

## FRENCH TREATY UP IN COMMONS

## Act of Ratification Passes Second Reading and Committee

## BAD FOR WINE GROWERS

## Opposition Also Points Out That it Injures British Reference

Ottawa, Feb. 21.—The French treaty was the subject of discussion in the Commons yesterday and today. The debate yesterday was almost entirely devoted to the number of the Quebec members placed in the majority record as generally in favor of the treaty arranged last summer by Hon. Macdougall and Brodeur.

Dr. Daniel Johnson considered that the treaty would merely increase the great disparity in the imports of grain and the exports to that country. The treaty would give an advantage to the Canadian farmer. The reduction of the duty on French livestock would be a great blow to the Canadian livestock industry. The treaty had got nearly all the benefits accruing.

Mr. MacDonald objected to the direct shipment of grapes and deplored the lack of stability in the market.

Mr. Borden did not think that the claim of Messrs. Fielding and Brodeur—that they had done something extraordinary in this business—was justified. Tupper had done as well in 1897 as Borden said that he would reserve his criticism of the schedules until the bill went into committee. He had not done so in 1897, but he thought that Canada would receive any great benefit from the concessions she made.

E. D. Smith entered a protest on behalf of the Niagara grape growers. Mr. Smith thought the Canadian grape growers were being treated unfairly. He paid the piper for the tune the Canadian ministers learned in Paris.

Mr. Walsh, of St. Anne's, Montreal, supported the bill and would improve trade with France.

Dr. Paquet favored the treaty as a closer tie between Canada and France. W. F. Cockshutt said it was merely a waste of time to discuss the treaty, as Mr. Fielding had declared it unalterable. Ontario could go to the dogs so long as the provinces which supported the government were looked after. Canada had got a gold brick. She required trained diplomats if she was going to negotiate treaties. Mr. Paterson thought the treaty a good thing. In a short time, he believed, Canada would be shipping fruit.

Today's session of the house was almost entirely occupied by the discussion of the treaty. As a result it now stands for third reading. The schedules have yet to be taken up, but if the progress on them equals that made today they should be disposed of in short order. The chief complaint of the opposition today was that the treaty undermined the British preference.

Mr. Bryce, the British ambassador to the United States, occupied a seat on the floor of the house for a portion of the afternoon.

Mr. Foster was the chief critic of the treaty insofar as it affected the British preference.

Mr. Borden remarked that when the British preference was adopted some one suggested that the house should rise and sing "God Save the Queen," which was done. Mr. Borden inquired, now that the British preference was

Mr. Fielding contended that the goods which would come in under the new treaty would not affect the preference, as goods of the same class were not exported by Great Britain.

In reply to E. D. Smith, he said that he thought that the fears of Canadian grape growers as to the competition of light French wines would be found to be exaggerated.

The bill was finally reported on the understanding that further discussion would be allowed later on.

In the hour devoted to private bills

The Georgian Bay Canal bill was talked out, the fear being expressed that it was another Quebec bridge. Mr. Menzies said that the bridge was to be built it should be undertaken by the government and not by a private company. Mr. Fielding could give no assurance on this point.

Mr. Stinson, a newspaper reporter from Edmonton that he was the managing director of the Imperial Pulp company. He desired to say that he was not, nor an officer of the company. He was not even a shareholder, and had no interest in the company, direct or indirect. The denial was received with liberal

Mr. Graham stated that he had issued orders that all intercolonial employees might use their franchise in the New Brunswick provincial elections, but they must not take part actively in the campaign.

In the senate today Hon. MacKenzie Bowell came out flatfooted against any further concessions to the United States.

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## PROTECTION FOR BANKS

**Proposal to Have Law Passed in New York Legislature Against Circulating Damaging Reports**

New York, Feb. 21.—The New York Legislature is to be asked to pass a bill making it a misdemeanor to circulate reports attacking the solvency of any bank or trust company doing business in this state. The bill is now being prepared by the legislative committee of the New York State bankers' association. The decision to ask for the passing of such a measure was reached at a recent meeting of the association.

of the executive committee. The legislative committee was instructed to formulate a bill making it a misdemeanor for any person who shall unlawfully make, circulate or transmit to the public any statement affecting the solvency of any bank or trust company doing business in this state. At the same time it was resolved that the association, through its protective committee or some other committee, should make a statement to call the attention of the public generally to the unwarranted attacks recently made through the medium of the telephone and in other ways, upon the solvency