

It is not expected that Gentlemen will present themselves at the Drawing Room, except in attendance on the Ladies of their families.

Any Gentleman who under these circumstances should desire to be presented to The Queen will observe the same regulations as are in force for Her Majesty's Levees.

The State Apartments will be open for the reception of Company coming to Court at two o'clock.

LATHOM,

Lord Chamberlain.

Foreign Office, April 27, 1898.

HER Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has received a Notification, of which the following is a translation, from the Spanish Ambassador at this Court, dated April 25, 1898:—

"In view of the critical and special circumstances created by the present relations between Spain and the United States of North America His Majesty's Government has given orders that the ports of the Islands of Cuba, the Philippines, and Porto Rico be defended by lines of torpedoes; consequently, as soon as these ports have been closed in the manner stated, entry into them will only be possible under the guidance of the pilots of the ports, who will be in readiness with their boats, outside the lines of defence referred to, to take ships in. Moreover the Authorities of the Islands of Cuba, Porto Rico, and the Philippines, in view of the circumstances to which reference has been made, will give orders for the removal of buoys and the extinguishing of lights whenever it may be necessary for the defence of their respective Territories."

Foreign Office, April 27, 1898.

HER Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs received, on the 23rd instant, a Notification, to the following effect, from the United States Ambassador in London:—

"By a Proclamation issued on the 22nd of April, under Resolution of Congress, approved on the 20th of that month, the President of the United States of America announces a Blockade of the north coast of Cuba, including the ports on that coast between Cardenas and Bahia Honda, and also of the Port of Cienfuegos on the south coast of Cuba."

A telegram, to a similar effect, has also been received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Washington, which adds that "neutral vessels now in any of the blockaded ports are allowed thirty days to leave."

Downing Street, April 27, 1898.

THE Queen has been pleased to give directions for the appointment of Robert Porter Cropper, Esq., M.A., Protector of Immigrants of the Island of Saint Lucia, to be an Official Member of the Legislative Council of that Island.

Downing Street, April 28, 1898.

THE Queen has been pleased to approve of the retention of the title of "Honourable" by Thomas Michael Slattery, Esq., who was for upwards of three years a Member of the Executive Council of the Colony of New South Wales.

Whitehall, April 28, 1898.

THE Queen has been pleased, by Letters Patent under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, bearing date the 28th April, 1898, to grant the dignity of a Knight of the said United Kingdom unto Louis Addin Kershaw, Esq., Q.C., Chief Justice of the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad.

Admiralty, 26th April, 1898.

THE following promotions have been made:—
Inspector of Machinery William Winsland Chilcott to be Chief Inspector of Machinery in Her Majesty's Fleet. Dated 1st April, 1898.
Fleet Engineer John Allin Lemon to be Inspector of Machinery in Her Majesty's Fleet. Dated 1st April, 1898.

The undermentioned Staff Engineers have been advanced to the rank of Fleet Engineer in Her Majesty's Fleet:—

William Hofsommer Grant. Dated 23rd March, 1898.

Cornelius Henry Steward. Dated 19th April, 1898.

Frederick Worth. Dated 21st April, 1898.

Chief Engineer Ernest James Taylor has been advanced to the rank of Staff Engineer in Her Majesty's Fleet. Dated 2nd April, 1898.

Admiralty, 27th April, 1898.

IN accordance with the provisions of Her Majesty's Order in Council of 22nd February, 1870—

Lieutenant Griffith Grismond Philipps has been placed on the Retired List from this date, with permission to assume the rank of Commander.

Admiralty, 28th April, 1898.

Acting Sub-Lieutenant Brealey Meadows Taylor has been confirmed as Sub-Lieutenant in Her Majesty's Fleet. Dated 15th July, 1897.

Royal Naval Reserve.

Sub-Lieutenant Ernest George Smith to be Lieutenant. Dated 18th April, 1898.

Commission signed by the Lord Lieutenant of the County of Worcester.

Alfred Baldwin, Esq., M.P., to be Deputy Lieutenant. Dated 23rd April, 1898.

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.

THE Board of Trade have, after modification, confirmed an Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and entitled the Lizard Light Railway Order, 1898, authorizing the construction of a Light Railway from the Helston Railway to the Lizard Village, in the county of Cornwall.

Board of Trade, April 27, 1898.

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.

THE Board of Trade have, after modification, confirmed an Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and entitled the Crowland and District Light Railways Order, 1898, authorizing the construction of Light Railways between Peakirk, in the county of Northampton, and Postland, in the county of Lincoln.

Board of Trade, April 27, 1898.