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FRIDAY, 23 OCTOBER, 1931.

At the Court at *Buckingham Palace*, the 7th day of *October*, 1931.

PRESENT,

The KING'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 3rd day of October, 1931 (C.W. 7399/31), in the words following, viz. :—

“Whereas by Section 3 of the Naval and Marine Pay and Pensions Act, 1865, it is enacted, *inter alia*, that all pay, pensions or other allowances in the nature thereof, payable in respect of services in Your Majesty's Naval or Marine Force to a person being, or having been, an Officer, Seaman, or Marine therein, or to the widow or any relative of a deceased Officer, Seaman or Marine, shall be paid in such manner, and subject to such restrictions, conditions and provisions as are from time to time directed by Order in Council:

“And whereas by Order in Council bearing date the 22nd day of February, 1870, regulations were laid down governing the grant to Executive Officers of Your Majesty's Naval Service of a step or steps in rank on or after retirement:

“And whereas by various subsequent Orders in Council the said regulations have been modified and amended and similar regulations have been instituted from time to time em-

powering us to grant a step or steps in rank on or after retirement to Officers, other than Executive Officers, of Your Majesty's Naval Service and to Officers of the Royal Marine Corps:

“And whereas by Your Majesty's Order in Council bearing date the 9th day of March, 1914, we were empowered, *inter alia*, to retire a Captain, whom we had decided not to employ further after his promotion to Flag rank, on his promotion to the rank of Rear Admiral:

“And whereas by Your Majesty's Orders in Council bearing dates the 21st day of December, 1917, and the 18th day of December, 1918, similar powers were conferred on us of retiring an Engineer Officer on the occasion of his promotion to the rank of Engineer Rear Admiral and a Medical Officer on the occasion of his promotion to the rank of Surgeon Rear Admiral, when desirable in the interests of the Service:

“And whereas we consider that, with certain exceptions, the grant of steps in rank on or after retirement should be discontinued and that Officers should retire with and retain the rank last held by them on the Active List:

“And whereas we are of opinion that Captains, Engineer Captains or Captains (E) and Surgeon Captains, whom we have decided not to employ in higher ranks should not be promoted but be retired in their existing ranks as soon as an Officer below them on the list