



FARMĀNFARMĀ, MAḤMŪD KHAN NĀŞER-AL-MOLK

FARMĀNFARMĀ, MAḤMŪD KHAN NĀŞER-AL-MOLK (b. ca. 1244-45/1828-29, d. Tehran, 8 Rabī' II 1305/12 December 1887; E'temād-al-Salṭana, *Rūznāma-ye kāterāt*, p. 530; Bāmdād, *Rejāl* IV, p. 54), high-ranking official in the reign of Nāşer-al-Dīn Shah (1264-1313/1848-96). He was a member of the Qaragözülu tribe, which resided near Hamadān and produced many statesmen, especially in the Qajar period. Maḥmūd Khan was already a high army commander when he was appointed first deputy ambassador to Russia in 1270/1854, at about the age of twenty-five; shortly after his arrival in St. Petersburg he became chargé d'affaires. In 1271/1855, when 'Abbāsqolī Khan Sayf-al-Molk was appointed ambassador, Maḥmūd Khan returned to Persia. In 1275/1858-59 he was put in charge of the royal cavalry, armory, and ordnance and received the title *nāşer-al-molk*. The next year he became minister of commerce and state industries and a member of the government consultative assembly; at about the same time he was appointed special adviser to the shah (*Şaraf*, 15 Rabī' I 1301; E'temād-al-Salṭana, *Montaẓam-e nāşerī*, ed. Reżwānī, III, pp. 1810, 1813; Bāmdād, *Rejāl* IV, p. 54). In 1279-81/1862-64 he served as Persian minister to the Court of St. James in England (E'temād-al-Salṭana, *Montaẓam-e nāşerī*, ed. Reżwānī, III, pp. 1850, 1866). When, in 1288/1871, the shah reorganized the consultative assembly, Maḥmūd Khan was again one of its members, and in the following year he became head of the military council. At that time the new prime minister, Mīrzā Ḥosayn Khan Moşīr-al-Dawla, placed all military affairs under his charge (E'temād-al-Salṭana, *Montaẓam-e nāşerī*,



ed. Reżwānī, III, pp. 1922-23, 1934). In 1290/1873, during the shah’s first journey to Europe, Maḥmūd Khan was named commander-in-chief of the army and deputy minister of war. Two years later he was appointed governor of Gilān. He accompanied the shah on his second European journey in 1295/1878 (E’temād-al-Salṭana, *Montaẓam-e nāşerī*, ed. Reżwānī, III, pp. 1964, 1978). In 1299/1882 Maḥmūd Khan became governor of Kermānşāh and Kurdistan, wresting control of the Iraḡi border areas from Nāşer-al-Dīn Shah’s son Mas’ūd Mīrzā Żell-al-Solṭān, governor of Fārs and in control of most of southern and western Persia (E’temād-al-Salṭana, *Montaẓam-e nāşerī*, ed. Reżwānī, II, p. 201; Mardūk, p. 210).

Between 1301/1884 and 1303/1886 he served as foreign minister, then became governor of Khorasan, receiving the title Farmānfarmā, traditionally reserved for Qajar princes serving as governors of Fārs; the granting of this title to Maḥmūd Khan thus caused some discontent (Dīvānbeygī, p. 1319). After about eighteen months, however, the shah’s brother Moḥammad-Taḡī Mīrzā Rokn-al-Dawla replaced him.

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