

for example telegram from Premier Armstrong urging pressure to secure preference on apples).

Did Mr. Baldwin pledge no preference on food?

3. It is not clear that Mr. Baldwin did definitely exclude these duties in the campaign. It is true that in his speech at Gravesend, on Oct. 23, 1924, he said:

"I pledge myself here as I have pledged myself before, that there will be no taxation of food if the Unionist party is returned to power,"

but in the same speech he added:

"I may say that the Conservative party is not going back on the pledges it gave in office to the Dominion representatives twelve months ago."

Before the campaign, in urging in Parliament, on June 18, 1924, the carrying out of all the 1923 preference promises, he declared:

"I may say this, with regard to the last of the resolutions, where small additional duties are proposed in exchange for the Preference which is given to us, I cannot think that any one in this House will strain at a peach and swallow a plum. If you look at the case of tinned salmon we have to remember that we have gained far more from the Preference which Canada has given us ~~than~~ she has gained from anything we have been able to give her. We have just removed from her a Preference under the McKenna duties, which she held to be of some value. Is it too much that we should make this gesture here at this moment, if it is only to say that we acknowledge with gratitude what you have done for us?"

The alternative proposed not promising.

4. The alternative proposed is a bird in the bush, and of very dubious worth when caught. The Marketing Committee may be able to make suggestions for the more economical and effective marketing of Empire products, but to give such products a preference over foreign products by some method other than tariff duties is not easy to do.

At the Imperial Economic Conference of 1923, this very question of alternatives to a tariff