

REGULATIONS TO PREVENT SMUGGLING INTO THE UNITED STATES.

THE following instructions have been issued to Collectors and other Officers of the Customs of the United States, in order, if possible, to check the smuggling which has been going on to a large extent:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

WASHINGTON, October 18, 1896

In accordance with the authority given by the third section of the Act "to prevent smuggling," approved June 27, 1864, and the third section of the Act "further to prevent smuggling," approved July 18, 1866, and also of the fifth section of the Act "to protect the revenue, and for other purposes," approved July 28, 1869, the following regulations are prescribed:

1. All Consuls, Vice-Consuls, and Commercial Agents of the United States are authorized to act under, and discharge the several duties imposed upon officers of the United States by the second section of the Act of June 27, 1864, and when application is made to either of them by the proper person, to close and seal any vessel, car, or other vehicle, he shall require of the applicant a triplicate manifest of the cargo, lading, or contents of such vessel, car, or other vehicle, setting forth, by their appropriate names, all envelopes, including all boxes, casks, barrels, bales, bags, bundles, trunks, and packages, and by number, weight, or measure, all articles not enclosed in such envelopes or packages containing such cargo, lading or contents, and including the baggage and effects of passengers, and the place of destination of each, respectively, upon which manifest shall be the following declaration, oath, or affirmation, to be made or taken before any magistrate or other officer duly authorized to administer oaths:

I, A. B. (owner, agent, master, conductor, or whatever he may be,) of the vessel, steamer, boat, car, &c., called or numbered ——— now about to depart and bound to ———, in the United States, do solemnly (declare, swear or affirm) that this manifest contains a full and complete list of all the bales, bags, barrels, boxes, bundles, casks, hogheads, packages, and articles of every kind whatsoever which constitute the cargo or lading of said vessel, steamer, car, &c. And I further solemnly (declare, swear, or affirm) that there is not any article which is subject to duty by the laws of the United States on board or in said vessel, steamer, &c., which is not herein included, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Sworn (or declared or affirmed) to and subscribed before me, this ——— day, &c.

DUTY OF CONSUL, OR SEATING OFFICER.

2. On receiving such manifest and copies, the officer applied to shall close and seal every opening to the said cargo, lading, or contents, so far as it is in his power so to do, and shall seal every envelope, package, and other article embraced in such cargo or lading, and not already placed where access cannot be had without breaking a lock, fastening, or seal, and shall endorse and attach his official seal to the manifest and return it to the applicant; which shall be the passport of such vessel, car, or other vehicle, to the place of its destination. And further, he shall retain on file in his office, as a part of its records, one of said copies of the manifest, and shall immediately forward the other copy to the Collector or other officer of the customs at the place of destination of such vessel, car, or other vehicle. And when such cargo, lading, or contents are destined for different points or places, the proper officer of the customs, on receiving any part thereof, shall certify the same on the manifest.

3. In closing and sealing trunks, boxes, bales, barrels, or other envelopes or packages of any kind, the proper officers in order to guard against false bottoms, moveable hinges, and other fraudulent contrivances, will take care that the same are so secured by cords or wires, and additional seals that they cannot be opened, nor any part of the contents taken from them, without removing, breaking, or cutting such cords, wires, or seals.

4. Each officer shall keep a minute or record of the number of seals he shall affix to any vessel, car, or vehicle, whose manifest he may certify, and also of the number of seals placed upon any trunk, box, bale, barrel, or other envelope, package or other article embraced in the cargo, lading, or contents thereof, and note the same upon the manifest and copies thereof. And each customs officer on removing any seals from such vessels, cars, or other vehicle, and on receiving any part of the contents thereof, shall check the seals thereon by his proper initials on the manifest, and the officer at the port of final destination of such vessel, car, or other vehicle, shall, in addition to checking on the manifest the seals received by him, also transcribe from the said manifest all the checks thereon upon the copy of the manifest in his hands, and carefully preserve the latter.

WHEN IT IS IMPOSSIBLE OR VERY INCONVENIENT TO UNLOAD, WHAT IS TO BE DONE

5. It may possibly happen that a vessel may come to at a place where there are no conveniences for unloading; in such cases the proper officer of the customs is authorized to place an Inspector on board and in charge of such vessel to accompany it, at the proper cost and charge of the owner, or owners, or master thereof, to such port or place as it may be most convenient for unloading and inspecting the cargo; and such Inspector shall remain on board in charge of such vessel until it shall be delivered over to the proper officer of the customs of the port to which it is bound, or until the cargo can be unladen and inspected.

FURNISHING LOCKS, WIRES, SEALS, ETC.

6. The owner or owners, agent, master, or person having charge of any vessel, car, or other vehicle, which is thus to be closed and sealed, must have such

vessel, car, or other vehicle provided with sufficient cordage, locks, staples, and haws, wire of the proper kind, and leads for seals according to samples furnished by the Secretary of the Treasury, and they must have them ready for the Consul or other proper officer to stamp whenever called upon to seal any such vessel, car or other vehicle.

FEES.

7. A tariff of fees will be furnished to Consuls and other officers of the United States, and all fees must be paid, in coin at the time the service is rendered, and before the manifest is delivered by the United States officer.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS OF CUSTOMS.

8. All vessels, cars, and other vehicles must proceed as soon as sealed, without unreasonable delay, to the place of destination mentioned in the manifest of the cargo or lading, and there report to the Collector or other proper officer of customs, whose duty it will then be to take possession of such vessels, cars, or other vehicles and contents, and cause the seals to be removed, (keeping an account of their number, as heretofore mentioned), and the same to be unladen in presence of an Inspector, and the contents or lading to be thoroughly inspected. That this may be effectually done, boxes, bales, bags, barrels, bundles, casks, trunks, and other envelopes, may be opened and their contents ascertained.

TRAVELLING BAGGAGE.

9. Trunks, travelling bags, boxes, and everything containing articles of wearing apparel or other personal effects, or purporting to do so, must be opened and their contents thoroughly inspected by the proper officer of the customs, who shall remove the seals from the car containing such baggage, no trunk, travelling bag, valise, or other envelope to be delivered or taken away until thus inspected, and all baggage among which may be found secreted any articles liable to duty upon which duties have not been paid must be seized and retained.

VESSELS AND STEAMERS BOUND UP LAKE HURON.

10. Steam or other vessels from any port or place in Canada, destined for any port or place on Lake Michigan, shall report at the port of Mackinaw, and the cargo of any such steamer or other vessel shall not have been sealed by a Consul or other United States officer, as required by the second section of the Act of 27th June, 1864, a manifest of the cargo must be presented to the principal officer of the customs at the port of Mackinaw, setting forth clearly and distinctly a description of all the goods, wares, or merchandise on board from what port or place shipped, and at what ports destined to be landed, and that he has no other goods on board than those mentioned in said manifest, to all of which facts the master of the vessel must make oath before the Collector or Deputy Collector at the port of Mackinaw, the said oath to be subscribed on the manifest to be retained by the master of the vessel and on the manifest delivered to the Collector, and signed by the captain in presence of the Collector or Deputy Collector at the port of Mackinaw, who, if satisfied with the correctness of the proceedings, will certify the same on both the manifest, and issue a permit to the vessel to proceed to the port of destination. Collectors at ports on Lake Michigan are instructed to regard any manifest of vessels coming from Canadian ports as correct, unless the oath of the master is subscribed on it and signed as required in the presence of the Collector or Deputy Collector of Customs at the port of Mackinaw, and subject to the penalties prescribed by the Acts of June 27, 1864, and of July 18, 1866.

SMALL PACKAGES.

11. To avoid the trouble of sealing a large number of small packages, such packages may be enclosed in a large box, or boxes, or in crates, (such as are used upon railroads,) which may then be fastened and sealed.

SEALS TO BE KEPT UNDER LOCK.

12. Every officer of the United States to whom is intrusted a seal or die to be used for sealing vessels, steamers, boats, cars, and other vehicles, bales, bags, barrels, boxes, trunks, and other things, is enjoined to keep it, when not in use, in some secure place under lock, nor is he to allow it to go into the possession of, or be used by any one but a sworn officer of the United States, and for a legitimate purpose.

EXAMINATION OF PASSENGERS AND THEIR BAGGAGE.

13. With a view to prevent the smuggling of dutiable goods into the United States by means of concealment about the persons or in the baggage of persons arriving from a foreign contiguous country, all such persons and their baggage shall be examined on their arrival in the United States by a proper officer or officers of customs.

At Buffalo, Detroit, Port Huron, Ogdensburg, and other ports in the United States, where connections are made between American and Provincial railways by means of ferry-boats, passengers and their baggage, arriving from a foreign contiguous territory, shall be inspected and examined upon the boat, and passengers shall not be permitted to land, nor their baggage to be landed, until such inspection or examination shall have been concluded to the satisfaction of the officer making the same.

Cars crossing the Suspension Bridge into the United States shall remain on the bridge, or in an enclosure, until the examination of passengers and their baggage shall have been concluded to the satisfaction of the officer making the same.

Passengers in cars coming to Rouses Point, St. Albans, and Island Pond, must be examined while on the way between the boundary line and their first stopping-place, an Inspector or Inspectors going aboard of them for that purpose at the line.

WOMEN TO BE EMPLOYED AS INSPECTORS.

14. Women shall be employed at all ports where a

necessity for their employment shall exist, whose duty it shall be, under the direction of the Collector or other proper officer of the customs, to make all proper examinations, to prevent female-arriving from foreign countries from smuggling dutiable goods or merchandise into the United States.

BAGGAGE IN TRANSIT THROUGH CANADA.

15. All baggage of passengers in transit through Canada shall be placed in a car or cars, by itself, at the port of departure in the United States, and such car or cars shall be locked or sealed by an officer of customs prior to its leaving, and unlocked and unsealed by a similar officer at the port of arrival.

In all steamboats or propellers plying between and touching at intermediate American and foreign ports, shall set apart a room in which shall be placed, under United States customs' locks and seals, all baggage of passengers taken on board at one American port destined for another; and all baggage not so secured, arriving at an American port shall before delivery be inspected and examined as if arriving from a foreign port.

17. Baggage taken on board of a steamer plying from the British Provinces to Eastport and thence along the coast to Portland, Boston, and other ports in the United States shall be placed in a room by itself under a United States customs' lock and seal, either by a United States Consul at the port of departure, or by a United States customs officer at the first port of arrival, to be examined on delivery by the proper officer at the port of its destination.

GOODS, WARES, AND MERCHANDISE IN TRANSIT.

18. All goods, wares, and merchandise, in transit from one American port to another upon a railway running through a foreign territory shall be placed in cars and locked and sealed by an officer of customs of the United States, at the port of departure, in the United States, and shall be unladen at the first port of arrival in the United States. And in case of the arrival at any port in the United States of cars not so locked, sealed, and sealed, containing goods, wares, and merchandise such goods, wares and merchandise shall be deemed to have arrived from a foreign port, and treated accordingly.

But in case it becomes necessary, in consequence of a difference in the gauge of roads over which such goods or baggage have to be transported to transfer them from one set of cars to another, in Canada, such goods and baggage may be thus transferred, but must in all cases be done in the presence and under the inspection of an officer of the United States customs, and the cars, in which such goods or baggage shall be placed, shall be locked and sealed by such officer of the customs. *Provided*, That the Provincial Government shall consent that officers of the United States customs may be stationed at such points of transfer, and such railway companies shall pay monthly to the Collector of Customs by whom such officers are nominated such sum or sums as shall be equal to the monthly compensation of such officers.

MANIFESTS.

19. Manifests of goods, wares, and merchandise, designed for transportation from one American port to another, through foreign contiguous territory, shall be prepared by the shippers at the port of departure in the United States—one manifest for each car, giving the name of the shipper, the number of the car, consignor, destination, and a sufficiently particular description of the packages and their contents to insure their identification, which manifests shall be made in triplicate, subscribed by the shipper, and certified, under seal, by the Collector at the port of departure, one to be placed on file by him, one to accompany the cars, or otherwise to be delivered to the Collector at the port of arrival within the United States, and one to be transmitted by the Collector at the port of departure, by rail, to the Collector at the port of destination. And such goods, wares, and merchandise shall be unladen only in the presence of a United States customs' officer; and on being duly compared by him with the manifest, and found to agree in all respects therewith, shall, if not bonded, be delivered to the owner, importer, or consignee. And if any goods, wares, &c., shall be found not mentioned in the manifest, they shall be detained by the officer, and be subject to such penalties and forfeitures as the law may impose. Officers of customs superintending such unloading are enjoined to carefully examine such goods, wares, and merchandise, and to see that they are the same mentioned in the manifest. But when goods are placed upon cars which are to be changed in Canada, in consequence of a difference of gauge of the roads over which they are to pass, instead of the manifests being sent to the Collector at the place of final destination of such goods, they shall be sent to the United States customs' officer at the place where such transfer is to be made. Upon receiving the goods mentioned in any manifest, and finding them all right, he shall certify on the back of such manifest that he has superintended the unloading of the goods therein mentioned, and found them to agree with the manifest, and that they have been transferred to another car, or other cars, giving the number or numbers thereof. He shall then transmit such manifest or manifests to the Collector at the port or place of destination of such goods. But if the goods, boxes, bales, &c., do not agree with the manifest, he shall certify on the manifest wherein they do not agree.

20. Canadian and other provincial lines carrying goods, wares, and merchandise from one American port to another shall, as soon as warehouses can be provided, be required to load and unload all such goods, wares, and merchandise, and baggage, within the United States, and, at such ports, to provide suitable buildings for the safe-keeping, under United States customs' locks, of any unclaimed goods, wares or merchandise, and baggage, and suitable rooms for the occupancy and use of the United States customs