

April 4, 1908.

Arbitration convention between the United States and Great Britain. Signed at Washington, April 4, 1908; ratification advised by the Senate, April 22, 1908; ratified by the President, May 11, 1908; ratified by Great Britain, May 4, 1908; ratifications exchanged at Washington, June 4, 1908; proclaimed, June 5, 1908.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

A PROCLAMATION.

Arbitration with
Great Britain.
Preamble.

Whereas an Arbitration Convention between the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland was concluded and signed by their respective Plenipotentiaries at Washington, on the fourth day of April, one thousand nine hundred and eight, the original of which Convention is word for word as follows:

Contracting parties.

The President of the United States of America and His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, Emperor of India, desiring in pursuance of the principles set forth in Articles 15-19 of the Convention for the pacific settlement of international disputes, signed at The Hague July 29, 1899, to enter into negotiations for the conclusion of an Arbitration Convention, have named as their Plenipotentiaries, to wit:

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Plenipotentiaries.

The President of the United States of America, Elihu Root, Secretary of State of the United States, and

His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, Emperor of India, The Right Honorable James Bryce, O. M.,

who, after having communicated to one another their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon the following articles:

ARTICLE I.

Submitting certain disputes to the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague.

Differences which may arise of a legal nature or relating to the interpretation of treaties existing between the two Contracting Parties and which it may not have been possible to settle by diplomacy, shall be referred to the Permanent Court of Arbitration established at The Hague by the Convention of the 29th of July, 1899, provided, nevertheless, that they do not affect the vital interests, the independence, or the honor of the two Contracting States, and do not concern the interests of third Parties.

ARTICLE II.

Special agreements to be made defining matters in dispute, etc.

In each individual case the High Contracting Parties, before appealing to the Permanent Court of Arbitration, shall conclude a special Agreement defining clearly the matter in dispute, the scope of the powers of the Arbitrators, and the periods to be fixed for the formation of the Arbitral Tribunal and the several stages of the procedure.

It is understood that such special agreements on the part of the United States will be made by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate thereof; His Majesty's Government reserving the right before concluding a special agreement in any matter affecting the interests of a self governing Dominion of the British Empire to obtain the concurrence therein of the Government of that Dominion.

Such Agreements shall be binding only when confirmed by the two Governments by an Exchange of Notes.

Confirmation.

ARTICLE III.

The present Convention shall be ratified by the President of the United States of America by and with the advice and consent of the Senate thereof, and by His Britannic Majesty. The ratifications shall be exchanged at Washington as soon as possible, and the Convention shall take effect on the date of the exchange of its ratifications.

Ratification.

ARTICLE IV.

The present Convention is concluded for a period of five years, dating from the day of the exchange of its ratifications.

Duration.

Done in duplicate at the City of Washington, this fourth day of April, in the year 1908.

ELIHU ROOT [SEAL]
JAMES BRYCE [SEAL]

Signatures.

And whereas the said Convention has been duly ratified on both parts, and the ratifications of the two governments were exchanged in the City of Washington, on the fourth day of June, one thousand nine hundred and eight;

Exchange of ratifications.

Now, therefore, be it known that I, Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States of America, have caused the said Convention to be made public, to the end that the same and every article and clause thereof may be observed and fulfilled with good faith by the United States and the citizens thereof.

Proclamation.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington this fifth day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eight, and of [SEAL] the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and thirty-second.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

By the President:
ELIHU ROOT
Secretary of State.