

A SPLENDID SPEECH BY CANADA'S FINANCE MINISTER, MR. FIELDING

Review of Liberal Government's Record Contrasted With That of Conservatives.

HARD FACTS DRIVEN HOME

Startling Figures Presented to Give Idea of What Really Has Been Done.

The address of Hon. W. S. Fielding at Massey Hall, in Toronto, was one of the most convincing campaigns ever known that have been heard in Toronto in many a day. He began by dispersing the Opposition illusion that the Conservatives would gain a victory. "I can't imagine," he said, "when I recall the splendid spirit which I have found among the Liberals of Ontario, what in the world has got into the heads of our Tory friends when they say that they are going to sweep the country."

He declared that "twelve years of the best government that Canada has ever enjoyed" should be a sufficient answer to Conservative blarney. Mr. Fielding did not waste much time on the scandal-mongering campaign of his opponents, for one reason, as he explained, that those opponents apparently wished him to do so. "In a game of politics," he said, "a noble game, so long as it is honorably played, there is a rule well laid down for one's guidance: 'Find out what your opponents want you to do—and don't do it.' They want us to occupy our time with the petty discussions which take their own attention. They do not wish us to draw the attention of the public to our splendid record."

Conservatives Laid No Charge. Mr. Fielding was far from saying that a charge of graft was necessary to be considered petty, but with an expenditure of one hundred million dollars, it was necessary to employ an army of people, differing of course in capability, zeal, and honesty. He would not say, therefore, that there might not be room for criticism of details, but he continued, "whenever you hear the song that Ministers at Ottawa are corrupt, remember this vitally important fact, that down to this moment no charge of corruption has been laid against any member of the Laurier Administration."

No man in the Opposition ranks had had the courage to make charges on the floor of the House, and demand an investigation. He would not say, however, that a number of officials, mostly Tory appointees, if there had been merely mistakes, they would have been shown; if willful corruption, the officials would go.

Total Per Year. 1878-1886 \$6,000,000 \$12,000,000. 1887-1895 11,000,000 \$4,000,000. These were the startling figures presented by Mr. Fielding when his discussion turned upon the commercial progress of the Dominion. The Conservatives used to boast, he pointed out, that in eighteen years of administration they had increased the wealth of Canada by sixty-six and one-half million dollars. Perhaps, after all, the achievement was a creditable one, but Canada by \$45,000,000 since taking office twelve years ago. If he did this, the Conservatives would have to say, "Well, you are all right; you have done as well as we did. What was the fact? The increase in trade has been not forty-five but four hundred and eleven millions."

"Admitted Protection." The leader of the Opposition had asked for "adequate protection." Mr. Fielding did not know what that meant, he did not think his audience did; he was sure Mr. Borden didn't. He was tempted, however, to quote the retort of Hon. Mr. Patterson to a man who had contended that it was still the N.W. that was making Canadians rich. "Then," said Mr. Patterson, "the Liberal Government apparently understands in better and more intelligent account" (laughter). "The Conservatives may have invented the machine, but they have never been able to make it go" (triumphant cheers).

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's work as the great unifier, the great reconciler, was touched on also by Mr. Fielding. "It is one of the greatest achievements of our great leader," he said, "no nobler task could be undertaken by a public man, and no task could be more nobly carried out." "And I, too, have a desire to be a conciliator in this sense, and to put down sectional jealousies. This is the aim of the Liberal tariff, and that I wish to see my time as our beloved leader has devoted his to the nobler work of conciliating nationalities and creeds." "Canada is to-day, and will remain for many years, an agricultural country. In time the great manufactures may rise in the West, and the day will come when the great west of the continent will control the destinies of Canada. It is wise to antagonize the farmer of the West against the manufacturer of the East? It is probable, unless caution be used, it is probable, unless caution be observed."

Tariff Commission. When the tariff was revised two years ago men from all over Canada in every occupation were consulted on tariff improvement. A better understanding among the different classes was a necessary process, a better understanding among the different classes. We had been inclined to take the opposite view-point to every delegate. He had said to the farmer: "You must consider the rights of the manufacturer who may be injured by the tariff." "You must consider the interests of the Western farmer, who thinks that the taxes are pressing upon him." So in such work as that much good would result to both sides, and also to the Government. The Conservatives themselves had received benefit from it; he thought, for when our tariff scheme was brought down it was passed without a division. Speaking of the British preference, Mr. Fielding said that the Conservatives had been asking about it for years, but had done nothing. "They were in favor of mutual preference with only one side of it, our side. The other end rests with the Mother Country. The Laurier Government has taken the step that resulted in the establishment of the mutual preference, so far as it could be done by Canada."

One great nation of the earth made the mistake of thinking that she could subjugate Canada, but when the German surtax was imposed, Canada was becoming a nation, and could take care of herself. (Prolonged applause.) Mr. Fielding's remarks in the Anti-Dumping regulations of the Government, aimed at the protection of Canadian industries against United States

POINTS FROM MR. FIELDING'S SPEECH.

"Remember this vitally important fact, that down to this moment no charge of corruption has been laid against any member of the Laurier Administration." "There may be a certain amount of patronage, but I do not subscribe to the doctrine that 'the victors belong the spoils.' The public service of this country is not a part of the spoils given over from one party to the other. So long as a man is faithful, I do not mean politically faithful, but so long as he is loyal to his duty and does it faithfully, he is a free man under the Liberal Government." "The miser is not an economist."

slaughter prices, were also given warm approval. Surplus and Deficits. Average yearly Conservative deficit, \$45,000,000. Average yearly Liberal surplus, \$9,500,000. "A strong, wholesome, sound commercial policy," said Mr. Fielding, "was accompanied by a sound policy of finance." He proceeded to prove it. Mr. Foster had cried out in 1896 that the country would go to the "demolition how-wows." Never a year that Mr. Foster was in Parliament, and when he was out of it there was usually something to take up the cry, that he did not yell "Wolf, wolf!" in connection with the Liberal finances. Then, as the end of the year, the Liberals would show a surplus. The Conservative deficit had averaged \$45,000,000 per year in the twelve years preceding 1896. Since then the Liberals had averaged, not a deficit, but a surplus, of \$3,000,000 per year. Of course, if this surplus was the result of increased taxation it had no right to exist. But taxation had been lowered. The Government fixed the rate, not the amount, the latter depending on consumption. As a matter of fact, the Customs taxation per \$100 worth of goods imported in 1896 comports as follows with the same taxation now:

1896... \$12.00. 1908... \$5.00. Decrease... \$7.00. If the Conservative rate of taxation had been continued, the people of Canada would have paid \$4,000,000 more than they did pay. \$1,500,000. With these figures, the Hon. Mr. Fielding disposed of the public debt charges. A young country like Canada, he contended, must be expected to add to its public debt, and with the wonderful progress made, it would not have been a matter for wonder if the old rate of increase had been kept up. However, had been even greater than that seem on the face of it, for the debt is a burden only in proportion to the number of shoulders which have to bear the burden. For eighteen years the Conservatives brought in immigrants at the rate of 50,000 people per year; for twelve years the Liberals had brought them in at the rate of 100,000 per year. As a result, the debt in 1896 of a little over \$50 per head

had been reduced to \$40 and a fraction per head to-day. "Misers Versus Economists." "They say we spend more money. They spent money when they didn't have it to spend; we spent money when we didn't have it to spend. The miser is not an economist. Economy means the application of money to some good purpose for the development of this great country." "If we have given you a \$100,000,000 budget, we have given you a \$100,000,000 country." "Mr. Foster is trying to persuade you to return to the conditions of 1854, when you did not pay so much into the treasury because you did not have so much to pay it with." "The time is coming when the miser west of the Great Lakes will control the destinies of Canada." "The best kind of trade is that in which both parties get a square deal."

"I shall venture to say a few words about the Crow's Nest Pass Railway," said Mr. Fielding, "amidst some amusement. I am not concerned in the attack on the Toronto Globe; it has shown that it can take care of itself. But I am concerned if two millions of dollars were taken unjustifiably. I am concerned if certain men, members of the Liberal party, got possession of coal lands and made themselves millionaires. I am also concerned with the position of the Opposition on this question. They talk of the chloroformed Sir Charles Tupper. Who chloroformed Mr. Tupper? Who chloroformed Mr. Borden? He was in the House at the time of the so-called 'deal' and never opened his mouth till twelve years after it was all over. He says that the facts were all known. If he knew them and was silent, is he the kind of man you want to make a President of this country? (Cheers and laughter.)" "I took two sides to make a deal. If two millions were stolen, who got the money? It was to the C. P. R. that was a large body of people scattered all over Canada, but particularly a small group of men in Toronto and Montreal. And one of the nearest and perhaps dearest to the audience was

Mr. E. B. Osler. He did not want to say that Mr. Osler was a boodler or a thief, but Mr. Borden said that this was between Mr. Osler and his colleague, and the magnificent opportunity for the public. "Ladies and gentlemen, we have here, secured at an enormous expense, the greatest picture in the world, which will now show to you, clearly, behold the original checks signed by the Roman hand-writing of the Finance Minister, Clerk! Here! Here! Here! The man who carried off the swag!" (Uproarious laughter and applause.) "Mr. Fielding's speech, one of the great political speeches ever heard in Toronto, was greeted with a perfect shower of applause when the Finance Minister resumed his seat, and for several minutes the cheering went on uninterrupted."

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HON. W. S. FIELDING, Canada's Minister of Finance.

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What the Name of Laurier Stands For Material Progress, Canadian Unity, and a Sane Imperialism.

What the name of Laurier stands for is clearly and briefly stated in the following extracts from speeches delivered by the Premier during the present campaign:

UNITY OF LOCAL AND IMPERIAL PATRIOTISM. Our policy is Imperial unity based on local autonomy. As past the point where we have relieved the motherland of the necessity of expenditure for the maintenance of garrisons at Halifax and Misquimut, as another part we have established the British Empire. While we are for Canadians first, last, and all the time, we are part and parcel of the British Empire. The supreme inspiration is to have a bond of union between the motherland and the daughter nation. This is the policy which I commend to you, my fellow-countrymen.

THE PROPER TEST OF ECONOMY. What is, after all, the criterion by which to ascertain whether, in private or in public life, there had been extravagant expenditure? There is one easy criterion. If a man has a certain income and spends within that income he cannot be called extravagant. But if he spends beyond his income, then he becomes extravagant.

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ONE PERIOD CLOSED FOR EVER. For a great many years, we could not keep our own population, and our young men went by the hundreds, by the thousands, by the millions, even to the United States, to favor with their labor and their brains a land no more favored by nature than their own. But, thank heaven, those days have passed away. That era has been closed, and closed by whom? Closed by the Liberal Government.

VICTORY ASSURED. Unless I am greatly mistaken—and I am not mistaken—the verdict pronounced by the Canadian people on Oct. 26th will be the same as it was four years ago, eight years ago, and twelve years ago. Why should it be otherwise? Why should the people of Canada have lost the confidence they placed in us in 1896, in 1900, and in 1904?

HAS PUT LABOR ON A NEW PLANE. We have done for labor what has never been done by any other Government in the world. The laboring man to-day is no longer the semi-slave he was formerly. He is a fellow-citizen now in every particular. He has rights which must be protected, and which are protected by the present Government. There are no more sweating shops in Canada where a man has to work sixteen hours a day for a thankless master, and we have brought in the law of conciliation by which disputes between employer and employee can be determined without recourse to the extreme and dire remedy of a strike.

WHAT THE PREFERENCE HAS ACCOMPLISHED. The British preference has done three things: First, of all that has given, especially to the farmer, a substantial measure of relief from taxation. Next it has opened the British markets to our productions. You will say the British market was open to us before, and it is true; but there is such a thing as a tariff even in trade, and when the British public saw the attitude of the Canadian people they opened the door wider. There was another thing. It is an inspiration, an example for the whole British world. It has become part and parcel of the British Empire of which we are a part. It has been accepted in New Zealand, by Australia, and even by South Africa. It has been accepted by the Transvaal, which only seven years ago was at war with the British army. Today the Conservative party dare not give us battle upon this point, for the preference has gone around the world with the British flag.

NOT AFRAID TO FACE DIFFICULTIES. The Liberals are not afraid to meet difficulties and to solve them whenever they occur. In the last twelve years we have had difficulties more than once to solve, and we have solved them to the satisfaction of every one. I do not pretend that I am infallible. Far from it, but there is one thing which my opponents cannot take away from me. I have never lacked the courage to face a difficulty when a difficulty was placed before me.

THE TARIFF HAS BEEN REFORMED. Our policy was a tariff based upon revenue, and when we came into office we put these principles into effect. It was hard to find a measure of relief that would give substantial benefit and not hurt the manufacturer, because, in this question we are bound to look on all classes. We know that there were industries in the country that have been built up on a high tariff, and it was difficult to bring down a reform without doing injury to the industries which had been carried on under the old system, but I think we can claim that we found a means of giving the country the tariff that the country demanded.

THE MAN AND HIS WORK. "If my eyes close upon a Canada more united than I found it, I shall die in peace."—Sir Wilfrid Laurier at Strathroy. HIS GREATEST WORK. It is only twenty years since I assumed the leadership of the Liberal party, or, to put it more exactly, it is now twenty years since the too great partiality of my friends in the House of Commons put upon my shoulders the responsibility of leading the Liberal party. When my friends made me their leader, I swore to myself that I would give to the task the whole of my life, my soul, and my body, and that I have done. My days cannot be very long now. But whether they are long or short, I shall ever treasure as the most holy thing in my life the confidence which has been placed in me by men who were not of my own kith and kin. I have endeavored to maintain the principle of liberal party that is broad enough, that Liberal principles are large enough, to give an equal share of justice and liberality to all men, no matter what may be their race or religion. This is the feeling that has animated me, and this is the feeling which shall animate me to the end. If I am to be remembered after I have gone to my grave, I would rather it should be because my name has been attached to the great work of advancing the unification of the races forming the Canadian nation. When my life comes to the end, if my eyes close upon a Canada more united than I found it twenty years ago, when I assumed the leadership of the Liberal party, I shall not have lived in vain, and I shall die in peace.

STAGNATION THEN? PROGRESS NOW. What was the condition of Canada when the present Government assumed office? Trade was stagnant, manufacturing especially was stagnant; something had to be done, and we undertook to do it. We thought that the policy of policies which would be essential to the progress of the Canadian people was the policy of transportation. We built the Crow's Nest Pass Railway, which brought all the wealth of minerals, especially in coal, in southern British Columbia, to the doors of the people of the western Provinces, and we have brought the Intercolonial Railway to Montreal. By building the Grand Trunk Pacific we are rolling the map of Canada over one hundred miles to the northward. We have deepened canals. We have improved harbors. We have lighted the St. Lawrence, and the result of it has been that to-day we have not only cheapened the cost of transportation to the people of Canada, but we have so cheapened it that we are getting the carrying of American goods. We have made Canada the third commercial nation in the world. I think I can claim that when the pages of history are unfolded to the eyes of future generations it will be regarded that, though the generations which have passed laid the foundations, the supreme honor of crowning the edifice was reserved to the Administration which you placed in power in 1896, the mandate of which you renewed in 1900 and in 1904, and which, I believe, you will again renew.

THE LAND FOR THE SETTLER. There has not been given away by the Liberal Government one single acre of land which was fit for settlement but in the course of a few years we have been able to plant in the three North-Western Provinces one million people.