

in them, bank clerks are sure to be attracted towards speculation, and there are always a certain number silly enough to go into deals that they do not understand, and then to take the bank's money, if they can, in their endeavors to extricate themselves from disastrous situations.

So it is to be expected that the tendency of defalcations would be to ebb and flow with different seasons. In hard times when the nations are economizing, and extravagance in living and speculation is non-existent or at the minimum, defalcations should be few. And when the opposite conditions prevail they are naturally more plentiful.

To carry a defalcation over a period of time, fraudulent entries in the books are necessary. What is chiefly relied on to prevent them is the system of book-keeping and of checking whereby every officer's work is checked or supervised by one or two others.



TRADE WITH FRANCE.

There was formed, a few months since, a Canadian section of the Paris British Chambers of Commerce. The explicit object was the extension of trade with France, and the affording of every possible aid to Canadian houses interested therein. Letters were sent out to Boards of Trade and kindred organizations throughout the Dominion, and the tenor of the many replies received indicated that the importance of the Chamber's movement was largely recognized. Several leading Canadian houses have already become members of the Chamber, and in view of pending tariff readjustments between France and the Dominion, many others will doubtless avail themselves of its privileges—including access to its accumulated information of forty years' experience with French commercial conditions.

The committee of the Canadian Section has been active in the making of strong representations in governmental quarters with a view to obtaining the extension of the Franco-Canadian Commercial Arrangement of 1893. It has urged that the time is most propitious for extending French trade with Canada. Not only is there now a better feeling in France towards the British Empire than for generations past, but there has been a marked increase of late in the interest displayed in Canada—an interest fostered by the recent creation of a direct steamship service between this country and France, and apparently heightened lately by the visit of the Dominion's French-descended premier. France, like all other European countries save Russia, is unable to grow all its own food. Canada, which now produces well nigh one hundred million bushels of wheat each year, will in a very few years raise two hundred million and

over. To bring together demand and supply with the minimum of retarding friction is a practical economic end well worth the seeking.

The Canadian Section of the Chamber should do much to draw attention to Canada's vast resources, to ensure equitable treatment of Canadian goods in France and on the Continent generally, and—not least important—to overcome the European habit of confounding Canadian products with those of the United States.

Under conditions now holding, the export of Canadian products and manufactures is restricted by the application of the high maximum tariff imposed by France upon the majority of goods from the Dominion. It may be pointed out that the tendency of the French Government is towards an exceedingly and increasingly high maximum tariff, calculated evidently to compel other countries to give better terms to French products with a view to receiving in return the advantages of the French minimum tariff. Following is a list of a dozen or so classes of Canadian products to which the French maximum tariff is now applied, while many of the Dominion's trade competitors enjoy the benefit of the minimum tariff of the "most favoured nations" enactment.

Article. Per 100 kilos, when not otherwise stated.	Customs duty if from Canada.	Customs duty to "most favoured Nations."
	Frs c.	Frs c.
Horses, over 5 yrs, each	200 "	150 "
" " under "	150 "	100 "
Bullocks	30 "	20 "
Salted Meats, Bacon, etc.	50 "	30 "
Lard	40 "	25 "
Cheese	35 "	15 "
Eggs	10 "	6 "
Lucerne and trefoil seed.	30 "	25 "
Forage	0 75	0 50
Powdered Emery	8 "	4 "
Cast Iron	2 "	1 50
Ferro-Manganese	4 75	3 50
Iron of all kinds. In general 10 to 20 per cent, more than "most favoured nation" treatment.		
Steel, ingots	6 "	5 "
" blooms and billets	7 "	6 "
Agricultural Machines (without mo- tors)	15 "	9 "
Rubber bands, pipes, etc., etc.	90 "	70 "

There are many other articles of Canadian origin for which a good market could in time be found in France, in addition to the above, and to the limited list already favoured under the Franco-Canadian Treaty of February 6, 1893. The existing treaty conditions are as follow:

"Wines, sparkling and non-sparkling, common soaps, *savons de Marseille* (Castille soaps) and nuts, almonds, prunes and plums of French origin entering Canada shall enjoy the following advantages:

"1. Non-sparkling wines gauging 15 degrees by the centesimal alcoholometer or less, or, according to the Canadian system of testing, containing 26