

the sorrow of mankind, or the worth of him for whom earth mourns.

But I feel it to be especially my duty to say that in no part of the Empire will sorrow more thrill men's hearts than in Ireland; nor is it only the hearts of Irishmen within that ancient and glorious kingdom that swell with grief for this mighty tribune of the people, but the hearts of Irishmen and their descendants in all lands and on every sea.

Mr. Gladstone's efforts in the sacred cause of Home Rule for Ireland endeared him to the Irish people. His sympathy and his efforts gave to the Home Rule cause the dignity and the strength and the safety of a great constitutional movement, and this not only in the United Kingdom, but wherever Irishmen and their descendants work for the motherland.

That grand measure of reform has been delayed, it is true, but only delayed, and in the struggle that Ireland will continue unto a glorious victory no moral force will help more potently than the memory that Ireland's cause has had the sincere approval and generous advocacy of a man so great and so good.

Motion agreed to.

The PRIME MINISTER moved, seconded by Sir Charles Tupper:

That the resolution of condolence on the death of the Right Honourable William Ewart Gladstone be communicated to Mrs. Gladstone, on behalf of this House, by Mr. Speaker.

Motion agreed to.

POST OFFICE ACT AMENDMENT.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock) moved the third reading of Bill (No. 110) further to amend the Post Office Act. He said: When this Bill was in Committee of the Whole a discussion of the proposition to decentralize the dead letter branch evoked some little criticism. In order to meet this criticism I was willing to consent to a limitation of the outside dead letter offices; and, accordingly, the number was stated in the Bill at three, at remote points from Ottawa—Victoria, Winnipeg and Halifax. Subsequently, I ascertained from the officers of my department that it would be greatly to the interests of the public and of the service if Toronto could be included in the list; and accordingly, when the Bill came up for third reading, I moved the House into Committee of the Whole with a view to adding, if possible, Toronto and Montreal. The committee made the addition, but it was suggested by the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) that possibly that would be regarded by some members of the House who were not then present as a departure from a supposed understanding arrived at when we were in committee. Accordingly, I deferred the third reading until these gentlemen should

be present, to see if they would assent to that view. I am not desirous of departing in the least from any supposed understanding reached, but I would ask them to consider if it would not be in the public interest to add Toronto and Montreal to the points in which dead matter may be examined. I think I would be correct in saying that, so far as all dead matter originating in the vicinity of Toronto or west of that point is concerned, the necessity of that matter being brought to Ottawa and treated here would involve something like a week's delay. There is a routine in connection with the communication with Ottawa involving sometimes two and sometimes three letters between Ottawa and the place of origin or destination, so that considerable delay results. From the city of Toronto there are sent to the dead letter office in Ottawa, now monthly, nearly 5,000 letters; and from Montreal nearly 6,000. In the public interest, therefore, I ask my hon. friends who hesitated before to extend the number of points beyond three, whether they cannot consent to these two points being added. They are now in the Bill as amended, and as it stands for the third reading.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I am much obliged to the hon. the Postmaster General for having left this matter over in order that it might receive further consideration. I would like to ask him whether he has had any means of knowing what the public sentiment is in these two important cities of Toronto and Montreal in relation to this question. I should hesitate very much to oppose the extension to these two cities if the hon. gentleman has reason to believe that the public sentiment in those cities is largely in favour of the change he proposes.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I think the question is a very proper one, and in reply I would say that certain members representing those cities have spoken to me strongly in favour of this measure. Some of them are in the House, and I would prefer if they gave their views to the House themselves.

Mr. ROSS ROBERTSON. The proposal to decentralize the dead letter office has given unqualified satisfaction to the business men and the mercantile community in Toronto. We feel that Toronto is a large postal centre, and this effort on the part of the Postmaster General to help the business men, is recognized as being in the line of progress. The proposition meets with the universal approval, not only of the mercantile community, but of the public in Toronto. In fact, the whole Bill has given general satisfaction. In my conversation with business men in Toronto during the past ten days with regard to the different features of the Bill, I find a unanimous approval, not only of the clause of the Bill now under discussion, but also of those