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ourselves unduly about the prospect of any abandonment of Imperial Preference. If, however, the United States were in fact prepared to abandon its high tariffs, and replace them by low tariffs, we might consider the question of Imperial Preference also. He agreed that a sentimental value attached to Imperial Preference, but its economic value was, he thought, its most important aspect. If the United States were prepared to open their market to the British Commonwealth, his own feeling would be that at that stage there would be a case for considering the wisdom of maintaining Imperial Preference. After all we had been driven into Imperial Preference in self defence against the United States, and the Ottawa Preferences had been designed to offset the outrageous United States tariff rates. United States tariffs and Imperial Preferences were historically closely linked together.

Monetary Fund

As regards the monetary fund he was prepared to leave it to the experts. The matter was highly technical. If the scheme was proved to be good, he, and he thought also his country, would be prepared to accept it without hesitation. But would the scheme in fact be generally accepted? Many schemes looked well in theory, and to the experts might seem a way out. But the experience of a life time had made him cautious in these matters. He had seen the United States build up their great position on the opposite policy of a high tariff wall. In our day we had seen an extraordinary phenomenon in the way in which Russia had raised herself from the depths by methods which were politically a negation of the present scheme. Germany, which in 1924, had been down and out, had risen to an immense strength and authority by methods other than free trade. It was evident that Italy had used protective measures to build up her position effectively. Reduction of tariff barriers and the promotion of free trade was thus clearly not the only solution. Was this scheme going to be generally accepted? That was the question - that, and whether the United States would reduce their tariff wall, what Russia would do, what Germany and other great countries would do in the future. Those countries had rehabilitated themselves, and had built up great economic and industrial power, on an entirely different basis. He was prepared to wait and see if the world would go in for this more scientific and theoretical scheme. But unless the scheme