

25. Have not consuls or agents been appointed lately?—Yes; but I have not been able to obtain full information as to all the appointments made; the following Ports of Entry, in Canada, I know are supplied, viz., Toronto, Whitby, Oshawa, Darlington and Newcastle; Collingwood, Oakville, Hamilton, Clifton, Chippewa, Dover, Rowan, Bruce, Port Stanley, Chatham, Windsor, Sarnia, and Goderich, and judging from the foregoing Ports, I should infer that altogether there must be over fifty Consular Agents in Canada West.

26. When were these appointments made?—Since February last the circular for the Consular General of the United States for British North American Provinces was issued on the 28th July of the present year, and dated from Montreal, directing Consular Agents to prevent detention at the frontier ports, and to notify shippers of certain regulations of the Treasury Department of the United States. This information had been already communicated to the public by posters, &c., under the signature of Mr. Brydges, about two years since, and every precaution was taken that could possibly be devised by the Canadian Customs, as well as by the United States Customs, to insure correct returns of exports from Canada.

27. Under what circumstances did this change come into operation. —The 1st and 2nd sections of the Consular General's circular refers to the Treasury regulations of 1857, Nos. 203, 204, 206, 207, 209, 281, 287, 706, 707, and 710, but these have reference almost exclusively to articles paying duty, and not to goods free by treaty (see 287, 706, and 707), while the 3rd section refers to articles of the produce of the United States exported to the British North American Provinces, and returned to the United States in the same condition as when exported, claiming to be entered free of duty, &c., and reference is here made to Nos. 242, 246, 286, 293, and 936, in support of this view: none of which however bear upon the question, excepting 930 and 936, these having special reference to the Reciprocity Treaty: it is worthy of note that in 936 we have the words "growth or produce" twice quoted, and not growth and produce. Regarding the 4th section of this circular, "merchandize the value of \$100 and upwards, claiming exemption from duty under the Reciprocity Treaty, pays a fee of \$2. This impost is not justified by any law of the United States, and it is in direct violation of the Reciprocity Treaty. Goods free under this treaty cannot be made subject to any oath before a magistrate, nor is it competent for any Consular Agent to exact a fee legally (see regulation, 922). This regulation has only reference to foreign owners of goods, the produce of Canada, and not to the United States purchaser; upon reading the heading of No. 278, "Foreign owner's oath, where goods have been actually purchased, to be taken before a Consular Officer of the United States in the British Provinces," it is observable that the "Consular General" constructs his "regulation" on this heading, rather than upon the form itself, (see pp. 498, 499,) and which most distinctly alludes to the owner, discounts, bounties and drawbacks, none of which can apply to goods free under the Reciprocity Treaty. Public feeling generally is against the assumption set up by the United States Consular General for British North America, both in the United States and Canada, and some able communications condemnatory thereof have appeared upon this question, through the public press (p. 1, 2, 3).

28. What fees are charged by the Consular Agents, and who participates in them?—The fee of \$2 is charged, one half of which, I understand, goes into the pocket of the agent, and the remainder is transmitted to the Consular General. (See papers herewith.)