

first proposal made. There can be no mistake about it. (Honourable members: 'Who did?') Mr. Bennett and the whole of the other Dominions. . . I repeat that the first proposal made to us was that we, the British government, should agree to a tax on foodstuffs, and, in return for it, the Canadian Government were prepared to put on an additional tax of ten percent. on the duties then in operation on foreign goods. They did not say to us - let me make it quite clear - 'We will remove any tax at all where you compete with us.' On the contrary, let me say in fairness to them - I do not complain: I am only stating the facts - they said, 'No. So far as we are concerned we will give nobody a preference that is going to compete with the things that we ourselves can make.' That was made perfectly clear. In other words, they said, 'We want you to change your fiscal principles, but we will only change certain details of ours' . . .

Later in his speech (see page 1554), referring to his use of the word "humbug", Mr. Thomas said:

"Obviously, I never said, never intended to say, that of any individual. I said distinctly the proposals were humbug."

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

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