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C A B I N E T 20 (21).

CONCLUSIONS of a Meeting held in Mr. Chamberlain's  
Room, House of Commons, S.W., on Friday, April 15th,  
1921, at 12 Noon.

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P R E S E N T:-

THE PRIME MINISTER (In the Chair).

Right Hon. A. Chamberlain, M.P.,  
and Privy Seal.

The Right Hon. A.J. Balfour, O.M.,  
M.P., Lord President of the  
Council.

Right Hon. Sir Robert Horne,  
B.E., K.C., M.P., Chancellor of  
the Exchequer.

The Right Hon. E. Shortt, K.C.,  
M.P., Secretary of State for  
Home Affairs.

Right Hon. The Earl Curzon  
Kedleston, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.,  
Secretary of State for Foreign  
Affairs.

The Right Hon. W.S. Churchill,  
M.P., Secretary of State for  
the Colonies.

Right Hon. Sir L. Worthington  
Evans, Bart., M.P., Secretary of  
State for War.

The Right Hon. E.S. Montagu,  
M.P., Secretary of State for  
India.

Right Hon. Sir Alfred Mond,  
Bart., M.P., Minister of Health.

The Right Hon. Lord Lee of  
Fareham, G.B.E., K.C.B.,  
First Lord of the Admiralty.

Right Hon. Sir A. Griffiths-  
Jones, M.P., Minister of  
Agriculture.

The Right Hon. H.A.L. Fisher,  
M.P., President of the Board  
of Education.

Right Hon. Sir Eric Geddes,  
B.E., G.B.E., M.P., Minister of  
Transport.

The Right Hon. T.J. Macnamara,  
M.P., Minister of Labour.

Right Hon. R. Munro, K.C., M.P.,  
Secretary for Scotland.

The Right Hon. C. Addison, M.P.

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Lieutenant-Colonel Sir M.P.A. Hankey, G.C.B.....Secretary.

Mr. Thomas Jones.....Principal Assistant Secretary.

of Ministers held at 6 p.m. on April 13th.

THE INDUSTRIAL SITUATION.

(1) With reference to the Conference / Conclusions 1 & 8.

Present position (soon).

the Prime Minister informed his colleagues of the latest position. On the previous evening two meetings had taken place in the House of Commons, when first the Mine-owners and afterwards Mr Frank Hodges had addressed a group of Members. The latter had made the more favourable impression of the two. Towards 11-30 p.m. a question had been shot at him asking if he was prepared to discuss wages, and he had replied in the affirmative. In answer to another question he had said that he was prepared to postpone the question of the pool and discuss a temporary solution of wages only. No record had been taken, and a group of Members, whom the Prime Minister had seen after midnight, had not agreed as to exactly what Mr Hodges did say. The Prime Minister had, however, felt the matter was sufficiently important to necessitate his writing to the Miners' Federation inviting them to meet representatives of the Government and Mine-owners at 11 a.m. (See Appendix.) He himself, with the Lord Privy Seal, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Minister of Labour, had proceeded to the Board of Trade, when they had met the owners, but the Miners' Federation had not put in an appearance. They were reported to have met together first, and afterwards to have repaired upstairs at Unity House to meet the Transport Workers and Railwaymen. A definite answer had been promised in half an hour's time.

The Cabinet agreed --

That the Lord Privy Seal should communicate the main facts of the situation to the House of Commons, and make such arrangements as were consistent with the Standing <sup>Orders</sup> Rules, in order to enable the Prime Minister to make a statement as soon as the situation was sufficiently clear to render this desirable.

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2, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.1,

April 15, 1921.

A P P E N D I X .

10, Downing Street, S.W.1.

April 15th, 1921.

Dear Mr. Hodges,

Several Members who were present at your House of Commons Meeting last night have conveyed to me the purport of your concluding offer. They had not taken down the actual words you used, but the general impression made on their minds was that you were now prepared to discuss with the owners the question of wages without raising the controversial issue of the "pool", provided the arrangements to be made were of a temporary character and without prejudice to a further discussion of proposals for a national pool when a permanent settlement comes to be dealt with.

If this is a fair representation of your suggestion I invite you and your fellow delegates to meet the owners at the Board of Trade at 11 this morning to consider the best method of examining the question of wages.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) D. LLOYD GEORGE.