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SECRET.C A B I N E T 51 (25).

Meeting of the Cabinet to be held at 10, Downing Street,
S.W.(1), on Wednesday, October 28th, 1925, at 11.30 a.m.

A G E N D A.1. ROSYTH AND PEMBROKE DOCKYARDS.

(Reference Cabinet 49 (25) Conclusion 3).

Memorandum by the First Lord of the Admiralty,
(C.P. 422 (25) - already circulated).

Memorandum by the Admiralty on the Strategical
Aspects of the Question,
(C.I.D. Paper No.139-A - already circulated).

Minutes of the Committee of Imperial Defence,
(C.I.D./203rd Meeting p.p.9-12 - already circulated).

Memorandum by Lord Balfour,
(C.P. 437 (25) - already circulated).

2. IRISH BOUNDARY COMMISSION - REPORT.

(Reference Cabinet 50 (25) Conclusion 6 (e)).

(Signed) M.P.A. HANKEY,
Secretary, Cabinet.

Whitehall Gardens, S.W.1.

26th October, 1925.

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SECRET.

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C A B I N E T 51(25).

CONCLUSIONS of a Meeting of the Cabinet held
at 10, Downing Street, S.W.1., on WEDNESDAY,
October 28th, 1925, at 11.30 A.M.

PRESENT:-

The Right Hon. Stanley Baldwin, M.P.,
Prime Minister. (In the Chair).

The Right Hon.
Viscount Cave, G.C.M.G.,
Lord Chancellor.

The Most Hon.
The Marquess of Salisbury,
K.G., G.C.V.O., C.B.,
Lord Privy Seal.

The Right Hon.
W.S. Churchill, C.H., M.P.,
Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The Right Hon.
Sir William Joynson-Hicks,
Bart., M.P., Secretary of
State for Home Affairs.

The Right Hon.
L.S. Amery, M.P., Secretary
of State for Dominion Affairs
and Secretary of State for
the Colonies.

The Right Hon.
Sir Laming Worthington-Evans,
Bart., G.B.E., M.P., Secretary
of State for War.

~~The Right Hon.
The Earl of Birkenhead,
Secretary of State for India.~~

The Right Hon.
Sir Samuel Hoare, Bart.,
C.M.G., M.P., Secretary of
State for Air.

The Right Hon.
W.C. Bridgeman, M.P.,
First Lord of the Admiralty.

The Right Hon.
Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister,
K.B.E., M.C., M.P., President
of the Board of Trade.

The Right Hon.
Neville Chamberlain, M.P.,
Minister of Health.

The Right Hon.
Sir John Gilmour, Bart., D.S.O.,
M.P., Secretary for Scotland.

The Right Hon.
Lord Eustace Percy, M.P.,
President of the Board of
Education.

The Right Hon.
Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland, Bart.
M.P., Minister of Labour.

The Right Hon.
Viscount Peel, G.B.E., First
Commissioner of Works.

The Right Hon.
Sir Douglas Hogg, K.C., M.P.,
Attorney-General.

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Sir M.P.A. Hankey, G.C.B. Secretary.

PARLIAMENTARY
BUSINESS.

—
The Mining
Subsidy.

(Previous
Reference:
Cabinet 50
(25), Con-
clusion 6.)

1. The Chancellor of the Exchequer informed the Cabinet that, according to the estimates of the Mines Department, which, however, the Treasury had not yet discussed in detail with that Department the amount of the Mining Subsidy necessitated up to the end of March would be £17,000,000, which was a considerable advance on previous estimates. This would involve a Vote in Parliament before Christmas, the discussion of which might require as much as two days.

Northern
Ireland
Insurance
Bill.

(Previous
Reference:
Cabinet 50
(25), Con-
clusion 6.)

Towards the end of the Meeting the Chancellor of the Exchequer reported that it was not essential that the Northern Ireland Insurance Bill (a draft of which was handed round) should be passed before Christmas, but it was essential that it should be passed into law before March, 1926.

Representa-
tion of the
People (Economy
Provisions)
Bill.

(Previous
Reference:
Cabinet 50
(25), Con-
clusion 6.)

In view of the above, the Cabinet agreed —

That it would be advisable, if possible, to secure the passage of the Representation of the People (Economy Provisions) Bill before Christmas, if this could be arranged.

DOCKYARD
DISCHARGES.

Proposed
Reduction
of Rosyth
and Pembroke
Dockyards.

(Previous
Reference:
Cabinet 49
(25), Con-
clusion 3.)

2. The Cabinet had before them the following Papers in connection with the reduction of Rosyth and Pembroke Dockyards:-

A Letter and Memorandum circulated by the First Lord of the Admiralty (Paper C.P.-422 (25)).

A Letter from the Admiralty to the Committee of Imperial Defence, together with a Memorandum on the Strategic Aspects of the question (C.I.D. Paper No.139-A).

An Extract from the Minutes of the 203rd Meeting of the Committee of Imperial Defence held on October 15th, 1925.

A Memorandum by the Lord President of the Council (The Earl of Balfour) (Paper C.P.-437 (25)).

The Prime Minister stated that he had felt obliged to inform the Deputations from Pembroke and Rosyth that, if the decision to reduce Rosyth and Pembroke Dockyards was adhered to, the Government would not oppose a Parliamentary Debate on the subject if this were asked for.

The First Lord of the Admiralty intimated that some mitigation of the hardships resulting from the closing of these Dockyards might arise from ship-breaking at both places; by proceeding with the Admiralty oil installation at Pembroke; and by keeping in the care-and-maintenance parties at the Dockyards those who had purchased their houses.

After considerable discussion, the Cabinet agreed --

That, with a view to a decision at their next Meeting, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in consultation with the First Lord of the Admiralty and the Secretary for Scotland, and any other Minister who might be concerned, should present the Cabinet with a comprehensive statement of the total saving which was estimated to result from the closing of Rosyth and Pembroke Dockyards when, against the saving on Admiralty Votes, was set the increases on other Votes, such as the cost of the guarantee to

the Scottish National Housing Company (by the Scottish Ministry of Health) in respect of houses built for Rosyth workers; any corresponding losses at Pembroke; losses due to extra housing that would have to be provided at Portsmouth, Plymouth and Chatham; loss due to Unemployment Benefit at places where the general employment of the community was dependent on Dockyards, etc.

IRISH
BOUNDARY
COMMISSION.

(Previous
Reference:
Cabinet 50
(25), Con-
clusion 6(e).)

3. The Cabinet had before them a Memorandum by the Secretaries of State for the Home Department and for Dominion Affairs in regard to arrangements for giving effect to the Award of the Irish Boundary Commission whenever that Award is given (Paper C.P.-445 (25)).

The Conclusion on this subject will be circulated later.

THE GREECO-
BULGARIAN
FRONTIER.

(Previous
Reference:
Cabinet 50
(25), Con-
clusion 2.)

4. During the Meeting the Cabinet received and considered, as a matter of urgency, the first part of a message from the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Lord Crewe's telegram from Paris No.377, of October 27th) in which Mr Chamberlain expressed his intention of supporting a proposal that if Greece refused to desist from military operations and to withdraw her troops, the Council of the League should recommend --

- (a) The immediate withdrawal of the Chiefs of Missions, to be followed, if Greece continues recalcitrant, by
- (b) A naval demonstration at Piræus with the briefest possible delay.

The Cabinet agreed --

That the Prime Minister should inform the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that they agreed in his proposal, but of course on the assumption that any demonstration against Greece would be a joint one.

. . . .

2, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.1.

October 28, 1925.