

trust, therefore, the Marquess of Ripon will cable the assurance required that the treaty will not, in any way, interfere with inter-colonial arrangements, and that the undertaking given to Her Majesty's Government that treaty obligations will be observed, and measures taken to prevent any increased duties being imposed upon the products of foreign countries or colonial dependencies, is regarded as entirely satisfactory, and authorizing the proclaiming of the treaty.

I hope the Marquess of Ripon will also authorize me to explain by telegram, that Mr. Buxton's reply was based upon the Order in Council stating that legislation would be necessary to provide for the admission of products from other countries at the rate of duty specified in the French Treaty.

I enclosed a copy of a recent letter from Sir Joseph Crowe, from which it will be seen that a good deal of irritation is apparently felt by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of France, at the delay that has taken place in the exchange of ratifications.

I remain, &c.,

CHARLES TUPPER. .

PARIS, 1st March, 1895.

MY DEAR SIR CHARLES TUPPER,—I communicated your letter of the 25th ult., to Lord Dufferin and under his directions called to-day on M. Pallain, the Director of Customs.

M. Pallain recollected having written to Mr. Lorin to the effect that Canadian merchandise imported by way of the United States or Great Britain even with direct bills of lading could not be considered as imported direct in terms of the Franco-Canadian convention. He added that he thought the text of the convention was formal as to this point. I put before him the text of the despatch in which we jointly informed the late Sir John Thompson, of M. Hanotaux's assurance, given on the 29th March, as to the interpretation of the term "importes directment." He said he knew nothing of it, but that he would communicate immediately with M. Hanotaux on the subject.

M. Pallain then asked me when the Franco-Canadian convention would be ratified and why the ratification had been hitherto delayed. I replied that M. Hanotaux had sent for me a few days before to ask the same question and that I had been unable to do more than assure him when the ratification came I would let him know.

Lord Dufferin now bids me inquire of you why the convention is not ratified and, for myself, I think I should like not to meet M. Hanotaux until I can give him some satisfactory statement on the subject.

I am, &c.,

J. A. CROWE.

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE, OTTAWA, CANADA,
27th February, 1895

The Honourable Sir CHARLES TUPPER, Baronet.

DEAR SIR CHARLES,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your No. 72 of the 9th inst., covering a copy of a letter from Messrs. Heatley & Co., the London agents of the British Columbia Mills Timber and Trading Co., who ask when the provisions of the Franco-Canadian Treaty will come into force.

The Canadian government is waiting a reply to a communication addressed to the Imperial authorities asking for an interpretation as to the effect of the proposed treaty in case Canada should arrange with any British possession for preferential rates under which articles covered by the proposed treaty might be admitted into Canada at lower rates than those provided for in such treaty; the question being whether under such circumstances the most favoured nation clause would be interpreted as giving to France the same preferential rates as might be arranged for with other British possessions.