

But—without conceding this—let us suppose that we were only to compete on the French market against the Americans for our share of the \$3,347,365 worth of goods exported by them ; that sum would mostly come to us, because our exporters would enjoy the benefit of a treaty not enjoyed by their American competitors. Such are the concessions made by Canada to France, and by France to Canada ; and it is only necessary to enumerate them to show conclusively that our representatives have secured from France far more than what was given by them in return.

But we do not pretend to say that the French plenipotentiaries were beaten. Such is not our opinion. We think that France is really desirous to advance the commercial relations of her people with a progressive country, whose resources, private as well as public, are rapidly developing, and that the French Commissioners in granting such good terms to Canada wish to enable Canadians to compete with other countries under the most favorable nation clause so as to bring them in closer relations with French merchants.

CANADIAN GOODS IMPORTED IN FRANCE.

In the mean time it is a great mistake to imagine that our trade with France must be limited to the products mentioned in the treaty. They form a very important part indeed of our trade with French people, but only a very modest part of the possible commercial intercourse between the two countries.

The French tariff contains three very distinct schedules of duties :

10. Goods subject to the *maximum* or *minimum* tariff according as they come from a country having or not a treaty with France.

And the object of the actual treaty was to have a certain number of our products placed on the list of the *minimum* tariff.

20. Goods admitted in franchise without duties, for which the French market is open to us as well as to all nations.

30. Goods subject to one and the same tariff, for which also the French market is open under the same conditions to all nations.

In this latter class are included most all the agricultural products, a fact ignored by the papers which denounced the Canadian Commissioners for not having inserted in the treaty a clause relative to grain, animals, etc. For instance, France imported, in 1892, lard from the United States and from Italy, two countries having no treaty with her, and also from Belgium, a country enjoying the benefit of a treaty with France. All that imported lard paid a uniform duty of \$2.90 per 220 lbs, for the simple reason that lard imported in France must pay the same duty, wherever imported from. The same argument applies to grain, fresh meat, living animals, etc., etc.

In order to establish the importance of the French market for our country, *La Presse* prepared a table showing the value of goods imported by France and being products that Canada could export. (See page Table A).