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GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 180.

The following Circular Despatch, with its enclosure, is published.

By Command,

T. SERCOMBE SMITH,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 19th April, 1898.

CIRCULAR.

DOWNING STREET,
1st March, 1898.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit to you, for publication in the Colony under your Government, copies of an Order of the Queen in Council applying Section 238 of "The Merchant Shipping Act, 1894," respecting the arrest of Seamen deserters in the case of Japan.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

The Officer Administering the Government of
HONGKONG.

AT THE COURT AT OSBORNE HOUSE, ISLE OF WIGHT,

The 3rd day of February, 1898.

PRESENT,

THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY IN COUNCIL.

WHEREAS by sub-section (1) of section 238 of "The Merchant Shipping Act, 1894," it is provided that, where it appears to Her Majesty that due facilities are, or will be, given by the Government of any foreign country for recovering and apprehending seamen who desert from British merchant-ships in that country, Her Majesty may, by Order in Council, stating that such facilities are or will be given, declare that that section shall apply in the case of such foreign country, subject to any limitations, conditions, and qualifications contained in the Order:

And whereas it appears to Her Majesty that due facilities are given by the Government of Japan for recovering and apprehending seamen who desert from British merchant-ships in that country:

NOW, THEREFORE, Her Majesty, by virtue of the power vested in Her by the herein-before recited sub-section (1) of section 238 of "The Merchant Shipping Act, 1894," and by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, is pleased to order and declare, and it is hereby ordered and declared, that the said section 238 of "The Merchant Shipping Act, 1894," shall apply in the case of Japan.

And whereas the immediate operation of this Order is urgent; this Order shall come into operation forthwith, and shall be a *Provisional* Order within the meaning of "The Rules Publication Act, 1893."

And the Secretary of State for the Home Department, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and the Secretary of State for India in Council, are to give the necessary directions herein accordingly.

C. L. PEEL.