# STEPS TO DEFEAT AIR RAIDS

### CIVIL PROTECTION AGAINST POISON GAS ATTACKS

MR. LLOYD ON GOVERNMENT TESTS

### FINANCIAL CONCESSION OFFERED TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES

### HOUSE OF LORDS

TUESDAY, Nov. 16

Woolsack at a quarter past 4 o'clock.

ment) Bill was brought up from the Commons and read a first time.

The Expiring Laws Continuance Bill was read a second time.

### PROTECTION OF QUAILS BILL TO PROHIBIT CLOSE SEASON IMPORTS

VISCOUNT MERSEY moved the second reading of the Quail Protection Bill, the object of which is to prohibit the importation of the common quail during the close season. The noble lord said that this Bill was put forward on behalf of the British Section of the International Committee for Bird Preservation, in agreement with the Zoological Society and many other similar bodies. The various Government Departments concerned had no objection to the Bill, and it was put forward in agreement with several foreign Governments. Its object was simply to prevent the extermination, in a comparatively short time, of the quail.

The quall was a migratory bird which spent the winter in Central Africa and the spring and summer in Europe. In recent years there had grown up a practice of importing qualls alive in large numbers to this country. The birds were brought over in crates just at the period when they would naturally be mating. The birds were netted in Egypt and Algeria, and after being brought here they were attended and sold. Something like 250,000 of the plans which are in course of preparathe birds were brought to the London market

The Egyptian Government had passed legislation to prohibit the netting of the quail in a "shadow" organization which could, with-Egypt during the breeding season and the out delay, act as a Food Control Committee rench Government had prohibited the spring hooting of the quail in Algeria and those parts of Morocco which they controlled. If complementary action could be taken here something might be done towards saving this bird from extinction. The Bill proposed to bird from extinction. The Bill proposed to prohibit the importation of live quality into the United Kingdom between February 14 of? Will it be distributive and purchasing?

second reading and said he hoped the Governsecond reading and said he hoped the Government would be able to give facilities for the control of the control ment would be able to give facilities for the passage of the Bill through both Houses. The quail had become very rare here; but if this Bill was passed it was possible that the quail would come again in appreciable numbers. and it would be a desirable addition to the game birds of this country.

were in sympathy with the objects of the Bill and no objection had been taken to it by the Ministry of Agriculture, although some points had been raised by the Board of Customs. The LORD CHANCELLOR took his seat on the Woolsack at a quarter past 4 o'clock.

The Supreme Court of Judicature (Amends Hill was brought in from the Commons Hill was brought in from the Commons amendment of Clause 2 at a later stage. He could give no pledge that the passage of the Bill would be facilitated in the House of

Commons. The Bill was read a second time.
The Merchant Shipping (Superannuation Contributions) Bill was read the third time

Their lordships rose at 22 minutes to 5

### HOUSE OF COMMONS

TUESDAY, Nov. 16

The Speaker took the Chair at a quarter to

### PLANS FOR FOOD CONTROL

### SHADOW ORGANIZATION" CREATED

were being prepared in his Department for safeguarding the food supplies of this country during an emergency.

Mr. OLIVER STANLEY (Westmorland, tion for controlling the supply and distribution of food and feeding-stuffs in the event of an emergency, to create throughout Great Britain a "shadow" organization which could, within the area of each local authority, as during

the period of food control in the Great War.

I will circulate further particulars in the men who will act as Divisional Food Officers. Mr. BELLENGER (Bassetlaw, Lab.) .-

Mr. OLIVER STANLEY.—The shadow organization will be in readiness in case of GOVERNMENT SYMPATHETIC

The FARL of ONSLOW supported the under the Food Controller in the War.

[Following is the circulated statement:-

time. In the event of an emergency the expenses of Local Food Control Committees would be defrayed from national funds appointments of Divisional Food Officers have been made, in consultation with the Secretary of

have been made, in consultation with the Secretary of State for Scotland so far as appointments in Scotland are concerned:—

### ENGLAND AND WALES

Shire, Somerset, Manual Company of the Cartan consists. Den-bighalite, Flinshire, Merionathalite, Montgomeryshire,— Major W. Lloyd Griffith, (Caernarvon). Sourif Wales.—Brecknockshire, Cardiganshire, Car-marthenshire, Glamorganshire, Monngouthshire, Pem-brokeshire, Radnorshire.—Sir Thomas Jones. (Cardifi.) SCOTLAND

Mr. J. W. Peck, Chief Divisional Officer for Scotland. (Edinburgh.)

Mr. J. W. Peck, Chief Divisional Officer for Scotland (Edinburgh)
SOUTH-EAST.—Mid Lothian (Including City of Edinburgh), Berwick, East Lothian, Pechler, Roxfurgh,
(Edinburgh)
West.—Lanaré (including fell officer), Argill,
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### THE RISE IN FOOD PRICES

Mr. SMEDLEY CROOKE (Deritend, U.) asked the President of the Board of Trade if he was aware of the anxiety of the general body of housewives in the country caused by the rise in prices of groceries and other foodstuffs which was causing hardship to those with small fixed incomes; whether he would set up an inquiry to make sure that the rise was not due to rings; and whether he would consider what further steps he could take to ease the burden of expenditure on the necessities of life.

Mr. OLIVER STANLEY,-I am aware that the rise in food prices is causing concern. In general I would remind my hon, friend that the rise in food prices reflects a recovery from the conditions of the period of depression. I doubt whether any useful purpose would be served by MAJOR MILLS (New Forest and Christ-church, U.) asked the President of the Board of Trade if he proposed to set up any local organization in connexion with the plans which were being pregared in his Downward and the Government, and I am sure that the council would not fail to report to me if it appeared that the prices of any foodstuffs were being raised unduly by the operation of rings.

Mr. CROOKE.-Is my right hon, friend aware that even the threat of an inquiry has caused a small drop in the prices of some foodstuffs, and will he therefore not reconsider whether he will hold an inquiry into the matter ?

Mr. OLIVER STANLEY.-The hon. member's question referred specificaly to the question of rings, and my answer is that it is continually under review by the Food Council. and if they thought there was a ring in any par-ticular industry which was putting up prices Official Report, with the names of the gentle- they would not fail to report the matter to me

### PROTECTION UNDER THE BRITISH FLAG

### REGISTRATIONS REFUSED

CAPTAIN A. EVANS (Cardiff, S., U.) asked the President of the Board of Trade how many ships were refused provisional registration under the British flag during the nine months ended September 30, 1937; and whether any such refusals were because such registration was sought only as a temporary expedient.

Mr. OLIVER STANIEY .- Since the issue

be quanted by the fact that meet armoun-piereing bombs would not be suitable for use against the civil population, and that for all practical purposes very much lighter structures would give a very considerable measure of

immunity.

But while he agreed with the Government ROGITIERS.—Durham, Norhumberland, with Tees, Stort-Bits, Tees, Tee ment it had received from the Home Sceretary, and more study should be given to giving immunity from high explosive bombs which were in this containers and which while they had no great penetrative power could be enormously destructive when flung among ordinary houses.

### EXPLOSION OF THE WAY OF THE PROPERTY OF THE

of incendiary bombs. He (Mr. Churchill) carnestly hoped that that matter would be the subject of serious and continuous study. It

ence of London on the approaches by water. He asked for an assurance that both these questions were being dealt with not only by setting up a committee and the preparation of paper up a committee and the preparation of paper schemes, but also by the taking of concrete steps, the appointment of individuals in the different localities, and by marking the different localities, and by marking the different areas so that if trouble came there would be a practical scheme ready by which our large populations might be defended. The position had deteriorated inguny directions of the description of the description

stronger than ours, and our relations with certain foreign Powers had been gravely impaired. Therefore everything showed how urgent was the warning which was given in 1934, and with how much greater emphasis these matters pressed upon us now. (Cheers.) No doubt hon, members had heard talk some times of there being a nine days' war-that was to say a war which was so short that the scarcity of food or raw material would not prevent an aggressor striking down his victim and gaining a final result before any scarcity could become

### VALUE OF THE COUNTER-ATTACK

That was a hideous form of attack, and without the provisions contained in this measure they were not capable of resisting it. It could certainly not be met by my-stem of mere passive defence, but only by well-directed counter-attacks against military targets and objectives. He thought that there was no doubt that if one side in an equal war en-deavoured to cow and kill the civil population deavoired to cow and kill the civil population while the other attacked military objectives and other points on which the opponents warmaking capacity depended, the victory would come to the side—all other things being equal -which avoided making war on the civil population.

But for that time would be needed for any such effects to manifest themselves, and meanwhile the existing capacity of the civil population to endure punishment with fortitude would be vital. If it was supposed that the civil population would give in, or induce their Government to give in, then this odious form of warfare came much nearer to us. The way to prevent this form of attack being employed was by well-organized means to make the crime not worth committing.

Our defence precaution although only sub-

of the tener precaution annuagi only so-sidiary to the general problem might neverthe-less make the difference not only between vic-tory and defeat, but what was even more important might make the difference between thing being tried or not tried at all, between peace being broken and the peace being preserved. The vulnerable character of dreat Britain and its great cities, particularly Le ion,

authorities in these areas and generally undertake for the great cities. The statement the it would find a certain mood of exasperation had stolen the time being the work which in other pars of Great lake 2011, to 2411 of concrete to give protection in it is not anticipated that any expenditure will be incurred by legal authorities in this connection in peace incurred by legal authorities in this connection in peace the right hon, gentleman put a disregard armour-piercing bombs, as they over them from time to time. But nothing is not only the credulity but on the would only be used for ships and naval targets. It is not anticipated that any expensive bombs must of course, let the contrary, they appeared to be mild and meets when he said that Lord Londonderry had re-fullying the subject had come to the contrary, they appeared to be mild and meets.

to the last degree.

When he looked at the correspondence of November 5 he found it remarkable that they should have been so ready to kiss the rod. (Laughter.) The local authorities took the point that considerably more than two years had passed since the Government announced that air raid precautions had become a matter of grave urgency, and they pointed out that as the matter had moved no farther forward, they repudiated all responsibility for the delay, but expressed their willingness to administer any funds which the Central Government might place at their disposal. The local authorities' letter of November 5 was a captious and cen-

### PERCENTAGE GRANT

### THE RATE BURDEN

On the question of the percentage grant the tary that he was fully alive to the danger Government were not only justified but were bound in the public interest to stand strictly carnestly hoped that that matter young be the subject of serious and continuous study. It was true that apparently it had not manifested itself as at all decisive in the fighting at plant of the property of weapon against that city.

There were also the questions of the reaction of air attack on the civil population and the protection of the London docks and the Estuary of the Thames in view of the depend-

We certainly could not have any local authority drawing a blank cheque on the nation and spending money perhaps out of proportion to other authorities, perhaps out of all proportion to what was deemed necessary for air raid precaution. The taxpayer was obviously entitled to protection from abuses of that kind.

The difference between the two sides of the House at that moment was reduced to the microscopic. It would be a fine thing if they could be united in the matter. There wa really entire agreement apart from the very

small point of the financial arrangement and upon the form which the Bill should take. The fact that years had passed was a re-proach to the system of free government which they enjoyed, loved, and sought to observe. He would not press the Government to concede another penny on the percentages; he would not ask them to deprive themselves of any means of preventing reckless abuse. But if those objects could be obtained in a manner which carried with it agreement it would be worth while to endeavour to achieve them. He hoped that further effort would be made in the few hours that remained—either that another effort would be made or that the Ministers when they came to reply would give them more reasons than at present why they were not able to deal with the one in a hundred recalcitrant or extravagant authority.

### "A GREAT CONTRAST"

He felt there was a great contrast between the first and last parts of Mr. Morrison's speech last night. In the first part they saw him living up to his position as chief municipal officer in the greatest city and also the most vulnerable city in the world; in the second part they saw him endeavouring to state the views of the bench on which he sat. What a contrast! Someone the other dayhe did not know who it was; it might have been the Prime Minister—during a speech reminded them of the well-known dual per-sonality of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, The dual capacity of the right hon, gentleman was very apparent—what he (Mr. Churchill) had rarely ever seen before, and what they were privileged to witness yesterday-the actual transleged to winess yesterday—the actual trans-mogrification of Dr. Jekyll into Mr. Hyde before their very eyes. (Laughter.) It was remarkable to see Mr. Morrison sweep away all his responsibilities, all his care, all the extremely able discussion so formidable in Parliamentary debate, and then come back to extremely able discussion so formidable in Parliamentary debate, and then come back to the old party talks which in easy and quet times might well be the stock-in-trade of politiciary the fore Operation. politicians on the front Opposition benches.

When Mr. Morrison suggested that if bomb-ing existed in the world, it was all due to the fact that Lord Londonderry had said some-tic that Lord Londonderry had said some-When Mr. Morrison suggested that if bomb-

when he said that Lord Londonderry had resumed his time-honoured function of extending party hospitality on the eve of the Session, and had been chosen as President of the National Union of Conservative Associations because the new Prime Minister was more vulnerable to air bombing than his predecessor, then he (Mr. Churchill) said that Mr. Morrison -at whose career the House and the country looked with great interest and hope—had entered a region which baffled the most exten-sive vocabulary, where the facetious monstrosity of his assertions defied rejoinder, but happily did not need it because of their inherent folly. (Cheers.)

Mr. LEONARD (Glasgow, St. Rollox, Lab.) Mr. LEONARD Griasgow, St. Rollox, Lab.) said that London would be in a first-line position in any air raid because of the possibility of such an attack breaking the moral of the nation as a whole. It must be remembered, it had such a densely packed population and because docks, munition works, and heavy industries were in close proximity. Morcover, some of the poorer homes in his own division were ill enough equipped to withstand the elements, not to mention liquid fire rained from the heavens. In view of what happened in the last War immediate action should be taken by the Government to control the price of air raid defence equipment.

### LIBERAL MEMBER AND MR. CHURCHILL

SIR P. HARRIS (Bethnal Green, S.W., L.) said that the moderation of the speech of the right hon gentleman the member for Epping (Mr.Churchill) was most marked. What puzzled some members on both sides of the House was the fact that he was a private member. He (Sir P. Harris) was not one who admired all the views and opinions of the right hon, gentleman, but if they were bound to face the problem of defence on a large scale surely no one would be more suitable to carry out that policy than the right hon, gentleman. One did not know if he was absent because Barkis was not willing or whether his absence was due to jealousy or perhaps to the fear that his abilities and capacities would rather dwarf those of some of his colleagues. If they had to have some Minister to deal with the problem he would have thought it

wiser to entrust it to the Minister of Health. If the local authorities were to be entrusted with any work of any character there must be some financial liability, however small. The amendment he had tabled in relation to and Mr. Churchill against the dilatory methods The amendment he had caused in relation to the money resolution was at the request of the local authorities. It would not encourage the local authorities. It would not encourage would deal at length with the criticisms that extravagance. He had so framed the amend-ment that if any particular local authority went in for extravagant schemes that would involve expenditure over a twopenny rate, then automatically the Minister's veto came into chapter of discussions had been to diminish operation. That gave an adequate safeguard against waste, inefficiency, and extravagance.

Mr. SIMMONDS (Birmingham, Duddeston, the aegotiations. The only point of substance. U) said there was general agreement in all parts of the House in connexion with the imperative necessity of evacuation and the importance of bomb-proof shelters. In some respects the Home Office had adopted a hesitating if not negative policy. The Government had been too apt to set a limit to finance and

formulate a policy thereafter, The Government had to make up their minds in regard to the question of evacuation and shelters. The peril must be mastered, no matter how high the expense. The evacuation must be from what might be described as target areas for aircraft. If the Government did not direct that evacuation in an orderly manner the people in those areas would carry it out themselves in a disorderly manner Powers should be taken to enable the Government or a local authority to compel evacuation in certain areas. Citizens who volun-teered for air raid precautions service should not be called to go into an area to rescue

On the question of bomb-proof shelters he

He and some of his friends who had been studying the subject had come to the conclusion that the missile against which they ought to provide protection was the 500lb. explosive bomb and those beneath that weight,

### COST OF SHELTERS

The French Government, who had carried out more research in this matter than our own, reckoned that four or five feet of ferro-concrete was adequate for protection against these bombs. Shelters that would resist even a direct bomos. Shelters that would resist even a direct hit could thus be constructed for £40 a head, or £1,000 for 25 people. The provision of shelters affected three parties—employers, employees, and the Government. There was no reason why the three should not contribute equally to the cost, at the rate, say, of 3d. a week each for 25 years. To those who said that was a very long period he would reply that it would give the country a mighty nation as a whole. It must be remembered, however, that there were other towns just as vulnerable. Glasgow was one of them because it had such a densely packed population and to have a different foreign policy and

strengthen our influence in the world.

Referring to the fundamental consideration of the insurance of property in time of war, he said that there were no fewer than 1,000,000 people at present purchasing their houses through building societies. Were they to see their life savings invested in those houses wiped out without expecting the Government to find replacement?

to non replacement?

Admirable though the efforts of the Home Secretary had been, this was the work for a full-time Minister. So far as the country was concerned public indifference to the problem must be removed.

If bomb-proof shelters were provided, as he thought they should be, the expenditure might well be higher than a twopenny rate. Could the Home Secretary not give an undertaking that after three years he would review the financial implications of the Bill? If he could put in a clause to that effect it would go a long way towards closing the ranks. This was part of rearmament, and in the face of external danger he appealed to the Opposition to let the Bill go through without a division.

### GOVERNMENT OFFER

### FINANCIAL REVIEW AFTER THREE YEARS

SIR S. HOARE, Home Secretary (Chelsea, U.), intervening, said that a series of appeals had been made, and the House would then see how groundless the charges were.

One of the satisfactory results of the lone now between Mr. Morrison and some of the bodies for whom he had spoken, and the Government, was the single issue of the excess expenditure over a twopenny rate. Sir P. Harris had put down an amendment to the financial resolution proposing that there should be a veto on schemes that would involve local authorities in more than a twopenny rate. Mr. Morrison had put down an amendment to ensure that expenditure over a twopenny rate should be backed by the State.

He (Sir S. Hoare) was anxious to eliminate this margin of difference if it was humanly

ns margin of difference is it was numary possible so to do. (Cheers.)

After very careful consideration of the amendment and with a desire to remove any differences which might exist between the Government and the Opposition, his colleagues and he had come to the view that this was not the best way to do it. They did not feel that it was possible in a question which involved issues of life and death to put a definite veto on public expenditure. The only instance he had been able to discover was that of the veto forbidding any more than a penny rate for public libraries. Hon, members would see the great difference between a minor question of this kind and the far graver issues that were raised by air raid precautions.



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e special scrutiny of nal certificates of have been refused. on the ground that the applicants were not qualified to own British ships. Prior to that date, certificates of provisional registry were usually issued by Consuls without reference to the Board of Trade, and it is not possible to say how many applications were not proceeded with because of the inability of the applicants to satisfy the Consul as to their title to own

Mr. THURTLE (Shoreditch, Lab.) .- Is the Government doing everything it can to hamper the efforts of the Spanish Government to receive supplies?

flag to people who are not really entitled to

Miss WILKINSON (Jarrow, Lab.) .-- In view of the recent actions of the Admiralty in not protecting British ships, are there any

Mr. STANLEY.—From the number of applications received from foreigners there would appear to be. (Cheers.) VISCOUNTESS ASTOR

Sutton, U.).—What about all the children the British sailors have saved?

### JAPANESE IMPORTS

Mr. OLIVER STANLEY stated, in reply to CAPTAIN PLUGGE (Chatham, U.), that, taking the latest available figure, British trade with Japan did not show any appreciable decline as a result of the disinclination of the public to buy Japanese imports.

### THE GOLD STANDARD

SIR J. SIMON, Chancellor of the Exchequer (Spen Valley, L.Nat.), informed Mr. LOCAL AUTHORITIES' SHARE J. R. Robinson (Blackpool, U.) that no negotiations were in progress between Great Britain, France, and the United States of

### FIDUCIARY NOTE ISSUE RAISED BY £20,000,000

Mr. ATTLEE (Limehouse, Lab.) asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he proposed any variation in the fiduciary note issue o meet Christmas demands.

SIR J. SIMON.—Yes, Sir. I have given directions at the request of the Bank of England and under the powers conferred on the Treasury by the Currency and Bank Notes Act, 1928, that as from the middle of November, 1937, the fiduciary issue which was reduced from £260,000,000 to £200,000,000 last year should be temporarily raised to £220,000,000

This arrangement is to meet seasonal demands, and it is, therefore, contemplated that it will obtain for about two months, that is to the middle of January, 1938.

### AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS MR. CHURCHILL'S SUPPORT OF THE BILL

Debate was resumed on the second reading of the Air Raid Precautions Bill, to which yesterday Mr. H. Morrison (Hackney, S., Lab.) had moved the following amendment: -

That this House, while conscious of the regrettable necessity for taking measures to protect life and property in the event of air involved being made a national charge.

Mr. CHURCHILL (Epping, U.), continuing his speech, said that he wholeheartedly supported the Bill, Perhaps it was not an easy decision to take, but he thought on the whole that the Government were quite right in not taking any responsibility for according complete immunity by passive defence to the population against air attack. It was beyond the power of any organization to do that. The large armour-piercing or semi-armour-piercing and healthy administration. and animor packing or semi-animor-packing projectiles were not weapons which would be used against the civil population: they were used to attack warships, and perhaps power stations or docks, or possibly in order to differed and which were so continuously regardle water supply and electric mains in location of the project of the proj

ications was not remedied by constant and well of y, four ceived measures, might well draw down ach case the whole world the on-rush of a measure catastrophe.

## RESPONSIBILITY OF MINISTERS

He was in the fullest accord with the Go ment in the Bill which they had at last duced. With regard to the Circular of Ju 1935, pointing out to local authorities th was necessary to create organizations to Mr. STANLEY.—Our desire is not to give mize the consequences of air attack, and the protection and advantages of the British as it would not be possible to improvise of mize the consequences of air attack, and tive measures on the spur of the moment in of emergency, preparation must be mad time of peace, this Bill was its child. The cess of its birth throes, however, appeare have been severely protracted. (Hear, hear laughter.)

There was no reason why this Measure should not have been brought before Palliament when they reassembled in the autum of 1935. (Hear, hear.) Up to the present shey had received no adequate explanation of the hiatus of two years which seemed to have inter-vened in carrying forward the negotiations with local authorities and presenting a Bill to the House, and serious responsibility rested upon all or any, whether they were national or local authorities who had contributed in any way to the delay.

Of course the main responsibility rested on Ministers. Their power was overwhelming. They had the whole matter in their hands and were supported by the great majority of Parliament. There was nothing they could ask Parliament for in this matter in which they would not be whole-heartedly supported

If the responsibility of Ministers was des local authorities also had a definite share America, with a view to an early return to the spold content of the standard on the basis of a reduced gold content of the standard coin. ties Mr. H. Morrison had a very good tale tell. From the very beginning, two and a fial years ago, local authorities' first thought wa to claim 100 per cent, from the Governmen for air raid precautions. He (Mr. Churchill) challenged that principle absolutely. These passive precautions were not in any way on the same footing as the fighting Services. At They were told that this was a new feature

in local government. But surely an attemp to undermine the freedom of a great people by destroying their women and children from the air was a new feature in the governmen of man. (Hear, hear) These precautions were so intimately associated with the localities that they could only be administered by the localities. ties, and, without an earnest and helpful effo on the part of localities nothing that the Centra Government could do would be of any avail If these measures were to be administered frugally and effectively, local authorities mus-bear their share of the expenditure and musi have an effective interest in the economies which they could create from day to day with

out prejudice to efficiency. As regarded the percentage the Government had been generous to the last degree. (Hear, hear.) The first offer was to share the administrative services on the basis of 50-50. That was a very fair offer.

### CAPTIOUS AND CENSORIOUS DOCUMENT

Still, after three or four separate concessions had been made to local authorities the position raids, cannot assent to the second reading at this moment was that the Government were of a Bill which does not provide for the cost | bearing at least nine-tenths of the whole expenditure, taking into consideration the provision of the appliances. Still Mr. Morrison was not satisfied; still those for whom that right hon, gentleman spoke, and whom, with a consummate art of generalship, he ken together in a strong body, were not satisfied Now we had reached a position where the whole burden was borne by the Central Government except a minimum percentage

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imposed by the fact that a local authority had to take a share of this expenditure. The more air raid precautions, which were intimately they laid themselves open to extravagant related to national defence, and the cost of schemes for local authorities this check of the which was negligible compared with the

### SOME LOCAL SHARE ESSENTIAL

It was not sufficient to have the check of of these activities depended on the detailed way in which the local authority administered these services on the spot, and the Government could not recede from the position they had maintained the whole way through these discussions and over the whole field of this expenditure. Whether it exceeded a penny or twopenny rate, or fell short of a penny or twopenny rate, there must be some local share of expenditure in the cost of the precautions.

Moreover, the Government maintained that Moreover, the Government maintained that cases in which the expenditure would exceed a twopenny rate were so unlikely that the House need not take them into account. They could only arise as a result of great extravagance by a particular local authority. l et hon, members remember that a twopenny rate would mean in many cases that the State would be spending the equivalent of a sixpenny, seven penny, or even an eightpenny rate. It was therefore dealing with an expenditure far above the kind of scale they contemplated.

The only other way in which the high expenditure feared might come about would be if as a result of deterioration in the state of the world there was a demand for much greater air raid precautions than they were at present contemplating. In that case it would be necessary for the Government, with the local authorities, to reconsider the whole posi-Their scheme in the Bill was based upon the plans that they thought adequate in the present situation. If a new situation were created in which plans on a much greater scale were required obviously he would accept the position that they had to reconsider the financial arrangements.

If conditions were such as to alter their present plans he would say that a new situation had

### SUGGESTED NEW CLAUSE

The proper way to reassure the local authorities and to remove this last item of difference between them and the Government was to follow the lines suggested by Mr. Simmonds. He was prepared to go further than he went in the debate yesterday, when he told the House that they had discussions during the negotiations in which he suggested that they might put a time limit to the Bill and that at that time there was some difference of opinion heads of the Home Office attached too little between the local authorities on whether a time limit would be useful or not.

His further inquiries went to show that a time limit would be useful and would go a long way to reassure them. He noticed, for in-Morrison to make out yesterday that local stance, in certain of the resolutions that had authorities had no share at all in blame for been passed by some of these associations that emphasis was laid on the great advantage of having a time limit at the end of which there would necessarily come a revision of the financial arrangements between the local authorities the country had he advised getting on with and the Exchequer.

Accordingly he was prepared to accept the Accordingly he was prepared to accept the and left bars suggestion thrown out by Mr. Simmonds and put down a new clause which would make the assurance he had already given doubly sure of the suggestion of the s and that would make it clear that there would be a comprehensive revision within three years of the working of the financial provisions of the Bill. (Cheers.) He believed that when the local authorities saw this new clause on paper it any local authority defaulted in this scheme the great trajective of them would realize that

to keep in close contact with them, to discuss State expenditure, but nothing definite as to with them any other difficulties that might; the maximum expenditure which might fall on

stances he could not advise his friends to do other than go to a division against the Government

They appreciated, as far as it had gone, what the right hon, gentleman had said, although was not new. Municipal expenditure on local share was really the only effective check. £1,500,000,000 the Government were spending on national defence, was unjust, unappropriate, and not conducive to clear-cut administration in this matter. (Opposition cheers.) State should take complete charge, pay for this scheme, and put the local authorities the approval of these schemes before the under orders as agents on behalf of the Governschemes were put into operation. So many ment in this particular matter. Having these activities depended on the detailed regard to the dead-set of the Government on the principle of a twopenny limit, if muni-cipal expenditure required the imposition of twopence or more, what hope there was for the local authorities to get a concession out of the Government then, he was not at

### A NATIONAL SERVICE

This service which was undertaken in the nterests of the security of the nation ought to be national. (Opposition cheers.) In this case he (Mr. Morrison) was perfectly prepared to forgo the autonomy of local authorities provided that the State would accept responsibility and he would agree to almost any powers which the Home Secretary liked to take in this Bill—powers which, indeed, the right hon. gentleman ought to have in this matter of life or death. That was the remedy for the extravagant local authority, if there was any such.

All this expenditure would have to be ap-

proved by the Home Secretary, and the right on, gentleman could not only amend a scheme because he thought it extravagant, but also because he did not think that the authority was spending enough. But suppose there was an artificial panic stirred up it might be that the Secretary of State himself would insist on extravagant expenditure, and in that case what remedy had the local authorities against the extravagance of the right hon gentleman? He (Mr. Morrison) did not want argument, friction, and delay over this matter; he hated

Lab.), speaking as a member of the Metro-politan Water Board, asked the Home Secretary to see that the grant in aid of the expendi ture now being incurred by that authority in connexion with air raid precautions would least be equal to that which was given to the local authorities for this work.

### PLEA FOR MORE RAPID PROGRESS

Mr. MAXWELL (King's Lynn, U.) said there must be an indictment of either our lack of enthusiasm or our methods for being so long getting on with the job. It appeared as if the importance to this vital question of air raid pre-cautions, or on account of the extreme difficulties allowed it to slide into the background.

He did not think it was fair for Mr. H.

that had taken place. Those bodies delay could have got on with their schemes as the Government had asked them to do. Morrison would have done greater service to schemes, which cost nothing in preparation, and left bargaining as to State contributions Air raid officers should be

appointed as whole-time officials. Mr. WESTWOOD (Stirling and Falkirk, Lab.) said that to suggest that local authorities would not economize if given responsibility amounted to a vote of no-confidence in them. If any local authority defaulted in this scheme e last of their anxieties had been removed.
Further than that, he hoped in the future length of their control with them.

blem of high explosive, gas, and incendiary hombs from aeroplanes on a modern scale, and ould be taken if war ever came. That, of course, was an enormous and a new problem. It was new technically; it was new administra-tively; and, above all, it was new psychologically to our people.

### FACTS FROM SHOEBURYNESS

One of the great difficulties that had to be overcome at the beginning was the lack of accurate knowledge of the effect of modern air weapons and of reliable data upon which to give advice to the local authorities and the public. Therefore it was necessary to institute a considerable series of practical experiments. Intensive experiments had been carried out by the Government at the Shoeburyness experi mental range to get accurate data upon the penetrative effect of various types of high explosive bombs and also of their blast and splinter effect.

In one interesting experiment, which showed the intensive nature of the work, there was actually constructed at Shoeburyness a fullscale model of a London street with every mains, gas hydrants, sewers, and so on. An experiment was carried out with large 500th, and a carried out with large 500th, and the practice principle forms for the purpose of being able to advise all the various authorious for the purpose of the control of the underground service in it-electric mains, water of being able to advise an the various author-ties on exactly the type of damage that they might have to expect to deal with in air raids. He thought he could say broadly that the

result of these experiments confirmed the advice that the Government had given with regard to shelters. Three hon, members had raised the question whether it was really right to pay so much attention to the 500lb. semi-armour-piercing bomb, and asked why it would not be better to consider also the question of the general purpose bomb. They

also asked, "Are you not really setting your-selves too high a standard?"

The Home Office were informed by their expert advisers that it was essential for them to take into very careful consideration, as far as the civilian population was concerned, the considerable use of 500lb, semi-armour-piercing bombs. Therefore, it remained true a political argument about this question at all, tall tought to be a straightforward administrative job, and even now he asked the Govern-tive job, and even now he asked the Govern-tive job. war?

SIR S. HOARE replied that he could contemplate, short of the outbreak of withdraw the amendment on behalf of the outbreak of word authorities and the official Opposition.

If conditions were such as to alter their present plans he would account.

Mr. R. C. MORRISON (Totterbown)

Nevertheless it remained true that the Home Office should advise, in regard to the construction of shelters, that every step should be taken that was possible to give protection even against direct hits, because it was undoubtedly the case that if the floors were constructed in a strong enough way and if the supports sheered up the refuge room so that it would not collapse if the rest of the building fell upon it a considerable degree of protection could be alforded. In view of the fact that they could not guarantee protection against direct hits the alternative policy of dispersal must be the main policy upon which they must rely, and the best practical form of dispersal was to advise people to stay in their own

On the other hand the question had been raised by many members as to the position of those whose homes would not make suitable shelters. Of course in that matter as also in the case of those caught in the streets it would be the duty of the local authorities to provide shelters, and he was able to say that the Home Office would approve for the purpose of grants the expenses which a local authority involved itself in with regard to the construction of public shelters in congested areas where the houses were not suited to be used as shelters.

### CONGESTED AREAS **EVACUATION DECISIONS**

Continuing, Mr. Lloyd said:--It is true that local authorities will require to use many millions of sandbags in making their public shelters, and I am in a position to announce

accept it as a solution, and in the circum- holder to the Government, aware of the pro- culture and learning, was very gravely resented grounds. Public opinion on this matter was FREEDOM OF THE by the senior members of the Faculty. I think the House would want a scientific matter to take such reasonable precautions as should to take such reasonable precautions as should be taken now and such further precautions as the such reasonable precaution as the such reasonable precauti the least, i political tinge.

The anti-war movement is, of course, well

known to hon, members. It was condemned as a Communist-inspired movement by the National Executive of the Labour Party, and I do not think it is really necessary to go farther than that. (Opposition protests.)

Mr. H. MORRISON .- I think you are

chnically wrong.
Mr. LLOYD.—I have the leaflet here issued by the Labour Party in my hand. I understand it is one of a number of organizations declared as subversive and unworthy of recognition by members of the Labour movement.

### "IMPORTANT FALLACIES"

The House will not expect me to go into details with regard to the experiments, but I would like to make two points. First of all, they were conducted not with a war poison gas but with carbon dioxide, a perfectly harmless gas produced by every hon, member every leaked fito a room, but they measured the amount of gas which leaked out of a room, and then they tried to deduce by theoretical how much gas would have leaked into the room. I am advised by the Government's a advisers that this procedure naturally aportant fallacies. led to

L. JENKINS (Pontypool, Lab.).-On the occision when that report was published I tenderished to get him the Minister) to agree endeavigured to get him the Minister) to agree to refeithe contentious points to some body of a training of personnel. The Home Office to refeithe contentious points to some body of many that the content with the content independent scientists for a report in order to localized as instructors who could measure the public in this country, but he refused to do it. I do not know whether it has been refused to do independent scientists since employ of local authorities had been trained

competent though those technical are. I think hon, members with knowledge of this subject will agree that the Research Department of the Committee of Imperial Defence at the end of the War was regarded as the most efficient Department of that kind in the whole world.

### HELP OF EXPERT ADVISERS

But in addition to these experts, the Government have the advice of upwards of 100 disinguished outside scientists and technical chemits. In fact I think it is true to say that eding scientists of the country in this re members of the Chemical Defence field Committee. I notice that, in regard to Cambridge University for example, the late Lord Ruthaford was a member of the Committee until sis death. I notice that Sir William Pope, the polessor of chemistry, Professor Dean, rofessor of chemistry, Professor Dean, frofessor of pathology, Sir Joseph dett, professor of physiology, were all the committee. Sir Joseph off is the man who during the War, the standard of the control of the contro he members was decided to ascertain whether pruse acid gas could be used as a war gas, took he view that although it was fatal to animats it was not futal to human beings, as other scientists took the view that it ecause it was fatal to animals. He was

ries of experiments have been carried out sbury Plain using actual war poison Four types of poison gas were usedpe, mustard gas, tear gas, and arsenical e. First of all it should be said that some tion against gas is afforded by merely indoors and closing all doors and It is a matter of common knowhat many peasants living behind the lines last War escaped the effect of gas merely ng indoors and closing doors and We conducted experiments which

But by the time autumn came the Home Office were in a position to go on to the next stage. By that time a number of schemes had technical basis, and quite free from politics, Newerthelgs, I must point out that the Cam-bridge Scientists Anti-War Group have, to say certain buildings and certain personnel for

certain purposes. They were not costed schemes and the next They were not costed schemes and the next stage was to get them accurately costed. When the Home Office had a sufficient number of typical schemes from various local authorities asking them to be costed it involved visits of inspectors of the Department to check the de inspectors of the Department to eneck the details on the spot, and the House would appreciate that local authorities and the Home Office were dealing with an entirely new and novel problem, technically and administratively. Local authorities often made mistakes which had to be corrected by the Department.

### TRAINING OF PERSONNEL THE HOME OFFICE SCHEME

By the beginning of this year the Government for the first time was in the possession of air-raid precautions in typical local authority districts, which it was absolutely vital to get for a general survey of the whole problem. No one would suggest that the national administration should take binding decisions on finance in a new problem of this kind involving millions of pounds until they had all the data before them, and had carried out a thorough survey of the expenditure in all its bearings.

In addition to that, work was pressed on in referred to independent scientists since to the property of local authorities had been trained in anti-gas and general air-raid precautions the Government do not merely depend the Government do not merely depend the control of the property of the propert

a result of the Home Office had also trained on their own account 10,000 doctors, and under a scheme with the St. John Ambulance and Red Cross Society about 6,000 people had been trained in first-aid duties. They had also made contact with business organiza-tions, a handbook had been prepared, 500 factories had been visited, and contact had been established with Chambers of Commerce and employers' organizations, who had been extremely helpful.

### OUTPUT OF RESPIRATORS

With regard to civilian respirators, a factory was established and the estimated product was at the rate of 500,000 a week. The actual output had risen to 650,000 a week, and there were now practically 20,000,000 respirators, 9,000,000 of which were in London. They had also gone forward with a scheme for the distribution of the respirators, which was equally important.

They had carried out an investigation in a locality with a population of 100,000, and a scheme had been worked out in conjunction with the Home Office experts. It provided that the respirators should be stored in four transmitted of 20.000 respirators each and the stores of 30,000 respirators each, and the actual scheme of distribution would be through a chain of 30 sub-depôts, and then the disecause it was fatal to animals. He was a was a was a was a cause science of 30 sub-depois, and then the distance principle of the gas chamber a chain of 30 sub-depois, and then the distance principle of the second principl buted in a matter of hours.

As to the financial negotiations, he submitted that the statement made yesterday by the Home Secretary really in substance met the demand of that most powerful association (the Association of Municipal Corporations) and in one respect it was superior. The Home Secretary had promised to bring into recon-Secretary had promised to oring mio reconsideration any excess of a ld. rate, and in that respect he had met the local authorities very generously. (Hear, hear.) It had also heen indicated clearly that powerful influences in the County Councils Association took with the commentations as that of the Association.

# **PRÈSS**

### LORD HORNE ON BRITISH LIBERTY

### £33,500 FOR PRINTERS' PENSIONS

The Printers' Pension Corporation celebrated its 110th anniversary at a dinner at the Connaught Rooms last night. LORD PORTAL, president of the Festival, presided. the very beginning, when the matter of grant-Donations and subscriptions totalling ing belligerent rights was first raised, that this £33,500 as a result of the president's appeal were announced by Mr. R. H. essential knowledge with regard to the cost of Lucas, the secretary. Included in the items were £1,000 each from Portals, Limited, and Wiggins, Teape and Co. (1919), Limited, and £500 from Lord Nuffield.

The King sent the following message:

"I sincerely thank you for the loyal message sent on behalf of the Printers' Pension Corporation, which, as patron, I received with much pleasure."

The President, in proposing "continued prosperity of the corporation," said that 1,934 people were receiving benefits from it. That was a very fine tribute to its work. were 552 applicants waiting for pensions and it depended on the total raised that night n depended on the total raised that high whether they would be able to satisfy a quota of those people. He desired to thank Lord Nuffield, a great patriot and philanthropist, for his donation of £500. A great number of the applicants for pensions were widows. If they wished any industry to progress to-day they must have the good will of the unions and the people they represented.

Mr. C. W. Iveson, chairman of council,

esponded.

LORD HORNE submitted the toast "The Power of Printing and the Press." There were, he said, Press laws which passed beyond all ne said, rress laws which passed beyond air human comprehension, but he claimed that the liberty of the people of this country would always be safe in the hands of a free Press The great freedom which the Press of the Ine great treedom which the rress of the country enjoyed was so familiar that they scarcely ever thought about it. There were, however, nations where that liberty was not enjoyed. There were nations where the Press was disciplined and regimented. He could not magine any circumstances in which the citizens of this realm would ever submit to such a discipline. It was not for them to criticize those other nations, but he would venture to say that the discretion that had always been exercised by our Press justified the liberty that it enjoyed. by our Press justified the liberty intained in this country, they claimed with the fullest confidence that the liberties of our people would always be safe in its hands.

### INHERITED IDEALS

Major Astor, M.P., who responded, paid tribute to Lord Horne for his support of the Printers' Pension Corporation. The power of the Press, he said, lay in the ideals which it had inherited and which with rare exceptions it upheld. It lay even more in the liberty which it enjoyed and jealously safeguarded. What was the power of the Press in the totalitarian State? There it was not the power of the Press but the power of the big stick. The British Empire did not like the big stick.

There were some who foretold that the Press would gradually be supplanted by new agencies such as television or broadcasting, but he did such as television or broadcasting, but he divided into the lives it. In London they were happy to think of the Press in connexion with the great national dailies. They were great, but they were only part of the story. Behind them there was the admirable provincial Press, which had deep roots in local patriotism, and then the provincial press, which can be covered press, which can be considered by ences in the County Councils Association on had deep roots in local pairnoism, and in the action of the Association of Municipal Corporations. He (Mr. Lloyd) of Municipal Corporations. He (Mr. Lloyd) of Municipal Corporations of Municipal Corporations

### BRITISH PLAN FOR SPAIN

### M. MAISKY'S STATEMENT

The following is the statement by M. Maisky, the Soviet Ambassador, in the Non-Intervention Committee yesterday, in which he announced that his Government accepted the resolution for the execution of the British plan for Spain without reservation: -

I have already had an opportunity on more than one occasion to explain to the Committee in detail the important considerations which led my Government to maintain from matter is absolutely irrelevant to, and even cuts across, non-intervention as originally conceived and agreed to in August, 1936.

At the same time the Soviet Government, At the same time the Soviet Government, animated by its sincere desire to see real non-intervention assured, has made during the examination of the problem of helligerent rights a number of contributions which have clearly demonstrated its wish to give the Committee a fair chance to proceed towards the realization of its immediate task—that of the realization of the significance of the problems of the significance of the s withdrawal of foreign combatants from Spain which is at the moment the most important

--which is at the moment the most important and urgent aspect of non-intervention.

Thus, in my Note of July 29, it was stated that my Government was prepared to consider the question of granting beliligerent rights after the final evacuation of all foreign combatants from Spain. With the same object of facilitating the question of the withdrawal of foreign combatants, I, on behalf of my Government, stated at the meeting of the Sub-Committee on October 26 that if and when the Swite Government was convinced that the the Soviet Government was convinced that the bulk of foreign combatants had actually been withdrawn it might consent to consider the question of granting belligerent rights, even before the evacuation had been completed.

### RUSSIAN ACCEPTANCE

Finally, in order to make possible an early beginning with the practical work of the with-drawal of foreign combatants and to enable the Committee to make an immediate approach to the Spanish Government and General Franco, the Soviet Government instructed me rranco, the Soviet Government instructed me at the time when the draft resolution came up for discussion on the Sub-Committee on October 29, and at the Main Committee on November 4, to accept all the points of the revenuer 4, to accept an tne points of the resolution and to abstain only on that part which referred to the problem of belligerent rights, thereby making possible the unanimous adoption of the said resolution. This attitude of the Sayle Courant has a few and the said resolution. of the Soviet Government has, in fact, enabled the Chairman of the Committee to send at once the communication provided in the resolution to the Spanish Government and to General Franco.

To-day I am in a position to inform the Sub-Committee that the Soviet Government, in order to facilitate still further the practical in order to tachinate still ruriner the practical work of the Non-Intervention Committee for the withdrawal of foreign combatants from Spain, accepts the resolution of November 4 in toto without any reservations whatsoever, int toto without any reservations wateseers, leaving along with the other Governments its interpretation of the term "substantial with interpretation of the term "substantial withdrawal" until the time when this question with come up for consideration in the Committee.

I hope, Mr. Chairman, that my statement will assist you in guiding the work of the Committee towards a speedy realization of the withdrawal of foreign combatants from Spain.

### ANGLO-AMERICAN TRADE

### SUPPORT FOR A TREATY

LORD LUKE, speaking at the annual meeting of the British National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce in London yesterday, said the wide and representative circle of British business enterprises represented by the British National Committee had instructed him to address to the Prime Minister a clear encouragement to proceed with the negotiation of an Anglo-American Commercial

Stiftelsen norsk Okkupasjonshistorie, 2014 after the Bill became law. Lastly, be The best results could remind hon, members that this was the the best authorities if il

procedure which was adopted, and adopted with great satisfaction to the local authorities, in the matter of the block grant. When the block grant came into operation it was specified that there should be at given times revision to see how it was working. There had been periodical revisions and they had given great satisfaction to the local authorities. prepared to adopt a similar method in the case of the revision of these arrangements and to put down a clause that would carry out this undertakir.g.

Mr. SANDYS (Norwood, U.) asked whether in his new clause Sir S. Hoare would incorporate the assurance he had given that if before the three years elapsed the whole standard of air raid precautions as demanded by the Government went up there would be a reconsideration of the financial position.

sure whether that was the kind of undertaking RESULTS OF EXPERIMENTS to be put into this form. He had given the

### MR. MORRISON NOT SATISFIED

### DIFFICULTY STILL UNSOLVED assets.

listened with the greatest care to every word paring gas-proof rooms in houses it was not Sir S. Hoare had spoken, and the Opposition possible to make a distinction between munihad listened, not only with great care, but with an earnest hope that he would say something which would enable them to withdraw their amendment, and enable the House to give the Bill a unanimous second reading.

That was how they would have wished it None of them disputed the necessity for some such measure as was before the House, though they looked upon the necessity with the deepest regret, and deplored the reasons which had led to it. But the idea which Sir S. Hoare had put before the House was not new. It was advanced by him the Air Raid Precautions Department of the and his officers to the local authorities during Home Office since it was set up in May, 1935. the course of their negotiations as a solution of the financial apprehensions in the minds of prepare, and coordinate air raid precautions, the local authorities. They were unable to that was to make everyone, from the house-

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late to get absolute unanimity in the House with regard to the Bill. With the world as it was, all necessary precantions must be taken by those responsible for the lives of the people. This was a necessary Bill, the smooth and rapid working of which could be attained by moving any feeling of financial injustice from the minds of local authorities. That could best be attained by accepting the principle contained in the amendment or, if that could not be done, by limiting the financial commit-ments of the local authorities as requested by them to a twopenny rate for England and its equivalent so far as the Scottish authorities were concerned.

# MR. LLOYD'S REVIEW

Mr. G. LLOYD, Under-Secretary, Home Office (Birmingham, Ladywood, U.), said that he could give an assurance with regard to loan charges for air raid precautions. The conditions would be the same as for ordinary loan charges and would be related to the life of the They would not have to be dealt with Mr. H. MORRISON said that everyone had steemed with the greatest the second of the second steemers. cipal houses and the houses of other citizens

in the matter.

The charge of undue delay was one which had been made at the beginning of the debate by the right hon, gentleman the member for South Hackney (Mr. H. Morrison) and indeed soun racking twit. It. Morrison) and meets by the right hon, gentleman the member for Epping (Mr. Churchill), who lent the weight of his authority, to a certain extent, to that view on false information. But the charge that there had been undue delay and that very little had been done could best be met by a that there had been done could best be met by a pork in the production of a respirator capable little had been done could best be met by a brief statement of what had been done by brief statement of what had been done by the Air Raid Precautions Department of the were the first country to solve that problem

The object of the Department was to plan.

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PARTY

The best results could not be obtained to make a necessity of the local authorities. It is not possible to make an accurate estimate in regard to these matters but it is clear that the accurate estimate in regard to these matters. be likely to be in the nature of between £1,000,000 and £2,000,000. The Government will make available free of charge to local authorities sandbags to meet approved requirements for the purpose of public shelters.

The problem of congested areas cannot be completely dealt with by the construction of public shelters and hon, members have raised ya the Government of the day must be in a position to take quick and decisive action, and tion to take quick and decisive action, and therefore they must be in possession of plans, and plans must be prepared beforehand. Preliminary plans are already in existence in regard to London, and it would certainly in outview be the duty of the big local authorities to the provinces to consider this matter in according with their own schemes. connexion with their own schemes.

### BOMBS AND RESPIRATORS

I now come to the question of incendiary nombs. A considerable amount of experimental work has been carried out in regard to the control of these bombs, and an experiment was made on a derelict house in which these bombs were used and ignited, and I am sure closes the House will be glad to know that these most severe trial. bombs were controlled with the implements mentioned by my right hon, friend yesterday by a number of young ladies who, in every the house.

hey have protective clothing ? Mr. LLOYD .- No, Sir.

There has been a great amount of research work in the production of a respirator capable were the first country to solve that problem and we are still the only country which is issuing a respirator free to everybody. We now know that these respirators can be worn by children down to the age of four, and a special device for babies has now passed its scientific stage and is in the stage of practical scientific stage and is in the stage of practical trial. Also in regard to the aged and infirm people, we have carried out special investigations, with the cooperation of certain institutions, and these trials have gone to show that these respirators can be worn by one of the circular in 1935 and Esbauere. tions, and these trials have gone to show that these respirators can be worn by aged and infirm people without any discomfort and with no ill-effects, and that, in the case of asthma, there appears to be a positively curative result. (Laughter.)

### GAS-PROOF ROOMS REPLY TO ANTI-WAR SCIENTIST CRITICS

There has been a good deal of confusion with regard to gas-proof rooms. The recommendations of the Air Raid Precautions Department are simple, and they are cheap. Department are simple, and the National List a question of pasting paper over the cracks in the windows and the cracks in other places, of putting old sacks or newspapers up the chimney and perhaps over the entrances the chimney and perhaps over the entrances.

time. This is a process which could be completed, as far as the vast number of houses use of local authorities. s concerned, in a minute or two. It is already perfectly possible-1 take the extreme case in order to satisfy the hon, gentleman-for a family living in one room to have that as their gas-proof room.

These recommendations were based on a number of experiments, but there has been a number of criticisms of the efficiency of the gas-proofing recommendations of the Home Office. These criticisms came from a body called the Cambridge Scientists Anti-War Group. They published their findings in a which criticized the Government recommendations as ineffective.

I must make it quite clear to the House that this group of anti-war scientists are quite distinct from the large body of Cambridge distinct from the large body of Cambridge scientists, indeed, as I have good reason to know, their assumption of this confusing ments with all the majesty of Cambridge authories that refused, not on financial

A or this a room in a house was gas-proofed I was a ch ing to Home Office recommendations by unck led men, then two tons of chlorine were ed 20 yards from the house for an hour. .ls in the gas-proofed room were uned, and remained normal in spite of the y of the trial. In another experiment was surrounded at a distance of 20 yards ge shallow trays of mustard gas a few , apart, also a tine spray of mustard gas produced 10 yards to windward of the the question of evacuation. The question of evacuation obviously is a big problem and is a problem in which the final decision can only to taken by the Government of the day. But and a most morough examination revealed no tract of the effects of the gas. Chemical instancents were also in the room, and showed that a man could have remained there the whole time without a respirator.

Similar satisfactory experiments were carried out with the other poison gases. The special sub-committee of the Chemical Defence Committee, summing up the results of the experi-

mens. say:

The continuous were ourposely designed to represent the continuous lakely to be not, the continuous lakely and to alternate continuous lakely and to alternate continuous lakely l

In addition, it was essential to get local authorities to make a move on their own.

There were two lines on which this could case, succeeded in effectively controlling the bombs and preventing the obtained of organization, and, on the other hand, to start the training of local authority personnel Mr. NOEL BAKER (Derby, Lab.).—Did in anti-gas and general air raid precautions

# THE 1935 CIRCULAR

### A MISUNDERSTANDING CLEARED UP

The first step was the issue of the circular in July, 1935. There had been so much misunderstanding with regard to that circular that he must deal with it in some detail. He was not suggesting that Mr. H. Morrison was there had been no communications from the Home Office to local authorities between the The impression was that there had been no communication at all and that nothing

Mr. H. MORRISON.—The whole point of my argument was that the local authorities machine could not function until there was substantial financial agreement between local authorities and the Government, and that the Government had been so informed unable to the operation of the Bill from January 1 of April 4, 1938.

The amendment was agreed to and the clause of the company of the clause of the company of the clause of the company of the clause of th Government had been so informed unani-mously by the local authorities, and that notwithstanding that there was two years of delay before we were brought into joint conference with a view of arriving at a financial agreement.

Mr. LLOYD said that he appreciated and accepted what Mr. Morrison said, but the fact remained that many hon, members did not take

It was never contemplated, and it is quite unnecessary, that the refuge room which is to be gas-proofed should be a separate room. It is a room in which people can live all the latest the refuge room with the refuge room with the refuge room. They issued 50 per cent. of the room in which people can live all the latest room. During that time the Home Office issued no three memoranda, and six handbooks for the

### PLANS AND HANDBOOKS

ferences took place and lasted throughout by the jest of that year.

authorities were beginning to formulate their I must make it quite clear to the House that plan, the handbooks were issued and the work cussion which would otherwise have been out work a quickly, some more slowly, and there were ertain number of non-cooperating local

; for a tree country. we could carry it if not better than. to show efficiently in the world. (Cheers.)

The House divided, and there voted-Against the amendment .. 324 For the amendment

Government majority .. 189 The Bill was read a second time, and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

### THE MONEY RESOLUTION MR. LANSBURY'S PROTEST

The House went into Committee, SIR D. HERBERT, Chairman of Committees (Watford, U), in the chair.

COLONEL COLVILLE, Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mid Lothian, N., U.). then moved the financial resolution in con-nexion with the Bill.

Mr. H. MORRISON formally moved an

amendment providing that no grant should be made to a local authority

HIGGE 10 & 10CM BUTTONIY except upon the condition that the expenditure of the local authority, apart from a amount of such grant, does not exceed the produce of a rate in England of properce or in Southard of one and three-fifths of a penny pence or in Southard of one and three-fifths of a penny pence or in Southard of one and three-fifths of

Mr. LANSBURY (Bow and Bromley, Lab. Mr. LANSBURY (Bow and Bromley, Lab.) said that it was a terrible, awful, thing that Parliament should be called on to pass this resolution. He did not believe that the people outside had the least conception of what the

House was doing. For us to have reached the position in human affairs when every so-called civilized Govern-ment in the world was taking the same steps that we were really meant international suicide that we were really meant international suicide. (Hear, hear.) It was one of the most awful things that had happened in the history of any country that they should be engaged in business they were engaged on to-night For civilized nations throughout the world to have come to this position was sheer blasphemy both against God and humanity. (Hear,

The amendment was negatived by 305 votes to 149; Government majority, 156. The resolution was then agreed to.

### NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE

The House went into Committee on the National Health Insurance (Juvenile Contributors and Young Persons) Bill, Captain Bourne, Deputy Chairman of Committees (Oxford, U.), in the chair, On Clause 8 (Short Title, &c.),

SIR K. WOOD moved a new clause to provide for "Applications for memoership in good wishes to Mr. Ni. 18. Hely-fluidinison, the Approved Societies by boys and girds who have into become juvenile contributors." and to to become juvenile contributors and to tregularize the position of young people who regularize the position of young people who have joined approved secreties in anticipation in the provided approved secreties in the provided approved secreties in anticipation in the provided approved secreties are provided approved secreties and the provided approved secreties are provided approved secreties and the provided approved secreties are provi have joined approved societies in anticipation of the passing of the Bill.

After debate the new clause was agreed to.

The Committee stage was concluded and the Bill, as amended, was reported to the House.

The Money Resolution in connexion with the Housing (Agricultural Population) (Scotland) Bill was considered in Committee.

Mr. T. M. COOPER, Lord Advocate (Edinburgh, W., U.), in moving the resolution, said that the Bill was deliberately drawn in such a way as to confine the benefits to county coun-The 1935 circular suggested that local cils. In the interval since the second reading authorities should prepare general plans, and that afterwards when the handbooks were conclusion that the question whether burgh that afterwards when the mandbooks were conclusion that the question whether longit issued they should fill in the details of those authorities should be brought within the scope plans, and that in the maintime there should of the Bill could properly be made the subject plans, and that in the meanture there should be conferences between officers of the Department and the local authorities. These comment and the local authorities the mean of the plant of the Money Resolution had been singing action by substituting for "county councils," wherever that term appeared, the general ex-pression "local authorities." This widening At the beginning of the next year local pression "local authorities." of the resolution would make possible a dis-

Mr. T. JOHNSTON (Stirling, W., Lab.) said he was glad that the Government had accepted the argument of Opposition members that the

Continued at foot of next column

pay, but that could be done only with the cooperation and good will of the printer. They might well marvel at the accuracy of the printer, who worked under difficult conditions. yet it was not often that one saw a misprint hat really mattered.

Mr. Lucas, the secretary, in announcing total subscriptions of £33,500, said that one of the stewards had created a record by collecting £2,700, Mr. C. S. Kent, who succeeded Mr. Lints Smith as manager of The Times, having beaten the record of his predecessor. The second highest total of the stewards' lists was that of Colonel Lawson, who collected £1,400.

LORD PORTAL announced that the president

of next year's Festival would be Sir Edgar Waterlow

Waterlow.

Among those present were:

Lord Sonthwood (trustee and vice-president). Lord Ebrisham trustee and vice-president). Lord Ebrisham trustee and vice-president. Lord Arthur Lorgmure. Commander Prank Hodges, Lieu-Clows (trustee) and the president programmer. Commander Lord Constitution of the Commander of the Constitution of the Constitut Among those present were:-

### DOCTORS DISAGREEMENT IN SCHOOL TESTS

Wide differences of opinion between doctors Wide differences of opinion between doctors in a schools medical test were described by Mr. R. Huws Jones, of Liverpool University Department of Social Science, at a meeting of the Royal Statistical Society at John Street, W.C., last night. The results were obtained from experiments by several experienced school medical officers into the nutrities standards of the same bows on two operations. standards of the same boys on two occasions, standards of the same boys on two occasions, a week apart, using the Board of Education's classification. Mr. Jones said it was found that the doctors disagreed widely not only with each other but also with their own previous assessments of the same boys. In one experiment, in which five doctors took part, one therefore found only three out of a realed 300. doctor found only three out of a total of 200 boys subnormal, while another found 90.

### NATIONAL LABOUR AND HASTINGS BY-ELECTION

Lord De La Warr, on behalf of the National Labour Party, has sent a message of good wishes to Mr. M. R. Hely-Hutchinson, rather than on words, that the last six years have shown a truly amazing advance is housing, education, health, factory reform, industrial, and economic planning-in fact, all those objects for which many of us joined the SCOTTISH RURAL HOUSING Labour Party. As to the future, they need only read the King's Speech with its reference to yet further social advances, in addition to the Coal Bill, electricity, milk distribution and milk consumption, sea fisheries, and prison reform.
All this has been done, and is being done, in spite of our international troubles.

> terms of the Bill should be widened to permit the landward areas of burghs to participate in the benefits.

The resolution was agreed to. The House resumed, and adjourned at minutes past 11 o'clock.

### PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES HOUSE OF LORDS

AT 3 Introductions of Lord Hanworth, Lord Pender, and Introductions of Lord Hanworth, Lord Fender, and the Bishap of Chelmstore.

Lord Allen, motion on the international situation.

Lord Clwyd, question on the prevention of abuse of the law relating to clurk.

of the law relating to clubs.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
At 2.45

Private members' mutimist—Civil assauce : Reorganitation of the transport industry; and Pensions.

ast as with the Press here. The Press in this country, other he believed, would always have a vital part to be believed, would always have a vital part to be believed, would always have a vital part to be believed, would always have a vital part to be being of great and urgent importance part only for trade but for the peace of the not only for trade but for the peace of the world. Here was an obvious opportunity to register something which could be called pro-gress and conciliation in face of the all too general tendency to former dissension and con-flict. They were glad in this to support the Prime Minister's own wishes.

### UTOPIA-ON-TEES

Parliamentary Correspondent writes:-

Mr. A. Edwards, Labour Member for East Middlesbrough, will ask the President of the Board of Trade to-day-

If he has considered the information sent to In he has considered the information sent to improve the form of trading known as snowball trading whereby purchasers are given goods to the value of several times the amount paid, and if he will, for the guidance and reassurance of the public, indicate what action he proposes to take to prevent innocent people being defrauded by this means.

Mr. Edwards states that his attention has been drawn to schemes in operation on the Tyne and on the Tees in which promises are given to pay cash dividends at the end of a period of six months amounting to six times the amount of the initial capital deposit. As the initial promises have so far been fulfilled the schemes are naturally winning wide popularity.

Captain Crookshank, Secretary for Mines has approved an amendment of the North Staffordshire District (Coal Mines) Scheme 1930, operative from November 15 to provide for revision of sales percentages on ground of diminishing productive capacity.



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