CHANCERY OF THE ORDER OF SAINT MICHAEL AND SAINT GEORGE, DOWNING STREET, January 14, 1915.

The KING has been graciously pleased to give directions for the appointment of the undermentioned Officers of the Imperial Russian Army to be Honorary Members of the First Class, or Knights Grand Cross, of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George :--

General Nikolai Nikolaevich Yanuskevich, Chief of the General Staff.

General Yuri Nikiforovich Daniloff, Director of Military Operations.

General Nikolai Vladimirovich Ruzski, Commanding the Northern Armies.

General Nikolai Iudovich Ivanoff, Commanding the Southern Army.

PASSPORTS.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs gives notice that it has been found necessary, in view of the present European War, to revise the system and form of Passports granted to British subjects for travelling to foreign countries.

On the 1st of February next all British Passports, held by British subjects who are in the United Kingdom, which were issued prior to the 5th of August last, will become invalid.

Holders of such Passports must make application for new Passports in the proper form, which can be obtained from the Foreign Office and the usual Agencies. Full particulars as to the new requirements will be found on the form.

Passports issued prior to the 5th of August last and held by British subjects in France (including Algiers and Morocco), Spain, Portugal, Italy, Switzerland, Holland, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden, will become invalid on the 1st of March next. Applications for new Passports in such cases must be made to the nearest British Consul.

In other countries the date on which such Passports will become invalid will be the 1st of August.

Passports issued between the 5th of August 1914, and the 1st of February 1915, will be valid for two years only, but if the holders contemplate proceeding to France or Belgium they must previously obtain a Supplementary Document and visa from a French or Belgian Diplomatic or Consular Officer.

On and after the 1st of February no person will be allowed to leave the United Kingdom for France or Belgium without a passport valid in accordance with these Regulations.

Foreign Office,

January 19, 1915.

WAR OFFICE, WHITEHALL, January 1915.

ARMY ACT.

It is proposed to amend the "Rules of Procedure" under Section 70 of the Army Act.

Copies of the amendments may be seen at the War Office, Whilehall.

WHITEHALL, January 18, 1915.

The KING has been pleased to give and grant unto the undermentloned gentlemen His Majesty's Royal licence and authority to wear Decorations (as stated against their respective names) which have been conferred upon them by the President of the Republic of China in recognition of valuable services rendered by them :--

Third Class of the Order of the Excellent Crop.

Alexander Gordon Stephen, Esq., Manager of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, Shanghai.

Fourth Class of the Order of the Excellent Crop.

Thomas John Nalson Gatrell, Esq., M.D.

WHITEHALL, January 14, 1915.

The KING has been pleased to give and grant unto James Charles Baggs, Esq., L.S.A., late Medical Officer of Health, Monthon Puket, now temporary Surgeon in the Royal Navy, His Majesty's Royal licence and authority to wear the Insignia of the Fourth Class of the Order of the Crown of Siam, which Decoration has been conferred upon him by His Majesty the King of Siam, in recognition of valuable services rendered by him.

WHITEHALL, January 18, 1915.

The KING has been pleased to give and grant unto Edward Geoffrey Lee, Esq., Adviser to the Lands and Mines Department, Puket, His Majesty's Royal licence and authority to wear the Insignia of the Third Class of the Order of the Crown of Siam, which Decoration has been conferred upon him by His Majesty the King of Siam in recognition of valuable services rendered by him.

COAL MINES ACT, 1911.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department gives notice that on the 15th January 1915 he made an Order under Section 61 of the Coal Mines Act, 1911, entitled "The Explosives in Coal Mines Order of the 15th January 1915," the effect of which is to add the following explosives, viz.: — "Abelite No. 4," "A. 2. Monobel," "Kynarkite No. 2," "Victor Powder No. 2," "Viking Powder No. 1," and "Viking Powder No. 2" to the permitted explosives named and defined in the First Schedule to the Explosives in Coal Mines Order of the 1st September 1913.

Copies of the Order can be purchased, either directly or through any bookseller, from Messrs. Wyman & Sons Ltd., Fetter Lane, London, E.C., and 54 St. Mary Street, Cardiff; H.M. Stationery Office (Scottish Branch), 23 Forth Street, Edinburgh; and Messrs. E. Ponsonby Ltd., 116 Grafton Street, Dublin.

Whitehall,

19th January 1915.