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OPIUM COMMISSION.

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FIRST REPORT

OF THE

ROYAL COMMISSION ON OPIUM;

WITH

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE AND APPENDICES.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



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## ROYAL COMMISSION ON OPIUM.

### VICTORIA, R.L.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith, Empress of India, &c., to—

Our right trusty and well-beloved Thomas, Baron Brassey, Knight Commander of Our Most Honourable Order of the Bath;

Our trusty and well-beloved Sir James Broadwood Lyall, Knight Grand Commander of Our Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, Knight Commander of Our Most Exalted Order of the Star of India;

Our trusty and well-beloved Sir Lakshmiswar Singh, Bahadur, Maharajah of Darbhanga, Knight Commander of our Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire;

Our trusty and well-beloved Sir William Roberts, Knight, Doctor of Medicine;

Our trusty and well-beloved Robert Gray Cornish Mowbray, Esquire, Master of Arts, Representative in Parliament for the Prestwich Division of the County of Lancaster;

Our trusty and well-beloved Arthur Upton Fanshawe, Esquire, Director-General of the Post Office of India;

Our trusty and well-beloved Arthur Pease, Esquire;

Our trusty and well-beloved Haridas Viharidas, Esquire, late Dewan of Junargarh;

and

Our trusty and well-beloved Henry Joseph Wilson, Esquire, Representative in Parliament for the Holmfirth Division of the West Riding of the County of York;

Greeting!

Whereas an humble Address has been presented unto Us by the Knights, Citizens, Burgesses, and Commissioners of Shires and Burghs in Parliament assembled, praying that We will be graciously pleased to appoint a Royal Commission to report as to—

1. Whether the growth of the poppy and manufacture and sale of Opium in British India should be prohibited except for medical purposes, and whether such prohibition could be extended to the Native States:

2. The nature of the existing arrangements with the Native States in respect of the transit of Opium through British territory, and on what terms, if any, these arrangements could be with justice terminated:

3. The effect on the finances of India of the prohibition of the sale and export of Opium, taking into consideration (a) the amount of compensation payable (b) the cost of the necessary preventive measures; (c) the loss of revenue:

4. Whether any change short of total prohibition should be made in the system at present followed for regulating and restricting the Opium Traffic and for raising a revenue therefrom:

5. The consumption of Opium by the different races and in the different districts in India and the effect of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people:

6. The disposition of the people of India in regard to (a) the use of Opium for non-medical purposes; (b) their willingness to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures:—

with the prayer of which Address We are graciously pleased to comply:

Now know ye, that We, reposing great trust and confidence in your knowledge and ability, have authorised and appointed, and do by these Presents authorise and appoint, you, the said Thomas, Baron Brassey; Sir James Broadwood Lyall; Sir Lachmeswar Singh; Sir William Roberts; Robert Gray Cornish Mowbray; Arthur Upton Fanshawe Arthur Pease; Haridas Viharidas; and Henry Joseph Wilson; to be Our Commissioners for the purposes of the said inquiry.

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 authorise and empower you, or any five or more of you, to visit and personally inspect such places whether in Our said United Kingdom or

within Our Indian Dominions as you may deem it expedient so to inspect for the more effectual carrying out of the purposes aforesaid, and to employ such persons as you may think fit to assist you in conducting any inquiry which you may hold.

And We do further 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, shall and may from time to time, and at any place or places, 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 questions herein submitted for your consideration.

And for the purpose of aiding you in such matters, We hereby appoint Our trusty and well-beloved John Prescott Hewett, Esq., Companion of Our Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, Deputy Secretary to Our Government of India in the Home Department, to be Secretary to this Our Commission.

Given at Our Court at St. James's, the second day of September, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three, in the fifty-seventh year of Our reign.

By Her Majesty's Command.

KIMBERLEY.

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