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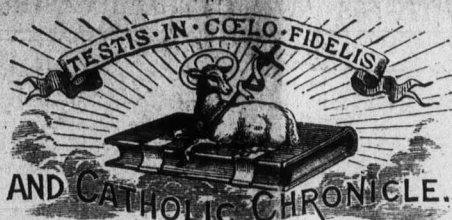
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# The True



# Witness

The Senate,  
Jan 1 1907

Vol. LVI., No. 14

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1906

PRICE FIVE CENTS

## "Ireland's Hour of Deliverance is at Hand"

Such was the note throughout T. P. O'Connor's Splendid Speech in Stanley Hall.

Large and Enthusiastic Audience Greet the Genial Irish Member.

Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., arrived in the city yesterday morning and immediately registered at the Windsor Hotel. Almost his first visitors were several reporters from the different city papers. A most cordial reception indeed was accorded them by the genial Irish member, who led them to believe that a talk with them would be a very pleasant task, he having himself formerly belonged to that very noble calling of journalism. The result of the interview can be put in very few words, and that is that Home Rule is bound to be accorded to Ireland during the present Parliament. Hence nothing further could be said but that "Ireland's hour of deliverance is at hand."

Home Rule been as eloquently or as moderately presented to the people of Montreal as it was last night by Mr. T. P. O'Connor at Stanley Hall. The Irish leader was evidently dealing with his life work to an audience who knew and appreciated what he was doing—and it was an audience which was by no means confined to those of Hibernian descent—yet he presented his views with a moderation and a breadth of principle that time and again compelled the enthusiastic plaudits of his hearers.

His whole argument was that the granting of Home Rule to Ireland, as to Canada and the other self-governing colonies of the Empire, would be the best thing possible for Great Britain as for Ireland, and that the one thing wanting to com-

and consistency of our people, which has been tried by seven centuries of continued struggle. But, like an army in the field, we have occasionally to think of the war chest at home, just as the Japanese, in defeating Russia, found that Europe and America, by accepting her loans to finance the war, had passed a vote of confidence in the new Empire of the Orient. As to moral support, in all my travels in the United States, and my intercourse with their people in Europe, I have never yet met an American who was not a friend to the cause of self-government for Ireland.

"And," continued Mr. O'Connor, "coming as I do fresh from the United States, I may say that the President of that country has instructed me to say that his affection and re-

Mr. O'Connor took as an axiom that the only true foundation of government was the consent of the governed, and pointed out that never since the fatal day, 106 years ago, when the Irish Parliament had been destroyed by a man who did not truly represent the Irish people, had those people ceased to protest against that destruction and demand its re-establishment. "And even in that parliament," he said, "which did not represent the people, every member whom force could not intimidate, and whom gold could not corrupt—everyone fought to the last against that crime against Ireland."

As to the solidarity of the Irish people in support of the national movement, Mr. O'Connor pointed out that since 1885, when they first secured a suffrage, which enabled the majority to voice their views, out of 100 members from Ireland, over eighty had been regularly sent to Westminster to support the cause of self-government, no matter how party votes might sway the results elsewhere. That proved that the present system of government had not the consent of the governed.

"And what have been the effects of 10 years of government from Westminster?" asked the speaker. There had been one great famine, which cost the lives of over a million people, and two partial famines. Famines, which had not been caused by nature, but had been artificially produced by the system of landlordism, which rack-rented the peasantry, and sent out of the country the food which should have kept them alive. "These famines," he said, "were produced by a system, the worst ever inflicted upon a poor nation by a more powerful nation."

Another test which he applied was that of population, which could readily be appreciated by the people of Canada, who knew that the prosperity of their country was gauged by its growth in this regard. The result of Westminster rule was that whereas in 1846 Ireland had nine million people, to-day it had less than four million, and the loss was still going on, as he saw when he sailed for America, and saw four hundred board the vessel from Ireland. Still another test was the fact that the marriage rate in Ireland was lower than in any European country.

### CHANCES FOR IRELAND.

Then, as to taxation, Mr. O'Connor quoted the sardonic statement of Mr. Thomas Locke, a member of the present British administration, who said: "Since the Union the population of England has nearly quadrupled, while her taxation has halved. Since the Union the taxation of Ireland has doubled and her population has halved."

"Could I better summarize what self-government has done for England and what it has done for Ireland?" asked Mr. O'Connor.

But the question is, what are the chances for Ireland getting self-government at the present time. As to this he took a very hopeful view. There were two methods of governing a people against her will—by force, and by the creation of a debauched governing class, and both systems had been tried in Ireland; but the latter had turned, and now many of the official class was finding that self-government was not only not disreputable but fashionable, and they were getting ready to turn their coats.

From this Mr. O'Connor dealt at length with the administration of the laws in Ireland, and argued that the judicial and jury system there was not administered in accordance with true ideals of freedom, but were dictated by political powers, the whole thing being very much at the mercy of the Government of the day, especially as the jury system could be dispensed with by proclamation from the lieutenant-governor and trial compelled before two magistrates, who were necessarily political creatures. The result was what was styled political crimes—but in Ireland, as in Russia, "political crime" was the direct result of the want of free institutions. Give the freedom and the "crime" would disappear.

Another sign of the failure of government from Westminster, which Mr. O'Connor presented, was the

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Irish education system, which he declared was in a deplorable state, the schools being few and ridiculously badly equipped.

"It is not the public opinion of Ireland that settles this question," cried the orator, "but the bigotry and prejudice of certain sections of public opinion in England."

But though this was a gloomy picture, Mr. O'Connor said that he was full of hope for the immediate future. Ireland was on the upgrade, and in all directions the effect of the constant work of the past twenty-seven years was apparent in the uplifting of the people by the recent legislation which permitted them to purchase land instead of being ground down by the absentee system of landlordism.

### THE PRESENT POSITION.

As to the prospects of home rule, Mr. O'Connor said he believed them to be very bright. There were twenty three parliaments within the Empire—would the Empire be wrecked if there were twenty-four? Further nothing would tend more to the cementing of the growing rapprochement between the British and American people than the giving of justice to the Irish, which was at present a great stumbling block to mutual friendship between the two nations.

As to the present position in England, Mr. O'Connor said the people had said to the Tories at the last election, "When you talk about Home Rule meaning the dismemberment of the Empire, you are talking rank sheer idiotic nonsense." The democracy of the British Islands was with the Irish people, as was shown by the fact that the growing labor party in the House of Commons was with them to a man, and ready to unite with the Irish members to overthrow the present government if it refused this measure. But Mr. O'Connor said he felt confident that Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman would prove faithful to his past professions, and would in due time bring in a home rule measure for Ireland, which he had so vigorously supported in the past, not only because it was good for Ireland, but because it was good for the Empire.

"The hour of Ireland's deliverance is at hand. It may be delayed a few, two or three years, but what are they in the life of a nation? After seven centuries of struggle and bloodshed and suffering we are in sight of the promised land. After all this misunderstanding of centuries the people of England and Ireland are at last beginning to know and appreciate each other. Twenty-five years from now this question will be almost forgotten, and over the graves of the men from Ireland who fought this fight there will be many an Englishman to declare that though misunderstood in their time the men who fought for Irish self-government were the true friends who saw and fought for what was good both for England and Ireland and for the Empire."

## Letter Read in Churches on Sunday.

### Defining Nationality of family

### Thus Obviating any Misunderstanding

A pastoral letter was read last Sunday in all city churches explaining fully to parishioners what church as a family they must attend. It reads as follows:

"To obviate as much as possible the difficulties that may arise from the interpretation of the law concerning national parishes, with the assent of our chapter, we have enacted and by these presents we promulgate the following:

"The head of the house decides the nationality of the family, and for the ends which we have in view, on the language spoken by the said head of the house depends the nationality of the family.

"In the case of a marriage between Catholics and non-Catholics, the nationality of the Catholic party decides the parish to which the family belongs.

"Those who do not live at home belong to the parish of their own nationality and not to the parish of the family with which they may be living.

"Catholics who are not of the nationality of the parishes established where they have their residence shall continue to belong to the territorial parishes, as may be inferred from the decrees relating to the erection of parishes. However, those among them who are more familiar with the language spoken in national parishes may choose to belong to any one of them, after having notified the bishop to that effect."

## Mr. John Redmond, M.P., makes Masterly Speech in Limerick.

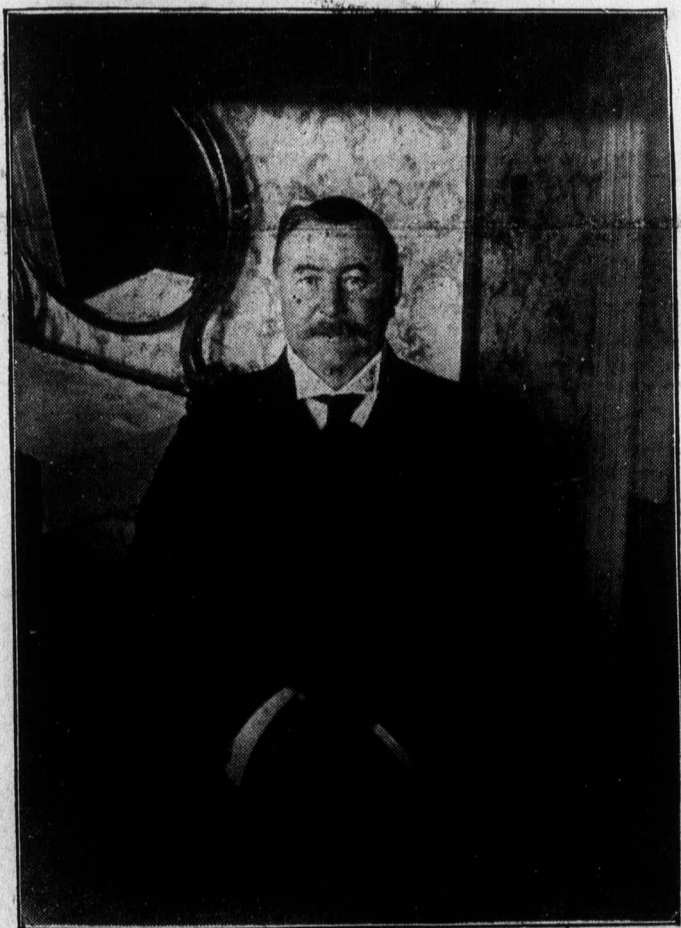
At Grange, Co. Limerick, on a recent Sunday, Mr. John Redmond, M.P., addressed a demonstration of enormous proportions. No compromise on the Home Rule question was the gist of his eloquent speech, which was vigorously applauded throughout. Referring to the measure which, it is said, the Government intend to introduce next season, he said he was not consulted about it and knew absolutely nothing of its details. Neither the leaders nor any of the representatives of the Irish people had been consulted. They had, however, the consolation that if they did not know the Government's mind, the Government would know theirs. They stood that day where they always stood. Nothing short of a complete measure of Home Rule, and by that he meant a freely elected Parliament with an executive responsible to it, could ever be accepted as a settlement of the Irish question; nothing short of such a scheme of Home Rule could ever bring peace, prosperity, or contentment to Ireland. He saw it stated that, because during the five or six weeks since Parliament rose he had been silent, he was prepared, or had agreed to accept, a scheme of administrative reform as a substitute for Home Rule. That was absolutely false. If he or his colleagues had been false enough or foolish enough to agree to accept any such thing as a settlement of the Irish question, they would in one week be repudiated by the mass of the Irish people in every part of the world as well as Ireland.

## President Roosevelt Received T. P. O'Connor, M. P.

President Roosevelt on Saturday last received T. P. O'Connor, M.P., and Michael J. Ryan, of Philadelphia, the new president of the United Irish League of America.

The President, alluding to his forthcoming article on the Celtic Saes, declared that his study of them had made him realize more than ever the high place Ireland occupies in the story of learning and civilization, and that no man, particularly with Irish blood in his veins, could fail to have his respect for himself and his race enormously heightened by such studies. He then asked Mr. O'Connor to give this message to the Irish people, that his affection and admiration for them grew stronger every year, and he expressed his sincere wishes for their welfare and prosperity.

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T. P. O'CONNOR, M. P. FOR THE SCOTTISH DIVISION OF LIVERPOOL.

pected from the House of Lords, but pointed out that sympathy might be expected from Lord Lansdowne, the leader, and further said he had never known the House of Lords to reject a measure in favor of which the people had expressed themselves by an overwhelming majority. If the measure were rejected by them, in spite of an overwhelming majority—"well, I should think," said Mr. O'Connor, "that the House of Lords would find itself face to face, not with Ireland, but with England, and I should be quite content to await the issue."

"Bad, very bad," was his description of the present condition of Ireland—a diminishing population, the lowest marriage rate in Europe; crushing taxation; a bloated civil service; 13,000 policemen where 8000 ought to be sufficient; 13 or 12 Supreme Court judges, where four would be quite enough; and a general system of force and corruption. Seldom has the cause of Irish

plete the independent glory of the Empire was the wiping out of the fact that the people of Ireland were governed against their will in matters where the will of the Irish people should govern as absolutely as does the will of the various provinces of Canada.

For an hour and a quarter Mr. O'Connor discussed the position of affairs with regard to Ireland. He left off with the impression that he could have said a great deal more, and that the audience would have enjoyed hearing a great deal more from him.

In opening, Mr. O'Connor referred to the fact that, although this was his third visit to this continent, it was his first tour of Canada, and he was charmed to find that his own people were taking so vigorous a part in the affairs of the Dominion.

"Like all politicians," said he, "the success of our movement depends primarily upon the patriotism

gard for the Irish people, some of whose blood flows in his veins, has strengthened his strength, and that he prays and hopes for the welfare of the Irish people."

As to the lesser leaders of the United States, Mr. O'Connor said that at the famous Philadelphia meeting adhesion to the Irish cause had been promised by no less than 39 Governors of States, and the majority of the Senate.

### SOLUTION IN CANADA.

"As to Canada," continued the speaker, "I am not yet competent to speak fully. But I can say that if there be a country in the world which has solved what is by some falsely regarded as the irreconcilable problem of national government and local government, of national unity and local liberty, that country is Canada, with its federal and provincial parliaments." (Applause.)