

A 473-MILLION DEFICIT.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S REVISED FIGURES.

NEARLY DOUBLE THE BUDGET ESTIMATE.

ARMY'S INCREASE OF 118 MILLIONS.

CHANCELLOR'S ESTIMATE FOR NORMAL 800-MILLION BUDGET.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer yesterday announced the revised statement of the national balance-sheet for the present year.

Mr. Chamberlain budgeted in 1919 a deficit of £250,000,000 to be added to the National Debt, he now contemplates a deficit of £173,000,000, nearly twice as much.

REVISED STATEMENT (1919-20).

The normal revenue collection for the current year is proceeding satisfactorily. All heads of inland revenue except Excess Profits Duty are expected to fall or exceed the Budget estimate.

- 1. Repayments, mainly by Australia for maintenance of Australian troops, £20,000,000.
2. Repayments by Germany for the cost of the Army of Occupation, £60,000,000.

The estimated value as at 31st March last of the stocks affected by the continuance of the Food Court is £65,000,000. Receipts on account of these items will be carried into next year's accounts.

Explaining the decrease of £50,700,000 under Miscellaneous Revenue (Table II.), a note adds that the main items in the original estimate were £29,700,000 for the increase in the value of stocks held by the Ministry of Food.

Mr. Chamberlain puts the National Debt at £2,747,000,000, as compared with £2,570,000,000 in April. Against this he places war assets totalling £1,288,000,000 from the sale of the land into account any day as we may get from Germany.

A "Normal" Year. In a statement for a "normal" year—not

THE FINANCE DEBATE.

LIBERAL 'NO CONFIDENCE' MOTION.

LABOUR AND CAPITAL LEVY.

(From our Political Correspondent.)

LONDON, MONDAY.

Through the revised estimates of revenue and expenditure were circulated this morning, very few members to-day seem to have found time to read them. Consequently, opinions on matters of detail, or even general criticisms, were lacking.

It is curious that nowhere in any of the papers are we shown where the drastic cutting down has taken place. A financial committee of the Cabinet has been at work for some time overhauling the estimates of all departments, conferring with their chiefs, and we have been told, cutting down the expenditure in the most drastic way.

On the other hand, appropriations in Aid are being reduced as quickly as anticipated, and the Miscellaneous Revenue is diminished by the continuance of the Food Court, which prevents the winding up of the food purchase accounts and the return of the working capital to the Exchequer.

A Forecast of Reduced Armaments. The only paper in which there are any speculative figures of reduction of expenditure are in the memorandum by the Chancellor of the Exchequer giving "very tentative" revised estimates of revenue and expenditure in a "normal" year.

In the first place, however, there are several items which were not represented in the Budget before the war, at a time when the two chief items, debt charges and war pensions account for £1,819,000,000, far more than half of the total estimated expenditure.

Mr. Chamberlain will tell the House something of the economies that the Cabinet Committee has forced upon the departments. Two other resolutions have been put down by the Labour party. These will now probably result in the position of amendments to the Government's resolution.

That this House, realising the serious effects upon the trade and industry of the nation of the enormous financial burden resulting from the war, promises its hearty support to the Government in all reasonable proposals, however drastic, for the reduction of expenditure and the diminution of debt.

Perhaps in the course of his statement Mr. Austen Chamberlain will tell the House something of the economies that the Cabinet Committee has forced upon the departments. Two other resolutions have been put down by the Labour party.

That this House, with deep concern the grave condition of the national finances and the injury which the burden of debt and the scale of expenditure are causing to trade, industry, and employment.

Further, that in the exercise of its ancient right and privilege, it calls upon the Government to submit forthwith to the House a list of the economies that will secure drastic and sweeping reductions in the expenditure for the current financial year and also put an end to the increase of debt.

It will be observed that this resolution expresses dissatisfaction with the account of the year's income as presented by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the demand for drastic reduction this year. I understand that the Government will regard this resolution as a vote of no confidence.

The Labour amendment also condemns the present expenditure—which presumably means the expenditure as revised—and demands a levy on capital and the expropriation of war fortunes. It is put down in the names of Mr. Adamson, Mr. Hodges, and Mr. Caines, and is in the following terms—

That in view of the period which has elapsed since the signing of the Armistice this House is of opinion that the present national expenditure on war services is unjustifiable, and steps should be taken at once to effect most drastic economies.

Further, in order to meet the present financial burden and assist in liquidating the National Debt, measures should be adopted for the imposition of a levy on capital and the expropriation of war fortunes made as a result of the national emergency.

The Premier and the Debate. As it was Sir Donald Maclean who asked the day for the debate, the Liberal amendment will probably be taken first and Sir Donald Maclean will rise immediately after Mr. Chamberlain has finished.

The Prime Minister will be present throughout the debate, but I understand that his present intention is not to speak early but to wait until he has heard what the House has to say on the subject that he may not speak until the second day.

MINISTERS AND THEIR DEFEAT.

NEW AMENDMENT ACCEPTED.

FRESH REBUFF ON WOMEN'S BILL.

(From our Parliamentary Correspondent.)

WESTMINSTER, MONDAY NIGHT.

Nothing was left undone by the Government to-night to recapture the esteem and possible affection of the House of Commons, everything from start to finish, as Colonel Wedgwood testified, being "beautifully stage-managed."

To begin with came Mr. Bonar Law's announcement of the restoration of Cabinet government, or at any rate of a Cabinet conceived on the pre-war scale of magnitude and now to comprise as many as twenty Ministers.

One would have expected this long-deferred reversion to the forms of the Constitution to be greeted with satisfaction, but apparently too many prejudices were stirred by the names of the promoted Ministers to enable the victory for constitutionalism to be fully appreciated.

As for the Aliens Bill itself, the compromise now proposed by Mr. Bonar Law (with the support of Mr. C. J. Whitton against the Prime Minister) fulfilled general expectation by seeking to restore the challenged privileges of the French pilots.

Quite clearly the House, though prepared to reverse its vote of last Thursday, was in no mood for a political lull-feast. It accepted with cordiality Mr. Bonar Law's suggestion that nothing could have been further from its mind than to offer an affront to France, but, for the rest, refused to exculpate the Government from blame for mishandling the affair.

U.S. PROHIBITION. PRESIDENT WILSON VETOES WAR-TIME LAW. WASHINGTON, MONDAY. President Wilson has vetoed the Prohibition Bill.

President Wilson, explaining his reasons, said that he objected to and could not approve that part of the legislation referring to wartime prohibition. It was desired to secure the enforcement of an Act passed by reason of emergencies of war, an Act the object of which was to prohibit the manufacture and sale of alcoholic drinks which came fully into effect on July 1 last, and was to continue in force six months after unless in the meantime peace should have been declared.

U.S. AND BRITAIN'S LEAGUE VOTES. TREATY AMENDMENT DEFEATED. WASHINGTON, MONDAY. Senator Johnson's amendment to the Peace Treaty, designed to secure for the United States equal votes with the British Empire in the Council of the League of Nations, was to-day defeated in the Senate by 30 votes to 38.

THE PRICE OF COAL. OUTPUT LOWER THAN ANTICIPATED. On the motion for the adjournment in the House of Commons yesterday, Mr. Holmes (Dorchester, N.E.) called attention to the high price of coal, and wanted to know whether the true had not come when the price could be reported to the House of Commons.

PEERAGES AS LEGISLATORS. Afterwards on the Sex Disqualification Bill (which is the measure substituted by the Government for the Labour Bill on the same subject) Mr. Adamson spoke.

THE MARQUIS OF ORMONDE. The third Marquis of Ormonde died on Sunday night at his ancestral home, Kilkenny Castle, which was the seat of the Irish Parliament of 1691, known in history as the Confederation of Kilkenny.

TELEPHONIC COMMUNICATION WITH THE CONTINENT. Telephonic communication between London and Belgium was resumed yesterday. Direct communication between London and Paris, Calais, Boulogne, Lille, Dunkirk, and other French ports was in operation to-day, but the direct telegraphic service is still reserved for Government service.

THE PRISON-BREAKERS.

ESCAPE OF SINN FEIN FUGITIVES.

MR. AUSTIN STACK'S LETTER.

The six Sinn Fein prisoners who broke out of Strangeways Gaol, Manchester, in the twilight of Sunday evening have so far made good their escape. The prisoners searched for the weekend and continued yesterday, and no places within the city limit were frequented by sympathisers with Sinn Fein were left unvisited.

It is a trace could be found of any one of the six. It seems safe to conclude that they were all present in the city before the pursuit began. Plans were made with some exactness, and carried through with such exactness, were hardly likely to stop short at the provision of swift means of getting the fugitives away from the city.

The statement is now made—and those who know the man accept it as quite credible—that Mr. Austin Stack, one of the two members of the Sinn Fein who escaped, left a letter behind in his cell asking the prison officials to call on him in the afternoon.

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OUR BIGGEST AIRSHIP.

R 38 SOLD TO THE U.S. NAVY.

General Seely announced in the House of Commons yesterday that the giant British airship R 38, now in course of construction, has been sold to the American naval authorities at cost price.

The announcement was made in reply to a question by Lieutenant Colonel Mackenzie Braithwaite, General Seely stated that arrangements had been made between the United States Navy and the Air Ministry by which the airship, which will embody the latest features, would be completed here without delay.

When completed the R 38 will be the largest airship in the world. She is being constructed by Messrs. Short of Belfast. Her capacity is 2,720,000 cubic feet, so that she is one-third as large again as the R 34, which successfully flew to America and back. She will be capable of cruising for nearly nine days at an average speed of 45 miles an hour. She is 695 feet long, will be fitted with four 350 h.p. Sunbeam engines, and will develop a horse-power of between 1,800 and 2,000, and is estimated that her gross lift will be 82 tons.

PREMIER AND THE HOUSE. FUTURE ATTENDANCE. Four Unionist M.P.'s had yesterday an interview with Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Bonar Law in the latter's room at the House of Commons, at which expression was given (The Press Association says) to the feeling among some supporters of the Government that the Prime Minister should occasionally attend to answer personally questions addressed to the head of the Government.

NO BLEACHERS' STRIKE. AGREEMENT REACHED LAST NIGHT. The dispute in the bleaching, dyeing, calico printing, and finishing trades in Lancashire, Cheshire, and Derbyshire, in connection with which 10,000 operatives had handed in notices to cease work next Saturday, was settled last night.

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THE FUTURE OF FOOD CONTROL.

WORLD'S MEAT SUPPLIES DIMINISHING.

"SITUATION FULL OF MENACE."

Mr. McCurdy emphasised the necessity for a continued system of food control, in a speech at Loughborough last night. He advocated a definite and continuous policy to cover a reasonable period of years rather than a policy of expediency rather than interference.

A very serious position with regard to meat supplies is indicated, Mr. McCurdy stated, and that there will not be enough meat in the world next year to meet the needs of Europe.

Prices are still rising, and only control and strict economy can save serious consequences to our national life.

Mr. McCurdy, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food, speaking at a joint political meeting at Loughborough last night, said the Ministry of Food had asked that a special Trade Unions Congress be summoned to recommend a policy which would reduce the cost of living. I hope (said Mr. McCurdy) that Congress will remember that the problem of the cost of living is not one of politics but of economics.

At the Miners' Conference Mr. Frank Hodges suggested that we should have to do nothing to keep down prices. The Government has in fact done a great deal. Government policy which will reduce prices from July, 1917, clearly shows that things—oil maintained and increased our stock during a very difficult period, and it has had a very marked effect on the cost of living. I hope (said Mr. McCurdy) that Congress will remember that the problem of the cost of living is not one of politics but of economics.

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CONDENSED MILK. MAXIMUM RETAIL PRICES FIXED. (From the Ministry of Food.) The Food Controller has made an Order, which applies to the whole of the United Kingdom, fixing the following maximum retail prices for condensed milk:

FATAL FOOTBALL ACCIDENT TO UNDERGRADUATE. COLLEGE CHAPLAIN EXONERATED (From our Correspondent.) OXFORD, MONDAY. An inquiry was held to-day by Dr. W. T. Brooks, one of the University coroners, into the death of Mr. Geoffrey Ronald Goddard (20), an Oxford undergraduate, who sustained an injury to his spine while playing in a college football match on the 11th inst. and died on Sunday.

MARCH OF 1,000 WOMEN. MILK PRICES PROTEST. On receipt of a letter from the Food Ministry yesterday fixing the maximum retail milk prices up to April, the British Food Control Council, protesting against high prices, passed a resolution declining to publish them, and repudiating all responsibility for them. The opinion was expressed that there was undue influence at work at the Ministry.

AMERICAN PRESIDENCY. NEW YORK, MONDAY. Senator Poindexter has announced his candidature, under Republican nomination, for the Presidency.—Reuter.

THE FIRST PEACE CABINET: TWENTY MEMBERS.

- Lieutenant Colonel Aubrey Herbert (Youth) and Major General David Lloyd George (Secretary for War).
Mr. Bonar Law (Prime Minister).
Mr. H. A. Fisher (President of the Board of Education).
The Cabinet, which up to December, 1916, consisted of the political chiefs of the present Government, was reduced to a War Cabinet on the formation of Mr. Lloyd George's Government at that date, and was afterwards expanded into an Imperial War Cabinet by the inclusion of Ministerial representatives of other parts of the Empire. In 1918 its members were Mr. Lloyd George, Earl Curzon, Mr. Bonar Law, Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Mr. G. S. Barnes, and the new Peace Cabinet, Earl Curzon and Mr. Bonar Law exchange offices, while new Ministers represented are those of Health, Transport, and Labour. The inclusion of the "Lord" as a Minister of the Board of Education, Mr. G. S. Barnes (Secretary for India), Mr. H. A. Fisher (Secretary for Scotland), Mr. G. S. Barnes (President of the Board of Agriculture), Mr. H. A. Fisher (Secretary for the Colonies), and Mr. W. Lloyd (First Lord of the Admiralty).