Meeting of the Cabinet to be held at 10 Downing Street S.W.1. on Monday, October 22nd, 1923, at 11.30 a.m.

AGENDA.

11.30 A.M. 1. POPULAR.
   Memorandum by the Minister of Health.
   (C.P. 418 (23) - already circulated).

2. UNEMPLOYMENT.
   Report of Committee on Unemployment.
   (C.P. 420 (23) - already circulated).

3. PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATURE OF STATE SERVANTS.
   Report of Committee.
   (C.P. 234 (23) - already circulated).

(Sgd.) M.P.A. HAINKEY
Whitehall Gardens, S.W.1.
Secretary, Cabinet.
19th October, 1923.
CONCLUSIONS of a Meeting of the Cabinet held
at 10, Downing Street, S.W.1, on MONDAY,
22nd, OCTOBER, 1923, at 11.30 a.m.

PRESENT:
The Prime Minister (in the Chair).

The Most Hon.
The Marquess of Salisbury,
K.G., G.C.V.O., C.B.
Lord President of the Council.

The Rt. Hon.
Lord Robert Cecil, K.C., M.P.
Lord Privy Seal.

The Rt. Hon.
W.E. Bridgesman, M.P.
Secretary of State for Home Affairs.

The Duke of Devonshire, K.C.,
G.C.B., G.C.V.O.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The Rt. Hon.
Viscount Peel, G.B.E.,
Secretary of State for India.

The Rt. Hon.
K.S. Azery, M.P.
First Lord of the Admiralty.

The Rt. Hon.
Sir W. Joynson-Hicks, Bart., M.P.
Minister of Health.

The Rt. Hon.
Sir R.A. Sanders, Bart., M.P.
Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The Rt. Hon. Sir L. Worthington-Evans, Bart.

Mr. M.P.A. Hankey, G.C.B. .Secretary.
CONCLUSIONS of a Meeting of the Cabinet,
held at 10, Downing Street, S.W.1, on
MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1923, at 11-30 a.m.

1. In view of the strong public opinion which has formed, since the subject was last considered by the Cabinet, in favour of a public Service being held on Armistice Day opposite the Cenotaph in Whitehall, the Cabinet agreed —

(a) That a public Service should be held on Armistice Day at the Cenotaph at 11 a.m., to include the Two Minutes' Silence, the singing of a hymn, and the laying of a wreath; the ground in the vicinity of the Cenotaph being held by troops:

(b) That Lord Curzon should take the pleasure of the King as to the adoption of one or other of the following proposals:

(i) That the Service at Westminster Abbey should be held as previously arranged and should be attended by the King, his Ministers and the Representatives of the Dominions, and that the Prince of Wales should be asked to attend the Service at the Cenotaph, where he should be met by the Secretaries of State for War and Air, and the First Lord of the Admiralty:

or-

(ii) That the Service at Westminster Abbey should be postponed until 11-15 or 11-30 a.m., in order to enable the King and his Ministers to attend the Service at the Cenotaph before proceeding to Westminster Abbey.

(c) That in any event there should be no change in the arrangements already made for holding Church Services at such an hour as to ensure the observance of the Two Minutes' Silence at 11 a.m.

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2. The Cabinet agreed —

To hold a special meeting on Tuesday, October 23rd, at 2-30 p.m., to discuss questions of Foreign Affairs.
3. After consideration of a Memorandum by the Minister of Health on the position which has arisen as regards the administration of Poor Law Relief in the Parish of Poplar Borough (Paper C.P.-416(23)), the Cabinet agreed —

(a) Subject to the exigencies of the Parliamentary programme, to approve the proposal of the Minister of Health that the Bill approved by the Home Affairs Committee of the late Government, for introduction in case of necessity, giving the Minister of Health power to transfer Poor Law administration in any Union to a body of persons nominated by him, with amendment to meet the case of a defaulting Sanitary Authority, should be introduced and carried through in the Autumn Session of Parliament:

(b) That the Minister of Health should consult with the Chief Parliamentary Whip as to the practicability of finding Parliamentary time for the passage of this measure:

(c) That the Bill, as amended, should be submitted for the approval of the Committee of Home Affairs:

(d) That the Minister of Health should be authorised to approach the London County Council and the Metropolitan Asylums Board with a view to obtaining definite undertakings from them to give their assistance to the Government. The Minister of Health was also asked to consider the advisability of sounding the Board of Guardians Association.
4. The Cabinet agreed --

(a) **Approval of Report of Committee.**

To approve the Interim Report of the Cabinet Committee on Unemployment (Paper C.P. 420 (23)) (Appendix).

(b) That the Chairman of the Committee on Unemployment should circulate, for the information of the Cabinet, a fuller report showing the precise effect on the relief of unemployment of the measures already decided on; if possible, this report should show, month by month, the number of "men-months" provided for.

(c) **The Northern and Western Motor Way.**

To take note that the question of the construction of the Northern and Western Motor Way is under consideration by the Committee on Unemployment.

(d) **Expenditure by the Railways.**

That the President of the Board of Trade should ascertain how far the railways have carried out the works of rehabilitation for which the Government had granted compensation of £60,000,000 to them, and should advise the Cabinet as to whether an investigation on this subject was desirable.

(e) **Possible placing of orders by the Dominions, India and the Crown Colonies.**

To take note that the Cabinet Committee on Unemployment, recognising that the measures hitherto adopted are only palliatives, is in touch with the President of the Imperial Economic Conference and the Secretary of State for India and the Secretary of State for the Colonies with a view to the creation of fresh markets and the expediting of orders in this country by the Dominions, India and the Crown Colonies, even where it involves co-operation in financial assistance by the British Government to Imperial development.

(f) **Proposed Credit Facilities for Foreign Governments.**

To leave for further consideration by the Cabinet a proposal that the British Government should extend credit facilities in this country to foreign Governments, several of which (e.g., Brazil, Roumanian Latvia, Lithuanian, Estonia) it is alleged would then be willing to place substantial orders in this country.

(g) **Russia.**

That the question of re-examining British policy towards Russia, with a view to the
extension of orders from that country in relief of unemployment, whether by some system of credit or otherwise, should be reserved for later consideration.

(h) Work in the Dockyards. Anticipation of orders by the Admiralty and the Dominions.

That the Prime Minister should be authorised, in his forthcoming speech to the National Unionist Association at Plymouth, to announce that orders would be placed for a certain number of warships (Light Cruisers, etc.) in anticipation of the normal Admiralty programme of construction, and that these orders would be placed so as to give employment in some of the blackest spots from the point of view of unemployment.

(i) That the First Lord of the Admiralty should discuss with the Prime Ministers of the Dominions the possibility of placing some orders for Cruisers in British yards at the earliest possible date.

(j) That the President of the Board of Trade should make enquiries as to the present state of development of the Diesel engine and should report to the Committee on Unemployment as to whether there would be any prospect of employment resulting if Shipping Companies were to be treated on the same footing as certain Electrical and Railway Companies and given the benefits of the Trade Facilities Act in respect of the construction of ships fitted with Diesel engines.

(k) The Boilermakers' Strike.

That the Minister of Labour should be asked to report to the Cabinet on the following day as to the present position in regard to the Boilermakers' Strike and the possibility of intervention, with a view to ending a strike which had produced disastrous results on employment in the shipbuilding yards of the country.
5. After consideration of the Report of the Committee on the Parliamentary Candidature of State Servants (Paper C.P.-234 (23)), the Cabinet agreed —

(a) To approve in principle the recommendations of the Committee on the Parliamentary Candidature of State Servants:

(b) That a Bill should be drafted, as suggested in the Report of that Committee, providing in effect:

(i) That all retired servants of the Crown shall be free to stand for Parliament;

and

(ii) That any servant of the Crown who desires to stand for Parliament shall be at liberty to do so on resignation or if he is qualified by length of service, age, etc., for pension on retiring:

(c) That there could be no question of introducing the Bill in the present Session of Parliament, but that, subject to this, every effort should be made to secure the passage into law of the proposed legislation with as little delay as possible:

(d) That, pending the enactment of the proposed legislation, no action should be taken, whether by Order-in-Council as proposed in the Report of the Committee, or otherwise, to refuse permission to officers or men of the Navy, Army or Air Force to avail themselves of their legal privileges.

The First Lord of the Admiralty asked that his dissent might be recorded from (a), (b) and (c) above.
5. The Cabinet authorised the Lord President of the Council to propose to the Imperial Conference that, in concert with the Secretaries of State for War and Air, the First Lord of the Admiralty and the Prime Ministers and Representatives of the Dominions and India, he should formulate Resolutions in regard to Imperial Defence for consideration by the Imperial Conference.

Whitehall Gardens, S.W.1,
October 22, 1923.
Since their last report to the Cabinet (C.P.356 (23)) the Committee on Unemployment have held three further meetings and the question of providing further means of employment has received the constant consideration of the Departments concerned. The Committee are glad to report that the War Office, after a consideration of the whole position, have found it possible to accelerate works to the value of £450,000 and that the Admiralty have been able to increase the acceleration undertaken by them to an amount of £36,000. It is however regretted that only part of the Admiralty work can be placed in Barrow-in-Furness, where, as has previously been reported, unemployment stands at a very high figure and the prospects of a real recovery are remote.

2. Considerable progress has been made in dealing with applications for assistance made by local authorities to the Unemployment Grants Committee. Applications for grants in respect of works amounting to a total value of £24,000,000 have been received and the Committee recommend that the Unemployment Grants Committee should be authorised to assist schemes up to a total value of £26,000,000 in lieu of the £10,000,000 already approved.

A press notice of the conditions upon which grants may be made to public utility companies has been issued. At present the Committee do not recommend the fixing of a limit up to which schemes of this kind will be assisted.

3. The Committee have received from the Ministry of Transport an extensive programme for road and bridge work (including the construction of the Edinburgh-Glasgow road). The Committee have given careful consideration to the terms on
which assistance from the Road Fund should be given to these works and the extent to which the charges should be borne by the local authorities concerned.

4. They recommend that road works amounting to £3,000,000 in counties adjoining London be carried out by the London County Council with a contribution of 75% of the total cost from the Road Fund; that the contribution of the Road Fund to the Glasgow-Edinburgh road scheme, (total cost £2,000,000) which lies almost entirely outside the boundaries of the two cities, should also be 75%; and that the contributions from the Road Fund to other road schemes should not, without Treasury sanction, exceed 60%, or 50%, according as the road is without, or within, the boundaries of the authority constructing it. Excluding the two schemes above specified road works costing a total sum of £4,000,000 are contemplated.

5. As regards bridges, the Committee recommend that a contribution from the Road Fund not exceeding 75% be made in respect of the Queensferry Bridge, Flintshire, (roughly estimated to cost £150,000) and a Berwick Bridge across the Tweed (roughly estimated to cost £200,000) and that the contributions towards the re-construction of other bridges whether of iron or steel or of ferro-concrete, be a sum not exceeding 65% of the cost unless special sanction is obtained from the Treasury. Bridge works costing a total sum of £2,500,000 are contemplated.

6. The Committee recommend that the Road Fund be authorised to expend a total sum of £8,000,000 in respect of the works described in paragraph (4) and (5) above. The question whether a further recommendation should be submitted in regard to the construction of the Liverpool-Manchester Road has been deferred pending a settlement of questions arising as to the Northern and Western Motorway.
7. The Committee have further had under consideration proposals for the reconstruction of the Menai suspension Bridge. This Bridge was built at the National cost and its maintenance has been a National liability though the tolls upon the Bridge have ordinarily produced an income in excess of the expenditure required. An entire reconstruction of this Bridge will be necessary in six or seven years and the Committee recommend that the reconstruction of the Bridge should now be undertaken by the Ministry of Transport at the cost of the Road Fund, with a contribution of £50,000 from the Exchequer, the balance of the cost except in so far as it may be met by contributions from local authorities to be met from the Road Fund. The cost of reconstruction is estimated at £250,000. It should, however, be a condition of the reconstruction of the Bridge that the new Bridge should be freed from tolls and be maintained by the County Councils of Anglesey and Carnarvon.

8. The Committee hope to present at an early date a further report dealing with inter alia the possibilities of increasing employment by the anticipation of programmes of Colonial Development.

(Sgd.) L. WORTHINGTON EVANS,
Chairman.
17th October, 1923.

K.W.S. Francis, Joint
C.W.G. Eady, ) Secretaries.