

THE IRISH FINANCIAL INQUIRY

An Interesting Statement on the Subject.

Mr. J. G. Swift MacNeill Attributes the Successful Organization to the Masterly Efforts of Mr. Thomas Sexton.

In a recent issue of the Dublin Freeman, Mr. J. G. Swift MacNeill gives the following interesting details in connection with the preliminary work of the Irish Financial Inquiry...

At length on August 13, 1890, the Select Committee was appointed, on the motion of Mr. Goschen, then Chancellor of the Exchequer. It consisted of twenty-one members, including Mr. Dillon and Mr. Sexton...

THE SEPARATE ENTITY QUESTION: "How far the Financial Relations established by the sums so contributed, paid, advanced, or promised, or by any other existing conditions are equitable, having regard to the resources and population of England, Scotland and Ireland respectively?"

This committee held but one meeting on the last day of the session, August 16, 1890. Parliament was prorogued on the 18th, but so anxious was Mr. Sexton that some effective work should be done that he proposed and carried a motion in the House of Commons giving the committee special powers to sit on August 16, notwithstanding the adjournment of the House.

In the session of 1890-1891 the Select Committee was not appointed. The order for its appointment was read, but postponed on coming on after midnight, owing to the opposition of the Welsh members, who maintained that Wales should be included in the inquiry.

"A SEPARATE FINED ENTITY." "The Government," he said, "are certainly earnest in their desire to proceed, but Wales has never been treated as a separate fixed entity, and it is perfectly impossible for the Government to accept the amendment."

Mr. Sexton, whose insistence on the reappointment of the committee by the Tory Government during this session was unsuccessful, notwithstanding Mr. Goschen's declaration of his desire "to proceed," obtained on July 2, 1891, an undertaking from Mr. Goschen "to give in a parliamentary paper (which was afterwards published), the materials for which he had collected and which were very considerable."

On July 9, 1891, Mr. Sexton emphasized his disappointment and surprise at the action of the Government in not reappointing the Committee by moving a resolution of the salary of Mr. Goschen as Chancellor of the Exchequer, and in his statement anticipating, with an accuracy little short of amazing, the results of the investigations of the Financial Commission five years later.

I am, he said, sorry the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Goschen) is not present, because I find it my duty to move a reduction of his salary in respect of the financial relations between England, Ireland and Scotland. The House is generally familiar with the state of things. The Chancellor of the Exchequer made a specific promise last year. I brought forward in the debate on that occasion what I considered a scandalous and intolerable grievance, which existed in regard to the contributions from Ireland to the Imperial revenue. If you judge Ireland by any fair test ordinarily taken of the capacity of a country in respect to its taxation, you will find that

IRELAND IS PAYING DOUBLE HER SHARE to the Imperial revenue. It is a serious matter when a representative of the Irish people in this House in a specific argument lays before the House the fact that Ireland now pays £8,000,000 every year, or after re-adjustment will pay £6,500,000, to the Imperial Treasury, or one eleventh of the whole. It is scandalous, I say, that such a representative should be told, when his country is paying double what she should do, that a Committee has been promised. But here, at the end of the session, after that promise, no step forward has been made. Ireland is not in a condition to go on year after year bearing this unjust burden without any attempt being made to inquire whether the burden is just or unjust. The proposal to appoint a Committee to inquire into the finances of Ireland in relation to England was put down to come on after midnight, when the objection of a single member could stop any progress being made with the proposal. A Welsh member did object, and the result of it

was that the Committee was not appointed, and an important question like the finances of Ireland is

LEFT IN THE BACKGROUND.

It was only once that the Committee met last session, and that was only for half an hour, when the Committee directed that certain returns should be prepared. This is all that was done last year. One would have thought that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would have put down the proposal for the appointment of a Committee at a time when there would have been a chance of discussing the proposal. But excuses have been made that some members of last year's Committee were absent through illness while one or two of the Irish members serving on it were in prison. Then we are at the end of the second session without anything whatever being done. I am prepared to advance proofs to the committee that Ireland is paying £3,000,000 more to the Imperial revenue than she ought to pay, and yet the committee which should inquire into such an important question is allowed to run on from year to year without doing anything in a matter which is both pressing and urgent. The Finance Minister, whose duty it is, has never submitted a motion for the re-appointment of the committee at a time when the matter could be fairly and properly discussed. This is a peculiar and strange state of affairs after ninety years' union, and when a question about Irish finance is asked the Finance Minister has to go and consult some clerk up the street as to what portion Ireland is contributing to the Imperial revenue. It is in this way that we have procrastination and delay in reference to all Irish questions, and by way of protest against the injury and insult offered to Irish interests I shall move that the salary of the Chancellor of the Exchequer be reduced by £1,000.

MAKES ANOTHER DEMAND

On the 22nd of March, 1892 Mr. Sexton thus commented on the delay in the appointment of a committee to consider the financial relations of the countries:

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Goschen) had not made the slightest reasonable effort to fulfil the promise to appoint a committee to consider the financial relations between England and Ireland. That promise was given two years ago in reply to a speech which I made on the Budget debate. The whole of one session and parts of two other sessions have since passed, and although the question to be determined by the committee was a question of the fundamental principle which ought to govern the contribution of each of these three countries to the Imperial revenue, the right honorable gentleman in the whole course of that long period has never thought it worth his while to put down the motion upon any day at such a time as would save it from being blocked by an individual member. I think I am entitled to say when the motion has been treated in such a manner there is no serious intention of promoting it, and I for the future will not attach very serious parliamentary importance to any promise made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. On these occasions I am bitterly reminded of the statement of Pitt, that one of the objects of the Act of Union was to give Ireland, a poor country, the advantage of being united with a wealthy country. Upon every occasion when a financial question comes up here, if you were the poorest country in the world and we were the wealthiest, you could not be more eager and resolute to take advantage of us in every transaction. Whenever there is a question of placing Ireland at a disadvantage then the union between us is close, but whenever there is a question of distributing advantage then your Unionist becomes a Separatist in the twinkling of an eye and makes off with the spoil.

On May 12, 1892, a motion, proposed by Mr. Goschen for the appointment of the Committee, was talked out by the Welsh members. It will not be denied by anyone having regard for his word that Mr. Sexton's insistence in season and out of season in pressing before the notice of the public the financial robbery of Ireland led directly to the appointment of the Financial Relations Commission, to whose findings his masterly abilities so largely contributed. That Commission was appointed by the late Government, which was in sympathy with Irish aspirations and in relations of alliance with the Irish National Party. It is somewhat remarkable, having regard to the

PRETENSIONS RECENTLY ADVANCED on behalf of Mr. John Redmond as the originator of the Financial Relations Commission, that in the Sessions of 1890, 1891 and 1892, with a Coercionist Government in power, Mr. Redmond never, by question in the House of Commons or contribution to debate, brought under the public notice the financial robbery of Ireland, nor did he take any steps whatever to stop the pillage. When, however, a Government pledged to the establishment of an Irish Parliament was in office, Mr. Redmond endeavored to incorporate in the Home Rule Bill a provision for a Financial Commission in no wise pertinent to that measure, and indeed, presupposing its failure, a provision which he placed in competition with a proposal of Mr. Sexton's providing for a readjustment, at fixed periods, under the Home Rule system, of the financial relations between Great Britain and Ireland. Mr. Redmond, in fact, moved to incorporate in the Home Rule Bill a clause which would be appropriate in no bill, because the institution of a Royal Commission is not a matter of legislation, but is a prerogative of the Crown; that is, of the Executive Government. Mr. Sexton pointed this out in relation to

and pointed out at the same time, if the Home Rule Bill were not carried, the appointment of a Royal Commission would be a necessity. Accordingly, as had been agreed from the first, between the Liberal Government and the members acting on behalf of the Irish Party, the Commission was duly sped, not long

after the rejection of the Home Bill by the House of Lords. Whilst the Home Rule Bill was in progress Mr. Redmond's interrogations in the House of Commons had, and could have, no effect whatever upon either the appointment or the time of the appointment of the Commission, because it was evident from the outset, from the nature of the case, that if the matter were not disposed of in the most desirable way by the passing of the Home Rule Bill it would have to be dealt with forthwith by the institution of the inquiry.

With these facts in their possession the public will be able to appraise at its true value the following statement in Mr. Redmond's organ, calculated to deprive Mr. Sexton of the merit of an unparalleled achievement which should alone render his name beloved by the Irish race:—

The fact is that Mr. Sexton openly opposed the suggestion of a Royal Commission when it was advanced by Mr. John Redmond. If Mr. Sexton and his colleagues and newspapers had their way there would never have been a Financial Commission at all.

I think it a mere act of justice to an eminent man, for whose retirement from public life, at a time when his talents would be of inestimable value to his country, the Irish race both at home and abroad will sooner or later demand an account, to place certain facts before the public which will incontrovertibly prove that to Mr. Sexton's resource and genius are due the

UNMASKING OF THE ATROVIOUS SYSTEM by which Ireland has been plundered since the Union. It is, perhaps, worthy of note that while to Mr. Sexton's statement with regard to the Irish Education Question in the House of Commons on August 28, 1889, was due the declaration of Mr. Arthur Balfour in favor of an Irish Catholic university, which subsequently led to his famous speech at Partick, in December, 1889, which may be regarded as a manifesto for the establishment of such an institution; so, likewise, to a speech made in the House of Commons by Mr. Sexton, on May 20, 1890, demonstrating the over-taxation of Ireland, which has produced such startling results.

On that occasion, speaking in committee on the Customs and Inland Revenue Bill, amid frequent interruptions of an English Tory member, who questioned the "relevancy" of his observations, Mr. Sexton said:—

"I claim as a matter of right that a Select Committee of this House be appointed to consider the incidence of Imperial taxation at the present moment in Great Britain and Ireland, and I ask the House to suspend the portion of the proposal with regard to increased taxation, so far as Ireland is concerned, until that committee has reported whether the present incidence of taxation in Great Britain and Ireland is tolerable or fair, and what steps should be taken if the burden is found to be undue in the case of Ireland to reduce her contribution to such an amount as will appear to be a more just contribution from the relative capacity of each country to contribute to the common purse of the United Kingdom."

Mr. Goschen, in reply, said:— "The point of the whole speech of the honorable gentleman is that Ireland is overtaxed, that her contributions to the revenue are in excess of what Ireland ought to pay, and that Ireland does not receive back her fair share." Again:— "The honorable member asks that there should be a committee to review the taxation of Ireland. I will consult my right honorable friend (the late Mr. W. H. Smith, First Lord of the Treasury), and I think we shall be prepared to grant an inquiry into the financial relations of the two countries (Ireland and Scotland)."

Mr. John Morley, speaking in debate that evening, said:— "Every one who listened to the extremely able and full speech of the honorable member for West Belfast (Mr. Sexton) must feel how much both Great Britain and Ireland would have lost if that speech had not been made, and this important undertaking had not been got from the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Goschen)."

On June 12, 1890, Mr. Goschen said:— "The intention of the (Tory) Government was to secure a practical investigation into the present incidence of taxation in Ireland and its relation to the taxation of the rest of the United Kingdom," and hoped, in reply to Mr. Sexton, to be able to place the terms of the reference on the table in a few days."

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RABIES PROOF DOGS. A SIMPLE OPERATION PERFORMED WITH GREAT SUCCESS.

Mr. E. J. Lawyer, State Fire Marshal, who has been interested in the children who were sent to the Pasteur Institute to be treated for the bite of a mad dog, said yesterday:— "My father, William Lawyer, who is an old man, has always been fond of dogs and he has always performed an operation on all the animals he has owned to prevent them from having the rabies. He has had but one animal affected, and in this case he failed to take the precaution as he had done with the other dogs."

"When he was 17 years of age a German blacksmith, who lived at Hanover, Pa., owned two puppies. He called my father one day and said: 'William, I will show you something which will always be of use to you. Taking one of the dogs, the blacksmith placed it in a boot top, and pulling his mouth open, pulled the animal's tongue. Then he took a sharp knife and made a slit under

the dog's tongue, then took an awl and forced out a small worm. When he had completed the operation the blacksmith asked father to try his hand on the other animal, which he did. The blacksmith then said: 'These dogs will never have the hydrophobia. If they are bitten by a mad dog their jaws will lock and they will not be able to open them.'"

The Fire Marshal said his father had taken the precaution to follow the blacksmith's advice. One of his dogs, which had been treated by this process, was bitten by a dog which was mad, and in a few days the mouth of Mr. Lawyer's dog became locked and the animal died without inflicting any injury to anyone. Mr. Lawyer says he would like to have some of the medical fraternity experiment with two dogs, taking the worm from the tongue of one and leaving it in the tongue of the other, then inoculating both with the virus from a dog known to have been affected with the rabies.—Baltimore Sun.

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HARD SHELL PHILOSOPHERS. THEIR CODE OF RULES AND HOW THEY OBSERVE THEM. SOME INTERESTING POINTERS ON HOW TO GROW RICH AND OBEYENT. There are quite a number of adherents of the new social creed described in the following sketch or interview which appeared in a recent issue of the Sun, N.Y.

Many of them are located in Montreal, in the very centre of the commercial district. Some of their number will doubtless experience a just degree of pride in the perusal of this article, as it will be received by them as a very acceptable and well deserved commendation of their selfish policy.

He was rather a kindly looking man than otherwise, and as he sat at his desk dandling a good cigar between his thumb and finger, and contemplatively conversing with a visitor, not one man in a hundred but would have said that an appeal to him would have met with the most generous response.

The visitor to whom he talked was a much younger man, who might have been any one of a hundred things men are as we find them in our daily walks. "It used to be," he was saying, "that I took a special delight in helping people along. I don't mean beggars on the street and that kind, but those well-meaning people who appreciate a kindness and will pay up whenever they can. If they don't they don't, and they seem to think that if their consciences hurt them, as they do in nearly every instance, that somehow settles the bill. Just as it is with these church members who think if they are sorry for committing a sin, the sin is atoned for and they can go ahead and sin some more. I was comfortably off myself, with some money to spare, and when I found a person who needed the money more than I did, let him have it at a low rate of interest and on pretty much the same kind of security one accepts who lends to the Lord."

"I presume I have let thousands of dollars go out that way, and more of it is to come back than has ever yet come back, though I expect the greater part some day, for the borrowers are honest enough, if they don't die. But no more goes out, nor has any gone out in ten years past to amount to anything, and I have no dealings now with any kind of people except those who are as well off as I am."

"I was not a millionaire, but I had an idea that I could do a lot of good with what money I had so I went after those people who didn't have any and might use mine to advantage. I soon found that the people I was willing to help grew more willing to be helped, and if at any time I wanted help from them I could not get it. Nor was it because they did not want to help me; it was simply because they hadn't the ability—in other words, the money. The fact was, I had discovered that in my self-appointed office of philanthropist and benevolent citizen, I had shaken loose from people of wealth who didn't need, and had surrounded myself with a lot of people who were no good, socially, financially, religiously; or otherwise, and I began to hedge."

"That is to say, I did as other men of my business and social position did. When one of these inefficient wanted help, after my resolution to reform, instead of devoting my time and money to him, I had some good excuse for declining, and as time went by I got rid of nearly all my barnacles. Then when I had anything on hand that I wanted to

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divide with some one else, or had a scheme that had money in it, I went after some one who had money, instead of some one who hadn't. In other words, I had equal partners, instead of being the big man for a lot of small fry. "Possibly there were times when my conscience reproved me, but I was only doing my duty to myself and my best interests, and I shut my ears to the inward monitor racket. In a few years I found that, the people of means, who had come in on my schemes and made money, let me in on theirs, and the result was that this kind of reciprocity paid exceedingly well. So well, in fact, that I was fifty thousand more to the good within ten years than ever, and the poor people of other days seemed to me to be getting along about as well without me as with me. Perhaps they were not. I never stopped to inquire. "I note also that my standing in the business and social community is greatly improved, and my friends are now among the most influential and the richest persons in the city, whereas under the old plan I didn't know anybody who had either money or influence. I was merely a helper to the helpless, and got nothing out of it but flattery when I let the money go, and reproaches when I tried to get it back again."

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