

Emperor of India, to all to whom these Presents shall come.

Greeting!

Whereas by Letters Patent under the Great Seal of the said United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, bearing date at Westminster the Fourth day of June, 1917, in the Eighth year of Our Reign, We have thought fit and been pleased to institute, erect, constitute, and create an Order of Knighthood, to be called and known for ever hereafter by the name, style, and designation of "The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire," whereof We, Our heirs and successors for ever shall be Sovereigns:

And whereas by Our aforesaid Letters Patent We did ordain that the said Order should be governed by Statutes and Ordinances and that the Statutes to be observed within the said Order should be established by Us and sealed by the Seal of the said Order which Statutes so given and in future to be given by Us, Our heirs and successors, to which the said Seal shall be affixed, should be of the same validity and taken and read as if the same and every Article of them had been verbatim recited in the said Letters Patent and passed under the Great Seal of Our said United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland:

And whereas in conformity with the said Letters Patent, We did on the fourth day of June, 1917, the twelfth day of April, 1918, and the twenty-eighth day of March, 1919, enact and issue certain Statutes and Ordinances to be observed within the said Order wherein a power was reserved to Us, Our heirs and successors of annulling, altering, augmenting, interpreting or dispensing with these Statutes and Regulations or any part thereof by a notification under the Sign Manual of the Sovereign of the Order:

And whereas it is expedient that certain alterations should be made in the existing Statutes of the said Order:

Now know ye that in pursuance and in exercise of the power vested in Us by the said Letters Patent We have abrogated and annulled and do hereby abrogate and repeal the said Statutes:

And further know all ye to whom these Presents shall come that in substitution thereof We have made, ordained and established, and by these Presents, sealed with the Seal of the said Order, do make, ordain and establish the following Statutes and Ordinances, namely:—

1. It is ordained and enjoined that this Order of Chivalry shall be styled and designated in all Acts, proceedings and pleadings The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire as in Our said Letters Patent is directed, and by no other designation.

2. It is ordained that the said Order shall consist of the Sovereign and a Grand Master and of five several classes:—I. "Knights Grand Cross" and "Dames Grand Cross." II. "Knights Commanders" and "Dames Commanders." III. "Commanders." IV. "Officers." V. "Members." And it is further ordained that each and every of these five Classes shall likewise contain two subdivisions whereof the first shall be styled "Military" and the second "Civil," each of which sub-divisions shall be composed partly of Ordinary and partly of Honorary Members, but that no person shall at the same time be included in both sub-divisions.

3. It is ordained that We, Our heirs and successors, Kings or Queens Regnant of Our said United Kingdom, are and for ever shall be Sovereigns of this Order, to whom doth and shall belong all power of annulling, interpreting, explaining, or augmenting these and every part of these Statutes.

4. We do hereby ordain, direct and appoint that a Prince of the Blood Royal, or such other exalted personage as We, Our heirs and successors shall hereafter appoint shall be Grand Master of the said Order, and shall in virtue thereof be the First or Principal Knight Grand Cross of the said Order, to whose custody shall be confided the Great Seal of the Order, which he shall affix to all Statutes, Ordinances, and Instruments according to the regulations touching the issue of every of the said Instruments; and it is further ordained that it shall be his special duty to enforce the due observance of the Statutes and Ordinances of this Order, and that he shall likewise direct the issue of all letters of Summons whenever the Sovereign shall be pleased to command an Investiture of the said Most Excellent Order.

5. It is ordained that all commissioned, and warrant and subordinate Officers subject to the Naval Discipline Act or employed under the Order of the Admiralty, and all commissioned and warrant Officers recommended by any Commander-in-Chief in the field or elsewhere, or employed under the War Office or Air Ministry, and all members of the Naval, Army and Air Force Nursing Services, or such officials of the Women's Auxiliary Services as are under contract with or employed by the Admiralty, War Office or Air Ministry, and all commissioned and warrant and subordinate Officers of the Naval, Military and Air Forces of India, Our Self-governing Dominions and Colonies, the States or Territories under Our protection, and Mandated Territories, including those serving under Administrative Headquarters, and members of the Nursing Services of such Forces or officials of the Women's Auxiliary Services of such Forces, shall be eligible for appointment to the Military Division of this Order.

6. It is ordained that the persons to be admitted to the Civil Division of the said Order shall be such persons, male or female, as may have rendered or shall hereafter render important services to Our Empire.

7. It is ordained that foreign persons upon whom We may think fit to confer the honour of being received into this Order shall be deemed to be, and described as, Honorary Knights Grand Cross or Honorary Dames Grand Cross, Honorary Knights Commanders or Honorary Dames Commanders, Honorary Commanders, Honorary Officers, and Honorary Members, according to the classes in the Order to which they belong, and it is further ordained that the name of every foreign person to be received into this Order shall be laid before Us, Our heirs and successors, by Our Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

8. It is ordained that the Military Division of the First Class or Knights and Dames Grand Cross shall not exceed ten, of which number two may be appointed on the recommendation of Our First Lord of the Admiralty (not more than one to be so appointed in a period of two years), five on the recommendation of Our Secretary of State for War (not more than one to be so appointed in one year), one on the recommendation of Our Secretary of State for