

will meet men fifty, sixty and seventy years of age, who have never been outside of Ireland, and who know very little about what transpires beyond their own neighborhood. Very few of them know anything about England. They are just as ignorant about English life and affairs as they are of the people of the United States, and perhaps far more so. Now, Sir, I would not have said anything at all on the subject, had it not been for the remarks dropped by the last speaker, who seemed anxious to remove blame that rested upon him for the course he took in 1886. However, I am not going into this now. I suppose, seeing that we have not the prospect of going before the country in a few months, the hon. gentleman is willing that the suggestions made as to the wording of the resolution by the leader of the Opposition should be accepted, and that his advice should be taken in what we do now in order that we may send home a unanimous resolution in favor of Home Rule. Now, there is one thing which I believe tends largely to produce an unfortunate condition of things in Ireland, that I have not referred to, and that is fixing the rents for fifteen years. I think that is generally admitted to have been a mistake. No doubt at the time it was done it was thought to be for the advantage of the tenants, but I think it is admitted today that the period was altogether too long to fix the rent at a certain sum. We know that the facilities for the shipment of produce from this continent to Great Britain are becoming greater every year, and I believe that the enormous shipment of produce from this country has tended greatly to reduce the value of the products of Ireland, and, as a result, tends to prevent these tenants from paying rents, simply because they cannot reap the same prices they did some years ago; and just in proportion as the value of what they raise is reduced, in that proportion the landlords should be willing to reduce the rents. If they adopted a system similar to that which prevails here, of renting on shares, or taking a certain percentage of the crops in place of certain fixed rents, they would have no trouble; but having fixed the rents for fifteen years, whether the crops are good or bad, whether the prices are high or low, the landlords expect to receive their rents just the same. I think that is a wrong system, and they should be willing to share with these poor, unfortunate, struggling creatures a fair share of the loss they have to sustain when prices are low.

Mr. COURSOL. At this late hour of the debate I shall say but very few words. I could not give a silent vote on this question, and I feel it my duty to say a few words inasmuch as I represent, with my colleagues from Montreal, a population containing a very large, influential and wealthy Irish element. As an old Home Ruler myself, I feel at home when I am with them. When I have to speak of the wrongs of Ireland and the way Ireland has been treated, they are accustomed to my voice. The views and opinions of the Irish people in this country have found expressions on many occasions in a very forcible manner, and at last they have been brought before the Parliament of Canada in the shape of resolutions from the hon. member for Montreal Centre (Mr. Curran). They are the real echo of the sentiments of that large population I represent, and, therefore it is my duty, on the present occasion, to give them an unqualified support. When, years ago, Mr. Speaker, we were struggling for popular government in this Dominion of ours, now so prosperous, now so attractive to immigrants from other nations, I remember how comforted and encouraged we were by the expressions of sympathy that we received from all parts of the world, and of hope for success in the cause we had undertaken. I think I have a peculiar right to say we, as I was a very young man then and supported with all my energy the men who risked their lives on the battle-fields, and their heads on the gallows, for the success of the great cause of constitutional government. Therefore, I feel that it is a peculiar duty and a privilege for me to express

my sympathies on this occasion with the Irish people in their effort to obtain Home Rule. It is one of the privileges of a country occupying a position like that of Ireland to elicit sympathy and feelings of fraternity. It is natural that the world should sympathise with an oppressed nation; it is natural that other nations should tender sympathy with a nation which has been so oppressed as Ireland. It cannot be matter for surprise, therefore, that we should seek to interfere? And why should we not interfere? It is said that these resolutions might offend the Parliament of England. And why should they offend? Surely they do not offend England. England herself has shown the example of interfering in favor of oppressed people. She has glorified herself upon being the friend of the oppressed. History has recorded her appeals in behalf of Poland, Hungary and Italy. We have, therefore, the example of the English people before us, and we should not hesitate for a moment to extend to the Irish people our sympathy, for the conduct of England on various occasions is a guarantee that we may properly do so. The introduction of this Coercion Bill, which is an un-British measure, would have the effect of destroying a great British institution, trial by jury. The foundation of the trial by jury is, that every man in England, or under the British Crown, shall have the right to be tried by his peers. But when an offence or a supposed offence is committed under this Bill, what will be the course pursued towards the alleged offender? He will be taken from the city of Dublin, or from any part of Ireland across the channel, and will be sent before an English jury to be tried. And by whom will he be tried? By men who must necessarily, in the present struggle, be prejudiced by religion and blinded by partisanship against the prisoner. We would not call that British justice and trial by peers, and such a system must bring into contempt the whole system of trial by jury. The trial should take place in the country where the offence is committed. If there is not sufficient force at the present time to protect the courts and satisfactorily conduct the trials it should be provided, but the trial should take place where the crime was committed. The venue might be changed to some other place in the country, but prisoners should not be sent across the channel and tried among a population who must be more or less prejudiced against them. The time has arrived when the people of England should decide that something must be done to remedy the grievances of Ireland. If the English people would only decide that something must be done they would speedily find a way of doing it. It is impossible to say that in England statesmen cannot be found to settle the Irish question satisfactorily to the Irish people and to the landlords. There must be something behind the scenes which prevents such a settlement being effected. I dare say in this country we could find statesmen who could settle the Irish question, if it was left to them to settle, in a fair way. I heard yesterday, to my great surprise, a member of this House state that the resolution should not be adopted by the House because Mr. Parnell had signed a certain letter, which was read. But I ask what proof was there that Mr. Parnell ever signed that letter? The hon. gentleman ought to have read from another portion of the same paper the denial of Mr. Parnell and his friends. That is not the proper way to administer justice impartially and seek to secure support. Surely a little more respect is due to the words of a public man like Mr. Parnell, one of the ablest members of the British Parliament, and a Protestant. It was absurd to say that Ireland should not obtain Home Rule because her people could not conduct her own affairs in a constitutional manner. Why, there are men like Mr. Parnell, Justin McCarthy, Sexton, and hundreds of others I could name, who were fully competent to administer the affairs of any country. The idea is puerile, and I am sure very shortly other ideas will prevail. When England, through her rulers, gives Ireland fair play and a government like ours,