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WHITEHALL, August 22, 1906.

THE KING has been pleased to issue a Commission under His Majesty's Royal Sign Manual to the following effect:—

EDWARD, R. & I.

EDWARD THE SEVENTH, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas King, Defender of the Faith, to

Our right trusty and well-beloved Councillor Gerald William Balfour; and

Our trusty and well-beloved—

Sir Frank Forbes Adam, Knight, Companion of Our Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire;

Ivor John Caradoc Herbert, Esquire, Companion of Our Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Companion of Our Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Colonel in Our Army;

William Hannam Henderson, Esquire, Vice-Admiral in Our Royal Navy; and

Michael Andrew Ennis, Esquire; Greeting!

Whereas We have deemed it expedient that a Commission should forthwith issue to inquire into the existing system of management of the Lights, Buoys, and Beacons on the coast of the United Kingdom by the three General Lighthouse Authorities, and as to the constitution and working of these Authorities, and to report what changes, if any, are desirable in the present arrangements:

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 Gerald William Balfour (Chairman); Sir Frank Forbes Adam; Ivor John Caradoc Herbert; William Hannam Henderson; and Michael Andrew Ennis, 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 three 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 three 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 We do 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 three 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 three 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.