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FORMER COLLEAGUE SHOWS SIR WILFRID'S POLICY VINDICATED

Men Who Voted Against Reciprocity in 1911 Are Today Saying It Is What the Country Wants.

HON. MR. FIELDING DOES NOT WANT TO SEE ELECTION YET

[Special to The Advertiser by Canadian Press.]

OTTAWA, March 14.—Hon. W. S. Fielding, member of the "Cabinet of All the Talents," formed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier in 1896, finance minister in the Government of the latter for fifteen years, elected by acclamation as a supporter of conscription, but on a straight Liberal nomination in the campaign of 1917, came back today among his old friends to vindicate the economic policy of his old leader, and to counsel the men who followed him to look toward an ultimately united party.

For almost two and a half hours the veteran talked, and it was a straight Liberal speech, which brought applause from Liberals on both sides of the chamber. At the conclusion the applause blended, and filled the whole of the House. For the Bordenites the speech could have no comfort; but in the breast of any man in the House imbued with Liberal principles it struck a responsive chord.

Mr. Fielding had moved down to the front benches of the Opposition, and it was Ernest Lapointe who assisted him in assembling his notes.

A Liberal Field Day.

Before him spoke Lieut.-Col. Peck, V.C., D.S.O., M.C., and Mr. P. J. Sweeney, a burly and thick-set, jovial, but soldierly, a Liberal, and a free trader, though a Unionist follower, who complimented the leader of the Opposition, D. D. McKenzie, because his name was associated with a noble tariff which he had worn on the battlefield, and who spoke with feeling of the high character, the noble aspirations that the lofty ideals of the late Sir Wilfrid Laurier. After Mr. Fielding spoke, Duncan Ross of West Middlesex, Opposition Liberal, who champions the farmer's cause, and declared his adherence to the platform of the farmers of Western Ontario. In fact, it was pretty well a Liberal day.

The speech of the soldier was a soldierly speech, not lacking in dry humor. He took advantage of his privilege in Parliament, though still a soldier on leave, to defend the commander of the Canadian corps and the men of the Canadian corps, and on this he joined sharp issue with Gen. Sir Sam Hughes, which resulted in a spirited passage-at-arms with the latter.

Borden's Trip Overseas.
Mr. Fielding opened with an effective attack upon the journey overseas of the premier and his colleagues, and before he had finished with that topic Canada's hat the great Canadian peace conference looked like a very empty thing, indeed.

"By passing some petty resolution in Paris," he declared, "and by getting some empty recognition on one committee or another, people have actually got the idea that we are adding a cubit to our stature. We are not."
The working body at the peace conference, he said, was the council of ten, on which Canada had no representation. Then there was the committee of 25, on which Canada also had no representation, but which in any case never had met. Canadians had, however, been put on some unimportant committees, and the premier had intended going to Frinkip.

"If the prime minister still hankers to foregather with the Bolsheviks," said Mr. Fielding, "I would say to him: 'In the name of the Parliament of Canada, don't have any truck or trade with the Bolsheviks.'"

Touches Tariff Topic.
The last time Mr. Fielding spoke on

the tariff in this House was in 1911, when he was defending reciprocity. On that policy his leader had gone to the people, and on that policy he had gone down to defeat. On that occasion, Mr. Fielding said, the manufacturers had shown, not an intelligent selfishness, but a clumsy selfishness for which they were likely to suffer.

"Our western friends," he declared, "have had the benefit of sin of not adequately appreciating the tariff reforms secured from the Laurier Government. The member for Macdonald runs his hopes on Union Government. May I be pardoned if I said to myself, 'I have not seen so great faith, no not in Israel.'"

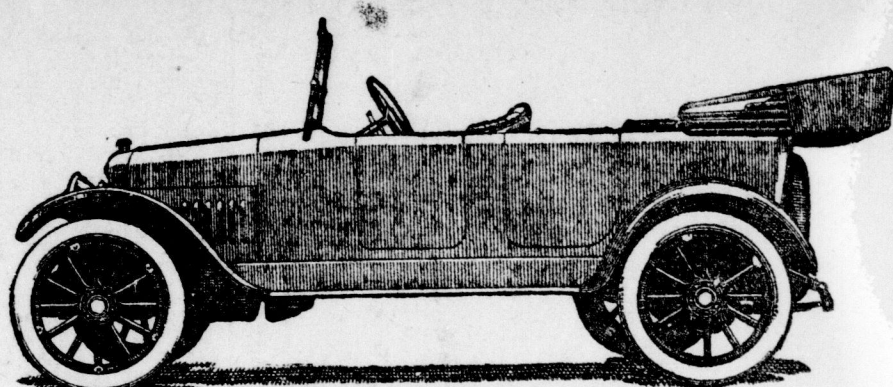
He pointed out that during the Liberal regime a hundred millions of dollars had been saved to the people in the customs by the reforms enacted. This, he said, must be multiplied by three, because the home manufacturers tucked on two dollars for every dollar of protection. This was not insignificant.

Laurier Vindicated.
The Laurier Government gave up its political life to give a measure of tariff reform. They devised the reciprocity agreement. Sir, I have some reason for regret that today men who voted against it are now saying that it is what the country wants. I regret, too, that the great Canadian who was with me at that time, is not here today to see the vindication of his policy.

Mr. Fielding stated that for the greater part of the farmers' program, for the general trend toward lower tariff and reciprocity, "I want to stand in the future, and help my farmer friends to get it."

To a tariff commission he was opposed.
The ex-minister described the manner in which he had come to the House, namely, through nomination by a straight Liberal convention, and by acclamation after two men nominated by the Conservatives had withdrawn. He had had a heart-to-heart talk with the Conservatives, and had told them that he differed with his leader on conscription, and would give independent support to Union (though its formation had been too long delayed), on matters of war.

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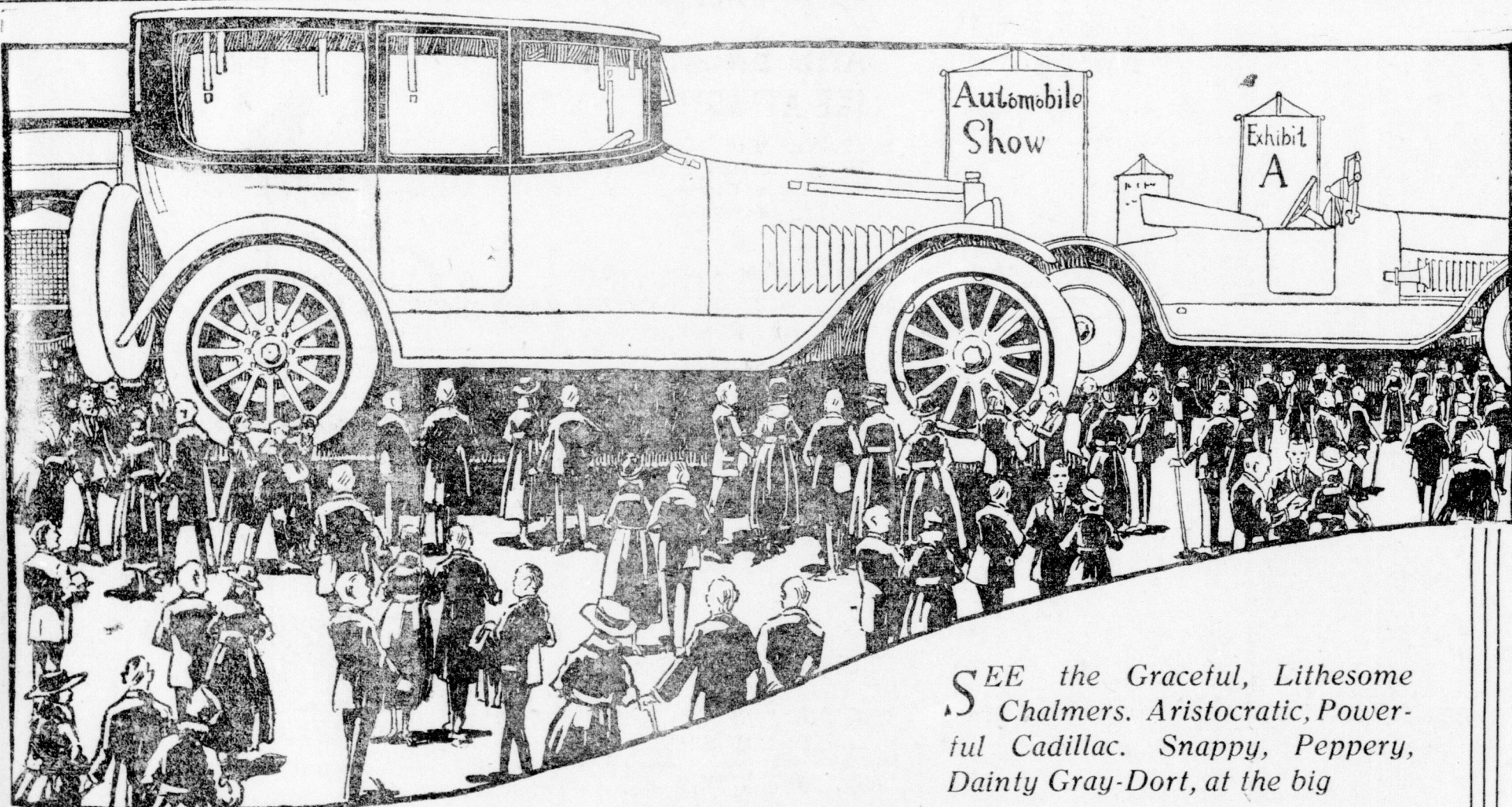
The touring car is \$1245; the Gray-Dort Special—the car with added refinements and extra equipment, is \$135 extra; there are also a coupe and a sedan. All prices are f.o.b. Chatham and are subject to change without notice.

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he said, "I think the time has not yet come for a change in Government. I propose today to give independent support to the Government for such time as I conscientiously can; however long that may be I cannot tell. On the various questions that come up I hold myself free to vote as I feel, but unless a new situation arises no vote I will give will be to the Government. If any amendment is moved to this address I will vote against it, for the Government is entitled to its address."

He declared that a general election was not now wanted, and that more over the Liberal party was not yet sufficiently united to insure success at the present time. "I could not be brought about by either section of the Liberal party throwing rocks at the other, or by one section considering that it had a monopoly upon the ark of the covenant of Liberalism. Those who had voted conscientiously against conscription were as loyal as the others, who on the other hand had no apology for their attitude."

He opposed federal initiative on prohibition, delivered a slashing attack on the war time election act, which, he said, should be at once repealed, and concluded by an appeal for a free Parliament.

Hint for Mr. Carvell.

Mr. Fielding began the business portion of his speech by remarking that the overshadowing question, now that the war was over, was the tremendous burdens and how they were to be met. That they must be met intelligently and courageously all were agreed. He noted that there was little reference to these burdens and to the policies of the Government, except in the speech of the minister of public works, and one thing that struck him was that Mr. Carvell had put forward the view that the public works would be undertaken not so much for the good of the community as with regard to unemployment. He said these two things should go hand in hand. There was no need to emerge in a country like Canada in Continued on Page Twelve.

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