

that there was no such channel as the North Channel, but that there was no channel where he boarded the "Geneviève," and that it was not desirable for a vessel to take the North Channel, neither was it necessary as there is not less than 19 feet at low springs on any part of the Bar beyond one and a half cables length from Sarrons Head,—a sufficient depth for the largest Merchant Vessel making a straight course across the Bar, on the last quarter's flood.

It further appears from recent soundings, compared with those on the Admiralty Chart, that the North Channel has rather deepened since the date of the Chart. The Harbour Master at Otago also reports that the casualty might in his opinion have been avoided had the Master consulted his "New Zealand Pilot," which shews that Otago is only safe to enter when the red flag is hoisted at the flag-staff, and that the Master's statement as to the Channel being covered with breakers the day after the wreck is unfounded, and that he must have been taking an undue risk with the property under his charge.

*Board of Trade, Whitehall,
July 20, 1863.*

THE Right Honourable the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade have received from the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs a translation of a Portuguese Law relative to the transit of goods imported into Lisbon and Oporto, for transmission to the places specified therein, which has been transmitted by Her Majesty's Minister, at Lisbon.

The following are the principal provisions of the above law :

ARTICLE 1st. The right of transit, with the exemption from the previous payment of duty, is allowed to merchandize, which may have been entered at the Great Custom House of Lisbon, and at that of Oporto, and may be destined for any of the Custom Houses of Figueira, Setubal, Faro, and Vianna do Castello.

Single Paragraph. The permission mentioned in this article will only include such merchandize as can be despatched in virtue of the rules now in force at the lesser Custom Houses.

ARTICLE 2nd. Both the merchandize alluded to in the preceding article, as well as that which may be imported directly into the four lesser Custom Houses above-mentioned, will be allowed to be kept in deposit in the said fiscal establishments, or in warehouses appertaining to them, and under their immediate and exclusive fiscal control, as soon as they shall have been duly qualified for this purpose according to the terms of the authorization granted to the Government in the 3rd Article of this law.

1st Paragraph. The deposit cannot exceed the term of one year, to count from the date of entrance.

2nd Paragraph. The merchandize deposited will be allowed gratuitous warehousing during the first three months, and shall be liable to pay for the same during each of the following nine months at the rate of 35 reis (about 1½d.) per 100 kilogrammes, if dry goods, and of 20 reis (1d.) per 20 litres, if liquids; it being obligatory to effect the said payment on despatching the merchandize, which it will only be lawful to do for home consumption.

3rd Paragraph. The merchandize in deposit will be sold at public auction, according to the terms of the 48th Article of the preliminary instructions in the new edition of the general tariff of the Custom Houses, approved by the decree of the 18th of December, 1861, if not despatched for home consumption within the term laid down in the 1st paragraph of this Article.

The owners, however, of the merchandize, or their agents, will have the right to cause the proper despatch of the same to be carried out even after the sale at public auction shall have been announced.

4th Paragraph. The rules laid down in the 3rd No. of the 45th Article, and in the 50th and 53rd Articles of the preliminary instructions of the general tariff above quoted, are applicable to the deposits mentioned in this law.

5th Paragraph. The computation of the duties chargeable on the merchandize mentioned in the 1st Article shall be made on the entrance of the same into the depôt-warehouses, the payment, however, being effected as soon as the despatch of the whole, or of a part, of the merchandize shall have been concluded.

Board of Trade, Whitehall, July 20, 1863.

THE Right Honourable the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade give notice, that the Moniteur of the 19th instant, contains a French Imperial Decree, extending to Great Britain the following reduced rates of import duty, accorded by France to Belgium, and specified in the Table annexed to the Commercial Treaty between those two countries of the 12th May last :

		f.	c.
Gold in leaf	per kilo.	25	0
Silver in leaf	"	20	0
Prepared skins :			
Varnished, dyed, or morocco	100 kilos,	80	0
Sheepskins, dyed	"	45	0
Others of all kinds	"	10	0
Gloves	ad valorem	5	per cent.
Straw hats	100 kilos.	10	0
Cheeses (hard)	"	4	0
Wood for hoops	100 kilos.	free	
Staves (merrains)	"		
Cider	hectolitre	0	25
Essential oils other than oil of roses	100 kilos.	100	0
Mules	each	5	0
Salt water fish, pickled or in oil	100 kilos.	10	0
Saffron	—	free	
Shumac, ground	—		
Italian paste	100 kilos.	3	0
Fruits, dried or pressed (tapés)	"	8	0
Meat, fresh	—	free	