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Foreign Office, July 16, 1872.

THE following despatch has been received at the Foreign Office from the Right Honourable Sir E. Thornton, K.C.B. :—

Sir E. Thornton to Earl Granville.—(Received July 8.)

MY LORD, *Washington, June 24, 1872.*

ON the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 1st ultimo, I addressed a note to Mr. Fish, submitting the details of the claim of Mr. _____ for cotton destroyed in December, 1865. I have now the honour to inclose copy of the answer, and its inclosures which I have received.

Your Lordship will perceive that Mr. _____ is referred to the provisions of a section of an Act of Congress recently passed by Congress, and signed by the President on the 18th ultimo, which lays down the mode in which such claims are to be paid.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

Inclosure 1.

Mr. Hale to Sir E. Thornton.

Department of State, Washington, June 15, 1872.

SIR, REFERRING to your communication of 18th ultimo, relative to the alleged seizure by an Agent of the Treasury Department, in November, 1865, of certain cotton belonging to Mr. _____, a British subject, I have now the honour to inclose for your information, and that of Mr. _____, a copy of a letter of the 13th instant, upon the subject from the Acting Secretary of the Treasury, and the Circular which accompanied it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES HALE,
Acting Secretary.

Inclosure 2.

Mr. Richardson to Mr. Fish.

Treasury Department, Washington, June 13, 1872.

SIR, I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter under date of May 21st

ultimo, inclosing a copy of a communication from the British Minister, relative to the claim of Mr. _____ for the alleged seizure of certain cotton belonging to him, made by an agent of this Department in November, 1865.

I inclose herewith Treasury Department Circular, issued June 6, 1872, containing regulations for the presentation and proof of the class of claims to which that of Mr. _____ would seem to belong, which, with your approbation, may be transmitted to the British Minister for his and Mr. _____'s information.

Very respectfully, &c.

(Signed) WM. A. RICHARDSON,
Acting Secretary of Treasury.

Inclosure 3.

CAPTURED AND ABANDONED PROPERTY
CIRCULAR.

Treasury Department, July 6, 1872.

THE attention of all parties interested is particularly directed to the following provisions of "An Act making appropriations to supply deficiencies in the appropriations for the service of the Government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1872, and for former years, and for other purposes," approved May 18, 1872, and the regulations for carrying the same into effect :—

"SEC. 5. That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to pay to the lawful owners, or their legal representatives, of all cotton seized after the 30th day of June, 1865, by the Agents of the Government unlawfully and in violation of their instructions, the net proceeds, without interest, of the sales of said cotton actually paid into the Treasury of the United States : Provided, That the receipt thereof shall be taken and received in full satisfaction of all claims against the United States for or on account of the seizure of said cotton ; and a sufficient sum for such payment is hereby appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated : And provided further, That the foregoing provisions shall not apply to any claim now pending before the Court of Claims, nor to any claim not filed in the Treasury Department within six months after the passage of this Act ; and the sum of 20,000 dollars is hereby appropriated for the payment of the necessary expenses of defending the United States in