

Whitehall, September 20, 1886.

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

VICTORIA, R.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith:

To Our trusty and well-beloved Sir Matthew White Ridley, Baronet;

Our right trusty and right well-beloved cousin Adelbert Wellington Brownlow, Earl Brownlow;

Our right trusty and well-beloved Nathaniel Mayer, Baron Rothschild;

Our right trusty and well-beloved Ralph Robert Wheeler, Baron Lingen, Knight Commander of Our Most Honourable Order of the Bath;

Our right trusty and well-beloved Councillor, George Sclater-Booth;

Our right trusty and well-beloved Councillor, Henry Hartley Fowler;

Our trusty and well-beloved Sir Edward Cecil Guinness, Baronet;

Our trusty and well-beloved Algernon Bertram Freeman-Mitford, Esquire, Companion of Our Most Honourable Order of the Bath;

Our trusty and well-beloved John Cleghorn, Esquire;

Our trusty and well-beloved Alfred Spalding Harvey, Esquire;

Our trusty and well-beloved Charles Edward Lewis, Esquire;

Our trusty and well-beloved Arthur O'Connor, Esquire; and

Our trusty and well-beloved Peter Rylands, Esquire; Greeting!

Whereas We have deemed it expedient that a Commission should forthwith issue to inquire into the Establishments of the different Offices of State at Home and Abroad:

Now know ye, that We, reposing great trust and confidence in your knowledge and ability, have authorized and appointed, and do by these presents authorize and appoint you, the said Sir Matthew White Ridley; Adelbert Wellington Brownlow, Earl Brownlow; Nathaniel Mayer, Baron Rothschild; Ralph Robert Wheeler, Baron Lingen; George Sclater-Booth; Henry Hartley Fowler; Sir Edward Cecil Guinness; Algernon Bertram Freeman-Mitford; John Cleghorn; Alfred Spalding Harvey; Charles Edward Lewis; Arthur O'Connor; and Peter Rylands; to be Our Commissioners for the purposes of the said inquiry.

And We do hereby authorize and empower you, or any five or more of you, to inquire into the numbers, salaries, hours of labour, superannuation, cost of the staff, and the administration, regulation, and organization of the said offices.

You will state whether, in your opinion, the work of the different offices is efficiently and economically performed, whether it can be simplified, whether the method of procedure can be improved, and whether the system of control is deficient or unnecessarily elaborate.

As ten years have now elapsed since the adoption of the scheme of organization recommended by the Playfair Commission, the time has come when the working of the scheme may with advantage be reviewed. You will therefore report whether the scheme has been fairly tried, whether its provisions have met the requirements of the service and deserve confirmation, and whether any modifications are needed to give it complete development.

Lastly, you will examine the non-effective

charge of the Civil Service, and advise whether the present Pension Scales and Regulations are equitable alike to the State and to its servants.

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 further by these presents authorize and empower you, or any five or more of you, to visit and personally inspect such places in Our United Kingdom and abroad as you may deem expedient 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 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 several matters herein submitted for your consideration.

And for the purpose of aiding you in such matters, We hereby appoint Our trusty and well-beloved Horace George Walpole, Esquire, Companion of Our Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Assistant Under Secretary of State to Our Principal Secretary of State for India, to be Secretary to this Our Commission.

Given at Our Court at *Saint James's*, the twentieth day of *September*, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six, in the fiftieth year of Our reign.

By Her Majesty's command,
Henry Matthews.

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To Our right trusty and well-beloved Councillor Arthur James Balfour, Our Secretary for Scotland;

Our right trusty and well-beloved Councillor Joseph Chamberlain;

Our trusty and well-beloved Charles William Fremantle, Esquire, Companion of Our Most Honourable Order of the Bath, (commonly called the Honourable Charles William Fremantle);

Our trusty and well-beloved Sir John Lubbock, Baronet;

Our trusty and well-beloved Sir Thomas Henry Farrer, Baronet;