

CANADA'S TARIFF ARRANGEMENTS.

(Hon. J. A. Robb)

The Canadian tariff system readily lends itself to the establishment of reciprocal tariff relationship between Canada and other countries. The Canadian tariff consists of three schedules of duties called general, British preferential and intermediate. The rates of the British preferential are usually one-third lower than those of the general. The intermediate tariff, as the name implies, is made up of a scale of duties midway between the other two schedules.

Canada, without further legislation, may apply her British preferential tariff to any British Dominion or colony not already enjoying its benefits, and likewise by means of an order in council, may extend her intermediate tariff in consideration of benefits regarded as satisfactory. Similar power exists in regard to the withdrawal of the intermediate tariff.

Preferential Tariffs

With the exception of Australia and Newfoundland, Canada has granted to nearly the whole Empire the benefits of her British preferential tariff. Negotiations are now in progress with a view to making a reciprocal tariff arrangement between Canada and Australia. Canada has, by trade arrangements with foreign countries, extended her intermediate tariff in part to France, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Japan. Seven other countries entitled to most favoured nation treatment by Canada, in consequence of treaties which they have with Britain, receive the benefit of these concessions.

Following is a summary of tariff privileges granted to Canada under Empire preferential tariffs or obtained by means of trade arrangements which Canada has entered into with British or foreign countries. The British preferences mentioned are applicable to other parts of the Empire as well as to Canada.