

representatives to conduct their negotiations with foreign countries through the British Ambassador, and he joined them in signing the resultant treaty.

By this 1922 treaty we granted France specific, fixed rates of duty, substantially below the Canadian intermediate tariff, on thirty-two important items. Ninety-one articles were granted the Canadian intermediate tariff less ten per cent, and three articles were granted the Canadian intermediate tariff less fifteen per cent. These were the concessions made by Canada to France. The important feature is that thirty-two articles were admitted at rates which could not be altered. The others could be altered only by the raising of the intermediate tariff of Canada. We also granted France the benefit of the favoured-nation clause.

In her concessions to Canada, France admitted one hundred and forty-one articles under the French minimum tariff. Unfortunately, the preponderance of those articles consisted of drugs and various indescribable commodities, with unpronounceable names, which, even to this day, have not been made in this country. The articles enjoying the French minimum tariff were really negligible. They amounted to nothing. We did, however, gain certain concessions in respect of other articles, under the maximum tariff, and France granted us the benefit of the favoured-nation clause.

Such was the treaty of 1922. I ask honourable gentlemen to remember that under the terms of that treaty, while we had certain fixed rates for the admission into Canada of thirty-two French articles of considerable importance, the French Government was able to raise at will the duties against Canada on all articles by the simple process of increasing in the one case the French minimum tariff, which was of little importance, or in the other the intermediate tariff, which was of very great importance. After that, in consequence of French policy as it took effect from year to year, we found a number of articles for which we desired admission into France barred by higher and ever higher customs duties. Our wheat, which at first had paid a duty of seventeen and one-half cents a bushel, had finally, after seven or eight separate increases, to pay a duty of \$1.70. As if this were not enough, France granted concessions to Yugoslavia and Roumania by giving them quotas up to fifty per cent of the amount of French importation, and in 1923 made an engagement with Germany under which that country received concessions in respect of the very articles for which we were seeking entry into

France. As honourable members will realize, the German competition was a very serious factor indeed. The consequence was a progressive dilution of that treaty.

Efforts to improve the situation proved abortive, and finally, about the middle of the year 1931, notice of denunciation of the treaty was sent to France, the denunciation to take effect on the 16th of June, 1932.

The present treaty is the result of advances made by the Government of Canada with a view to negotiating some better basis of trade with that great republic. These negotiations were carried on by the present Secretary of State, who last October went over to Europe to attend the Geneva Convention and at the same time to seek some sort of arrangement with France. The treaty, provided it is adopted by Parliament, takes effect as of the 12th of May this year, and remains in effect for one year. It is subject to termination on three months' notice. That is to say, if notice is given by either party on or before the 12th of February next, the treaty will terminate on the 12th of May, 1934. If notice is not given, the treaty will remain in force, and thereafter will be terminable on three months' notice.

Having regard first to the concessions made to France by Canada under the terms of this treaty, I may say that seventy-seven articles appearing in schedule C are admitted to Canada under our intermediate tariff less ten per cent, and fifteen under our intermediate tariff less a specified discount which in each case exceeds ten per cent. In addition to this, seven articles are admitted to Canada under the British preferential rate, the lowest rate granted.

As respects the seven articles enjoying the British preferential rate, the treaty comes into effect on proclamation. The reason for this is that under the terms of the Ottawa agreements of last year Canada was restricted in granting the British preferential rate. Canada therefore asked the approval of the British Government in the cases in question. I may say that the articles involved are largely books in the French language, cinematograph and phonograph records in the French language, certain religious tracts, and the like. It has been intimated by the British Government that it will not object to these concessions provided they take official and final form before this particular phase of the treaty is called into effect. This is the reason for the suspension of the clause applicable to these items.

On the other hand, France grants to Canada the admission under the French minimum