

THE VANGUARD.

JULY AND AUGUST, 1894.

LIGHT WINES FOR CANADA.

The Dominion Parliament has ratified the Treaty negotiated at Paris in February, 1893, providing for the importation into Canada of French wines at a reduced rate of duty. The clause of the Treaty making this provision is in the following terms:

“Non-sparkling wines gauging 15 degrees by the centesimal alcoholmeter, or less, or according to the Canadian system of testing, containing 26 per cent. or less of alcohol, and all sparkling wines, shall be exempted from the surtaxe or ad valorem duty of 30 per cent.”

Hitherto the rate of duty imposed upon all such wines imported into Canada has been 25 cents per imperial gallon and 30 per cent. ad valorem. The result of the new legislation will be the abolition of the ad valorem duty, and this duty will practically be taken off all imported wines that comply with the description in the above quoted clause. This was made very clear by a statement of the Minister of Finance in the House of Commons, which is reported as follows in the Hansard:

MR. FOSTER: By this article of the Treaty we bind ourselves simply to let in French wines of a certain grade, at a certain rate. We do not bind ourselves by the Treaty to discriminate in favor of France with respect to those classes of wine. If we allow French wines of those classes to come in at that rate, we are obliged, by virtue of certain treaties, to allow like wines of certain other countries to come in at the same time and on the same terms.

MR. CHARLTON: What countries?