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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.

20th February, 1945.

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following award of the British Empire Medal:—

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Thomas George Cooper, Section Leader, National Fire Service, Northern Ireland.

A fire broke out in a shop and Section Leader George Cooper was told that a woman was in the house above the premises. Despite the dense smoke and an escape of coal gas, he tried to ascend the staircase which was alight, and in the attempt both his hands were badly burned. He was unsuccessful and called for a ladder. Putting on his breathing apparatus he climbed to a window, which he smashed, and then entered the room. Feeling his way past many obstructions, he heard moans and made his way through the smoke towards the sound. On the landing at the top of the burning staircase he found a stoutly built woman who was unconscious. He was unable to lift her, but he dragged her back through the doorway. As he approached the window his breathing apparatus became dislocated by some of the obstructions, and the mouth-piece was torn away. Almost overcome with smoke and gas fumes he dragged the unconscious woman to the windowsill. He was by now exhausted, and stepped out on to the ladder to get help. The woman was brought to safety by other members of the unit.

Cooper showed courage and devotion to duty in difficult circumstances, without regard for his own safety.

STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS OF NORTHERN IRELAND.

CHARTERED AND OTHER BODIES (TEMPORARY PROVISIONS).

ELECTION OF BELFAST HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS.

Order in Council dated the 16th February, 1945, made under sections two and four of the Chartered

and Other Bodies (Temporary Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland), 1940.

BY THE GOVERNOR IN THE PRIVY COUNCIL OF NORTHERN IRELAND.

ABERCORN

Whereas by the Belfast Harbour Commissioners (Postponement of Elections) Order (Northern Ireland, 1940 (hereinafter referred to as "the principal Order"), and by the Belfast Harbour Commissioners (Postponement of Elections) (No. 2) Order (Northern Ireland), 1942, the Belfast Harbour Commissioners (Postponement of Elections) (No. 3) Order (Northern Ireland), 1943, and the Belfast Harbour Commissioners (Postponement of Elections) (No. 4) Order (Northern Ireland), 1944 (hereinafter referred to as "the amending Orders"), made under sections two and four of the Chartered and Other Bodies (Temporary Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland), 1940, provision was made for extending the term of office and postponing the election of Belfast Harbour Commissioners and for incidental and consequential matters, and directions were given, as appearing in the principal Order as varied by the amending Orders:

And whereas application has been made on behalf of the said Commissioners praying that the Governor of Northern Ireland may be pleased to make a further Order in Council varying the Orders made with respect to them under the said sections:

Now, therefore, I, James Albert Edward, Duke of Abercorn, Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, Knight of the Most Illustrious Order of Saint Patrick, Governor of Northern Ireland, by and with the advice of the Privy Council of Northern Ireland, in exercise of the powers conferred upon me by sections two and four of the Chartered and Other Bodies (Temporary Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland), 1940, and of all other powers enabling me in that behalf, do hereby order as follows:—

1. The elections of one-third of the Commissioners which would apart from the principal Order and the amending Orders, have been held under the Harbour Acts (as in the principal Order defined), in the years nineteen hundred and forty-one, nineteen hundred and forty-two, and nineteen hundred and forty-three shall be further postponed, respectively, until the years nineteen hundred and forty-seven, nineteen hundred and