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ECONOMIC UNITY, NOT MEANING IMPERIAL UNITY.

Sir Herbert Samuel, on November 27th, said not to think that those who oppose schemes of Imperial preference do so because they are opposed to the idea of Imperial unity and Imperial development. "It is not so. We do not question for a moment the sincerity and zeal, the patriotic motives which animate their efforts, but the means which may be adopted for a good end may be unsound. King George III was a great patriot, many saw in him the Bolingbroke patriot king. His American policy was dictated and pursued by him and his Ministers solely on the grounds of Imperial patriotism and unity, yet it resulted in the greatest blow the Empire has ever suffered. We believe that all these measures to form binding agreements between the various parts of the British Empire would not, in the long run, conduce to Imperial unity. Closer contact might mean greater friction."

(NOTE: Parallel regarding Canada and means to achieve that end)

"We say that none of the measures proposed will promote Imperial unity. As long as these preferences are unilateral, freely given by each Dominion without interference and in their own interests, they may be useful, but the moment you make them

W.L. Mackenzie King Papers
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