

Considering that, owing to the special circumstances attached to these matters and the various localities in which the law has to be carried out, the Decree No. 6928, of the 11th of September, 1920, is not altogether applicable;

I hereby, on the advice of the Council of Ministers and in accordance with the provisions of Article 32 of Decree No. 2350 of the 20th of April, 1916, decree as follows:—

Article I.

From the date of this Decree the period of six months is allowed to parties interested in the cargoes of the steamships "India" (ex "Vorwaerts"), "Goa" (ex "Marienfels"), "Diu" (ex "Lichtenfels"), "Pangim" (ex "Numantia"), and "Damao" (ex "Brisbane") to present their claims in order to receive the nett proceeds to which they may have a right, derived from the sale of the goods which were found on board those vessels and were discharged at Bombay, the said interested parties being also permitted to co-ordinate the documents relating to their claims which had previously been presented, but which having been in suspense, have not followed the proper legal course.

Article II.

The claims must be supported by legal documents proving that at the time of seizure of the ship the goods which were on board were the legitimate and undoubted property of neutral or allied citizens, and that they had not disposed of them by sale actually completed by the payment of their value.

Article III.

In order that claims may receive due consideration, the following documents are necessary:

- (a) A petition from the interested party or his legal representative;
- (b) A certificate of nationality of the interested party issued by the Consul concerned;
- (c) Bills of Lading, duly endorsed, if necessary;
- (d) A Power of Attorney from the owner of the goods, if not presenting his claim in person, with an indication of the person to whom the sum due is to be paid in Portuguese or British India;
- (e) Invoices proving that the vendor was paid for the goods;
- (f) Guarantee certificate, in accordance with the terms of Decree No. 3800 of the 28th January, 1918, if necessary.

§1. All these documents shall be duly stamped and accompanied by legalised translations and endorsed by the respective Portuguese Consular officers.

Article IV.

The duly documented claims shall be forwarded to the Directorate of Diplomatic, Geographic and Maritime Services in the Ministry for the Colonies, in order that the Committee referred to in Article VI. may report upon them, after which they will be transmitted to the Procurator of the Republic at Goa, to pronounce a decision on them in accordance with the terms of Article 32 of Decree No. 2350 of the 20th April, 1916.

Article V.

In the case of loss of the title of ownership the procedure prescribed in Article 478 of the Regulations of the 31st January, 1889, will be followed.

Article VI.

The Minister for the Colonies shall appoint two competent officials, as a Committee, to deal with all the services connected with these matters, who shall take all the necessary action both in Lisbon and in India. This Committee shall be entrusted with the organisation of all the accounts; effect all settlements connected with each claim, after legal deductions have been made; effect all payments, on the expiration of the period prescribed in Article I for the delivery orders issued by the Procurator of the Republic at Goa; pay deposits which are legally claimed under sanction of the Procurator of the Republic at Goa; accept bails which may be ordered to be tendered in conformity with the decisions passed by the said Procurator; draw up proper records of the accounts in a special book, in conformity with Article 478 of the Decree of the 31st January, 1889, whenever the certificates of guarantee according to the terms of Decree No. 3800 of the 21st of January, 1918, are not presented; settle all accounts with the Government of Portuguese India, for its share of the balances of sales legally due to it, and pay all expenses incurred with these services.

§1. The Committee shall supply the initial information regarding the claims according to the terms of Article III relative to the existence of balances, with a description of the consignments found and sold, mentioning all legal deductions which have been made, the legal standing of the claimants and the documents presented by them, and shall render the latter all necessary information in order that their claims may receive legal action, and remove all possible difficulties that may prejudice the regular course of the proceedings in accordance with the legislation concerned.

Article VII.

The sums necessary to defray the payments to be made to legally recognised claimants and other legal expenses which may have to be incurred with these services, as well as the settlement of accounts with the Government of Portuguese India, shall be placed to the order of the Committee as delegates of the Ministry for the Colonies.

These sums comprise the balances existing in London at the Ministry of Shipping handed in by Messrs. W. and A. Graham and Company, who undertook the unloading, delivery and sale of the goods found on board the steamships "Pangim" and "Damao," the deposit existing in the Caixa Geral dos Depositos transmitted by the Government of Portuguese India in October of last year on account of these sums, and the balance which is still in the possession of the Government of Portuguese India in connection with the same question.

Article VIII.

On the termination of their operations the Committee shall present a detailed and documented report thereon to the Minister for the Colonies, as well as a detailed account of all payments made and expenses incurred, which must be supported by the necessary vouchers.