

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 453.

The following telegram is published.

By Command,

T. SERCOMBE SMITH,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 8th October, 1898.

“ALEXANDRIA, 7th October, 1898.

“COLONIAL SECRETARY,
“*Hongkong.*

“Plague regulations revoked in Egypt against arrivals from Hongkong.

“British Consul at Alexandria.”

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 454.

With reference to Government Notification No. 150 of the 1st May, 1886, the following Circular Despatch, covering a copy of the Queen's Regulations respecting Foreign Orders and Medals recently revised by Her Majesty's command as regards Foreign Orders, is published.

By Command,

T. SERCOMBE SMITH,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 4th October, 1898.

CIRCULAR.

DOWNING STREET,
17th August, 1898.

SIR,—With reference to Lord GRANVILLE'S Circular despatch of the 1st March, 1886, I have the honour to transmit to you, for information in the Colony under your Government, copies of the Queen's Regulations respecting Foreign Orders and Medals recently revised as regards Foreign Orders, and I have to request that they may be substituted for the copies of those previously in force.

It will be observed that the exceptions under Rule II. of the Regulations of 1886 have been extended.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

The Officer Administering the Government of

HONGKONG.

The Queen has been pleased to direct that the following Regulations respecting Foreign Orders and Medals shall be substituted for those now in force :

REGULATIONS RESPECTING FOREIGN ORDERS.

1. No subject of Her Majesty shall accept a Foreign Order from the Sovereign of any foreign country, or wear the Insignia thereof, without having previously obtained Her Majesty's permission to that effect, signified by a Warrant under Her Royal Sign-Manual.

2. "Unless the Foreign Decoration shall have been conferred in consequence of active and distinguished Service, either at Sea or in the Field, such permission will not be given to any subject of Her Majesty, except in the following cases, if recommended specially by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs:—

"(1.) The Chief of a Complimentary Mission from Her Majesty.

"(2.) A Military or Naval Attaché on the termination of his appointment.

"(3.) Any person, not at the time in the service of Her Majesty, who has rendered valuable service to the Sovereign bestowing the Order outside Her Majesty's dominions, or in an Embassy or Legation of that Sovereign in this country."

3. The intention of a Foreign Sovereign to confer upon a British Subject the Insignia of an Order must be notified to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, either through the British Minister accredited to the Court of such Foreign Sovereign, or through His Minister accredited at the Court of Her Majesty.

4. If the service for which it is proposed to confer the Order has been performed during War, the Notification required by the preceding Clause must be made not later than two years after the exchange of the Ratifications of a Treaty of Peace.

If the service has been performed in time of Peace, the Notification must be made within two years after the date of such service.

5. After such Notification shall have been received, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs shall, if the case comes within the conditions prescribed by the present Regulations, and arises from Naval or Military Services before the Enemy, refer it to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the War Department, previously to taking Her Majesty's pleasure thereupon, in order to ascertain whether there be any objection to Her Majesty's permission being granted.

A similar reference shall also be made to the Commander-in-chief if the application relates to an Officer in the Army, or to the Lords of the Admiralty if it relates to an Officer in the Navy.

6. When Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs shall have taken the Queen's pleasure on any such application, and shall have obtained Her Majesty's permission for the person in whose favour it has been made to accept the Foreign Order, and wear the Insignia thereof, he shall signify the same to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department, in order that he may cause the Warrant required by Clause 1 to be prepared for the Royal Sign-Manual.

When such Warrant shall have been signed by the Queen, a Notification thereof shall be inserted in the "Gazette," stating the service for which the Foreign Order has been conferred.

7. The Warrant signifying Her Majesty's permission may, at the request and at the expense of the person who has obtained it, be registered in the College of Arms.

8. Every such Warrant as aforesaid shall contain a Clause providing that Her Majesty's licence and permission does not authorize the assumption of any style, appellation, rank, precedence, or privilege appertaining to a Knight Bachelor of Her Majesty's Realms.

9. When a British subject has received the Royal permission to accept a Foreign Order, he will at any future time be allowed to accept the Decoration of a Higher Class of the same Order, to which he may have become eligible by increase of rank in the Foreign Service, or in the Service of his own country; or any other distinctive mark of honour strictly consequent upon the acceptance of the original Order, and common to every person upon whom such Order is conferred.

10. The preceding Clause shall not be taken to apply to Decorations of the Guelphic Order, which were bestowed on British subjects by Her Majesty's predecessors, King GEORGE IV. and King WILLIAM IV., on whose heads the Crowns of Great Britain and of Hanover were united.

Decorations so bestowed cannot properly be considered as rewards granted by a Foreign Sovereign for services rendered according to the purport of Clause 2 of these Regulations. They must be rather considered as personal favours bestowed on British Subjects by British Sovereigns, and as having no reference to services rendered to the Foreign Crown of Hanover.

Foreign Office, June 23, 1898.

REGULATIONS RESPECTING FOREIGN MEDALS.

1. Applications for permission to accept and wear Medals which, not being the Decoration of any Foreign Order, are conferred by a Foreign Sovereign on British Subjects in the Army or Navy, should be addressed to the Commander-in-chief or the Lords of the Admiralty, as the case may be, who, if they see fit, may submit the same for Her Majesty's sanction, upon obtaining which they may grant such permission without other formality.

2. Any other British subject, having obtained Her Majesty's permission, is at liberty to accept and wear a Foreign Medal, not being the Decoration of a Foreign Order.

3. No permission is necessary for accepting a Foreign Medal, if such Medal is not to be worn.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

Foreign Office, August 1885.