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Appendix C.

Australian Purchase Board Proposals

(London Times, August 15, 1923)

"A tariff policy for the encouragement of Empire agriculture may not be possible in this country, but there are other methods by which some security from the unfair competition of foreign countries can be obtained.

A policy far more attractive to the liberal-minded than any fiscal form of solution would be one based on the deliberate stabilization of the price of essential foodstuffs on a basis satisfactory to both consumer and producer.

Practical stabilization could be carried into effect by a comparatively simple system. It is generally realized that any scheme to make farming profitable entails some form of authority to regulate and, when necessary, to restrict foreign imports. It seems probably that the control of supplies from foreign countries could be managed in such a way as largely to eliminate fluctuation without having to apply any regulations to the produce of Britain or of the Dominions. Every effort should be made to induce the British farmer to cooperate and to produce and market on a sound economic basis, but it would not be necessary to interfere with his marketing.

The Dominion Governments would be asked to organize their export trade to Great Britain in foodstuffs and agricultural raw materials and to concentrate the whole volume in the hands of a single cooperative exporting agency which should handle the whole of each Dominion's exports to Britain. If possible the Dominion exporting agencies should be federated.

The operations of so great a federated organization would in itself considerably reduce the cost of placing foodstuffs, etc., on these markets. It would further control the sale of Dominion produce in Britain, employing the normal channels of trade & in so

W.L. Mackenzie King Papers
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