

C 65719

Fiscal Freedom

Statement by Sir Robert Borden, Savoy Hotel, London,
July 31, 1918, "London Times", Aug. 1.

Sir Robert Borden stated that it should be clearly understood that the question of preference had not been considered this year by either the Imperial war cabinet or the Imperial war conference. The recent announcement on the subject was made on behalf of the British government as a statement of the domestic policy of the United Kingdom. As Canada claimed and exercised the right absolutely to control her own fiscal policy, Sir Robert said, so the representatives of the Dominions necessarily refrained from attempting any interference in the fiscal policy of the United Kingdom.

Moreover, the people of Canada would not desire the people of the United Kingdom to shape or modify their fiscal policy solely to give a preference to the products of Canada, especially if such change should involve any supposed injustice, or should be regarded as unfair or oppressive by a considerable portion of the people of the United Kingdom.

(Sir Robert in Toronto, as reported by The Globe,
September 3, 1918)

"We hold ourselves free to work out the problem of preference according to Canadian needs and conditions. For the same reason Canada must avoid any attempt at interference with the domestic policy of Great Britain."

W.L. Mackenzie King Papers
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