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*Downing Street,
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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, Emperor of India: To Our Right Trusty and Well-beloved Councillor Richard Everard, Baron Alverstone, Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Lord Chief Justice of England; Our Trusty and Well-beloved Sir John Charles Bigham, Knight, one of the Justices of Our High Court of Justice; Our Trusty and Well-beloved Sir John Charles Ardagh, Knight Commander of Our Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, Companion of Our Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Major-General of Our Forces, Greeting:

Whereas in consequence of the war declared by the late Governments of the South African Republic and Orange Free State against Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, it became necessary to proclaim martial law in Our Colonies and Protectorates in South Africa;

And whereas certain persons have been by Military Courts established under martial law in the said Colonies and Protectorates sentenced to terms of penal servitude and of imprisonment and to the payment of fines, and are now undergoing the said sentences and have not paid but are liable to pay the said fines;

And whereas the aforesaid war having now ceased, it is expedient that inquiry should be made with regard to the aforesaid sentences with a view to ascertaining whether We might properly and without danger to the public safety of Our

said Colonies and Protectorates extend Our grace and mercy to any of such persons, and whether such sentences and any and which of them might properly be by Us remitted or reduced:

Now know ye that We, considering the premises and reposing great trust and confidence in your fidelity, discretion, and integrity, do authorize and appoint you the said Richard Everard, Baron Alverstone, Sir John Charles Bigham, and Sir John Charles Ardagh to be Our Commissioners to inquire into the said sentences imposed by Military Courts established under Martial Law in Our said Colonies and Protectorates, and, with as little delay as possible, to report to Us in writing under your hands and seals respectively whether in the case of the said persons and of each of them respectively who shall be at the date of your report then undergoing any such sentences or who shall not have paid but shall then be liable to pay any such fines, it is expedient, having regard to all the circumstances relating thereto, that such sentences or fines should be remitted or reduced.

And We do by these presents give and grant unto you for the purposes of such inquiry and report full powers to examine all the proceedings, depositions, and other documents in the several cases in which such sentences were pronounced, and, if you shall think it desirable, to call for, have access to, and examine all such other books, papers, documents, registers, and records as may afford you the fullest information on the subject, and at your discretion in any special case in which you may deem it necessary, to call before you such persons as you shall judge likely to be able to afford you any information upon the subject of this Our Commission, and to inquire of and concerning the premises by all other lawful ways and means whatsoever, and to employ such persons as you may think fit to assist you in carrying out any inquiry which you may consider necessary.