

mite towards the relief of the starving millions of India. It indicates a feeling of which every Canadian may be proud, and nothing could possibly have occurred that will raise the people of Canada so high in the estimation of the mother country and of the whole world, as the fact that over \$130,000 has been raised in this country to aid our starving fellow-subjects in another portion of the empire. I think I am not going too far when I say that the enterprising proprietor of the *Montreal Star* deserves much credit for advocating and opening what is called the Indian Famine Fund. It will never be forgotten by the people of this country nor by those who have benefited by it. Now, let me ask one or two questions as to what is not in the Speech. Might I asked the leader of this House whether there is any intention to carry out the scheme of the fast line of steamers between Canada and England? It is not mentioned in the Speech. To my mind it is one of the most important features of any policy that could have been inaugurated by any government in this country. I was delighted to see the other day a letter written by the Hon. Alfred Jones of Halifax, advocating a line of steamer between Halifax and Cape Colony. That was a favourite scheme of mine—not entirely mine, but one in which I took a deep interest, and I did hope that the present government would not only push with the vigour that an enterprise of that kind deserves, the establishment of a fast line between Canada and England so as to compete with the greyhounds between the United States ports and the mother country, with its cold storage, and to assist to its fullest possible extent the important line between British Columbia and Australia which is cultivating a trade that is growing rapidly; but that in addition to that, we should have a line from Halifax to the Cape, where I am confident a large and profitable market can be obtained for the products of this country. It is true that there cannot be a return cargo of such a character as would justify the putting on of steamers without a subsidy. The opening up of trade of that kind which did not exist before, must be aided in the same way that you aid in the bringing up of a child and in teaching it to walk, and that has been the policy of past governments, and I should like to know from my hon. friend, whether these are to be allowed

to sink or to fall into—shall I say decay—and that there is no intention of carrying out that portion at least of the policy of the late government. In connection with that are we to have any assistance given to the Pacific cable or a cable from Canada to Australia, in order to assist in developing the trade between these two countries? I am convinced, after much study and consideration—not only my own study, but on reading the opinions of others—that it is not only practicable, but if properly conducted, it can be made a profitable enterprise to the governments if they undertake it. I am in favour of a Pacific cable owned by the governments and not by a company. My reasons for that are varied. It can be done cheaper. There will be less expense to keep it running, and the people whom it will be necessary to employ in carrying on and operating it are so few, that the difficulties that present themselves in running railways would not exist. However, that is a question on which, when it comes up, I shall speak perhaps more at length, but in the meantime I should like the hon. gentleman to tell the House and the country what we are to expect in reference to these great enterprises to which I have called attention, and to inform us whether they intend to accept the suggestions of the Hon. Mr. Jones by aiding and assisting the line between Halifax and the Cape, touching at the different West Indian ports, which could be done, and made profitable I am sure; and the construction of the Pacific cable, or whether at an early date the papers connected with that conference will be laid before the House. There are many other things to which I might call the attention of the House; but I have spoken much longer than I intended on these different subjects. I congratulate the country, that there is to be no revolution, as I understand it, in the tariff. I hope that before we get through with the discussion of the tariff, the members of the government may all be converted to the sound principles of protection to all the industries in this country. I will not include my hon. friend from Bothwell, because I do not think it is possible to convert him on that question.

Hon. Sir OLIVER MOWAT—In making a few remarks on the various subjects which my hon. friend has spoken on, I desire to acknowledge the courteous manner in which he has discussed the questions before