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NOTIFICATION.

Foreign Office, October 16, 1871.

THE following Despatch, announcing the First Meeting of the Commissioners appointed under the 12th Article of the Treaty of Washington of May 8, 1871, and enclosing the Rules and Regulations laid down by the Commissioners for the guidance of claimants in the presentation of their claims, was yesterday received at the Foreign Office, from Henry Howard, Esq., Her Majesty's Agent for British claims, and is, with its inclosures, now published for the information and guidance of British claimants:—

*Washington,
October 3, 1871.*

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Commissioners appointed under the 12th Article of the Treaty of Washington, of May 8, 1871, held their first meeting at the United States' State Department, on the 26th ultimo. After having exchanged the usual civilities, the Commissioners requested Count Corti to preside in future at the meetings of the Commission. Mr. Cox, a Clerk in the United States' State Department, was offered the post of Secretary to the Commission, but, as he requested time to consider whether he would accept the appointment, Mr. McPherson was named Acting-Secretary until Mr. Cox's decision was made known to the Commissioners.

A draft form of rules and regulations for the transaction of the business of the Commission, which had been drawn up by Mr. R. S. Hale, United States Agent, and Mr. J. M. Carlisle, Her Majesty's Counsel, was then submitted for the approval of the Commissioners. Several amendments were made in the said rules, and the Commissioners then adjourned until the following day. On the next day the Commission again met at the same place. Mr. Cox signified his acceptance of the post of Secretary to the Commission, and his salary was fixed at three thousand dollars a year. The rules and regulations, as amended, were then read and approved, and ordered to be printed, copy of which I have the honour to enclose herewith.

The Commissioners then adjourned until the 14th of November next, so as to allow time for the claimants to print their memorials and comply with the other provisions as laid down in the above-mentioned rules.

I have published a further notice to claimants, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, in-

forming them of the date of the first meeting of the Commission, and pointing out to them the necessity of filing their memorials within six months of said date.

The rules of the Commission being of so great a length I have not thought it right to put Her Majesty's Government to the expense of publishing them in extenso, and have therefore, as your Lordship will see, by referring to the last paragraph of my notice, requested such claimants as may desire copies of said rules to apply to me for them.

May I ask your Lordship to have a notice of a similar kind inserted in the newspapers of Great Britain and Ireland.

I regret that, owing to the delay caused by the printers, I am unable at present to furnish your Lordship with more copies of the rules. Might I suggest that they be printed in the Foreign Office, and claimants residing in Great Britain and Ireland be referred to the Foreign Office for copies thereof.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HENRY HOWARD.

*The Right Honourable the
Earl Granville, K.G.*

(Inclosure 1.)

RULES and REGULATIONS adopted by the Commissioners under the 12th Article of the Treaty between the UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN, concluded and signed at Washington, on the 8th day of May, A.D. 1871:—

The following are the Articles of the Treaty relating to the Commission:

ARTICLE XII.

The High Contracting Parties agree that all claims on the part of corporations, companies, or private individuals, citizens of the United States, upon the Government of Her Britannic Majesty, arising out of acts committed against the persons or property of citizens of the United States during the period between the thirteenth of April, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, and the ninth of April, eighteen hundred and sixty-five, inclusive, not being claims growing out of the acts of the vessels referred to in Article I of this Treaty, and all claims, with the like exception, on the part of corporations, companies, or private individuals, subjects of Her Britannic Majesty, upon the Government of the United