

And whereas a number of persons lost their lives and extensive damage to property occurred by reason of the said fire :

And whereas it is expedient that a full inquiry be made into all the circumstances concerning the fire and the resultant loss of life and damage to property :

And whereas it is desirable that inquiry should be made into such other matters arising from the said fire as may be necessary to enable consideration to be given to the adoption in the future of such measures as may be deemed advisable in the public interest :

Now know ye that We, reposing trust and confidence in your integrity, knowledge, and ability, do hereby nominate, constitute, and appoint you, the said—

Sir Harold Featherston Johnston,
Alexander Wellington Croskery,
Arthur James Dickson, and
Charles Alexander Woolley

to be a Commission to inquire into and report upon the following matters :—

- (1) The cause and origin of the fire ;
- (2) Whether all possible means were taken to warn the staff and the members of the public in the premises of the existence and seriousness of the fire, and whether all possible steps were taken to provide for their safety and escape ;
- (3) Whether any special circumstances contributed to the rapid spread of the fire and, if there were such circumstances, whether the fire hazard could have been reduced by the installation of fire-prevention equipment or by any other means ;
- (4) Whether the structural design of the building and the fire-protection and egress arrangements complied with all relevant statutes and regulations, and with all relevant by-laws in force in the City of Christchurch ;
- (5) The adequacy and administration of all existing relevant statutes and regulations and all existing relevant by-laws in force in the City of Christchurch in regard to (a) fire protection and fire-prevention in such buildings, and (b) the construction and design of such buildings in relation to the safety of the public ;
- (6) The desirability of applying to existing buildings any present or future statutes, regulations, or by-laws providing for adequate means of egress from buildings in case of fire ;