

consume under ordinary circumstances; and, notwithstanding this, were dying of famine. Prompt action is of great importance in this matter. Whatever we are willing to do should be done at once. Whatever the Government is prepared to propose, if it be only as generous as it should be, I am satisfied the House will concur in.

SIR SAMUEL L. TILLEY: As His Excellency the Governor-General introduced into this paragraph of his Speech an expression of gratitude to Providence for having blessed us with a bountiful harvest, it did appear to the members of his Administration that it was a favourable opportunity to show their appreciation of the blessings that had been bestowed upon the Dominion of Canada by giving of our substance to aid those who were not similarly blessed. The Government felt that, on both sides of the House, no matter what might be the political opinions of members of Parliament, whatever proposition was made would be heartily responded to. I can only say to the hon. member who has just taken his seat that any contribution which the Parliament of Canada may make will not be made less valuable by any unnecessary delay, even the delay of an hour.

MR. MILLS: Since the hon. gentleman is anxious to secure in this matter the cooperation of both sides of the House, it would have been well that the answer to the Address had been put in such a form as to make it acceptable to both sides of the House. The hon. gentleman says in this paragraph "that we agree with His Excellency in thinking that our returning prosperity should direct our attention," &c. Now, a large number of gentlemen on this side of the House do not subscribe to the hon. gentleman's views with regard to returning prosperity, and why should he, in calling upon the House to grant aid to the people of Ireland in their suffering, undertake, at the same time, to force upon hon. gentlemen on this side of the House his view of the political situation of this country? If the hon. gentleman is so anxious, as he says he is, to meet the views of hon. gentlemen on this side of the House, he might alter the phraseology of the paragraph in this way: "That we thank

His Excellency for directing our attention" &c, leaving out those words that the hon. gentleman knows right well are contested. I do not believe that the prosperity of this country is at this moment returning. I do not believe that the hon. gentleman has done anything to promote the prosperity of the country: and, holding this view honestly, and I believe as intelligently as the hon. gentleman holds to his own view, why should he in calling for aid to the Irish people—aid which I believe we on higher grounds are bound to grant—undertake to connect it with the political views of the hon. gentleman on the financial condition of this country?

SIR SAMUEL L. TILLEY: If the Government had asked in this resolution a vote of money, and compelled the House to adopt both, then there would have been something in my hon. friend's position, but it is not the intention of the Government to ask a vote on this resolution. If they had done so, then it might be a question whether this House saw anything objectionable in the paragraph which might involve an expression of opinion on the financial position of the country. We intend that it shall be a separate and distinct proposition, that both sides of the House will unite in.

MR. MACKENZIE: The hon. gentleman will see that the reason for giving aid to Ireland is that our returning prosperity should direct our attention to it. Of course our attention is directed to it by the fact that it is in the Speech, but the returning prosperity does not direct our attention to it. There has been no returning prosperity, but a deeper distress.

MR. CASEY: It may be that, in some sections of our own country, returning prosperity may call attention to distress in Ireland. But there are other causes in some sections which may have the same effect. In the city of Quebec, at least, it is more likely that the local distress may create sympathy with Ireland. *L'Evenement*, a paper which has gone over to the Government on the question of Protection, says that the distress in Quebec is something extreme. In an article published a short time ago on this very question—relief for Ireland—*L'Evenement* pointed out a parallel that existed between the condition of the city of Quebec and the condition of Ireland. Some time before that, this paper had published a story about