

FRENCH TREATY.

TUPPER, London, (and forward).

OTTAWA, 6th February, 1893.

No draft received; no steps shall be taken towards ratification until we cable approval. At present cannot understand what terms proposed either side.

THOMPSON.

TUPPER, London.

OTTAWA, 7th February, 1893.

Letters of 24th and 25th not yet received. Letters of 18th and 21st only and your telegram were before Council, when Sir John's telegram was sent instructing delay in ratification of treaty. Effect of changes in original draft not fully understood.

BOWELL.

BOWELL, Ottawa.

LONDON, 8th February, 1893.

Had left Paris for London before your message arrived. Treaty was signed at five on Monday in accordance with instructions from your Government. No change in original draft except to give minimum tariff on wood for pavement in addition to all the other articles enumerated. The proposals in letters exchanged by plenipotentiaries are not binding but optional.

TUPPER.

TUPPER, London.

OTTAWA, 10th February, 1893.

Cheese was included in proposition before us upon which telegram of twelfth January was based. Treaty being ratified by England for Canada alone. Would not France consider her a third power in case of preferential treatment?

BOWELL.

BOWELL, Ottawa.

LONDON, 11th February, 1893.

You will find by reference to French proposals, cheese was not included, but reserved for consideration French government as reduction duty on books was reserved for consideration Canadian Government. Treaty being made by England. The term 'third power' cannot include Great Britain or any British Colony or possession; this treaty, therefore, in no way interferes with preferential arrangements between Canada and Great Britain or any British Colony.

TUPPER.

BOWELL, Ottawa.

LONDON, 11th February, 1893.

Mailed to-day new law on French shipping bounties promulgated thirteenth January.

(Translation.)

FABRE.

Proposal of French Commissioners.

22nd November, 1892.

Canada undertakes: 1st to abolish the surtaxe of 30 per cent. on all non-sparkling wines of French origin gauging 15° alcohol and under.

It also undertakes to remove the surtaxe on all sparkling wines of French origin; It undertakes to reduce by one-third the duty levied on nuts, almonds, prunes and plums imported from France into Canada.

Moreover, the Canadian Plenipotentiary undertakes to recommend that his Government make the reduction of 5 per cent. on French books and printed matter. He undertakes to do the same as to the reduction of 50 per cent. in the duty now levied on common soaps.