

E Learning Study Material
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PAPER SIX

IMPERIAL PREFERENCE POLICY ~~AFTER~~
IN 20TH CENTURY IN ENGLAND

The idea of Imperial Preference was associated with Joseph Chamberlain who resigned from the government of Arthur Balfour in September 1903 in order to be free to campaign for Tariff Reform. Among those ~~opposing~~ opposing Chamberlain was the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Charles Thomson Ritchie who guided by the Free Trade Ideas of the leading economists of that time such as Sir William Ashley was vigorously opposed to the policy of Imperial Preference.

During the 1920s Imperial Preference became popular once again mostly through the goodwill of Lord Beaverbrook and his Daily Express, once Lloyd George was ejected from office. Unfortunately for Beaverbrook Bonar Law

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preferred Lord Derby and his fear of opposition to a policy of extra-mural Food Tax and Beaverbrook was unable to adapt his scheme perhaps because of the economics.

For that time there could be no advantage to the dominions unless Empire food was admitted to Britain free - and Britain imported more than half of her consumption of food.

Law died in office before of his first year in power was completed and was succeeded by Stanley Baldwin who was a tepid supporter of the scheme. He called the 1923 elections specifically to ~~introduce~~ introduce protection policies and lost leading to the first minority Labour government, Baldwin's Conservatives came back to power after the 1924 elections without a protectionist policy. His Colonial and Dominion ~~Secretary~~ Secretary, Leo Amery was one of its strongest supporters and in 1926 established the Empire Marketing Board to encourage Britons to buy Empire.