The Home Rule Resolutions In Canadian Parliament.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Ottawa, March 31.

AT LAST the long-expected debate on the Home Rule Resolution has stirred the House of Commons into unwonton excitement. It is a debate that will remain memorable in the annals of the Irish question. It has afforded opportunity for expressions of sentiments that, as a rule, are not generally voiced abroad. On the one hand it has given an opportunity to members of the House, of different races and creeds, to state their cherished views in favor of justice to Ireland; on the other hand, it has afforded an opportunity to a few, whose ideas antagonistic to all that is Irish and—for some of them—to all that is Catholic, to find a ventilation. It was a curious scene and a remarkable discussion; it gives a fair idea of the sentiments throughout Canada, and of the proportions in which they are entertained. Before we undertake to analyze the debate, we will once more occupy space sufficient to reproduce the Resolution and its important preamble. Be it remarked that on former occasions the Home Rule Resolutions were either made unanimous, or else they provoked slender opposition.

THE RESOLUTIONS.—"That an humble address be presented to His Majesty as follows: We, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Canada, in Parliament assembled, desire most earnestly in our name and on behalf of the people whom we represent to renew the expression of our unswerving loyalty and devotion to Your Majesty's person and Government.

"We would respectfully represent to Your Majesty that in 1882 the Parliament of Canada adopted an humble address to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen expressing the hope that a just measure of Home Rule would be granted to the people of Ireland, and that in the years 1886 and 1887 by resolution of the House of Commons the sentiments of the said address to Her Most Gracious Majesty were earnestly reiterated and the hope again expressed that such a measure of Home Rule would be passed by the Imperial Parliament.

"That the years that have elapsed since the adoption of the aforesaid address and resolutions to Your Most Gracious Majesty's illustrious and ever to be lamented predecessor have but served to emphasize the blessings which accrue to this Dominion from the federal system under which the people live, the benefits of which the Commons of Canada rejoices to see are about to be shared in by their fellow subjects of the Australian commonwealth, and, therefore, this extended experience which Your Most Gracious Majesty's subjects have had of the inestimable benefits resulting from the said Government bestowed on the whole of British North America but intensifies their desire to affirm through their representatives in Parliament the sentiments expressed in the said address and resolutions with regard to the bestowal of self-government upon Your Majesty's subjects in Ireland.

"We have observed, may it please Your Majesty, with feelings of profound satisfaction, the evidence afforded in debate in the House of Commons of the United Kingdom on the speech from the throne, of a sincere desire on all sides to usher in a new era of lasting place and good will in Ireland; and this House congratulates the people of the mother country on the legislation, just and equitable, which it is believed will follow the recent conference on the land question and hopes for an early and lasting settlement fair to all of that long-vexed and troublesome problem, the solution of which has for so long taxed the powers of British statesmen."

THE DEBATE.—When Hon. Mr. Costigan rose to speak it was about four in the afternoon. The galleries, while partly filled, were not to say crowded, nor was there a full attendance in the House. It was not expected, on account of the Redistribution Bill that had been just introduced, that the Home Rule question would come up before evening. But in the evening there was almost no standing room; all the elite of Ottawa came out in the latest of spring fashions, and the interest displayed was far greater than that taken in any other event this session. The introduction of the Land Purchase Bill in the Imperial Parliament added to the interest and Messrs. E. F. Clarke, Charlton, Richardson, Broder and Dr. Sproule, as well as the noted Col. "Sam" Hughes, spoke strongly against it. Unfortunately, there was a tinge of personal animosity pervading these speeches; and, while the vote that was taken was not a party one exactly, still we find only two Government supporters, Messrs. Charlton and McLaren, of Hintingdon, voting against the Resolution, while only twelve members of the Opposition voted in favor of it; they were Messrs. Borden, Monk, Casgrain, Kaulback, McIntosh, Morin, Ball, Leonard, Clancy, Pope, McGowan and Hackett. The vote stood 102 for the Resolution, and 41 against it; making the majority by which it was carried sixty-one.

There were three incidents in the debate deserving of special attention. The first is the fact that the French-Canadians, to a man, on both sides of the House voted for the Resolution, showing that when it comes down to a real matter of principle, and when active co-operation is the order of the day, the French and Irish elements constitute a solid phalanx; the second, is the fact that, for personal, or political reasons, that shaudd not find a place in such a discussion, the Hon. Mr. Costigan was subjected to certain interruptions unworthy of a body such as the Parliament of Canada, but that the sneers let loose only urged him on to one of the finest pieces of indignant eloquence that has been for long years heard in the House of Commons; the third, is the fact that the speeches of the mover, of the Premier, and of Hon. Mr. Fitzpatrick so dwarfed into insignificance the petty attempts at Parliamentary oratory on the part of those opposing the Resolution, that the contrast made itself felt throughout the whole debate, and brought into relief that other great contrast, between the high and patriotic character of the Resolutions as set in front of the narrow and prejudiced spirit of the opposition raised against them.

MR. COSTIGAN SPEAKS. — The following is a careful synopsis of the principal speeches. Having read the Resolutions to the House, Mr. Costigan disclaimed any intention of making it a motion of want of confidence, his desire being solely to bring before the House a subject that was employing the attention of the Empire. He referred to the progress of Canada since he had the honor 20 years ago of introducing a Home Rule Resolution in Parliament, and he hoped that no word he might utter would invite a word of recrimination in return.

Somebody behind him called out "rats" at this juncture, whereat Mr. Costigan observed that he regarded these slurs as beneath the dignity of his notice, and beneath the dignity of the people of Canada who were swayed to-day by their intelligence and not by appeals to the bugbears of the past. Mr. Costigan added that neither the Irishmen of Canada nor of the old land, in those 20 years, had shown want of loyalty to the Crown and Empire. Continuing, he said he might be blamed for mixing up Home Rule with the land purchase question. But, while fully sensible of and grateful for the magnanimous proposal of the English Government, he could not conceive that Home Rule had grown to be a distasteful word in Canada, since this Parliament passed a Home Rule Resolution unanimously in 1882. He believed that Home Rule for England, Scotland and Wales as well as for Ireland, was coming as a legislative necessity.

Mr. Costigan dwelt upon the changed position which the Irish race occupies to-day. All knew the position of the "poor Irish" for centuries; to-day the term was "nothing to good for the Irish." Mr. Costigan contrasted the learning and civilization of Ireland in the early centuries with the ignorance that then prevailed in England and on the continent of Europe. He concluded by expressing the hope that his resolution would pass unanimously, so that the House would not go back on its record of 1886 and 1887.

MR. HACKETT, of Prince Edward Island, then seconded the motion, and made, in his brief address, a good point, by comparing the present Irish Land Bill with the measure which so successfully converted landlordism into peasant proprietary in Prince Edward Island years ago. After Mr. Hackett sat down the first discordant note was sounded by that peculiar busy body, and man of all parties and contradictory principles, Mr. Charlton.

MR. JOHN CHARLTON vigorously combatted the views of both the previous speakers. While he wished every prosperity to the Irish this was not a case for colonial interference; in fact, the Canadian Parliament had nothing to do with it. He quoted the reply to a similar address sent by the Canadian Parliament in 1882. The British Government in a carefully worded reply had pointed out that the affairs of the United Kingdom exclusively appertained to the Imperial Parliament. This answer he said practically told our Parliament that it had been guilty of an impertinence and had interfered in matters which did not concern it. It would deserve the same reply again if it passed this motion.

As far back as they could remember Irish prejudices against Great Britain had been the stalking horse of unscrupulous politicians in the United States and demogogs had wrung the tail of the British lion to get their votes. That was at the bottom of this talk about Ireland's wrongs and he rather thought the same thing held good in Canada. He thought under all the circumstances the House was not justified in interfering with the affairs of the motherland.

MR. JABEL ROBINSON thought Canada had enough trouble of her own to settle without dragging Ireland into this Parliament. The British Government had been more than generous towards Ireland. He regarded the resolution as so much buncombe and declared that it wasted the time of the House, which he calculated as wasting $28 per minute. The Irish could take take of themselves.

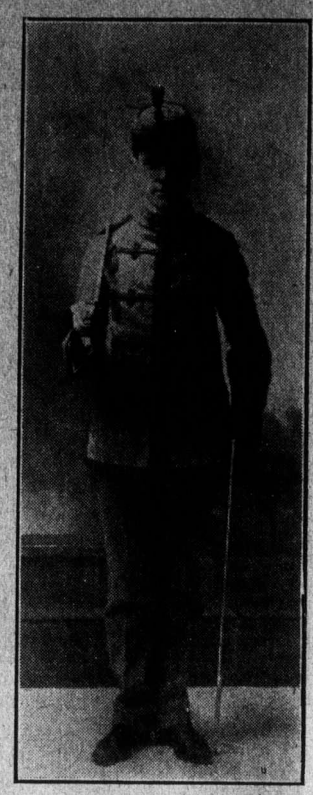
DR. SPROULE wanted to know whether the Government would place the Irish question and the cattle embargo in the same category. A resolution on the cattle embargo had been viewed as one of want of confidence. What of this resolution? He considered the discussion unwise and a waste of time. Canada had no right to advise the Imperial Government in the discharge of its duties. He read from speeches of prominent English statesmen holding similar views. Treating of the general question of Home Rule Dr. Sproule declared that the Irish leaders themselves were divided as to its efficacy; then why should Canada take it up? He appealed to the House to vote against the resolution on the ground that it was unwise to bring these disturbing questions into the House.

The importance to be attached to the speeches of the foregoing three members is due to the fact that they voiced the views, especially in Dr. Sproule's case, of the extreme Orange element.

MR. CHARLES MARCIL, M.P. for Bonaventure, then delivered a very forcible address, in which he said that there were nearly a million Irishmen or descendants of Irishmen in this country, and in his own county 1,500 who looked to Ireland, as their mother country. Canada had, by its contribution to the upholding of the empire, an undoubted right to congratulate the Government of His Majesty King Edward upon the present proposed measure of justice to Ireland. He believed that the introduction of the Canadian system of Provincial and Federal Government would confer an inestimable benefit upon the United Kingdom; and observed that an honor had been

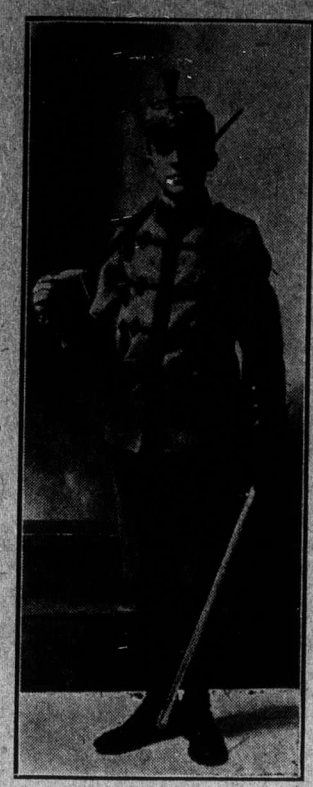
ST. PATRICK'S CADETS.

JOHN J. RYAN,
Captain No. 1 Company.



HARRY FITZGERALD.
1st Lieut. No. 1 Company.

JOSEPH P. OUELLETTE.
2nd Lieut. No. 1 Company.



MICHAEL L. DELEHANTY,
Captain No. 2 Company.

RICHARD WALSH,
1st Lieu. No. 2 Company.

WILLIAM ALTIMAS,
2nd Lieut. No. 2 Company.

THOMAS IRELAND,
Quarter Master.

On this page we print the likenesses of the officers of the newly organized St. Patrick's Cadets. It is quite needless for us to enter upon an expression of our views regarding the usefulness and necessity of Cadet Corps, as the columns of the "True Witness" during the past leave no room for doubt on the subject.

The St. Patrick's Cadets during the brief term of their existence of seven months, have been very active in doing good by taking part in parades and assisting in the spiritual exercises of the parish with which they are associated, and in aiding Catholic societies in their undertakings. Much of the success achieved by the organization is in no small measure due to the pastor of St. Patrick's, Rev. Martin Callaghan, to the director of St. Patrick's School, Rev. Brother James, and to Sergt. Major Phillips.

On April 24th the Cadets will hold a euchre and social in the Conservatory Hall, already the limited number of tickets for the function have been sold. On April 27th, the Cadets will take part in an entertainment, to be held under the patronage of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.