

Windsor Castle, May 3, 1897.

THIS day had audience of Her Majesty :—

His Excellency the Honourable John Hay, to present his Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the United States of America ;

Sir Loh Fêng Luh, K.C.V.O., to present his Letters of Credence as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from His Majesty the Emperor of China ; and

Monsieur de Soveral, to present Monsieur Arouca's Letters of Recall and his own Credentials as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from His Majesty the King of Portugal.

Whitehall, May 5, 1897.

THE Queen has been pleased to direct Letters Patent to be passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, presenting the Reverend Jackson Taylor, M.A., to the Prebend in the Cathedral Church of Saint David's, void by the death of the Reverend Prebendary Herbert Williams, M.A.

Whitehall, May 5, 1897.

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 right trusty and well-beloved Cousin and Councillor Henry, Viscount Llandaff ;

Our right trusty and well-beloved Councillor John William Mellor, one of Our Counsel learned in the Law ;

Our trusty and well-beloved Sir John Edward Dorington, Baronet ;

Our trusty and well-beloved Sir George Barclay Bruce, Knight ;

Our trusty and well-beloved Alfred De Bock Porter, Esquire, Companion of Our Most Honourable Order of the Bath ;

Our trusty and well-beloved Alexander de Courcy Scott, Esquire, Major-General on the Retired List of Our Army ;

Our trusty and well-beloved Henry William Cripps, Esquire, one of Our Counsel learned in the Law ; and

Our trusty and well-beloved Robert Lewis, Esquire ; Greeting !

Whereas We have deemed it expedient that a Commission should forthwith issue to inquire—

(1.) Whether having regard to financial considerations and to present and prospective requirements as regards Water Supply in the Districts within the limits of supply of the Metropolitan Water Companies, it is desirable in the interests of the ratepayers and water consumers in those Districts that the Undertakings of the Water Companies should be acquired and managed either—

(a.) by one authority ; or

(b.) by several authorities ; and if so, what should be such authority or authorities.

To what extent physical severance of the works and other property and sources of supply of the several Companies, and the division thereof between different local authorities within the limits of supply, are practicable and desirable ; and what are the legal powers necessary to give effect to any such arrangements.

(2.) If the Undertakings are not so acquired, whether additional powers of control should be exercised by local or other authorities ; and, if so, what those powers should be.

(3.) Whether it is practicable to connect any two or more of the different systems of supply now administered by the eight Metropolitan Companies ; and, if so, by whom, and in what proportion should the cost of connecting them be borne, and what are the legal powers necessary to give effect to any such arrangement.

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 Henry, Viscount Llandaff ; John William Mellor ; Sir John Edward Dorington ; Sir George Barclay Bruce ; Alfred De Bock Porter ; Alexander de Courcy Scott ; Henry William Cripps ; and Robert Lewis ; 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 the subject ; and to inquire of and concerning the premises by all other lawful ways and means whatsoever.

And We do by these Presents authorize 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.

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 three or more of you, your opinion upon the matters herein submitted for your consideration.

Given at Our Court at *Saint James's*, the first day of *May*, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven, in the sixtieth year of Our reign.

By Her Majesty's Command,
M. W. Ridley,

Education Department, Whitehall,
May 6, 1897.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION ACTS,
1870-1893.

THE Lords of the Committee of the Privy Council on Education have issued an order this day, under Section 63 of the Elementary Education Act, 1870, for the election of a School Board, in the undermentioned Parish :—

Margam Glamorgan