

D 17738

willing to pay by giving in the British market a preference for Canadian goods. . . .

"And so, I propose that we of the British Empire, in our joint and several interests, do subscribe to the principle of Empire free trade, and that we take, without delay, the steps necessary to put it into effective operation.

"First we must approve or reject the principle. I put the question definitely to you, and definitely it should be answered. There is here no room for compromise, and there is no possibility of avoiding the issue. This is a time for plain speaking, and I speak plainly when I say the day is now at hand when the peoples of the Empire must decide, once<sup>and</sup> for all, whether our welfare lies in closer economic union, thus secured, or whether it does not. Delay is hazardous; further discussion of the principle is surely unnecessary. The time for action has come.

"Projects other than the one I propose have been placed before you. They have been carefully canvassed by our delegation, and, while we would avoid anything which might savour of premature condemnation, we are

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

PUBLIC ARCHIVES  
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES  
CANADA