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TORONTO, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1902

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Canada is True to the Cause of Home Rule

Tour of the United Irish League Delegate Opened in Toronto

MONTREAL GIVES A GENEROUS SUBSCRIPTION

Magnificent Meetings Pledge Sympathy and Offer Material Support to Ireland

Speeches of Mr. Joseph Devlin, M.P., United Irish League Delegate and Honorable Edward Blake, M.P.

(Specially reported for The Register.)
 A meeting, limited in point of size by the dimensions of the building, and unexcelled for enthusiasm by previous Home Rule demonstrations ever held in the city of Toronto, opened the Canadian tour of Mr. Joseph Devlin, M.P., and Honorable Edward Blake, M.P., in Association Hall on Monday evening. Mr. Devlin was present as the delegate of the United Irish League to America, and was supported by Mr. Blake, who had not been heard from a public platform in Toronto for some years. Both gentlemen received a splendid ovation. Mr. Blake was the recipient of a most enthusiastic welcome. Upon his appearance, and again when he rose to address the assemblage, all present stood up and cheered and waved handkerchiefs for some minutes, the ladies, who formed no inconsiderable portion of the gathering, contributing their share to the demonstration. The hall was decorated with flags and scrolls. One of the latter expressed the spirit which the meeting brought forth: "To the Irish delegate and our own Blake." The band of the O. O. R. regiment played a selection of Irish airs. The chair was occupied by Mr. T. Querry, President of the Toronto Branch United Irish League, and upon the platform beside the orators of the evening were: Senator McHugh, Hon. J. R. Stratton, Provincial Secretary, J. K. Kerr, C. C., Rev. O'Reilly, Oakville; Rev. J. Cronin, Rev. L. Minehan, Rev. J. B. Dollard, J. Roche, of Newmarket, Rev. Dr. Parker, Judge McIntyre, of Stratford, Peter Ryan, Dr. T. H. McMahon, J. F. White, J. G. O'Donoghue, E. J. Hearn, P. F. Cronin, F. S. Anglin, F. S. Burns, L. V. Brady, Ald. Wm. Burns, N. Murray, Peter Small, Wm. Wheaton, Wm. Mason, J. F. Stattery, W. B. Rogan, John Hurahan, W. T. J. Lee, W. Mallon, W. T. Kernahan, J. O'Hearn, John King, K. C., Assessment Commissioner Fleming, Wm. McCabe, Rev. Dr. Treacy, Inspector Bohlbald, W. A. Douglas, R. Dis-

setto, Lawrence J. Cosgrave, W. O'Connor, Rev. Father Connolly, Rev. Father Kilcullen, Daniel Kelly, C. J. McCabe, M. C. O'Donnell, William Ryan, Charles Burns, John O'Leary, W. J. Sullivan, J. Conlin, J. W. Mogan, Thomas Reynolds, Oakville, A. T. Heron, W. Kennedy, P. Falvey, George Campbell, R. U. McPherson, Patrick O'Connor, James McLaughlin, C. A. Burns, J. A. Knox, Wm. Heron, J. J. Landy, Frank J. Wals, Dr. W. McKeown, Dr. McDonagh, M. Spilling, Patrick Clancy, P. J. Crotchie, James McCabe, Dr. McKenna, H. T. Kelly, President Cunerty in introducing the speakers of the evening said: Ladies and gentlemen, my first duty to-night is to thank you for the enthusiastic response to the invitation to be present here. We are gathered here to-night to honor and welcome the speakers who represent the United Irish League of Ireland in America—Joseph Devlin, M.P. (applause) and the no less distinguished gentleman who accompanies him, Hon. Edward Blake (loud applause). You are perhaps aware that this meeting was originally organized to welcome and honor another delegate from the Mother Land, who we all regret a sudden illness prevented from being with us. There is nothing that the Nationalists of the city of Toronto took more pride in than the idea of welcoming that distinguished gentleman who has given up his whole life for his country's sake, and who, by his untiring service, pure patriotism, splendid ability and self-sacrificing devotion has endeared himself to the hearts of his countrymen the world over, for the name of John Dillon is revered everywhere (cheers). But we have with us to-night a living proof of the perennial vigor of that grand old Motherland, despite the existing state of things which although expatriating people from her shores is still able to find men to fill the gap of representatives. Joseph Devlin is the man in the gap to-night (applause), and although one of the younger of the Irish Parliamentary Party, he has on the floor of the British Parliament and on the public platform in Ireland as an organizer, acquitted himself in a manner which promises a bright career for him in his country's service (cheers). To him we extend the motto of our banner—Caed Mille Failthe. As to the distinguished gentleman, the son of Canada, who accompanies him, no words that I might say could add to his accumulated honors. I do not think in all this bright Dominion of ours that there is any man who could be found who would not pay tribute of head and heart to the Hon. Edward Blake (loud cheers). As a lawyer his ability has placed him at the head of his profession; as an earnest contributor to higher education, he has stamped his name indelibly on the roll of our university. Throughout a long political career and as the leader of a great party in Dominion and Provincial politics he bore a character so high, and an integrity so unassailable that when he retired from active politics here he had the respect and admiration of not only his political supporters, but of his opponents alike (applause). His love for free institutions, his love of freedom, and his admiration for the gallant Parnell impelled him to cross the ocean and hasten his lot in endeavoring to secure similar institutions for Ireland as those that grace this Dominion of ours. Since his going, and during the ten years that have elapsed since that time, the Hon. Edward Blake has been faithful to his first principles. He has never wavered in his allegiance to the cause and to the principles which first inspired him in going there and when he comes forward to-night it will be the same constant unchangeable Edward Blake as of yore (applause). It was quite a coincidence that brings these two gentlemen to-night upon the same platform. Mr. Devlin was one of the

first to welcome Mr. Blake into the Home Rule movement in Ireland. He spoke on the very first platform that Mr. Blake appeared on in that country. To-night Mr. Devlin appears here in the home of Edward Blake to propound the same old principles they did ten years ago in Belfast. I know you will all join with me now in wishing these gentlemen their reward, that is, to live to see the full fruition of their patriotic labors. That is the least that we can wish for them. And you will also give them a good Irish Caed Mille Failthe. (Applause.)

SYMPATHY WITH MR. DILLON.
 Rev. Father O'Reilly, Oakville, said: "I have to thank the chairman of this magnificent meeting for the honor which he had conferred upon me of putting into my hands a resolution with reference to the illness of my revered friend Mr. John Dillon, M.P., whose absence from this meeting I know you all regret, and the cause of which you regret still more. I have, however, the happiness in this connection of telling you what I have just heard, that Mr. Dillon is making rapid progress towards recovery. The resolution reads: This meeting desires to convey to Mr. John Dillon, M.P., a sincere expression of sympathy with him in his illness, resulting from over-exertion in performance of his present mission of delegate from the United Irish League to America; and, trusting that he may be speedily restored to good health, places on record the most heartfelt appreciation of his lifelong self-sacrifice in the interests of his native land. Dr. McMahon seconded the resolution, and in doing so spoke eloquently of the grand character of Mr. Dillon, who had given all he possessed in the world for his country's sake. Educated for the medical profession, early in life he abandoned the profession and threw in his lot with the Irish people as one of their representatives in the House of Commons. Irishmen the world over owed him a great debt of gratitude and hoped and prayed for his speedy recovery to health. The gathering emphasized their approval of the motion by a standing vote.

THE RESOLUTION.
 Hon. Senator George McHugh moved the following resolution:
WELCOME TO THE DELEGATE.
 "That this meeting cordially welcomes to the city of Toronto Mr. Joseph Devlin, M.P., delegate of the United Irish League, to America, who comes with our trusted and respected fellow-citizen, Hon. Edward Blake, M.P., to expound the aims of the Irish people at a critical juncture in the history of their national cause."
PLATFORM OF THE LEAGUE.
 "That we pledge once more our earnest sympathy and material support to the long sustained struggle for Irish self-government, peasant proprietorship of the land, promotion

of the industries and preservation of the ancient language of Ireland.
PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVES CALLED UPON.
 "As citizens of this contented, because self-governing Dominion, we protest against the present enforcement of the Irish coercion laws, which are alien to our experience of British citizenship. We call upon the representatives of the Canadian people in the legislative bodies to give renewed expression to the opinion of Canada in favor of Home Rule and against coercion.
UNITED IRISH LEAGUE ENDORSED.
 "Inasmuch as we are convinced that the claims of the Irish people are just and constitutional, we will encourage and assist as far as lies in our power the United Irish League, organized for the redress of the national and agrarian grievances of Ireland."
 "That a copy of this resolution be handed to Mr. Joseph Devlin, M.P., for presentation to the Executive of the United Irish League and the chairman of the Irish Parliamentary Party."

SENATOR MCHUGH'S SPEECH.
 Senator McHugh, in speaking to the resolution referred to the privileges enjoyed by Canada. He stated that if their friends the English would extend to Ireland the same treatment as we had in this country, instead of the squalor and agitation going on in that country there would be a happy and prosperous people (applause). They could well take an object lesson from what Home Rule had done for Canada. The speaker made a telling point of Lord Durham's report and the action of the Imperial Government upon it. Profesting against coercion he said such a policy was perhaps suitable for some inferior people, but never for the proud and ambitious people of Ireland (cheers). Coercion was not going to bring about peace or prosperity, and every true lover of England and the Empire should be anxious to see the happy time come when Ireland would be contented by Home Rule. It would mean increased strength to the Empire. (Applause.)

MR. PETER RYAN.
 Mr. Peter Ryan seconded the motion. In doing so he remarked that if the Irish people had the right to govern themselves they would make such laws as would permit them to live upon the land that Providence gave them (applause). While the Irish may have been depressed in times gone by by repeated disappointments and a continuous struggle, still they should go on in their good work in securing freedom for themselves of their native land, remembering that though sorrow may endure the night joy cometh in the morning. (Applause.)

RESOLUTION CARRIED WITH ENTHUSIASM.
 This, the motion of the evening, was carried by the gathering rising and applauding vociferously. The enthusiasm pervaded the whole house and lasted a few minutes. The chairman then called upon Mr. Joseph Devlin, M.P.

MR. JOSEPH DEVLIN, M.P.
 Makes a Powerful Presentation of the Misgovernment of Ireland.
 Mr. Joseph Devlin, M.P., on rising was greeted with the utmost enthusiasm. He said:
 Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen—I desire, as a humble substitute of Mr. John Dillon, to thank you to-night with all my heart on his behalf, and on behalf of the United Irish League of Ireland, for the magnificent manner in which you have responded to the call of the chairman to pass the resolution which you have just received. And I say it with all the more pleasure,

"THE FAT YEARS"
 These are the times of plenty. Perhaps they are nearly at an end. At all events they have been with us for a considerable time and sooner or later will make way for the lean years. Have you made provision for the time of scarcity? If not make haste to begin.
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TRIBUTE TO HON EDWARD BLAKE.
 I feel that you will not regard it as impertinence on my part, if I, to-night say to his fellow-citizens that no greater service was ever rendered to the cause of Ireland by the people of this great Canadian city, than that not all the material assistance which you have given in the past, or which you may give in the future, can be measured against such immeasurable service which you have already rendered to Ireland by lending the conspicuous devotion, the brilliant genius, the modest and unostentatious public benefit which for ten years have characterized the glorious life of Hon. Edward Blake in Ireland. (Loud cheers) And as a member of the Irish Party, I tell you at this great meeting of his fellow-citizens, that you, who knew him in the glorious years of his youth and manhood for the service which he rendered humanly and the people of Canada in this Province—even you have not received his name with more enthusiasm than that with which it is received to-day in every large centre of population throughout the country where the name of Edward Blake is revered, honored and esteemed by the people to whom he has devoted the past ten years of his life. (Renewed cheering.)
 I thank you, too, for coming here to-night to show that in this great city, under the British flag, but enjoying the glories of the better part of the British Empire, enjoying your own freedom in Canada, you feel for a struggling people who are endeavoring by the application of constitutional effort to secure for their land what you enjoy in so inestimable degree here in this great country (Heard here.)

CANADIAN SYMPATHY WITH IRELAND.
 If you have come here to-night to sympathize with Ireland, you do so because, as the distinguished Senator has declared, you know what liberty means and how deeply you have enjoyed it. And we claim that if we are given the liberty you have, which you the loyal citizens of a mighty empire enjoy, that we too would be just as willing to-morrow to extend the hand of friendship to England, to live in peace and amity under a common flag, as you have lived here, to the advantage of Canada, and to the glory of the British Empire. (Applause.) But, ladies and gentlemen, I am not sure whether it was Sir Wilfrid Laurier (applause) or Sir Edmund Barton, the Prime Minister of Australia, who declared when in England some months ago, that the reason why Canada or Australia, I forget which—was loyal to the Empire and faithful to her interests in the hour of her need was because Australia, or Canada, or both, were living under the blessing of national self-government, given the most absolute right to conduct the fortunes of their own country, subject alone to the authority

of the will of the people whom they represented. (Hear, hear.) We claim for Ireland nothing more than you enjoy in Canada, and we say here to you to-night that when the blessing of national self-government is extended to us, when we live under the fostering care of a parliament actuated and dominated by a single desire, and that the progress and welfare of our beloved country, then it is absolutely sure that Ireland will be faithful to the compact she enters into with England, and there will be greater peace and a better spirit in every part of the empire of which England is the mother country. (Applause.)

THE IRISH MOVEMENT.
 Now, ladies and gentlemen, I trust in the future observations I have to make to-night that I will prove to you that in coming here to Canada to plead for the cause of Ireland, that we are coming to plead not for a nation that is always engaged in complaining without just cause. I will show you that during 23 years, in the operation of the rightly movement which was the predecessor of the United Irish League, the ramifications of which are extending to-day in the United States and in Canada—I will show you that never in the history of the world was there a mightier constitutional revolution worked out than was wrought in Ireland. During the time the people have been led by wise leaders, animated by the desire of exercising their constitutional rights, there has been accomplished absolutely a social, political and moral revolution in every part of the land. Ladies and gentlemen, from the time the Act of Union was passed till 1878—nearly 80 years—the people of Ireland were cast into the very Slough of Despond. There was not a single farmer or laborer in Ireland who could call his soul his own. The landlords of Ireland owned not only the land of the people but practically their bodies and souls. Why, up to the time when this great organization was established by Michael Davitt (cheers), it was not only possible, but it was a common thing, in Ireland, for a landlord to cast an Irish tenant on the roadside, although he had paid every farthing of his rent. In Ireland at that time a landlord could give over a barren mountain land to a tenant. The tenant could spend his capital and his labor to make that land fruitful and useful, he could enrich it by application of his own hands and of his family; and when all this had been done the landlord could step in and say "That land is mine. The improvements you have created are mine. Everything belongs to me." All he had to do was serve a notice without even legal form that the tenant and his family should be thrown upon the roadside. And, ladies and gentlemen, to you, who do not understand what that meant, to you who have had no experience, and who have not seen the appalling horrors of an Irish eviction, let me briefly read for you a description of the system which was carried on in Ireland. Let me read for you, not a proof of an isolated instance of an eviction, but a part and parcel of her every-day life, a common thing in the social system of landlordism in Ireland.

THE TRAGIC STORY OF EVICTION.
 Here is what Most Rev. Dr. McNulty, Bishop of Meath, says, writing just ten years before the Land League started. Here is a record of what took place under his very eye in Ireland. And I ask you, in the whole long history of human tragedy, if there ever was a more fearful story depicted than the story related by this distinguished ecclesiastic. He says:
 "In the very first year of our ministry as a missionary priest in this diocese, we were the eye witness of a greatly inhuman eviction, which even still makes our heart bleed as often as we allow ourselves to think of it. Seven hundred human beings were driven from their homes in one day, set adrift on the world to gratify the caprice of one who before God and man probably deserved less consideration than the least and lowest of them. And we remember well that there was not a single shilling of rent due; not a single one of the 700 on the estate at the time except by one man. And the character and acts of that one man made it perfectly clear that the agent and himself quite understood each other. The crowbar brigade employed on this occasion to extinguish the hovels and demolish the homes of honest, industrious men worked away with a will at their awful calling from morning until evening. At length an incident occurred that varied the monotony of the grim misery which was all around. They stopped suddenly and recoiled panic-stricken with terror from two dwellings. They had just learned that a terrible typhus fever had taken

houses in its grasp and had already brought pestilence and death to the inmates. They therefore supplicated the agent to spare these houses a little longer, but the agent was inexorable and insisted that every one of these houses should come down. The ingenuity with which he extricated himself from the difficulties of the situation were characteristic alike of the hideousness of the man and the cruel necessities of the work in which he was engaged. He ordered a large windowing sheet to be secured over the beds in which the fever victims lay—fortunately they happened to be perfectly delirious at the time—and then directed the houses to be unroofed cautiously and slowly, because he said he very much disliked the bother and discomfort of a coroner's inquest. I administered the last sacraments of the church to one of these fever-victims next day, and but for the above-mentioned windowing sheet there was not a roof nearer to them than the anopy of heaven. The horrid scenes I then witnessed I must remember all my life long. The wailing of women, the screams, the terror, the consternation of children, speechless agony of honest, sober men wrung tears of blood from every heart. I saw the officers and men of our police force, who were obliged to attend on the occasion, cry like little children at beholding the cruel sufferings of the very people whom they would have been obliged to beat had they offered the least resistance. The heavy rains that are usual at this season descended in cold, copious torrents throughout the night and at once revealed to those homeless people the awful horrors of their situation. I visited them next morning and administered to them all the comfort and consolation that I could. The appearance of the men, women and children as they crouched over the ruins of their former homes associated with rain, blackened and besmeared with soot, shivering in every member from cold and misery, presented positively the most appalling spectacle I had ever seen. The landed proprietors in a circle all round and for many miles in every direction warned their tenantry with their direct vengeance against the humanity of extending to these people the hospitality of a single night's shelter. Many of these poor people were unable to emigrate with their families, while at home the hand of every man was against them. They were driven from the land upon which Providence had placed them, and in the country surrounding them every walk of life was rigidly closed against them. What was the result? The people worn out with privation and pestilence at last graduated from the work houses to the tomb and in a little more than three years nearly two-thirds of these people lay quietly in their graves."
 Mr. Devlin finished the reading and the tension of the audience was left for a space before he continued. He said:
 I make no apology for reading that statement even though it may seem of inordinate length, as I know no human being, no matter what convictions he holds on a political situation, but will not say that Providence guided the hands of the men and the movement they created in putting an end to a condition of things so horrible and so appalling as that described by the Most Reverend Dr. Nulty.
 (Continued on page 4.)

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