

the service of the House a severe blow will be dealt to the active organization of the House. We therefore entreat Members most carefully to enquire into all the facts connected with the service of the House before sanctioning a measure, the carrying into effect of which will weigh so heavily on a class who have but their devotion to their duty to set against the severity with which it is proposed to treat them.

Eloquent men, distinguished men, of England and France, have looked at the question from our point of view; volumes have been written on the subject in both countries; proving that the highest importance is attached to the intimate relations which exist between administrative and social organization. But why go beyond our own Dominion, already so great and so respected, to seek in other lands men of kindly hearts who have constituted themselves the protectors of the public servants?

One of the most celebrated of the children of the Green Isle, he, to whom the Hon. Mr. Chauveau referred as the king of eloquence in Canada; he, who has so lately gone down to the grave, struck by the hand of the cowardly assassin; he, whom we all deplore—the Martyr Member—the Hon. Thomas D'Arcy McGee, ever faithful to his trust—as the defender of the feeble—did not hesitate to take under his protection these same officers of the Commons the instant he foresaw the danger which impended over them. This statesman, who had twice been a Minister of the Crown, well knew the sacrifices which the country ought to make in compensation for the labour and the zeal of those who devote their lives and their energies to the public service. For many years he had been in a position, as a Legislator, to appreciate at their true value the services of the present officers of the House of Commons. And when circumstances called for it, he was the first to stand in the breach, when he became aware that the scheme of reduction, now submitted for consideration, contained within it the germ of injustice. Let us listen to the words, so full of affectionate feeling, which he uttered on the very night when the fearful tragedy, which put a violent end to his well spent days, was enacted. At the conclusion of the sitting, at half-past two in the morning, a few minutes before his tragic end, he said to the Clerk assistant, Mr. A. Patrick: "My dear sir, you know that I have done my best to defeat the scheme of reduction, which the Contingent Committee have adopted; the majority have decided against me; but tell your brother officers that when the question comes up for discussion in the House, I shall be there to defend them."

No comment on these words can be necessary; they are a sacred legacy left to the House by one of its most distinguished Members. We hope it will be as carefully treasured up as it deserves to be.