



The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1889.

MASHONALAND and MAKALAKALAND.

Foreign Office, November 21, 1889.

THE following Despatch has been addressed by the Marquis of Salisbury, K.G., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to George Glynn Petre, Esq., C.B., Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of Lisbon, instructing him to protest against the Portuguese Royal Decree of 9th November, 1889 :—

Foreign Office,

Sir,

November 21, 1889.

IN your despatch of the 16th instant I received a copy of the following Royal Decree which was published in the official Gazette of the 9th instant. It purports to place a large territory under Portuguese administration in the interior of Africa to the north and south of the Zambesi River. The district, to which the name of Zumbo is given, appears to comprise a great part of Mashonaland and an immense tract to the northward, approaching the frontiers of the Congo Free State and the watershed of Lake Nyassa. I inclose a map indicating the frontiers set forth in that Decree.

I have to request you to remind the Portuguese Government that Mashonaland is under British influence, and to state that Her Majesty's Government do not recognize a claim of Portugal to any portion of that territory. The Agreement between Lobengula and Great Britain of the 11th February, 1888, was duly notified to them in accordance with the instruction given by me to Sir George Bonham in my despatch of the 24th July of that year. It was also officially published in the Cape Colony. The Agreement recorded the fact that Lobengula is Ruler of Mashonaland and Makalalakaland.

Her Majesty's Government are also unable to recognize the claims of Portugal to the territory to the north of the Zambesi indicated in the above-mentioned Proclamation. So far as they are defined, they follow the course of the Loangwa River, on whose banks there are tribes with whom Her Majesty's Government have Treaties; and they appear to be inconsistent with British rights established by settlement upon the Shiré River and the coasts of Lake Nyassa. Beyond this they assert the jurisdiction of Portugal over vast tracts which are still unoccupied, but the knowledge of which is principally due to British explorers. You will refer Senhor Barros Gomes to the Memorandum which you placed in his hands, by my direction, on the 13th August, 1887, in which

it was stated that Her Majesty's Government protested against any claims in no degree founded on occupation, and that they could not recognize the sovereignty of Portugal in territory of which she had not practically taken possession, and in which she was represented by no authority capable of exercising the ordinary rights of sovereignty. You will formally renew this protest.

You will inform His Excellency that Her Majesty's Government recognize on the Upper Zambesi the existence of Portuguese occupation at Tete and Zumbo, but that they have no knowledge of the occupation of any other place or district.

You will place a copy of this despatch at once in the hands of Senhor Barros Gomes.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

George Glynn Petre, Esq., C.B.

Royal Decree published at Lisbon, on the 9th November, 1889.

Extract from the Journal Officiel of November 9, 1889.

(Translation.)

WHEREAS it is a matter of great importance to the interests of the Portuguese nation to consolidate the dominion and sovereignty which it already holds in the interior of the African Continent, and to cause it to irradiate to the various points where its influence preponderates, in such a manner as to secure the greatest success for the great work of humanity—the civilization of Africa—in which this country has long been engaged :

Whereas it is necessary for this purpose to establish certain strongholds and centres of official action, in order to afford to lawful trade such protection as it may require for its development, and at the same time to oppose certain Slave Trade and slavery practises that are still prevalent among the pagan and barbarous tribes of the wilds in the interior ;

Whereas the ancient village of Zumbo, on the left bank of the Zambesi, naturally presents itself as an appropriate place for the seat of a new district in the Province of Mozambique, in view not only of the mildness of its climate and the fertility and richness of the territories which surround it, but also by the extensive network of navigable rivers of which it is the centre, such as the Upper Zambesi, and its great affluents, the Cafucué and North Aruangua.

In view of the representations made to me