

Parliament

UNITY IN NATIONAL DEFENCE

SIR T. INSKIP'S APPEAL TO THE OPPOSITION

BRITISH POWER AND COLLECTIVE SECURITY

GOVERNMENT PLANS FOR ALL EMERGENCIES

HOUSE OF LORDS

THURSDAY, FEB. 18

The LORD CHANCELLOR took his seat on the Woolsack at a quarter past 4 o'clock.

REGENCY BILL

The Regency Bill was considered on Report. On Clause 2 (Regency during total incapacity of the Sovereign).

VISCOUNT HALIFAX, Lord Privy Seal, moved an amendment to provide that the Royal functions should be performed by a Regent if the persons selected for the purpose were satisfied by evidence that the Sovereign is for some definite cause not available for the performance of those functions. He said that the amendment was designed to meet the point raised by Lord RANKELLOR in Committee.

LORD RANKELLOR, in thanking Viscount Halifax and the Home Secretary, said that the words suggested covered a case which he had not thought of, shipwreck, where the presumption of death would be difficult to establish.

LORD STRABOLGI said that the Opposition thought the words appropriate. The amendment was agreed to and the Report stage was concluded.

The Trade Marks (Amendment) Bill was read the third time and passed.

APPEALS IN JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS

The LORD CHANCELLOR moved an amendment to Standing Order No. III, regulating Judicial Proceedings, to provide that in appeals in which leave to appeal had been granted under the Admiralty Act, 1924, a certificate from two counsel to show that an appeal was substantial and not frivolous was not necessary.

ROYAL ASSENT

A Royal Commission, consisting of the LORD CHANCELLOR, LORD MOUNT TEMPLE, and LORD HUTCHINSON, sat and signified the Royal assent to the following Acts:—

Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Act: Beef and Veal Customs Duties Act: India and Burma (Existing Laws) Act: Employment Assistance (Temporary Provisions) (Amendment) Act: Public Works Loans Act: Firearms Act: Queen Anne's Bounty (Powers) Measure.

Their lordships rose at 10 minutes to 5 o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

THURSDAY, FEB. 18

The SPEAKER took the Chair at a quarter to 3 o'clock.

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND

use public vehicles as far as possible in preference to private vehicles. The question of the provision of certain additional parking space in the Royal parks for seat-holders in the parks is at present under consideration.

GAS PROTECTION

"ACADEMIC" CRITICISM

SIR N. GRATTAN-DOYLE (Newcastle, N.) asked the Home Secretary whether in view of the nature of the criticism of air-protection plans by the Cambridge scientists anti-war group he proposed to take any steps to reassure the public on the efficacy of the Government's proposals.

MR. G. LLOYD, Under-Secretary, Home Office (Birmingham, Ladywood, U.)—I am advised that the experiments carried out by the persons referred to depend on academic assumption and have been interpreted on purely theoretical lines. Both the experiments themselves and the deductions made from them are consequently open to grave criticism. The Government's recommendations on the other hand are based on carefully conducted experiments employing actual war gases liberated under practical conditions, and having particular regard to the circumstances in which gas can be discharged from aircraft. My friend's friend is satisfied that the recommended methods of gas-proofing would be effective in affording a very great measure of protection and would reduce materially the number of casualties which might otherwise occur.

800 MORE MOBILE POLICE

SIR W. BRASS (Clitheroe, U.) asked the Home Secretary whether he had any proposals to make for more effective use of police patrols in encouraging the observance of the highway code by all classes of road users.

SIR J. SIMON.—Yes, Sir. I have had this matter under examination for some time, in consultation with the Secretary of State for Scotland and the Minister of Transport, and have formed the opinion that good results would be achieved by augmenting the personnel available, not so much with a view to more frequent penal action but primarily for the purpose of inculcating a higher standard of road sense and behaviour on the part of all classes of road users, including cyclists and pedestrians.

With the concurrence of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, it is proposed to arrange for an experiment, involving a substantial increase in the number of patrols, to be carried out for a limited period in a few selected areas, including the Metropolitan Police District. For this purpose it will, of course, be necessary to secure the cooperation of any police author-

referred to is a brokerage firm, and does not give financial credits. The answer to the second part of the question is in the negative.

MR. STRAUSS asked if the right hon. gentleman was aware that the whole object of this firm was to enable Germany to purchase goods from the Dominions by a system of barter financed by this company, so that Germany would not have to pay for the goods which would become available, and that thereby credit would be given to Germany for materials which could be used for armament purposes. Did the right hon. gentleman intend taking any steps to prevent this?

MR. CHAMBERLAIN said that the statement in his reply covered this question.

MR. BELLENGER (Basseterre, Lab.) asked if it would be necessary for the right hon. gentleman to give approval to any loans necessary for this purpose.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN.—I understand that no loans are contemplated.

BUSINESS NEXT WEEK

MR. BALDWIN informed MR. ATTLEE (Limehouse, Lab.) that business for next week would be as follows:—

MONDAY.—Committee stage of Supplementary Estimates beginning with Coronation of His Majesty; Colonial and Middle Eastern Services; Report stage of outstanding Supplementary Estimates, and of the Defence Loans Money Resolution.

TUESDAY.—The adjournment of the House will be followed by a debate on the Report of the Gresford Colliery Disaster.

WEDNESDAY.—Second reading of the Local Government (Financial Provisions) Bill, and Committee stage of the necessary Money Resolution.

THURSDAY.—Second reading of the Defence Loans Bill.

FRIDAY.—Private Members' Bills.

DEFENCE LOANS

LABOUR AND "PROFLIGACY OF FINANCE"

The House went into Committee of Ways and Means, SIR D. HERBERT, Chairman of Committees (Watford, U.), in the chair, and resumed the debate on the motion, in connexion with the Defence Loans, which was moved yesterday by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

MR. ALEXANDER (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab.) said that in yesterday's debate there was a little in-fighting in a political sense, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer could not resist his usual partisan outlook on the general political situation and indulgence in what the Speaker had called "the cut and thrust of debate." He had always understood that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was supposed to be recognized by his supporters as the high priest of capitalist finance, but he was deserving of censure for his schemes of the last five years.

Reactions in the gilt-edged markets showed that the right hon. gentleman's policy was already having its effect. Speaking in Birmingham on January 29 the right hon. gentleman said:—

As I watched the figures mounting up, as I reflect upon the growing cost and maintenance of this vast panoply when we have completed it, I cannot help being impressed by the incredible folly of civilization which is piling these terrific burdens on the shoulders of the nations, burdens which, if something is not done to reduce them, are bound to pull down the standard of living for a generation to come.

In the light of those words he could not understand the right hon. gentleman's light boxing and quick dancing about the ring when replying yesterday to the real case presented by Mr. Pethick-Lawrence as to the effect of the Government's policy on the cost of living. If any member of the Labour Government had been responsible for the proposals now being discussed the City of London would have tried to throw that Government out on the grounds of profligacy of finance. (Opposition cheers.)

NO BLANK CHEQUE

He was convinced that whatever arguments there might be for or against this rearmament

realized when they talked about the defence of the Commonwealth how seriously their policy had undermined the feeling in the Dominions.

There were also the Hoare-Laval Pact and the betrayal of the policy of sanctions. When the Chancellor of the Exchequer asked for £400,000,000 they could not forget June 10, 1936, and his speech about mismanagement. And the right hon. gentleman's revelation in advance of what he hoped would be the decision of the Cabinet on scrapping before the other Powers knew of the policy of sanctions and full retreat from the policy, with support of the Government of the League. (Opposition cheers.)

THE PRIME MINISTER'S RESPONSIBILITY COLLECTIVE SECURITY FORGOTTEN

They could not let the Prime Minister escape from his personal responsibility. (Opposition cheers.) He understood that Mr. Baldwin was a great student of Disraeli, who once wrote the following passage, which probably explained a lot of the attitude of the present Prime Minister:—

Frank and explicit: That is the right line to take when you wish to conceal your own mind and confuse the minds of others.

(Opposition laughter and cheers.) There had been a good many speeches of frankness from the Prime Minister in the last few years. There was one about the dangers of winning a General Election. (Opposition cheers.) Once Disraeli coming home from Berlin was greeted with great applause by the country because he said that he had come back with peace with honour. It might be argued that the policy of this Government had not led to engagements and had kept the peace. But in doing that they had lost their honour. (Opposition cheers.)

In the circumstances with which we were faced, it was necessary that we should take what we certainly were in need of a measure of rearmament. He had never shut his eyes to that. But when he looked at the basis on which this rearmament programme was asked for and the methods by which it was to be carried out he was appalled to think what they were likely to suffer under the leadership of a Government like the present one while it was in operation. It could not be claimed that this programme of defence was a logical consequence of collective security. It meant that this country, if it liked, must always be the judge in its own case and use its arms for its own purposes.

THE CREDIT ASSET

The Government to-day fortunately enjoyed in the financial world an unassailable credit. That was an asset. Right hon. and hon. gentlemen opposite seemed to feel some annoyance that the present Government after five years of sound administration could borrow without impairing its credit whereas in their case it was disastrous. (Ministerial cheers.) Was it to be supposed that the Government were to wrap that talent in a napkin and not use it? The right hon. gentleman opposite knew the facts of those who did so, gutter darkness and gnashing of teeth. (Laughter.)

Continuing, Sir T. Inskip said the right hon. gentleman (Mr. Alexander) would have done better if he had omitted the references to the policy of the Dominions Governments. We shall soon have an opportunity of full meeting and conference with the Dominions' accredited representatives. Let them speak through their representatives in their own way. We do not want to involve them in our discussions in this House.

MR. ALEXANDER.—You ask us to pay for their defence.

SIR T. INSKIP.—No, we do not. We ask this country to pay for the defence of the Colonies and Dependencies and those parts of the Empire from which we obtain so much of our raw materials. They are making arrangements concerning their own territory in their own expenditure for their own defence.

The Committee will remember the criticism that was made earlier that there was not a word in this White Paper about the League of Nations. If we had referred to it, would it have satisfied right hon. gentlemen? There is no doubt of the intention and wish of the Government so far as the use of the forces full production by Government and other factories will come into play.

CALL FOR COORDINATION

As to the plan for carrying out the rearmament programme, he had looked in vain in the speeches of the Minister for the Co-ordination of Defence for any real evidence of co-ordination. We were, for example, to-day ordering capital ships at a price unprecedented in the history of the building of capital ships in this country. What sort of co-ordination was there with the other Services when those ships were ordered? Some were ordered before the report of the inner committee as to whether capital ships were required had been received. There was certainly no evidence of scientific co-ordination.

Labour members were no less lovers of their fellow-countrymen and no less desirous of peace, happiness, and safety than anyone else, and if it came to a question of defence they would not be backward in that regard. What they were concerned about was what was being done to prevent defence becoming necessary. The Government had let the country down

submitted in the ordinary way to the House for examination?

He had listened with some mystification to Mr. Alexander's observations about the effect of the programme upon the "boom" and upon the "slump." He (Sir T. Inskip) found it difficult to reconcile what were apparently Mr. Alexander's theories about the "boom" with the fact that the slump was felt in every town and county where there was any prospect of receiving an order in connexion with the Government's programme. If the right hon. gentleman's theories were right they were all like the Gadarene swine every time they invited a Government contractor to enlarge his activities within the area of their boundaries. (Ministerial laughter.)

The Government had been asked what was the reason for the very large total. He would only make one general observation: they never could calculate safely upon a narrow margin.

It was quite impossible to arrive at some mathematical figure of certainty and say, "That is just enough to carry us into safety and we will ask for no more."

It was conceivable, as the Chancellor of the Exchequer pointed out, that in the course of the next five years it might be necessary to raise a larger sum for a smaller sum, but the general magnitude of the programme and the sum which was involved depended upon the necessity, if we were going to be safe, if it was worth while at all to provide for the possibility of war, that we had achieved our object. (Opposition cheers.) Mr. Pethick-Lawrence, in a revealing phrase, declared his opinion that the co-ordination of defence was essential in safeguarding the country against a foreign Power. Mr. Pethick-Lawrence had the root of the matter in him—(Ministerial cheers)—that this country must be safeguarded against the foreign foe; and all the talk about the ambiguity of foreign policy fell into its proper place when it was realized that, as far as they might about collective security and the pooling of forces, the task of any Government worthy of the name was to make it certain that no foreign foe would prevail over us. (Ministerial cheers.)

Does it mean that we are not to use these forces to defend ourselves against anybody else who will not cooperate with us? The fact that we have pooled our defence does not diminish—it increases—our responsibilities and our risks—the responsibility of this nation to itself and to its prestige in Europe, which is to-day infinitely greater because of the responsibility we have pursued in connexion with the pacification of Europe. Right hon. gentlemen opposite cannot be allowed to say that because the collective security system has in their assumption broken down for the time being that this country has to refrain from defending itself. It cannot refrain even in justice to others or in relation to democracy. The right hon. gentleman surely cannot mean that whether collective security is able to protect this country or not this country should abandon the task of defending itself.

COAST DEFENCE

The right hon. gentleman suggested that I failed in my duty because I had not coordinated the staffs of the different Ministries. I was not aware that it was one of my duties to undertake that part of the duties which fall upon responsible officers in the Government service. I should have very little time left for my other duties if I were to do so.

Let me invite the Committee to note what is going on in the way of planning. The figures for coast defence at home and abroad are based on a minute and meticulous examination of the subject. The first stage taken some time ago was to devise the general principles on which the coast defences of ports are to be based, bearing in mind all the possibilities of the naval or air attack to which the different categories of ports might be exposed. The next stage was to work out for each individual port the actual defences that were required under modern conditions, and the third stage was to discuss with the Admiralty the exact location of the different forms of armaments. Suppose we have completed these plans for coast defence. Is that or is that not an example of the co-ordination which the right hon. gentleman so ardently desired?

Let us take the reserves of ammunition. Does anybody think that we are planning this matter regarding supplies of ammunition regardless of other things? The reserves of ammunition are calculated with a view to a possibility of an emergency which may take place, and always with the idea that we shall have sufficient reserves to cover the period between any outbreak of war and the time when full production by Government and other factories will come into play.

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CALCULATED PLANNING

"AN EXHAUSTIVE REVIEW"

The organization of this form of supply is in itself a revelation of the planning which has been completed. Hon. members do not realize the extent to which we have had capacity to elaborate and exhaustively review of capacity of this country to produce armaments of all types to meet the country's needs. We have allotted to the departments the capacity of this and that firm so that there may be no overlapping, and no competition between departments for the services of the same producer. It has not been haphazard, panic planning, but a deliberate calculation down to the last unit of any particular type of weapon or arm that is required.

I have heard a great deal in this debate about the relation of our defences to the question of collective security. What does it mean? I do not think that collective security means that we should abandon the duty of national security. Supporting nobody else puts their forces into

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The right hon. gentleman below the gangway (Sir A. Sinclair) assailed the Chancellor of the Exchequer for saying that it was not in the public interest to state in a precise way who were the allies and who were the enemies against whom this programme is directed. Does he seriously suggest that it would have been a larger statement if the right hon. friend had opened his statement about this programme by saying that it is directed against nation "X" or nation "Y"? On the whole question of the relation of this programme to our foreign policy, though I recognize that the hon. members opposite would never admit that this Government has any real zeal or conviction in the idea of the League of Nations, that is the ideal to which we are working, and that it was not in the public interest that which will be necessary whether we have collective security or not.

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MAGNITUDE OF THE TASK

It is important to point out that although the total sum stated in the White Paper indicates the magnitude of the task the Government have to undertake, it is not a balance-sheet. The programme remains flexible. We hope it may never be necessary, if the Government's policy succeeds, to extend this vast sum. The White Paper states that modifications are possible either up or down—I hope not up—but it does not indicate the task which the nation must undertake. The items in the balance sheet will be produced when these matters come before the House.

QUESTION OF STAFF

The hon. member for East Edinburgh (Mr. Pethick-Lawrence) said that he was not surprised by what he found in the White Paper, that he knew well the magnitude of the task, and that he could have written with one exception everything contained in the White Paper. I only wish he would communicate his knowledge to hon. members sitting behind him. (Ministerial cheers.) I have been asked whether we are going to be as economically as possible. There is some suspicion that a Government department enters into a contract a little willy, without check and without supervision. Not a single contract is entered into on those terms.

Where competitive tenders are impossible every tender and contract is subjected to an exhaustive examination by a costings department. It has been said that the costings sections have not been reinforced for the purpose of this gigantic task. That is wrong. These branches have been recruited by the most competent men who could be found. I think we have some of the most eminent accountants in the City of London testing the costs suggested, examining the books of the contractors, and relating the tenders to the costs experienced in Government establishments. The Government departments, with the Treasury behind them if necessary, are jealous in protecting the taxpayer and Parliament from any undue exactions from those engaged on Government work.

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The hon. member for Bishop Auckland (Mr. Dalton) said that he had no confidence in me or in my staff. If I may deal with my unworthy self first, that is not so important as that he should have no confidence in the staff. I have stated the part I play with proper modesty, and I hope I may say that I have been cognizant of what is being done and that on some occasions I may have been able to make a small contribution. (Hear, hear.) The hon. member invited us to supplement the staffs by adding

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young men and fresh-minded men from the Services to moderate the outlook of the officials at present in the hon. member's view.

Curious to relate, the Government had already thought of that. (Cheers.) About a year ago, just after I took office—although not the consequence of my taking office—the Joint Planning Committee, which already existed among the Chiefs of Staff and comprised a number of comparatively junior rank, received the assistance of a number of men younger in years and junior in rank, and you have in that Department of the Committee of Imperial Defence some of the most alert, vigorous, freshest and most open minded that can be found in the Services. (Hear, hear.)

capacity and a much larger potential capacity. The terms on which it will be acquired are being carefully considered. It is a response to the detailed consideration of the needs of the country, and it is part of the completed plan for making capacity equal to demands which any emergency, even that of collective security, may make on us.

Why are we building Government factories for the purpose of producing ammunition or explosives? During the last War everybody remembers that in the fever of necessity factories were designed even up to the last day of the War for the production of sorely needed supplies. There is no time in modern war, especially when the weight of the attack will be felt in the first few weeks, to make preparations which will take 18 months or a year to complete—hear, hear—so we have felt it to be in the national interest to build factories while we have time so that they can be available if an emergency should arise. (Hear, hear.) Is that an example or not of planning and preparation?

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Stiftelsen norsk Okkupasjonshistorie, 2014

Mr. LAWSON (Chester-le-Street, Lab.) asked the Minister of Labour whether he had yet received the report of the Unemployment Insurance Statutory Committee upon the financial condition of the Unemployment Fund; and, if so, whether he proposed to publish it.

Mr. E. BROWN (Leith, L.Nat.).—Yes, Sir. The Unemployment Insurance Statutory Committee have presented their report upon the condition of the Unemployment Fund at December 31, 1936, and copies of the Report will be available in the Vote Office at 6 p.m. on Monday next.

STAG AND POLICE PATROL

Mr. WATKINS (Hackney, Cent., Lab.) asked the Home Secretary if his attention had been called to a hunting incident on February 9 when a stag was chased through West Wycombe across a railway line into the main street of High Wycombe and subsequently captured by the aid of a police patrol-car and handed back to the hunt, and whether he was prepared to consider introducing legislation that would make all such acts of cruelty illegal.

SIR J. SIMON (Spennymoor, L.Nat.).—I have obtained a report from the Chief Constable of High Wycombe which states that two constables were on motor patrol on the main London to Oxford road and at a point about 1½ mile from West Wycombe overtook a stag running along the centre of the road. No hounds or huntsmen were to be seen. The stag entered the garden of a house, jumped through the fence, and then through a second fence on to the railway line. It travelled towards High Wycombe along the railway line for some 500 yards and, on reaching the railway goods yard, returned to the main road.

Apparently confused by the volume of traffic at this point the stag jumped a fence and landed in the adjoining stream, where the water is about 15 in. deep. Having crossed the stream it found its way into the back garden of one of a row of houses bordering the stream and entered a shed, where it was secured. The animal was in a nervous state and bleeding from both forelegs. After an interval of about an hour six people arrived with a box van into which the animal was loaded. The hon. member will therefore see that the constables were not taking part in hunting the animal at all.

Mr. WATKINS.—I was not suggesting that the constables were responsible for hunting; the Berks and Bucks Staghounds were the hunt. Will the Home Secretary consider introducing legislation to prevent occurrences like this which outrage the feelings of all decent people? (Hear, hear.)

SIR J. SIMON.—I have stated the facts fully and impartially. Everyone may form his own opinion. I cannot take it on myself to add to the crowded programme of Government legislation.

CORONATION PROCESSION

PLANS FOR PARKING OF CARS

Mr. DAY (Southwark, Cent., Lab.) asked the Home Secretary what arrangements had been made by the Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis for the parking in the West End of motor-cars belonging to seat-holders occupying seats in the stands in the Royal Parks or otherwise, at the coronation procession on May 12.

SIR J. SIMON.—Under the arrangements contemplated by the Commissioner of Police only cars provided with special windscreen labels will be admitted to the Coronation area on May 12. The means of access to each section of the route will be designated on the label, each section having a label of a special colour, and setting-down places will be allotted to each section.

Arrangements will be made for parking to be permitted in certain streets which will be sign-posted. When the available parking space has been filled drivers will have to proceed outside the Coronation area by the sign-posted routes. The available parking space will, of course, be very limited, and it is to be hoped that spectators and seat-holders will

and the necessity for special training will be impossible to put the full additional force on the roads before the autumn. It is contemplated that when the experiment is in full operation it will allow for an increase of about 800 men.

It was proposed, without prejudice to any permanent arrangement, that the cost of this experimental increase should be borne by the Exchequer, and the necessary estimates will be presented to the House in due course. The Minister of Transport and myself are anxious that it should be appreciated that, while there is, of course, no intention of relaxing the enforcement of the law, the experiment is designed primarily to assist and educate the road user and not to increase the number of prosecutions. The effect upon accidents will be closely watched.

In order that effective touch may be maintained with the progress of the experiment and the work of the patrols generally, arrangements are being made for the appointment of a joint consultative committee which will consist of representatives of the Departments concerned and a number of chief officers of police.

SPECIAL AREAS

A BILL NEXT WEEK

Mr. BATEY (Spennymoor, Lab.) asked the Prime Minister if he could now state when the Special Areas Bill would be introduced.

Mr. BALDWIN (Bewdley, U.).—I hope that it may be possible to introduce the Bill at the end of next week.

THE JARROW STEELWORKS

Miss WILKINSON (Jarrow, Lab.) asked the Prime Minister whether he was now able to accede to the request of the Lord Mayor of Newcastle to receive an influential deputation from Tyne-side with regard to the steelworks at Jarrow.

Mr. BALDWIN.—I assume that the hon. member is referring to the deputation which I was asked to receive following a conference held at Newcastle-on-Tyne on February 5. I regret that the pressure upon my time makes it impossible for me to receive this deputation, but I have informed the Town Clerk of Newcastle-on-Tyne that my right hon. friend the President of the Board of Trade would be prepared to do so.

Miss WILKINSON asked why the Prime Minister continually refused to hear the case of this special area. On his own suggestion they had already exhausted all the Departmental channels and the situation in steel was now becoming so serious that Cabinet action was obviously required.

Mr. BALDWIN.—In regard to a matter of this sort the Board of Trade is the proper Department to see. I would remind the hon. lady that all Cabinet Ministers are co-equal—though fortunately not co-eternal. (Loud laughter.)

CORONATION SEATS

LIEUT.-COL. MOORE (Ayr Burghs, U.) asked the Lord President of the Council whether any arrangements were being made to reserve an adequate number of Coronation seats in Parliament Square or elsewhere which members of Parliament might purchase for their relatives or friends.

Mr. J. R. MAC DONALD (Scottish Universities, Nat. Lab.).—As I have already stated, it is proposed to allocate the seats in such a manner as to provide representation of the various aspects of the national life. The number of seats to be reserved for the two Houses of Parliament under these arrangements is approximately 2,500.

GERMAN TRADE WITH DOMINIONS

Mr. G. STRAUSS (Lambeth, N. Lab.) asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he was aware that the declared object of the recently established company, entitled Compenation Brokers Limited, was the financing of barter trade between Germany and the British Dominions; and, as this involved the granting of new credits to Germany, if His Majesty's Government intended taking any action in the matter.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN (Birmingham, Edgbaston, U.).—I understand that the company

was floated at a much cheaper rate. The Opposition had a right to insist that, in the interest of State economy, they should not give a blank cheque to the Government to spend how they liked. (Opposition cheers.)

Of course, it was traditional for Tories when in office to look after their friends. (Opposition cheers.) So far as they had been able to gather the Government had taken no steps to check profits. They had only to look at the balance-sheets of some of the companies that it should be appreciated that, while there is, of course, no intention of relaxing the enforcement of the law, the experiment is designed primarily to assist and educate the road user and not to increase the number of prosecutions. The effect upon accidents will be closely watched.

It was proposed, without prejudice to any permanent arrangement, that the cost of this experimental increase should be borne by the Exchequer, and the necessary estimates will be presented to the House in due course. The Minister of Transport and myself are anxious that it should be appreciated that, while there is, of course, no intention of relaxing the enforcement of the law, the experiment is designed primarily to assist and educate the road user and not to increase the number of prosecutions. The effect upon accidents will be closely watched.

The kind of expenditure which they were asked to sanction that day, so far from being an effective contribution towards the permanent employment of the industrial worker, would only add to the boom, and then add to the succeeding slump. The Government said to the workers: "Come in and help us with this armament programme, and eat, drink, and be merry," but they left out the last words of the scriptural passage, "for to-morrow we die." (Opposition cheers.) With regard to the effects on the lives and security of the workers at large he could find nothing in this armament programme specially to entice about or to praise.

This was a melancholy occasion, for the nation was being asked to pay a bill which represented the collective ineptitude and folly, and in some instances the dishonesty, of the Tory Coalition Government in foreign policy. (Opposition cheers.) He agreed with the previous night that in 1931 the foreign prospect, not, of course, without its difficulties, was reasonably promising. Ever since this coalition took office in 1931—it had no claim to be called a National Government—things in the international sphere had gone from bad to worse. (Opposition cheers.)

DISARMAMENT FAILURE

He knew that this country was not the only country concerned in foreign relationships, but the present Government were supposed to be a Government of all the talents, and this was the leading country at the heart of the greatest Commonwealth in the world, and we ought to give the greatest lead. Yet they could find during the last few years case after case of the folly and ineptitude and of the political dishonesty of the present Government in foreign affairs. The more he studied the records of the Disarmament Conference the more he was convinced that this country had a large responsibility for the comparative failure in the first year of the conference, and ultimately for its final failure. This country was now the most vulnerable country in Europe to attack, and yet but for the folly of representatives of the Government at the Disarmament Conference they could have abolished the use of the bombing aeroplane. (Ministerial cries of "No" and Opposition cheers.)

Mr. CHURCHILL (Epping, U.).—There is not a word of truth in that which the right hon. gentleman would denigrate to the House that there was no truth in the statement.

Manchuria was the first instance of the wavering of this country in its allegiance to collective security. The Sines Conference also had a very great influence on the present position. There was practical agreement there among the representatives of the war allies that they would not separate, and yet in a few weeks they had the Anglo-German Naval Treaty, which virtually withdrew Hitler from reverting to the policy of armament based on four times the naval strength as laid down in the Versailles Treaty. As to Abyssinia, he did not yet know whether the Government

behind them in supporting collective security. The Labour Party by a majority of 30 to 1 came down in favour of sanctions—sanctions properly carried through. But right up to the time of and through the General Election they were, from all the platforms, called warmongers.

Would hon. members who so charged them have told the nation then that they proposed to introduce in 1937 a loan for 400,000,000, making £1,500,000,000 for armaments, and to have Ministers like the First Lord of the Admiralty, who was prepared to see armaments for national policy and not for collective security? (Opposition cheers.) That was the case that had to be answered.

OPPOSITION TO ARMS "STAMPEDE"

The Labour Party were prepared to support whatever vote might be required for collective security within the system of the League of Nations. They would oppose at all stages any attempt to stampede this country into wholesale armaments for use for national policy.

Mr. HENDERSON STEWART (Fife, E., L.Nat.).—For defending your own country.

Mr. ALEXANDER replied that these in the Labour Party had no more need to be ashamed of how they had defended their country than anyone else. (Opposition cheers.) What they were concerned to get was the adoption of a policy that would prevent war and not precipitate it. Realizing what the competitive race in armaments before 1914 brought in loss of life, misery and in financial ruin to the working classes after the War, Mr. Henderson Stewart could hardly blame them for saying that, when they voted for armaments to-day, they wanted them for collective security and not for national policy for capitalists.

Mr. HENDERSON STEWART.—Had it not been for the fact that we were adequately armed in 1914 we should not be prepared to speak at all as an independent nation.

Mr. ALEXANDER.—The hon. member's answer seems ridiculous in the light of the experience of the War. The real fact was that, although we built the largest navy in the world at that time, we had to turn the whole citizenship into a war camp.

If (Mr. Alexander concluded) the Government were trying to arm this country and organize the defence of the Empire on a unilateral defence basis, they were exceedingly foolish. They had never fought a major war yet without allies, and powerful allies. The Labour Party would vote at any time what collective security, but they would refuse to vote a blank cheque to the Government to provide unlimited national armaments to be used mainly for national policy alone. They would use all their time and energies to rehabilitate the League and restore the confidence of the people in a process which led to international justice, without which there never would be peace. (Opposition cheers.)

SIR T. INSKIP'S REPLY

THE MARGIN OF SAFETY

SIR T. INSKIP, Minister for the Coordination of Defence (Farnham, U.), said that the most interesting feature of the Opposition speeches had been the complete absence of any attack on any of the main items of the programme set out in the White Paper. The programme was not attacked as a whole, nor was it attacked in part. The only criticism which Mr. Alexander made was that the Government were engaged in building capital ships at a higher cost than in 1921. The statement that these capital ships were laid down or were ordered before the House had had an opportunity of considering the cost was not accurate. Certain preparatory steps were no doubt taken by firms that expected to have orders, but no contract or binding obligation was incurred before the House had had a perfectly proper opportunity of listening to the statement that was made. Mr. Alexander was also inaccurate in describing the Government's proposals as a request for a blank cheque. As he has already stated, as was stated in the White Paper and by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that every single penny sought to be expended by the Government would be

84% of English Doctors* prefer a mild cigarette!



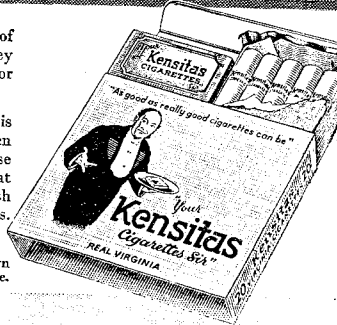
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* 84% of the doctors of England, who smoke cigarettes, as shown by replies to a strictly independent survey, prefer a mild cigarette.



Kensitas... the MILD cigarette

"Just what the Doctor ordered!"

Parliament

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... should be called up for service on production. It is a complete misrepresentation to propose that I, who am no longer able to claim to be even in my late middle age, am associated with a number of respectable "Colonel" names. (Loud laughter.) The youth and intelligence of a number of my men will meet with the approval of the most exacting members opposite. (Ministerial cheers.)

PLANS FOR WAR CONTROL

The problems of defence are questions not of mathematics, but of the proper plans to be made to deal with an infinite variety of circumstances. (Hear, hear.) Our experiences of the last year in the Eastern Mediterranean, the Western Mediterranean, in the Spanish Revolution, and in Palestine, have all had the effect of helping the Joint Planning Committee and the Chiefs of Staff to see in actual concrete form emergencies for which plans must be devised. Nobody believes that plans once made to meet a certain emergency are ever likely to be required to meet another emergency of similar character. There come up constantly for consideration situations and problems for which plans have been devised.

Recently a Joint Intelligence Committee has been formed from representatives of the three services, which works under the Chiefs of Staff, and we are endeavouring to bring industrial intelligence in foreign countries. It is impossible for me to disclose the nature of the reports we receive and the information that the Joint Intelligence Committee prepares for the Chiefs of Staff. I can only say that they are almost notoriously bad declined to assent to any superior authority on his part. Before the right hon. gentleman's quite definite statement to-day about the role of the Army on the Continent, they had felt that the Government had not really faced up to the question whether, in view of the tremendous development of the power of aircraft, it would be possible in future that our Army should be engaged in continental countries. It is clear that hitherto the Minister had been engaged with minor and secondary matters, rather than with the essential question of what should be the relationship of our different Services in view of the tasks which they were now called on to do.

I have sometimes been interested to read that no plans are being made for the higher command in war. This has been exhaustively examined, and although I do not suggest that the plans are final and for all time, the plans for setting up a proper control in time of war will have been completed, but will be kept under consideration. The Government may be blind to some things, but it is too much to ask anybody to believe that after all that has been written about the conditions of the Great War they really have not thought of how the next war should be carried on so far as the higher command is concerned.

Let us take the question of sea-borne trade, a notable illustration of the necessity for co-ordination in its true spirit. The Navy, the Air Force, and even the Army must play their part in the protection of our sea-borne trade. The narrow seas and their dangers have not escaped the notice of the Staffs or myself, and I am glad to say—although here again they will be subject to revision in any fresh emergency and with every fresh discovery—exhaustive reports have been prepared. The distribution of imports of food, the diversion of shipping from the east coast to the west coast, the organization of ports, the preparation of inland transport, the choice of routes—ladies and gentlemen—(loud laughter)—they have all been considered in the light of the mistake which I was much younger and much more nervous than I am now. I apologize to the House for my mistake.

These matters and another which I was about to mention—the proper defence of vulnerable points against air attack—have been considered, not as solved problems, but as plans subject to continual consideration. Let me mention one other matter which I think will be of interest to the Committee. The accumulation of raw materials is mentioned in the White Paper. Everybody should be aware that there are many commodities which are absolutely essential, and the Government have taken time by the forelock in this matter of raw materials, and stores of those have been provided.

FOOD SUPPLIES

I would like to say one word about two other topics. One is the question of food. Naturally this is a question of interest to the public as it is to the Government. Control of food has been exercised for some time.

great democracy contrasted with the authoritarian States, is just as united in its determination that the democratic institutions of this country shall be defended to the utmost of the ability of every member of this House. (Loud Ministerial cheers.)

A NEW PERSPECTIVE

SIR F. ACLAND'S VIEW

SIR F. ACLAND (Cornwall, North, L.) said that Sir T. Inskip had given some members rather a new perspective of certain of the work on which he was engaged, and the Committee would be grateful to him. In some of the matters which he mentioned as having come within the purview of his Department the Minister seemed to have broken new ground in very valuable directions, and to have dealt with things which they hitherto had felt were not being adequately dealt with. With regard to the financial aspect of the problem the question was whether the emergency in which the country found itself—which was greater than ever before—justified a departure from the general doctrine that Chancellors of the Exchequer had so often put forward, that for as long as possible we should pay as we went along. The great argument against resort to loans was that loans tended to lessen the control and vigilance which the House should exercise over expenditure.

One of the main reasons why the Liberal Party hesitated so much in approving the policy set out by the Chancellor of the Exchequer was that they felt that the Government had at present no really efficient system of control of expenditure. It did not seem that hitherto the Minister had made any real attempt or had had any real power to control expenditure. It was clear that almost notoriously had declined to assent to any superior authority on his part. Before the right hon. gentleman's quite definite statement to-day about the role of the Army on the Continent, they had felt that the Government had not really faced up to the question whether, in view of the tremendous development of the power of aircraft, it would be possible in future that our Army should be engaged in continental countries. It is clear that hitherto the Minister had been engaged with minor and secondary matters, rather than with the essential question of what should be the relationship of our different Services in view of the tasks which they were now called on to do.

In spite of all this talk about costing departments and costing estimates the Liberal Party still felt that when the Government were employing private firms in work of this kind they could not really have any efficient control of the profits the firms would make. The claim which these firms would all make, that there was no guarantee of any permanence for their staffs, premises, or men, must prevail over any arguments which costing departments might bring against them, and must lead to an enormous growth of profiteering, which could not be checked so long as the Government relied mainly on private firms for their production of supply.

"DEVIL OF WAR" IN CHARGE

The Government's loan policy ought to be explored in connexion with the necessity for national unity and the probability or otherwise of a European war. The god, or the devil, of war had already taken charge practically everywhere. He saw no signs of any policy anywhere except that of piling up armaments. He thought that a major conflict in Europe in the next 18 months would be extremely difficult to avoid, and no one could sensibly tell whether we should be drawn into it or not. The Minister's speech had not helped to clear up what was very essential—namely, what was the foreign policy of the Government and on what principles it was based. If it was difficult for us, it must be more difficult for foreign countries, and that added to the likelihood of our being drawn into any great outbreak abroad that might occur.

If war came in the form in which it must come, with devastating suddenness, national unity would be of vital importance to us. The Government were sometimes inclined to forget that because they were a national unit they were representing the nation. They

gentleman as to the seriousness of the position and the duties of his station. (Opposition cheers.)

If the country was in danger, it was in danger from Germany, and we should do our money in the best possible way to save us from Hitler. His (the speaker's) objection to the White Paper was that it was devised within the limits of the money available to make us safe from every one.

JUSTIFICATION FOR ARMS

Mr. LUMLEY (York, U.) said it was of real importance that there should be the broadest possible united front. The resolution and the White Paper should make it plain that the Government was prepared, so long as it seemed necessary, to arm the country on a formidable scale, and it would be a matter for real regret if, in the circumstances of to-day, anyone were found to oppose that main intention.

Underlying many of the speeches of hon. members opposite was some hostility to the whole policy of rearmament. The justification for rearmament was, first, that there were many nations which were heavily armed, whose armaments were more powerful, had greater destructive power and wider range, and could be more swiftly deployed than ever before; and, secondly, that it was impossible to say that all those armaments were in the hands of peace-minded people. On the contrary, there were those who taught to-day that war was one of the highest of human enterprises and looked with thinly disguised contempt on an institution like the League of Nations.

The Labour Party demanded a forward foreign policy and asked that the Government should not be allowed to get away with anything which they set their hands, but they would not face up to the hard, unpalatable fact that such a policy needed strength behind it. There had been too many words and not enough guns about collective security. The Government proposed to supply the guns, and, when these were provided, then would be the time to talk more freely and firmly about collective security.

"WORLD SUICIDE PACT"

SIR S. CRIPPS ON THE ARMS RACE

SIR S. CRIPPS (Bristol, E., Lab.) said that they were witnessing the most magnificent subscription to the world suicide pact which had yet been published in any country in the world. The vital question was not whether there should or should not be armaments in any particular country, but for the purpose of what those armaments were likely to be used. The vital divisions in the world to-day were not the divisions between nation and nation.

For example, the armaments of Germany might well be welcomed by this country if those who controlled them could be relied upon to have a beneficent purpose for their use. The Labour Party hated and feared those armaments because they knew that the purpose for which they would be used was both vicious and bad. It was not the arms and the trained men that they regarded as so sinister, but the powers that would order their use when the appropriate moment came. They regarded Nazism, with all its implied aggressiveness, brutality, and the suppression of freedom, as Public Enemy No. 1 in the world to-day. They had no quarrel with the peoples of Germany, and they would have no desire or need to create great armaments against them if they were convinced of the pacific intentions of their rulers. They did not believe in Herr Hitler's protestations of peace. Herr Hitler would no doubt possess faith in the *Pax Germanica*, just as right hon. gentlemen opposite expressed their faith in the *Pax Britannica*, but Hitler had not yet satisfied his imperial ambitions, whereas our ruling class had done so.

There was no indication that the Government had any idea of abandoning the traditional Tory outlook on foreign policy. It was a policy of remaining in loose isolation, always ready to pick up that ally who seemed likely for the moment to be most useful in maintaining the British Imperial position, regardless of the deeper and wider interests of world peace as a whole. By this policy of uncertainty they created an atmosphere of doubt which encouraged an arms race through-

concessions, being that what we had held and that anybody who tried to change this situation did so at his peril, then he could regard that as a truly defensive attitude as opposed to an attitude of offence. Under the present Government or succeeding Governments, were prepared to tackle the economic and territorial causes of war it was impossible for ever to say that we were standing on the defensive in holding what we possessed.

Here he found himself frankly in opposition to some of his hon. friends. Mr. Mander, whose whole political history had been one of pacific intention, repeatedly pressed the Government to give a pledge that in no circumstances would they return to Germany Colonies that were taken from her. He believed that to be a dangerous and untenable attitude. If we were to put ourselves in the position of Germany to-day, with the Poth Corridor, with her minorities and her lack of colonies and of economic opportunities—if Great Britain were in Germany's place she would never accept permanent peace until there had been some rectification of that position.

Mr. MANDER (Wolverhampton, E., L.) said he wished to make his position clear. He agreed that so long as we and other countries retained individual colonies Germany had a legitimate claim; but he would not support a policy of placing all Colonies under the International Control of the League.

A TRIBUNAL OF EQUITY

Mr. GARRO-JONES said that against this policy he had no complaint, but that had not been the burden of Mr. Mander's appeals to the Government that in no circumstances should Germany's Colonies be returned to her.

Mr. MCGOVERN (Glasgow, Shettleston, L.L.P.)—Is the hon. member in favour of giving Colonies back to Germany? Mr. GARRO-JONES said that he was in favour of bringing the question before a tribunal of equity and that in general pacification, Germany was prepared to enter into disarmament on a basis of justice all round and a complete measure of disarmament would give the best guarantee of such measures of territorial and economic adjustment as an international tribunal of equity might decide upon. If we were going into a new agreement we should give this or that nation any concessions then there would be no permanent pacification in the world. We must remove these causes of war, whatever they were. Without that we must get over the hurdle of what would be a most serious conflagration. He was glad to have had the opportunity of stating this point of view, even though it might cause offence in some quarters.

It was a great mistake to leave in the hands of one Minister problems both of supply and strategy. It was impossible for one Minister to try to bring together two jigsaw puzzles at the same time. He was not sure that Sir T. Inskip's learning made him the right man for dealing with questions of strategy. Sir T. Inskip had probably never seen any military operation more important, perhaps, than the changing of the guard in Whitehall—and he was not dealing with questions of strategy they need not know what had done such training in such matters.

COLONEL C. KERR (Montrose, L. Nat.) said that Mr. Garro-Jones's criticism of the Minister for Co-ordination of Defence was a little hard on the right hon. gentleman who was the type of man we wanted in that position. It would be impossible and quite inadvisable for such a Minister to be a soldier or a sailor. The Government's proposals were a terrible necessity, but they would cause no interference with their own if they were convinced of the need and would help to reduce unemployment.

Mr. QUIBELL (Brigg, Lab.) said that what was exercising peoples' minds was against whom were we arming. Was it Germany or Italy or a combination of both? He was not entirely prepared to leave this country unprotected on the right hon. gentleman's part, and he believed that his colleagues who trusted this expenditure if they could put their vote in this Government and could ascertain from the Government what the possible consequences would be, and if they were to their own good into their hands and summon a conference of the Powers which, together with the League, could make efforts for the

the House and hearing a representative of the party of a member who is named.

The motion was then put and carried by 231 votes to 25—majority, 206.

THE SPEAKER asked Mr. McGovern to leave the Chamber.

Mr. MCGOVERN rose and said:—I accept the decision. I have made an honest and sincere protest against unfair conduct.

The hon. member then left the Chamber. Mr. MAXTON, on a point of order, said that frequently he had seen incidents of this kind occur in Committee, and when the Speaker came to the Chair an opportunity was given for representations to be made on behalf of the hon. member concerned. The Speaker had denied to him (Mr. Maxton) an opportunity of doing what had been permitted on many occasions—cries of "Order" and counter cries of "Why?"—and he proposed at the very earliest opportunity to place on the paper a motion calling attention to the conduct of the Chairman of the Committee in misdirecting the proceedings of the House (Cries of "Order.")

THE SPEAKER.—The hon. member rose to a point of order. He asked whether I was in order in doing what I did, and I refreshed my memory, and I can only report that I was carrying out the Orders of the House.

Mr. MAXTON.—I have not called in question the fact that you were obeying the Rules of the House. I am merely calling in question the fact that I did not allow to me the consideration which has always been shown by your predecessors in the Chair. (Cries of "Order.")

MR. ATTLEE ON A WAR MEASURE

GOVERNMENT LACK OF PEACE POLICY

The House again went into Committee, and Mr. ATTLEE resumed the Defence Debate. He said that the Chancellor of the Exchequer took refuge in the old trick of pretending not to understand the arguments of the Opposition, but he did not believe that the right hon. gentleman was as dense as he made out. The right hon. gentleman was more interested in making party scores than in getting support for his loan policy. That was unfortunate, because Sir T. Inskip tried what one might almost call the Baldwin touch. He appealed strongly for unity. He wanted us to show a united front to the world and to show confidence in the Government. That was another old trick—a confidence trick. (Opposition laughter and cheers.)

But the same game could not play the same confidence trick twice on the same victim. This game included the Lord President of the Council. What would the Lord President have thought in the earlier stages of his career if a Government of which he was a member had produced these proposals? (Hear, hear.) This put a seal on the right hon. gentleman's career; it was the final act by which he cast aside everything for which he stood.

Another member of the gang was the Prime Minister, who had confessed that risks were run, and there was a question of whether he could win an election or not. It was too late to ask them to have confidence in this Government. Their record had been one of betrayal of everything for which they professed to stand. Their record in foreign policy was appalling.

"VALUABLE LESSONS"

It was extremely courageous for the Minister for the Co-ordination of Defence to have referred to events in the Eastern and Western Mediterranean and the lessons learned there. That was reminiscent of histories of the Great War which explained, after recounting some appalling blunder in which 5,000 or 50,000 men had been shot down, that "valuable lessons had been learned." (Opposition cheers.) We had learned some valuable lessons in the Eastern and Western Mediterranean. It was a pity that the Government had learned that the word of honour of the Government was worth nothing. We had also learned that the Government were not interested in the principles they used to profess about Imperial interests, for the strategic con-

arms to the extent of £1,500,000,000 in the next five years, and then spending more, if necessary, which meant that the competition would be worse and worse. The Government were on the strategy of "order and ruin." In his speech the Minister for the Co-ordination of Defence had dealt only with minor points and had not touched on the important master of major strategy. Had it been settled who was ultimately to control the Air arm and what actually were the coordinating plans?

He was not in the least sure that there was not gross waste in this programme. He was absolutely certain that if by any chance we survived it and what it led to we should get just the same profiting scandals which had followed every war. The Prime Minister was responsible for making one of the biggest mistakes ever made by a Prime Minister in this country, because he placed all his reliance on things and not on people. He was very careful to build up a great mass of mechanism, but he had forgotten the spirit of the people he governed. On every hand the Government betrayed democracy. It was no good for them to say they would do away with tyranny when everywhere they lifted the tyrant's hand. The weakness of the arguments of the Government was that there was no spirit behind them other than the spirit of feeble class Imperialism. (Loud Opposition cheers.)

MR. BALDWIN'S REPLY

"SACRIFICES FOR DEMOCRACY"

Mr. BALDWIN, who was received with Ministerial cheers, said he thought Mr. Attlee was hardly fair in saying that he had never realized the spiritual forces of the world. He (Mr. Baldwin) was certainly the first member of his party who often pointed out in public meetings the spiritual force which animated the early days of the Labour movement, and he had never lost the opportunity of pointing out that that spirit had now been dead for some time. (Laughter.)

It was just as well, though the situation was serious enough, to avoid exaggeration under the proposals before the Committee, and in spite of the increased liabilities on the country the Army was less and would be less than it was in 1914. The Navy, in spite of increases that would be proposed in the Estimates, was far from being the great Navy in the sense that the word was used in 1914. The great expansion was in the air, and it was being made, he believed, with the consent of the whole nation. (Ministerial cheers.) Aircraft defence was the branch which would demand large sums of money, and it was a far more serious thing than it was at the time of the last War. It was a form of defence that would probably be the most important in the future and rather back as the radius of the aeroplanes from Europe increased.

A large sum must be spent in all kinds of stores, partly because during the years since the War all parties alike combined to spend as little as possible on the Services and to repair the finances of the country, and also to increase considerably the social services. But with all that he would repeat, because his words might go abroad, there was no thought and no intention in this country of aggression.

SAFETY AND PEACE

They desired to put themselves into a position to deter to aggression. Deterrence was one of their main objects, and if one believed deterrence possible one would believe that ineffective deterrence was worse than useless. (Ministerial cheers.) They would neither assure their own safety and that of the Empire by starting securing peace in the world, unless they brought their forces up to the necessary standard. That, and that alone was what this expenditure was for.

He believed this country now was in a position when she could finance the things they were doing, without risk to what she had done and was doing for the social services, and without affecting the standard of life any more than that standard might be affected from time to time by the rise or fall of commodities. He hoped that the expenditure for the Empire which the Government were asking appeared an enormous expenditure. The Government contended that it should be a temporary expenditure, that was to say, for about a generation. The social services were here, he hoped, for all time. He hoped, indeed, that this new fund for armaments might see them improved. There was enormous expenditure in the financial power of the country

broken and we were members of it we might find ourselves in a moment in opposition to a first class military and air power in Europe.

Under collective security, assume that those who were acting with us came in, the brunt of certain fighting would always be on this country—the brunt of naval fighting, for one thing.

But under any form of collective security this country would be left to stand the racket in the air, provided that the country against whom collective security was engaged was within a radius of this country from which she could borrow us, and therefore for this country to enter into any security of that kind when she was not in a position either to pull her full weight with the other countries or to defend herself satisfactorily that would be a most dangerous thing for this country, and it was to avoid that that these proposals were put before the House. (Ministerial cheers.)

There must be no doubt if there was to be any security of that kind. At the last election he had said that as Prime Minister he would never be a party to engaging any "sanctions" on behalf of this country until the country was more strongly armed than it was then. That he believed to be fundamental for this country, and it was because of that because of that they were commending these proposals to the House.

THE TIME FOR SACRIFICE

Concluding, Mr. Baldwin said:—"The Leader of the Opposition was a little sarcastic at my expense on account of various speeches I have made about democracy. I have for many years—in fact, ever since I became Prime Minister—tried to make the people of this country proud of their system, and I have tried to make them realize that it is not a system that can be preserved without sacrifice. And the time for sacrifice is now. I believe it can be preserved, and I believe what we are doing will have that effect. It is a sacrifice—but it is a sacrifice worth making."

I saw the other day that a gentleman in the Communist Party said this was a very good time to be alive, to which an admirable riposte was made by one of the right hon. gentlemen opposite (Mr. H. Morrison). I congratulate him on that reply. But it is a good time to be alive to those who believed in their principles of democracy and are prepared to make sacrifices for it, because they have the opportunity now of making that sacrifice.

For all of us who believe that spirit of freedom to be worth something in this country the best thing we can do now to preserve it is to make our country strong, so that no one who holds opposite views in these matters shall ever consider it worth while to make any wanton aggression on this country. It is for the safety of ourselves and for our people, and it is for that to-night that we are going into the lobby. (Loud Ministerial cheers.)

The Committee divided, and there voted:—

For the resolution 329
Against 145

Government majority 184

The House resumed and the resolution was reported.

The House adjourned at 12 minutes past 11 o'clock.

PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES HOUSE OF COMMONS

Private Members' Bills. Parliament Act (1911) Amendment Bill, and Restoration and Control of Stockbrokers Bill, second readings.

PRODUCTION OF ARMS AT NEWCASTLE

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, FEB. 18. Scotswood, Newcastle, is to revert to the work it undertook 20 years ago—the production of armaments. What effect this may have on employment when the demand for national defence equipment is less exacting than it is now is concerning Tyneside industrialists. The work of the factory was taken over by Vickers

