

British Government's Understanding of the Proposals

That the proposals of Canada's Prime Minister were understood by the British Government in the way I have described them is abundantly clear from the statements made to the Parliament of Great Britain by the members of the British Government who attended the Conference. In the House of Lords on December 2nd, Lord Passfield, Secretary of State for the Colonies and former Secretary of State for the Dominions, gave an admirable summing up of all phases of the offer, and the explanation of the subsequent controversy. He said:

"The main proposal, which is summed up in the proposal that Mr. Bennett made, at what is called the second plenary session, was the principle of preference, which he then and there asked the Conference, including the United Kingdom representatives, to subscribe to in principle. It has always been treated as if it was a question of preference, but we quickly found it was not a question of preference as ordinarily understood. It was a question, not of this country or the Dominions

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA