CHAPTER 4.

An Act to make further and better provision with respect to the admissibility in evidence in the United Kingdom of entries contained in the public registers of other countries and with respect to the proof by means of duly authenticated official certificates of entries in such registers and in consular registers and of other matters. [29th March 1933.]

BE it enacted by the King'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:—

Proof and effect of foreign dominion and colonial registers and certain official certificates.

1.—(1) If, upon consideration of a report from the Lord Chancellor and a Secretary of State, His Majesty in Council is satisfied with respect to any country that, having regard to the law of that country as to the recognition therein of public registers of the United Kingdom as authentic records and as to the proof of the contents of such registers and other matters by means of duly authenticated certificates issued by public officers in the United Kingdom, it is desirable in the interests of reciprocity to make with respect to public registers of that country and certificates issued by public officers therein such an Order as is hereinafter mentioned, it shall be lawful for His Majesty in Council to make such an Order accordingly.

(2) An Order in Council made under this section may provide that in all parts of the United Kingdom—

(*a*) a register of the country to which the Order relates, being such a register as is specified in the Order, shall be deemed to be a public register kept under the authority of the law of that country and recognised by the courts thereof as an authentic record, and to be a document of such a public nature as to be admissible as evidence of the matters regularly recorded therein:

(*b*) such matters as may be specified in the Order shall, if recorded in such a register, be deemed, until the contrary is proved, to be regularly recorded therein;

(*c*) subject to any conditions specified in the Order and to any requirements of rules of court a document purporting to be issued in the country to which the Order relates as an official copy of an entry in such a register as is so specified, and purporting to be authenticated as such in the manner specified in the Order as appropriate in the case of such a register, shall, without evidence as to the custody of the register or of inability to produce it and without any further or other proof, be received as evidence that the register contains such an entry;

(*d*) subject as aforesaid a certificate purporting to be given in the country to which the Order relates as an official certificate of any such class as is specified in the Order, and purporting to be signed by the officer, and to be authenticated in the manner specified in the Order as appropriate in the case of a certificate of that class, shall be received as evidence of the facts stated in the certificate;

(*e*) no official document issued in the country to which the Order relates as proof of any matters for the proof of which provision is made by the Order shall, if otherwise admissible in evidence, be inadmissible by reason only that it is not authenticated by the process known as legalisation.

(3) Official books of record preserved in a central registry and containing entries copied from original registers may, if those entries were copied by officials in the course of their duty, themselves be treated for the purposes of this section as registers.

(4) In this section the expression "country" means a Dominion, the Isle of Man, any of the Channel Islands, a British colony or protectorate, a foreign country, a colony or protectorate of a foreign country, or any mandated territory:

Provided that where a part of a country is under both a local and a central legislature, an Order under this section may be made as well with respect to that part, as with respect to all the parts under that central legislature.

(5) His Majesty in Council may vary or revoke any Order previously made under this section.

Proof and effect of entries in certain consular registers. 4 & 5 Geo. 5. c. 17.

2. In all parts of the United Kingdom entries made, whether before or after the commencement of the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act, 1914, in any register kept in accordance with instructions of the Secretary of State by an officer in the diplomatic or consular service of His Majesty for the registration of the births and deaths of British subjects born or dying out of His Majesty's dominions may be proved by such copies, certified in such manner, as may be directed by the Secretary of State, and the copies of any such entries shall be evidence of any matters authorised by any instruction of the Secretary of State to be inserted in the register.

Short title.

3. This Act may be cited as the Evidence (Foreign, Dominion and Colonial Documents) Act, 1933.

CHAPTER 5.

An Act to authorise the Treasury to guarantee a portion of a loan to be raised by the Government of Austria. [29th March 1933.]

WHEREAS a Protocol in the form set out in the Schedule to this Act was drawn up at Geneva on the fifteenth day of July, nineteen hundred and thirty-two, and has been signed on behalf of His Majesty's Government and of the Governments of Belgium, France, Italy and the Netherlands:

And whereas the portion of the loan mentioned in the said Protocol (in this Act referred to as "the Austrian loan") which His Majesty's Government has undertaken to guarantee or to provide is an amount of one hundred million gold schillings: