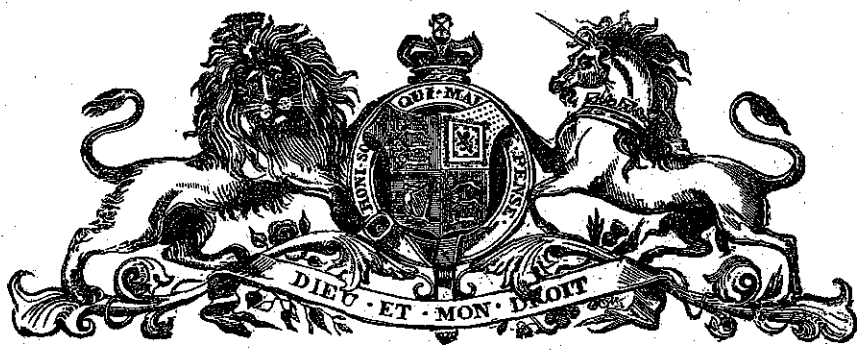


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No. 4 of 1896.



VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen, Empress of India, &c., &c., &c.

### QUEEN'S REGULATION

*(Made in the name and on behalf of Her Majesty by Her Majesty's High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, in accordance with the provisions of the Pacific Order in Council, 1893.)*

#### TO RESTRICT THE ALIENATION OF LAND IN THE BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS.

[L.S.] JOHN B. THURSTON.

1. THIS Regulation shall apply to all the islands comprised in the Limits of Regulation.  
Protectorate established by Her Majesty in the Solomon Group.
2. The word "native" in this Regulation shall mean aboriginal Interpretation.  
native of the British Solomon Islands, and the expression "non-native" shall mean any other person. The expression "native land" shall mean land owned by a native.
3. From and after the coming into force of this Regulation no Alienation of land restricted.  
native or vacant land shall be acquired by any non-native person in the British Solomon Islands otherwise than as is provided in this Regulation.
4. Land may, with the sanction of the High Commissioner, be Contracts for purchase of native lands.  
purchased from natives for the purpose of a trading station or for agricultural

agricultural purposes, and provisional contracts to acquire such land may be entered into with natives. Every such provisional contract shall be submitted, together with a plan showing the situation of the land, to the High Commissioner, who after making, by himself or his deputies, such inquiry as is possible with regard to the title of the proposed vendors and the fairness of the contract, may either confirm or disallow such contract.

Condition on conveyance of land for trading purposes.

5. Every conveyance by a native of land for the purpose of erecting a trading station shall be conditional on the erection and occupation within two years of such trading station. On breach of this condition the land shall revert to the native vendor.

Condition on conveyance of native land for agricultural purposes.

6. Every conveyance by a native of land for agricultural purposes shall be conditional on at least one-tenth part of the area of land conveyed being cultivated within five years of the date of the conveyance. On failure of the condition the purchaser shall be seized of all the land which has been cultivated, cleared, or built on by him, and the remainder of the land comprised in the conveyance shall revert to the native vendor.

Contracts for leases of native land.

7. Leases may, subject to the approval of the High Commissioner, be obtained of native land for any purpose (including the working of minerals and the cutting of timber) and the provisions of section five of this Regulation with regard to contracts for the conveyance of native lands shall apply to contracts for leases of native land.

Contracts for leases of native land determinable after six months' notice.

8. Leases of native land determinable at any time after the expiration of not more than six months' notice on either side may be obtained without the previous sanction of the High Commissioner. All native land occupied after the coming into force of this Regulation otherwise than as provided in this Regulation shall be deemed to be held on lease determinable at any time after one month's notice on either side.

Copies of conveyances to be lodged with High Commissioner.

9. A copy of every conveyance or lease of native land granted under this Regulation must be deposited within six months from the date of execution thereof in the High Commissioner's Office, otherwise such conveyance or lease shall be of no effect.

Vacant land.

10. Leases may be granted by the High Commissioner on behalf of Her Majesty of land (other than land found to be acquired *bonâ fide* for valuable consideration by a non-native person) being vacant by reason of the extinction of the original native owners and their descendants.

Relief in action for recovery of land brought against *bonâ fide* occupier.

11. The approval of the High Commissioner to any conveyance or lease of native land shall not be conclusive evidence of the right of the vendor or lessor to convey or lease. But in any action brought against a person in occupation who acquired *bonâ fide* and without notice of the plaintiff's claim, the Court may, in an action for the recovery of the land, (if it finds that the plaintiff is entitled in law to succeed,) instead of ordering the defendant to remove from the land forming the subject of the action, order such defendant to pay the plaintiff such sum of money as it may think just, in which case the right of the plaintiff shall be vested in the defendant on payment of such sum of money in accordance with the order of the Court: or if the defendant claims to hold under a lease granted under this Regulation, the Court may order that the defendant retain possession of the land forming the subject of the action during the unexpired term of the lease, subject to the payment of such rent, and subject to such conditions, as the Court may think just. In fixing the amount of any sum or rent as aforesaid the Court shall not take into account the value of improvements effected by the defendant. In the case of land held

held under a lease the Court may order any such defendant as aforesaid to pay a sum of money in respect of past occupation.

12. Unless agreed to the contrary, buildings erected by a tenant holding on lease from a native or natives may be removed by such tenant at the expiration of the tenancy. In the event of any conveyance of native land becoming void by reason of the non-fulfilment of the conditions imposed by this Regulation the purchaser shall have no claim to the return of any part of the purchase-money, or other consideration. Tenants may remove buildings at determination of tenancy.

13. Except as in section eleven of this Regulation provided nothing in this Regulation contained shall be construed to permit the occupation of land by any person who but for this Regulation would be liable to immediate ejection. Saving clause.

This Regulation may be cited as "The Solomon (Land) Regulation, 1896." Short title.

Published and exhibited in the public office of the High Commissioner this fourth day of September one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six. Date of publication.

*By Command,*

WILFRED COLLET,  
Secretary to the High Commissioner.