

streams of water poured on the fronts counteracted the great heat. It was soon plainly visible that nothing could save the whole block on which the fire was raging. The photographic establishment of Messrs. Stillfried and Anderson which adjoined Messrs. Kelly & Co's. was soon one mass of flames, and but little was saved except a number of negatives. From these premises the fire spread to Messrs. Lane and Crawford's store, which first ignited at the eaves of the roof. The fire having caught, it did not take long to ravage the whole building, being fed with all manner of combustible articles. A detachment of seamen had been landed from the *Modeste* and another contingent was supplied by the Japanese men-of-war, and now both bands rendered effective service in carrying away the most valuable goods from the store.—It is said that all the silver-ware was saved, and also a considerable quantity of miscellaneous goods, such as carpeting, sails, copper tubes &c. But though the amount saved seemed large, it was small in comparison with the quantity of stores contained in the building, and most of which were consumed. Most, indeed probably all, of the loss is covered by insurance. Messrs. Lane, Crawford & Co.'s stock was insured in Home offices for \$105,000; while the buildings are insured in the local offices for \$25,000. The insurance on Messrs. Kelly & Co.'s goods was for \$3,000; Mr. Geffney's stock was insured for \$2,000; and the Chamber of Commerce property for \$1,500. The loss principally falls upon the North British and Mercantile, Phoenix, Manchester, China Fire, Scottish Imperial, and Staffordshire Insurance Offices.

The *Herald* gives the following apportionment:—

China Fire	\$45,000
Phoenix	40,000
Staffordshire	25,000
North British	20,000
Scottish Imperial	19,000
Manchester	10,000
Norwich Union	8,000
Sun	1,500
	\$168,500

TWELVE PROPOSED REGULATIONS FOR THE EXEMPTION FROM LEKIN OF REALLY FOREIGN GOODS IN THE SETTLEMENTS.

1°—It will be necessary to make a list of what are really foreign goods, and write them one by one on a painted board; and likewise take whatever foreign or native goods there are one by one and write them on a Board to be hung up in the Foreign Custom House. This will be convenient in order that they may be distinguished clearly at the time, and likewise in order that the Lekin officers may, in accordance with lists of goods so made, allow them all to pass free of *lekin*.

2°—Although it has already been settled that goods in the Foreign Settlements shall be free of duty; yet opium has not hitherto been treated in the same way as other foreign duties, and is not allowed to pay transit dues, thus distinguishing it from other goods. In the trade regulations hitherto made there was a special clause to this effect. The regulations made at Chefoo for unifying the duties have not yet been settled, but it is required to be immediately resolved upon, and the amounts decided. In the matter of opium it is not only clearly decided that it will not be free from duty in the Foreign Settlements, but in unifying the tariff before referred to it will be necessary to settle the amount leviable upon it and likewise the date from which the regulation shall take effect.

3°—When cargo vessels arrive in port, the Custom House will depute an officer in conjunction with a man likewise deputed by the native collectorate, to examine together what are really foreign goods. Custom House officers will then impress in the seam of the bale, a seal certifying that they are truly foreign goods, to avoid subsequent confusion.

4°—The Lekin officer will depute an officer in conjunction with the Custom House officer to examine what goods have on them this

seal, and then likewise add the characters (Free of duty in the Foreign Settlements). This will avoid disputes when the goods are sent into the interior, and prevent foreign goods from suffering. Another day, when goods are being sent elsewhere, if it is found that they have not on them this stamp although they are foreign goods, it will be apparent that they have not on that day paid half duty and not been examined, and if they have not paid half duty they will be treated as native goods.

5°—It is now settled that foreign merchants' goods within the Settlements, or their goods sold to Chinese, shall all be free of duty; and this must be respectfully adhered to. But the native goods in the Foreign Settlements are also numerous; excepting foreign goods that are free of duty, all these goods—(viz., from the interior, Canton, Foochow or such like places)—will still be subject to *lekin* dues and to be examined in accordance with the regulations now standing. All the offices for the collection of these dues will have as before to examine all goods, in order to prevent smuggling.

6°—When original goods are re-exported, examination will be made whether the seals certifying their Foreign origin and their right to be free of *lekin*, have not been in the least torn or moved, and they will then be treated according to the regulations for the re-export of foreign goods. If they do not tally and are different from when they were originally sealed, it is decided to request that they be treated according to the smuggling clause and confiscated.

7°—All native goods in the Foreign Settlements, when exported into the interior, will have, according to previous regulations, to be reported at the *lekin* office; when a permit will be issued, to facilitate the examination upon their passage, and that merchants may not suffer from delay.

8°—Chinese goods carried by foreign vessels and vessels having foreign registers, although having paid duty at the Custom House, have not hitherto been allowed to pay transit duty, and will still be treated accordingly, in order to show the difference between native and foreign goods.

9°—When foreign goods have paid the transit dues and a duty certificate has been issued to them, the Lekin officer will compare them with the pass, and if no other goods have been packed up with them they will be immediately passed. The wrappers of foreign goods having on them the two seals referred to, examination on their arrival at the barrier will be more quick, and the merchants will not be delayed.

10°—All kinds of foreign goods that are sent out of the Settlements with a transit pass, will on examination, in accordance with the regulations, be free of *lekin*. Those that have not a transit pass, on meeting with a Customs barrier will pay duty, and on meeting with a *lekin* barrier will pay *lekin*.

11°—Foreign goods now in store in godowns, after the Chinese have bought them will, upon being cleared, be reported to the Custom House, and the Commissioner will send a man in conjunction with a Weiyuen and place a seal on the goods which have been bought for export, to facilitate their exemption from *lekin* in the Settlements and to put them in accordance with the new regulations.

12°—The examination of native goods belonging to native merchants in the Foreign Settlements is the business of China, and China will herself manage it. Native produce is no concern of foreigners. If foreigners come forward as shields, to the slightest detriment of China's sovereignty, it will be asked that they be fined according to law.

THE CHINESE IN CALIFORNIA.

ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE CADWALLADER TO MINISTER SEWARD.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your memorandum 95, giving the substance of a conversation which occurred in the course of a visit paid to the Foreign Office, concerning the question that has arisen in California in connection with the emigration of Chinese. You state that you mentioned the difficulties of our experience in California, owing to the habits of the Chinese and other causes, and gave assurances of the benevolence of our Government and people and of our disposition to allow discrimination to be made against

any classes residing within our borders, and that you also took occasion to dwell strongly upon the need which exists of establishing a Legation at Washington and a Consulate at San Francisco. You also state that, in reply, you were informed that a Mission would soon be established at Washington, and your statement as to the need of a Consulate at San Francisco would be borne in mind, but that they must look to our Government to protect their people, and seemed to feel confident that the protection would be extended, and expressed the wish that their countrymen might be treated as well everywhere as in the United States. You also enclose a copy of a note dated 29th of June, received from the Yamén to the effect that a communication has been received from the Northern Superintendent of Foreign Trade in reference to the statement constantly appearing, that persons in the city of San Francisco were in the habit of molesting Chinese; that the Chinese upon their arrival in that city were often assailed, and that the question of measures for the suppression of Chinese immigration had been discussed. In this communication the Yamén call attention to the fifth and sixth articles of the supplementary treaty with the United States, and state that the purport of this treaty is that the people of either country may be at liberty to come and go at will, and kind treatment on either side should be accorded. The Yamén request you to communicate with this Government and ask that, in accordance with the Treaty, the commission of such acts may be prevented for the sake of the maintenance of friendship between the two nations. It is not easy to give more than a general reply to the note from the Yamén, the complaints being based on no particular occurrence, and asking no more than a general observance of treaty obligations. There are doubtless difficulties arising, in fact, from the result of competition of labor, added to which same difficulties, to which you have adverted, is the unwillingness of Chinese, even if able so to do, to really become a part of the people of the country or to lay aside their own habits of life and their intention to return to their country. Inquiry is now proceeding in reference to all these questions, and Congress at its last session appointed a committee from the Senate and House of Representatives to proceed to California and report upon the subject, and in particular to assure the Yamén, in reply to their note, that the United States recognized the obligation of all the provisions of the treaties which have been made with China, and will endeavor at all times to carry out in good faith all such provisions. The difficulty arises when dealing with individual or temporary excitements, such as have been manifested not unfrequently in China as against our own people or other foreigners, and this difficulty will assuredly be appreciated by the Chinese authorities. Considering the large number of Chinese emigrants who come to the United States, and considering the small number of our citizens who have gone to China, we might naturally expect more frequent cause of complaint to arise from the Chinese in this country than from Americans in China. Such, however, is far from the case. The Chinese who have come to the United States have engaged in whatever business they pleased, and settled in such portions of the country as they preferred, and no restraints, so far as residence or occupation are concerned, have been imposed upon them. Your suggestion, that the establishment of a Consulate at San Francisco could lend a freer communication between the two countries, was a proper one, and this course was intended to afford a more ready channel of redressing any particular grievances. Both nations must deal carefully and watchfully with the great problem, and endeavor to prevent any real cause of complaint in either country.

I am yours,

JOHN L. CADWALLADER.

Law Reports.

CIVIL SUMMARY COURT.

Shanghai, Jan. 24th.

Before R. A. MOWAT, Esq.

J. E. COATES v. A. G. MERRILEES.

This was a claim for Tls. 60 due for rent of the house No. 10, Seward Road, for the months of November and December last.