

paper endorsing the scheme which has had to face the opposition of Mr. Gladstone's own political party. It looks to me—perhaps I am wrong—a good deal like toadying to Mr. Gladstone. There is one other matter to which I shall refer, which has already been referred to by the hon. member for Centre Wellington (Mr. Orton), and that is the fact that in these resolutions of Mr. Gladstone, the Customs and Excise, the power of putting on taxation, the power of protecting the industries of the country, is not given to Ireland, but is retained by England. Well, I had occasion a few years ago, when this question was up for consideration, to make some remarks, and I then said, and I repeat now, that I think the principal cause of Ireland's want of prosperity is the fact that they have no protection for the industries of the people. Mr. Speaker, no country ever became great or prosperous or wealthy without manufactures. There is no instance of a people becoming wealthy through agriculture alone. There are more people in Ireland than could cultivate perhaps twice as much ground as they have here, and in order that the people should have sufficient employment there must be manufactures in that country. They have very few manufactures there to-day, and those are mostly in the north of Ireland where we find the people most prosperous. What Ireland requires to-day to ensure her prosperity and give employment to her people, to make them prosperous, contented and satisfied is protection, and the encouragement to build up the manufacturing industries in their midst; and while these are lacking I venture to predict that Ireland will not have a career of great prosperity. I am sorry that, with all Mr. Gladstone's ability, he has been unable, and perhaps unwilling, to formulate a scheme by which manufactures might be encouraged in Ireland; because I am convinced, as I said before, that Ireland will never become a great, prosperous and contented people until employment is given to her population, until they have various manufactures in their country, and employment is given by manufactures as well as by agriculture to the people of that great country.

Mr. BLAKE. If the question which is the fittest motion to be made, which is the motion that would get the greatest measure of support in this House and yet accomplish the greatest measure of assistance for Ireland, is to be solved now, on the floor of this House, by discussion between hon. members and by public expressions of opinion on the different forms proposed, that responsibility does not lie at my door, because, when I was in a position in which I was able to obtain the decision of the House upon the precise proposition which I thought moderate and yet the best calculated to produce that result, I abandoned that position upon the statement of the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue that, to take the other attitude and withdraw my motion and to accept the right of bringing forward my views in this form, might produce the result, after conference, of agreement. The hon. Minister of Inland Revenue in inviting me to accede to the suggestion of the First Minister said:

"Therefore I think the hon. gentleman should withdraw it. Then there would be an opportunity given to hon. gentlemen on this side of the House, who, he thinks, have been lax in their duty, to consult with him. We do not claim that anything we may say will influence his views; we do not pretend to hope that; but I think we are entitled to say to him that, feeling as much interest as he possibly can in this question, it might be possible for us to agree upon a motion that would be passed unanimously by this House. We might possibly agree upon a motion to be submitted to the House and passed unanimously, and I am sure the hon. gentleman will agree with me that such a motion would be of more value than one which necessitated a division. I am not here to discuss what changes we might ask for; that could be discussed among those specially interested, and to whom the matter might be referred. If the hon. gentleman thinks that would at all meet his views, and that we could come to such an understanding, I will not continue my remarks; but if he thinks my request is one he cannot entertain, I will have to crave the indulgence of the House while I make further remarks on this subject."

I rose and, after making an observation or two, on other things, said:

"I may at once say that I am quite willing that whatever time is reasonable and consistent with the object of the resolution should be given at once to carry out the suggestion of those hon. gentlemen. My object is just what the hon. gentleman's is, to procure a unanimous motion; and because he tells me expects, by the course he proposes, to produce such a result, I am all the more ready to agree to that course."

At a subsequent part I said:

"In the meantime, as to the form in which the motion shall be presented, I shall only be too glad to meet the hon. gentleman, or any other hon. member, with the view of settling that point."

At a subsequent period, after recess, the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue said:

"Whether the suggestion comes from one side of the House or the other, there are grounds, perhaps, upon which we can unite, and the suggestion that we should agree upon a resolution, is worthy of fair consideration."

"Hear, hear," said I. The hon. gentleman proceeded to say:

"And I think that the hon. gentleman who refuses that must assume considerable responsibility, if the vote is not as large as it might be made by a fair discussion of our views on the subject."

"Hear, hear," I said assentingly to that remark. Then, when the final arrangement was made, my last words were these:

"And I add to that, in response to the statement of the Minister of Inland Revenue, and to the suggestion rather than the statement of the First Minister, that if there be any opportunity in the meantime to accommodate matters with reference to the form of expression of that motion, I shall be only too glad to facilitate such a happy result."

Then the Minister of Inland Revenue said:

"Whatever difference of opinion may exist between the hon. gentleman and myself, I feel much pleased that he has taken this course, as I think it is the wisest course and one calculated to bring about, if possible, a solution of this question. I am glad the hon. gentleman has taken the course he has."

Now my motion was before the hon. gentleman; he had stated his desire to consult with me; he had stated his desire to make such suggestions as he hoped after conference might produce an agreement. I at once responded, twice and thrice responded, declaring that I would be most happy to concur in the steps he proposed to take, with a view to our arriving at that result. But the hon. gentleman, as I was obliged to say in offering my motion to-day—neither he nor any other hon. gentleman intimated to me the slightest dissatisfaction with the form of my motion. They made no suggestion or proposition for a change; they have invited me to no conference on the subject from the time the discussion closed down to this moment. Therefore, I say, if it be on the floor of this House, by the hon. gentleman bringing forward his proposition in opposition to mine, if it be on the floor of this House that we have to dispose of the question which is the fitter resolution, which is the more appropriate, the responsibility of that result, whatever may be the measure of it, lies not at my door. Now, Sir, the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue explained the reasons why he had not acted in this matter in the House; and he took occasion to say that one of those reasons was not what had been stated erroneously in one of the papers to be the case, a danger that the resolution would be defeated! Not at all; he never apprehended that; but a danger that there would be three or four dissentients. That was what the hon. gentleman said, that was the measure of the danger which prevented him from bringing up this question in this House! Now, Sir, we know from the proceedings which took place very shortly after the passage of the address in 1832, that there were three gentlemen who stood up and announced that they dissented on that occasion; though neither you nor I, as I had occasion to say at that time, had seen any expression of dissent. There was therefore a public avowal of dissent on that occasion. What the hon. gentleman has now declared is that after considering the whole situation, after analysing the feeling of the House, so far as he could judge it, and anxious as he was to go forward, after ascertaining what the feeling was, he believed that there might be three or four dissentients