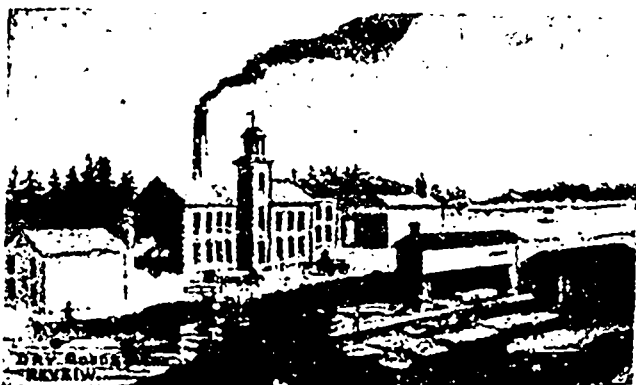




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THE PREFERENCE TO BRITAIN.

IMPORTANT AND SATISFACTORY STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT BY
THE GOVERNMENT.

ON Friday, Feb. 11, the Secretary of State, Hon. R. W. Scott, made an important statement in the Canadian Senate regarding the proposal to limit the preferential tariff to Great Britain and her colonies.

"On the first of August next," said Mr. Scott, in the course of a reference to preferential trade, "Great Britain will be the only country that will enjoy that preference in our markets."

Sir Mackenzie Bowell—"Not unless you change your law."

"Senator Scott—"We propose with the approval of Parliament to bring about that result."

Senator Macdonald—"Will the proposed change in the tariff block out the favored-nation clause with regard to China and Japan?"

Senator Scott—"Yes. The countries which come in under the favored-nation clause in the German and Belgian treaties secured the same advantages in our markets as we gave to the Mother Country. If we remove that privilege from Germany and Belgium by denouncing the treaties, then no other countries can come in except those that have rights by our own treaties under Act of Parliament."

Sir Mackenzie Bowell—"In making this change in the tariff you will apply preference to the British colonies as well as to Great Britain?"

Senator Scott—"It is intended that they shall come in as New South Wales (a free trade colony) does. That is my opinion. Of course, I cannot foreshadow what the change will be, but there will be an opening for the British colonies to come in certainly."

THE POSITION AFTER AUGUST 1.

Until August 1 next any favored treatment accorded Great Britain will have to be extended to Belgium and Germany, and a number of other countries with which Canadian trade is insignificant. On the 1st of August the year's notice necessary to abrogate the treaties between Great Britain and those countries will be completed. The Canadian Government at this session will recast the preferential trade resolution, so as to make it apply solely to Great Britain and the British colonies. This, there is no doubt whatever, Canada can do without being obliged to extend the favor to any other country. It is expected, therefore, that things will remain as they are until August 1, after which date Great Britain alone, and such colonies as give us equal tariff treatment, will enjoy preferential treatment to the extent of twenty-five per cent. of the present duties. The bulk of the purchases now being made by Canadian buyers, in Great Britain, for autumn trade will come in after August 1 under the reduced rates.

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