

are to have the return with regard to dismissals in the North-west Territories, which was ordered by the House.

The **MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR** (Mr. Sifton). I was under the impression that I had brought it down. However, I will look it up and see.

THE LATE RIGHT HON. W. E. GLADSTONE—RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Mr. Speaker, with the permission of the House, I beg leave now to lay upon the Table the report of the committee which was appointed a few days ago to prepare a resolution of condolence on the death of the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone. The report is in these terms :

The Committee appointed to prepare a resolution of condolence on the death of the Right Honourable W. E. Gladstone, beg leave to submit the following resolution to the House :—

“Resolved,—That the House of Commons of Canada desire to record their profound sense of the loss the Empire has sustained in the death of the Right Honourable William Ewart Gladstone.

“For a period of more than half a century Mr. Gladstone has been one of the most conspicuous figures in the Parliament of Great Britain.

“Four times Premier of the United Kingdom, his tenure of office was distinguished by the inauguration of sound fiscal and political reforms of the greatest and most far-reaching character, and he passes away, full of years and honours, among a nation's tears, the most illustrious man of his generation.

“The people of the entire Empire are his mourners, and the House of Commons of Canada lays reverently on his bier this tribute of testimony of the respect and affection with which they regard the great statesman who has departed.”

(Sgd.) **WILFRID LAURIER,**
Chairman.

I beg to move, seconded by Sir Charles Tupper, that the report be now adopted. Mr. Speaker, everybody in this House will, I think, agree that it is eminently fitting and proper that in the universal expression of regret which ascends towards heaven from all parts of the civilized world we also should join our voice and testify to the very high sense of respect, admiration, and veneration which the entire people of Canada, irrespective of creed or race or party, entertain for the memory of the great man who has just closed his earthly career.

England has lost the most illustrious of her sons ; but the loss is not England's alone, nor is it confined to the great Empire which acknowledges England's suzerainty, nor even to the proud race which can claim kinship with the people of England. The loss is the loss of mankind. Mr. Gladstone gave his whole life to his country ; but the work which he did for his country was

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conceived and carried out on principles of such high elevation, for purposes so noble and aims so lofty, that not his country alone, but the whole of mankind, benefited by his work. It is no exaggeration to say that he has raised the standard of civilization, and the world to-day is undoubtedly better for both the precept and the example of his life. His death is mourned not only by England, the land of his birth, not only by Scotland, the land of his ancestors, not only by Ireland, for whom he did so much, and attempted to do so much more ; but also by the people of the two Sicilies, for whose outraged rights he once aroused the conscience of Europe, by the people of the Ionian Islands, whose independence he secured, by the people of Bulgaria and the Danubian provinces, in whose cause he enlisted the sympathy of his own native country. Indeed, since the days of Napoleon, no man has lived whose name has travelled so far and so wide over the surface of the earth ; no man has lived whose name alone so deeply moved the hearts of so many millions of men. Whereas Napoleon impressed his tremendous personality upon peoples far and near by the strange fascination which the genius of war has always exercised over the imagination of men in all lands and in all ages, the name of Gladstone had come to be, in the minds of all civilized nations, the living incarnation of right against might—the champion, the dauntless, tireless champion, of the oppressed against the oppressor. It is, I believe, equally true to say that he was the most marvellous mental organization which the world has seen since Napoleon—certainly the most compact, the most active and the most universal.

This last half century in which we live has produced many able and strong men who, in different walks of life, have attracted the attention of the world at large ; but of the men who have illustrated this age, it seems to me that in the eyes of posterity four will outlive and outshine all others—Cavour, Lincoln, Bismark and Gladstone. If we look simply at the magnitude of the results obtained, compared with the exiguity of the resources at command—if we remember that out of the small kingdom of Sardinia grew United Italy, we must come to the conclusion that Count Cavour was undoubtedly a statesman of marvellous skill and prescience. Abraham Lincoln, unknown to fame when he was elected to the Presidency, exhibited a power for the government of men which has scarcely been surpassed in any age. He saved the American Union, he enfranchised the black race, and for the task he had to perform he was endowed in some respects almost miraculously. No man ever displayed a greater insight into the motives, the complex motives, which shape the public opinion of a free country, and he possessed almost to the degree of an instinct, the supreme quality in a statesman of taking the right decision, taking it at the right