

x 6. LAND PURCHASE.

The publication of the Report of Lord Eastace Percy's Committee on Land Purchase in Northern Ireland was considered and a letter was read from the secretary of that Committee stating that the Committee on Irish Affairs thought publication inadvisable and asking for the views of the Government of Northern Ireland. It was decided to recommend that publication of the Report should be held over until one month before the introduction of the Land Purchase Bill into Parliament, but that it should then be proceeded with in order that any suggestions of value made after publication may, if adopted, be embodied in the Bill before presentation.

x 7. UNEMPLOYMENT.

The Minister of Labour stated he regretted to say -

(a) That the number of persons unemployed in Northern Ireland had increased during the last 4 weeks by about 4,000. This set-back was due partly to the holidays and also to the fact that the improvement in the linen trade had not been fully maintained.

(b) From recent speeches delivered by British Ministers they anticipate that the number of persons unemployed in Great Britain was likely to rise next winter to $1\frac{1}{2}$ millions. He thought that every possible effort should be made here to deal with the position by encouraging our Public Bodies and others to provide work for our people.

(c) He was disappointed to hear that the orders for three ships which it was thought that Messrs Workman, Clark & Co. would obtain with the help of our Loans Guarantee Act had not materialised.

The administration of the Relief Scheme was being seriously handicapped through the long delay in issuing the Colwyn Committee's Report, with the consequent uncertainty as to whether the balance of the £500,000 would be available after the 31st March or not. Mr. Pollock said that he expected that the Report would be issued shortly, but he rather feared that the Committee would take the view that the money would not be available after the 31st March. A further discussion on the unemployment problem was postponed until the Colwyn Committee's Report has been issued. The Prime Minister stated that in the event of ^{the Report} it being unfavourable to Northern Ireland he would bring the ^{question of the} matter before Mr. Baldwin - the Minister of Labour to furnish the necessary particulars, such as the number of expelled workers getting employment through the Belfast Relief Scheme, etc.

8. AGRICULTURAL AID SOCIETY

Attention was drawn to the fact that a great number of resolutions had been received from the various Farmers' Associations asking that the proposed grant of £128,000 should be used exclusively for the relief of the rates.

9. TERRITORIAL WATERS.

The Prime Minister decided that this matter should ^{stay} remain over.

10. GOVERNOR'S VISIT TO BELFAST ON THE 15th AUGUST TO OPEN POWER STATION.

It was arranged that the Minister of Education should be the Minister in Attendance.