

of lowest rates of Customs duty applicable to similar goods imported from any foreign country.¹

RHODÉSIE DU SUD / SOUTHERN RHODESIA

978.

*Le sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
au premier ministre de Rhodésie du Sud*

*Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia*

Ottawa, August 31, 1932

Dear Mr. Moffat,

I was very sorry not to be able to locate you at the train when you were leaving Ottawa. The crowd was so great I was unable to catch even a glimpse of you. I should have liked to wish you a pleasant voyage and safe return to Southern Rhodesia and also to have delivered to you a copy of the Trade Agreement signed that morning. I was shortly after called away by the death of a near relative in the United States, and have but now returned.

On reading over the Trade Agreement more leisurely I notice that, due to the rapidity with which it, in common with a number of the other Agreements, was drafted, the first page did not accurately set forth the understanding reached between Mr. Stevens, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, and yourself, since it did not make any provision for maintaining the tariff preferences at present accorded, and would, as it stood, have resulted in severely restricting, rather than extending, the tariff preferences between Canada and Southern Rhodesia. Accordingly, at Mr. Stevens' request, I have had the first page of the Trade Agreement rewritten in order to correct this omission. I trust it will meet with your entire approval.

I may add that Mr. Stevens stated that it was his understanding that the tariff concessions accorded to Southern Rhodesia under the Trade Agreement will be granted even though the goods are shipped through the Portuguese port of Beira. In order to arrange this it will be necessary, by an Order-in-Council of the Canadian Government, to somewhat extend the present customs interpretation of direct shipment, and may entail a change in the Act governing it. I may add, however, that the Department of National Revenue has already under consideration the terms of the Order-in-Council or any necessary legislation.

Sincerely yours,

O. D. SKELTON

¹La note de l'Afrique du Sud portait la date du 2 août 1935 et celle du Canada, du 31 août 1935.

¹The South African note was dated August 2, 1935, and the Canadian note was dated August 31, 1935.