

## French Treaty.

Until an answer is received to the dispatch referred to, the undersigned is not disposed to recommend that action be taken by the Canadian government with a view to carrying out the ratifications and putting the treaty into force.

So soon as satisfactory assurances are received from the Colonial Office, I think that the necessary steps will be taken for bringing the treaty into force.

I remain, &c.,

W. B. IVES.

DOWNING STREET, 4th April, 1895.

SIR—I am directed by the Marquess of Ripon to acquaint you that he has been in communication with the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs respecting the recommendation in your letter of the 8th ult., that Her Majesty's Government should proceed to exchange the ratifications of the convention with France as to trade with Canada, on the Dominion Government giving an undertaking that the treatment secured to French produce by the convention would be extended to the produce of nations entitled to most favoured nation treatment in Canada and to the rest of the British Empire.

Her Majesty's Government have given this matter their careful consideration with the desire if possible to meet the wishes of the Dominion Government, but they feel that it would be a grave departure from the recognized practice to proceed with the ratification of a treaty without effective legislative provision having been made for the fulfilment of their obligations to foreign powers arising out of it.

They have every confidence in the intentions of the Dominion Government, and are satisfied that your ministers would use every effort to fulfil any undertaking they might give; but, in a matter of such importance from an international point of view, Her Majesty's Government feel that they would not be justified in leaving anything open, and they are reluctantly compelled therefore to postpone the exchange of ratifications until legislation has been actually passed extending the benefits of the convention to all nations entitled under treaty to most favoured nation treatment in Canada and to the rest of Her Majesty's dominions.

As the Dominion legislature is about to meet at an early date, this need not give rise to further considerable delay, and as the French Government have expressed some irritation at the delay which has already occurred, Her Majesty's Government earnestly hope that no time will be lost in obtaining the necessary legislation.

I am, &c.,

JOHN BRANSTON.