

# The Grantham Journal.

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## DICTATORSHIP METHODS REFUTED

### WAR EMERGENCY COMMITTEE TO CARRY ON

### Decision After Full Dress Debate at Town Council Meeting

### MOVE TO REVERT TO PRE-WAR PROCEDURE DEFEATED

A RESOLUTION, WHICH SOME OF THE MEMBERS ALLEGED WAS TANTAMOUNT TO A VOTE OF "NO CONFIDENCE" IN THE WAR EMERGENCY COMMITTEE, PRODUCED A FULL-DRESS DEBATE AT WEDNESDAY'S MEETING OF GRANTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, ONE OF THE LONGEST IN ITS HISTORY; IT LASTED 2½ HOURS.

COUNCILLOR GOODLIFF, THE PROPOSER, AT THE CLOSE OF THE DISCUSSION, REFUTED THE SUGGESTION, SAYING THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF ANY LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THE WORK DONE BY THE COMMITTEE, AND IF HE HAD MEANT IT THAT WAY HE WOULD HAVE SAID SO. THE WHOLE THING WAS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE.

receive full instructions in conduct in a blitz and gas attack—and so I could go on for a considerable time telling you all that has been done by the Civil Defence Committee to ensure full protection for our people. Visits have been made to Grantham by the Home Secretary, the Solicitor-General, Miss Ellen Wilkinson, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health and many national and regional officers for the main purpose of inspecting our arrangements and they have not only expressed themselves as completely satisfied, but have cordially congratulated us on our work.

"Our relationship with the county authorities and particularly with the county controller and his staff, has never been better cemented than at the present time. We have learned to understand each other and any motion that may have a tendency to upset that happy relationship would, in my view, be detrimental to the interests of Civil Defence in the borough.

"Your siren system is second to none.

"Your committee have not hesitated to give hours to perfect their plans and on several occasions I have found it necessary to ask them to meet on a Sunday to deal with urgent matters.

"Well, I have endeavoured to give you some idea of the work that has been undertaken, whether it be on behalf of the county or for ourselves cannot be separated if the utmost efficiency is desired," said Councillor Foster.

### MOTHER, HER CHILD AND GIRL GASSED IN BED

### Coroner's Advice At Grantham Tragedy Inquest

CONDUCTING THE INQUEST, ON MONDAY, ON THREE GRANTHAM PERSONS GASSED IN A BEDROOM—A MOTHER, HER CHILD AND A GIRL—THE GRANTHAM CORONER, MR. A. C. MALIM, ADVOCATED THAT ALL CHILDREN SHOULD BE INSTRUCTED IN THE METHOD OF TURNING OFF ELECTRIC LIGHT AND GAS.

He was enquiring into the circumstances connected with the death of Nancy Coleman, 7, Pawsons-place, Horse and Jockey yard, High-street, Grantham, her three-and-a-half year old son, Ronald, and Sylvia May Barratt, (13), 10, Pawsons-place. All three were found dead in a bed when an entry was forced into Mrs. Coleman's house on Saturday morning.

Dr. C. H. D. Rouse, police surgeon, said death in each case was due to gas poisoning. There were no suspicious circumstances.

Elsie May Barratt, mother of the 13 years old girl, said that on Friday night her daughter went round

arrived at the house on Saturday morning the baby was just being carried out. In the bedroom, on the wall near the fireplace, there was a dual-purpose gas bracket. The light tap was turned off and another below turned on. No gas was then coming through the jet. He saw an examination of the meter, pipes, etc., and was satisfied they were in order. The gas jet in the room gave 15 cubic feet of gas for one penny and the prepaid gas supply, when he looked at the meter, was exhausted.

Recalled, Mrs. Barratt told the coroner she was nervous of gas and added that her children, aged four,

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