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GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 484.

The following Circular Despatch, with its enclosure, is published.

By Command,

T. SERCOMBE SMITH,  
*Acting Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 25th October, 1898.

CIRCULAR.

DOWNING STREET,  
2nd September, 1898.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit to you, for information in the Colony under your Government, a copy of a paper presented to both Houses of Parliament containing the exchange of Notes establishing a provisional *modus vivendi* between the United Kingdom and Belgium pending the conclusion of a Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between the two Countries.

The arrangement does not extend to the Colonies or Foreign Possessions of Her Majesty, but if any Colonial Government should intimate to me its wish to enter into a similar arrangement, such a wish would be made known to the Belgian Government.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

*The Officer Administering the Government of*  
HONGKONG.

EXCHANGE OF NOTES ESTABLISHING A PROVISIONAL MODUS VIVENDI BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM  
AND BELGIUM PENDING THE CONCLUSION OF A TREATY OF COMMERCE AND NAVIGATION  
BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

No. 1.

*M. de Favereau to Sir F. Plunkett.*

(Translation.)

The Undersigned, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Belgium, has the honour to inform His Excellency Sir Francis Plunkett, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, that, pending the signature of a definitive Treaty, His Majesty's Government undertakes, on condition of reciprocity, not to modify, after the 29th July, 1898, the system actually applied to the subjects and products of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, unless previous notice shall have been given three months beforehand to Her Majesty's Government.

It is understood, however, that the present engagement does not prevent either of the two Governments making in the system actually in force between the two countries such modifications as may be made applicable to all other countries without distinction.

The Undersigned avails, &c.

(Signed) P. DE FAVEREAU.

BRUSSELS, *July 27*, 1898.

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No. 2.

*Sir F. Plunkett to M. de Favereau.*

The Undersigned, Her Britannic Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Brussels, being duly authorized thereto by his Government, has the honour to accept, on the conditions therein laid down, the proposal made in the note of this date which his Excellency M. de Favereau, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Belgium, has done him the honour of addressing to him, establishing a provisional *modus vivendi* between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the Kingdom of Belgium pending the conclusion of a definite Treaty of Commerce and Navigation.

The Undersigned has, therefore, the honour to state that, on this understanding, Her Britannic Majesty's Government will, on their part, undertake not to make any modification after the 29th July, 1898, in the system actually applied in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland to the subjects and products of Belgium, unless previous notice of any such change shall have been given three months beforehand to the Belgian Government.

It is clearly understood that the present engagement does not prevent either of the two Governments making, in the system actually in force between the two countries, such modifications as may be made applicable to all other countries.

The Undersigned avails, &c.

(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

BRITISH LEGATION, BRUSSELS, *July 27*, 1898.

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GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 485.

The following Notice is published.

By Command,

T. SERCOMBE SMITH,  
*Acting Colonial Secretary.*

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

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POSTAL NOTIFICATION.

The importation of the following articles into Japan is prohibited by the provision of the Imperial Japanese Customs Tariff Law which will take effect on and after the 1st January, 1899:—

1. Adulterated drugs, chemicals, medicines, food and beverages, considered to be injurious by Laws, Ordinances and Regulations of the Empire.
2. All articles for use in smoking Opium.
3. All articles which are considered dangerous to the public health for sanitary reasons, or to the safety of animals or plants, under the Laws, Ordinances and Regulations of the Empire.
4. Articles in violation of patent design, trade mark, or copyright laws of the Empire.
5. False coins of any kind, and imitations of coins which might be considered to be false coins.
6. Opium. (Opium imported by the Imperial Government for medicinal purposes is excluded from this prohibition.)
7. Prints, printed books, paintings, engravings, carvings or any other articles, which in view of public security or morals might offer any danger.

A. M. THOMSON,  
*Postmaster General.*

General Post Office, Hongkong, 25th October, 1898.