

THE TRUE WITNESS

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WEDNESDAY.....MAY 12, 1886

The best piece of news from Ireland for many a long day is the announcement that the British Government intends to disarm the Loyalists of Ulster, and that John Morley's motion to continue the Coercion Act of '81 was made with a view to its application in the interests of public order against the threatening and blustering Orange minority. What will the 200,000 (?) Canadian Orangemen, who were promised by the lodges to Brother Johnston, M.P. for Ballykibbeg, to fight against Home Rule, do now in face of this hostile attitude of the Imperial authorities? Will they still thirst for Irish Catholic gore? Poor fools!

NOVA SCOTIA is not to be behind in giving expression to its sympathy with Home Rule for Ireland. In fact the province by the sea intends to take the lead by getting the Government itself to move in the matter. The Legislature, which is the only one of the Maritime Provinces now in session, has been invited in the name of the Liberal Ministry by Attorney-General White to adopt a Government resolution referring to Mr. Gladstone's Home Rule Bill. It is strong and to the point. It is resolved, "That this house desires to record its warm sympathy with the noble efforts put forth by the Premier of Great Britain in the direction of giving Home Rule to Ireland, and expresses its sincere hope that his efforts may be crowned with success." It will be discussed in a few days.

A rough estimate made by the English Post office authorities shows that the number of words telegraphed out of London on the occasion of Mr. Gladstone's Irish Government statement was about one million five hundred thousand, being almost twice as many as on any previous occasion, the highest recorded hitherto being 860,000. The total number of words delivered at the various offices in the provinces was, however, very much larger, since many of the reports were sent to a number of addresses. In the reports of the proceedings in Parliament sent by the Press Association, for instance, the total number of words delivered of the verbatim report of Mr. Gladstone's speech was 1,185,000, while of the summaries of the same speech 413,500 words were delivered; and of Mr. Parnell's speech 104,400, while there were also 115,113 words of other Parliamentary speeches delivered, the total number of words delivered by the Press Association in its Parliamentary service being 2,029,113, or upwards of a thousand columns of solid newspaper type. According to the Post Office accounting, Mr. Gladstone's speech, verbatim, extended to twenty-four thousand seven hundred words.

The Catholic Union and Times of Buffalo, which has the special approbation of the Bishop of Buffalo, and is edited by the Rev. Father Cronin, publishes the following comment on the action taken by Archbishop Taschereau of Quebec against the Knights of Labor. It says:—"There is something mysterious in 'the trouble between the Knights of Labor and the Archbishop of Quebec. The Knights offered to amend their rules so as to make them acceptable to the Canadian Bishop; why did the latter not give them a chance to do so? The Catholic Church has always been the friend of the workingmen; and if the Knights of Labor govern themselves by sound principles, they will find in the Church the strongest kind of support. Mr. Powderly's public acts and utterances have not thus far offended the principles of justice and morality; and could not a consultation be had between him and a committee of Bishops appointed by Archbishop Gibbons?"

Our esteemed contemporary the Montreal Herald does ample justice to the situation when it says:—"That Sir John Macdonald was beaten in tactics and in strength of argument by Mr. Blake, was evident to the House and is apparent to the country. That he wished to burk the whole business, and failed to do so, is equally true; while the

reference to Sir Charles Tupper, instead of to Mr. Gladstone, will be regarded alike by friends and opponents of Home Rule as a piece of trickery unworthy of our Parliament and country. It was within the right of Parliament to pass the address for which Mr. Blake moved; it was the plain duty of the Government to facilitate its passage. The Premier preferred a crooked course, which was unworthy of Parliament and damaging to his own reputation. As regards the interest of Home Rule, he did what he could to injure it, but fortunately the question cannot now be unfavorably affected by anything Sir John can do or leave undone."

THE VERCHERES ELECTION.

The election contest in the County of Vercheres for the Local Legislature took place yesterday and resulted in a significant victory for the Liberal candidates. The candidates were Mr. Bernard, Liberal, and Mr. Cartier, Conservative. The former, who is an honest old farmer, was personally a very weak candidate—a fact which was admitted by friends and foes. The latter is a man of note; he is the nephew of the late Sir George Etienne Cartier, and the prestige borrowed from the name was no obstacle to success; he is a good speaker, and is known as a man of pluck and talent. He had every personal quality to recommend him as a representative man; but he was found wanting in one essential particular. He sympathized with the Government at Ottawa, and that was sufficient to damn him in the eyes and esteem of the electors, although the election was purely a local one. One word of condemnation against the Orange Tory administration of Sir John Macdonald would have won the constituency for him; he did not utter it, and he lost the election. Mr. Bernard gained the support of the electors by his declaration against the Ottawa Government.

THE BEATY-GOVERNMENT SCANDAL.

The Beaty-Woodworth affair has turned out to be not only an ugly thing for "the Boy," but a very damaging thing for the government, which has had to shield the youth to save itself. The ministerial effort to whitewash the most brazen system of corruption and trafficking in railway charters nearly cost it its life. From a majority of 94 the Ministry tumbled to 26, the smallest majority in 8 years. Mr. Beaty, who is a typical Ministerialist, was no deeper in the mire than the Government, and both had to sink or swim together; otherwise no ministry having the least respect for honesty and independence in parliamentary representatives would have dared to champion the cause of a public plunderer or would have tried to justify his attempt to squeeze \$675,000 out of the people's pockets for his influence in getting a railway charter. The conduct of the Hon. Thomas White and the other Ministers, in endorsing on the floor of the House the infamous transactions and dealings of Mr. Beaty, is even more scandalous and demoralizing than the plundering of their proteges. No Parliament on earth can furnish such revolting instances of unblushing corruption and of governmental vindication and protection extended to the guilty members. This is another reason to turn the rascals out.

THE CITY COUNCIL AND HOME RULE.

The City Council of Montreal has placed on record its sympathy with the Irish people in their struggle for Home Rule and its admiration of the Grand Old Statesman who has had the pluck to stand up, and in the face of bitter hatred and prejudice, to declare that Ireland must have her own again, and that it is time to put an end to English misgovernment in the Green Isle. The Council, however, was not allowed to make the adoption of the resolutions introduced by Ald. Jeannotte unanimous, owing to the mean and illiberal attitude of a few carpers, who hypocritically protested that they were in favor of Home Rule, but that they did not want the question brought up in the Council for the following reasons:—

Ald. Wilson showed a humorous and sympathetic appreciation of the situation by moving that the resolutions be entertained six months hence, when Mr. Gladstone would have had time to fully mature his scheme of Home Rule. It would not take much scratching to find under Ald. Wilson's skin a thoroughbred enemy of Irish liberty. The Council squelched the thing.

Ald. Holland came next with a friendly piece of advice to the Council to let politics alone, and not trouble itself about Home Rule. Ald. Holland has appeared in colors which few thought him capable of wearing. The Council did not take his advice.

Ald. Richard White, of the Gazette, stood up like a little man and, without any circumlocution, plumped straight against Home Rule. We wonder if the Hon. Thomas will do the same thing in the House on the Blake Resolution. Ald. White solemnly informed his fellow members that his appreciation of the duties of the Council led him to believe that they were elected to consider material matters for the benefit of the city, and not to discuss Home Rule or to extend sympathy either to Gladstone or the Irish people. He voted against the resolutions.

Ald. Kennedy was more modest. He admitted that he was in favor of Home Rule, but thought the Council should confine itself to its own legitimate business.

Ald. Mooney opposed the resolutions, as he was in favor of the Council minding its own business and leaving Home Rule alone. Finally came the gallant colonel, Ald. Stevenson, who wanted the Council to understand that Ireland had a constitutional government and a larger representation than Scotland (which is incorrect), and that the resolutions were mere "clap trap" and ultra

was. The last two words in Ald. Sandy's mouth sounded like a solid Scotch joke, and the Council laughed accordingly.

These made up the entire opposition to Home Rule—Stevenson, White, Wilson, Holland, Kennedy and Mooney, and these men are all largely elected by Irish votes.

On the other hand the French-Canadian aldermen spoke warmly and eloquently in favor of Irish liberty and voted like one man for the resolutions. They literally crushed the anti-Irish carpers. It is but just to remark that there was at least one Englishman in the Council who had enough of pluck and fair play to say that he would vote for the resolutions, as they had nothing to do with politics, and as he wanted to express his admiration of the illustrious statesman who alone, within the last fifty years, had tried to redress the wrongs of Ireland. This member was Ald. Fairbairn.

MR. BLAKE INTRODUCES HOME RULE RESOLUTIONS IN PARLIAMENT.

Ireland is not without friends, and the cause of Irish liberty is not without champions in the Dominion House of Commons. The men who are looked upon as the representatives of the Irish Canadian people failed to invite and urge the Federal Parliament to adopt resolutions of sympathy and encouragement to Her Majesty's Government in its formidable task of establishing self-government in Ireland. Their failure to accomplish anything in this direction was keenly felt by the Canadian people. In the most momentous crisis of Ireland's history, they refused to raise a hand to push her on the road to victory. When an expression of opinion from Ottawa would have been of "powerful moral support to the Imperial Government" in carrying out the principle of Home Rule for the benefit of Ireland, the voice of Parliament was smothered, and Mr. Gladstone has failed to receive up to the present that encouragement which Canada would be justified by every possible consideration in extending to the British Premier and his Government.

At this juncture the Hon. Edward Blake comes to the front, and again proves himself to be the true and courageous advocate of what is right and just. A friend in need is a friend indeed, and such is Mr. Blake. Last evening as the House was being moved into Committee of Supply, Mr. Blake rose and asked to call the attention of Parliament to the Irish question. He desired, not as a party leader, not as a Reformer, but in his capacity as a Canadian citizen, to have the Commons of Canada express the interest and concern felt by the people of Canada in the condition of Ireland, to affirm its abiding adherence to the principle of Home Rule for Ireland, which was urged four years ago, to give utterance to the sentiments of joy at the submission of a Home Rule measure to the Imperial Parliament, and to express the earnest hope that it may form a basis for such a settlement of this great question as shall conduce to the peace, happiness and prosperity of the empire.

Mr. Blake has approached and taken up this matter in a broad and statesmanlike manner. In doing so he has acted fearlessly and with the courage of his convictions. He considered that a great and noble cause could be served by this action, and he took it without hesitating or trying to find excuses for inaction. He asked whether we, a democratic people and the kinsmen of that very mass of the population to whom Mr. Gladstone speaks, should not come and support him in his work of giving a nation free and fair government? Mr. Blake stated that he did not bring this forward as a party question; he wanted complete union so as to give the action of the House the utmost significance and effect.

Mr. Blake said he had waited until the last moment, hoping that someone on the Government side of the House would take the initiative, but nothing was done. He then added: "I have observed, however, that the Minister of Inland Revenue (Hon. Mr. Costigan) had cabled to Mr. Parnell for 'himself and the Irish Canadian members in Parliament his adherence to the resolution of 1882. They should be united to secure redress of wrong. What was required was 'an assurance of the warm interest of all classes, not of a section, but the whole of the people, not only the ministers of the Crown, but all the Commons of Canada, not only the Irish Catholic members, but the French, Scotch, English Irish and German—in fact all nationalities. It was not a Protestant or a Catholic question, and they should regard as enemies of their country those who make it so.'"

This is the true view to take of the situation. No narrow-mindedness, no restriction of the national sympathy characterize this patriotic speech. Mr. Blake yields not to antagonism from discredited quarters, but demands that the question be treated on its merits. He concluded his speech by assuring the House that "for his part he should feel that 'he was nothing less than a coward or a criminal if, without any humble effort of his, they were to stand passively by to-day and fail to give help at this moment to the cause of local self government and Irish freedom.'"

Hon. Mr. Blake has secured to-morrow (Thursday) for the discussion of his resolutions.

SIR JOHN MACDONALD AND HOME RULE.

Sir John Macdonald is widely known as the "prince of tricksters;" but the way in which he managed the debate on Blake's Home Rule resolutions has earned for him a still lower reputation, that of a parliamentary shyster. He tried by every possible means, and with the aid of the Irish traitors in the House, to burke the whole business and make the voice of Parliament impotent to carry sympathy and encouragement to Ireland. The unscrupulous Tory chieftain got poor John Costigan to move an amendment that

any Orangemen would be glad to father, and whipped the other Irish members, Burns, Coughlin, J. J. Curran, Daly, Bergin, etc., into line, to vote and speak for the Orange amendment. And then, when the grand old Conservative party had defeated Mr. Blake's mainly resolutions and forced the adoption of the milk and water product of the Orange and Irish Catholic combination, the grand old chief, with duplicity and treacherous cunning, proposed to have the amended resolutions forwarded to the Speaker of the British House of Commons, knowing that by so doing the resolutions would never reach either Mr. Gladstone or Parliament, as the English Speaker has no power nor right to communicate anything to the Cabinet or to Parliament. Mr. Blake, however, frustrated this dishonest piece of machiavellism of Sir John by exposing the true inwardness of the proposal to send the resolutions to the British Speaker. Sir John, like a whipped cur, had to retire along with his motion. Mr. Blake wanted the resolutions sent directly to Mr. Gladstone or to Parnell and Gladstone, jointly, but the Tories would not hear of it. At last the Minister of Justice, Hon. Mr. Thompson, suggested a ridiculous and nonsensical mode of procedure which met with the instant approbation of the low parliamentary shyster. Mr. Thompson proposed to send the resolutions to Sir Charles Tupper, who declared recently that he had no confidence in the Irish Catholic breed. This was carried by a bare majority of ten—the lowest since 1874.

Irish Canadians, with all liberal and intelligent people, can now judge what honesty there is in the Orange Tory party, and how much they desire to advance the cause of justice and liberty. We have no doubt that the honest sentiment of the country will condemn the action of those who prevented Parliament from voicing the feelings, the hopes and the desires of the Dominion in regard to Home Rule for Ireland.

ORANGE FOES AND IRISH TRAITORS.

The stand taken by Mr. J. J. Curran, member for Montreal Centre, on Blake's Home Rule resolutions, was neither creditable to himself nor in harmony with the wishes and feelings of the Irish Canadian people, while it was eminently calculated to injure the cause of Ireland. Mr. Curran quoted The Post and the London Catholic Record to prove that he was justified in supporting the Orange amendment that was placed in the hands of Hon. John Costigan. We need not emphasize the fact that the use, made by Mr. Curran, of The Post and Record to serve an unholy purpose was as malicious and dishonest as it was unwarranted.

For two weeks THE POST and other Irish Catholic journals urged the Dominion Parliament to follow the example of the Quebec Assembly and of other Legislatures. The members supposed to more directly represent the Irish Canadian people were specially called on to take the initiative. The entire Liberal press guaranteed them unanimous support from Mr. Blake and the Opposition. And Mr. Curran had the audacity to stand up and say that there was no desire on the part of the country to have the Federal Parliament adopt resolutions.

He assured us that he had consulted with the best friends of Home Rule, and that their opinion was "to keep mum." We should say that he had consulted with the best friends of the Tory party, and that their opinion was not to offend the Orange element thereof by seeking a confirmatory expression of opinion from the Canadian House of Commons.

That was the secret of the inaction and silence of Mr. Curran and of the other Irish members before Mr. Blake introduced his resolutions, as it was the secret of their opposition and betrayal of the Irish national cause after their introduction.

Partisanship triumphed over patriotism, and the fear of Orangism was stronger than the love of liberty and justice.

We have no hesitation in saying that Orangemen can boast of no greater victory since the battle of the Boyne. To have forced a free and independent parliament to vote against Home Rule for Ireland is an achievement of which they may well feel proud, but at which the Canadian people may well hang their heads in shame. And to say that this result was achieved by the co-operation of Irish Catholics! What humiliation! As Senator Trudel remarked in an article in L'Etendard: "We can now understand, in the face of this treachery and abasement of our representatives, how 'the Irish Parliament in 1800 decreed its own extinction.'"

Truly, Orangism ought to be well satisfied with its victories of fanaticism and hatred of Irish liberty. On the 16th of November last it compelled the Canadian Government to erect a scaffold to hang the chosen leader and champion of an oppressed people; on the 6th of May it compelled the Federal Parliament to smother the genuine expression of Canada's hopes and sympathy for Ireland in her efforts to obtain self-government. How many more such victories will we be called upon to chronicle before the Canadian people have an opportunity to sweep those foes and traitors out of the places of power which they have deified by corruption, dishonored by fanaticism and oppression, and bespattered with blood?

IRELAND'S FRIENDS AND FOES.

We devote considerable space to the debate which took place last night in the Canadian House of Commons, on the Home Rule resolutions introduced by the Hon. Edward Blake. The debate is a large plate glass mirror in which the real friends and foes of the Irish people are reflected in their true colors.

Although it is a well known and established fact that Sir John Macdonald's Gov-

ernment is closely allied with the Orange element of the country, every one felt that they would not dare to oppose and vote down the resolutions offered by the leader of the Opposition, no matter how strong their anti-Irish sentiments might be in that direction, and no matter how much they would wish to yield to Orange influence. They dared not hang up the resolutions as they did Louis Riel. But if Sir John could not kill the resolutions he could at least counteract their effect; and he bent all his efforts to that end. How he succeeded in emasculating the resolutions a perusal of the debate will show.

The most discreditable, and to Irish Canadians the most humiliating, feature of the discussion was the fact that Sir John got the Irish Catholic representative in the Ministry, the Hon. John Costigan, and his other Irish Catholic followers on the floor of the House, to do the dirty and traitorous work of damping the plea set up by Mr. Blake for the granting of Home Rule to Ireland.

One's heart grows sick at the sight of such a spectacle of debasement and treachery on the part of our representatives. It is enough to bring the curse of a suffering and struggling people down upon their heads, as it evoked loud applause and cheers from the Orange and Tory enemies of Ireland who are in the House.

Without the courage to introduce resolutions, as they should have done, our representatives have the courage to join hands with the foes of Irish liberty and rights, to block, as far as in their power lies, the progress of Mr. Gladstone's Home Rule Bill, because it was Mr. Blake who, on the refusal of the Irish representatives to stand up for Ireland, stepped into the breach and hoisted the signal of Canada's readiness to aid Ireland in her struggle for self government.

What will Mr. Parnell and his party, what will the Irish people at home, think of Irish Canadian representatives who, on May 3rd, 1886, privately cabled to the Irish leader their deep sympathy in the struggle for Home Rule and their hope that the British Government would finally concede it, and who on May 6th publicly denounced a gifted, generous and courageous champion of Irish liberty because he pleaded in the Canadian Parliament for the restoration of a Parliament in College Green?

Look at this picture and then at that.

COSTIGAN AND IRISH M.P.'S COSTIGAN AND IRISH M.P.'S

"OTTAWA, May 3rd, 1886. OTTAWA, May 6.

"Parnell, M. P., London, Eng.:"

"Amendment to Mr. Blake's Resolution:

"That this house, having reference to the tenor of such answer does not deem it expedient again to address Her Majesty on the subject, but earnestly hopes that such measures, may be adopted by the Imperial Parliament as will, while preserving the integrity and well being of the Empire and the rights and status of the minority, be satisfactory to the people of Ireland, and permanently remove the discontent so long unhappily prevailing in that country."

It is for these poor people, so helplessly situated and so unmercifully treated by the landlords, that Father Conway pleads. He promises those who may assist him that, if possible, every penny shall be expended in useful labor, and not a farthing shall go towards the demoralization of the people by gratuitous relief.

GLADSTONE'S SECOND HOME RULE SPEECH.

The debate upon the second reading of Gladstone's bill conceding self-government to Ireland was begun last evening in the British House of Commons. Mr. Gladstone in moving the second reading delivered a speech even more stirring and effective than his memorable oration of the 8th of April last, when he first introduced the bill.

The Premier's effort was repeatedly interrupted by Irish cheers, which is a proof that he was cutting deep down in the rank and cancerous growth of misgovernment which has brought so much misery and misfortune to the Irish people.

Mr. Gladstone did not conceal the fact that the fight for Home Rule would still be both long and bitter. In his Midlothian manifesto he admitted that Englishmen, after centuries of oppression, had come to believe that "Ireland had but a limited share in the great inheritance of human rights." That is an accusation which tears to shreds England's proud boast of fair play and throws it to the winds. The unreasoning caprice, the lack of consistent principle with which Ireland has been ruled, and the alternations of empty concession and brutal coercion, form, in Mr. Gladstone's estimation, a tale "whose prologue is denial with exasperation and resentment, whose epilogue is surrender without conditions and without thanks."

The Premier declared to the House that such miscarriage of justice and suppression of freedom would be as unavoidable in the future as they had been incessant in the past, unless the uncivilized method of enforcing hated laws by coercion was abandoned. Experience has shown that method of Government to be as futile as it was shameful, and there is but one substitute, namely, conciliation, and a people, he says, can only be conciliated by giving them what they want and not what you think fit. The medicine of coercion was continually applied in increasing doses and with diminishing results.

Mr. Gladstone again reminds the Imperial

lost faith in the fair play, impartiality and tolerance of the Catholic Celt, that they should deem it necessary to ask for protection of the minority?

In the name of the Irish people we repeat the insult, as we repudiate their unworthy and unpatriotic conduct in the House of Commons. Their attitude on the Home Rule resolutions of Hon. Ed. Blake is a shame and a disgrace to themselves as it is an injury to the Irish people. It is more; it is, in the present crisis, a supreme act of treachery to the cause of Irish freedom, and the Irish Canadian people will hold them to a strict account for it.

AN APPEAL FOR AID.

The Rev. Father Conway, parish priest of Killen, Galway, Ireland, has made, through the press, a strong appeal for aid for the poor people of that district. He says they are in as sad a plight to-day as six years ago. Again the gaunt spectre of famine is at their doors, and again the fell spirit of "felonious landlordism" is moving all the engines at its disposal to drive them from their wretched homes. Of the thousand families who reside there, many are already suffering hunger; scores are subsisting on what they intended for seed, and, in a month hence, not 20 per cent. of the poor people will have a morsel of food. At such a crisis the landlords come forward to enforce those claims, which, even in the best of times, might be disputed. Sentences of eviction—"death sentences"—are already passed on many, and more than 200 processes—200 summonses to hear the same dread sentences pronounced—lie at the local post-office.

Father Conway asks what is to be done and if the poor people are to be allowed to starve or to be driven penniless across the sea or into those dens of misery—the workhouses—more dreaded than even death by starvation. He assures us that this distress does not exist because the people are idle or because there is no means of sustenance for them in this desolate region. Neither negro or galley slave never worked harder under the lash than the Connemara peasant does to force a means of livelihood out of a never generous, and now utterly exhausted soil.

Then as to the means of sustenance there is a mine of wealth lying at their very doors. There is not, along the West coast, a better fishing ground, and there are not harder fishermen than these poor peasants; but their wretched gear and their wretched boats compel them to look helplessly on while the stranger with better appliances is carrying off, in cargoes, what Providence intended for their maintenance. Another source of employment and sustenance was the sale of turf. Inexhaustible tracts of peat abound. These tracts are useless to the proprietors, for not even the snipe will rest on them, yet we had recently to defend a number of tenants against their landlord,—the owner of one of these morasses, who processed them for £12, though to him the value of what they took away was nil; and he now has them sued for the rent, which he admits they were enabled to pay principally by the sale of turf. A third source of employment was the lace and woolen industries, established here by that devoted philanthropist, Miss Ada Yeates, but now deluged from want of funds, and thus the cunning hands that carried off the gold medal from the late Boston Exhibition were thrown out of employment.

It is for these poor people, so helplessly situated and so unmercifully treated by the landlords, that Father Conway pleads. He promises those who may assist him that, if possible, every penny shall be expended in useful labor, and not a farthing shall go towards the demoralization of the people by gratuitous relief.

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