

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.

No. 27 of 1927.

[Promulgated 17th June, 1927.]

PROCLAMATION

BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

Making further and better provision to prevent the destruction of herbage, trees, and shrubs by fire in the European settled areas of the Francistown District of the Bechuanaland Protectorate.

Whereas it is expedient to make further and better provision to prevent the destruction of herbage, trees, and shrubs by fire in the European settled areas of the Francistown District of the Bechuanaland Protectorate hereinafter referred to as the said district;

Now therefore under and by virtue of the powers in me vested I do hereby declare, proclaim and make known as follows:—

1. In such areas of the said district as the High Commissioner, on the petition of not less than two-thirds of the owners of stock there residing or carrying on farming operations, may prescribe by Notice in the *Gazette*, it shall be compulsory for every owner of stock to contribute towards the expenses of maintaining fire guards, and otherwise providing against the destruction of herbage, trees and shrubs by grass fires, such sum not exceeding two pounds in any year as may be assessed upon him by the Resident Magistrate of the district under ~~section~~ *section* *sic* of this Proclamation.

2. In every year in which an assessment is made upon owners of stock under the last preceding section the Tati Company shall be liable to contribute an amount equal to the total amount so assessed against owners of stock but not exceeding £50 in all and such amount on notification thereof to the Company by the Resident Magistrate shall be due and payable by the Company to the Treasury of the Bechuanaland Protectorate. A like amount shall be paid in every year by the Government of the Bechuanaland Protectorate.

3. The Resident Magistrate of the said district or any person duly authorized by him shall have power to burn or cause to be burnt fire belts or strips at his discretion after consultation with the Farmers' Association of the district, and all expenditure incurred therein shall be defrayed from the funds contributed in accordance with sections *one* and *two*.

4. Any owner of stock may with the consent of his immediate neighbour burn a firebelt between their respective farms in which case the belt shall be burnt under their personal supervision or the supervision of their authorized representatives and in such case no responsibility shall rest upon the Resident Magistrate or the Government for any damage that may be caused by the burning of such belt or in the course of any operations connected therewith.

5. As soon as the amount expended in any year under section *three* has been ascertained the Resident Magistrate of the district shall determine the amount to be contributed by the owners of stock and the Tati Company in accordance with this Proclamation. He shall thereupon make an assessment upon the owners of stock in accordance with section *one* and shall notify each owner of the amount assessed upon him and shall also notify the Tati Company of the amount payable by it under section *two*.

6. If any owner of stock who has been notified of the amount assessed upon him as provided in the preceding section shall refuse or fail to pay, the amount so assessed may be recovered in the Court of the Resident Magistrate of the district in which such owner resides or carries on farming operations by summary civil proceedings. Any sums due and payable by the Tati Company under this Proclamation may be recovered as a debt due from the Company in any competent Court.

7. The High Commissioner on receipt of a petition from more than one half of the owners of stock of any area in the said district shall by Notice in the *Gazette* withdraw the application of this Proclamation to the said area as from the end of the calendar year in which the petition is received.

8. The said district for the purposes of this Proclamation shall be defined as the area included within a line running from a point where the railway crosses the Shashi River along the Northern boundary of the Old Tati District to the Sekukwe River, North along the Sekukwe River to where it reaches the railway line at Beacon 1246. Along the railway line from Beacon 1246 to Beacon 1263. Due East from Beacon 1263 to the Ramaquabane River. North along the Ramaquabane River to the Native Reserve. Along the southern boundary of the Native Reserve to the Vukwe River. South along the Vukwe River to its junction with the Shashi River, and along the Shashi River to the Railway Bridge.

9. The words "owner of stock" in this Proclamation shall include any European owner who owns or keeps twenty-five or more head of stock in the said district.

The word "stock" shall include any horse, mare, gelding, colt, filly, mule or ass; and bull, cow, ox, heifer or calf; also any sheep, lamb, goat, kid, pig or domesticated ostrich.

10. This Proclamation may be cited as the Bechuanaland Protectorate Herbage Preservation (Further Provision) Proclamation 1927 and shall have force and take effect from the date of its publication in the *Gazette*.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

Given under my Hand and Seal at Cape Town this Tenth day of June One thousand Nine hundred and Twenty-seven.

ATHLONE,

High Commissioner.

By Command of His Excellency
the High Commissioner.

SHIRLEY EALES,
Acting Imperial Secretary.