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allowing a preference off Customs Duties which were in existence, or put on for their own sake, or to meet the needs of the Government, but we were asked to subscribe to putting a duty on foodstuffs coming into this country, and especially wheat coming into this country, not because a Customs Duty was required, or there was any reason for a Customs duty in this country, but deliberately in order that we might allow a substantial preference off that Duty to Empire wheat. . . . That was a proposition to which, mind you, His Majesty's Government were invited to subscribe before it was examined in its details. . .

"The Ottawa Conference was a proposal of Mr. Bennett himself made at the very outset, and accepted at the very outset for the obvious reason that there was not adequate time to go into this question now. Mr. Bennett's statement, which appears in today's newspapers, (December 2nd), has been quoted, that during the whole period of the Conference neither the principle of tariff preferences, nor his plans to make them operative, was seriously discussed. . .

"Nothing was referred to any Committee during that Imperial Conference except by the unanimous

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

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