

**British Preferential Tariff to Canadian and Empire Products.**—Soon after the inauguration of the British preferential tariff by Canada, there commenced a movement for specially favourable treatment by Great Britain to "Empire" products. The feeling that Great Britain should give special treatment to such products was in evidence at the Colonial Conference of 1902 and at the Imperial Conferences of 1907 and 1911, but the British Government of 1902 was not ready for the issue, while those of 1907 and 1911 had been elected on a free trade platform. With the Great War, however, there came a change. In 1915 Great Britain imposed customs duties (the so-called "McKenna" duties) on motor cars, motorcycles, musical instruments, watches and clocks, and parts for these articles, all subject to  $33\frac{1}{2}$  p.c. *ad valorem* general tariff and two-thirds of this amount (or  $22\frac{2}{3}$  p.c.) *ad valorem* British preferential tariff. Cinematograph films, which come under a specific rate of duty, were also affected, with a preferential rate of two-thirds of the general rate. These duties were allowed to expire on Aug. 2, 1924, but were restored on July 1, 1925. Preferential treatment has recently been extended to include Empire-grown raw tobacco and dried fruits.

## Section 2.—The Commercial Intelligence Service.

The Commercial Intelligence Service, maintained by the Department of Trade and Commerce, is designed to further the interests of Canadian trade in other parts of the Empire and in foreign countries. To this end there are established throughout the world offices administered by Trade Commissioners. These Trade Commissioners make periodical reports upon trade and financial conditions, variations in markets and the current demand or opportunities for Canadian products. They also secure and forward to the Department in Ottawa specific inquiries for Canadian goods and in general exert their best efforts for the development and expansion of overseas markets.

Also, in order to keep abreast of Canadian industrial development, each Canadian Trade Commissioner makes a periodic tour of Canada and while in this country gives first-hand information to the Canadian manufacturer regarding opportunities and conditions of trade in his territory.

At the beginning of 1930 Canadian Trade Commissioners were stationed in the United Kingdom at London (where there is also a special Fruit Trade Commissioner responsible for the United Kingdom and the Continent), Bristol, Liverpool and Glasgow; Dublin in the Irish Free State; Buenos Aires, Argentine Republic; Melbourne, Australia; Brussels, Belgium; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Port of Spain, Trinidad; Kingston, Jamaica; Shanghai, China; Havana, Cuba; Paris, France; Hamburg, Germany; Athens, Greece; Hongkong; Rotterdam, Holland; Calcutta, India; Milan, Italy; Kobe, Japan; Mexico City, Mexico; Batavia, Java; Auckland, New Zealand; Oslo, Norway; Panama City, Panama; Lima, Peru; Cape Town, South Africa; New York City and Chicago, U.S.A. Authority has been obtained for the opening of an additional office at San Francisco in the United States. In addition to the foregoing Canadian Trade Commissioners there is also a Commercial Secretary attached to the Canadian Legation at Tokio, Japan, and a commercial agent at Sydney, Australia. Under an arrangement made by the Minister of Trade and Commerce with the British Foreign Office, Canadian manufacturers, exporters and others interested in trade matters may secure information and advice from British commercial diplomatic officers and British consuls in all countries in which Canada is not represented by her own Commercial Intelligence Service.