

FOREIGN OFFICE, May 17, 1897.

The Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint—

Charles Alfred Payton, Esq., to be Her Majesty's Consul for the Department of the Nord (with the exception of the town of Dunkirk), Pas de Calais, and Somme, to reside at Calais; and

William Keene, Esq., to be Her Majesty's Consul for Piedmont, and for the Provinces of Porto Maurizio, Genoa, Massa, Piacenza, Parma, and Reggio, to reside at Genoa.

FOREIGN OFFICE, May 31, 1897.

The Queen has been pleased to approve of Mr. O. van Assche as Consul of the Netherlands at Melbourne; of Mr. Erastus Sheldon Day as Consul of the United States at Bradford; of Mr. George N. West as Consul of the United States at Pictou, Nova Scotia; of Mr. James Boyle as Consul of the United States at Liverpool; of Mr. Saxton W. A. Noble as Consul of Chili at Newcastle-on-Tyne; of Mr. John Langdon Parsons as Consul of Japan at Adelaide; of Mr. Charles Lisser as Vice-Consul of Germany at Nottingham; and of Mr. John Boyd as Vice-Consul of Germany at Limerick.

DOWNING STREET, June 15, 1897.

The Queen has been pleased to give directions for the appointment of George Leach, Esq., to be an Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council of the Gold Coast Colony.

EXPLOSIVES IN COAL MINES ORDER, 1897.

ORDER MADE BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION 6 OF THE COAL MINES REGULATION ACT, 1896.

WHEREAS by Section 6 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, it is enacted that a Secretary of State, on being satisfied that any explosive is, or is likely to become, dangerous, may by Order prohibit the use thereof in any mine or in any class of mines either absolutely or subject to conditions:

I hereby, in pursuance of the power conferred on me by the aforesaid section, make the following Order:—

Absolute Prohibition of certain Explosives in unsafe Mines.

1.—(1) In all coal mines in which inflammable gas has been found within the previous three months in such quantity as to be indicative of danger, the use of any explosive, other than a permitted explosive, as hereinafter defined, is absolutely prohibited in the seam or seams in which the gas has been found.

(2) In all coal mines which are not naturally wet throughout, the use of any explosive, other than a permitted explosive, as hereinafter defined, is absolutely prohibited in all roads, and in every dry and dusty part of the mine.

Conditional Prohibition of other Explosives in unsafe Mines.

2. In all such coal mines or parts thereof as aforesaid, the use of permitted explosives is prohibited, unless the following conditions are observed:—

- (a) Every charge of the explosive shall be placed in a properly drilled shot hole, and shall have sufficient stemming:
- (b) Every charge shall be fired by an efficient electrical apparatus, or by some other means equally secure against the ignition of coal dust:
- (c) Every charge shall be fired by a competent person appointed in writing for this duty by the owner, agent, or manager of the mine, and not being a person whose wages depend on the amount of the mineral to be gotten:
- (d) Each explosive shall be used in the manner and subject to the conditions prescribed in the Schedule hereto, or in any Schedule substituted therefor by any future Order:

Provided that nothing in this Order shall prohibit the use of a safety fuse in any mine in which inflammable gas has not been found within the previous three months in such quantity as to be indicative of danger.

Conditional Prohibition of all Explosives in Main Roads.

3. In every coal mine the use of any explosive is prohibited in the main haulage roads and in the intakes unless all workmen have been removed from the seam in which the shot is to be fired, and from all seams communicating with the shaft on the same level, except the men engaged in firing the shot, and in addition such other persons, not exceeding ten in number, as are necessarily employed in attending to the ventilating furnaces, steam boilers, engines, machinery winding apparatus, signals, or horses, or in inspecting the mine; or unless a permitted explosive is used, and every part of the roof, floor, and sides of the main haulage road or intake, within a distance of 20 yards from the place where it is used, is, at the time of firing, thoroughly wet, either naturally or from the application of water thereto.

This section shall not apply to such portions of the main haulage roads and intakes as are within 100 yards of the coal face.

This section shall not authorise the use of any explosive in any case where the use of such explosive is prohibited by Section 1 or 2 of this Order.

Application of Order.

4. This Order shall not apply to mines of clay, or stratified or nodular ironstone, nor shall it apply to shafts in course of being sunk from the surface, or deepened, or to drifts and other outlets being driven from the surface, if such shafts, drifts, or outlets are not ventilated by return air.

Where a mine contains several separate seams this Order shall apply to each seam as if it were a separate mine.