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FRIDAY, 28 APRIL, 1933

At the Court at Windsor Castle, the 19th day of April, 1933.

PRESENT,

The KING's Most Excellent Majesty.

Lord President.

Lord Colebrooke.

Secretary Sir John Simon.

Sir Frederick Ponsonby.

WHEREAS His Majesty is satisfied upon consideration of a report from the Lord Chancellor and the Secretary of State that, having regard to the law of Belgium as to the recognition therein of public registers of the United Kingdom as authentic records and as to the proof of the contents of such registers and other matters by means of duly authenticated certificates issued by public officers in the United Kingdom, it is desirable in the interests of reciprocity to make with respect to Belgian public registers and certificates issued by public officers in Belgium such provision as is hereinafter mentioned:

Now, therefore, His Majesty, by virtue of the powers conferred upon Him by the Evidence (Foreign, Dominion and Colonial Documents) Act, 1933 (23 Geo. 5. c. 4), and other powers enabling Him in that behalf, is pleased, by and with the advice of His Privy Council, to order, and it is hereby ordered, as follows:—

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Evidence (Belgium) Order, 1933.

(2) This Order extends to all parts of the United Kingdom and shall come into operation forthwith.

Public Registers.

2. The Belgian registers, whether those in the custody of the *Officiers de l'état civil* (Registrars of Births, etc.) or those in the custody of the *Greffiers* (Clerks) of the *Tribunaux* of first instance, containing such *actes de l'état civil* (entries relating to civil status) as are specified in the first column of the First Schedule to this Order shall be deemed to be public registers kept under the authority of the law of Belgium and recognised by the courts of Belgium as authentic records and to be documents of such a public nature as to be admissible as evidence of the matters regularly recorded therein.

3. For the purposes of the last preceding Article the matters which are specified in the second column of the said Schedule as appropriate to be recorded as part of an entry of a particular description, shall, if they are recorded in such a register as aforesaid as part of an entry of that description, be deemed, until the contrary is proved, to be regularly recorded.

4. Subject to any requirements of rules of court, a document which purports to be issued in Belgium as an official copy of an entry in any such register as aforesaid and which—

(a) in the case of a register in the custody of an *Officier de l'état civil*, purports to be signed and authenticated by that officer or his deputy and to bear the printed or stamped emblem of the communal administration; and