

Be it therefore 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:—

1.—(1.) Her Majesty the Queen may, by Order in Council, prohibit, during the period specified by the Order, the catching of seals by British ships in such parts of the seas to which this Act applies as are specified by the Order.

(2.) While an Order in Council under this Act is in force—

(a.) A person belonging to a British ship shall not kill, take, or hunt, or attempt to kill or take any seal during the period and within the seas specified by the Order; and

(b.) A British ship shall not, nor shall any of the equipment or crew thereof, be used or employed in such killing, taking, hunting, or attempt.

(3.) If there is any contravention of this Act, any person committing, procuring, aiding, or abetting such contravention shall be guilty of a misdemeanour within the meaning of "The Merchant Shipping Act, 1854," and the ship and her equipment, and everything on board thereof, shall be forfeited to Her Majesty as if an offence had been committed under section 103 of the said Act, and the provisions of sections 103 and 104 and Part X of the said Act, and of section 34 of "The Merchant Shipping Act, 1876" (which are set out in the Schedule to this Act), shall apply as if they were herein re-enacted, and in terms made applicable to an offence and forfeiture under this Act, and any commissioned officer on full pay in the Naval Service of Her Majesty the Queen may seize the ship's certificate of registry.

(4.) Any commissioned officer on full pay in the Naval Service of Her Majesty the Queen shall have power during the period and in the seas specified by the Order to stop and examine any British ship, and to detain her, or any portion of her equipment, or any of her crew, if in his judgment the ship is being, or is preparing to be, used or employed in contravention of this section.

(5.) For carrying into effect an arrangement with any foreign State, an Order in Council under this Act may provide that such officers of that State as are specified in the Order may exercise the like powers under this Act as may be exercised by such a commissioned officer as aforesaid in relation to a British ship, and the equipment and crew and certificate thereof, and that such British officers as are specified in the Order may exercise, with the necessary modifications, the powers conferred by this Act in relation to a ship of the said foreign State, and the equipment and crew and papers thereof.

(6.) If during the period and within the seas specified by the Order a British ship is found having on board thereof fishing or shooting implements or nets-kiax or bodies of nets, it shall be in the power of master of such ship to prove that the ship was not used or employed in contravention of this Act.

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(3.) If there is any contravention of this Act, any person committing, procuring, aiding, or abetting such contravention shall be guilty of a misdemeanour within the meaning of "The Merchant Shipping Act, 1854," and the ship and her equipment, and everything on board thereof, shall be forfeited to Her Majesty.

(4.) In order that the above provisions as to forfeiture may be carried into effect, it shall be lawful for any commissioned officer on full pay in the Military or Naval Service of Her Majesty, or any officer of Customs in Her Majesty's dominions, or any British Consular officer, to seize and detain any ship which is being employed in contravention of this Act, and to bring her for adjudication before the High Court of Admiralty in England or Ireland, or any Court having Admiralty jurisdiction in Her Majesty's dominions; and such Court may thereupon make such order in the case as it may think fit, and may award to the officer bringing in the same for adjudication such portion of the proceeds of the sale of any forfeited ship or share as it may think right.

(5.) No such officer as aforesaid shall be responsible, either civilly or criminally, to any person whatsoever in respect of the seizure or detention of any ship that has been seized or detained by him in pursuance of the provisions herein contained, notwithstanding that such ship is not brought in for adjudication, or, if so brought in, is declared not to be liable to forfeiture, if it is shown to the satisfaction of the Judge or Court before whom any trial relating to such ship or such seizure or detention is held that there were reasonable grounds for such seizure or detention, but if no such grounds are shown, such Judge or Court may award payment of costs and damages to any party aggrieved, and make such other order in the premises as it thinks just.

(6.) Part X of "The Merchant Shipping Act, 1854," and of section 34 of "The Merchant Shipping Act, 1876" (which are set out in the Schedule to this Act) shall apply as if they were herein re-enacted and in terms made applicable to an offence and forfeiture under this Act, and any commissioned officer on full pay in the Naval Service of Her Majesty the Queen may seize the ship's certificate of registry.

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(8.) For carrying into effect an arrangement with any foreign State, an Order in Council under this Act may provide that such officers of that State as are specified in the Order may exercise the like powers under this Act as may be exercised by such a commissioned officer as aforesaid in relation to a British ship, and the

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