

given France under the agreements of 1933 and 1935, i.e. a concession in the form of a percentage discount from the rates of the Intermediate Tariff. In principle the French are prepared to substitute the conventionalization of tariff rates for this type of percentage reduction and agree with us on the desirability of replacing the present ad hoc agreements by a new and comprehensive one. Preliminary discussions to this end have been under way intermittently for some time with the commercial attache of the French Legation here. With Mr. Macdonald's transfer to our Legation in Paris it is thought that negotiations for a new French agreement could suitably be shifted there, where they could be carried on simultaneously with our trade discussions with other countries in Ottawa.

Belgium

Negotiations for a new Trade Agreement with Belgium were fairly well advanced last winter before the departure of our Trade Delegation to Washington. They have been suspended over the summer and the Belgian Minister is now pressing for their active resumption. A good many of the tariff concessions which might have been offered Belgium have, in fact, been included in Schedule I of the United States Agreement and will be extended to Belgium by the operation of the most-favoured-nation clause. There remain a number of rates of duty on products of which Belgium is an important supplier of Canadian requirements which might reasonably stand some reduction in

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