

Subject.....

Date *Feb 5/24*..... Publication *Toronto Eve Telegram*.....**TRADE WITH AUSTRALIA****CONFERENCE AT OTTAWA**

**Representatives From Commonwealth to Take Up Question With Members of Dominion Govt.**

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 5.—(Special).

—Prospects of a trade agreement between Canada and Australia are regarded as favorable as a result of negotiations which begin here to-day between Major Oakley, chairman of the Australian Tariff Board, with Senator Wilson representing the Australian Government and the Canadian Ministers of Finance and Trade and Commerce.

The Australian party arrived only at noon and it is not known what period the conferences will cover. It will be recalled that last winter Hon. J. A. Robb of the Canadian Government went to Australia, but negotiations for a reciprocal agreement were then abortive. This was attributed to two influences—the general elections pending in the Commonwealth and more particularly the opposition of British manufacturing interests who neither like Canadian competition in Australia nor Australian competition in Canada.

**EXCHANGE OF PREFERENCES.**

In the present case the Government here is offering a general exchange of preferences; that is to say Canada will extend to Australia completely its preference to Great Britain in exchange for Australia giving Canada her preference to the Mother Country. Heretofore the proposal did not go so far and what attitude the Commonwealth delegates will take it is too early to forecast. In any event they will have to communicate with their Government.

The Dominion imports a good deal of Australian wool directly or indirectly, as well as woollen manufactures. Last session an extra preference of three cents a pound was given to Australian raisins, but it is not yet in effect. There are various other natural and manufactured products of Australia, which, it is thought, would find a market here, while practically every Canadian commodity could be sold in Australia if a favorable fiscal arrangement were concluded. One result foreseen from such an agreement would be the development of trade through both Pacific and Atlantic ports.

In view of the rejection by Great Britain of the preference proposal, it is believed that chances of an inter-Dominion reciprocal agreement will be improved.

W.L. Mackenzie King Papers

Memoranda &amp; Notes

**PUBLIC ARCHIVES**  
**ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES**  
**CANADA**