

At the Court at *Buckingham Palace*, the 1st day of *February*, 1926.

PRESENT,

The KING's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England have, in pursuance of the Union of Benefices Measure, 1923, duly prepared, and laid before His Majesty in Council, a Scheme bearing date the 26th day of November, 1925, in the words and figures following, that is to say:—

“ We, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, acting in pursuance of the Union of Benefices Measure, 1923, have prepared, and now humbly lay before Your Majesty in Council, the following Scheme for effecting the union of the Benefice (being a Rectory) of Great Bircham and the Benefice (being an United Benefice) of Bircham Newton with Bircham Tofts, both of which Benefices are situate in the County of Norfolk and in the Diocese of Norwich:

“ Whereas Commissioners appointed at our request by the Right Reverend Bertram, Bishop of Norwich, pursuant to the provisions of the said Union of Benefices Measure, 1923, to inquire into and report upon the union of the said two Benefices of Great Bircham and Bircham Newton with Bircham Tofts duly made their Report to the said Bishop of Norwich and therein recommended the union of the said two Benefices and the terms for effecting the union, and the said Bishop of Norwich signified in writing his approval of the said Report:

“ And whereas we, the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, have prepared this Scheme for the union of the said two Benefices based upon the terms recommended in the said Report:

“ And whereas both of the said Benefices of Great Bircham and Bircham Newton with Bircham Tofts are now full, the Reverend John Henderson being the present Incumbent of the said Benefice of Great Bircham and the Reverend Sidney Alfred Norris Huntley being the present Incumbent of the said Benefice of Bircham Newton with Bircham Tofts:

“ Now, therefore, we, the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, with the consent of the said Bertram, Bishop of Norwich (in testimony whereof he has signed this Scheme) do humbly recommend and propose to Your Majesty as follows, that is to say:—

“ 1. That the said Benefice of Great Bircham and the said Benefice of Bircham Newton with Bircham Tofts shall be permanently united together and form one Benefice with cure of souls under the style of ‘ The United Benefice of Great Bircham with Bircham Newton and Bircham Tofts ’ and that the Parishes of the said Benefices that is to say the ecclesiastical Parishes of Great Bircham, Bircham Newton and Bircham Tofts shall also be united into one Parish for ecclesiastical purposes and for such other purposes as in the said Measure provided.

“ 2. That the Church of the Parish of Great Bircham shall be the Parish Church of the United Parish and that the Table of Fees for the said Parish of Great Bircham shall

(until revised or altered by proper authority) be the Table of Fees for the United Parish.

“ 3. That if upon the day when any Order of Your Majesty in Council ratifying this Scheme shall be published in the London Gazette both of the said two Benefices shall be vacant the union of the same two Benefices shall take effect forthwith; and if one only of the said two Benefices shall be then vacant the said union shall take effect upon the next avoidance of the other of the said two Benefices; and if neither of the said two Benefices be then vacant the said union shall take effect upon the next avoidance of that one of the said two Benefices which shall last be avoided after the date of the publication in the London Gazette of any Order of Your Majesty in Council ratifying this Scheme.

“ 4. That upon the union taking effect the marriage registers in duplicate current at the Churches of Bircham Newton and Bircham Tofts shall be sent by the Incumbent of the United Benefice to the Registrar General to be closed officially.

“ 5. That upon the said union taking effect the Parsonage House at present belonging to the said Benefice of Great Bircham shall become and be the house of residence for the Incumbent of the United Benefice and so soon as conveniently may be the Parsonage House at present belonging to the said Benefice of Bircham Newton with Bircham Tofts and the site and appurtenances thereof and the grounds heretofore usually occupied and enjoyed therewith shall be sold and disposed of by us the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners at such time or times and in such manner in all respects as to us shall seem expedient and that the net proceeds of such sale shall be applied by us the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners towards the cost of improving or rebuilding the Parsonage House at present belonging to the said Benefice of Great Bircham and intended to become the Parsonage House for the Incumbent of the United Benefice or towards the cost of the provision of a new Parsonage House for the United Benefice.

“ 6. That after the said union has taken effect the course and succession in which the respective Patrons shall present or nominate to the United Benefice from time to time as the same shall become vacant shall be as follows, that is to say, the right of presentation shall be exercised by the Patrons of the said two Benefices of Great Bircham and Bircham Newton with Bircham Tofts alternately and that the first turn of presentation or nomination to be made to the United Benefice after the Union shall belong to the Patron or Patrons of that one of the said two Benefices an Incumbent of which does not become the first Incumbent of the United Benefice under any of the provisions of Clause 3 of this Scheme.

“ 7. That upon the union taking effect all the Tithe Rent charges, Glebe lands and all other the endowments belonging to the United Benefice or which may hereafter belong thereto shall be charged and for ever after be chargeable in favour of each of the Incumbents for the time being of the two Benefices of Horsey and Coston with Runhall both in the said Diocese of Norwich with a clear annual sum or yearly rent charge equivalent in