

At the Court at *Buckingham Palace*, the 20th day of *December*, 1938.

PRESENT,

The KING's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England have, in pursuance of the Union of Benefices Measures, 1923 to 1936, duly prepared, and laid before His Majesty in Council, a Scheme bearing date the 13th day of October, 1938, in the words and figures following, that is to say:—

“ We, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, acting in pursuance of the Union of Benefices Measures, 1923 to 1936, have prepared, and now humbly lay before Your Majesty in Council, the following Scheme for altering the boundaries of the Parish of Meppershall and of the Parish of Shefford, both in the County of Bedford and in the Diocese of Saint Albans:

“ Whereas it has been represented to us, the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and it appears to us to be desirable that the boundaries of the said Parishes should be altered in the manner which is hereinafter mentioned:

“ And whereas the Benefices of Meppershall and Shefford are now full, the Reverend Selwyn Edward Sears being the present Incumbent of the Benefice of Meppershall and the Reverend Eric Charles Whitworth being the present Incumbent of the Benefice of Shefford, and such Incumbents have signified their consents to the proposals hereinafter mentioned by signing this Scheme:

“ And whereas the Diocesan Committee of the Diocese of Saint Albans appointed pursuant to the first section of the Union of Benefices Measure, 1923, have by a Resolution passed at a meeting of the said Diocesan Committee held on the 13th day of October, 1937, signified their consent to the alterations of boundaries herein proposed:

“ Now, therefore, with the consent of the Right Reverend Michael, Bishop of Saint Albans (in testimony whereof he has signed this Scheme), we, the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, humbly recommend and propose that from and after the date of the date of the publication in the London Gazette of any Order of Your Majesty in Council ratifying this Scheme and without any assurance in the law other than such duly gazetted Order the boundaries of the said Parish of Meppershall and of the said Parish of Shefford shall be altered so that all that portion of the said Parish of Meppershall which is described in the Schedule hereunder written and is delineated and set forth upon the map or plan hereunto annexed and is thereon coloured pink shall be annexed to and shall in future form part of the said Parish of Shefford.

“ And we further recommend and propose that nothing herein contained shall prevent us from making any other recommendations and proposals relating to the matters aforesaid, or any of them, in accordance with the provisions of the said Measures, or of any other Measure of the National Assembly of the Church of England, or of any Act of Parliament.

“ THE SCHEDULE to which the foregoing Scheme has reference.

“ The territory to be dis severed from the Parish of Meppershall, in the County of Bedford and in the Diocese of Saint Albans, and to be annexed to the Parish of Shefford, in the same County and Diocese, being:—

“ All that portion of the said Parish of Meppershall which is bounded upon the north-west and upon the north-east by the said Parish of Shefford, and upon the remaining sides, that is to say, upon the south and upon the south-west, by an imaginary line commencing upon the boundary which divides the said Parish of Shefford from the said Parish of Meppershall at the point where the boundary of the Civil Parish of Shefford diverges westward from following the middle of Hitchin Road, and extending thence first westward, then north-westward and then south-westward along such Civil Parish boundary for a distance of 46 chains or thereabouts, to the boundary which divides the said Parish of Meppershall from the said Parish of Shefford.”

And whereas drafts of the said Scheme have been duly published in accordance with the provisions of the Union of Benefices Measure, 1923, and Notices have been transmitted to the persons or bodies entitled under the same Measure to receive Notice requiring any objections to such draft Scheme to be stated or transmitted in writing to the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners within the time prescribed in the Statutory Rules applicable to proceedings under the said Union of Benefices Measure, 1923:

And whereas an objection has been so stated or transmitted to the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners:

And whereas the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners after giving full consideration to such objection have deemed right to make no alterations in such draft Scheme:

And whereas public notice of the certification to His Majesty in Council of the said Scheme and the consent thereto in writing of the Bishop of Saint Albans have been duly given in the manner and within the time prescribed in the Statutory Rules aforesaid:

And whereas no appeal has been made to His Majesty in Council within the period of one month after the date of the said public notice in accordance with the provisions of the said Measure against the said Scheme or any part thereof by the person who has made objection as aforesaid to the said draft Scheme:

And whereas the said Scheme has been approved by His Majesty in Council:

Now, therefore, His Majesty, by and with the advice of His said Council, is pleased hereby to affirm the said Scheme and to order and direct that the said Scheme and every part thereof shall be effectual in law immediately from and after the date when this Order shall have been duly published in the London Gazette pursuant to the said Measure.

And His Majesty, by and with the like advice, is pleased hereby to direct that this Order be forthwith registered by the Registrar of the said Diocese of Saint Albans.

*Rupert B. Howorth.*