and relative provisions of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, without the necessity of expeding or recording any notarial or other instrument.

Defining s. 96 (2) of 53 & 54 Vict. c. 70.

3. Section ninety-six, sub-section two, of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, shall not apply to any urban sanitary authority as defined by sub-section seven of that section, and shall be read as limited in its operation to a rural sanitary authority as defined by sub-section eight of that section.

CHAPTER 23.

An Act to consolidate Enactments relating to the Marriage of British Subjects outside the United Kingdom.

[27th June 1892.]

BE it enacted by the Queen'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:

Validity of marriages solemnized abroad in manner provided by Act.

1. All marriages between parties of whom one at least is a British subject solemnized in the manner in this Act provided in any foreign country or place by or before a marriage officer within the meaning of this Act shall be as valid in law as if the same had been solemnized in the United Kingdom with a due observance of all forms required by law.

Notice to marriage officer of intended marriage.

2. In every case of a marriage intended to be solemnized under this Act, one of the parties intending marriage shall sign a notice, stating the name, surname, profession, condition, and residence of each of the parties, and whether each of the parties is or is not a minor, and give the notice to the marriage officer within whose district both of the parties have had their residence not less than one week then next preceding, and the notice shall state that they have so resided.

Filing in registry and posting up of notice.

3.—(1.) The marriage officer shall file every such notice, and keep it with the archives of his office, and shall also, on payment of the proper fee, forthwith enter in a book of notices to be kept by him for the purpose, and post up in some conspicuous place in his office, a true copy of every such notice, and shall keep the same so posted up during fourteen consecutive days before the marriage is solemnized under the notice.

(2.) The said book and copy posted up shall be open at all reasonable times, without fee, to the inspection of any person.

Requirement of like consent to marriage as in England, and power to forbid marriage.

4.—(1.) The like consent shall be required to a marriage under this Act as is required by law to marriages solemnized in England.

(2.) Every person whose consent to a marriage is so required may, at any time before the solemnization thereof under this Act, forbid it by writing the word "forbidden" opposite to the entry of the intended marriage in the book of notices, and by subscribing thereto his name and residence, and the character by reason of which he is

authorised to forbid the marriage; and if a marriage is so forbidden the notice shall be void, and the intended marriage shall not be solemnized under that notice.

Caveat against marriages may be lodged with marriage officer.

5.—(1.) Any person may on payment of the proper fee enter with the marriage officer a caveat, signed by him or on his behalf, and stating his residence and the ground of his objection against the solemnization of the marriage of any person named therein, and thereupon the marriage of that person shall not be solemnized until either the marriage officer has examined into the matter of the caveat and is satisfied that it ought not to obstruct the solemnization of the marriage, or the caveat is withdrawn by the person entering it.

(2.) In a case of doubt the marriage officer may transmit a copy of the caveat, with such statement respecting it as he thinks fit, to a Secretary of State, who shall refer the same to the Registrar-General, and the Registrar-General shall give his decision thereon in writing to the Secretary of State, who shall communicate it to the marriage officer.

(3.) If the marriage officer refuses to solemnize or to allow to be solemnized in his presence the marriage of any person requiring it to be solemnized, that person may appeal to a Secretary of State, who shall give the marriage officer his decision thereon.

(4.) The marriage officer shall forthwith inform the parties of and shall conform to any decision given by the Registrar-General or Secretary of State.

When marriage not solemnized within three months a new notice required.

6. Where a marriage is not solemnized within three months next after the latest of the following dates—

(*a*.) the date on which the notice for it has been given to and entered by the marriage officer under this Act, or

(*b*.) if on a caveat being entered a statement has been transmitted to a Secretary of State, or if an appeal has been made to a Secretary of State, then the date of the receipt from the Secretary of State of a decision directing the marriage to be solemnized,

the notice shall be void, and the intended marriage shall not be solemnized under that notice.

Oath before marriage.

7. Before a marriage is solemnized under this Act, each of the parties intending marriage shall appear before the marriage officer, and make, and subscribe in a book kept by the officer for the purpose, an oath—

(*a*) that he or she believes that there is not any impediment to the marriage by reason of kindred or alliance, or otherwise; and

(*b*) that both of the parties have for three weeks immediately preceding had their usual residence within the district of the marriage officer; and

(*c*) where either of the parties, not being a widower or widow, is under the age of twenty-one years, that the consent of the persons whose consent to the marriage is required by law has been obtained thereto, or, as the case may be, that there is no person having authority to give such consent.

Solemnization of marriage at office in presence of marriage officer and two witnesses.

8.—(1.) After the expiration of fourteen days after the notice of an intended marriage has been entered under this Act, then, if no lawful impediment to the marriage is shown to the satisfaction of the marriage officer, and the marriage has not been forbidden in manner provided by this Act, the marriage may be solemnized under this Act.

(2.) Every such marriage shall be solemnized at the official house of the marriage officer, with open doors, between the hours of eight in the forenoon and three in the afternoon, in the presence of two or more witnesses, and may be solemnized by another person in the presence of the marriage officer, according to the rites of the Church of England, or such other form and ceremony as the parties thereto see fit to adopt, or may, where the parties so desire, be solemnized by the marriage officer.

(3.) Where such marriage is not solemnized according to the rites of the Church of England, then in some part of the ceremony, and in the presence of the marriage officer and witnesses, each of the parties shall declare,

"I solemnly declare, that I know not of any lawful impediment why I *A.B.* [*or C.D.*] may not be joined in matrimony to *C.D.* [*or A.B.*]."

And each of the parties shall say to the other,

"I call upon these persons here present to witness, that I *A.B.* [*or C.D.*] take thee, *C.D.* [*or A.B.*], to be my lawful wedded wife [*or* husband]."

Marriage fees to marriage officer and registration of marriages.

9.—(1.) The marriage officer shall be entitled, for every marriage solemnized under this Act by him or in his presence, to have from the parties married the proper fee.

(2.) He shall forthwith register in duplicate every such marriage in two marriage register books, which shall be furnished to him from time to time for that purpose by the Registrar-General (through a Secretary of State), according to the form provided by law for the registration of marriages in England, or as near to that form as the difference of the circumstances admits.

(3.) The entry in each book of every such marriage shall be signed by the marriage officer, by the person solemnizing the marriage, if other than the marriage officer, by both the parties married, and by two witnesses of the marriage.

(4.) All such entries shall be made in regular order from the beginning to the end of each book, and the number of the entry in each duplicate shall be the same.

(5.) The marriage officer by whom or in whose presence a marriage is solemnized under this Act may ask of the parties to be married the several particulars required to be registered touching the marriage.

Annual forwarding of copies of register book to Secretary of State.

10.—(1.) In January in every year every marriage officer shall make and send to a Secretary of State, to be transmitted by him to the Registrar-General, a copy, certified by him to be a true copy, of all the entries of marriages during the preceding year in the register book kept by him, and if there has been no such entry, a

certificate of that fact; and every such copy shall be certified, and certificate given, under his hand and official seal.

(2.) The marriage officer shall keep the duplicate marriage register books safely until they are filled, and then send one of them to a Secretary of State, to be transmitted by him to the Registrar-General.

Marriage officers and their districts.

11.—(1.) For the purposes of this Act the following officers shall be marriage officers, that is to say:—

(*a.*) Any officer authorised in that behalf by a Secretary of State by authority in writing under his hand (in this Act referred to as a marriage warrant); and

(*b.*) Any officer who, under the marriage regulations herein-after mentioned is authorised to act as marriage officer without any marriage warrant,

and the district of a marriage officer shall be the area within which the duties of his office are exerciseable, or any such less area as is assigned by the marriage warrant or any other warrant of a Secretary of State, or is fixed by the marriage regulations.

(2.) Any marriage warrant of a Secretary of State may authorize to be a marriage officer—

(*a*) a British ambassador residing in a foreign country to the government of which he is accredited, and also any officer prescribed as an officer for solemnizing marriages in the official house of such ambassador;

(*b*) the holder of the office of British consul in any foreign country or place specified in the warrant; and

(*c*) a governor, high commissioner, resident, consular or other officer, or any person appointed in pursuance of the marriage regulations to act in the place of a high commissioner or resident, and this Act shall apply with the prescribed modifications to a marriage by or before a governor, high commissioner, resident, or officer so authorised by the warrant, and in such application shall not be limited to places outside Her Majesty's dominions.

(3.) If a marriage warrant refers to the office without designating the name of any particular person holding the office, then, while the warrant is in force, the person for the time being holding or acting in such office shall be a marriage officer.

(4.) A Secretary of State may, by warrant under his hand, vary or revoke any marriage warrant previously issued under this Act.

(5.) Where a marriage officer has no seal of his office, any reference in this Act to the official seal shall be construed to refer to any seal ordinarily used by him, if authenticated by his signature with his official name and description.

Marriages on board Her Majesty's ships on foreign stations.

12. A marriage under this Act may be solemnized on board one of Her Majesty's ships on a foreign station, and with respect to such marriage—

(*a*) subject to the marriage regulations a marriage warrant of a Secretary of State may authorise the commanding officer of the ship to be a marriage officer;

(*b*) the provisions of this Act shall apply with the prescribed modifications.

Avoidance of objections to marriages on account of want of formalities or authority of officer.

13.—(1.) After a marriage has been solemnized under this Act it shall not be necessary, in support of the marriage, to give any proof of the residence for the time required by or in pursuance of this Act of either of the parties previous to the marriage, or of the consent of any person whose consent thereto is required by law, nor shall any evidence to prove the contrary be given in any legal proceeding touching the validity of the marriage.

(2.) Where a marriage purports to have been solemnized and registered under this Act in the official house of a British ambassador or consul, or on board one of Her Majesty's ships, it shall not be necessary in support of the marriage, to give any proof of the authority of the marriage officer by or before whom the marriage was solemnized and registered, nor shall any evidence to prove his want of authority, whether by reason of his not being a duly authorised marriage officer or of any prohibitions or restrictions under the marriage regulations or otherwise, be given in any legal proceeding touching the validity of the marriage.

Forfeiture of property in case of fraudulent marriage.

14. If a marriage is solemnized under this Act by means of any wilfully false notice signed, or oath made by either party to the marriage, as to any matter for which a notice, or oath, is by this Act required, the Attorney General may sue for the forfeiture of all estate and interest in any property in England accruing to the offending party by the marriage; and the proceedings thereupon, and the consequences thereof, shall be the same as are provided by law in the like case with regard to marriages solemnized in England according to the rites of the Church of England.

Punishment of false oath or notice.

15. If a person—

(*a*) knowingly and wilfully makes a false oath or signs a false notice, under this Act, for the purpose of procuring a marriage, or

(*b*) forbids a marriage under this Act by falsely representing himself to be a person whose consent to the marriage is required by law, knowing such representation to be false,

such person shall suffer the penalties of perjury, and may be tried in any county in England and dealt with in the same manner in all respects as if the offence had been committed in that county.

Evidence.

16.—(1.) Any book, notice, or document directed by this Act to be kept by the marriage officer or in the archives of his office, shall be of such a public nature as to be admissible in evidence on its mere production from the custody of the officer.

(2.) A certificate of a Secretary of State as to any house, office, chapel, or other place being, or being part of, the official house of a British ambassador or consul shall be conclusive.

Application of Registration Acts to this Act.

17. All the provisions and penalties of the Marriage Registration Acts, relating to any registrar, or register of marriages or certified copies thereof, shall extend to every marriage officer, and to the registers of marriages under this Act, and to the certified copies thereof (so far as the same are applicable thereto), as if herein

re-enacted and in terms made applicable to this Act, and as if every marriage officer were a registrar under the said Acts.

Registration of marriages solemnized under local law.

18. Subject to the marriage regulations, a British consul, or person authorised to act as British consul, on being satisfied by personal attendance that a marriage between parties, of whom one at least is a British subject, has been duly solemnized in a foreign country, in accordance with the local law of the country, and on payment of the proper fee, may register the marriage in accordance with the marriage regulations as having been so solemnized, and thereupon this Act shall apply as if the marriage had been registered in pursuance of this Act, except that nothing in this Act shall affect the validity of the marriage so solemnized.

Power to refuse solemnization of marriage where marriage inconsistent with international law.

19. A marriage officer shall not be required to solemnize a marriage, or to allow a marriage to be solemnized in his presence, if in his opinion the solemnization thereof would be inconsistent with international law or the comity of nations;

Provided that any person requiring his marriage to be solemnized shall, if the officer refuses to solemnize it or allow it to be solemnized in his presence, have the right of appeal to the Secretary of State given by this Act.

Fees. 54 & 55 Vict. c. 36.

20. The proper fee under this Act shall be such fee as may for the time being be fixed under the Consular Salaries and Fees Act, 1891; and the fee so fixed as respects a consul shall be the fee which may be taken by any marriage officer; and the provisions relating to the levying, application, and remission of and accounting for fees under that Act shall apply to the same when taken by any marriage officer who is not a consul.

Power to make marriage regulations.

21.—(1.) Her Majesty the Queen in Council may make regulations (in this Act referred to as the marriage regulations)—

(*a.*) Prohibiting or restricting the exercise by marriage officers of their powers under this Act in cases where the exercise of those powers appears to Her Majesty to be inconsistent with international law or the comity of nations, or in places where sufficient facilities appear to Her Majesty to exist without the exercise of those powers, for the solemnization of marriages to which a British subject is a party; and

(*b.*) Determining what offices, chapels, or other places are, for the purposes of marriages under this Act, to be deemed to be part of the official house or the office of a marriage officer; and

(*c.*) Modifying in special cases or classes of cases the requirements of this Act as to residence and notice, so far as such modification appears to Her Majesty to be consistent with the observance of due precautions against clandestine marriages; and

(*d.*) Prescribing the forms to be used under this Act; and

(*e.*) Adapting this Act to marriages on board one of Her Majesty's ships; and to marriages by or before a governor, high commissioner, resident, or other officer, and authorising the appointment of a person to act under this Act in the place of a high commissioner or resident; and

(*f.*) Determining who is to be the marriage officer for the purpose of a marriage in the official house of a British ambassador, or on board one of Her Majesty's ships, whether such officer is described in the regulations or named in pursuance thereof, and authorising such officer to act without any marriage warrant; and

(*g.*) Determining the conditions under which and the mode in which marriages solemnized in accordance with the local law of a foreign country may be registered under this Act; and

(*h.*) Making such provisions as seem necessary or proper for carrying into effect this Act or any marriage regulations; and

(*i.*) Varying or revoking any marriage regulations previously made.

(2.) All regulations purporting to be made in pursuance of this section may be made either generally or with reference to any particular case or class of cases, and shall be published under the authority of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, and laid before both Houses of Parliament, and deemed to be within the powers of this Act, and shall while in force have effect as if enacted by this Act.

(3.) Any marriage regulations which dispense for any reason, whether residence out of the district or otherwise, with the requirements of this Act as to residence and notice, may require as a condition or consequence of the dispensation, the production of such notice, certificate, or document, and the taking of such oath, and may authorise the publication or grant of such notice, certificate, or document, and the charge of such fees as may be prescribed by the regulations; and the provisions of this Act, including those enacting punishments with reference to any false notice or oath, shall apply as if the said notice, certificate, or document were a notice, and such oath were an oath, within the meaning of those provisions.

Validity of marriages solemnized within British lines.

22. It is hereby declared that all marriages solemnized within the British lines by any chaplain or officer or other person officiating under the orders of the commanding officer of a British army serving abroad, shall be as valid in law as if the same had been solemnized within the United Kingdom, with a due observance of all forms required by law.

Saving.

23. Nothing in this Act shall confirm or impair or in anywise affect the validity in law of any marriage solemnized beyond the seas, otherwise than as herein provided, and this Act shall not extend to the marriage of any of the Royal family.

Definitions.

24. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

The expression "Registrar-General" means the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in England:

The expression "Attorney General" means Her Majesty's Attorney General, or if there is no such Attorney General, or the Attorney General is unable or incompetent to act, Her Majesty's Solicitor General, for England:

The expression "the Marriage Registration Acts" means the Act of the session of the sixth and seventh years of the reign of

King William the Fourth, chapter eighty-six, intituled "An "Act for registering births, deaths, and marriages in England" and the enactments amending the same:

The expression "official house of a marriage officer" means, subject to the provisions of any marriage regulations, the office at which the business of such officer is transacted, and the official house of residence of such officer, and, in the case of any officer, who is an officer for solemnizing marriages in the official house of an ambassador, means the official house of the ambassador:

The expression "consul" means a consul-general, consul, vice-consul, pro-consul, or consular agent:

The expression "ambassador" includes a minister and a chargé d'affaires:

The expression "prescribed" means prescribed by marriage regulations under this Act.

Commencement of Act.

25. This Act shall come into operation on the first day of January next after the passing thereof.

Repeal and savings.

26.—(1.) The Acts specified in the schedule to this Act are hereby repealed to the extent in the third column of that Schedule mentioned.

Provided that—

(*a*) any Order in Council in force under any Act so repealed shall continue in force as if made in pursuance of this Act; and

(*b*) any proceedings taken with reference to a marriage, any register book kept, and any warrant issued in pursuance of the Acts hereby repealed, shall have effect as if taken, kept, and issued in pursuance of this Act; and

(*c*.) The fees which can be taken in pursuance of the Acts hereby repealed may continue to be taken in like manner as if fixed in pursuance of the Consular Salaries and Fees Act, 1891, and may be altered accordingly; and

(*d*.) The forms prescribed by or in pursuance of the Acts hereby repealed may continue to be used as if prescribed by an Order in Council under this Act.

(2.) Every marriage in fact solemnized and registered by or before a British consul or other marriage officer in intended pursuance of any Act hereby repealed shall, notwithstanding such repeal or any defect in the authority of the consul or the solemnization of the marriage elsewhere than at the consulate, be as valid as if the said Act had not been repealed, and the marriage had been solemnized at the consulate by or before a duly authorised consul;

Provided that this enactment shall not render valid any marriage declared invalid before the passing of this Act by any competent court, or render valid any marriage either of the parties to which has, before the passing of this Act, lawfully intermarried with any other person.

Short title.

27. This Act may be cited as the Foreign Marriage Act, 1892.

SCHEDULE.

ENACTMENTS REPEALED.

Session and Chapter.	Title.	Extent of Repeal.
4 Geo. 4. c. 91. -	An Act to relieve His Majesty's subjects from all doubt concerning the validity of certain marriages solemnized abroad.	The whole Act, so far as unrepealed.
12 & 13 Vict. c. 68. -	The Consular Marriage Act, 1849.	The whole Act.
31 & 32 Vict. c. 61. -	The Consular Marriage Act, 1868.	The whole Act.
33 & 34 Vict. c. 14. -	The Naturalization Act, 1870.	In section eleven, the words, "and of the "marriages of persons married at "any of Her Majesty's embassies "or legations."
53 & 54 Vict. c. 47. -	The Marriage Act, 1890 -	The whole Act.
54 & 55 Vict. c. 74. -	The Foreign Marriage Act, 1891.	The whole Act.

CHAPTER 24.

An Act to amend the Post Office Act, 1891, in relation to its application to Scotland, and to apply that Act to the Isle of Man and to the Channel Islands.

[27th June 1892.]

BE it enacted by the Queen'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:

Application of 54 & 55 Vict. c. 46. to Scotland.

1. In the application of the Post Office Act, 1891, to Scotland, the following provisions shall have effect:—

(1.) The Secretary for Scotland shall be substituted for the Local Government Board:

30 & 31 Vict. c. 101.

(2.) The local authority under the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1867, being a town council or police commissioners, or trustees, exercising the powers of police commissioners shall be substituted for the council of a borough and an urban sanitary authority and the district of that authority for a borough or urban sanitary district: