

may claim, but only in accordance with the provisions of this decree.

All forms of procedure that may be employed other than those laid down and defined in this decree are absolutely null and void.

2. This being so, any person considering himself or herself to be entitled to property, real or personal, which the Portuguese Provisional Government has caused to be inventoried, and has taken possession of, on the plea that it belonged to the abolished religious orders, or had been held, occupied or used by or for them, must, in the first instance, present to the delegate of the Attorney of the Republic attached to the court within whose jurisdiction the property is situated, a petition, divided into articles or clauses, setting forth clearly his claim and the grounds on which it is based. The petition must be signed by a Portuguese advocate, authorised to do so by a power of attorney, the original of which, or, preferably, a notarial copy of it, must be filed with the petition. With the petition must also be filed any documentary evidence which is forthcoming, unless such documents had already been lodged at some office of State in Portugal prior to the date of the decree under consideration, in which case it will be sufficient to state where they are, the time at which they were given in, and to whom they were given.

3. Any number of claimants, who are joint owners, may apply in one petition, provided that all the property claimed lies in the same judicial district, and is connected with one and the same religious house or order.

4. If the powers of attorney are executed out of Portugal, it should be borne in mind that they must be attested by the local Portuguese consular officer, with or without the intervention of a local notary, as the said consular officer may require, and, to avoid delays, if the consulate is in a locality not much frequented, it will be well to see that consular stamps are affixed for the fee paid, and to ascertain whether the consular officer has his signature on file at the Foreign Office, Lisbon, requesting him, should it not be there, to furnish that office with his autograph without delay. After its arrival at Lisbon, the power of attorney, if drawn up in a language other than Portuguese, will have to be translated into Portuguese at the consulate of the country in whose language it is written, and, subsequently, the proper stamp duty must be paid, and the signature of the consular officer who attested it must be legalised at the Foreign Office, Lisbon. It is always advisable, in such powers, to appoint two attorneys, one to act in the case of the decease or illness of the other, and to give to both powers to delegate.

5. Similarly, any documents, to be filed as evidence, which have been drawn up out of Portugal, must be attested by the local Portuguese consular officer, translated at the proper consulate in Portugal, pay stamp duty, and be attested at the Foreign Office, Lisbon, precisely as explained with regard to powers of attorney.

6. Should the claimant not be the direct owner of the property claimed, but a representative, testamentary, by succession, or otherwise, full documentary evidence of the bequest, relationship, or other ground of representation, must be supplied and filed with the petition.

7. All claims, to be receivable, must be filed by the 30th June, 1911, if they refer to property in Portugal; by the 16th August, 1911, if they refer to property in the adjacent islands; and by the 31st December, 1911, if they refer to property in the colonies. After those dates, respectively, the property in question will be considered to have passed absolutely to the State, and no claims to it will be allowed.

8. At the time that the delegate of the Attorney of the Republic receives the claim and the documents which support it, he will give a receipt for them, the original of which should be kept in the locality where the case is filed, although it will be advisable for the claimant to hold a notarial copy of it, in case of loss or miscarriage.

9. The representative of the Republic will, under article 10 of the decree, endeavour to collect all possible evidence with regard to the claim, both in favour of it or against it, and may, should he think fit, order an enquiry to be held on the spot; but, within fifteen days from the date upon which he received the claim, he must send the *dossier* including any evidence or information he has obtained, to the secretary of the committee appointed by a ministerial order, dated the 27th December, 1910, to examine such claims, which committee will sit at the Ministry of Justice, Lisbon. (Article 38.) The committee will examine the *dossier*, and, should it be thought necessary to do so, will obtain further evidence or information, after which it will as soon as possible return the report of the proceedings to the delegate, with a report thereon, a duplicate of which will be retained at the Ministry of Justice. The delegate will then deliver a decision: allowing or refusing the claim. In the former case, he will at once order the property to be handed over to the claimant, with reservation of the rights of third parties. (Article 13.) In the latter case, his decision will be notified to the claimant, or to his attorney, to whom a certified copy of it will be delivered. Should a part of the claim be allowed, and a part be rejected, the two forms of procedure will be respectively applicable.

10. Down to this point, whatever be the result, no costs or stamp duty will be levied with regard to the proceeding, but naturally the claimants will have to pay the charges of their advocate and solicitor, as the State, even when it loses, pays no costs of any kind. (Article 16.)

11. In the "Diario do Governo," the Portuguese "Official Gazette," of the 29th March, 1911, notice is given that the Government has been authorized to grant in these preliminary proceedings, gratuitous legal advice and assistance to those applying, as we should say, *in formâ pauperis*. It is, however, advisable for the claimant to employ his own advocate when possible.

12. Should the decision be unfavourable to the claimant, he must, within thirty days from the date upon which he or his advocate is notified of it, institute proceedings to enforce his claim judicially.

13. Should a period of six, ten or eighteen months—according as the initial claim was filed in Portugal, the adjacent islands, or the colonies—have elapsed since the petition was presented to the delegate, without the claimant