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TUESDAY, 25 MARCH, 1924.

At the Court at Buckingham Palace, the 21st day of March, 1924.

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 12th day of March, 1924 (C. (2) 7768/23), in the words following, viz. :—

“Whereas by Section 3 of the Naval and Marine Pay and Pensions Act, 1865, it is enacted, *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 Force 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 Your Majesty was graciously pleased by Your Order in Council bearing date the 13th October, 1922, to sanction, *inter alia*, a modified scale of Long Service Pensions and Disability Pensions or Gratuities for Native Petty Officers and men, other than Europeans, of Your Majesty's Naval Service, who were entitled to Pension under existing Regulations :

“And whereas under the Regulations for the government of Your Majesty's Naval Service, Native ratings, other than Europeans, who entered the Naval Service on or after 1st January, 1904, are eligible for the award of compensation on invaliding for causes attribu-

table to the service but are precluded from any such award for long service or on invaliding for non-attributable causes :

“And whereas we are of opinion that the Native ratings who are at present so precluded, should be awarded compensation for long and faithful service, or on invaliding for non-attributable causes :

“We beg leave humbly to recommend that Your Majesty may be graciously pleased, by Your Order in Council, to authorize us to award, at our discretion, gratuities for long service or on invaliding for non-attributable causes, to Native Petty Officers and men (British subjects), other than Europeans, entered on or after 1st January, 1904, according to the following scale, and subject to the conditions and restrictions specified :—

“*Long Service.* A gratuity at the rate of 15s. a year for each complete year of qualifying service, together with a rank addition of £1 and 10s. for each year as Petty Officer and Leading Rate respectively, the total award to be conditional upon completion of 22 years' service as for Naval ratings generally.

“*Non-Attributable Invaliding.* Subject to a minimum period of 6 years' service being rendered, a gratuity on a scale similar to the above, except that the rank additions of £1 and 10s. a year shall be allowed only for each complete year of service in excess of 14 years rendered in the capacity of Petty Officer and/or Leading Rate.

“The Lords Commissioners of Your Majesty's Treasury have signified their concurrence to these proposals.”