

able by fine and imprisonment, and all ships and their equipments, all arms and muniments of war, are forfeited to the Crown.

A sweeping provision is, that any person who counsels the commission of an offence under the Act is liable to be tried as a principal offender.

The Act provides, further, that if a Secretary of State is satisfied that there is reasonable cause for believing that a ship is being built or equipped contrary to the Act, he may issue a warrant for the seizure and detention of such ship. This is the provision under which the late seizure was made.

In addition to calling public attention to the provisions of the Act, the proclamation also in usual form warns all subjects of the penalties demanded by the Law of Nations against persons who violate the duties of neutrality, more especially by breaking blockade, or carrying despatches or soldiers or contraband of war. Such persons are liable to hostile capture, and to the penalties demanded by the Law of Nations.—*Law Journal*.

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#### THE FOREIGN ENLISTMENT ACT.

The proclamation of neutrality published a fortnight ago has been followed by the arrest of two vessels supposed to be intended as war vessels for the Chinese or Japanese Governments. Only one prosecution has, we believe, taken place under the Foreign Enlistment Act, 1870 (33 & 34 Vict. c. 90)—*Regina v. Sandoval*—a case which arose out of some operations by persons interested in fomenting a Venezuelan revolution. That case is of legal interest as deciding (1) that civil war abroad is included within the scope of the Act; (2) that an expedition is illegal within the Act although munitions of war are not shipped in British waters, if the preparation of the vessel in England is clearly part of an intended enterprise of a warlike character. And it is well that the existence and efficacy of the statute should be demonstrated to enterprising English manufacturers and shipbuilders. The action of the Government has, of course, led to some indignation among the shipowners concerned in importing rice and coal into China or in selling merchant vessels, and to some doubt as to the limits of executive power in such cases. This indignation is not lessened by the telegrams