

REPORT

OF THE

ROYAL COMMISSION UPON DECENTRALIZATION

IN

INDIA.

VOLUME I

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty



LONDON
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
By DARLING & SON LTD 34 40 BACON STREET E

And to be purchased either directly or through any Bookseller from
WYMAN AND SONS LTD FETTER LANE EC and
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1909

THE COMMISSION

Whitehall, September 12, 1907

The KING has been pleased to issue a Commission under His Majesty's Royal Sign Manual to the following effect —

EDWARD, R. & I

EDWARD THE SEVENTH, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India, to

Our trusty and well beloved —

Sir Henry William Primrose,* Knight Commander of Our Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Companion of Our Most Exalted Order of the Star of India, Companion of the Imperial Service Order,

Sir Frederic Styles Philipin Lely, Knight Commander of Our Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, Companion of Our Most Exalted Order of the Star of India,

Sir Steyning William Edgerley, Knight Commander of Our Royal Victorian Order, Companion of Our Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire,

Romesh Chunder Dutt, Esquire, Companion of Our Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire,

William Stevenson Meyer, Esquire, Companion of Our Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, and

William Lionel Hitchens, Esquire, Greeting!

Whereas We have deemed it expedient that a Commission should forthwith issue to enquire into the relations now existing for financial and administrative purposes between the Supreme Government and the various Provincial Governments in India, and between the Provincial Governments and the authorities subordinate to them, and to report whether, by measures of decentralization or otherwise, those relations can be simplified and improved, and the system of Government better adapted both to meet the requirements and promote the welfare of the different Provinces, and, without impairing its strength and unity, to bring the executive power into closer touch with local conditions

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 Henry William Primrose* (Chairman), Sir Frederic Styles Philipin Lely, Sir Steyning William Edgerley, Romesh Chunder Dutt, William Stevenson Meyer, and William Lionel Hitchens to be Our Commissioners for the purposes of the said enquiry

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, at any place in Our said United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland or in India, 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, whether in Our said United Kingdom, or in India, 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, authorize and empower you, or any three or more of you, to visit and personally inspect such places as you may deem it expedient so to inspect for the more effectual carrying out of the purposes aforesaid

* Sir Henry Primrose subsequently resigned and Mr C F H Hobhouse M P then Under Secretary of State for India and now Secretary to the Treasury was appointed Chairman of the Commission—see page 17

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 ordun that you, or any three 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 furthe 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 three or more of you, your opinion upon the matters herein submitted for your consideration

Given at Our Court at *Saint James's*, the seventh day of *September*, one thousand nine hundred and seven, in the seventh year of Our Reign

By His Majesty's Command

H J Gladstone

EDWARD, R & I

EDWARD THE SEVENTH, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India, to

Our trusty and well beloved —

Charles Edward Henry Hobhouse, Esquire, one of the Under Secretaries of State to Our Principal Secretary of State for India, Greeting!

Whereas by Warrant under Our Royal Sign Manual, bearing date the seventh day of September, one thousand nine hundred and seven, We were pleased to appoint Commissioners to enquire into the relations now existing for financial and administrative purposes between the Supreme Government and the various Provincial Governments in India, and between the Provincial Governments and the authorities subordinate to them, and to report whether, by measures of decentralization or otherwise, the relations can be simplified and improved, and the system of Government better adapted both to meet the requirements and promote the welfare of the different Provinces, and, without impairing its strength and unity, to bring the executive power into closer touch with local conditions

And Whereas the Chairmanship of the Commission is at this present void by the resignation of Our Trusty and Well beloved Sir Henry William Primrose, Knight Commander of Our Most Honourable Order of the Bath

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 Charles Edward Henry Hobhouse to be Chairman of the said Commission in the room of the said Sir Henry William Primrose, resigned

Given at Our Court at *Saint James's*, the twenty first day of *October*, one thousand nine hundred and seven, in the seventh year of Our Reign

By His Majesty's Command

H J Gladstone

ROYAL COMMISSION UPON DECENTRALIZATION IN INDIA.

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