

MR. FOSTER : Belgium and Germany. The question was asked whether Spain had not the benefit of the most-favored-nation clause. My answer was that she had not at the present time, and the consequence was that her wines would have no right to come in under the most-favored-nation clause. The next branch of the subject was in regard to colonial wines, and I said we were not disposed to treat the colonies on any less favorable basis than is given by the treaty to French wines ; and I went further, and said, that by the Treaty we were not precluded from treating the wines of like standard, received either from the colonies or from Great Britain, on a less favorable basis than that we extend to the wines of France ; and, further, I stated that at present we were not disposed to make any discrimination against any country sending wines here.

The total amount of wine imported into Canada in the fiscal year ending June, 1893, was 495,239 gallons. The amount of wine of the class to be hereafter admitted at the reduced rate, was 244,689 gallons. As a matter of fact, no real wine is ever made with as high an alcoholic percentage as that named in the treaty clause quoted. Wines are brought up to that strength by the addition of alcohol. It will be readily seen that our whole wine importation may be of the class admitted at the low rate, and that the treaty practically abolishes all duty upon wine imported into Canada, except the specific duty of twenty-five cents per imperial gallon.

This treaty was ratified in the face of the strongest protests made by Canadian prohibitionists, who constitute certainly a large part of the electors of the Dominion. It means a provision for the flooding of our country with foreign wines at a time when public opinion is demanding more restriction instead of more extension of the dangerous liquor traffic. Objection to the treaty was made by temperance people on two grounds. (1) That the treaty would interfere with the coming into operation of prohibition. (2) That encouragement by legislation, of the importation of intoxicating liquor was unwise, immoral, and contrary to the wishes of the people.