

RADIO-ACTIVE VAPOUR

More Deadly than Bomb

From our own Correspondent

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The atomic bomb is already obsolete, it is now suggested by Mr. Glenn Martin, the outstanding aeroplane manufacturer, who is doing much secret work on new weapons for the War Department. Mr. Martin, giving evidence before a committee of the United States Senate, said that radioactive cloud may prove more deadly than the bomb. He pointed out that such cloud could be created without any explosion and would do great damage to the population over large areas.

Everyone in touch with atomic research in the United States has known for months about the possibilities of radio-active vapour. It is subject to some of the same disadvantages as poison gas; used on the ground in warfare between infantry forces it could be employed only when the wind and other weather conditions were right. Distributed from planes over enemy cities, however, it could have disastrous effects.

A large proportion of all persons coming into contact with such vapour would die in the course of a few days or weeks and the remainder would be likely to be incapacitated for a long time. Cities could be made uninhabitable or only partially inhabitable for months.

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