

Office of Commissioners of Compensation,  
March 31, 1834

GENERAL RULES under the 47th and 55th  
Clauses of the Act, 3d and 4th Will. 4, c. 73.

WHEREAS by an Act, of the 3d and 4th Will. 4, c. 73, intituled "An Act for the abolition of slavery throughout the British colonies; for promoting the industry of the manumitted slaves; and for compensating the persons hitherto entitled to the services of such slaves;" the Commissioners to be appointed thereby for apportioning and distributing the compensation provided by the said Act, are authorised and required by the 47th clause to institute certain enquiries for the purpose of regulating the apportionment within the several colonies of that part of the general compensation fund which shall be assigned to each of the said colonies; and the said Commissioners are especially directed to have regard to the relative value of prædial slaves and of unattached slaves in every such colony, and to distinguish such slaves, whether prædial or unattached, into distinct classes; and, with all practicable precision, to ascertain and fix the average value of a slave in each of the said classes:

And whereas we the undersigned, Commissioners appointed by His Majesty under the authority of the said Act for enquiring into and deciding upon the claims to compensation which may be preferred under the said Act, after making the enquiries thereby directed, have ordered a return of the number of slaves and estimated value thereof in each of the said colonies to be made, according to the classes and in the form hereunto annexed, marked (A):

And whereas the said Commissioners are further required by the said 47th clause, to draw up and frame all such general rules, regard being had to the laws and usages in force in each colony respectively, as to them may seem best adapted for securing the just and equitable distribution of the said funds amongst or for the benefit of the several persons entitled thereto, and for the protection of such funds, and for the appointment and indemnification of trustees; now, therefore, we, the undersigned Commissioners, have, in obedience to such directions, drawn up and framed the following

RULES:

1. That the party or parties who shall be in possession as owner or owners of any slave or slaves, and shall appear as such by the latest returns made in the office of the Registrar of Slaves under the Registry Acts in the respective colonies, shall be deemed *prima facie* the rightful owner or owners thereof respectively; and *prima facie* entitled to the compensation monies to be awarded in respect thereof.

2. That in respect to all persons who, as owners or creditors, legatees or annuitants, may have any joint or common interest in any slave or slaves, or may be entitled to or interested in any slave or slaves, either in possession, remainder, reversion, or expectancy, the compensation monies to be awarded

in respect of such slave or slaves shall be deemed to be of the same nature, and impressed with the same character for all purposes whatsoever, so far as the same can be so taken and applied, as the slave or slaves in respect of whom such monies shall be allotted; and shall be subject to the same rules of distribution, and to the same charges and liabilities, as the same slave or slaves respectively would have been subject to according to the several estates and interests of the parties entitled thereto, and agreeably to the law and usage of the particular colony in which such slave or slaves may be registered or settled.

3. That the compensation monies to be awarded in respect of any slave or slaves, subject to any trusts or powers whatsoever, shall be subject to the same trusts or powers in all respects as the same slave or slaves were subject to.

4. That in cases in which any such compensation monies, or any interest therein, shall belong to or be vested in any married woman, infant, lunatic, or person of insane or unsound mind, or person beyond the seas, or labouring under any other legal or natural disability or incapacity, for the protection of whose rights and interests it may be necessary to make provision, and in all other cases in which it may appear to be necessary for protecting any estates or interests, and securing the due application of the compensation monies to be awarded in respect thereof, the Commissioners shall direct the appointment of Trustees to be nominated on behalf of the parties interested, and to be approved by the Commissioners, and shall cause the necessary deeds to be prepared for declaring the rights and interests of the parties and the trusts and limitations in pursuance thereof, together with all necessary provisions for the indemnity of the Trustees; and shall direct the compensation monies to be invested in the public funds in the names of such Trustees, for the benefit of the parties entitled thereto, in pursuance of such trusts and according to such respective rights and interests.

5. That in case of the death of any person entitled to such compensation monies who may die intestate before the award of such compensation, the succession to such monies shall be the same as the succession to the slave or slaves in respect of whom the compensation shall be allotted, according to the law of the particular colony in which such slave or slaves were registered or settled.

6. That the apportionment of the compensation monies amongst the persons seized of or entitled to, or having any mortgage, charge, incumbrance, judgment, or lien upon, or any claim to, or right or interest in, any slave or slaves to be manumitted by the said Act, at the time of such their manumission, shall be made according to the priority which such mortgage, charge, incumbrance, judgment, or lien, claim, right, or interest, may respectively have in or upon such slave or slaves according to the laws and usages in force in the particular colony in which such slave or slaves may be registered or settled.

7. That in all cases in which the slave or slaves in respect of whom compensation is claimed shall be