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VOL. XII., No. 39

TORONTO, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1904

PRICE FIVE CENTS

## TORONTO WELCOMES JOHN REDMOND

### Crowds Throng to Listen to the Irish National Envoys

#### OVER FIFTEEN HUNDRED DOLLARS FOR BLECTIONS

##### Verbatim Report of Mr. Redmond's Exposition of the Home Rule Situation—Prospects of Near Victory Certain

Toronto sympathizers with the cause of Home Rule, collected under the auspices of the Toronto Branch of the United Irish League, filled Association Hall to overflowing on Monday evening, crowded also the adjoining gild hall and overflowed into the streets. John Redmond, M.P., and his brother envoys from the Irish Parliamentary Party, were announced to speak in Association Hall. They were obliged to speak in both halls, but at that hundreds were disappointed. Better provision could not, however, have been made on account of Mr. Redmond's engagements elsewhere. Accompanied by Mrs. Redmond and his brother members, the leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party arrived in Toronto at 4.30 p.m. on Monday from Niagara Falls, where they had stopped over Sunday. They were met at the station by E. J. Hearn, Chairman of the local committee, and Mrs. Hearn, D'Arcy Hinds, Secretary, George P. Magann and Mrs. Magann, Peter Ryan and Miss Ryan, Dr. McMahon and Mrs. McMahon, Mrs. O'Sullivan, Frank J. Walsh, John Hurst, J. T. Loftus, M. Kelly, James McConvey and others. The visitors were put up at the King Edward Hotel, and did not arrive at Association Hall until 8.30. The hall was well decorated in green and white bunting, Canadian and Irish flags and national emblems. There was a distinguished audience, some of those present being Mrs. Redmond, Mrs. Edward Blake, Premier Ross, Senator Kerr, Speaker Charlton, Hume Blake, George P. Magann, Eugene O'Keefe, P. F. Cronin, Thomas Long, Peter Ryan, L. J. Cosgrave, P. Jamieson, Edmund Bristol, George J. Foy, John Hanrahan, Thomas Mulcahy, Orilla; Thomas Casserley, Tottenham; Robert Jeffrey, Robert Orr, R. J. Fleming, T. P. Coffey, Charles Ritchie, Dan O'Connell, Peter O'Rourke; W. T. J. Lee, J. G. O'Donoghue, Rev. Father Mahoney, Hamilton; Rev. Father Coty, Hamilton; Rev. Father Kelly, C.S.B.; Rev. Father Jeffcott, Stayner; Rev. Father L. Minahan, Rev. Father Burke, Rev. Dr. Parker, Rev. J. A. Macdonald, T. A. Moloney, P. Burns, J. W. Mogan, James E. Day, J. T. Loftus, Wm. Burns, Rev. Father McMahon, Thornhill; Andrew Cottam, Danford Roche, T. H. Lennox, Aurora, Frank Walsh, J. J. Power, M. J. Quinn, Dan Fitzgerald, Ex-Mayor O'Donoghue, Stratford; John Fee, M. B. Ryan, John Regan, J. J. Walsh, John Lee, P. Lee, P. Clancy, Wm. Ryan, P. J. Mulqueen, Patrick O'Connor, M. P. Ryan, P. McCabe, J. McGuire, A. J. Gough, Dr. McDonagh, C. E. Burns, M. J. Cassels, N. Monahan, J. W. Mallon, J. F. Mallon, John J. Ryan, J. C. Brady, John Mohan, Thomas Mulvey.

Resolved, that this meeting of sympathizers with the cause of home rule extends to the chosen leader of the Irish race and to his parliamentary conferees caed mille failthe to Canadian soil. In affirming our adherence to the Irish cause, we recognize that though much has been accomplished by unity and independence of action in the past, the influence of the parliamentary party has been powerfully enhanced under the able leadership of Mr. John E. Redmond, to whom we pledge our unwavering confidence. The unity of the elected representatives of the Irish people as well as the common organization of all classes and creeds under the United Irish League are sources of unbounded gratification to supporters of home rule in self-governed Canada. As Canadians, contented with representative institutions, we pledge both moral and material support to the gifted leader of the Irish Parliamentary party, and we gladly give him a message of goodspeed to final victory in the near future for home rule.

Resolved that this meeting of his fellow-citizens send a message of respectful greeting to Hon. Edward Blake, M.P., whose signal devotion to the furtherance of Ireland's social and national interests will never be forgotten by Irish-Canadians.

#### MR. REDMOND'S SPEECH

Mr. Redmond, who was received with long continued applause, the audience rising and waving handkerchiefs, said: "Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen,—In the first place I wish to express the great pleasure and gratification it is to me to pay this visit to the city of Toronto. I have on more than one occasion been in Canada, but never before have I had the pleasure of visiting your beautiful city. And the pleasure which I derive from this visit is not solely due to the fact that I have long been aware of the sterling patriotism and enthusiasm of the men of Irish birth and blood in this city, but is also due to the fact that I am paying a visit for the first time to the home of my friend Mr. Blake. (Applause.) IRELAND'S GRATITUDE TO EDWARD BLAKE.

It would indeed ill become me under any circumstances and especially here in Toronto, to praise Mr. Blake, but I am to be allowed in the name of the party I represent and in the name of Ireland, to say how deeply grateful we are to him for the priceless service that he has rendered to our cause. His absence from this meeting I am afraid is to some extent due to his untiring labors in the House of Commons on behalf of Ireland. I have a personal pleasure in saying this much from the fact that it was upon Mr. Blake's motion that I was elected chairman of the Irish Party and it has been from that day to this my greatest pride that I have been able to retain his good will and his confidence. CRISIS IN IRELAND'S AFFAIRS.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, I have visited America and Canada on many occasions before, but I have never before come here upon an occasion so critical and at the same time so full of hope for Ireland. (Applause.) In the first place I have come to America to ask for money to help to save our people from starvation and I have come to America to ask for money to help us to fight coercion and I have come to America to ask for help to abolish landlordism in Ireland. (Applause.) But on this occasion I do not come for any one of these objects. In the first place there never again will be a need for any Irish leader to come to ask for money on this continent to save the Irish people from starvation. (Applause.) Never again can there be famine on the soil of Ireland and never again will an Irish leader have to come here to ask for aid to defeat coercion. (Applause.) We have had our last bout with coercion. It is not quite two years since coercion was in full swing in Ireland, trial by jury suspended, the right of free speech suppressed, all the most prominent leaders of the Irish people in parliament and out of it thrown without trial into jail. But I say to you to-day that the defeat of coercion which we effected within the last two years, largely by the aid given us from this side of the world, has killed coercion forever more. (Applause.) And never again can any British Government, Liberal or Tory, hope to govern Ireland by coercion.

#### PASSING OF LANDLORDISM.

I have not come to ask for aid to abolish landlordism because, ladies and gentlemen, landlordism, as I have described it in New York, is in a somewhat peculiar position at this moment. It is not exactly dead, but it is in the condemned cell awaiting execution. Allow me for a moment to dwell upon this question of the land. First of all we attacked the right of the landlord to evict. You know what that meant. He had the power to evict whether the rent was paid or not. At his own sweet will or caprice by serving notice the landlord could turn the tenants out upon the road and in a country like Ireland where there is

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only one industry, and that the land, a sentence of eviction from the land is a sentence of death. Well, we attacked and we speedily abolished it. We then attacked the right of the landlord to fix the rent and by the Land Act of 1881 we took that right away from him and we vested it in the Government Arbitration Board, and the operation of that act, as you are aware, was to lift off the shoulders of the tenant farmers twenty millions of dollars a year in the shape of rent. The next thing we did was to demand the abolition of rent altogether. (Laughter and applause.) Now don't let anybody misunderstand me. It is one of the common calumnies against our party and against our movement that we are in favor of robbery and confiscation. Nothing of the kind, although doubtless all those landlords for the most part resorted to confiscation in the past. (Applause.) Although that is so, no responsible Irish leader ever suggested to take away the landlord's property without the payment of the full value for it. And when I speak of the abolition of rent I mean the abolition of the system of landlordism by fair and equitable purchase.

#### ENGLAND FORCED TO DEAL WITH LANDLORDISM.

That gave us a great lever and by that lever we raised the question into a position into which English statesmen were forced to deal with it upon broad and comprehensive basis. And last year we succeeded in passing through the British parliament a measure which, whatever its defects, and I will speak of them in a moment, whatever its defects, laid down as its principle, the absolute abolition of landlordism, in other words indicated as its principle the war cry of the landlord. The land for the people. And further than that, it provided out of the British Exchequer the enormous sum of 560 millions of dollars for the purpose of carrying the transaction out. Now, ladies and gentlemen, I do not know whether you are all quite familiar with that

purchase and they proved their sincerity by providing 560 million dollars to carry the transaction out and yet when they came to fashion the bill to meet and to suit the necessities of Ireland so inherent is the incapacity of the parliament of one nation to properly govern the people of another that the Act as it left the Imperial Parliament contains many grave defects. And so it will be to the end of chapter. When the English parliament has the desire and the time and mind you it isn't often they have these two things, but when the English parliament has the time requisite to govern Ireland, well it invariably turns out she has not the knowledge. (Applause.)

#### DEFECTS IN THE LATEST BILL.

Now I am not saying this by way of reproach at all, but doesn't it stand to reason? Do you think that in your local affairs, in the kind of land act which would be passed for Ontario, in the kind of education act which would be passed for Ontario do you think that the English parliament if it had the time and the desire would have to requisite local knowledge to enable it to legislate properly for Ontario. (Crier of "No, No.") No, it is not reasonable and it is not the experience of the world. Now this act has its defects. Its chief defect is that it is not compulsory. No landlord need sell unless he likes. But as one witty member said in the House of Commons, there is what he called "compulsion by inducement," because this act provides the sum of 60 millions of dollars as a free gift over and above the price of the land as a free gift to the landlords who will sell. Now that is compulsion by inducement, especially to a needy body of men like Irish landlords is very powerful. (Laughter.) But it might not be universally effective. I am sure there will be some landlords who, in spite of this inducement, will refuse to sell. And you will say what is to be done with them? Well I will tell you. There are two ways of dealing with these gentlemen, one by public opinion and the other by law. Landlords in the past have been able to fight tenants only by reason of the fact that they have confederated together. Well, if there is only one landlord left in a country he cannot confederate all by himself, and I venture to think that where all the landlords around him have sold that public opinion will very speedily bring such a gentleman to his senses. But even leaving the means of settling the question to one side, I believe it will be quite easy to deal with him by law, because it is only reasonable to suppose that the British parliament, having unanimously adopted the policy that the land question shall be settled by purchase and having provided the money necessary for the transaction will not allow a little handful of Irish landlords scattered up and down through the country obstruct that policy and it will be perfectly easy when the proper time comes to obtain compulsory powers to deal with these men. And I therefore repeat that in ten or fifteen years' time from now landlordism will have absolutely ceased to exist in Ireland, and therefore I am not here to-night to ask your assistance in the settlement of the Irish land question. (Applause.)

#### HOME RULE NOW THE ISSUE.

Well now, what has brought me here. Well, great pleasure that it is for me to meet you and great honor though it be to receive such a kindly welcome from you, I did not come over for the pleasure or the honor. I came here on a matter of business. I came here not for my own pleasure or to receive your plaudits, but I came here in fulfillment of a duty, an honorable duty, but I can assure you and I can say with feeling after my month's touring in the United States, a very onerous duty. I have come here to ask for assistance to enable us in the immediate future to win Home Rule for Ireland. (Applause.)

#### WAY CLEARED OF OBSTACLES.

The chief obstacles which stood in the way of Home Rule in the past have disappeared. Now, what were they? First was this question of land. So long as the landlords were able to say to England: "If you give Home Rule to Ireland it will place our properties, our fortunes, and perhaps our lives at the mercy of the majority whom for your sake we have oppressed and robbed and persecuted in the past. (Hear, hear.) So long as the landlords of Ireland were able to make that plea to England there was, in my humble judgment, an almost impassable barrier between us and Home Rule. Remember who these landlords were.

#### LEGISLATION AGAINST THE SYSTEM.

Now, at first, we were denounced as communists for making such suggestions, but after a while English statesmen began to recognize that the system of dual ownership which they had set up in Ireland was an absurd and illogical system and they tried, however timidly they tried, an experiment in the direction of purchase. They passed a measure providing twenty-five million dollars for the purpose of trying the experiment whether it would be sufficient to lend the money at a low rate of interest to the tenants to enable them to buy their farms from the landlords. Well, the experiment was successful and then they went a step further and provided fifty millions for the same purpose. That also was successful.

#### PURCHASE BILL IN OPERATION.

Well, now, suppose every reasonable man will admit that that measure was a great and signal triumph for our movement. It came into operation on the 1st of November. Up to the time I left Ireland purchase agreements had been signed for property to the value of fifty millions dollars. Now if it goes on at the rate, and my opinion is that it will go on much faster after awhile—but if it goes on at that rate it must be evident to you that in 10 or 15 years landlordism will have ceased existing in Ireland absolutely. Now this act has many critics. It has many defects. God knows it would be a miracle if an act of parliament for Ireland passed by an alien ignorant parliament in England had no defects. (Applause.) I know of no more powerful argument for Home Rule than the defects of this Land Act, because here was a case in which all the English parties, Liberals and Conservatives alike, joined in their desire to pass a satisfactory bill. They all declared unanimously that they wanted to settle the land question by



JOHN E. REDMOND, M.P.

#### ORIGIN OF THE LANDLORD PLANTATION.

They were landed in Ireland by England. They were sent to Ireland as adventurers to conquer the land. They drove the Irish off into bogs and to the mountain sides, 'to hell or to Connaught.' And they seized the land and their duty in return for the rich lands they seized was to hold Ireland for the British crown and they did not hesitate all through the centuries to do England's dirty work in the misgovernment of Ireland. England left responsible for them, and I may be wrong, but my humble opinion is that if England would never concede Home Rule to Ireland unless the possession of the property of these men was first made sale. And the strongest appeal which was made against Mr. Gladstone's Home Rule Bill in 1893 was made by these landlords who came to England and said: "We are your brethren. We have fought your battles. You put us in Ireland. We are your garrison and now you are going to desert us and hand us over to the Irish enemy?"

#### LANDLORDS WANT HOME RULE.

Well, ladies and gentlemen, that obstacle has gone. The Land Act of last year removes that obstacle absolutely from our path. So much so indeed that those of you who are close students of the newspapers will have noticed that these very men, recognizing that their properties will be sold—and sold at a good price too,—very soon, have been moved in the direction of national self-government. Why, it is only the other day that a meeting of the Irish Unionist Landlords was held in Dublin to form a reform association. Lord Dunraven was in the chair, and a number of the most prominent and influential Irish landlords were present. And the first plank in the platform of the new association was what was called an extension of national self-government in Ireland, and I see by a cablegram in to-day's newspapers that they have actually formulated their scheme of Home Rule. (Applause.) So that, ladies and gentlemen, when these Irish landlords, these Irish Protestant Unionist landlords, who stood as an impassable barrier between us and Home Rule in the past, when they no longer question whether we are to get Home Rule or not, but are considering the Home Rule we ought to get. I see that these gentlemen have formulated their scheme of Home Rule. Well, I am not to be expected to discuss the details of their scheme. As reported in the cablegram, their scheme is indeed a meagre and defective one. LANDLORDS' PROPOSAL SIGNIFICANT.

#### CAPACITY OF IRISHMEN FOR GOVERNMENT.

I was told a story in the United States which was new to me, possibly it may be a chestnut to you. An American politician—a purely Yankee politician—was going on a holiday, and he selected Ireland, and his friend said, "Why go to Ireland?" and he said, "I want to find out the only place in the world where the Irish people do not govern." (Laughter.) The only calamity that we were unable to govern ourselves. Apparently we could govern every other nation. (Applause.)

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