

and assisted by the Government, who felt that this House would, without a dissenting voice, sanction the aid given from the public purse, they were enabled to sow their fields again, and with a bountiful harvest the settlers in the Saguenay district will remain on their farms and soon make themselves independent. The Ottawa region also was visited later in the season by a destructive fire. Here again the liberality of our people was tested and nobly did our cities, towns and villages respond to the call made upon them. The Government here again, on the instance of the members for Ottawa and Pontiac, did something to assist private benevolence, and would have done more had not the Saguenay fire already drawn a considerable sum out of the Treasury. The relief granted to the Ottawa sufferers was placed in the hands of the general committee in Ottawa, for distribution, the Government thinking that in a case like that no regard should be had to the line dividing Quebec from Ottawa. This amount will, I doubt not, be cheerfully sanctioned by the House:

We have had peace from the horrors of war, and plenty in all our borders, while the fairest portion of Europe, from which the majority of our people in the Province have sprung, has been the scene of war in all its enormity, and with famine and pestilence, have desolated a large portion of "La Pello France." This state of affairs in Europe could not fail to excite our deepest sympathy, and our earnest prayers for peace and tranquility. A careful study of the causes which led to the fearful war now raging in France—of those principles which are at work, regardless of the state of the country—of that party spirit which intrudes itself into every department of life, cannot fail if carefully viewed by those who occupy public life in this country, of moderating the expression of sentiments likely to unsettle men's minds, and to render them dissatisfied with their present condition and future prospects.

On a comparison of our position therefore, with almost every other, we have cause for thankfulness for the past, and hope for the future. Our people are living in peace and harmony with each other; the fears entertained by many of a different state of things under Confederation, have so far proved groundless. (Cheers.)