

appoint you, the said Arthur Cohen (Chairman); James Cleland, Baron Inverclyde; Charles Napier Lawrence; Sir Hugh Bell; Sir William Thomas Lewis; Sir David Miller Barbour; Sir Alfred Edmund Bateman; Sir John Macdonell; Robert Henry Muirhead Collins; Henry Birch-enough; William Pember Reeves; John Barry; Edward Carter Kersey Gonner; Fred Maddison; Isaac Hendry Mathers; William Henry Mitchell; Owen Cosby Philipps; Oswald Sanderson, and Austin Taylor to be Our Commissioners to inquire into the operation of Shipping "Rings" or Conferences generally, and more especially into the system of deferred rebates, and to report whether such operations have caused, or are likely to cause injury to British or Colonial trade, and, if so, what remedial action, if any, should be taken by legislation or otherwise.

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.

Provided that should you deem it expedient, in the execution of this Our Commission, to visit places outside Our United Kingdom, then the powers and privileges hereby conferred on any five or more of you shall belong to, and be exercised by, any two or more of you.

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.

And for the purpose of aiding you in your inquiries We hereby appoint Our trusty and well-beloved James Alexander Webster, Esquire, of the Board of Trade, to be Secretary to this Our Commission.

Given at Our Court at Windsor, the twenty-second day of June, one thousand nine hundred and seven, in the seventh year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command.

H. J. Gladstone.

Downing Street, 24 June, 1907.

The following summary account relating to the operations in connection with the native disturbances in Natal last year, which formed the subject of despatches already presented to Parliament (cd.2905,3027,3247), has been received from the Governor of Natal by the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

Government House, Pietermaritzburg,
Natal, 4th May, 1907.

MY LORD,

Whilst the native rebellion was in progress last year I sent a despatch to Your Lordship every week narrating in detail the different events which had occurred and which I considered would be of interest to His Majesty's Government. These are to be found in the pages of the different Blue Books which have been laid before Parliament at Westminster.

Its outbreak was premature. A party of Natal Police was attacked at Byrnetown, near Richmond, by a body of "amakolwa," or Christianised natives, belonging to Mveli's tribe, a Sub-Inspector and a trooper being killed. Rumours had for some time been current that a general rebellion of natives was in contemplation. My Ministers therefore determined to make a demonstration in force in order to show the malcontents that the Government were ready to suppress any insurrection by force of arms. A column was mobilized consisting of the Natal Carabineers, two sections of the Natal Field Artillery, a company of the Natal Royal Regiment, and half the Border Mounted Rifles, under the command of Colonel Duncan McKenzie, C.B., C.M.G., V.D., and Martial Law was proclaimed throughout the Colony.

The demonstration had the desired effect. Tribes which had armed and were defiant to the magistrates were cowed by the presence of the Colonial troops, who marched through very difficult country to the coast, punishing tribes who had defied the law and imposing fines of cattle. These operations under Colonel McKenzie lasted seven weeks, and orders were then given for the demobilization of the column.

The anticipations which had been formed that the rebellion had been quelled were unfortunately not realised.

It was, therefore, determined to mobilize practically the whole of the active Colonial forces and also to call out the Reserves to maintain order and quiet in districts which were still removed from the actual scenes of the outbreaks. In all some 7,000 men were called out, and although civil business was by this proceeding much hampered, the difficulties were cheerfully faced, as it was considered that under the conditions upon which Responsible Government had been given to the Colony, it was their duty to do everything in their power to cope with this rebellion without the intervention and assistance of Imperial troops.

In a true South African spirit which has been gratefully acknowledged by the Colony, help was given to us by the Government of the Transvaal, who sent to our assistance two separate contingents—the Transvaal Mounted Rifles, 450 strong, under Colonel Barker, and the Lancashire and Yorkshire contingent raised by Mr. Abe Bailey for the purpose.

The Cape Government also furnished much-needed assistance by providing a maxim detachment of the Cape Mounted Rifles.

A supply of Rexer guns was also purchased in England by friends of the Colony and sent out with equipment complete under the direction of Major-General Sir John Dartnell, K.C.B., C.M.G.,