

1940.
NEW ZEALAND.

GLEN AFTON COLLIERIES ROYAL COMMISSION

(REPORT OF).

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

Royal Commission to Inquire into and Report upon Colliery Accident at Glen Afton.

GEORGE THE SIXTH by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, Ireland, and the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India :

To our Trusty and Loving Subjects STANLEY LOGAN PATERSON, Esquire, of Hamilton, Stipendiary Magistrate ; JOHN CONNELL BROWN, M.B.E., of Westport, retired Mine-manager ; JOHN DOWGRAY, Esquire, of Granity, retired Colliery Official ; THOMAS OTTO BISHOP, Esquire, of Wellington, Secretary ; ANGUS McLAGAN, Esquire, of Greymouth, Secretary : GREETINGS.

WHEREAS on the 24th day of September, 1939, at the coal-mine at Glen Afton known as the Glen Afton Mine, the property of Glen Afton Collieries, Limited, there occurred an accident as a result of which eleven persons lost their lives : And whereas it is expedient that a Commission should be issued for the purpose of inquiring into the cause of the said accident and into the working of the existing law in respect to the prevention of such accidents and for the other purposes hereinafter mentioned :

Now, therefore, we, reposing trust and confidence in your knowledge, integrity, and ability do hereby constitute and appoint you the said

Stanley Logan Paterson,
John Connell Brown,
John Dowgray,
Thomas Otto Bishop, and
Angus McLagan

to be a Commission to inquire into and report upon the matters hereinbefore referred to and into the several other matters mentioned in these presents, that is to say,--

1. To inquire into the cause of the underground fire which was found to have occurred in the said mine on the 24th day of September, 1939.

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.