

You will observe by examination of the record of negotiations between the United States and France contained in the French Yellow Book enclosed, the latter country agreed to give the minimum tariff on common wood (Article 128); Wood pavement in the piece (Article 129); Staves (Article 130); Canned Meats (Article 139); Fresh Fruits (Article 84); Fruits, dried and pressed, with the exception of raisins (Article 85); Apples and pears, crushed or cut and dried (Article 174); Hops (Article 160), in return for the free importation into the United States of sugar, molasses and hides amounting to not less than some nine to ten millions of francs per annum; and, consequently, the arrangement which Canada has been able to effect under this present Treaty will compare most favourably with the concessions made to the United States.

The letters exchanged between the Plenipotentiaries of the two countries, while containing nothing that is binding upon either, provided for a further extension of free trade relations, and I believe that the reduction by one-half of the present duty on paintings, prints, engravings, drawings and building plans, will obtain the minimum tariff on cheese and open up to Canada a very large market in France. By reference to the memorandum I have already furnished to the Honourable Mr. Bowell upon that subject you will see that the heavy export of cheese to France from Switzerland—and the same to a certain extent applies to Italy—must, in the present condition of things, be brought to an end, and I do not see any reason why Canada should not obtain a very large proportion of the trade thus cut off.

Under the proposed steamship line with France, which will enable us to have much more rapid communication and relieve our trade from the surtaxe d'entrepôt, I see no reason to doubt that the exports from Canada to France will be very rapidly and greatly increased.

The friendly relations that will be established under this treaty will render it easy for us, by a simple exchange of notes between the plenipotentiaries of the two countries, to obtain an extension of mutually advantageous concessions on any articles which it may be found profitable to deal with in that manner.

While I feel assured that the trade relations between Canada and France will be greatly extended by the treaty made, you will observe that if at any time it is desired by Canada for any reason to terminate it, provision is made for that contingency by giving twelve months' notice.

The question of most-favoured-nation treatment to France does not in any way prevent a differential duty being established at any time between Canada and Great Britain or any British possession. You will also notice that all concessions made to Canada in this treaty are extended to Algeria and all the French colonies.

I cannot conclude this communication without saying that while the negotiations have been carried on entirely by myself on the part of Canada, and by M. Gabriel Hanotaux, Minister Plenipotentiary and Director of Consulates and of Commercial Affairs in the Foreign Office, M. G. Pallin, Councillor of State, Director General of Customs, and M. E. Roume, Director of Foreign Commerce, in the Department of Commerce and Industry, on the Part of France, I have received the most cordial support and assistance from the Colonial and Foreign Offices in London and from His Excellency the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava. My obligations are especially great to Sir Joseph Crowe, First Secretary and Special Commercial Attaché of the Embassy, who has given me the benefit of his valuable advice and wide experience in such questions, and who has constantly associated with me in my intercourse with the French negotiators. I am likewise indebted to Mr. Austin Lee, of the Embassy, for his ready counsel and good offices which smoothed away the difficulties which arose in the course of this negotiation.

In addition to the courtesy and consideration shown to me by Lord Rosebery, and Sir E. Grey, the Under Secretary of Foreign Affairs, I should mention that I have received the most valuable advice and assistance from Mr. C. M. Kennedy, C.B., who is at the head of the Commercial Department of the Foreign Office.

I am yours faithfully,

CHARLES TUPPER.