

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

MORNING BULLETIN NO. 24

15th SEPTEMBER 1939

EMPIRE AFFAIRS.

His Majesty, through Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, has expressed his deep appreciation of the Loyal messages received from Ceylon, Nigeria, the Gold Coast, Sierra Leone, the Tanganyiki Territory Northern Rhodesia, British Honduras and the Leeward Islands.

An expression of His Majesty's gratitude has been conveyed to the Chief Rabbis of Palestine for their message of "heartfelt blessings and fervent prayers of Palestine Jewry for Britain's victory in her heroic stand for right against might and ultimate world peace" which was recently received by the Lord Chamberlain.

From Lagos it is learned that the internment of enemy aliens in Nigeria is complete, but the authorities have been able to release about half the number on parole. Germans who remained in the Cameroons after the declaration of war have similarly been placed on parole, and are being employed as far as possible on plantations which have been taken over by the Public Custodian of Enemy Property.

The Cameroons have until now done a large trade in bananas, which were mainly exported in German vessels.

One of the most fervent of the loyal messages which have come from the Colonies arrived from the Bahamas to-day. The House of Assembly passed a resolution assuring the King of their devoted adherence to him and to the British Empire "of which we are so proud to be a member", and protesting their eagerness to serve the Empire "not only during the present crisis, but at all times."

Although only one-sixth of the 60,000 people of the Bahamas are of European descent, there is every reason to say that a number of Bahamians of all races are eager to enlist for service overseas in this war.

The trend of feeling in the two great southern Dominions is more and more heartening to people at home. In Australia all the newspapers, except the Labour journal "Daily News" are demanding bigger military preparations within the Commonwealth. The calling up of the militia (numbering 78,000) in batches of 10,000 for sixteen days' training is ridiculed, and most papers advocate immediate full-time training of a much larger force which could eventually, should circumstances permit, be sent overseas. The correspondence columns of the Press are full of letters to the same effect.

Messages from New Zealand indicate that opinion of every political shade continues to be determinedly behind the British Government and the Home Country. There is no feeling against the German people, but the war - particularly in Labour and Trade Union quarters - is regarded as the inevitable challenge to an unsound and foul system.

Sir Hugh O'Neill, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for India and Burma, has appointed Lieutenant Colonel Sir Walter Smiles, C.I.E., D.S.O., M.P. to be his Parliamentary Private Secretary.

Turkish Ships in Mediterranean.

Paris reports that Turkish shipping movements have been resumed in the Mediterranean.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

EVENING BULLETIN NO.25.

15th September 1939.

CONTRABAND CONTROL.

During the week ended September 9th, the British contraband control intercepted and detained large quantities of goods as to which there was evidence that they were contraband consigned to Germany, including 28,500 tons of petroleum, 26,350 tons of iron ore, 3,400 tons of haematite ore, 4,600 tons of manganese ore, 7,300 tons of wood pulp, 6,000 tons of pebble phosphate and a number of mixed cargoes.

CASE OF THE WARRIOR.

The publication of a notice stating that a consignment of pebble phosphate from the American steamer Warrior was to be sold by public tender, by order and for account of the Marshal of the Admiralty, does not mean that the goods in question have been condemned by the Prize Court.

The Warrior was detained in London on September 4th, and as she was bound for Hamburg the seizure of 5,900 tons of pebble phosphate which she was carrying was ordered by the Contraband Committee on September 5th.

The Prize Court is not yet sitting, but when it does the case will come before it, and the ultimate fate of the cargo or its money value, together with all questions of costs and expenses, will depend on the order of the Court.

NAVAL AFFAIRS

In a broadcast from Zeesen (German) ~~Wireless Station~~ in German to German listeners yesterday evening, it was stated that all Dutch vessels in future were to be more clearly marked as a safeguard against British attacks.

The fact is that no Dutch, or any other neutral vessels have been attacked by British Naval forces. As the Prime Minister said in the House of Commons on Wednesday, the main object of the British Navy must be, as in the last war, to ensure the freedom and safety of the seas.

Not to be Published or Broadcast before the Morning of Saturday, 16th September, 1939.

AIR FORCE REWARDS

The Air Ministry announces:-

His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve of the under-mentioned rewards for gallant and distinguished services rendered in connection with the operations in Palestine during the period 1st November, 1938, to 31st March, 1939:-

Distinguished Service Order - Squadron-Leader
Hector Douglas McGregor.

Distinguished Flying Cross - Flying Officer
Edward Trevor Williams; Pilot Officer
Anthony Ives Hostage Lynch; Pilot Officer
Charles Harold Dyson.

EMPIRE AFFAIRS

Legislation will be introduced next week to give the New Zealand Government full financial control of the resources of the Dominion. This announcement was made by the Minister of Finance in the New Zealand house of Representatives today (Friday)

Mr. John Dulanty, High Commissioner for Eire, announces that children under sixteen and women desiring to return to Eire may do so up to and including Saturday, September 30th, without travel or exit permits.

The value of wireless in time of war is illustrated by the decision of the Sarawak Government to open a local broadcasting service, which has already come into operation on September 9th. The object is to keep the population constantly informed of defence measures affecting their daily lives and the security of the State. Thus, there should be the fullest co-operation of all communities in any steps which the British Government may desire Sarawak to take.

It is hoped shortly to start transmission in the Malay, Chinese and Dayak languages as well as in English. The broadcasts reach stations in the far interior of Sarawak.

There are many radio stations in Rajah Brooke's territory, since wireless is used for internal communication and land lines have been scrapped.

HOME AFFAIRS

Evacuation and School Problems

The Board of Education have received reports from their Inspectors in the light of which it is possible to form a general impression of the present position throughout the country in regard to the evacuation of school children and the subsequent problems of schooling.

It is clear that in general the original evacuation was carried out with great success. Supplementary evacuations are still proceeding in some areas, and there have been instances in which these later evacuations have given rise to some delay in the opening of schools. In most of the reception areas, however, the schools are already either open or expect to open very shortly, with double shifts or some other expedient.

In a number of rural areas it will be possible for the schools to work in single shifts; on the other hand certain places have come to notice in which there is congestion, and even allowing for double shifts in the schools there may be some difficulty in fitting all the children in.

Arrangements for the hiring of additional accommodation, houses, halls, etc., or for the re-opening of disused schools, are being made in most of the reception areas. Although a closer estimate is not possible, it seems likely that at least three quarters of the schools in the reception areas have opened this week.

One Authority, Leicestershire, are proposing the adoption of the "Tutorial System" for incoming children. The pupils are enrolled in groups under their own teachers, who are specially responsible to the Head Teacher for the children's out of school activities, and for difficulties which arise in

COnnnection with billeting. They acquaint themselves with the householders and frequently visit the children in their new homes.

In the main the arrangements for the reopening and carrying on of the elementary schools are working well. Sometimes evacuated schools are being merged with the schools in reception areas and are not being carried on as separate departments. Little difficulty seems to have been experienced so far owing to the shortage of books and school materials, and deficiencies are being made up in various ways.

There is little evidence that the children are having to walk very far to school at present, though perhaps difficulties may arise on this point when the petrol rationing comes into operation.

In a good many areas schools are being opened in the evening for social and recreational activities in accordance with the recommendation made by the Board in their Circular on "Schooling in an Emergency". Several Authorities have decided that for the present children under seven years of age shall be excluded from the schools.

Need for attention to the clothing and boots of evacuated children has become apparent in most localities. Palliative measures are being put in hand, and in many areas voluntary subscriptions are being raised to meet the need of the children for boots and clothing. It is clear that much local voluntary effort is being made in this direction. The services of the older girls are being utilised in making and mending clothing.

In certain areas arrangements for communal meals are being made and an extension of these arrangements is urgently desirable.

The evacuation of secondary and junior technical schools was in the main carried out satisfactorily, though a good deal of redistribution is necessary and is at present in progress.

The Board's attitude to the opening of schools in neutral areas was defined in their official communication of September 7th which states that schools in neutral areas may now be reopened for instruction at the discretion of authorities; an important factor in determining whether they shall be reopened is the degree of protection available for the children while in school.

Authorities are urged to complete the necessary measures of protection with the least possible delay. The question of the sufficiency of the protection provided is one on which education authorities would naturally consult the A.R.P. authority.

A. R. P. MESSENGER SERVICES.

Withdrawal of Boys under 16.

Boys under 16, many of them Boy Scouts, are being withdrawn from local authorities' A.R.P. messenger services. This is being done in accordance with the Government's decision that boys under 16 should not be enrolled in any A.R.P. service.

The reason for the official ban is that it is felt that boys of this age should not be exposed to the strain and long hours imposed by war conditions.

Before the declaration of war, boys under 16 were allowed to train at A.R.P. centres and depots, but under present conditions it is thought better that they should be trained to take their part in civil defence by the organisations to which they belong.

CANADA AND THE WAR
A CRITERION FROM THE PAST

Forty thousand killed in action or missing: 12,000 died of wounds: 141,000 wounded: 425,000 served on foreign fields.

Such, in summary, is the heroic story of Canada's contribution to the last war. To-day men are again flocking to the same Colours for the same cause, while already the Canadian Parliament has sanctioned millions of pounds for the prosecution of the new war upon which she had deliberately and unhesitatingly embarked. That she will bring to her great task all the vigour, resolution and enterprise that contributed so notably to the victory of British Arms in 1918 is already manifest. But it seems that in a material sense Canada will be able to play her part on a still more impressive scale than in the industrially immature days of 1914 - although she was able, none the less, to pay from her own pocket every cent of the cost of her participation.

The record of her accomplishments during the Great War gives some hint of her capacity now. Onwards from 1914 the farmers, during the War period, increased the acreage devoted to grain from 33,000,000 to 51,000,000 and her exports of wheat during these years, largely to this country, were as follows:-

1914	64,000,000 bushels
1915	236,000,000 bushels
1916	140,000,000 bushels
1917	118,000,000 bushels

To-day, it may be observed the present crop is estimated at nearly 450,000,000 bushels - the fourth largest on record.

Canada was also able to supply us with many other forms of foodstuffs, while her record in the production of war material was equally impressive. During the last six months of the war, 15 per cent. of the Ministry of Munitions allocation was being spent in Canada: to-day sees her equipped to produce from enlarged factories an almost unlimited supply of munitions

manufactured to the standards laid down by Missions to and from the Old Country.

The record of her output, however, in the last War was not by any means so small as to be dwarfed by anything she may immediately achieve. In the last conflict she produced every type of shell, from the 9.2 to the 18 pounder, all of which were sent to France. Seventeen months after war began, the Dominion had over 400 establishments engaged solely in the production of shells.

Financial facts are equally illuminating in this matter of munitions productions for the British Army. In 1914 the output was valued at £5,633; thereafter the totals jumped into the millions:

1915	£11,442,737
1916	59,301,052
1917	77,642,710
1918	52,142,350

Furthermore, over 2,900 aeroplanes were constructed, and some £14,000,000 was spent in ship-building contracts.

A factor then, which is of equal importance now, was that the Dominion of Canada was particularly useful to England in being the nearest of the Dominions, and therefore the nearest friendly source of supply of raw materials of all kinds, notably minerals. She supplies 90 per cent. of the world's demand for nickel, and is the third largest gold producing country. The total estimate of production for 1938 was approximately £91,000,000, out of which copper, lead, zinc and nickel contributed no less than £27,700,000.

What Canada's contribution in the matter of personnel may be in the present war is for her to determine, last time from her comparatively small population she enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force no fewer than 620,000. On the heights of Vimy Ridge there is the monument of the twin pylons which bears record for all time to a loyalty to idealism which Canada still holds to be imperishable.

AN ARMY IN BEING.

Now that the presence of British troops in France has been made known, the public can be asked to realise the enormous tasks involved in bringing a modern Army into being.

All our people are naturally anxious that our country should pull its full weight in the struggle, and there is unremitting determination among the responsible authorities that it should do so.

The lie has already been given to assiduous German stories that Great Britain intends to fight this war through the agency of its allies. We did not do so in 1914-18, and we shall not do so to-day.

But modern war is not the simple matter that it was in the old days. Men no longer pick up their individual weapons from some central armoury and march to war with the expectation of fighting with any enemy with whom they may happen to collide and living on anything which they may be able to collect.

Armies are no longer small professional bodies as they were in this country right up to the time of the South African War (1899-1902). They can no longer rely upon an improvised supply of food and of equipment, as they had only largely to do up to the time of Marlborough.

Marlborough himself was the first to realise how much the mobility and the efficiency of his troops would be increased by an organised system of supply, and he created one. But Marlborough's organisation was a pale shadow of that shown to be necessary in later wars - e. g. the Crimea; and the organisation of 1914-18 was not recognisable as its descendant.

Organisation in 1939 will need to mark another big advance even on 1914-18. In the interval the Army has become even more scientific, and requires weapons, instruments, and other forms of equipment far more varied and far more complicated. Even in 1918 about five persons were required to keep one soldier in the line; and probably more will be required to-day.

It must also be remembered that the War Cabinet's announcement that they are framing their plans on the assumption of a three years' war reflects the truth that an Army must not only be brought into being, but kept in being. That is the difference between German and British preparations.

Once again the German preparations seem to be based on the hope of a "lightning war"

Ours are not, and cannot be.

By dint of great exertions we had, before the outbreak of war, built up an extremely powerful Navy and Air Force, and we had created the skeleton of an extremely powerful Army.

That skeleton is now having flesh put upon it, is now being supplied with a vast industrial cushion which will support its ever growing weight, and will - much faster than in 1914-18 - make a contribution to the allied effort on land in every way conforming to the resources of our country and to the desires of our people

HEALTHY BRITISH SOLDIERS.

(How the R.A.M.C. cares for the fighting man in the field)

British soldiers in the field have the reassuring knowledge that their general health, as well as the treatment of wounds, is in the competent hands of the Royal Army Medical Corps, which in recent years has carried out a vast amount of research in addition to the normal routine work of curative medicine.

Until recent times the mortality among fighting soldiers had been greater through the ravages of disease than from the weapons of the enemy. At the siege of Naples in 1528, thirty thousand men of the invading army died of typhus in three months. Even as recently as 1879 half the Russian army was destroyed at Constantinople by the same dread disease.

Before 1909 our troops in India suffered seriously from typhoid. In that year voluntary inoculation against the disease was tried and by 1913 ninety per cent of the troops had been treated. The result of this preventative work has shown that in thirty years the mortality rate has been reduced from fifteen per 1,000 to something less than one.

The health of the Army is the concern of the Army School of Hygiene, Aldershot, and the Royal Army Medical College, Millbank, where research workers, doctors and scientific experts strive to keep our Army fighting fit in all conditions of active service.

Personnel of the R.A.M.C. are specially trained to carry out the same kind of expert duties as the practice of medicine necessitates in civilian life. Some become specialized chemists, others laboratory assistants; and specialists trained for the scientific branch of medicine are often responsible for producing curative methods which benefit civilians as well as soldiers.

In the research laboratories of the R.A.M.C. equipment is produced for ensuring that water is fit to drink, and that disease germs cannot flourish and multiply. A new mobile water purifier has been evolved which gives three thousand gallons of filtered and sterilized water per hour and provides troops on the march with water free from contamination.

The Royal Army Medical Corps takes care of the soldier from the moment he is examined by a Medical Officer at the recruiting station. The Corps advises on barracks, billets, camps, water supply, cooking and rations, and is responsible for the rationing and pay of the sick and wounded in its care, and for the evacuation of wounded from the battlefield.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.No. 5 - 15th September, 1939.PRESS NOTICE.EXEMPTION OF FARMERS FROM WAR RISKS INSURANCE.

It has already been announced that certain agricultural and horticultural products whilst on agricultural land are to be excluded from the scope of the War Risks Insurance Act. These products will be growing crops, plants and trees and also livestock and crops so long as they are on the agricultural land occupied by the person who owns the livestock in the course of his agricultural business, or who has produced the crops in the course of such business. None of these products will be insurable, either compulsorily or voluntarily.

Farmers who have already registered in respect of products which are now exempted will not be entitled to a repayment of the registration fee. If, however, they have already paid premiums for which they are no longer liable under the revised arrangements, these premiums will be refunded.

Of the products not covered by the exemption the chief are milk, butter, cheese and eggs, but insurance will only be compulsory for these if their total value on the farm at any one time exceeds £1,000. The majority of farmers will, of course, fall below this limit, and in consequence need not insure. They may, however, insure voluntarily in respect of these products if they so desire.

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries,
Dept. K.A.,
10, Whitehall Place,
London, S.W.1.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

No. 6. 15th September, 1939.

MARKET DAY IN WAR TIME.

The fixing of maximum prices for fat stock has given rise to a number of queries. For example, the question has been asked, "What happens when six people bid the maximum price?"

The present arrangement is briefly as follows. Maximum prices for fat stock, according to grade, have been fixed by Order of the Ministry of Food. The Stock for sale are valued in the market. If the maximum prices are not offered, there is no objection, of course, to an ordinary auction sale taking place. If the maximum prices are offered, there is no auction; but the stock are allocated to buyers, at those prices, on the basis of their usual purchases in the market.

Cattle are graded and valued by the market panels already in existence for grading for the cattle subsidy. No such panels exist for sheep and pigs, so auctioneers in the different markets have been asked to form special grading and valuing committees in their markets.

Since there are no maximum prices for store stock, they will continue to be sold in the usual way.

The present arrangement is only temporary. Within a few weeks all fat stock that farmers want to sell - cattle, sheep, pigs and calves - will be examined by graders at the different markets, bought by the Government at fixed prices, according to classification and sent for slaughter.

These are the maximum prices:-

Cattle

Quality - Killing out percentage	57 or	48/-	per live cwt.
	over		
" " "	54-56	44/-	" " "
Ordinary	" " "	54 or	40/- " " "
		over	
Others having	" " "	53 and	
		under 37/-	" " "

Lambs 11½d. per lb estimated dressed carcass weight.

Sheep 10d. " " " " " "

Ewes and
Rams. 6d. " " " " " "

Pigs 13/- per score up to 10 score

12/6d. per score above that weight.

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries,
Dept. K.A.,
10, Whitehall Place,
S.W.1.

PRESS NOTICE

M.A.F.22

Ministry of Information

No. 7. 15th September, 1939

Suspension of Milk Products Marketing Scheme

The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Secretary of State for Scotland have made the Milk Products Marketing Scheme, 1939 (Modification and Suspension) Order, 1939, under Regulation 55(2) of the Defence Regulations, 1939.

The effect of the Order is that the further operation of the Milk Products Marketing Scheme, 1939, which was approved on 2nd August, 1939, is suspended, and the initial poll of producers on the question as to whether the Scheme should remain in force will not be held during the period that the Order is in force.

The Order is being printed in the Statutory Rules and Orders series, and copies will shortly be obtainable, either directly or through any bookseller, from His Majesty's Stationery Office, York House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh, 2; 26, York Street, Manchester, 1; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff.

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries,
Dept. K.A.,
10, Whitehall Place,
S.W.1.

NO.8. 15/9/39

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

DRINK MORE MILK CAMPAIGN TO-DAY

BOARD'S REPLY TO GERMAN "FAMINE"

LIE

Germany, in a recent broadcast announcement, tried to delude the world into believing that London was without milk. The reply of the Milk Marketing Board is to be found in the advertisement columns of to-day's newspapers, which urge housewives to see that every member of their families has at least a pint of milk each day. "Adequate supplies are available, and will be", runs the announcement.

A pint per head per day is twice the quantity of milk consumed in this country, even in peace-time.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

NO. 9 - 15:9:'39.

Telegraph Services in London.

From a normal weekly Inland traffic of approximately 1,200,000 transactions the figures rose to approximately 2,000,000, an increase of roughly 66%. A new record day's figure of 451,273 (an increase of 125% over a normal day's traffic) was reached on the 25th August and last September's record total of 403,000 was also passed on the 26th August and the 1st and 2nd September. The total for the week ended 2nd September of 1,966,425 transactions is the highest ever reached.

Telegraph traffic is still heavy but delay is now not much more than normal.

Government Provision for Cases of Injury and Death
Resulting from Air Raids or other Warlike Operations.

Temporary Cash Allowances and Pensions.

The Minister of Pensions has laid before Parliament a scheme which he has made under the Personal Injuries (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1939, to provide for grants in respect of physical injury to civilians as the direct result of warlike operations. In accepting this new form of liability the Government has made provisions which are generous in their scope and are applicable not only to members of recognised civil defence organisations on duty at the time of injury, but also to other civilians who normally are substantially dependent for their livelihood on their earnings; or to their immediate dependants if the injury causes death.

Grants in respect of injury will be (1) a temporary Injury Allowance if the injury causes incapacity for work for a period of not less than seven consecutive days; and (2) at a later stage a pension (with family allowances) if the injury results in serious and prolonged disablement. In cases of death pension and children's allowances may be paid to the person's widow, or, if there is no widow or child, pension may in certain circumstances be paid to parents or orphan brothers and sisters who are in need and incapable of self-support, provided that they were actually dependent upon the deceased person immediately before his death.

Payments of the temporary Injury Allowance will be made by the Unemployment Assistance Board as agents of the Minister of Pensions because the Board's existing local organisation will enable these payments to be made promptly and with the minimum of inconvenience to applicants. Arrangements have been made for special medical certificates for this purpose to be issued by the hospital or doctor treating the injured person.

Cases of serious and prolonged disablement will in due course be taken over by the Ministry of Pensions for consideration of the award of pension.

If the injury causes death, the widow or other immediate dependant will be considered for pension by the Ministry of Pensions. Contributory Act Pensions are not payable in respect of deaths from War Operations, but, if a widow or dependant is in immediate need, the Unemployment Assistance Board may give assistance under the Government's scheme for the Prevention and Relief of Distress.

Injury Allowances will be paid at a weekly rate without regard to means and needs. They will vary only with the size of the family, and according as the injured person is treated at home or in hospital. For example, a man with a wife and two children will receive 28/6d. a week if he is treated in hospital, while a single man will receive 18/- if treated at home. Health Insurance benefit will not be claimable while these allowances are in issue.

The rates of pension will be broadly on the lines of those applicable to private soldiers enlisted for service in the present war, and will vary according to the actual degree of physical disablement, with a maximum of 32/6d. a week for a single man or 22/6d. for a single woman. Married men will receive additional allowances for wife and children.

The pension for the widow of a man whose injury results in death will also be at the service rate fixed for the widow of a private soldier, viz., 15/6d. a week for a childless widow under 40 and 22/6d. a week for others, with an allowance of 5/- for each child up to the age of 15.

From -
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

NO. 11. 15/9/39.

NOTICE BY ROYAL ROUMANIAN LEGATION.

The Royal Roumanian Legation in London, wishes to inform all the Roumanian citizens living in Great Britain and belonging to the Royal Roumanian Reserve Army, Air Force and Navy and who are in possession of military duty white formulars (ordine de chemare albe) that they should call immediately at the office of the Royal Roumanian Military Attache, 4, Cromwell Place, London, S.W.7, which is open daily between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

No 12. 15.9.39

"Think of the Hello Girls."

Think of the "Hello Girls" during an air-raid. Every telephone exchange must continue to operate when the sirens have driven ordinary citizens to cover. The Post Office is proud of its traditions and it is proud now to know that virtually all the "Hello Girls" in exchanges throughout the country have volunteered to continue at their posts during an air-raid. They will work in conditions of great strain and great danger, but not one of them is daunted.

And not only the "Hello Girls", or female operators to give them their full and official title, but the male telephone operators, who at certain hours take over the duties, are to play their part too.

Thereby hangs a tale of one exchange. The air-raid warning was sounded at 7 a.m. on the 5th September. The men were on duty when the warning began and were still on duty when the girls came on at 8 a.m. Not one of the men would cede his place. Instead they commanded the girls to go to their shelters. After some protest the men prevailed, the girls departed, and the men remained on duty after their normal hours until the moment when the all-clear was sounded.

PRESS NOTICE

M.A.F. 23

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

No.13. - 15th September, 1939.

FREE MARKET FOR SEED WHEAT.

Farmers who had been waiting for an announcement on Seed Wheat prices before threshing their corn can now go ahead. The price of seed wheat is left free, so seed wheat sellers can proceed to sell their wheat to the best advantage. An Order will shortly be issued requiring such wheat to be sold by growers only to authorised merchants. When seed wheat is sold to farmers, the merchant will be required to obtain signed declarations from the farmer of the acreage he intends to sow and the quantity of wheat he requires for sowing.

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries,
Dept., K.A.,
10, Whitehall Place,
London,
S.W.1.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

(For Press only)

NO. 14 - 15:9:'39.

BOARD OF TRADE ANNOUNCEMENT.

Trading with the Enemy Act, 1939.

The Board of Trade have made the following appointments of Custodians of Enemy Property under the Trading with the Enemy Act, 1939:-

For England. Sir Ernest Fass, K.C.M.G., C.B., O.B.E.,
Public Trustee.

(Address: Office of the Public Trustee,
Sardinia Street,
Kingsway, W.C.2.)

For Scotland. Mr. Ernest Edward Parker, M.B.E.,
Accountant of Court.

(Address: New Register House,
Edinburgh, 2.)

For Ireland. Major Frederick George Hill, O.B.E.,
Official Assignee in Bankruptcy.

(Address: Supreme Court of Judicature,
Royal Courts of Justice,
Ulster, Belfast).

Each of these gentlemen will perform the duties of their present offices in addition to their duties as Custodians of Enemy Property.

THE EMPIRE'S PLEDGE

"Personal, Material, Financial"

The stream of messages arriving from all parts of the Empire and Colonies for the King have one thing in common. Each is much more than a mere verbal expression of loyalty. All denote that the resources of the Empire will be completely devoted to the prosecution of the War to a successful end - and the British Empire's resources are illimitable.

The Dominions, more particularly Australia and Canada, are great manufacturing countries as well as being great food producing areas. These Dominion industries will not only sustain internal economic life, but will help considerably the economic life of the Mother Country. The Dominion industries are not a luxury output, but are basic activities. Iron and steel manufacture, for instance, is now well developed in the Dominions and India.

VITALLY IMPORTANT SUPPLIES

The Dominions and India are great providers of food stuffs and raw materials, the receipt of which by Great Britain is, of course, essential to her continued existence. Wheat, butter, meat are just some of the food items among those resources.

From India come regularly, and will continue to come, ample supplies of tea, jute, oil-seeds and many other important requirements. South Africa's gold supplies are vitally important.

What the countries of the Empire mean by devoting their strength to carrying on the War was well shown by the Minister of Finance in the New Zealand House of Representatives to-day. He said:

"The determination of New Zealand, and therefore the objective of the Government, is to make its major contribution, whatever sacrifice that may entail, to the prosecution of the War."

"The Government has already announced its policy for the defence of the Dominion through its contribution to the cause of Democratic Countries, but as great a contribution may be made in the Dominion by organizing our resources in such a way that our kinsmen and other friends over-seas may be provided with the necessary food and clothing

for themselves and their families during this period of trial. The Government has determined to use all the Nation's resources to this end - personal, material and financial"

Minerals and Rubber

The same determination to give all their immense material aid towards the prosecution of war has been emphasized by the Colonies and Dependencies. It is particularly significant that the determination has been expressed not only by the Governors and Governments of these areas, but by non-official members in their Legislatures and by groups of private citizens.

The two most valuable products of the Colonial Empire are minerals and rubber. Among minerals there is tin, copper, gold and petroleum and oil seeds. Vegetable oils, sugar, tea and cocoa are other commodities which are going to help Britain and her Allies towards victory.

NEW-ZEALAND'S PART

New-Zealand, which informed the British Government today that she has placed at their disposal the whole of her surplus production, is repeating her action in the last war, when she was one of England's chief suppliers of meat, dairy produce, wool and certain other commodities lesser in amount, but not in importance.

Since the days of the last war, the export capacity of the Dominion has strikingly increased, meat by 60 per cent; butter by 500 per cent; chesse by 90 per cent, and wool by 28 per cent

New Zealand today is Britain's largest supplier of these commodities except wool, for which she ranks second.

The Personal Touch.

There is great enthusiasam for the British cause among Indian troops and the families from which the troops are recruited. This is evident in the great amount of correspondence pouring into the office of the Editor of the Fauji Akhbar (the Army Newspaper).

This newspaper is quite out of the ordinary. It is edited from the Army headquarters and devoted to matters of interest to Indian soldiers, their wives and families and ex-soldiers from the Indian Army who have gone back to their villages.

A letter recently received in London from the Editor of the Fauji Akhbar remarks: The Faujis (soldiers) here are in great form. Every day letters pour into my office from all over the areas inhabited by the fighting classes expressing their absolute love and loyalty for their beloved King-Emperor and stating in most unambiguous terms that they will sacrifice their lives and all that is theirs for him and in defence of the Empire.

Conditions in Palestine.

The outbreak of war has already had a marked effect on Palestine, in rallying the diverse elements to an appreciation of their common danger. Thus the general situation in the country has undoubtedly improved, though there continue to be encounters with small roving Arab bands.

The attempt in German broadcasts to convince the world that the loyalty of the Arab Press and of the Arabs in Palestine has been purchased by British bribes is refuted by the fact that a number of Arab notables have spontaneously manifested their readiness to help the British authorities.

It may confidently be hoped that the general improvement in Palestine, enhanced by the internal support given to the cause of the Allies and by the support of Egypt, Irak and Trans-Jordan, will ultimately secure more than the nominal co-operation of Jews and Arabs in helping the Palestine Government to meet an overriding threat to their liberties.

The German radio has been proclaiming that the ban on Jewish immigration into Palestine has been lifted, but the policy

of the Government's recent White Paper remains unaffected by the war
And Still They Come.

Another loyal message has been received from the Indian Ocean - this time from the Seychelles. A rousing resolution was moved and seconded by unofficial members of the Seychelles Legislative Council and passed unanimously.

"On this fourteenth day of September the first occasion of their meeting after the outbreak of war with Germany the members of the Legislative Council desire once more to place on record the expression of their devotion and profound loyalty to His Majesty the King.

The Seychelles, they are aware, is among the smaller and less important of His Majesty's Colonies but it yields to none in its allegiance or in the strength of the ties which bind it to the Throne.

"It is moreover united in the firm determination of its people that as far as lies within their power they will individually and collectively do their utmost in the great cause for which their King and his great Ally France have now taken up arms."

An expression of His Majesty's deep appreciation for messages of loyalty received has been notified to the Legislative Council of Dominica and Montserrat, and of Trinidad.

A similar expression of deep appreciation has been conveyed through the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor of the Leeward Islands in respect of a message from the Virgin Islands; also in respect of a special message of loyalty sent by the Workers' League of the Leeward Islands.

His Majesty has also caused an expression of his appreciation to be despatched to the Governor of Barbados in respect of the message of loyalty sent in the name of the Government and people of the island.

His Majesty has commanded that an expression of his appreciation should be conveyed to the Chiefs of the Bechuanaland Protectorate for their loyal message.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, NO. 16, 15.9.39.

Compensation for death or disablement in service.

The Minister of Pensions has now, under the authority of Parliament, taken over from the Admiralty, War Office and Air Ministry, responsibility for the award of allowances and pensions for the disablement or death of officers and men in consequence of service in the present war. He has also been made responsible for the award of corresponding grants in similar cases to officers and men (and their relatives) of the Mercantile Marine.

The Ministry has made arrangements for dealing with all cases directly on receipt of claims, and already pensions or temporary allowances have been awarded in cases of death or injury among members of the crews of merchant ships, such as the Bosnia and Athenia.

From the Ministry of Information

No.17. 15.9.39.

TRANSMISSION BY POST

The War Office announce that by an Order in Council dated 6th September under Defence Regulation 11 (1) & (2) the transmission by the Public by post of all goods and commodities (including printed and pictorial matter) to the following countries is prohibited except under permit.

Italy.	Norway.
Slovakia.	U.S.S.R.
Ruthenia.	The Baltic States.
Holland.	Spain.
Belgium.	Bulgaria.
Luxemburg.	Thailand (Siam)
Denmark.	Danzig.
Switzerland	Vatican City.
Hungary.	Poland.
Yugoslavia.	Rumania.
Sweden	Turkey.
Japan (while neutral)	Greece.
China	Portugal.

And all dependencies thereof.

Except in special circumstances, permits will only be granted to firms and traders normally exporting particular goods, including leading booksellers and newsagents exporting printed matter.

Any private individual wishing to send literature and printed matter (including typescript or manuscript publications), pictorial matter or photographs to the above mentioned countries should place their orders with leading newsagents, booksellers, photographers, &c., who will shortly be issued with permits for this purpose.

Goods may be sent to the above mentioned countries through the agency of leading stores holding permits in the same way.

Goods or printed matter &c., posted direct by private individuals, will be held up or returned by the Censorship authorities.

For further details, application should be made to:-

Postal Censorship,

AINTREE,

LIVERPOOL, 9.

Copies of Defence Regulation 11 (1) & (2) may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

No.18 - 15/9/39

Letters to Regimental Paymaster.

The War Office announce that it is most important that wives and dependants of soldiers should always include in their letters the Army number and Regiment or Corps of the soldier concerned when writing to the Regimental Paymaster in connection with family allowance or allotments from pay, or notifying changes of address.

A large number of letters received daily by Regimental Paymasters contain only the surname and initials of the soldier.

Unless particulars of Army number, Regiment or Corps are given in letters of enquiry there will be consequent delay which the War Office is anxious to avoid.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

No. 19 - 15/9/39

BOARD OF TRADE ANNOUNCEMENT

WAR RISKS INSURANCE ACT, 1939. (PART II)

INSURANCE OF COMMODITIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Certain apprehensions in regard to the operation of the above Act have been expressed by traders.

In ~~the~~ first place, there have been complaints that the rate of premium is too high. The rate had to be fixed in the absence of any acturial data on the basis of certain assumptions. It will be reconsidered in the light of experience and, if circumstances so permit, it can be reduced at the end of the three-monthly period or the period of insurance may be extended without the payment of any additional premium.

It has come to the notice of the Board of Trade that registrations were effected before the outbreak of war for amounts greater than those for which insurance was eventually required. It has, therefore, been arranged that traders will be permitted to pay the premium appropriate to the value of the stocks actually held by them on the outbreak of war.

In view, moreover, of the fact that the stocks of traders may fluctuate over the three-monthly period during which a policy of insurance is current, arrangements are being made for the premiums to be adjusted so that traders will not be required to pay a premium on amounts greater than the value of the stocks actually held from time to time during the period of insurance. Full instructions will, as soon as possible, be sent to the agents of the Board of Trade for their guidance in dealing with applications.

A number of applications which have been made by responsible bodies requesting the exemption from the scope of the commodity insurance scheme of certain goods on the ground of indestructibility or unsaleability are receiving urgent consideration, and decisions will be announced at an early date.

NO.20. 15/9/39

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

REGISTRATION OF FOOD TRADERS

The Ministry of Food are informed that certain importers and wholesalers of foodstuffs are advising traders whom they supply to register with them now for various commodities, in anticipation of the introduction of control. The Ministry state for the information of traders that the procedure for registration under control schemes has in many cases not yet been published. Registration at the present time is premature and may lead to unnecessary confusion when the official scheme is issued. The Ministry therefore urge traders not to register for any commodity until official instructions are issued.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

No.21 - 15/9/39

CONTROL OF PIG PRICES.

1. Orders have been made under the Defence Regulations prescribing the prices to be paid for all pigs for slaughter.

Briefly, these Orders prescribe that all pigs for slaughter (with certain exceptions such as sows and boars.) whether for pork or for bacon, shall be sold at a standard price of 13/- per score dead weight, provided they are not over 10 score lbs. In the case of pigs having a dead weight of more than 10 score lbs. a sum of 6d. per score shall be deducted from the standard price. The price of sows is fixed at 10/5d. per score and that of boars at 4/- per score.

2. It is an offence under the Regulations for either buyer or seller to pay any price other than the prescribed prices for pigs. Pigs sent to livestock markets should be sold only on the basis of a price calculated to be 13/- per score dead weight.

The Orders have the effect of making inoperative contracts under the Bacon Industry Act. Where pigs are sold to registered curers they will not be graded, but the curer will supply to the producer tickets showing the dead weight as certified by the Pigs Marketing Board graders, and they will be entitled to deduct 1/6d. per pig for levies under the Bacon Industry Act.

The prescribed prices are payable for pigs collected at the producer's premises or put on rail by the producer. Where the producer pays any railway charges arising after the pigs are put on rail, such amount is repayable by the curer. Where the producer delivers the pigs by road to the curer's premises, the price will be increased by 1/- per pig.

3. The Orders are framed to carry out the Ministry's general policy of stabilising food prices so far as practicable

before full control of distribution is introduced. The voluntary co-operation of the provision trade and the bacon industry has been secured for the purpose of holding bacon prices around previously existing levels and in order to maintain this co-operation it is clearly essential also to prevent any rise in the price of pigs.

There has been some comment on the ground that the Orders fix the price of all pigs, both for pork and for bacon, at the same level, and that this may discourage the production of light-weight pigs for pork. In view of the possibility of a reduction in supplies of imported bacon, it is regarded as desirable to encourage producers to keep on their pigs to bacon weights.

From the Ministry of Information (also for broadcast)

No.22. 15.9.39.

Requisitioning of Imported Bacon and Hams.

An Order has been made by the Minister of Food requisitioning all imports of bacon and hams arriving in Great Britain after midnight of September 16/17th (including canned bacon and hams) with the exception of shipments from Northern Ireland and Eire.

The bacon and hams so requisitioned, with the exception of such supplies as are needed for storage and for Service requirements, will be disposed of on behalf of the Ministry of Food by a collective organisation of traders which has recently been formed for this purpose.

The object of the Order is to ensure that imported bacon and hams, which are to a large extent being diverted from their normal ports of landing to other ports, are equitably distributed throughout the country.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

(Also for Broadcast)

NO. 23. 15:9:'39.

POTATO PRICES.

In order to facilitate the distribution of adequate supplies of potatoes, it has been found necessary to amend the schedule to the Potatoes (Provisional Prices) Order of 9th September. The revised Schedule divides the country into six districts instead of five and contains revisions of the wholesale and retail prices.

In most districts an increase of one farthing per pound is made in the maximum retail price of Grade A potatoes. The price per pound of Grade B potatoes is unaltered.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

No.24 - 15/9/39

TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS IN
EVACUATION AREAS

The Board of Education intend to communicate at once with the appropriate authorities authorizing them subject to certain conditions to open technical institutions, boys and girls clubs and the like in evacuation areas.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

No.25 - 15/9/39

PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS

(Also for Broadcast)

An announcement from the Home Office says that there has been an increase in the number of fatal accidents caused by people falling through the glass roofs of factories. It is believed that this increase is due to camouflaging and to the obscuring of lights, and the Home Office suggests that duck or crawling boards should always be provided where work has to be done on fragile roofs.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

No.26 - 15/9/39

TRAVEL TO IRELAND

In the interests of the large numbers of women and children who still wish to return from Great Britain to Eire or Northern Ireland, it has been decided to extend until October 14th the exemption of such persons from obtaining an Exit Permit from the Passport and Permit Office.

From the Ministry of Information

No.27. 15:9:39

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SECRETARY FOR MINES.

The Secretary for Mines has today reviewed the question of the immediate application of the Motor Fuel Rationing Scheme in the light of the fact that many motorists have not yet obtained their books of coupons. In order to avoid hardship to sections of the motoring public he has decided to postpone the introduction of the rationing scheme for one week. Until the 23rd September therefore owners of all classes of motor vehicles including goods and public service vehicles should not use coupons. They will be able to obtain motor spirit as at present, but the Government ask that motor vehicles should only be used for essential purposes.

15.9.39.

15th September, 1939.

10.35 p.m.

F L A S H.

The Ministry of Information announces:

Withdrawal of Bus Services. London Transport
announce that, as the rationing of Petrol has been deferred
for one week, they will do their very best even at this very
late hour to maintain the present Bus services.

PRESS NOTICE.



BINOCULARS.

It is officially announced that the Ministry of Supply is prepared to purchase new or second-hand binoculars with the following characteristics -

Prismatic Binoculars of 6 and 8 magnification;

Non-prismatic binoculars of 4 magnification.

Owners desirous of selling such binoculars, which must have a case, should forward them, together with a covering letter, to:-

The Inspector,
Armament Inspection Department,
Garland Road,
Plumstead, S.E.18.

A tie-on label must be attached to the binoculars showing the name and address of the owner, whilst the letter should state any identification number of other particulars engraved on the binoculars.

No price need be stated. A reply will be made within 10 days of receipt if the binoculars offered are suitable.

Binoculars should be sent carefully packed and carriage paid. If beyond repair or otherwise unsuitable, they will be returned carriage paid. No responsibility can be accepted for any binocular submitted.

Ministry of Supply,
15th September, 1939.

10/39

From the Ministry of Information:-

FLASH NEWS

The following communique is issued by the Admiralty:

His Majesty's destroyers, patrol vessels and aircraft have been carrying out constant patrols over wide areas in search of enemy U-boats. Many attacks have been made and a number of U-boats have been destroyed. Survivors have been rescued and captured when possible.

4.10.p.m.

15/9/39.

15/9/39

UNOFFICIAL AND FOR INFORMATION AND FOR
USE IF DESIRED.

VERBATIM REPORT OF INTERVIEWS WITH BRITISH AIRMEN CAPTURED BY GERMANS.

Broadcast to-day from ZIESEN IN GERMAN and ENGLISH

Interrogator: Well, Pilot Officer Edwards, I understand that you came from New Zealand a few months ago and that you have never been in Europe before?

Pilot Officer Edwards: That is right.

Interrogator: You are sitting here apparently quite well: How did you come to be here?

P.O. EDWARDS: I was shot down and was seen swimming in the water. I was picked up and brought to the shore.

Interrogator: And now we should like to know how you are feeling. It must mean a great deal to you to be reduced to inactivity so early in the war. What are you going to do with your time?

P.O. EDWARDS: Well, I am going to try to learn the language and get some books from England.

Interrogator: One last question we should like to know because it is the question that will interest listeners abroad most and way back at home, because I hope it will be transmitted to New Zealand. How are you being treated?

P.O. EDWARDS: I have been treated very well indeed. Just as a German Officer except that I am naturally under observation.

Interrogator: We hope that you will feel well and that you will find the time not too tedious and that you will have something to do and not feel that you are wasting the months and years which you would have spent in civilian flying which I understand you intended to do.

Interrogator: I understand that you have broken your foot rather badly?

BOOTH: Yes but I hope to be playing football again soon.

Interrogator: What was your rank in the plane?

BOOTH: Sergeant observer.

Interrogator: Did you notice how your machine was brought down?

BOOTH: No, I was looking forward. I just saw the water and heard the crash.

Interrogator: You were flying rather low?

BOOTH: Yes, we hit something and I had not time to run round to the pilot or to see if he was hurt.

Interrogator: And what are your ideas about whiling away the time. Are you satisfied with the treatment?

BOOTH: So far it is all right. I do not think I am dying from starvation.

The food is of course different.

Interrogator: Where do you hail from?

BOOTH: Yorkshire.

Interrogator: You miss the Yorkshire puddings, I expect?

BOOTH: Yes, very much so.

Interrogator: That is all, thank you very much. I hope that you will not have to stay here too long - that I expect is your own hope.

Interrogator: Mr. Slattery, is it right that you are Irish?

SLATTERY: Yes.

Interrogator: What is your rank?

SLATTERY: Aircraftsman.

Interrogator: How did you get out of your plane? I understand that you were brought down?

SLATTERY: I am afraid it is difficult to say how I got out. I was very lucky.

Interrogator: Was that because of the way your machine came down, or due to your position in the plane?

SLATTERY: My position in the plane. I was in the rear gun towers, and it is difficult to get out from there.

Interrogator: And did the other members of the crew get out too?

SLATTERY: Yes but I did not know that until I got on the pilot boat.

Interrogator: And your pilot, I think, died a few days ago?

SLATTERY: Yes, so I have been informed.

Interrogator: I see that you are hit in the face - your jaw seems to have been broken.

SLATTERY: Yes, when my plane hit the water I was thrown against the machine gun.

Interrogator: But you can speak all right?

SLATTERY: Yes, but it is not yet fixed.

Interrogator: The doctors are making a good job of you?

SLATTERY: Yes.

Interrogator: How are you getting on? I notice that you have some English books and papers beside your bed.

SLATTERY: I have nothing to say of the Germans but kindness. They have given me every attention.

Interrogator: And what is your idea of whiling away the time during your inforced visit to Germany?

SLATTERY: I have been reading some English books. And I am trying to learn German.

Interrogator: I hope that you will make progress soon. From which county do you come in Ireland.

SLATTERY: From Tipperary

FLASH

15th September, 1939

8.30 p.m.

The Ministry of Information announces that:-

Pilot Officer L.H. Edwards, Sergeant Observer Booth, and Aircraftman L.J. Slattery who took part in the raid by the Royal Air Force on Kiel on 4th September have been officially reported missing.

(Note for guidance to the Press)

PRESS NOTICECONTROL OF GROWING TREES(NO. 2) ORDER

1. In pursuance of powers granted under the Emergency Powers (Defence) Act 1939 the Minister of Supply announces that he has made the Control of Growing Trees (No. 2) Order.
2. This Order substitutes, on and from 18th September, 1939, a licensing system to control the sale of growing trees for felling for the temporary limitation on such sales imposed by the Control of Growing Trees (No. 1) Order. In addition the Order introduces a licensing system to control the felling of growing trees.
3. The Order further provides that all sales of growing trees for felling must be made within the maximum prices set out in the Schedule to the Order.
4. Subject always to the supervision of the Headquarters' Department of the Timber Control the licensing system imposed by the Control of Growing Trees (No. 2) Order will be operated by the local Timber Control Divisional Officers. Forms of application for licences should therefore be obtained from and returned when completed to the appropriate officers at the address shown below.
5. Copies of the Control of Growing Trees (No. 2) Order will be obtainable directly or through any bookseller from H.M. Stationery Office at the published sale price.

Ministry of Supply,
15th September, 1939.

(List of Divisions attached - must
be published with this notice)

TIMBER CONTROL DIVISIONS.

<u>Name.</u>	<u>Address.</u>
<u>I. ENGLAND and WALES</u>	
North East	Forestry Commission Office, Chopwellwood, Rowlands Gill, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
East	Forestry Commission Office, Llandaff Chambers, Regent Street, Cambridge.
South East	Forestry Commission Office, Rooms 137/9, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.
New Forest	Forestry Commission Office, King's House, Lyndhurst, Hants.
South West	Forestry Commission Office, 60, High Street, Exeter.
Dean Forest	Forestry Commission Office, Whitemead Park, Parkend, Nr. Lydney, Glos.
South (Wales)	Forestry Commission Office, Graham Buildings, Newport Road, Cardiff.
North (Wales)	Forestry Commission Office, 15, Belmont, Shrewsbury.
North West	Forestry Commission Office, Royal Insurance Building, 26, Lowther Street, Carlisle.
<u>II. SCOTLAND.</u>	
West	Forestry Commission Office, 53, Bothwell Street, Glasgow, C.2.
East	Forestry Commission Office, 12, North Silver Street, Aberdeen.
South	Forestry Commission Office, 52, Buccleugh Street, Dumfries.
North	Forestry Commission Office, 51, Church Street, Inverness.

FLASH NEWS FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

The awards ~~of~~^{to} Army Personnel announced in
to-night's London Gazette are in recognition of services
rendered in Palestine,

22.40 p.m.

15/9/39.

FLASH



Reports from German sources are being spread in Belgium to the effect that there is an imminent danger of a British landing on the Belgian coast. His Majesty's Government have recently reaffirmed their obligations to Belgium and their intention of respecting Belgian neutrality. German allegations that His Majesty's Government intend to violate these solemn engagements are obviously designed to sow distrust of Great Britain in Belgium. But in view of the past history of German and British relations with Belgium, there is fortunately no reason to believe that such crude German propaganda will be successful.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

FLASH

15th September, 1939

9.30 p.m.

Some balloons of the London Barrage were damaged during a thunderstorm this afternoon; They were of a type which is going out of service. The damaged balloons have been replaced.