

the Canadian tariff had been materially raised during the last ten or twelve years. I said that the Governor in Council still possessed the power under the law to make a remission of the *ad valorem* wine duties in whole or in part, and I pointed out that the increase in the duties had been as great in France as in Canada, so that the respective positions remained very much as before.

I inquired as to whether the minimum tariff as a whole could be extended to Canada, provided we were to remove some additional duties. It was replied that there would be great difficulty in that respect as products of the United States, to whom the minimum tariff had been given on a very few articles, could then have the benefit of the minimum rates by being shipped through Canada. I explained that I did not think that would be found to be at all practicable, as, notwithstanding the high duties imposed by the United States on all lumber, fish and several other articles, we sent a very large quantity to the United States. I was requested to send the gentlemen named above a copy of our tariff, and also of our trade and navigation returns, and agreed to do so, in order that they might be better prepared to continue the discussion at the next meeting, which has been fixed to take place next Thursday at 4 o'clock.

It is quite evident to me that having regard to the former negotiations carried on by my predecessor, Sir Alexander Galt, all of which are undoubtedly on record here, and to the position taken that they have only given the minimum tariff to the United States on an equivalent amount to that which has been freed from duty by the remission of duties on sugar, molasses and hides imported by the United States from France, there is very little hope that we can obtain any concessions except in return for corresponding remissions of duties on our part from the existing tariff.

I shall be very glad if the Honourable the Minister of Finance would give his immediate attention to this question and advise me how far it is possible to go in that direction, and on what articles it is desirable to obtain the minimum tariff from France, giving them in the relative order of importance. What would be more satisfactory, if it were possible, would be for Mr. Foster to join me here at as early a date as he might find possible.

I shall be happy to hear from you or the Minister of Marine before our meeting on Thursday next.

In conclusion, it is right I should say that Sir Joseph Crowe, who is thoroughly conversant with these commercial negotiations and is well known personally to M. Hanotaux, enters most warmly into the questions at issue, and renders me in every way invaluable service.

I am, &c.,

CHARLES TUPPER.

P.S.—I inclose a copy of the list of articles upon which it seems to me we should obtain minimum tariff treatment, which I left with the French representatives this afternoon.

C. T.

LIST OF CANADIAN ARTICLES.

Asbestos.
Pearl ashes.
Lumber of all kinds, including flooring, planed, tongued or grooved, and unfinished wood work.
Furniture.
Brooms.
Agricultural implements.
Sewing machines.
Woollens.
Ships (wooden).
Prepared hides.
Boots, gaiters and shoes.
Petroleum.

Books.
Agricultural products, including hay and bran.
Dried apples.
Canned fruits.
Clover seed.
Fish, canned, smoked or dried.
Lobsters.
Animals and their products.
Cheese and butter.
Eggs.
Condensed milk.
Game and poultry.
Preserved meats, canned or salted.