

Raw material D29329
for final statement

Preliminary Statement on Department of Munitions and Supply

The Bill before the House is intended, ~~as is made plain by the title,~~ to give the government the necessary authority to set up a Department of Munitions and Supply, ~~if circumstances as they develop show that such a department, with a full-time Minister at its head, is necessary to the effective prosecution of the war.~~

(As hon. members are aware)
In the United Kingdom during the last war, it proved necessary, in order to meet the unprecedented demands for munitions and other supplies, to set up a separate Ministry of Munitions. Before this action was taken, the need had become so pressing that Mr. Lloyd George, who occupied, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, the most important position in the Cabinet after the Prime Minister (Mr. Asquith), was chosen to preside over the new department.

Mr. Lloyd George, in his ~~M~~emoirs, makes some very significant observations which bear directly on the proposal being made by the government. In a speech ~~made~~ at Manchester while ~~he was~~ organizing the Ministry