

## SQUARE DEAL WILL BE GIVEN TO ALL FORMS OF GOODS TRANSPORT

### Rail-road

#### pact is agreed

Daily Express Industrial Reporter

BRITISH railway chiefs and the country's road transport leaders have agreed, as I forecast yesterday, to call a truce and present a joint memorandum to the Transport Advisory Council, now considering the railways' "square deal" plea.

Here are details of the new pact, officially announced by the railways last night:

The road transport industry, subject to safeguards, will raise no objection to the railways' square deal proposals.

To give road interests greater freedom to co-ordinate their industry the railways undertake that they will not raise objection for two years after receiving their freedom to applications for the renewal of existing A and B road licences, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

#### POLICY REVERSED

This is a complete reversal of the policy of the railways.

Rail chiefs have gone further. They say they will not object to existing road companies extending their fleets of lorries, nor will they oppose applications for additional B licences, if the new vehicles trade within a twenty-five miles radius of their headquarters.

[A licence is for vehicles used solely for public hire; B licences are for vehicles which can be hired and which may also be used to carry goods for their proprietors' own business.]

The road-haulage industry will co-operate with railways to secure observance of conditions attached to road-haulage licences. Both industries will set up a joint committee to deal with difficulties which may arise. This committee will formulate principles to govern freight charges by road and rail.

#### PENALTIES

There should be statutory powers immediately, it is agreed, to secure observance of joint agreements on charges, and a tribunal should be set up to sanction these agreements. Opportunity must be given for objection before this tribunal by traders or carriers.

The official statement adds: "When an agreement is sanctioned by the tribunal, the prescribed rates shall be binding on all road hauliers concerned, and a road haulier may have his licence revoked or suspended if the prescribed rates are disregarded."

Railways undertake, even if given freedom from present legislation, to publish lists of rates for the use of traders.

The memorandum concludes: "There must be ample safeguards for the protection of trade and industry in the form of a right of appeal to a judicial tribunal, while nothing in the proposal involves any interference with the right of the trader to use his own vehicles under a C licence."

## League may exhibit Madrid art treasures

Daily Express Correspondent

GENEVA, Monday.—The pictures from the Prado, Madrid's art gallery and museum, which have been transported to France, are to be brought to Geneva and deposited in the League of Nations building.

It has not yet been stated whether they are to be stored there or exhibited, as has been suggested, in aid of the International Red Cross Committee.

#### ADVERTISER'S ANNOUNCEMENT.



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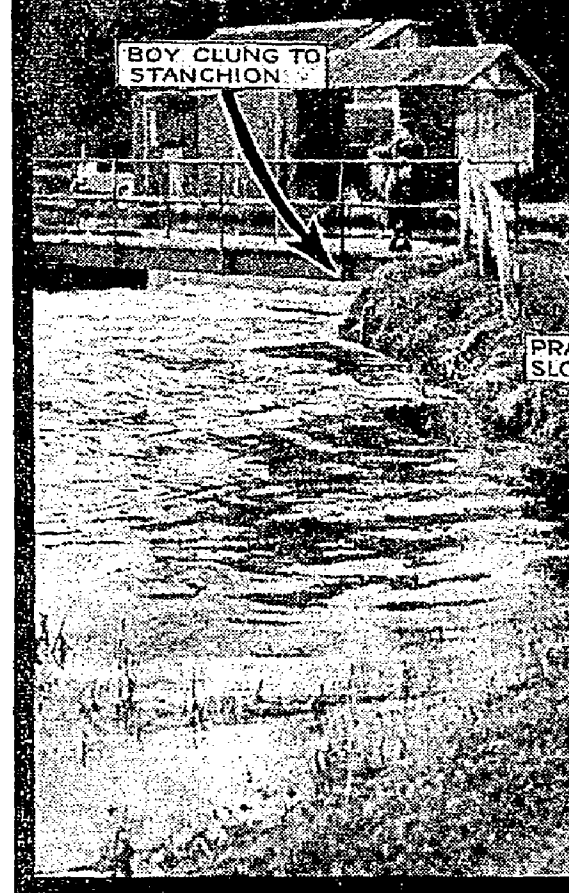
Baby drowns as brother goes to pick snowdrops

# Rival firms work all night on A.R.P. trenches near Palace

RIDER ESCAPES DEATH FOR THIRD TIME



BOY CLUNG TO STANCHION



PRAM RAN DOWN SLOPE INTO POOL

Eleven-year-old John Henry Sainsbury, who lives in Durrington, Wilts, took his brother Peter and two-year-old sister Olive when he went to pick snowdrops for the Sunday dinner table. (John and Olive are in top picture). Olive was parked in her pram fifteen yards from the

flooded River Avon; as John walked off her pram ran into the river. He dived into a whirlpool (lower picture), grabbed her frock—but the river tore it away and Olive was drowned. John was found clinging to a bridge. He told his story at the inquest yesterday: verdict on Olive was "Accidental death."

## SEARCHLIGHT HELPS MEN

Daily Express Staff Reporter

WITHIN a few hundred yards of Buckingham Palace and Downing-street fifty men worked through last night to line A.R.P. trenches in St. James's Park with concrete.

In the nearby Green Park and Hyde Park other men were doing the same work, for six concrete firms are taking part in a "test" to decide the placing of a large order by the Office of Works for concreting A.R.P. trenches.

Men in the Green Park were helped by searchlights as they worked with concrete mixers, saws and barrows.

The test was started a week ago: it must be completed within eight weeks.

Yesterday three of the firms decided that night work would be necessary to finish the test job in time.

All six firms are working to plans which comply with specifications recently laid down by the Home Office.

Picture on Back Page.

## Drive to 'ginger up' A.R.P.

Daily Express Staff Reporter

A NATION-WIDE drive to make Britain safe from air attack is planned by the new A.R.P. "ginger group"—the Air Raid Defence League.

It has incorporated the National Association of Air Raid Wardens and will aim at bringing all A.R.P. workers into one organisation.

Sir Ralph Wedgwood, chairman of the formation committee of the league, said last night: "The preparations being made for the defence of the country against air raids are entirely inadequate."

£1,260,000 for new shelters

If the Home Office say "Yes," Finsbury Borough Council will build fifteen underground air-raid shelters, to cost £1,260,000, which will give bomb safety to every man, woman and child in the borough.

The council want the Home Office to pay 70 per cent. of the cost, the rest will come from the rates.

## A.R.P. with—



Air raid shelters where darts and cards can be played have been built by the Ekco radio company at their Southend factory.

The underground shelters have room for 3,000 employees. They are equipped with electric lighting, battery lamps for an emergency, first-aid stations, drinking water, and a telephone system.

In an A.R.P. test yesterday 2,000 workers were underground within seven minutes.

## No slapdash cure for agriculture—SAYS NEW MINISTER

SIR REGINALD DORMAN-

SMITH, Minister of Agriculture, in his first public appearance last night since his appointment, denied that he had made "a wonderful bargain with the Premier" or that he had "a cheque for £15,000,000 for agriculture."

Addressing the Cheshire branch of the National Farmers' Union, at Chester, he said: "That is not the way we are going to settle our problems. It cannot be done in a slapdash way. These problems must be settled by a closer review in consultation with the N.F.U."

"I know you will not come to me expecting me to fulfil your wildest dreams. The true reason for my appointment is that the Government want to put agriculture in a proper place in our national economic system."

"Agriculture must be allowed to play its proper part in our national economy if there is to be any prosperity in this country at all. I believe the farmers in the Dominions are ready to co-operate with our farmers to make the most of the markets rather than to have cut-throat competition."

## News of the weather

38TH DAY OF THE YEAR. 327 DAYS TO GO.

LONDON, S.E. AND E. ENGLAND, mainly fair and mild in the S.E. and E. MIDLANDS: Moderate or fresh S. or S.W. winds; mainly fair, more cloudy than of late, with chance of local drizzle; mild.

ELSEWHERE: Fresh S. or S.W. winds, strong or gale locally; mainly fair but local drizzle, particularly near the W. coasts; mild.

FURTHER OUTLOOK: Continuing

LIGHTING-UP TIME: 5.27 p.m. LIGHTS OUT (tomorrow): 7 a.m.

SUN RISES: 7.32 a.m., sets 4.57 p.m.

MOON SETS: 8.30 a.m., rises 9.48 p.m.

HIGH TIDE (London Bridge): 3.44 a.m., 4.14 p.m.

## M.P. wanted a doctor

But ten were 'missing'

Daily Express Political Correspondent

As the House of Commons rose last night, Mr. K. W. M. Pickthorn, Conservative M.P. for Cambridge University, slipped down some stone steps and cut his forehead.

Police tried to find a doctor; ten are M.P.s. But not one could be found. Then all the doctor M.P.s were found in one room—at a meeting of the medical group.

Sir Henry Morris-Jones, treasurer of the group, gave first aid to Mr. Pickthorn, who was taken to Westminster Hospital to have his forehead stitched.

## R.A.F. accept 1,080 recruits in a week

Recruits joining the R.A.F. during the past week totalled 1,080, compared with 358 for the corresponding period of last year.

This brings the total acceptances since April 1 last year to 27,862, compared with 13,292 for the corresponding period of 1937-38.

## Aurora borealis seen off Cromer

The aurora borealis was seen off Cromer for two minutes last night. A red streak of light appeared in a north-north-west direction and turned to a red glow for a minute. The spectacle was not so impressive as that seen thirteen months ago, when a hurricane followed.

## Mother taught son, aged 36, to talk again

Daily Express Staff Reporter

A MOTHER who stopped taking her thirty-six-year-old son to hospital because she "thought she could do better than the doctors," said last night that she is teaching him to talk, walk, and use a knife and fork again.

An undiagnosed industrial disease—now known to be mercurial-methyl iodide poisoning—had robbed her son of the use of his muscles.

In the King's Bench Division yesterday the Leyton Manufacturing Company, Ltd., chemical manufacturers, agreed to pay £8,500 damages to two of their former employees who had contracted the poisoning—£5,000 to Sydney Stephen Radford, and £3,500 to Eric Laurence Lee.

Said Mrs. Lee afterwards: "There has been a wonderful improvement in Laurie these last few months, since I started looking after him myself."

"He is beginning to walk and talk again. Mind you, I won't say it proves anything."

"I can't give him back his teeth, but everything else will come in time."

#### NEVER WORK AGAIN

Radford, healthy and twenty-three when he first contracted the poisoning, is still unable to walk or speak.

It was said in court that he will never be able to work again.

Counsel for the company said that when they began manufacture they made exhaustive inquiries as to safety measures and took all steps thought necessary.

He said: "This case is rather like the Croydon typhoid case—we now know much that we did not know before."

Mr. Justice Lewis, approving the settlement, said it did seem to him as if the company had a good defence. An employer could only do what was reasonable, and they had taken the precautions in regard to what danger was known.

## MAN CANED WIFE'S BABY

ALBERT RAYMOND GOTT, of Teal-street, Wakefield, was sent to prison for four months at Wakefield yesterday for beating his baby step-daughter with a cane. The baby is eighteen months old.

Prosecuting for the N.S.P.C.C. Mr. Ralph Sweeting said that Gott's wife called an inspector who found two weals on the baby's thigh, and a doctor said there were other marks which appeared to have been made with a cane or whip.

Gott, who was bound over at Blackpool last autumn for ill-treating the baby, denied the accusation.

Page 15 is another news page

It can happen here

## THE ODD SPOT

WHEN a man was fined five shillings at Dorchester yesterday for being under the influence of drink while in charge of a bicycle, a woman magistrate urged him to sign the pledge and give up drink.

The man shook his head, paused a minute, then—offered to give up cycling.

## Half-guinea shirts reduced during February to 8/6



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