

1885.

VICTORIA.

VICTORIA AND TASMANIA.

TREATY FOR INTERCOLONIAL FREE TRADE.

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY'S COMMAND.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF INTERCOLONIAL DELEGATES NOMINATED BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA.

(Held at Hobart, in Tasmania, during the month of January, 1885.)

The meeting was suggested by the Premier of Tasmania for the purpose of considering the question of intercolonial free trade between the colonies of Victoria and Tasmania.

The following gentlemen represented the respective colonies :—

Victoria—The Hon. Graham Berry, Chief Secretary ; the Honorable G. D. Langridge, Commissioner of Trade and Customs.

Tasmania—The Hon. A. Douglas, Premier and Chief Secretary ; the Hon. W. H. Burgess, Treasurer.

The delegates assembled at the Treasury, Hobart, at 11 o'clock on the morning of the 13th January, 1885, and held their last sitting on the 23rd.

The representatives of Tasmania produced a copy of "The Intercolonial Customs Duties Act," Tasmania, 37 Vict. No. 10, and explained that under its provisions the Government, by and with the advice of the Executive Council, may enter into an agreement for the admission into Tasmania free of Customs duties, wharfage, or other charges, all or any articles (except spirits and tobacco) the produce or manufacture of the colonies named in the first section of the Act.

The Victorian representatives stated that, as their colony had not passed a similar enabling Act, it would be necessary to appeal to the Legislature of Victoria before any agreement between the two colonies could be brought into operation.

At the first meeting of delegates, it was unanimously agreed that if, during the term of any agreement between Victoria and Tasmania, any alteration should be made in the Tariff of either colony, such alteration should not annul the agreement, nor should an alteration in the Tariff of either Victoria or Tasmania with any other colony affect any agreement between Victoria and Tasmania.

It was further agreed that the basis of the present negotiations should be as follows :—

1. That all natural products, whether animal, vegetable, or mineral, should be admitted into the ports of either colony free of Customs duties.
2. That all articles manufactured purely from colonial products should be admitted into the ports of either colony free of Customs duties.
3. That all mixed manufactures of which the foreign portion does not exceed 5 per cent. of the value of the whole to be admitted into the ports of either colony free of Customs duties.

In order more clearly to define what was intended by the delegates, the following list of articles has been mutually agreed to :—

CLASS I.—LOCAL NATURAL PRODUCTS.

Beef, pork, and mutton.	Bark.
Butter and lard.	Flax.
Tallow.	Hops.
Cheese.	Hides and skins of all kinds, raw.
Fish.	Wool.
Fruits (dried), including almonds.	Coals.
Fruits (green).	Lime.
Grain of all kinds, including seeds.	Slates and building stone.
Pulse, ditto.	Ice.
Hay and straw, including chaff.	Metals and metalliferous ores.
Vegetables, general.	Live stock.
Potatoes and other root crops.	Willows.
Plants, various.	Honey and beeswax.
Timber of all kinds.	Whalebone.

CLASS II.—ARTICLES DERIVED OR MANUFACTURED LOCALLY FROM LOCAL NATURAL PRODUCTS SOLELY.

Blankets.
Tweeds, shawls, flannels, and rugs.
Preserved fruits, including pulp.
Flour.
Oatmeal.
Bran and pollard.
Chicory.
Malt.
Malt liquor.
Perry and cider.
Wines, not containing more than 30 per cent. of alcohol.
Bonedust and artificial manures.
Glue.
Glassware.
Basket and wickerware.
Marine and animal oils.
Vegetable oils.
Biscuits.
Leather.
Salt.
Bacon.
Hams.
Jams and Jellies.
Blue.

Candles.
Earthenware.
Earthenware pipes.
Paper and paper bags.
Pickles and sauces.
Soap, not containing more than 5 per cent. of foreign material.
Soda crystals.
Brushware and brooms, not containing more than 5 per cent. of foreign material.
Harness and saddlery, not containing more than 5 per cent. of foreign material.
Boots and shoes, not containing more than 5 per cent. of foreign material.
Apparel and slops made from Victorian tweeds, containing not more than 5 per cent. of foreign material.
All empty casks, cases, boxes, and bags, on proof to the collector of customs at any port in Victoria or Tasmania that they have been used in the export of Victorian or Tasmanian products.

All other articles coming within the meaning of either of the above classes may be admitted upon the terms herein mentioned upon agreement between the respective Governments without further legislation.

It was also agreed that before any of the foregoing articles should be allowed to pass free of duty satisfactory evidence should be produced to the collector of customs at the port of entry, in accordance with orders to be made by the Governor in Council in that behalf, that the articles are *bonâ fide* the product or manufacture of the colony of Victoria or Tasmania, as the case may be.

The delegates undertook to recommend to their respective Governments that an agreement should be entered into for an interchange of the articles named in the foregoing list for a period of three years from the date of the treaty.

That the aforesaid treaty shall be signed by the respective Governments immediately after the consent of the Parliament of each colony has been obtained.

The meeting then closed.

(Signed)

ADYE DOUGLAS.
W. H. BURGESS.

[A duplicate of the above was signed by Mr. Berry and Mr. Langridge, and handed to the Tasmanian Ministers.]

A.D. 1873.

An Act to amend the Law with respect to Customs Duties on Intercolonial Products and Manufactures.

[31 October, 1873.]

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the law relating to Customs duties on intercolonial products and manufactures: Be it therefore enacted by His Excellency the Governor of Tasmania by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly in Parliament assembled as follows:—

Governor of Tasmania may enter into agreements with other colonies for admission of products &c.

1. The Governor by and with the advice of the Executive Council may enter into an agreement with the Governors of the colonies of New South Wales Victoria South Australia Western Australia Queensland and New Zealand or with any of them for the admission into Tasmania of all or any articles (except spirits and tobacco) the produce or manufacture of the said colonies or of any of them free from Customs duties wharfage or other charges or at such reduced Customs duties wharfage and charges as the Governor in Council thinks fit. Provided that every colony with whose Governor such agreement is entered into agrees to admit the products and manufactures of Tasmania or some of them (except spirits and tobacco) either free from all Customs duties wharfage and other charges or at such reduced Customs duties wharfage and other charges as may be agreed upon.

Period of agreement, which may be altered.

2. Any such agreement may be entered into for a period not exceeding five years and may at any time during the said period be altered or rescinded by the Governor in Council with the consent of the Governor of every colony who is a party to such agreement but not otherwise; and every alteration or rescission of any such agreement shall be made known by proclamation to be published in the *Gazette*.

3. Every agreement entered into under this Act shall be published in the *Gazette* and laid before both Houses of Parliament as soon as may be after the making thereof, and shall remain in force for the period named therein unless Parliament within one year after the same shall be so laid before Parliament annuls the same.

Agreement to be published in *Gazette* and laid before Parliament.

4. Upon the publication in the *Gazette* of any such agreement the products and manufactures which under such agreement are exempted from Customs duties wharfage and charges or subjected to reduced Customs duties wharfage and charges as the case may be, may be imported free of Customs duties wharfage or other charges or subject to such reduced Customs duties wharfage or charges as is set forth in such agreement so long as such agreement continues in force.

Proclamation of products &c. exempted from duty.

5. The Governor in Council may from time to time make alter or rescind orders for carrying this Act into effect, and for determining what articles come within its provisions; and all such orders shall be published in the *Gazette*.

Orders in Council for carrying Act into effect.

6. This Act may be cited as "*The Intercolonial Customs Duties Act.*"

Short title.

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