

one month at any one time, nor exceeding in the aggregate one month for every year's service in the colony.

Governor's absence and departure from the colony. Interpretation clause.

X. The temporary absence of the Governor for any period not exceeding one month shall not, if he have previously informed the Executive Council, in writing, of his intended absence, and if he have duly appointed a Deputy in accordance with our said letters patent, nor shall any extension of such period sanctioned by one of our Principal Secretaries of State and not exceeding fourteen days, be deemed a departure from the colony within the meaning of the said letters patent.

No. 2.

(Circular.)

MY LORD,—

Downing Street, 19th April, 1892.

My attention having been called to a suggestion that officers of Constabulary forces in the colonies should be allowed to wear their Constabulary uniform at levées, I have the honour to inform you that, following the precedent of a similar privilege accorded by long-standing custom to the Royal Irish Constabulary, I have decided that this privilege may be generally allowed.

I have, &c.,

The Officer Administering the Government
of New Zealand.

KNUTSFORD.

No. 3.

(New Zealand, No. 12.)

SIR,—

Downing Street, 29th April, 1892.

I am directed by Lord Knutsford to transmit to you, for your information and that of your Government, a copy of a letter from the Admiralty, with a copy of one from the Captain of H.M.S. "Ringarooma" reporting his proceedings in New Zealand waters.

I have, &c.,

The Officer Administering the Government
of New Zealand.

KNUTSFORD.

Enclosure.

The ADMIRALTY to the COLONIAL OFFICE.

SIR,—

Admiralty, 18th April, 1892.

I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a copy of a letter from the Commander-in-Chief on the Australian Station, enclosing copy of a letter from the Captain of H.M.S. "Ringarooma" reporting his proceedings in New Zealand waters.

I am, &c.,

The Under-Secretary of State, Colonial Office.

R. D. AWDRY.

Sub-enclosure.

LETTER REPORTING PROCEEDINGS.

H.M.S. "Ringarooma," at Russell, New Zealand,

24th February, 1892.

MY LORD,—

I have the honour to report that I remained at Nelson till the 6th, on which day the Jubilee festivities ended. During the week everything passed off satisfactorily, including a review of the local forces, in which I was able to co-operate with a company of small-arm men and a field-gun, the presence of our men being much appreciated.

2. I arrived at Picton on the 7th, and at Wellington on the 12th, where I coaled and gave general leave, and remade a joint of main steam-pipe.

3. On the 19th I weighed, and proceeded off Lowry Bay to run torpedoes under weigh. The first one launched ran well; but the second did not leave the tube with the usual velocity, dived, and stuck in the mud in 9½ fathoms of water. The spot was at once marked by one of the boats in attendance, and the ship anchored. Diving and creeping were resorted to, and continued till sunset, and again the next day till 11 a.m., but without success. As to remain longer would have prevented my carrying out the arrangements for visiting New Plymouth and Russell, long before entered into, I decided to leave, having first laid down a well-secured buoy.

4. I reached New Plymouth on the 21st, and remained throughout the day, and many people came on board. I anchored here yesterday, and shall shortly proceed to Auckland.

5. It has long been my intention to send the "Tauranga" to the capital on my return to headquarters, and the commanding officer will be instructed to make a thorough search for the lost torpedo, of which a special report will be forwarded.

6. As the cruise round my station has now terminated I should wish to bring to your Lordship's notice that, in carrying out this service, I have endeavoured, and I hope successfully, to meet the wishes of the colonial authorities and people generally, recognising the arrival of the ships of the Auxiliary Squadron as marking a new departure in naval affairs, and observing how great was the general interest in the matter.