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Extract from Memorandum by Mr. Fielding  
on Agenda of 1923 Economic Conference

The desire for uniformity of legislation in some of these matters is natural. I am inclined to think, however, that in but few cases will uniformity be found feasible. Each Dominion has its own particular conditions, which require to be dealt with, and the best interests of the Empire can be promoted by leaving each section of it free to do what its own conditions seem to call for.

The most prominent feature of the Agenda, I think, is that which is described as follows:-

"Trade Development. Questions relating to Imperial Preference will be included in the Agenda. In particular: (a) Government of the Commonwealth of Australia have expressed the intention of raising the question of tariff preference accorded by the United Kingdom."

On this question Canada's position has repeatedly been made clear, and I do not see any reason why it should be changed.

When our Preferential Tariff was first adopted (1897-8), the Conservative party in parliament opposed it and held that preferences should be mutual -- that Canada should not make any tariff concession to Great Britain without receiving a corresponding preference on Canadian products. At one stage, in order to have a clear expression of parliament, a resolution was moved in amendment to supply by Mr. Benjamin Russell (now Mr. Justice Russell) declaring the approval of the House of our preference to Great

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