

Memo. to Mr King.
Dec. 16. 1924.

(by O.D. SKELTON) E-1457
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BRITISH PREFERENCE PROPOSALS, December, 1924

New British
Preference
Policy.

The British Government proposes to carry
out its preference offer of October, 1923, so far as
regards giving or increasing preference on imports
already dutiable, that is,

Imperial Preference ✓
Imperial Relations ✓
Economic Committee ✓
Duties - McKenna ✓

Dried figs, raisins, currants, plums (duty on
Empire goods to be abolished).
Sugar (stabilization of duty on Empire goods at
½ penny a pound for ten years).
Wines (general reduction).
Tobacco (not certain - reduction of duty on
Empire imports from 5/6 to 3/4 of full duty).

It will drop that part of its 1923 proposals
which involved putting new duties on imports now
free, in order to grant the Dominions a reduction,
namely:

Dried apples, pears, peaches, etc. (10s. 6d. per
cwt. on foreign; Empire free).
Preserved fruits (5s. per cwt.; Empire free).
"Raw" apples (5 shillings per cwt.; Empire free).
Honey (10 shillings per cwt.; Empire free).
Fruit juices (6 pence gallon; Empire free).
Canned salmon, lobster, etc. (10 shillings cwt.;
Empire free).

Right to
decide its
fiscal
policy.

The British Government has evidently decided
to abandon ^{any} the big scheme of imperial preference.
It has taken the opposite line to that which Canada
took in the recent negotiations with Australia; it
is declining to ^{impose or} raise duties ^{in order} to give a preference.
It is of course perfectly right in deciding to adopt
whatever fiscal policy it considers meets the needs
of its own people, and Canada has always recognized
that right, and should admit it now.

But

At the same time there are other consid-
erations which seem to warrant attention in any
reply:

Hits Canada
particularly.

1. The duties which the Government is going
to drop are precisely those from which Canada would
have benefitted.

Canadian
protests
certain.

2. There is certain to be a loud howl from
Canadian apple-growers, salmon-packers, etc., (note

W.L. Mackenzie King Papers
Memoranda & Notes

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