

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 293.

With reference to Government Notifications No. 375 of the 11th September and No. 417 of the 5th October last, His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government has been pleased to recognise, provisionally, ROUNSEVELLE WILDMAN as Consul-General for the United States of America in this Colony.

By Command,

T. SERCOMBE SMITH,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 1st July, 1898.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 294.

With reference to Government Notification No. 423 of the 4th October, 1897, the following Circular Despatch with its enclosures is published.

By Command,

T. SERCOMBE SMITH,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 28th June, 1898.

CIRCULAR.

DOWNING STREET,
5th May, 1898.

SIR—With reference to my Circular despatch of the 20th August, 1897, respecting the termination on the 30th July next of the Treaty of Commerce between Great Britain and the Zollverein of 1865, I have the honour to transmit to you, for the information of your Government, a copy of a despatch addressed to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin, enclosing translation of a Bill introduced into the "Reichstag" on the 21st April, empowering the Federal Council to extend most favoured nation treatment to Great Britain and her Colonies up to the 30th July, 1899.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

The Officer Administering the Government of

HONGKONG.

(Enclosure.)

No. 125.

BERLIN, April 27th, 1898.

Commercial.

MY LORD,—I have the honour to enclose copies and translation of a Bill which was introduced in the "Reichstag" on the 21st instant, the object of which is to empower the Federal Council to extend most favoured treatment to Great Britain and her Colonies after the 30th of July next, and up to the 30th of July, 1899.

Your Lordship will observe that in the exposé des motifs attached to the Bill it is declared to be understood that the Federal Council will only make use of this authority as regards the British Empire, or portions of the same, in so far as no restriction of the most favoured nation treatment of German subjects or of goods imported from Germany takes place in them, and especially, as regards British Colonies and Possessions, that German subjects and products are not more unfavourably treated there than those of the United Kingdom. It shall also be a necessary condition for the exercise of this authority on the part of the Federal Council that the Customs duties in the British Territories in question shall not be altered in a manner unfavourable to German trade.

I have, etc.,

(For Her Majesty's Ambassador),

GOUGH.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY, K. G.

&c., &c., &c.