

GRAND HOTEL, PARIS, 25th January, 1893.

DEAR MR. BOWELL,—I sent our draft of the treaty, after consulting Sir Joseph Crowe, to M. Hanetaux yesterday morning, and in the afternoon received the draft of the French negotiations, which contained the following article:—

ARTICLE II.

"Any advantage given to another country, especially to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, concerning one or several of the articles of the Canadian tariff enumerated or not in the preceding disposition shall, by right, be extended to France and to its Colonies."

On meeting in company with Sir Joseph Crowe, MM. Hanetaux, Pallain and Roume this afternoon at 4 o'clock at the Quai d'Orsay, I explained to them that I desired to substitute therefor the following reading:—

"Any commercial advantage granted to any third power shall, by right, be extended to France."

This at first sight may appear to exceed in a slight degree the instructions that you gave me, but practically I think it will be found to be entirely unobjectionable. In the first place it does not interfere with the adoption of a preferential tariff between Canada and Great Britain or with any of the British Colonies, and in the second place, pending the continuance of the treaties between Great Britain and Belgium and Germany, and in view of the opinion held by the British Government, we are unable to make a preferential arrangement with any foreign country.

The objectionable clauses in the Belgian and German Treaties relating to the Colonies can only be removed by England giving the twelve months' notice that is required to denounce them. And in that case, if we had any desire at any time to make preferential arrangements with any third Power, the proposed Treaty with France could be terminated by a year's notice at the same time with the power which the treaty provides of being terminable at will by either party subject to twelve months' notice.

I do not think it possible that any inconvenience can arise from the engagement which I have agreed should be adopted.

The text of the Treaty will be fully settled, I expect, at 4 o'clock to-morrow, the 26th instant, and it will be signed as soon as authority is received from the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in London, to whom the draft will be sent by Lord Dufferin to-morrow.

The French Commissioners attributed importance to the exchange of a letter recommending Canada to agree to the reduction of the duty on paintings and pictures, in return for which they propose to give us the minimum tariff on cheese.

I am preparing for you a full report upon that subject which shall be forwarded for your consideration. But you will observe in the meantime that the matter is entirely optional and one for the Canadian Government to accept or not as they may desire.

Before forwarding this letter I hope to be able to add copies of the draft of the proposed Treaty and of the optional letter in question.

Trusting that this will meet with the approval of yourself and of your colleagues, and be found a useful measure for promoting and extending trade between Canada and France.

I am yours faithfully,

CHARLES TUPPER.

GRAND HOTEL, PARIS, 26th January, 1893.

DEAR MR. BOWELL,—In continuation of my letter of yesterday I may say that Sir Joseph Crowe and I met the French Negotiators at 4 o'clock this afternoon at the Quai d'Orsay. They informed me that owing to the question of procedure in respect of the exceptions to the general tariff of St. Pierre and Miquelon, which, they said, the Government had the power to put into force without consulting the Chambers, there was an objection to a reference to this matter appearing in the body of