

French Government for the settlement of a new treaty. The negotiations were successfully concluded, and the convention, when finally ratified, should place the commercial relations between the two countries upon a fairly satisfactory basis.

Under the new treaty all Canadian natural and manufactured products receive the benefit of the French minimum tariff for imports into France and her possessions; and the most favoured nation clause operates equally in favour of Canada as of France. Canada extends the benefit of her intermediate tariff of 1907—this being the first occasion for its application—to the French products that are entered in Schedule B, whilst a special tariff is granted for certain French products included in Schedule C and consisting of canned vegetables, sardines, etc., wines, books, medicinal and pharmaceutical preparations and lace and silk fabrics. Some of the special duties in Schedule C are of the same amount as those of the British preferential tariff. In three instances the rates are reduced below it to a substantial extent; but it is proposed that in future these reduced rates shall apply to like imports from all British countries. The products in Schedule C do not compete with British products to any extent; consequently the British preference is not materially affected. The conditions and stipulations of the treaty are reciprocal throughout. The convention, which terminates entirely the agreement of February 6, 1893, comes into force so soon as its provisions have been approved by the Parliament of Canada and the French Chambers and after the exchange of formal ratifications at Paris.¹ It will remain in force for ten years and thereafter, unless terminated after twelve months' notice from either party during or after that period.

The procedure adopted for the negotiation of the treaty illustrates the control which is now exercised over their own affairs by the self-governing dominions of the British Empire. The negotiations with the representatives of the Government of France were conducted, in co-operation with His Majesty's Ambassador in Paris, solely by Canadian Cabinet Ministers who were constituted as plenipotentiaries for the purposes of the treaty by Royal Commission dated August 8. Two other factors in its successful negotiation deserve mention: one the cordial understanding between Great Britain and France, so happily effected by the wise diplomacy of the rulers of both countries, and the other the racial bond which unites France with French Canadians.

During the summer the question of oriental immigration into British Columbia, which has for some time occupied public attention in the province, became acute through the continuous arrival of large numbers of oriental labourers, mostly Japanese, whose advent had an immediate effect upon the conditions of the labour

¹An Act of the Parliament of Canada approving this treaty was passed on April 3, 1908.