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THE SPANISH-AMERICAN TREATY.

The full text of the commercial treaty between Spain and the United States is a very carefully drafted instrument, in which an attempt has been made to provide against every possible contingency. No such complaint as that which the United States made under the reciprocity treaty with Canada about alterations by this country of items in the tariff of which the treaty took no cognizance, can be made by either of the contracting parties. It is specially provided that the stipulations of this treaty shall not prevent the contracting parties "making such reforms in their tariff of customs and navigation duties as they may deem expedient." They leave themselves at liberty to enter into like compacts with other powers. But if the duties on articles to which the reciprocal benefits of the treaty do not apply be reduced, then the duties on such articles as are made subject of reciprocal exchange are to be proportionately reduced. For of the articles to which the principle of reciprocal exchange applies, some are made free and others have a reduced scale of duties applied to them; and the latter duties must be lowered in proportion to any reduction in the items of the general tariff. The hint was probably taken from the experience of the treaty with Canada; but whatever may be the origin of this provision, its effect will be to render difficult reductions in the general tariff, because the sacrifice of revenue must extend to all the dutiable goods within purview of the reciprocal clauses of the treaty. Spain undertakes not to increase the duties now in force in Cuba and Porto Rico; but she retains her right to continue her export duties, with the condition that any reduction which may voluntarily be made in them shall be applied to the merchandise which the United States is to admit, partly free and partly at a reduced scale of duties. Of these goods the following is the list, and it is marked schedule A:

"Articles the product of the Provinces of Cuba and Porto Rico to be admitted into the United States on the following conditions: *Free from duty*: Horses, cocoa, coffee, fish, fresh fruits, cotton, hemp, flax, hides, skins undressed, aniline and mineral dyes, palm oil, sugars not above No. 16 Dutch Standard in color, loaves of crystallized syrup of the sugar cane, melado, molasses, seeds, woods,

cast iron, eggs, honey, wax, sponges, bones, guano, manure, coca, eaparto, horse hair, rushes, osiers, straw, coins of gold or silver. *Subject to duty*: Cigars, cigarettes, *begueros*, \$1.25 per pound, 12½ per cent. ad valorem; tobacco leaves, requiring more than 100 to the pound, if having stems, 37 cents per pound, without stems, 50 cents; other tobacco in leaves having stems, 17½ cents per pound; tobacco manufactured of every kind, tobacco without stems, 20 cents per pound; snuff, powdered tobacco, 25 cents per pound; tobacco not manufactured, 15 per cent. ad valorem.

Then follows schedule B, applying to articles the product of the United States which shall be admitted into Cuba:—

"*Exempt from duty*: Beer, fresh meats, bacon, fruits, fish, shell fish, grain, and other cereals, excepting rice, flour of cereals other than rice, lard, swine, beef, cheese, eggs, and bread; woods of all kinds, staves, knees, timber, pipes, boxes of wood, cattle, sheep and goats, hogs, stones and earths employed in construction and in the arts and industries, clay, tiles, bricks, and tiles unglazed, hides and undressed skins, minerals or metals, coins of silver and gold, useful tools, agricultural implements, agricultural apparatus, industrial and scientific motors of classes and materials, separate parts of the same, raw cotton, hemp, flax, jute, and all other raw vegetable fibres, wools, hog's hair, raw horse hair, asphalt, refined bitumen, tar, pitch, and resin, petroleum, raw or crude, mineral and vegetable coals, mineral waters, trees, plants, vine shoots and seeds, natural and artificial manures, marble, Jasper, alabaster in blocks and sheets, rough or prepared, other stones and earths employed in construction, minerals and metals, mineral waters, ice, cast iron in pigs, and all forms of waste steel and iron, cast iron in tubes, the same manufactured, malleable iron and steel in bars and all classes of wire in copper and iron, nails, screws, rivets, wrought iron tubes, wire gauze, unmanufactured.

"Substances used in chemical industries, drugs, cotton and other oil seeds, and products of the same excepting bark oil, tanning liquids, tallow, and all other animal grease unmanufactured, and not otherwise specified in this schedule.

"Cotton and its manufactured forms, raw cotton with or without seeds.

"Other vegetable fibres and their manufactured forms, hemp, flax, jute, abaca, and all other raw vegetable fibres.

"Raw wools, hairs, horse hair, and their manufactures.

"Printed papers or lithographs, periodicals, pamphlets, books, bound or unbound, music paper.

"Woods of all classes in logs, beams, boards, rounds, sawn or planed, piles, wooden hoops, pipes, boxes of wood, ordinary or finished doors and blinds, unpainted and unvarnished, common wood, manufactured in all shapes.

"Cattle, asses, mules, horses, swine, sheep, goats, hides, undressed skins, natural and artificial manures.

"Utensils, agricultural implements, machines and apparatus, materials for public works, materials of all classes for construction or repair of ships.

"Birds, terrestrial and aquatic, meats, fresh, salted, pickled, and smoked, except jerked beef, bacon, hams, lard, tallow, cows, live seafish, fish dry-salted or pickled, rice shelled or unshelled and other cereals, flour of other cereals except rice, fresh, dried, or preserved fruit seeds, fresh and dried vegetables, beers of all kinds, cheese, eggs, hay and straw for forage, trees, plants, vine shoots, garden seeds, sugar bags."

Schedule C. contains a list of the products of the United States which are to be admitted free into Porto Rico:

"Beer, fresh, salt, and smoked meats, except jerked beef; bacon, ham, fresh and dried fruits, fish, dry, salted or pickled; seed and all cereals except wheat and rice, flour of all cereals except rice; lard, swine, beef, cheese, eggs, thread, woods of every kind, staves, wooden hoops, cooperage material and boxes, horned cattle, sheep, goats, swine, stone, and earths employed in construction and in the arts and industries; clay, bricks, unglazed tiles, minerals, except metals, and current gold and silver coins; agricultural tools, machines, and apparatus for art, science, trade and agricultural industries; raw cotton, hemp, linen abaca and pita, jute, wool, bristles, hair, raw horse hair, asphalt, bituminous matter, (betunes,) pitch, tar, resin, crude petroleum, mineral and vegetable coal, mineral waters, trees, plants, garden seeds, manure, natural and artificial."

Many of the natural products named in tariff B it would be in the power of Canada to supply to Cuba and Porto Rico if she had the right to do so on equal terms. Spain has left herself at liberty to make a similar treaty with Canada or any other country. The door is therefore not shut in our face; only the United States has found the means of entering first. The *Avisador Comercial* of Havana, November 27, contains a statement of the opinion of Senor Marcoartu, who is indefatigable in his efforts to secure new markets for Cuba and Porto Rico, and who, with that object attended the meetings of the British Association at Montreal, last summer. He thinks the commerce between Spain and Canada capable of great extension; and he claims that under the most unfavorable conditions it has increased more rapidly in proportion than the total commerce of Canada. For the fact that the trade between the two countries is not greater than it is, he thinks Canada is more to blame than Spain. Spain, says Senor Marcoartu, prohibits none of the products of Canada, while Canada has for years put prohibitive duties on Spanish wines. The term "prohibitive" is certainly too strong, for under the tariff Spanish wines do find their way into Canada. He also objects to the alcoholic scale of the Canadian duties as being contrary to the principles of political economy and the interests of the working classes. The alcoholic scale of duties is in force in most countries, and we cannot admit its unsoundness economically; or that it would be in the interest of the working classes to admit the strongest wines at as low duties as the weakest. If, as Marcoartu thinks, our duties on spirituous liquors, molasses, and sugar, are contrary to the interests of our sugar refiners and the welfare of all classes, the average