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ADMIRALTY, April 2, 1866.

HER Majesty, by Her Order in Council of the 24th March 1866, having been graciously pleased to sanction the following alterations and amendments in the present system of promotion and retirement in the Royal Navy, as provided by Her Majesty's Orders in Council of 1st August 1860, and 9th July 1864, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty hereby give notice of the mode in which such arrangements will be carried into effect:—

1. Compulsory retirement to be extended to all the Executive Lists.

2. Admirals to be retired on attaining 70 years of age, or when physically unfit for service.

3. Vice-Admirals to be retired on attaining 68 years of age, or when physically unfit for service.

4. Rear-Admirals to be retired on attaining 65 years of age, or when physically unfit for service.

5. Flag Officers, at present on the Active List, who may be retired under these Regulations, will retain all the privileges of rising in rank and pay to which they are now entitled; but no Flag Officer who has not hoisted his flag will be considered eligible for the appointments of Vice and Rear-Admirals of the United Kingdom, or for promotion to the rank of Admiral of the Fleet.

6. The Active Flag List to be reduced to 85:—

Admirals of the Fleet and Admirals 21

(But not to be more than three Admirals of the Fleet at one time.)

Vice-Admirals 22

Rear-Admirals 42

Total ... 85

This reduction to be made gradually, by only filling up two out of every three vacancies caused by the removal of Flag Officers who accept Greenwich Pensions, and by retirements from age, whether optional or compulsory. Vacancies from all other causes to be filled up as they occur. Vacancies on the List of Flag Officers on Reserved Half-pay in receipt of Service Pensions, and on the List of Flag Officers of Greenwich Hospital, will not be filled up.

7. Flag Officers, at present on the Active List, who have hoisted their Flags, or been employed at the Admiralty since their promotion to Flag

Rank, are to be allowed to retain their places on the Active List if they should prefer it, but they may be placed on the Retired List at their own request, with the consent of the Admiralty. Officers coming on the Flag List after this date will be subject to compulsory retirement at the ages specified above, whether they have served or not.

8. Captains to be retired on attaining sixty years of age, or when physically unfit for service, on the terms of the Order in Council of the 9th of July 1864. Those at present on the Active List who, before attaining the age of sixty, shall have served the necessary time to qualify them for promotion to the Active Flag List, are to be allowed to retain their places on the Active List, if they should prefer it; but no Captain will be eligible for promotion to the Active Flag List after sixty years of age, or if physically unfit for service.

9. Officers promoted to the rank of Captain after the date authorized by Her Majesty's Order in Council, to be subjected to compulsory retirement on attaining the age of sixty, whether they have served or not.

10. Captains of sixty years of age, who have served the necessary time to qualify them for promotion to the Active Flag List, and who remain on the Captains List until promoted to Rear-Admiral, to be placed on the Retired List, but will be allowed to rise by seniority to the rank and pay of Vice-Admiral and Admiral respectively. Captains who have served their time, but who retire voluntarily before reaching the top of the List, will not be entitled to rise to higher pay as Flag Officers than twenty-five shillings a day, in accordance with the Order in Council of 9th July 1864.

11. Captains who have not served their time for Active Flag Rank, and who have been unemployed for ten years, to be retired on the terms of the Order in Council of 9th July 1864.

12. Captains to be allowed to retire on attaining fifty years of age, with the consent of the Admiralty, on the terms of the Order in Council of 9th July 1864.

13. The Captains' List to be reduced gradually to 250, by filling up only two out of every three vacancies caused by age-retirements from that list, whether optional or compulsory. Vacancies from all other causes are to be filled up as they occur.

