

25/10/39. - NO. 1.

FRENCH OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE.

On the whole the night has been  
quiet. Patrol and artillery activity  
to the west of the Saar.

oooooooooooooooo

25 /10/39 - No. 2.

PRESS NOTICE

ROYAL MARINES

As a sufficient number of applications for temporary commissions has been received, no further applications for temporary commissions in the Royal Marines should be made until a further announcement is made.

-----

ADMIRALTY,  
WHITEHALL,  
S.W.1.



25.10.39.      -      No.3.

AIR MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT.

Royal Air Force over Germany.

The reconnaissances carried out by the Royal Air Force during the past twentyfour hours included night flights over Berlin, Magdeburg and Hamburg.

-----



4

The War Office,

London, S.W.1.

25th October, 1939.

The War Office announces the formation of a new Corps - the Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps - recruiting for which will open tomorrow throughout the country.

As the age limits will normally be confined to men between 35 and 50, this new Corps is opening its ranks to the older man whose desire to serve can now be satisfied to some considerable extent.

The Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps has been designed to carry out work, the importance of which cannot be over-emphasised, since its main object is to ensure the proper maintenance of all kinds of supplies to our armies at home and abroad.

To achieve this object entails the handling at docks, bases, and depots of a vast amount of stores, and to ensure the smooth transportation of such stores, roads and railways on Lines of Communication must be maintained in a fit condition for smooth and quick transit to be possible. In addition new roads may require to be constructed and light railways laid.

The efficiency and morale of our Armies at the front depend to an appreciable degree on the efficient working of the organization responsible for its maintenance, and it is to ensure that such an organization shall exist that this new Corps is being formed.

Men eligible for the Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps will realise the importance of its duties, and it is hoped they will come forward and offer their services to a Corps with such a vital work to perform.

Pay/



Pay and conditions will be the same as for British Infantry and full details can be obtained at all recruiting offices.

It must be pointed out, however, that men in Reserved Occupations should not apply but if in any doubt they should seek advice from their nearest Labour Exchange.



25th October, 1939.

No. 5  
M.A.F. 74A

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ANNOUNCEMENT

Agricultural Workers' Minimum Rates of Wages.

A meeting of the Agricultural Wages Board was held at King's Buildings, Smith Square, London, S.W.1., on October 24th, 1939, The Rt. Hon. The Viscount Ullswater, G.C.B., presiding

The Board considered notifications from Agricultural Wages Committees of decisions fixing minimum and overtime rates of wages and directions in regard to holidays and holiday remuneration, and proceeded to make the following Orders:-

Shropshire: An Order varying the existing minimum and overtime rates of wages and the directions in regard to holidays with pay at present in force in their area, such rates and directions as varied to come into force on 29th October, 1939, and to operate until further notice. The minimum rates in the case of male workers of 21 years of age and over are 36/- (instead of 35/-) per week of 44½ hours in the weeks in which Christmas Day and Good Friday fall and 54 hours in any other week, with overtime unchanged at 9d. per hour on weekdays and for attention to stock on Sundays, and 10d. per hour for other employment on Sundays.

In the case of female workers of 18 years of age and over the minimum rates remain unchanged at 5d. per hour with overtime at 6d. per hour.

The directions in regard to holidays with pay remain unchanged and provide that whole-time male workers employed or engaged to be employed by the same employer throughout the period 1st January to 31st December in any year shall be allowed holidays of six days and where the employment does not extend throughout that period the worker shall be allowed holidays at the rate of one day for each two consecutive months of employment with the same employer in the period. The holidays are to be allowed at times within the year as may be agreed between the employer and worker, and provision is made as to when they are to be allowed in default of agreement.

Holiday remuneration is fixed at a daily rate of not less than one sixth of the weekly minimum rate of wages applicable to the worker.

Carmarthenshire: An Order fixing minimum and overtime rates of wages for male and female workers and making directions in regard to holidays with pay and holiday remuneration for male workers, to come into force on the 15th of November, 1939 (i.e. the day following that on which the existing rates are due to expire) and to continue in operation until the 14th November, 1940. The minimum rates in the case of male workers of 21 years of age and over are 33/- (as at present) per week of 45 hours in the weeks in which Christmas Day, Good Friday, Whit Monday and August Bank Holiday fall and 54 hours in any other week. The minimum rate for female workers of 18 years of age and over remains unchanged at 5d. per hour. The overtime rates are also unchanged, in the case of male workers of 20 years of age and over, 8½d. per hour, and female workers of 18 years and over, 6d. per hour.



Provision is made whereby a whole-time male worker who is employed or engaged to be employed by the same employer throughout the period 15th November, 1939, to the 14th November, 1940, shall be allowed holidays of three days. Where the worker is not employed or engaged to be employed throughout that period, he shall be allowed a holiday of one day in respect of each four complete consecutive months of employment with the same employer in that period. The holiday remuneration for workers of 21 years of age and over is 5/6d. per day.

The holidays are to be allowed at times within the period 15th November, 1939, to 14th November, 1940, as may be agreed between the employer and the worker and provision is made as to when they are to be allowed in default of agreement.

Glamorganshire. An Order fixing minimum and overtime rates of wages and making directions in regard to holidays with pay and holiday remuneration for male workers employed wholly or mainly in forestry, i.e. employment in connection with preparing land, planting and maintaining forestry areas and nursery work in connection therewith, to come into force on 2nd November, 1939, (i.e. the day following that on which the existing rates are due to expire) and to continue in operation until 1st November, 1940. The minimum rates in the case of male workers of 21 years of age and over are 42/- (instead of 40/-) per week of 48 hours in winter and 52 hours in summer, with overtime at 11½d. per hour (instead of 11d. per hour).

Provision is made whereby a whole-time male worker employed or engaged to be employed by the same employer throughout the period 2nd November, 1939, to 1st November, 1940, shall be allowed holidays of 6 days. Where the worker is not employed or engaged to be employed throughout that period, he shall be allowed holidays of two days in respect of each four complete consecutive calendar months of employment with the same employer in that period. The holiday remuneration for male workers of 21 years of age and over is 7/- per day.

The next meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, 14th November, 1939.

ISSUED THROUGH THE PRESS BUREAU.



25.10.39 - No.6.

PRESS NOTICE.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED ON THE CLUB TAPES OR BY BROADCAST OR IN ANY OTHER WAY BEFORE THE MORNING OF THURSDAY 26TH OCTOBER, 1939.

The Treasury has issued the following Notice to Chambers of Commerce and similar bodies in the United Kingdom for the information of importers.

PROVISION OF EXCHANGE FOR IMPORTED GOODS.

(1) The importation of certain goods is prohibited except under licence issued by the Import Licensing Department of the Board of Trade. Application for foreign exchange needed to pay for imports of goods on the prohibited list should not be made until the importer is satisfied that an import licence for the goods can be obtained. In order to facilitate dealing with applications the import licence should when possible be produced at the time when the application for exchange is made.

(2) In all cases where exchange is required for the import of goods, whether the goods are on the prohibited list or otherwise, the bank will require the production in due course of a certified copy of the Customs import entry, verifying that the goods have been imported.

(3) In order to obtain a certified copy of the Customs import entry, importers must present to the Customs at the time of entry of the goods an extra copy of the entry plainly marked in red ink FOR EXCHANGE CONTROL PURPOSES ONLY.

-----



7

FOR PRESS AND BROADCAST

The Ministry of Home Security urgently draws attention to the necessity for more care in the use of hand torches in the streets. Some members of the public are, for example, thoughtlessly flashing them into the line of sight of drivers of omnibuses approaching stopping places. Pedestrians crossing the roads are also in many cases flashing torches in the direction of approaching vehicles.

These highly dangerous practices have been the cause of several accidents. Drivers of road vehicles are temporarily blinded and this makes the strain of night driving in the blackout still more onerous. In view of the serious consequences that may follow a misuse of torches, the public are earnestly requested to observe the direction already given that torches must at all times be pointed downwards. Never in any circumstances may they be directed towards the driver of a motor vehicle.

Press Officer,

Ministry of Home Security.

25th October, 1939.



---

EMPIRE BROADCAST 4.0.p.m. BY COL.REITZ MINISTER FOR NATIVE AFFAIRS, SOUTH AFRICA.

---

Delegates from every Dominion are coming to London to attend a war conference, and I have the honour of representing the Government of the Union of South Africa. I hope that the fact of our coming will be of great service to the Common Cause and that it will be a proof of our solidarity in this crisis; a proof that the smaller nations within the British Empire fully realise that their fate depends upon a victorious issue as much as does that of Great Britain itself.

As I am the first of the Dominion Cabinet Ministers to arrive in London, and as I have been here only a few days as yet, it would be presumption on my part were I to comment on the local aspect of the situation until I have been able to look around me, but I thought it might be of interest if I were briefly to tell you how we stand in South Africa, for I am afraid there has been a certain degree of misconception about our attitude towards the war.

In the first place, I can give you the assurance that we in South Africa are fully aware that, should the Germans succeed, we shall be the first to go under.

We are a small community of less than three million Europeans. We hold an enormously strategic position - a half way house between two worlds - and we produce more than three quarters of the world's gold supply, so we are under no illusion as to what would happen to us had we been without the mutual friendship and protection of the nations of the British Commonwealth. Our liberty and our status as a free nation would not have been worth a year's purchase if Hitler won this war, and, for that reason, I repeat that our destiny is bound up with victory even more closely than any other portion of the Empire, and therefore we stand firmly by our friends.

Nevertheless, our position is somewhat different from that of the other members of the Empire.

In Great Britain, in Australia and in New Zealand, you have homogeneous British communities, speaking the same language and held together by the same historical traditions, whereas, in South Africa, the majority of our European population is of Dutch descent, speaking the Dutch or Afrikaans language. For this reason, you in Canada will better be able to understand our problems for in your country, too, you are solving your racial and language questions on a basis of equality and justice to both sections. I should say the ratio of Dutch to English descended citizens in South Africa is as 60% to 40% and, naturally, our Dutch speaking population look at their position within the British Empire from a somewhat different angle to that of our English speaking community.

You must remember that, in the past, we fought two bitter wars against the British, I myself, who am speaking to you this afternoon, served for three years under arms against the British Empire, and I went into exile in a strange land rather than live under the British Flag. I mention these things to show you the difference between our own past and that of the other Dominions. But Great Britain, after defeating us in war, treated us with a generosity unknown in history and conferred on us an even greater measure of liberty than we had enjoyed under our own former Republics. Today, as a voluntary partner in the British Commonwealth, we are not only free, but far safer than we could hope to be if we were on our own with the "smash and grab" policy which is now trying to dominate the world.



It is true that, when the war broke out last month, there was some initial difference of opinion, and many of our Afrikaans speaking people were in favour of our remaining neutral, but today the position is rapidly improving, for they are now beginning to appreciate the fact that a neutral South Africa would have been a disgraced South Africa, would have been a South Africa shorn of friends and markets and shipping: a South Africa isolated, and at the mercy of Germany who, for a start, would strip us of South West Africa the territory captured by South African Troops in 1915, and who, thereafter, would certainly strip us of our own country.

The Germans have never understood the psychology of other nations and, in our case, they are under the impression that the Afrikaans section in the Union of South Africa is pro German, whereas I give you my solemn assurance that there is literally no pro German element among us. Night after night the Germans broadcast from Berlin in Afrikaans, thinking to sow doubt and discord among us, but their efforts are so extravagant and so grotesque that they defeat their own object.

We have achieved liberty and progress and security within the four corners of the British Empire, and we are not going to exchange the substance of what we possess for the shadows that would await us without:

It would be premature for me to indicate what our military contribution to the war is going to be, but we have undertaken to protect, with all our resources, the land defences of the British Naval Bases at Simonstown. A glance at the map will show you that Simonstown constitutes a vital point in the lines of communication by sea to all parts of the world and to all parts of the Empire so that, in doing this, we have taken upon ourselves a duty of major military importance. In addition we shall hold South Africa against all comers and we shall assist in defending the other territories in Africa belonging to the British Commonwealth. We shall also hold South West Africa, for this country is, geographically, an integral portion of the Union and two thirds of its inhabitants are our own nationals. Already, we have interned all the Nazi agitators who were making trouble there,

just as we have interned all Nazi propagandists in South Africa, and should Tanganyika or the other protectorates be menaced, we shall throw our entire weight into the scales.

In conclusion, let me once again assure you, on behalf of General Smuts, our great leader, and on behalf of the Union Government, that South Africans will do what South Africans have ever done in the past - they will fight for liberty side by side with all those who wish to be free.



FOR PUBLICATION AFTER DELIVERY.SUMMARY OF LORD MACMILLAN'S SPEECH IN THE  
HOUSE OF LORDS - OCTOBER 25th.  
-----

Lord Macmillan in replying to Lord Middleton's motion in the House of Lords this afternoon gave the results of the scrutiny of the staff of the Ministry which he had carried out. He pointed out that the Department had been originally organised in advance to come into full operation on the outbreak of War and so had to be able to meet every contingency which might have arisen. It might have been necessary to deal with a series of immediate crises and with a great flood of material. The course of events had been different from what had been anticipated and time had been given to the Ministry to adapt its structure to the actual needs of the case.

The chief criticism directed by Lord Middleton against the Ministry was that it was over-staffed at the top with an unnecessary number of high-salaried officials. There was originally a series of Departments, each with a Director of its own. The organisation of the Ministry had now been simplified and re-organised under eight Divisions. These fell into three classes, the first four divisions dealing with the actual work of propaganda in -

- (1) Foreign Countries, allied and neutral.
- (2) The Empire.
- (3) The United Kingdom.

and the fourth Division in a special category by itself concerned with the United States of America, where we prefer to leave our propaganda to Herr Hitler.

Secondly, there were now three Divisions concerned with the technical production and distribution of material; one being concerned with general production, printing etc; another with a special Department of films; and a third with radio relations and communications. The remaining eighth division would be concerned only with administration, i.e. finance, accounts and establishment, with a small section engaged in intelligence work.

The effect of this rearrangement is that the Ministry has been able to dispense at Headquarters with some 67 officials with corresponding reductions in the ancillary staff representing a pay-roll of the order of £46,000 a year. The remaining staff has been accepted by the Treasury as reasonable in number and grading for the present work of the Ministry. Lord Macmillan said that it had been no pleasant task for a new Minister, coming entirely fresh to an existing Department to have to deal so drastically with a staff largely composed of accomplished people who had been invited to join the Ministry in some cases months ago, and who had addressed themselves unsparingly to the tasks appointed to them. He repeated his tribute of thanks to them for their services. Lord Macmillan pointed out that he had been concerned not only with the number and remuneration of the staff, but had also to consider their suitability for the tasks appointed to them. He might well, as time went on, have to effect further changes here and there as experience dictated and new needs arose and he had particularly in mind the desirability of obtaining more assistance from the journalist profession on the publicity side of the Ministry's work. Some progress had been made in this direction. Journalists were required mostly in the Foreign Department. Here it was necessary to obtain Journalists

/who



who in addition to their expert press experience, were also well qualified on the grounds of having intimate and detailed knowledge of the politics and mentality of particular foreign Countries.

The list of staff which had appeared in Hancard described many members of the staff as Civil Servants. While this was accurate, it might have been better if it had been explained that their selection had been based on their expert knowledge of foreign affairs relating to the particular Countries in which they had lived as Government servants, or with which they had been concerned in Government Offices.

In considering, in the case of any organisation, the number of people to be employed, the salaries to be paid to them, and the aptitude which they must possess, the predominant matter must always be the character and extent of the work which the organisation has to perform. Lord Macmillan said that there had been a remarkable absence of appreciation of what the work of propaganda really involved. It had three aspects: First, the collection of the necessary information to enable propaganda material to be prepared. Second, the securing of means whereby propaganda may reach its destination and Third, the actual preparation of the propaganda material itself. These were all skilled jobs, requiring expert knowledge and experience. There were not less than 50 Countries for which the Minister was responsible. By grouping it had been possible for one Specialist to cover several Countries in some instances, but not less than 26 or 27 Specialists were required. In point of fact, the Foreign Publicity Department corresponded with no less than 75 distributing centres abroad.

Lord Macmillan went on to give details of the work that had to be done in each of these <sup>/three</sup> Branches of propaganda work, concerned with the sources, the mechanism



and the output, and explained the large amount of work which had to be done in each of these branches, if effectual results were to be obtained. To give an instance, in order to keep in touch with the opinion in foreign Countries it was necessary to know what was being broadcast in these Countries. The Ministry had an arrangement with the B.B.C. whereby foreign broadcasts were listened in to and recorded to the extent of a quarter of a million words a day, subsequently digested into a summary of about 80 pages, which provided a most valuable guide to propaganda work.

Notwithstanding the difficulties under which the Ministry had laboured, it had already some notable achievements to its credit. On the outbreak of War we had only 18 Press Attaches at foreign Embassies and Legations. The Ministry has been instrumental in procuring the appointment of no fewer than 21 new Press Attaches, with an addition of some 59 assistants. The work of the Press Attache was of special importance for he was able to be not only a guide to the Ministry as to the prevalent opinions in the Country to which he was accredited, but also acted as the Ministry's representative for securing the translation and distribution of propaganda material in his Country, he was also able to render many other valuable services.

As regards photographs, as to which there had been some complaint of shortage, the Ministry had supplied by the 17th October 4806 photographs dealing with about 500 different subjects. They had arranged for permits for photographing to be issued to the Press and over 500 had been issued by the 15th October. Arrangements had been made for official Photographers to proceed to France, and official photographs could now be wirelessly to the United States and some other Countries abroad. In the week October 4



- 3 -

to 11th, to give only one instance, there appeared in the Swedish Press 190 column inches of British Photographs against only 77 of German photographs.

Another matter to which the Ministry had specially addressed itself was to secure the circulation of British newspapers abroad and with the assistance of the Admiralty, Air Ministry and of the K.L.M. and Sabena a daily air mail service now secured the arrival of large consignments of British newspapers in Holland and Belgium on the day of publication and in Denmark, Norway and Sweden the following day.

On the outbreak of War, overseas programmes were broadcast daily from this Country in 8 foreign languages. Since then 7 more languages had been added and other programmes expanded.

The Film Division had done much work, its policy being to utilise the existing facilities of the industry for production, distribution and exhibition. The value of News Reels was specially obvious and the Ministry had arranged with the Service Departments for each News Reel Company to have its own representative at the front. The Ministry had commissioned, with the approval of the Secretary of State for Air a film of our air activities in defence and attack, and thanks to the services of Mr. Korda, most generously given, an admirable film "The Lion has Wings" would shortly be produced. Thanks were due not only to Mr. Korda but also to the artists who gave their services.

Apart from the Headquarters work of the Ministry, its regional work was also under consideration and the Minister hoped that it would be possible to carry on this important Branch with much simplified machinery.

The work of the Ministry had frequently been compared to its disadvantage with that of Germany. It should be remembered that the German Propaganda Department had been in operation for five or six years, that probably not less than £6,000, 000 a year was expended upon it, that it had hordes of Agents in every centre throughout the world, and that its geographical position was much more advantageous than ours, and finally that it did not labour under the handicap of veracity.

The Minister in conclusion stated that he hoped that the record of the Ministry's work during the period of its existence, of which he had only been able to give a few samples, would be recognised as satisfactory and he could give an assurance of even better results in the future. He could understand the view that there should be no Ministry of Propaganda at all, but he could not understand the view that there should be an inefficient Ministry. The Ministry was bound to be inefficient if it did not secure the support and confidence of Parliament and the public.



25/10/39 - No.10

FOR PRESS AND BROADCAST

The National Equine Defence League have requested that an announcement be made that they have homes of rest for horses, and means for disposing of old horses. Traders who now find that they have horses in their possession which they are unable to employ or accommodate because the users have been called up for service, are invited to make use of the League's Homes of Rest, where the horses will be kept and cared for until the owners are able to take them back for work or other arrangements can be made. Application should be made to the Hon. Secretary, The National Equine Defence League, 36, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

HOME OFFICE



25. 10.39 - No. 11.

PRESS NOTICE

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of the Reverend Gordon Sayle to the living of Lezayre in the Isle of Man, in the place of the Reverend Cannon Robert Daniel Kermode, who has resigned.

HOME OFFICE



25th October, 1939.

No. 12.

M.A.F.75.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ANNOUNCEMENT.

MINISTER APPOINTS NINE POULTRY ADVISERS.

The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries has appointed a Committee to advise him on matters affecting the interests of the Poultry Industry in time of war. The following are the members:-

Mr. A. Arbuthnot  
Mr. C.G. Belfield  
Captain S. Clift  
Dr. Chas. Crowther  
Mr. P.A. Francis  
Mr. Tom Newman  
Mr. Frank Snowden  
Mr. Stanley Street-Porter  
Mr. Thomas Turney.

Mr. Francis, the Ministry's Poultry Commissioner will be Chairman of the Committee and Mr. L.S.Porter will be the Secretary.

Issued through the Press Bureau.



25.10.39 - No.13.

EMPIRE ANNOUNCEMENT.

INDIA - CEYLON CONFERENCE.

It is understood in London that negotiations are taking place between the Governments of India and Ceylon for a conference in Delhi about the third week in November for the purpose of trade negotiations and for discussions on the question of emigration and immigration and other outstanding matters of common interest.

-- -----

ISSUED THROUGH THE PRESS BUREAU.



NOT TO BE PUBLISHED BEFORE THE  
MORNING NEWSPAPERS OF  
THURSDAY, 26TH OCTOBER, 1939.

AIR MINISTRY CASUALTY COMMUNIQUE No. 7.ROYAL AIR FORCE.

The Air Ministry regrets to announce the following casualties on various dates.

Killed in Action.

<u>CLARK</u>	39272	Flying Officer C.H.
<u>COCHRANE</u>	620399	Aircraftman 2nd Class W Mc.K.
<u>DREW</u>	812045	Corporal J.F.

Killed on Active Service.

<u>BROWN</u>	41985	Acting Pilot Officer R.E.S.
<u>HARGREAVES</u>	740208	Sergeant J.H.
<u>LETCHFORD</u>	580247	Sergeant H.
<u>LEVITT</u>	741280	Sergeant W.E.
<u>MAY</u>	521784	Aircraftman 1st Class F.H.
<u>POWELL</u>	524069	Aircraftman 1st Class W.A.J.
<u>WARRY</u>	804336	Aircraftman 2nd Class J.
<u>WITTY</u>	565438	Sergeant G.G.

Missing.

<u>BAUGHAN</u>	37922	Flying Officer R.D.
<u>BRYANT</u>	580939	Acting Sergeant F.G.
<u>DAY</u>	05175	Wing Commander H.M.A.
<u>HERD</u>	564710	Sergeant R.E.
<u>HILL</u>	545939	Aircraftman 1st Class A.F.
<u>MOLLER</u>	548867	Aircraftman 2nd Class F.G.
<u>SPROSTON</u>	580679	Sergeant P.E.B.
<u>STEPHENS</u>	580680	Sergeant W.H.
<u>THOMAS</u>	545990	Aircraftman 1st Class D.L.
<u>THOMPSON</u>	40445	Pilot Officer K.G.S.
<u>WILLIAMS</u>	366471	Flight Sergeant S.

Missing - Believed Killed.

<u>FIDDOCK</u>	619855	Aircraftman 2nd Class W.H.
<u>FORD</u>	37631	Flying Officer D.
<u>PITTS</u>	565352	Sergeant R.S.

Died on Active Service.

<u>BROCKWAY</u>	843146	Aircraftman 2nd Class L.T.
<u>EMERY</u>	620231	Aircraftman 2nd Class W.J.
<u>LOCKWOOD</u>	770908	Aircraftman 2nd Class R.G.
<u>MONTGOMERY</u>	763619	Aircraftman 2nd Class R.E.
<u>PRICE</u>	512105	Leading Aircraftman F.T.
<u>YATES</u>	517955	Corporal N.H.G.

Previously Reported 'Missing' Now Reported 'Killed in Action'.

<u>DAVIES</u>	34103	Flight Lieutenant T.I.
---------------	-------	------------------------

Press & Publicity Branch,  
Air Ministry,  
King Charles Street,  
Whitehall, S.W.1.

25th October, 1939.



25/10/39 - No 15.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ANNOUNCEMENT.

NATIONAL YOUTH COMMITTEE,

The third meeting of the National Youth Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Kenneth Lindsay, was held today in the offices of the Board.

The Committee recommended the appointment of Youth Committees all over the country with full cooperation of Local Education Authorities. An announcement giving full details of the scheme will be made shortly.

Reference was made to an experimental type of informal "club" now working in a few districts. Unlike the usual club which provides an organised programme and concentrates on character training, these are mainly recreational and are open to anyone paying a nightly entrance fee of, say 1d. They are open to boys and girls and often attract big crowds.

In order that experiments of this nature may be widely known throughout the country the Committee would like to hear of similar experiments and ask that anyone running such organisations communicate with The Secretary, National Youth Committee, Alexandra House Kingsway, W.C.2.

The special needs of Industrial areas were also considered by the Committee.

+++++



25.10.39 - No. 16.

MINISTRY OF PENSIONS ANNOUNCEMENT.

The Minister of Pensions wishes to remind members of the Mercantile Marine that a Government Scheme has been made for compensation for members of the Mercantile Marine and Fishing Fleets who suffer disablement directly attributable to war injury, or to detention as a result of capture by the enemy, and for pension to their widows or dependants in the case of death as a result of war injury or detention. Allowances may also be paid to the family of a captured mariner while he is detained by the enemy.

The Scheme applies also to members of the pilotage or lightvessel services. Leaflets describing the Scheme are available at all Mercantile Marine Offices and local offices of the Ministry of Pensions.

The Minister is particularly anxious to ensure that all concerned should be aware of their rights under the Scheme in order that all applications may be promptly lodged. Arrangements have been made throughout the country for the prompt handling of claims, but if the Ministry is not notified that a man has been disabled and given particulars of his whereabouts, delay must inevitably occur. Persons concerned are therefore asked to note:-

- (1) An application form may be obtained from any Mercantile Marine Office or local office of the Ministry of Pensions, the address of which can be obtained from any Post Office.

(2) If



- (2) If an injured man is taken to hospital or confined to bed, he should ask someone to send particulars of his case to the local office of the Ministry of Pensions. If necessary, arrangements will be made for a medical examination in hospital or at home without delay.
- (3) Provisional allowances are made when medical examination discloses an appreciable degree of disablement from war injury.
- (4) Allowances for the families of mariners detained by the enemy will be authorised as soon as information of the detention is received and necessary particulars have been verified.
- (5) To avoid hardship in those cases where immediate pecuniary assistance is required owing to unavoidable delay in payment, special arrangements have been made under which the Unemployment Assistance Board can deal with such cases urgently under the Scheme for the Prevention and Relief of Distress. Applications for such temporary assistance should be made to the local office of the Unemployment Assistance Board.



EMPIRE AFFAIRSTEXT OF BROADCAST TO BE GIVEN AT 9.15 p.m. BYMR. ANTHONY EDEN ON WEDNESDAY 25th OCTOBER.CO-OPERATION IN WARTIME.

This war has brought our own country into even closer association with the Dominions. The immediate response which came from the Empire overseas on the outbreak of war is still fresh in our memory. Within the next few weeks we shall have a still more tangible sign of that friendship and co-operation in the presence in London of Cabinet Ministers from Canada and Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. Before long I hope that you who are listening to me to-night will be able to hear each one of them speak his message to us. Meanwhile, let me tell you who they are and what they represent in their own countries.

The Canadian representative, Mr. Crerar, who comes from the Prairie Provinces, has been one of the senior members of the Canadian Government since 1935. Throughout his life he has been connected with the grain industry of Canada, and was Minister of Agriculture in the last war. He is no stranger to us, for he was one of Canada's representatives at the Coronation and the Imperial Conference in 1937. We are glad to welcome him here again.

Australia's representative is Mr. Casey, who has a wide circle of friends in this country. He served throughout the last war when he won both the D.S.O. and the M.C. He was subsequently for some years Treasurer in the Commonwealth Government, a post corresponding to that of our Chancellor of the Exchequer. He is now Minister of Supply, and is responsible for equipping the forces which Australia is raising.

New Zealand is sending Mr. Fraser, who, as Acting Prime Minister during the illness of Mr. Savage, expressed on behalf of his country with so much dignity and force those decisions which brought New Zealand into the war at our side. Mr. Fraser, a Scotsman born, has since been President of the New Zealand Labour Party, and for more than twenty years a member of Parliament in that Dominion.

The Union of South Africa is represented by Colonel Reitz, the Minister of Native Affairs. To many of you his name will be familiar as the author of "Commando". No more vivid account of a gallant military exploit has ever been written. Let me describe him in his own words, which I quote from one of his recent speeches:-

"Speaking as one of the old Afrikaner stock; speaking as an old Republican; speaking as one who for three years fought against the British and sooner than submit to British rule went to Madagascar as an exile; speaking as a son of an old President, I feel that if South Africa had remained neutral in this war we would have been shamed in the face of the world".

There will be no formal conference with these Ministers. We shall not need to draw up an elaborate and detailed agenda. Instead there will be a series of informal but practical discussions from which will result that close co-operation which is our common aim.

Much of this lies in the future, but I can give you here and now one instance of a scheme of outstanding importance which shows that our wartime collaboration with the Dominions has already begun to produce practical results. All the Governments concerned recently accepted

the



the principle of a proposal whereby their joint resources would be used to the fullest advantage in the development of our air power. The outline of the scheme was announced by the Secretary of State for Air in the House of Commons a fortnight ago, but I do not believe that its significance has yet been realised. It is scarcely possible to exaggerate the influence which its full operation may have upon the course of the war. Broadly speaking, the scheme is this. Parallel with our great effort here in Britain, each Dominion is providing for a rapid and indeed phenomenal expansion in the personnel of its Air Force. The elementary training of all these recruits will take place in their own land. For those countries which participate in the scheme the advanced training will be concentrated and completed in Canada. In that great country, free from all risk of enemy interference and with the splendid facilities which Canada possesses,



possesses, this great war potential can be built up rapidly and without hindrance. No action that the German forces can take will influence this development which has no parallel in the world's history. A new arm is being developed by new methods. We shall thus be assured of a constant supply of pilots and other air personnel of an exceptionally high standard in skill and daring. This time it is the new world which is offering its help to determine the future of the old.

Now let me speak to you for a moment of the course of the hostilities themselves.

The war has been in progress less than two months, but already Herr Hitler has lost the initiative. The aggressor's early advantage is spent. The road to the East is blocked by Russia or barred by Turkey. In the West every week that passes adds to the strength of the free democracies. With fast gathering momentum we swing into our stride. German attacks by air upon our fleet, or upon our merchantmen, have failed utterly in their purpose. By comparison with the last war the submarine has proved to be an indecisive weapon, while the percentage of losses among German U-boats has been infinitely higher. The Royal Navy and our Mercantile Marine have swept and kept the seas. The total of British merchant ships so far sunk is less than one per cent. of our total tonnage. This figure needs no comment.

The much heralded German offensive in the West still hangs fire, while winter closes in, a winter no doubt difficult for all, but infinitely to be dreaded by Germany.

In all this there is encouragement for the final victory, nor has any one of us in any part of the British Commonwealth a doubt of the ultimate outcome. Strain and stresses there must be, and even moments of deep anxiety, but the issue cannot be in question.

The character of this war is in strong contrast to what most people expected. It is certainly very different from the war that very many of us took part in twenty years ago. It differs in truth not only in the character of the war itself, but in the mood in which the peoples of the British Commonwealth have entered upon it. When the call came in August 1914 few people grasped the magnitude of the struggle, the test of endurance, the vast output of energy and organisation affecting the whole life of the country, that would be involved.

To-day the scene is utterly different. For months past and longer we have had before our eyes the imminent prospect of war. We have seen the enormous military machine being made ready in Germany. We have watched our own preparations go forward stage by stage to meet the approaching menace. Day by day we have listened to news of Europe. We have known the issues at stake and we have had no illusion about the meaning of war to everyone of us.

And yet, with all these differences, there is one element which has not changed - the spirit of the British people. The generation that fought then have the same qualities as those who are fighting or preparing to fight to-day, and these are the very qualities which we shall need most, both at the front in France and at the front at home.

For every war is fought on two fronts. An army in the field depends on the spirit of the nation at home. The home front is not only a source of material supplies but of spiritual inspiration. Our democracy is alive and active. That is a healthy sign. It is going to help us to win.

But if this spirit is to be maintained and strengthened, it is essential that we should be fully conscious of what we are fighting against

/and



and what we are fighting for. This war has been thrust upon us and upon the world by the German Government's flagrant breaches of faith and by the German Chancellor's obsession that his will must prevail at all costs. Even so, we are not fighting against one man nor for any given frontier, but in support of a principle. That principle is good faith between peoples, and without it there can be no peace. Nazi leaders are loud in their declarations that this war was thrust upon them. The evidence is against them, the documents have been published, the world can judge. But in truth there is more striking testimony than even the best authenticated documents can provide. In Warsaw, as in Prague and in scores of other cities, German troops stand as invaders to-day. Each one of them is there in defiance of the German Chancellor's pledged word. Each is a living token of a German Government's broken faith.

Our cause is in truth that of all nations who wish to live on friendly and decent terms with their neighbours, who wish to see firmly established once more rules of conduct and of law which can give confidence and security for the future.

Attempts have been made in the past to establish an international system which, by its very nature, should outlaw war and make possible free co-operation between the nations in search of a common prosperity and a common civilisation.

Some of these attempts have failed, others have succeeded, and of all the successes perhaps the outstanding example is afforded by the British Commonwealth of Nations. Here we have a number of equal states, each the master of its own destiny; yet conscious of the mutual advantage to be derived from constant co-operation and consultation upon the problems which face them all.

The magnitude of this achievement can only be measured by the mutual benefit which each of the nations has derived from this association. Why is it that our fellow nations overseas have entered the present conflict so spontaneously? Why is it that they are sending their Ministers to London to consult with our Ministers upon the conduct of the war? It is because they share our love of liberty and our hatred of tyranny; it is because they look upon this country as defending the principles for which they stand. They are eager to play their part in the struggle which has as its aim the establishment in Europe, and ultimately in the whole world, of that spirit of free and willing co-operation which is the essential characteristic of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

Our cause then is clear to all people where there is freedom to speak and to write what they think. I believe it is equally clear to many who for the moment do not enjoy that freedom.

More than twenty years ago we had fought through to victory the greatest war in our history, the greatest war of all time. That war was fought by the British peoples for a high ideal. Not only a new Europe, but a new world was to rise phoenix-like from the sacrifices of the millions who had lost their lives. Never again, we were determined, was civilised man to suffer this ordeal. Tolerance and justice, we hoped, not force and greed, would rule. Yet once again, men and women of the same generation, we are facing the same foe, facing the same ordeal. And there is to-day greater unity than in 1914, a grimmer and quieter determination to see this thing through.

We are determined that this time good will come out of the sacrifices now demanded. We are resolved that our youth, now called on to fight, shall not live through the disappointments which we experienced. That is our determination, something that we can and



will do. Nor, I need hardly add, can threats and menaces move us however loudly they may be shouted. It displays a strange ignorance of British psychology to suppose for one instant that they can.

We have witnessed in recent years the progressive deterioration of respect for international engagements. It was this that made war ultimately inevitable. Once treaties and pledges can be broken with impunity, then confidence is undermined, armaments are piled up, the rule of law is sapped and broken and might is right. This process is cumulative, and its outcome is inevitable, that outcome is war. That is why a patchwork peace, an armed truce, must be utterly unacceptable to us. It is not because we love war, but because we hate it, that we are determined to go on this time until we have finally made an end of a system that has grown to power on breaking promises and gloryfying force. This time we must not only win the war, but win the after war and the latter may prove the more difficult task.

We are fighting to-day for our own liberties and those of the nations allied to us. That for us must come first. But we believe, and indeed we know, that on our existence as a free and strong people depends the freedom of many other nations who are taking no direct part in this war, but who have to suffer many of its consequences, and are awaiting anxiously its outcome. Herein lies the true significance of Turkey's action. Her example has much more than strategic importance. Turkey has taken a stand for that same principle of good faith. In this attitude Turkey has been entirely consistent throughout the whole post-war period. When she has sought the revision of a treaty, she has invariably done so by negotiation and not by force. This was the policy that she pursued and which culminated in the freely negotiated agreement signed at Montreux in 1936.

We believe that when we have won through to the end a heavy responsibility, which will also be an unrivalled opportunity, will fall to the allied powers. It will be our task then to give practical expression to the innermost feelings of men and women in all lands where servitude has not starved or frozen them. Those feelings are for a closer European unity and a wider world understanding, for an international order that shall be respected, for religious toleration, for the denial and not the worship of an aggressive nationalism, for liberty, security and peace. The task will be arduous, and struggle hard fought, but if we will keep the aim steadfastly before us we cannot fail, for that aim is the aim of the better part of mankind.

ISSUED THROUGH THE PRESS BUREAU



25/10/39 - No. 18.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ANNOUNCEMENT

The Board of Education announces that Technical Schools and other institutes for Further Education may ~~now~~ re-open as soon as the necessary work for providing air raid protection is commenced. It is no longer necessary to postpone re-opening until such work has been completed.



25/10/39 - NO 19

BOARD OF TRADE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Board of Trade announces that they have to-day issued an order prohibiting the importation, except under licences, of silver bullion and foreign silver coin. Persons desiring to import these goods may make application for import licences to the Import Licensing Department of the Board of Trade at 25 Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.2. Forms of application can be obtained from the Import Licensing Department and from offices of Collectors of Customs and Excise.

+++++



25.10.39 - No.20.

BOARD OF TRADE ANNOUNCEMENT.

As from Friday, the 27th October, all communications relating to the issue of export licences for arms, ammunition, etc., under the Arms Export Prohibition Order of May 19th, 1931, should be addressed to:-

The Export Licensing Department,

Inveresk House,

Strand,

W.C.2.

Telephone Number: Temple Bar 0251.,  
and not as hitherto to the Board of Trade  
St.George Street, S.W.1.

-----



25/10/39 - No 21

FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MORNING PAPERS OF THURSDAY, 26TH  
OCTOBER, 1939.

---

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs gave a luncheon party at the Savoy Hotel yesterday in honour of His Excellency Signor Guiseppe Bastianini, Italian Ambassador in London. The following accepted invitations to be present:-

The Prime Minister  
The Earl of Clarendon  
Signor Crolla  
Mr. R.A. Butler, M.P.  
Mr. Oliver Harvey

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

+++++



25/10/39 - No. 22.

MINISTRY OF FOOD ANNOUNCEMENT.

POTATO PRICES.

The Potatoes (Provisional Prices) (No. 3.) Order, 1939, issued with effect from the 25th October, provides for certain modifications in the Schedule of the previous Order as follows:-

- (1) An adjustment in the boundary of the districts as between East and West Lancashire.
- (2) The introduction of a new grade A (1) for "King Edward", "Red King" and "Gladstone" potatoes grown on Lincolnshire and Yorkshire limestone soil and for "Golden Wonder" grown on any soil.
- (3) The placing under Grade A (2) of remaining varieties previously classed as Grade A, with the addition of others grown in red soil in Scotland.

Growers' maximum prices for Grade A (1) potatoes are fixed at from 10/- to 20/- per ton higher than Grade A (2) and wholesale prices at 6d. to 1/-d. per hundredweight higher.

Retail prices remain unchanged with the exception of District 4 where the price of Grades A (1) and A (2) has been raised to 1½d. per lb., and Scotland where the price for these grades has been raised to 4d. per 3½ lbs.

A copy of the new Schedule is attached.



25.10.39 - No. 23.

FRENCH COMMUNIQUE (EVENING)

Our reconnaissance units and those of enemy have shown a certain activity in the course of the day.

We have repulsed a German Detachment in the region close to the Moselle.

-----