

*Memorandum
1930*

D 17743

The Prime Minister's Offer.

(1) The Proposed Increases in the Tariff.

The offer was made ostensibly in the following words:-

"I offer to the Mother Country and to all the other parts of Empire (1) a preference in the Canadian market; (2) in exchange for a like preference in theirs (3) based upon the addition of a ten per centum increase in prevailing general tariffs or upon tariffs yet to be created. In the universal acceptance of this offer, and in like proposals and acceptances by all the other parts of Empire, we attain to the ideal of Empire preference."

(2) The Basis on which the Offer or Proposal is Made.

The paragraph immediately following amplifies and explains the offer. It is as follows:-

"I amplify and explain this offer in the following ways. In the first place, the rate I have mentioned cannot be uniformly applied. The basis of the proposal is the adequate protection to industries now existent or yet to be established. Because of this we must ensure a certain flexibility in the preferential tariff having regard to the fundamental need for stability in trade conditions: and must take account of such prevailing preferences as are now higher than the general one I suggested."

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

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