

## SESSIONAL PAPER No. 29b

by the passing of an Act by the Canadian Parliament to amend the Customs Tariff, and the President issued a Proclamation admitting Canadian products to the benefits of the minimum tariff.

It has been arranged that the question of the commercial relations between the two countries shall form the subject of further negotiations.

## WEST INDIES COMMISSION.

With the object of promoting closer trade relations and developing mutual trading facilities between Canada and the British West India Colonies, a Commission, dated August 9, 1909, was issued by His Majesty's Government appointing the Right Honourable Lord Balfour of Burleigh, K. T., the Honourable W. S. Fielding, the Honourable William Paterson, Sir John Poynder Dickson-Poynder, Bart., D. S. O., and Sir Donald Morris, K. C. M. G., to investigate and report upon the measures to be taken for this end.

In furtherance of the objects of the Commission, meetings were held at various points in Canada in the autumn of 1909; and a tour of the principal West India Islands arranged for, commencing towards the end of January. On this tour Mr. Paterson accompanied his fellow commissioners, but owing to pressure of Parliamentary duties Mr. Fielding was unable to join them.

Further meetings were held in London in June, 1910.

## OTHER TREATIES.

TREATY WITH UNITED STATES *re* BOUNDARY WATERS.

This Treaty, as approved by the United States Senate in its Resolution of March 3, 1909, which stipulated that the Treaty should not be construed so as to affect or change existing rights at the rapids of Sault Ste. Marie, or to interfere with the drainage of swamp or overflowed lands into streams flowing into boundary waters, was accepted by Canada, and the final ratifications exchanged on May 5, 1910.

Its object is to prevent disputes regarding boundary waters which, broadly speaking, it defines as waters and connecting waterways along which the international boundary between Canada and the United States passes. Navigation of such waters for purposes of commerce is made free to the inhabitants and vessels of both countries equally, and the like freedom is extended to the waters of Lake Michigan and to all canals connecting boundary waters.

Each Government reserves exclusive jurisdiction and control over the use and diversion of all waters on its own side of the boundary line which in their natural channel would flow across the boundary; but it is agreed that any interference with such waters on either side of the line, resulting in injury on the other, shall give rise to the same rights and entitle the injured parties to the same legal remedies as if such injury took place in the country where the interference occurs.

No obstruction or diversion of boundary waters, except by special agreement, is to be made hereafter save by the authorities of the Dominion of Canada or of the United States within their respective jurisdictions, and with the approval of the International Joint Commission established by the Treaty. The approval of that Commission is also made necessary to the construction or maintenance of any remedial or protective works or dams in waters flowing from boundary waters, or in waters at a lower level than the boundary, in rivers flowing across the boundary, the effect of which is to raise the natural level of waters on the other side of the boundary. Provision is also made to prevent the pollution of boundary waters on either side to the injury of health or property on the other.

A limit is placed upon the diversion of water from the Niagara river so that the level of Lake Erie and the flow of the river may not be appreciably affected.

The diversion of water above the falls for power purposes allowed to the United States is not to exceed in the aggregate a daily diversion at the rate of 20,000 cubic feet per second,