

BLAKE'S REPLY

TO T. W. RUSSELL, M.P. FOR SOUTH TYRONE.

Mr. Russell Cites Alleged Drawbacks In Quebec Analogous to Ireland With Home Rule—Blake Reviews the Points.

LONDON, April 14.—Mr. T. W. Russell, M.P. for South Tyrone, in the course of his speech on the second reading of the Home Rule Bill, said the Prime Minister invited their attention to Canada, which he said had been made contented and prosperous by Home Rule. It was true that after a rebellion Great Britain sent out Lord Durham, who effected a satisfactory settlement; but Lord Durham's policy had no resemblance to the policy of this bill; his was a policy of consolidation and not of disruption; instead of breaking up the country he amalgamated the two provinces of Upper and Lower Canada. There is this remarkable fact, that the province of Upper Canada, which was Protestant, had a smaller population than Lower Canada, which was Roman Catholic; but when they were united care was taken that the smaller province should have the same number of representatives as the lower province. That was done to secure British ascendancy, so that the British minority might not be tyrannized over by the French majority. If they wanted a real analogy, they would find it in Quebec at the present day. (Hear, hear.) What was the situation there? The conditions were almost the same as in Ireland. There were two races—a large French population, Roman Catholics, engaged in agriculture, and a small English population, Protestants, engaged in commerce. That was Ireland. They had Home Rule in Quebec, and they had the domination of the Roman Catholic Church as it existed in no other part of the wide world. (Cheers.) What was the result of this dual system of the Church and Home Rule? Corruption in the Government of the country. Nobody could deny that, with an ex-Prime Minister put on his trial in the last 12 months. They had education in the hands of the Church, and it was a farce. The Protestants, one-sixteenth of the population, paid five-sixths of the whole taxation. It was said that there was no Established Church, but the Roman Catholic Church took title from the land. There was a deficiency in the public revenue, and the commercial classes in Montreal were raving at the fresh taxation put upon them. When he was referred to Canada he pointed to Quebec (Hear, hear.) One Quebec was enough for the 19th century. (Cheers.) Let them look at a Mercer unfurling the flag of Canadian independence when they talked to him of contented Canada. There was the case in Canada, in 1878, when the Privy Council upheld the right of the Dominion Parliament to legislate for the provinces, but the Scott Act was a dead letter, because the provinces said, "All right, enforce it" (laughter), and it had never been enforced. (Cheers.) They could pass an Imperial Act for Ireland, but how would they enforce it when they had parted with every policeman. In reply to Mr. Russell, Mr. Edward Blake, dealing with the reference to Canada, said the hon. member had spent three or four weeks in Canada, and had fallen among Orangemen. Nationalist cheers and persons of that kidney. They did not beat, or wound, or rob him or despitely use him (laughter), but, on the contrary, they received him hospitably and crammed him with things which he was only too anxious to swallow, and which were difficult of retention. "Hear, hear," and laughter.) He did not deny that there was in that country a large and powerful body of Puritans who entertained hostile feelings with reference to Home Rule for Ireland, but it was mainly composed of Orangemen as fanatical as the Orangemen on this side of the water. There were also others who sympathized with some of the opinions of the Orange body, and further, some timid, nerveless, apprehensive men who shared those feelings, but there, as here, the strength of the opposition to Home Rule came from the Orange body and was based upon the same principles. (Hear, hear.) The hon. member having received from those sources information with reference to the condition, particularly of the province of Quebec, imparted that information to the

House and dealt with one portion of the Bill in the light of Canadian experiences. The hon. member referred to the power of the Imperial Parliament to legislate after the passage of the measure in respect to the affairs which touch Ireland; he admitted the right, but declared that there was no use in that right when Parliament had parted with the Executive power, and his example was the case as he alleged, in Canada when, after the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council had upheld the right of the Dominion Parliament to legislate for the provinces with reference to the question of local option, the Act was left a dead letter because the provinces said, "All right, enforce it," and it never had been enforced. The hon. member had been grossly misinformed. (Cheers.) The provinces did

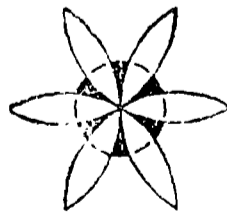
ALL THEY WERE CALLED UPON

to do, by supplementary legislation, by the appointment of officers and otherwise, to discharge the duty which lay upon them, and made strenuous efforts to enforce the Act. Mr. Russell had entered into a somewhat brief historical resumé of things in Canada and the operations in this country with a view to the relief of the discontent existing there. He pointed out that the policy of Lord Durham was the reverse of the policy of this measure; that Lord Durham's policy was one of consolidation, and not a policy of disruption. Mr. T. W. Russell—"Hear, hear." Lord Durham was sent out to meet a great difficulty. The discontent was acknowledged to have a just foundation, but, whether just or not, it was necessary to remove it. That discontent was due to the circumstance that England had granted the people an imperfect measure of self-government. England had granted a Legislative Assembly with the power to make laws, but she did not grant the colony a responsible Executive. (Hear, hear.) By certain means not under the control of the popular Assembly, England enabled herself, as long as the Canadians allowed it, to thwart that Assembly. There was discontent, there were representations, there were deputations, and extreme views proceeded naturally out of a disregard of those efforts. They culminated in rebellion. Lower Canada had a population divided into French Roman Catholics, speaking in the large, and some Irish Roman Catholics, and English and Scotch, and some Irish Protestants, and just as it had happened in a country near at hand, the English, Scotch and Irish Protestant minority claimed to be the loyal minority. They insisted that the safety of the Empire and the continuance of the Union depended upon their rule being continual. They pointed to the majority as being disloyal. They had, in fact, at that period all the stock arguments used by the so-called Irish Loyalists of to-day (hear, hear); so Lord Durham said that it was necessary to give self-government. In other words, he proposed the Anglicizing of the two provinces: the making of them into one harmonious whole, in which the French lamb would be inside the British lion. (Laughter.) The two provinces were reunited, and they were to have an equal number of representatives, although the upper province had much the smaller population. The idea that the majority in the Province of Quebec should be Anglicized and denationalized and kept under the heel produced the natural fruits. There was a spirit evoked on the part of the French people, and laudable. They determined to preserve their identity. They determined that they would not be Anglicized, and the efforts of England failed wholly owing to the means she adopted. What was the result? The experiment was tried for 25 years. They got rid of the difficulty of attempting to govern the country, but they left it in a condition in which it

could with difficulty govern itself. The Ulster of Quebec, according to the views of the hon. member, was to be found in that loyal and Protestant minority whose attitude in the earlier years he Blake had sketched. The loyal and Protestant minority accepted the proposal that was made for a federation with legal safeguards. Therein they showed their wisdom. But there had never been a time in the early or in the later days in which they viewed the Roman Catholic majority with that degree of detestation and abhorrence which the house now learnt regulated the sentiments of the loyal Irish minority

toward their countrymen. (Hear, hear.) Certain precautions being taken—and the present bill abounded with precautions—"Oh, and cheers"—the situation in Quebec was willingly accepted. No doubt some were still dissatisfied, for there was nothing more difficult in the world than for a minority of that race, and having the predominant position which it had occupied, to reconcile themselves to the view that the majority should rule. (Cheers.) They did not like it, and it was but human nature that they should not, though not the highest part of human nature. (Hear, hear.) Himself a Protestant and kin with the minority in Quebec, he had anxiously watched the progress of events there; and, as far as he could judge, the minority had always had its share, and generally more, in the government of the country. (Cheers.) There was always one or more English and Protestant Ministers among the provincial governors. There had been an extraordinary degree of liberality with reference to the representation in Parliament of those who were not merely of an absolutely race, but of another town and another creed. Mr. Blake then quoted figures in reference to Quebec. The population of Quebec was about 1,400,000, of whom 1,200,000 were Roman Catholics and 200,000 Protestants. The schools numbered 5,000, 4,000 being Roman Catholics and 1,000 Protestants, and of the scholars 220,000 were Roman Catholics and 35,000 Protestants. The teachers numbered more than 2,000, and the average attendance was over 200,000. These were figures of which Quebec had no reason to be ashamed. The Protestants when they were in a majority in a municipal body elected the school commissioners, and when they were in a minority they had the right to elect trustees for a dissenting school if they could gather together fifteen scholars. The expenditure was mainly met by local rates levied from Protestants for the Protestant schools and from Roman Catholics for the Roman Catholic schools, and the grants in aid were given in proportion to the population with this exception, that certain grants for the higher schools were given in a larger proportion to the Protestant minority than was warranted by their numbers. Then the hon. member said that the Roman Catholic Church took title from the land. Yes, but whose legacy was that? Who established the title? (Hear, hear.) The title taken was very moderate in amount and provided a very moderate substance. But the Protestants had no grievance in connection with this title for it was only exacted from Roman Catholics. It was said by grievance-mongers that when a Protestant held land, efforts were made to get it

FROM HIM BY THE PRIESTS. But all the priests ever did was to supply money to an intending purchaser at a low rate of interest, so that he was enabled to pay a higher price than he would otherwise be able to pay to the Protestant vendor of the farm, who was tempted by a good price to part with his land. The only grievance was that the Protestant farmers were in this way induced to go. (Mr. T. W. Russell—"They are being squeezed out.") He agreed that the Protestant and English-speaking



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minority were not in as comfortable a position in some respects as they would be in if all those around them were of the same extraction, of the same race, and of the same faith, but there was no ground for alleging that the situation of the Protestants was made uncomfortable by the majority that surrounded them; on the contrary, he believed that one of the most creditable parts of a creditable history was the degree of tolerance, liberality, breadth of spirit, and recognition of the rights of the minority which distinguished the Roman Catholics of the Province of Quebec. The feeling existed because there had been in the province from very early days a large party of men, French and Roman Catholic, imbued with the true principles of constitutional freedom, who had studied the history of this country, and had become well affected to us in recognition of the justice and liberality with which they had been treated. The hon. member said the commercial classes of Montreal had recently been raided by fresh taxation. One would suppose from that statement that the taxation to which he referred was put on by some French Roman Catholic. As a matter of fact, the officer analogous to the Chancellor of the Exchequer in that House had during the last 25 years been an English-speaking Protestant; so that, if the loyal minority of English extraction and Protestant blood, to whom the honorable member referred had been raided, they had been raided by one of their own. No doubt the Province of Quebec had accumulated a debt and incurred a deficiency, but it was not the only colony that had done so, nor was it because the inhabitants were French and Roman Catholics that these results had ensued. The people had a strong objection to direct taxation; but even if they had been willing there were difficulties to the adoption of direct taxation. The principle upon which the details might be objectionable, was not so objectionable in itself. He believed it was not laid with the view of taxing the Protestant class. The Church in Quebec, he said, had taken a considerable part in politics, but he had never heard of that part being taken against the Protestants and in favor of the Catholics. (Hear, hear.) When corruption arose in Canada the people themselves, under great difficulties, took the matter in hand and found the remedy. (Cheers.) They turned out those men whom they believed guilty of corruption. The man who murdered the standard of Canadian independence was the very man who was put on his trial.

A PROMPT CURE.

GENTLEMEN.—Having suffered over two years with constipation, and the doctors not having helped me, I concluded to try B. B. B., and before I used one bottle I was cured. I can also recommend it for sick headache. (L. B. B. D. HAINES, Lakeview, Ont.)

BANQUE VILLE MARIE.

NOTICE is hereby given that a Dividend of Three per cent. for the current half year (making six per cent. for the year) has been declared upon the Paid-up Capital of this Institution, and will be payable at the Head Office on and after THURSDAY, the FIRST day of JUNE next.

The Transfer Books will be closed from the 30th to the 31st of May inclusive. The Annual General Meeting of Shareholders will take place at the Head Office of the Bank on Tuesday, the 29th June next, at noon.

By order of the Board,  
W. WEIR, President.  
Montreal, April 11, 1894.

MONTREAL CITY AND DISTRICT SAVINGS BANK.

The Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of this Bank will be held at its Office, St. James Street, on TUESDAY, the 2nd May next, at one o'clock p.m. for the reception of the annual report and statements and the election of Directors.

By order of the Board,  
C. V. BARBEAU, Manager.  
March 30, 1894.

LA BANQUE JACQUES CARTIER. Dividend No. 55. Notice is hereby given that a dividend of three and one-half per cent. (3 1/2 p.c.) has been declared on the paid-up capital stock of this institution for the current half year, payable at the office of the bank in Montreal, on and after Thursday, the 1st day of JUNE next.

The Transfer Books will be closed from the 15th to the 31st May next, both days inclusive. The general annual meeting of shareholders will take place at the office of the bank in Montreal, on Wednesday, the 21st of June next, at 1 o'clock p.m. By order of the Board, A. DEMARTELYS, General Manager, Montreal, 20th April, 1894.