

C 43502

The Reality of the British Preference

The Claim that the British Preference is Ineffective.

At various times throughout the thirty-three years since the British preference was inaugurated, the reality and effectiveness of that preference in assisting British exporters and Canadian importers and consumers has been called in question or even flatly denied. This criticism has at times been directed at the British preference as extended by the present Administration, and has been repeated during the budget debate of May 1930, for example by Mr. Fansher and Mr. Campbell on May 8. (See pp. 1985 and 2011 of unrevised Hansard).

The Statistical Basis of the Claim.

The chief basis of the contention that the British preference is something unreal and for practical purposes non-existent is the statistics showing the percentage of customs duties collected upon all dutiable imports and upon all imports, dutiable and free together, brought into Canada from the United Kingdom and from the United States respectively. Though our customs tariff shows lower rates of duties under the preferential tariff upon almost all imported commodities, yet the latest Annual Report on the Trade of Canada, that for

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