

Three provisions regarding reciprocity with foreign countries in certain specified articles were incorporated in the Canadian Tariff laws of 1879, 1885 and 1888 respectively. No arrangement such as proposed was entered into between the United States and Canada, and by the tariff of 1897, the provisions were repealed. This important step by the Dominion Government has been more than once emphasized by Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

For extracts from speeches of Sir Wilfred Laurier, see pamphlet issued by the Canadian National League—"Reciprocity with the United States" page 9.

BRITISH PREFERENCE

Preferential treatment was accorded by Canada to imports from the United Kingdom prior to 1847, but for the next half century no distinction was made in favor of British goods.

The tariff of 1897 authorized the extension by the Governor-in-Council of the so-called "reciprocal tariff" to imports from any country that should admit "the products of Canada on terms which, on the whole, are as favorable to Canada as the terms of the reciprocal tariff herein referred to are to the countries to which it may apply." The reduction authorized until June 30th, 1898, was one-eighth of the ordinary duty and thereafter one-fourth of the ordinary duty. Alcoholic liquors, sugar, tobacco, cigars, cigarettes and some other articles were excepted from these reductions.

The following year the preference was fixed at one-fourth of the ordinary duties, and the provisions were amended so as to confine the preference, on and after August 1st, 1898, to imports from the British Empire, and the following countries were enumerated:—The United Kingdom, the British West Indies, British Guiana, and "any other British Colony or possession, the customs tariff of which is, on the whole, as favorable to Canada as the British preferential tariff herein referred to is to such colony or possession." By Orders in Council the following additional British possessions were specifically included in the advantages of the preference: July 14th, 1895, British India, Ceylon and Straits Settlements; February 26th, 1904, New Zealand; July 1st, 1904, the South African Colonies.

By Act of July 7th, 1904, the preference was increased from one-fourth to one-third of the ordinary duties. A few exceptions were introduced in 1904, dating from June 8th, and the preference was increased on certain specified articles.