

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 40.

The following Act of the Imperial Parliament, 48 and 49, Vict., Chap. 74, entitled the *Evidence by Commission Act*, 1885, is published for general information.

By Command,

FREDERICK STEWART,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 30th January, 1886.

CHAPTER 74.

An Act to amend the Law relating to taking Evidence by Commission in India and the Colonies, and elsewhere in Her Majesty's Dominions. A. D. 1885.

[14th August, 1885.]

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 :

1. This Act may be cited as the Evidence by Commission Act, 1885. Short title.
2. Where in any civil proceeding in any court of competent jurisdiction an order for the examination of any witness or person has been made, and a commission, mandamus, order, or request for the examination of such witness or person is addressed to any court, or to any judge of a court, in India or the Colonies, or elsewhere in Her Majesty's dominions, beyond the jurisdiction of the court ordering the examination, it shall be lawful for such court, or the chief judge thereof, or such judge, to nominate some fit person to take such examination, and any deposition or examination taken before an examiner so nominated shall be admissible in evidence to the same extent as if it had been taken by or before such court or judge. Power to courts to nominate examiner in civil proceedings.
3. Where in any criminal proceeding a mandamus or order for the examination of any witness or person is addressed to any court, or to any judge of a court, in India or the Colonies, or elsewhere in Her Majesty's dominions, beyond the jurisdiction of the court ordering the examination, it shall be lawful for such court, or the chief judge thereof, or such judge, to nominate any judge of such court, or any judge of an inferior court, or magistrate within the jurisdiction of such first-mentioned court, to take the examination of such witness or person, and any deposition or examination so taken shall be admissible in evidence to the same extent as if it had been taken by or before the court or judge to whom the mandamus or order was addressed. Power in criminal proceedings to nominate judge or magistrate to take depositions.
4. The provisions of the Act passed in the twenty-second year of Her Majesty, chapter twenty, intituled "An Act to provide for taking evidence in suits and proceedings pending before tribunals in Her Majesty's dominions in places out of the Jurisdiction of such tribunals" (which may be cited as the Evidence by Commission Act, 1859), as amended by this Act, shall apply to proceedings under this Act. Application of 22 Vict. c. 20, as to conduct, money, &c., to proceedings under this Act.
5. The power to make rules conferred by section six of the Evidence by Commission Act, 1859, shall be deemed to include a power to make rules with regard to all costs of or incidental to the examination of any witness or person, including the remuneration of the examiner, if any, whether the examination be ordered pursuant to that Act or under this or any other Act for the time being in force relating to the examination of witnesses beyond the jurisdiction of the court ordering the examination. Amendment of 22 Vict. c. 20, as to costs.
6. When pursuant to any such commission, mandamus, order, or request as in this Act referred to any witness or person is to be examined in any place beyond the jurisdiction of the court ordering the examination, such witness or person may be examined on oath, affirmation, or otherwise, according to the law in force in the place where the examination is taken, and any deposition or examination so taken shall be as effectual for all purposes as if the witness or person had been examined on oath before a person duly authorised to administer an oath in the court ordering the examination. Oath or affirmation of witness.