



# ROYAL GAZETTE.

Published by Authority.

FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 1843.

(Copy)

[No. 137.]

Downing Street, 1st March, 1843.

SIR,—The social condition of Her Majesty's Possessions in the West Indies having lately engaged the serious attention of Her Majesty's Government, it has been determined, with the view of meeting the great demand for labor in those Colonies, to encourage, as far as may be practicable, the Emigration thither, of free persons of African birth or descent, from the Colonies of North America. As a preliminary measure, it will be necessary to remove the restrictions which it had been deemed right to interpose for the protection of the Negro population, by which contracts of service were rendered invalid unless made within the limits of the Colony in which they were to be performed.

This object has been affected in the cases of British Guiana, Trinidad, St. Lucia and Mauritius, by the issue, on the 4th ultimo, of an Order by the Queen in Council on the subject; and the Legislatures of the other Colonies have been invited to make a corresponding alteration in the local Laws.

For your information, I enclose a copy of the Order in Council, together with a copy of the previous one to which it refers.

You will observe that the Order of the 4th ultimo requires that contracts entered into on the Continent of North America should be certified by some Public Officer, as having been voluntarily made by the parties, and with a clear understanding of their meaning and effect. It will therefore be your duty to appoint one or more members of your Government to grant these certificates, and I enclose for your guidance a copy of the Forms in which they should be prepared. These certificates will be given to the parties applying for them on payment of a fee to be fixed by you. In settling its amount, you will of course take care that it shall only be sufficient to yield a reasonable remuneration for the labour performed, without unduly pressing upon the parties by whom it is to be paid. You will cause duplicates of the certificates to be forwarded to the Governor of the Colony where the Emigrants are to be employed, by the first opportunity which may offer after they have taken their departure.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

STANLEY.

## Form of Certificate.

Be it remembered, that on this      day of      , in the year of our Lord      , (A B and C D) appeared before me, (E F) (Office to be stated) at      , and in my presence, signed their names or marks, (as the case may be,) to the following Contract.

The said (A B) agrees to hire the services of the said (C D,) and the said (C D) agrees to render the said (A B) his services as a labourer in the Colony of      , upon such terms as may have been respectively agreed upon between the said (A B and C D) for 12 calendar months, commencing on the      instant, and terminating on the      day of      , in the year      .

(Signed)

[A B.]  
[C D.]

The preceding agreement was signed by the above named parties in my presence on the day and year above written, voluntarily; the same being, as far as I am able to judge, fully understood by them respectively.

[E F.]

Office to be stated.

AT THE COURT AT WINDSOR,

The 7th day of September, 1838.

PRESENT:

The QUEEN'S Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS so much of the Act made in the 4th year of the Reign of His late Majesty King William the IVth, for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies, for pro-

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moting the industry of the manumitted slaves, and for compensating the persons hitherto entitled to the services of such slaves as relates to the apprenticeship of such manumitted slaves, hath ceased or may shortly be expected to cease to be in force, in the Colonies of British Guiana, Trinidad, St. Lucia, and Mauritius; and whereas it is expedient that provision be made by law for regulating within the said Colonies respectively the relative rights and duties of masters and servants: it is, therefore, hereby ordered by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, that within each of the said Colonies of British Guiana, Trinidad, St. Lucia, and Mauritius, the various rules and regulations hereunto subjoined and comprised in the following chapters, shall henceforth be observed, and shall have the force and effect of law.

And it is further ordered, that all laws, statutes, and ordinances in force in the said Colonies, or any of them which are or shall be in any wise repugnant to or inconsistent with this present Order, shall be, and the same are hereby repealed.

And it is further ordered, that for the purposes and within the meaning of this present Order, the Officer lawfully administering the Government of any of the said Colonies shall be deemed and taken to be the Governor thereof; and that for the purposes and within the meaning of this present Order, the word, "servant," shall be construed and understood to comprise any person employed for hire, wages, or other remuneration to perform any handicraft or other bodily labour in agriculture or manufactures or in domestic service, or as a boatman, porter, or other occupation in which the Emancipated Population of the said Colonies or any of them were usually employed while in a state of slavery or as Apprenticed Labourers; and that for the purposes and within the meaning of this present Order, the word "Masters" shall be construed and understood to comprise any person whether male or female employing for hire, wages, or other remuneration, any person falling within the before mentioned description of a servant; and that for the purposes and within the meaning of this present Order the words "Contract of Service" shall be construed and understood to comprise any agreement whether oral or written, whether express or implied, into which any persons falling within the before mentioned description of the word servant, shall enter with any other person or persons, for the performance of any work or labour of any kind hereinbefore particularly mentioned; and that for the purposes and within the meaning of the present Order, the words "Stipendiary Magistrate" shall be construed and understood to comprise such Magistrates only as shall be included in any special commission of the peace to be from time to time addressed to them in the name and on the behalf of Her Majesty by the Governor for the time being of the Colony to which such Magistrates may belong, for the execution of this present Order; and that for the purposes and within the meaning of this present Order, the words "Chief Civil Judge" shall be construed and understood to mean in the Colony of British Guiana the Chief Justice of the Court of Civil and Criminal Justice of Demerara, and in the Colony of Trinidad the Chief Judge of the Court of First Instance, and in the Colony of St. Lucia, the First President of the Royal Court, and in the Colony of Mauritius, the First President of the Court of Appeal.

And it is further ordered, that all words in this Order and in the said regulations importing the singular number or the masculine gender only, shall be understood to include several persons as well as one person, and females as well as males, unless it be otherwise specially provided, or there be something in the subject or context repugnant to such construction.

And it is further ordered, that the Governor of each of the said Colonies respectively shall immediately, upon the receipt by him of this present order, publish or cause to be published a Proclamation, reciting at length the whole of the present Order, and stating the day of the month and year on which the same was so received by him; and from that day the said order shall take effect and have

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