

*Der britische Gesandte in Bern, F. O. Adams, an den
Vorsteher des Handels-und Landwirtschaftsdepartements, N. Droz*

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Berne, 21 juin 1883

J'ai transmis à Lord Granville des exemplaires du «Projet d'une loi fédérale concernant un nouveau Tarif des Péages Fédéraux (du 3 Nov./11 Déc. 1882)¹ et Arrêté du Conseil National du 23 Avril 1883»².

Sa Seigneurie vient de me faire parvenir la copie d'une lettre³ provenant de notre «Board of Trade», ainsi que d'un Tableau⁴ donnant les droits actuels et proposés sur plusieurs articles intéressant la Grande Bretagne.

Je me permets de vous communiquer copies de ces documents. Vous verrez que l'opinion de notre «Board of Trade» est que, après tout, les changements proposés feraient du tort à notre Commerce. Je sais très bien que ce tarif est encore en état de délibération, et d'après ce que vous m'avez dit la dernière fois que j'ai eu l'honneur de m'entretenir avec vous, il me semble que vous espérez que les vues protectionnistes de certains membres du Conseil National ne triompheront pas à la longue. Cependant, si vous avez quelques observations à faire sur les documents ci-inclus, je me ferai un plaisir de les transmettre à Lord Granville.

1. BBl 1882, 4, S. 355—376.

2. BBl 1883, 1, S. 431 (Beilage).

3. *Als Annex abgedruckt.*

4. *Nicht abgedruckt.*



512

22. JUNI 1883

ANNEX

*Der Chef der Abteilung Statistik des britischen Board of Trade, R. Giffen,
an den Unterstaatssekretär des Foreign Office, Ch. Dilke*

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London, may 18th 1883

I am directed by the Board of Trade to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, transmitting a draft of a proposed new Swiss Tariff, and requesting that Earl Granville may be furnished with any observations the Board of Trade have to make as to the effect of the proposed new duties on British trade.

In reply I am to request that you will inform Earl Granville that it appears to the Board of Trade that the effect of the proposed changes will on the whole be prejudicial to the interests of the British Trade. While certain reductions are proposed to be made in the Import duties on Chemical Products and Pig Iron, the rates of duty on cotton yarn and piece goods, which are the principal articles of British Export are to be considerably increased; the duties also on cuttery and fine iron are to be raised, though the increased rates will still be below those levied on the importation of similar articles, into such countries as France, Belgium or Germany, still the proposed change would be a distinct retrograde step on the part of a country that has hitherto been considered as upholding Free Trade principles.

This Departement would view with regret any increase in the Import duties of Switzerland not only as being prejudicial to British trade in themselves, but also especially as regards the tariff «B» as tending to lead to a further increase of duties and to complications and a war of tariffs with other countries.