

intituled "An Act respecting inquiries concerning public matters," and by and with the like advice confer upon you as such Commissioner the power of summoning before you any witnesses, and of requiring them to produce such documents and things as you, Our said Commissioner, shall deem requisite to the full investigation of the matters into which you are hereby appointed to examine.

To have, hold, exercise and enjoy the said office, place and trust unto you, the said Alexander Whyte Wright, together with the rights, powers, privileges and emoluments unto the said office, place and trust of right and by law appertaining during pleasure.

And we do hereby require and direct you to report to our Secretary of State of Canada the result of your investigations, together with the evidence taken before you and any opinion or remarks you may see fit to make thereon.

In Testimony whereof we have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent, and the Great Seal of Canada to be hereunto affixed. Witness the Honourable Sir Henry Strong, Knight, Deputy of our Right Trusty and Right Well beloved Cousin and Councillor the Right Honourable Sir John Campbell Hamilton Gordon, Earl of Aberdeen, Viscount Formartine, Baron Haddo, Methlie, Traves and Kellie, in the Peerage of Scotland, Viscount Gordon of Aberdeen, County of Aberdeen, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom, Baronet of Nova Scotia, Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, etc., etc., Governor General of Canada.

At Our Government House, in Our City of Ottawa, this Twenty-ninth day of October, in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, and in the Fifty-ninth year of Our Reign.

By Command.

L. A. CATELLIER,

Under Secretary of State.

E. L. NEWCOMBE,

Deputy Minister of Justice.

To the Honourable Sir CHARLES TUPPER, Bart., G.C.M.G., C.B.,
Secretary of State.

SIR,—As commanded in the Commission under the Great Seal, bearing date the 29th day of October last past, appointing me a Commissioner "to inquire whether, and if so, to what extent the sweating system is practised in the various industrial centres of the Dominion, and at the same time to procure information respecting the kindred question of wages and other matters affecting the employment and conditions of life and labour among the industrial classes" I beg leave to submit to you my report.

Inasmuch as the time allowed me for the completion of my investigation, as stated in the letter from your department which accompanied my commission, was limited to ninety days, I deemed it inadvisable either to attempt to make an exhaustive investigation of all shops and other places which might be considered as being embraced within the scope of my inquiry, or to endeavour to ascertain, except in a general way, the rates of wages paid. Even had my time been unlimited, it is doubtful whether detailed and accurate statistical information, of the kind last referred to, could be obtained by a temporary commission. Information concerning the wages paid and the conditions of labour found to obtain in a few establishments could not be depended upon to indicate, with any degree of accuracy, what the general conditions or wages might be. The publication of incomplete information might result in serious wrong either to those whose establishments were reported upon or to their competitors in business. I visited large numbers of factories, workshops and dwellings in which work was being carried on, conversing both with employers and employees, but though I gathered, in this way,