Meeting of the Cabinet to be held at 10 Downing Street, S.W.1, on WEDNESDAY, 30th November, 1932, at 11.0 a.m.

AGENDA.

1. FOREIGN AFFAIRS. (If required).

2. REDUCTION AND LIMITATION OF ARMAMENTS. (If required).
   (Reference Cabinet 62(32), Conclusion 16).

3. HOUSING POLICY.
   (Reference Cabinet 62(32), Conclusion 9).
   Report of Cabinet Committee.
   (C.P. 409(32) - already circulated.
   Memorandum by the Secretary of State for Scotland.
   (C.P. 411(32) - to be circulated).

4. SKY-WRITING.
   (Reference Cabinet 46(32), Conclusion 9).
   Memorandum by the Home Secretary.
   (C.P. 407(32) - already circulated).

5. IMPERIAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE.
   (Reference Cabinet 62(32), Conclusion 12).
   Memorandum by the President of the Board of Education.
   (C.P. 397(32) - already circulated).
6. CONCLUSIONS OF HOME AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.

(H.A.C. 11th Conclusions (32) - to be circulated).

(i) Rent and Mortgage Interest Restrictions (Amendment) Bill.

(Reference Cabinet 86(31), Conclusion 4 and Cabinet 26(32), Conclusion 4).

Memorandum by the Minister of Health, covering Draft Bill.
(H.A. 39(32) - already circulated).

(ii) Austrian Loan Guarantee Bill.

(Reference Cabinet 46(32), Conclusion 11).

Memorandum by the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, covering Draft Bill.
(H.A. 40(32) - already circulated).

(iii) Doncaster Area Drainage Bill.

(Reference Cabinet 42(32), Conclusion 6).

Memorandum by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, covering Draft Bill.
(H.A. 38(32) - already circulated).

(iv) Evidence (Foreign, Dominion and Colonial Documents) Bill.

Memorandum by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, covering Draft Bill.
(H.A. 37(32) - already circulated).

7. PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS.

Friday, 2nd December:

1. Dog Racing (Local Option) Bill - Second Reading.
   (Sir Walter Smiles - Conservative).

   Note: The same Bill was introduced by Mr. Buchan on May 11th, 1928, when the Second Reading was carried by 222 votes to 19.

2. Wheat Act (1932) Amendment Bill - Second Reading.
   (Mr. Buchan-Hepburn - Conservative).

Friday, 9th December:

1. Hours of Employment (Limitation) Bill - Second Reading.
   (Mr. Wallhead - Labour).

   Note: To limit by law the hours of employment of the working population to a maximum of 6 hours per day.

2. Slaughter of Animals Bill - Second Reading.
   (Lieut.-Colonel Moore - Conservative).

   Note: To provide for the humane and scientific slaughter of animals.
8. EMPIRE CONTENT.

Memorandum by the President of the Board of Trade.
(C.P. 398(32) - already circulated).

9. THE SITUATION IN INDIA.

(Reference Cabinet 62(32), Conclusion 14).
Note by the Secretary of State for India, covering Reports by Local Governments.
(C.P. 410(32) - to be circulated).

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

2 Whitehall Gardens, S.W.1.
28th November, 1932.
CABINET 64 (32).

Meeting of the Cabinet to be held at 10 Downing Street, S.W.1., on WEDNESDAY, 30th November, 1932, at 11.0 a.m.

ADDITIONAL ITEM TO AGENDA.

1. (A). CHEMICAL WARFARE.

(Reference Cabinet 61(32), Conclusion 10).

Report of an Inter-Departmental Conference held on November 22nd, 1932.
(C.P. 406(32) — already circulated).

(Signed) M.P.A. HANKEY.
Secretary to the Cabinet.

NOTE. Owing to the Meeting of the Cabinet which has been arranged for 9.0 p.m. this evening, the number of above Meeting now becomes Cabinet 64 (32).

2, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.1.
29th November, 1932.
CONCLUSIONS of a Meeting of the Cabinet held at 10, Downing Street, S.W.1., on WEDNESDAY, November 30th, 1935, at 11.0 a.m.

PRESENT :-

The Right Hon. J. Ramsay MacDonald, M.P., Prime Minister. (In the Chair).

The Right Hon. Neville Chamberlain, M.P., Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The Right Hon. The Viscount Hailsham, Secretary of State for War.

The Right Hon. Sir Samuel Hoare, Bt., G.B.E., C.M.G., M.P., Secretary of State for India.


The Right Hon. Walter Runciman, M.P., President of the Board of Trade.

The Right Hon. Lord Irwin, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., President of the Board of Education.


The Right Hon. The Viscount Sankey, G.B.E., Lord Chancellor.


The Right Hon. J.H. Thomas, M.P., Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs.

The Most Hon. The Marquess of Londonderry, K.G., M.V.C., Secretary of State for Air.


Major The Right Hon. Walter Elliot, M.C., M.P., Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.


1. The Prime Minister said that he had to report to the Cabinet that the late Lord Oxford and Asquith's family had received with gratitude and pride the decision of the Cabinet to put up a tablet to the former Prime Minister in Westminster Abbey and had accepted the offer. They had asked the Prime Minister, on behalf of the Cabinet, to unveil the tablet.

The Cabinet agreed —

That the Prime Minister should accept the above invitation.
The Cabinet had before them a Memorandum by the Home Secretary (C.F.-407 (32)) stating that, in accordance with the Conclusion of the Cabinet mentioned in the margin, a Conference had been held on the subject of Sky Writing and Sky Shouting, between representatives of the Home Office and other Departments, and trade representatives, with a view to the establishment of a voluntary body of control to carry out the recommendations of the Select Committee and the requirements of the Government Departments. As a result of this Conference the representatives of the various commercial organisations had expressed their willingness to co-operate in establishing such a body, which would be a consultative Committee and would formulate general rules with which sky-writing operators would be expected to comply. The experience of the working of this voluntary system would provide useful knowledge of the practical difficulties for which provision might have to be made by legislation if this should ultimately prove necessary.

The Prime Minister reminded the Cabinet that at the Meeting referred to in the margin, when approving the proposal of the Home Secretary for the summoning of a Conference, they had to a certain extent reserved their position on the question of principle by the following Conclusion:—

"(iii) That the Report of the Conference should be laid before the Cabinet before a decision is taken for the preparation of a Bill."

On reading the last paragraph of the Home Secretary's Memorandum he felt that if the proposals now before the Cabinet were agreed to, they might be held to be committing themselves to the whole principle of sky-writing.

-2-
Another view was that the present proposal was really only for an experiment and that it would still be possible, as the result, to introduce a Bill to prohibit sky-writing.

In the circumstances, the Cabinet agreed —

To keep the subject on the Agenda Paper until the Home Secretary could be present.
3. The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs informed the Cabinet that there was one question of foreign policy which he must bring up as one of urgency. The Persian Government on the personal initiative, it was believed, of the Shah had cancelled the concession of the Persian Oil Company. He had now information that the Police were removing or obliterating the Company's sign-boards in Persia. At first Sir John Cadman, the Chairman of the Persian Oil Company, had wanted the question left to the Company to deal with. How that other action had been taken this appeared difficult. The Secretary of State, therefore, proposed to send the strongest possible message to our Minister in Tehran. He thought also that the Cabinet ought to consider what protection could be offered to the Oil Fields in the last resort.

The Cabinet were reminded that at the meeting referred to in the margin, some discussion had taken place on the plans of the Committee of Imperial Defence for the protection of the Persian Oil fields. The suggestion was made that the Chiefs of Staff Committee should be invited to consider the present situation and report. A suggestion was made that if protection of the Persian Oil Company's property and pipe-lines was difficult, there might be Persian assets that were within our reach, e.g., the new Fleet, ports such as Bushire and the establishment at Honjan.

The Cabinet were reminded that many Persian subjects derived an income from the wells and were interested in maintaining the Company's position, and it was suggested that the Chiefs of Staff Committee should not overlook the position of the Bakhtiari.
Another suggestion was that it might be useful to move men-of-war within the Persian Gulf in order to impress on the Persian Government how seriously we regarded the position. This was left to the Chiefs of Staff Committee to consider.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs consulted the Cabinet as to whether in his Note he should mention the possibility of referring the question to the Permanent Court of International Justice. He himself inclined to the use of some more general language. This latter view commended itself to the Cabinet, and one suggestion was that he should use some term such as "all measures in our power".

The Cabinet agreed:

(a) That the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs should at once make a very strong protest to the Persian Government against their cancellation of the concession to the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, and the removal or obliterating of the Company's sign-boards.

(b) That in his Note he should not mention the possibility of referring the question to the Permanent Court of International Justice.

(c) That the Chiefs of Staff Sub-Committee should be invited at once to consider and report on the question of how far it was possible to provide in the last resort for the protection of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company's property, including the pipe-lines, by military means; that is to say, whether by local and direct action or by retaliation elsewhere or by both.

(d) That in the event of the Chiefs of Staff Sub-Committee recommending the movement of men-of-war in the Persian Gulf or any other action of that kind to impress the Persians with the seriousness of the situation, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs should have authority to sanction it if he deemed it wise and appropriate without reference to the Cabinet.
4. The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs said that before leaving for Geneva he felt that he ought to warn the Cabinet that the question of Manchuria was likely to reach an important stage next Tuesday, when it would come before the Assembly of the League. He proposed to do his utmost to avoid having to take a lead. He thought it was probable that the first eight Chapters of the Lytton Report, dealing with questions of history and fact, would be approved by the Assembly. He could see no other course. It was possible that the Assembly might wish to go further, and either to adopt some action themselves or to pass a Resolution that would be unacceptable to Japan. He had noticed that the Lytton Commission did not recommend the League to do anything in particular. Most of their recommendations were addressed to China or Japan. He thought that he might be able to make some use of this point. If a Resolution was moved that Manchuria must not be recognised, he would do his best to oppose the proposal. In this connection it had to be remembered that recognition was not given for the benefit of a State so much as for the convenience of the people who were giving the recognition. He was already being pressed by commercial people to recognise, and it would certainly be most inconvenient if, in a kidnapping case, for example, comparable to that of Mrs Pawley, we were unable to obtain any assistance for British subjects owing to our failure to recognise. He proposed, therefore, to be careful not to commit the Government never to recognise Manchukuo.
The Prime Minister agreed that the act of recognition belonged to the sovereignty of States.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs then reported that one proposal, that had come from an authoritative quarter in the League of Nations, was that the last part of the Lytton Report should be referred to the United States of America, the Union of Soviets and the signatories of the Nine-Power Treaty. He thought it probable, however, that some of the smaller Powers would be reluctant to allow the question to pass out of the hands of the League.

The Cabinet approved the general line proposed by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
5. The Prime Minister discussed briefly with the Cabinet his proposed forthcoming visit to Geneva, and its objects. He thought it desirable to avoid taking any part in the Meeting of the Assembly on the Manchuria question. He had arranged, however, to meet M. Herriot and Baron von Neurath, and he hoped also to see Mr. Norman Davis, the American representative.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs reported also that Italian representatives would be at Geneva, and his proposal that Italy should be represented in the forthcoming discussions with the object of bringing Germany back to the Disarmament Conference had been warmly welcomed by Italy.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer pointed out that the position of the Debt negotiations and the shortness of the time available rendered it somewhat dubious as to whether it was advisable for the Prime Minister to be absent for more than a day or two. The telephone did not provide a sufficiently secret means of communication.

The Cabinet felt that the Prime Minister's negotiations at Geneva might prove so important that it would be inadvisable for him to cancel his arrangements, unless it transpired that some of the other principals were unable to attend. If the Debt negotiations should again reach a critical stage it might be necessary for the Prime Minister to return at short notice.

The Prime Minister accepted this view, and invited the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to ascertain at once whether M. Herricot was likely
to be able to come to Geneva, as the latest news from our representatives at Geneva tended to show that he would not be able to leave Paris.
6. The Cabinet had before them the Report of an Inter-Departmental Conference on the subject of Chemical Warfare (C.P., 409 (32)), under the Chairmanship of the Secretary to the Cabinet, held on November 22, 1932, the Conclusions of which were summed up at the end of the Report as follows:—

(1) In carrying out the policy of the Cabinet the British representative on the Bureau of the Disarmament Conference might consider the following methods, according as circumstances permit, for avoiding isolation:—

(a) To adhere firmly to the policy hitherto pursued by His Majesty's Governments in the United Kingdom and the Dominions of refusing to enter into definite commitments for exercise of sanctions. This will probably compel the French and other Delegations to refuse to abandon the right of retaliation.

(b) To present the matter not as a statement of the British case, but as objectively as possible and as a matter affecting all nations, as suggested in paragraph 12.

(c) To emphasise the point that abolition of the right of retaliation will not prevent or impede the production of those important forms of gas which, as shown by earlier international expert investigation at Washington and Geneva, are produced in time of peace for commercial purposes. If he thinks it likely to strengthen his case, the United Kingdom Delegate might ask that this aspect of the question be referred anew to inquiry by chemical experts.

(2) Even if the United Kingdom representative is unable in the last resort to avoid isolation at the Bureau in carrying out the policy of the Cabinet, he can reasonably expect to have the support of most, if not all, of the Dominions, and perhaps of some other nations (including, possibly, Germany) in any larger assemblage at the Disarmament Conference.

(3) Even if His Majesty's Governments were willing to reverse their previous policy towards commitments, sanctions are not likely, except possibly in cases of war between two small States, to be sufficiently reliable or prompt in operation to be depended on to prevent the use of gas, for reasons given in paragraph 19.

(4) On a hasty examination, the Conference cannot recommend the proposal for a time-limit within which the League should endeavour to secure desistance from the use of poison gas by a belligerent, and during which resort should
not be made to retaliation. The Defence Departments, however, should give further consideration to the suggestion.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs paid tribute to the work of Mr. Eden on this question. He suggested, however, that when the critical stage was reached it would be very desirable that the Secretary of State for War should be present at Geneva or the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State if he was unable to attend. The Secretary of State for War said that he was always ready to go to Geneva if the state of business at home permitted.

The Cabinet accepted the report of the Inter-Departmental Conference on the subject of Chemical Warfare C.P. 408(32).
7. The Cabinet had before them the following documents on the subject of Housing Policy:

The Report of the Cabinet Committee appointed at the Meeting referred to in the margin (C.P.-409 (32)), which contained the following recommendations:

(1) That as regards England and Wales the Minister of Health should be authorised:

(a) to negotiate with the Building Societies and the Local Authorities on the lines indicated in paragraph 1 (iii) of C.P.-386 (32), on the understanding —

(i) that in the proposed negotiations with the Building Societies the Ministry of Health should endeavour to secure the most favourable terms as regards rates of interest and period of replacement for loans advanced by the Societies for the building of working-class houses:

(ii) that any Exchequer guarantee should be conditional on the rate of interest and period of the loan being approved by the Treasury.

(b) To introduce legislation for terminating subsidy under the Acts of 1924 and 1931 and for authorising arrangements on the lines indicated in paragraph 1 (iii) of C.P.-386 (32).

(c) To proceed with the consolidation of subsidy under the Housing Acts of 1919, 1923 and 1924.

(2) That, with a view to the proposed Housing Bill receiving a Second Reading before the Christmas Recess, the Minister of Health should be authorised to introduce the Bill in the House of Commons early in December in the form approved by the Committee of Home Affairs.

(3) That as regards Scotland, the Secretary of State for Scotland should be authorised to proceed on the lines proposed by him (see paragraph 4 of C.P.-409 (32)) subject to agreement being reached with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the amount of the reduced subsidy to local authorities in Scotland under
the Act of 1924, during a period of two years, and subject also to the application of (1)(a)(i) and (ii) above to the negotiations in Scotland with the Building Societies and Local Authorities.

A Memorandum by the Secretary of State for Scotland (C.P.-411 (32)), which had been before the Cabinet Committee when preparing the above Report, setting out fully Scotland's special Housing problem and seeking authority for:

(a) negotiation with the Building Societies and the Local Authorities on lines indicated in paragraph 9 of his Memorandum; and

(b) introduction of legislation—

(i) terminating subsidy under the Acts of 1923 and 1931: (ii) terminating subsidy under the Act of 1924 so far as payable to private builders, and reducing subsidy to Local Authorities under that Act to a sum of £4 (£7 in rural areas) — the reduced subsidy to continue for a period of two years; (the foregoing to be subject to the understanding that, in practice, the subsidy will be made available only in respect of houses erected for the abatement of overcrowding and for the accommodation of low wage earners);

and

(iii) facilitating the sale and the letting at a higher rent of houses erected under the Act of 1919, if on further investigation such action is found to be practicable.
The Prime Minister made observations to the following effect:

(i) It was very desirable that the Rent Restriction Bill should be introduced before the Bill now contemplated, as the latter was likely to be unpopular.

(ii) That it was important for the Cabinet to be sure that private enterprise would be in a position to provide houses on an adequate scale.

(iii) That it is most undesirable that the number of houses per acre of land should be increased on any considerable scale, e.g., from twelve to twenty.

(iv) That it was important to obtain the cooperation of the Local Authorities as well as of the Building Societies.

The Minister of Health gave replies showing that all these points were receiving careful consideration.

In reply to a question the Minister of Health explained that one effect of the present proposals should be to concentrate the building activities of Local Authorities and their special building organisations on slum areas for which the Chancellor of the Exchequer was providing funds.

The Secretary of State for Scotland reported that he had agreed with the Chancellor of the Exchequer that the subsidies to the Local Authorities should be reduced to £3 instead of £4, as set forth in C.P. 411(32), paragraph 20 (b)(ii) (quoted above); the reduced subsidy continuing for a period of two years. He also drew attention to the following passage in paragraph 4 of C.P. 409(32):

(b) The introduction of legislation:

(iii) facilitating the sale and the letting at a higher rent of houses erected under the Act of 1919, if on further investigation such action is found to be practicable.
The Minister of Health said that this point required co-ordinating with the English Bill, since the proposal in its present form is not applicable to the latter. He suggested that the matter be left to the two Ministers who were doing their best to find accommodation between their respective positions.

The Cabinet agreed:

(a) To approve generally the proposals in C.P. 400(32) and C.P. 411(32), as summarised above:

(b) To take note that two Bills, one for England and one for Scotland, will be required:

(c) To take note that in the case of Scotland the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Scotland had agreed to reduce the subsidy to Local Authorities under the Act of 1924 from £4 to £3:

(d) To take note that the Minister of Health and the Secretary of State for Scotland were considering further the point in Scottish legislation, relating to the sale and letting at higher rent of houses erected under the Act of 1919, if on further investigation such action was found to be practicable.
8. The Cabinet again had before them a Memorandum by the President of the Board of Education (C.P.-397 (32)) on the subject of an Imperial Education Conference, consideration of which had been postponed at the Meeting referred to in the margin. In this Memorandum the President asked the approval of the Cabinet to his approaching the Oversea Governments with a view to holding an Imperial Education Conference in 1934.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer raised the question as to whether in the present financial position it was necessary to decide on a Conference as soon as 1934.

The Cabinet were informed that the proposal had been recommended by a Committee on which the Dominions were represented by their respective High Commissioners.

The Cabinet were also informed that, from the point of view of the Colonies who were being pressed to reduce expenditure, it would be embarrassing if the Conference resulted in recommendations for further expenditure on education. On the other hand a good deal of emphasis was laid on the importance of Imperial contacts of this kind.

The Cabinet agreed:-

To authorise the President of the Board of Education to approach the Oversea Governments with a view to holding an Imperial Education Conference in 1934, but invited him in doing so to intimate that the invitation was provisional and might have to be postponed if financial conditions did not improve.
9. The Cabinet had before them a Memorandum by
the Minister of Health (H.A.-39 (32)) covering
the draft Rent and Mortgage Interest Restrictions
(Amendment) Bill, which had been prepared in accord-
ance with a decision taken by the Cabinet on
December 9, 1931 (Cabinet 86 (31), Conclusion 4): 
together with the following recommendations of the
Committee of Home Affairs thereon (H.A.C. 11th
Conclusions (32), Minute 1):—

To authorise the introduction
forthwith in the House of Commons
of the Rent and Mortgage Interest
Restrictions (Amendment) Bill in
the form of the draft annexed to
H.A.-39 (32), subject to —

(i) the deletion of paragraph
(h)(iv) from the First
Schedule:

(ii) the amendment of Sections 2
and 3 after consultation
between the Minister of
Health and the Solicitor-
General; and

(iii) subject also to any drafting
or other minor alterations
which may be found necessary
or desirable.

The Cabinet approved the above recom-
mandations.
The Cabinet had before them a Memorandum by the Financial Secretary to the Treasury (H.A.40 (32)) covering the draft Austrian Loan Guarantee Bill, the object of which was to enable effect to be given to the protocol providing for further financial assistance to Austria, signed in July, 1932: together with the following recommendation of the Committee of Home Affairs thereon (H.A.C. 11th Conclusions (32), Minute 2):

To authorise the introduction forthwith in the House of Commons of the Austrian Loan Guarantee Bill, in the form of the draft annexed to H.A.40 (32), subject to any drafting or other minor alterations which may be found necessary or desirable.

The Cabinet approved the above recommendation.
The Cabinet had before them a Memorandum by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries (H.A.-38 (32)) covering the draft Doncaster Area Drainage Bill: together with the following recommendation of the Committee of Home Affairs thereon (H.A.C. 11th Conclusions (32), Minute 3):

To authorise the introduction in the House of Commons of the Doncaster Area Drainage Bill, in the form of the draft annexed to H.A.-38 (32), subject to any drafting or other minor alterations which may be found necessary or desirable.

The Cabinet approved the above recommendation.
19. The Cabinet had before them a Memorandum by
the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (H.A.-37
(32)) covering the draft Evidence (Foreign, Dominion
and Colonial Documents) Bill: together with the
following recommendations of the Committee of Home
Affairs thereon (H.A.C. 11th Conclusions (32),
Minute 4):—

(i) To approve the Evidence (Foreign,
Dominion and Colonial Documents) Bill, in the form of the draft
annexed to H.A.-37 (32), subject
to any drafting or other minor
alterations which may be found
necessary or desirable:

(ii) That, subject to the opinion of the
Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury,
the Bill should be introduced in the
House of Lords.

* The Parliamentary Secretary
has been consulted, and concurs
in this recommendation.

The Cabinet approved the above recommendations.
PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS.

Private Members' Bills.

(Previous Reference:
Cabinet 82 (32), Conclusion 6.)

The Prime Minister suggested that the Government should adopt, not rigidly, but so far as might prove practicable, the following procedure in dealing with Private Members' Bills:

(a) As a general rule, where practicable, Ministers should abstain from making statements of Government Policy on Private Members' Bills:

(b) That when Ministers did speak on behalf of the Government on Private Members' Bills they must be very careful not to promise facilities.

The Dog-Racing (Local Option) Bill was recognised as one of the cases where the Government probably could not abstain from some announcement.

The Cabinet agreed —

That the Government spokesman should make it clear that the Government did not agree in all the details of the Bill, but if the House desired to proceed with the measure, would not oppose and would move some amendments in Committee. He should make it clear, however, that the operation of the Bill could not be retrospective.

The Wheat Bill.

Previous Reference:
Cabinet 14 (32), Conclusion 6.)

That the Wheat Act (1932) Amendment Bill would probably be blocked by the Dog Racing (Local Option) Bill, and that the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries should have authority to take appropriate action with the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury to arrange this.
14. The Cabinet took note of a Memorandum by the President of the Board of Trade (O.P.-398 (32)) on the subject of Empire Content, attached to which was a Memorandum prepared in the Board of Trade on the proportion of Empire labour and materials required to secure Imperial Preference.
15. The Cabinet took note of Weekly Reports by Local Governments on the Political Situation in India (C.P.-410 (32)) circulated for the information of his colleagues by the Secretary of State for India.
16. The Secretary of State for India reminded the Cabinet that on a previous occasion he had expressed anxiety as to the prospects of the Indian Ottawa Agreement. Since then he had been doing his best to promote its prospects and had spoken on the subject to nearly every Indian Member at the Round Table discussions. His apprehensions had been increased rather than otherwise when the Select Committee had asked for a second week to complete the examination of the Agreement. Now, however, he was glad to inform the Cabinet that the report was favourable. It contemplated that the Agreement would at any rate last for three years, without necessarily coming to an end even then. Meanwhile a Standing Committee of the Assembly would watch its operation. The adoption of a period of three years compared with the original intention of six months only, and was a marked improvement. A point which the Secretary of State emphasised was that this favourable report was due to the intervention of the Minister of Commerce in India, who was an Indian, and Mr Chetty, another Indian representative.

The Cabinet took note with satisfaction of the above statement.
17. The Cabinet agreed —

That their next regular weekly Meeting should be held on Wednesday next, December 7th, at 11 a.m.

S, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.1.

November 30, 1932.