

2. To inquire to what extent the provisions of the Coal-mines Act, 1925, and the regulations made thereunder were complied with in the mine and more especially as regards—

(a) The examination of the mine :

(b) Ventilation :

(c) Electric wiring and equipment.

3. To inquire into the nature and character of the working and general management of the mine and whether the mine was well and safely managed.

4. To inquire into the efficiency of the inspection of the mine by all or any persons who are responsible for such inspection.

5. To inquire whether or not the loss of life would have been averted or reduced had the service of a rescue brigade or any additional equipment or any special apparatus been available at the mine.

6. To make suggestions for the prevention as far as possible of similar accidents, and for the safe working of this and other mines in the future.

7. And generally to make inquiry into any matter or thing arising out of or connected with the several subjects or inquiry hereinbefore mentioned or which, in your opinion, may be of assistance in fully ascertaining, explaining, and arriving at a fair and just conclusion in respect to the subjects of inquiry, and into the working of the existing law in respect to the prevention of similar accidents, and to report whether any additional legislation is necessary and the scope of same, and whether any amendment or addition to the regulations included in the existing law is required to provide reasonable and proper safeguards against such accidents.

And I do further appoint you the said

Stanley Logan Paterson

to be Chairman of the said Commission :

And you are hereby authorized to conduct any inquiry under these presents at such time and place as you deem expedient, with power to adjourn from time to time and place as you think fit and to call before you and to examine on oath or otherwise such persons as you think capable of affording you information as to the matters aforesaid, and to call for and examine all such books, papers, writing, documents, and records as you deem likely to afford you the fullest information on any such matters, and also to use the evidence taken in the course of any inquest or other previous inquiry having reference to the said accident and the deaths thereby caused :

And, using all diligence, you are required to report to us under your hands and seals not later than the eighth day of December, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-nine, your opinion on the aforesaid matters :

And you are hereby strictly charged and directed that you shall not at any time publish or otherwise disclose, save to us in pursuance of these presents or by our direction, the contents or purport of any report so made or to be made by you :

And it is hereby declared and this Commission shall continue in force and virtue although the inquiry be not regularly continued from time to time or from place to place by adjournment :

And, lastly, it is hereby declared that these presents are issued under Letters Patent dated the eleventh day of May, one thousand nine hundred and seventeen, and under the provisions of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1908.

In witness whereof we have caused this Commission to be issued and the Seal of the Dominion of New Zealand to be hereunto affixed, at Wellington, in the said Dominion, this twenty-fifth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and thirty-nine, and in the third year of our Reign.

GALWAY, Governor-General.

By His Excellency's Command—

P. C. WEBB, Minister of Mines.

Approved in Council—

C. A. JEFFERY,

Clerk of the Executive Council.