

DESPATCHES FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

No. 260.

CIRCULAR.

DOWNING STREET,

2nd June, 1914.

SIR, With reference to my Circular despatch of the 8th of June, 1911, I have the honour to transmit to you copies of new Regulations respecting Foreign Orders and Medals which have recently received the King's approval.

2. These regulations, which supersede all those hitherto in force, are now divided into two separate codes :—

A.—Applicable to persons in the service of the Crown.*

B.—Applicable to persons not in the service of the Crown.

I have, &c.,

L. HARCOURT.

The Officer Administering the Government of
HONGKONG.

B

Regulations respecting Foreign Orders and Medals applicable to Persons
NOT in the Service of the Crown.

Orders.

1. It is the King's wish that no subject of His Majesty shall wear the Insignia of any Foreign Order without having previously obtained His Majesty's permission to do so, signified either :—

(a.) By Warrant under the Royal Sign-Manual, or

(b.) By private permission conveyed through His Majesty's Private Secretary.

2. Permission given by Warrant under the Royal Sign-Manual will enable the Insignia of the Foreign Order to be worn at all times and without any restriction.

Private permission will only enable the Insignia to be worn on the occasions specified in the terms of the letter from the King's Private Secretary conveying the Royal sanction.

3. The full and unrestricted permission by Warrant under the Royal Sign-Manual is designed to meet cases where the Decoration may be said to have been earned by some valuable service rendered to the Head of the State conferring it, or to the State itself. Application will be made to His Majesty for full permission by His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs on behalf of any person who, not being at the time in the Service of the Crown, is either in the salaried employment of a Foreign State or has rendered valuable services within the period of two years immediately preceding the notification of the Decoration to His Majesty's Government as prescribed under Rule 5.

The expression "valuable services" must be construed as meaning some service rendered to a Foreign Head of State or Government specifically, and must be indisputably valuable in the strict sense of the word. Though such services need not necessarily be gratuitous, as in the case of a person actually in the employ of a Foreign Government, they must be unconnected with any transaction of a commercial or financial character brought about in the ordinary course of business. The term "valuable services" does not therefore, as a general rule, apply to services connected with the fulfilment of Government or Muni-

* Not published.

cial contracts, the financing of Government or Municipal loans. It also does not include Red Cross Services, presentation of objects of value to Public Museums and Institutions, pecuniary donations or endowments, personal performances, services in connection with Exhibitions and Industrial Congresses, services in the domain of art, literature, science, education, and agriculture, services rendered by British subjects in the capacity of honorary foreign Consular Officers.

4. Private or restricted permission is contemplated for Decorations which have been conferred in recognition of personal attention to the Head of a Foreign State or Member of a Reigning House, and which are therefore of a more or less complimentary character. Private permission is as a rule only given on exceptional occasions, when in the public interest and for political reasons it is deemed expedient that the acceptance of a Foreign Decoration should not be declined.

5. Both in the case of full and in that of private permission the matter will be submitted to the King by His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

The desire of the Head of a Foreign State to confer upon a British subject the Insignia of an Order, or the fact that he has done so, must be notified to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs either through the British Diplomatic Representative accredited to the Head of the Foreign State, or through the Diplomatic Representative of the latter at the Court of St. James. His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs shall be under no obligation to consider claims that are not brought to his notice through one of these channels.

6. When His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs shall have taken the King's pleasure on any such application, and shall have obtained His Majesty's permission for the person in whose favour it has been made to wear the Insignia of a Foreign Order, he shall signify the same to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department, in order that he may cause a Warrant, if it be a case for the issue of a Warrant as defined in Rule 2, to be prepared for the Royal Sign-Manual.

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

Persons in whose favour such Warrants are issued will be required to pay to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department a stamp duty of 10s.

7. The Warrant signifying His 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. Every such Warrant as aforesaid shall contain a clause providing that His Majesty's licence and permission does not authorise the assumption of any style, appellation, rank, precedence, or privilege appertaining to a Knight Bachelor of His Majesty's Realms.

8. When a British subject has received the Royal permission, full or private, to accept and wear the Decoration of a Foreign Order, he will not be allowed to accept the Decoration of a higher class of the same Order without His Majesty's approval. His Majesty will in such cases grant permission only if the promotion in the Order is conferred for fresh services which come within these Regulations.

9. These Regulations apply only to Orders of Chivalry. Decorations conferred by Private Societies and Decorations of a purely academic nature, and all Decorations not being Orders of Chivalry, may be accepted without His Majesty's permission, but must not be worn.

Exception is made in the case of a few Foreign Orders, which, though not in strictness Orders of Chivalry, yet are of such a high distinction that, for the purpose of these Regulations, they are to be considered and treated as Orders of Chivalry.

10. Ladies are subject to the Regulations in all respects in the same manner as men.

Medals.

11. Medals which constitute a particular class of a Foreign Order are subject in all respects to the Regulations in the same manner as higher grades of the Order, except that permission to wear will be given by Letter and not by Royal Warrant.

12. Medals for saving or attempting to save life at sea or on land conferred on behalf of the Head or Government of a Foreign State may be accepted without His Majesty's special permission, and may be worn at Court.

13. Medals conferred by Private Societies or Institutions and Commemorative Medals may be accepted without permission, but none of these Medals can be worn.

14. The King's permission must be obtained for any other Medal to be worn. No permission is needed to accept a Foreign Medal if it is not intended to be worn.

15. His Majesty will not grant permission to wear any Foreign War Medal if the person on whom it is to be or has been conferred was during the war acting in contravention of the Foreign Enlistment Act.

Foreign Office, March 10, 1914.

No. 261.

DOWNING STREET,

11th June, 1914.

Circular.

SIR,—With reference to my Circular despatch of the 29th of May, 1913, I have the honour to transmit, for your information, a copy of an Order of His Majesty in Council of the 14th of May, 1914, entitled "The Seal Fisheries (Crown Colonies and Protectorates) Order in Council 1914" which amends "the Seal Fisheries (Crown Colonies and Protectorates) Order in Council 1913" of which copies accompanied the despatch above referred to.

I have, &c.,

L. HARCOURT.

The Officer Administering the Government of

HONGKONG.

AT THE COURT AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE,

THE 14TH DAY OF MAY, 1914.

PRESENT,

THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY

EARL BEAUCHAMP

SIR JOSHUA WILLIAMS

MASTER OF THE HORSE

LORD JUSTICE PICKFORD

LORD CHAMBERLAIN

SIR ARTHUR CHANNELL.

WHEREAS by the Seal Fisheries (Crown Colonies and Protectorates) Order in Council, 1913, hereinafter called the Principal Order, provision was made for applying Sections 3 and 4 of the Seal Fisheries (North Pacific) Act, 1912, to certain Colonies and Protectorates, including the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Protectorate, the Solomon Islands Protectorate, and the Somaliland Protectorate, and to Cyprus and to Zanzibar (all of which Colonies and Protectorates and Cyprus and Zanzibar were thereafter referred to as "Territories affected"):

And whereas by Article 4 of the Principal Order it was directed that the said Order should be published in the *Government Gazette* of each of the Territories affected other than Zanzibar, and should thereupon come into operation in such Territory:

And whereas there is no *Government Gazette* in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Protectorate, or in the Solomon Islands Protectorate, or in the Somaliland Protectorate:

And whereas it is expedient to amend the Principal Order so as to make proper provision for bringing the said Order into operation in the said Protectorates:

NOW, THEREFORE, His Majesty, by virtue and in exercise of the powers in this behalf by the Seal Fisheries (North Pacific) Act, 1912, the Foreign Jurisdiction Act, 1890, or otherwise in His Majesty vested, is pleased, by and with the advice of His Privy Council, to order, and it is hereby ordered, as follows:—