

law of France and recognised by the courts of France as authentic records, and to be documents of such a public nature as to be admissible as evidence of the matters regularly recorded therein.

2. For the purpose of the preceding Article, the matters which are specified in the second column of the Second Schedule to this Order as regularly 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.

3. Subject to any requirements of rules of court, a document which purports to be issued in France as an official copy of an entry in any of the registers specified in Article 1 of this Order, and which—

(a) in the case of a register in the custody of an *officier de l'état civil*, purports to be signed, and certified as in conformity with the original, by that officer or his deputy, and to bear the seal or printed or stamped emblem of the *mairie* (mayoralty), or

(b) in the case of a register in the custody of the *greffier en chef* of a tribunal, purports to be signed, and certified as in conformity with the original, by that officer or his deputy, and to bear the seal or printed or stamped emblem of the *greffe* (record office) from which the document was issued,

shall, without evidence as to the custody of the register or of inability to produce it, and without any further or other proof, be received as evidence that the register contains such an entry, if the court is satisfied that the document was issued not more than twelve months before the date on which it is sought to be used as evidence, and was so issued in response to a specific request for a complete copy of the entry in question (including the marginal notes thereto, if any).

Official Certificates.

4. Without prejudice to the effect of section seven of the Evidence Act, 1851, and subject to any requirements of rules of court, a certificate purporting to be given in France as an official certificate of any such class as is specified in the first column of the Third Schedule to this Order, and purporting to be signed by the officer, and to be authenticated in the manner, specified in the second and third columns of that Schedule respectively as appropriate in the case of a certificate of that class, shall be received as evidence of the facts stated in the certificate, if the court is satisfied that it was issued not more than three years before the date on which it is sought to be used as evidence.

General.

5. It is hereby declared that a document issued in France by a public officer, as proof of any matter for the proof of which by a document under the signature of that officer and the appropriate seal or emblem provision is made by this Order, is not, if otherwise admissible in evidence, inadmissible for any purpose by reason only that it is not authenticated by the process known as legalisation.

6.—(1) In this Order the expression "France" includes Corsica and Algeria.

(2) The Interpretation Act, 1889, applies for the interpretation of this Order as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

7. Nothing in this Order shall be taken to prohibit or restrict the admission in evidence of any copy, extract, summary, certificate or other document whatsoever which, apart from the provisions of this Order, would be admissible as evidence of any particular matter, or to affect any power which, otherwise than by virtue of this Order, is exercisable by any court with respect to the admission of documents in evidence.

8.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Evidence (France) Order in Council, 1937.

(2) This Order extends to the whole of the United Kingdom, and shall come into operation on the third day of June, nineteen hundred and thirty-seven.

M. P. A. Hankey.

FIRST SCHEDULE.

PORTIONS OF AN AGREEMENT MADE AT PARIS ON THE THIRD DAY OF APRIL, NINETEEN HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SEVEN BETWEEN HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC, TO FACILITATE THE PROOF WITHOUT LEGALISATION OF CERTAIN OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (hereafter in this Agreement referred to as "the United Kingdom") and the Government of the French Republic, desiring to facilitate the proof without legalisation of certain official documents issued in the United Kingdom or in France and intended for use in France or in the United Kingdom respectively have agreed as follows:—

Article I.

(1) The following documents, that is to say—

(a) official copies of *actes de l'état civil* (as defined in Article II (1) of this Agreement) contained in registers kept in the United Kingdom by registrars-general or by local superintendent registrars and registrars of births and deaths, or of marriages;

(b) official certificates issued by the Patent Office in London verifying copies of British patents, designs and trade marks and of other public documents deposited in the Patent Office; and

(c) official copies of judgments, decrees, orders and other judicial proceedings of any court in the United Kingdom (including entries in the Books of Council and Session or in the books of any sheriff court in Scotland) and of affidavits, pleadings or other legal documents filed or deposited in any such court,

shall, without legalisation, be admissible as evidence in France in the circumstances and to the extent indicated in Article IV (1) and (3).

(2) The following documents, that is to say—

(a) official copies of *actes de l'état civil* (as defined in Article II (2) of this Agreement) drawn up in France;