

with the instructions contained in Your Lordship's despatch No. 18, of the 2nd instant, Sir Charles Tupper and myself, Her Majesty's Plenipotentiaries, have signed this day with Monsieur Develle, the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Monsieur Siegfried the Minister of Commerce, the Plenipotentiaries of the Government of the French Republic.

I also inclose the text of the notes at the same time exchanged between Monsieur Develle and myself, in accordance with the authority conveyed in Your Lordship's above mentioned despatch.

I have the honour to be with the highest respect, my Lord,
Your Lordship's most obedient humble servant,

DUFFERIN AND AVA.

PARIS, 6th February, 1893.

MONSIEUR LE MINISTRE,—In the course of the conferences which have just been concluded by the signature of an agreement between France and Canada, regulating the commercial relations of the two countries, in the matter of tariff, your Excellency expressed a wish that the understanding about to be come to between the two countries should also include the customs treatment of pictures, prints, engravings, drawings and architectural drawings entering Canada.

The Government of the Republic is of opinion that the treatment above alluded to should be as follows: The Government of the Dominion of Canada engages on the one hand, to maintain the freedom of duty assured in the article 764 of the Canadian tariff in respect of "pictures and water colours executed by artists of well known merit, and copies of great masters made by the same artists," and on the other hand, to reduce from 20 to 5 per cent. the duty in Article 308 of the same tariff relative to "pictures, engravings, drawings and architectural drawings."

As verbally agreed, we have the honour to inform Your Excellency that these demands will be recommended by the undersigned to the Canadian Government. It is meanwhile understood that if, as we hope, the Government of the Dominion of Canada thinks it possible to give satisfaction to the Government of the French Republic on this point, the French Government will consent on its part to add cheese to the list of articles of Canadian origin which in terms of article 3 of the agreement signed this day will be admitted in France, Algeria and her Colonies, to the advantage of the minimum tariff.

We take this opportunity of confirming what we already made known to Your Excellency during the progress of the conferences, viz.: that the Canadian Parliament, desirous of favouring the development of commercial relations between the two countries, has voted a subvention of £100,000 for the purpose of establishing a line of steamers to run between a Canadian port on one side, and a French terminus port on the other.

We have the honour to be with the highest consideration,

Monsieur le Ministre,

Your Excellency's most obedient and humble servants,

DUFFERIN AND AVA,
CHARLES TUPPER.

The proposed treaty which would in the sequence follow is now before Parliament.