

Public Works in Persia.

The following is a copy of correspondence which has passed between the Foreign Minister and Baron de Reuter on the subject of the concession recently made by the Persian government to him, and which has been printed in return to an address of the House of Lords:—

"18 Kensington Palace-gardens,
London, Sept. 12, 1872.

"My Lord,—About a month since I had the honor of privately communicating to your lordship the fact that the Persian Government had granted me an exclusive concession for a term of seventy years for the construction of railways, irrigation and other works throughout that country.

"I have now the pleasure to inform your lordship that this concession has since then received the signature of the Grand Vizier, and has been duly ratified by his Imperial Majesty the Shah.

"In undertaking this gigantic work it is not only my earnest desire both to improve the social condition of the Persians, and to open up the great natural resources of their country for the benefit of the world at large, but also to render my concession of the highest value to Great Britain.

"The select committee of the House of Commons appointed to consider the question of a railway to the East recommended the speedy commencement of a line by the Euphrates Valley route.

"Your lordship is, doubtless, aware that the Russians are making great progress with their railways towards the Caspian Sea, having already partly completed three lines, each leading in that direction. One route—viz., that from St. Petersburg, via Moscow, to the Sea of Azoff—is open for traffic. A second one—from Dunaberg, via Orel to Zarazjin, on the Volga—is likewise in working order; the journey thence to Astrachan, on the Caspian Sea, being performed in two days only by steamer. There is, moreover, a third line already complete, from Moscow to Zarazjin direct, which will hereafter be extended to Astrachan.

"Under these circumstances I need not point out to your lordship the importance of my concession. I have obtained from the Shah, which, as before mentioned, is of an exclusive character, and secured to me for a period of seventy years.

"I desire to serve this my adopted country by introducing my enterprise under English auspices alone; and I shall have pleasure in so doing without soliciting a subsidy or other material support from her Majesty's government. I nevertheless desire to feel assured that, in the event of differences arising between the Persian government and myself, her Majesty's Government will recognize the validity of my scheme, and protect my rights, as a British subject, so far as may be in their power.

"Begging your lordship's kind and favorable consideration of this communication, and requesting the favor of a reply at your lordship's convenience, I have, &c.,
(Signed)
"JULIUS DE REUTER."

"Foreign Office, Oct. 15, 1872.

"Sir,—I am directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th ultimo, stating that you have obtained from the Persian Government the exclusive concession for the construction of roads and railways throughout that country, and requesting the protection of her Majesty's Government in the event of differences arising between the Persian Government and yourself. In reply, I am to acquaint you that, whilst her Majesty's Government would view with satisfaction the efforts of the Shah's Government to increase, by means of railways and roads, the resources of Persia, they cannot bind themselves officially to protect your interests whilst carrying out your engagements with that government.—
I am, &c.,
(Signed)
"ENFIELD."

—English Paper.

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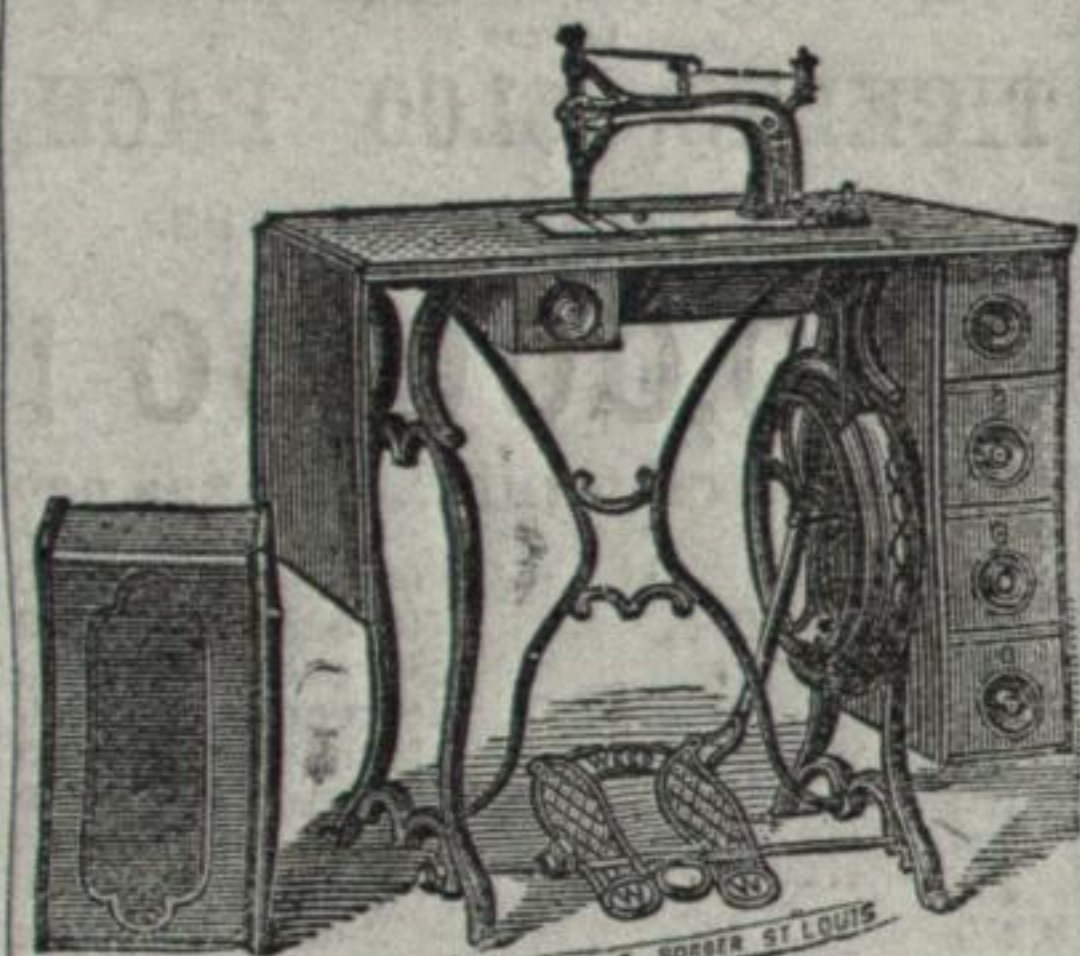
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