

Sub-Enclosure.

The FOREIGN OFFICE to the COLONIAL OFFICE.

SIR,—

Foreign Office, 7th November, 1885.

With reference to the letter from this office of the 31st July last, I am directed by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to transmit to you, to be laid before Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, the accompanying copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris in regard to the Habitual Criminals Law.

The Under-Secretary of State, Colonial Office.

I have, &c.,

J. PAUNCEFOTE.

Viscount LYONS to the Marquis of SALISBURY.

(Received 3rd November.)

MY LORD,—

Paris, 2nd November, 1885.

With reference to my despatches, No. 483, of the 22nd July last, and No. 492, of the 28th of the same month, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship an extract from the *Journal des Débats*, which purports to give the first five articles of regulations ("Règlement d'Administration Publique") framed by the Council of State for the execution of the Habitual Criminals Law.

Your Lordship is aware that it is provided by this law that many most important particulars relative to the transportation of habitual criminals and their treatment shall be determined by "Règlements d'Administration Publique;" and that the first of these règlements shall be promulgated within six months of the promulgation of the law itself; and that the law shall become operative on the promulgation of this first règlement.

Now, the law was promulgated on the 27th May, and consequently the first règlement must be promulgated on or before the 27th of the present month of November.

The *Journal des Débats* states in the enclosed extract that the first five articles of the règlement in question have been settled by the Council of State, and it professes to give the text of those articles.

The articles have not yet appeared in any official form, and it is to be remembered that the *Journal des Débats* is a wholly unofficial newspaper. Nevertheless, the text of the articles, as published by it, is probably in substance correct.

If so, the transported convicts are to be divided into two categories—those in the first to be treated "individually," those in the second to be treated "collectively."

The first category is to consist of those who show that they have honourable means of subsistence by the exercise of professions or trades or handicrafts, those who are considered fit to receive grants of land, and those who are authorized to contract engagements for work or service with the State, the colonies, or with private persons.

It would seem that criminals belonging to this category are to be sent to any French colony or possession; that they are to live there separately and in a state of liberty, and are to be subject to the ordinary law and jurisdiction.

The second category, or those subjected to what is termed "la relégation collective," are to be placed in establishments in which their subsistence is provided for by the authorities, and they are to be obliged to work. They are to be sent to Guyane, or, if necessary, to New Caledonia or its dependencies. The article on the subject is thus worded:—

"La relégation collective s'exécutera dans les territoires de la Colonie de la Guyane, et, si les besoins l'exigent, de la Nouvelle-Calédonie ou ses dépendances, qui seront déterminés ou délimités par des décrets.

"Des Règlements d'Administration Publique pourront désigner ultérieurement d'autres lieux de relégation."

Finally, provision appears to be made for sending temporarily to any colonies which apply for them gangs of these criminals to be employed on public works.

The Habitual Criminals Law, as promulgated, was enclosed in my Despatch No. 346, of the 28th May last. The articles of it relating to "Règlements d'Administration Publique" are the 1st, 7th, 16th, 18th, and 21st.

I have, &c.,

LYONS.

[*Journal des Débats*, 1^{er} Novembre, 1885.]

NOUVELLES POLITIQUES ET PARLEMENTAIRES.

Le Conseil d'État a adopté les cinq premiers articles du règlement d'administration publique destiné à assurer l'application de la loi des récidivistes. Le règlement comporte quarante-deux articles; mais les cinq premiers sont les plus importants et comportent toute l'économie du projet, les autres étant surtout des prescriptions de détail.

Voici les textes de ces cinq premiers articles:—

Article 1. La relégation est subie individuellement ou collectivement.

Article 2. La relégation individuelle consiste dans l'internement, en telle colonie ou possession française déterminée, des relégués admis à y résider isolément et en état de liberté, à la charge de se conformer aux mesures d'ordre et de surveillance qui seront prescrites en exécution