

national penny postage; Imperial cable communication; and naturalization.<sup>1</sup>

Re-organiza-  
tion of the  
British Colo-  
nial office.

Agreeably with the undertaking which he gave to the Conference, the Secretary of State for the Colonies has effected a re-organization of the Colonial Office, including the constitution of a separate branch for dealing with the business of the self-governing colonies, and he has connected with this branch a permanent secretary who, with the necessary assistance, will be charged with the duties retrospective and prospective imposed or contemplated by the periodical Imperial Conferences. An outline of the new re-organization is given in a despatch from Lord Elgin to Lord Grey, dated September 21, and published in the Canada Gazette of November 16.

Customs  
Tariff of 1907.

The Customs Tariff of Canada which, with modifications introduced by subsequent legislation, has been in force since 1897, is by chapter 11 of the Statutes of 1907 replaced by a new tariff generally operative as from November 30, 1906. Although not altering to a very material degree the scale of duties hitherto imposed, the new act effects some important changes.

Classification  
of imports.

Consequent upon the expansion of Canadian trade since 1897, a more convenient classification of free and dutiable imports has been adopted whereby the imports in Schedule A of the act are arranged in 11 groups according to their nature instead of in 21 divisions as in the act of 1897. The list of free imports is printed in Schedule A in classified order instead of in a separate schedule as before.

Reciprocal  
tariff, 1897-  
1898.

By Section 17 of the Customs Tariff, 1897 (60-61 Vict. ch. 16), provision was made for a reciprocal tariff applicable to countries the customs tariffs of which admitted Canadian products on terms which on the whole were as favourable to Canada as the terms of the reciprocal tariff were to them. This reciprocal tariff, printed in Schedule D to the act of 1897, provided for a reduction of  $\frac{1}{3}$  on the duties payable under Schedule A (with certain exceptions) from April 23, 1897 to June 30, 1898, and for a reduction of  $\frac{1}{4}$  on such duties on and after July 1, 1898.

British  
preferential  
tariff.

By an act passed on June 13, 1898 (61 Vict. ch. 37), the reciprocal tariff was repealed and in lieu thereof was adopted the principle of a preferential tariff for imports into Canada from the United Kingdom (with certain exceptions), the amount of the preference being then fixed at  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the ordinary tariff which preference was raised to  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the ordinary tariff by an act of July 7, 1900 (63-64 Vict., ch. 15). The new act of 1907 alters this arrangement by placing a specific or an ad valorem duty under the British preferential tariff opposite to each article upon which duties are levied.

<sup>1</sup> A complete record of the proceedings of the Conference will be found in the English Parliamentary Papers, entitled: (1) Minutes of Proceedings of the Colonial Conference, 1907 [Cd. 3,523] and (2) Papers laid before the Colonial Conference, 1907 [Cd. 3,524]. See also Sessional Paper No. 58 of the Parliament of Canada, Session 1907-8.