

Our trusty and well-beloved—

Sir Edward Walter Hamilton, Knight Commander of Our Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Assistant Secretary to the Commissioners of Our Treasury for Great Britain and Ireland;

Sir Alfred Milner, Knight Commander of Our Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Chairman of the Commissioners of Our Inland Revenue;

Cornelius Neale Dalton, Esquire, Companion of Our Most Honourable Order of the Bath, one of the Assistant Secretaries to the Local Government Board;

Charles Alfred Cripps, Esquire, one of Our Counsel learned in the Law;

Harcourt Everard Clare, Esquire, Town Clerk of Our city of Liverpool;

Thomas Henry Elliott, Esquire, Secretary to the Board of Agriculture;

Arthur O'Connor, Esquire;

Edward Orford Smith, Esquire, Town Clerk of Our city of Birmingham;

James Stuart, Esquire, and

John Lloyd Wharton, Esquire: Greeting!

Whereas We have deemed it expedient that a Commission should forthwith issue to inquire into the present system under which taxation is raised for local purposes, and report whether all kinds of real and personal property contribute equitably to such taxation, and if not, what alterations in the law are desirable in order to secure that result:

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 Alexander Hugh, Baron Balfour of Burleigh, Frederick Archibald Vaughan Campbell (commonly called Viscount Emlyn), John Blair Balfour, Sir John Tomlinson Hibbert, Charles Beilby Stuart-Wortley, Sir Edward Walter Hamilton, Sir Alfred Milner, Cornelius Neale Dalton, Charles Alfred Cripps, Harcourt Everard Clare, Thomas Henry Elliott, Arthur O'Connor, Edward Orford Smith, James Stuart, and John Lloyd Wharton, 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 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 by these Presents authorize and empower you, or any five 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 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 matters herein submitted for your consideration.

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

By Her Majesty's Command,

*Lansdowne.*

*Westminster, August 14, 1896.*

THIS day the Lords being met a message was sent to the Honourable House of Commons by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, acquainting them, that *The Lords authorized by virtue of a Commission under the Great Seal, signed by Her Majesty, for declaring Her Royal Assent to several Acts agreed upon by both Houses, do desire the immediate attendance of the Honourable House in the House of Peers to hear the Commission read;* and the Commons being come thither, the said Commission, empowering the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, and several other Lords therein named, to declare and notify the Royal Assent to the said Acts, was read accordingly, and the Royal Assent given to

Appropriation Act, 1896.

Telegraph (Money) Act, 1896.

Judicial Trustees Act, 1896.

Railways (Ireland) Act, 1896.

Royal Naval Reserve Volunteer Act, 1896.

Locomotives on Highways Act, 1896.

Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896.

Truck Act, 1896.

Stannaries Court (Abolition) Act, 1896.

Larceny Act, 1896.

Uganda Railway Act, 1896.

Expiring Laws Continuance Act, 1896.

Public Works Loans Act, 1896.

Local Taxation (Ireland) Estate Duty Act, 1896.

West Highland Railway Guarantee Act 1896.

Agricultural Rates, Congested Districts, and Burgh Land Tax Relief (Scotland) Act, 1896.

Labourers (Ireland) Act, 1896.

Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1896.

Light Railways Act, 1896.

Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1896.

Burglary Act, 1896.

Wild Birds Protection Act, 1896.

Vexatious Actions Act, 1896.

Quarter Sessions (London) Act, 1896.

Baths and Wash-houses Act, 1896.

Law Agents (Scotland) Act Amendment Act, 1896.

Poor Law Officers Superannuation Act, 1896.

Local Government Board (Ireland) Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 1) Act, 1896.

Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 13) Act, 1896.

Local Government Board's Provisional Order Confirmation (No. 15) Act, 1896.

Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (Housing of Working Classes) Act, 1896.

Bilston Improvement Act, 1896.

Invergarry and Fort Augustus Railway Act, 1896.

Staines Reservoirs, &c., Act, 1896.

Birmingham, North Warwickshire, and Stratford-upon-Avon Railway Act, 1896.