

even was being spoken of occasionally. He did not support that idea, but mentioned it to show the seriousness of the situation.

Representatives of New Waterford Board of Trade and Spring Hill also supported the statement made on behalf of the Maritimes.

Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King:

Mr. King pointed out, in reply, that the great barrier to the development of trade through our own ocean ports was the exorbitant scale of ocean freight rates prevailing at the present time and set out what the Government proposed to do to remedy the situation. He said that in modifying the effect of the British Preference it was necessary to keep the international phases of the question in mind and in the same way that in discriminating against American ports one should be very careful not to arouse international prejudices.

He pointed out that the adoption of a discount of 10% on the British Preference on goods imported directly by way of Canadian ports had had the effect of directing between 99 to 100% of British trade into Canada through Canadian ports.

Mr. King deprecated any talk of secession, and said that the Government would be pleased to receive in writing from the delegation any concrete proposals they might choose to make. Such would be given very earnest and sympathetic consideration by the Government.

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