

no "dispute" between the manager of the Montreal Cotton Company and the Department of Customs. There have been some irregularities, to which I have called the attention, not of the manager, but of the directors, and they have promised to put the matter right. What the decision of the Department will be, I am not at present able to say, as I have not received all the papers.

STATION HOUSE IN THE PARISH OF CAP ST. IGNACE.

Mr. DESSAINT, in the absence of Mr. CHOQUETTE, moved for :

Copies of tenders received by the Department of Railways for the building of a station house on the Intercolonial Railway, in the Parish of Cap St. Ignace, County of Montmagny.

Mr. POPE. There is no need for this return. There were tenders received, but the specifications were misunderstood, the tenders being from \$4,000 to \$6,000. New specifications are being prepared, and tenders will be invited in a few days. I hope the hon. gentleman will withdraw the motion.

Motion withdrawn.

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. DAVIN. Mr. Speaker : It is with great unwillingness that I intrude myself on the House on any question not connected with North-West affairs; but there are a number of hon. gentlemen listening to me who will easily understand that when a question like this comes before the House, I having taken a deep interest in the general question to which it belongs, it would be very hard, and would cause some misunderstanding, if I did not express my opinion upon it; and, therefore, I will crave the indulgence of hon. gentlemen while I make a few remarks on the resolution and the amendments thereto now before the House. When I rose, Sir, on Friday night, I was led to speak on a topic raised by the hon. member for Missisquoi (Mr. Claves), who, asserting that the Tory party in England had dealt out nothing but cruelty to Ireland, gave the House the idea that all the Coercion Acts passed were passed by the Tory party. I knew that that was not the case, and, on the impulse of the moment, I questioned it. I have since analysed the Coercion Acts passed since the year 1800, and I find that in that period the number passed by the Liberal party nearly double the number passed by the Tory party; and I may say this, that the beneficent legislation of Mr. Gladstone, with regard to the land, was anticipated by Mr. Disraeli in 1852, when he laid plans on the Table of the House embodying the recommendations of the Devon Commission; and one of the most useful measures passed in regard to Ireland was Lord Ashbourne's Act, under which something like \$5,000,000 has been lent to the people of Ireland, as much more is about to be lent, and there are applications for as much again. The House is aware that Lord Ashbourne was Mr. Disraeli's Attorney General. So the hon. member for Missisquoi may feel a little more charitable towards the Conservative or Tory party, either in Canada or in England. In fact, Sir, the most liberal-minded Minister that ever led the House of Commons in England, the man who had the most enlightened views of Ireland, the man who, if he had had his way would, I believe, have settled the Irish question something like eighty-seven years ago, was Mr. Pitt. Now, Sir, during this debate we have had many able speeches, and two remarkable speeches: I allude

to the very able speech of the hon. leader of the Opposition, and the cold, clear, logical utterance of my hon. friend the member for North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy). But, Sir, I should like to call the attention of the House to what I was about to point out on Friday night, the fact that there are difficulties in Ireland with which, to deal effectively, will require years, and more than one, probably more than two or three Acts of Parliament. At the same time, in the sense in which the word grievances has been used from the time of the first protest against Poyning's Law to the time of O'Connell's agitation for Catholic Emancipation, and from that time to the time of Mr. Gladstone's legislation, there is no such thing at present in Ireland. At the present time in Ireland there is not a vestige of disability; yet how comes it that we have agrarian crimes? How comes it that the people are discontented? From the time of Strongbow and Fitzstephen the Irish Celt has fought in one fashion or another with the powerful intruders for the land, and those who were not and are not Celts, but Celtised, have taken up the struggle in the same spirit. When the Norman went into Ireland he found him there in the agrarian partnership of the clan, and that sense of property of dubious value still lingers in the mind of the Irish peasant. When we read in Irish history of chiefs and leading men having been forced to transplant and move westward, the reader generally thinks, probably, that the leading man only felt the sense of dispossession. The fact is that all his followers felt that they too were dispossessed. I will call the attention of the House for a moment to the language of Mr. Froude, because it is the language of a man who writes very adversely of Ireland, but still the language of a very well-informed historian. Speaking of an opportunity for Wentworth, Charles I's great Minister, to do a little plundering, he says :

"The state of tenures created an opportunity. The Commission was appointed to survey the lands, and to trace and enquire into the titles of their professing owners. In strict construction, four-fifths of Connaught was found to belong to the Crown; and Wentworth meditated taking advantage of the situation to make a new plantation. The intention, scarcely concealed, following so soon on the confiscation of the six counties, flung the Irish of the old blood into a frenzy of rage. Religious indulgence might satisfy the Anglo-Norman Catholics of the old settlements. The passions of the true Irishman were for the land, and he saw the land in large slices passing away from him to the stranger. What to him was King or Parliament, Calvinism, or Anglicanism. The one fact, to which all else was nothing, was coming home to his heart, that the Englishman, by force or fraud, was filching from him the inheritance of his fathers."

And if we turn to page 217 of the first volume of Mr. Froude, we find him writing as follows :—

"When the State sold lands to raise money, or allowed men to sell to one another, it became necessarily more indulgent to neglect. But if, on the one hand, London speculators, or Crown favorites, could not be prevented from acquiring large estates in Ireland, or the other, the entire object of the confiscation was defeated if the population were left unshepherded; or if, for the landlords' convenience, the sons and grandsons of the old owners were left in possession as tenants retaining their local influence, still, to all intents and purposes, the practical rulers; and of the conquest, no result was left but the annual exasperation of the returning rent-day. An ownership, which consisted merely in robbing a poor country of a percentage of the fruits of its industry, was no benefit but a curse; and, although it might have been impossible to revive the laws of Henry VIII, a wise settlement of Ireland would have included a tax so heavy on all rents sent out of the kingdom, as would have compelled proprietors to sell their lands to others who would make their estates their own."

The first quotation refers to the time of Charles I, and the second to the time of the Revolution; but this state of things was going on all the time, and the tradition of it has lingered in the minds of the people, a people of great longevity and tenacious of tradition. Cromwell's war was followed by the war of William. William was an enlightened statesman who desired to carry on that war with as much consideration as possible, and if the ascendancy party in the Irish Parliament had allowed him he would, at a later time, have dealt out a beneficent policy; but although he was strong and victorious, he was unable to carry out the stipulations