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SIR EDWARD GREY SAYS HOME RULE IS NECESSARY

Imperial Parliament Cannot Go On Managing the
Separate Affairs of England, Ireland, Wales
and Attend to Imperial Affairs in Addition
—Present Situation Is Impossible.

Speaking at North Sunderland recently, Sir Edward Grey, foreign secretary, said: "In the coming session we are going to introduce a home rule bill. Home rule has been a familiar question in this country since, at any rate, because I am sure I was making speeches about it, and indeed some election speeches about nothing but home rule, when a good many of you who are here this evening were certainly not attending political meetings—(laughter)—when some of you I should not have yet come into existence, (laughed laughter). However, we have got home rule to the stage really not only when it ought to be passed, but when it must be passed. In those old days home rule was opposed by the Conservative party, and they are opposing it now. I maintain the case for home rule is stronger and more urgent today than ever it was. (Cheers.) A great deal has been done for Ireland since the home rule question first came forward. Irish land purchase has done a great deal to put the Irish people in a more satisfactory position. In those early days Ireland was all roused. Ireland was restless. There was a good deal of agrarian crime, and the argument on the Conservative side used to be, 'Look at the people in Ireland. They are so restless, and so full of disturbance, and there is so much crime that it would not be safe to trust them with home rule.' The argument today is entirely on the other side. The argument now used is that Ireland, having got land purchase, is comparatively prosperous. There is not much crime in Ireland today. There is not much disturbance. It is comparatively prosperous, and I understand that people on the Conservative side say, 'As Ireland is fairly prosperous, and as it is quiet, why cannot you leave it alone?' My answer to that is this: If it was dangerous to give Ireland home rule some years ago because Ireland was disturbed, ought it not to follow that if Ireland is comparatively prosperous and quiet it would be safe to give home rule today?' (Cheers.)

Why Home Rule Is Necessary.
If the Conservatives ask why not let home rule alone, I would say this: In the

first place Ireland still demands home rule. They are asking for it with just as great a majority as they had in the old days. And in the next place, if Ireland was not asking for home rule, it would be necessary in order to relieve the congestion in the Imperial Parliament, and set it free to attend to its own business. What we should say to Ireland is: 'Whether you like it or not, you must have home rule.' We cannot in the Imperial Parliament go on managing the separate local affairs of Scotland, England, Ireland and Wales, and yet attend to Imperial business. Just think of the things that the House of Commons has to attend to. There are the army and the navy estimates, there is the foreign policy, the colonial policy—everything that concerns the Empire as a

whole, everything that concerns the United Kingdom as a whole. The House of Commons ought to attend to all that, and cannot attend to it a present because it has also got to attend to purely local questions. It astonishes people who come from any of our self-governing colonies, such as Canada, to find the Imperial House of Commons, which they have always heard of as the 'Mother of Parliaments' and the great centre of the Empire—when they find it discussing, let us say, some dispute about a Welsh school or some quite local affair. It seems to people who look at it for the first time, and who are not used to it, that it is impossible to carry on the business of the country and of the Empire properly with a House of Commons having so many things to do. It is impossible. The House of Commons is trying to be both an Imperial and a local body at the same time. It is not possible for that to be done, and it is essential, with the complexity of the interests and the number of things to be attended to in the country, that we should find some means of setting the House of Commons and the Imperial Parliament free from purely local business, and of insuring that the local business, whether it be of Ireland, Scotland, England, or Wales, is attended to by the people who have the time to attend to it and whom it alone concerns. We have to make a beginning with Ireland, and they say we are going to de-

stroy the constitution by doing it, because we are going to alter it. Altering the constitution does not necessarily mean destroying it. There are other ways of destroying the constitution than by altering it. To refuse to make changes in the constitution which are necessary to make it keep pace with the times and do its work properly is certainly as likely to destroy the constitution as anything else. (Cheers.)

The 'Loyalty' of Ulster.
I see that in Ulster, or in Belfast, they are not even going to allow home rule to be discussed if they can help it. It is apparently some sort of crime to make a home rule speech in Belfast, and they say that they are not going to allow it. An action of that kind is not really an action against home rule or any particular movement. It is an action against democracy, because it is an action against free speech. And when I hear the loyalty of Ulster talked about I would just call attention to the argument I have been using, that the case for home rule is strengthened by this, and it is absolutely necessary to have devolution of business in order to preserve the Imperial Parliament and prevent it breaking down. What sort of loyalty is that which refuses a change which is necessary to preserve the proper working of the constitution? You cannot have the Imperial Parliament, the affairs of the Empire, the proper management of the Imperial Parliament's work, sacrificed to the opinion of one portion of one part of the United Kingdom such as Ulster. It is absolutely necessary to treat this as a big question, and when people say 'You must not give home rule to Ireland, because Ulster is loyal,' my answer is: 'However loyal Ulster may be, we cannot stand and see the Imperial Parliament strangled. Our loyalty, after all, is to the country as a whole and to the Empire, and it is essential to the country as a whole and the Empire that the Imperial Parliament should be set free from local business.'

The Unity of the Empire.
When you come to larger views of the unity of the Empire itself, does it not come home to one very much that if you wish for unity of the English-speaking races within the Empire you will never have achieved that unity until you have satisfied that Irish demand for home rule? The great bulk of the Irish Nationalists today stand entirely outside of the Imperial Government altogether. Not one of them will come into the Imperial Government, because they will not do so until they have got the management of their own affairs. And while that remains, you have no real unity in the Empire. You have got the House of Commons in the Imperial Parliament being strangled by congestion of business. On the other hand, you have got this continual standing aloof of the bulk of the

Irish Nationalists from the management of Imperial affairs because they have not got the control of their own affairs. When you have given home rule to Ireland, then at least you have got something like a unity of national sentiment between the English-speaking races within the Empire. To every one in our self-governing colonies it seems, as far as I can judge from opinion, to be extraordinary that we should go on attempting to manage the affairs of the United Kingdom as the centre without doing what countries like Canada and other colonies are in the habit of doing as regards their own affairs, leaving local affairs to be managed by local assemblies. (Cheers.)

STOLE FOR HIS FAMILY

Detective's Visit to a Poverty-Stricken Home in Old London.

A sad case of a man being driven to steal through illness and poverty was brought to the notice of Mr. Paul Taylor, at Marlborough police court, London, England. The accused, Henry Lockerby, a window cleaner, of 16 Emerald street, Holborn, was charged with stealing a basket of provisions, and when arrested he told Detective Hadlow that he took it because his wife and three children were starving. The detective made inquiries, and now reported to the magistrate that accused's statement was perfectly true. "When I went to his home of two

rooms," he said, "I found a very sad state of things. The place was very dilapidated, but was spotlessly clean, and there wasn't a particle of food to be seen."

There were three children, aged six, four and eight weeks. The youngest was lying on some old clothes, which constituted the only bedding, another child was sitting by the wood fire, and the mother was making some gruel for the third child, who was lying in a bath very ill. Mrs. Lockerby told him that on the previous night her husband took off the brass from the bedstead

and sold it for a penny, and with the penny he bought some milk for the sick child. Mr. Paul Taylor: That is in the prisoner's favor. The detective added that he was so touched by what he saw and heard that he gave Mrs. Lockerby a few shillings out of his own pocket. "That is extremely good of you," said Mr. Paul Taylor. In view of the officer's story Mr. Paul Taylor merely bound the prisoner over to come up for judgment if called upon.

Right Honorable H. H. Asquith



Premier of England. An impressionistic sketch made by an artist at the opening of Parliament two weeks ago. Those who know Mr. Asquith say this sketch more perfectly indicates the Asquith profile than any yet published.

Kickin' the Butcher's Houn



The bad little boys in this ol' town Are always pullin' my sausage down; I don't care if it was a moult, They gotta quit pullin' my sausage down.

