

Call - British Preference

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The British Preference and Canadian Wheat.

Do Canadians wish to retain and broaden the British Preferential tariff?

This is one of the outstanding questions before the electorate in the present general election.

Where do the major parties stand on this question?

The Liberal party, under Laurier and Mackenzie King, inaugurated the preference and in the 1930 budget, greatly widened its application.

The Conservative party, past and present, has opposed, on principle, the present British preference and at no time has the Conservative party been more emphatic in that opposition than now. Further, the Conservative party, under the leadership of Hon. R.B. Bennett, has not stopped at blind opposition to the preference but has advanced a well defined policy which is to be substituted for it in the event of the Conservatives attaining power.

For this reason the electors of Canada should examine closely the policies of the rival parties so that when the election takes place they may express their views on this outstanding question.

What is the British Preference?

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Prior to 1897, Canada really had but one tariff -- the general tariff. Special tariff rates were extended to some countries by treaty, but the Tariff act contained but one schedule of rates. In 1897, a lower tariff was extended to Great Britain, and one year later, in 1898, a special British preferential tariff was enacted. This tariff was applied to British countries and in every case was 25 per cent lower than the general tariff. This is the British preferential tariff.

The History of the Preference.

What is the history of the preference?

The preference was inaugurated, maintained and widened by the Laurier government from 1898 to 1911. The Conservatives who followed did not extend its provisions. In fact the rates of duty were increased. <sup>(during war. post-war period)</sup> In recent years, under the administration of Mackenzie King, the preference has been consistently widened, culminating in the 1930 budget in which the rate of duty under the preference was reduced on 270 items, affecting \$200,000,000 of import trade previously drawn from non-British countries. This trade total does not include trade under some 50 items, such as natural gas, hay, live animals, eggs etc. which

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