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Britain. On this straight issue a division took place. Our government accepted the amendment and all our friends supported it. The Conservative party opposed it.

Our attitude has always been that the reductions of duties on British goods under the Preferential Tariff were granted in the interests of our own people. We had no objection to the granting of a preference by Great Britain, if she desired to allow it. Those in Canada who advocated a mutual preference had in mind preferential treatment of foodstuffs, which are our chief articles of export. Our Government recognized from the beginning that a proposal to tax foodstuffs in England was not likely to be agreed to and that for us to press for such a tax would be a serious embarrassment to the public men of the Mother Country. We therefore refused to make reciprocal concessions a condition of our preference.

In later years the Conservative party practically accepted our position. They did not, during their term of office, introduce any change in relation to the British preference.

The test of the application of our Preferential Tariff has been the tariff conditions of the country under consideration. Our view has been that any British country having a low or moderate tariff should receive the preference. A case may be cited by way of illustration of this position. Our Preferential Tariff was established before the creation of the Australian Commonwealth.

W.L. Mackenzie King Papers
Memoranda & Notes

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