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FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 1917.

At the Court at Buckingham Palace, the 10th day of January 1917.

PRESENT,

The KING's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS under the New Ministries and Secretaries Act, 1916, provision is made, amongst other things, for the transfer to the Minister of Labour of the powers and duties of the Board of Trade under the enactments mentioned in the Schedule to that Act:

And whereas it is further provided by the said Act that where any powers and duties are transferred by virtue of the Act the transfer is to take effect as from a date to be fixed by Order of His Majesty in Council, and that different dates may be fixed for different powers and duties:

Now, therefore, His Majesty is pleased, by and with the advice of His Privy Council, to order, and it is hereby ordered, as follows:—

- (1) The transfer to the Minister of Labour by virtue of the New Ministries and Secretaries Act, 1916, of the powers and duties of the Board of Trade under the enactments mentioned in the Schedule to that Act shall take effect as from the 10th day of January 1917.
- (2) This Order may be cited as the Ministry of Labour (Transfer of Powers) Order, 1917.

J. C. LEDLIE.

At the Court at Buckingham Palace, the 10th day of January 1917.

PRESENT,

The KING's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS on the 11th day of March 1915 an Order was issued by His Majesty in Council directing that all ships which sailed from their ports of departure after the 1st day of March 1915 might be required to discharge in a British or Allied port goods which were of enemy origin or of enemy destination or which were enemy property:

And whereas such Order in Council was consequent upon certain Orders issued by the German Government purporting to declare, in violation of the usages of war, the waters surrounding the United Kingdom a military area, in which all British and Allied merchant vessels would be destroyed, irrespective of the lives of passengers and crew, and in which neutral shipping would be exposed to similar danger, in view of the uncertainties of naval warfare:

And whereas the sinking of British, Allied, and neutral merchant ships, irrespective of the lives of passengers and crews, and in violation of the usages of war, has not been confined to the waters surrounding the United Kingdom, but has taken place in a large portion of the area of naval operations:

And whereas such illegal acts have been committed not only by German warships but by warships flying the flag of each of the enemy countries: