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IT is hereby notified that Earl Granville, K.G., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has received from the British Vice-Consul at Santo Domingo, a translation of a Law, by which the Dominican Government declares the establishment of a Free Port at San Lorenzo, at the south of Samaná Bay. A copy of the Law in question is subjoined:—

LAW ESTABLISHING A FREE PORT AT SAN LORENZO, IN SAMANÁ BAY.

THE National Congress :

In the name of the Republic :

Whereas the Dominican Republic is called by its geographical position to derive great advantages and profits from the impulse which the opening of the Isthmus of Panamá has to afford to trade and to the shipping ;

Whereas from the commercial intercourse between Europe and the isthmus has to derive the urgency of a free port purposely intended as a calling port, and for the establishment of warehouses ;

Whereas one of the principal means to give an impulsion to the progress of the Republic is to establish a place where shipping, commerce, and industry can be fully extended, and that the establishment of a free port and of a commercial city has to result in benefit of the national wealth ;

Whereas the harbour of San Lorenzo, at the south of Samaná Bay, is a most advantageous port on account of its situation, easy access, the depth of its waters, and being at shelter of all winds, and the surrounding land forming a large and rich plain suitable to agriculture, is adequate for a Settlement ;

Whereas the Congress had sanctioned, on the 11th October, 1880, a Law issued on the 15th January of the same year by the Provisional Government, by which Law the harbour selected by the Company of the Isthmus of Panamá in the Republic would be declared a free port :

After reading over three times the following, has issued the present Law :—

CHAPTER I.—Port and City of San Lorenzo.

ARTICLE 1. The harbour situated in San Lorenzo Bay, at the south of Samaná Bay, is opened to the import and export trade, and is declared to be a free port.

ART. 2. Full powers are conferred for the establishment on the littoral of San Lorenzo Bay of a city to bear the same name, and to have as a port

the same which by these presents is declared a free port.

ART. 3. The city shall be divided in two by means of a strong iron railing, or by a wall, viz., the free part and the commercial part. The former is intended to contain the port, wharves, public offices, warehouses, and other establishments required by the free port. The latter is specially intended to be the seat of trade with the interior, and shall be the compulsory intermedium of all transactions between the interior and the free port.

CHAPTER II.—The Shipping.

ART. 4. All vessels arriving or calling at the free port, loaded or in ballast, or with the object to discharge or to load goods or produces, or to undergo repairs, or for any other purpose, shall be free of any sort of dues.

ART. 5. Vessels shall be allowed to tranship goods from one to another, or by means of boats, lighters, or small crafts, without having to make any declaration, or to perform any formality whatever.

CHAPTER III.—Importation, Warehousing, and Exportation.

ART. 6. All goods, prohibited or not prohibited, proceeding from whatever point, and imported into the free port of San Lorenzo, shall be liable to a sole duty of 1½ per cent. on the amount of invoice, yet, on being taken out from the free part to the commercial, or on being transported by land to any other place of the Republic, such goods shall pay the duties in conformity to the Tariffs and Laws in force.

Prohibited articles shall be submitted to the special Laws of the Republic thereon, and such articles which may be of an inflammable or explosive nature shall be deposited in arsenals purposely built for that effect in order to prevent all accidents.

Coals are free of the duty of 1½ per cent.

ART. 7. All goods bound from the free port of San Lorenzo to any other port of the Republic shall pay at their port of destination the corresponding duties, in conformity to the Customs Laws.

ART. 8. Goods deposited for transit as per bill of lading shall be free of the duty of 1½ per cent. on the value of the invoice when they are shipped for their destination, as stated in the aforesaid bill of lading.

It is to be well understood that goods bound to the free port shall not be allowed to be declared in transit.