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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1909.

At the Court at Buckingham Palace, the 18th day of October, 1909.

PRESENT,

The KING'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 twenty-fourth day of August, one thousand nine hundred and nine, in the words following, viz.:—

"Whereas by section three of the Naval and Marine Pay and Pensions Act, 1865, it is onacted, *inter alia*, that all pay, pensions or other allowances in the nature thereof, payable in respect of services in Your Majesty's Naval or Marine Forces to a person being or having been an Officer, seaman or marine therein, shall be paid in such manner, and subject to such restrictions, conditions and provisions as are from time to time directed by Order in Council:

"And whereas we have had under our consideration the present state of the Active Lists of Commanders and Lieutenants, and the Regulations in force governing the retirement of these Officers, as sanctioned by Orders in Council of Her late Majesty bearing date the 22nd February, 1870, and 16th July, 1895, and by Your Majesty's Order in Council of the 8th December, 1903:

"And whereas, owing to the number of Officers promoted to the rank of Commander and Lieutenant in recent years, the vacancies occurring in the Captains' and Commanders' Lists for some years to come will be insufficient to provide a proper flow of promotion for the ranks below:

"And whereas we consider that it is necessary in the interests of Your Majesty's Naval Service to take steps to remedy this state of affairs, and that the result desired will be best obtained by fixing at a stated minimum the number of advancements to Captain and Commander to be made annually, and by offering exceptional terms of retirement temporarily with a view to inducing Officers to leave the Active Service before attaining the age for compulsory retirement:

"And whereas we also consider it necessary that the authorised number of Officers on the Lieutenants' List should be increased :

"We beg leave humbly to recommend that Your Majesty may be graciously pleased by Your Order in Council to sanction the following measures:—

"(1) That the numbers of Officers to be promoted annually to the rank of Captain and Commander in this and the two following years shall be twenty-four and forty-five respectively, notwithstanding the number of vacancies that may occur annually in those ranks; provided that the number of Commanders be not allowed to fall below the establishment authorised by Orders in Council of the 29th November, 1898, and 12th November, 1900.

"(2) That we may be empowered to offer temporarily to Captains, Commanders and Lieutenants the exceptional terms of retirement set forth in the annexed Schedule.

"(3) That the authorised establishment of Lieutenants may be fixed at a maximum of one thousand nine hundred.