IX.

TRAVELLERS' LUGGAGE.

DECREE OF THE AUSTRIAN MINISTRY OF FINANCE.

NOTICE TO EXHIBITORS VISITING THE VIENNA EXHIBITION.

A special case with reference to travellers' effects having occurred, I take this opportunity of reminding you of the provisions of the Imperial Decree of 6th February, 1839, according to which such effects, when considered by the Customs authorities to exceed the quantity entitled to be admitted free of duty, shall merely pay the import duty without subjecting the traveller to criminal proceedings.

At the same time, and with especial regard to the approaching International Exhibition, orders have been issued, in conformity with § 291 of the General Instructions, enjoining a courteous and liberal treatment in respect to travellers and their luggage.

As, owing to the shortness of time or pressure of business, it would scarcely be possible to institute minute inquiries into each particular case that may arise, it has been laid down as a general rule for the guidance of the Customs officials, in conformity with § 79 of the Instructions referred to, that articles not intended for commerce, but liable to duty, which are found amongst travellers' effects, are to be taxed according to their nature, without subjecting the traveller to criminal proceedings. Travellers are only to be held responsible for articles manifestly and intentionally concealed.

These directions are to be communicated to the subordinate Custom Houses at the frontiers for their observance.

(Signed) THE IMPERIAL AND ROYAL MINISTER OF FINANCE. Vienna, 18th January, 1873.

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