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HON. R. B. BENNETT

Leader of Conservative Opposition

RE: COUNTERVAILING DUTIES

1930

Mr. Bennett attacked the countervailing duties as  
"a policy made in Washington ....." He said:

"In 1911, the government of the day, led by Sir  
Wilfrid Laurier, tried to make with the United States a  
contract that might be terminated at any moment. This was  
the bargain known as the Reciprocity Agreement. It had much  
support in Western Canada because people did not realize at  
that time that the establishment of a channel of trade that  
might be disturbed by the Congress of the United States at  
any time without reference to this country, made us fiscally  
their dependents. Today, in 1930, the government is going  
back to the days of 1911 and providing that a tariff made  
in Washington shall automatically be the tariff that applies  
in Canada." (House of Commons Debates, 1930, Vol. 2, p. 1678-9)

Later during the same session:

"I am for the British Empire next to Canada, the  
only difference being that some gentlemen are for the United  
States before Canada. I am for the British Empire after  
Canada." (House of Commons Debates, 1930, Vol. 2, p. 1825.)

W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1933-1939  
(M.C. 26, J 4, volume 218, pages C148414-C149379)

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