

The True Witness



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THE HOME RULE AMENDMENT.

Speech of Mr. Redmond on the position of Mr. Wyndham.

London, Feb. 21.—In the House of Commons to-day on the motion for the Address to His Majesty, in reply to the Speech from the Throne, Mr. John Redmond, who was received with cheers, said:

I beg to move an amendment in the following words—"But humbly represent to your Majesty that the present system of Government in Ireland is in opposition to the will of the Irish people, and gives them no voice in the management of their own affairs; that the system is consequently ineffective and extravagantly costly, does not enjoy the confidence of any section of the population, and is productive of universal discontent and unrest, and has proved to be incapable of satisfactorily promoting the material and intellectual progress of the people." (cheers.) My object in moving this amendment is to raise a discussion on the entire question of the government of Ireland, and to give expression, perfectly frank and unmistakable expression, to the feelings of detestation of the present system, which is well nigh universal among all classes of the people of Ireland (cheers.) My object also is once more to define the position and policy of the Irish party upon this matter, and to make it plain to everyone, not only the Government, but to the Opposition, that we stand where we have always stood, irrevocably committed to Home Rule, (cheers), and necessarily independent of any British Government that does not make Home Rule a cardinal point in its programme. I think that everybody will admit that we are entitled, perhaps people will say we are bound, at the present moment to make our position in this matter quite clear. We are drifting, some people think we are drifting rapidly, towards

ing majority of the people. We condemn it because it is a Government ruinously extravagant (hear, hear), which weighs down the nation with a burden of unjust taxation (hear, hear); because, in addition to that, it is an inefficient Government which neglects every interest and industry of the nation, and necessarily leads to depopulation, ignorance, poverty and discontent. And, further, we object to this Government because it is distrusted and condemned by every class and creed in Ireland (cheers), as I will show presently, as much by those who call themselves Unionists as by those who call themselves Home Rulers. Mr. Speaker, the first of these points it is not necessary for me to labour. Amidst all the uncertainties and doubts surrounding the Irish question, amidst our contradictions and controversies, one fact stands out perfectly plain and beyond dispute. For the past thirty years or more the majority of the representatives of the Irish people have been returned to this House pledged to overturn the present system. Since the extension of the franchise in 1885, the majority of the Irish members has never fallen below 81 out of 108. In the present Government of Ireland the public opinion of Ireland is a negligible quantity, the overwhelming majority of her representatives have to-day absolutely no control whatever over her domestic affairs, and no Irishman—I will say no man, whatever his nationality, and especially no Irishman—is allowed to serve in any really prominent position in the Government of our country, unless he is a known opponent of the wishes and aspirations of the overwhelming majority of the people he is sent to govern (cheers). Of course, there are exceptions. Yes, but

is the system which we in this country are fond of denouncing in Russia (cheers). Ireland, no doubt, is articulate in the House of Commons, and often I am glad to know that she is able to make herself troublesome in the House of Commons, otherwise I fear that Irish discontent would find no voice at all. But we are in a permanent minority of 80 members out of 670, and we are voted down by representatives elected by another people, and sometimes in malice, I am afraid, but oftener through a natural ignorance or indifference, they have shown through the experience of a century their inability to govern Ireland well (cheers). We are governed by a network of public boards—Board of Public Works, Local Government Board, Congested Districts Board, Board of Trade, Prison Board, and I know not how many others—all of which are nominated by Dublin Castle (hear, hear). These boards are not representative in any shape or form of the people whom they govern. Public opinion in Ireland has for them no existence. Why, the very names of the men who rule these boards are scarcely known to the people of Ireland. They can never be called to account. They are all represented in this House by the Chief Secretary for the day, who is president, I think, of each one of them, and who, of course, is not cognizant of their proceedings, and can only be in a nominal way responsible for their actions.

CHEIF SECRETARIES COME AND GO.

There have been 53 changes in the office of Chief Secretary since the Union. There have been 27 changes in the office of Chief Secretary in the last 50 years. That gives an average since the Union of about two years to each Chief Secretary. And who have these Chief Secretaries been? Why, they have all been strangers to Ireland. They had no interest whatever in the country, no stake in the country (cheers). Only seven or eight of the whole number have been Irish by birth, or by even a less remote connection. Since 1871 no Irishman at all has been Chief Secretary for Ireland. What earthly probability, I would ask the House of Commons, have these men of making themselves acquainted with the affairs of those boards? The thing is impossible. The permanent centralized nominated semi-independent boards, stuffed full of members of the ascendancy party, have been omnipotent in the government of Ireland, and the Chief Secretary of the day, if he is challenged on the ground of his nominal responsibility, is accountable only to this House, where the members for Ireland are in a permanent minority. Is it any wonder that under these circumstances the soul of Ireland is in revolt at this system, and that the sentiment of the people is that of rebellion? Armed revolt itself would be a duty if a reasonable chance of success existed (hear, hear). Such a system of government as that must be of necessity extravagant. Every system of government run in the history of the minority against the interest of the majority must be extravagant, and so it has been in every instance in the past. In our case this extravagance has been without a parallel in the history of civilized nations. The Irish government of to-day is admittedly the most costly government of the kind in the world. It costs double the cost of the government of Belgium, which has a larger population, and four times the rateable value. The cost of government of Ireland, compared with that of Switzerland, or any country in the world with similar resources, is shocking in its extravagance; and even compared with the government of Great Britain, it is not so much shocking as absolutely ludicrous.

THE COST OF THE CIVIL GOVERNMENT.

per head of the population of Ireland is just twice as much as the cost per head in England. The police and the prison system in Ireland costs three times that of the police and prison system in Scotland, though the population is about the same, and though the annual criminal statistics show that there is far less crime in Ireland than there is

CHEVALIER HENEY.

Interesting References Are Made Regarding the Progress of the Past Towards the Living Present.

Ottawa, March 2.—The Board of Trade meeting last evening was made memorable by the presentation to Chevalier John Heney—who has been a member since the year of its inception, in 1857—of an address embodying the feelings of respect and good wishes which the board entertains toward him. Mr. Heney replied in tones that showed that although he has passed eighty-four years, his mental abilities are still unimpaired and his physical strength is still in condition to beat back the ravages of time. Three other veterans of Ottawa's business life and growth, Dr. George Hay, Sir Sandford Fleming and Mr. D. O'Connor, added their messages of congratulation to Mr. Heney on the valuable services he has rendered to the city and their wishes for future happy years of life to him. References were made to Dr. Osler's much quoted remarks concerning the period of man's usefulness in this vale of misery, but only to the discredit of the savant's judgment, with such instances of living arguments to the contrary.

Before calling upon the secretary to read the address to Mr. Heney, Mr. Murphy stated that noticing a short time ago that Mr. Heney was retiring from business it had been thought advisable to mark the board's appreciation of his valuable services in some way. The record has shown that he had belonged to the board since 1857. Since coming to Ottawa in 1843 he had provided himself in all ways a faithful citizen, and since he became a member of the board an active worker in it. Mr. Murphy regretted that in the distribution of honors the advisers of the King had not seen fit to mention Mr. Heney as worthy of an honorable title.

Secretary Cecil Bethune then read the following address, signed by the officers and council of the Board:

THE ADDRESS.

Chevalier John Heney, Esq.: Dear Sir,—On the occasion of your retirement from active business life, we, your fellow members of the Ottawa Board of Trade, with which institution you have been connected for almost half a century, desire to congratulate you upon so long a life, distinguished both by valuable and honorable public service and by private business success.

In offering this, our sincere expression of esteem for our oldest member, we feel that by your connection with the Board since its organization in 1857, we and our predecessors in its membership have been honored.

Whether as a member of this board or as a representative of the public in the City Council for thirty-seven years, or in your personal and family relations, you have held the esteem, respect, and, to an unusual degree, the affection of your fellow-citizens of all classes and creeds.

During your long and active life you have seen many and great changes in this city and you have every right to reflect with pride upon the fact that you have, yourself, by your large contribution of honest, unselfish and unwearying public service, become entitled to be identified in the public mind with the great improvement and advance of this city since you witnessed the laying of the corner-stone of the Parliament Buildings.

It is a gratification to all that at the great age of eighty-four you remain in vigorous health and good spirits, and we hope you have yet many years of happiness in store in the city with whose advancement you have been so actively identified, and that the membership roll of this Board will long continue to have your name at its head.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trade of the City of Ottawa: D. Murphy, President; James W. Woods, First Vice-President; Peter Whelan, Second Vice-President; C. A. Douglas, Treasurer; A. W. Ault, D. M. Fimie, S. McChenaghan, Jas.

Ballantyne, A. W. Fleck, John McKinley, C. J. Booth, W. P. Hinton, John R. Reid, W. H. Dwyer, Geo. S. May, P. D. Ross, Cecil Bethune, Secretary.

MR. HENEY'S REPLY.

Mr. Heney, in reply, said that he had experienced many favors in his life, but none over which he felt so much as this.

He had lived almost all his life in Ottawa, and had done everything he could to help the city since the days of Bytown up to the present time. His purpose in this regard had never faltered, and he felt well repaid. In days gone by he had looked upon the city with pride and in the trust that it would grow to something important. When first he came to it there had practically been only six months' connection with the outside world. He and other citizens had faced such a problem, and as a result the Ottawa and Prescott railroad had been built. It had been a difficult matter, but he had never wearied in this, or other movements for the development of the city. He would go home a proud old man over what had been accomplished, and the kind address he had been presented with for his part in them.

At that time one hundred miles of railroad was worse than a road to the sea now, but the road to Prescott was completed, and the journey could be made in a day instead of a week. Then a main sewer was constructed, and later the water works, which raised a fear in the minds of many that paying for them would rob them of their savings, but which prevented smallpox and such diseases to a great extent.

WOULD BE A GLAD MAN.

He would be a glad man going home for the honor done him. From a boy he had tried to love his neighbor as himself. He had worked with all creeds and classes for the good of the city, and from that stand he had never varied.

Mr. George Hay, the only surviving member of the original charter members, was then called upon. He jestingly remarked that had he been in his usual condition of good, cautious, Scottish sense he would probably not have ventured out to address such a gathering. But to honor his friend, Mr. Heney, he had come, not for the sake of the other gentlemen gathered, (Laughter). For many years he had known him, for although he was not quite so old as Mr. Heney, he had come to Ottawa, or rather Bytown, in 1844. He would recommend Mr. Heney to keep early hours as he did, for chloroform is in the air. (Laughter.)

Mr. Hay then confessed that on the next anniversary of Waterloo he will reach his eighty-third year. In the days when Mr. Heney and he had come to Ottawa the people did little travelling. Then it was possible to get goods from Montreal as quickly by train (slews) as by railroad via Prescott. At times it took a month either way.

A body of the nature of the Board of Trade had a serious duty to perform towards the city. They could influence affairs to a greater extent than they sometimes thought. The Ottawa Board, however, had some members worthy to rank with those in any Board of Trade in the world.

THE TWO IRISHMEN.

The speaker concluded by wishing long life to the "two Irishmen" (Mr. Heney and Mr. Murphy).

Sir Sandford Fleming expressed great gratification at being present to greet two of the fathers and founders of the Board of Trade. He had come here in 1845, and so had been in Ottawa almost as long as either of them.

Mr. D. O'Connor also expressed his pleasure at being present to do honor to one of the most respected citizens of Ottawa. He knew no one who had received more respect from all classes of citizens than Mr. Heney. From his earliest days he had been an active worker in the city's interests, and had been so popular that not even with Dr. Osler's chloroform would anyone have been able to get rid of him. (Laughter.)

Mr. J. J. Heney then thanked the meeting on behalf of the family for the honor they had done his father. The other speakers had known him as a good citizen, but he had known him as a good father. He had

brought to the Board meeting with him John Heney III, who, if he lived as his grandfather had done, would live a useful and honorable life.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE.

Arrangements for St. Patrick's Day parade were completed on Monday evening, when representatives of the different Irish Catholic organizations of the city met at St. Patrick's Hall, 92 St. Alexander street, Rev. Father Martin Callaghan, P.F., presided, and Mr. Robert Warren acted as secretary. The following delegates were present: Messrs. Joseph O'Brien and T. P. Tansey, St. Patrick's Society; J. H. Kelly and J. F. Gunning, St. Patrick's Total Abstinence and Benefit Society; Thos. Flood and John Hughes, Hibernians; C. C. O'Rourke and R. J. Louis Cuddihy, St. Gabriel's Total Abstinence and Benefit Society; W. J. Ryan and J. McMahon, Young Irishmen; J. A. Heffernan and George J. Fox, St. Mary's Young Men.

Messrs. O'Brien and Tansey spoke of the lack of interest taken in the procession of late years, and thought it time that measures were taken either to do away with the procession or have it worthy of the Irish people of Montreal. It was resolved that the meeting for next year be called the last week of January, so that there will be sufficient time to discuss among the various societies the advisability of holding a procession or not.

On motion of Mr. J. A. Heffernan it was proposed to have the route this year as follows: Form on Beaver Hall Hill, then march to Craig street, to Delorimier avenue, to St. Catherine street, to St. Alexander street to St. Patrick's Hall.

On motion of Mr. J. McMahon, Mr. W. J. Ryan, of the Young Irishmen, was chosen as Marshal-in-chief. In the procession this year there will be several new additions. St. Patrick's life and drum band; St. Ann's brass band, St. Ann's life and drum band, St. Mary's Equine Club and St. Gabriel's Juvenile Total Abstinence and Benefit Society.

Solemn High Mass will be sung at St. Patrick's Church at 9.30, and the sermon will be preached by Rev. Father Zilles, C.S.S.R., of Saratoga, N.Y.

The following will be the order of the procession:

- Chief Marshal, Mr. W. J. Ryan.
- Band—Flag.
- The Ancient Order of Hibernians and Uniformed Knights.
- Congregation of St. Agnes' Parish.
- The Congregation of St. Michael's Parish.
- Band—Banner.
- The Congregation of St. Gabriel's (not members of any society.)
- The St. Gabriel's Junior Temperance Society.
- The St. Gabriel's Total Abstinence & Benefit Society.
- Band—Banner.
- The Congregation of St. Mary's (not members of any society.)
- Band—Banner.
- Holy Name Society.
- Band—Banner.
- St. Mary's Young Men's Society.
- The Congregation of St. Ann's (not members of any society.)
- Band—Banner.
- St. Ann's Cadets in uniform.
- Band—Flag.
- The St. Ann's Young Men's Society.
- Band—Banner.
- The St. Ann's Total Abstinence and Benefit Society.
- Band—Banner.
- The Congregation of St. Patrick's (not members of any society.)
- Band.
- Pupils of St. Patrick's School.
- St. Patrick's Cadets in uniform.
- Band—Flag.
- The Young Irishmen's Literary and Benefit Society.
- Band—Father Mathew Banner.
- The St. Patrick's Total Abstinence and Benefit Society.
- Band—Banner.
- The St. Patrick's Society.
- The Mayor, Invited Guests and Clergy.

It is mere contrast that makes a lot of men seem great.

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