



CHAPTER 52.

An Act to prevent the Disclosure of Official Documents and Information. A.D. 1889.
[26th August 1889.]

BE it enacted by the Queen'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 :

- 1.—(1.) (a.) Where a person for the purpose of wrongfully obtaining information— Disclosure of information.
- (i.) enters or is in any part of a place belonging to Her Majesty the Queen, being a fortress, arsenal, factory, dockyard, camp, ship, office, or other like place, in which part he is not entitled to be ; or
 - (ii.) when lawfully or unlawfully in any such place as aforesaid, either obtains any document, sketch, plan, model, or knowledge of any thing which he is not entitled to obtain, or takes without lawful authority any sketch or plan ; or
 - (iii.) when outside any fortress, arsenal, factory, dockyard, or camp belonging to Her Majesty the Queen, takes or attempts to take without authority given by or on behalf of Her Majesty, any sketch or plan of that fortress, arsenal, factory, dockyard, or camp ; or
- (b.) where a person knowingly having possession of, or control over, any such document, sketch, plan, model, or knowledge as has been obtained or taken by means of any act which constitutes an offence against this Act at any time wilfully and without lawful authority communicates or attempts to communicate the same to any person to whom the same ought not, in the interest of the State, to be communicated at that time ; or
- (c.) where a person after having been entrusted in confidence by some officer under Her Majesty the Queen with any document, sketch, plan, model, or information relating to any such place as aforesaid, or to the naval or military affairs of Her Majesty, wilfully and in breach of such confidence communicates the same when, in the interest of the State, it ought not to be communicated ;

A.D. 1889. the person who in that court is Attorney-General, or exercises the like functions as the Attorney-General in England.

- Interpretations. **8.** In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—
 Any reference to a place belonging to Her Majesty the Queen includes a place belonging to any department of the Government of the United Kingdom or of any of Her Majesty's possessions, whether the place is or is not actually vested in Her Majesty ;
 Expressions referring to communications include any communication, whether in whole or in part, and whether the document, sketch, plan, model, or information itself or the substance or effect thereof only be communicated ;
 The expression "document" includes part of a document ;
 The expression "model" includes design, pattern, and specimen ;
 The expression "sketch" includes any photograph or other mode of representation of any place or thing ;
 The expression "office under Her Majesty the Queen," includes any office or employment in or under any department of the Government of the United Kingdom, and so far as regards any document, sketch, plan, model, or information relating to the naval or military affairs of Her Majesty, includes any office or employment in or under any department of the Government of any of Her Majesty's possessions.
- Saving. **9.** This Act shall not exempt any person from any proceeding for an offence which is punishable at common law, or by military or naval law, or under any Act of Parliament other than this Act, so, however, that no person be punished twice for the same offence.
- Short title. **10.** This Act may be cited as the Official Secrets Act, 1889.

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FOR

T. DIGBY PIGOTT, Esq., the Queen's Printer of Acts of Parliament.