

No. 3.

SECRETARY of ADMIRALTY to UNDER SECRETARY of STATE for FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

SIR,

Admiralty, 5th February 1875.

WITH reference to your letter of the 30th ultimo, in regard to the desire expressed by the Danish Government to assist as far as possible in procuring dogs, sledge drivers, and hunters for the intended Polar Expedition, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will inform the Earl of Derby that it is desirable the Danish authorities should be acquainted that three or four hunters and dog drivers *in all* (not four for each of the stations named) will be required, and that if orders are given to that effect, and as many dogs as can be procured (not exceeding 60 in all) are got ready by the middle of June, the requirements of the expedition will be met in these respects.

I am, &c.

The Under Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs.

(Signed) VERNON LUSHINGTON.

SELECTION OF ICE QUARTERMASTERS.

SECRETARY of ADMIRALTY to COMMANDER MARKHAM.

No. 4.

Admiralty, 17th December 1874.

SIR,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to signify their directions to you to proceed to Dundee or Aberdeen to engage the services of six ice quartermasters for the intended Polar Expedition, and having made terms with them subject to their Lordships' approval, to inform them that they will be borne on the books of one of Her Majesty's ships till their services are required.

The highest rate of pay received by a chief quartermaster in the service, viz., 50*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* a year, is to be offered to the ice quartermasters, to be doubled on leaving England; and the men should undergo a preliminary medical examination prior to their being engaged, which is to be undertaken by the medical officer of the drill ship of the Naval Reserve at the port where their engagement may be made; their ages should not exceed 35 years.

I am, &c.

Commander Markham, R.N.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 5.

COMMANDER MARKHAM to SECRETARY of ADMIRALTY.

21, Eccleston Square, S.W.,

16th January 1875.

SIR,

IN obedience to the directions of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty conveyed to me in your letter of the 17th ultimo, I have the honour to report that I have engaged, subject to the approval of their Lordships, six men to act as ice quartermasters in the forthcoming Arctic Exploring Expedition.

I have deemed it expedient, in consequence of the difficulty I have experienced in obtaining suitable men, to depart from the instructions I received relative to their age; but I have only engaged such men as, in the opinion of Staff-Surgeon Colan, of the drill ship "Unicorn," and myself, are physically fit for the duties they will be called upon to perform.

I enclose an agreement that I caused the men to sign as a record of their having engaged themselves for the expedition, and also a brief statement of the past service of each individual.

I have explained to these men, as far as I was authorised, what their pay and position will be; but they are naturally desirous of learning whether an advance on their wages will be paid them for the purpose of procuring their outfit, and also whether those men who have not completed their period of drill in the Royal Naval Reserve (for they all belong to that body) will be required to undergo the full term. I beg to state that the medical examination under the supervision of Staff-Surgeon Colan has been of such a searching nature as to render further examination unnecessary, and I would submit that these men should be entered forthwith.

I have, &c.

The Secretary, Admiralty.

(Signed) A. H. MARKHAM,
Commander.