Minutes of a Meeting held at 2 Whitehall Gardens, S.W., on Wednesday, August 8th, 1917, at 3.0 p.m.

Present -

Lord Milner (Chairman)
General Smuts.
Mr. Barnes.
Capt. Ormsby-Gore (Secretary).

The Committee had before them the reference made by War Cabinet 201, Minute 1 (copy of which is attached).

They decided:

1. The recruiting organization should be embodied in the National Service Department.

2. That in view of the transfer of functions decided upon, the decision of outstanding questions of detail concerning Manpower and Recruiting be postponed until the Director-General of the National Service Department had had an opportunity of being heard upon them, with the following exception, viz.:

3. That in regard to the exemption from military service of men engaged in shipbuilding in Canada, the Secretary of the War Cabinet be instructed to reply to Sir W. Graham Greene's letter No. S.L. 230/527 dated 26th July, 1917. (G.T. 1521) to the effect that no action could be taken until the Government of Canada had definitely established a system of compulsory military service, and that the matter was essentially one for decision by the Canadian Government.

(Initialled) M

2 Whitehall Gardens, S.W.,
8th August, 1917.
Minister of a Meeting held at 10, Downing Street, S.W., on Wednesday, August 1st, 1917, at 11.15 a.m.

Man-Power: 1. The War Cabinet had a preliminary discussion on a Recruiting Memorandum prepared at their request by the Director of Proposals. Recruiting.

It was pointed out that the proposals involved the transfer of recruiting for the Army to a civilian organisation, and it was decided that this should be done.

It was therefore necessary to decide whether this organisation should be set up in a new Department or placed under an existing Department. It was not deemed desirable to create a new Department, and it was therefore for consideration whether the recruiting organisation should be embodied in:

(a) The Local Government Board,
(b) The National Service Department,
(c) The Ministry of Labour.

A further question arises as to whether recruiting for shipbuilding should be under the National Service Department or the Labour Ministry.

It was also pointed out that, in the War Cabinet programme of questions awaiting consideration for the current week, there are nine items dealing with Man-Power.

The War Cabinet decided that a Committee composed of Lord Milner, General Smuts, and Mr. Barnes,

should be formed, who should have full and final powers, on behalf of the War Cabinet, to decide, in consultation with the Departments concerned, all questions of recruiting and Man-Power, and report their decisions to the War Cabinet.