

THE PACIFIC ISLANDERS PROTECTION ACT, 1875.

(38 & 39 Vict. c. 51.)

An Act to amend the Act of the Session of the Thirty-fifth and Thirty-sixth years of the reign of Her present Majesty, chapter nineteen, intituled "An Act for the prevention and punishment of criminal outrages upon natives of the islands in the Pacific Ocean." [2236]
[2nd August, 1875.]

1. **Construction of Act and short title.**—This Act shall be construed as one with the Pacific Islanders Protection Act, 1872 (in this Act referred to as the principal Act); and the expression "this Act," when used in the principal Act, shall be deemed to include this Act.

The principal Act and this Act may be cited together as "The Pacific Islanders Protection Acts, 1872 and 1875," and each of them may be cited separately as "The Pacific Islanders Protection Act" of the year in which it was passed. [2237]

For the Pacific Islanders Protection Act, 1872 (c. 19), see p. 718, *ante*.

2. **Amendment of 35 & 36 Vict. c. 19, s. 3, as to the carrying in British vessels of native labourers.**—[*Recital.*] The license mentioned in sections three and five of the principal Act may authorize a British vessel to carry native labourers in such vessel for the purpose of carrying on any fishery, industry, or occupation in connexion with the said vessel, and may for that purpose be in the form contained in the Schedule B. to this Act, in lieu of the form contained in Schedule B. to the principal Act; and the bond mentioned in section three of the principal Act shall in such case be in the form contained in Schedule A. to this Act in lieu of the form contained in Schedule A. to the principal Act.

If a native labourer, carried in pursuance of a license issued under this section, is not engaged in like manner as a seaman forming part of the crew of the vessel, by an agreement made in accordance with the Merchant Shipping Act, 1854, and the Acts amending the same, the

engagement of such labourer shall be recorded in such manner and with such particulars as may be from time to time prescribed by Her Majesty by Order in Council, but in all cases the name of the labourer engaged shall be entered in the official log with particulars sufficient to identify such labourer. [2238]

See now the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894 (c. 60), Vol. 18, title SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION.

3. **Amendment of 35 & 36 Vict. c. 19, ss. 6, 16, as to seizure of suspected British vessels.**—[*Recital of 35 & 36 Vict. c. 19, ss. 6, 16.*] Where a British vessel may, under the principal Act, be detained, seized, and brought in for adjudication by any officer, all goods and effects found on board such vessel may also be detained, seized, and brought in for adjudication by such officer, either with or without such vessel; and all the provisions of the principal Act referring to the seizure or detention of a vessel shall, so far as is consistent with the tenor thereof, be construed also to refer to the seizure and detention of such goods and effects. [2239]

See the Pacific Islanders Protection Act, 1872 (c. 19), p. 718, *ante*.

4. Jurisdiction of courts in regard to vessels, goods, and effects seized under 35 & 36 Vict. c. 19, or this Act.—[*Recital.*] The High Court of Admiralty of England and every Vice-Admiralty Court in Her Majesty's dominions out of the United Kingdom shall have jurisdiction to try and condemn as forfeited to Her Majesty or restore any vessel, goods, and effects alleged to be detained or seized in pursuance of the principal Act or of this Act, and on restoring the same to award such damages in respect of the detention and seizure of such vessel, goods, and effects, or any of them, and of any person on board such vessel, and in respect of any act or thing done in relation to such detention or seizure, or in respect of any of such matters, and in any case to make such order as to costs, as, subject to the provisions of the principal Act and this Act, the court may think just.

For the purposes of the principal Act and this Act, any court mentioned in this section shall have the same powers as are by sections twelve and thirteen of the principal Act (which sections relate to the issue of commissions for the examination of witnesses and other matters relative to obtaining evidence) vested in the supreme court of any of the Australasian colonies, and further all powers which such court has in the case of any vessel, goods, and effects, or matter brought before it in the exercise of its jurisdiction under any other Act or otherwise. [2240]

Colonial Courts of Admiralty take the place of Vice-Admiralty Courts and the jurisdiction of the Admiralty Division of the High Court in England, see the Colonial Courts of Admiralty Act, 1890 (c. 27), Vol. 1, title ADMIRALTY, p. 24.

5. Adaptation of 35 & 36 Vict. c. 19, ss. 19, 20, to this Act.—Sections nineteen and twenty of the principal Act, which relate to proceedings instituted in and an award of damages by a Vice-Admiralty Court in respect of the seizure or detention of a vessel, shall extend to any such proceedings and award by the High Court of Admiralty of England, and to any such proceedings and award, either in that Court or any Vice Admiralty Court, in respect of the seizure or detention of any goods or effects authorised by this Act to be seized or detained. [2241]

As to Vice-Admiralty Courts and the High Court of Admiralty, see note to s. 4. See the Pacific Islanders Protection Act, 1872 (c. 19), p. 718, *ante*.

6. Power for Her Majesty to exercise jurisdiction over British subjects in islands of the Pacific Ocean ; to erect a court of justice for British subjects in the islands of the Pacific ; to make ordinances.—It shall be lawful for Her Majesty to exercise power and jurisdiction over her subjects within any islands and places in the Pacific Ocean not being within Her Majesty's dominions, nor within the jurisdiction of any civilized power, in the same and as ample a manner as if such power or jurisdiction had been acquired by the cession or conquest of territory, and by Order in Council to create and constitute the office of High Commissioner in, over, and for such islands and places, or some of them, and by the same or any other Order in Council to confer upon such High Commissioner power and authority, in her name and on her behalf, to make regulations for the government of her subjects in such islands and places, and to impose penalties, forfeitures, or imprisonments for the breach of such regulations.

It shall be lawful for Her Majesty, by Order in Council, to create a court of justice with civil, criminal, and Admiralty jurisdiction over Her Majesty's subjects within the islands and places to which the authority of the said High Commissioner shall extend, and with power to take cognizance of all crimes and offences committed by Her Majesty's subjects within any of the said islands and places, or upon the sea, or in any haven, river, creek, or place within the jurisdiction of the Admiralty ; and Her Majesty may, by Order in Council, from time to time direct that all the powers and jurisdiction aforesaid, or any part thereof, shall be vested in and may be exercised by the court of any British colony designated in such order, concurrently with the High Commissioner's court or otherwise, and may provide for the transmission of offenders to any such colony for trial and punishment, and for the admission in evidence on such trial of the depositions of witnesses taken in such islands and places as aforesaid, and for all other matters necessary for carrying out the provisions of such Order in Council.

It shall be lawful for Her Majesty, by any Order or Orders in Council, from time to time to ordain for the government of Her Majesty's subjects, being within such islands and places, any law or ordinance which to Her Majesty in Council may seem meet, as fully and effectually as any such law or ordinance could be made by Her Majesty in Council for the government of Her Majesty's subjects within any territory acquired by cession or conquest.

The person for the time being lawfully acting in the capacity of High Commissioner and any Deputy Commissioner duly appointed and empowered under the provisions of any such Order in Council as aforesaid, and acting under the directions of the High Commissioner, shall have and may exercise and perform any power, authority, jurisdiction, and duty vested in or imposed upon any British consular officer by the principal Act or by any other Act having reference to such consular officers, passed either before or after the passing of this Act; and every such Act shall be construed as if the said High Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner were named therein in addition to a British consular officer. [2242]

So much of this section as authorises Her Majesty to confer Admiralty jurisdiction on any court is repealed by the Colonial Courts of Admiralty Act, 1890 (c. 27), ss. 16, 18, and Sched. II., Vol. 1, title ADMIRALTY, pp. 30, 32.

Under the Western Pacific Commission a High Commissioner exercises jurisdiction over the islands in the Western Pacific, which are not within the limits of the Colony of Fiji, the States of New South Wales and Queensland, the Dominion of New Zealand, or under the protection of any civilised power.

By Pacific Order in Council, March 15, 1893, jurisdiction was extended to foreigners and to some natives.

By the New Hebrides Order in Council, November 15, 1907, art. 9 jurisdiction was extended to the New Hebrides, the Banks and Torres Islands; see also the New Hebrides Order in Council (S. R. & O. 1922, No. 717, 1923, No. 356).

The Protectorate formerly included the Tongan (or Friendly Islands) and Savage Island (Nieuve), but by S. R. & O. 1901, No. 531, the boundaries of New Zealand were extended to include islands of the Cook group and Nieu.

The Gilbert and Ellice Islands Protectorate was annexed and made a colony by the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Order in Council, 1915 (S. R. & O. 1915, III, p. 315); see also Orders in Council, January 27, February 29, 1916 (S. R. & O. 1916, Nos. 99, 167); Order in Council, 1919 (S. R. & O. 1919, No. 773).

7. Saving of rights of tribes.—Nothing herein or in any such Order in Council contained shall extend or be construed to extend to invest Her Majesty with any claim or title whatsoever to dominion or sovereignty over any such islands or places as aforesaid, or to derogate from the rights of the tribes or people inhabiting such islands or places, or of chiefs or rulers thereof, to such sovereignty or dominion, and a copy of every such Order in Council shall be laid before each House of Parliament within thirty days after the issue thereof, unless Parliament shall not then be in session, in which case a copy shall be laid before each House of Parliament within thirty days after the commencement of the next ensuing session. [2243]

8. Amendment of definitions in 35 & 36 Vict. c. 19.—[*Recital.*] The term "Australasian colonies" in the principal Act and this Act shall mean and include the colony of Fiji.

Subject to the provisions of any Act or ordinance passed by the Legislature of the colony of Fiji, the provisions of the principal Act and this Act shall continue to apply and be deemed always to have continued to apply to natives of Fiji in like manner as if they were natives of islands in the Pacific Ocean not being in Her Majesty's dominions nor within the jurisdiction of any civilized power. [2244]

For the Pacific Islanders Protection Act, 1872 (c. 19), see p. 718, *ante*.

9. Alteration of forms.—The forms in the schedules to the principal Act shall be altered by the substitution of a reference to the Pacific Islanders Protection Acts, 1872 and 1875, for the reference therein to the principal Act. [2245]

10. Proclamation of Act.—This Act shall be proclaimed in each Australasian colony by the governor thereof within six weeks after a copy of it has been received by such governor, and shall take effect in the said colony from the day of such proclamation. [2246]

[S. 11 *rep.* 46 & 47 *Vict. c.* 39 (S.L.R.)]

