

## News and Views

## Mr. Lloyd George's Plans for National Development

MR. LLOYD GEORGE, outlining at Bangor on January 17 his proposals for national development, said that the supreme paradox of our generation is that millions of people are living in poverty and despair, not because of scarcity but because of overabundance. Foremost among the problems of to-day and to-morrow is the question of securing peace among the nations, since whatever economic and social system is built up, unless it is based on peace, it will be founded on a quicksand. Next there are the obstacles to world trade, commerce and shipping which have multiplied enormously in the last few years. We are to-day confronted with a twofold problem, first of temporary unemployment due to abnormal conditions, and secondly of permanent unemployment which cannot be absorbed under the existing system. Our aim should be to find work for the workless instead of providing doles, and where private enterprise has been proved to be palpably untable during the present emergency to solve our national difficulties, the administrative and financial resources of the nation as a whole should be made responsible for setting on foot and supporting those developments in town and country which would bring our unutilised labour, our idle capital and our undeveloped resources into fruitful activity. Something on these lines has been attempted here and there—in housing, roads and other public works—but where it has been done, it has been done sporadically and inadequately.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE's main proposal is that a permanent body should be set up for the purpose of thinking out and preparing schemes of reconstruction which would provide useful and necessary work. The functions of this Development Council would be to take a survey of the industrial, agricultural and financial resources and potentialities of Great Britain; to prepare and approve plans for industrial organisation, land development and the like; and to concede the application of the national credit with the view of properly financing the programmes it decides to carry out. Its duties would include the putting forward of recommendations to enable any important branch of industry, such as coal, cotton, iron and steel, shipping or agriculture, to re-organise itself, where the authority and the financial credit of the State may be needed to ensure proper measures being taken. Further scope for its activities would be found in meeting the lamentable deficiency of decent houses; in road improvements; in the development of railways and canals; in the development of telephones, electricity and water supply and in land settlement. Mr. Lloyd George also advocates a fundamental change in the constitution of the Cabinet. In an emergency like this, the Cabinet should consist of a small body—not more than five—of the ablest men available and not of about twenty men immersed in the detailed administration of gigantic departments of State.

## General G. Ferrié (1868–1932)

THIS great and singularly attractive man died so long ago as February 16, 1932, but we did not succeed in obtaining an obituary notice of him. Many of our readers who knew him or his work will therefore be interested to learn of a series of eulogies and accounts of his life (*Bulletin de la Société d'Encouragement pour l'Industrie Nationale*, 133, Oct. 1934, pp. 533–564). They include a funeral oration broadcast from Paris on the day of his death by Lieut.-Col. P. Brenot; a discourse given at his funeral two days later by M. R. Bourgeois, president of the Paris Academy of Sciences; a lecture on March 10, 1932, to an association of Engineers' regiments, by Lieut.-Col. P. Brenot; discourses by General Perrier and M. Painlevé (then Air Minister) at the inauguration of the plaques bearing the title of the newly-named Avenue du Général-Ferrié, at the Champ du Mars, October 10, 1932; a discourse of November 15, 1933, by M. Emile Picard, at the inauguration of a monument to General Ferrié, near the radio-telegraphic station at the Champ du Mars; a discourse by M. René Mesny, November 17, 1933, at the Academy of the Marine; and discourses by MM. J. Paraf and de Valbreuze, at the inauguration of a memorial medallion at l'École supérieure d'Électricité, Malakoff (Seine), where General Ferrié for many years gave and directed instruction in radio-telegraphy.

BORN in Savoy in 1868, Ferrié entered l'École Polytechnique in 1887 and was sub-lieutenant in the 'Engineers' in 1889, specialising in telegraphy in 1893. His introduction to radio-telegraphy came in 1898, when he studied the Hertzian waves after the publication of Marconi's first experiments. In 1899 he assisted in Marconi's famous experiments in radio-communication between Folkestone and Boulogne, and shortly afterwards was appointed by the Minister of War to develop the military applications of this new mode of communication. For many years he carried out this task with very little material or financial support, and battled magnificently against official inertia and incredulity. Gradually his ability, his faith, his energy, his initiative, his organising power, his devotion, led to successes which gained for him growing recognition and support. He built up a military radio organisation, first tested in the Morocco campaign of 1908, in which he took part, and enormously and most effectively expanded during the War of 1914–18. In 1903 Ferrié instituted the radio station at the Eiffel Tower, whence, later, in conjunction with the Paris Observatory, he transmitted the time signals which have played so important a part in subsequent progress in time and longitude determination. After the War, Ferrié took a most honoured place in international scientific work, being president of the International Commission of Longitudes by Radio-Telegraphy, and of the International Union for Scientific Radio-