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TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 1873.

At the Court at *Osborne House, Isle of Wight*, the 9th day of *August*, 1873.

PRESENT,

The QUEEN's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

HER Majesty in Council was this day pleased to declare the Right Honourable Henry Austin Bruce, Lord President of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, and his Lordship, having taken the oaths of office, took his place at the Board accordingly.

Her Majesty having been pleased to appoint the Right Honourable Robert Lowe, one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, he was this day, by Her Majesty's command, sworn one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State accordingly.

This day, William Patrick Adam, Esquire, was, by Her Majesty's command, sworn of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, and took his place at the Board accordingly.

Privy Council Office, August 11, 1873.

THIS day, the oath of office of Chancellor of the Exchequer was taken by the Right Honourable William Ewart Gladstone; and the oath of office of Chief Commissioner of Works and Public Buildings was taken by the Right Honourable William Patrick Adam.

At the Court at *Osborne House, Isle of Wight*, the 4th day of *August*, 1873.

PRESENT,

The QUEEN'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 first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, in the words following, viz. :—

“Whereas in your Majesty's Order in Council of twenty-second of February, one thousand eight hundred and seventy, governing the promotion and retirement of Flag Officers and others of your Majesty's Fleet, clause six of section two appoints as follows :—

“Captains retired from that rank to be entitled to rise by seniority to the rank of Retired Rear-Admiral, if, before retirement, they had served the time to qualify them for promotion.” And

whereas we are of opinion that this condition may be modified, we humbly propose to your Majesty that the clause above recited be cancelled, and the following substituted :—

“Captains who have been, or who may in future be, retired from that rank under your Majesty's Order in Council of the twenty-second of February, one thousand eight hundred and seventy, to be entitled to rise by seniority to the rank of Retired Rear-Admiral if they have served three years as Captain in command of a ship-of-war at sea.” And whereas clause five of section two of your Majesty's said Order in Council is as follows :—“To qualify a Captain whose seniority brings him in turn for advancement to the Active List of Flag Officers, he must have completed six years' sea service as Captain, or its equivalent in harbour service, but the first three years of such period must be sea service in command of a ship-of-war at sea : such Officers as arrive at their turn for promotion, without having completed the qualifying service, to be retired.” And whereas in section five, which defines harbour service, clause two contains the following sub-clause :—

(a.) “Service in harbour ships or their tenders (with the exception of the harbour ships and tenders at Ascension, Port Royal, Hong Kong, and Rio de Janeiro, and at such other foreign ports as we may determine), and service in First Reserve (Coast Guard) ships, after the first three years of such service, such first three years to reckon as sea service.”

“And whereas we are of opinion that the above recited clauses may render it unduly difficult for Captains, who as Lieutenants qualified in harbour ships, as Gunnery Lieutenants, and also in some other special cases, to obtain the amount of service required to qualify them for promotion to Flag Rank.

“We therefore humbly propose to your Majesty that the sub-clause above recited of the second clause of the fifth section of your Majesty's said Order in Council be cancelled, and the following sub-clause substituted :

(a.) “Service of an Officer when borne on the books of any harbour ship, or of any First Reserve (Coast Guard) ship, subject to the following exceptions :—

1. “Three years served in any harbour ship or First Reserve (Coast Guard) ship, or in any tender to such ship, as Lieutenant or Commander, or in those ranks combined, shall count as sea-service, but not as sea service in a ship of war at sea.