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GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The following Circular Despatch, of the 11th July, from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies is published for general information.

By Command,

J. GARDINER AUSTIN,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 17th September, 1874.

CIRCULAR.

DOWNING STREET, 11th July, 1874.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit a Copy of an Act, 37 and 38 Victoria, cap. 27, which has passed this Session, intituled "An Act to regulate the sentences imposed by Colonial Courts where jurisdiction to try is conferred by Imperial Acts."

2. As you are aware jurisdiction is given by certain Imperial Acts, as, for instance, 9 George 4, cap. 83, section 4, and 12 and 13 Victoria, cap. 96, to Colonial Courts to try offences committed beyond the jurisdiction of those Courts, and the persons convicted are made liable to suffer such punishment as by any law or laws in force at the time of the passing of such Acts, they would have been liable to if the offence had been committed and tried in England.

3. Difficulties have recently arisen, both in Victoria and Malta, in deciding what sentences could be passed upon persons tried and convicted in the Colonial Courts for offences committed out of the Colonies, but made triable within them by Imperial Act; and the Act now transmitted has been passed with a view to prevent any such questions arising for the future.

4. The Act provides that such punishment may be inflicted in such cases as might have been inflicted if the offences had been committed within the Colony.

5. The Act also includes cases, if any, where offences, if committed within the local jurisdiction of a Colonial Court, are by Imperial Act made punishable according to the Law of England.

6. Moreover, special provision is made at the end of the third section to meet the case of an offence not punishable by the Law of the Colony in which the trial takes place; and the Colonial Court is in such case empowered to impose such punishment (other than capital punishment) as shall seem to the Court most nearly to correspond to the punishment to which such person would have been liable in case such crime or offence had been tried in England.

7. These cases will, probably, be of rare occurrence; but it was thought desirable to embrace all possible cases, and to make the legislation upon the subject final and complete.

8. The usual steps should be taken to make the provisions of this Act known in the Colony under your Government.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

CARNARVON.

The Officer Administering the Government of
HONGKONG.

CHAPTER 27.

A. D. 1874. An Act to regulate the Sentences imposed by Colonial Courts where jurisdiction to try is conferred by Imperial Acts.

[30th June, 1874.]

WHEREAS by certain Acts of Parliament jurisdiction is conferred on courts in Her Majesty's colonies to try persons charged with certain crimes or offences, and doubts have arisen as to the proper sentences to be imposed upon conviction of such persons; and it is expedient to remove such doubts:

Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Short title. 1. This Act may be cited for all purposes as The Courts (Colonial) Jurisdiction Act, 1874.

Definition of term "colony."

2. For the purposes of this Act,—
The term "colony" shall not include any places within the United Kingdom, the Isle of Man, or the Channel Islands, but shall include such territories as may for the time being be vested in Her Majesty by virtue of an Act of Parliament for the Government of India, and any plantation, territory, or settlement situate elsewhere within Her Majesty's dominions, and subject to the same local government; and for the purposes of this Act, all plantations, territories, and settlements under a central legislature shall be deemed to be one colony under the same local government.

At trials in any colonial courts by virtue of Imperial Acts, courts empowered to pass sentences as if crimes had been committed in the colony.

3. When, by virtue of any Act of Parliament now or hereafter to be passed, a person is tried in a court of any colony for any crime or offence committed upon the high seas or elsewhere out of the territorial limits of such colony and of the local jurisdiction of such court, or if committed within such local jurisdiction made punishable by that Act, such person shall, upon conviction, be liable to such punishment as might have been inflicted upon him if the crime or offence had been committed within the limits of such colony and of the local jurisdiction of the court, and to no other, anything in any Act to the contrary notwithstanding: Provided always, that if the crime or offence is a crime or offence not punishable by the law of the colony in which the trial takes place, the person shall, on conviction, be liable to such punishment (other than capital punishment) as shall seem to the court most nearly to correspond to the punishment to which such person would have been liable in case such crime or offence had been tried in England.

No. 142.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The following letter, received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul-General at Bangkok, reporting that on or about the 9th of November next, a fixed Bright Light will be exhibited from the Light House erected inside the Bar at the entrance of the Bangkok River, is published for general information.

By Command,

J. GARDINER AUSTIN,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 14th September, 1874.

BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL,
BANGKOK, August 28th, 1874.

SIR,—I have the honour to report for your Excellency's information that on or about the 9th of November next, a fixed Bright Light will be exhibited from the Screw Pile Lighthouse erected inside the Bar at the entrance of the Bangkok river, on the edge of the East Bank.

The light, which is of the third order, will be visible at a distance of about ten miles, and is situated in latitude 13° 29' 26" N., longitude 100° 35' 20" E.

The light dues to be levied on Shipping of all nationalities are at the rate of One cent and-a-half per ton in full.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient Servant,

W. H. NEWMAN,
H. B. M. Acting Consul-General.

To His Excellency

SIR ARTHUR KENNEDY, K.C.M.G., C.B.,

&c.,

&c.,

&c.,

Governor,

Hongkong.