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I understood there would be very great difficulty with regard to lobsters. It had been originally included in the United States arrangement and though pressed for very much had been ultimately left out.

The Commissioners were prepared to entertain lumber in the same way they had done with the United States.

Apples, green and dried, were also regarded favourably, but I found there would be difficulty with regard to clover seed, as it was an agricultural product, and any proposal to depart from the maximum tariff in respect to such products excited great opposition in the Chambers. Animals and other products are objected to on the same grounds, and the Government find it very difficult to carry any measure that interferes with the agricultural interests. I need only remind you of the position of the Franco-Swiss convention at the present moment as an instance of the pressure that is being brought to bear upon the Government by this interest.

The question of canned fruits I found would depend very much as to whether they were prepared with sugar, in which case it would be difficult to secure the minimum tariff for them.

I was informed that they would concede ships, and the same also applies to furniture quoted under Nos. 591 and 592 of the tariff. This comprises practically all plain furniture other than of bent wood.

It is understood that the list I have furnished is still open to revision; in the meantime they are looking into the matter, and I have promised to submit a complete list at our next meeting, which has been fixed for Tuesday next.

I should say that I stated to the French representatives, when the question of ships came up, that we did not attach the same importance to this as we did some years ago, the wooden shipbuilding industry in Canada for obvious reasons having shrunk to smaller dimensions.

I also drew their attention to the fact that the minimum tariff is so high that, even if it were conceded to us in regard to the articles I had mentioned, we could not in the circumstances expect a large expansion of trade, while on the other hand if we make a reduction in the duties on wines, it would undoubtedly extend the trade of France very considerably, and that this was a matter for which due allowance must be made. I have been waiting with some anxiety to hear from Mr. Foster, especially with regard to the list of articles I sent you in my letter of the 2nd instant, and upon which I desired to have the benefit of his opinion as to their relative importance for my guidance in the negotiations.

In order to save time I would be glad if Mr. Foster could let Mr. Colmer telegraph in cypher in reply to the points I have raised and if he would also kindly let me have as early as possible a full statement upon the subject.

I send by this post a copy of the French Yellow Book, which was issued a few days ago. Reference to the record of the negotiations between Mr. Whitelaw Reid and M. Ribot, the Foreign Minister, will show how important it was to France and her colonies to enjoy the exemption from the duties on sugar, molasses and hides, and how insignificant the consideration which the United States received for that remission.

I would like to know if there is any probability of Mr. Foster being able to come here, as otherwise I think it would be better for me to run over before the meeting on Tuesday next, and have an opportunity of discussing the subject fully with him.

I am, &c.,

CHARLES TUPPER.

PARIS, 15th November, 1892.

DEAR SIR JOHN ABBOTT,—Sir Joseph Crowe was good enough to call for me to-day at a quarter past three, and, after discussing the questions at issue we proceeded to the Foreign Office to meet MM. Hanotaux, Pallain and Roume.

I reminded those gentlemen that the statistics which I had already supplied to them showed that Canada not only took ten times as much of the products of France as France received from the Dominion, but that that condition of things existed under a French tariff which was much more favourable to Canada than that