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FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 1906.

*Whitehall, March 5, 1906.*

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, to

Our right trusty and well-beloved Councillors—  
Ughtred James, Baron Shuttleworth;  
Lloyd, Baron Kenyon;

Thomas, Baron Brassey, Knight Commander of  
Our Most Honourable Order of the Bath;

Thomas Cecil, Baron Farrer; and  
Sir John Edward Dorington, Baronet; and

Our trusty and well-beloved—  
Sir John Tomlinson Brunner, Baronet;

Sir Francis John Stephens Hopwood, Knight  
Commander of Our Most Honourable Order of  
the Bath, Companion of Our Most Distinguished  
Order of Saint Michael and Saint  
George, Permanent Secretary to the Board of  
Trade;

William John Crossley, Esquire;

Russell Rea, Esquire;

James Farquharson Remnant, Esquire;

Philip Snowden, Esquire;

Henry Vivian, Esquire;

Laurence Ambrose Waldron, Esquire;

Robert Cope Hardy Davison, Esquire;

John Purser Griffith, Esquire;

Andrew John Herbertson, Esquire, Master of  
Arts;

James Charles Inglis, Esquire;

Henry Fison Killick, Esquire; and  
John Wilson, Esquire, of Airdrie; Greeting!

Whereas We have deemed it expedient that a  
Commission should forthwith issue to enquire  
into the Canals and Inland Navigations of the  
United Kingdom, and to report on:—

(1) Their present condition and financial  
position;

(2) The causes which have operated to prevent the carrying out of improvements by private enterprise, and whether such causes are removable by legislation;

(3) Facilities, improvements, and extensions desirable in order to complete a system of through communication by water between centres of commercial, industrial, or agricultural importance, and between such centres and the sea;

(4) The prospect of benefit to the trade of the country compatible with a reasonable return on the probable cost; and

(5) The expediency of canals being made or acquired by public bodies or trusts, and the methods by which funds for the purpose could be obtained and secured; and what should be the system of control and management of such bodies or trusts:

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 Ughtred James, Baron Shuttleworth (Chairman); Lloyd, Baron Kenyon; Thomas, Baron Brassey; Thomas Cecil, Baron Farrer; Sir John Edward Dorington; Sir John Tomlinson Brunner; Sir Francis John Stephens Hopwood; William John Crossley; Russell Rea; James Farquharson Remnant; Philip Snowden; Henry Vivian; Laurence Ambrose Waldron; Robert Cope Hardy Davison; John Purser Griffith; Andrew John Herbertson; James Charles Inglis; Henry Fison Killick, and John Wilson, to be Our Commissioners for the purposes of the said enquiry.

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