

report upon the operation of the then existing Civil Service Act and kindred legislation with a view to proposing such changes as might be deemed advisable in the best interests of efficiency in the public service.

"The Minister further observes that from the report of the Commissioners then appointed it appears that their inquiry extended to only a few of the departments and that in no case does it appear to have been complete.

"The Minister remarks that it is desirable to take any action which may aid in securing increased efficiency and more thorough organization and co-operation of the various departments of the Government and that to this end it is important to make such enquiry and to obtain such information as will enable any existing defects or abuses to be remedied, secure the adoption of more efficient methods, remedy any existing abuses and more thoroughly safe guarding the public interest.

"The Minister considers it advisable, therefore, to continue and enlarge the inquiry which was commenced under the Order-in-Council of May 8th, 1907, and in that connection to give to the Commissioners such enlarged powers as may be necessary for the purposes above set forth.

"The Minister, therefore, recommends that commissioners be appointed to investigate and to inquire into and concerning all matters connected with or affecting the administration of the various departments of the Government and the conduct of the public business therein and especially (but without restricting the generality of the foregoing) the following matters:—

"1. The methods employed in the transaction of public business.

"2. The control of appropriations and expenditure.

"3. The construction and, maintenance of public works and the carrying on of dredging operations.

"4. The administrative methods and operations of the chief spending departments.

"5. The administration and alienation of the public domain.

"6. The discipline and efficiency of the departmental staffs.

"7. The duplication of the same or similar work in two or more departments.

"8. Any other matters embraced in the scope of the Order-in-Council of 8th May, 1907, or mentioned in the report of the Commissioners thereby appointed.

"The Minister further recommends that such inquiry should extend and relate to such period or periods of time preceding the date of the commissioners' report as in the opinion of the commissioners should be the subject of investigation and inquiry having regard to the public interest and to the facts and circumstances of any particular inquiry.

"The Minister also recommends that for the purposes aforesaid the Commissioners be empowered to appoint a secretary and to engage the services of such expert accountants, engineers, technical advisers, or other experts, clerks, stenographers and assistants, as they may deem necessary or advisable; that the Commissioners be also authorized to retain the services of counsel to aid and assist the Commission in the inquiry; that the Commissioners be required to report to His Royal Highness in Council the evidence taken upon the said inquiry together with the findings of the Commissioners, and moreover that such reports shall, if deemed expedient by the Commissioners, or if required by His Royal Highness in Council, be made from time to time with respect to each department or branch thereof, as the inquiry proceeds;

"That the Commissioners be requested to proceed with the inquiry as rapidly as possible;

"That the Commissioners be appointed under the provisions of the