



# ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE INDUSTRIAL POPULATION

## REPORT

*Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty  
January 1940*

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## ROYAL WARRANTS.

GEORGE R.I.

GEORGE THE SIXTH, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, Ireland and the British Dominions beyond the Seas, KING, Defender of the Faith, to

Our Right Trusty and Well-beloved Counsellor Sir Montague Barlow, Baronet, Knight Commander of Our Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Doctor of Laws:

Our Trusty and Well-beloved:—

Sir William Arthur Robinson, Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Commander of Our Most Excellent Order of the British Empire;

Sir Francis L'Estrange Joseph, Knight Commander of Our Most Excellent Order of the British Empire;

Sir William Edward Whyte, Knight, Officer of Our Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh;

Leslie Patrick Abercrombie, Esquire, Master of Arts, Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects, Professor of Town Planning in the University of London;

Ernest Bevin, Esquire;

Francis D'Arcy Cooper, Esquire;

Hermione, wife of William Lionel Hichens, Esquire, upon whom has been conferred the Decoration of the Second Class of the Royal Red Cross;

Margaret Neville, wife of Archibald Vivian Hill, Esquire;

John Harry Jones, Esquire, Master of Arts, Professor of Economics and Head of the Commerce Department of the University of Leeds;

George Parker Morris, Esquire, Bachelor of Laws;

Sydney Arthur Smith, Esquire, Fellow of the Chartered Surveyors' Institution, Fellow of the Auctioneers' Institute; and

George Walker Thomson, Esquire,

Greeting!

Whereas We have deemed it expedient that a Commission should forthwith issue to inquire into the causes which have influenced the present geographical distribution of the industrial population of Great Britain and the probable direction of any change in that distribution in the future; to consider what social, economic or strategical disadvantages arise from the concentration of industries or of the industrial population in large towns



or in particular areas of the country; and to report what remedial measures if any should be taken in the national interest:

Now know Ye that We, reposing great trust and confidence in your knowledge and ability, have authorized and appointed, and do by these Presents authorize and appoint you the said Sir Montague Barlow (Chairman); Sir William Arthur Robinson; Sir Francis L'Estrange Joseph; Sir William Edward Whyte; Leslie Patrick Abercrombie; Ernest Bevin; Francis D'Arcy Cooper; Hermione Hichens; Margaret Neville Hill; John Harry Jones; George Parker Morris; Sydney Arthur Smith and George Walker Thomson 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 three 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; to call for information in writing; 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 enquire 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 one or more of you, at the request of the Chairman, to visit and inspect personally such places as you may deem it expedient so to inspect for the more effectual carrying out of the purposes aforesaid:

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 three 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 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 your opinion upon the matters herein submitted for your consideration.

Given at Our Court at Holyroodhouse the eighth day of July, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven; in the First year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command,  
*Samuel Hoare.*

**GEORGE R.I.**

**GEORGE THE SIXTH**, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, Ireland and the British Dominions beyond the Seas, **KING**, Defender of the Faith, to Our Trusty and Well-beloved Herbert Henry Elvin, Esquire,

Greeting!

Whereas We did by Warrant under Our Royal Sign Manual bearing date the eighth day of July, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven appoint Commissioners to inquire into the causes which have influenced the present geographical distribution of the industrial population of Great Britain and the probable direction of any change in that distribution in the future; to consider what social, economic or strategical disadvantages arise from the concentration of industries or of the industrial population in large towns or in particular areas of the country; and to report what remedial measures if any should be taken in the national interest:

And whereas a vacancy has been caused in the body of Commissioners appointed as aforesaid by the resignation of Our Trusty and Well-beloved Ernest Bevin, Esquire:

Now know Ye that We reposing great confidence in your knowledge and ability do by these Presents appoint you the said Herbert Henry Elvin to be a Commissioner for the purposes aforesaid, in the room of the said Ernest Bevin.

Given at Our Court at Saint James's the twenty-third day of June, 1938; In the Second Year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command,

*Samuel Hoare.*

*Note.*—This Report was completed in August, 1939, but, owing to the outbreak of war with Germany, it was not possible to have it printed and signed until December, 1939. This fact should be borne in mind in reading the Report; for example, “the war” frequently mentioned in the Report means the war of 1914-1918.

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The total expenditure incurred by the Royal Commission up to the date of the printing of this Report is estimated at approximately £10,627 os. od. of which £360 os. od. represents the estimated cost of printing this Report. A sum of £845 os. od. has already been recovered by the sale of the Minutes of Evidence.