

so, I hope that Parliament will be permitted to pronounce upon it as free and unembarrassed as I have pointed out was possible; but, whether free and unembarrassed, or complicated by the execution, within a few days from the Session, of contracts not subject to its assent, we are, in my opinion, bound during this Session to consider and determine whether, in the present and prospective state of the finances of this country, the public credit is to be charged with loans to an enormous amount, for the construction of a work wholly beyond our resources, if constructed in the way, after the fashion, and at the rate at which hon. gentlemen opposite propose to construct it.

*Motion made and question proposed :*

"1. That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, to thank His Excellency for his gracious Speech at the opening of the present Session, and further to assure His Excellency,—That we are grateful to His Excellency for the expression of his great pleasure in meeting us again for the despatch of the business of the country.

"2. That we feel with His Excellency that the abundant harvest with which Providence has blessed Canada is a cause for the deepest thankfulness; and that we receive with great satisfaction His Excellency's congratulations on the evidence which surround us of a recovery from the commercial and industrial depression which has so long weighed down the energies of the people."

*Motions agreed to.*

*Motion made and question proposed :*

"3. That we agree with His Excellency in thinking that our returning prosperity should direct our attention to the less fortunate circumstances of our fellow subjects in Ireland where so much destitution prevails, and are prepared to give our consideration to the best means of showing our practical sympathy with their distress."

MR. MACKENZIE; I would ask the hon. gentleman who speaks for the Government, in the absence of the leader, how it is proposed to act in this matter? No one, I presume, in the House can help concurring in the proposition here suggested. Everyone will be waiting that prompt assistance should be given by Canada under the distressing circumstance which are presented to us as existing in Ireland. I presume that the Government will not think of waiting until the regular Estimates are brought down, as I hope and believe there will be unanimity in this matter. I think the

MR. BLAKE.

money should be sent as speedily as possible in order to effect the largest amount of good in the shortest time.

MR. JONES: What sum will be brought in?

SIR SAMUEL L. TILLEY: We will wait until the resolution is brought in.

MR. JONES: I would not like to see this Dominion give a paltry sum towards such a service as that. Large sums have been given in the neighbouring Republic, and I should not like to see our Dominion give certainly less than £50,000 sterling. I think the House, at the present moment, would give their consent that the Finance Minister should be allowed to telegraph to the other side of the sea that this Dominion will be willing to give £50,000 sterling for that purpose.

MR. ANGLIN: I would ask the Hon. the Minister of Finance what he thinks will be the earliest day, for the delay of a week may be a serious matter, and render our gift less valuable than it would be if promptly made. I am satisfied that if the Government propose on Monday next a vote in this House, authorising them to forward any sum of money that they may determine upon, the vote will pass unanimously. They will be quite justified in acting upon it, and afterwards bringing the amount in, in the Estimates in the ordinary way, but, if we are to wait until the Estimates come down, we may have to wait two, three or four weeks, and all that time thousands of people are famishing. It is to many of them a matter of life and death. Some time ago, I observed a letter from the Hon. S. G. Osborne in the *London Times*, in which he urged upon the people of England the importance of speedy action, and stated what he saw in the great famine of 1847, when a very large sum of money was contributed in England, and distributed carefully in Ireland; but, notwithstanding, it arrived too late to save hundreds of thousands of people from dying of starvation, and dying after, in some instances, they had had plenty of food to eat. Their system was so debilitated that they were unable to assimilate the food, which, in some instances, they consumed in large quantities. That accords with the result of my own observation during that dreadful visitation. I saw persons who, day after day, consumed more food than they would