

It is not expected that Gentlemen will present themselves at the Drawing Room, except in attendance on the Ladies of their families.

Any Gentleman who under these circumstances should desire to be presented to The Queen will observe the same regulations as are in force for Her Majesty's Levees.

The State Apartments will be open for the reception of Company coming to Court at two o'clock.

LATHOM,

Lord Chamberlain.

*Lord Chamberlain's Office, St. James's Palace,  
May 16, 1898.*

**N**OTICE is hereby given, that the State Apartments of Windsor Castle will be open to the Public on and after Monday, the 23rd instant, on every week day, Wednesdays excepted, under the usual Regulations, until further orders.

*Privy Council Office, May 17, 1898.*

**LAND TRANSFER ACT, 1897.**

**N**OTICE is hereby given that, after the expiration of forty days from the date hereof, it is proposed to submit to Her Majesty in Council, in pursuance of the above-mentioned Act, the draft of an Order in Council declaring that Registration of Title to Land is to be compulsory on sale in the County of London.

And notice is hereby further given that, in accordance with the provisions of the Rules Publication Act, 1893, copies of the proposed draft Order in Council can be obtained by any public body, within forty days of the date of this notice, at the Privy Council Office, Whitehall.

*Privy Council Office, May 17, 1898.*

**MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894.**

**N**OTICE is hereby given that, after the expiration of forty days from the date hereof, it is proposed to submit to Her Majesty in Council, in pursuance of the above-mentioned Act, the draft of an Order in Council approving certain Pilotage Bye-laws made by the Berwick Harbour Commissioners.

And notice is hereby further given that, in accordance with the provisions of the Rules Publication Act, 1893, copies of the proposed draft Order in Council can be obtained by any public body, within forty days of the date of this notice, at the Privy Council Office, Whitehall.

*Foreign Office, May 14, 1898.*

HER Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has this day received, through Her Majesty's Ambassador at Washington, the following Circular, which has been issued by the Government of the United States of America:—

**CLEARANCE OF VESSELS AND SHIPMENTS THEREIN DURING THE WAR WITH SPAIN.**

1898. Department Circular No. 72.  
Bureau of Navigation.

Treasury Department,  
Washington, D.C., April 27, 1898.

To Collectors of Customs and others:

Your attention is directed to the following Act of Congress, approved April 25, 1898, entitled "An Act declaring that war exists between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Spain":

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled—

First—That war be, and the same is hereby, declared to exist, and that war has existed since the twenty-first day of April, anno Domini eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, including said day, between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Spain.

Second—That the President of the United States be, and he hereby is, directed and empowered to use the entire land and naval forces of the United States, and to call into the actual service of the United States the militia of the several States, to such extent as may be necessary to carry this Act into effect.

The following instructions are issued for your guidance:—

1. Clearance will be refused to any vessel for a port or place blockaded by the United States. [The President, on April 25, proclaimed a blockade of the north coast of Cuba, including ports on said coast between Cardenas and Bahia Honda, and the port of Cienfuegos on the south coast of Cuba.]

2. Clearance will be refused to any vessel, carrying goods which are contraband of war, for any Spanish port.

3. Clearance will be refused to any vessel carrying coal for any Spanish port.

4. Clearance will be refused to any American vessel for any Spanish port.

5. Up to and including May 21, 1898, clearance will be granted to any Spanish merchant vessel now in any port or place of the United States for any foreign port, except a port blockaded by the United States, provided that such vessel shall not have on board any officer in the military or naval service of Spain, or any coal (except such as may be necessary for the voyage) or any other article prohibited or contraband of war, or any despatch of or to the Spanish Government. Collectors will issue a certificate to any such vessel on clearance, reciting that said vessel has complied with the provisions of the Proclamation of the President of the United States, signed April 25, 1898, and by virtue of that Proclamation is entitled to continue her voyage if met at sea by any United States ship, except to a blockaded port. To the certificate shall be attached a copy of the Proclamation aforesaid.

Clearance in ballast will be granted to any Spanish merchant vessel which, prior to April 21, 1898, shall have sailed from any foreign port bound for any port or place in the United States, as soon as her cargo is discharged, for any foreign port, except a port blockaded by the United States, provided such vessel shall not have on board any officer in the military or naval service of Spain or any despatch of or to the Spanish Government. Collectors will issue a certificate to any such vessel on clearance, reciting that said vessel has complied with the provisions of the Proclamation of the President of the United States, signed April 26, 1898, and by virtue of that Proclamation is entitled to continue on her voyage if met at sea by a United States ship, except to a blockaded port. To the certificate shall be attached a copy of the Proclamation aforesaid.

6. Clearance will be granted to any American or neutral vessel destined for a neutral port, with a cargo also destined for a neutral port, with regard to the kind of cargo, on compliance without the provisions of law. Where officers of customs have reason to believe that coal or articles considered contraband of war are destined for the use of enemies of the United States, clearance will