

(1326.)

*Board of Trade, Whitehall,
August 27, 1866.*

THE Right Honourable the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade have received, from the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the following translation of a Public Act, and its Annexes, signed at Galatz by the European Commission of the Danube, on the 2nd November, 1865, in substitution for the translation which appeared in the London Gazette of the 24th April last.

PUBLIC ACT relative to the Navigation of the Mouths of the Danube.

AN European Commission having been instituted by Art. 16 of the Treaty of Paris of 30th March, 1856, in order to put the part of the Danube lying below Isaktcha, its mouths, and the neighbouring parts of the sea, in the best possible conditions of navigability:

And the said Commission acting in virtue of this mandate, having succeeded, after nine years' work, in realizing important improvements in the system of navigation—notably, by the construction of two piers at the mouth of the Sulina Branch, which have had the effect of admitting into this embouchure vessels of a large draught of water—by the execution of works of correction and cleansing in the course of the same branch—by raising wrecks, and establishing a system of buoys—by the erection of a lighthouse at the mouth of the St. George—by the institution of a regular lifeboat service, and by the creation of a seamen's hospital at Sulina—lastly, by the provisional regulation of the different services connected with the navigation between Isaktcha and the sea:

The Powers who signed the said Treaty concluded at Paris on the 30th March, 1856, desiring to make known, that in thus accomplishing an essential part of its task, the European Commission has acted in conformity with their intentions, and wishing to determine, by a Public Act, the rights and obligations which the new state of things established on the Lower Danube has created for the different parties interested, and particularly for all the Flags navigating the river, have named for their Plenipotentiaries; that is to say:—

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, John Stokes, Esq., Major in the Corps of Royal Engineers, decorated with the Imperial Order of the Medjidié of the Fourth Class, &c. &c.

His Majesty the Emperor of Austria, King of Hungary and Bohemia, the Sieur Alfred Chevalier de Kremer, his Consul for the Course of the Lower Danube, decorated with the Imperial Order of the Medjidié of the Fourth Class.

His Majesty the Emperor of the French, the Sieur Edward Engelhardt, his Consul of the First Class, Knight of the Imperial Order of the Legion of Honour.

His Majesty the King of Italy, the Sieur Hannibal Chevalier Strambio, his Political Agent and Consul-General in the United Principalities, Commander of his Order of Saint Maurice and Saint Lazarus.

His Majesty the King of Prussia, the Sieur Julius Alexander Aloyse Saint Pierre, Knight of his Order of the Red Eagle of the Third Class, with the knot of the Order of the Danebrog of Denmark, Officer of the Royal Order of Leopold of Belgium, decorated with the Imperial Order of Saint Ann of Russia of the Second Class, Commander of the Order of Albert of Royal Saxony

of the Second Class, and of the Order of the House of Ernest of Saxony, his Councillor of Legation, his Political Agent and Consul-General in the United Principalities.

His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias, the Sieur Henry Baron d'Offenberg, his Councillor of State and Consul-General in the United Principalities, Knight of the Order of Saint Wladimir of the Third Class, of Saint Ann and of Saint Stanislaus of the Second Class, Knight of Saint John of Jerusalem, and of several foreign Orders.

His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans, Ahmet Rassim Pasha, Officer of the Rank of Mirimiran, his Governor of the Province of Teultcha, decorated with the Imperial Order of the Medjidié of the Third Class.

Who, after having shown their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon the following provisions.

PART I.

Provisions relating to the Material Conditions of the Navigation.

Art. 1.

All the works and establishments created in execution of Article 16 of the Treaty of Paris of 30th March, 1856, with all belonging to or depending from them, shall continue to be devoted exclusively to the use of the navigation of the Danube, and can never be turned aside from this object for any motive whatever; to this end they are placed under the guarantee and protection of international law.

The European Commission of the Danube, or the Authority which shall of right take its place, shall continue charged, to the exclusion of all interference whatever, to administer these works and establishments for the advantage of the navigation, to watch over their maintenance and preservation, and to give to them all the development that the requirements of the navigation may demand.

Art. 2.

There shall be specially reserved to the European Commission, or to the Authority that shall succeed it, the power to design and cause to be carried out all the works that may be deemed necessary, in the event of its being wished to render permanent the improvements, until now of a temporary character, in the branch and at the mouth of the Sulina, and to prolong the piers at this mouth according as the state of the Bar Channel may require it.

Art. 3.

There will remain reserved to the said European Commission to undertake the improvement of the mouth and branch of the St. George resolved on by common agreement and simply postponed for the present.

Art. 4.

The Sublime Porte engages for the future, as hitherto, to lend to the European Commission, or to the Authority which shall succeed it, all the assistance and all the co-operation which either may require in the execution of engineering works, and, generally, in all that concerns the accomplishment of its task. It will take care that the banks of the Danube from Isaktcha to the sea remain free from all buildings, private rights of way, and other obstacles whatsoever, and it will continue, under reserve of the annual rent to which landed property is subject in Turkey, to leave at the disposal of the Commission, in the Port of Sulina, the left bank of the river for a distance of 760