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constrained to state that none of them can be accepted by Great Britain as an alternative at all likely to achieve the purpose we have in mind."

"Until this principle is accepted it would be profitless to discuss the application of it in any great detail."

Then would follow the so-called "offer" to "Canada and to all the other parts of Empire" - "based upon a 10% reduction in prevailing general tariffs or upon tariffs yet to be created," and the Prime Minister of Britain's conception of the manner in which the principle may be employed, and the method of its application. Emphasis would be laid on the fact that the proposed was free trade, and that it followed that what was proposed could not be considered as a step towards Empire protection, that in the opinion of Great Britain Empire protection was neither desirable nor possible, for it would defeat the very purpose they were trying to achieve.

Mr. MacDonald would then have proceeded:-

"But whatever modifications may be found necessary, these will not adversely affect - nay, they cannot but make more beneficial and lasting - the broad principle of Empire free trade. . . . ."

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers  
Speeches-1922 - 1932

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