

them to be true. I am bound to say that His Grace did not manifest any hostile feeling at either interview, or on any other occasion, against the Warden. I surely need not say that if the Warden had been a Roman Catholic, and had been charged with misconduct towards Protestants, there is not a Protestant worthy of the name who would not desire the Warden's removal in case the facts were as charged.

Subsequently, the Conservative leader in the Ontario Assembly, at the instance of certain Roman Catholic and other political supporters, took the responsibility of bringing the subject before the House. He did this several times.

The following is the *Mail's* report (18th March, 1885) of what he said on one of these occasions:

"Since the recent discussion on the Central Prison he had been given to understand that prisoners were often kept in the cells for ten days on bread and water. He pressed upon the Government the necessity of acceding to the public demand for an investigation."

Next day he referred to the same subject in the following terms:

"He had particulars of the cases he referred to last night in the Central Prison. A prisoner named O'Neil was confined in a dark cell seventy-two hours and kept on bread and water three months, after which he was declared insane. Another prisoner was kept twenty-four hours on bread and water, and afterwards was declared partially insane. There were nine or ten such cases with similar treatment, and he thought that in the public interest there should be a public investigation."

The next day he returned to the same subject, and the following are extracts from the *Mail's* report of the introductory part of his speech:

"In the Legislature on Wednesday night Mr. Meredith rose upon the motion to adjourn, and drew the attention of the Ministry to the reported acts of cruelty in the Central Prison. He had been supplied with information regarding them, and in view of the particulars furnished he thought it in the public interest, and in the interest of the Warden, that a public and full investigation should be held. A prisoner named O'Neil had been kept in a dark cell seventy-two hours, and kept three and one-half months on bread and water, without a bed. When released and set to work O'Neil was so weak that he could not stand up to work, and upon examination he was declared to be insane."

He then proceeded to detail other cases of frightful and wanton cruelty.