

Again, page 3806:-

"Now, I say you can give preference and at the same time be just to the Canadian worker. But I do not see any reason why we should continue to give preference to anybody unless we get preference in return. I do not know what we gain by it. I do not think we advance the day of getting preference in return when we give our preference without any result at all. We have now, for some twenty-five years, pursued a policy of giving preference for nothing, and we have done so at the expense of the Canadian worker in every province of Canada, and never have we done so as emphatically at the expense of the Canadian worker as we are doing right now under this government. This government has reduced British preference schedules; we are getting nothing or very little in return... We are giving preference: Great Britain is not as a general policy giving preference. The preference she may have established very lately is good, and I should give something for it, but it is small compared with the preferences we have given. Does the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) think that if the British markets are wholly free to all countries, Canada gets any advantage there? None whatever; but if they have a tariff and give a preference then we do get an advantage. My principle is, give advantage for advantage, but do not give it without."

Mr. Guthrie.

Next in the succession comes Hon. Hugh Guthrie, who for one year, 1927, acted as house leader of the Conservative party. Mr. Guthrie, unfortunately, did not discuss the preference in the debates of that session. He placed himself on record, however, in a speech which he delivered in Guelph, his home town, on May 1928. He was reported by the Canadian Press as follows:-

"There is no greater supporter of the British government than I am, but when it is a question of the wool employees of Bradford and those of Guelph, I am for the workers of Guelph every time."

The Conservatives held a national convention at Winnipeg in 1927. The convention adopted a platform which included this plank:-

"And this convention expresses the view that while strong effort should be directed towards the establishment of a system of preferential tariffs throughout the Empire, no preference should be given at the expense of the Canadian farmer or workman, and all such preferences should be conditional upon the use of Canadian ports."

Mr. Bennett.

Hon. R.B. Bennett was selected leader and in the first two years of his leadership the preference did not arise as a national issue. Mr. Bennett, however, took occasion to state his position clearly in a speech delivered at Campbellford, Ontario on June 26, 1928. He was reported by the Canadian Press as follows:-