

Printed for the War Cabinet. June 1918.

SECRET.

E.C. 15th Minutes.

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WAR CABINET.

EASTERN COMMITTEE.

Minutes of a Meeting held in Lord Curzon's Room at the Privy Council Office on Friday, June 21, 1918, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Right Hon. the EARL CURZON OF KEDLESTON, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.
(in the Chair).

Lieutenant-General the Right Hon. J. C. SMUTS, K.C.

The Right Hon. A. J. BALFOUR, O.M., M.P.,
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

The Right Hon. the LORD HARDINGE OF
PENSHURST, K.G., P.C., G.C.B., G.C.S.I.,
G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O., I.S.O.,
Permanent Under-Secretary of State for
Foreign Affairs.

Mr. L. OLIPHANT, C.M.G., Foreign Office.

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

Mr. J. E. SHUCKBROUGH, India Office.

Major-General SIR G. M. W. MACDONOGH,
K.C.M.G., C.B., Director of Military
Intelligence (representing the Chief of
the Imperial General Staff).

Also attended:

Mr. J. M. KEYNES, Treasury.

Lieutenant-Colonel L. STORR, Secretary.

Our Liabilities in Persia.

Payments to Firman Firma and the Kawam.

1. The Chairman said Sir C. Marling had telegraphed on the 16th June (E.C.-564) that our consul at Shiraz had received a letter from Firman Firma, making the following requests:—

- (a.) That the British Government should pay him compensation at the rate of 40,000L. a year for losses sustained owing to non-collection of revenue for the last three years from estates belonging to him and his five elder sons;
- (b.) Will guarantee them that revenue as long as troubles continue;
- (c.) Will guarantee the lives, honour, and their free enjoyment of property to himself and his family;
- (d.) That in the event of his having to flee the country, and loss of his estates, the British Government will grant him property in British territory and private income equal to that lost;
- (e.) That such increment be paid him and to his sons afterwards.

Sir C. Marling had suggested the following alternatives:—

- (1.) 15,000L. down in respect of (a);
- (2.) 3,000 tomans a month so long as he remains Governor of Fars;