

greater precision to their former declarations, undertake to proceed gradually, as circumstances permit, either by the means above indicated, or by any other means which they may consider suitable, with the repression of Slave Trade; each State in its respective possessions and under its own direction. Whenever they consider it possible they will lend their good offices to the Powers which, with a purely humanitarian object, may be engaged in Africa upon a similar mission.

“ARTICLE IV.

“The Powers exercising sovereignty or protectorate in Africa may, however, delegate to Chartered Companies all or a portion of the engagements which they assume in virtue of Article III. They remain, nevertheless, directly responsible for the engagements which they contract by the present General Act, and guarantee the execution thereof.

“The Powers promise to receive, aid, and protect national associations and enterprises due to private initiative which may wish to co-operate in their possessions in the repression of the Slave Trade, subject to their receiving previous authorization, which is revocable at any time; subject also to their being directed and controlled, and to the exclusion of any exercise of rights of sovereignty.

“ARTICLE V.

“The Contracting Powers undertake, unless this has already been provided for by laws in accordance with the spirit of the present Article, to enact or propose to their respective Legislatures, in the course of one year at latest from the date of the signature of the present General Act, a Law applying, on the one hand, the provisions of their penal laws concerning grave offences against the person, to the organizers and abettors of man-hunts, to perpetrators of the mutilation of adults and male infants, and to all persons who may take part in the capture of slaves by violence; and, on the other hand, the provisions relating to offences against individual liberty, to carriers, transporters, and dealers in slaves.

“Accomplices and accessories of the different categories of slave captors and dealers above specified shall be punished with penalties proportionate to those incurred by the principals.

“Guilty persons who may have escaped from the jurisdiction of the authorities of the country where the crimes or offences have been committed, shall be arrested either on communication of the incriminatory evidence by the authorities who have ascertained the violation of the law, or on production of any other proof of guilt by the Power on whose territory they have been discovered, and shall, without other formality, be held at the disposal of the Tribunals competent to try them.

“The Powers will communicate to each other with the least possible delay the Laws or Decrees already in existence or promulgated in execution of the present Article.

“ARTICLE VI.

“Slaves liberated in consequence of the stoppage or dispersal of a convoy in the interior of the continent shall be sent back, if circumstances permit, to their country of origin; if not, the local authorities shall help them as much as possible to obtain means of subsistence, and, if they desire it, to settle on the spot.

“ARTICLE VII.

“Any fugitive slave claiming on the continent the protection of the Signatory Powers shall obtain it, and shall be received in the camps and

stations officially established by them, or on board Government vessels plying on the lakes and rivers. Private stations and vessels are only permitted to exercise the right of asylum subject to the previous sanction of the State.

“ARTICLE VIII.

“The experience of all nations who have intercourse with Africa having shown the pernicious and preponderating part played by fire-arms in Slave Trade operations, as well as in intestine wars between native tribes; and this same experience having clearly proved that the preservation of the African populations, whose existence it is the express wish of the Powers to safeguard, is a radical impossibility if restrictive measures against the trade in fire-arms and ammunition are not established; the Powers decide, in so far as the present state of their frontiers permits, that the importation of fire-arms, and especially of rifles and improved weapons, as well as of powder, balls, and cartridges, is, except in the cases and under the conditions provided for in the following Article, prohibited in the territories comprised between the 20th parallel of north latitude and the 22nd parallel of south latitude, and extending westward to the Atlantic Ocean, and eastward to the Indian Ocean and its dependencies, comprising the islands adjacent to the coast as far as 100 nautical miles from the shore.

“ARTICLE IX.

“The introduction of fire-arms and ammunition, when there shall be occasion to authorize it in the possessions of the Signatory Powers which exercise rights of sovereignty or of protectorate in Africa, shall be regulated in the following manner in the zone laid down in Article VIII, unless identical or more rigorous Regulations have been already applied:—

“All imported fire-arms shall be deposited, at the cost, risk, and peril of the importers, in a public warehouse placed under the control of the Administration of the State. No withdrawal of fire-arms or imported ammunition shall take place from such warehouses without the previous authorization of the Administration. This authorization shall, except in cases hereinafter specified, be refused for the withdrawal of all arms of precision, such as rifles, magazine-guns, or breech-loaders, whether whole or in detached pieces, their cartridges, caps, or other ammunition intended for them.

“At the seaports the respective Governments may permit the establishment of private warehouses, under conditions affording the needful guarantees; but only for ordinary powder and flint-lock guns, and to the exclusion of improved arms and their ammunition.

“Besides the measures directly taken by Governments for the arming of the public force and the organization of their defence, individual exceptions shall be admitted for persons affording sufficient guarantees that the arm and ammunition delivered to them will not be given, assigned, or sold to third persons, and for travellers provided with a declaration of their Government stating that the weapon and ammunition are destined exclusively for their personal defence.

“In the cases provided for in the preceding paragraph, all arms shall be registered and marked by the authorities appointed for the control, who shall deliver to the persons in question licences to bear arms, indicating the name of the bearer and showing the stamp with which the arm is marked. These licences are revocable in case of proved abuse, and will be issued for five years only, but may be renewed.