

THE FRENCH MARKET

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THE FRENCH TREATY

The party press, without looking into the treaty between France and Canada with a view to fostering the best interests of our country, discusses it according to the necessities of the party whose feelings they voice.

It is a matter of surprise to read such fallacious statements, when one thinks that they are inimical to the first commercial treaty submitted to the assent of the Canadian parliament since Confederation, and one which affects our future commercial intercourse with the greatest importing country after Great Britain.

The opponents of this treaty, without taking into account the mutual concessions made by the negotiating parties, keep to one argument only : the loss in the revenue of custom duties by both countries. Then, it should be said that a protectionist country making a commercial agreement with another nation must exact greater advantages from this nation if its tariff is higher. A more absurd proposition cannot be advocated.

It must be borne in mind that the loss in custom duties was never but a secondary consideration in the Conferences held between the representatives of the two nations. They meant to increase as much as possible the commercial intercourse between both countries in the products they can exchange. France said to Canada : My imports of lumber amount to sixteen millions, and you only sell me for \$158,717 of your lumber ; but I am willing to place your lumber under the *minimum* tariff, which will enable you to compete successfully with the countries already enjoying the same privileges and to do so more advantageously with the countries submitted to the *maximum* tariff.

Canada having one tariff only, could not answer in the same strain, nor make the same offer. Consequently she said to France : " We will decrease the duties on certain wines and other articles produced by you under favorable circumstances ; and you will be able to increase your imports into our country."