

## Enclosure.

## INFANTICIDE ACT, 1922.

(12 and 13 Geo. V, ch. 18.)

AN ACT to provide that a Woman who wilfully causes the Death of her Newly-born Child may, under certain Conditions, be convicted of Infanticide. [20th July, 1922.]

BE IT ENACTED by the King'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 :—

## Conviction for Infanticide in certain Cases.

1. (1.) Where a woman by any wilful act or omission causes the death of her newly-born child, but at the time of the act or omission she had not fully recovered from the effect of giving birth to such child, and by reason thereof the balance of her mind was then disturbed, she shall, notwithstanding that the circumstances were such that but for this Act the offence would have amounted to murder, be guilty of felony—to wit, of infanticide—and may for such offence be dealt with and punished as if she had been guilty of the offence of manslaughter of such child.

(2.) Where upon the trial of a woman for the murder of her newly-born child the jury are of opinion that she by any wilful act or omission caused its death, but that at the time of the act or omission she had not fully recovered from the effect of giving birth to such child, and that by reason thereof the balance of her mind was then disturbed, the jury may, notwithstanding that the circumstances were such that but for the provisions of this Act they might have returned a verdict of murder, return in lieu thereof a verdict of infanticide.

(3.) Nothing in this Act shall affect the power of the jury, upon an indictment for the murder of a newly-born child, to return a verdict of manslaughter, or a verdict of guilty but insane, or a verdict of concealment of birth, in pursuance of section sixty of the Offences against the Person Act, 1861. [24 & 25 Vict., c. 100.]

(4.) The said section sixty shall apply in the case of the acquittal of a woman upon indictment for infanticide as it applies upon the acquittal of a woman for murder, and upon the trial of any person over the age of sixteen for infanticide it shall be lawful for the jury, if they are satisfied that the accused is guilty of an offence under section twelve of the Children's Act, 1908 [8 Edw. VII, c. 67] to find the accused guilty of such an offence, and in that case that section shall apply accordingly.

## Short Title and extent.

2. (1.) This Act may be cited as the Infanticide Act, 1922.

(2.) This Act shall not extend to Scotland or Ireland.

## No. 21.

New Zealand, Dominions No. 279.

MY LORD,—

Downing Street, 10th August, 1922.

With reference to my despatch, Dominions No. 234, of the 13th June, 1921, and to Your Excellency's despatch, No. 171, of the 26th August, 1921, I have the honour to request you to inform your Ministers that, owing to the prevailing financial stringency, the proposals of the British Empire Forestry Conference, 1920, with regard to the institution of an Imperial Forestry Bureau have not received the support which was anticipated at the Conference, and that the Forestry Commissioners are of opinion that it is expedient to postpone its establishment until after the next Imperial Forestry Conference, which the Conference of 1920 suggested should be held in 1923.

2. Meanwhile the Empire Forestry Association have arranged to proceed with certain work which can be taken over by the Bureau on its formation, and in this connection I enclose copies of a notice setting out the aims of the association, which was issued prior to the inaugural meeting in November last.

3. The Forestry Commissioners propose working in close touch with the association, whose work on the commercial side should be especially useful. They are, for instance, taking a leading part in preparing for the timber exhibit at the British Empire Exhibition, 1924, in assembling a permanent Empire commercial-timber exhibit, and in propaganda and trade information. The Commissioners are prepared to utilize the association's journal for the purpose of making known the results of research, experiment, and statistical work with which constituent parts of the Empire may be prepared to furnish them, and to that end they propose, subject to Treasury sanction, to give the part-time services of one of their officers to assist in editing the journal.