

TREATY SERIES. No. 19.

1894.

CONVENTION

BETWEEN

GREAT BRITAIN AND CHINA,

GIVING EFFECT TO

ARTICLE III OF THE CONVENTION OF
JULY 24, 1886,
RELATIVE TO BURMAH AND THIBET.

Signed at London, March 1, 1894.

[*Ratifications exchanged at London, August 23, 1894.*]

*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
August 1894.*

LONDON :

PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY HARRISON AND SONS, ST. MARTIN'S LANE,
PRINTERS IN ORDINARY TO HER MAJESTY.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
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CONVENTION BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND
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HER Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, and His Majesty the Emperor of China, being sincerely desirous of consolidating the relations of friendship and good neighbourhood which happily exist between the two Empires, have resolved to conclude a Convention with the view of giving effect to Article III of the Convention relative to Burmah and Thibet, signed at Peking on the 24th July, 1886, and have appointed as their Plenipotentiaries for this purpose, that is to say :

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, the Right Honourable the Earl of Rosebery, Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, Her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs ;

And His Majesty the Emperor of China, Sieh Ta-jên, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of China at the Court of St. James', and Vice-President of the Imperial Board of Censors ;

Who, having mutually communicated to each other their respective Full Powers, found to be in good and due form, have agreed upon the following Articles :—

ARTICLE I.

It is agreed that the frontier between the two Empires, from latitude $25^{\circ} 35'$ north, shall run as follows :—

Commencing at the high conical peak situated approximately in that latitude and in longitude $98^{\circ} 14'$ east of Greenwich and $18^{\circ} 16'$ west of Peking, the line will follow, as far as possible, the crest of the hills running in a south-westerly direction through Kaolang Pum and the Warong Peak, and thence run nearly midway between the villages of Wanchon and Kaolang—leaving the former to Burmah and the latter to China—on to Sabu Pum.

From Sabu Pum the frontier will run in a line slightly to the

south of west through Shatrung Pum to Namienu Pum ; thence it will be continued, still running in a south-westerly direction, along the crest of the hills until it strikes the Tazar Kha River, the course of which it will follow from its source to its confluence with the Nam Tabet or Tabak Kha, thus leaving Uka to the east and Laipong to the west.

From the confluence of the Tazar Kha River with the Tabak Kha, the frontier will ascend the latter river to its junction with the Lekra Kha, which it will follow to its source near Nkrang. From the source of the Lekra Kha, leaving Nkrang, Kukum, and Singra to the west, and Sima and Mali to the east, the line will follow the Lesa Kha from its western source to its junction with the Mali River, and thence will ascend the Mali to its source near Hpunra Shikong ; thence it will run in a south-westerly direction along the Laisa Kha from its source down to the point where it falls into the Molé River near Kadon, leaving the village of Kadon to the west and that of Laisa to the east.

The line will then follow the course of the Molé in a south-easterly direction to the place where it receives the Che Yang Kha, which latter river it will follow to its source in the Alau Pum. It will then be directed along the Nampaung River from its western source down to where it enters the Taping River.

This concludes the description of the first section of the frontier.

ARTICLE II.

The second section of the frontier, or that portion of it which extends from the Taping River to the neighbourhood of Meung Mao, will run as follows :—

Starting from the junction of the Khalong Kha with the Taping River, the frontier will follow the Khalong Kha and its western branch to its source ; it will be drawn thence southward to meet the Sipaho or Lower Nanthabet at a spot immediately to the south-west of Hanton, leaving Matin to Great Britain and Loilong-ga-tong, Tiéh-pi-Kwan, and Hanton to China ; thence it will ascend the branch of the last-named river which has its source nearest to that of the Mantein Kha. It will thence follow the crests of the line of hills running in a south-easterly direction to the more southerly of the two places named Kadaw, which is close to the Namwan River, leaving Kadaw to China and Palen to Great Britain. It will follow the Namwan River in a south-westerly direction down to the point in about latitude $23^{\circ} 55'$, where that river takes a south-easterly course. Thence it will run in a direction somewhat west of south to the Nammak River, leaving Namkhai to Great Britain. It will follow the Nammak River to the point where it bifurcates in about latitude $23^{\circ} 47'$, and will then ascend the southern branch till it reaches the crest of a high range of hills to the south of Mawsiu, in about latitude $23^{\circ} 45'$. It will follow the crest of this range (which runs slightly to the north of east) until it reaches the Shweli River at its junction

with the Nammak, thus leaving to China the district of Mawsiu, the spot recently identified as Tien-ma-Kwan and the villages of Hinglon and Kongmow, lying to the north of the above-mentioned range.

It will then follow the course of the Shweli River, and where the river bifurcates, it will follow the more southerly of the two branches, leaving to China the island formed by them, until it reaches a point near the eastern end of the loop which the river forms opposite to Meung Mao, as indicated in the next Article of the Convention.

The Government of China consent that the most direct of the roads between Bhamo and Namkhan, where it passes through the small portion of Chinese territory south of the Namwan, shall, while remaining entirely open to Chinese subjects and to the tribesmen subject to China, be free and open to Great Britain for travellers, commerce, and administrative purposes, without any restrictions whatever. Her Britannic Majesty's Government shall have the right, after communication with the Chinese authorities, to execute any works which may be desirable for the improvement or repair of the road, and to take any measures which may be required for the protection of the traffic and the prevention of smuggling.

It is equally agreed that British troops shall be allowed to pass freely along this road. But no body of troops more than 200 in number shall be dispatched across it without the consent of the Chinese authorities, and previous notice in writing shall be given of every armed party of more than twenty men.

ARTICLE III.

The third section of the frontier will run as follows:—

It will commence from a point on the Shweli River, near to the east end of the loop formed by that river opposite to Meung Mao; thence paying due regard to the natural features and the local conditions of the country, it will trend in a south-easterly direction towards Ma-li-pa until it reaches, at a point in about longitude $98^{\circ} 7'$ east of Greenwich ($18^{\circ} 23'$ west of Peking), and latitude $23^{\circ} 52'$, a conspicuous mountain range. It will follow the crests of that range through Loiaipong and Loipanglom until it reaches the Salween River, in about latitude $23^{\circ} 41'$.

This portion of the frontier from the Shweli to the Salween River shall be settled by the Boundary Commission provided for in Article VI of the present Convention, and in such a manner as to give to China at least as much territory as would be included if the frontier were drawn in a straight line from Meung Mao towards Ma-li-pa.

If it should be found that the most suitable frontier will give to China a larger amount of territory than is stated above, the compensation to be given to Great Britain on some other part of the frontier shall be matter for subsequent arrangement.

From latitude $23^{\circ} 41'$ the frontier will follow the Salween

until it reaches the northern boundary of the circle of Kunlong. It will follow that boundary in an easterly direction, leaving the whole circle of Kunlong, and the ferry of that name, to Great Britain, and leaving to China the State of Kokang.

It will then follow the course of the river forming the boundary between Somu, which belongs to Great Britain, and Mêng Ting, which belongs to China. It will still continue to follow the frontier between those two districts, which is locally well known, to where it leaves the aforesaid river and ascends the hills; and will then follow the line of water-parting between the tributaries of the Salween and the Meikong Rivers, from about longitude 99° east of Greenwich ($17^{\circ} 30'$ west of Peking), and latitude $23^{\circ} 20'$, to a point about longitude $99^{\circ} 40'$ east of Greenwich ($16^{\circ} 50'$ west of Peking), and latitude 23° , leaving to China the Tsawbwaships of Kêng Ma, Mengtung, and Mengko.

At the last-named point of longitude and latitude the line strikes a very lofty mountain range, called Kong-Ming-Shan, which it will follow in a southerly direction to about longitude $99^{\circ} 30'$ east of Greenwich (17° west of Peking), and latitude $22^{\circ} 30'$, leaving to China the district of Chen-pien T'ing. Then, descending the western slope of the hills to the Namka River, it will follow the course of that river for about $10'$ of latitude, leaving Munglem to China, and Manglün to Great Britain.

It will then follow the boundary between Munglem and Kyaing Tong, which is locally well known, diverging from the Namka River a little to the north of latitude 22° , in a direction somewhat south of east, and generally following the crest of the hills till it strikes the Namlam River in about latitude $21^{\circ} 45'$, and longitude 100° east of Greenwich ($16^{\circ} 30'$ west of Peking).

It will then follow the boundary between Kyaing Tong and Kiang Hung, which is generally formed by the Namlam River, with the exception of a small strip of territory belonging to Kiang Hung, which lies to the west of that river just south of the last-named parallel of latitude. On reaching the boundary of Kyaing Chaing, in about latitude $21^{\circ} 27'$, and longitude $100^{\circ} 12'$ east of Greenwich ($16^{\circ} 18'$ west of Peking), it will follow the boundary between that district and Kiang Hung until it reaches the Meikong River.

ARTICLE IV.

It is agreed that the settlement and delimitation of that portion of the frontier which lies to the north of latitude $25^{\circ} 35'$ north shall be reserved for a future understanding between the High Contracting Parties when the features and condition of the country are more accurately known.

ARTICLE V.

In addition to the territorial concessions in Northern Theinni, and the cession to China of the State of Kokang, which result from

the frontier as above described, Her Britannic Majesty, in consideration of the abandonment of the claims advanced by China to the territory lying outside and abutting on the frontier of the Prefecture of Yung Chang and Sub-Prefecture of Teng Yüeh, agrees to renounce in favour of His Majesty the Emperor of China, and of his heirs and successors for ever, all the suzerain rights in and over the States of Munglem and Kiang Hung formerly possessed by the Kings of Ava concurrently with the Emperors of China. These and all other rights in the said States, with the titles, prerogatives, and privileges thereto pertaining, Her Majesty the Queen-Empress renounces as aforesaid, with the sole proviso that His Majesty the Emperor of China shall not, without previously coming to an agreement with Her Britannic Majesty, cede either Munglem or Kiang Hung, or any portion thereof, to any other nation.

ARTICLE VI.

It is agreed that, in order to avoid any local contention, the alignments of the frontier described in the present Convention, and shown on the maps annexed thereto, shall be verified and demarcated, and, in case of its being found defective at any point, rectified by a Joint Commission appointed by the High Contracting Parties; and that the said Commission shall meet, at a place hereafter to be determined on by the two Governments, not later than twelve months after the exchange of the ratifications of the present Convention; and shall terminate its labours in not more than three years from the date of its first meeting.

It is understood that any alterations in the alignment which the Joint Commission may find it necessary to make shall be based on the principle of equivalent compensations, having regard not only to the extent, but also to the value, of the territory involved. Further, that should the members of the Commission be unable to agree on any point, the matter of disagreement shall at once be referred to their respective Governments.

The Commission shall also endeavour to ascertain the situation of the former frontier-post of China named Hanlung Kwan. If this place can be identified, and is found to be situated in British territory, the British Government will consider whether it can, without inconvenience, be ceded to China.

If it shall be found to the south-east of Meung Mao so as to be on the northern side of the straight line drawn from that place towards Ma-li-pa, it will in that case already belong to China.

ARTICLE VII.

It is agreed that any posts belonging to either country which may be stationed within the territory of the other when the Commission of Delimitation shall have brought its labours to a conclusion shall, within eight months from the date of such conclusion, be withdrawn, and their places occupied by the troops

of the other, mutual notice having in the meantime been given of the precise date at which the withdrawal and occupation will take place. From the date of such occupation the High Contracting Parties shall each within its own territories hold itself responsible for the maintenance of good order, and for the tranquillity of the tribes inhabiting them.

The High Contracting Parties further engage neither to construct nor to maintain within 10 English miles from the nearest point of the common frontier, measured in a straight line and horizontal projection, any fortifications or permanent camps, beyond such posts as are necessary for preserving peace and good order in the frontier districts.

ARTICLE VIII.

Subject to the conditions mentioned hereafter in Articles X and XI, the British Government, wishing to encourage and develop the land trade of China with Burmah as much as possible, consent, for a period of six years from the ratification of the present Convention, to allow Chinese produce and manufactures, with the exception of salt, to enter Burmah by land duty free, and to allow British manufactures and Burmese produce, with the exception of rice, to be exported to China by land free of duty.

The duties on salt and rice so imported and exported shall not be higher than those imposed on their import or export by sea.

ARTICLE IX.

Pending the negotiation of a more complete arrangement, and until the development of the trade shall justify the establishment of other frontier Customs stations, goods imported from Burmah into China or exported from China into Burmah shall be permitted to cross the frontier by Manwyne and by Sansi.

With a view to the development of trade between China and Burmah, the Chinese Government consent that for six years from the ratification of the present Convention the duties levied on goods imported into China by these routes shall be those specified in the General Tariff of the Maritime Customs diminished by three-tenths, and that the duties on goods exported from China by the same route shall be those specified in the same Tariff diminished by four-tenths.

Transit passes for imports and exports shall be granted in accordance with the Rules in force at the Treaty ports.

Smuggling or the carrying of merchandize through Chinese territory by other routes than those sanctioned by the present Convention shall, if the Chinese authorities think fit, be punished by the confiscation of the merchandize concerned.

ARTICLE X.

The following articles, being munitions of war, shall neither be exported from Burmah into China, nor imported from China into Burmah, save at the requisition of the Government desiring their importation; neither shall they be sold to parties other than those who have been duly authorized by their respective Governments to purchase them:—

Cannon, shot and shell, cartridges and ammunition of all kinds, fire-arms and weapons of war of every description. Salt-petre, sulphur, brimstone, gunpowder, dynamite, gun-cotton, or other explosives.

ARTICLE XI.

The exportation from Burmah into China of salt is prohibited.

The exportation from China into Burmah of cash, rice, pulse, and grains of every kind is prohibited.

The importation and exportation across the frontier of opium and spirituous liquors is prohibited, excepting in small quantities for the personal use of travellers. The amount to be permitted will be settled under Customs Regulations.

Infractions of the conditions set forth in this and the preceding Article will be punishable by confiscation of all the goods concerned.

ARTICLE XII.

The British Government, wishing to promote frontier trade between the two countries by encouraging mining enterprise in Yünnan and in the new territorial acquisitions of China referred to in the present Convention, consent to allow Chinese vessels carrying merchandize, ores, and minerals of all kinds, and coming from or destined for China, freely to navigate the Irrawaddy on the same conditions as to dues and other matters as British vessels.

ARTICLE XIII.

It is agreed that His Majesty the Emperor of China may appoint a Consul in Burmah, to reside at Rangoon; and that Her Britannic Majesty may appoint a Consul to reside at Manwyne; and that the Consuls of the two Governments shall each within the territories of the other enjoy the same privileges and immunities as the Consuls of the most favoured nation.

Further, that, in proportion as the commerce between Burmah and China increases, additional Consuls may be appointed by mutual agreement, to reside at such places in Burmah and Yünnan as the requirements of the trade may seem to demand.

The correspondence between the British and Chinese Consuls respectively, and the chief authority at the place where they reside, shall be conducted on terms of perfect equality.

ARTICLE XIV.

Passports, written in Chinese and English, and identical in terms to those issued to foreigners at the Treaty ports in China, shall, on the application of the proper British authorities, be issued to British merchants and others wishing to proceed to China from Burmah, by the Chinese Consul at Rangoon or by the Chinese authorities on the frontier; and Chinese subjects wishing to proceed to Burmah from China shall, on the application of any recognized Chinese official, be entitled to receive similar passports from Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Manwyne or other convenient places in China where there may be a British Consular officer.

ARTICLE XV.

Should criminals, subjects of either country, take refuge in the territory of the other, they shall, on due requisition being made, be searched for, and, on reasonable presumption of their guilt being established, they shall be surrendered to the authorities demanding their extradition.

“Due requisition” shall be held to mean the demand of any functionary of either Government possessing a seal of office, and the demand may be addressed to the nearest frontier officer of the country in which the fugitive has taken refuge.

ARTICLE XVI.

With a view to improving the intercourse between the two countries, and placing the Chinese Consul at Rangoon in communication with the High Provincial Authorities in Yünnan, the High Contracting Parties undertake to connect the telegraphic systems of the two countries with each other as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made; the line will, however, at first only be used for the transmission of official telegrams and of general messages for and from Burmah and the Province of Yünnan.

ARTICLE XVII.

It is agreed that subjects of the two Powers shall each within the territories of the other enjoy all the privileges, immunities, and advantages that may have been, or may hereafter be, accorded to the subjects of any other nation.

ARTICLE XVIII.

It is agreed that the commercial stipulations contained in the present Convention being of a special nature and the result of mutual concessions, consented to with a view to adapting them to local conditions and the peculiar necessities of the Burmah-China

overland trade, the advantages accruing from them shall not be invoked by the subjects of either Power residing at other places where the two Empires are conterminous, excepting where the same conditions prevail, and then only in return for similar concessions.

ARTICLE XIX.

The arrangements with regard to trade and commerce contained in the present Convention being of a provisional and experimental character, it is agreed that should subsequent experience of their working, or a more intimate knowledge than is now possessed of the requirements of the trade, seem to require it, they may be revised at the demand of either party after a lapse of six years after the exchange of ratifications of the present Convention, or sooner should the two Governments desire it.

ARTICLE XX.

The ratification of the present Convention under the hand of Her Britannic Majesty and of His Majesty the Emperor of China shall be exchanged in London in six months from this day of signature, or sooner if possible.

The Convention shall come into force immediately after the exchange of ratifications.

In token whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed this Convention in four copies, two in Chinese and two in English.

Done at London this first day of March, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-four, corresponding to the 24th day of the 1st moon of the 20th year of Kuang Hsü.

(L.S.)

ROSEBERY.

(L.S.)

SIEH.

Declaration.

On proceeding to the signature this day of the Convention between Great Britain and China, giving effect to Article III of the Convention relative to Burmah and Thibet, signed at Peking on the 24th July, 1886:

The undersigned Plenipotentiaries declare that, inasmuch as the present Convention has been concluded for the special purpose mentioned in the preamble thereof, the stipulations contained therein are applicable only to those parts of the dominions of Her Britannic Majesty and of His Majesty the Emperor of China to which the said Convention expressly relates, and are not to be construed as applicable elsewhere.

Done at London the 1st day of March, 1894.

(L.S.)

ROSEBERY.

(L.S.)

SIEH.