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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1864.

At the Court at *Windsor*, the 9th day of *July*, 1864.

PRESENT,

The QUEEN'S Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS there was this day read at the Board a memorial from the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, dated the twenty-second day of June, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, in the words following, viz. :

“Under the regulations established by your Majesty's Order in Council of the twenty-fifth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, for the governance of the Royal Naval Service, the Flag Officers of the Fleet, whether Admirals, Vice-Admirals, or Rear-Admirals, are classed in squadrons of the Red, White, and Blue, and are (with the exception of the Admiral of the Fleet) authorized to fly their flags of the colour of the squadron to which they belong ; this regulation necessitating the adoption of ensign and pendants of a corresponding colour in every ship and vessel employed under their orders ; each vessel is therefore supplied with three sets of colours ; and the frequent alterations that have to be made when the Fleet is distributed as at present, under the orders of many Flag Officers, is attended with much inconvenience from the uncertainty and expense which the system entails.

“The increased number and size of merchant steam-ships render it a matter of importance to distinguish, on all occasions, men of war from private ships, by a distinctive flag ; the latter vessels bearing at present the same red ensign as your Majesty's ships when employed under an Admiral of the Red Squadron. It also appears to us to be desirable to grant (under such conditions as we may from time to time impose) the use of a distinguishing flag to such ships of the merchant service as may be employed in the public service, or whose commanding officer (with a given portion of the crew) may belong to the Royal Naval Reserve. We therefore most humbly submit that your Majesty may be pleased by your Order in Council to prescribe the discontinuance of the division of Flag Officers into the Red, White, and Blue Squadrons, and to order and direct that the white ensign, with its broad and narrow pendants, be henceforward established and recognized as the colours of the Royal Naval Service, reserving the use of the red and blue colours for such special

occasions as may appear to us, or to Officers in command of fleets and squadrons, to require their adoption : the white flag with a red St. George's cross to be borne by Admirals, Vice-Admirals, and Rear-Admirals, on their respective masts ; Commodores of the First Class to carry a white broad pendant with the red cross at the main-top-gallant mast head ; Commodores of the Second Class a similar broad pendant at the fore-top-gallant mast head ; and Senior Officers, when two or more vessels are present, to bear the broad pendant at the mizen-top-gallant mast head. The blue ensign and Union-jack with a white border to be carried by all vessels employed in the service of any public office ; by vessels employed under the Transport Department and the Civil Departments of the Navy (with the seal or badge of the Office to which they belong, as at present), and, under our permission, by ships commanded by Officers of the Royal Naval Reserve Force, and fulfilling in other respects the conditions required to entitle them to the privilege. The red ensign and Union-jack with a white border, continuing, as at present, the national colours for all other British ships, with such exceptions in favour of yachts and other vessels as we may from time to time authorize to bear distinguishing flags.”

Her Majesty having taken the said memorial into consideration, was pleased, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, to approve of what is therein proposed ; and the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty are to give the necessary directions herein accordingly.

*Edmund Harrison.*

*Foreign Office, October 14, 1864.*

The Queen has been pleased to approve of M. Carl Simon Poppe as Consul at Cape Town for His Royal Highness the Grand Duke of Oldenburg.

The Queen has also been pleased to approve of M. Carl Simon Poppe as Consul at Cape Town for the Free Hanseatic City of Lubeck.

The Queen has also been pleased to approve of M. Carl Simon Poppe as Consul at Cape Town, and Mr. William Thomson as Consul for the Province of New Brunswick, for the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen.