



Slave Trade Act 1873

1873 CHAPTER 88

Miscellaneous

17 Protection of persons authorised to seize.

All persons authorised to make seizures under this Act shall, in making and prosecuting any such seizure, have the benefit of all the protection granted to persons authorised to make seizures under any Act for the time being in force relating to Her Majesty's customs in the United Kingdom, in like manner as if the enactments granting such protection were herein enacted, and in terms made applicable thereto.

18 Pendency of suit or decree a bar to proceeding for recovery of vessel, damages, &c.

In either of the following cases, namely,

- (a) 'Where any proceeding has been instituted in any slave court for the condemnation or restitution of any vessel, slave, goods, or effects purporting to have been seized in pursuance of this Act and is still pending ; or
- (b) Where any vessel, slave, goods, or effects purporting to have been seized in pursuance of this Act, have been condemned or restored, or any other final judgment has been pronounced thereon by any slave court,

the pendency of such proceeding, or the condemnation or restitution, or other final judgment thereon, as the case may be, shall be a complete bar to every legal proceeding whatever for the recovery of such vessel, slave, goods, or effects, or of damages for any costs, expenses, loss, or injury sustained by any person by or in consequence of the visitation, seizure, or detention of such vessel, slave, goods, or effects, or of any person on board such vessel, or by or in consequence of any act or thing done in relation to such visitation, seizure, or detention, or in pursuance of this Act or any existing slave trade treaty, and may be pleaded in bar, or given in evidence under the general issue.

19 Power of High Court of Admiralty of England as to bounties, reviewing and enforcing decrees, &c.

The High Court of Admiralty of England shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine any question arising with respect to the right of any person to any payment in pursuance of this Act in respect of any condemned vessel, slave, goods, or effects, and any question of joint capture or seizure which may arise in respect of any vessel, slave, goods, or effects seized in pursuance of this Act, and also as well to review as to enforce any decree, declaration, or order of any British slave court made in pursuance of this Act.

20 Review of taxation by Registrar of Court of Admiralty.

The registrar of the High Court of Admiralty of England may, on the application of any person aggrieved, or of the Treasury, tax or review the taxation of any costs, charges, or expenses incurred or alleged to be incurred in any proceeding taken in any British slave court, or in any mixed commission or court in Her Majesty's dominions, and shall for this purpose have the same jurisdiction and powers as he has in the taxation of any costs, charges, or expenses incurred in any proceeding in the High Court of Admiralty.

21 Appeal by Treasury.

The Treasury may appeal from any decree, order, or declaration which is made by any British slave court in pursuance of this Act and involves the payment by the Treasury of any bounty, costs, expenses, compensation, damages, or other moneys in like manner as if they were parties to the proceeding in which such decree, order, or declaration was made.

22 Prosecution for false evidence.

Any person who wilfully gives false evidence in any proceeding taken in pursuance of this Act in any slave court shall be guilty of an offence against this Act, and shall be liable to the like penalty as if he had been guilty of perjury, or in a British possession, of the offence, by whatever name called, which if committed in England would be perjury.

23 Returns by registrars.

The registrar of every British slave court, and if appointed by Her Majesty, of every other slave court, shall from time to time make returns of the cases adjudged in such court in pursuance of this Act, at such times and in such form and containing such particulars as may be from time to time directed by any rule established with respect to such court under the Vice-Admiralty Courts Act, 1863, or if there is no such rule by Order in Council.