PROTOCOL.

Whereas it appears from the communications which have been received by the Government of the Netherlands that the Government of the French Republic is not at present in a position to proceed to the ratification of the Convention which was signed at the Hague on the 16th November 1887, for remedying the abuses arising from the traffic in spirituous liquors amongst the fishermen in the North Sea outside territorial waters, the undersigned Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain, of Germany, of Belgium, of Denmark, and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, having met in conference at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the Hague this 14th day of February 1893, and being duly authorised to that effect have agreed as follows:—

1. The above-mentioned Convention shall be brought into force by the other signatory Governments, namely, Great Britain, Germany, Belgium, Denmark, and the Netherlands, six weeks after they shall have exchanged the ratifications thereof.

2. The power of adhesion accorded by Article X. of the said Convention for non-signatory States is extended to France.

3. In modification of Article XI. of the Convention the periods of five years and twelve months are respectively reduced to one year and to three months.

4. The present protocol, which shall be ratified at the same time as the Convention to which it refers, has been drawn up in five copies.

(Signed) HORACE RUMBOLD.
" K. DE RANTZAU.
" BARON D'ANETHAN.
" C. M. VIRULY.
" W. TIENHOVEN.

CHAPTER 18.

An Act to reduce the Limit of the Balance of the Treasury Chest Fund. [29th June 1893.]

BE it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Balance of Treasury Chest Fund. 40 & 41 Vict. c. 45.

1.—(1.) In section one of the Treasury Chest Fund Act, 1877 (which limits the balance of the Treasury Chest Fund), for the words "one million pounds" shall be substituted the words "such "sum, not less than seven hundred thousand pounds, and not "exceeding one million pounds, as the Treasury by minute laid "before Parliament from time to time direct."

(2.) Whenever any reduction is made in the limit of the said balance, any excess above the reduced limit shall be paid into the Exchequer.

(3.) This section shall have effect as from the end of the financial year last before the passing of this Act.

Short title.

2. This Act may be cited as the Treasury Chest Fund Act, 1893.