

Premier. The debate on the address was continued by Messrs. Pettypiece (East Lambton), Hoyle (North Ontario) and Russell (East Hastings). There was no sitting at night, owing to the official dinner given by Mr. Speaker. Mr. Lucas has the floor for to-day, but will give way to Mr. Foy if the latter should be well enough to speak. The House will adjourn at 6 o'clock this evening until Monday, and it is almost certain that the debate will go over until next week.

Immediately the Speaker took the chair Hon. Mr. Ross rose and said:—
Mr. Speaker: Before entering upon the regular business of the day, I desire to express, on behalf of myself and colleagues, the sympathy which we feel towards the relatives and friends of those brave Canadians who have fallen in battle in South Africa. It is proper in any case when the interests of the empire are at stake that we should sympathize with the men who fight her battles, but when the loss comes directly to the homes of our own people and within the circle of our more immediate acquaintance the terrible consequences of war appeal to us with peculiar force. Many of those who fell were from the Province of Ontario; many of them were known to the representatives of this House personally; two of them were directly connected with the public service. All were brave, loyal and devoted Canadians. But, while deploring the loss of life to which I am calling the attention of the House, and expressing the sympathy which I feel—a sympathy shared in by every member of this House and by the people of the whole country—we cannot help but feel that the loss to Canada may have been a gain to the empire, and that the lives thus sacrificed were but a part of the price which the nation has to pay for its liberties and the maintenance of its institutions. When our Canadians went forth to fight the battles of the empire they went with the fullest confidence that they would bear an heroic part in any service they might be called upon to render. That part we believe they have borne with honor, and it will be for us, and for those who come after us, not to forget that, though far removed from the land which gave them birth, they were really fighting our battles in fighting for the integrity of the empire to which we belong. While remembering their brave acts, let us not fail in sympathy with their bereaved families.

Mr. Whitney Concurr.

Mr. Whitney said:—I gladly join with the Premier in expressing sentiments similar to his, the more so because I feel that those sentiments are shared by every member of this House; and we are glad to know that under these sad and solemn circumstances the heart-beat of the Legislature is one on this question. We believe that our people will realize in the future, more, perhaps, than they have in the past, what a favored people we have been. We

believe that the memory of those young men who went forth to their deaths on the other side of the globe in defence of the great and good principles at the foundation of the British Empire and all that that expression conveys, will not be forgotten for many long years to come by their fellow-subjects in this part of the empire. The deaths of several members of the Canadian contingent may perhaps be a small part of the price which we, as a people, have to pay for the advantages we enjoy. It is well understood that it is a law of nature, which is God's law, of course, that there must be compensation given for everything received in this world; and as we have been singularly blessed by Providence in Canada it must be that we are allowed in this way to pay a small part of the compensation which perhaps it has been ordained shall be given by us, as marking in some way our appreciation of His favor.

"God moves in a mysterious way,
His wonders to perform,"

and I have no doubt whatever that while we suggest what we are glad to believe—that in the future the people of this country will hold in high honor the name and fame of these men who have consecrated with their life-blood in South Africa the principles which actuate all British subjects—suddenly there shall come upon us a realization of the crystallization into accomplishment of the grand and glorious idea of a British Empire—great, strong and thoroughly united in more senses than one. I am glad, as I have said, of the opportunity to concur in the sentiments that have fallen from the Premier, and I hope and believe the people of Ontario, and of Canada, will see to it that for long years to come no one of the relatives of these young men who have died for the empire shall have any other grief or burden to bear than the grief which is natural under the circumstances.

The Public Accounts.

In reply to Mr. Matheson, Mr. Ross said the public accounts would be brought down as soon as the present debate closed, in accordance with the practice which had long prevailed in this House. At Ottawa the departmental reports were printed as soon as distributed, and he would be very glad to consider the advisability of adopting some such practice here. He had hoped to deliver the financial speech on Tuesday, but perhaps he would have to defer the budget until Thursday.

Mr. Pettypiece Speaks.

Mr. Pettypiece (East Lambton), continuing the debate on the address, said the discussion had demonstrated two facts. One was that Mr. Ross was able to fill with distinction any position in the Government. It had also been shown that there was no political issue or contention too small to be made use of by the leader of the Opposition for political purposes. The hyphenated Government was a matter that seemed to give Mr. Whitney much concern. Fancy a statesman concerning himself with a hyphen. There was only one other mark to which he could advance, and that was a full stop. Mr. Whitney had thrown out a challenge to the Gov-