

making the application to inspect all documents in the custody, or under the control of such opposite party, relating to such action or other legal proceeding, and if necessary to take examined copies of the same, in all cases in which, previous to the passing of this Act, a discovery might have been obtained by filing a bill, or by any other proceeding, in a Court of equity, at the instance of the party so making application as aforesaid to the said Court or Judge.

State documents &c. provable by certified copies, &c.

II. All proclamations, treaties, and other acts of state, of Great Britain or Ireland, or of any foreign state, or of any British Colony, and all judgments, decrees, orders, and other judicial proceedings, of any Court of justice in Great Britain or Ireland, or in any foreign state, or in any British colony, and all affidavits, pleadings, and other legal documents, filed or deposited in any such Court, may be proved in any Court of justice in this Island, or before any person having, by law or by consent of parties, authority to hear, receive, and examine evidence, either by examined copies, or by copies authenticated, as hereinafter mentioned: that is to say; if the documents sought to be proved be a proclamation, treaty, or other act of state, the authenticated copy to be admissible in evidence must purport to be sealed with the seal of the Foreign state, or Great Britain or Ireland, or British colony to which the original document belongs; and if the document sought to be proved be a judgment, decree, order, or other judicial proceeding of any foreign or colonial Court, or Court of Great Britain or Ireland, or an affidavit, pleading or other legal document, filed or deposited in any such Court, the authenticated copy to be admissible in evidence must purport either to be sealed with the seal of the foreign or colonial Court, or Court of Great Britain or Ireland, to which the original document belongs; or in the event of such Court having no seal, to be signed by the Judge, or if there be more than one Judge, by any one of the Judges of the said Court; and such Judge shall attach to his signature a statement in writing on the said copy, that the Court whereof he is a Judge has no seal; but if any of the aforesaid authenticated copies shall purport to be sealed or signed as hereinbefore respectively directed, the same shall respectively be admitted in evidence, in every case in which the original document could have been received in evidence, without any proof of the seal, where a seal is necessary, or of the signature, or of the truth of the statement attached thereto, where such signature and statement are necessary, or of the judicial character of the person appearing to have made such signature and statement.

Register of British vessels and certificates of

III. Every register of a vessel kept under any of the Acts of the Imperial Parliament, relating to the registry of British vessels, may be proved in any Court of Justice in this Island, or before any person having, by law or by consent of parties,