

## 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.*

*(Translation.)*BERLIN, *April 21st*, 1898.

In the name of His Majesty the Emperor, the undersigned has the honour to submit to the Reichstag, for its constitutional decision, the annexed draft of a Law respecting commercial relations with the British Empire, as approved by the Federal Council.

For the Imperial Chancellor.

COUNT VON POSADOWSKY.

To the Reichstag.

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DRAFT OF A LAW

RESPECTING COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

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We, William, by the Grace of God, German Emperor, King of Prussia, &c., ordain in the name of the Empire, with the consent of the Federal Council and of the Reichstag, as follows:—

The Federal Council is authorised to extend to the subjects and to the products of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, as also to the subjects and products of British Colonies and Foreign Possessions, during the period up to the 30th of July, 1899, the advantages which are accorded by the Empire to the subjects or products of the most favoured nation.

Given under our Imperial Hand and Seal, &c.

EXPOSÉ DES MOTIFS.

On the 30th of July last Her Britannic Majesty's Government denounced the Treaty of Commerce between the Zollverein and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland of the 30th of May, 1865. In consequence of this denunciation, the Treaty, together with the Supplementary Agreements since made, will terminate on the 30th of July next.

As Her Britannic Majesty's Government have declared their readiness to conclude a new Treaty, negotiations have been entered into, which have not, however, as yet led to a conclusion.

In order that the time necessary for the negotiations may be kept free, it is desirable that the Federal Council should be authorised to extend to the various portions of the British Empire, for one year after the termination of the Treaty of the 30th of May, 1865, the most favoured nation treatment hitherto accorded to them. The Federal Council will only be able to make use of this authorisation with regard to the British Empire or portions of the same, in so far as no alteration of most favoured nation treatment takes place in them to the disadvantage of the subjects or exports of Germany, and especially also in so far as in British Colonies and Possessions the subjects and products of Germany are not treated in a more unfavourable manner than those of the British mother country. Similarly it will be a condition for the exercise of this authorisation on the part of the Federal Council, that the customs duties levied in the British territories in question shall not be altered in a manner materially disadvantageous to German export trade.

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GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 295.

The following Notice is published.

By Command,

T. SERCOMBE SMITH,  
*Acting Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 2nd July, 1898.

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NOTICE.

Branch Post Offices will be opened on Tuesday, the 5th instant, at Kowloon (in the Wharf and Godown Company's premises), and at No. 111, Praya West.

These offices will be open to the public from 7.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. on ordinary days and from 8 to 9 a.m. on Sundays and holidays. Only ordinary letters, papers, &c. will be accepted at these offices for the present.

A. M. THOMSON,  
*Postmaster General.*

General Post Office, Hongkong, 1st July, 1898.