

No. 4.

AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE BRITISH AND DANISH
GOVERNMENTS

RESPECTING:

MATTERS OF WRECK.

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.



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AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND
DANISH GOVERNMENTS RESPECTING
MATTERS OF WRECK.

No. 1.

Mr. Balfour to M. de Grevenkop-Castenskiold.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 28, 1918.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that His Majesty's Government have duly considered the suggestion made in your note of the 28th ultimo, for the conclusion of a special arrangement with the Danish Government to enable Danish Consuls in the United Kingdom to intervene in matters of wreck without their being called upon to produce any special authorisation to do so.

2. I beg leave to state that His Majesty's Government are prepared to conclude an arrangement of this description, on a basis of reciprocity, in the following terms:—

- (1.) Any vessel of either of the Contracting Parties which may be compelled, by stress of weather or by accident, to take shelter in a port of the other, shall be at liberty to refit therein, to procure all necessary stores, and to put to sea again, without paying any dues other than such as would be payable in a similar case by a national vessel. In case, however, the master of a merchant vessel should be under the necessity of disposing of a part of his merchandise in order to defray his expenses, he shall be bound to conform to the regulations and tariffs of the place to which he may have come.
- (2.) If any vessel of one of the Contracting Parties shall run aground or be wrecked upon the coasts of the other, such vessel, and all parts thereof, and all furniture and appurtenances belonging thereunto, and all goods and merchandise saved therefrom, including any which may have been cast into the sea, or the proceeds thereof, if sold, as well as all papers found on board such stranded or wrecked vessel, shall be given up to the owners or their agents when claimed by them. If there are no such owners or agents on the spot, then the same shall be delivered to the British or Danish Consular officer in whose district the wreck or stranding may have taken place upon being claimed by him within the period fixed by the laws of the country, and such Consular officers, owners or agents shall pay only the expenses incurred in the preservation of the property, together with the salvage or other expenses which would have been payable in the like case of a wreck or stranding of a national vessel.

The Contracting Parties agree moreover that merchandise saved shall not be subjected to the payment of any customs duty unless cleared for internal consumption.

(3.) In the case either of a vessel being driven in by stress of weather, run aground, or wrecked, the respective Consular officers shall, if the owner or master or other agent of the owner is not present, or is present and requires it, be authorised to interpose in order to afford the necessary assistance to their fellow-countrymen.

3. Should the Danish Government be willing to accept these proposals, I should be glad if you would be so good as to inform me accordingly, in which case the present note and your reply would, it is suggested, be sufficient to place upon formal record the understanding arrived at between our respective Governments.

I have, &c.

A. J. BALFOUR.

No. 2.

M. de Grevenkop-Castenskiold to Earl Curzon.—
(Received November 30.)

Danish Legation, London,

My Lord,

November 29, 1920.

IN reply to Mr. Balfour's note of the 28th September, 1918, concerning the conclusion of a reciprocal arrangement between His Britannic Majesty's Government and the King's Government enabling their respective Consular officers to intervene in matters of wreck without special authorisation, I have the honour hereby to inform your Lordship that I have this day been directed to accept in their entirety the terms laid down in the above-mentioned note as the basis of the proposed arrangement. The King's Government is equally agreed that the said note and the present reply shall be sufficient to constitute and place upon formal record the understanding in question. I shall, therefore, feel grateful if your Lordship will be good enough to transmit to me an official acknowledgment of my Government's acceptance as herein conveyed.

I have, &c.

H. GREVENKOP-CASTENSKIOLD.

No. 3.

Earl Curzon to M. Tage Bull.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 20, 1921.

I HAD the honour to receive M. de Grevenkop-Castenskiold's note of the 29th November last, in which he was good enough to inform me that the proposals contained in my predecessor's note of the 28th September, 1918, concerning the conclusion of an arrangement between the United Kingdom and Denmark with respect to matters of wreck meet with the approval and acceptance of the Danish Government.

2. It would seem convenient that the agreement thus arrived at between the two Governments should be regarded as taking effect

from the date of the receipt of M. de Grevenkop-Castenskiold's note, viz., the 30th November last, and I shall be glad to learn whether the Danish Government concur in this proposal.

3. I have the honour to add that the Board of Trade will give the necessary instructions to Receivers of Wreck in this country for their guidance in dealing with future cases of Danish wrecks on the coasts of the United Kingdom.

I have, &c.

CURZON OF KEDLESTON.

No. 4.

M. Tage Bull to Earl Curzon.—(Received January 22.)

Danish Legation, London,

January 21, 1921.

My Lord,

WHILE acknowledging with thanks your Lordship's note of the 20th instant regarding an arrangement relative to matters of wreck, I have the honour to state that I am authorised to concur on behalf of the King's Government with the proposal that the arrangement in question between the United Kingdom and Denmark should be regarded as taking effect from the 30th November, 1920.

I have, &c.

T. BULL,

Chargé d'Affaires a.i