

allowed to go to a vote after the hon. member for West Durham had made his able speech, which will not be soon forgotten, particularly by Irishmen. I am sorry to observe that hon. members do not take more interest in securing the release of my fellow-countrymen, who are incarcerated in felons' cells for exercising freedom of speech. Hon. members may laugh at the idea, but freedom of speech is just as pleasant to one British subject as to another. But I for one do not blame the British Government so much as I do the bailiff in Ireland, who has no interest further than to get his percentage for the collection of rents for absent landlords. When a corpse is brought back to Ireland to be interred in a coffin which happens to be a valuable one, the bailiff sells the coffin for rent, as he holds a plain wooden coffin will be sufficient. Hon. gentlemen may think such is not the fact, but I know to the contrary. Many people send corpses from Australia, and they do not send them in cheap coffins. Therefore, when the bailiff with his Jew's eye observes them, he removes them after the wake has been held. Would you blame any person for shooting the bailiff? I would not. If I could not make a good shot once I would shoot twice. I could go on to relate for one or two hours cases nearly as bad as that to which I have referred; but it is bad enough to show that the people of Ireland have a grievance. There has been a great deal said about the religious question in this debate. Where I was raised in the old country, as a matter of course, I was taught that it was wrong to have anything to do with Catholics; but since I have travelled and have had opportunities to form opinions of my own, I have seen a great deal of good that priests have done, particularly in British Columbia. In British Columbia, Mr. Speaker, let me tell you the priests, and they alone, have civilized our Indians, who are now a superior class, and our settlers and farmers are proud of them. There is a scheme, I understand, before the Parliament of Great Britain by which they intend to do justice to Ireland, a scheme to divide up the land of the absentee landlords and allow the tenantry to purchase it at a small rate of interest. I think that will be a great step in the right direction. The address, Mr. Speaker, is sufficiently mild, and I am glad to see it so ably drawn. There is nothing in it objectionable, and nothing but what I would like to see the Parliament of Canada endorse. It will probably have a good effect with the British Parliament in inducing them to grant the prayer of this House.

Mr. ANGLIN. Mr. Speaker, I find, Sir, that it is entirely unnecessary for me to make a speech on this subject. I retained my seat until this hour in the morning for two or three reasons. The first was that I desired to give way to hon. gentlemen on both sides of the House to express what seems to have been a universal feeling of sympathy for the people of Ireland in their present state of suffering and trial, every hon. gentleman who has spoken supporting the resolutions now before the House. I thought it possible that in the course of the debate, even those who meant well might fall into some errors with regard to the condition of affairs in Ireland which it might be well for me to correct. But I find there has been shown on the whole a knowledge of the condition of Ireland which it was scarcely possible or at least reasonable to expect. The errors have been so few that it is hardly worth while to take any notice of them. There were a few slight historical errors, and some created by the deliberate misrepresentations of the cablegrams to which we have all to resort for information regarding Ireland. I was sorry to find my hon. friend for West Elgin (Mr. Casey) fall into the very common error that the Land League is in some way responsible for such outrages as have unhappily been perpetrated in Ireland of late years. The Land League were not in any degree responsible for those outrages. The

Mr. BUNSTER.

simple fact is since the Land League has been suppressed the number of outrages of a serious character, as well as those that owe their importance to the misrepresentations of the cablegrams, have greatly increased in number. The people, driven from the modes of a peaceful and constitutional agitation, have in far too many cases had resort to what has been called the wild justice of revenge; they have taken the law into their own hands, and in many deplorable instances crimes have been committed that have sent a thrill of horror throughout the civilized world. None have more deeply deplored these outrages than those belonging to the Irish people who have Irish blood in their veins, who sympathise most cordially with the people of Ireland in their struggles. But the number of these outrages has been deliberately exaggerated. We have had the most circumstantial accounts of murders which it has afterwards been found never were committed. We have had the full particulars of houses blown up, how they were entered, how undermined, and have afterwards found that nothing of the kind had ever taken place. We are aware, Mr. Speaker, that in England, in proportion to the population, the number of crimes of violence is vastly greater than in Ireland, which is reported to the rest of the world as steeped in crime, and almost reeking with the blood of its victims. In almost any great city of this continent more crimes are committed, sometimes in a week, than are committed in a whole year among the five millions in Ireland. All the crimes in late years have been attributed to the Land League, and were all set down as agrarian. There is no doubt that too many crimes have been committed; we must abhor bloodshed, no matter what the provocation is, but it is not right to saddle the Land League, nor any other league organized openly and fairly for the purpose of constitutional agitation, with all the crimes of violence committed in the whole country—crimes committed often under the greatest possible provocation, which would almost exculpate the unfortunate men who committed them. In that error I was sorry to see the hon. member for West Elgin (Mr. Casey) fall. He did seem to exempt the leaders of the League, however. Other errors of the same character hon. gentlemen fell into in the course of the evening, but they were remarkably few indeed. I was sorry to observe the tone and manner in which the hon. leader of the Government replied to, or rather commented on, the very able and powerful speech of my hon. friend from West Durham (Mr. Blake). I, myself, would have some reason to complain with that speech if I had intended to put the case of Ireland before the House this evening, because he covered so much of what I would have had to deal with. There is still more to be said, but I will not call the attention of the House to a full argument upon the question. The hon. Prime Minister appeared provoked by the reference made by the hon. member for West Durham, to a speech the right hon. gentleman delivered in 1869, on a motion of the late Mr. Holton; but that reference was justifiable on this ground, that the hon. member for West Durham had no reason to know that the Premier had changed his views since that time as to the right of this Parliament to meddle in affairs not coming strictly within its purview. He had a right, in that view, to make that reference and the right to argue that in that case the right hon. gentleman was mistaken, and to anticipate as he did that the views of the right hon. gentleman had in the meantime changed. Perhaps, Sir, that reference was of a provoking character, though I thought not so intended. At all events, the hon. Premier chose to commence by charging the hon. member for West Durham with having made his speech and taken the position he did in a partizan spirit and for partizan purposes. Surely, after the statement made by that hon. gentleman that he had himself, in the early days of the Session, contemplated moving resolutions in this same direction,