

## HITS CONSUMER

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suits at \$60; ladies' bonnets and hats at \$12; men's hats at \$5; men's shirts at \$2 and a long list of other articles, whose specified prices (under luxury standards) has not been seen since before the war. In fact there is scarcely an article of apparel which will not be backed up 10 per cent in price by the new budget proposals.

Not satisfied with that, Sir Henry's proposals of the country shall pay toward the defraying of the debt which his predecessor has piled up. Sporting goods of all kinds, from billiard tables to base balls, which cost in excess of 50 cents, must pay to the treasury 10 per cent of the actual cost. The person who plays solitaire or other games of chance must pay an extra 25 cents for his pack of cards. The person who loves music is to be mulcted 20 per cent of the cost of his player-piano, his gramophone, and the records therefor.

**Tax on Glass of Beer.**  
And last, but not least, the man who when his day's work is done desires a glass of beer must in the future pay 30 cents per gallon more than he paid in the past, while on stronger liquors there is an extra tax of \$2.00 a gallon. This, of course, does not affect the ultimate consumer comes in once again for trouble. There is a new "sales" tax of 1 per cent. Under this interesting impost the manufacturer adds 1 per cent to the cost of his goods to the wholesaler. The

## HON. W. S. FIELDING

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money from its regular channels by offering high interests. It was offering 7 per cent in New York for railway funds. The government should gradually get its money into shape where Canada could float her loans through regular channels, so that home capital could be left intact to care for home financial needs.

The man in the street did not understand the present time methods of taking in millions and billions. These terms came as a knock-out blow to him. Mr. Fielding argued that the opportunity to understand the country was really facing them, and that every man would have to do his share to meet the future. Mr. Fielding was still speaking when the House rose at 6 o'clock for dinner.

**Shared Optimism.**  
Resuming the debate at 8 o'clock, Mr. Fielding said the future of Canada expressed by the minister of finance. "I think the Canadians are about the sanest people on earth," he said. Mr. Fielding gave statistics on Canada's indebtedness in 1914 as compared with the fiscal year just closed. The national expenditure in 1914 was \$241.1 per head, and \$75.01 per head in 1920.

1914 Canada, with a population of 7,725,000, had a gross debt of \$34,391,358.6; in 1920, when government officials—and he hoped they were correct—estimated the population at 9,000,000, the gross debt was \$30,443,771.12. This worked out at \$3.39 per head before the war, and \$3.39 per head before the war, and \$3.39 per head before the war.

This is an immense debt and a moment's reflection will make anyone thinking Canadian realize the gravity of the situation," he commented.

Mr. Fielding did not give the figures for any partisan reason or to cause anyone harm. In 1920 Canada's assets were placed at \$77,000,000, and estimated at over a billion. He hoped the Government would not rely too much on assets and find itself in the position of the man who, when he gave a note off-hand, said, "Thank God that is another debt paid."

**Serious Situation.**  
With all the economy the minister has manifested or that he can manifest, there is certainly going to be a very serious financial situation. While we who understand it are willing to meet it bravely and courageously—and I believe the people of Canada will feel the same—we must understand clearly that we have got to carry a large increase in taxation."

Hon. Mr. Fielding then touched on the duty of every member to impress upon his constituents the need of levying over every possible item of public expenditure. Only the most urgent and the most necessary should be levied, and the Government should be willing to adopt a self-denying ordinance.

Mr. Fielding then touched on the policy of absolute protection and the wide-open free trade. On the one hand, the laudable policy of protection in infant industries became folly when it permitted the infant, after it had obtained victorious maturity, to knock the old man around the house. On the other hand, a policy which permitted manufacturers abroad to flood the Canadian market with cut-rate products until it had closed out domestic manufacturers, and then to exploit the field which they had unchallenged was especially foolish.

**Solve Problems.**  
Going on to speak of the farmers' party, Mr. Fielding said that he was not sure that a farmer government would solve the national problems. If the farmers came into power, he thought they would have to power, he thought they would have to power, he thought they would have to power.

Mr. Fielding prophesied a drastic re-election. "My old friends on the treasury benches will be beaten. I think they feel that themselves. The Liberals, I think, will be the largest party in the House. There will be a strong party representing the farmers."

The farmers could not do any constructive work if they remained in isolation, he said. They must unite themselves with some other body in the House.

Mr. Fielding declared that the only safe and sane tariff policy in times of stress and strain was that laid down by the Liberals in 1911, with the amendments about to be made when that party went out of power.

Mr. Fielding urged that the tariff be reduced on necessities and comforts of life. Canada was doing less than

Great Britain or the United States in this matter.

**Moves Amendment.**  
Concluding his speech, in the budget this evening, Hon. W. S. Fielding, former minister of finance, moved, seconded by Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, leader of the Liberal Opposition:

"That all the words after 'that' to the end of the question, be omitted, and the following inserted therefor: 'The minister of finance in the budget speech in the session of 1919, gave assurance (to the House) that during the ensuing parliamentary recess there would be a public inquiry by the minister and one or more of his colleagues, into the customs tariff with a view to a general revision of the tariff at the following session.'"

That the minister of public inquiry has not taken place, and the expected proposals for tariff revision at this session have not been submitted to the House.

**Burden of Taxation.**  
"That in view of the continued increase in the cost of living; of the greatly increased burden of taxation; of the hardship which many of the people suffer from these causes; and the unrest naturally arising therefrom; and in view of the desirability of adopting more effective production, and effect such relief to consumers and producers as may be within the power of the Parliament of Canada, the opinion that, pending a wider revision of the tariff, substantial reduction of the burden of taxation should be made with a view to the accomplishing of two purposes of the most importance—first, diminishing the very high cost of living which presses so severely on the masses on the people; second, reducing the cost of the instruments of production in the industries based on the natural resources of the country."

(Reported by Edward Cronyn & Co., Toronto, May 18.)

**Asks.**  
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