

WITH ONE SINGLE EXCEPTION,

ships. British ships were admitted into France under the Cobden Treaty at the rate of 25 francs a ton, while the general tariff of France at that time, if I am rightly informed, was 50 francs a ton. That treaty was negotiated in the interests of British ships, and without regard to Canadian ships, though Canada could have competed with Great Britain in that article, because Canada was at that time a ship-building country. But that treaty has come to an end, and there is now no special commercial treaty with France. But there is a convention to-day between France and England, signed in February, 1882, whereby English goods are admitted into France on terms reserved to the most favoured nation. Now, my hon. friend from Stanstead, asked this question: What is the difference of duty on fresh butter, salt butter, cheese, salt meat and lard, as between the Canadian product and the English product when admitted in France? The answer is this: Under this convention, which is to last until February, 1892, when it will have been ten years in operation, fresh butter coming from Canada is subjected to the general tariff of France, which is 13 francs per 100 kilos, whereas English butter is admitted free; that is to say, there is a discrimination against the Canadian article in favour of the British of 13 francs per 100 kilos. On salt butter the general tariff of France which is applied to Canada, is 15 francs per 100 kilos, and the tariff upon English salt butter 2 francs, a difference of 13 francs per 100 kilos. On soft cheese the general tariff is 6 francs and the special tariff 3 francs. On hard cheese the general tariff is 8 francs and the special tariff 4 francs. On salt meats the general tariff is 8.50 francs and the special tariff 4.50 francs. Lard is free. So that, Mr. Speaker, the English Government have negotiated that treaty without looking to the interests of Canada, but looking simply to the interests of the English people. But, Sir, there is more.

ENGLAND HAS NEGOTIATED

treaties with Germany which directly affect Canada; and if the hon. Minister of Customs were here, I should have his testimony that in the treaties negotiated in 1862 and 1865, if I remember rightly, between England and Germany, German goods imported into Canada cannot be charged a higher rate of duty than British goods; and in the face of that treaty the hon. Minister of Customs is not at liberty to so appraise German goods coming from Germany to the full cost of transit between Hamburg or Bremen to Canadian ports, but simply as if they were shipped from Liverpool or any English ports. Therefore, England has negotiated treaties in a manner directly contrary to the interests of Canada. But there is more. In 1870 the late Prime Minister, Sir John Macdonald, tested the American pulse in order to ascertain whether or not he could obtain a treaty extending not only to natural products, but even to manufactured goods. Sir John Macdonald was charged with that in the House in 1870 by Mr. Huntingdon, and he did not deny it. Moreover, we would have the proof of it in the blue-book, if they could be had; and we have the proof in the English press. The *Times*, the great organ of public opinion in England, had

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