

Wednesday, March 5th 1941.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

NEWS BULLETIN No. 304.

MINISTRY OF SUPPLY APPOINTMENT.

In order to ensure closer co-ordination of the work of the Timber Control in connection with the supply and distribution of Mining Timber, it has been decided to establish a Pitwood Department of the Control in charge of Mr. Pearson Bell (Assistant Controller).

Mr. Bell will direct the executive work of this Department both at Headquarters and in the District Pitwood Offices. - Ministry of Supply. M.o.I. 1.

ANOTHER LION HAS WINGS.

One of the Spitfires purchased by the Basutoland War Fund is to be named Tau Ea Likhoele (Lion of Likhoele). The latter is a prominent mountain in the Mafeteng District of Basutoland and is also the Sesuto name of Mr. William Scott, M.B.E., of Mafeteng who has contributed over £4,000 to various war funds. - Dominions Office Press Section. M.o.I. 2.

REFRESHMENTS IN PUBLIC AIR RAID SHELTERS IN NOTTINGHAM.

The Minister of Food has made an Order authorising the Nottingham Borough Council to provide refreshments in public air raid shelters within the Council Area and regulating the conditions under which refreshments may be supplied.

The Order is on the same lines as those issued on November 6, 1940, applying to the London Metropolitan and City Police districts and on later dates applying to Coventry, Liverpool and other towns.

Persons or firms appointed as caterers in the shelters will be specially licensed and will work under the general direction of the Borough Council. - Ministry of Food. M.o.I. 3.

CANADIAN ARMY HOCKEY CHAMPIONS.

By defeating the Royal Canadian Engineers in the final, the Western Quebec Regiment have become hockey champions of the Canadian Army in England.

The match was played before a large attendance, including Lieut.-General A.G.L. McNaughton, Canadian Corps Commander, and Mrs. McNaughton, Major-General Victor Odlum and Major-General G.R. Pearkes, V.C.

At the close, General McNaughton presented the Vincent Massey trophy to the winners. He said: "It was an example of the finest hockey to be seen anywhere. The series of matches has been marked by splendid play and good sportsmanship". - Ministry of Information. M.o.I. 4.

MALAY RULERS TO PAY INCOME TAX.

The Sultan of Perak and the Sultan of Selangor, although not legally liable, have notified their intention of voluntarily paying Income Tax.

Perak and Selangor are two of the four Federated Malay States. Income Tax was recently introduced into the Federated Malay States for the first time. Incomes up to £576 a year are exempt; a tax of 2 per cent. is imposed on incomes up to £720 a year; and thereafter the tax increases to a maximum of 8 per cent. on incomes of £3,400 a year and over. - Colonial Office Press Section. M.o.I. 5.

(Cont'd)

ICELAND AND THE FAROE ISLANDS - Relaxation of Export Control.

Under a Board of Trade Order signed today which comes into force tomorrow, 6th March, 1941, certain classes of goods, which require licences for export to certain specified destinations, ("C" destinations in the Export Control List) will no longer require licences for export to Iceland and the Faroe Islands. Export licences will still be required for other goods in the Export Control List exported to these destinations.

The Order (S.R. & O.1941, No.282), also makes certain minor relaxations in the list of goods requiring export licences. -- Board of Trade M.o.I.6.

Air Ministry News Service.R.A.F. LANGUAGE

So far, this war has produced fewer ^{new} words than the last, and on the whole its vocabulary has not kept pace with its tactics, old words have to be used in a new sense.

The new meaning of the phrase "to straddle a target" is very different from the old. As naval and army gunners used the phrase it implied a near miss and was applied to the practice of making approach or sighting shots on each side of the objective.

Now when bombs are said to straddle a target it means that a number of bombs are dropped in a straight line, each being dropped at a certain interval, the first falling on the near side of the target and the last on the far side. The presumption is that if the first and last bombs should miss the target the intervening bombs will fall in between, directly on the target. A difficult target like a bridge will be attacked in this way, the aircraft flying laterally across the bridge at an angle so that the greatest possible width is presented to the succession of bombs.

If the aircraft were to fly longitudinally over the bridge there would be a risk that all the bombs might fall in a straight line parallel to the bridge and some feet away from it. A target like a long narrow factory building or railway line would obviously be attacked in the same way. Many laymen have been puzzled by the use of the word "straddle" in communications and many have wondered whether it necessarily implied a near miss. They may be reassured to learn that straddling is a method of making more certain of a hit.

Incidentally, a "near miss" nowadays means that the bomb has dropped sufficiently near the target to cause damage.

In order to straddle a target a stick, as opposed to a salvo, of bombs is used. When a salvo of bombs is dropped several are released at the same moment. When a "stick" is released the bombs fall one after the other at a certain interval of time predetermined by the bomb aimer. Bombs of different weights and kinds may be arranged in a stick in the order which may be expected to produce the greatest amount of damage. The instrument which releases them in this way, by means of a series of selector switches, is the electrical distributor. For some incomprehensible reason this is known as the "Mickey Mouse". Nowadays it is more usual to attack a target with a stick than with a salvo of bombs.

/Another

Another puzzling technical term is "10/10 cloud". But this term is not as obscure as it looks, the amount of cloud which hides the ground from the pilot is estimated according to a graduated scale ranging from 0/10 to 10/10. If no cloud obscures his vision, there is 0/10 cloud, if he cannot see the ground at all, there is 10/10 cloud. Naturally the pilot can come down below the cloud to see the ground, but if the cloud base is low then he will be exposed to anti-aircraft fire. Thus the seriousness of a situation when the pilot reports 10/10 cloud depends on the level of the cloud base.

The distinction between a "raid" and a "sortie" is not always obvious. If the words are properly used, a raid is a bombing attack on a single target made by two or more aircraft. A sortie is any offensive flight made by an individual aircraft which may have dropped bombs or may have carried out an armed reconnaissance. For example, it may be said that a squadron of twelve aircraft carried out a raid, or it may be said that the aircraft of that squadron made twelve sorties. "Sortie" is a military term applied to the flight of a single aircraft in the last war when the R.F.C. was part of the army.

Some of the simplest and most familiar words have a highly technical meaning when used by the R.A.F. Thus "cannon" usually suggests an old fashioned kind of gun but in the R.A.F. it means a shell-firing gun operated by hydraulic power from the aero-engine.

"Briefing" refers to the final instructions given before going out on a raid. Other terms are more fanciful, the "pulpit" or the "office" are the R.A.F.'s new names for the cockpit, "flaming onions" are anti-aircraft shells which burst into a series of fire balls intended to set aircraft on fire, "driving the train" means leading two squadrons into battle, to "peel off" is to curve away from another aircraft, the movement as one aircraft comes close up to another aircraft and then curves quickly away is supposed to resemble the act of peeling the skin off a banana.

There are a few more familiar terms which may require definition. A "landfall" as used by airmen is the same as when used by sailors; it refers to the first sight of land after crossing water. A "power dive" is a dive on the objective with the throttle fully open. "Dive bombing" means diving vertically, or almost vertically, on the objective before releasing the bombs from a low altitude. A "shallow dive" is a less steep descent at forty-five degrees or usually less from the horizontal. "Pinpointing the target" means locating the target exactly. "De-icing" means freeing the aircraft from ice, various devices are used to prevent the accretion of ice. A "box barrage" is an anti-aircraft barrage which completely encircles an area as a protection from attack by enemy aircraft.

"Flak" of course means anti-aircraft fire, it is derived from the German "flieger abwehr kanone" - the gun that drives off aircraft.

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE'S WARNING.

Speech by the Rt. Hon. R.S. Hudson, M.P., Minister for Agriculture, at Hereford on Wednesday, March 5th, at 1.45 p.m.

We have in this country built up a highly efficient Navy, Army and Air Force. Each for their size the most efficient in the world as recent events have proved. But, at the same time, we are now rebuilding an efficient agriculture. There is no reason why that, too, should not also be the most efficient in the world, as indeed it once was, and not so very long ago either. We have the soil, the climate and the men. The war is showing that the old skill has not been forgotten. Rather it only lay sleeping. Your efforts and the work of the Committees have already gone some way towards repairing the damage of the past neglect. I confidently look forward to the coming months revealing further progress towards our goal, the restoration of our countryside. The first and most important of our aims must be victory, the overwhelming defeat and destruction of that evil thing Hitlerism and all it stands for. The release of the nations of Europe from their present slavery.

Do not let us, as a nation, under-rate our task. We are advancing day by day towards the climax of the greatest threat to our very existence that this country has ever known. You in agriculture have a decisive part to play. As the Prime Minister said, you are in the very front line of our defence. As the war spreads the demands on our shipping must in the nature of things become more and more severe; for we must meet and beat the enemy on whatever part of the earth there seems good opportunity of so doing. You have your part in the coming battle, which will be widespread, ferocious and long drawn out. You by hook or by crook, by every art known to you, with all the assistance and guidance we at headquarters and the County Committees locally can give, you have the task of producing every ounce of food you can, and that with less and less imports of feedingstuffs to do it with.

I have never pretended that it is an easy task, or that it won't mean every kind of difficulty, even hardship. It will demand all your efforts, all your courage. But I am sure you will agree with me not only that it must be done but that it will be done.

Second only in importance to winning victory, I place determination to see that all the results of our war-time efforts are not dissipated when peace returns. We must see that our gains are pegged. Never again must our land be allowed to sink to the condition from which for the past 20 months we have been striving so mightily to reclaim it.

What was the characteristic of farming during the 20 years after the last war? Surely it was that to meet a new set of conditions farmers had, over large areas of the country, to change their methods, to abandon old and well tried practices, and to adopt a system that was essentially artificial in that it depended for its success on unlimited supplies of cheap imported feedingstuffs rather than on home produce. As I said the other day, I am not blaming farmers. On the contrary, they showed great ingenuity in adapting their husbandry to suit the market. But from the point of view of soil fertility, of good farming practice, the changes on the whole were for the worse. It often meant farming on the cheap, it put a premium on not losing money, a most important consideration from the farmers' point of view. But I believe anyone who has the true stuff of farming in his bones, would agree that farming on the cheap is bad business from the national point of view.

You in Hereford suffered less disastrous changes than some counties. Thanks largely to your fine natural pastures you never changed over wholeheartedly to producing milk from imported raw materials and using fields as mere exercising grounds. Even, however, in this county there were changes for the worse in this direction. But by and large you remained a beef producing county and more than a quarter of your Herefordshire land remained under the plough. But natural and economic conditions

in the two sister counties, Gloucester and Worcester, increased the temptation to turn over to milk production on purely grass farms, to forget the arts of the plough, to become tenders of cows rather than farmers. I do not believe that any of you ever really approved of the changes that were forced on you.

Be that as it may, today we have got to have a complete alteration. There is very little land that has ever been cultivated that can today be regarded as not worth farming. The soil has become the nation's life and it must be made to produce food for man and beast. You have already done great things. Hereford ploughed up 27,000 acres in the last war. In a few weeks you will have ploughed up nearly 60,000 acres since this war began. No mean effort but one the success of which will I am sure but serve as the spur to still more. Both Gloucester and Worcester too have done their bit and actually will soon have as much or more land under the plough than in 1918 in spite of the considerable areas of land that have been lost to agriculture.

As I travel about the country I often hear of complaints from people aggrieved at having to plough up their best grassland. People should not be chary about ploughing up their best pastures. The nation needs as never before every bit of cereals we can squeeze out of the soil. The best grass fields will give you much better results than the very poor fields. Don't neglect even the latter; they will pay for improvement and we shall need all the grass, all the hay, all the silage from the grassland remaining after the ploughing quota is filled up. I gather that in Herefordshire the county ploughing task has been obtained by persuasion and not by compulsion and that owing to the generally high level of farming in the county the War Agricultural Committee have not had, except in a very few cases, to terminate tenancies or turn men out of their farms. That is, I think, a fact of which Herefordshire farmers can legitimately be proud and one on which I should like myself to congratulate you all.

In thanking farmers for the efforts they have made I am sure they would be the first to agree that I should also include a special word of thanks to the workers on the farms and to their wives. The men have worked long hours, in all weathers, toiling away at a day to day task that tends to become irksome and monotonous when they do not see the figure of victory at the end of every furrow. It is so easy under such conditions to forget the end we must all have in view. Yet none are serving their country more essentially than those men of the fields who have stood by the land through good times and bad. In this respect one thing has been concerning me deeply. The services are well fed. The black-coated workers have restaurants and canteens to supplement domestic rations and there are works canteens for the industrial workers. But for the farm man, doing hard manual labour out of doors, these facilities do not exist, nor even at the moment adequate supplies of cheese to eke out the meat. I can assure you, however, you have not been forgotten. I have taken it up with my colleague, Lord Woolton. I found I was knocking at an open door. He is fully aware of your needs and is urgently trying to find means to deal with the situation.

Let me turn now to a number of questions of interest on which I should like to say a word, such as rationing, summer-time, labour and the call-up, and particular crops such as potatoes, onions, carrots etc.

First Rationing. The scheme we have introduced is complicated, necessarily so I am afraid, because of the great diversity of conditions on individual farms, hardly any two of which present the same problem, and because of the need to begin in the middle of the farming year. We are having our teething troubles. That was bound to happen. But I believe we are gradually getting over them. With patience and good will on all sides we shall succeed.

/Some

Some may say: why have a rationing scheme? The answer is threefold. In the first place conditions on individual farms have changed in the last few years. Distribution of feeding stuffs based on conditions of 1939 is no longer suitable in 1941. That is one reason why we have these agricultural returns at more frequent intervals. There was another on March 4th. May I take this opportunity to appeal to you to make those returns carefully and accurately.

It is not only that we may obtain figures that are reliable - an important matter at all times, but particularly so just now when the nation must give such careful thought to the state of its larder. But also accurate returns are necessary to ensure equitable distribution of the very limited supplies of feeding stuffs that are available. Your rations will be distributed on the basis of these returns. A few may be found - for there are black sheep in every flock - of such low public spirit that they would deliberately inflate the numbers of their livestock returned to get more rations or understate stocks of cereals on the farm. Such men, of course, would be robbing their fellow farmers of feeding stuffs they badly need just as much as if they stole them out of the barn. I do not anticipate much difficulty of that kind from such an industry as yours. But should there be any so base, I would remind them that there are very heavy penalties for such anti-social behaviour and we have provided a means of checking up on any suspected cases.

To revert to the other reason for introducing a rationing scheme; available supplies are in fact considerably less than the potential demand and therefore it is essential to have some machinery that will enable these reduced supplies to be distributed fairly as between the large purchaser and the small purchaser; between the man who could pay cash and the man who had to ask for credit. Thirdly, we must direct the feeding stuffs to those kinds of livestock which in the national interest have the best claim, i.e. dairy cows and working horses, agricultural and urban, must have priority over beef cattle and sheep, and these in turn over pigs and poultry.

But I would like to emphasise once again that a rationing scheme does not of itself create rations. The feeding stuffs situation is becoming increasingly serious. As you will have seen from the press announcement the present unit value of the coupon will have to be reduced by half as from April 1st. Further reductions in the ration may well, and probably will, come, although the near approach of the grass feeding season may postpone this evil day. This will mean that the numbers of our livestock will have to be adjusted so that a larger acreage of our land can directly grow human food. It is most important that farmers should realise this and know that the time is on the way when they must cut down the numbers of their livestock to keep the remainder properly fed. With the best will in the world our shipping resources will be unable to maintain, let alone increase, the supplies of imported feeding stuffs. There will be less. So any farmer who is hanging on to his stock in the hope of an improvement in the imported feeding stuffs position will, I fear, get an unpleasant surprise. The advice I would give you, although it is advice you will hardly welcome, is that you should begin thinking now about the possibility of having to cut down. I have repeatedly stressed in all my public utterances the need to become more and more self-supporting. Any poultryman, for example, whose birds become broody or go off their lay would do well to cull them ruthlessly. There will be less food for pigs and for sheep. Even your famous beef herds may have to be reduced, and you would do well to begin now selecting the best from the worst. Stock will have to be fed more economically, making the maximum use of roughages, swill or other waste materials and fat stock will have to be turned out in a leaner and less finished condition. Grass fatteners of cattle, for example, should not wait until their beasts are fully fat, and cause a glut in the autumn, but bring out more at a less mature stage in the summer. There is scope too for more efficient use of the pastures that remain. In peace time a good deal of our grassland was not fully utilised. The experience under the drought conditions of last summer has pointed the way. With 4 million acres less grassland we cannot afford pre-war wastage, but every acre must be fully stocked this summer, and helped to do this by a judicious application of fertilisers.

/My Department

My Department is already busy on the problem of reduction, devising methods whereby flocks and herds could be reduced with the least individual hardship and with fairness to all, decently and in order. We made a start on pigs. You read on Monday that to encourage the earlier marketing of pigs we are offering a higher price for a limited period. I shall look also to the great breed societies who have done so much to make British bloodstock highly prized all over the world, to co-operate in this. We shall see to it that our livestock, whatever casualties they may suffer in war, are in a position afterwards to replenish not only our own flocks and herds, but to supply the requirements of buyers overseas who have to come here if they want the best. As some consolation for our troubles, the standard of our livestock may well be even higher in the coming years because of the necessity to cull drastically the more unsatisfactory animals in the present emergency.

I am not a little worried at reports I get to the effect that some milk producers are rather complacent about the situation, thinking that, since milk has priority, all the feeding stuffs will be available for its production. They apparently assume that if any shortage occurs, it will be met by cutting down everyone else but themselves. A few go even further and adopt what I may call a dog-in-the-manger attitude. They assert that if the Government want the milk, they will just have to provide the feeding stuffs, and on a more generous scale than at present. Gentlemen, our life as a nation depends today upon our ships. Much as we want the milk, there is no doubt what the answer would be if it came to a straight decision between full milk supplies or losing the war. The few, and I am glad that they are only a few, who talk in that rather irresponsible way do not see the problem clearly. They are really saying that, to save themselves extra trouble and effort, our fighting forces are to go short of aeroplanes, tanks and munitions and we are to risk losing the war and sacrifice thousands of lives so that they may produce milk under the comfortable peace-time conditions. I say to you again, dairy farmers included, don't count upon the arrival of the rations lorry. You are only safe if you grow your own requirements. Begin making plans immediately, if you have not done so already, for self-sufficiency. We must produce at home the raw material to make the milk. The difficulty in this respect, I know, is to grow protein. Beans can only be grown on heavy land, and spring beans are an uncertain crop. There are, of course, other alternatives, peas, kale etc. Their possibilities should be borne in mind where the land is suitable. Silage is the best hope in many cases. I am glad that so many more are now using this excellent method of making in summer a high quality feeding stuff that, in its best form, can be preserved for winter use to replace concentrates. It needs care in making and, as in most things, experience pays. But the rules are simple and the process and equipment cheap,

So much for cutting down, which is never a very pleasant thing to have to think about. But our war-time policy means expansion also and in other directions we want every ounce of the crops you are being encouraged to produce - not only cereals and roots but also sugar beet, onions, carrots and potatoes. The new prices are reasonable, in some cases even generous. You are asked in this part of the country to grow largely increased acreages of onions. The Ministry of Food have promised to buy the whole crop at £25 a ton. At that price even the inexperienced man should get a very good return. The same is true of carrots. Again the Ministry of Food will buy the whole crop fit for human consumption at prices ranging from £6 in the autumn to £9 a ton in May. Again the price should amply cover the cost of production. We have arranged for the school holidays to be adjusted so that there will be ample supply of juvenile labour to help in the planting. Potatoes are an expensive crop to grow and many farmers may need finance before the crop is sold. As I told you some while ago the Banks have promised to finance the increased food production campaign. The new guarantee of a market and satisfactory prices should enable the potato, onion and carrot crops to be financed easily during the progress of the growing season. I hope that with this encouragement farmers will not hesitate any longer to ensure the increased acreage the nation needs.

With regard to spring cropping, I might mention that the nation's need of cereals is in this order - wheat, barley, oats. I have never found a farmer who is particularly fond of spring wheat, but there are probably certain areas where it is worth growing. The improved varieties of seed now available have made it a much less uncertain crop than it was. I hope, too, that no land in the present emergency on which it is at all possible to grow a reasonable crop or a catch crop will be left fallow.

/Next

Next fertilisers. Be generous with the fertilisers. To be content with a middling crop these days is not only unpatriotic, it is false economy. At the current prices of fertilisers and the prices guaranteed, the most profitable thing will be to apply enough fertiliser to grow the heaviest crop that will stand on its legs until harvest. Top dressings of cereals can be applied any time up to the first week in May. Late top-dressings are particularly valuable for heavy crops liable to lodging, since they give little increase in straw but a heavier yield in grain. I was impressed by the remark of a farmer recently who had been ploughing derelict land where nothing but solid chalk is found when the four or five inches of top soil are peeled off. He grew crops of barley that paid him last year on the worst of that soil. This is what he said: "I wouldn't have worked at it before the war. Only Hitler and the County Executive Officer drove me into it. But it has taught me a lot. I have learnt that with modern implements and our latest knowledge of fertilisers you can plough almost anything and get a decent crop".

There have, I know, been delays in the deliveries of sulphate of ammonia. This has now been dealt with. Special measures have been taken and, as a result, I am informed that orders have been caught up and practically all those outstanding were delivered by the end of last week. The way is clear, although there is not much time, to order more sulphate. As regards superphosphate and compounds I am afraid no new orders can be fulfilled this season, for the producers of these fertilisers have already orders on their books for every ton they can produce for delivery before the end of April. I may remark in passing that despite great difficulties we have succeeded in making available this year quantities well in excess of last year and still more than the year before.

Now about Summer Time. I am fully aware of the farmers' objections. I sat for an agricultural constituency in the North in the 1924 Parliament, and I well remember the arguments that used to go on then. Last year we had Summer Time extended through the winter. That added very materially to farmers' difficulties. But they were faced willingly, and overcome. Now we are to have two hours Summer Time instead of one, though fortunately it is limited to the three months May, June, July and the first nine days of August. (3rd May - 9th August) The decision the Cabinet had to take was no easy one. There were strong arguments both ways. The case was examined in the greatest detail, I can assure you. On the one hand you have essential munitions industries such as aircraft production - vital if we want to win. Every hour's daylight is priceless. Docks - every additional hour's daylight means a quicker turn round of our ships. What with losses, diversions, etc. we must make the maximum use of what tonnage we have available. The shorter the ship's stay in port the more voyages it can make in a year. Railways - you have all felt yourselves, in the matter of fertilisers, what delays on a railway mean. Every additional hour of daylight means better and quicker clearance of the marshalling yards, and so on. On the other hand are the admitted difficulties of agriculture, troubles about milk, delay owing to the dew in getting the hay in, the problem of the man who has to get up by the clock but go to bed by the sun. Very serious considerations especially at a time when we are asking for ever increased efforts to produce food. Well as I said, the most careful thought was given to all aspects of the problem and we finally came to the conclusion that on a balance of national interest in war time the undoubted advantages of an added hour of summer time outweighed the admitted disadvantages. I do not conceal from you or from myself that among the farming community the decision is bound to be unpopular. However, I am sure that you will accept it as being in the nation's best interest, and that you will make whatever effort is needed to overcome and conquer the difficulties in which many of you will undoubtedly be involved this summer. If it's any consolation to you I may tell you that the original proposal was for the period to run from April 1st to September 30th. May to the beginning of August is better, at all events, than that.

A final word about labour. As I have been at pains to make clear in every speech I have made, the increased food production campaign in itself rendered more labour essential. For the most part we must look for help to women. I am glad to be able to tell you that recruiting for the Women's Land Army is proceeding steadily. What is even more encouraging is that demands from farmers are coming in even faster still. As I said at Chelmsford, I do not know whether farmers generally appreciate that if a farmer can himself find a suitable girl and can provide proper facilities for training it is possible for him to arrange in approved cases for the girl, if she is willing, to be enrolled in the Women's Land Army. When this has been done, he can go ahead with the training as if the Women's Land Army had supplied the girl in the first instance and for the training period he will receive an allowance of 15/s. a week for her board and lodging if she lives on the farm while she will receive from the Government a personal allowance of 10s. a week.

I commend to your notice the remarks of Mr. Tom Jones, Chairman of the Shropshire National Farmers' Union branch. He appeals to all women in the rural areas of Shropshire to help plant the 15,000 acres of potatoes the farmers of the county are going to grow this year. By working from 9 a.m. until noon and from 2 to 4 p.m. Mr. Jones contends that five women would plant as many potatoes as an ordinary farmer would ridge up and cover with a single ridge plough in a day. By working these hours the housewife would have time to prepare the family meals. No farmer would object to paying a fair wage. "Ladies," says Mr. Jones, "Go to it."

I am sure that a great deal could be done by local appeals by the National Farmers' Union to women, especially to those in country areas who have been evacuated from our bombed towns.

On the other hand when enormous numbers of young men are wanted as soldiers, sailors and airmen and every industry (including the munitions industry) is being called on to contribute its share it would be wrong and certainly not in the interests of the industry itself for agriculture alone to make no further contribution. The boot is indeed rather on the other foot. As I travel round the country I am continually being told of the sons of farmers and of men who regard it as a grievance that they are not allowed to volunteer.

Some time ago a couple of young farmers went to enlist. When they were asked their job they said farmers. They were told to go back and get on with their work. They had a consultation and went again later and when asked the same question they simply said sportsmen and gentlemen. To-day they are in the Army and doing great work and loving it. I know that there are thousands of men on farms all over the country who are longing to get into uniform and get at the enemy, but I would like to emphasise that their highest responsibility to-day is their work on the land. They must remember that responsibility without glory calls for a very special kind of courage. As you know, we are going to keep the key men on the farms and I would just say to these key men, cheer up. If they do their job as well as they can, they are doing as good a job as anyone in the war. After all, whenever it is reported that bombs were dropped but fell in rural areas, we all feel relieved. But it does mean that the bombs fell on farms. I know one county in the south of England where they have had 7,000 bombs on their fields and farm buildings. So that there is no need to grumble because the job is too safe. Remember that our soldiers, sailors and airmen are fighting brilliantly all over the world. If they have any fear it is about their people at home. If the key men of agriculture can see that the wives and children of the fighting men have plenty of good, nourishing, fresh food in spite of active service farming, then they can be perfectly happy that they are doing their bit. If they insist on doing more than can join the Home Guard, and then if Hitler tries invasion the Germans will I am sure find what the Yeoman of England can do when they are playing on their home ground.

Nevertheless I know that many farmers are worried at the prospect of losing men owing to the call-up, and especially at not knowing yet which men they are to lose.

I have had further talks with the Minister of Labour and National Service about this difficulty. I am glad to be able to say that in view of the importance of food production and the labour requirements during the next few months, the Minister of Labour has been able to see his way to agreeing that no-one shall be called up from a farm till after the harvest. The necessary machinery will be put

into operation to select the men who will be called up so that the farmer will know as soon as possible whom he is likely to lose after the harvest. He can thus take steps to get members of the Women's Land Army to train during the intervening period.

There is one word of warning I have been asked by the Minister of Labour to add, though I hope it is unnecessary. Farmers will, of course, derive no advantages if in anticipation of the call-up they stand off older men to try and protect their sons from military service. In other words anyone who attempts to retain his younger workers, and particularly sons, by standing off older men will derive no advantages and will be treated in the same way as if they had kept on their older workers.

I hope this announcement will serve to allay any misapprehensions among the farming community that may still exist. With the whole existing labour force, with the volunteers from the Women's Land Army now coming forward, with Italian prisoners, refugees, and in the holidays the help of schoolchildren, the labour prospect looks less dark than it has done for some time.

I gave at Chelmsford some interesting particulars showing how the numbers of workers on agricultural holdings had actually increased materially in Essex and Suffolk between 1938 and 1940. I have had similar information taken out for Hereford, Worcester and Gloucester. All three show not, as you might imagine, decreases but actually increases between 1938 and 1940. And of course in those two years the number of tractors in the three counties has grown very materially indeed.

My final word is this. I said in a broadcast last month that unless we all work for all we are worth we may next winter hear a child say "I'm hungry." That, gentlemen, was no figure of speech. It is stark reality. I cannot sufficiently impress on you the seriousness of the situation nor the magnitude of the effort we have to make to ensure victory. I for my part will do my best to make your job as easy as war-time circumstances permit; we will do our best to provide you with the essential tools, machinery, fertilisers, a supply of labour and a reasonable return for your pains. The result, however, depends on you, individually and collectively, on you, on your wives, on your men and on their wives. I believe the country will not call on you in vain.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE.

5/3/41 - No.8.

VILLAGGIO DUCA DEGLI ABRUZZI

Villaggio Duca degli Abruzzi is an agricultural colony and experimental farm, the principal installation of the sort in Italian Somaliland.

It was founded by the Societa Agricola Italo-Somala, under the presidency of the late Duke of the Abruzzi, who is buried there.

In 1920 the Society was granted a concession of over 62,000 acres on the two banks of the Webi Shebali, in the centre of the great Somaliland plain. The river was dammed and an irrigation system installed and the area under cultivation has been steadily expanded - in 1935-6 it comprised about 10,500 acres given over to cotton, grain (with two harvests a year), cane sugar, bananas, maize, fruit and vegetables.

Farming is on modern lines and tractors have replaced the local oxen - a step which was virtually enforced by the increase of the tse-tse fly due to irrigation. There is a sugar factory and a distillery on the spot, and the labourers live in 16 model villages and are all small holders: altogether the population numbers some 9,000 of whom 200 are Italians.

The place is connected with Mogadishu by rail. Its capture will be invaluable to us, as it can supply the army with food and simplify the question of transport over vast distances.

MILITARY AFFAIRS (MINISTRY OF INFORMATION)

5/3/41 - No.9.

ITALIAN SOMALILAND.

While most of the interior of Italian Somaliland is unproductive and much is sheer desert, this is not true of the coastal area and land bordering the Webi Shebeli, the great river system which cuts across the country from N.W. to S.E. and then turns to follow the coast line.

This dune country, which enjoys a moderate but regular rainfall, has a light sandy soil, rich in phosphates, covered with grass which affords admirable pasturage for sheep and goats. When irrigated, the soil is immensely productive. One of the main crops is bananas, which are exported to Italy.

The trade in these is such that the exploiting company owns seven ships of 3,500 tons, specially fitted with refrigerators, etc., each carrying a cargo of 900 tons of fruit.

Another crop is cotton, which grows freely on the Juba river and in the plantations of Villaggio Duca degli Abruzzi (the yield of the latter is about 26,000 bushels): the cotton is long in the staple and peculiarly lustrous.

The Villaggio plantations produced, in 1937, over 2,000,000 bushels of sugar-cane. A crop recently exploited (10,000 bushels in 1937) is that of ground-nuts, valuable for the manufacture of vegetable oil as well as of cattle cake, etc.: since Italy was importing from abroad ground-nuts to the value of 200 million lire per annum, the development of the industry in her own colony was obviously of prime importance.

MILITARY AFFAIRS (MINISTRY OF INFORMATION).

5/3/41. No. 10.

BOMBAY'S £40,000 FOR AIRCRAFT.

The Minister of Aircraft Production acknowledges with gratitude the following gifts towards the purchase of Aircraft:-

	5.	s.	d.
The Boys, Calvert Road School, Greenwich (Proceeds of boxing contest)		10	0
Personnel of 20X Station, W.A.F.S., N.W.6.....	10	10	0
Maldon and District Spitfire Fund (second contribution; total £900)	150	0	0
A.R.N. cordite factory (second contribution; total £900)	400	0	0
Evesham Batt. Worcestershire Home Guard (collected from the people of Pershore)	1,255	18	0
York Spitfire Fund (£8,711 12s. 3d. in all)	2,711	12	3
Fur Trade of Great Britain Spitfire Fund (machine to be called "Flying Fox"; pilot of the machine to be given a specially-made thermally-insulated suit)	5,075	0	0
Bombay War Gifts Fund (£65,000 in all)	40,000	0	0

MINISTRY OF AIRCRAFT PRODUCTION.

5.3.41. No.12.

Not to be published before the morning papers of
Thursday, March 6. Not to be broadcast before
7 a.m. (B.S.T.) March 6.

ADVISER ON SOCIAL WELFARE IN WEST INDIES

It is announced by the Colonial Office that the Secretary of State for the Colonies has selected Mr. T. S. Simey, M. A., Professor of Social Science at Liverpool University, for appointment as Adviser on Social Welfare to the Comptroller for Development and Welfare in the West Indies.

Colonial Office.

The Comptroller was appointed last year as a result of the recommendations of the West India Royal Commission, of which Lord Moyne, now Secretary of State for the Colonies, was Chairman. The Comptroller (Sir Frank Stockdale) is assisted by a number of specialist Advisers - those concerned with public health, education, agriculture and labour having already been appointed.

Professor Simey, who is 34, is a graduate of Oxford University and a qualified solicitor. He has had practical experience of Municipal Government in this country, and was Lecturer in Public Administration at Liverpool University from 1931 to 1939, when he was appointed to his present professorship. Since the outbreak of war he has been doing special work for the Ministry of Labour and the British Council.

5/3/41 - No.13.

GOVERNMENT PURCHASE OF WARE POTATOES.

The Government have had under consideration the question of the marketing of the remaining stocks in Great Britain of the 1940 crop of potatoes. The arrangements at present in force are that the Ministry of Food purchase from time to time ware potatoes which are surplus to the requirements of the market for human consumption or which are showing signs of deterioration, and will buy any sound marketable surplus which remains on growers' hands at the end of the season. Apart from these arrangements, the grower is expected to find his own market.

It has now been decided to relieve the farmer of the risk of being unable to find a market for his ware potatoes. The Ministry of Food will accordingly be prepared to buy from any grower the whole of his remaining stocks of marketable ware for immediate or future delivery (at the option of the Ministry of Food) at the minimum prices appropriate for the grade and district concerned at the date of removal of the potatoes from the farm. Growers who wish to take advantage of this offer should notify the Director of Potato Supplies, St. John's College, Oxford, as soon as possible and in any case not later than 30th April next, indicating the approximate tonnage for sale. The Ministry of Food if it so desires will have the corresponding right of purchasing the whole of the remaining stocks of any grower at minimum prices on the above basis. Where the Ministry does not exercise this right, those growers who prefer to continue to find their own market are, of course, at liberty to do so and in their case any surplus left on their hands at the end of the season will be eligible for purchase by the Ministry of Food. The price for this surplus, as already announced, will be the mid-season (January - February 1941) minimum growers' price for the lowest grade of potatoes in the district where grown.

As regards the 1941 crop, it is not possible to prescribe prices and other arrangements in detail until an estimate of the yield of the crop can be made. The Government, however, renew the statement made on 13th December, 1939, that growers will be enabled to obtain a remunerative return on their potato crop as a whole. The principle of relieving the grower of the risk of being unable to find a market for his crop will be maintained and adequate arrangements to this end will be made.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTRY OF FOOD.

TEXT OF BROADCAST BY LORD ADDISON IN THE
"FIVE TO ONE" SERIES, HOME SERVICE, MARCH 5, 1941.

I want to talk for five minutes about something that matters almost more than anything else in the proper use of land, except the competence of the farmer himself.

It is confidence. An assurance in the mind of the farmer and labourer alike, that if they do their work properly they may rely upon obtaining a decent living.

Such an assurance must also cover a sufficient time ahead. Because when a man has done his best he must still rely upon the forces of nature which take their time. The wind and the rain, the sunshine and the frost must play their parts and the times of their coming are not of man's appointing.

This makes it the more important that there should be a system of prices under which, after the long period nature ordains, the cultivator will find that he has not laboured at a loss.

There are millions- yes millions - of acres of good land in this country that are not producing as much food as they could and as they ought. Everybody knows it. I do not mean fancy food products, but things that the land, if properly treated, is suited to produce and that the people need.

This widespread under-cultivation has been responsible for the disastrous decline of our lovely countryside.

The land, as we say, has been 'let go' gradually getting worse; starved of the food it needs; the beneficent plough withheld; the drains becoming more and more choked, and poor grasses and weeds crowding out the nutritious herbage. All revealing to those of us who have eyes to see, that here is neglect - a neglect that bespeaks a lack of enterprise and confidence.

The industry just now is making heroic efforts to redeem this neglect. They are all engaged, from the Minister in Whitehall to the tractor-driver in the field. We shall produce much more food this year than we did last, and more still next year. But, as I said Nature demands time.

Two years, three years, even more in some cases, of expenditure and labour will be needed to get much of the land into fruitful order so that confidence in the future is imperative if the work and expenditure are to be courageously undertaken.

I believe that the industry can have that confidence today more surely than at any time I remember. I will tell you why.

By agreement with all Parties the Government has given assurances for the duration of the war and a year after. But it has taken a far more important decision in resolving to try and frame a policy commanding the support of all parties that is designed to secure the prosperous use of British land in the future.

It is indeed right that, in this time of inspiring national agreement to fight together in the defence of liberty, we should make so noble an endeavour. I believe most sincerely that there is enough goodwill and enough good sense amongst men of all parties to make agreement possible. It is right and necessary also to make the attempt now and thereby establish arrangements that will not be undone in any post-war reaction.

If, out of the hope that stirs in all of us for a safer, saner world : hereafter, we achieve, as I believe we shall, an agreement that leads to the restoration of our neglected fields and life amongst them, we shall indeed provide for coming generations a noble heritage and a recompense for our present suffering.

My message, therefore, today is - Be of good cheer and go forward with confidence.

5/3/41 - No.16.

BREAD SUBSIDY: EXTENSION OF PERIOD.

The arrangements for the payment of the bread subsidy were originally made for three months from December 2nd, 1940, to February 28th, 1941.

The period will be extended for a further two months from March 1st to April 30th, 1941. Claim forms in respect of the second eight weeks of the subsidy, i.e. from January 26th to March 22nd, 1941, inclusive, will be available at Local Food Offices on March 22nd.

There has been considerable delay in making claims for the first eight weeks of the subsidy, i.e. from December 2nd, 1940, to January 25th, 1941, inclusive, and the Ministry of Food urges bakers to send in their claims as soon as possible. The Ministry cannot recognise claims for payment indefinitely, and all claim forms for the first eight weeks must be returned before Saturday, March 22nd.

MINISTRY OF FOOD.

5/3/41. No.17.

FLASH.

It is learnt in London that a second enemy bomber was destroyed by anti-aircraft gunfire last night. Both enemy aircraft fell into the sea, one off the coast of South Wales and the other off the Kent coast.

5/3/41. No.18.

TEA FOR INDUSTRIAL, BUSINESS AND CLERICAL WORKERS.

The Ministry of Food has extended for a further period the arrangements by which groups of industrial, business and clerical workers may obtain tea for consumption during their working hours.

Retailers who hold current forms for the supply of tea for this purpose, many of which are on the point of expiring, may regard these as extended for a further period of eight weeks. There is no need for the time being to apply to the Local Food Offices for the renewal of forms.

MINISTRY OF FOOD.

BRITISH PILOT CAPTURES 100.

An East African correspondent describes how one of our pilots took prisoner 100 enemy natives in Abyssinia.

He was on a reconnaissance flight when he saw the "Banda" scattering in the bush. When he dived to machine-gun them they raised the white flag and immediately formed themselves apparently to march off to the nearest British post.

The pilot again dived to assure himself of the enemy's good intentions, whereupon the native soldiers, misconstruing his motives threw down their weapons and raised their hands. The pilot signalled to the British post and circled about the "Banda" until their capture was completed.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

AIR MINISTRY NO. 3192

5/3/41 - No.21.

H.Q., R.A.F. Middle East, Wednesday March 5

MIDDLE EAST COMMUNIQUE.

Bomber aircraft of the R.A.F. yesterday attacked enemy warships off Himare. A large formation of enemy fighters escorting the warships was engaged by our fighters. Nine of the enemy aircraft were shot down and others damaged. Another attack was made by our bombers on enemy warships off Valona.

On all fronts in Italian East Africa air support by both bomber and fighter aircraft was given to our advancing troops.

From all these operations two of our aircraft have not yet returned.

PHYSICAL TRAINING FOR YOUNG WORKERS.

The First Investigation.

Details of the first investigation for physical training and recreation during working hours are announced today (Wednesday) by the Board of Education.

A scheme was started last Monday at the Parks Works of Messrs Mather & Platts Ltd., of Manchester to test the effects of daily periods of P.T. during working hours on the continued physical well-being and productive capacity in the workshop. It is hoped that similar investigations will shortly be conducted by Messrs. Montague Burtons Ltd., of Leeds and by other firms, all working in close cooperation with the Board of Education and Local Education Authorities.

This scheme was drawn up by a highly expert body, including the Director of Education for Manchester, H.M. Inspectors for Physical and Technical Training, the Schools Medical Officer of Health, the Chief Inspector of Schools for Manchester, the Chief Organiser of Physical Training for Manchester, the Employment Manager at the Parks Works, the Principal of the Parks Works Day Continuation School, and the firm's P.T. Instructor.

48 boy apprentices of 16 years of age are selected at each centre and divided into two groups of 24 each, each group being arranged to represent a fair cross-section of worker, every step being taken to ensure equality in the grading of the two groups.

One group are given 45 minutes P.T. per day on six days a week for three months. The other group will have no P.T. and will remain at work. The two groups will be compared by three tests applied at the beginning and end of the three months period, consisting of a very thorough medical examination, intelligence tests, and reports on the amount of production.

The medical examination was arranged by Dr. Woolham, the Medical Officer to the Manchester Local Education Authority, and Lord Dawson of Penn, who was present, expressed his admiration for the scheme. Miss Marian Kaye, an Inspector of Schools under the Manchester Local Education Authority, is responsible for the intelligence tests. The physical training will cover a complete course of exercises and gymnastic work, but the recreational side is to be emphasised and will include games, boxing, wrestling and athletic work. The games will include relay races, individual ball games and team ball games such as handball, post ball, circular pillar ball, scrimmage, skittle ball and rugby touch.

Weekly reports will be made by the Production Department of the firm, giving the efficiency figures of each boy under observation and a more detailed report will be made monthly covering such points as intelligence and initiative, quality of work done and general conduct.

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BOARD OF EDUCATION.

5/3/41 - NO: 23.

STATEMENT FOR PUBLICATION

An arrangement was recently concluded between the United Kingdom and Sweden, whereby five Swedish ships, one of these sailing from a United Kingdom port, will be permitted to enter Gothenburg from overseas every month. It is a condition of this arrangement that none of these ships will call at any enemy or enemy controlled port, further, that for every vessel entering the Baltic one must previously have sailed from that area. The continuation of this traffic depends on these vessels not being interfered with in any way by the enemy.

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC WARFARE

5.3.41. - No. 24.

CAIRO COMMUNIQUE.

The following official communique was issued at G.H.Q., Cairo:-

LIBYA, ERITREA AND
ITALIAN SOMALILAND

- Nothing of importance to report.

ABYSSINIA

-- In the Gojjam patriot forces yesterday occupied the important Italian fort of BURYE and are now harassing the Italian column which is withdrawing towards DEBRA MARCOS. In this area 1,500 Italian irregular and 200 Colonial troops have deserted with their weapons to join the patriots.

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MILITARY AFFAIRS (Ministry of Information)

5/3/41 - NO: 25.

CONCENTRATION OF PRODUCTION

Discussions with
F.B.I.

The President of the Board of Trade has discussed with the Federation of British Industries the Government's policy of bringing about the concentration of production in certain industries. The conditions which will have to be satisfied by firms in carrying out this policy were considered.

The Federation of British Industries' representatives expressed their readiness to explain the policy of H.M. Government to their members, and to help their members to work out the necessary arrangements as requested by the Board of Trade.

BOARD OF TRADE.

The Press Service of the Free French states that General de Larminat, High Commissioner for Free French Africa, has received a visit from Sir Bernard Bourdillon, Governor of Nigeria, who has just completed a few days' stay in Brazzaville capital of Free French Equatorial Africa. Governor-General Ebroué was among the military and civil representatives who welcomed Sir Bernard, who was accompanied by the British Consul-General and Colonel Williams, head of the British Mission. He also visited the Military School of Colonna d'Ornano, the St. Cyr of Free French Africa, from which will come France's future military leaders. Sir Bernard was received by the commander of the school and after touring the classrooms he was cheered by the cadets, who sang the Marseillaise and "God save the King."

Sir Bernard's visit took place at the moment that the forces of Free French Equatorial Africa captured Kufra, thus further strengthening the bonds of friendship and the collaboration between the British territories and the French colonies which have rallied to General de Gaulle.

Ministry of Information.

The Free French Press Service states:-

Now that the Free French Forces have captured Kufra it is interesting to recall certain passages from the book written by Marshal Graziani, called "Paix Romaine-en-Libye", which was published after his forces had captured Kufra in 1931. The oasis of Kufra had been defended by a few Arab troops and after making considerable preparations and employing 7,000 camels, several thousand camel drivers, artillery units, 20 aeroplanes, 300 lorries and armoured car units, the Italians took Kufra after an "herios" battle lasting three hours.

Marshal Graziani wrote: "Now we can say without fear of contradiction that the occupation by force of Kufra is the first Saharan operation ever undertaken which undeniably gives us first place in desert operations and is the fruit of methodical organisation. I am talking about the miracle of organisation which stupifies our English and French neighbours. None can boast of **ever having** undertaken a Saharan campaign like this with such small forces in the immense Fezzan Desert. The French cannot hope to compare with us. With pride we can affirm our absolute superiority which will stun our severest critics beyond the Alps and overseas".

He concluded: "Kufra is a step in the great symbolic march towards the realisation of the great indestructible destiny of Italy. Kufra is symbolic of the race which is rising and being created by looking further afield".

It is worth noting that Kufra was well fortified and defended by a strong Italian force instead of a few natives, as was the case in 1931. Moreover, the French force which took Kufra had to cross 600 miles of desert and had not at its disposal as many camels, aeroplanes and armoured cars as the Italians had in their carefully-planned attack.

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MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

5.3.41. No.28.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED BEFORE THE MORNING PAPERS OF THURSDAY
6TH MARCH, /OR TO BE BROADCAST BEFORE 7 A.M. OF THAT DATE.

1941

TRADING WITH THE ENEMY.

BULGARIA.

The Board of Trade announce that Bulgaria is enemy territory for the purposes of Trading with the Enemy Act.

It is accordingly a punishable offence to have commercial, financial or other intercourse or dealings with or for the benefit of any person in that territory.

Inquiries should be addressed to the Trading with the Enemy Branch, 24, Kingsway, London. W.C. 2.

BOARD OF TRADE.

PICTURES OF WAR SUBJECTS.IMPORTANT ADDITIONS TO NATIONAL GALLERY ON VIEW TOMORROW.

The latest pictures added to the collection of war subjects commissioned or purchased on the recommendation of the Ministry of Information Artists' Advisory Committee are to be shown to the public for the first time tomorrow, Thursday, 6th March. They more than fill Gallery XIV, by no means one of the smallest rooms in the National Gallery, and form a substantial addition to the rapidly growing collection.

The "Blitz" is once again the subject of many of the new pictures, but the Services, particularly the Royal Air Force, are also very well represented.

Two new series of water colours, "Marching against Britain" - crashed German aircraft - and "Flying against Germany", are contributed by Mr. Paul Nash. Among them are two finely conceived imaginative renderings of the bombing of Berlin and of Le Havre, and a particularly good moonlight subject. Mr. Richard Eurich's very detailed and convincing picture of an air battle over Portland is based on an actual incident in September of last year when over forty German aeroplanes were brought down in a very short time; Mr. Roy Nockold's realistic picture of three British fighters attacking a formation of Junkers and his "Night Fighters" are other useful additions to the air subjects.

More than a dozen new portraits by Mr. Kennington of airmen who have distinguished themselves in action against the enemy show the artist in his very best vein.

Lord Gort and General Auchinleck (hung in the vestibule) are the subjects of portraits by Mr. R.G. Eves, who also contributes a painting of a recruiting Sergeant - Sergeant Scutt. Mr. Barnett Freedman's picture of coast defence guns under camouflage netting is a highly successful addition to the army subjects in the collection; it is impressive not only by reason of its size but also because of the vivid sense of reality with which the scene is portrayed. Mr. Harry Morley contributes a painting of a scene at the Royal Armoured Corps School and Mr. Michael Ford, himself a Home Guard, is represented by a subject typical of Home Guard activities in the countryside. Miss Frances Macdonald's picture of the X-Ray Department at the Queen Alexandra Hospital, Millbank, shows an important aspect of Army Medical and nursing activities.

Four new drawings by Sir Muirhead Bone, three of them depicting everyday incidents on board a battleship in war time, are certain to be of special interest. Outstanding among the Naval subjects are two important pictures by Mr. Charles Pears; one shows the shelling of a convoy in the English Channel and the other the action in which the "Jervis Bay" so gallantly distinguished herself. There are two pictures by Mr. Cundall, which have not been seen before, one of a minesweeper and the other of "Liberty boats".

Outstanding among the many air-raid subjects are the group of paintings of bombed churches by Mr. John Piper, who has tackled his latest subjects in the same imaginative vein as the "Coventry Cathedral" already hanging in Gallery XVII.

A particularly striking water colour of a fire in a Bristol street, at which the artist was present, is contributed by Mr. Frank Dobson; other examples of events recorded by one who saw them take place are the A.R.P. subjects (hanging in Gallery XVI) by Mr. Clifford Hall, who is himself actively engaged in this branch of civilian defence. Pictures of damage caused by air bombing are contributed by Mr. James Miller, for Scotland (Gallery XVI), by Mr. Gillet (Gallery XVI), Miss Wilszczynski and Lord Methuen; the drawing of St. Bride's by the last-named and Professor Randolph Schwabe's "Guildhall" are of special interest for their subjects as well as for their artistic merit. Miss Gabain's delightful portrait of a woman A.F.S. worker (in the vestibule) and her poignant drawing "Bombed out" (in Gallery XVI) are other very useful additions to the pictures of the "Blitz".

The manufacture of armaments and munitions is well represented in the present collection by a series of admirable water colours by Mr. R.V. Pitchforth of activities in war factories, treated in the same bold manner as his drawings of bombed buildings already in the exhibition, and by Mr. Graham Sutherland's finely designed picture of breech blocks at a gun testing range. Women's activities in the countryside, from dairy work to knitting parties, are the subject of four convincing paintings by Miss Evelyn Dunbar. The good work being done by the Newfoundland lumberjacks in Scotland has been recorded by a resident Scottish artist, Mr. D.N. Sutherland (2 pictures in the vestibule), and a scene at a Scottish War Weapons Week in Paisley, including a crashed Messerschmitt, is the subject of a lively drawing by another Scottish artist, Mr. Alexander Macpherson (in Gallery XVI).

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MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

5/3/41 - NO: 30

H.M. Government have decided that they must now regard Bulgaria as territory under enemy occupation.

As from March 5th, 1941, therefore, Bulgaria will be regarded as an enemy destination for contraband purposes and all goods of Bulgarian origin or ownership will be liable to seizure.

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC WARFARE

Please check against
actual broadcast

5.3.41 No. 31.

TEXT OF BROADCAST IN THE 9 O'CLOCK NEWS BULLETIN HOME SERVICE WEDNESDAY
EVENING MARCH 5, 1941.

FINANCES OF NEWFOUNDLAND

By

Hon. J.H. PENSON M.C.
(Commissioner for Finance)

The part being played by this Ancient Land of English, Irish, Scottish and Channel Islands descent is almost as much in the economic and financial as in the military field. The spirit of the Newfoundland people has risen to the needs of the crisis in this sphere also. In the last war, indeed, the spirit outran the resources of the country, and the war effort of our people was largely the cause of the financial difficulties of ten years ago.

Those financial difficulties, as you know, led to a political change and the temporary suspension of Newfoundland's Parliamentary Government. Alongside of this, came the generous help of the Mother Country in the form of the guarantee of Newfoundland's debt and annual subventions to meet local expenditure. Before the present war these subventions were increased to finance economic and social developments in the Island, and two years ago, Newfoundland relied on a grant of five million dollars or over a million pounds mainly for these purposes.

Since the outbreak of war this has been changed. There is a strong public feeling that this is not the time to cast financial burdens upon the Mother Country. The first war budget in the fall of 1939 accordingly resulted in a big deduction of the subventions. After the collapse of France, Newfoundlanders were determined to pay the guaranteed loan interest themselves. To do this a war loan was raised, and heavily over-subscribed in less than a week.

Then in July, 1940, the Government formally undertook not to ask the United Kingdom for any help to balance its budget, if at all possible, during the remainder of the war. Taxation was further increased and a campaign for War Savings. Certificates launched. Last November a further supplementary budget was announced, imposing still higher taxation, in order that this undertaking should be carried into effect without raising any further loan. Every one of these steps received strongest popular support.

Our revenue as a result of these changes is now nearly fifteen million dollars as compared with eleven million dollars before the war. Expenditure which was seventeen million dollars two years ago is now less than fifteen million dollars, although this includes war-time expenditure on local defence, and nearly a million dollars paid each year to wipe off the public debt of the past which Britain guaranteed.

You have very likely heard something of the economic difficulties of Newfoundland since the last war, and particularly during the depression ten years ago. Newfoundland is a producer of primary products, and although we have many things the world wants, the loss of many old markets and other difficulties have now to be met. Nevertheless, unemployment had fallen by fifty per cent last summer, and is thirty per cent less now than a year ago. Now industries are developing. One of the most interesting is the building of small vessels for trade and other purposes. We would not say in Newfoundland that we are anything but a poor country still: but the people are determined to do their part with all the means of men and material that nature has given.

You may ask, how is our administration standing up to the strain? I believe that our economic controls are generally regarded as working efficiently. Exchange control - one of the most difficult of these - works in close co-operation with that of Canada. Newfoundland is a dollar country. We are conscious of our dollar responsibilities, and are glad to be helping Canada, and thus Britain, in this important task. Recently a special tax was imposed favouring the use of goods from Great Britain. We know, too, that the payment of our debt interest and sinking fund is all the more important because we pay it in England in dollars.

We intend to pay over two million dollars for interest and sinking fund next June, whilst meeting our other expenses without outside assistance. To help in this war savings certificates are being sold up and down the country, in the smallest fishing settlements as well as in the towns. The people are as loyal as they are generous. Voluntary organisations have subscribed for a number of Spitfires already, and other special funds have been raised both for meeting needs here, and for comforts for our sailors and troops overseas.

Newfoundlanders are making a big effort. They want to find ways of doing more, within their power. They, on their side, have gained something in return. There has been a gradual restoring of confidence and self-reliance in these eighteen months of war, and this is the best hope for the future.

DOMINIONS OFFICE.

5/3/41 - No. 32.

The Free French Press Service announces that to mark the capture of Kufra General de Gaulle has awarded the Croix de la Liberation to Col. Leclerc, commander of the Free French forces which captured the fort, to whom he sent the following message: "The hearts of all Frenchmen are with you and with your troops. I congratulate you in their name on the magnificent success at Kufra. You have just shown the enemy that he has not finished with the French Army. The glorious troops of Free Chad and their leader are on the road to victory."

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

5.3.41 - No.33.

REGISTER OF WHOLESALERS OF EGGS.

A large number of wholesalers, who are eligible for registration, have not yet replied to the Ministry of Food Circular requiring them to register as wholesalers. Briefly the necessary qualifications are that a wholesaler shall have been in business in this country for the whole of the year ended August 31st, 1939, shall possess warehouse accommodation and adequate collection and delivery facilities, shall have not less than 50 egg accounts with retailers and have sold by wholesale not less than 7,500 hundreds of eggs during the period stated above.

Wholesalers, who possess these qualifications and have not yet returned the form of registration, should do so as early as possible. The Ministry wishes it to be clearly understood that the final closing date for this registration will be March 8th, 1941.

MINISTRY OF FOOD.

5.3.41 - No. 34.

NORTHERN IRELAND CONGRATULATES GENERAL WAVELL.

The following message has been conveyed to Secretary of State for War by the Speaker of the House of Commons of Northern Ireland at the unanimous request of the House:-

"On this, the earliest opportunity after the opening of Parliament, the members of the House of Commons of Northern Ireland unanimously wish to express their intense admiration for the heroic Imperial Forces composing the Army of the Nile, only matched by the wonderful deeds of gallantly performed by the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force. Right hon. and hon. members also wish to extend heartiest congratulations to those forces which are so successfully carrying on operations in Eritrea, Abyssinia and Italian Somaliland, surmounting all difficulties and inflicting heavy defeats on the enemy on all fronts. They have watched with particular pride the prominent part taken in all these operations by our Forces from all parts of the British Empire.

(Signed) Harry Mulholland. Speaker"

The message has been telegraphed by the Secretary of State to General Wavell.

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WAR OFFICE.

Issued by Naval Affairs for
such use as the Press may wish
to make of it.

5/3/41 - NO: 35.

THE GERMAN FREIGHTER "LECH'S" VOYAGE

The arrival of the German freighter "Lech" of 3,290 tons at Rio de Janeiro from Bordeaux is reminiscent of the occasional German blockade runners of the last war. It has been a matter of interest that so few blockade runners have attempted the journey during the first eighteen months of this war. That German propaganda /de Janeiro should make so much of the arrival of one German freighter in Rio/ is regarded in London as a great compliment to the efficiency of the British blockade.

Air Ministry News Service.

EIGHT HOURS IN A DINGHY.

AN AIR CREW'S STRUGGLE WITH THE SEA.

One of our aircraft recently got into difficulties on a night when the weather was very bad. The wireless was completely out of action and the captain, with no messages from his base and with only an occasional glimpse of land or sea through the clouds, found it impossible to keep on his course. After cruising up and down for a long while he decided that there was no hope of reaching base. He told the crew he would have to come down in the sea. The rear gunner took up a hatchet and hacked away the fuselage door while the rest of the crew stood ready to escape. At the last moment the captain made up his mind to try once again. He flew on but when he saw what he believed to be a lightship he thought the opportunity too good to miss. He made a perfect landing on the rough sea but the lightship was never seen again.

The rear gunner and three others of the crew threw out the dinghy but the waves snapped the rope which tied it to the aircraft. The dinghy was upside down and drifting away. The rear gunner left the aircraft first and reached the dinghy. The other three men jumped into the sea, but one of them got stuck in the doorway and the man behind him had to push him out of the aircraft with his foot.

When the captain's turn came the dinghy was too far away and he stayed and went down with his aircraft.

The rear gunner waited anxiously on the overturned dinghy to haul in the rest of the crew. Two of them swam towards him but the navigator could not swim. He was kept up by his "Mae West" lifebelt and somehow managed to paddle and splash his way towards the dinghy but when he got to it his belt hampered him and it was 15 minutes before he could be pulled out of the water. He clung with one arm to one of the men on the dinghy and with the other arm to the dinghy itself. The rear gunner was all the while trying to pull him in. It was only by kneeling on another man that he could get sufficient purchase.

/The rubber

The rubber dinghy was still upside down and there was only one thing to do. The four men sat round the edge of it and thrust their feet down in the middle to make a well. This was just enough to keep the dinghy from collapsing. There was an 80 mile-an-hour gale and the dinghy was being tossed about by the waves. The men had to bale continuously with their caps. When they were lifted by a wave they scanned the horizon for a ship. When they fell into a trough they baled furiously. Their actions became mechanical. "We saw eight legs in the well we had made in the boat", the rear gunner said, "but we didn't feel we knew which were our own legs and which were someone else's." The rations which should have been with them were underneath the dinghy and could not be reached. There was nothing to drink and the salt spray increased their thirst. But a welcome shower came and the four of them leant their heads back and opened their mouths to the rain.

Towards dawn they saw a Hudson aircraft. Their spirits rose, but their hopes died when it flew away without having seen them. They went on baling, numbed by cold. Then a German plane came over and they even waved to him. At last a Blenheim passed about 200 yards away. The rear gunner tried to fire a Verey light but his fingers were so numb that he could not manage it until the Blenheim was out of sight. But they had been seen. The Blenheim came back, flying round and round in narrowing circles, and away on the horizon the exhausted men saw a tiny speck. It was a trawler coming in answer to the signal of the Blenheim, but the dinghy was gradually losing the air in it and the men were making bets - would the trawler get there before the dinghy sank? One bet was that the trawler would take three hours, but she arrived within an hour.

When she came alongside the men made an effort to grasp the ladder which the trawler's crew had thrown down to them but they were too weak. With the help of the crew three managed to toil up the ladder, but the fourth had to be roped and hoisted up. Once on deck, whisky was poured down their throats and cigarettes put between their lips. They were given warm clothing and set by a fire, "and for the rest of the way", as the rear gunner said, "we did nothing but drink pints and pints of scalding hot tea. When that ship came in sight we would have given them all we had in the world". What the rear gunner did not say, but what the others said, was this: "He pulled each one of us on to the dinghy. We all owe our lives to him. He saved us all, and for eight hours he kept up our spirits with his cheerfulness and good humour."

5/3/41 - NO: 37

BRITISH PRISONERS IN
ENEMY HANDS

Next of kin, if able to identify the men from the information published, are requested to advise the Casualty Branches of the Services concerned, forwarding Regimental or any other details.

The following is the latest list of British prisoners of war as received from enemy sources:-

IN GERMAN HANDS

Sergeant Alan Cook Fotheringham, Dundee.

Sergeant Thomas Francis Keeley, 47, Ashton Road,
Southport, Lancashire.

Sergeant Alan Bocking, 41, Toronto Road, Gillingham,
Kent.

Sergeant Maurice Francis Hurlsdon, 148, Broomfield
Road, Coventry.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

5.3.41 No. 38

AIR MINISTRY No. 3197

AIR MINISTRY AND MINISTRY OF HOME SECURITY COMMUNIQUE

No report has been received of bombs being dropped in any part of this country during daylight today.

It has been confirmed that two enemy bombers were destroyed during last night, both by anti-aircraft gunfire.

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5/3/41 - No.39.

NOTE PRESENTED BY BRITISH MINISTER IN SOFIA TO BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT.

The note should not be published textually but may be paraphrased and extracts quoted verbatim.

Your Excellency,

In his speech in the Chamber of Deputies on 2nd March the President of the Council stated that the Bulgarian Government had decided to agree to a request made by the German Government in the course of discussions on the proposed accession of Bulgaria to the Tripartite Pact, that German troops should be permitted to enter this country. As a result of this decision, German troops are now on Bulgarian soil.

2. According to M. Filoff's statement the German Government have declared that the presence of these troops is temporary and that their task is to safeguard peace and tranquility in the Balkans. H.M.G. in the United Kingdom are not aware that this peace and tranquility has ever been threatened or disturbed by any power which was not a party to the Tripartite Pact, and they consider that the pretext advanced by the German Government is a specious one, designed in accordance with the usual German practice, to mask an ulterior aggressive aim. From the nature of German military movements in the Balkans it is clear that the German aim is to menace, and if necessary attack, Great Britain's ally, Greece.

3. By their agreement with the German Government the Bulgarian Government have facilitated the realisation of this German aim, and, apart from other measures which they have taken, they have gone so far as to proceed in connexion with it to a large measure of mobilisation. H.M.G. can only conclude from that that the Bulgarian Government so far from desiring to maintain neutrality in the present conflict, are now prepared actively to co-operate with Germany.

4. If further evidence were needed of the extent of this co-operation it is only necessary to refer to the initiative taken by the Bulgarian Government on 4th March in breaking off diplomatic relations with Poland, Belgium and the Netherlands, countries which are allies of Great Britain and the position of whose representatives in Bulgaria has hitherto been unchallenged.

5. It is a matter of indifference to H.M.G. what steps the Bulgarian Government may think fit to take for the protection of their country against external danger, real or imaginary. Great Britain is, however, at war with Germany and the presence, in ever increasing force of German troops on Bulgarian territory, with the obvious object which I have already described, combined with the growing subservience of the Bulgarian Government to German policy, is in the opinion of H.M.G. incompatible with the maintenance of British diplomatic representation in Bulgaria.

6. I have accordingly been instructed to withdraw His Majesty's diplomatic Mission from Sofia and I request that I may be furnished with the necessary facilities for myself and my staff to leave the country.

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FOREIGN OFFICE NEWS DEPARTMENT.

5.3.41 No. 40.

AIR MINISTRY No. 3198

AIR MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE

This afternoon a formation of R.A.F. bombers escorted by fighters attacked the docks at Boulogne. Other squadrons of our fighters made an offensive sweep over the Channel and northern France. Hits were scored on the docks at Boulogne and a large fire was started in the inner harbour. One enemy fighter was destroyed and several others were seen to be seriously damaged but owing to the great height at which combats took place their destruction cannot be confirmed.

Three of our aircraft (all fighters) are missing.

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R.A.F. FIGHTER OFFENSIVE OVER FRANCE.

Spitfires and Hurricanes of Fighter Command carried out offensive sweeps over the French coast this afternoon. In the course of the operations fighter squadrons escorted a formation of bombers in a successful attack on the docks at Boulogne. One Messerschmitt 109 was destroyed by our fighters, six were probably destroyed and another damaged.

In one of these sweeps Spitfires and Messerschmitts were engaged at 30,000 feet over the Channel. In this action one Spitfire squadron claimed five enemy aircraft as probably destroyed and one damaged, in addition to the one destroyed.

The destroyed Messerschmitt 109 was not even fired at.

"I saw a 109 on my tail" said the British pilot, "and at once took evasive action in order to get into position to let Jerry have it. But Jerry, rushing down at high speed, failed to pull out of his dive and went crashing into the sea. I didn't get a shot at him".

A sergeant pilot of the same squadron got a probable, but, like several fellow pilots, he was not able to see what eventually happened to the enemy, as there was considerable cloud below the battle.

One enemy aircraft was seen to dive vertically with smoke pouring from it, while another fell on its back towards the sea also on fire. Another is believed to have crashed on land.

Accompanying this squadron was the wing commander of the station who added to his bag one probable and one damaged.

In a later encounter the sergeant pilot of a Spitfire engaged a Messerschmitt 109 and chased him down from 27,000 feet to 8,000 feet, firing all the time with his eight machine-guns. This aircraft is also claimed as a probable. Four other Messerschmitts were closely engaged, but the British pilots were unable to check the results.

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Air Ministry News Service

ITALIANS LEAVE MUCH WAR MATERIAL

H.Q., R.A.F. Middle East, March 5th.

When the Italians beat a hasty retreat from Mogadishu they abandoned one of the best equipped of the Regia Aeronautica's aerodromes. Like El Adem in Libya, Mogadishu was an aircraft morgue. Airframes of eleven Caproni 133's and at least ten other aircraft were found scattered round the aerodrome. Many of the remains were the result of bombing raids carried out by the South African Air Force.

One building had been wrecked by the direct hits of our bombs.

Much valuable material left at the aerodrome fell into our hands, including 25 aero-engines, petrol dumps and vast quantities of stores and equipment.

The buildings used as Italian headquarters were magnificently laid out. The headquarters zoo was nearby, but before they left the Eritreans had shot the lion and the cheetah which were the zoo's principal attractions.

AIR MINISTRY No. 3201

5.3.41. - No. 43

AIR MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE

It has now been confirmed that another enemy bomber was destroyed by anti-aircraft gun fire near Cardiff last night, bringing the number of enemy aircraft destroyed by anti-aircraft gun fire during the night to three.

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