

(933).

*Board of Trade, Whitehall, August 24, 1865.*

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 Her Majesty's Minister at Brussels, transmitting a return shewing the alterations of import duties in the Belgian Tariff and Treaty of May, 1865, between Belgium and the Zollverein, and applicable to British produce and manufactures by virtue of the Treaty of Commerce of 1862, between the United Kingdom and Belgium, of which the following is a translation:—

		frs.	cts.
Tissues of Wool, pure or mixed (except Indian Cashmere shawls and scarfs) ... ..	per 100 kilogs.	260	00
Tissues of Silk and Cotton, in which the cotton predominates ... ..	"	300	00
Note.—The importer has the option of paying the above specific rates, in lieu of the existing ad valorem rates, provided his choice be made known immediately on the entry of such goods			
Coals, from 1st July, 1865 ... ..	per 1,000 kilogs.	0	50
" from 1st July, 1866 ... ..	"		Free
Wrought Iron and Steel, manufactured, from 1st July, 1865 ... ..	per 100 kilogs.	5	00
" " " from 1st July, 1866 ... ..	"	4	00
Seed oils ... ..	"		Free
Gold and Silver Leaf ... ..	"		Free
Paper (except Paper Hangings) ... ..	per 100 kilogs.	4	00
Chemical Products, not enumerated in the Tariff ... ..	"		Free
Hosiery, Haberdashery, and Tapes, and Ribbons of Cotton or Linen ... ..	10 per cent. ad valorem		

In force from the 1st July, 1865.

(1396.)

*Board of Trade, Whitehall, August 24, 1865.*

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 Her Majesty's Minister at Brussels, enclosing a copy of a note from the Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs, together with a Project of Law concerning the general application of Conventional Tariffs and the extension of the Customs reform, of which the following are translations:—

MY LORD,

*Bruxelles, August 11, 1865.*

IN the month of October last, in reply to a despatch which you did me the honour to address to me on the 14th of that month, I observed to your Excellency that the Belgian Government had modified its Tariff in a liberal sense so far as regarded the export of rags, and reserved the right to abolish totally the duty on that article as soon as the Governments of Holland, Germany, and France showed a disposition to take a similar step on their side.

To-day this Government has decided not to defer any longer the realization of this proposal, and, in the hopes that its example will be followed by the neighbouring countries, has taken the initiative in making reductions which will lead to the complete and rapid freedom of the trade in rags.

The Belgian Legislature is about to adopt a law intending to bring about new exemptions and reductions of duty by which the export duty on rags (drilles et chiffons) is modified as follows:—

Rags of wool and silk, unmixed with other substances ... ..	Free.
Ropes, old, tarred or not ... ..	Free.
Rags of every description, and pasteboard ... ..	9 frs. per 100 kils.
Ditto, ditto, from 1st January, 1866 ... ..	6 frs. do.
Ditto, ditto, " 1867 ... ..	3 frs. do.
Ditto, ditto, " 1868 ... ..	Free.

I doubt not, my Lord, that the British Government will appreciate this act, and will bear it in mind when, on our side, we may have occasion to recommend the interests of one or other of our industries to their consideration.

I am, &amp;c.,

(Signed) C. ROGIER.

LEOPOLD, KING OF THE BELGIANS, to all present and to come, greeting:

The Chambers have adopted, and We sanction, that which follows:

## ARTICLE I.

The Government is authorised to generalize the Tariffs and Customs Regulations established by the Treaties of Commerce and Navigation concluded on the 1st of May, 1861, and subsequently to that date.

During the three months following the publication of this present law, the Government shall have the power of altering the classification of the articles therein contained, provided that the rates of import duty are not increased.