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Setting Mr. Meighen Right

The MacDonald Government is not "thinking Imperially." The Mail and Empire says so, and the Conservative journal which thinks Imperially so much that it is unable to think nationally ought to be an authority on the subject. Mr. MacDonald's lack of vision, however, has not squelched the Imperial preference idea, for The Mail assures us that:

"Discouraging though this is to the advocates of an economic policy for the Empire, it will not cause them to desist from their efforts in that behalf. It will not make any of the Dominions or colonies less enthusiastic for British connection, and will not cause any of them to cancel preferences they have given to Britain herself."

This is interesting, particularly the assertion that the British action "will not cause any of them (the Dominions or colonies) to cancel preferences they have given to Britain herself." It was only a few weeks ago that Mr. Meighen was credited with a readiness to look at the British preference from a new angle, presumably the same angle from which protected interests have always regarded it. The British preference doesn't drive well in double harness with extreme protection, and there are quite a few Conservatives who are willing to restrain their enthusiasm for the Empire sufficiently to permit a few extra points of duty against British manufactured products. It was thought that this was Mr. Meighen's view. It certainly is the view of some of his strong journalistic supporters. Evidently The Mail thinks differently and is setting out to bring its leader back into the straight and narrow path of Imperialism.

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