

SIXTH SCHEDULE.

Orders in Council Revoked.

Orders in Council.		Extent of Repeal.
18th June, 1869 General regulations	Wholly.
26th Feb., 1880 Additional regulations	Wholly.
3rd May, 1882 Adding Barrow, and as to ports reduced or merged	Wholly.
7th Mar., 1887 Adding seven Scottish ports, and as to registry and mortgage in Scotland.	Arts. I and II.
28th Nov., 1889 Abolishing Saint Margaret's Hope as a place of registry.	Wholly.
21st Mar., 1890 Colours on sails under Declaration of 1889 ..	Wholly.
6th Feb., 1892 Change of name	Wholly.
5th Aug., 1892 Adding Fraserburgh	Wholly.
16th May, 1893 Adding Irvine, and defining expression "Collector of Customs."	Wholly.

Westminster, March 21, 1902.

THIS day the Lords being met a message was sent to the Honourable House of Commons by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, acquainting them, that *The Lords authorized by virtue of a Commission under the Great Seal, signed by His Majesty, for declaring His Royal Assent to an Act agreed upon by both Houses, do desire the immediate attendance of the Honourable House in the House of Peers to hear the Commission read;* and the Commons being come thither, the said Commission, empowering the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, and several other Lords therein named, to declare and notify the Royal Assent to the said Act, was read accordingly, and the Royal Assent given to

Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Act, 1902.

War Office, March 25, 1902.

THE following Despatch has been received from Lord Kitchener, G.C.B., &c., Commanding-in-Chief, South Africa:—
From Lord Kitchener to the Secretary of State for War.

Army Head-Quarters, South Africa,
SIR, Pretoria, 8th February, 1902.

1. IN continuation of my despatch of the 8th January, 1902, I have the honour to forward herewith an account of the operations which have taken place since that date.

In spite of the fact that we are opposed by ever-diminishing numbers, and that the process of elimination has left in the field only the most determined and irreconcilable of the burghers, our rate of captures, especially in the Eastern Transvaal, has been well maintained throughout the past month. In the last-mentioned district the forces of General Louis Botha, subjected as they have been to a series of blows, seem to be approaching a state of dis-integration which will probably be hastened by the capture, near Lydenburg, of General B. Viljoen, one of the enemy's most prominent and trusted leaders.

Our blockhouse system continues slowly but surely to spread over the country, enclosing areas, which are gradually cleared by the mobile columns, and are then occupied by a network of Constabulary posts.

A number of extensions have been made during the past few weeks. These comprise the construction of a line from Carolina to Wonderfontein, which will connect with that running from Standerton to Ermelo; a junction of the

Botha's Pass—Vrede line with that passing through Heilbron and Frankfort to Tafel Kop; and the completion of a line from Ventersdorp to Tafelkop, in the Western Transvaal.

Good progress has also been made with the important line of blockhouses which, already reaching out from Harrismith to Bethlehem, and from Kroonstad to Kaffir Kop (south of Lindley), will shortly cut the north-eastern portion of the Orange River Colony in half.

With the continued extension of these lines, the strain of night duty, and the labour of constructing fences, trenches, and other obstacles, has fallen heavily on the lessening garrisons of individual blockhouses, and it is a pleasure to me to draw attention to the cheerful and willing spirit in which the troops employed upon these isolated lines continue to respond to every fresh call which is made upon them.

In the Cape Colony, the Midland districts have been temporarily disturbed by the remnants of Kruitzinger's Commando, and by a small party under Wessels, who broke south from the neighbourhood of Stormberg. I have, however, just learnt that this part of the country has again been entirely cleared of the enemy, whose operations are now confined to the comparatively waterless and inaccessible districts to the west of the Cape Town—De Aar line. Their activity in barren portions of the country, although of less political importance than it would be in the more populous and settled midland or eastern districts, adds considerably to our difficulties in the matter of transport and supply.

2. After the capture of General Erasmus, narrated in my last despatch, Major-General Bruce Hamilton returned, on the 10th January, to Ermelo, where he was joined, from Beginderlyn, by Brigadier-General Spens' column, which was placed under his orders in substitution for Colonel Sir H. Rawlinson's troops about to be transferred to the Orange River Colony.

Rightly judging that this return to Ermelo would be interpreted by the Boers as heralding at least two or three days of rest, General Hamilton at once directed Lieutenant-Colonel Wing to make a night raid from Ermelo upon Witbank (59), 22 miles north-west of the former place, where his Intelligence agents had located a laager. Colonel Wing's march, which was undertaken in conjunction with a simultaneous descent upon the same objective by Colonel Mackenzie from the vicinity of Carolina, was