suggestion explains itself and will be explained to you by General Poole, who returns with the freshest information on Russia. General Oberoucheff, with whom I make the suggestion, has views representative of very many others; he thinks the proposed formula will carry general acceptance among the Russians, and he is anxious to take part in such a movement. The suggestion is supported by all those of our own best workers in Russia to whom I have been able to show it.

If Japan acts only for herself, the most serious consequences may follow in Russia. If Japan carries out a common programme of the Entente, still more if there are other Entente expeditions from other sides, it is essential that from the outset such expeditions should be accompanied by Russian volunteer units, including men generally representative of different elements in Russia, and that these units should have a common programme announced to the Russian people at the start. The object of such a programme is to unite all classes and opinions and therefore puts a minimum on which all can agree, leaving all further questions to Russia herself, that is to the Constituent Assembly.

(Sd.) EHERNAR D PARES.

Stockholm,

14th March, 1918.
MAINTENANCE OF THE FORCES.

Memorandum by the Minister of National Service

The recommendations of the Cabinet Committee on Man-Power, together with the addition of 50,000 Grade 1 men for the Army approved by the Prime Minister and making a total number of recruits for 1918 of 420,000, gives the following allocation for the year:-

(a) For the Navy and R.N.A.S., - 50,000 Grade 1 men over the age of 18 years 8 months.

(b) For the Army (including the R.F.C.), - 150,000 Grade 1 men over the age of 18 years 8 months.

100,000 Lower Grade men.

120,000 A.4 boys.

The total number of recruits obtained from 1st January to 20th March, 1918, is as follows:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Royal Navy</th>
<th>Royal Naval Air Service</th>
<th>(Army, including R.F.C.)</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 18</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>7,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 to 18.8 Grade 1</td>
<td>5,022</td>
<td>3,406</td>
<td>31,000</td>
<td>39,428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; 2)</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>3,625</td>
<td>11,614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; 3)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 18.8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1</td>
<td>3,694</td>
<td>1,990</td>
<td>22,251</td>
<td>28,135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 2)</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>1,300</td>
<td>11,250</td>
<td>14,694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 3)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>12,616</td>
<td>8,796</td>
<td>93,359</td>
<td>114,771</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The quotas of Grade 1 men over 18.3 are allocated among industries as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Quota</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shipbuilding, Marine Engineering &amp; Munitions</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coal Miners</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Railways</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Labour</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public utility and other certified occupations</td>
<td>8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance of Men</td>
<td>27,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 200,000

Provided

(a) the Medical Boards are speeded up as indicated below, and

(b) the Admiralty are instructed to find their agreed quota of 12,500 Grade 1 men from Admiralty "A" firms, and 1,000 Grade 1 men from Royal Dockyards and Naval establishments before 30th June, it is estimated that these quotas should be obtained within the following times:

Shipbuilding, Marine Engineering and Munitions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Quota</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Already posted</td>
<td>17,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To be found by 30th June</td>
<td>83,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Coal Miners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Quota</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To be found in April</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To be found in May</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To be found in June</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Railways

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Quota</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Already posted</td>
<td>1450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To be found by 30th June</td>
<td>4,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6,100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The railway Executive Committee are doing their utmost to release the balance as quickly as possible.
Ports.

The release of Port Labour is being seriously delayed; and a direct Cabinet Order is necessary if this quota is to be obtained. It is suggested

1. That a clean cut should be made of men who are over 18 - 25 but have not attained the age of 25 by 1st January, 1918. This would give approximately 1,000. The balance should be obtained by an Order to the Board of Trade to allocate quotas to each port; and a time limit should be given ending on 31st May, by which all those men should have been posted.

Agriculture.

The quota is very small but possible methods of increasing this will be considered later.

Public Utility, Companies, &c.

The quota of 8,000 will be obtained by arrangement with the Ministry of Munitions. It will probably be found necessary to reduce the number actually to be released from certified undertakings and add it to the ordinary munitions quota. This will be a subject for mutual arrangement.

Balance of men.

By cancelling occupational exemptions and by concentrating the machine upon this section of the Register the quota of 27,000 should be completed by the end of July.

It is hoped that the number of A.4s recruited this year will considerably exceed 120,000. Up to the present 39,428 A.4s of Grade 1. and 11,214 A.4s of lower grades have been recruited.

Assuming the rate of intake which has obtained since the beginning of the year is maintained, the intake of A.4s for 1918 should be:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1</td>
<td>160,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Grades</td>
<td>45,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>205,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Provided the Government Departments carry out their releases at the above rates, the limiting factor at present is the examining capacity of Medical Boards. Most of the Medical Boards consist of three Members and a Chairman. It is proposed that Boards should, in future, not consist of more than two or three members in all. This will enable a number of travelling Medical Boards to be established, as may be necessary, and by speeding up the rate of examinations from 60 to 80, or 80 to 90 a day, they should be able to deal with approximately 90,000 men a week.

The Adjutant General has offered to supply 40 Army doctors to reinforce the National Service Boards.

I understand that the dilution staff of the Ministry of Munitions will require a certain increase to enable them to cope with an accelerated rate of release.

It may be necessary to reduce the length of calling up notice from 14 to 7 days. This does not require any statutory permission; but a statement should be made in the House.

Without raising the military age, or applying compulsory service to Ireland, the only pools from which any further large number of men could be drawn, without affecting seriously the output of munitions, would be coal mines and agriculture. After the 50,000 miners have been taken, there will be approximately 200,000 Grade I men over 18 - 8 still left in coal mines. I am consulting with the Coal Controller as to the maximum number of these which could still be released if every possible economy is introduced. Any such further release would have to be made from whatever coal field the men could best be spared, and must directly over-ride the resolution of the Miners Federation that the quotas should be applied all over the coal fields of Great Britain, proportionately to the total number of men employed; and the men would have to be taken up to the limit of military age, as they can best be spared.

There are approximately 80,000 Grade I men over 18 - 8 employed in agriculture. I would suggest that the Cabinet should order the release of a definite number of men from agriculture, the Board of Agriculture to allocate the numbers to the various county committees, and place a time limit on the period of release.
It must not be forgotten that a large number of boys who are leaving school are passing into agriculture each year, while an almost complete protection is afforded to all males who were whole time engaged in agriculture on the 1st June 1917.

I would refer the Cabinet to Tables A. & B. set out at the end of my memorandum G. 174 dated 15 Nov. 1917, and which show the numbers of men in various industries by age groups.

In order to secure prompt releases from munitions I ask the Cabinet to direct the Admiralty to release their agreed quota of 12,500 men from Admiralty "A" firms, and 1,000 men from Royal Dock yard and Naval establishments by equal instalments, postings to be completed by 30th June.

In order to create the largest possible reserve for the Army and the Air Force, I would also ask that the Cabinet should order the cessation of Naval recruiting of all ratings fit for general service over the age of 18 years, with the exception of a limited number of skilled ratings, the number to be fixed by the Ministry of National Service after consultation with the Admiralty. This requires a direct order upon the Navy, as the Navy has over 100 direct recruiting establishments of their own.

The matter is urgent as large numbers of men will certainly endeavour to enlist voluntarily in the Navy as soon as the machine is speeded up.

I have already, in my Memorandum G. 174, submitted to the War Cabinet an estimate of the number of men fit for general service who could be obtained by raising the military age, and also by applying compulsory service to Ireland, (see page 9, paragraph 3, and page 10, paragraph 7). I estimate that by raising the age limit to 45 approximately 150,000 men fit for general service would become liable to recruitment, and of these at least 50,000 could be made available for military service.

By raising the age limit to 60 a further 250,000 fit for general service would become liable to recruitment, of whom I have estimated that 60,000 could be made available for military service.

My estimate with regard to Ireland is that within the present limits of military age 150,000 men fit for general service could be recruited. By raising the age to 45 a further 25,000 could be obtained, and another 25,000 if the age limit were raised to 50. The basis on which this calculation is made is as follows:-

At the date of the National Register the male population of military age was nearly 550,000, of whom about 50,000 had joined the Army by the end of 1917, leaving say 500,000. Of these probably 20% were unfit for service leaving 400,000 as fit for service in all categories.
On the same basis as holds in Great Britain about 250,000 men of military age would be indispensable; but the conditions are altogether different. There is not the same industrial activity, and there is still available for substitution purposes a large female population.

Of the 400,000 men, therefore, it seems fair to consider say that not more than 150,000 should be indispensable. This leaves 250,000, out of whom it should be possible to obtain 150,000 Grade 1 men.

The figures for men over the present military age have been calculated on the same basis as for Great Britain.

I have tried to shew what are the possibilities of obtaining further recruits. The more immediate need is for trained men. There are at the present time in shipyards, munition works and agriculture a large number of trained men. It is quite possible that some of the men in the agricultural companies, who were of lower category, may have become fit for general service. My Department has been in consultation with the War Office and the Ministry of Munitions on this subject; and I understand that the Adjutant-General is making all possible arrangements with the Departments concerned.

In order to stimulate Tribunals, I have already addressed meetings of the chairmen and clerks of Tribunals in Wales, and in the South Western, West Midlands and North Western Regions; and impressed upon them the urgent need of men for the Army. I have arranged to address similar meetings in the Yorkshire and East Midlands Regions during the present week.

24/3/18. A. C. GEDDES.
WAR CABINET.

COAL FOR ITALY.

(Copy of telephone message received from Colonel Amery, Versailles, 25.3.18.)

Following message from Lord Milner to Col. Hankey for War Cabinet, and also direct to Lord Robert Cecil.

"Italian coal situation still critical. It will be aggravated in immediate future by movement of 5 divisions from Italy. M. Clemenceau tells me that while this movement lasts it will inevitably involve a reduction of 2,000 tons a day in the despatch of French coal. As this comes on top of already existing great scarcity cannot we do something more in the way of direct shipment as an exceptional and temporary measure? Italian Government suggests coal from Malta in British vessels.

Matter very urgent as military movements may be stopped for want of coal."

2, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.

From Viceroy, Army Department, to Secretary of State for India,
22nd March 1918.

3720. Mari situation unchanged. Numbers of Khelrins with cattle have been rounded up. Certain sections show signs of submission and concentration to south of Fort Muaro reported dispersed.
From Viceroy, Foreign Department, to Secretary of State for India,
23rd March 1918.
(Received at India Office, 24th, 11.45 a.m.)

3786. Marri situation. Duki Force crossed the Watwangi Pass on 22nd March without opposition. Raiding has occurred south and west of Duki. Heavy rain has hampered movement.
## Stocks in the United Kingdom

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Stocks as on March 13th, 1918 (adjusted)</th>
<th>Estimated probable stocks four weeks later</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>1,327,000</td>
<td>1,387,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maize</td>
<td>89,000</td>
<td>120,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>107,000</td>
<td>95,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barley</td>
<td>350,000</td>
<td>212,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oats</td>
<td>961,000</td>
<td>571,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar</td>
<td>189,000</td>
<td>243,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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.

$\odot$ 5 weeks later.

MINISTRY OF FOOD.

22nd March 1918.
**STATISTICS OF SUGAR IN POSSESSION OF THE SUGAR COMMISSION**

<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 Indies &amp; Guiana</th>
<th>Other less distant Ports</th>
<th>Java</th>
<th>Mauritius</th>
<th>Peru &amp; other distant Ports</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16th March 1918</td>
<td>188,574</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Afloat & due to arrive**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period ending</th>
<th>March 31st</th>
<th>April 6th</th>
<th>April 15th</th>
<th>April 20th</th>
<th>April 30th</th>
<th>May 18th</th>
<th>May 31st</th>
<th>Stocks in the U.K.</th>
<th>188,574</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ships</th>
<th>21,212</th>
<th>63,753</th>
<th>6,363</th>
<th>52,448</th>
<th>4,301</th>
<th>10,537</th>
<th>276,390</th>
<th>160,600</th>
<th>65,585</th>
<th>29,948</th>
<th>529,598</th>
<th>254,999</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period ending</th>
<th>31st</th>
<th>6th</th>
<th>15th</th>
<th>20th</th>
<th>30th</th>
<th>18th</th>
<th>31st</th>
<th>21st</th>
<th>500</th>
<th>13,613</th>
<th>5,592</th>
<th>1,507</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>April</th>
<th>6th</th>
<th>15th</th>
<th>20th</th>
<th>30th</th>
<th>May 18th</th>
<th>May 31st</th>
<th>Awaiting shipment</th>
<th>276,390</th>
<th>160,600</th>
<th>65,585</th>
<th>29,948</th>
<th>529,598</th>
<th>254,999</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Arrivals**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ships</th>
<th>15,710</th>
<th>42,951</th>
<th>5,587</th>
<th>3,180</th>
<th>6,363</th>
<th>10,537</th>
<th>4,301</th>
<th>10,537</th>
<th>276,390</th>
<th>160,600</th>
<th>65,585</th>
<th>29,948</th>
<th>529,598</th>
<th>254,999</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lost</th>
<th>14,449</th>
<th>12,648</th>
<th>14,128</th>
<th>3,180</th>
<th>15,128</th>
<th>15,128</th>
<th>15,128</th>
<th>15,128</th>
<th>15,128</th>
<th>15,128</th>
<th>15,128</th>
<th>15,128</th>
<th>15,128</th>
<th>15,128</th>
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</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>15,710</th>
<th>42,951</th>
<th>5,587</th>
<th>3,180</th>
<th>6,363</th>
<th>10,537</th>
<th>4,301</th>
<th>10,537</th>
<th>276,390</th>
<th>160,600</th>
<th>65,585</th>
<th>29,948</th>
<th>529,598</th>
<th>254,999</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Total tonnage provided for arrival in March**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ships</th>
<th>89,975</th>
<th>140,848</th>
<th>52,700</th>
<th>48,860</th>
<th>42,951</th>
<th>5,587</th>
<th>3,180</th>
<th>6,363</th>
<th>10,537</th>
<th>4,301</th>
<th>10,537</th>
<th>276,390</th>
<th>160,600</th>
<th>65,585</th>
<th>29,948</th>
<th>529,598</th>
<th>254,999</th>
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</table>
ROYAL COMMISSION ON WHEAT SUPPLIES.

19th March 1918.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wheat &amp; Flour</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S.A. &amp; Canada</td>
<td>554,978</td>
<td>463,000</td>
<td>55,170</td>
<td></td>
<td>75,167</td>
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<td>40,8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>605,150</td>
<td>321,000</td>
<td>2,477</td>
<td></td>
<td>7,223</td>
<td></td>
<td>12,4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>135,900</td>
<td>56,000</td>
<td>7,100</td>
<td></td>
<td>596</td>
<td></td>
<td>18,9</td>
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<td>Australia</td>
<td>2,300,235(a)</td>
<td>1,129,000</td>
<td>21,762</td>
<td></td>
<td>610</td>
<td></td>
<td>59,6</td>
</tr>
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<td>Japan</td>
<td>27,120</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>27,120</td>
<td></td>
<td>27,000</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>3,980,533</td>
<td>1,998,000</td>
<td>116,500</td>
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<td>83,496</td>
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<td>332,7</td>
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<td>Barley</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.A. &amp; Canada</td>
<td>299,250</td>
<td>224,000</td>
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<td>10,621</td>
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<td>29,2</td>
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<tr>
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<td>23,422</td>
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<td>6,510</td>
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<td>6,929</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>9,1</td>
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<td>Other Countries</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>543,396</td>
<td>407,000</td>
<td>43,261</td>
<td></td>
<td>10,355</td>
<td></td>
<td>50,6</td>
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<td>Rice</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N. America</td>
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<td>3,765</td>
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<td>10,4</td>
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<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>441,200</td>
<td>320,900</td>
<td>36,870</td>
<td></td>
<td>15,362</td>
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<td>50,3</td>
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<td>Siam</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>4,500</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Countries</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>523,670</td>
<td>392,400</td>
<td>40,643</td>
<td></td>
<td>15,355</td>
<td></td>
<td>60,8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(a) The shipping situation makes it improbable that any large proportion of Australian products of oats, maize, U.S.A. & Canada will be shipped to U.K. NO ALLOWANCE HAS BEEN MADE FOR WAR LOSSES.
### SHIPMENTS On 15th March 1918.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4.</th>
<th>5.</th>
<th>6.</th>
<th>7.</th>
<th>8.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5,157</td>
<td>219,605</td>
<td>51,000</td>
<td>260,000</td>
<td>300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7,223</td>
<td>40,897</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>18,000</td>
<td>25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>396</td>
<td>12,494</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>7,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>510</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,496</td>
<td>332,754</td>
<td>61,000</td>
<td>277,200</td>
<td>347,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>3,051</td>
<td>29,917</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,510</td>
<td>34,923</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>994</td>
<td>9,150</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,255</td>
<td>90,612</td>
<td>20,600</td>
<td>74,000</td>
<td>78,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,262</td>
<td>50,360</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>16,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,265</td>
<td>60,666</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>28,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,714</td>
<td>58,506</td>
<td>19,000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
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<td>3,714</td>
<td>50,506</td>
<td>19,000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>10,777</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>12,000</td>
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<td>5,106</td>
<td>25,239</td>
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<td>21,500</td>
<td>18,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>3,090</td>
<td>8,547</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>12,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>3,106</td>
<td>47,567</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SUPPLIES A.T.

**Tonnage provided for arrival in U.K.**

**Expected average for arrivals during next 4 weeks.**

**Average monthly importation requirement.**

**16th March 1918.**

Arrivals a U.K. On passage to U.K.

Tons of 2,840 lbs.

The shipment of Australian Wheat will be shipped during the war.
Statement showing Stocks of Wheat, Wheat Flour, Maize and Rice in Ports on the 1st March 1910.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>WHEAT</th>
<th>FLOUR</th>
<th>WHEAT &amp; FLOUR AS</th>
<th>ENGLAND &amp; WALES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Millers Port</td>
<td>Port Granar:</td>
<td>Total Tons</td>
<td>Total Tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td>40,492</td>
<td>57,916</td>
<td>106,400</td>
<td>5,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liverpool</td>
<td>47,314</td>
<td>55,150</td>
<td>102,462</td>
<td>12,003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manchester</td>
<td>11,007</td>
<td>25,894</td>
<td>46,901</td>
<td>1,564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bristol Channel</td>
<td>25,236</td>
<td>11,094</td>
<td>36,330</td>
<td>5,912</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hull</td>
<td>10,932</td>
<td>17,054</td>
<td>27,986</td>
<td>2,294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northumberland &amp; Durham</td>
<td>11,663</td>
<td>8,061</td>
<td>20,024</td>
<td>1,019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Counties</td>
<td>16,058</td>
<td>8,804</td>
<td>24,862</td>
<td>2,168</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Coast</td>
<td>2,653</td>
<td>1,761</td>
<td>4,414</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGLAND &amp; WALES TOTAL</td>
<td>181,355</td>
<td>197,032</td>
<td>378,387</td>
<td>31,018</td>
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<tr>
<td>E.Coast of Scot:</td>
<td>5,616</td>
<td>4,274</td>
<td>9,890</td>
<td>2,033</td>
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<tr>
<td>W.Coast of Scot:</td>
<td>2,825</td>
<td>7,470</td>
<td>10,320</td>
<td>2,825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCOTLAND - TOTAL</td>
<td>8,476</td>
<td>11,744</td>
<td>20,220</td>
<td>4,858</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belfast</td>
<td>4,879</td>
<td>606</td>
<td>5,485</td>
<td>595</td>
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<td>Cork</td>
<td>3,972</td>
<td>1,909</td>
<td>5,882</td>
<td>595</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dublin</td>
<td>587</td>
<td>3,477</td>
<td>4,064</td>
<td>580</td>
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<td>Limerick</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>455</td>
<td>874</td>
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<td>Sligo</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRELAND - Total</td>
<td>9,789</td>
<td>6,067</td>
<td>15,856</td>
<td>2,589</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNITED KINGDOM TOTAL</td>
<td>199,620</td>
<td>214,043</td>
<td>414,063</td>
<td>38,465</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MINISTRY OF FOOD,
Statistical Branch,
15th March 1910.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHEAT &amp; FLOUR AS WHEAT</th>
<th>MAIZE</th>
<th>RICE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wheat at Ports at Granaries</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>Wheat at Ports at Granaries</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tons</td>
<td>Tons</td>
<td>Tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54,591</td>
<td>117,096</td>
<td>171,687</td>
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Situation 12 noon, 25/3/18.

1. South of the Somme, from right to left, the British 5th Army now under the command of General Fayolle, with French reinforcements, is holding the line from West of Cheuny on the Oise through Guivry - Berlancourt - Ramecourt - Rouy to the Somme at Morchain. Heavy fighting is in progress between the Oise and Berlancourt. North of Morchain the enemy has been driven back across the Somme up to Peronne, and the situation on this part of the front seems satisfactory. From Bieches the line runs along the Somme to south of Maricourt.

2. North of the Somme. Last reports show our troops to be on the line Maricourt - Montauban - Longueval - east of Martinpuich. North of this point the enemy, whose attacks have been beaten off yesterday evening and last night, was again attacking with great violence this morning, and the situation is uncertain. It is thought, however, that the line probably now runs through Cricqueville to near Mor, Heavy attacks on the sector from Mor northwards to Wancourt have all been beaten off with loss. In this fighting the 31st, Guards, 3rd, 40th and 17th Divisions specially distinguished themselves.

3. The situation from the Somme to Mor northwards at the present time. It may be necessary to move the detraining areas of the 2 Australian and 1 Canadian Divisions further south than was originally intended. The railways from the south are working at maximum capacity bringing up French troops. The enemy has endeavoured to interrupt railway movements without success by long range artillery fire on the lines within range.

General Staff, 
War Office, 
25.3.19.
THE CONTROL OF LABOUR SUPPLY.

MEMORANDUM

BY THE

MINISTER OF LABOUR

ON THE

PROPOSALS OF THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL SERVICE
The proposals of the Minister of National Service for the transfer of the Employment Exchanges to his Department, (G.2.3984), of which I learnt for the first time from his memorandum to the Cabinet, would result in:

1. An intimate partnership and association between the Government machinery for dealing with labour supply and that for conscription for the Army respectively. This would be inevitable if the proposals were adopted and would be emphasised by the fact that the control over all the work of the Ministry of National Service in each Region is vested in the Director or Recruiting.

2. The separation from the Ministry of Labour of a large part of its most important functions, including some which are most jealously watched by organised labour. In particular, they necessarily involve transferring from my Department to the Ministry of National Service the responsibility for dealing with labour resettlement after the war.

Compulsory recruiting is a necessary evil which is not regarded with affection by any class of the community, least of all by organised labour. There is nothing to be gained, and everything to lose, by associating with it the Employment Exchanges, the success of whose work must depend on the voluntary and sympathetic co-operation of employers and workmen. I am confident that the effect would be to create a feeling of suspicion and opposition which would very materially reduce the utility which the Exchanges now have as the machinery for carrying out the Government policy with regard to labour supply.

The severance of the Employment Exchanges would deprive the Ministry of Labour of the position which it is naturally entitled to occupy and organised labour would view with serious alarm such a mutilation of the Ministry's functions, which they would with good reason regard as a breach of faith. The daily work of the Exchanges brings them into contact with innumerable problems, small and great, in which labour is vitally interested, and the settlement of which cannot be divorced from the Ministry of labour without depriving the latter of its essential character. I observe that Sir Auckland Goddies suggests the addition of inspection of factories and mines to my Department, but I venture to point out that this is a matter which should be put forward, if at all, by the Home Office or the Ministry of Labour.

One of the main functions with which the Ministry of Labour was invested when it was set up was that of preparing for, and ultimately dealing with, labour resettlement after the war. The steps that have been taken include the establishment of Local Advisory Committees in connection with each Exchange and a Central Labour Resettlement Committee to co-ordinate them. The establishment and working of the Industrial Councils, which are pre-eminently matters for the Ministry of Labour, are closely connected with labour resettlement. The association of the Ministry of Labour with labour resettlement after the war has been made public property and, I think I can fairly say, has met with general approval. I do not think that the transfer of these functions to the Ministry of National Service would command itself to the general public, nor do I think the public would be reassured, as Sir Auckland Goddies assumes, with regard to the temporary character of his Ministry if there were transferred to it the large permanent staff now belonging to
to the Employment Exchanges. I am quite certain that it would be received with bitter opposition by organised labour, and I, personally, could not be in any way a party to such a proposal.

The considerations above-mentioned are, I think sufficient to condemn the proposals, and I can therefore pass lightly over some of the other objections. For instance, the adoption of the proposal would mean divided control of the Exchanges in Great Britain and Ireland respectively, since Sir Auckland Geddes has no jurisdiction in Ireland; again, the transfer of the Exchanges must carry with it the responsibility for a great volume of work done by these Offices, which is not even logically part of the functions of the Ministry of National Service as understood by Sir Auckland Geddes (e.g. the administration of Unemployment Insurance for 3½ million workers) and would, I fear, over-weight his machine and make it impossible for any single Minister to deal adequately both with them and with the broad questions of policy which properly fall to him.

The demands of the Shipyard Employers and Trade Unions, and the principles laid down in the second paragraph of Sir Auckland Geddes' memorandum are in my opinion adequately met by the distribution of functions between the Ministry of National Service and my Department as laid down in the agreement made between us on 31st August, 1917, and approved by the War Cabinet. All that is necessary is that the agreement should be fairly carried out and that the Ministry of National Service should confine itself strictly to laying down policy with regard to manpower, and my Department to giving executive effect to that policy. The conditions suggested in the second paragraph of Sir Auckland Geddes' memorandum are all satisfied by the present organisation of the Employment Exchanges, which has been decentralised by the outset.

The Minister of National Service states that under the present distribution of functions between the Departments "there has been delay; there has been friction; there has been inefficiency". He quotes a single example, the alleged failure of the Employment Exchanges to give effect to decision of his Labour Priority Committee with regard to supply of labour. To this it is sufficient answer to say that this matter was recently considered by the Labour Priority Committee, which decided on 20th March to record in its minutes that the explanation furnished by the Ministry of Labour was satisfactory. The character of the problem is such that it could not be affected by any transfer of control. I do not know whether the Minister of National Service has any other examples to quote; I do know that he has not brought any of them to my notice for investigation before putting forward a sweeping charge of this description against my Department.

The real trouble is that the Ministry of National Service have not been content to abide by the spirit or even by the letter of the agreement of August 31st. The work of my Officers is continually hampered by the attempted interference of the Ministry of National Service in their executive work. I will quote only the most recent and most glaring example, where a wholesale invasion has been attempted under cover of the arrangements for decentralisation to which Sir Auckland Geddes referred. The document (N.S.I.No.33. of 1918) dealing with these arrangements which was issued not only without the concurrence of my Department but in the face of their express objections, purports to assign to the local Representatives of the Ministry of National Service executive functions with regard to labour supply and in one place even to give them control over the Exchanges. I understand that this document was issued in advance of Treasury authority and it would appear also that it took for granted the approval of the War Cabinet to the proposal now under consideration. To describe this method of procedure is, I think to character-
Sir Auckland Geddes appears to assume that if the Exchanges were directly under his control they would perform their work more efficiently. While I do not wish to suggest that the Exchanges and the Employment Department are as efficient as they would be if 1,180 members of the male staff (or over 40%) were not absent owing to service with the Colours, I am honestly assured that, when allowance is made for this fact, their efficiency is of a very high order and compares favourably with that of any other Government Department; I fail to see how it could be improved if they were merged into the Ministry of National Service. The work of the Exchanges speaks for itself. During the years 1916 and 1917 respectively 1,381,406 and 1,375,198 individuals were placed in employment. Over 25,000 women have been enrolled for the W.W.A.C. and in addition large numbers under other schemes; a great variety of special schemes of enrolment and other war time arrangements of immense complication are worked with surprising smoothness. The insurance of 6½ million workpeople against unemployment is maintained; and far-reaching plans for demobilisation are in the meantime being worked out.

With regard to shipyard labour, to which Sir Auckland Geddes calls special attention, the Exchanges have during the last 13 weeks placed 18,784 workpeople on merchant shipbuilding and marine engineering; during the last eight weeks over, 3000 unskilled workmen have been enrolled and transferred to shipyards (a larger number than the yards were able to use) and the greater part of the work in connection with the release of men from the Home Army for the shipyards has been done by the Officers of the Employment Department. The classification of the Index Cards in the census of the Home Army on which the whole of the arrangements for releasing men depend, an undertaking of great magnitude, was carried out without a hitch by the Employment Department. I invite the Minister of National Service to name a single particular in which these arrangements could have been improved under his own administration.

The Minister of National Service refers to Employers and Trade Unionists who daily press upon him the need of improving the working of the Exchanges. He has not referred any of them to the Minister of Labour, who is responsible, and until he does so, I cannot take any account of them.

To sum up my views as to the manner in which the position should be dealt with, I consider that it should be laid down in the most definite terms that the Ministry of National Service is not responsible for executive action in connection with labour supply; this responsibility should rest with the Ministry of Labour and with the Ministry of Labour alone and I know of no ground for supposing that that Ministry will be unable to discharge it.

(Signed) G.E.G. H.P.O.M.R.T.S.

25.3.18.
Sir Auckland Geddes appears to assume that if the Exchanges were directly under his control they would perform their work more efficiently. While I do not wish to suggest that the Exchanges and the Employment Department are as efficient as they would be if 1,180 members of the male staff (or over 40%) were not absent owing to service with the Colours, I can honestly assert that, when allowance is made for this fact, their efficiency is of a very high order and compares favourably with that of any other Government Department; I fail to see how it could be improved if they were merged into the Ministry of National Service. The work of the Exchanges speaks for itself. During the years 1916 and 1917 respectively 1,351,406 and 1,375,198 individuals were placed in employment. Over 25,000 women have been enrolled for the J.A.A.C. and in addition large numbers under other schemes; a great variety of special schemes of enrolment and other war time arrangements of immense complication are worked with surprising smoothness. The insurance of 34 million workpeople against unemployment is maintained; and far-reaching plans for demobilisation are in the meantime being worked out. With regard to shipyard labour, to which Sir Auckland Geddes calls special attention, the Exchanges have during the last 13 weeks placed 18,754 workpeople on merchant shipbuilding and marine engineering; during the last eight weeks over, 3000 unskilled workmen have been enrolled and transferred to shipyards (a larger number than the yards were able to use) and the greater part of the work in connection with the release of men from the Home Army for the shipyards has been done by the Officers of the Employment Department. The classification of the Index Cards in the census of the Home Army on which the whole of the arrangements for releasing men depend, an undertaking of great magnitude, was carried out without a hitch by the Employment Department. I invite the Minister of National Service to name a single particular in which these arrangements could have been improved under his own administration.

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(Signed) GEORGE H. R.G.

25.3.18.
BATTLE SITUATION AFTERNOON OF 25th MARCH, 1918.
brought by Staff Officer by aeroplane from G.H.Q., France.

North of the SOMME the situation is in hand.
We have established a continuous line from CURLU on the SOMME, east of MONTAUBAN and MARTINPUICH to GRSVILLERS. We still hold BAPAUME with advanced troops, but will probably have to withdraw.

North of BAPAUME the line runs through SAPIGNIES and ERVILLERS to HENIN on the COJUEL river. The enemy has been attacking heavily between MONTAUBAN and MARTINPUICH, but we are holding well. He has also been attacking north of BAPAUME but without success.

South of the SOMME we are holding the line of the river from FRISE opposite CURLU to MORCHAIN. South of MORCHAIN the enemy have driven back our 3rd Corps and the French who control this sector. The enemy are reported to have captured GUISCARD and NESLE and to be advancing on NOYON and ROYE.

The general situation appears to be that the immediate danger of a breach between the 3rd and 5th Armies is over and we should succeed in checking an advance on AMIENS. The danger point has now shifted to the area between the OISE and SOMME, but this is the nearest point to the French reserves which are coming up. The enemy has managed to intercept the railway lines about AMIENS by aeroplane bombs which has delayed traffic but the damage is being rapidly repaired.

The
The morale of our troops is good and they are fighting splendidly. Everyone praises the work of our machine guns. The German troops are said to be very tired. The guns have been withdrawn well. We have lost no more North of NESLE, but the 3rd Corps in their retirement with the French, south of that place, may have lost some. We lost a number of tanks near PERONNE.

Our casualties up to this morning are estimated at 75,000.

General Staff,
War Office,
25th March, 1918.
WOMEN'S ARMY AUXILIARY CORPS

REPORT

OF

COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY

FORWARDED BY

MINISTER OF LABOUR
REPORT OF COMMISSION OF INQUIRY.

Terms of Reference. To enquire into and report upon any specific cases of alleged immoral conduct in the W.A.A.C. that may be brought to their notice and also in so far as they bear upon this subject the personnel of the Corps, the housing accommodation provided, the methods of discipline, arrangements for supervision both in work time and leisure and generally the arrangements as to welfare and recreation.

To the RIGHT HON. G. ROBERTS, M.P., MINISTER OF LABOUR.

Sir,

INTRODUCTORY.

In accordance with your request we have visited France with a view to reporting upon certain allegations of immoral conduct which have recently gained currency as regards members of the W.A.A.C. We have spent eight days in the country and made some survey of the general conditions of the Corps. We have visited 29 camps and hostels both in the Northern and Southern Areas and in the course of our enquiry we have interviewed not only the Chief Controllers and Administrators of the Corps but have discussed the situation with 80 persons including the Adjutant General, Base Commandants and other responsible officers, Censors, Chaplains, medical men and women, and the officials of the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A.

An enquiry in a foreign country conducted during war time within the zone of the armies must necessarily be more restricted in scope and restricted as regards witnesses than a civil enquiry made at home under normal conditions. The military authorities agreed, however, that we should visit the localities and some indicated by ourselves and within the limits of the time allowed us our enquiry did not conform to any prearranged programme.

During our tour we have stayed in both large and small camps of a representative character and have been able to judge the general conditions under which the women live and are housed. We have also seen the latter at their work in camps, offices, stores, etc., and at the various places of amusement provided for the Corps. As a result of our enquiry we can find no justification of any kind for the vague accusations of immoral conduct on a large scale which have been circulated about the W.A.A.C. The chief difficulty of our task has lain in the very vague nature of the charging charges we were requested to investigate. It is common knowledge that fantastic tales have passed from mouth to mouth of the numbers of W.A.A.C. women returned to England for misconduct of the gravest character. These stories are best refuted by the following official returns which prove that not only are the statements untrue but that up to the present the number of undesirable women who have found their way into the W.A.A.C.

1. / Corps
Corps has been very small.

STATISTICS OF DISMISSALS, FINES, OFFENCES, etc.

4. The strength of the V.W.A.A.C. personnel in France up to March 12th 1918 was stated to us as being 5023 women. We have examined the medical records both in England and France and find that of this number, 21 pregnancy cases had been reported since the arrival of the Corps in France and 12 cases of venereal disease. As regards the first category, two were married women and it appears that the bulk of the cases were pregnant before coming to France. As regards the second category, some cases were doubtful and others of old standing.

In addition to the above 19 women have been returned to England on disciplinary grounds and 20 for inefficiency. 59 women have been discharged on medical grounds, including the 12 cases mentioned above, and 21 on compassionate grounds, i.e. family reasons. From July 1st 1917 to March 11th 1918 (9 months) the following offences have been recorded: Fines 17, Confined to Camp 41, Restriction of Privileges 23, Admonitions 7, total 80.

We consider that these figures are in themselves a refutation of the current slanders which naturally have caused considerable alarm and distress among the friends and relations of women already enrolled and have exercised a very detrimental effect on recruiting. We also wish to point out the pain and indignation caused among members of the Corps returning home on leave when confronted by these allegations.

DIFFICULTIES OF EXPERIMENT.

5. The employment of women for the first time in history as an organised corps of workers in close connection with the Army has been a new and in some respects a revolutionary experiment. Such an organisation involves the revaluation of many long standing conventions and this fact in itself is apt to excite comment. We feel that at every turn a situation so novel calls for the utmost care and vigilance on the part of those who are responsible for the control and discipline of the Corps. The wholly abnormal conditions under which women are working with the Army not in their own country but in a foreign land lend themselves to misrepresentations of a character which do not arise in civil employment at home. Special watchfulness is therefore essential on the part of the authorities as regards the personnel of the Corps, and the avoidance of even accidental situations which innocent in themselves may give rise to unfounded rumours. We desire to record our unanimous conviction that up to the present every effort has apparently been made by the authorities to safeguard the position and that with some exceptions the conduct of the Women's Army has been upright and self respecting. We feel that the large majority of the girls who have come forward in an hour of crisis and difficulty to share the work of the men in the field have upheld the honour of their sex and of their country in a spirit which should win for them the regard and gratitude of the nation.

CAMP, HOSTELS AND GENERAL HEALTH.

6. Our attention during the enquiry was naturally first directed to the conditions under which the girls are living.

Such care and consideration have clearly been given by the military authorities to the position and establishment of the
various camps and hostels. The sanitary arrangements are good and hot and cold water is provided. The comfort of the girls has been considered in every way compatible with a state of active service and the conditions though very simple are not in the wrong sense of the word rough.

The recreation huts and rooms though they naturally vary in details of taste and arrangement are in the main bright and cheerful buildings. We are glad to find that no attempt has been made to house the women under the same conditions of cubic space as obtain for the men. We proved for ourselves that there is no hardship in sleeping on Army beds in Army blankets. We had also personal experience of the abundance and excellent quality of the Army rations. The food was uniformly good and well cooked. The open air life whatever its disadvantages in cold and muddy weather has apparently many compensations and our general impression of the physical conditions of the girls was one of abounding good health. This impression was borne out by the official figures of sickness which are very low, namely, 2.5 per cent in hospital. Nine women doctors are attached to the Corps and routine inspections of the women and the camps take place at frequent intervals. We visited two hospitals and a convalescent home among those provided by the W.A.A.C. and the arrangements were of a very satisfactory character.

DISCIPLINE AND MORALE OF CORPS.

We were impressed in the course of our enquiry by the good discipline and tone of the Corps both as regards Administrators and the rank and file. The Administrators as a body have faced a novel situation with pluck and capacity and they deserve every credit for building up the morale and discipline of the Corps with so large a measure of success. The military note in the daily life of the women's camps is not strongly marked and so far as it exists is concerned primarily with the maintenance of decorum and good manners among the girls. Many of the camps are necessarily situated in close proximity to those of the men and in such localities the Administrators endeavour that with a view to general welfare and propriety the women should as far as possible march in companies to and from their work. Clearly it would be impossible to allow individual girls liberty to come and go at will in an area where soldiers, prisoners, and native labourers are all to be found although the latter are under supervision. We are of opinion that the regulations in this respect are desirable in the interests of the women themselves. Such drill and route marches as are enforced are in the nature of physical exercise and have a hygienic rather than a military value.

WORK OF W.A.A.C.

Base Commandants and other officers with technical experience have spoken to us in warm terms of the work of the W.A.A.C. They state that the girls have shown diligence at duty and good behaviour during leisure hours. Gratitude was repeatedly expressed to us for the improved standards of cleanliness, comfort and economy which have resulted from the introduction of women as camp cooks. We were told they had dealt in a novel and ingenious manner with the Army rations and that the food in consequence was more varied and appetising. The appreciation shown by the soldiers for the work of the women and their obvious goodwill towards the Corps made a pleasant impression on the Commission. We were often told of the help and assistance given in the camps by soldiers of all ranks to individual Units which had resulted in greater amenities of life being provided for the girls. One and all the officers we interviewed expressed great indignation at the charges brought against the Corps and the injustice of the indiscriminate accusations under which a well-behaved, respectable and hard working set of girls were labouring.

3. /The
The same opinions were expressed by officials of the Y.W.C.A. and Y.M.C.A. who have special opportunities for coming into touch with the girls during their free time.

**Origin of Rumours.**

1. We do not find it easy to sum up in a few words the causes which have led in all probability to the circulation of these stories. It is generally admitted that a state of war tends in itself to create a somewhat abnormal and excited mentality and that the general atmosphere produced is one peculiarly favourable to the growth of fictitious tales. The figures already quoted show that some cases of misconduct and unsatisfactory behaviour have taken place among the W.A.A.C and apart from actual misconduct among any large body of women a percentage must necessarily be found whose behaviour is less discreet and seemly than could be wished. A small foundation in fact becomes the basis on which a vast superstructure of slander is easily raised, especially in a foreign country.

2. We must draw attention to the fact that at the outset the advent of the W.A.A.C. created undoubtedly considerable surprise and some dismay among the serious minded French population. French customs and traditions of family decorum are far removed from the general social ideas which in these latter times regulate the intercourse of young men and young women of British origin. Comradeship between the sexes which is a commonplace in the one country is unknown in the other. This freedom of social intercourse generally recognised in England is not rendered more comprehensible to a race with domestic customs wholly different from our own by the fact that the men and women concerned are both wearing uniform. The splendid traditions of the French Army have not so far included the services of a body of women workers definitely enrolled as an auxiliary branch. It is very natural therefore, that a section of our Allies viewed with considerable perplexity a situation so different from any with which they are personally familiar and that at times the position was open to misconstruction in their eyes.

3. We were glad to understand that with the lapse of time the French point of view about the W.A.A.C has been considerably modified and that the work of British women in France is by degrees winning growing appreciation from them. It is interesting to note in this connection that we were told of a distinguished French Senator who had inspected the W.A.A.C. in one area with a view to the possible establishment of a French corps of women organised on similar lines. The Senator in question expressed himself in eulogistic terms as to the work which was being carried on by the W.A.A.C and had under consideration the extension of the principle to French countrywomen.

4. It is further clear from the evidence we received that these rumours have also obtained currency at home owing to letters addressed by soldiers on active service to their relations in England. In the opinion of witnesses qualified to judge motives of varying character have probably influenced correspondence of this type. Our attention was frequently drawn to the point that certain men dislodged from non combatant tasks in the bases by the substitution of women had in some cases shown jealousy and hostility towards the W.A.A.C. It was suggested to us that many of the rumours may have sprung from this source and we were impressed with the consensus of opinion on this point. Other causes have probably influenced correspondence. In some cases men are unwilling to expose their womankind to the possible perils of existence in a foreign country especially in view of the prevalent anxieties as to the moral atmosphere of the Bases. In others the element of sex jealousy in more than one form arises; in others again some idle rumour which has passed from mouth to mouth and lost nothing in the telling is set down in black and white and
serves to vary the possibly monotonous record of the weekly letter home. The rumour thus becomes a written statement and as such acquires an authority in which any real basis of truth is often entirely lacking. Similarly stories for which some foundation may exist are repeated over and over again with various additions and exaggerations and tend to group themselves into a few stock fables which in one form or another reappear at every base in turn. One specific rumour which in varying forms has had considerable circulation in this country was concerned with a disturbance in a camp. We have traced the rumour to its source and it was found not to have the smallest connection with the W.A.A.C. Charges which rest on foundations even more slender than these are difficult to disprove owing to their indefinite character. The best answer to them is to be found in the general tone and temper of the Corps.

SOCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN W.A.A.C.'S AND SOLDIERS.

12. We think that the regulations of the Corps in this respect are sensible and broad-minded. As regards the general question of the relations between the soldiers and the W.A.A.C.'s we are glad to record the constant tributes which have reached us as to the good influence of the women on the men. Many officers, the Chaplains and also the officials of the Y.W.C.A. and Y.M.C.A. spoke with warm appreciation of the advantage to the soldiers of the possibility of frank and wholesome comradeship with women of their own race and the greater social dangers which such comradeship tended to avert. This point of view is confirmed by information given us in more than one centre to the effect that scandalous tales in connection with the W.A.A.C. had emanated from some of the low class "ostaminets" (public houses) whose custom among British soldiers had suffered considerably owing to the better type of companionship now available for the men. We were struck generally speaking with the frank and self-respecting behaviour of the women and men we encountered casually together in the street or in places of amusement. The girls have been taught to respect their uniform and in the main would appear to do so. Exceptions of course occur but the general impression is wholesome and satisfactory.

13. Women are allowed a pass from their Administrator to entertain or be entertained by soldiers at recognized places of amusement provided by the Y.W.C.A., Y.M.C.A., Church Army, etc. On the occasion of evening parties they go in a group and are accompanied by a forewoman. They may similarly invite men to entertainances organized in their own camps and hostels. French places of amusement, cafes, restaurants, are placed out of bounds except in the case of a few recognized tea shops. Girls may not be absent from any meal at their camp or hostel without a pass, every meal being in effect a roll call. Final roll call is held at 8.30 p.m. and every girl absent at that hour must be furnished with a pass issued by her Unit Administrator, or from the office where she has been detained. The Administrator is thus kept in close touch with the movements of the girls throughout the day and a scrutiny of passes is made in doubtful cases. Members of the W.A.A.C. are also forbidden to associate with French civilians. Thanks to these measures the possible danger which might encompass the work of a girl in the zone of the armies are very largely mitigated. We are of opinion that the present position of the Corps in France compares very favourably with obvious perils run by girls in ordinary employment at the present time in many offices, large towns and munition centres in England where neither health nor morality is so well safeguarded. An honest and self-respecting girl who wishes to lead a steady life is we believe assured of every opportunity of doing so when serving with the W.A.A.C. in France. We are also of opinion that girls who join the Corps without a serious motive and merely in the hope of excitement and change will

/fin/
find little opportunity for gratifying these desires under the strenuous conditions of life and work which generally obtain among the overseas units.

The regulation which forbids social intercourse between officers and members of the W.A.A.F. rank and file was criticised to us by some persons as being unnecessarily stringent; a view in which we were at first disposed to concur. We gave considerable attention to this point and feel after discussion with men and women of proved experience that the rule is for many reasons a desirable one and should be enforced.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

A. It will be seen from all we have said above that not only do we feel that the current stories about the misbehaviour of the W.A.A.F. in France are slanderous and untrue but that the nation is being well and faithfully served by the women of the Corps. We desire, however, in presenting this report, to impress upon the authorities our conviction that as the Corps grows in numbers the difficulties of its management are bound to increase and that ceaseless vigilance will be more and more obligatory as the administrative units spread. The task of adjusting under the abnormal conditions of warfare both the work and the right social relations of large numbers of uniformed young women with soldiers not only working in the Bases but passing to and from the more electric atmosphere of the line is no light duty. It is in our opinion essential if good tone and good morale are to be preserved that the utmost care should be exercised in the selection of the W.A.A.F. personnel drafted to France and we recommend that all pressure to effect substitution on a large scale should be resisted if the available material is not of a steady and reliable character. Similar care should be exercised in the choice of Administrators for service in France. They should obviously be drawn from the best material available, and selected with a special view to personal capacity, experience and powers to control.

B. We recommend that powers of dismissal and transfer from the Corps in France should be exercised more freely than at present. Dismissal apart from medical grounds is reserved for inefficiency or grave cases of misconduct and therefore tends under present conditions to leave a considerable stigma on the girl so returned home. We feel that the conditions in France are so difficult and the moral background of many localities often so disturbing that women whose conduct though far short of being immoral has a tendency to be loose or unsatisfactory should be removed to a more suitable scene of work. The authorities have dealt very leniently up to the present with unsatisfactory cases of this type and have been anxious to give the girls every chance to improve. We feel, however, that under the circumstances the welfare of the Corps as a whole should be considered before the needs of the individual and that the hands of the Administrators should be strengthened in every possible way as regards dealing with unsuitable personalities in their units.

The same principle of course should apply to the transfer or removal of any Administrator who finds herself overweighted by the difficulties of an onerous position.

C. We recommend that special attention should be paid to the selection of Administrators and to the drafting of women to the more lonely units of the Corps and especially to the advance posts where they are brought frequently into touch with non passing to and from the line. We are satisfied that greater danger exists in these localities than in the less emotional surroundings of the Bases and that special vigilance both as regards morale and administration is necessary at these points.
D. We also recommend that very carefully chosen Women Patrols or Police should be added to the existing organisation for dealing with the W.A.A.C. Such women should be selected on grounds of special qualifications, tact and experience. They should be able to speak French and have some acquaintance with normal French life and the point of view of the inhabitants of the country. We feel that the presence of such patrols or police will be valuable in checking any undesirable or noisy behaviour in public places and would act further as an intelligence body of great service to the Administrators of the Corps. Patrols would be a protector to the girls from any possible bad behaviour on the part of individual soldiers. Information was given us in several places as to the imitation of the W.A.A.C. uniform by women of undesirable character and from our own observation we have seen evidence of the same kind. Circumstances of this nature may lead to charges of a wholly unwarrantable character being brought against members of the W.A.A.C. and the assistance of patrols in this and other directions would be of obvious value.

We should add that we found some diversity of opinion among competent judges as to the desirability of patrols. It was suggested to us that a fresh set of women in uniform whose business would necessarily take them into doubtful localities might give rise to further misunderstanding with the French and possibly provoke new rumours of a detrimental character. We recognise the possibility of this danger but we think that the advantages of women police or patrols in carefully chosen outweigh the objections which can be urged against them.

Y.W.C.A.

We should like to draw attention to the admirable recreative work carried on in connection with the Corps by the Y.W.C.A. Members of the Corps are not solely dependent on the Y.W.C.A. for recreation. The W.A.A.C. Administrators take an active part in the organisation of games, sports, etc., for their units and endeavour in every way to brighten the lives of the girls. We feel however it is of great advantage to the W.A.A.C. that opportunities for recreation should be available outside the limits of the hotels. The monotony of life in France under present conditions is far greater than many people suspect. As a result of the official atmosphere of camp or hostel to the pleasant surroundings of a well managed Y.W.C.A. hut effects a desirable change of thought and ideas for the girls. Up to the present time the Y.W.C.A. have established 15 huts and 3 clubs in France and others are in process of construction. We desire to emphasise the importance of this provision of suitable meeting places for men and women whose social instincts naturally require some outlet. We hope that the authorities will encourage and facilitate the further establishment of these centres of recreation which we regard as valuable and indeed essential safeguards of the whole social position in France.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion we desire to repeat our belief that the vague charges of immoral conduct on a large scale brought against the W.A.A.C. in France rest on no foundation in fact. They are disproved in the first place by the figures given in paragraph 4 and our personal observations of the conditions under which the girls were living and working in no sense indicated a troublesome or undesirable state of affairs.

The general impression left upon us by the Corps is that of a healthy, cheerful, self respecting body of young women. Here and there some individual grumbling reached us. It is inevitable that among a large Corps certain members will be disappointed with their surroundings.
surroundings, and find the conditions of work other than what they expected. The terms of our reference did not authorise us to deal specifically with complaints and we were not in a position to make any investigation in this direction. Such occasional grumblings as reached us in the course of conversation were of a minor character and the large majority of the girls with whom we talked expressed themselves as being happy and contented. We brought away the impression of a body of hard-working women, conscious of their position as links in the great chain of the nation's purpose and zealous in its service. We considered that the women have played their part admirably in helping to fulfil the objects for which the Corps was started and we also consider that as regards the British Army today the nation has as much right to be proud of its women in the Auxiliary Force as of its men.

We desire to offer our thanks to the authorities who facilitated the arrangements for our tour and in particular to the Unit Administrators with whom we stayed in various camps and hostels.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servants,

(Signed) LUCY A.E. DEANE STREETFIELD (Chairman).
MARY CARLINE.
VIOLET R. MARSHAM. Hon. Sec.
MURIEL HITSON.
JULIA VARLEY.

March 20th 1918.
ANALYSIS OF ENQUIRY.

CAMPS AND HOSTELS VISITED.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Camps</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hostels</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>29</strong></td>
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INTERVIEWS.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrators (Senior)</td>
<td>34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Base Commandants</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Officers</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Base Censors</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctors</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matron in Chief</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chaplains</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>80</strong></td>
</tr>
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HOSPITALS VISITED.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Persons interviewed</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camps and Hostels visited</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitals</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SECRET.

WAR CABINET.

TROOPS AVAILABLE FOR HOME DEFENCE.

Copy of letter from the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief, Home Forces, to Secretary, War Cabinet.

General Headquarters,
Home Forces,
Horse Guards,
London, S.W.1.
25th March, 1918.

Sir,

As I think it right that the War Cabinet should distinctly understand the Military situation which will exist in the United Kingdom after the present demands have been met, I have laid the matter before the Secretary of State who directed me to submit this memorandum for the information of the War Cabinet.

I do not mean to question these demands although they practically denude the troops available for Home Defence of all fighting personnel, but as a certain risk to the safety of this Country and Empire is involved, I wish to make it clear that that risk will exist and will have to be taken into calculation.

My system of defence for the United Kingdom is based on the principle of fighting the enemy on the coast and preventing his landing, or should he succeed in doing so, of holding him as near to the coast as possible, and delaying his advance until the various Mobile Formations at my disposal could be brought up as reinforcements.

Under present circumstances, those portions of the Eastern Coast of the United Kingdom suitable for hostile landings are held by the 7 Mixed Brigades in the Eastern Command area, 8 Cyclist Battalions and certain draft finding Reserve formations in the Northern Command, 4 Cyclist Battalions and Reserve formations in the Scottish Command. Behind these there are available 3 Cyclist Brigades in the Eastern Command area, 2 Cyclist Brigades in each of the Northern and Scottish Commands. In addition to these, there are the Cyclist Division in Kent, 3 Home Service Divisions in East Anglia and the 69th Division in the Northern Command.

Finally, there were at my disposal improvised formations from troops under training which were utilised under various emergency schemes.

The present total strength of the 7 Mixed Brigades is 30,000 from whom it is now proposed to take 12,000, replacing these by men of Category "B2". These will not be fully trained. The Cyclist Brigades have a present strength of 26,000, from whom 4,000 men of Category "A1" are to be taken, and in addition 7,200 men of Category "B1".
Of the Cyclist Battalions, the present strength is 11,000 from whom it is proposed to take 4,400 men of Category "Ai" and 4,500 men of Category "Bi". The "Ai" men are to be replaced by "Aiv" boys under 18½ years who have had four months training.

The "Bi" men in Cyclist units are to be replaced by "Aiv" boys of less than four months training.

In the case of Cyclist Units, none of this personnel will have had previous Cyclist training.

The present fighting strength of Home Service Divisions is 43,000 which will be reduced to 10,000 after the available "Aiv" personnel of 18½ years with four months training have been withdrawn.

These last cannot at present be replaced and in consequence the 4 Home Service Divisions practically disappear with the exception of the permanent cadre. In addition, 30,000 "Aiv" personnel is being drafted from Regular and T.F. Reserves, which will deplete the improvised formations under emergency schemes upon which I have been able to rely in the past.

As regards Ireland, I am strongly of opinion that it will not be safe to reduce the strength of the present Garrison and I think also that some Reserves should remain on this side of the Channel upon which I could rely in emergency.

The present fighting strength of all troops in Ireland is 25,000 men, which will be reduced by 3,834 men of Category "Ai". 1,100 of these will be withdrawn from the 2 Cyclist Brigades and will be replaced by the "Aiv" boys who will not have had any training as Cyclists.

In view of the present situation in Ireland, I therefore recommend that the present Cyclist Division in England should remain intact. This will be some small and efficient nucleus towards helping Home Defence and will provide a Reserve for despatch to Ireland, if necessary, and justify us in taking the risk of replacing the 1,100 highly trained Cyclists in Ireland by "Aiv" youths.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) FRENCH.

Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief,

Home Forces.
NEW YORK.

Following is for Sir Eric Drummond from W:-

Number 62.

Following is paraphrase of cable from Admiral Knight, United States Commander-in-Chief, Far East to Navy Department, dated March 16th. Colonel House says he and the President consider this message gives very interesting and same view of the situation and requests me to send you copy:--

Message begins:-- There exists possibility that part of munitions may be destroyed, as they are scattered in armories over many miles making it impracticable to guard all sections efficiently, but that for the same reason it is impossible that any great quantity could be destroyed if such an attempt were made and were at all successful. There is moreover absolutely no danger at present that munitions now here (Vladivostok) will reach Germans. German agent in Harbiniaff reported as having been sent to the Far East to arrange for destruction of munitions was arrested and hung by Cossacks several weeks ago and his funds diverted to support Colonel Semenoff, leader of the force operating near Chita. I am collecting details of information concerning location of individual items of munitions and preparing chart which will make it possible to keep general oversight of them without antagonising. Do not consider danger great but will be on the alert.

There is danger that German influences are at work in Siberia in some cases supported by Bolshevik elements, in others opposed. No evidence of substantial progress in Eastern Siberia.

Very difficult to obtain reliable information from other parts of Siberia but will continue efforts. Many conflicting reports concerning Bolsheviks attitude towards Germans. My belief, that attitude varies at different times and different places and that individual influences (? instances) of co-operation cannot be accepted as indications of general policy. Undoubtedly many Bolsheviks are German agents but many others are honest and hate Germany. Opinion is widely spread that Lenin is an idealist but that Trotsky is in pay of Germany.

Reports that German and Austrian prisoners have been armed are not at present true but appear to have some foundation in other parts of Siberia. Wounded men arriving Harbin, March 8th. from Colonel Semenoff, who had been engaged in battle with Bolsheviks near Manchurian station on railway, were well interviewed by my Aide-de-Camp Patterson and stated positively that they had been engaged in close quarters by men whom they recognised as Germans. One of these witnesses
was a Siberian who stated he had fought Germans on Russian front and could not be mistaken regarding their identity. I think this to be true but do not regard it as proving that prisoners are being generally armed and shall endeavour to clear up this point. Report apparently trustworthy that large numbers of prisoners in Irkursk have been armed and that they are prepared to destroy bridges and tunnels on Trans-Baikal railway.

Referring to reports in Japan that German military forces are likely to appear in Eastern Siberia and along coast and waters of Pacific Ocean, I regard these as preposterous; one great danger to be feared is that German power will reach area immediately East of the Ural Mountains where immense supplies of grain exist. I am not in a position to estimate probability of this, but if the military situation as known to the United States does not indicate it as a real danger, it is safe to say that no real necessity exists for armed intervention in Siberia, unless such intervention is desirable for the establishment of law and order.

At present existing conditions in most parts of Siberia under local Bolsheviks are recognized as intolerable and this quite as much by friends of Russian democracy as by its enemies. Resulting dissatisfaction amongst all classes is finding expression in more or less active resistance at many points and may result in a reaction towards imperialism. This tendency can only be checked by modifying conditions out of which it is developing, but I do not believe the hope of checking it lies in intervention from the outside. It lies I believe in the growing recognition by the Russian people themselves of the distinction between liberty and license and in their support of the forces standing for the establishment of order and the protection of life and property. While evidence on the subject is contradictory and confusing, I believe that on the whole power of the extreme radical faction is declining and that of the constitutionalists increasing and that order will gradually be established by the people to this end through establishment of temporary government for Siberia. At present these movements lack unity but efforts are being made to get together for the common good. One of the most promising of these movements centres about available memberships of the Siberian provincial conference elected by all provinces of Siberia, which convened at Tomsk in December 1917 and was broken up by the Terrorists.

If for any reason armed intervention in Siberia is decided upon, it is of the first importance that Japan should not be permitted to act alone. This is the one point on which everybody, who knows conditions and sentiments in Russia, is absolutely agreed. It is universally believed by Russians that Japan desires to take large part of Siberia, and no arguments can shake this belief. On the other hand Japan's military men state they will not operate with the force of any other Power, having had experience of this in the Tsing-tau China campaign. Thus very difficult situation is created and one which can probably be arranged only by compromise.
I venture to suggest following for consideration, as possible compromise, if intervention ultimately becomes necessary to check German advance. American, British, French, and Italian force to take control in Vladivostock and Amur railway as far as its junction with the direct line at Karymokaya, with line of communication through their own railway (i.e. the South Manchurian Railway) and via Harbin not through Vladivostock. Occupation of Vladivostock and neighbouring territory to be naval operation and Harbin railway to be held by military forces of the Powers above mentioned to the number of about 10,000. Whatever plan is adopted should be preceded by proclamation to the Russian people signed by all the Powers concerned, solemnly promising that no territory or privileges of any kind will be retained. Full understanding should be reached that the Westward advance should not stop short of the Ural Mountains, where Germans must be held if the purpose of the campaign is to be accomplished. It should be made clear also that the movement is not one of antagonism to any party in Russia even though it may be necessary to assume temporarily an attitude of antagonism in order to break through weakness, disorganisation and perhaps treachery now existing, and which are covering German advance in Central and Eastern Russia and specially towards rich grain areas of West Siberia already referred to.

Following have seen this message and entirely agree with it: Senior British Naval Officer, American and British Consul.

(Signed) Knight.

Commander-in-Chief Asiatic Fleet.
MEMORANDUM ON THE GLYCERINE POSITION, 1918, BY THE MINISTRY OF MUNITIONS.

1. Stocks of glycerine in this country at the 1st January, 1918, amounted to 12,800 tons.

2. Requirements for 1918 amount to a minimum of:
   
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cordite (1,000 tons per week R.D.B.)</td>
<td>13,500 tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blasting (home)</td>
<td>1,800 tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blasting (South Africa)</td>
<td>5,500 tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Government requirements</td>
<td>1,050 tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial requirements</td>
<td>190 tons</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   **Total minimum requirement** ... 22,040 tons

In view of the probable shortage, it is suggested that Canada might draw on U.S.A. for the unfilled balance of their requirements, if any.

3. (a.) Supplies are almost wholly dependent upon the output of the soap and candle trades, which rely upon imports of oils, seeds, and fats to keep their plants employed, and are, therefore, in direct competition with margarine production.

   Other sources of supply are France, Italy, and Holland, but the quantity of glycerine to be obtained from these countries during 1918 is not likely to amount to more than 1,200 tons.

   The Shipping Controller's full allocation of 1,400,000 tons per annum for oils, seeds, and fats represents in oil values 630,000 tons, which allows:

   - 380,000 tons for margarine, including a margin for other trades and cooking purposes.
   - 250,000 tons for the soap and candle-makers.

   The 250,000 tons are sufficient to keep the glycerine-producing plants fully employed, and should yield 25,000 tons of glycerine, or more than ample to meet requirements this year and enable us to carry forward several months' stocks into 1919.

   (b.) Since the transfer of responsibility for oils, seeds, and fats from this Ministry to the Oils and Fats Control under the Ministry of Food, imports have declined to an alarming extent. Whereas the full tonnage was allotted to these materials during the first half of 1917, only 73 per cent. of the full allocation matured during the third quarter of last year, and only 65 per cent. during the last quarter.

   The Ministry of Food have stated definitely that in the event of a shortage margarine would be given the preference over glycerine, and latest indications suggest that, so far from obtaining an output of 25,000 tons of glycerine during the current year, it is doubtful whether the soap and candle trades will receive sufficient supplies to produce 14,000 tons.

4. The position, therefore, may be summarised as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stock at January 1, 1918</td>
<td>12,800 tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production during 1918 (maximum)</td>
<td>14,000 tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imports during 1918 (maximum)</td>
<td>1,200 tons</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   **Available supplies, 1918** ... 15,200 tons

   **Requirement during 1918 (minimum)** ... 22,040 tons

   **Stock at January 1, 1919 (maximum)** ... 5,900 tons

5. The position, however, at the beginning of 1919 will be less satisfactory than appears from the above figures, as a stock of 5,900 tons is equivalent to only some [335]
eight to nine weeks' consumption on the basis of the probable 1919 programme, when
the requirement for propulsive explosives is likely to be considerably in excess of the
1918 scale.

This is due to the fact that the propellant demand this year is being partly met
from stock, with the result that propellant stocks will be reduced at the end of 1918,
and a considerably increased production necessitated during 1919.

A summary of the probable 1919 position gives the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stock at January 1, 1919</th>
<th>...</th>
<th>...</th>
<th>5,960 tons.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maximum output during 1919 of soap and candle trade, if fully supplied with materials</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>25,000 &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirement during 1919</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>say 35,000 &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deficit</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>4,040 &quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. In view of the general position and in order to economise tonnage, proposals are
on foot to establish fat-splitting plants in India, Ceylon, and elsewhere, but none of
these are likely to materialise or start producing in time to help the position in the
early months of 1919 materially.

7. It is therefore submitted:

(a.) That an immediate decision be given to push on with the installation of the
fat-splitting plants referred to above.

(b.) That the Shipping Controller be asked to state to what extent the shipping
space allocated to the Ministry of Food for the current year is likely to materialise.

(c.) That the Minister of Food be asked to undertake that, in the event of any
reduction in the tonnage allocated to him, the import of oils, seeds, and fats shall not
suffer out of proportion.

(d.) That, in any case, sufficient materials be given to the soap and candle-
makers, even at the expense of margarine, to ensure a glycerine output of not less
than 14,000 tons during 1918.

(e.) That even this figure will only suffice to meet the bare requirements of 1918,
and that every effort should be made to increase it substantially in view of the serious
condition disclosed for 1919 (even assuming that 25,000 tons are obtained, and that is
extremely unlikely), and the fact that the weekly requirement will rise immediately
from about 430 tons of glycerine a week to about 675 tons a week, the latter figure
being about 200 tons in excess of the maximum capacity of this country.

It is, therefore, of paramount importance to carry substantial stocks into 1919,
to guard against failure or delay in output from the proposed fat-splitting plants
abroad.

(f.) That the use in this country of oils which are capable of being de-
glycerinated be at once restricted to glycerine-producing processes; for example, there seems no good reason for continuing supplies of linseed oil to linoleum manu-
facture.
PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE POLICY IN RUSSIA.

At the present time in considering the situation in Russia the question of most vital importance is to decide definitely upon the future Allied Policy as regards that Country.

The result of the Allied Policy adopted during the past 6 months has resulted in a complete diplomatic triumph for Germany. At the present moment Germany has acquired complete domination over the Ukraine and the Baltic Provinces - in fact over all the Western District of European Russia without any military opposition whatever. Towns like Pskoff, Dvinsk, etc., were taken by a few Cavalry or Cyclists, without the slightest trouble and probably without a single casualty.

Owing to the manner in which Germany has developed her diplomatic Policy since the first Revolution, her Military Forces are now welcomed everywhere in Russia, except by the few Hooligans and Anarchists, as "SAVIOURS" rather than as "CONQUERORS." This naturally places Germany on a very sound basis for establishing her influence and domination in all commercial and other matters in Western Russia, especially as the evacuation of the Allied Embassies from Petrograd has removed the slight influence which might have been exerted against her.

Various reports have been made on the futility of bolstering up Russian Political movements - such as, the French policy in the Ukraine, the Alexieff movement in the Don, etc., etc., All these were doomed to failure from the outset, as outside force must be brought in to make any
any Russian soldier (Officer or Man) fight against Bolshevism and anarchism - which are now practically the same thing - or still more against the Germans.

In this report it is not proposed to discuss the past policy, which can only be described as disastrous, but to put forward a concrete proposal for the present and immediate future to counteract the German domination and its further growth.

It is rumoured that the Japanese intend to land at Vladivostock to restore order there and in Manchuria. If this is true, it is undoubtedly an excellent step as far as it goes, and will tend to uphold Allied - especially Japanese - influence in the Far East. Much more, however, is necessary and it is essential that Allied, particularly British and French, influence should be brought to bear in Western Russia. This influence can only be effective when it has force behind it and consequently its introduction can only be effected from the North through the Ports of Murmansk and Archangel.

Judging from what we have seen of the occupation of the Western Provinces of European Russia by the Germans, it would only be necessary to employ a small force to carry out such a policy. The Bolshevik Troops are thoroughly undisciplined and disorganised and are quite unfit to oppose any small body of Regular Troops.

Further it is certain that any display of an active policy on the part of the Allies would be welcomed by the great majority of the people of all classes in Northern Russia, and a local Militia or Police force could be formed. Various proposals have been put forward for the formation of a Volunteer Army from the so-called patriotic Russians, but personally I have no faith whatever in any of these proposals without an outside force behind them. No Russian Officers or
or Men can be relied upon to show any energy or fight for any cause on their own initiative.

The formation of local Militia or Police must be carried out under the direct orders and control of Allied Officers and N.C.Os., and there need be no false sentiment expressed that such a policy would incite animosity amongst the Russians. They know now only too well their entire lack of organising capacity.

There is one most important point to be considered in connection with any actions, having military force behind them, which may be carried out anywhere in Russia - namely that all such actions must be executed on a common and well-defined programme, definitely agreed upon beforehand by all the Allies and widely published throughout the whole country. It is essential to emphasize that such actions are only being taken by the Allies for

1. Restoration of law and order in Russia.
2. Counter-Action against a complete domination of all Russia by Germany i.e. the restoration of Russia for the Russian People.
3. Energetic action to save the Russian People from the famine which now undoubtedly threatens them.

It would appear to be very necessary that all military actions should be undertaken jointly by the Allies, and it is suggested that this could be effected in the most practical manner as follows:

**Far East... Siberia.** American military force should accompany and co-operate with the Japanese. The British and French should each send a military mission to accompany the same.

**Northern European Russia.** Joint military forces from Great Britain and France under the supreme command of the British. This latter is essential for co-operation with the naval forces at the Ports, in which presumably the British will preponderate. American and Japanese military missions could be attached to this force.
It is not considered necessary in view of the small forces which will be required, to have military missions from Italy or Belgium. If necessary for diplomatic reasons, one Military Attache could be sent with each force from these two countries.

It is proposed that the programme for the common use of all Allied military forces in Russia should be broadly on the following lines:

(a) Establishment of the Constituent Assembly with universal and equal franchise.

(b) Restoration of all local Authorities generally as arranged by the late Provisional Government.

(c) Temporary and later permanent representation of all parties who stand for the Constituent Assembly.

(d) A federative Russia.

(e) Disarmament of all persons not officially attached to recognised local Militia or Police units.

(f) Restoration of Discipline on revised military laws for Officers and Men.

Such a programme is essential and must be widely published to prevent the obvious propaganda, instigated by German Agents, against the Allies that they are merely coming in to annex parts of Russia for themselves.

Amongst other immediate advantages which would accrue from this policy would be:

(A) The safety to the Allies of the vast quantities of stores of all kinds at the Ports of Vladivostock and Archangel, and the prevention of their acquisition by the Germans or illicit use by the Russians.

(B) The guarantee of repayment of the huge debt owed by Russia to the Allied Countries.

(C) The safety of Allied Commercial undertakings already existing in Russia.

Referring
Referring back to the proposal for Allied action in Northern Russia, the following generally outlines the policy proposed:

At each of the Ports of Murmansk and Archangel, a Naval force of two or three ships should be established, and a small land force for occupation of the Railway Lines:

(a) down to Petrozavodsk from Murmansk.
(b) down to Vologda from Archangel.

This would afford complete domination and influence over Northern Russia and would effect a junction with the Trans-Siberian Railway at Vologda, which is very necessary for the transit of foodstuffs from Siberia to Northern Russia.

The only possible opposition that could be met would be at the Ports from the Russian Naval Units, but the entire lack of discipline and the disorder of the past 8 months effectively reduces their fighting capacity to a minimum. It is very doubtful if any opposition whatsoever would be encountered. The German Forces may possibly enter and police Petrograd to break up the Headquarters and centre of Bolshevism, but it is unlikely that they will penetrate further North or East.

Secrecy is, of course, essential as regards the arrival of the Allied Forces at the Ports, but immediately after their arrival, the programme of policy should be widely published. This can be arranged beforehand through known and reliable Agents to a great extent.

Position in Southern Russia. The above deals with the proposals for the Far East and Northern Russia, but there does not appear at present to be any practical means of introducing Allied influence with military force behind it, in Central or Southern Russia. However, it is essential that a strong political and commercial organisation should be established in
in Southern Russia to counteract the commercial domination by
the Central Powers in that district and in the territory towards
Persia and India. Such an organisation should be formed at once
and be sent to Headquarters at say Tiflis by the best available
route.

This organisation would then be in a position to co-op­
erate with the Central Organisation of Russia, which should
accompany the Allied Force through the Northern Ports.

Similarly, a political and commercial organisation
should enter Siberia with the Allied Force through Vladivostock -
again to co-operate with the Central Organisation.

Proposals for the formation of the Central Organisation
for commercial and all other matters in Russia are given in
the attached report.

When order is restored, the controlling factor on the
whole future of Russia must be "Finance" from outside, and conse­
quently it is of the greatest importance to establish the neces­
ary commercial organisations which must be ready to act at once
when the opportunity to do so arrives. Unless some such policy
as that outlined above is adopted and energetically carried out,
Germany will be in the field first and alone, and Great Britain
will be again "Too Late" to collect a fair share of the best of
the Commercial Undertakings which will be open for Development.
Further the execution of such a policy will be very effective
during the duration of the War in checking the withdrawal of
Supplies from Russia to Germany and Austria.

(Sd.) F. C. POOLE.

March 15th, 1918.

Major-General,

Cmgs/ British Supply Section in Russia.
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(Sd.) F. C. POOLE.

March 15th, 1918.

Major-General,

British Supply Section in Russia.
COAL FOR ITALY.

(Copy of telephone message received from Lord Milner, Versailles, for Sir Maurice Hankey).

"Apropos to question of Coal for Italy about which the Italian Ambassador here came to see me yesterday in a state verging on desperation, I understand that one of the principal troubles is shortage of ships from Marsailles to Genoa. Can anything be done temporarily to relieve this? I know the point is one with which the Shipping Controller is very familiar but everything must be reconsidered in view of actual crisis."

6, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.
26th, March, 1918.
SECRET.
G.T.—4035.

WAR CABINET.

AMERICAN ASSISTANCE.

In confirmation of telephone message to Storr, Prime minister and War Cabinet hope that you will see General Pershing immediately and urge on him following three points:

First: That the four American divisions should be used at once to hold the line and relieve further French divisions.

Second: We understand that transport is available for bringing six complete American divisions to this country. We strongly urge that, in the present crisis, this tonnage would be more usefully employed if it were not used to carry complete divisions with their full complement of artillery, &c., but if it were used in the main for the transport of infantry of which, at this moment, we stand in most pressing need:

Third: That, as temporary expedient, American engineer units in France now engaged in preparing the bases and lines of communication of the future American army and said to include many skilled engineers, should be diverted from present occupations and utilised as extemporised engineer units for construction of defences &c., in rear of our armies.

Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary saw Mr. Baker to-day and found him personally not unfavourable to these suggestions. Mr. Baker is communicating at once with General Pershing and will see him in Paris to-morrow.

It was stated at War Cabinet to-day that Americans have heavy/
heavy guns with trained personnel which could be used either immediately in Somme battle or to release French guns for the same purpose. Also that Americans are well off for trained gunners, and that, if required, some of these could be sent to man guns about to be despatched from England to replace losses. Prime Minister suggests you might also consult Pershing on these points.

II.

SUPPLEMENTARY TELEGRAM TO ABOVE, FROM COLONEL HANKEY TO LORD HILNER.

DESPATCHED 25TH MARCH, 1918.

In my previous message I omitted to include a suggestion that one of the American displacement divisions, which is reported to be complete with transport, should also be employed in the line either as a separate division or to increase the infantry in the combatant divisions.

III.

COPY OF TELEPHONE MESSAGE RECEIVED 10.0 a.m. 26th MARCH, 1918.

FROM LORD HILNER TO SIR M. HANKEY, BEGINS:

"As I have to go to conference at Doullens, catching 7.30 this morning and shall be absent all day I cannot see Pershing about the matter desired by Cabinet. But Rawlinson will be seeing him in course of day and will urge all your points with utmost energy. If he thinks my intervention with Pershing necessary he will wire to me Doullens and I shall return to Paris. Otherwise I propose to come home to-night. If you want to communicate with me a message to G.H.Q. will reach me by 3 o'clock.

ends,

Whitehall Gardens, S.W.

March 26th, 1918.
AMENDMENT OF MILITARY SERVICE ACTS.

Memorandum by the Minister of National Service.

In accordance with the decision of the War Cabinet at yesterday's meeting, I have prepared a provisional draft of a Bill to amend the Military Service Acts. The following notes explain the scope of the Bill.

1. The age limit for military service is lowered from eighteen to seventeen years and raised from thirty-one (now in effect forty-three) to fifty-five years.

2. Compulsory service is extended to Ireland and the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man are also included within the Bill.

3. Tribunals as such are abolished and in their place Advisory Committees are set up to advise the Minister of National Service with regard to the priority in which men should be called up for service. The intention is that the Minister of National Service should set up an Advisory Committee in each county with the Lord Lieutenant preferably as the Chairman. In Great Britain the personnel of the existing Appeal Tribunal would ordinarily be used as the Advisory Committee. Sub-Committees drawn as a rule from members of Local Tribunals in the county would where necessary be appointed to assist the Advisory Committee in dealing with applications from men to have their calling up for service postponed. All existing exemptions issued by Tribunals are cancelled. It is proposed to grade the men who fall within the Act into a series of classes probably five in number and to call men in Class 1 first the men in the later classes not being called up as a general rule until after the men in the earlier class have been called, subject always to the power of the Minister of National Service to call men of the higher grades from any class. The Advisory Committee would recommend that a man should be placed in an early or later class according to the circumstances of his case. In the first instance to avoid over-crowding men over 45 would be placed in the final class.

4. The exceptions set out in the first schedule to the Military Service Act, 1916 as subsequently amended will no longer be operative.
MILITARY SERVICE.
Provisional Draft of a Bill.

To make further provision with respect to military service during the present War and to amend the Military Service Acts 1916 to 1918.

Be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, &c., &c.

1. (1) Every male British subject who has at any time since the fourteenth of August nineteen hundred and fifteen been, or who for the time being is, in the British Isles and who for the time being has attained the age of seventeen years and has not attained the age of fifty-five years, shall, unless he has attained the age of fifty-five years before the appointed date be deemed as from the appointed date to have been duly enlisted in His Majesty's Regular Forces for general service with the Colours or in the Reserve for the period of the war and to have been forthwith transferred to the Reserve.

(2) The appointed date shall as respects men who come within the operation of this section on the passing of this Act be the fourteenth day after the date of the passing of this Act and as respects men who come within the operation of this section after the passing of this Act be the day on which they so come within the operation of this section.

(3) All the provisions of the K.S. Acts 1916 to 1918 as amended by this Act with the exception of those defining the appointed date shall as far as applicable extend to men to whom this section applies in the same manner as to men to whom Section 1 of the Military Service Act 1916 and Section 1 of the Military Service Act 1916 (Session 2) applied.

2. (1) All certificates of exemption from military service granted or renewed before the passing of this Act whether granted or renewed under the provisions of the Military Service Acts 1916 or otherwise shall be withdrawn on the fourteenth day after the passing of this Act and as from that date every such certificate shall cease to be in force.

(2) After the passing of this Act no certificate of exemption from military service shall be granted, renewed or renewed for or in respect of a certificate of exemption shall be proceeded with and any certificate granted or renewed or application entertained in contravention of the foregoing provisions shall be invalid.

(3) The Central Tribunal and the Local and Appeal Tribunals whether established under the Military Service Act 1916 or for the purpose of dealing with applications for the exemption of voluntarily attested men and every Committee of such a Tribunal shall be dissolved and shall cease to exist on the passing of this Act and all questions as to the rights or duties of the members of such Tribunals which may arise in consequence of such Tribunal ceasing to exist as provided by this section shall be determined by the President of the Local Government Board or as respects Scotland the Secretary for Scotland.
3. (1) The Director-General of National Service shall regulate the calling out or the postponement or priority of the calling out on permanent service of all persons within the operation of Section 1 of this Act, and may issue such certificates or other documents as he thinks fit to indicate the availability of such persons for military service.

(2) Military Service Advisory Committees shall be constituted for the purpose of advising and making recommendations to the Director-General of National Service as to the calling out or postponement of the calling out or postponement of the calling out on permanent service of any persons within the operation of section 1 of this Act and the Director-General may make Regulations with respect to the establishment constitution functions and procedure of such Committees and as to the procedure for carrying the provisions of this section into effect.

Any Regulations made by the Director-General under this section may be revoked extended or varied by any subsequent Regulations as occasion requires.

4. (1) This Act may be cited as the Military Service Act 1918 (Session 2) and the Military Service Acts 1916 to 1918 and this Act shall be construed together and may be cited together as the Military Service Acts 1916 to 1918.

(2) The enactments specified in the Schedule to this Act are hereby repealed to the extent mentioned in the third column of that Schedule.

SCHEDULE.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session and Chapter</th>
<th>Short Title</th>
<th>Extent of Repeal</th>
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Note. The amendments to and repeal of previous Military Service Acts will require detailed consideration.

26th March 1918. A. O. G. DDP&S.
It is observed that the future arrangements with regard to the control of refrigerated meat (C.T.3958 and connected documents) are under consideration by the Cabinet.

The Allied Maritime Transport Council and the Ministry of Shipping are of course not concerned with the details of the arguments contained in the papers referred to. It is, however, desirable that their general point of view should be before the Cabinet in connection with the general question.

The decisions at the Paris Conference of December 1917 relating to the creation of the Council provide that the Council shall obtain and review statements of the import requirements of the different Allies and shall recommend to the respective Governments an allocation of available tonnage in accordance therewith designed to secure that the cargoes carried shall be such as to conduct most effectively to the prosecution of the war. For this purpose it was contemplated that the different supply programmes should, before going to the Council itself, be subject to Inter-Allied criticism by means of Executives formed (with such variations as might be necessary) upon the model of the Wheat Executive.

The Paris decisions make no distinction between meat and refrigerated tonnage on the one hand and ordinary cargo vessels on the other, and the Council at their meeting of last week definitely decided that meat and refrigerated tonnage came within their scope.

The exact relations of the Council and its staff to the different Executives and the question as to the method in which effective Inter-Allied criticism can best be obtained for each class of commodities are now under careful examination.

In the meantime, however, the Council think it well to state that they are definitely interested in the establishment of such/
such a system as will secure in the case of refrigerated produce and meat as well as other commodities an effective Inter-Allied criticism of requirements of the Allies as a whole and a proper co-ordination and interchangeability between the programmes both of the different Allies and of military and civilian importations.

So far as the Ministry of Shipping is concerned their interest is simply that there should be such arrangements on the supply side as will (a) enable the Ministry to programme vessels on such routes (i.e. the nearest) as will secure the maximum importing capacity for the vessels in question, and (b) for this purpose secure such co-ordination both of military and civilian requirements and of the requirements of all the Allies, so far as they entail demands upon British tonnage, as will leave the Ministry free to act in accordance with the above principle. That is the Ministry desires to be able to send at any moment the largest proportion of the available meat tonnage to the nearest source of supply, (the limiting factor being the amount of refrigerated produce and meat available as a whole from that source of supply whether it is military or civilian) and to deliver the cargo by any vessel in satisfaction of the most urgent demand. This means in short such co-ordination of the Supply Departments as will enable the demands to be made as a whole upon the Ministry of Shipping and will secure the interchangeability of cargo as between the different consuming countries and Departments as may be necessary.

Subject to these two principles being secured, the detailed organisation adopted is of course a matter for the Supply Departments in which the Ministry of Shipping is not directly concerned.

26 MAR 1918
SECRET.
G.T.-4038.
WAR CABINET.

POSITION OF MEN OF MILITARY AGE IN GOVERNMENT OFFICES.
PROPOSED FORMATION OF DEPARTMENTAL TRIBUNALS.

Copy of Minute from Lord R. Cecil, to Mr. Balfour.

Mr. Balfour,

On the 14th January last I submitted a Minute to you in which it was proposed that there should be set up in this Office a tribunal of three: one member should be an official of the Office, such as the Chief Clerk, another should be a soldier, and the third should be a Chairman chosen from the ranks of public men who have held office, who are not in office now, such, for instance, as Lord Selborne. Before a tribunal so constituted the cases of all men of military age employed in the office would come, and it would decide finally whether each man was doing better service to the State by remaining in the office, or by joining the Army.

"I recognise that a plan of this kind, if established here, would necessarily have to be established in other offices under pressure of public opinion, and I therefore venture to request that if you think right you may lay this proposal before the Prime Minister."

I have received this morning an urgent request from a member of the staff to be allowed to join, and I venture therefore again to submit this proposal to you, since the present position of affairs may be thought to have altered the circumstances which made you think it unacceptable last January.

As the matter is very urgent I am venturing to send a copy to Sir Maurice Hankey for circulation to the War Cabinet.

ROBERT CECIL.

FOREIGN OFFICE.

March 26th, 1918.
NOTES.

Satisfactory progress continues to be made with the raising of new Indian units.

Reports have been received from India that a force has been ordered to advance into the Mari country to punish that tribe for the series of outrages recently committed by them.

Telegram from Viceroy to Secretary of State for India for half-month ending 18th March 1918.

No. 3513. In continuation of our telegram of the 2nd instant, 2759. Following is submitted for information:—

1. NEW FORMATIONS.—Infantry Battalions.—Of 24 new battalions, two are overseas, thirteen complete, six within 50, one within 100, one within 150, and one within 250 of completion.

Of 21 additional battalions, two complete, one within 100, four within 150, two within 300, one within 350, one within 400, one within 150, and eight within 500 of completion.

Of the 12 battalions sanctioned in telegram dated 1st February, eleven in process of formation and orders for remaining one will be shortly issued.

Cavalry Squadrons.—Of 10 Indian Cavalry squadrons reported in our telegram of the 20th ultimo, No. 2255, as regards effectives three are complete, one within 30, one within 60, two within 70, one within 80, and one within 90 of completion. Both two squadrons reported in our telegram of 26th ultimo, No. 2542, are within 60 of completion.

Of the eight squadrons reported in our telegram of 4th instant, No. 2788, two within 40, one within (group omitted), two within 70, two within 80, and one within 100 of completion.

Medical.—9 temporary commissions given in Indian Medical Service and 43 dressers engaged Indian Subordinate Medical Department.

2. Munitions Board.—Following information reported up to 12th March:—Railway material.—For Egypt, 59,867 broad-gauge sleepers and 33,135 narrow-gauge sleepers. For Mesopotamia, 16 miles of 50-pound track, all shipped since last report.

Shipbuilding.—Barges, 189 handed over at Karachi, 8 at Bombay, and 23 being completed.

Stern-wheel tugs: two under re-erection at Bombay, three at Karachi.

Hospital stern-wheelers: one under re-erection at Bombay.

Craft for East Africa: one steam launch under construction at Calcutta. Pontoons for Director of Railways, Baghdad. Completed.

Steam Pinnaces: two under construction at Calcutta.

One hundred and ten light steel pontoons. 94 completed and despatched, 16 being constructed.

Two anchor pick-up boats. To be constructed at Karachi.

Trawlers. Two under construction at Bombay, two at Calcutta. Orders for further two have been placed.

Eight pontoon punts. Awaiting instruction to construct.

3. Supplies.—Timber.—Shipped since last report: Basra, 600 tons; Egypt, 1,798 tons; Aden, 55 tons; Bunder Abbas, 99 tons; and Bushire, 40 tons.

0700 65 2/18
Clothing.—Estimated requirements clothing and necessaries for ensuing financial year received from Quartermaster-General are on very much larger scale than previous year and will probably necessitate larger indents on Home for certain woollens. Particulars being worked out.

Tanned Hides.—No shipments reported from Bombay; 3,010 bales shipped from Madras during February.

Raw Hides.—No shipments reported from Calcutta for Italian Government. 248,583 pieces purchased by Calcutta Committee during four weeks ended 23rd February. 56,706 pieces purchased by Karachi Committee during three weeks ended 19th February.


5. Internal Condition.—Political situation quiet, but strong feeling being worked up regarding internments. High prices causing some discontent.

India Office,
March 1918.
SECRET.

BATTLE SITUATION MORNING OF 26TH MARCH, 1918.

Throughout March 25th the enemy delivered attacks in great strength on our 3rd Army front between BAZETIN and BOZELLES, most of which were repulsed with very heavy loss, but in the afternoon the enemy brought up fresh reserves with whose aid he succeeded in pressing us back to the line ALBERT, MINAULT, BUCQUOY, BOZELLES. The enemy's pressure continues on this front.

South of the SOMME our 5th Army, which is operating under General Fayolle, was attacked between FURONNE and MINISTREL and was pressed back a short distance along this front.

It was expected that the enemy would to-day endeavour to press his advantage by a strong attack east and south of ARAMIS but up to 10.30 this morning no attack had taken place in this part of the field.

The Commander-in-Chief states that our troops fought magnificently on the 25th against very superior numbers.

We are retiring slowly, contesting every yard of ground, and are receiving increased assistance from the French.

Although the enemy has a considerable number of fresh divisions available in rear of the battle-front, we are rapidly using up these reserves, and as the distance from his supply bases increases the weight of the German attack should tend to diminish.

General Staff,
War Office,
26th March, 1918.
Copy of letter from the Shipping Controller to the Secretary, War Cabinet.

Ministry of Shipping,
St. James's Park,
London, S.W. 1.
26th March, 1918.

Dear Sir Maurice Hankoy,

I enclose a Memorandum stating the present position with regard to Italian coal with special reference to the communication received yesterday to the effect that the supply of French coal must be diminished by 2,000 tons a day in consequence of the movement of troops.

It will be seen that arrangements to secure Italy’s 600,000 tons in the month had been fully made but for the supply of French coal falling short.

The difficulty in stating the position now is to know just how much French coal can safely be relied upon in view of the movement of troops. If France could really send the full amount originally arranged minus only a reduction of 2,000 tons a day, this could be fully met by diversions of Mediterranean colliers. On the whole, however, it seems unsafe to rely upon more than about half of the quantity of French coal going during the month, say, 170,000 tons instead of 350,000.

To deal with the situation the following arrangement is proposed:-

150,000 tons by long sea route arranged
100,000 " Blaye
170,000 " of French coal by rail and short sea route assumed as still possible.

420,000

100,000 tons by diversion of British Mediterranean coal
50,000 tons now being attempted in other ways with American assistance.

580,000 tons.

As 410,000 of this total would be British coal this would be more than equivalent to the contemplated 600,000 tons of which 350,000 would have been French coal.

This programme is very provisional and is subject to the reservations made in the enclosed memorandum. It may prove impossible to carry it out fully.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) J.P. Maclay.
Memorandum as to Supply of Coal to Italy.

1. Plan and steps taken to execute it prior to notice of dislocation of railway traffic on March 25th.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Plan</th>
<th>Steps taken &amp; Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>(1) 150,000 tons by long sea route</td>
<td>150,000 tons allocated for March sailing (100,000 being British). For the month March 15th to April 15th sailings will reach the 150,000.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(2) 100,000 tons via Blaye</td>
<td>100,000 tons duly arranged for March; and the same figure will be reached for the month March 15th to April 15th.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) Supply of French Coal at rate of 350,000 tons a month</td>
<td>Figures only available for 4 days of the month March 15th, April 15th. The total during these 4 days was 26,360 tons i.e. at the rate of 6,640 tons a day instead of about 11,500 tons a day.</td>
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</table>

It will thus be seen that the 1st two parts of the programme (conveyance of 150,000 tons by long sea route and 100,000 tons to Blaye) have been fully arranged, but that the supply of French coal has hitherto shown a deficit at the rate of about 150,000 tons a month.

For the conveyance of the 100,000 tons of Blaye coal and the 350,000 tons of French coal (450,000 tons in all) the plan and the measures taken to carry it out are as follows.

| (4) 270,000 tons to go by rail via Ventimiglia and Modane | The amount which actually went in the 4 days March 15 - 18 was 32,072 i.e. at the rate of 8,000 tons a day or 240,000 tons a month. |
| (5) 180,000 tons to go by short sea route from Marseilles or other S. French port to Italy | For the 3 days Mar. 15 - 17 the total shipped was 6,650 tons i.e. at the rate of 2,220 tons a day or 66,600 tons a month. |

The shipping for this was to be provided co-operatively by the Allies.

Italy has made arrangements to supply about 60,000 tons. Great Britain also arranged to send about 60,000 tons, but had to divert about 30,000 tons because loading facilities were not available. Urgent representations were made to the French Government on the subject. France has so far only nominated 4,400 tons d.w.
In consideration of the supply of 350,000 tons of French coal, the Allies were to ship 350,000 tons of British coal to France (mainly to Dunkirk and Rouen) during about the 6 weeks March 15th to April 30th; an adjustment being made if France did not send 350,000 tons of coal equivalent in calorific value to the British coal. Great Britain indicated she could send 150,000 tons of this in small vessels and the Allies were to co-operate for the remainder.

Great Britain has allocated small tonnage capable of carrying about 230,000 tons to France.

Diversions from French general trade to coal trade will it is estimated give a further 30,000 tons of coal.

Various small neutral vessels provided by Great Britain & America & 1 American vessel provide 11,000 tons.

France arranged diversions of large tonnage capable of carrying 60,000 tons.

The small balance of less than 20,000 tons to complete the 350,000 tons would have been provided if necessary by allocation of British Atlantic liners.

It is clear that Great Britain had fully carried out her part of the general arrangement having:

(a) with Italy provided for the full 150,000 tons by long sea route
(b) with Italy provided for the full 100,000 " to Blaye
(c) arranged to provide 1/3rd (60,000 tons) of the tonnage required for the conveyance of the 150,000 tons from South France by short sea route.
(d) provided small tonnage for about 270,000 tons (instead of 150,000 tons) replacement to France.

So far as the plan had already failed it is on the side of the provision of French coal.

II. Modification in situation in consequence of notice on March 25th that while the troop movement from Italy lasts, it will inevitably involve a reduction of 1000 tons a day in the despatch of French coal.

It is difficult to know exactly how much would be allowed on this ground.

Assuming the movement takes a fortnight this would mean making an emergency provision of an extra 30,000 tons by the long sea route if the reduction of 2,000 tons a day only meant a reduction of 2,000 tons from the full programme as arranged by the Transport Council.

This, as an emergency measure, could be provided by diversion of British colliers en route to Gibraltar and the Mediterranean (Atlantic liners being diverted to Gibraltar to maintain bunker supplies there) and action has been taken accordingly.

We have unfortunately, however, to face the certainty, as shewn by the figures in Part I. that the deficiency will in fact be much greater. If the 2,000 tons a day reduction for two weeks is regarded as a reduction, not from the full programme of 15,000 tons a day by rail and short sea route, but from the actual rate maintained during the first few days of the month (10,000 tons a day as shewn above), the deficit for the month would be not
30,000 tons but about 180,000 tons. It must, however, be remembered that (a) 11,500 tons a day out of the 15,000 tons would have been French coal and that (b) apart from the dislocation through troop movement the daily rate might fairly have been expected to improve, as the 4 days 15 - 18 March (immediately following the Transport Council arrangement on 14th March) can hardly reflect the special arrangements which M. Claveville promised to make to increase railway facilities and shipping facilities at the South French ports.

In all the circumstances it would seem to be necessary to increase the long sea shipment, not by 30,000 tons, but by at least 100,000 tons to compensate for dislocation on the railways. In addition the actual troop movement will mean extra consumption of coal. It would therefore appear important than an extra 180,000 tons should if possible go by the long sea route.

As an emergency measure it would be possible for Great Britain to divert 100,000 tons of colliers destined for Gibraltar and the Mediterranean with partial replacement by the allocation of the 60,000 tons of French Atlantic liners and of British liners to Gibraltar, these vessels being of course not required to take replacement coal to France as, with the smaller supply of French coal to Italy, the small vessels will more than suffice for replacement. It must of course be realised that the larger diversion of Atlantic vessels (as compared with proposed short diversion to N. French ports) will mean a much larger loss in Atlantic imports.

The American representatives are, it is understood, communicating with Washington with a view to seeing whether some American vessels now in French ports can help as regards the balance.

The situation is being very carefully watched and every possible measure of giving further relief investigated.

P.S. Since the above memorandum was written, the French coal representatives in London have stated that they were informed from Paris late last evening that the French Authorities consider that they can still carry out the full programme of 15,000 tons a day, minus a reduction of only 2,500 tons a day while the troop movement lasts. If this could be taken as certain it would only mean (for say a fortnight's move) a deficit of some 40,000 tons on the original programme. It is, however, perhaps safer to take for the moment the less optimistic view presented above.
Copy of a letter from Lord Stamfordham to Mr. Balfour.

In case you are going to a War Cabinet Meeting this morning where the subject of the Japanese Mission may be discussed, I write to let you know that the King will not be able to send Prince Arthur of Connaught as Chief of the Mission, and the Duke of Connaught's going is quite out of the question on account of his health.

His Majesty is against the idea of introducing into the Military Mission either political or commercial members, or Propaganda Agents, and he thinks it would be much better to send General Sir Arthur Paget as the Head of the Military Mission for the purpose of taking the Bâton of a British Field-Marshal to the Emperor of Japan. If you consider it advisable to attach a Diplomatic Agent to this Mission, Mr. Alston from Peking might join it.

The Propaganda Mission should, in the King's opinion, be a separate Body.

Buckingham Palace, (Signed) Stamfordham,
March 21st, 1918.

To Right Honourable
A. J. Balfour, O.M., M.P.,
&c., &c., &c.
Sir,

In continuation of correspondence ending with Major Storr's letter of the 20th June, 1917, No.25/C/1, regarding the report of the Sub-Committee of the War Cabinet which dealt with the question of the arms traffic after the war, I am directed by the Secretary of State to enclose for the information of the War Cabinet, copy of a despatch from the Government of India on the subject.

It will be seen that the Government of India endorse generally the views and recommendations of the Sub-Committee on this important question. The Secretary of State concurs, and trusts that the whole subject will be brought before the War Cabinet at as early a date as possible with a view to the adoption of a definite line of policy.

With regard to the point mentioned in paragraph 10 of the Government of India's despatch, viz:—the traffic in the French Settlements in India, copy of a separate report furnished by the Government of India is enclosed.

A copy of this letter is being communicated to the Foreign Office, War Office, Home Office and Ministry of Reconstruction.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) J. E. SHUCKBURGH.

The Secretary,
War Cabinet,
2 Whitehall Gardens,
S.W. (1)
To THE RIGHT HONOURABLE EDWIN MONTAGU,

His Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

DELHI,
21st December 1917.

Sir,

We have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your predecessor's Secret Despatch No. 13, dated the 20th April 1917, inviting our criticisms or suggestions on the report of the Sub-Committee appointed by the Prime Minister to consider the question of the arms traffic after the war.

2. We have read the Sub-Committee's report with deep interest and much profit. We are at one with them in viewing the danger of a widely extended arms traffic as a result of the war with grave concern, and have no hesitation in endorsing the general tenor of their recommendations regarding the manner in which that danger should be faced.

3. In particular we endorse their recommendation that the whole question of the future control of the arms traffic should be raised at the Peace Conference as a high moral issue, and that a strenuous endeavour should be made to negotiate an International Convention on the lines they suggest. But like them we are under no illusions as to the permanent value of any International Convention, however skilfully framed, unless it is backed by the sanction either of self-interest or the reprobation of the civilised world. In the arms traffic the interests of the different Powers, where they do not directly conflict, are so unequally divided and in the nature of things so liable to change with territorial and other international readjustments, that although it is doubtless a wise instinct to enlist the powerful aid of self-interest wherever possible, it seems Utopian to hope to find the final solution to the problem in any elaborate balancing of interests. It may seem more Utopian still to seek it in the awakening of the civilised conscience; but if this most difficult problem admits of any permanent solution at all, it is only here that it is to be found.

4. Moreover, the success that attended the campaign against the abolition of slavery in the last century encourages the hope that it is not altogether visionary to look for success from a campaign for the abolition of this iniquitous trafficking in arms among uncivilised peoples. Never before, perhaps, has the time been so ripe for such a campaign. The war is already and increasingly stirring the conscience of the world to its depths; it is not merely that the horrors of war are imprinting themselves on the world; the moral sense of the world is being kindled by the high moral issues which the Allies have proclaimed as their goal; and in the reaction that will set in when peace is at last declared, not the least powerful or enduring of the emotions dominating the world will be, we cannot but hope, an abhorrence of any removable cause calculated to lead to a renewal of bloodshed and a passionate desire to uproot it. If this be true, then the impelling need of the moment is to bring the world to a full consciousness of the evils wrought by this arms traffic among savage and semi-savage peoples and of the great danger to which it exposes the peace of the world. We earnestly urge, therefore, that no time should be lost in inaugurating a widespread campaign against it, in an endeavour to rouse so great a volume of public opinion in all civilised countries as shall render it impossible for any civilised Government to connive at or tolerate it.
5. But it would be manifestly premature to rely on this alone, and we cordially endorse the Sub-Committee's recommendation that we should in the first instance seek to secure a separate understanding with France with a view to ensuring her sincere co-operation in any restrictive measures arrived at by international agreement. Like the Sub-Committee, we recognise in Jibouti the chief crux of this aspect of the problem. To India this matter is clearly of serious importance. For though it is a far cry from the North-West Frontier or Afghanistan to Jibouti, Pathan and Afghan make light of distances where arms are to be got, and, baulked of arms in the Persian Gulf, both will almost inevitably seek them in Arabia, which in turn will draw them from Jibouti, so long as the Jibouti traffic exists. We trust, therefore, that it will prove possible to induce France to cede Jibouti to Great Britain, and we agree with the Sub-Committee that the issues at stake are so vital that His Majesty's Government would be justified in making heavy sacrifices to secure the desired result. Indeed so vital are they, that in the not unlikely event of France's refusal except on terms impossible for us to grant, it seems to us worth considering whether it would not be possible to cede to her a substantial part of Somaliland, thus making a direct appeal to her self-interest in the stoppage of the arms traffic by providing her with a hinterland the security of which she could not afford to jeopardise.

6. Of the feasibility of this suggestion, which is put forward with much diffidence and which is partly prompted by the fact that the rendition of some part of Somaliland to Italy has recently been under consideration, we are of course not in a position to judge. Were such a solution actually feasible, however, it would obviously have the additional merit of enabling us to pose in a generous light towards France and to ask her in return to abrogate the troublesome Anglo-French Declaration of 1882 and to withdraw finally from relations with Maskat, which amour propre might otherwise make it difficult for her to do. Once France were eliminated from Maskat, the control of the arms traffic in the Persian Gulf would become in name as well as in fact the exclusive task of Great Britain, and would thus disappear altogether from the scope of international conventions. With France's elimination from Maskat, moreover, there would be little difficulty, as far as can be foreseen, in carrying out the two subsidiary recommendations regarding Maskat put forward by the Sub-Committee—viz., that the Sultan should be induced, first, to place his Customs and arms warehouse under British control, and, secondly, to raise and maintain under British control a permanent armed force. Both suggestions have long been mooted, and are now being considered afresh in connection with a review of the Maskat situation just received from the Political Agent. Such are the financial and political straits to which the Sultan is reduced, that the only obstacle (other than of a purely financial character) likely to be encountered is that which would be afforded by French susceptibilities.

7. We share the Sub-Committee's misgivings that post-bellic conditions will not be such as to warrant any considerable relaxation of the preventive measures exercised in the Persian Gulf before the war, and we agree that the naval patrol should be re-established, as soon as circumstances permit, and maintained until the efficacy of any new agreements or arrangements can be properly gauged. At the same time we are doubtful of the expediency of their recommendation that a British officer should be permanently stationed at or near Deibai. The presence of a British officer on the Pirate Coast could hardly fail to act as an irritant on the Trucial Shiekhs and tribesmen and arouse their suspicions regarding our intentions, and we should prefer not to resort to this measure until the need for it is actually demonstrated.

8. We share the Sub-Committee's views on the importance of maintaining a close and continuous watch over the routes by which arms have reached the North-West Frontier and Afghanistan in the past. For even though the arms traffic in the Gulf be suppressed and the potential supply from Jibouti be cut off, the war has resulted in so great an influx of arms into Mesopotamia...
and Arabia generally that a considerable surplus will almost inevitably seek export along these routes under the pressure of high profits. In counter­ing this difficulty we shall doubtless receive the cooperation of the Mesopotamian administration. Within Persia itself we shall be able to rely on the South Persia Rifles; while if our recent recommendations regarding the future of Persian Baluchistan, including the Sardad, eventually materialize, the means at our disposal for the suppression of the arms traffic through Persia should be greatly strengthened. The fact, however, must be faced that the more effectively we suppress the traffic in our own sphere of influence, the greater will be the danger of arms draining to the frontier and Afghanistan from Russia and Northern Persia where our influence cannot reach.

9. As regards China and Japan, we should welcome any diplomatic action that might tend to minimise the danger of arms flowing into India from these quarters. But we feel with the Sub-Committee that the only satisfactory solution of the problem in the case of both, and indeed of the Far East generally, will be to rely on our own resources to intercept smuggling and to put it down by heavy penalties.

10. The purely Indian aspect of the problem has been engaging our earnest attention for some time, and a tightening up of our Indian Arms Rules to provide for a closer control over the possession of firearms, and of revolvers and automatic pistols in particular, is under consideration. Regarding the question of the traffic in the French Settlements in India, we are addressing you separately.

11. In the foregoing remarks, we have not taken into account the possibility of Russian territory becoming a serious element in the case. The conditions there are too chaotic to admit at present of any useful forecast of such a possibility or of any suggestions as to the best way of dealing with it, should it arise. But His Majesty’s Government will doubtless bear this aspect of the matter in mind.

We have, &c,

(Signed) W. S. MEYER.
C. H. A. HILL.
C. S. NAIR.
G. R. LOWNDES.
J. H. DeBOULAY.
SITUATION ON BATTLE FRONT, MID-DAY 26th MARCH, 1918.

1. The line North of the SOMME now runs:

BRAY - ALBERT - BEAUMONT-HAMEL - PUISIEUX - AYETTE - BOIRY - HERIN.

The enemy made no further attacks during the night on this part of the front, nor had he attacked during the forenoon to-day. The situation there appears to be one of stalemate. The Germans appear to be just as exhausted as our men.

2. Indications are pointing more and more to the fact that the enemy's main attack is South of the SOMME.

The line there appears to run from HERICOURT on the SOMME - through ROSIERS - West of ROYEN - and West of NOYON.

The Germans have been attacking heavily South of the SOMME this morning and took ROYEN at 10:30 a.m.

The 1st Guards Division, and probably another Guards Division, as well as the 5th and 6th Brandenburgs have both been identified in this area. These are all crack troops, and have come in from reserve. The units of our 5th Army are much mixed up with the French South of the SOMME and no definite statement can be made as to the distribution of the troops. The French Divisions are coming up well and are detraining at MONTDIDIER and MONBUIL.

The French express themselves confident of being able to deal with the situation South of the SOMME.

General Staff,
War Office.
26th March, 1918.
SITUATION ON BATTLE FRONT - MID-DAY 27TH MARCH, 1918.

1. During the night our troops were pressed back a short distance on both banks of the SOMME and early this morning were holding a line approximately

ROSIERES - HARBONNIERES - SAILLY-les-SEC - MERICOURT-l'ABBE - thence up to the ANCRE - to the railway embankment South-west of ALBERT. The enemy are in ALBERT.

2. At one time yesterday afternoon the enemy had crossed the ANCRE North of ALBERT, but was counter-attacked and driven out. North of this point there has been no change, but a strong attack is expected in the neighbourhood of BUCQUOY during the course of to-day - a fresh Division (the 3rd German Guards) having been brought up with this object. In this neighbourhood we have part of the New Zealand Division in line and a number of tired Divisions in reserve; the 2nd Canadian Division is arriving.

3. This morning Australians counter-attacked North of the SOMME, between the angle of the ANCRE and the SOMME, and re-captured MORLANCOURT.

4. Immediately South of the river the 16th Irish Division, though it has suffered very heavy losses, are holding their ground well. A further attack is anticipated in this area.

5. South of ROSIERES the 5th Army, operating under the French, are reported to be holding well.

6. No change in the situation at ROYE and NOYON is reported.

7. Our aeroplanes dropped 28 tons of bombs last night on BAPAUME and PERONNE, and our low-flying aeroplanes during yesterday continued to inflict heavy losses on the enemy's reserves.

General Staff,
War Office,
27th March, 1918.
1.30 p.m.
While great events are happening in France, we seem to be in some danger of losing sight of what is going to happen in Russia.

It is difficult to keep pace with all the telegrams, but the following appears to be the situation:-

On the one hand, we have Mr. Lockhart at Moscow acting in the closest collaboration with Trotsky and repeating to us daily with increasing passion the Trotsky formulas of:

(a) Creation of a new Russian revolutionary army
(b) Allied assistance in this undertaking
(c) No Allied or Japanese intervention at Vladivostock
(d) No Allied or British intervention at Murmansk or Archangel.

This, it is true, is a policy, but so far at any rate it has not got beyond the region of declamation.

As against this, we know that there is no Russian Army because it has disappeared: and that there is not likely to be any new Russian Army because no one means to fight. The majority of our advisers tell us that to hope to create a new State or a new Army in Russia out of the shattered debris of Bolshevism is a fantastic dream.

Meanwhile we have General Poole advising the occupation of Murmansk and Archangel. We find opinion even among Russians (M. Maklakoff himself is a convert) veering round in the direction of Japanese intervention in Siberia. But there seems to be a general consensus that if this takes place, it should be, not as an independent movement, or a movement made at the request or with the consent of the Allies, but a step taken with their actual and visible co-operation. Hitherto Japan is believed to have refused this condition. Will she persist in that attitude? It is the sole policy which America seems at all likely to favour.

Ought we not to decide between the two policies? To believe in one, while we pursue the other, or to believe in neither, but to pursue both, seems equally to lead to destruction.

(Intd.) C. of K.

26th March 1918.
1. The following are my revised figures for guns and carriages complete available by April 6th, including those in reserve in France and England, or in transit or at proof:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gun Type</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16 pr.</td>
<td>797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5&quot; How.</td>
<td>399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 pr.</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6&quot; How.</td>
<td>292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6&quot; Gun</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8&quot; How.</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.2&quot; How.</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12&quot; How.</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total equipments: 1906.

These figures are in advance of my previous estimate in each class - field, medium, and heavy - though the details are varied. They differ from the revised figures given in the printed minutes by including the current fortnight's output which can be handed over immediately without waiting for proof.

2. There have been heavy expenditures and still heavier losses of small arms ammunition in this moving warfare, and G.H.Q. has asked us for 250 million rounds at once. This can be supplied.

(Sgd) WINSTON S. CHURCHILL.
26.3.19.
THE LABOUR SITUATION.

Report from the Ministry of Labour for six days ending 28th March, 1918.

SUMMARY.

Part I: General Remarks.

The miners' ballot and the position of the A.S.E. are discussed.

Part II: Press Comments.

The opinion of the Labour press on foreign affairs, on war aims, on food, on shipbuilding, on man-power, on munitions expenditure, on education, and on housing is summarised.

Part III: District Reports.

On the whole the situation is quiet though in certain districts, notably in Yorkshire and the East Midlands, considerable unrest is reported.

Part IV: Disputes.

(a.) Involving a stoppage of work.—Certain reports have not been received, but important strikes are few, the chief being one at the Chippening Explosives Works in the Bristol area and one at the National Shell Factory at Leeds.

(b.) Not involving a stoppage of work.—With the exception of disputes on the subject of the 12½ per cent, advance among tramway and municipal employees in certain places there are no serious disputes.

The Miners' Ballot.

The meeting of the Conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain was held as arranged on the 22nd, the Prime Minister having received a deputation from the Executive Committee on the previous day. The profound effect of the Prime Minister's statement was evident in the Resolution passed by the Conference, which unanimously agreed that the men should be advised not to resist the taking of 50,000 men from the mines for the army. Presumably the ballot in favour of assisting the Government in the comb-out will now result in arrangements being made to this end.

Enquiries have been made in various directions with the object of eliciting the reasons which resulted in the adverse ballot on the main question, and as a result of these enquiries there seems little doubt that several causes were at work. In the first place in South Wales, Lancashire and Yorkshire, and in Scotland there is evidence of widespread and intense pacifist propaganda, which doubtless had the result of ensuring that the pacifists polled the full strength of their vote. In South Wales three notable propagandists, Mr. Noah Abblet, Mr. Winstone, and Mr. Barker, were most prominent, while in Lanarkshire the deportee, Mr. John McLean, and Mr. McDougall were assisted by a vigorous campaign on the part of the Women's Peace Crusade, of which Mrs. Crawford is probably the most noted and active member.
Secondly, it seems probable that the decertification of certain miners before the completion of the ballot was resented, and the resentment found expression in voting against the Government on the question at issue. In the third place it is also probable that the question of the dilutees had something to do with the result. There is in many quarters a strong feeling, similar to that which prevails among the members of the A.S.E. that the first people to go should be those who since 1914 have joined the union, many of them with the express object of escaping that conscription which would otherwise have been their lot.

These three reasons appear sufficiently to explain the adverse vote. The discussion though interesting is, however, now of minor importance, as there is little doubt that the grave condition of affairs in France will result in stimulating the patriotism of the miners, and there seems no chance that any opposition to the comb-out will now be offered by them.

The A.S.E.

On Thursday last, the 21st March, a meeting, which purported to consist of delegates of this society from the whole of the United Kingdom and which was held in Manchester, passed resolutions which appeared in full in the daily press. These protested against the Man-Power Bill and informed the Government that the engineers would cease work on the 6th April, as a protest against the skilled men being taken into the army, whilst dilutees liable and fit for military service were retained in the workshops. It was also resolved that the resolution should be sent to all District Committees, with the request that it should be submitted to an aggregate meeting of members at the earliest possible moment, and the result communicated not later than the 3rd April, and that representatives of all districts should attend a further conference for the 4th April "to finally notify all districts whether or not to cease work in accordance with the result of the voting received."

The meeting and its result have been advertised in the public press on a scale which appears to be out of proportion to their importance. It is true that the official presiding at the meeting was Mr. Ryder, who is the local chairman of the A.S.E. The delegates, however, appear to have consisted simply of the irreconcilable minority from the London Conference of the A.S.E., together with a number of Manchester shop stewards, whose attitude towards the Government on all questions is notoriously hostile. The meeting was in no sense an official meeting of the A.S.E., and though it is believed that certain members of the Executive of the Society were cognizant of its proceedings, there can be little doubt that those proceedings were in effect of the nature of a revolt against the constituted authority of the Society.

The statement by Mr. Robert Young, General Secretary of the Society, reported in to-day’s "Times" (26th March) shows that the Executive realise the danger to the Society which may result from this unconstitutional action, but they are a weak body and cannot be trusted to give a strong lead, although they have a great opportunity of reasserting their authority over the rebel element, of whom they have been afraid hitherto. In view of the conditions of the present week little sympathy will be found to exist in any quarter for the small body of disgruntled delegates and their adherents who perpetrated the Manchester resolutions. No strike is likely to occur, but if there were stoppages, the public and the other trade unions would strongly resent them at such a crisis.

II.—PRESS COMMENTS.

Foreign Affairs: Japan and Russia.

There is some sign of abatement in the interest in Japanese intervention in Siberia which has been displayed of late by the Labour and Socialist Press. The "Labour Leader," however, devotes considerable space to the subject, and seize upon President Wilson's "sympathetic message to the Russian Soviet" as "an indication that America is opposed to the contemplated invasion." Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, both in "Forward" and in the "Leicester Pioneer," is more moderate. In his opinion, the whole question depends on whether the Russian Government agrees, and while he is satisfied with the tone of Mr. Balfour’s statement, he thinks that, as usual, the Foreign Office is "backing the wrong horse." The "Nation" is
also slightly more satisfied, and attributes the improvement in the position to President Wilson. The South Wales "Pioneer" is less accommodating, blaming Mr. Balfour's anti-democratic policy, and "Common Sense" prints an account of an interview with Mr. Crisp, whose view is hostile to intervention. The only paper which gives its support to that policy is the "British Citizen," which is now apparently quite satisfied.

**Holland.**

The question of the Dutch ships attracts some attention. The comment varies from the extremes of disapproval shown by the "Bradford Pioneer," which heads its article "Hacking our Way Through," and the "Herald," which talks of adherence to "the pure Prussian doctrine of military necessity," to warm welcome by the "British Citizen," which says that "in taking over Dutch shipping the Allies have illustrated the practical working of the League of Nations."

**War Aims.**

The "Labour Leader" attacks the Prime Minister's City Temple speech, "which completely destroys whatever reasonable value might have been attached to the speech he delivered in January." "Forward" and the "Bradford Pioneer" also express dissatisfaction with this speech, the latter complaining that it gives a completely false account of the German reply to the Pope's peace offer. "Justice" devotes its leading article to an examination of the reception accorded to the Inter-Allied Socialist war aims in Germany, and proves to its own satisfaction that Social Democracy in Germany is powerless.

Some attention is devoted to Count Hertling's recent speech, in which—quite justly thinks the "Herald"—he accuses the Entente of "hypocrisy." The same paper contains a curious article by Mr. Brailsford, in which he admits that we might have a favourable peace in the West by giving a free hand to Germany in Russia, but asserts that this "means the defeat and negation of every ideal which disinterested minds have conceived during this war." He finished, however, with a somewhat weak plea for peace negotiations.

**Food.**

Most notable under this head is an exceedingly vigorous defence of State control which appears in the "Clarion." It points out the shortness of the period during which the Ministry of Food has been at work, how the difficulties have during that time rapidly increased, and proceeds to claim for the Ministry and the Allied Wheat Commission a very considerable degree of success. Some of the other papers are less favourable, but on the whole the subject does not attract very much attention.

**Shipbuilding.**

The "Leicester Pioneer" attacks Mr. Barnes for his speech on labour in the shipyards, but admits that there was much truth in what he said. "Forward" thinks that the "jacks in office are solely responsible for all the muddle." The "New Statesman," however, has come round to the view that "there was much truth in Sir Eric Geddes' charge that the situation was not realised sufficiently by the employers and men." It thinks, however, that the real cause of the small output is undoubtedly "the rival claim of naval shipbuilding." The "British Citizen" welcomes Lord Pirrie's advent, but on the whole comment is unimportant.

**Man-Power.**

This subject receives surprisingly little attention. "Justice" prints a reasonable appeal to "young engineers" from "An Old Engineer," but the "Herald" does not think that the second ballot will reverse the first. The result of the miners' ballot appears to have been received too late for comment, as it is not dealt with.

**Munitions Expenditure.**

In the report of the Select Committee on National Expenditure even the more moderate writers find justification for the claim that this is a "capitalist war."
"Forward" has an intensely bitter article, in which it suggests that the names of these patriotic exploiters should be printed, and concludes by warning the workers that "they have got to fight more than the Central Powers." The "Yorkshire Factory Times" thinks that the statement "makes one blush for the alleged patriotism of the people concerned," and wonders "what would have happened if the Socialists had been in power in place of the business men." The "Co-operative News" does not know whether most to condemn the profiteers or the Ministry, and the "Bradford Pioneer" is equally bitter. The "South Wales Pioneer" reprints with approval a damning indictment of the Priority Department from the "National News".

**Education.**

The progress of the Education Bill has called forth comment, mostly favourable, for some weeks past. This week the majority of the papers refer to the subject, but the opinions expressed are somewhat divided. The bourgeois papers, such as the "New Statesman" and the "Nation," welcome the Bill as an instalment, though the "New Witness" is still hostile, on the grounds that it is simply being fitted into a capitalist scheme. Most enthusiastic are the "Leeds Citizen" and the "British Citizen." The former regards the Bill as a great victory, one of the triumphs of peace over war and the latter thinks that "in its scope and importance it is a greater measure of reform and progress than the Franchise Act." The "Call" is perhaps most satisfied, and expresses the opinion that the Bill does practically nothing. "Justice" expresses more moderate disapproval, but is determined to make sure of what is offered.

**Housing.**

This subject has attracted a considerable degree of attention during the past week. The "New Statesman" attacks the Treasury and Local Government Board for mining the plans of the Ministry of Reconstruction. The "Leeds Citizen," on the other hand, blames "the selfish opposition of landlordism" to the Local Government Board. The "Yorkshire Factory Times" deals with the local problem in Yorkshire.

**The Second Whitley Report.**

For the most part this report is printed without comment, though the "Labour Leader" promises to deal with it later. The "Herald," however, expresses an opinion which is again somewhat dubious. It approves very much of the proposal to extend the Trade Boards, but does not think the partially organised industries sufficiently strong for the system proposed.

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**III. — District Reports.**

**London and South-Eastern.**

Unrest, of a somewhat trivial nature, is again evident in this district, and this has taken effect in a number of small and unimportant strikes. In two cases discontent has been due to questions arising out of the 12½ per cent. bonus. The Woolwich and Plumstead branches of the National Union of Clerks are again making great efforts to amalgamate with the War Department Writers' Association, as it is thought that the position of both might be greatly improved by such a fusion of forces.

**West Midlands.**

The situation in this area seems on the whole to be quiet. Some discontent is evident at the Triumph Works, Coventry, where certain members of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers are complaining of the price which they are being paid for their work, and are also demanding less overtime work. Again, at the Hotchkiss Works, unrest has arisen over the case of the well-known shop steward, Dingley, which is dealt with in Part IV of this report.
At Birmingham the trouble arising out of claims for the 12½ per cent. bonus, which have been put forward by Tramway and Corporation employees, has continued. The I.L.P. still appear to be active in this district, and are endeavouring to secure further recruits. Mrs. Philip Snowden was the speaker at a meeting on the 17th, at which she explained the objects of the I.L.P., and spoke from the usual lines.

Yorkshire and East Midlands.

The situation in this area shows no improvement, and considerable unrest is again reported. As regards the Man-Power Bill, discontent is again evident at Sheffield, where some men of the Electrical Trades Union are claiming to be exempt as skilled men. This claim is the subject of arbitration before a munitions tribunal, and the members of the E.T.U. employed atMessrs. Vickers have now threatened to strike should any of their fellows be taken for military service pending the result of this arbitration.

The members of the A.S.E. are returning all calling up notices as cancelled until an agreement with the Government has been reached.

In the woollen industry the situation is still unsettled. A conference has been held at Bradford to consider the applications which have been put forward for advances in wages by the National Association of Unions, but no decision was reached. A further conference is to be held shortly.

The National Association of Unions in the textile trade has approved a scheme for the constitution of an industrial council, and this is to be submitted to the employers' associations for consideration.

A meeting in aid of the Women's Peace Crusade was held at Bradford on the 17th, which was apparently well attended, while the speakers were on the whole moderate in tone. A rival meeting at which the speaker adopted an opposite point of view, and spoke upon "Our all-conquering army," was apparently attended by a large and enthusiastic audience.

North-Western.

The reinstatement of Murphy has relieved the extreme discontent which was aroused by his alleged victimisation.

In other respects, there is, however, unrest throughout the area.

As regards the man-power situation, an important National Conference of Engineers was held in Manchester on the 21st. The proceedings are described and discussed in Part I of this report.

At Barrow again it is reported that considerable labour unrest exists.

Northern.

The position in this area is, on the whole, quiet.

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At Barrow again it is reported that considerable labour unrest exists.

South Wales.

The situation in this area is, on the whole, comparatively quiet.

The suggestion of the 12½ per cent. advance is still causing unrest among railwaymen at Cardiff, and it is feared that this may lead to somewhat serious developments.

In connection with the question of the comb-out, a small strike occurred at two pits in Glamorganshire owing to the management having served notices upon four of the miners. It was hoped, however, that work would be resumed on the 25th.
Scotland.

There appears to be little unrest in this district, and the somewhat scanty reports point to a favourable situation. The remarkable improvement which has undoubtedly occurred on the Clyde during the past two months has been attributed locally to the Bolshevik failure to stay the German advance.

Much discontent, however, still exists on the Clyde, owing to the shutting of the public houses from Friday to Monday.

IV.—DISPUTES.

(a.) Involving a Stoppage of Work.

Owing to the fact that this report has to go to the press a day earlier than is usual it has been impossible to obtain very full information from the various Departments concerned.

The general situation seems on the whole comparatively quiet and more satisfactory than last week. The number of strikes reported is not large, though some of these are of considerable importance.

The Shipyard Labour Department reports only three new stoppages of work; there are also twenty cases standing over from previous weeks. In twenty cases out of this total, work has already been resumed. Only 129 men have been involved, a number much below the average for the past few months.

The strikes mentioned were also of short duration.

A partial resumption of work was attained during the week at Messrs. Denny Brothers, Dumbarton, and it was anticipated that all the men would resume on the 25th. Negotiations are proceeding at Messrs. Harland and Wolff and Messrs. Workman, Clark, Belfast, where 2,000 joiners were recently on strike.

The War Office Contracts has two new stoppages of work to report, one of which has been previously mentioned. A strike of carpenters has occurred at Messrs. Waring and Gillow's owing to an application for the 12½ per cent. The work upon which the men are engaged is urgently required, and in consequence the firm have decided to concede their demands. The men engaged on road making in the factory grounds have also struck in sympathy.

At Liverpool a strike of boilermen engaged in connection with the production of sugar has occurred. This was due to the fact that the award by which the 12½ per cent. advance was conceded to them was not made retrospective from the 13th October.

The Coal Controller reports twelve new cases of stoppage of work, but in eight of these cases work has already been resumed. In three out of the four cases to which reference has previously been made the men have also returned to work. The number of men involved has been somewhat high, being as many as 12,000 approximately.

In Lanarkshire five new stoppages have occurred, in two of which resumptions have since taken place. The immediate causes of these seem to have been trivial, but it is believed that the real reason for discontent and unrest must be sought in the recent decertification order. In one instance a stoppage of one day took place with the definite object of discussing this question. Several short stoppages have also occurred in South Wales, and one in Derbyshire. One somewhat trivial strike continues in the Yorkshire district.

An important strike occurred in the Bristol area where 1,500 men at the Chippening Explosives Works went on strike with regard to the transfer of a foreman. It now appears that the men are endeavouring to extend the strike to other firms.

Another important strike has occurred at three works of the National Shell Factory at Leeds, which involves about 2,500 men and women. Five men were dismissed on the 20th from the Newlav Works on account of a refusal to do some work which, they alleged, was dangerous. Hence the workers struck in sympathy. This action is due to the Shop Stewards Committee and is not approved by the Amalgamated Society of Engineers officials, who believe that the motive underlying the present action is opposition to the Man Power Bill. It is thought, however, that the Shop Stewards Committee will endeavour to bring out other firms in sympathy.

At Coventry about 600 employees of the Hotchkiss Works came out on the 21st
as a protest against the dismissal of certain workers, amongst whom is the well-
known shop steward, T. Dingley. This man alleges that he is being victimised, and
is trying to arrange a protest meeting in Coventry.

The aircraft woodworkers at Leeds resumed work on the 22nd after the issue
of their award. The coke-oven men who were on strike in Yorkshire have now
returned to work after a conference held at the Ministry of Labour.

The tram workers at Bradford have also resumed work, but the dispute with
the Doncaster Corporation workers is not yet settled.

No report has been received from the Ministry of Munitions this week.

b.) Not involving a Stoppage of Work.

The Shipyard Labour Department have 58 new controversial cases to report, and
129 old; of this total 60 have already been settled. The number of new cases stands
decidedly higher than during the past few weeks. The largest number of cases
comes as usual from Liverpool and Glasgow, but these seem on the whole to be of
an unimportant nature.

The boilermakers in the London area have voted 16 to 1 in favour of stopping
piece-work; the Executive have, however, decided that piece-work is to continue, and
the price list is to be arranged.

The War Office Contracts Department has only one new case of dispute to report
and two which have been previously mentioned.

The former is due to an application for the 12½ per cent. by the workmen of
Messrs. Whitecross Company, Limited, Warrington, who are engaged on wire-
drawing. A strike was thought to be imminent owing to the firm's refusal to agree
to arbitration. The matter was, however, subsequently taken up by the Ministry of
Labour with the Ministry of Munitions, and sanction for payment of the increase
has been granted to the firm.

The men at the Elswick Leather Works, who put in an application for increases
of wages varying from 9½d. to 1s. an hour, are apparently on the point of striking.
Investigations are being made into the matter.

Further particulars of the application which is being put forward by the
United Garment Workers are now known. The demands seem to vary from 4½d.
to 1½d. an hour, and are based upon the increased price of foodstuffs.

Negotiations regarding the applications for inclusion in the 12½ per cent. on
which the Birmingham tramwaymen were threatening to strike have been pro-
ceeding, and it is to be regretted that the Corporation have conceded the claims of the
men, both in the amount of the bonus and the backdating of payment to the 15th
December. Tramway workers in Dublin are also threatening to come out, and this
class appears generally to be in a state of unrest.

The Committee on Production have heard during the week 38 arbitration cases,
and in addition, sitting as the Special Arbitration Tribunal, they have heard one
case in connection with the 12½ per cent. award.

The National Federation of General Workers claimed an advance of wages to
be paid to all members engaged on gas undertakings. The N.U.R., the Craft Unions,
and Workers' Union are applying on behalf of artisans and their labourers for the
12½ per cent. and 7½ per cent.

176 differences have been reported to the Chief Industrial Commissioner during
the week, of which 60 are claims for the 12½ per cent. Of the total, 68 fall in the
engineering trade group. The most important of the cases heard was an application
for the extension of an award relating to the 12½ per cent. bonus and the building
trade to all operatives engaged on munitions work.

D. J. SHACKLETON.
Colonel Jones

His Document is the property of his Britannic Majesty's Government

B.C.R.E.T.

WAR CABINET.

APPLICATION OF MILITARY SERVICE ACT TO IRELAND.

Memorandum by General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Irish Command.

The following was written by General Byrne and the parts underlined are the comments on the Memorandum made by General Byrne, who otherwise approves of it.

(Sgd.) H.E. Duke.

26/3/1918.

Conscription can be enforced but with the greatest difficulty. It will be bitterly opposed by the united Nationalists and the Clergy. The present time is the worst for it since I have been in Ireland because the cry will be England down Ireland's opportunity. Some of the difficulties would be organised strikes dislocating the life of the country Railway, Post Office and Telegraphs communications cut. There are fewer troops in Ireland than there have been for some time. More have to be taken. We would have to have additional troops for the time at least two Brigades (? I think considerably more), these I do not anticipate would be required for more than three months.

Ireland would have to be divided into several districts. It would be a question that will have to be considered if compulsion is put in force in the whole simultaneously or district by district. But to render it feasible either way the country must be put under some kind of military control. Law would have to be dropped because ordinarily for the first fortnight at least there would be bloodshed and a great deal of suffering to the civil population in every way and hardships.

The number of men we would get I cannot estimate. Ten months ago I estimated 160,000 with very liberal exemptions. It ought to be more now with increased age. I am of opinion that some of the men when got would make good and reliable soldiers. A considerable number might be likely to give trouble. The police would have to be concentrated into larger parties thus curtailing their usefulness. Coast watching would be interfered with also tillage.

I would suggest that the first thing is to get all known leaders out of the way at once, extra troops should be on the spot simultaneously and everyone irrespective of who he is arrested on first sign of giving trouble.

These measures would be drastic but the situation is serious or it would not be considered necessary to have conscription at this inopportune time.

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WAR CABINET.

Army Rations.

Memorandum by the Secretary of State for War.

In continuation of my memorandum of 22nd March, G.T. 4006, I circulate some notes on certain papers which have been laid before the War Cabinet, viz.:

(1) A note on G.T. 3790 by Sir Alfred Mond and 3985 by the Food Controller.
(2) " G.T. 3990 by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.
(3) " G.T. 4000 by the Food Controller.

DERBY.

27th March, 1916.
The Memoranda submitted by Sir A. Mond and Lord Rhondda taken together raise five main issues:

1. The sufficiency or otherwise of the civilian meat ration.
2. A further reduction in the Home Service Scale of Rations, on the ground that it is in excess of the scale allowed to the civil population.
3. Differentiation in scales between various classes of Troops at Home.
4. A further reduction in the rations of certain Troops in the Field.
5. The utilization for the civil population of Army Reserves of Meat.

Taking the points seriatim:

1. The Army Council have no remarks beyond observing that Lord Rhondda does not agree with Sir Alfred Mond.

2 and 3.
2. and 3. The proposed reduction of the Home Service scale, as well as the question of differentiation by classes, has already been dealt with comprehensively in the reply of the Army Council to Mr. Austen Chamberlain's Memorandum G.T.3990. It is therefore unnecessary to repeat the arguments here.

4. About a year ago, in addition to a series of reductions by items which had been affected from time to time, it was decided to differentiate between Troops on the Lines of Communication and Troops at the Front. Two scales were adopted involving a material decrease in the ration of the former class of Troops.

On the representations of the Army Council these two scales have recently been further considered, and recommendations have now been received from the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief.

The proposed reductions in meat and bacon are considerable, but they involve the introduction of substitutes, some of which it may be difficult for the Food Ministry to obtain, e.g., butter and cereals. The approval of the Army Council will depend on the possibility of providing the substitutes.

6. In their Memoranda Sir A. Mond and Lord Rhondda advocate the utilization of the Army Reserves of meat to tide over what they consider the critical period. The effect of such a measure would merely amount to making the position of the civil population easier at the expense of the Army, and making the period a critical one for the Army instead of for Lord
Lord Rhondda.

Army stocks at the present moment stand at 36,000 tons. In May they will have dwindled to 18,000 tons - this figure makes no allowance whatever for probable losses at sea or delays in shipping. A Reserve of 18,000 tons for the Army is a dangerously low one, and Lord Rhondda has in two recent Memoranda, G.T.3049 and G.T.4000, advocated the principle of adequate reserves being kept under Army Control. But that in May the Reserve will stand even at this figure is solely due to the Army having been able to acquire in the Autumn of 1917 20,000 tons of Home-killed meat. Had this not been available Army stocks in May would have shown a deficit of 2,000 tons, and the Army would have been without meat for a considerable period.

In view of this position the Army Council regard the proposals to utilize the Army Meat Reserve for the civil population with the gravest apprehension as certain to jeopardize the continuity of supply to the Troops.

25th March, 1918.
RATIONS OF THE HOME ARMY and SUPPLIES FOR THE NAVY AND ARMY CANTEN BOARD

Memorandum by the Army Council on Memorandum by Mr. Austen Chamberlain G.T. 3990.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain raises three questions in his Memorandum:

1. That the Home Service Ration is excessive in quantity and variety as compared with the food of the ordinary civilian.

2. That the Army ration should be reduced accordingly by four ounces of meat or the equivalent in canteen supplies.

3. That there should be differentiation in scales for various classes of soldiers serving at Home.

At the outset the Army Council desire to place on record their considered opinion that the proposals contained in Mr. Chamberlain's Memorandum in common with the Memoranda G.T. 3790 and G.T. 3985 by Sir Alfred Mond and Lord Rhondda respectively raise grave issues affecting the morale of the Army, the importance of which can in their view only be correctly appreciated by those responsible for the state of the Military Forces.

It is therefore the duty of the Army Council to request that they be fully consulted on any projected decision on proposals in order that its effect on the troops may be fully appreciated by the War Cabinet before any definite ruling is given.

Taking the points raised seriatim:

1. The comparison instituted by Mr. Chamberlain between the soldier's ration and that of the ordinary civilian has in fact no validity, in that the soldier is rationed in every article of his diet whereas the civilian is only restricted in certain commodities.

To assert therefore that the civilian is limited to 2,700 calories is entirely fallacious, since there is nothing to prevent the civilian purchasing those articles, which are not rationed by the Food Controller, in any quantities he desires or can afford.

The soldier is very differently situated. His whole mode of life is legislated for; his liberty is restricted and as regards his meals he has to conform to a daily programme which he cannot as an individual vary. His pay is small and he cannot afford to buy expensive substitutes, nor can he, like the worker, strike
strike for increase of wages. No such restrictions are placed on the ordinary civilian, who has no restrictions on his liberty; he can live how and where he likes; he can and does strike for increase of wages when it suits him; if he cannot get one form of food he makes it up with another; and he is only "rationed" in a few essential articles.

It is therefore clear that Mr. Chamberlain's comparison is based on the assumption that interior economy in the Home Army is comparable with that obtaining in civil life whereas in fact no such comparison is possible.

2. The Army Council are well aware that circumstances may arise dictating the necessity of further reducing the Home Service Scale of Rations, but they hold very strongly to the view that these circumstances must be shown to be imperative before they are justified in disregarding the advice tendered by the scientists of the Royal Army Medical Corps.

The whole history of the rations scale during the war has been one of constant consideration and revision to meet altered circumstances and resources, and the present Home Service Scale has been fixed at a level below which the Council's medical advisers have not heretofore considered it safe to go.

If the reductions suggested by Mr. Chamberlain or any portion of them are decided by the War Cabinet to be a necessity in view of the general food position, the question of the provision of suitable substitutes will have to be a matter of arrangement between the Army Council and the Food Controller.

The Council are therefore not in a position to express any opinion on the feasibility of Mr. Chamberlain's suggested reduction until the War Cabinet have ruled, as to the degree of necessity, and the Council have had an opportunity of consulting their medical advisors, and arranging with the Food Controller as to the provision of the necessary substitutes.

3. The difficulties of differentiation of scales for various classes of soldiers serving at home are possibly not appreciated by those unfamiliar with Army Administration.

In anticipation of the present meat shortage an attempt was recently made by the Army Council to adopt two scales of rations for troops at Home, differentiating between the following two classes:

(a) Troops under training or otherwise in preparation for service overseas and mobile formations actually employed in Home Defence.

(b) All other troops at home.

Instructions were issued that the ration of class (b) should be reduced as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Class (a)</th>
<th>Class (b)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meat</td>
<td>12 ozs. to 8 ozs.</td>
<td>8 ozs. to 4 ozs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar</td>
<td>3 &quot; to 1 &quot;</td>
<td>2 &quot; to 1 &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bacon</td>
<td>2 &quot; to 1 &quot;</td>
<td>1 &quot; to 1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tea</td>
<td>½ oz. to 3/8 oz.</td>
<td>1 oz. to 3/4 oz.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Following upon this order the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief the Home Forces made representations in the strongest terms to the War Office, that the differentiation not only proved impossible
impossible in practice but was also dangerous in the interests of discipline. He stated that he had been rung up by every Command in the Kingdom and General Officers had come personally to protest and represent their difficulties. Briefly these difficulties were that in almost every Barrack room in the Kingdom there are different classes of men with the result that in every central messing there were men entitled to different scales of food, and it is quite impossible in practice to serve the meals out in varying proportions.

Again in every barrack room there are men returned from the fighting areas who have been wounded or are in impaired health. They are men who came voluntarily forward earlier in the war and have submitted to all forms of privations, and they naturally resent being now put on a lower scale than the last joined recruit dragged into the Service against his will. Instances of this kind could be multiplied, but it is enough to say that the difficulties are so great that the Field Marshal is not prepared to take the responsibility of attempting to differentiate in the manner proposed.

The order was accordingly cancelled and the flat rate of 10 ozs. of meat for all Troops at Home (except A.4. boys, who remain at 12 ozs) was adopted.

A usual form of criticism is that which is directed against Military Clerks, but the difficulty of differentiation may be illustrated by the following example:—

A Military Office may contain 20 clerks, of whom, say, 10 are married and 10 unmarried, 5 of the former are accessible to their families and accordingly live at home, the other 15 are attached for rations and accommodation to the nearest Infantry Battalion,  However much we might wish to cook for these men and serve their food separately it could never be done, their reduced ration goes into the pool with the other thousand rations and the differentiation is lost. There in addition the anomaly of two different scales of rations among the 20 clerks serving in the same office, as well as a penalty placed on any battalion of Infantry that may have "sedentary" soldiers attached to it.

Whatever may be the decision of the War Cabinet on the points raised in Mr. Chamberlain's Memorandum, the Army Council, as responsible for the discipline and welfare of the Army considered it their duty to reiterate their opening remarks so that there can be no possibility of the aspect of the question, as affecting the morale of the Home Army, being lost sight of.

It must be remembered that the soldier is compelled by law to serve, and the corollary of this obligation is equitable treatment by his employer - the State. The State has no more right to take advantage of the soldier's position than a parent has to take advantage of the helpless position of a child. Part of the definite understanding with the soldier is that he should be properly fed by the State. He has in many cases surrendered lucrative occupations, and with all the restrictions on his liberty and pay, he cannot live with or near his family, nor contribute towards their maintenance as he would wish. Apart altogether from considerations of health, it would seem dangerous and gratuitous provocation to reduce him to the barest standard of existence, so long as there is any choice in the matter, especially while the civilian can eat as much as his purse allows. Finally there are reasons which need not be mentioned here, which, in the opinion of the Army Council, would make any tampering with the soldier's moderate standard of comfort and undertaking fraught with danger to the stability of the Home Army.
TRANSFER OF THE CONTROL OF REFRIGERATED MEAT TO THE MINISTRY OF

Food.

Memorandum by the Army Council

in reply to

Memorandum by the Food Controller, G.T.4008.

With regard to this Memorandum G.T.4000, the Army Council regret their observations by way of reply are not acceptable to Lord Rhondda, but they are under the necessity of pointing out that Lord Rhondda in his Memorandum placed upon the Council the onus of replying to certain statements. The Army Council have given their reply and must adhere to all the statements contained in that reply as being questions of fact capable of proof. They therefore consider that there is nothing to be gained by further representation on their part until the War Cabinet have had an opportunity of determining which contention is correct.

The Council however note with satisfaction the reiterated assurance of Lord Rhondda with regard to priority of Army Requirements and the necessity for adequate Army Reserves under Army Control. The claim put forward in his Memorandum G.T.3049 to control all supplies of meat in the interests of the civil population left them in serious doubt on this important point, notwithstanding the qualification contained in the last paragraph of that Memorandum.

25th March, 1918.
SECRET.

BATTLE SITUATION EVENING 27TH MARCH, 1918.

At 6.30 this evening G.H.Q., France reported by telephone that the enemy throughout the day has made a number of heavy attacks both North and South of the SOMME, but so far as is known he had made no impression on our line.

The anticipated attack by the 3rd Guard Division on BUQUOY, half-way between ALBERT and ARRAS, developed but is said to have met with no success.

Heavy German attacks are reported West of ROYE and the enemy this morning is said to have captured DAVENESCOURT and LABOISSIERE. The former place is within three miles of the MONTDIDIER-AILANS railway, the latter is six miles East of MONTDIDIER.

We have now five fresh and a number of tired Divisions in reserve between ARRAS and the SOMME.

The enemy has not succeeded so far in bringing up many guns.

French troops are detraining rapidly at MONTDIDIER and ERETUEIL.

General Staff,
War Office,
27th March, 1918.
7.30 p.m.
There is in my opinion a substantial difference between the possibilities of success of an extension to Ireland of the British law of military service and those of a scheme of compulsory enrolment by ballot for the purpose of completing and maintaining the effectives of the 94 battalions forming the nine Irish Regiments of the Line. The former will, I believe, be likely to end the whole chapter of effort to establish concord between the two countries — unless it is accepted to get self-government. I agree with the expert advisers who predict that it would consolidate into one mass of antagonism all the Nationalist elements in Ireland, politicians, priests, men and women. I have grave doubts whether it would not even prevent serious consideration of a system of self-government, if the two proposals were made simultaneously, but the question of military service (as is essential) were given precedence. As to this matter, however, I am not confident. I have the gravest possible apprehensions. On the other hand, the plan of limiting enrolment by the standard of the requirements of Irish regiments, the gradual character of the process, its limited application within defined classes of the young menhood of the country, and the chances of total escape of military service which the ballot would give, are elements in the project which seem to me (a) likely to break the force of national opposition, and (b) to lessen the prospect of wholesale and combined resistance organised in advance. The proposal in this Amending Bill which would be required for the introduction of a ballot for recruits for the Irish Regiments would take some such form as that which follows:

His Majesty may by Order in Council direct the raising in Ireland from time to time of such numbers of men as shall be required to complete and maintain the effective strength of the following Regiments:

Irish Guards, Royal Irish Regiment, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, Royal Irish Rifles, Royal Irish Fusiliers, Connaught Rangers, Leinster Regiment, Royal Munster Fusiliers, and Royal Dublin Fusiliers, the numbers of the men so to be raised to be apportioned among the cities, towns and counties of Ireland as by Order in Council shall be from time to time directed and the selection of the men so to be raised to be determined by ballot in the several areas in such manner and under such regulations as His Majesty by Order in Council shall from time to time direct.

I would add to this Bill another Clause dealing with the danger of the existing Rebel Volunteer organisations. I recently had a draft Bill prepared, the material Clause of which was in the form subjoined:

I. (1) Any adult male British subject ordinarily resident in Ireland who, at any time after the passing of this Act, acts as a member of any organisation formed for the practice of military exercises, movements, or drill, shall be deemed as from the appointed date to have been duly enlisted in His Majesty's regular Forces for general service with the Colours or in the Reserve for the period of the war and to have been forthwith transferred to the Reserve and subject to the provisions of this Act, the Military Service Acts 1916 to 1918 shall extend to him in like manner as to a man to whom section one of the Military Service Act 1916 (Section 2) applies.
For the purposes of this Section a man shall be taken to "act as a member of such organisation as aforesaid if, not being a "member of His Majesty's Naval or Military Forces, or a police com- "stable, or person duly authorised by the Lord Lieutenant in that "behalf, he

(a) practices, takes part, or is concerned in any exercise, movement, or drill of a military character, or

(b) uses or wears in a public place any uniform of a naval or military character, or part of any such uniform,

and the appointed date shall be the day on which he does any of the "acts aforesaid".

It seems to me of such vital consequence with regard to the future conditions of life in Great Britain and Ireland and the permanent relations of the two Islands to minimise possibilities of trouble in Ireland during the present crisis that I attach extreme importance to the probable difference in the effect of two alternative methods of procedure with regard to man-power.

I attach a memorandum prepared by General Byrne of the Royal Irish Constabulary, and assented to by General Sir Bryan Mahon, which was handed to me shortly before I attended at the Cabinet to-day, as expressing their considered opinion on the question of enrolment by ballot.

(Sgd) H. E. DUKE.

Irish Office,
March 27th, 1918.
1. It is assumed that the scheme will only be applied in conjunction with some form of Self-Government which will satisfy moderate Nationalist opinion. How far such form of Self-Government be likely to cause trouble amongst the extreme Unionists in the North and the extreme Sinn Feiners? This will have a bearing on the success of the Scheme.

2. The Sinn Fein organisation will, I anticipate, put forward every effort to present the Scheme being a success. Their popularity will be greatly increased as practically all the young Catholic men in the country will join them. The young clergy will be bitterly hostile and the older clergy will be either hostile or neutral. Moderate and better class opinion will probably receive the scheme favourably although until its success is assured many will not have the courage to assist it.

3. In my opinion therefore we must be prepared to carry the scheme through in the face of almost as much hostility from those likely and able to cause trouble as would be encountered in the enforcement of general conscription. It can only succeed provided the detailed arrangements are drawn up with secrecy and efficiency and that overwhelming force is displayed during the early progress of the measures decided upon.

4. It is to be realised that the scheme will practically result in complete Irish Battalion of conscripts. Do the military authorities consider that they can be relied on. It may be urged that subsequent transfer may be affected but the difficulties of wholesale transfer (which are contrary to the spirit of the scheme) cannot be overlooked. Is such a transfer to be arbitrary or is it to be the result of investigation into individual cases of suspicion?

5. As to the Ballot:

I anticipate passive resistance; I also foresee difficulties in obtaining local co-operation from the country. Is it to be dealt with solely by the military (i.e. Headquarters of Regimental Districts) or by military and Civil officials combined? For the sake of example assume that the immediate quota referred from the Co. Cork for its Territorial Battalion (Munster Fusiliers) is 300 men, assume that there are 1000 men of 21 years of age from whom it is decided to take the quota by Ballot - assume also that the great majority of these 1000 men will refuse to obey any summons to come forward for medical examination, or for claims for exemption, it will then rest with the County Committee to conduct the Ballot themselves. They might be able to deal with exemptions from Police Reports or from local knowledge but to allow for errors - medical rejections - they would probably have to call up say, an extra 200 men. Then assume that the great majority of
the 500 men so called up refuse to attend at the place of
joining, they will then have to be rounded up by Police and
military. This will give rise to troublesome and give risor
to local disturbances.

6. The country would be in such a disturbed state that in the
majority of counties the Police would have to be concentrated
into larger bodies; this would impair their efficiency and
necessitate increased number of troops.

7. In conclusion, I am of opinion that in view of the grave
emergency which requires additional men for the Army the Scheme
outlined by the Chief Secretary is practicable. It is only
practicable however provided that no half measures be adopted,
that for the initial stages only the County be flooded with
troops, that all prominent agitators be removed at once, that
the Press be put under drastic control, and that the detailed
arrangements be drawn up with the greatest skill and foresight.
If there be any flaw in any of the above precautions, that
instead of being a success it will lead to a deplorable state
of affairs in Ireland.

I assume that this Scheme will be adequately "boomed" in
every way by the Press Propaganda Department.

(Signed) W. Byrne.

27. 5. 18.

N.B. In spite of the difficulties set forth above, this
Scheme would be more likely to succeed than a
Scheme of general conscription.
SECRET

No. 545/31 G.

Chief of the Imperial General Staff,
War Office, London, S.W.

I enclose a Summary of Information concerning the allied Forces on this front for the month of February, 1918, together with a sketch map shewing approximate dispositions of all troops in this theatre.

(Signed) G. F. Milne.

G.H.Q.,
Salonika,
10th March, 1918.

Lieutenant-General,
Commanding-in-Chief,
British Salonika Force.
SECRET.
No. 545/31 G.

SUMMARY of INFORMATION
for month of FEBRUARY, 1918.

GENERAL.

The King of Greece visited the 16th Corps front on the 9th February, when a small review was held. He also visited the other allied fronts during his stay at Salonika.

On account of the slight disturbances in the interior of Greece, a regiment of the Archipelago Division has been taken out of the line west of the Vardar and sent to Athens to be ready to quell any disturbances that might arise in the future.

The 1st Greek (Larissa) Division has been placed under my orders from the 12th March, and will be employed on the Struma front.

The Russian troops have now ceased to exist as a fighting force and have been divided into three categories, those who volunteer to fight, those who volunteer to work, and those who refuse to do either. The majority has joined the latter category, and are being shipped, as transports become available, to the N. of Africa.

The Vardar Division of the Serbian Army has now been renamed the Jugo Slav Division, one of the brigades retaining the name Vardar.

BRITISH FRONT.

In the middle of the month operations were much hampered by heavy snowstorms, during which communications were maintained only with difficulty. Throughout the remainder of the month patrol actions have been of frequent occurrence and some strong raids have also been carried out with success.

On the 4th February, a patrol from the 83rd Infantry Brigade lay up in ambush near Barakli Dzuma, and inflicted casualties upon an enemy patrol, but were unable to capture any prisoners. On the same night an enemy patrol south of Seres was driven off.

On the night of the 6th/7th February, 1½ Companies of the Scottish Horse raided an enemy redoubt near Kavakli with complete success. 19 dead Bulgars were counted, a trench mortar destroyed and dugouts with their garrisons bombed: one prisoner was taken.

On the 11th February, a patrol of 4 Vickers guns and an escort from the 79th Infantry Brigade, carried out harassing fire against known enemy outpost positions in the neighbourhood of Akindzali. This induced the enemy to open barrage fire and he displayed considerable anxiety during the remainder of the night.

On the 14th February, the 1st Welsh Regiment carried out a successful demonstration against Butkova Dzuma with the object/
object of inducing the enemy to man a force, his defences at Dzaferli, which would then be subjected to an intense bombardment. Our aeroplanes co-operated by bombing and machine gunning hostile artillery and infantry near Todoric. An advanced enemy post filed and their dugouts were burnt, while the Dzaferli defences, which were heavily bombarded, were found to be strongly held. The battalion then withdrew. We sustained no casualties.

On the 25th February, Bursuk, Mantar Maise Mill and Polida were raided by the 2nd Kings Own Regiment. Enemy posts displayed considerable opposition but were all eventually driven back. The above named villages were then occupied, seven prisoners being taken and casualties inflicted on the enemy, before our troops withdrew. During the operations our aeroplanes bombed several targets whilst contact aeroplanes also co-operated. Our heavy artillery carried out counter-battery work silencing an enemy battery which had registered the pontoon bridge by which our troops effected the crossing over the Struma. Our casualties were slight.

Little patrol activity was displayed by the enemy. On the 2nd February after a short machine gun and artillery preparation, a small party of the enemy approached one of our advanced posts on the 1st ridge, west of Lake Doiran. They were repulsed by rifle and machine gun fire.

AVIATION

Frequent bombing raids have been carried out by our aircraft on hostile dumps, camps, works and railways.

22 of our machines bombed Cestovo dump and railway siding on 12th February with good results. Clouds of smoke were seen and loud explosions heard taking place some hours after the raid and photographs show that a considerable portion of the Ammunition Dump was destroyed. All our machines returned safely.

Angista railway bridge and track were also bombed on two occasions.

Several of our machines were unfortunately wrecked by the collapse of a hangar during the snowstorms.

On the morning of the 27th inst., Drama aerodrome was attacked by our scout machines from a height of 100 feet. Bombs were dropped among the hangars and casualties to enemy personnel were caused by our machine guns.

Hostile aeroplanes made an unsuccessful attempt to bomb Stavros aerodrome on the night of Feb. 20th/21st.

OTHER FRONTS

No important operations were undertaken by other allied forces. On the 1st February, the Serbs carried out a small raid on the enemy trenches east of the O-rna and repulsed an enemy raid on February 9th.

Greek aircraft raided Miletkovo.

West of Lake Prespa on the 5th and 12th February, the French easily repulsed hostile raids attempted against their positions on the Skumbi.
During February, the Sarigol - Snevce Decauville has been extended to the foot of the hill west of Haramduli, at which point supplies, etc., are shifted to an aerial line which runs to the top of the hill at Baisili.

Good progress is being made with the Sarakli - Stavros Decauville, the formation of which is completed and the rails laid for a considerable distance.

**HEALTH OF TROOPS.**

1. The comparative rates of admission to Hospitals and Casualty Clearing Stations, evacuations, recoveries, deaths, and remaining for February 1918 are compared with those of the two preceding years, in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DETAIL</th>
<th>1916</th>
<th>1917</th>
<th>1918</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Remaining in Hospitals &amp; C.C.S's on 1st Feb.</td>
<td>26.6</td>
<td>27.1</td>
<td>47.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admitted to Hospitals &amp; C.C.S's during Feb.</td>
<td>33.8</td>
<td>41.8</td>
<td>44.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evacuated during February</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recovered during February</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>24.6</td>
<td>42.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Died during February</td>
<td>.2</td>
<td>.1</td>
<td>.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remaining in Hospitals &amp; C.C.S's on 1st March</td>
<td>28.4</td>
<td>34.6</td>
<td>46.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Comparative figures for the same months in regard to the more important infectious diseases are tabulated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Admission rate per 1,000 of strength</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 1916</td>
<td>Feb. 1917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dysentery &amp; Diarrhoea</td>
<td>.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enterica</td>
<td>1.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaria</td>
<td>.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.O.T.</td>
<td>Trench Fever, Sandfly Fever and Heatstroke</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. The selection of cases of chronic and relapsing Malaria to be relieved under Authority War Office Cable 46784 Cipher A.G.1 of 29th November, 1917, is proceeding. Up to date, approximately 54 officers and 5,078 other ranks have been sent home.

(Sgd.) G.P. Milne.

G.H.Q. Lieu tenant-General, Commanding-in-Chief, British Salonika Force.

Salonika. 1st March, 1918.
BATTLE SITUATION ON MORNING 28th MARCH, 1918.

1. North of the SOMME :-

Heavy fighting went on all day on the 27th March, the Germans continuing to attack our positions with forces estimated at 15 Divisions, supported by a further 10 or 15 Divisions. He made some progress about CHIPILLY, MEAULTE, DERNAncOURT, ALBERT and BUCQUOY, but vigorous counter-attacks by British, Australian and New Zealand Divisions are reported to have completely restored the situation, and our line runs approximately as before, viz :-

CHIPILLY - DERNAncOURT - ALBERT - HAMEL - BUCQUOY - BOYELLES.

During the night 27th/28th March further attacks near BEAUMONT-HAMEL were beaten back.

Early this morning a heavy bombardment commenced on our front in the neighbourhood of ARRAS, and the enemy is now attacking there. It is believed that we have made a slight retirement, but fresh Canadian Divisions are in Reserve behind this portion of the front.

2. South of the SOMME :-

Our troops, who had maintained their positions against heavy attacks, were forced back this morning and the enemy occupied LAMOTTE-en-SANTERRE. Some of our troops were reported to be still holding out in ROSTERES.

Further South the enemy occupied MONTDidIER yesterday evening and the situation is obscure.

General Staff,
War Office.
28th March, 1918.
11.30 a.m.
I quite recognise that the scheme proposed by the Minister of National Service is designed to meet an emergency. In these circumstances the War Cabinet may well be impatient of merely negative criticism or of arguments which might, under normal conditions, prevail. But just because the scheme is designed to meet a grave emergency, it demands careful scrutiny. Certain objections to it are manifest, even at first blush.

(a) To scrap existing machinery, to discard the accumulated knowledge and experience which Tribunals have acquired during three years, is obviously undesirable, if it can be avoided. It is, indeed, "swapping horses while crossing a stream".

(b) The abolition of Tribunals would create much resentment among the members of these bodies, who have devoted much skill, time and energy to, as I think, the satisfactory discharge of a difficult and thankless duty. As the Tribunals include many of the leaders of public opinion and some of the most responsible representatives of Labour in the country, this is an important factor which would militate against the usefulness of the Advisory Committees.

(c) To deny to the men who are now to be called up the privilege of having their cases decided by a Tribunal of their fellow citizens would create a feeling of unfairness as between the new recruits and those already enlisted in the Army. The difference in treatment would be the more striking as the new recruits will in great part consist of the older men who have to bear the weightier responsibilities of life.

(d) Finally, in this connection, the substitution of a bureaucratic for a democratic system is manifestly undesirable, unless indeed it be unavoidable.

What then are the objections to the old system? What are the advantages of the new? I apprehend that the only two complaints which can be made regarding the existing system are (1) that the output of men secured by means of it is unsatisfactory, and (2) that the working of the Tribunal system is unduly slow.

As regards the first of these, I find no argument adduced in the papers which have been circulated. It is to be remembered that the number of Grade I men now holding exemption from Tribunals is comparatively small owing to the sifting of cases which has already been effected.

As regards the second, it does not seem to me clear that either that the present system is unduly dilatory, or that the proposed system will be an improvement upon it. The new machinery will take time to set up. The decisions then to be taken will either have to be taken in the Ministry of National Service - involving inevitable delay - or by a Regional representative of the Ministry, involving diminished authority. Assuming, however, that the present system is not wholly satisfactory, it surely better to improve it rather than to abandon it - to speak up rather than to destroy it. Several improvements might be suggested. For example:
(1) Existing exemptions on occupational grounds might be abolished up to any desired point by means of a clean cut under section 2 of the Military Service Act, 1918.

(2) The right of appeal by the man to the Appeal Tribunal might be limited to cases in which the Local Tribunal consented to the appeal.

(3) There might be an amalgamation of the smaller Tribunals and a strengthening of others thereby saving time and increasing efficiency, and, if necessary, meetings might be more frequent.

I suggest that along these lines a suitable and sufficient remedy, assuming it to be required, may be found: that the abolition of Tribunals at this juncture might be misinterpreted by the public as involving either a grave reflection upon their capacity or as suggesting panic legislation; and that the House of Commons would be more easily persuaded to speed up existing machinery of proved worth than to destroy it and substitute for it a scheme of speculative value. There is no doubt that if Tribunals are informed of the urgency of the need for men they will readily respond to the necessities of the situation.

ROBERT MUNRO.

Scottish Office,
28th March, 1918.
SECRET

WAR CABINET.

PRISONERS OF WAR.

REPATRIATION OF MERCHANT SEAMEN.

The War Cabinet having decided ("C.368, Minute 14) that in cases of Departmental disagreement concerning prisoners of war, not involving high matters of policy, Lord Curzon should act on behalf of the War Cabinet, I circulate herewith Memoranda on the subject of the Repatriation of Merchant Seamen submitted by the First Lord of the Admiralty and Lord Newton to Lord Curzon, and Lord Curzon's decision on the same.

(Signed) M.P.A. HANKEY.

Whitehall Gardens, S.W.

March 28th, 1918.
MEMORANDUM BY LORD NEWTON.

In accordance with the decision of the War Cabinet of March 20th, I desire to submit to Lord Curzon the following matter upon which I am in disagreement with the Admiralty.

Under an Agreement concluded with Germany on January 2nd, 1917, all interned civilians of over forty-five years of age, merchant seamen being specially included, are entitled to repatriation. Since that date the Germans have repatriated approximately 250 eligible merchant seamen, whereas out of an approximate total of 400 eligible German merchant seamen interned in the United Kingdom not more than 4 appear to have been hitherto repatriated, owing to the action of the Admiralty.

This action is based upon the ground that the status of merchant seamen is a matter of dispute between the two Governments.

It is submitted that this is no justification for failing to carry out the agreement, and that the persistent retention of eligible German seamen here constitutes a severe hardship for British seamen prisoners who are detained as a measure of retaliation, although in certain cases, over sixty years of age.

Authority is, therefore, sought to enforce the repatriation of German seamen eligible under the agreement.

It is desirable that an early decision should be arrived at, as the service of prisoner transports between Boston and Holland will come to an end in a few weeks.

(Sd.) NEWTON.

Prisoners of War Department,
Royal Court,
House of Lords, S.W.1.
21st March, 1918.

I.

MEMORANDUM BY FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY.

With reference to Lord Newton's memorandum dated 21st March, the refusal of the Admiralty to agree to the repatriation of all the German merchant seamen eligible under the Agreement of the 2nd January, 1917, is due to the action of the German Government in treating certain British merchant officers and seamen as combatants.

The German Government having made the Agreement, evinced from the first an intention not to perform it. They had removed large numbers of merchant officers and seamen from civilian to combatants' camps in November, 1916, and they continued to do this at intervals, justifying their action by saying that the men concerned were of the standing of military prisoners, and the latest Board of Trade list indicates that there are at present 1,474 merchant seamen and fishermen interned at Ruhleben as civilians and 1,274 in other camps, as being "combatants".
Knowing that the German Government regarded nearly half the British merchant seamen in their hands as combatant and outside the Agreement it would have been inexcusable had we acquiesced in the violation of the Agreement by Germany and abandoned our only means of bringing pressure to bear on them to carry out their obligations.

Therefore, in order to safeguard the rights of British merchant officers and seamen, particularly those captured from Defensively Armed Merchant Ships, the Admiralty declined to allow German seamen to be released until their Government showed that they intended to apply the Agreement to all British merchant seamen in their hands without distinction. Lord Newton agreed to this policy in Prisoners of War Department letter of 2nd January 1917, and has only recently dissented from it.

The Prisoners of War Department have been pressed by the Admiralty to make a formal protest to the German Government against British merchant officers and seamen being regarded other than as civilians, and to obtain a clear statement of their intentions but this has not yet been done explicitly by that Department, until a clear understanding is reached as to the status of our seamen who are not interned at Ruhleben the only course possible is to hold the German seamen.

I cannot accept Lord Newton's statement that the persistence of eligible German seamen构成了 a severe hardship for British seamen prisoners. The exact opposite is the case, since so long as the German decision to treat the mercantile marine as combatants is allowed to pass unchallenged, our men do not stand a chance of repatriation, and it was in order to procure a reversal of that decision and the consequent release of British merchant seamen that the Admiralty and Lord Newton agreed to adopt the policy which he now objects.

The Admiralty have no objection to the release, from time to time, of as many German seamen as there have been British seamen released from Germany, this arrangement to be of a continuous nature and the German seamen to be released to be of the same standing as far as possible as the British seamen released from Germany. Arrangements to this effect are being made with the Home Office and this will remove any possible excuse the Germans may make that our attitude is responsible for a deadlock.

Further than this we cannot go until the German Government agree to repatriate the merchant officers and men whom at present they treat as combatants.

I am in accord with Lord Newton's desire that all merchant seamen eligible under the Agreement, both British and German, should be repatriated, but I cannot agree that we should release all of the 4,000 German seamen in our hands who are over 45, and only receive back those of the 1,474 men in Ruhleben who are over that age, and none of the 1,274 in other Camps now regarded by the enemy as combatants.

(Sgd.) ERIC GEDES.

26th March, 1918.
Lord Newton having referred to me a matter in which he was in disagreement with the Admiralty concerning the repatriation of German Merchant Seamen, I asked both him and the Admiralty to state their respective cases on paper.

They did so - vide papers attached - and my decision is given in favour of the Admiralty contention, for the reason stated in their Memorandum.

(Sgd) CURZON.

March 27th, 1918.
To make further provision with respect to Military Service during the present War.

Be it enacted &c.

1. (1) Every male British subject who has at any time since the fourteenth day of August, nineteen hundred and fifteen, been, or who for the time being is, in the United Kingdom [British Isles] and who for the time being has attained the age of seventeen years and has not attained the age of fifty-six shall, unless he has attained the age of fifty-six years before the appointed date, or unless he is serving in the Navy, Royal Marines, Regular Forces or the Air Force, be deemed as from the appointed date to have been duly enlisted in His Majesty's regular forces for general service with the colours or in the reserve for the period of the war and to have been forthwith transferred to the reserve.

Provided that a man who has not attained the age of eighteen years or who has attained the age of fifty years (not being a duly qualified medical practitioner) shall not so long as he performs such service with the Volunteer Force as the Director-General of National Service may prescribe or unless His Majesty by Order in Council declares as respects any man or as respects any class of men over the age of fifty years that it is necessary they should be so called up for service, be liable to be called up for service with the colours.

(2) The appointed day shall as respects men who come within the operation of this section on the passing of this Act be the fourteenth day after the passing of this Act, and as respects men who come within the operation of this section after the passing of this Act be the day on which they so come within the operation of the section.

(3) The foregoing provisions of this section shall be substituted for subsection (1) of section one of the Military Service Act, 1916 (session 2).

(4) The proviso to section two of the Military Service Act 1916 (session 2) shall cease to have effect.
2. All certificates of exemption from military service granted or renewed before the passing of this Act, whether under the provisions of the Military Service Acts, 1916 and 1917, or otherwise, shall as from the fourteenth day after the passing of this Act cease to be in force and after the passing of this Act the power to grant or renew certificates of exemption shall cease whether an application for the grant or renewal has been made before the passing of this Act or not.

3. (1) The Director General of National Service may from time to time make such provision and give such directions as he thinks fit with respect to the calling out or the postponement of the calling out for service with the colours of any men transferred to the reserve under this Act or any enactment repealed by this Act, or with respect to the priority in which any such men are so to be called out, and for the purposes aforesaid may distribute the men aforesaid into such classes as he thinks fit and may issue to any such men such certificates as he thinks fit for the purpose of indicating the class to which they belong.

(2) There shall be constituted in accordance with the provisions of this section military service advisory committees for the purpose of considering any applications made, subject to any directions given by the Director General of National Service, by any man to be placed in any such class as aforesaid and advising the Director General of National Service as to the class in which any person making such application ought to be placed.

The Director General of National Service may make regulations with respect to the constitution and proceedings of the committees to be constituted for the purpose of this section.

(3) The Tribunals established under the Military Service Act, 1916, shall cease to exist on the passing of this Act and any question as to rights and duties of members of such tribunals which may arise in consequence of such tribunals ceasing to exist shall be determined by the President of the Local Government Board or, as respects Scotland, by the Secretary for Scotland.
4. (1) This Act may be cited as the Military and Repeal, Service (No. 2.) Act, 1918, and shall be construed as one with the Military Service Acts, 1916-1918.

(2) The enactments specified in the Schedule to this Act are hereby repealed to the extent mentioned in the third column of that Schedule.

(3) Provided that without prejudice to the general application of section thirty-eight of the Interpretation Act, 1889, with regard to the effect of repeals, the repeal of the said Acts shall not affect any obligation whatsoever incurred by any man to whom section one of the Military Service Act, 1916 or section one of the Military Service Act, 1916 (Session 2) applied.

SCHEDULE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session and chapter.</th>
<th>Short Title.</th>
<th>Extent of Repeal.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 &amp; 6 Geo. 5. c.104.</td>
<td>Military Service Act, 1916.</td>
<td>subs (1) of s.1., ss.2 and 3. Second Schedule except so far as it relates to the constitution and procedure of an Appeal Tribunal and the Central Tribunal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 &amp; 7 Geo. 5. c.15.</td>
<td>Military Service Act, 1916. (session 2)</td>
<td>ss. 3-7 inclusive, and s.10.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 &amp; 8 Geo. 5. c.26.</td>
<td>Military Service (Convention with Allied States) Act, 1917.</td>
<td>Paragraphs (c) and (d) of subs. (1) of s.2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 &amp; 8 Geo. 5. c.65.</td>
<td>Military Service Act, 1918.</td>
<td>s.2.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It is obvious that in the present emergency men must be obtained, and obtained quickly, and the House of Commons and the general public will go far towards giving powers to the Government, but I do not think they will be prepared to give the autocratic powers suggested by the Minister of National Service, especially if men can be obtained quickly without such extreme measures.

The proposal of the Minister of National Service is to abolish all exemptions and all the statutory grounds for claiming exemption, viz.: occupation, hardship, health, and conscientious objection; also to dis-establish the Tribunals, local, appeal and central. In their place to render liable to military service all persons within the prescribed ages with a right to the Minister of National Service to exempt whom he will. For his guidance local bodies, based on the existing Appeal Tribunals are to act in an advisory capacity. These it is presumed will hear claims for exemption, but the decision of the claims will lie with the representative of the National Service Ministry.

My alternative proposal is a Bill which would provide that claims for exemption should go directly to the Appeal Tribunals thus abolishing local tribunals and cutting out one stage in the present procedure. This would secure that cases are decided promptly. Furthermore, as the members of the appeal tribunals are appointed by the Crown, this system could also, if necessary, be applied to Ireland.

Some modifications of detail to secure the speeding up of the machinery (particularly if the age of conscription is extended, and large numbers of men are brought within the scope of the Acts) can be discussed with the Minister of National Service.

The scheme of the Minister of National Service is open to the following objections:

1. It involves at a time when expedition is of the greatest moment, the complete alteration of machinery which is well understood and is working satisfactorily, and the setting up of new machinery, new bodies, new regulations and new principles.

2. It means the abolition of the principle under which a claim for exemption is adjudicated on by a representative body, in favour of adjudication by a Minister or a Government representative. In the United States, in Canada and in New Zealand, where conscription is in force, all claims come before an independent tribunal - not before a Government official. The change from democracy to bureaucracy or autocracy will be sharply criticised.

3. If the appeal tribunals consent to act as advisory bodies they will in their less responsible position be likely to be less strict than they have been in the past, leaving the danger of refusing exemption in the harder cases to the Minister.
4. Hitherto Ministers questioned as to the harshness of decisions in individual cases have always been able to reply that all the facts have been before the tribunal and if the tribunal was a local tribunal, that there was an appeal from their decision. From the point of view of the Government the buffer of the tribunal has been of great value. Under the system proposed, the whole responsibility rests with the Minister and he will be bombarded not only with applications for exemption but with enquiries why such and such a man has not been exempted while another less hard case has received exemption.

5. The abolition of the statutory grounds for exemption is certain to meet with much opposition in the House of Commons, and unless I am much mistaken, to a strong demand for the inclusion in the Bill of clauses showing on what grounds exemption can under the new scheme be claimed. This will inevitably lead to much discussion.

It must always be remembered that the vast mass of young men whose exemption causes protests, and who would be of use to the Army, are exempted not by the tribunals at all but by Departmental action through being in protected industries. This, and not the tribunal exemptions, is the crux of the question. The Minister of National Service has power, under Section 2 of the Military Service Act, 1918, to withdraw certificates of exemption from any of these men.

I am confident that the plan I suggest while being more palatable to the House of Commons and the Country will produce as many fit men and as quickly.

W. HAYES FISHER.

28th March, 1918.
I need hardly say that any well-considered measure that will effectively increase the armed forces of the country at the present juncture will receive my cordial support.

The draft Bill suggested by the Director-General of National Service proposes

1. to get more men by widening the field for recruiting;
2. to get more men by altering the machinery for determining exemptions.

As regards (1) I do not desire to make any observations on the proposal to apply conscription to Ireland, as I have no means of forming a first-hand judgment as to the degree of resistance likely to be encountered in putting that proposal into effect.

I am in favour of widening the age limits of compulsion. I am disposed to think that no useful military purpose will be served by raising the upper limit to 55, as the number of men fit for general service between the ages of 50 and 55 who could be made available for general service abroad is I believe very small. I therefore think that the upper limit should not be higher than 50; and if it be decided to lower the age of compulsion to 17 I would strongly urge that no person should actually be sent abroad for military service before the age of 18½.

As regards (2), I feel much greater doubt about the very drastic proposal to cancel all existing exemptions and to abolish tribunals. I fear that such a proposal will give rise to serious unrest in labour circles, and may not improbably lead to stoppages of work which will affect the essential production of food and munitions. Moreover, the uncertainty arising out of the wholesale withdrawal of

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certificates is likely of itself to impair production at a critical time. I find it difficult to understand what gain is expected from so drastic a change, and I would suggest that before the War Cabinet seriously consider a proposal which will be so distasteful to labour, and which will be criticised as involving the cancellation of a large number of Government pledges, the Director-General of National Service should be asked to supply a rough estimate of the number of men fit for general service who he thinks can be obtained through the alteration of procedure alone, together with particulars as to the sources from which these men will be drawn. Unless the gain is very much greater than I believe, I see great objection to the scrapping of all the existing machinery and the wiping out of all the laborious work of adjudication accomplished through such machinery during the last two years.

Whatever the defects of some tribunals may have been, the bulk of this work has been well and carefully done, and it will have to be re-done by the new Advisory Committees under conditions of pressure of time which make it very unlikely that it will be done better. The existing machinery has come to be accepted as adequately democratic, while that which is to be substituted will inevitably be criticised as unduly bureaucratic.

Moreover the wholesale cancellation of exemptions will lead to unnecessary and embarrassing complications in the case of conscientious objectors, men wounded and invalided out of the Army, &c., to say nothing of those employed in such vitally essential work as shipbuilding, munition work and food production.
If the case for a change is the variation of the standard adopted by tribunals in different districts, and it is desired that there should be some general power of revision apart from the revision of particular cases of appeal, this could surely be secured without the upheaval and disturbance that will result from the present proposals.

For example: the Central Appeal Tribunal, or if preferred, the Director-General of National Service in consultation with that body, might be armed with the power of revision apart from any specific appeals.

In considering this matter I naturally begin by examining the case of the industries controlled by the Board of Trade. To take first the case of coal mines, the War Cabinet are well aware that the difficulty recently experienced of securing adequate recruits from the coal mines has not in any way arisen from defects in the machinery of tribunals, but from the attitude of the Miners' Federation which, to say the least, is unlikely to be improved by the controversies which would arise out of the proposed Bill.

As regards Railway labour, it is difficult to see how any gain can result to recruiting from the change, as the recruiting of railway labour cannot possibly be a matter for local Advisory Committees, so that the Director-General of National Service will be practically compelled to act in consultation with the Railway Executive and to accept their advice, which is exactly the situation to-day.

As regards Port labour, I doubt the possibility, without making the shipping problem more acute, of withdrawing a substantially greater number of men than are already being
being decertificated through the Port Labour Committees. In any case, the wholesale cancelling of exemptions would in no way help in this matter, and might easily result in a transport labour strike.

In the case of Timber, it is no doubt possible to get a certain number for the Army by depleting the labour force now employed in the production of home-grown timber; but this would be a most serious blunder, as any small gain would be made at an wholly disproportionate cost when it is remembered that the very object of home timber production is to save tonnage and thus incidentally to set free ships to bring over American troops.

I therefore hope that any Bill will be directed to the widening of the age limits of compulsion, the extension (if considered politic) of compulsion to Ireland, and to taking power of revising in case of necessity the exemptions granted by tribunals so as to secure uniformity of standard. This will I think give the Director General of National Service all the real powers he needs.

In conclusion I am particularly anxious that nothing should be hastily done, the effect of which whether be reducing home production or impeding the movement of shipping in our ports, will make it more difficult to spare ships to bring from America (the last remaining great reservoir of man-power) the army now in training in that country.

(Signed) A. H. STANLEY.

Board of Trade,
28th March, 1918.
During the night the enemy succeeded in crossing the SOMME from North to South near CHIPILLY and consequently the left flank of our troops, South of the SOMME, was compelled to fall back towards HAMEL.

From that place the line runs through LAMOTTE-en-SANTERRE-CAIX-VRELY - WARVILLERS.

South of this the French were last night pressed back along the ROYE - BRETEUIL road and the enemy entered MONTDIDIER.

From WARVILLERS the line runs through ARVILLERS-DAVENS-COURT = GRATIEUS = MESNIL-ST-GEORGES - to HAINVILLERS.

Between the latter place and FONT l'EVEQUE, South of NOYON, the French this morning counter-attacked in force and with great dash drove back the enemy on a front of 10 kilometres to a depth of 3 kilometres. The French pressure on the enemy in this area continues.

North of the SOMME our line remains substantially the same as last night. Several attacks were made during the night in the neighbourhood of BEAUMONT-HAMEL - ROSSIGNOL WOOD and North-west of PUISIEUX. These were all repulsed.

This morning the enemy opened a heavy bombardment North and South of the SCARPE river and followed this by an attack opposite ARRAS with at least 7 Divisions. The enemy on this front penetrated our forward zone and a fierce engagement took place in our battle zone. Our line here now runs from ARLEUX - FAMPOUX - NEUVILLE-VITASSE - BOISLEUX - thence as before.

The fighting here has been severe and the enemy is reported to have lost very heavily.

General Staff, War Office, 28th March, 1918, 6 p.m.
I circulate herewith the Bill which has been drafted to carry out the recommendations made in Chapter VIII of the Final Report of the Dominions Royal Commission (Cd. 8462) and in the Report of the Empire Settlement Committee (Cd. 8672).

The details of the Bill have been considered by an Interdepartmental Conference consisting of representatives of the Home Office, Colonial Office, Board of Trade, War Office, Local Government Board, Board of Agriculture and Ministry of Labour with the Parliamentary Counsel, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Hewins.

It has two main objects.

1. To constitute a Central Authority which will have certain executive powers in connection with emigration from the United Kingdom.

2. To control those who are in any way concerned with the sale of passages to emigrants or engaged in emigration work.

As regards the first of these objects, it is proposed that the Central Authority should be constituted on the lines recommended by the Empire Settlement Committee, and that the Secretary of State for the Colonies should be Chairman. It may be necessary to appoint a paid Vice Chairman, while the members are likely to be representatives of the various Government Departments.
Departments interested, the four High Commissioners and two of the Agents General, and a limited number of Unofficial members of whom one or more will be ladies. The Authority will thus represent all parts of the Empire especially concerned with migration.

As regards the control of those engaged in the sale of passages to emigrants and those engaged in emigration work, the Bill provides for much more stringent supervision than that now existing. The Report of the Dominions Royal Commission sets out in detail the reasons necessitating such supervision and it would appear that public opinion is, generally speaking, in favour of the measures now proposed, though considerable opposition may be expected from the vested interests affected.

The proposed legislation will not, of course, take full effect until the war is over and it is, in the main, a measure of reconstruction. It is thought essential however to obtain the necessary powers of control during the war, so that preliminary action may be taken. The Bill is now submitted for the approval of the War Cabinet, with a view to its introduction into Parliament as soon as opportunity can be found.

COLONIAL OFFICE.

W.H.L.

27. 3. 18.
Emigration Bill.

ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES.

Central Emigration Authority.

Clause.
1. Establishment of Central Emigration Authority.
2. Powers and duties of Authority.

Supervision and Control of Passage Brokers and Agents.
3. Prohibition on sale, &c., of steerage passages except by licensed passage brokers.
4. Granting of licences to passage brokers.
5. Appointment of passage broker's agents.
6. List of agents to be exhibited by brokers and sent to Authority.
7. Cancellation and forfeiture of licences and appointments.
8. Further restrictions on passage brokers and passage broker's agents.
9. Restrictions on passage brokers and agents as to particular countries or places.

Emigration Societies, &c.
10. Control of emigration societies.

Miscellaneous.
11. Supplemental provisions as to Authority.
12. Saving for existing licences and appointment.
Improve the existing organisation for affording information and advice to those who wish to emigrate from the British Islands, and to provide for the establishment and powers of a Central Emigration Authority, and for the supervision and control of passage brokers and passage brokers' agents, and emigration societies, and for purposes in connection therewith.

BE it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1.—(1) There shall be constituted, in accordance with regulations made by the Secretary of State, an Authority to be called the Central Emigration Authority (in this Act referred to as "the Authority"), consisting of a chairman and 10 vice-chairman and such number of persons, appointed in such manner as may be specified in the regulations.

(2) The Authority shall be a body corporate with a common seal.

(3) The Authority may pay the chairman or the vice-chairman of the Authority such salary as the Authority, with the consent of the Treasury, may determine.

(4) The Authority may appoint such officers and servants for the purpose of their powers and duties as the Secretary of State may, with the sanction of the Treasury, determine, and there shall be paid to such officers and servants such salaries or remuneration as the Treasury may determine.
A.D. 1918

The Authority may also, with the consent of the Government Department concerned, utilise the services of any officers or servants of any existing Government department.

(5) All expenses of the Authority under this Act, including any such salary and remuneration as aforesaid, to such amount as may be sanctioned by the Treasury, shall be paid out of moneys provided by Parliament.

Powers and duties of Authority.

2.—(1) In addition to the other powers and duties conferred or imposed on the Authority by this Act, it shall be the duty of the Authority—

(a) to collect information in relation to emigration and to publish and distribute the same in such manner as to make it available to intending emigrants; and

(b) to advise and assist intending emigrants, and in particular such past or present members of His Majesty's 15 naval, military, or air forces, their wives, widows, and dependants, as may desire to emigrate after the termination of the present war, in such manner and subject to such provisions as may be laid down by regulations made by the Secretary of State for the purpose; and

(c) to give advice and assistance to the Board of Trade and any other Government department in relation to matters connected with emigration, and coming within the sphere of that department, and in particular to give advice to the Board of Trade on matters connected with the accommodation on emigrant ships, and the health of emigrants during the voyage, and (after consultation with the Board and any other Government department concerned) as to the returns of passengers to be required under section seventy-six of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1906.

(2) The Authority shall make an annual report of their proceedings and such report shall be laid annually before Parliament by the Secretary of State.

(3) Any regulation made under this section shall be laid before each House of Parliament forthwith, and, if an address is presented to His Majesty by either House of Parliament within the next subsequent twenty-one days on which that House has sat next after any such regulation is laid before it praying that the regulation may be annulled, His Majesty in
Supervision and Control of Passage Brokers and Agents.

3.—(1) A person shall not, at any place in the British Islands, sell or agree to sell, or be in anywise concerned in the sale of, or represent directly or by implication that he is authorised or prepared to sell, any steerage passage from any place in Europe to any country or place out of Europe, unless he is the holder of a passage broker’s licence granted under this Act, and for the time being in force, and any person who sells or agrees to sell, or is anywise concerned in the sale of, or represents, directly or by implication, that he is authorised or prepared to sell, any such passage, is in this Act referred to as a passage broker.

(2) The acts and defaults of any person acting on behalf of, or as an agent of, a passage broker (in this Act referred to as a passage broker’s agent), shall, for the purposes of this Act, be deemed to be also the acts and defaults of the passage broker.

(3) There shall be exempted from this section—

(a) the Board of Trade, the Authority, and any person contracting with the Board or the Authority or acting on their behalf; and

(b) any passage broker’s agent entitled to act as such under this Act.

(4) If any person fails to comply with any provision of this section he shall for each offence be liable to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds.

(5) For the purposes of this section—

References to selling shall be deemed to include references to letting or otherwise providing or procuring in return for payment;

Any agreement to provide or procure, or which includes the provision or procuring of, a passage from any place in Europe to any country or place out of Europe shall (though not expressed to be a steerage passage, and whether or not any ship or time of sailing is specified therein) be deemed to be an agreement to provide or
A.D. 1918.

procure a steerage passage, if a steerage passage is
ultimately provided or procured in pursuance of the
agreement.

4.—(1) The Authority may grant passage broker's licences,
and for that purpose may cause inquiry to be made with respect to applicants for licences, and any application for a licence shall be made in such manner as the Authority may direct.

(2) The Authority shall, as a condition of the granting of any licence, require the applicant to enter, with such sureties as may be approved by the Authority, into a joint and several bond to the Crown in the sum of two thousand five hundred pounds.

The bond shall be renewed on each occasion of obtaining a licence, and shall not be liable to stamp duty; it shall be deposited at the office of the Authority.

(3) A passage broker's licence shall, unless cancelled, forfeited, or suspended, remain in force until the thirty-first day of December in the year in which it is granted, and for thirty-one days afterwards.

5.—(1) A passage broker shall not employ a person as passage broker's agent, and a person shall not act, directly or indirectly, or represent, directly or by implication, that he is authorised or prepared to act as such agent unless—

(a) the appointment of that person as agent has been approved in writing by the Authority; and

(b) that person holds from the passage broker an appointment for the time being in force signed by the passage broker and endorsed with the approval of the Authority.

(2) Every such agent shall upon request produce his appointment to any emigration officer, or to any person authorised in that behalf by the Authority, or to any person treating for a steerage passage under Part III. of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894.

(3) There shall be paid to the Authority by the passage broker on each appointment of any such agent, such fee not exceeding five pounds as may be fixed by the Authority.

(4) The appointment of a passage broker's agent shall, unless cancelled, forfeited, or suspended, remain in force so long as the passage broker's licence remains in force.
5. If any person acts in contravention of any provision of this section he shall for each offence be liable to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds.

6. (1) A passage broker shall keep exhibited in a conspicuous manner, at every office or place where he carries on business, a correct list, in legible characters, containing the names and addresses in full of every person for the time being authorised to act as his agent, and shall on or before the fifth day, or if that day be a Sunday, on or before the fourth day in every month, or at such other intervals as the Authority may by order require, transmit a true copy of that list, signed by him, to the Authority, and shall report to the Authority every discharge of an agent within three days of the same taking place, stating the reason for discharge.

(2) If a passage broker fails to comply with any requirement of this section, or furnishes any report which is false or misleading in any material particular, he shall for each offence be liable to a fine not exceeding five pounds.

7. (1) The Authority may at any time, if they think fit, after inquiry, order that the licence of any passage broker, or the appointment of any passage broker's agent, be cancelled or suspended.

(2) Any court, when convicting a passage broker or passage broker's agent for an offence under this Act, or under Part III of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, or for any breach or non-performance of the requirements thereof, may order that his licence or appointment (as the case may be) be forfeited or suspended, and the same shall be forfeited or suspended accordingly.

The court shall forthwith send to the Authority a notice of any such order.

8. (1) A passage broker or passage broker's agent—

(a) shall not, directly or indirectly, ask or receive any commission or other remuneration in respect of the provision of a steerage passage from or on behalf of the person to whom the passage is provided or proposed to be provided; and

(b) shall, if so required by general or special notice of the Authority, keep exhibited in a conspicuous manner, at any office or place where he carries on
A.D. 1918.

Emigration.

[8 Geo. 5.]

(2) If any person acts in contravention of this section he shall for each offence liable to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds, and in the case of a continuing offence to a further 5 fine of five pounds for each day during which the offence continues.

9.—(1) A passage broker or passage broker's agent—

before issuing to any person a ticket for a steerage passage to any country or place to which this 10 section applies, shall give not less than seven clear days' notice to the Authority, which notice shall specify correctly the name, present address, and proposed destination of the person to whom it is proposed to issue the ticket;

shall take all necessary steps to bring to the notice of an intending emigrant to any country or place to which this section applies any publications of the Authority which affect the case of that emigrant and shall not issue or provide a steerage passage 20 ticket to any such country or place, unless the ticket is endorsed with a statement signed by the intending emigrant that the said publications have been brought to his notice;

shall not issue or otherwise bring to the notice of any intending emigrant to any country or place to which this section applies any publication or other written information relating to emigration (except official publications of any Government department or of the government of any part of His Majesty's Dominions or of any territory under His Majesty's protection), except in accordance with regulations to be made for the purpose by the Authority; and

shall, as and when so required by general or special notices of the Authority, furnish to the Authority, in such form as the Authority may prescribe, a correct statement in writing of the amounts received by him during any period specified in the notice by way of commission, bonus, or other remuneration from any source, on account of steerage passages to any country or place to which this section applies.
Emigration.  

(2) If any person acts in contravention of this section he shall for each offence be liable to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds, and in the case of a continuing offence to a further fine of five pounds for each day during which the offence continues.

(3) The Authority may by order apply to any country or place, either the whole or any part of this section; any such country or place shall for the purposes of the whole or that part of this section (as the case may be), be deemed to be a country or place to which this section applies.

Emigration Societies, &c.

10.—(1) A person, or a society or association of persons (by whatever name called) shall not publish any literature or carry on any work or propaganda for the purpose of or in connection with the promotion of emigration or the furnishing of information or assistance to intending emigrants, unless the person, society or association is approved for the purpose in writing by the Authority, and complies with such conditions as the Authority may by regulation prescribe. Any such approval may be withdrawn at any time by the Authority if any such condition is not complied with.

(2) In the case of any contravention of this section, the person contravening the same, or, in the case of a society or association, any official or member of the committee or other governing body (by whatever name called) or person concerned in the management of the society or association, and any person issuing any publication, circular, letter, or other document in the name or on behalf of the society or association, shall for each offence be liable to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds.

(3) Any person who is stated, whether directly or by implication, in any publication, circular, letter, or other document purporting to be issued by or on behalf of a society or association to be an official or member of the committee or other governing body, or to be concerned in the management, shall be for the purposes of this section deemed to be so, unless the contrary is proved.

Miscellaneous.

11.—(1) Any inquiry for the purposes of this Act may be made on behalf of the Authority by officers of the Minister of Labour, or by local authorities, or in such other manner as the Authority think fit.
(2) Any fines or forfeiture under the provisions of this Act may, without prejudice to the provisions of section three hundred and fifty-six of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, be sued for by the Authority or any person authorised by them.

(3) Subsection (1) of sections three hundred and twenty-five (relating to contract tickets for passengers) and section three hundred and fifty-four (imposing penalties for fraud) of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, shall have effect as if the Authority were mentioned therein as well as the Board of Trade.

12. Any passage broker’s licence and any appointment of a passage broker’s agent which is in force at the date of the passing of this Act shall, unless cancelled, forfeited, or suspended, continue in force as though it had been granted or made, and, in the case of an appointment, approved, under this Act.

13.—(1) In this Act—

the expression “person” includes a body corporate;
the expression “steerage passage” includes a passage partly by land and partly by sea, any part of which is a steerage passage.

(2) This Act shall have effect as though it formed part 20 of Part III. of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894:

Provided that nothing in this Act shall be construed as extending the powers or duties of the Board of Trade in relation to emigrant ships.

(3) Sections three hundred and forty-one to three hundred and forty-six (both inclusive) of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, and section twenty-three of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1906, are hereby repealed.

(4) This Act may be cited as the Emigration Act, 1918.
Emigration.

DRAFT
OF A
BILL
To improve the existing organisation for affording information and advice to those who wish to emigrate from the British Islands, and to provide for the establishment and powers of a Central Emigration Authority, and for the supervision and control of passage brokers and passage broker's agents, and emigration societies, and for purposes in connection therewith.

VI. (2.)

14th March 1918.

6-2
MINISTRY OF PENSIONS.

Summary of Report for period from March 23rd to March 28th, 1918.

Number of Pensions. 12,473 pensions and allowances have been granted during the week to Officers and Men and to Widows, children, and dependants. The number since the beginning of the war is 1,227,503.

2. Pensions to Soldiers. During the week out of 4,500 cases (including 249 rejected under previous Warrants) dealt with by the Awards to Soldiers Branch 3,160 were awarded pensions, permanent or temporary, 1,285 were granted gratuities, and 55 were rejected.

3. Pensions to Widows and Dependents. During the week 1,395 widows (including unmarried wives), 1,606 parents and 102 other dependants were awarded pensions and 2,425 children were granted allowances.

4. New Scheme of Pensions to Parents. Under a recent concession the pre-war dependence of 80 parents who were in pecuniary need has, during the week, been raised from average of 5/11 a week to an average of 11/8, whilst 108 unpensioned parents in pecuniary need have been granted an average pension of 9/1 a week, 158 cases have been refused pension.

5. Alternative Pensions. Disabled men, up to date 22 permanent and 521 conditional alternative pensions have been awarded; this represents an increased annual charge of 7½% upon the minimum pensions. 154 men under treatment and training are receiving alternative pension allowances.

Widows. Out of 2,806 claims by widows for alternative pensions there have been 1,531 awards and 555 rejections. This represents an increased charge of 5½% upon the minimum pensions of
6. Amendment of Royal Warrant. The Committee of Ministers on the revision of the Royal Warrant for soldiers met on the 25th instant and have agreed upon the amendments to be made.

7. Pensions Appeal Tribunal. Since the 20th March, 18 cases of appeal for pensions have been decided in favour of and 10 cases against the appellant.

8. Retired Pay to Officers, Nurses &c., Up to date 1247 Army and Naval Officers (including Warrant Officers) 76 Nurses, 377 widows, 517 parents and 900 children of Widows of Officers (including Warrant Officers) have benefited mainly by increases in rates of pension, from a review of their cases under the Officers' Warrant and Orders in Council of last year.

SUPPLEMENTARY AND DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

9. Special Grants Committee. This Committee met on the 26th instant. The case of a totally disabled officer was considered and the Committee were of opinion the officers should be treated at least as favourably as men. Certain proposals of the Ministry to substitute temporary allowances for gratuities in the case of minor disablements were favourably discussed.

TREATMENT

10. Decentralization. The question of handing over treatment, as far as possible, to Local Committees under the supervision of the Minister's Representative is under consideration.

11. Medical Referees. These appointments now cover nearly the whole of England, Scotland and Wales.

12. Joint Institutional Committee for Scotland. The minutes of the 9th meeting are given as an Appendix to the Ministry's Weekly Report.

13. Treatment of Neurasthenics. Bray Court, Maidenhead, is being prepared for Neurasthenics; it will accommodate from 50 to 70 patients.

14. Treatment Schemes. Schemes have been submitted by various Local
Local Committees. The terms and conditions of the Ministry are being accepted by a large number of Institutions.

15. Numbers under Treatment. During the week 1148 cases were admitted for treatment in or at Institutions and 12061 men were under treatment at the end of the week. The total number of men reported as having been or as still being under treatment is 22813.

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT.

16. Decentralization. The question of simplifying the procedure both in adopting schemes of training and the starting of training classes is being considered.

17. Trade Advisory Committees. During the past week various Committees sat. The Shipbuilding and Engineering trade finally approved its Report on Electrical Engineering.

18. Training as Teachers. The Board of Education are endeavouring to assist the Ministry in this matter.

19. Hand Loom Weaving. Arrangements are being considered for training men in Ireland in hand loom weaving which can be carried on at home, and by one armed men.

20. Market Gardening and Horticulture. The Board of Agriculture for Scotland is co-operating with the Ministry in providing facilities for the training of disabled men in market gardening and horticulture as a career.

21. Lectures on Training. The illustrated lectures organized by the Ministry are arousing interest with respect to training.

22. Training Schemes. 3 out of 7 schemes submitted by Local Committees have been sanctioned. 66 individual cases of training outside approved schemes were sanctioned during the week and 204 men were admitted and 55 discharged from training. The total number of men under training at the end of the week was 3214. Up to date 5132 men have been or are under training.

23. Insurance of disabled men and the Workmen's Compensation Act. The Home Office Committee appointed to advice on this subject
is making good progress.

**ORGANIZATION**

Supplemental schemes for the inclusion of disabled men and their widows or dependants on Local Committees are being submitted.

**STAFF**

25. Numbers of Staff. The staff on the books of the Ministry comprises 333 men and 5365 women or 5698 in all.

26. Soldiers Award Branch. Mr. W. Sanger C.B., has been appointed Controller of the Soldiers Award Branch at Chelsea.

27. Outdoor Staff. The appointment of 14 Representatives of the Ministry in Joint (Disablement) Areas and 34 Inspectors of Accounts of Local Committees has been approved by the Minister of Pensions. Of 38 new appointments 27 are of men who have been retired from Active Service.

MATTHEW NATHAN.

26th March, 1918.
The following is a brief statement on the work of the Department during the past week in furtherance of increased Food Production in Ireland:

**TILLAGE DEFAULTERS.**

Entries under Regulation 2.(2) of the Defence of the Realm Regulations, continue to be made by the Department on holdings the occupiers of which were in serious default in respect of the 1917 requirements. During the week under review the Department instructed their Inspectors to acquire compulsorily over thirty such holdings in different parts of Ireland, and after entry had been effected competitive auctions were arranged. A total area of approximately 650 acres was let in consequence by the Department during the week.

**LOANS FOR AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.**

Seventy-two applications for loans for agricultural implements were received by the Department during the past week. The total value of machinery ordered from the beginning of the present year to date, under the Scheme, amounts to £21,727.

**PROGRESS OF TILLAGE OPERATIONS.**

Sowing of grain and potatoes has commenced generally and is well forward in many districts. Instructors' reports indicate that farmers are responding with enthusiasm to the call for a further increase of tillage. A striking improvement is noticeable in farmers' methods regarding the use and purchase of manures, the selection of seeds, and the treatment of the restricted areas under meadow and grazing.

**WHEAT SOWING.**

The continued sowing of spring wheat, and the unprecedented demand for seed, leave no margin for doubt that the increase in the area under this crop will be up to the most sanguine expectations. There is an abundant supply of seed for this and other farm crops.

**SHORTAGE OF FODDER.**

A shortage of hay and straw has manifested itself in certain counties, as expected. Owing to the mildness of the season and the early growth of grass it is hoped, however, that this shortage will have no serious consequences.
SUPPLIES OF FEEDING STUFFS FOR LIVE STOCK.

The shortage of maize and other feeding stuffs still continues, and, as already stated, threatens to affect very adversely the production of meat supplies in Ireland.

FLAX.

The ordinary time for sowing flax is during April and the beginning of May. Though the weather is at present very favourable for field work, sowing operations have not yet commenced except in a few instances in the earliest districts.

Farmers appear to be very keen on sowing flax this season, and there is every indication that the supply of seed will not meet their requirements. There is general anxiety as to the arrival of Dutch seed, and growers are not inclined to purchase either Canadian or Japanese seed freely so long as they have any hope of getting a full supply of Dutch.

Unfortunately, a large proportion of the imported seed of 1916 growth (cf which there was a supply of about 20,000 bags) and also of the home-grown seed, is now showing such defective germination that it will scarcely be fit for sowing purposes. This will be a very considerable factor in limiting the area that will be sown.

The first consignment of new Dutch flaxseed, amounting to 800 bags, arrived in Belfast on the 24th instant.

The following arrivals of seed are also reported:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seed Type</th>
<th>Glasgow</th>
<th>Belfast</th>
<th>Liverpool</th>
<th>Dublin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canadian Common Seed</td>
<td>5,751</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>1,948</td>
<td>934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8,953</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Canadian Fibro Seed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seed Type</th>
<th>Dublin</th>
<th>Glasgow</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,401 bags of which 385 are white blossom</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>1,799 bags of 56 Bushels each</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the 17 permanent instructors at present actually at work in connection with the Department's flax scheme, four additional temporary instructors have been appointed to advise farmers in outlying flax districts in connection with the sowing of the crop.
DRAINAGE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND.

An engineer and three inspectors have been seconded to the Department from the Board of Works, and took up duty during the past week. They will conduct investigations in cases in which the Department are asked to exercise their powers under Regulation 211 of the Defence of the Realm Regulations.

MAINTENANCE OF LIVE STOCK.

During the period from 19th to 25th March, inclusive, 405 applications for licences to slaughter or export animals under the Order relating to breeding sows were received and 429 licences were issued. During the same period 144 applications for licences to export milch cows and 94 applications for licences to slaughter or export heifers, under the Maintenance of Live Stock (Ireland) (Temporary) Order, 1917, were received. Thirty applications for licences to slaughter bulls or bullocks under the Maintenance of Live Stock (Ireland) Order of 1918, No. 2, were received.
WAR CABINET.

1918.

IMPORTS OF COAL, COKE & PATENT FUEL INTO FRANCE & ITALY DURING THE MONTHS OF JANUARY & FEBRUARY, 1918.

FRANCE

(Monthly requirements)
1,550,000 tons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Gross Imports</th>
<th>Monthly Requirement</th>
<th>Import</th>
<th>DEFICIT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>1,566,625</td>
<td>1,550,000</td>
<td>566,886</td>
<td>163,114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>1,425,977</td>
<td>1,550,000</td>
<td>333,173</td>
<td>356,821</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ITALY

(Monthly requirements)
690,000 tons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Gross Imports</th>
<th>Monthly Requirement</th>
<th>Import</th>
<th>DEFICIT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>46</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>48</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE:

Figures for Imports into France include Imports for Allied bases and Coal in transit to Italy, and the deductions to be made for these accounts will be notified in due course.

Whitehall Gardens, S.W.1.
26th March, 1918.
I wish to place on record the fact that in my opinion there is no danger whatever in incorporating conscripted Irishmen into the British Army of today.

The total number of disaffected Irishmen who would be conscripted would not exceed 100,000 to 150,000 men and this number would be absolutely lost in an army of approximately two and a half million men fighting in five theatres of war.

(Sgd.) Henry Wilson.

War Office.

Chief of the Imperial General Staff.

29.3.18.
Further information of enemy attacks on the Arras front yesterday show that they extended from Fuisieux to North of Oppy and were beaten off with very heavy loss. North of the Scarpe the 56th Division claim to have defeated 2½ German divisions and to have maintained their positions intact.

West of Monchy our troops after heavy fighting were forced back a short distance, but in no case has the battle-zone been seriously compromised.

From Fampoux on the Scarpe the line now runs East of TILLOY-ST-OFFLAINES - NEUVILLE-VITASSE - DOIRY - NOYENNEVILLE - AYETTE - MOUCOUY (all held by us) thence East of HEBUTERNE, East of SERRE - BRENAGONT-HEBEL - AVEULY WOOD, West of the ANCRE, to MERICOURT-L'ABBE - SAILLY-LE-SEC inclusive. The situation on the whole of the above front is satisfactory. No further attacks are reported this morning.

South of the Somme. The enemy has made some progress south of the Somme and the situation here causes anxiety, no French troops having hitherto made their appearance in any number. The line now runs West of HABEL - MARCHELCOUE - CAYEUX - QUESNEL thence to GRATIEUX. The positions immediately south of the river are held by a mixture of units belonging to the 19th Corps reinforced by Labour units. These troops are holding one of the lines of the AMIENS defences, but they are very tired. 2,000 men of the 18th Division from the South are arriving this morning at VILLERS-BRETONNEUX in motor buses.

No change is reported in the French line, which appears to be as reported yesterday evening. Their troops appear to be arriving well, and they have a considerable number of divisions which have not yet been engaged, whilst more are arriving.

General Staff,
War Office.
29.3.18.
12.30 p.m.
Colonel Jones

29th March, 1918.

RELEASE OF MEN EMPLOYED BY THE ADMIRALTY.

(War Cabinet 371 – Minute 10)

ADMIRALTY MEMORANDUM BY NAVY CONTROLLER FOR WAR CABINET.

Under the revised schedule of protected occupations, the Minister of National Service estimates that the Admiralty 'A' Firms should contribute approximately 12,500 men, and the Royal Dockyards 1,000 men.

While these numbers, so far as the Army is concerned, are not large, the Minister of National Service contends that the moral effect upon the engineers in other Firms not working for the Admiralty would be disastrous if the Admiralty Firms did not contribute their quota. Mr. Allen Smith, Chairman of the Managing Committee of the Engineering Employers' Federation, agrees with this view.

The Minister recognises that an adjustment must subsequently be made to give to marine engineering not only those men who are now taken away, but the additional men who will shortly be required, but he urges that the Admiralty should facilitate the levy of men now proposed from their Firms, and should look to him for the subsequent adjustment. I am advised that if the levy is conducted with due regard to the necessities of individual cases, it should be possible to withdraw this number of men without any disastrous effect, but there will undoubtedly be an outcry from the employers.

Moreover, output will suffer seriously, unless the Minister of National Service diverts suitable substitutes to Admiralty Firms quickly and in sufficient numbers. Up till now we have been given priority on paper, but not the men.
It is for the War Cabinet to decide whether the moral advantage on the minds of the A.S.E. generally outweighs the moral disadvantage in the minds of those primarily responsible for the output of marine engines.

Ar. Allen Smith recommends that the method of levy ought to be a uniform percentage on the total number of male employees in the case of every engineering firm, and that before a pivotal man is called up employers should have a right to appeal. The Admiralty are disposed to favour such a procedure, but the Ministry of Munitions say that, having regard to the immensely greater number of firms with whom they have to deal and the larger number of men who are to be called up, time will not permit of this contracted procedure.

If the Cabinet order this levy, I am of opinion:

(a) That the employers concerned should be informed at once, while the pressing necessities of the Army in France are prominently in their minds, and -

(b) That full responsibility should be laid on the Minister of National Service to provide efficient substitutes in the number and at the time they are required. If the Minister fails to provide efficient substitutes, output will undoubtedly suffer.

I have agreed this memorandum with the Chairman of the Engineering Employers' Federation and the Marine Engine Builders' Technical Committee of that Federation, who suggest the addition of the two following paragraphs (c) and (d).

The instruction of the Cabinet is desired to give effect to paragraph (c):- paragraph (a) can be arranged:-
"(c) That in individual cases of officers and men who are of pivotal importance to the firms, the Cabinet should instruct the Minister of National Service and the Adjutant General respectively to do their utmost to meet the necessities of the marine engineers by allowing the officers or men in question to remain with or be returned to the firms. I am of opinion that by meeting the necessities of the firms in individual cases, and by returning to them a few of their junior managers who are already serving, we can very largely mitigate their objections to the proposed recruitment.

(d) That concurrently with or immediately after the levy, responsible technical officers should be sent round to the firms affected to adjust differences in complement so that the firms which have more than their appropriate number of men should contribute to the necessities of the firms which have been unduly reduced, to the end that the undoubted shortage of skilled men may be distributed equally and not unfairly over the firms. I understand that the necessity of such an enquiry into the relative dilution at various firms was accepted by the Minister of Munitions in October last in conference with the Engineering Employers' Federation, and an examination of this nature applied to all engineering firms will undoubtedly go far to remove any impression of unequal treatment as between firm and firm."

(Signed) A. G. ANDERSON.

Forwarded

ERIC GEDDES

29. 3. 18.
ADMIRALTY MEMORANDUM FOR THE WAR CABINET ON THE RUSSIAN BLACK SEA FLEET AND THE EFFECT OF ITS POSSIBLE CAPTURE BY THE GERMANS.

Prepared in compliance with War Cabinet 369 Minute No.7 of March 21st 1918.

This question was considered by the Allied Naval Council at their recent meetings (13 - 14 March 1918) and the following conclusions were reached:

(i) If Germany so desires, she will have no great difficulty in obtaining possession of the Russian Black Sea Fleet, and if she obtains possession, she will also be able, though with some difficulty, to man at least the most modern units of the Fleet, using either Russian or Turkish personnel or personnel transferred from Germany. Time will be required to train the personnel. The ships themselves for a long period have carried out no seagoing service, and are not in good condition, and a period variously estimated at from two to six months must elapse after their acquisition by Germany before they could be restored to seagoing fighting efficiency.

(ii) If Germany does obtain possession of the modern units of the Russian Black Sea Fleet, man them and put them in an efficient state for fighting, with a view to operations outside the Dardanelles, the Allies will obtain sufficient notice through their channels of intelligence to enable the necessary re-arrangements to be made of the forces in the Eastern Mediterranean. The Intelligence Departments of the several Ministries of Marine should pay especial regard to information on this matter. There is also the probability that warning of the impending exit of heavy enemy forces from the Dardanelles will be afforded by steps being taken in advance to clear a passage through the minefields at the entrance.

2.- It is considered that the following is the maximum of the Russian Ships likely to be so used by the Germans, for which provision must be made:

- 2 Dreadnought Battleships
- 5 Pre-Dreadnought Battleships
- 2 Cruisers
- 1 Light Cruiser
- 18 Destroyers
- 6 Submarines

3.- A table is attached giving a summary of the Allied Fleets in the Mediterranean, and of the vessels which might
might become available for enemy service.

4.- It will be seen that the Allies have a sufficiency of Naval force to meet the situation; but new dispositions are required.

6.- There are two conditions to be considered:

(1) The containing of the enemy's force in the Adriatic:

(2) The containing of the enemy's force in the Dardanelles.

To meet the first we have an overwhelming force in the French and Italian Fleets; but the situation is weakened owing to these fleets being divided, the former being at Corfu, the latter at Taranto. To put to sea from Taranto the Italian Fleet have to pass through the narrow passage from the Mar Piccolo — a lengthy operation, and one which, in the event of damage to the bridge which crosses it, might be seriously prolonged, and thus prevent a junction of the two fleets until too late.

To meet the second condition, at present there are only two British and two French battleships in the Aegean of inferior speed, which are not sufficient.

In these circumstances, the suggestion made by the French Naval Authorities, viz: for the Italian Fleet to join the French Fleet, and for a force of French battleships to reinforce the squadron in the Aegean, is concurred in.

(Sgd) R. F. Wemyss

C. M. S.

Forwarded.

(Sgd) Eric Geddes

30.3.18.
### Allied Fleets vs. Enemy Fleets

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Allied Fleets</th>
<th>Enemy Fleets</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dreadnoughts Battleships</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battle Cruisers</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Dreadnought Battleships</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals:</strong></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cruisers</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light Cruisers</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large Destroyers</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destroyers with guns (under 3.9&quot;)</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocean-going Torpedo Boats</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>51</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ocean-going Submarines</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minelayers</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In addition to above -

- Greece has 13 Destroyers and 6 Torpedo Boats:
- Japan has 14 Destroyers.
WAR CABINET.

EFFECT OF A REBELLION IN IRELAND ON THE NAVAL SITUATION, AND WHAT STEPS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO PROTECT NAVAL INTERESTS.

(War Cabinet question - 27th March, 1918)

I Copy of a letter from 1st Lord of the Admiralty to Secretary, War Cabinet, 27th March, 1918.

II Memorandum by First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff, 28th March, 1918.

29th March, 1918.

My dear Hankey,

I forward at the request of the First Sea Lord a memorandum on the effect of a rebellion in Ireland on the Naval situation, and what steps would be required to protect Naval interests. I hope that the Cabinet in considering this matter will realise the fundamental difference between the Naval interests in Ireland and the Military interests in Ireland. In the case of the Military the effect on the war of any operations in Ireland would be indirect, and would affect them chiefly, if not solely, because of the diversion of energy and resources to quell the rebellion, but in the case of the Navy serious disturbances in Ireland, unless Naval Stations and Depots of all kinds were adequately protected, would immediately and directly interfere with the day-to-day operations against the enemy. In other words, to put it shortly, Ireland to us is in the war zone, but to the Army it is not, and therefore it is hoped that in considering any question of disturbances in Ireland this aspect of the case will not be overlooked, and it will be realised that if any interference with Naval Establishments in Ireland took place, it might have a very serious effect on the conduct of Naval warfare against the enemy.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) E. GEDDES.

Colonel Sir Maurice Hankey, K.C.B.,
Secretary to the War Cabinet,
2, Whitehall Gardens,
S.W.1.
The principal Naval Interests in Ireland may be summarised as follows:

**Naval Bases.**

- Haulbowline Dockyard and Naval Establishments
- Auxiliary Patrol Bases round the Coast
- Docks and Shipbuilding Yards at Belfast
- Aerodromes.

**Communications.**

- W/T Stations
- Landing places of Transatlantic Cables
- Telegraph Stations.

1. Apart from the Dockyard and Naval establishments at Haulbowline, the importance of Ireland to the Navy at the present moment lies largely in the fact that it provides bases for the numerous patrol craft which have to be maintained for the protection against Submarines and mines, of the stream of trade which passes, both to the North and South, to and from the United Kingdom.

   The Coast is divided into six areas for the purpose, as shown in attached Statement which gives also centres of communication, W/T Stations, Signal Stations, etc.

   The maintenance of supplies of fuel, stores, and provisions at these bases and the uninterrupted working of their systems of communication are essential to the patrols. It is therefore necessary that they should be adequately guarded by Military Forces to prevent them being interfered with.

**COMMUNICATIONS.**

2. All Wireless, Cable, Telegraph and Telephone Stations in Ireland must be regarded as part of the general organisation of the Naval Defence system and steps should be taken to prevent their being interfered with. The positions of the Wireless and Cable Stations are given in the Statement attached.

   (a) **Wireless.**

   Operations in Home Waters are intimately bound up with the efficiency of wireless stations, whether naval or commercial.

   (b) **Submarine Cables.**

   A large proportion of the direct cross-Atlantic submarine cables (9 out of 12) land in Ireland, and the cable stations at and near Valentia are of the utmost importance to our communications with the U.S.A., Canada, the West Indies, and partly with Australia. Telegrams from England for America are sent to Valentia for dispatch partly by three cables between Weston-super-Mare and Waterville (near Valentia), and partly, cables between Fishguard and Rosslare and thence over the land lines to Valentia, about one-third of the total cable traffic between Great Britain and America, etc., passing over the land lines through the South of Ireland.

   (c) **Landlines.**

   Landline communications connecting naval bases to wireless stations and war signal stations must be considered integral parts of such bases and stations.

28th March, 1918.

(Signed) R. E. Wemyss.

(Initialled) C. M. S.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Base</th>
<th>Naval Centre</th>
<th>W/T Stations</th>
<th>Signal Stations (port war signal stations underlined)</th>
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<tr>
<td>KINGSTOWN, Sub-Base,</td>
<td>Kingstown</td>
<td>Carnsore</td>
<td>Carnsore Point.</td>
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<td>Rosslare</td>
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<td>Point, Kingstown.</td>
<td>Wicklow Head.</td>
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<td>Kingstown Pier.</td>
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<td>LOUGH LARNE</td>
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<td>Ballycastle</td>
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<td>LOUGH SWILLY, Sub-Base,</td>
<td>Buncrana</td>
<td>Dunbeg, Malin</td>
<td>Mallimore</td>
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<td>Killybogs</td>
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<td>Malin Point.</td>
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<td>GALWAY RAY, Sub-Base,</td>
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<td>Old Head of Kinsale.</td>
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<td>(Queenstown)</td>
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ii. - NAVAL AERO DROMES.

Larne (Airships) Complete.
Lough Foyle
Wexford
Queenstown
Whiddy Island (Kenry Bay)

Large American Seaplane Stations (with V/T Stations under construction by U.S. and nearly complete.

iii. - WIRELESS STATIONS.

Naval Stations for work with Ships.
Funkbeg Corkbeg
Malin Head Queenstown
Ballycastle Crookhaven
Kingstown Valentia
Larne (under Construction)

Carnsore Point Elly Bay
Skerries (Drogheda) Loop Head
Kirkistown Brow Head
Larne
Sea View

Commercial Stations under Admiralty.
Clifden Ear-marked for U.S. Transatlantic W/T traffic.
Letterfrack

I.D. Stations.
Ballybunion.
CABLE STATIONS &c.

To Newfoundland.
Ballinskellig
Valentia
Waterville

To Wales.
Blackwater
Howth
Newcastle

To Port Patrick.
Donaghadee
Whitehead

P.O. Stations.
Crookhaven
Malin Head
Valentia
Extract from minutes of War Cabinet 377 held on March 29th, 1918.

The War Cabinet decided to appoint the following Committee to consider the draft of the Military Service Bill (Paper T. 4057).

Sir George Cave (Chairman)
Lord Milner
Sir Auckland Geddes
Mr. Duke
Mr. Munro
Mr. Hayes Fisher
Mr. Roberts

Mr. T. Jones (Secretary)

and that the Committee should have power to summon any representatives of Departments concerned.

Minutes of 1st Meeting of Committee held at the Home Office on Friday March 29th at 4 p.m.

Present.

Sir George Cave (Chairman)
Lord Milner
Sir Auckland Geddes
Mr. Duke
Mr. Hayes Fisher

Sir D. Stanley
Mr. Beck
Mr. Seymour Lloyd
Sir H. Munro
Mr. I. G. Gibbon
Mr. Graham Harrison

Mr. T. Jones (Secretary)
The Committee proceeded to consider the Draft Bill which had been circulated by the Minister of National Service (G.T. 4057).

Age Limits.  

(1) The Chairman indicated that in the view of the Cabinet it should be compulsory for boys of 17 to be enrolled in Class G of the Volunteers and to attend the number of drills laid down for this class. (War Cabinet 377 Min. B).

The Committee agreed

(a) that the Bill should "deem boys of 17 to have become volunteers" and the No. of drills could be stated in a schedule.

(b) The next group should be from 18 to 50 i.e. to the attainment of the 51st birthday.

(c) The next group, 51 to 55, should be deemed to be Volunteers with power by order in Council to deem them to be enrolled.

(d) That a special clause should be inserted to meet the need for doctors, making the upper compulsory age limit 55 instead of 50.

With reference to (c) above Sir A. Geddes said that he was confronted with a serious problem of labour substitution, from next autumn onwards indentured labour would rapidly expire and owing to tonnage difficulties a fresh supply would not be returned. Between the ages of 51 and 55 there were some 200,000 men per annum available, about half of whom would be fit for labour in France. Without using these abroad it was hard to discover an adequate supply to take the place of the indentured labourers.

Mr. Hayes Fisher thought the House of Commons would press for the retention of the men of the group 51 to 55 within the Home Forces.

Exceptions. (2) The Committee reviewed the Exceptions now in force under the Military Service Acts and agreed that

(a) The first Exception should read "men ordinarily resident in His Majesty's Dominions abroad."

(b) The second Exception should remain as at present.

(c) The third Exception should read "men serving in the Navy, or the Royal Marines."

(d) The fourth Exception, which deals with Ministers of Religion, should be amended so as to provide that men in holy orders or regular...
ministers of any religious denomination should be compulsorily recruited for duties as chaplains or in connection with the care of the sick and wounded unless they offered themselves for combatant duty.

(e) The fifth Exception, as altered by the Military Service (Review of Exceptions) Act 1917, should not be further altered and the House of Commons should be informed that no disturbance of the pledge given under this head was contemplated.

(f) The Exception dealing with Prisoners of War should be repealed (M.S. Act Session 2, section 8).

The Committee next considered the proposals dealing with the granting of certificates of exemption and the machinery for granting them.

Sir A. Geddes explained that he had not contemplated dispersing the present personnel of the Tribunals. In the next place he wished, the authority whether the present tribunals or some re-adjustment of them should work to a definite code. The recruiting machine should work subject to friction from three sources, which might delay a man in taking up military service.

(a) His medical fitness. That was a question for a medical board.

(b) His occupational value to the State. He proposed that every man engaged in industry should be put in one of five groups in order of availability for service, according to their medical grade, age, group and occupation, Group V. being the last to be called up.

(c) His individual position, which would be affected by occupational or social considerations or both—e.g., a man might be a pivotal man in a business, the last male in the family, or have many dependants.

Each area would be allotted its quota starting with group I, then Group II, and so on till Group V. was reached, if found necessary. The function of the local authority would be to adjudicate on individual considerations (a) above and they would do so on the basis of a definite code of instructions. Fit men would fall to the medical authorities, and cases of occupation to the Reserved Occupations Committee. No man would appeal for consideration of his personal position until it was published that his particular Group and Grade were being called. The function of the local tribunal machinery would still be to save the right man from the recruiting machine.
In reply to questions, Sir A. Geddes stated that there was an enormous amount of physical unfitness in the nation. Between 18 and 43 there were still almost about 900,000 fit men in civil life. His Department had started out to obtain 420,000 this year. Excluding boys some 120,000 had been obtained since January. Of the 450,000 perhaps not more than 300,000 would be in Grade I. An extra 450,000 or 500,000 had now to be found during this year, but this assumed raising the upper age limit of 43.

To meet criticism it might be possible to retain the present tribunals and take power to issue new Regulations for putting into force the procedure indicated above. The personnel of the Tribunals would certainly be used.

The Committee requested the Minister of National Service to modify the form of the Bill so that it would appear less menacing to the social organisation which had been made that the Bill completely disestablished the present tribunals.

Conscientious Objectors. 4. With reference to Conscientious Objectors the Committee agreed that exemption should only be from combatant service and subject to power being taken by Order in Council or by Regulation to prescribe the work to be done.

Application to Ireland. 5. Mr. Duke explained the strong objections to applying conscription to Ireland and his preference for a system of ballot, following upon opportunity for voluntary enlistment with special inducements of separation allowances choice of corps, etc. He had drafted a suitable clause (G.1. 4082).

The Committee were agreed that whether Conscription on the English model, or Mr. Duke's alternative method, was adopted, the Irish tribunals would have to be nominated bodies, with a substantial military element, and they would have to work in close co-operation with the Royal Irish Constabulary.

The Committee adjourned until Saturday, March 30th, at 11.30 a.m.

(signed) T. JONES
Secretary.

2, Whitehall Gardens,
S.W. 1.
BATTLE SITUATION - EVENING of 29th MARCH, 1918.

1. NORTH OF THE SOMME. We have maintained all our positions, and no serious enemy attacks have been launched during the day.

2. SOUTH OF THE SOMME. There has been heavy fighting, and our troops have been pressed back to a line running west of HAMEL - MARCELCAVE - DEMULIN.

3. FRENCH FRONT. South of DEMULIN the French line runs through MEZIERES - la-NEUVILLE-SIRE-BERNARD - GRATITUS - to just west of MONTDIDIER. There has been further heavy fighting today on this line. Between MONTDIDIER and LASSIGNY the French counter-offensive continues and fresh French troops are arriving. East of LASSIGNY there has been no change in the French line.

4. A captured German Order shows that on the 21st March the objective of an enemy Division, which attacked near ST. QUENTIN, was to be the SOMME near HAM, a distance of at least 11 miles; actually the Division in question penetrated rather less than 5 miles.

General Staff,
War Office.

29th March, 1918,
7.35 p.m.
REPORT relating to the War Work of the Board of Agriculture for Scotland for the week ending 27th March 1918.

1. FOOD PRODUCTION.

With the exception of slight spells of night frost in some districts, which interfered to some extent with ploughing operations, the weather conditions were satisfactory during the past week. Seeding is well advanced for the time of year.

1. Labour The men released from the Army as skilled agricultural labourers have not in many instances come up to the standard required of skilled ploughmen in Scotland. Further efforts are being made with a view to securing the release for the remainder of the ploughing season of at least 300 men who have had experience of ploughing on Scottish farms.

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

During the week the Board issued Orders in the following cases:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Farm or Lands</th>
<th>County</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>Castlerigg Grass Parks</td>
<td>Wigtown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>Gedoch</td>
<td>Elgin</td>
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<td>(1)</td>
<td>Castle Fraser Home Farm</td>
<td>Aberdeen</td>
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<td>(1)</td>
<td>Tondargie</td>
<td>Wigtown</td>
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<td>(1)</td>
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<td>Over Hillhouse</td>
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<td>(1)</td>
<td>Hazebank</td>
<td>Dumfries</td>
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3. Turnip Gall Weevil. From information received by the Board it would seem that cabbage plants distributed by a merchant in Edinburgh are infested with the larvae of the Turnip Gall Weevil. A number of specimens submitted to the Board were severely affected and there is reason to believe that similar plants in considerable numbers are being sold to allotment holders in Edinburgh and elsewhere.

The presence of the weevil is shown by rounded growths, at or near the roots of the plants, which resemble in appearance the growths caused by finger and toe disease. In the case of finger and toe a soil fungus is responsible for the malformation of the root but in the case of an attack by the weevil the growths are definite galls formed by its larvae.

The introduction of this pest into ground where cabbages and similar plants are grown from year to year is serious in respect that if the weevils multiply to any extent it may eventually become impossible to raise a satisfactory crop. Plants attacked by the weevil make little headway and scarcely ever reach full growth.

The Board have issued a notice to the Press advising occupiers of gardens and allotments to examine their cabbage plants before planting/
2.

planting and to submit specimens with abnormally shaped roots for examination. Leaflets on the subjects of "Turnip Gall Weevil" and "Finger and Toe" will be supplied free, on application to the Board.

4. Seed Potatoes. As the planting of potatoes will become fairly general in Scotland within the next few weeks the Board are again reminding growers of the need for examining their seed with a view to ensuring that only sound tubers are planted. Within the last few weeks, specimen potatoes severely affected with Corky Scab have been sent to the Board for examination. The source of supply of these potatoes has been traced and the distributors prohibited from sending out further quantities drawn from the same stock.

A notice has been issued to the Press warning Allotment Holders especially of the danger of introducing this disease into their ground. It has been proved that in the case of ground where a potato crop is raised year after year, Corky Scab, if introduced, may become as destructive in its effects as Wart Disease. Allotment Holders have therefore been urged to examine their stock of seed before planting and to submit specimens of suspected tubers for examination by the Board's experts.

In the same Press Notice the attention of growers has again been drawn to the dangers of planting potatoes affected with Wart Disease.

5. Wart Disease. In the early part of the year the occupiers of gardens and other holdings affected with Wart Disease were notified that under the Order they could only plant Immune Varieties selected by the Board. A very large number of applications for licences have been received and about 650 licences have been issued to date. This number does not include the licences issued by the local Inspectors in Perthshire and Fifeshire.

6. Transport Facilities. Agricultural traffic on the railways in perhaps heavier in the Spring than at any other season of the year. The Board have received numerous complaints from farmers of delay in obtaining supplies of sacks, waggons and sheets, and, in some cases of the refusal of the Railway Officials to accept agricultural produce for certain destinations. Manure merchants, agricultural engineers and other traders supplying articles for use on farms have also made similar representations. All these complaints have been communicated to the Companies concerned who, the Board are glad to be able to report, have endeavoured to rectify matters so far as the existing congestion on the railways and the depleted state of their staffs would permit.

II. LAND SETTLEMENT SCHEMES FOR SOLDIERS AND SAILORS

1. Gariochsford (Aberdeenshire) The estate of Gariochsford situated in the Counties of Aberdeen and Banff and 31 miles from the City of Aberdeen has been presented by Mr John Brown of Redhall, Kincardineshire to H.M. Government for the purpose of forming a land settlement for Soldiers and Sailors. The only condition attached to the gift is that the settlers shall be natives of the County of Aberdeen in which Mr Brown was born and has spent his business life. The Board, acting with the approval of the Secretary for Scotland, have accepted the gift and have conveyed/
conveyed the thanks of H.M. Government to Mr Brown for his public spirit and generosity. The estate extends to an area of 710 acres including 657 acres arable. It is situated in a good agricultural district and the buildings are in excellent condition. The gross rental of the property is £434:6/-.

The leases of the two largest farms expire at Whitsunday 1919 and the others fall vacant at terms up to Whitsunday 1926.

2. Arabella (Eastern Ross). The Board have received the consent of the Treasury under the provisions of the Small Holding Colonies Act 1916 to purchase the Estate of Arabella situated in the East of the County of Ross. Conditions of purchase favourable to the Board have been adjusted with the proprietors and the transaction has now been completed.

The farm extends to 644 acres including 603 acres of excellent arable land situated in one of the most fertile districts of Scotland. The gross annual value of the property is £663. The Board are supported in their view by independent reports from Skilled Valuators that from the character and situation of the lands no better subject for their purposes could be secured. Complete entry to the property will be obtained by the Board at Martinmas 1918 but for some time prior to that term the Board will have limited possession of certain portions for their purposes.

III. RECRUITING IN AGRICULTURE.


(a) The number of certificates issued by the Board in connection with the scheme for vouching agricultural workers in terms of Army Council Instruction 1175 (i.e. cases remitted by Recruiting Officers) is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Certificates Issued</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aberdeen</td>
<td>510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayr</td>
<td>465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berwick-on-Tweed</td>
<td>1139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort George</td>
<td>1801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glencairn</td>
<td>936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haddington</td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inverness</td>
<td>566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perth</td>
<td>915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stirling</td>
<td>265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>7521</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) The number of certificates issued in terms of the Scottish Office Memorandum to Tribunals T.144 (i.e. cases remitted by Tribunals) is 1174.

2. Review of Exceptions Acts. 1917. The figures are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Figures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Cases brought before the Board</td>
<td>1687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Certificates issued</td>
<td>1460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Certificates refused</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IV./
The Organiser has recently paid a visit to Aberdeenshire, as a result of which one Institute has been definitely formed at Muir of Alford, and it is expected that another will shortly be established at Tullynessle in the same district.

In Fife, an Institute has been formed at Ceres, where there appears to be sufficient local initiative to develop the work on sound lines.

The Institutes continue to interest themselves in the questions of food production, food conservation, Red Cross work, etc.

Farmers' wives in Caerlaverock, Dumfries, have decided to work for the formation of an Institute in the Autumn, and have meanwhile applied for fruit-bottling demonstrations.
Prime Minister:

After reading the Minutes of yesterday's Cabinet, and considering all you were good enough to say to me on the subject, I remain of opinion that Parliament should be summoned as soon as possible and the Military Service proposals of the Government laid before it. At present the country is under the strong impression of the reverse in France, and will accept anything the Government declares necessary. If things go badly at the front that opinion will be so intensified that Parliament will have to be summoned. If they go well there will be a reaction and the many opponents of the proposals will gather strength. In such a case I doubt if anything like the proposals put forward by Sir A. Geddes could be carried into law - certainly conscription in Ireland would be far more difficult. As for the Irish situation, I admit I am not completely informed, and as far as I am informed I cannot pretend to admire the Cabinet's Irish policy. But I believe its only chance of success would be to carry it with conscription by a rush as a war measure. And that can only be done on the wave of intense feeling that now prevails.

A declaration should be made at the same time as the announcement of conscription in Ireland that certain proposals - I do not know what they are - have been laid by the Cabinet before the Convention, and in the event of the latter body approving them they will be passed into law.

(Signed) ROBERT CECIL.

March 30, 1918.
LABOUR POSITION IN MUNITION INDUSTRIES.
(27th March 1918.)

I circulate the following notes which have been prepared in the Intelligence and Statistics Section of the Ministry of Munitions on the labour position in munition industries.

WINSTON S CHURCHILL.

I.—MAN POWER.

Mobilisation of Released Soldiers.

Measures on the lines described in these Notes for the 27th February for the mobilisation on an emergency of released soldiers at work in munition factories are now being taken. Not only soldiers who have been "released" (retaining their uniform), but soldiers who, after being posted to a unit, have been transferred as Army Reserve Munition Workers, are being instructed to report at certain military camps for medical examination. Any man not classified as fit for general service will be returned at once to civilian employment. These men are most of them highly skilled, but they have all had some military training, and can, therefore, be made available for active service more quickly than raw recruits.

Steps are also being taken to accelerate as much as possible the calling up of civilians from munitions work.

II.—STRIKES.

Statistics for the Week ending the 20th March.

During the week ending the 20th March 36,635 working days—or 1/2 of 1 per cent. of the possible working time—were lost through strikes on munition work. Twenty-one strikes were settled. At the end of the week six strikes were in progress, involving 2,628 workers; at the end of the previous week the number of workers on strike was 3,417.

Few new strikes were reported between the 20th and 25th March, and on the latter day only six strikes were intimated as being in progress.

The Threatened Strike of Engineers.

Threats of a strike on the man-power question, which, if carried out, would have seriously menaced the output of munitions, were made in Manchester just as the German offensive was beginning. At first there were indications that members of the A.S.E. in other centres might support the unofficial lead given at the Manchester meeting, which was attended by representatives from many centres throughout the country; and the official attitude of the Society seemed invertebrate. As the battle on the Western front developed, however, not only did the Executive Council of the A.S.E. repudiate the unofficial action taken, but the Arrangements Committee appointed by the Manchester meeting called the strike off, and appealed to all members of the A.S.E. "to remain at work and to use every effort to replace the losses sustained during the present offensive."

The reaction against any suggestion of a strike at the present time seems overwhelming. In the most influential Labour newspaper (The Herald, 30.3.18), Mr. Brailsford writes:—

"The most pacifist among us to-day are the least pro-German."

The editor, Mr. George Lansbury, says:—

"When either Miners or Engineers put up a claim that they may be exempt while others are pushed into the inferno, I cannot help pointing out that this is a sort of selfishness which means ruin both for the present and the future."
Mr. G. D. H. Cole, of the National Guilds League, and Mr. W. H. Hutchinson, a member of the A.S.E. Executive, in a joint article which blames the Government freely for labour troubles, declare that:

"There must be no strike during the present crisis. Only one thing could justify a strike to-day: a reasoned determination on the part of a majority of the people to end the war at any cost. That determination, we know well, does not exist."

Abandonment of Easter Holidays.

The response to the Minister's appeal to munition workers to forgo a holiday at Easter has met with an entirely satisfactory response in all important munition centres. In so far as they are required to work, they will receive the usual rate paid for holiday work during the war period. Where no customary rate for holidays is recognised, time-and-a-quarter will be paid for work done on Good Friday and Easter Monday.

III.—WELFARE.

Nearly a thousand welfare supervisors are now at work in British factories. Many of these have been appointed from the Ministry's panel, but the majority have been selected by individual firms.

Reactive views are still expressed by some employers. The general manager of a very important engineering establishment in the North of England is quoted as follows:

Some boys must remain uneducated to do the menial work.
Welfare work destroys individuality of character.
A boy with a smattering of education is a dangerous person and becomes an agitator.
Welfare work may survive so long as the expenditure upon welfare is permitted to be paid out of excess profits.

Such trade union opposition as exists is based upon the belief that welfare supervisors, as paid officials of the firm, will tend to side with the management in a crisis, will be mainly interested in increasing output, and may act as spies on the workers.

Summing up the conclusions of quarterly reports lately received from all districts, the Director of the Welfare Section writes:

"In every respect substantial improvement is recorded which cannot fail to have reacted upon the health and vigour of the operatives, and so upon the quality and quantity of the output—and upon what is of considerable importance at the present moment, that nervous irritability known as Industrial Unrest."

NAVAL WEEKLY APPRECIATION—No. 44.

Week ended 23rd March, 1918.

NAVAL OPERATIONS.

On 18th March, one of our Large America seaplanes, whilst on patrol 10 miles north of Terschelling, chased two enemy seaplanes and continued a running fight for half an hour. One enemy machine was damaged but was able to continue on its course, and our seaplane also sustained some damage, necessitating the breaking off of the action. On the return journey, when off the S.W. end of Terschelling three enemy seaplanes were encountered, which pursued the Large America as far as Texel.

On 19th March, three of our Large America seaplanes, while carrying out a long distance reconnaissance, engaged two enemy seaplanes between 5 and 10 miles E.N.E. of Borkum, and one of the latter was driven down in flames.

On 21st March our seaplanes, while carrying out a reconnaissance in Heligoland Bight, attacked enemy minesweepers with machine-gun fire.

Minelaying operations in the North Sea and the Heligoland Bight have been continued.

On 17th March, during an afternoon patrol, R.N.A.S. machines from Dunkirk attacked three enemy destroyers three miles N.E. of Zeebrugge and bombs were observed to fall near the enemy vessels.

On 21st March Dunkirk machines dropped four 230 lb. bombs amongst nine enemy destroyers off Ostend, and a destroyer was also bombed six miles north of Zeebrugge, but the results could not be observed, owing to poor visibility.

R.N.A.S. machines from Dunkirk have also carried out several other patrols and reconnaissances, during which many combats took place, resulting in six enemy machines being destroyed and seven driven down out of control. Two of our machines have failed to return.

On 21st March, at 3.55 a.m., a force of German destroyers bombarded Dunkirk for ten minutes and retired. H.M. Ships “Botha” (Flotilla Leader) and “Morris” (T.B.D.), together with the French destroyers “Bouclier,” “Capitaine Mehl” and “Magon,” gave chase and fell in with another division of enemy destroyers, which they engaged.

“Botha” fired two torpedoes, one of which hit a large German destroyer, and she then rammed and cut in two a torpedo boat, but shortly afterwards “Botha” was herself torpedoed in her fore boiler room. “Morris,” next astern, claims to have torpedoed a large destroyer and to have seen her sink by the stern, and the French destroyer “Capitaine Mehl” also claims to have torpedoed a large destroyer and to have seen her sink. Another torpedo boat was also sunk by gunfire, and survivors from the two enemy torpedo boats “A.7” and “A.19” were picked up.

In the meantime, Coastal Motor Boat 20 chased the destroyers which had bombarded Dunkirk, and torpedoed one large destroyer and then escaped with the aid of a smoke screen, under very heavy fire from the enemy.
"Botha" safely reached Dunkirk, where she was docked. The British casualties were:— "Botha," 13 killed and 7 wounded; "Morris," 2 wounded.

The French destroyers were undamaged and suffered no casualties.

On 21st March the monitor "Terror" bombarded Ostend with satisfactory results, 39 rounds being fired, about ten of which exploded not more than 300 yards from the Atelier de Marine; a smoke screen was used after the first round. Enemy batteries returned the fire but scored no hits, and enemy aircraft attacked our machines while spotting, with the result that an enemy machine was destroyed.

On 23rd and 24th March, the enemy again bombarded Dunkirk but there was no damage of importance, and only one casualty.

Casualties.

On 19th March the armed Merchant Cruiser "Motagua" and the United States Destroyer "Manley" collided 145 miles S.W. of the Scillies. Depth charges exploded on both ships, damaging them aft, but they were able to make their way to port.

On 22nd March the Sloop "Gallardia" was sunk by a mine about 20 miles to the eastward of the Orkney Islands, 2 Officers and 64 men being lost.

On 23rd March the Destroyers "Hope" and "Arno" collided while on Dardanelles patrol. "Arno" was sunk and "Hope" damaged, one officer and one man being lost.

On 23rd March the Drifter "New Dawn" was sunk by mine whilst sweeping the entrance to the Needles Channel.

ATTACK UPON ENEMY SUBMARINES.

The number of large enemy submarines which have been located this week is only 13, but in spite of the comparatively small number operating, they appear to have been more active and successful than usual. Five were vessels of the converted "Deutschland" type, one of which was homeward bound, working between the African Coast and Madeira, while the other four were operating to the west and north-west of that Island. The remaining large submarines have been operating chiefly off the coasts of Ireland and at the western entrance to the English Channel; the Irish Sea and the English Channel, especially the latter, having been the scene of great enemy activity. Towards the end of the week at least three submarines appear to have been concentrated on the Southampton—Havre route, possibly in connection with the enemy offensive in France.

The following Table shows the number of actions with enemy submarines in Home Waters during recent weeks, and the nature of the craft which have been engaged, and also the number of submarines destroyed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Actions</td>
<td>Results</td>
<td>Actions</td>
<td>Results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T.B.D. and T.B.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.P. Vessels</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aircraft</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sloops and Patrol Boats</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gunboat</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merchant Vessels</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destroyed by Mine</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Service Ship</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submarines</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"Results" indicates submarines definitely or probably sunk according to the reports of the actions received. Submarines possibly sunk are not included.
On March 19th H.M.S. "Mystic" sighted a submarine and dropped three depth charges, which probably resulted in damage to the enemy. There is also probability that, as a result of offensive action of the Dover Trawler and Drifter Patrol, a submarine was destroyed in the minefield on the 19th instant, but this has not yet been verified.

On March 23rd the U.C. 48 put into Ferrol with engine defects and has been interned.

**MERCANTILE LOSSES BY ENEMY ACTION.**

The following is a Comparative Statement of the Number and Tonnage of all Merchant Vessels sunk in recent weeks by enemy action:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Ended</th>
<th>British Vessels</th>
<th>Allied and Neutral Vessels</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,600 tons gross and over.</td>
<td>Under 1,600 tons gross.</td>
<td>1,600 tons gross and over.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1918.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 9th</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>70,219</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 16th</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>38,033</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 23rd</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>50,267</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2nd</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>50,319</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 9th</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>44,103</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 16th</td>
<td>9*</td>
<td>59,675*</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 23rd</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>55,664</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Adjusted.

The British tonnage lost this week is greater than for several weeks past, and the losses of foreign vessels at present reported are also heavy. The figures for the previous week as given in last week's Appreciation are now increased by over 22,000 tons, of which more than 17,000 are of foreign shipping.

The table in Appendix I shows in detail the numbers and tonnage of sailings and of losses by enemy action, and the percentage of losses to sailings of British merchant steamships of over 600 tons gross register; and the table in Appendix II shows by trades, as regards such ships, the percentage of tonnage sunk by enemy action to tonnage sailing to and from United Kingdom ports during the last four weeks.

The British tonnage engaged in Overseas trades this week was considerably larger than usual, but the losses also were heavy and the percentage of losses to sailings works out at 1.51 as against 1.06 in the previous week. In coasting and cross-Channel traffic the percentage is 6.80 as against 6.40 last week, while as regards all traffic to and from the United Kingdom, the percentage is 1.69 as against 1.62 last week.

The table in Appendix III is a comparative statement of all merchant vessels, Foreign as well as British, sunk, damaged, and unsuccessfully attacked in the last two weeks by enemy craft and by mine, classified according to areas.

The number of attacks recorded this week indicate considerably increased activity on the part of the enemy, particularly in the Channel and the Irish Sea and to a less degree in the Mediterranean. There were, however, fewer attacks in the North Sea and on the Ocean routes. The percentage of successful attacks is also higher than usual this week, particularly in the Mediterranean where 15 attacks resulted in the sinking of 11 ships (of which 10 were sailing in convoy), and in 3 others being damaged.
ENEMY MINES.

Minelaying. Enemy minelaying has this week been experienced in the Lowestoft, Nore, Dover and Portsmouth areas. Special arrangements and precautions are now in force in regard to traffic using the War Channel between the Thames and Lowestoft, so as to obviate the holding up of shipping in this vital area longer than is absolutely necessary.

Casualties. The following table shows the number of enemy mines destroyed and British vessels sunk by mine in Home Waters in recent weeks:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Ended</th>
<th>Number of Enemy Mines Destroyed</th>
<th>Number of British Minesweepers and Patrols Sunk by Mines</th>
<th>Number of British Merchant Steamships Sunk by Mines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 23rd</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2nd</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16th</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23rd</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DEFENCE AGAINST SUBMARINE AND MINE.

Convoy. The number of Merchant Vessels under organised Convoy and the losses sustained whilst in Convoy during the last two weeks are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Convoys</th>
<th>Week ended 16th March</th>
<th>Week ended 23rd March</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. of Ships Conveyed.</td>
<td>No. Lost.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic Trades:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeward</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outward</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scandinavian—Lerwick—Humber</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French Coal Trades</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mediterranean Local</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>944</td>
<td>766</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The losses in the Mediterranean were 4 in the Alexandria—Milo Convoy, 1 in the Malta—Milo Convoy, 3 in the Bizerta—Gibraltar Convoy, and 2 in the Genoa—Gibraltar Convoy.

Defensive armament. The number of Merchant Vessels fitted to take defensive armament is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Armament</th>
<th>Primary Armament</th>
<th>Supplementary Armament</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fitted during the week</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number at present fitted</td>
<td>3,818</td>
<td>708</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The number of howitzers and bomb-throwers delivered to date is 845.

Mine protection gear. 1,638 Merchant Vessels have been fitted with Otter installations.
MOVEMENTS OF ENEMY SHIPS.

The increase in the number of enemy merchant ships trading between Germany and Norwegian ports outside the Cattegat is maintained, 17 having arrived at, and 15 having sailed from, such ports during the week under review. No enemy ships have entered or left Rotterdam.

FOREIGN NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

The French S./M. "Diane" was lost on patrol about the 12th March, in similar circumstances to the "Bernouilli," which disappeared a few weeks earlier. The "Diane" was completed in 1914 and had a complement of 30.

ITALY.

Changes have recently taken place in nearly all the Flag Appointments in the Italian Navy. It is reported that the late Commander-in-Chief and the Commander-in-Chief, Battle Squadron, were superseded owing to their having been indirectly responsible for the loss of the battleship "Leonardo da Vinci," in Taranto harbour in August, 1916.

The new Commander-in-Chief, Vice-Admiral Cusani, K.C.M.G., C.B. (who was previously Assistant to the Chief of the Naval Staff) will remain ashore with his headquarters at Brindisi.

The new Commander-in-Chief of the Battle Squadron, Vice-Admiral Solari, previously commanded the 1st and 2nd Divisions, and is said to be a clever and able man.

RUSSIA.

The authorities at Archangel have been instructed to adopt a friendly attitude towards the British and French, but in view of continual changes in the general situation it is impossible to conjecture what the local conditions may be on the arrival of the supply ships.

Duienko, the head of the Naval College, has been arrested for having declared that in the event of peace being ratified he would urge the sailors of the Baltic Fleet to oppose the Bolsheviks.

SPAIN.

The new Commander-in-Chief of the Spanish Navy is Admiral D. Jose Pidal y Rebollo, who was Chief of the Naval Staff, Vice-Admiral D. Augusto Miranda y Godoy has been appointed to the command of the Instruction Squadron, and Vice-Admiral D. Gabriel Anton y Iboleon, formerly Assistant Chief of the Naval Staff, has succeeded him as Commander-in-Chief at Cadiz.

Three more Spanish ships have been sunk by German submarines during the last week.

GERMANY.

The crew of "U. 110," which was destroyed after sinking the s.s. "Amazon" on March 15th, numbered 43, including 7 supernumerary ratings on board for training. Ten of these were saved, and their interrogation has elicited some interesting facts.

The most striking feature immediately apparent was the youth and inexperience of the men. The Engineer-Lieutenant had only served in training boats; one Engine-Room P.O. had been in "U. 66" for 4 weeks, but had not been to sea in her, and one of the wireless operators had been on board "U. 30" for about a year. None of the other survivors had had any practical experience other than that gained in "U. 110." Four Petty Officers, who were lost with the boat, are stated to have seen from two to four years' submarine service, but the other members of the crew who were lost appear to have been.
as inexperienced as the survivors. The loss of the submarine is probably in a great measure attributable to the want of experience of her crew.

It was stated that there is a lack of qualified petty officers for the submarine service, and that, although there are reserve crews for submarines, the men are nothing more than untrained recruits. The recent heavy losses in submarines are said to have made the crews extremely nervous, and the majority of the survivors of "U. 110" were glad to have been made prisoners.

Informants stated that since the mutiny in the High Sea Fleet, conditions with regard to food have been considerably improved, and that there is little discontent at present. They no longer believe in the likelihood of a naval battle on a large scale.

The Engineer-Lieutenant stated that he had had access to the operation orders issued to his Commanding Officer, which contained very strict injunctions against sinking hospital ships.

AUSTRIA.

In order to promote the more direct control by the Emperor of all the fighting forces of the Monarchy, a new appointment has been created in the Austrian Navy with the title of Inspector-General of the Navy. He will be a Flag Officer and in personal contact with the Emperor, and will be responsible for seeing that all orders issued by the Emperor are carried out. The Flag Officer appointed is Vice-Admiral Franz Ritter von Keil.

The Chief of the Naval Section of the Ministry of War (as regards administrative questions) and the Commander-in-Chief of the Fleet (as regards operations of the Fleet) will, however, still remain directly responsible to the Emperor.

Rear-Admiral Holub is appointed Head of the Naval Section, Ministry of War, and Rear-Admiral Horthy is appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Fleet. The latter officer was in command of the Light Forces in the "Novara" during the engagement in the Straits of Otranto in the summer of 1917, and he is said to be strong, energetic and venturesome.

NAVAL STAFF,
28th March, 1918.
APPENDIX I.

STATEMENT OF NUMBERS AND TONNAGE OF SAILINGS AND LOSSES OF BRITISH MERCHANT STEAMSHIPS OF OVER 500 TONS GROSS REGISTER FOR THE WEEK ENDED 23RD MARCH, 1918.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRADE</th>
<th>Sailings</th>
<th>Losses</th>
<th>Percentage of Losses to Sailings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North America Coast</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>229,343</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf and West Indies</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>69,122</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dakar, St. Vincent, W. Africa and S. America</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>141,638</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bay, Portugal and Spain, West of Gibraltar</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>110,838</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scandinavia</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5,203</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holland</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1,092</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Overseas Traffic to and from United Kingdom</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>637,644</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coasting</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross-Channel</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>408,819</td>
<td>291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total of Coasting and Cross-Channel</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total of traffic to and from United Kingdom</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Losses on other Trades</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Losses for Week</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Previous week's figures.
### APPENDIX II.

**STATEMENT** showing by Trades as regards British Merchant Steamships of over 500 tons gross the percentage of tonnage sunk by Enemy Action to tonnage sailing to and from United Kingdom Ports in recent weeks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trade</th>
<th>Week ended</th>
<th>Week ended</th>
<th>Week ended</th>
<th>Week ended</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd Mar.</td>
<td>9th Mar.</td>
<td>16th Mar.</td>
<td>23rd Mar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America Coast</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In</td>
<td>1.51</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf and West Indies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In</td>
<td>5.80</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out</td>
<td>2.59</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gibraltar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In</td>
<td>6.59</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out</td>
<td>2.44</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dakar, West Africa and South America</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In</td>
<td></td>
<td>11.67</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out</td>
<td></td>
<td>7.36</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bay, Portugal and Spain, West of Gibraltar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In</td>
<td>13.34</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scandinavia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4.40</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
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<td>Total</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>In</td>
<td>11.79</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
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<td>Out</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6.24</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total of above Trades</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In</td>
<td>3.28</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.79</td>
<td>2.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out</td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.96</td>
<td>1.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1.86</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.06</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coasting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In</td>
<td>2.66</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.45</td>
<td>2.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out</td>
<td>1.32</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.74</td>
<td>1.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1.98</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.09</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross-Channel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In</td>
<td>1.47</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>1.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out</td>
<td>.71</td>
<td></td>
<td>.62</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total of all United Kingdom Trades</td>
<td>1.47</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.09</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## APPENDIX III.

STATEMENT of the number of British and Foreign Merchant Vessels sunk, damaged, or molested during weeks ended 16th and 23rd March, 1918, according to Areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Sunk</th>
<th>Damaged, but not Sunk</th>
<th>Unsuccessfully attacked</th>
<th>Attacks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,600 tons and over</td>
<td>Under 1,600 tons</td>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>1,600 tons and over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arctic and White Sea</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>Foreign</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic (North)</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>Foreign</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic (South)</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>Foreign</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bay of Biscay</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>Foreign</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gibraltar—Azores</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>Foreign</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South of Mogador</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>Foreign</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Sea</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>Foreign</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Channel</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>Foreign</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irish Sea and Bristol Channel</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>Foreign</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mediterranean</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>Foreign</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>Foreign</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Totals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16th Mar.</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23rd Mar.</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Committee on the Amendment of the Military Service Acts.

(Second Meeting).

Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Committee, held at the Home Office on Saturday, March 30th, 1918, at 11.30 a.m.

Present:
The Rt. Hon. Sir George Cavendish, M.P. (Chaiman)
The Rt. Hon. Sir Auckland Geddes, K.C.M.G.
The Rt. Hon. H. E. Duke, K.C.M.G.
The Rt. Hon. E. Munro, K.C.M.G.
The Rt. Hon. G. H. Roberts, M.P.
The Rt. Hon. Sir A. Stanley, M.P.
Mr. L. C. Beck, M.P.
Sir J. Seymour Lloyd, K.C.B., C.M.G.
Sir J. E. Dodds, K.C.B.
Sir H. Munro, K.C.B.
Mr. L. G. Gibbon
Mr. M. Graham Harrison
Mr. P. Rose

Mr. T. Jones (Secretary)


1. The minutes of the First Meeting were amended and approved.

2. The Committee proceeded to consider the Draft Bill as revised in the light of the discussion which had taken place at the First Meeting of the Committee, and agreed to the following changes, together with others of a minor or verbal character.

Section I (1) "Great Britain" should be retained as the alternative to "United Kingdom" and "British Isles" should be omitted.

"for the purpose of the successful prosecution of the war" should read "for the purpose of the defence of the realm".

The age of doctors and their liability for service should be dealt with by specific provisions in the Bill.
Section 1 (2)  The provision for ministers of religion
and for conscientious objectors should be
separate.

It was agreed that the words "in connection
with the service of the sick and wounded"
unduly restricted the field of non-combatant
duty which it was desirable to prescribe to
ministers of religion and various additions to
follow the words "sick and wounded" were
suggested, such as:­

"or other non-combatant service":
"or other non-combatant duty which may
from time to time be assigned to him":
"within the limits prescribed by the Geneva
Convention."

The draughtsman was requested to insert
some words which would enlarge the sense
along the lines indicated.

Section 2 (1)  Mr. Roberts stated that he and his Labour
colleagues in the Government were strongly
opposed to lowering the age of military
service to 17 and were hardly less strongly
opposed to the recruiting of boys of 17
compulsorily for the Volunteer Force. He
agreed that the matter was one of policy for
the War Cabinet rather than for this Committee.

The Committee agreed to omit the reference
to ages 51 to 56 and to make the sub-section
read:­

"Subject to the provisions of this Section,
every male British subject for the time
being in the United Kingdom (Great Britain)
who has attained the age of seventeen
years but has not attained the age of
eighteen years shall be liable to perform
such service in the Volunteer Force as may
be prescribed."

It was agreed, more especially in view
of rural conditions, to be undesirable to
compel all members of the age Group 51 -
56 to join the Volunteer Force, but that the
Bill should give power to the Minister of
National Service to impose conditions by
regulations on postponed men. This provision
might appear in the next Section as 3 (1) (f).

Section 3 (1)  Mr. Munday, Mr. Roberts, and Mr. Hayes
vigorously opposed to the removal
of the machinery of tribunals, though
willing to see the machinery modified and
improved in various directions.
In Scotland, Mr. Munro maintained, the present system had conclusively demonstrated its great value and now commanded general confidence. Its operations could no doubt be expedited, but to scrap it would be a piece of Parliamentary vandalism. In England the area of the appeal court was the county, but in Scotland it was the sheriffdom which sometimes avowed several counties. There was a paid chairman, viz. the Sheriff, who was a responsible public official and it was certain that the tribunals in Scotland would not stand having their decisions overridden by officers of the Ministry of National Service. He particularly wished to know whether the powers of the new authorities were to be advisory or judicial.

Mr. Hayes Fisher urged that the House of Commons would be strongly opposed to handing over the tribunals entirely to the Ministry of National Service, because the Local Government Board was generally regarded as a buffer between the public and the Army authorities. He thought, too, that the House of Commons would scrutinize most critically the proposal to standardize individual conditions like domestic or financial hardships.

Mr. Roberts said that he was willing to curtail the present procedure by not allowing appeal except with the consent of the tribunal.

Sir A. Geddes reminded the Committee that he had been charged by the War Cabinet with the task of finding a very large number of recruits at a time of grave national emergency. He had to prepare machinery to enable him to make what was practically a levy en masse and to do this with the least possible damage to the industrial fabric of the country. He had never suggested that the personnel of the tribunals should be dispersed, but that they should be retained as advisory bodies to deal with individual applications on the basis of a definite code of standardized individual conditions. They would apply certain prescribed principles to particular cases and within those limits they would not be interfered with. They would have no power of exemption, because exemptions would be abolished, but they would have the power of postponing a man from one group to another group. Men would be placed in their groups as a result of their medical examination and occupational value. The advisory bodies will have no cognizance of a man's medical fitness. A man unfit medically would not receive a calling up notice, and until he received a calling up notice he would not wish to come before the advisory bodies or tribunals. So long as tribunals were
allowed to retain powers of exempting men he did not see how the numbers required by the War Cabinet were to be obtained. On his plan classified groups would be published indicating the occupations, ages, and medical grades of the men required, and there would be a right of appeal to be postponed to a later group. The work of the advisory bodies or tribunals would be confined to the adjustment of individual cases that came before them, and it was essential that this work should be done with great speed, as the intake of the recruiting machine would be enormously increased. Provided the urgency and magnitude of this task were realised and fully met he had no objection to the responsibility for the work remaining with the Local Government Board. The tribunals would have to sit continuously and small panels would be necessary to deal with accumulations of work. With regard to existing certificates of exemption they would remain valid until fresh calling up notices were served. The great majority of exemptions were at present under the Ministry of National Service; considerably less than a million had been exempted by the tribunals on grounds other than those of occupation.

SIR A. STANLEY called attention to the position of the 700,000 railwaymen who, in view of a pledge given by the Government, could only be called up by arrangement with the Railway Executive. These railwaymen were protected by individual certificates, and they would be apprehensive lest the present Bill should be deemed to cancel the Government pledge.

LORD MELKSHAM stated that in his opinion the proposed alteration in the law would not revoke the pledge.

THE COMMITTEE were agreed that the present tribunal system should be retained, but that the duties of the tribunals should be altered so as to carry out the functions indicated above by Sir A. Geddes; the power to grant exemption should be cancelled; the right of appeal should be modified; and steps should be taken to speed up the operation of the tribunals.

THE COMMITTEE adjourned until 3 p.m.
SECRET.

WAR CABINET.

S.T.-4077.

ASPHYXIATING GASES.

A Conference of Military Representatives of the French, British, Italian, American and Belgian Governments, accompanied by Legal Advisers, met at 3 p.m. on March 26th, 1918, at the Trianon Palace, Versailles, to consider what reply it might be desirable, from the military point of view, for the Allied Governments to send to the letter addressed to them by the International Red Cross Bureau in Switzerland with regard to the use of Asphyxiating Gases.

M. Douchan Stephanovitch, Serbian Military Attaché in Paris, and M. Novacovitch, Professor of Jurisprudence had been invited to attend on behalf of the Serbian Government but were unfortunately unable to be present.

GENERAL SIR H. RAWLINSON, the Chairman, pointed out that the Conference had not to consider, from the purely military point of view, what recommendation it should make to the Allied Governments with regard to the answer to be sent to the letter from the International Red Cross Bureau. He gathered, but was not quite certain, that a similar letter had been addressed to the enemy as well as to those of the Entente. In any case it was not an official communication from the enemy but had been raised by the Red Cross from humanitarian motives. The Representatives of the French and British Governments, whose Armies were most directly concerned and had had the widest experience in the matter of the use of gas in warfare, had already discussed the question and had agreed upon a draft of the reply which they suggested it would be desirable to send to the Red Cross. In that draft they had thought well to recite the conditions under which gas had been first employed on the Western Front, and to make clear that the Allies generally could not accept conditions which would bind their actions in future unless they could secure really reliable guarantees that these conditions would also be kept on the other side.

CAPTAIN WRIGHT then read out the draft reply (attached, S.T. 243).

In answer to a question by GENERAL BLISS it was made clear that this was a draft reply suggested by the Military Representatives, and based on purely military considerations. It would of course be open to the Governments concerned to modify that reply or adopt a wholly different one.

SIGNOR SICORD pointed out that the draft reply did not go into any specific detail as to what guarantees could be secured, or what were the poisonous gasses whose disposal was to be considered. He suggested that there were other instruments now being employed in war, such as flame projectors, which were outside the category of what was permissible in the Hague Conventions.

In answer to this M. FROMAGNET pointed out that the original letter from the Red Cross only dealt with the question of gases.
The Military Representatives present adopted the following Resolution, to which the Portuguese Minister also gave his assent.

The Military Representatives of the French, Belgian, British, Italian and American Governments are in agreement in recommending to their respective Governments to reply in the following terms to the appeal of the Red Cross Committee dealing with the question of Asphyxiating Gases. (See attached).

The Portuguese Minister, present at the Meeting, gave his adhesion to this reply.

Versailles,
March 26th 1918.

USE OF DEADLY GASES.

Proposed answer of Allied Governments to Geneva Red Cross. Prepared by the Military Representatives at Versailles.

S.C.G.143. The Military Representatives of the French, Belgian, British, Italian and American Governments are in agreement in recommending to their respective Governments the following answer to the appeal of the Committee of the Red Cross, concerning asphyxiating gases.

The Portuguese Minister, present at the meeting, has signified his concurrence.

Versailles, March 26th 1918.

For French Representative, (Signed) J. Pagezy.

(Sgd.) T. Lambert
Representative Belgian Government.

(Sgd.) Rawlinson, Gen.

(Sgd.) Giardino
Mil. Rep. for Italy.

(Sgd.) Tasker W. Bliss
Permanent Mil. Rep. of the U.S.

(Sgd.) Bettencourt-Rodrigues
Minister for Portugal.

The Governments of the Allied Powers, signatories of the Convention, have received in a spirit of sincerest sympathy the appeal which the Committee of the Red Cross has addressed to them with the praiseworthy object of putting an end, if possible, to the use of war of poisonous and asphyxiating gases.

More than any, the Allied Powers associate themselves with generous and truly humane ideas which in this as in other cases inspire the Geneva Committee. They fully share the Committee's sense of horror and sadness at the realisation that science, instead of being applied to the relief of human troubles, is prostituted to the pitiless work of increasing general destruction.

It is only too true, as the Committee says, that those who first did not hesitate to invent such means of war as deadly gases assumed a fearful responsibility. Once such methods are introduced by one side, the adversary under pangs of self-sacrifice cannot refrain from having recourse to them and from seeking to
to perfect his use of them, in order to gain and not suffer
mastery.

At the beginning of the present war, the Allied Powers
believed and had the right to believe with the whole world,
that barbarous methods of refined cruelty in war were done with
as between civilised nations. Explicit and solemn pledges had
been taken that no use should ever be made of poison or of arms,
projectiles or other means of war aiming at the infliction of
needless suffering. With the Committee of the Red Cross, the
Allied Powers consider that poisonous and asphyxiating gases
are clearly included in this prohibition.

This pledge figured in the Convention of which various
Governments - notably the Imperial German Government - guaranteed
loyal execution. If any value was to be attached to the word of
honour of sovereign States, no conviction seemed better established
than that of the Allied Powers that their troops would not be
subjected to the tortures of deadly gas and need not be furnished
with any equipment to protect them against it.

This was the situation when in April 1915 the Allied forces
were assailed by a new enemy in the shape of deadly gases, first
asphyxiating, then poisonous. The appalling sufferings caused
by this invidious and treacherous attack have been only too
accurately described by the Committee. The German Empire had
resources to methods it had expressly undertaken not to use, and
had again broken its word.

For months it became the duty of the Allied Powers to seek
and to discover means of protecting their troops against these
dastardly abominations and to furnish them with the power of
resisting their adversaries with equal arms. This task is now
accomplished.

In its eloquent appeal the Committee pleads for an agree­
ment to be undertaken immediately and loyally upheld by the
Armies to stop the use of these gases.

With any other adversary, had such a question been possible,
the Allied Powers would not hesitate to give their agreement
without reservation. They agreed in 1899 and in 1907 and are
ready to pledge themselves with any one whose word is kept.

But in dealing with the German Empire and its subordinates,
what guarantee could the Allied Powers have that this new agree­
ment would be better kept than its predecessors? Could the new
agreement be more explicit and solemn than the previous one,
cheerfully betrayed by the German Empire, as soon as it considered
betrayal expedient?

In spite of all, if the German Government to-day declares
that it adheres to the Committee's proposal and offers detailed
and effective guarantees that an agreement to discontinue the
use of gas will be observed, the allied Governments will not
refuse to examine its terms in the most liberal spirit. But
without such guarantees, the Allied Governments would fail in
their duty in not having recourse to every means of denying
their opponents of their power to harm.
Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: My appearance amongst you here to-night arises out of an address that I gave a few weeks ago on "Labour and the War." To-night you have been good enough to ask me to speak on "Labour: Its Aims and Objects." I think we might try to forget about the war for a while, which will be a great relief, and I would suggest that we also banish from our minds, so far as we can, the abnormal wages and conditions which are due to exceptional war causes. I would ask you just to throw back your minds to the times and conditions before the war, say, five years ago, and when I speak of existing conditions I shall have those in my mind. They were conditions which, as you know, were not at all satisfactory, which were admittedly bad, but they were conditions which may reappear after the war unless wise provision is made against their reappearance. And it is in the hope that I may be able, ever so little, to contribute to that provision that I venture to address you to-night.
Now the subject is a very large one, and if it were considered from the point of view of ultimate aims and objects of Labour, it would lead us, I am afraid, into very deep and troubled waters. There is the Socialist view, which would altogether eliminate private profits from industry as the means of attaining Labour's ultimate ends. There is the Syndicalist view, which would put industries under the control of those who operate them. Even Anarchism has its adherents, and always had. Robert Burns, in his "Jolly Beggars," says:

"A fig for those by law protected,
Liberty's a glorious feast."

The feast, by the by, is not so very enticing just now, as spread before us in Russia; but we should be wise not to harden our hearts because of that. We should look with sympathy upon all movements which are intended to extend the borders of human freedom. I do not want, however, to lead myself into speculations about ultimates further than to say this—I am perfectly sure that collectivist principles will more and more be applied to modern social and industrial problems. Just how far they may be applied, and in what way collectivist control may be harmonised with individual liberty, is a thing we may safely leave to those who will follow after we are dead. What we have got to do, it seems to me, in a democratic country is to ascertain and be guided by, to a large extent, the feelings and sentiments operating in the mind of the average man and woman of our own day and generation.

The Practical Considerations.

Looking at the matter from that practical point of view, I should say that Labour's aims and objects are twofold. First of all, the average man wants more of the good things of life, and he wants a man's place in the industrial order instead of being a mere cog in the wheel. (Hear, hear.) There, it seems to me, you have the problem. We have got to get it firmly fixed in our minds, in the first place, that the average worker of to-day is a different sort of person to the average worker of 40 or 50 years ago. It was Robert Low, I think, who said, on the passing of the 1867 Franchise Act, that we must now educate our masters. The education of masters began in 1870—or, at least, the Education Acts were passed in 1870—and you have had a process of education going on ever since, and the question that I think all practical politicians now ought to put to themselves is: 'Has the State raised a higher standard of citizenship and failed to give proper scope for its activity?' (Hear, hear.) I believe it has.

Just let us consider the man of 40 or 50 years ago. I am old enough to remember him; I have worked with him, and I can remember the man at that time very well. He was comparatively an illiterate man, and even if he read at all, philosophical thought was not popularised as it is now, when you can buy John Ruskin's works for 1s. The man at that time had few needs. He did not
feel out of place in a position of subordination; in fact, he took that position of subordination as a matter of course as in the natural order of things. Therefore, you had, as I say, a different kind of man altogether at that time, compared with the man that we have got to deal with to-day. In short, the man at that time was the product of generations of ignorance and neglect.

But there was another thing. Even then the man had a chance of putting his oar in and having a voice in the management of everyday affairs—a chance which is denied, to a large extent, his successor—because, as you know, industry was then in a primitive state as compared with now. Workshops were small, and if a man had a grievance he put it to his employers, and it was settled either in one way or another; whereas, as you all know, workshops are now large, and are often controlled from a centre. Vickers', for instance, I suppose may employ hundreds of thousands of men, and it is affiliated with an organisation of employers some of whom are almost as large. Therefore, the man of to-day, if he has a grievance—and he has—has to put it to somebody who sends it along to somebody else, who in turn passes it along to someone else, and in the process of transmission time is lost and the man's grievance is very often unrectified.

It is just the same on the side of the man's own organisation—on the Labour side. Forty or 50 years ago the man had his local club. Now his local club has become the branch of a central organisation, with its headquarters either in London or somewhere else, and to-day the man in Glasgow, or Manchester, or Newcastle, or some other place, as the case may be, feels that there is far too much being done in London; in fact, he thinks he is being "done" in London, and he would like to be doing something more for himself.

Similarly, in regard to wages, the man feels to-day that his labour is more productive. He knows that he is producing more wealth to-day than his father and his grandfather did; that science, as applied to industry, is always extending her borders, and that, as a consequence, the wealth of the community has increased, and he feels that his share of it has not been so large as it ought to have been. He is still tied down to his daily toil, and if wages are larger (which we must, of course, admit) at the same time you must admit also that the man has not a sufficiently large wage to admit of him having a holiday when he wants one, or meeting the ordinary needs of an educated person, or of even supplying his family with the chances that a family should have in an educated and enlightened community.

The question arises: "What can we do to improve the position and give satisfaction to the worker?" We have met together as politicians, and you commercial men, I take it, want to know from me what is in the mind of the average worker to-day; what he is
thinking of; and how it is that he feels himself to be a misfit in his present social and industrial environment. When I say we I am, for the moment, taking with you a detached view of the thing, although, as you know, I am a member of the Labour Party, and am myself of labour, by origin, association, and sympathy. What can we do to help him?

SELF-HELP.

First of all, just let us glance for a moment to see what he is doing to help himself. His efforts lie mainly in two directions—by Trade Unionism and by Co-operation. I think I am right in saying that about four millions of the most intelligent of the working-class population of this country are enrolled in one or other of these two movements. There are many who belong to both. Trade Unionism accepts the existing industrial and economic order of things, but tries to make the best of it by collective bargaining. It seeks to get for its members better conditions of life by complete organisation and by the utilisation of the skill of its officers and experts generally. I think I may say it has improved the condition of Labour very considerably.

The co-operative movement, on the other hand, is more fundamental. It seeks to substitute collective for individual ownership of the means of life, of industry, and of commerce. Primarily, it is a community of consumers, who find the capital, but who fix the rate of return of that capital at a certain limited amount—now generally 4½ per cent. for purposes of simplicity—and then the surplus, if any, is credited to the purchasers, at market rates, and is used as capital to extend operations to the field of production and supply. I think I may say that there, again, the co-operative movement has done a great deal towards raising the conditions of Labour throughout the country. It remains to be seen what we can do.

MORE LEISURE.

What can politicians do to improve the conditions? I should say that, first of all, we can get more leisure for workmen by encouraging a system of shorter hours of work and a better industrial organisation generally. That can be done. There may be shorter hours of labour—with more intensity of work, of course—without in any way injuring anybody. You can have shorter hours of labour with benefit not only to the workman, but to everybody concerned. (Hear, hear.) That has been proved over and over and over again by employers of labour throughout the length and breadth of this country; and yet, although that is so, the workman has been compelled to go to work at 6 o'clock in the morning before the streets were aired—(hear, hear)—to start work under conditions that he knows are not at all productive—(hear, hear)—to start work at a very early hour in the morning in the cold, and under circumstances of a general lack of
organisation, before his principals arrive—to start work under con-
ditions that he knows are quite unnecessary, and which have been
proved by many employers of labour to be unnecessary. Therefore,
in the first place, I think we, as politicians, and in so far as we
can guide and control industry as men in that capacity, might do a
good deal for Labour by encouraging shorter hours. We can do a
great deal in that respect as politicians, because, after all, the
Government is always getting a larger customer for manufactures. The
Government is always getting a larger purchaser of goods, and it
does seem to me that a great deal might be done by the Government
to get its goods produced, we will say, on an eight-hour system, the
same as in the Government workshops at Woolwich, at Portsmouth,
and elsewhere, and by that means we should be assisting Labour to
get more leisure. (Hear, hear.)

Then there are also other things that we might do in the same
direction. The Government will remain in control of railways,
mines, and other enterprises. The hours of labour should be
shortened on all of them.

A New Spirit.

In the second place, we could do a great deal in the way of an
improved organisation which would give the workman a greater
interest in his work and make him feel that he was really a human
factor in the business. In that way something has already been
done by profit-sharing, and where profit-sharing has been started
with a sincere desire to sweeten the relationships between employers
and workmen, and, generally speaking, to "stoke up" everybody
with a view to everybody's betterment, a great deal of good has
resulted. But, unfortunately, it has weakened Trade Unions in many
cases by detaching groups of workers from those Trade Unions. In
fact, I know it has sometimes been started with that object in view,
as in the case of the South Metropolitan Gasworks many years ago.
Therefore, it is suspect in the minds of the average worker. For my
part, I believe now that Trade Unions are more firmly established
than ever before, and that these questions are being approached in a
broader spirit than previously—at least one can say the danger of
weakening Trade Unionism by profit-sharing is far less now than
ever it was before. (Hear, hear.)

Then there are other methods of getting the workman interested
in his work, and the most common one is that of working by payment
by results—by piecework. That has also been open to abuse. In
some cases employers of labour have cut piece rates so that the
workman working on piece rates has little satisfaction, except the
satisfaction of working harder and getting very little for it. For
my part, I believe in piecework as a principle where it is
applicable. (Hear, hear.) Therefore, I regret very much that
piecework has been in times gone by discredited. But there
is the fact; it has been discredited. Prices have been cut until the man has got very little for his hard work. He has put his head into his work, his heart into his work—then he has found that the prices have been cut repeatedly; so much so that after working very hard on piece rates he finds he has earned a sum only equal to that of a day worker. I do not say it is the same in every case. In some cases Trade Unions have been strong enough to maintain prices. In cases such as coal prices are fixed fairly well. In cases such as cotton the prices have been fixed by experts employed by the employers, on the one side, and the workmen upon the other. Why could not the Government appoint and pay piece rates or price-fixers? I believe that that would have a good effect. You take a man and put him in a position of independence, both of employers and workmen, and by that means he would have no interest except in fixing prices fair and square. For my part I believe it will come to that before we have done with the piecework system.

Piecework rates are quite simple in some cases, such as coal and cotton, and where work is of a repetition character; but when you come to engineering, or those industries that vary from day to day, you should have somebody then, I believe, paid by an independent authority. At all events, by these means you would get men continuing to work at piecework rates instead of day work rates. You would get men interested in the work, and, therefore, you would get men turning out more goods, making, as I believe, a more wealthy community, and by turning out more goods, cheapening the prices of goods; because after all, the more goods you have the cheaper they are, and that could be done without any organic difference at all in the industrial order of to-day. (Hear, hear.) I am also in favour of extending the operation of the Trade Boards Act, because it has been found to be a great success already. It has done away with the scandals of Cradley Heath that we used to hear about. Similar legislation has brought the agricultural labourer’s wage up to a minimum of 25s. a week, and as much more as he can get. I should be disposed to extend the Trade Boards Act to bring in shopkeepers or anybody else who might come in at the lower end of the industrial scale, and thus improve their position and encourage them to organise themselves for still further improvement.

Whitley Report.

Then, thirdly, there is the question of more co-operation in the workshop. In that respect, I believe that the Whitley Report has laid down a principle which will yet have far-reaching and beneficial effects. (Hear, hear.) That principle may be briefly described as “Constitutions for Industries.” It gives effect to the same principle.
which, in the realm of politics we have applied to our Dominions. The Dominions have Home Rule, except in regard to treaties and defence and that sort of thing; but subject to that they can paddle their own canoe. Even the black man has a right to a voice in the Provincial Parliaments in the last we set up in South Africa. Why should not we give the white man here at home a voice in fixing the conditions under which he shall carry on his daily life? That, it seems to me, is a principle that ought to guide us in the better carrying on of industry. Employers would still make contracts; still buy raw material and finished goods; would still equip their workshops exactly as to-day; but, in all those things having to do with the conditions of labour and the adjustment of those difficulties which must inevitably arise from day to day, it seems to me that the workman ought to be brought in, and has a right to be brought in. Time has gone, or is going, when industry should be split up into two hostile camps—(hear, hear)—each taking as much from and giving as little to the pool as possible. I believe that neither of them gain by it. An employer of labour who pays less than the standard rate of wages loses by defective organisation as much as he gains by the reduced wages. (Hear, hear.) The man who plays "ca'canny" cannot escape moral deterioration or have a real live interest in his work. Therefore I am in favour of anything which will increase the man's interest in his work and bring him and the employer more into human touch one with another.

I should like to see wages, hours of labour, workshop sanitation, and as many other things as can be justified from experience brought in and standardised, so to speak—standardised up to a decent Plimsoll mark of individual life, and then both sides encouraged to bring about by some overhead collective bonus, or something of that sort, a condition of things under which everyone would be encouraged to do his best, and encouraged to see that everybody else did his best. (Hear, hear.) But it is in the very essence of things that there should be a minimum of Government interference and control—(hear, hear)—and also that the output should not be obtruded as the main consideration. Employers and workmen should be brought together in a spirit of goodwill with a view to human betterment. The devising of such schemes is the business of these Industrial Councils that are now being set up, where employers and workmen are agreed upon the principle. My friend Mr. George Roberts, the Minister of Labour, who is present, is busily engaged in forming these Industrial Councils where employers and workmen have agreed upon the principle.

But there is one step that I think might be taken now any way, and that is the formation of some sort of committee or shop stewards—call them what you will—in the shops, with a view to adjusting, or helping to adjust, those industrial difficulties which inevitably arise from day to day in the workshop. I believe that can
be done anyway. Unfortunately, in some cases, they have been regarded with suspicion by organisations of employers and workmen. I do not blame the employers any more than the workmen. I know that these committees have been looked at with suspicion by both sides, but I hope now that both sides will revise their views and alter their attitude; because I feel convinced that those committees or shop stewards have sometimes assumed a sinister aspect on account of employers' and workmen's opposition; whereas, if they were honestly met and made use of, as I think they might be, you would find that their activities would be constructive rather than destructive.

**Education.**

Now I come to my fourth point. I get away from the industrial and now come to the matter of the non-industrial aspect. I believe that in that aspect of the thing the workman wants more than any thing else improved educational facilities and protection of child-life against exploitation for profit—(hear, hear)—the two things being so closely allied as to be practically one. The workman has now got enough education to feel the need for more—for his children. (Hear, hear.) I said a little while ago that education began away back in 1870, but a lot has taken place since then, and the workman feels that, although the education which his child gets now is better than he got, yet it is not such as it ought to be to give the child a fair and square start in life. I believe the average workman feels to-day that the start in life—and the fair and square-dealing life—that he wants for his boy and for his girl, can only be obtained in so far as that boy or girl has a robust body and a trained mind. (Hear, hear.) That is what the workman wants. Many children are employed in profit-making industry before 14 years of age; and many, as you know, are employed now after 14 in arduous work. I should say that the chief defect of our educational system to-day is that break—that sudden break—at 14, when the boy must leave school—at least he *does* leave school—that break between education and work. (Hear, hear.) That is to say, the boy leaves school at 14 years of age before he has had time to appreciate the value of education. (Hear, hear.) Then he goes into work, and he is absorbed in work, and cannot think of education. He is absorbed in work just at the most plastic time of his life and character. Therefore, the workman, I should say, wants to have the standards of education raised, and to have the half-time age raised—(hear, hear)—and to have more protection for the children than there has been in the past against being employed for profit-making at a tender age. Fortunately, there is a chance just now of getting a step in this direction, because, as you know, there are two Bills before the House, one in charge of Mr. Fisher for England and Wales, and another in charge of Mr. Munro to apply to Scotland. The Scottish Bill now raises the age up
No boy or girl in Scotland will, after that Bill becomes law, be able to leave school up to 15. Mr. Fisher's Bill makes it optional up to 15. Considerable powers are given to the local authorities in many other ways. In fact, it is not too much to say that only the administrative clauses of Mr. Munro's Bill are open to controversy. There is a great deal of controversy going on in Scotland about them. Yet so far as the educational and protective provisions of the two Bills are concerned, I think it may be said that there is general agreement, not only in the House, but outside, and I think we should get both of these Bills passed into law this year.

Increased production would come with better training, as, for instances, if ships' plates were shaped by rules of geometry instead of rule of thumb. But that would be incidental. What is wanted is an education which would give a social sense, and an appreciation of the larger things of life.

Housing.

The second thing in this non-industrial aspect which occurs to me is housing. I think it is not too much to say that everybody who has looked into this question of housing right away from the time of the Housing Commission that I can just remember, presided over by the Prince of Wales—everybody who has looked into housing in this country has been disgusted with the condition of the housing of the people. (Hear, hear.) I myself have seen weeds growing through the floor of the agricultural labourer's cottage. I have seen, I dare say many of you have seen, the rows, in Ayrshire and elsewhere, of miners' cottages—dirty, dingy looking places—small, without accommodation for the separation of the sexes, and mere breeding places of disease, and, therefore, we ought to be doing something more than we have done so far in providing better houses for the people. Housing Orders are all right, but, unfortunately, they do not provide houses. (Hear, hear.) I can just remember the bad old days when jerry builders built as they liked. I can just visualise now five "lands" of houses—they call them "lands" in Scotland—great hideous blocks about five or six stories high built between two streets, one the Hill Town and the other Rose Bank Street, in Dundee, which is my native town. Those blocks, five or six storeys high, were so close together that they were unwholesome and unhealthy, and there they are now even to this day. They are 40 or 50 years old, but every other one of them is now closed by order of the Medical Authority. Well, gentlemen, I say that closing orders are all very well, but they do not provide you with houses, and sometimes they even make housing more difficult than it was. (Hear, hear.) Closing orders are all right, but before you close and deal with the slums it seems to me that you ought to provide houses for the people who are going to be called out of those slums. I have seen various "improvements," so called, not only in
Scotland, but here in London, time after time, in which no regard has been paid to improved conditions for people removed. With all the good resolutions that have been passed, and for all that has been done by Commission and inquiry in regard to housing, except in Ireland, little has been done by collective agency in the way of improving the housing conditions of the people, and for my part, I should like to see the Irish principle applied to England. (Hear, hear.) Although, Mr. Field, you have not got Home Rule in Ireland you have been ahead of us in that, and I should like to see the English taking a leaf out of the Irish book.

I believe that private enterprise, so far as housing is concerned, in our day and generation is dead. It was very near being dead before the war, but the war has killed it. You cannot possibly have private enterprise for housing so long as you have got the Rent Restriction Act upon the Statute Book, because you cannot charge a rent over and above the Rent Restriction Act level; that is to say, you cannot build houses on an economic basis. (Hear, hear.) Therefore the question arises: What can be done to build those houses, seeing that private enterprise cannot possibly do it? You cannot expect a man to build houses if there is no profit in it so far as he is concerned. I believe it has got to be done by frankly adopting the principle of State responsibility for housing. (Hear, hear.) I should like to see the authorities, the local authorities, throughout the length and breadth of the country made the agents of the State. I should like to see all arrangements made as between now and the end of the war—that is to say, the local authorities having made the proper arrangements with the Treasury, and having made all the necessary arrangements to select sites, employ contractors, and get out their statements and send them to the Central Authority. I should like to see all those arrangements made whereby the local authorities could be the agents of the State, the State undertaking to make up a large percentage—if not the whole—of the difference between the cost of building those houses and the rent they would receive for them, which must be based, more or less artificially as it would be, upon the Rent Restriction Act. I should like to see all those arrangements made before the end of the war, and then builders from the Army released first, and those builders started to build hundreds of thousands of houses throughout the length and breadth of the country for the better housing of the working people; and I feel perfectly sure that that is one of the main aims and objects that Labour has to-day and has had for many years.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

Last, gentlemen, but by no means least, there comes the question of such an organisation of industry as to provide against spells of unemployment, or, if unemployment has to come, provision should
be made to tide over that spell of unemployment for the working people. I can assure you that nothing has so embittered the lives of the working people of this country as going about vainly seeking work and unable to find it. (Hear, hear.) Nothing has so far embittered the life of the honest would-be worker as going about seeking work and knowing that his scanty savings were vanishing day by day. I hope we shall provide against that in the near future. The man feels a sense of injustice there, just as he does in many other things. He feels, for instance, that he is not being treated the same as the Army and the Navy. Those men are kept when there is no fighting to be done; they are paid whether fighting or resting. They are kept fit to fight should there be occasion to fight. Why should not the industrial army be served in the same way? I do not say it could be applied exactly in the same way as in the case of the soldier and the sailor; but it should be done in some way or other. The community ought to feel that the industrial army is an important, if not the all-important, element in the life of the community. (Hear, hear.) The industrial army ought to be kept fit to work when there is work to be done. Now that only means an extension of the principle of insurance which has, to some extent, found a lodgment upon our Statute Book. If the State had to pay while men were out of work there is this further consideration, that the State would be more lively in creating such an industrial organisation as would find work to do instead of having these men compulsorily idle now and then as they are.

Now, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I must conclude. I have tried to point out a few of the things that Labour is thinking at the present time. I have tried to indicate what I think is in his mind as to some of the remedies which I believe, and which he believes, would be of great advantage, not only to him, but to the community generally. They are more leisure, more pay, and more control, more education, and, generally speaking, work, if he is willing to work, and the other matters that I have mentioned.

You will notice I have not said anything about the restoration of Trade Union conditions, about which we hear so much, but about which I am afraid some people think so little. I have not said anything about them because I care very little about them. I look back upon them with contempt, as the mere outcome and registration of petty huckstering carried on in a spirit of ill-will and suspicion. (Hear, hear.) I do not want to return to them. I do not believe anybody else in his sober senses wants to return to them. I hope we have outlived them. But at the same time Labour fought for them, and is entitled to a quid pro quo. I believe that Labour will be wise in bartering away those old conditions in some way or another, using those old conditions as a means by which to set up not only better conditions of labour, but better conditions of life for everybody—(hear, hear)—better organisation, and a better atmosphere in the workshop and out of
the workshop. Therefore, I hope that, when the time comes, Labour will not attach undue importance to those old Trade Union conditions, but regard them as something which may be bartered away for better conditions. If it is wise it will do that; and not only will it get its *quid pro quo*, but a great deal more than that; that is to say, if we have all learned the lesson that the war ought to have taught us, and that lesson is more co-operation between all classes in the community. (Hear, hear.) If the war has not taught us that, if we do not get that in our minds, then, good heavens! there is no health in us and the outlook is dark indeed. I believe we have.

Just one last word about the soldier. After all, he is the man whom I have in my mind more than any other man. When I speak of Labour I include the soldier. (Hear, hear.) Of course, many of them have gone and cannot be recalled, but many of them remain, and will be coming back to this old country, I hope, in a very short time. They have suffered that we might be safe. (Hear, hear.) They have fought that we might be free, and I hope, therefore, that we shall, in our turn, do something to get for them when they come back a better heritage than they had known in the past. (Hear, hear, and applause.)
BATTLE SITUATION - MORNING - 30th March, 1918.

1. NORTH OF THE SOMME. There have been no further enemy attacks, and the situation appears to be well in hand. All evidence tends to show that the enemy received a severe defeat in his recent attacks on the ARRAS front. He is reported to be digging in on the line THIEPVAL - AVELUY.

Between the SOMME and the ANCRE the Australians have the situation well in hand.

2. SOUTH OF THE SOMME. We are holding a line of trenches West of IGNAUCOURT - Western edge of MARCELCAVE - Western edge of LAMOTTE-en-SANTERRE - West of HAMEL - thence SAILLY-le-SEC.

On this portion of the front the enemy is holding a line of shell holes, running roughly from CERISY to East of GUILLAUCOURT.

Situation is generally quiet, with the exception that the enemy is shelling CORBIE. Our artillery is in action EAST of VILLERS-BRETONNEUX.

NORTH OF THE SOMME, we now have six fresh divisions in reserve and three quite fresh divisions in line. We have withdrawn sixteen tired divisions and it is estimated that the enemy have withdrawn forty. The total number of field and heavy guns lost by us is 879. The enemy claim 1100. This number, therefore, probably includes old 15-pounders used as anti-tank guns, tank guns, anti-aircraft guns and some French guns - number unknown.

3. FRENCH FRONT. The French General Head-Quarters telephoning at 10, o'clock this morning expressed themselves as well satisfied with the result of the fighting yesterday which they regarded as a critical day.
2.

Heavy fighting took place along the rivers LUCE and AVRE, the result of which was that part of the ground lost yesterday was regained. DEMUIN was recaptured and the enemy was driven back to the western outskirts of MEZIERES.

The French entered MONTDIDIER and fighting is going on in that place.

Between MONTDIDIER and IASSIGNY both sides are digging in.

There is no change east of IASSIGNY.

4. There is great enemy air activity south of the SOMME, particularly on the part of Scout machines.

General Staff,

War Office, S.W.1.

30th March, 1918.

Issued at 12:30 p.m.
Sir,

In continuation of my letter of the 23rd instant, I am directed by the Shipping Controller to report for the information of the War Cabinet as follows:

1. Convoys

(a) Homeward Bound Convoys.

Since the last report 8 convoys consisting of 114 ships (772,300 tons deadweight) have arrived. The casualties by enemy action were as follows: the s.s. "CUSTODIAN" out of a New York Convoy was damaged by torpedo in the North Channel on the 21st instant, and was subsequently towed in and beached at Belfast. The s.s. "ATLANTIC SUN" which dropped out of a Halifax convoy, was torpedoed and sunk off the North Irish Coast on the 18th instant.

The s.s. "DEMODOUS" was torpedoed and was towed into Malta.

The casualties by marine peril were as follows: the s.s. "WAR KNIGHT" out of a New York convoy collided with the s.s. "O.B. JENNINGS", and drifted on to a mine, but has now been beached. The "O.B. JENNINGS" was brought into Sandown Bay on fire after the collision.

The s.s. "VALERIA" out of a United States convoy went ashore on the Jersey Bar, strained her deep tank containing oil which ran into the Engine Room, caught fire and destroyed the ship.

There are now on passage home 19 convoys consisting of 302 ships.

The Secretary,
War Cabinet.
(b) Outward Bound Convoys.

Since the last report 9 convoys consisting of 137 ships (1,028,400 d.w.) have been escorted through the danger zone.

The casualties by enemy action were as follows: the s.s."ETONIAN" was torpedoed and sunk in the Atlantic on the 23rd March, and the s.s."BEGONIA" dropped out of convoy and was torpedoed in the English Channel on the 21st March.

The s.s. "ANCHORIA" was torpedoed on the 24th March and was subsequently towed into Loch Swilly.

There were no casualties by marine peril.

There are now in the danger zone four convoys consisting of 94 ships.

2. Finance.

During the week ended the 23rd March the sum of £1,753,976 was paid in compensation for loss of requisitioned ships making a total of £55,289,668 paid on this account since the 1st April 1917.


The s.s."WAR ANGLER" (Oiler) built at Glasgow was delivered on the 19th instant, and the s.s. "BRITISH STAR" (Oiler) built at Wallsend-on-Tyne was delivered on the 23rd instant.

Norwegian Vessels Requisitioned.

The following Norwegian vessels have been requisitioned:­

s.s. "HOLUM"

s.s. "FREDRIKSBORG"

s.s. "JUPITER"

and the following ex-Norwegian vessels have been lost:­

The s.s."ORVUS" struck a rock and founded,

the s.s."TYRHAUG" was torpedoed and the s.s."RAMSHULM" was sunk by collision.

5. Russian Position.

The steamers "EGRA" and "NASCOPEL" mentioned in my letter of the 4th instant sailed from Liverpool on the 26th instant for Murmansk for orders, their cargoes being consigned to the Senior
British Naval Officer, Murmansk, who will arrange for them
to be escorted into Archangel.

Russian Vessels Requisitioned.

The following Russian vessels have been requisitioned:-

s.s. "INDIGHIRKA"
" "URAL",
" "IVAN AZBELEFF"
" "EUGENIA"
" "SICILIA"
" "EAMNETZ PODOLSK"
" "IBIS"
" "BIRUTA"
" "ALMAI"

The s.s. "POLIEON" was sunk by torpedo on the 22nd instant.

6. Stores for the British Army in France.

The quantity of military stores discharged in France
during the week ending 23rd March was 137,000 tons.

7. Exchange of British and German Prisoners of War.

These vessels disembarked 12 British prisoners at
Boston on the 22nd instant. The vessel sailed on the 24th instant
from Boston after embarking 537 German prisoners.

8. American Cross-Channel Trooping.

The American authorities have now named five vessels
which they propose to use for the Cross-Channel conveyance of
troops but it is not known when these will be available here.


With the object of securing greater safety and more
rapid work it has been decided to run vessels with American and
Canadian troops in a fast convoy from New York. Committees have
been constituted at Liverpool and New York to arrange the details
of this convoy.


In the last four days more than 20,000 wounded have
been transported from France to this country, the total carried
on one day alone (the 27th instant) being 6,300.

11. Losses and Gains of British Tonnage.

The losses of British steamers of 500 gross tons and
upwards/
upwards during the week ended the 23rd instant were as follows:-

Lost by War Risk 21 ships of 66,625 gross tons  
\[ \text{Marine Risk} \] 5 \[ 14,622 \]

Making a total of 26 \[ 81,724 \]

The gains were as follows:-

New vessels (British built) brought into service 12 ships of 54,075 gross tons  
\[ \text{Transferred from Foreign flags} \]
15 \[ 47,364 \]

Making a total of 27 \[ 101,439 \]
or a net gain of 19,715 tons.

12. Dutch Tonnage.

With reference to paragraph 7 of my letter of the 23rd instant steps were taken during the last week by this Department, in conjunction with the Naval Authorities, to give effect to the decision of His Majesty's Government to requisition, by right of argery, all Dutch merchant ships, which had previously been detained, at British ports at home and in the Oversea Dominions.

Instructions were given to the Naval Officers, and the various Indian and Colonial Authorities concerned, that every consideration should be shewn to the Dutch crews, and that provision should be made for their accommodation and repatriation, and in particular that care should be taken to avoid wounding Dutch susceptibilities e.g. by ostentatious change of flag.

The Dutch ships requisitioned are as follows:-

"LOOSDRECHT"  "SCHOKLAND"  "HENGELO"
"MERCATOR"  "COTTENHAR"  "OTIS T. WATAY"
"VLIESTROOM"  "FRIESLAND"  "PROFESSION BIYS"
"TSILOM"  "GAASTERLAND"  "NAAL"
"SCHENDELSTROOM"  "NOORD HOLLAND"  "LOMBOK"
"SINT ANNALAND"  "BOEREBLO"  "YIJUZ"
"HOOGLAND"  "HOOGLAND"  "NOOEDDIJK"  

I am, Sir,  
your obedient Servant,  

(Sgd) JOHN ANDERSON.
Military Secret.

From Viceroy, Army Department, to Secretary of State for India, 28th March 1918.

3970. Mari situation. Punitive measures continue. Some of Khetrans headmen have come in and most of remainder are reported prepared to surrender unconditionally. Mariis also reported as anxious to negotiate for peace.
SECRET.

From Viceroy, Foreign Department, 28th March 1918.
(Received 29th March at 10.30 a.m.)

SECRET.

SITATION ON THE WESTERN FRONT AND AMERICAN ASSISTANCE.

(Copy of a telegram from the Prime Minister to Lord Reading, dated 29th March, 1918.)

We believe we now had time to consider the military problem in more detail. We have good hope of being able to check the enemy’s present effort, but we may lose Amiens. The near future will show whether or not he will be able to reach that place. If he succeeds in doing this the military situation will be very grave. In any case, having undoubtedly proved his capacity to break through the Western Front on a wide front, it is certain that his military command, if unable to obtain all they aimed at in this battle, will immediately begin to re-fit the army for another blow at the earliest possible moment. Where he will deliver it will largely depend on the final result of the present operations. The whole military future will depend upon our being able to re-fit and maintain our armies in time to be able to counter his next blow. Looking past the immediate battle the fundamental problem before the Allies is that of man-power.

Our losses up to the present in this battle which has only lasted a week amount to about 120,000 men. By drafting in all our resources in trained and partially trained men we can barely make this good, and in so doing we shall have used up all our trained reserves. We are therefore taking immediate action to raise troops by increasing the military age to 50, and taking boys of 18, and by making another large comb-out of industry—a proceeding which will cause the gravest dishonour and hardship to our industries. We are also prepared to face great trouble in Ireland, because we feel that it is vital that we should be able to prove ourselves stronger than the Germans this summer.

Yet, though by these drastic measures we hope to obtain a reinforcement of between 400,000 and 500,000 men for our army, they will not be sufficiently trained for use in France for at least 4 months. There will be a dangerous gap in the months of May, June and July—that is to say, about the time when we may expect the enemy to make his next effort. If we are therefore to make sure of holding the enemy then, and preventing him from reaching a decision in the West, the deficiency during these months must be made good by American troops. In no other way can we make the Allied position secure.

It is estimated by our shipping people here that in shipping to be provided by Great Britain at a great sacrifice in other directions, we shall be able to embark in America, in April 60,000 men. Admiral Sims estimates that the carrying capacity of the American troop fleet is 52,000 men a month. In addition there is certain Dutch tonnage available for use by America, and we are obtaining the use of certain Italian tonnage. In all we believe that 180,000 American men can be embarked in April, and rather more in the succeeding months.
I want you therefore to formally urge the President on behalf of the British Government to give instructions for 120,000 infantry to be embarked and sent to Europe per month between now and the end of July - the battalions of these American regiments to be brigaded with British or French divisions on the same basis as arranged the case of the six divisions plan. In accordance with the resolution of the Military Representatives at Versailles on March 27th and agreed to by General Pershing the troops transported should be infantry and machine gun units only. As was agreed in the case of the six divisions, the battalions when trained can be re-formed into regiments and sent to General Pershing as he may require them.

Please see the President about this at once. In no other way can the hundreds or thousands of trained and half-trained men now in America be made available in this struggle; for they cannot be organised into separate units in time. Should it go against us in their absence the war might be over and the cause for which the President has so eloquently pleaded might be lost without America being given an opportunity to put in more than an insignificant fraction of her Army. I believe that the whole future of the war will depend on whether the Allies or the Germans are first in making good the losses of this great battle. The Germans will certainly not delay an instant. They have the man-power with which to replace their losses. There are also the Austrians of whom, according to the German papers today, there are already 250,000 on the Western Front. Unless we can re-fit as fast as they can, we shall simply give Germany the chance to deliver that knock out blow with which its leaders hope to win the war.

Confidential.

We believe that the shipping of this number of men can be managed from America, but that the chief difficulty will be in transportation and terminal facilities. We rely upon you to see that these obstacles are not allowed to hinder the transportation of these vital troops, otherwise the consequences may be disastrous. In view of what President said to you in your last interview I am informed Baker, Pershing and Bliss of general substance of this communication and asking them to support the proposals we are making.
Joint Note to the Supreme War Council by the Executive War Board.

INTER-ALLIED GENERAL RESERVE.

(a) Italian quota: (b) Transfers of French and British reinforcements from Italian Front.

The Executive War Board assembled at Versailles at 3 p.m. on Thursday, 21st March, 1918, to decide the questions submitted to its decisions by the Supreme War Council at its Meeting of Thursday, 14th March. (Resolution No. 4).

After having considered the recommendations of the Meeting of General Officers which convened at Turin on the 20th March, answers:

(a) "The number of divisions to be allotted as the Italian quota of the General Reserve."

General Giardino estimates that the number may be 4 Italian divisions on condition that only 2 French divisions are to be assigned to the General Reserve.

General Diaz did, in fact, state that if - as the Governments indicated it in their Resolution No. 3 - all the French and English Divisions in Italy should be placed in the General Reserve, he will not be able to furnish any Italian divisions for this General Reserve.

Generals Bliss, Rawlinson and Foch estimate that the number of divisions to be put in the General Reserve should be 4 Italian Divisions and, for the present, 2 French and 1 English division.

(b) "The desirability of an immediate transfer to the Western Front of some of the British, French and Italian divisions now on the Italian Front."

General Giardino considers as opportune the immediate transfer of 2 Italian Divisions and thereafter of 2 French and 1 English division if the military situation permits it.
General Bliss, General Rawlinson and General Foch consider it opportune that 2 Italian divisions, 2 French divisions and 1 British division be transferred. Since these divisions are part of the General Reserve, the Executive Committee will fix the order of the transfer of these units, having agreed that the transportation will begin with the 2 Italian divisions if the military situation permits.

S. FOCH. H. RAWLINSON. GIARDINO. TASKER H. BLISS.

General, General, General, General,
representing FRANCE, Permanent Military Permanent Military Permanent Military
Chairman of the Representative, Representative, Representative,
Executive War BRITISH Section, ITALIAN Section, AMERICAN Section,
Board. Supreme War Supreme War Supreme War

VERSAILLES.

21st March, 1918.
To avoid delay, address all communications to:

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL.

FOOD PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT,
72, VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, S.W. (1)

27th March, 1918.

Sir,

I beg to submit the following report on the work of the Food Production Department for the week ended 26th March, 1918:

The Weather.

The weather experienced throughout the country continued to be favourable last week, and a large acreage of land was added to the area under cultivation. A few days' rain at the present time would, however, in many parts of the country, be very welcome.

LOCAL ORGANISATION DIVISION.

Agricultural Executive Committees.

Buckinghamshire - The Committee have ordered the ploughing of 25 acres of the Burnham Beeches Golf Course. They had previously made an order for the cultivation of a much larger area than this, but it was reduced after special inspection by surveyors on behalf of the Committee and of the Golf Club.

Cheshire - The Committee have been authorised to take possession of a farm of 112 acres near Malpas, of which 15 acres only were under tillage. The Committee propose to let it for proper cultivation.

Essex - The Committee have taken possession, with the approval of the Department, of 290 acres of derelict building land near Laindon Station, which they will cultivate themselves, and of 100 acres adjoining, which will be cultivated by a farmer who has, for many years, used this land for grazing. The scheme for the cultivation of these lands has been prepared by the Technical Division. The Committee have also been authorised to take possession of about...
200 acres of derelict building land near Wickford, and will cultivate it themselves.

Kent - An area of 450 acres on the North Downs near Eynsford has to a large extent gone out of cultivation. The Committee have been authorised to take possession, and will deal with 270 acres as arable land. Most of this will require to be broken up by steam tackle. 14 acres will be sown with potatoes this year, the greater part will be summer fallowed for 1919; the work will be done by the Committee.

Leicestershire - In April 1917, the Committee took possession of a farm at Osgathorpe, which was in a deplorable state; the 47 acres of arable land had to be summer fallowed, and the fences had been allowed to run wild. The farm has been dealt with by the Committee under the voluntary supervision of a retired farmer in the neighbourhood, and has now been brought into a good state of cultivation. The arable land is growing a crop of wheat which looks well. The Committee have now withdrawn in favour of the landlord, who has agreed to pay all the costs of cultivation and has let the farm to an efficient tenant.

Pembrokeshire - The Department have entered on a Recreation Ground at Haverfordwest, on which it is proposed to cultivate an area 7 acres with oats.

Prosecutions - In Somerset two farmers in different divisions of the county have each been fined £25 and costs for failure to comply with orders for the breaking up of grass land before 31st March 1918. In Monmouthshire a farmer has been fined £10 for a similar offence.

Determination of Tenancies - During the week 10 Orders have been made authorising landlords to determine tenancies on account of bad farming in respect of 513 acres, and 12 Orders have been made by the Board determining the tenancies of 446 acres.
HORTICULTURAL DIVISION.

Onion Growing - From the numerous inquiries for information and the requests for supplies of seedlings, there is evidence that small cultivators are devoting very considerable attention to the onion crop.

Osier Cutting - From the reports received from the Cambridgeshire area, it appears that all the osier crop will be cut this year with the help of unskilled soldier labour. Cutting is proceeding satisfactorily in the Trent and Soar area, skilled labour being augmented by unskilled soldier labour.

Manufacture of baskets - The Nottinghamshire Higher Education Committee has granted a subsidy towards establishing basket making centres with the object of promoting basket making as a Rural industry. A basket making factory will shortly be started at Bingham by the Trent Basket Making Company, who will employ women largely in this industry.

A scheme for training disabled soldiers in basket making has been initiated at Hull, and instructors and raw materials have been provided.

Empties out of Circulation - The Railway Executive Committee has been approached on the subject of the "hold up" of 5,629 bundles of Dutch baskets at Hull, the Railway Company having professed its inability to move the baskets.

Fruit Bottling - Demonstrations on fruit and vegetable preserving have been given up to the present, at 69 Women's Institutes. During the week 39 Demonstrations in fruit bottling have been given.

Marketing - The Counties of Devon and Somerset are raising a guarantee fund and proceeding with the registration of a Co-operative Society for marketing surplus produce.

Warwickshire has appointed a Market Manager in connection
with its marketing scheme. The Department assisted North Devon in obtaining boat transport for marketing purposes.

Provision of land for Allotments - Reports received from 1,131 districts show that 276,633 applications have been made for plots under the Cultivation of Lands Order, 1917 (No.2), and that 248,608 plots containing 18,206 acres have been provided.

The Department have entered on the gardens of 8 unoccupied houses at Hampstead, sufficient to provide 13 allotments. They have also entered on Becontree Heath, and authorised the Parish Council of Dagenham to arrange for the cultivation of the land.

During the past week the Allotment Inspectors have conferred with 33 Local Authorities and as the result of their initiative, steps are being taken by the Local Authorities to acquire 490 acres of ground (8,526 new allotments).

At Korley 100 acres (1,500 allotments) have been provided; Barking 63 acres (686 allotments); Luton 36 acres (500 allotments); Skipton 33 acres (500 allotments); Chislehurst 2 acres (383 allotments); Tredegar 24 acres (388 allotments); Canterbury 22 acres (308 allotments).

In the North, Inspectors have met with considerable success by setting before the Local Authorities an allotment scheme. The object aimed at is to secure that one in every three of all the inhabited houses shall have an allotment. This result has been obtained in certain of the smaller towns of Yorkshire, for example -

(1) Keighley: population 43,457, inhabited houses about 4,348, total allotments 2,819, pre-war allotments 798, Cultivation of Lands Order allotments 561, allotments being acquired this year 1,500. One allotment for from one to two houses.

(11) Ossett: population 14,078, inhabited houses about 3,1
total allotments 1,308, pre-war allotments 12. Cultivation of lands Order allotments last year 296, new allotments now being acquired 1,000. One allotment for from one to two houses.

A striking example of the numbers of allotments in the larger towns is provided by Bradford, of which the population is 288,488, the number of inhabited houses about 64,000, and the number of allotments 8,629 (i.e. one allotment to ten houses).

At Leeds, where the population is 452,948, inhabited houses number about 100,000, total allotments 7,557 (one allotment to about 13 houses).

In Yorkshire alone, the reports show that 1,600 acres of land, which has been visited by the Inspectors, is being taken for allotments by the authorities. Up to the present date the 360 Urban Authorities already visited by the Department's Inspectors, are taking steps to acquire 6,000 additional acres, which gives an increase of 53% in the number of allotments for these districts.

**Allotments at Munition Works.** Remarkable progress is being made at the Works at Hayes. The girls who are working the plots have already trenched and prepared upwards of 14 acres of ground for cultivation.

**TECHNICAL DIVISION.**

Several requests have recently been received from the War Office for advice in the management of land occupied by the military.

About 70 acres of land reclaimed from Ashdown Forest, which is being cultivated by men from the R.F.A. camp at Forest Row, Sussex has been inspected during the week. About 18 acres, divided into plots, lie within the lines of the camp, the remainder consisting of three separate blocks within the Forest. The land near the camp is difficult to till, and obstacles such as banks and hollows have had to be overcome. The work has
been thoroughly done, and the crops of peas and beans on some of the plots previously brought under cultivation, look very promising. The land selected for cultivation in the forest is more or less clear of trees, but is largely covered with ling and bracken. The soil is loam, thin in places, but dry, with the exception of a few isolated patches, and ploughs up fairly well. The land is being broken up skilfully, and there is a reason to believe that good crops will be secured.

Seed Testing Station. The number of samples received up to March 23rd was 6,411. The reports sent out were 5,913, of which 194 were interim. Red clovers and sainfoin are both of low quality this season, and a warning on this subject is being issued to farmers.

Labour Division.

Soldier Labour. The whole of the ploughmen on agricultural furlough from overseas were recalled during the week, leaving 39,688 (27,677 skilled and 12,011 unskilled) soldiers attached to depots. Of these, 36,148 (26,491 skilled and 9,657 unskilled) are out on the land. The additional number of men supplied during the week was 469 skilled and 316 unskilled, leaving a balance of 3,156 unskilled or 1,578 skilled men still to be supplied by the Military Authorities. All these men are urgently required owing to the large demands received for labour for cultivation.

An additional 49 men were sent out for training as tractor drivers during the week, making a total of 3,626 men supplied for such training to date.

Horses. Orders were given during the week for the issue of 9 horses making a total of 6,794 horses supplied to the Agricultural Executive Committees to date. In addition, 906 horses are on loan from the Military Authorities.
prisoners of War. An additional 12 prisoner camps (9 prisoner ploughmen camps and 3 ordinary agricultural camps) were opened during the week, making the total number of prisoners now employed on the land as follows:

| From 47 ordinary agricultural camps       | 4,575 |
| " 83 ploughmen camps                     | 3,062 |
| Employed from other camps                 | 1,008 |

Released aliens employed in agriculture  1,647

Total  10,292

The number of schemes now with the War Office is as follows:

| 37 prisoner ploughmen schemes             | 1,086 |
| 32 ordinary agricultural schemes          | 1,463 |

Total  2,548

In addition to the schemes referred to above, 73 schemes for the establishment of prisoner camps are suspended owing to the lack of prisoners available at the present time for agricultural work in this country.

WOMEN'S BRANCH.

One hundred further recruits were enrolled on the day following the great Recruiting Demonstration in London last week, making a total of 620 recruits enrolled in the two days.

The increased number of recruits now coming forward necessitates greater training facilities, and six new Centres are being opened in Surrey, Essex and Norfolk to accommodate 50 women. Instruction courses at a large number of farms have been sanctioned, and also special courses in hedge laying, thatching, and mole-catching in North Wales. In Surrey, Lady Lovelace has placed at the disposal of the Committee a large house which will accommodate 20 women who will be trained on the neighbouring farms.

The Group Leaders in the three Ridings of Yorkshire are making a thorough canvas of the available local women with a
view to obtaining a supply of this labour to satisfy the demand for flax pullers in the coming season. It is hoped to be able to raise a large proportion of the workers locally and so avoid the troubles of imported labour.

A successful Rally was held at Cambridge on Saturday when Princess Mary presented badges and stripes to some 700 women workers, including members of the Land Army and village "Institutes. Seventeen new Institutes have been started during the past week.

An interesting development is reported from Chobham Women's Institute, which established the Chobham and District Growers Limited in 1917. Consumers who were in the habit of buying their supplies of fruit and vegetables from the big Lonsdale shops now buy them locally. The Institute members contend that not only have they increased food production, but effected a material saving in railway transport.

**MECHANICAL CULTIVATION DIVISION.**

The following statement shows the position as regards the provision of tractors owned by the Department:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consigned to County Committees and Tractor Schools up to and including 19th March, 1918</td>
<td>2,823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consigning instructions given during the week</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On offer to counties</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consigned to Scotland</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; Ireland</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3,282
The following is a list of horse-drawn implements consigned to Agricultural Executive Committees:

- Carts and lorries .......... 1,217
- Cultivators ................. 1,163
- Disc harrows ................ 746
- Drills ....................... 809
- Harrows and drags .......... 2,690
- Ploughs ...................... 4,607
- Rollers and pressers ......... 2,119

In the week ended 15th March - the latest for which complete returns have been analysed - the area ploughed by the Government tractors was 19,445 acres. In addition, 10,812 acres were cultivated. The work performed was, therefore, equivalent to 10 acres ploughed for every one of the 2,303 tractors in commission.

- **Wiltshire.** The Salisbury unit ploughed 468½ acres with 24 tractors. 1,442 acres were ploughed in this county during the week by 83 tractors.

- **Norfolk.** Another splendid result has been obtained by Fordson tractor No.563 having ploughed 46 acres in 44½ hours on the low average fuel consumption of 1.84 gallons per acre.

- **Hampshire.** Titan No.354 ploughed 22½ acres on an average fuel consumption of 2.97 gallons. Titan No.331 cultivated 77 acres on a fuel consumption of 1.3 gallons per acre. 1,077¼ acres were ploughed and 597½ acres cultivated in this county during the week.

- **Gloucestershire.** 506½ acres were ploughed and 342¾ acres cultivated in this county.

**SUPPLIES DIVISION.**

**Sulphate of Ammonia.** - A Conference has been held with makers at which the prices for next season were discussed, and a basis price subject to a proportionate allowance to cover the anticipated rise in the price of Sulphuric Acid, has been agreed upon between the representatives of the Ministry of Munitions and this Department, and the makers. The contemplated increase in prices is necessary in order to cover the present cost of manufacture, so as to enable the output of Sulphate of Ammonia to be fully maintained. The question of the actual prices to be charged to farmers is under consideration.
The draft of the proposed Order fixing the prices of Sulphate of Ammonia which was considered by the Sulphate of Ammonia Distribution Committee, has met with general approval.

In order to meet the demands of allotment-holders, Sulphate of Ammonia is now being sold at 1/6d. per 7 lb. bag by the Metropolitan and most of the Suburban Gas Companies around London.

The attention of Executive Committees is being drawn to the prizes which are offered by the Sulphate of Ammonia Association to allotment-holders and small farmers for crops grown on land dressed with Sulphate of Ammonia.

**Superphosphate** - A Press Notice was issued during the week drawing the attention of farmers and allotment-holders to supplies of superphosphate. Numerous enquiries have been received from allotment-holders in the Metropolitan area, and an effort is being made to arrange for the supply of this fertiliser in small quantities to allotment-holders. The prices provided by the Order issued last year were hardly sufficient to remunerate dealers for selling small quantities of 14 lbs. or 28 lbs., but the Ministry of Munitions have undertaken to issue an amending Order at once allowing additional charges for these quantities.

**Wire Netting** - Several Agricultural Executive Committees are asking for supplies of wire netting, and stocks in the hands of several manufacturers are exhausted. Pressure is being brought on the Ministry of Munitions to release a further supply of steel for this purpose, but at the moment the Army requirements are so great that it appears unlikely that additional supplies can be obtained.

**Seed Oats**. The supplies of Manx oats are now exhausted; supplies of Scottish oats have been considerably reduced and steps are being taken to dispose of the remaining parcels. The Department still have approximately 600 tons of Irish Black Tartarian oats either in store or on passage to meet future orders.
Seed Potato Supply. Deliveries during the past week have increased considerably. The total quantity of potatoes for which forwarding instructions have been issued to growers up to the 23rd inst. amounts to 29,236 tons; the total quantity delivered to consignees in England and Wales amounts to 9,571 tons and the total quantity shipped to France is 6,319 tons, making a grand total of 15,890 tons.

Wart Disease. Inspectors have been asked to suggest areas in their districts which they think should be certified as Infected Areas under the forthcoming Wart Disease of Potatoes Order. It is proposed to define these areas and publish the necessary particulars amongst those concerned at an early date, so that they may be aware of the requirements of the new Order in sufficient time to make their arrangements for the planting season of 1919.

A few new cases of wart disease have been reported and local enquiry is being made.

Spraying. The following number of lectures have been given by the Organisers working under the Spraying Sub-Section:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Lectures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to the end of February</td>
<td>415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>During the first 26 days of March</td>
<td>410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total to date</td>
<td>825</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Arrangements have been made in many parts of the country for potato spraying trials and demonstrations to be carried out during the summer under detailed supervision, and the co-operation of several University Agricultural Departments has been obtained in regard to these.

A detailed record sheet for entering the results of these trials has been drawn up and printed copies are now being distributed to County Organisers and others. The information to be obtained by this means should prove to be of great value.

Several samples of seed potatoes suspected of disease have been reported on.

Seed Control. Inspectors' reports show that the requirements of the Testing of Seeds Order are gradually being understood better,
and more closely followed by seedsmen, and complaints as to the terms of the Order are becoming less frequent. The satisfactory manner in which the Order is being complied with in certain districts is to a large extent due to the interest taken by some firms which have gone to considerable trouble in explaining the Order to their fellow seedsmen in the district.

The Order is working smoothly on the whole, but there are certain details which will need reconsideration at the close of the present season.

Onion Seed. The whole of the first consignment of Onion seed, amounting to rather more than one ton, which the Ministry of Food purchased in the United States of America, and arranged with the Department to distribute, has now been sold and delivered to wholesale seed houses.

Further consignments of Onion seed are now arriving from America, and it is hoped that distribution will be effected in time for sowing this season.

Seed Experts and Military Service. Lists are being prepared of the men who will be certified by this Department as indispensable for the carrying on of the Seed Trade in connection with the recent arrangement with the Ministry of National Service with regard to the exemption from military service of seed experts.

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.
1. NORTH OF THE SOMME. On the British front, there has been no change in the situation.

2. SOUTH OF THE SOMME. We have maintained our positions.

3. Further south, during the course of the day, heavy attacks on the French front have enabled the Germans to gain ground west of the AVRE and south and south-east of MONTDIDIER. The Germans have captured the villages of AUBVILLERS - GRIVESNES - CANTIGNY - MESNIL-ST.-GEORGES - le-MONCHEL - AYENCOURT. East of this latter place heavy fighting is going on and the exact situation is not known.

4. The weather has broken and heavy rain is falling.

General Staff,
War Office,
30th March, 1918.
Issued at 5:30 p.m.
SECRET.

THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF H.B.M. GOVERNMENT and is intended only for the personal information of

and of those Officers under him whose duties it affects. He is personally responsible for its safe custody, and that its contents are disclosed to those Officers and to them only.

PRISONERS OF WAR EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE.

FIRST INTERIM REPORT.

WAR OFFICE PAPER No. 0103/9681.
TERMS OF REFERENCE.

"To consider all applications for the Employment of Prisoners of War, and to decide whether they should be adopted."

LIST OF MEMBERS:
Mr. JAMES F. HOPE, M.P., Chairman.
Sir HOWARD FRANK, Vice-Chairman.
Mr. S. MAGER, Board of Agriculture and Fisheries.
Mr. E. SEBAG MONTEFIORE, Home Office.
Lieut.-Colonel R. J. B. MAIR, War Office.
Sir H. E. MORGAN, K.B.E., Ministry of National Service.
Mr. T. M. TAYLOR, Ministry of Munitions.

Mr. G. D. ROSEWAY, Secretary.

Committee appointed, December, 1916

War Office Reg. Paper No. 0103/9881.
PRISONERS OF WAR EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE.

1. This Committee was set up at the end of 1916, in succession to a former committee, established in September, 1916, which acted in an advisory capacity to the War Office. The earlier committee was formed originally with a view to the employment of prisoners of war upon the reclamation of land, but it also forwarded recommendations to the War Office regarding employment of internees. The recent note verbale of the German Government forbidding civilians to work outside their parent camps, has been approved and is now being carried out.

2. The Committee has held 48 meetings during the year 1917, and 5 meetings in 1918.

3. The Committee consider proposals for the employment of both combatant and interned civilian prisoners of war. The conditions of employment and the progress made in either direction are best dealt with separately.

(a.) Combatant Prisoners of War.—Certain deductions must be made from the grand total of prisoners in this country before the balance can be obtained to be regarded as available for the purposes of the committee. Officers are not allowed to work, and non-commissioned officers cannot be employed unless they volunteer (see Section (5)). The gauges of prisoners must not be mixed with civilian British, or civilian Alien labour, and must be separated from such labour as much as possible. No application must be put forward until the resources of the local labour exchange have been exhausted. The statement in Appendix A, attached to this report, gives details of the combatant prisoners of war in this country, from returns of the week ending 18th February, 1918. Appendix A (i) indicates the prisoners allotted but not yet employed.

(b.) Interned Civilian Prisoners of War.—These men cannot be compelled to work, and considerable difficulty has been experienced regarding their employment, especially in view of the recent note verbale of the German Government forbidding civilians to work outside their internment camps.

All questions relating to the employment of these men inside their camps and the release of individuals to approved work are still dealt with by the Home Office, but various suggestions have been put forward by the Committee for consideration for employment of these civilians in basket making, manufacture of artificial eyes and optical lenses, &c.

At the present time, 1,847 civilians are employed outside their parent camps.

4. Two difficulties have been found to interfere with the speedy employment of prisoners once they are allocated, viz., the provision of guards and accommodation.

The first difficulty has been in part overcome by restricting the size of the working camps, except those for agricultural purposes, to a minimum of 100 men, the number being increased wherever possible. After consultation with the military authorities concerned, and in view of the experience gained in the larger camps, the Committee have recommended to the War Office the abolition of guards for small parties of men engaged in the neighbourhood of their working camps and returning to such camps at night. The suggested practice, which chiefly affects the small agricultural camps, has been approved and is now being carried out.

As regards accommodation, the Committee have found that some delay is almost unavoidable in this respect between the date of allocation and the date of actual commencement of work, owing to the difficulty in providing the material and labour needed for construction of the camps which have to be huddled, unless the men are only required in the summer months or available premises can be adapted. The Committee have represented to the authorities concerned the importance of providing accommodation for the prisoners directly they are allocated, in view of the resulting gain in work done, and considerable improvement has been effected, while an improved method of inspection and administration, recently suggested, should result in speedier employment.

5. Returns are furnished to the Committee at each meeting showing the total number of prisoners employed, the number allocated and awaiting employment (with any reasons for delays), and the number available for distribution. Applications for prisoners are then considered in view of the balance available and the relative importance of the work involved, special regard being given to those classes of work which have been given priority by decision of the War Cabinet. It has, however, been noted that although particular demands have often been represented as of peculiar urgency, no special steps have been correspondingly taken to secure rapidity of employment once the prisoners were allocated.

(5993)
6. Owing to the delay which occurs in the provision of accommodation, arrangements have been made whereby prisoners may be employed temporarily in the vicinity of the parent camps upon approved work, chiefly of an agricultural character. This scheme has met with considerable success and has effectively bridged over the period of waiting for the completion of working camps. On 9th February, 1918, 2,876 men were so employed. At the suggestion of the Committee the War Office have issued instructions to the Camp Commandants regarding the voluntary employment of non-commissioned officers, but it has not been possible to make any great progress in this respect. On 9th February, 1918, 918 non-commissioned officers were employed.

7. Appendix B (i) attached to this report gives details of the present employment of the prisoners now working.

In addition, prisoners have been employed on various schemes now completed, details of which are given in Appendix B (ii).

8. The War Cabinet having decided that the allocation of prisoners of war should be transferred to the Ministry of National Service, the Committee ceased to function as a separate body from Friday, 8th February, 1918, and now acts as a sub-committee of the National Labour Priority Committee.

9. We desire to express our sincere appreciation of the great services of the representatives of the Home Office and War Office who have attended in an advisory capacity and on whom a mass of statistical work and many laborious enquiries are necessarily thrown. To the ability and assiduity of our Secretary, Mr. Roseway, our warm thanks are also due.

(Signed) JAMES F. HOPE, Chairman.

HOWARD FRANK, Vice-Chairman.

R. J. B. MAIR, Lieut.-Colonel.

S. MAGER.

E. SEBAG MONTEFIORE.

T. M. TAYLOR.

(Signed) G D. ROSEWAY, Secretary.
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R. J. B. MAIR, Lieut.-Colonel.
S. MAGER.
E. SEBAG MONTEFIORE.
T. M. TAYLOR.

(Signed)
G. D. ROSEWAY, Secretary.
APPENDIX A.

DETAILS OF PRISONERS OF WAR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM FROM RETURNS DATED WEEK ENDING 9TH FEBRUARY, 1918.

Total number of prisoners of war in the United Kingdom (less officers, servants, sick in hospitals, &c.) ... 44,755

Total in working camps ... 23,749

Allocated and waiting accommodation ... 6,168

Employed on camp duties in parent camps ... 1,006

Employed permanently from parent camps—

Agriculture—

N.C.Os. and unfits ... 9,825

Blandford ... 115

Dorchester ... 42

Pattishall ... ... 30

Stobs ... ... 50

Miscellaneous—

Leigh ... 82

Shrewsbury ... 150

Balance ... 747

Special "Friendly" Camp at Feltham, employed on miscellaneous work, including agriculture, aerodromes, &c. ... 849

Balance ... 529

1,645

APPENDIX A (ii).

PRISONERS ALLOTTED, BUT NOT YET EMPLOYED.

MINISTRY OF MILITIA.

Birmingham.—Sorting brass and other metals ... 150

Lincoln.—Brick making ... ... 75

Frampton-on-Severn.—Manufacture of concrete slabs for Admiralty and Office of Works ... ... 500

LANCASTER.—Road construction to National Steel Projectile Factory ... ... 30

755

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

Various camps.—Farming work (18) ... 942

Ploughing ... 3,771

Total ... 4,713

APPENDIX B (I)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature of work</th>
<th>Number of prisoners of war.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of camp</td>
<td>Name of camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMIRALTY.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINISTRY OF MINERALS.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature of work</th>
<th>Number of prisoners of war.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of camp</td>
<td>Name of camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMIRALTY.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Employed permanently from parent camps—

Blandford ... 115

Dorchester ... 42

Pattishall ... ... 30

Stobs ... ... 50

Miscellaneous—

Leigh ... 82

Shrewsbury ... 150

Balance ... 747

Special "Friendly" Camp at Feltham, employed on miscellaneous work, including agriculture, aerodromes, &c. ... 849

Balance ... 529

1,645
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of camp</th>
<th>Nature of work</th>
<th>Number of prisoners of war</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cubières</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Munitions—continued.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Talbot</td>
<td>Steel works extension</td>
<td>518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangorsea</td>
<td>Lime stone quarry</td>
<td>310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howrah</td>
<td></td>
<td>211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stainton Siding</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corey</td>
<td>Iron stone quarry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wakerley</td>
<td>Quarry, iron ore</td>
<td>199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kincobechaven</td>
<td>Works for British Aluminium Corporation</td>
<td>884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banbury</td>
<td>Railway to iron ore</td>
<td>249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burton</td>
<td>Iron ore factory</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chelmsford</td>
<td>Hoffman &amp; Co. (ballbearings)</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oswestry</td>
<td>Quary</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stainby</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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</table>

**Total** ... 5,340

**CONTROLLER OF TIMBER SUPPLIES.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of camp</th>
<th>Nature of work</th>
<th>Number of prisoners of war</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cubières</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sproxton Moor</td>
<td>Timber felling</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerry</td>
<td></td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crickhowell</td>
<td></td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hereford</td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leominster, West</td>
<td></td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endover</td>
<td></td>
<td>221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harfarn</td>
<td></td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shrewsbury, St.</td>
<td></td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary</td>
<td></td>
<td>234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ainsley</td>
<td></td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beauty</td>
<td></td>
<td>298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dawney</td>
<td></td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aylesbury</td>
<td></td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aston</td>
<td></td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren Wood, Thet</td>
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<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ardingdon</td>
<td></td>
<td>116</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monk's Heath</td>
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<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shale, Langley</td>
<td></td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>2,781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,731</td>
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**WAR OFFICE.**

**AVIATION.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of camp</th>
<th>Nature of work</th>
<th>Number of prisoners of war</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Castle Bromwich</td>
<td>Aerodrome</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yate'sbury</td>
<td></td>
<td>209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coal Aston</td>
<td></td>
<td>358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Carlston, Monk's Abbey</td>
<td></td>
<td>520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core</td>
<td></td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bedford</td>
<td></td>
<td>479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martley Heath</td>
<td></td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mill Hill</td>
<td></td>
<td>930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalmethington</td>
<td></td>
<td>326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen's Castle</td>
<td></td>
<td>235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halton Park</td>
<td>Aerodrome</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northfield, Bir-</td>
<td></td>
<td>884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>esham</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,086</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,650</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ROYAL ENGINEER WORKS.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of camp</th>
<th>Nature of work</th>
<th>Number of prisoners of war</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mill Down</td>
<td>Royal Engineers, Blandford</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulford</td>
<td>Royal Engineers</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OXFORD</td>
<td>Southern Command</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evesham</td>
<td></td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woburn</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shropshire</td>
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<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poww Normal</td>
<td></td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutton Veny</td>
<td></td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winchester</td>
<td></td>
<td>411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxford</td>
<td></td>
<td>259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Command</td>
<td>Swedish</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandhill Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,076</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MISCELLANEOUS.**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name of camp</th>
<th>Nature of work</th>
<th>Number of prisoners of war</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bramley Army</td>
<td>Erection of Army Stores</td>
<td>2,681</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newark House</td>
<td>Work on oil drum sheds</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denby, Kilburn</td>
<td>Work under the Road Board</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,082</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**ROAD BOARD.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of camp</th>
<th>Nature of work</th>
<th>Number of prisoners of war</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bilton</td>
<td>Road Board, Excavation of slag</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Clarence</td>
<td></td>
<td>320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penzancean</td>
<td>Quarrying for roads</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>463</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FORAGE DEPOT.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of camp</th>
<th>Nature of work</th>
<th>Number of prisoners of war</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barry, Glamorgan</td>
<td></td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston Dock</td>
<td></td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Agriculture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of camp</th>
<th>Nature of work</th>
<th>Number of prisoners of war</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Civilian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eardiston</td>
<td>Agriculture (work on land)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knightwick (Martley)</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pepleston</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shirley Walsh</td>
<td>Reclaiming land</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryemham</td>
<td>Market gardening</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claycombe House</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teddington</td>
<td>Fruit picking and orchard work</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dennington</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foxborrow</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haxted</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homel Hempstead</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huntingdon</td>
<td>Farm work</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenninghall</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hedington</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewes</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linnet</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rochford</td>
<td>Farm work, wood cutting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rochwell</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ross-on-Wye</td>
<td>Marsh drainage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burnham Norton</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norfolk Inn</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breacham (Snoatti-</td>
<td>sham)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gunby's Ship</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Ockenden</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easton</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lonsdale Castle,</td>
<td>Cleansing of River</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheshire</td>
<td>Birkett and mending sea wall,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>breaking up and loading lime</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>stones, and general work</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>in quarries.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carried forward</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,103</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Agriculture—continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of camp</th>
<th>Nature of work</th>
<th>Number of prisoners of war</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Civilian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Radnor</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stratford-on-Avon</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leigh, Worcesters-</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shire</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chipping Ongar,</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kemsford</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moldreth, Cambridge</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bygrave, near Halesdown</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waburn, Bedfordshire</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yatestbury, Wilts</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodham, Pershore, Chelm-</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ford</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paunbanger</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayland</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haling</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halsall</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Hamilton</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bedfor, Worestershire</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southam</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwick</td>
<td>Agriculture and Brigh-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ton Gas Company</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunsall</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colby</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total** | | 4,279 |

### APPENDIX B (ii.)

| Construction of Army Ordnance Department stores at Altrincham | 1,400 |
| Branch railway from main line to Royal Aircraft Factory, Farnborough | 320 |

| Aerodrome excavation work and construction in various parts of Great Britain | 1,500 |
| Erection of storage huts at Port Richeber | 1,200 |
| Reservoir at Beveridge, water supply to Port Edgar | 500 |
Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith a report received from the G.O.C., Royal Flying Corps, on the bombing raids carried out by the OCHEX Squadrons on the day 24th and the night 24th/25th March.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

(Sd.) Wigram.

for Field-Marshal,
Commanding-in-Chief,
British Armies in FRANCE.

The Secretary,
War Office,
LONDON, S.W.
D E T A I L E D  R E P O R T  O F  O P E R A T I O N S  C A R R I E D  O U T  D A Y  2 4 t h  A N D  N I G H T  2 4 t h / 2 5 t h  M A R C H , 1 9 1 8 .

D A Y  2 4 t h .

12 De Havilland 4s. left 9.35 a.m. to bomb the Badische-Aniline und Soda-Fabrik at Ludwigshafen (Mannheim). The lines were crossed over the Forêt de Parroy and proceeded via Bütche, Landau and Speyerdorf. The objective was reached at 12.10 p.m.

The following bombs were dropped from a height of 13,000 feet:

- 24 - 112 lb.
- 3 - 40 lb. (phos).
- 11 - 25 lb.

TOTAL 3,083 lbs.

Bursts were observed on and near the Badische-Aniline und Soda-Fabrik; two fires being caused near the factory, one on the Railway, and one in what appeared to be Oil Tanks on the Quay. One fire was an exceptionally large one, the flames rising to 200 feet and the smoke to 5,000 feet. The smoke from this fire could still be seen at Pirmasens on the way back.

Whilst over the objective 12 enemy aircraft of Albatros D.3 type attacked the formation. One enemy aircraft was shot down and was observed to crash in Mannheim, another was shot down in flames, and one was driven down out of control, the remainder being driven off.

On the return journey between Bütche and Dicuze two more enemy formations of the same type (with the exception of one machine which appeared to be of the Pfalz type), 20 machines in all, attacked our formation. Another combat ensued during which one enemy aircraft was shot down and observed to be completely wrecked on landing, and three more were driven down out of control. This makes a total of 3 enemy aircraft destroyed and 4 driven down completely out of control.

10 De Havilland 4s. landed safely at 1.22 p.m.

In the fighting one of our observers was killed, and 2 of our machines were not returned. One of these is believed to have gone down under control, and the other one was last seen near the lines engaging 7 enemy machines.

36 plates were exposed which show many bomb bursts.

Anti-aircraft fire over the objective was very active.

Weather conditions - clear with slight ground haze.

N I G H T  2 4 t h / 2 5 t h .

6 F.E.2b's, left 8.30 p.m. to endeavour to cut the Metz-Luxemburg Railway line at Metz, and to bombard the station. 2 machines returned with engine trouble. 6 reached the objective and dropped:

- 5 - 230-lb.
- 112-lb.
- 30 - 25-lb.

TOTAL 2,230 lbs.

Bombs from 1,000 feet, thirty five 2-lb. "Pom-Pom" shells and 1,400 rounds small arm ammunition fired.

Bursts were seen in the Railway Station. A direct hit was obtained on the Bridge South-East of Metz, and a large fire was left burning in the Station South of Metz.

These machines returned 10.55 p.m.

6 F.E.'s. left 8.0 p.m. to bombard the Railway Station at Thionville; one machine returned with engine trouble. The remainder reached their objective and dropped:
3 230-lb.
4 112-lb.
20 25-lb. TOTAL 1,638 lbs.

Bombs from 1,000 feet and fired 1,000 rounds of small arm ammunition.

A large fire was caused in the station at Thionville and a train was derailed close to Thionville. The objective was remarkably well illuminated, but lights were extinguished on the approach of our machines. A moderate amount of traffic was noticed on the lines between Metz and Thionville, travelling towards Thionville. Visibility was not very good round the objective.

These machines returned 11.0 p.m.

6 F.E.2b's left 12.40 a.m. to bombard the Railway Station and line between Metz and Thionville.

3 230-lb.
5 112-lb.
34 25-lb. TOTAL 2,100 lbs.
bombs were dropped, twenty 2-lb. "Pom Pom" shells fired together with 1,300 rounds of small arm ammunition.

Bursts were observed on the Railway line, on the Station, and on a train, and another train was engaged by "Pom Pom" fire from 800 feet. A fire was started near the wreckage of the stationary train which was hit.

All machines returned safely.

1 Handley Page left 7.30 p.m. to bomb Cologne Station. The objective was reached after the pilot had lost his way twice, and 10 112-lb. bombs were dropped. A large fire was started near the station.

A large store was set on fire North-east of the Station, and was burning fiercely when machines left. All the sidings were brilliantly lighted - also the Town. All lights were extinguished when bombs dropped. Anti-aircraft fire poor. Only 5 Anti-aircraft guns and one searchlight observed.

Time taken on this journey 8 hrs. 35 minutes.

1 Handley Page left to bomb the Railway between Thionville and Metz. Owing to engine trouble (i.e., one engine cut out completely) the pilot was forced to drop his bombs on Courcelles Junction and Station. 10 112-lb. bombs were dropped and a fire started.

1 Handley Page left for Luxemburg Railway Station. The objective was reached and 12 112-lb. bombs were dropped - many good bursts being observed on and around the Station.

Total bombs dropped by Handley Pages 32 112-lb. = 3,534 lbs.

Full reports have not yet been received of the above three raids.

TOTALS for Night 24/25th. Weight of bombs dropped 9,552 lbs
55 - 2-lb. shells 110 "

Total rounds small arm ammunition fired - 3,700

(Sgd.) C.L.N. Downall,
Brigadier-General,
G.O.C., 8th Brigade,
Royal Flying Corps.

In the Field
25th March, 1918.
1. NORTH OF THE SOMME. There has been no change. Yesterday the Guards and 31st Division repulsed heavy attacks in the neighbourhood of NEUVILLE-VITASSE. The Guards claim to have killed 3,000 Germans, and their line was nowhere penetrated.

Near HEBUTERNE a local offensive by the New Zealand Division was entirely successful, straightening the line and capturing prisoners and machine-guns.

North of the SOMME the 3rd Australian Division repulsed an attack successfully.

2. SOUTH OF THE SOMME. Carey's force, which has been holding the front astride the AMIENS - CHAULNES railway, is being relieved by the 18th Division. This force, composed of Labour Units, Railway Engineers, men from Machine Gun and Lewis Gun Schools, Balloon Detachments, etc., has successfully held this portion of the front for six days.

Further South, MOREUIL, which was taken from the French, was recaptured by Seely's Mounted Brigade with British Cavalry and some Infantry.

South of the AVRE, the majority of our Divisions have now been withdrawn, but great difficulties exist in moving them north, as roads and railways are all occupied by French troops.

3. FRENCH FRONT. Reported at 10.50 a.m. 31st. French Command is pleased with events of yesterday. Between LASSIGNY and MOREUIL heaviest fighting took place about PLESSIER-de-ROYE and PLEMONT. PLEMONT was retaken by French Division who took 700 prisoners. French lost ROLLOT, but have retaken GRIVESNES. Position at AUBVILLERS uncertain. French very pleased with help given by Canadian Cavalry Brigade at MOREUIL yesterday.

Line now runs MOREUIL - East of SAUVILLERS - AUBVILLERS - East of GRIVESNES - West of CANTIGNY - West of MESNIL-ST-GEORGES - ROLLOT - MAINVILLERS (French) - CONCHY-les-POTS (French) - ROYE-sur-MATZ (German) - PLESSIER-de-ROYE (German) - PLEMONT.

Later. The French have retaken le MONCHEL and ASSAINVILLERS.

General Staff,
War Office,
31st March, 1918.

Issued at 1 p.m.
BATTLE SITUATION - EVENING - 31st MARCH, 1918.

1. NORTH OF THE SOMME. The day has been quiet. Immediately South of the SCARPE our line has been advanced to the East of FEUCHY.

It is confirmed that the enemy's losses in his fruitless attacks yesterday were heavy.

2. SOUTH OF THE SOMME. Yesterday by successful counter-attack we regained possession of the village of DEMUIN. In a brilliant operation yesterday, carried out by Canadians, Cavalry, and British Infantry, in conjunction with the French, we recaptured MOREUIL and the wood to the North of it.

During this afternoon a heavy German attack developed in the angle between the Rivers LUCE and AVRE, and fighting continues.

South of MOREUIL the Germans are attacking in the direction of MAILLY-RAMEVAL.

This morning the French had made progress from the South of MONTLIDIER to LASSIGNY, retaking several villages which were lost yesterday.

General Staff,

War Office,

31st March, 1918.

Issued at 8.30 p.m.
War Cabinet.

Committee on the Amendment of the Military Service Acts.

(Third Meeting)

Minutes of the Third Meeting of the Committee held at the Home Office on Saturday, March 30th, 1918, at 3 p.m.

Present:

The Rt. Hon. Sir George Cave, M.P. (Chairman)
The Rt. Hon. The Viscount Milner, G.C.B., G.C.M.G.,
The Rt. Hon. Sir Auckland Geddes, K.C.B., M.P.,
The Rt. Hon. R.G. Duke, K.C., M.P.,
The Rt. Hon. E. Munro, K.C., M.P.,
The Rt. Hon. W. Hayes Fisher, M.P.,
The Rt. Hon. G. H. Roberts, M.P.,
Mr. A. C. Beck, M.P.,
Sir J. Seymour Lloyd, K.B.E., C.M.G.,
Sir J. Dodds, C.B.,
Sir E. Macaro, K.C.B.,
Mr. I. G. Gibbon
Mr. T. M. Graham Harrison
Mr. P. Rose.

Mr. T. Jones (Secretary)
THE COMMITTEE resumed the consideration of the revised Draft Bill.

THE COMMITTEE considered various methods of dealing with conscientious objectors. The effect of 3 (3) as drafted was to give power to call up conscientious objectors but an assurance would be given to the House of Commons that they would not in fact be called up. Conscientious objection could be dealt with as a standardized ground for postponement into a late group, or, in addition to the proposed Five Groups a Sixth Group could be created into which all persons permanently unfit for military service could be put and conscientious objectors could be placed apart in a special class in this Sixth Group. (In any case in view of the provisions of the Representation of the People Act it was necessary to have them definitely labelled.) Another method would be to make the existing provisions for conscientious objectors apply to persons deemed to be enlisted under the present Bill.

Ultimately it was agreed that (d) of subsection (1) of Section 2 of the first Military Service Act should not be repealed and that A Section 3 (3) of the new Bill should stand as drafted with the omission of the words:—"Granted or renewed before the passing of this Act."

MR. DUKE suggested that in dealing with Ireland there were at least three possible courses:

(a) The Bill might contain a section extending the provisions to Ireland simpliciter, with the addition of arrangements for tribunals.

(b) Power might be taken to apply the Act to Ireland by Order in Council, after a short period of grace during which voluntary enlistment might be stimulated.

(c) His Majesty might by Order in Council provide for the selection of men by ballot to maintain the effective strength of the Irish regiments.

MR. DUKE thought, and the Committee generally concurred, that there was much to be said for adopting the second course, and it was agreed to submit (b) together with (a) for the consideration of the War Cabinet.

As to the precise method of giving effect in the Bill to the course adopted the following alternatives were discussed:
(a) To include Ireland in Section (1) of the Bill as part of the general application of the Bill to the United Kingdom, and to make a subsequent modification in the Bill when providing for the Irish case.

(b) To omit Ireland in Section (1) and insert later a substantive Section dealing with Ireland.

The first course was the more logical, but the general opinion was in favour of (b) on parliamentary grounds. If Ireland were included in the first Section opposition would begin at once before any progress had been made with the Bill; whereas if the Irish clause came later it would be possible to postpone in some degree any opposition to the extension of the Bill to Ireland.

SECTION 4. Section 4 (1) It was agreed to omit this Sub-Section and also the consequential Second Schedule.

5. Section 4 (2) The Sub-Section was approved.

6. It was agreed that the Bill should be redrafted as above amended and circulated on Tuesday.

THE COMMITTEE adjourned until Tuesday, April 2nd, at 4 p.m.

(Signed) T. JONES, Secretary.

Whitehall Gardens, S.W. 1.
30th March, 1918.
ROYAL MARINES FROM THE NAVY

31st March 1918.

ROYAL MARINES FROM THE NAVY

(War Cabinet 372, Minutes 9, and War Cabinet 378 A.)

ADMIRALTY MEMORANDUM FOR THE WAR CABINET

Upon three occasions during the last week the question of the Navy handing over personnel to the Army in the present emergency has been raised at Cabinet without apparently appropriate information being before the Cabinet.

The impression left upon the Admiralty representatives upon each occasion was that the tone of the discussion became one of complaint against the Navy for not being prepared to "help the Army" and of not being prepared to "thin the line" when the Army had to thin theirs.

Now that the stress of last week is passed I venture to urge upon the Cabinet that the question is one which, on all grounds, should not be considered hastily but with due deliberation, if it is to be further considered at this juncture.

The desire of us all is to make the best use of available resources in men and material. If it is better to transfer men from the Navy and put them into the Army, I trust we will come to that decision after careful survey of the question in all its aspects.

There have been two distinct demands made upon the Navy:

(1) To give "some" highly trained Marines to stiffen battalions and batteries in France.

(2) To surrender men without military training to be turned into soldiers.

As regards (2), we have agreed to suspend recruiting of all technically skilled ratings to enable the full flow of recruits to go into the Army. Of the trained Royal Marine Forces maintained by the Admiralty, the following numbers are serving in
posts to the relief of the Army. This is exclusive of
army port labour in France :-

In France -

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R.N.D.</td>
<td>6830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R.M.A.</td>
<td>1860</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nadros -

(all but 500 are being, and
have been, largely replaced
by men unfit for general
service)

Coast Defence, U.K. -

(largely and increasingly old,
unfit, or very young men -
except in Orkneys and
Shetlands where unfit men
break down)

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coast</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defence, U.K.</td>
<td>12,330</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Then we have -

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) serving afloat</td>
<td>18,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Marine Labour</td>
<td>4,990</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 23,960

The remainder of establishment, 9,000, are boys, recruits,
training and administrative staff, drafts, sick, etc. Out of
this number we have given to the Army 400 highly trained gunners
for Heavy Batteries, and 300 half-trained recruits for Shore
Batteries, to release Army "A" men. We may be able to release
a few more men from this category under certain conditions, but
obviously it is from the 15,970 Marines afloat that any
considerable number must be sought, and, practically speaking,
that means from the Grand Fleet. If not from the Grand Fleet,
the same conditions as apply there apply to detached units.

From the discussions at Cabinet, it appeared that certain
of those present were under the impression that Marines on board
ship could, unlike the Bluejacket portion of the crew, be
withdrawn without detriment to the fighting of the ship in a
Fleet action. There is, I am told, an uninformed view that
Marines are carried on H.M. Ships for landing parties, sentry duties, guards of honour, bands, etc., and are not like bluejackets an integral part of the fighting crew of the Ship. To show the use made of Marines on typical ships, I enclose the quarter bills of a battle ship (A1) battle-cruiser (A2) and cruiser (A3). Any men withdrawn from these posts must be replaced or the turret battery or communications will be shorthanded & its rapidity of fire diminished. If we replace them we only attain the result of taking a highly trained man at this work out of the Fleet and putting him into the Army for which he is only partially trained and replacing him in the ship with an untrained man. Any influx of untrained men in the marine complement of the Grand Fleet would, with no shadow of doubt, very seriously impair its efficiency until they were trained. It must be recognised that a Marine on board ship is a highly trained and skilled rating irrespective of his limited infantry training. Owing to the present situation, the Grand Fleet is kept specially, by Admiralty orders, at short notice to put to sea, and in the opinion of the Board it would be in the highest degree unwise to call the C-in-C to London. The Board would not be prepared to take the responsibility of doing so.

The Naval Members of the Board have no doubt that the C-in-C's views would coincide exactly with their views, but in the to them inconceivable hypothesis that he was prepared to surrender a part of his Marines, the Naval Members of the Board are unanimous that they could not see their way to concurring in his view. I may state, for the information of the War Cabinet, that I have, since I became First Lord, made it my business to learn something of the organisation of H.M. Ships, and I entirely associate myself with them in this view.

I turn now to a general suggestion that because the manning of H.M. Ships was increased about 20 per cent since the outbreak
of war, it could be reduced now. The attached statement (B) shows the manning, in numbers, of typical German and British Ships—which shows that in comparative ships even the numbers borne in war are below the Germans' peace complement which is known to be far below the numbers actually borne in war. The increases made on and since the outbreak of war mentioned by Mr. Churchill at Cabinet the other day were mainly stokers and seamen and to a far less extent are those reflected in Marines. In the case of Marines it is only in the guns crews that increases have been made owing to introduction of director firing, additional range firers, etc. If the increase in personnel was necessary at the outbreak of war, it is certainly no loss necessary now.

The suggestion made by the C.I.G.S., that if the Army has to thin its line the Navy should do so also to help the Army—if it was made seriously—does not bear examination.

First.—Naval losses in surface and submarine warfare and in safeguarding the army and its supplies with phenomenal success at sea have been serious. But it must be remembered that if the battle line on land is thinned the personnel and material can be replaced. If, on the other hand, a Capital Ship is lost owing to inefficient or insufficient manning, the ship for the purposes of the war is irreplaceable.

Secondly.—the thinned Army and the less its reserves at home, the greater need for protection by the Navy and for its high efficiency.

Thirdly.—the thinned Army is meeting, if we may credit the reports we receive, with a still more thinned enemy. The Grand Fleet would meet the High Seas Fleet in full power at the moment chosen by the enemy. The Cabinet is so fully informed on comparative strengths of opposing forces and the practical certainty of losses in capital ships to us and not to the enemy before we ever joined battle that I need not enlarge upon this aspect of the question.
Modern Fleets converge at over 60 miles an hour and rapidity of overwhelming fire at the earliest possible moment is of vital and imperative importance. It would in the opinion of the Board of Admiralty, be an act of madness in such circumstances to take any steps—such as reduction of gun and magazine or fire control crews or introduction of untrained men—which would interfere with rapidity or accuracy of fire for which the Navy has been training and upon which so much thought, time and money has been spent, and upon which success or disaster depends.

I regret, and my colleagues regret, that the recent discussions at the War Cabinet should have followed the lines they did. Were it in any way possible to assist the Army with men, the Navy would be ready anxious and proud to do it. The Navy has during the past three years given all the Marines it can spare to serve on land and is now endeavoring in every way to find a few more to assist the Army at this juncture. The enemy has already, since the opening of the offensive on land, made determined efforts to interfere with the passage of reinforcements and stores to France and it is only due to the vigilance and prompt action of the Navy that practically certain heavy losses have not already occurred. This statement is a matter of fact—not conjecture.

Should the War Cabinet desire to discuss the matter further, I hope that notice will be given so that the appropriate representatives of the Admiralty may attend.

I should, in other circumstances than those existing to-day, welcome any consultation with the C-in-C, Grand Fleet, but I am entirely of the opinion, on the advice of my Naval colleagues, that I should not be asked to leave the Fleet at the present time.

At March 1918, (ad) ERIC GEDDES.
A 1.

QUARTER BILL OF A BATTLESHIP.

H.M.S. "ROYAL OAK".

Marine Complement = 3 Officers, 147 men.

Employment of men in action.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Turret (15&quot;) Crew</th>
<th>Gunlayers 1st class</th>
<th>17 Gunners</th>
<th>3 Privates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;T&quot; Turret (15&quot;) Shell Room Crew</td>
<td>13 Gunners</td>
<td>12 Privates</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;T&quot; Turret (15&quot;) Magazine Crew and Handling Room</td>
<td>7 Gunners</td>
<td>12 Privates</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Four 6-inch guns | 4 Gunlayers 2nd class | 8 Gunners | 24 Privates |

6-Inch Shell Room | 10 Privates |

6-Inch Magazine | 4 Privates |

Carry ammunition to guns | 5 Privates |

"X" Turret Control Party | 6 Privates |

Rangefinders and Range-finder Crews | 3 Privates |

Main Transmitting Station, Fire Control, and Communications for all 15-inch and 6-Inch guns | 15 Bandmen |

147

The fighting duties of the Marines as shown above are identical with those of Seamen in corresponding positions.

The Gunlayers with the Gunlayers.

Gunners, Seamen Gunners, A.B.'s and 3rd: Seamen

The duties of the 15 Bandmen are particularly specialised and require high skill and training, in that they are responsible for the working of the fire control instruments, on which the rapidity and accuracy of fire largely depend.

The 'team work' necessary for the rapid supply of ammunition from the magazines and shell rooms to the guns, which is carried out by the Privates shown above, necessitates some months of training together on board in order to obtain the highest degree of efficiency.
A.2.
QUARTER BILL OF A BATTLE CRUISER.

H.M.S. 'TIGER'.

Marine Complement = 3 Officers, 115 men.

Employment of men in action.

- 'X' Turret (13.5") crew
  2 Gunlayers 1st class
  17 Gunners
  3 Privates.

- 'X' Turret Shell Room
  6 Gunners
  17 Privates.

- 'X' Turret Magazine Crew
  5 Gunners
  17 Privates.

- Three 6-inch guns
  3 Gunlayers 2nd class
  6 Gunners
  18 Privates.

- 6-inch Shell Room
  4 Privates.

- 6-inch Magazine
  4 Privates.

Main transmitting Station,
Fire Control, and
Communications for
all 13.5" and 6" guns
15 Bandsmen.

115

The fighting duties of the Marines as shown above are identical with those of Seamen in corresponding positions:

The Gunlayers with the Gunlayers,
  1 Gunners
  17 Gunners
  3 Privates
  A.B.'s and O.C. Seamen.

The duties of the 15 Bandsmen are particularly specialised and require high skill and training, in that they are responsible for the working of the fire control instruments, on which the rapidity and accuracy of fire largely depend.

The 'team work' necessary for the rapid supply of ammunition from the magazines and shell rooms to the guns, which is carried out by the Privates shown above, necessitates some months of training together on board in order to obtain the highest degree of efficiency.
### A.3.
**QUARTER BILL OF A CRUISER.**

**H.M.S. "CARDIFF".**

Marine Complement = 1 Officer, 33 men.

**Employment of men in action.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Two 8-inch guns crews</th>
<th>2 Gunlayers 2nd class, 4 Gunners, 12 Privates.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8-inch Shell Room (No.4)</td>
<td>1 Gunner, 2 Privates.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-inch Shell Room (No.5)</td>
<td>2 Privates.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-inch Magazines (Nos. 4 &amp; 6)</td>
<td>8 Privates.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work Motors for ammunition.</td>
<td>2 Privates.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

The fighting duties of the Marines as shown are identical with those of Seamen in corresponding positions:—

**The Gunlayers with the Gunlayers**

- Gunners
- Seamen Gunners
- Privates

The "team work" necessary for the rapid supply of ammunition from the magazines and shell rooms to the guns, which is carried out by the Privates shown above, necessitates some months of training together on board in order to obtain the highest degree of efficiency.
## Statement Shewing Comparative Manning of Typical British and German Ships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of Ship</th>
<th>Pre-War Complement</th>
<th>Present authorised Complement</th>
<th>Numbers Borne</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>British &quot;ROYAL SOVEREIGN&quot;</td>
<td>929</td>
<td>941</td>
<td>1,119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German &quot;BAYERN&quot;</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td></td>
<td>994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British &quot;IRON DUKE&quot;</td>
<td>883</td>
<td>994</td>
<td>1,104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German &quot;KONIG&quot;</td>
<td>1,130</td>
<td></td>
<td>996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British &quot;KING GEORGE V&quot;</td>
<td>751</td>
<td>811</td>
<td>996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German &quot;KAISER&quot;</td>
<td>1,128</td>
<td></td>
<td>996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British &quot;ORION&quot;</td>
<td>758</td>
<td>827</td>
<td>996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German &quot;HELGOLAND&quot;</td>
<td>1,106</td>
<td></td>
<td>996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British &quot;BELLEROPHON&quot;</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>786</td>
<td>930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German &quot;NASSAU&quot;</td>
<td>666</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British &quot;L I O N&quot;</td>
<td>1,009</td>
<td>1,050</td>
<td>1,379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German &quot;HINDENBURG&quot;</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British &quot;NEW ZEALAND&quot;</td>
<td>790</td>
<td>845</td>
<td>1,087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German &quot;SEYDLITZ&quot;</td>
<td>1,108</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British &quot;O B E R E S&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td>343</td>
<td>406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German &quot;KONIGSBERG&quot; (New)</td>
<td></td>
<td>500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The German numbers borne in action are known to be very largely in excess of their complements.

All complements are now being revised in the light of War experience, and it is found that they approximate very closely to the numbers borne. The increased numbers are due to the necessity for continuous high speed, and to the necessity for greatly increased accuracy and rapidity of fire. Even as it is, the numbers borne include a proportion of young Seamen and other ratings undergoing formal training. In the Army this is done in Depots and Schools; but in the Navy it can only be given afloat on actual ships, so that at all times the large ships have a quota of semi-trained crew. All Destroyers are manned by men passed through the Grand Fleet.

In the case of Marines, the numbers borne in no case exceed the authorised complements.
The Committee have considered and settled the accompanying draft Bill upon which they desire to make the following observations:

1. **Age Limit.** The age limit is fixed by the Bill at from 18 to 50, except that, as regards members of the medical profession (for whom there is an urgent demand) the limit is raised to 55. Power is taken to raise the limit to 55 either generally or for a Class by Order in Council.

2. **Exceptions.** The existing exception for men in holy orders and ministers of religion is abolished, but it is provided that these persons shall not, except with their consent, be called up for combatant service but may be required to perform any prescribed work in connection with the service of the sick and wounded, whether in the fighting line or elsewhere. As regards the other exceptions in Schedule I to the principal military service Act some modifications are made.

3. **Volunteers.** The Bill contains a provision under which boys from 17 to 18 years of age shall be required to perform service in the Volunteer Force. As to the desirability of inserting this provision there was some difference.
difference of opinion in the Committee, and the matter is left to the War Cabinet to decide.

6. **Exemptions.** The Bill gives effect to the main proposal of the Minister of National Service that the system of exemptions, whether by Departments or Tribunals shall be superseded by a system of grouping. Under this system all men of military age will be divided by the Minister of National Service into five or more groups in the order in which they are available for military service, having regard to their occupational value to the State. Any claim by a man on account of his individual position (e.g., his special industrial utility, business obligations or domestic position) to be placed in a lower group will be decided by the Tribunals. When the groups are formed the Minister of National Service will, on the instructions of the Cabinet, call up such men as may be required, beginning with the fit men in the first group and proceeding until the necessary number is obtained.

Under this system the existing certificates of exemption will be superseded; but it is provided by the Bill that any such certificate shall continue to have effect until the man is called up for service, and upon that event occurring he will be entitled to apply to the Tribunal to be postponed to a later group. It is not proposed to call up men who have been exempted on the ground of a conscientious objection to military service; and
and the machinery for granting exemptions on that ground is kept alive.

The scheme, as modified by the Committee and embodied in the draft Bill, does not involve the abolition of the Local and Appeal Tribunals. These Tribunals will have the important function of dealing with applications for postponement of a man to a later group in accordance with instructions to be given (as now) by Order in Council. It is proposed that an applicant shall have no right of appeal from a Local Tribunal except by leave of the Tribunal. The Tribunals will no longer have power to grant certificates of exemption except to conscientious objectors.

5. Ireland. As regards the application of the Military Service Acts to Ireland, (a question which is understood to be reserved for decision by the War Cabinet) the draft Bill is in alternative forms.

Under one form the Bill applies to the whole of the United Kingdom, provision being made for the modifications which will be necessary in its application to Ireland.

Under the alternative form power is taken by Order in Council to apply the acts to Ireland, with such modifications as may be necessary. This form has the advantage that the provisions for special Tribunals, etc., which are necessary if the Act is to be applied to Ireland, will not be inserted in the Bill but will appear in the Order in Council. Further, time would be allowed for voluntary recruiting, etc., before the Act is put in force in Ireland.

The proposal, which was put before the Cabinet, for
a scheme of compulsory enrolment by ballot for the purpose of completing and maintaining the Irish regiments of the Line, did not commend itself to the Military authorities and has not been included in the draft Bill; but a clause has been inserted for giving effect to the proposal of the Chief Secretary for Ireland under which men drilling in rebel volunteer organisations would be deemed to be enlisted for general service with the Colours.

2, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.1.

1st April, 1918.
About 10 a.m. on the 27th of March a fire broke out at Shoeburyness in the 18 pr. ammunition dump, the fire could not be got under till 8 p.m. the same day. The whole of the dump of about 100,000 rounds 18 pr. ammunition was destroyed. The dump consisted mostly of powder filled shell for proof of fuzes, three casualties, two soldiers and one civilian occurred; none of them were serious.

The loss approximately is as follows:-

100,000 rounds of 18 pr. lost. This was three months' supply of 18 pr. powder filled shell for proof of fuzes. We are halving the amount of proof, and this means that we shall require 50,000 of these proof shells in the next three months. Supply to the Army of service ammunition is not affected.

2 workshops burnt out with their machinery and a certain number of spare parts.

12 old railway trucks used for local work on the range and various damage to the offices and adjoining buildings.

The fire will cause no appreciable delay in proof of ammunition.

The fire was the result of an accident, probably caused by the screwing in of a fuse into a powder-filled shell, which are the shell we always use for proof of H.E. fuzes.

(Signed) F.R. BINGHAM.
1. NORTH OF THE SOMME. There has been no change. Last night passed quietly.

2. SOUTH OF THE SOMME. The enemy has made some progress between the Rivers LUCE and AVRE. He took DECUIR and HAIGARD, but the latter was retaken by a counter-attack. Heavy fighting took place in the neighbourhood of MOREUIL, the Wood to the North-east being lost and retaken several times. It is thought that the enemy now holds it and has penetrated to the railway line.

3. FRENCH FRONT. German attacks were particularly heavy near CRIVESNES. On the front between MONTAUDIER and LASSIGNY there was great artillery activity but no heavy infantry attacks followed. The French line is reported this morning to run MAILLY-RAHEVAL (French) - AUDVILLERS (German) - CRIVESNES (French) - CANTIGNY (German) - LESNIL-ST-GEORGES (German) - AYERGOURT (French) - ASSAINVILLERS (German) - South of ROLLOT - ORVILLERS-SORRE (German) - ROYE-sur-WATZ (German) - South of FLESSIER-le-ROYE - PLEUVILLE (French) - THIESCOURT (French) - EVRICOURT (French) - MONT REMAUD (French). French report that the enemy are making preparations to renew their attacks in the neighbourhood of CRIVESNES.

4. RELIEFS. South of the SOMME 3 Divisions have been withdrawn to Lines of Communication to refit, and 4 more follow shortly. We have 3 tired Divisions still in line, with the equivalent of 4 behind them. The only fresh British troops South of the SOMME are an Australian Brigade and a Canadian Mounted Brigade, both of which have been heavily engaged during the last two days.

The 58th Division repulsed the enemy attempt to cross the OISE at CHAUNY. This Division, with details, moves North to the British area to-day.

General Staff, War Office.
1st April, 1918.
Issued at 1.30 p.m.
1. The Air Council has considered and approved a programme of aircraft development to cover the period up to 1st January, 1919. This programme sets the standard to be worked up to and provides for development up to 414 squadrons for use in the field, at home, and for training purposes. It deals with what is required for work on land, including seaplanes for work on land, but does not include seaplanes proper. Further measures of expansion are being considered.

2. The Air Council has decided that it will be necessary to organise a Chaplin's Branch for the Royal Air Force and a scheme of organisation has been prepared.

3. A meeting was held on Tuesday, March 12th, under the presidency of the Secretary of State with Signor de Graffi and other Italian representatives.

Points discussed:

(a) Increase in supply of Vickers guns for the Italians.
(b) Supply of Fiat Engines by the Italians to His Majesty's Government.

4. It has been agreed, in order to assist war loan subscriptions, that any battalion subscribing £2,000 will have an aeroplane called after it. The application of the same idea to subscriptions by civilian organisations or communities is being worked out.

5. Requests are being received for authority to build aeroplanes for a New York - England flight. The Air Council have decided to refuse all such requests on the ground that all resources are wanted to win the war and that if long distance flying is to develop the trip to Berlin should be the object.

6. Questions relating to the United States of America which have come up since the date of the last report are:

(a) A fully-manned American liaison branch has been organised in the Department of the War General of Personnel.
(b) Agreement has been reached as to an arrangement supplementing and making good certain defects in the arrangement of January for the despatch from America and assembly here (with completion of training of personnel) of 30" squadrons of Handley Page machines (vide report of 20th January).
(c) Prior to the establishment of the Air Council the Air Board provisionally agreed to provide 300 Sopwith Camels for the United States Authorities. It has been decided in view of recent developments that it will be necessary to inform the Americans that though they may be supplied to the extent of any realised surplus it may not now be possible to make the full supply without reducing our own strength - which cannot be considered.

(d) A request has been received from the American Authorities that the Air Ministry shall arrange further facilities in this Country for assemblage and erection of machines for them and for training of pilots. The Air Council have decided to refuse this request - in their view the Americans so far have been rather a drain on our resources than a help to us in aviation matters, and it was decided that they should be pressed to push on with the production of Liberty Motors and to arrange themselves for erection assemblage etc. in France.

7. Deliveries of engines and aircraft have been as follows:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Engines</th>
<th>Aeroplanes</th>
<th>Biplanes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week ending March 15th</td>
<td>508</td>
<td>616</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total for two weeks to March 15th</td>
<td>1317</td>
<td>1174</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total for previous month</td>
<td>2511</td>
<td>2289</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total for February 1916</td>
<td>787</td>
<td>525</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(SIGNED) W. A. ROBINSON.

Secretary to the Air Council.
WAR CABINET.

Minutes of a Conference held at 10, Downing Street, S.W., on MONDAY, APRIL 1, 1918, at 12 Noon.

PRESENT:-

The Prime Minister (in the Chair),
The Right Hon. the Viscount Milner, G.C.B., G.C.M.G.,
The Right Hon. the Earl of Derby, K.G., G.C.V.O., C.B.,
(Secretary of State for War),
Field-Marshal the Viscount French of Ypres,
(Commander-in-Chief, Home Forces).
General Sir H.H. Wilson, K.C.B., D.S.O.,
(Chief of the Imperial General Staff),
Lieutenant-General Sir C.P.N. Macready, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,
(Adjutant-General to the Forces).
Graeme Thomson, Esq., C.B., (Director of Transports and Shipping, Ministry of Shipping).

Lieutenant-Colonel L. Wilson, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.P., Assistant Secretary.
(1) THE PRIME MINISTER said that he had received a tele­
gram from America, in which President Wilson stated that
he would despatch American Infantry to France at the rate
of 120,000 per month for the next four months, and if ship­
ing were available this monthly number would be increased.
Mr LLOYD GEORGE said that, in this connection, co-ordination
of control was, in his opinion, essential, and that he had
already experienced the necessity for this in regard to the
despatch of reinforcements to France during the recent fight­
ing.

Mr GRAEME THOMSON agreed with the Prime Minister
that this was very necessary, and pointed out that, even if
arrangements were made for the necessary shipping, the trans­
port of troops could not proceed satisfactorily unless the
troops were immediately available for embarkation. He sug­
gested that he should himself proceed to America as soon as
possible.

LORD DERBY expressed the opinion that a representative
of the War Office should accompany Mr Graeme Thomson, in
order to assist in ensuring that the American troops were
ready for embarkation.

GENERAL MACREADY agreed with Lord Derby, and put for­
ward the name of General Hutchinson as a suitable officer.
He also stated, with regard to equipment, that stores were
available in this country to provide rifles and equipment
for 500,000 American troops, but that, if any of these troops
were to be used with the French Army, it would be necessary
that they should be equipped with rifles of the French pat­
tern. He stated that he was fully of opinion that General
Foch would naturally expect a number of the American reinforce­
ments to be incorporated into the French Army.

The Conference agreed that:­

(a) Mr Graeme Thomson and General Hutchinson
should proceed to America at the earliest
opportunity, in order to co-ordinate the
work of transporting American troops across
the Atlantic:
(b) The Prime Minister should send a telegram to President Wilson, informing him of this arrangement, and that rifles and equipment were available in this country for 500,000 men, but that any of the American troops which were to be incorporated into the French Army would be equipped, if necessary, by the French authorities.

LOYMENT OF AMERICAN TROOPS IN FRANCE.

(2) The Prime Minister said that it was very desirable that a definite plan should be prepared for the employment of American reinforcements in France, and that a complete understanding should be come to with General Pershing on this subject. He suggested that it might be possible to increase the strength of the present British Divisions from 9 Battalions to 10 or 11, in which case the American reinforcements would be incorporated into our Divisions by Battalions; that, where losses in British Divisions had been very heavy, it would be advisable to reduce the number of the British Battalions; and that, should there be a surplus of British officers, these officers should be lent to the American Battalions for instructional and other purposes.

General Wilson expressed the view that Mr Baker's opinion should be obtained on this question.

The Prime Minister deprecated the idea of travelling to France in order to discuss this question, and suggested that it would be advisable if General Pershing, General Bliss and Mr Baker could come to London.

The Conference agreed that:

(a) The Chief of the Imperial General Staff should ascertain if General Pershing, General Bliss and Mr Baker could come to London, and should report to the Prime Minister;

(b) The Adjutant-General should immediately prepare a scheme for the utilisation of American reinforcements arriving in France.

(3) General Wilson informed the Conference that the total casualties among the British Infantry during the recent heavy fighting in France numbered 120,000, and expressed the opinion that the Army must be prepared for further heavy casualties. Without taking into consideration any American
reinforcements, 100,000 men were being sent immediately to replace casualties from this country; in addition to that number, the normal replacement of 20,000 men per month would continue. He stated that Germany had 200,000 men available for reinforcements in field depots, and a further 200,000 men in home depots, while the Director of Military Intelligence had reckoned that 100,000 men were still available to be moved from the Russian Front to the Western Front. The Director of Military Intelligence thought it probable that the 100,000 men would come as drafts and not as reinforcing Divisions. This gave a total of possible German reinforcements of 500,000. There were also some 8 or 10 Divisions of German troops about whose movements no information had been ascertained. Questioned as to French reinforcements, GENERAL WILSON said that he was informed that the French Army would rely on reinforcements to the extent of 200,000 of all arms, which number, together with reinforcements from England and a probable 30,000 men from Dominion troops, would give the Allied Armies a total reinforcement of 350,000.

THE PRIME MINISTER said that by the end of May next there should be 200,000 American troops ready to reinforce the Allied Armies.

GENERAL WILSON agreed, but pointed out, however, that it was essential that these troops should have some weeks' training, especially as Battalions, before it could be considered that they would be fit to take the field.

THE PRIME MINISTER agreed, but said that, taking into consideration all possible reinforcements, there should be, on the whole, an equality of numbers in May between the Allied troops and those that could be opposed to them.

GENERAL WILSON said that this would certainly be so, but the whole question really turned on the number of casualties which would occur in the near future, as it was possible for the Germans to put their immediate reinforcements in the field more quickly than the British could do so.
LORD FRENCH referred to the question of Home Defence, and stated that, if it was decided to send to France the 20,000 B.1. men previously agreed upon, he thought that it was only right that he should point out that, in the event of a hostile landing, there were not sufficient troops available. Of the seven mixed Brigades there would be left only 4,000 B.1. men who were trained; of the three Divisions composing the 23rd Army Corps there would be 5,000 trained Infantry, all of them A.4. men; of the Cyclist Brigades there would be only 1,000 trained men; and of the 23 Cyclist Battalions there would be 400 trained men. He did not put this forward to the Conference with any idea of not considering it desirable to send the B.1. men, but thought that the position as regards Home Defence should be made quite clear.

The Conference agreed that:

The 20,000 B.1. men should be sent as reinforcements to France.

Whitehall Gardens, S.W.,
April 1, 1918.
WAR CABINET.

THE MILITARY SITUATION.
(Copy of telegram from Prime Minister to the Dominions, 30 March 1918)

Following from Prime Minister for your Prime Minister. The situation caused by enemy attack has now begun to clear. We have passed through a most critical time while the enemy was trying desperately to break up our Army. Thanks to the wonderful tenacity and fighting power of our Army in which troops from all the Dominions have played a conspicuous and invaluable part this primary intention of the enemy was frustrated. We have now good hope of being able gradually to bring his present effort to a standstill, but we may possibly lose Amiens. The near future will show whether or not he will be able to reach that place. If he succeeds in doing this the military situation will be very grave. In any case having undoubtedly proved his capacity to break through the Western Front on a wide front it is certain that his military command, if it is unable to obtain all that it aimed at in this battle, will immediately begin to refit its army for another blow at the earliest possible moment. The whole military future will depend upon our being able to refit and maintain our armies in time. If we do not succeed in doing this it will give him the chance of delivering that knock-out blow with which the German leaders hope to win the war. Looking past the immediate battle, therefore, the fundamental problem before us is man-power.

Our losses up to the present in only a week's fighting are about 120,000 men and all trained and partially trained reserves in this country will be used up in making this good. We are, therefore, taking immediate action to raise fresh troops by raising the military age to 50, and taking boys of 18, and by making another large call-out of industry, which will cause the greatest dislocation and hardship to our industries. We are also prepared to face trouble in Ireland because we feel that it is vital that we should be able to prove ourselves stronger than the Germans this summer. By this means we hope to obtain a reinforcement of between 400,000 and 500,000 men for our army. Finally, we are asking the American Government to send over immediately as much of their army as can be transported across the Atlantic in order to keep the Allied armies up to strength during the critical months of May, June and July before our new forces are sufficiently trained for use in France, and when we may expect the enemy to attempt his second blow.

We trust that your Government will do its very utmost to get as many men to Europe as they possibly can in the shortest possible time to make good the heavy casualties which the forces of your Dominion must undoubtedly have suffered, and if possible to increase these forces. All the Dominions and yours among them have done splendidly in this battle, but assuming that we can stay the enemy's present effort the issue of the war will depend on whether the Germans or the Allies are the first in making good their losses. The Germans will certainly not delay an instant. They have the man-power with which to do it, and they have the Austrians in reserve. If we all do our utmost we have no doubt we can make it impossible for them to succeed. But we have no time to lose.

By separate cable I am sending a message for publication supplementing the official communique issued to-night.
There has been no recrudescence of open lawlessness or agrarian disorder during the past week. Cases of wrongful entry on land have been few and for the most part unimportant. In Clare the enforced quiet resulting from military control continues, with the same undercurrent of sullen ill-feeling as before against the troops and constabulary. The death and funeral of a young man from a bayonet wound inflicted in the dispersal of a Sinn Fein meeting by soldiers have not resulted in any serious demonstration. From both sides of Galway, North Roscommon, and North Kerry there are reports of manifestations of hostile feeling against the police. Limerick and North Tipperary also show some restlessness, though not in a marked or apparently serious degree.

Throughout the Southern provinces Sinn Fein organisers still proceed with work of organization. They claim to have in clubs numbering about 1200 between 80,000 and 90,000 members. The reported existence of a "volunteer" company in connection with Sinn Fein Clubs in country districts is the most troublesome feature of the movement. Considerable expense, great pains, and no little labour and ingenuity are being applied to make these volunteer companies efficient in their knowledge of simple military movements. There is also a good deal of systematic instruction of a rudimentary kind in minor tactics. The absence of any large supply of arms and the impossibility of procuring effective weapons are fortunately safeguards against any immediate danger from these proceedings. Continuous arrests of leaders which have been proceeding now for several weeks are also a useful check. I should be glad, however, if some such legislative step as I have suggested for securing the removal of all the men systematically concerned in drilling could be brought into operation soon.

Trials of men charged with agrarian offences and unlawful drilling still engage a good deal of public attention. No serious resentment appears yet to be provoked among the mass of the people, and as every malcontent avows himself a Republican when brought before the Resident magistrates there is apparent justification for putting them under restraint. Attempts to create new forms of disorder among these men after they get to prison have been reported but seem not to be serious. Mr. Sinnott, M.P., after being convicted of incitement to agrarian offences refused food for a day or two, but he appears to have altered his mind on the subject.
Two elections now pending will give the Constitutional nationalists opportunities of repeating their successes of South Armagh and Waterford City. In East Tyrone where a successor to Captain W. Arch Redmond - the new member for Waterford - is being chosen, I anticipate that the Sinn Fein candidate will be beaten. In Kings County the polling for a successor to the late Mr. Graham, M.P. an independent nationalist appears likely to produce a close contest. If nothing occurs in the meantime to excite strong public feeling Mr. Dillon may win a seat there.

In anticipation of Easter week alarmist rumours as to those holidays sprung up as they had done last year but not so distinctly or generally. A republican rebellion on a future unnamed day seems a more common subject of gossip. Easter in Dublin gave some cause for apprehension, but at 6 o'clock on Monday evening the season seems to have passed in perfect quietude and order.

(Signed) H. E. DUKE.

1st April, 1918.
BATTLE SITUATION - EVENING - 1st APRIL, 1918.

1. NORTH OF THE SOMME. There has been no change in the situation.

2. SOUTH OF THE SOMME. There has been hard fighting in the neighbourhood of MOREUIL. Between MOREUIL and HANSGARD, British Cavalry, in a brilliant counter-attack, retook a Wood which had been lost previously.

3. FRENCH FRONT. An enemy attack was beaten off South of MOREUIL, otherwise the day has been comparatively quiet.

General Staff,
War Office,
1st April, 1918.
Issued at 8.5 p.m.