

GOD DEFEND NEW ZEALAND

is so close to the towns, he says, that the population could easily disperse into the open. New Zealand has not the problem of massed populations.

But he does see urgent need for anti-aircraft defences at vital points and for reserve fire-fighting organisations to control outbreaks caused by incendiary bombs.

"YOUR greatest menace," he said "is the incendiary bomb. Thermitic bombs weigh only two pounds, yet the damage they can do by causing fire is tremendous. Water won't extinguish them. With all your wooden houses, you are specially vulnerable to them.

His Credentials

"PERHAPS you would like to know my credentials?" he said.

During the war he served with both the Navy and Army. In the Navy he was in the Princess Royal in two naval actions; then he exchanged into the Army, in the First Scots Guards. Next he became M.O. to the Brigade of Army Field Artillery, which, at the second battle of Bapaume, was attached to the New Zealand Division. He finished his war career in command of a field ambulance.

After demobilisation he became President of the Ex-servicemen's National Movement and joint secretary of the committee of ex-servicemen. He fought for pensions for individual soldiers and is proud of the fact that he was called the greatest thorn in the side of the Ministry of Pensions.

For many years he has been writing and speaking to rouse people to the air menace, and at the present time he is completing a book on Air Defence.

"WHEN I came out to New Zealand," he told me, "I began looking for your air defences. I believe that the experiences in Spain and China have proved that ground defence is most useful against air attacks.

"When towns have had anything like a good ground defence, it has meant planes have had to fly so high that it has been only a matter of chance whether they have hit their targets or not."

THOUGH in the old days a strong British Fleet at Home was a sufficient guarantee of safety for Australia and New Zealand, now nothing could prevent a few cruisers from sailing south carrying half a dozen planes or so and releasing them from a hundred miles away to attack New Zealand cities.

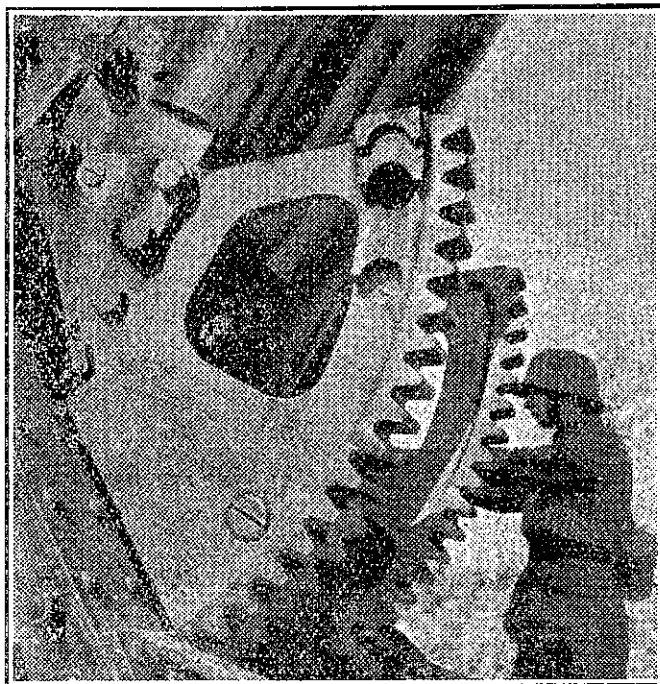
That meant that Australia and New Zealand should have their local defence. Local defence meant fighting air-craft and ground defence.

Ground defence could be either active or passive. Active defence was anti-aircraft guns. Passive defence was underground shelters, stores of oil, and services for fire-fighting and decontaminating after gas attacks.

"WOULD such a need be likely to arise in New Zealand?" I asked.

"It could arise," he said, "quite conceivably."

Lately, in the British House of Commons, Mr. Neville Chamberlain had dealt with the problems of defence in order of importance. He pointed out that the first job would be the defence of Britain; the second, the defence of the trade routes; the third, defence of British territories overseas, the naval bases and strategic points; and the fourth, co-operation with Britain's allies in defence of their territories.



THE GREAT GUNS OF EUROPE

... Everywhere they point skyward to-day.

"No special mention was made of the Dominions," says Dr. Bayly, "but they are independent States and not possessions. Clearly they come under the heading of allies."

That means that the Dominions, in a moment of crisis, might have temporarily to look after their home defence.

DR. BAYLY SAYS . . .

NEW ZEALAND must be prepared to meet sporadic raids.
She ought to have an adequate territorial service able to man an adequate number of anti-aircraft guns at the big towns.

She should have an adequate number of small cruisers, equipped with anti-aircraft batteries, to patrol her coast line.

She should make special provision for fire-fighting forces to deal with the menace of incendiary bombs.

The most important place for batteries is where she has her petrol stores, so that enemy aircraft shall be unable to fly low enough to bring its missiles to the target.

TWO important questions have affected the basis of defence in these times. The first is the supply of food and fuel, and their defence in war; and the second is the relation of missile to target, a relation entirely altered through the use of aircraft.

Britain had substituted oil fuel for coal, and if the long chain service of tankers bringing this vital fuel to Britain was interrupted even for a week, there would be great risk that her fleet, her air forces and her army would be immobilised.

It was the same for New Zealand, but New Zealand was lucky in having oil fields. It was to her advantage to develop her oil for her own needs.

In the question of missile and target, in warfare the eternal problem was to bring the missile to the target. Today the gun seemed to be passing as the best weapon for the discharge of missiles, largely because of cost.

The super-capital ship now cost £10,000,000, for which sum 1000 planes could be made, capable of carrying their missiles twenty times the distance of the shells from any naval gun.

The development of the fleet air arm has brought almost any target within reach of the enemy. It has brought closer to them the targets of a nation's vital aerodromes, factories, engineering shops, docks or shipping. (Contd. on page 45).