

C 68441

-8-

any tariff concessions by a Colony to a foreign country must be extended to Great Britain and the rest of the Empire.

In 1897, the tariff introduced by Mr. Fielding provided for preferential treatment of the products of the United Kingdom. There was much debate as to the effect of such provisions, but finally the law officers of the Crown in Great Britain gave a formal opinion that the effect of the treaties with Germany and Belgium was to grant to these countries the same preferences as those provided in the new Canadian tariff for the products of the United Kingdom. By reason of many treaties containing the "most favoured nation" clause, it followed that the preference thus granted to Germany and to Belgium must also be accorded to nearly every nation in the world.

At the Colonial Conference of 1897, the following resolution was passed:

"That the Premiers of the self-governing Colonies unanimously recommend the denunciation, at the earliest convenient time, of any treaties which now hamper the commercial relations between Great Britain and her Colonies."

The British Government accordingly gave notice to Germany and Belgium that the treaties would be denounced at the expiration of one year. The notice of denunciation declared that treaties containing such provisions were not in the interest of the

W.L. Mackenzie King Papers
Memoranda & Notes

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA