

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Morning Bulletin No.42

26th September, 1939

Paramount needs of the Fighting and Essential Services

In the first year of the War, Great Britain's oil requirements will naturally be substantially increased as compared with normal times. Everyone whose supplies of petrol are affected by the Petrol Rationing Scheme will be playing his or her part in helping to conserve Britain's oil supplies for the fighting forces and essential mercantile and industrial services.

Army estimates published before the War laid stress upon "the still further mechanisation which has already been advanced in every sphere." To-day, with the B.E.F. already in being and with strategic reserves rapidly accumulating, the call upon Britain's petrol will be an extensive one.

Naval activity, too, has been intensified both to meet the U-Boat threat to our mercantile marine and to ensure the freedom of troop movements.

In the air, the machines which guard our homes and patrol the seas, and which will actively re-operate with the French air forces in invaluable work on the Western Front, are all dependent upon stocks of petrol wisely accumulated and conserved.

Although the actual security of oil supplies from abroad can be guaranteed by our superior naval strength and efficiency, there are other factors which must be taken into consideration so far as the Rationing Scheme is concerned. There is, for example, the question of payment for these supplies in foreign currency; and, the growth in recent years of our mercantile and industrial consumption of oil.

If, in the early stages, some self-sacrifice is asked from the civil population of this country, there can be no doubt as to its value and importance.

The possession of ample oil supplies will be one of the major factors contributing towards the winning of the war.

AIR AFFAIRS.

PAMPHLET RAIDS.

How Royal Air Force Pilots have flown over German territory and dropped 18,000,000 pamphlets through the bomb hatches of their aircraft can now be disclosed for the first time.

Though unspectacular in comparison with the magnificent attack on the heavily armed harbours in the Kiel area, these paper raids have been carried out under arduous flying conditions and with conspicuous success.

Since the war began, night flights have been made covering thousands of miles over enemy territory; some of the raids penetrated into Germany to a considerable depth.

BUNDLES LIKE BRICKS.

The pamphlets were loaded into the aircraft in bundles about the size of a heavy brick. A special method for dropping the leaflets from aircraft had been carefully worked out. It was tested in a series of practical experiments, which proved that "bricks" could be dropped and pamphlets released to fall on a particular area and thus reach the inhabitants of selected towns and cities.

During the raids, the aeroplanes flew at a great height. At a signal from the pilot, the "bricks" were released through the bomb hatches, one after the other. The crews had to work at top speed. As the "bricks" fell, the pamphlets spread out in a paper shower.

That most of them fell in the right places shows the high degree of navigational skill of the pilots in choosing during the hours of darkness the correct point at which to drop the bundles. Wind strength had to be gauged with accuracy and calculations made on the basis of the previously ascertained rate of fall.

RELEASED 50 MILES AWAY.

On the night on which one of Germany's big industrial cities was paper-raided - which set the warning syrens screaming in Berlin - the "bricks" were released over fifty miles away from the Town. By the time the wind and gravity had carried the pamphlets down to the streets, our aircraft were well on their way home.

The value of these paper raids has proved to be considerable.

What Germany's High Command thinks of their moral effect is quite clear.

Heavy penalties are imposed on persons seen picking up or reading the pamphlets.

Nonethe less, these pamphlets have given millions of people in various parts of Germany an opportunity to receive authoritative presentations of the Allies' case, and of the reasons which have compelled them to take up arms.

The flights have also been most useful from the point of view of reconnaissance.

EMPIRE AFFAIRS

THE BRITISH ARE "DECENT"

Tribute by German Woman Prisoner in Uganda.

The way in which German prisoners are being handled in Uganda is reflected in a letter (copy of which has reached the Ministry of Information) which a woman Nazi has written to a friend in Germany.

~~"On Sunday evening (she writes) they took my husband away with all the other Germans. They are being well looked after at 15 minutes' distance from our house. None of them has anything to grumble about. They get excellent food from the hotel, they have beds, and one is allowed to visit them two or three times a day if one wants to.~~

~~Their treatment cannot be criticised. This camp is only temporary as the one at Port Bell will be ready next week. There they will be able to take a few pieces of personal furniture with them, such as a comfortable chair and table, etc.~~

"Their arrest also was not what the people at home would imagine, but was carried out very decently. Boys put their baggage on a lorry which was preceded by an elegant bus for the internes.

"I can go shopping and go out whenever I want to. I need only get special permission if I want to be away from my home for more than 24 hours I am glad that they have left me at home: very decent of them, is it not?.

"If the captured English in Germany are treated in the same way they will have little to complain of. There are no lies about this, and you can safely tell everybody If my husband were not interned we could not know that there was a war".

This letter was written on September 6.

The High Commissioner for Palestine has visited a number of Jewish settlements in the EMEK in Lower Galilee. He was received with great cordiality and speeches of welcome.

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The Emir NAIF, second son of the Emir ABDULLAH, returned to Trans-Jordan today from Turkey after an absence of five months, during which he served as an Hon. A.D.C. to the President of the Turkish Republic, and was attached to various military units.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

EVENING BULLETIN No. 43.

26th September, 1939.

German Submarines and Neutral Shipping.

Germany, which has been accusing Great Britain of making threatening demands on neutral countries, has in the course of the past few days shown her own conception of proper conduct towards neutrals by sinking three neutral ships - one Finnish and two Swedish.

Information has been received from Stockholm and The Hague that the Swedish and Dutch Governments have issued denials of the German report that the British Government have made threatening demands on them.

The denial follows a statement by the German official news agency on September 16th that the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs had documentary evidence that the British Government had recently addressed notes to neutral countries forbidding them to send or transmit certain raw materials to Germany, and threatening that if they did so, this would be regarded as an infraction of their neutrality.

The Swedish Government have now stated that no such demands have been made to Sweden, and the competent authorities at The Hague have stated that they know nothing of such a note. The Norwegian Government made a similar declaration on September 17th.

It should be added that the British Contraband Control system deals with cargoes and involves no danger either to the ship or its crew. The ships are not ordinarily liable to be confiscated, still less sunk.

Meanwhile the German official broadcast in English yesterday (Tuesday) morning declared that Britain alone among the Great Powers had failed to sign the Submarine Protocol, and that therefore her attitude to submarine activities was "sanctimonious and hypocritical." The facts are that the Submarine Protocol was originally part of the Naval Treaty of 1930 of which Great Britain was a signatory. It was in 1936 made an independent instrument of which the United Kingdom together with Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and India were, on November 6th 1936, among the original signatories. Thus Great Britain in effect twice signed the Protocol. It was circulated later in the month to all maritime powers, other than the original signatories to obtain their adherence. Among these Germany was the first to sign the Protocol. Unfortunately she is also the first to tear it up.

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FORMER ITALIAN AMBASSADOR'S LEAVETAKING

Lord Halifax has received on Monday the following telegram from Count Grandi, the Italian Ambassador in London who was appointed Minister of Justice in the Italian Government last July.

"In view of the present exceptional circumstances my Government regret being unable to authorize me to leave my post at this moment and return to London, before the arrival of my successor, in order to take official leave from Their Majesties the King and Queen, from the Prime Minister and from the British Government.

"In expressing to you my deep regret, I shall be very grateful to you if you will kindly submit to Their Majesties the difficulties which deny me the pleasure of performing personally this duty and convey at the same time to Their Majesties the sentiments of gratitude which my wife and I feel for the very gracious benevolence and the exquisite courtesies with which Their Majesties have been pleased to honour us during the seven years of my stay in England as Italian Ambassador to the Court of St. James. It is my sincere hope to be able in the near future personally to perform this agreeable duty.

Please convey to Lady Halifax also on behalf of my wife our most cordial remembrances and accept, dear Lord Halifax, the assurances of my sincere friendship. GRANDI "

SWEDISH DENIAL.

It is understood that the Swedish Government have denied the report that they have prohibited the export of wood pulp.

EMPIRE AFFAIRS

GERMAN INTERNEES IN KENYA

The unanimity with which praise is given by the enemy to the British treatment of internees in East Africa is notable. Here is an extract from a report by the Director of Civil Intelligence, Kenya, dated September 5:-

"Mr. Engelke, the Chief Inspector of the Nairobi German Consulate, called at this office at 10.30 A.M. this morning....He stated that he had visited the prisoners (i.e. meaning 'internees') Camps in Nairobi at the Vermont Hall and St. Andrews Hall, and was very pleased to note how well cared for the prisoners were, and expressed his deep appreciation of the way they have been treated."

NEW ARMY BOXING APPOINTMENT

It is announced that Captain L.H. Churcher has taken over the Honorary Secretaryship of the Army Boxing Association from Major D.S. Lister, M.C., who has been posted to the Headquarters Staff of the Aldershot Command.

Captain Churcher was originally an officer in the Hampshire Regiment, but has been connected with Army sport since 1920, and for a long period was the staff officer in charge of physical training at Aldershot, so that, although his own particular sport was swimming, he is well qualified for his new post.

Before the outbreak of war, army boxing was highly organised, and comprised inter-unit and individual competition championships, together with matches against outside teams. Army boxing teams always did well in the inter-services championship, and also held annual matches against the Territorial Army, the Police, the Civil Service, and the Universities. Its quality was such that it could always give even the strongest of these teams an excellent match.

These competitions have been brought to a close by the coming of war, but every effort is to be made to encourage military boxing, and maintain the high pre-war standard as far as possible.

Every unit has been, or shortly will be, issued with its full complement of boxing equipment, and is being encouraged to hold inter-company and individual competitions, to undertake training, and to select teams for local competitions. It is hoped at a later date to introduce some form of systematised boxing training with experienced instructors.

The Army has always regarded boxing as one of the most useful sports for military purposes. Together with football and swimming, it has always been fully organised, and forms part of the recreational curriculum of every unit. Boxing matches, from inter-company competitions up to Army contests with other Services and outside teams, are always largely attended by enthusiastic and knowledgeable audiences, and the standard attained has always been high, not only from a technical standpoint, but from the sporting spirit always shown.

HOME AFFAIRS.

MINISTRY OF FOOD APPOINTMENTS.

The Ministry of Information announces that the Rt. Hon. W.S. Morrison, M.C., K.C., M.P., Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister of Food has made the following appointments to the Ministry of Food:--

Sir Henry L. French, K.B.E., C.B., Secretary;
Sir Quintin Hill, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., Deputy Secretary; and
Sir Harry Peat, K.B.E., Financial Secretary. (Unpaid).

NOTES FOR INFORMATION OF THE PRESS.

SIR HENRY LEON FRENCH was General Secretary of the Food Production Department from 1917-19, and from 1934-36 was Second Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries. He was appointed Director of the Food (Defence Plans) Department on its inception in 1936 which post he continued to fill until the outbreak of war. The Department has now been absorbed in the Ministry of Food.

SIR QUINTIN HILL was Secretary of the Royal Commission on Food Prices from 1924-25. He was appointed as an Assistant Director to the Food (Defence Plans) Department when the Department was established in 1936. He left a few months later on promotion, and subsequently become Comptroller General to the Department of Overseas Trade.

SIR WILLIAM HENRY PEAT is the senior partner of Messrs. Peat Marwick Mitchell & Company, Chartered Accountants. He was Financial Secretary to the Ministry of Food from 1917-20, a position which he has resumed in the newly created Ministry.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

TREPASSING ON PLACES OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE.

The War Office announce that as certain places of military and national importance throughout the country such as camps, bridges, factories, gasometers, electrical plants, railway junction lines, etc. are guarded by armed sentries day and night, the public are earnestly warned against trespassing and advised that when visiting such places on business they will be challenged. On being ordered to "Halt" they should do so immediately, announcing their presence with the word "Friend". They must then be prepared to give their names and state the nature of their business.

In view of the fact that all sentries are armed with ball cartridge it is most essential that the above precautions be strictly observed.

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STANDING IN 'BUSES.

An order has been made by the Minister of Transport under the Defence Regulations increasing the number of standing passengers which may be carried on stage and express carriages on which there is a conductor.

This concession has been made in order to mitigate any inconvenience to the public caused by the curtailment of road passenger transport services which has inevitably resulted from the rationing of petrol and diesel oil.

Instead of the present limitation to 25 per cent of the seating capacity of the vehicle (or lower deck in the case of double-deck vehicles) with a maximum of five, the new order allows standing passengers up to one third of the deck capacity with a maximum of eight in circumstances where undue hardship would otherwise have been caused.

Standing passengers are not permitted on the upper deck of double-deck vehicles.

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STEEL SHELTERS.

The number of steel air raid shelters allocated for free distribution, states the Ministry of Home Security, including those which are being delivered this week amounts to 1,303,401. These shelters are capable of accommodating up to approximately 8 million people.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

No. 1. 26th September 1939.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE 3.

PLOUGHING UP BRITAIN.

Local Knowledge Solves Many Problems.

Encouraging reports of the Government's plan for increasing food production through a War Agricultural Committee in every county are coming in. Some of the extra 1,500,000 acres are already being ploughed and the arrangements as a whole are working smoothly, although naturally there are problems to be solved.

In most of the counties sub-committees have been appointed in the different districts so as to make full use of local knowledge and in at least one county there is a sub-committee in practically every parish. The 1914-18 mistakes of ploughing land that never could grow a wheat crop are being avoided. Each county has been given its quota of fresh land that must be put under the plough and practical farmers are supervising its selection.

Hard Cases.

There are some farms where an existing system of balanced farming makes them almost self-sufficient for feeding their considerable head of livestock. The local committees will be unlikely to interfere drastically with such enterprises that are making so full a use of the land. Others, for instance one-time arable farms put down to grass to maintain a big dairy herd fed on imported rations, present a greater difficulty. It may seem a little hard to such a farmer if he has to plough some of his grass.

The local committee will deal in a practical way with such problems, but if he has to plough it should not be forgotten that even if there were no ploughing up scheme he might now have to bring some land into cultivation (without £2 per acre subsidy) or sell a large number of his cows since imported feeding stuffs may be no longer available in unlimited quantities.

Machinery for ploughing is another of the "snags" on grass farms, some of which have no ploughing tackle at all. But, from reports coming in, contractors seem to be going a long way towards meeting this difficulty and one of the interesting things

that the war has brought to light is the number of very small farms with a tractor that could not possibly hope to work anything like full time in normal circumstances. The owners of these are showing great willingness to plough for other people when their own work is done.

The Man with the Spade.

500,000 More Allotments The Aim.

The man with the plough has already been assigned his task. Now there is news for the man with the spade, the little man, whom we are asking to dig half a million more allotments.

His part is no less important, for it will mean providing potatoes and vegetables that will feed an extra one million adults and one-and-a-half million children for eight months out of the twelve.

Local authorities have been given very wide powers to acquire land for this purpose. They may take:-

- (a) Unoccupied land, if it can be cultivated, without consent.
- (b) Occupied land by agreement with the owner and occupier.
- (c) Common land with the Minister's consent.

It is also recommended by the Ministry that in every urban area with a population above 20,000, a Horticulture Committee should be set up, charged with the work of encouraging food production in private gardens and allotments. It is suggested that members from the staffs of public parks and recreation grounds might become whole-time technical advisers to garden and plot owners. The Royal Horticultural Society is setting up a panel of gardeners to advise anyone on the best way to use and crop his garden in war-time.

If allotments can be provided within reasonable reach of prospective plot-holders, there is no doubt what the response to the drive for 500,000 new allotments will be. For this plan to give half a million more "little men" their own kitchen gardens will appeal to those whose routine work in office, factory and workshop will often leave them wishing they could "do more for the War". Now they will be able to do it, and produce something from start to finish with their own hands that is vital to our war needs.

But they will be doing something more. They will be growing fresh, nutritive food, food of which we do not not consume nearly enough even in peacetime, and so the new allotment holders will be giving the health of themselves and their families a better chance in life, keeping themselves and the nation more fit.

Leeds Corporation are offering a certain number of unoccupied allotments rent free until the end of the year. Cheshire County Council are offering £70 in prizes for the best cottage gardens and allotments that will be judged at the end of July, 1940, open to all but professional gardeners. From all parts of England and Wales the response of local authorities is already most encouraging.

Calling All Gardeners.

The Ministry of Agriculture will shortly issue a special Bulletin "Food From the Garden" that is designed to answer every question the owner of an allotment or private garden may want to know. For the last year a committee of 12 of the leading horticulturists have been busy preparing it. The Bulletin contains a cropping plan that demonstrates not only how to lay out the plot

to the best advantage, but how to crop it so as to get a regular supply of vegetables spread out, as far as possible, over every month of the year. Its price will be 3d. or 3½d. post free from any bookseller or from H.M. Stationery Office, at the following addresses:- York House, Kingsway, W.C.2.; 120, George Street, Edinburgh; 26, York Street, Manchester; 1 St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff; 80, Chichester Street, Belfast. A free leaflet, condensing the advice given in the Bulletin, is obtainable from the Ministry of Agriculture.

Work for the Furrow Press.

On most farms there are forgotten implements lying idle. The ploughing up campaign will bring some of them into use again. If there is a furrow press on the farm it will be wanted this autumn to follow the plough and consolidate the turf that is being ploughed in. Farmers are advised to get these presses in order if they need repair. Any farmer who has a spare press will probably find a ready sale to the local agricultural engineer.

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Using Surplus Grass.

Crop that Is Sometimes Wasted.

First class hay is not likely to be too abundant next year and in any case it is important that farmers should think of making their farms as self-contained for feedingstuffs as possible.

The flush of aftermath, or surplus grass, is particularly marked this autumn and it is not too late to turn it into silage. No elaborate apparatus is required. The site chosen should be flat, level, hard, sheltered and conveniently situated. The smallest useful size is 12 ft x 12 ft, and stacks of 15 ft x 15 ft. to 15 ft. x 18 ft. hold 40-50 tons.

The molasses solution that is added during stacking to the freshly cut grass is made by adding 40 lb. of molasses to 30 gallons of water and stirring until liquified.

To Make the Stack.

First spread an even layer of grass 1ft. thick. Pour evenly on it 6 gals. of the solution (a piece of tin 8 x 6 in. in the spout of the can helps even pouring). The next layer is only 6 in. It is spread and well trodden down, especially at the edges, avoiding all lumps and pockets. Six more gallons of the solution are evenly poured on it. Similar layers, 6 inches at a time, are trodden and treated in the same way until the stack is 6 - 7 ft. high, great care being taken to keep the sides absolutely upright. This is the first stage, and it ought to be completed in a single day, certainly in under two days.

Final Stages.

The stack is left for 36 hours while the material heats to 100-115F°. The practical test for this is not to be able to keep the arm plunged in it for more than a moment. If the material is very wet, another 24 hours may be needed to let it heat up.

The heating and settling cause the stack to sink to about 4 ft. high. Further layers are spread and treated with molasses until a further 6 ft. is added, when the stack is left another 24 hours for heating up. Building is continued on alternate days until a height of 12-14 ft. is reached. If more material is still available, heavy objects, such as wooden baulks, laid evenly on the top will assist settling.

The completed stack must be sealed. This is done by covering it with old bags, then ploughing three or four furrows round it and throwing the loose earth on top of the stack. The stack must be covered with a dome of soil 2ft. thick in the centre and 1ft. at the outside edges. If a waggon is drawn up beside the stack and the earth first thrown into it, it will be easier to get the earth on top of the stack. Both weighting and sealing should be done not later than 12 hours after the spreading of the last layers, otherwise top and outside wastage will be excessive.

The silage will be ready in 6-8 weeks, and will keep sound for at least 9 months. To use it, remove the earth from a section 1 yard square, scrape away the shiny top and outside and cut the daily requirement with a hay knife.

Feeding Value. 2 to 2½ lb. silage =
1 lb. hay; 5 to 6 lb. = 10 lb. roots.

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Safeguarding the Wheat Yield.

It is of particular importance at the present time to dress seed wheat to prevent Bunt. Seed already dressed can be obtained from a large number of seed merchants, but seed saved from the farm must be dressed by the farmer himself.

The old methods of steeping or sprinkling with a solution of bluestone or formaldehyde are reasonably effective if carried out correctly, but by far the most efficient materials to use are the modern mercurial powders. They do not reduce or delay germination as wet treatments are apt to do and dusted seed, unlike moistened seed, can be stored without being injured. Since dusted seed does not swell,

no change in the rate of sowing is necessary.

Use of Mercurial Powders.

For those who do not purchase their seed ready dressed there are machines specially designed for dressing seed with these powders and they can be bought from £2 upwards. They may be made at home for treating small quantities out of any barrel or box that can be rotated like a churn. They must have baffle plates or some device inside to make sure that seed and powder are thoroughly mixed during the three minutes or so of turning.

The practice of spreading the grain on a hard floor, scattering the powder over it and then turning three or four times with a shovel is not to be recommended.

The man turning the mixing apparatus should wear some kind of mask to avoid inhaling the dust during long periods of grain treatment. A wet cloth will serve the same purpose in a rough and ready way. Treated grain must not be used for animal or human consumption.

Loose Smut.

All corn growers are familiar with the few black, smutty ears that are noticeable as soon as the ears emerge from the leaf sheaths. They have nothing to do with bunt. They are the result of infection with loose smut, a disease that cannot be controlled by the powders mentioned or by any other chemical. Wherever possible, seed should be selected from crops that are free from loose smut.

Oats.

Seed Oats should be disinfected with one of the organic mercury compounds on the market. These prevent smut and also control Leaf Spot, a disease carried by seed that injures the leaves and so reduces yield, sometimes very markedly.

FLASH NEWS

The Air Ministry announces:-

Royal Air Force aircraft again carried out successful reconnaissances over the western front and north-west Germany during yesterday. Attacks by enemy fighters were driven off and our aircraft returned safely to their bases.

Last night further reconnaissance flights were carried out over Germany, in the course of which leaflets were dropped. All our aircraft have landed safely.

M.A.F.36

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

No. 3 - 26th September, 1939.

PRESS NOTICE
AND
BROADCAST.

SOLDIER ASSISTANCE FOR FARMERS.

There is to be a further extension of the scheme whereby the Army lends soldier volunteers to assist farmers who need them. Reports reaching the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries from many parts of the country speak of the success of this scheme, originally designed to give farmers a helping hand with the harvest. These reports show that, wherever military circumstances have permitted, there has been generous co-operation on the part of the Army authorities. On their side, farmers have expressed their appreciation of this timely help, which has enabled them to get the harvest in when no other labour was available.

The corn harvest has now been secured in most parts of the country. There still remain, however, important seasonal operations for which, in present circumstances, farmers may find it impossible to obtain sufficient additional labour from the usual sources.

The Ministry is glad to announce, therefore, that a further extension of the scheme has been arranged with the War Office. Whenever military requirements permit, soldier assistance will now be made available to farmers for seasonal operations, such as potato and sugar beet lifting, until 31st December, 1939. As before, farmers wishing to make use of these arrangements should get in touch, in good time, with the Executive Officer for the county in which their farm is situated.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

No. 4. 26th September, 1939.

PRESS NOTICE.

M.A.F. 37.

THE FERTILISER POSITION.

The Agricultural Departments have been in close touch with the Ministry of Supply regarding the fertiliser position. At this stage it is impossible to forecast accurately either the extent or nature of the demand, because the crops which will be grown on the increased arable acreage are not yet known. It has, however, been suggested to distributors of Potash that until further notice they should restrict sales of potassic fertilisers, as such, to half the quantity supplied to each customer at the corresponding period last year. Manufacturers of Compound Fertilisers have been recommended to reduce the Potash (K_2O) content of all Compound Fertilisers so that, generally, the total quantity of Potash used in the manufacture of Compound Fertilisers does not exceed half the quantity so used last season. The intention is that, in each district, the supplies available shall be reserved for those crops and soils most in need of Potash.

Stocks of Phosphates will also have to be used economically so as to produce maximum results from the supplies available. To achieve this, it is recommended that all stocks of high-grade Phosphate must be reserved for dissolving; that lower grade North-African Phosphate should also be reserved for dissolving, for application to grass on acid soils in the wetter districts or for inclusion in Compound Fertilisers destined for crops which can make good use of this source of phosphate, such as turnips and grass in certain districts; and that ground phosphate should not be included in fertilisers destined for such crops as potatoes and grain.

Generally, with Superphosphate and all Compound Fertilisers it is important to save transport costs by making the plant food content as high as possible. Existing stocks of Phosphate are of a high grade and the Super-phosphate made from them will be correspondingly high in phosphate content; farmers, by using a smaller quantity of these higher grades, will be able to apply the same amount of plant food per acre as in the past.

It will be understood that the above recommendations are intended to lay down general lines of guidance and not hard and fast restrictions; special cases will have to be dealt with on their merits.

Farmers will appreciate that under War conditions they may not be able to obtain fertilisers exactly similar to those they used last year.

The busy season for distributing fertilisers namely February, March and April, puts a strain on transport even in peace time. Farmers who can keep fertilisers in a dry condition are earnestly asked, in their own interests, to assist the Fertiliser Control by intimating to their suppliers their willingness to accept delivery of supplies as and when this can be arranged, without waiting until the usual delivery months.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

NO. 5 - 26/9/39.

LETTER AND PARCEL SERVICES TO POLAND.

The Postmaster General announces that the letter and parcel post services to Poland are suspended until further notice.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

No. 6. 26/9/39

(The following is not for publication before
the Morning Press of September 27th. 1939)

SONGS OF THE NEW ARMY.

OLD CONTEMPTIBLES CHORUSES STILL GOING STRONG.

"LITTLE SIR HITLER"

Rousing choruses of The O' . Contemptibles are still going strong
in the Army of to-day.

This is revealed from a journey through one of the Commands
where thousands of troops are in camp and on the march.

Battalion and battery wags are already producing peppy parodies
full of nationally topical and local allusions, many of which refer,
as ever, to the Sergeant Major's moustache, the lisping subaltern
and, in unmeasured terms to "The Little Young Lady Passing by".

Infantry "musical" opinion is divided as to the comparative
values of that grand old stager "Colonel Bogey" with its ever
topical "and the same to you" opening line and the lugubrious
"Down Mexico Way".

The ex-Serviceman finds memories of 25 years ago stirred by wa
watching their sons swing past to the mouth-organ-led tunes of 1914-
1918, for the "Long Long Trail", "Tipperary" and "Mademoiselle from
Armentieres" have lost nothing of their popularity.

At the camps at night, as the khaki-clad pianist hammers out
old favourites, the battle between the new and old in popular
song is continued and the parodist comes into his own.

FROM BRAHM'S TO "BOOMPS-A-DAISY

In one Western Command camp, the pianist was, in "civvy life," a Church organist, but he gives the troops "Boomps a Daisy" with the same enthusiasm as he give Brahm's organ voluntaries in a little country church in Cumberland.

"Loch Lomand" with its steady beat and the familiar "you tak' the high road" words stands high in camp comment, as does that wartime marching favourite (with as many versions as there were units) "Old King Cole".

"Now Old King Cole was a merry old soul
And he called for his Gunners three"

Then there is the parody on "Little Sir Echo" that is sweeping the Command. The metre may be awry but "there's nowt wrong wi the sentiment", as one Lancashire lad remarked :-

"Little Old Hitler
We're sorry for you
Boo-oo! Boo-oo! Boo-oo!
The Siegfried line
We'll soon be through
At you! at you! at you!
We're on our way -
There'll be the Devil to pay!
So poor little Nazi
Please come to our party
Boo-oo! Boo-oo! Boo-oo!

The Armoured Corps have a parody on "Boomps a Daisy" which fits the rocking motion of a tank over trenches.

The opening lines run :-

"Heil Hit - Boomps a Daisy"
Tanks trip over the top!
O Sergeant take it aisy
Berlin will be our first stop....."

There has been a seasonal revival of "It Aint Gonna Rain No More" and the music hall number "There's Something About a Soldier", but no one seems to sing the "Handsome Territorial" while patriotic songs are limited to that grand march of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers "Men of Harlech".

And, as Pepys recalled "the soldiers sing strange things when moving on" - they still do!

(NOT TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE PRESS OR BROADCAST ON RADIO OR
PUT OVER THE CLUB TAKES BEFORE THE MORNING NEWSPAPERS OF
SEPTEMBER 27TH.)

The following story has been compiled from a highly authoritative source and is circulated to the Press so that they may make such use of it as they wish.

LUXURIOUS LIVES OF NAZI LEADERS

Press messages from Berlin report that Dr. Goebbels at a meeting of foreign press correspondents expressed himself as shocked at the recent revelations about Nazi fortunes deposited abroad. "Nobody", he is said to have declared, "will want to reproach me for ever having said anything touching the honour of a political opponent when I was convinced it could not be true." Public memory may be short in Germany but the world will remember the shameless attacks made by the German press in recent years on President Roosevelt, Mr. Eden, Mr. Duff Cooper and many others. There is some irony in the recollection that they were accused of being in league with Moscow and Mr. Eden and Mr. Duff Cooper were even alleged to have been concerned in the murder of the German diplomat Vom Rath. Equally shameless and dishonourable is the lie now repeated almost every day on the German wireless that Mr. Winston Churchill was responsible for the sinking of the Athenia.

The greater part of what Dr. Goebbels had to say to the foreign press correspondents was in reply to a story recently published by two reputable and responsible American journalists in the American press, describing in some detail funds which Nazi leaders have deposited abroad. Dr. Goebbels denies this story which he describes as being an attack upon his personal honour. Those who have heard and read it will be able to judge between Dr. Goebbels and the journalists whose story he denies. Some interest, however, must naturally attach to the Doctor's mode of life of the last three or four years during which the German nation generally has been reduced to living upon a war basis. In any event enough is known in Germany itself of the luxurious lives of Nazi leaders.

Even the German public will remember the film "Pappi's Geburtstag" (Daddy's birthday) which depicted the home life of the now indignant Minister of Propaganda. This film revealed incidentally the luxury and wealth in which he lived, and the retinue of servants by whom he was surrounded; it is not surprising that it should have caused those who saw it to reflect on the huge sums of money necessary to keep up such state, and to wonder where all this money came from. It was for this reason that the film was withdrawn almost immediately after its appearance owing to the lamentable impression made on audiences schooled to believe that Nazi Ministers lived in truly Prussian simplicity.

Great Britain and the United States are reputed in Germany to be rich countries and their wealth is often envied. The German man in the street might, therefore, be surprised to learn that whilst British Cabinet Ministers, for example, have no official motor car, Field Marshal Goering admitted to a foreign diplomat in 1937 having 42 motor cars for his own personal use in Berlin and at his country estate at Karinhall; and that whilst British Ministers receive no entertainment allowances the Field Marshal, again on his own admission, received half a million marks solely for the purpose of entertaining during the famous hunting exhibition of 1937.

As an example of the mode of life in Nazi circles, the following story has been vouched for by the foreign guests at a dinner party given by a Nazi leader. The latter apologised for the inferior quality of the table glass and ordered specimens to be brought of patterns of new cut glass ornamented with gold. "I am expecting delivery shortly", he explained, "and then the muck you now see on the table will be taken down to the kitchen and smashed with a hammer". It is not surprising that Dr. Goebbels and others should have thought themselves above the currency regulations since they habitually regard themselves as above the law. One leader recounted proudly that the curator of a museum had made bureaucratic difficulties over surrendering some pictures required for the decoration of this particular leader's house. "I told that curator that if the pictures were not despatched immediately I should send men down to the museum to take a great deal more. The pictures arrived punctually."

Poor Dr. Goebbels may play the innocent, but he will find it difficult to convince even his compatriots. His sumptuous parties, his private life and his extravagances have been for many years so much the talk of Berlin that they have ceased to be news. It would be imprudent of Dr. Goebbels to assume that if the subject has not been ventilated in the foreign press it is because the facts are not known.

PURCHASE OF HORSES.

The War Office wishes to advise horse owners to satisfy themselves that they are dealing with duly accredited purchasing officers when selling horses to the Government.

Cases have been brought to the notice of the War Office of horses being bought from private owners, who were under the impression that the purchasers were acting for the Government.

Owners, in their own interests, should in future ask intending purchasers to produce their passes which are issued by Headquarters of the Command concerned.

Any case of unauthorised persons attempting to transact such business should be reported to the local police for investigation.

Passed by Field Censor

SUNDAY WITH THE B.E.F. PADRES VISIT ALL UNITS

BY "EYE-WITNESS. SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE.

Troops and transports continue to arrive and to move to their allotted places.

Farms and villages are gradually filling up and each day officers and men are greeted in the streets and country lanes by old friends who have just got over here.

The superb weather which has so favoured the process of mobilisation shows no signs of breaking. Footballs are being kicked about in meadows, and the farmers send out baskets of apples to the thirsty players.

The General staff out here is working hard, but no one else knows anything about the plans they are elaborating. The commanders of the various units are concerned mainly with such problems as finding suitable bathing facilities for their men, many of whom are sleeping on straw. Some battalion commanders are taking the opportunity to put in some useful arms drill.

From all this preparation no solid development has yet emerged, and the question of the "next step" is what all ranks are discussing. In the cafes, in the little market squares and in the remote country hotels officers and men are planning the course of the war with a wealth of strategical ingenuity. In the absence of any definite military information, the political and economic aspects of the conflict are receiving maximum attention.

B.B.C. news bulletins and English papers are eagerly sought after, and an extraordinary number of the troops are buying the French papers and ploughing through them with the aid of dictionaries or interpreters.

Today I attended one of the first religious services. As I drove out to the little country village with the Chaplain he told me that earlier this morning he had held a communion service at which his congregation of forty ranged from private soldiers to Generals.

This unit whose service I attended had chosen a little meadow and had surrounded it with camouflaged artillery to form an open-air chancel.

No proper church parade has yet been held but ~~on~~ ~~Sunday~~ Padres scoured the countryside visiting the most remotely placed units and seeing that everybody's religious needs were attended to. In many places the Catholics were able to attend mass in the local church.

PASSED BY FIELD CENSOR.

NOTES FROM THE FRONT

BY "EYE-WITNESS" SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE.

The troops are awaiting the arrival of a new war song alleged to be entitled "We'll hang our washing on the Siegfried line."

Every English-French dictionary in this neighbourhood has been bought by the British troops. The local bookshops have sent a frantic appeal to Paris for new supplies. Maps of the locality are also at a premium.

An officer on the way here was trying to find himself a place in the train. He looked into a carriage which was entirely occupied by three Judge-Advocates. Recognising their high rank but not their identity he withdrew, saying in despair "I suppose these things are sent to try us."

"Sooner or later," replied one of the Judges, "Sooner or later."

A native of Alsace has been found near here who fought for Germany in the last war and is fighting for France in this. He has no doubt about which is the right side to be on.

A Car covered with one of the new camouflage nets dashed up to a hotel here. Out stepped two immaculately dressed and groomed lieutenants. A voice from the crowd remarked "Quels beaux poissons" (What beautiful fish).

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION NO.10 26/9/39

(NOT TO BE BROADCAST ON RADIO OR ON CLUB TAPES
BEFORE WEDNESDAY MORNING 27th SEPTEMBER 1939.)

HOW THE NATIONAL REGISTER WILL BE
KEPT UP-TO- DATE

Full provision has been made for keeping up to date the National Register which is to be taken on Friday (29th September)

Regulations issued today (Wednesday) provide that on changing his address every registered person must give notice within seven days to the local registration officer. He will also have to present himself at the local registration office, unless the registration officer says this is unnecessary. A special "removal" form will be provided.

There will have to be a new registration where any person, after the initial National Registration enters the United Kingdom; is discharged from the Navy, Army or Air Force; is transferred from the Mercantile Marine Register (when established); or has accidentally been omitted from this week's enumeration.

Babies will be classified as "new entries." On registering the birth of any child born after this Friday a registrar will partly complete a special return form. This will be given to the parent or other person in charge of the child, who will complete and present it for the purposes of both rationing and national registration. Registrars will also notify deaths to the central registration office.

Enlistments in the naval, military or air forces; cases where a member of the Forces on leave recorded in the National Register returns to duty; transfers to the Mercantile Marine Register (when established); and departures from the United Kingdom will be notified to the central registration officer by the appropriate Government Department.

The regulations - issued by the Home Secretary (Sir John Anderson), Minister of Health (Mr. Walter Elliot) and Secretary for Scotland (Mr. John Colville) - also deal with identity cards.

Any person removed from the National Register must surrender his identity card. In the case of a death, any person having possession of the card must deliver it either before registration of death to the person who is seeing the Registrar, or within seven days to the Registrar by whom the death was registered.

Certain classes of persons defined by the regulations will not be responsible for notifying changes of address, etc, or be in charge of their own identity cards. These are children, invalids and others in "actual custody, care or control (the responsible person will be the parent or person having charge); children in "a school, orphanage or other residential institution for the young"; inmates of any poor law institution asylum, mental home, civil prison or place of detention. Headmasters will be responsible in the case of schools, and governors or chief resident officers for prisons or institutions.

NO. 11. 26/9/39

PRESS NOTICE FROM

10 Downing Street,
Whitehall, S.W.1.
26th September 1939.

For morning papers only. Not to be published on the Club Tapes,
or by broadcasts on radio or in any other way before the
morning of Wednesday, 27th September 1939.

The King has been pleased to approve that the dignity
of a Baronetcy of the United Kingdom be conferred upon
Major Sir Frank Henry Bowater on the occasion of his retirement
from the office of Lord Mayor of London; and that the honour
of Knighthood be conferred upon Alderman George Godfrey Warr and
Frederick Rowland Esq., on the occasion of their retirement from
the office of Sheriffs of the City of London.

NO. 12 26/9/39

PRESS NOTICE

10, Downing Street,
S.W.1.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of the Reverend Eddie Jenkyns, B.A., Rector of Burton, Pembrokeshire, to the Rectory of St. Stephen, Harpurhey, Manchester, vacant by the death of the Reverend Henry Diaper Gledsdale.

Control of Potatoes and Canned Salmon.

The Ministry of Information announces that the addresses and telephone numbers of the offices set up by the Ministry of Food to deal with potatoes and canned salmon are as follows:-

Potatoes -

The Director,
Potatoe Section, Ministry of Food,
St. John's College,
Oxford.

Tel: Oxford 47670 and
47671

Canned Salmon -

The Director,
Canned Salmon Section, Ministry of Food,
52, Stanley Street,
Liverpool.

Tel: Liverpool Bank, 8700.

It is requested that in order to economise telephone facilities enquiries should, wherever possible, be made by letter.

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MINES DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT.

Mr. Geoffrey Lloyd, Secretary for Mines, accompanied by representatives of Scotland Yard and the Ministry of Transport, this afternoon received at the Mines Department a deputation representing London taxi-drivers, and discussed with them the petrol rationing scheme as it affects the London taxi service.

Among other considerations, including employment, Mr. Lloyd has been particularly impressed by the fact that the needs of the Auxiliary Fire Service have removed a considerable number of taxis from the streets, and that for this reason the question has arisen of the provision of a proper service to the public especially at night.

In the general public interest, therefore, the Secretary for Mines has agreed to increase the monthly ration from 60 gallons to 90, giving each cab approximately an additional gallon a day.

It is expected that this allowance will be sufficient to enable a satisfactory service to be maintained after dark as well as during the day, and, in agreeing to this increase, Mr. Lloyd stated that he relied on the co-operation of the taxi-drivers to prevent the waste of petrol by "crawling" and ensure the provision of sufficient day and night services. Assurances to this effect have been given.

Dean Stanley Street,
Millbank,
S.W. 1.

26th September, 1939.

EMPIRE AFFAIRS SPECIAL

Covering South Africa thanks General Smuts; South African natives re-assured; Strategic importance of Burma; Indian Cultivator's Gifts.

SOUTH AFRICA THANKS GENERAL SMUTS.

Remarkable demonstrations of loyalty and appreciation have been evoked by General Smut's return to the Premiership writes a South African correspondent. Thousands of telegrams and messages, from important public bodies and individuals in every walk of life, have poured into his office, his home and the head office of his party, and offers of service have reached him from all parts of South Africa.

From Nairobi came the following cable: "The South African Society of East Africa send you their deepest thanks for your spirited defence of justice and right and are confident that all South Africans will rally round the Empire under your proved leadership."

A big workers' organisation wrote that they proposed to withdraw their candidate in a Parliamentary by-election pending in the Cape, as, in view of the fact that the Union was now at war with Germany, they felt that it was "the duty of every loyal citizen to give you wholehearted support and unquestionable loyalty."

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIVES REASSURED

An assurance to the native people of South Africa that there is nothing in the present international situation to cause them any alarm and a warning not to give credence to rumours, were contained in a message sent out by the Secretary for Native Affairs on the day South Africa severed relations with Germany.

"It is the duty of all of us (said the message) to carry on our usual work with calmness and in the assurance that the Government of the country is taking all steps that are necessary for our protection and safety.

"At times like these all sorts of wild rumours spread abroad. The native people are warned not to accept such stories as truth, but to rely on information supplied by members of the Government, by officials of the Native Affairs Department or by the reputable Press of the country.

"The Department of Native Affairs is sure that it can rely on the loyalty and law-abiding character of the native people in these difficult times, and looks to them for the same support and co-operation in preserving confidence and order as they have so willingly rendered in the past".

STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF BURMA

The development of one of the major campaigns of the war in China in the HUNAN Province the capital of which is under fierce attack calls attention again to the strategic importance of Burma. That importance can be summed up in the words of General Sir Robert Cassels, the Commander-in-Chief in India, who has said that Burma in hostile hands would be a pistol pointed at the heart of Bengal.

Burma has been put on the map of the world by the development of air transport and particularly by the Imperial route to Singapore and Australia.

Another contributing factor has been the events of the past two years in China. As soon as the Chinese Nationalist Government moved into the far interior to Chungking, they started under tremendous difficulties the construction of a road to the Burmese frontier. From there communication is made with the port of Rangoon, the capital of Burma. Thus Rangoon is taking on a new role and becoming a port for China trade. Rangoon is still as important as ever to Imperial Commerce, particularly for its very heavy exports of rice.

As with other parts of the Empire, Burma has shown its attachment to the cause upon which Britain has embarked.

That cause was defined by an elected Senator, Senator U Kyaw Din, on a motion of loyalty before the Upper House. Every nation he argued has an intrinsic right to develop itself according to its own national ideals, so that the policy of His Majesty's Government is a "righteous" one. The present issue, he continued, involves the determination of two fundamental moral and political ideals, namely the continuation of personal liberty and individuality, or the elimination of individual personality; these are so opposed that both cannot exist -- if one prevails the other must disappear. "Britain, in my opinion", concluded the Senator, "is staking her all for the ideals of humanity, justice and freedom."

INDIAN CULTIVATOR'S GIFT.

From Prince to peasant in India, loyalty always takes a very personal form in offers of services and money. Following the forwarding to the Government of India of some savings which a minor Government official had been able to accumulate, comes an offer from a Punjab cultivator. Apart from placing the "humble" services of himself and all members of his family at the disposal of the Government of India, he offers as a gift from the produce of his land a substantial amount of potatoes, onions and eggs.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

ADD EVENING BULLETIN. No. 43

26/9/39.

COUNT GRANDI.

16
No. ~~17~~ - 26/9/39.

Present events have compelled Count Grandi, who was appointed Minister of Justice and Privy Seal last July while on leave in Italy and who is now a member of the Italian Cabinet, to modify, much to his regret, his original plan of coming to London to take leave of Their Majesties. Count and Countess Grandi will ever be kindly remembered by the very large circle of friends they made during their 7 years' stay in Great Britain, and not least by the Prime Minister, Lord Halifax and the other members of His Majesty's Government.

Real regret is felt at Count and Countess Grandi's departure, but satisfaction is expressed at the prospect that they are to make a private visit to London in the near future. Meanwhile the arrival of Signor Bastianini is warmly awaited.

Passed by field censor
Not to be broadcast on Radio
before 8. a.m. Wednesday.

The British preparations in France,
keeping the enemy in the dark
'No one has yet seen a horse'
by 'Eye-Witness'

Somewhere in France.

In beautiful sunny weather the preparations of the British Field Force in France go steadily forward, but there is no concrete development that can be reported at the present stage.

The need for secrecy is as strong as ever. As soon as British troops make contact with the enemy conditions may be different, but at the moment it is their business to keep the enemy as much in the dark as possible.

For this reason names of Regiments and places, personalities movements, and many absorbingly interesting technical details must be passed over in silence.

All the officers I meet say 'there is nothing you can write about. You can mention that the weather is fine and the troops are well and happy and safe - which is what their mothers and wives really want to hear. But there is nothing else to say. We find it difficult enough even to write a letter home.'

Work here seems to be in direct proportion to rank. While privates are playing games in the meadows and bathing in the rivers, Generals and Staffs are working feverishly.

One of the busiest spots is the Motor Transport headquarters we are working eighteen hours a day one of their chiefs told me this morning. "our job is really a completely new one. Of course we made very careful plans, but no one has ever before had any experience of transporting a completely motorised field force across to France".

The comparison between the Army's methods of handling horsed and motorised transport is a fascinating subject but not suitable for publication at the moment.

At the same time the streets of the towns and the country lanes around here do not suggest that there has been much hitch in getting the Transport across and organising it on this side. It is difficult to imagine that it could have been done more expeditiously.

No one has yet seen a horse. There were rumours that some were to be procured locally for the Generals and Staff to take exercise on, but no British Army horse has yet made its appearance.

This, of course, is the feature of the present war which most forcibly strikes the veterans of 1914 - a feature which they love to impress on the young subalterns who were not born 25 years ago.

PASSED BY FIELD CENSORNOT TO BE BROADCAST ON RADIO BEFORE 8 A.M. WEDNESDAYTHE FIRST BRITISH ARTILLERY UNITS IN FRANCE
OUR EQUIPMENT CREATES A SENSATIONBy 'Eye-Witness'Somewhere in France.

The first British Artillery units to reach France are now installed.

When I called on the Headquarters of one of the units they invited me to tea in their beautiful country-house. It was a completely English meal - tea, bread and butter, potted meat, jam, cake and biscuits.

A mail bag had just arrived, and the Officers were sorting their letters. Although they are living in what would normally be regarded as a particularly inaccessible part of the countryside, they make no complaint about having to do without their home comforts. It is a great tribute to the organisation of the Field Forces.

As they drank their tea the Officers discussed the little local worries that are typical of a billeted force. A Captain was wondering what to do about one of his men who had written home in Welsh. It was decided that he must translate it into English for censorship purposes. Then there was the village Schoolmistress to be dealt with. She wanted her School evacuated within three or four days, in order to begin the Winter term. There was the question of the baker's van. This had apparently burst spontaneously into flames after being borrowed by the British Army, and its charred skeleton was still to be seen just outside the gates of the Chateau. The baker was charming about it, and even delivered extra bread to show there was no ill-feeling. But his claim to compensation was still being considered.

The village Curé called. He had been pedalling energetically round his Parish urging his flock, on pain of grave ecclesiastical displeasure, not to overcharge the British.

Down the magnificent mile-long avenue of trees stretching away from the Chateau the unit's motorised transport was parked in perfect camouflage. We walked between a continuous double column of guns, limbers, ordnance lorries, motorised wireless equipment, and transport of all sorts.

In the woods and hedges on either side the men were picking blackberries, of which they report a bumper crop. Little further on amateur cooks claimed to be making blackberry and apple jam.

The British equipment is creating something of a sensation in France. Wherever a transport column stops the local inhabitants crowd round and make unintelligible but obviously admiring remarks to the drivers. French Officers and Poilus discuss the points of the British material with expert and critical judgment. The huge tyres with their curious corrugated tread, the camouflage nets, and a dozen other technical details arouse their unstinted admiration.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

NO. 19 - 26:9:'39.

FLASH. - 9.30 p.m. B.S.T.

WARSAW RADIO.

Warsaw entered the 21st day of the siege. The last 24 hours were if anything still more terrible than the attacks during the last few days.

With the exception of a break for 24 hours we have had continuous air raids by 200 aeroplanes and shelling by heavy artillery.

Hundreds of incendiary bombs caused numerous fires. Most public buildings in the City are in flames. The number of fires probably exceeds fifty. Fire brigades and civilians are fighting the flames with the utmost heroism which is difficult owing to the scarcity of water.

The food situation is also difficult, especially as regards distribution which is very complicated owing to the continual shelling and bombing. Hundreds of horses which are killed by the shells in the streets of the City are immediately butchered and distributed for consumption.

Public utility institutions are performing miracles.