

MEMORANDUM

Addressed to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs on the establishment of a line of steamers between Quebec and Montreal (Halifax in winter) and Granville (France), calling at the Islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, and presented to the Honorable J. A. Chapleau, Prime Minister of the Province of Quebec, by M. Foursin-Escande.

By stimulating and extending its foreign trade, France, through the instrumentality of its merchant navy, strives to increase her prosperity, and extend her influence. The new Merchant Navy bill passed by the Chamber of Deputies, at its last session, shows that the Government of the Republic means to carry out such a policy in the future. The establishment of a line of steamers between France and Canada will be one of its first results. In undertaking it, M. Foursin-Escande has two chief objects in view:—

I. The introduction of Canada to the French trade, and the importation into France of the products of that country, more especially its phosphates and live cattle.

II. The reorganization of the codfish trade on the banks of Newfoundland, by placing the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon in direct steam communication with France, thus doing away with the present service that is the principal cause of the decline of that trade.

I.

In 1879 the imports to Canada were 400,894,945 francs; French products included therein, 7,660,955 fr.; products through St. Pierre Miquelon, 32,805 fr.; total, 7,693,760 fr.

	Frances.
Exports for the same year.....	357,456,275
To France direct.....	3,374,375 fr.
To St Pierre Miquelon	807,490 "
	4,381,565 "

In 1878, 8,576 vessels entered the different ports of Canada, representing a tonnage of 3,040,000 tons and crews of 104,390 men. Of these vessels, 3,153 came from France and 88 were Canadian and British. Only 65 belonged to France and other flags.

These figures are drawn from the Trade and Navigation Returns of the Dominion of Canada, and they indicate a considerable commercial and naval importance for Canada, which contains only 4,000,000 of people, although its merchant navy ranks the fourth in the world. They prove, however, at the same time, that France is but poorly represented therein.

In going over the statistics of the Canadian Customs, it is clear that many French goods are entered as of English or American origin,

because they are sold by English or American dealers. The following table, representing articles which are almost exclusively French, will sufficiently prove this:—

DENOMINATION.	IMPORTATION.		REMARKS.
	From England and the U. S.	Direct from France.	
Silk buttons.....	236,635	14,135	Frances.
Silks and velvets.....	6,442,225	333,060	"
Light Fr. wines.....	2,481	3,248	Hec'lit'r's
Wines in bottles.....	5,558	6,940	Dozons
Brandies.....	1,696	8,376	Hec'lit'r's
Mill stones.....	5,735	3,234	Numbers
Mercer's goods.....	690,225	9,330	Frances.
Books, &c.....	785,730	300,615	" (P. of Q. only)
Fash'ns, feathers, artificial flowers & fancy goods.....	5,600,715	692,880	Frances.

It is impossible to estimate the exact amount of French trade carried on in Canada by British and American houses, but according to the best Canadian Custom House authorities, it rises annually to twenty-five millions of francs. A like remark may be made in regard to Canadian products sold in France, such as wheat and different kinds of grain, timber, &c.

A direct line between the countries would inevitably lead to the suppression of these middlemen, and open out new commercial relations.

Canadian exports may thus be classified:—

Products of the Mine....	14,481,815	15,938,610f.
Products of the Fisheries.....	31,616,830	35,361,015f.
Products of the Forest.....	100,244,145	68,986,295f.
Cattle.....	72,885,430	73,086,965f.
Agricultural products.....	136,405,445	129,854,435f.

Manufactured products enter only for a sum of about twenty millions of francs. Among articles of exportation, here are a few figures drawn from official tables:—

Railway crossings.....	1,007,819	numbers.
Firewood.....	155,293	cords.
Potash.....	19,579	barrels.
Horses.....	16,629	numbers.
Bees.....	46,569	"
Sheep.....	308,093	"
Eggs.....	5,440,822	dozens.
Cheese.....	23,000,000	kilograms.
Butter.....	7,000,000	"