

Mr. BURNS. I also desire to join in the expressions of sorrow and regret for the death of Mr. Moffat. For a quarter of a century Mr. Moffat was my dear friend, and I can truly say that where he was best known he was most honored and respected. As representative of his county he was always faithful and keenly alive to the interest of his constituents. His death will cast a deep gloom over that county in which he and his family had great interests, and not only in that county but wherever he was known; and in no county in New Brunswick will his loss be more keenly regretted than in the county I have the honor to represent.

PAPERS IN REGARD TO THE FISHERY QUESTION.

Mr. BLAKE. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to call the attention of the First Minister to the fact that on Friday last he said:

"I may say that my hon. friend, the Minister of Fisheries, promised the papers relating to the Fisheries Question to-day, or on Monday at the latest. We have only to-day obtained permission to bring down the last papers which we have. We have obtained that permission to-day, so that all the papers will be laid on the Table on Monday."

Monday has passed, and the papers are not yet laid on the Table.

Mr. FOSTER. I am sorry that the papers are not yet ready to be laid on the Table. As was explained by the leader of the Government, permission was only obtained on Friday last to bring down the latter portion of the papers, which portion was very large. They have been put into the printers' hands, and all available force is engaged on them. They will be before the House in printed form and for the use of members just as soon as they can possibly be prepared.

Mr. BLAKE. I do not think that statement is at all satisfactory, Sir. I think that those papers which are printed—I presume the earlier ones have been printed—might be placed before us; or we might, at any rate, have the manuscript copy of the papers, to present which permission has been obtained. These papers have been laid on the Table of the Imperial House of Commons a number of days ago, but we do not see them yet. One copy would enable us to get the information within a few moments—all the substance of them; and through the press we will get them, perhaps, before the hon. gentleman's printers are able to prepare them. After having promised us on Friday last that we should get them on Monday at the latest, the hon. gentleman now, on Tuesday, makes a further delay, an indefinite delay, in order that they may be printed, which is neither in the spirit or in the letter of the pledge which was made to the House.

Mr. MITCHELL. I quite concur in these statements of the hon. gentleman who has just spoken. I think that there is no question more important to the country than the Fishery question. Now, we have seen a statement in the press coming from English sources, and coming also from American sources, endorsing the statement that the Government of this country have proposed to give up our exclusive fishery rights, and renew the attitude we held under the old Washington Treaty. I am informed that the paper controlled by the present Minister of Fisheries—inspired, rather, by him—declares that that statement is untrue, that there is not a word of truth in it. Now, it is well that the country should be satisfied on that point. I do think that at the very earliest possible moment we ought to have these papers laid before us.

HOME RULE FOR IRELAND.

House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed resolution of Mr. Curran (p. 46) on the subject of Home Rule for Ireland, the proposed motion of Mr. McNeill (p. 55) in

amendment thereto, and the proposed motion of Mr. McCarthy (p. 98) in amendment to the said amendment.

Mr. FREEMAN. In the moment or two during which I had the floor yesterday, I said that, after the very able and eloquent addresses we had heard on the subject under discussion, from the statesmen of this House and other hon. members who seemed to be well acquainted with this subject, understanding not only the politics of this country, but those of the United Kingdom, it might be thought presumption in me, having no parliamentary experience, and supposed, I presume, to know very little about Irish affairs, to pretend to address this House. Sir, I propose to take up the attention of this House but a very few moments, and the only excuse I can offer for doing so is, that I have an inalienable right to an opinion, and a parliamentary right to express it within parliamentary rules. The resolution of the hon. member for Montreal Centre (Mr. Curran) means, I think, that we shall express our sympathy with our fellow-subjects in Ireland, sympathy for them in their trouble and distress, and pledge our desire—for I suppose it can only be a desire—to lift them out of their trouble into a situation of contentment and happiness. Well, Sir, I conceive that the honest, benevolent, and kindly disposed members of this House will all join in this expression of sympathy and in this desire. We all feel, as well as people generally throughout this Dominion, a sympathy for the Irish people, and we all desire that they should be happy and contented, as we Canadians are. I think, therefore, we can all join in supporting the resolution of the hon. member, after he has amended it by accepting the very excellent suggestions, in my opinion, made by the leader of the Opposition. I was much pleased at the proposal of the hon. leader of the Opposition, and I hope that his suggestions will be received and adopted, and that we shall have a resolution in which we can all join, and for which we can all conscientiously vote. Now, Sir, I am not an Irishman—I am not the son of an Irishman, even. After the Anglo-Saxon, all my race affinities are Teutonic rather than Celtic. But I hold that all the higher and nobler impulses of the soul belong to our common humanity. They are not limited or circumscribed by nationality, and, therefore, as a Canadian, I do most heartily unite in this feeling of sympathy for Ireland. I unite with her sons who have spoken here, I unite with her foremost friends who have spoken here, in expressing these generous sympathies for the people of Ireland. Ireland deserves well of every part of the British Empire. In the highest councils of the nation, in the difficult work of diplomacy, in the halls of legislation, and in the ranks of those great battalions which have fought on so many battle-fields, under the red cross flag, Irishmen have supported and been loyal to the Crown and have won for themselves position and honor second to none. And, therefore, I say, for these and other reasons, Ireland deserves our sympathy. But while I am in full agreement with the mover of the resolution with respect to this part of the motion, I do not so fully agree with him as to the remedy which he proposes, as to the remedial measure which he says is going to lift from Ireland that dark cloud which has hung over her for so many years. I hold that the evils which affect Ireland are of a different character from any that Home Rule can remedy. I hold that the evils of Ireland are commercial, social and industrial. This is the nature of the evils that affect Ireland, and they cannot be remedied by any measure that any Parliament may devise. The crime of Ireland is called agrarian crime. It arises out of discontent on the part of the peasant. That discontent grows up out of a feeling of oppression by the landlord, and the landlord thus oppresses the tenants because the tenants cannot pay their rents, and the tenants cannot pay their rents because the little patches of ground they cultivate yield barely a subsistence to keep