

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.,
July 9, 1918.*

AMENDED STATUTES OF THE ORDER
OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

GEORGE R.I.

GEORGE THE FIFTH, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas King, Defender of the Faith, 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 of the fourth day of June 1917, We did enact and issue certain Statutes and Ordinances to be observed within the said Order bearing the same date 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 We deem it expedient that alterations should be made in the existing Statutes of the said Order:

Now know ye that in pursuance 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 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."

3. It is ordered 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 the persons to be admitted to this Order shall be such persons, male or female, as may have rendered or shall hereafter render important services to Our Empire, and 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.

6. It is ordained that when We, Our heirs or successors shall be pleased to nominate and appoint any person to this Order such appointment shall be made by Warrant under Our Royal Sign Manual sealed with the Seal of this Order and countersigned by the Grand Master of the said Order.

7. It is ordained that this Order shall rank next to and immediately after Our Royal Victorian Order, that in all solemn Ceremonies, places and assemblies the Knights Grand Cross of this Order shall have place and precedence next to and immediately after the Knights Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order, that the Dames Grand Cross of this Order shall have place and precedence next to and immediately before the wives of Knights Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, and may on all occasions have, use and enjoy the appellation and style of Dame before their Christian or first names, that the Knights Commanders of this Order shall have place and precedence next to and immediately after the Knights Commanders of the Royal Victorian Order, that the Dames Commanders of this Order shall have place and precedence next to and immediately before the wives of Knights Commanders of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, and may on all occasions have, use and enjoy the appellation and style of Dame before their Christian or first names, that the men who are Commanders of this