

Sir M. Lampson to Dr. Wang

NANKING, December 20, 1928.

SIR,—With reference to the treaty concluded this day between His Britannic Majesty and the President of the National Government of the Republic of China, I have the honour to state that it is my understanding that the *ad valorem* rates of duty or the specific rates based thereon in the National Customs Tariff to be adopted by the National Government are the same as the rates which were discussed and provisionally agreed upon at the Tariff Conference of 1926, and that these are the maximum rates to be levied on British goods: furthermore, that these will remain the maximum rates on such goods for the period of at least one year from the date of enforcement of the tariff: and that two months' notice will be given of the coming into force of the said tariff.

I shall be glad if Your Excellency will be good enough to confirm the correctness of the above.

In view of the doubt and anxiety that may arise amongst my nationals in regard to the effect which the new tariff may have on their trade if the various levies other than customs duties now being collected remain in force after the coming into operation of the national tariff rates, I would remind Your Excellency of the proclamation issued by the National Government of the Republic of China at Nanking on the 20th July, 1927, announcing their intention to take as soon as possible the necessary steps effectively to abolish *li-kin*, native customs dues, coast-trade duties and all other taxes on imported goods whether levied in transit or on arrival at destination, and I should welcome some assurance on behalf of the National Government that it is their intention that goods having once paid import duty to the Maritime Customs in accordance with the rates imposed in the new or any subsequent national tariff will be freed as soon as possible from any levies of the nature specified in the above-mentioned proclamation.

I avail, &c.,

MILES W. LAMPSON.

Dr. Wang to Sir M. Lampson

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
NANKING, December 20, 1928.

EXCELLENCY,—With reference to Your Excellency's note of to-day's date, I have the honour to confirm the correctness of your understanding that the *ad valorem* rates of duty or the specific rates based thereon in the national customs tariff to be adopted by the National Government are the same as the rates which were discussed and provisionally agreed upon at the Tariff Conference in 1926 and that these are the maximum rates to be levied on British goods: furthermore, that these will remain the maximum rates on such goods for a period of at least one year from the date of enforcement of the tariff: and that two months' notice will be given of the coming into force of the said tariff.

Furthermore, I am glad to be able to confirm, on behalf of the National Government, the terms of their proclamation of the 20th July, 1927, and to give you the assurance which you request that it is their intention that goods having once paid import duty to the Maritime Customs in accordance with the rates imposed in the new or any subsequent national tariff will be freed as soon as possible from any levies of the nature specified in the above-mentioned proclamation.

I avail, &c.,

CHENGTING T. WANG.