# OUR LONDON LETTER, THE SINN

Thursday Night.

and the frish Situation. (estrary to anticipation the Irish debate in the this exching proved a comparatively tame The main attack came from Lord Midleton, the Ted the Government with laxity, weakthen it had not was richly deserved, made segretions as to policy, and went on to was would vote as a remedial measure.

a impossible acheme for which not a single r speakers took a different line, but the effect the same. If the grounds of criticism id the verdict was unanimous. Lord was present; but it was the Lord ductior who replied, and he was never very is his defence. From blame for the to cope with Sinn Fein he practically hed the Government. They had sent over of their greatest soldiers, and with him a laster in whom they had every confidence, gien full powers, denied them nothing in material. What more could they have la fact, he put the whoic onus on the stive, which was responsible even for the of abandoning police barracks. As to coand at another seemed to draw a distincbetween co-operation and co-ordination. be predicted better things as the of General Macready's presence. For Maith, who had euggested another mestica to which Sinn Fein leaders the tast sow, as at the time of the Plunkett metice, they would discuss nothing short of salushe part of his speech, which was a der hint to Sinn Pein that it was running bed against a stone wall. History-ancient mest had shown that where its Imperial and were concerned, the British Empire was best It had not successfully resisted the at d the German Empire to give way to a me d people who were seeking to destroy its the unity. Sinn Fein would do well to report that. In a somewhat melodramatic end-Led Rickenhead declared that the Governis the instrument of the determination of a people of the country, and when it proved anal to the task it would give way to another. per hardful of peers listened to the debate, he members of the other House came in to As interested listener, however, was Sir Plunkett, and the Irish Attorneyand was also present for a short time.

they are free to put forward whatever amend- Nine persons had been arrested and were awaiting to they please, but as individuals and not as trial. t wan, and it is left to the Imperial Parlia- | could to relieve the position. hank's new scheme of "settlement." The Dans Profits Duty.

Free and Home Rule.

invently Mr. Chamberlain's excess profits rolds the field at present for lack of alterin In effect what he told the business dethe resterday was that his Budget proposal stand, that next year they could choose beme the excess profits duty and a flat rate tax Iblin the £, and that without a war wealth m or other of them would have to be erined for some years to come. He was out actions the country's indebtedness, and it he he business community to make up its the it should be done. With this ultihatis lound itself in a quandary, and was best to temporise. Meanwhile the Chande, we sure of his ground, was taking the had such the War Wealth Committee, whose many he attended. In the view of Sir Wm. am and his 'colleagues recent' developments the Bedret, the Funding Loan, the 7s 6d flat seems to have been an understanding | baseador on the matter? more hind of a report should be forthcom-The buis of discussion next Tuesday. Whethe will contain any recommendations is miler matter.

# District Compensation.

in bel suborities who refuse to strike a provide compensation in cases of malicious will find, if I mistake not, that the reand justice are not exhausted. Replying prison in Parliament to-day Mr. Denis trip stated that private individuals had a mor for an enforcement of the decrees, but Government had under consideration the are of additional remedies. The procedure in the forecast. The failure of a test court would probably induce the Governto introduce in Parliament a Bill making times a Crown debt, in which event adequate them could be made from Government grants whit the defaulting authority is cutitled. Magistrates' Pay.

mae of the Treasury, to make orders from ing 180. to time varying the pay and allowances of the magniferates in Ireland, which at present a first by Statute. The announcement came in "Commus to day, in reply to Major O'Neill's Term to when it was proposed to give legisas Irearry minute on the 12th March. in Isperial Trade Relations.

To Unionist Business' Committee of the House Commons heard an address this afternoon by there W. S. Hewins, ex-head of the Departto Overseas Trade, on the subject of interrelations, especially with reference to The meeting had been summoned in of the proposal for independent representa- Mar. d Canada at Washington, which it was felt the the precursor of important changes. Mr. told the committee, I hear, that in his tere was a danger, unless immediate meaa recetaten to counter it, of the Dominions their own separate arrangements in comrelationships. He suggested that a good bringing the matter to a head might be Covernment to enter into negotiations for commercial treaty with France. It is unthat the meeting, over which Mr. water presided, was in full agreement as warpy of the question, and that the Gomet is to be communicated with.

# THE CRAIGAYON SCHEME.

### County Council and the Belfast Press.

being of the County Council of Down upainck yesterday, Colonel Sharman-TI D.L. presiding H. S. Nugent, D.L., introduced a report Isberrulesis Committee on the expansion sed of ameliorative treatment in the as abo on the recent inquiry into the

E M Grath commented on the strength and calin of the opponents to the scheme who take the council to the King's Bench. Lidded, D.L. remarked that local opwould be raised no matter where a sanaru enablished, and he maintained that

was suitable, the buildings being . O'Neill, J.P., said that the council had arellent case before the Local Governbard inspector, a case however which

profesed justice in the Belfast Press, which remented upon the matter whilst it was

#### FEIN CRIMES.

GOVERNMENT WEAKNESS.

Position of Ex-Service Men in Ireland.

# THE DE VALERA LOAN.

Irish questions were raised in the House of Commons vesterday. The Attorney-General admitted to Lord R. Cecil that the Government was unable to protect life and property in many districts, and police barracks had to be eva-

Forty policemen and Government officials had been murdered since January, 1919, and no one had been convicted. Nine persons were awaiting | the absence of explicit instructions, a number of

Mr. Bonar Law acknowledged the great distress suffered by ex-servicemen in Ireland owing to the Sinn Fein boycott, but added that the Government was doing what it could to relieve the position-which in view of the Attorney-General's statement cannot be much.

In the House of Commons yesterday.

Mr. Denis Henry, replying to Mr. Turton (Co.U.), said that during April 277 Royal Irish Constabulary Barracks were maliciously destroyed or seriously damaged. Of that number 241 were privately owned and 36 were Government property. Legal proceedings had been taken in respect of claims amounting to £352,945 Nine to be Released under "Cat and for barracks privately owned, and £73,225 for barracks the property of the Government.
Answering Liout. Colonel Walter Guinness

(U.), Colonel Ashley (Co.U.), and Mr. Moles (U.) Mr. Henry said the barracks were vacated in the interests of the police. In many places the acassist in defence.

Lord R. Cecil-Does it mean that the Government were unable to protect the lives of the police in 230 barracks throughout Ireland. Mr. Henry—It simply means that there are remote districts, very often in mountains, where policemen might easily be overwhelmed by a

body directed against them. Mr. Denis Henry, replying to Lieut. Colonel the Labour members, the "Wee Free" Walter Guinness, said no one had been convicted best are to limit their official action in rela- of the murder of any of the forty police and to the Home Rule Bill to a ringle proposal. others in Government employment who had been other has been rejected (as of course it will murdered in Ireland since 1st January, 1919.

part. That seems to have been the under- Mr. Bonar Law, answering questions put by rating come to at to-day's meeting. The Mr. Turton (Co.U.), Mr. Leonard Lyle (Co.U.), and proposal, as embodied in sundry amend- and Captain Coote (Co.R.), who asked whether set and a schedule standing in the names of the Government would give assistance to numr Deald Maclean and Captain Wedgwood bers of men in Ireland who had served during is to substitute for the two Parliaments and | the war and were now unemployed and in great Carriel scheme a single Parliament for all distress owing to boycotting by Sinn Fein and with a Senate as a Second Chamber, and | the Irish Transport Union, said the Government the Uster counties the option of contract- were fully alive to the difficulties to which exat within three months of the passing of Service men were exposed owing to the present bid. The period of exclusion is limited to position in Ireland and were doing what they

to deide what further legislation may be Mr. Turton-Is the right honourable gentleman ensury to safeguard any part of Ulster from aware that great irritation is felt by ex-Service The aim, of course, is to focus atten- men throughout England, and that the Comrades

a on the plan of the amending Bill of 1914, of the Great War are determined that justice shall der the way for another exposition of Mr. | be done to the men who fought in the war. Mr. Bonar Law-The Government recognise their duty in this matter. In reference to the question whether want of money stood in the way, I shall be glad to join with my honourable friend

#### THE STATES AND DE VALERA. No Action to be Taken.

in making inquiry into the matter.

Mr. Bonar Law, in reply to Mr. Bottomley (Ind.), said that it was understood that appeals for subscriptions for bond certificates, addressed to Do Valera, were appearing in certain United States newspapers, but he was not in a position to say whether or not these appeals were supported by any Governor of any State. The Government did not propose to make any representation upon the matter to the President of

the United States. Mr. Bottomley asked whether the Leader o the House had seen the announcement that already £2,000,000 had been subscribed to this fund; that triumphant processions were going expution, and so on) have modified the through the principal streets of the States in with and they wanted to know whether they | celebration of the event; that De Valera was to the continue the investigation and produce a | being entertained by State Governors; whether desc. But Mr. Chamberlain would not admit he did not consider that under International Law the bid been any change, and, as I gather, I that amounted to an unfriendly act, and whether but the committee somewhat cavalierly. This he would give new instructions to our new Am-

Mr. Bonar Law-I have not seen any statement of the specific facts named; but it does not alter my view as to our right course. It is not always wise to take action for which you have a legal

Captain Wedgwood Benn (R.)-Will he take steps to stop the pernicious campaign which is tending to destroy friendly relations between this country and the United States!

Mr. Chadwick (U.)-Is he aware that this outlaw was recently honoured with the freedom of the City of New Orleans, and have representations been made to the United States Government in face of this deliberate insult by an ostensibly friendly Power.

Mr. Bonar Law-I am quite satisfied that the good feeling in the United States is not represented at all by such demonstrations, and I do not believe any action we could take against him would have any effect but to make the relations

worse without advantage to us. In reply to Mr. T. P. O'Connor, Mr. Shortt said that the number of prisoners on hunger In me to be taken at once to draft a Bill strike in Wormwood Scrubs on 3rd May was 192 remas the Lord Lieutenant. with the con. On 5th May the number was 183, and that morn-

# TO-DAY'S LIST.

# Shameless Roscommon Outrage.

The following summary of official reports of out-rages received on 6th May was issued last night in

Thomas Connor, a candidate for the R.I.C., was fired at on the night of 5th May at Elphin, County Two men named Griffin and O'Connell were fired at and wounded at Aughnahill, in the Menlough

district, County Galway, on the evening of 5th On 4th May, at 11 p.m., Martin Duddy and Thos. Jennings, farmers, were forcibly removed from their houses in the Tuani district, County Galway, and taken away in a motor car. During the night of 4th May a shed belonging to

the let Essex Regiment was destroyed by fire at Queenstown, County Cork, the letters "I.R.A." being written with tar beside the shed. At 2 a.m. on 2nd May a party of armed and M. Doyle, Limerick; Phelan D. Morgan, Thurles; masked men called at the house of Thomas D. Gelvin, Newmarket; P. Ryan, Doon, and F. Magauran, Ballyconney, County Cavan, and forced | Maher. his son to swear he would not join the R.I.C. On let May two men named P. Brennan and T.

Foley were taken out of their houses in the Listowel district, County Kerry, by twelve armed and masked men and besten On 2nd May three men called on Wm. Litchfield, of Middleton, County Cork, asking for a sub-

scription to the Dail Eireann lean. On 5th May he received a threatening letter referring to his refusal.

# Police Sergeant's Wife Threatened.

Threatening letters have been received by G. Johnston, in the Athlone district, County Westmeath, warning him to surrender his farar; by Mrs. Sullivan, of Inchigeela, County Cork, R.I.C. barrack servant (whose house was fired into about four weeks 220; by the wife of Sergeant Heddie, R.I.C., Co. Cavan; by Thomas M Cann, Co. Galway, warning him not to work for an ex-R.I.C. man; and by Martin Duffy, a farmer in Co. Mayo, warning him not to

deal with the police.
On 2nd May in the Rescommon district a crowd of men ottacked a man named Hanley, stripped him and made him go home naked. Three days earlier the stock were driven off his brother's form, and he was threatened with death if he did not surrender the land. On let May the house of Mr. T. O'Donnell, J.P.,

Co. Kerry, was reided for arms.
The house of P. T. Conroy, Ballymote, Co. Sligo, was fired into on 20th April and again on

# THE NEW CHIEF SECRETARY.

# Sworn in at the Viceregal Lodge.

Sir Hamar Greenwood, Bart., was sworn in as leg and other included.

Chief Secretary for Ireland and as a member of the Chief Secretary for Ireland and as a member of the Description o Sir Hamar Greenwood, Bart., was sworn in as leg and other injuries to which, despite the best | butter . Amongst those present were-General Sir Nevil of Sir Louis Jette, a former Governor of Quebec. work is were exploited.

Macready, the Lord Chancellor, the Provest of Trinity College, Sir John Ross, Bart.: Sir Henry Robinson, Bart, K.C.B.; Mr. F. S. Wrench, Mr. Thomas Shillington, Mr. L. A. Waldron, The Recorder of Dublin, Mr. Justice Dodd, Mr. W. J. M. Starkie, Sir William Goulding, Bart.; Mr. Justice Samuels, Sir Plunket Barton, Mr. Frank Brooke, and the Under Secretary. The Solicitor-General (Mr. D. M. Wilson, K.C., M.P.) was in attendance.

### THE YICEROY'S MISTAKE.

#### Intentions Not Expressed in Instructions.

Mr. Denis Henry stated that amought the prisoners released from Mountjoy as a result of the hunger strike there were 34 who had been convicted of offences against the law.

Mr. Charles Palmer asked if he could say if any written instructions for their release were issued by the Lord Licutenant to the Governor of the jail; whether, in fact, the first order for release was carried verbally from the Vicerov to the Governor by the Lord Mayor of Dublin; and whether, as a result of the confusion arising from prisoners who had been convicted of crimes, and were serving their sentences, were amongst those

Mr. Denis Henry (who replied) said that no erbal instructions were given. Written instructions by the Lord Lieutenant were given to the Governor of the prison by the Lord Mayor of Dublin. It was not the Lord Lieutenant's intention that the release should apply to convicted persons; but that fact was not expressly stated in the instructions, and the Governor, unfortunately, applied them to persons who had been

### MOUNTJOY HUNGER STRIKERS.

# Mouse" Act.

The following official statement was issued from Dubliu Castle last night :--

Nine prisoners convicted by courts-martial and now serving their sentences in Mountjoy Prison are to be released under the authority of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, under the Prisoners (Temporary Release for Ill-Health) Act, 1913, if and when the prison medical officers certify that their lives are in danger from hunger strike. Release cannot be granted to the tenth prisoner, Owen Jackson, who is hunger-striking, and who is in a dangerous condition, and who was convicted by a jury at Cork assizes and sentenced by Lord Justice O'Connor to six months' hard labour for larceny in a house and for terrifying the inhabitants.

#### BURNINGS IN CO. DOWN.

#### Total of £17.930 in Compensation Claims.

Claims amounting to £17,930 have been lodged with regard to attacks upon police barracks and incendiarism at Inland Revenue offices in County Down, and the county council has decided to enter a defence in each case.

### MORE SHOOTING IN DERRY.

Shortly after eleven o'clock last night Constables Collis and M'Donagh, on patrol duty in the Diamond, Derry, were shot at, but neither was hit, the bullet striking the ground near them. They had just gone on duty, and it is believed the shot it impossible to quell. If they could catch one was fired from a crowd in Ferryquay Street. Im- offender red-handed and shoot him it would have searched for brearms, but none was found, and party. Their first duty was to restore law and order there were no arrests.

### CAUGHT RED-HANDED.

#### Man who Took Part in Barracks Attack Court-martialled.

Michael Condon, of Ratheormac, County Cork, was tried by general court-martial at Cork yesterday, being charged with having taken part in the attack on the R.I.C. barracks at Ahera, County Cork, on 16th February last.

It appeared that after the attack, which was very gallantly resisted by Sergeant Bradley and six constables, the accused was found outside the barracks, unable to move as he had been severely wounded. Ammunition was found on his person. The police also discovered live bombs in and may. around the place.

Accused said he only recognised a court set up by Dail Eireann.

# The decision will be promulgated.

#### A REBEL "COURT-MARTIAL." Fantastic Galway Affair.

Two men of Kilbanuon, Tuam, were bound and taken from their homes by armed men on Tuesday night and conveyed in motor cars to an unknown destination. They have not since been

heard of. It is stated that they disobeyed the decision of a Sinn Fein "Arbitration Court" in a local land dispute, and have been imprisoned by Sinn

Fein " court-martial." The affair is mentioned in to day's official list

#### of Irish outrages. HUNGER STRIKE IN BELFAST.

of the date on which evidence would be given in little reassurance at the moment except the assursupport of the charges. Thy declared that if their ance which depended on the tenacity and stubbornrequest were not granted they would commence ness of the British race when its Imperial interests their hunger-strike on Wednesday, and they are were concerned. (Cheers.) now carrying this threat into effect. The only ex- The Earl of Selborne agreed with the Lord Chanception is a man who is in the prison bospital. Nine cellor that it was wise to face the situation, and he

are others from Tyrone and Cavan. Mr. Denis M'Cullough, a member of the Belfast Corporation, who was arrested two or three weeks aince, has now been released. During the time he was in prison he was under medical treatment, and presumably his release is due to the state of his

#### RELEASED FROM WORMWOOD SCRUBS.

The following Irish prisoners were released from ormwood Scrubs yesterday: -S. Irwin, Dublin; Rea, Limerick: P. Hogan, R. M'Donnell, Queenstown; M. Barlow, Tipperary; F. M'Grath, Neuagh: J. Dwyer, Cashel; E. Green, Youghal; M. Doyle, Limerick; Phelan D. Morgan, Thurles;

# DERRY BAKERS' STRIKE.

# An Abortive Conference.

bakers' strike, and the situation in the north-west coming very serious. Hundreds of households are without any. Many citizens are relying on friends in other towns, and bread is being procured by post Buttermilk carts approaching the city are met

slong the roads by crowds and their supplies are are meeting the situation by home baking.

A "permit has been granted by the Bakers. The meeting was adjourned to an output to enable bread to be baked for the hospitals to receive a report of this joint effort. and other institutions.

#### CO. DOWN MOTOR FATALITY. Warrenpoint Magistrate's Death.

# The death has taken place in the Nowry Hospi-

tal of Mr. Felix O'Hare, J.P., builder and contractor. Warrenpoint, who was severely injured as restorcay approved a five day week working policy. the result of a motor accident in Warrenpoint on and the taking of a bilot of the members on this Monday last. It appears that when Mr. O'Hare was turning press for a £5 10s weekly minimum for miners, and the starting handle of his car, unaware of the fact

that the engine was in gear, the vehicle moved for-

#### SUCGESTED CONFERENCE.

# DISCUSSION IN THE LORDS.

Lord Chancellor's Warning to the Nation.

# THE EMPIRE CHALLENGED.

Lord Askwith, in the House of Lords yesterday, called attention to the state of Ireland, where he said "terrorism and murder" were rampant, and suggested the Government calling a conference with the leading Sinn Feiners to exchange views as to the future Government of Ireland.

The Lord Chancellor, in reply, said the Irish Executive had the full confidence of the Government, and all suggestions would be put before them. At the same time he pointed out that the Sinn Fainers believed they were strong enough to force their demand for "what they called selfdetermination;" but he added that was a demand which under no concelvable circumstance could sanctioned.

In the House of Lords vesterday, Lord Askwith still it might be considered that such a motion was ir epportung and not helpful at the present time, but he thought it might give noble Lords who had experience of administration of Irish affairs an opportunity of making auggestions which might be useful in the administration of Ireland. No debate of any moment on Irish affairs had taken place since 15th July last year, apparently because the business men and statesman the world over were it was believed that the Government were doing their best to restore some semblance of law and order. But now there existed a complete system of terrorism and nurder to an extent never known before without anyone being convicted or punished.
Loyal and peaceable people were leaving Ireland
as fast as they could get away.

In many districts the police were unsupported while other parts were left entirely unprotected. The whole government of Ireland wanted speeding up. A judicial body of high rank should be set up to review the cases of men under arrest, so that there could be no suspicion that innovent men were being detained. There should be better co-ordination between military and police

He suggested that the Government should invite the leading intellectual Sinn Feiners, whom he did not accuse of being responsible for crime, to a conthe future government of Ireland. If these people would not accept the invitation then this country would know that there was practically a state of war which would have to be put down with all the power of the Government.

The Earl of Denbigh said the present deplorable situation was the legacy of Mr. Asquith's mistakes and the stupidity of the War Office when recruiting Irishmen. No doubt changes were required in the eyetem of government, but whatever happened it must be made clear that secession would never be telerated.

#### "In the Worst Condition."

Lord MacDonnell said Ireland was in the worst condition it had ever been within the memory of living man, and the reason was the repeated disappointments in regard to Home Rule. The Prime Minister had said that the only solution was a single Parliament for Ireland, with adequate safeguards for Ulster, and how he could now propose Attempt on Two Constables Fails comprehension. It would divide Ireland on religious lines, and for ever destroy all chance of

Earl Midleton remarked that the debate was not initiated with any desire to embarrass the Government. The situation was so urgent that if not dealt with in the next few weeks a spirit would have grown up which the Government would find mediately afterwards a man was seen rushing up more effect than interning a hundred. The Govern-Bishop Street. . Pawers by were afterwards ment by their vacillation had antagonised every and then endeavour to arrive at an agreement with Irishmen as to the remedial measures that should

The Lord Chancellor said he welcomed the debate, which had been initiated by Lord Askwith in a powerful, sombre, and in the main accurate speech. Nothing but advantage could follow from the widest possible dissemination of the facts of the situation-it was necessary so that if their gravity developed, as was possible, the Government might be able to appeal to the nation to make whatever eacrifices were necessary to deal with the situation. It was true that the Govern ment had charged their plans from time to time. but they had appointed Lord French with the full approval of the country, and they had invariably adopted his advice and suggestions. They had not withheld from him one single thing that he had asked for. They would continue to give to the Executive authority in Ireland everything they asked, and to support them in every conceivable

# Government Watchful.

He had no reason to doubt that there was the most complete co-ordination between the military and the police. The Government had not been blind to what had been happening. The circumstances of the appelling and melancholy lists of casualties and outrages were closely examined to weilt, their recurrence could not be prevented, and the question [ of patrolling lonely districts-which would be considered-might not be insurmountable from the posed to leave to the Food Ministry, whose work military point of view. Another Convention was of the greatest national importance, and would be suggested, but he never expected anything from the last Convention owing to the attitude of the Sinn Feiners. Those who seked the Government to invite Sinn Feiners to another conference did not face the realities of the situation. Every suggestion that had been made would be communicated to and discussed with | restraining influence of the Ministry in fixing the Irish Executive. He was clearly of opinion that | prices. It was abound to talk of the Ministry as a the overwhelming majority of Sinn Feiners were profit making department. He regretted to hear determined to achieve separation, and believed that of the dismantling of important rections of the their strength was equal to their wish. The country Ministry. How far, he asked, had the trusts and would be well advised to face the situation with the knowledge that a body of desperate, well-organised, and able men had banded themselves together to challenge the strength of the Empire, and to shrink from no means which would enable them to achieve what they called their self-determination and their With one exception, all the Sinn Fein prisoners independence. That was a demand which under no in Belfast Jail have gone on hunger-strike. Before conceivable circumstances could be sauctioned. It resorting to this course, they asked that they would be wise for these men not to under estimate should be informed of the charges on which they the strength and determination of the Empire. The had been arrested, and that they should be apprised difficulties were great, and he could give the House

of the men come from Dundalk district, and there saw no use in summoning another Convention.

### The motion was withdrawn, and the House rose, HIGH COST OF LIVING.

# Triple Industrial Alliance Inquiry. PROPOSALS TO BE SUBMITTED TO

GOVERNMENT.

The Triple Industrial Alliance held a meeting in London vesterday-Mr. Harry Gorling presiding. The proposal of the National Union of Railwaymen that consideration be given to the! broadening of the basis of the alliance for the purpose of bringing in other unions was fully considered, and it was resolved that no occasion the purpose for which it was created on its present basis. The alliance devoted the major part of the sitting to the consideration of effective steps No settlement has been arrived at in the Derry for the purpose of reducing the cost of living and breaking through the vicious circle. According to the official statement it proposed to call upon the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress, the Labour party, and Cooperative movement to join with it in making it the better. exhaustive inquiry into the reasons for the high cost of living, and to evolve a plan for reduction readily bought up at enhanced prices by those who to be submitted to the Government as soon as cost of living, and that when the consumer wanted in 1914 and removed to that country a few days

The meeting was adjourned to an early date

# A FIVE-DAY WEEK

#### Ecottish Miners to Ballot on New Demand.

The Scottie's mine workers' conference at Stirling for the convening of a British Trade Union Conference to tix a minimum wage for all workers. ward with the result that he was violently pinned | The working classes, a delegate declared, were against the sea wall, austaining a severely lacerated entitled to something more than mere bread and

Mr. Robertson, M.P., who presided, said the

# MINISTRY OF FOOD.

### MR. M'CURDY'S PESSIMISM

Prospect of Higher Prices.

#### WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT.

The House of Commons went into Committee of Supply yesterday on a vote of £1,243,000 for sala-

ries and expenses of the Ministry of Food. Mr. M'Curdy said it was hoped last year there would be no necessity to introduce estimates this year for the Food Control Department British frame of mind as to the rate at which the wastage of war would be made good, and world prices would fall. He regretted, however, that it had not been found possible yet to declare an armistice against the speculator and the profiteer-those enemies of the public welfare. There was a fall in prices in the earlier part of last year, but since August last the movement had been entirely in the contrary direction. Since the armistice there had been a bonafide attempt by the Ministry to remove control wherever possible. Some of their attempts at decontrol were followed by results by no means en couraging. Dealing with the present world pros pects with regard to supplies and prices of food, he raid we would do well to realise that the hopes and expectations of twelve months ago were founded able to take such an optimistic view of the progress of reconstructing a world devastated by war. Today we were awakening to the fact that we could not make good the injury done to the productive ling there was tighting at Stiffeln, two kilometres machinery of the world by five years of most de- and Red army detachments. The latter were drivers structive war in a few months or indeed in a few back, and left ten dead on the field. One detach years. . There was no prospect of any immediate improvement either in the supplies or the price of sugar required for this country. The world's production was down by approximately 34 million tons. We had by a rigid system of rationing succeeded in economising the consumption of sugar to the extent of 700,000 tons, which was, unfortunately, exactly counterbalanced by the increased consumption in the United States. Wheat prices were the most important factor in determinmonths with reduced world crops of wheat. The United States would have four million topaless to export to Europe than during the current cereal year. The only wheat-producing country that showed an increase was India, and there we had been informed that the 14 million tons increase would not be available to any large extent for export. We were faced with the prospect of a considerable reduction in the amount of wheat available for the needs of the world, and he was afraid that in the absence of wise and prudent statesmanship on the part of the importing countries there would be a rise in stices which would be reflected

in the price of every other commodity. The extimated supply of butter available for this country this year, was 100,000 tons, as compared wit 200,000 tous in the year before the war. British butter was still below the pre-war rate of production, and the Irish supply would fall from 40,000 tons to 25,000 tons in the coming season. There were no clear rights which enabled him to give any estimate as to when the world shortage was likely to materially improve. Dealing with the activities of the Department, he said that since the armistice the staff of the Food Ministry had been reduced by 50 per cent. Under the Profiteering Act there cases terms of imprisonment had been imposed. The tracing operations of the blimstry for the past three years had involved a tempover of £1,500,900,000 It was said that the Ministry Aras profitcering in food. The estimated net profit on the transactions of three years was less than one-tenth of one per cent. He hoped it would be possible to concentrate the remaining activities of Peace Conference and the Ministry in one building by the end of June. Governments.-Reuter He hoped the prices and information department of the Ministry would become a permanent department in order to make a reientific survey of prospective supplies, the movement of prices, and the cost of production. With regard to essential foodstuffs he would substitute supervising control for statutory control, in which he would make more uso of the experience of the various trades themselves. The total cost of the Ministry worked out at 1d per activities of the Ministry had resulted in very sub- by ranking it an organ of international government stantial savings to the people. The rise in prices by the side of the League of Nations. to day over pre-war prices in this country was 135 per cent. In France it was 220, in Italy 306, Norway 194, and Sweden 191 per cent. Every £10 saved represented a saving to the consumers of the country of nearly £90,000,000. He maintained that

the necessity for the work of his department had not yet disappeared. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Clynes (Lub.) said the Food Controller had drawn a gloomy picture of the position, both presont and prospective. The Government was not taking the right course to fortify the public against the future, and was not taking into account suffithe working tlases. There was an absence of anything like a definite policy on the part of the Government in respect to the powers it was disshould be encouraged. When the war was over the Government should have settled on a course of policy that would have reassured the public, rising in this matter above popular clamour and manufactured public opinion. We should undoubted! be mulcted in higher prices were it not for the combines got our food supplies into their grip? They surely had to some extent been able to determine the prices of food which would be lower if left to the ordinary operation of supply and demand | and Lord Hardinge of Penshuret had audiences of

in the competitive market. Sir D. Maclean (IL) moved as an amendment the reduction of the vote by one half in the interests. he said, of economy and efficiency. During the war some measure of control was necessary, but I o missioner of Court) had the honour of being reheld the vior strongly that the continuance of such | crived by his Majesty. a Ministry was only justifiable if it could be shown to be necessary. He did not suggest that the time | Mariborough House, and Field Marshal the Duke had come for the complete abolition of the Department. He criticised the form my which the estimates was presented. What, he asked, was the reason for this great headquarters staff for which

were presented showed that the Government did not grasp the fact that extravagance was chattering and was welcomed by Lord Provest Most on behalf public confidence in their administration. Mr. George Roberts (Lab.) said he would not "stastic greetings us he motored slong the streets on support the amendment which was tentamount to the way to and from the investiture. a desire to abolish the Food Ministry, the staff of which had been reduced by 50 per cent, since the war. War conditions had not yet passed away. The world situation was so uncertain that it would be better to continue the Ministry a little longer than might be proved absolutely necessary than to risk the dangers which would beset them if the

Ministry was disbanded and they were unable to exercise control over supply and prices.

Mr. George Lambert (R.) deprecated experimenting with food, because it gravely endangered the supply. It was far more important to increase the supply. It was far more important to increase production than to increase the regulation of supplies at favoured by Mr. Clynes. Because the Argentine could not get coal they were using n size for fuel on the railways. If that maire could not come here we could not have becon. The object of the Government should be to create abusbad as yet arisen for such an extension as the He wanted to know why did the Food Controller alliance felt it could most effectively accomplish take over the control of bacon at all and not leave Private importers, who were so stupid as to buy bacon so had that it had to be sold to the soap boilers to bear their own loss. There was a glut in this country of the tasteless leathery trush, sold in London as mutton, which had been killed for two years and was frezen still. What were they roing to do with this mutton, and at what price were they going to get rid of it? They must will it at a low price, and the sooner they got rid of

certain articles he could not get them.

permanent Department as long as the True's were of equal value. a permanent part of the State. outselves comparatively well in this country by Blythe Jackson, also other interesting society Sir W. Mitchell-Thomson, replying in the debate.

said a Bill would be introduced to continue the

Ministry after August. A new policy was being

initiated, under which the Minister would ask the co operation and advice of voluntary bodies of re- he wise to state our stocks, but he was assured presentatives of various trades. It was only possible that to far as this country was concerned the posito proceed slowly. The business of the Ministry tion was regarded as secure up to next Christman. was not to make profits, but to stabilise prices. The expense of the Wheat Commission was insignificant, considering the turnover. The alteration Mr. Benar Law, in reply to Mejor Wheler in the wheat standard would lead to the saving of (Co.U.), in the House of Commons yesterday, said erreral millions per annum in the bread subsidy. a Bill for the extension of the Ministry of Ford With regard to the bacon, we were getting only would be introduced, but it was impossible, in a relatively insignificant quantity from Denmark . view of the uncertainty of the economic position instead of the 42 per cent, before the war. From of the world, to make any definite statement as to home sources and ireland we were getting only 9 the period during which it would be necessary by per cent. instead of the pre-war 20 per cent. The continue the work of the Ministry. increased pay could never keep pace with the higher tempoling 90 per cent, came from North America. Replying to a question by Sir R. Cooper cost of living, to deal with which they must strike Owing to the control of the Ministry, the consumer (N.P.), Mr. Bonar Law Sid that the question of at the roots of the conditions under which the had been getting bacon thesper than he otherwise the cost of the Ministry had already been closely I would have done. Sugar was cheaper than in any invertigator by the Government.

# ALLIES AND GERMANY.

#### COMING CONFERENCE AT SPA.

Berlin Accepts the Invitation.

# INFRACTIONS OF TREATY TO BE

DISCUSSED.

Reuter's Agency learns that the German Government has replied accepting the proposal to meet the Supreme Council at Spa. So far nothing is people at that time were in an extremely optimistic officially known regarding the projected visit of M. Millerand, the French Premier, to London; but it is certain there will be a meeting between representatives of the French and British Govern-

> ments before there is any meeting at Spa. The Germana have been told that the chief matters to be dealt with concern their infractions of the Treaty and how the Treaty is to he

> Other questions on which the Germans have been asked to furnish explanations are disarmin-Ment, reparation, coal supplies, the insults to Allied Commissions, and the cost of the army of occupation. A Reuter's Paris telegram says that Herr vou

# REICHSWEHR Y. REDS.

ceived vesterday by M. Millerand.

tions may be undertaken .- Reuter.

Mayer, the German Charge d'Affaires, was to-

### An Encounter near Duesseldorf.

Brusels, Thursday, The Military Information Bureau issues a telegram from Frankfort stating that on Tuesday even. . ment of Reds took refuge in the British rone, and was pursued by a detacament of Reichswehr to a distance of a kilometre within the occupied territory. Duesselderf, the message says, is quiet, but disorders are feared, and it is runioured that opera-

### THE PRUSSIAN ASSEMBLY.

# ing wages all over the world. It was unbappely Formation of "Field Guards" Decided clear that we were faced in the coming twelve

Berlin, Thursday, In the Prussian Assembly to day, against the votes of the Right Socialists and Independents, a resolution was passed that the Communal authorities be instructed to establish according to needs local Field Guards, simultaneously with the disbanding of the Civic Guards, and as far as possible in association with the State Security Police and Gendarmerie. There guards are not to have a politically partisan composition, and must not be used for partiesu or anti-Constitutional objects .-Reuter.

### TURKISH PEACE MISSION.

Arrival at Yersailles.

Paris, Thursday. The Turkish Peace Mission arrived at Versailles early this morning. They proceeded to the Hotel des Reservoirs, and are occupying the rooms in had been 20,000 prosecutions in last year, and fines | which the German delegates were housed during from £900 downwards had been imposed, amounting the Peace Conference. The Turkish delegation is in all to £90,000, while in a substantial number of headed by Tewfik Pusha, formerly Grand Vicier. A telegram dated Constantinople, Thursday, yesterday to consider, the conditions reported to have been decided upon at San Remo for incorporation in the Turkish Peace Treaty. A memorondum begging that the rights of Turkey might be respected was telegraphed to the president of the Peace Conference and the heads of the Allied

# THE SUPREME COUNCIL.

In the House of Commons, yesterday, Lord R. Cecil (U.) asked whether authoritative persons in this country who might be described as " in the circles of the Supreme Council," intended to assure week from every household in the country; and the the continuity of the work of the Supreme Council

# Mr. Bonar Law-The answer is in the negative.

COURT AND SOCIETY. Buckingham Palace, Thursday.

Field-Marshal the Duko of Connaught visited the King and Queen this morning. Mr. Chartres Biron had the honour of being received by his Majesty, when the King conferred." upon him the honour of Luighthood. The Right

Hon. Ed. Shortt, M.P. (Secretary of State for the Homo Department), was present. His Excellency Monsicur Nicolas Misu was received in audience by his Majesty and presented his letter of recall as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the Kingdom of Roumania. Lord Hardingo of Penshurst (Permanent Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs) was present, and Lord Stanmore (Lord in Waiting), the Master of the Household, Lord Ormathwaite (Mas-

ter of Cercuonies), and Colonel the Hon. Claude (Groom and Equerry in Waitings), were in attend-The Right Honourable Edward Shortt, M.P., the King, and Captain Walton R. Sexton (upon his appointment as United States Naval Attache) and Mr. Henry V. Cobb (upon relinquishing his appointment as resident in Mysore and Chief Com-

The King and Queen visited Queen Alexandra at of Connaught at Clarence House this afternoon. Prince Henry, who travelled overnight from London, held an investiture at Aberdeen yesterday reason for this great headquarters staff for which on behalf of the King. The Prince deverated over £274,000 was asked, or about £600 a day? The a hundred recipients of honours, mostly military, thoroughly unbusinesslike way in which estimates. His Royal Highness was accompanied to the town house by the Marquis of Aberdeen and Temair. of the citizens, who gave the Royal visitor enthan-

> A memorial service will be held for the late Crown Princers of Sweden at Westminster Abbey on Thursday, 15th inst.; at twelve o'clock, on which day the funeral takes place at Steckholm. Evelyn Merchingers of Downshire has left London for Easthamp-toud Park, Wokingham,

Lady Mayorers at the Mansion House on Monday. May 17, after their admission to the Freedom of The King and Queen have signified their intertion to be present at the marriage of Lady Cynthia Curson to Mr. Osnald Mosley, M.P., at the Chapel Royal, St. James's, on Tuesday next. Their Majestles have sent the bride a diamend brooch. The King and Queen of the Belgians are coming from Bruesels to attend the ceremony. They will strive by aeroplane to morrow morning, and will stay for the week end with Earl and Countries Curson of Kedlerton at Hackwood, where the Earl

and Countess of Athlone siready are. Other guests will include the Marquis and Marchioners of Lon-The Prince of Wales has given a gold challenge cup to be competed for by officers of any nations. lity at the International Horse Show at Olympia Sir F. Banbury (U.) complained that the result of next month. The original cup, valued at \$500 the work of the Ministry of Food was to raise the and presented by King Edward, was won by Russia. before war was declared. Since then all trace of it Mr. J. Lanson said food control must become a bes been lost, and the Prince is replacing it by eno

"Irish Life" contains this week a photograph Commander Kenworthy IR.) said we were doing taken at the wedding of Miss Boas and Captain pictures. On sale to-day.

> other country. The world's wheat barrest did not look to promising as was suficipated. It would not The debate was adjourned.