

to me possible that we might gain the different points I have named; for instance for petroleum, salt and preserved meats, and St. Pierre and Miquelon, but these conditions should not be obtained as a *sine quâ non*.

A good deal in this respect should depend on the ability and experience of the Canadian negotiator, and his watchfulness in looking after his own interests and happiness.

CERTIFIED COPY of a Report of a Committee of the Honorable the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General in Council on the 11th May, 1885.

On a report, dated 4th May, 1885, from the acting Minister of Finance, stating he has had under consideration a report dated 26th February, 1885, from Mr. Hector Fabre, agent of the Province of Quebec in France, on the subject of commercial relationship with France, the Minister observes that the subject is one of very great importance, and owing to the pressure of business at present cannot be given that attention which it deserves, and he recommends that the thanks of the Government should be conveyed to Mr. Fabre for his valuable report above referred to.

The Committee advise that Mr. Fabre be advised accordingly.

JOHN J. MCGEE, Clerk Privy Council.

To the Hon. the Secretary of State.

(Translation.)

DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE, OTTAWA, 18th May, 1885.

SIR,— I have the honor to inform you that His Excellency the Governor General in Council has taken into consideration your report of the 26th February last, respecting the commercial relations of Canada with France, and I am happy to be able to thank you, in the name of the Government, for having been able to draw up the said report in such a felicitous manner as to show clearly the great importance of the question which you have therein discussed.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. A. CHAPLEAU, Secretary of State.

To the Hon. HECTOR FABRE, Canadian Commissioner, Paris, France.

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT AGENCY, PARIS, 20th April, 1886.

SIR,— I had the honor of laying before you, in my report of the 26th February, 1885, the great advantages which would result to us from the making of a treaty respecting trade, with France, while pointing out to you the leading points towards which in my opinion negotiations should be directed.

In my last report of the 25th March last, I again called your attention to this subject, to which the early creation of a direct line of steamships imparts a downright occasion for haste.

Mr. Frequet and the capitalists who are interested in the formation of this line, could not fail to see the importance which a change in the Customs' Tariff now in force would have upon their project. They have in consequence commenced to negotiate with the French Government with the view of obtaining a subsidy equal to that given by Canada; and of ascertaining their intentions respecting the admission of Canada to the privileges enjoyed by the most favored nation. I necessarily held aloof from these negotiations; but I am going to give an account of the matter, and I hasten to make you acquainted with the results arrived at.

By means of a letter, a copy of which you will find annexed, Mr. Riotteau, ship-owner, Mayor of Granville, formerly a representative for La Manche, brought together Mr. Foursin and Mr. Faure representative of La Gironde, on the 1st April. Mr. Foursin having provided Mr. Faure with all the materials for studying the question, the latter immediately imparted his knowledge to Mr. De Freycinet, President of the Council and Minister of Foreign Affairs.