

### British Offer to Increase Preference

Dried Fruits to be Admitted Free From all Parts of Empire.

#### AT THE ECONOMIC CONFERENCE.

Preserved, and Canned Fruits to be Admitted on the Same Terms as Sugar—Preference Also on Tobacco.

LONDON, Oct. 16.—(Can. Press)—On behalf of the British Government, Sir Philip Lloyd-Greaves, President of the Board of Trade, made the Dominion delegates to the Economic Conference this afternoon a definite offer of an increased and stabilized preference in the British markets. The offer covers dried and preserved fruits, including canned fruits, also sugar and tobacco produced anywhere within the Empire. Its terms are:—  
Dried fruit, at present dried figs, raisins, plums, which include apricots, are dutiable at a rate of ten shillings and six pence per hundredweight. The British preference now given is one sixth. The British Government proposes under to-day's offer to admit these goods duty free when produced within the Empire. Under the present British customs tariff dried currants are dutiable at the rate of two shillings per hundred weight. Empire products getting a preference of one sixth. Now under the treaty with Greece the British Government is under certain obligations, but are prepared to offer free admission to Empire currants, and are also prepared to consider what increase in duty on foreign currants may be necessary to make the preference effective. At present there is no duty on any other dried fruit, but while continuing to admit such Empire dried fruit free, the British Government proposes to impose a duty of ten shillings per hundred weight on such foreign dried fruit as apples and peaches.

**Preserved Fruit.**  
Preserved fruit, except for the fruits named above which are dutiable as such when containing sugar, is proposed in addition to such duty on sugar content, to impose an all-round duty of five shillings per hundredweight on particular forms of preserved fruits not at present dutiable and to admit Empire fruit free. Preserved fruit will include canned fruit, which is of particular interest to Canada.

Sugar—at present sugar is dutiable according to a scale dependent upon polarization with a basis rate of 25 shillings, eight pence per hundred weight. The Empire preference is one sixth. While unable to offer an increase of its preference for sugar, the British government is prepared to meet sugar duties are now high, to guarantee that if duties are reduced, the preference shall not, over a period of ten years, fall with them.

**Tobacco.**—The British Government makes two alternative proposals. First it is willing to stabilize the existing tariff over a term of years as in the case of sugar, or it is prepared to increase the preference from one-sixth to one-fourth on unmanufactured tobacco.

South Africa, had also an offer to make. Hon. H. Burton, Minister of Finance for South Africa declared the Union Government was prepared to change their ad valorem to specific duties to help trade in Great Britain.

The conference reached the question of preference with dramatic suddenness to-day. Premier S. M. Bruce of the Australian commonwealth, presided the subject in a speech which he was to have made on the opening day, but as his arrival was delayed he was unable to be present. The conference turned to overseas settlement. This was referred to a special committee the conference subsequently taking up the definite discussion of preference.

The British offer was received by all Dominion representatives with words of appreciation. Among the Canadian delegation comment heard to-night is that while it is unlikely to get great material assistance to Canada it is welcomed for the spirit in which it is made. The inclusion of canned fruits, it is thought, is the most important feature of the offer as far as Canada is concerned.

**Canada Accepts Offer.**  
Hon. George F. Graham, speaking at the conference, stressed the point that Canada was not here to impose any special views on Great Britain. On the other hand Canada would gratefully accept Britain's offer. He observed that Canada differed from the other Dominions in that it was becoming an industrial country. Canada would welcome anything tending to increase inter-imperial trade. He was not at present prepared to say how far the British proposals would affect Canada but he would study them carefully.

Mr. Bruce declared that the proposals would to a certain extent revolutionize a scheme he had in mind. He urged that something should be done to assist the Australian wine trade which was suffering from foreign competition due to depreciated currency.

Premier W. F. Massey, of New

Zealand, said, his Dominion would benefit by the proposals.

Hon. H. Burton, in announcing South Africa's counter offer to replace ad valorem by specific duties, said Great Britain's offer would be deeply appreciated.

**India Stands to Gain Little.**

C. A. Ines, of the Indian delegation stood to gain very little by preference as her exports went to foreign countries, and her imports were from Britain. He could not commit the government of India to a policy of preference.

Demmond Fitzgerald of the Irish Free State said the Free State had adopted the British duties. He reserved his comments until later.

Col. W. G. Ormsby-Gore, Under-secretary for the Colonies, argued that under the proposals Mauritius and the West Indies would have new hope. He instanced the competition from which the West Indies are now suffering in the sugar trade by reason of the preference of 10 pounds per ton given by the United States on sugar from Porto Rico.

Meville Chamberlain, Chancellor of the Exchequer, observed that the proposals were the British contribution to the discussion. It was the duty of the Dominions, however, to criticize them frankly and make counter proposals if thought preferable.

"We do not want these proposals to be regarded as absolutely rigid," declared Mr. Chamberlain. He invited the Dominions to express their views freely and amplify their proposals in any way they wished.

**Premier Bruce's Proposals.**

In a long speech made previous to tonight, Premier Bruce submitted the following five proposals:

- 1.—British tariff on foodstuffs and raw materials with preference to the Dominions.
- 2.—A sliding scale for protection and preference bringing the tariff into operation only when the price of commodities has sunk so low as to be unremunerative to the agricultural producer.
- 3.—Subsidies where required to British agriculture to with some form of subsidies to the Dominion producer.
- 4.—An import license system to discriminate against foreign countries.
- 5.—The stabilization of prices of such essential commodities as meat and wheat.

In explaining the last proposals, Premier Bruce said he would leave the British farmer a free market for his produce as at present.

The produce of the Dominions also would be freely marketed so long as the quantity required from foreign sources was sufficiently large to allow control of its entire volume and thereby effectively stabilize the price of the commodity in question in the British market. The foreign supplies, however, would be controlled by a national purchase corporation for either meat or wheat. The corporation would buy from foreign countries the necessary difference between what the British and Dominion producers could supply and the total requirements of the country.

In view of the importance of the proposals and in order to permit the Dominion representatives to give them full consideration the conference adjourned the discussion on the preferential tariff sine die taking up tomorrow the question of granting a preference on public contracts, also the Dominions' contributions to the Imperial Institute.

During the discussion on overseas settlements Col. L. C. Amery, First Lord of the Admiralty, said that the Empire had seven million square miles of territory full of all kinds of resources, yet three-fourths of its population was huddled in one-tenth part of that area. The result did not make for efficiency in development. He indicated the great importance of the proper selection and direction of settlers. "We have got to make the people in this country understand," said Col. Amery, "that Empire settlement is only town planning on a larger scale, that it is only social reform written large." He intimated that it would later have to be pointed out to the Dominions the enormous burden the defence of the Empire was imposing on Great Britain. He argued that if the population were more evenly distributed the problem of defence could be met more effectively.

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### Changed Cents for Quarters

BANK TELLER BEFORE MONTREAL COURT CHARGED WITH THEFT OF \$4,000.

MONTREAL, Oct. 16.—Thousands of dollars were lost when copper one-cent coins were substituted for silver 25-cent pieces in paper rolls marked \$5 and \$10, according to the evidence heard here today in the case of Russell F. C. Burnett, former teller in the Peel Street branch of the Bank of Montreal, this city. Burnett, who is charged with theft of \$4,000 from the bank, with making false entries in the cash book and with uttering forged cheques, was committed for trial and will appear before the Court of King's Bench here during the November term.

Evidence showed that Burnett was arrested last June after an inspection of the Peel Street branch of the Bank of Montreal, held May 31, revealed that \$2,000 worth of 25-cent pieces in paper rolls had been replaced by one-cent copper coins. The money was left for some time in the value of the bank, and it is assumed that the process of substitution must have been carried out over a considerable period of time.

For the prosecution it was stated that four cheques were forged in the name of Milky Chorn, a client of the bank, now residing at Bridgport, Conn. The cheques were for a total of \$1,851.97. A further charge

### Chloroform in Surgery

The Horrors That Were Stopped by Its Use as an Anesthetic.

Sir James Simpson, who was connected with the medical department of Edinburgh university, is actually the discoverer of chloroform, was at one time the first to introduce its employment as an anesthetic in surgical practice. This was in 1846. Previously all operations were performed without anaesthetics, the patient being drugged with whisky and held down by strong men while the operation was performed. No medical discovery ever did more to alleviate human suffering.

Sir James is actually given credit for the actual discovery of chloroform but it is stated in some works that it was discovered some years previous to his first experiments by an American doctor named Guthrie and by a French physician named Souberian. In any case, it was Dr. Simpson who proved its great value as an anesthetic, and the room in which he made his first experiments still exists in Edinburgh. The story goes that he tried the chloroform on himself and two medical friends. They proved its efficacy by simultaneously falling beneath the table. Sir James had considerable prejudice to overcome before chloroform was adopted generally by the medical profession, it being denounced at one time as dangerous to health.

### Bogus American Degrees

EASILY SOLD IN ENGLAND.

LONDON, Oct. 14 (A.P.)—The Englishman's love of initials after his name has made this country a fertile field for bogus American colleges, which carry on a sort of correspondence course and supply degrees at five dollars each, according to Dr. George E. Maclean, former president of Iowa University, who has recently been warning gullible Britons against striving for sheepskins from unheard of institutions in the United States.

"I have had a steady stream of people coming into this office with the degree 'B.D. (Bachelor of Divinity)'" he said. "Until they interviewed me they had no idea that the money paid for their degrees had been obtained from them virtually by false pretences. I know an English clergyman who in two years got the degree of D.B. and D. Litt., simply by correspondence. There is one of these 'colleges' incorporated in Illinois, that has tricked hundreds of English students into parting with considerable sums of money for attractive looking diplomas which are entirely worthless from an educational point of view. The university exists only in name; I have never yet heard of anyone who took one of its correspondence courses and failed to get a degree. Clergymen who wake up late to the value of a University degree, are the most often gulled."

### Siberia Facing Famine

RUSSIA, Oct. 13 (Canadian Press)—A famine more terrible than those which raged in European Russia during the last few years is destined to sweep over northern Siberia before long, especially that district facing the Sea of Okhotsk and running west to the Lena River, according to traders who have just arrived here. Food, they say, is steadily becoming scarcer and those who are there are forced to live virtually entirely on fish. There is no flour and similar staples are being brought in from the outside. Early last July the Soviet agents made their methods of confiscation put an end to trading operations and stripped the country of all supplies, say the traders. They declare that the only company permitted to operate without interference is the Hudson Bay Company.

Long snag sleeves have faring turn-back cuffs.

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