

that article. It is true that the conventional tariff does not provide for that article. Here is what is said in the general tariff about that item:

Crude oil, petroleum, &c.:	
Of European origin, imported from the countries of production.....	18 frs. per 100 kilog.
Of European origin, imported from elsewhere.....	30 " " " "
Of extra-European origin.....	25 " " " "
Refined oils and essences, &c.:	
Of European origin, imported from the countries of production.....	25 " " " "
Of European origin, imported from elsewhere.....	30 " " " "
Of extra European origin.....	25 " " " "

With duties equal to those imposed on American goods, we might compete with them; we might compete still better if we could be put on the same footing as the European countries. We might also demand, and very probably obtain reductions of duties on our sewing machines, furniture and other wooden articles, canned fish and canned meat, fresh meat, &c., all of which articles we may produce in immense quantities, and the consumption of which in France is such as to create a very large demand. And this competition which we would make to our neighbours, who would be liable to the general tariff, would not only result in opening a new field to our trade and industry, but it would necessarily become a great means of persuasion to induce our neighbors to conclude a treaty of reciprocity with Canada. The great proportions which our trade would take may be foreseen from the outset, and so with the beneficial results of the opening of the French market to our goods. Our geographical situation, our great system of canals, our fine river, our great system of railways, the abundant variety of raw material in Canada, the wants of France, all tend wonderfully to the success of these new business relations; everything urges us to make a last effort in order to ensure these advantages to our country. To multiply our international exchanges would be to add to the strength and wealth of our land and water routes; it would be preparing the way to turn aside in our favor and for our benefit the tide of the great western trade; it would be to foresee the emergencies of war or other contingencies which might occur abroad. Let war be declared at a given moment between England and other countries, and our ships might have great difficulties in entering the English ports, and we might avoid a terrible crisis if we should secure beforehand another market accessible to our products. Another advantage of the proposed treaty would be that we would be benefited by every reduction made in favor of European countries. In watching over their own interests, in using their influence for that purpose, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Austria, almost the whole of Europe would be working for us. In exchange for these advantages what should we give? 1st. the privileges of the most favored nation, which are already existing, and which are a result of our tariff. 2nd. A reduction on French wines directly imported, either the abolition of the duty of 30 per cent *ad valorem* now imposed, non-sparkling wines not included. That reduction, if we take as a basis the present direct importations, would represent for the treasury an annual loss of about \$30,000. This small loss is, however, only apparent, as will be seen, and it would have a double effect. In the first place, by diminishing the cost of light wines, it would add to their consumption, and would diminish the use of strong liquors; the cause of temperance would be the gainer, and it would be a panacea against drunkenness. This consumption of light wines being increased, the Government would collect more from the unabridged duties, and would more than repay themselves. On the one hand they would lose \$30,000; on the other they would, perhaps, gain \$100,000. Large sales would give large profits, according to the popular saying. Therefore we have a very great

Mr. AMYOT.

deal to gain and nothing to lose by this proposed treaty, which would be to the advantage of the two contracting parties. France desires to establish commercial relations with us, and she has proved it by subsidizing a direct line of steamers to Canada. I congratulate and thank the Government for having seconded the establishment of that line of steam packets, which will do so much towards tightening the bonds of friendship and trade which unite the two countries, towards opening a new era for Canada, and towards securing for us such immense advantages, both directly and indirectly. Numerous consequences will naturally follow. Take, for instance, our trade with St. Pierre de Miquelon. The goods from all countries which are transported there on French ships are admitted free. Out of an amount of 6,407,000 francs worth of goods coming from Canada and the United States, Canada only figures for an amount of 953,020 francs. It will readily be seen to what extent we might add to the sale of our goods in that island. Very probably we might even obtain the abolition of the taxes which are now imposed at St. Pierre de Miquelon on goods transported on Canadian ships. It would be easy to offer in return to French vessels the right of coasting along our Canadian shores. They are the only ships which are now excluded, and that without any benefit for anybody whatever. This line of steam packets will also virtually remove the French overtax on goods in bond. It has already been reduced on various items, but trade will entirely remove its effects as far as we are concerned. Besides it is only meant to encourage and promote direct trade with the countries of production. France, if we are to judge by the speeches of her public men, by the writings of her publicists, by the favorable reports of prominent Frenchmen, who have come here, and who are coming every day to Canada, to seek information, by the hearty reception made to our delegates and to our visitors, France, I say, is perfectly disposed towards us. The efforts of our Government, the pamphlets distributed, the *Paris-Canada*, the admirable lectures given by the Hon. Mr. Fabre, lectures which should not be given at his own cost, but at the cost of the State, the Franco-Canadian monetary undertakings, which have resisted to various financial cataclysms, the visits of the French frigates and vessels, the clever and intelligent work performed by Sir A. T. Galt, and above all, the work done by Sir Charles Tupper, the connections of our leading statesmen—I could even name some of them who are in this House—with the leading men of France, all tend to add to the powerful interest of business, the stimulating influence of a strong sympathy, which is very natural after all, and which it would be wrong for us not to take advantage of. I do not speak from the point of view of French immigration. This is not the proper time to discuss that question. I will limit myself to commercial relations, to business interests which have neither nationality nor color, which have only honesty and legitimate profits for a basis. I say that the well understood interests of the Dominion require that we should lose no time in securing that market, so rich in men, in capital and in products; that we should increase our internal wealth by the development of our external trade; that we should foresee all the emergencies of foreign politics; that we should add a population of 40,000,000 souls to the not sufficiently long list of consumers of our agricultural, lumbering, mining, industrial and maritime produce; that we should increase the number and the wealth of our industries by procuring so favorable an outlet for their products; that we should favor the morality and welfare of the Canadian people by giving them an easy access to the pure and beneficial wines of France. All this can be done without interfering with the general tariff, while extending the application of the principles of the protective tariff and National Policy, these elements of strength and greatness through which the present Administration have justly deserved the confidence