

though small, is thus given to many groups of articles, and we can justly say that the measures actually adopted have established the principle to which expression was given at successive Imperial Conferences, namely, that where duties are imposed a reduction should be made for countries within the Empire, whether the articles affected are food, raw materials or manufactures. Naturally the articles affected have not been selected with a view to giving a preference. They were included in the British tariff in accordance with circumstances with which the British Parliament had to deal at the time. The imposition of the preference thus given is somewhat haphazard, from the Imperial viewpoint, and not in itself calculated to achieve the results which advocates of the principle have always kept in view. These preferences, however, are sufficient to show that in principle the United Kingdom is now at one with the other parts of the Empire in this regard.

The Imperial Conference of 1918⁶ made a number of recommendations, for consideration by the respective governments of the Empire, regarding the development of Empire resources in raw materials. Practical steps have been taken in the same direction, for example: by the Non-Ferrous Metals Act, in so far as it has been brought into successful operation; by the British West African Preferential Export Duty, by the Nigeria and Malay Preferential Export Duty, by the Export Duty on Dyestuffs Act of 1920 and as regards the use of national credit in developing Empire trade. Financial proposals were adopted in 1921 and 1922 to assist in the revival of trade, in which Empire countries should have a predominant share. The formation of the Overseas Settlement Committee (now the Empire Settlement Committee) in 1918