

9-10 EDWARD VII., A. 1910

ARRANGEMENT WITH GERMANY.

As a result of informal negotiations between the Minister of Finance and the Imperial German Consul for Canada, the contention of Germany that German products should receive in Canada the same treatment as the products of the United Kingdom was abandoned, and a provisional commercial agreement arranged whereby in return for the admission of a list of specified Canadian products to the benefits of the German Conventional tariff, the application of the surtax of 33½ per cent, imposed on German imports into Canada was suspended.

Effect as from March 1, 1910, was given to this agreement by an Order of the Governor General in Council, dated February 14, 1910, and a Notice of the German Federal Council dated February 24, 1910.

This agreement is a provisional one, made in contemplation of the negotiation of a formal Convention, and if such a Convention is not entered into within a reasonable time, may be terminated on two months' notice.

ARRANGEMENT WITH ITALY.

As in the case of Germany, an informal agreement was entered into between the Minister of Finance and the Royal Consul of Italy whereby specified Canadian products were to be admitted to Italy on payment of the Conventional import duties, in return for the admission into Canada at Intermediate tariff rates of specified products of Italy.

Effect was given to this agreement, in so far as Canada was concerned, by an Order of the Governor General in Council dated June 7, 1910.

Like the arrangement with Germany, this agreement was made in contemplation of a formal Convention, and is liable to be terminated on two months notice if such a Convention is not concluded within a reasonable time.

ARRANGEMENT WITH BELGIUM.

The tariff treatment granted to Canadian products by Belgium having been considered to warrant concessions from Canada, the Canadian Government, by Order in Council of June 7, 1910, extended the benefit of the Intermediate tariff to specified Belgian products.

ARRANGEMENT WITH THE NETHERLANDS.

On the same grounds a similar concession by Order in Council of June 7, 1910, was made to like products of the Netherlands.

UNITED STATES.

The enactment of the United States Tariff Act on August 5, 1909, by which the President of the United States was empowered to grant the benefits of the minimum tariff to the products of such countries as did not unduly discriminate in their tariff treatment against United States products, raised the question whether the Franco-Canadian Treaty, the benefits of which were automatically extended under most favoured nation clauses in certain treaties to various foreign nations, among which the United States was not included, did not effect such a discrimination.

In order to satisfy himself that he would be justified in applying the minimum tariff to Canadian products, the President invited the Minister of Finance to Albany to discuss the subject. As an outcome of this discussion Canada agreed to reduce the general tariff on thirteen named articles, on which, under the Treaty, France had been granted the Intermediate tariff, to the level of the Intermediate tariff. This agreement was carried into effect