

we next assemble, reducing the duty on sugar and molasses on receiving as an equivalent for it a reduction of duty on the natural products and manufactures of Canada. In addition to that, we have been endeavouring to negotiate arrangements with France by which the products of Canada may be admitted on more favourable terms than they are at present. Down to the present time, while the negotiations are not broken off but are still continued, we have not been successful, and I desire here and at this time to state, on behalf of the Government, that, if we fail to make satisfactory arrangements with Governments that do not place the products—the natural products and manufactures—of Canada on equal terms with those of any other country, we will ask Parliament at the next Session to impose a duty of 10 per cent. additional on their products until they grant us such terms. This is the policy of the Government with reference to these questions."

For some time past we have been moving for papers indicating the progress of the various negotiations which preceded those which the hon. gentleman has mentioned in this speech; and a motion was also made for papers with reference to the negotiations down to that time. That address has not been answered, so far as I can ascertain, and I hope we shall have a clean breast of it, and a statement made of the papers with reference to any such negotiations as are closed temporarily or permanently. Of course, I can understand the inconvenience of bringing down papers with reference to negotiations which are actively pending; but if they are practically, if not formally, abandoned, there would seem to be no difficulty about bringing down the papers; and it is important that we should know how we stand. I hope, also, that the return will embrace all the papers consequent on the declaration of war which the hon. gentleman thought fit to make in the concluding passage of this speech; and that we shall learn, by the papers, or otherwise, how far the step which he announced in this public manner he was about to take has been productive of a more favourable consideration of his propositions than they had heretofore received. I thought then, and I think still, that it would have been a more prudent and politic course on his part to inform the Governments of these countries privately that he would feel it his duty to propose such a step in case he did not conclude the negotiations by next Session, than to make a public statement in Parliament of the character to which I have alluded. But it is possible that the course taken by the hon. gentleman may have produced effects which milder measures would not have produced. With these views I make this motion.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. There can be no objection to the general proposition contained in this motion; but I would call the attention of the hon. gentleman to a paper laid on the Table of the House last Session showing the negotiations which had taken place with Servia, Belgium, and Germany, Roumania, Ecuador, Morocco, Egypt, Montenegro and Jamaica. At that time the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in answer to a communication from the Governor General, stated:

"There exists no objection to the publication of correspondence that has taken place with reference to commercial treaties concerning Jamaica, Germany and Belgium. As correspondence is never furnished which has reference to negotiations still under discussion without the consent of the Foreign Power with whom the treaty is being made, it would be necessary to obtain from the Governments of France and Spain their consent to the publication of any correspondence which has taken place on the subject of treaties, and I suggest that the placing of such papers on the Table of the Dominion House of Commons be delayed until the matters still under discussion are brought to a final conclusion."

I may state to the hon. member that the negotiations with Spain have not yet been brought to a conclusion. Further negotiation took place between the High Commissioner and the Government of France, which for the time being did terminate the correspondence; but there is no doubt that, on the return of the High Commissioner to England, the negotiations with Spain will be continued, and the negotiations with France will probably re-open. However, I think it probable that the correspondence with France may be in such a position that, without violating the conditions laid down in this despatch, it may be laid before Parliament.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. BLAKE.

JUDICIAL SALARIES.

Mr. VAIL, in moving for copies of any correspondence on the subject of the increase or re-adjustment of the judicial salaries, said: It will be remembered by all who were present last Session, when the resolution providing for the salary of an additional Judge of the Appeal Court of Ontario was before the House, that the hon. First Minister stated that some pressure had been brought to bear on the Government for the increase of the Judges' salaries of Ontario and Montreal; and I inferred from that statement that some correspondence had taken place on the subject. The hon. First Minister further stated that the Government, during the recess, would take the matter into their consideration, and that they would be prepared, at this Session, to introduce some measure, or make some proposition with regard to it, for the approval of Parliament. The right hon. gentleman led us to believe that the salaries of the Judges of Ontario and Quebec were too low; and he rather intimated that there was a difficulty about increasing the salaries of those Judges without providing for similarly increasing the salaries of the Judges of the different Provinces. I can easily understand that. I can also understand that some of the Judges of Ontario may be very much overworked; but increasing their salaries will not remedy that. I find, by the Public Accounts, that the amount paid during the past year for the Administration of Justice, including pensions and miscellaneous, was about \$670,000. Now, that appears to be a very large sum, and as such, if properly distributed, would provide satisfactory salaries for the Judges of all the Provinces. Of course, the right hon. gentleman did not intimate to us what measure he proposed to bring down to Parliament this Session; but I am rather inclined to think that the country will hardly be willing to submit to further taxation to increase the gross amount now paid to the judiciary. It is just possible that if some of the Judges in the larger Provinces are overworked, there may be some who are underworked; and I hope that the Government, in any measure which they bring before the House, will consider whether, without increasing the sum total, they cannot—and I have no doubt it would be a very popular move, by reducing the salaries of those Judges in the larger Provinces, who have not a great deal of work—increase the salaries of Judges in the Maritime Provinces, in order to put them on a proper and fair footing with the Judges of the larger Provinces. I never could see the reason why the Judges of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia should be placed in an inferior position to the Judges of the other Provinces, with regard to salary. I do not make this motion with the view of bringing on a debate at present. If the correspondence is in such a state that it can be brought down, or if there has been further correspondence since the last prorogation of Parliament, I think the House ought to be put in possession of it, so that hon. members may see on what the Judges base their claim for an increase of their salaries.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. My hon friend's motion is very general. He moves for any correspondence on the subject of salaries. I suppose there ought to be some limit as to date.

Mr. VAIL. Any correspondence which has taken place since last Session and since the Session previous.

Mr. BLAKE. Since the 1st January, 1882.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Very well. The hon. gentleman says it would be very popular in the country if a slice were taken off the salaries of the Judges of Ontario and attached to those of the Judges of the Maritime Provinces. I dare say it would be popular in some portions of the Dominion, but I am not quite sure that it would be popular in the Province of Ontario. The hon. gentleman