

supply, especially of the more valuable kinds of coal, will probably be available to British consumers, including the Royal Navy, at a cost which would not be detrimental to the general welfare: the possibility of a reduction in that cost, by cheaper transport, or by the avoidance of unnecessary waste in working through the adoption of better methods and improved appliances, or through a change in the customary term and provision of mineral leases; and whether the mining industry of this country, under existing conditions, is maintaining its competitive power with the coal fields of other countries.

Now know ye that We, reposing great trust and confidence in your knowledge and ability, have authorised and appointed, and do by these presents authorise and appoint, you the said William Lawrie Jackson, Sir George John Armytage, Sir William Thomas Lewis, Sir Lindsay Wood, Thomas Bell, William Brace, Arthur Currer Briggs, Harold Baily Dixon, James Stedman Dixon, Clement Le Neve Foster, Edward Hull, Charles Lapworth, Joseph Paton Maclay, Arthur Sopwith, Jethro Justinian Harris Teall, and Ralph Young to be Our Commissioners for the purposes of the said inquiry.

And for the better effecting the purposes of this Our Commission, We do by these presents give and grant unto you, or any five or more of you, full power to call before you such persons as you shall judge likely to afford you any information upon the subject of this Our Commission; and also to call for, have access to, and examine all such books, documents, registers, and records as may afford you the fullest information on the subject, and to inquire of and concerning the premises by all other lawful ways and means whatsoever.

And We do, by these presents, authorise and empower you, or any five or more of you, to visit and personally inspect such places as you may deem it expedient so to inspect for the more effectual carrying out of the purposes aforesaid, and to employ such persons as you may think fit to assist you in conducting any inquiry which you may hold.

And We do further by these presents will and ordain that this Our Commission shall continue in full force and virtue, and that you Our said Commissioners, or any five or more of you, may from time to time proceed in the execution thereof, and of every matter and thing therein contained, although the same be not continued from time to time by adjournment.

And We do further ordain that you, or any five or more of you, have liberty to report your proceedings under this Our Commission from time to time if you shall judge it expedient so to do.

And Our further will and pleasure is that you do, with as little delay as possible, report to Us under your hands and seals, or under the hands and seals of any five or more of you, your opinion upon the matters herein submitted for your consideration.

And for the purpose of aiding you in your inquiries, We hereby appoint Our trusty and well-beloved William Russell, Esquire, Barrister-at-Law, to be Secretary to this Our Commission.

Given at Our Court at Saint James', the twenty-sixth day of December, one thousand nine hundred and one in the first year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command,
CHAS. T. RITCHIE.

MASTER OF THE HORSE'S OFFICE, ROYAL MEWS,
BUCKINGHAM PALACE, December 31, 1901.

The King has been pleased to appoint The Lord Marcus Talbot De la Poer Beresford, M.V.O., to be an Extra Equerry to His Majesty, and to be Manager of His Majesty's Thoroughbred Stud.

DOWNING STREET, December 30, 1901.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Charles Stringer, Esq., to be an Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council of the Straits Settlements.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL
OF THE NAVY,

ADMIRALTY, December 30, 1901.

Notice is hereby given that the South Africa Medals and Clasps for the Officers and Men of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines who were serving on board the under-mentioned ships during the periods named below, are now ready for issue:—

"Barracouta" (first commission), from 26th September 1900 to 23rd October 1900.

"Rambler," from 5th November 1899 to 27th June 1900.

Applications should be made by letter, to be addressed "On Medal Business," to the Accountant-General of the Navy, Admiralty, London, S.W. Petty Officers, Seamen, and Marines who have left the Service are required to forward their certificates of service with their application.

COAL MINES REGULATION ACT, 1896.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department hereby gives notice that on the 17th December 1901, he made an Order under Section 6 of "The Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896" (entitled "The Explosives in Coal Mines Order of 17th December 1901"), the effect of which is to add three new Explosives, viz.:—

Clydite, Haylite No. 1, and Victorite to the list of "Permitted Explosives."

Copies of the Order may be purchased at the Sale Office for Official Publications, Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.

Whitehall, 28th December 1901.

FACTORY DEPARTMENT, HOME OFFICE,

December 27, 1901.

The Chief Inspector of Factories gives notice that, in consequence of the resignation of Dr. J. Barclay, an appointment as Certifying Surgeon, under the Factory Acts, at Banff, in the county of Banff, is vacant,