

prevalence of the latter in some foreign countries, and its occasional re-appearance in this, will still render necessary some special measures of precaution; and I trust that the visitation of the former will lead to increased attention to those sanitary measures which experience has shown to be the best preventive.

Estimating as of the highest importance an adequate supply of pure and wholesome water, I have directed the issue of a commission to inquire into the best means of permanently securing such a supply for the Metropolis, and for the principal towns in densely-peopled districts of the kingdom.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons,*

I have directed the estimates for the ensuing year to be laid before you. They have been prepared with a due regard to economy, and to the requirements of the public service.

You will, I am assured, give your ready assent to a moderate expenditure calculated to improve the condition of my soldiers, and to lay the foundation of an efficient army of reserve.

*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

Your attention will again be called to the state of the representation of the people in Parliament, and I trust that your deliberations, conducted in a spirit of moderation and mutual forbearance, may lead to the adoption of measures which, without unduly disturbing the balance of political power, shall freely extend the elective franchise.

The frequent occurrence of disagreements between employers of labour and their workmen, causing much private suffering and public loss, and occasionally leading, as is alleged, to acts of outrage and violence, has induced me to issue a commission to inquire into, and report upon, the organisation of trades' unions, and other associations, whether of workmen or employers, with power to suggest any improvement of the law for their mutual benefit. Application will be made to you for Parliamentary powers, which will be necessary to make this inquiry effective.

I have directed Bills to be laid before you for the extension of the beneficial provisions of the Factory Acts to other trades specially reported on by the Royal Commission on the employment of children; and for the better regulation, according to the principle of those Acts, of workshops where women and children are largely employed.

The condition of the mercantile marine has attracted my serious attention. Complaints are made that the supply of seamen is deficient; and the provisions for their health and discipline on board ship are imperfect. Measures will be submitted to you with a view to increase the efficiency of this important service.

I have observed with satisfaction the relaxations recently introduced into the Navigation Laws of France. I have expressed to the Emperor of the French my readiness to submit to Parliament a proposal for the extinction, on equitable terms, of the exemptions from local charges on shipping, which are still enjoyed by a limited number of individuals in British ports; and His Imperial Majesty has, in anticipation of this step, already admitted British ships to the advantage of the new law. A Bill upon this subject will forthwith be laid before you.

A Bill will also be submitted to you for making better provision for the arrangement of the affairs of Railway Companies which are unable to meet their engagements.

Measures will be submitted to you for improving the management of Sick and other Poor in the

metropolis, and for a redistribution of some of the charges for relief therein.

Your attention will also be called to the amendment of the Law of Bankruptcy; to the consolidation of the Courts of Probate and Divorce and Admiralty; and to the means of disposing, with greater dispatch and frequency, of the increasing business in the Superior Courts of Common Law, and at the Assizes.

The relations between landlord and tenant in Ireland have engaged my anxious attention, and a Bill will be laid before you which, without interfering with the rights of property, will offer direct encouragement to occupiers of land to improve their holdings, and provide a simple mode of obtaining compensation for permanent improvements.

I commend to your careful consideration these and other measures which will be brought before you; and I pray that your labours may, under the blessing of Providence, conduce to the prosperity of the country and the happiness of my people.

ERRATUM.

In list of Sheriffs published in Gazette Supplement, February 2, and in Gazette, February 5, 1867, for

<i>Glouces'ershire,</i>	Edward Sampson, of Hembury, near Bristol, Esq., <i>read</i>
<i>Gloucestershire,</i>	Edward Sampson, of Henbury, near Bristol, Esq.

AT the Council Chamber, Whitehall, the 1st day of February, 1867.

By the Lords of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council.

PRESENT,

Lord President.  
Mr. Corry.

WHEREAS by an Order bearing date the 25th day of October last, reciting certain provisions of the statute of the session, held in the eleventh and twelfth years of Her Majesty's reign, chapter one hundred and seven, and that a contagious or infectious disorder, known or described as the Sheep-pox or Variola Ovina, then prevailed among the sheep in a certain part of the kingdom, thereinafter described, and that it was expedient to take measures for preventing such disorder from spreading, the Lords of the Council did make certain Orders and regulations to prohibit the removal of sheep or lambs to or from the farm and premises in the occupation of William Matson, senior, situate to the south of the River Colne, and in the parish of St. Osyth, in the county of Essex, and the driving and conducting any sheep or lambs through, or by way of such parish. And they did further order that the said Order should continue in force until revoked by the Lords of the Privy Council; and whereas it is no longer necessary that the whole of this Order should continue in force:

Now, therefore, the Lords of the Council do hereby from and after this first day of February, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven;