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SATURDAY, 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE.

1919.

Commonwealth of Australia.

GEORGE THE FIFTH, 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 GEORGE JAMES DETHRIDGE,  
Esquire, Barrister-at-Law:

GREETING:

**K**NOW Ye that We do by these Our Letters Patent issued in Our name by Our Governor-General of Our Commonwealth of Australia, acting with the advice of Our Federal Executive Council, and in pursuance of the Constitution of Our said Commonwealth, the *Royal Commissions Act 1902-1912*, and all other powers him thereunto enabling, appoint you to be a Commissioner to inquire into the following matters, namely:—

(1) The cause of the industrial troubles now existing on the Melbourne wharfs:

(2) Whether the Yarra Stevedoring Company has discriminated against members of the Melbourne branch of the Waterside Workers Federation in the selection of men required for wharf work from time to time, other than by giving preference to—

(a) returned soldiers who, previous to joining the Australian Imperial Forces had been employed on the Inter-State wharfs; and

(b) men who had registered with the Yarra Stevedoring Company between the thirteenth day of August, 1917, and the third day of December, 1917, and to whom promises had been made by the Government as regards employment if they desired to continue such work.

(3) Whether preference of employment has been given by the Yarra Stevedoring Company to any men, other than those mentioned in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) of the last preceding paragraph, while members of the Waterside Workers Federation were available and offered to work.

(4) Whether, having regard to—

(a) any pledges given by employers to returned soldiers and by the Government to men who registered with the Yarra Stevedoring Company prior to the third day of December, 1917;

(b) the proceedings of the conference convened by His Excellency the Governor-General at Melbourne in April, 1918;

(c) the award of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration of 28th June, 1918 (No. 73 of 1917); and

(d) any other relevant facts,

any alteration, and if so what, in the present system of engaging labour for work on the Melbourne wharves is desirable, in order to avoid the friction at present existing:

And we require you, with as little delay as possible, to report to Our Governor-General in and over Our said Commonwealth the result of your inquiries into the matters intrusted to you by these Our Letters Patent.

In testimony whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent and the seal of Our said Commonwealth to be thereunto affixed.

Witness Our Right Trusty and Well-Beloved Sir Ronald Craufurd Munro Ferguson, a Member of Our Most Honorable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Our Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over Our Commonwealth of Australia, this seventh day of June, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and nineteen, and in the tenth year of Our reign.

R. M. FERGUSON, Governor-General.

By His Excellency's Command,

LITTLETON E. GROOM, for the Acting Prime Minister.

(Entered on record by me in Register of Patents, No. 6, page 364, this seventh day of June, One thousand nine hundred and nineteen.)

J. H. STARLING.

