



VICTORIA
GOVERNMENT GAZETTE
EXTRAORDINARY.

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No. 115.]

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8.

[1854.]

*VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom
of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of
the Faith, &c.*

To our trusty and well-beloved WILLIAM CLARK HAINES, WILLIAM WESTGARTH, JOHN PASCOE FAWKNER, JOHN O'SHANASSY, WILLIAM HENRY WRIGHT, and JAMES FORD STRACHAN, Esquires :

GREETING,—

Whereas complaints have arisen among the Mining Population of the nature and operation of the laws and regulations under which the revenue derived from them is raised, and of the manner in which those laws and regulations have been administered, and of the inadequate representation of their interests in the Legislature by whom those laws are framed; And whereas the Government is earnestly desirous to inquire into the grounds of such complaints, with a view to ascertain how far they are well founded, and to devise and carry out a system which, while it makes due provision for an adequate revenue with the least possible expenditure of public funds, shall afford every facility for the development of the mineral wealth of the Colony and prove the least harassing and vexatious to the Miners; and further to inquire into the manner in which the law at present in force has been administered, with a view to ascertain whether unnecessary harshness or undue partiality has been shewn by the administrators; and generally to inquire into all complaints relating either to the privileges or pecuniary interests of the Mining Population: Now know ye that we, with the advice of the Executive Council of the Colony, confiding much in your fidelity, knowledge, and ability, do, by these presents, nominate, constitute, and appoint you, our trusty and well-beloved WILLIAM CLARK HAINES, WILLIAM WESTGARTH, JOHN PASCOE FAWKNER, JOHN O'SHANASSY, WILLIAM HENRY WRIGHT, and JAMES FORD STRACHAN, to be our Commissioners for the purposes herein mentioned: And we do, by these presents, grant unto you full power and authority to enquire into the laws and regulations now in force affecting the mining population, and their operation, and also to recommend such alterations in those laws and regulations as may seem necessary for the public advantage and convenience, and to enquire into the manner in which these laws and regulations have been administered, and in general to enquire into all complaints, and to recommend such measures as may have the effect of removing all such as shall be shewn to be just: And we do by these presents, grant unto you, our said Commissioners, power and authority to call before you such persons by whom you may be the better informed 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 the fullest information on the subject, and to enquire of and concerning the premises by all other lawful ways and means whatsoever; and for your further

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assistance in the execution of the premises, we do hereby appoint our trusty and well-beloved CHARLES WARBURTON CARR, Esquire, to be Secretary to this our Commission, whose services you may use from time to time as occasion may require: And we do hereby direct and appoint that you do report to us in writing, under your hands and seals, your proceedings, and also your opinions on the subject herein referred to you: And lastly, we do by these presents, 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, shall and 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.

In witness whereof our trusty and well-beloved SIR CHARLES HOTHAM, Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Military Order of the Bath, Lieutenant Governor of our Colony of Victoria, hath hereunto affixed the Seal of our Colony, at the Government Offices, in Melbourne, in our said Colony, this seventh day of December, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, and in the eighteenth year of our Reign.

(L.S.)

CHAS. HOTHAM.

By His Excellency's Command,

JOHN FOSTER.