

CIRCULARS.

No. 1.

[Circular No. 12.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, February 13, 1879.

To the consular officers of the United States.

GENTLEMEN: The Secretary of the Treasury, under date of the 1st instant, has requested the Department to acquaint you that, since the promulgation of the instructions of the 4th of October, 1878, which required that when charges are not expressly specified in an invoice of imported goods, and such goods are not therein described as being free of charges, it is the duty of the customs officer to add such charges for the purpose of ascertaining the dutiable value of the merchandise, it has been represented to that Department that their immediate strict enforcement would impose a hardship upon the merchants concerned. Further instructions have therefore been given to the collectors in the principal ports of the United States that such enforcement will not be insisted upon until the 1st of April next.

In the mean time, however, it is considered desirable that the purport of the instructions of October 4, 1878, should be brought to the notice of manufacturers, owners, and shippers of goods to be imported into the United States, and I therefore append hereto a copy of the decision referred to for that purpose. You are requested, therefore to take such measures in the premises as may seem to you to be required to accomplish the desired object.

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

F. W. SEWARD,
Acting Secretary.

(3735.)

INVOICE VALUE—ADDITIONS FOR CHARGES.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
October 4, 1878.

SIR: The department duly received your letter of the 20th ultimo, in which you call attention to its decision of April 25, 1878 (Synopsis 3550), in relation to additions for charges on invoice when such charges are not specified therein.

You state that it has heretofore been the custom to regard as included in the invoice value charges for cartons, and packing of various descriptions of merchandise, such as leather gloves, German hosiery, and toys, and that the collector recently returned to you a number of invoices of German hosiery, because charges for cases and packing were not specified in such invoices, either as separate items or as being included in the invoice value, and for which no addition was made by you.

1 F R

In reply to your request for instructions, I have to state that the principle laid down in decision No. 3550 is, that when charges are not separately specified in the invoice, and the goods are not therein described as being free of charges, it is the duty of customs officers to add such charges for the purpose of assessment of duty.

The reason of the rule was that the insertion in the invoice of separate items, or declaration therein that the goods were free of charges, would make the matter free from doubt, and compel a practice which would be an aid in securing uniformity at the various ports.

In view of the statements, however, made by you, that the charges for packing and carting are always merged in the invoice-price description of the classes of goods before named, I have to state that the department does not desire to adopt summarily a practice contrary thereto without giving parties concerned a notice thereof. You will, therefore, continue to accept invoices as correct where you shall be satisfied that the price paid includes charges for packing and cartons, until January 1, 1879, and on and after that date it will be required that invoices shall separately specify such charges, or declare that the price includes such charges; otherwise, additions for such charges shall be made.

A copy hereof will be furnished to the collector.

Very respectfully,

H. F. FRENCH,
Assistant Secretary.

UNITED STATES APPRAISER, *New York.*

No. 2.

To the consular officers of the United States.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, March 8, 1879.

GENTLEMEN: The act approved June 4, 1878, making appropriations for the consular and diplomatic service of the United States for the year ending June 30, 1879, provides that every consular officer shall furnish to the Secretary of the Treasury, or to such officers of the customs as he may direct, as often as may be required, the prices-current of all articles of merchandise usually exported to the United States from the port or place in which the consular officer is stationed.

In view of this provision of law, you are requested to forward to the appraising officers at the ports in the United States to which invoices presented to you for certification show that goods are to be shipped from your district, prices-current of such goods, together with such information relating to the matters mentioned therein as, in your opinion, may be pertinent and important.

It is not required that such prices-current shall be forwarded in all cases whenever issued, but only when, from changes in the prices of merchandise shipped, or from other causes, the consular officer may be of opinion that they will be of use as an aid to the appraising officers in ascertaining the true dutiable value of merchandise. They should, however, be sent at the end of each half year, whether changes have occurred in the prices or not. In some instances special requests have been made for the forwarding, at stated periods, of the prices-current of certain classes of merchandise to particular ports, and this circular will not be construed as revoking these requests, but such prices-current will be forwarded as heretofore.

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

F. W. SEWARD.
Assistant Secretary.

No. 3.

To the consuls-general, consuls, and commercial agents of the United States in Europe.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, April 3, 1879.

GENTLEMEN: In view of representations made to the Department, it is deemed desirable that the next annual report of consular officers in Europe should contain a table showing the humidity of each month of the year at those places within their respective districts where meteorological observations are taken. For the purposes of these reports the year will be understood to be the fiscal year.

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

F. W. SEWARD,
Assistant Secretary.

No. 4.

Sent to the diplomatic officers of the United States.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, May 23, 1879.

SIR: I have been requested by the Secretary of the Treasury to obtain through you the following desired information respecting the amount of gold and silver coin and bullion and paper currency in———.

1st. What is the amount of *gold* coin and bullion in the treasury, in the banks, and in circulation in the country to which you are accredited?

2d. What is the amount of *silver* coin and bullion in the treasury, in the banks, and in circulation?

3d. What is the amount of outstanding *paper* currency?

4th. What is the amount of *gold* produced annually from the mines?

5th. What is the amount of *silver* produced annually?

6th. What is the amount of *gold* annually coined, imported, exported, and consumed in the arts and manufactures?

7th. What is the amount of *silver* annually coined, imported, exported, and consumed in the arts and manufactures?

You are instructed to present these interrogatories to the minister of foreign affairs of ———, and to request that as full and detailed information of the character sought by the Government of the United States may be furnished to you as it is possible to obtain, or as the minister may deem proper to furnish. It is desired that these statistics may be not only those of the past year, but also those for as many previous years as may be procurable.

Any information on this important subject which you may be able to obtain through any other quarter than government or official sources will also be acceptable.

The Secretary of the Treasury would like to receive this matter at the very earliest moment practicable.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WM. M. EVARTS.

No. 5.

Sent to the diplomatic officers of the United States.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, May 28, 1879.

SIR: The Navy Department having experienced for a long time the advantages of, not to say the necessity for, an international system of fog-signals, and lamenting the loss of life and property that has occurred through the lack of an adequate system, the Secretary of the Navy has proposed to me that there be submitted to the various maritime powers of the world, through this Department, for consideration, with a view to adoption, a code, of which a copy is herein inclosed, the plan of Commodore Beaumont, which is regarded as effective from its perfect simplicity and capacity to communicate what is intended.

Blasts of steam-whistles and horns have been used for a number of years to indicate the proximity of vessels in times of fog; and since the general introduction of steamers in the merchant marine, it has become necessary that not only the proximity of vessels but, also, that the course they are steering should be indicated with some degree of accuracy so as to be able to avoid collisions.

In the proposed system two signals are employed—the initial and secondary signal. The initial signal indicates the quadrant, and the secondary the point in the quadrant steered. One blast indicates the first quadrant, or from N. to E.; two blasts (with an interval of one-half second between) the second quadrant, or from E. to S.; three blasts, the third quadrant, or from S. to W.; four blasts, the fourth quadrant, or from W. to N., &c.

Between the initial and secondary signals there should be an interval of not less than four seconds. In making the secondary signals an interval of one-half second is made between each sound or blast.

These compass signals are not to be repeated oftener than at intervals of not more than one minute when made by steam-whistle, and at intervals of not more than five minutes when made by fog-horn, which does not conflict with existing laws.

When by these signals or other indications the presence of other vessels is made known, each vessel must be brought up to the exact point as per first column, "Course," in the accompanying table, and not steer between the points, as per second column, until they have passed each other; due regard being paid to the dangers of navigation. When the vessels sight each other, the Rules of the Road, established by law, must be followed.

A system of signals for use by vessels not having the regular international code is herewith inclosed. It is very simple, and every vessel afloat could use it with but the slight additional expense of the inclosed card.

The present international code of signals is not only cumbersome, but very expensive, and is, consequently, not in general use by mercantile vessels.

At present there is no provision for vessels to communicate with each other at night. By the proposed system this difficulty is obviated, as vessels are enabled to communicate not only by day, but also by night.

The adoption of this system, as it requires no expenditure of money, would be brought about, I infer, by the mere expression of a wish on the part of the governments interested and a dissemination of the means employed in its execution.

You are instructed to present the codes transmitted to you with this instruction to the minister of foreign affairs of _____ for the consideration of the _____ government, and to request an expression of its views thereon.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WM. M. EVARTS.

[Inclosures.]

Proposed international alphabet.
Proposed general fog-signals.

PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL ALPHABET.

A.....	12	J.....	1222	S.....	111
B.....	2111	K.....	212	T.....	2
C.....	2121	L.....	1211	U.....	112
D.....	211	M.....	22	V.....	1112
E.....	1	N.....	21	W.....	122
F.....	1121	O.....	222	X.....	2112
G.....	221	P.....	1221	Y.....	2122
H.....	1111	Q.....	2212	Z.....	2211
I.....	11	R.....	121		

NUMERALS.

1.....	12222	6.....	21111
2.....	11222	7.....	22111
3.....	11122	8.....	22211
4.....	11112	9.....	22221
5.....	11111	0.....	22222

NOTE.—In the American Naval Code the colors Red will be used for 1, White for 2, both together, 3.

In answering a message, 3—"I understand;" 33—"I do not understand."

End of word, 3. End of sentence, 33. End of message, 333. Error, 3333.

RULE FOR ESTABLISHING THE CODE.

A vessel or station (A) desiring to communicate any message or intelligence to a stranger may hoist a flag or other object, which will be known as A's number 1. After this is seen and noted, the vessel or station signaled (B) will answer by showing a flag or object, which will be recognized as B's number 1, and noted by A accordingly. A will then hoist a flag of another color or different object, which will indicate A's number 2, which will again be answered by a flag or other object from B, which flag or object will indicate B's number 2.

When these preliminaries have been completed both A and B will know the values of the flags or objects, and can then proceed to communicate intelligently with each other by the above international alphabet.

For example: A wishes to communicate with B and has adopted a red flag as his number 1, a white flag as his number 2. He then displays the red, hauls it down, and replaces it with the white flag, thereby communicating the combination 12—equivalent to the letter "A," and so on throughout the alphabet.

For night signaling the flags will be replaced by different-colored lanterns, and be used in the same manner as the flags.

The ensign hoisted at the fore or main-mast head will indicate that the International Signal Code Book will be referred to.

U. S. NAVAL SIGNAL OFFICE,

Navy Department, January 1, 1879.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

PROPOSED GENERAL FOG-SIGNALS TO INDICATE THE COURSE STEERED.

Course.	Between what points.	Sounds.	Explanatory remarks.
North	N. by W. and N. by E.	O	<p>O indicates a sound or blast of horn or whistle.</p> <p>* indicates an interval of one-half second between sounds or blasts.</p> <p>— indicates an interval of not less than four seconds between sounds or blasts.</p> <p>These Compass Signals are not to be repeated oftener than at intervals of not more than one (1) minute when made by steam-whistle, and at intervals of not more than five (5) minutes when made by fog-horn. (Revised Stats., sec. 4233, Rule 15, Rules for Preventing Collisions.)</p> <p>When, by these signals or other indications, the presence of another vessel is made known, each vessel must be brought up to the exact point, as per first column, "Course," and not steer between the points, as per second column, until they have passed each other, due regard being paid to the dangers of navigation.</p> <p>When the vessels sight each other the Rules of the Road must be followed.</p>
NNE	N. by E. and NE. by N.	O—O*O	
NE	NE. by N. and NE. by E.	O—O*O*O	
ENE	NE. by E. and E. by N.	O—O*O*O*O	
East	E. by N. and E. by S.	O*O	
ESE	E. by S. and SE. by E.	O*O—O	
SE	SE. by E. and SE. by S.	O*O—O*O*O	
SSE	SE. by S. and S. by E.	O*O—O*O*O*O	
South	S. by E. and S. by W.	O*O*O	
SSW	S. by W. and SW. by S.	O*O*O—O	
SW	SW. by S. and SW. by W.	O*O*O—O*O	
WSW	SW. by W. and W. by S.	O*O*O—O*O*O*O	
West	W. by S. and W. by N.	O*O*O*O	
WNW	W. by N. and NW. by W.	O*O*O*O—O	
NW	NW. by W. and NW. by N.	O*O*O*O—O*O	
NNW	NW. by N. by W.	O*O*O*O—O*O*O*O	
Hove to, or lying still		O—O*O*O—O	
Towing, or being towed		O*O—O*O*O—O*O	

U. S. NAVAL SIGNAL OFFICE,
Navy Department, January 1, 1879.

No. 6.

[Circular No. 13.]

To the consular officers of the United States.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, June 10, 1879.

GENTLEMEN: In transmitting to the Department invoices verified by you, with a statement indicating wherein you believe that the values set forth in the invoice are too low, as referred to in paragraphs 469 and 470 of the Revised Regulations of 1874, and giving your reasons for the opinion, the Secretary of the Treasury has stated that in many cases where the foregoing regulation has been applied the information has been received too late to be of any value in the appraisement, as the goods have been entered and delivered prior to the receipt of the dispatch to this Department on the subject. It is desired, therefore, when you are of the opinion that the values expressed in the invoices are too low that you should note on the invoice what in your judgment is the true market value of the goods contained therein, and advise this Department of the grounds on which you base your judgment.

A careful compliance with and observance of the terms of this circular instruction will greatly facilitate the appraisers in the execution of their duties.

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

F. W. SEWARD,
Assistant Secretary.

No. 7.

[Circular No. 14.]

*To the consular officers of the United States.*DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, June 10, 1879.

GENTLEMEN: I inclose herein a copy of a circular, dated the 26th ultimo, from the Secretary of the Treasury, in reference to the presentation and acceptance by collectors of customs of landing certificates covering merchandise exported under internal-revenue laws. The circular is transmitted for your information on that subject, and with instructions to comply with its provisions in all cases to which they are applicable.

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

F. W. SEWARD,
Assistant Secretary.

Inclosure, Treasury Department Circular, No. 82.

REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE BY COLLECTORS OF CUSTOMS OF LANDING CERTIFICATES COVERING MERCHANDISE EXPORTED UNDER INTERNAL-REVENUE LAWS.

[1879.—Department No. 82.—Secretary's Office.]

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., May 26, 1879.

The following regulations, modifying the regulations of the department on this subject, issued December 23, 1878, are published for the information of parties exporting merchandise under internal-revenue laws, and for the guidance of customs officers accepting landing certificates in such cases:

For the cancellation of export bonds taken under the provisions of sections 3329 and 3330, Revised Statutes of the United States, and sections 3244, 3386, and 3441, Revised Statutes, as amended by the act of March 1, 1879; the act of June 9, 1874, as amended; section 24 of the act of February 8, 1875 (18 Stat., p. 312), and sections 5 and 6 of the act of March 3, 1877 (19 Stat., p. 394), and for the allowance of drawback under the provisions of sections 3244 and 3441, Revised Statutes, as amended, where no bond is filed, the following evidence of landing, or loss at sea, is required:

Int. Rev. Regs.,
Series 6, No. 7,
Sup't No. 1, p. 10.
Do. No. 2, p. 13.
Do. No. 3, p. 27.

Series 7, No. 8,
pp. 67-8.

Series 7, No. 7,
p. 113, (Appendix.)

Series 7, No. 13,
Revised p. 9.

I.

Certificate of consignee of landing of merchandise at foreign ports.

I, _____, of the _____ of _____, merchant, do hereby certify that the goods or merchandise hereinafter described have been landed in this [city, town, or port] between the _____ and _____ days of _____, from on board the _____, of _____, whereof _____ is at present master, viz: [Here describe the merchandise, giving the marks and numbers, kind of merchandise, number of pounds, (gross, tare, and net), gallons (wine and proof), or packages, upon which tax is imposed,] which, according to the bills of lading for the same, were shipped on board the _____ at the port of _____, in the United States of America, on or about the _____ day of _____, 18____, and consigned to [me or to us] by _____ of _____, aforesaid merchant [or by the master of said _____].*

Given under my hand, at _____, this _____ day of _____, 18____.

Treasury Regulations, 1874,
Art. 706, Form No. 173.

Dept of State: Consular Instructions, 1874,
¶ 496-7, Forms Nos. 152, 154.

* In cases of shipment of tobacco or snuff in bond, under section 24 of the act of February 8, 1875, the following will be added: "And I further certify that the weight, as above stated, was correctly ascertained by actual weighing after landing." In all such cases the foregoing certificate must be sworn to before a United States consul, vice-consul, or agent at the port, or, in their absence, before an officer qualified to administer oaths and having a seal, by the consignee to whom the merchandise is actually addressed. The columns for marks, numbers, weight, gallons, serial number of stamps, &c., as the case may require, must accord with the regulations governing the particular exportation.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

II.

Oath of master and mate of exporting vessels.

Treasury Reg- We, _____, master, and _____, mate, of the _____, lately
ulations, Art. 706, arrived from the port of _____, in the United States of America, do sol-
Form No. 174. emnly swear [or affirm] that the goods or merchandise enumerated and
Dep't of State: described in the foregoing certificate, dated the _____ day of _____, 18—,
Consular In- and signed by _____, of the city of _____, merchant, were ac-
structions, ¶ 497, tually delivered at the said port on board the _____ within the time spec-
Forms Nos. 153 ified in the said certificate, and, as to the tobacco and snuff described
and 156. therein, that the weight stated was ascertained by actual weighing at
the time of delivery.

_____, Master.
Sworn [or affirmed] at the port of _____, before me, this _____ day of
_____, 18—. [SEAL.]

*NOTE.—In all cases, the oath of the master, and of the mate, purser, or other dis-
charging officer must be obtained.

In case of failure to execute the foregoing at the port of delivery of the goods, the
same may, upon the return of the vessel at the port of shipment, be subscribed to
before the collector of the port.

III.

Certificate of foreign revenue officer.

Treasury Reg- I, _____, do hereby certify that the goods [or merchandise]
ulations. described in the foregoing declaration and below, imported into this
country [or province] from _____, were landed at this port, duly entered
1877. at the custom-house at this port on the _____ day of _____, 18—,* and
Dep't No. 6, In- their value ascertained to be _____, and that the duties imposed by the
ternal Revenue. law in force in this [country or province] upon said goods have been
(Int. Rev. Circu- paid, or secured to be paid:
lar No. 160.)

	Marks.	Number.	Description of goods.	Date when entered.
Dep't Circular (1877) No. 46.				
Dep't of State : Consular In- structions, ¶ 497, Form No. 155.				
Circular No. 6, Aug. 22, 1876.				

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal of office
this _____ day of _____, 18—.

_____, [SEAL.]
Collector or Chief Revenue Officer.

*In shipments of tobacco or snuff, under the act of February 18, 1875, the follow-
ing will be added: "And their weight ascertained to be _____."

NOTE.—The value stated should be that of the goods in the foreign country to
which they were exported. Such value need not be specified if the consignee chooses
to pay the maximum fee for the consular authentication of the landing certificate.

IV.

Consular verification of consignee's certificate.

Treasury Reg- I, _____, consul [or agent] of the United States of America,
ulations, Art. 706, at the city of _____, do declare that the facts set forth in the foregoing
Form No. 175. declaration, subscribed by _____, of said port, and dated the
Dep't of State: _____ day of _____, 18—, are, to my knowledge, true and correct, and
Consular In- deserving of full faith and credit; and I further certify that the sig-
structions, ¶ 495-6-7. nature thereto is in the handwriting of said _____.
Forms In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and af-
Nos. 150, 157. fixed the seal of my office, at _____, this _____ day of _____, 18—.
Circular No. 6, _____, [SEAL.]
Aug. 22, 1876. Consul.

Verification by American or foreign merchants where there is no consul.

We, _____ and _____, merchants residing at the city _____, do declare that the statements made in the preceding certificate, signed by _____, of the said city, merchant, on the _____ day of _____, 18____, are, to our knowledge (or in our opinion), correct and true, and worthy of full faith and credit.

We also declare that there is no [consul or other public agent of the United States of America, or American merchants, as the case may require] now residing at this place.

Given under our hands, at the _____ aforesaid, this _____ day of _____, 18____.

Treasury Regulations, Art. 706, Form No. 176.

Dep't of State: Consular Instructions, ¶¶ 495-6-8, Forms Nos. 151, 158.

Collateral evidence.

When, by reason of inability to produce the evidence of landing here prescribed, application for relief may be made to the Secretary of the Treasury, through the collector of customs, with whom such evidence is, by regulation, required to be lodged, to be transmitted by him through the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, supported by such collateral evidence as the exporter may be able to submit.

The application in such cases must be under oath, and must recite the facts connected with the alleged exportation; setting forth the date of shipment, the kind, quantity, and value of the merchandise shipped, the name of the consignee, and the name of the vessel by and the port to which the shipment was made, and the date and amount of the bond (if one be filed) covering such shipment. The applicant will also state in what particular the regulations of the department respecting the proofs of landing have not been complied with, and the cause of failure to produce such proofs; that such failure was not occasioned by any lack of diligence on his part or that of his agents, and that he is unable to procure any other or better evidence than that submitted with his application.

The evidence submitted in such cases may embrace original bills of lading and verified original or verified copies of letters from consignees advising the shipper of the arrival or sale of the goods, with such other statements respecting the failure to furnish the prescribed evidence of landing as may be obtained from the consignees or any other person having knowledge thereof.

When any letters or other documents submitted are in a foreign language, they must be accompanied by sworn translations, and when the letters fail to sufficiently identify the goods, the original account-sales must be produced.

Proofs of loss at sea.

When the exporter is unable to furnish any proof of landing in consequence of loss at sea, the application for relief should set forth the extent of the loss, and, if possible, the location and manner of shipwreck, or other casualty at sea, and the time of its occurrence. The application in such cases will be transmitted to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, and by him to the Secretary, and must be accompanied by the affidavits of two or more credible and disinterested persons as to the loss or destruction aforesaid. When the goods have been insured, the certificates of the insurance companies or board of underwriters that the insurance has been paid, and that to the best of their knowledge and belief the goods were actually destroyed at sea, will be required; and, when obtainable, the oath of the master and mate of the vessel, detailing the manner and extent of the loss, and the time and location of the disaster.

In forwarding applications in the cases above provided for, collectors will state any facts within their knowledge bearing upon the case presented, and will indorse upon the application their opinion as to the character of the proof offered, and as to the propriety of granting such application.

If, upon examination, the proof of exportation or loss at sea is established to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Treasury, the papers in the case will be returned to the collector, with authority to accept the evidence furnished, and to cancel the exporter's bond.

Treasury Regulations, Arts. 802, 803, and 807.

Int. Rev. Regs., Series 6, No. 7, Supplement No. 1, p. 11.

Supplement No. 2, p. 13.

Series 7, No. 8, pp. 69, 70.

Series 7, No. 13, Revised, p. 16.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

In drawback shipments, under sections 3244 and 3441, Revised Statutes, as amended, where no export bond has been filed, the proofs of loss at sea will be transmitted by the collector of customs to the collector of internal revenue in charge of drawbacks, together with the claim for drawback, as provided in Internal-Revenue Regulations, (Series 7, No. 13, Revised, p. 16).

The attention of collectors of customs is especially called to the requirements in Internal-Revenue Regulations (Series 7, No. 13, Revised, p. 9), respecting uncanceled bonds turned over to district attorneys for suit, and they will, in forwarding applications in the cases above provided for, state whether there is any existing liability of the applicant on any bonds so placed in suit.

JOHN SHERMAN,
Secretary.

No. 8.

To the consular officers of the United States.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, June 24, 1879.

GENTLEMEN: In view of the application that has been made to the Department by the president of the National Board of Health, now in session in this city, it becomes extremely desirable to secure your aid and co-operation in making the weekly returns of that board as complete and valuable as possible. To facilitate this result, and to assist the board in carrying out the provisions of section 4 of the act approved June 2, 1879, to prevent the introduction and spread of contagious or infectious diseases into the United States, the forms for such weekly reports, showing the kind of information specially desired, are being printed and will be sent to you. It is expected, however, that you will not confine yourselves merely to filling out these forms, but that you will, from time to time, furnish such data, documents, and reports relating to the vital statistics and sanitary condition of your respective consular districts so far as may be practicable.

As the Department regards this matter as of the highest importance to the welfare of the citizens of the United States, and to the country generally, it is earnestly requested that you will give prompt and regular attention to the requirements here set forth.

The forms will be furnished and the expense of postage, &c., will be reimbursed to you by the president of the board. You are requested to acknowledge the receipt of this instruction.

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

F. W. SEWARD,
Assistant Secretary.

No. 9.

[Circular No. 15.]

To the consular officers of the United States.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, July 9, 1879.

GENTLEMEN: The Secretary of the Treasury has addressed a letter to the Department, of the 28th ultimo, in which he adverts to his letter of the 1st of February last, which formed the subject of Circular No. 12,

of the 13th of that month, in reference to charges not expressly specified in invoices of imported goods, where such goods are not described therein as being free of charges, and now submits, in reference to the subject, that the appraiser at New York has reported to him that in many instances invoices have contained a clause, approved by the consul, that the invoice price included the shipping and other charges, when such was not the case; and suggests that consular officers may be laboring under an impression that under their instructions they are to require shippers to state in their invoices *in all cases* that the invoice charges include the shipping and other charges.

It is hardly necessary to state that it was the intention of the Treasury Department to require the insertion in invoices of a clause showing that the invoice prices include the charges only when such is actually the case. Where the invoice does not properly include charges, a specification in detail of the charges is to be given in the invoice in all cases.

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

F. W. SEWARD,
Assistant Secretary.

No. 10.

Sent to the diplomatic officers of the United States.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, August 9, 1879.

SIR: The annual statistics of immigration into the United States show that large numbers of immigrants come to our shores every year from the various countries of Europe for the avowed purpose of joining the Mormon community at Salt Lake, in the Territory of Utah, under the auspices and guidance of the emissaries and agents of that community in foreign parts. This representation of the interests of Mormonism abroad, which has been carried on for years, is understood to have developed unusual activity of late, especially in ———, among other countries, where it has unfortunately obtained a greater or less foothold.

The system of polygamy, which is prevalent in the community of Utah, is largely based upon and promoted by these accessions from Europe, drawn mainly from the ignorant classes, who are easily influenced by the double appeal to their passions and their poverty, held out in the flattering picture of a home in the fertile and prosperous region where Mormonism has established its material seat.

Inasmuch as the practice of polygamy is based on a form of marriage, by which additional wives are "sealed" to the men of that community, these so-called "marriages" are pronounced by the laws of the United States to be crimes against the statutes of the country, and punishable as such.

On the 1st of July, 1862, the Congress of the United States passed an act (Chap. XXXVI) expressly designed, as appears from its title, "to punish and prevent the practice of polygamy in the Territories of the United States, and other places," &c. That act remains the law of the land as to its continuing provisions, which, in the revision of the statutes of the United States, made in 1874, reads as follows:

SEC. 5352. Every person having a husband or wife living, who marries another, whether married or single, in a Territory or other place over which the United States have exclusive jurisdiction, is guilty of bigamy, and shall be punished by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars, and by imprisonment for a term not more than five years; but this section shall not extend to any person by reason of any former marriage whose husband or wife by such marriage is absent for five successive years, and is not

known to such person to be living; nor to any person by reason of any former marriage which has been dissolved by decree of a competent court; nor to any person by reason of any former marriage which has been pronounced void by decree of a competent court on the ground of nullity of the marriage contract.

Whatever doubt, if any, has heretofore existed as to the efficiency of the law above cited, and the intent of the general government to enforce it, has now been terminated by the recent decision of the Supreme Court, the highest judicial tribunal of the land, sustaining the constitutionality of this legislation and affirming the conviction and punishment of offenders against that law.

Under whatever specious guise the subject may be presented by those engaged in instigating the European movement to swell the numbers of the law-defying Mormons of Utah, the bands and organizations which are got together in foreign lands as recruits cannot be regarded as otherwise than a deliberate and systematic attempt to bring persons to the United States with the intent of violating their laws and committing crimes expressly punishable under the statute as penitentiary offenses.

No friendly power will, of course, knowingly lend its aid, even indirectly, to attempts made within its borders against the laws and government of a country wherewith it is at peace with established terms of amity and reciprocal relations of treaty between them; while, even were there no question involved of open and penal infraction of the laws of the land, every consideration of comity should prevail to prevent the territory of a friendly state from becoming a resort or refuge for the crowds of misguided men and women whose offenses against morality and decency would be intolerable in the land from whence they come.

It is not doubted, therefore, that when the subject is brought to its attention, the government of _____ will take such steps as may be compatible with its laws and usages to check the organization of these criminal enterprises by agents who are thus operating beyond the reach of the law of the United States and to prevent the departure of those proposing to come hither as violators of the law by engaging in such criminal enterprises by whomsoever instigated.

You are instructed, therefore, to present the matter to the government of _____, through the minister of foreign affairs, and to urge earnest attention to it, in the interest not merely of a faithful execution of the laws of the United States, but of the peace, good order, and morality which are cultivated and sought to be promoted by all civilized countries. You will fortify your representations on the subject by citation of any facts which may come to your notice concerning emigration of this character from _____; and to this end the consular officers in your jurisdiction have been instructed to communicate to you what information with regard thereto may come to their knowledge. Your timely protest in cases where the probable departure of Mormon emigrants is reported or known to you would probably prove a weighty auxiliary to the general representations you are now instructed to make. You are also authorized, in your discretion, to call attention to this subject and the determined purpose of this government to enforce this law and eradicate this institution, through the public press of the principal cities or ports of the country, as you may find useful towards the end in view.

I desire to be informed of the steps taken by you under these instructions and of the disposition shown in reference to the same by the government to which you are accredited.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

[NOTE.—A similar instruction was sent to consular officers directing them to cooperate with the diplomatic officers of the United States in the premises.]