

this purpose. In the course of his remarks he referred to the application of the County of Carleton to borrow \$200,000 from the Ontario Government, who have a plethora of money on hand, and can get only four per cent. from the banks for it. He said, "The county of Carleton—a county out of debt, and whose security is as good as the Bank of Montreal—wanted to borrow \$200,000 from the Ontario Government to aid the sufferers, but the Government declined to lend more than \$100,000. The county proposed to give the Government five per cent., which was one per cent. more than their money is now drawing, but the Government demanded six per cent. The proposition of the County Council was to borrow the money for ten years, and to lend it to the farmers for the same length of time, no interest to be paid by them for the first three years. This would enable the farmers to get a start, and get their farms into working order before they would be required to pay interest. But if they had to pay six, eight, or ten per cent. from the first it would be better for them to sell their farms at half price and begin on a bush farm."

As a good share of the revenue of the Province of Ontario is derived from the valley of the Ottawa, we confess our surprise at the action of the Ontario Government in demanding this high rate of interest. The money should be lent free of interest, when it is considered it is to help those who have lost their all by the dreadful calamity that has befallen this section of country—a calamity there was no way of escaping from, so rapid was the progress of the devouring element, sweeping everything before it, leaving its poor victims houseless and penniless—a charity on the sympathies of the public. The security, too, offered is the best in the country—a county free from debt, not owing a dollar. Indeed the Government of Ontario ought to give a grant of money, and we are satisfied they would be borne out in it by the representatives of the people.

The number of families either wholly or partially destitute in the County of Carleton is computed at 600, in the County of Ottawa 240 families; in the County of Renfrew, 40; and in South Lanark, 60 families—making a total, on both sides of the river, of over 900 families, or about 4,500 souls. The total amount contributed to the relief of these families, in money, up to the present time, amounts to about \$40,000, of which Ottawa City alone gave over \$15,000.

Mayor Rochester concluded his remarks by saying that he was satisfied the great capital of Ontario would not be behind hand in helping those who were in deep distress.

Mr. James Fraser, Secretary of the Relief Committee, followed Mr. Rochester, giving an account of the efforts made in Ottawa, and of the working of the Committee; and assured the meeting that whatever was entrusted to the care of the Committee to re-

lieve the sufferers would be satisfactorily accounted for.

It was then moved by Mr. N. Cawthra, seconded by Mr. John McDonald, and unanimously resolved,

"That this meeting is of opinion that the recent fires in the Ottawa valley may be viewed as a public calamity, entailing on municipalities and other corporations the duty of contributing by public grants to the relief of the sufferers; that in this manner the entire population will have the satisfaction of feeling that they have contributed; and to this end a committee be appointed to prepare a memorial to the City Council, and to receive the signatures of leading rate-payers, to be presented to that body, requesting them to carry out the wishes of the citizens in this behalf."

Dr C. B. Hall gave an account of sufferings in the Ottawa district which he had himself witnessed, and which called for the active sympathy of the people of Toronto.

Mr. Alex. McLean thought there should be some sum mentioned in the resolution, and suggested \$20,000 as the amount which the City Council ought to give.

Ald. Hallam thought \$5,000 enough, in addition to contributions in clothing by the citizens.

His Grace Archbishop Lynch being called on by the chairman for a few remarks, said he came not to speak but to act, and was ready to give his subscription along with others.

Mr. George Hague thought there should be two committees—one to urge the matter on the City Council, and the other to solicit aid in clothing or provisions.

Mayor Rochester said the ladies of Ottawa had formed themselves into a committee, and met every day to make clothes for the sufferers. Perhaps the ladies of Toronto might take similar action.

Mayor Harman said he would be happy to place his office at the disposal of the committee.

The following committee was agreed upon, it being understood that the committee would be sub-divided to act as suggested:—

The Lord Bishop of Toronto; His Grace Archbishop Lynch; Rev. W. M. Punshon; Rev. Dr. Jennings; Rev. Dr. Barclay; Rev. Father Jamot; Sheriff Jarvis; Hon. G. W. Allan; Hon. D. L. Macpherson; Hon. Geo. Brown; Hon. M. C. Cameron, M.P.; John Wall, M.P.P.; Jas. Beatty, M.P.; R. A. Harri-son, M.P.; John Crawford, M.P.; James L. Smith, Collector of Customs; John McDonald; Frank Smith; N. Cawthra; George Hague; Wm. Gooderham; Hon. William McMaster; J. C. Worris; W. H. Boulton; B. H. Dixon; Prof. Wilson; Rev. Dr. McCaul; Rev. Provost Whittaker; Chas. Belford; G. R. Kingsmill; John O'Keith; John Hay (Jacques & Hay); Capt. Dick; Robert Walker; J. D. Merrick; Dr. C. B. Hall, and Hon. John McMurrich.

The resolution was carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned.

The army despatches given the public in Berlin are printed on red paper and stamped with the Government seal.

## MERITS OF THE WAR.

(From the Broad Arrow).

How can we account for the strong feeling which seems to have influenced the press against our "faithful ally," and which gathers vigor with every fresh reverse he sustains? It is not in accordance with our customary national characteristics "to hit a man when he is down," but we cannot help acknowledging, that our *quondam* friend has been most unmercifully dealt with by a large section of the press, who, under the leadership of a completely Prussianised organ, have not ceased from the first to seek to weaken his influence with his already discontented subjects. There are several ways of answering the question we have put: one way of looking at it is, that our Court must necessarily sympathise with the Prussians, on account of the connection existing between the Royal families, and so the press has given expression to the feelings of a large party. Again, it may seem to a great majority of our countrymen that Prussia has right on her side, as she undoubtedly has might, and that she came clean-handed into the quarrel. But we wish to call public attention to the fact, which, amidst the mighty events every day stirring, seems likely to be lost sight of, that this is only a deferred quarrel, brought on by Prussia's own aggressive policy, against which Englishmen were the first to cry out when gallant Denmark was the victim of it. The present war, however, is but the inevitable consequence of this first step in political immorality. There seems to be but little doubt that Count Bismarck toyed with the Emperor, while he had his hands full, suggesting territorial aggrandisement as a sop to keep him from engaging actively against him when there would have been a good opportunity; and then, when the realisation of these plans was requested, he seems to have turned round and laughed at his dupe. Now, we do not intend to advocate diplomacy of this kind, but we merely wish to show how each side is equally to blame, and to assign its proper value to the rhetoric of the King of Prussia's address in which he calls on the Almighty to witness the justness of his cause. It has even occurred to us, as it may perhaps be gradually dawning on others, that this war has not come so suddenly on Prussia as she would have the world to believe. It remains yet to be seen whether she will not maintain the grip she has now so firmly set on the throat of the two Rhine Provinces she has conquered, in which case it may, perhaps, some day be found out that the army she advanced for their conquest was not of a few days standing, but had been steadily preparing for the inroad she intended to make at the first convenient opportunity. It would quite coincide with the rest of Bismarck's crafty ways, to throw the blame of hostilities on France by giving her some sting in a susceptible point, and thus leaving her little option but that of declaring war. The present issue of the event proves how the one side was ready and the other was not. Our readers must not suppose that all these great actions have been won by men analogous to our Volunteers, against the well-disciplined troops of the Empire. It is our firm conviction they were fought by trained soldiers who have been stealthily