

SIAM.

TREATY BETWEEN FRANCE AND SIAM FOR THE DELIMITATION OF THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN FRENCH AND SIAMESE TERRITORY AND FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SYSTEM OF JURISDICTIONS.

Minister King to the Secretary of State.

No. 225.]

AMERICAN LEGATION,
Bangkok, Siam, March 30, 1905.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose a copy of the convention between Siam and France concluded February 13, 1904, together with a copy of the protocol bearing the date of June 29, 1904. The consummation of this treaty, which is the outgrowth of previous negotiations concerning a convention between Siam and France, abandoned in 1902, is largely due to the efforts of Mr. Edward H. Strobel, the general adviser of His Siamese Majesty's Government, an American citizen, both while he was in Paris previous to his coming to Siam and during his residence in Bangkok since March 19, 1904.

The conditions of this convention have now been largely fulfilled, and on the return to Bangkok of the commission appointed to delimitate the boundaries between the Great Lake and the sea—Battambang and Krat on the south—I have deemed it an opportune time to report on the same.

Taking up the treaty by its several points of importance: First. It provides for a redelimitation of the entire frontier between the Siamese and French territory, as set forth in Articles II and III. This gives to France the new territory of Luang Prabang, on the right bank of the Mekong River, abolishes the 25 kilometer neutral zone which was established along the right bank of the Mekong in the 1893 treaty, and further gives to France the new territory of Bassac and Meloupey, on the right bank of the Mekong and to the east of the Great Lake, and Krat on the south. The part of the delimitation of the frontier as outlined in Articles I and II of the treaty has not yet been accomplished, but as it is already as definitely defined as a crudely surveyed area well can be it is expected that no serious questions will arise therefrom.

As soon as Mr. Strobel arrived in Siam, March 19, 1904, he set about consummating an understanding to fix the principal points of the delimitation in the region between the Great Lake and the sea, which in the form of a protocol also fixed the point, that ten days after the territories ceded by the Siamese were placed at the disposal of the French the French troops should evacuate Chantaboon (Art. V). This protocol was dated June 29, 1904. On December 30, 1904, the Siamese flag was lowered at Krat and the French flag raised, and the French were notified that all the above-named territories were at their disposal. On January 9, 1905, the last French soldier left Chantaboon, the French flag came down and the Siamese flag was raised, twenty-four hours before the stipulated time had expired.

The delimitation boundary commission having completed their work between the Great Lake and the sea the Siamese portion of the commission have reported at Bangkok with their data. Later the entire commission will meet in this city, where the several questions arising will be settled. * * *

The lists of protégés mentioned in Article X have been compared and all questions arising from this article have already been settled. Heretofore decedents of all French protégés have claimed French protection without a well-defined limit as to time or generation. This arrangement is a decided advantage to the Siamese Government, for from the undefined condition of her French protégé question was as constantly springing a brood of pin pricks and annoyances as the various occasions might demand. * * *

Following the lines of the British treaty as regards jurisdiction in the far northern provinces by recognizing to a large degree the so-called international court of Siam, * * * France further agrees to recognize the Bangkok Siamese court of appeal in all cases of appeal from the northern courts, thus giving all the French cases arising in these northern provinces entirely into the hands of the Siamese for final decision, while it is worthy of note that the power of final decision in British cases coming from these provinces is vested in the British consular court. In the attempt to relieve this feature of the treaty and to allay the opposition raised by the French upon the ground an agreement was made whereby it was provided that a French legal adviser should be appointed by the Siamese Government, which adviser should sit as one of the judges in the Bangkok Siamese court of appeal when French interests were involved. This point concerning jurisdiction in itself is a large advance for Siam and is sure to have a large influence on the further treaties now in contemplation.

The French advantages arising from this treaty may be summed up as follows:

1. Siamese territory ceded to France: Luang Prabang, Bassac, Meloupey, and Krat.
2. French influence in questions of public improvements in the territory of Korat.
3. A French legal adviser to sit in the Bangkok Siamese court of appeals.

The Siamese advantages arising from this treaty may be summed up as follows:

1. Chantaboon returned to Siam.
2. The neutral 25 kilometer zone abolished.
3. Siam's French protégé question favorably settled.
4. Reduction in the jurisdiction accorded the French courts in Siam.
5. A truce in which Siam has her first opportunity to evidence her ability to govern herself.

* * * * *

* * * Notwithstanding the hindrances that have been placed in her way growing out of her extraterritorial relations with the world * * * Siam has made marked advancement during the last ten years. The spirit of progress is in the air. The general adviser to His Majesty is proving a splendid force in directing governmental affairs. One of the results already to be seen is the confidence shown in Siam's credit abroad, her loan of £1,000,000, divided

between England and France, having been subscribed eight times over in forty-five minutes at the figures of 95½ at 4½ per cent. European governments are showing a willingness to revise their antiquated treaties with the country. Denmark has just negotiated a new treaty. Italy is expected to sign a new treaty this week, and others are under consideration.

Mr. Riffault, the recently arrived envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary for France, is in harmony with his government's friendly attitude toward Siam. These friendly relations are daily improving. * * *

A truce at such a time as this, if it be for a few years only, in which time Siam may have the opportunity to show the stuff of which she is made, must prove of large value to the country.

This is the first real opportunity ever given to Siam to go forward, and coming at just such a time I consider this treaty, if favorably completed, as the open door of opportunity for large things in Siam, and on her ability to take advantage of the opportunity will depend largely the character of her government in the future.

This treaty was ratified December 9, 1904.

I have, etc.,

HAMILTON KING.

[Inclosure 1.—Translation.]

Convention between Siam and France, concluded February 13, 1904.

His Majesty the King of Siam and the President of the French Republic, desirous of strengthening the relations of friendship and mutual confidence which exist between their respective countries, and of arranging certain difficulties which have arisen regarding the interpretation of the treaty and of the convention of October 3, 1893, have decided to conclude a new convention. For this purpose they have appointed as their plenipotentiaries:

His Majesty the King of Siam, Phya Suriya Nuvatr, his envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary, accredited to the President of the French Republic, grand cross of the most honorable Order of the Crown of Siam, grand officer of the Legion of Honor, etc.; and the President of the French Republic, Mr. Théophile Delcassé, deputy minister for foreign affairs, etc.,

Who, having communicated to each other their full powers, which were found to be in due and proper form, have agreed on the following provisions:

ARTICLE I.

The frontier between Siam and Cambodia starts on the left bank of the Great Lake, from the mouth of the river Stung Roluos and follows the parallel from this point in an easterly direction till it meets the river Prec Campong Thiam; then, running northward, it unites with the meridian of the point of the above-mentioned meeting as far as the mountain range of Pnom Dang Rak; thence it follows the ridge of the watershed between the basins of the Nam Sen and of the Mekong on the one side and of the Nam Moun on the other side and joins the Pnom Padang range, the crest of which it follows toward the east as far as the Mekong. Upward from this point the Mekong remains the frontier of the Kingdom of Siam, in conformity with Article I of the treaty of October 3, 1893.

ARTICLE II.

With regard to the frontier between Luang Prabang, on the right bank, and the provinces of Muang Pichai and Muang Nan, it starts from the Mekong at its confluence with the Nam Huong, and following the thalweg of that river as far as its confluence with the Nam Tang; then ascending the course of the said Nam Tang, it reaches the ridge of the watershed between the basins of the Mekong and of the Menam at a point situated near Pou Dène Dine. From that point the frontier runs northward, following the watershed between the two basins as far as the sources of the river Nam Kop, the course of which it follows till it meets the Mekong.

ARTICLE III.

The delimitation of the frontier between the territories forming French Indo-China and the Kingdom of Siam shall be carried out. This delimitation shall be effected by mixed commissions composed of officers appointed by the two contracting countries. The work will have as its object the frontier determined by Articles I and II, as well as the region comprised between the Great Lake and the sea.

With a view to facilitate the labors of the commissions and with a view to avoid every possible difficulty in the delimitation of the region comprised between the Great Lake and the sea, the two governments will come to an understanding before the appointment of the mixed commissions to fix the principal points of the delimitation in this region, especially the point at which the frontier will reach the sea. The mixed commissions shall be appointed and shall commence their work within four months after the ratification of the present convention.

ARTICLE IV.

The Siamese Government renounce all prerogatives of suzerainty over the territories of Luang Prabang situated on the right bank of the Mekong. Trading vessels and rafts of wood, belonging to Siamese, shall have the right to navigate freely that portion of the Mekong traversing the territory of Luang Prabang.

ARTICLE V.

As soon as the understanding provided for in paragraph 2 of Article III, relative to the delimitation of the frontier between the Great Lake and the sea shall have been established, and as soon as it has been officially notified to the French authorities that the territories resulting from this understanding and the territories situated to the east of the frontier, as indicated in Articles I and II of the present treaty, are at their disposal, the French troops which occupy provisionally Chantabon in virtue of the convention of the 3d of October, 1893, shall leave that town.

ARTICLE VI.

The provisions of Article IV of the treaty of October 3, 1893, shall be replaced by the following:

His Majesty the King of Siam undertakes that the troops which he will send or maintain in the whole of the Siamese basin of the Mekong will always be troops of Siamese nationality commanded by officers of this nationality. There is only one exception to this rule in favor of the Siamese gendarmerie, at present commanded by Danish officers. In case the Siamese Government should wish to replace these officers by foreign officers belonging to another nationality, they should previously come to an understanding with the French Government.

With regard to the provinces of Siem Reap, Battambang, and Sisophon, the Siamese Government undertake to maintain there only contingents of police necessary for the maintenance of order. These contingents shall be recruited exclusively on the spot from among the natives.

ARTICLE VII.

In the future, in the Siamese part of the basin of the Mekong, if the Royal Government desire to undertake the execution of ports, canals, railways (particularly railways destined to connect the capital with any point whatever in this basin), they will come to an understanding with the French Government if such works could not be executed exclusively by a Siamese personnel and with Siamese capital. This would naturally also apply to the working of the said enterprises.

With regard to the use of ports, canals, railways in the Siamese part of the basin of the Mekong, as well as in the remainder of the Kingdom, it is understood that no differential dues shall be established contrary to the principle of commercial equality stipulated in the treaties signed by Siam.

ARTICLE VIII.

In the execution of Article VI of the treaty of October 3, 1893, plots of land of a superficial area to be determined shall be conceded by the Siamese Government to the Government of the Republic at the following points situated on the right bank of the Mekong:

Chieng Khan, Nong Khay, Muang Saniabouri, mouth of the Nam Khan (right or left bank) Bang Mouk Dahan, Kemmarat and mouth of the Nam Moun (right or left bank).

The two governments will come to an understanding in order to clear the course of the Nam Moun between its confluence with Mekong and Pimoun of the obstacles which hinder navigation. In case of these works being found impossible to execute or too costly, the two governments will concert together for the establishment of communication by land between Pimoun and the Mekong.

They will also come to an understanding for the establishment between Bassac and the frontier of Luang Prabang, as it results from Article II of the present treaty, of railroads which might be reconized as necessary to make up for the defects of the navigability of the Mekong.

ARTICLE IX.

From the present it is agreed that the two governments will facilitate the establishment of a railway connecting Pnom Penh with Battambang. The construction and the working shall be undertaken either by the two governments themselves, each undertaking the portion which is on its territory, or by a Franco-Siamese company agreed upon by the two governments.

The two governments are agreed on the necessity of carrying out the work for the improvement of the course of the river of Battambang between the Great Lake and that town. For this purpose the French Government are ready to place at the disposal of the Siamese Government the technical agents they may need for the execution as well as for the maintenance of the said works.

ARTICLE X.

The Government of His Siamese Majesty accept the lists of French protégés such as they exist at present, with the exception of persons whose inscription may be recognized by both parties as having been unduly obtained. A copy of these lists shall be communicated to the Siamese authorities by the French authorities.

The descendants of the protégés thus maintained under French jurisdiction shall have no right to claim their inscription if they do not fall under the category of persons described in the following article of the present convention.

ARTICLE XI.

Persons of Asiatic origin born on a territory subject to the direct domination or placed under the protectorate of France, except those who have established their residence in Siam before the time when the territory of their origin was placed under such domination or under such protectorate shall have the right to French protection.

French protection will be granted to the children of those persons, but will not be extended to their grandchildren.

ARTICLE XII.

With regard to the jurisdiction to which in the future, without any exception, all French subjects and French protégés in Siam will be subjected, the two governments agree to substitute for the existing provisions the following provisions:

1°. In criminal matters French subjects and French protégés shall be amenable only to French judicial authority.

2°. In civil matters all cases brought by a Siamese against a French subject or a French protégé shall be heard before the French consular court.

All cases in which the defendant is a Siamese shall be heard before the Siamese court of foreign causes instituted at Bangkok.

As an exception in the provinces of Chieng Mai, Lakhon, Lampoon, and Nan all civil and criminal cases involving French ressortissants shall be heard before the Siamese international court.

It is, however, understood that in all these cases the French consul shall have the right to be present at the trial or to be represented there by a duly authorized delegate, and to make any observations which he may deem proper in the interest of justice.

In case of the defendant being a French subject or a French protégé, the French consul may at any moment in the course of the proceedings, if he thinks it opportune, and by means of a written requisition, evoke the case before him.

This case shall then be transferred to the French consular court, which from this moment shall alone be competent and to which the Siamese authorities shall be bound to give their assistance.

The appeals against judgments delivered by the court of foreign causes, as well as by the international court established for the above-mentioned four provinces, shall be brought before the court of appeal of Bangkok.

ARTICLE XIII.

With regard to the admission in the future to French protection of Asiatics who are not born on a territory subject to the direct authority or to the protectorate of France, or who are not legally naturalized, the Government of the Republic shall enjoy rights equal to those which Siam may grant to any other power.

ARTICLE XIV.

The provisions of the former treaties, agreements, and conventions between Siam and France, not modified by the present convention, remain in full force.

ARTICLE XV.

In case of difficulties arising from the interpretation of the present convention, which is drawn up in French and Siamese, the French text shall govern.

ARTICLE XVI.

The present convention shall be ratified within a period of four months beginning from the day of signature, or sooner if possible.

In witness whereof the respective plenipotentiaries have signed the present convention and have affixed their seals.

Done at Paris in duplicate February 13, 1904.

[L. s.]

[L. s.]

PHYA SURIYA.

DELGASSÉ.

[Inclosure 2.—Translation.]

PROTOCOL.

In the execution of Article III, paragraph 2, of the convention of February 13, 1904, and desiring to complete and rectify Articles I and II of the said convention, the Government of His Majesty the King of Siam and the Government of the French Republic have agreed as follows:

1. **KRAT.**—The frontier from the Great Lake shall continue the section of the delimitation marked in 1867 by following the river Prec Kampong Prac to its source. From this point the frontier shall follow in a western direction the line of watershed between the basin of the tributary rivers flowing toward the northern part of the Great Lake and the basin of the Strung Krevanh or Pursat River up to the mountain which is the source of this last river. The frontier shall then run toward the direction of the source of the river Barain, or Huay-Reng, the course of which it will follow until its junction with the Tungyai River, which flows into the estuary of Kratt. It shall then follow the said river to its junction with the Klong Dja River. This junction is about halfway between the junction of the Barain River with the Tungjai River and the mouth of this last river. The frontier shall then follow the Klong Dja to its source, which is supposed to be situated on the mountain called Kao Mai See. From this point it shall follow the range of mountains to the mountain called Kao Kanun, and from this point the range of mountains until it reaches the sea at the extremity of Cape Lem-Ling.

This frontier establishes a natural boundary, according to which the port of Kratt and the territories situated to the south are attributed to French Indo-China.

In consequence the islands situated near the coast from the said Cape Lem-Ling (such as Koh-Chang and the following), as well as the territories to the south of the frontier thus determined, will belong to French Indo-China. It must besides be well understood that the above-mentioned delimitation shall leave to French Indo-China the territories which might be actually occupied by her on the north of the said line.

Ten days after the French authorities have been officially notified that the territories above mentioned, as well as all those to which refer the Franco-Siamese convention of February 13, 1904, and the present agreement are at their disposal, the French troops will leave Chantabun in execution of Article V of the said convention.

2. **LUANG PRABANG.**—With regard to the frontier of Luang Prabang, described in Article II of the convention of February 13, 1904, the two contracting powers have agreed by common consent upon the following modifications:

A. *Southern frontier.*—The frontier shall leave the junction of the Mekong and of the Nam-Huang, and instead of following the Nam-Tang shall follow the thalweg of the Nam-Huang, called in its upper part Nam-Man, until it reaches the line of watershed between the basins of the Mekong and of the Me-Nam at the point where the source of the Nam-Man is situated.

From this point and following that line it shall ascend toward the north, in conformity with the convention of February 13, 1904.

B. *Northern frontier.*—Instead of following the course of the Nam-Kop the frontier shall wing round the sources of that river in order to follow the first of mountains on the left bank of the Nam-Kop.

In witness whereof the undersigned, Phya Suriya, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of His Majesty the King of Siam accredited to the President of the French Republic, and M Delecaissé, deputy, minister for foreign affairs of the French Republic, duly authorized to this effect, have drawn up the present protocol, to which they affix their seals.

Done in Paris in duplicate the 29th of June, 1904.

PHYA SURIYA.
DELECAISSÉ.

TREATY BETWEEN DENMARK AND SIAM FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SYSTEM OF JURISDICTIONS.

Minister King to the Secretary of State.

No. 226.]

AMERICAN LEGATION,
Bangkok, Siam, March 30, 1905.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose a copy of the treaty signed March 24, 1905, between Siam and Denmark. The explanatory statement prefixed comes from Mr. Strobel, and as such can be relied upon as the views of the Siamese Government.

I would call attention especially to Article VI on jurisdiction. This treaty acknowledges the Bangkok Siamese court of appeals, as does the French treaty. An endeavor was made to secure a Danish legal adviser to sit in this court when Danish interests were involved, but did not succeed. As indicating the tendency of the treaty powers toward Siam just now this treaty is of interest, following, as it does, so soon after the ratification of the Franco-Siamese treaty of December 9, 1904, * * *

The general adviser for the Siamese Government informs me that the attitude of Denmark throughout these negotiations has been most cordial. And I can discover in the several concessions made on the part of Denmark evidence of nothing but a desire to assist the Siamese Government and to take as advanced a position in this direction as any of the treaty-making powers. * * *

In this connection it is to be observed that the signatory for Denmark, Mr. A. E. Olarovsky, is the Russian minister resident at this court.

I have, etc.,

HAMILTON KING.

[Inclosure.]

New treaty between Siam and Denmark.—System of jurisdictions.

With the exception of the treaties with England and France, no plan of jurisdiction is provided by the present treaties. Most of those treaties contain merely an article to the effect that where a question is at issue between a Siamese and a foreigner the consul of the foreigner and a Siamese functionary should come together and try to settle the matter amicably. Such a provision is of course entirely impracticable under present conditions and is virtually a dead letter. It therefore becomes necessary to establish a definite system of jurisdiction with all the treaty powers, and the treaty with Denmark which was signed yesterday is the first of a series which will be negotiated by the Siamese Government for this purpose.

Article I of the treaty restricts the right of protection to those persons to whom the Danish law gives Danish nationality.

Articles II to V, providing for a joint inquiry, follow closely the English treaty of 1899. The last paragraph of Article III, however, providing for the submission of this question to a third person where there is a difference between the consular officer and the Siamese representative, is new.

Articles V to —, regarding jurisdiction, follow closely the recent French treaty. Where the defendant is a Dane, the case is brought before the Danish consul; where a Siamese, before the Siamese court of foreign causes. In the North the number of provinces in which the international court is to have jurisdiction includes the provinces mentioned both in the English treaty and the late French treaty, with the addition of Pray, which is not included in either the English or the French treaty. The articles in the Danish treaty are also fuller and clearer and provide that the international court shall have jurisdiction not only over questions between Danes and Siamese, but also in cases where a Dane is a defendant and the plaintiff a foreigner.

It will also be noticed that in the Danish treaty, as in the French treaty, appeals from the North are to the Siamese court of appeals of Bangkok.

TEXT OF TREATY.

The following is the full text of the new treaty:

His Majesty Somdetch Phra Paramindr Maha Chulalongkorn, King of Siam and all its dependencies, Laos Chiang, Laos Kao, Malays, Kareans, etc., and His Majesty Christian the Ninth, King of Denmark, of the Vandals and Goths, Duke of Schleswig Holstein, Stormarn, the Ditmarshes, Lauenburg, and Oldenburg;

Desiring to facilitate and extend the relations of friendship and good understanding between their respective countries, have resolved to conclude a convention concerning the registration of and jurisdiction over Danish subjects in Siam, and have to that end appointed the following plenipotentiaries:

His Majesty the King of Siam, His Royal Highness Prince Devawongse Varoprakar, minister for foreign affairs;

And His Majesty the King of Denmark, A. E. Olarovsky, esquire, minister resident of his Majesty the Emperor of Russia, charged with Danish interests in Siam, commander of the Royal Danish Order of Danebrog;

Who, after having communicated to each other their respective full powers and found them to be in good and due form, have agreed upon and concluded the following articles:

I. The registration of Danish subjects residing in Siam shall comprise all persons residing in Siam upon whom the Danish laws confer Danish nationality, and no other person shall be entitled to any protection from the Danish Government.

II. The lists of registration shall be open to the inspection of the Siamese Government on proper notice being given.

III. If any question arises as to the right of any person to be registered at the Danish consulate or as to the validity of a certificate of registration issued by that consulate, a joint inquiry shall be held by the consul for Denmark and a duly authorized representative of the Siamese Government, who will settle the question, giving due regard to the evidence to be produced in behalf of the validity of the certificate or of the right of the person to be registered.

If the representative of the Siamese Government and the consul for Denmark can not agree, they shall be entitled to submit the evidence in the case to a third person to be agreed upon by them both, whose decision shall be final.

IV. Should any action, civil or criminal, be pending while such inquiry is going on which by its nature can not be deferred until the result of the inquiry is known, the question of the court in which such action shall be heard shall be determined conjointly by the Danish consul and the representative of the Siamese Government.

If the person in respect of whom the inquiry is held come within the conditions for registration laid down in Article I of this agreement he may, if not yet registered, forthwith be registered as a Danish subject and provided with a certificate of registration at the Danish consulate; otherwise he will be recognized as falling under Siamese jurisdiction, and if already on the lists of the Danish consulate his name shall be erased therefrom.

VI. With regard to the jurisdiction to which in the future without any exception all Danish subjects in Siam will be subjected the two governments agree:

A. (1) In criminal matters if the offender be a Danish subject, he shall be tried and punished by the Danish consular officer.

(2) In civil matters all actions brought by a Siamese against a Danish subject shall be heard before the Danish consular court. If the defendant is a Siamese, the action shall be heard by the Siamese court for foreign causes.

B. (1) But all civil or criminal cases arising in the provinces of Chiengmai, Lakhon, Lam-poon, Pray, and Nan brought or instituted either by the Siamese Government or by Siamese or foreign subjects, in which a Danish subject may be a defendant, and likewise all civil and criminal cases in which a Danish subject may be the plaintiff or complainant, the defendant being a person under Siamese jurisdiction, shall be heard before the Siamese international court.

(2) In any of the cases mentioned in the last preceding paragraph the Danish consul shall have the right to be present at the trial or to be represented there by a duly authorized delegate and to make any observation which he may deem proper in the interest of justice.

(3) In cases where the defendant is a Danish subject, the Danish consul may, at any stage of the proceedings, if he thinks proper, by means of a written requisition evoke the case before him. Such case shall then be transferred to the Danish consular court, which shall from that time alone be competent to try the case, and to which the Siamese authorities shall be bound to give their assistance.

(4) In all criminal cases where the law allows bail, the accused shall be admitted to bail instead of being imprisoned.

VII. Appeals from the judgments rendered by the court for foreign causes, as well as by the international court established in the provinces of Chiengmai, Lakhon, Lamphoon, Pray, and Nan, shall be brought before the court of appeal of Bangkok.

VIII. All enactments in former treaties, agreements, or conventions between Denmark and Siam that are not modified by the present convention remain in full force.

IX. The present convention shall be ratified and the ratifications shall be exchanged within six months from date of its signature.

In witness whereof the respective plenipotentiaries have signed the present convention and have affixed their seals.

Done at Bangkok in two copies in English as the language of communication between the high contracting parties on this the 24th day of March, in the year 1905 of the Christian era.

DEVAWONGSE VAROPRAKAR.
A. E. OLAROVSKY.

ABOLITION OF GAMBLING HOUSES AND SLAVERY IN SIAM.

Minister King to the Secretary of State.

No. 227.]

AMERICAN LEGATION,
Bangkok, Siam, March 31, 1905.

SIR: The Siamese Government has decided upon a systematic move against gambling in the Kingdom. There are now 103 large gambling houses throughout the interior. It has been decided to abolish 80 of these 103 on the beginning of next April; the remainder of the 103 shall be abolished the 1st of April, 1906; and there will be made a serious endeavor to abolish all the large gambling houses in this city on the 1st of April, 1907. To meet the very large falling off of revenue which will be caused by this move a readjustment of the land tax has already begun. By this plan it is calculated that all the loss in revenue caused by the abolishment of the gambling houses outside of the city will be fully met. To meet the loss of revenue caused by the abolishment of the houses within the city is a doubtful endeavor. For remedy for the loss in the country Siam depends upon herself by increasing the land tax; but in doing this she feels that she is placing all the burden upon her people that they should bear. For the loss of revenue caused by the abolishing of the houses in the city she will have to depend upon the cooperation of the Christian nations, and, anomalous as it may seem, herein she will find her difficulty. She proposes to meet the loss in the city by raising her import dues to a moderate degree. Being an extraterritorial country the treaties with the outside nations which now fix import dues at 3 per cent can be changed only by the permission of the Christian nations. * * *

Preparatory to this endeavor I have been approached by both Mr. Strobel and the department of the interior, His Royal Highness Prince Krom Luang Damrong, with the request that I make known to my government the full import of this decree and with the request

that I should use my influence to secure the good offices of my government in support of this endeavor. I am assured by these gentlemen that the government is a unit on this question, and hence that there can be no difference or party feeling on the matter, so far as the Siamese are concerned.

Outside of the American missionaries there are very few American citizens in Siam and outside of missionary interests very few American interests represented in Siam. The American missionaries have been a very potent factor in bringing about this decree. Only yesterday Prince Krom Luang Damrong said in my hearing: "I consider the American missionaries are my most efficient agents in carrying forward my endeavors for the progress of Siam;" hence to lend the influence of our government to this work is not only to help Siam toward better things, but to forward the American interests which are most prominent in Siam to-day. That the American missionary is the advance guard of American commerce finds no stronger proof in any country than in this country; hence for the American Government to support the interests of the American missionary as they are to day prosecuted in Siam is, on the large, to support and to advance the interests of America in Siam. It is a real pleasure to be able to say this, and still more of a pleasure to see the many evidences that the Siamese Government recognize the value of our people in the country. Within the past six months Siam has sold to our mission station at Nan, hundreds of miles outside the real-estate foreign-purchase limit as defined by the treaty, a fine piece of real estate, and given them the first clean deed issued to a foreigner in Siam. * * *

This one concrete case I trust will serve to illustrate the relation of Siam to the American missionaries, of the American missionaries to the progress of Siam, and the reason why Siam turns with expectation to the American Government at such a time as this.

I have, etc.,

HAMILTON KING.

[Inclosure.]

Notification by the Minister of Finance on the abolition of gambling, 124.

The minister of finance has been commanded by His Most Gracious Majesty the King to issue the following notification:

His Majesty has long been impressed by the fact that although the revenue derived from gambling is an important factor in the finances of the Kingdom the evils resulting therefrom are much greater than the benefits. People expend in gambling not only their own wealth but the wealth of others. They devote to gambling time during which they should be attending to their work. Under present conditions large sums of money which come into the hands of the gambling farmers are sent out of the kingdom. Gambling is also responsible for much of the crime that is committed. The abolition of gambling would, therefore, not only result in an improvement in the morals of the people and in increased industry, but money now expended therein would remain in circulation within the country, thereby adding to the wealth of the community.

In order, however, to replace the loss of the revenue derived from gambling, some taxes must be increased and new taxes devised. In the increase of certain of these taxes it will be necessary to enter upon negotiations with foreign powers. Gambling can not, therefore, be suppressed at once, but must be gradually abolished. His Majesty, therefore, has been pleased to order the abolition of gambling within the period of three years, as follows:

In the year 124 gambling shall be entirely abolished in Phitsnuloke, Puket, Udon, Burapha, and Chantaboon, just as it was abolished in the year 117 in Chumpon and Nakhon Sritamarat.

In the same year gambling shall be abolished in the other Monthons and in all those places where the revenue derived is less than 50,000 ticals. This includes the following 84 places in the provinces, namely: * * *

In the year 125 His Majesty decrees that the remaining gambling houses in the provinces, amounting to 22 in number, shall be abolished.

As a result of the above, at the beginning of the year 126 the only gambling places left in the Kingdom will be those within the limits of the city of Bangkok. The revenue necessary to replace the loss resulting to the government from the abolition of the places in the provinces mentioned above which is to be effected during the years 124 and 125 will be replaced by some modifications in the present system of internal taxation. In order to replace the revenue sacrificed by the abolition of gambling in Bangkok, it will be necessary to enter into negotiations with the treaty powers. Negotiations will be begun for that purpose with those powers, and as soon as a satisfactory result is obtained His Majesty will be pleased to decree the abolition of gambling within the limits of the city of Bangkok, and thus throughout the Kingdom, and it is hoped that this aim will be accomplished so that this entire abolition will take place in the year 126.

Dated the 9th day of February, 1905.

MAHISRA,
Minister of Finance.

Minister King to the Secretary of State.

No. 233.]

AMERICAN LEGATION,
Bangkok, Siam, April 21, 1905.

SIR: I inclose the copy of a royal decree issued by His Majesty on March 31, 1905, abolishing the last remnant of debt slavery in the Kingdom, another evidence of Siam's vitality.

I have, etc.,

HAMILTON KING.

[Inclosure.—Translation.]

Abolition of slavery in Siam—New law.

By a new law now passed the Government of Siam is completing the task of the gradual entire abolition of all such remnants of the old system of slavery as still remain in existence. The text of the new law is as follows:

Although slavery in our realm is very different from slavery as it has existed in many other countries—most slaves being persons who have become so voluntarily and not by force and the powers of the master over the slaves being strictly limited—yet we have always considered that the institution, even in this modified form, is an impediment to the progress of our country. We have, therefore, from the commencement of our reign taken steps, by the enactment of laws and otherwise, for the abolition of slavery, notably by the law of Pee Chau (corresponding to Ratanakosindr Sok 93 and the year 1874 of the Christian era).

We now deem it time to take more sweeping measures which will gradually result in the entire disappearance of slavery from Siam, and to that end we are pleased to decree as follows:

SECTION 1. This law shall be known as the law for the abolition of slavery, Ratanakosindr Sok 124.

SEC. 2. This law shall come into force on the 1st of April, Ratanakosindr Sok 124, throughout the Kingdom, except in the Monthons of Bayap and Burapha where we have already enacted special laws on the subject, and also except in the Monthon of Saiburi and in Kelantan and Tringganu, where the laws of the religion of the people are still in force.

SEC. 3. All children born of parents who are slaves shall be free without the execution of the condition stated in the law of Pee Chau.

SEC. 4. No person now free can be made a slave. If any person now a slave shall hereafter become free he can not thereafter again become a slave.

SEC. 5. Wherever any person is now held a debt slave, the master shall credit upon the principal of the debt for which he is held a slave the sum of four (4) ticals for each month after the 1st of April, 124, provided that no credit shall be allowed for any time during which the slave may desert his master.

SEC. 6. If a slave changes his master, no increase shall be made in the debt for which he is actually held—that is to say, when the slave is transferred from one master to another, he can be held by the new master only for the amount of the debt actually due the old master at the time of the transfer.

Done in Bangkok on this the 31st day of March, Ratanakosindr Sok, 123.

The Acting Secretary of State to Minister King.

No. 135.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, May 20, 1905.

SIR: The Department has received and read with much interest your dispatch No. 227, of March 31 last, with inclosure, relating to the royal decree for the abolition of gambling in Siam.

It appears from your dispatch and the accompanying decree that it is intended to abolish gambling throughout Siam, excepting only in Bangkok, on April 1, 1906, and in that city on April 1, 1907, that the deficiency in revenue caused by the application of this measure to the interior of the country is to be met by an increase of the land tax, while the Siamese Government will have to depend upon the cooperation of the Christian nations for indemnification for the loss of revenue entailed by the suppression of the gambling houses operating in the capital city, and that the good offices of this government are desired in support of this endeavor.

You may inform the Siamese Government that the Department is disposed to give all proper aid to His Majesty's Government in effectuating the contemplated reform, and is much gratified to learn of the recognition extended in Siam to the resident American missionaries who have been, it appears, a very potent factor in bringing about the decree abolishing gambling, as also in the advancement in general of endeavors for the progress of that country.

As regards giving effect to the desire of the Siamese Government for an increase in a moderate degree of the import-duty rate of 3 per cent, fixed by a provision contained in Article VII of the existing treaty of amity and commerce, concluded between the United States and Siam May 29, 1856, it would seem necessary to the accomplishment of that end that assent to the proposed change be obtained from all the Christian nations which are parties to conventions establishing the present rate of duty, as the right of this country to most-favored-nation treatment must in any event be maintained.

I am, etc.,

F. B. LOOMIS.

BOYCOTT OF AMERICAN GOODS BY CHINESE IN SIAM.*Chargé Schuyler to the Secretary of State.*

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

AMERICAN LEGATION,
Bangkok, Siam, August 10, 1905.

(With reference to the boycott of American goods, Chargé Schuyler reports that 3,000 Bangkok Chinese at a meeting held here have telegraphed to their agents at Singapore and Hongkong not to ship any more American goods to Siam.)

Minister King to the Secretary of State.

No. 248.]

AMERICAN LEGATION,
Bangkok, Siam, November 28, 1905.

SIR:

* * * * *

AMERICAN INTERESTS.

The boycott has been felt here to some extent. It is completely organized among the Chinese and is in close touch with the organization at Shanghai. Thus far the Standard Oil interests, which have just entered Bangkok, have suffered slightly, both in handling and selling their goods, and the British-American Tobacco Company have felt it somewhat in their trade; but although nominally yet in force it is in fact about dead.

Handicapped by none of the questions, territorial or political, that affect the European nations here, and with an American in the position of general adviser to His Siamese Majesty's Government who has the entire confidence of the country and whose cooperation can be depended upon by this legation in all right measures, the influence of America in Siam is daily improving. * * *

I have, etc.,

HAMILTON KING.