

whether the labor organizations of the Republic will oppose all immigration.

President Cleveland's announcement of an extra session of Congress for September justifies the conclusion that the five months which separates us from that date will be used to prepare for tariff and currency reforms, to which the dominant party is pledged. The date fixed shows that there is to be no hurry, but whatever is done will be done with deliberation and foresight. In any case, the executive can only suggest reforms; it will remain for Congress to carry them out; but the sympathy between the legislative and executive branches of the Government will go far to ensure the success of whatever is undertaken by them in unison.

THE FRENCH TREATY.

Though the French treaty has been left over till next session, it does not follow that it will not then be ratified. But, from the attitude of the Canadian Government, ratification would seem to depend upon whether France will agree to some modification of the instrument. As it stands, it is an unequal treaty, and as such ought not to have been sanctioned by Sir Charles Tupper, whom the Canadian Government did not authorize so to act. The inequality takes a form about as objectionable as could be conceived. It yields to France, Algeria and the other French colonies the treatment of the most favored nation, but to Canada it gives only any reduction which France may grant to any other power, in respect to the enumerated articles. Should Canada make a treaty with any other country, all the benefits of it would enure to France, Algeria and the other French colonies; should France make such treaty with a third power, none of the benefits of it would pass to Canada, unless it touched some of the articles enumerated in the present treaty. The Canadian Government never agreed to accept this inequality of treatment, and notified Sir Charles Tupper to that effect, while the negotiations were in progress. Mr. Bowell cabled to Sir Charles that the Government insisted on limiting the most favored nation clause to the "articles named in the treaty." Nothing could be more specific than this instruction. That Sir Charles Tupper should have disregarded it and agreed to unequal terms passes comprehension; and it can only be understood on the assumption that he was so eager to make a treaty of some kind that he was easily induced to do what had been expressly forbidden. But his act, under the circumstances, could not bind the Government. Unequal treaties are seldom accepted unless one of the parties to them is really not a free agent, and for this reason some writers on international law go so far as to deny their binding efficacy. Sir Charles must be presumed to have made the other party acquainted with the special limits of his powers in this respect; and in that case France has no ground of complaint; in fact it seems she does not complain of the non-ratification by Canada of a provision to which the Canadian Government never

assented. The fact need not be disguised that Sir Charles Tupper, by wilfully overstepping his powers, on a point on which they had been specially limited, would have rendered himself liable to be recalled, if he had been a diplomatic agent stationed in Paris; but as his work was done and he had left, recall was not possible. He might be censured, even if permitted to retain the office of High Commissioner in London, from which his removal would be a vicarious punishment, which few would desire to see inflicted. But if there are to be further negotiations with France, with a view of removing from the treaty an unequal provision which never ought to have been inserted, it would be just as well for Sir John Thompson himself to take a hand in it. We cannot afford to repeat blunders such as that which has been committed.

The mode of negotiation was in the last degree objectionable. The Canadian Government did not know what it was required to assent to. "At present, we cannot understand," Sir John Thompson cabled to the Canadian negotiator, February 6th, "what terms are proposed on either side." And yet, while our Government was thus kept in the dark, Sir Charles Tupper signed the treaty on the very day this cablegram was sent. It is proper to say that the cablegram did not reach him until he had put his signature to the treaty and left Paris. The Government ought to have been fully informed by cable of everything that was proposed, and the negotiator should have concluded nothing without its consent. Its members must take the blame of not having given instructions to this effect; they should not have permitted themselves to be made the possible victims of a procedure which assumed their consent to what they had no knowledge of. Sir Charles Tupper, unless kept under a tight rein, would be very likely again to substitute impulse for authority; and it is clear that he can never be trusted to act without specific instructions upon every point. There are plenty of people who habitually act just in the same wayward and headstrong manner, in the firm belief that the world is greatly benefited by their mistaken activity. The difference is that they are not entrusted with the making of treaties with foreign powers.

But even this miscarriage will not be without its uses. In a quiet, unostentatious way, with good temper, firmness and resolution, Canada has made it understood that treaties which are made merely to suit other people will not be accepted by her. Her present stand is incidentally a protest against imposing upon her the most favored nation provision, in its unlimited sense and with unequal effect. In an informal but very practical way she has been conceded the right to say what form foreign treaties affecting her shall take, upon all points except this of the most favored nation clause, and on this her position has been made clear by this negotiation and the pause which has come in the ratification of the treaty.

There is no doubt that the provision relating to French wines was inserted without due consideration. For this the Government is responsible, and the negotiator

is in no wise to blame. Wine manufacture in Canada, as a branch of industry which is undergoing steady development, deserves at least fair play. It is not any more than any other form of industry entitled to protection apart from revenue considerations. Any duty on foreign wines must operate in favor of the Canadian wine producer. It is true that the French have an advantage in being permitted to use spirits, on which no duty is paid, in the fortification of their wines, but against this must be placed the privilege of Canadian wine makers of being allowed to use grape sugar to produce the alcoholic strength necessary to give the wine keeping qualities. It is not certain that the treaty would put Canadian wine producers at a comparative disadvantage; if it did so beyond all doubt, it could not be denied that good ground of complaint would exist.

PORK PACKING.

The winter season of pork packing now just closed presents some features of interest. It is many years since the fluctuations in price have been so great. In the beginning of November the market price for dressed hogs was \$6.50 to \$6.60 per 100 pounds. At the end of January their price had advanced to \$8.75, and by the end of March had declined to \$7.50 per 100 pounds. The average price paid by packers on the season's "cut" will be in the neighborhood of \$8 per hundred, and it is estimated that the quantity packed is about thirty per cent. lighter than last season. While prices in Canada seemed high enough, they have been low compared with prices current in the markets of the United States. Roughly speaking, dressed hogs have sold here at about the same prices as live hogs have brought across the line. Some shipments of hogs from Western Ontario were made to Buffalo with satisfactory results, even in face of the duty. Whether this could be claimed as a victory for the N.P. is for political economists to decide.

A good deal of gratuitous advice has lately been given the farming community with respect to the supposed advantages of selling their hogs alive, and abandoning the old method of butchering at home, and marketing the dressed hogs. Much could be said in favor of either method, but the farmer will do well to bear in mind that there are many buyers of the dressed hogs and very few buyers of the live hogs.

There is room for both branches of the business; the dressed hog packer caters for the domestic trade, and can handle stock to advantage, which the live hog packer knowing to be unsuitable in size and weight for the export trade would only purchase at a most severe reduction in price.

The Canadian export trade is increasing year by year, and this season promises to be larger than ever, as a large concern at London, Ont., is just about commencing operations. The English consumer is recognizing that Canadian pea-fed pork has merits not approached by the corn-fed pork of the United States. The high prices lately current have given a great stimulus to the breeding of hogs, and it is