

"French, this paper cries out in a prophetic spirit, that the financial changes which will be made by Mr. Mercier's Convention shall be so made for the profit of Ontario and not of Quebec, which has received its share of the favors of the Ottawa Government."

As you see, it is clear: I have cast myself with a trap and will lose all.

In Ontario, the Tory creed is altogether different; it is not Quebec which is going to suffer by the proposed arrangement, but the neighboring Province. This opinion has been most emphatically expressed by Mr. Meredith, the leader of the Tory Opposition in the Legislature of Ontario. Allow me to cite his own words:

"But what will be, he says, the effect of this resolution? It will be this that the provinces which are not able to pay for themselves, would, according to the hon. gentlemen opposite, have their burden borne by the other provinces. It is upon Ontario that the weight will fall, it is this province that will be the sufferer."

This worthy Mr. Meredith, with a good faith which I do not envy him, even accuses me of having played upon the hon. Mr. Mowat.

"My hon. friend opposite (Mr. Mowat), he adds, wanted glory and the Premier (of Quebec) wanted hard cash. The Premier got the hard cash and the Attorney-General the glory. I never knew a case in which Mr. Mercier was bankrupt. Mr. Mercier said to the Attorney-General: "If you want one of these great questions worked out, just come down to Quebec and give me the money and all will go right." Mr. Mercier got the money."

But note, please, that it is not for me, that money, but for the Province and the tax-payers.

You see now, it is quite clear, it is not I who have fallen into a trap, it is the Province of Ontario.

But in truth, no one has fallen into a trap; we met to transact business, and we transacted our business as friends, as loyal, honorable men, and we have laid the basis of an equitable arrangement, favorable to all the interested parties, thanks to the intelligent concourse which our friends of Ontario and the other Province have given us.