Clearing of Lofts.

1940. No. 109.

WHEREAS it is provided by sub-section (2) of Section 1 of the Ministries Act (Northern Ireland), 1940, that the Ministry of Public Security for Northern Ireland (hereinafter referred to as "the Ministry") shall have power to issue such Orders as the Minister of Public Security for Northern Ireland may consider necessary for public security, civil defence, the preservation of the peace and the maintenance of order, the co-ordination of the civil defence services, and the protection of persons and property from injury or damage in the present emergency:

AND WHEREAS the said Minister considers it necessary in the interests of public security to make an Order for the clearance of lofts with a view to preventing the spread and facilitating the extinction of fire caused by incendiary bombs:

NOW, THEREFORE, the Ministry, in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by the Ministries Act (Northern Ireland), 1940, hereby Orders as follows:—

1.—Where there is in a dwelling-house any loft, which is not used or furnished for use for human habitation, the loft shall be cleared and kept clear of all articles which are not affixed to the premises:

Provided that this article shall not apply to a loft to which access is provided by a staircase.

2.—Any officer or servant of the local authority, being duly authorised by the local authority in writing to act under this Order, and any police officer or constable, may at any time enter and inspect any premises to which the Order applies for the purpose of seeing whether the Order has been complied with; and if the person so authorised, or the officer or constable, finds that the Order has not been complied with, he may, without prejudice to any proceedings which may be taken for an offence against this Order, take such steps and use such force as may appear to him to be reasonably necessary for the purpose of securing compliance with the Order.

3.—In this Order—

the expression "dwelling house" means a building constructed or adapted to be used wholly or mainly for human habitation and includes a hospital;

the expression "loft" includes an attic and any space between a ceiling and a roof;

the expression "the local authority" means the Council of the County Borough, Borough or Urban District, as the case may be, in which the premises are situated.