

## 1000 MILLIONS War Budget in Peace TAXING AND BORROWING

The Budget of 1937, for the financial year which will end on March 31, 1938, will be enormous, and it would be bigger still but for the fact that the Government has decided to raise a big Defence Loan of £400,000,000 to meet part of the defence costs for five years.

If the Government did not borrow, this would be the Budget total, in millions of pounds:

Fighting Services ..	285
Civil Services ..	422
Debt Interest, and so on	235
Total ..	942

This total is the true round figure. Borrowing does not really alter it, for debts have to be repaid, capital and interest, in future budgets. Yes, the Budget of 1937 is nearly £1000,000,000.

But for the borrowing there would have to be serious increases in taxation. Allowing for the borrowing arranged, the Budget to be met this year will be about:

Fighting Services ..	£198,000,000
Civil Services ..	£422,000,000
National Debt ..	£235,000,000
Total Taxes ..	£855,000,000

It will be seen that this total is 87 millions less than the true total. The Government is justified in borrowing so much of the cost because it alleviates the situation for the taxpayer and spreads special expenses over a greater period.

The Budget of 1937 is a War Budget in time of Peace. That is what makes it so serious. Other countries are also making extensive and costly defence provisions of various degrees.

## MARY GOODWIN AT THE TOWN HALL

The Mayor and Corporation of Bury stood up and cheered a little girl of 12 the other day.

She was very nervous as she walked into Bury Town Hall, and felt terribly confused when 50 gentlemen rose to their feet as she entered the council chamber. She was Mary Goodwin, and she had come to be presented with the testimonial of the Royal Humane Society.

Small as she is, Mary dived, fully dressed, into the River Roach when a child of six fell in. The child would have been drowned if she had not gone to his rescue, catching hold of him before he floated far from the bank, and swimming with him to the shore. The mayor said Mary was a little girl to do such a big thing.

But Mary does more than rescue people from drowning. Her mother died when Mary was only three months old, and for years now she has cooked and washed, done the housework, and bought everything for the family. She looks after all the children in the street, taking them to school and bringing them home again. Surely she deserves a medal every day.

## FRANKLYN THE CAMEL BOY

Franklyn is only 18 months old, but he has spent 12 months of his life on a camel.

He is the son of Mr and Mrs Richard Jones, and has just completed a trek across Australia, arriving in Sydney with four camels. Mr Jones has about 100 camels, and he and his wife have been making the journey from Innamincka in Central Australia, taking little Franklyn with them.

Most of the way he jogged up and down on the camel on a pillow fastened in front of his mother. His perambulator was not forgotten; it was strapped up with a primus stove and a bassinet and other baggage on one of the other camels. It must have been great fun for the little traveller.

## Weather Mysteries That No One Can Solve

THE bitter wintry spell descended on England just when we should have been enjoying one of Buchan's "hot spells"; another proof that our climate moves in series which no man has yet been wise enough to reduce to ordered system.

Last autumn a French expert made us shiver with a prophecy that the winter was to be the most terrible since the 16th century, when all the chief rivers of Europe were frozen solid. Instead, we have had so mild a winter that the Arctic ice, affected by warm currents of water from the western Atlantic, has broken up unusually early, to send detached icebergs floating south long before their time.

Scientists believe that we are still only emerging from the latest Ice Age. Of these there have been four, spread over the Pleistocene period in geology, some of them almost worldwide in effect, carrying the ice-sheet over the greater part of Europe from the north almost down to the Equator, and up from the south nearly as far toward that latitude.

Yet both the Arctic and Antarctic regions have known climates so mild as to support a vegetation similar to that which we now find round the Mediterranean. India's sweltering plains and the deserts of Africa and Australia have lain under immense deep ice-sheets. In earlier Ages the forests which formed coal-fields sank under sky-piercing glaciers which killed the giant reptiles, and left us in the coal measures the fossils of dragonflies with wings two feet in span.

Nothing in fiction is more marvellous than the interplay of the forces which wrought these changes. When there was no Ice Age, and the land, much lower than it is today, was largely covered by deep, far-spreading oceans, intense volcanic action raised the land surface high into the air, so that intense cold and the restriction of the circulation of warm currents led to the formation of enormous ice-fields. But the ice dissolved and liberated its prisoner. By its movements it ground down the land, and, by lowering the general level, led to the return of warmer conditions in which ice could not survive save at the northern and southern extremities of the globe.

This is one way of accounting for the fluctuating fortunes of the earth and its climate. The lessons of the past make us hope that the polar regions will remain frigid. Were conditions so to change there as to melt their ice the present seas and oceans could not contain the flood of resultant waters within existing limits.

The level of the ocean surface would rise so considerably that it might swamp every wharf, dock, and harbour in the world, and submerge enormous areas of lands now populous and thriving. So let us be glad that, much as we grumble at the weather, matters are no worse. The very ice at which we shudder is a safeguard for us; turned by warmth to water, it would drown half the world. Frozen, it keeps within bounds, and humanity is safe.

## MONEY THAT CANNOT BE SPENT

HERE is a little problem for collectors of coins.

On Maundy Thursday, which is the 24th of this month, 41 old ladies and 41 old gentlemen will receive money from the King which they cannot spend, yet they will be richer than if they could spend it.

The number of the recipients matches the number of years the King has lived, and each of them will receive pennies equalling the number of those years. But the pennies are not of the kind with which most of us are familiar; the 41 coins will be made up of a certain number of pennies, twopences, threepenny, and fourpenny pieces. Of these only the threepenny pieces are current coin.

Each coin is silver. Nobody could pay a bus-fare with the penny or the twopence or the fourpenny; it is doubtful if any conductor has seen one of these. The penny must be the tiniest coin now minted. Beside it a threepenny piece looks a giant, although it is only five-eighths of an inch across. The silver penny, however, with its portrait of the King on one side and on the other side the Crown and a wreath of oak leaves, measures less than half an inch—more than a quarter of an inch less than the diameter of a farthing.

## THE MAN IN THE IRON LUNG

HISTORY tells us of the Man in the Iron Mask, and nobody knows who he was. Now we hear of a man in an iron lung, and we do know who he is.

He has been a prisoner in an artificial breathing apparatus in Peking, and is coming out to breathe the free air of America again. His name is Frederick Snite, and he has been restored to health in one of the machines invented by Dr Philip Drinker of Harvard University, and installed at the Rockefeller Hospital in Peking.

It is a large airtight box, in which the patient sits with his head outside. Under the box is an electric pump which sucks out the air, creating a partial vacuum, so that by inward-lung pressure

the patient's chest expands and air is drawn from without into the lungs.

Then by automatic valves air is admitted into the box. Pressure causes the patient's chest to contract, and his lungs exhale the air taken in.

The machine is made to work at the normal rate of human respiration, so that the patient, breathing artificially, is kept alive till he is strong enough to breathe without its aid. This "iron lung" was invented originally to restore by artificial respiration people apparently drowned. A more general use for it is in the case of a damaged breathing apparatus, such as that from which Mr Snite seems to have suffered for a long period.

## THE THREE SERVICES

### What it Costs To Protect Tommy Jones

Time was when the Royal Navy was not only the Senior Service but the one that chiefly engaged public attention; the Army was always a sort of poor relation, much to its disgust. Now the talk is mainly of the Air Force.

When we remember it was as recently as 1909 that Louis Blériot flew the English Channel for the first time, how very remarkable it seems that the British Government is now asking Parliament to vote £88,600,000 for the Royal Air Force, a sum which is exclusive of the Naval Air Force attached to the Royal Navy and met in the Naval Estimates.

Altogether, in this new financial year, the Government is providing for the Defence Services:

Navy .. .. .	£108,000,000
Army .. .. .	89,000,000
Air Force .. .. .	88,600,000
	£285,600,000

So that we are now spending on the Air Force very much more than we once thought ample for the Royal Navy, and almost as much as was once thought ample for the entire civil and military expenses of government.

### When Planes Fight Ships

The Air Force, it should be added, is still a mystery in relation to the other armed forces. It has yet to be tried out on a great scale. In Abyssinia and Spain the trials have been relatively small. No one knows what will happen when air fleets fight warships. The growth of the air forces of the world shows, however, that professional opinion believes the air arm to be formidable in attack, if not in defence.

Nearly £300,000,000 for the three services! That is nearly £7 a year for every man, woman, and child in the country. Here is Tommy Jones aged three; it costs £7 a year to protect him with soldiers, sailors, and airmen! That does not sound very civilised, does it?

For the first time more is being spent on the Air Force than on the Army. We shall not be surprised if, before long, the Air Force makes the chief call on the nation's purse.

## FREE ADVERTISEMENT

The Prime Minister has given advertisement to the Treforest Trading Estate and its industrial possibilities for distressed South Wales. And very properly, for it is all-important for Wales to gain new industries.

The estate lies between Cardiff and Pontypridd, at the foot of the mining valleys where unemployment is worst. It is financed by the Government, and, as it does not operate for profit, rents for factories will be low.

The site is one that should appeal to manufacturers for these reasons: Low capital costs; ample and cheap supplies of coal, gas, electricity, and water; labour, already housed, is healthy and adaptable; transport by road, rail, canal, and sea; substantial local markets for goods, in addition to a good geographical position for the markets of the Midlands and the South.

## THE FLYING PONY

We read in the fairy tales of winged horses; now we hear of a flying pony.

It is a Shetland pony living in Australia, and it has just made what is probably a unique journey. From Bethanga in Victoria it went by car to the railway, travelled 400 miles by rail to Sydney, and then 400 miles by air to Brisbane. It then flew another 450 miles to Charleville, and finished its journey of over a thousand miles with a trip of 300 miles on a lorry.