

Vancouver Province Jan. 3/25 055984

## BRITAIN PLANS TO LABEL IMPORTS

Premier King Tells Board of  
Trade He Expects British  
Assistance.

Preference By Way of  
Duties On Food Will  
Not Be Given.

May Use Sum to Encourage  
Consumption of Cana-  
dian Merchandise.

Marking Act Likely to Be  
Brought In By Baldwin  
Ministry.

Several weeks ago the council of the Board of Trade wrote Premier W. L. Mackenzie King, bringing to his attention the desirability of securing confirmation of the resolutions passed at the Imperial Conference of 1923, in regard to preference on canned salmon. A reply has been received from the Premier in which he reviews the situation, pointing out that while it will be impossible now to provide for the preference, as suggested by the 1923 Imperial Economic Conference, some other method of encouraging the import of salmon from Canada may be undertaken.

Speaking to the conference on November 7, 1923, the president of the British Board of Trade said that in 1921 406,000 cwts. of canned salmon were received by Great Britain from foreign countries and 170,000 cwts. came from Canada, adding that the development from this country could be largely assisted by the mother country.

**DUTY RECOMMENDED.**  
Under these circumstances the conference recommended a duty of 10s. per hundredweight upon canned salmon imported from foreign countries, and the admittance of canned salmon from Empire countries free of duty.

Premier King then points out why this was not done as follows:

"In the general election which followed in 1923, and which resulted in the defeat of the government of the day in Great Britain, much opposition was expressed to any increased taxation of food. During the general election of 1924, Mr. Baldwin specifically promised that if the Unionist party was returned to power there would be no taxation of food. The new British Government has evidently considered itself bound by this pledge not to impose any new taxes on food. It is, therefore, dropping such of the preference proposals as involved putting new taxes on foreign foods and admitting Empire products free, though it proposes to carry out that part of the preference programme which merely involved the granting of a preference on articles already liable to duty."

**MAY BECOME GOOD.**  
This policy means that the proposed preference on canned salmon will not be given. As an alternative, however, the British Government has proposed to ask a committee to enquire into the possibility of utilizing a substantial sum in other ways for the encouragement of the marketing of Empire produce in Great Britain.  
"This decision will undoubtedly be received with regret by Canadians, particularly those interested in the salmon canning industry. You will, however, I think, agree with me that while it is the duty of the Canadian Government to make clear what we consider would be in the interests of Canadian producers, as we have done, it is the right of the government and Parliament of Great Britain, as of every other part of the Empire, to make the ultimate decision as to the fiscal policy which they believe to be in the interests of the people they represent."

**MARKING IMPORTS PROBABLY.**  
"The question of marking merchandise to show the country of origin was also discussed at the Imperial Economic Conference. Sir Robert Saunders, speaking for the British Government, stated that the government was going to take up a merchandise marks bill which had been introduced by a private member, and, in deference to the wishes of the Dominions, it has been agreed that the words, 'Empire produce' and 'foreign produce' should be used in the bill, instead of 'imported produce,' in order to distinguish between articles coming from the Dominions and foreign countries, and, further, that it has also been decided to insert in the bill a general provision as to indication of origin applying to all the cases falling within the scope of the bill."

"The British Government was prevented by the coming on of the general election from proceeding with the bill, but we have no doubt that it will be taken up later. We shall, if need be, bring the matter to their attention."

106

MEIGHEN PAPERS, Series 3 (M.G. 26, I, Volume 98)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES  
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES  
CANADA