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NORTH DEVON
PHONE 502

TRADE TREATY WITH CZECHO-SLOVAKIA HAS BEEN NEGOTIATED AND APPROVED BY THE CABINET

Ottawa, Dec. 22—A commercial trade treaty between Canada and Czecho-Slovakia has been negotiated and approved by the cabinet, according to an announcement from the Department of Finance tonight.

The statement issued by the department points out that it is the first commercial agreement to be concluded since Canada obtained new treaty making powers at the recent Imperial Conference. Negotiations were conducted by James A. Russell, tariff commissioner, who is now in Europe. The department of finance states that:

Canada obtains the lowest rates of duty given any country by Czecho-Slovakia on a list of some 71 commodities which comprise all the important Canadian exports to that country. In return Canada grants Czecho-Slovakian goods the benefits of the Canadian intermediate tariff.

New Rate Begin Jan. 1.

The new rates will become effective on January 1 next. The agreement is of a temporary character, continuing for a period of 15 months, or until three months' notice or denunciation has been given by either party. It is stated that before the expiration of the agreement negotiations will be begun for a more general definite convention for the regulation of commercial relations between the two countries.

Canadian Goods Favored.

Canadian goods that are given most favored nation treatment on importation into Czecho-Slovakia are flour, wheat, peas, fresh and dried apples, all kinds of fish, including canned fish, lard, butter, honey, cheese, canned fruits and vegetables, condensed milk, agricultural implements and agricultural tools, rubber footwear, rubber tires, lead zinc, engines and motors, adding machines, automobiles and various other items.

The department's announcement states:

Flour Trade Preserved.

"The agreement preserves for Canada a trade in flour estimated by large Canadian milling companies as approaching a million and a half barrels of flour a year, worth in the neighborhood of \$10,000,000. Had the agreement not been concluded, a Czecho-Slovakian duty of 120 crowns (\$3.60) per 100 kilos (220 pounds) would have gone into effect on Jan. 1, as against a duty of only 70 crowns (\$2.10) on flour from countries having most-favored-nation treatment. The higher duty would have effectually killed the large flour trade Canada has built up in Czecho-Slovakia since the war. The agreement will also be of great value to the Canadian agricultural implement, automobile, fish and rubber goods industries.

Imports By Canada.

"Imports of Czecho-Slovakian goods into Canada last year were valued at \$1,272,045. They consist of a large number of items, mostly manufactured goods, no one of which in itself runs into a large amount. It is of interest to note that the intermediate tariff now granted to these goods is in many cases the same as the general tariff which heretofore applied and in many other items only about 2½ per cent. less. For instance, China tableware, which is one of the largest Czecho-Slovakian imports into Canada, pays a duty of 27½ per cent. under the intermediate tariff, exactly the same as under the general tariff. Likewise worsteds, another of the larger items of Czecho-Slovakian goods imported, pay 25 per cent. duty under both general and intermediate tariffs, while serges pay 25 per cent. under the general tariff and but 2½ per cent. less

under the intermediate. Many articles of glassware imported from Czecho-Slovakia also pay the same rate under both general and intermediate tariffs and others pay only 2½ per cent. less under the intermediate.

Deemed Favorable.

"The treaty is therefore considered to be a very favorable one from the Canadian point of view. In addition it protects Canada on all goods now free, but on which Czecho-Slovakia may later impose a duty, and insures that Canada will participate equally with other countries in import quotas imposed to restrict imports of certain goods. This latter is of special value to Canadian automobile manufacturers."

YULE LOG WAS BURNED IN OLD DAYS

One of the prettiest customs of yesteryear Christmas was the ceremony of Christmas Eve, when the Yule-log was burned, and which finds an echo frequently in the miniature festive log decorating the dinner table. In many instances in England the faggot was employed and the "Ashen faggot" became a regular institution. An excerpt from an ancient English letter presents in quaint phraseology the following picture:

"All the men servants came in on Christmas Eve and sat around the Ashen faggot, drinking the cider the master had put before them. The Ashen faggot was bound around with a number of bands of withes, and as each withe was burned asunder a new jug of cider was expected." The word clog was commonly used in speaking of a log or block of wood. The brands were originally saved, that they might serve to relight the Christmas fire the following year, and the custom gave birth to the couplet:

"With the last year's brand,
Light the new blocks."

The burning of the Yuletide log, it was claimed, would drive the evil one from the house until the following Christmas. While one tradition declares that the log should be placed in the centre of the hall, with each member of the family taking turns in sitting upon it, singing a carol and drinking a toast to a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, with the log burning throughout the Yuletide season, another legend claims that the fire should be extinguished at sunset of the day on which it was lit.

Yule, or Yuul, was the names given by the ancient Goths and Saxons to their great festival of the winter solstice. The burning of the log was an ancient Scandinavian Yuletide celebration, when huge bonfires were kindled at the festivals to the god of Thor. The charred ashes were supposed to have magic powers.

Out of the Woods.

A large force of men who have been working in the lumber woods of York and Sunbury have returned home for Christmas. The C. N. R. yesterday brought to the city a crew of sixty men who are employed at G. Howard Young's camp at Taxis River. Today a large number of men employed by the River Valley Lumber Company on the Oromocto, arrived in the city.

ROTHESAY BASKETEERS WON ON TOUR

Saint John, Dec. 23—The Rothesay Collegiate basketball team have returned from a tour of the western part of New Brunswick, where they engaged the McAdam High School quintette, the McAdam intermediates and the Woodstock High School teams, winning all three games.

McAdam High School was easy picking for the collegians who defeated them 63-6. McAdam intermediates proved more stubborn but were trounced 32-20. The final game was played in Woodstock with the Woodstock High School team and was one of the fastest games ever witnessed by the fans of Woodstock. Both teams battled until the final whistle with Rothesay winning 47-30. All three games were witnessed by large crowds. The following is the lineup of the Woodstock quintette: Shute and Ferris, forwards; Anderson, centre; McIntosh and Douglass, guards.

BEST PHOTO PLAYS.

The moving picture critic of the New York Sun says that in his opinion these are the best pictures of 1926.

- (1) Potemkin.
 - (2) Variety.
 - (3) The Strong Man.
 - (4) Faust
 - (5) Beau Geste.
 - (6) What Price Glory.
 - (7) Moana.
 - (8) The Grand Duchess and the Waiter.
 - (9) So This Is Paris.
 - (10) Upstage.
- Four additional pictures that should be singled out for special mention are:
- (11) Memory Lane.
 - (12) Sorrows of Satan.
 - (13) The Waltz Dream.
 - (14) Silence.

COPY EASTERN METHODS.

Cheyenne, Dec. 23—Wild and woolly East. A confession of mail train bandits says they took their cue from an eastern train robbery and arranged an inside job, instead of depending on nerve and six-shooters.

DRY SLEUTHS GET INTO REAL SOUP IN RAID

Sydney, Dec. 21—Their dearest enemies could hardly have wished to see Inspector W. J. Thebault and Officer Vincent Campbell more completely "in the soup" than they were last night.

Stout doors and elaborate fortifications are now in order of the day on Sydney "suspected premises," the idea being to allow sufficient time, while an officer is forcing entrance for those inside to destroy the hooch. Consequently strategy is now the essence of successful raiding here.

Thebault and Campbell were cruising up and down Victoria Road in a taxi, with its door ajar, waiting for someone to call at the restaurant of Louis Mirsky. At last a man halted before the dark house and knocked.

At the psychological moment, Thebault leaped from the briskly moving car, lost his footing on the ice, and slid straight for the entrance. He struck the caller just as the door was open, and his momentum carried the two of them and the man inside down a passage at the end of which they brought up with a bang that alarmed the occupants of the neighboring kitchen—which Thebault entered just in time to catch the cook with two bottles—poised ready to smash against the stove.

A quick movement by the sleuth deflected the descending "crooks" which fell into two huge pots of macaroni soup simmering on top of the stove. Inspector and cook made a simultaneous dive for the liquor and upset themselves and the soup all over the floor and Officer Campbell, who had just joined the melee.

Four citizens, sitting with their feet upon a table, were also precipitated into the greasy mess in which all hands wrestled and slid about the room for some minutes until the officers finally emerged triumphant, with the clothes practically ruined, but in their hands one bottle of whiskey and another of rum, upon which the usual charges have been based.

"There's one fella who can't sing at his work."

"How so?"

"He plays a piccolo."

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