1962 No. 400

SOUTH ATLANTIC TERRITORIES

The British Antarctic Territory Order in Council, 1962

Made - - - - *26th February,* 1962
Laid before Parliament *2nd March,* 1962
Coming into Operation *3rd March,* 1962

At the Court at Buckingham Palace, the 26th day of February, 1962

Present,

The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council

Her Majesty, by virtue and in exercise of the powers in that behalf by the British Settlements Acts, 1887 and 1945(a), the Colonial Boundaries Act, 1895(b), or otherwise in Her Majesty vested, is pleased, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, to order, and it is hereby ordered, as follows:—

Citation and commencement.

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the British Antarctic Territory Order in Council, 1962.

(2) This Order shall come into operation on the third day of March, 1962, and shall be published in the Falkland Islands Government Gazette.

Interpretation.

2.—(1) In this Order—

"the British Antarctic Territory" means all islands and territories whatsoever between the 20th degree of west longitude and the 80th degree of west longitude which are situated south of the 60th parallel of south latitude;

"the Territory" means the British Antarctic Territory.

(2) The Interpretation Act, 1889(c), shall apply, with the necessary modifications, for the purpose of interpreting this Order and otherwise in relation thereto as it applies for the purpose of interpreting and otherwise in relation to Acts of Parliament of the United Kingdom.

British Antarctic Territory to be a separate colony.

3. On the day of the commencement of this Order all the islands and territories whatsoever which were immediately before such commencement comprised in the Dependencies of the Colony of the Falkland Islands as defined in the Letters Patent dated the 21st day of July, 1908(d), and the 28th day of March, 1917(e), and are situated south of the 60th parallel of south latitude between the 20th degree of west longitude and the 80th degree of west longitude shall form a separate colony which shall be known as the British Antarctic Territory.

Establishment of office of High Commissioner.

4. There shall be a High Commissioner for the Territory who shall be appointed by Her Majesty by Commission under Her Majesty's Sign Manual and Signet and shall hold office during Her Majesty's pleasure.

(a) 50 & 51 Vict. c. 54 and 9 & 10 Geo. 6. c. 7. (b) 58 & 59 Vict. c. 34.
(c) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63. (d) Rev. VII, p. 583. (e) Rev. VII, p. 585.

Powers and duties of High Commissioner.

5. The High Commissioner shall have such powers and duties as are conferred upon him by or under this Order or any other law, and such other powers and duties as Her Majesty may from time to time be pleased to assign to him, and, subject to the provisions of this Order and any other law by which any such powers or duties are conferred, shall do or execute all things that belong to his office according to such instructions, if any, as Her Majesty may from time to time see fit to give him.

Oaths to be taken by High Commissioner.

6. A person appointed to hold the office of High Commissioner shall, before entering upon the duties of that office, take and subscribe the oath of allegiance and an oath for the due execution of his office in the form set out in the Schedule to this Order.

Discharge of High Commissioner's functions during vacancy, etc.

7.—(1) Whenever the office of High Commissioner is vacant or the High Commissioner is absent from the Territory or is from any other cause prevented from or incapable of discharging the functions of his office, those functions shall be performed by such person as Her Majesty may designate by Instructions given under Her Sign Manual and Signet or through a Secretary of State.

(2) Before any person enters upon the performance of the functions of the office of High Commissioner under this section he shall take and subscribe the oaths directed by section 6 of this Order to be taken by a person appointed to the office of High Commissioner.

(3) For the purposes of this section—

(*a*) the High Commissioner shall not be regarded as absent from the Territory, or as prevented from, or incapable of, discharging the duties of his office, during his passage from any part of the Territory to another or to any other British territory south of the 50th parallel of south latitude, or while he is in any part of the last mentioned territory; and

(*b*) the High Commissioner shall not be regarded as absent from the Territory, or as prevented from, or incapable of, discharging the functions of his office at any time when an officer is discharging those functions under section 8 of this Order.

Discharge of High Commissioner's functions by deputy.

8.—(1) The High Commissioner may, by Instrument under the Public Seal of the Territory, authorize a fit and proper person to discharge for and on behalf of the High Commissioner on such occasions and subject to such exceptions and conditions as may be specified in that Instrument such of the functions of the office of High Commissioner as may be specified in that Instrument.

(2) The powers and authority of the High Commissioner shall not be affected by any authority given to such person under this section otherwise than as Her Majesty may at any time think proper to direct, and such person shall conform to and observe such instructions relating to the discharge by him of any of the functions of the office of High Commissioner as the High Commissioner may from time to time address to him.

(3) Any authority given under this section may at any time be varied or revoked by Her Majesty by instructions given through a Secretary of State or by the High Commissioner by Instrument under the Public Seal.

Public Seal.

9. There shall be a Public Seal for the Territory. The High Commisioner shall keep and use the Public Seal for sealing all things whatsoever that shall pass the said Seal.

Constitution of offices.

10. The High Commissioner, in Her Majesty's name and on Her Majesty's behalf, may constitute offices for the Territory, make appointments to any such office and terminate any such appointment.

Power to make Regulations.

11.—(1) The High Commissioner may, by Regulations, make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Territory.

(2) Any Regulation made by the High Commissioner may be disallowed by Her Majesty through a Secretary of State.

(3) Whenever any Regulation has been disallowed by Her Majesty, the High Commissioner shall cause notice of such disallowance to be published in such manner and at such place or places in the Territory as he may direct.

(4) Every Regulation disallowed shall cease to have effect as soon as notice of disallowance is published, and thereupon any enactment amended or repealed by, or in pursuance of, the Regulation disallowed shall have effect as if the Regulation had not been made.

(5) Subject as aforesaid, the provisions of subsection (2) of section 38 of the Interpretation Act, 1889, shall apply to such disallowance as they apply to the repeal of an enactment by an Act of Parliament.

12. The High Commissioner may, in Her Majesty's name and on Her Majesty's behalf—

(*a*) grant to any person concerned in or convicted of any offence a pardon, either free or subject to lawful conditions; or

(*b*) grant to any person a respite, either indefinite or for a specified period, of the execution of any punishment imposed on that person for any offence; or

(*c*) substitute a less severe form of punishment for any punishment imposed on that person for any offence; or

(*d*) remit the whole or any part of any punishment imposed on that person for any offence or of any penalty or forfeiture otherwise due to Her Majesty on account of any offence.

Existing laws.

13.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, the existing laws shall continue to have effect in the Territory after the commencement of this Order and shall be read and construed with such modifications, adaptations, qualifications and exceptions as may be necessary to bring them into conformity with this Order.

(2) The provisions of subsection (1) of this section shall be without prejudice to any powers conferred upon the High Commissioner by section 11 of this Order.

(3) For the purposes of this section "existing laws" means all Ordinances, Laws, rules, regulations, orders and other instruments having the effect of law in the Territory immediately before the commencement of this Order.

Establishment of courts.

14.—(1) The High Commissioner may, by Regulations made under this Order, establish such courts of justice in and for the Territory as he may think fit and may make such provisions as he may think

fit respecting the jurisdiction and powers of any such court, the proceedings in any such court, the enforcement and execution of the judgments, decrees, orders and sentences of any such court given or made in the exercise of such jurisdiction and powers, and respecting appeals therefrom.

(2) A court established under this section shall sit in such place or places in the Territory as the High Commissioner may appoint:

Provided that it may also sit in such place or places within any other British territory south of the 50th parallel of south latitude as the High Commissioner, acting with the concurrence of the Governor of such territory, may appoint, in which case it may exercise its jurisdiction and powers in like manner as if it were sitting within the Territory.

(3) The High Commissioner may constitute all such judgeships and other offices as he may consider necessary for the purposes of this section and may make appointments to any office so established, and any person so appointed, unless otherwise provided by law, shall hold his office during Her Majesty's pleasure.

Amendment of section 1 (1) of the Falkland Islands (Legislative Council) Order in Council, 1948.

15. Subsection (1) of section 1 of the Falkland Islands (Legislative Council) Order in Council, 1948(a), shall be amended by the deletion therefrom of the definition of " the Dependencies " and the substitution therefor of the following definition:

" the Dependencies " means all islands and territories whatsoever between the 20th degree of west longitude and the 50th degree of west longitude which are situated between the 50th parallel of south latitude and the 60th parallel of south latitude; and all islands and territories whatsoever between the 50th degree of west longitude and the 80th degree of west longitude which are situated between the 58th parallel of south latitude and the 60th parallel of south latitude.".

W. G. Agnew.

SCHEDULE

Section 6.

Oath or Affirmation for the due execution of the Office of High Commissioner

I, DO SWEAR (or solemnly affirm) that I will well and truly serve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her Heirs and Successors, in the office of High Commissioner of the British Antarctic Territory.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Order, but is intended to indicate its general purport.)

This Order makes provision for the constitution into a new colony under the name of the British Antarctic Territory of part of the Dependencies of the colony of the Falkland Islands and for the administration of the new colony.

(a) S.I. 1948/2573 (Rev. VII, p. 591: 1948 I, p. 1018).