

judges as to the right title or claim of any officer to any compensation whatever, and as to the amount thereof, and the said Lords Commissioners or any two or more of them shall be the only judges upon any question which may arise under this clause, and further every determination of the said Lords Commissioners upon any such right, title, claim, amount, or question shall be absolutely final and conclusive, and every such officer shall have such rights only under this clause as the said Lords Commissioners or any two or more of them consider just and reasonable. Any determination of the said Lords Commissioners or any two or more of them may be evidenced by writing under the hands of any two of them. But this clause shall not apply to any officer engaged or employed by the Urban District Council subsequent to the thirty-first December, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six.

The accounts of the Urban District Council and their officers shall be (as soon as conveniently may

be) audited by the District Auditor in like manner and subject to the like powers, duties, provisions, and right of appeal as if the Charter had not been granted; the provisions of sections two hundred and forty-seven and two hundred and fifty of "The Public Health Act, 1875," as amended by "The District Auditors Act, 1879," and any regulations duly issued by the Local Government Board with respect to the audit of accounts of Improvement Commissioners and of their officers shall apply to such audit; and the provisions of this scheme with respect to the Urban District Council shall be construed so as to admit of such exceptions as may be necessary to enable such audit to be duly made, but such exceptions shall be duly limited in time, extent, character, and operation to the purposes of such audit. Any money certified by the District Auditor at such audit to be due from any person shall be paid by such person to the Borough Treasurer

War Office, April 21, 1899.

THE Queen has been graciously pleased to signify Her intention to confer the decoration of the Victoria Cross on the undermentioned Non-commissioned Officer, whose claims have been submitted for Her Majesty's approval, for his conspicuous bravery during an engagement at Bilot, on the North-West Frontier of India, on the night of the 16th-17th September, 1897:—

Regiment.	Name.	Act of Courage for which recommended.
The Buffs (East Kent Regiment)	Corporal James Smith	On the night of the 16th-17th September, 1897, Corporal Smith, with a party of the Buffs, responded to Lieutenant Watson's call for volunteers, and followed that Officer into the burning village of Bilot, driving off the enemy with the bayonet. Afterwards, although wounded, he continued firing steadily and coolly, and also helped to carry the wounded to the place prepared for them. When Lieutenant Watson left, in order to fetch assistance for the wounded, Corporal Smith held the position till that Officer's return, exposing his life freely in watching the enemy and directing the fire of his men.

THE Queen has further been pleased to approve the grant of the Medal for Distinguished Conduct in the Field to the undermentioned soldiers, in recognition of their services during the engagement at Bilot, on the North-West Frontier of India, on the night of the 16th-17th September, 1897:—

The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Private James Lever.
Private H. Nelthorpe.
Private C. Poile.
Private F. Finn.

War Office, April 21, 1899.

THE Queen has been graciously pleased to confer the Decoration of the Royal Red Cross upon the undermentioned Ladies:—

Miss Catherine Sarah Mowbray, late Indian Nursing Service;

Miss Mary Ellen Barker, Indian Nursing Service;

Miss Theresa McGrath;

in recognition of the services rendered by them in connection with the nursing of the sick and wounded during the late operations on the Punjab Frontier.

Also upon—

Miss Sarah Lucy Wilshaw, Army Nursing Service;

Miss Mary Ellen Harper, Army Nursing Service;

in recognition of their services in tending the sick and wounded in Egypt in connection with the recent operations in the Soudan.

Foreign Office, February 22, 1899.

THE Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint Audley Charles Gosling, Esq., now Her Majesty's Minister Resident and Consul-General at Santiago, to be Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at that Capital.

Downing Street, April 20, 1899.

THE Queen has been pleased to approve of the re-appointment of John Pringle, Esq., to be a Member of the Privy Council of the Island of Jamaica.