

LIST of ARTICLES the Produce or Manufacture of Tonga which it is proposed should be admitted into New Zealand on the Terms specified below.

To be admitted Duty-free.—Copra, cotton, wool, candle-nuts, whale-oil, pea-nuts and all nuts for manufacturing purposes, all fresh fruits—oranges, lemons, pine-apples, &c.—and arrowroot.

To be admitted at half the current Rate of Duty.—Unrefined sugar, unmanufactured tobacco (the same to be subject to excise duty when manufactured in New Zealand), coffee (raw), tea, ginger and all spices, desiccated cocoa-nuts, all preserved fruits, fungus, cocoa-nut fibre, cotton-seeds, lime-juice, dried bananas, cocoa, unmanufactured sarsaparilla, maize, and olives.

No. 2.

REV. SHIRLEY W. BAKER to the Hon. Sir JULIUS VOGEL.

SIR,—

Waiwera, 11th February, 1886.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date, referring to the result of several interviews which I have had the honour of having with you relative to the terms of a Customs arrangement between New Zealand and Tonga, and a copy also of the list of the produce and manufactures of New Zealand and Tonga on which it is proposed such arrangement shall be based, subject to the approval of the Executive Government and Parliament.

In the event of the consent of the Fiji Government being obtained to such Customs arrangement, I shall have great pleasure in undertaking to advise His Majesty the King of Tonga and the Tonga Parliament to adopt the same, subject to the conditions contained in your letter.

I have, &c.,

SHIRLEY W. BAKER,

The Hon. Sir Julius Vogel, K.C.M.G., Colonial Treasurer, &c.

Premier of Tonga.

No. 3.

Hon. Sir JULIUS VOGEL to F. J. Moss, Esq., M.H.R.

SIR,—

Department of Trade and Customs, Wellington, 23rd March, 1886.

With a view to promoting commercial intercourse with Fiji, the Government have determined to open negotiations with that colony to arrange for a commercial treaty between it and New Zealand; such arrangement, of course, to be subject to the approval of the General Assembly. As you have consented to proceed to Fiji for the above purpose, I have now the honour to inform you that the Government have appointed you, in conjunction with Mr. Seed, the Secretary of Customs, to conduct the negotiations on behalf of New Zealand; and you will be jointly accredited by His Excellency the Governor to the Administrator of the Government of Fiji.

The Rev. Shirley Baker, Premier of Tonga, with whom a provisional arrangement has been made for including that group in the proposed treaty, will accompany you to Fiji, and has promised to use his best exertions to promote this undertaking. Your knowledge of the productions and resources of Fiji during your residence in that country, combined with your long experience in this colony as a business man and a member of the General Assembly, eminently fit you for this delicate task; and the Government have every confidence that you will carry it out with tact and discretion, and with due regard to the interests of this colony. The Government do not consider it necessary, therefore, to fetter you with any detailed instructions; but it is to be understood that the lines laid down in the draft agreement with Tonga, copy of which, together with correspondence between the Premier of that group and myself, is enclosed, are to be adhered to, liberty being given for any recommendation for a deviation from or modification of that agreement which may be considered desirable to suit any special circumstances in relation to the commerce of Fiji.

I shall be glad if you will make it convenient to leave Auckland for Fiji by the "Arawata" on the 4th proximo.

I have, &c.,

F. J. Moss, Esq., M.H.R., &c., Auckland.

JULIUS VOGEL.

No. 4.

F. J. Moss, Esq., M.H.R., to the Hon. Sir JULIUS VOGEL.

SIR,—

Auckland, 29th March, 1886.

I have the honour to acknowledge your letter No. 138/22, of the 23rd instant, informing me that the Government have appointed me, in conjunction with Mr. Seed, to conduct negotiations with the Government of Fiji for the arrangement of a commercial treaty with New Zealand.

I have also to acknowledge receipt of the draft agreement with Tonga enclosed in the above letter for our guidance in dealing with Fiji.

I fully appreciate the importance of the object which the Government have in view, and will be prepared to leave Auckland by the "Arawata" on the 4th April, as you suggest.

I have, &c.,

F. J. Moss.

The Hon. Sir Julius Vogel, K.C.M.G., Colonial Treasurer, Wellington.