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TUESDAY, 24 FEBRUARY, 1931.

At the Court at Buckingham Palace, the 12th day of February, 1931.

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 7th day of February, 1931 (C.W. 853/31), 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 there is at present a surplus of Lieutenant-Commanders and Lieutenants of certain seniorities:

"And whereas we consider it desirable that steps should be taken to reduce the numbers of those Officers on the Active List to those estimated to be necessary:

"We beg leave humbly to recommend that Your Majesty may be graciously pleased, by 65-33692

Your Order in Council, to sanction the following proposal:—

"Lieutenant - Commanders, R.N., of seniorities 1923 to 1931 and Lieutenants, R.N., of seniority 1923, to be given the option, at our discretion, of retiring on or after the 1st April, 1931, with retired pay on the following scale:—

"£165 a year with an addition of £7 10s. a year for each of the first six complete years of service, and an addition of £12 10s. a year for each complete year of service subsequent thereto, in the ranks of Lieutenant and Lieutenant-Commander—in reckoning 'service', time on unemployed pay or half pay to count as for retired pay generally.

"The rates of retired pay hereby authorised to be regarded as standard rates comparable with those authorised in Schedule V, Section IX, of Your Order in Council bearing date 22nd day of January, 1920, and the actual rates payable from time to time to be determined in the same manner and reviewed in the light of changes in the cost of living at the same dates as retired pay authorised by that Order.

"Officers serving abroad who are allowed to retire under this scheme to be granted full pay up to the date of arrival in England, provided they return by a direct route without delay, but not to be eligible for any extension of full pay in respect of foreign service leave.