

TREATY OF PEACE BETWEEN RUSSIA AND ESTHONIA, SIGNED AT TARTU ON FEBRUARY 2, 1920.

ESTHONIA of the one part, and RUSSIA of the other part, moved by a sincere desire to put an end to the war which has broken out between them, have decided to enter into peace negotiations, and to conclude as quickly as possible a just, honourable and lasting peace, and have therefore appointed as their plenipotentiaries:

The GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ESTHONIA:

Jaan POSKA, member of the Constituent Assembly,
Ant. PIIP, member of the Constituent Assembly,
Mait. PUUMAN, member of the Constituent Assembly,
Julius SELJAMAA, member of the Constituent Assembly, and
Jaan SOOTS, Major-General of the General Staff;

and the COUNCIL OF THE COMMISSARIES OF THE PEOPLE OF THE FEDERAL SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SOVIET RUSSIA:

Adolphe Abramovitch JOFFE, member of the Central Executive Committee of the Soviet of Workmen, Peasants, Soldiers of the Red Army and Cossacks, and
Isidor Emmanuelovitch GOUKOVSKI, member of the College of the Popular Commissariat of State Control.

The plenipotentiaries appointed, having met at Tartu, after communicating their powers found in good and due form, have agreed upon the following:

Article 1.

The state of war between the Contracting Parties shall be at an end from the date on which the present Treaty of Peace shall come into force.

Article 2.

On the basis of the right of all peoples freely to decide their own destinies, and even to separate themselves completely from the State of which they form part, a right proclaimed by the Federal Socialist Republic of Soviet Russia, Russia unreservedly recognises the independence and autonomy of the State of Esthonia, and renounces voluntarily and for ever all rights of sovereignty formerly held by Russia over the Esthonian people and territory by virtue of the former legal situation, and by virtue of international treaties, which, in respect of such rights, shall henceforth lost their force.

No obligation towards Russia devolves upon the Esthonian people and territory from the fact that Esthonia was formerly part of Russia.

Article 3.

(1) The frontier between Esthonia and Russia shall take the following course: Starting from the Bay of Narva, one verst south of the Fishermen's House, it proceeds towards Ropsha, then follows the course of the rivers Mertvitskaia and Rosson as far as the village of Ilkino; thence it passes one verst to the west of the village of Keikino, half a verst to the west of the village of Isvosi, and continues towards the village of Kobolvaki; it then crosses the mouth of the River Shchuchka, passes by Krivaia Luka, by the Pechurki estate, at the confluence of the three sources of the River Vtroia, follows the southern boundary of the village of Kurichok with its outlying buildings and proceeds... [line omitted]

in original] ...of Lake Peipus, which it follows south-wards, thus passing one verst to the east of the Island of Piirisaar (Pork); follows the middle of the strait as far as the Island of Salu, passes thence across Lake Pihkva (Pskov) between the Talabski Islands and the Island of Kamenka, then to the east of the village of Poddubie (on the southern shore of Lake Pskov) and to the look-out post on the railway near Griadishche, then passes successively to the west of the village of Shahintsoi, to the east of Novaia, across Lake Poganova, between the villages of Babina and Vomorski, one and a half versts to the south of the forester's settlement (north of Glybochina) to Sprekhtichi and the farm of Kudepi.

Note 1. The frontier described in this article is marked in red on the map (3 versts to an inch — o. m. 0.254) which forms the first Annex to Article 3.

In case of divergence between the text and the map, the text shall prevail.

Note 2. The demarcation of the frontier between the two contracting countries, and the setting-up of frontier marks, shall be carried out under the direction of a special Mixed Commission composed of an equal number of members of each of the two parties. In carrying out the delimitation of the frontier, this Mixed Commission shall decide upon the assignment to one or the other party of inhabited places lying on the frontier, in accordance with the ethnographical indications, and taking into account economic and agricultural considerations.

(2) The part of the Estonian territory to the east of the Narova, the River Narova itself and the islands lying in it, and also the zone to the south of Lake Pskov contained between the above-mentioned frontier and a line joining the villages Borok-Smelni-Belkova-Sprekhtichi, shall be considered to be neutral in a military sense until January 1, 1922.

Estonia undertakes to maintain in the neutralised zones no troops whatsoever except those which may be necessary for frontier duty and for the preservation of order, the number of which is laid down in the Second Annex to the present Article; to construct no fortifications or observation posts in those zones, to establish no military magazines there, to keep no kind of war material there, with the exception of that indispensable for the effectives permitted, and also to establish there no bases or depots for the use of vessels of any kind or of any air fleet whatsoever.

(3) Russia, on her side, undertakes to maintain no troops in the Pskov region to the west of the following line: western bank of the estuary of the Velikaia, villages of Sivtseva, Luhnova, Samulina, Shalki and Sprekhtichi, until January 1st, 1922, with the exception of those which are indispensable for frontier duty and the preservation of order, the number of which is laid down in the Second Annex to the present Article.

(4) The Contracting Parties undertake to maintain no armed vessel on the Lakes of Peipus and Pskov.

Annex 1 to Article 3.

(Map.) [nicht abgedruckt]

Annex 2 to Article 3

The two Contracting Parties undertake:

- (1) to withdraw their troops behind their respective frontiers, in the sector contained between the Gulf of Finland and the mouth of the River Shchuchka, within the twenty-eight days following the ratification of the Peace Treaty;
- (2) to withdraw their troops, with all their material and supplies, from the neutralised zones in which, under §§ 2 and 3 of Article 3, it is forbidden to maintain any troops except those necessary for frontier duty and the preservation of order, within the forty-two days following the ratification of the Peace Treaty;
- (3) to withdraw, in accordance with § 4 of Article 3, the armed vessels lying in Lakes Peipus and Pskov during the forty-two days after the ratification of the Peace Treaty, or to remove their guns, mines, mine-laying apparatus and munitions of war of every kind;
- (4) to maintain for frontier duty, in the neutralised zones in which the presence of troops is forbidden, not more than forty men to a verst during the first six months following the ratification of the Peace Treaty, and thereafter not more than thirty; subject to this provision, the construction of a barbed-wire entanglement along the whole frontier shall be permitted. The number of men detailed to maintain internal order shall not exceed five hundred in each zone;
- (5) to maintain on Lakes Peipus and Pskov no armed vessels of the Customs service, except patrol boats armed with guns of a maximum calibre of 47 mm. and with machine-guns, at the maximum rate of two guns and two machine-guns to each boat, the number of such patrol boats not to exceed five.

Article 4.

For one year from the date of the ratification of the present Treaty, persons of non-Esthonian origin residing in Esthonia, and aged eighteen years or over, shall have the right to opt for Russian nationality; women and children under eighteen years of age shall follow the nationality of the husband or father, unless there exist between husband and wife any agreement to the contrary. Persons opting for Russia shall leave Esthonian territory within one year from the date of such option, but shall retain their rights over their real property and may remove their personal property. Similarly, persons of Esthonian origin residing in Russia may opt for Esthonian nationality during the same period and under the same conditions,

Each of the two contracting Governments reserves the right of rejecting such options of nationality.

Note. In the case of persons of doubtful origin, there shall be considered as Esthonians those who are personally registered, or whose parents were registered, in a rural or urban community, or in any "class", in the territory which now forms the State of Esthonia.

Article 5.

Should the perpetual neutrality of Esthonia be internationally recognised, Russia undertakes to respect such neutrality and to join in guaranteeing it.

Article 6.

In case of the neutralisation of the Gulf of Finland, the two contracting Parties undertake to accede to such neutralisation of the conditions drawn up by common agreement of the States concerned and established by international declarations relating thereto; in case of the conclusion of any such international agreement, they also undertake to bring their naval forces, or a portion thereof, into conformity with the provisions of such international agreement.

Article 7.

The two contracting Parties undertake:

(1) to forbid the presence in their territory of any troops except those of their own Governments, or of friendly States with which either of the contracting Parties may have concluded a military agreement, but which are not de facto in a state of war with either of the Contracting Parties; and also to forbid the recruiting and mobilisation, within the limits of their territory, of unofficial forces drawn from the ranks of the armies of such States, and the organisation or private detachments for the purpose of armed warfare against the other contracting Party;

(2) to disarm such land and sea forces as are in their territory and were not in the service of either of the two contracting Governments on October 1, 1919; to neutralise and immobilise, until January 1, 1922, all goods, artillery and commissariat material (except food and clothing), engineering and air material, that is to say, guns, machine-guns, rifles, side-arms, munitions, aero-planes, armoured cars, tanks, armoured trains, etc., belonging to the land or sea forces referred to, with the exception of the technical and war material assigned to such forces but belonging to the contracting Parties or to other States. Any portion of such material which may belong to other States shall be returned within six months from the date of the ratification of the present Treaty. The disarmament of the irregular land and sea forces indicated above, and the immobilisation and neutralisation of their military stocks and of their technical and war material, shall be completed, the first 30 % of the men and material in the seven days following the ratification of the present Peace Treaty, and the remainder during the two following weeks, at the rate of 35 % in each week;

(3) to forbid all officers and men of the irregular troops disarmed under the provisions of the previous § (2) to enter as volunteers, under any pretext whatever, in the ranks of the Government troops of the contracting Parties, except:

(a) persons of Esthonian nationality residing outside Esthonia but opting for that country;

(b) persons of non-Esthonian nationality residing in Esthonia before May 1, 1919, and not opting in favour of Russia;

(c) persons of non-Esthonian nationality not opting in favour of Russia and having served in the Esthonian army before November 22, 1919.

Persons falling into categories a, b and c may take service in the armies of the Esthonian Government.

(4) (a) to refuse to countries which are de facto in a state of war with either of the contracting Parties, and to organisations or groups whose object is armed warfare against

either of the contracting Parties, the passage through their ports and their territory of anything which might be used in attacking the other contracting Party, and particularly of the armed forces attached to such States, organisations or groups, and of any objects and any war material of the artillery, commissariat, engineers, air force or other arm belonging to such military formations;

(4) (b) to forbid, except in cases provided for in international law, the launching and navigation in their territorial waters of any warships, gunboats, mine-layers, etc., belonging either to organisations or groups whose object is to make war upon the other contracting Party, or to countries which are in a state of war with that Party, if the object of such vessels is to attack it, and if that object is known to the contracting Party to whose territory the harbours and territorial waters utilised belong;

(5) to forbid the formation, and the presence in their territory, of any organisations or groups whatsoever claiming to govern all or part of the territory of the other contracting Party, and the presence of representatives or officials of organisations or groups whose object is to overthrow the Government of the other Party to the Treaty.

(6) The Governments of the two contracting Parties undertake mutually to supply, at the time of the exchange of the ratifications of the present Peace Treaty, precise data relating to the condition of non-governmental forces, and also of the military stocks (fixed or movable) and of the military or technical material belonging to those irregular forces, in their territory at the date of the conclusion of the Armistice Agreement, that is to say, on the thirty first day of December nineteen hundred and nineteen.

(7) To superintend the execution of the military guarantees mutually agreed upon by the contracting Parties, a joint Commission shall be formed, the composition, privileges and duties of which shall be determined by instructions annexed to the present Article.

Annex to Article 7.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE JOINT COMMISSION CONSTITUTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7 OF ARTICLE 7.

(1) To superintend the carrying out of the military guarantees provided for in Article 7, a joint Commission, consisting of representatives of the two contracting Parties, shall be formed.

(2) Composition of the Commission: four members for each Party, namely: a President, two representatives of the War Ministry and one representative of the Admiralty.

(3) The duty of the Commission shall be: effectually to control the carrying-out of all the conditions laid down in § 2 of Article 2 in the form prescribed in the subsequent Articles of these instructions, and within the periods laid down, in regard to this matter, in § 2 of Article 7.

Note. Information relating to § 3 of Article 2, if required for the settlement of possible disputes, shall be supplied to the Commission by the Government concerned.

(4) The Commission shall receive from the Government concerned, or from the local organisations appointed thereby, all information required for the execution of the military guarantees.

(5) To ensure the effectual control of the execution of the military guarantees, the Commission shall have the right to verify in person the information supplied to it under § 4 above, and, if need be, to superintend on the spot the discharge of the obligations laid down in § 2 of Article 7.

(6) To ensure free communication between members of the Commission and their Governments, a direct telegraph line (Hughes apparatus) is established between the town of Rakvere (Vesenberg), the seat of the Commission, and Petrograd or Moscow. During its stay in Russian territory, the Commission shall sit at Pskov, and a direct telegraph line (Hughes apparatus) shall connect that city with Tallinn (Reval). Members of the Commission shall be entitled to make free use of the telegraph, and to despatch special messengers. Correspondence despatched and received by special messenger shall enjoy diplomatic privileges.

(7) The Commission shall draw up in Esthonian and Russian a statement of its work and conclusions, which shall be submitted to both the Governments concerned.

(8) After the complete discharge of all the duties imposed on the Commission by § 3 of these instructions, and after it has verified the facts in accordance with § 5, and, in any case, within one month at most from the date on which the members of the Commission are informed by their respective Governments that the latter have fulfilled all the conditions of guarantee which come within the competence of the Commission, that body shall be dissolved. The Commission's activities may be prolonged, if need be, by agreement between the two Governments.

Article 8.

The two Parties mutually surrender their claims to the repayment of their war expenses, i.e., military expenses, and also to the repayment of war losses, i.e., those caused to the State or to individuals as a result of military measures, including losses arising from requisitions, of whatever nature, made in enemy territory.

Article 9.

The prisoners of war of both countries shall be released as soon as possible. The formalities for the exchange of prisoners are set out in the Annex to this Article.

Note 1. The term "prisoners of war" shall apply to individuals who were captured and did not take service in the armies of the State which captured them.

Note 2. Prisoners of war who were captured by irregular forces and did not take service in the ranks of such forces shall be repatriated in the ordinary course.

Annex to Article 9.

(1) Prisoners of war of both contracting Parties shall be repatriated, unless they prefer to remain in the country in which they are (with the consent of the Government of that country), or to go to some other country.

(2) The periods within which the exchange of prisoners of war shall be carried out shall be settled by the two Governments after the ratification of the Peace Treaty.

(3) Prisoners of war shall, at the time of their release, have restored to them everything of which they were deprived by acts of the authorities of the Government which captured them, and shall also receive the full amount of the pay due to them, or any part of such pay withheld from them.

(4) Each of the contracting Parties shall undertake to refund the costs of the maintenance of its citizens who were made prisoners, as far as these expenses have not been covered by the work of the prisoners in State or private enterprises. The payment shall be carried out in the currency of the State which maintained the prisoners.

Note. The costs of maintenance to be refunded shall comprise the value of the prisoners' food, the supplies made to him in kind, and his pay.

(5) Prisoners shall be conducted to the frontier in detachments, at the expense of the Government which captured them; the return of these prisoners shall be carried out according to the lists drawn up, which shall show the Christian name, patronymic and family name of the prisoner, the date of his capture, the unit in which he was serving before capture, and, if he has been sentenced to imprisonment for any act regarded as criminal, the precise nature of such crime and the date on which it was committed.

(6) Immediately after the ratification of the Peace Treaty, a Committee, consisting of four representatives of each of the contracting Parties, shall be formed for the exchange of prisoners of war. This Committee shall superintend the carrying-out of the clauses of the present Annex, organise the repatriation of prisoners, and also determine the amount of their maintenance costs by reference to the accounts submitted at the time of the release of the prisoners by the party concerned.

Article 10.

The contracting Parties shall remit to prisoners of war and interned civilians, on their return to their own country, all punishments to which they may have been condemned for criminal acts committed for the benefit of the opposite party, and all disciplinary punishment of every kind.

The amnesty shall not extend to persons who have committed a crime of the kind mentioned above, or a breach of discipline, after the signature of the Peace Treaty.

Prisoners of war and interned civilians, sentenced by a criminal court for any crime not covered by the amnesty, before the ratification of the present Treaty, or after it but before the expiration of one year from the date of the ratification, shall not be repatriated until their punishment has been carried out.

Those prisoners or interned civilians who have been prosecuted for criminal acts not covered by the amnesty, but upon whom no sentence has been passed within one year from the date of the ratification of the present Peace Treaty, shall be handed over to the authorities of their own country at the expiration of this period, together with all documents relating to the proceedings brought against them.

Article 11.

Russia surrenders any claim to the transfer, or repayment of the value, of property of the former Russian Empire, of whatever nature, whether real or other estate, situated in Esthonia and forming the common property of the whole nation. Such property shall include: military or other buildings, forts, harbours, vessels of every kind (including warships), their cargoes, etc. She also surrenders all rights held by the Russian State over the real and personal property of individuals formerly subject to it, as far as such property may be situated in Esthonian territory, within the limits assigned to Esthonia by the treaty, or in her territorial waters, or may have been situated there at the time of the German occupation, i. e., on February 23, 1918. Russia also surrenders all her rights over vessels, including warships, which were situated as above during the German occupation, and, lastly, over those which, during the war between Esthonia and Russia, were either captured directly by Esthonian forces or captured by other forces and afterwards handed over to the Esthonian Government. All the property enumerated above becomes the sole property of Esthonia and is free from all obligations as from November 15, 1917, or, if it has been acquired by Russia since that date, from the date of such acquisition.

All claims of the Russian Treasury against Esthonian subjects, if recoverable in Esthonia, pass to Esthonia, but only in so far as they cannot be set off by counterclaims on the part of the debtors.

The documents and records which attest the rights mentioned in this Article shall be transferred by the Russian Government to the Esthonian Government; if the transfer be not completed within six months from the date of the ratification of the Treaty, such documents shall be deemed to be lost.

Esthonia, for her part, shall not be entitled to bring against Russia any claim based on her former status as a part of the Russian Empire.

Article 12.

Notwithstanding the agreements concluded in Article 11:

(1) Russia grants to Esthonia fifteen millions of gold roubles, of which eight millions shall be payable within one month, and the remaining seven millions within two months, from the date of the ratification of the Peace Treaty.

(2) Esthonia shall bear no part in the responsibility for the debts or any other obligations of Russia, and particularly for those arising from the issue of paper currency, Treasury bonds, debentures, foreign or internal loans, the guaranteeing of loans issued by various concerns or enterprises, etc.; all claims of the creditors of Russia for debts relating to Esthonia shall be brought against Russia exclusively.

(3) As regards the redemption of Russian State bonds, guaranteed by the State and now in circulation in Esthonian territory, and that of other securities issued by companies or concerns whose enterprises have been nationalised by the Russian Government, and also as regards the satisfaction of the claims of Esthonian subjects against the Russian Treasury, Russia shall be obliged to grant to Esthonia and Esthonian citizens all exemptions from taxation, rights and privileges which she has directly or indirectly offered, or may offer, to any foreign State or to the subjects, companies or enterprises of such State.

Note. Claims of Esthonian subjects against local branch banks in Esthonia which were nationalised by the decree of the Central Executive Committee (December 14, 1917) for the Nationalisation of Banks shall, if they were advanced before the promulgation of this decree, have the same titles to consideration as claims against the Russian Treasury, so far as they cannot be met out of the property remaining in possession of such branches.

(4) The Russian Government shall restore to the Esthonian Government all property of the University of Tartu, and of other educational institutions, which is, or was, situated in Esthonian territory and has been removed to Russia. Such property shall include libraries, records, documents and, in general, all other objects having a scientific or historical interest for Esthonia. Such restitution shall only be made so far as the whereabouts of the property is known to the Government or public institutions of Russia, or shall be revealed to them.

(5) The Russian Government shall restore to the Esthonian Government, which shall deliver them to their owners, all objects of value, except gold and precious stones, negotiable securities and credit vouchers such as mortgages, bills of exchange, etc., removed from Esthonian territory by financial, educational and other organisations of the Government or by local authorities or individuals, if the present whereabouts of such personal property be indicated by the Esthonian authorities. If such indications be not furnished, or if the property in question be not discovered in the places indicated, the Russian Government shall, in accordance with § 3 of this Article, be prepared to recognise as holders of the negotiable and other securities persons producing sufficient evidence that the relative documents were removed during the war. A special joint Commission shall be formed to consider such claims.

(6) In fulfilment of the conditions laid down in §§ 3, 4 and 5 of this Article, the Russian Government undertakes to supply the Esthonian Government with all necessary information, and fully to co-operate with it in the search for the goods, objects, records, documents, etc., to be restored. The decision of any questions raised in relation to this matter shall be entrusted to the Special Joint Commission, which shall consist of an equal number of members of the two contracting Parties.

Article 13.

Russia declares that the exemptions, rights and privileges granted to Esthonia and to her citizens by the present Treaty shall in no case, and under no circumstances, constitute a precedent when Peace Treaties are concluded between Russia and the other States formed from the late Russian Empire; if, however, in concluding such treaties, Russia grants to any one of these new States or to its subjects any exemptions, rights or private privileges, these shall be fully extended immediately and without special agreement to Esthonia and her subjects.

Article 14.

The decision of any questions of public or private law which may arise between citizens of the contracting Parties, and the settlement of certain special questions between the two Governments, or between one of the contracting Governments and the citizens of the other, shall be carried out by special Joint Commissions which shall be formed immediately upon the ratification of the present Treaty. The composition, rights and duties of these Commissions shall be fixed by "instructions" which shall be confirmed in the case of each Commission by an Agreement between the two contracting Parties.

The duties of these Commissions shall include, among others:

- (1) The drawing-up of a commercial Treaty and the consideration of all questions of an economic nature;
- (2) The settlement of questions relating to the division of the records of the organisations of the former central power, of the archives of the administrative and judicial bodies of the civil records, and of the registers and documents relating to current business of such administrative or judicial bodies;
- (3) The settlement of questions relating to the payment for property in Russia belonging to Esthonian subjects, and for property in Esthonia belonging to Russian subjects, and of other questions regarding the protection of the interests of citizens of one Party to the Treaty in the country of the other Party;
- (4) The settlement of questions concerning property of rural or other associations which has been divided by the new frontiers.

Article 15.

Diplomatic and consular relations between Esthonia and Russia shall be established within a period to be fixed by a subsequent agreement.

Article 16.

Economic relations between Esthonia and Russia shall be settled in accordance with the provisions of the Annex to this Article.

Annex 1 to Article 16.

- (1) The contracting Parties agree that the conclusion of Peace shall also put an end to the state of war between them in the financial and economic field.
- (2) The contracting Parties agree to enter, as soon as possible after the ratification of the present Peace Treaty, into negotiations for the conclusion of a commercial Treaty, to be based upon the following principles:
 - (a) The "most-favoured nation" treatment shall be granted, in the territory of each Party, to the citizens, to commercial, industrial, or financial enterprises and companies, to ships and their cargoes, to the products of agricultural and rural industry of the other contracting Party, and, further, to the export and import of the goods of one of the contracting Parties from or into the territory of the other Party.
 - (b) Goods passing through the territory of one of the contracting Parties shall not be subject to any import duty and shall not pay any transit tax.
 - (c) The freight charges on goods in transit shall not be higher than those on other classes of goods consigned to the country.

Note. Until the conclusion of the commercial Treaty, the commercial relations between Esthonia and Russia shall be governed by these principles.

(3) In the free docks at the port of Tallinn (Reval) and other Esthonian ports, sites shall be reserved to Russia for the transshipment and warehousing of goods consigned to or from Russia, and the dimensions of these sites shall be in proportion to the size of the port and the volume of Russian commercial traffic; further, the taxes imposed in respect of these sites shall not exceed the transit duties imposed on Esthonian nationals.

(4) The contracting Parties shall advance no claim to the enjoyment of privileges granted by either of them to a third State by virtue of a Customs or other union.

(5) The personal property left after decease in the territory of one of the contracting Parties by subjects of the other Party shall be handed over in its entirety to the consular representative or other delegate of the State to which the deceased belonged, in order that its return to Esthonia may be carried out in conformity with the laws to which the deceased was subject.

Annex 2 to Article 16.

(1) The artificial drawing-off of the waters of Lakes Peipus and Pskov, to an extent involving the lowering by more than a foot of the mean level of the waters of these lakes, and the measures proposed for raising that level, shall only be carried out in accordance with a special Convention between Esthonia and Russia.

(2) A special Convention shall be concluded between the two contracting Parties with reference to the fisheries of Lakes Peipus and Pskov, which are only to be carried on by methods which will not exhaust the supply of fish in these lakes; and also with reference to mercantile traffic on the lakes.

Annex 3 to Article 16.

(1) Esthonia agrees to grant to Russia the privilege of using the electrical power produced by the falls of the Narova; the compensation to be paid to Esthonia for this privilege shall be determined, together with the other conditions, by a special Convention.

(2) Russia agrees to grant to Esthonia the privilege of a concession for the construction and working of a normal-gauge railway-line (single or double), to run as directly as possible between Moscow and some point on the Russo-Esthonian frontier, with the right of purchase at the expiry of the concession; the duration of the concession, the period of purchase and all other conditions regarding the concession to be decided by a special Commission.

(3) Russia agrees to grant to Esthonia the privilege of exploiting an area of one million desiatins of forest in the governments of Petrograd, Pskov, Tver, Novgorod, Olonetz, Vologda and Archangel; the conditions of the concession to be decided by a special Commission.

Article 17.

The two contracting Parties mutually agree to take all steps in their power to ensure the safety of commercial vessels in their territorial waters by engaging the number of pilots necessary for the navigation of such vessels, by establishing lights and buoys, and by

making special arrangements to enclose the mine-fields until the sea is completely cleared of them.

Both Parties agree to take part in the sweeping of the mine-fields in the Baltic Sea, and a special Convention shall be concluded between them on this subject. If such Convention be not concluded, the share of each Party in the clearing of the sea shall be defined by an arbitration court.

Article 18.

The rights granted to Esthonian citizens by the present Treaty and its Annexes shall extend to institutions of "local self-government", towns and associations, and to relief organisations, churches, ecclesiastical and educational institutions, and all legal entities.

Article 19.

The Russian and Esthonian texts of the present Treaty shall both be authentic.

Article 20.

The present Treaty shall be ratified by the Parties. The exchange of ratifications shall take place at Moscow at the earliest possible date.

The Treaty shall come into force immediately upon ratification.

Wherever the date of ratification is mentioned in the present Treaty as the date of its coming into force, this date shall be understood as meaning that on which the two contracting Parties shall inform each other of the ratification.

In faith whereof the Envoys Plenipotentiary of both Parties have signed the present Peace Treaty with their own hands and have sealed it with their seals.

The original has been done and signed in duplicate in the city of Tartu this second day of February of the year nineteen hundred and twenty.

(Signed) J. POSKA.

(Signed) ANT. PIIP.

(Signed) M. PUUMAN.

(Signed) JUL. SELJAMAA.

(Signed) J. SOOTS, Major-General.

(Signed) A. JOFFE.

(Signed) I. GOUKOVSKI.

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