

the North American Continent, while liquids from Britain, such as oils, etc., are sold by weight and not by the gallon.

It would appear that in any case such a change as is under consideration should be preceded by a thorough course of instruction in all schools throughout the Dominion.

Your Committee note that for years metric standards have been legalized in Great Britain and the United States, with which countries Canada does over ninety per cent. of her external trade, and it would therefore seem prudent, that we should wait until metric weights and measures are the common standard of domestic as well as foreign trade among the English speaking people, before taking any decided steps in the matter.

So far as wholesale import transactions are concerned, it is thought that little difficulty is found in transiating foreign moneys, weights and measures into existing Canadian standards, those requiring this knowledge being but a few hundred of persons; but for common every day buying, selling, making, measuring and weighing, millions will have to be educated before any benefit can be derived.

The most serious objection to the existing system is that it prevents the development of export trade to countries using metric weights and measures.

A copy of the foregoing report was forwarded to Sir Henri, in acknowledgement of which he replied as follows:

OTTAWA, November 11, 1899.

J. J. CASSIDY, Esq.,

Secretary Canadian Manufacturers' Association,
Toronto.

MY DEAR SIR:—I duly received your letter dated the 10th instant, enclosing the report of the sub-committee of the Executive Committee of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, to which was referred the question of the metric system of weights and measures, and I am very grateful for the trouble the association has taken to study the question so carefully.

I am pleased to find that your committee duly appreciates the superior convenience of a decimal system of weights and measures. Your committee alludes to the expense of changing the entire standard of weights and measures. There is no doubt that it will be considerable, especially for measures of bulk and capacity, for measuring liquids. As for solids, especially for grain, the habit is becoming more and more general of measuring by weight instead of bulk. As for measures of weight, for all beam scales, it will only require the effacing of the present figures and the substituting of new ones to meet the metric weights. It is well to remember that the difference in weight between a kilogram and two pounds is so slight that the old weights could be used with the addition of a lead plug and the stamping of the denomination by our inspectors; this might obviate the necessity of purchasing additional metric weights for such scales, which scales would not otherwise require to be remodelled.

But where your committee mistakes completely the intention of the Government is in thinking that it is intended to make the adoption of the metric system compulsory in advance of the steps to that effect which will likely be taken before long by England and the United States. Our present intention is to make the system widely understood by teaching it in our schools and by submitting its details to the business community, so that when it has become practically adopted in the two countries with which we deal most largely, England and the United States, we shall be prepared to welcome it instead of having to adopt it under compulsion. I have done my best to make this clearly understood, and I hope there may be no further doubt on the subject.

Believe me, yours very truly,

(Signed) H. G. JOLY DE LOTHIERE,
Minister of Inland Revenue.

BRITISH PREFERENTIAL TARIFF—1898.

The chief features of the tariff preference shown by Canada to Great Britain and certain British dependencies are: (1.) A completion of the pro-British tariff of 1897 providing that, beginning August 1, 1898, all imports from Great Britain shall come into Canada on paying a duty of customs twenty-five per cent. less than that levied on similar goods coming from other countries; (2.) A provision to aid the British West Indies by admitting their products at the full reduction of twenty-five per cent.; a similar provision for any other British colony or possession the customs tariff of which is, on the whole, as favorable to Canada as the British preferential tariff is to such colony or possession, provided, however (a) that manufactured articles admitted under such preferential tariff are bona fide manufactures of a country or countries entitled to the benefit of such tariff; (b) That such benefits shall not extend to the importation of articles into the production of which there has not been entered a substantial portion of the labor of such countries; (3.) A provision that the reduction is not to apply to wines, malt liquors, spirits, spirituous liquors, liquid medicines and articles containing alcohol, tobacco, cigars and cigarettes.

The following portions of the British Empire are now included in the British preferential arrangement: The United Kingdom, Bermuda, the British West Indies including Bahamas, Jamaica, Turk's Island, Carcos Island, Leeward Islands, Windward Islands, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, also British Guiana, also British India Ceylon, New South Wales and Straits Settlement.

NEW USE FOR DRIED APPLES IN FRANCE.

It is a curious fact that the consumption of wine in France is steadily diminishing. This results from a variety of causes, prominent among which is a general belief among the common people that the product of the vine is apt to be deleteriously adulterated. Whether this is true or not, it is a matter of such universal comment that they naturally make it an excuse for discarding wine and indulging in a beverage which they declare is too cheap for anybody to dream of adulterating. Their first resort was to the product of the apple and pear orchards of Normandy and Brittany. In 1895 the consumption of cider in Paris amounted to 10,000,000 gallons, but in consequence of the bad apple harvests of 1896 and 1897, this fell in 1898 to an utterly insignificant figure.

The importation of cider to meet the demand was impossible, because of the prohibitive duties of 8.50 francs per hectoliter, amounting with the octroi duty to about sixteen cents a gallon in Paris. Of course, no man could pay a tax of four cents a quart and furnish a drink cheap enough to meet the demand for cider, which could not be diluted to any extent with water and retain its peculiar "tang." It became necessary, therefore, to find a substitute.

With the English or American taste, this substitute would probably have been found in a sort of beer or some mere alcoholic product. But the Frenchman, if he is not addicted to absinth, usually cares little for the alcoholic character of his favorite tipple. What he wants is, not to become intoxicated, but to have a pleasant drink which he can sip by the hour in company with his friends at the buvette. Two things are essential—first, it must have a pleasant, fruity flavor (if a little piquant, so much the better); and, second, it must not make too heavy a drain upon his purse. The bourgeois rarely allows his palate to make him forget his pocket. Cheapness and briskness are essential elements of a popular drink for the French people.

Out of these conditions, aided by the genius of some unknown mixer of drinks in Paris, was evolved "piquette," a sparkling fruity beverage, composed of dried apples, raisins, and water, allowed to stand until fermentation takes place and then bottled, with the addition of a little sugar, or served directly from the cask. Two cents a glass is the ordinary charge at the buvette for this spicy, and, as a rule, harmless beverage.