

ies, except for postal service made by them. By laying aside this principle, they would be granting a favor to a private undertaking, to the detriment of rival undertakings, which would be contrary to the principle of fairness which the Government are bound to observe.

(Signed,)

"HARRISON."

Things were in this state when Sir Charles Tupper was appointed High Commissioner to London. If the rumor is to be credited, and the papers asked for will show whether it is to be credited or not, Sir Charles has attempted new negotiations. On the 5th of November, 1883, if I am well informed, he submitted a memorandum by which he proposed :

1. That France should grant to Canada the benefit of the tariff granted to the most favored nation, and should abolish the over tax on goods in bond imported from Canada into France by way of England or any of the sea ports of Europe.

2. That Canada should grant to France the privileges of the most favoured nation and abolish the duty of 30 per cent. which are now imposed on wines, while maintaining the specific duties now imposed.

Such would be the proposal made on the part of Canada. Lord Lyons, Ambassador in France, has, it seems, assented to it, and the Colonial Office, on his recommendation, and at the request of Sir Charles, has also, it seems, assented to it. I am even told that France is ready to sign a treaty to that effect, but I do not know how far the negotiations have gone. Let us now consider if it would be in our interest to have such a treaty, what it would bring us and what it would cost us. Every country in Europe, with the exception of Holland, Denmark and Greece, have a conventional tariff with France. The rest of the commercial world, including Canada and the United States, are subject to a general tariff in France. I may say in the first place that this conventional tariff, which constitutes the treatment of the most favored nation, applies to every thing which concerns transit, goods in bond, working, re-exportations, local duties, brokerage, Customs formalities, samples, manufacturing designs, in short, to any thing appertaining to the exercise of trade and industry. Here are a few of the items of this conventional tariff as compared with the general tariff :

	General Tariff.	Conventional Tariff.
Game, poultry and tortoise .....	20 fr. per 100 kilog.	5 francs.
Feathers for beds (down and others .....	20 " "	15 "
Brown, yellow and white beeswax .....	10 " "	exempt.
(crude) .....	10 " "	exempt.
Eggs (from wild and domestic .....	10 " "	exempt.
birds) .....	10 " "	exempt.
Condensed milk ..	8 & 15 "	exempt.
Soft cheese .....	6 " "	3 francs.
Hard " .....	8 " "	4 "
Fresh and melted butter .....	13 " "	exempt.
Salt butter .....	15 " "	2 francs.
Honey .....	10 " "	exempt.
Fresh fish from rivers and lakes .....	5 " "	exempt.
Stock fish .....	48 " "	10 francs.
Coal oil (special note page 24) .....	48 " "	10 "
Starch and fecula .....	6 " "	4 "
Pasteboard in sheets, moulded .....	11 " "	8 "
(papier maché) .....	11 " "	8 "
Hides, prepared, varnished and .....	74 " "	60 "
dressed in morocco .....	56 " "	45 "
Sheepskins, dyed .....	74 " "	60 "
Other dyed skins .....	50 " "	20 "
Other skins .....	2 fr. per paire.	1 fr. 60
Boots .....	1.25 "	1 fr. 63
Men's and women's booties .....	75 "	0 fr. 50
Shoes .....	62 per 100 kilog.	50 francs.
Stocks for hand-planes .....	200 per 100 kilog.	150 "
Articles of saddlery (other than .....	10 per piece	6 "
saddles) ..	12 "	8 "
Saddles for men .....	50 per 100 kilog.	40 "
Saddles for women .....	62 "	50 "
Articles for harness-making .....	200 "	160 "
Belting and leather hose .....	150 "	120 "
Soft Morocco leather .....	100 "	80 "
Hard " .....	6 "	5 "
Other " .....	15 "	13 50
Agricultural machinery .....	15 "	13 50
Iron tools lined with steel .....	15 "	13 50
Empty casks, new put up or not .....	15 "	13 50
put up .....	15 "	13 50

	General Tariff.	Conventional Tariff.
Empty casks, new, put up or not .....	15 per 100 kilog.	13 50 francs.
Empty casks, new, put up or not .....	2 "	exempt.
put up, iron hoops .....	2.50 "	1 franc.
Boards and mouldings, or pieces .....	2 "	1 fr. 50
for inlaid floors, planed, grooved .....	1 "	0.50
and (or) grooved and tongued ..	10 "	5 francs.
Oaken or hardwood ..	20 "	5 "
Fir or softwood ..	200 "	150 "
Basket-work, platted straw, or bark .....	190 "	100 "
or mat-weed, and platted bass- .....	37.50 "	30 "
wood, rough .....	75 fr. "	60 "
Basket-work, platted straw, or bark .....	150 " "	40 "
or mat-weed, and platted bass- .....		
wood, fine .....		
Rubber goods, woven elastics .....		
Rubber combs .....		
Common brushes set up on wood, .....		
furnished with vegetable fibre or .....		
whalebone .....		
Common brushes set up on wood, .....		
furnished with hair or bristles ..		
Horn, wooden and buffalo-hoof but- .....		
tons .....		

The conventional tariff contains also reductions of duties on a series of articles, iron, steel, woven goods, chemicals, &c., &c., which are only of secondary interest to us.

Several of the articles of that tariff are of material importance and may establish for us a very important and very remunerative trade. The table of Trade and Navigation for 1884 may give us valuable information on that point. Last year we have exported \$1,960,000 worth of eggs. This article would be exempt from duty in France. On poultry there would be a reduction of 75 per cent. of the duty and our exportations of that article have already reached nearly half a million. The exportations of our fisheries and their products, this inexhaustible resource, which is capable of such great developments, have amounted to \$8,609,341. What great proportions this trade would reach if we had France as an additional market. The prepared hides, boots and shoes, articles of saddlery and harness making, which are favored by that tariff, already represent a trade of one million; and so with the agricultural machinery and wooden articles, which represent another million in round numbers. Our cheese, which is exported to England, to the amount of \$9,777,675, is in great part re-sold in France and sold as English cheese by the English traders. To allow us to introduce it directly into France with a reduction of 5 per cent. duty, would be to open for us a very profitable market; and so with fresh butter, which would be exempt from duty; with salt butter, the duty on which would be reduced from 15 to 2 francs per hundred kilos, and which we are exporting at the rate of a million and a half yearly. Not only would our present industries be highly benefited, but new industries would be created. I may mention among others the prices for inlaid floors, planed, grooved, and grooved and tongued, which are of frequent use in France; pulp, under the various forms in which it is now prepared for wainscoting, paper, books, &c., and of which we can supply the whole world. We have the raw material in abundance; what we want is an outlet, a paying market for the sale of our products. In fact we may become the rivals of our neighbors, which come fourth in the order of nations trading with France. In 1882 they have exported to France goods to the amount of \$755,300,000, which are classed as follows:

Natural products or raw materials...	208,800,000 francs.
Articles of food .....	168,900,000 "
Manufactured goods .....	6,500,000 "
Goods not enumerated .....	8,100,000 "

#### IMPORTATIONS FROM FRANCE TO THE UNITED STATES.

Natural products or raw materials...	41,600,000 francs.
Articles of food .....	21,500,000 "
Manufactured goods .....	284,600,000 "
Goods not enumerated .....	17,300,000 "

On how many articles could we not compete with them? Take the coal oils among other things. In 1882, the United States exported to France the worth of 19,600,000 francs of