

regions, and in extending trade further into the interior.

And whereas the Petition further states that the Company and their predecessors, whose businesses they purchased, have during many years past expended large sums of money and made great exertions in and about acquiring the confidence of the said native Kings, Chiefs, and peoples, which have resulted in the said cessions of territory, and large expenditure will be incurred in carrying the same into effect and discharging the obligations arising thereunder.

And whereas the Petition further states that the condition of the natives inhabiting the aforesaid territories would be materially improved, and the development of such territories and those contiguous thereto, and the civilization of their peoples would be greatly advanced if We should think fit to confer on the Company, and the Petitioner Company therefore most humbly pray that We will be graciously pleased to grant by Our Royal Charter authority to accept the full benefit of the several cessions aforesaid, and all such other powers and authorities in relation to the premises as to Us may seem meet, subject, nevertheless, to such conditions as We may think fit to impose.

And whereas the Petition further states that if such authority were conferred on the Petitioner Company they would thereby be enabled to render to Our dominions services of much value, and to promote the commercial prosperity of many of Our subjects.

Now, therefore, We, having taken the said Petition into Our Royal consideration, in Our Council, and being satisfied that the intentions of the Petitioner Company are praiseworthy, and deserve encouragement, do hereby will, ordain, grant, and declare as follows, that is to say:—

*Authorization to Company.*

1. The said National African Company Limited (in this Our Charter referred to as the Company), is hereby authorized and empowered to hold and retain the full benefit of the several cessions aforesaid, or any of them, and all rights, interests, authorities, and powers for the purposes of government, preservation of public order, protection of the said territories, or otherwise of what nature or kind soever, under or by virtue thereof, or resulting therefrom, and ceded to or vested in the Company in, over, or affecting the territories, lands, and property comprised in those several cessions, or in, over, or affecting any territories, lands, or property in the neighbourhood of the same, and to hold, use, enjoy, and exercise the same territories, lands, property, rights, interests, authorities, and powers respectively for the purposes of the Company, and on the terms of this Our Charter.

*Fulfilment by Company of Promises given.*

2. The Company shall be bound by and shall fulfil all and singular the stipulations on their part contained in the Acts of Cession aforesaid, subject to any subsequent agreement affecting those stipulations approved by one of Our Principal Secretaries of State (in this Our Charter referred to as "Our Secretary of State").

*British Character of the Company.*

3. The Company shall always be and remain British in character and domicile, and shall have its principal office in England; and its principal representative in the territories aforesaid and all the Directors shall always be natural-born British subjects, or persons who have been naturalized as British subjects by or under an Act of the Parliament of Our United Kingdom.

*Restriction of Transfer by Company.*

4. The Company shall not have power to transfer, wholly or in part, the benefit of the cessions aforesaid, or any of them, except with the consent of Our Secretary of State.

*Foreign Powers.*

5. If at any time Our Secretary of State thinks fit to dissent from or object to any of the dealings of the Company with any foreign Power, and to make to the Company any suggestion founded on that dissent or objection, the Company shall act in accordance therewith.

*Slavery.*

6. The Company shall, to the best of its power, discourage and, as far as may be practicable, abolish by degrees any system of domestic servitude existing among the native inhabitants; and no foreigner, whether European or other, shall be allowed to own slaves of any kind in the Company's territories.

*Religions of Inhabitants.*

7. The Company as such, or its officers as such, shall not in any way interfere with the religion of any class or tribe of the people of its territories, or of any of the inhabitants thereof, except so far as may be necessary in the interests of humanity, and all forms of religious worship and religious ordinances may be exercised within the said territories, and no hindrance shall be offered thereto, except as aforesaid.

*Administration of Justice to Inhabitants.*

8. In the administration of justice by the Company to the peoples of its territories, or to any of the inhabitants thereof, careful regard shall always be had to the customs and laws of the class, or tribe, or nation to which the parties respectively belong, especially with respect to the holding possession, transfer, and disposition of lands and goods, and testate or intestate succession thereto, and marriage, divorce, and legitimacy, and other rights of property and personal rights.

*Treatment of Inhabitants generally.*

9. If at any time Our Secretary of State thinks fit to dissent from, or object to, any part of the proceedings or system of the Company relative to the people of its territories, or to any of the inhabitants thereof, in respect of slavery or religion, or the administration of justice, or other matter, and to make to the Company any suggestion founded on that dissent or objection, the Company shall act in accordance therewith.

*Facilities for British National Ships.*

10. The Company shall freely afford all facilities requisite for Our ships in the harbours of the Company.

*Flag.*

11. The Company may hoist and use on its buildings, and elsewhere in its territories, and on its vessels, such distinctive flag indicating the British character of the Company as Our Secretary of State and the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty shall from time to time approve.

*General Powers of Company.*

12. The Company is hereby further authorized and empowered, subject to the approval of Our Secretary of State, to acquire and take by purchase, cession, or other lawful means, other rights, interests, authorities, or powers of any kind or nature whatever, in, over, or affecting the territories, lands, or property comprised in the several Treaties aforesaid, or any rights, interests, authorities, or powers of any kind or nature whatever in, over, or affecting other territories, lands, or property in the region aforesaid, and to hold, use,