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At that time New South Wales was a low tariff country. Consequently, we granted our preference to New South Wales. Victoria, another large Australian state, was a high tariff country. For that reason we did not grant our preference to Victoria. When the Australian Commonwealth was created, a new tariff policy was adopted by it. It was higher than the tariff of New South Wales, possibly lower than the tariff of Victoria had been. But the tariff adopted was regarded by us as a high one, and therefore the benefits that had been granted by our tariff to New South Wales were cancelled. From that time to the present Australia has not been admitted to the benefits of the preference.

For a long time the Dominions received no preference in Great Britain. In recent years, a preference has been granted on a selected list of articles. We of course willingly accepted any preference so granted, but we have not hitherto demanded and I presume will not demand as a right a reciprocal preference.

W.L. Mackenzie King Papers
Memoranda & Notes

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