

## THE ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF THE IMPERIAL CONFERENCE

A survey arising out of the discussions of the Montreal Branch of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs.

By C. H. HERBERT

\*\*

The field covered by this title is so large that any thorough investigation of it would run into volumes. In this memorandum, therefore, attention is limited to those facts which are the most outstanding and which have the greatest bearing on the general problem, with the consequence that a number of points that might in themselves be of considerable interest have of necessity had to be omitted.

The following outline will give an idea of the manner in which the memorandum is arranged.

- A. Effect on Canada's Trade.
  1. The trade agreements.
  2. The exchange problem. (The negative report of the monetary committee.)
- B. Effect on the Trade of the rest of the Empire.
  1. (a) Great Britain  
(b) The other Dominions.
  2. Is Empire trade as a whole increased?
- C. Effect on Negotiations with the "World Outside".
  1. Will the Conference produce a desire for reciprocal agreements by foreign countries?
  2. If so will these agreements be hindered by the Conference agreements?
  3. Will the Conference cause foreign countries to set up retaliatory tariffs?
  4. The effect on the U.S., both in relation to trade with Canada, and the World Economic Conference.
- D. Effect on World Trade.
  1. Is inter-Empire trade increased? If so, will it mean
    - (a) An increase of total world trade;
    - (b) A switch of "trade outside the Empire" to "trade within the Empire" (i.e. no change in the total volume of world trade, only redistribution);, or
    - (c) A net decrease in world trade?