

Now know ye that We, being desirous of promoting the establishment and organization of the said body, have by our royal prerogative, and of our especial grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, given and granted, and by this our charter, for Us, our heirs and successors, do hereby give and grant, that—

Our said most dearly beloved son Edward, Prince of Wales, Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter:

The persons for the time being holding the offices of—

Our Principal Secretary of State for War;

Our Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies;

Our Principal Secretary of State for India; and

First Commissioner of our Office of Works and Public Buildings:

Such five persons as may from time to time be respectively appointed for that purpose by—

The Government of the Dominion of Canada;

The Government of the Commonwealth of Australia;

The Government of the Dominion of New Zealand;

The Government of the Union of South Africa; and

The Government of Newfoundland:

And all other persons who may, pursuant to this our charter, become members of the Corporation established by this our charter—

shall be a body corporate by the name of "The Imperial War Graves Commission," with perpetual succession and a common seal, with power to break, alter, or renew the same at discretion, and with capacity to sue or be sued in their corporate name, and with the further authorities, powers, and privileges conferred and subject to the conditions imposed by this our charter.

And We do hereby accordingly will, ordain, give, grant, constitute, appoint, and declare as follows:—

I. PRELIMINARY.

In the construction of this our charter the following words and expressions, unless there is something in the context inconsistent with such interpretation, shall have meanings hereinafter attached to them, that is to say,—

"The Commission" means the Corporation of the Imperial War Graves Commission established by this our charter:

"Fallen" means died from wounds inflicted, accident occurring, or disease contracted, while on active service, whether on sea or land:

"Person" includes a body of persons, corporate or unincorporate.

Words in the masculine gender include the feminine, and words in the singular number include the plural, and in the plural number include the singular.

II. PRESIDENT.

1. The first President shall be our dearly beloved son Edward, Prince of Wales. In the event of a vacancy in the office of President, from whatever cause arising, such vacancy shall be filled by the nomination of a successor under the Sign-manual of the Sovereign for the time being.

2. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Commission and of any committee constituted in pursuance of the provisions of this our charter at which he may be present.

3. The President shall have power to summon meetings of the Commission at any time he may think fit so to do, in order to submit to the members thereof such matters of importance relating to the affairs of the Commission as he may deem requisite. Such meetings shall be summoned in such manner and by giving such notices as the President may think best calculated to advise the members of the Commission of the time and place of such meetings.

III. THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.

The members of the Commission shall consist of the following persons:—

(1.) The President:

(2.) The persons for the time being holding the offices hereinbefore mentioned, and such persons as may be appointed by the Governments of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and Newfoundland, as hereinbefore provided in this our charter, all of whom shall be styled and are hereinafter referred to as Official Members:

(3.) Such other persons, not exceeding the number of eight in all, as may from time to time be appointed members of the Commission by Royal Warrant under the Sign-manual of the Sovereign for the time being.

IV. ORGANIZATION.

1. (i.) There shall be a Chairman of the Commission, who, in the absence of the President, shall preside at all meetings thereof.

(ii.) The Chairman shall, subject to the power hereinbefore conferred upon the President, and subject to such regulations as may be made by the Commission as hereinafter provided, summon all meetings of the Commission for the despatch of business.

(iii.) The Chairman of the Commission shall be our Principal Secretary of State for War.