

SPEECH OF

HON. W. S. FIELDING

**M.P. FOR SHELburnE AND QUEEN'S
AND MINISTER OF FINANCE**

At a Banquet given in his honor in

TORONTO, JULY 11th, 1904.

On Monday evening, July 11th, 1904, a banquet was given by the Liberals of Toronto and vicinity to Hon. W. S. Fielding, Minister of Finance in the Government of the Dominion. The banquet took place in the great dining-room of the new King Edward Hotel, and proved one of the most successful affairs of the kind ever held in Toronto. Upwards of three hundred guests were present, including representatives of every interest in the Queen City,—bankers, merchants, representatives of labour, professional men, &c. Two of Mr. Fielding's colleagues in the Dominion Government, Sir William Mulock, Postmaster General, and Hon. William Paterson, Minister of Customs, were among the speakers of the evening. The Premier of Ontario, Hon. George W. Ross, who was absent from Canada through illness, wrote a very cordial letter of approval of the banquet, which was read by the Secretary. The members of the Ontario Government and a number of members of the Dominion and Provincial Parliaments were among those present. The chair was occupied by Mr. James McLaughlin, President of the political club which bears Mr. Fielding's name, "The Fielding Liberal Club of South Toronto." After the usual loyal toasts, the toast of the guest of the evening was proposed by Mr. W. J. Clark, Secretary of the Club.

When Mr. Fielding rose to respond, the banqueters, who had drunk the toast amid much applause, followed by the singing of "He's a Daisy," greeted him with another outburst of cheering, and it was several minutes before he was able to proceed.

Mr. Fielding said: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Clark, and gentlemen, I beg you to accept the very warmest expression of my thanks for the very great honor that is being done me to-night by the Liberals of the City of Toronto, and, as I am advised, by many others from this great province. I know the time is not the most favorable one in the season for an event of this character. I would not be surprised if most of you desired, I think you should desire, in-