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TUESDAY, 25 JUNE, 1940

At the Court at *Buckingham Palace*, the 19th day of *June*, 1940.

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 7th day of June, 1940 (C.W. 20328/39), 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, 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 dated the 11th day of August, 1931, a system of promotion from the lower deck was approved whereby candidates selected for promotion to Acting Sub-Lieutenant or Acting Sub-Lieutenant (E) serve under the regulations applicable to Officers of corresponding rank promoted from Cadets:

“And whereas by Order in Council dated the 24th day of February, 1938, a special category of Officers was instituted for employment on air duties in Your Majesty's Fleet:

“And whereas by Orders in Council bearing dates the 6th day of May, 1938, the 5th day of May, 1939, and the 25th day of July, 1939, sanction was given to the institution of

branches of naval ratings entitled the Air Artificer branch, the Air Fitter branch, the Air Mechanic branch and the Flying branch:

“And whereas we consider it desirable that steps should now be taken to introduce a system for the promotion of ratings of these branches to commissioned rank in the Air Branch of the Royal Navy:

“And whereas we are of opinion that Officers promoted from the lower deck to commissions in the Air Branch should serve under the same conditions as Officers promoted from the lower deck to commissions in the Executive and Engineering Branches:

“We beg leave humbly to recommend that Your Majesty may be graciously pleased, by Your Order in Council, to direct that ratings promoted to Acting Sub-Lieutenant (A) and promoted therefrom shall be eligible for retired pay or gratuity on retirement or discharge and disability retired pay or disability addition to retired pay for disability attributable to service, under the regulations applicable to Officers of corresponding rank promoted from Cadets, except that they shall not be eligible to retire voluntarily with gratuities when under the age of 40.

“The Lords Commissioners of Your Majesty's Treasury have signified their concurrence in this proposal.”

His Majesty, having taken the said Memorial into consideration, was pleased, by and with the advice of His 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.

Rupert B. Howorth.