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The Charlottetown Herald.

NEW SERIES. CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 1887. VOL. XVI. NO. 31

The Charlottetown Herald

—IS ISSUED—

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—BY—

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Mr. Blake's Anti-Coercion Speech

FOLLOWING is an extended report of the speech, regarding the Coercion Bill now before the British Parliament, delivered by P. Blake, Esq., M. P. P., in the House of Assembly, Charlottetown, on Monday, May 4, 1887:

MR. BLAKE, in pursuance of a notice placed on the Order Book some days ago respecting Home Rule and Imperial Coercive legislation, said he rose for the purpose of submitting the following Resolution:

Resolved, That the House of Assembly of Prince Edward Island, having learned that the Imperial Parliament are about enacting a most stringent Coercion law for enforcement in Ireland, desire to express extreme regret at the introduction of such a measure, and to represent that after many years endurance of the evils consequent upon a system of land tenure much more liberal than that which prevails in Ireland, the people of this Province as a self-governing community have made the tenants the owners of the soil, thereby rendering them prosperous and contented subjects of Her Majesty Our Gracious Queen.

That we record this expression of our sympathy with the laudable efforts that are being made to give Ireland such a measure of self-government as the people of this Island, in common with their fellow subjects in all the Provinces of Canada enjoy; believing as we do that such a system of local administration is the best calculated to promote the prosperity and happiness of the people of Ireland as well as the peace and welfare of the great empire of which Prince Edward Island is proud to form a part.

He felt pained to think that it was necessary for any one to introduce such a resolution; but, at the same time, he felt great pleasure at having an opportunity, in his place in this Legislature, to say a few words expressing his sympathy in behalf of Ireland. In making these remarks he wished to divest himself of all prejudice or bias, national or religious, that he might be supposed to feel on this question, and to view the matter in a calm and dispassionate manner. He hoped the introduction of this resolution would not awaken any party feelings among hon. members of the House, and he earnestly desired that its justice would so commend it to every hon. gentleman in this Assembly, that it would receive a unanimous vote of approval; and he would have the satisfaction of knowing that a message would be flashed across the ocean, conveying to the English Government, to Gladstone and Parnell, that the people of this Province, in common with the other Provinces of the Dominion, fully appreciating the civil and religious freedom they enjoy under the British constitution, are desirous that the same blessings may be conferred upon Her Majesty's subjects in Ireland. In moving this resolution, he did so as a loyal subject of our gracious Queen, as one who had taken the oath of allegiance in this House, and as one who appreciated the full measure of civil and religious liberty that he enjoyed, in common with all loyal subjects. He must, however, express the deep regret he felt that the British Government have considered it advisable to introduce so stringent a measure as the Coercion Act that is now before the Imperial Parliament, in the face of the many cruel and heartless evictions that have taken place, and are constantly taking place, in that unfortunate country, and in the absence of crime to any great extent. We know that a charge was made against Ireland that a great many crimes were committed in that country, and that it was necessary to uphold the law; but he contended that the wonder was that so few crimes were committed under the circumstances. In a country like Ireland, where there has been so much agitation of one kind or another, crime is more difficult to control than where no agitation or disturbances have arisen. He believed there was not a country on the face of the earth to-day with as large a population as Ireland, and that had gone through so much misery and suffering, and so much political agitation, that could show

SO GOOD A RECORD WITH REGARD TO FREEDOM FROM CRIME.

It would have been far better for the Imperial Government, instead of introducing a stringent Coercion Act, like the one they now propose, had they introduced remedial legislation, and honestly endeavored to remedy the evils that have for so many years existed in Ireland. In reference to the crime that was said to exist in Ireland: a few days ago a return had been asked for in the British Parliament of the number of crimes reported in that country since 1880 to the end of 1886, and the following statement was submitted:

Year.	Number of Crimes.	Year.	Number of Crimes.
1880.	2525.	1884.	762.
1881.	4439.	1885.	944.
1882.	3433.	1886.	856.
1883.	870.		

By this statement it can be seen at a glance that the number of crimes has greatly reduced during the past four years. What is the cause of this decrease in crime. He believed it was owing to the fact that since the year 1882 there had not been so many evictions, for it was well known that, according to the number of evictions in Ireland, do the number of crimes increase or decrease. It has been remarked that crime follows closely upon the steps of the evictor; and in support of that statement he would quote a few statistics taken from a speech of a prominent man, which was delivered at Glasgow a short time ago:

"In 1859, 104,161 persons were evicted in Ireland. In that year there occured 136 200 outrages of all kinds in the country: in 1862 32,495 persons were evicted, and the outrages fell down to 963; in 1866 the number of evicted persons was still much lower (5,744), and lower were the outrages, which only numbered in that year 213 (cheers). In 1868 there were still less persons thrown out, 3,571, and in that year only 95 outrages of all kinds were recorded in Ireland (cheers). Observe now that as the number of evictions decreased, so likewise the number of outrages, and note also the converse in the following figures: In 1879 there were 4,515 people evicted in Ireland and the number of outrages in that year was 730; in 1881 10,657 persons were evicted, and 2,590 outrages followed those crimes against the homesteads of the people. In 1881 there were 17,341 people evicted, and 4,439 outrages had to be recorded. Coming down to the last year they found the fact of the unerring ratio and relationship between the crime of eviction and the crime of agrarian outrage in Ireland. In the first three months of 1886 742 persons were evicted in the province of Munster, and of these 302 individuals, or nearly one-half, were thrown out of their houses in County Kerry, the headquarters or chief seat of Moonlighting in Ireland. In the quarter ending June last year 2,461 persons were evicted in Kerry alone, and in the same period no less than 81 outrages of all kinds occurred within the borders of that unhappy county. He thought any fair-minded Scotchman who studied those figures would see as plainly as two and two make four that agrarian outrages in Ireland increased as evictions increased, and that those outrages and crimes had decreased in proportion as the crowbar brigade had decreased its operations against the people." (Cheers.)

The proposed Coercion Act is a most obnoxious Act. He would briefly refer to some of its provisions. When we examine some of the clauses we will get an idea of the tyrannical tone which pervades the whole bill. The first clause provides power to examine witnesses in what may be termed a "Star Chamber," and does away with the old accustomed manner of conducting trials, by bringing the accuser and the accused face to face before the magistrate in open court. The court is to be held with closed doors, the accused not being present, the witnesses are then put on the stand and examined, and the magistrate may ply them with all kinds of questions about their neighbors, who live within miles around them. If the witness does not answer the questions to the satisfaction of the magistrate, he or she may be sent to prison. If the evidence given about any person that the magistrate thinks is objectionable, a warrant is at once issued for his arrest, and the unfortunate person quickly finds himself behind bars as a "suspect." After this "suspect" is there long enough to satisfy the magistrate, there is the mockery of a trial, and he may be released on parole, or sent back again to prison. The second clause does away with "trial by jury," that much-prized boon of liberty and civilization, and this too under the flag that we are so justly proud of, and under which, we on this side of the Atlantic enjoy so many privileges. The third clause changes the venue whenever a conviction is required, that is, taking the prisoners from the place where an alleged crime takes place, or was committed, to another place for trial; say, for instance, from Charlottetown, where the crime took place, to Summerside, or any other part of the Island, or off the Island, as the magistrate may advise. The fourth clause provides for special juries, to be had for the asking; thus, any amount of jury-packing can, if necessary, be enacted. The fifth clause provides for the exportation of prisoners to London for trial, when there is a possibility that they may not be convicted in Ireland. The sixth clause provides that these are privileges to be only enjoyed by those in Ireland, and they are proclaimed by the Lord Lieutenant. The seventh clause gives the National League into the hands of the Lord Lieutenant, who can suppress it at pleasure. This is the society that has been mainly instrumental in bringing about the great reductions in rent, which have been so great a boon to many of the Irish people. The ninth and last clause provides that

THE ACT HAS NO LIMIT OF TIME,

that is to say, it is to be permanent, and thus, unlike other coercion acts, passed for a specific purpose, while any agitation, or any disorder, prevails. If this bill is passed, it may be on the statutes for all time. This is a brief outline of the several clauses of this bill—the most cruel and coercive that was ever introduced into any parliament. This was, perhaps, a strong assertion to make; but he would not ask hon. members to accept his words. He would quote from a speech on the question, delivered in the British House of Commons, by the Right Honorable W. E. Gladstone, in answer to Mr. Balfour's explanation of the bill:

"It is an extreme measure in my opinion; to grant that demand would be one of the most formidable branches of trust that any popular assembly could perpetrate. In my opinion, one of the greatest and gravest branches of trust will be committed by this House if it relaxes the conditions on which it has been the rule to give its sanction to changes in the criminal law for the purpose of giving it increased stringency against a portion of Her Majesty's subjects. (cheers). No case, I think, has been made out for such a demand, not even a shadow of a cause to justify the demand, and none has, by candid confession of the other side been made on account of the extreme crime and offences which exist in Ireland. (Hear, hear). The right hon. gentleman the Chief Secretary, has been good enough to explain to us the provisions of the bill. One proposal, however, would have to be carefully examined. I refer to the Irish trials which are to be heard here in London by English juries. (laughter). There have been cases in which in the newspapers of a proposal of this kind; but I thought it my duty to the government not to be in a hurry. I shall have an opportunity of saying more than this when the exact provisions are before me; but this I must say—this I always understood that trial by jury meant trial by our peers—trial, as nearly as possible, by persons as near as may be in the same circumstances. But the enforcement of such a proposal as this would be an exact reversal of the fundamental principle of trial by jury. (Hear, hear). Whenever we do interfere with trial by jury it is well that you should avoid the capital and fatal error of discarding the substance while you keep only the form, as seems to me to be at the bottom of the cruel and grevious proposal of the government. Another provision on which I would say a word, or rather the absence of provision, is in relation to the duration of time. That, I must say, makes our blood run cold. (Hear, and cheers). It is a very sad state of things if, after eighty-seven years of legislation, which was, no doubt, intended by many, even of those who used such discreditable means of promoting the union, to be the harbinger and certain hope of peace and good will between the countries—after going through three generations of men cobbling at the business of coercion, struggling as we could with good intentions here and there at intervals, hoping the sun of liberty might rise uncloaded on Ireland, at least for a time—that now all that we propose is that a temporary remedy shall become the rule for the government of a people, that the brand of inferiority is to be placed on them forever, and they, with the full enjoyment of the representative system, are expected to acquiesce, to welcome, to embrace, and to hug that law. (Cheers)."

Again, when Mr. Parnell had moved an amendment to the bill, Mr. Gladstone spoke as follows:

"Since the elections of 1885, since the bulk of the liberals had judged that it was both right and safe to grant Home Rule: Ireland had been free from crime and outrage, a condition long unknown. Why was this? It was because the Irish people knew that a large body of liberals had adopted their interests and would abide by them to the last. If the liberals acceded to the appeals of the government the result would be a retrogression. The Irish people would return to a state of things which liberal efforts had already partially remedied. So long as Ireland continued in her present course of moderation, so long would liberals be bound to persevere in endeavors to assist her. The turn would soon come when to the many now supporting the cause of Ireland, would be added many more. When deplorable proposals such as those of the government would no more be associated with the name of liberal; and when it would be seen that in doing what they could now to serve the Irish cause, they were also serving the cause of the wide Empire of Great Britain."

This was stronger language than he (Mr. Blake) would care to use in this House, and coming from such a man as Mr. Gladstone, should carry much greater weight than anything he could say. This "Grand Old Man," as he has been called, who has been Prime Minister of England more than once, whose heart is ever warm for those oppressed, has now taken up the cause of Ireland, and by his great eloquence has roused the sympathies, not only of the people of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, but of the whole civilized world. A man who as a statesman and an orator, to none in the British Empire, and, perhaps, it might be said, that his superior could not be found in the whole world. If any parliament in this Dominion had introduced such a measure, the people would not tolerate it, but would rise in their might against it; and, if it would not be allowed on this side of the Atlantic, why should it be imposed upon the people of Ireland? In connection with this matter, he might say that the introduction of this bill appears to have the

OPPOSITE EFFECT TO WHAT WAS INTENDED,

for it has aroused the people of England, Scotland and Wales in opposition to it. Last Easter Monday, one of the largest meetings ever held in London, was organized in Hyde Park, at which 150,000 persons were present. Although this meeting was attended by so great a number, the London press has said that it was one of the most orderly meetings ever held in that great city. Very strong resolutions were then passed, denouncing the Coercion Act. On the Saturday preceding the demonstration, Mr. Gladstone sent out the following appeal to the people in the North of Great Britain. It is a noble and manly utterance:

"I cannot refrain from calling your attention to the meeting which is to be held in Hyde Park next Monday and to which I understand tens of thousands of workingmen of London intend generously to devote their holiday. If ever there was a time when it was to the interest of the English workingman to bethink himself, this is the time. It is the first time when a coercion bill, if passed, is to be passed by England's vote alone against the voices of Scotland, Ireland and Wales. It is the first time when such a bill will have been passed under the sanction of the householders at large, who were never enfranchised before the last elections in 1885 and 1886. It is the first time coercion has been proposed without any attempt by the Ministry to show, what we know they cannot show, a state of exceptional and flagrant or growing crime. If England is to coerce Ireland for crime, Ireland can reply that relatively to population she has less crime than England. In my opinion the rejection of the bill is even more needed by England than by Ireland. For Ireland it is a question of suffering, and she knows how to suffer. For England it is a question of shame and dishonor, and to cast away shame and dishonor is the first business of a great nation. In 1876 a meeting of London workingmen first gave effectual force to the movement for Bulgaria, which brought about the election of 1880. May the meeting of Monday next ring the death knell of the worst, the most insulting and the most causeless coercion bill ever admitted to parliament."

That meeting was composed of different classes, and so large a gathering might very possibly have been somewhat unruly; but the English papers argue that it was one of the most orderly ever held in the great metropolis. A very large meeting had also been held in the city of Glasgow, which was attended by men of different denominations and nationalities. Clergymen as well as gentlemen of other professions took part in it, and it was acknowledged to be one of the most representative meetings ever held in Glasgow. At that meeting, Mr Cunningham Graham proposed the following resolution:

"That this meeting of Glasgow citizens point out to the Government, that in attempting to rule Ireland contrary to the wishes of the majority of the Irish people, as expressed by their representatives in Parliament, it ceases to be a constitutional, and becomes a tyrannical Government, and that should it attempt a policy of violence under such conditions it is quite certain the Irish people will act upon the principles and practices of the British people, and remembering that resistance to tyranny is a duty to God, they will defend themselves by any justifiable means. Furthermore this meeting warns the Government that in such a policy of violence it had not the opinion of the people of Great Britain with it, and that the terrible responsibility certain to arise will rest upon the heads of Her Majesty's Ministers."

This resolution was seconded by Mr. William Bond, and carried unanimously. On motion of the Rev. Mr. Crajckshanks, the following resolution was also adopted:

"That this meeting of Democrats desires to convey its feeling of deep respect to that great and good man, William Ewart Gladstone; that it reverences him as a statesman acting under the inspiration of an almighty truth, honors him as the champion of a nation's self government, and hopes to see him complete a glorious life by the restoration to Ireland, Scotland and Wales of self government under national parliaments."

These resolutions show clearly that this agitation is not confined to Ireland and the Irish people—for we here see the Scotch protesting vigorously against the proposed Act, and that Scotland is now demanding a measure for establishing local self government. Before long the same demand will be made for England and Wales. The *Pall Mall Gazette*, an influential newspaper published in London, and against which no charge can be made that it favors Ireland or Irishmen, in a late issue had the following article in reference to the Coercion Act:

"If the Irish rose in revolt against such a system they would have a right to our hearty sympathy and to our energetic support. If they did not wish to rise in revolt against such a system, they would deserve our indifferent contempt. With such a despotism as that which Balfour proposes to make permanent in Ireland, no man fit to be free can hold any parley. It is a current root and branch. With it he and his children after him, must remain for ever at war. He would be a slave at heart, who, contented with an idle life at home, (laughter), and fell into habits injurious to himself and distressing to his family. (loud laughter), and would but lament to see considerable talent united with an excellent natural disposition completely going to waste. (loud laughter). He has latterly, I rejoice to say, been leading a different life, and recently formed an attachment for a most interesting young Scotch lady. (loud laughter), odd as, especially in point of deep religious feeling, is all that could be wished for, and their union, so desirable, is only delayed in reference to his financial position. (Laughter). Under these circumstances, I venture to ask your Excellency's kind aid in procuring a situation for him—that of stipendiary magistrate. (Loud laughter). It is one for which I think he would be extremely well qualified. (laughter), as he has regularly and very efficiently discharged his duties as a J. P. in this parish and the neighboring district; but if this post is unattainable, some other of less value would just now be very acceptable. I really dislike, more than I can well say, thus troubling your Excellency with such a personal matter; but I feel at least that you can make great excuse for my so doing in a case where more than temporal interests [loud laughter] are concerned. I have the honor to be, your Excellency's obedient and obliged servant,

P. FITZGERALD, Knight of Kerry."

Here is another one from Lord Lonegal:

"My dear Lord,—First, let me offer you my sincere and heartfelt congratulations on your appointment as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and then let me beg of you, if you should have it in your power, to appoint a cousin of mine, (laughter), Captain William Vernon, of Windsor, Belfast, to some place or other that may happen to fall into your hands, such as a stipendiary magistrate. [Opposition cheers and laughter]. He is well qualified for anything. (Laughter). Was a captain in time on the beach in Wales, and is a magistrate for the county Antrim; added to which he has a very large family, and is very poor. (Laughter). If you can do anything for him you will greatly oblige yours very sincerely.

DONEGAL."

There were also several others that were very amusing, but he would not inflict them on the House. If the provisions of the Coercion Act were to be enforced by such magistrates as here described, the liberties of Ireland would not be very well protected. He now wished to say a few words on the

QUESTION OF HOME RULE,

but he feared he was trespassing upon the patience of the House. He would, however, be as brief as possible. Landlordism in Ireland has been the great trouble ever since that country became part of the Empire of Great Britain. There are in Ireland about 630,000 tenant farmers. There are about 538,000 who pay an annual rent ranging from £1 to £20. There are about 121,000 who pay an average rent of £56 a year, or about $280. The entire rent collected from the tenant farmers is in the neighborhood of £10,417,000 sterling, or about $52,000,000 annually. This is a large large sum of money, and when we consider that the average sum has been collected in the shape of rents from the people for the last eighty years, we may well wonder how the resources and the struggling efforts of the people have been equal to the task of producing such an amount annually. Is it to be wondered at that there is poverty and wretchedness in that country to a degree not found in many others! It is evident that the very large amounts collected in the way of exorbitant rents is what is crushing those people down, and keeping them in a state of poverty and misery, and causing a great deal of the dissatisfaction we hear of from year to year. Respecting the question of Home Rule, no part of the British Empire had been so similarly situated as was this Island in former times, previous to the introduction of Responsible Government, and even long after that great boon was granted, and Ireland at the present time. Hon. members to see this need only look to the agitation for Responsible Government that for so many years was the great political question in this colony, and to the great battle that was fought against Landlordism. Many now present can remember the struggle the people of this Island had to rid themselves of that fearful incumbrance; and we all know that our Land Question would not have been so satisfactorily settled had we not first obtained that great and just right—Responsible Government. This province should be one of the first in the Dominion to sympathize with the Irish people in their great struggle to rid themselves of the

WITHERING BLIGHT OF LANDLORDISM.

We will not then be stepping beyond our jurisdiction in adopting a resolution on this matter. It has been urged that the granting of Home Rule to Ireland meant disruption of the Empire. The same objection was urged against the granting of Responsible Government by Lord Derby, a leading statesman of that day, previous to its being conceded to the colonies of the British Empire. We know that it took many years of agitation, of petitions and remonstrances before it was finally conceded. Many others were strongly opposed to granting Responsible Government to Canada, for they said it would mean independence of all control, and would end in separation from the Mother Country. Instead of these forebodings being realized, we find that the granting of this boon has strengthened the bands that bind the colonies to Great Britain, and nowhere can a more loyal and contented people be found than in the Dominion of Canada. When we consider that a very large number of Irishmen and their descendants form the population of this Island, of Nova Scotia, and of every part of the Dominion, that they take a prominent part in the affairs and public institutions of the country, that they are loyal subjects of Her Majesty the Queen, we must conclude that there must be something radically wrong with the system of Government followed in Ireland. He could see no just reason why local self-government, that had worked so well in Canada, should be refused to Ireland, and he trusted that the British Government, before long, will give to Ireland a measure of Home Rule. He was not in sympathy with those who advocate distinct separation of Ireland from the British Empire. He believed such separation would not be judicious, nor in the interests of Ireland. If a measure of Local Government, such as we have in Canada, had been granted to Ireland instead of being a thorn in the side of England, it would be one of the most contented and loyal portions of the Empire. But many public men in Great Britain do not look at the matter in this way. The British people are very conservative, and do not desire any change from what they have been accustomed to in the past; but that though it is to change public opinion in England, Home Rule is assuming a different position now from what it had a few years ago. The agitation for Local Government has extended to Scotland and England; and it is not the Irish people alone that are interested in the success of the movement. What is the duty of liberal minded public men in England on this question? First of all is to know what Ireland wishes, and secondly, to consider whether these wishes are reasonable. With regard to knowing what she desires there are many persons who appear to find a difficulty in ascertaining what it really is. Now, under a system of representative government, no such difficulty ought to arise. When the representation of a country, largely and truly represented, the representatives regularly chosen, in an immense majority—delivers with one mind a clear utterance, and shows no sign whatever of failing or varying in that utterance, then it is an error, to say the least, if they attempt to persuade themselves or other people that there is any doubt as to what the wishes of the country are. There are 105 members in the British Parliament who represent the people of Ireland. There are 86 who demand

HOME RULE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOR IRELAND.

As to what Ireland wishes, therefore, there is no doubt whatever. The wish is reasonable; and by local government for Ireland is perfectly understood to mean a real effective self-government in affairs properly and exclusively Irish, subject to the unquestionable supremacy of the Imperial Parliament. Take the position of this question a few years ago; when Mr. Butt advocated Home Rule he had to address almost empty benches in the House of Commons, and had only ten or twelve supporters returned in favor of Home Rule. At the present we find Parnell at the head of the Irish party with a following of eighty-five, pledged to obtain that measure, out of a representation of one hundred and three, as just stated. Have we not, therefore, good reason for believing and knowing that this is the wish of the people. And when the people in so unmistakeable a manner ask for this privilege, why should it not be granted to them. The question, however, has now assumed vastly greater proportions than it did when only a mere handful of Irish members were contending for it. We now find that the great Liberal party of Great Britain with few exceptions are at the back of the agitation for Home Rule, and who will say it will not be granted in the near future. The people of this Island, with a population of less than 110,000, have a Legislature of their own. When Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, and all the Provinces of the Dominion, have Legislatures to attend to their local affairs, notwithstanding we have the General Parliament at Ottawa to transact business of Federal importance, why, he asked, should not Ireland, with a population nearly, if not as large, as the whole Dominion of Canada, have like privileges. He believed that England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales should have the control of their own local affairs through their own Legislatures. They would by this means be able to look after and attend properly to their local interests, and thus relieve their representatives and the Imperial Parliament of all matters excepting those of Imperial or general importance, and reduce to a very great extent the work of that body. He had already briefly referred to the agitation that had so long existed in this Island for making the tenants free, and how we had succeeded after a great many years of agitation in affecting that object. There are not many in this Legislature who took a part in that agitation; but we see the pictures of those that did on the walls of this House. On the left we see that of the father of Responsible Government in this Island, the late Hon. George Coles; behind him (Mr. Blake) hung the picture of that gifted Irishman, the late Hon. Edward Whelan, whose matchless eloquence and great ability were invariably exercised in favor of Responsible Government and free lands. These men are now in their graves, but the memory of them will long remain fresh in the minds and hearts of the people of this country; and although many who formerly opposed them are still alive, yet none can now be found to say that the policy they advocated and the good results obtained were not beneficial. To-day in this Province

THE TENANTS OWN THE SOIL,

and living in a peaceful and prosperous state, happy and contented, are satisfied to take a share of the trouble and responsibility of governing the country. The grievances of the tenants of this Island were mostly sentimental compared with those of Ireland, for the majority of them had long leases at a moderate rent; but the tenant farmers of Ireland are in a very different position, for generally they are tenants at will, liable to be thrown out of their holdings at any moment. In comparing the system that exists in Ireland to that which existed in this Island, a vast difference is noticeable. There numbers of evictions take place almost every day, and numbers thus dispossessed of what had been a home to them all their lives and their fathers before them. We had no such cases of hardship in this Island as these, which are of daily occurrence in Ireland; and yet we know that the "Tenant League" was formed to resist the unreasonable demands of the landlords, and that after some time the cry of the tenants was heard and the lands were purchased by the Government, which has been one of the great reasons why we are so happy and contented a people. People who have no tenure in the land, or who have only short leases, take no interest in its improvement, because they were filling land that was not their own, but the landlords'. Now, however, all that trouble has been happily settled, and when we look back over the many battles that were fought to obtain this privilege, we congratulate ourselves that it has all ended in peace and happiness and contentment. He saw no reason why a like result would not follow, if a similar system was extended to Ireland. He hoped that the day was not far distant when a bill would be introduced into the Parliament at Westminster, having for its object the removal of the grievances that the people of Ireland have so long labored under, and be the means of restoring peace, happiness and contentment to that long suffering people, and that in the happiness of the future the unhappiness of the past would be buried in oblivion. (Cheers.) Any person who visits Ireland and travels through it, must be struck with the misery and wretchedness that meets him on every side, and must feel that there is something wrong in the condition of that country. He must see that the soil is of the very best description and second to none, and is capable of yielding as much per acre as any land that can be found in the world. With a hardy and healthy population and a climate almost unsurpassed, that there must be something radically wrong in the system of government of that country, or the condition of its people would be very different from what it is. He must apologize for taking up so much of the time of the House, and would only say in closing that he hoped Her Majesty the Queen may, in this her jubilee year, confer on Ireland the boon of self-government. So that in all this mighty Empire not one portion of it but will be filled with loyal and contented subjects, among whom the Irish people, instead of being dissatisfied, as they are at present, would be found the most loyal; and Ireland would then become, as she deserves to be, the brightest jewel in the crown. (Applause.)

The resolution being put, was carried unanimously, and, on motion of Mr. Blake, copies of the same were forwarded, through Mr Speaker, to the Marquis of Salisbury, Prime Minister of Great Britain, to the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, and to Charles Stewart Parnell, M. P.

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