

D 17752

In further explanation of what was meant, Mr.

Thomas gave the following:

"In exchange for ten per cent on foodstuffs, British soft coal, which is now taxed one shilling seven and a half pence per ton into Canada, would get a benefit of five cents per ton. Germany, the Argentine, the United States and the Netherlands all admit our coal free now. Railroad rails - and I am only choosing the big industries where there is unemployment - have a duty in Australia of two shilling four pence per cwt. The Netherlands and Argentine admit them free. The foreign rate is very much more, but let us see what that means. Suppose that a tariff rate is fixed that precludes the possibility of our competing, of what value is any preference? The whole thing becomes absurd. I could ~~show~~ go through a long list, cotton goods, woollen goods. I could show that sewing machines, not an unimportant manufacture in this country, have a preferential rate into Australia of 15% against us, while Germany only imposes only 9 against us. Cotton goods: 55% in Australia, Canada 15%, Germany 6, France 10, Netherlands and Argentine free. Cotton piece goods -

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

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