

the benefits of the said Fund (this Bye-Law does not apply to masters or mates holding Pilotage Certificates and trading only on the Shannon).

No. 2. Every such master or mate certificated by the Board shall pay the Secretary of the Board a sum of two pounds two shillings for every such certificate and a sum of one pound one shilling for every renewal thereof and such fees (after deducting any expenses incurred by the Board in and about the examination of the persons so certificated) shall be put by the Secretary of the Board to the credit of the Pilotage Fund of the Limerick Harbour Pilotage District.

*Privy Council Office, November 21, 1902.*

#### MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894.

Notice is hereby given that, after the expiration of forty days from the date hereof, it is proposed to submit to His Majesty in Council, in pursuance of the above-mentioned Act, the draft of an Order in Council approving a Bye-law made by the Newport (Mon.) Pilotage Board dealing with Pilotage Rates, &c., at that port.

And notice is hereby further given that, in accordance with the provisions of the Rules Publication Act, 1893, copies of the proposed draft Order in Council can be obtained by any public body, within forty days of the date of this notice, at the Privy Council Office, Whitehall.

*India Office, Whitehall, London,  
November 19, 1902.*

The following Despatch has been received by the Secretary of State for India from Major-General O'M. Creagh, V.C., C.B., Commanding the British Contingent, China Force:—

Head-Quarter Staff Office,  
British Contingent, China Force,  
Tientsin, September 24, 1902.

From Major-General O'Moore Creagh, V.C., C.B., Commanding British Contingent, China Force,

To the Right Honourable The Secretary of State for India, India Office, London.

MY LORD,

I have the honour to submit the following Report on the Field Operations of the Force in North China since July 21, 1901, on which date I took over command from Lieutenant-General Sir A. Gaselee, G.C.I.E., K.C.B., up to the date of reduction, which was completed on September 20, 1902.

1. In accordance with the decision of the Allied Commanders, Peking was evacuated, except by the Legation Guards, on August 14, 1901, exactly one year after the taking of the city, and the troops of all contingents were gradually reduced during the Autumn to approximately the strength decided on for "the period of transition." The British Force left consisted of

Cavalry.—3rd Bombay Cavalry; 16th Bengal Lancers.

Artillery.—B Battery Royal Horse Artillery; No. 12 Field Battery Royal Field Artillery; No. 3 Section 1-pr. Vickers-Maxim Royal Artillery; No. 4 Section 1-pr. Vickers-Maxim Royal Artillery; No. 5 Section 1-pr. Vickers-Maxim Royal Artillery; No. 7 Section 1-pr. Vickers-Maxim Royal Artillery; R.2 Ammunition Column Unit; R.7 Ammunition Column Unit; 1 Company Southern Division Royal Garrison Artillery.

Royal Engineers.—No. 4 Company Bengal Sappers and Miners; No. 2 Company Bombay

Sappers and Miners; No. 44 Company Royal Engineers; Telegraph Section Bengal Sappers and Miners; Balloon Section Bengal Sappers and Miners; Photo-Litho Section Bombay Sappers and Miners; Printing Section Bombay Sappers and Miners; Royal Engineers Field Park.

Infantry.—4 Companies 2nd Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers; 7th Rajputs; 14th Sikhs; 4th Punjab Infantry; 1st 4th Gurkhas; 2nd Rajputs; 30th Baluchis; 31st Burma Light Infantry; 1st Chinese Regiment.

Hospitals.—British Base Hospital; A. 15 British Field Hospital; B. 15 British Field Hospital; A. 16 British Field Hospital; B. 16 British Field Hospital; B. 22 British Field Hospital; A. 39 Native Field Hospital; C. 39 Native Field Hospital; A. 41 Native Field Hospital; B. 41 Native Field Hospital; D. 43 Native Field Hospital; A. 47 Native Field Hospital; D. 47 Native Field Hospital; A. 51 Native Field Hospital; C. 51 Native Field Hospital; D. 51 Native Field Hospital; C. 54 Native Field Hospital; A. B. C. 57 Native Field Hospital; 1 Section 61 Native Field Hospital; A. B. C. D. 63 Native Field Hospital; B. C. D. 69 Native Field Hospital; Native General Hospital; Right Wing No. 3 Native General Hospital; Left Wing No. 3 Native General Hospital.

Miscellaneous.—Indian Ordnance Department; Army Veterinary Department; Supply and Transport Department; Indian Postal Department; Remount Department; British Signalling Unit.

In addition to the above there were the usual details of the Supply and Transport Corps, Postal, Ordnance, and Veterinary Departments with Staff—Personal, General and Railway. All these troops have now left and the Force has been reduced to the "Permanent Garrison."

2. Throughout this period (the transition) the British Contingent in Chih-li has had to guard and police the whole of the railway stations from Peking to Tientsin, and from there to Taku and Shan-hai-Kuan, as well as to contribute considerably to the policing of the large territories and city under the Provisional Government, together with the entire responsibility for the protection of the line of railway between Cha-ting and Ku-yeh. It has had very heavy patrol duties by day and night in all weathers, a very trying work when the severe climate of North China is taken into consideration.

3. Though carrying out these arduous duties under exactly similar conditions to actual service in the field, the troops therein engaged have not enjoyed the countervailing excitement of any actual encounter with an enemy, their operations have been confined almost entirely to an occasional surprise of railway wreckers or robbers by a patrol, while the only actual fighting has been between small parties of the troops detailed for patrol duties under the Tientsin Provisional Government with bands of armed brigands, in which encounters they have invariably shown great gallantry.

4. In this connection I would specially bring to your Lordship's notice the operations of a small detachment of the 4th Punjab Infantry under Lieutenant Hall, 34th Punjab Pioneers, on December 17, 1901, in which he succeeded in accounting for a band of fifteen brigands, capturing four and only allowing one to escape. The fight lasted nearly twelve hours, the brigands being strongly posted in buildings and having unlimited rifles, revolvers and ammunition, and having to be burnt out. This Lieutenant Hall succeeded in effecting without having a single casualty in his detachment, and was thanked by a special "Ordre du jour" of the Provisional Government (copy attached).