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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1873.

Foreign Office, November 7, 1873.

MINERAL OILS CLAIMS IN FRANCE.

THE following Notice has been adopted by the Mixed Commission appointed under Article IV, of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation, of the 23rd of July, 1873, between Great Britain and France:—

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Mixed Commission appointed under Article IV of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation concluded on the 23rd of July, 1873, between Great Britain and France has resumed its sittings, and is about to settle finally, in the terms of that Article, claims preferred in regard to duties levied in France on British mineral oils. All parties who have already preferred such claims, and who may desire or intend to make further representations, are hereby required to address the same to the Secretaries to the Mixed Commission, at the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce, Paris, within fourteen days from the first publication of this notice; and all parties who have not yet preferred claims, and who intend to do so, are hereby required to prefer the same within the said period of fourteen days, by letter to the Secretaries at the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce, Paris. Claims or further representations not preferred within the period specified in this notice will not be entertained by the Commission, and the parties interested will lose the benefit of the stipulations of the Treaty in regard to them.

Copy of Article IV of the Treaty above referred to:—

Mineral oils of British origin shall be admitted into France and Algeria from the 1st of January, 1874, or sooner, if possible, at a Customs duty of 5 per cent., that is to say, at the rate of duty levied previously to the passing of the Law of the 8th of July, 1871. It is, nevertheless, agreed that the said oils shall, in conformity with the stipulations of Article IX of the Treaty of the 23rd of January, 1860, again put into force by Article I of the present Treaty, be likewise subject to the duty of 5 fr. or 8 fr. per 100 kilog., established on crude or refined oils by the Law of the 16th of September, 1871, or that which may be hereafter levied on the like oils manufactured in France.

A Commission, consisting of one member on the part of each Government, shall meet at Paris immediately after the ratification of the present Treaty, in order to settle, as hereinafter directed,

questions concerning duties levied in France on British mineral oils, as well as to consider and report on any other questions which the High Contracting Parties agree, or shall agree to refer to it.

The benefit of the above provisions shall be extended to British mineral oils, to be supplied to persons in France under contracts entered into before the promulgation of the Law of the 8th of July, 1871.

The Commission shall examine how far it would be possible to effect reimbursement of duties levied in excess of the duty of 5 per cent., and the tax of 5 fr. or 8 fr. per 100 kilog. above referred to, in the case of British mineral oils introduced into France since the promulgation of the Law of the 8th of July, 1871, otherwise than in pursuance of contracts previously entered into.

In regard to the contracts above referred to, the settlement shall include indemnification for actions for breaches of contracts entered into before the enforcement of the Law of the 8th of July, 1871.

The High Contracting Parties, before the exchange of the ratifications of the present Treaty, shall name some third person to act as Arbitrator in regard to any points in connection with the questions above referred to which relate to mineral oils and on which the Commissioners may themselves differ in opinion. The Commission shall refer any such points to the Arbitrator, whose decision shall be binding on the Commissioners, and shall be reported by them accordingly.

The High Contracting Parties shall forthwith carry out the decision come to by the Commission or by the Arbitrator.

[This Notice has already appeared in the Gazette of the 7th instant.]

Lord Chamberlain's Office, November 10, 1873;

NOTICE is hereby given, that the State Apartments of Windsor Castle will be closed on and after Saturday next, the 15th instant, until further orders.

Whitehall, November 11, 1873.

The Queen has been pleased by Letters Patent under the Great Seal to appoint Charles Hall, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, to be a Vice Chancellor, in the room of Sir John Wickens, deceased.