

among his fellows by its removal, is subjected to an additional pang with the punishment of his imprisonment. That is my understanding, though I may be wrong. It may be that he is superstitious—that he may think that by the pigtail being cut off he is deprived of the chance of being drawn up to heaven. If it is a greater punishment to the Chinaman than to the white man to have his hair removed, I do not think he should receive greater punishment than the white man. Then, the hon. gentleman says that the pigtail is uncleanly in itself, and ought to be cut off. Well, I suppose my hon. friend, in the stress of necessity, has had a Chinaman or woman in his household.

Mr. SHAKESPEARE. No; never.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Well, they are employed very much in Victoria, much against the people's will, because hitherto they have not been able to obtain a sufficient quantity of white labor; and I do not think it is a pre-requisite to the employment of a cook that he must have his pigtail cut off. I think most of the cooks in Victoria are Chinamen, and they have their pigtails, notwithstanding the uncleanly nature of the appendage. What I have stated I am quite sure must have induced the authorities to draw the distinction in that regard between the Chinese and the white convicts. However, the papers will be brought down, and I will endeavor to get the reasons for the distinction as well.

Motion agreed to.

#### COMMERCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN FRANCE AND CANADA.

Mr. AMYOT (Translation) moved for:

Copies of all correspondence between the High Commissioner of Canada in London and the French Government, in reference to the commercial relations between France and Canada, and to a proposed commercial treaty between the two countries; of all correspondence between the said High Commissioner and the Government of Canada on the same subject, and of all documents relating thereto emanating from the Imperial Government, the French Government, or the Government of Canada.

He said: Mr. Speaker, the National Policy inaugurated in 1879, in accordance with the will of the people, was inaugurated for the purpose of promoting the financial interests of the Dominion of Canada, through a wise protection at home against a ruinous competition from abroad, and through the development of our foreign trade. As soon as they came to power the present Government introduced this protective tariff which had been asked for by the Conservative party. The hon. Minister of Finance, aided by the whole Executive, had wisely elaborated it, and the people seeing its good effects, solemnly ratified it in 1882. Already it had put an end to the growing deficits of the old system, and even produced large surpluses, it had given a new impulse to agriculture and trade, caused powerful and numerous industries to crop out, brought back prosperity everywhere, and put everything in a settled shape. And today it enables us to go, without being fatally affected by it, without any sensible delay in our march towards progress, through the great financial and commercial crisis which bears down heavily on almost every civilized country. While preparing that tariff, the Government were dealing with the no less important question of our foreign trade. They endeavored to create business relations with nations which were in the best condition to supply our market and to buy our produce. The object of the motion I now make is to inform this hon. House and the country of what has been done in that respect with regard to France, a country having a population of 40,000,000 souls, a nation whose commercial activity is wonderful, and whose collective and individual wealth is immense. As early as 1878, Sir Alexander Galt, our delegate in London, was instructed by the Finance

Minister of Canada to secure whatever commercial facilities which might be granted to us by the French Government. I will not take up the time of the House by giving the particulars of the negotiations which took place, of the authorizations and of the aid which had to be obtained from the Colonial Office in London, and of all the preliminary steps which were necessitated by the diplomatic exigencies. In his letter containing the instructions to our delegate, Sir Leonard Tilley advised Sir Alexander Galt to endeavor to obtain from France certain facilities for the sale of our ships, a rebate on the entrance duties levied on our agricultural implements, tools, cutlery and fish. As an equivalent, it was offered to lower the entrance duties on certain French wines imported into Canada. The negotiations, conducted with a great deal of courtesy on either side, were not finally successful. Canada was still very little known in that great republic, and the French Chambers refused to accede to our wishes. This was in February, 1879. The report of Sir Alexander Galt, printed in the 104th Sessional Paper of 1880, gives the particulars of the correspondence which then took place. But the hope having been expressed on either side that the negotiations might soon be resumed, the Canadian Government soon returned to the charge. As early as the 25th of March, 1879, an Order in Council was passed declaring that it was expedient to appoint a Commissioner specially charged with the duty of conducting new negotiations with France. The Colonial Office, did not see fit to authorize that appointment, but they invited Canada to select a person of trust, who would be connected with the English commission, for the purpose of representing our interest, and Sir Alexander Galt was accordingly appointed. At that date, Mr. Leon Say, the celebrated French economist, Ambassador at London, was appointed President of the French Senate, and he promised to favor our demands. Canada found in him a powerful and devoted auxiliary. A number of others were soon to join him. The parleys were entered upon in 1881, and lasted a pretty long time. They were still continuing, when France, by a law passed in the month of April, 1881, reduced from 40 francs to 2 francs per ton the entrance fee of our ships in her ports. That law is still in force. The question of the Franco-Canadian Treaty was then complicated by that of the Anglo-French Treaty, but in January, 1882, it was disengaged to be treated independently and on its intrinsic merits. France was then asked to grant to Canada the privileges of the most favored nation as regards trade, navigation and consular agencies. On the 15th of March 1882, an official conference was held in Paris. With the kind permission of the House, I will read it in order to show the progressive march of ideas on that question which, I hope, is on the eve of a happy solution:

"CONFÉRENCES:—For the negotiation of an agreement regulating the trade relations between France and Canada.

"First Conference, March 15th, 1882.

"Mr. de Freycinet, President of the Council, Minister of Foreign Affairs, occupies the chair.

"The conferences for the adoption of an agreement regulating the trade relations between France and Canada have been opened at Paris in the *Hotel du Quai d'Orsay*, on Wednesday, the 15th day of March, 1882, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, under the presidency of Mr. de Freycinet, President of the Council and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

"Mr. Tirard, Minister of Commerce, attended the meeting.  
"His Excellency Lord Lyons, Ambassador of Her Britannic Majesty at Paris, introduced Sir Alexander Galt, High Commissioner of Canada at London, as special Commissioner at the conference.

"Mr. President introduced as Commissioners for the French Government:

"Mr. Ambaud, Councillor of State, Director General of Customs.  
"Mr. Marie, Director of Foreign Trade in the Department of Commerce.

"Mr. Clavery, Director of Commercial and Consular Affairs in the Department of Foreign Affairs.

"Mr. Ramond, Manager of Customs.

"Mr. René Lavallée, Consul-General of France, is appointed to fulfil the duties of Secretary.

"Mr. President having opened the meeting and bid a hearty welcome to His Excellency Lord Lyons, and to Sir A. T. Galt, expressed to them