

services, with the primary object of reducing the costs of pig production.

During the three-year period the regulation of bacon supplies will be continued so as to maintain reasonable prices in the general interest, but the Government will not regard themselves as restricted to any given total.

£1,000,000 A YEAR COST

The cost of these proposals to the Exchequer will depend on certain unpredictable factors, including the course of prices of feeding-stuffs and the price of bacon, but on certain assumptions the cost might average approximately £1,000,000 a year.

Legislation will be introduced before Easter to give effect to these proposals as a whole. The Government commend them to Parliament as being calculated to assist the industry to reduce its costs of operation, attain a higher level of efficiency, and put itself generally on a self-supporting basis.

Replying to supplementary questions, Mr. MORRISON said that he was satisfied that from a scheme effective rationalization would result. These proposals would put the industry in a very much stronger position in regard to its efficiency and self-supporting character. The price of bacon had risen less than that of any other food and the cost of food had risen less than that of other commodities.

Mr. TURTON (Thirsk and Malton, U.)—In the Minister say from what date he expects new contract to operate?

Mr. MORRISON.—No, that depends on the speed with which the House will pass the legislation. I should desire, if possible, to start the new contract from July 1 next.

Answering further questions, Mr. MORRISON said that everything possible was being done to encourage the growth of native supplies of feedingstuffs. It was hoped that in the third year the pig industry would be in such an advanced state of efficiency that it would be possible for any number of pigs to be produced without assistance exceeding the limit of 2,500,000. It had been decided in the proposals to let off from rationalization and the contract system the smaller curers.

Mr. MACQUISTEN (Argyll, U.) asked if the whole result of the marketing boards was not to increase food prices. (Cheers.) There was no reply.

BUSINESS NEXT WEEK

In reply to Mr. ATTLEE (Limehouse, Lab.), Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said that the business next week would be as follows:—

MONDAY.—Second Supply Day. Report stage of Civil Vote on Account. Debate on unemployment and economic conditions.

TUESDAY.—Motion to move the Speaker of the Chair to go into Committee of Supply on the Air Estimates.

WEDNESDAY.—Debate on the report of the Committee of Inquiry into Civil Aviation.

THURSDAY.—Motion to move the Speaker out of the Chair to go into Committee of Supply on the Navy Estimates.

The Government business to be taken on Friday would be announced later. If there is any other business might be taken on any day.

BUDGET DAY

TUESDAY, APRIL 26

Replying to Mr. ATTLEE, Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would open his Budget on Tuesday, April 26.

ARMY ESTIMATES

MR. HORE-BELISHA'S SPEECH

Mr. HORE-BELISHA, Secretary of State for War (Plymouth, Devonport, L.Nat.), moved "that the Speaker do now leave the Chair" on the House going into Committee of Supply on the Army Estimates.

The right hon. gentleman said that from troops raised in this country under a voluntary system there could be mobilized in an emergency for action in the various fields of our

in certain contingencies armies could determine the fate of nations, it was vital that they, above all other institutions, should adapt themselves to changing times.

THE ROLE OF THE ARMY

HOME DEFENCE FIRST ESSENTIAL

Proceeding, the right hon. gentleman said:—Without delaying until the outcome of the inquiry which I have outlined, we shall proceed to achieve—for that part of the Army which is outside India—the best attainable form of organization. This requires a statement of its role.

The role of the Army is known to comprise a number of different purposes. But in the view of the Government it is now possible to classify them in order of importance; and further to subdivide the priorities within each purpose. The first purpose of our Army is home defence. In preparing the Army for war the menace of air attack is a primary consideration. On the outbreak of war defence against air attack may be the primary requirement. In this major respect home defence is in the first category of importance and in a form unknown in 1914. The priorities in home defence are in their order, air defence; internal security, which assumes a widened scope in the light of air raid precautions; and coast defence.

It is the responsibility of the Air Force to meet hostile attack by action in the air, but the Army is responsible for action from the ground. Two Territorial divisions of enlarged scale are at present employed on the air defence of Great Britain. Their total establishments are 48,000—manning 76 batteries and 108 searchlight companies. They cover our vulnerable area, and the belt of defence will be extended.

ANTI-AIRCRAFT AND COAST DUTIES

While the duty of defending this country against air attack is entrusted to the Territorial Army, an increase of strength and an acceleration of action can come to them from the Regular anti-aircraft units, while any part of them is in this country. Over 33 per cent. of the approved establishment of Royal Engineers are at present engaged in cooperating with the Royal Artillery in anti-aircraft and coast defence duties.

As these duties are more appropriate to the Royal Artillery, we have decided to form a separate branch of the regiment to undertake them. This is to revert, but in a new grouping, to the old division of the Royal Artillery into two parts, thereby increasing both the specialization, the efficiency, and the prospects of promotion in each. The Royal Engineers, having successfully pioneered a new service, will be free once again to resume their more characteristic functions, for which there is an ever-growing military need. For the moment this arrangement is confined to the Regular Army.

Internal security (the right hon. gentleman continued) was a second duty in home defence, and this duty, because of the possibility of air attack, also came in a form unknown in 1914. There might be many ways in which organized forces could help the civil population, and all troops at home, whether Regular or Territorial, would be practised in them.

GARRISONS OVERSEA

The coast defence of Great Britain was now entrusted to units of the Territorial Army, consisting of heavy artillery with the necessary searchlights. By relieving the Regular Army of this duty they enabled the strengthening of our overseas defences. Being specialized units, each adjusted to the needs of its particular location, they did not interfere with the free disposal of the normal functions of the Territorial Army.

Second in classification to Home Defence came the discharge of British commitments overseas, including defended ports on the trade routes. The size and type of garrisons were being made to conform with the principle he had already mentioned—namely, that each one where communications could be interrupted should be maintained in peace at a strength adequate for its responsibilities of defence at the outbreak of war.

Local forces were invaluable in reducing the number of regular British units to be maintained, and, wherever it was possible to employ further local personnel, for anti-aircraft and

guns instead of six. With fewer personnel and more centralized control fire power would be better concentrated.

The object underlying all these changes was to provide a flexible organization of the Regular Forces at home capable of producing a greater number of divisions better suited than are the existing formations to meet the varied commitments which might devolve upon us. Smaller divisions were easier to manage, to move, to supply, and to transport—important considerations for a country which had to operate overseas.

FIRE-POWER AND MOBILITY

BASIS OF STRENGTH

The strength of the Navy was assessed in ships and not in personnel, that of the Air Force in squadrons and not in ground staff. Following this line of thought, the strength of the modern Army was based not on the individual but rather on fire units which combined fire-power and mobility. Why alone in the Army should heads be counted and fire-power and mobility discounted? (Hear, hear.)

The number of men required in each unit was the number needed to man and serve the weapons, together with the necessary elements for service, replacement, and administration. Every man above this was an additional target and a strain on the service which had to feed and maintain him, in which he included those diversions from the Naval and Air Forces which had to protect his passage.

The mechanized standard suited us well. For an industrial country there was a great advantage in so organizing the Army that employment in it maintained as close a relationship as possible with a man's normal avocations and interests. It meant that the Army could, in case of need, be rapidly and effectively expanded.

MECHANIZATION SPEED

The speed at which it was being mechanized and supplied with modern fire-producing weapons was perhaps best revealed in Vote 9 which, standing at over £43,000,000, was greater than the whole of the Army Estimates, including Pay and Pensions, for 1934. Fulfilment of our programme depended on the 30,000 workpeople now employed in our ordnance factories, and on an equally large number in private enterprise outside. He expressed a debt of gratitude for their efforts and for the efforts of those who directed and supervised them. The harmony of their relations had been undisturbed. (Hear, hear.)

A reorganization in the Department responsible for the Vote for Warlike Stores was now proceeding. We had brought already under one head the responsibility previously divided for design, experiment, production, inspection and issue, with a marked acceleration of all the processes involved. To obtain a further acceleration in these processes, we had in this department undertaken a readjustment of internal functions. Each class of article to be produced became the responsibility of a specialized authority.

PROGRESS IN RESEARCH

The ever-increasing complexity of modern methods of warfare required that branches of scientific research and experiment should be kept at the highest pitch not only of inventiveness, but of inter-relation. Many eminent scientists were employed by the War Office directly or in an advisory capacity. Their invaluable labours would be coordinated by a director of scientific research.

Another department had been reorganized. A Deputy Chief of the Imperial General Staff now enabled the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, undistracted by routine, to devote himself to the larger issues of strategy and policy. The Deputy coordinated Staff duties and military training. The Director of Military Operations and Intelligence worked directly with the Chief of the Imperial General Staff.

When so much instruction was to be gained from present events, the absence of any branch exclusively concerned with pure military research was noticeable, and a small section to study the practice and lessons of actual warfare would be established. A standing committee of the Army Council, meeting regularly, disposed of current questions out of hand, instead of the

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