

FORMER COLLEAGUE

Continued From Page Four.

works that were valueless or of doubtful value. On glancing around the chamber, Mr. Fielding was impressed by a number of vacant seats. Five ministers of the crown were absent. The minister of marine and fisheries was, unfortunately, ill, and he extended to him his sympathy, and expressed the hope that he would soon be well again.

But what of the other absentees? He was glad to say that they were not to be in—but what Canadian business were they doing in Paris? Explanations as to their business from the Government would lead one to suppose that the Government was as much in the dark as anybody else.

Mr. Fielding contended that unless Canada had some special reason for requiring representation at the peace conference she should have been contented to be represented by the British delegates. But Canada was making territorial claims. Canada did not want expansion, and he understood

that she was going to make no claim for indemnity. Even if a claim for indemnity was to be made, Mr. Fielding argued that the bill could very well be made out on this side and sent over to the British delegates. He had enough confidence in the British representatives to feel that they would give Canada her share of any indemnity which was obtained.

Canada Not Represented. There was something fascinating, said the speaker, about having representatives at this conference. For it was felt that by sending over the Dominion was adding a cubit to its stature. But this view appeared to Mr. Fielding incorrect. The "big circus" at the peace conference, he said, was the council of ten, which consisted of two representatives from each of the great powers. After this came the council of twenty-five, which was next in importance, but never held any meetings, so did not matter very much. On neither of these was Canada represented. If Great Britain so desired, she could take in one of the Canadian representatives to these two councils, but on only one occasion since the beginning of the proceedings had Sir Robert Borden been admitted to the real moving organization, the council of ten.

There was, said Mr. Fielding, one other council, the general council, with about seventy-five or eighty members, and here Canada at last found her place. She had two members. Nominally, this was the big show. Really it didn't matter. It had not been decided whether it would be again to ratify the peace treaty. But the real business was done by the ten delegates of the five great powers.

Mr. Fielding asked whether it was reasonable for Canada to demand representation as a nation. "We were told," he said, "that Premier Lloyd George had supported our claims, and that President Wilson had disputed them." He referred humorously to a discussion which he said had probably taken place between the British prime minister and the president of the United States.

Mr. Lloyd George would ask the president to allow Canadian delegates, and the president would object. But Mr. Lloyd George would tip him the wink, metaphorically speaking, and say that some of the Canadian politicians had got a "bee in their bonnet," and wouldn't hurt to let them in. Of course, they wouldn't do anything. They would have seats beside the delegates from Monaco, Liberia and Siam. They wouldn't be represented on the council of ten, of course.

Then the president of the United States would say that he hadn't quite understood at first, and of course the Canadian delegates should be allowed to consult and advise with the rest of the small nations and look on at the show. Borden's Press Agent.

Sir Robert Borden had taken over with him one of the ablest Canadian journalists to act as press agent, but as there was nothing to be said beyond the power of even John W. Dalro to report important progress by the Canadian delegates. He had sent a telegram after telegram, but really there had been nothing to write about. Mr. Dalro was a master of the art of making much ado about nothing. At last, on February 12, the great chance had come. A dispatch from Mr. Dalro told of Sir Robert Borden having been admitted to a sitting of the council of ten. And what, asked the speaker, was under discussion on this momentous occasion? The matter before the council was Serbia's claim for more territory. Without casting any reflection upon our prime minister, said Mr. Fielding, "I am sure there would have been no discussion of the foreign office more qualified to deal with such a question than Sir Robert Borden."

Canadian delegates, he said, were appointed to unimportant committees, which accomplished nothing. "Come Home, Come Home." "Come home," he said, speaking of Sir Robert Borden, "come home. There is real business to be done here. There is much real work to be done at home."

If the prime minister still wished to consult with the Bolsheviks at Prinkipo, they wish to send him speeches made on the Government side regarding these people. He thought he had the right to say to the premier, "in the name of the parliament of Canada don't have any trade or truck with the Bolsheviks." Mr. Fielding said that this idea of Canada being a nation seemed to have seized the imagination of some people. He thought there was too much talk of Canada as a nation, and too much disposition to magnify Canada's position without just causes. He had been stated that Canada was to be known as a separate state, and Lord Curzon in Great Britain had said that the presence of Canadian delegates at the peace conference was a great step in the progress of Canada. The claim had been put forth that these dominions were separate states, but Mr. Fielding thought that this would make more for separation than our present state.

Sneak Plainly, Mr. Rowell. He said he wanted those who were dissatisfied with present conditions to tell what their grievances were, for, to his way of thinking, Canada had no grievance. Canadians had never such a menace that they had reason to call themselves a separate state. No doubt there was a time when Canada was not consulted on matters that affected her, but that had all passed away. Now Canada acquired the right to be consulted on all matters. When Sir John Macdonald went to Washington, he did not go as representing the state, but he went as a representative of the British Empire.

Selfishness Is Rewarded. Manufacturers surprised and alarmed in regard to the tariff. Mr. Fielding would agree with the legislators of Manitoba and Saskatchewan in their unanimous passing resolutions in favor of tariff reform, with Government supporters in the House favoring tariff reductions, the manufacturers had no doubt cause for alarm. But there had been no lack of warning of the rising tide. He said that the manufacturers of the tariff reform movement were not the manufacturers of the tariff reform movement, and there was a clumsy selfishness, and, I think our manufacturing friends indulged in a display of selfishness when they arranged themselves against the reciprocity agreement.

There was evidence of a deep feeling of unrest and dissatisfaction. There was evidence of a determination on the part of the West that it would no longer allow itself to be dominated by the east. What was to be the outcome? He was of the opinion that the Liberals in the West did not adequately recognize and appreciate the measure of tariff reform which they received from the Laurier government. To Mr. Henderson (Macdonald, Man.), who had expressed hope of tariff reform from the present Government, he would say, "I have not found such great faith, no not in trade."

Went Down for Tariff. It was said that the Liberal Government did nothing. Some Conservative critic had said that the Liberal government merely carried on the national policy. If Liberals made no change in the tariff, how did it happen that the leader of the Conservative party attacked the Liberal tariff so bitterly and declared that it would ruin the industries of the country? The Laurier government gave up its political life for the cause of the West, and to give a greater measure of tariff reform.

Evidently deeply affected, Mr. Fielding expressed the regret he felt that the "mole Canadian" who was associated with him in reciprocity was not here in vindication of his own policy. "You cannot do anything," Mr. Fielding declared, "under our system of government, except by supporting—I do not say slavishly, but in a manly, independent way—one or the other great parties." The farmers were going to play a lone hand. They might have some fun in trying it, but they would never take a trick.

Here Dr. Clark of Red Deer interrupted. "May I suggest," he said, "that Cobden is a case to the contrary?" Mr. Fielding: "If my honorable friend can tell me how an independent man can get any important measure through this House without the intervention and support of the Government, I will be giving me a valuable piece of information."

Mr. Fielding continued that farmers must look over the ground and make up their minds which of the two great parties came the nearest to their needs. "For the greater part of their program," Mr. Fielding added, "for its general trend toward lower taxation, towards freedom of trade and reciprocity, for everything that Liberalism has stood for in the past, I want to stand in the future and to help my former friends to get it."

Mr. Fielding said that he had noticed a movement to appoint a permanent tariff commission and he wished to discourage such a move. The reason for appointing such a commission was that the finance minister had not been dealing with this important matter. The tariff, said Mr. Fielding, should be under the control of the finance minister, and he should surround himself with all the necessary expert advice, but the responsibility must be his. So much had been said about the evils of party politics, said Mr. Fielding, that he proposed to say a little about the good of party politics. The party system, he said, was in his opinion the best existing under abnormal conditions. During the war period, such conditions had prevailed. In order that some misunderstanding with regard to his own position should be cleared up, the speaker said that he would like to devote a few minutes to defining where he stood. To begin with, he had been nominated by a straight Liberal convention. No "Unionist" convention had been called in his constituency.

At the Conservative convention, two men had been nominated, but neither of them cared to run. Finally some of the prominent Conservatives called upon him and said they would be glad to have him go to Ottawa as their representative. He had told these gentlemen that he thought he would prefer to sit as a Liberal. On the other hand, he had a heart-to-heart talk with his Liberal friends, telling them that he felt it his duty to support conscription, and

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Women Everywhere Depend Upon

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound