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Home News

EVACUATION IN WAR-TIME

REGISTER OF HOUSE- HOLDERS

PLANS FOR CHILDREN

Local authorities in areas to which people might be evacuated, in the event of war, from densely populated parts of the country have been asked by the Minister of Health to make an immediate survey of the accommodation available. In addition a circular sent out yesterday, a memorandum, and specimen forms for the guidance of local authorities in carrying out the survey, and the text of a brief statement to be left with householders giving rates of payment for the board and lodging of evacuated persons, were sent to the authorities.

In a note included in the statement, "What the Householder is Asked to Do," Mr. Elliot says:

We must prepare in good time against the possibility of war, however remote that possibility may be. Most people will necessarily be kept where they are by their duties, but there will be many in the big cities who, both in the national interest and on grounds of humanity, should go to places where they will be rather safer from air attack.

Children must come first. That, I am sure, will be agreed by all, and I feel sure, too, that we can rely on willing help from all. Though we shall use empty houses and camps as far as we can, we must look in the main to householders to receive these children. We will do all we can to lessen the inconvenience and spread the burden evenly. That is one of the main reasons why we must plan in advance.

The attached notes explain in a general way the arrangements which the Government has in mind. They will not, of course, come into operation unless and until an emergency arises. If an emergency does come, an announcement will be made that the arrangements which have been planned are to be put into operation. In every case as much notice as possible will be given to householders.

CONGESTED AREAS

The Government, states the circular, has decided in the first instance to elaborate and perfect the emergency plans prepared last September for the removal of children from some of the most congested areas, in which the results of air attack would be most dangerous. The provision which will have to be made for children will be on a considerable scale. To

but one area, there are approximately 1,000,000 children in and around the County of London. A paper survey in the possession of the Ministry indicates that there is more than sufficient accommodation available for all the children whose parents would wish them to be transferred to safer areas in the event of an emergency; whether this is actually so will be shown by the survey now to be carried out, the cost of which will be borne by the Government.

It is felt by the authorities that most people are engaged on work of national importance of one kind or another and that in an emergency most of them would have to stay at their posts. At the same time every one would feel happier if the children were "out of it" and in a different environment, living as far as might be normal lives and continuing their education. Those concerned in the matter have visited camps in this country where child refugees from Germany were lodged, and they have found that in many cases, owing to severe weather, the children had to be moved

of 10s. 6d. a week where one child is taken and 8s. 6d. a week for each child where more than one child is taken. In the case of children under school age accompanied by parent or guardian the householder will be asked to provide only lodging, and payment will be at the rate of 5s. a week for each adult and 3s. for each child. Payment at the rate of 5s. a week will be made by the Government where the householder provides lodging for a teacher or helper accompanying a party of school children. Arrangements for the necessary transport and for increased supplies of food to be made available for shopkeepers will be made by the Government.

Mr. Elliot will broadcast on the scheme at 10 o'clock to-night.

HANDLING INCENDIARY BOMBS

Local authorities are being informed by the Air Raid Precautions Department of the Home Office of the arrangements for including instruction in incendiary bomb control and elementary protection against high explosive bombs in the instructors' courses at the Civilian Anti-Gas Schools at Falfeld, Gloucestershire, and Easingwold, Yorkshire. The courses will be extended from 12 to 17 days, and the first will begin at Falfeld on January 23 and at Easingwold on January 30. In consequence of this these two schools will be known, for the future, as "Air Raid Precautions Schools." The Air Raid Precautions School in London, where Air Raid Precautions Officers are instructed in the science of local organization, will be called the "Air Raid Precautions Staff School." Local authorities are advised to select persons who are physically fit and not more than 55 years of age to attend the courses on account of the physical strain involved by carrying out heavy work in non-porous clothing.

MINES AS A.R.P. SHELTS

SUGGESTED USE OF LEVELS

FROM OUR CORRE

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THE BRITISH ROLE IN WAR

A CONTINENTAL ARMY?

NAVY AND AIR FORCE FIRST

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,—All practical students of Imperial defence will have read with deep misgiving the reports from Paris of the French demand for the provision of a British Expeditionary Force for immediate dispatch to the Continent in the event of war.

The Great War brought us two great experiences which have profoundly altered both our defence problems and the nature of our provision to meet them. The first experience was the realization of what an appalling commitment the sending of an army to a Continental theatre of war under modern conditions must be—it is a commitment unlimited and all-devouring, from which, once undertaken, there is no withdrawal. The second great experience was the rise of air power.

These two experiences have led inevitably to a realignment of defence problems and defence provision. No Great Power can afford to maintain, especially on an expensive voluntary enlistment basis, three defence Services at equal maxima of strength. In pre-War days the British Expeditionary Force was the only instrument available for intervention on land outside our own borders, and on the Continent of Europe in defence of what we then conceived to be, and still conceive to be, our strategic interests on that Continent. Now the Air Force has replaced the Army as our instrument for those purposes. An efficient Regular Army is still, and always will be, a vital necessity; our frontiers and garrisons have to be manned, internal security has to be assured, and an organized field force has to be maintained in readiness as a central reserve. Without adequate land forces neither the Navy nor the Air Force can either begin their work nor end it. But we can now no longer afford to maintain an army capable of providing a field force for immediate and effective intervention