

of men respectively, have been carefully considered and adequately recompensed:—that a new and most important benefit has been extended to the Service; namely, that every man who may be discharged after Fourteen Years faithful service, even though he should not be disabled, has a right to claim a Pension, liberally proportioned to the number of years he may have served—and that after Twenty-one Years Service, every man, in addition to a Pension of at least One Shilling per diem, may demand his free discharge from the Navy.

The Fleet will also observe the great reward and encouragement which the scale affords to those valuable classes of men the Petty and Non-Commissioned Officers, between whom and persons of inferior ratings no difference had been hitherto made, but who will now receive a reward proportioned to the length, and the merit of their respective services.

In communicating this measure to the Fleet, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty cannot but express their conviction that it will be attended with the most beneficial effects, as well to the public service as to the individual interests of the Petty and Non-Commissioned Officers, the Seamen, and Royal Marines; the duration of whose services, and the amount of whose rewards, will be no longer uncertain and variable; every man will know to what benefit he may be entitled, and he will feel that nothing but misconduct on his own part can deprive him of an honourable provision for his future life.

By Command of their Lordships,

J. W. CROKER.

SCALE OF PENSIONS

For the Seamen of His Majesty's Fleet and Royal Marines, and Rules and Regulations for the Granting, Continuing, or Rescinding the same.

I. Of Gratuities and Pensions to Men Wounded or Hurt.

Every seaman, landman, boy, or royal marine, wounded or hurt in His Majesty's service, shall receive a sum of money in the nature of Smart Money as heretofore.

Every seaman, landman, boy, or royal marine, discharged from His Majesty's service on account of wounds or hurts received therein, shall be entitled to receive a pension proportioned to his wounds or hurts, of not less than sixpence per diem, and not more than one shilling and sixpence per diem.

II. Of Pensions to Men discharged for Sickness or Debility.

Every able seaman discharged for sickness or debility from His Majesty's service, after having served seven years (or before he shall have served seven years, if the special circumstances of his case shall seem to deserve such indulgence), shall be entitled to a pension of not less than five-pence per diem, nor more than ten-pence, according to the following scale:

If incapable of contributing to earn a livelihood—Ten-pence.

If disabled, but capable of contributing something towards his livelihood—Eight-pence.

If disabled, but capable of materially assisting himself—Six-pence.

If unfit for service, but able to earn a livelihood—Five-pence.

If his length of service exceeds fourteen years, but is less than twenty-one, not less than eight-pence, nor more than one shilling and three-pence per diem, according to the following scale:

If incapable of contributing to earn a livelihood—One Shilling and Three-pence.

If disabled, but capable of contributing something towards his livelihood—One Shilling.

If disabled, but capable of materially assisting himself—Ten-pence.

If unfit for service, but able to earn a livelihood—Eight-pence.

Every seaman, landman, or royal marine, discharged for wounds or hurts, and every able seaman discharged for sickness or debility, whatever be the nature or extent of the injury, after twenty-one years service, a pension of one shilling and sixpence per diem.

All the foregoing pensions may be granted for one year or more, or for life, as the effect of the wound or hurt, or the sickness or debility may appear permanent or temporary.

III. Of Pensions for Length of Service.

Every able seaman who shall be discharged, not for wounds, hurts, sickness or debility, but on a reduction of the fleet, who shall have faithfully served fourteen years, and less than twenty-one, shall receive a pension of one halfpenny per diem, for every year of such service.

Every able seaman who shall have completed twenty-one years service, shall, even though not disabled, be entitled to his free discharge, and a pension of one shilling per diem, on the first subsequent arrival of the ship, in which he may be serving at a Pay-port in England.

Every able seaman who after having served twenty-one years, shall choose to continue his service, shall receive one halfpenny per diem for every year of such additional service, and may claim his free discharge, and his increased pension, at the conclusion of each additional year, or the first subsequent arrival of the ship in which he may be serving, at a Pay-port in England, provided, however, that the whole pension shall never exceed one shilling and sixpence per diem.

IV. Of Ordinary Seamen and Landmen.

In all the scales of the foregoing paragraphs, in which the rates are those to which an able seaman is entitled, the rate for ordinary seamen are to be four-fifths of the able seaman's rate, and those for landmen are to be three-fifths of an able seaman's rate, but no seaman shall be pensioned as able or ordinary, unless he shall have served one-third of his whole time of service in the higher rating, but all service in the higher rating, if not sufficient to entitle the individual to a higher pension, is nevertheless to be allowed as time of service, for the inferior rating and pension.