

"On receiving notice of an act of Slave Trade or of illegal detention, or at the instance of the slaves themselves, the said Offices or authorities shall exercise all necessary diligence to insure the liberation of the slaves and the punishment of the offenders.

"The delivery of letters of freedom should in no case be delayed if the slave be accused of a crime or offence against common law. But after the delivery of the said letters, the ordinary legal procedure shall take its course.

"ARTICLE LXXXVIII.

"The Signatory Powers shall encourage the foundation in their possessions of establishments of refuge for women and of education for liberated children.

"ARTICLE LXXXIX.

"Freed slaves shall always be able to resort to the Offices to be protected in the enjoyment of their liberty. Whoever shall have used fraud or violence to deprive a liberated slave of his letters of freedom or of his liberty shall be considered as a slave-dealer.

"CHAPTER VI.—RESTRICTIVE MEASURES CONCERNING THE TRAFFIC IN SPIRITUOUS LIQUORS.

"ARTICLE XC.

"Justly anxious respecting the moral and material consequences which the abuse of spirituous liquors entails on the native populations, the Signatory Powers have agreed to apply the provisions of Articles XCI, XCII, and XCIII within a zone extending from the 20th degree north latitude to the 22nd degree south latitude, and bounded by the Atlantic Ocean on the west, and on the east by the Indian Ocean and its dependencies, comprising the islands adjacent to the shore up to 100 marine miles from the coast.

"ARTICLE XCI.

"In the regions of this zone where it shall be ascertained that, either on account of religious belief or from other motives, the use of distilled liquors does not exist or has not been developed, the Powers shall prohibit their importation. The manufacture therein of distilled liquors shall equally be prohibited.

"Each Power shall determine the limits of the zone of prohibition of alcoholic liquors in its possessions or Protectorates, and shall be bound to notify the limits thereof to the other Powers within the space of six months.

"The above prohibition can only be suspended in the case of limited quantities destined for the consumption of the non-native population, and imported under the system and conditions determined by each Government.

"ARTICLE XCII.

"The Powers having possessions or exercising Protectorates in the regions of the zone which are not placed under the system of prohibition, and into which spirituous liquors are at present either freely imported or pay an import duty of less than 15 fr. per hectolitre up to 50 degrees centigrade, undertake to levy on these spirituous liquors an import duty of 15 fr. per hectolitre up to 50 degrees centigrade for the three years next after the present General Act comes into force. At the expiration of this period the duty may be increased to 25 fr. for a fresh period of three years. At the end of the sixth year it shall be submitted to revision, taking as a basis the average results produced by these Tariffs, for the purpose of then fixing, if possible, a minimum duty throughout the whole extent of the zone where

the system of prohibition referred to in Article XCI should not be in force.

"The Powers retain the right of maintaining and increasing the duties beyond the minimum fixed by the present Article in those regions where they already possess that right.

"ARTICLE XCIII.

"Distilled liquors manufactured in the regions referred to in Article XCII, and intended for inland consumption, shall be subject to an excise duty.

"This excise duty, the collection of which the Powers undertake to insure as far as possible, shall not be lower than the minimum import duty fixed by Article XCII.

"ARTICLE XCIV.

"The Signatory Powers which have possessions in Africa contiguous to the zone specified in Article XC, undertake to adopt the necessary measures for preventing the introduction of spirituous liquors into the territories of the said zone across their inland frontiers.

"ARTICLE XCV.

"The Powers shall communicate to each other, through the Office at Brussels, and according to the terms of Chapter V, information relating to the traffic in spirituous liquors within their respective territories.

"CHAPTER VII.—FINAL PROVISIONS.

"ARTICLE XCVI.

"The present General Act repeals all contrary stipulations of the Conventions previously concluded between the Signatory Powers.

"ARTICLE XCVII.

"The Signatory Powers, without prejudice to the stipulations contained in Articles XIV, XXIII, and XCII, reserve the right of introducing into the present General Act later on, and by common agreement, such modifications or improvements as experience may prove to be useful.

"ARTICLE XCVIII.

"Powers who have not signed the present General Act shall be allowed to adhere to it.

"The Signatory Powers reserve the right to impose the conditions which they may deem necessary on such adhesion.

"If no conditions should be stipulated, adhesion implies full acceptance of all the obligations and full admission to all the advantages stipulated by the present General Act.

"The Powers shall concert among themselves as to the steps to be taken to procure the adhesion of States whose co-operation may be necessary or useful in order to insure the complete execution of the General Act.

"Adhesion shall be effected by a separate Act. It shall be notified through the Diplomatic channel to the Government of His Majesty the King of the Belgians, and by that Government to all the Signatory and adherent States.

"ARTICLE XCIX.

"The present General Act shall be ratified within a period which shall be as short as possible, and which shall not in any case exceed one year.

"Each Power shall address its ratification to the Government of His Majesty the King of the Belgians, which shall give notice thereof to all the other Signatory Powers of the present General Act.

"The ratifications of all the Powers shall remain deposited in the archives of the Kingdom of Belgium.

"As soon as all the ratifications have been produced, or at latest one year after the signature