

FOREIGN PRESS REVIEW

DAILY SURVEY OF WORLD COMMENT ON THE WAR

COMPILED FROM TELEGRAPHIC REPORTS RECEIVED BY THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

No. 49.

11th March
....., 1940

GERMANY: REFLECTION ON NAZI INTERNAL CONDITIONS.

A reflection on internal conditions in Germany is seen in the heavy sentences which Nazi judges continue to deal out to persons convicted of comparatively mild offences.

The KOELNISCHE ZEITUNG has reported that a twenty year-old man was sentenced to death at Halle for setting fire to four barns between 1938 and New Year's Eve 1940. The judge said that for offences under Para. 3 of the decree against persons causing injury to the state there was only one punishment - death - and that the mental deficiency of the accused could not justify a lesser punishment.

Marshal Goering's organ, the NATIONAL ZEITUNG of Essen, reported on Saturday that a farm hand was sentenced at Kleve (Westphalia) to ten years penal servitude for causing a fire in which cereals, farm implements and motor-cars were destroyed. The public prosecutor refrained from asking for the death penalty because a doctor's certificate showed that the accused's past proved him to be a moral idiot. Somewhat surprisingly, the court concurred.

Banner headlines in the BERLINER ZEITUNG AM MITTAG distorted events in Britain. The headlines were "British blackmail action - Chamberlain's desperate new attempt at concealment" and "Germans to be handed over to Polish jailers in London camps". The headings referred to the Anglo-Italian coal question and a suggestion in a British newspaper that some of the Germans in England should be interned and guarded by Poles.

SWITZERLAND: SATISFACTION AT COAL DISPUTE SETTLEMENT.

Satisfaction is expressed in today's Swiss Press that the Anglo-Italian coal dispute was prevented from developing into a serious breach between the two countries.

The JOURNAL DE GENEVE, the Conservative organ, declares: "It is hoped that Italy will be able to fix her coal supplies and that questions of prestige will not poison the dispute. Further, the hope may be expressed that the statesmen of the two countries will be guided by practical necessities to a mutual accommodation. The situation in Europe is already so disturbed that it would have been a pity to see the affair degenerate into an Anglo-Italian quarrel."

Some Swiss newspapers express doubt regarding the negotiations to bring about a termination of the Russo-Finnish war and the TRIBUNE DE GENEVE writes: "The Soviet's gesture constitutes a significant avowal. In agreeing to renew the conversations, they recognise that they were seriously in the wrong in their estimate when they embarked upon a 'fresh and jolly war'. After military defeats, they must now reckon with the disappointing uncertainty created by the announcement of a possible Armistice, Scandinavian intervention and underground German propaganda in order to exhaust the small adversary's moral strength. They are even obliged to announce that 'Draconian' conditions are not the last word and an arrangement is still possible."

The JOURNAL DE GENEVE writes: "It is plain that the Soviets hope by a peace treaty to undermine Finnish integrity by ensuring themselves strategic positions permitting them to render Finland powerless the moment she resists their demands. They would hold Finland's independence in their hands."

SWEDEN: "BLOCKADE CANNOT JUSTIFY SINKING OF NEUTRALS."

The belligerent blockade cannot justify the sinking of neutral vessels travelling between neutral ports.

This opinion is expressed today by the NYA DAGLIGT ALLEHANDA.

Under the heading "International Law not for Neutrals", this paper refers to Admiral Raeder's statement to an American correspondent in Berlin and points out that goods can only be declared contraband if destined to a belligerent. The blockade cannot justify the sinking of Swedish vessels travelling, for example, from South America to Sweden. If the blockade cannot be maintained without attacking vessels in this manner, the least that can be done is not to seek support for such attacks in the statutes of international law,

Referring to German advice taken from the American idea of remaining outside the danger zone, Georg Grammalm points out that the American decree was based on the "cash and carry" principle and its application by Sweden would mean that Germany would be compelled to fetch goods from Sweden with her own vessels,

"Germany would certainly call this unneutral and rightly so," adds this writer. "Sweden demands respect for her neutrality and for international law during the present war."

DAGENS NYHETER describes Mr. Harold Nicolson's handbook on diplomacy as "very reasonable" and summarises the author's analysis of Nazi diplomacy,

The paper adds: "It is right that Nicolson devotes special attention to the Nazis for the Third Reich has understood better than any other Dictatorship, how to disguise the use of force. Nicolson makes the apt statement that the apparent incompetence of Hitler's aims and methods depends on the general assumption that his aims are fixed. But Hitler's are unlimited. He strives to attain the greatest possible power with the least possible effort."

The Press gives great prominence to reports of the negotiations designed to bring the Russo-Finnish war to a conclusion, but there is no comment so far.

U. S. A: "GROUND CUT FROM UNDER RIBBENTROP'S FEET!"

The view that Herr von Ribbentrop's calculations have been upset by the settlement of the Anglo-Italian coal dispute is expressed in today's New York Press.

In a Rome dispatch the NEW YORK TIMES writes: "The ground has been cut from under Ribbentrop's feet by the coal agreement. Rarely has there been a diplomatic visit that started with such dramatic possibilities and collapsed so thoroughly before it had hardly got under way".

Referring to the German Fuehrer's speech an editorial article in this paper declares: "Hitler's speech threw no new light on the situation. He offered if necessary to give his life for a German victory. This seems a moderate enough offering when one considers the thousands of other German lives he has already sacrificed to that end.

"It would be difficult to match for obvious humbug, even amongst his own statements, the declaration 'The enemy's goal is Germany's destruction - our goal is Germany's unity'. German unity apparently means robbery, murder and enslavement of the Czechs and Poles.

"The Allies have obviously won an important diplomatic victory in Italy."

The American Press has continued to comment on the voyage of the liner Queen Elizabeth from the Clyde to New York.

The NEW YORK POST wrote: "There in New York harbour was visible the symbol of England's peacetime ingenuity. In that great ship was summed up all the resources of a nation's imagination, skill and industry."

Another writer in this paper stated: "The exploit of the Queen Elizabeth surpasses the homeward flight of the Bremen to Germany. That is the considered view of Julius Seeth, the pilot who guided the Queen Elizabeth into port. He said, 'Captain Ahrens knew how the Bremen would perform, but these men who brought the Elizabeth over had an unknown quantity on their hands'".

The NEW YORK SUN declared: "Queen Elizabeth's trip was both a gesture of confidence and a challenge on the part of the British Admiralty. It was a feat calculated to revive the confidence of a people who have had to bear humiliation and the sorrow of many sinkings."

BELGIUM: "TACTICAL BRITISH VICTORY."

The settlement of the Anglo-Italian coal dispute is described in today's Belgian Press as a "tactical British victory."

LE PEUPLE, the Left Wing paper declares: "It is true that the British have agreed to release Italian coal-bearing ships, already detained in the Downs. This is only an elegant gesture although it is a face-saving one to Signor Mussolini."

Herr Hitler's speech, has, in contrast with his pre-war declarations, aroused little interest.

The STANDAARD, the Flemish Catholic organ, declares: "The speech has opened no new prospects", and even blunter language is used in VOORUIT, the Socialist Party organ, which states: "There is no comment to be made."

Herr von Ribbentrop's visit to the Vatican is commented upon by the STANDAARD in the words: "Is Germany prepared to normalise Vatican relationships? Should such a gesture, offering loyalty and complete guarantees to the Catholic Church in Germany be forthcoming, it could not be underestimated from the psychological view-point and with a view to general peace."

ADEN: SCHOOLS FOR NOMADS.

Praise for Iraq's education system is contained in FATAT-UL-JEZIRAH.

"Each year an increasing sum is allocated for educational purposes," states this paper. "The number of girls' schools has been increased and school buildings have been improved. Even the Nomads now have schools, and radio is used for the diffusion of instruction."

"Iraq desires to share prominently in the renewal of Arab glory and cooperate with Egypt and Syria in a literary renaissance."

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SWEDEN: SWEDISH GOVERNMENT DID NOT SUBMIT TO PRESSURE.

A denial that the Swedish Government submitted to outside pressure in her role of mediator between Finland and Russia, was contained in an article printed in the ARBETET.

The article, which was written by the paper's Stockholm correspondent - presumably Senator Allan Vougt, a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee - was regarded as sufficiently official to be quoted on the Swedish wireless last night.

The correspondent scotched rumours regarding the Russo-Finnish peace moves and denied that the Government of Sweden had submitted to pressure or was cooperating with Germany, Italy or any other power. It was emphasised that Sweden was acting purely as a mediator between Finland and Russia.

It was added: "All possible jounies between Helsinki, Stockholm or Berlin accordingly lack until now, all connection with attempts to arrive at a peace contact between Helsinki and Moscow - not the least being President Svinhufvud's holiday trip or Dr. Sven Hedin's little pleasure tour. It should be stressed that Sweden, as a mediator, is not really concerned with the nature of proposals but would not have offered her good offices to transmit proposals which Finland would immediately have to reject. Those rumours are also exaggerated which describe the Russian peace proposals as hard and far-reaching in the extreme. They would not then correspond to the war situation. Finland is not conquered militarily and has now reason to capitulate."

The correspondent stressed the inaccuracy of information published so far regarding the peace proposals and characterised foreign condemnation of the Swedish action as a "new Munich" as "an expression of the lost hopes of the participation of the whole of Scandinavia in the war." He added: "One need only recall that Czechoslovakia, at Munich, was sold and prevented from fighting, disarmed and put in chains by the British and French statesmen.

"Finland has fought for her freedom with the assistance of Sweden and the rest of the world and her independence is untouched, even if one or more sacrifices would have to be made by concluding peace."

SOCIAL DEMOKRATEN denied the justification of accusations by the French and British Press against Sweden and pointed out that LE JOURNAL acknowledged that the Allies were more interested in expanding the war against Germany than in helping Finland.

"It is honest to say this openly and we respect the point of view which, in the interest of world Democracy, may seem fairly logical," added the paper. "But such an attitude cannot motivate criticism directed against the Swedish Government for setting aside Finland's cause in Swedish interests. It is fundamentally a different problem from the Finnish problem which occupies the French Press - the bigger war against Hitler's Germany."

DENMARK: DANISH VIEW OF PEACE MOVES.

Discussing the prospects of peace between Russia and Finland, a leader in POLITIKEN states today: "The English and French Press have treated the peace efforts in a way which, over and above the expression of strong sympathy for Finland, has clearly shown the direct interest that the Western Powers have in seeing Russia engaged in a struggle demanding the employment of the nation's full strength and restricting the supplies which otherwise would be serving Germany well."

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JAPAN: BRITAIN'S WAR EFFORT PRAISED.

Praise for the British war effort has been given in a series of articles by a Japanese economic expert in ASAHI SHIMBUN.

The expert, who had recently returned from London, declared that Britain's war efforts were proceeding smoothly and his general impression was one of national unity.

He added: "Britain had been storing foodstuffs and other important raw materials for about six months prior to the war so she has considerable stocks. Furthermore, she is continually supplementing them from abroad. But although she has sufficient stocks she is adopting measures such as rationing and the fixing of official prices for foodstuffs and important raw materials.

"Under the present system about the only inconvenience felt by the public is the question of petrol for motorcars. There is not much inconvenience as regards the daily necessities. Official prices for daily necessities have been very reasonably fixed so there has been no hoarding in anticipation of a rise in prices."

VENEZUELA: RIBBENTROP FRUSTRATED?

Herr von Ribbentrop will find that certain of his intentions in visiting Rome have been frustrated by the British decision to release Italian coal ships.

This is the opinion of the Venezuelan newspaper AHORA.

A leading article in this journal yesterday stated: "A formidable diplomatic game is being played in Europe today. Britain, like all belligerents, has one object - to win the war - and she recently stated that she would answer all enemy manoeuvres with counter manoeuvres. Ribbentrop intended to use the Anglo-Italian incident for German ends. Britain weighed the 'pros and cons' and decided to free the Italian ships, but she will not make unilateral concessions.

"By freeing the ships she will gain war material from Italy, who has saved her prestige, and Ribbentrop will find that the Anglo-Italian tension is ended and his intentions frustrated. Britain will have obtained estimable results at the cost of prestige, but only second class powers bother about prestige."

BRAZIL: DISILLUSIONMENT FOR VON RIBBENTROP?

Commenting on Herr von Ribbentrop's visit to Rome O JORNAL disbelieved that Catholic Italy would "consent to serve the interests of Nazi and Communist atheists."

The DIARIO DE NOTICIAS published an article by Dorothy Thompson arguing the weakness of Germany and Russia and urging benevolent neutrality towards the Allies as best serving American interests and shortening the war.

A tribute to the strength of the Royal Air Force was paid by the CORREIO DA MANHA.

ITALY: RELIEF AT BRITAIN'S COAL DECISION.

The British Ambassador's visit to Count Ciano to inform the Italian Foreign Minister of Britain's decision to release Italian coal ships relegated Herr von Ribbentrop's visit to Rome to second place as the news feature of last night's Italian Press.

Comments from London stressed the sense of relief at the decision and emphasised the hope that the impulse had now been given to a general improvement in Anglo-Italian relations.

Signor Ansaldo, who writes in the TELEGRAFO, said he understood that Herr von Ribbentrop would explain Germany's achievements and intentions to the Duce but that there was no question of any interference with Italian liberty of action or any attempt to embitter Anglo-Italian relations as had been suggested in some quarters.

Writing in the GIORNALE D'ITALIA, Signor Virginio Gayda commented on the peace moves to terminate the Russo-Finnish conflict and stated: "European observers cannot fail to be interested but the question of peace between Finland and Russia concerns exclusively the two governments in conflict. Only the Finnish nation can measure the advantages of peace in relation to her national interests.

"Of wider European interest is however the possibility of last-minute Anglo-French intervention. Almost inevitably Norway and Sweden would be involved, thus causing not only Russian but also German reaction. There would be an enlargement of the European conflict against the hopes of Italy who had tried by every means to circumscribe it at least within the zone of its origin."

FRANCE: SPECULATION ON HERR VON RIBBENTROP'S VISIT.

The French Press has devoted considerable space to speculation on Herr von Ribbentrop's visit to Rome.

Writing in the PETIT PARISIEN yesterday M. Lucien Bourgues stated: "All this pacifist activity is somewhat confusing. By bringing Russia's friends into the affair the Finns risk no longer being able to choose between peace and continued resistance, and being finally obliged to accept, on pressure from all sides, what their interests and their honour would forbid them to consider a satisfactory solution.

"Rome, like Moscow, is becoming the centre of intense diplomatic activity. Herr von Ribbentrop arrives this morning accompanied by a large staff: thirty-two officials including Dr. Gaus, the famous lawyer, who is only there when his masters have agreements to draw up. The Germans are spreading the rumour that this is merely a normal visit but they are at the same time spreading the news among the neutrals that a turning point in events is imminent. It is in any case somewhat curious to note that tomorrow Herr von Ribbentrop will be received in audience by the Pope. It is the first time that a Nazi leader will cross the threshold of the Vatican. When he was in Rome in 1938 Hitler did not see the Pope and Ribbentrop himself, although often on the banks of the Tiber, has never so far visited the Vatican.

"It is very unlikely that the sole motive for Herr von Ribbentrop's visit to Rome is the desire to hasten peace in Finland. It is more probable that what is in question is a supreme effort on the part of Ribbentrop to bind Italy more closely to Germany either for purposes of war or in order to launch an imposing peace offensive. We shall soon know."

In the POPULAIRE, M. Blum asked: "What should be, in the present state of things, the position of the French Government, the French Press and French public opinion?"

"In the first place we must respect the Finnish peoples' freedom of decision. We must spare Finland advice and above all instructions, of which she has no need.... In the second place it must be clearly and firmly said, with more clarity and force than has been the case up to the present, that if Finland appeals directly and formally to the Allies they are determined to respond fully without reserves, without restrictions, accepting all the consequences of their action"

11.3.40 No.1.

COMMUNIQUE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION OR BROADCAST BEFORE
THE MORNING OF TUESDAY THE 12th MARCH. 1940

The King has been pleased to approve a proposal that Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan, on the expiry of his term of office on 13th April, 1940, should continue to hold office as a Member of the Governor-General's Executive Council for a further term. His Majesty has also been pleased to approve the appointment of Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai as a Member of the Governor-General's Executive Council in the vacancy that will occur on the expiry on 1st April, 1940, of Sir Jagdish Prasad's term of office.

INDIA OFFICE

11/3/40

- No. 2.

FRENCH OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE (MORNING)

The following communique was issued this morning from the French G. H. Q:-

Nothing to report.

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OFFICIAL ADMIRALTY STATEMENT.

The Secretary of the Admiralty regrets to announce the following casualties amongst officers and men of the Naval service. The casualties shown herein arise from the various hazards of service in war and are not related to any particular ship or action.

Officers.Killed.

Midshipman (A) J. D. W. Barr, R.N.

W. Barron, Temporary Boom Engineer, R.N.R.

Midshipman R. A. S. Brown, R.N.R.

Lieutenant B. E. Coombs, R.N.

Temporary Sub-Lieutenant C. Dobson, R. N. V. R.

Temporary Lieutenant D. B. Johnstone, R. N. V. R.

Temporary Sub-Lieutenant N. F. Peat, R. N. V. R.

Lieutenant (A) E. F. Pope, R.N.

Acting Sub-Lieutenant (A) G. A. Skinner, R.N.

Temporary Sub-Lieutenant G. W. Vaughan, R. N. V. R.

Probationary Midshipman (A) T. R. W. Wagner, R. N. V. R.

Temporary Sub-Lieutenant (A) G. V. Williamson, R. N. V. R.

Died of Wounds.

Temporary Lieutenant A. M. Maclean, R. N. V. R.

Died.

Lieutenant A. A. C. Gage, R.N.

Lieutenant P. L. Hocking, R.N.

Wounded.

Lieutenant-Commander J. I. Miller, R.N.R.

Probationary Temporary Sub-Lieutenant R. C. Whybrow, R. N. V. R.

A. Finlayson, Chief Skipper, R.N.R.

Ratings.

Killed.

Adams, James.	Seaman, R.N.R.	D.5897.
Adcock, Bernard.	Stoker, 1st. Class.	C/KX.88505
Baldwin, C.E. D.S.M.	C.P.O.	P/J.56017
Barker, B.R.	Engineman.	X.6058. E.S.
Baxter, John.	Leading Airman.	FX.76321
Beavers, H.E.	Seaman, R.N.R.	X.21451
Bryant, C.N.	A.B.	P/JX.152629
Clay, J.R.	Seaman, R.N.R.	X.19262
Cowie, John	2nd.Hand.	X.178.S.
Davey, G.H.	Marine.	Ply/21450
Dunlevy, R.J.	C.P.O.	P/J.14938
Gardner, S.T.	A.B.	P/JX.141471
Johnson, W.E.	Seaman Cook.	JX.165021
McCullough, Samuel,	A.B.	D/JX.159461
Parker, Leonard,	Act/P.O.	D/SSX.136838
Preston, C.W.	Marine.	Ch/23005.
Reid, Peter,	Seaman, R.N.R.	X.18333
Shayler, E.H.	Leading Airman	FAA/FX.76307
Shepherd, G.H.	Act. P.O. Airman.	C/JX.137529
Stewart, Alexander,	Seaman, R.N.R.	X.18334.
Stewart, James.	Seaman, R.N.R.	X.9385
Tandy, H.A.	C.P.O.	P/J.21089
Taylor, R.A.	Signalman,	P/JX.136115
Tough, Charles,	Stoker, 1st.Class.	
Trodd, S.G.	Marine,	Po/E.21597
Uren, G.E.	Leading Airman.	D/JX.139232
Warren, J.H.	Ordinary Seaman.	P/SSX.29937
Watson, Andrew,	Stoker P.O.	KX.99019
Wylie, I.	A.B.	D/SSX.16421
Young,H.J.	A.B.	C/SSX.21090

Died of Wounds.

Barker, Edward,	2nd Hand.	JX.173090
Bramble, J.H.	Ordinary Seaman.	P/JX.150741
Buckley, C.A.	Boy, 1st Class	P/JX.154023
Russell, W.A.	Marine	Ply/X.214
Shirtliff, William.	Cook	D/MX.53410.

Missing, believed killed.

Dawes, E.C.	A.B.	D/JX.146247
Dyger, W.H.	Air Mechanic	D/KX.90553
Hawkins, A.H.	A.B.	P/J.107721
Larmour James	A.B.	P/SSX.14491.
Parkes, Edward,	A.B., R.N.V.R.	LD/X.5010
Reason, J.D.R.	A.B.	P/SSX.17373
Sturgess, N.A.J.	A.B.	P/J.115553

Died.

Brotherton, Peter,	A.B.	P/SSX.24941
Brown, S.H.	Leading Seaman, R.N.V.R.	LD/X.1487
Campbell, R.K.	A.B.	C/J.113702
Cunningham, George,	Stoker	C/KX.89083
Ede, M.J.	Leading Seaman,	P/JX.128234
Fawcett, C.C.	Leading Stoker	P/K.9651
Harman, Samuel,	P.O.	C/J.238553
Harrington, W.A.	P.O.	P/J.1113888
Hawkins, F.J.	Shipwright, 1st Class	C/M.2234
Hayes, Leslie,	A.B.	P/J.98879
Hill, W.C.	E.R.A.2.	P/M.39370
Honey, G.E.	A.B.	P/JX.139827
Jenkinson, G.A.	Leading Steward,	C/LX.20889
Johnstone, E.M.	Seaman, R.N.R.	JX.166255
Lynch, J.L.	Stoker, 1st Class	P/KX.83102

McMinn, R.	E.R.A. 3.	C/MX.50340
Morrison, Malcolm,	Seaman, R.N.R	X.18267 A.
Bugent, Eric.	Marine.	Ply/X.3014
Paddock, W.R.H.	Stoker,	P/K.61867
Page, John,	A.B. (Pensioner)	C/422317.
Penn, J.W.V.,	Stoker, 1st. Class.	C/KX.95299
Russell, W.C.	Signalman.	P/JX.140570
Snelling, James,	A.B.	D/SSX.17740
Stammers, C.P.	Signalman, R.F.R	B.20473
Stuart, W.J.C.	Engineman, R.N.P.S	
Swann, R.M.	R.N.R., P.S.,	X.10295
Taylor, J.K.	Marine.	Ply/X.3116.
Thomas, A.H.H.	E.R.A	D/M.7399.

Wounded.

Beasley, F.W.	A.B.	D/J.100934.
Britton, R.C.L.	A.B.	P/JX.136822
Colley, F.	A.B.	D/J.157038
Duncan, Andrew,	Stoker, P.O.	
Geddes, Alexander,	Seaman, R.N.R.	18856
Harper, James,	A.B.	P/JX.126321
Loftus, James,	A.B.	P/SSX.19095
Manson, George,	Engineman.	KX.100592.
Newing, A.R.	A.B.	D/JX.132613.
Shawl, George,	Second Hand, R.N.R.	
Sprake, W.J.	Ordinary Seaman.	P/JK.152391
Tullett, C.W	Boy, 1st Class	P/JX.160407
Whyte, W.W.	Leading Seaman.	X.7746.
Youngson, John,	Seaman, R.N.R.	

The following man was erroneously included in a casualty list published previously but is now known to be alive:-

Boulton, Eric.	A.B.	P/J.115348.
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11/3/40 - No. 4.

U - BOAT PRISONERS

Below is a further list of prisoners from
U-boats, whose names were broadcast to Germany this
weekend:-

			<u>Age</u>
Oberleutnant-zur-See	Karl	Vietor	26
Leutnant-zur-See	Johannes	Becker	22
Bootsmann	Paul	Galileia	26
Maschinenmaat	Heinz	Marticke	27
Maschinenobergetreiter	Robert	Puchta	25
Maschinenobergefreiter	Heinz	Weber	22
Matrosenobergefreiter	Peter	Lingscheidt	26
Maschinengefreiter	Manfred	Krampe	20

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MILITARY AFFAIRS

The following is intended for evening papers on Monday, March 11. It is issued by the Ministry of Information, for guidance - not to be quoted as a communique.

WAR LOAN ATTRACTION.

The list of applications for the new £300,000,000 3 per cent War Loan 1955/59 - the first of the public issues for financing the vigorous and successful prosecution of the war - will open at the Bank of England tomorrow (Tuesday) and will be closed on the next day.

There is still time, therefore, for investors who have delayed filling in their application forms to do so and have them delivered by post in time for consideration when the allotments are made.

Where special reasons for delay have existed, but have now been removed, the investor should not assume that it is too late but should make his application at once, either through his bank, his broker or by personally filling in an application form, obtainable from any bank in the United Kingdom.

Even at the last minute it is worth a special effort to obtain a holding of this attractive new trustee security at the issue price of par.

In making his maximum subscription to the loan the investor is helping the country towards victory in the war, making an important contribution to the maintenance of a sound economic position at home, and purchasing an investment on attractive terms.

no 7 is Command paper on Hague Court
(H.M.S.O.)
" 8 " not available (on potatoe disease)

11/3/40 - No ~~9~~ 6

Trade negotiations which have been proceeding between the United Kingdom and Norway are now concluded, and a War Trade Agreement was signed to-day.

This Agreement will enable Anglo-Norwegian trade to be continued so far as war-time conditions permit at a normal level.

A Joint Standing Commission is to be set up which will meet from time to time in London or Oslo, and will deal with any questions which may arise in the operation of the Agreement.

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC WARFARE
March 11th, 1940.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ANNOUNCEMENT.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED IN ANY WAY BEFORE 9.20 P.M.

TONIGHT.

BROADCAST ADDRESS BY THE LORD PRIVY SEAL.

In his broadcast address tonight, the Rt. Hon. Sir Samuel Hoare, said

"We need ships to bring war supplies to our shores, and we need them to bring raw material for aeroplanes, guns, tanks, shells and bullets.

So where do we turn? What resources do we mobilise? Whom do we summon to our assistance?

Why, of course, the farmers of Britain.

At every crisis in our history we come back to the land. In time of need we send our message to the men whose feet are firm in the soil of Britain, to the farmer and the farm worker in our most ancient industry.

Now what is it we ask of you? We appeal to you to help the Royal Navy and the Merchant Navy and the fishermen in the trawlers and minesweepers.

You can help them as few others can. For the more food you grow the less the shipping tonnage we shall need to bring us food from overseas.

In time of peace we require for our imports of food more than 20 million tons of shipping a year. That is not far short of one half of Britain's total call upon shipping tonnage in normal times. In war time we must greatly reduce this tonnage for foreign food and use it instead for munitions and the raw materials that are needed for them.

If you can help us to do this, you will be making a mighty contribution to our capacity to face this war of nerves and endurance.

How are we to achieve this object? How are we to get this result?

First of all, we ask you to plough up two million acres of grassland. As a measure of national defence, we need this considerable increase in the cultivated land of Britain.

So far, the results of the ploughing programme have been satisfactory. Some of the counties have already fulfilled their quotas, and I believe that those that have not are getting going to make up the deficit. Are you still anxious about the price for your crops? If so, remember the Prime Minister's pledge. I repeat it now so that everyone may hear it again:

'Prices' - that is, the prices for farm produce - must be such as to give a reasonable return to the farmer and enable the farmer to pay a reasonable wage to the worker.'

That declaration by the Prime Minister leaves no possibility of doubt. It cannot be misunderstood.

But, of course, I am well aware that there is, in the farming community a fine, determined spirit that will respond completely to the stiffest demand and will do so irrespective of any pledge or guarantee.

More than any section of our population, perhaps, the farmers identify themselves instantly, unquestioningly with the cause of Britain.

Already, we have good reason to know that the old patriotic spirit of the husbandman is alive in the land. And I want to thank you for what you are doing. I want to thank the Agricultural War Committees, working in all the counties, that have given up so much time and trouble to their urgent work. They are playing a leading part in Britain's war effort.

But, of course, we know very well that, while the farmer can be relied upon to do his share in the work, there is a duty that falls upon the Government.

If the farmer is to carry out this service, he must have an adequate supply of labour to work his farm. For that reason he has a right to say that the Government shall secure to agriculture a sufficiency of men. For without the labour, none of our plans can succeed.

Here again the Prime Minister has given his word. I quote again what he said to the Chairmen of the Agricultural Committees when he met them a week or so ago - 'We cannot afford to see crops wasted because there is not labour enough to lift them; and, therefore, I want to give you a definite assurance that the Government will take whatever steps are necessary to see that the crops when grown are harvested'.

And here let me say a word to the men and women who are going to help you to win this food campaign. First, there are the farmers' wives. I know myself, what a vital part they play in the farm's life. They are as vital to you on the farm as my wife is to me in politics and I couldn't say more.

Then there are the girls of the Land Army. They will be wanted more and more as the season goes on.

And last and most important of all is the regular Army of the farm workers. They know their job and they don't need any encouragement from me to make a success of it.

One and all you have had a very hard time. For weeks on end the frost held you up. But now the better weather has come and you mean to finish off in hours and days what would have usually taken you weeks and months. When the frost broke, the east wind made the townsmen shiver, but it made you glad, for it dried the land and drove the plough, and made you as keen for your task as the wind itself.

From all sides I hear tell of the ploughs going up and down night and day. From all sides, I hear of big farmers and smallholders, and the man with the spade who digs his own allotment, pushing on with the work. From one of the biggest counties I hear that they intend far to exceed their quota; from another county that they will finish in 23 ploughing days. From another I hear of a small man who was found scything some rushes before ploughing up his few acres. "It isn't much" he said, "but it will lighten some ship's burden". That is the spirit. Let us lighten our ships' burden of foreign food, and by this means free our hands for victory in the war, and make our land richer and stronger for the days of peace. For the harvest will surely come with its reward for those who have worked for it, for our men under arms and for our workers at home, and not least amongst them, you men and women on the land of Britain. Not then in vain will have been the toil of sowing, the watching and waiting, the troubles and anxieties of war. For the end of a victorious war will be the greatest harvest home that the world has ever seen.

RELEASED FOR PUBLICATION AFTER 9.35
P. M. THIS (MONDAY) EVENING, 11th MARCH.

MEM. TO SUB-EDITORS:

As this script is being issued in advance, it is necessary to check it against the actual broadcast at 9.20 this (Monday) evening on 391 or 449 metres.

TRADE UNIONS IN WARTIME (1).

by

G. HICKS, M. P.

My talk to you to-night is the first of a series of fortnightly broadcasts on what the Trade Unions are doing in wartime. In those circumstances perhaps I had better give you the background and later talks will probably fill in more specific detail of what the Trade Unions are actually doing.

Amongst many people there is an idea that Trade Unions merely exist to protect the wages of their members.

It is quite true that the protection of wages and conditions of work is one of their primary functions, but their activities are much wider than that. In actual practice there is hardly a subject which directly affects the six million Trade Unionists in Britain which is not the concern of either the individual Union or the Trades Union Congress to which the principal Unions are affiliated. And you know, you must always keep this point in mind - what the Unions are doing for their members is usually of direct benefit to millions of people who, unfortunately, are not in their Trades Union.

The Unions affiliated to the Trades Union Congress are not limited to those catering for industrial workers. It is not generally recognized that all workers, including salaried and professional workers and the non-manual wage earners, are catered for on a wide field.

The representative character, the integrity and discipline of the Trade Unions on the one hand and the development of employers' organisations on the other have enabled Britain to set an example to the world as to how the system of collective bargaining in industry and commerce, between employer and employed, can work. Collective bargaining deals with all questions, which might normally be the basis of a contract of employment between employer and employed, such as wages, hours, working conditions, holidays, and so on.

Complicated as this work may be it is only part of the task in hand. Think for a moment of the wealth of detail involved in the protection of members in regard to workmen's compensation, factory law, health and unemployment insurance, and the positive mass of legislation affecting the work-a-day life of our people. The wide range of subjects with which a Trade Union official has to deal in these days places him in the position of having to be almost a walking encyclopaedia.

But, as you may say, that is all right for peacetime. When are you going to tell us what the Unions are doing in time of war? The fact is this: what the Unions do in peacetime has still to be carried on in wartime. The war problems with which we are confronted (and their name is "legion") have to be tackled in addition.

Perhaps in the first place I had better deal very briefly with the attitude of the Unions to this war. Trade Unionists are citizens and both as citizens and Trade Unionists they are not only in this war up to the neck, but as you will see from this series of talks, they are having to put their heads into it too.

For years we have said that unprovoked aggression must be resisted. Our attitude has been perfectly consistent. The Trades Union Congress on questions of this kind cannot lead its membership of five

million/

million on brave words without regard to the action they imply. In our repeated and consistent declarations against aggression the consequences have been fully considered. Now that the die is cast and the belated stand against aggression has been made, our resolution of will to pursue our policy is as stern as the resolutions in words which have outlined that policy in the past.

Make no mistake about it, we want peace. We want peace as much as the people who are devoting much of their time to talking only of peace but who, to my knowledge, have not yet shown how a real peace with Hitler can be secured. We would rather stand the brunt of Hitler's war than endure the tortures of a victorious Hitler's peace. You know none of us can afford to forget the fate of all free institutions (including the Trade Unions) of Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland.

You can take it for granted that the Trade Unions will maintain their freedom. Neither Nazis abroad nor Nazis at home shall destroy it. The democratic system is at the very basis of our existence. Democracy, involving freedom of association, freedom of thought, freedom of speech, freedom to criticize, freedom to turn on the wireless set when we want, is a liberty which Mr. Hitler is not going to tamper with if we can help it.

War was declared whilst our Trades Union Congress was assembled in Bridlington. We did not then, in any feverish atmosphere, determine a new line of policy. In perfect calm, but with great determination, our former policy was, in effect, merely reendorsed. We took our stand against Nazi aggression. Consequently, we are taking part in the war effort.

Now let me tell you how we approached the question of participation. Right at the outset we understood perfectly well that no Government of this country, whatever its political complexion, could conduct a major war of this character without the support of the Trade Unions. Obviously, our first thought was how could we continue to protect the interest of workpeople inside and beyond industry? Our second thought was how could we do this whilst, at the same time, recognising and accepting our full responsibilities as an integral part of a nation engaged in a serious war?

It did not seem to us that we were faced here with two conflicting obligations. We therefore demanded, as a general principle, that decisions should not be made and actions taken on matters which affected the interests of working people unless and until the Trade Unions, as representing the interests of workpeople, had been fully and frankly consulted.

This represented no new departure in principle, but it did mean a considerable extension of the range of consultation. Over a period of years various Governments have found that only the Trade Union Movement is capable of speaking with authority about the interests of workpeople.

We knew difficulties would have to be faced. Men do not spend a lifetime dealing with the whole range of problems which affect the various industries without gaining some practical knowledge as to how new problems can be met.

When war broke out we were not taken by surprise. Early in 1939 the Trades Union Congress called a special National Conference of all affiliated Union Executive Committees. The Conference discussed detailed proposals drawn up by the Trades Union Congress relating to problems of industry in war-time. I will not here go into these proposals in intimate detail. They were based on considerations of this kind:

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The Government in the course of a war would have many demands to make upon industry. For instance, the output of arms would have to be increased; the best use would have to be made of limited supplies of raw materials and possibly, also, of labour. The Government should, in the Nation's interest, ask the responsible persons in industry how these demands could be met. We believed that the Government could do no better than to take into the fullest confidence those bodies already in existence whose members were responsible for, and had wide experience of, actual industrial processes.

The proposals were endorsed by the special conference by overwhelming majorities. We submitted them to the Government before war broke out.

Amongst the recommendations approved at that Conference was a proposal to set up a co-ordinating Committee advisory in character to be composed of representatives of the Trade Unions and employers, together with civil representatives of the Government. Such a body, representative of the General Council of the Trades Union Congress and the British Employers' Confederation, has been set up and you will probably have seen it referred to in the press as "The National Joint Advisory Council". This is, as it were, the body responsible for the discussion of wide questions of policy affecting industry generally, but it does not displace in any way the joint machinery already existing in the various industries which enables representatives of the employers and the Unions to consider problems affecting their own industry.

On the important question of securing the necessary supplies from war-time industry the Minister of Supply has set up a Central Advisory Committee of members of the General Council of the Trades Union Congress and also Area Committees which are representative of the employers and Unions and are concerned mainly with engineering production.

Most of the raw materials in the country are subject to some form of Public Control, a single Controller or a Control Committee or Control Board. On account of the vital interests of those employed in industry, it is necessary for Trades Unions representing the work-people to be in a position to keep an eye on the activities of these Controls and to advise where necessary.

There is a Committee, composed entirely of members of the General Council of the Trades Union Congress, which acts as an Advisory Committee to the Minister of Food. Trade Union representation is now to be provided for on Local Food Control Committees.

A member of the General Council of the Trades Union Congress is on the Central Price Regulation Committee, whilst at least one, and more often two or three, Trades Union Congress nominees have been appointed to each of the Area Price Regulation Committees which are spread over the whole of the country.

On tribunals set up to hear requests for the postponement of calling up for the Armed Forces because of hardship, and also to deal with the claims of conscientious objectors, nominees of the Trades Union Congress have been appointed. And so I could go on.

I do not intend to go into any detail now, but from what I have said you will see the tremendous amount of time and energy which is being put into our war effort by Trade Union representatives. Whether you call this collaboration with the Government or use any other phrase I do not mind, provided you appreciate the purpose behind this vast burden which has been undertaken.

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In effect, the lives of our people are vested in industry. The Unions have accepted their responsibilities because, I repeat, they must continue their work of protecting the interests of those engaged in industry and commerce; because a great burden rests on industry to maintain the gigantic war effort which is necessary to support the Navy, Army, Air Force and Civil Defence.

There are hundreds of thousands of Trade Unionists in those Forces and we cannot allow the lives of our fighting men to be jeopardised by lack of equipment and munitions. Neither can we stand aside and see our Civilian Defence rendered ineffective because of the lack of means to protect the civilian population. We are assisting in industry and outside to meet the gigantic task necessary to ensure victory.

From past experience we have no faith that war brings its unqualified victories, but there must be no possibility of our defeat; no question whatever that this country and the free democratic institutions which have flourished within its borders should be threatened by the same fate which has befallen the various countries now under Nazi domination.

That is the background from which emerges our wartime effort. The future talks will show in greater detail how that effort is being directed with the ultimate object of securing victory. One final word, the war must be won. We shall help in that, but we shall be equally concerned with the basis for a true and lasting peace.

11.3.40 - No.11.

The Minister of Information Sir John Reith M.P. was present today at a private view of a film on the activities of "Women's Voluntary Services" entitled "Britannia is a Woman", which has been produced for exhibition in America.

The script of the film was made by members of Women's Voluntary Services, and describes the part which women are taking in Britain's war effort.

Sir John Anderson, Mr. Walter Elliot, and Mr. John Colville were among the Ministers who viewed the film.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

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11/3/40 - No.12.

MINISTRY OF FOOD ANNOUNCEMENT

PRICES OF FROZEN EGG PRODUCTS (FROZEN WHOLE EGGS,
WHITES AND YOLKS).

The Ministry of Food announce that an Order prescribing maximum prices at which frozen egg products, (i.e. frozen whole eggs, whites and yolks), may be sold to the consumer will shortly be issued. The Order will prescribe the following maximum prices ex cold store :-

Large Tins (over 15 lb
nett weight of content).

Frozen whole egg
and frozen whites per lb. 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.

Frozen yolk 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.

Small Tins (up to
and including 15 lb
nett weight of contents).
per lb.

8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

The date on which the prices come into force will be announced later.

11th March 1940.

11/3/40. - No. 13.

P R E S S N O T I C E .

The Royal Commission on Workmen's Compensation intimate that their next sitting for the purpose of taking evidence will be held in Room 137 on the 1st floor of Thames House (No. 2 Entrance), Millbank, London, S.W.1., on Thursday, 14th March at 10.30 a.m. and on Friday, 15th March, at 10.30 a.m.

The sitting of the Commission will be open to the public and the Press.

HOME OFFICE,
11th March, 1940.

11/3/40 - No. 11.

FRENCH OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE (EVENING)

Paris, Monday, 11th March, 1940.

The following official communique was issued this evening from French G.H.Q.:—

FAIRLY SHARP LOCAL ENCOUNTERS TO THE SOUTH-EAST OF THE NIED
ARTILLERY FIRING IN THE REGION OF THE VOSGES.

ACTIVITY OF BOTH AIR FORCES.

(NOT TO BE PUBLISHED OR BROADCAST
BEFORE TUESDAY MARCH 12th)

COLONIAL OFFICE APPOINTMENT.

It is announced by the Colonial Office that Mr. R.D. Blandy, Assistant to the Resident Commissioner, New Hebrides, has been selected for appointment as Resident Commissioner in succession to Mr. G.A. Joy, who is being appointed Resident Adviser, Mukalla, Aden.

EMPIRE AFFAIRS.

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11/3/40 - No. 16.

Five million cigarettes will be given during the next few weeks for distribution among men on the minesweepers. They will be provided by a fund organized by the oversea league.

NAVAL AFFAIRS

11.3.40 - No. 17.

U-BOAT PRISONERS OF WAR.

The following are German prisoners of war in this country.

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>AGE</u>
Leut. z. See	HUTTEL, Fritz Erich	Dresden	32
Oberfeldwebel	SCHEFFLER, Erich	Wilhelmshaven	27
Maschinenmaat	MIKS, Franz	Wanne-Eukel	23
Funkgefreiter	LANGE, Gunter	Pulsberg	19
Maschinenmaat	DREISBACH, Siegfried	Erndtebruck, Westfahlen	24
Maschinenmaat	KLEEMANN, Helmut	Berlin- Wilmersdorf.	24
Maschinengefreiter	FÖRGER, Paul	Wilhelmshaven	20
Maschinengefreiter	HERMANN, Rudolf	Riese	21
Maschinengefreiter	GÖLLNER, Heinrich	Köln-Kalk	21

MILITARY AFFAIRS.

FOREIGN PRESS REVIEW

DAILY SURVEY OF WORLD COMMENT ON THE WAR

COMPILED FROM TELEGRAPHIC REPORTS RECEIVED BY THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

No. 5^A

12th March, 1940

FINLAND: GERMANY ACCUSED.

Germany is accused by a section of the Finnish Press, which, despite the peace negotiations has not changed its attitude towards the Soviet, of having brought pressure to bear on Sweden and Norway in recent weeks.

The HELSINGIN SANOMAT wrote: "For Germany, it is important to strengthen and define Axis obligations, since she desires a safeguard in the South. For weeks she has tried to bring pressure on Norway and Sweden to obtain security against an anti-German front. To leave Russia's hands free for the approaching great struggle, she would like to see a Finnish war settlement on terms which a Great Power, in whose sphere of influence Finland, in German opinion, belongs, designs to dictate."

SVENSKA PRESSEN wrote last night: "One cannot depend on any illusions regarding immediate peace when the war continues with undiminished intensity and alarm sirens hoot in Helsinki. The Moscow Conversations do not mean a slackening either on or behind our fronts. Our friends abroad certainly see the situation similarly."

After quoting a statement made by the Swedish Crown Prince, this paper concluded: "For the present our fight continues as before."

UUSI SUOMI, in a report reaching that paper from Russian sources, declared that the arrival of the Finnish delegation in Moscow was kept secret, although several Legations, including those of Germany and the U.S.A., were aware of the date. The report added that the Russian Press had not mentioned the Helsinki-Moscow contact. Russian military preparations had been strengthened despite the negotiations. Mobilisation of men up to 35 was continuing and all railways, especially the Murmansk line, were engaged in military transport.

The UUSI SUOMI, in a report from Kaunas, stated: "The transfer of Germans from Lithuania has been postponed indefinitely. This is interpreted as being that the Russian influence in the Baltic ceases at the Lithuanian frontier, or alternatively, the transfer of Germans from Latvia, Estonia and Poland is causing such difficulty, and Germany is receiving so many unruly elements, that the Lithuanian Germans may stay where they are."

U.S.A.: FINNISH WAR TERMINATION WOULD NOT DEAL FATAL BLOW TO ALLIES.

The New York Press gives pride of place today to the Finnish-Russian peace negotiations and the NEW YORK TIMES devotes an editorial article to refuting the theory that the conclusion of peace would deal an "almost fatal blow" to the cause of Britain and France.

"It has been clear from the day that Russia and Germany signed their alliance that they would dominate the Baltic," states this paper. "If the Finnish war should end the situation would simply revert to the position prevailing last November. The Allies would be no worse off in the matter of Russian supplies for Germany than they were when they were confident of victory."