

prepared in conformity with the Declaration of the eighth April, one thousand nine hundred and four, by their respective Delegates concerning the New Hebrides ;

The Undersigned, the Right Honourable Sir Edward Grey, a Baronet of the United Kingdom, a Member of Parliament, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs ;

And His Excellency Monsieur Paul Cambon, Ambassador of the French Republic at the Court of His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, Emperor of India ;

Duly authorized to this effect, confirm the Protocol, drawn up at London, the twenty-seventh day of February, one thousand nine hundred and six, the text of which is as follows :—

PROTOCOL.

The Undersigned, Eldon Gorst, Assistant Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath ; Hugh Bertram Cox, Assistant Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath ; Marcel Saint-Germain, Senator, President of the Council of Administration of the Colonial Office at the Ministry of the Colonies, Officer of the Order of Public Instruction, Holder of the Colonial Medal ; Edouard Picanon, Inspector-General of the Colonies of the First Class, Governor of French Guiana, Officer of the Legion of Honour, Officer of the Order of Public Instruction, delegated respectively by the Government of His Britannic Majesty and by the Government of the French Republic, in order to draw up, in conformity with the Declaration of the eighth April, one thousand nine hundred and four, concerning the New Hebrides, an arrangement which shall put an end to the difficulties arising from the absence of jurisdiction over the natives of the New Hebrides and settle the disputes of their respective nationals in the said Islands with regard to landed property, have agreed to the following provisions, which they have resolved to submit for the approval of their respective Governments :—

PREAMBLE.

The Government of His Britannic Majesty and the Government of the French Republic, being desirous of modifying, as far as the New Hebrides are concerned, the Convention of the sixteenth November, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-seven, respecting the New Hebrides and the Islands leeward of Tahiti, in order to secure the exercise of their paramount rights in the New Hebrides and to assure for the future the better protection of life and property in the Group, have agreed on the following Articles :—

GENERAL PROVISIONS.

ARTICLE I.

Status.

(1.) The Group of the New Hebrides, including the Banks and Torres Islands, shall form a region of joint influence, in which the subjects and citizens of the two Signatory Powers shall enjoy equal rights of residence, personal protection, and trade, each of the two Powers retaining jurisdiction over its subjects or citizens, and neither exercising a separate control over the Group.

(2.) The subjects or citizens of other Powers shall enjoy the same rights and shall be subject to the same obligations as British subjects or French citizens. They must choose within six months between the legal systems of one of the two Powers. Failing such choice, the High Commissioners mentioned in Article II or their Delegates shall decide under which system they shall be placed.

(3.) In all matters not contrary to the provisions of the present Convention or the regulations made thereunder, the subjects and citizens of the two Signatory Powers and the subjects and citizens of other Powers shall, within the New Hebrides, remain subject to the fullest extent to the laws of their respective countries.

(4.) The two Signatory Powers undertake not to erect fortifications in the Group and not to establish penal settlements of any kind.

ARTICLE II.

Local Authorities.—Police.

(1.) The Signatory Powers shall be represented in the Group by two High Commissioners, one appointed by His Britannic Majesty's Government, the other by the Government of the French Republic.

(2.) The High Commissioners shall each be assisted by a Resident Commissioner, to whom they shall delegate their respective powers, in so far as they consider it expedient, and who shall represent them in the Group when they do not reside there.

(3.) The High Commissioners or their Delegates shall be provided with a police force of sufficient strength to guarantee effectively the protection of life and property.

(4.) The force shall be divided into two divisions of equal strength. Each of these two divisions shall be under the orders of one of the two Resident Commissioners, and shall in no case be employed otherwise than in conformity with the principles laid down by the present Convention.

(5.) When it is necessary to employ some or all of both divisions of the force in conformity with the present Convention or of the regulations framed for its execution, the force shall be under the joint direction of the High Commissioners or their Delegates.

ARTICLE III.

Seat of Government.

(1.) The head-quarters of each Government in the Group and the Joint Court provided for in Article X shall be at Vila, in the Island of Efate.

(2.) The two Signatory Powers undertake respectively to provide their Representatives with houses, and shall jointly erect quarters for the members of the Joint Court, together with a court-house, and offices for the public services to be undertaken in common.

(3.) The land required for these buildings shall be acquired by the two Powers jointly either by agreement or, if necessary, compulsorily.

ARTICLE IV.

Public Services undertaken in Common.

(1.) The following public services shall be undertaken in common : police, posts and telegraphs, public works, ports and harbours, buoys and lighthouses, public health, finance.

(2.) These public services shall be organized and directed by the High Commissioners and their Delegates jointly.

(3.) Special postage stamps shall be issued for