

(1301.)

*Board of Trade, Whitehall,  
September, 1864.*

THE Right Honourable the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade have received, from the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a Despatch from the Acting British Consul at Bogotá, enclosing the following Translations of a Customs' Code and Tariff recently promulgated by the Government of Columbia:—

THE Congress of the United States of Columbia decrees—

## CHAPTER I.

*On the Customs.*

## Article 1.

The Custom-houses of the Republic are for the purpose of collecting the duties established by law on imported goods.

## Article 2.

The commercial operations subject to the Custom-house rules are classified in the following manner:—

1. Importation, which means the introduction of foreign merchandise for the consumption of the Republic.

2. Exportation, which means the exportation of the products of the Republic to foreign countries.

3. Transit, which means the transit of foreign merchandise imported into the Republic intended for some other nation.

4. Coasting, which means the traffic which is carried on by sea between the ports of the Republic.

5. Bonding, which means the bonding of foreign merchandise in the Custom-house stores, with the view of their being subsequently imported for home consumption, or re-exported within the term and under the conditions prescribed by law.

## Article 3.

The operations defined in the preceding Article shall be permitted in the ports licensed by law, their execution being expressly prohibited in all ports not licensed, except as regards exportation, which is provided for in Articles 205 and 206.

PARAGRAPH.—The coasting trade may be carried on between ports not licensed, but that which is carried on between licensed and unlicensed ports shall be subject to the formalities prescribed by law.

## Article 4.

The ports licensed for imports and bonding are:—

1. Carthagena, Savanilla, Santa Martha, and Rio-Hacha, on the Atlantic.

2. Buenaventura and Tumaco, on the Pacific.

3. The inland port of Cúcuta, on the frontier of Venezuela.

4. Quibdó, in the State of the Cauca.

5. Arauca and Caffi.

PARAGRAPH.—The inland port of Cúcuta is likewise licensed for the transit traffic with the Republic of Venezuela.

## Article 5.

Are hereby declared to be free ports:—

1. All those belonging to the State of Panama.

2. Those belonging to the Archipelago of San Andrés, in the Atlantic.

3. Those belonging to the territory of the Caquetá and that of Carlosama, in the State of the Cauca.

## Article 6.

All the customs' ordinances may all be carried out in the free ports, excepting only those expressly prohibited by Article 13.

## Article 7.

There shall be a Custom-house established in each of the licensed ports.

## Article 8.

The personnel of the Custom-house, the distribution of the duties of the employés and their fixed salaries, shall be settled by law, and by the decrees which may be issued for their execution.

## Article 9.

Besides the fixed salaries assigned to the employés of the Custom-houses, and to the Coast Guards, they shall be allowed an eventual extra salary, consisting of a quota on the gross revenue of the respective Custom-house, which shall be divided in proportion with their fixed salaries.

## Article 10.

The quotas of which the foregoing Article treats shall be as follows:—

In the Santa Martha Custom-house, from one to two per cent. on the gross revenue.

In the Custom-houses of Carthagena, Savanilla, Rio-Hacha, Buenaventura, and Cúcuta, from two to five per cent.

In the other Custom-houses from four to ten per cent.

These quotas shall be fixed annually by the executive power, when introducing the law for supplies.

## Article 11.

The quotas on the gross revenues of the Custom-houses, allowed to the employés, shall be paid monthly, in cash.

## CHAPTER II.

*On the importation of Foreign Merchandise.*

## SECTION 1.

*General Rules.*

## Article 12.

All foreign merchandise not prohibited by law may be imported into the Republic by natives or foreigners, without any distinction being made in regard to the flag, or whence the vessel may come, or as regards the country in which the goods were originally produced or manufactured.

## Article 13.

The prohibited articles are—

1. False money, which shall be destroyed at the time of its seizure; samples being retained in order that they be transmitted by the Custom-house authorities to the judge who is to take cognizance of the matter.

2. Money of inferior standard to that of  $\frac{900}{1000}$  shall be confiscated and sent to the nearest mint to be re-coined into money of  $\frac{900}{1000}$ .

3. Machinery for coining purposes, not imported for account of the nation, shall be transmitted by the Custom-house authorities to the competent judge, with a circumstantial inventory of which a copy shall be retained, that the machinery specified, when returned, may be destroyed in the Custom-house, when no longer required for the prosecuting of the suit.

PARAGRAPH.—The chief magistrate of those States in which the distillation of spirits is a monopoly under their special laws, or in which