

Costigan did for the Conservative Government for many years, from 1882 to 1896, he did not for Canada alone, but the same "Honest John Costigan" worked for imperial interests thirty-five years ahead of his time. The Imperial Council called at present by the British Government, to be composed of Prime Ministers from all the Dominions over the seas, was first thought of and first inaugurated by the Hon. John Costigan, aided by my right hon. friend, Sir Mackenzie Bowell, who was then Minister of Customs in Sir John Macdonald's Government. How was it that Hon. John Costigan became an imperial factor thirty-five years ahead of his time? Because he sought then for Ireland what all the world is seeking to-day for poor Belgium. He then was the first to rise on the floor of the House of Commons and ask and pray the British Government and the British Parliament to grant to Ireland that measure of Home Rule for which to-day, on behalf of Belgium, England is bleeding to death and spending her treasure without limit, as well as Canada and the other overseas dominions. But, oh, how the ears of England were closed and her eyes were dimmed at that time! They would not think of poor little Ireland; it was a crime then. I remember, when I was a young man, coming out of the University 35 years ago, that it was a crime to be called a Home Ruler. To-day the noblest medal that an Englishman can put on his breast is to state to the world, "I am fighting—not for England, but for Belgium, for Serbia, for Montenegro, for all the small nations of the earth." Thirty-five years ago Honourable John Costigan was officially and publicly alone, in fighting for the same principles, the same rights, that are to-day involved in the struggle of Great Britain on behalf of those outlying nations, whilst at her doors was a nation which for over 700 years had been on her knees asking for self-government. To-day, thanks to the Honourable John Costigan for having initiated the movement which has now reached a glorious climax, not only Ireland, which has suffered long and severely, but also the other poor nations which I have mentioned, are to be emancipated. This honourable House can not do itself more honour than to cast a last glance on that grave from which springs a light which is now illuminating the world—the light of Home Rule for small nations and small peoples. Such was the work accomplished by "honest John Costigan," a colleague of our right honourable

nonagenarian representative on the floor of this House some 35 years ago.

At the end of 30 years the spirit of the nation rose again, because one of the famous Irish patriots said, "The spirit of a nation can never die," and I believe the poet who wrote those sublime words was an uncle of the senator whose seat, now vacant, is adorned with flowers—Davis, the Irish national poet; Davis of the Gavin Duffys and the O'Connells and the D'Arcy McGees in the time when I was a boy, in the time of my honourable colleague here, whom I respect and admire as the foremost type of Canadian manhood in this Dominion, Sir Mackenzie Bowell. Fair—may I say it?—in spite of his official position as the president of organizations which we then considered, and which many of us, though not myself, still consider to be enemies of certain faiths, certain classes of religion. Never has his allegiance to those societies broken his allegiance to his adopted country, Canada. He has always been a champion of the minority as well as a friend of the majority. I bow before him; I take my lessons in public life from his conduct; I take him as my model. I devote my interest and my time, but not all my time and all my interest, to those special societies as against the interest and the devotion that I owe to our common country, Canada. There is my model. We have to regret one who disappeared only yesterday morning, in the person of Tom Davis, a nephew of the Irish national poet. Let our sympathy go out to him, and I say to him, now in his grave, "Tom, your name shall remain, with that of your uncle, deeply impressed in the hearts of the people of Canada. You were a trusted friend of the people, especially of the people of this country, as your famous uncle was a champion of Irish rights sixty years ago when Gavin Duffy and D'Arcy McGee and other patriots were exiled to the overseas Dominions, then colonies." When Gavin Duffy reached the shores of Australia he was asked, "Well, Gavin, how does poor old Ireland stand?" And he replied, "Ask me not; I have left her corpse on the dissecting table." That same Gavin Duffy was afterwards for years Prime Minister and Governor of Australia, showing that the heart of the Irish is true all the time when it rocks and beats against justice and truth; but the heart of the Irish is in open rebellion or concealed rebellion when it confronts injustice, when it confronts what is not right and not in accordance with the laws of humanity and civil-