

The following votes speak for themselves:—

On the 13th of May, 1910, Mr. Sylvestre, member for Montcalm, proposed the following motion:

#### MR. SYLVESTRE'S MOTION.

"While willing to vote the supplies to His Majesty, this House regrets that the Government has not supervised and followed, as it was bound so to do according to law, the operations of the mutual fire insurance companies doing business in this Province; that it has allowed several of these companies to carry on business and to exploit the public, when they were manifestly insolvent and in contravention of the law; that it did not employ the means at its disposal to protect the public, and the policy-holders against the proceedings of the latter companies, and that it completely disregarded the pledges it had given this House in the matter during the last session of the Legislature."

"And this House considers that the Government deserves to be severely blamed and censured for its carelessness and neglect, which have been the cause of heavy pecuniary losses among all conditions of society in this province and more especially among the farming and working classes."

And a debate arising thereupon.

The motion in amendment being put before the House, the following division ensued. The names were recorded as follows:

For:—Messrs. Bernard, Bourassa, Cousinaeu, D'Auteuil, La fontaine (Maskinonge), Lavergne, Patenaude, Pennington, Plante, Prevost, Sauve Sylvestre and Tellier.—13.

Against:—Messrs. Allard, Bluoin, Carbonneau, Cardin, Caron (L'Islet), D'Anjou, Decarie, Delage, Francœur, Gaboury, Galipeault, Geoffrion, Godbout, Gouin, Kelly, Langlois (St. Sauveur), Leclerc, Letourneau, Mackenzie, Mercier, Morisset Petit, Taschereau and Theriault.—24.

(See page 360, Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly, May 13th, 1910.)

In spite of the fact that a large number of the ministerial members absented themselves in order not to vote, the Government was satisfied with making non-committal promises and refused to protect the assured, who were nearly all forced by legal proceedings to pay large sums without having received any consideration whatsoever, and simply to fatten up speculators, protected by the wilful and persistent negligence of the Government.