

The use of wood pavement is spreading very rapidly in Paris and other great centres of France, and there should be, I think, a good opening for an export trade in this article from Canada to France.

I will forward immediately a copy of the Treaty, when signed, to Sir John Thompson, with a despatch upon the subject, which you may desire to lay upon the table of the House when asking Parliament for its approval.

I am engaged with Mr. Fabre in obtaining all possible information in regard to the trade in the articles upon which the minimum tariff has been conceded, which I will forward to you with as little delay as possible.

I am yours faithfully,

CHARLES TUPPER.

P.S. I open this despatch to add that the Treaty was signed this afternoon at the Foreign Office, upon which I immediately addressed the following telegram to Sir John Thompson:—

"Treaty was duly signed at Foreign Office to-day at five. Only alteration in draft already sent you is addition of wood pavement in the piece. The letters were also exchanged. Am mailing full text in English and French, both of Treaty and letters, Wednesday."

I have arranged to leave for London to-morrow morning.

C.T.

(16.)

GRAND HOTEL, PARIS, 6th February, 1893.

The Hon. SIR JOHN THOMPSON,
Prime Minister of Canada,
OTTAWA.

DEAR SIR JOHN THOMPSON.—I have much pleasure in sending herewith a copy of the Treaty, which has been duly executed to-day at five o'clock at the Foreign Office, Paris.

It is, as you will observe, in accordance with the instructions which were communicated to me by your Government, and it is identical with the draft already forwarded to the Hon. Mr. Bowell, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, with the exception of the addition of "Wood pavement in the piece" to the list of Canadian articles to which the minimum tariff has been accorded by France, which I presume you will receive to-day.

It is quite obvious that in the absence of the arrangement which has now been made, the exports from Canada to France would have been completely cut off, as no country under the maximum tariff could send any article in competition with countries having the minimum tariff. Thus as Russia and Norway and Sweden enjoy the minimum tariff, all competition with these countries in the woods which we send to France would have been rendered impossible.

The rupture in trade relations between France and Switzerland, owing to the rejection by the French Chambers of the Franco-Swiss Treaty, will cut off a very large export trade in wood from Switzerland to France, which entered into competition with the Canadian product, and there is every reason, therefore, to suppose that under the present arrangement a great impetus will be given to the export of wood of all kinds from Canada to France. It is also well known that it is becoming more difficult and expensive every year to export wood from Norway and Sweden, who will be our main competitors in that market.

Although not embodied in a treaty, as it is dealt with in another way by French administrative procedure, a great reduction below the minimum tariff has been made to Canada in St. Pierre and Miquelon, in connection with these negotiations. This concession will preserve a valuable and important trade which, otherwise, must have been destroyed under the application of the minimum tariff.

It must not be forgotten also that the Government of Canada long since pledged itself to the Government of France to reduce unconditionally the *ad valorem* duty on wines from 30 to 15 per cent.